

# Grave News

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

31086 Crystal, Strawberry Point IA <http://sapiciowa.org/>

Volume 26 Issue # 2

April, May, June 2021

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### STATE ASSOCIATION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF IOWA CEMETERIES

#### Meeting minutes April 10, 2021

The State Association for The Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries, SAPIC, met Saturday, April 10, 2021, at the Buchanan Senior Center in Independence, Iowa. President Reedy called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m.

After reviewing the attendance roster, President Reedy announced that the by-laws state that a quorum of the membership shall consist of at least (10) association members. There being less than (10) association members present at the current meeting, there could not be any business transacted. Submitted reports can be presented as information, without action.

President Reedy called for the minutes of the January 9th e-mail meeting and were printed in the Grave News newsletter, volume 26, issue #1. It was suggested that the minutes of the January 9 meeting be approved as printed.

#### Treasurer Report:

Funds on hand as of March 31, 2021 consist of \$5,025.076 in a share draft (checking) account, \$5.00 in a reserve savings account, and \$9,469.43 in certificate of deposit. These funds total \$14,500.19 and are above year-end balances the prior four years. At least two grant applications have been received, the approval of which will draw down deposit balances. Actual cash flow for year-to-date 202, is a positive \$786.27, above the proposed annual budget of \$350.564. The 2021 annual budget (a three-year average) has yet to be approved. It can assist in forecasting income and establishing spending levels. Most important is determining grant amounts for the year.

Deposit balances show healthy finances, a big reason due to some donations last three years. SAPIC finances can support event such as:

Funding area cemetery associations for training events and cemetery improvements (we should encourage)

Consider increasing grant amounts over existing

\$250 level?

Consider another grant offering this fall?

The checking account balances is more than needed for short term cash needs. Is it acceptable to purchase another CD? A consensus was to purchase another CD.

Discussion followed pertaining to the Grant Program. The Grant Program could add funding to area cemeteries associations for training events and cemetery improvements. It was generally agreed that SAPIC should encourage such event and assist in funding. The amount of grant level of \$250 each could be increased. A matching funds concept could be considered.

The Grant Committee reported two applications were received this year.

Cedar Grove Cemetery Union County, Iowa

Greenlawn Cemetery Union County, Iowa

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### Next Meeting

#### July 10<sup>th</sup> at 10 AM Buchanan County Senior Center

(Same location as April meeting.)

The center is located on Highway 150 four blocks North of downtown. However, that street is under construction and maybe closed in July. The Center may not be accessible from the marked 150 detour but will be accessible from 6th Avenue N.E. (on the other side of the closed highway.) It is on the corner of 5th Street and 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue N. The parking lot holds about 35 vehicles, and there is some street parking.

After our business meeting (11:15 to 11:30) we will adjourn to the state Mental Health Institute.



see more on pg 2

The committee recommended both applications be approved after further clarification of ownership of Cedar Grove Cemetery. After considerable discussion of the Grant Program, it was suggested to leave it as it is presently but consider several revisions for future years such as: increasing the amount for each grant, increasing the budget items for grants and consider changing applications due dates.

Future meeting sites:  
President Reedy reported meeting site for July and October have not been selected. If anyone has thought or ideas, please contact him.

The meeting adjourned a 11:30 a.m. *Larry Davis* Secretary

**July 10 Meeting Information**

The State mental Health Institute is located on the West edge of town. We will have a short presentation and tour of the Institute museum. This institution is nearly 150 years old, and we will see and hear how mental illness has been treated (or not) over the course of that time.

The **Independence State Hospital** was built in 1873 as the second asylum in the state of Iowa. The original plan for patients was to relieve crowding from the hospital at Mount Pleasant and to hold alcoholics, geriatrics, drug addicts, mentally ill, and the criminally insane. Like most asylums of its time, it has had a gruesome and dark history. Remnants of this are the graveyard, hydrotherapy tubs, and lobotomy equipment.

**May is Declared Cemetery Appreciation by Governor Reynolds**

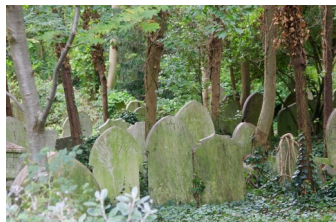
Please see the Governor's Proclamation on page 6.

**CELEBRATION OF OXFORD JUNCTION, IOWA CEMETERY**

Mayflower Cemetery is the only cemetery in Oxford Township and is used by all denominations of churches in the area. Early stones of some ancestors are written in the Czech or German language. Often several generations of a family are interred in the cemetery.

