

Grave News

NEWSLETTER OF THE STATE ASSOCIATION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF IOWA CEMETERIES

21813 170th St. Birmingham, Iowa, 52535

sapiciowa.org

Volume 23 Issue #3

July, August, September 2018

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SAPIC will meet at the Spillville Public Library on Oct 13th, at 201 Oak St, Spillville, IA 52168.

The Winneshiek County Pioneer Cemetery Commission will be hosting and will be at the library at 9 am with kolaches and coffee prior to the meeting start time at **10 am.**

A lunch is available following the meeting. There will be a \$5.00 charge for the lunch. **Please let**

Janelle know by October 1 if you wish to partake of the lunch.

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STATE ASSOCIATION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF IOWA CEMETERIES

MINUTES

JULY 14, 2018

The State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries met Saturday, July 14, 2018 at the Central Community Historic Museum in De Witt, Iowa, with 21 members and guests present. President John Heider called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. Secretary Larry Davis read the minutes of the April 14th meeting. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Brad Hughes reviewed the 2018 budget and noted that income was down at the present time, but additional income from dues is expected.

A review of the accounts illustrated a balance of \$12,405.33. Motion was made and seconded to accept the treasurer's report. Motion passed.

Grants: Brad Hughes, chairman of the Grant Committee, presented a review of past Grant recipients as to how funds were used and if the project was completed. Hughes will continue to monitor the status of the SAPIC Grant Program. It was suggested that a list be prepared of grant recipients that have not used the grand funds as stated in their

Continued pg 3

Burial on Private Property



Grave stones

I heard this from Dennis Britson several years ago

Returning to Illinois from a cemetery program in Pella, my wife and I decided to drive SE toward Illinois on Iowa's scenic two-lane highways. One unexpected sight caught my eye; at the side of a rural narrow blacktop road was a trailer with new grave-stones at one end of the mobile home. These were recent burials on private property and that being a new experience for me, the scene elicited a question. Is a burial on private

property legal?

The answer is, yes. In many states such as Iowa, Nebraska, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois and Missouri, a person may be buried on private property provided it meets local laws. Indiana is the only nearby state that requires a person be buried in a cemetery.

John Heider

October Meeting in Spillville

Spillville is GPS/Google Map friendly so if you put in your locator device you should get right there.

We also plan to have some information about some neat "must see" cemetery locations in and around Spillville that attendees could check out before they head home.

For more information, contact: Janelle Halverson – in the office Monday thru Friday 7am to 3pm CST

KVIK Office Hours Monday thru Friday 6am to 6pm

Wennes Communication KVIK/ KNEI/KMRV-AM 1160 FM 99.1 Traffic Manager/On Air Personality/News Director 501 West Water Street Decorah, IA 52101 563-382-5845 nell@kvikradio.com

Following the meeting, Brennan Dolan from the Office of Location and Environment will present a 20-25 minute program on the Statewide Historical Sites Inventory and Management Plan. Brennan is the the Cultural Resources Manager/Archaeologist for the State of Iowa.

Future Meetings

Madison County will host SAPIC in April, 2019

Marshall County will host SAPIC in July or October, 2019. *Thanks to those groups that have extended invitations to host SAPIC!*

William B. Ott's will stated he wanted to be cremated in a tomato can, 1945, IL Schuylerite (Schuyler Co. Jail Museum, IL), v.38n.1, Spr. 2009



County Reports

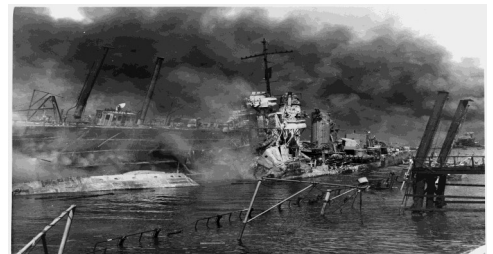
CHICKASAW

The Chickasaw County Cemetery Commission has been busy working on Cagley Cemetery, this cemetery is several miles from the Little Brown Church. St. Michael's Cemetery in Jericho and some follow-up work at Little Turkey Cemetery. Wally Boehmer has a health issue to tend to and so he has been tending to that. Some of the members have been assisting members of a Lutheran church near Saude in Utica township with cemetery repairing. The group that was interested in repairing stones in the cemetery in Alta Vista have more or less ceased. The man who was the organizer of the group has health issues. Not much to report from Black Hawk County. I am laid up with a knee replacement and am out of commission.--Mike Magee

Clayton

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, September 11, 2018: "Iowan ID'd among Pearl Harbor dead."

