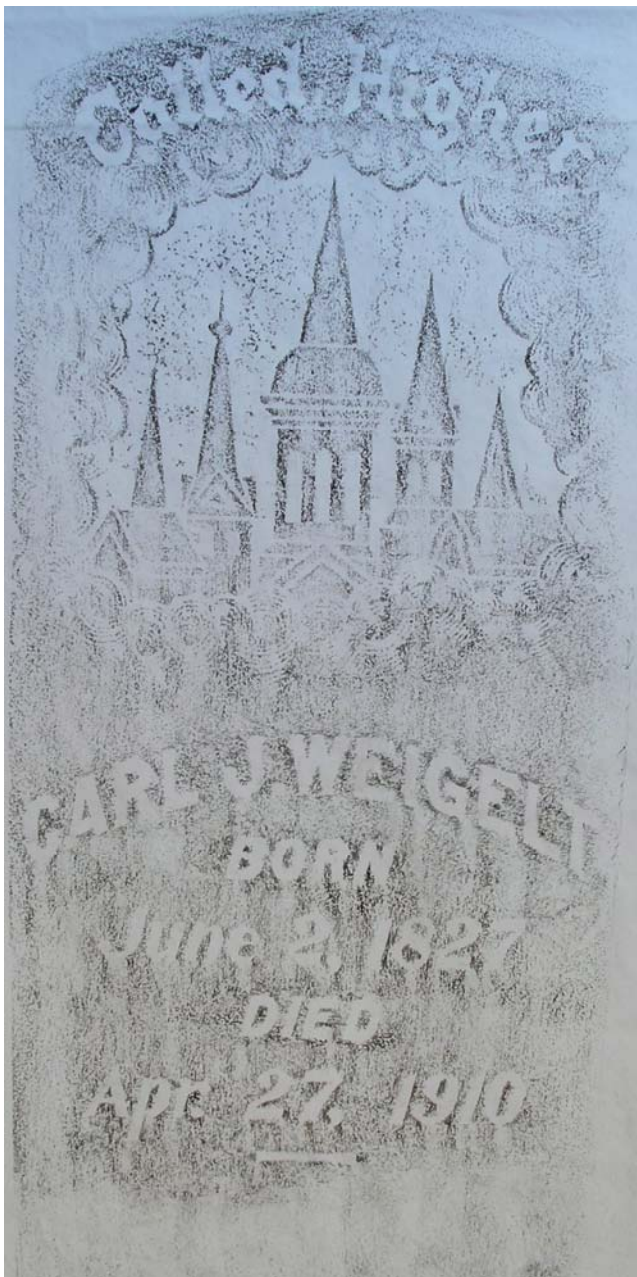
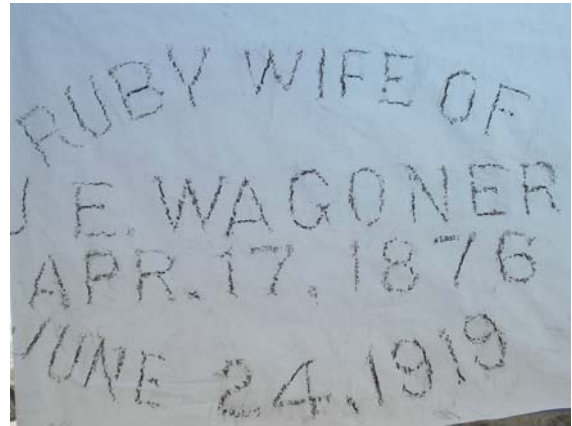


## RUBBING RUBY

Because of the position of Ruby Brandley Wagoner's grave, her headstone rarely receives good sunlight, making it difficult to capture a legible photographic image. In addition, the lettering is partially obscured by lichen growth. I used a soft-bristle brush to clean the letters and then a roll of tracing paper (available in art or architecture supply store) and a black crayon to make a rubbing of her stone.



This technique is especially valuable on old and weathered gravestones. My great-great-grandfather's marker in North Dakota (see left) was a perfect specimen for rubbing. On a light-colored stone, the elaborate graphic was invisible to the eye or the camera. Rubbing revealed the subtle details with amazing clarity.

For more information on supplies, techniques and cautions for gravestone rubbing:

The Association for Gravestone Studies

<http://www.gravestonestudies.org/faq.htm>

How to Do Gravestone Rubbings

<http://www.savinggraves.org/>

Gravestone Rubbing Kit

<http://www.gravestoneartwear.com/>