Read more:

<https://www.dailyadvent.com/news/4957dfb66c495e6b55be5a3ab5155cee-Oxford-Junction-Cemetery-celebrates-Cemetery-Appreciation-Month>



Re-

**membering Iowa's forgotten cemeteries**

*Submitted by Mike Magee*

Talking about pioneer cemeteries in Wapello County a u-tube to watch:

<https://youtu.be/DY86TA8a18I>

**Fackler's Grove Pioneer Cemetery, Ely, Iowa**

Information on the web

<https://youtu.be/59bBt0y4Cq0>

To see what has been completed since this video see this link

<https://www.elyhistory.com/search?q=2017>

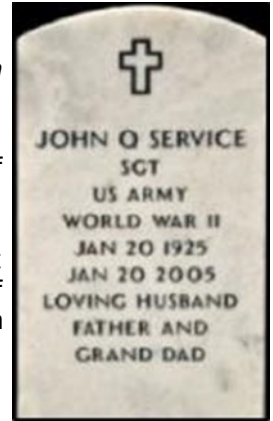
and how a SAPIC grant helped this cemetery begin its restoration. Do

you know of a pioneer cemetery that could benefit from a SAPIC grant? **Please see the SAPIC website for more information and application.**

\* \* \* \* \*

**The Creation of a Military Marker**  
*Submitted by John Heider*

The Creation of a Military Marker  
The simple white marble stones that mark the graves of the country's fallen soldiers have changed little over the decades. But the business of



producing tens of thousands a year has become a high-tech, high pressure proposition.

That is because the government requires its three official makers of military headstones to finish and ship them within 10 days of their being ordered.

It is a serious challenge that is met with computers, automation, and diamond-edged power saws to keep up with the government's demand for cemeteries in the Northeast, Mid-Atlantic and Midwest.

One of the companies, Granite Industries is in Barre, Vermont and has been producing military stones for nearly two decades. It averages about 22,000 markers a year.

Today, an order comes electronically from the Department of Veterans Affairs. Designs are laid out by a computer that fashions mock-up of headstones and prints them as stencils.

A 10-foot, diamond-edged circular saw slices through the 35-ton blocks of Danby marble—named for the town south of Barre where the stones is quarried – cutting them into four-inch thick slabs. Smaller saws trim the slabs to regulation headstones size: 42 inches high, 13 inches wide. Another machine rounds the top of each stone.

For lettering, the use of a rubber stencil becomes the mask for transferring letters to stone. On an adhesive-backed rubber sheet, workers

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affix the rubber stencil to the headstone; a rubber mallet is used to remove air bubbles. The stone rolls along on a conveyor to the sand-blasting booth. Letters are etched by a worker who sweeps the sand-blasting nozzle back and forth across the marble. It then continues by having letters sprayed with black paint to enhance readability. The stone is then polished before being boxed for shipping. It is delivered freight pre-paid.

Each facility employs 50-75 workers with about 6-8 who are responsible for transforming each stone. These teams can produce about 10 complete markers in an hour. The VA pays \$120 per headstone. In all, the government pays Granite Industries about \$3.3 million a year to produce military grave markers. The stream of stones is steady, with more than 1,000 World War II veterans dying each day along with the constant trickle of casualties from middle east conflicts. There are also plenty of requests to replace markers that have worn with time – as far back as the Revolutionary War. With proper documents, bronze or stone military grave markers are provided at no cost to the petitioner.

## Cemeteries are qualifying entities

For those who may consider replacing trees lost in the August 2020 Derecho President Bill Reedy shares that Trees Forever offers grants of up to five thousand dollars for tree replacement, and specifically lists cemeteries as qualifying entities.

Their first round of applications was due by April 1, but several other rounds are spaced through the rest of the year. The list of funding does include pollinator habitat conservation if that is a better fit. More information:

<http://www.treesforever.org/fund>

## SAPIC Support for cemetery preservation projects:

The State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries (SAPIC) promotes cemetery preservation and offers financial assistance to individuals, groups, or organizations involved in preserving Iowa's historic cemeteries. Education, guidance, support, and training are available to anyone searching for help. Looking for answers? Visit [www.sapiciowa.org](http://www.sapiciowa.org)

During the past 20 years, SAPIC has financially provided over \$17,000 and supported approximately 80 activities that were associated with cemetery preservation. SAPIC continues to offer yearly grants for general cemetery activities and comprehensive preservation training. Each grant is in the amount of \$250. Need financial assistance? Visit [www.sapiciowa.org](http://www.sapiciowa.org) for the application.

