

Grave News

NEWSLETTER OF THE STATE ASSOCIATION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF IOWA CEMETERIES

21813 170th St. Birmingham, Iowa, 52535
<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~iasapc/>

Volume 22 Issue #4

October, November, December 2017

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Minutes—October 14, 2017

The State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries (SAPIC) met Saturday, October 14, 2017 at the German American Heritage Center & Museum, in Davenport, Iowa with 27 members and guests present. President Steve Story called the meeting to order at 10:00a.m. Larry Davis read the minutes of the July 2017 meeting. Moved by John Heider that the minutes of the July 2017 meeting be approved. Motion was seconded and passed. Brad Hughes presented the Treasurer's report including the following financial summary dated 9-20-2017:

As expected, deposit balances have stabilized following large grant payments the prior quarter. Deposit balances remain healthy and total \$12,055.94. These de-

posit balances remain somewhat below \$13,052.17 reported year-end 2016 and \$13,428.61 existing year-end 2015. Year-to-date, expenses have exceeded income by \$996.23 with this cash outlay \$524.52 greater than budgeted amounts. Expenses this quarter have been limited to \$78.45 for newsletter envelopes and labels plus postage stamps totaling \$9.80 purchased by this treasurer for general correspondence. Income this quarter is comprised of \$630 from dues and donations. Income will need to increase and/or expenses reduced for deposit balances to return to prior levels. Increases in dues levels planned next year are expected to support income. However this support will probably be muted due to the level of Lifetime individual member-

ships. Those receiving printed copies of Grave News are again reminded to donate funds in addition to dues to cover publication and postage costs. SAPIC members might also consider designating gifts through wills, estate plans, life insurance policies, or retirement plans.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the financial report and budget. Motion passed

Grants: Brad Hughes, representing the SAPIC Grant committee contacted the 2017 recipients asking for status report on the use of the SAPIC grant funds. Hughes presented the results of the inquiry and indicated all recipients portrayed much appreciation for the SAPIC grant program. The grant committee will continue to stay in contact with those who have not completed the

Due to the possibility of inclement weather in January, the first quarterly meeting of 2018 will be a "virtual" meeting (e-mail)

SAPIC members who do not have access to computers/Internet will be mailed agenda items and solicited for input. Please submit suggested items for the agenda to president John Heider.



use of the grant money.

Nominating Committee

Report: Jean Ripley, representing the Nominations Committee, reported the following slate of candidates:

President.....John Heider

Vice President.....
William Reedy

Secretary..... Larry Davis

Treasurer.....Brad Hughes

Board Member.....
Steve Story

Board Member.....
Mary Richards

The motion was made and seconded that the slate of officers and board members as presented by the nominations committee be approved and a unanimous ballot be cast for their election. Motion passed.

Future Meeting Sites

January 2018.....
e-mail meeting

April 2018.....Burlington

July 2018.....DeWitt, Clinton County

October 2018.....Winneshiek County

Moved by Mike Magee that the 2018 meeting sites be approved. Motion second and approved.

Cemetery and Grave Marker

Survey: Tony Bengston suggested members review the

cemetery and grave marker survey program sponsored by SAPIC. Information and survey forms can be found and copied from the SAPIC web site. Any recommendations for changes can be forwarded to Tony. It was also suggested that forms could be filled out for cemeteries receiving SAPIC grants. Discussion was held on how to store the completed forms and who would receive them. NOTE - After the meeting adjourned, and during a discussion between Tony Bengston and Larry Davis, Larry offered to receive and file completed cemetery and grave marker surveys if needed.

Gravestone Repair: Jonas Cutler reported on the status of the inventory of gravestones in Iowa of former Governors, Lt. Governors, and U.S. Presidential Cabinet members, and their need for repair. Cutler also noted that he was unable to spend time on this project this year due to family concerns. It was noted that the inventory was done and the next phase was for repair and cleaning . A motion was made and seconded to have Jonas Cutler develop and chair a committee to recommend SAPIC's future role in the gravestone repair of former Governors, Lt Governors, and U.S. presidential cabinet members. Motion passed.

Larry Davis, Secretary



SAPIC Grant Policy

Grants are limited to \$250 for each project and are to receive board approval prior to the disbursement of funds.

Only grants supporting the SAPIC goals reflected in the by-laws are to be approved.

Priority is to be given to applications for restoring pioneer cemeteries in Iowa.

Grant funds may be made available for all cemeteries in Iowa on a funds available basis, not those just designated as pioneer cemeteries.

Grant applications are to be mailed to the Grant Committee chairperson who shall chair a committee of at least two additional persons and recommend to the Board approval or denial of all applications. Board action will be recorded in the meeting minutes.

Grant applications are to be received prior to April 1 for consideration at the SAPIC quarterly meeting in April.

SAPIC membership is required for a grant application to be approved.

Copies of grant applications are to be maintained by the grant committee chairperson.

Grant Committee Chairperson for 2018 is SAPIC treasurer Brad Hughes. Phone: 319-269-8934

email: Llynman2@gmail.com

Application forms for grants are available on the SAPIC web site or can be obtained by contacting Brad Hughes or any SAPIC board member. Note: deadline for applying is April 1.



