

# Carrying Out the Project

By David J. Pack

## Reason for Doing Project

One of the reasons my project of taking photos of tombstones is important is because some of the tombstones are decaying. Some of the tombstones have been worn away by the weather.



This tombstone can not be read. It is a wooden tombstone. Even with a rubbing one could only slightly make out a date. However from the vital records we know that Edith Penley died on January 12, 1963. This is her marker.



Here is another tombstone where part of the words can be seen. What we see is Charles F. and Willie M. and the words "DIED"—but not much else can be read. From the vital records we learn that Charles Huxtable was born on September 26, 1876 and died in 1877. Willie Huxtable was born February 28, 1875 and died in 1875.

Having the pictures of the tombstones and the vital records connected helps those who might be searching for this family member.

Not all of the tombstones are worn away like these two shown above. Many of the markers are still in a readable condition. This is the most appropriate time to document them for future reference—before weather takes its toll on them too.



This tombstone says a lot.  
It is important to document tombstones,  
so that these unique people are not forgotten.

### **Planning the Project**

My grandmother, Patsy Jenkins, gave me the idea for this project. One day she was visiting and was talking about eagle project ideas. I was discouraged because I had tried to work on an eagle project before, but the place I wanted to work with would never getting back to me, and, in the end, said “no” to my idea. After putting a lot of time into my previous idea, and getting nowhere, I was not ready to get going again. However, my grandma got me going. She talked to me about what two of my uncles did for their eagle projects. They each documented a cemetery. That idea sounded exciting to me.

I looked into it. I quickly found that all of the cemeteries in Colorado have been documented. The names of the deceased were on a few different websites. Then, during my search, I found the “Tombstone Photo Project.” This project plans to document each tombstone in the United States. I searched and found Bear Cañon Cemetery. I went and visited it and liked it right off.

I needed to get approval from the cemetery and “Tombstone Photo Project”. I met with the sexton at the cemetery. Bud Curtis gave me permission to do the project. Jan Herman from the “Tombstone Photo Project” gave me permission also. Then I went and got my scout leaders to sign off on the project. Finally, I got Mr. Curt Dale, the

Pioneer Trails District representative, to sign off on my eagle project. All of this took 17 man hours of which 12 were my personal hours.

### **October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2007 to October 26<sup>th</sup> 2007 - Preparing to go to the Cemetery**

Preparing to go to the cemetery was exciting. October 27<sup>th</sup> was available for me to have a group take pictures at the cemetery, but could I pull it off in 13 days from getting my project approved? I had work to do, and I did it.

First things first: getting the sexton to approve the date for taking pictures. Bud Curtis got back to me and let me know that the day would work if there were no burials scheduled on that day. Next I had to hope for good weather. If it snowed I would not be able to take pictures until the following year.

I got to work on getting volunteers to come. I needed a lot of helpers. I made a flyer to pass out at church along with sign-up sheets. I needed volunteers to help and to bring cameras and laptop computers. I passed out flyers and collected commitments at church for two weeks. I had a great response. A lot of people signed up. I also emailed my Order of the Arrow chapter for help. I got my scout troop to help. I also called family members that lived in the area.

Once I started getting volunteers, I realized I had planning to do be able to pull off taking so many pictures in one day. I talked a lot to my father to plan this out. I had a general idea of the project details, but now I needed to really do it. We came up with a plan.

I then started working on instruction fliers for the volunteers at the cemetery. The flyers I made were: Photographing Tombstones, Verifying Tombstone Information, Organizing Photos, and a map and driving directions to Bear Cañon Cemetery from Parker, Colorado (where I live). I was hopeful, with these fliers, I could quickly instruct many volunteers at once and that they could get to work right away. Unfortunately, other than the map, I found that the volunteers didn't read the fliers. The fliers I made are in the "fliers" section of my Eagle Project binder.

I knew it would be nice if I could feed the crew helping me. I went to Wal-mart and asked if I could have a donation for food. They gave me \$100 to help with the meal. This was great because I was able to get what I needed to feed a large group. I fed them submarine sandwiches, apples, lemonade and cookies. It worked out well. I did not plan on feeding the helpers when I wrote my project proposal. This is something I added. I am glad I did. I bought the food on October 26<sup>th</sup>.

