

Grave News

NEWSLETTER OF THE STATE ASSOCIATION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF IOWA CEMETERIES

21813 170th St. Birmingham, Iowa, 52535

sapiciowa.org

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October, November, December 2018

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It's time to pay dues for 2019!



Please send your membership dues to SAPIC Treasurer **Brad Hughes** 308 Sunset Lane, Grimes, IA , 50111. Thanks for your support! Because of your support, SAPIC is able to award funds to deserving cemetery preservationists through grants, keep members abreast of approved methods of restoration and happenings throughout the state with newsletters and promote the passage of laws conducive to historical preservation.

Agenda for Jan 12, 2019 Agenda for the Virtual Quarterly Meeting

This agenda is presented only for comments. Any motion, discussion or vote on the topics will be addressed at our next open meeting April 13th held in Winterset, Madison County. If you have additional ideas, concerns, comments for the virtual January 2019 meeting, they will be added to an updated January 12th agenda.

The agenda topics are presented only for comments. Any motion, discussion or vote will require an open meeting. Brad Hughes will provide a current Treasurer's Report. Larry Davis can provide October 2018 minutes.

Note: For this meeting, unfortunately there are NO refreshments.



1. Advertising.....

....in Grave News

....on Website Permitted?

Member – Non-Member Fees? If a commercial advertisement is submitted, should there be a fee for publication?

Note: In past Grave News issues, it has published commercial “advertisements”, but no fee policy was established.

2. Consider attending State Organization Genealogical-Historical Conference (s) in Iowa Wisconsin, Minnesota, Illinois, Missouri.

Any member attending or volunteering to attend these spring conferences? Other state organizations encourage out-of-state membership.

3. Class and Workshop Information

Information Packet

Available; contact John

Heider.

Advertise program and grant in Grave News and on website. Information will be available on website.

For 2019, three Iowa organizations have requested information and are considering spring workshops.

4. Special Reduced Dues for Schools and Youth Clubs.

Encourage the youth to be involved in preserving our cemeteries. Be a speaker at their meetings.

Someday, they may become members and be our replacements.

5. Should non-members continue to receive complimentary Grave News issues?

6. Solicit suggestions for simplifying and updating SAPIC's purpose and goals.

Continued on pg 2

7. Establish organization goals that are specific, achievable, realistic, timely, evaluated and revised. These may be long or short term. What direction do you want the association to take?

8. Improving the sapiciowa.org website. General topics, interesting photos, how-to-do-it section, interesting links.

9. SAPIC symbol, trademark, ID. Would it be nice to have a recognizable logo?

10. For 2020, thoughts about establishing a central location for quarterly meetings.

11. Cultivate associate editors, publishers, reporters. Presently, we have an editor and publisher, but no associate positions. Would it be practical to develop associates that would be act as support for these two titles? Volunteers? Please contact Pat Shaw or Donna Story.

-- John Heider, President!



STATE ASSOCIATION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF IOWA CEMETERIES MINUTES

OCTOBER 13, 2018

The State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries met Saturday, October 13, 2018 at the Spillville Public library in Spillville, Iowa, with 21 members and guests present. President John Heider called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Larry Davis read the minutes of the last meeting which were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Brad Hughes presented the treasurer's report, illustrating a balance of \$12,586.17 as of September 30, 2018, and he noted the overall deposit totals continue to reflect a moderate decline. Currently a CD is maturing this coming November. Interest rates are predicted to continue rising into next year, and Hughes recommended reinvesting the funds into another CD for a longer term, probably 18 months, at a higher rate.

Motion was made and seconded to authorize reinvesting the funds currently in a CD to a longer term and higher interest rate. Motion carried. Cash flow to date is short of the annual budgeted amount by \$41. However, the budget outlay, grants of \$1,000, have been expended for the year.

Grants: Brad Hughes presented a summary of status reports from 2017 and 2018 grant recipients as to the use of grant funds. Those not completing the use of SAPIC grant funds will be contacted and asked to send a report at the completion of the use of funds.

