



How Do I...

Use the GRO and
FreeBMD Websites?

Jerroleen Sorensen

BYU Family History Library

What is the GRO?



HM Passport Office

General Register Office

Official information on births, adoptions, marriages,
civil partnerships and deaths in England and Wales

- The General Register Office was established in 1837 as the official repository of all births, marriages and deaths in England and Wales. It also includes events recorded abroad.
- Before July 1st of that year, records had been legally kept, although with varying detail, in the Parish Registers.
- After the Registration Act was passed, local registrars recorded the events and sent a copy to London.
- It was not compulsory to register events until 1874, after which fines were imposed within 6 weeks of the event for non-compliance.
- Later records may include civil partnerships and adopted children.
- [Events recorded in England and Wales and overseas - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/events-recorded-in-england-wales-and-overseas/events-recorded-in-england-and-wales)
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/events-recorded-in-england-wales-and-overseas/events-recorded-in-england-and-wales> Includes starting dates and ending dates of availability

How do I find the GRO indexes?

- The indexes are free to access online on the GRO (partial) or the FreeReg sites.
- <https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>
- You can access the microfiche records in these libraries (in England). These places have the only complete copies of the full sets of index reference numbers:

Library of Birmingham; Bridgend Local and Family History Centre; City of Westminster Archives Centre; Manchester Central Library; Newcastle City Library; Plymouth Central Library; The British Library

- These libraries and centers are online and can help you order copies of the certificates.
- Indexes from the GRO can also be found at FreeGenealogy, FindMyPast, Ancestry, FamilySearch, MyHeritage, The Genealogist, etc. Local British FamilySearch centers and local register offices may hold partial sets on microfiche or CD-ROM.

What information is on the records?

- Birth certificate: Date and place of birth; name and residence of mother; sometimes maiden name; name and occupation of father
- Marriage certificate: Full names of both parties; occupations; residences; date and place; names and occupations of fathers (before May 2021).
- Death certificate: Date of death; age, occupation; final residence; cause of death; name and relationship of informant

1873. Marriage solemnized at *St. Thomas Church* in the *Parish of St. Thomas Blackby* in the County of *Lancaster*

No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
394	<i>Oct 28th</i>	<i>John William Carter</i> <i>Lucy Ann Cooke</i>	<i>19</i> <i>30</i>	<i>Bachelor</i> <i>Spinster</i>	<i>Weaver</i> <i>Servant</i>	<i>xx Scotland</i> <i>Place</i>	<i>James Carter</i> <i>William Cooke</i>	<i>Laborer</i> <i>Coachman</i>

Married in the _____ according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church, by _____ or after *Rames* by me, *Robt. J. Langford*

This Marriage was solemnized between us, { *John William Carter his x mark* in the Presence of us, { *Robert Newton*
Lucy Ann Cooke } { *Mary Jane Carter her x mark*



Information contained on a birth, marriage, civil partnership or death certificate

1. Details contained on a full birth certificate include:

- Name, date and place of birth.
- Father's name (if given at time of registration), place of birth and occupation.
- Mother's name, place of birth, maiden surname and, after 1984, occupation.

Please note that registrations made before 1969 do not include details of the parents' place of birth and mother's occupation.

2. Details contained on a marriage certificate prior to 4th May 2021 include:

- Date and place of marriage.
- Name, age and marital status/condition of the parties.
- Occupation and usual address.
- Name and occupation of each party's father.
- Names of the witnesses.
- Name of the person who solemnised the marriage.

3. Details contained on a marriage certificate after 4th May 2021 include:

- Date and place of marriage.
- Name, date of birth and marital status/condition of the parties.
- Occupation and usual address.
- Name of each party's mother/father/parent (up to 4 entries per party).
- Names of the witnesses.
- Name of the person who solemnised the marriage

4. Details contained on a civil partnership certificate include:

- Date and place of civil partnership.
- Name, date of birth and marital status/condition of the parties.
- Occupation and usual address.
- Name of each party's mother/father/parent (up to 4 entries per party).
- Names of the witnesses.
- Name of the person who performed the civil ceremony

5. Details contained on a death certificate include:

- Name, date and place of death.
- Date and place of birth (before 1969 a certificate only showed age of deceased).
- Occupation and usual address.
- Cause of death.
- The person who gave information for the death registration.

What information is in the index?

- The year of the event
- The quarter of the event
- The district where the event was registered
- The volume and page number of the index entry

83

BIRTHS registered in January, February, and March 1871.

