

How to Use Find-A-Grave

[VIDEO LINK](#)

Overview

For genealogists and history enthusiasts alike,

FindAGrave.com is a treasure trove of

information. With over 226 million memorials, the website provides an invaluable resource for tracing family histories and uncovering fascinating stories about those who have passed on. However, with such a vast amount of data at your fingertips, it can be overwhelming to know where to begin. In this handout, we will explore some tips and tricks for getting the most out of FindAGrave.com so that you can make the most of this incredible website.



Find A Grave™

About Find-A-Grave

It's Free!

It's Owned by Ancestry

FindAGrave.com was started in 1995 by Jim Tipton to help people find the graves of famous people. It soon gained popularity among genealogists and history enthusiasts. The website expanded rapidly, with thousands of users contributing information about grave sites from all over the world.

In 2013, FindAGrave.com was acquired by Ancestry.com, which has continued to develop and expand upon the original vision of Jim Tipton. Today the site boasts millions of records covering grave locations across more than 200 countries around the world.

Since Ancestry owns the website, you may have been directed to this website from the Ancestry platform. If so, it is easy enough to review the information.

Oliver B Booth

in the U.S., Find a Grave® Index, 1600s-Current



Want to get involved? Click here.
Want to get involved? Click here!
Report a problem

✓ Saved to: Booth, Oliver B in tree "HENLEY - KNOX Family Tree 2015 USE THIS ONE" [Remove](#)

Detail Source

Name	Oliver B Booth
Gender	Male
Birth Date	17 Mar 1880
Birth Place	Wayne County, West Virginia, United States of America
Death Date	9 Jun 1936
Death Place	Mingo Junction, Jefferson County, Ohio, United States of America
Cemetery	Oakland Cemetery
Burial or Cremation Place	Mingo Junction, Jefferson County, Ohio, United States of America
Has Bio?	Y
Spouse	Melissie Ann Booth
Children	Helen Irene Sanders Bess B Rogers Clara Marie Talbitzer
URL	https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/140538935/oliver-b-booth

Save



GenealogyTV.org



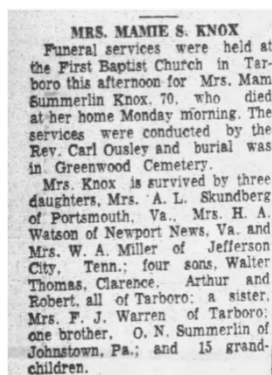
YouTube.com/GenealogyTV

How can Find-A-Grave help you with your genealogy research?

If you're looking to research your family's history and genealogy, Find-A-Grave is a valuable resource that can help you uncover information about your ancestors. Here are some ways in which Find-A-Grave can assist with your research:



1. Locate burial sites: One of the primary functions of Find-A-Grave is to help individuals locate the final resting places of their ancestors. This can be especially helpful if you're trying to fill in gaps in your family tree or connect with distant relatives.



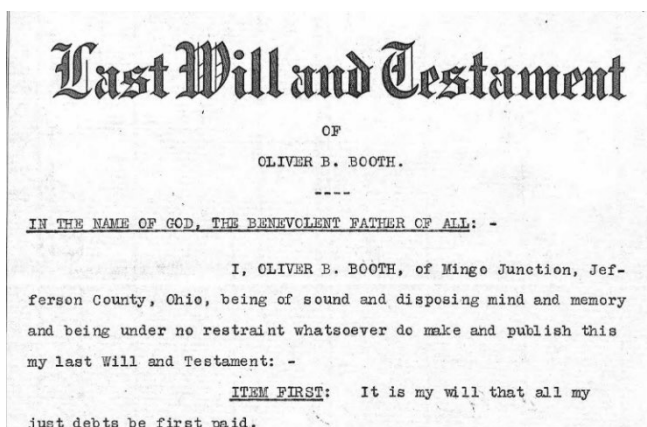
2. Access obituaries: Many memorial pages on Find-A-Grave include obituary information, which can provide key details about an individual's life and family members.

