

# GUIDE TO BIRTH CERTIFICATES

## CERTIFIED COPY OF AN ENTRY OF BIRTH

## GIVEN AT THE GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE

**2 Name** The forename/s given to the child at birth. A line through this column means no name was given.

**3 Name and maiden name of mother** This extra information will help you track down the mother's parents as well as a marriage between her and the father. From the September quarter of 1911 the mother's maiden name is included in the index

**4 Signature, description and residence of informant** Usually one of the parents, but it could be a grandparent or another relative. The address is usually the same as the child's place of birth.

**5 Date registered** Registration was supposed to take place within 42 days of the birth. This date will determine which quarter the birth appears in the indexes, in this case the Dec 1874 quarter.

**1 Date and place of birth** The later the certificate, the more likely a full address will appear. A time of birth may mean the baby is a twin, triplet etc.

Columns:-	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
No.	When and where born	Name, if any	Sex	Name and surname of father	Name, surname and maiden surname of mother	Occupation of father	Signature, description and residence of informant	When registered	Signature of registrar	Name entered after registration
1874	Thirtieth November 1874 Blenheim	Winston Leonard	boy	Randolph Henry Spencer Churchill	Jennie Churchill formerly Jerome	M. P. Doo Woodstock	Randolph J. Churchill Father Blenheim	Twenty third December 1874	George Foster Registrar	

**8 Father's name** The absence of a name here may mean that the baby is illegitimate. Before 1875 a woman could name any man as the father without providing evidence to the fact.

**7 Occupation of father** Can be useful for confirming that you are looking at a certificate for the right family – although it is not definitive proof.

**6 Names entered after registration** Used to record any names given to the child – for example at baptism – up to 12 months after initial registration.

CERTIFIED to be a true copy of an Entry of Birth of *Winston Leonard Churchill* Given at the GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE, under the Seal of the said Office, the *20* day of February 2012

**BXCF 328522**

CAUTION: THERE ARE OFFENCES RELATING TO FALSIFYING OR ALTERING A CERTIFICATE AND USING OR POSSESSING A FALSE CERTIFICATE ©CROWN COPYRIGHT

WARNING: A CERTIFICATE IS NOT EVIDENCE OF IDENTITY.





HM Passport Office

# GUIDE TO BIRTH CERTIFICATES

Find the documentation for your ancestor's birth and you will have the information you need to leapfrog back another generation

## It's quick and easy...



It's quick and easy to order a birth certificate online, just follow these three steps:

**STEP ONE** Visit [www.gov.uk/bmdcertificates](http://www.gov.uk/bmdcertificates) and click on 'Start now'. Select 'Order a certificate online now' and register if you have not registered before (you will need an email address).

**STEP TWO** Select 'Birth Certificate' and if you know the GRO index reference number, click yes, if not click no. You will need to add the year of the event (if you do not have the index reference number a search will be carried out for you that covers a three-year period around the year you provide).

**STEP THREE** Once your address has been confirmed you will be asked to provide the information you have got from the index. You can order a certificate without an index reference number but you will need to give some identifying information such as the name at birth, year of birth and district of birth. You will not be charged more for this service but it will take longer for your certificate to be dispatched. You will need to pay by credit or debit card. See right for fees.



If you don't wish to order online you can apply by telephone with a credit/debit card on 0300 123 1837. Lines are open Monday to Friday 8am – 8pm, Saturday 9am – 4pm.



Application can also be made by post and forms can be obtained from GRO or downloaded via [www.gov.uk/bmdcertificates](http://www.gov.uk/bmdcertificates)

## TRACK DOWN A FOREBEAR'S BIRTH

Birth certificates are the foundation of any family historian's research into an individual. They will help take you get back to the next generation, providing the father's name and occupation as well as, importantly, the mother's maiden name. These details will allow you to locate a marriage for the parents

with a greater degree of certainty. The General Register Office (GRO) in Southport holds comprehensive records of all births recorded in England and Wales from 1837 onwards as well as records for some British Nationals born overseas dating back to 1761.

