

## FREE SERVICES

[www.freebmd.org.uk](http://www.freebmd.org.uk) – searchable database for birth, marriage and death records since registration began in 1837 – this database only covers England and Wales and starts on 1 July 1837 and they have records up to 1992 though the later years are not fully transcribed. – see item about the General Register Office (GRO) below. **ONLY BUY CERTIFICATES FROM THE GRO.** Other people will offer this service but charge at least twice as much.

[www.freereg.org.uk](http://www.freereg.org.uk) – searchable database of parish registers – not complete

[www.freeCen.org.uk](http://www.freeCen.org.uk) – searchable database of census – not complete

[www.irishgenealogy.ie/en](http://www.irishgenealogy.ie/en) – birth, marriage and death records including parish records

[www.census.nationalarchives.ie](http://www.census.nationalarchives.ie) – 1901 and 1911 Irish Census, which cover the whole of the island of Ireland, plus fragments of the 1821-1851 Census Records which were mainly destroyed.

[www.proni.go.uk](http://www.proni.go.uk) – this is the archives for Northern Ireland

[www.jewishgen.org/databases/uk](http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/uk) - this site can be searched by name and the results link you to the database which holds the records.

## FOR SCOTLAND SEE BELOW

[www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org) – searchable database of births and marriages across the world run by the Church of the Latter Day Saints. You have to register but you do not get bombarded with emails. This site has the England and Wales 1881 Census for free. Their research rooms are open to the public for free and give access to Ancestry and Findmypast. Their records cover all faiths and the whole world.

Commonwealth War Graves – [www.cwgc.org/find/find-war-dead](http://www.cwgc.org/find/find-war-dead) – this records deaths from 4 August 1914 to 31 August 1921 and 3 September 1939 to 31 December 1947. Only military deaths are recorded for the First World War but civilian deaths from enemy action are recorded as well as military for the Second World War.

[www.iwm.org.uk/memorials/search](http://www.iwm.org.uk/memorials/search) - this site at the Imperial War Museum has over 90,000 war memorials listed by location and 1 million names on those memorials.

There are photographs and exact location.

[www.livesofthefirstworldwar.iwm.org.uk](http://www.livesofthefirstworldwar.iwm.org.uk) – this is a database of people who served in the First World War with information provided by, mainly, family members. Amount of information will vary but may contain a photograph. Additional records can no longer be added to this database.

Red Cross Volunteer Record WW1 – [www.redcross.org.uk/About-us/Who-we-are/History-and-origin/First-World-War](http://www.redcross.org.uk/About-us/Who-we-are/History-and-origin/First-World-War)

Quakers – have records of people who served in their Ambulance units during the

First World War and may have been conscientious objectors – [www.quaker.org.uk](http://www.quaker.org.uk)

[www.longlongtrail.co.uk](http://www.longlongtrail.co.uk) – very detailed site about each regiment during the First World War so if you know what regiment your family member served in this might help you find out what actions they may have been involved in.

[www.workhouses.org.uk](http://www.workhouses.org.uk) – detailed site about workhouses – up until the early 1900s workhouse births and deaths were recorded as in the workhouse. After that workhouses were either recorded by a name or by a street address ie Wollaston House in Cardiff was the workhouse. This site gives very detailed information about each workhouse.

[www.oldbaileyonline.org](http://www.oldbaileyonline.org) – for your criminal ancestors

<http://vcp.e2bn.org> – list of Victorian criminals

London from 1665 and Edinburgh Gazette from 1699 – [www.thegazette.co.uk](http://www.thegazette.co.uk) – a wide range of events are recorded including name changes by deed poll; bankruptcy; military promotions and bravery awards plus the New Year and Birthday Honours are published in a supplement. Bravery awards will be listed but usually do not include a citation.

[Specialcollections.le.ac.uk/cdm/landingpage/collectionp16445coll4](http://Specialcollections.le.ac.uk/cdm/landingpage/collectionp16445coll4) – List of Kelly's directories and other directions. Could take some time to look things up but could be worth the time.