Letter from a 2017 SAPIC grant recipient:

Thank you for the grant. A Dailey descendant also gave us \$250 toward our project. We have spent \$500 so far and our museum committee has authorized that we can spend \$1,000 on the project. We are sure it will be completed within the financial guidelines.

The cement base is down, the corner posts are set into cement, also

two posts in the center of the long sides to reinforce the fence because cattle will be around it. The fence is new but is an old-fashioned type fence to go with the mid-1850s period. All the fence has been installed and fastened well to the posts that are set in the cement. These posts were installed in the cement after the cement was poured and hardened.

This was accomplished by forming the post holes with PVC pipe, and then pulling the PVC pipe out when the cement was about set up. The posts can now be pulled out and replaced at a later date if a new fence or new posts are needed. This will allow new posts to be installed after several years have passed.

Three tombstones were still on site, two were in several pieces. The two broken ones have been repaired. We now have found three total tombstones. We have found 6 names of people we are sure that are buried there.

We will still get a "community" tombstone with all names inscribed to be set in the center of the monument. You can see

the empty space in the middle in one of the pictures. We will have room for approximately 10 names in case we find more names of people buried there.

Thank you again.
Dick Gilmore and Jack Hansen
Paula Klindt
Sioux Rapids Area Historical Association
612-840-6089
p.coykendall@hotmail.com



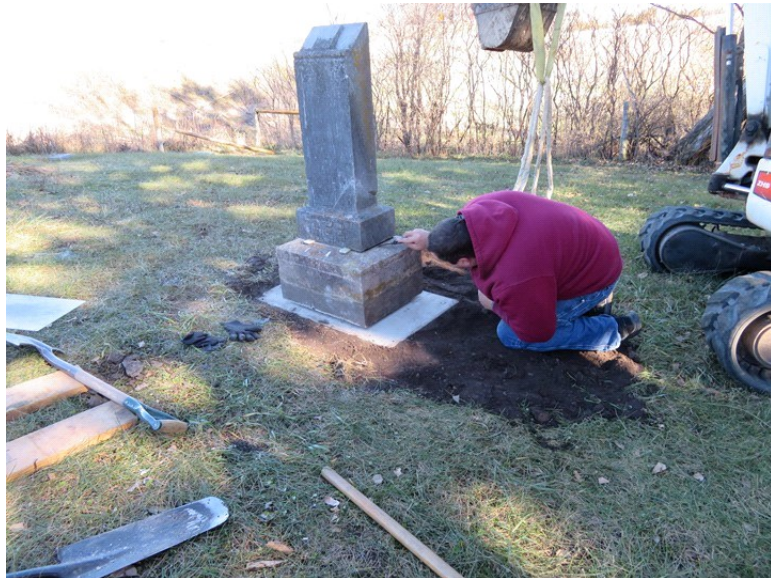
From the Desk of John Heider

Today, I finally admitted that winter was approaching by retiring my lawn mower and putting out its snow blade. My 100 year old father-in-law was not very happy with this decision because he likes to mow grass and mulch leaves. He spent 2.5 hours on the tractor yesterday.

With this past week being warmer than usual, he and I washed several gravestones in a local cemetery. He keeps me active! See photo. John

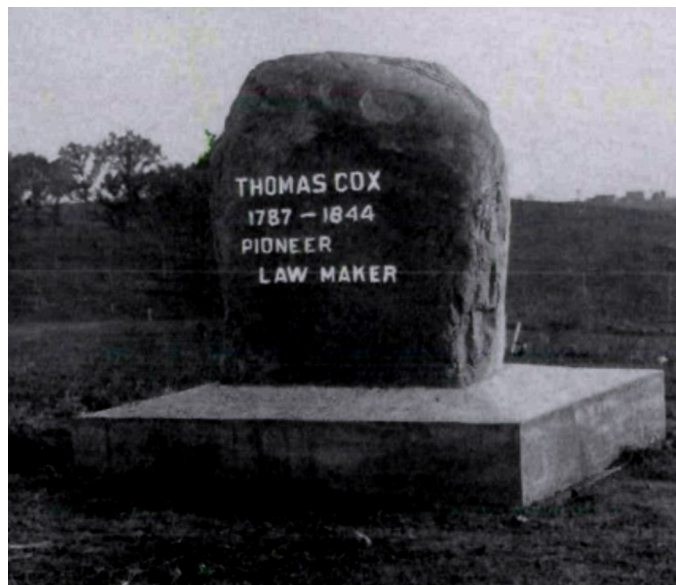


Hamilton County Linda Wild



The family name on the headstone is GEE. Personal name was not readable. GEE was in big letters on the base of that headstone. The rest of the stone was pretty rough. Most of these burials were from the 1890s or very early 1900s.

The workman is from the Harris Company out of Stratford, Iowa.



Monument in Mt. Hope Cemetery, Maquoketa, IA, unveiled July 4, 1905. The boulder of gneissoid granite is of the Kansan Drift Age, and was found in Section 10, township 84, range 3 east of 5P.M. about one mile north of the Cox farm

SAPIC OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

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Poem from:

**Gwynedd Family History Society,
Memorials at the Church of St.
Celynnin, Llwyngwriil, Parish of
Llangelynnin, Merionethshire,
Gwynedd, Wales**

Lives are commemorated -
deaths are recorded -
families are united -
memories are made more tangible -
and love is undisguised.
This is a cemetery.

