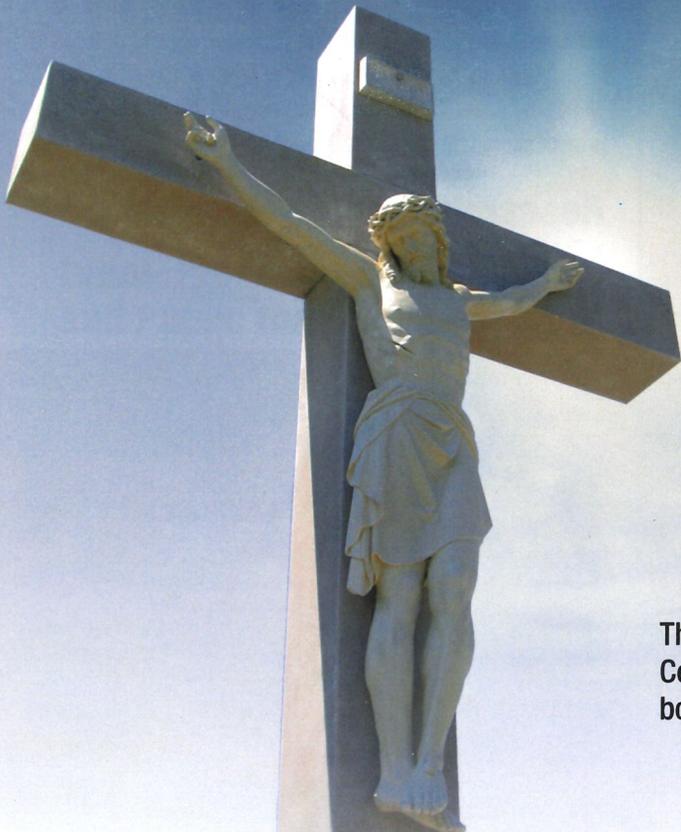


*Together we can give
respect and dignity
to our early
pioneers.*

Helen Wildermuth



Thank you for your interest in Stonehugger Cemetery Restoration, Inc. Detailed in this booklet you'll find:

- Cemetery restoration services
- Before and after examples of our work
- Letters of recommendation
- Recent articles in the news



Crucifix, St. Joseph Catholic Church, White County, Reynolds, IN 2006

Stonehugger Cemetery Restoration Inc.

Philosophies and Thoughts on Pioneer Cemetery Restoration and Preservation

Much of the work we do here at Stonehugger Cemetery Restoration, Inc. (SCRI) is in pioneer cemeteries; most are more than one hundred years old and are the legacy of families that reside in the community today. My goal when I step into a pioneer cemetery is not only to restore the gravestones as close to the condition they were in when they were first set at the head of the grave, but to create thorough documentation for ongoing perpetual care. Let me explain:

In my opinion, the restoration process is not complete without gaining an understanding of the people and the families that make up our pioneer heritage. Damaged cemeteries are best reconstructed by understanding the history of the site including family lineage, how they married, the number of children they buried, what they did in life, and often how they died. This history is the thread that weaves together the story of the cemetery and the heritage of descendants who have lived on. These pioneers also become my family; my involvement becomes personal and accurate documentation is critical to our work.

While my passion is focused in the repair and restoration of cemeteries, I am also keenly interested in public education. Public awareness is essential for communities to retain an acute sense of the art, beauty, and the local history that is found in the cemeteries of their pioneer citizens. If these cemeteries are left in disrepair and ruin, they may not be here in the future and an important part of our culture will be lost forever.

Again, thank you for your interest in SCRI It is my heartfelt hope that you now have a better understanding of who we are and what we do. Please feel free to contact me if I can answer any questions or be of any assistance in any way with your cemetery restoration project.

Sincerely,

Helen Wildermuth
Stonehugger Cemetery Restoration, Inc.

Bring new life

Stonehugger Cemetery Restoration, Inc. is an insured, full-service cemetery restoration company specializing in complete renovation and repair of pioneer cemeteries within the Great Lakes states and beyond. No cemetery project should be considered too large or small.

Research and Documentation

- Total cemetery restoration and reconstruction.
- Cemetery feature analysis and interpretation.
- Before and after photography.
- Marker reading and data recording.
- Comprehensive database generation.
- Safe archival records preparation.
- Experience in cemeteries containing prairie grass preserves.
- Other services.



Gravestone, Marker and Monument Repair

- AGS approved gravestone and marker conservation techniques.
- Resetting and leveling of skewed and or toppled stones.
- Repair of broken markers using appropriate epoxies.
- Relocation of buried and broken gravestone components.
(operating with state permits where applicable)
- Multi-piece monument restoration and renewal.
- Graffiti removal.



Stonehugger Cemetery Restoration Inc.

Helen Wildermuth • (317) 796-6133 • helen@stonehugger.com
P.O. Box 775, Nashville, IN 47448 • www.stonehugger.com

to time-worn cemeteries

Large Scale Restorations

- Statuary
- Church monuments
- Military memorials
- Limestone cemetery signage

Free Estimates (within 200 miles)

- Site visitation, consultation and assessment.

Group Presentations and Public Outreach (call or write for more info)



Other Services

In the course of comprehensive cemetery restoration, it is often necessary to provide supplementary documentation, specialized research and other services. As a full service company, Stonehugger Cemetery Restoration, Inc. partners with professional consultants to offer the additional services:

Replacement Grave Markers

- For placement on unmarked graves.
- Affordable tablets and crosses of Bedford limestone.
- Flat granite markers.