3. View headstone photos: In addition to providing location information, many memorial pages also include photos of headstones or markers, which can provide additional clues and context for your research.

4. Connect with other researchers: Find-A-Grave has a large community of users who are interested in genealogy and family history research. By joining this

community, you may be able to connect with others who have similar interests and share valuable information.

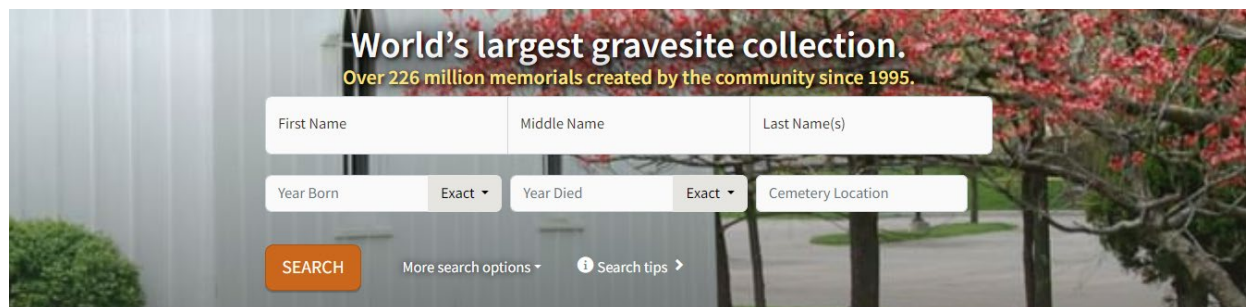
5. Contribute content: If you have information, documents, or photos related to a particular ancestor, you can contribute them to their memorial page on Find-A-Grave. This not only helps preserve their legacy but also provides valuable resources for other researchers.



Tips for How to Use Find-A-Grave

You can view the FindAGrave.com website without a subscription. However, to contribute in any way, you'll need a free membership. I suggest you sign up for several reasons, you'll soon see. Trust me, it's worth it.

Search for Your Ancestors



Keep in mind that the information you find on Find-A-Grave was added by volunteers like you and me. This is why it is free to use. However, it can have mistakes, so you'll need to verify the information with other records. Sometimes, though, Find-A-Grave may be the only resource known. Keep digging for proof that this information is correct.

If nothing else, it is a great place for clues!

Pay Attention

There are several things that you want to pay attention to on the ancestor's profile. Here are some tips you may not know about Find-A-Grave that will help you with your research.

1. Name – Don't always expect the name to be the same as the

name you know to be your ancestor. Use other data within the profile, to help identify the right person. Also, the name may be spelled differently.

2. Birth and Death dates are sometimes estimated. For example, sometimes a tombstone will not provide a birth date but instead will say the person lived to be 79 years, 8 months, and 13 days along with a death date. When people try to calculate what the birth date is, they may be off by a few days or even years because of calculating errors,

Adolf Lester Skundberg 1

BIRTH 18 Oct 1902

DEATH 17 Feb 1955 (aged 52) 2

BURIAL Greenwood Cemetery 3
Tarboro, Edgemombe County, North Carolina, USA [Add to Map](#)

PLOT A 43

MEMORIAL ID 177008037 · [View Source](#) 4

SHARE **SAVE TO** **EDIT** 7

MEMORIAL **PHOTOS** 2 **FLOWERS** 2

Family Members 11

Parents Alfred William Skundberg 1872–1954

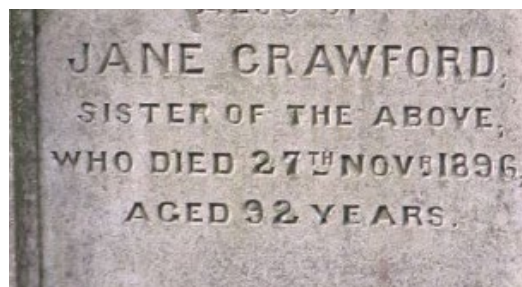
Spouse Blanche Nellie Knox Skundberg 1904–1963

Siblings Ruth SkundbergArens 1900–1960

Obituary 6

Photo 5

Request Photo 12



leap years, changes in the calendars of the time, etc. Online date calculators can sometimes help factor a death date. TimeandDate.com is one I use. Just enter the death date, aged info and let the calculator do the work.

