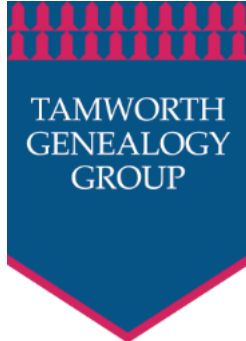


# Tamworth Genealogy Group

## **WHERE DO I BEGIN TO RESEARCH MY FAMILY?**





Tamworth Genealogy Group are a group of like-minded family historians and genealogists who meet socially on a monthly basis to exchange information, ideas and assist each other with their research.

Anyone is welcome to join the group, whether you have a historic family connection with the area, live locally or are simply interested in family, social or building/house history. contact [info@TamworthGenealogy.org.uk](mailto:info@TamworthGenealogy.org.uk)

**THE GROUP DO NOT CARRY OUT RESEARCH PROJECTS FOR INDIVIDUALS, but are willing to assist those who are carrying out their own research into families who have connections to Tamworth and the surrounding villages.**

**We do NOT look for living persons. We only research into past generations.**



[Tamworth Genealogy Group](#) is part of [The Holloway Society](#) and works closely with [Tamworth Genealogy Group](#) is part of [The Holloway Society](#) and works closely with [Tamworth History Research Group](#) to uncover the rich history of the Tamworth area and the people who lived here. As such we are helping build [Tamworth Digital Archive](#) as a resource and publish in [Tamworth Heritage Magazine](#).

For more information contact [info@TamworthGenealogy.org.uk](mailto:info@TamworthGenealogy.org.uk)

If you spot any errors in this document, or can offer suggestions, for this document please also [contact us](#)

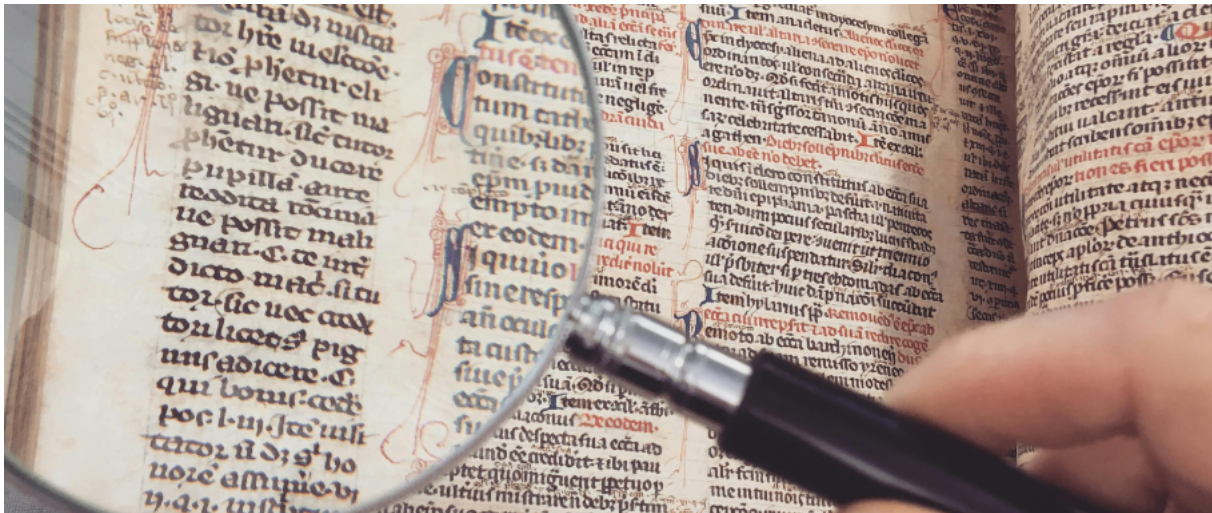
In conjunction with Tamworth Heritage Magazine we can publish family histories, also community, club/team/society and business histories.

Contact either the Genealogy Group [info@TamworthGenealogy.org.uk](mailto:info@TamworthGenealogy.org.uk) or the Editor of the Heritage Magazine [Editor@TamworthHeritage.org.uk](mailto:Editor@TamworthHeritage.org.uk) [History Research Group](#) to uncover the rich history of the Tamworth area and the people who lived here. As such we are helping build [Tamworth Digital Archive](#) as a resource and publish in [Tamworth Heritage Magazine](#).

For more information contact [info@TamworthGenealogy.org.uk](mailto:info@TamworthGenealogy.org.uk)

#### **WHERE DO I BEGIN TO RESEARCH MY FAMILY TREE**

Version 1, September 2025 Initial edition.



## Before You Start Be Aware of the Following Common Pitfalls!

Don't believe the advertisements on the TV which give the impression that by just entering a name into a website that a person's whole life story will appear on the computer screen. You must be prepared to do the research.

Be wary of other people's family trees online. Approach them with caution. Take a look at them as they may hold information you have missed but always research that information yourself to make sure that it is correct before putting it into your tree.

If a person's tree doesn't show the sources that support their findings, treat it with particular caution. A lot of folk blindly copy other trees without checking anything, which can lead to mistakes being replicated across a number of trees

Very important is: don't stop at the first match. In two Holloway Society projects we found matches when looking for people: right name, approximately the right time frame, even the right profession. However further looking and cross referencing

proved they were the wrong people. We eventually found the right people. So always cross check and if something isn't quite right mark it as uncertain and keep looking.

Many people will go with the first match and not cross check or look for any possible errors and ignore any detail that isn't quite right. Some because they just want a quick answer and "it doesn't really matter", others because they don't understand that the data is dubious. Hence, the warning is that you can't trust many modern genealogy web sites where data is entered by amateurs enthusiastic for an answer. We all like to complete a story.

That said there can be errors in old documentation for different reasons. So you have to be meticulous, check original sources, cross check multiple sources. If you want to be accurate, it takes time and effort .

You may not be able to easily find the information you are looking for:

### WHY?

**Records may have been destroyed.** This is not uncommon. A lot of UK cities were bombed in WW2. However in previous decades and centuries records were destroyed by fire, floods, mould and fungus or just by rough handling. In the early days of computerisation digital files were lost due to disk failures etc. and no usable back-ups.

