

## Genealogy Rocks!

### Deceased Records Are Goldmines!

Obituaries can vary in the amount of information they contain, but many of them are genealogical goldmines, including information such as names, dates, places of birth and death, marriage information, and family relationships.



**Kathy Patrick**

Many states have a death index online in which you can locate some basic information about your ancestor. This will determine if you should obtain a copy of the actual death certificate. For example, Minnesota has an online database of deaths recorded by the state from 1908 to 2002. This index includes name of the deceased, city and county of death, date of death, birth date, birth place, mother's maiden name and state file number.

Most death certificates include the deceased's name, sex, race, date of death, age at the time

of death, place of death, date of birth, place of birth, marital status, name of spouse, occupation, residence, father's name, mother's name, cause of death, and place of burial. Modern death certificates have not been standardized throughout the United States, but most of them contain the same types of information.

Death records are only as accurate as the knowledge of the person who provided the information. Find out who the informant was and how well they knew your relative. Many informants are unaware of the name of parents or are unsure about dates and places of birth. Always find additional information about parents and dates and places of birth, whenever possible.

❖ *Kathy Patrick is the Vice President of Larimer County Genealogical Society. A 3 hour military records workshop is scheduled on April 16 at 9 am in the Loveland Library. Our next program is on April 21, 6:30 pm in the Harmony Library at Fort Collins. Estes Park Society has their next program on April 14 at 4 pm in the Estes Park Library.*