

Intro

A brief history of official records covering births, marriages and deaths and their use in family history investigations discussing:

- Civil registration from 1837 to present day covering the General Register Office's Births, Marriage and Death certificates, indexes and registers.
- Records prior to 1837, specifically Parish Baptism, Marriage And Burial registers.

The talk will include examples of the various documents, where they can be found and problems commonly encountered.

1837 to Present

History of the General Register Office

Legislation and Organisation

Civil registration is the system by which a government records the events of births, marriages, and deaths of citizens and residents. Other events that are typically recorded include still births, change of name, divorce, annulment of marriage, adoption, legitimization.

Civil registration was first introduced in England and Wales with the ***Births and Deaths Registration Act 1836***. At the same time the General Register Office of England and Wales was set up and the registration of births, marriages, and deaths in England and Wales became mandatory on 1 July 1837. However initially the onus lay on registrars to discover and record events, so parents only had to supply information if and when asked. However in 1875, the ***Births & Deaths Act 1874*** was introduced, whereby those present at a birth or death were required to report the event.

Civil registration was introduced in Scotland on 1 January 1855. A significant difference from the English system is the greater detail required for a registration. This means that if a certified copy of an entry is requested, it will contain much more information.

Subsequent legislation on 1 April 1845, introduced a similar system in the whole of Ireland for Protestant marriages and on 1 January 1864 for all birth, marriage and death events.

Registration was undertaken by civil registrars who report to the Registrar General at the General Register Office (GRO) in London.

England and Wales were originally divided into 619 registration districts increased to 623 from 1851, each district under the supervision of a Superintendent Registrar. The districts were based on the old poor law unions. The registration districts were further divided into sub-districts each under the charge of Registrars who were appointed locally. The local offices are generally responsible both for maintaining the original registers and for providing copies to the GRO for central retention.

In 1970 the GRO became part of the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys (OPCS), with the Registrar General in overall charge. Until then it had had several other statistical functions, including the conduct of population censuses and the production of annual population estimates; all these were moved elsewhere within the new organization. The GRO then became a division within OPCS, headed by a Deputy Registrar General.

In 1996 the OPCS, and therefore the GRO, became part of the newly created Office for National Statistics (ONS), and the office of Registrar General was merged with that of Head of the Government Statistical Service.

On 1 April 2008, the General Register Office for England and Wales (GRO) became a subsidiary of the Identity and Passport Service (IPS). The transfer of GRO to IPS was finalized in 2007.

In 2013, IPS was renamed HM Passport Office, while remaining an agency of the Home Office.

The General Register Office for Scotland has overall responsibility for registration administration and drafting legislative changes in Scotland (as well as census data). They are governed by the ***Registration of Births, Deaths and Marriages (Scotland) Act 1965*** and subsequent legislation responsibility has now been devolved to the Scottish Parliament.

Both Registrars and Superintendent Registrars may also conduct statutory civil partnership preliminaries and ceremonies, citizenship ceremonies and other non-statutory ceremonies such as naming or renewal of vows.

The official registers are not directly accessible by the general public. Instead, indexes are made available which can be used to find the relevant register entry and then request a certified copy of the details.

Procedure of registration of Births, Marriages And Deaths

Births

In the early days of the system, it was up to each local registrar to find out what births, marriages and deaths had taken place in his sub-district. It has therefore been estimated that only about 50–60% of births, both legitimate and illegitimate, were registered as parents were not legally obliged to inform the registrar.

As a result of the ***Births and Deaths Act 1874***, registration was made compulsory from 1875 and the onus was now on parents to inform the registrar when they had a child and a penalty of £2 were imposed on those who failed to register. Births had to be registered within 42 days at the district or sub-district office, usually by the mother or father. If more days had elapsed but it was less than three months since the birth, the superintendent registrar had to be present and if between three months and a year, the registration could only be authorized by the Registrar General.

Until 1926, there were no registrations at all of still born children.

For illegitimate children, the original 1836 legislation provided that "it shall not be necessary to register the name of any father of a bastard child." From 1850, instructions to registrars were clarified to state that, "No putative father is allowed to sign an entry in the character of 'Father'." However, the law was changed again 1875 to allow a father of an illegitimate child to record his name on his child's birth certificate if he attended the register office with the mother. In 1953 a child's father could also be recorded on the birth certificate, if not married to the mother, without being physically present to sign the register.

Adoption

Child adoption had no legal status in Britain (including under the separate legal system of Scotland) until 1926, when the first Act was passed which regulated this in England and Wales. Until then, child adoption was an informal and generally secretive procedure which gave the adoptive parents no rights whatsoever: a biological parent could appear at any time and demand custody of a child they had neither seen nor contributed to the care of for years at a time.

The Adoption of Children Act, 1926, made adoption in England and Wales a legal process from 1 January 1927. Petty Sessions Courts would have magistrates approving adoptions and a clerk would keep a file recording the process. These surviving records would be held by the local archive and may not be open to the general public. Adoptions were subsequently entered into an official register known as the Adopted Children Register. This is held by the GRO but is not accessible to the general public.

You will need to have the adopted child's adoptive name and date of birth to obtain the adoption certificate.

However, the certificate will not give the child's birth name so it is not possible to cross reference – even though the child's original birth entry will note the adoption – and you will need to have those details to be able order the original birth certificate.

Marriages

For marriages, unlike Births and Deaths, Church of England clergy acted as the local registrar. Two identical registers of marriages were kept and when they were complete, one was sent to the superintendent registrar. Every three months, the clergyman had to send a copy of his marriage records (detailing marriages that had taken place in the preceding three months) directly to the superintendent registrar.

The **Marriage Act 1836** also permitted marriages by license to take place in approved churches, chapels and nonconformist meeting houses, other than those of the Church of England.

However, marriages were only legally binding if they were notified to the superintendent registrar by the officiating minister so in effect, this required the presence of a local registration officer as the authorising person. When a nonconformist minister or other religious official, such as a rabbi, performed the ceremony it was necessary for the local registrar or his assistant to be present so that the marriage was legal.

This legalization was not repealed until 1898, after which date, nonconformist ministers and other religious leaders could take on the role of notifying official, if so appointed, and on the condition that their premises were licensed for the solemnizing of marriage.

The civil authorities, i.e. the local registrar, could also perform marriage by certificate in a register office. Changes in marriage laws since 1836 have also affected how marriages are registered, for example, civil partnerships for same-sex couples were introduced by in 2004. Same-sex marriages in England and Wales began at midnight on 29 March 2014. and the GRO records these ceremonies through its civil registration system.

Deaths

The local registrar had to be informed of a death within five days, burial (or cremation) cannot take place until the death had been properly registered. The death had to be registered by

- a relative or some other person present at the death
- or present during the final illness of the deceased
- or the person responsible for disposing of the body,
- or a responsible person from an institution (e.g. a care home).

From 1845 the cause of death had to be certified meaning that a doctor had to certify the death before registration.

Deaths are normally registered in the district where the death occurred. Once a death has been registered, the registrar will normally issue a Certificate for Burial or Cremation, unless the death is being investigated by the coroner or there is an inquest. This certificate gives permission for the body to be buried or for an application for cremation to be made.

The GRO indexes

Every three months, the superintendent registrars send a copy of each entry of birth, marriage and death registered by their office in that quarter, to the Registrar General in London. From these returns the General Register Office produced indexes to its records which are open to public inspection and the indexes can be used to order birth, marriage and death certificates.

Up until 1983, the copies received by the Registrar General were bound into volumes and three separate alphabetical indexes were prepared quarterly based on the end of March, June, September and December, often referred to as Quarter M or Q1

From their inception, the alphabetical indexes give the surname, the forenames if registered, the registration district and the volume and the page on which the entry may be found. These details enable the appropriate record to be located.

Before 1866, the indexes were written by hand on heavy parchment as shown below, though some have been replaced by printed copies.

