

Pioneer Cemetery Commission
Meeting Minutes
May 26, 2021

The meeting of the Pioneer Cemetery Association was called to order shortly after 1:00 p.m. on May 26, 2021 at the Clayton County Genealogy Center in Elkader.

In attendance were Lee Embretson, Leon Dibble, Bruce Collins and friend of the Commission, Frank Phippen.

The minutes of the prior meeting, May 14, 2021, were reviewed and approved as written.

Chairperson Lee Embretson reported on matters he has been working on since our last meeting.

McClelland Cemetery—Lee said he has spoken to Dave Palas, who is in the fence building business, about fencing this cemetery. (As a reminder and context, \$500 has been given by descendants of McClelland Family to our association and is held in trust to make repairs and take preservation measures for this cemetery.) Dave Palas suggested to Lee that heavy fencing panels be used for this purpose.

After some discussion it was the consensus that installing a fencing of wire panels as suggested would be a doable measure for the Commission to undertake to preserve and protect this burial site. **A motion was made, seconded and passed to do this work this fall after the field surrounding the cemetery has been harvested.**

Patterson Cemetery—There has been discussion on the Commission related to installing additional signage at this cemetery and Lee spoke to Dwayne Patterson about this; Dwayne is to get back to Lee. More discussion to follow.

Reimbursement Request---Bruce Collins submitted a mileage reimbursement request for 240 miles, representing 4 trips made to Redman Cemetery, installing tombstones, spraying weeds and trimming grass. A motion was made, seconded and passed for that request.

Dohrer Cemetery—This cemetery in Section 5 of Cox Creek Township shows in the 1886 Plat Book of Clayton County and the 1902 Wall Map Book of Clayton County shows this cemetery as owned by August Dohrer. At this time all cemetery fencing and markers have been removed. Our Commission wants to install a sign in the area of this cemetery to note that the Dohrer Family is buried here; Bruce Collins was asked to work on preparing wording for such a sign.

Eastman Cemetery—The arched entry gate to this cemetery was damaged (bent) in a tornado that went through the McGregor area two or three years ago. Lee Embretson is going to follow up with a person that lives near there that has expressed some interest in being able to fix it.

Hagensick Tombstone—Frank Phippen recovered a tombstone that was in the backyard of a home at 205 NE High Street, Elkader, IA for the infant son of Henry and Jane Hagensick that died October 19, 1878. Frank Phippen asked the Commission if it was okay to place this tombstone in the Eastside Cemetery in Elkader along side the tombstone of his parents. A motion was made, seconded and passed for this to be done.

File Card Suggestion—Frank Phippen provided a sample of 3x5 file card printed in a form format with place to provide the deceased person's name, lot location and other information relevant to a cemetery; this is currently used by the Eastside Cemetery in Elkader. Discussion followed if some sort of similar file card system would be a viable option for the Pioneer Cemetery Commission. An email on this issue from commission member Myra Voss, not present for this meeting, was discussed. More discussion to follow.

Redman Cemetery Tombstone—The Commission recovered a tombstone at the Redman Cemetery which is badly damaged. A discussion followed on how best to repair it and some decisions were made. Frank Phippen will

work on the repairs with the plan being to have it returned and installed at the cemetery this year. The name on the tombstone—Lorsa Conley.

A motion was made, seconded and passed to close the meeting at 2:30 p.m.

Bruce Collins
Secretary/Treasurer
Pioneer Cemetery Commission