

Grave News

NEWSLETTER OF THE STATE ASSOCIATION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF IOWA CEMETERIES

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

Volume 26 Issue # 4

October, November, December 2021

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Next Meeting January 8, 2022.

The January SAPIC meeting will be conducted by e-mail, as it has been for the last several years. Agenda suggestions should be sent to President, Bill Reedy reedypart@jtt.net by January 1, 2022. The meeting date is January 8, so this will allow time to disseminate the agenda.



MEETING MINUTES OCTOBER 9, 2021

The State Association for The Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries (SAPIC) met October 9, 2021, at the Meskwaki Event Center at Tama, Iowa. President Bill Reedy called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m. with fourteen members and guest present.

Secretary Report:
President Reedy reported that the minutes of the July 10, 2021, meeting were printed in volume 26, #3 of Grave News and mailed to SAPIC members. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of July 10 meeting as printed in the Grave News, Volume 26, #3. Motion passed.

Treasure's Report:
Treasurer Brad Hughes presented the following summary:
Deposit totals continues to increase. Significant effort is needed to put these funds to good use. Grants for cemetery improvement and training need to be encourage.
Funds on hand as of September 30, 2021, total

\$14,489.69. CD #03 was increased \$1,000 with a transfer from the share draft account since last report. Increasing CD balance was approved at the prior meeting. Actual cash flow for year-to-date 2021 is a positive \$775.77, greatly exceeding the proposed annual budget of \$732.72. The budget is negative from increasing planned grant outlays at the last meeting from \$1,000 to \$2,000.

Grants:
A brief discussion on the grant program suggested the grant application form heading be revised to include emphasis on the educational part of the grant program. Members were urged to promote the Grant Program, especially the educational grants.

25th Anniversary:
President Reedy reminded members that SAPIC celebrates its 25th anniversary in 2021 and reviewed the article printed in volume 26, Issue 23 of the Grave News Newsletter.

Grave News Newsletter:

It was reported that Tony Bengston has digitized all past issues of Grave News, which were provided by Larry Davis. After November 1, 2021, the Grave News Newsletters will be posted on the SAPIC website.

Reed Cemetery:
Mildred Stewart was unable to attend the meeting but provided the following update on Reed Cemetery in Clayton County litigation: The trial date is November 10, 2021. All three surrounding landowners have now joined the suit seeking both a temporary and permanent injunction against the cemetery being fenced on boundary lines while also claiming parts of the cemetery adjacent to their property. This past month we had a burial in Reed Cemetery so there are strong feelings about this cemetery that has existed since 1860's. The outcome of this litigation will have a lasting impact on the preservation (or not preserved) of cemeteries.

Discussions followed

which noted the importance of SAPIC being represented at the trial and urged members to consider attending.

Allamakee Cemetery New burials:

Discussion was held in regard to new burials on private property. It was noted that a few such burials have occurred and that a variance from the county zoning ordinances is typically required.

Woodbury Township Cemetery:

Buckworks North America, who owns the land surrounding Woodbury Township Cemetery, is proposing to move the cemetery which has caused opposition from local area with ancestors and family members buried there. It was generally agreed there is not much SAPIC can do except monitor the events at this time.

Meskwakie Nation:

Johnathon Buffalo, Tribal Historian and Heritage Center director, presented some of his experiences with burial site protection and access issues.

Election of Officers:

The nomination committee presented the following slate of officers and board members for 2022:

Officers:

- President.....William Reedy
- Vice President...John Heider
- Secretary.....From the floor
- Treasurer..... From the floor

Board Members term ending in 2024

- Tony Bengston
- Jodi Holland
- Benjamin Mayer
- Milly Stewart
- Brad Hughes

To fill unexpired term ending in 2022

- Larry Davis
- Jean Ripley

To fill unexpired term ending in 2023

- Wally Boheme
- Russ Gardner
- Kevin Lee

Additional nominations may be made from the floor.