Two days before the cemetery visit I called everyone who had signed up to help. The day before, I also sent a reminder email to those who'd given me their email addresses. I know giving reminder calls helped increase the volunteer turnout.

I called Bud and asked if he had maps and records of the cemetery. He did, so I met with him at the Castle Rock Library on October 23<sup>rd</sup> in the afternoon. The maps he had were great. The vital records he gave me were a paper copy. I asked if he had the vital records on a computer. He did not, so he referred me to Barbara Machann.

I got ahold of Barbara Machann and went to her home on October 24<sup>th</sup>. She had a Microsoft Access database of the vital records. I brought a memory stick and was able to

take the data home. I could not open the data when I got home. My dad was able to do it at his place. The plan my dad and I came up with to be able to take so many pictures on one day and keep it all straight was as follows. Since the cemetery had 5 sections (OCN, OCS, A, B and C), each section has a block number, and each block is divided into lots, I made folders for each section and inside each section folder I made a folder for each block. Each photographer at the cemetery would get vital records for a section and block and then go and take pictures for that block and take notes. The notes would include how many pictures were taken for each tombstone and whether or not a marker could be found. I would add information to the vital records if needed. The plan was to take the pictures in the order listed on the vital record sheet. Each volunteer group would also have a map of the section. Each group going out to take pictures would have a photographer plus another volunteer who would verify the pictures and take notes. The volunteers helping on the computers would take the pictures from the cameras after each block was complete—moving them directly to the right folders on the computer—and then put the vital record sheet into a binder.

On October 24<sup>th</sup> I made copies of the maps and I started printing the vital records. This took a lot of time. I had to set a print area for each section and block within the vital records. I finished printing the vital records on October 26<sup>th</sup>.

A few volunteers could not leave with the group in the morning, so I emailed them the map and reminded them to come.

I mailed a letter to the cemetery asking for permission and also letting them know they had no liability for anything that might go wrong. The cemetery has asked for this letter.

I also made a list of things to bring to the cemetery and gathered the items needed on Friday to be ready for Saturday. This total time in preparatory effort was 27 hours and 30 minutes of which 19 hours was my personal time.

### **October 27, 2007 – 1<sup>st</sup> Day at the Cemetery**

I had my volunteers meet at my church building in Parker, Colorado at 8 am. I gave them map, and we left when all arrived. “Many hands make light work.” I had many hands help me this day. I had 45 volunteers come to the cemetery. These are the helpers that came: Samuel Bell, Greg Brown, Kathi Carter, Milt Jensen, Jessica Lamb, Scott Lamb, Kelly Lamb, Jeff Marsh, Pat Spransy, Brennon Behrmann, Mark Behrmann, Austin Behrmann, Mark Bowers, Tim Dickman, Shannon Dickman, London Dickman, Paul Langlois, Pam Hut, Kevin Hut, Hillary McCallister, Rebekah Miller, Connor Cunningham, Nolan Cunningham, Kaden Forsgren, Christie Forsgren, Josh Long, Roger Long, Lois Chang, Aurora Pack, Marie Pack, John Pack, Sharee Pack, Mirth Pack, Philip Jenkins, Rachel Wheeler, Michael Reynolds, Jordan Reynolds, Austin Warnick, Spencer Dalton, Jacob Merrell, Allen Pack, Jacob Pack, Erin Pack, Marion Pack and Adam Pack.

To start off I did my best to explain the handouts I made. I passed out maps and asked each to read the fliers.



Here I am explaining what needs to be done.  
You cannot tell, but I am in a wheelchair as a result of foot surgery.



Parish Hall behind St. Philips Church  
We were able to use this building during the day.

32 digital cameras were brought, so we had more cameras come than we needed. That is a lot of cameras! Greg Brown also brought his laptop, and I bought my family's laptop. Greg and I added tons of pictures in folders on the computers.



David adding pictures into the computer.

