

Liverpool RECORD OFFICE

Requests should only be made to Liverpool Register Office, The Cotton Exchange, Old Hall St., Liverpool L3 9UF if some details are known. The references obtained in the national indexes can assist, particularly the quarter, year and registration district, and you should try to provide more precise dates, addresses and, in the case of marriages, the name of the church if possible. Searches can be made in person for a fee by appointment.

INTERNET ACCESS TO INDEXES

Access to the indexes via the internet is increasing and developing continuously. The indexes from 1837 to the early 1920's can be searched at www.ancestry.co.uk Liverpool Libraries has taken out an institutional subscription to this major website so that users can access it free of charge on Record Office and Library computers. Free access to some indexes is also possible at freebmd.rootsweb.com

Also thousands of Liverpool marriage and birth index entries can be searched at www.lancashirebmd.org.uk

LIVERPOOL RECORD OFFICE, LOCAL STUDIES AND FAMILY HISTORY SERVICE

Central Library, William Brown Street, Liverpool L3 8EW

General enquiries 0151 233 5817
0151 233 5811
Fax (Central Library) 0151 233 5886
E-mail recoffice.central.library@liverpool.gov.uk

For opening hours, some catalogues and development news, please visit our website at www.liverpool.gov.uk/archives

Appointments are not essential for viewing sources on microfilm and on microfiche. A reader's ticket is needed to request archives, books, maps, photographs and watercolours. Please bring proof of name and address. You will be asked to leave any bags in lockers before consulting original material.

Annual closure for stock-taking and special projects 3rd and 4th weeks in June.



May 2008

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INDEXES TO BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

INFORMATION LEAFLET - 1



We hold microfiche copies of the indexes to births, marriages and deaths 1837 – 2004 recorded under the civil registration system for England and Wales. These indexes are of tremendous value to family historians.

It is important to distinguish very clearly between civil registration and ecclesiastical registers of baptisms, marriages and burials. References located in the civil registration indexes (Office for National Statistics indexes) will **not** assist with searches in parish registers.

We do not hold records other than the indexes and there is expense involved in obtaining copy certificates from the relevant offices.

We do not hold indexes for Scotland, Ireland, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man. Scottish indexes can be accessed on the internet for a fee at: www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk



The City of Liverpool



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BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The system of civil registration of births, marriages and deaths in England and Wales was established on 1 July 1837. The country was divided into registration districts based on poor law unions. Today the service is based on the areas of local authorities such as Liverpool City Council. Each registration district is under the control of Superintendent Registrar(s) and divided into sub-districts. Copies of registers are sent to the Registrar General and the indexes are compiled.

Up to 1983 the events for each year are divided into quarters (e.g. all events registered between 1 April and 30 June 1910 appear under JUN 1910). Remember that this is based on the date of registration of the event not the date of the actual event itself – there may be some weeks before an event was registered. In each quarter the names are in alphabetical order as they were spelt at the time. Please note that spellings of surnames have varied over the years.

From 1984 events are arranged in alphabetical indexes covering a full year. The indexes do not give the exact place of birth etc. but only the name of the Registration District with reference numbers to the national records.

BIRTHS

Many births went unregistered until 1874 when the system changed and penalties for not complying were introduced. Indexes of births contain the mother's maiden name from 1911.

A full birth certificate gives the name of the child, date and place of birth, name and occupation of the father, and the name of the mother, including any previous surnames. It also records name and address of the 'informant', therefore, usually giving the home address of the family.



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MARRIAGES

The indexes only combine the names of both husband and wife in the same entry from 1912. A marriage certificate includes the date and place of marriage, religious denomination and names, addresses, marital status and occupations of both parties. An exact age is sometimes given, but more often the certificate simply states "full age", meaning 21 or over. Names and occupations of the respective fathers are also given.

DEATHS

The system for ensuring registration of deaths was tightened up considerably from 1874. The place of death may not be the deceased's normal place of abode and the age given may be incorrect. Indexes to deaths only state age at death from 1866. Death certificates give the date, place and cause of death, the name, age and occupation of the deceased and the address of the 'informant', who may well be next of kin.

OTHER INDEXES

We also have microfiche copies of various series of indexes including Army Returns 1796-1965; Consular Returns 1849 – 1965, Boer War, First and Second World War deaths of service personnel; Marine births and deaths 1837 – 1965.

TO OBTAIN COPY CERTIFICATES

Postal requests including the name, quarter, year, registration district, volume and page numbers of the event as recorded in the indexes should be sent to:

General Register Office, PO Box 2, Southport,
Merseyside PR8 2JD, or online www.gro.gov.uk