

Useful Information

General Register Office (GRO)

www.gro.gov.uk

Lancashire BMD

www.lancashirebmd.org.uk

Manchester Burial Records

www.burialrecords.manchester.gov.uk

Tameside Metropolitan Borough

www.tameside.gov.uk

Ancestry

www.ancestry.co.uk

findmypast

www.findmypast.co.uk/search/parish-records/manchester-burials

The National Archives

www.nationalarchives.gov.uk

BMDregisters

www.bmdregisters.co.uk

Deceased Online

www.deceasedonline.co.uk

FamilySearch

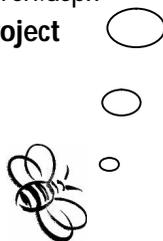
www.familysearch.org

Oldham Council – Register Search

<http://apps1.oldham.gov.uk/BacasWeb/GenSearch.aspx>

Manchester General Cemetery Transcription Project

www.mgctp.moonfruit.com



For more detailed information
www.mlfhs.org.uk/guides

Archives +

Manchester & Lancashire Family History Society
3rd Floor, Manchester Central Library,
St. Peter's Square, Manchester, M2 5PD
Tele: 0161- 234 1060 Email: office@mlfhs.org.uk



Finding Burials and Monumental Inscriptions in the Manchester Area

How to find a burial

There is no national index of burials. Although parish registers are beginning to appear on the Ancestry and other commercial sites the coverage is as yet fragmentary. A variety of web sites and other records is available. The following suggestions are applicable only to the Greater Manchester area.

For deaths after July 1837 use LancashireBMD to establish the approximate date and district. If the death occurred after 1866 start by checking the Manchester Council Burial Records database. This covers six of the larger cemeteries, although it has been suggested there are some gaps in the indexing. It is free to search but there is a charge to view an image of the register page. Supplement this with a search of the four cemeteries in the findmypast Manchester Collection.

Cemeteries in neighbouring towns such as Salford (Weaste), Stretford, Sale (Brooklands), Failsworth and Reddish (Willow Grove) should be considered. There are no comprehensive indexes to these, so a paid-for search of their records would be needed. Cemeteries in Tameside (Audenshaw, Denton, Droylsden) are searchable online. The registers of cemeteries and crematoria in Bolton have been indexed by Deceased Online.

Before 1866 search the Manchester parish records at Ancestry.co.uk. These include most of the Church of England graveyards. Also search the Manchester Collection on findmypast. Before 1848 the majority of burials, particularly of the poor, were carried out at the Collegiate Church (Manchester Cathedral) and in its overspill burial grounds. These are included in the Ancestry Parish Register Collection but the CD produced by MLFHS (and also available on findmypast) is preferred since the indexing copes better with variations in the spelling of surnames.

Protestant nonconformists

Protestant nonconformists (Presbyterians, Unitarians, Methodists) may have been buried at the parish church (Cathedral) but after about 1750 many chapels had their own graveyards. Quakers had their own graveyard at Jackson's Row from 1673. The registers for these were called in by the government in 1837 and are now held by The National Archives in class RG4. These are available online at BMDregisters but FamilySearch has free indexes and quotes the National Archives class reference, which identifies the chapel, allowing a look-up on the microfilm held at Archives+. Some chapel graveyards continued in use until about 1855, but some post-1837 registers have disappeared. Unless the Monumental Inscriptions have been recorded this leaves a gap in the record of burials.

Catholic records

Catholic records present some difficulties. There is little online, but a number of Catholic Registers have been published on CDROM by MLFHS and others. Some of the cemeteries in the Manchester Burial Index had Catholic sections but there is no publicly available index to the main Catholic cemetery, St. Joseph's at Moston. No records have survived of burials at St. Wilfrid's, Hulme which would have been the main location for Catholic burials between 1842 and 1858. It may therefore be impossible to locate the burial of a Catholic, particularly in the years between 1840 and 1866.

Jews

Jews had their own burial grounds. Records often exist but are not available online. Some registers are held in the Archives at Archives+. Municipal cemeteries usually also have a separate Jewish section.

Monumental Inscriptions

Monumental Inscriptions (MIs), usually in the form of a gravestone carving, generally give the date of death, often the age at death and sometimes an occupation or residence. At the time before burial registers give age at death the MI's will often provide this vital information. Since memorials were mostly erected on private, family graves, they are likely to include the names of other family members and indications of how they are related.

Sadly, all of the ancient churchyards in the Manchester area have been closed and cleared of their gravestones. In some cases, the MIs were recorded before clearance. Archives + hold these transcripts for most of the closed churches and private cemeteries in the city. MIs at Manchester General Cemetery are being recorded by a volunteer project. Church and chapel graveyards that closed before 1855 were often not systematically recorded. Fortunately, the Victorian antiquary John Owen recorded the inscriptions in many old churchyards. His notebooks from 1850-1890 survive and are held by Archives + at Manchester Central Library and can be viewed on microfilm.

No index of MI's across the whole Manchester area yet exists, but MLFHS has made substantial progress on a combined index which is available to Society members.

By their nature MI's will be on private family graves and these are likely to contain the more affluent members of society, however if you find a possible burial in a parish register it is always worth checking if a corresponding MI has been recorded.

Cremation

Cremation only became an option in Manchester after 1893. The Manchester Burial Index includes records of cremations for Blackley Crematorium. The registers records for Manchester Crematorium covering up to 1940 were lost during the Second World War but have been, in part at least, recreated by MLFHS from information on memorial plaques and in newspaper announcements.

Other sources

Newspapers began to carry birth, marriage and death columns from the early 1800's and this practice expanded over the next century. These will often include the place of burial.

Probate documents usually note the death date of the testator and may occasionally specify where he or she wished to be buried.