



By Root and Branch

The Pierre-Fort Pierre Genealogical Society Newsletter

Volume 39, Number 1, February 2017

Have you ever looked at an old newspaper article that you saved when you were young? Of course, it had yellowed and was a bit harder to read, but the feeling of that time came to life again!

Just for fun a few years ago I did a general search with my father’s name. He lived his whole life in California, but one of the articles that came up was from a Utah newspaper. My husband’s family lived in Utah and the article was about us being in the Air Force and moving to a new base. It mentioned my father’s name and me as his daughter.

After that interesting tidbit, I started looking for more news about my ancestors. I found an article about my grandmother, who died before I was born, competing in a “foot race for married ladies”. Is that where a couple of my kids got their love of running from? Who knows!

There are so many online sites for historical newspapers now. It is so much easier than having to go to libraries or newspaper offices to browse through the older newspapers in print.

I urge you to check out some of the sites that are listed later in this newsletter.

Editor, Linda Lowe (pierregen@pie.midco.net)

Need Help with a Membership Problem? Have a Suggestion for presentations?

Contact a Society Officer!

Society Officers for 2016

Linda Lowe, President	pierregen@pie.midco.net
Carol Olson, Vice President	
Virginia Hanson, Secretary	virginia.m.hanson@state.sd.us
Nancy Friend, Treasurer	
Lori Sears, Past-President	
Dan Peterson & Lorraine Kintz, Board Members	

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Pierre/Fort Pierre Upcoming Society Meetings Schedule

The Pierre/Fort Pierre Genealogical Society meets each month except December at 7 pm on the 3rd Tuesday. Our meetings are usually held in the LDS Church at 506 N. Jefferson, Pierre, SD. If there is a change, the members will be notified via email or phone.

The March 21st meeting will be a fun treat. Ken Stewart from the SD Archives will be our presenter talking about the Irish in South Dakota.

If you haven't been to the society's website lately, it is well worth a visit. It is located at <http://www.rootsweb.com/~sdfpgs/>. You'll find databases and up-coming events.

Tips and Hints

Online Historical Newspapers

Small town dailies are often the only place where the lives of so many are so closely detailed. In the years before international and national news filled big city papers, even they had room to tell about the local heroes, creditor's claims to estates, stories of local businesses, voter lists, visitors, a duel, a stolen watch, a broken leg or other surprising stories. There simply isn't a better place to see what was going on in the lives of individuals and families in your family tree and in your ancestor's community.

Historical newspapers give us the remarkable ability to see history through eyewitness accounts. Newspapers present a wide assortment of information that will enrich your family history, whether you are looking to find out who attended your great grandmother's 7th birthday party or a list of those who attended her funeral. They are the day-to-day diaries of community events and include stories of the famous and ordinary people.

There are many things to look for in newspapers, here are a few of the articles which might be of interest:

1. Politics - in older newspapers, precinct captains and precinct workers were named.
2. Society - in smaller towns and even larger cities, the society pages listed attendees at parties of all kinds.
3. Vacations - before the advent of air conditioning, in warmer climes, folks would travel to resorts, springs, and other spots and the names of the travelers were often listed.
4. Out of area travelers - many older newspapers welcomed temporary residents with their names in the paper, listing the hotels they were staying in, their permanent residence (city), as well as the families they were visiting if they were staying in their home.
5. Advertisements - many residents advertised their businesses.
6. Classified ads - often you can find your ancestors names in the "want ads" as either selling something or if they owned a business - trying to hire a new employee.
7. Sports - if an ancestor was an athlete of any kind - possibly he would be cited in a baseball box score for college, high school or a local semi-pro team; or in an article regarding many other sports.
8. School graduations - lists of graduates are often listed for as early as elementary school through high school and college.
9. School news - lists of honor roll members, and other school events.

