

The Actual Photography

- Take your first Picture of the cemetery sign and or gate.
- Carry you camera case with you so you don't waste time going back to car to retrieve it.
- Frame the picture squarely in your viewer. Be sure the picture is straight. Include a some of the scenery in the photo so it frames the picture you take.
- Include the flowers in the photo if possible only if you can see the full stone and ALL the writing and symbols.
- You may want to hold some cardboard up to shadow the whole tombstone and you may have to take the photo with a flash. Try not to include the cardboard in the picture.
- It is okay to pull the weeds that grow over the tombstone. But it not okay to leave the mess. You need to dispose of the weeds in the trash can.
- If you can't read the tombstone due to sun or too wet, try taking it from an angle from the side. You may have to wait for the sun to change positions later. Go back a little later and try again. Write a note with all the pertinent information and lay it next to the stone and take a picture. It is okay to take more than one picture of the tombstone. We will pick the best one later on. Our computers can zoom in and read it better than we can.
- If you can't read the tombstone due to it being old & worn, use the rubbing paper you can get from Claudia Schiller (A bout \$3.00 per 10 ft.). Lay it over the stone (you may have to tape the corners down) and rub with a soft dish scrubber). No metal scrubbers!
- It's okay to brush grass and leaves away.
- **Try not to include the following:**
 - Your shadow. It can black out portions of the tombstone. Try taking the photograph with your camera as you look down and it frames the photo upside down. When we edit the pictures, we can rotate the photo up side right.
 - Your shoes. Try to step back far enough so your shoes are not in the photo. Zoom in a little with your camera. If they do show up in the photo, we can crop it later when we edit the picture.
 - Don't clean the stone except with water. Chemicals harm the tombstones.
 - Plants & Bushes - Have your partner pull them back and stay out of the picture as much as possible. Later we will crop as much as possible. You may want to lay a car floor mat in front of the grave the hold back the plants. The plant will spring back once you remove the mat.