



## Family History Sprint October 2014 – Photograph Family Tombstone

### Summary:

Find as many headstones of ancestors as you can, take photos of them and the cemetery and attach them to the pertinent individual(s) in FamilySearch.

### Background for this Sprint:

Source documents are important, and photos of headstones are great source documents. Headstones will sometimes include information about an individual that you may have not known. See what you can find at local cemeteries. Research *FamilySearch.org* to see what is already there and then go and find more. This can be done online on websites like *FindAGrave.com*.

### Where to Look?

- 1- Search cemeteries.
  - . Check with cemetery offices for picture taking permission requirements.
  - . Respect the sacredness of cemeteries and tombstones.
  - . Treat tombstones respectfully; if cleaning is needed, use water only.
- 2- Look in *FamilySearch.org*.
  - . Click on **Memories**>>**People** & select ‘**Added by:All**’ in the drop-down menu.
  - . Search your family photos for tombstones already entered by others.
  - . Follow instructions on selecting and connecting photos to family members.
- 3- Search through your own photos
  - . Search through your photo albums and boxes of pictures for tombstones.
  - . Contact other family members for possible photos of tombstones.
  - . Scan photos and upload them to FamilySearch.org (see February Sprint).
- 4- Search on the WEB: here are some links to useful web sites...
  - . <http://www.findagrave.com/> (Free, but you must create an account)
  - . <http://www.wikihow.com/Photograph-a-Tombstone>
  - . [http://www.genealogy.com/64\\_gravestones.html](http://www.genealogy.com/64_gravestones.html)
  - . <http://www.myheritage.com/research/collection-10013/find-a-grave>



### Tips for Photographing Tombstones:

- 1- Use good digital camera with autofocus, adjustable light settings, optical zoom, LCD viewer.
- 2- Lighting: Shoot when sunlight is in front of and to the side of the tombstone face for best contrast.
- 3- Consider using a bright reflector to shine on the tombstone from the side for best contrast of text.
- 4- Use off-camera (not on-camera or built-in flash) to maximize text contrast.
- 5- Always check your photos using the rear LCD viewer on your camera before returning home.
- 6- Websites for photographing tombstones:
  - . <http://www.wikihow.com/Photograph-a-Tombstone>
  - . [http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~sckersha/records/how\\_to\\_photograph\\_headstones.htm](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~sckersha/records/how_to_photograph_headstones.htm)
  - . <http://www.interment.net/column/records/digital/digital.htm>
  - . [http://www.stonepics.com/newfoundland\\_cemeteries/method.htm](http://www.stonepics.com/newfoundland_cemeteries/method.htm)

### Extra Mile:

Find as many headstones as you can. Double check the information you have on *FamilySearch.org* with the information on the headstone (Headstones are more reliable than Family Search). Have a headstone scavenger hunt with your family or youth group. If you are at the cemetery look at the names around your family members to see if they are also part of your family. Often families will be buried near each other.

**Elder Bednar’s Promise:** “Your love and gratitude for your ancestors will increase.”