

M1916

APPLICATIONS FOR HEADSTONES FOR
U.S. MILITARY VETERANS, 1925–1941

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National Archives and Records Administration
Washington, DC
2005

CIP information

INTRODUCTION

On the 134 rolls of this microfilm publication, M1916, are reproduced over 290,000 applications for headstones for deceased U.S. military veterans for the years 1925–41. These records are part of the series Applications for Headstones, 1925–63, in the Records of the Office of the Quartermaster General, Record Group (RG) 92.

BACKGROUND

The Cemetery Branch was established shortly after the Civil War in the Office of the Quartermaster General. Much of the branch's work involved establishing, maintaining, and improving national military cemeteries as the last resting place for the war dead. On March 3, 1873, Congress granted burial rights in national military cemeteries to all honorably discharged veterans of the Civil War (17 Stat. 605).

An act of Congress of February 3, 1879 (20 Stat. 281), extended the privilege of government-provided gravestones to soldiers buried in private cemeteries. This act provided

That the Secretary of War is hereby authorized to erect headstones over the graves of soldiers who served in the Regular or Volunteer Army of the United States during the war for the Union, and who have been buried in private village or city cemeteries, in the same manner as provided by the law of March third, eighteen hundred and seventy-three, for those interred in national military cemeteries. . . .

The Secretary of War shall cause to be preserved in the records of his Department the names and places of burial of all soldiers for whom such headstones shall have been erected by authority of this or any former acts.

Headstones for Confederate soldiers and sailors “who died in Federal prisons and military hospitals in the North and who were buried near their places of confinement” were authorized by the an act of March 6, 1906 (34 Stat. 56), which required the headstones to be “similar to those recently placed over the graves in the ‘Confederate section’” of Arlington National Cemetery. An act of February 26, 1929 (45 Stat. 1307), authorized headstones for “soldiers who served in the Confederate Army” buried in any place. An act of July 1, 1948 (62 Stat. 1215), extended the privilege of a government-provided headstone to all members of the U.S. armed forces who died while in service or who had been honorably discharged.

Following World War I, the Cemetery Branch became the Cemetery Division when it was consolidated with the Graves Registration Service, which had supervised the burying, placing of headstones, and recordkeeping of American war

dead abroad during World War I. The Cemetery Division was subsequently redesignated the Graves Registration Service, 1922–24; the Cemeterial Division, 1924–30; the Memorial Branch, 1930–40; and the Memorial Division, 1940–42. Over the years, this unit was shuffled between higher-level units of the Office of the Quartermaster General. For more details regarding its administrative history, see Robert B. Matchette, et al., *Guide to Federal Records in the National Archives of the United States* (Washington, DC: National Archives and Records Administration, 1995), Vol. I, Sec. 92.8 “Records of the Memorial Division.”

RECORDS DESCRIPTION

The records reproduced in this microfilm publication were received and acted upon by the Cemeterial Division, 1924–30, and its successors, the Memorial Branch, 1930–40, and the Memorial Division, 1940–41. The records consist of Office of the Quartermaster General Form No. 623, *Application for Headstone*, an 8- by 5-inch fill-in-the-blank paper form first put into use on August 12, 1913. The forms are arranged alphabetically by surname, then by first name. There may be occasional minor alphabetical disarrangement beyond those instances noted in the roll list.

The front side of the form contains the complete application. The back side is either blank or has instructions for filling out the form. The back also normally has one or more file stamp markings that note the dates the application was received, handled, or acted upon. When these records were microfilmed, the back side of the form was filmed about 10 percent of the time, with the apparent criteria being the presence of significant or numerous file stamp markings.

Most of the headstone applications are for U.S. military veterans who died during 1925–41, but there are also many applications for veterans who died before 1925. Although most of the veterans served in the Civil War or later, there are also a few veterans of earlier eras, including several Revolutionary War soldiers, such as Leonard Bradley and Dempsey Powell. Civil War veterans include both Union and Confederate personnel.

Indians are filed separately in a section called “Indian Scouts.” This section includes both Native Americans who were scouts in the 19th century Trans-Mississippi west, such as with the 7th Cavalry under General George A. Custer, as well as some who served in World War I. These applications may give the Indian name, English name, or former names if the current name is different.

OQMG Form No. 623 (edition of September 24, 1923) includes the following information about each veteran: name, rank, company, regiment, and division (for World War I veterans); date of death; and name of cemetery and the city and state

in which it is located. The person making the application (“applicant”) provided his address, and signed the application as acknowledgment that the application was

for the UNMARKED grave of a [*fill in: soldier/sailor/marine, Army nurse, etc.*]. It is understood the stone will be furnished and delivered at the railroad station or steamboat landing above indicated, at Government expense, freight prepaid, and agreed it will be promptly removed and set up at private expense.

