

Clayton County Pioneer Cemetery Commission Meeting Minutes for July, 2022

The regular monthly meeting of the Pioneer Cemetery Commission was called to order shortly after 9:00 am at the Johnson Restaurant in Elkader.

All five members of the commission were present along with friends of the commission Frank Phippen, Dave Beck and Leann and Craig Watson.

A motion was made to approve the agenda for this meeting by Ellen Collins seconded by Myra Voss and approved unanimously.

The minutes of the prior meeting were read and discussed as they were being read. A motion was made by Lee Lenth to approve the minutes as read, seconded by Myra Voss and unanimously approved.

Old Business

The Pioneer Cemetery related records that Myra Voss has collected and made from all her work over the years presently stored in her home was discussed. At our March meeting this was also discussed and it was agreed at that time that Dave Beck would work on setting up computer files (digitizing) these records. At this meeting, Dave Beck spoke about his work and how much more accessible to everyone these records are if they were available on various websites—findagrave.com and iowagravestones.org were noted.

Related to the actual physical records Myra has---the question is where to store them? Various options were discussed with the Clayton County Development Group office (CCDG) being the most

attractive site with the Clayton County Office Building on Gunder Road and the Genealogy Center as secondary alternatives. Dave Beck is to check with CCDO to see if that site is a viable option and he will continue to work with Myra recording her records on computer files.

As noted above, the Watsons—Craig and Leann---were at our meeting and it was noted that the Watsons donated \$1,000 to our commission via the Dubuque Foundation for the Future Organization. The commission members shared their thanks and gratitude to the Watsons for their donation.

A discussion of the Garretson Cemetery followed and the commission's visit to that site as part of our meeting last month—June 18th. There was some discussion about Moses Hewitt whose grave is in this cemetery and the trading post his father operated somewhere near there in the 1840's and the commerce that took place at that time on the route between Dubuque and Fort Atkinson.

Bruce Collins discussed a proposal for a sign to be placed in the Garretson Cemetery area. This was also discussed some at the last meeting and the commission members generally thought it was an idea worth pursuing. Bruce will develop a more complete proposal and design for consideration at an upcoming meeting.

The commission also again talked about the headstone retrieved from the Garretson cemetery, the headstone for Moses Hewitt, being stored by Frank Phippen. The plan is to return this headstone to the cemetery location once a plan is developed to protect it from destruction within the confines of where it will be.

Related to the Patterson Cemetery, there are two signs ready to be installed there. Lee Embretson, when he gets time to do so, will do the installation; Bruce Collins will help,

Other/New Business

Myra Voss requested reimbursement for photos she had printed related to the Patterson Cemetery. Bruce Collins made a motion to reimburse Myra \$10.00 for the cost of the photos, Ellen Collins seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously.

Lee Lenth discussed the Hamlett Cemetery, There was a large tree limb that was down in the cemetery and he got that cut up and removed. He also said the cemetery sign needs repainting and he will work on that with the help of other commission members.

Lee Embretson spoke about the headstones in his possession from the King Cemetery. More research is needed about where to place them; more follow up at our next meeting.

The McClelland Cemetery was again briefly discussed. The previously discussed work there will be done after the crop in the surrounding field is harvested.

Our commission's next meeting is scheduled for August 20th at 9:00 am at Johnson's Restaurant in Elkader.

A motion was made by Bruce Collins, seconded by Lee Lenth to adjourn the meeting at 10:35 am. The motion passed unanimously.

Bruce Collins--Secretary