It was noted that two positions, secretary and treasurer, were still open. There being no nominations from the floor, a motion was made and seconded to cast a unanimous ballot for the candidates with the exception of the secretary and treasurer, which will be filled by the April quarterly SAPIC meeting.

Motion carried. Brad Hughes, the current treasurer, and Larry Davis, the current secretary, both offered to continue serving until the April 9, 2022, unless candidates are found before that date.

The meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Note:

Following the meeting Johnathon Buffalo, Tribal Historian and Heritage Center Director led members through the tribal museum.

Secretary,

Larry Davis

Grant Application Deadline Approaching: April 1st



This year the grant award has increased by doubling to \$500 per

application. Educational related applications are sought.

<http://sapiciowa.org/>

Gravestone Returned

It is stories like this one that make one wonder and yet grateful for the family honoring another family's ancestor by returning it when discovered. Though the mystery of how it ended up being used for fudge making continues, the family returned the headstone.

After 146 years the stone is back. It is the stone on the left.

<https://www.cnn.com/2021/09/24/us/gravestone-returned-after-missing-150-years-trnd/index.html>



Watch the u-tube *Remembering Iowa's forgotten cemeteries*

<https://youtu.be/DY86TA8aI8I>



Cemetery Glossary

Having served as a pall bearer I learned some people do not know certain terms that are used during funerals which can presents challenges when lifting or moving items.

Bier (sounds like beer and there is history of it describing a type of alcoholic drink) means something else entirely. It is used when moving a casket. Thanks to Mike for submitting this quick reference. Do you or someone in your family know what a cairn or a **Cenotaph** is? Click the following link to find the answers. https://www.in.gov/dnr/historic-preservation/files/cem_glossary.pdf

Precomunit USS Iowa SSN797
Cemetery USS Iowa SSN 797
Crew members of Precomunit USS Iowa SSN797 helped



clean headstones of Civil war veterans at Waterloo Cemetery!

Thanks to COL Heidi Warrington and Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) for providing cleaning materials and guidance!



Call to Service!



Kelly Sullivan

Sponsor - USS THE SULLIVANS DDG 68
Waterloo, Iowa
319-266-6172 cell KellySullivanDDG68@gmail.com

Gravestones were reused

Submitted by John Heider

While Iowa law now prevents this from happening in the past that was not always the case.



The Tombstone House in Petersburg, VA was built by Oswald Young in 1934. The house was made from 2,200 marble tombstones of Union soldiers killed in the siege of Petersburg. There are two versions of the story behind how this house came to be. One is that the cemetery removed the tombstones and replaced them with something easier to maintain. Those tombstones were sold to Young who faced the inscriptions inwards and plastered over them. The more likely story is that the cemetery uprooted the tombstones, cut off the lower portions, and laid them flat on the ground. These bases were then sold to Young.

<https://www.roadarch.com/h/tombhouse.html>



<https://www.roadarch.com/h/tombhouse.html>

Mexican War Veterans Buried in Iowa

Submitted by Mike Rowley

Mike has started a project to identify as many as possible of the Mexican War veterans buried in Iowa. He is compiling a listing based on information he is gathering from various locations that includes:

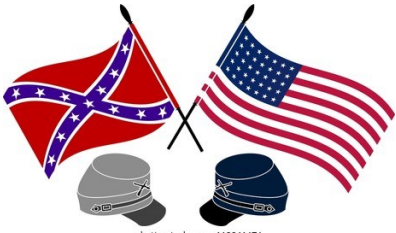
The numbers are from www.findagrave.com, location is on findagrave.com. The units they served from are found in the book *Soldiers and Sailors living in Iowa* published 1886. Pages 734-750 in the book list veterans of Mexican War living in Iowa in 1885. I am just documenting to see if they died and are buried in Iowa and have been searching old newspapers. For current listing email Mike. Mjr1825@gmail.com We look forward to hearing more about this project in the future.