Communities accord respect,
families bestow reverence,
historians seek information
and our heritage is thereby enriched .

Testimonies of devotion, pride and
remembrance are carved in stone to
pay warm tribute to accomplishments
and to the life - not death - of a loved
one.

The cemetery is a homeland for fami-
ly memorials that are a sustaining
source of comfort to the living.

The cemetery is a history of people -
a perpetual record of yesterday
and a sanctuary of peace and quiet
today.

A cemetery exists because every life
is worth loving and remembering -
always.

--Author unknown



Interesting facts

The inventor of the Ouija board lived and died in Baltimore; his tombstone stands as a reflection of his achievement.



From the *Sumner Gazette*, March 16, 1967: Best way to carve a tombstone is to chisel in traffic.

One of the founders of SAPIC, Marilyn Schmitt, passed away in Des Moines on September 7, 2017.

Harley Crain who served as SAPIC treasurer a few years beginning in 1998, passed away in Edmonds, Washington on August 27, 2017.

SAPIC member Mike Magee has located applications for special disinterment's of the bodies of many children who died from diphtheria, croup, smallpox in the late nineteenth century from files of old newspapers. Here are some of his source:

<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/search/titles/>
<http://www.theancestorhunt.com/blog/iowa-online-historical-newspapers-summary#.WjyOr0tG2V4>

Wet & Forget

I am familiar with Wet & Forget. I strongly recommend staying away from this product; for the sake of the stone and personal safety.

Knowledgeable professionals do not use or recommend the product.

There are several articles written by respected conservators regarding the use of Wet & Forget.

Most people are "lured" into buying Wet & Forget because of its advertising and being readily available in the big box stores.

As a word of caution; read the label or ask for a Safety Data Sheet (formerly MSDS). The Wet & Forget SDS states, in part: Severe eye irritant. Corrosive to skin--repeated or prolong contact may result in dermatitis or skin sensation.

Ingestion can cause burning pain in mouth, throat and abdomen--May be fatal if ingested. Inhalation of mists can produce respiratory irritation. Use chemical resistant gloves. If it is corrosive to skin, what is it

doing to the stone? Being corrosive to eyes is not an option. If applying a spray, the floating mist may be inhaled.

Again, I do not recommend using Wet & Forget to clean historic gravestones.

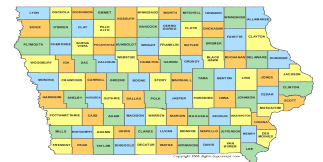
-- John Heider

A gravestone cleaning class will be held at Kirkwood Community College in Cedar Rapids on February 26 & 27, 2018. Register online

at: [https://kirkwood.augusoft.net/index.cfm?](https://kirkwood.augusoft.net/index.cfm?meth-)

[meth-od=ClassInfo.ClassInformation&int_class_id=94740](https://kirkwood.augusoft.net/index.cfm?meth-od=ClassInfo.ClassInformation&int_class_id=94740)

COUNTY REPORTS



ALLAMAKEE

From the *Bremer County Independent*, Aug.26, 1897: Five bodies were removed yesterday from the Eells' burying ground in Union Prairie township to Oakland Cemetery. All of them were interred over a quarter of a century ago, yet we are told that the clothing about the corpses was in a good state of preservation and sufficiently strong to hold the remains together.

--Waukon Democrat

BENTON

From the *Estherville Daily News*, July 7, 2004:

Basement repairs unearth children's tombstones. Don Hildahl's recent repairs to a crumbling basement wall in Belle Plaine turned up an eerie find: the buried tombstone of little Mary Montgomery, who died in infancy in 1867.

Hildahl said he was excavating when he struck the tombstone a few feet underground and about a foot away from the basement wall. Then he found several others, including one that read "Our little dau ..." and carried the date Aug. 13, 1872. The child lived just 29 days.

"It was quite the discovery," Hildahl said. "The first didn't bother me too much, but with the second one, I started shaking, thinking "What are we getting into?"

Police Chief Mike Smith, observing the excavation, told Hildahl it would be OK to keep digging, as long as he uncovered no bones. Eventually, some bone fragments appeared.

Hildahl said he returned the bones to the soil and covered them. He said he plans to leave to area undisturbed as he continues digging beneath his house by hand.

An 1897 city directory lists

several Montgomerys then living in the town of Belle Plaine.

BLACK HAWK

From KWWL-TV, September 29, 2017: Kathy Taylor from Cedar Falls and her



team have been working for nearly a year to relocate pet remains from an abandoned pet cemetery to the Garden of Memories in Waterloo. The cemetery has donated two plots for the vault that will contain all the remains. The pet cemetery is located on land that will be commercially developed.

BUTLER

From the *Iowa Recorder*, Greene, IA, September 7, 1904: Anthon people are protesting against the lack of care given their burying ground, the weeds and grass being higher than the tombstones.

CHEROKEE

From the *Cherokee Daily Times*, November 26, 1986: *Orphaned' cemetery now has someone to take care*

of it, by Gene Lucht.

