

# Grave News

## NEWSLETTER OF THE STATE ASSOCIATION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF IOWA CEMETERIES

21813 170th St. Birmingham, Iowa, 52535

sapiciowa.org

Volume 24 Issue # 2

April, May June 2019

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### Next Meetings

July 13 at 10:00 AM at the Mitchell Mortuary Museum located next to the Mitchell Family Funeral Home  
1209 Iowa Avenue W  
Marshalltown, Iowa 50158  
Phone: (641) 844-1234

"Nice to meet you"



October 12 -- Jackson County, Hurstville Interpretive Center  
18670 63rd Street  
Maquoketa, IA 52060  
(563) 652-3783

Bring a guest

## April 2019 Minutes

### STATE ASSOCIATION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF IOWA CEMETERIES MINUTES APRIL 13, 2019

The State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries met Saturday, April 13, 2019 at the Madison County Historical Museum in Winterset, Iowa, with 30 members and guests present. President John Heider called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Secretary, Larry Davis explained that the October 2018 SAPIC meeting minutes were not approved at the January 2019 meeting since it was classified as a virtual meeting. No motions or actions were allowed. However, the October minutes were printed in the Grave News newsletter. Motions was made and seconded that the October 2018 minutes, as printed, in the Grave News newsletter, volume 23, issue #4, October, November, December 2018 be approved. Motion carried.

#### January Virtual Meeting

President Heider asked secretary Davis to present the summary of the responses received

during the January 2019, virtual meeting as follows:

1. Advertising for the Grave News newsletter should be accepted if it fits the philosophy of SAPIC, and rates be determined for members and non-members.
2. Encourage SAPIC members to attend other state organizations, Genealogy and Historical conferences.
3. Consider special reduced membership rates for schools and youth groups.
4. Non-members receiving complementary copies of the newsletter should pay for postage if hard copies are sent.
5. Review and possible change the purpose and goals of SAPIC.
6. Suggested improving the SAPIC website and developing a SAPIC symbol or logo.

#### Treasurer's Report:

##### Account Balances:

Deposits total \$13,705 and are slightly higher than balances in prior years. However, grant applications totaling \$1,000 are pending.

##### Cash Flow Compared to Budget-2018

Operating results for the 2018 calendar year are compared to the 2018 budget. Expenses were substantially under budgeted amounts by \$538.00. This results primarily from a credit of \$250 applied from a returned 2017 grant awarded. Also, zero amounts were expended for grave projects that were budgeted at \$369.

##### Cash Flow Compared to Budget-Current Year

A deposit increase of \$614 has been experienced the first quarter of this year. A proposed budget for 2019 in noted with amounts again reflecting averages over the past three years. Budgeted grants are at \$1,383. This line item was reduced to \$1,000 in 2018. Membership might want the grant budget reduced in 2019 also.

Motion was made and seconded to leave the current figure for grants at \$1,383 in the budget. Motion carried.

Motion was made and seconded to maintain an amount in the budget for an emergency grant request that would be approved by continued on pg 2

the SAPIC board. Motion carried. Motion was made and seconded to approve the 2019 budget. Motion carried.

Motion was made and seconded to accept the treasurer's report. Motion carried.

### Grants

Jean Ripley, representing the SAPIC Grant committee briefly reviewed the grant applications and stated the grant committee has reviewed them and recommends awarding for grants of \$250 each to the following:

Covey Church Cemetery, Sutherland, Iowa

Reed Cemetery, Strawberry Point, Iowa

Washington Prairie Norwegian Methodist Cemetery, Decorah, Iowa

Davenport City Cemetery, Davenport, Iowa

Motion was made to approve the four grant applications.

### Advertising and Emblem

After considerable discussion, it was generally agreed that SAPIC should offer advertising in the newsletter and web site. It was also suggested that ad fees for members be less than for non-members. An AD HOC committee was formed consisting of Jodi Holland and Andrea Furlong to assemble information on advertising fees, provide suggestion for a SAPIC logo or trade mark and report back to the board.

