

## Franklin County Cemetery Commission

INDIANA HISTORICAL  
BUREAU

459 Main Street  
Brookville, IN 47012

February 25, 2005

Pamela J. Bennett  
Indiana Historical Bureau  
140 North Senate Avenue, Room 408  
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 2004 were as follows: Donald L. Dunaway, president (reappointed in 2004), Patricia Smith, vice-president (reappointed in 2003) and John Estridge, secretary (reappointed in 2002). In addition, Juanita Baker (term expires in 2005) and Ed Baker (2006) are members of the commission. This letter is the cemetery commission's report as required by IC 23-14-67-3.5.

The cemetery commission held meetings each month in 2004 except September and October when a quorum was not present.

A total of 13 Department of Natural Resources survey forms were completed this year bringing the number of cemeteries visited and surveys prepared to 80. There is estimated to be approximately 170 cemeteries within Franklin County. During the year, one or more members visited cemeteries in 12 of the 13 Franklin County Townships.

A budget of \$10,000 was approved by the County Council and the State for funding the Cemetery Commission in CY 2004. The funding was used primarily for restoration of three cemeteries. These were the Wallace-McKnight Cemetery in Springfield Township, Marlin Cemetery in Salt Creek Township and Johnson Cemetery in Laurel Township. Fencing was provided by the Commission for two cemeteries, Adams in Metamora Township and Marlin in Salt Creek Township. One additional cemetery, Snow Hill Cemetery in Whitewater Township was restored with township funds by the township trustee.

The commission intends to provide identification signs for all eligible county cemeteries. To-date 46 signs have been purchased by the commission; plus seven funded by others, but through the commission. These were four for Bath Township cemeteries by the Bath State Bank and three for Whitewater Township by the township trustee. As of the end of CY 2004, 32 signs have been erected

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Principal work planned for 2005 includes restoration of three or more county cemeteries, fencing and cleaning several, erecting remaining signs and continuing with that project and completion of DNR documentation. The commission adopted a plan at the December 2005 meeting for cemetery restoration based on an "emergency list" submitted by commission member Ed Baker.

Sincerely,

  
President, Franklin County  
Cemetery Commission