

Clayton County Pioneer Cemetery Commission

Meeting: March 14, 2026

The meeting of the Clayton County Pioneer Cemetery Commission was called to order by Chairperson Lee Embretson shortly after 9:00 a.m. at the Carter House in Elkader.

Those present included Chairperson Lee Embretson and all the commission members: Paul Young, David Beck, Bruce Collins and Ellen Collins.

The Agenda for this meeting and the minutes from the last meeting, which were previously emailed to all commission members, were approved as presented. For both the Agenda and the Minutes the motions were made by David Beck and seconded by Ellen Collins.

For the Treasurer's Report, Bruce Collins reported that our commission's balances have not changed since last month: County Funds \$1,199.25, Freedom Bank \$1,424.21.

A reminder was noted that the county funds are available only for this fiscal year, which ends June 30th, meaning if the budgeted amount is not used during this fiscal year that amount is not available for use during the next fiscal year. It's a matter of use it or lose it.

One bill was submitted for payment; a mileage request for 24 miles by Ellen Collins for trips to Reed Cemetery, planning for the 250th USA Anniversary. David Beck made a motion to pay this bill, Lee Embretson seconded, and the motion passed.

Grant

Paul Young reported on preparing the documentation for a \$2,000 grant request from the Clayton County Foundation for the Future. Support letters needed for this grant and the application process is almost completed and about ready to submit, and that will be done soon, before the deadline. The grant request is for resetting grave stones. *(Paul has experience writing grants, which he did much of during his working career.)*

Paul noted that in the future our commission may want to submit a grant request to the Mississippi Gaming Commission from which grants are normally for larger dollar requests.

Grave Stone Setting

David Beck secured the services of a grave stone repair person, Clay Bolsinger, and he picked up eight grave stones to “glue” together that Lee Embretson had at his place from the Barnum-King Cemetery. Once these stones are repaired they will be reset in the cemetery.

Bruce Collins provided David and Lee a list of three other people that do grave stone repair and setting, in case we need another provider to get involved. One on the list was from an advertisement in a local paper and the other two have done work for St. Joseph Cemetery in Elkader where Bruce is also on that commission.

USA—250th Memorial Celebration

David Beck showed the Clayton County Map that he made showing the grave-sites for the veterans of the War of 1812 and the one veteran from the Revolutionary War that are in Clayton County. Copies of this map will be made available for our memorial event. *(A great map, nicely done. Thank you David.)*

Ellen Collins showed a flier that was prepared by Rosie Thomas for our commission about our memorial event at Reed Cemetery on June 27th. This flier will be on display at museums in our county, giving publicity to our event. *(A very nice flier, thanks to Rosie Thomas, the wife of Roger Thomas the chairperson of the Clayton County Historic Preservation Commission, for doing this.)*

Ellen Collins said she received a call from Mildred Stewart, the clerk for Sperry Township, and she was asking if a port-a-potty was needed for our event at Reed Cemetery. The consensus of our commission was that it was not needed. *(Thank you Milly for your thoughtfulness.)*

Eastman Cemetery

Paul Young said there is a Scout Troop that is interested in doing mowing maintenance work at the Eastman Cemetery this season. More follow-up is needed to confirm this will happen.

Other Business/Discussion

Lee Embretson suggested that our commission again consider installing a sign near the McClelland grave-site so there is some visibility to this historic site. More discussion may be forthcoming

on this. We want people to know about this cemetery, but we do not want them trespassing over field crops to visit it.

Bruce Collins said he would do some research related to the involvement of township trustees with Pioneer Cemeteries. It seems that some townships are quite involved, e.g., Sperry Twp, and others not so much. Maybe our commission can get some of the townships more involved, maybe not. Bruce will investigate.

Our next meeting was scheduled for the second Saturday in April, April 11th. Depending of the weather, we may meet and take a road trip to the Hamlett Cemetery in Elk Township. We have heard that the grave stones were tossed in a pile at this cemetery.

A motion was made and passed to adjourn the meeting shortly after 10:00 a.m.

Bruce Collins
Sec/Treasurer
CCPCC