

Grave News

NEWSLETTER OF THE STATE ASSOCIATION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF IOWA CEMETERIES

31086 Crystal, Strawberry Point IA [.http://sapiciowa.org/](http://sapiciowa.org/)

Volume 26 Issue # 1

January, February, March 2021

Inside this issue:

Grant awards	3
County updates	3
Civil war Graves	4
History	5

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for April 10, 2021.

Location will be announced once epidemic conditions have determined whether the meeting can be held. Check the sapiciowa.org website for updates.



SAPIC needs YOU!

The organization has lost some key personnel this past year and there are openings that need to be filled. You can help continue the important work of SAPIC by volunteering and renewing your membership and encouraging friends who are interested in preserving our communities' history shown in our local cemeteries. PLEASE, let the organization know you can help with an email to sapiciowa@yahoo.com. Have you completed your 2021 SAPIC Membership Application? Your contact information and dues may be mail to Brad Hughes 308 Sunset Lane Grimes, IA 50111.

State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries Meeting Minutes January 9, 2021

Topic responses for January 9, 2021 virtual (e-mail) meeting including committee reports.

President Bill Reedy reported the October meeting minutes were printed in the December issue of the Grave News newsletter. The Treasurer's report was submitted by Brad Hughes as follows:

Treasurer's Report Summary

Funds on hand as of December 31, 2020, consist of \$4,240.76 in a share draft (checking) account, \$5.00 in a reserve savings account, and \$9,468.16 in two certificates of deposit. These funds total \$13,713.16 and are somewhat above balances on hand year-end 2019 and 2018. Grants awarded at the upcoming April meeting are expected to reduce deposit balances to levels similar to those expected the prior two years. Actual cash value for year ending 2020 is \$420.69, above the annual budget \$330.24. Overall income is down \$236.47 primarily from a drop in the amount of dues received. The primary reason

expenses are down \$326.92 are from \$144.24 in reduced costs for printed Newsletter.

Grave News Newsletter

President Reedy applauded Milly Stewart and Donna Story for taking over the responsibility of publishing and distributing the *Grave News* newsletter and urged members to send them county reports, and other significant information for inclusion in the newsletter. Work is still being done to identify and reach those who had been receiving the printed version because their e-mail addresses are not known.

Patricia Shaw SAPIC Cemetery Grant Program

Two of the Grants that were awarded in 2020 are printed in the December newsletter explaining the use of funds. More Grant projects will be acknowledged in the newsletter as they are completed. President Reedy stated that up to four Grants of \$250 can be issued this year with applications due April 1, 2021. A committee has been appointed to receive and review applications

and make recommendations on awarding the Grants. The Grant committee members are:

- Mary Richards
- Donna Story
- Brad Hughes
- Mike Magee
- Larry Davis

Storm Damage

Some interest has been shown about the August 10, 2020 Derecho storm damage to cemeteries and the progress of preservation following the storm. See the Grundy County update for another possibility rather than replanting trees.

Mary Richards from Jamaica, Iowa reports loss of trees falling on the memorial stones and wind damage to some grave sites.

Kory Darnall, representing **Davenport City Cemetery** Partnership reports the Davenport City Cemetery sustained heavy damage from the August,2020 derecho. Historic hickory, oak and linden trees were uprooted, monuments were toppled and in some cases crushed by fallen trees and destroyed. Volunteers along with the Davenport City forestry department removed the downed trees. New trees will be planted in the spring. The monuments that were simply knocked over were up righted by volunteers. Monuments needing repaired or reset were contracted to be done professionally. Replacements for 5 destroyed have been ordered and will be installed in the spring with funds from the city of Davenport.

Jay Kacena, representing Friends of **Oak Shade Cemetery** in Marion, Iowa, reports winds were clocked at 140 miles per hour which damaged or destroyed 152 trees, many of which a century old. In addition to work spent by city parks department crews, volunteers provided nearly 450 hours in the cleanup effort which

is not completed. A photo record of monument damage is yet to be completed as some are still under downed trees. Most of our multi-segment monuments miraculously escaped serious harm but 150 to 200 grave markers were tipped or shoved. Replanting is planned under the direction of our forestry division.