### SAPIC Purpose

Over the past several month, considerable discussion was held in regard to updating SAPIC's purpose. As a result, the following updated copy was presented.

A non-profit organization helping people restore and preserve Iowa

cemeteries and grave markers by providing educational and financial assistance. Emphasis is place upon improving and protecting pioneer cemeteries, those with twelve or fewer burials in the proceeding fifty years.

Motion was made and seconded to approve the updated statement of purpose. Motion carried.

### Cemetery Appreciation Month

Pat Shaw reported that she has been communicating with the Governor's office in regards to the schedule for the signing the proclamation proclaiming the month of May as Cemetery Appreciation Month. Information will be sent as soon as it is received.

### Robert and Phyllis Carter Award

It was noted that quite some time has passed since the Robert and Phyllis Carter Award had been presented. It was also explained a special nomination form is not required, simply a detailed letter would be sufficient and nominations can be made throughout the year.

### State Cemetery Historical and Genealogical Organizations

President Heider urged SAPIC members to attend surrounding state meetings and conferences. A question was asked if there were funds in the SAPIC budget for this purpose. The answer was no, but in many cases some expenses are tax deductible.

### Next SAPIC meeting:

**July 13, 2019,**

**Mitchell Funeral Museum.**

1209 Iowa Avenue W

Marshalltown, Iowa 50158

Phone: (641) 844-1234

Meeting adjourned at 11:43 a.m.

*Larry Davis*, Secretary

### Fall 2019 Meeting:

October 12 -- Jackson County,  
Hurstville Interpretive Center  
18670 63rd Street  
Maquoketa, IA 52060  
(563) 652-3783

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Governor Kim Reynolds signed the following into law on April 15, 2019:

House File 698

AN ACT RELATING TO THE JURISDICTION AND MANAGEMENT OF PIONEER CEMETERIES.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

Section 1. Section 331.325, subsection 3, Code 2019, is amended to read as follows:

3. a. In lieu of management of the cemeteries, the board of supervisors may create, by ordinance, a cemetery commission to assume jurisdiction and management of the pioneer cemeteries in the county. The ordinance shall delineate the number of commissioners, the appointing authority, the term of office, officers, employees, organizational matters, rules of procedure, compensation and expenses, and other matters deemed pertinent by the board. The board may delegate any power and duties relating to cemeteries which that may otherwise be exercised by township trustees pursuant to sections 359.28 through 359.40 to the cemetery commission except the commission shall not certify a tax levy pursuant to section 359.30 or 359.33 and except that the expenses of the cemetery commission shall be paid from the county general fund.

The cemetery commission, once created, may continue to assume jurisdiction and management of a cemetery that would no longer qualify as a pio-

neer cemetery due to recent burials if the cemetery qualified as a pioneer cemetery upon or after creation of the cemetery commission. The choice to continue retaining jurisdiction and control of a cemetery that no longer qualifies as a pioneer cemetery shall be made jointly between the county board of supervisors and the cemetery commission.

c. The Board of Supervisors and the cemetery commission may jointly decide to allow the cemetery commission to care for any cemetery that had between thirteen and twenty-four burials with the previous fifty years. However, a cemetery that had thirteen or more burials within the previous fifty years shall not be considered a pioneer cemetery.

\*\*\*\*\*

This amendment is a welcome clarification of issues/questions that have come up at several SAPIC meetings over the last several years.

1. If a pioneer cemetery has recent burials that raise the number in the last fifty years above twelve, does it then cease to be a pioneer cemetery? As set forth in this amendment, it is no longer a pioneer cemetery.

2. What is the status of a cemetery that is no longer a pioneer cemetery as relating to the Pioneer Cemetery Commission? By joint agreement with the Board of Supervisors, the Commission may opt to continue to exercise its jurisdiction, control, and care of the cemetery as if it were still a pioneer cemetery. This option would prevent having such a cemetery revert to a condition of neglect.

3. Should the maximum number of burials in a fifty-year period that defines a pioneer cemetery be raised

to 24? This proposal generated quite a bit of discussion and disagreement when it came up last year. Some county groups felt it was necessary to do this to save neglected cemeteries that did not yet meet the "twelve or fewer" requirement, while others feared that they would be overwhelmed with additional responsibilities.

