

DEARBORN COUNTY CEMETERY COMMISSION

The Dearborn County Cemetery Commission met in the Commissioners Room on Saturday, February 2, 2008.

Present were members Art Wenzel-President, Chris McHenry-Vice-President, Lois Harper-Secretary-Treasurer, Member Milt Masing and guest Pete Nocks.

Thanks to Art Wenzel, a family named Aylor in El Paso, Texas was able to collect dirt from a grave here and take it back to Texas for reburial in Ft. Bliss National Cemetery, Ft. Bliss, Texas. A nice write up was in the El Paso, Texas newspaper. A ceremony will be held there on the 22nd of February. Ericka will do a story for us.

Wrights Corner Baptist Cemetery is in danger. It is a deeded cemetery and should not be included in part of a subdivision. Art wrote a letter to Cary Pickens in an effort to help David Kyle. Roger Woodfill had reconfigured the cemetery and now the cemetery is on David's taxes and he should get some of the money returned to him. Art would like to survey the cemetery again and check the names on the stones. Art also includes footstones and then check his list against the list at the library.

The Ebenezer Baptist Church Cemetery has been restored and should now be checked again.

The Dearborn County Historical Society has a 4-drawer filing cabinet that we may use in the small office.

The county has an annual auction and we may be able to get some things from that.

Joyce Baer is the new librarian in the genealogy section of the Lawrenceburg Public Library. Art is giving her the information on these cemeteries as well as keeping a copy at the Historical Society for use.

We should invite our trustees and also Ohio County's trustees and their county auditor, Bob Keith. He has been in a public office for 42 years. Ohio County also has a Cemetery Commission that should be invited. Our Cemetery Laws should be given to all our trustees. Others invited should be ones who have actually restored some cemeteries, being Dick and Clara Lewis, Dennis Bourquein, and Walt Walters from Fayette County and Jim Dichtol. Jeannie Ragan-Dennius should also be invited. This would be the 1st Saturday of April the 5th in the Commissioners Room. This will be like a workshop.

Ted Graff is a 1 stone cemetery. He was a postmaster and has a cemetery exception of a 12 x 12 section.

Collier Ridge has several stones, related to Abel True Cemetery.

Will find the trustees names and addresses. We will need stamps, envelopes, coffee and donuts.

We will have our next meeting on Saturday the 1st of March 2008 in the Commissioners Room.

There be no further business, Art motioned to adjourn and Dennis 2nd it.

Lois Harper
Secretary for DCCC

Dearborn County Cemetery Commission

The Dearborn Cemetery Commission met in the Commissioner's Room on Saturday March 1, 2008 at 9:00 am.

Present were members Art Wenzel-President, Chris McHenry-Vice-President, Lois Harper-Secretary-Treasurer, Dennis Kraus-Surveyor.

Art Wenzel hopes to finish Wright's Corner Baptist Cemetery to help David Kyle and Wright's Corner ME Church Cemetery to help Doug Baer from the Health Department.

Art told us about the ceremony held at the Fort Bliss Cemetery for Michael Ehler. They had a color guard and a 20 gun salute.

We plan on having a workshop meeting on Saturday, April 5th. Jeanie Regan-Dinius has agreed to come. We will take her to Whiskeys after the workshop is over. We will have refreshments. Art will supply paper products and ice, maybe soft drinks. Dennis and Chris will take care of the coffee and the coffeemakers.

Lois will send letters to the trustees and anyone else that we think should get a letter. Lois will provide the envelopes and postage for the letters. Lois will also provide cookies and water.

Chris will contact the Ohio County Historian, Bobby Joe Keith and Bill Dichtol and their cemetery commission. She will advertise in the various newspapers. Others to be invited would be Doris Schwier, Dick & Clara Lewis, David Kyle, Jody Blasdel and the ones who restored Ebenezer Cemetery.

The Miller Township Cemetery is owned by the Township Trustee. The Rees Cemetery is owned by the county itself.

Art will make copies of the cemetery laws to hand out to interested parties.

