

# Killing Off Your Ancestors or at least finding out about their demise

## *Syllabus*

### Alison Spring, QG, M Litt Family & Local History

There are numerous sources which can be used to learn when, where, and how your ancestors died. In the presentation I cover the following categories. Websites referred to in the presentation are also listed.

- **Death Records**

Examples shown:

[The death certificate of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II](#)

[Death certificate of Lochlin McAulay](#)

- **Burial Registers**

These can may have been compiled by religious organisations and are still in their custody, or they may be held in local archives or libraries

Example shown:

[List of Catholic burials compiled by Rev. William Rattray, 1807-1808, Edinburgh](#)

- **Cemetery Records**

Contact the cemetery owner or local authority to find out where these are kept

- **Monumental Inscriptions**

You can find these in public libraries, on digital book websites such as Internet Archive, or purchase them directly from family history societies.

- **Graveyards**

Check out my blog posts on what to do before, during, and after your cemetery visit:

- [Graveyard Research](#)

- [Free Family History Mini-Class Lesson 5](#)

- **Probate**

Learn more about your deceased relative by reading who they remembered in their will, what property they owned, and where they lived.

- **Family Papers**

Letters, diaries, journals, newspaper clippings, funeral programmes, and a host of other ephemera can be found in your own home – or ask around the family to see who else has some!

- **Newspaper Announcements**

Obituaries, death announcements, and funeral notices can be found in newspapers held by local libraries, on family announcement websites, and newspaper databases

***Websites referred to in the Presentation***

[Historical Causes of Death](#) – FamilySearch lists a number of online resources to help you understand what your ancestor died from.

Digital copies of monumental inscriptions can be found by searching

- [FamilySearch Digital Library](#)
- [HathiTrust](#)
- [Internet Archive](#)

[Find A Grave](#)

[Billion Graves](#)

[Graveslab Photography](#)

[Commonwealth War Graves Commission](#)

[Ross & Cromarty Roots](#)

[Ancestry Will & Probate Records](#)

[Petrolia Photographs](#)

[Google Newspaper Archives](#)

[Newspapers.com](#)

[British Newspaper Archive](#) (also available via FindMyPast)

Examples of family announcement sites:

[Family Notices](#)

[Legacy.com](#)