My mother passed out assignments to volunteers and showed them where their destinations were on the maps. I had teams of two volunteers each go out together. One was the photographer and the other was the verification person. The second person was to record how many pictures were taken for each tombstone on the vital record sheet and also add any other information that was important.



Kelly Lamb taking a picture of a tombstone.



Pam and Kevin Hut working their way through  
Old Cemetery North



It is Lunch Time!

Hillary McCallister prepared lunch and served the volunteers. The lunch was sub sandwiches, chips, cookies, lemonade and cookies.



Feeding the Volunteers.

I had planned to have the workers stay until noon. However, we were not close to finished at noon time. Almost all of my volunteers stayed till late in the afternoon.



Brennon Behrmann taking a picture.



My sister, Mirth, liked this tombstone with the butterflies.



One thing that was fun is that quite a few of these old-fashioned horse and buggies came through the cemetery. Everyone stopped taking pictures and watched.

Most of the helpers left around 4 pm. I had a few stay till the very end. Greg Brown was the trooper. He stayed until I left at 6:30 pm.

Thanks to Greg Brown! He solved the concern of merging the photo files from the two laptops. He programmed the computers to do it. He worked on this while at the

cemetery. Then he went home and did more work. Then late that night he came to my home and gave me a data disk of the photos in the right folders. This saved me a lot of time, where I had thought I was going to have to merge the files manually.



Greg Brown at his computer.

1, 515 pictures were taken on this day. That is a ton of pictures! Fortunately, they weigh much less in digital format.

The day went pretty smoothly over-all. What I planned had happened. This day alone took more hours than I had planned for the whole project. This took 312 man hours of which just 10 hours were mine.

### **October 29, 2007 to February 2008 - Finding Problems**

Now came the concern of how to get the photos and the vital records connected. I was not sure how to do this. My dad, a database programmer/analyst, explained it to me. I need to rename each and every photo to so that the name followed this template “section\_block\_lot\_last name\_type.jpg”. While doing this I had to look at the vital records to see what notes were taken and to add the file name of the photo into the vital records. I added six columns to the vital records spreadsheet to accommodate the photo filenames.

I started working on renaming the photo files. Many pictures were taken correctly and notes were written on the vital record pages. The photos and vital records that were done right went fine.

However, there were many that I ran into that were not done well. Some pictures made me wonder how on earth any one could have taken it. Also there were vital records

with no written notes which made it hard to figure out what picture went with each person in the vital record. This hit me hard. I felt stuck and did not know what to do.

I did not understand how this could have happened. I prepared well. I had handouts for them to read. I guess not everyone reads and follows instructions.

Also, at this time, I was recovering from foot surgery. I had complications and ended up in a wheelchair for 4 months. This, together with feeling hopeless regarding my project, caused me to just stop. I know my mom, at the time, was more concerned with me healing than with my working on the project.

Discouragement is hard. It makes you feel like you can do nothing. In the end, summer hit and I did not want to do my project when there were a lot of fun things to do. During this time I did only 15 hours of work—not very much.

I look back now and feel like it was not as bad as it seemed then. I think only about 10% of the photos were messed up. Not as many as I thought at the time. At the time it felt like more—a lot more.

### **February to September 2008 - Delay**

This was a dead time in my project. I did no work on it. I felt there was no way to get it done and that my eagle was far off if not completely out of sight. I really thought I would never get my eagle at this point. I was very discouraged. My parents were really leaving it up to me to finish.

### **September 12, 2008 to January 5th, 2009 – Started Working on my Project Again**

I guess my dad got tired of me not working on my eagle project, so he told me I could not play on the computer or Wii if I had not done at least 30 minutes work on my eagle project the previous day. He explained to me that even though it was very discouraging with all the many concerns that had come up that a little bit at a time could go a long way. Since I had no choice, I started work on my eagle project again.

I really did not like doing it. It was slow work. I kept running into problem after problem. I felt like I was never going to get it done. I do have to say that the rule of not playing the computer or the Wii was all that got me to do it.

I know this is not a good reason, but it did work because there were days that I could not play the computer or Wii.

I still felt at this time that I would never finish and get my eagle. I was still very much discouraged!

