Connect Your Family Using Find-A-Grave

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Tips for Finding Your Person on Find-A-Grave: www.findagrave.com

Name Search
- Make sure you are on the Memorial tab
- Start with the given name, surname and burial state
- If there are too many hits, narrow by adding death year and / or county of burial
- Browse until you find your person

Cemetery Search
- Click on the Cemetery button at the top
- Type in the name of the cemetery and at least the state
- Click on the applicable cemetery
- Type in the given name or surname or partials on each
- Scroll until you find your person

They're Not There, Now What?
- Search variations on their name: by variant spellings, partial names, maiden names, initials, nicknames
- Search by surname only with filters such as birth and / or death year
- Search within a specific cemetery – type in the first letter or two of the surname and first letter or two of the given name or variation on it

They Still Aren't There, How Do I Find Where They Are Buried
- Helpful Records
  o Obituaries, death records, funeral home records
  o Tombstone transcription lists, grave registration cards
  o Probate records (will and receipts)
  o Memorial of older family members
- Tips
  o If you don't know when they died, use census and other records to narrow the time frame until you determine their death year. If possible obtain a copy of their death record and obituary.
  o Use the death record, obit or funeral home to determine the name of the cemetery. Call the cemetery (if they have a phone number) to verify that they are buried there.
  o See who else is buried in the same plot. Families tend to be buried near each other.
  o Check other online cemetery websites to see if they have a memorial index or page.
  o Check all spelling variations.
  o If they are religious, check if the church has records or a church cemetery.

I Found Them, but They Don't Have a Memorial on Find-A-Grave

There are two ways to create a new memorial: by adding it on the home page or by adding a new memorial once you are in a specific cemetery. It's generally easier to add a person to a specific cemetery than to create a new memorial from the button on the home page.

Adding new memorials on the home page works better for cremations, those buried or lost at sea, bodies donated for medical science, those lost at war, or unknown burial details.

To create a new memorial
- Go to the specific cemetery
- Search to make sure they aren't already there under a misspelling, initials, etc.
- Click Add a Memorial
- Type in the Memorial details
- Click Add Memorial

Once the memorial is created you can make changes to it by clicking the EDIT button.

Making Changes to Memorials You Maintain

For memorials you maintain, you can make changes anytime by clicking EDIT, then making the applicable change and clicking SAVE CHANGES. This includes linking the person to their spouse and / or parents or adding biographical details.

For changing the burial location click the brown CHANGE BURIAL DETAILS and type in the correct cemetery name and select it from the list. Then click SAVE CHANGES.

Adding Photos

If you have a photo of the person's tombstone that you or a family member took, or you have permission to post a photo from a family member or friend, you can add it to their Find-A-Grave memorial. You can not take a photo from another site and add it to Find-A-Grave unless it is a photo you took yourself.

To add a new photo - click on ADD PHOTOS. You can then upload photos up to 8 MB in size. Each contributor can add a max of 5 photos per memorial. A memorial can have a max of 20 photos from all contributors, but a sponsor can add an additional 10 for a max of 30 photos.

If there is no photo added - click on the Request Photo. Make sure if it is a large cemetery you provide details on where it is within the cemetery. If you don't know where they are buried within the cemetery, call the cemetery office and ask. If you don't get a quick response for your photo request, you can always ask the cemetery if they will take a photo and if they give permission for you to load it to the site.

Making Changes to Existing Memorials You Don't Maintain

If you find a memorial on Find-A-Grave that would benefit from an update or link to family members, suggest a correction:
- Go to the person's page
- Click SUGGESTED EDITS
- Type in the change
- Click SAVE CHANGES

Make sure if you are going to add the spouse and / or parents - add their memorial numbers all at once or you will have to wait until the change is made before you can suggest another change to the family member links.

If you make a mistake after you submit it, or you find another family member you want to add and you don't want to wait for the approval:
- Click on the pencil icon (Suggested Edits)
- Click on the tab – Suggestions I've Sent
- Find the entry and then click CANCEL on the far right
- You can then go back to the person's memorial page and submit a different edit

Keep in mind people do not have to make the changes you suggest and sometimes will respond with a decline for correction. If you know your information is correct and can back it up by solid evidence, first ask to have the memorial transferred to you. If they refuse, contact Find-A-Grave and have them help. Some people will not make any changes unless it is on the tombstone, even if you have proof to back up your claim. It is easier to just have them transfer the memorial to you and fix it yourself.

Those maintaining the memorials have up to 21 days to respond. So be patient as some people receive many requests and don't always check their account everyday. If they still refuse to respond, contact Find-A-Grave directly.

Connecting Children to Parents

To link families together - it must be done by adding parents to a child's memorial:
- Go to the child's memorial page
- Click SUGGESTED EDITS
- Type in the father's and mother's memorial numbers in the Family Members section

Duplicate Memorials

Sometimes you will find more than one memorial for the same person. If the people are in different cemeteries, then it is not considered a duplicate memorial because they might be buried in one cemetery with a tombstone but have a memorial marker in another – thus two different tombstones.

Duplicate memorials are when you have one person in the same cemetery twice. This could occur because one person's entry is under a nickname or initials and the person creating the new memorial did not realize they were already in the collection. Sometimes duplicates occur because family members disagree on the facts and a different contributor creates a new memorial because of it. Often one memorial has the tombstone photo and the other does not.

Regardless, if you find a duplicate memorial for the same person, you should fix it:
- Find the duplicate memorial and write down the memorial ID
- Go to the person's other memorial page
- Click the SUGGESTED EDITS
- Click REPORT DUPLICATE
- Type in the duplicate memorial ID into the box and click CONTINUE

Find-A-Grave will then go through and compare the two memorials. They usually keep the memorial that was created first, unless you provide a valid reason why they should not.

Having a Memorial Transferred to You

You can have memorials up to four generations transferred to you. This includes your spouse, siblings, parents, children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, grandparents, and great-grandparents. Other people may also be related to the person and if they are a closer connection, they do not have to transfer the memorial.

To request a memorial transfer:
- You will need your number on your profile page.
- Go to the person's memorial you want transferred to you
- Click on SUGGESTED EDITS
- Make the necessary change and click SAVE SUGGESTIONS