

Clayton County Pioneer Cemetery Commission  
Meeting April 08 2023

The meeting of the CCPCC was called to order at 9:00 a.m. at the Clayton County Genealogy Office in Elkader.

Attending were Chairperson Lee Embretson, Lee Lenth, Bruce Collins, Ellen Collins and friends of the commission Dave Beck and Sarah Gunderson.

The first order of business was approving the agenda for this meeting. Ellen Collins made a motion to accept the agenda, Bruce Collins seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Next, the minutes of the last meeting were reviewed. Lee Lenth made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Ellen Collins seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer Bruce Collins reported there has been no receipts or disbursements since our last meeting so the balance of funds available from the county for this fiscal year remains the same, \$1,232.54 and the commission's balance at Freedom Bank also remains the same, \$1,545.64 of which \$295.64 can be used only for the McClelland Cemetery. (*Nancy Bleil, the ancestor of the McClellands that donated \$500 to our commission, specified in a conversation with Ellen Collins that this money could only be used for this cemetery. \$295.64 remains of the \$500 donated.*) Ellen Collins made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. Lee Lenth seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

## **Sarah Gunderson Presentation**

Chairperson **Lee Embretson** welcomed **Sarah Gunderson** to our **meeting** and asked her to tell a little about herself and about her interest in being at our meeting. Sarah said she lives in Norwalk, IA in Warren County, which is adjacent to our state capital county-- Polk County.

Sarah said she has family ties in northeastern Iowa and is very interested in genealogical and cemetery research spending many weekends in the Elkader area doing this type of work related to family members and others as well.

Sarah also told us about and showed us pictures via computer of the work she has been doing restoring an old cemetery in an area near where she lives. She told about the methods and procedures she uses restoring headstones and about a 501-3C business she and other members of her family established, a company called Monumental Restoration, that has done work in various cemeteries in Clayton County.

## **Barnum-King Cemetery**

At the last meeting a motion was passed to have a sign made for the Barnum-King Cemetery using the wording, with some edits, presented at that meeting. A draft was then made by **thINK** using the dimensions requested (36X30) with two posts. **ThINK's** pricing to do the sign this way was beyond the committee's budget.

At this meeting it was the consensus to have a bid presented for a smaller sign (20X24) with no post. Bruce Collins will follow up on this.

## **Dohrer Cemetery Sign**

At our last meeting a motion was also passed to have a sign made for the Dohrer Cemetery. All that is noted above related to the Barnum-King Cemetery sign also applies to the sign for this cemetery--the Dohrer Cemetery. Bruce Collins will also follow up on this sign too.

## **Old Business—New Business**

On the Barnum-King Cemetery, Sarah Gunderson has done research and had familiarity with the gravestones from this cemetery and with her gravestone restoration knowledge she said she would do restoration work on these stones. With that being the case, **Bruce Collins made a motion to allow Sarah Gunderson to take the stones to her residence for restoration. Lee Lenth seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.**

On the **Garretson Cemetery** it was the consensus that our commission would do the installation work there this summer or fall. Also Kim Klocke, the landowner of the fields surrounding this burial site, has said that he found another gravestone and Frank Phippen indicated he was willing to pick it up.

On the **Patterson Cemetery**, Lee Embretson suggested that an arrow be added to the new sign that was installed there last year. This was discussed, but no action was taken.

Related to the **signs that are going to be painted** by Reid Koehn, **Lee Embretson said that would get underway next week.**

**The Eastman Cemetery**, which was discussed at our October meeting, was again discussed related to the bent gate and the pile of

brush along the field side of the cemetery. The thinking is that somebody cutoff the lilac bushes along the perimeter of the cemetery and dumped the brush from that over the fence into the field. There has been a complaint by the field owner about this. Lee Lenth said it is a big, big pile, much more than can be just loaded on a trailer and hauled away. This problem was discussed but no decisions or conclusions were reached on how to deal with it.

**Ellen Collins presented the idea of having the FFA and/or 4H members help us**, particularly on projects that require physical work, e. g., clearing brush, digging post holes, etc. Commission members thought this was a good idea so Ellen will be following up with the appropriate leaders to see if it is workable.

Ellen Collins presented a listing of pioneer cemeteries that our commission may wish to consider visiting on a worksite meeting. They are as follows:

- 1) Kruger Cemetery in Jefferson Township. The landowner is Roy Kann and Ellen has talked to Hank Berns and Diana Kirby; each of them have some knowledge about this burial site.
- 2) Schmidt Cemetery in Cox Creek Township. See the minutes from our last meeting, March 11<sup>th</sup>, regarding our discussion about this burial site.
- 3) Noggle Cemetery in Mallory Township. Information was received from the Mallory Township Clerk about this burial site.

It was decided to have our next meeting May 13<sup>th</sup> at the Kruger Cemetery in Jefferson Township. Arrangements will be made and communicated for that meeting.

Bruce Collins  
Secretary