



The Lookout

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Our mission is to preserve the history of the people who have gone before us.

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NOTICE: Because of family concerns, we are in need of a **Recording Secretary**. We wish to thank Sue Earlewine for her dedication and understand that family needs are a priority. We wish you well Sue!

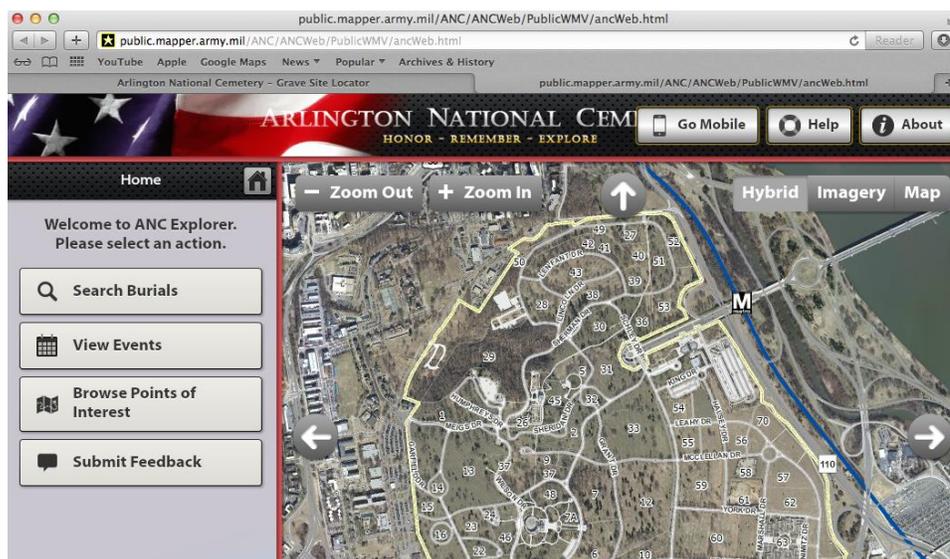
Hi-Tech History – Military Cemetery Databases

By Jeanne Finstein

Interments at Arlington National Cemetery can now be searched through the Arlington Cemetery website: <http://www.arlingtoncemetery.mil> The search page is located at: <http://public.mapper.army.mil/ANC/ANCWeb/PublicWMV/ancWeb.html>

Note: if the name you're seeking doesn't show up, try using initials (or use just the last name, and then scroll through the entries). For example, General Benjamin Franklin Kelley, Wheeling's commander of the First Virginia Infantry in the Civil War, can't be found under Benjamin Kelley. However, he can be located using his first initial and is listed as B F Kelley.

The website includes a map and directions to specific gravesites.



For those buried in Veterans Administration cemeteries other than Arlington, go to the VA gravesite locator database at <http://gravelocator.cem.va.gov/index.html> This site includes scores of veterans cemeteries around the entire country.

For American military killed and buried overseas, go to the American Battle Monuments Commission website at: <http://www.abmc.gov/home.php>

Family Search (<https://www.familysearch.org>) also includes information from military records, including items such as draft registration cards.

Thanks to the Fiske Genealogical Foundation Newsletter for these links.

Our Homepage: <http://www.wvgenweb.org/ohio/index.htm>
 Our email: wagswv@gmail.com

The following guides were taken from the West Virginia Division of Culture and History for educational purposes. Enjoy!

Quick Guide to West Virginia Birth Records

Revised January 2013.

Prior to 1853: births not recorded.

1853–1916: births recorded at the county level only. No statewide index exists. Originals are in the county courthouses, with a few original records located in the West Virginia University West Virginia and Regional History Collection. County records microfilmed by the Genealogical Society of Utah (GSU) are available in the West Virginia Archives and History Library and elsewhere.

1853–1860: some duplicate county records are preserved on Library of Virginia microfilm, available in the Archives and History Library and elsewhere.

1853–1912*: as of 2013, digitized images from the microfilm of county birth records from 1853 (or inception of county) through the currently eligible year (present year minus 101 years) are available through West Virginia Vital Research Records (WVRR), http://www.wvculture.org/vrr/va_select.aspx. (Note that each January another year of birth records will be added.) County records are available on GSU microfilm in the West Virginia Archives and History Library and elsewhere. Original county records are available in the county courthouses.

*The first six counties added to WVRR include additional births since a 75 year cutoff was in use when the database was initially created.

1917–1930: state certificates are available as uncertified copies from the Archives and History Library with a \$2.50 statutory fee, or as certified copies from the Vital Registration office with a \$12.00 fee. County records available on GSU microfilm in the West Virginia Archives and History Library and elsewhere. Original county records are available in the county courthouses. A microfilmed statewide annual index is available in the Archives and History Library. As noted above, the first six counties added to the WVRR searchable database include additional births.

