

## FIND-A-GRAVE...Cemetery tripping from the comfort of your home.

Joyce Dickens-Loffree, May 9, 2016

### Virtual Cemeteries

- Find A Grave -- [www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com) -- Find a Grave's mission is to find, record and present final disposition information from around the world as a virtual cemetery experience.
- BillionGraves -- [www.billiongraves.com](http://www.billiongraves.com) -- BillionGraves is the world's largest resource for searchable GPS cemetery data
- Commonwealth War Graves Commission -- <http://cwgc-virtual-cemetery.org/virtual-cemetery/people-we-commemorate/> --Honors the fallen from WWI and WWII (worldwide)
- Interment.net -- <http://www.interment.net/> --Publisher of cemetery transcriptions for use by genealogists and local historians.
- Ancestors at Rest -- [http://www.ancestorsatrest.com/cemetery\\_records/](http://www.ancestorsatrest.com/cemetery_records/) -- Search genealogy death records such as coffin plates, death cards, funeral cards, wills, church records, family bibles, cenotaphs and tombstone inscriptions
- Roots Web -- <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~tgpeiffer/Documents/Free%20Gen%20Records%20&%20Databases/CEMETERY%20Records.htm> --Links to free regional and special interest websites worldwide.
- National Cemetery Administration -- <http://gravelocator.cem.va.gov/> More than 3.7 million people, including Veterans of every war and conflict—from the Revolutionary War to the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan—are honored by burial in VA's national cemeteries.

### Other Websites of Interest

- Death Indexes ([www.deathindexes.com](http://www.deathindexes.com)) This website is a directory of links to websites with online death indexes, listed by state and county. Included are death records, death certificate indexes, death notices and registers, obituaries, wills and probate records, and cemetery burials. You can also find information here about searching the Social Security Death Index online.
- Cyndi's List ([www.cyndislist.com](http://www.cyndislist.com)) A comprehensive, categorized & cross-referenced list of links that point you to genealogical research sites online.
- Access Genealogy -- <https://www.accessgenealogy.com/cemetery> -- AccessGenealogy has been online since 1999. With over 240,000 links. It is also one of the largest directories of genealogy websites found online. It's crowning achievement though is in providing Native American researchers an avenue for research online.
- DoHistory -- <http://dohistory.org/home.html> --DoHistory invites you to explore the process of piecing together the lives of ordinary people in the past. It is an experimental, interactive case study.

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### As an Unregistered User or Find A Grave

- Search memorials and cemeteries.

### As a Registered User or Member of Find A Grave

- Search memorials and cemeteries
- Add memorials and cemeteries (if needed)
- Add photos to memorials
- Add flowers/notes to existing memorials
- Request corrections and updates
- Request photos of gravesites
- Request transfer of a memorial to your care for maintenance
- Edit memorials you are maintaining
- Sponsor a memorial
- Link memorials to show familial relationship
- Create your own virtual cemeteries

### 10 Tips for Success

1. Read the FAQs before you start searching.
2. Keep searches for memorials simple to start: the first three letters of the first name, the complete last name. Add further details to narrow the search (such as the state) if there are too many results.
3. Keep the search for cemeteries simple to start: the first word of the cemetery name and the name of the state.  
  
If there are too many results, narrow the search by adding the name of the county.
4. As you add information to your family tree from Find A Grave, be sure to include a citation: consider a “copy and paste” of the last three lines of the memorial. In addition, you may want to add [www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com) as a source, the name of the memorial and the date you accessed the memorial. Example: “Larry Author Dickens,” [www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com) Created by: [Cousin Joyce](#), Record added: Apr 10, 2016, Memorial# 160846271, accessed Apr 16, 2016.

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5. Read the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) before you create a memorial or cemetery. Avoid duplications and avoid creating a memorial that the typical search can't access.
6. For the bio field, paraphrase the obituary or create your own bio. Type the bio in Word or notepad and "copy and paste" into the appropriate field in Find-A-Grave
7. When adding a memorial, take care not to use the "Back" button to review your work...this leads to creating duplicate records. (You can correct errors and delete duplicate records.)
8. When making a request, Observe the Golden Rule! Nice definitely counts.
9. Take a moment to read the posted notes on the memorials you visit. You may discover additional family relationships and add names of living "cousins" to your family tree.
10. 

Many people have begun to create their family trees on Find-A-Grave. As with Ancestry and any other family tree site, be sure that you do your homework. The links are only as good as the research that has been done. Verify the relationships you find from linked memorials.