	Standard Service	Despatch target	Priority Service	Despatch target
Certificate with GRO index reference number supplied	£9.25	Four working days	£23.40	Next working day if ordered before 4pm
Certificate without GRO index reference number supplied	£9.25	Fifteen working days	£23.40	Next working day if ordered before 4pm

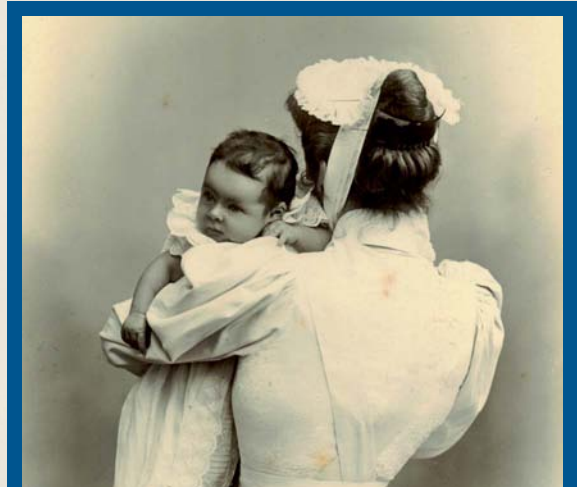
## How to find an index reference

The GRO provides a public index that lists basic details of every birth recorded in England and Wales since 1837. The index is divided into four quarters for each year and can be viewed online for free at most libraries and record offices, or online at [www.freebmd.org.uk](http://www.freebmd.org.uk). This free-to-

use website has an almost complete transcription of the indexes for England and Wales from 1837 to 1983. You can also search the complete indexes for a fee using commercial websites.

Once you have found the right birth record in the indexes you will need to make a note of:

- Full name of the person on the certificate
- The year and quarter in which the birth was registered
- The registration district
- The volume and page number of the entry



## FIND THAT BIRTH

Try these tips if you can't find an ancestor's arrival into the world recorded in the indexes

### TIP 1

Prior to 1875, the registration of an event was not enforced and therefore some births were never officially registered.

### TIP 2

Registration of a birth may have happened in the quarter after it took place, so search later indexes.

### TIP 3

A birth might have taken place outside England and Wales. Search Scottish records at [www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk](http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk).

### TIP 4

Babies were not always named immediately, many appearing as 'infant', 'boy' or 'girl' in the indexes.

### TIP 5

The name you know your ancestor by might not be the one that appears on their birth certificate. Many people chose to be called by their middle names.

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BIRTHS REGISTERED IN JULY, AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER 1911. DAL

Mother's Maiden Name	District	Vol.	Page	Mother's Maiden Name	District	Vol.	Page
Balderson, Lily	Barr	Tadcaster	9 a 1975	Baldwin, Frank	Marley	Newport N.	11 a 517
— Marion	Burn	Sunderland	10 a 1340	— Frank V.	Ruffie	Braintree	4 a 1642
Balderson, Gladys	Burnley	Burnley	10 a 430	— Frederick	Brown	Leeds	9 b 598
— Helen H.	Callout	Kingston	2 a 846	— Frederick	Harris	Leedsbury S.	6 a 512
Baldry, Denis M.	Iden	Battle	7 a 43	— Frederick J.	Cartwright	W. Bromwich	6 a 2
Baldi, Nellie M.S.	Iden	Battle	7 a 43	— George	Vinstone	Widnes	2 a 1663
Balding, Diana F.M.	Keathwaite	Bilbesson	4 a 549	— George A.	Bathurst	Taboridge	1 d 1642
— Alice M.	Simmonds	W. Han	6 b 861	— George A.	Hawkins	Canterwell	4 b 444
— Marjorie	Marriott	Toworth	2 a 1330	— George H.F.	Dixon	Wayland	6 c 887
Baldock, Doris	Ham	Gravesend	2 a 1010	— George H.	Higgins	King's H.	6 a 472
— Edward G.	Ballard	Tenterden	10 c 653	— Gertrude J.	Vice	Thornbury	5 c 1679
— Allen V.	Bowney	Grimsby	7 a 1254	— Gladys J.	Fritchard	Doncaster	11 a 688
— Ernest	Goodwin	Wandsworth	1 d 1010	— Harold	Hunter	Sheffield	9 c 1059
— Frances A.	Baldock	Canterbury	2 a 1878	— Harry	Holyer	Doncaster	2 b 106
— George W.	Hills	Sevenshake	2 a 1818	— Helen M.	Swanson	Adonston	3 a 1255
— Gertrude M.	Lock	Titchhurst	1 a 659	— Herbert	Jackson	Widenshast	6 c 425
— Lancelot E.	White	W. Han	2 b 105	— Herbert G.	Townsend	Pontefract	9 c 278
— Stanley	Halsey, Ruby	H. Kempstead	4 a 346	— Horace	Peuckert	Passerae	1 b 181
Halsey, Charles M.	Robinson	Can	3 a 1774	— Ida	Christian	Barnby	8 a 259
	Cass	Sudbury	4 a 1746	— Iris H.	Piddling	Bucklow	8 a 498
					Fear	Westbury J.	8 a 295