

## **Minutes of Clayton County Pioneer Cemetery meeting held on May 11, 2025**

Meeting held in two parts: the first part was a business meeting at CC Genie Society, and the second part was a search and discover mission to find the Chinese Pioneer Cemetery near Froelich and Giard.

Commissioners present were David Beck, Sue Meyer, and Bruce and Ellen Collins. Chairperson Lee Embretson also attended arriving after the meeting started. Guests welcomed were Ed Uriell and Paul Young.

Bruce Collins opened the meeting in the absence of Chairperson Lee Embretson. Lee chaired the meeting upon his arrival.

Agenda was reviewed and approved in a unanimous motion by David B. and seconded by Ellen C.

Minutes from April 2025 meeting were approved in a unanimous motion by Sue M. and seconded by David B.

Treasurer's Report by Bruce C., County funds balance is \$1,288.76 and Freedom Bank balance remains at \$2,010.

Bruce displayed the completed sign for Watkins Cemetery. **Commission unanimously approved request to re-reimburse Bruce C. for cost of sign purchased from thINK in the amount of \$69.55. Motion by David and seconded by Sue M.**

Lee E. submitted request for reimbursement of funds expended to purchase supplies to erect the sign at Winkowitsch Cemetery. **Cost of supplies was \$30.64. Motion by Bruce C. and seconded by Sue M. was unanimously approved.**

Bruce C. will submit both reimbursement requests to the County Auditor's Office for payment.

### **Old and New Business:**

Ellen C. gave an update on Cords Cemetery-Cox Creek Township which was visited recently by Bruce and Ellen C. The site needs some general grooming and trees need trimming. The fencing is damaged-probably tree/branches have fallen on it. It is a nice Victorian metal fence. Visit was in early May and Ellen sprayed the stones with D2, (a product designed specifically for clearing headstones). There are lots of branches down and larger trees on the perimeter that are down or leaning. Plan made for David, Bruce and Ellen to visit and clean up.

Ellen also updated Commission on Watkins Cemetery in Cox Creek Township. Owner did respond to a letter sent to him last month. Ellen explained to him our desire to clean up area and to place a sign on the fence surrounding the stones. He gave permission to do both and has made his renter aware. He was advised this work would most likely be done this summer. Renter has no problem with this either.

Meenan Update: Ellen contacted Zach Marmann who stated he did receive the metal sign back from repair and letters were not in correct order. He will return it for repair. Ellen asked that this be done by early June so that we can use our funds up prior to the end of the fiscal year. Zach agreed.

Barnum Cemetery: Lee E. and David B. reported that they installed the flags at the site reflecting the dimensions of 180 feet X 20 feet. These dimensions were approved by land owners and the Commission and have been submitted to CC Recorders office to officially record this area as a cemetery. David B. reported that the fee for the labor and fencing will be \$1,800. Work will be done by Edwin Stutzman. **Bruce C. made a motion to accept this bid and Sue M. seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.**

*(The county funds that will be available after paying the two bills, which were approved above, will be \$1,188.57 and this money can be used to pay a large part of the fence building bill at Barnum provided we get a billing by early June.)*

Next meeting is scheduled for June 14, 2025 at the C.C. Genie Society at 9:00 AM.

### **Chinese Cemetery Field Trip**

CCPCC members, plus Ed Uriell and Paul Young met other interested county residents at Giard Church and then proceeded to locate the site of the Chinese Cemetery.

Visitor Ed Uriell led us to the site that he was shown by former Cemetery Commission member Lawrence Fox as to location of the “Chinese” Railroad Cemetery.

This was years ago when both Lawrence Fox and Ed Uriell worked for the county. The site is just past Froelich along HWY 18 to Hickory Avenue turning north- right and go straight for approximately 1½ miles until the railroad tracks, cross the tracks and the field shown to commission was to the immediate right. It is a hillside. Attempt made to locate owner Dave Trappe, but it was unsuccessful. Paul Young said per co-ordinates on internet it seems like this site should be closer to Spook Cave area. Ed Uriell said that Lawrence Fox showed him this particular field along Hickory Avenue. Commission did drive over to area around Spook Cave area but did not find the location. More

research will be done. The railroad was built between 1858 and 1862. It reached Monona in 1862.

Thanks to Ed Uriell for taking time to do this with the Commission and to all the other Clayton County residents who are interested in our work and came along with us.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 11:30 A.M.

Ellen Collins  
Acting Secretary