Carl Nollen reports **Eden Cemetery** in Marshall County had at least 18 tall evergreen trees downed and all have been removed. This was all the trees on the west and south sides. Now the sun shines on the gravestones. **Newton Union, Woodlawn** in Tama and **Riverside** in Marshalltown had major damage. It takes heavy equipment to remove the centuries old trees, not to mention the money to repair these beautiful, old monuments and the scarred landscape. This takes money cemeteries don't have. The manager at Riverside told me she will not accept any money to replant trees. Furthermore, this excessive shade causes excessive lichens, mold and crud to form on the gravestones. Maple and sycamore trees should never be planted in a cemetery. Sycamores are the worst for litter and fallen branches. Maples cast such dense shade the ground underneath becomes bare and erodes over the gravestones.

I have personally scooped mud off covered- up stones in two other

cemeteries, only to see the mud washed over them again completely obliterating them. It is time to reconsider the replanting of trees in cemeteries. You can't plant trees on top of graves. In spite of this, I consider myself more of a tree hugger than a tree hater. The cemeteries I have named are not pioneer, but I think all of us are interested in, whether they are large or small.

Larry Davis, Secretary ld2m-stone@gmail.com

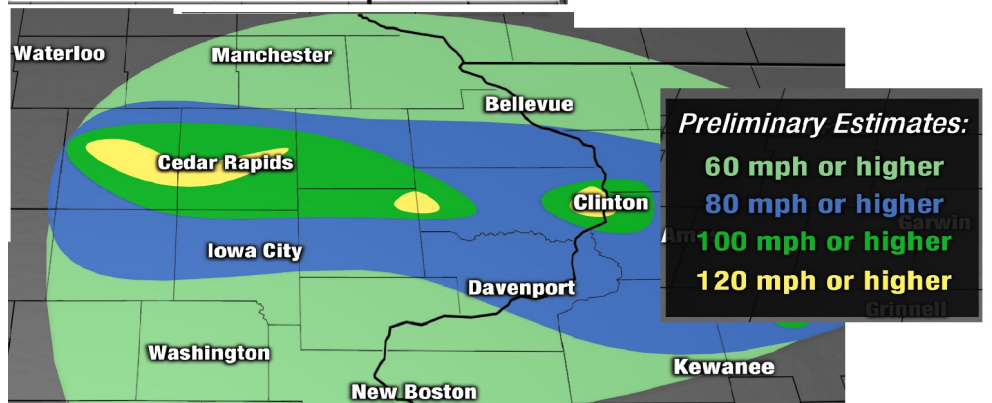
Membership Renewals

It was noted that membership, other than life members, is renewed on an annual basis in January. Renewal forms are in the December newsletter and on the website.

Website Listing of Services

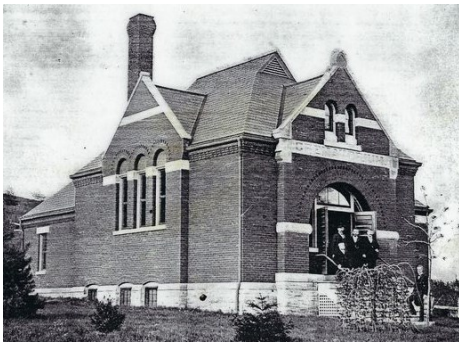
It has been discussed that some listed restoration services on the website are no longer in business and should be updated. President Reedy urged members to send in current information to the list. The question has been raised whether SAPIC membership should be required for a provider to be listed. Tony Bengston replied that in his opinion, SAPIC membership should be required for those listed at this time. If SAPIC approves a plan for advertising and charges for all listings, we may change this requirement, or listings may be based in part on whether the advertiser is a member. Milly Stewart and Brad Hughes also offered the same recommendation.

Derecho Update
Estimated Peak Wind Speeds



2020 Grant Awardee:

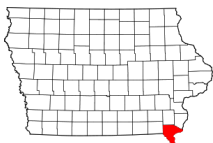
Fairmount Cemetery has not progressed with mausoleum repairs as planned because of COVID's causing volunteer activities to be cancelled, and in August the derecho storm damaged numerous trees and stones tipped over including one large family monument's initial repair that could surpass \$100,000. There are plans for work in February/ March for a more positive outcome in 2021. Carvel Morgan, Friends of Fairmount Cemetery & Prairie Preservation, Fairmount Cemetery and Crematory, Iowa's Original Crematory Davenport Iowa.