Memory Gardens got a new lease on life this week when Cherokee resident Jesse Schlinchting took ownership of the cemetery. In recent years, the cemetery has fallen into disrepair and many people who owned plots were buried elsewhere because of the lack of care and worries about ownership of the cemetery. Schlinchting plans to clean the grounds and eventually operate it as a perpetual care cemetery. Neither the county nor the city wanted to assume responsibility for the cemetery.

CHICKASAW

From the *Saturday Gazette*, New Hampton, IA, June 4, 1898: The association formed to look after the cemetery on Mrs. Wise's farm, procured a deed and right of way from Mrs. Wise and voted that the name be "West Cemetery," to designate it from several others quite near. Mr. C. T. Haskett is president of the association, with Messrs. Holcomb, Linderman and Stone as directors, which guarantees that the cemetery will be kept in proper condition, as they are all in energetic men. This is a move in the right direction, as the place has been sadly neglected in the past.

From the *Nashua Reporter*,

May 23, 1912: The Ionia Cemetery Association has decided to abandon the cemetery, which has not been used lately, and Undertaker Lundt has taken the contract to remove the bodies now buried there, some twelve or fifteen. The bodies will be moved to the cemeteries at Chickasaw and New Hampton as the relatives desire, and land comprising the old cemetery will be sold.

From the *Nashua Reporter*, September 26, 1912: Wm. Lundt of Nashua, was a caller in Ionia Monday. He and Allen Case are moving the bodies that were buried in the Ionia cemetery just south of town many years ago. This cemetery was laid out by the early settlers and contains some eighteen or twenty graves. Some had been moved and now the rest are being moved, most of them to the Chickasaw and the Rowley Hill cemeteries.

From the *New Hampton Tribune*, October 27, 1937: Hebrew Synagogue to be moved to Cemetery for Chapel. The Hebrew synagogue has been taken over by the congregation at Mason City. The synagogue will be moved to the Hebrew cemetery in New Hampton and will be used for a chapel. The cemetery contains an acre of ground that contains twenty or twenty-five graves with monuments

erected in honor of their dead.

From the *Nashua Reporter*, October 25, 1956: *That Cagley Cemetery*. The editorial tells of a hike taken by the writer a couple of years ago through territory northeast of town where they came across an abandoned cemetery known as the Cagley cemetery. It was overgrown with weeds, trees and bushes and a reproach to those who ought to care. The year before pheasant hunters set fire at one end in order to flush out pheasants. The writer calls this "rotten sportsmanship" and a threat to the lovely pine and other trees and the headstones. Those who have loved ones and venerated ancestors there are urged to clean the cemetery. The Riverton cemetery along Highway 218 is mentioned as a good example of cleaning a picturesque burial ground. The article ends with the words, "Yessir, IT CAN BE DONE! And, isn't it is the right thing to do?"

From KWWL-TV, Waterloo, Iowa, December 6, 2017: "It's irreplaceable," Family treasure stolen from Clarksville man's grave. Deke Rodamaker, a welder, built a unique shepherd's hook that, after his death, was placed on his grave located in the Riverton Cemetery north of Nashua. In December, the

shepherd's hook was missing and presumed stolen. The family reported it to the police and offered a reward for its return.

From KWWL-TV, December 8, 2017: As shepherd's hook that was missing from Deke Rodamaker's grave has been returned to his wife. It was one of many stolen items that were found by Charles City police yesterday.

-- Reported by Amanda Gilbert

CLAY

From the *Peterson Patriot*, June 29, 1995:

Peterson Residents Find Tombstone in Back Yard. Doug and Denise Reed discovered a tombstone with the inscription, "MUTTER," German for "Mother," buried in their back yard. Whether someone is actually buried there is a mystery and an investigation is underway.

Life long Peterson resident, Bill Brees, solved the mystery by explaining that his grandmother was buried in the St. John's Cemetery at Brooke in 1910. A large stone was placed at the gravesite with the small stone, MUTTER, beside it. In the 1930s, the cemetery began providing perpetual care and the small stone was replaced with one that was set flush with the ground. The original stone

was brought to town and placed on the edge of a gold-fish pond that was in the backyard.

CLAYTON

From the *Clayton County Register*, November 17, 1993: *Resident of Arlington discovered a mysterious graveyard in his yard*, by Bertha Schuchmann. Allen Woods who lives behind the library in Arlington discovered the gravestones of two young girls in his yard. Witching indicated that in addition to the girls' graves, there were three full-sized graves. Records show that one of the girls, Annie Andress, who died in 1886, was buried in Groat Cemetery. Her body was moved to Taylorsville Cemetery in 1916 and also has a marker there. It remains a mystery if the body of the other girl, Cora Little, is also in the Taylorsville Cemetery, along with the bodies in the three unidentified graves.

CRAWFORD

From the *Evening Times Republican*, October 13, 1899: DENISON -- A prairie fire gained such headway Sunday as to result in the destruction of the Lutheran cemetery. The fences are burned and many expensive monuments erected in memory of the dead are blackened and destroyed. The loss in this line will amount to

a large sum. Oakland cemetery was saved only by extreme effort. The beautiful grove of oaks, which Mr. Plimpton has preserved for a park, was probably killed, but by means of plowing and by back fires the cemetery property was saved.

From the *Sumner Gazette*, July 22, 1954: A falling tombstone pinned down Gus Arnold, 72, in the Lutheran cemetery in Denison recently, breaking his leg. Mr. Arnold was clipping grass when the tombstone toppled over. He managed to free himself, and crawled a block to his automobile.