This amendment would seem to meet the needs of both groups. While the "twelve or fewer" criterion would still apply to define a pioneer cemetery, commissions, acting jointly with supervisors, would be allowed to take charge of non-pioneer cemeteries having up to twenty-four burials in the fifty-year period. In those areas where such action is necessary, it can be done: where it is not necessary, it need not be done.

Observations by Bill Reedy, SAPIC vice-president.

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**Friday, June 28th at 11:00 a.m.**  
Gov. Reynolds attends Unclaimed Veterans Burial Ceremony  
Iowa Veterans Cemetery  
34024 Veterans Memorial Drive  
Adel, IA  
\*\*\*\*\*

In 1988 Ernest Robison's son was born paralyzed from the neck down due to a lack of oxygen. He lived until the age of 11 until he passed away from complications due to his condition. Rather than simply get a standard headstone for his son, Ernest designed a statue that shows his son in a wheel chair reaching for the heavens.

The Robison's went on to create a non-profit organization that helps people with disabilities get rehab equipment that they can't afford. Robison said, "Instead of sadness, the statue makes our son Matthew's grave a place of happiness. Many others have found that true also."



\*\*\*\*\*

Responses to Christina Hazelbaker's question of how to dispose of veterans' markers that have been replaced with new stones:

<https://m.vfwilserviceoffice.com/upload/Headstones.pdf>

If a marble or granite headstone or marker is permanently removed from a grave, it must be destroyed beyond legibility. Bronze markers must be returned to the contractor for recycling. (Please contact Memorial Programs Service at 1-800-697-6947 or by e-mail at [mps.headstones@va.gov](mailto:mps.headstones@va.gov) for guidance concerning the return of bronze markers.)

from <http://www.reflector.com/News/2018/05/28/Grave-concerns-expressed-about-disposal-of-veterans-headstones.html>

A check with the National Cemetery Administration, which operates the nation's 135 national cemeteries in 40 states and Puerto Rico, there are no mandatory rules for disposing of marble and granite headstones and markers. A spokesman said the organization does ask that they be broke into many pieces, so the inscription is illegible, and then be disposed.

From <https://www.leavenworthtimes.com/article/20140503/news/140509780>

William Owensby, Jr., director of the Leavenworth National Cemetery complex,

When headstones are replaced today at Leavenworth National Cemetery, the old markers are pulverized. The small pieces are then buried in a maintenance area on the cemetery grounds.

Owensby said the disposal of the headstones is carried out according to national cemetery rules that ensure old markers won't be used for anything other than their intended purpose.

He said the rules date back to at least the 1980s.

--SAPIC member Mike Rowley  
\*\*\*\*\*

Usually the stone is buried below, behind, or somewhere with the new stone. Because the Vet's administration prefer that the new stone is NOT set in cement we use the old stone as a deeply buried foundation. However if the new stones are already in place that option is out.

I would suggest destroying them (breaking them apart) and using the pieces to form a rock base below new cement for any stone.

Mostly bury them - do not leave them above ground exposed where

someone will believe they need to be re-set or report vandalism.

--SAPIC member Donna Story  
\*\*\*\*\*

A proclamation from the Office of the Governor that proclaimed the month of May as "Cemetery Appreciation Month" was signed on May 22. A number of Iowa counties observed and publicized cemetery restoration and preservation activities during the month. Thanks to Lydia Hall, the Governor's Press Assistant, and to Jeff Kauffmann for their assistance in this endeavor. SAPIC member Mary Richards delivered a thank you card on behalf of SAPIC to the Governor. The proclamation reads as follows:

WHEREAS, IOWANS ARE AWARE OF THE NEED TO PRESERVE THE RICH HERITAGE CONTAINED IN IOWA'S PIONEER HISTORICAL CEMETERIES, AND

WHEREAS, THIS APPRECIATION OF THEIR ANCESTORS' RESTING PLACES, DEVELOPS A SENSE OF PRIDE IN THEIR ANCESTOR'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND IN THEIR COMMUNITIES, AND

