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INDIANA HISTORICAL BUREAU

*Franklin County Cemetery Commission*

1010 Franklin Avenue  
Brookville, IN 47012

January 9, 2013

Pamela J. Bennett  
Indiana Historical Bureau  
140 North Senate Avenue, Room 130  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2296

Dear Ms. Bennett:

The Franklin County Cemetery Commission was formed in 2001. Five members were appointed by the Franklin County Commissioners, October 15, 2001, according to the provisions of IC 23-14-67-2. The officers of the commission for the year 2012 were as follows: Donald L. Dunaway, president (term expires 2014) and R. Edward Baker, vice-president (2016). The other members of the commission are John Estridge (2017), Patricia Smith (2013) and Julie Schlesselman (2015). This letter is the Cemetery Commission's report as required by IC 23-14-67-3.5.

The cemetery commission held six regular meetings in 2012, March, April, May, June, August and September.

A total of 127 Department of Natural Resources survey forms have been completed and submitted to DNR to-date.

There is estimated to be more than 170 cemeteries within Franklin County with 150 found; 125 or more of these are considered pioneer cemeteries according to the requirements of IC 23-14-67-1 of Chapter 67, "Care of Cemeteries by Counties." We will continue to work on locating more of the small, isolated pioneer cemeteries, make an on-site assessment, complete the survey forms for them and submit them to DNR-DHPA when we gather sufficient information.

Since we first received funding in 2004, a total of 72 cemeteries have been restored in the county by the Cemetery Commission, volunteers and a township trustee.

A budget of \$21,400 was approved by the County Council for funding the Cemetery Commission in CY 2012. The budget was used for cleaning and fencing, where needed, and restoring five cemeteries: **Metamora**, Duck Creek Road, Metamora Township; **Stipps Hill**, Stipps Hill Road, Salt Creek Township; **Rudicel**, Seeley Road, Whitewater Township; **Providence**, Lover's Road, Butler Township and **Simpson**, Frazer Road, Laurel Township. Work was begun on repairing broken stones at the Conwell Cemetery in Laurel. Restoration of this cemetery will take several years as there are more than 400 broken stones (due in part to careless mowing by the caretakers).

Damaged tombstones at previously restored James (Springfield), Bethlehem and Harmony (Bath), Gant (Whitewater), Quick (Brookville), Zion Lutheran (Highland) and Old Brick (Posey) were repaired. The repairs at Bethlehem and Harmony were funded by the Franklin County Community Foundation endowment. The grants from the endowment are administered by the Cemetery Commission.

The Cemetery Commission funded the mowing of 42 cemeteries three or more times during the growing season.

Roy Hall, Whitewater Township Trustee paid for restoration of the Freeman - Stokes Cemetery in Whitewater Township. Jerry Day, Springfield Township Trustee gave \$1000 to the Cemetery Commission for mowing and maintenance in his township.

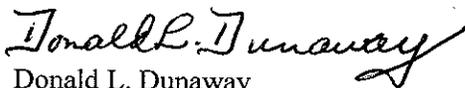
In addition, restorations not funded by the Cemetery Commission included the St. Nicholas Cemetery at Peppertown by the Peppertown Cemetery Association. Also at Big Cedar in Springfield Township, contributions of \$1000 by two members of the Big Cedar Cemetery Association allowed repair of 27 stones in the pioneer section. There are approximately 170 gravestones and monuments that should be repaired.

The commission intends to provide identification signs for all eligible county cemeteries. To-date 82 signs have been purchased by the commission, plus 19 funded by Whitewater Township, but through the commission. As of the end of CY 2012, 96 signs have been erected in Franklin County.

The Cemetery Commission budget for CY 2013 is \$15,800; in 2011 and 2012, it was \$21,400. We are evaluating four cemeteries for restoration and cleaning and fencing. In addition, we plan to mow 42 cemeteries three or more times during the growing season. As we progress in restoring our pioneer cemeteries, more funds will be needed to maintain them. The Cemetery Commission received a donation of \$1000 this year.

The Cemetery Commission hosted the DNR-DHPA Annual Meeting at the Brookville Library on April 28. We also conducted a tour of the Old Brookville Cemetery to show the work done there with financial aid from a Department of the Interior grant administered by the DNR-DHPA.

Sincerely,



Donald L. Dunaway  
President, Franklin County  
Cemetery Commission

Copies to:  
Franklin County Commissioners  
Franklin County Cemetery Commission Members