DECATUR

From the *Iowa Recorder*, Greene, IA, May 1, 1907: The trail of the Mormons across Iowa could be followed for years by the graves that marked the pathway of their journey through Van Buren, Davis, Appanoose, Decatur and Union counties. More than 400 men, women and children who died from the effects of exposure and hardships of the exodus of 1846-47 were buried in the Mormon cemetery at Mount Pisgah. In 1888 the Utah Mormons caused a monument to be erected here in memory of the dead, who, for the most part, lie in unmarked graves.

From the *Leon Journal-Reporter*, November 1, 2017: Lions members recently installed a memorial stone at the Leon Cemetery for Nancy Tucker Neel 1911-1882, ancestor of Carol Watson of Mesa, AZ. When the Leon Cemetery was moved during the early part of the 1900s. to the present location, Nancy's marker was lost .

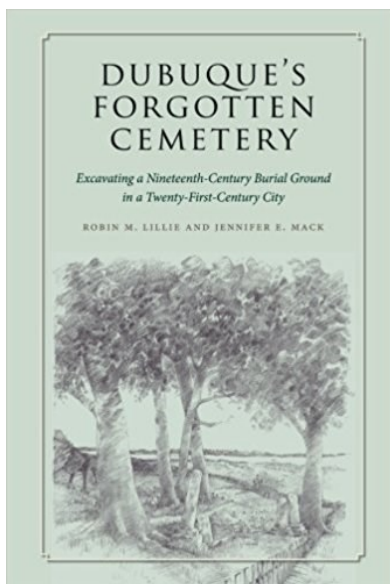
DUBUQUE

From the *Miners Express*, Dubuque IA, November 3, 1852: Mr. Mellenry reported on Grave-Yard fence. A communication was read from Rt. Rev. Bishop Loras, informing the Board that a portion of a lot on which he was about to erect a Church, was encumbered by the grave-yard fence, and desiring its removal. On motion of Mr. Stout, the committee were instructed to have the grave yard surveyed, and to have the fence placed on the line.

From the *Cascade Pioneer*, September 4, 1885: *Resurrectionists at Work*. It was reported to us that the remains of the late Robert McGinty, buried on the bluff's near the old McGinty homestead had been resurrected, the skull removed and the balance of the skeleton barbarously left exposed beside the open grave. We thought it incredi-

ble, but on Tuesday we visited the lonely spot and found the report to be true. The corpse had been dug up as reported. It seems that the work of the resurrectionist was discovered some three weeks ago, and the strangest part of it, is that parties who knew of it, did not close the grave. Some one had tumbled the skeleton into the grave, and thus left it until Tuesday, when we had it filled up again. We would not give much for the hide and tallow of the ghoul or his abettor, should they happen to fall into the hands of the deceased relatives.

The book, *Dubuque's Forgotten Cemetery: Excavating A Nineteenth-Century Burial Ground in a Twenty-First-Century City*, by Robin M. Lillie and Jennifer E. Mack, University of Iowa Press (2015),



has been reviewed by SAPIC

board member, Mary Richards. The book takes us from a man and his dog discovering human remains in 2007 to the authors' ethical and legal excavation of a cemetery to the holistic ceremony of reburial and the act of caring. For a copy of the review, contact Mary Richards. mrichards@netins.net 515-386-4750

EMMETT

From the *Estherville Enterprise*, September 30, 1937: Emmett County's oldest cemetery, Prosser, was started by C. Prosser on his family farm in Ellsworth township, deeding one acre to the township. Later, four of those buried there were moved to Oak Hill. An insurance company became the owner of the land and began farming it. Some citizens of Ellsworth township objected and fenced the cemetery. Questions have arisen as to who will replace destroyed monuments and who will determine proper locations of the graves, if the four bodies that were moved were returned.

FLOYD

From KWWL-TV, December 11, 2017: "A Christmas miracle," Trail cam helps unite Iowa families with stolen cemetery items. Charles City police found around 68 items believed to have been stolen

from Iowa cemeteries in the area. Glen Putney and his son placed a trail cam by the grave of Glen's wife after Christmas decorations were missing from grave and captured photos of Terry Brandt. He has been charged with theft and possession of stolen items.

HAMILTON

Hamilton County Cemetery Preservation Society, November 2017.

The Hamilton County Cemetery Preservation Society received a grant to hire a company to straighten larger stones in Homer Cemetery, one of six pioneer cemeteries. The trustees of the cemetery matched the grant. We were able to improve the stance of 11 large stones.

HARRISON

From the *Farm Bureau Spokesman*, October 4, 2017, p. 1: *Restoring peaceful prairie on a pioneer resting place*, by Terry Queck-Matzie. Thanks to Rita and Bill Hammitt, the Persia Satellites 4-H Club and others, the grave of Dubuque's forgotten cemetery along with his family, is being preserved. Hawkins, who died in 1869, was an early settler in the area. Through the local Farm Service Agency office,

the Hammitts tapped into the CRP Pollinator Habitat Initiative and have seeded wild flowers on the one-acre plot of land. The members of a local 4-H Club help weed the patch and held a fundraiser to finance building a fence.