Note:

The Mexican-American War was a conflict between the U.S. and Mexico, **fought from April 1846 to February 1848**. whether Texas ended at the Nueces River (the Mexican claim) or the Rio Grande (the U.S. claim).

Civil War Veterans of Iowa

Submitted by Carl Nollen



Carl does extensive research on each of these individuals and has kindly shared much of his detailed research with the Clayton County Genie Society. He continues his work each day and below are a few of those he has researched. If you would like the bio for any of these please contact us.

Frank Henry Beckmann

b. May 17, 1838, d. May 22, 1888, buried Littleport's Union Cemetery

Charles C. Burge

b. April 12, 1835, d. June 9, 1913, buried East Oakwood Cemetery Bevier, MO

John G. Towne

b. in Jefferson County New York d. June 10, 1866, Worth County

William Snowden Warner

b. England September 28, 1818, d. January 15, 1909, buried Taylorsville Cemetery.

County Reports

Woodbury County

Submitted by Carl Nollen



Resolution of the Woodbury Township Cemetery relocation issue. Both the Des Moines Register and the Sioux Land News featured articles about the decision. See Des Moines Register Friday November 12 issue "Plans to relocate cemetery scrapped", <https://woodburytownshipcemetery.com/> the website for timeline of process, and <https://siouxlandnews.com/news/local/woodbury-township-cemetery-decision>.

In November 2021, the plans to move the cemetery were changed to keep this resting place untouched. Brickworks will be gifting additional land for a cemetery expansion and building an alternate access road to Woodbury Township Cemetery.

Marion County

Submitted by Valerie Van Kooten



The Marion County Pioneer Cemetery Commission (MCPCC) finished up work on Attica Cemetery (aka Mormon Cemetery) on the west edge of Attica. MCPCC had totally restored and re-fenced the cemetery about 10 years ago, but last year's derecho brought down a tree in the cemetery. In order



to remove the tree, we had to take down the fence. The homeowner cut up the tree and we replaced the fence in late June. The land was originally owned by Stephen Post, a Rigdonite Mormon of the branch of

Children of Zion. Local lore says that the group rested here in the 1850s for a winter and one of their members, Elizabeth Estal, died after giving birth to a child. The father and remaining children went to Utah, leaving the child in care of a local family. You can view all of Marion County's pioneer cemeteries at www.marioncountycemetery.wix.com/mcpcc

Monona County

Submitted by Carl Nollen



The little-known South Jordan Cemetery in rural Monona County by the Loess hills is now listed as on the National Register of Historic places. This small burial place holds the remains of early black settlers just after the Civil War ended. Chairwoman of the Monona County Historic Preservation Commission, Ehlers worked on the application for the National Register.

<https://siouxcityjournal.com/watch-now-little-known-black-cemetery-in-monona-county-added-to-national-register-of-historic/video-14084980-abb7-5e38-95e5-527649730d2b.html>

For more information on seeking recognition as a national register of historic designation see <https://iowaculture.gov/history/preservation/national-register-historic-places>



.Grundy County

Submitted

by Mike

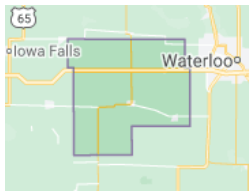
Magee

As reported by

(KWWL) -

On July 5th, 2021, the Grundy County Sheriff's Office was called to the Fredsville Evangelical Lutheran Church for criminal mischief. Approximately \$73,000 dollars of damage occurred. Waterloo 18-year-old charged after July Fredsville cemetery vandalism

https://www.kwwl.com/news/waterloo-18-year-old-charged-after-july-fredsville-cemetery-vandalism/article_af1a81be-2542-11ec-b78c-7747c3401324.html



copy of the survey taboriowahistorical@society@gmail.com



John Todd House, Tabor, IA

Bremer County

Submitted by

Jean Ripley

Harlington Cemetery's

oldest tombstones being fixed by one man through city project. Craig Mehmen will fix stones for the safety of those visiting the site.



