



Guidelines for Gravestone Rubbings

1. Ask permission of the owner, caretaker or abutter of cemetery, to make a rubbing of a stone.
2. Limit gravestone rubbing to sound stones only. If stone is fragile or unstable, choose another stone.
3. Do not remove lichen or moss. Do not wash or brush stones with anything.
4. The best choice of stones for rubbing are slate stones in good condition with low-relief or incised carvings. These produce the best images on paper and are less easily damaged inadvertently.
5. Avoid rubbing deeply carved stones. Such stones can be easily damaged and generally do not make good rubbings anyway
6. Avoid rubbing marble or other stones with coarse, grained textures, as coloring agents may bleed or cut through the paper onto the stones.
7. Use a heavy grade paper and wrap it completely around the stone and secure it to itself (not the stone) with masking tape only.
8. Use a dark crayon or chalk and rub lightly in one direction so as not to tear the paper. Do not make any marks on the stone itself.
9. Be sure and remove all bits of tape, paper or trash from the area before leaving.