



Headstone Rubbings

Rubbings are a great way to preserve inscriptions and images on often times, historical tombstones that have been up for more than 100 years. The supplies are low cost, and the experience can be a great lesson in historical preservation of important landmarks to Hillsboro's history.

Supplies:

- Light medium **non fusible** interfacing fabric*
- Large crayons or wax**
- Masking tape
- Soft Bristle brush
- Water (no soap)
- Scissors
- Camera (Optional, in case the rubbing doesn't turn out)

*: Light medium **non fusible** interfacing fabric is used as a sturdier alternative to paper, which can withstand tears from the rubbing process and folding. Fabric that is non fusible will withstand ironing if you decide to set the wax. This fabric can be found at a local supply store for around \$1.00 per yard.

** : A "cake" of wax/crayon, or a large piece of wax that is big enough to be handheld is recommended as it will be easier to hold during the rubbing process.

Steps:

- 1) Ensure that the tombstone that you would like is okay to use. Some tombstones are aged and very fragile, and can topple over easily. Check with the City of Hillsboro for approval first.
- 2) Check the tombstone for sturdiness once more before beginning. If a tombstone is wobbly, flaking, or shows signs of significant wear and tear, choose another one so as to avoid toppling it over.
- 3) Using water and soft bristle brush, gently clean the tombstone to properly get rid of anything that may ruin the rubbing. Move downwards up, to avoid damaging inscriptions. Rinse and let dry.
- 4) Cut your fabric plus some to the size and shape of your tombstone. Slightly wrap fabric around your headstone and use masking tape to keep it securely in place.
- 5) Hold the crayon securely in your hand and with a firm but gentle pressure, begin to move in whichever direction you choose (diagonal, horizontal, vertical). For the best results, continue moving in the direction you choose for a more visually appealing and polished rubbing.
- 6) Use even pressure to ensure that there is no obvious streaks on the final result.
- 7) Once you are finished, gently remove the masking tape and fabric from the tombstone.

- "Headstone Rubbing Techniques That Get Results!" Headstone Rubbing Techniques That Get Good Results. Ancestry Printing. Web. 4 Aug. 2015. <<http://www.ancestryprinting.com/headstone.html>>.
- Powell, Kimberly. "How to Do a Tombstone Rubbing." Web. 4 Aug. 2015. <<http://genealogy.about.com/cs/cemetery/ht/rubbing.htm>>.