Finding Ancestors with Findagrave.com

Have you been working on your family tree? Lately we might find ourselves with a bit more indoor time than had during our pre-pandemic schedules. Many have turned to studying their ancestry and looking up dead relatives. One handy tool that is fun to browse and is totally free is Findagrave.com

This website is the world’s largest gravesite collection and is constantly updated by folks just like you who are interested in studying their dead relatives. Contributors head out to graveyards and cemeteries where they photograph the graves and create a profile with information like, name, date of birth, death, family members, and sometimes even newspaper clippings. You’d be amazed at just how much information you can find!

A good tip for getting the best search results is “less is more”. Too much information in your search will give you fewer results. Start with first and last names and then try adding middle names, dates and the cemetery location if you know it. There are other options you can add to a search like maiden names or nicknames. But start small, not all of a person’s information is found on their headstone.
This profile of former Poughkeepsie Mayor and businessman Harvey G. Eastman has a bit of everything: a photo of Eastman as well as a photo of his grave, all of his birth and death details, links to biographies, and links to other graves for other relatives buried in this plot.

You can also search for important graves in cemeteries near you. Perhaps you like to stroll through the Poughkeepsie Rural Cemetery (by the way, that's what Rural Cemeteries were designed for, to be parks for the living to enjoy). Under the “Cemeteries” tab, you can look for a cemetery in your area and see who is buried there.
There is also the chance to find a famous grave to go visit. Maybe you have always wanted to pay your respects to Walt Disney for all of his great movies and characters. Check out the “Famous” tab and search for one of your long deceased heroes.

This website is a great tool for genealogists and death enthusiasts alike!