

Death and Burial Practices in WWI & WWII

Richard G. (Rick) Sayre, CG[®], CGLSM, FUGA
14724 S. Evening Side Dr.
Herriman Utah, 84096
E-mail: rick@sayreandsayre.com

OVERVIEW

This presentation is about the process of collecting, identifying, and burying the dead and the associated records. Many records of kinship were created as a result of the process. We will also discuss how the United States honors and memorializes those Service Members that die, regardless of cause, but especially those killed in combat.

Describing the records relating to Death and Burial Practices in WWI & WWII is a complex process. There are similarities between the two wars in that the United States Army was the lead agency in collecting, identifying and burying the dead. In World War I (1917–1918) there were 53,402 battle deaths, while in World War II (1941–1945) battle deaths rose to 291,557. The DVA is the source of these numbers. The records of death and interment are largely now in the custody of the National Archives (NARA). The American Battlements Monument Commission (ABMC) also plays an important role due to their responsibility to care for the graves of those buried in foreign cemeteries. Fortunately, for those of us researching this topic much is published, and much is online.

WORLD WAR I

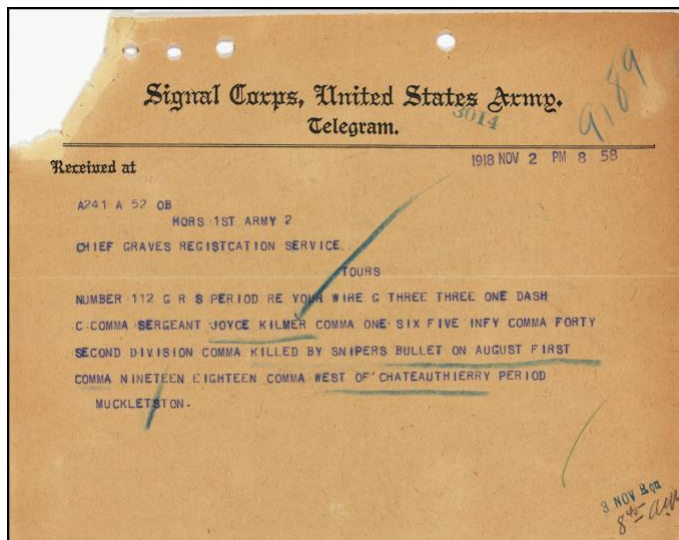


Figure 1: Death Notice, Joyce Kilmer Burial Case File, NAID 6233223, RG 92, NA

The Graves Registration Service (GRS), part of US Army, Quartermaster Corps, was organized in August of 1917. Ultimately over 7,000 soldiers were employed and supervised over 73,000 temporary burials. The GRS was also responsible for identification of remains. Though graves were marked and recorded, subsequent combat operations could destroy markings. Remarkably 97 percent of the remains were identified. After hostilities ceased the GRS moved remains to 700 temporary cemeteries from the 23,000 burial sites. Ultimately the War Department gave the families the choice to leave the remains in Europe or repatriate them to a United States

National Cemetery or a private cemetery. About 70% of the remains were returned to America. For those that would be interred in Europe, eight permanent cemeteries were established. In 1923 the American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC) was established and took over the

operation of the overseas cemeteries from the Quartermaster Corps. In addition to their primary mission of honoring our war dead, they provide extensive educational resources relating to the wars that these soldiers fought and died in.

THE RECORDS

You will note there are many different kinds of records involved including original textual records, databases, electronic records, audiovisual, and microfilms. When encountering microfilms created by the National Archives (NARA) the best practice is to review the descriptive pamphlet found in NARA's Microfilm Catalog. You may find additional information beyond what is in the main NARA Catalog.

The first place we look for a overseas burial of a soldier who died is on the website of the American Battle Monuments Commission, <https://www.abmc.gov/>. If the remains were repatriated, then the NCA Grave Locator, <https://gravelocator.cem.va.gov/> is the next search. If the soldier died in WW I, check *American WWI Burial Cards*, <https://wjh.us/AEF/> as this data base includes both repatriated remains and those buried in ABMC cemeteries.