Officials have identified the remains of a sailor killed in the WWII attack on Pearl Harbor as those of Fireman 3rd Class Robert J. Bennett who was on board the USS Oklahoma. His remains were in the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific and were identified using DNA and other evidence



CLINTON

From the *Cedar Rapids Gazette*, July 6, 2018: "Two rural pioneer cemeteries vandalized in Clinton County," by Scott Levine, *Clinton Herald*. Vandals have overturned and damaged headstones at the Smith and Barber rural cemeteries and the Springdale cemetery in Clinton in a couple of weeks. "I don't hardly know what to say. It's very disrespectful. I don't understand it," said SAPIC member, Ann Soenksen. The Clinton County Pioneer Cemetery Commission has worked to clean up pioneer cemeteries and restore long-forgotten headstones. County Supervisors fund the commission and will have to contemplate the financial implications. Supervisor, Dan Srp said the insurance deductible is \$1,000 and that the vandalism is disheartening.

Minutes from pg 1

application, and that these recipients not be eligible for further grants until the work is done. It was noted that this is currently being monitored through the annual summary as prepared by the treasurer and as applications are reviewed by the Grant Committee.

Discussion was held in regard to an inquiry received asking if SAPIC would provide a grant for a capital improvement, such as for a building. After considerable discussion, several suggestions were presented.

- 1. More details are needed, which would probably be provided on a Grant Application form.
- 2. Priority has been given to gravestone repair and maintenance , cemetery fencing, etc.
- 3. An application would be accepted and considered by the Grant Committee like all Grant applications and recommendations submitted to the board.

Newsletter Ads Fee: Discussion was held on whether or not to have advertising in the Grant News newsletter, if so, should it be for "profit" or "not for profit" advertisers. It was noted that the April 14,2018 meeting minutes addressed this by suggesting that inquiries be made to what advertising rates are for other similar publications that would be helpful in the development of this issue. It was suggested to continue interest in this and obtain additional helpful information.

Workshop: Reports were given on two gravestone repair workshops held in Urbana, Illinois, and Vermillion, Ohio.

Protected Birds: John Heider reminded members that it is illegal to have in their possession, feathers of protected birds, such as eagles. One should be familiar with the birds that are protected since they are sometimes found in cemeteries.

Miscellaneous:

- 1. New burials in a Pioneer Cemetery, the owner of the cemetery is responsible for authorizing the new burials.
- 2. Johnson County presented an update on their rules and regulations.
- 3. John Heider handed out information on workshops including, "selecting an instructor" and "selecting a qualified cemetery conservator service".

4. Future meeting sites: SAPIC will meet at the Iowa Funeral Museum in Marshalltown in 2019. The exact date will be determined.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

Secretary, Larry Davis



County Reports Continued

FLOYD

From *Our Iowa* magazine, August/September, 2018, p. 27: *Civic minded students*, by Elizabeth Klaes, Associate Editor. In a column titled "Most Interesting Town in Iowa," the history and points of interest in Charles City are highlighted. Included in the story is a project about an eighth-grade class that was inspired to restore and preserve the historic Riverside chapel in a local cemetery. During the 2-year project, the students have researched to make sure the original materials were used, so the building can be on the National Register of Historic Places.



HENRY



From KTVO-TV, September 7, 2018: "Devastation at Mt. Pleasant cemetery is heartbreaking, historians say," by Beth Waldon. Hundreds of volunteers helped the residents of Mt. Pleasant clean up after a powerful storm swept through the town on August 28 just before the Midwest Old Thrasher's Reunion on Labor Day weekend. More than 20 headstones were crushed by trees at the Old City Cemetery where the founder of the town, Presley Saunders, and other historic persons' graves are located. "We are very attached to the cemetery and the people who are buried here," said Pat White, chairperson of the Henry County Pioneer Cemetery Commission. The Mormon Helping Hands organization is organizing a clean-up day.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Funds on hand as of September 24, 2018, consist of \$5,737 in a share draft (checking) account, \$205 in a reserve savings account, and \$6,539 in a certificate of deposit. These funds total \$12,481 and reflect a slight decline from balances on hand of \$12,661 at year-end 2017 and \$13,052 year-end 2016. While incoming cash totaled \$1,364 year-to-date, expenses totaled \$1,544 during the period. An expanded treasurer's report as of quarter-end September 30 will be submitted for approval at the October meeting of SAPIC.

