

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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Meeting Information

The meeting of the State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries that was scheduled to take place in Marion, Iowa, on April 11, 2020 has been canceled. Thanks to Jay Kacena and the Friends of Oak Shade Cemetery for their offer to host the SAPIC meeting and for their understanding in being part of the decision to cancel and reschedule it. We are sorry about any inconvenience this may have caused the hosts and any SAPIC members. If arrangements are made to conduct a meeting by telephone or electronic means, SAPIC members who have e-mail capabilities will be informed by this method. If this happens, and you know of members who do not have e-mail, please share information with them. Thank you.

TREASURER'S REPORT SUMMARY

Funds on hand as of March 16, 2020, consist of \$4,437.36 in a share draft (checking) account, \$5.00 in a reserve savings account, and \$9,327.23 in two time certificates of deposit.

These funds total \$13,769.59 and approximate balances on hand of \$13,293.23 at year-end 2019 and \$13,091.36 year-end 2018.

Grant applications totaling \$500 are currently pending with the Grant Committee. An expanded treasurer's report as of quarter-end March 31 plus a draft 2020 budget will be submitted for approval at the April meeting of SAPIC.

Brad Hughes, Treasurer



Iconography

From the Lucas Countryman blog, Dece.19, 2019, by Frank D. Meyers: "Tombstone Iconography." In his blog, Meyers used the Facebook page of Bellefontaine Cemetery and Arboretum, St. Louis, where iconography is a weekly feature, to gather information about the symbols and/or decorations that mark the graves in cemeteries in his arena. One example is the grave of Elizabeth DeWitt whose grave is located in Gosport Cemetery in Marion County, Iowa. The stone has a well-preserved sculpture of a weeping willow that symbolizes grief, as well as resurrection. Willows propagate easily and grow quickly so there is a hopeful element in the equation. Meyers includes information about the life of Elizabeth DeWitt who died at age 29 leaving a husband and three children whose graves are elsewhere.



The meeting of the State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries that was scheduled to take place in Marion, Iowa, on April 11, 2020 has been **CANCELLED**



Scheduled

The Friends of Oak Shade Cemetery have graciously agreed to host the October, 2020, SAPIC meeting in Marion.

**TOPIC RESPONSES FOR
JANUARY 2020 SAPIC VIRTUAL
MEETING**

1. Minutes of October 2019 meeting were printed in the last issue of Grave News.

2. Treasurer's report was mailed out the first week of January 2020.

3. Discussions initiated at October meeting:

A. Possible changes to January meeting format.

a. Leave as it is.

b. Use conferencing applications such as Zoom, Go to Meeting, Google Handouts Meet, Google Handouts Meet, or other.

Brad Huges has assembled additional information on these options that will be presented for discussion at the April meeting.

B. Advertising guidelines for Grave News and/or website. a distinction between advertising and listing of service and/or service providers.

a. Pricing schedule

b. Committee to report at the April meeting.

C. Updating a list of contacts and providers is ongoing and update information can be given to Tony Bengston, Brad Hughes, or Pat Shaw.

D. Development of logo. A committee will report at the April meeting.

E. SAPIC Vice President John Heider has volunteered to fill the vacant position of Vice President.

4. New concerns that have been raised.

A. Scammers targeting officers or board members whose contact information is on the web site.

a. Options

* Leave listing as it is and count on members to avoid scams.

* Remove contact information of those who request it.

* Remove individual information and have one central point of contact for inquiries and other communications Brad Hughes has volunteered to be this contact if we go this route.

5. Grants: Up to four grants can be awarded in April. President Reedy has appointed the following Grant Committee:

- Pat Shaw
- Mary Richards
- Tony Bengston
- Larry Davis
- Mike Magee

The Grant Committee urges interested groups or individuals to apply.

6. Future Meetings:

Cancelled April 11, 2020, Marion County, hosted by Friends of Oak Shade Cemetery.

Still Scheduled: July 11, 2020, The Chickasaw County Pioneer Cemetery Commission has invited SAPIC to Fredericksburg. Larry Davis, Secretary
* * * * *

DAMAGED MARKERS

SAPIC member, Tony Bengston received an inquiry from the custodian of his county courthouse requesting information about the proper way to handle damaged bronze markers that had been removed from veterans' graves. Tony was able to learn by contacting the VA's Memorial Programs (aka retrieval program) that one can apparently tell the VA how many dam-

aged markers have been collected and that a shipping label will be sent to return the markers to the proper site. The following information refers to both bronze markers and granite headstones:

<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 for guidance concerning the return of bronze markers.)

