

# INDEX OF GLOUCESTERSHIRE BMD REGISTERS

## INTRODUCTION

Civil Registration in England and Wales began in 1837. Over time the many original registration districts within the county were merged into six districts. In 2006 the six districts became one, namely Gloucestershire.

The registers for births, marriages and deaths were moved to Gloucestershire Archives in March 2011. Applications for copy certificates may be completed and submitted on line. A message appears at the end of the results screen containing a link to the Gloucestershire Registration Service (GRS) web site. This explains how to obtain a copy of a certificate.

The indexing project began in 2000 and, although many more remain to be done, the ultimate aim is to index all the registers held by the GRS. As it stands the Index provides a powerful research tool for family historians and enables Register Office staff to quickly locate entries in the original registers. The Index is mainly the work of volunteers from the Gloucestershire Family History Society (GFHS). The data in the Index is the property of the GRS and any queries should be addressed to the Superintendent Registrar for Gloucestershire, Gloucestershire Register Office, St. George's Rd, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, GL50 3EW, UK – (+44 01242 532455 - cheltenham.ro@gloucestershire.gov.uk).

## PROGRESS BY JUNE 2013

### Births

All births registered in the county between 1837 and at least 1911 have been indexed.

### Marriages

All marriage registers held by the GRS from 1837 to at least 1948 have been indexed. Marriages conducted in churches without an approved person are recorded in registers maintained by the GRS. Churches with an approved person deposit a copy of completed registers with the GRS for storage. Since 1<sup>st</sup> April 1995 couples have been able to marry in approved premises such as hotels. These are recorded in registers maintained by GRS. Details of the venue is recorded in the register but not in the Index.

### Deaths

The Cheltenham and North Cotswold District death registers are indexed from 1837 to at least 1900. Except for Forest of Dean, work is under way to index the remaining four districts. This table shows the number of entries in the main parts of the Index as at 16<sup>th</sup> June 2013.

District	Cheltenham	Cirencester	Forest of Dean	Gloucester	North Cotswold	Stroud
<b>Births</b>	233926	94990	96404	150187	54974	127826
<b>Marriages</b>	143503	53434	65283	137828	28606	90962
<b>Deaths</b>	85728	26206	0	37961	21918	57537

Please use the **Index Coverage** button on the **Home Page** to find details of the period, districts, churches, chapels and register offices covered by the Index.

## USING THE INDEX

### Searching

The beginning of a name need only be inserted in a search field to obtain all entries that match the criteria. For example, "Dav" in a surname field will return "Davis", "Davies", "Davidson", and so on. Alternatively, if the precise spelling of a name is known, enter the name and click the check box next to the field. Names were often recorded as they were heard particularly in the early years of civil registration when many people could neither read nor write. The mother's former name is included in the births entries so any siblings can be listed. No more than 500 results can be displayed; if any more than this number is requested the user is asked to refine their query. It is possible to display extra detail for some places in the Index by placing the cursor on the icon bearing an exclamation (!) mark.

### Former surnames

In the marriage index further entries exist where either the bride or groom was known previously by another name. In the birth index a further entry exists where a mother was known previously by another name (other than her name when single) or a father had an alias. Indexers also create an extra entry where the handwriting in the register is not clear or two spellings of a name exist in the same register entry. Multiple entries can be listed by clicking the icon appearing to the right of a result.