County Updates:

Lee County

A new Pioneer Cemetery Commission is formed thanks to the 1996 State Law. Lee County Supervisors create Pioneer Cemetery Commission for the 130 pioneer cemeteries within the county. County Supervisors appointed Susan Alire, Kim Irvin and Karen Kester to commission. Please see the link for the full article that mentions Pat Shaw's earlier work toward this commission's creation.



http://www.mississippivalleypublishing.com/daily_democrat/supervisors-create-pioneer-cemetery-commission/article_13b99bdc-5e68-5c0a-9f4d-e63bba575861.html

Blackhawk County

Submitted by Michael Magee

Waterloo Police ask public for assistance in the investigation of Elmwood Cemetery vandalism where the second time in November 2020 another 70 stones were damaged. Cedar Valley Crime Stoppers and private donation now offering reward for information.

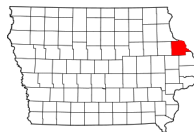
<https://kwwl.com/2021/01/07/police-offer-500-reward-for-information-related-to-elmwood-cemetery-vandalism/>



Dubuque County

Third Street Cemetery's story brought to light by a man

walking his dog discovers bones. A Catholic cemetery of Dubuque dating from the 1830s that a condominium development in 2007 scattered remains during demolition and grading of site. Because the remains were over 150 years they were considered as ancient and Iowa law dictates specific treatment. It is possible that as many as 5,000+ may have been interred there at one time. For the rest of the story including the excavation of over 900 burials in approximately 1/4 of



the cemetery and reburials with last graveside service in 2013 see Dubuque's Forgotten Cemetery by Robin Lillie and Jennifer Mack by University of Iowa Press 2015. 1889 map of Dubuque by H Wellge showing the cemetery as an oval section in the center of he map. Photo



courtesy: Constance Cherba

<http://www.encyclopediadubuque.org/index.php?title=THIRD STREET CEMETERY>

Feb. 18, 1871. CHAP. LIX.—An Act relinquishing to the City of Dubuque, Iowa, whatever Title may remain in the United States to a certain Lot of Ground in Dubuque.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That whatever title may remain in the United States to a certain lot or parcel of ground in Dubuque, Iowa, be, and the same is hereby, relinquished to the city of Dubuque and its assignees, which lot or parcel of ground is bounded by the city limits, main street, and out-lots numbers six hundred and seventy-three, six hundred and seventy-four, six hundred and seventy-seven, and six hundred and seventy-eight, and designated as a "grave-yard," on the official plat of Dubuque, as laid out by the commissioners under the acts of July second, eighteen hundred and thirty-six, and March third, eighteen hundred and thirty-seven.

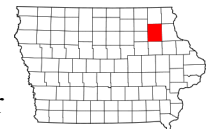
1888, ch. 262. Vol. v, p. 70. 1887, ch. 86. Vol. v, p. 178.

APPROVED, February 18, 1871.

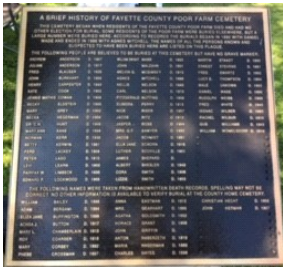
Fayette County

submitted by Alice Miller

The Fayette Pioneer Commission began in 1998 with Steve & Donna Story at the helm. Through the years with dedicated volunteers twenty-three pioneer cemeteries have been located and restored based on court records, newspaper obituaries, word of mouth, and new records kept. Every cemetery has an aluminum cross that glows when car lights shine on them and a

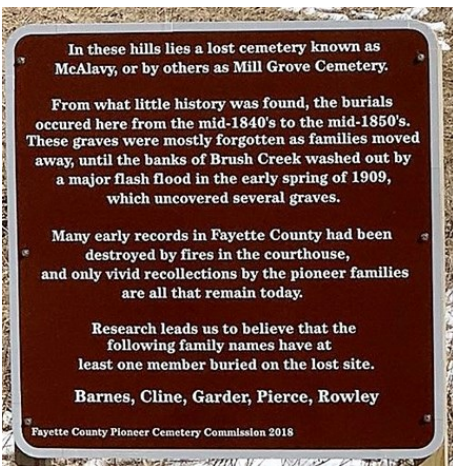


“Pioneer Cemetery” sign to mark it. The abandoned Fayette County Poor Farm Cemetery (Prairie View) has been restored with a bronze memorial plaque listing the names of the know 68