The person to whom the headstone was to be shipped (“consignee”) provided his address, and signed the application as acknowledgment that he agreed “to accept the headstone at above destination, freight prepaid, and properly place same on decedent’s grave.” In some cases, the consignee’s name was simply typed in, instead of being an actual signature. In a box in the lower left corner of the form, the Cemeterial Division had space to note four items: (1) date upon which the application was verified; (2) date headstone was ordered and (3) from whom; and (4) the date it was shipped. These four items are not always entered.

OQMG Form No. 623 (edition of May 12, 1925) has minor differences from the 1923 form. It allowed the applicant to choose a Christian, Hebrew, or no religious symbol.

OQMG Form No. 623 (edition of July 15, 1929) has minor differences from the 1925 form. The name and address of the consignee (“To be shipped to”) remained, but the consignee was no longer required to sign the form. Instead, the applicant agreed to both the “consignee” and “applicant” language of previous editions.

OQMG Form No. 623 (edition of May 18, 1931) has minor differences from the 1929 form. It asked for the dates of enlistment and discharge of the veteran. The box in the lower left corner was reserved for four slightly different items: (1) Date application went “To. A.G.O”; (2) Date and place from which the headstone was “Ordered”; (3) bill of lading number (“B/L”); and (4) date “Shipped.” The applicant was also informed that “No fee should be paid in connection with this application,” a statement that had been included in the instructions to the 1925 and 1929 editions.

OQMG Form No. 623 (edition of February 15, 1937) has minor differences from the 1931 form. It asked for the veteran’s pension number (if applicable) and whether an “upright marker” or “flat marker” is requested.

OQMG Form No. 623 (edition of May 1, 1939) has one difference from the 1937 form. It asked for the serviceman’s serial number (if applicable).

The 1925 and 1929 editions of the form provided instructions on the reverse side entitled “Notice to Applicant.” Both versions are similar, except that the 1929

edition includes a specific paragraph relating to Confederate headstones. Similar instructions were undoubtedly provided separately with earlier and later editions. The 1929 edition reads:

NOTICE TO APPLICANT

1. By carefully observing these directions and giving the information called for in each column delay will be avoided.
2. Fill out blank on typewriter, if possible. If not, print name of decedent in ROMAN CAPITAL letters.
3. Be careful to spell correctly the name of soldier or other person for whose grave headstone is desired; if he served under an assumed name, both the true name and the alias must be given.
4. Write the last name first and the first or given name in full if known, as "Jones, Charles T." instead of "C. T. Jones."
5. Where soldier served with State troops, the State and arm of service (whether infantry, cavalry, or artillery), should be given; and in the case of a sailor or marine, the name of one or more vessels on which he served, and the approximate date of enlistment is required. The approximate dates of enlistment and discharge should also be given where the soldier served in the Regular Army.
6. Officers or committees of patriotic or welfare organizations, and other persons having charge of securing headstones for soldiers buried in their vicinity, should ascertain before ordering headstones whether the relatives or friends of the soldiers desire them, or intend themselves to erect monuments.
7. Applications for headstones, the receipt of which have been once acknowledged by this office, should not be repeated; the headstones will be furnished as soon as practicable.
8. Upon application to The Quartermaster General, U.S. Army, Washington, D.C., headstones will be furnished for unmarked graves of soldiers, sailors, marines, and Army nurses who served in the Army or Navy of the United States (including the Revolutionary War), whether regular or volunteer, and whether they died in the service or after muster out or honorable discharge.
9. CIVIL AND SPANISH WAR headstones are of American white marble, 39 inches long, 12 inches wide, and 4 inches thick. Top is slightly rounded, with inscription which consists of the name, rank (if above a private), and organization, cut within a sunken shield.
10. WORLD WAR headstones are of American white marble, 42 inches long, 4 inches thick, and 13 inches wide. Within a small circle above the inscription will be cut either a Latin cross for Christians or Star of David for Hebrews or no emblem, as elected. Under "Emblem," strike out all but the one chosen. The inscription will consist of the full name of the

soldier, the State from which he came, his rank, regiment, division, and date of death.

11. CONFEDERATE headstones are of American white marble, 39 inches long, 12 inches wide, and 4 inches thick; top slightly pointed; inscribed with the name, rank (if above a private), and organization followed by the letters "C.S.A."
12. No deviation can be made from these specifications. Any additional inscription may be cut on these markers at private expense after they have been delivered to the consignee. The law does not provide for any expenditure for fences or for any other purpose except for the headstones, nor money allowance in lieu of furnishing headstones.
13. Headstones will be shipped, freight prepaid by the Government, only to the nearest railroad station or steamboat landing; they will not be delivered to street addresses or to the cemetery.
14. NO FEE SHOULD BE PAID IN CONNECTION WITH THIS APPLICATION.