IOWA

From the *Pioneer-Republican*, serving Marengo, Ladora, Victor, the Amana Colonies and all of Iowa County, May 23, 2018:

Preserving Cemetery History, by Brian Rathjen. Eagle Scout Mason Erger assisted in mapping the Bishop Cemetery in Washington Township located two miles northeast of Marengo. The result was an up-to-date map that shows all of the documented burials that have taken place in the cemetery, from the 1850s to the current time, and lists many of the pioneer families of northern Iowa County. SAPIC Board Member, LaVerna Moser, who is active in the pioneer cemetery commission, presented Erger with a special award, the "Friends of Iowa Cemeteries" award, honoring his two years of work in mapping out the cemetery. The Bishop Cemetery holds special meaning for LaVerna Moser since many of her ancestors' and family members' graves are located there. The certificate is awarded to individuals who have demonstrated a desire to rescue, preserve, protect and maintain cemeteries and grave sites in the state of Iowa. Recipients of the award have been recognized for discovering and restoring cemeteries, including their monuments and protection; and

raising public awareness of the need to preserve this unique aspect of Iowa's cultural heritage. Plans for updating and Bishop cemetery map will continue, with the documentation of unmarked graves and other burials not yet noted. Mason Erger presented a program about the project to the membership of SAPIC at its July, 2016 meeting held in Amana.

JACKSON

From the *Quad City Times*, July 7, 2018: "Pioneer descendants buried next to early Iowa ancestors," by Alma Gaul.

SPRAGUEVILLE, Ia. -- In August 1842, Margaret Reed died while traveling with her husband and seven children to a land claim in Jackson County. On June 27, 2018 the remains of her great, great granddaughter, Idell Wenthur, and her husband, Air Force Major Pierce Wenthur, were buried on a high bluff near Spragueville next to Margaret Reed's marker.

About 70 people attended the interment ceremony, including the Wenthurs' four children, numerous Wenthur grandchildren, about 20 Jackson County military veterans, a six-member Air Force Honor Guard from Offutt Air Force Base and members of Jim and Lori

Evilsizer family, who now own the Century Farm on which the cemetery is located. "Idell's passion for her family history resulted in her finding this place and her wanting to be buried here," her son Frank said.

**LINN**

From the *Cedar Rapids Gazette*, September 16, 2018: "Oak Shade Cemetery," by Diane Fannon-Langton. This Marion burial ground is one of the oldest in the state. Oak Shade Cemetery's original five acres date to the early 1840s before Iowa was a state. The burials were laid out in the order that they happened. Families were not buried together. Among those buried is Mancil Root, the youngest soldier to enlist in the Civil War who was not yet 10. Other Civil War veterans buried there include Thomas J. McKean, Marion's first mayor. Over the years, more land was acquired and different groups and caretakers oversaw the maintenance of the graves. In January 1952, the Oak Shade Cemetery Memorial Association was incorporated to help fund improvements, deal with maintenance and vandalism. Oak Shade Cemetery is a current member of

SAPIC.

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From KWWL.com, September 9, 2018: "Another Mess," by Amanda Gilbert. Besides the continuous rains that have fallen in the Cedar Rapids area that have affected the Oak Hill Cemetery among others, people have littered the grounds and have driven vehicles on grave sites leaving tracks in the grass. Workers with Oak Hill say this is disrespectful. Superintendent Carl Thoreson says, "Treat the cemetery like you do your grandma and where she lives. You're not going to go over to your grandma's house and throw trash and who knows what up there. It's just terrible." They are going to need grass seed, rakes and shovels to repair the damage. They haven't been able to mow because the ground's been so soggy this week. Carl and his wife, Jane, are lifetime members of SAPIC and hosted a SAPIC in April, 2010.



