## **Cemetery Preservation and Boy Scouts**

Eagle Scout projects benefit local schools, churches, and communities. Some Boy Scouts choose to clean up or repair old cemeteries in an effort to honor those who lived before us. This is an admirable and worthwhile project but many mistakes have inadvertently been made, resulting in damage to grave markers. The Illinois Historic Preservation Agency strongly encourages all Boy Scouts and their adult leaders to consult with the Agency before beginning any cemetery project. We can provide you with some basic steps to get your project on the right track.

Cemetery preservation projects can involve probing for, exposing, and cleaning buried markers and resetting some markers. More advanced projects include repairing broken markers. Each of these activities involves a disturbance to a grave (probing) or grave marker (cleaning, resetting, and repair) and should be done by those trained in proper cemetery preservation techniques. The work itself is not difficult, but you need to know the proper methods before beginning any such project. The Illinois Historic Preservation Agency is committed to providing the training and assistance to ensure that your cemetery preservation project is a success.

The following steps will help you have a successful cemetery preservation project:

- Consult with the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency about required permits
- Visit <a href="www.illinoishistory.gov/Cemetery">www.illinoishistory.gov/Cemetery</a> for instructional handbooks (free downloads) to help plan and carry out your project
- Obtain written permission from the landowner to enter the property
- Establish your project goals
- Take cemetery preservation training classes
- Plan your work and work your plan for a successful project!

Please contact, Dawn Cobb, Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, 1 Old State Capitol Plaza, Springfield, Illinois 62701, <a href="mailto:dawn.cobb@illinois.gov">dawn.cobb@illinois.gov</a>, 217-558-8973.