WHEREAS, PRIDE AND RESPECT FOR OUR PIONEERS LEADS TO AN INTEREST IN AND CONCERN FOR THE FUTURE, IT IS WITH THIS THOUGHT IN MIND THAT WE DEDICATE THIS MONTH TO THE CARE OF OUR PIONEER CEMETERIES:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kim Reynolds, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF IOWA, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM THE MONTH OF MAY, 2019, AS

CEMETERY APPRECIATION MONTH IN IOWA.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I HAVE HERE UNTO SUBSCRIBED MY NAME

AND CAUSED THE GREAT SEAL OF THE STATE OF IOWA TO BE AFFIXED. DONE AT DES MOINES THIS 22nd DAY OF MAY

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD TWO THOUSAND NINETEEN,

KIM REYNOLDS  
GOVERNOR OF IOWA



\*\*\*\*\*

I saw an ad for burial plots and thought, "This is the last thing I need!"

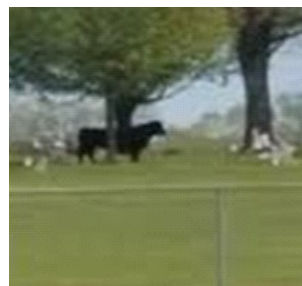


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### COUNTY REPORTS

#### BLACK HAWK

A bull escaped the farm it lived on near Cedar Falls on Sunday, May 5th. On Monday, Police and farmers were able to capture it by luring the bull into a trailer. This all happened in Hillside Cemetery. Lieutenant Kari Ray says, "Luckily the bull ended up in a fenced-in area. We just shut down the cemetery, locked the gates so we could keep it confined and off the roadway, away from people."



This was a new one for police. Ray says, "We've had horses loose and stuff in the city that we've

helped with before, but for sure, this was the first time we've had an actual bull."

When police found the owner of the bull, they learned he could no longer take care of it. So, other nearby farmers agreed to help get the bull into one

of their trailers, using food to lure him.

CLAYTON

SAPIC member, Carl Ingwalson, Jr. contributed a detailed biography about Willard Adams who served in Company B in the Civil War, along with his brothers, James and Asher.



Due to illness, Willard was given a Certificate of Disability and was discharged on March 22, 1863. He returned to the Luana area

where his health improved and he married twice and had a family. He passed away on December 14, 1906 and was buried in Luana Cemetery.

DUBUQUE

Carl Ingwalson, Jr. also provided a biography of Arnold Allen, who enlisted at Epworth at age eighteen and served in Company C in the Civil War. He supported his mother the best he could with his Union Army pay. Despite the money that Arnold was sending home, his mother's circumstances worsened and she applied for a widow's pension. Arnold was killed during the final campaign of the war on March 29, 1865. His mother did receive a pension of \$8.00 per month which increased to \$12.00.

Note: A copy of either or both biographies can be obtained from Pat Shaw. SAPIC life member, Valerie Ogren located his burial place, Mo-

bile National Cemetery, on Find A Grave.



**ARNOLD ALLEN**

**DEATH** 26 Mar 1865 (aged 20–21) Spanish Fort, Baldwin County, Alabama, USA

CHICKASAW

From radio station 95.1 The Bull -- Today's Country: Wally Boehmer was a special guest on the morning show Thursday. Wally talked about the Chickasaw County Cemetery Commission's Re-dedication Ceremony which takes place Sunday, June 3rd at Maple Grove pioneer cemetery near Fredericksburg

FAYETTE

The cemetery for the Fayette County poor farm and insane asylum (now called County Home) was operational from the early 1850s through until after 1925 and has been in the present location since 1865. The cemetery is currently being maintained well, but it is not clearly signposted. There are only four marked graves, although about 75 burials are known. The lots numbers are known for about half of these. Through the effort of many headed by Don Bright, current Fayette County Pioneer cemetery Commission President, names were identified and a plaque with the names in-



stalled at the cemetery. There will be a dedication ceremony on July 30, 2019.