Nominations Committee: Jean Ripley, representing the nominations committee, reported that Don Wentworth has consented to be a candidate for a board member. During the committee report, Jody Holland volunteered to serve as a board member. Motion was made and seconded that a unanimous ballot be cast for Jody Holland and Don Wentworth to be elected board members. Motion carried.

Iowa Cemeteries: President Heider reminded members that one of the goals of SAPIC is to identify all Iowa cemeteries and ask members to think of ways to accomplish this. It was noted that there are currently several sources of this type of information and that perhaps someone could assemble and combine the sources to achieve this goal.

Cemetery Preservation Workshops: President Heider noted that several Cemetery Preservation Workshops were held in 2018, Ft. Dodge, Iowa and Pella, Iowa, Ohio and Illinois. Heider urged members to publicize workshops in their areas to encourage attendance. Also there is \$250 designated for workshops in the SAPIC budget. the question was asked, is \$250 enough?

SAPIC WEBSITE: It was reported that the website is still being updated. Members pointed out the importance of making the website attractive and suggested that when persons names are listed for cemetery preservation, that their expertise be given. it was also noted that short videos are popular.

Future SAPIC Meeting Locations:

January 2019—Email meeting

April 2019—Madison County, Winterset, Iowa

Moved by Mary Richards that the April 2019 SAPIC meeting be held at Winterset, Iowa, Madison County. Seconded by Jody Holland. Motion carried.

July 2019—Marshall County, Marshalltown, Iowa

October 2019—Jackson County, Maquoketa, Iowa

Program: President Heider introduced Brennan Dolan, Office of Location and Environment, Iowa Department of Transportation, who presented a draft of the Statewide Historical Sites Inventory and Management Plan, which SAPIC has had some input.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00, noon.

Secretary,
Larry Davis



TREASURER'S REPORT FOR GRAVE NEWS

Funds on hand as of December 28, 2018, consist of **\$5,032** in a share draft (checking) account, **\$455** in a reserve savings account and **\$7,574** in time certificates of deposit.

These funds total **\$13,061** and approximate balances on hand of **\$12,661** at year-end 2017 and **\$13,052** year-end 2016.

A grant application for \$250 is currently pending with the Grant Committee. An expanded treasurer's report as of quarter-end December 31 will be submitted for approval at the January meeting of SAPIC

WEBSITE CHANGES IN 2018

Efforts continue being made to expand and update the SAPIC website. As noted in the first 2018 issue of Grave News, a new website host was obtained. This change resulted in a new web address of sapiciowa.org. Transferring information from the old site to the new one has now been completed. Available digital copies of Grave News have also been uploaded for years 2014, 2015 and 2016. Some scanned images of older printed editions were also uploaded. Newsletter editions for 2017 will appear in the near future. In addition, a historical list of SAPIC grant applicants and recipients can now be accessed through the website. This grant list can be displayed by

selecting the link *Past Grant Applicants & Recipients (1999-2018)*.

This link can be displayed under the heading "2018 SAPIC GRANT APPLICATION." Also, a web counter has been added at the bottom of the SAPIC home page that reflects the number of past visitors.



April 13, 2019 SAPIC meeting in Madison County

Did you know local people wanted to know more about the virtues of SAPIC when Larry Davis placed a Civil War gravestone in Fairview Cemetery, Madison County, Iowa? The Madison Historical Society and the Madison Historic Preservation Commission members extend an invitation to SAPIC members and guests to meet in their limestone welcoming center in the Madison County Historical Museum on April 13, 2019. They will serve coffee and sweets when the doors to their museum open at 9:00 a.m. prior to our 10:00 a.m. meeting. The Madison County Museum is located at 815 South Second Avenue, Winterset, Iowa. SAPIC attendees may view the 18 acres of historical buildings, pioneer cemeteries, Madison County Bridges, John Wayne Museum, Quilt Museum and more following our meeting. Restaurants and the bakery on the square (yum!) welcome visitors. Please let us that you plan to attend by contacting Mary Richards at 5153864750 or mrichards@netins.net or Pat Shaw at patshaw@netins.net. We look forward to seeing you on April 13 in Winterset.