[CAR

	District.	Vol.	Page		District.	Vol.	Page		District.	Vol.	Page
CARTER, Albert	Newbury	2 c.	247	CARTER, Ernest Alfred	Farnham	2 a.	116	CARTER, Joseph	Bolton	8 c.	306
— Albert George	Wandsworth	1 d.	555	— Ernest Edward	Southampton	2 c.	34	— Joseph	Granttham	7 a.	453
— Albert Jonah	Bath	5 c.	679	— Ernest George	St. Geo. H. Sq.	1 a.	342	— Joseph Theodore	Mere	5 a.	241
— Alfred	I. Wight	2 b.	552	— Ernest Webb	Hendon	3 a.	135	— Joseph William	Portsea	2 b.	459
— Alfred	Poplar	1 c.	720	— Ernest William	St. Saviour	1 d.	145	— Joshua Jackson	Huddersfield	9 a.	298
— Alfred	Birkenhead	8 a.	478	— Esther	Hitchin	3 a.	321	— Josiah Carr	Hinckley	7 a.	62
— Alfred Hardman	W. Derby	8 b.	267	— Eva Naomi	Eastbourne	2 b.	69	— Julia	Amphill	3 b.	415
— Alfred John	St. Olave	1 d.	295	— Fanny	Peterbro'	3 b.	230	— Julia Caroline	Croydon	2 a.	252
— Alfred John C.	Mulling	2 a.	535	— Fanny	Kidderminster	6 c.	282	— Julia Elizabeth	Brentford	3 a.	93
— Alfred Sidney	St. Geo. East	1 c.	456	— Fanny	Stourbridge	6 c.	195	— Julia Howard	Leicester	7 a.	246
— Alice	E. Preston	2 b.	329	— Fanny	Hartley W.	2 c.	188	— Kate	Brentford	3 a.	63
— Alice	Ulverston	8 c.	691	— Fanny Eliza	Poplar	1 c.	764	— Kate Julia	Westbury S.	6 a.	235
— Alice	Wakefield	9 c.	54	— Fanny Maria	Chelsea	1 a.	245	— Kate Louisa	Kensington	1 a.	189
— Alice	Leeds	9 b.	454	— Florence	Aston	6 d.	366	— Kate Rebecca	Newmarket	3 b.	572
— Alice	Kensington	1 a.	94	— Florence	Barnet	3 a.	165	— Laura Jane	Helston	5 c.	212
— Alice	Gloucester	6 a.	293	— Florence Augusta	Sheffield	9 c.	350	— Lewis Walter	St. Thomas	5 b.	42
— Alice Mary	Mt. Bosworth	7 a.	69	— Florence Janet	London C.	1 c.	27	— Laban	Poplar	1 c.	742
— Alice Minnie	Romford	4 a.	145	— Frances	Manchester	8 d.	164	— Lizzie Amelia	Kidderminster	6 c.	266

Where can I find more information?

- Some NEW guides have just been published in July of 2023.
- Google Family Tree Guide to . . . General Record Office or find them HERE:
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/discover-your-family-history/discover-your-family-history-accessible-version>
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/family-tree-guide-to-birth-certificates>
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/family-tree-guide-to-marriage-certificates>
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/family-tree-guide-to-death-certificates>

How do I order a certificate?

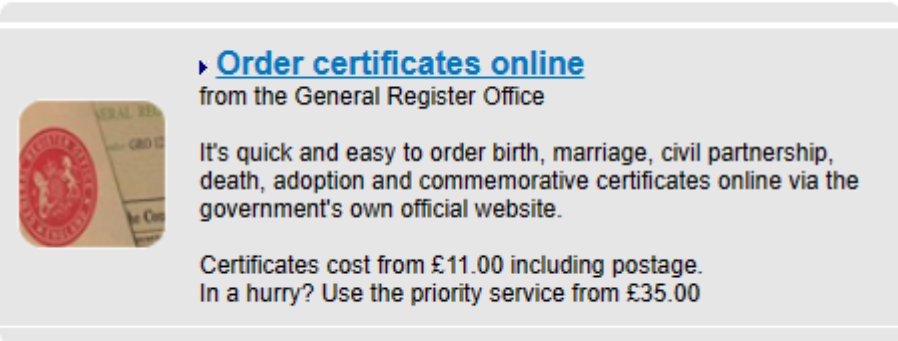
- Use the ordering system online (cheapest and easiest).
- Find the GRO index reference number (Year, Quarter, District, Volume and Page).
- Fill out the form.
- Pay the fee of 11 pounds. The certificate will be sent 4 days after you apply.
- You can pay 3 pounds for each search, if you don't have the reference number. That takes 15 days.
- Priority service is 35 pounds.
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/how-to-order-and-pay-for-certificates>
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/how-to-order-and-pay-for-certificates/how-to-order-and-pay-for-civil-registration-records-accessible-version>

Anything else I need to know?


- You can also order a PDF version or the Online view digital image in JPEG format.
- The availability of certificates include birth registration records over 100 years old and deaths from 1837 to 1957.
- No marriage certificates have been indexed or digitized on the GRO. You can order certificates; however, there may be privacy laws applicable (index is 1837 to 1983 on BMD).
- Birth indexes have been digitized on the GRO site from 1837 until 1934. Then from 1984 to 2021.
- Death indexes have been digitized on the GRO site from 1837 until 1957. Then from 1984 to 2021.
- You can fill the gap by using the FreeBMD indexes.



How do I use the index?



▶ [Order certificates online](#)
from the General Register Office



It's quick and easy to order birth, marriage, civil partnership, death, adoption and commemorative certificates online via the government's own official website.

Certificates cost from £11.00 including postage.
In a hurry? Use the priority service from £35.00

On the GRO Home page, click on Order certificates online



Register or log in.

Service Information

This service requires your browser to accept cookies - please see our [Cookie Policy](#) for more information.
This service does not support the use of the browser BACK button, please only use links and button options to navigate the site.

Service Updates

Due to current high demand, some customers may experience a delay in receiving their order. If you need to contact us, please do so using the link below:

https://eforms.homeoffice.gov.uk/outreach/Certificate_Service.ofml

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Password

Login

Reset

[Forgotten your password?](#)

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If you are using the site for the first time you will need to complete the registration process:

[Register as an Individual](#)

[Register as a representative of a Company or Organisation](#)

Please Note: If you registered previously but have not logged in during the past two years your account will have been removed from our system and you should register again using the links above.



Click on Search the GRO Indexes

What would you like to do?



[Order a Certificate or PDF](#)

Enter your details or a GRO Reference to order:
- A paper certificate that can be used for identification or official purposes
- A PDF copy of a record, not for official use



[Search the GRO Indexes](#)

Search the indexes to identify the record you want.

You can order a Certificate, PDF or Digital Image.