Information 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 re-placed 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.

Priest Seals Grave

James Borlaug posted on Facebook on January 24, 2020 that he has discovered as many as three dates of deaths in researching Norwegian church records: the actual date of passing, the date of the burial and then the date of final rites by the priest when able to be there. A stick would be placed under the lid of the casket with the end sticking out above the ground. During the final rite, the priest would pull out the stick, sealing the grave.



Civil War veterans who served from Iowa

Darwin Whipple was born in 1824 in New Hampshire, but relocated to Clayton County, Iowa, in 1854/55. He was mustered into Company B and died at the St. Louis small pox hospital in 1863. His grave is likely on Quarantine Island (Arsenal Island), but the graves were destroyed by a flood in 1876. His widow was granted a pension for her children. Her grave is in the Dell Rapids Cemetery in South Dakota, although she likely had a monument to Darwin placed at the Elkader Cemetery.



Monument in Elkader Cemetery

James Paul Withrow was born in Pennsylvania in 1839 and moved to McGregor in 1842. James and his brother Samuel enlisted in 1862 at McGregor. He served in Company G and participated in the siege of Vicksburg and Jackson, Mississippi after which he became ill and was transported by hospital boat to Keokuk. He was

mustered out at Baton Rouge in 1865 and returned to the McGregor area following the war. He died in 1921 in California and is buried in Mountain View Cemetery in Altadena, California.



Monument at Mountain View

Abram Treadwell was born in 1832 in what is now Ontario, Canada. When he was 24 years old, he moved to Illinois and then Iowa. He was enrolled in the military as a private on August 12, 1862 in Company B and as the 21st regiment of Iowa's Volunteer Infantry. He served as 1st Lieutenant, but apparently was never compensated for this. He was mustered out in 1865 and married Emily Agnes Gager. In 1904, he was granted a pension of \$30.00 monthly. He died in 1915 and is buried in Strawberry Point Cemetery.

John V. Aliquet was born near what is now known as Montreal, Canada. About 1859, he moved to



Strawberry Point, Iowa. He was mustered into service in the 21st regiment of volunteer infantry on September 9, 1862 and assigned to Company D. He served on Matagorda Island, Texas. He was mustered out on May 26, 1865 from the Grant general hospital on Willets Point, New York. His pension claims were denied and he may have died in the county's insane asylum and buried in its cemetery in 1883.

Philander S. Drake was born about 1824 in Oswego, New York, but was living in McGregor, Iowa, when he was enrolled in what would be Company G of the state's 21st volunteer infantry in 1862. He was assigned to duty as a wagoner. His regiment participated in the Battle of Fort Gibson, the siege of Vicksburg and a subsequent siege at Jackson. After his discharge, he returned to McGregor and eventually moved to South Dakota. He died in 1899 and is buried in the State Veterans Home Cemetery in Hot Springs.

Cornelius W. Dunlap was born in Michigan in 1834 and moved to Mitchell County, Iowa, where he owned and operated the Mitchell Gazette with his brother, Fletcher. In 1862, he signed an oath of office as 1st Lieutenant of the Company A of the 18th Infantry. In spite of having a foot injury, he participated in an assault at Vicksburg on May 22, 1863 and was killed instantly when shot through the head. His widowed mother was granted a mother's pension at \$30.00 per month.

William H. Warn was born in New York and moved to Clayton County, Iowa, in 1852. Along

with his brother, Edward, he was enrolled in Company G of Iowa's 21st regiment of volunteer infantry. He contracted measles and was discharged from the military on January 24, 1863. He died on February 10, 1883 at forty-three years of age and is buried in Vail Cemetery.

