

Evidence Explained: Citing History Sources from Artifacts to Cyberspace

by city *and state* in the short form; but in the St. Louis Cemetery microfilm example at 5.7, only the city is cited. The difference is a matter of clarity. New Orleans is a city known worldwide. Everett is not, and Woodlawn is a cemetery name in many locales.

5.7 Files, Plats, Registers & Sexton Records

See QuickCheck Model *for* CEMETERY OFFICE RECORDS: PERSONALLY USED

The office files maintained by larger cemeteries may offer ownership, financial, and other information not found on the stones, or they may cite burial information for plots where no marker now exists. Your citation should clearly indicate that the data came from the office files. Typical situations include the following.

Source List Entry

Bellevue Cemetery Office (Lawrence, Massachusetts). Plat records.

First Reference Note

1. Bellevue Cemetery Office (Lawrence, Massachusetts), undated plat, citing Clarissa Wardrobe, lot 99, group 10. The actual gravestone (viewed by the author, 1996) reads *Elvira L. Wardrobe*, rather than *Clarissa*.

Subsequent Note

11. Bellevue Cemetery Office (Lawrence, Mass.), undated plat.

CORRECTION OF ERRORS

When citing cemetery office records, if the office data are at odds with the details on the stone, you will want to note that fact, along with a statement of how you obtained the information from the stone—i.e., by a personal visit, from published abstracts, or via other means.

Microfilm (FHL-GSU)

See also QuickCheck Model *for* CEMETERY OFFICE RECORDS: PRESERVATION FILM

When citing cemetery office registers filmed by the Genealogical Society of Utah and deposited at the Family History Library, the key issue is whether you wish your Source List Entry to be the whole collection of office records for that cemetery or whether your Source List will individually itemize the cemetery's varied types of materials.

The following example treats the cemetery office as the author and offers options for the Source List Entry. The register's title, copied exactly, is placed in quotation marks.

Source List Entry

(*Emphasis on whole series*)

St. Louis Cemetery No. 2 (New Orleans, Louisiana). Death and Burial Registers. FHL microfilm, 18 rolls. Family History Library, Salt Lake City, Utah.

(*Emphasis on a single register*)

St. Louis Cemetery No. 2 (New Orleans, Louisiana). “Death Records, Dec. 1864–Dec. 1867.” FHL microfilm 910,850. Family History Library, Salt Lake City, Utah.

First Reference Note

1. St. Louis Cemetery No. 2 (New Orleans, Louisiana), “Death Records, Dec. 1864–Dec. 1867,” p. 35, Valentine Avegno entry; FHL microfilm 910,850.

Subsequent Note

11. St. Louis Cemetery No. 2 (New Orleans), “Death Records, Dec. 1864–Dec. 1867,” 35.

Online Databases & Images 

See also QuickCheck Model *for* CEMETERY OFFICE RECORDS: IMAGES ONLINE

Some cemetery offices place their card files online, offering digitized images accompanied by databases or search engines. The following examples demonstrate how you might combine both types of resources into a single Source List Entry. The QuickCheck Model, cross-referenced above, demonstrates a citation only to the digital images.

Your source for these online records is the website, not the cemetery or the marker. As noted at 5.8, cemetery office data can differ from the data on the marker itself. Online data can differ from both. As the next example illustrates, the database and the card data can also differ.

When either type of source identifies its graves by section, lot, and space number, as these examples do, you may wish to include that detail in your citation. If so, you should state that the *database* (or the *card*) cites the section, lot, and space—clearly indicating in your notes that you have not verified this location through a personal visit.

In this example, the creator of the data is “The Spring Grove Family,” a corporation that encompasses multiple cemeteries, a funeral home, and a heritage foundation. The cited website was created by this corporation but the website’s name indicates that it covers only one cemetery. Neither the database nor the introductory page to the