

## **Marriage Licences**

To obtain a marriage licence from the Bishop of London or Archbishop of Canterbury's Faculty Office or Vicar General, the couple, or more usually the bridegroom, had to swear that there was no just cause or impediment why they should not marry. This was the marriage allegation. The bond was for a sum of money to be paid if it turned out that the marriage was contrary to Canon Law. The bishop kept the allegation and bond and issued the licence to the groom, who then gave it to the vicar of the church where they were to get married. There was no obligation for the vicar to keep the licence, and many were simply destroyed.

There is a useful booklet, *Bishops' Transcripts and Marriage Licences, Bonds and Allegations* by Jeremy Gibson, published by FFHS, 5th edition 2001.



The marriage of the Princess Royal with the Prince of Orange  
in the Chapel Royal, 14 March 1734

## **Allegations and Bonds for Licences**

There are no original Allegations and Bonds for marriage licences held at City of Westminster Archives Centre. For those issued by the Bishop of London, contact:

The Guildhall Library  
Aldermanbury  
London EC2P 2EJ  
Tel: 020-7332 1863 / 1862 (manuscripts)  
Web: [www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/guildhalllibrary](http://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/guildhalllibrary)  
E-mail: [manuscripts.guildhall@corpoflondon.gov.uk](mailto:manuscripts.guildhall@corpoflondon.gov.uk)

For allegations and bonds issued by the Archbishop of Canterbury, contact:

Lambeth Palace Library  
London SE1 7JU  
Tel: 020-7898 1400  
Fax: 020-7928 7932  
Web: [www.lambethpalacelibrary.org](http://www.lambethpalacelibrary.org)

### Marriage Licences held at Westminster City Archives

<u>Parish</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Location</u>
<b>Grosvenor Chapel</b>		
Special marriage licences, 1970-1986	Acc 2421/1/1	Archive store
<b>St Anne, Soho</b>		
Marriage Licences, 1794-1795	A2347/1-9	M/f box 149
Special marriage licences, 1794-1798	A2348/1-15	M/f box 149
<b>St George, Hanover Square</b>		
2 Marriage licences, 1841-1842	Acc 347	Archive store
Collection of marriage licences, chiefly granted by the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Bishop of London, for:		
St George-in-the-East, 1796-1850	Acc 2256/1-3	On microfilm, after the Wills registers
St Paul, Herne Hill, 1852-1897	Acc 2256/4	
St George, Hanover Square, 1867-1973	Acc 2256/5-6	
Index to the above registers, 1796-1879	Acc 2256/7	On microfilm, after the Wills registers
<b>St James, Paddington</b>		
See St Peter, Eaton Square		
<b>St John, Wilton Road, Pimlico</b>		
See St Peter, Eaton Square		
<b>St Martin-in-the-Fields</b>		
Marriage licences, 1860-1861, in <i>Munimenta Antiqua</i>	Acc 978	Archive store
<b>St Mary le Strand</b>		
Marriage licences, 1761-66	Acc 452/2/1-7	Archive store
Special marriage licences, 1761-66	Acc 452/3/1-9	Archive store
Special licences from the Archbishop of Canterbury, 1956-1985	Acc 2364/1/1/2/1-7	Archive store

### Marriage Licences held at Westminster City Archives (continued)

<u>Parish</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Location</u>
<b>St Mary's Lutheran Church of the Savoy</b>		
2 marriage licences, 1747 & 1749	Acc 90/22	Archive store
<b>St Matthew, Great Peter Street</b>		
Marriage licences, 1933-1944	Acc 448/1	Archive store
<b>St Paul, Covent Garden</b>		
Marriage licences, 1917-1934 (also certificates of banns)	Acc 426/Box 1	Archive store
<b>St Peter, Eaton Square</b>		
Marriage licences, 1766-1891, in <i>Munimenta Antiqua</i> . Of the 75 licences, 18 are for unspecified churches, and there is 1 each for St James, Paddington; St John, Wilton Road, Pimlico; St John, Putney and St Luke, Chelsea. <i>Names are included in the Deeds Index.</i>	Acc 142/1-75	On microfilm, after the Wills registers
<b>Westminster Abbey, Dean and Chapter of Westminster</b>		
Westminster Abbey is a Royal Peculiar, with its own jurisdiction including the Precincts of the Abbey and St Margaret Westminster (and St John the Evangelist), part of St Martin-in-the-Fields and Paddington; also over areas outside the City of Westminster which were formerly lands of Westminster Abbey. These included parishes in the City of London and in Essex. See section 14 of the <i>Guide to Westminster City Archives</i> .		
Fee book (includes marriage licences), 1772-1804	Acc 1284/1	On microfilm, after the Wills registers
Cash book (includes income from licences), 1784-1797	Acc 1284/2	On microfilm, after the Wills registers
<b>Wills Calendar</b>		
Act Book 1 of the main Wills accession contains some 200 marriage licences, in Latin, amongst the probate grants, 1566-1589/90	Acc 120/ Act Book 1	On microfilm, with the Wills registers
<b>Deposited Archives</b>		
Marriage licence of John Baring and Amelia Porcher, 1842 (private family papers)	Acc 832	Archive store

## Published Volumes

### British Records Society

A Calendar of the Marriage Licence Allegations in the Registry of the Bishop of London:

1594-1648, BRS volume 62

1660-1700, BRS volume 66



“St George, Hanover Square: Celebration of a noble marriage”  
Print (c1840) by Thomas H Shepherd

### Harleian Society Publications

Allegations for Marriage Licences issued by the Vicar General of the Archbishop of Canterbury:

1543-1869, volume 24 (at London)

1660-1679, volume 23 (with Westminster)

1660-1668, volume 33

1669-1679, volume 34

1679-1687, volume 30

1687-1694, volume 31

Allegations for Marriage Licences issued by the Dean and Chapter of Westminster:

1588-1699, volume 23 (with Canterbury)

Allegations for Marriage Licences issued by the Bishop of London:

1520-1610, volume 25

1611-1828, volume 26