10. Military articles - did your ancestor join the military? Often there are articles about them, as well as where they were stationed and promotions they may have received.
11. Lodges and clubs - announcements of new members, or officer lists.
12. Church articles - welcome articles naming new church members.
13. Real estate transactions and transfers - did your ancestor transfer real estate to another family member or buy/sell a property?
14. Engagement announcements - Often an announcement of an upcoming wedding would be found in the society page and many times a photo of the bride-to-be.
15. Legal Notices - did your ancestors get divorced or sell or transfer a business? These are often found in legal notices, including bankruptcy notifications or other legal matters, including wills and estates.
16. Divorce proceedings - lists of couples who were in the various stages of divorce are often listed in the Vital Statistics section.
17. Personal notices - illnesses, visitors, celebrations of all kinds are often mentioned in the Society section.
18. Anniversary celebrations - 25 and 50 year anniversaries often were rewarded with an article announcing the accomplishment, as well as a recounting of the celebration party and the attendees.
19. Death notices and obituaries - obvious help to researchers to name children, siblings, "native of" information, etc.
20. Birth announcements - although the child is rarely named - his parents are and that can be helpful, especially if a child only lived a few years and you have the death announcement; the child may be one of many children in the family, and you are trying to sort out which dates belong to whom.
21. Mail - list of unclaimed mail can often be found in smaller town newspapers. Useful to determine if your ancestor had moved away.
22. Local crime - in addition to articles about the more serious or "colorful" crimes, there often are listings of more petty crimes, such as burglaries or home/business break-ins.
23. Political cartoons - In the 19th century, photographs were rarely included in newspapers - so drawings of the likenesses of people were included, especially for politicians.
24. Missing persons - since in the 19th century telephones were certainly not abundant, stories about missing persons were often written.
25. State or county fair winners - lists of winners and their submittals and awards are listed.
26. Union activities - lists of trade union officers are often mentioned as well as their activities and scheduled meetings.
27. Land applications and sales - generally in the legal section - these might include notices from the Department of Interior.
28. Professional directory - if your ancestor was a doctor, lawyer, nurse, contractor, or embalmer they might be found in these directories.
29. Marriage licenses and announcements - when a license is issued, usually the names and addresses of the couple are mentioned. When the wedding occurred, often the event was listed as well, and maybe a detailed article with a citing of many of the attendees.
30. Taxes owed - often lists of taxes owed to the city or county are listed.
31. City and county government meetings - minutes of these meetings are published and names are mentioned of the commissioners or supervisors as well as those who have conducted business during the meeting. If your ancestor had a claim due from the government entity for work performed, these lists are also available often.
32. Letters to the editor - your ancestor might have written a letter to the editor.

The following are a few websites which point to online historical newspapers:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:List_of_online_newspaper_archives

https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Digital_Historical_Newspapers

<http://www.findmypast.com/content/newspapers-archives-and-genealogy>

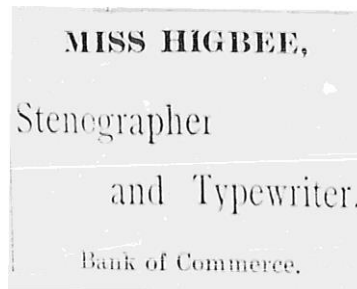
<https://news.google.com/newspapers> Google News Archive is an extension of Google News that provides free access to scanned archives of newspapers and links to other newspaper archives on the web, both free and paid.

Some of the news archives date back to 1700s.

<https://www.youtube.com/user/KennethRMarks> YouTube videos about newspaper research.

And here I always thought a typewriter was something I typed **on!**

Pierre newspaper advertisement form 1903.



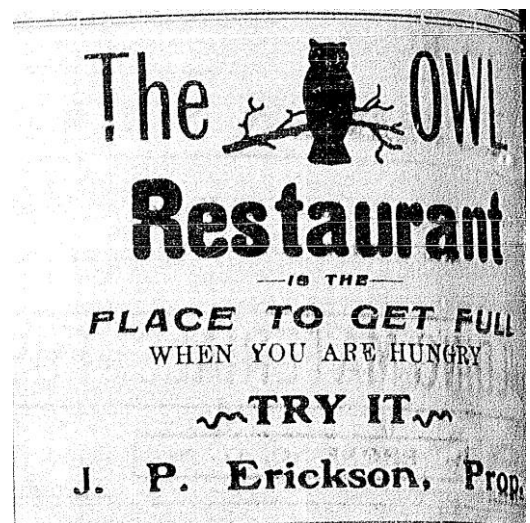
South Dakota's Past

**From the pages of the *Capital Journal*, Pierre
(Spelling and punctuation as originally printed in the newspaper)**

September 1, 1903

Returned From California

Mrs. Thomas Brown returned last night from her trip to San Francisco, to attend the G.A.R. meeting. She brought back a large collection of souvenirs of different kinds as mementos of her visit to the coast, and is enthusiastic over the beauties and pleasures of the visit. She met several old time Dakotans while on the coast, among them the McGinnis family which went from Sully county, and Peter Bayard, who announced his intention of returning to Pierre.



