

Franklin County Cemetery Commission

1010 Franklin Avenue
Brookville, IN 47012

December 29, 2016

Indiana Historical Bureau
140 North Senate Avenue, Room 130
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2296

Dear Mr. Lighty:

This letter is the Franklin County Cemetery Commission's report as required by IC 23-14-67-3.5.

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 current members of the commission are as follows: Donald L. Dunaway, who serves as president, (term expires 2019), R. Edward Baker, who serves as vice-president, (term expires 2021), John Estridge (term expires 2017), James Trumbull (term expires 2018) and Julie Schlesselman (term expires 2020).

The cemetery commission held seven meetings in 2016 – March through September

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

A total of 151 cemeteries have been found within Franklin County; 129 of these are considered pioneer cemeteries according to the requirements of IC 23-14-67-1 of Chapter 67, “Care of Cemeteries by Counties.” There are 36 rumored or lost cemeteries which have not been found. We know that several of these have been destroyed.

Since we first received funding in 2004, a total of 68 cemeteries have been restored in the county by the Cemetery Commission, several of these were done over a period of two or three years. In addition 14 were restored by a township trustee and others, e.g. cemetery associations and volunteers.

A budget of \$11,100 was approved by the County Council for funding the Cemetery Commission in CY 2016. Two cemeteries were restored, Usher Cemetery in Brookville Township and Wolf Creek Cemetery in Butler Township. Broken stones were repaired in two other previously restored cemeteries – Conwell in Laurel Township and Ebenezer in Blooming Grove Township. Thirty-three cemeteries were mowed monthly from April through September.

Extensive fence repairs were required at Conn Cemetery in Springfield Township; cattle had broken down the fence and damaged several stones. In addition, June Shepler, Blooming Grove Township Trustee paid for repairs to broken stones in the Blooming Grove Cemetery.

Maintenance at Bethlehem and Harmony in Bath Township were partially funded by a specified Franklin County Community Foundation endowment. The grants from the endowment are administered by the Cemetery Commission. Half of the grant was paid to supplement grass mowing at the two cemeteries. The other half was applied to the cost of broken stone repairs at Harmony Cemetery.

Cecil Bruns, Springfield Township Trustee donated \$1000 to the Cemetery Commission for mowing and maintenance in his township. Delbert Spurlock, Laurel Township Trustee donated \$1700 for restoration and mowing Laurel Township cemeteries. The Brookville Township Trustee donated \$500 toward repairs at the Usher Cemetery.

The Cemetery Commission budget for CY 2017 is \$11,100. We plan to mow 33 cemeteries on a monthly basis during the growing season. Because of funding, some cemeteries which had been mowed previously will no longer be mowed.

Sincerely,

Donald L. Dunaway
President, Franklin County
Cemetery Commission

Copies to:
Franklin County Commissioners
Franklin County Cemetery Commission Members