

**Marriage Bonds and
Allegations on
Microfilm at The Hive**

Worcestershire Archive and Archaeology Service

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Marriage Licence, Bonds and Allegations

A marriage by license enabled a couple to get married without the necessity for banns to be called, upon payment of a fee. It consisted of three parts the licence itself, the allegation and the bond.

The Licence was the official document issued to the groom who would present it to the officiating minister as proof that they could be married.

The allegation was a statement made by the parties concerned, usually the groom, affirming their intention to marry and that they knew of no just cause or impediment preventing the marriage.

The bond consisted of assurances by two bondsmen often the groom and a friend or relative of the groom. It confirmed the allegation and set a monetary fine should the marriage prove to be contrary to Canon Law. In addition the Bonds usually specify where the marriage was to take place.

Both the bond and allegation were kept by the Diocesan registry and as such are more likely to survive. The Licence on the other hand was given to the groom to present to the officiating minister and as there was no obligation for the officiating minister to keep the licence they rarely survive.

There are various reasons as to why a couple may purchase a marriage license including the following:

- If both parties wished to marry away from their usual place of residence.
- Speed- as it eliminated the need for the couple to wait for 3 consecutive Sundays for the banns to be called.

- As a status symbol – the Gentry favoured marriage by licence as it was performed in private and no banns were read.

Using This Handlist

The marriage bonds and allegations are arranged by year and then by month, although a few of the earlier ones are arranged by year and then by serial number.

If the date of the marriage bond and allegation is unknown a search needs to be made in the marriage licence registers first around the date of the marriage entry. The entry will give the date the marriage bond and allegation were entered into. Please note that the bond and allegation may have been entered into several months (they were valid for 3 months) before the marriage took place. The marriage licence registers are available on microfilm in the Self-Service Area of The Hive.

Some of the marriage licence registers have been indexed and these are available online through our website.

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Marriage Licence Registers ¹

Start Date	End Date	Film Number
1553	1645	1
1645	1660 ²	1
1660	1663	1
1664	1673	1
1673	1676	1
1676	1682	1
1682	1686	1
1686	1691	2
1691	1700	2
1700	1707	2
1707	1714	2
1714	1720	2
1720	1752	3
1753	1786	3
1787	1820	3
1821	1822	3
1822	1823 ³	Originals only
1823	1852	3
1853	1871	3
1871	1916	4
1917	1957	4

Marriage Bonds and Allegations

Year	Document Number	Film Number
1553 - 1603	1 - 141	5
1603 - 1645	142 - 352	5
16th & 17th cent	1a - 21a	5
1660 - 1662 ⁴	357 - 694	5
1662 - 1663 ⁴	695 - 1173	5
1664 - 1666	1183 - 1939	5
1666 - 1667	1940 - 2200	5
1667 - 1668	2201 - 2500	7
1668 - 1669	2502 - 2699	5
1668 - 1669	2700 - 2755	6
1669 - 1670	2756 - 3009	6
1670	3011 - 3313	6
1671	3315 - 3541	6
1671 - 1672	3542 - 3798	6
1671 - 1673	3799 - 3959	6
1671 - 1673	3966 - 4062E	6
1672 - 1673	4063 - 4301	6
1672 - 1673	1 - 266	6
1675 - [1676]	267 - 544	6
1676	546 - 753	7
1676 - 1677	754 - 988	7
1677	989 - 1140	7
1678	1141 - 1462	7
1679	1463 - 1754	7
1680	1756 - 2097	7
1681 - 1682	2098 - 2515	7

Year	Covering months	Film number
1682	Jan - Dec	8
1683	Jan - Dec	8
1684	Jan - Dec	8
1685	Jan - Jun	8
1685	Jul - Dec	8
1686	Jan - Jun	8
1686	Jul - Dec	8
1687	Jan - Jun	8
1687	Jul - Dec	9
1688	Jan - Jun	9
1688	Jul - Dec	9
1689	Jan - Jun	9
1689	Jul - Dec	9
1690	Jan - Jun	9
1690	Jul - Dec	9
1691	Jan - Jun	9
1691	Jul - Dec	9
1692	Jan - Jun	9
1692	Jul - Sept	9
1692	Oct - Dec	10
1693	Jan - Jun	10
1693	Jul - Dec	10
1694	Jan - Jun	10
1694	Jul - Dec	10
1695	Jan - Jun	10
1695	Jul - Dec	10
1696	Jan - Jun	10
1696	Jul - Oct	10
1696	Nov - Dec	11
1697	Jan - Jun	11
1697	Jul - Dec	11
1698	Jan - Jun	11
1698	Jul - Dec	11
1699	Jan - Jun	11
1699	Jul - Dec	11
1700	Jan - Mar	11