Also during this time my dad asked if I could get others to come and help work on renaming the photos and adding the files to the vital records. He talked to me about ideas about how it could be done. Get a scout night and have laptops brought in. Have each scout work on a block. I thought about it, but in the end I realized that it really could not be split up effectively. I talked to my dad about it. I asked him how he would merge the excel spreadsheets and the photo folders back together. The more we talked about it we realized that it really was just a one-person job. And that one person was me. Lucky me!

During this time I worked 29 hours. I look back at this now and see that it is not much work. After all, a 40 hour work week is what I will do when I have a career. But at this time it was huge to me! I learned that when you do not have a real reason to work that it drags on. Doing my eagle project just so I could play the Wii is not a reason at all.

### **January 6<sup>th</sup> 2009 to February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009 – Finding the Right Reason**

Another reason I was dragging my feet on my eagle project was that I had not earned the Personal Fitness merit badge. I had been working on it off and on for more than 4 years. I had struggled with my 90-day fitness plan. I could not count how many times I had done 2 ½ months and then messed up by not finishing the last 2 weeks. Life seemed to get in the way all of the time for me. We would go on a trip, and I would stop exercising. Or I had a big project in school and did that instead. Or I got sick. Whatever it was, I felt like I could not get my eagle because of this merit badge. But I finally did it. I earned the Personal Fitness badge. This gave me a feeling like I could get my eagle.

On January 6<sup>th</sup>, my father pointed out to me that if I did not have my eagle board of review by March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2009 I could not get 3 palms. I had already earned most of the merit badges for the 3 palms. This got me to work hard and for a good reason. I started working with a new effort.

I think it also helped to have my parents take an interest in my project. They were supportive in the beginning of my project and then, when I had to name all of the pictures, it was my job and I felt alone. I felt like it was too big for me to do by myself. It helps a lot to have parents, not just to ask if I did my 30 minutes, but to look at what I did for the day. I know it is my project, and I am to do it, not them. But it helps feeling like there is someone there with you. It just seems that they changed too.

I asked my mom to take a look at what I had done. My mom pointed out to me that I had been working haphazardly and not going at the project in a logical manner. She pointed out to me that I was more than  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the way done with the pictures. I could never see that because I just worked here and there on a picture folder but never in order. So I could never see what work I had actually done. With what my mom showed me, I was closer to being done than I ever thought. I worked even harder to finish naming the photos and adding the file names to the vital records.

I came up with a list of things to do to get my project done. This is the list I made.

### **Things to Do to Complete David's Eagle Project 1/7/2008**

1. Email the Cemetery – set up a time to come back to take pictures
2. Type up the Hours Spent doing the project so far from notes taken.
3. Verify the Photos and Vital Records – Mom's Help
  - a. Section A
  - b. Section B
  - c. Section C
  - d. Section OCN

- e. Section OCS
4. Figuring Out What Photos Need to be Retaken
  - a. Section A
  - b. Section B
  - c. Section C
  - d. Section OCN
  - e. Section OCS
5. Retaking Photos at Cemetery
6. Taking New Photos of new tombs
7. Label New Photos taken
8. Make the Website – Dad’s Help
9. Make CDs of the photos
10. Deliver and mail out CDs
11. Fill out Changes made to the original project
12. Set up Binder
  - a. Signatures sheets
  - b. flyers
  - c. Spread Sheets
  - d. Letters
  - e. Volunteers – Sign up
  - f. Communications, Emails, Logs
13. Write Up Carrying Out the Project
14. After Photos

My Mom thought it was a good idea to have a second set of eyes verifying all of the work I had done. My mom found a few things to change but not much. This took 19 hours and 15 minutes of time of which 12 hours and 15 minutes was mine.

### **February 1<sup>st</sup> to February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2009 - Preparing to go to the Cemetery a 2<sup>nd</sup> Time**

It seemed a lot easier getting ready this time for the cemetery because I had done it before.

I emailed the sexton, Bud Curtis, and found out that there was a new sexton, Sean Curtis. I made arrangements to come on February 7.