IOWA

On May 5, 2019 LaVerna Moser, ICPCB Board Member and Secretary, received a call from Board Member Justin Sayers. He had gone to mow the Athey Pioneer Cemetery and discovered that a ground hog had decided to build his den in a gravesite. A big mound of dirt had human remains on top of it.

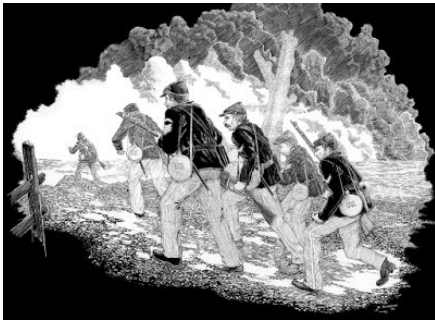


Pictures of the site were taken and it was secured as best as possible. On Monday morning LaVerna called Lara Nolder, state archeologist, and she came to observe the situation. It was decided that the dirt would be sifted through to recover the remains. What was found included the jaw bone, shoulder bone, many ribs and vertebrae. They were placed in brown paper bags, not plastic as this would cause them to collect moisture. Pieces of the casket such as nails and trim pieces were found including a beautiful handle with a cherub on it. The dirt was then placed in the hole and tamped down. Ms. Nolder will study the bones and then they will be reburied at the gravesite. LaVerna Moser

LOUISA

From the *Senior Lifestyles*, supplement to the *Van Buren County Register*, June, 2019, p. 2: "Littleton Memorial Enhancement," by Tom Woodruff. A site

located in Toolsboro, east of Wapello on Hwy 99 is dedicated to the six Littleton brothers who all died in the Civil War. On June 5th, approximately a dozen Littleton family members and friends installed a border planting of wild flowers and native plants, a concept envisioned by the early monument designers. Also related to the historical recognition of the Littleton brothers is a forthcoming book titled *Unequaled Sacrifice*, a musical DVD titled "Plow in the Oak," and an informational DVD titled "The Price of War" along with a Power Point presentation.



Detail from the monument

## MADISON

**13 APRIL 2019 SAPIC MEETING** "Show me your cemeteries and I will show you what kind of people you have." Benjamin Franklin once said. Thirty-nine people attended the State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries (SAPIC) hosted by the Madison County Historical Society and the Madison County Historic Preservation Commission members. SAPIC members including eight board members and guests gathered in the limestone lounge in the Madison County Historical Museum in Winterset on April 13, 2019. Apple fritters, fruit, sweets, juice and coffee were served when the doors to their museum opened at 9:00 a.m. prior

to the 10:00 a.m. meeting. Folks enjoyed visiting with founding member and former officer Ethel McVay of Winterset. It was wonderful to see people attending their first SAPIC meeting and all are encouraged to continue to participate. Maps and information about the Madison County pioneer cemeteries were available at the museum entrance information center.

Mary Richards and Linda Smith welcomed everyone. Molly Clause, recipient of a SAPIC grant, told about the preservation work with the Farris Pioneer Cemetery in Madison County which is an example of 'our membership dues at work.' Pat Shaw who serves as the nominating chair will present a slate of 2020 officers and board members at the October 2019 meeting when voting takes place; also, nominations may be made from the floor. Please let Pat at [patshaw@netins.net](mailto:patshaw@netins.net) know how you would like to serve SAPIC. Another way to serve is to submit a proposed SAPIC logo design for consideration to Pat Shaw.

'Our membership dues at work' continues with four (4) two-hundred-fifty dollars (\$250.00) 2019 grants to Davenport City Cemetery in Scott County with representative Kory Darnell present, Covey Church Cemetery in O'Brien County and Reed Cemetery in Clayton County with their representatives present and Washington Prairie Norwegian Methodist Cemetery in Winneshiek County. SAPIC Life Member Linda Smith led the tour of the 1856 Bevington Mansion following the

meeting at noon. It is with gratitude to the Madison County Historical Society and the Madison County Preservation Commission members for their gracious hospitality. It was a great day for all who traveled to Madison County. -- Contributed by Mary Richards

## POLK

Many Iowans have taken part at the Wreaths Across America program at the Iowa Veterans Cemetery in Van Meter. For nearly 10 years volunteers have worked and contributed to mark every veterans grave in what has become to be known as *Iowa's Arlington*.

