

Switzerland County Cemetery Commission Report for 2009

Commission Members:

Carolyn Miller
Darrell Brown
Nancy Barker
Dorothy Burley
Scott Gregory

Again this year we have found **much interest** in cemetery discovery and preservation from local citizens. We have had locals come in to report burial spots and to request restoration of small cemeteries.

In 2009 The Commission has:

1. Completed on-site inspections of 14 more cemeteries (in addition to the 28 of last yr)
2. Found 5 more endangered cemeteries (in addition to 5 last yr)
Osborn (Pleasant), **Searcy** (Posey), **Markland** (Jeff Twp), **Brown** (Craig Twp), **Lewellyn** (Craig)
3. Volunteers worked on the **Gullion Cemetery** to prevent accidental destruction. **County has set apart the cemetery and surrounding area** for preservation of this area. Switzerland County Economic Development will pay for the restoration of this cemetery as it is on the Economic Industrial Park real estate.
4. Sent 6 letters to various owners of land surrounding cemeteries to request permission to enter/cross land for purposes of registering a cemetery
5. Filed a 2008 year end Cemetery Commission report with the State
6. Darrell Brown has continued to research Revolutionary War Soldiers buried in the county
7. Cemetery Comm. Fund paid \$238.88 for motel & registration expenses for Carolyn Miller to attend one State Workshop in the spring & one in the fall to become certified to probe & repair stones
8. Cemetery Comm. Fund paid \$4,954.00 for digital preservation of stones @ \$1 per stone
9. A Cemetery Commission member, plus the CemSeek digital preservationists, were the speakers at a meeting in the fall of 2009, at the County Library, sponsored by the Historical Society to educate and update citizens about cemeteries. The meeting was packed.
10. Cemetery Comm. Fund paid \$4,954.00 for digital preservation of stones @ \$1 per stone, with more to be completed

Goals for 2010

1. Organize & Sponsor a State authorized Cemetery Workshop to be held in Vevay Cemetery in May of 2010
2. Repair Shaw Cemetery in Craig Twp in May 2010
3. Repair the 'old section' of Vevay Cemetery during the last 2 weeks of May 2010
4. Work on 100F Cemetery in Patriot to restore the old graves
5. Get Hunts Creek Cemetery repaired by fall
6. Work to identify any new reports of burial grounds reported to the Commission
7. Photograph & Send in reports on each of the endangered cemeteries & those with Revolutionary or 1812 Vets

We appreciate those willing to serve on the Commission for 2008 & 2009.

**We propose: That Shila Geyman, Pleasant Twp, replace Dorothy Burley on the Cemetery Commission for 2010.
That Louis Fritter, York Twp, replace Scott Gregory on the Cemetery Commission for 2010.**

The Commission has received 2 checks in the amount of \$250.00 each for the repair of Shaw Cemetery.

Craig Twp Trustee has given \$500 for the repair of Shaw Cemetery.

Posey Twp Trustee is finishing restoration on several small cemeteries in his area

The Current balance in the Cemetery Fund is **\$6,673.08**.

The Challenge: to obtain services from John Walters and crew for 13 days @\$1,025.00 per day (\$125,00 per diem, plus \$90 per hr), starting May 17th, with additional days in the fall if we are financially able.

To also be able to pay our digitizers for their work as it continues.



Carolyn J. Miller, Cemetery Comm Member

REGULAR MEETING – PAGE 2

#3 JEFF KEMPER – SRI AUCTION

Mr. Kemper's company has done tax sales for the county. He spoke about his company doing surplus property sales on line and distributed information concerning the services they would provide for on line sales. No action was taken at this time.

#4 CAROLYN MILLER – CEMETERY COMMISSION

Carolyn gave the commissioners the activity report for 2009. She also requested new appointments to the cemetery board: Shila Geymon, Pleasant Township, to replace Dorothy Burley and Louis Fritter to replace Scott Gregory. K.C. made a motion to approve this replacement, seconded by Craig and all agreed.

Fund raising and cemetery restoration were discussed. The cemetery fund's balance is \$6,673.08. K.C. made a motion to add \$6,000.00 to this fund, seconded by Craig and all agreed.

