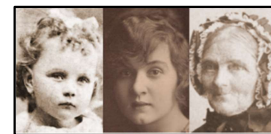


# English & Welsh births, marriages & deaths



## Civil Registration (government issued BMD certificates)

- Civil registration began 1 July 1837
- Organised into quarters: 3 months leading up to end March, June, September & December
- BMD events registered in a Registration District – nearby but often not identical to place of birth
- Search index such as freebmd or General Register Office (GRO) and then order the certificate from GRO
- Birth certificates provide: date and place of birth, child's name, father's name, mother's name and maiden name, father's occupation, informant, registration details
- Marriage certificates provide: date and place of marriage, ages of both parties (or 'full age'), usual residence, fathers' names and occupations, witnesses, rites or details of marriage
- Death certificates provide: name and age of deceased, location and cause of death, informant's details

## Parish (church) records

- Parish records of baptisms, marriages & burials began 1538 & still continue (although not all survive)
- Copied annually to Bishop's Transcripts (BTs) so sometimes BTs survive when parish records do not
- Information included varies by time and place:
  - baptisms name child, parents (or father only), sometimes gave father's occupation & residence, date of baptism, may or may not give date of birth
  - marriages name both parties and parish of residence as well as giving date and place of marriage or banns
  - burials name deceased and provide date of burial, usually age, may give occupation or father or spouse
- Marriage banns must be announced in church for 3 weeks prior to wedding until 1753 – led to clandestine marriages
- From 1753 could marry by license, requiring a bond but no banns
- Roman Catholics had to marry in Anglican churches 1754-1837
- Free indexes available on (or via): FamilySearch, FreeReg, Dusty Docs, GENUKI
- Commercial websites: Ancestry, findmypast, MyHeritage, TheGenealogist
- Online Parish Clerks (OPC) are volunteers who transcribe & index all records for a given parish – not available for all counties (try googling for 'OPC' & name of county)
- Parish chest records include eg Poor Law records, Settlement records, Bastardy bonds – which may include BMD (see County Record Offices, National Archives, FamilySearch, Ancestry, findmypast)
- Settlement: an individual's right to receive poor law support & may provide details of birth or marriage or death

## Non-conformists

- Members of protestant churches that do not conform to the established church (ie not Anglican) Some have their own registers (that may or may not survive) but these are **not** recorded in parish registers
- TheGenealogist holds many non-conformist records

## FreeBMD

- Indexed & transcribed by volunteers – indexes start from September quarter 1837 & are still being added to
- Mother's maiden name does not appear in births index until 1911, marriages linked to 'other party' from 1912, 'age at death' not included until 1866
- Marriage index: click on hyperlink in 'Page' column to show all names on page (both parties in all marriages)

## General Register Office (GRO)

- Mother's maiden name added from earliest births index entries
- Age at death added from earliest deaths index entries
- Can only search +/- 2 years, and must specify 'male' or 'female' in each search
- Only births & deaths indexes currently available
- Better to search first in FreeBMD & then look up for more details in GRO
- Order civil registration certificates from GRO
- Can order certificates posted £11, PDF copy if available can be ordered to be emailed for £7

## FamilySearch (website of Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints)

- Can search for historical records by Location – click on map & select to search English / Welsh records
- Can search the Catalog by Place to find eg ‘Church Records’ for a place
- Some images of historical records are available, others are transcriptions only
- Map of England Jurisdictions 1851 shows adjoining parishes & also start dates of parish registers & Bishop’s Transcripts. Select Options allows searching historical records on FamilySearch for just that parish
- Use the Research Wiki (Search -> Research Wiki) to search for place or subject of interest, results provide links even into other websites

## Websites

- Ancestry – [www.ancestry.com.au](http://www.ancestry.com.au)
- British Newspaper Archive – [www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk](http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk)
- Dusty Docs – [www.dustydocs.com.au](http://www.dustydocs.com.au)
- FamilySearch – [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)
  - Maps – [maps.familysearch.org](http://maps.familysearch.org)
- Find A Grave – [findagrave.com](http://findagrave.com) (*Ancestry searches also link into these*)
- Find a will – [probatesearch.service.gov.uk/#wills](http://probatesearch.service.gov.uk/#wills) (*search first in Ancestry, costs £1.50*)
- findmypast – [www.findmypast.com](http://www.findmypast.com) (*also links to British Newspapers*)
- FreeBDM – [www.freebmd.org.uk](http://www.freebmd.org.uk)
- FreeReg – [www.freereg.org.uk](http://www.freereg.org.uk)
- General Register Office (GRO) – [www.gro.gov.uk](http://www.gro.gov.uk)
- GENUKI (Genealogy UK & Ireland) – [www.genuki.org.uk](http://www.genuki.org.uk) (select England -> County -> Parish)
- Google Newspaper Archive – [news.google.com/newspapers](http://news.google.com/newspapers)
- MyHeritage – [www.myheritage.com](http://www.myheritage.com)
- National Archives UK (TNA) – [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk)
- Old Bailey Online – [oldbaileyonline.org](http://oldbaileyonline.org)
- Online Parish Clerks (OPC) – [ukbmd.org.uk/online\\_parish\\_clerk](http://ukbmd.org.uk/online_parish_clerk)
- Search probate records for documents and wills – [www.gov.uk/search-will-probate](http://www.gov.uk/search-will-probate)
- State Library NSW eResources – [www2.sl.nsw.gov.au/eresources/](http://www2.sl.nsw.gov.au/eresources/)
- TheGenealogist – [www.thegenealogist.com](http://www.thegenealogist.com)
- Yorkshire Parish Registers – [yorkshireparishregisters.com](http://yorkshireparishregisters.com)