More detail can be found in the NARA series "Correspondence, Reports, Telegrams, Applications, and Other Papers Relating to Burials of Service Personnel, 1/1/1915–12/31/1939" (NAID 595318) part of the Record Group 92, Records of the Office of the Quartermaster General. This series is also known as the "Burial Case Files" and were later known as the "Individual Deceased Personnel File" or IDPF. A few records have been digitized. The original records are located at the National Archives at St. Louis and should be requested from them.



Figure 2: Photographic Albums Relating to Pilgrimages of Gold Star Mothers..., RG 92, NAID 585286, NA, photo courtesy ABMC

GOLD STAR MOTHERS PILGRIMAGES, 1930–1933

From 1930 to 1933 over 6,600 Gold Star mothers and widows were provided escorted trips or pilgrimages to visit the grave of their son or husband. Mothers and widows of African American soldiers also participated. About 1,600 women were eligible; fewer than 200 participated. The low participation was a result of several factors to include the political sparring around the extent to which segregated conditions were imposed on every aspect of the pilgrimage. Both the bibliography and the relevant websites section of this handout identify resources that provide more detail on the conduct pilgrimages and the associated records. The two-part series in *Prologue* by Constance Potter provides a broad overview. The *Ancestry* collection “U.S. World War I Mother’s Pilgrimage, 1929” (cite listed below) is especially helpful in locating published and original textual records. A link is also provided below to the PBS special program on the pilgrimages. If you want to understand the background and details of these pilgrimages, watch the program. The program is also very moving.

The *FamilySearch Wiki* page “United States World War I Cemetery Records,” https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/United_States_World_War_I_Cemetery_Records, provides additional information on cemeteries, NARA records, and Gold Star Mothers.

WORLD WAR II

Burial procedures in the Second World War were similar to those in the First World War. Again, the Army’s Graves Registration Service was in charge. The challenge was much greater as the War was truly worldwide, the scale of combat was greater, and the weapons were more destructive. As a result, there were a great many more missing and unidentified soldiers. The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency reports that of 16 million Americans that served overseas, 400,000 died and approximately 79,000 were unaccounted for at the end of the War. Included in this number are remains buried as unknown, missing in action, and lost at sea. The effort of the government to locate and identify the unaccounted for has reduced the number to 73,000 today. Today the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (<https://www.dpaa.mil/>) has responsibility for identification of recovered remains. Many genealogists assist in the repatriation effort. The operation of the Grave Registration Service is extensively described in Steere’s *The Graves Registration Service in World War II* (#39 in the bibliography) and Steere and Boardman’s *Final Disposition of World War II Dead, 1945–51* (#40).

THE WW II RECORDS

The single best source to understand and locate records relating to casualties and burials pertaining to World War II is NARA’s Reference Information Paper (RIP) 82, *A Finding Aid to Records Relating to Personal Participation in World War II: American Military Casualties and Burials* (#10). Casualties in this context refers to both wounded and dead. The RIP begins with a discussion of the casualty reporting system of the services. Included in this report is description of Missing Air Crew Reports (MACR). These reports (NAID 305256) are part of Record Group 92, Records of the Office of the Quartermaster General. The MACR records are online in the NARA Catalog and have been filmed as NARA Microfilm Publication M1380, *Missing Air*

Crew Reports of the U.S. Army Air Forces, 1942–1947. The film has been digitized and can be found on *Fold3*. The series consists of 27,000 file units.

The RIP in “Part 1: Textual Records Relating to Casualties and Burials” explains the holdings of the National Archives by Record Group as listed below:

- RG 24 Records of the Bureau of Naval Personnel
- RG 52 Records of the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery
- RG 92 Records of the Office of the Quartermaster General
- RG 112 Records of the Office of the Surgeon General (Army)
- RG 117 Records of the American Battle Monuments Commission
- RG 127 Records of the U.S. Marine Corps
- RG 208 Records of the Office of War Information
- RG 242 National Archives Collection of Foreign Records Seized
- RG 247 Records of the Office of the Chief of Chaplains
- RG 337 Records of Headquarters Army Ground Forces
- RG 338 Records of U.S. Army Commands
- RG 389 Records of the Office of the Provost Marshal General
- RG 407 Records of the Adjutant General's Office, 1917-
- Reference Material on World War II Casualties and Burials

The publication continues with Part 2, a description of Audiovisual Records Relating to Casualties and Burials. The RIP concludes with an Appendix detailing casualties for the Army, Marine Corps and Navy. We should use the online version of this RIP, <https://www.archives.gov/publications/ref-info-papers/82/> to conduct our research as it is more current.