SURNAME of Parent	NAME (if any) or Sex of Child	SUP. REGISTRARS DISTRICT	Vol.	Page
Thomas	Francis	Chepston	11 a	16
Thomas	Francis Lewis	Lambeth	1 d	295
Thomas	Frederick	Marbleton	1 a	55
Thomas	Frederick	Wolverhampton	11 a	74
Thomas	Frederick	Wolverhampton	6 b	244
Thomas	Frederick Charles	Kardi	11 a	186
Thomas	Frederick John	Bristol	6 a	25
Thomas	George	Bethnal G	1 c	262
Thomas	George	Pembroke	11 a	557
Thomas	George	Lisoughton	2 a	551
Thomas	George	St Pancras	1 b	10
Thomas	George	Barnstaple	11 a	659
Thomas	George	Hungerford	2 c	214
Thomas	George	St Geo. Sk-	1 d	127
Thomas	George	Sheffield	5 c	313
Thomas	George	Halifax	5 a	387
Thomas	George	Monmouth	11 a	29
Thomas	George Frederick	Scarbro'	8 d	259
Thomas	George Henry	Basinstoke	2 c	153
Thomas	George Henry	Haveydown	11 a	576
Thomas	George Honeyman	Milton	2 a	557
Thomas	Bill	Godmerden	5 a	191

The **GRO Registration District Book** can be used to assist in the tracing of registration events in England & Wales from the year 1837 onwards; providing a number / number & letter code for each registration district for a specific year. This book is downloadable from the GRO Website.

[N] Nantwich - Northumberland							
Registration District	Sept 1837 to 1851	1852 to June 1946	Sept 1946 to March 1965	June 1965 to March 1974	June 1974 to Dec 1992	Mar 1993 to Dec 1996	1997 to 2001
Nantwich	19	3A	ABOLISHED 1937	ABOLISHED 1937	ABOLISHED 1937	ABOLISHED 1937	*47*
Narberth	26	11A	3C	8C	ABOLISHED 1974	ABOLISHED 1974	821
Neath (& Port Talbot)	26	11A	8B	8B	27	60	596
Nelson	CREATED 1936	8E	10E	10E	ABOLISHED 1974	ABOLISHED 1974	582
New Forest	8	2B	6B	6B	20	32	494
Newark	15	7B	3C	3C	8	43	688
Newbury	6	2C	6A	6A	19	18	319
Newcastle in Fife	26	11B	ABOLISHED 1936	ABOLISHED 1936	ABOLISHED 1936	ABOLISHED 1936	818

Birth Indexes

The birth marriage and death indexes are basically similar however the formats have changed slightly over the years, for example where the first or second names or first name and initial were shown.

Since the September quarter of 1911 the mother's maiden name has been included in the birth index as indicated below.

The following show the changes in format for the birth index over time.

From September 1837 – 1851

Name		Sup Registrars District	Vol	Page
Duckworth	John George	Rugby	XVI	254
Dudman	Male	Aylesbury	VI	123

From 1852 - June 1911

Name		Sup Registrars District	Vol	Page
Galbridge	Joanne A	Bethnal Green	1C	34
Gilbride	John A	Aston	10B	38

From September 1911 - 1983

Name of Child	Mother's maiden name	District	Vol	Page
Edwards Ann	Simmons	Aston	6D	2
Edwardson Peter	Smith	West Ham	4A	28

From 1984 - 1992

Birth Name	Mother's maiden name	District Name	DOR	Vol	Page No.
Ross John A	Hughes	Bethnal Green	1087	16	2765
Russell Simon	Green	Middlesex	1289	21	1254

From 1993

Name of Child	Mother's maiden name	District Name	District No.	Reg No.	Ent No.	DOR
Jackson George	Simpson	Surrey South Western	761-2C	C1A	157	1295
James Allan	Ashton	Lancashire	268-1B	H7B	256	1097

From 1984, the indexes are in annual instead of quarterly volumes. These indexes give the month of registration as the first and second digits in the document reference number. The next two digits give the year. Thus the reference number 0485 9 2128 refers to an event registered in April 1985.

Marriage Indexes

Marriages are indexed in the quarter in which they take place rather than when they were reported. There is an index entry for each spouse so when searching if both names are known try and pick the rarest surname first. From the March Quarter of 1912 the marriage index entry for one spouse also records the other spouse's surname.

M U R - M U R		MARRIAGES REGISTERED IN		JULY 1912
NAMES OF PERSONS MARRIED		REFERENCE		
		DISTRICT	VOL PAGE	N:
MURLEY				HURRELL
JANET N.	PARROTT	LANCASTER	40 1652	CHRI
JANICE	FELTHAM	ELSTREE/POT	10 0380	CYRI
JEAN E.	HURLEY	S GLAMORGAN	28 1294	GEOF
JEAN M.	SANDERS	SOUTHAM	31 0502	KARE
JEAN R.	CLARK	BARKING	11 0208	KARE
JOANNA	JONES	MERTHYR TYD	27 0053	KFIT
JOHN D.A.	BARNETT	HERTFORD/W	10 0720	PAUL
JOHN D.E.	HURLEY	HERTFORD/W	10 0720	PHIL
JOHN J.	ROWELL	ELSTREE/POT	10 0430	RAYM
JOHN P.	PAPWORTH	HARINGEY	12 2387	RICH
				STEW
JOHN S.	PENTY	DONCASTER	3 0390	TFRE
JOHN	HURLEY	S GLAMORGAN	28 1294	WILL
JOHN	KEALEY	COVENTRY	33 0796	HURRFN
JOSEPH W.	HARRISON	HILLINGDON	13 1013	ALAN
JOSEPHINE A.	ENGLISH	HACKNEY	12 1551	ELLE
KATHLEEN	WAITE	WIGAN	39 2548	RICH
LESLIE J.P.	PARKES	DUDLEY	33 0606	ROGE
LINDA J.	BEEVES	PLYMOUTH	21 1755	HURRY
LINDA M.	RILEY	SHREWSBURY	30 0464	CHRI
LOUISE M.	BYRNE	BLACKPOOL/F	40 0455	IVON
				RAYM
LYNN D.	GOUGH	BIRMINGHAM	32 0456	VICT
LYNNE F.	MCDOCK	BRISTOL	22 0424	HURSFY
MARGARET A.	DONOVAN	LEWISHAM	14 0646	THERI
MARY A.	CROWLEY	HAMMERSMITH	12 1645	HURST
MARY B.	AUDUS	KENSINGTON	13 1944	ALAN
MICHAEL J.	KING	BIRMINGHAM	32 1594	ALBEI
MICHAEL J.	WARD	S GLAMORGAN	28 1304	BARR
NELLA	DILLON	S GLAMORGAN	28 1422	BARR
PAUL B.A.	MASON	CHESTERFIELD	4 0583	BETS
PAULINE	RYAN	SWANSEA	27 1467	BRENI
				BRIAI
PETER E.	BRADLEY	DUDLEY	33 0588	BRYAI
PETER G.	MURISON	SURREY MID E	17 0088	CATHI
RICHARD G.D.	NUSSON	NEUBURY	19 0145	CHRI:
RUTH M.	QUINN	IPSWICH	10 3298	
SHEILA E.	DOWNES	NORTH SALOP	30 0249	CHRI:
SUSAN A.	MORRIS	ROTHERHAM	3 0924	COLLI
SUSAN A.	WILLIAMS	NEWPORT	28 0378	DAVIT
SUSAN	WATSON	OLDHAM	39 0201	DONAI
THOMAS	CARTER	VALE ROYAL	35 1053	DOREI
URSULA H.	PINNER	BRENTWOOD	9 2121	EDIT:
VIVIAN	HARVEY	PLYMOUTH	21 2040	EDWII
WILLIAM M.	MAHER	BROMLEY	11 1359	ELAI:
YVONNE M.	WILKES	DUDLEY	33 0692	ELIZ:
HURL				ELIZ:
MARJORIE	DUNVILLE	BROMLEY	11 1348	ELIZ:
HURLOCK				EVELI
DEMISE H.	CLARKE	STROUD	22 2460	FELIC
THOMAS E.	WATKINS	HARINGEY	12 2286	FELIC
HURLOW				FRANC
ROSLYN	JOHNSON	NEATH	27 1021	FRANC
HURLSTON				GARY
EDWARD H.	CROUCH	HASTINGS	18 0642	GARY
HURLSTONE-JONES				GEOFF
MARION R.	PETERSON	FULHAM	12 0947	GILLI
HURLY				
JEFFREY W.	PEARCE	NEWHAM	15 1527	GLYN
HURMAN				GRAHA
DAVID J.	MCILVENNY	CHILTERN/B	19 1193	GRAHA
MICHAEL	SHEPHERD	ISLINGTON	13 1789	
MURKIN				

Death Indexes

The death index generally shows where the death occurred rather than where the deceased lived or was buried. From the March Quarter of 1866 until the March quarter of 1969 the death index specified the deceased's age at death (or rather the age stated by the person reporting the death). From the June quarter 1969 the indexes provide the deceased's date of birth, however this can be unreliable.

