

RECEIVED
APR 07 2008
INDIANA HISTORICAL
BUREAU

Franklin County Cemetery Commission

1010 Franklin Avenue
Brookville, IN 47012

April 2, 2008

Pamela J. Bennett
Indiana Historical Bureau
140 North Senate Avenue, Room 130
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2296

Dear Ms. Bennett:

The first county cemetery commission consisting of five members was appointed by the Franklin County commissioners, October 15, 2001, according to the provisions of IC 23-14-67-2. The officers of the commission for the year 2007 were as follows: Donald L. Dunaway, president (term expires 2009), Patricia Smith, vice-president (2008) and John Estridge, secretary (2007). In addition, Juanita Baker (2010) and Ed Baker (2011) are members of the commission. All except Juanita Baker have served since October 2001. This letter is the cemetery commission's report as required by IC 23-14-67-3.5.

The cemetery commission held ten meetings in 2007.

Six Department of Natural Resources survey forms were completed in the year 2007 bringing the number of cemeteries visited and surveys prepared to 121. There is estimated to be 150 or more cemeteries within Franklin County. Plans for 2008 are to continue to work on locating more of the small, isolated cemeteries, on-site assessment and completing the survey forms for them.

A budget of \$12,000 was approved by the County Council and the State for funding the Cemetery Commission in CY 2007. The funding was used primarily for restoring eight cemeteries. These were the Gobel and Jenks cemeteries in Laurel Township, Quick and Woodworth in Brookville Township, Jones-Gloshen in Butler Township and Lipscomb-Baker in Metamora Township. In addition, the final third of Old Brick Cemetery at Andersonville in Posey Township and the second third of Asbury Cemetery in Springfield Township were completed. Elder Cemetery in Brookville Township was restored with volunteer labor.

The commission intends to provide identification signs for all eligible county cemeteries. In 2007, eight signs were purchased. To-date 75 signs have been purchased by the commission, plus 16 funded by Whitewater Township, but through the commission. As of the end of CY 2007, 82 signs have been erected in Franklin County.

The Cemetery Commission budget for CY 2008 is \$16,300. The plans for use of these funds include cleaning, fencing and restoring fourteen small cemeteries in eight townships. In addition a schedule for the mowing of 13 cemeteries three times is planned.

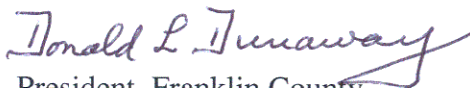
Daniel Wyatt a young man who lives in Brookville Township restored the Pettigrew Cemetery in Blooming Grove Township as an Eagle Scout Project. His work included mowing weeds and removing other undesirable growth, removing junk and trash from around the cemetery, removing the old perimeter fence, painting the original steel fence posts, erecting a new fence, painting the interior wrought iron fence and replacing the old broken concrete steps. The Cemetery Commission paid for the materials needed.

Members of the Cemetery Commission set up a table and display at the Franklin County Fair in July and were there in the evenings Monday through Friday. The principal display was the County highway map showing cemetery locations. A tri-fold handout was also passed out to people who stopped and looked at the display. The members were pleased with the attention the display attracted and felt it was worthwhile being there to meet the public and let them know what we are doing and why we are doing it.

Rockies Express Pipeline (REX) plans to build a 42-inch natural gas high-pressure transmission pipeline from Colorado to the Ohio eastern state line. This line will pass through the breadth of Franklin County. Commission members have been following reports of available information to attempt to predict which cemeteries in the county may be threatened. When construction starts we will follow that activity for any impact on cemeteries.

On September 22, 2007 the Cemetery Commission assisted in a dedication program of a military tombstone for Gilbert Samuels, a Revolutionary War veteran who died in 1835 and was buried in an unmarked grave at Asbury Cemetery in Springfield Township. There was a very colorful and patriotic ceremony involving Sons of the American Revolution from Kentucky and Indiana, Brookville American Legion Post No. 77, the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Franklin County Historical Society. Ancestors of the veteran from several states attended the dedication. No Cemetery Commission funds were expended in this activity.

Sincerely,



President, Franklin County
Cemetery Commission

Copies to:
Franklin County Commissioners
Franklin County Cemetery Commission