

Our Cemetery Commission was established in 2013 by resolution of the Greene County Board of Commissioners. It was established using Indiana Statute IC 23-14-67-1 which allows for a county to find, clean or reclaim and to maintain cemeteries that do not have funds available for care. These cemeteries must be a burial ground of an Indiana Pioneer Leader, a Revolutionary War Veteran or Civil War Veteran or be established before 1875. Although the Commission could petition for a tax levy of up to fifty cents per one hundred dollars of assessed valuation of property in the county, it was determined upon inception that they would work on grants and donations only and not tax money. The Commission consist of 5 members all appointed by the Greene County Board of Commissioners who were originally appointed with staggering terms with one new appointment per year after the first year.

The Commission has gotten off on a slow start because of a lack of funding. They were fortunate enough to receive a few donations from individuals and a grant from a larger local cemetery board and the Greene County Foundation. They have purchased a used covered trailer in which they are able to house some power and hands tools that were received also by a combination of purchasing and donations. The have worked with the Highland Township Fire Department in cleaning up about one half of the Armstead-Owen-Bland cemetery, along with providing marker stones for eight civil war veterans known to be in the cemetery. Other markers have been set in the following cemeteries in the county: Marco Cemetery with seven Civil War Stones and one WWI Stone, Goodwin Cemetery with one Civil War stone, Worthington Cemetery with one Civil War Stone and the Armstead-Owen-Bland Cemetery with eight Civil War Stones. The Commission has also supplied signage for several unmarked cemeteries. These graves have been verified by the Greene County Historical Society by research and historical registrations. The Marker Stones are supplied by the Veterans Administrations and set by a volunteer local business.

Thanks to the Wabash Valley Correctional Facility and Corrections Officer Mike Nichols and his work crew the Commission has been able to add 3 more very badly overgrown cemeteries to the clean column. It has been my pleasure to meet Mike and his crew and see them at work. I cannot say that I have seen any harder workers than this crew. As they finish reclaiming these cemeteries, the various Township Trustees will be maintaining them in the future. As I am writing this the crew is finishing the final cemetery in Cass Township for 2022. The Commission members are already talking about a date for next year's schedule.

The Commission also owes a big thanks to member Pat Brown from Lyons, Indiana. Pat has the distinction of being our oldest member and does most of the research for the Commission. Annette Daniels, who is also a Greene County Historical Society member. Perry Bovenschen, who drives Pat around and does her leg work in the cemeteries. Mike Campbell, who knows most of the cemeteries in the county by digging graves in many of them and the newly elected president of the Commission, Lori Brown. The Greene County Cemetery Commission has made a lot of progress despite the problems with finances and COVID.

Thanks are also due to the past president of the Commission Bryan Kohlmyer for getting the donations of hand and power tools and purchasing the ones that were not donated.

Ed Michael, Commissioner
Greene County