

Hamilton County Cemetery Commission

JOE BURGESS
Chairman and Treasurer

PATRICIA GIBBS
Secretary

3 December 1997

To: Board of Commissioners
of Hamilton County, Indiana

The Hamilton County Cemetery Commission desires to report to the Board of County Commissioners its activities during the year of 1997. You will note that this report will be larger due to the fact that the Indiana General Assembly, effective July 1, 1997 amended the Indiana Code to mandate that annual reports of county cemetery commissions be filed with the Indiana Historical Bureau for public inspection. While this commission has not received a copy of this law, we are including that information which we understand that are required by this law.

There are 117 cemeteries (that we know of) in Hamilton County. This number includes current operating cemeteries not under our jurisdiction. When this commission was first organized in 1975 Fall Creek Township was the only township taking care of old cemeteries. Today all nine townships are involved in taking care of these cemeteries. The commission itself mows approximately 20 cemeteries, assists the township trustees in fencing and resetting of stones etc. See the attached list for work done by the county commission.

We understand that the new law requires a report concerning budget and expenditures. Since it has been the practice of the county since the inception of this commission to provide a sum annually to the commission and they operate out of that sum. It has worked very well. See attached financial report.

It is our intention to request of the county the sum of \$14,000.00 for the work to be done in 1998.

The term of Richard E. Mallery expires December 31, 1997. He is willing to accept another term and the commission recommends that he be reappointed for another 5 year term.

Respectfully Submitted:

Joe H. Burgess
Joe H. Burgess
Chairman

JHB/jb

incl: as above
Copy to: Indiana Historical Bureau

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INDIANA HISTORICAL
BUREAU

Name of Cem.	COPY		COPY		COPY
	Mowed	Cut Brush	Repair Stones	Fence	Repair Lane
Strawtown	x				
Buscher	x				
Hurlock	x			x (Gate)	
Bradley	x				
Flanagan	x				
Lennon	x				
Mushrush	x	x			
Burke	x				
Henry Gasho	x				
Mappes	x			x	
Greenwood	x	x		x	
Hammack (Lamong)	x				
Thos. Moore	x				
Phillips	x		x		
Teter	x				
Finch	x				
Burris	x				
Little Carey	x				
Malott	x				
Mullins				x (Gate)	
Taylor					x
Pleasant View			x	x	
Gascho-Trissel		x		x	

(Note: the number of mowings varied from 2 to 14 times per cemetery. The 2 times was Malott which is a 4 grave cemetery with cement slabs covering the graves, mowing means trimming in this case. Those larger cemeteries easily visible from the road were mowed at least 14 times.)

Vandalism which usually means turning over of tombstones was at a minimum this year. However for the first time we noted vandalism of a different nature - that of tearing down fences and breaking off of fence posts. This occurred at the Gascho-Trissel Cemetery in Noblesville. We are not sure if this is done by kids at the Middle School or by inhabitants of the apartments to the east of the cemetery. Rumors concerning missing tombstones in some of the smaller cemeteries caused to invest gate and we found none missing but to alleviate fears among some of the families we decided to fence these. Thus Mappes in White River Township; Gascho-Trissel in Noblesville Township; and Pleasant View and Greenwood in Washing Township were fenced this fall. In addition we have committed to assist the Delaware Township Trustee in the fencing of West Cemetery, however due to land development around this cemetery (northwest corner of Allisonville and 96th Street) this was unable to be done during this past season- we have obligated \$3,000.00 of our unexpended funds for this project. In addition Strawtown Cemetery, which is one of our largest cemeteries in area is beginning to need fencing and we have been setting aside fund to fund this project.

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FINANCIAL REPORT

Balance forwarded 1 January 1997 17,591.49

Receipts:

Annual Appropriation 14,000.00
Interest on Checking Account 374.41

Sub-total 31,965.90

Disbursements:

Labor 7,980.00
Gas, belts etc. 314.62
Trips (\$4 per trip to compensate
for employees truck used) 580.00
Bureau of Motor Vehicles 30.75
Don Roberts (rental for storage) 120.00
Noblesville Monuments 123.00
Wal-mart (mower fro trimming) 124.94
Farm Plan & Lewis Lawn Equip. 501.26
Gravel & Hauling 100.00
Quality Farm & Fleet & Glidden
Fence Co. 6,658.94 16,533.51

Balance forwarded 3 December 1997 15,432.39

This balance has obligated funds as follows:

Reserve Account \$3,338.09 (per Indiana Cemetery Code)
To assist Delaware Twp. Trustee for West Cem. fencing \$3,000.00
Set aside for future fencing of Strawtown Cem. \$8,000.00
This leaves \$1,094.30 bal. due to vandalism etc. being less
than anticipated.

In addition we have a Savings Account of \$1,722.66 which must
be considered an addition to the reserve account set out above.

The items in the reserve account were dormant bank accounts
held by various cemeteries which had been abandoned and turned over
to the County Commission who claimed the funds. While we feel that
we probably could spend these funds we interpret the Indiana Code
as being held as a reserve account.