

Considering Graves when researching your Ancestors

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Founded in 2021, after three decades of personal research.

This is my third year presenting on RootsTech with my series on 'Considering'.

Previous topics have included:-

‘Considering Surname’s when researching your
Ancestors’ RootsTech 2022

‘Considering Age when researching your
Ancestors’ RootsTech 2023

Why!

Why are Graves important and why do we need to consider them when doing family tree research?

All Different



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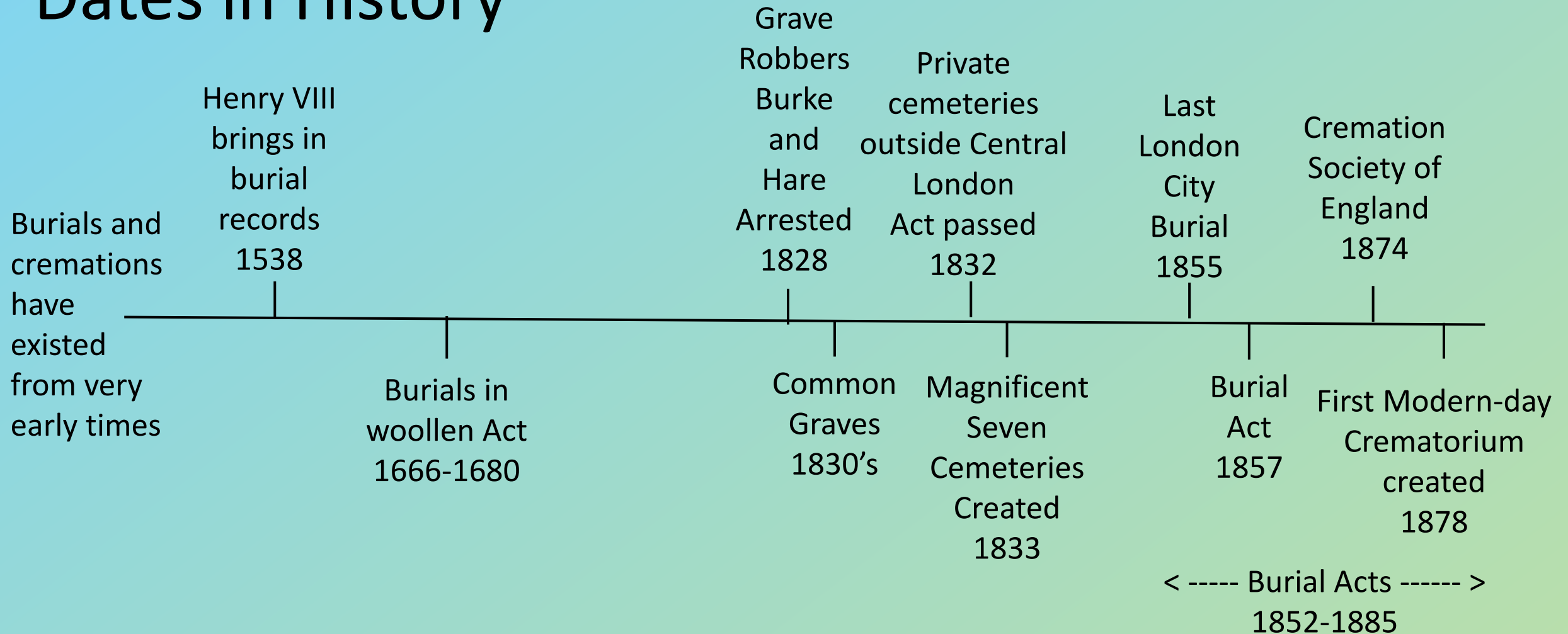
Menu

- All Different
- History
- Records
- Condition
- Nature
- What to look for
- Equipment
- Websites
- Interesting Stories

History of Graves and Gravestones

- Burials have always existed
- Cost has always been a factor
- Burial pits
- Common graves

