Ancestry help sheet
birth, marriage and death indexes

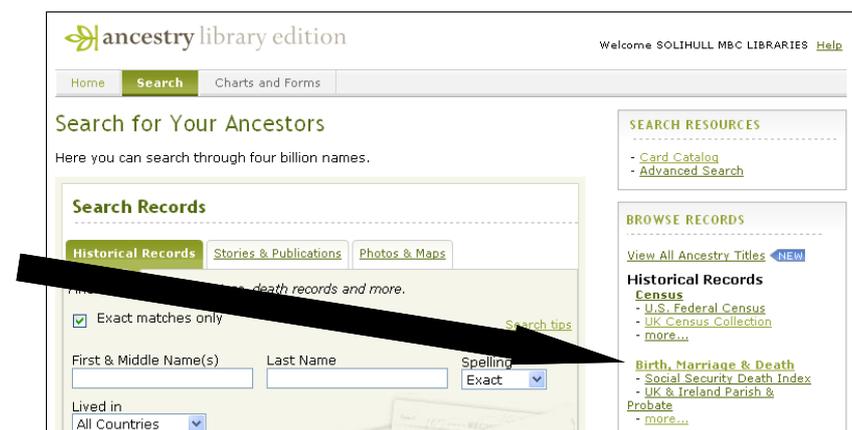**Solihull** METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
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www.ancestrylibrary.com - accessible from library computers only

There are two versions of the indexes from 1837-1983 on the Ancestry website. The FreeBMD records, which are incomplete, and the images of the original indexes, which are complete. If you do a general search of the birth, marriage and death records on Ancestry, you will be searching the incomplete FreeBMD records.

You can see the complete records by clicking on '**Search'** at the top of the Ancestry home page.

This brings up a new page. On the right of the screen, click on '**Birth, Marriage and Death'**

On the new page that comes up, scroll down to '**Search Individual Birth, Marriage & Death Collections'** which lists all the databases alphabetically.

Scroll down this list until you get to '**England & Wales'.**

The complete records are the indexes 1837-1983 that are not the FreeBMD records.
Click on the one you wish to search.

Note: *The indexes from 1984 onwards are complete and searching these will bring you up an exact entry.*

Selecting one of the 1837-1983 databases brings up a search box into which you can type the name of the person you are looking for.

You can include the year of the event and search plus or minus 0, 1, 2, 5, 10 or 20 years.

As only the first and last name on each page have been indexed, your search should bring up the page where your ancestor's name would be if it had been registered at that time. There should be one page for each quarter, i.e. four for each year.

Sometimes you don't get four pages listed - in this case the Apr-May-Jun quarter is missing.

To see an image of the page, just click on 'View Image'.

You can browse the indexes for a particular quarter, page by page if necessary - just by clicking on the link to the year at the top of a page of one of the images.

The image you see will be an exact copy of the General Register Office (GRO) index page - identical to the GRO indexes on microfiche. If it doesn't include the entry you are looking for, click on 'Back to record' and try another quarter.

Unfortunately, this is the only information available online. You can buy a copy of the certificate itself online from the General Register Office (www.gro.gov.uk) or in person or by post from the register office where it was registered. The cost of this is £7.00 per certificate. If you apply to the GRO by post the cost is £8.50 if you quote the volume and page numbers listed on the index (it costs £11.00 if you don't quote these references).