**Records may not have been transcribed,** scanned or may not yet be available. Different organisations hold and digitise different records. They work at different rates and have different priorities. Not all records have an organisation that will digitise them. It takes a long time to scan things and correctly catalogue them....

**Records may have been mistranscribed** making searching for names difficult. Some scans generate a digital picture and someone has to manually take the data from it and enter it into the database.

Some systems, when scanning, also "OCR" [Optical Character Recognition] the document, turning the words on the paper into a digital text file, this is an automated best guess by the software. Neither process is perfect and both can have multiple errors.

Names, addresses and other things, may have been misspelled, misheard or written badly. In addition to imperfect transcription when digitising there may be imperfect data entry when the initial document was written.

Going back 100 years before television, and widespread broadcast radio, local accents were far more varied and stronger. Even between people living 50 miles apart.

*Beware of surname spellings.* E.g.  
Stevens, Stephen, Stephens, Stephenson  
Aldritt, Alldrit, Alldritt, Aldridge, Aldredge,  
Audritt, Alldrutt

Spellings could be phonetic before education became a legal requirement (1880 in England & Wales). Bear in mind the majority of people would have been illiterate or had limited education. They may only know that their name was what they were told it was and may not have been able to read how their name had been written.

In an article in the [Tamworth Heritage Magazine Vol1 Iss2](#) about a murder in the old Stone Cross in 1901 both the victim and murderer's names were spelled differently in several newspapers and in the court proceedings. Their ages and dates of birth are not certain either and for the murderer his age varied by about a decade.

Both were itinerant workers who moved around and despite strenuous efforts the authorities were unable to find any family or relatives for either man. The murderer did not hang but was jailed for manslaughter and later released, reappearing in Birmingham in 1919 but no one knows where he originally came from or what eventually happened to him.

Additionally your ancestors may have not been totally honest with their information so as to hide their identity. One of our team has a Great Grandmother that they have a portrait photograph postcard of, with her name on it. At least that is the name she used in England. It was not the name she used to get out of Ireland (Dublin to Liverpool). On top of that it is thought that neither are the name used previously in Ireland. She needed a "clean" name to get out of Dublin. She never married so we have no real idea who the father of the team members grandfather was. Only some vague family history guesses.

There will be a temptation to see links because you want them to be true, rather than trying to be accurate. This leads to inaccurate family trees in the genealogy web sites which helps no one. Eventually the fiction(s) become the accepted history at least on some ancestry type web sites.

## Where do I start?

### Think about how you are going to record your research

- On a family history subscription website?
- On your home computer? If so, what programme will you use?
- How will you file the information on the computer so it is easy to retrieve?
- Do you prefer pen and paper to electronic devices?
- What packages or books are available for keeping written records?



### The Starting Point Is Asking Yourself What Do I Already Know?

#### Parents' names

Their dates and place of birth.

Date and place of their marriage (*if applicable*).

Date and place of their deaths (*if applicable*).

#### Grandparent's names

Their dates and place of birth.

Their dates and place of marriage (*if applicable*).

Their dates and place of death (*if applicable*).

Your own and other family members' memories, ask if they have documents, information or memories that may help your research and make sure you keep a record for future reference.

If you have copies of Birth, Marriage or Death Certificates, artefacts or memorabilia for family members, gather them together with any other family papers you may hold.

Do take the opportunity to ask questions of your family members *sooner rather than later*. (Please see our useful "[40 Questions to Ask Your Relatives](#)")

The following pages list web sites that are suggestions of where you might find information on the Births, Baptisms, Marriages and Deaths of your ancestors in England & Wales.

It is possible that when you carry out a search on any of the sites, you may not find a record for varying reasons, but it is worth trying these sites.

If you are lucky enough to discover a record for your ancestor, it may confirm a relationship, provide you with information you did not already have and possibly save you the cost of purchasing a Certificate.

End dates quoted in this document were correct at time of writing, late 2025. More recent years may now be available as new transcriptions of records are added to the databases.

It is also worth checking with your local library as they may have free access to the Library Editions of Ancestry and Find My Past. Ask at the desk as these things are not always obvious or signposted.

## Free Website Links

**FreeReg** - <https://www.freereg.org.uk>  
Parish Registers

**FreeBMD** - <https://www.freebmd.org.uk>  
Births, marriages & deaths in England/Wales

**General Register Office** - <https://www.gro.gov.uk>

**UK BMD** - <https://www.ukbmd.org.uk>  
UK births, marriages, deaths and censuses

**Find A Grave** - <https://www.findagrave.com>

**Local Newspaper Funeral Notices** - <https://funeral-notices.co.uk>

**Family Search** - <https://www.familysearch.org> – Worldwide library of records

If your ancestors came from Scotland or Ireland then you will need to use the following sites for your research:-

**Scotland's People** - <https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk>

(Credits need to be purchased to view images)

**Irish Genealogy** - <https://www.irishgenealogy.ie>

## Subscription/Purchase Credits Website Links

**Ancestry** - <https://www.ancestry.co.uk>

**Find My Past** - <https://www.findmypast.co.uk>

**The Genealogist** - <https://www.thegenealogist.co.uk>

**My Heritage** - <https://www.myheritage.com>

**Genes Reunited** - <https://www.genesreunited.co.uk>

**Scotland's People** <https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk>

**Deceased Online** - <https://www.deceasedonline.com>

Both Free to search. Credits need to be purchased to view images.