3. Note the Cemetery in your research notes... but especially note that it is a hyperlink.
 - a. TIP – Open the cemetery in a separate tab and search for other family members by surname only, to get a list of everyone buried in that cemetery.
 - b. Search for the maiden surnames of females too for more potential family members.
4. Make note of the **Memorial ID number** in your research notes, ancestor profiles, and in source citations. This is because you can search Find a Grave by an ancestor by ID number.

Mamie Summerlin Knox

BIRTH 11 Jan 1884

DEATH 4 Oct 1954 (aged 70)

BURIAL [Greenwood Cemetery](#)
Tarboro, Edgecombe County, North Carolina, USA [Add to Map](#)

PLOT A 43

MEMORIAL ID 177007918 · [View Source](#)

Photo added by [Constance Henley Knox](#)

[MEMORIAL](#) [PHOTOS 3](#) [FLOWERS 3](#)

5. **Photos** – Often you will only find a photo of a grave marker. Pay attention to the photographer.
 - a. TIP – Drill into the photographer’s name (hyperlink) to learn more. You can email the photographer. Sometimes they are family members or cemetery employees.
 - b. TIP – Once in the photo tab, click into the photo to enlarge. You can often enlarge it again by clicking the View Original in the lower right corner.
 - i. “Save as” the original version to have the best quality image for your files.
 - ii. Note who the photographer is in your research notes. It is part of a proper source citation.
6. **Obituaries** are often found in the memorials. Transcribe these obituaries. Reach out to the person who uploaded it to learn which paper the original obituary came from.
7. **“Save to +”** This button allows you to do several things.
 - a. **Save to Ancestry**, then choose the ancestor already in your tree... or add a new person.
 - b. **Save to a Virtual Cemetery**. This allows you to group memorials into any group you choose and is for your use only. I use it to group families together.
 - c. **Save to the Clipboard**... to paste into your notes or elsewhere like on social media.
 - d. **Print** to your printer or a PDF.
8. **Edit**
 - a. If you are the manager of the memorial (you created it), you can edit the memorial to add more information to it.
 - b. If you don’t manage the memorial, you can message the creator/manager and ask to amend it with the information you have. Be sure to cite your sources.

- i. If they don't respond in a reasonable time, you can request to take over the management of the memorial from Find a Grave. (See Manage a Memorial Section)
 - ii. Please try to have good source information or personal knowledge (you knew the person) before requesting an edit.
9. **Flowers** – No one is trying to sell you flowers here... okay there might be an ad that does, but there is a real purpose for this tab.
 - a. Often other family have left Virtual Flowers.
 - b. LEAVE VIRTUAL FLOWERS – Leaving flowers does a few things for you.
 - i. It puts a time stamp on when you were last viewing this memorial.
 - ii. You can put your relationship to the person on there for others to find.
 - iii. It allows others to email you through the Find-A-Grave platform.
10. **Other Family Memorials** – We usually see other family members linked here on the ancestors profile. If their memorial is also on Find-A-Grave, you may see that blue hyperlink to take you to that memorial. Right-click to open in a new tab the other family member so you can preserve your original search.
11. **Request a Photo** – If there is no image of the gravestone, you can click on request a photo. Volunteers in the area, who have set their preferences to be notified of requests, may go out and fill the request by finding and taking a picture of the gravestone. Be patient. Sometimes this takes years for your request to be filled.