August 4, 1903

- Mrs. J. H. McCord returned last night from Highmore where she has been visiting her parents for several weeks.

- W. Cole is arranging the building on Pierre street, adjoining the Grand Pacific hotel, into which he will move his stock of drugs.
- J. E. Mallery has found that his business requires a larger building, and has a force of workmen erecting an addition to the back of his present room.
- E. F. Isgrig, who was a work yesterday putting in the foundation for the cement sidewalk at Bonsey's, received a painful wound by running a large nail into his foot.
- S. C. Yarnell is also getting into line with a cement walk in front of his office on Dakota avenue. This move is one that should be kept up all over the city until the unsightly plank walks are all taken out.
- St. Mary's Hospital is proving itself to be a great benefit to the people of this part of the state, and is becoming more and more appreciated as the years go by. It is securing a reputation in surgical cases which will draw greater patronage, which was been going to eastern hospitals. Within the past few days Dr. Robinson of the city assisted by Dr. Lavery of Fort Pierre, has at that hospital performed two difficult abdominal operations, patients being Mrs. Parr of this city and Mrs. Cook of Stanley county, in both of which cases the patients are progressing nicely and are on the road to recovery unless complications should arise.
- Card of Thanks – We desire to thank our friends and neighbors in Pierre and Aberdeen for their kindly assistance and sympathy in our late bereavement in the loss of our son. – Mr. and Mrs. George Sargent

August 5, 1903

Two Boys Injured.

Philip Nelson, little son of Mrs. Nellie Nelson of Pierre, was run over by a wagon yesterday and sustained a broken thigh. The accident happened on the range west of the river and an all night drive was made to get the boy home.

Nelson Barnes of Canning was thrown from a horse this morning and dislocated the radius at the elbow. The fracture was set and the dislocation successfully reduced today by Drs. Ruble and Clark.

August 10, 1903

- A brand new barber has joined Dick Purcell's force. He is a fourteen pound boy who arrived Sunday morning.
- Miss Edna Smith went down to Huron on this afternoon's train to meet her parents who are returning from a vacation visit in Indiana.
- F. J. Hockett and Bert Dickey have gone out to the ranch to round up another bunch of horses for shipment.
- M. J. Schubert and C. E. Besancon returned this morning from their farms on Chapelle creek, and report crops in the best of condition down in that section.

To Join or Renew a Membership:

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P. O. Box 925

Pierre, SD 57501

Questions or inquiries - **pierregen@pie.midco.net**



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Volume 39, Number 2, May 2017

I have been walking some cemeteries lately. For me, it is a wonderful time. I love the feeling in a cemetery. We made a trip to Utah lately and walked the ones that had my people and my husband's people. It was fun being able to actually see who was buried around them. With the technology we have now it is much easier to find the cemeteries and a good share of the gravestones. Of course, there are always those who don't have stones, or the stones are broken or too old to read. There are apps for phones to give the GPS mapping which can not only help locate a grave if you have the coordinates, or when taking a picture will give you the coordinates to add to your information. There is a very good article in the FamilySearch.org wiki about resources for cemetery research. It is found at https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/United_States_Cemeteries

Have fun and good luck with your cemetery research.

Editor, Linda Lowe (pierregen@pie.midco.net)

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Pierre/Fort Pierre Upcoming Society Meetings Schedule

The Pierre/Fort Pierre Genealogical Society meets each month except December at 7 pm on the 3rd Tuesday. Our meetings are usually held in the LDS Church at 506 N. Jefferson, Pierre, SD. If there is a change, the members will be notified via email or phone.

The May meeting will be on the 23rd. The program will be a video about the new website, The Family History Guide. June meeting will be on the 20th and July meeting will be on the 18th.

If you haven't been to the society's website lately, it is well worth a visit. It is located at <http://www.rootsweb.com/~sdfpgs/>. You'll find databases and up-coming events.

Our meeting in March was great. Ken Stewart, Historian at the State Archives of the South Dakota State Historical Society talked about Irish Miners and Millionaires in the Black Hills, discussing the mining towns and characters of Galena, Two Bit and Dublin, South Dakota. There was a write-up in the Capital Journal about the presentation, also.



