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## Franklin County Cemetery Commission

1010 Franklin Avenue  
Brookville, IN 47012

February 25, 2007

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 2006 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 meetings each month in 2006.

A total of 16 Department of Natural Resources survey forms were completed in 2006 bringing the number of cemeteries visited and surveys prepared to 115. There is estimated to be approximately 170 cemeteries within Franklin County. Plans for 2007 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 2006. The funding was used primarily for cleaning and restoring six cemeteries. These were as follows: Elder, Little Cedar Grove Public and Riker in Brookville Township, Zion Lutheran in Highland Township, Old Brick in Posey Township (One-third of the work was completed in 2005 and one-third in 2006, the remainder will be done in 2007.) and Asbury in Springfield Township, also to be done over a three year period.

The Elder Cemetery was restored with volunteers including the landowner. The Jenks and Johnson Cemeteries in Laurel Township and Robeson Cemetery in Brookville Township were mowed using volunteer labor. A troop of Brownie girl scouts cleaned the Holliday Cemetery in Brookville Township.

The Old Baptist Cemetery in Whitewater Township was restored and partially funded by the township trustee.

The commission intends to provide identification signs for all eligible county cemeteries. In 2006, 23 signs were purchased plus 9 paid for by Whitewater Township. To-date 69 signs have been purchased by the commission, plus 16 funded by others, but through the commission. As of the end of CY 2006, 67 signs have been erected in Franklin County.

The cemeteries being considered for restoration and preservation in 2007 are: Jenks and Goble in Laurel Township, Bradburn, Woodworth and Quick in Brookville Township, Jones-Gloshen in Butler Township, Lipscomb in Metamora Township and Sater-North in Whitewater Township. We hope to be able to do Jenks and Bradburn with volunteers. In addition to the above, we have the final 1/3 of work at Old Brick and second 1/3 at Asbury in 2007. Quick Cemetery would be a three year project.

Ed Baker was asked to speak on Cemetery Commission activities on three occasions. This included the Brookville Library's "Hooked on History" series, a Franklin County Historical Society meeting and the Franklin County Pioneer Genealogical Meeting which also included a tour of the Brookville Cemetery. Ed Baker and Don Dunaway attended the Cemetery Workshop held near Indianapolis in June.

At this time, county funding for the Cemetery Commission for CY 2007 is expected to be the same as 2006 - \$12,000 pending state approval of the Franklin County budget.

Sincerely,

  
President, Franklin County  
Cemetery Commission

Copies to:  
Franklin County Commissioners  
Franklin County Cemetery Commission