

Locating Scottish Burial Records

by Emma Maxwell

Emma Maxwell focused on finding Scottish burial records. Although it's not always necessary to determine where a person was buried to trace your family tree, many people want to know where their ancestors are buried. Once you discover records relating to burials you can often discover more about the family.

From 1855, the three main sources are:

Burial or Interment Registers

Lair Registers (a lair is the Scots term for burial plot)

Gravestones

Interment Registers & Lair Registers

Where possible, it's useful to use the lair register in conjunction with the interment register. Like a gravestone, the lair register groups the family together and can be a great asset to our research.

Most interment and lair registers are held by local authority archives. There are 32 local authorities in Scotland. These can be referred to as local government but generally we would say 'the council'. In some areas they closely follow the boundaries of the historic counties. The Scottish Borders, for example, covers the area formerly known as the counties of Roxburghshire, Peeblesshire, Selkirkshire and Berwickshire.

In other areas, though, the population has grown so much that a lot of changes have taken place. In general, find out which local authority area now covers the area where your ancestors lived and start with the archive in that county.

SAFHS Maintains a database of over 3500 Burial Grounds in Scotland:

<https://www.safhs.org.uk/burialgrounds.php>

GENKUI can also help you locate records which are online:

<https://www.genuki.org.uk/big/sct>

Online Records

deceasedonline.com (Aberdeen, Angus)

Ancestry.com (Dumfries & Galloway)

familysearch.org (Glasgow)

Findmypast.com (Clackmannanshire)

Monumental Inscription Transcriptions

Findmypast.com

Family History Societies - www.safhs.org.uk/burialgrounds.php

findagrave.com

deceasedonline.com

The Black Book - www.scotsgenealogy.com

NLS Gravestone inscriptions - www.nls.uk/family-history/gravestones/

Non Church of Scotland Records

Quaker Records - www.scottishindexes.com

Jewish Records - www.jewishgen.org & www.scottishjewishcemeteries.org

Catholic Records – Findmypast & ScotlandsPeople