

MISSOURI STATE BOARD OF HEALTH  
BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS  
CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

1 PLACE OF DEATH

County Vernon  
Township Washington  
or  
Village  
or  
City State Hospital (No. 3)

Registration District No. 875  
Primary Registration District No. 6162

File No. 45-8898  
Registered No.

2 FULL NAME

George Melvin Symms

[If death occurred in a hospital or institution, give its NAME instead of street and number.]

PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS

3 SEX Male 4 COLOR OR RACE White 5 SINGLE MARRIED WIDDED OR DIVORCED (Write the word) Married  
6 DATE OF BIRTH July 22 1875  
(Month) (Day) (Year)  
7 AGE 41 yrs. mos. ds. If LESS than 1 day, hrs. or min.?

8 OCCUPATION (a) Trade, profession, or particular kind of work Insurance Agent  
(b) General nature of industry business, or establishment in which employed (or employer)

9 BIRTHPLACE (City or town, State or foreign country) Missouri

PARENTS  
10 NAME OF FATHER J A Symms  
11 BIRTHPLACE OF FATHER (City or town, State or foreign country) Missouri  
12 MAIDEN NAME OF MOTHER Rosa A McDowell  
13 BIRTHPLACE OF MOTHER (City or town, State or foreign country) Ill.

14 THE ABOVE IS TRUE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE (Informant) W H Bennett  
(Address) Nevada

15 Filed 2/8 1916 Geo Tracy  
Registrar

MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

16 DATE OF DEATH Feb 7th 1916  
(Month) (Day) (Year)

17 I HEREBY CERTIFY, that I attended deceased from Jan 28, 1914, to Feb 7th, 1916, that I last saw him alive on Feb 7th, 1916, and that death occurred, on the date stated above, at 6:30 p. m.

The CAUSE OF DEATH\* was as follows:  
General Paralysis of the insane  
83 (Duration) yrs. mos. ds.

CONTRIBUTORY (Secondary) 67 (Duration) yrs. mos. ds.  
(Signed) J W Dawson M. D.  
2/7/16, 191 (Address) Nevada Mo

\*State the Disease Causing Death, or, in deaths from Violent Causes, state (1) Means of Injury; and (2) whether Accidental, Suicidal or Homicidal.  
18 LENGTH OF RESIDENCE (For Hospitals, Institutions, Transients, or Recent Residents)  
At place of death 5 yrs. 6 mos. 28 ds. In the State unknown  
Where was disease contracted if not at place of death?  
Former or usual residence Nevada Mo.

19 PLACE OF BURIAL OR REMOVAL Deepwood DATE OF BURIAL 2-9, 1916

20 UNDERTAKER W. J. Waincoat ADDRESS Nevada Mo

Exact statement of OCCUPATION is very important.

# Revised United States Standard Certificate of Death

[Approved by U. S. Census and American Public Health  
Association]

**Statement of occupation.**—Precise statement of occupation is very important, so that the relative healthfulness of various pursuits can be known. The question applies to each and every person, irrespective of age. For many occupations a single word or term on the first line will be sufficient, e. g., *Farmer* or *Planter*, *Physician*, *Compositor*, *Architect*, *Locomotive engineer*, *Civil engineer*, *Stationary fireman*, etc. But in many cases, especially in industrial employments, it is necessary to know (a) the kind of work and also (b) the nature of the business or industry, and therefore an additional line is provided for the latter statement; it should be used only when needed. As examples: (a) *Spinner*, (b) *Cotton mill*; (a) *Salesman*, (b) *Grocery*; (a) *Foreman*, (b) *Automobile factory*. The material worked on may form part of the second statement. Never return "Laborer," "Foreman," "Manager," "Dealer," etc., without more precise specification, as *Day laborer*, *Farm laborer*, *Laborer—Coal mine*, etc. Women at home, who are engaged in the duties of the household only (not paid *Housekeepers* who receive a definite salary), may be entered as *Housewife*, *Housework*, or *At home*, and children, not gainfully employed, as *At school* or *At home*. Care should be taken to report specifically the occupations of persons engaged in domestic service for wages, as *Servant*, *Cook*, *Housemaid*, etc. If the occupation has been changed or given up on account of the DISEASE CAUSING DEATH, state occupation at beginning of illness. If retired from business, that fact may be indicated thus: *Farmer (retired, 6 yrs.)* For persons who have no occupation whatever, write *None*.

**Statement of cause of death.**—Name, first, the DISEASE CAUSING DEATH (the primary affection with respect to time and causation), using always the same accepted term for the same disease. Examples: *Cerebrospinal fever* (the only definite synonym is "Epidemic cerebrospinal meningitis"); *Diphtheria* (avoid use of "Croup"); *Typhoid fever* (never report "Typhoid pneumonia"); *Lobar pneumonia*; *Bronchopneumonia* ("Pneumonia," unqualified, is indefinite); *Tuberculosis of lungs*, *meninges*, *peritoneum*, etc., *Carcinoma*, *Sarcoma*, etc., of ..... (name origin; "Cancer" is less definite; avoid

use of "Tumor" for malignant neoplasms); *Measles*; *Whooping cough*; *Chronic valvular heart disease*; *Chronic interstitial nephritis*, etc. The contributory (secondary or intercurrent) affection need not be stated unless important. Example: *Measles* (disease causing death), *29 ds.*; *Bronchopneumonia* (secondary), *10 ds.* Never report mere symptoms or terminal conditions, such as "Asthensia," "Anaemia" (merely symptomatic), "Atrophy," "Collapse," "Coma," "Convulsions," "Debility" ("Congenital," "Senile," etc.), "Dropsy," "Exhaustion," "Heart failure," "Haemorrhage," "Inanition," "Marasmus," "Old age," "Shock," "Uraemia," "Weakness," etc., when a definite disease can be ascertained as the cause. Always qualify all diseases resulting from childbirth or miscarriage, as "PUERPERAL *septicaemia*," "PUERPERAL *peritonitis*," etc. State cause for which surgical operation was undertaken. For VIOLENT DEATHS state MEANS OF INJURY and qualify as ACCIDENTAL, SUICIDAL, OR HOMICIDAL, or as *probably* such, if impossible to determine definitely. Examples: *Accidental drowning*; *Struck by railway train—accident*; *Revolver wound of head—homicide*; *Poisoned by carbolic acid—probably suicide*. The nature of the injury, as fracture of skull, and consequences (e. g., *sepsis*, *tetanus*) may be stated under the head of "Contributory." (Recommendations on statement of cause of death approved by Committee on Nomenclature of the American Medical Association.)