

Clayton County Pioneer Cemetery Commission Meeting Minutes for Sept 23, 2023

This meeting was preceded by a working session at the Garretson Cemetery in Sperry Twp.

Present for the work session and the meeting were Chairperson Lee Embretson and commission members Lee Lenth, Ellen Collins and Bruce Collins as well as friend of the commission, Dave Beck.

The Work Session

Everyone noted above met at the residence of Bruce and Ellen Collins at 8:30 and we went together in two vehicles to this cemetery location which is surrounded by farm fields owned by Kim Klocke. The only access to this cemetery is through Kim Klocke's fields and he was very cordial and helpful in assisting us in getting to the cemetery location.

A very brief summary about this cemetery: There are at least 25 people buried here with the burials occurring between 1850 and 1890. This area is legally defined as a cemetery but there are no longer fences defining the area. The area has not been tilled but is utilized as a pasture. As of this time (fall 2023) only three gravestones have been found/recovered. Today, two of those stones, one for a child and another for Moses Hewitt, were placed in a small fenced area within the cemetery with a sign containing the name of the cemetery and some information about the cemetery. The third gravestone, which is for Salina Hait, will be placed in this fence area at a latter date. (*Information about Salina Hait will be in the official minutes that follow.*)

The Meeting

This meeting took place at the Garretson Cemetery after the work session noted above.

The agenda for this meeting was reviewed and a motion was made by Bruce Collins to accept the agenda as presented, Ellen Collins seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

The minutes from the prior meeting were reviewed and a motion was made by Bruce Collins to accept the minutes as presented. Lee Lenth seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

A **treasurer's report** was given by Bruce Collins. The balance on the county funds available to use in this fiscal year is \$1,937.25. The balance of the association's funds at Freedom Bank is \$1,470.64 with \$220.64 of that balance restricted for use at the McClelland Cemetery. These balances are the same as last month; there being no receipts or disbursement activity during the past month. A motion was made by Lee Lenth to accept the treasurer's report, Bruce Collins seconded the motion and the motion passed.

The question was raised related to the donation of \$1,000.00 made to the commission by Craig and Lee Ann Watson in May of 2022. Do the Watsons have any particular project in mind related to the work our commission does for which they would like to see this money used? Ellen Collins said she would follow up with them on this.

Old Business

The Chinese Cemetery in Giard Twp was briefly discussed. More follow up and research is needed.

Dave Beck did discuss the gravestone of Salina Hait recently found by Kim Klocke, the landowner, and was picked up from him and cleaned by friend of the commission, Frank Phippen.

After the gravestone was cleaned, the words on it could be read; they read:

“Salina wife of Artemus Hait. Died June 22, 1870; Aged 42 years.”

Dave Beck gave life and blood to Salina, telling about her life, which he latter put into an email to Bruce Collins, which was then shared with all the commission members. A summary of Dave’s email is as follows:

Salina Hait migrated west, starting out in New York, living in Stephenson County Illinois before coming to Sperry Twp in Clayton County, IA. At the time of her death she was married 24 years, had three children, two sons and one daughter, and about one year before Salina’s death, her daughter Almenda married John Garretson, for whom this cemetery is named.

As an aside, Dave was able to make a personal family connection. Salina Hait is an ancestor to Dave’s sister-in-law.

New Business

There was a discussion related to when and where our next meeting would be. Two cemetery locations were discussed: Graham/Griffith in Millville Twp was considered and the Schmidt Cemetery in Cox Creek Twp. It was decided we would visit the Schmidt Cemetery the third Saturday in October. Dave Beck said he would followup on getting access to this burial location and also do some research

related to an adult Schmidt son, which is buried there with his parents and other family members.

At 11:40 a.m. Bruce Collins made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Lee Lenth and the motion passed.

Bruce Collins
Secretary
CCPCC