In addition to the RIP the *FamilySearch Wiki* page “United States World War II Casualty Records,” at https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/United_States_World_War_II_Casualty_Records provides useful information.

THE AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION (<https://www.abmc.gov>)



The ABMC is responsible for the maintenance of 26 overseas military cemeteries that commemorate the service Americans killed in war. There are 124,905 American war dead interred in the cemeteries operated by the ABMC (30,973, WW I; 92,958, WW II; and 750 Mexican American War). Another 94,000 U.S. servicemen and women are memorialized on the Tablets of the Missing. All burials are final though requests for repatriation are occasionally still made. Eight cemeteries were established after the First World War and 14 more in the

Second World War. A few isolated burials remain based on requests of the next of kin. See Dickon’s *The Foreign Burial of American War Dead: A History* (#11). The webpage *ABMC Burials and Memorials*, <https://www.abmc.gov/database-search> allows users to search by a

variety of discriminators such as war, cemetery, or date of death. Records relating to repatriated remains are not recorded in this database.

NATIONWIDE GRAVESITE LOCATOR (<https://gravelocator.cem.va.gov/>)

The locator is operated by the National Cemetery Administration (NCA), part of the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA). Burial locations for veterans and family members can be found in this database. The data is assembled from a variety of sources. The cemeteries include those operated or maintained by the DVA. The NCA maintains 153 national cemeteries, and 34 soldier's lots. Also found in the database are burial records for the 14 National Park Service maintained cemeteries, some post cemeteries, state veterans' cemeteries, and private cemeteries. If repatriated remains were interred in these cemeteries a record should be found. Generally, an approved request for a government grave marker will trigger an entry in the database. This database is online at *Ancestry* as "U.S., Veterans' Gravesites, ca.1775–2019," at <https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/8750/>.

The *Ancestry* version includes some Arlington Cemetery burials which the NCA Locator does not include. For Arlington Cemetery burials use the ANC Explorer, <https://ancexplorer.army.mil/publicwmv/#/arlington-national/search/>.

HEADSTONE RECORDS FOR MILITARY VETERANS BURIED IN NONFEDERAL CEMETERIES

Records relating to headstones are found within Record Group 15, 92, and 117. The best single source to discover these records is Archivist Claire Kluskens's paper "Research Guide for Headstone Records for U.S. Military Veterans Buried in Nonfederal Cemeteries, 1879–1985 (#23). This guide includes information on headstone applications, the evolution of headstone designs, and the identification of online resources. See the bibliography for additional information.

RELATED RECORDS

Useful and important to our topic are records related to service in the two World Wars. These include records such as the deceased veterans claims files (C and XC), awards, official military personnel files (OMPFs) and the records of the units to which the service members were assigned. Examples of unit records include morning reports and combat action reports. Soldiers that died would be reported in morning reports and those that died in combat might also be mentioned in battle action reports. Some of these records compensate for the OMPFs lost in the disastrous fire in 1973 that destroyed 80% of the Army OMPFs stored in the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) at St. Louis. To this day, NARA still works to process burned files ("B-Files") and reconstitute records of service.

It is beyond the scope of this presentation to discuss these records. Some of the websites and references cited below provide more information.