DEATHS REGISTERED IN JANUARY, FEBRUARY and MARCH 1974									
C O N - C O N					C O N - C O N				
Name	Date of Birth	REFERENCE			Name	Date of Birth	REFERENCE		
		District	Vol.	Page			District	Vol.	Page
CONNOR					CONSTABLE				
NELLIE	31 AU 1889	RUTHIN	8A2280		ALFRED ROBERT	18 JE 1891	NORWICH	4B2262	
CONNOP					CLIFFORD	23 SE 1915	HOLDERNESS	2A 259	
FRANK	15 JA 1922	W.BROMWICH	9B2311		CORNELIA	ABOUT 1892	SURREY MID E	5G 270	
SARAH	30 HR 1896	STAFFORD	9B1211		DORIS MARY A.	29 DE 1895	BRENTWOOD	4A1378	
CONNOR					ELIZA ELIZABETH	17 NO 1900	MARCH	4A1000	
AGNES LOUISE	26 JE 1918	CAMBERWELL	5A1515		ELSIE	18 AP 1892	TEESSIDE	1B2270	
AMY HACKERHULL	- SE 1887	OLDHAM	10F 130		FLORENCE LOUISA	31 DE 1884	SOUTHEND	4A2822	
ANN	3 AU 1883	INCE	10C1369		FLORENCE MARY	28 SE 1898	CAMBRIDGE	4A 934	
CHARLES JAMES	21 JE 1909	COLCHESTER	4A1885		FRANK HARRY	29 DE 1901	NORTHAMPTON	3B1744	
CHRISTOPHER	6 OC 1949	PRESCOT	10F 800		HAROLD	5 HR 1887	BUCKROSE	2A 118	
DAVID	8 HR 1910	WORTHING	5H2397						
ELIZABETH	2 FE 1894	RUNCORN	10A1497		HAROLD HENRY G.	7 AU 1899	CHATHAM	5F 684	
ELIZABETH	21 JE 1891	PRESCOT	10F 666		JAMES FRANK	4 JY 1889	POPLAR	5D1603	
ELIZABETH	30 NO 1919	BARTON	10B 803		JESSIE	20 JY 1908	LEICESTER	3A1791	
ELLEN	30 JY 1887	CARLISLE	1A 93		MARION HAY	14 MY 1896	SHARDLOW	3A1294	
					OLIVER JOHN	7 JA 1901	CHICHESTER	5H2036	
ELLEN	21 JA 1897	ROCHFORD	4A2574		PERCY	5 AP 1896	SPALDING	3B 157	
EMILY WINIFRED	22 DE 1921	CHAPEL-LE-F	10A2466		SARAH JANE	24 JE 1891	CHELTENHAM	7B 907	
EMMA	31 JY 1898	LIVERPOOL	10D1620		SYDNEY JAMES	26 AP 1902	HARINGEY	5B2228	
FRANCES ELIZABETH	13 NO 1895	BIRKENHEAD	10A 69		VIOLET ALMA	4 JE 1911	TAUNTON	7C1331	
FRANK	22 NO 1914	BLACKPOOL	10B1392		WALTER JOHN	21 AU 1888	DOVER	5F1188	
HALFORD LONGBURN	13 JE 1901	SALISBURY	7C2305		WILLIAM JOHN	28 FE 1899	BROHLEY	5A1019	
JAMES	10 JE 1938	PRESCOT	10F 645		CONSTANCE				
JAMES WILLIAM	14 JE 1923	CAMBERWELL	5A1500		DENNIS ALBERT	29 JY 1925	CHELTENHAM	7B 924	
JANE ANNIE	22 DE 1882	SUNDERLAND	1A2396		FREDERICK	25 DE 1902	GREENWICH	5B1063	
JOHN FRANCIS	4 MY 1920	WIGAN	10F2346		WILLIAM JOHN H.	16 FE 1922	TONBRIDGE	5F2279	
					CONSTANT				
JOSEPH	8 DE 1895	ST.AUSTELL	7A 447		HELEN VEITCH	30 JE 1902	BEDFORD	4A 148	
JOSEPH FREDERICK	20 FE 1904	STOURBRIDGE	9D 480		HABEL CATHERINE	29 AP 1920	NORTHALLERTN	1B2504	
KATHLEEN PATRICIA	10 HR 1920	LIVERPOOL	10D1214		WINIFRED MARGUERITE	7 NO 1883	WOLVERHAMPTN	9B2690	
LESLIE	17 NO 1911	MANCHESTER	10E1231		CONSTANTI				
LESLIE JAMES	14 JA 1915	SOUTHMARK	5E 39		PARASKEVA	18 FE 1910	NEWHAM	5E1983	
LILIAN	18 NO 1882	BATTLE	5H 68		CONSTANTINE				
LORRAINE MARY	16 MY 1949	SHEFFIELD	2D 102		ANNIE AGNES	1 JA 1885	LIVERPOOL	10D1357	
MARY ELLEN	31 MY 1897	CLEVELAND	1B1857		ANNIE MARY	5 MY 1907	LIVERPOOL	10D1434	
PATRICK	24 AU 1910	LONDON CITY	5D 947		ARTHUR WILLIAM G.	15 OC 1923	HAVERING	5C 217	
PATRICK	20 JA 1927	WATFORD	4B1000		GERONWY	10 NO 1913	M.GLAMORGAN	8B 181	
					JANET	19 MY 1899	WALLASEY	10A2032	
ROBERT	6 HR 1902	HAMPSTEAD	5B2114		MARY	15 SE 1889	SOUTHPORT	10F1823	
SUSAN	25 FE 1884	GREENWICH	5B1049		STUART NEVILLE J.	25 FE 1974	CHELSEA	5A1704	
THOMAS	5 SE 1903	DURHAM N E	1A1355		THOMAS	5 JY 1906	LIVERPOOL	10D 455	
CONHORS					CONSTENDINE				
GEORGE	4 NO 1930	M.GLAMORGAN	8B 2		GRAHAM STANLEY	29 JA 1920	HENDON	5C 452	
JOSEPH PATRICK	16 FE 1920	HONITON	7A1424		CONSTERDINE				
MARGARET	ABOUT 1897	OXFORD	6B3067		WINIFRED	30 DE 1902	SEISDON	9B1098	
CONOLLY					CONVERY				
ALFRED CHANDOS	2 JE 1906	PORTSMOUTH	6B1782		AGNES ANNIE C.	- HR 1904	COLCHESTER	4A1986	
FLORENCE MARY	20 JA 1888	BRADFORD	2B 427		FRANCIS JOSEPH	17 MY 1923	BRISTOL	7B 436	
ISABELLA MARGARET M.	4 JA 1890	SURREY S W	5G1433		ROBERT STUART	16 MY 1898	FARNWORTH	10C 351	
CONRAD					CONVILLE				
FLORENCE	16 JA 1886	HACKNEY	5B1830		SARAH HANNAH	20 NO 1888	SPILSBY	3B1310	
MARTHA	31 JA 1892	REDBRIDGE	5D1816		CONWAY				
ROWLAND SIDNEY	7 AU 1890	WALTHAM FOR	5E 894		ALBERT	24 AP 1903	FARNWORTH	10C 537	
CONRIDGE					ANNIE	13 OC 1891	LEIGH	10D 60	
HERBERT GEORGE	16 AP 1890	HITCHIN	4B 511		ANNIE	28 FE 1891	DARVEN	10C 277	
CONROY					ANNIE ELIZABETH	25 JE 1889	WALTHAM FOR	5E1150	
					ANNIE KATE	23 SE 1923	LAMBETH	5D 394	
					ROBERT JACOBINE	25 HR 1892	WESTMINSTER	5E2172	

Searching GRO Indexes

The indexes can be viewed on microfiche at the National Archives, major libraries, county record officers, LDS Family History Centers and but more commonly can now be searched on a pay-per-view basis on several family history websites such as Ancestry and Find Your Past.