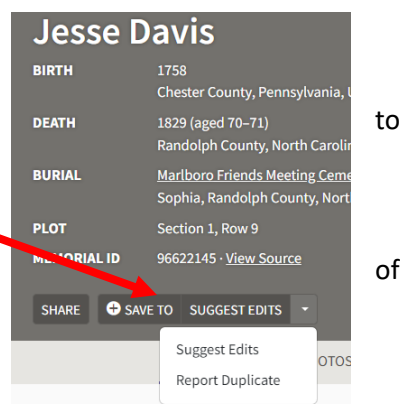
Manage a Memorial

If you create a memorial, you are the manager. Scroll all the way to the bottom of any memorial to find out Who is the manager? As the manager, you may find other people requesting updates or changing information to a memorial that you created.

Requesting Edits

If you are not the memorial manager, you may request edits to the memorial if you feel it is incorrect. This will then send information the manager of the memorial, and They may correspond with you about updates.

Click Suggest Edits, to fill out the form and send it in to the manager of the memorial.



Requesting Transfer of a Memorial

If you are not getting any response to your update request, you may request to become the manager of a memorial and have it transferred to you. It could be that you're not getting a response because the manager did not get your notification, may have decided they are not interested., or they may have passed away.

Be patient, Find a Grave does not respond quickly.

Go to <https://support.findagrave.com/s/article/Request-to-Manage>

Be A Contributor

Contribute to Find a Grave

At Find a Grave, we all work together to create a virtual cemetery where it's easy to learn about the final resting place of millions of people from around the world.



Add Memorials



Upload Photos



Transcribe Photos



Photo Requests



Suggested Edits



Upload Spreadsheet

Add Memorials

There are several ways you can contribute to the Find a Grave community. You can add memorials. This is especially important for those little hidden away cemeteries. This is easy... just follow the prompts on either the mobile app or on a desktop computer. You can even add memorials for those who are not "buried" or their remains are not found in a cemetery.

Virtual Cemeteries

This is one of my favorite tricks with Find a Grave. With Virtual Cemeteries you can create a grouping of graves from all over the world into one family group as a virtual cemetery. You could have ten different people in ten different cemeteries all in one virtual cemetery. This is great for putting family groups together.

Save to a Virtual Cemetery - Simply “Save to +” from any memorial to save it to a virtual cemetery.

Find Your Virtual Cemeteries - Find your virtual cemeteries under your profile icon in the upper right corner.

Upload Photos

You can upload photos or upload a spreadsheet of memorials to cemeteries under the Upload Photos area.

Transcribe Photos

I have not seen this function working lately. Seems all photos are transcribed as of this writing, at least for me.

Photo Request

This is best done from the memorial when one exists. If there is not a memorial for your ancestor, this is the place you would request it. Volunteers in the area would be notified of your request and may attempt to locate it for you. You will get notified from the volunteer of any response to your request. Make sure your notifications on your Find a Grave account are turned on.

Suggested Edits

If you own a memorial and some wishes to add or correct information you have, this is where you might see those request. Additionally, if you have made a suggested edit, you'll find it here as well.

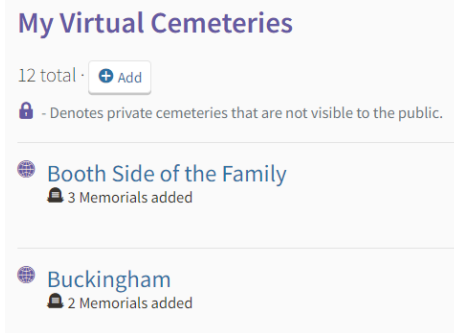
Be a Photo Volunteer

Being a Photo Volunteer means that you will take request to go out to cemeteries in your area and photograph tombstones. This is a great way to get out of the house, take a walk outside and help another genealogist who are too far away to visit the cemetery themselves.

How to Volunteer as a Photographer

If you'd like to see the open requests in your area, you can find them by clicking the **Contribute tab**, then **Photo Request**, then **Open Request**. You do not need to be signed up as a volunteer to Claim and Fulfill a request.