[Order a Digital Image](#)

Search the indexes to find a record and click through to purchase an image.

Digital Images are only available for Births 1837-1922 and Deaths 1837-1887.



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Researching your family history and how to get the most out of the GRO records.



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General Guidelines for searching when you don't have exact info

When was the birth registered?
Year: * +/- year(s) ?

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: ?

Sex: * ?

Mother's Maiden Surname: ? Include: ?
Search for records with a matching Mother's Maiden Surname

Where was the birth registered?
District of Birth: ?

Do you already know any GRO Reference details for the registration?
Quarter: ?
Volume: ? Page: ?

Results: ?

- Use 2 years as the range.
- Use more than one spelling.
- Start with only the first name, then add full middle name
- For births, start with no mother or district.

General Guidelines for searching when you don't have exact info, cont.

Name:	Mother's Maiden Surname:
<input type="radio"/> CARTER, JAMES <i>GRO Reference: 1850 M Quarter in OXFORD Volume 16 Page 94</i>	BLEAY
<input type="radio"/> CARTER, JAMES <i>GRO Reference: 1850 M Quarter in ASTON UNION Volume 16 Page 190</i>	COOPER
<input type="radio"/> CARTER, JAMES <i>GRO Reference: 1850 M Quarter in LANCASTER Volume 21 Page 541</i>	FYLDES
<input type="radio"/> CARTER, JAMES <i>GRO Reference: 1850 M Quarter in BIRMINGHAM Volume 16 Page 271</i>	HABBIS
<input type="radio"/> CARTER, JAMES <i>GRO Reference: 1850 M Quarter in WOLSTANTON AND BURSLEM UNION Volume 17 Page 311</i>	HEMMINGS
<input type="radio"/> CARTER, JAMES <i>GRO Reference: 1850 M Quarter in BIGGLESWADE Volume 06 Page 55</i>	SELL
<input type="radio"/> CARTER, JAMES <i>GRO Reference: 1850 M Quarter in MITFORD AND LAUNDITCH Volume 13 Page 233</i>	ROSE
<input type="radio"/> CARTER, JAMES <i>GRO Reference: 1850 M Quarter in AMERSHAM Volume 06 Page 325</i>	THORNS
<input type="radio"/> CARTER, JAMES <i>GRO Reference: 1850 J Quarter in WEST HAM UNION Volume 12 Page 326</i>	WOOD
<input type="radio"/> CARTER, JAMES <i>GRO Reference: 1850 J Quarter in ASHTONUNDERLYNE Volume 20 Page 67</i>	THOMPSON

- Check through the results.
- Narrow by district. If you aren't certain of the district, start with the one you think it is and work outward.
- Use Historical Maps on FamilySearch to find the Civil Registration District.
<https://www.familysearch.org/mapp/>
- Find historical districts here:
<https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/images/GRO%20Registration%20District%20Book.pdf>

REGISTRATION DISTRICTS IN ENGLAND AND WALES

Below is an alphabetical list of all the registration districts in England and Wales from 1837 to the present. The same districts were also used to compile the decennial census for the years 1851 to 1911.

Click on a district name to see the places and dates covered.

Select a letter to go directly to entries starting with that letter

[A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [D](#) [E](#) [F](#) [G](#) [H](#) [I](#) [J](#) [K](#) [L](#) [M](#) [N](#) [O](#) [P](#) [R](#) [S](#) [T](#) [U](#) [V](#) [W](#) [Y](#)

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- [Amersham](#)
- [Amesbury](#)
- [Amounderness](#)
- [Amphill](#)
- [Andover](#)

- [Anglesey](#)
- [Anglesey East](#)
- [Anglesey West](#)
- [Appleby](#)
- [Ardudwy](#)
- [Ashbourne](#)
- [Ashby de la Zouch](#)
- [Ashford](#)
- [Ashford with Shepway](#)
- [Ashton](#)
- [Ashton & Oldham](#)
- [Ashton under Lyne](#)
- [Askrigg](#)
- [Aston](#)
- [Atcham](#)
- [Atherstone](#)
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- [Axbridge](#)
- [Axminster](#)
- [Aylesbury](#)
- [Aylesbury Vale](#)
- [Aylsham](#)
- [Aysgarth](#)

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Registration District Lists on BMD

ABERAYRON REGISTRATION DISTRICT

- *Registration County* : Cardiganshire.
- *Created* : 1.7.1837.
- *Abolished* : 1.7.1936 (added to **Cardiganshire Central** registration district).
- *Sub-districts* : Llandysilio; Llansaintffraid.
- *GRO volumes* : XXVII (1837–51); 11b (1852–1936).
- *District number* : 311b (1841–46); 596 (1847–69); 600 (1870–80); 604 (1881–1908); 606 (1909–36).