A free, searchable index, can be consulted online on the FreeBMD.com website. This is an ongoing project hoping to transcribe the whole GRO Index.

GRO Index Search

There is also the GRO Index, an index of births from 1837 to 1915, and deaths from 1837 to 1957. Unlike the indexes available elsewhere where it is only possible for researchers see these details for births registered from July 1911 onwards, the birth index also provides mothers' maiden names for the full range of entries.

The deaths index search contains the age of death (for deaths) for all years. You need to register for this service but can then order certificate through the website if required.

Search the GRO Online Index

Which index would you like to search?

Events registered in England or Wales: Birth Death

Please enter your search criteria, mandatory fields are indicated with a *

Up to 250 matching results will be returned so providing any additional information you know will help locate the registration you are looking for.

Who are you searching for?

Surname at Birth: * ? Include: ?

Search for records with a matching surname

First Forename: ? Include: ?

Search for records with a matching first forename

Second Forename: ?

Gender: * ? Mother's Maiden Surname: ?

Include: ?

Search for records with a matching Mother's Maiden Surname

When was the birth registered?

Year: * ? +/- ? year(s) ? Quarter: ? *(used 1837-1917)*

Where was the birth registered?

District of Birth: ? [View list of registration districts](#)

Do you already know any GRO Reference details for the registration?

Volume: ? *(used 1837-1917)* Page: ? *(used 1837-1917)*

Results: ?

Name:	Mother's Maiden Surname:	Order: ?
TADD, CHARLES SYDNEY THOMAS	THOMAS	<input type="button" value="Certificate"/>
GRO Reference: 1894 S Quarter in BRISTOL Volume 06A Page 5		<input type="button" value="PDF"/>

FreeBMD

FreeBMD is an ongoing project, the aim of which is to transcribe the Civil Registration index of births, marriages and deaths for England and Wales, and as such the whole index has not yet been transcribed. It covers the period 1837 to 1983

The following example shows a search for the marriage of the parents of Almond Trevossa Fowler Pearce who in the 1851 Census were listed John H Pearce born in Devon and Mary A Pearce born in Limehouse. As the Pearce's lived in Limehouse I assumed for many years that they would have been married in Limehouse however this had led to a brick wall.

John H Pearce	Head	Mar	45	Foreman at Mechanical
Mary A. do	Wife	Mar	30	
John W.R. do	Son	Unm	12	Schooler
Jane C. do	Daughter	Unm	11	do
Almond T.F. do	Son	Unm	3	
Marian A. do	Daughter	Unm	1	

1851 Census Class: HO107; Piece: 1554; Folio: 614; Page: 48

So searching freeBMD -

The screenshot shows the FreeBMD search interface. On the left, there are search criteria fields: Type (set to Marriages), Surname (pearce), First name(s) (john), Spouse/Mother surname, Spouse first name(s), Death age/DoB, Date range (Sep 1837 to Dec 1845), and Volume/Page. Below these are search options: Mono, Exact match on first names, Phonetic search surnames, Match only recorded ages, and Identifiable spouses only. At the bottom left are buttons for Find, Count, and Reset, along with a link to Advanced Facilities. On the right, there are dropdown menus for Districts and Counties. The Districts list includes Aberayron, Aberconwy, Abergavenny, Aberystwyth, Abingdon, Acle, Alcester, Alderbury, Aldershot, Aldridge & Brownhills, Aled, Alnwick, and Alresford. The Counties list includes Anglesey, Avon, Bedfordshire, Berkshire, and Breconshire. At the bottom right, there is a 'Saved search' section with a filename field, a 'Browse...' button, and buttons for 'Find Additional', 'View Saved', and 'Help'.

This gave the following possible match **but** married in Bermondsey.

Marriages Dec 1837 (>99%)					
PEARCE	John	Taunton	10	641	Info
PEARCE	John	Shiffnal	18	217	Info
PEARCE	John	Weymouth	13	241	Info
PEARCE	John	Camberwell	4	141	Info
PEARCE	John	Redruth	9	329	Info
PEARCE	John	Bishopsgate	2	50	Info
PEARCE	John Henry	Bermondsey	4	14	Info
Marriages Mar 1838 (>99%)					
PEARCE	John	Taunton	0	251	Info

Clicking on the highlighted page

Surname	First name(s)	District	Vol	Page		
Marriages Dec 1837 (>99%)						
Beal	Eliza	St Geo Sthwk	4	14	Info	
EANSOR	Mary Ann	Bermondsey	4	14	Info	
HANCOCK	Ann	Bermondsey	4	14	Info	
Jenks	George	Bermondsey	4	14	Info	
MEMBREY	Emily Jane	Bermondsey	4	14	Info	
PARRY	Henry	Bermondsey	4	14	Info	
PEARCE	John Henry	Bermondsey	4	14	Info	
WATSON	William Henry	Bermondsey	4	14	Info	
WHITE	Mary Ann	Bermondsey	4	14	Info	

Solution was to obtain birth certificate of Almond Pearce and confirm mothers maiden name.

Certificates

The GRO currently charge £9.25 for each certificate of birth, marriage or death, although a more expensive premium service is available for those who need copies of documents quickly. GRO certificates are used as a source by family historians to trace ancestry as well as being used for official purposes like applying for a passport.

From 12 October 2017 the GRO has been piloting a service to provide PDF copies of digitised historical birth and death records. The pilot will now run for a minimum of 9 months.

Applications for each PDF cost £6, must be made online, and include a GRO index reference. England and Wales records which are available as PDFs in this extended pilot only include:

- Births:1837–1917
- Deaths: 1837 –1957

GRO Birth Certificates

Birth certificates issued by the GRO are printed on a red form and contain the following information:

- Registration District And Sub-District
- Entry Number
- Date And Place Of The Birth
- Name Of The Child (If Already Chosen)
- Sex
- Name Of The Father
- Name And Maiden Name Of The Mother
- Profession Or Occupation Of The Father
- Name, Address And Position Of The Informant(S)
- Date Of Registration
- The Name Of The Registrar
- A Name Given After Registration e.g. If they were given a different name after baptism within 12 months of the birth being registered.
- Notes In The Margin

Adoption Certificates

Adoption certificates issued by the GRO are printed on a red form and contain the following information:

- Entry Number
- Date Of Entry
- Name Of The Child
- Sex
- Name Of The Adopter or Adoptees
- Date Of Birth of The Child
- Date of Adoption and Court By Which Made
- Signature Of The Registrar

Marriage certificates

Marriage certificates issued by the GRO are printed on a green form and give the following information:

- Year And Place Of Solemnization Of The Marriage And Registration District And Sub-District
- Names, Addresses And Condition e.g. Bachelor or Widower Of Both The Bride And Groom
- The Rank Or Profession Of Both Their Fathers
- The Name Of At Least Two Witnesses And The Officiating Minister Or Registrar
- Whether The Marriage Was By Banns, License Or Registrar's Certificate.

Death certificates

Death certificates issues by the GRO are printed on a black and purple form and give the following information:

- Registration District And Sub-District
- Entry Number;
- Name Of The Deceased,
- Their Supposed Age At Death
- Occupation
- The Cause Of Death
- Date And Place Of Death
- The Informant And Their Relationship To The Deceased
- The Name Of The Registrar;

From 1969 death certificates also record the date and place of birth of the deceased and, if applicable, the maiden name of a woman.

Certificates issued in other parts of the United Kingdom contain different or additional information and have a different format.

Certificates issued by the GRO clearly state that they are only certified copies (not original documents), that they are not evidence of a person's identity, and that there are criminal offences relating the unlawful amendment or falsification of a certificate, or using or possessing a false certificate. Certificates contain the seal of the General Register Office and show an abridged version of the Royal Coat of Arms.

1538-1837

Parish Records

The Church of England structure uses the local parish church as its basic unit. Parishes may extend into different counties or hundreds and historically many parishes comprised extra outlying portions in addition to its principal district, usually being described as 'detached' and intermixed with the lands of other parishes.

Church of England parishes nowadays all lie within one of 44 dioceses divided between the provinces of Canterbury with 30 parishes and York 14 . Based on the C.of.E website there are more than 12,500 parishes in England& Wale

Traditionally each parish normally has its own parish priest (either a rector or vicar, owing to the vagaries of the feudal tithe system: rectories usually having had greater income) and often supported by one or more curates or deacons. Now, however, it is common for a number of neighboring parishes to be placed under the charge of a priest who conducts services by rotation, with additional services being provided by lay readers or other non-ordained members of the church community as necessary.