In April, we held our meeting at Capital City Monuments where Randy Schumacher told us about the services he provided. We learned about the different headstones and what could be engraved on them. He also told us about safe cleaning of the stones.

Tips and Hints

Cemetery Research

Cemetery research is a basic part of genealogy research. Doing genealogy properly and thoroughly means cemetery research goes hand in hand with it. Cemetery research is about more than just finding where your ancestors are buried. It can also reveal a lot of previously unknown information on your ancestor and his or her family.

The first step in doing cemetery research is locating the cemetery where your ancestor was buried. If you don't already know (or don't know a relative who knows), there are a number of ways to find out. Among the best methods for discovering the cemetery in question are:

Death Certificates:

Most death certificates include the name of the cemetery in which the person was buried, if the person was, in fact, buried (there are exceptions, such as cremation or burial at sea or if there was no body recovered to bury). This information is usually located at the very bottom of a death certificate, where it states what was done with the body (aka "disposal"). If the person was buried, the name of the cemetery is usually recorded near the "disposal" section. Since the death certificate also tells you the city, county, and state of death, you can look up the name of the cemetery online using this information and get its location.

Obituaries:

If you don't have a copy of the death certificate, obituaries often tell you where a person was buried. This information can be found in obituaries going back into the mid-19th century, and sometimes earlier. It isn't always there, but it's exciting when it is. Go online to one of the many websites that have searchable old newspapers and start looking for your ancestor's obituary (if you have even the most general idea of the date and location of death for your ancestor).

Websites With Lists of County Cemeteries and the People Buried in Them:

There are plenty of independent genealogy websites that have records of burials in local cemeteries. The U.S. GenWeb project is the best-known of these, but there are lots of others. A Google search may help you find your ancestor's final resting place.

FindAGrave.com:

This is the most famous cemetery website online. It has over 100 million burials listed across the United States and the world. Some of them even include photos and obituaries. This website is updated and maintained by volunteers who upload new burial information as a courtesy to others. Go there and use the search feature to find your ancestor. If he or she is not on the site, you can contact a volunteer who researches cemeteries in the area where your ancestor lived, and request that they do a lookup for you and post it on the site.

What to Do if the Grave is Not Marked

If you've found the cemetery, but discover the grave is not marked, that can be disappointing.

If the grave isn't marked, all is not lost. You can still potentially discover the location of the grave. The easiest way is if the cemetery has an office. Not all of them do, but if the one you're exploring does, you can go to the office and request a map of burials. The office will have information on all burials there and where they are located, even the unmarked ones.

If there is no office, try going to the city hall. Ask around for the department that oversees the cemeteries. It is different in each city and town. Once you've found the appropriate department, ask if they have a map of burials in the cemetery. Many of them do. Other potential sources of finding the exact site of an unmarked burial include local historical societies and historians, and books of burials in a certain cemetery.

If you can't find any information, such as for a very ancient cemetery, you can often make a good guess as to where an unmarked ancestor is buried based on the headstones of other family members who are buried there. There is a good chance your ancestor is buried near them.

In very old cemeteries, you can often even see the outline of unmarked graves, because the coffins under the ground disintegrate over the years (wooden ones, especially), and cause the ground above to fall in over them, creating depressions in the ground that indicate the spot of a burial. There's a good chance that depression in the ground is where your ancestor is buried, especially if it is near that ancestor's relatives.

Knowing the final resting place of an ancestor puts a concluding page to their life in your family history. You know where they are and who is buried around them, which gives you an idea of their family relationships and their life in general. Start researching the cemetery records of your ancestors today. You'll be surprised how rewarding it is, and how much new information you discover as you go.

This article came from Ancestral Findings Website.

<http://www.ancestralfindings.com/death-certificates-doorway-ancestors-life/>

<http://www.ancestralfindings.com/death-record-lookups/>

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Volume 39, Number 3, August 2017

Seems like summer time is always busy with family visiting and other fun times. It is when we can travel easily to our ancestors' homes and do so on-site research. There are many places to travel to for courthouse research or cemetery research. But sometimes, it is just nice to do the research sitting in a comfortable chair at any time that is convenient. Therefore, I am including in this issue a few online resources for Canadian research. There are so many fun sites to just browse. Have fun.