Edward Warn was born 1837 in Franklin County, New York. He moved with his family, including his brother William, to Clayton County, Iowa, in 1852. He was enrolled as a Private in Company G of the 21st regiment of volunteer infantry at Council Hill. Edward suffered from sunstroke on a four mile march that affected his lungs the rest of his life. He participated in assaults at Big Black River and Vicksburg and later in a successful campaign to occupy the city of Mobile. He was mustered out in 1865 in Baton Rouge and was discharged from the military at Clinton. He died in 1894 at age fifty-seven and was buried with honors in the Luana Cemetery. *Luana Cemetery, Clayton County, Iowa*

Thomas Wilson was born in 1841 in Indiana and moved to Iowa in 1852. He enrolled as a new recruit in the 4th regiment of Iowa's volunteer cavalry in 1862. He contracted measles and was confined at the U.S. Army General Hospital in Davenport. After regaining his health, he participated in the siege of Vicksburg, an expedition to Memphis and an engagement in Mississippi. He was mustered out on June 17, 1865. He died in the Cottage Hospital at Creston, Iowa, in 1911 and is buried in the Zion

Cemetery in Adair County. *Memorial in Zion Cemetery*



Ira Shubel Chapman

was born in 1835 in Ohio. By 1856, his family was living in Clayton County, Iowa. In 1862, Ira was enrolled at Volga City and was mustered in as Company D, the state's 21st regiment of volunteer infantry. In 1863 during the siege of Vicksburg, he received a Certificate of Disability for Discharge "caused by the accidental cutting off of the large toe on his right foot while on furlough to Strawberry Point." Seventy-seven-year-old Ira died from tuberculosis in 1913 and is buried in East Cemetery in Thorp, Wisconsin.

George W. Chapman was born in Ohio in 1843 and moved to Sperry township near Volga, Iowa, in 1853. George enlisted in what would be Company D in 1862 at Volga. While part of a wagon train detailed to Rolla, Missouri, for supplies, the group was attacked and George was killed along with two others. The place of his burial has not been found, but he was probably buried locally and reinterred after the war as an "Unknown" in a national cemetery, either Jefferson Barracks or, more likely, Springfield. His family, who had depended on him financially, was able to obtain a pension of \$8.00 a month retroactive to November 25, 1862, the day after George's death.

If you wish to obtain the entire biographies of any of these Civil War veterans, please contact Carl Ingwalson, Jr. e-mail:

Cingwalson@CFILaw.Com

COUNTY REPORTS

CARROLL

Valerie Ogren, who was SAPIC treasurer for many years, now resides at the Sunny Brook assisted living facility in Carroll, Iowa. Her son, Mike, resides nearby at New Hope. Valerie joined Ancestry, submitted her DNA and now has information about over 1000 cousins.

She shares information on Findagrave.com. Valerie's e-mail address is:



vjogren@netins.net

DECATUR

From WHO-HD, March 2, 2020: Police in Leon, Iowa, say DNA evidence helped them solve a case involving vandalism to a veterans' memorial and gravestones at a cemetery from August of 2019. Damage to the Leon Cemetery was reported to police on August 18th. Five headstones, along with the memorial had been damaged in February. DNA evidence collected at the scene matched to Travis Toney of Davis City. Toney admitted to what he had done and was charged with third-degree criminal mischief. Total damage was estimated at between \$750 and \$1,500.

POLK

Four more VA gravestones have been approved for veterans buried in historic Woodland Cemetery in Des Moines, Iowa. Delivery and installation are expected in April with a public ceremony to be scheduled this spring.

1. **Robert Dickenson**, Full 4th Sergeant- 60th USCI & 1st Iowa Colored Infantry- Civil War
- 2, **Ralph Lee Barcroft**- Private,

Capt. John Montgomery's Company, Maryland Militia- War of 1812

3. **Richard Conine**-Private, Capt. Murray, Col. Andrews Ohio Militia, War of 1812

4. **William Smith**-War of 1812
A 5th gravestone application was made and expected shortly for a veteran in the GAR section of Glendale Cemetery in Des Moines.

1. **William M. Early**, fifth Corporal, Company E, 1st Regt. American Infantry, 60th USCI
Respectfully, Mike Rowley
1825 NW 129th Street
Clive, Iowa 50325
(515) 975-0498

MJR1825@gmail.com

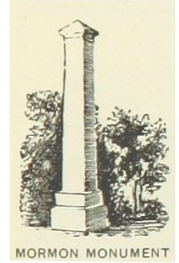
POTTAWATTAMIE

From KMTV News, Council Bluffs, February 18, 2020: A project to honor those who served in the Civil War by raising and restoring headstones of veterans has been undertaken by the Council Bluffs Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution and other groups. They have raised about 40 headstones and are replacing about 10 headstones that are broken around the Kinsman Monument at Fairview Cemetery. "I just felt that it was important that everybody recognizes that this is their resting place and it needs to be taken care of, and just a big thank you to them," said Lisa Varnes-Rex with Daughters of the American Revolution. The project will resume in April using cash donations, manual labor and ground penetrating radar.

