

Hamilton County Cemetery Commission

384 North 11th Street, Noblesville, IN 46060-2146

30 November 2003

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To: Board of Commissioners
Hamilton County, Indiana

Never in the twenty-eight year history of this commission has our work been dictated to us by Mother Nature. The storms in early spring, two different floods and a tornado caused trees to be uprooted with consequent of damage to cemetery fences and tombstones.

First, we were appraised of a "huge" tree being down and covering the entire Ervin Cemetery (adjacent to Verizon Wireless Music Center) The Wayne Township Trustee had the tree removed and fortunately no tombstones nor the fence were damaged..

The spring storms uprooted a tree in Greenwood Cemetery in Washington Township, Our man removed the tree and reset the stones toppled by the tree but the damage to the chain-link fence required repair by the Glidden Fence Co., Inc.

A tree was down and a stone toppled in Hurlock Cemetery. Our man removed the tree but the stone was large enough that we had to hire Noblesville Monuments to reset this stone.

The first flood uprooted a tree in Hammack Cemetery (west of Lamong) damaging the chain link fence and a stone. Our man removed the tree and reset the tombstone but damage to the fence required the services of a professional fence company. In addition with the receding of the flood waters a number of fish were trapped above ground and with the assistance of neighbors these were burned in order to rid the area of a dead fish smell.

Burke Cemetery in Fall Creek Township was subjected to be used as a trash dumping site apparently by some contractor working in that area (material dumped was metal and used in air-conditioning systems). This was reported to the Sheriff's Office but since no names or addresses were in this trash they could not pinpoint who was using this as a dump. We were working with the Fall Creek Township Trustee to see if we could get rid of the trash when the second flood uprooted a huge tree completely blocking the access road to the cemetery. So at the time of writing this report, the trash nor the tree have been removed. We do not have the equipment to handle the size of this tree and also since it is not on the cemetery proper, we have hesitated to tackle the tree removal. We hope to have this situation cleared by the end of this year..

In September of this year when a tornado touched on in the 256th Street area, Fred Swift called me to see if Taylor Cemetery had been damaged. Checking with the Jackson Township Trustee we found that the Taylor Cemetery had not been damaged but that Mullen Cemetery a short distance west of Taylor had had some damage with a tree be uprooted and eight stones toppled with at least one being broken. The Trustees man removed the tree and we had Noblesville Monuments reset and restore the stones.

Taylor Cemetery which had been vandalized (3rd time) during 2002 and which we reported in our last annual report was completed by completing surveys that determined that six small stones had been pulverized during this vandalism. We had a plaque prepared with the pertinent information thereon and set in this cemetery. We attach a copy of what this plaque says. This makes a total expended in restoring this cemetery of \$2,122.85, with \$472.00 being chargeable to this current year.

The matter of making the entrance to Taylor Cemetery and the one at Burke Cemetery, available to those who have legitimate reason for visiting these cemeteries and yet making them inaccessible to motor vehicles is being considered. But we find that those that have legitimate reasons (farmers, tenants etc) are very difficult in getting together to explain what our plans are

We have continued trying to find the heirs of William Winship Conner so that we may get title to Weaver Cemetery. We have obtained an interest in this cemetery, but we are finding that other interests have died out completely and so it becomes necessary for us to find out in these cases where the died out interests lay. The attorney on our commission and the county attorney have both been asked to provide me with the Indiana Laws of descent so I can determine where these interests have been inherited. This is quite complicated and will take some time before it can be finally disposed.

The matter of getting title to Eller Cemetery is still on the back-burner. David Gatewood just will not give us an easement to this cemetery covering the access we have had for the past 28 years, but insisted that a new entrance be made from Allisonville Road, we understand that the Fishers Street Department has refused to grant him a curb cut on Allisonville Road.

The term of Patricia Gibbs on this commission expires on 31 December 2003. upon inquiry she indicated she would be willing to accept anther term on the commission if offered. The Commission then voted to recommend her reappointment to another 5 year term.

Respectfully Submitted:

Joe H. Burgess
Chairman

JHB/jb
Copy to Hamilton County Council
Copy to Indiana Historical Bureau

FINANCIAL REPORT

Balance forwarded 30 November 2002 9,847.46

Receipts:

Annul appropriation 19,000.00
Interest on checking account 107.88

Sub-total 28,955.34

Disbursements:

Labor	9,848.00	
Trips	896.00	
Reimbursement for gas etc.	148.73	
Surveying	1,405.00	
Title & Lien Searches	128.00	
Bureau of Motor Vehicles	24.75	
Postage	74.00	
Repairs (Reynolds & Farm Plan)	224.17	
Ditch Assessment	12.00	
Noblesville Monuments	500.00	
Barn Rental	120.00	
Glidden Fence Co., Inc.	750.00	
Noble Logos, Inc.	<u>372.06</u>	<u>14,502.71</u>

Balance forwarded 30 November 2003 14,452.63

Balance forwarded 30 November 2002 on Savings Account 1,833.28

Receipts: Interest 13.80

Disbursements: None 0.00

Balance forwarded 30 November 2003 1,847.08

Above funds include obligated funds as follows:

Reserve Account	
In checking Account	3,338.09
In Savings Account	1,847.08
Total Reserve Acct.	5,185.17

NAME OF CEMETERY	MOWED (No.)	Trees & SHRUBS	FENCED	STONE WORK
Strawtown	X (17)			X
Hurlock	X (17)	X		X
Buscher	X (14)			
Greenwood	X (14)	X	X	X
Hammack	X (14)	X	X	X
Thos. B. More	X (14)			
Philklips	X (14)			
Teeter	X (10)			
Lennen	X (10)			
Bradley	X (8)			
Finch	X (8)			
Burke	X (8)	X		
Henry Gasho	X (8)			
Moppis	X (8)			
Little Carey	X (4)			
Burris	X (4)			
Faucett	X (4)		X	X
Ervin		X		
Mullen		X		X
Anti-Slavery				X
Taylor				X

Taylor Cemetery has been vandalized a number of times, the tombstones of the following persons have been completely destroyed and this plaque showing names and pertinent information is erected in order that these burials will not be lost to posterity.

Carraway
d. 16 June 1884 Aged 10m. 28 d.
Son of J.C. & M. Carraway

Wainscott Mary
d. 17 Jan. 1863 Aged 2 y. 27 d.
Son of R. & A. Mary

Martha A. Martin
d. 1 July 1863 Aged 1 y. 8m. 10 d.
Son of Samuel & Jane Martin

Orpha Taylor
d. 15 Sept. 1875 Aged 1 y. 1 m. 27 d.
Daughter of J. & S. Taylor

Rebecca L. Martin
d. 9 Sept. 1859 Aged 2 y. 4 m. 4 d.
Daughter of Samuel & Jane Martin

Rebecca Roadruck
d. 18 Feb. 1866 Aged 30 y. 1 m. 29 d.
Wife of Samuel Roadruck

Erected 2003
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