

HAMILTON COUNTY CEMETERY COMMISSION

16 December 2006

To: Board of Commissioners
Hamilton County, Indiana

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As noted in last years annual report, Joe Burgess having served as Chairman of the Hamilton County Cemetery Commission for 30 years requested to be appointed Member Emeritus rather than another five year regular appointment. Subsequently, the Board of County Commissioners appointed Joe as President Emeritus so he could continue to work and advise the Cemetery Commission as his health would permit. His recommendation that Marion Hensley, Fall Creek Township Trustee be appointed in his place was approved also.

During our first meeting Herald Demaree was elected President, Martha Gascho Vice-President and Patricia Gibbs Sec/Treasurer. Joe Burgess is continuing working on the William Winship Conner descendants so we can obtain a deed to the Weaver Cemetery for the county.

Tim Colip and three relatives have formed a Colip Cemetery Association to oversee the cemetery north of Strawtown where their ancestors are buried. They have erected an Indiana Cemetery Heritage Sign at the entrance to the cemetery. A chain-link fence was erected around part of the cemetery several years ago. There are some stones to the north and west indicating the entire cemetery was not included in the fence enclosure.

Neighbors have erected a wrought iron fence around the Kirkendall Cemetery and it looks nice. A new fence around the Mt. Zion Cemetery will be considered in the coming year.

The County Surveyor, Jeff Powell completed a survey of the Pleasant View Cemetery and found that the Quit Title recorded last year was 155 feet east of the cemetery grounds on private ground. Darren Murphy, Assistant County Attorney attempted to record the deed, however the Hamilton County Transfer and Mapping Office, Department Manager states "Although the legal description was questionable, the judge's order was followed by our office. I do not feel that the quit claim deed supersedes the judge's order." In view of this rejection a meeting is planned with the Washington Twp. Trustee sometime after the first of January to work out a solution.

Our mowing crew experienced an access problem getting back to the Lennen/Commons Cemetery on the Roop Farm in Wayne Township after the farm was leased to Kenny Boone. The gate was locked to prevent anyone going back to the cemetery. The crew found another way to get into the cemetery and completed their work.

The undersigned term on the commission will expire on 31 December 2006. The commission expressed their desire that I accept another term. Therefore, I am willing to serve another term if that is the will of the Board of Commissioners.

Respectfully submitted,

Herald A Demaree

Copy to Hamilton County Council
Copy to Indiana Historical Bureau