



GRAVESTONE PRESERVATION WORKSHOP

Presented by
Collin County Historical Commission
Bear Creek Cemetery
April 29, 2011





Collin County Historical Commission invited Jonathan Appell to lead a workshop at Bear Creek on a sunny, windy day near Nevada, Texas. After introductions and summaries of his experience and outline for the day's objectives, the group set out into the cemetery for an overview of types of stone, types of repairs, leveling and resetting and mortaring. Groups from as far as Hillsboro attended, and Anne Shelton of the Texas Historical Commission was also on hand. Rusty Brenner, a conservator from Dallas, was also in attendance and could be a source for local repairs and estimates for grant applications.

Trained volunteers could manage certain basic resetting, which would be for slot tablets in once piece, without damage, just loose or out of their bases. Mr. Appell used a loose tablet to show how to test for soundness and suitability for simple repair.

The mirror technique of lighting inscriptions for legibility was demonstrated to great effect (below left).

Cleaning was also discussed and a product demonstrated on a child's grave marker (below right). The product used (D/2) was a biocide and would work very well in cemeteries where trees are prevalent.

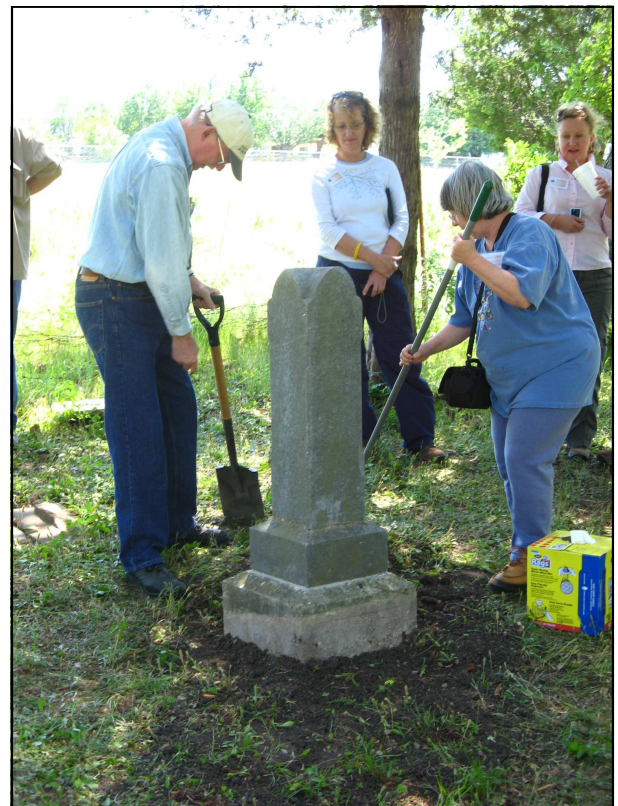


Before spraying and brushing, left, and after cleaning below. Biocide would continue to brighten surface.





Leveling a tipping monument is essential in preserving and protecting an unbroken marker. This headstone was detached from its base but still standing. It was removed using this hand built tripod with a pulley and strap system. The foundation was leveled, using sand and gravel once the base was dug around and movable. Then the two surfaces were cleaned where monument compound was to be applied (on the base) and then stone epoxy was used as cement for the two parts. The top was then replaced and secured to its base. Final filling was done with soil excavated during the process. Pads and low-tech tools were used to move and position the stone pieces at a very slow pace to avoid damage or injury to people or monuments.



Celebrating Decoration Day in Old City Cemetery

April 30, 2011



A small but determined group from the Boys and Girls Club of Plano placed the Flag of the United States of America on the graves of known veterans in Old City Cemetery on Saturday morning, April 30, 2011. Retired flags were collected and two previously unlisted veterans' graves were marked, those of Fred L Adams and Ladell Davis. Flags were provided by The Plano Conservancy for Historic Preservation.



After the celebration in Old City, the new planting of dwarf mondo grass was photographed in front of Railcar 360, currently undergoing refurbishing and painting. All of these efforts will be spotlighted on Saturday, May 21 during the 100th Birthday Bash for Railcar 360 in Haggard Park. Preservation awards from Plano's Heritage Commission will be presented at 11 am to recognize those involved in historic preservation in Plano.

