

N. B.—Every item of information should be carefully supplied. AGE should be stated EXACTLY. PHYSICIANS should state CAUSE OF DEATH in plain terms, so that it may be properly classified. Exact statement of OCCUPATION is very important.

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

1 PLACE OF DEATH  
County Dunklin  
Township .....  
or .....  
Village .....  
or .....  
City Malden (NO. .... St. .... Ward)

Registration District No. 289 File No. 819  
Primary Registration District No. 4173 Registered No. 4

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

2 FULL NAME Martin Luther Bess

PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS

3 SEX male 4 COLOR OR RACE white 5 SINGLE MARRIED married  
WIDOWED OR DIVORCED  
(Write the word)

6 DATE OF BIRTH Aug 16 1863  
(Month) (Day) (Year)

7 AGE 53 yrs 4 mos 15 ds If LESS than 1 day.....hrs. or.....min.?

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

9 BIRTHPLACE Bolinger Co, Mo.  
(City or town, State or foreign country)

PARENTS  
10 NAME OF FATHER Christopher Bess  
11 BIRTHPLACE OF FATHER St Francis Co Mo.  
(City or town, State or foreign country)  
12 MAIDEN NAME OF MOTHER Lucinda Cunningham  
13 BIRTHPLACE OF MOTHER St Francis Co Mo.  
(City or town, State or foreign country)

14 THE ABOVE IS TRUE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE  
(Informant) Mrs. Anna Bess  
(Address) Malden Mo.

15 Filed 1-1 1917 S. Mitchell  
Registrar

MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

16 DATE OF DEATH Jan 1 1917  
(Month) (Day) (Year)

17 I HEREBY CERTIFY, that I attended deceased from Dec 25 1916 to Dec 31 1916, that I last saw him alive on Dec 31 1916 and that death occurred, on the date stated above, at 3:00 a.m.

The CAUSE OF DEATH\* was as follows:  
Menigitis (cerebro-spinal)  
61  
(Duration) ..... yrs. .... mos. 7 da.

CONTRIBUTORY (Secondary) George Dalton M. D.  
(Signed) 1-1 1917 (Address) Malden 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.....yrs.....mos.....ds. In the State.....yrs.....mos.....ds.  
Where was disease contracted if not at place of death? .....

19 PLACE OF BURIAL OR REMOVAL Malden Mo. DATE OF BURIAL Jan 1 1917  
20 UNDERTAKER W. L. Craig ADDRESS Malden Mo.

# 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*, *Composer*, *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 "Asthenia," "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.)

Dr. Dalton