If preserving a gravestone or cemetery is your interest, attend one of our quarterly meetings. We would like to see and hear your plans. Meeting information is on the home page at [www.sapiciowa.org](http://www.sapiciowa.org).

## County Updates

### Clinton County



Submitted by Kate Howes, reporter for The Observer and contributed by Clinton County restoration commission member, Ruth Wilson.

Kuebler Cemetery dedicated: Families provide money to restore iron fence. **Read More:**

[https://www.dewittobserver.com/news/local/kuebler-cemetery-dedicated/article\\_ce117bb6-b811-11eb-9f5d-333d31a082b1.html](https://www.dewittobserver.com/news/local/kuebler-cemetery-dedicated/article_ce117bb6-b811-11eb-9f5d-333d31a082b1.html)



**Leaving a legacy:** Richard Minor, of DeWitt (far left) and members of the Earl Paarmann family gather at Kuebler Cemetery, in Calamus, to be recognized for the funds donated to help restore the fence around the headstones.

The Observer photo by Kate Howes



**Descendants of the Kuebler family,** who attended the dedication ceremony Saturday afternoon at Kuebler Cemetery south of Calamus, are (from left) Jay Gardner, of Cleveland, Ohio; Angela Eden Zimmermann, of Calamus; Ed Eden, of Moline, Illinois; Richard Minor, of DeWitt; and Reed Gardner, of Vancouver, Washington.

The Observer photo by Kate Howes

May has been proclaimed Cemetery Appreciation Month, so it only seemed fitting for members of the Clinton County Pioneer Cemetery Commission (CCPCC) to gather Saturday afternoon with members of the Earl Paarmann family and descendants of the Kuebler family at Kuebler Cemetery for a special dedication ceremony.

Kuebler Cemetery, located south of Calamus, has been classified as a

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“pioneer cemetery,” as it is one in which there have been 12 or fewer burials in the past 50 years. The cemetery is one of 28 pioneer cemeteries in Clinton County, with approximately 23 of these being mowed on a regular basis. Contracts have been established with seven different people who mow the lawns and conduct minor maintenance. Commission members have been active clearing brush, cutting down trees, taking care of fences and preparing cemeteries for restoration work.

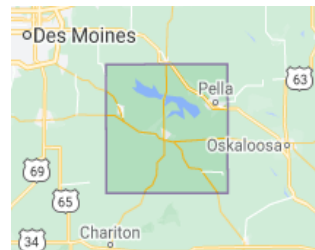
Restoration work at Kuebler Cemetery was completed in 2018. However, funding was donated to restore the wrought-iron fence around the headstones, which was reinstalled in the fall of 2020. That funding was provided by two different sources. One of them is Richard Minor, now of DeWitt, who formerly owned the farm on which the cemetery is located. He also is a descendant of the Kueblers who are buried there. Minor donated a substantial sum for the restoration of the fence and upkeep of the cemetery, commission members said. The other source was from the family of Earl Paarmann. Paarmann joined the CCPCC in April 2010, and faithfully attended nearly every monthly meeting for eight years until his death Jan. 1, 2018. His family donated memorial funds in March 2018, and the commission voted to use them toward restoration of the fence. The restoration work was completed by Kilburg Welding. The Clinton County Board of Supervisors previously turned over the care of all pioneer cemeteries in the county to the commission. With tax levy funding, which previously went to the townships for these cemeteries, is now in an account under the CCPCC overseen by the county auditor.

The commission has hired Stonehugger Cemetery Restoration to restore and clean all headstones in the pioneer cemeteries. They also probe the area for miss-

ing tablets, research the history of the cemetery and take before and after pictures of each burial site. They then submit a binder of all the information to the county commission. The Seven Day Baptist Cemetery, in Welton, will be the commission’s 2021 project. Current members of the commission are Ann Soenksen, president; Al Rogis, vice president; Ruth Wilson, secretary; Linda Gasper, Bill Fatchett, Dale Bergert, Alan Green and Luke Lubben.

## Marion County

Submitted by Carl Nollen



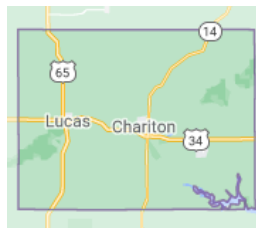
As to pioneer cemeteries, our highly active Marion County Pioneer Cemetery Commission had a workday at **York** Cemetery with help from a church group, clearing out the fence row and repairing the fence. We have the practical expertise and leadership from Kent & Val Van Kooten.