RELEVANT WEBSITES

RECORDS DESCRIBED IN THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES CATALOG (NAC) & OTHER NARA RESOURCES

- National Archives Catalog, “Activities of Grave Registration Service, France, 1919–1920,” RG 111, NAID 24713, <https://catalog.archives.gov/id/24713>. The video items are online at YouTube, under the same title at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zVgua3PIEQQ>. The film is very graphic.
- *National Archives Catalog*, “Applications for Headstones for Sailors, Marines, and Soldiers Buried Outside the Continental United States, 1909–1923,” RG 92, NAID 607867, <https://catalog.archives.gov/id/607867>. Applications relate to burials in Alaska, China, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Guam, Hawaii, India, Ireland, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, Panama Canal Zone, Philippines, Puerto Rico, and Spain (Gibraltar). Though small in number, these files are digitized.
- *National Archives Catalog*. “Applications for Headstones, 1/1/1925–6/30/1970,” RG 92, NAID 596118, <https://catalog.archives.gov/id/596118>. These records have been filmed as M1916 and M2113. *Ancestry* has scanned the films and the original records, and they are part of the collection “U.S. Headstone Applications for Military Veterans, 1925–1970,” <https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/2375/>. The films are also on *FamilySearch*.
- *National Archives Catalog*, “Card Register of Burials of Deceased American Soldiers, 1917–1922,” RG 92, NAID 6943087, <https://catalog.archives.gov/id/6943087>. A much more user-friendly version of this series is the webpage *American WWI Burial Cards* at <https://wjh.us/AEF/>. See *AEF Resources* below.
- *National Archives Catalog*, “Correspondence, Reports, Telegrams, Applications, and Other Papers Relating to Burials of Service Personnel, 1/1/1915–12/31/1939, RG 92, NAID 595318, <https://catalog.archives.gov/id/595318>. This file is also known as “Burial Case Files.” There are approximately 218,905 files. Of these files 30,922 files relate to WW I soldiers. Records relating to surnames beginning with the letter “A” have been digitized.
- *National Archives Catalog*, “Headstone Inscription and Interment Records for U.S. Military Cemeteries on Foreign Soil, 1942–1949,” RG 117, NAID 7408555, <https://catalog.archives.gov/id/7408555>. Online at *Ancestry* as “U.S., Headstone and Interment Records for U.S., Military Cemeteries on Foreign Soil, 1942–1949,” <https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/9170/>.
- *National Archives Catalog*, “Initial Burial Plats for World War I American Soldiers, 1920–1920,” RG 92, NAID 12007376, <https://catalog.archives.gov/id/12007376>. This series consists of 1,329 maps that record the names and initial burial locations of those soldiers killed in action. These maps are scanned and organized into 4 file units. See *AEF Resources* below.
- *National Archives Catalog*, “Interment Control Forms, 1928–1962,” RG 92, NAID 5833879, <https://catalog.archives.gov/id/5833879>. Also, online at *Ancestry* as “U.S., National Cemetery Interment Control Forms, 1928–1962.”