Employees of the Cemeterial Division and its successors annotated the front of the form with corrections to the veteran's name and military service to ensure that the information on the headstone would be consistent with information in Government records.

GENERAL REMARKS

The records were filmed by the National Archives in the summer of 1982 under the project number "NN82-0060" and the *incorrect* microfilm publication number "P2003." Both numbers appear near the beginning of each roll but should be disregarded.

RELATED RECORDS

Similar records for Union Civil War veterans (and a few veterans of earlier wars) have been reproduced as National Archives Microfilm Publication M1845, *Card Records of Headstones Provided for Deceased Union Civil War Veterans, ca. 1879-ca. 1903* (22 rolls).

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information about headstones provided for veterans, see Mark C. Mollan, "Honoring Our War Dead: The Evolution of the Government Policy on Headstones for Fallen Soldiers and Sailors," *Prologue: Quarterly of the National Archives and Records Administration*, 35, No. 1 (Spring 2003): 56-65.

ROLL LIST

ROLL	CONTENTS
1	Aaberg, Herman – Alford, Clifford
2	Alford, Frank – Anderson, Ray
3	Anderson, Read – Ashley, Willis
4	Ashline, Edward – Baker, Brodie Baker, Charles (one) Baker, C. Walter (one)
5	Baker, Cain – Barnes, William H. (part)
6	Barnes, William H. (part) – Beale, Alfred
7	Beale, John – Bennett, Alexander (part)
8	Bennett, Alexander (part) – Bilbery, Walter
9	Bilbro, Thomas – Blick, Jacob
10	Blick, Joseph – Borski, Leo
11	Borst, Abner – Bradley, Leonard
12	Bradley, Lexton – Bright, Charles
13	Bright, Charles D. – Brown, Harry E. (part)
14	Brown, Harry E. (part) – Bryson, William L.
15	Bryson, William N. – Burnett, William (part)
16	Burnett, William (part) – Bryne, William
17	Byrnes, Denis – Cantrell, Willie
18	Cantrill, Joseph – Carter, Samuel C.
19	Carter, Samuel D. – Chapman, Harold
20	Chapman, Harry – Clark, Charles T.
21	Clark, Charles W. – Cobb, Brandon
22	Cobb, Bryan – Colvin, Theodore

ROLL	CONTENTS
23	Colvin, Thomas – Coons, John A.
24	Coons, John H. – Cowan, John
25	Cowan, Joseph – Crocker, James A.
26	Crocker, James B. – Curry, Isaac
27	Curry, Jacob – Davenport, John W. (part)
28	Davenport, John W. (part) – Dean, Albert
29	Dean, Albert F. – Desgain, Hector
30	Desha, George – Dodge, George
31	Dodge, Gilbert – Dressler, George
32	Dressler, James – Dunnagan, Cecil
33	Dunnagan, Charles – Edwards, Dorsey
34	Edwards, Duncan – Endsley, Claud
35	Endsley, Lincoln – Fabrizio, John
36	Fabry, August – Ferrell, W.
37	Ferrell, William – Flesher, Max
38	Fleshman, Irl – Foster, William J.
39	Foster, William L. – Friedrich, Henry
40	Friedrich, Max – Gans, George
41	Gans, Hamilton – Gerau, Charles
42	Geraud, Augustas – Glasscock, John
43	Glasscock, Jone – Goodwin, William M.
44	Goodwin, William O. – Greely, James
45	Green, Caleb – Grooms, Avert
46	Grooms, Benjamin – Haines, Willis

ROLL	CONTENTS
47	Haines, Wilson – Hancock, Charles M.
48	Hancock, Charles W. – Harrington, Joseph J.
49	Harrington, Joseph T. – Hastman, Norville
50	Haston, Ernest – Hawley, Newton
51	Hawley, Noble – Henden, Nordahl
52	Henderickson, Mathew – Hicks, Jefferson
53	Hicks, Jerry – Hobson, Edgar
54	Hobson, Ernest – Honodle, Edward
55	Honor, John – Horan, Richard
56	Horan, Thomas – Huebsch, Irvin
57	Heusch, Leonard – Hutchinson, Marcus
58	Hutchinson, Mark – Indest, Carlos Indian Scouts: “Abel . . . ” thru “Zip . . . ” Indelkofer, Leon – Jackson, Jesse
59	Jackson, Jesse C. – Jeter, John R. <i>followed by</i> Jellison, John W. – Jenkins, Avery [?] <i>Note:</i> A few persons named “A___” <i>Jenkins</i> follow <i>John Jellison</i> in the <i>Jackson – Jeter</i> segment.
60	Jeter, Joseph – Johnson, Sylvanus
61	Johnson, Sylvester – Jones, Winfield (part)
62	Jones, Winfield (part) – Keeney, Earl
63	Keeney, George – Ketter, William
64	Ketterer, Howard – Kirkland, John
65	Kirkland, Noah – Korte, Earl
66	Kortas, Leo J. (one) Kortas, Walter F. (one) Korte, Edwin – Lamb, William Lamb, William A. (one, front side only; see next roll) Lamb, William B. (one, front side only; repeated on next roll)

