

New GRO search facility

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Late last year the GRO trialled a new online search facility, along with a short period of requesting and receiving certificates for births and deaths by PDF. It was a resounding success and more pilot schemes are now being tested.

The search facility, however, remains live. You need to register with the GRO but then the service is free.

First go to gro.gov.uk then click

Order Certificates Online. (Even if you are just looking) next click

Order Certificates Online and search the GRO historic birth and death indexes.

Once you have logged in, click on



Search the GRO Indexes

Search registration indexes to find a GRO Reference, this will help locate the correct entry and get your order sooner.

Births

Until now, for a birth, the mother's maiden name was only available after 1911. Now, using the GRO, it is searchable up to 1915.

You can search for a birth but you must know the surname, gender and approximate year.

Results:

Name:

Mother's Maiden
Surname:

THORNTON, RIDDIOUGH

LEACH

GRO Reference: 1881 S Quarter in KEIGHLEY Volume 09A Page 181

Order

It has allowed me to find out which children relate to which wife and then find the death of a first spouse and marriage to a second. Very helpful as Mr Riley managed to marry two Sarah's which confused me on the census. It also explains why the ages of the children covered such a wide range.

Deaths

Results:

Name:

Age at Death (in years):

DRUDY, MICHAEL

68

GRO Reference: 1915 D Quarter in BARNSELY Volume 09C Page 332

Order

For deaths you need the same information and it will give an age at death on all searchable records to 1957.

I have done quite a bit of tidying up and finishing off people in the tree with this facility. In fact, I spent an awfully long time doing just that - good job the winter nights are long and not too much gardening needs doing (or housework, come to that).