

BEYOND THE HEADSTONES: Bringing Historic Cemeteries to Life by Thomas Henthorn, Ph.D.

Additional information

Cleaning Supplies

It is important to use the softest bristle brush you can find that still can provide a good scrubbing. We used Tampico Brushes. This is a natural bristle brush. A number of suppliers stock these and you can often find them from [janitorial suppliers](#), such as Grainger, and [Tractor Supply](#).

Our soap is a product called Orvus Paste. It is ph-neutral, sodium lauryl sulfate and free of bleaches, brighteners and enzymes (all of which can be harmful to the stone or soil). You can find it from a number of retailers such as [Tractor Supply](#).

The biocide we used is called D2. As I mentioned during the workshop it is a Quaternary Ammonia Compound. You can find it from [Holland Supply](#). A new product on the market that is almost identical is called Endurance. You can find this at [Atlas Preservation](#). I always recommend people go back in two weeks and take a look at the stones they cleaned. This product doesn't work right away, rather, it kills the biological material slowly. So, it takes a little time to see the effects.

Professional Services

Cleaning is something anyone can do if they are properly trained. Repair work should be performed by a professional. I am comfortable with the company below because I know they follow some specific standards such as [The Secretary of Interior Standards for Preservation](#), [National Center for Preservation Training and Technology](#), and the [State Historic Preservation Office](#) (SHPO). So when evaluating a company's ability to repair, make sure you make sure the methods they use follow the aforementioned standards. If you see any power tools, that's a big red flag.

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Additional Literature

The State of Michigan published [a handbook on cemetery](#) preservation that has the techniques we used during our workshop and has a helpful guide in the steps you should take in preserving historic cemeteries.

Workshops

My students and I run workshops at [Glenwood Cemetery](#) in Flint a few times every summer. During these workshops we cover the cleaning method and also do a few more repair demonstrations such as our epoxy & mortar repair technique for broken monuments.

Questions

If you ever have additional questions I can answer to help you in your cemetery preservation efforts, feel free to reach out:

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