Wrought Iron Fence Restoration

- Repair, replacement and replication.



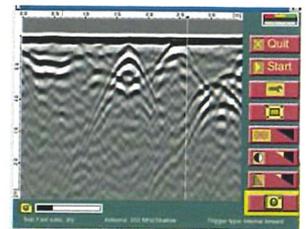
Precise cemetery maps are extremely useful to contemporary property managers and provide a detailed and accurate depiction of the current status that is also very beneficial in ongoing perpetual cemetery care.

Cemetery Mapping

- Precision electronic total station survey of all visible cemetery features.
- Map illustration with Computer Aided Design (CAD).
- Large scale printed versions of cemetery site maps.
- Topographic maps for monitoring erosion.

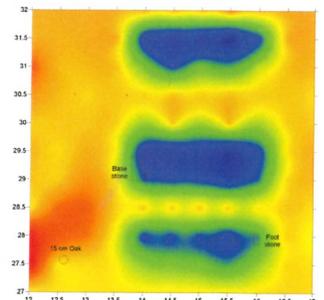
Subsurface Imaging

- Unmarked grave location with Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR).
- Classification of vacant areas within cemetery properties.
- Buried feature detection utilizing EMC, Magnetometry and VLF metal detection.



GPR profile demonstrating a series of subsurface anomalies.

Geophysical measurement technologies may be employed in pioneer cemeteries to identify discrete areas consisting of unmarked graves. Location of vacant areas within a cemetery may be determined as such and prepared for safe future sale or use.



Subsurface image map of unmarked graves.

Restoring stones to their original state

Erin Valentine
Associate Editor

ONCE HELEN WILDERMUTH realized that damaged gravestones could look better, there was no turning back.

Her interest in genealogy had taken her to family members' graves that needed repair, and after taking a class that gave simple techniques for grave restoration, Wildermuth did volunteer work in local cemeteries for two years.

Now, seven years and some 12,000 stones later, Wildermuth's Stonehugger Cemetery Restoration in Nashville, IN is one of few companies doing restoration work for township cemeteries, cemetery associations, churches and for individuals.

"I knew how it felt when looking for my ancestors' graves. You'd find the stone, shoot a picture and get out of there in some cases because it was such a mess," said Wildermuth. "By no means do I consider myself an expert; I am self-taught over the years. But we use the mortars that were used 150 years ago, and the wooden tripod like would have been used then. We use no chemicals and if someone is trying to clean a stone, they should only use water and plastic brushes."

Stonehugger's restoration work can be found in Illinois township cemeteries in Laenna Township in Logan County; Princeton and Berlin Townships in Bureau County; Afton Township, DeKalb County and Decatur Township, Macon Co. Wildermuth has exhibited at TOI's Annual Educational Conference since 2006.

"One thing that is unique about our business is we include the documentation

books with before/after photos with every project. This contribution to genealogy is huge," she said.

Berlin Township Trustee John Gaylord said his township highly recommends Wildermuth's work, and that the pictures she provides are nice to have.

"She does excellent work. She cleans the stones and repairs them when they are broken, and levels them and puts pea gravel under them. Some they make a new base for. If we weren't happy with her, we wouldn't have her come back," he said.



HELEN WILDERMUTH using a wooden tripod to work on stones at Lakeview Cemetery, Wayne Township, IN

Stonehugger Cemetery Restoration Inc.

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before



after

Cradle Beds

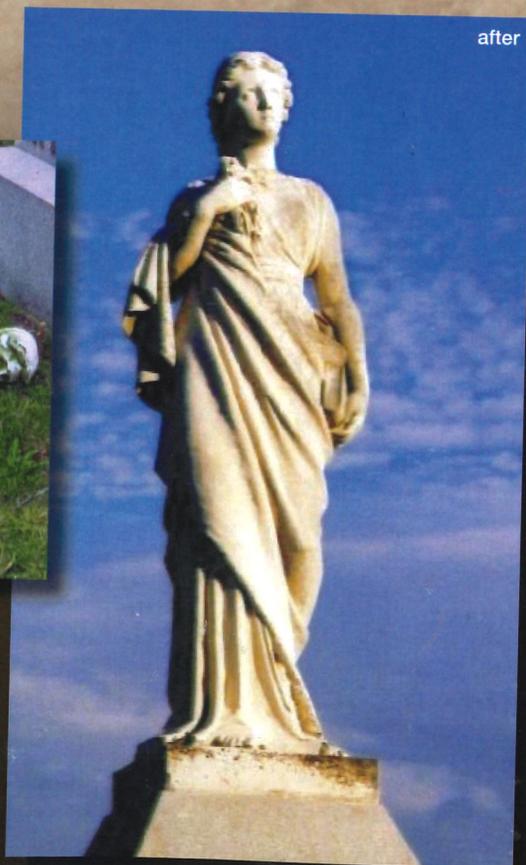
Danville City Cemetery,
Hendricks County,
Danville, IN
2003

(Damage from vandalism)

(Stones carved by
Visquenzie)



before



after

W. B. Parkes Monument

Morgan County, IN
2001

(Damaged by tornado)



before

Doughboy Statue
Monroe County, IN
2003
(Damaged by vandals)



after



during cleaning



after

Cleaning of tablet stone

Lake View Cemetery,
Wayne Township, Noble County,
Kendallville, IN
2004

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