

## Franklin County Cemetery Commission

459 Main Street

RECEIVED Brookville, IN 47012

FEB 27 2006 February 25, 2006

INDIANA HISTORICAL  
BUREAU

Pamela J. Bennett  
Indiana Historical Bureau  
140 North Senate Avenue, Room 130  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2296

Dear Ms. Bennett:

The first county cemetery commission consisting of five members was appointed by the Franklin County commissioners, October 15, 2001, according to the provisions of IC 23-14-67-2. The officers of the commission for the year 2005 were as follows: Donald L. Dunaway, president (term expires 2008), Patricia Smith, vice-president (2007) and John Estridge, secretary (2006). In addition, Juanita Baker (2009) and Ed Baker (2006) are members of the commission. All except Juanita Baker have served since October 2001. This letter is the cemetery commission's report as required by IC 23-14-67-3.5.

The cemetery commission held meetings each month in 2005 except in January and December which were cancelled because of the weather (snow and poor road conditions).

A total of 21 Department of Natural Resources survey forms were completed this year bringing the number of cemeteries visited and surveys prepared to 101. The Commission has identified 31 additional cemeteries, but as of this date, has not been able to determine the exact location of these cemeteries. There is estimated to be approximately 170 cemeteries within Franklin County. Plans for 2006 are to continue to work on locating more of the small, isolated cemeteries, on-site assessment and completing the survey forms for them.

A budget of \$12,000 was approved by the County Council and the State for funding the Cemetery Commission in CY 2005. The funding was used primarily for cleaning and restoring seven cemeteries. These were as follows: Berry, Collett, Halstead and Holliday in Brookville Township, Harvey in Blooming Grove Township, Berg-Harding in Highland Township and Old Brick in Posey Township. (Only 1/3 of the total work to be done was completed in the Old Brick Cemetery in 2005, the remainder will be done in 2006 and 2007.)

One additional cemetery, New Trenton Cemetery in Whitewater Township was restored with township funds by the township trustee.

The commission intends to provide identification signs for all eligible county cemeteries. To-date 46 signs have been purchased by the commission, plus seven funded by others,

but through the commission. As of the end of CY 2005, 39 signs have been erected. No additional signs were purchase in 2005.

Principal work planned for 2006 includes restoring (up to) seven cemeteries in the county, fencing and cleaning several, erecting remaining signs and continuing with that project and completion of DNR documentation. The commission is reviewing a plan for cemetery restoration submitted at the November 2005 meeting by commission member Ed Baker. At this time, county funding for the Cemetery Commission for CY 2006 is uncertain pending state approval of the county budget.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Donald L. Dunaway". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

President, Franklin County  
Cemetery Commission

Copies to:  
Franklin County Commissioners  
Franklin County Cemetery Commission