**Billiongraves** - <https://billiongraves.com/search>

Basic free search but two levels of subscription for more detailed information

**British Newspaper Archive** - <https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk>

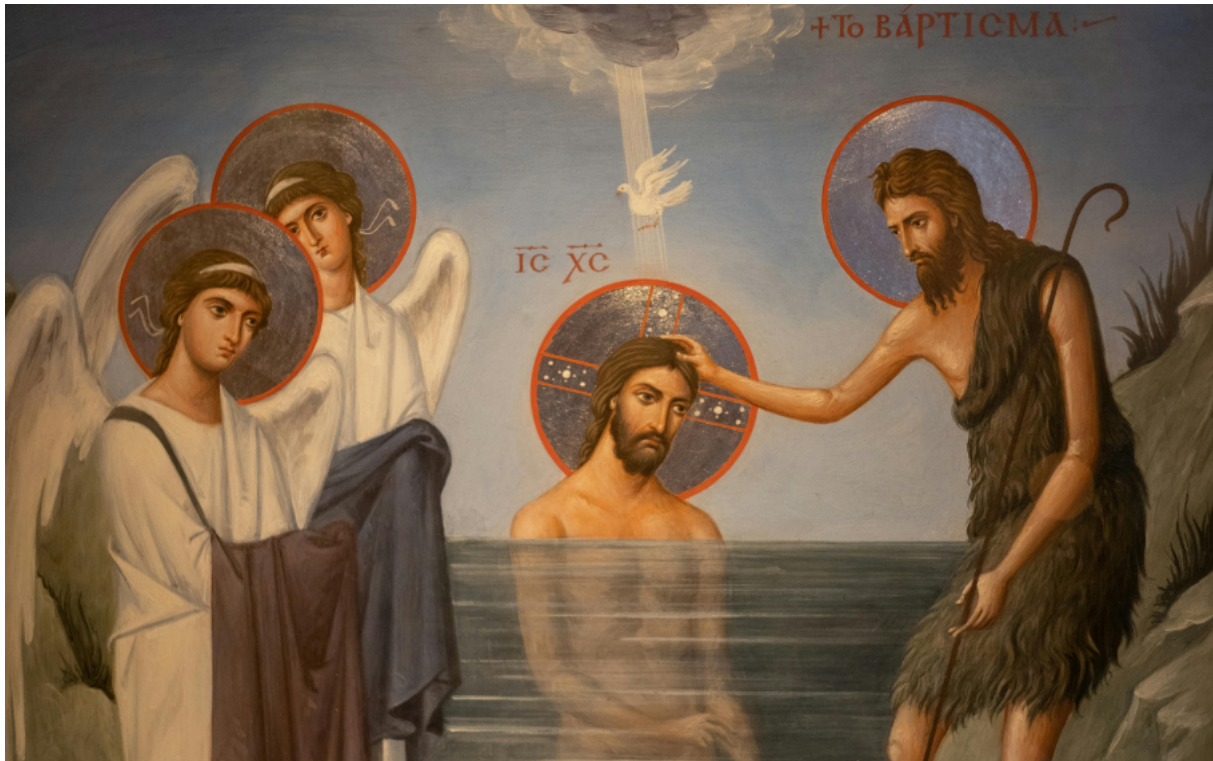
It is possible that when you carry out a search on any of the sites, you may not find a record for varying reasons, but it is worth trying these sites anyway.

End dates quoted in this document were correct at time of writing, late 2025. More recent years may now be available as new transcriptions of records are added to the databases.

If you are lucky enough to discover a record for your ancestor, it may confirm a relationship, provide you with information you did not already have and possibly save you the cost of purchasing a Certificate.

It is also worth checking with your local library as they may have free access to the Library Editions of Ancestry and Find My Past. Also a local history and/or local records section. Ask at the desk as these things are not always obvious or signposted.

**Information in the "Researching" pages** is repeated for the sections on Births, Marriages and Deaths. This is intentional and has been written this way to assist the researcher when researching each specific event. It is to avoid the necessity of having to refer back to any point on a previous page, this can be disorientating and time consuming when carrying out your research. Each section is in itself a stand-alone document.



## Researching Births & Baptism

All of the subscription genealogy sites have records of baptism, some of which may have an image of the Baptism Register. They also have records of births but information is limited and varies across the sites. What records they hold may be determined by what parishes or areas the particular site covers.

When researching the births of your ancestors you must bear in mind that civil registration of births began on 1 July 1837 but did not become compulsory until 1875.

Prior to 1 July 1837 you will need to research Parish Baptism Registers to look for a baptism for your ancestor. In some cases this may also include the date of birth.

The following sites are freely available to the family historian. Certain sites may require you to log in with your e-mail address and a password to view the records.

### FAMILYSEARCH

This is a genealogy site run by the Church of the Latter Day Saints (Mormons) which holds a library of worldwide records of all types and is free to access for the family historian. These include birth and baptism records. Some baptism records may have an image of the original Baptism Register. It is worth checking for these images. If the baptism was after 1 July 1837, they could save you paying out for the cost of a copy of the original Birth Certificate.

**A WORD OF CAUTION** The family tree on this site is editable by any user. It is not personal to just you and any information you input can be altered or deleted by other users. This site is not recommended for building your family tree and holding records personal to your family.

You will be required to log in with your e-mail address and a password to view the records.

## FREE REG

Has baptism records including many Non-Conformist churches/chapels. Records are available from 1538 - 2000 (*N.B. this end date was correct at time of writing. More recent years may now be available as new transcriptions of records are added to the database*). These records give details of parents' names, their abode & father's occupation

**Post 1 July 1837** when Civil Registration came into force. The following sites are again freely available to the family historian. Certain sites may require you to log in with your e-mail address and a password to view the records.

## FREE BMD

Records start at the beginning of Civil Registration in September Quarter 1837 up until 1996. Although Civil Registration began on 1 July 1837, the records are shown in order of quarters through the year as follows:-

**March Quarter** – covers the months of January, February & March

**June Quarter** – covers the months of April, May & June

**September Quarter** – cover the months of July, August & September

**December Quarter** – covers the months of October, November & December

From 1911 – 1996 Free BMD gives the mother's maiden name which can be very useful when researching any children born to your ancestors.

It allows you to be relatively certain that the birth you have identified belongs to the couple of interest to you. (*A word of caution*

*is that you should bear in mind that more than one couple with the same surnames may have married in the same area at the same time and may have been having children with similar names to those of your ancestors within the same time frame so further research may be required to confirm your records.*) Prior to 1911 you will need to use the GRO website to confirm the mother's maiden name.

## GRO – General Register Office

(Official Government Website)

You can search births on this database. Birth Certificates can also be ordered in several formats i.e. Full Certificate, PDF or an online view digital image (*the digital image format is only available for certificates from 1837 up to 100 years ago. For various reasons not all Certificates have been digitised*). PDF and instant online digital images are cheaper than purchasing a full certificate (*see GRO website for relevant charges*).