https://www.kwwl.com/news/top-stories/harlington-cemeterys-oldest-tombstones-being-fixed-by-one-man-through-city-project/article_ea732f6a-46bf-11ec-aeda-dfd933e9a0ff.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=us-er-share



Fremont County

Submitted by Harry Wilkins of Tabor

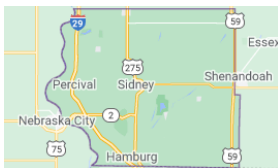
Historical Society

Friends,

as you

may

know, Tabor was a station on the Underground Railroad in the 1850s. The John Todd House, maintained by the Tabor Historical Society, is only one of four remaining stations in the state. This summer, our society conducted a survey of Underground Railroad conductors currently resting in the town cemetery. The task was completed in preparation for restoration work which should commence in the spring of 2022. For the most current



Clayton County

Reported by various members

Oelwein Daily

Register featured

a front-page article about the

Reed cemetery

upcoming court case.

UPDATE:

January 7th

litigation

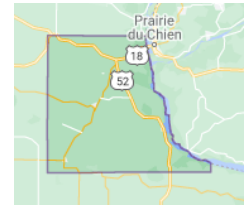
date postponed. The

new date is

to be determined. See Iowa courts

online case 01221 EQCV010860.

The **outcome** of this litigation will have a lasting impact on the preservation (or not preserved) of cemeteries



Food for thought ~ From Mike's Musings published 2018, *Nashua Reporter* June 28, 1939 "Makes Plea for Iowa's Forgotten Cemeteries" Howard W. McLuen of Perry is urging officials "be ever conscious of the sacred trust reposed in us, that of making cemeteries havens of rest for the departed and places of solace for the living"

Past issues of newsletters are now on the SAPIC website. Thank you Tony for posting them.

<http://sapiciowa.org/newsletters.htm>



Searching for the burial place of Has Barlein

Submitted by Paul French

January of 2015 email landed in my inbox. It was from a gentleman in Norway, Carl Ivar Storøy, seeking assistance in locating the Lauman family graveyard, Sugar Creek, Iowa.



Carl Ivar Storøy

A year or two earlier, Pat Morrison secured GPS coordinates for all Lee County cemeteries, and I had completed a map showing the locations of all known cemeteries in Lee County, Iowa, and an accompanying list of alternate names for those cemeteries.

(Map #1 on this web page: <http://iagenweb.org/lee/cems/maps/Cem-map.html>)

Unfortunately, there was no Arnt-Erik Salliaas included on the map or in the list.

An 1874 Lee County plat map showed land owned by J. J. Lauman in the vicinity of Sugar Creek, and using the Lee County GIS system, we were able to find the names of current landowners for those properties.

Others in Lee County and elsewhere were also working to provide assistance to Carl Ivar Storøy and his collaborator, Arnt-Erik Salliaas. In subsequent months, more information was provided in response to additional requests.



Arnt-Erik Salliaas

In January of 2016, Carl Ivar and Arnt-Erik said they were planning a summer trip to the US to pursue their research in person. They flew into Burlington airport where I met

them, made sure they got their rental car, and pointed them down the road to Keokuk. There they had a motel reservation and appointments with others who might advance their research, including meeting with the current landowners where they believed the Lauman family graveyard was located. Specifically, they were looking for the burial place of Hans Barlien, a Norwegian immigrant who had come to the US at the age of 60 and settled in Lee County where he died in 1842. Unfortunately, the grave was never marked.

By the end of their visit, they were reasonably certain they knew the general area of the burial and had pretty well resigned themselves to the idea that they had come as close to finding the burial location as they were likely to do.