I made a flyer to hand out to my crew. On February 1<sup>st</sup> I asked my crew to come and help. I did not need as many helpers this time, so just asking a few was ok. At my Order of the Arrow chapter meeting I also asked for help.

I thought it would be nice if I had donuts and homemade root beer for the scouts. I asked King Soopers to help with a donation. They donated \$25 dollars. With this I bought the donuts and stuff to make homemade root beer. I called the scouts on Friday after school to remind them. When calling I found that some who said they could come would not be able to make it. I called other scouts to help out. I found three others to come and help.

I printed out the vital records. I had the vital records colored-coded for what type of work needed to be done. The type of things I needed done was to verify the lots,

retake pictures, take a new picture, etc. I made a list of what to bring to the cemetery and gathered it on Friday to be ready for Saturday.

My dad and I talked about things that needed to change. I made plans on how to do this. I made simple fliers and planned to show the crew how to get the job done at the cemetery. Here is an example of my simple flier:



Not a Good Picture!



Good Picture!

This simple flier helped a lot! I was ready to go back and get the job done right this time. This took 9 hours of time of which I spent 7 hours.

### **February 7, 2009 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Day at the Cemetery**

This was an exciting day! I was going back after so long. I had overcome my obstacles and was correcting the wrong things that had happened on the first volunteer day.

I had the volunteers who were other scouts from my crew meet at my home. Since there were not as many of them we only took two cars. There were ten volunteers for this day. They were Ryan Oaks, Jordan Reynolds, Michael Reynolds, Nolan Cunningham, Conner Cunningham, John Pack, Sharee Pack, Marie Pack, Aurora Pack and Mirth Pack. Bud Curtis and Sean Curtis showed up and helped by answering questions and identifying new burials and markers. They went through the log book to get new burials from October 27, 2007, the last time I was at the cemetery. They showed me the new tombstones. Bud Curtis also helped with verifying a tombstone that had broken off.

This was a day of change! There were many things that had gone wrong the first day without me knowing about it until I was home and going over the records and photos. One of the changes was the way I gave instructions to the volunteers. The first time I handed out detailed information sheets on what to do and how to do it. Since most did not read them and just thought they knew what do to I came up with the idea of showing the volunteers how to do it this time around. My flyer was simple. It had pictures of a wrong picture and a picture taken correctly. I then showed them how to use the cemetery maps, and we all walked out to the tombstone to take a picture and verify the lot number. This worked great!!! They understood because I showed them how to do it and we all did it together.



Here I am explaining how to do the work.  
Then I went out to the cemetery and showed them how to do it.

Another change I made was when the volunteers came back I personally verified the pictures were taken correctly. I only had to send one group of scouts back to re-take a picture. I could have done this the first day at the cemetery; I just never thought that pictures were going to be taken wrong.

I was the one on the laptop making the changes. I also added the photos to the correct folders on the computer and added the information in the vital records spreadsheet. I really wanted, when we left that day, that all the information and photos were done.

When I first got to the cemetery I knew it would take time for me to set up, so I laid out donuts for the scouts to eat while I got ready. This worked great! The first time at the cemetery, the setup was frustrating for me. We all arrived at the same time, and I had things to set up and get ready for them. Having the scouts eat is always a good thing! For lunch, my mom and sister, Marie, made homemade root beer. It was a big hit with the scouts! The scouts brought a sack lunch to eat.

A really cool thing that happened was the sextant, Sean, came and asked if I knew where a certain person was buried. The cemetery uses a log book to look up this information. Sean had someone call him and ask where a certain person was buried. He could not tell her. He knew she was buried in the cemetery, but did not know where. He came and asked if I did. I was quickly able to search the spreadsheet, find the person, and gave him the section, block and lot number. He went out to see, and I was right. This was good for me to see how this project will help the cemetery, and I think it was good for them to see too.

One of the funny things that happened was that I wanted the picture of the tombstone of section OCS block G Lot 30 to be retaken. I sent two scouts out to do it. However, they could not find it. I knew it had to be here since we had a lousy picture. So I sent an older scout out to find it—one who knew the cemetery sections and blocks well. He also could not find it. Later, I realized it could not be found because it had been removed from the cemetery and moved to a cemetery in Golden, Colorado.