- Login to your Find a Grave account. (This is different than your Ancestry account).



- If you don't have a Find a Grave account, create one.
- Go to your icon in the upper right corner.
- Click on Account
- Drop down to Photo Volunteer and check the box "I would like to be a Photo Volunteer."
 - Read the Learn More tab.
 - Note: No money can exchange hands in either direction. This is totally voluntary. If someone asks you for money it is a scam.

Account Settings

GENERAL

PASSWORD

EMAIL

PHOTO VOLUNTEER

FLOWER SETTINGS

NOTIFICATIONS

SITE PREFERENCES

Photo Volunteer

I would like to be a Photo Volunteer. [Learn More](#)

Email me with new photo requests from my selected cemeteries.

Volunteer cemeteries You volunteer for **0 cemeteries**. You can edit this list or add more. Some of the cemeteries may have been selected for you based on your location when you signed up.

[+ Add a Cemetery](#)

- Add a Cemetery near you. You can view a map of the cemeteries within an area you choose.
- I find "View a List" works better than the map.
- Be mindful that some cemeteries have restrictions on taking photographs within the cemetery. Check with the front office (if there is one) for any restrictions.
- Check the boxes of the cemeteries in your area you wish to volunteer and then click the volunteer button at the bottom of the screen.

Photo Requests

Open Requests
Requests I Claimed
My Requests

9 photo requests found
Excluding 39 requests with problems reported. [Show problem requests](#)

Filter By:

Home Location

5 Miles

Distance

[DOWNLOAD LIST](#)

<p>Annie Watson · 1889–1957 – Requested By: G. Bates on 25 Mar 2023</p> <p>Pine Forest Cemetery 3 Miles Away</p> <p>Wilmington, New Hanover County, North Carolina, USA</p>	Open	<div style="display: flex; gap: 5px;"> 👤 CLAIM FULFILL </div>
<p>Randall Ballangee · 1945–2020 – Requested By: Ralph Harris on 12 Feb 2023</p> <p>Greenlawn Memorial Park Cemetery 3 Miles Away</p> <p>Wilmington, New Hanover County, North Carolina, USA</p>	Open	<div style="display: flex; gap: 5px;"> 👤 CLAIM FULFILL </div>
<p>John Lennon · 1915–1972 – Requested By: M. E. Coward on 15 Oct 2022</p> <p>Greenlawn Memorial Park Cemetery 3 Miles Away</p> <p>Wilmington, New Hanover County, North Carolina, USA</p> <p>Plot: 4B</p>	Open	<div style="display: flex; gap: 5px;"> 👤 CLAIM FULFILL </div>

Notes:

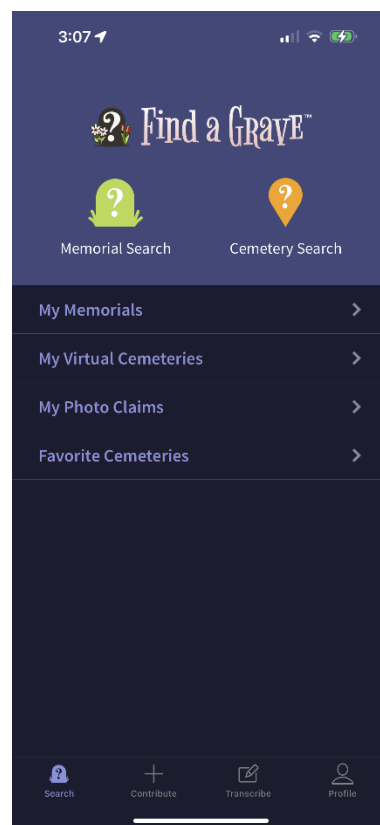
- If you're going to do this, try to contact the cemetery or go online to find a map. Otherwise, you could be walking for hours looking at tombstones.
- Take water, a whisk broom, grass snippers, a spray bottle of water, proper clothing, a camera or cell phone, and bug spray. You might want to bring water and snacks for yourself.
- Take clean pictures of the tombstones without grass clippings, weeds, etc. The goal is to capture a readable image. Sometimes spraying with clean water can help bring out the lettering.
- Ask the cemetery and family if you wish to clean a tombstone. There are specific rules about this, check with the cemetery before cleaning anything. You may lightly brush off any dirt or grass clippings in most cases without question.