- *National Archives Catalog*, “Maps and Plans of Temporary American Expeditionary Force Cemeteries, 1920–1922,” RG 92, NAID 642000, <https://catalog.archives.gov/id/642000>.
- *National Archives Catalog*, “Missing Air Crew Reports (MACRS), 1942–1947,” RG 92, NAID 305256, <https://catalog.archives.gov/id/305256>. Online at *Fold3*.
- *National Archives Catalog*, “Photographs of American Military Activities, ca.1918–1981,” RG 111, NAID 530707, <https://catalog.archives.gov/id/530707>
- *National Archives Catalog*, “Photographs taken by the “Griffin Group,” of areas occupied by American Troops during World War I combat operations, 1918–1919,” RG 120, NAID 532280, <https://catalog.archives.gov/id/532280>.
- *National Archives Catalog*, “Veterans Administration Master Index, 1917–9/16/1940?” RG 15, NAID 76193916, <https://catalog.archives.gov/id/76193916>. Online at *FamilySearch*, <https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/2968245>. See also “Key to Codes and Prefixes” at <https://www.archives.gov/files/calendar/genealogy-fair/2018/6-csarhandout3.pdf>.
- *National Archives Catalog*, “World War II Honor List of Dead and Missing Army and Army Air Forces Personnel, 6/1946–6/1946,” RG 407, NAID 305276, <https://catalog.archives.gov/id/305276>. Also, online on *Fold3* as “WWII Army and Army Air Force Casualty List.” There is a similar publication on *Fold3* for the U.S. Navy titled as “WWII Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard Casualty List.”
- *The Text Message*, “Now Available Online: Burial Cards of World War I Soldiers,” <https://text-message.blogs.archives.gov/2018/11/08/now-available-online-burial-cards-of-world-war-i-soldiers/>. This blog post illustrates the correlation of burial card information to unit records. For unit records consult the collections on *Fold3*.
- *The Text Message*, “Passports and Travel Documents for Pilgrims: Gold Star Travel,” <https://text-message.blogs.archives.gov/2017/12/26/passports-and-travel-documents-for-pilgrims-gold-star-travel/>
- *The Unwritten Record*, “Newly Digitized Series: Initial Burial Plats for World War I American Soldiers,” <https://unwritten-record.blogs.archives.gov/2018/11/06/newly-digitized-series-initial-burial-plats-for-world-war-i-american-soldiers/>
- *The National Archives*, “World War I Centennial,” <https://www.archives.gov/topics/wwi>
- *The National Archives*, “World War II Records,” <https://www.archives.gov/research/military/ww2>. See also the brochure *Finding Information on Personal Participation in World War II* at <https://www.archives.gov/files/research/military/ww2/ww2-participation.pdf>.
- *AEF Resources Map*, <https://arcg.is/Xm1SO>. This GIS application integrates into a GIS application Initial Burial Plats (NAID 12007576), Cemetery Code Lists of the GRS (NAID 6814701), Burial Cards (NAID 6943087), and Griffin Photos (NAID 532280). A variety of layers are available such as areas of operations, cemeteries, front lines, trenches, and initial burials. High resolution images of Griffin images may be found at Meuse-Argonne, http://meuse-argonne.com/?page_id=3074.

In addition to the above catalog entries, there is an extensive collection of casualty records within the *Access to Archival Databases* (AAD). See the section Genealogy/Personal History: Military Personnel, <https://aad.archives.gov/aad/series-list.jsp?cat=GP23>. Pay attention to the link to FAQs as these collections are adapted from electronic records.

PILGRIMAGES OF GOLD STAR MOTHERS AND WIDOWS, 1930–1933

- *American Gold Star Mothers, Inc.*, <https://www.goldstarmoms.com/>
- *National Archives Catalog*, “Records Relating to Pilgrimages of Gold Star Mothers and Widows, 1930–1933,” RG 92, NAID 6161915, <https://catalog.archives.gov/id/6161915>. Online on *Ancestry* as “U.S. World War I Mother’s Pilgrimage, 1929,” <https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/4224/>. This collection includes color scans from the cited series and the publication *List of Mothers and Widows of American Soldiers, Sailors, and Marines Entitled to Make a Pilgrimage to War Cemeteries in Europe* (#26).
- *Process: a blog for American history*, <https://www.processhistory.org/plant-and-clarke-federal-segregation-and-gold-star-mothers/>
- *Robert Penn Warren Center for Humanities*, “Mourning and the Making of a Nation: The Gold Star Mother’s Pilgrimages, 1930–1933,” https://www.vanderbilt.edu/rpw_center/pdfs/BUDREAU.PDF
- *Vimeo.com*, “Gold Star Mothers: Pilgrimage of Remembrance,” <https://vimeo.com/250299547>. Several NARA archivists (Constance Potter, and Mitchell Yockelson) and Lisa M. Budreau, author of *Bodies of War: World War I and the Politics of Commemoration in America* appear in this PBS production.

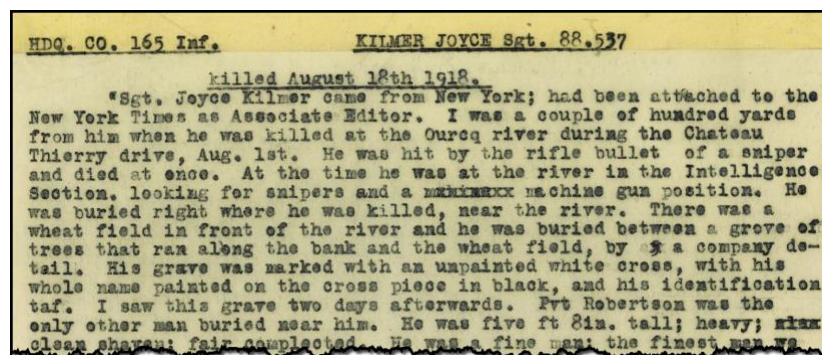


Figure 3: Report of Death, Sgt. Joyce Kilmer, Burial Case File, NAID 6233223, RG 92, NA