Year	Covering months	Film Number
1700	Apr - Jun	12
1700	Jul - Dec	12
1701	Jan - Jun	12
1701	Jul - Dec	12
1702	Jan - Jun	12
1702	Jul - Dec	12
1703	Jan - Jun	13
1703	Jul - Dec	13
1703	Misc	13
1704	Jan - Jun	13
1704	Jul - Dec	13
1705	Jan - Jun	13
1705	Jul - Nov	13
1705	Dec	14
1706	Jan - Jun	14
1706	Jul - Dec	14
1707	Jan - Jun	14
1707	Jul - Dec	14
1708	Jan - Jun	14
1708	Jul - Dec	14
1709	Jan - Feb	14
1709	Mar - Jun	15
1709	Jul - Dec	15
1710	Jan - Jun	15
1710	Jul - Dec	15
1711	Jan - Jun	15
1711	Jul - Dec	15
1712	Jan - Jun	15
1712	Jul - Dec	16
1713	Jan - Jun	16
1713	Jul - Dec	16
1714	Jan - Jun	16
1714	Jul - Dec	16
1715	Jan - Jun	16
1715	Jul - Oct	16
1715	Nov - Dec	17
1716	Jan - Jun	17
1716	Jul - Dec	17
1717	Jan - Jun	17

Year	Covering months	Film number
1717	Jul - Dec	17
1718	Jan - Jun	17
1718	Jul - Aug	17
1718	Sep - Dec	18
1719	Jan - Jun	18
1719	Jul - Dec	18
1720	Jan - Jun	18
1720	Jul - Dec	18
1721	Jan - Jun	18
1721	Jul - Dec	19
1722	Jan - Jun	19
1722	Jul - Dec	19
1723	Jan - Mar	19
1723	Apr - Jun	20
1723	Jul - Dec	20
1724	Jan - Jun	20
1724	Jul - Dec	20
1725	Jan - 8 Apr	20
1725	8 Apr - Jun	21
1725	Jul - Dec	21
1726	Jan - Jun	21
1726	Jul - Dec	21
1727	Jan - Jun	22
1727	Jul - Dec	22
1728	Jan - Jun	22
1728	Jul - Nov	22
1728	Dec	23
1729	Jan - Jun	23
1729	Jul - Dec	23
1730	Jan - 13 may	23
1730	13 may - Aug	24
1730	Sep - Dec	24
1731	Jan - Apr	24
1731	May - Aug	24
1731	Sep	24
1731	Oct - Dec	25
1732	Jan - Jun	25
1732	Jul - Dec	25
1733	Jan - Mar	25

Year	Covering months	Film number
1733	Apr - Jun	26
1733	Jul - Dec	26
1734	Jan - Jun	26
1734	Jul - Nov	26
1734	Dec	27
1735	Jan - Jun	27
1735	Jul - Dec	27
1736	Jan - Jun	27
1736	Jul - Oct	27
1736	Nov - Dec	28
1737	Jan - Jun	28
1737	Jul - Dec	28
1738	Jan - Jun	28
1738	Jul - Oct	28
1738	Nov - Dec	29
1739	Jan - Jun	29
1739	Jul - Dec	29
1740	Jan - Jun	29
1740	Jul	29
1740	Aug - Dec	30
1741	Jan - Jun	30
1741	Jul - Dec	30
1742	Jan - Jun	30
1742	Jul - Sep	30
1742	Oct - Dec	31
1743	Jan - Jun	31
1743	Jul - Dec	31
1744	Jan - Jun	31
1744	Jul - Oct	31
1744	Nov - Dec	32
1745	Jan - Jun	32
1745	Jul - Dec	32
1746	Jan - Jun	32
1746	Jul - Sep	32
1746	Oct - Dec	33
1747	Jan - Jun	33
1747	Jul - Dec	33
1748	Jan - Jun	33
1748	Jul - Aug	33

