Cemetery Preservation Training Facts

Cemeteries are important reminders of our past and provide to us a sense of who we are. More importantly, cemeteries represent a physical legacy for future generations and must be preserved as a historical resource. Preservation starts with establishing goals and providing a good training program.

Goals of Cemetery Preservation Training:

- Understand how to develop a successful cemetery preservation plan
- Gain experience to identify and resolve issues
- Learn the proper skills to repair common problems
- Preserve the cemetery for future generations

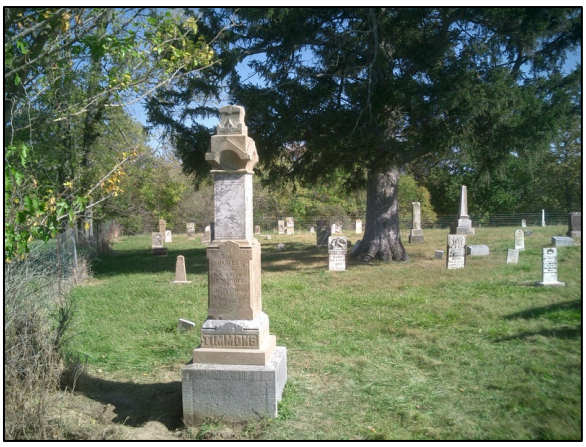
Basic cemetery training involves elementary tasks such as documenting, washing, probing, and resetting certain types of markers.

Advanced cemetery training teaches the more complex techniques of resetting and repairing additional markers like pillars, obelisks, and multi-base monuments.

Morain Cemetery before clean up

In both basic and advanced cemetery training it is important to be aware of what techniques to use and what techniques to avoid. Commonly-used but inappropriate and damaging techniques include setting stones in concrete, repairing broken markers with concrete instead of correct adhesive, and using adhesives, cleaning solutions and techniques that will further damage the marker.

A comprehensive training program provides modern information and the tools to be successful.



Morain Cemetery after clean up

The following lectures and workshops are available*:

**provided by and in consultation with the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency*

- Saving Pieces of History
- Understanding Cemeteries and the Laws Protecting Them
- The Fundamentals of Cemetery Preservation (classroom lecture, part of Basics Workshop)
- Basic Cemetery Preservation Workshop (required classroom lecture, hands-on)
- Advanced Cemetery Preservation Workshop (Basic Cemetery Preservation Workshop required, hands-on)

For further information on specific training opportunities, contact Dawn Cobb, Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, at 217/558-8973 or dawn.cobb@illinois.gov. Visit the IHPA cemetery preservation webpage at www.illinoishistory.gov/Cemetery for more information.