



## **Records of death and burial**

### **Death certificates**

*Civil Registration was introduced in Scotland in 1855. Scottish death certificates give the names of both parents, including the maiden name of the mother. The Watt Library does not hold certificates, which are in the care of the General Register Office of Scotland. Death certificates for 1855 to 2006 can be accessed online at [www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk](http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk), the official pay as you view site of the General Register Office for Scotland.*

### **Monumental inscriptions**

*These are transcriptions of gravestones information and are a good substitute for missing burial records. They can be a key to identifying not only dates of death but also several generations of a family.*

*Renfrewshire Family History Society and Renfrewshire Archive Group have compiled databases on CD of monumental inscriptions, copies of which are available at the Watt Library:*

#### **[Greenock Cemetery. Phase 1 / \[compiled by Renfrewshire Family History Society\]](#)**

*Kilmacolm : Renfrewshire Family History Society, 2007-2008.*

*1 computer disk ; 4 1/2 in.*

#### **[Greenock Cemetery monumental inscriptions. Phase 2 / \[compiled by Renfrewshire Family History Society\]](#)**

*Kilmacolm : Renfrewshire Family History Society, 2010*

*1 computer disk ; 4 1/2 in.*

#### **[Greenock Cemetery Section A to 2S / \[compiled by Renfrewshire Archive Group\]](#)**

*Kilmacolm : Renfrewshire Archive Group, 2009*

*1 computer disk ; 4 1/2 in.*

*Monumental inscriptions : Gourock Cemetery / [compiled by] Renfrewshire Family History Society (Kilmacolm : Renfrewshire Family History Society, 2007)*

### Pre-1855 Old Parish records

*The Watt Library has the Old Parish Registers from 1690 to 1854 on microfilm. These records, maintained by parish churches of the Church of Scotland, are the main source of information on births, marriages and deaths for the period before the introduction of official registration in 1855.*

*For records of other churches in Scotland contact the National Archives of Scotland, General Register House, Edinburgh, EH1 3YY Tel. 0131 535 1314 email [research@nas.gov.uk](mailto:research@nas.gov.uk). Ebsite: [www.nas.gov.uk](http://www.nas.gov.uk)*

### Burial records

*Since 1855 it has been compulsory for local authorities maintaining cemeteries to keep a register of all burials. A charge is made per enquiry. To make an appointment to access records and for all enquiries please contact: Greenock Crematorium, 1 South Street, Greenock PA16 8UG Phone 01475 715658.*

### Wills and restaments

*A free searchable index to Scottish Wills & Testaments from 1500-1901, comprising over 500,000 names is available at [www.scotlandsppeople.gov.uk](http://www.scotlandsppeople.gov.uk). Images can be downloaded for a fee.*

*Most records of wills, testaments and inventories are held at the National Archives of Scotland, General Register House, Edinburgh [www.nas.gov.uk](http://www.nas.gov.uk)*

*For a detailed explanation of inheritance, wills and testaments look up the research base at the Scottish Archives Network website ([www.scan.org.uk/researchbase](http://www.scan.org.uk/researchbase)). The knowledge base section (record types) includes a fact sheet on wills and testaments.*

### Newspapers

*The Watt Library has back issues of several local newspapers on microfilm, such as the Greenock Telegraph (1866-date), Greenock Advertiser (1802-1864), Gourock Times (1915-1980).*

*Intimations is the Watt Library's index of family history notices posted in the local press from 1800 until 1915. The index contains many fascinating details about local births, marriages and deaths as seen in the pages of the Greenock Advertiser, Greenock Telegraph and other local papers. This can be searched on the Inverclyde Libraries website:*

*<http://www.inverclyde.gov.uk/community-life-and-leisure/libraries/local-and-family-history/family-history/intimations>*

*This new and revised version of the index not only lists entries by surname, they are also listed by first name and have the year listed as well. For death records where there is a cause of death mentioned, this is now listed as well. You can get downloads of specialised categories such as drownings, murders, epidemics and military deaths by looking at Intimations II.*