Table 1: List of Places in Aberayron Registration District

Civil Parish	County	From	To	Comments
Aberayron	Cardiganshire	1921	1936	Created 1.4.1921 from the parishes of Lower Llanddewi Aberarth and Henfynyw Lower. See also Table 2, note (a).
Cilcennin	Cardiganshire	1837	1936	See Table 2, note (a).
Ciliau Aeron	Cardiganshire	1837	1934	Abolished 1.4.1934 and added to the parish of Llanarchaeron.
Ciliau Aeron	Cardiganshire	1934	1936	Created 1.10.1934 by renaming the parish of Llanarchaeron. See also Table 2, note (a)
Cydpwlyf	Cardiganshire	1837	1934	Abolished 1.10.1934 and added to the parish of Llanina.
Dihewid	Cardiganshire	1837	1936	See Table 2, note (a).
Henfynyw	Cardiganshire	1837	1894	Abolished 1894 and divided into the parishes of Henfynyw Lower and Henfynyw Upper.
Henfynyw Lower	Cardiganshire	1894	1921	Created 1894 from the part of the parish of Henfynyw in Aberayron Urban District. Abolished 1.4.1921 and added to the parish of Aberayron.
Henfynyw Upper	Cardiganshire	1894	1936	Created 1894 from the rural part of the parish of Henfynyw. See also Table 2, note (a).
Llanarth	Cardiganshire	1837	1936	See Table 2, note (a).
Llanbadarn Trefeglwys	Cardiganshire	1837	1936	See Table 2, note (a).
Llanddewi Aberarth	Cardiganshire	1837	1894	Abolished 1894 and divided into the parishes of Lower Llanddewi Aberarth and Upper Llanddewi Aberarth.
Llandysiliogogo	Cardiganshire	1837	1936	See Table 2, note (a).
Llanerchaeron	Cardiganshire	1837	1934	Abolished 1.10.1934 and added to the parish of Ciliau Aeron.
Llanfihangel Ystrad	Cardiganshire	1837	1936	See Table 2, note (a).
Llanina	Cardiganshire	1837	1934	Abolished 1.4.1934 and added to the parish of Cydpwlyf.
Llanina	Cardiganshire	1934	1936	Created 1.10.1934 by renaming the parish of Cydpwlyf. See also Table 2, note (a).

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:

Sex:

Mother's Maiden Surname: Include:

Search for records with a matching Mother's Maiden Surname

Where was the birth registered?

District of Birth:

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

Quarter: Page:

Volume:

General Guidelines for searching when you don't have exact info cont.

- Add the mother's maiden name, possible. Add middle names.
- Change from exact match on the names to other options if you don't find what you are looking for.
- A hyphen for the mother's name may mean an illegitimate birth.

Name:	Mother's Maiden Surname:
<input type="radio"/> CARTER, JAMES <i>GRO Reference: 1852 D Quarter in WITNEY Volume 03A Page 538</i>	WATSON
<input type="radio"/> CARTER, JAMES PRESTON <i>GRO Reference: 1853 J Quarter in KENSINGTON PADDINGTON AND FULHAM Volume 01A Page 2</i>	WATSON

2 Record(s) Found - Showing Page 1 of 1
Go to page [1](#)

Name:	Mother's Maiden Surname:
<input type="radio"/> CARTER, JAMES WILLIAM <i>GRO Reference: 1854 D Quarter in WISBECH UNION Volume 03B Page 498</i>	LEEDING
<input type="radio"/> CARTER, JAMES WILLIAM <i>GRO Reference: 1855 M Quarter in LEEDS Volume 09B Page 386</i>	NAYLOR
<input type="radio"/> CARTER, JAMES WILLIAM <i>GRO Reference: 1855 M Quarter in ST GILES IN THE FIELDS & ST GEORGE BLOOMSBURY Volume 01B Page 349</i>	WITHAM
<input type="radio"/> CARTER, JAMES WILLIAM <i>GRO Reference: 1855 D Quarter in ALVERSTOKE Volume 02B Page 374</i>	CUMMINS
<input type="radio"/> CARTER, JAMES WILLIAM <i>GRO Reference: 1856 D Quarter in NEWINGTON Volume 01D Page 178</i>	NICHOLS
<input type="radio"/> CARTER, JAMES WILLIAM <i>GRO Reference: 1857 J Quarter in CHORLTON Volume 08C Page 500</i>	BARLOW
<input type="radio"/> CARTER, JAMES WILLIAM <i>GRO Reference: 1858 M Quarter in BURY SAINT EDMUND'S Volume 04A Page 468</i>	-
<input type="radio"/> CARTER, JAMES WILLIAM ALFRED <i>GRO Reference: 1854 D Quarter in BROMLEY Volume 02A Page 185</i>	WAGHORN

Marriage

29 Apr 1851 • Liverpool, Lancashire, England



William Cooke
(1828-1902)

1 source

General Guidelines for searching when you don't have exact info, cont.

- Move up or down the year range by 4 years at a time.
- The results are listed in order by year and quarter.
- To search for all the children of a mother, type the last name, the mother's maiden name, the sex, and the district, if known. Move up the range, starting with the marriage date, at least 25-30 years or until her death.
- Change the sex and come back down the year range.
- Use the name options or different spellings if you don't immediately find the answer.

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:

Sex:

Mother's Maiden Surname: Include:

Search for records with a matching Mother's Maiden Surname

Where was the birth registered?

District of Birth:

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

Quarter:

Volume: Page:

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:

Sex:

Mother's Maiden Surname: Include:

Search for records with a matching Mother's Maiden Surname

Where was the birth registered?

District of Birth:

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

Quarter:

Volume: Page:



COOKE, LUCY ANN

GRO Reference: 1852 S Quarter in WEST DERBY Volume 08B Page 297

Surname.

RIDER

When was the death registered?
 Year: * +/- year(s) ?

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 Death: * ? Include: ?
Search for records with a matching surname
 First Forename at Death: ? Include: ?
Search for records with a matching first forename
 Second Forename at Death: ?
 Sex: * ? Age at Death in years: +/- year(s) ?
 (Enter 0 if less than 1 year old)

Where was the death registered?
 District of Death:

Do you already know any GRO Reference details for the registration?
 Quarter: ?
 Volume: ? Page: ?

General Guidelines for searching when you don't have exact info, cont.



- The same basic principles apply when searching the death index.
- Start with the last known living age and move up by 4 years at a time. Change the death range as you go.
- It's easiest to use the 5-year death age range unless you know the exact year of death.

