

LAPORTE COUNTY PIONEER CEMETERY COMMISSION
COURTHOUSE SQUARE
LAPORTE, IN 46350

--Board Members--
Dale Ellis, President Wilma Marsh, Vice President
Kenneth Baker, Financial Secretary Patricia Harris, Recording Secretary
Richard Lute, Sr.

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INDIANA HISTORICAL BUREAU

4 March 2010

Indiana Historical Bureau
140 N. Senate Avenue
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Dear Sir or Madam:

Attached please find the annual report of the LaPorte County Pioneer Cemetery Commission to be filed with your office under Indiana Cemetery Law IC 4-23-7-3. The attached contains the Commission budget and expenditures for the year 2009, Activities of the Commission for the year 2009; and the Plans of the Commission for the year 2010.

Sincerely,

LaPorte County Pioneer Cemetery Commission

Kenneth Baker
Dale Ellis
Patricia Harris
Richard Lute, Sr.
Wilma Marsh

Enc.

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Budget and Expenditures for Calendar Year 2009

<u>Category</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Expenditures</u>
Office Supplies	\$ 500.00	\$ 191.94
Postage	75.00	56.71
Paint-Painting	1,000.00	123.22 +
Mileage	750.00	1,107.70 *
Landscaping	1,100.00	934.79
Tombstone Repair	10,000.00	12,760.00 *
Cemetery Maintenance	20,000.00	15,569.19 ++
Fencing & Gates	3,000.00	3,500.00 **
Board Members	1,004.00	1,004.00
Head of Department	5,773.00	5,772.78
Social Security & Medicare	<u>442.00</u>	<u>441.74</u>
Totals	\$ 43,644.00	\$ 41,462.07
Transfer from Donations	<u>500.00</u>	
Total	\$ 44,144.00	

Unexpended Balance \$ 2681.93

* Although this item was over individual budget, funds were transferred among accounts (++) to meet specific needs, while staying within our total budget.

** \$500.00 was transferred to this account from Pioneer Cemetery Donation Fund, said amount donated specifically for Coulter Cem.

++ Cemetery Maintenance costs were less than budgeted because of changes from contracted maintenance to a caretaker in some cemeteries.

+ Paint & Painting Costs were less than budgeted due to the use of county community service workers.

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2009 Activities

Monthly Meetings – Structured monthly meetings for board members.

Availability to the Public – We are available 10:00 – 3:00 p.m. first Friday of each month.

Cemetery Visitations – We incorporated with two of our monthly meetings, visitations as a board, to nine pioneer cemeteries. This was done to acquaint all members with the La Porte County cemeteries and to determine individual cemetery needs as an aid to determining priorities on maintenance, repair and restoration.

Historians/Liaisons Volunteers – Volunteers watched over our cemeteries and reported any act of vandalism or cemetery need.

Stone Restorations – Stone restoration was completed at Norton and Coulter Cemeteries, ½ of Eahart Reed Cemetery and stone repaired at Miller Griffin Cemetery by Mark Davis of Stone Saver Cemetery Restoration.

Fencing – Second half of the old fence was restored and replaced by Rustic Fencing at Coulter Cemetery. Fences were painted at Foster, Miriam Benedict and Roszburg Cemeteries by community service persons.

Documentation/Photographs – We continued to photograph and document tombstones before they become illegible or vandalism occurs. We have also continued to seek out locations of old cemeteries not known to us previously and then research and document.

Written Reports on Cemeteries – Board members are assigned certain cemeteries that are to be checked by them for caretaking condition and other items throughout the year and they then report their findings on a Cemetery Inspection Report Record.

Request for Bids and Contracts – We revised and continue to use standardized forms for Request for Bids for Cemetery Maintenance and Contracts for Cemetery Maintenance as well as for Uncontracted Maintenance of Cemeteries and for Stone Restoration.

Cemetery Maintenance – Pioneer Cemeteries without any funding were maintained by contracted firms. Others that had caretakers and/or some funding for maintenance were aided with funds budgeted by the Cemetery Commission. County work release personnel were also used to do some larger brush and tree removal.

New signs were installed at Hudson Lake, Tuley and Coulter Cemeteries. In addition, signs telling the history of Tuley, Norton and Coulter cemeteries were installed.

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2010 Cemetery Commission Plans

Monthly Meetings – Structured monthly meetings for Board Members.

Availability to the Public – Available to public 10:00 am – 3:00 pm first Friday of each month and otherwise by e-mail, phone or mail.

Cemetery Visitations – Continue to visit various cemeteries as a group to acquaint all members with the La Porte County cemeteries and to set priorities.

Historians/Liaisons Volunteers – Continue to have volunteers watch over our cemeteries and report any act of vandalism or cemetery need. Encourage the continuation of transcribing all gravestones, photography, writing histories and identifying veterans graves with the aid of volunteers.

Discovery and Research – Seek out the locations of old cemeteries not known to us previously and then view, research and document, especially Allen Toney Family Burial Ground and Bowell Cemetery.

Continued Preservation of Our Cemeteries – Caretaking is extremely important in our cemeteries as it can affect the safety of individuals visiting the cemeteries.

1. Communication with sexton/caretakers to allow them to make the needs of their individual cemeteries known to the board and discuss ways to prevent vandalism. Enter into written agreements with them detailing the work to be performed in the cemeteries stating a specific amount to be budgeted for the work from Commission funds.
2. Contract with lawn care services for cemetery maintenance for those cemeteries who do not have caretakers. Seek aid of County Highway Dept. for needed removal of trees, etc.
3. Many of our tombstones are in need of repair. We have contracted for completion of repair and restoration of stones at Eahart Reed Cemetery and seek bid to begin Hudson Lake.
4. Paint fences at Miller Griffin & Nickel Plate and finish at Rossburg.
5. Seek bids for replacement of fence at Posey Chapel & west and north sides Miriam Benedict.
6. Continue to replace signs at cemeteries as funds permit.
7. Continue to work with the LaPorte County Community Service to provide labor for fence painting, etc.
8. We have begun a program of historical research to install signs at the cemeteries telling about their history. We have installed signs at Eahart-Reed, Norton and Coulter and plan to install one at Hudson Lake and others this year as research is completed.

Written Reports- Continue using the Cemetery Inspection Form a written report for board members to report on the condition of our cemeteries throughout the year.