OTHER RELEVANT WEBSITES

- *A Week of Genealogy*, <https://aweekofgenealogy.com/category/wwi/>. Website of the author of *Researching Your World War I Ancestor* (#28). Site provides tips on WWI and WWII research and many other topics.
- U.S. Army, *The beginnings of the Quartermaster Graves Registration Service*, https://www.army.mil/article/128693/the_beginnings_of_the_quartermaster_graves_registration_service

BIBLIOGRAPHY

1. Aaronson, Franklin M. *Pensions and Compensation to Veterans and Their Dependents*, Washington, DC: Social Security Administration, 1942, <https://www.ssa.gov/policy/docs/ssb/v5n11/v5n11p10.pdf>. This Social Security Bulletin written in 1942 by an employee of the SSA, describes the evolution of pension law from 1776 to 1942.
2. American Battle Monuments Commission. *American Armies and Battlefields in Europe: A History, Guide, and Reference Book*. Washington, DC: U.S. G.P.O., 1938. Online at Center for Military History, <http://www.history.army.mil/html/books/023/23-24/>. Note especially Chapter XI on cemeteries.
3. American Battle Monuments Commission. *American Memorials and Overseas Military Cemeteries*. Washington, DC: American Battle Monuments Commission, 1970. Online at *FamilySearch Books*.
4. Badger, Jeffrey A., and Flint Whitlock. *Finding Granddad's War*. Provo, UT: Ancestry Pub., 2008.
5. Budreau, Lisa M. *Bodies of War: World War I and the Politics of Commemoration in America*. New York: New York University Press, 2010.
6. Carmack, Sharon DeBartolo. *Your Guide to Cemetery Research*. Cincinnati: Betterway Books, 2002.
7. Conner, Thomas H. *War and Remembrance. The Story of the American Battle Monuments Commission*. Lexington, KY: The University Press of Kentucky Press, 2018.
8. Cooper, Gaylord. *Stories Told in Stone: Cemetery Iconology: a Manual for Genealogy Research*. Louisville, KY: Motes Books, 2009.
9. Conwill, Kinshasha Holman (editor). *We Return Fighting: World War I and the Shaping of Modern Black Identity*. Washington, DC: Smithsonian Books, 2019. See also the online exhibition at <https://nmaahc.si.edu/honoring-our-gold-star-mothers>. An excerpt from this book appears on this webpage. Authored by Lisa M Budreau, this narrative describes the experience of African American Gold Star Mothers who made the Pilgrimage.
10. DeWhitt, Benjamin L., compiler. *A Finding Aid to Records Relating to Personal Participation in World War II: American Military Casualties and Burials*. Reference Information Paper 82. Washington, DC: National Archives, 1999. Online at NARA, <https://www.archives.gov/publications/ref-info-papers/82>.
11. Dickon, Chris. *The Foreign Burial of American War Dead: A History*. Jefferson, NC: McFarland & Co., 2011.
12. Eggener, Keith. *Cemeteries*. New York: W.W. Norton & Co., 2010. An extensively illustrated guide to burial grounds and their place in American culture.
13. Eisenberg, Norman. "20th-Century Veterans' Service Records Safe, Secure—and Available." *Prologue*, Vol. 37, No. 1 (Spring 2005).
14. Gale Research Inc. *Cemeteries of the U.S.: A Guide to Contact Information for U.S. Cemeteries and Their Records*. Detroit: Gale Research, 1994.
15. Gawne, Jonathan. *Finding Your Father's War: A Practical Guide to Researching and Understanding Service in the World War II U.S. Army*. Philadelphia: Casemate, 2006.