In England civil parishes and their governing parish councils evolved in the 19th century as ecclesiastical parishes began to be relieved of what became considered to be civic responsibilities. Thus their boundaries began to diverge. The word "parish" acquired a secular usage. Since 1895, a parish council elected by public vote or a (civil) parish meeting administers a civil parish and is formally recognized as the level of local government below a district council.

Parish registers are a vital resource for the period prior to civil registration, which began in England and Wales in 1837. When looking for registers, it's important to know what the parish boundaries were at a specific point in time because many parish boundaries have changed over the centuries. For example, beginning in the 1830s many of the larger old, or "ancient," parishes began being split up into smaller parishes.

The Phillimore Atlas and Index of Parish Registers

The *Phillimore Atlas*, first published in 1984, outlines old parishes prior to 1832 and provides the date of the earliest surviving registers for the parish. The atlas includes England, Wales, and Scotland.

Some counties included hundreds of parishes, so knowing a parish's location is a huge help when you're trying to locate your ancestor's parish records. In addition, your ancestor may have left records in several nearby parishes, all while living in the same area. The *Phillimore Atlas* provides an easy way to see what parishes were in the area prior to 1832 so you can do a thorough search.

Topographical maps face each parish map and show the contemporary road system and other local features. An index lists all parishes with grid references to the county maps, and provides registration districts and census information.

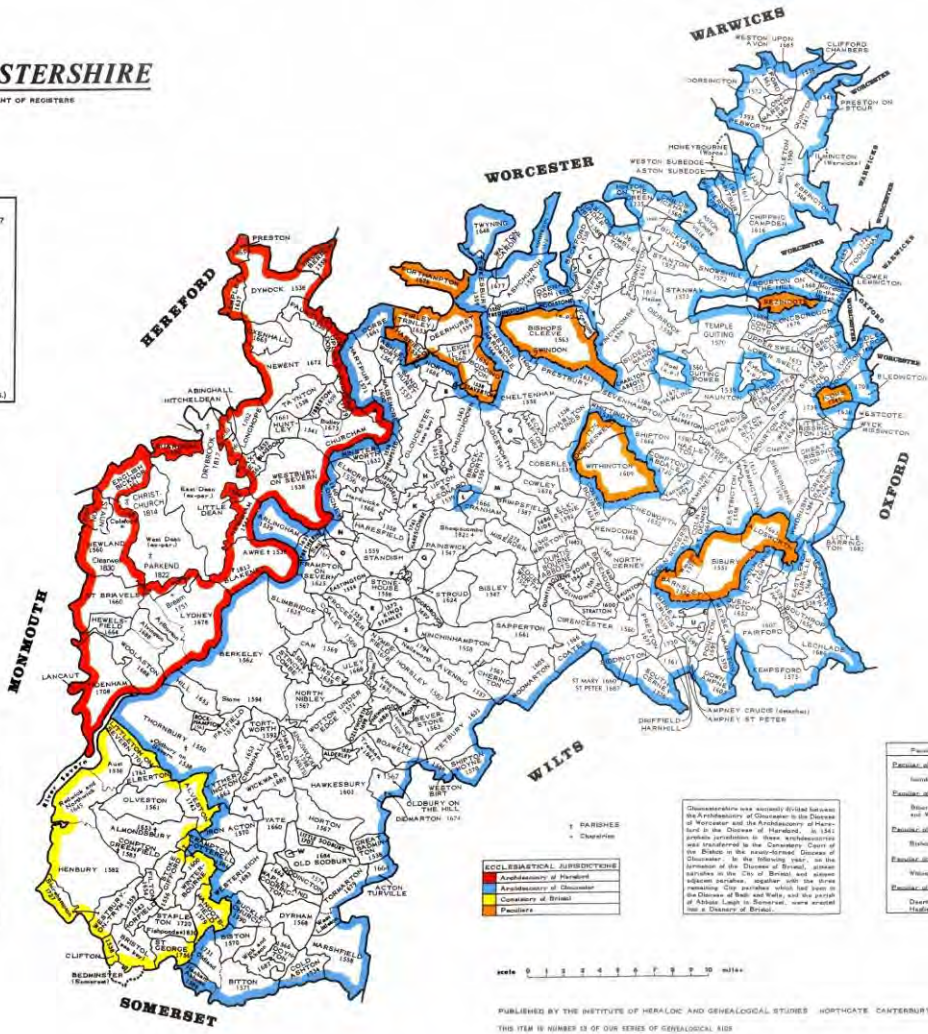
GLoucestershire

WITH DATES OF COMMENCEMENT OF REGISTERS

A	LASSINGTON	1868
B	JONES PATRICK	1858
C	GREAT WASHBOURNE	1757
D	Life Registrar	
E	Stanley Postage	
F	WORMINGTON	1716
G	SHURDINGTON	1856
H	MAYSON	1853
I	WHADDON	1874
J	BRICKENDORPE	1750
K	Firstman Park (p-98)	
L	GREAT WITCOMBE	1749
M	MORITON VALENTIA	1681
N	WYMANSTON	
O	(WHEATENHURST)	1538
P	BANWICK	1656
Q	WITCOMBE	1709
R	LEOMARD STANLEY	1575
S	WICKHAMPTON	1662
T	NORTHLEACH	1856
U	MARNEY ST MARY	1862
V	RANGEWORTHY	1704
W	CHIPPING SODBURY	1661
X	STOWELL	1811

GLOUCESTER	
Cathedral	1661
Christchurch	1823
Holy Trinity	1527
St Albans	1572
St Catherine	1692
St John the Baptist	1556
St Mary de Crypt	1662
St Mary de Lode	1656
St Mary Magdalene	1790
St Michael	1662
St Nicholas	1526

BRISTOL	
All Saints (City)	1534
Christchurch (City)	1530
Holy Trinity (St Philip)	1432
St Augustine de Lane	1527
St Ewen	1518
St James (Brandon Hill)	1574
St John	1559
St John Baptist (City)	1584
St Mary in Park (General)	1649
St Mary Redcliffe	1592
St Michael the Archangel	1651
St Nicholas	1530
St Paul (Parish General)	1594
St Peter (Redcliffe)	1611
St Philip and St Jacob	1576
St Stephen (City)	1550
St Thomas	1612
St Werburgh	1538
Temple of Holy Cross	1558



ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTIONS	
Archdeaconry of Hereford	Red
Archdeaconry of Gloucester	Blue
Consistory of Bristol	Yellow
Parishes	Black
Churches	Grey

Gloucestershire was successively divided between the Archdeaconry of Gloucester in the Diocese of Hereford and the Archdeaconry of Macclesfield in the Diocese of Hereford, in 1842. The parishes of these jurisdictions were transferred to the Consistory Court of the Bishop in the Diocese of Bath and Wells in the following year, on the formation of the Diocese of Bristol, whose parishes in the City of Bristol and whose ecclesiastical parishes, together with the three parishes of Cirencester which had been in the Diocese of Bath and Wells, and the parishes of 'Oldland' and 'Newland', were united with a Diocese of Bristol.