Who are you searching for?
 Surname at Death: * ? Include: ?
Search for records with a matching surname
 First Forename at Death: ? Include: ?
Search for records with a matching first forename
 Second Forename at Death: ?
 Sex: * ? Age at Death in years: +/- year(s) ?
 (Enter 0 if less than 1 year old)

Name	Age at Death (in years)
<input type="radio"/> CARTER, JOHN WILLIAM GRO Reference: 1878 J Quarter in CAMBERWELL Volume 01D Page 461	30
<input type="radio"/> CARTER, JOHN WILLIAM GRO Reference: 1880 S Quarter in BLACKBURN Volume 08E Page 261	27
<input type="radio"/> CARTER, JOHN WILLIAM GRO Reference: 1880 D Quarter in PANCRAS Volume 01B Page 96	23



What is FreeUK Genealogy?



“Free UK Genealogy provides free, online access to family history records. We...create high-quality transcriptions of public records from governmental sources, parish churches, and other trusted institutions. We believe [in] making and keeping public records accessible to all. We work with others with the same concerns.”



<https://www.freeukgenealogy.org.uk/>



FreeBMD.org is an ongoing project...to transcribe the Civil Registration index of births, marriages and deaths for England and Wales, and to provide free Internet access to the transcribed records.

FreeCen.org aims to provide a free-to-view, online, searchable database of UK census returns.

FreeReg.org provides free internet searches of baptism, marriage, and burial records. We are transcribing records from parish registers, non-conformist records and other relevant sources in the UK.



Visit our project websites to search our records:

Search
FreeBMD

288,000,000 births,

Search
FreeCEN

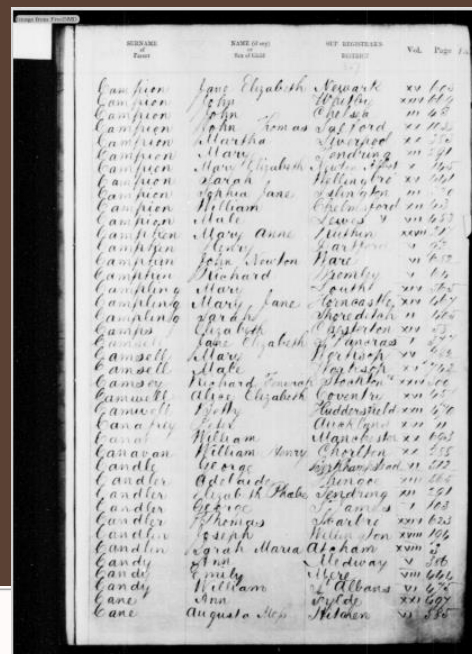
44,500,000 individuals from

Search
FreeREG

55,000,000 records



FreeBMD.org.uk



Welcome to 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 to provide free Internet access to the transcribed records. It is a part of the [Free UK Genealogy](#) family, which also includes [FreeCEN](#) (Census data) and [FreeREG](#) (Parish Registers). To search the records that have so far been transcribed by FreeBMD click on the [Search](#) button below.

The recording of births, marriages and deaths was started in 1837 and is one of the most significant resources for genealogical research. The transcribing of the records is carried out by teams of dedicated volunteers and contains index information for the period 1837-1997, **BUT WE HAVE NOT YET TRANSCRIBED THE WHOLE PERIOD**. A breakdown by event and year can be viewed [here](#).

FreeBMD is exactly that - FREE. We do not make any charge whatsoever for use of the site and we never ask for credit card details to do a search. FreeBMD is a registered [charity](#) and our objective is to provide free online access to the [GRO Index](#). However, FreeBMD costs money to run and if you would like to make a donation, by PayPal or other methods, please see [here](#).

- [Search](#)
- [View Images](#)
- [Information](#)
- [Join FreeBMD](#)
- [Transcribers' Page](#)

The FreeBMD Database was last updated on Sun 23 Jul 2023 and currently contains 292,053,328 distinct records (388,730,985 total records).
On Thu 10 Aug 2023 FreeBMD users did 180,197 searches. ([More information](#))

Caveats

The FreeBMD database covers the period September 1837 to the end of 1998 but not all quarters for all events have yet been transcribed. For current coverage see:

<https://www.freebmd.org.uk/progress.shtml>

More records are added monthly. The FreeBMD database currently contains 292,053,328 distinct records (388,730,985 total records).

SEARCH MINDFULLY.

To Search Births



Search To search FreeBMD for Births, Marriages or Deaths enter the details below and click on the Find button

To search FreeBMD enter the details of the search below. To get a fuller explanation of how to get the most out of your search click on the Help button. To select and deselect multiple choices hold down CTRL as you click the mouse. For information on the years for which we have data please see our [coverage](#) information.

Type All Births Deaths Marriages [Help](#)
Click for help on using FreeBMD

Surname

First name(s)

Spouse/Mother surname

Spouse first name(s)

Death age/DoB

Date range from

Date range to

Volume/Page /

Options Mono Exact match on first names Phonetic search surnames Match only recorded ages/DoB Identifiable spouses only

Districts
All Districts
Aberayron (to Jun1936)
Aberconwy (from Sep1975)
Abergavenny (to 1958)
Aberystwyth (to Jun1936)
Abingdon
Acle (1939-Mar1974)
Alcester (to Sep1985)
Alderbury (to Jun1895)
Aldershot (Dec1932-Mar1974)
Aldridge & Brownhills (Jun1966-Mar1974)
Aled (Dec1935-Mar1974)
Alnwick (to 1936)
Alresford (to Sep1932)

Counties
All Counties
Anglesey (to Mar1974)
Avon (from Jun1974)
Bedfordshire
Berkshire
Breconshire (to Mar1974)

Saved search
Filename: No file chosen
 [Help](#)

FreeBMD will never ask for credit card details to search - if you get such a request please take a screenshot and send to [FreeBMD Support](#)

[Advanced Facilities](#)

Check type of record.
Fill in names needed as known.
Fill in dates as known.
Fill in date range years (2-5 years, all quarters).
Check options boxes.
Click Find.
Click Count to see only the number of records found.
Click Reset to start a new search (query).