16. Graham, John W. *The Gold Star Mother pilgrimages of the 1930s*. Jefferson, NC: McFarland & Company, 2005.
17. Hirrel, Leo P. "The Beginnings of the Quartermaster Graves Registration Service." *Army Sustainment*, July-August 2014. Online at <http://www.army.mil/article/128693>.
18. Holik, Jennifer. *Stories from the World War II Battlefield*. Woodridge, IL: Generations, 2015. This book is a how-to guide to World War II genealogical research.
19. Holt, Dean W. *American Military Cemeteries: A Comprehensive Illustrated Guide to the Hallowed Grounds of the United States, including Cemeteries Overseas*. Jefferson, NC: McFarland & Co., Inc., 1992.
20. Haug, Henrietta L. *Gold Star Mothers; a collection of notes recording the personal histories of the Gold Star Mothers of Illinois*. Brussels, IL: 1941.
21. Hull, Theodore J. "The World War II Army Enlistment Records File and Access to Archival Databases." *Prologue*, Vol. 38, No. 1 (Spring 2006). Online at <https://www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/2006/spring/aad-ww2.html>.
22. Keister, Douglas. *Stories in Stone: A Field Guide to Cemetery Symbolism and Iconography*. Salt Lake City: Gibbs Smith, Publisher, 2004.
23. Kluskens, Claire. "Research Guide for Headstone Records for U.S. Military Veterans Buried in Nonfederal Cemeteries, 1879–1985. Online at <https://www.archives.gov/files/research/military/veterans/headstones-nonfederal-cemeteries.pdf>. See also her three-part series on "Headstones records for US Military Veterans" published in the *NGS Magazine*. These articles can be downloaded at her website *The Twelve Key*, <https://twelvekey.com/articles/>.
24. Knapp, Michael G., and Constance Potter. "Here Rests in Honored Glory: World War I Graves Registration" *Prologue*, Vol. 23, No. 2 (Summer 1991).
25. Knox, Debra Johnson. *WWII Military Records: A Family Historian's Guide*. Spartanburg, SC: MIE Pub, 2003.
26. *List of Mothers and Widows of American Soldiers, Sailors, and Marines Entitled to Make a Pilgrimage to the War Cemeteries in Europe*. H.R. Doc. 140, 71st Congress, 2nd Session (1930). Also filmed as NARA Microfilm Publication M1872 (Same title).
27. McMahan, Margaret M. *A Guide to the U.S. Pioneer Infantry Regiments in WWI*. Crownsville, MD: Margaret M. McMahan Teaching & Training Co., LLC, 2018.
28. ———. *Researching Your U.S. Army WWI Ancestors*. Crownsville, MD: Margaret M. McMahan Teaching & Training Co., LLC, 2016.
29. Mollan, Mark C. "Honoring Our War Dead: The Evolution of the Government Policy on Headstones for Fallen Soldiers and Sailors" *Prologue*, Vol. 35, No. 1 (Spring 2003). Online at <https://www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/2006/spring/aad-ww2.html>.
30. Mulligan, Timothy, Rebecca L. Collier, Judith Koucky, and Patrick R. Osborn. *World War II Guide to Records Relating to U.S. Military Participation*. Washington, DC: National Archives and Records Administration, 2008.
31. Nishiura, Elizabeth, ed. *American Battle Monuments: A Guide to Military Cemeteries and Monuments Maintained by the American Battle Monuments Commission*. Detroit: Omnigraphics, Inc., 1989.

