Find A Grave is an Internet-based resource for recording and finding the final resting place of family, friends and famous individuals. Notice I did not say grave or gravestone. This site is flexible enough to allow the recording of all manners of final resting places. Memorials can be added which contain rich content including photos, biographies, dates and relevant documents.

Find A Grave’s primary purpose is a graves registration website and its secondary purpose is a memorialization/remembrance site. Genealogy is a tertiary purpose and to that end, we must recognize that this is not a primary source; content is added by volunteers and data should be subject to prudent scrutiny.

How to Use Find A Grave

1. This is a free-access database.

2. You do not need to register to search the database.

3. You need to register to add and edit content.

   A. At the home page (www.findagrave.com), go to the top right hand corner of the page.
   B. Click on “Not a Member? Join Now”
   C. At the “Become A Member” page: complete the registration form.

Search:
1. Go to home page of www.findagrave.com

2. Right hand column of options: Find Graves

3. Global search for a person:
   Search 55 million grave records
   Find A Grave Search Form
   First Name - Middle Name - Last Name
   Birth Year - Death Year
   Cemetery in: Country - State - County

4. Search for a cemetery
   Cemetery Lookup
   Cemetery Search (page)
   Country - State - County
   Cemetery Search Results
5. Search by for a person in a specific cemetery:

Cemetery Lookup

Cemetery Search (page)

Name of cemetery
Country - State - County
Cemetery Search Results

Click on cemetery name
Search by person or view all interments (scroll only)

Post a memorial:

1. Sign in
2. Do a search by individual and by cemetery to confirm there is no entry for the person you want to add.
3. Click on Add Burial Records. This link is in the shaded box on the left hand side of the screen titled Actions.
4. There are three ways to submit information:
   a. Family and Friends: This data entry point allows the most details at the time of initial entry. You can record a death with an "other burial: scattered remains, burial at sea, unknown burial site."
   b. Quick Submit: This data entry point allows multiple entries to the same cemetery, but collects fewer details. You can always edit a specific memorial to add more information. This is convenient if you want to add several family members or memorials in one setting.
   C. Excel Template: The coordinators of Find A Grave site have provided a way to upload multiple names (25 or more) to the same cemetery. It collects the same limited information as in Quick Submit. You must download an Excel spreadsheet and email it to a Find A Grave administrative email address.

Family and Friends: Step 1 - Biographical Information

Add full name (if known) even if grave marker uses initials.
For an unmarried woman, list her last name as a Last Name, not Maiden Name
Add birth date
Add country-state-county-city of birth
Add death date
Add country-state-city of death
Add biographical information. I recommend typing this in a word processor and then cut and paste into this box. You can spell check and verify all of the facts and you'll have the added perk of having a bio of the person ready for other uses.
Fame: click on famous: yes or no
Burial: Cemetery: Burial or Other
Family and Friends: Step 2: Find the Cemetery - (name)
Type in the cemetery name (note it will not allow the full name)
Pick: country - state - county
Click: Search for the cemetery
Plot: type in the plot if you know it
Click: on correct cemetery
Click: Add this name

Add a photo or document to a memorial:
1. Search for and open the memorial for the person you want to add the photograph or document.
   A. Click on the tab Photo: Add a Photo
   B. Type of Photo: choose one: grave, person, family, other
   C. File to Upload (browse)
   D. Click: Add this photo
Rules of Find A Grave for posting of photographs:
   Only post photos for which you hold the copyright
   JPEG format preferred (.jpg or .jpeg)
   350 KB maximum file size
   300-1200 pixel width
   Cropped with no surrounding white space
   no post-mortem photos
   no photos taken from other website
   no copies of obituaries from newspapers (copyright is owned by the newspaper)

Add Flowers and a message to a memorial:
1. Search for and open the memorial for the person you want to add the flowers.
   A. Click on the tab Flowers: choose the category:
   B. Add public note if you want
   C. Click: Add your flowers and note.
   D. Note: check flowers on memorials for additional genealogical information or possible new contacts.

Really awesome tools for genealogical use:
1. My Cemeteries
   A. Click under: Actions: Cemetery Lookup
   B. Type: name of cemetery you will be using frequently
   C. Click: cemetery of your choice from the list
   D. Verify this is the correct cemetery

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2. Virtual Cemeteries
   A. To add a new Virtual Cemetery: search for and open the memorial for the person you want to add to your Virtual Cemetery.
      A. Click: Edit My Virtual Cemeteries: Add New
      B. At Add New Virtual Cemetery Name: type: Cemetery Name of your choice
      C. Type: Description of your cemetery.
      D. Choose: Show to Public: yes or no
      E. Return to person to be added to Virtual Cemetery
   E. Click: Add This Virtual Cemetery
   G. Click: Edit virtual Cemetery Info:
   H. Click: Virtual Cemetery for which you want to add the person
   I. Click: Save Changes
       J. To access all Virtual Cemeteries: Action: Contributor’s Tools:
           Contributions to Find A Grave

3. Links:
   A. Search for and open the memorial for the person you want to add a link
   B. Click: Family Links: Edit
   C. Type: father, mother or spouse’s memorial number
   D. To link another memorial to someone who is not a father, mother or spouse, type in the following line within the Bio of the memorial. This HTML code will show the name and create a link to the memorial of the second person:

   <a href="http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&G Rid=48322738">L_Earl_Younger</a>
   [Note; “Grid= “ is the memorial of the person to whom you will link and the name should have underscores between the names.]

4. Friends
   A. Click: Action: Your Name:
   B. Click: Contributions to Find A Grave: Friends
   C. At Find A Grave Friends - [NAME] CLICK: Find Members
   D. Type: Public Name or Contributor #
   E. At a memorial click on name of Created by
   F. At contributor’s page in upper right hand corner: click: Add to MyFriends

5. Managers of the memorials
   A. Click on Created by to get the contributor’s page.
   B. Read bio and public messages for possible genealogical clues

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Forums:

A. At home page under **Forums, Store, Etc**
B. Click: **Discussion Forums**
C. You must register to use this part of Find A Grave. Your user name must be unique.
D. Sign in
E. Click on **Forum List:**
   Famous Graves
   Help With Find A Grave
   Mourning, Grief and Emotional Support
   The Lounge
   The Lounge - Photo Gallery
   Games Lounge
   The Civil War
   World War I
   World War II
   Other Wars and Conflicts
   Cemeteries and Genealogy
   Cemetery Preservation
   Surnames
   United States
   Africa
   Asia
   Europe
   North America
   Oceania
   South America
F. To search be sure to click on the **Forum of interest.** There does not appear to be a global search.
G. Read the Board Rules. The link is at the bottom of the home page.