

Before the introduction of Civil Registration, life events were recorded only by secular authority. In the 1800's parliament saw a growing need related to national defence, schooling, taxation and voting for accurate records. The Civil Registration Act was one of those laws introduced. Scotland commenced 1855

- 1837** Civil Registration begins in **England and Wales** July 1st after the Act was passed the previous year.
- 1866** The age at death is recorded in the Death indexes.
- 1875** The Births & Deaths Act 1874 made Registration compulsory, previously it had not been. Fines introduced for late Registration (aft 42 days). Other rules come into play regarding notifications of illegitimate children, the father must be present at the time. Medical Certificates of death cause required, time frame for Registration of Deaths reduced from 8 days to 5.
- 1898** Registrars had been required to be in attendance at marriages in Non-Con and Catholic churches, the act was amended to allow appointment of an "Authorised Person" instead.
- 1907** Deceased Wife's Sister Marriage Act permits a man to marry the sister of his now dead wife
- 1911** Sept 11th, the mother's maiden name is recorded in the Birth Indexes.
- 1912** The Marriage Index gives the maiden name of the bride alongside that of the groom, and vice versa.
- 1921** Deceased Brothers Widow Marriage Act permits a widow to marry her dead husband's brother.
- 1927** Adoption as a legal process begins in England and Wales. Registers of Adopted Children commences January 1st. Illegitimates can be legitimised upon the subsequent marriage of the parents. Registrars Certificate alternatively Coroners Order required prior to disposal (burial or cremation) of remains.
- 1929** The age for anyone to marry is raised to 16 years. Previously girls could marry at the age of 12 and boys at the age of 14. Parental consent is required for anyone under the age of 21 years.
- 1931** Marriage permitted between uncle and niece or aunt and nephew.
- 1947** The short birth certificate is introduced.
- 1949** Register of Births and Deaths on Aircraft. The aircraft must have a U.K Registration at the time of the event taking place.
- 1969** The age of majority is reduced from 21 to 18 years. Parental consent requirement is also reduced to 18 years. From June 1/4 , Death Index now gives the date of birth oof the deceased, age at death no longer recorded. Certs for Birth & Death changed from landscape to portrait view.
- 1975** Childrens Act – Adopted persons over the age of 18 can see original records pertinent to themselves. There are formal procedures laid down by the Act, records can only be obtained from the Registrar general, using Social Services and/or Adoption Agencies
- 1984** Indexes now compiled annually, previously quarterly.

This and other useful record sheets, guidance notes and charts can be downloaded from the members section of the Midland Ancestors website www.midland-ancestors.uk