

Why SAPIC Gravestone Preservation Training?

This activity provides individuals with the opportunity to gain experience by identifying problems and understanding their solutions. It also provides experience what can be accomplished in-house and recognizing when to leave the work to a professional conservator.

For cemetery personnel or volunteers, workshop training will help keep expenses and mistakes at a minimum. This experience will allow more on-site repairs, expose personnel to acceptable skills or maintenance, cleaning, resetting and repairing grave markers.



Working with historical materials is very different from new construction and requires specific knowledge, abilities, tools, and techniques. Within the cemetery, acceptable skills must be used in the maintenance and repair of many elements; grounds, grave markers, trees, fences. Choosing materials and procedures will vary with each component and the most often occurrence is with historical grave markers. Failure to use acceptable methods/materials can result in permanent damage and diminish historic value.

An effective program will introduce current information, demonstrate modern methods, present approved materials and illustrate the use of suitable tools. The training should provide attendees with a hands-on opportunity to use simple methods, products and uncomplicated equipment.

The State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries (SAPIC) provides a descriptive workshop packet that includes all the necessary information for a cemetery preservation activity.

Also, SAPIC provides a monetary training grant that requires membership and a grant application may be found at: <http://sapiciowa.org/sapicgrantapplication.pdf>
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