

LAPORTE COUNTY PIONEER CEMETERY COMMISSION  
 COURTHOUSE SQUARE  
 813 LINCOLNWAY  
 LAPORTE, IN 46350

---Board Members---  
 Kenneth Baker, President Wilma Marsh, Vice President  
 Sarah Baker, Financial Secretary Patricia Harris, Recording Secretary  
 Dale Ellis

**Budget and Expenditures for Calendar Year 2001**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Expenditures</b>
Supplies	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 811.23
Postage	50.00	17.43
Paint-Painting	500.00	332.25
Mileage	300.00	7.94
Landscaping	1,100.00	1,100.00
Tombstone Repair	2,000.00	2,000.00
Cemetery Maintenance	7,500.00	6,950.00
Fencing & Gates	1,000.00	692.48
Mower-Sprayer	1,000.00	633.88
Board Members	800.00	800.00
Head of Department	<u>4,500.00</u>	<u>4,500.00</u>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$19,750.00</b>	<b>\$17,206.21</b>
<b>Unexpended Balance</b> .....		<b>\$ 2,543.79</b>

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### **2001 Activities**

Monthly Meetings - Structured monthly meetings for board members.

Availability to the Public - If the annex meeting room is available to us we are open from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Fridays.

Brochure - The picture of the tombstone that graces the front of our brochure was hand drawn by board member, Kenneth Baker. Our brochure is handed out at public libraries, LaPorte County Museum, Old Lighthouse Museum in Michigan City, festivals and any programs that we give.

This brochure is to make the public aware of how many cemeteries we have in LaPorte County and the need for preservation of our pioneer cemeteries.

Workshop - Given by the Indiana Historical Society with The LPCPCC as host. This workshop was well attended by persons interested in the preservation of our Indiana cemeteries. The attendees came from other counties in Indiana and from the state of Michigan.

Programs - A series of "Cemeteries Come Alive" Programs given to the public as educational programs to promote preservation and awareness of our La Porte County Pioneer Cemeteries.

Historians/Liaisons Volunteers - We have formed a group of volunteers to watch over our cemeteries and report any act of vandalism or cemetery need. They may also reread the tombstones (has not been done for 35 to 50 years) and write a history of a cemetery. We have found that many errors had been made in previous readings and some tombstones were not read at all.

Documentation/Photographs - We are paying special attention to the very old tombstones of our county's early settlers. Also the Revolutionary War, War of 1812, Civil War, and Black Hawk War veteran's tombstones. Some of these stones we will not be able to read in the very near future. When vandalism occurs and a stone is broken we might not be able to see it whole ever again.

Community Service Program - Mrs. Jenks conceived the idea of using Community Service persons to help clean and do other maintenance in the cemeteries under our care. Mrs. Jenks worked in conjunction with Judge Baldoni on the Community Service Program.

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Written Reports on Cemeteries - We devised a report form that can be used by our board members to report on the condition of our cemeteries. Each board member is assigned certain cemeteries that are to be checked by them for caretaking condition and other items throughout the year.

Board Member Continuing Education for 2001

June 16th Workshop, LaPorte, IN - this workshop was presented by the Indiana Historical Society with the LaPorte County Pioneer Cemetery Commission as host. Board members attending: Holly Jenks (Also a speaker), Kenneth Baker, Sarah Baker and Gloria Arndt. LaPorte County Volunteers attending: Patricia Harris, William Harris, Donna Nelson, Deanna West, Inez Jenks and Pat VanDierendonck.

May 12, 2001 Connersville, Indiana Workshop - Attendee, Holly Jenks

October 6, 2001 Madison County Workshop presented by the Indiana Historical Society  
Speaker - Holly Jenks

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### **2002 Cemetery Commission Plans**

Monthly Meetings - Structured monthly meetings for board members.

Availability to the Public - If the annex meeting room is available to us we plan to be open from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Fridays.

Historians/Liaisons Volunteers - Continue to have the group of 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.

#### Continued Preservation of our Pioneer Cemeteries-

Caretaking is extremely important in our cemeteries as it can affect the safety of individuals visiting cemeteries.

1. Communication with sexton/caretakers to allow them to make the needs of their individual cemeteries known to the board and discuss ways of preventing vandalism.
2. Contract with lawn care services for cemetery maintenance for those cemeteries that do not have caretakers.
3. Petition the LaPorte County Commissioners to develop an ordinance to protect our cemeteries from vandalism.
4. Since many of our tombstones are in need of repair, seek out someone who is capable of properly restoring same and begin a program of restoration.
5. Find source to do cemetery maintenance and repair, such as painting fences, gates, etc.

Signage - Begin a program of replacing cemetery signs with a maintenance-free sign, all of same design, designating name and formation date. Also to have a sign at each cemetery indicating "No one allowed in cemetery from Dusk to Dawn."

Written Reports on Cemeteries - Continue using the Cemetery Inspection Form, a written report for board members to report on the condition of our cemeteries, whereby each board member is assigned certain cemeteries that are to be checked by them for caretaking condition and other items throughout the year.