Cemetery Records

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What are we covering?

- What can we get from cemetery records
- Online cemetery records
  - Find A Grave
  - Billion Graves
  - Interment.net
  - Names In Stone
- Visiting Cemeteries

What do cemetery records provide?

- Dates
  - Death, Birth, Marriage
- Age
- Military information
- Religious information
- Photos
- Birth Country

Finding the Cemetery

- Finding the cemetery you need
  - Death certificates
  - Obituaries
  - Online information
    - Find A Grave
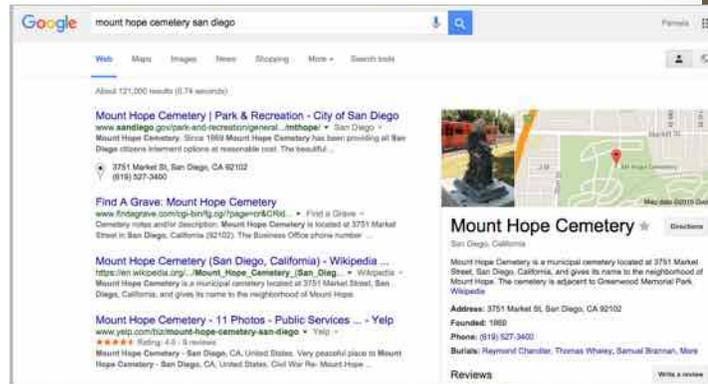   - Billion Graves
    - Interment.net
    - Names in Stone

Certificate of Death

"Eddie Schneider Death Certificate". Licensed under Public Domain via Commons

STEPHENS—Oct. 5, 1937. Frank Stephens, husband of Kate Stephens of this city; a member of San Bernardino lodge I.O.O.F. Friends and members of the above order are invited to attend services at the Bobough Funeral Parlors. 7th ave. and Date p. m. Interment Mt. Hope Cemetery.

Finding the cemetery online

- Google it!

- Other options:
  - Find A Grave
  - Billion Graves

Find A Grave

- http://www.findagrave.com
- Find your ancestors and famous graves - globally
- 143 million grave records
- Search a name
- Search a cemetery
  - Generally by name
  - Find potential ancestors buried in same cemetery

Find A Grave - Search a name

Find A Grave - Search for a cemetery

Find A Grave (cont)

- Contribute
  - Take photos
  - Transcribe
  - Create memorial pages for your ancestors
  - Respond to photo requests from others
- Mobile App
  - IOS/Android

Transcribe Graves NEW!!
Transcribe the text from headstone images to turn them into Find A Grave Memorials!
- Photos to Transcribe
- Add Photos to a Cemetery

Billion Graves

- http://www.billiongraves.com
- Allows you to search for a headstone – globally
- Shooting for 1 billion grave records
- Search for a cemetery
- Search within a cemetery
- Does require a login after a few searches

Billion Graves – search name

Must enter a last name
Fill in other information to narrow results

Billion Graves – cemetery search

Billion Graves (cont.)

- Contribute
  - Take photos
  - Transcribe
  - Respond to photo requests from others
- Mobile App
  - IOS/Android

Billion Graves (cont.)

- BG Plus
  - ~$59.99/year
  - Virtual Walk-thru
    - Walk through the cemetery as if you were there
  - Map Your Ancestors
    - Map your search results across a globe
  - Record Notifications
    - Get notification of ancestors you're searching for
  - Ad Free
  - Priority Support

Interment.net

- http://www.interment.net
- Search for names – globally
- Browse cemeteries
  - Contains list of names in the cemeteries with birth and death date
  - Does not contain photos of headstones

Names In Stone

- http://www.namesinstone.com
- Can search names – globally
- Can search for a cemetery
- Dynamic cemetery maps – allows for easy review of whose buried next to your ancestor

Names in Stone (cont.)

- Contribute
  - Volunteer opportunities
  - Mapping cemeteries
  - Transcribing headstones
  - Photograph headstones

- Membership Options
  Limited – free searching, create your own map, track your research
  Standard – Names In Stone keeps researching for you daily

Visiting - Contact before you go

- Does the cemetery have a website?
- May need to schedule an appointment – public vs. private cemeteries.
- See what the open hours are – may not be open every day of the week
  - Gates open vs. office open
- Information on where your ancestor might be buried
  - Unmarked graves
  - Buried grave markers
- Details about your ancestor's burial
- Check cemetery guidelines & restrictions
  - Rubbings, photographs, cleaning

Visiting a cemetery – etiquette

- Be respectful – other visitors may be there to mourn a loved one
- Be Safe – snakes, gopher/rodent holes, sunken ground, overgrown shrubbery

Visiting a cemetery

- Dress comfortably – jacket, hat, check weather
- Pack accordingly
  - Mirror, camera, fully charged phone
  - Water, soft brush, scissors
  - Garden kneeling pad

Where to find more info

- Stories in Stone: A Field Guide to Cemetery Symbolism and Iconography – Douglas Keister - Amazon
- Family Search
  - https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Cemeteries
- Ancestry.com
  - http://www.ancestry.com/cs/HelpAndAdviceUS
  - Search for cemeteries
- U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs – Cemetery Administration
  - http://gravelocator.cem.va.gov/
- Rootsweb Cemetery Records
- The Tombstone Transcription Project
  - http://www.usgwtombstones.org/

Q&A