Westminster City Archives

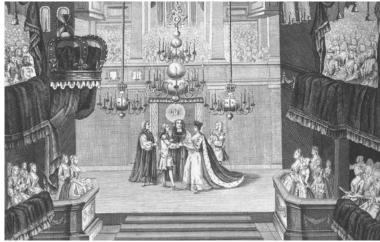




Marriage Licences

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
E-mail: 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

City of Westminster Archives Centre

10 St Ann's Street, London SW1P 2DE Tel: 020-7641 5180, fax: 020-7641 5179 E-mail: archives@westminster.gov.uk/Website: www.westminster.gov.uk/archives

Marriage Licences held at Westminster City Archives

<u>Parish</u>	Reference	<u>Location</u>
Grosvenor Chapel		
Special marriage licences, 1970-1986	Acc 2421/1/1	Archive store
St Anne, Soho		
Marriage Licences, 1794-1795	A2347/1-9	M/f box 149
Special marriage licences, 1794-1798	A2348/1-15	M/f box 149
St George, Hanover Square		
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 St Paul, Herne Hill, 1852-1897 St George, Hanover Square, 1867-1973	Acc 2256/1-3 Acc 2256/4 Acc 2256/5-6	On microfilm, after the Wills registers
Index to the above registers, 1796-1879	Acc 2256/7	On microfilm, after the Wills registers
St James, Paddington See St Peter, Eaton Square		
St John, Wilton Road, Pimlico See St Peter, Eaton Square		
St Martin-in-the-Fields		
Marriage licences, 1860-1861, in Munimenta Antiqua	Acc 978	Archive store
St Mary le Strand		
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>	Location
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St Mary's Lutheran Church of the Savoy

2 marriage licences, 1747 & 1749 Acc 90/22 Archive store

St Matthew, Great Peter Street

Marriage licences, 1933-1944 Acc 448/1 Archive store

St Paul, Covent Garden

Marriage licences, 1917-1934 Acc 426/Box 1 Archive store (also certificates of banns)

St Peter, Eaton Square

Marriage licences, 1766-1891, in *Munimenta Antiqua*. Acc 142/1-75 On microfilm, after 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.

Westminster Abbey, Dean and Chapter of Westminster

Names are included in the Deeds Index.

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 *Guide to Westminster City Archives*.

Fee book (includes marriage licences), 1772-1804	Acc 1284/1	On microfilm, after
Cash book (includes income from licences), 1784-1797	Acc 1284/2	the Wills registers On microfilm, after
		the Wills registers

Wills Calendar

Act Book 1 of the main Wills accession contains some Acc 120/ On microfilm, with 200 marriage licences, in Latin, amongst the probate grants, Act Book 1 the Wills registers 1566-1589/90

Deposited Archives

Marriage licence of John Baring and Amelia Porcher, 1842 Acc 832 Archive store (private family papers)

E-mail: archives@westminster.gov.uk Website: <u>www.westminster.gov.uk/archives</u>

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

Website: www.westminster.gov.uk/archives