Year	Covering Months	Film number
1748	Aug - Dec	34
1749	Jan - Jun	34
1749	Jul - Dec	34
1750	Jan - Jun	34
1750	Jul	34
1750	Aug - Dec	35
1751	Jan - Jun	35
1751	Jul - Dec	35
1752	Jan - Apr	35
1752	May - Jun	36
1752	Jul - Dec	36
1753	Jan - Jun	36
1753	Jul - Dec	36
1754	Jan	36
1754	Feb - Jun	37
1754	Jul - Dec	37
1755	Jan - Jun	37
1755	Jul - Dec	37
1756	Jan - Apr	37
1756	May - Jun	38
1756	Jul - Dec	38
1757	Jan - Jun	38
1757	Jul - Dec	38
1758	Jan - Jun	38
1758	Jul - Sep	38
1758	Oct - Dec	39
1759	Jan - Jun	39
1759	Jul - Dec	39
1760	Jan - Jun	39
1760	Jul - Oct	39
1760	Nov - Dec	40
1761	Jan - Jun	40
1761	Jul - Dec	40
1762	Jan - Jun	40
1762	Jul - Dec	40
1763	Jan	40 & 41
1763	Feb - Jun	41
1763	Jul - Dec	41
1764	Jan - Jun	41

Year	Covering Months	Film number
1764	Jul - Dec	41
1765	Jan - Jun	42
1765	Jul - Dec	42
1766	Jan - Jun	42
1766	Jul - Dec	42
1767	Jan - Mar	42
1767	Apr - Jun	43
1767	Jul - Dec	43
1768	Jan - Jun	43
1768	Jul - Dec	43
1769	Jan - Jun	43
1769	Jul - Sep	43
1769	Oct - Dec	44
1770	Jan - Jun	44
1770	Jul - Dec	45
1771	Jan - Jun	45
1771	Jul - Dec	45
1772	Jan - May	45
1772	Jun	46
1772	Jul - Dec	46
1773	Jan - Jun	46
1773	Jul - Dec	46
1774	Jan - Mar	46
1774	Apr - Jun	47
1774	Jul - Dec	47
1775	Jan - Jun	47
1775	Jul - Dec	47
1776	Jan	47
1776	Feb - Jun	48
1776	Jul - Dec	48
1777	Jan - Jun	48
1777	Jul - Dec (pt)	48
1777	Dec (pt)	49
1778	Jan - Jun	49
1778	Jul - Dec	49
1779	Jan - Jun	49
1779	Jul - Aug	49
1779	Sep - Dec	50
1780	Jan - Jun	50

Year	Covering Months	Film number
1780	Jul - Dec	50
1781	Jan - Jun	50
1781	Jul - Aug	50
1781	Sep - Dec	51
1782	Jan - Jun	51
1782	Jul - Dec	51
1783	Jan - Jun	51
1783	Jul - Oct	51
1783	Nov - Dec	52
1784	Jan - Jun	52
1784	Jul - Dec	52
1785	Jan - Jun	52
1785	Jul - Dec	52
1786	Jan	52
1786	Feb - Jun	53
1786	Jul - Dec	53
1787	Jan - Jun	53
1787	Jul - Dec	53
1788	Jan - Apr	54
1788	May - Jun	54
1788	Jul - Dec	54
1789	Jan - Jun	54
1789	Jul - Dec	54
1790	Jan - Jun	54
1790	Jul - Oct	54
1790	Nov - Dec	55
1791	Jan - Jun	55
1791	Jul - Dec	55
1792	Jan - Jun	55
1792	Jul - Dec	55
1793	Jan - Jun	56
1793	Jul - Dec	56
1794	Jan - Jun	56
1794	Jul - Nov	56
1794	Dec	57
1795	Jan - Jun	57
1795	Jul - Dec	57
1796	Jan - Jun	57
1796	Jul - Dec	57

