

Progress Report

Its three months since the last newsletter and time for a progress report. We continue to achieve a great deal and all your good work is still accumulating. Let's look at each area in turn.

Births

We now have all births to 1959 complete and published on the web site. All have Mother's Maiden Names or (none) if there is not one in the register. Births are now 65% complete, the other 35% being the remainder between 1960 and 2006. The final stage one indexes are now being sent out to stage one volunteers, and we will start stage two work on them on Friday 4th August 2006. We may be able to get the final births all done and issued early in 2007. Births are the largest of the three categories, and are also probably the most useful to genealogy, so it will be a great asset.

Marriages

We have recently published another 1,500 marriages being those in registers that recently became complete, or were handed in by churches. Following requests to other churches to hand in full registers, we now have another 850 marriages ready for publication. One of the registers handed in goes back to 1890, so if you couldn't find a marriage you thought might be there, then it may be when we get these next 850 marriages on line. That will again make our marriage file complete, that is, all marriage registers held by Bath Register Office are indexed and on the BathBMD web site.

Deaths

We started sending out death stage one index files at the beginning of this year, and so far, volunteers have done over 400 of them. That is about 15 indexes a week, or over 1,000 names a day. Of those, 150 have been fully processed and ready for publication, and that amounts to 75,000 entries. It will make deaths complete from 1837 to about 1875. These will appear on the web site in late August hopefully. At the moment, deaths are about 20% complete, but the stage one death work is well over half done.

The Future Work Plan

As stated, stage one volunteers have been doing death indexes since January, and have got over 400 of them done. The second stage of doing these (stage 2) has done 150 of them so far, so there is a good head of steam worked up. But instead of pressing ahead with these, we are going to divert back to Births for stage two work from the beginning of August as that is the Register Offices quiet time of the year for Birth Certificate requests. It means we can have access to the registers without too much impact on the Register Offices normal day to day work. But to do this, it meant that we had to divert stage one volunteers back to Births so that the stage two workers had files to work with! That's why all new indexes sent out in July were birth indexes. So, if we present all this graphically, we come up with something shown in the diagram below. I am hoping that all the Birth stage one work can be done by about the end of September. Later birth registers are smaller in size from about 1974, being 200 or 300 entries instead of the more normal 500 we have had up to this point. So while we have a large number of registers to do, we should be able to rattle through them a lot faster.

The Register Office has stated that the quiet period for Births is August to December inclusive, so I am further hoping that we can complete the Births task in total by the end of December. A few volunteers have said that they want to ease up over the hot summer months, so maybe this goal will be achievable if the normal cold, damp and miserable British weather returns as it normally does! As most of the death

indexes are done (and the ones not done are again smaller in size), then we may just be able to get all stage one work done by the end of 2006.

The dotted lines in the diagram below are therefore variable, and may move out if we get a long hot summer into the autumn! Heads we win, tails we don't lose. Either the weather is good, or BathBMD makes faster progress!

BathBMD's Final Work Plan

	2006						2007											
	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Stage 1	Births			Deaths			<< Task Finishes about December 2006 for Stage One volunteers											
Stage 2	Dths	Births				Deaths												
Info to web site		Deaths to abt 1875 - mid Aug	Births to 1980 - mid October.	Final Births - mid January.	Publication of Deaths will then continue to completion.													

I will keep you informed on how we are doing, and will probably use the diagram here again in future newsletters to do this. Data publication dates will have to remain vague as there are so many things that can delay them. Ultimately, we are still on course to finish everything by the end of 2007.

Volunteer Base

The prompt on the front page of the web site continues to provide a steady stream of new volunteers for Stage One work. Being in America or Australia is no penalty (can I say that word after the World Cup fiasco??!!) and we have volunteers in both these places. We now have 38 volunteers doing stage one work, and a further 8 doing stage 2. If you are a stage one volunteer and have not received any indexes for a while, then it might be that I am still waiting for your last index to be returned. Some files have got lost in the ether recently, so if anyone has no files in hand, please let me know and I will see what has gone wrong for you. But we have certainly not finished yet as one or two volunteers had mistakenly thought! All active volunteers should have work in hand.

Country Wide Search Facility

Ian Hartas has now perfected and released the new Country wide search facility. This means that you can search ALL eight counties that use the Cheshire software in one go, and this includes BathBMD. (The others are Cheshire, Lancashire, North Wales, West Midlands, Wiltshire, Staffordshire and Yorkshire.) Go to <http://www.ukbmdsearch.org.uk/> but you are requested to do this ONLY if you need the wider search. Obviously all searches from the country wide search facility place a load on each counties system, so if you know that your ancestors came from a specific county, you should still go to the web site for that county as you did before. None-the-less, it is a great facility which may one day surpass FreeBMD. Remember that local BMD sites (and certificates bought from local Register Offices) are cheaper, supplied faster, and the sites are more accurate than the national alternative. Always use Local BMD when you can.

John Fairlie.

Thank You for Helping and Supporting BathBMD