UNION

From *Union Roots*, the newsletter of the Union County Ge-

nealogical Society, Creston, Iowa, Winter, 2019: The Mormon monument is located at Section 8 of Jones Township in Union County where Mount Pisgah was located.



The names are engraved on a single monument. The monument was erected in 1886 in memory of those members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints who died in 1846, 1847 and 1848 during the exodus to seek a home beyond the Rocky Mountains.

OUT OF IOWA INDIANA

From the *Catholic Cemetery Magazine*, 2019:

"Cremation: Establishing a New Perpetual Care Tradition." Most cemeteries mandate that embalmed bodies are encased in burial vaults. Likewise, many locations have adopted similar practices for cremation burials. Urn vaults may be required by cemeteries because they: Keep the cremated remains secure and dry for generations, ensure a dignified standard of care, protect the investment of urn purchases, allow space for memorabilia (photos, love notes, favorite blanket), can provide a comforting "last look" as they leave the grave or niche, make disinterment easier, provide added security and peace of mind for the family and maintain cemetery grounds.

One source for obtaining information about urn vaults is Crowne Vault, a division of Cressy Memorial. Web site:

www.crownevault.com

MARYLAND

From the February, 2020 issue of *Columbia Magazine*

(Knights of Columbus): Members of James Cardinal



Gibbons Assembly 379 in Westminster, Md., prepare to install cross markers at Ellsworth Cemetery, a neglected burial ground for African American veterans of the U. S. Civil War. The cemetery was established by Union veterans for African American soldiers who were not permitted to be buried elsewhere. Members of the assembly have been identifying and marking remains and restoring the cemetery grounds for more than seven years.

NEBRASKA

From the *American Legion e-newsletter*, January 28, 2020: "Identifying remains from the World War II Ploesti raid." One hundred seventy-eight twin-tailed



Liberators took off from a desert airstrip near Benghazi, Libya on Aug. 1, 1943 on Operation Tidal Wave, a 2,400-mile suicide run, deep behind German lines, attacking a cluster of oil refineries in Ploesti, Romania, known as "Hitler's Gas Station." Fifty-four crashed or were shot down. Now, 76 years after the raid, 4,000 boxes of Ploesti airmen are lying on examination tables at Offutt Air Force Base in one of two laboratories of the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency. Romanian citizens gathered and buried

the bodies of more than 200 dead crew members. Remains of the 80 men who could not be identified were turned over to the American Graves Registration Service and buried as "unknowns" at U. S. Military cemeteries in France and Belgium. The Offutt lab has received 49 caskets of remains that will be cataloged, assembled and compared with DNA samples from families. Forty more are expected to arrive in 2020.

WISCONSIN

From the *Country Magazine*, February/March, 2020: "Sweet Hearts" Across the road from my house is a small country cemetery dating to 1884. Taking care of Immanuel Lutheran Cemetery falls on a community organization.

When both the secretary, my dear husband of 56 years, and the treasurer of the cemetery board passed away, they left behind a much younger president with too many health issues to handle all three jobs, and no money left in the cemetery bank account. I felt as if I had to do something. One night when I had trouble sleeping, the answer came to me: *Bake your little heart cakes.*

I am a cake decorator, so the next morning I made a batch of those hearts, beautifully adorned with homemade roses. I sold 150 cakes by word of mouth and earned \$900! I gave it all to the cemetery fund and became the new treasurer.



With this money, I had someone straighten several badly leaning stones and hired a full time grass cutter. This just goes to show what can be accomplished if you set your mind to it. Shirley Uekert, Marathon, Wisconsin

Mike's Musings**DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) -**

Authorities are investigating what appears to be human bones found on a property in northern Des Moines.

The Polk County Sheriff's Office says in a news release that the remains were found Tuesday morning by children playing in a dirt pile near a home. A medical examiner and Polk County detectives were called around 10:30 a.m. to investigate.

SAPIC OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

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319-474-2443 reedypart@jtt.net

Vice-president: Vacant

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Space for advertisements

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

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

STATE CEMETERY REGULATOR

Andrew Hartnett, Bureau Chief
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Two Ruan Center
601 Locust Street, 4th Floor
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We're on the web:

sapiciowa.org

SAPIC is on Facebook!

SAPIC Lending Library has books and other materials related to ceme-



VETERANS' HEADSTONES

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

Telephone: 1-800-697-6947

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