How many know that the first observance in Central Iowa of Wreaths Across America was actually held at historic Woodland Cemetery in the heart of our capital city? The year was 2008. Then Col. Tim Orr, representing then Governor Chet Culver helped officiate along with members of the Iowa Society of the Sons of the American Revolution. 12 year old Riccardo Gomez took time out of his Saturday basketball to play taps at the event and a predominately older group of about 50 joined to place 155 wreaths that were donated from a program in Iowa City.

Sadly due to lack of funding and volunteers the Wreath Across America at Woodland Cemetery was not able to continue.

This year several members of the community have taken on the challenge and goal of sponsoring a Wreaths Across America project and marking the graves of over 700 veterans buried in Woodland.

It is a bit more of a challenge as many family members of those buried there have since left the area or in some cases simply lost track of their ancestors patriotic contributions and final resting places.

There are veterans of nearly every con-

flict from the War of 1812 (James White and at least 5 others), Mexican/American War, Civil War (both Union and Confederate), Spanish American War, WWI, WWII Korean to post Vietnam.

Just inside the gate in the WWI section names familiar to residents of Des Moines like Fluor, Hubble and others can be seen.

The two Grand Army of the Republic sections hold the remains of nearly 300 Civil War veterans. Some like Preston Jackson grew up in slavery and later served in the Union Army. Others found ways to serve despite obstacles put in their way. One such individual was Sarah Graham Paler Young also known as "Aunt Becky". A beloved nurse during the Civil War, she had over 20,000 attend her funeral in Des Moines. As well as many other fathers, sons, brothers, spouses, daughters, sisters and mothers who served our nation.

Members of the task force hope to get the word out to neighborhood organizations like the Sherman Hills and the Drake Neighborhood Associations. After all Hoyt Sherman a CW era paymaster and brother of William T. Sherman is interred there as Mr. Carpenter the founder of Drake University. In fact the name of nearly every street (Ingersoll, Harbach, Polk), park, (Redhead) school (Hanawalt, Perkins) and pool (Ashworth) Hotels (Savory) towns (Ankeny) freeways (MacVicar) and other notables like B. F. Allen (original owner of the now governor's mansion), Clothiers (Yunker, Frankel), builders (Weitz) in Des Moines can be seen on the tombstones in Woodland Cemetery. Even a couple of governors (Merrill and Cummins).

The Wreath Across America website is already up and taking orders (\$15 per wreath). We hope to meet the

goal of 750 donated wreaths and volunteers to place them on December 14, 2019, but the work has already begun. We are only 1% to goal but with each 7 wreaths we are 1% closer. If you can sponsor 1, 5 or 10 wreaths it is greatly appreciated.

[bit.ly/WoodlandWAA](http://bit.ly/WoodlandWAA)

Mike Rowley

1825 NW 129th Street  
Clive, Iowa 50325

[\(515\) 975-0498](tel:5159750498)

[MJR1825@gmail.com](mailto:MJR1825@gmail.com)

Note: SAPIC member, Mike Rowley, is providing at least one veteran bio each week for those whose graves are at Woodland Cemetery. Included so far are Cyrus Kirk and Gloucester D. Hatfield (Civil War), John Appanoose Wilbois (WWII), and James A. White (War of 1812). Check Facebook for updated posts from Mike. Copies of any of the biographies can be obtained from Pat Shaw: [patshaw@netins.net](mailto:patshaw@netins.net)



### WINNESHIEK

Submitted by Janelle Halverson on May 15, 2019: "May is Pioneer Cemetery Month." Winneshiek County Supervisors have signed a proclamation declaring that May is Pioneer Cemetery Month. A proclamation signing ceremony was attended by Pioneer Commission members Janelle Halverson, Stacey Gossling, Tony Meyer, Carleton Haugen, and Wayne Kirkeby; county supervisors John Logsdon, Mark Kuhn, John Beard, Floyd Ashbacher, Dean Thompson;

and county auditor Ben Steines. A definition of a "pioneer cemetery" and a list of the Commission's duties are provided. E-mail: [cemetery@co.winneshiek.ia.us](mailto:cemetery@co.winneshiek.ia.us)

