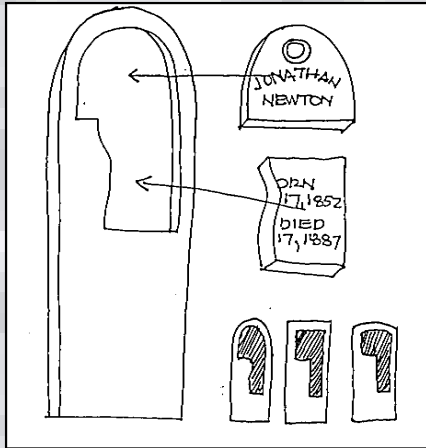


To Preserve Headstone Fragments



- Carve a piece of stone with a recessed area to receive the stone fragments.
- Or cast a concrete headstone using white Portland cement.
- Cut Styrofoam® to duplicate the size and shape of the fragments when pouring the concrete headstone.
- Duplicate the shape of the original headstone when making the new stone.
- Set the fragments in the recessed area with soft mortar (softer than the stone fragments).
- Mortar should be flush with the surface but not on the face of the old fragments.
- Set *upright* on a new base of stone or concrete.

Headstones should *not* be laid flat on the ground as the inscription will collect rainwater every time it rains, hastening its destruction.

Reading Inscriptions

- Do not put shaving cream, baby powder, talc, cornstarch or any other substance on a gravestone to read it. These contain stearic acid and biological products that can destroy the stone over time because you cannot remove all traces of these materials from the porous stone.
- Visit the cemetery when the sun will be shining on the stone and use a mirror to reflect sunlight onto the stone to more readily read the portions that are obscure.
- Consider doing a gravestone rubbing but only after reading cautions and instructions at www.gravestonestudies.com.
- Practice on a similar surface until you are certain you can do the rubbing without damaging the stone.
- Non-fusible interfacing in medium weight and gravestone rubbing wax are recommended. Avoid using crayons, markers, butcher paper and newsprint.
- Rubbing wax and kits can be ordered from www.gravestoneartwear.com or www.funstuffforgenealogists.com

Inscriptions from most of these cemeteries have been recorded in the following books:



Evergreen Cemetery, Wanda Hoad Payne, 1994.
Jatho, J.E. Ryan and McCabe-Carouth Funeral Home Records, Gladys Arnold, 1996
Memorial Park Cemetery, Gladys Arnold, 1995.
Victoria County Cemetery Records, Vol. 1, 2 and 3, Judy Barte, Doris Gilpatrick and Susan Young, between 1987 and 1994

Available at:

Victoria Public Library **Victoria College UH-V**
302 N. Main St. **Library—2nd Floor**
(361) 572-2708 2602 N. Ben Jordan

How to Clean & Repair Gravestones



Victoria County Historical Commission

For corrections or additions:

Linda Wolff, chair
Victoria County Historical Commission
(361) 575-3689 § wolfhaus@txcr.net
Susan Cohen, chair
Cemetery Committee
(361) 573-3420 § joecohen@viptx.net



General Cleaning Instructions

- Use a non-ionic soap. Our recommendation: Orvus® which can be purchased at a feed store.
- Mix a solution: 1 heaping tablespoon to one gallon of water.
- Pre-wet the stone thoroughly with clean water and keep the stone wet during the entire process.
- Thoroughly wash the wet stone.
- Use a brush with natural bristles and a wooden handle. Do not use brushes with plastic handles as they may mar the stone.
- Wash all surfaces and rinse thoroughly with clean water.
- When cleaning marble or limestone, one tablespoon of household ammonia can be added to the Orvus® mixture to remove some greases and oils.
- Do not use ammonia on or near any bronze or other metal elements.
- Do not use bleach
- Not all stains can be removed. Do not expect stones to appear new after cleaning.
- Do not clean marble, limestone or sandstone more than once every 18 months.

To remove lichen

- Soak the stone with water and then use a wooden scraper to remove the growth.
- Do not use a metal or plastic scraper
- Repeat as needed

More suggestions:

- Keep a simple treatment record of when you clean the stone. Include date of cleaning, materials used and any change in condition since the last cleaning such as missing parts, graffiti and other damage.
- These records should be kept in a central location where the condition of the stones can be monitored.

Vandalism

- Report vandalism to local law enforcement officials.

Neglected Cemeteries

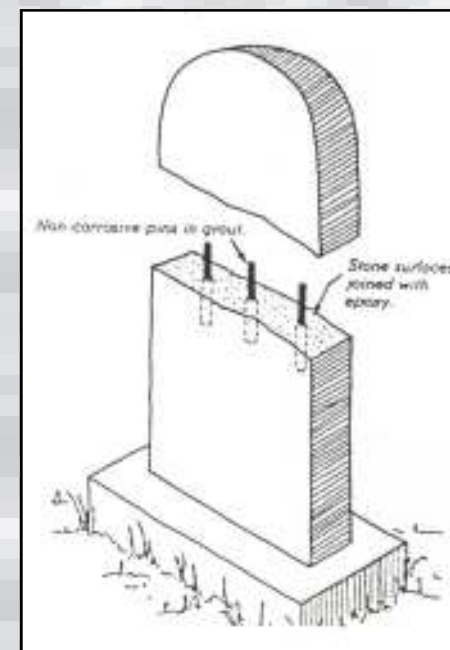
- More damage is caused by neglect than vandalism.
- Trees and cattle can topple markers.
- Toppled stones soon become buried stones as they sink into the earth and disappear.
- Entire cemeteries can be overgrown and lost within a decade ... and forgotten.
- If you know of a unkempt, or neglected cemetery please phone its location to the Victoria County Historical Commission chair, Linda Wolff, (361) 575-3689.



Did you know?

In Texas a single burial is considered to be a cemetery, even if it is in the middle of a pasture.

In some cases markers with broken finials can be repaired with pins:



Do not use Portland Cement as an adhesive. Use an epoxy formulated for stone that will not turn yellow. Upon request, Jones Family Monuments, 801 E. Goodwin, Victoria, TX 77901 (361) 575—0119 will special order ARC-KLEER from American Resin Corp. Wichita Falls, TX 76310.

Alternatively, use a soft mortar mix.

1 part white Portland cement
3 parts lime, and
9 parts sand



Visitation Day

First Sunday in April and in October