



Nottinghamshire
County Council

Nottinghamshire Archives

Registration Records Parish and Non-Conformist Registers

Parish registers and Non-Conformist records are a major source of information about individuals before the advent of civil registration in 1837. Parish registers for the Church of England record details of baptisms, marriages and burials that took place in a particular geographical area. Some registers also include banns of marriages. The Church of England began keeping records of baptisms, marriages and burials in 1538 but few survive from that date.

Not all parish registers are complete. There are often gaps as a result of inefficient recordings, accidental loss, physical decay or political upheavals during the Civil War and Commonwealth period 1649-1660. Some small areas were not considered to be part of a parish and were known as “extra-parochial” places. People living in those areas usually attended the nearest church.

Until 1752 the start of the year began on 25 March and ended on 24 March according to the Julian calendar. From 1752 the Gregorian calendar was used and the year began on 1st January and ended on 31st December as it does today. Therefore in 1751 the new year began on March 25th and ended on December 31st 1751.

All the deposited registers for the Church of England parishes in Nottinghamshire have been microfiched up to 1950. Nottinghamshire Archives holds the records of the Diocese of Southwell & Nottingham. The Diocese covers the whole of Nottinghamshire, the City of Nottingham and a few parishes in South Yorkshire.

The registers are not indexed by surname but the fiche copies have contents lists which will help you to locate the relevant fiche you need for the particular event and date.

Non-conformist registers consist of mainly Protestant Churches and include Baptists, Methodists and Quakers. A selection of pre 1837 records are available on microfiche. For later records please consult the catalogues. A small collection of Catholic registers are also available on microfiche.

Information in Parish Registers

The information recorded and the layout of parish registers varies throughout the years. In some early registers, baptisms, marriages and burials are all entered on the same page in chronological order.

Baptisms

Before 1813 only brief details are given on baptism entries – date of baptism, child’s name and parent’s name. However, sometimes only the father’s name is given.



In 1812 a standard form was introduced to record the date of baptism, child's Christian name, surname, parent's Christian names, address, occupation of father and the name of the person conducting the ceremony.

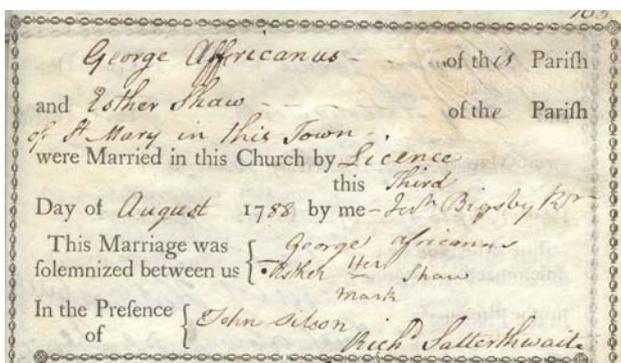
If the father's name is missing, the child is probably illegitimate. Some registers may note "base born" against such entries.

Some entries may have the letter "P" against them to denote that the child was baptised privately, probably at home soon after birth. This sometimes happened if the child was not expected to survive.

Marriages

Before 1754 early registers recorded only the date of marriage and the names of the bride and groom.

Following the Hardwicke Act (1753) new legislation stated that from 1754 banns were to be read publicly on three separate Sundays. It was also possible to be married by licence in a different parish church from that of residence. From 1754 a pre-printed marriage register was used and recorded the parish of residence, sometimes age and status (spinster, bachelor, widow etc), whether by licence or banns, and the signatures or mark of the bride, groom and two witnesses. Jews and Quakers were exempt from the Hardwicke Act but non-conformists were required to marry in a Church of England church.



From 1837 when Civil Registration was introduced it was possible to marry in a Register Office, Non-conformist chapel or Catholic Church if the premises were licensed for marriages.

The information recorded from 1837 includes the address of the bride and groom and the names and occupations of their fathers.

Full age is 21. Until 1929 girls could marry at 12 and boys at 14. Witnesses were not always family members or friends, often they were churchwardens.

Burials

Burial details before 1813 are often very brief and usually only record the date of burial and the name of the person buried. After 1813 additional information is recorded and includes the address or parish, age at death and the officiating clergy.

BURIALS in the Parish of <u>Sturton</u> in the County of <u>Nottingham</u> in the Year 18 <u>44</u>				
Name.	Abode.	When buried.	Age.	By whom the Ceremony was performed.
<u>Henry Blandell</u>	<u>Sturton</u>	<u>May 17</u>	<u>44</u>	<u>W. H. G. G. G.</u>
No. 969.				<u>Presb. Curate</u>
<u>Ann Raddy</u>	<u>Sturton</u>	<u>May 17</u>	<u>44</u>	<u>W. H. G. G. G.</u>
No. 970.				<u>Presb. Curate</u>

Bishops' Transcripts

These are copies of the parish registers. The clergy were required to send in a copy of the entries for the previous year to the Bishop of the Diocese. They may not be an exact copy but can be useful when a register is missing or there are gaps or difficulties in reading some parts. The Bishops' Transcripts are available on microfiche and microfilm.

Finding Aids to Parish Registers

The following indexes are available –

- Nottinghamshire Parish and Denominational Registers: A Finding List for Family Historians
- Phillimore's Nottinghamshire Parish Records. Transcripts of marriages covering many parishes up to 1812.
- Nottinghamshire Family History Society Indexes to Marriages

- Nottinghamshire Family History Society CDs of Baptisms, Marriages and Burials.
- Miscellaneous transcripts and indexes produced by volunteers and visitors to Nottinghamshire Archives
- The International Genealogical Index

www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content

Copies of the GRO indexes are available online at www.findmypast.com

Transcripts of the indexes are available online at www.freebmd.org.uk

This is not a complete record

The International Genealogical Index (IGI)

The IGI is produced by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints and contains baptism and marriages entries and a few burials taken from parish registers, Bishops' Transcripts and personal submission. It is arranged by County and within each county by surname. It does not cover every parish and contains some errors. Some records include estimated dates of birth eg. about 1824 and assumed places of birth eg. of Mansfield. Nottinghamshire entries have been compiled from the bishops' transcripts rather than the original parish registers. The IGI can also be consulted online. www.familysearch.org.uk

Civil Registration

The system of registering births, marriages and deaths for statutory purposes started in 1837. The country was divided into registration districts.

The General Register Office Indexes (GRO) of Births, Marriages and Deaths 1837-1965 is available on microfiche at Nottinghamshire Archives. The index is split into March, June, September and December quarters and shows when the event was registered not the actual date of a birth, marriage or death.

Births must be registered within six weeks and so may be registered in the following quarter after their birth. From September 1911 birth indexes show the mother's maiden name. From March 1912 the marriage index shows the name of one spouse and the surname of the other together. From March 1866 the death indexes show the date of death.

Copies of certificates can be ordered from the appropriate register office or from The General Register Office, PO Box 2, Merseyside, Southport. PR8 2JD