Art will be the Speaker. He will welcome and introduce himself and the cemetery commission. Art will discuss the cemetery laws, give a history of the Cemetery Commission, talk about the Cemetery Heritage Signs and how to do the cemetery reports for these signs and most of all, to introduce our guest speaker, Jeanie Regan-Dinius. We will talk about problems and how to address the problems.

We will hold a short meeting at the Surveyor's Office Monday, March 31st at 4:30 to finalize plans for our workshop meeting on April 5, 2008.

Lois Harper
Secretary for DCCC

Copy of letter sent to all interested parties:

Dearborn County Cemetery Commission
215B West High Street
(Located in the County Surveyor's Office of the County Administration Building)
Lawrenceburg, IN 47025
Phone 812-532-3216

March 28, 2008

Pioneer Cemetery Meeting/Workshop

The Dearborn County Cemetery Commission is having a meeting / workshop Saturday morning at 9:00 AM April 5, 2008, in the Commissioners' Room on the third floor of the County Administration Building (behind the courthouse) at 215B West High Street, Lawrenceburg. Dearborn County has over 200 pioneer cemeteries and we are still counting. At this meeting, we will go over problems experienced and solutions found by the Township Trustees and other caretakers of cemeteries. We are inviting surrounding county caretakers as well as from Dearborn County. We wish that all Township Trustees could attend.

Our short history will be told of the Dearborn County Cemetery Commission, our goals and where we are at the beginning of 2008.

Our guest speaker, Jeannie Regan-Dinius, from the Indiana Department of Natural Resources will tell us about the State's project to document the Pioneer Cemeteries and what roll the individual counties have in the overall project. She may tell us where we stand and what we can do to improve. The IN DNR sponsors workshops throughout the state for cemetery restoration. Three of the current commissioners have attended at least one of these workshops.

At this meeting, we will have several copies of several cemetery related laws printed out for those who would like to have a copy. Also there will be several of the cemetery reports that we have completed, showing how the reports have evolved from 2001 – 2008. When completed a copy of these reports is sent to IN DNR, the Dearborn County Historical Society and the Lawrenceburg Public Library.

Please call Art Wenzel at 532-3216 (or 537-9033 in the evening) and let us know if there is anything we need to research before the meeting. Also any special or interesting experiences will be welcomed.

Refreshments will be served. We hope to see you April 5!

Sincerely,
Lois Harper, Secretary-Treasurer

Dearborn County Cemetery Commission

Commissioners: Lois Harper, Dennis Kraus Jr., Chris McHenry, Milton Masing & J. Arthur Wenzel

DEARBORN COUNTY CEMETERY COMMISSION

The Dearborn County Cemetery Commission met in the Surveyor's office on Monday, March 31, 2008 at 4:30pm for a short meeting.

Present were members Art Wenzel-President, Chris McHenry-Vice President, Lois Harper-Secretary, Dennis Kraus-Surveyor.

We discussed last minute items and anything we may need to do for the upcoming workshop on Saturday, April 5, 2008.

We are all pitching in to either bring or buy what we feel we should have at this workshop.

Art plans on passing out the cemetery laws at this workshop, so we will all know what they are.

Mr. Hillsinger has quit claim to Commissioners and they have quit claim 10 feet around the Rees Cemetery.

We should be there around 8:30am this Saturday morning.

Our next meeting will be Saturday, May 3, 2008 at 9:00am in the Commissioners' Room.

Lois Harper
Secretary for DCCC

DEARBORN COUNTY CEMETERY COMMISSION

The Dearborn County Cemetery Commission met in the Surveyor's office on Saturday, May 3 2008 at 9:00AM.

Present were members Art Wenzel-President, Chris McHenry-Vice President, Lois Harper-Secretary, Dennis Kraus-Surveyor.

Our CD for the fencing of the County Farm Cemetery is up for renewal July 29 of this year.

The workshop we had was well attended, about 40. Jeannie Regan-Dinius was our guest speaker. We had cemetery laws for handouts. The Lewis' brought their pictures of West Fork Cemetery after stones had been repaired. We are one of 22 counties that do have a cemetery commission in the state of Indiana.