Find a Grave Mobile App

Using the mobile app makes this a fun and easy task of taking pictures, upload, and add GPS of the grave location, while you're in the cemetery.

Adding a Photos and Memorials Using the Mobile App

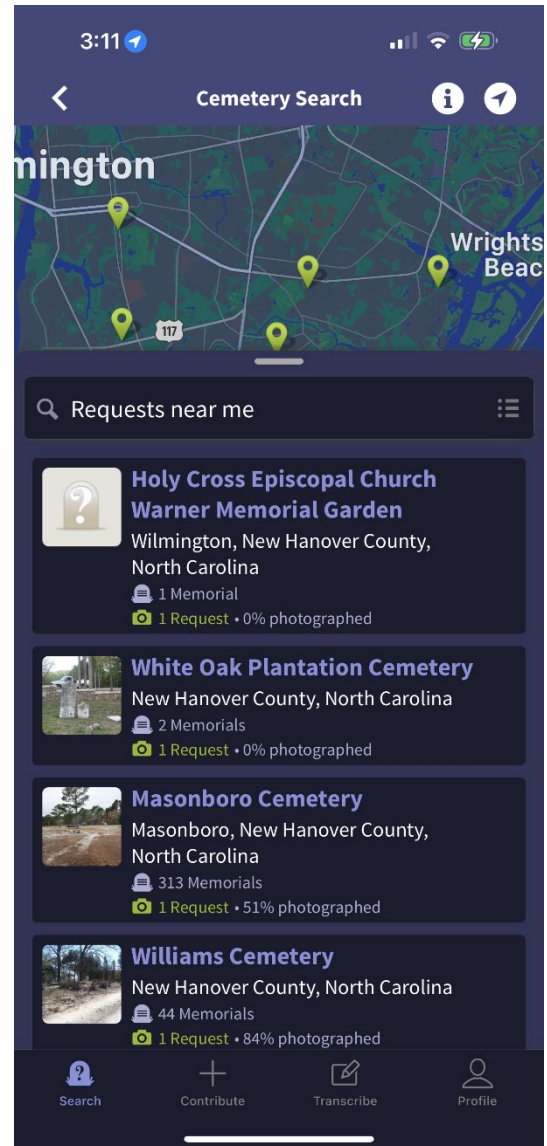
1. Download the Find a Grave mobile app: If you haven't already done so, download the Find a Grave mobile app from the App Store (for iOS devices) or Google Play Store (for Android devices).
2. Sign up or log in: If you're a new user, sign up for a free account on the app. If you already have an account, log in using your email and password.
3. Search for the cemetery: Use the search feature in the app to find the cemetery where you want to add the memorial.
4. Find the person's burial site: Once you've located the cemetery, use the app to find the burial site of the person you want to add a memorial for. You can search by the person's name or by the cemetery's records.
5. Tap "Add a memorial": Once you've found the person's burial site, tap the "Add a memorial" button on the bottom of the screen.
6. Enter the person's information: Enter the person's name, birth and death dates, and any other relevant information in the fields provided.
7. If you want to add location information, such as GPS coordinates of the person's burial site, you may be able to do so within the app, if the feature is available. Some smartphones and cameras have built-in GPS receivers that can add GPS coordinates to photos. If you have a photo of the person's headstone or burial site that includes GPS coordinates, you can add that photo to the memorial in the app with GPS coordinates. Either way, upload the photos to the website. Someone will be grateful you did!