Livery Companies – [www.londonroll.org](http://www.londonroll.org) – These records are between 1400 to 1900

Parliamentary Archives – [www.parliament.uk](http://www.parliament.uk) – records of MPs going back to at least the 17<sup>th</sup> Century plus other information. Of particular interest might be the Protestation Roll taken during 1641-42 at the time of the Commonwealth and lists by parish those men over 18 who declared they were protestants. Obviously the further you go back there will be gaps in the records.

Index of old occupations – [rmhh.co.uk/occup/index.html](http://rmhh.co.uk/occup/index.html)

Slavery Records – when slavery was abolished slave owners were compensated for their loss. These are recorded at [www.ucl.ac.uk/lbs/search](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/lbs/search) - This can be search by surname.

[findagrave.com](http://findagrave.com) – free to search and covers overseas burials

### **FREE LOOK UP AND THEN HAVE TO PAY**

[www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk](http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk) – Statutory registers and parish records including Catholic, plus census, wills and testaments and coats of arms – charge after initial search. Free guides are available on this site for researching in Scotland.

[www.manxbmd.com](http://www.manxbmd.com) – A search facility which gives you the details you need to buy a certificate from the Manx authorities

Deceased on line – [www.deceasedonline.com](http://www.deceasedonline.com) – free look up but if want further information have to buy credits

<https://probatesearch.service.gov.uk/#wills> – look up service for wills right up to now and includes soldiers wills. Search is free but wills cost £1.50 by email. Wills can list



family members and the record will show date of death. If date of death is all you are interested in then you don't need to buy the will.

[www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/default.asp](http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/default.asp) Free to search births from 1837 to 1934 and deaths 1837 to 1957. With births only place to search by mother's maiden name and for deaths gives age at death. For births and deaths between these dates you can obtain a pdf copy of the certificate by email at a cost of £7. All other certificates which can be bought from the same website cost £11 but if you don't have the GRO Index reference an extra £3. GRO Index reference can also be found on freebmd.

[www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk](http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk) British newspaper archive. This is held at the British Library (see later) but they are digitising all that they hold and this can be searched then have to pay to see the actual article. This can be accessed for free at the British Library as can all other newspapers and magazine in the reading room.

(closed at present)

Indian family history which includes details of British civil servants; army personnel and their wives and children. [indiafamily.bl.uk](http://indiafamily.bl.uk) whilst primarily concerned with India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka it does have other records including those for St Helene. Again can be accessed at the British Library which is currently closed

### SUBSCRIPTION SERVICES

**Some of these offer a free trial of 30 days. They will take your card details so be sure to cancel before the 30 days is up if you don't want to continue. On both Ancestry and Findmypast there are family trees uploaded by individuals. Do not accept these as well researched. Use them as a guide to your own research.**

[www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk) – worldwide £180 per year; UK and Ireland £120

[www.findmypast.com](http://www.findmypast.com) - £102 UK and Ireland

[www.sog.org.uk](http://www.sog.org.uk) – Society of Genealogist website – membership fee payable but as well as searching on-line gives access to their paper records at their offices in London and discount on the courses they run. £80 pa full member £56 associate

[www.forces-war-records.co.uk](http://www.forces-war-records.co.uk) – searchable but then £8.95 per month or £48.95 per year. Suggest you save up the names you want to research and then take a month's subscription.

[www.fold3.com](http://www.fold3.com) – war records for the UK and the USA. Includes pension records for the UK so if you can't find a First World War record for your family member (they were bombed in the Second World War and many were burnt) then you might find a pension record on this site. There is a subscription to pay either monthly or \$76 annually. If you are looking for Australian or Canadian records go directly to the records in these countries which are free.

### BRITISH OVERSEAS RECORDS

Ancestry has these. Easiest way to access is to use the 'Card Catalogue' route finding Overseas Records and then search. If you have a UK subscription these are included.

British Consulate BMDs 1810-1968 – some are on Ancestry but the rest are at the National Archives. They also have RAF Chaplaincy Board registers 1919-2009 (Air

82); Royal Navy Chaplaincy registers 1845-1998 (ADM 338); Registers of death of emigrants at sea 1847-1869 are in Colonial Office Records (CO 386).