

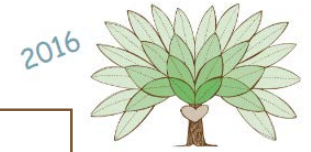


Grave Yards and Genealogy

American Battle Monuments Commission

Ryan Bass

Ryan Bass discusses the American Battle Monuments Commission's (ABMC) records useful for genealogy as well as the agency's history, organization, and administration. Documents covered in this session include internment, decimal subject files, lists of soldiers dead or wounded, headstone inscription and internment records, and cemetery and memorial files.



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Ryan Bass became an Archives Technician with the Textual Pull/Refile Division of the National Archives at College Park, MD in July 2015. Before working at the National Archives, he worked as a reference library associate for Frederick County Public Libraries in Frederick, MD. He has a Bachelor of Arts in History from St. Mary's College of Maryland and a Masters of Library and Information Science with a concentration in Cultural Heritage Information Management from the Catholic University of America. He is currently working on various projects for Textual Reference in College Park.

GRAVE YARDS AND
GENEALOGY: RECORDS OF THE
AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENT
COMMISSION (RG 117)

BY: RYAN BASS

SCOPE OF RESEARCH

- TEXTUAL RECORDS AVAILABLE AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES IN COLLEGE PARK, MD
 - PRIMARY LOCATION FOR MOST SERIES IN THIS RECORD GROUP
- WHILE RECORD GROUP 117 DATE RANGES COVER FROM 1923–1993, I LOOKED AT RECORDS CONCERNING WORLD WAR 1 AND WORLD WAR 2
- THERE ARE SOME RECORDS REGARDING THE COMMISSION IN RECORD GROUP 79 (NATIONAL PARK SERVICE) AND RECORD GROUP 220 (RECORDS OF TEMPORARY COMMITTEES, COMMISSIONS, AND BOARDS)

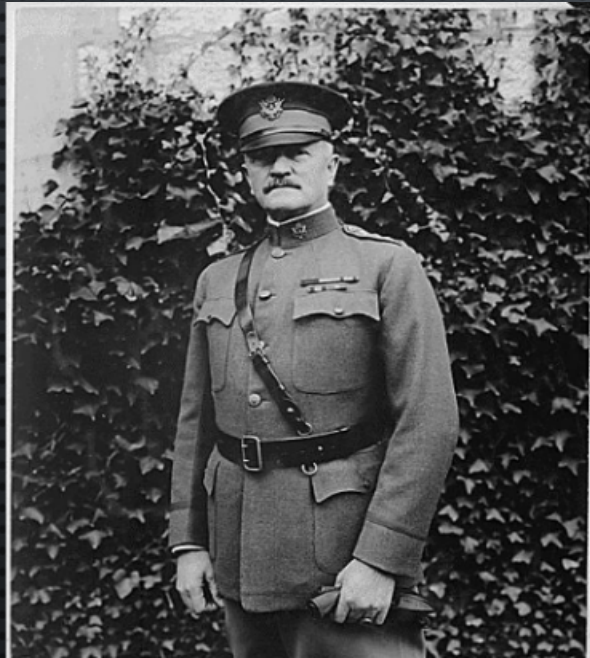
HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENT COMMISSION (ABMC)

THE PURPOSE OF THE COMMISSION

- COMMEMORATE THE SERVICES OF THE U.S. ARMED FORCES WHERE THEY HAVE SERVED SINCE APRIL 6, 1917;
- ESTABLISH SUITABLE WAR MEMORIALS; DESIGNING, CONSTRUCTING, OPERATING, AND MAINTAINING PERMANENT U.S. MILITARY BURIAL GROUNDS IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES;
- CONTROL THE DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF U.S. MILITARY MONUMENTS AND MARKERS IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES BY OTHER U.S. CITIZENS AND ORGANIZATIONS, BOTH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE;
- ENCOURAGE THE MAINTENANCE OF SUCH MONUMENTS AND MARKERS BY THEIR SPONSORS.



HISTORY OF THE ABMC



- 1923, CONGRESS ENACTED LEGISLATION CREATING THE AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION
- GENERAL JOHN PERSHING WAS APPOINTED AS THE FIRST CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMISSION UNDER PRESIDENT CALVIN COOLIDGE
- HE SERVED AS THE FIRST CHAIRMAN UNTIL 1948
- [LIST OF COMMISSIONERS SINCE 1948](#)

ORGANIZATION OF THE ABMC

- THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS CONSISTS OF NO MORE THAN 11 MEMBERS AND ONE OFFICER FROM THE ARMY (36 U.S.C. CHAPTER 21 § 2101)
- THESE MEMBERS ARE APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT AND THE PRESIDENT WILL FILL VACANCIES AS NEEDED
- THERE ARE TWO MAJOR OFFICES FOR THE ABMC
 - ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA
 - PARIS, FRANCE