MADISON

Good Morning Farris Advocacy Group,

Please save the date Friday, October 12th 10:30 a.m. at the Winterset Public Library to listen to the GPR report from the State Office of Archaeologists, University of Iowa regarding Farris Cemetery. Archaeologist Dr. Glenn Storey will be there to present the report. You may remember that Glenn, Jennifer Mack and Robert Lepcin were at Farris Cemetery on July 9th to conduct the study.

I think you will find it extremely interesting. Please come.

We have added a new member to our Farris Advocacy Group ___ Larry Baker from Tulsa, Oklahoma area. He is strongly considering buying the nine acres that includes the Farris Cemetery. He and his wife would like to move to Madison County to be closer to family that live in Des Moines.

Larry had a good visit with Ben Mayer at Farris Cemetery. Larry appreciated the introduction to the history of Farris Cemetery.

Today I appreciated Larry's phone call. I shared our intentions, time line, required access with a recorded easement and the need for gravel. He is very interested in the history of the cemetery and has offered to help in taking care of Farris Cem-

etry. Very good phone meeting.

This has been a very exciting and busy summer for Farris Cemetery. There is more to come. I appreciate you all spreading the word. We still need to do more fundraising to replace the "sugary" James Farris head stone and half the cost of the fence. Let your organizations know. I would be happy to work with you to schedule presentations. Thank you all. Molly Clause

MARION



Val, Kent, Carl, Larry, Bev and Steffany Micetich worked at Karr Cemetery July 7, to clean up cemetery. Three trees were cut down, stones were cleaned, fence row cleaned up. Discussion was held on what else we need to do at the cemetery. Will have another work day to work on the fence. Val & Kent will evaluate the fence and will have another work day in September.

Pella Historical Society and Museums is holding a cemetery walk on Sunday, Oct. 14, 1:30-3:30 p.m., at Oakwood Cemetery in Pella. Thirteen persons from Pella's early history will be portrayed by local actors at the gravesites.

Tickets are \$10 each and can be purchased in advance from Pella Historical (641-620-9463) or purchased at the gates of the museum the day of the event. Rain date is Sunday, Oct. 21. Oakwood Cemetery is located on the northwest side of Pella on Columbus Street between W. 5th and W. 6th Streets. --Valerie Terpstra Van Kooten

Executive Director
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 507 Franklin Street
 Pella, Iowa 50219
 (641) 620-9463
www.PellaHistorical.org
www.PellaTulipTime.com

MUSCATINE

From KWWL-TV News, July 7, 2018: "Man arrested, accused of stealing cemetery vases." Police have arrested Thomas Edgar Thornburg on suspicion of stealing dozens of brass vases from the Muscatine Memorial Park Cemetery. Up to 50 urns that were chained to markers may be missing. Each vase may cost up to \$650 to replace.

UPDATE: Two more people have been arrested on charges involving stolen vases from a Muscatine cemetery.

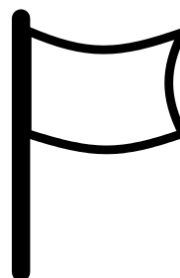
Justin Lyle Winter, 44, and Lyle Everett Winter, 70, were arrested on theft charges on August 16. Both men worked at Muscatine Metals.

The charges say that both men were involved in buying the vases, knowing they were stolen property. Charges also include they purchased over 20 other stolen items.

PLYMOUTH



From the *Sioux City Journal*, July 5, 2018: "Veterans finish cannon restoration at Memorial Park Cemetery," by Nick Hytrek. A group of veterans have been working since 2016 to restore a cannon at the cemetery, which was used in France in 1918 during WW1. The U.S. War Department had awarded the cannon to the Claud Stansberry Chapter 66 of the Military Order of the Purple Heart in 1941, the Sioux City Chapter of the national organization for veterans who were wounded in combat and had received the Purple Heart decoration. The wooden wheels on the cannon had deteriorated and with donations, the members of the Iowa Military Order of the Purple Heart Chapter 462 had new wheels built, a stand constructed to bear the weight of the cannon and had it repainted. Plans also call for a border of red rock around the cannon and a heavy-duty solar light to illuminate the flagpole standing next to it.