### OUT OF STATE

#### ILLINOIS

SAPIC member, Mikki Judge of Buffalo, Iowa announced that a weekend workshop is scheduled for June 21 and 22 at the Hunter Cemetery in Princeton, Illinois. As in the past, the Hunter Cemetery group will work with the "Birdies for Charity" sponsored by John Deere and the John Deere Classic PGA Golf Tournament that will be held July 8-14 in Silvis, Illinois. Participants can make a one-time flat donation or pledge one cent or more per birdie. Grand prize, a 20 year lease on a 2019 Lexus NX, will be given to one person who guesses the correct number. Donations can be made to the Hunter Cemetery Association, PO Box 38, Buffalo, IA 52728.

#### MICHIGAN

From the American Legion web site: March 28, 2019: "Freedom Memorial." A memorial dedicated to past, present and future veterans was held on July 13, 2008. The memorial has granite stones depicting all service branches. It has a lighted walkway to the memorial; each flag and stone is lighted as well. The Jonesville American Legion Post 195 is responsible for the installation that is located at the Sunset View Cemetery, U.S. 12, 480 East Chicago, Jonesville, MI.

WASHINGTON

From the *Dallas Morning News*, Sunday, April 28, 2019, p.11A: "Ashes to ashes, or to mulch, if bill becomes law," by Ben Guarino of the *Washington Post*. A bipartisan bill that was recently passed in the state legislature of Washington state allows human remains to be composted and used for mulch. The bill's supporters say it can meet the demand for an eco-friendly option that is better than burial of bodies or incineration (cremation). The bill, which would take effect on May 1, 2020, also would legalize alkaline hydrolysis. That method turns bodies into liquid using a base such as lye. In the past decade, more than a dozen states have approved it. Recompose, a company that provides "natural organic reduction," is based in Seattle.

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## Additions and corrections to last newsletter

CLAYTON    in last edition

A marker for Charles Seitzberg (1843-1913) who served in the Illinois 12th Infantry during the Civil War is located two miles north of Marquette, Iowa. Charles Seitzberg (1843-1913) Enlisted as Private, Company F, 12th Illinois Infantry, on August 31, 1861, for three years, re-enlisted as veteran volunteer, promoted to Principal Musician. Personal characteristics from military records: residence-Galena, Illinois, nativity-Germany, age-18, marital status-single, occupation-jeweler, height-5'8", hair-red, eyes-hazel, complexion-light. BIRTH 14 Apr 1843 :Germany  
DEATH 9 Dec 1913 (aged 70) Savanna, Carroll County, Illinois  
BURIAL [Evergreen Cemetery](#) Sabula, Jackson County, Iowa, USA

The grave of Emma Eastman Kellogg Van Sickle Cunningham Cameron Bowles Sharp Van Sickle Stence Wilson (also known as "Virgin Em," believed to have been married nine times) is also located in Clayton County. For more information about the interesting life of Virgin Em, contact SAPIC member Ronald G. Harris, 2802 50th St. S., Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494. Phone 715-421-4113. Email: [harris@wctc.net](mailto:harris@wctc.net) For a picture, contact the McGregor, Iowa, Historical Society.

### Virgin Em

Born 14 Apr 1823 in Fitchville, Huron County, Ohio, USA  
ANCESTORS  
Daughter of Peter Eastman and Mary (Coleman) Van Sickle  
Sister of Anna Eastman, Marilla (Eastman) Van Sickle, George W.d. Eastman and Louisa (Eastman) Bradley  
Wife of Ephraim Kellogg — married 6 Apr 1837 in Huron County, Ohio  
Wife of Moses Edward Van Sickle — married 26 Mar 1839 (to 28 Jun 1842) in Grant County, Wisconsin  
Wife of William Cunningham — married 31 Mar 1841 in Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin  
Wife of Peter Cameron — married Mar 1846 in La Crosse, Wisconsin  
Wife of Ralph C Bowles — married 4 May 1858 (to 1859) in La Crosse, Wisconsin  
Wife of Nelson Sharp — married 9 Feb 1861 in Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin  
Wife of DeWitt Clinton Van Sickle — married 18 Feb 1863 in Elkader, Clayton, IA  
Wife of Michael Stence — married 25 Dec 1881 in Giard, McGregor, Clayton, Iowa  
Wife of Joseph A Wilson — married 27 May 1899 in McGregor,