**Records** - Start at the commencement of civil registration in the September Quarter of 1837 up until 2023

From 1837 – 1925 - Gives mother's maiden name

From 1925 – 1934 - No mother's maiden name but you can use Free BMD for this information

From 1934 – 1984 - No records are available from GRO so you will need to refer to Free BMD

From 1984 – 2023 - No mother's maiden name but you can use Free BMD for this information up until 1996

The GRO website should be used to purchase any certificates you require, including Marriage Certificates. Ordering from other sources is also possible but will incur a considerable increased cost to you because the fee will include a service charge.

BAPTISMS solemnized in the Parish of <i>Newborough</i> in the County of <i>Stafford</i> in the Year 1841.						
When Baptized.	Child's Christian Name.	Parents Name.		Abode.	Quality, Trade, or Profession.	By whom the Ceremony was performed.
		Christian.	Surname.			
1841. Oct- 31 <sup>st</sup> No. 617.	William George	Hall	Newbo-rough	groom	C. R. Hope	
	Son of	Mary				
Nov- 14 <sup>th</sup> No. 618.	William	Lovecock	Newbo-rough	Butcher	C. R. Hope	
	Son of	Mary				
Nov- 25 <sup>th</sup> No. 619.	Eliza	Vernon	Newbo-rough	Labourer	H. Bennett	
	Daughter of	Joseph				
Dec- 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Fredrick	Tarnor	Newbo-rough	Labourer	H. Bennett	
	Son of	Thomas				

BAPTISMS solemnized in the Parish of <i>Newborough</i> in the County of <i>Stafford</i> in the Year 1842.						
When Baptized.	Child's Christian Name.	Parents Name.		Abode.	Quality, Trade, or Profession.	By whom the Ceremony was performed.
		Christian.	Surname.			
1842. March 27 <sup>th</sup> No. 625.	Emma	Ford	Burton	Labourer	H. Bennett	
	Daughter of	Edward				
April 10 <sup>th</sup> No. 626.	Eliza	Robinson	Burton	Labourer	H. Bennett	
	Daughter of	Lukey				
April 17 <sup>th</sup> No. 627.	Jane	Walls	Six Road	Labourer	H. Bennett	
	Daughter of	Benjamin				
April	Thomas	Brandrick	Thomas	Labourer	H. Bennett	
	Son of	Charles				

### UKBMD

Before making your search you will need to select the relevant county you would like to carry out your search in. County selection can be made from a drop down box on the left hand side of the screen. The search results will then show sites where information for that county can be found. Some of these will be the usual subscription websites. The site you need to select should contain the name of the county followed by BMD

**NOTE: BMDs are not yet covered for all counties but you may find other sources of information relevant to the county your ancestors lived in which may be of use for your research.**

Records start in 1837 and can be up to as recent as 2007 (N.B. this end date was correct at time of writing. More recent years may now be available as new transcriptions of records are added to the database). The records are transcribed from those held at each

Registrar's Sub District; this is where the original entry for a birth would have been made. The benefit of this is that you may find that your ancestor's birth was in an area you may not have considered

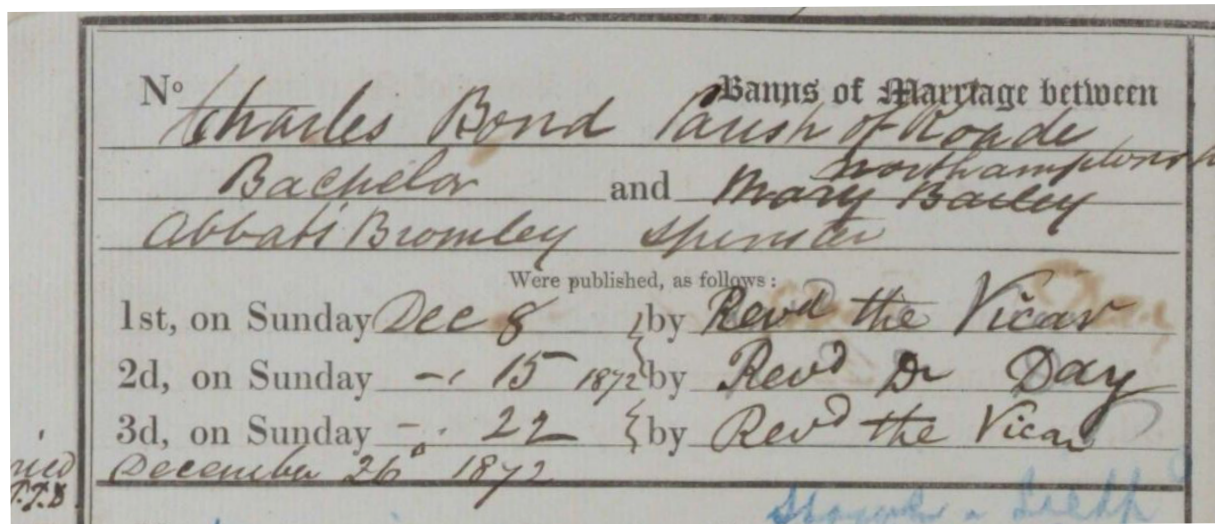
e.g Registration District – *Newcastle Under Lyme*

Registrar's Sub District - *Burton On Trent*.

Records from these sub districts would have been forwarded to the General Register Office for them to be included in the national records.

It is possible that during this process records may have been lost or miss-transcribed. If you are unable to find the birth of your ancestor in the GRO or FreeBMD records, it is worth taking a look here to see if you can find them.

Classification:	Local BMD, Births, Deaths, Marriages
Title:	<b>Staffordshire BMD</b>
Link:	<b><a href="#">Staffordshire BMD</a></b>
Last Updated:	6 March 2025
Description:	Civil Registration indexes from 1837 through to the present day.
Extra Info:	(See also the West Midlands BMD site.)



## Researching Marriages

All of the subscription genealogy sites have records of marriages, some of these records may also include an image of the Marriage Register. As with baptisms and births, what records they hold may be determined by what parishes or areas the particular site covers.

When researching the marriages of your ancestors you must bear in mind that civil registration of marriages began on 1 July 1837 but it was in 1875 that an act, passed in 1874, tidied up a lot of things that were wrong with the original legislation. It did so by primarily increasing the minimum age of marriage without parental consent to 16 for both males and females, and making it illegal to solemnise marriages after sunset and before sunrise.