This is the person who was removed from the cemetery.  
You can see why I wanted the picture to be retaken!

91 tombstones were checked this day. We either verified the lot numbers, took pictures of new tombstones, found missing tombstones, looked for tombstones of sections that had to be wrong in the vital records, or retook pictures that were not taken correctly the first time.

We had so much to do that we did not finish the work. I still had 39 more tombstones to check out. But I had told the scout's parents that the scouts would be back by 4 pm, and I need to close up for the day. Also the sun was getting close to setting and we would not be able to see soon. So plans were made to come back.



Part of the group that came and helped me this day.

When we got home, there was still work to do fixing up the photos and vital records. Work continued into the evening.

The total man hours this day was 97 hours and 15 minutes of which I spent 11 hours and 20 minutes.

### **February 11, 2009 – 3rd Day at the Cemetery**

Since we did not finish all the work needed on the 7<sup>th</sup> of February verifying tombstones and lots, I needed to come back and do more. There was not much left to do, and I was trying to get it done before there was more snow on the ground. I asked my sisters to help. I had planned to go sooner but it snowed, and we had to wait for the snow to melt. We went four days later on the 11<sup>th</sup> of February. We had 39 more tombstones to either verify the lot, retake a picture, take a new picture because the tombstone was new, or to find pictures that were taken on October 27, 2007 that were not clearly identified. I was happy when I left the cemetery, I thought for certain I was done with the entire picture taking and verifying of lots. I was wrong!

Volunteers this time were my sisters, Marie, Aurora and Mirth. My mom also came and helped. This took 27 hours and 30 minutes of man hours of which I spent 7 hours and 30 minutes.

### **February 11 to February 22, 2009 Verifying Records and Photos / Started Write UP**

My dad is a database programmer and knows how to program websites also. This skill is helping me with this part of the project. My dad looked over the excel spreadsheet of the vital records and found he needed to get the data more prepared for the website. He first separated the name field. The name was in one cell in the spreadsheet. He programmed in excel and had the computer separate the first and last name. He joined the comments and photographer comments fields. While doing this he also corrected formatting, for consistency, and spelling. He started programming the computer to turn the spreadsheet into web pages. This would make it easier for him when the time came to create the website.

While doing this he realized he needed to have a new field for the subplot. Some lot numbers had letters after the number like A, B, C, or D which indicates where the person is buried within a lot or that an additional burial was made between two regular lots. The letters were interfering with how excel sorted the data. Any letter was being sorted at the end of the lot which made it hard to see where everything really went. After my dad created the subplot field the excel spreadsheet then sorted the data correctly. There are 40 sublots in the data.

By doing this and seeing the data in the right order for the first time, my father could see that there were duplicates and that there were couples wrongly associated. He then did a verification of the data by himself. By doing this he found 11 more of the unknowns. He found where these people were buried.

I worked more on my write-up during this time. I also printed out vital records for going back to the cemetery for the three I needed to check on. This took my father 12 hours, and I spent 3 hours and 25 minutes working on my write up.

### **February 22nd, 2009 – 4th Day at the Cemetery**

While my Dad was verifying joining comments and looking for duplication he found three concerns where it was necessary to go back to the cemetery to check it out. I went back with my mom to verify three tombstones. I had high hopes that this was the last time to verify tombstones at the cemetery. I also took pictures of the cemetery and surrounding area. In the past I had only take a picture of the main sign and the church. I took pictures of more areas for my “carry out the project report”. This took 3 hour and 20 minutes of man hours time of which I spent 1 hour and 40 minutes of time.

### **February 22<sup>nd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> - Verifying Photos Names**

I added the information into the vital records and the photos in the right folders from the pictures we took on February 22<sup>nd</sup>.

When my dad was verifying information before and working on the programming of the website he noticed that some of the file names of the pictures were not done correctly. When I started naming the jpegs of the pictures I did not know that I could not add any symbols like “#”. I did not know that this would affect website programming and would cause concerns with the website.