Just a side note here, so you will know:

On September 1, 2017, FamilySearch will discontinue its microfilm distribution services. (The last day to order microfilm will be on August 31, 2017.) The change is the result of significant progress in FamilySearch's microfilm digitization efforts and the obsolescence of microfilm technology. Digital imaging has made it easier to find ancestors through the internet, mobile, and other technologies.

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The August meeting will be on the 15th. This will be our annual pot luck meal. We will meet at 6:00 pm to eat and enjoy each other's company.

September meeting will be on the 19th and October meeting will be on the 17th. The programs have not been set for these meetings yet. If you have any ideas, please share.

If you haven't been to the society's website lately, it is well worth a visit. It is located at <http://www.rootsweb.com/~sdfpgs/>. You'll find databases and up-coming events.

Tips and Hints

Canadian Online research

<http://pgnewspapers.pgpl.ca/> The Prince George Public Library has digitized a collection of historical local newspapers. These include CNC Student Newspapers, Fort George Herald, Fort George Tribune, Prince George Citizen, Prince George Herald, Prince George Post, Prince George Star, and the Leader.

<http://provincialarchives.alberta.ca/how-to/find-birth-marriage-death-records/Default.aspx> The Provincial Archives of Alberta provides access to the index of:

- birth records that are 120 years or older (from the date of birth)
- marriage records that are 75 years or older (from the date of marriage)
- death records that are 50 years or older (from the date of death)
- stillbirth records that are 75 years or older (from the date of stillbirth)

<http://search.findmypast.com/historical-records?page=1®ion=canada> Find My Past has many images of Canadian records. Access to this collection is by subscription, but free access at the Family History Center.

<http://royalbcmuseum.bc.ca/> The Royal BC Museum holds many items of interest (including the BC Archives). One interesting feature is their *100 Objects of Interest*. These are highlights chosen by curators, archivists, and staff from the museum and archives, with photos and information. You can enjoy this exhibit in the comfort of your own home!

<http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/search/Pages/ancestors-search.aspx> This being Canada's 150th birthday, we would be remiss if we didn't include a good site for starting an ancestor search in Canada. This is the Library and Archives Canada *Ancestors Search* page.

Ellis Island Name Changes Myth

Between 1892 and 1954, over twelve million people entered the United States through the immigration inspection station at Ellis Island, a small island located in the upper bay off the New Jersey coast. There is a myth that persists in the field of genealogy, or more accurately, in family lore, that family names were changed there. They were not.

The legend goes that officials at Ellis Island, unfamiliar with the many languages and nationalities of the people arriving at Ellis Island, would change the names of those immigrants that sounded foreign, or unusual.

Ellis Island inspectors were not responsible for recording immigrants' names. Instead, any error likely happened overseas. To leave the home country—whether Italy, Slovakia, Austria, Poland or elsewhere—immigrants had to purchase a place on a ship—whether bound for New York or one of the other U.S. ports accepting immigrants. At the shipping line's station in Europe, a clerk wrote the passenger's name in the ship's manifest, sometimes without asking for identification verifying the spelling. The shipping clerk also asked a set of questions, largely to determine if male immigrants could do manual labor, as that was the main reason they were being allowed into America. The American laws were pretty clear. If an immigrant made it to Ellis Island, but was found to be infirm by the U.S. inspectors, the shipping company had to bring the immigrant home for free. The shipping lines were thus highly motivated to only take immigrants who weren't going to be coming back.

The ship's manifest was presented to Ellis Island inspectors after the boat docked. From there, the inspector would cross-reference the name on the manifest with the immigrant passenger, and also ask 30 questions to screen out rabble-rousers, loafers, or the physically and mentally infirm, but also to glean information on whom they would be living with and where in America. The inspectors also would see if the answers matched those recorded by the shipping clerk before departure.

It is also unlikely a foreign name would flummox an Ellis Island inspector. From 1892 to 1924, "one-third of all immigrant inspectors were themselves foreign-born, and all immigrant inspectors spoke an average of three languages," says the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

One of the island's best-known interpreters was Fiorello LaGuardia, a U.S. congressman and three-term mayor of New York City, who worked at the immigration station during the day, while he went to law school at night. LaGuardia was the son of an Italian father and a Jewish mother from Austria-Hungary, and spoke Italian, German, Yiddish and Croatian, says the Park Service.

