

LAPORTE COUNTY PIONEER CEMETERY COMMISSION  
COURTHOUSE SQUARE  
LAPORTE, IN 46350

---Board Members---  
Dale Ellis, President Wilma Marsh, Vice President  
Kenneth Baker, Financial Secretary Patricia Harris, Recording Secretary  
George L. Earle

RECEIVED  
FEB 21 2008  
INDIANA HISTORICAL  
BUREAU

7 March 2008

Indiana Historical Bureau  
140 N. Senate Avenue  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Dear Sir or Madam:

Attached please find the annual report of the LaPorte County Pioneer Cemetery Commission to be filed with your office under Indiana Cemetery Law IC 4-23-7-3. The attached contains the Commission budget and expenditures for the year 2007, Activities of the Commission for the year 2007; and the Plans of the Commission for the year 2008.

Sincerely,

LaPorte County Pioneer Cemetery Commission

*Kenneth Baker*

*George L. Earle*

*Dale Ellis*

*Patricia Harris*

*Wilma Marsh*

Enc.

**LAPORTE COUNTY PIONEER CEMETERY COMMISSION**  
**COURTHOUSE SQUARE**  
**LAPORTE, IN 46350**

---Board Members---  
 Dale Ellis, President Wilma Marsh, Vice President  
 Kenneth Baker, Financial Secretary Patricia Harris, Recording Secretary  
 George L. Earle

RECEIVED  
 FEB 7 2008  
 INDIANA BUDGETING  
 BUREAU

**Budget and Expenditures for Calendar Year 2007**

<u>Category</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Expenditures</u>
Office Supplies	\$ 500.00	\$ 71.54 **
Postage	50.00	45.02
Paint-Painting	1,000.00	-0- **
Mileage	600.00	484.52 +
Landscaping	1,100.00	330.00 **
Tombstone Repair	7,000.00	6,900.00 **
Cemetery Maintenance	17,000.00	15,440.00 ++
Fencing & Gates	2,000.00	4,089.00 *
Board Members	1,004.00	1,004.00
Head of Department	5,498.00	5,497.96
Social Security & Medicare	<u>421.00</u>	<u>320.68</u>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$ 36,173.00</b>	<b>\$ 34,382.76</b>

**Unexpended Balance** ..... \$ 1,790.24

- \* Although some of these items were over individual budget, funds were transferred among accounts (\*\*) to meet specific needs, while staying within our total budget.
- + Mileage costs were less than budgeted because one inspection tour had to be cancelled because of weather and health situations.
- ++ Cemetery Maintenance costs were less than budgeted because one mowing of cemeteries was not done due to dry weather conditions.

LAPORTE COUNTY PIONEER CEMETERY COMMISSION  
COURTHOUSE SQUARE  
LAPORTE, IN 46350

---Board Members---  
Dale Ellis, President Wilma Marsh, Vice President  
Kenneth Baker, Financial Secretary Patricia Harris, Recording Secretary  
George L. Earle

RECEIVED  
FEB 7 1 20K  
INDIANA HISTORICAL  
BUREAU

**2007 Activities**

Monthly Meetings – Structured monthly meetings for board members.

Availability to the Public – We are available 10:00 – 3:00 p.m. first Friday of each month.

Cemetery Visitations – We incorporated with one of our monthly meetings visitations, as a board, to seven pioneer cemeteries. This was done to acquaint all members with the La Porte County cemeteries and to determine individual cemetery needs as an aid to determining priorities on maintenance, repair and restoration.

Historians/Liaisons Volunteers – Volunteers watched over our cemeteries and reported any act of vandalism or cemetery need.

Stone Restorations – Stone restoration reached 2/3 completion at Nickel Plate Cemetery by Mark Davis of Stone Saver Cemetery Restoration and he restored a stone broken in a storm at Morgan Cemetery.

