

England and Wales birth, death and marriage indexes

Info Guide 3.5

What records are available?

Civil registration of births, deaths and marriages in England and Wales commenced in July 1837. Indexes to these records are also known as the *St Catherine's House indexes*. The State Library of Queensland holds the indexes on microfiche:

Holdings on microfiche	Call no
Births 1837 - 2001	MFC 929.341 1990-
Deaths 1837 - 2001	MFC 929.341 1990-
Marriages 1837 - 2001	MFC 929.341 1990-

The State Library also holds the indexes to deaths from 1984 to 2000 on CD-ROM.

How are the indexes arranged?

From 1837 to 1984 the microfiche indexes are arranged separately by event (birth, death or marriage). They are then arranged into quarters:

March quarter	January, February, March
June quarter	April, May, June
September quarter	July, August, September
December quarter	October, November, December

From 1985 onwards the indexes are annually arranged
Please note: some of the microfiche indexes can be difficult to read.

What information do the indexes provide?

Birth Indexes (Sep 1837 to Jun 1911)	Surname, Given Name/s, Registration District, Volume and Page.
Birth Indexes (Sep 1911 to Dec 2001)	Surname, Given Name/s, Mother's Maiden Surname, Registration District, Volume and Page
Marriage Indexes (Sep 1837 to Dec 1911)	Surname, Given Name/s, Registration District, Volume and Page. (Does not provide the details of the spouse.)
Marriage Indexes (Mar 1912 to Dec 2001)	Surname, Given Name/s, Surname of Spouse, Registration District, Volume and Page
Death Indexes (Sep 1837 to Mar 1866)	Surname, Given Name/s, Registration District, Volume and Page
Death Indexes (Jun 1866 to Dec 2001)	Surname, Given Name/s, Age, Registration District, Volume and Page.

Examples:

1. Birth Entry: Arthur Neville Chamberlain, British Prime Minister 1937-1940 (1869, June quarter):

Name	District	Volume	Page
CHAMBERLAIN --- Arthur Neville	King's N.	6c	407

2. Death Entry: Arthur Conan Doyle, author of Sherlock Holmes novels (1930, December quarter):

Name	Age	District	Volume	Page
DOYLE --- Arthur C.	71	Uckfield	2b	135

To what does the volume number refer?

The volume number refers to the civil registration district. For example Neville Chamberlain's birth entry listed 6c as the civil registration district, which is Worcestershire. There are two sets of Civil Registration District Codes, one between 1837 and 1852 and the other between 1852 and 1946. A district key explaining the volume numbers is held with the microfiche at the Family History desk on level 3.

How do I order certificates once I've found my ancestor?

With the information gained from the indexes you can:

- Order online through the **General Registry Office** (<https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/default.asp>)
- Via agents in Australia who can be located through the **Australasian Association of Genealogists and Record Agents Inc** (<http://www.aagra.asn.au/>)

Why can't I find anything?

- **Late Registrations** - Some events (usually births) may have been registered several weeks after the event. In this case check the next few quarters.
- **Misspelt Surnames** - Surnames can occasionally be incorrectly recorded. This can be caused by numerous factors such as illiteracy, strong accents and speech impediments.
- **Incorrect Dates** - Occasionally the age listed on a death or marriage certificate may be an estimation, therefore it is advisable to search a wide range of years.

What other indexes are available?

The following UK records are also available:

Army returns and consular returns: indexes to births, deaths and marriages 1761-1965 [microfiche] MFC 355.30941 1995

These records include:

- Army Chaplains births indices 1796-1880
- Chaplains returns marriages 1796-1880
- Army Chaplains death indices 1796-1880
- Births abroad indices 1966-1994

GRO marine deaths indices 1837-1965 [microfiche] MFC 016.929341 1996

GRO marine births indices 1837-1965 [microfiche] MFC 016.929341 1996

There are also various baptism, marriage and burial record indexes available for some of the English counties on CD-ROM.

For more information check the One Search online catalogue <http://onesearch.slq.qld.gov.au/>

What internet sites are available?

Ancestry

Available *onsite only* at the State Library.

Search England and Wales freebmd 1837-1983 plus England and Wales birth, death and marriage indexes 1837-2005. Check the full list of English birth, death and marriage records, which are frequently updated, for further records.

Free BMD www.freebmd.org.uk/

This project's aim is to gradually transcribe information from the civil registration indexes (1837-1983) and enter the information into a searchable database. This database can be searched via the Internet and volunteers are constantly adding new information.

findmypast.com.uk

Available *onsite only* at the State Library

This site contains a searchable database of English and Welsh birth, death and marriage indexes from 1538 to the present.

FamilySearch <http://www.familysearch.org/eng/default.asp>

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints has constructed an online database containing parish records (baptisms and marriages only). The 1881 (British) census is also available.

UKBMD – Births, marriages, death indexes & census transcriptions online for UK family history

<http://www.ukbmd.org.uk/>

This site contains links to web sites that offer on-line transcriptions of UK births, marriages, deaths and censuses indexes among others. It is a good way to locate the original indexes to births, marriages and deaths held at local register offices.

Need further information?

State Library of Queensland

Queensland Cultural Centre, Stanley Place, South Bank, Reference Services

t. +61 7 3840 7810 w. www.slq.qld.gov.au/enquiry

Visit http://www.slq.qld.gov.au/about/pub/info_guides/collections/fh to access all family history Info Guides.