Parishes	
Cathedral of the Bishop of Worcester	
Bishop's Palace	
Parish of the Bishop of Bath	
Bishop's Palace	
Parish of the Bishop of Bath	
Bishop's Palace	
Parish of the Bishop of Bath	
Bishop's Palace	
Parish of the Bishop of Bath	
Bishop's Palace	

scale 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 miles

PUBLISHED BY THE INSTITUTE OF HERALDIC AND GENEALOGICAL STUDIES, HORTHCOTE, DANVERS ROAD, KENT, ENGLAND © 1996
THIS ITEM IS NUMBER 15 OF OUR SERIES OF GENEALOGICAL AIDS

parish name	deposited original registers	I.G.I.	local census indexes	copies of registers at Soc. Gen.	Boyd's marriage index	1837-1851 Registration District	Pallot's marriage index	non-conform. records at P.R.O.
Abenhall	A 1596-1988	1596-1860	5,8	1596-1860		Westbury-on-Severn		
Acton Turville	A 1665-1972	1599-1836	5,8,9	1671-1837	1671-1837	Chipping Sodbury	1790-1812	
Adlestrop	A 1538-1992	1538-1812	5,8	1800-1837		Stow-on-the-Wold		
Alderley	A 1557-1996	1557-1812	5,8,9	1559-1837	1559-1837	Chipping Sodbury	1790-1812	
Alderton	A 1596-1948	1596-1882	5,8	1800-1837		Winchcombe		
Aldsworth	A 1683-1970	1571-1749	5,8	1683-1970		Northleach		
Almondsbury	B 1653-1975		5,8,9	1813-1837		Thornbury		
Alstone	C 1546-1978	1813-1874	5,8	1550-1805	1651-1675	Winchcombe	1550-1805	
Alveston	B 1742-1969		5,8,9	1813-1837		Thornbury		
Alvington	A 1688-1988	1629-1812	5,8	1688-1914	1698-1836	Chepstow	1790-1836	
Ampney Crucis	A 1559-1986	1561-1837	5,8	1561-1930	1561-1837	Cirencester	1790-1837	
Ampney Crucis (det.)			5,8			Cirencester		
Ampney St Mary	A 1602-1996	1608-1812	5,8	1800-1837		Cirencester		

There is also a good interactive map on the Church of England web site

<https://www.churchofengland.org/more/policy-and-thinking/research-and-statistics>

History of Parish Registers

Medieval - In medieval times there were no parish registers. For some years before the Reformation, monastic houses (especially the smaller ones) the parish priest had been developing the custom of noting in an album or on the margins of the service books, the births and deaths of the leading local families.

1538 - Through the efforts of the then Vicar General Thomas Cromwell a mandate was issued by Henry VIII to keep parish registers. This order that every parson, vicar or curate was to enter in a book every wedding, christening and burial in his parish. The parish was to provide a sure coffer with two locks, the parson having the custody of one key, the wardens the others. The entries were to be made each Sunday after the service in the presence of one of the wardens. The mandate was enforced under a penalty of 3 sols, 4 deniers for the repair' of the church. These entries were made on paper, sometimes upon loose sheets. The parishioners penalty was divided between the poor box and repairs for the church. Many of these very early records are hard to read plus being written in Latin and are often very sparse - giving only the fathers name at a Christening and only the persons name in a burial entry.

1558 - Queen Elizabeth passed another law that was a duplicate of her father's . Many more registers began at this date.

1597 - Registers were to be made of parchment instead of paper, and annual reports of all parish register entries were required to be sent to the appropriate bishop, these were called Bishop's Transcripts. No doubt the reason there are gaps in some of the early parish registers or they do not exist at all, is that the paper had disintegrated and were not available. In some areas earlier paper registers were destroyed at this time.

1603 - Every parish chest should have three locks one for Priest and two parish clerks to have keys. Only could be opened when all three could be present. Priests sometime keep notes in day books with entries of Christenings (Chr.), Marriages (Marr.) and Burials (Bur.) and was kept until all could get to the chest. Other problems with parish registers. Sometimes private baptisms did not get into the records.

1631-1706 A fee of 6 deniers was introduced for registration of births therefore many people did not have their children christened. The minister was fined if he did not record the vital records and people were fined if they did not bring their children in. This was hard to enforce and so did not last long.

1642-60 - During the Civil War registers were neglected and Bishop Transcripts were not required.

1653 - Cromwell, was made Lord Protector and acted as king. The parish church of England was disestablished, many ministers fled for their lives, some were able to hide their registers and other registers were destroyed. Cromwell ruled that there would be no one religion in England all religions could be practiced. The government took away registration duties from the ministers entrusted them to the justices to form a new Parish Register (not Registrar) elected by all the ratepayers in a parish, and sworn before and approved by a magistrate. Parish clerks of the church were made a civil parish clerk and they recorded deaths, births and marriages in the civil parishes.

1660 - In the restoration of Charles they went back to the church to keep christenings, marriages and burial. The civil records that were kept were filed in with the parish in their registers. It is quite usual to find entries explaining the situation during the Interregnum. One rector stated that on 23 April 1643 "*Our church was defaced our font thrown down and new forms of prayer appointed*".

1666-1680 - Charles II passed an Act requiring all corpses to be buried in wool, to bolster the woolen industry. The affidavit required only from the Minister. If "Affidavit" appears on burial records it means that the person was buried in wool.

1694 - A duty of 2 shillings per birth, 2 shillings 6 denier per marriage and 4 shillings per burial of all non-paupers with a sliding scale rising to 30 pounds for the birth of the son of a Duke, 50 pounds for a dukes marriage and burial. All births were to be notified to the rector or vicar within five days, under a penalty of 40 shillings. Vicars were likewise fined for failure to keep a record of those who were born and not christened. The government thought it would be a good way to raise money for the crown to carry on the war against France and specially provided that a birth should not be exempt from tax merely because the parents failed to have the child christened. It seems likely that in many parishes such births were not registered and presumably no tax was paid. In other parishes, however, there is clear evidence that the parson in his capacity of tax-collector looked up the neglectful parishioner and collected the tax, plus, his six pence.

1733 - Latin was discontinued in parish records.

1752 - The Gregorian Calendar was adopted and the first day of the year was changed from March 25th (Lady day) to January 1st. In 1751 England and Wales were still using the old style, Julian calendar, which began each year on March 25th. Most of Europe has changed to the new style, Gregorian calendar, and so England also decided to change.

This meant that 1751 commenced on March 25th and ended on December 31st, and was only nine months long. Many register entries before and during this period made between January 1st and March 24th have a double entry (e.g. Jan 1st 1750 may be shown as Jan 1st 1750/51.).

The papal bull issued by Pope Gregory XIII in 1582, decreed that 10 days be dropped when switching to the Gregorian Calendar. However, the later the switch occurred, the more days had to be omitted. In North America, the month of September 1752 was exceptionally short, skipping 11 days going from the 2nd to the 14th overnight.

This can be used to explain the unusual date of the beginning of the British tax year on 6 April. From 1753 until 1799, the tax year began on 5 April, which corresponded to 25 March Old Style. After the twelfth skipped Julian leap day in 1800, it was changed to 6 April, which still corresponded to 25 March Old Style. However it was not changed when a thirteenth Julian leap day was skipped in 1900, so the tax year still begins on 6 April.

1754 - Lord Hardwick's Act required separate registers for marriages (plus banns books). These were recorded on printed forms and that these should be in books of vellum or good and durable paper, to be provided by the churchwardens. The act exempted only Quakers and Jews from being married in the Church of England. The act was passed for the preventing of Clandestine (secret) marriages. To make the Act more effective, a special printed form was devised which called for the signatures of the officiating minister, the two witnesses and those of the bride and groom. An indication of the marital status of the bride and groom (spinster, bachelor, widow, widower) and their resident parish was given. Marriages were to be either by banns (announced from the pulpit on three successive Sundays) or by license.

1783-1793 - The Stamp Act of 1783 granted to the crown a stamp duty of three pence upon every register entry of burial, marriage, birth or christening, the officiating minister, who collected the duty being allowed a commission of 10 per cent for his trouble. Two years later this act was extended to cover Nonconformists. This legislation was raised in order to raise money to pay for the American War of Independence.

1812 George Roses Act- After the 31st of December 1812, registers of public and private baptisms, marriages and burials were to be made and kept by the rector. It stated that

- "amending the Manner and Form of keeping and of preserving Registers of Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials of His Majesty's Subjects in the several Parishes and Places in England, will greatly facilitate the Proof of Pedigrees of Persons claiming to be entitled to Real or Personal Estates, and otherwise of great public Benefit and Advantage".
- "Registers of baptisms, marriages and burials to be made in separate books provided by the King's printer at the expense of the respective parishes."
- "The rector, etc., as soon as possible after the solemnization of the rite, to enter in the proper register book the several particulars described in the schedules and to sign the same; and in no case (unless prevented by sickness or other unavoidable impediment) later than seven days after the ceremony."
- "The register books to be kept in a dry, well-painted iron chest, in some dry, safe and secure place within the usual residence of such rector, etc."

1814 - Burial in woolen repealed

1837 – Beginning of civil registration. Since Civil registration of 1837 church marriage registers are now kept in duplicate, the incumbent sending each quarter a copy of all marriage entries to the district superintendent registrar, who sends it to the Registrar general, together with records of births, marriages and deaths he has collected through his secular registrars. When the marriage registers are filed, one copy is retained in the parish and the other goes to the secular registrar.