Fencing – The second old and deteriorated fence enclosure at Hudson Lake Cemetery was replaced by Rustic Fencing.

Documentation/Photographs – We continued to photograph and document tombstones before they become illegible or vandalism occurs. We have also continued to seek out locations of old cemeteries not known to us previously and then research and document.

Written Reports on Cemeteries – Board members are assigned certain cemeteries that are to be checked by them for caretaking condition and other items throughout the year and they then report their findings on a Cemetery Inspection Report Record.

Request for Bids and Contracts – We continue to use a standardized forms for Request for Bids for Cemetery Maintenance and Contracts for Cemetery Maintenance as well as for Uncontracted Maintenance of Cemeteries.

Cemetery Maintenance – Pioneer Cemeteries without any funding were maintained by contracted firms. Others that had caretakers and/or some funding for maintenance were aided with funds budgeted by the Cemetery Commission. With the aid of the County Hiway Dept. downed trees were removed at Beatty's Corners. Cooperated with the Coolspring Twp. Trustee and an Eagle Scout project to paint fence, remove shrubs and low hanging limbs and install a historical sign at Low Cemetery and the trustee has agreed to take over maintenance of the cemetery.

New signs were procured for Sharp, Norton, Foster and Posey Chapel and will be installed as weather permits.

**LAPORTE COUNTY PIONEER CEMETERY COMMISSION**  
**COURTHOUSE SQUARE**  
**LAPORTE, IN 4350**

---Board Members---  
Dale Ellis, President Wilma Marsh, Vice President  
Kenneth Baker, Financial Secretary Patricia Harris, Recording Secretary  
George L. Earle

RECEIVED  
FEB 21 2008  
INDIANA HISTORICAL  
BUREAU

**2008 Cemetery Commission Plans**

Monthly Meetings – Structured monthly meetings for Board Members.

Availability to the Public – Available to public 10:00 am – 3:00 pm first Friday of each month and otherwise by e-mail, phone or mail.

Cemetery Visitations – Continue to visit various cemeteries as a group to acquaint all members with the La Porte County cemeteries and to set priorities.

Historians/Liaisons Volunteers – Continue to have volunteers watch over our cemeteries and report any act of vandalism or cemetery need. Encourage the continuation of transcribing all gravestones, photography, writing histories and identifying veterans graves with the aid of volunteers.

Discovery and Research – Seek out the locations of old cemeteries not known to us previously and then view, research and document, especially Allen Toney Family Burial Ground and Bowell Cemetery.

Continued Preservation of Our Cemeteries – Caretaking is extremely important in our cemeteries as it can affect the safety of individuals visiting the cemeteries.

1. Communication with sexton/caretakers to allow them to make the needs of their individual cemeteries known to the board and discuss ways to prevent vandalism. Enter into written agreements with them detailing the work to be performed in the cemeteries stating a specific amount to be budgeted for the work from Commission funds.

2. Contract with lawn care services for cemetery maintenance for those cemeteries who do not have caretakers. Seek aid of County Highway Dept. for needed removal of trees, etc.

3. Many of our tombstones are in need of repair. We have contracted for completion of repair and restoration of stones at Nickel Plate Cemetery, and to begin work at Norton Cemetery and repair broken stone at Miller-Griffin.

4. Paint fences Nickel Plate, Norton and Foster Cemeteries.

5. Repair needed fencing in cemeteries, and securing bids for same.

6. Seek bids for new signs at Coulter, Pike and Miriam Benedict and install new sign at Sharp, Norton Foster and Posey Chapel cemeteries.

7. The La Porte County Work Release Program has agreed to work with us to supply labor for maintenance at a minimum of two cemeteries and the La Porte County Community Service Program has agreed to supply labor for fence painting.

8. We are beginning a program of historical research to install signs at the cemeteries telling about their history.

Written Reports- Continue using the Cemetery Inspection Form a written report for board members to report on the condition of our cemeteries throughout the year.