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INDIANA HISTORICAL BUREAU

*Franklin County Cemetery Commission*1010 Franklin Avenue
Brookville, IN 47012

January 11, 2011

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 2010 were as follows: Donald L. Dunaway, president (term expires 2014) and R. Edward Baker, vice-president (2011). The other members of the commission are John Estridge (2012), Patricia Smith (2013) and Julie Schlesselman (2015). All except Julie Schlesselman have served since October 2001. This letter is the cemetery commission's report as required by IC 23-14-67-3.5.

The cemetery commission held ten regular meetings in 2010. No meetings were held in February and October.

No Department of Natural Resources survey forms were completed in 2010. The number of DNR surveys prepared remains at 127. There is estimated to be more than 150 cemeteries within Franklin County; 80 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 cemeteries, make an on-site assessment, complete the survey forms for them and submit them to DNR-DHPA when we gather sufficient information.

A total of 55 cemeteries have been restored in the county by the Cemetery Commission, volunteers and a township trustee. Two other trustees have provided partial financial support for cemetery restoration and maintenance in their townships.

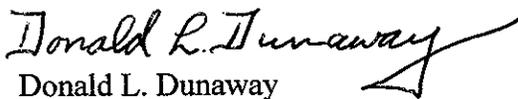
A budget of \$20,700 was approved by the County Council and the State for funding the Cemetery Commission in CY 2010. The budget was used for cleaning and fencing, where needed, and restoring seven cemeteries. These were: **Ebenezer**, Blooming Grove Township; **Bethlehem**, Bath Township, **Barnes**, Salt Creek Township, **Chance**, Laurel Township, **Free Church**, Highland Township at Cedar Grove and **White Cemetery** and **Infirmery** Cemetery, Brookville Township. A new fence was put up at Marlin Cemetery

in Salt Creek Township and a new fence and gate at James Cemetery in Springfield Township. The Springfield Township Trustee contributed \$800 (half the cost) for this work. An unusual above ground vault was restored at the James Cemetery by volunteers. In addition, 34 cemeteries were mowed by the Cemetery Commission. In addition, six were mowed by volunteers; the township trustees of Bath, Blooming Grove, Brookville, Posey, Springfield and Whitewater Townships are having 12 pioneer cemeteries mowed.

The commission intends to provide identification signs for all eligible county cemeteries. To-date 75 signs have been purchased by the commission, plus 16 funded by Whitewater Township, but through the commission. As of the end of CY 2008, 89 signs had been erected in Franklin County. No new signs were purchased since 2008.

The Cemetery Commission budget for CY 2011 is \$21,400. We are evaluating nine cemeteries for restoration and cleaning and fencing as needed. In addition, we plan to mow 40 cemeteries three times during the growing season. As we progress in restoring our pioneer cemeteries, more funds will be used to maintain them.

Sincerely,



Donald L. Dunaway
President, Franklin County
Cemetery Commission

Copies to:
Franklin County Commissioners
Franklin County Cemetery Commission Members

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