

**Index to the International  
Genealogical Index on  
Microfiche  
at the Hive**

**Worcestershire Archive & Archaeology Service  
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## **Introduction**

### **History of the International Genealogical Index**

The International Genealogical Index, or IGI as it is known, is published by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, which was founded in nineteenth century America. The IGI contains about 187 million names of deceased people from around the world. Members of the church of the Latter-day Saints, also known as Mormons, are actively involved in family history work, which they do in order to identify their ancestors. According to church teachings, members of the Church of Latter-day Saints have an obligation to deceased ancestors, who did not have the gospel of Jesus Christ in their life on earth, and to this end, family names are submitted for temple ordinance work. Copies of the index can be found in the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, and in family history centres and record offices throughout the world. The IGI lists birth, christening and marriage information most of which was taken from church records from the early 1500s to 1875. However, the names are not limited to church members or their ancestors.

Individuals listed in the index are not joined in family groups or pedigrees, but you may find individuals listed in this way in Ancestral File on [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org) .

## **Information Provided by the IGI**

The IGI gives you the following information:-

- Name and sex of the individual.
- The country, county, town and parish.
- The type of event ie. birth, baptism or marriage.
- The date of the event.
- The name of parents, spouse or relative.
- Source number to be used when searching for source of the information.

## **Limitations of the IGI**

- The index is incomplete. The 1992 edition contains millions of records that are incomplete, meaning that they are missing part of the name
- The information is not from an original source.
- Information is limited to records of deceased persons.
- The index may not give all names recorded for a person. For instance – a child might have been christened John Albert Ernest Bolton, but might have been known all his life as Ernest. You might therefore, not recognize his entry, if it is 'Bolton, John Albert'.
- Children of nobility may be listed under their titles instead of their family names. For example, John, son of the Earl of Salisbury, may appear under Salisbury instead of the family name 'Cecil'.
- Names in the index were extracted by people with widely varying skills. Occasionally surnames have been incorrectly interpreted or transcribed and may appear in unexpected places on the microfiche.

- Marriage dates can be inaccurate as they are estimated and assume that a man was age 25 and a woman age 21 at the time of marriage.

Your ancestor's name might not be in the index because:-

- His or her records have not been extracted or submitted, so you will need to search other sources.
- The Family History Department of the Latter-day Saints may not yet have indexed the records for the place and time period in which the individual lived.
- The records for that place may have been indexed after the 1992 edition of the index was published.

## **Ways of Using the IGI Index**

You can use the index to:-

- Find birth, christening and marriage information
- Identify possible family connections to extend your pedigree.
- Determine if Latter-day Saint temple ordinances have been performed for an ancestor.

## **Location of the IGI Index**

The 1992 edition of the IGI can be viewed at the History Centre on microfiche, using a microfiche reader.

Alternatively it can be searched online at

[www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org).

## How to Use the Fiche

Before you begin, you need to know the name of the ancestor you are looking for and the place where he or she was born or married. A person may be listed twice in the index – once for a birth and again for a marriage.

- The IGI index is divided into geographic regions such as the United States or England, and subdivided into states and counties such as New York or Worcester.
- The index is arranged by the place of birth, christening or marriage, and then alphabetically by name.
- Names are listed alphabetically by surname, then by the first name, and then chronologically by event date.
- The Name Column lists an individual by surname and any given names. A female is usually listed by her maiden surname.
- The Father/Mother/Spouse /Relative Column lists one or both parents for birth or christening entries. When parents are listed, a slash (/) appears after the father's name. Marriage entries list the name of the spouse.
- Type of Event Column - these are the codes for the types of events:-

A Adult Christening

B Birth

C Christening

D Death or Burial

F Birth or christening of first known child

M Marriage

N Census

S Miscellaneous

W Will or probate

- Sex Column - the 'Sex' codes are as follows:-

F Female

H Husband

M Male

W Wife

- Source Column tells you the origins of the information.

## Using the IGI Index

Step 1 Find the correct microfiche by selecting the correct Country and County, printed at the top of the microfiche.

Step 2 Find the surname, printed on the left hand side of the microfiche in the Name column.

Step 3 Next, look for the correct first name which will be printed next to the surname. The names of the father, mother, spouse or relative will be printed next to these names.

Step 4 The next column will tell you whether the person is male or female.

Step 5 Look for the code in the Type column to see the kind of event which took place ie. baptism, christening or marriage. The code letters are displayed at the bottom of the microfiche with their corresponding meanings.

Step 6 Look in the Event Date column to find the date that the event took place.

Step 7 The next column shows the Town and Parish where the event took place.

Step 8 If you wish to find the source of the information, you will find this in the columns in the right hand side of the microfiche.

## Looking at a Sample Microfiche from the IGI Index

Using this copy of an IGI microfiche, we can, as an example, search for details of the famous composer, Edward William Elgar, who was born June 2 1857 at Broadheath, a village near Worcester in the county of Worcestershire.

Step 1 The microfiche has the names of the Country and County printed at the top – in this case, ENGLAND and WORCESTER.

Step 2 The Surname column on the left hand side, shows the name ELFT printed in the top left corner and this means that this is the first name on the microfiche. The bottom name is ELGOOD, so as the names are listed alphabetically, ELGAR must be somewhere in between. Here you can see that there are several entries for the name ELGAR.

Step 3 Next to the surname column are the first and middle names. Here you will see the name EDWARD WILLIAM with parents named WILLIAM HENRY ELGAR and ANN GREENING. This confirms that it is the person that we are searching for.

Step 4 The Sex column states the letter M for male.

Step 5 The Type column shows the letter B for Birth.

Step 6 The Event Date column shows that the birth took place on June 2 1857.

Step 7 The Town, Parish column shows that the birth occurred at BROADHEATH, by WORCESTER.



## Using the Family Search Website

At present, there are two alternative websites that you can use via [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org). The newest site is the one which you will go to automatically, and has various sources, including the International Genealogical Index, combined in a very simple way. If you choose to, you can opt to go to the original site by clicking on 'Go to Previous Site'.

### Using the New Site

- To search for an ancestor, enter first and last name.
- Next, click on any of the following:-  
Any/Birth/Marriage/Residence/Death
- Click on Search button to find any entries for this name.

### Using the Original Site

- Click on Search Records.
- Click on Advanced Search from the drop-down menu.
- Click on International Genealogical Index from the list at the side.
- Enter first and last name of ancestor.
- Choose an event from the following in the Event drop-down menu :-

All, Birth/Christening, Marriage, Death/Burial ,Other.

- Now type in a year and year range.
- Next click on Region, and choose whichever one you require.
- Click on Country and choose a country.
- Click on County and choose the one you require.
- Finally, click on the Search button.