My dad went through and changed every file name that had “#” or other similar symbols that would cause concerns with the website. He did this by looking at the vital records and at the pictures taken. He went line by line through the vital records and looked at each and every person and their picture(s).

By doing this he was able to add some middle initials to the vital records. He also deleted about 30 pictures that were duplicates. Many of the extra pictures taken of tombstones had simply been named “extra.” When my dad started to plan the website he wanted the file name of the pictures to be meaningful. “Extra” was not very meaningful in many cases. So he changed “extra” to a meaningful name such as “foot” for footstone, “text” for a close-up of the text on the tombstone, “family” for the family marker, “area” for surrounding area, “rubbing” for the rubbings taken, “military” for a military marker, and so forth. He changed around 360 file names to make them more specific.

By doing the entire photo file he also found one more unknown person and where they are buried in the cemetery. He also found tombstone pictures with couples that were not matched correctly. This is because before there was a subplot the excel spreadsheet would sort these types of files at the end of the block rather than sequentially – which had led to mis-pairing some married couples.

My father found that once again we needed to go to the cemetery to verify lots, tombstones, and get rubbings. This took 8 hours and 30 minutes of time of which I spent 30 minutes.

### **February 25, 2009 – 5th Day at the Cemetery**

I never thought way back when I was starting to plan this project that I would have to go to the cemetery five times to verify and take pictures of tombstones. The last and final time to do this was on the 25<sup>th</sup> of February. I went with my dad and mom this time. We verified 21 tombstones and did 5 rubbings.



Here I am doing a rubbing.

It was wearied walking around the cemetery this time (as I had been getting sick). I have been there so much that I have personally seen every picture taken. I feel like I know the cemetery and tombstones very well. So much that I knew when I walked by a place that the picture of the family marker of this spot had not been taken. So I took the picture and added it to the correct files. When we got home we added the information to the vital records and the photo files.

I also worked more on my “carry out the project report” on this day. I had taken lots of notes, and now I had to type it all up. During this day it took 15 hours and 10 minutes of time of which I spent 4 hours and 40 minutes.

### **February 26, 2009 – Website Day and Writing the Project Up**

My dad worked on the website after coming home from work. He worked hard into the wee morning hours. He generated over 70 webpages in a single night thanks to the spreadsheet programming he’d done earlier. My dad knows that I have a deadline. My mom went to Kinkos and got the maps of the cemetery scanned into pdf files for the website. My sister Marie drew a picture of “No Tombstone Found.” Thanks to my family I am going to finish on time.

The Sedalia Historic Group meets once a month. That meeting is tomorrow. I want to be at this meeting to show them what I have done with my project and present them the data CD. Otherwise, I will have to wait another month. I don’t want to do this.

I also am giving them the map of the cemetery. This group has a museum in Sedalia and will be putting my data disk on the museum computer so that anyone can use it. After this meeting I have set another meeting. I am meeting with Bud Curtis who is the sextant who signed my project in the first place. I am going to give them two data CDs. I am also going to show him how to use the data disk. I cannot believe it. I am getting my project signed off tomorrow. This took 20 hour and 20 minutes of man hours time of which I spent 7 hour and 40 minutes of time.

### **February 28, 2009 – Turning in the Data Disks**

Today I went to the Sedalia Historic Group and showed them the disk containing the entire project. It went great except for one small detail.

I brought my family's laptop to demonstrate the web pages and other features on the disk. When I got there and was setting up, I noticed that the group had a computer in the room, and I asked to use it. This computer used Internet Explorer as its browser. The website that my father programmed had not been checked in other browsers. We use FireFox at home. The SpryAssets did not run well in Internet Explorer. The links still work in Internet Explorer; however, it did not look nice on the home page.



Here I am showing the Sedalia Historic Group how to use the web pages.

Since the links worked I was still able to show them the work that had been done for my project. I told them I would talk with my father and get them a disk that worked well with other browsers. During my presentation to the group I showed them how to use all of the features on the disk. The presentation went very well. The group explained to me that they would use my project a lot. They also gave me a list of other places to send copies. They felt like the Castle Rock Library would use it. I will contact these groups and send them a copy as well.



