

*BRING BACK
THE LIFE TO
YOUR LOCAL
CEMETERY*

A presentation by Sabrina Westmiller



Things you need:

- A stone polish, do your research for your type of stone.
- Buckets of water
- Scrub brush (no metal brushes, nothing too harsh)
- And a scraper (NO METAL, be very gentle while using)
- Cleaning gloves



Instructions:

- Take off any moss, you can do this with just your hands
- Spray down the stone, with your choice of stone cleaner
- Wet the scrub brush and start scrubbing
- Once you get as much as you can off you can now pour water on it to rinse it off
- Now check to see if you need to go in with a nonmetal scraper
- Then you can rinse it again if you choose

Now you're all done! As simple as that to keep the headstones from weathering.





This is a before and after...

Notice how the stone was restored using a brush and non-metal scraper to remove the moss from the stone and letters.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:

Over the years, many of the headstones and monuments have weathered to the point where they are becoming unreadable and thus, unidentifiable. It's important to restore gravesites because they are important to the community and they are historically significant. My hope is that by taking the time to take care of the cemetery others will be inspired to help too.





WHY IT'S IMPORTANT TO CLEAN GRAVESTONES

Headstones are very important and they help to give us a place to go when remembering our loved ones. It's important to keep up with cleaning them because after time they weather due to the outside elements they are exposed to. It is very easy to clean them and keep them looking new. If a headstone isn't properly cleaned every so often, then it can deteriorate, making it harder to read and identify who it belongs to.



Just by cleaning the stones you're able to see the names and dates of those who have passed, this is important so that it can be documented. Local historians compiled a 10 volume listing of Cayuga County, NY cemetery records and digital listing can be found at

<https://www.cayugagenealogy.org/cem/cem117.htm>

These lists are important for many reasons. Someone may be looking for a burial place of their ancestors and for our veterans to honor them. Having clean stones makes it easier to identify each individual.

I would like to thank *Locke 52 Historical Society* for giving me the opportunity to do this project for the community.

With genealogical tourism being so popular, the website below can help people researching for their ancestors and could lead to increased visitation to Port Byron and Cayuga County.

<https://www.cayugagenealogy.org/cemetery.htm>