From the National Trust for Historic Preservation web site, October 27, 2018

The Best Historic Cemeteries to Visit Around the World By Meghan Drueding

Loren Rhoads doesn't find cemeteries depressing or spooky. Like many preservationists, she loves the contemplative feeling she gets amid the quiet beauty of a historic graveyard. In 2011, she began documenting her cemetery visits on her blog, [Cemetery Travel](#).

Now she's come out with a new book, [199 Cemeteries to See Before You Die](#), from Black Dog & Leventhal Publishers. It highlights big names such as Greenwood Cemetery in Brooklyn, New York, and Arlington National Cemetery, as well as smaller gems like the Granary Burying Ground in Boston (shown at top) and the churchyard at San Esteban del Rey church at [Acoma Sky City](#), a National Trust Historic Site in New Mexico.

The book also goes international, incorporating sites in Central and South America, Europe, Asia, Africa, and Australia. "I wanted to make it global," Rhoads says. "I wanted to get a sense of how similar we all are around the world."

From the *Cityview* magazine, Des Moines, January, 2019, page 98, "Collections & Hobbies," by Jeff Pitts.

Karen Brewer has added nearly 6,000 memorials to the web site: www.findagrave.com She has uploaded the text of all 786 gravestones at the Altoona Cemetery and many others from cemeteries in Clarke, Cass, Warren and Polk counties. What started as a hobby tracking down family history has progressed into a daily passion. She stresses the need for respect with regard to gravestones. She offers this advice: "If you didn't buy it, don't touch it."



County Reports

Benton

From the *Cedar Valley Times*, "Pioneer cemetery excellent spot for bird watch," by Ruby F. Bodeker, November 9, 2018, page A5:



The Castle Grove Cemetery located approximately 2 miles north of Garrison, provides the perfect spot for visitors who wish to commune with both nature and the past. According to the obituary for 89-year-old Maria Carlisle printed in the *Vinton Eagle* in 1911, the area was named for her husband James Carlisle who first settled there due to the abundance of lumber. The cemetery sits atop what is referred to as a "paha," an elongated dune above the surrounding landscape. Among the birds noted on a recent visit were chickadees, nuthatches, woodpeckers and a Golden-crowned Kinglet. The National Audubon Society recently published online a "checklist of must-dos while birdwatching in cemeteries" in an article by Rosemary Mosco. The list includes avoiding trampling or picking anything in the cemetery, allowing mourners plenty of space, keeping your voice low and never touching or leaving on a grave. "Birders must be respectful of a cemetery's prime purpose: to provide rest for the dead and comfort for the bereaved," writes Mosco.

CHICKASAW

Mike Magee, who enjoys volunteering in Chickasaw County, recently attended the Chickasaw County Cemetery Commission’s Christmas party. Mike is recovering from knee surgery and hopes to be back working in cemeteries next summer. Every member of the Commission received a Christmas card and gift from an anonymous donor.

Someone appreciates the hard work of this group of great volunteers!



DALLAS

From the *Dallas County News*, “Supervisors approve first reading of pioneer cemetery ordinance,” by Clint Cole -- Editor, Nov. 7, 2017.

A discussion that began June 21, 2016 was addressed by the Dallas County Supervisors regarding the maintenance of pioneer cemeteries. An ordinance was adopted that would allow the Board of Supervisors to “enter into agreements with Township Trustees or other public or private entities for performance of maintenance and restoration of pioneer cemeteries under the jurisdiction of the



Board of Supervisors.” According to the Dallas County Auditor, a pioneer cemetery commission has not been established.