Dates in History



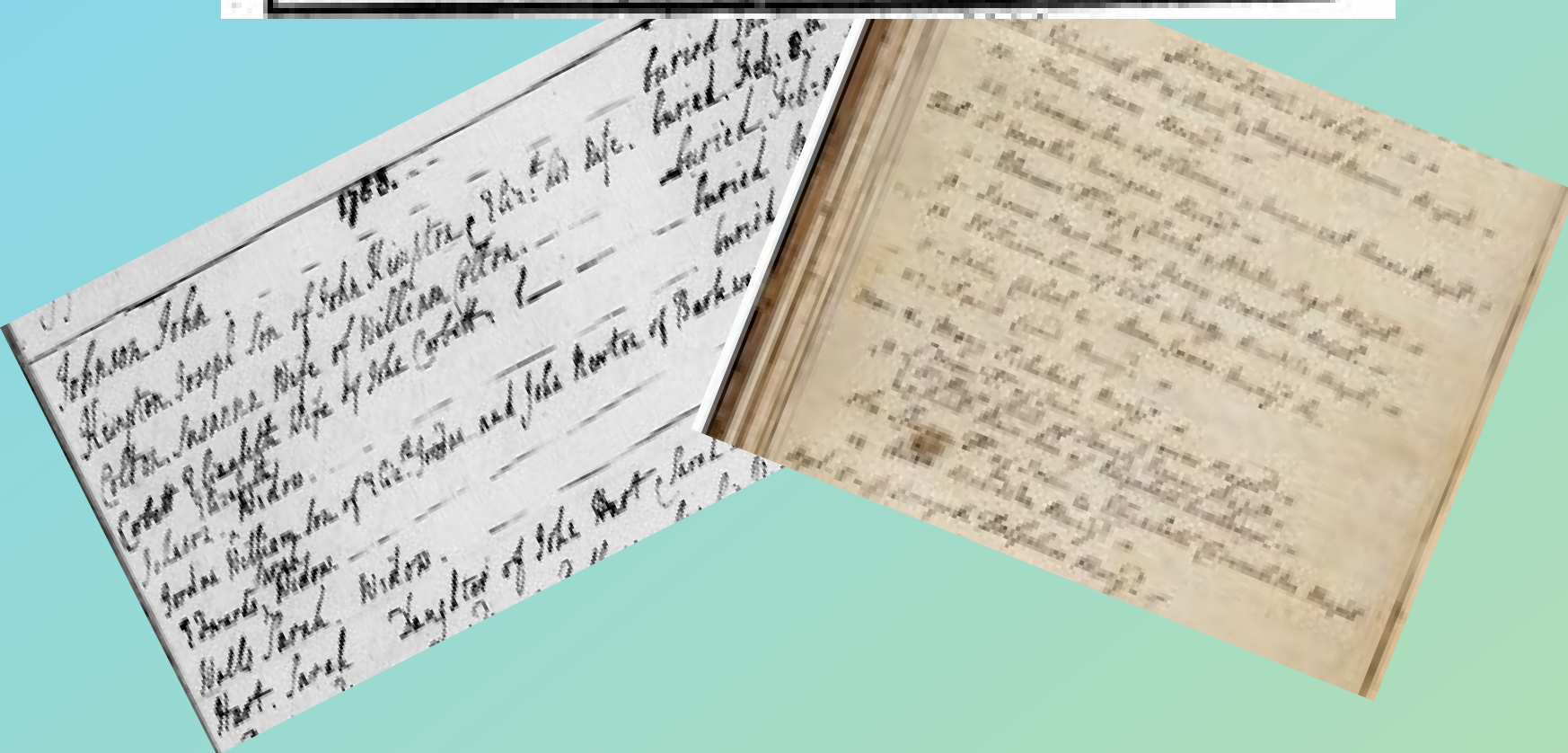
*"They say you die twice.
One time when you stop breathing
and a
second time, a bit later on,
when somebody says your name for the
last time"*

Burial Records verses Gravestones

- Often Preferred
- Very little detail on burial records
- Burial date not death date
- No birth date
- Age not always included
- Other relatives
- Occupation

Burial Records

No.		1817		
Robert Knight	Windsor	5 March	73	Lying in Burial
No. 22.				



Work Already Done

E.104	In loving memory of / his 77th year / "God is Love" / In loving memory of / ELIZA, widow of the Late RICHARD BEDDOES / who fell asleep 10th November 1917 / aged 77 years / "Peace, Perfect, Peace"
E.105	In loving memory of / EDWARD CHELMICK / who fell asleep 13th February 1923 / in his 81st year / also of AGNES CHELMICK / widow of the above / who died February 10th 1947 / in her 91st year
E.106	In loving memory of / FRANCIS LYSONS JONES / who died Dec 14th 1925 / aged 82 years / also of SOPHIA his wife / who died August 17th 1912 / aged 68 years / At Rest
E.107	"Thy Will Be Done" / In loving memory of / Our Dearest Mother / MARY RICHARDS / who departed this life Aug 16th 1926 / aged 72 years / also of / Our Dearest Father / RICHARD RICHARDS / who departed this life Feb 18th 1932 / aged 75 years / The Lord gave. The Lord hath taken away. / Blessed be the name of the Lord
E.108	In loving memory of / HARRIET JAMES / The beloved wife of THOMAS JAMES / who died April 19th 1916 / "Peace, Perfect, Peace" / also of / THOMAS JAMES / who died Feb 26th 1924 / aged 75 years / At rest
E.109	In loving memory of / my beloved husband / JOSEPH TAYLOR / who departed this life / Nov 10th 1911 / aged 72 years / "Be ye also ready for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of Man" /—/ also of / SARAH TAYLOR / wife of the above / who died ??? 17th 1915 / aged 83(?) years

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Removed from their Bones



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Used as Pavements



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Underfoot and Out of Sight



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Graves in Unusual Places



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Remanent of a Grave



Nature
taking back
its Own

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History verses Nature



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Locality



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Graves that
need a closer
look

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Deterioration
can still give
clues

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Not always Born where they Die



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Military Graves and Commonwealth Graves



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Interesting Designs



Equipment

- Wellies and trainers
- Dry and wet cloth
- Bottled water
- Soft/medium toothbrush
- Hand brush
- Garden pruners
- Paper or tracing paper
- Pad and Pencil HB is best
- Camera or phone
- What 3 words app



Using Camera's

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Mobile device settings

Web sites

- Find a Grave
- Billion Graves
- Deceased online

Other sites

- Family Tree building
- Research sites
- Society websites

Other places to look

- Local archives
- Libraries
- Churches
- Museums

Graves with Stories



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Recap

- Make sure you have the right Equipment
- Use mobile devices
- Always use Gravestones for dates of death
- Know your ancestor's religious beliefs
- Checkout other possible burial locations
- Check other graves around the location
- Look at records held in the church
- Ask church wardens
- Use websites
- Be mindful of transcriptions
- Look at original photos
- Try colour contrasts and filters



Place for Wildlife

“Robins appear
when
lost loved ones
are near” 

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