

Mechanicsburg Cemetery Restoration

With no burials since the 1940's Mechanicsburg cemetery a once center point of the former town of Reese's Mills was in much need of restoration.



From an article in the *Lebanon Reporter* in November of 2011 I selected the restoration as my Eagle Scout Project. With grants from Boone County Youth as Resources , Boone REMC and private donations from local businesses, clubs and citizens the total raised was \$3135.39 From May 10th until August 12th more than 35 volunteers spent three days donating their time, energy and muscle. The cemetery has about 200 headstones, more than 85% were in need of being up righted, repaired or reset and all stones needed cleaned.

Volunteer day one was spent removing over 50 trees and brush from the cemetery. Volunteer day two involved all youth, cub scouts, boy scouts , siblings and adults cleaning headstones. Volunteer day three was spent up-righting and repairing some of the larger stones. A total of 565 volunteer hours were spent in the restoration.

Prior to the project, permission to start had to be obtained through Washington Township, the Indiana Department of Natural Resources and the adjacent property owner/caretaker.

A majority of the budget was for labor to upright headstones that were determined to require special equipment. If not for donated materials and equipment this project would have taken longer than one summer. Additional tasks added and completed were, an entrance marker, (as there was none) replacing the entrance gate (as it was a common cattle gate) and replacing the base/welding to the "Harrison" monument as shown in the next few pictures. Many thanks to all the people and businesses that donated materials or money. Without that I would have never been able to make the impact I did.

Sincerely,
Cole Thompson
Troop 350

For more pictures please visit my web site at
<http://www.cemetery.homestead.com>





Before



After



Before



After

Before Cleaning



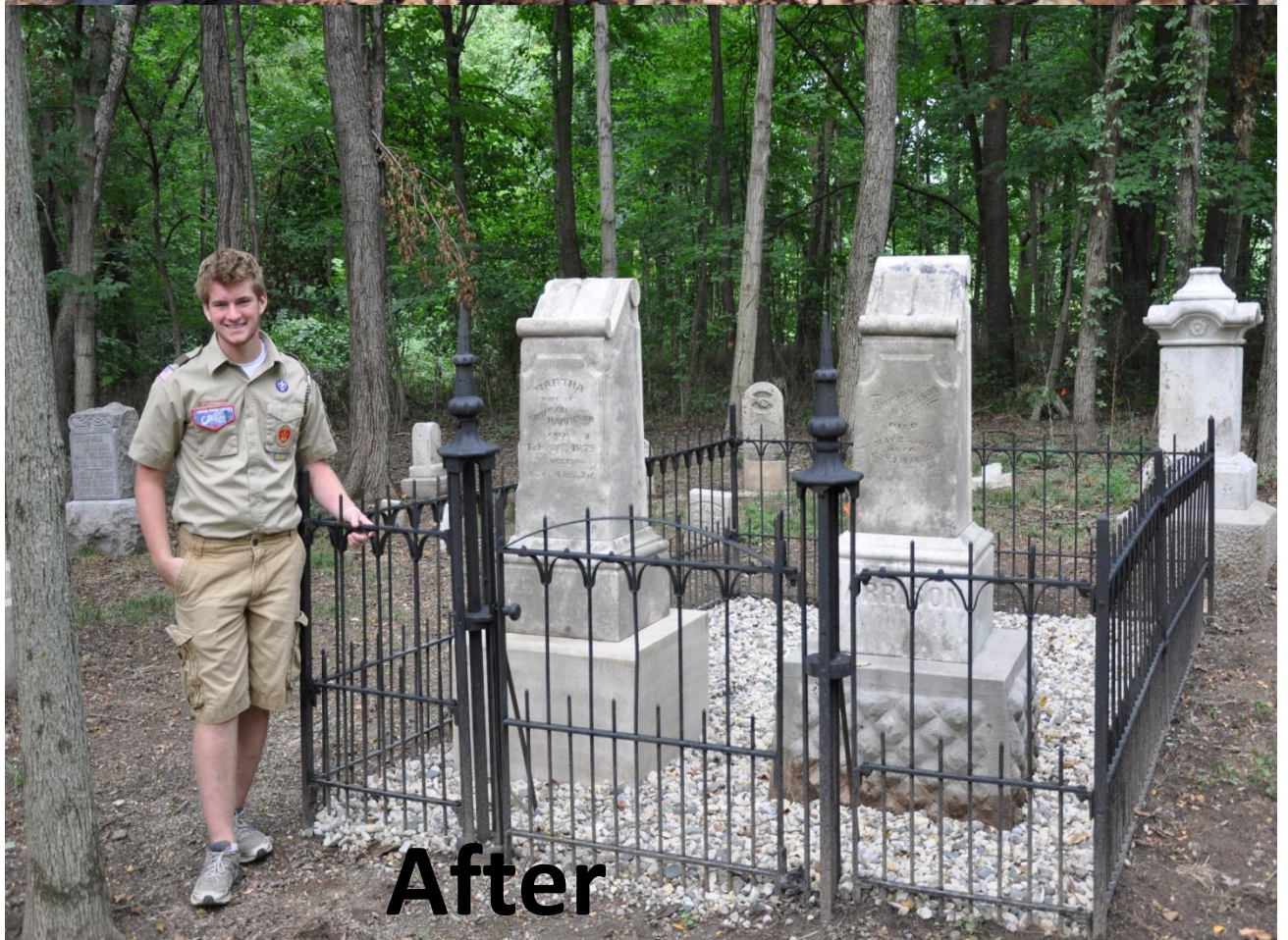
After Cleaning



Some of the Civil War Headstones



Before



After



"We owe our pioneer ancestors
a better monument than a forgotten
grave amid bramble and thicket."

Restoration 2012
Eagle Scout
Cole Thompson



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

Many thanks to all who donated to my project:

- Boone County REMC
- Boone County (Youth As Resources)
- A&K Custom Monument Service
- American Legion Post 113
- Sons of the American Legion Post 113
- Fraternal Order of the Eagles #2062
- Ashcraft and Frazier Orthodontics
- Subway – Lebanon
- Lebanon Elks Lodge 635
- Green Cycle of Indiana – Whitestown
- Hendricks Design and Print – Tom Dillon
- Brian Feltner – Stone Mason
- S. Brian Wilson – Grave Locator
- BSA Troop 350 - Advance, IN
- BSA Pack 350 – Jamestown,IN
- BSA Pack 370 – Lebanon,IN
- ATP Welding – Lebanon,
- Dulls Christmas Tree Farms - Tom Dull
- The Indiana Historical Society
- Graveyard Groomers – Walt & the Crew
- Indiana Department of Natural Resources
- BSA – Crossroads of America Council
- Capital Cast Stone – Lebanon

And many private donations!