SELECT SERIES FROM RG 117

- RECORDS RELATING TO INTERNMENT (A1 24)
- LISTS OF SOLDIERS DEAD OR WOUNDED, 1923 (UD 1001)
- HEADSTONE INSCRIPTION AND INTERNMENT RECORDS FOR U.S. MILITARY CEMETERIES ON FOREIGN SOIL, 1942-49 (A1 43)
- CEMETERY AND MEMORIAL FILES (A1 8 AND A1 9)
- DECIMAL SUBJECT FILES (A1 40)
- CORRESPONDENCE W/FORMER DIVISION OFFICERS (A1 31)

RECORDS RELATING TO INTERNMENT (A1 24)

- ARRANGEMENT: ARRANGED NUMERICALLY ACCORDING TO THE WAR DEPARTMENT DECIMAL CLASSIFICATION SCHEME AND THEREUNDER CHRONOLOGICALLY.
- PEOPLE WRITING IN FOR REQUEST OF LOCATION OF RELATIVES BURIED IN CEMETERIES
- GOLD STAR PILGRIMAGES
 - H.R. 8527 CALENDAR No. 200
- TALKING ABOUT THE ISSUE OF MASS BURIALS
- ARMY BURIALS AT SEA, WHICH INCLUDE CORRECTIONS FOR LIST OR ADDITIONS

RECORDS RELATING TO INTERNMENT: THE GRAVE OF QUENTIN ROOSEVELT



- HUGE FILE IN THIS SERIES ON HIS GRAVESITE
 - REPORT MADE ON THE CONDITION, MAINTENANCE, AND PLOT OF LAND
 - CORRESPONDENCE FROM PRESIDENT THEODORE ROOSEVELT AND HIS WIFE, EDITH

LISTS OF SOLDIERS DEAD OR WOUNDED, 1923 (UD 1001)

- ARRANGEMENT: UNARRANGED
- THREE STATUSES FOR SOLDIERS: KIA, WIA, DW
- THIS SERIES ONLY PERTAINS TO THE BATTLE OF CHATEAU THIERRY

HEADSTONE INSCRIPTION AND INTERNMENT RECORDS FOR U.S. MILITARY CEMETERIES ON FOREIGN SOIL (A1 43)

- ARRANGEMENT: ARRANGED ALPHABETICALLY BY SURNAME OF DECEASED SERVICE MEMBER.
- IT HAS BEEN DIGITIZED THROUGH [ANCESTRY.COM](https://www.ancestry.com)
 - IT CONTAINS INFORMATION SUCH AS WHERE THE DECEASED SERVICE MEMBER IS BURIED, THEIR NEXT OF KIN INFORMATION, AND SERVICE NUMBER

CEMETERY AND MEMORIAL FILES (A1 8 AND A1 9)

- ENTRY A1 8 COVERS WORLD WAR 1
- ENTRY A1 9 COVERS WORLD WAR 2
- ARRANGEMENT: BY NAME OF CEMETERY OR MEMORIAL

DECIMAL SUBJECT FILES (A1 40)

- THE DECIMAL SUBJECT FILES ARE ARRANGED BY THE WAR DEPARTMENT DECIMAL CLASSIFICATION SCHEME
 - TWO VERSIONS OF THE FILING MANUAL
 - [1917 WAR DEPARTMENT MANUAL](#)
 - [1943 WAR DEPARTMENT MANUAL](#)
 - 210.86, 220.86, 230.86- CORRESPONDING DECIMAL FILE NUMBERS FOR COMMISSIONED, ENLISTED, AND CIVILIAN DEATHS
 - ABMC BEING COMMENDED BY GERMAN CEMETERY FOR LETTING PEOPLE KNOW OF THEIR EXISTENCE

CORRESPONDENCE WITH FORMER DIVISION OFFICERS (A1 31)

- ARRANGEMENT: ARRANGED NUMERICALLY ACCORDING TO DECIMAL CLASSIFICATION SCHEME, THEREUNDER NUMERICALLY BY THE DIVISION'S NUMERICAL DESIGNATION, THEREUNDER ALPHABETICALLY BY NAME OF MILITARY OPERATION, AND THEREUNDER ALPHABETICALLY BY CORRESPONDENT'S SURNAME.
- CONTEXTUAL INFORMATION ABOUT UNIT OPERATIONS DURING WORLD WAR 1

QUESTIONS?



VIRTUAL
GENEALOGY FAIR



**Presenter didn't
get to your question?**

**You may email us at
*inquire@nara.gov***