Clayton, Iowa

Mother of Peter Daniel Cameron and James Cameron

Died 7 Feb 1905 in Home of Louisa Eastman Klotzbach, McGregor, Iowa



### Correction

#### Neutral Ground

The 1830 Treaty of Prairie du Chien, negotiated between the United States and various tribes, established the Neutral Ground: the tribes agreed to land cession of a 40-mile-wide (64 km) strip of land, two strips of land 20 miles (32 km) wide each on either side of the boundary roughly from present-day La Crosse, Wisconsin and Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin, extending from the Mississippi River to the Des Moines River in what today is southeastern Minnesota and northeastern Iowa. Originally planned as a buffer zone between the Sioux, Sac and Fox Nations, the land was soon designated for the Ho-Chunk (or Winnebago) tribe after their removal from Wisconsin. Fort Atkinson was founded to keep the Ho-Chunk on the Neutral Ground, and to protect them from other tribes as well as prevent white traders and settlers from intruding on Indian land.



### Old Military Trail

Old Military Trail which followed the divide between the Turkey and Yellow rivers, from McGregor to Fort Atkinson.



This rock and plaque marks the beginning of the Old Military Trail first used in the summer of 1840 by troops from Fort Crawford in Wisconsin when building Fort Atkinson in Iowa. It served as a highway for the movement of troops and supplies from Fort Crawford and Fort Atkinson. It is about one mile north of Marquette, Iowa on Highway 76

### Thank You

*O'Brien County Cemetery Preservation Assoc. Eunice Wilson*

*Sperry Township Trustees  
Sincerely,  
Mildred Stewart*

Above are e-mails of thanks for grants.

### SAPIC OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

President: John Heider  
988 Iron Horse Place  
Monticello, IL 61856  
217-898-2422  
[jheider@mchsi.com](mailto:jheider@mchsi.com)

Vice-president: William Reedy  
3046 Everly Ave  
Brandon, IA 52210  
319-474-2443  
[reedypart@jtt.net](mailto:reedypart@jtt.net)

Secretary: Larry Davis  
5716 Kingman Ave.  
Des Moines, IA 50311-2006  
515-277-4917  
[ld2mstone@q.com](mailto:ld2mstone@q.com)

Treasurer: Brad Hughes  
308 Sunset Lane  
Grimes, IA 50111  
319-269-8937  
[Llynman2@gmail.com](mailto:Llynman2@gmail.com)

Board Member (2019): Jean Ann Ripley  
2650 Inkpaduta Ave.  
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[jbripley2@gmail.com](mailto:jbripley2@gmail.com)

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Board Member (2021): Mike Magee  
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Board Member (2020): Steve Story  
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Board Member (2020) Mary Richards  
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Board Member (2021) and Web Page: Tony Bengston  
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Board Member (2021) Jody Holland  
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Board Member (2021) Don Wentworth  
33435 53th St.  
Preston, Ia 50269  
563-212-1745  
[hawk3@netins.net](mailto:hawk3@netins.net)

## **SAPIC dues:**

Individual for one year: \$25.00

Household for one year: \$35.00

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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](http://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](http://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

## **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](mailto:Dennis.Britson@iid.iowa.gov)  
(515) 281-5705 or toll-free (877)-955-1212  
[Christina.hazelbaker@iid.iowa.gov](mailto:Christina.hazelbaker@iid.iowa.gov)  
[paula.fastenau@iid.iowa.gov](mailto:paula.fastenau@iid.iowa.gov) (compliance officer)

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