It also impacted the ability to contract a valid marriage, with a marriage between individuals under 16 now considered void. However in those days people could be, and were vague about their date of birth if they were not born locally. Indeed in WW1 people lied about their age to join up.

Prior to 1837 you will need to research Parish Registers to look for the marriages of your ancestor.

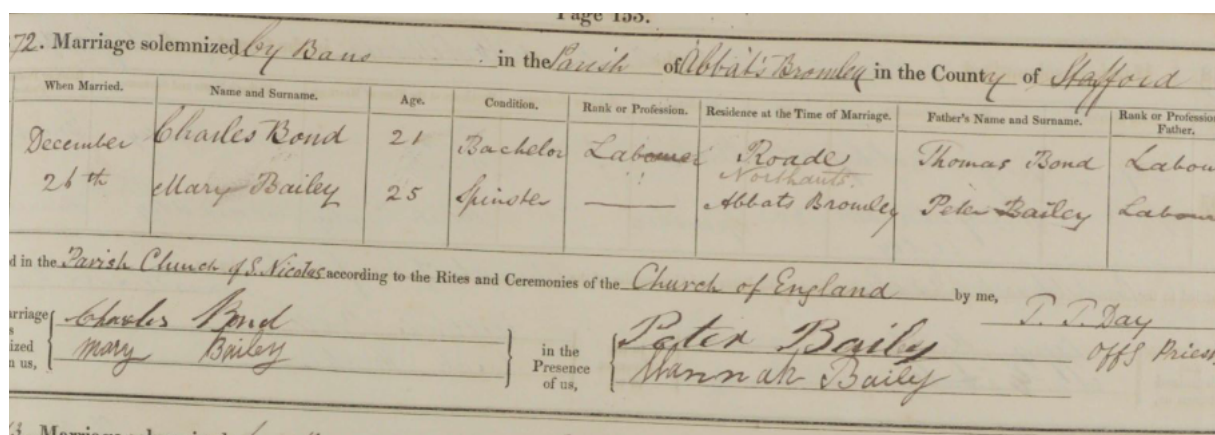
The following sites are freely available to the family historian. Certain sites may require you to log in with your e-mail address and a password to view the records.

### FAMILYSEARCH

This is a genealogy site run by the Church of the Latter Day Saints (Mormons) which holds a library of worldwide records of all types and is free to access for the family historian. These include marriage records some of which may have an image of the Marriage Register. It is worth checking for these images as they can save you paying out for the cost of a copy of the original Marriage Certificate.

### A WORD OF CAUTION:

The family tree on this site is editable by any user. It is not personal to just you and any information you input can be altered or deleted by other users. This site is not recommended for building your family tree and holding records personal to your family. You will be required to log in with your e-mail address and a password to view the records.



### FREE REG

Has marriage records including many Non Conformist Churches/Chapels. Records are available from 1530 – 2014 (N.B. this end date was correct at time of writing. More recent years may now be available as new transcriptions of records are added to the database). These records show all of the information contained on the Marriage Certificate inc. Witnesses. This can save you the cost of purchasing a Marriage Certificate

**Post 1 July 1837** Civil Registration came into force. The following sites are again freely available to a family historian. Certain sites may require you to log in with your e-mail address and a password to view the records.

### FREE BMD

Records start at the beginning of Civil Registration in September Quarter 1837 up until 1996. Although Civil Registration began on 1 July 1837 the records are shown in order of quarters through the year as follows:-

**March Quarter** – covers the months of January, February & March

**June Quarter** – covers the months of April, May & June

**September Quarter** – cover the months of July, August & September

**December Quarter**– covers the months of October, November & December

Searches can be carried out as follows:-

- Using the full names or just the surnames of both parties to the marriage.
- The full name or the surname of just the Bride or the Groom
- Searches can be narrowed down by selecting specific dates, registration districts or counties or a combination of these.
- If using a full name or surname of just one of the parties to the marriage, you will need to narrow down your search as previously mentioned. By clicking on the blue page number at the end of any marriage entry, your search will open another screen. This shows the names of others who married in the same quarter in the same year. From this you may be able to trace who your ancestor's spouse was. Unfortunately this may not always be clearly evident from the search results and further research may be required to determine who they were.

## GRO – General Register Office– (Official UK Government Website)

You cannot search for marriage records on this website but you are able to order copies of Marriage Certificates.

The GRO website should be used to purchase any certificates you require, this includes Marriage Certificates. Ordering from other sources is also possible but will incur a considerable increased cost to you because the fee will include a service charge.

## UKBMD

Before making your search you will need to select the relevant county you would like to carry out your search in. County selection can be made from a drop down box on the left hand side of the screen. The search results will then show sites where information for that county can be found. Some of these will be the usual subscription websites. The site you need to select should contain the name of the county followed by BMD

*NOTE: BMDs are not yet covered for all counties but you may find other sources of information relevant to the county your ancestors lived in which may be of use for your research.*

Records start in 1837 and can be up to as recent as 2012 (N.B. this end date was correct at time of writing late 2025. More recent years may now be available as new

transcriptions of records are added to the database). The records are transcribed from those held at each Registrar's Sub District; this is where the original entry for a marriage would have been made. The benefit of this is that if you find your ancestor's marriage in the records, it will give you the name of the Church in which the marriage took place and the exact Register Office within the Registration District that the marriage was registered in. The records will also show if the couple had a Civil Marriage (Register Office Marriage) and show the Register Office in which it took place.

Records from these sub districts would have been forwarded to the General Register Office for them to be included in the national records.

It is possible that during this process records may have been lost or miss-transcribed. If you are unable to find the marriage of your ancestor in FreeBMD records it is worth taking a look here to see if you can find them.

Classification:	Local BMD, Births, Deaths, Marriages
Title:	<b>Staffordshire BMD</b>
Link:	<b><u><a href="#">Staffordshire BMD</a></u></b>
Last Updated:	6 March 2025
Description:	Civil Registration indexes from 1837 through to the present day.
Extra Info:	(See also the West Midlands BMD site.)

