

Using the GRO Index

The new GRO index is a resource which allows you to accurately determine the mother's maiden surname for a child born between September 1837 and December 1915 and the age at death for people who died between September 1837 and December 1860.

Navigate to the General Register Office homepage at www.gro.gov.uk

First, click on 'Order certificates online'.

The **General Register Office** is part of **Her Majesty's Passport Office** and oversees civil registration in England and Wales. We maintain the national archive of all births, marriages and deaths dating back to 1837 and further information on our services can be found using the links shown below.

▶ [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

▶ [Apply online for a UK Passport](#)

You can apply for, renew, replace or update your passport and pay for it online



▶ [Visit GOV.UK](#)

For information on birth, marriage, civil partnership, death, adoption and stillbirth records and registrations.

For corporate information visit the [Inside Government area of GOV.UK](#)



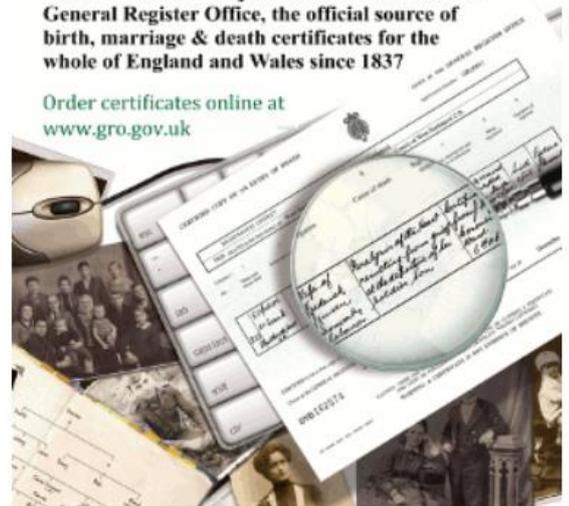
The General Register Office

Know your ancestors better

Certificates bring your search to life with unique and sometimes unexpected information about your ancestors

Get certificates from just £11.00 direct from the General Register Office, the official source of birth, marriage & death certificates for the whole of England and Wales since 1837

Order certificates online at www.gro.gov.uk



Next, click on Order Certificates Online. If you have never ordered certificates from the GRO you will have to register the first time and create a login and password. If you have previously ordered certificates from the GRO use that email address and password to login.



Online ordering service - Register or Login

Welcome to the General Register Office for England and Wales online ordering service.

The General Register Office holds a central copy of all birth, adoption, marriage, civil partnership and death registrations for England and Wales. This service allows you to search our historical birth and death indexes and order copies of registrations in a variety of formats including certificates and PDFs via the government's own official website.

Local Register Offices also hold records of events registered in their area. For events other than adoptions that were registered within the last 6 months (for marriages this period is extended to 18 months), applications for certificates should be made to the Register Office in the district where the birth, death or marriage took place.

To use this service you will need:

- An e-mail address
- Full name and postal address
- Details of the registration you are applying for - e.g. birth, adoption, marriage, civil partnership or death
- One of the following valid credit or debit cards if placing an order (searching our online indexes is free)



- ▶ Register / Login
- ▶ Frequently Asked Questions
- ▶ Contact us
- ▶ View GRO information on GOV.UK
- ▶ Births & Adoptions
- ▶ Marriage & Civil Partnership
- ▶ Death
- ▶ Family History Records
- ▶ Cookie Policy
- ▶ Apply online for a UK Passport

Next, click on 'Search the GRO Indexes'



Place an Order

Enter the details, including the GRO Reference if you already have it, of a registration you would like to order.



View a recent order

Check the details and progress of recently placed orders.



Search the GRO Indexes

Search registration indexes to find a GRO reference, this will help locate the correct entry and get your order sooner.



Find out about researching my family history

Information on how to get the most from the records held by GRO.



Find out about GRO services

View answers to frequently asked questions.



Check or update my details

Update contact and account details.



Contact GRO

Online, by Email, Telephone or Post.



Visit GOV.UK

For information on birth, marriage, civil partnership, death, adoption and stillbirth records and registrations.