Some guidelines:

- All fields are optional but add only as much information as you need. The more information, the fewer results. Add information to narrow the results. Large numbers of results may result in getting timed out.
- Search by location (county) when necessary. Be careful with districts. Use the GRO Registration District Book for applicable dates (link above) or <https://www.ukbmd.org.uk/reg/districts/index.html>.
- Use a date range of about 2-5 years (normally) from March quarter to December quarter. Births could be registered several months after birthdate, and deaths even longer.

See also:
<https://www.freebmd.org.uk/search-help.shtml>



Some more guidelines:

- You can search for all three record types at once, but normally it works better to limit search to one type.
- Enter first name and middle name(s) (when needed) on same line. Do not use periods after initials.
- Use a wildcard with * for any number of characters, ? for one character.
- Mother's maiden name available after 1911.

See also:

<https://www.freebmd.org.uk/cgi/search-names.pl>



Sample Search

Click Help button for more information



FreeBMD Search To search FreeBMD for Births, Marriages or Deaths enter the details below

To search FreeBMD enter the details of the search below. To get a fuller explanation of how to get the most out of your you click the mouse. For information on the years for which we have data please see our [coverage](#) information.

Type All Births Deaths Marriages [Help](#)
Click for help on using FreeBMD

Surname

First name(s)

Spouse/Mother surname

Spouse first name(s)

Death age/DoB

Date range from 1870

Date range to 1872

Volume/Page /

Options Mono Exact match on first names Phonetic search surnames Match only recorded ages/DoB Identifiable spouses only

Districts
Martley (to Mar1913)
Marylebone (to 1901)
Matlock (to 1838)
Melksham (to Mar1936)
Melton & Rutland (Jun1995-Mar1997)
Melton Mowbray (to Mar1995)
Mendip (from Jun1974)
Mere (to 1977)
Meriden (to 1977)
Merioneth East (Dec1935-Mar1974)
Merioneth North (Dec1935-Mar1974)
Merioneth South (Dec1935-Mar1974)

Counties
All Counties
Anglesey (to Mar1974)
Avon (from Jun1974)
Bedfordshire
Berkshire
Breconshire (to Mar1974)

Find Count Reset

FreeBMD will never ask for credit card details to search - if you get such a request please take a screenshot and send to [FreeBMD Support](#)

Saved search
Filename: No file chosen
 [Help](#)

Results:

1 with initial or middle name

0 with mother's maiden name (before 1911)

37 with no district

2 with county

[New Query](#) [Save Search](#) [Revise Query](#) [Download](#)

Key

	B	M	D			
Change of shade means entries are not contiguous				An entry in Bold means it has been confirmed by double keying	A district in <i>Italic</i> means it is suspect (click on it for details)	Scan
						New entry
						Comment
						Postem
						System Entry
						System Link

Search for *Type:* Births *Surname:* Carter *First name(s):* John William
Start date: Mar 1870 *End date:* Dec 1872 *District:* Medway (1837-1941)

Whilst FreeBMD makes every effort to ensure accurate transcription, errors exist in both the original index and the transcription. You are advised to verify the reference given from a copy of the index before ordering a certificate. If an entry has the symbol next to it you can view the scan of the GRO index page from which the transcription was made in order to verify the reference. Click on the symbol to view the scan.

If you are SURE that our transcription(s) below differs from the GRO index, you can submit a correction request by clicking on the Info button to the right of the entry in question.

Click the red INFO button to view the FULL details of the entry.

Surname	First name(s)	District	Vol	Page	
Births Mar 1871 (>9999)					
Carter	John William	Medway 2a	468	Info	

- To make a new search, click on New Query.
- To change search, click on Revise Query.
- To save search, click save search or download.

See <https://www.freebmd.org.uk/download-help.html>

[New Query](#)

[Revise Query](#)

[Save Search](#)

[Download](#)

Key	B	M	D			
Change of shade means entries are not contiguous				An entry in Bold means it has been confirmed by double keying	A district in <i>Italic</i> means it is suspect (click on it for details)	Scan
						New entry
					Comment	System Entry
					Postem	System Link



Search for *Type:* Births *Surname:* Carter *First name(s):* John William
Start date: Mar 1870 *End date:* Dec 1872 *District:* Medway (1837-1941)

Whilst FreeBMD makes every effort to ensure accurate transcription, errors exist in both the original index and the transcription. You are advised to verify the reference given from a copy of the index before ordering a certificate. If an entry has the symbol next to it you can view the scan of the GRO index page from which the transcription was made in order to verify the reference. Click on the symbol to view the scan.

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Click the red INFO button to view the FULL details of the entry.