“We wanted to turn the land back to prairie like it was when they were buried, and create a place for pollinators to thrive and continue the area farmland’s productivity into the future,” says Rita. “And we wanted to show respect for those buried there. Hopefully their spirits can now be at rest.”

KOSSUTH

From the *New Hampton Tribune*, February 24, 1949: “Gravestone.” When the station at Sexton burned last week, a gravestone was uncovered. It bore the inscription, Anne E., daughter of C W and MA Truble. Died April 11, 1885. The station was built about 1895.

JASPER

From the *Cascade Pioneer*, August 22, 1902. “Died on Wife’s Grave.” While mowing the family burial lot Jonchin Griebel, a wealthy German living in Malaka township, dropped dead. Heart failure is supposed to have been the cause of death. Mr.

Griebel was 70 years of age and had gone to the cemetery to mow the grass off the grave of his wife. Getting too warm he sat down upon his wife’s grave and was found dead some time after by passersby. Deceased was a highly respected resident of Jasper county, where he had lived for many years.

JONES

From the *Anamosa Eureka-Journal*, June 17, 1971: *Mystery Surrounds Children’s Graveyard*, by Jerry Potter. One-half mile down an old, washed out lane, into heavy timber and deep undergrowth lies a cemetery with 15 graves most of which are children 15 years of age and younger. The cemetery has been called McClure derived from the dominant name on the stones, but also has been referred to as Wapsi and Oxford Mills. The first grave was placed there in 1854, with the latest in 1865. As part of their Community Goodwill project, the Boy Scouts of Oxford Junction have been cutting small trees, clearing away underbrush, mowing weeds and reassembling the grave sites. The public is being asked to provide information about the history of the cemetery

LEE

From the *Register and Argus Elkader Iowa* newspaper, November 13, 1913: The bones of a soldier who went to an unmarked grave between the years of 1834 and 1839 were unearthed by workmen excavating under the Episcopal church at Montrose, a few miles north of Keokuk. The old Fort Des Moines barracks were on the site of the church for several years during Iowa’s early history. A bit of cloth, evidently the remains of a uniform, and still holding several army buttons, identifies the bones as those of a soldier. By the side of the remains was a bag containing, among other coins, an English sovereign that had been coined at an early date.

From the *Daily Gate City*, October 13, 2017: “8 Revolutionary War Veterans known to be buried in Lee Co.,” by Terry Atheide. These known veterans are Cato Mead, Abram Clark, Amos Glover, Joseph Patterson, George Perkins, Ebenezer Ayres, Mation Elmore, and Timothy Brees who was born in 1758 in New Jersey. Recently, the Lee County Pioneer Cemetery Association conducted its 15th annual Pioneer Patriot’s Day ceremony at Brees’ grave in the Lost Creek Cemetery, five miles north of Fort Madi-

son. The event is held each year at a different Lee County cemetery to bring attention to and honor these pioneer veterans, many of whom had no graveside military rites. Participants in the ceremony included the Calvary Baptist Church, Terry Altheide, the Old Fort Stark's Company, 1st Regiment from Fort Madison, and Bill Hall, Clinton, representing Bugles Across America.

From the *Daily Gate City*, November 1, 2017: *Working to preserve aging cemetery*, by Terry Atheide. Oakland Cemetery, Keokuk, is comprised of more than 100 acres with graves of over 75,000 individuals, including over 30,000 tombstones. Hundreds of these stones have been toppled by vandals, storm-downed trees or gravity due to shifting ground through the decades. In the last few years, The Lee County Veterans Project and volunteers from the Calvary Baptist Church have restored about 40 of these stones. The Keokuk Park and Recreation Advisory Board restored approximately 15 stones. Oakland was established in

1850, and remains from older burial grounds in Keokuk were moved there, although other remains from excavations for homes or other buildings have been found over the years. Information about Oakland's history can be found in the historical sketches written by Keokuk's premier historian, Romeo Bickel, in 1958 and are on file at the Keokuk Public Library.

LINN

From the *Estherville Daily News*, June 10, 2000: *Another missing tombstone found*. Just as police were wrapping up their case, up popped another tombstone. Marion police thought they had found the place of rest for a 250-pound tombstone discovered in a pub parking lot a week ago. Engraved on the stone was the name Edwin Kucera, who was born in January 1898 and died in January 1899. Officers checked with the Linn County Genealogical Society to see where the tombstone might belong and learned it should be in the Czech National Cemetery.

LOUISA

From the *Iowa History Journal*, July/August,

2017, p. 6: *Music Inspired by the Civil War*, by John Busbee. Inspired by the story of Louisa County's Littleton brothers, Iowa singer-songwriter and roots musician Chad Elliott has honored their legacy with an original composition, *The Plow in the Oak: Honoring the Unequaled Sacrifice of the Littleton Brothers*. Elliott was slated to premiere his EP during a live performance at a special Flag Day ceremony on June 14 in Wapello. All proceeds from the sale of the album will support the Littleton Brothers Legacy endowment.

LUCAS

From the *Northern Vindicator*, Estherville, IA, November 22, 1887: Dr. John A. Gillispie, of Des Moines, has been arrested, charged with body snatching. The remains of Mrs. Jessie Corbett were disinterred at Chariton, Iowa, and shipped to a Des Moines medical college. The accused asserts his innocence.