32. Plant, Rebecca Jo and Frances M. Clark. "The Crowning Insult : Federal Segregation and the Gold Star Mother and Widow Pilgrimages of the Early 1930s." *Journal of American History*. 102:2 (Sep 2015) 406–432.
33. Potter, Constance. "World War I Gold Star Mothers Pilgrimages, Part I." *Prologue*, Vol. 31, No. 2 (Summer 1999). Online at <https://www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/1999/summer/gold-star-mothers-1.html>.
34. ———. "World War I Gold Star Mothers Pilgrimages, Part II." *Prologue*, Vol. 31, No. 3 (Fall 1999). Online at <https://www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/1999/fall/gold-star-mothers.html>.
35. Quartermaster Department. *Roll of Honor*. Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 1868. 27 vols. Contains the names of over 200,000 Union soldiers buried in national cemeteries, soldiers' lots and garrison cemeteries. Many of the volumes are online at *Google Books* for free and many volumes can be found on *Ancestry*. Though this publication precedes the time frame of this webinar, it documents the process taken by the Quartermaster General in recovering bodies and reinterring them in national cemeteries.
36. Ross, William F., and Charles F. Romanus. *The Quartermaster Corps: Operations in the War against Germany*. Washington, DC: Office of the Chief of Military History, Dept. of the Army, 1965.
37. Skocpol, Theda. *Protecting Soldiers and Mothers: The Political Origins of Social Policy in the United States*. Cambridge, MA: Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 1992.
38. Sledge, Michael. *Soldier Dead : How we Recover, Identify, Bury, and Honor Our Military Fallen*. New York: Columbia University Press, 2005.
39. Steere, Edward. *The Graves Registration Service in World War II*. Washington, DC: Historical Section of the Office of the Quartermaster General, 1951. Online *HathiTrust*.
40. Steere, Edward and Thayer M. Boardman. *Final Disposition of World War II Dead, 1945–51*. Washington, DC: Historical Branch, Office of the Quartermaster General, 1957. Online *HathiTrust*.
41. Strickland, Daniel W. *Connecticut Fights : The Story of the 102nd Regiment*. New Haven, CT: Quinnipiac Press: 1930. Online at *Fold3*.
42. Sweeney, W. Allison. *History of the American Negro in the Great World War : His Splendid Record in the Battle Zones of Europe; Including a Resume of His Past Services to his Country in the Wars of the Revolution, of 1812, the War of Rebellion, the Indian Wars on the Frontier, the Spanish-American War, and the Late Imbroglia With Mexico*. Chicago: Cuneo-Henneberry Co., 1919. Online at *HathiTrust*.
43. Weber, Gustavus A. and Schmeckebier, Laurence F. *The Veterans' Administration, Its History, Activities and Organization*. Washington, DC: The Brookings Institution, 1934.
44. Yalom, Marilyn. *The American Resting Place*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co., 2008.
45. Yockelson, Mitchell. "They Answered the Call: Military Service in the United States Army During World War I, 1917–1919." *Prologue*, Vol. 30, No. 3 (Fall 1998). Online at <https://www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/1999/fall/gold-star-mothers.html>.

All urls were current as of 17 January 2021

Isaac Looking Back - South Dakota ORIGINAL 355 Inf. 69 Div. September 12, 1918
 WAR DEPARTMENT O. Q. M. G. Form No. 623 Approved Aug. 12, 1913 Revised May 12, 1925
 PLEASE MAKE OUT AND RETURN IN DUPLICATE

355 Inf. 69 Div. Sept 12-1918

APPLICATION FOR HEADSTONE

355 Inf. 69 Div. Sept 12-1918

NAME <i>Isaac Looking Back</i>		RANK <i>Private</i>	COMPANY <i>L. 355</i>	U. S. Regiment, State Organization, or Vessel <i>355 Inf. 69 Div.</i>	DATE OF DEATH <i>Sept 15 1918</i>
NAME OF CEMETERY <i>Messiah</i>		CITY <i>Little Eagle</i>		STATE <i>S. D.</i>	

TO BE SHIPPED TO
George Looking Back
 (Name of consignee)
W. S. Laughlin
Carlson Co.
South Dakota
 MAY 9 1931 town, county, and State

PERMANENT ADDRESS
Little Eagle S.D.

DATE
April 22-1931

I hereby agree to accept the headstone at above destination, freight prepaid, and specify place same at decedent's grave.
Good Looking Back Consignee.

DO NOT WRITE HERE

Verified
STATE OF GEORGIA APR 1 9 1931

From
318401 *Martin Luther King* Applicant.

Shipped
5-2-31

*Stones must not be requested for any grave at which a private stone, monument, or other permanent marker is already erected or is to be erected. 3-508

Figure 4: Application for Headstone, Isaac Looking Back, NAID 596126. RG 92, NA