

Clayton County Pioneer Cemetery Commission
Meeting—February 03, 2024

The meeting was called to order at the Elkader Genealogy office shortly after 9:00 a.m.

Attending the meeting were all of the commission members: Chairperson Lee Embretson and commission members Sue Meyer, David Beck, Bruce Collins and Ellen Collins.

The agenda for this meeting was reviewed and a motion was made to approve the agenda by Ellen Collins, seconded by David Beck. The motion was passed unanimously.

The minutes from the previous meeting, which was Nov 11, 2023, were discussed and a motion was made by Sue Meyer to approve the minutes, seconded by David Beck. The motion was passed unanimously.

The treasurer's report was given by Bruce Collins, noting the disbursements made since the last meeting. The balance on the commission's funds with the county is \$1,303.93 and the balance on the commission's funds at Freedom Bank is \$1,470.64.

A memo was received from the County Auditor's office stating that a voucher in the amount of \$29.43 for a bouquet of flowers for the funeral service of commission member Lee Lenth was paid, but falls into a gray area, and going forward a

collection should be made from commission members for such expenditures.

Old business was next on the agenda for discussion.

Related to the Barnum-King burial site Ellen Collins said she had a telephone conversation with Sarah Gunderson from Monumental Restoration a day or two ago related to the work Sarah is doing for our commission on the gravestones from this site. Ellen reported that Sarah has again visited this burial site and has done more probing and found a gravestone with the name Shellito for which David Beck said he would do some historical research on that name. Sarah also said she will be at our March meeting to give us an update on her work with these gravestones.

(Sarah attended our April 08, 2023 meeting and also our June 17, 2023 meeting. At the April meeting a motion was passed to have Sarah-Monumental Restoration take the gravestones we had from here to her residence for restoration.)

For the Schmidt Family Cemetery, Bruce Collins presented a picture of the sign prepared by thINK Custom with the design and wording as it would look if it was made. The material and size would be similar to several other signs the

commission has had made: 20”w x 24”t made on 3mm aluminum composite panel. The price: \$113.40.

A motion to have the Schmidt Cemetery sign made as presented was made by David Beck, seconded by Ellen Collins. The motion passed unanimously.

From the agenda “Spring suggestions for signs to be painted” list, commission members volunteered to check the signs at specific cemeteries and report their findings at the next commission meeting.

Other Pioneer Cemetery Discussion

The Noggle Cemetery—This site was visited at our July 22, 2023 meeting on the property of Arlan Kickbush. It was the consensus of the committee that Mr. Kickbush is very respectful of this burial site and that our commission would like to place a sign by this site to further memorialize the children buried there. Ellen Collins will check with Mr. Kickbush to see if he is agreeable to this and if so Bruce Collins will prepared a draft for the wording to be placed on such a sign.

Other Notes and Comments

For the Garretson Cemetery—there are more stones we have to be returned and placed in the restored site made by our commission at our September 23, 2023 meeting.

At the Eastman Cemetery—Lee Embretson said the beautiful wrought iron gate that is there damaged in a tornado a few years ago can best be repaired by using welding equipment to heat the iron to straighten and restore it to its original shape. Lee will follow up on this.

Related to using slanted foundation forms to hold gravestones that have fallen over at the burial site, David Beck suggested these stones be placed in a form so they appear as they originally were.

Related to installing cemetery signs, Lee Embretson advised to use stainless steel bolts, lug nuts and washers to prevent rust and deterioration.

It was noted that it be the goal to complete our work at the Barnum-King Cemetery this year.

Mentioned as a possible site to visit by the commission this spring/summer is the Wolf Cemetery on the farm of Linda

Hauschild which is in Volga Twp (27601 Jewel Rd., Garber). There are grave stones there Linda has found.

Next Meeting

March 09th was scheduled for our next meeting date here at the Elkader Genealogy office at 9:00 a.m.

At 10:00 a.m. Bruce Collins made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by David Beck. The motion was passed unanimously.

Bruce Collins
Secretary/Treasurer