MARSHALL

Carter Award recipient, Wayne Blessing, was honored at a benefit in his home town of Zearing last fall. Wayne is suffering from a catastrophic illness. He has been a loyal sup-

porter of SAPIC for several years and also of the youth programs in the area.

MILLS

From the *Malvern Leader*, May 20, 1971: *Will Remove Remains from Unmarked Pioneer Cemetery*. District Judge Bennett Cullison directed that unidentified human remains in a pioneer cemetery located at the site of the original town of Pacific City be reinterred in the Glenwood Cemetery. 25 gravesites have been discovered including the remains of an Indian girl. The Iowa DOT and Office of the State Archaeologist requested the transfer due to improvements being proposed to Highway 34. The judge noted that the gravesite does not contain any pre-historic, archaeological or paleontological significance. The highway commission was unable to locate any next of kin.

From the *Malvern Leader*, September 2, 1976: *Federated Women Need Assistance in Mills Bicen Graves Registration*. The Hastings Federated Women's Club has been working on a complete registration project for all of Mills County's 35 cemeteries and are asking the public's help in identifying unmarked graves caused by erosion, cultivation or markers without surnames.

MAHASKA

From KWVL-TV, Waterloo, September 23, 2017: "Disturbing. Disgusting; Vandalism and animal abuse found at Iowa cemetery." An Iowa cemetery has up to \$30,000 in damage after being vandalized. In the past few weeks, headstones have been broken and flowers have been stolen at Forest Cemetery in Os-kaloosa. Vandals also attacked swans near the cemetery. One swan's beak was duct-taped shut and another's was glued shut. Those birds survived the attack, but a third died after its neck was broken. No arrests have been made.

MITCHELL

The Original Osage Cemetery, compiled by Charles N. Wells and published serially between November 12, 1936 and April 1, 1937, in the *Mitchell County Press and Osage News*. Most of the early pioneers traveled via Janesville, Wisconsin which was the last source of supplies. Deaths along the trail were frequent due to croup and pneumonia and bodies were interred in unmarked graves. The first death in the area occurred in 1854. Few records are available about the early history of the Osage Cemetery. The United Map & Engineering

Co., in 1926 shows 30 acres of the present cemetery as part of the J.W. Eckford land. Records of the first 90 pioneers disinterred and placed in the first 4 acre plot are available, including the 91st, M.S. Stacy, who died in Janesville and his remains were moved to Osage in 1872. When it was found in 1868 that the Illinois Central railway ran through the old cemetery, it forced people to establish the present cemetery. However, it is said that many graves were left and still remain under the railroad tracks.

POLK

From the *Iowa State Bystander*, Des Moines, IA, January 17, 1896: Des Moines dispatch: Detectives arrested nineteen students and the janitor of the Drake Medical School, on warrants charging them with robbing graves at Saylorville cemetery and the county poor farm. The warrant was sworn out by Don Brendel, steward of the farm, and the students were marched in a body to the central station. They were released on \$300 bonds each to

appear at 2 p.m. January 20, for preliminary hearing.

From the *Iowa History Journal*, July/August, 2017, p.6: "Stone Markers Placed at Baby Hill." by John Bubee. Through the efforts of many, the final resting place of hundreds of infants who died more than a century ago, we given proper markers at Des Moines' Woodland Cemetery. In 2013, historian Gerald LaBlanc and the DAR created a mission-driven force to place a stone marker for each interred infant in Baby Hill. In a moving ceremony on April 23, the final three headstones were installed.

STORY

From the *Iowa Recorder*, Greene, IA, January 17, 1917: Ames -- "Billy"



Sunday who is now in the midst of his greatest evangelistic triumph will spend his later days in Iowa, according to Parley Sheldon, the banker of this city and one of Billy's first employ-

ers. Mr. Sheldon said: "Will told me, 'Parley, pick me out a good corner lot in Ames so that when I have to quit I can spend my sunset days in old Story county near the 'scenes that are so dear to me.'" Mr. Sheldon said "Billy" would buy the old family graveyard on the banks of the creek near Ames in a minute, but the present owner refuses to sell the farm on which the graveyard is located.

From the *Ackley World Journal*, December 5, 1918: *The Cemetery Seems to be a Lively Place. Ames Triune*. They say the hogs are rooting around the graves in the cemetery, and some person had better be looking out. Attention was called to this matter several weeks ago and it was said that the porkers had been penned up, but if they have the gate has evidently been left open. The sexton gets a grave nicely rounded up and making a place of beauty when along comes Mr. Pig and snoots around and leaves it a very disreputable place. The new fence which recently arrived has not been placed in position as yet, but those who have the matter in hand expect to have the work done in a short

time. Then what is the man going to do that pastures his hogs in the cemetery?

TAMA

From the *New Hampton Tribune*, December 10, 1953: A construction crew, moving dirt at Chelsa, uncovered an old coffin, containing a hip bone. The coffin was rotted to ashes, and the unmarked grave was estimated to be at least __ years old.

