



CEMETERY TRUSTEES
TOWN OF FITZWILLIAM, NH

Gravestone Rubbings Request Form

Please note that this practice has been banned or regulated (see NH RSA below) in many areas due to the damage of grave and memorial stones. The Town of Fitzwilliam Cemetery Trustees require that an application to perform gravestone rubbings be approved by the Trustees or Sexton prior to performing this activity. The Sexton may place limitations on this activity as required.

New Hampshire Revised Statute - Chapter 289: Cemeteries - Prohibited Conduct

289:22 Stone Rubbings. – No person shall make gravestone rubbings in any municipal cemetery or burial ground without first obtaining the written permission of the town selectmen or the mayor of a city or designee. Before granting such permission, the selectmen or mayor will ascertain to the best of their ability that the person making the request knows the proper precautions to be taken and the proper materials to be used for this activity. The town selectmen or city mayor or their designee shall notify the cemetery trustees of the request and its disposition. Any person who violates the provisions of this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. **Source.** 1994, 318:2, eff. Aug. 7, 1994.

Permission: The Fitzwilliam Cemetery Trustees hereby grant permission to the following named person, and other persons under the supervision of said person, to perform gravestone rubbings in the _____ Cemetery, with the understanding that such activities shall follow the rules and procedures set forth below.

Signature of Sexton or Trustee: _____ **Date:** _____

Name of Person Authorized to make rubbings: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Association or Group Name: _____

List of stones to be used:

Special Instructions to visitors or limitations on activities:

Submit this completed form to Fitzwilliam Sexton: Hand deliver to Fitzwilliam Town Hall, mail to Fitzwilliam Sexton, Town of Fitzwilliam, PO Box 725, Fitzwilliam, NH 03447, fax to 603-585-7744. Contact Email: fitzcemetery@fitzwilliam-nh.gov

Rules:

Permission must be obtained in writing prior to beginning any gravestone rubbings in the Fitzwilliam Cemeteries. The Sexton may establish additional rules and restrictions on any gravestone rubbing activities and may require his presence during any work.

Gravestones to be rubbed shall be listed in advance on the permission form.

The gravestone must be sound (no structural defects such as cracks, surface crumbling or other deterioration that presents a hazard) and must be completely stable (not wobbly or at a severe angle from the vertical position). The Sexton may limit the stones that can be rubbed due to these considerations.

No chemicals or other substances shall be used directly on the stone surfaces. This includes a prohibition on the use of cleaning agents, chalk, or other items/substances to clean or prepare the surface.

The following procedure is the only method to be used in the Fitzwilliam Cemeteries without exception or change.

Procedure:

Minor cleaning of a stone may be done using plain water (no cleaning agents) and a soft bristle brush (natural or nylon bristles only, no metallic bristles of any type.) or soft sponge (no harsh pot scrubbing type of sponges).

Carefully tape the rubbing paper to the gravestone. Use a residue free tape such as painters tape or drafting tape. Large elastic bands will work and not leave any residue. Do not use duct tape or packing tape.

Using rubbing wax, large crayon, charcoal or chalk, gently start to rub along the outside edges of the paper and carefully work in toward the center or from top to bottom, using extra care to reduce pressure on the stone when working in the top areas.

Rub lightly and gently to avoid damage to the stone.

Remove the paper from the stone and carefully remove all traces of your work from the stone and the surrounding area.

If using a charcoal or chalk fixative to preserve the rubbing image on the paper, this must be done in an area away from any gravestones or other cemetery structures such as granite curbing, benches, etc.