## Researching Deaths, Burial and Cremations



All of the subscription genealogy sites have records of deaths and burials, some of which may have an image of the original Burial Register. Records of deaths contain limited information and the details given vary across the sites. What records they hold may be determined by what parishes or areas the particular site covers.

When researching the deaths of your ancestors, you must bear in mind that civil registration of deaths began on 1 July 1837.

Prior to 1837 you will need to research Parish Registers to look for a burial for your ancestor.

These sites are freely available to the family historian. Certain sites may require you to log in with your e-mail address and a password to view the records.

### **FAMILYSEARCH**

This is a genealogy site run by the Church of the Latter Day Saints (Mormons) which holds a library of worldwide records of all types and is free to access for the family

historian. These include death and burial records some of which may have a images of the Burial Register. It is worth checking for these images as they can save you paying out for the cost of a copy of the original Death Certificate.

**A WORD OF CAUTION** the family tree on this site is editable by any user. It is not personal to just you and any information you input can be altered or deleted by other users. This site is not recommended for building your family tree and holding records personal to your family.

You will be required to log in with your e-mail address and a password to view the records.

### **FREE REG**

Has burial records including many Non Conformist Churches/Chapels. Records are available 1538 -2007 (N.B. this end date was correct at time of writing, late 2025. More recent years may now be available as new transcriptions of records are added to the database). These records

can give details of the place of burial, the churchyard or cemetery where burial took place, burial location information i.e. plot or section details, death date, burial date, name and age of deceased person (if this was a child it may also give the names of the parents), their abode at date of death, the place of death and their occupation (not all of the details listed are available for all burials).

Post 1 July 1837 Civil Registration came into force. The following sites are again freely available to the family historian. Certain sites may require you to log in with your e-mail address and a password to view the records.

### **FREE BMD**

Records start at the beginning of Civil Registration in September Quarter 1837 up until 1995. Although Civil Registration began on 1 July 1837 the records are shown in order of quarters through the year as follows:-

**March Quarter** – covers the months of January, February & March

**June Quarter** – covers the months of April, May & June

**September Quarter** – cover the months of July, August & September

**December Quarter** – covers the months of October, November & December

From 1866 – 1969 the death record gives the age at death. This enables you to confirm if the death fits with the age of the person you are researching. Prior to 1866 you will need to use the GRO website to confirm a person's age at date of death.

From September Quarter 1969 – 1995 the death record gives the date of birth for the deceased person

### **GRO – General Register Office** (Official Government Website)

You can search deaths on this database. Death Certificates can be ordered in several formats i.e. Full Certificate, PDF or an online view digital image (the digital image format is only available for certificates from 1837 up to 100 years ago. For various reasons not all Certificates have been digitised). PDF and instant online view digital images are cheaper than purchasing a full certificate (see GRO website for relevant charges).

Records - Start at the commencement of civil registration in the September Quarter of 1837 up until 2023

**From 1837 – 1957** – The record will give you the age the person was at date of death

**From 1957 – 1984** - No records are available from GRO so you will need to refer to Free BMD

**From 1984 – 2023** – The year of birth is given rather than the age at date of death

The GRO website should be used to purchase any certificates you require, this includes Marriage Certificates. Ordering from other sources is possible but will incur a considerable increased cost to you because the fee will include a service charge

### **UKBMD**

Before making your search you will need to select the relevant county you would like to carry out your search in. County selection can be made from a drop down box on the left hand side of the screen. The search results will then show sites where information for that county can be found. Some of these will be the usual subscription websites. The site you need to select should contain the name of the county followed by BMD

*NOTE: BMDs are not yet covered for all counties but you may find other sources of*

*information relevant to the county your ancestors lived in which may be of use for your research.*

Records start in 1837 and can be up to as recent as 2008 (N.B. this end date was correct at time of writing. More recent years may now be available as new transcriptions of records are added to the database). The records are transcribed from those held at each Registrar's Sub District.

This is where the original entry for a death would have been made.

Records from these sub districts would have been forwarded to the General Register Office for them to be included in the national records. It is possible that during this process records may have been lost or mis-transcribed. If you are unable to find the death of your ancestor in the GRO or FreeBMD records, it is worth taking a look here to see if you can find them.

### **Other sites for burial records.**

**Find A Grave** - <https://www.findagrave.com>

Searches are free and if you find the entry there may also be a photo of the grave. Additionally you may also find details of other relatives of the deceased.

**Billiongraves** - <https://billiongraves.com/search>

A basic search of the database is free but the company also offer BillionGraves Plus Annual and BillionGrave Plus monthly (Please view their website for subscription fees to these).

**Deceased Online** - <https://www.deceasedonline.com>

Searches are free but if you want to view an image of the burial register, details of the grave or a plan of the cemetery or burial ground there is a small fee. There is an optional monthly subscription. It is worth looking for offers as occasionally you can purchase £5s worth of credits and get another £5s worth for free.

**Local Newspaper Funeral Notices** - <https://funeral-notices.co.uk>

Whilst not exactly a site to find a burial for the deaths of your more recent ancestors or family members, this site can be searched for funeral notices posted in local newspapers all over the country. This can be very useful to the family historian as they may contain names of the deceased's close family members, their date of death, the date and place of their funeral or cremation and possibly more information about them.

**Newspaper on British Newspaper Archive** - <https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk>

Or Find My Past <https://www.findmypast.co.uk>

Both of these sites are subscription sites but check at your local library to see if they have free access to them. You may find funeral notices or memorials but you may also be lucky and find a report if the deaths were suspicious or accidental, inquest reports or an obituary for your ancestor. These can contain a lot of information about their lives.

It is also worth carrying out a general Google Search for burial records as some Local Councils and Parish Councils do have details on their websites of burials within their cemeteries.

It is now becoming a common practice for Crematoriums to have digital copies of their Books of Remembrance available to view online. Try a Google search to see if you can find records for a memorial in your ancestor's local crematorium.