1931 to present: all state birth certificates for these years are available only as certified copies from the Vital Registration office with a \$12.00 fee. A microfilmed statewide annual index is available in the Archives and History Library only up through 1992. The county records are available in the county courthouses and are available on GSU microfilm approximately up to the year each county's records were filmed, usually 1968–1971. (For a listing of county records available on microfilm in the Archives and History Library, go to <http://www.wvculture.org/history/countrec.html> and click on the county name.)

Delayed Birth Records: recorded at the state and county level, but generally state certificates are the easiest to locate. The West Virginia Archives and History Library has the microfilmed index for Delayed Birth records for births pre-1900, 1900–1916, and 1917 through 1991 (with additions and corrections for 1900-1916). Uncertified copies of state birth records and delayed birth records up through 1930 may be obtained through the Archives and History Library after payment of the statutory fee of \$2.50 each. *Copies of state delayed birth records from 1931 through the present and all certified copies of state delayed birth records must be obtained from the Vital Registration office.* Delayed birth records may be available in county courthouses, and some are available on GSU microfilm.

See *West Virginia Archives and History News*, Vol. VIII, No. 8 (October 2007) for full article.

Available at <http://www.wvculture.org/history/ahnews/ahnews.html>.

Quick Guide to West Virginia Marriage Records

Revised January 2012.

Inception of each county to present: records available in each county. Originals are in the county courthouses, with a few original records located in the West Virginia University West Virginia and Regional History Collection. Uncertified and certified copies of records may be obtained from the relevant county clerk. Certified copies of marriage applications from 1964 to the present may be obtained from the West Virginia Dept. of Health Vital Registration Office.

Inception of each county to 1968–1971: County records microfilmed by the Genealogical Society of Utah (GSU), available in the West Virginia Archives and History Library and elsewhere, generally include marriages up to the date of filming, usually 1968 to 1971. Digitized images from the microfilm are available in a free searchable database, West Virginia Vital Research Records, http://www.wvculture.org/vrr/va_select.aspx.

1853–1860: some duplicate county records are preserved on Library of Virginia microfilm, available in the Archives and History Library and elsewhere.

1921–1991: annual index of marriages by bride (except 1936, 1937 and 1938) and by groom, compiled by the West Virginia Dept. of Health Vital Registration Office, available for public searching on microfilm in the West Virginia Archives and History Library. The index is useful for finding the date and county of a marriage so the actual record can be located in county records. *Ignore the book and page numbers cited in the index itself, since those refer to a state record project that was abandoned.*

1964 to present: certified copies of applications for marriage licenses for marriages performed in West Virginia are available through the West Virginia Dept. of Health Vital Registration Office with a \$12.00 fee. For more information visit <http://www.wvdhhr.org/bph/hsc/vital/> or call (304) 558-2931.

See *West Virginia Archives and History News*, Vol. VIII, No. 9 (November 2007) for full article. Available at <http://www.wvculture.org/history/ahnews/ahnews.html>.

Quick Guide to West Virginia Death Records

Revised January 2013.

Prior to 1853: deaths not recorded.

1853–1916: deaths recorded at the county level only. No statewide index exists. Originals are in the county courthouses, with a few original records located in the West Virginia University West Virginia and Regional History Collection. Records microfilmed by the Genealogical Society of Utah are available in the West Virginia Archives and History Library and elsewhere. Digitized images from the microfilm are available in a free searchable online database, West Virginia Vital Research Records (WVRR), http://www.wvculture.org/vrr/va_select.aspx.

1853–1860: some duplicate county records are preserved on Library of Virginia microfilm, available in the Archives and History Library and elsewhere.

1917–1962: as of 2013, all state death certificates for 1917 through the currently eligible year (present year minus 51 years) are available free online in the WVRR database; as uncertified copies from the Archives and History Library with a \$2.50 statutory fee; or as certified copies from the Vital Registration office with a \$12.00 fee. (Note that each January another year of state death records will be added, such as 1963 in January 2014.) Digitized images of actual county death records for selected counties for this time period are available in the searchable WVRR database, and original records are available in the county courthouses. A microfilmed statewide annual index is available in the Archives and History Library.

1963–1973: all state death certificates for these years are available as uncertified copies from the Archives and History Library with a \$2.50 statutory fee each, or as certified copies from the Vital Registration office with a \$12.00 fee each. A microfilmed statewide annual index is available in the Archives and History Library. The county records are available in the county courthouses and are available on microfilm approximately up to the year each county's records were filmed, usually 1968–1971. (For a listing of county records available on microfilm in the Archives and History Library, go to <http://www.wvculture.org/history/countrec.html> and click on the county name.)