#5 BERT ALLEN – SALVATION ARMY FUND

Mr. Allen distributed information about the activities and expenses for 2009 and described the assistance that this organization has done for citizens of Switzerland County. He requested more funding. The commissioners appreciated the Salvation Army's work but he would need to go before the council for funding.

#6 LOUIS BULLOCK – ELECTRICAL LICENSE

Mr. Bullock distributed information and spoke about the need of electrician licensing requirements. He spoke about poor electrical work that he has seen in buildings in our county. Discussion followed about surrounding counties and their requirements. No action was taken at this time.

#7 OTHER BUSINESS

1. All elected officials will be added to the county's insurance coverage.
2. Brian signed the contract for the Pictometry service.
3. Brian is to contact the sheriff in reference to prohibiting fire arms in county buildings—police included.
4. Craig made a motion to hire Brack Rayles to do a website for the county, seconded by K.C. and all agreed.
5. Rachel has moved \$60,000.00 from infrastructure and placed this amount in the commissioners' general fund appropriation for computer maintenance.
6. The cost of 6 dumpsters was discussed for the county cleanup on April 16, 17, and 18th; the same date as for the Town of Vevay cleanup. Dumpsters will be available at the county garage from 8:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. on the 3 days.
7. Mowing bids for the health department were opened by Wil G. as follows: Joe Sebree \$100.00/mowing, Kenny Adams \$70.00/mowing when needed, Chris Stewart \$70.00/mowing, Jays Lawn Care \$85.00/mowing, Rayles Mowing \$85.00/mowing, and Luke Haskell \$50.00/mowing. K.C. made a motion to select Kenny Adam's bid, seconded by Craig and all agreed.
8. Brian requested a motion to transfer Mitch Barnes from a jailor to the courthouse custodian. K.C. made the motion, seconded by Craig and all agreed. Mr. Barnes is to be on a 90-day probation and the pay will be \$1,500.00 less than the current pay and will go to the top amount after the 90 days.

REGULAR MEETING – PAGE 3**#7 GEORGE ADAMS – EMA DIRECTOR**

George talked about the grading scale—what they are being graded on. George has requested some one time purchase items—a generator. The cost would be \$175.00 for a 30KW generator which would enable them to run the emergency operations center in the event of a natural disaster. The 20KW generator is \$150.00. The IDEM system, badge identification system, this could be used by all county employees.

He would like to also have a generator hookup at the county garage.

The IDEM system would cost approximately \$4,530.00 for the complete system with one year of maintenance. Craig Bond said the state has used this type of system for about 7 years. Steve L. asked Craig Bond, county commissioner, what he thought about this system. Rachel wanted to know how much extra all the equipment needed for the system would cost.

George is to get bids on one 30KW generator and 2 hookups.

#8 CAROLYN MILLER – CEMETERY BOARD

Carolyn came to give the council the annual report which also has to be sent into the state; this report also included their goals for 2010. She is asking to have the report approved and she is asking for funding. Darrell made a motion to approve the report with the correction of York Township, seconded by Steve L. and all agreed. Steve C. made a motion to give \$7,325.00 to the cemetery board, seconded by Tom. Terry wanted to know how the money would be divided by the county areas—is each township going to get a certain amount? Terry was wondering how to entice the township trustees to give money also. The money requested would only get them through the spring. The motion is tabled until she hears from the Town of Patriot and the Town of Vevay.

Rachel asked about the Old Bethel Cemetery bank account. The bank notified her that they would start charging dormancy fees and she would like to be able to close the account since there is no activity. Council suggested that Carolyn be able to use the money for the Bethel Cemetery through the cemetery board.

#9 BERT ALLEN – SALVATION ARMY

Mr. Allen came requesting funding for the Salvation Army which is given only to the residents of Switzerland County. They gave out \$20, 500, 00 last year. He has 3 or 4 calls everyday on his phone and Chester Meisberger has 10 to 12 people every Tuesday coming to the JSSCSCC needing assistance. He is requesting \$7,000.00 for 2010. Darrell made a motion to give \$7,000.00 to the Salvation Army for 2010, seconded by Steve C. and all agreed. This is to be paid from riverboat funds.