VAN BUREN

From the *New Hampton Tribune*, November 19, 1987: *Tombstone Find*. Vearl McCombs of Croton recently found a tombstone when she was digging for a flower bed. She was spading in her front yard to prepare a flower bed when she uncovered a tombstone several feet underground. After contacting everybody in the area with the same last name as the stone, Vearl still could shed no light on the mystery grave. The hamlet of Croton is known as the farthest point north where a Civil War battle was fought on August 5, 1861. The dates inscribed on the stone were 1820-1878. --*Farmington Van Buren County Leader-Record*.

WAPELLO

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, October 6, 2017: *Restored by*

Faith, by Matt Milner. In an article about the 60th anniversary of a fire at the Ottumwa Heights College, the Mt. Olivet Cemetery is mentioned as one of the enduring reminders of the event. Tucked away in a quiet part of the Indian Hills campus, the cemetery includes graves for generations of Ottumwa Heights nuns who made up the faculty of the college.

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, October 31, 2017: *Sharing stories residents took to their graves*, by Mark Newman. Kirkville resident Annissa Helm-Loyd, along with volunteers and caretaker Tim Doyle, provided a self-guided tour of the Westview Cemetery a week before Halloween. Those whose graves were featured on the 17-station tour were generally “everyday” people, except for James Brown Pike and his wife, Elizabeth Carberry Pike. Elizabeth’s father was a soldier in the Revolutionary War. So was James Pike’s father, Col. Zebulon Pike, a member of George Washington’s staff. James’s brother, Zebulon Pike Jr., led an 1806 expedition in which Pike’s Peak was named for him. One account described a young, academically gifted girl. She was sitting outside with her father and uncle. A storm started to roll in and her father stood up from the bench. Lightning struck the swing where Carrie Smith still sat, killing

her. With the death of John L. Pelham, the townspeople shared the man’s strange actions and condition in his obituary. He took a pistol from the cash box at his family’s store and shot himself in the head. One story that was passed down from caretaker to caretaker orally through the years told of an African American family that came through town grieving the loss of their little boy. They had traveled for five days asking if their child could be buried in hallowed ground through towns that refused their request. They were finally given permission to bury the little boy in Kirkville.

From the *Ottumwa Courier*. January 5, 2018: *Effort begins to honor fallen troops locally*, by Mark Newman. A traveling monument, “Remembering the Fallen,” will be set up at the Quincy Place Mall in Ottumwa on June 29. The monument honors troops who have died in the War on Terror. Wapello and Appanoose Counties have lost four young troops in the war.

www.rememberingourfallen.org



LOCATION UNKNOWN

From the *Iowa Territorial Gazette and Advertiser*, January 6, 1844: NOTICE. Proposals will be received until Wednesday, the 29th inst. for clearing the underbrush from eleven acres of land, recently purchased for a burial ground, and lying about half a mile north west of the public square, the clearing to be completed by the 20th of December.

Proposals will also be received til the 15th of December for putting a post and rail fence on three sides of said ground, (8 rods) to be competed by the first day of May next.

-- Also, for putting a pine plank fence on one side (40 rods) to be completed by the first of June next.

By order of the Board of Control, Nov. 25,
ARTHUR BRIDGMAN

SAPIC dues:

Individual for one year: \$25.00

Household for one year: \$35.00

Business or organization for one year: \$40.00

Lifetime individuals:
\$200.00



Were on the web:

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~iasapc/>

SAPIC is on Facebook!

Donations welcome and tax deductible.

Send dues to:

Brad Hughes, 308 NW Sunset Lane
Grimes, IA 50111



SAPIC Lending Library has books and other materials related to cemetery preservation; the list can be found on the SAPIC web site.

Contact SAPIC president John Heider for a list of suggested cemetery supplies and where to purchase them.

D2 stone cleaner Regardless of the container size, D2 is sold as a ready-to-use product (RTU). Although it may be diluted by the end user, D2 is not a concentrate. Another product very similar to D2 is KEYSTONE and it does come as a concentrate. One quart of KEYSTONE will make two gallons of biological stone cleaner. Bonstone is one of several suppliers who sell D2. --John Heider

All the package sizes of D2 are ready-to-use. The confusion may arise because D2 *is indeed* a somewhat concentrated product, and *can be* (but doesn't need to be) diluted prior to use. It depends on the degree of biological contamination on the surface, and whether you are doing the initial cleaning or a "touch-up maintenance" application. If you have severe fouling, use full-strength; if you're doing a light-duty cleaning, or a light maintenance touch-up, you can indeed dilute the D2 as much as 8:1 (1 qt D2 to 2 gallons water).

Mike Beckmann Bonstone Materials Corp. www.bonstone.com 1-800-425-2214

WHERE TO GET SIGNS

Iowa Prison Industries
Box B
Anamosa, IA 52205
1-800-336-5863

STATE CEMETERY REGULATOR

Dennis N. Britson, Director
Regulated Industries Unit, Iowa Securities Bureau
601 Locust Street, 4th Floor
Des Moines, IA 50309-3738
E-Mail: Dennis.Britson@iid.iowa.gov
(515) 281-5705 or toll-free (877)-955-1212
Christina.hazelbaker@iid.iowa.gov
paula.fastenau@iid.iowa.gov (compliance officer)

VETERANS' HEADSTONES

<http://www.cem.va.gov/>
Telephone: 1-800-697-6947

OFFICE OF THE STATE ARCHAEOLOGIST

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