burials and the only two remaining grave-stones. The residents at

Prairie View provide the mowing. Don Bright, Terry Seedorff, Linda Voshell, and Joe Schott have labored at Center Grove Cemetery removing 110 trees and brush. The McAlavey Cemetery south of Wadena on Brush Creek came to the attention of the public when a casket was seen floating down creek after a storm in 1909 as chronicled in *The Arlington News*. Today no stones remain and a memorial plaque has been erected with the know names from newspaper articles and word of mouth.



Oak Ridge Cemetery overlooking the Turkey River has

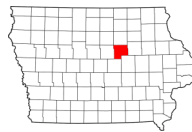
been measured, mapped and a new record book compiled from court records and the remaining stones by Arlene Soppe, Auburn Township Clerk. Members Don Bright, Doug Aylsworth, and Joe Schott are helping repair many stones that have missing finials. Smithfield Trustees and the commission cleaned up and repaired stones at the



Garden Prairie Cemetery located behind where the Garden Prairie Church

once stood. The Smithfield trustees and relatives of those buried there care for the upkeep. The Pioneer Commission’s members checks different cemeteries at different times for any needed repairs.

Grundy County Conservation Board manages Beaver & Melrose Township



Cemeteries that are preserving last remnants of native prairie. This allows visitors a glimpse of what early pioneers would have seen and preserves not only their stories on the headstone but the native grasses and flowers of Iowa. Controlled burns help eliminate woody vegetation and



stimulate prairie growth.

<https://www.grundycountyiowa.gov/departments/conservation/wildlife-areas/cemeteries>

Iowa Civil War Graves Registration:

What is “GAR”? Grand Army of the Republic (Civil War veteran). See this site for information about registration, and gravestones for veterans. The goal of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW) National Grave Registration project is to locate the final resting place of all Civil War Veterans. There is a link to the national database on this site and the Iowa registrations can be searched/ sorted by name, county and cemetery. Roy Lin, Department Graves Registration Officer maybe contacted by email at linrd@frontiernet.com <https://www.iowasuvcw.org/graves-registration>

History



Atop a scenic bluff overlooking the Mississippi River and downtown Dubuque there once lay a graveyard dating to the 1830s, the earliest days of American settlement in Iowa.

Continued pg 5

“Cemetery Care and Gravestone Repair”

Special Offer

\$30.00

Price Includes Shipping

Regular Retail Price

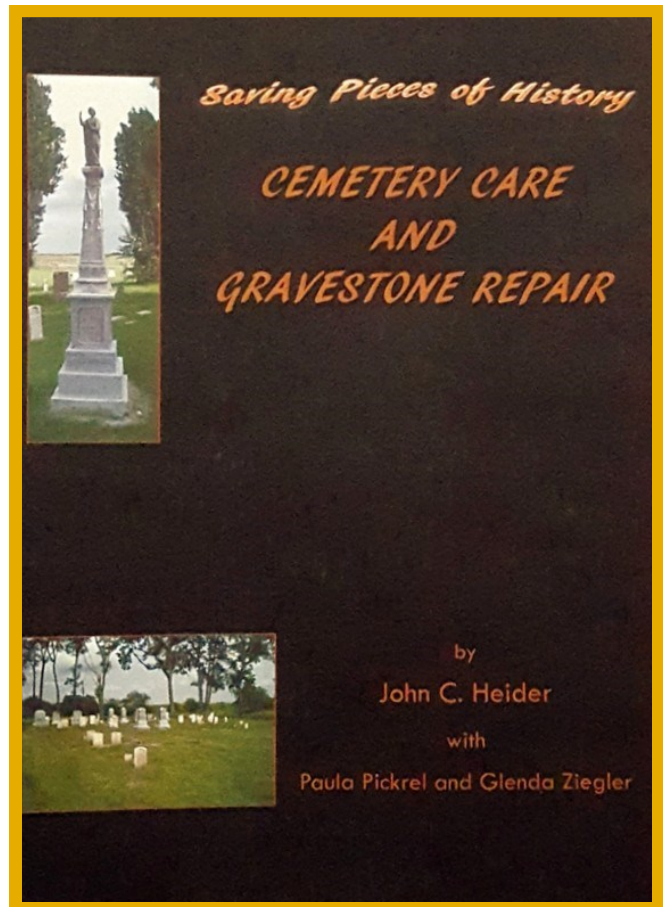
\$40.00

Mail Payment to:

S.A.P.I.C.

