

A Chat with Char #5

Death Certificates By: Char McCargo Bah

Death Certificates in the early 20th century are useful in researching pre-civil rights era beyond the reconstruction period. Below is a death certificate on Martha Austin, who died in Jones County, Georgia; she died in 1926 at the age of 100 years. Both her parents were listed on her death certificate as well as other vital information.

GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF HEALTH
BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS
STANDARD CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

FILE NO.
FOR STATE REGISTRAR
24697

NO. 11

1 PLACE OF DEATH
COUNTY Jones
MILITIA DISTRICT 378
TOWN OR CITY No. 678 ST. REG. DIST. NO. 678 REGISTERED NO. 8
(IF DEATH OCCURRED IN HOSPITAL OR INSTITUTION, GIVE ITS NAME INSTEAD OF STREET AND NUMBER.)

2 FULL NAME Martha Austin
RESIDENCE, CITY Bradley Ga RD 1 No. _____ ST. _____ (IF NON-RESIDENT GIVE CITY OR TOWN AND STATE)
12 Length of residence in city or town where death occurred yrs. mos. dya. How long in U. S., if of foreign birth? yrs. mos. dya.

PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS			MEDICAL PARTICULARS		
3 SEX <u>Female</u>	4 COLOR OR RACE <u>negro</u>	5 SINGLE, MARRIED, WIDOWED, DIVORCED (write the word) <u>Widow</u>	13 DATE OF DEATH <u>Oct 31</u>	14	15
6 IF MARRIED, WIDOWED, OR DIVORCED (OR) WIFE OF <u>Austin Austin</u>			17 I HEREBY CERTIFY, THAT I ATTENDED DECEASED FROM _____ 1926, TO _____ 1926		
7 DATE OF BIRTH, (MO. DY. YR.) <u>Dont Know</u>			THAT I LAST SAW H. ALIVE ON _____ 1926		
8 AGE <u>About 100</u> yrs. mos. dya. IF LESS THAN 2 YEARS state if breast fed Yes. No. IF LESS than 1 day hrs. mins.			AND THAT DEATH OCCURRED, ON THE DATE STATED ABOVE, AT _____ M. THE CAUSE OF DEATH WAS AS FOLLOWS: <u>Senility</u> <u>No of Physicians</u>		
9 OCCUPATION (a) TRADE, PROFESSION OR PARTICULAR KIND OF WORK (b) GENERAL NATURE OF INDUSTRY, BUSINESS OR ESTABLISHMENT IN WHICH EMPLOYED (OR EMPLOYER) <u>None</u>			(DURATION) _____ YRS. _____ MOS. _____ DYS.		
10 BIRTHPLACE (STATE OR COUNTRY) <u>Baldwin Co Ga</u>			CONTRIBUTORY (SECONDARY) _____ (DURATION) _____ YRS. _____ MOS. _____ DYS.		
11 NAME OF FATHER <u>Madison Pounds</u>			WHERE WAS DISEASE CONTRACTED, IF NOT AT PLACE OF DEATH? _____		
12 BIRTHPLACE OF FATHER (STATE OR COUNTRY) <u>Georgia</u>			DID AN OPERATION PRECEDE DEATH? _____ DATE OF _____		
13 MAIDEN NAME OF MOTHER <u>Edis Harris</u>			WAS THERE AN AUTOPSY? _____ WHAT TEST CONFIRMED DIAG. _____		
14 BIRTHPLACE OF MOTHER (STATE OR COUNTRY) <u>Dont Know</u>			NOBIST _____		
15 THE ABOVE IS TRUE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE. (INFORMANT) <u>Willie Pounds</u> (ADDRESS) <u>Haddock Ga RD 1</u>			(SIGNED) <u>John Tarrar R.R.</u> No. <u>6</u> <u>Oct 31</u> 1926 (ADDRESS) <u>Haddock Ga RD 1</u>		
16 FILED <u>Oct 31</u> 1926 <u>John Tarrar</u> LOCAL REGISTRAR			17 PLACE OF BURIAL, CREMATION, OR REMOVAL DATE <u>Williams graveyard Nov 1 1926</u>		
			18 <u>None</u> UNDERTAKER ADDRESS _____		

N. B.—WRITE PLAINLY, WITH UNFADING INK.—THIS IS A PERMANENT RECORD. In Deaths From Violent Causes, State (1) Manner of Injury, and (2) Whether Accidental, Suicidal, or Homicidal. (See Reverse Side for Additional Space.)

Medical Particulars must be signed by Physician, Coroner or Registrar.

Each State collected vital statistics at different times. Search the internet for your State to see when death certificates were required. For example, Virginia State death certificates started in 1853 – 1896. The State resumed collecting vital statistics in 1912 to the present day. Virginia death certificates from 1853 – 1939 can be copied at the Virginia State Library in Richmond, Virginia. After 1939, you can obtain a copy from the Vital Statistics Office in Richmond, Virginia for \$12. Please check the internet for the availability of your State's vital statistics. The above death certificate was obtained from the Georgia State Archives site on the internet.

On Wednesday, March 12, 2008, at 9 p.m., we will discuss the primary and secondary information that is listed on death certificates. If you have any questions, please contact Char McCargo Bah at chrIB200@aol.com