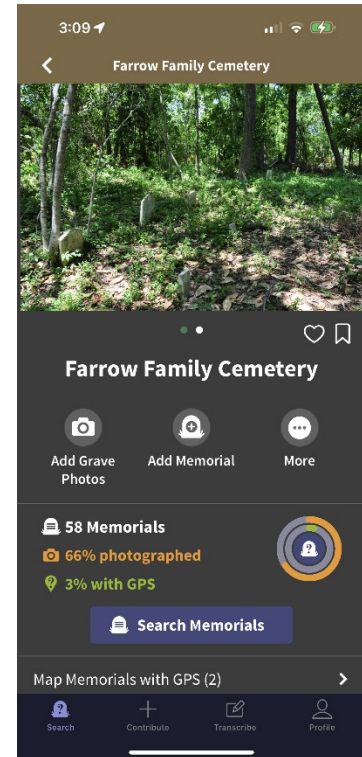
8. Add a photo: You can add a photo of the person or their headstone by tapping the "Add a photo" button and choosing a photo from your device's photo library.
9. Submit the memorial: Once you've entered all the information and added any photos, tap the "Submit" button to create the memorial. The memorial will be reviewed by Find a Grave staff and added to the site if it meets their guidelines.
10. That's it! You've successfully added a memorial to the Find a Grave mobile app.

Fulfilling Photo Requests Using the Find a Grave Mobile App

1. Open the Find a Grave mobile app.
2. Find a photo request: Use the button suggesting several photo requests in your area for the quickest way to find local cemeteries that have photo requests. You may need to allow the app to use your location.
3. Check the request details: Once you've found a photo request, check the details of the request to ensure you can fulfill it. The request will include the name of the person, the cemetery and location, and any special instructions.
4. Accept the request: If you can fulfill the request, tap the Accept or Claim button on the request. This will assign the request to you and let other volunteers know that the request has been taken.
5. Before you go, call ahead and make sure they allow photos, get a map of the cemetery, and ask where the person/people you are fulfilling are buried, if the plot number is not already known.
6. Visit the cemetery: Make a visit to the cemetery where the person is buried. You can use the map feature in the app to find the cemetery if you're not familiar with the area.



7. Find the memorial: Once you're at the cemetery, use the app to find the memorial you need to photograph. You can use the search feature in the app or search for the person's name on the memorial stones.
8. Take several photos: Once you've found the memorial, use the Add Grave Photos to take pictures within the app. Take clear readable photos. Remove any grass, debris, to capture the best image.
9. Sometimes using a mirror or light will help bring out the letters on a tombstone. A spray bottle with clean water might help too.
10. Upload the photo: Use the app to upload the photo to the request. You may be able to upload the photo directly from your device's camera roll, or you may need to take a new photo within the app.
11. Submit the photo: Once you've uploaded the photo, submit it to the request. The person who requested the photo will receive a notification that the request has been fulfilled.
12. That's it! You've successfully fulfilled a photo request on the Find a Grave mobile app.



Tips for Taking Photos

1. Shoot the front of the cemetery with signage.
2. Shoot wide shots around the grave because other family may be buried nearby.
3. Shoot one or two close sharp images of the grave itself.

My Very Best Tip for Using Find a Grave

My very best tip for using Find a Grave is to use Virtual Cemeteries. Anytime you find a new ancestor, add them to a virtual cemetery. I use surnames or family groups to create those virtual cemeteries. This way, when you return to find your family members, you can find other family members that you have also found within the same clan in your virtual cemetery.

Contributions		
Suggested Edits		Flowers Added 123
Memorials Added	10	Virtual Cemeteries 12
Memorials Managed	10	Followers 11
Photos Added	48	Photos Transcribed 2
Volunteer Photos Taken	2	

Other Similar Videos

- Genealogy Research in Cemeteries: 10 Tips <https://youtu.be/3DucOFIKXNI>
- Find A Grave - Top 5 Tips <https://youtu.be/ePv8umGpWLA>
- Headstone Designs, Symbols, Cherubs, Iconography Found in Cemeteries <https://youtu.be/NzJJUBPvUcY>