

Brown County man accused of moving gravestones

NASHVILLE, Ind. -- A Brown County man is awaiting a trial on charges that he moved grave markers at a historic cemetery to make room for a septic system for his home.

Daniel B. Scalpelli, 47, of Morgantown, was accused in December 2001 with disturbing graves in the Fleetwood Cemetery.

Scalpelli faces a felony charge of disturbing a cemetery without a permit, and misdemeanor charges of cemetery mischief and moving a grave memorial without a recording.

A bench trial is set for May 21 in Brown County Circuit Court.

Revolutionary war veteran William Wilkerson, who died in Brown County in 1842, is among those buried in the cemetery.

IU archaeologist Cheryl Munson, an advocate for stricter laws to protect cemeteries, said she believes the case could be a landmark decision.

Prosecutor Jim Oliver said he was unaware of any similar cases in the state.

"I've never had a case like this before," he said. "We do have a Revolutionary War veteran buried there, so it's garnered a lot of attention."

Court documents allege Scalpelli did not obtain a permit from the Historic Preservation Division of the state Department of Natural Resources and did not file any documents with the county recorder's office.

Scalpelli could not be reached for comment Saturday. A message was left at his home by The Associated Press.