Their visit produced a couple of after-effects. First, they made contact with Phil Buch, a descendant of Hans Barlien who lives in Texas and whose father had hiked along Sugar Creek nearly twenty years earlier with the hope of seeing some sign of the Barlien burial place. Second, a woman who had grown up on the property where the Lauman family graveyard was thought to be saw a newspaper article about their visit and made contact. She said her father always avoided an area on the farm when ploughing because he said there were burials there. She drew a map of the farm from memory showing the general area her father avoided. She made a visit to the farm but could not identify the area.

In 2017 Carl Ivar and Arnt-Erik returned to the US with a tour group of about 30 Norwegians for a tour up the Mississippi valley, including a stop in Lee County to visit the old Lauman farm and a visit to Scandinavian Cemetery about a mile south where a monument to Hans Barlien was dedicated. Phil Buch and his son travelled from Texas to attend the dedica-

tion. Upon return to Norway, Carl Ivar and Arnt-Erik completed a book about Hans Barlien they'd been working on that included an account of their search for his burial place. And that's how their project ended.

...except that Phil Buch returned to Texas and thought about the possibility of using ground penetrating radar to see if the actual graves could be located on the former Lauman farm. He searched the internet for an Iowa consultant who could do the work, which led to Chad Goings' Rolling Hills Consulting in Washington, Iowa.

On the bright sunny morning of September 13, 2021, Phil Buch and his son met Chad on the former Lauman farm. After staking out corners of a proposed search area, we set pin flags every 50cm to mark off parallel paths for the GPR to follow. After covering the ground in one direction, the same area was scanned again perpendicular to the original scans.

The data from the scans was analyzed, and one area showed as a possible grave. Chad returned to the old Lauman farm to take soil core samples in that area to see if the cores would show that the soil layers had been disturbed had a burial occurred there.



Arnt-Erik Salliaas of Norway unveils a monument honoring early Lee County settler Hans Barlien Oct. 9 in the Scandinavian Cemetery on White Plains Road, rural Keokuk.



Ground Penetrating Radar

Those cores did not show anything that merited further investigation.

The area selected for scanning with ground penetrating radar was a best guess, based on a rough drawing by the woman who had grown up on the farm decades earlier, and that there was no way to know how accurate the story she was told might be. It's possible that if we shifted the search area a bit the results would have been different. When they departed, Phil Buch and Chad were discussing whether a LIDAR scan might provide any useful information, but for now, the exact burial location of Hans Barlien remains unknown.

I would like to mention how gracious and accommodating the current property landowners, John and Linda Kemper, have been throughout all of this.

SAPIC OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

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Board Member (2023) Kevin Lee 2526 173rd Ave., Decorah IA 54501 563-380-3375

Board Member (2024): Benjamin Mayer 317 E. Green St. Winterset, IA 50273 515 -462 -7033

Board Member (2024) Jody Holland 119 North Mill St. Apt. L Decorah, IA 52101 563 -419 -6487



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

Proper Cleaning Tools *Submitted by Mike Magee*

<https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/laurenstrapagiel/tiktok-headstone-cleaners-gravetok>
<https://www.atlasobscura.com/articles/how-to-clean-gravestones>



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. sapicio-wa.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

STATE CEMETERY REGULATOR

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Telephone: 1-800-697-6947



MAIL TO:
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308 NW Sunset Lane
Grimes, IA 50111

SAPIC MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

SAPIC is a non-profit organization 501 (c) (3). Contributions are deductible under sections 170, 2055, 2106 or 2522 of the Internal Revenue Code.

Date: _____ **New Membership:** _____ **Renewal:** _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ **State:** _____ **Zip Code (+4)** _____

Telephone: _____ **E-mail:** _____

(Please check)

Individual \$25: _____ **Family \$35:** _____ **Lifetime Individual \$200:** _____

Business \$40: _____ **Organization \$40:** _____ **DONATION or MEMORIAL: \$** _____

List names of honoree(s) if desired: _____