Bill Lucky is paying for a memorial stone at St. John Lutheran Church Cemetery on North Dearborn Road. They have just added a fairly large addition to their church and a dedication for the Aylor stone will be Sunday, July 6 at 1:00pm. Try to come.

The Cheek Family Cemetery was discussed. Art found it to be west of the section corner by 1550 feet instead of at the section corner.

Jeannie Regan-Dinius sent a letter about a meeting for all the Cemetery Commissions in the state of Indiana. It will be Saturday, June 21, 2008. We will try to attend.

The Indiana Historical Association is having a Cemetery Preservation Workshop on May 30 and May 31, 2008. Art is planning on attending.

Carolyn McManaman will help to contribute to the Methodist Cemetery on York Ridge Road and Kuebel Road if we can clean it up and restore it. James Skates, a Revolutionary soldier is here according to Judge Cotton's Keepsake. He held services here.

The 1885 & 1915 Histories are to be digitized on line. This may be on Heritage Quest.

Our next meeting will be Saturday, June 28, 2008 at 9:00 am in the Commissioner's Room.

There be no further business, the meeting was adjourned. Dennis made the motion to adjourn and Milt 2nd it.

Lois Harper
Secretary for DCCC

DEARBORN COUNTY CEMETERY COMMISSION

The Dearborn County Cemetery Commission met in the Commissioner's Room on Saturday, June 28, 2008 at 9:00AM.

Present were President Art Wenzel, Vice-president Chris McHenry and Secretary Lois Harper. Absent were Dennis Kraus and Milt Masing.

The minutes of the last meeting were corrected.

I will check on the price for CD's again near the end of July. Our CD is due July 29, 2008. This money is for fencing of the county farm cemetery once it has grass.

Art Wenzel went to Columbus, IN on June 14 and learned about new rules that applied to cemeteries that will take place July 1, 2008. Jeannie Regan-Dinius was the speaker.

Art Wenzel, Chris McHenry and Lois Harper went to Indianapolis, IN Saturday, June 21 for a first annual State Cemetery Commission meeting. Out of 92 counties in Indiana, only 22 have cemetery commissions.

Some of these cemetery commissions have anywhere from a zero budget to \$30,000. Being represented were Dearborn County, Franklin County, Hamilton County, Hancock County, Hendricks County, Henry County, LaPorte County and Sullivan County. Each talked about what they have done and need to do. We talked about requirements and limitations of the different Cemetery Commissions that were present. The most controversial issue was the new probing rule. We will each have to become certified through IDNR. Then a permit needs to be issued for each cemetery as needed. The expense for the permit is nothing. The permit will be good for a year and can have an additional year extended if needed. Landowners for some of these cemeteries on private property have to give permission for this to be done. Dearborn County leads the way for the number of surveys issued to Jeannie Regan-Dinius through DNR. Thanks to Art Wenzel. Dearborn County also leads in the number of cemetery heritage signs.

Art Wenzel plans on writing a letter to Jeannie about the County Farm Cemetery.

Laws needed to be adhered to:

A permit needs to be obtained from IDNR if a cemetery is within 100 feet of any work being done.

The County needs to have in bold letters across the bottom of a deed, "A CEMETERY IS ON THIS PROPERTY."

Oberting Fort was discussed. Art Wenzel is actively working on this huge project. James Plunkett was brought up. He is from Accidental Discoveries LLC. He may have additional information to help in this area. Art will contact him soon. Suggestion was made that maybe we could have a workshop and ask him to be a speaker.

We need to ask County Council for money for additional signs.

July 6, at 1:00pm, we need to be at St John Lutheran Church on North Dearborn Road for a dedication of a stone in memory of Michael Ehler.

Our next meeting will be Saturday, August 2, 2008 at 9:00am in the Commissioner's Room.

Lois Harper
Secretary for DCCC

DEARBORN COUNTY CEMETERY COMMISSION

The Dearborn County Cemetery Commission met in the Commissioner's Room on Saturday, August 2, 2008 at 9:00AM.