The Sedalia Historic Group

It was great to see how excited the group was for my project. After all, these are some of the women who helped collect the records of the cemetery and put them in order after the flood. I was asked if the data disks were “for sale.” I told them that it was not for sale, but that I would provide as many as they wanted. One woman asked if they could have 12 disks. That showed me how important this work is to this group. I left feeling pretty good about my project and the work that had been accomplished.



Sedalia Historic Group meets once a month at the Sedalia Historic Fire House.

Barbara Machann, who has been my main contact with the Sedalia Historic Group, could not be at the meeting because she was working. She was the one who provided me with the vital records that were on the computer at the start of my project.



Meeting with Barbara Machann:  
Here I am giving her the maps of the cemetery.

When the meeting with the Sedalia Historic Group was over, I went across the street and talked to Barbara Machann at her place of business. I gave her a set of maps of the cemetery and talked to her about what I did. I told her I would mail her a new disk when I had fixed the problem with the browsers. I had her sign-off my project, since she represented the Sedalia Historic Group. Barbara told me the cemetery records are the most complete that they have ever been. She also explained that the Sedalia Museum has visitors that ask if they know where their ancestors are buried. She explained that my project will help the museum a great deal in assisting such visitors.

Last, but not least, I went to the cemetery and met with Bud Curtis and gave him a presentation of my project. He was very impressed. Bud was very grateful for my work. He also explained that he had a project to find the veterans in the cemetery and was going to have to walk through the cemetery to look at every tombstone to find the vets. Now all he has to do is click to see each tombstone. Bud signed-off on the project.



Giving Bud Curtis, the sexton at the cemetery, a copy of the project disk.

Today showed me how important all the hard work was. It is nice to know that my project will be used for years to come. I also explained to each of these groups that if they wanted to keep the website up-to-date that each year they could send me photos and

the vital records of those who had passed on. I will then add them to the website and send back a new version of the project disk. They said they would do this. I know keeping up the website is not part of my Eagle Project, but it's a great service I'm happy to offer. The presentations and travel took 9 man-hours of which I spent 4 hours and 30 minutes.

### **February 29, 2009 – Adapting the Website for Older Browsers**

I contacted Jan Herman, who is part of the Photo Tombstone project. I have a meeting set up tomorrow at 9:30 am to present the project disk to her. I also need her to sign-off the project.

My father added a new entry page to the website. He replaced the Java vertical menu with a very simple table menu. Since the menu is simple it will run in any browser now. It will also run on older browsers. This took 2 hours and 30 minutes of which I spent 30 minutes.

### **March 1, 2009 – Meeting with Colorado Photo Tombstone Project**

Today I met with Jan Herman who is with the Colorado Photo Tombstone Project. My father went with me. I showed Jan and her husband how to use the project disk.



Showing Jan Herman how to use the project data

Jan was impressed with my work and felt like my work would be up rather quickly on the Photo Tombstone Project website because it was packaged in a way that's prepared for upload to a website.



Jan Herman of the Colorado Photo Tombstone Project outside her historic home

Mrs. Herman signed-off on the project. The delivery and presentation took 3 and a half hours of which 2 hours was my personal time.

### **March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2009 – Finishing Write Up and Scout Leaders Sign Off**

Today I spent finishing the write up – typing up the Cost of Materials and Project Changes pages in my workbook. I also wrote letters to all the places I'm mailing the project disk. I made copies of the data disk and mail them to 13 different groups that are interested in genealogy. I also sent new project disks to the cemetery and the Sedalia Historic Group. These data disks work with any internet browser.

My father proofread my write up and corrected spelling and grammar errors. I had a scoutmaster conference and had my leader look over my workbook and sign-off my project. Then I met with my father, who is the Committee Chairman for my crew, and he also signed-off on my project. My project is now ready to take it to the Scout Office. This took 11 man-hours of which I spent 7 hours.

**March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2009 – Made Copies of my Workbook**

I made copies of my workbook and assembled the copies. This took one hour of my time. All I have now is to wait until March 12th for my Eagle Scout Board of Review.