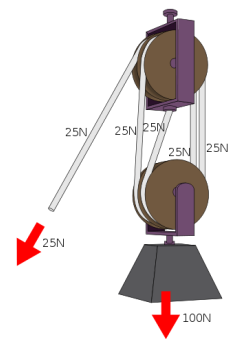
VAN BUREN

From the *Van Buren Register*, August 9, 2018: Van Buren County Genealogical Society member Don Aldrich literally raised two headstones from the grave and stood them tall. Don, who prefers working on small gravestones says that a pulley was stolen from the cemetery crew's lift, so they are currently very limited as to stone weight.

From the *Van Buren Register*, August 23, 2018: "Chequest Township replaces stolen pulley block." Dave McQuoid, township board member, presented a new pulley assembly to Don Aldrich of the Van Buren County Genealogical Society, in appreciation of the cemetery work previously done in the township by the cemetery work crew. The cemetery crew charges nothing for their gravestone work, but does accept donations.

From the *Van Buren Register*, August 30, 2018: Using the replacement pulley block give by Chequest Township, a 300 pound granite stone was lifted and reset at the Bethel Cemetery by genealogical society members Paul Larson and Marvin Danneil.

From the *Van Buren Register*, August 30, 2018: "New sign for an old prairie," by Rusty Ebert, Editor. One of the few remaining



remnants of original prairie discovered 25 years ago at the entrance to the New Boston Cemetery received a new sign made for the owners, Waverly and Willard Hoskin, by their nephew. Except in fence rows and inside pioneer cemeteries, this is probably the only remnant virgin prairie left in Van Buren County. A soil sample that was sent to Iowa State University in Ames confirmed that it was, indeed, virgin prairie.

WAPELLO

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, July 3, 2018: "National war memorial opens in Ottumwa," by Mark Newman.

Thousands of photographs showing airmen, coast guardsmen, Marines, sailors and soldiers in uniform were supplemented with distant memories of everyday civilian life in the memorial, Remembering our Fallen, held at Quincy Place Mall in Ottumwa. Guests of honor at the opening ceremony were Gold Star families who had lost a loved one in the War on Terror. Veterans, including the Patriot Guard, attended, along with SFC Danny Simonson who said, "This photographic war memorial gives us a moment to reflect on those who gave their lives for our freedom."



WINNESHIEK

From the Johnson County IAGenWeb Project, updated September 4, 2010: "Andera Graveyard Crosses --



The Unique Cemetery Art of a Czech Immigrant," by Cyril M. Klimesh. When Charles Andera died in 1929, he left behind a unique legacy: hundreds of ornate distinctive cast metal crosses which mark the final resting places of roman Catholic Czech Americans. His beautiful grave markers have been found in cemeteries from Prague, Oklahoma to Bohemia, New York and from Pisek, North Dakota to Hallettsville, Texas. Almost exclusively these monuments are in Czech Catholic graveyards.

Loren N. Horton, Chief Historian for the Iowa State Historical Society, now retired (and founder of SAPIC), calls Andera's cemetery art a "Czech-American treasure." Most puzzling is the question: how did this craftsman who lived in the small village of Spill-

ville, Iowa, locate buyers scattered throughout such a wide region?

SAPIC members will have an opportunity to tour and learn more history of Andera and his beautiful art following the next SAPIC meeting in Spillville on October 13, 2018.

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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

Donations welcome and tax deductible.

Send dues to:

Brad Hughes, 308 NW Sunset Lane
Grimes, IA 50111

Were on the web:

sapiciowa.org

SAPIC is on Facebook!



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

Cleaning headstones

I recommend a chemical product called KEYSTONE that is very similar to D2, a comparable product. There are less expensive products, but if you're going to spend the effort and time, choose one of the following chemical cleaners:

D2 comes as a one gallon RTU product and cost about \$60 delivered.

KEYSTONE is a concentrate, comes in a quart, and makes 2 gallon of cleaner. Cost is \$25 delivered.

D2 may be ordered from Miles Supply, 1660 West Broadway, Rockville, MN 56369; 1-800-789-0813.

KEYSTONE may be ordered from R.I.P., Ltd., 988 Iron Horse Place, Monticello, IL 61856; 217-898-2422. -- *John Heider*

WHERE TO GET SIGNS

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

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601 Locust Street, 4th Floor
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Christina.hazelbaker@iid.iowa.gov
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VETERANS' HEADSTONES

<http://www.cem.va.gov/>

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