JACKSON

ASSOCIATED PRESS -- Des Moines Register, December 27, 2018

MAQUOKETA – Commissions that oversee some of Iowa’s oldest pioneer cemeteries are struggling to accommodate requests for new burials.

To qualify as a pioneer cemetery under rules established by the State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries, there must be fewer than 12 burials in the past 50 years. That limit and other factors can make it hard to approve requests for new burials, the *Telegraph Herald* reported.

After inquiries from residents, the Jackson County Pioneer Cemetery Commission started working to establish rules allowing residents to be buried in the old cemeteries.

“It’s something that we have never settled on,” said JoAnn Caven, a member of the commission. “There are a lot of things that we need to figure out first.”

Caven said requests for future burials are pending at seven pioneer cemeteries in the county, but all must wait until new rules are established.

Besides the limit on burials allowed, the fact that many pioneer cemeteries are on private land creates another challenge for boards: deciding how much to charge for burials.

Jackson County commission member Donald Wentworth

said his panel is considering whether new burials should be open only to those who have ancestors buried at the pioneer cemeteries.

“We have to have an agreement on what is right and what is fair,” Wentworth said.

“There really isn’t any commission in the state that has rules for something like this.”

Lee Embretson, chairman of the Delaware County Pioneer Cemetery Commission, said his group remains focused on restoring pioneer cemeteries, but he noted there has been more interest recently in new burials.

Allen and Marjorie Fowler have been waiting for three years for Jackson County to establish rules that would let them be buried in the Union Center Cemetery, which is near their family farm east of Maquoketa.

The cemetery was established in 1861.

Allen Fowler said his grandfather, great-grandfather and great-great-grandfather are buried at Union Center Cemetery.

“It’s our family,” Allen said. “It’s where we were raised.”



Caven said the Jackson County panel hopes to establish rules in 2019. Contributed by several SAPIC members.

MARION

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, “Historical Society ‘haunts’ cemetery,” by Pat Finan, October 27, 2018. PELLA --



Zoie Winward shares the story of Theodora Scholte, daughter of Pella’s founder,

during the Oakwood Cemetery Walk on Sunday.

In a first-time cemetery walk at Oakwood Cemetery sponsored by the Pella Historical Society and Museums, several historical figures of Pella’s past were portrayed by local volunteers, including Sybertje Viersen, who made her living as a seamstress. Since she was viewed as a “rich old maid,” many of her customers refused to pay for her services. She wrote letters to each and explained how long she would be staying at their house until the debt was paid.

“Would you believe in three weeks I had all my money?” Sybertje’s impersonator imparted. SAPIC member, Valerie Van Kooten, executive director of the society, organized the cemetery walk that also included portrayals of ‘Theodora Scholte, daughter of Pella’s founder, Nellie Kramer Vander Muellen, Louis Bennett LeCocq and many more. The society plans to unearth more of their stories next year.

OUT OF STATE
INDIANA

The Delaware County Cemetery Preservation Committee in Indiana has a Facebook page! Check it out.



<https://www.facebook.com/Delaware-County-Pioneer-Cemetery-Preservation-Committee-206878986017363/>

SCOTLAND



SAPIC member David Lamb and his wife recently returned from spending three months in

Scotland where they visited ancient burial grounds, including the gravesites of 10th, 11th, and 12th century Knights Templar (veterans of the Crusades) and the cairn burials of ancient Picts and Celts that can easily date back over 5 millennia. Templar graves all are distinguishable by the “fiery sword” gravestones that bear no individual names, but cover the entire grave.



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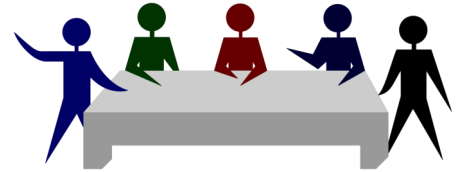
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SAPIC dues:

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

VETERANS' HEADSTONES

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

Telephone: 1-800-697-6947

WHERE TO GET SIGNS

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

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