Present were President Art Wenzel, Vice-president Chris McHenry and Secretary Lois Harper. Absent were Dennis Kraus and Milt Masing.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

We have taken a 10month CD out for the money we have for the fencing of the County Farm Cemetery. It will be due May 29, 2009.

Holman Crossroads Cemetery, named by Art Wenzel, was found this year when he went back to the farm. He did find evidence of it being a cemetery.

Art has worked on the Wright's Corner Methodist Episcopal Church Cemetery. The County Health Department asked him to look into the cemetery due to a failing septic system on attached property. Art found many more names on stones and made corrections to Milt's list of names buried here. The Health Department will now contact IDNR.

The Caesar Creek Township Trustee, Marilyn Jeffries and her husband Paul have restored the Nolte Cemetery. This was a church cemetery and has become private ownership. They would like for Art to find out why.

The Dearborn County Cemetery Commission has been named in a complaint to a quiet title action. JP Silverton Industries, the business on the Brookville side of the Braysville Cemetery on Rt. 52, near Rt. 46, is trying to get a clear title to their property. This was bought in 1994 at a Sheriff's sale. Bob Ewbank, our attorney asked Art to look into the matter. Art has found at least four deeds. The last gives the cemetery about 8 feet on three of the four sides. He also went to Braysville Cemetery with a co-op student, Ryan Latscha to measure and study the grounds.

Our County Assessor, Gary Hensley has started a new Headstone cleaning service. Lois will see if John Walters knows anything about this service before recommending him to anyone.

Our next meeting will be Saturday, October 11, 2008 at 9:00am in the Commissioner's Room.

Lois Harper
Secretary for DCCC

DEARBORN COUNTY CEMETERY COMMISSION

The Dearborn County Cemetery Commission met at the county administration building at 9 a.m. October 11, 2008.

Present were president Art Wenzel, vice president Chris McHenry and member Milt Masing. Absent were Dennis Kraus and Lois Harper.

Wenzel reported that he is making progress with the State Cemetery registration project and has several additional ones close to completion. He has also taken 41 additional reports to be put on file at Lawrenceburg Public Library.

Wenzel had received information that there had been storm damage at the Baptist Cemetery at Wright's Corner, but when he checked he found only a couple limbs broken but still attached to the tree. He suggested the concerned neighbor check with the Manchester Township Trustee about cutting them down.

The next meeting will be Saturday, December 6, 2008 at 9 a.m. in the Commissioner's room.

Chris McHenry, secretary pro tem

DEARBORN COUNTY CEMETERY COMMISSION

The Dearborn County Cemetery Commission met at the county administration building at 9 a.m. December 6, 2008.

Present were president Art Wenzel, Dennis Kraus, Milt Masing. Absent were Chris McHenry and Lois Harper due to snow and slick roads.

Art Wenzel went over the Dele Elder Cemetery Report and the Vinup Gravestone Report. Bob Ewbank, our attorney sent us a revised paper for Braysville Cemetery. There are a couple of corrections and Dennis & Art will submit these to Bob. The final paper will go to Judge Humphrey for his decision.

The report for Wright's Corner Baptist Cemetery is about done & Art will submit this to Indianapolis.

Milt Masing gave Art his resume to submit to the County Commissioners for his re-appointment to the Dearborn County Cemetery Commission. Art will make the formal request to the Commissioners. This has come about because Commissioner Ralph Thompson has an article in both of our local newspapers asking for resumes for all positions to be re-appointed in the January meeting. Ralph said, "It would be fantastic to get 20 or 30 resumes for each position."

Milt also asked about old schoolhouses in Dearborn County. Joyce Baer, our local genealogy librarian and he are collecting information and pictures about all the old schoolhouses in this area. They will be putting this into book form for sale. Some discussion followed.

The next meeting will be at 9:00 AM Saturday, March 7, 2009 in the Commissioner's Room in the County Administration Building.

The trip to the Dele Elder Cemetery was postponed due to the bad weather.

Respectfully submitted,
J. Arthur Wenzel