308 NW Sunset Lane

Grimes, IA 50111



This manual contains step-by-step instructions describing the many facets of cemetery preservation. Topics include planning and funding a project, how to complete simple and difficult repairs, gravestone cleaning and leveling, recipes for mixing mortars, and much, much more. Beautifully illustrated with over 100 color photographs and diagrams. The manual is sure to become an invaluable guide for cemetery maintenance. Cemetery board and staff, county and township personnel, and individuals or groups interested in cemetery preservation will significantly benefit when using this guidebook.

History continued

Though many local residents knew the property had once been a Catholic burial ground, they believed the graves had been moved to a new cemetery in the late nineteenth century in response to overcrowding and changing burial customs. But in 2007, when a developer broke ground for a new condominium complex here, the heavy machinery unearthed human bones. Clearly, some of Dubuque's early settlers still rested there—in fact, more than anyone expected. For the next four years, staff with the Burials Program of the University of Iowa Office of the State Archaeologist excavated the site so that development could proceed.

Information from:

Dubuque's forgotten Cemeteries
Robin Lillie & Jennifer Mack

SAPIC OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

President: William Reedy 3046 Everly Ave. Brandon, IA 52210 319 -474 - 2443

reedypart@jtt.net

Vice -president: John Heider 988 Iron Horse Place Monticello, IL 61856 217 -898 -2422

jheider@mchsi.com

Secretary: Larry Davis 5716 Kingman Ave. Des Moines, IA 50311 - 2006 515 -277 -4917 ld2m-stone@q.com

Treasurer: Brad Hughes 308 Sunset Lane Grimes, IA 50111 319 - 269 -8937 llynman2@gmail.com

Board Member (2022): John Heider 988 Iron Horse Place Monticello, IL 61856 217 -898 -2422 jheider@mchsi.com

Grave News Editor: Mildred Stewart 31086 Crystal, Strawberry Point, IA 52076 563-767-4000 mmstewart.777@yahoo.com

Board Member (2021): Mike Magee 638 Englewood Waterloo, IA 50701 319 -232 -8762 Digger4045@yahoo.com

Grave News E -mail Editor: Donna Story 18883 250th St. Hawkeye, IA 52147 563 -427 - 5354 dstory@hawkeyetelephone.net

Board Member (2021): Benjamin Mayer 317 E. Green St. Winterset, IA 50273 515 -462 -7033 mayer_ben@yahoo.com

Board Member (2020) Mary Richards 2201 R. Ave. Jamaica, IA 50128 515 -386 -4750 mrichards@netins.net

Board Member (2021) and Web Page: Tony Bengston 1503 River Road Blvd. Independence, IA 50644 319 -415 -1175 tonybengston@yahoo.com

Board Member (2021) Jody Holland 119 North Mill St. Apt. L Decora, IA 52101 563 -419 -6487 HOLLANDJL@msn.com

Board Member (2021) Don Wentworth 33435 53th St. Preston, IA 50269 563 -212 -1745 hawk3@netins.net

**GRANT
APPLICATION
DUE
APRIL 1, 2021**



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
Regulated Industries Unit, Iowa Securities Bureau
Two Ruan Center
601 Locust Street, 4th Floor
Des Moines, IA 50309-3738
E-Mail: andrew.hartnett@iid.iowa.gov
281-4459 Fax: (515) 281-3059
Christina Hazelbaker
Christina.hazelbaker@iid.iowa.gov
Phone: 515-281-5576 Fax: 515-281-3059

We're on the web:

sapiciowa.org

SAPIC is on Facebook!

SAPIC Lending Library has books and other materials related to cemetery preserva-



VETERANS' HEADSTONES

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

Telephone: 1-800-697-6947

OFFICE OF THE STATE ARCHAEOLOGIST

Lara Noldner, Bioarchaeology Director

700 Clinton Street Building

Iowa City, IA 52242-1030

319-384-0740

lara-noldner@uiowa.edu