Surname	First name(s)	District	Vol	Page
Births Mar 1871 (>9999)				
Carter	John William	Medway	2a	468 Info

- Info button gives you transcription information. 
- To view original index entry (not certificate), click on 







— John William.....	Stoke T.	6 b.	280
— John William.....	Medway	2 a.	468
— John William.....	Hendon	3 a.	143

[New Query](#)



[Revise Query](#)

[Save Search](#)

[Download](#)



Key	B	M	D			
Change of shade ↑ means entries are not contiguous ↓				An entry in Bold means it has been confirmed by double keying	A district in <i>Italic</i> means it is suspect (click on it for details)	 Scan  Comment  Postcard
						 New entry  System Entry  System Link

Search for *Type:* Births *Surname:* Carter *First name(s):* John William
Start date: Mar 1870 *End date:* Dec 1872 *District:* Medway (1837-1941)

Whilst FreeBMD makes every effort to ensure accurate transcription, errors exist in both the original index and the transcription. You are advised to verify the reference given from a copy of the index before ordering a certificate. If an entry has the symbol  next to it you can view the scan of the GRO index page from which the transcription was made in order to verify the reference. Click on the  symbol to view the scan.

If you are SURE that our transcription(s) below differs from the GRO index, you can submit a correction request by clicking on the Info button to the right of the entry in question.

Click the red INFO button to view the FULL details of the entry.

Surname	First name(s)	District	Vol	Page
Births Mar 1871 ((99%))				
Carter	John William	Medway	2a	468  

The meaning of other symbols that may appear next to the Information button is as follows. Click on the icons for more information:



Comment: A comment has been attached to this entry by the transcriber.



Postem: There is a Postem attached to the entry. A Postem is a message from a researcher about the entry.



Additional: The entry has been added to the database since the previous update or has been changed since the previous update.



System entry: An entry that is not in the index but has been added to the FreeBMD database to correct an apparent error in the index.



System link: There is a System Entry linked to this entry.

[New Query](#) [Save Search](#) [Download](#) [Revise Query](#)

Key	B	M	D
Change of shade means entries are not contiguous			
An entry in Bold means it has been confirmed by double keying			
A district in bold means it is suspect. Click on it for details			

[Scan](#) [New entry](#) [Comment](#) [System Entry](#) [System Link](#) [Postem](#)

Search for *Type:* Births *Surname:* Carter *First name(s):* John William
Start date: Mar 1870 *End date:* Dec 1872 *District:* Medway (1837-1941)

Whilst FreeBMD makes every effort to ensure accurate transcription, errors exist in both the original index and the transcription. You are advised to verify the reference given from a copy of the index before ordering a certificate. If an entry has the symbol next to it you can view the scan of the GRO index page from which the transcription was made in order to verify the reference. Click on the symbol to view the scan.

If you are SURE that our transcription(s) below differs from the GRO index, you can submit a correction request by clicking on the Info button to the right of the entry in question.

Click the red INFO button to view the FULL details of the entry.

Surname	First name(s)	District	Vol	Page
	Births	Mar 1871	(1894)	
Carter	John William	Medway 2a	468	Info

- Clicking the district name gives you historical dates for district parishes.
- Clicking the page number gives you the names of others on the indexed page.
- Bold entries have been transcribed by two transcribers.
- Italicized district name means it may be incorrect.

[New Query](#)
[Save Search](#)
[Download](#)

[Revise Query](#)

Key	B	M	D				
Change of shade means entries are not contiguous	↑	↓	↔	An entry in Bold means it has been confirmed by double keying	A district in <i>Italic</i> means it is suspect (click on it for details)	Scan	New entry
						Comment	System Entry
						Postem	System Link

Search for *Type:* Births *Surname:* Carter *First name(s):* John William
Start date: Mar 1870 *End date:* Dec 1872 *District:* Medway (1837-1941)


Whilst FreeBMD makes every effort to ensure accurate transcription, errors exist in both the original index and the transcription. You are advised to verify the reference given from a copy of the index before ordering a certificate. If an entry has the symbol next to it you can view the scan of the GRO index page from which the transcription was made in order to verify the reference. Click on the symbol to view the scan.

If you are SURE that our transcription(s) below differs from the GRO index, you can submit a correction request by clicking on the Info button to the right of the entry in question.

Click the red INFO button to view the FULL details of the entry.

Surname	First name(s)	District	Vol	Page
Births Mar 1871 (>99%)				
Carter	John William	Medway	2a	468 info

To Search Marriages



Search To search FreeBMD for Births, Marriages or Deaths enter the details below.

To search FreeBMD enter the details of the search below. To get a fuller explanation of how to get the most out of the data we have please see our [coverage](#) information.

Type: All Births Deaths Marriages [Help](#)
Click for help on using FreeBMD

Surname: [...](#)

First name(s):

Spouse/Mother surname: [...](#)

Spouse first name(s):

Death age/DoB:

Date range from: 1870

Date range to: 1872

Volume/Page: /

Options: Mono Exact match on first names Phonetic search surnames Match only recorded ages/DoB Identifiable spouses only

Districts: [One district selected - select all](#)

Counties: [One county selected - select all](#)

Buttons: [Find](#) [Count](#) [Reset](#)

FreeBMD will never ask for credit card details to search - if you get such

Saved search: No file chosen [Find Additional](#) [View Saved](#) [Help](#)

- Check type of record.
- Fill in names needed as known.
- Fill in dates as known.
- Fill in date range years (2-5 years, all quarters).
- Check options boxes.
- Click Find.
- Click Count to see only the number of records found.
- Click Reset to start a new search (query).

Surname	First name(s)	District	Vol	Page
Marriages Dec 1872 (<99%)				
Carter	John William	Blackburn	8e	535 Info G

Marriages Dec 1872 (<99%)				
Carter	John William	Blackburn	8e	535 Info G
Clark	Elizabeth	Blackburn	8e	535 Info G
Cooke	Lucy Ann	Blackburn	8e	535 Info G
LITTLE	George	Blackburn	8e	535 Info G

Click on the page number to see possible spouses.
 Eliminate the spouse through census records.