You will be given the option to search 'Births' or 'Deaths'.

Search the GRO Online Indexes

Which index would you like to search?
Events registered in England or Wales:

- Birth Death

In the following example we've clicked in the circle next to Births. Deaths is very straightforward and needs no explanations but please be aware that the age at death for infants can be represented as months not years.

You must populate the following fields: Surname, Gender and Year.

- Surname at Birth can include exact matches (this is the default), phonetic, or similar sounding variations. Please be aware this will bring up a lot of results.
- Gender is obvious, but unfortunately you must choose one or other, the search doesn't allow a search on both sexes at once.
- Year the Birth was registered can include exact (default) or plus or minus two years which gives you a possible search scope of five years.

Below is an example of a search of a less common surname using the following parameters:
Surname = Rodham, Gender = Male, Year = 1870 exact

Search the GRO Online Indexes

Which index would you like to search?
Events registered in England or Wales:

Birth Death

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:

Lastly, click on Search.

Here are the results for the search providing the Mother's Maiden Name (MMN).

Results: ?

Select the button by an individual result to see ordering options available for that record.

	Name:	Mother's Maiden Surname:
<input type="radio"/>	RODHAM, JOHN ARTHUR <i>GRO Reference: 1870 D Quarter in SHEFFIELD Volume 09C Page 334</i>	ROBERTS
<input type="radio"/>	RODHAM, THOMAS <i>GRO Reference: 1870 J Quarter in GUISBROUGH Volume 09D Page 451</i>	PATTINSON
<input type="radio"/>	RODHAM, WILLIAM EDWARD <i>GRO Reference: 1870 D Quarter in DARLINGTON UNION Volume 10A Page 13</i>	MILLER

Use the mother's maiden name and/or the registration district to assist you in narrowing down or finding your family. If you do not know the registration district for the town or location for your family visit GENUKI (<https://www.genuki.org.uk/>) or search online.

If you have a common surname and you know the MMN, use it to help find the correct family. The below example shows results for a common surname with the following parameters:

Surname = Jones, Gender = Female, Year = 1896 (+ or - 2 years) MMN = Cork (similar sounding variations selected)

Birth Death

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 or similar sounding Mother's Maiden Surname (uses a soundex algorithm)

Where was the birth registered?

District of Birth: ?

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

Quarter: ?

Volume: ? Page: ?

Here are the results proving that every system has faults as the search failed to find two known daughters.

Results: ?

Select the button by an individual result to see ordering options available for that record.

	Name:	Mother's Maiden Surname:
<input type="radio"/>	JONES, GERTRUDE <i>GRO Reference: 1898 S Quarter in WOLVERHAMPTON Volume 06B Page 650</i>	CORK

Each daughter recorded on the 1901 census had to be located separately by searching using the actual name and the likely registration district suggested by the census.

Results: ?

Select the button by an individual result to see ordering options available for that record.

	Name:	Mother's Maiden Surname:
<input type="radio"/>	JONES, MATILDA <i>GRO Reference: 1894 D Quarter in WOLVERHAMPTON Volume 06B Page 600</i>	CORKE
<input type="radio"/>	JONES, MATILDA JANE <i>GRO Reference: 1896 S Quarter in WOLVERHAMPTON Volume 06B Page 576</i>	TURNER

And:

Results: ?

Select the button by an individual result to see ordering options available for that record.

	Name:	Mother's Maiden Surname:
<input type="radio"/>	JONES, HARRIET <i>GRO Reference: 1896 J Quarter in WOLVERHAMPTON Volume 06B Page 609</i>	-
<input type="radio"/>	JONES, HARRIET <i>GRO Reference: 1896 D Quarter in WOLVERHAMPTON Volume 06B Page 623</i>	CORKE

Note: If you see a dash in the column where the mother's maiden surname should be recorded, as shown in the example above, this usually indicates that the child's surname and the mother's surname are the same and the birth may show a birth to a single woman.

From the results page, if you wish, you may now order the registration you want by clicking in the circle before the name and following the prompts.

Make sure to log out after searching.

Happy Hunting!