Two more workdays at other cemeteries will be scheduled. As I have said before, the most important thing any cemetery commission can do is keep those little cemeteries in fields fenced.



## Lucas County

Submitted by Mike McGee



Family's Cemetery Used for Target Practice: Stoneking cemetery's troubles apparently continue, though the video dates from 2010, an online search shows it is listed as 'haunted' cemetery and there are many comments about people visiting it (some apparently still not respecting this family's final resting place).



Read more: <https://youtu.be/pT4BevBFv60> and <http://lucascountyian.blogspot.com/2012/12/tombs-with-view-ii-stoneking.html>

## FUDGE RECIPE

The Best Fudge recipe is on her stone. Headstone in Utah gets year-round attention.

Submitted by Jean Ripley <https://www.kcci.com/article/headstone-fudge-recipe-shared-around-the-world/36572379>

Kathryn Andrews' headstone in Utah gets attention year-round, all thanks to a fudge recipe.

Johnson said her mother came up with the idea to include the fudge recipe on her headstone and would likely find it funny that it's been shared so many times.

Here's the full recipe:  
 "2 squares chocolate  
 2 tbsp butter  
 Melt on low heat  
 Stir in 1 cup milk  
 Bring to a boil  
 3 cups sugar  
 1 tsp vanilla  
 Pinch of salt  
 Cook to softball stage  
 Pour on marble slab  
 Cool & Beat & Eat

**Iowa State Historical Society  
Highest History Award**

Submitted by Jo Porter

William J. Petersen & Edgar R. Harlan Lifetime Achievement Award

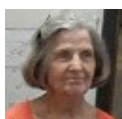
**Bonnie and John Smola (2016) / Donna and Steve Story (2021)**

Monona, Iowa - Hawkeye, Iowa

Throughout five decades, these twin sisters and their late husbands championed numerous local history projects, including revitalizing the 1896 pipe organ (which Steve Story often played) at the Union Sunday School in Clermont, caring for artifacts at the Clermont Museum and nearby Montauk Historic Site, contributing expertise to displays at the Meskwaki Cultural Center in Tama, and preserving several pioneer cemeteries. <https://iowaculture.gov/content/bonnie-and-john-smola-donna-and-steve-story-0> <http://outlooknewspaper.com/content/monona-woman-sister-late-husbands-receive-state%E2%80%99s-highest-historic-honor> [State's highest State historic honor](#) interview with [Bonnie Smola and Donna Story](#) maybe read at <http://outlooknewspaper.com/content/monona-woman-sister-late-husbands-receive-state%E2%80%99s-highest-historic-honor>.



Steve  
Donna



John  
Bonnie

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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 Treasurer**

SAPIC deposit balances as of May 31, 2021:

Share Draft (checking)	\$4,875.76
Reserve Savings	\$5.00
Time	\$9,489.20
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$14,369.96</b>

*Brad Hughes*

State of Iowa  
Executive Department



IN THE NAME AND BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE STATE OF IOWA

PROCLAMATION

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

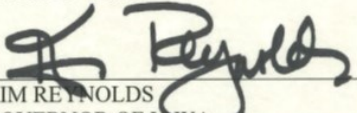
WHEREAS, pride and respect for our pioneers leads to an interest in and concern for the future, it is with this thought in mind that we dedicate this month to the care of our pioneer cemeteries:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kim Reynolds, Governor of the State of Iowa, do hereby proclaim the month of May 2021 as

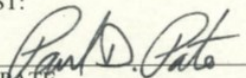
CEMETERY APPRECIATION MONTH



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I HAVE HEREUNTO SUBSCRIBED MY NAME AND CAUSED THE GREAT SEAL OF THE STATE OF IOWA TO BE AFFIXED. DONE AT DES MOINES THIS 28<sup>th</sup> DAY OF APRIL IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-ONE.

  
KIM REYNOLDS  
GOVERNOR OF IOWA

ATTEST:

  
PAUL TATE  
SECRETARY OF STATE



**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

*Submitted by Mike Magee*

Cleaning Bronze Veteran Ground Level Flat Grave Marker Headstone

[https://youtu.be/91DFFwY\\_MT4](https://youtu.be/91DFFwY_MT4)

How to Clean Veteran Headstones Using D/2 Biological Solution

<https://youtu.be/8WdUSzKcmjs>

**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*

**STATE CEMETERY REGULATOR**

Andrew Hartnett, Bureau Chief Regulated Industries Unit, Iowa Securities Bureau

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**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)



**VETERANS' HEADSTONES**

e-mail <http://www.cem.va.gov/>

Telephone: 1-800-697-6947

