

Cemetery Resources for the Genealogist

By Howard Maynard Faulkner

Cemeteries can be a valuable resource for the genealogist. Headstones may provide not only names (including maiden names) and important dates of the interred but often vital information of other family members buried in the same lot. In addition to the person you are researching other early ancestors may have been interred in close proximity, or elsewhere in the same cemetery. You may also find military, fraternal, religious, occupational information, and even an epitaph giving insight into the character or personality of the family member. **HINT:** To help locate where your ancestor is buried try the Town Clerk's office, death certificates, obituaries, family bibles, local historical societies, libraries, funeral homes and churches. Contact the person in charge of the cemetery records for possible further details about the deceased. The following websites are frequently very helpful especially for ancestors buried in the US, even more so if they were in the northeastern U.S. where some of the earliest and best records are to be found. Some international resources are provided. Sites are randomly noted without preference. My best advice: *Be persistent and you may be well rewarded.*

American History and Genealogy Project (AHGP) Cemetery Transcription & Photo Project:

<http://www.usgennet.org/usa/topic/cemetery/> Thousands of headstone images (most early) from across the U.S., indexed by state, county, and local. Opportunities to add your own images. Frequent updates.

Interment: <http://www.interment.net/>

Free access to thousands of transcriptions of cemetery records and tombstone inscriptions, from cemeteries in the USA, Canada, England, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, and other countries.

Find A Grave: <http://www.findagrave.com/>

From the famous to the ordinary. Many indexes to both cemeteries and states. Mostly US but other countries as well. Frequent updates. Great links. Mostly free.

The Tombstone Transcription Project: <http://www.rootsweb.com/~cemetery/> Generally, this respected site provides accurate transcriptions from tombstones, old and new. Well indexed, some foreign, military, etc. Frequently updated. Helpful links.

Gravestone Photos: <http://www.gravestonephotos.com/index.php>

Mostly from England, Australia and Wales with other countries being added. Very limited but an exciting and growing database (free but donations accepted).

Maine Old Cemetery Association (MOCA) <http://rootsweb.com/~memoca/moca.htm>

Valuable resource for early, small and frequently family cemeteries in Maine

Vermont Old Cemetery Association (VOCA) <http://sover.net/~hwdbry/voca/> Similar to MOCA

Connecticut Gravestone Network <http://www.ctgravestones.com/> General information and valuable links to CT and some other states as well, frequently with excellent pictures of old gravestones.

Tombstone Transcription Project <http://www.rootsweb.com/~cemetery/>

A highly respected site and excellent resource with links to many special tombstone projects in several states.

Farber Gravestone Collection <http://www.davidrumsey.com/farber/>

A very special site of over 13,500 excellent images of over 9,000 gravestones, most of which date from the 1800's. The majority of these images were taken in Northeastern US, but not all.

GeneaSearch Cemetery Records Online <http://www.geneasearch.com/cemeteries.htm>

Every state index of important cemeteries listed, many have a name index for those interred.