Parish registers

Most of the earliest surviving registers are composite registers covering baptisms, marriages and burials in a single volume. The entries in them are sparse and lacking in detail. Each entry consists of the date of the event followed by the most basic information: the baptisms rarely recorded more than the name of the child and the father's name, the marriages would usually give the names of both parties but are unlikely to tell you anything else while the burial entries often consisted of nothing more than the name of the deceased.

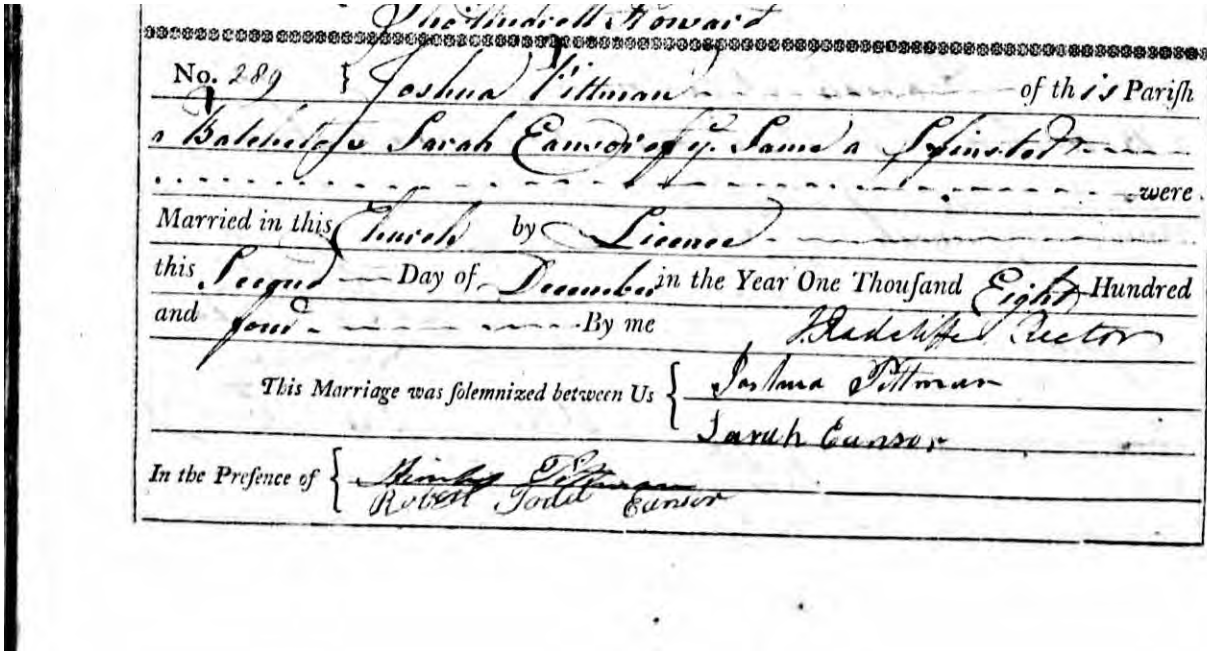
Later Acts increased the amount of information required

Composite Registers

1743

y 24
16
2
 William the son of John & Martha Osman was baptis'd April y 1st
 M^r. Mary Cally was burid April y 5th
 Mary the wife of John Doasham was burid April y 6th
 Maxian the daughter of W^m & Anne Pritchard was baptis'd Apr. y 24th
 Mary the daughter of Philip & Mary Peaces was baptis'd May y 8th
 Daniel Warner & Ann. Kalliecy were married May y 12th
 John Cook was burid May y 15th
 Ambrose Thatcher was burid May y 18th
 John the son of Rob^t & Jane Rudman was baptis'd May y 21th
 William Stratton & Judith Phelps were married June y 20th
 Thomas the son of Joseph & Elizabeth Punting was burid June y 26th
 Honor the daughter of Tho^s & Honor Smith was baptis'd July y 1st
 William Jeffries was burid July y 10th
 Elizabeth Gibbons Widow was burid Aug. the 6th
 John Connor & Mary Tylour were married Aug y 14th
 Mary the daughter of Philip & Mary Peaces was burid Aug y 25th
 Charles the son of William & Mary Stanley was baptis'd September y 1st
 Susanna Brown Singlewoman was burid Sep^r. y 14th
 Thomas King was burid Sep^r. y 15th
 Mary the daughter of Charles & Mary Naish was baptis'd Sep^r. y 27th
 Joyce the wife of Isaac Smith was burid Sep^r. y 30th
 Isaac Smith & Mary Pritchard were married October y 3rd
 Mary Sadbury Widow was burid October y 19th
 Roger Lecker was burid October y 25th
 Robert Barby & Hannah Utton were married Nov^r y 15th
 John y son of John & Mary Phelps born December y 5th 1741 was
 - fully baptis'd November 8th 1743 -
 Charles the son of Robert & Hannah Parker travellers was burid Dec^r. y 11th
 James the son of John Stone Esq^r & Anne his wife was baptis'd December y 12th
 Frances the daughter of John & Elizabeth Wall was baptis'd December y 16th
 Isaac the son of Will^m & Mary Picket was baptis'd December y 21st
 Richard Arman & Elizabeth Javery were married December y 29th
 John Smith & Martha Shephord of Chilton were married Jan^y y 15th
 James the son of James & Jane Winchcomb was baptis'd January y 18th
 Lewis the son of Tho^s & Elizabeth Prince was baptis'd January y 23rd
 Isaac y base-born son of Isaac Smith & Mary Cripps was baptis'd Feb^r y 2nd

Post Hardwick Act



Marriage Records may include:

- Parish of marriage
- Date of marriage
- Full names of bride and groom
- Name and office of minister
- After 1754, marriage by banns or license and full names of witnesses

Post Rose's Act

Page 128.

BAPTISMS solemnized in the ^{Parish of} Poplar
in the County of Middlesex in the Year 1820

When Baptized.	Child's Christian Name.	Parents Name.		Abode.	Quality, Trade, or Profession.	By whom the Ceremony was performed.
		Christian.	Surname.			
<i>Born 1820</i> June 14 th No. 1017.	July 9 th Mary	Robert & Ann	Sanson	Poplar	Mast. Maker	<i>Alfred Parker</i>
June 19 th No. 1018.	July 9 th Mary Ann	Peter & Eleanor	Parker	Poplar	Lawyer	<i>Alfred Parker</i>
1818 Dec ^r 10 th	July 10 th Elizabeth	Samuel & Rodda	Rodda	Poplar	Mariner	<i>Alfred Parker</i>

Baptismal Records may include:

- Parish of Baptism
- Date of baptism
- Given name of child
- Full names of parents
- Name and office of minister
- After 1812, residence and Occupations of parents

Post Civil Registration

BURIALS in the Parish of <u>S. Pauls</u> in the County of <u>Newport</u> in the Year 18 <u>63</u>				
Name.	Abode.	When buried.	Age.	By whom the Ceremony was performed.
18 <u>Mary Ann Langston</u> No. 481.	<u>Newport</u>	<u>April 26</u>	<u>57</u>	<u>Edw. Hawkins</u> <u>Vicar</u>
<u>Charles Jones</u> No. 482.	<u>Newport</u>	<u>April 26</u>	<u>72</u>	<u>Edw. Hawkins</u> <u>Vicar</u>
<u>Mary Ann Franklin</u> No. 483.	<u>Newport</u>	<u>April 30</u>	<u>42</u>	<u>Thomas L. Lester</u>
<u>Julie Elizabeth</u> <u>Adole Logan</u> No. 484.	<u>Risca</u>	<u>May 3</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>Edw. Hawkins</u> <u>Vicar</u>
<u>Charles Jones Thomas</u> No. 485.	<u>Newport</u>	<u>May 5</u>	<u>14</u> <u>10</u> <u>months</u>	<u>Edw. Hawkins</u> <u>Vicar</u>
<u>Sarah Williams</u>	<u>Newport</u>	<u>July 10</u>	<u>69</u>	<u>Thomas L. Lester</u>

Burial Records may include:

- Parish of burial
- Date of burial
- Name of deceased
- Name and office of minister
- After 1812, age at death and residence of deceased

Finding Parish Registers

- **County Record Offices**

The original parish registers are now usually stored in a county record office. These can be viewed by the public, but the archivists are very reluctant to allow handling of these old and unique books. Often Transcript and microfiche are available at the record office.