1974 to present: all state death certificates for these years are available only as certified copies from the Vital Registration office with a \$12.00 fee. A microfilmed statewide annual index is available in the Archives and History Library only up through 1991. The county records are available in the county courthouses. Neither county nor state death records for this time period are available on GSN microfilm or through the Archives and History Library.

See *West Virginia Archives and History News*, Vol. VIII, No. 7 (September 2007) for full article. Available at <http://www.wvculture.org/history/ahnews/ahnews.html>.

THIS IS NOT THE WAY TO DOCUMENT YOUR ANCESTORS, BUT IT IS CREATIVE!

A Blacksheep, whitened

Lets say that your great-great uncle Remus Starr, a fellow lacking in character, was hanged for horse stealing and train robbery in Montana in 1889. A cousin has supplied you with the only known photograph of Remus, showing him standing on the gallows. On the back of the picture are the words: Remus Starr: Horse thief, sent to Montana Territorial Prison, 1885. Escaped 1887, robbed the Montana Flyer six times. Caught by Pinkerton Detectives, convicted and hanged, 1889.

Pretty grim situation, right? But let's revise things a bit. We simply crop the picture, scan in an enlargement and edit it with image processing software so that all that is seen is a head shot.

Next, we rewrite the text:

Remus Starr was a famous cowboy in the Montana Territory. His business empire grew to include acquisition of valuable equestrian assets and imitate dealings with the Montana railroad. Beginning in 1885, he devoted several years of his life to service at a government facility, finally taking leave to resume his dealings with the railroad. In 1887, he was a key player in a vital investigation run by the renown Pinkerton Detective Agency. In 1889, Uncle Remus passed away during an important civic function held in his honor when the platform upon which he was standing collapsed.

Now we give Uncle Remus a distinguished place inside the family tree, not hanging from it.

Murphy's Law for Genealogists

- The public ceremony in which your distinguished ancestor participated and at which the platform collapsed under him turned out to be a hanging.
- When at last after much hard work you have solved the mystery you have been working on for two years, your aunt says, "I could have told you that"
- You grandmother's maiden name that you have searched for for four years was on a letter in a box in the attic all the time.
- You never asked your father about his family when he was alive because you weren't interested in genealogy then.
- The will you need is in the safe on board the Titanic.
- Copies of old newspapers have holes occurring only on the surnames.
- John, son of Thomas, the immigrant whom your relatives claim as the family progenitor, died on board ship at age 10.
- Your great grandfather's newspaper obituary states that he died leaving no issue of record.
- The keeper of the vital records you need has just been insulted by a another genealogist.
- The relative who had all the family photographs gave them all to her daughter who has no interest in genealogy and no inclination to share.
- The only record you find for your great grandfather is that his property was sold at a sheriff's sale for insolvency.
- The one document that would supply the missing link in your dead-end line has been lost due to fire, flood or war.
- The town clerk to whom you wrote for the information sends you a long handwritten letter which is totally illegible.
- The spelling of your European ancestor's name bears no relationship to its current spelling or pronunciation.
- None of the pictures in your recently deceased grandmother's photo album have names written on them.
- No one in your family tree ever did anything noteworthy, owned property, was sued or was named in wills.
- You learn that your great aunt's executor just sold her life's collection of family genealogical materials to a flea market dealer "somewhere in New York City."
- Ink fades and paper deteriorates at a rate inversely proportional to the value of the data recorded.
- The 37 volume, sixteen thousand page history of your county of origin isn't indexed.
- You finally find your great grandparent's wedding records and discover that the brides' father was named John Smith.
- [For the following, insert your state/county of choice]
- Your distinguished ancestor, related to the governor of Victoria, turns out to be the caterer who once cooked dinner for him.
- Your distinguished ancestor who was 1. Secretary of the Mint 2. Brought out from England to be the first accountant for the Sandhurst railway Victoria, turns out to be a clerk in the railways.
- Your distinguished ancestor who was well educated, went to Heidelberg University and spoke several languages, shows up in the census as an apprentice to a German silversmith, in Hereford no less!
- My contribution ... You finally find the birth of your ancestor, only to find they were born before their parents.

WHEELING AREA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Membership in the Wheeling Area Genealogical Society is \$10.00 per individual for the year from January 1 to December 31. Membership includes the newsletter, *LOOKOUT*, published in March, June, September and December. Back issues of the membership year will be mailed on receipt of dues. Meetings are 2nd Saturday of the month at 1:00pm at the Ohio County Public Library, Wheeling WV. There is NO December meeting. Make checks payable to WHEELING AREA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY, P.O. Box 6450, Wheeling WV 26003-6450

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