



## **Come Together, Right Now: Navigating Complex U.K. Sources**

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FamilySearch

You've started researching your family in the U.K., but do you know where to look? The records, images, and indexes for the U.K. are scattered across many different websites and archives, depending on the locality.

Not all indexes are created equal or equally searchable, so you must use multiple sites! Each site will have differences because of:

- Transcription errors
- Index field differences
- Gaps in collection
- Rights to image access
- Search capabilities

Due to these, and many more differences, you need to use a combination of sites to have the greatest chance for success in researching.

Main Websites:

- [FamilySearch.org](http://FamilySearch.org)
- [Ancestry.com](http://Ancestry.com) (\$)\*
- [Findmypast.com](http://Findmypast.com) (\$)\*
- [MyHeritage.com](http://MyHeritage.com) (\$)\*
- [TheGenealogist.com](http://TheGenealogist.com) (\$)
- [FreeBMD.org.uk](http://FreeBMD.org.uk)
- [FreeReg.org.uk](http://FreeReg.org.uk)
- [ScotlandsPeople.gov.uk](http://ScotlandsPeople.gov.uk) (\$)
- [General Register Office Online – gro.gov.uk](http://GeneralRegisterOfficeOnline.gro.gov.uk)
- [Online Parish Clerk – Google OPC and county you're researching. ie. "OPC Lancashire"](#)
- [County Record Office Websites – Google ie. "Durham County Record Office"](#)
- [Federation of Family History Societies \(FFHS\) – ffhs.org.uk](http://FederationofFamilyHistorySocieties.org.uk)
- [County Family History Society Websites – list on FFHS or Google ie "Durham Family History Society"](#)

(\$) Websites that charge a fee

\* Websites with free access at Family History Centers through the Family History Center Services Portal

## CENSUS

- Available 1841-1911
  - England and Wales
    - Ancestry.com – Full indexes, images
    - FamilySearch – Full indexes, images or links to images on Findmypast
    - findmypast – Full indexes, images
    - MyHeritage – Full indexes, images
  - Scotland
    - Ancestry.com – Full indexes, no images
    - FamilySearch – Limited indexes, no images
    - findmypast – Full indexes, no images
    - MyHeritage – 1841, 1851, 1861 census extracts – partial indexes, no images
    - ScotlandsPeople – Limited indexes, images

## CIVIL REGISTRATION

- England and Wales
  - Begins in 1837
  - Certificate images are not online. General Register Office (GRO) indexes and index images are on multiple websites.
    - Post-1911 Birth index includes mother's maiden name
    - Post-1912 Marriage index includes surname of other party
  - Online indexes 1837-2008

### **Births**

- Ancestry.com – Limited indexes, index images; 1837-2007
- FamilySearch – Limited indexes, no images; 1837-2008
- findmypast – Limited indexes, index images; 1837-2006
- FreeBMD – Limited indexes, index images; 1837-1983 (gaps exist)
- TheGenealogist – Limited indexes, index images; 1837-2005
- General Register Office Online – Limited indexes, order certificate images; 1837-1916
- MyHeritage – Limited indexes, index images; 1837-2005

### **Marriages**

- Ancestry.com – Limited indexes, index images; 1837-2005
- FamilySearch – Limited indexes, no images; 1837-2005
- findmypast – Limited indexes, index images; 1837-2005
- FreeBMD – Limited indexes, index images; 1837-1983 (gaps exist)
- TheGenealogist – Limited indexes, index images; 1837-2005
- MyHeritage – Limited indexes, index images; 1837-2005

### **Deaths**

- Ancestry.com – Limited indexes, index images; 1837-2007
  - FamilySearch – Limited indexes, no images; 1837-2007
  - findmypast – Limited indexes, index images; 1837-2007
  - FreeBMD – Limited indexes, index images; 1837-1983 (gaps exist)
  - TheGenealogist – Limited indexes, index images; 1837-2005
  - General Register Office Online – Limited indexes, order certificate images; 1837-1957
  - MyHeritage – Limited indexes, index images; 1837-2005
- Certificate images must be ordered through the General Register Office Online <https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro.content/certificates/>
    - Cost: £9.25 per certificate, £6.00 per PDF
    - Additional information found only on the certificates:

### **Birth Certificates**

- Birthplace, Birth Date, Sex, Father's Name, Mother's Name and Maiden Name, Father's Occupation, Name of Informant, Residence of Informant, Registration Date, Details of Name(s) Entered After Registration

### **Marriage Certificates**

- Place of Marriage, Register Entry Number, Name of Spouse, Age of Parties, Status and Occupation, Residence at Time of Marriage, Name and Occupation of Fathers, Marriage Type – banns, license, certificate, Signatures of Couple and Witnesses

### **Death Certificates**

- Register Number, Place of Death, Date of Death, Sex, Mention of Parent(s) if a child, Occupation of Husband, Cause of Death, Name of Informant, Residence of Informant, Full Registration Date
- Post-2005 Indexes are available on fiche at several libraries in England
    - Birmingham Library, Bridgend Local and Family History Centre, Westminster City Archives Centre, Manchester Central Library, Newcastle City Library, Plymouth Central Library, British Library
- Scotland
    - Statutory Registers Begin in 1855
      - ScotlandsPeople – Limited indexes, certificate images
        - You can only access images for births less than 100 years old, marriages less than 75 years old, and deaths less than 50 years old. Anything newer, you must order a certificate.

## CHURCH

- England
  - Church of England, Roman Catholic, other non-conformist; Begins ~1538; coverage varies by county and site/archive. Some content is NOT available online.
    - Ancestry.com
    - FamilySearch
    - findmypast
    - TheGenealogist
    - Online Parish Clerk (OPC)
    - Society of Genealogists
    - FreeReg.org.uk
    - County Record Office Websites – list on FamilySearch Wiki or Google
    - Federation of Family History Societies (FFHS) – ffhs.org.uk
    - County Family History Society Websites – list on FFHS or Google
  
- Wales
  - FamilySearch – Limited indexes, images/links to images; 1538-~1912
  - findmypast – Full indexes, images; 1538-1918
  
- Scotland
  - ScotlandsPeople
    - Church of Scotland – Old Parish Registers; 1553-1855 (civil registration began)
    - Roman Catholic Parish Registers; sparse 1790s-
  - FamilySearch – Select indexes for baptisms and marriages; 1560s-1950/1910

### Other Resource Websites:

- FamilySearch Wiki
- Maps.FamilySearch.org
- GENUKI.org.uk
- UKBMD.org.uk