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The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the

No. of Schedule	ROAD STREET, No. and No. or NAME of HOUSE	HOUSES (No. of Houses in the Street)	NAME and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	CON-DITION	AGE of (Male Female)	Rank, Profession, or OCCUPATION	WHERE BORN	Widow 1. Deaf-and-Dumb 2. Blind 3. Insane or Idiot 4. Lunatic
188.	Orsett Gully Continued		Elizabeth Lavagan	Servant	Ann	21	Housemaid Domestic Serv	Ireland Galway	
			Ann Sawlton	Do.	Do.	19	Do.	Yorkshire Wetherby	
			Ann Cowen	Do.	Do.	27	Do. Kitchen Maid	Warwickshire Stratton	
			Elizabeth Weston	Do.	Do.	15	Do. Scullery Maid	Stafford Shroffton	
			Maria Smith	Do.	Do.	20	Do. Do.	Ireland Galphilly	
			Mary Bewick	Do.	Do.	24	Do. Dairy Maid	Stafford Shroffton	
			Mary Ann Bradman	Do.	Do.	21	Do. Kitchen Room Maid	Do. Stratton	
			Richard Jackson	Do.	Wid.	49	Coachman Retired Policeman	Do. Alton	
			William J. Jackson	Do.	Ann	20	Walter	Do. Frotham	
			Charles Lowery	Do.	Ann	29	Batter	Yorkshire Beverham	
			Isaac Hodgkinson	Do.	Ann	22	Walter	Yorkshire Sedburgh	
			Charles Tomms	Do.	Ann	25	Walter	Warwickshire Stratton	
			Charles Baker	Do.	Ann	20	Do.	London	
			Charles Bradman	Visitor	Man	31	Sanddowne	Derbyshire Piddington	
			Charles Poole	Visitor	Ann	21	Do.	Derbyshire Gannock	
			Charles Stone	Visitor	Man	31	Sanddowne	Warwick Leicestershire Stratton	
189.	Do.	/	Charlotte Howard	Visitor	Ann	30	Evangelical Student	Essex Southamton	
			Robert Maxwell	Do.	Ann	29	Do.	Do.	
			Fredrick D. Jones	Do.	Do.	33	Do.	Shropshire From	
			Henry Harris	Do.	Do.	30	Do.	Derbyshire Appuldorpe	
			William Stokes	Do.	Do.	30	Do.	Warwick Stratton	
			Walter Harris	Do.	Do.	27	Do.	Warwick Shrewsbury	
			Charles M. Gale	Do.	Do.	26	Do.	Stafford Wolverhampton	
			George J. Stokes	Do.	Do.	25	Do.	Staffordshire Shroffton	
			George L. Dubuy	Do.	Do.	25	Do.	Ireland Galphilly	
	Total of Houses...	/		Total of Males and Females...		18			

\* Draw the pen through each of the words as are inappropriate.

## Where do I go Next? Census Records

Census Records began in 1801 and were taken every 10 years. Prior to 1841 the information recorded on the Censuses was very limited (mostly for very specific limited areas). Very few of these early records still survive although there are some still in existence. The Brigham Young University Early British Census Project is currently producing a searchable website for the early census records of 1801, 1811, 1821 and 1831 that have survived.

The first Census that is available and of use to the family historian is the 1841 Census. This gives details of where your ancestor was living, their names and the names of others in the household, their sex, age, occupation and whether they were born in the County in which they were then living.

*Note: "Gentleman" is a profession and denotes a man of private means. It is the lowest level of the aristocracy.*

The information for the Censuses was taken down by Enumerators who went from

house to house collecting the information. The age of persons over 15 was supposed to be rounded down to the nearest multiple of 5 e.g. a person aged 19 should have been listed as 15, a person aged 22 should have been listed as 20 and a person aged 59 should have been listed as 55. In practice, many census officials did not always follow this rule.

Later Censuses taken in 1851, 1861, 1871, 1881, 1891 and 1901 give more information about your ancestors. These Censuses give you the address where the person was staying on the night of the Census. Early ones do not give a house number but this does appear on later ones. Their names and the names of others in the household, the relationship of those in the household to the head of the house, their marital status, sex, age, occupation, place of birth and whether they were blind, deaf or dumb are also included. Please note that the far left column is an administrative number and not the house number.

The 1911 Census was the first Census to be completed by the householder. This was usually the head of the household and was signed by them. So the signature at the bottom of the Census sheet may be the first time you will have seen your ancestor's handwriting. In addition to the information collected on previous Censuses, the 1911 Census will also tell you how long your ancestors have been married, how many children had been born to the marriage, how many were still living and how many had died. At the bottom next to the signature box it will also give you details of how many rooms the family were living in.

The last of the Censuses available to the family historian is the 1921 Census (At the time of writing this is only available on Find my Past, which has a transcription and image and Ancestry which only has a transcription).

This Census gives the names of your ancestors and those present in the household on the night of the Census, their ages in the number of years and months, sex, marital status, places of birth and nationality

(if not a UK citizen), their occupations together with the name and address of their employer.

For children it tells whether their parents are alive or deceased and if they were in full or part-time education. Finally, the household was asked to advise of the number of children under 16 in the household and put a cross in a box relevant to their age at last birthday. You will need to take a look at the 2nd page of your ancestor's 1921 Census return to see the address at which they were living.

A Census for England & Wales was taken in 1931 but was destroyed in a fire in 1942. The Scottish 1931 Census was stored in Edinburgh and therefore survived and will be released in 2031.

No Census was taken in 1941 due to WWII. The next Census which will become available to family historians will be the 1951 Census which will be opened 100 years and 1 day from 1951 this being the year 2051.

**STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL.** Please read the Instructions and Examples shown on the back, and then fill up the Schedule carefully and in Ink.

NAME and BIRTHDAY	RELATIONSHIP to Head of Household	AGE	SEX	MARRIAGE or DISPENSATION	BIRTHPLACE and NATIONALITY	PROFESSION, TRADE, OCCUPATION, SERVICE, or TRADE	EMPLOYER and EMPLOYMENT		Place of Work	Number and Age of all other children and step children under 16 years of age, whether registered or not, in the household on the night of the Census
							Employer	Employment		
1. <i>James John Parby Hood</i>	<i>37/11</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>Married</i>	<i>White Parby</i>	<i>London - Dept of Public Works</i>	<i>Home Duties</i>	<i>The London Electric Supply Company</i>	<i>at Dept of Public Works</i>		
2. <i>Esther Parby wife</i>	<i>37/11</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>Married</i>	<i>White Parby</i>	<i>Home Duties</i>					
3. <i>Grace Williams Boarder</i>	<i>6/6</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>Single</i>	<i>White Parby</i>	<i>Home Duties</i>					
4.										
5.										
6.										
7.										
8.										
9.										
10.										

