

Clayton County Pioneer Cemetery Commission
Meeting: August 23, 2025

The monthly meeting of the Pioneer Cemetery Commission was called to order today shortly after 9:00 a.m. at the Carter House in Elkader.

Those present included Chairperson Lee Embretson, and commission members David Beck, Bruce Collins and Ellen Collins. Commission member Sue Meyer was attending the funeral service for her mother, Eleanor Krieg.

(Our condolences to Sue on the passing of her mother.)

A motion was made by David Beck and seconded by Ellen Collins to accept the agenda as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

The minutes for the July meeting were emailed to the commission members and David Beck noted some corrections to those minutes. Those corrections were made and the corrected minutes were reviewed and summarized at this meeting. A motion was made by Ellen Collins and seconded by David Beck to accept the corrected minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

Related to the treasurer's report Treasurer Bruce Collins reported that since our last meeting there was one disbursement from the county funds of \$75.00 reimbursing Bruce Collins for paying thINK for making a sign for the Barnum Cemetery, leaving a balance of \$1,673.00.

For the commissions' funds at Freedom Bank, since our last meeting there was one deposit for \$25.00 as a memorial from Bruce and Ellen Collins for Sue Meyer's mother, making the balance \$1,424.21.

A motion was made by Ellen Collins, seconded by David Beck to accept the treasurer's report as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Barnum Cemetery—Mowing. Maintenance and Related

Ellen Collins noted that about a week or so ago doing a drive by, the Barnum Cemetery and the road shoulder by the cemetery were completely overgrown with vegetation making it almost impossible to see the cemetery fencing that was installed earlier this year.

Lee Embretson said he has contacted Tyler Carlson about mowing this cemetery space and Tyler said he would mow it.

Lee also said he has had contact with Trace Bolsinger, the Hertz Management agent for the Coulters, and Trace too was concerned about having the mowing done.

In addition, Lee said he has spoken to the Coulters recently and expressed our appreciation (the commission's) for granting us this area.

As noted at the July meeting, Bruce Collins said he has the Barnum sign ready for installation and will do so once the mowing has been completed.
(On Sept 03rd the sign was installed.)

David Beck said that he was going to Garnavillo after this meeting and would pass the Barnum Cemetery to see if it was mowed and then call Lee and Bruce and Ellen to advise.

(David advised the mowing was not done.)

(As of August, 31st the mowing was done as observed by Bruce and Ellen Collins on a drive-by.)

Other Discussion Related to Barnum

On a discussion related to setting the Barnum gravestones it was the general consensus that we had confidence with Sarah Gunderson of Monumental Restoration related to arranging and setting the stones, and she could do this as it best suited her schedule. We as a commission hoped that a good part of that work could be done this fall and that Sarah would advise Lee when she planned to be working at the site.

Lee also suggested that maybe at some point our commission put up a directional sign along the entrance to Grouse Rd. indicating that Barnum Cemetery was along that road.

Related to maintenance of the cemetery next year and beyond, there was some discussion of hiring someone with a fairly good size zero turn mower come in, maybe three times a year, before Memorial Day, mid-summer, and fall and mow the site. Lee said maybe his son, Josh, would do this mowing.

Veronica Hall Gravestone

At our last meeting meeting Ellen Collins said she had a conversation with the late George Leonard about a gravestone he had for Veronica Hall who was born and died in 1902; David Beck said he had previously done some research related to this family. David Beck said he would search the Find a Grave website related to where this person's burial site is and maybe we can place this stone there. (The thinking is her burial is in St. Michael's Cemetery in Elkport.) More to follow on this.

Our Country's 250th Anniversary

At our last meeting there was some discussion related to the 250th Anniversary of our Country and commemorating the people whose graves are in our county that took part in making our Country a Country by serving in the Revolutionary War or the War of 1812.

We had more discussion about this at this meeting with some of the logistic challenges of making this an event that significant number of people would be able to attend. More planning and discussion is needed.

Chinese Railroad Graves

We also again discussed the Chinese Railroad grave site near Giard. We noted that we know as a fact that there are Chinese railroad workers buried along the railroad tracks that are near Giard. Where exactly the actual site is----we don't know. Our thought at this meeting was – to put up a sign somewhere in the general area with good visibility acknowledging and respecting these people. More planning and discussion needed.

Adjournment

At about 10:15 a.m. David Beck made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Bruce Collins. The motion was passed unanimously.

Bruce Collins
Sec/Treasurer
CCPCC