Common languages spoken at Ellis Island included: Italian, Polish, Ukrainian, Slovak, German, Yiddish, French, Greek, Hungarian, Russian, Ukrainian, Serbo-Croatian, Romanian, Swedish, Portuguese, Bulgarian, Czech, Spanish, Armenian, Arabic, Dutch, Norwegian and Chinese.

Workers would be assigned to inspect immigrants based on the languages they spoke, and if communications were still an issue, interpreters—often from immigrant aid societies, would be called in to help translate. Urban says some of those societies had offices in the Great Hall of the main Ellis Island building, which meant they weren't far from the inspection process.

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Volume 39, Number 4, November 2017

There are so many helps for researchers Online now. I have mentioned before how much I like the FamilySearch Wiki pages and the tutorials on that site. I have lately been enjoying the webinars that the BYU Family History Library offers. What is even better, they upload them to YouTube the week following the scheduled webinar. You can find them at the following address or just search YouTube for “BYU Family History Library”.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC7hqNOQt-2AfeVEpDuc7sCA>

I hope you enjoy these as much as I have.

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Our November meeting will be on November 14, since the third week of the month will be Thanksgiving week. We will be watching a video by Ancestry.com entitled “Your Family History Online: Laying the Foundation.”

If you haven't been to the society's website lately, it is well worth a visit. It is located at <http://www.rootsweb.com/~sdfpgs/>. You'll find databases and up-coming events.

Tips and Hints *Finding records online*

A One-Step Portal for On-Line Genealogy

<https://stevemorse.org/>

Stephen Morse has put together a fantastic, free resource for family history. It is a one-stop-shop for researchers. Please keep in mind that no one site has everything. Remember that there are many records that are not on-line.

“This site contains tools for finding immigration records, census records, vital records, and for dealing with calendars, maps, foreign alphabets, and numerous other applications. Some of these tools fetch data from other websites but do so in more versatile ways than the search tools provided on those websites.”

(stevemorse.org)

Scroll all the way down and see what he has to offer. I think you will be astonished. Then go to the top of the page and click on “About this website and how to use it”.



Grandparents are like fine quilts-sewn with loving care to provide warmth for the future and fond family memories of the past.

Find-A-Grave Changes *Ted Bainbridge, Ph.D.*

Findagrave.com has announced that the web site soon will change. Some changes are cosmetic, while others are functional. A map feature has been added.

The home page, formerly just a list of over thirty choices, will become a photograph with a few menu selections across the top. That page will be dominated by the search panel, which will function largely as it has in the past and with the same options for every search box except those related to location.

The current search panel specifies location via pull-down lists for country, state, and county. The new search panel offers a single box for location, in which you are supposed to type the name of a place. As you begin to type a city, county, state, or country that box auto-fills with suggested place names which you can select with a mouse click. Use the American English equivalent of a country name; *Germany* works but *Deutschland* doesn't.

The new home page's menu bar goes across the top of the screen. Clicking *CEMETERIES* takes you to a page that lets you hunt cemeteries in either of two ways. Near the top left of the page is a search box where you can type a cemetery name. This auto-fill box works as above. When you select a name, you see a hit list of cemeteries with that name. Each entry on the hit list displays some facts about that cemetery, and a link to its information page. That page contains a search box that you can use to hunt for a person's name.

Instead of using that cemetery-name search box, you can use the cemetery-place search box to its right. Clicking a place name produces a map of cemeteries near that place. You can zoom the map in or out, and can pan it in any direction. (If the map doesn't display any marker pins, zoom in.) After a name is in that search box, clicking *Search* leads to a hit list of cemeteries near that place. Use this hit list the same way you use the other cemetery search box.

To see and experiment with all the planned changes, go to <https://findagrave.com/> and then click *preview now* near the top center of the screen.

A grandmother was telling her little granddaughter what her own childhood was like. "We used to skate outside on a pond. I had a swing made from a tire; it hung from a tree in our front yard. We rode our pony. We picked wild raspberries in the woods."

The little girl was wide-eyed, taking this in. At last she said, "I sure wish I'd gotten to know you sooner!"



To Join or Renew a Membership:

Membership is for calendar year. If membership is paid anytime in the year up to November, it is for the current year. If paid in November or December, it is for the next calendar year.

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