

CSE 170 – Technical Teamwork
Group Service Project
Report

Date: October 22, 2021

Participants: Matthew Manley
Kristi Hansen
Bill Clements
Scott Burton

Summary: Our group decided to help further genealogy work by volunteering to take pictures of gravestones and transcribe gravestone information for the BillionGraves website. We chose this project because our team members are located in different towns and cities across the country. It would not be possible to do anything that required us to be in the same place at the same time. At least two of our members are particularly passionate and involved in family history work which led us to choose this project.

Activities: Our initial plan was for two of us to take pictures and two of us transcribe photos. It turns out that Matt did not know how or could not get his smartphone camera working so he decided to transcribe gravestone information instead. The rest of our team were able to follow through on their individual parts without any problems. Kristi took photos while Bill and Scott transcribed gravestone information. The BillionGraves mobile and web apps took more time to learn than we anticipated. All of us except Matt were able to figure it out.

Outcomes: At the completion of our project 156 gravestones were photographed and uploaded to BillionGraves via the mobile app. 243 gravestone images were transcribed and submitted via the web app. Each of spent slightly more time than was allotted for our specific assignments with Matt spending the most time out of all of us. All together, we contributed 12 hours of service to BillionGraves this week. Though it seems like a small thing to do, all of us agreed that our service made a difference. Combined with all the other picture takers and transcribers, we know our effort will result in significant contribution to family history and genealogy work.

Conclusions: This project was relatively easy to plan and implement. However, we learned how important communication is, especially when you are spread out in different locations. We believe we could have taken many more pictures if we had worked together and helped resolve Matt's problems. As it was, we didn't have any plan for sharing our progress or problems while we were doing the work. We will be sure to include plans for helping each other in future projects.