

Hamilton County Cemetery Preservation Society
Report to County Supervisors – May 24, 2016

I'm here to provide you an update on what your Hamilton County Cemetery Preservation Society has been doing this past year.

As an overview, we were organized in 2012 to help identify and preserve the pioneer cemeteries in Hamilton County.

- We meet once a month (April-November) at various location in the county. Anyone is welcome to attend the meetings or work days planned.
- There are currently 11 members which meet and work in the cemeteries as their schedules permit.
- Our main focus is on the Hamilton County Pioneer cemeteries; that are defined by Iowa law, as cemeteries having less than 12 burials in the past 50 years.

There are 30 cemeteries in Hamilton County; six (6) of them meet the pioneer cemetery criteria
These cemeteries are:

Ellsworth township

- **Boe** Cemetery – Ellsworth Twp - *South of Randall*
- **Clear Lake-Ellsworth** Cemetery - Ellsworth Twp - *between Randall and Stanhope*
- **Old Randall** Cemetery - Ellsworth Twp – *North of the Mt Olive Cemetery in Randall*

Webster Township

- **Homer** Cemetery – Webster Twp – East of *Homer*

Scott Township

- **Hetland** Cemetery – Scott Twp – *SE of Ellsworth*

Hamilton Township

- **Zion** Cemetery – Hamilton Twp – *NE of Stanhope*

Education / Activities

- Cemetery Walk
 - We sponsored a Cemetery Walk at the Zion Cemetery on July 8th, 2015.
 - Approximately 20 people from around the county enjoyed the evening learning about this pioneer cemetery; Several had relatives buried in the Zion Cemetery
 - Attendees also had an opportunity to cleaned a stone, use hand-made “witching” wires to find unmarked graves and listened to Zion descendants talk about the lives of their relatives in the cemetery.
- We applied for and received two grants to help pay for repair materials. One was for the ‘Treat Stearns Foundation’ grant and the other to SAPIC organization.
(State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries)
- Jean Ripley and Linda Wild regularly attend the state SAPIC meetings, of which Hamilton County is a member. Jean is a board member. The state meetings are held quarterly at different locations around the state. At one of the meeting a headstone jack was displayed. This is a tool to lift small to medium size headstones to level them.