ROLL	CONTENTS
67	Lamb, William A. (one, front and reverse sides) Lamb, William B. (one, front side only; also on previous roll) Lamb, William E. – LaTour, Emile
68	LaTour, Eugene – Lehman, John
69	Lehman, Lewis – Liltz, John
70	Lilyard, Raymond – Long, Leslie
71	Long, Lester – Luse, William
72	Lush, Adam – McClelland, James
73	McClelland, Jefferson (one) McClelland, John – McDowell, Thomas H.
74	McDowell, Thomas I. – McHugh, Frank (part)
75	McHugh, Frank (part) – McMurry, Thomas
76	McMurry, William – Mahon, John
77	Mainous, Absalom – Marsh, Henry
78	Marsh, Hezzie – Mathes, Daniel
79	Mathes, Harvey – Melcher, Douglas
80	Melcher, George – Miller, Charles (part)
81	Miller, Charles (part) – Misner, John
82	Misner, Merit – Moore, Frank B. (part)
83	Morgan, Frank B. (one) Moore, Frank B. (part) – Morris, William (part)
84	Morris, William (part) – Mumford, John
85	Mumford, Loucion – Nassi, John A. (part)
86	Nassi, John A. (part) – Nicholas, Robert B.
87	Nicholas, Robert L. – Nuss, Charles
88	Nuss, Henry – Olson, Albert O.

ROLL	CONTENTS
89	Olson, Albert W. – Paber, William
90	Pabst, Benno – Parsons, Hiram
91	Parsons, Hollis – Pearson, Sherwood
92	Pearson, Sidney – Peterson, Ernest F.
93	Peterson, Ernest O. – Pigott, Lemuel
94	Pigott, Michael – Porter, David
95	Porter, Deck – Price, James T. <i>Note: Rolls 95–96 overlap due to error in alphabetical arrangement.</i>
96	Price, James H. – Rachels, Thomas <i>Note: Rolls 95–96 overlap due to error in alphabetical arrangement.</i>
97	Rachford, Hugh – Reagan, Bruce
98	Reardon, Dennis (one) Reagan, Charles – Reneman, Frank
99	Renfer, Emil – Ricketts, Henry
100	Ricketts, Willis – Roberts, Lewis
101	Roberts, Liston – Rogers, John J.
102	Rogers, John L. – Rowe, Henry C.
103	Rowe, Henry E. – Rynn, Miles
104	Rynne, Michael – Saul, Thomas
105	Saul, William – Schoppe, Harry
106	Schoppe, Harvey – Segar, Oliver
107	Segars, Dick – Shearer, Harvey
108	Shearer, Hugh – Schultz, John (part)
109	Schultz, John (part) – Skelvin, John

ROLL	CONTENTS
110	Skenandore, Daniel – Smith, Ewing
111	Smith, Ezra – Smith, Thomas J. (part)
112	Smith, Thomas J. (part) – Sparks, Kilbourne
113	Sparks, Lawrence – Stanton, Garrett
114	Stanton, George – Stewart, Fred C.
115	Stewart, Fred G. – Street, Robert
116	Street, Samuel – Svenson, Hjalmer
117	Svenson, Emil M. (one) Svenson, Marco – Taylor, Daniel
118	Taylor Daniel C. – Tharp, John
119	Tharp, John H. – Thompson, Richard
120	Thompson, Robert – Toney, John (part)
121	Toney, John (part) – Tull, William B.
122	Tull, William W. – Vallieri, August
123	Vallory, Henry – Vinson, William (part)
124	Vinson, William (part) – Walker, Walter D. (part)
125	Walker, Walter D. (part) – Warner, William H.
126	Warner, William J. – Webber, Clinton J.
127	Webber, David B. – West, Herschell
128	West, Hiram – White, Sampson
129	White, Samuel – Willette, John
130	Willette, Thomas – Willinger, Frank
131	Willinger, Jacob – Winstead, Emerson
132	Winstead, Farless – Woods, Thomas M.
133	Woods, Thomas S. – Yates, Roland
134	Yates, Roy – Zwick, Alois