

Registration and Census Districts
1946-1965

Published by The Institute of Heraldic and Genealogical Studies
Northgate, Canterbury, Kent
© 1999

In 1831 England and Wales were divided into registration districts, which formed the divisions upon which the schemes of general registration and census enumeration were based. From 1837, when the general registration of births, marriages and deaths was introduced, each district was allotted a numeral. Until 1851 Roman numerals were used; in 1851 the boundaries of the districts were redrawn, and they were renumbered using Arabic numerals. They remained unchanged until 1946 when a further reorganisation was undertaken and stayed in this form until 1965.

The three general registration maps provide a useful aid to name distribution surveys from G.R.O. indexes and for use with the census returns of 1841, 1851, 1861, 1871, 1881 and 1891.

In carrying out research in the period before general registration began, genealogists and demographers must have recourse to parochial records. A series of maps has been compiled by the Institute for each county, on which the ancient parochial boundaries are shown along with the dates of commencement of the registers and the probate jurisdiction of the ecclesiastical courts before the establishment of the Principle Probate Registry. All maps have been updated to 1995. An atlas containing all the parish maps for England, Wales and Scotland along with comparative topographical maps and an index to parishes and sources has been published. Individual maps and the atlas are available from the Institute.

The information from which these maps have been drawn was obtained from parochial incumbents, archivists, record offices and local experts. To these and all who have worked so generously to make this series of maps as useful and reliable as possible the Trustees of The Institute of Heraldic and Genealogical Studies are most grateful.

No map may be copied in part or whole without permission.