Tips for Finding Marriages



- TIP 1: Prior to 1875, the registration of an event was not compulsory and therefore some were missed.
- TIP 2: Marriages sometimes took place after the birth of the first child. Widening the timescale searched may help.
- TIP 3: A marriage might have taken place outside of England and Wales, e.g. Scotland.
- TIP 4: The bride may have been married more than once – try looking under the name of the groom instead.
- TIP 5: There may never have been a marriage. Couples often lived together as man and wife because divorce was rare and expensive. Some did not remarry after their spouse died.

From GRO, Family Tree Guide to Marriage Certificates

To Search Deaths



Search To search FreeBMD for Births, Marriages or Deaths enter the details below and click on the Find button

To search FreeBMD enter the details of the search below. To get a fuller explanation of how to get the most out of your search click on the Help button. To select and deselect multiple choices hold down CTRL. If you have data please see our [coverage](#) information.

Type All Births Deaths Marriages [Help](#)
Click for help on using FreeBMD

Surname

First name(s)

Spouse/Mother surname

Spouse first name(s)

Death age/DoB

Date range from 1872

Date range to 1962

Volume/Page /

Options Mono Exact match on first names Phonetic search surnames Match only recorded ages/DoB Identifiable spouses only

Districts
Aberayron (to Jun1936)
Aberconwy (from Sep1975)
Abergavenny (to 1958)
Aberystwyth (to Jun1936)
Abingdon
Acle (1939-Mar1974)
Alcester (to Sep1985)
Alderbury (to Jun1895)
Aldershot (Dec1932-Mar1974)
Aldridge & Brownhills (Jun1966-Mar1974)
Aled (Dec1935-Mar1974)
Alnwick (to 1936)
Alresford (to Sep1932)


Counties
Anglesey (to Mar1974)
Avon (from Jun1974)
Bedfordshire
Berkshire
Breconshire (to Mar1974)








Saved search
 No file chosen

- Check type of record.
- Fill in names needed as known.
- Fill in dates as known.
- Fill in date range years (2-5 years, all quarters).
- Check options boxes.
- Click Find.
- Click Count to see only the number of records found.
- Click Reset to start a new search (query).

Results

Under Lucy Ann with no age, there were 7 results.
Under Lucy, 309.
Narrowing by county, 25.
By age/birth year and no county, 11.
Under Lucy A with age and no county, 3

Surname	First name(s)	Age	District	Vol	Page
Deaths Sep 1880 (>99%)					
Carter	John William	27	Blackburn	8e	261 info 

Surname	First name(s)	Age	District	Vol	Page
Deaths Sep 1874 (>99%)					
CARTER	Lucy Ann	33	Lutterworth	7a	2 info 
Deaths Sep 1877 (>99%)					
CARTER	Lucy Ann	72	Hackney	1b	272 info 
Deaths Jun 1882 (>99%)					
Carter	Lucy Annie	1	Huddersfield	9a	266 info 
Deaths Mar 1896 (>99%)					
Carter	Lucy Ann	30	Dewsbury	9b	371 info 
Deaths Mar 1900 (>99%)					
Carter	Lucy Ann	1	Durham	10a	288 info 
Deaths Mar 1903 (>99%)					
Carter	Lucy Ann	0	Basford	7b	82 info 
Deaths Mar 1909 (>99%)					
CARTER	Lucy Ann	44	Lambeth	1d	311 info 

Note that the age of death is entered between the name and the district. If you add the age of death or date of birth on the search page, it will not show anyone who was not that age at time of death. There is no range on death age.

Warning

You may have missed some entries because you are searching for more than one first name (in at least some quarters) when there was only one first name plus initials - see [Use of Initials in Givennames](#)

Search for Type: Deaths Surname: Carter First name(s): Lucy
Start date: Mar 1872 End date: Dec 1962

309 records match your query. Press "Find" to display them.

Next steps using FreeGenealogy sites:

- Look for parish death record in FreeReg
- Look for remarriage in FreeBMD
- Look for census entries as widow in FreeCen
- Look for children born between 1872 and 1881 in FreeBMD or GRO

Surname	First name(s)	Age	District	Vol	Page
---------	---------------	-----	----------	-----	------

Deaths Dec 1905 (>99%)

CARTER	Lucy Amelia	53	Long Ashton	5c	392	info	G	?
--------	-------------	----	-------------	----	-----	----------------------	-------------------	-------------------

Surname	First name(s)	Age	District	Vol	Page
---------	---------------	-----	----------	-----	------

Deaths Mar 1930 (>99%)

Carter	Lucy A	77	Edmonton	3a	616	info	G
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Deaths Jun 1941 (>99%)

Carter	Lucy A	88	Hackney	1b	529	info	G
--------	--------	----	---------	----	-----	----------------------	-------------------

District Information

Surname	Given Name	Age	District	Volume	Page
---------	------------	-----	----------	--------	------

Deaths Dec 1905

CARTER	Lucy Amelia	53	Long Ashton	5c	392
--------	-------------	----	-------------	----	-----

The district **Long Ashton** is in the county of **Somerset**; information about it can be found [here](#)

There is more information on Districts, and how FreeBMD handles them, in the [Registration District Information](#) page.

A decorative border of six bright green, hand-painted brushstrokes surrounds the central text. The strokes are arranged in a roughly circular pattern, with three on the left and three on the right, varying in orientation and shape.

Lots More Help and FAQs Here:

<https://www.freebmd.org.uk/search-faq.html#symbols>

For the best results, click all the help buttons on the site to learn even more about how to use this fantastic resource!