

Definitions starting with D

Death

["SEND FOR FEALY!"](#) (a Nassau undertaker) is a humorous cry when someone gets sick or faints. If the [SICK](#) is actually [ON DYING](#), however, the local [GRANNY](#) will come to care for him in those settlements on remote islands where no professional help is available. If he is [PUNISHING](#), she will soothe the pain by bathing him in [ASHES WATER](#) until he is [TRAVELING](#) and death finally comes. The [DEAD](#) is then put on a [COOLING BOARD](#) and bathed with [SOUR](#) (the orifices being [TRINCHED](#) with [BUSH](#) leaves) and finally dressed. Then the [DEAD](#) is placed in a home-made coffin lined with more [BUSH](#). If the family belongs to a burial society, the coffin may be placed in their hall to [SHOW THE FACE](#). Otherwise friends, [FAMILIES](#) and neighbors come to the [DEAD HOUSE](#) to [SEE THE FACE](#) and show that they [FEEL](#) the dead by [KEEPING SETTING-UP](#) and helping to [SING](#). Coffee and [JOHNNY CAKE](#) are served at intervals until [DAY CLEAN](#). After the dead is [CHURCHED](#), the procession goes to the [HOLE](#) in the churchyard. Here the most distraught may [WALLER](#) or [HOLD THEIR HEAD AND SCREAM](#). After the burial everyone goes home and there is nothing left in the graveyard except the [DEAD-PEOPLE FLOWERS](#) and perhaps a [SPERIT BIRD](#). No one may sleep in the [DEAD HOUSE](#) for two weeks lest the [SPERIT](#) is still [TRAVELLING](#). Then the family [SMOKE THE HOUSE](#) and the [DEAD'S](#) earthly possessions must [SHARE](#) and someone will get a new set of [BANG-BANG CLOTHES](#).

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