- **International Genealogical Index**

The LDS, for its own purposes has also produced an index of many parish register entries — mostly baptisms and marriages. Originally created in 1969, the IGI contains free genealogical information, submitted from various sources including data researchers, records obtained from contributors who are not members of the church, and data extracted from microfilmed birth or marriage records.

The IGI contains many duplicate names, accumulated over time from many sources, and no real effort is made to validate the information. Many IGI records contain information on the submitter and date of submission. The IGI is available at [FamilySearch](#), the LDS genealogy website.

In 1995, after a major controversy, a deal was struck between the Jewish and LDS communities to "Remove from the International Genealogical Index in the future the names of all deceased Jews who are so identified if they are known to be improperly included counter to Church policy." In 2008 The Vatican issued a statement directing its dioceses to block access to parish records from Mormons performing genealogical research.

- **Pay As You Go**

Find Your Past, The Genealogist Etc.

- **Online**

A lot of transcript and original images available for example

Aldbourne Wiltshire - John Dymond has transcribed the complete Parish Registers (including those of the Primitive and Wesleyan Methodist chapels) and the Censuses from 1841 to 1891. These have been published as a searchable database which can be searched by surname, by event or by year.

<http://www.treelines.co.uk>

Medway Towns -

Parish records (Archdeaconry of Rochester) Image but no index.

<https://cityark.medway.gov.uk/>

- **Pallot's Marriage Index**

Includes more than 1.5 million marriages in England which took place between 1780 and the commencement of civil registration on 1 July 1837.

The Index covers all but two of the 103 Church of England parishes in the old City of London and Middlesex, and more than 2,500 parishes in 38 counties outside London. Compilation began in 1813 using handwritten slips of paper to record the names of the bride and groom, the date of marriage and the church or chapel in which the marriage was celebrated. Collection continued over a period of more than 150 years, often including details such as whether the bride and groom had been spinsters, bachelors, widows, or widowers.

Available through Ancestry.Com (Pay Site)

- **Boyd's Marriage Index**

is a collection of names for English marriages copied from local parish marriage registers, Bishops' Transcripts and marriage licences, from when marriage registration began to be mandatory in 1538 to 1840. Registers from more than 4,300 parishes have been indexed, totaling 5,648,473 names.

Boyd's Marriage Index is especially helpful to family historians researching Yorkshire, Cambridge or East Anglian ancestry due to the thorough collections made by these parishes. Although all counties in England are included, none are entirely complete. The marriage record entries contain the first and last name of the bride and groom, the year, county and parish where the marriage took place, and source of the record.

Available through Find My Past.Com (Pay Site)

Bishops Transcripts

Beginning in 1598, every parish priest of the Church of England was supposed to make a copy of his parish register and send it to the archdeacon or bishop every year. Termed either archdeacon's or bishop's transcripts, these copies were generally produced in the same form as a regular parish register. Thus, most bishop's transcripts before 1812 were recorded on blank sheets, and then on pre-printed forms afterward. Many priests stopped producing these transcripts with the beginning of civil registration in 1837, but some persisted even into the twentieth century.

In its most basic sense, a bishop's transcript is a copy of a parish register. As bishop's transcripts generally contain more or less the same information as parish registers, they are an invaluable resource when a parish register has been damaged, destroyed, or otherwise lost. Bishop's transcripts are often of value even when parish registers exist, as priests often recorded either additional or different information in their transcripts than they did in the original registers.

Dade Registers

Before **Rose's Act of 1812**, there was no standardized form in which parish records were to be kept. Pre-1813 registers manifest a wide variety of skills and enthusiasm in record-keeping, from the barely literate to the garrulous.

Anyone who works in 18th century Yorkshire records will at some point come upon a '**Dade Register**', in which an unexpected wealth of genealogical information is embedded in a single record.

William Dade, came from a clerical family. Dade's close involvement with parish registers made him see their potential as a precious source of historical data. He instituted a form of record-keeping in his parishes which asked for additional information to be added to register entries for the benefit of 'the researches of posterity'. Each record of **baptism**, for example, was to include not only the father's profession and 'abode' but also those of the father's parents; the entry was also to state where the infant was placed in the family (whether first or second son, etc). **Burial** entries were to include the cause of death, the age of the deceased, and family details which made them to the Victorian death certificate that was to be introduced in 1837.

Dade's scheme was approved by **Archbishop William Markham** and introduced in the whole diocese from 1777. However, the concept of form-filling had yet to be imprinted in the national psyche. The extra work that it generated meant that it was short-lived and not all incumbents complied; those in densely-populated industrial parishes found it particularly arduous. It was discontinued after 1812 when the new parish register books came in.

Barrington Registers

From about 1783, as Lord Bishop of Salisbury, the Rt Rev. Shute Barrington instigated a similar system somewhat simpler than Dade's, and followed this in Northumberland and Durham from 1798

Example Dade Birth Records

BAPTISMS in the Parish of Selby			for the Year 1782.		
Infant's Christian Name, and Seniority.	Infant's Surname.	Father's Name, Profession, Defocent, and Abode.	Mother's Name, and Defocent.	Born.	Baptized.
Samney Second Daughter	Lawther	Of George Lawther, Postman of Selby, Son of William Lawther of Selby afores ^d Tayler by Ann his wife.	Frances Daut ^r of John Cooke of Selby Cordwainer by Mary his wife Daut ^r of John Pyle of Stockton on the Moor Tayler.	February 17 th	February 19 th
Benjamin First Son	Hassin alias Owen	Of Robert Hassin of Selby Waterman Son of Benjamin Hassin of the Parish of Northall Waterman by Rebecca his wife.	Martha Daut ^r of John Stridgely of Selby Smithy by Mary his wife Daut ^r of Tho ^s Thornton of Hamcoats in Lincolnshire Farmer.	February 22 ^d	February 22 ^d
Matthew Fourth Son	Hannifson	Of John Hannifson of Selby Labourer Son of John Han: :nison of Hance in Wincors Dale Farmer by Alice his wife.	Hannah Daut ^r of John Little of Selby Butcher by Mary his wife Daut ^r of Christopher Bean of Kuran in the Parish of Knapton Farmer.	March 5 th	March 15 th
Samuel Second Son	Fisher	Of Stephen Fisher of Selby Joiner Son of Anthony Fisher of Easingwood Carpenter by Rachel his wife Daut ^r of William Bell of Huby Gent.	Mary Daut ^r of Samuel Staward of Selby Labourer by Mary his wife Daut ^r of Michael Turner of Castleforth Labourer.	March 15 th	March 15 th

Samuel second son	Fisher	Of Stephen Fisher of Selby Joiner Son of Anthony Fisher of Easingwood carpenter by Rachel his wife Daut ^r of William Bell of Huby gent	Mary daughter of Samuel Stoppard of Selby labourer by Mary his wife Daut ^r of Michael Turner of Castleforth labourer	March 15 th	March 15 th
-------------------	--------	---	---	------------------------	------------------------

Example Dade Burial Records

Samuel	Hall	Of Selby Waterman and a Stranger.	Selby Church Yard	20	
Samuel	Fisher	Son of Stephen Fisher of Selby Joiner by Mary his wife Daut ^r of Samuel Stobard of Selby afores ^d Labourer.	Selby Church Yard	45	
Mary	Fisher	Wife of Stephen Fisher of Selby Joiner and Daut ^r of Samuel Staward of Selby afores ^d Labourer by Mary his wife Daut ^r of Michael Turner of Castleforth Labourer.	Selby Church Yard	Infant	
James	Hutchinson	Of Selby Labourer.	Selby Church Yard	27	Child Bed
				March 21 st	77. Sons of Peace.

Samuel	Fisher	Son Stephen Fisher of Selby Joiner by Mary his wife Daut ^r of Samuel Stoppard of Selby a forest labourer	March 17 th Selby Churchyard	Infant	
Mary	Fisher	Wife of Stephen Fisher of Selby Joiner and daughter of Samuel Stoppard of Selby a forest labourer by Mary his wife Daut ^r of Michael Turner of Castleford labourer	March 20 th Selby Churchyard	27	Child Bed