I declare that this Schedule is correctly filled up to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature: *J. Parby*  
 (Name of Head of Household or Statutory Officer or other person responsible for making the return)

At the time of the Census: 1911

E.D. Letter Code		Borough, U.D. or R.D.		Registration District and Sub-District		1117/2				See INSTRUCTIONS	
ADDRESS.	SCHEDULE.		SURNAME AND OTHER NAMES.	O, V, S, P. or I.	M. or F.	BIRTH.		S, M, W. or D.	PERSONAL OCCUPATION.		
	No.	Sub No.				Day.	Year.			10	11
17 St. John Street	206	3	Pichon, Ronald M.	3	M	27	1909	M	Household electrician		
This record is officially closed.											
			4 Mason George M		M	25	1910	M	Palisman, Jack Merchant		
			5 Mason Rosa M		F	11	1912	M	Wage domestic duties		
11	207	1	Mooney Ann		M	16	1900	M	Domestic		
			2 Mooney Rhoda		F	21	1900	M	Wage domestic duties		
			3 Mooney Ann		M	20	1919	S	Wife, Palisman		
9	208	1	McGrane William		M	23	1906	M	Gas and Hot Water Fitter and General Electrician		
			2 McGrane Elizabeth		F	20	1908	M	Wage domestic duties		
			3 McGrane William		M	25	1912	S	At School		
			4 McGrane John		M	21	1912	S	At School		
7	209	1	Maggone Michael		M	14	1901	M	Jack Spirit Palisman		At Discontinues
			2 Maggona Antonella Maria		F	11	1903	M	Wage domestic duties		
			3		M	21	1908	S	At School		

The 1939 Register is the most recent record available for discovering where your ancestors were living and with whom.

This record was compiled on the 29 September 1939 and was a national record of the civilian population at the start of WWII. It was used for the issue of National Identity Cards and for the issue of ration books. It contains details of over 40 million people and includes their addresses, names, sex, birth dates, marital status and occupations. Birth dates may not be accurate due to individuals lack of accurate knowledge or to conceal the true date.

When using this record you may find that some entries have a black line through them. This is known as a record being redacted. The name is obscured by the black line because the person may still be living and their identity is protected under the "100 year Rule". This Rule refers to a standard closure period for certain documents containing personal information to protect an individual's privacy. This register was in continual use up until 1991.

You may find that some information has been added at a later date for example the married surname of females. To the left of any amendment you will find a date when the amendment was made. The information it contained was used by the Government

when setting up the National Health Service, the National Insurance System and for producing Voter Lists.

The use of the Census records in conjunction with the information from the Birth, Marriage and Death Records forms the basic information for your family history research.

Essentially, they are the bones of your ancestors on your family tree. Looking at all the information you have learnt from these records, you should now have a basic picture of who your ancestor was, who their immediate family were, where they lived and what they did for a living.

Knowing all of this will now enable you to pinpoint areas on which to focus your further research when looking for other records that will allow you to add the flesh to the bones of these ancestors. Census records can be found on all of the major subscription sites. They are also freely available on

- FamilySearch** - <https://www.familysearch.org>,
- FreeCen** - <https://www.freeukgenealogy.org.uk/freecen>
- and for pre 1841 Censuses
- Brigham Young University Early British Census Project** - <https://ebc.byu.edu/Home>

## Free Website Links

**FamilySearch** - <https://www.familysearch.org>

**FreeReg** - <https://www.freereg.org.uk>

**FreeBMD** - <https://www.freebmd.org.uk>

**General Register Office** - <https://www.gro.gov.uk>

**UK BMD** - <https://www.ukbmd.org.uk>

**FreeCen** - <https://www.freeukgenealogy.org.uk/freecen>

**Brigham Young University Early British Census Project** - <https://ebc.byu.edu/Home>

**Irish Genealogy** - <https://www.irishgenealogy.ie>

**Find A Grave** - <https://www.findagrave.com>

**Local Newspaper Funeral Notices** - <https://funeral-notices.co.uk>

## Subscription/Purchase Credits Website Links

**Ancestry** - <https://www.ancestry.co.uk>

**Find My Past** - <https://www.findmypast.co.uk>

**The Genealogist** - <https://www.thegenealogist.co.uk>

**My Heritage** - <https://www.myheritage.com>

**Genes Reunited** - <https://www.genesreunited.co.uk>

Subscription or purchase credits

**Scotland's People** - <https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk>

Credits need to be purchased to view images

**Billiongraves** - <https://billiongraves.com/search>

Basic free search but two levels of subscription for more detailed information

**Deceased Online** - <https://www.deceasedonline.com>

Searches are free. Credits need to be purchased to pay to view images.

**Newspaper on British Newspaper Archive** - <https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk>



## Start your family journey here, but carefully!

OK, it doesn't have to be your family but the journey is the same! If you have got this far reading the previous pages you will understand these final comments. This will be a long, slow and painstaking journey. You will have to check and re-check, question everything and prove the data. That is: try to break it if you want to find the truth.

You need to understand that many of the ancestry and genealogy web sites that can be edited are inaccurate, even for well-known people, both the dates and locations. There are many people who have the same name now as then. Try searching on your own name on social media and general web searches. You will find many others with exactly your name.

Computerisation and DNA only came in from the 1990s. Not long ago. Many paper records are inaccurate and many are missing or destroyed. Not all those that exist are

digitised and you may have to personally visit the local Record Offices to view these. Some that are computerised you can't remotely access from home. So you may have to travel and spend time with a pencil and notepad.

It will be a slow and difficult journey but the results are worth it. However they may not be what you expect or hope for. There are many unexpected surprises in family histories. Be kind to your ancestors as you won't know what was really going on in their lives to cause the decisions they made in very different times to what we know.

*Good luck!*



# WHERE DO I BEGIN TO RESEARCH MY FAMILY?

