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INDIANA HISTORICAL BUREAU

Franklin County Cemetery Commission

1010 Franklin Avenue
Brookville, IN 47012

January 20, 2010

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

Dear Ms. Bennett:

The first county cemetery commission consisting of five members was 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 2008 were as follows: Donald L. Dunaway, president (term expires 2014) and Ed Baker, vice-president (2011). (Ed Baker was elected interim vice president while Patricia Smith is living in South Carolina.) The other members of the commission are Juanita Baker (2010), John Estridge, (2012), and Patricia Smith (2013). All except Juanita Baker 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 nine regular meetings in 2009, March - August and October - December.

No Department of Natural Resources survey forms were completed in 2009, but several are being prepared for several small previously unknown cemeteries in remote locations. The number of cemeteries visited and surveys prepared remains at 127. There is estimated to be 150 or more cemeteries within Franklin County. 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 budget of \$16,300 was approved by the County Council and the State for funding the Cemetery Commission in CY 2008. The budget was used for cleaning and fencing, where needed, and restoring eight cemeteries. These were:

1. LaRowe and Sater South in Whitewater Township – Matt Campbell
2. Adams (Laurel Twp.), Bradburn (Brookville Twp), Blooming Grove (Blooming Grove Twp.), James (Springfield Twp.), White (Bath Twp.) and McKendrie (Brookville-Metamora Townships) by West and Baker

Note: the Blooming Grove Township Trustee, Vivian Shepler contributed \$1000 to help with the restoration of the cemetery in the town of Blooming Grove. The Springfield Township Trustee, Jerry Day contributed \$800 for the restoration of the James Cemetery.

In addition to the above, Gant and Zion Methodist cemeteries in Whitewater Township were restored by the township trustee, Roy Hall.

A total of 23 cemeteries were each mowed three times during the growing season.

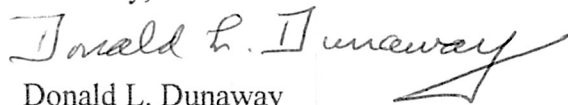
Eight cemeteries suffered damage due to a storm in September 2008. Fallen trees were cut up by volunteer labor, mostly Ed Baker. Nine stones broken by fallen trees were repaired at the Commission's expense.

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 have been erected in Franklin County. No new signs were purchased in 2008 or 2009.

Rockies Express Pipeline (REX) completed construction of a 42-inch natural gas high-pressure transmission pipeline from Colorado to Ohio passing through the breadth of Franklin County. Commission members followed available route information and visited those cemeteries in the county near the pipeline route. The construction did not affect any existing cemeteries that we are aware of. Three sites south of Brookville were surveyed by archaeologists hired by REX. No burials were found, but some Indian artifacts were found and are being studied by the companies involved.

The Cemetery Commission budget for CY 2010 is \$19,000. We are evaluating ten cemeteries for restoration and cleaning and fencing as needed. In addition, we plan to mow 23 or more cemeteries three times during the growing season.

Sincerely,



Donald L. Dunaway
President, Franklin County
Cemetery Commission

Copies to:
Franklin County Commissioners
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