

Clayton County Pioneer Cemetery Commission
Meeting May 13, 2023

The scheduled meeting of the commission was called to order at approximately 9:45 a.m. at the Kruger Pioneer Cemetery in Jefferson Township. *(More information about the Kruger Cemetery will be noted below after the meeting minutes.)*

Attending were Chairperson Lee Embretson and commission members Sue Meyer, Bruce Collins, Ellen Collins and Lee Lenth. Also Roy Kann and his wife lead us with their pickup to the cemetery, which is in a field they own. The Kanns then were at the cemetery with us for a short period of time.

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

The second order of business was a review of the minutes from our last meeting. Ellen Collins made a motion to accept the minutes as presented, Lee Lenth seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Next was discussed the signs for the Barnum-King and Dohrer Pioneer Cemeteries. At the last meeting the commission wanted to have revisions made to the signs with the primary concern being to make the cost more affordable. The revisions were made with the signs now being 20”w x 24”t and with the price now being \$212 each. No posts were included in this price. After a review of the layout, Ellen Collins made a motion to approve the signs, Sue Meyer seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Ellen Collins presented a bill requesting reimbursement of \$42.91 for gravestone cleaning supplies—cleaning supplies made of materials that will not damage gravestones. Bruce Collins made a motion to approve this payment, Sue Meyer seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

The commission then discussed the sign painting done by Reid Koehn. Seven Pioneer Cemetery metal welded fabricated signs around the county were painted last month for the commission by Reid Koehn. The painting material was provided by the commission but the 135 or more miles of travel and other expenses Mr. Koehn incurred related to this work has not been paid. After discussion a motion was made by Sue Meyer to pay Reid Koehn \$200 for his expenses painting the signs. Bruce Collins seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Ellen Collins talked about an organization that she proposes our commission join called State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries (SAPIC). Membership is open to anyone interested in the preservation and maintenance of Iowa Pioneer Cemeteries. A quarterly newsletter subscription and the right to hold office and vote on organizational issues is included with the membership. Sue Meyer made a motion that our commission join this organization--(SAPIC), Lee Lenth seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Ellen Collins noted that finding pioneer cemeteries would be easier to find if there were 911 addresses associated with those cemeteries. Sue Meyer said she would check with the appropriate county personnel about the possibility of this being done.

Related to the Kruger Cemetery—the site of this meeting—there was some discussion about some of us coming back and do a gravestone cleanup at a future date.

The next meeting date is scheduled for June 12th at a site to be determined.

At this a point, about 10:45 a.m., a motion was made to adjourn by Lee Lenth, seconded by Ellen Collins and passed unanimously.

Kruger Pioneer Cemetery
Addendum to CCPC Minutes
May 13, 2023

The Kruger Cemetery is located in Jefferson Township within 2 or 3 miles of Ceres Church which is along Hwy 52 between Garnavillo and Guttenberg. To get to the cemetery, exit Hwy 52 onto Kale Ave to 290th St. to Kildeer Ave and the cemetery can be seen in a field about 200 to 300 ft. from the field's edge off of Kildeer Ave.

Per the County Recorder's Office, a 36'x36' area is legally designated as a cemetery with the right to access. The current owner of the surrounding field, Roy Kann, is respectful of this cemetery area with the non tilled cemetery area being about 40'x40'.

Per the *Gem of the Prairie* Book published in 1988 there are 5 persons buried here: Fredrick C. Kruger, Anna M.A. Kruger, Carel A.L. Kruger, Frederick W. Frone and Anna M.E. Pepmuller.

Dave Beck in his research for this cemetery found published in the *Elkader Register* April 07, 1892 the obituary for Anna Kruger. According to the obituary, she passed March 30th 1892 at the age of 78. She was the mother of 5 children, immigrated here from Germany with her first husband Frederick when she was 37. After her husband Frederick's death, she married Paul Thoma. A quote from the obituary: "Her remains were buried by the side of her first husband."

During the visit by the CCPCC, Lee Embretson, using dowsing rods, found the burial place of 2 males and 3 females.

Also during the CCPCC visit today, one headstone and two foot stones were found. A probe was used checking for other gravestones that may have been buried but none were found. There is also a metal welded fabricated sign on the site with the Kruger name which was erected by the CCPCC some years ago and is still in good condition.

On May 15th Bruce Collins, Ellen Collins and Dave Beck returned to the cemetery and cleaned the gravestones using D2, a product made specifically for this purpose. Another cleaning may be necessary.

Bruce Collins
Secretary