Year	Covering Months	Film number
1797	Jan - Feb	57
1797	Mar - Jun	58
1797	Jul - Dec	58
1798	Jan - Jun	58
1798	Jul - Dec	58
1799	Jan - Jun	58
1799	Jul - Sep	58
1799	Oct - Dec	59
1800	Jan - Jun	59
1800	Jul - Dec	59
1801	Jan - Jun	59
1801	Jul - Dec	59
1802	Jan	59
1802	Feb - Jun	60
1802	Jul - Dec	60
1803	Jan - Jun	60
1803	Jul - Dec	60
1804	Jan - Mar	60
1804	Apr - Jun	61
1804	Jul - Dec	61
1805	Jan - Jun	61
1805	Jul - Dec	61
1806	Jan - Jun	61
1806	Jul	61
1806	Aug - Dec	62
1807	Jan - Jun	62
1807	Jul - Dec	62
1808	Jan - Jun	62
1808	Jul - Dec	62
1809	Jan - Jun	62
1809	Jul - Dec	62
1810	Jan - Mar	62
1810	Apr - Jun	63
1810	Jul - Dec	63
1811	Jan - Jun	63
1811	Jul - Dec	63
1812	Jan - Jun	63
1812	Jul - Dec	63
1813	Jan - Jun	63

Year	Covering Months	Film number
1813	Jul - Aug	63
1813	Sep - Dec	64
1814	Jan - Jun	64
1814	Jul - Dec	64
1815	Jan - Jun	64
1815	Jul - Dec	64
1816	Jan - Jun	64
1816	Jul - Dec	64
1817	Jan - Jun	64
1817	Jul - Dec	64
1818	Jan - Jun	65
1818	Jul - Dec	65
1819	Jan - Jun	65
1819	Jul - Dec	65
1820	Jan - Jun	65
1820	Jul - Dec	66
1821	Jan - Jun	66
1821	Jul - Dec	66
1822	Jan - Jun	66
1822	Jul - Dec	66
1823	Jan - Jun	66
1823	Jul - Dec	66
1824	Jan - Jun	66
1824	Jul - Oct	66
1824	Nov - Dec	67
1825	Jan - Jun	67
1825	Jul - Dec	67
1826	Jan - Jun	67
1826	Jul - Dec	67
1827	Jan - Jun	67
1827	Jul - Dec	67
1828	Jan - Jun	67
1828	Jul - Dec	67
1829	Jan - Jun	67
1829	Jul - Dec	67
1830	Jan - Jun	67
1830	Jul - Dec	67
1831	Jan - Jun	67
1831	Jul - Dec	67

Years	Covering Months	Film number
1832	Jan - Jun	67
1832	Jul - Dec	67
1833	Jan - Feb	67
1833	Mar - Jun	68
1833	Jul - Dec	68
1834	Jan - Jun	68
1834	Jul - Dec	68
1835	Jan - Jun	68
1835	Jul - Dec	68
1836	Jan - Jun	68
1836	Jul - Dec	68
1837	Jan - Jun	68
1837	Jul - Dec	68
1838	Jan - Jun	68
1838	Jul - Dec	68
1839	Jan - Jun	68
1839	Jul - Dec	68
1840	Jan - Jun	68
1840	Jul - Dec	68
1841	Jan - Jun	68
1841	Jul - Dec	68
1842	Jan - Apr	68
1842	May - Jun	69
1842	Jul - Dec	69
1843	Jan - Jun	69
1843	Jul - Dec	69
1844	Jan - Jun	69
1844	Jul - Dec	69
1845	Jan - Jun	69
1845	Jul - Dec	69
1846	Jan - Jun	69
1846	Jul - Dec	69
1847	Jan - Jun	69
1847	Jul - Dec	69
1848	Jan - Jun	69
1848	Jul - Dec	69
1849	Jan - May	69
1849	Jun	70
1849	Jul - Dec	70

Years	Covering Months	Film number
1850	Jan - Jun	70
1850	Jul - Dec	70
1851	Jan - Jun	70
1851	Jul - Dec	70
1852	Jan - Jun	70
1852	Jul - Dec	70
1853	Jan - Apr	70
1853	May - Jun	71
1853	Jul - Dec	71
1854	Jan - Jun	71
1854	Jul - Dec	71
1855	Jan - Jun	71
1855	Jul - Dec	71
1856	Jan - Jun	71
1856	Jul - Dec	71
1857	Jan - Feb	71
1857	Apr - Jun	72
1857	Jul - Dec	72
1858	Jan - Dec	72
1859	Jan - Dec	72
1860	Jan - Dec	72
1861	Jan - Dec	73
1862	Jan - Dec	73
1863	Jan - Dec	73
1864	Jan - Dec	73
1865	Jan - Jul	73
1865	Aug - Dec	73
1866	Jan - Dec	74
1867	Jan - Dec	74
1868	Jan - Dec	74
1869	Jan - Dec	74
1870	Jan - Jun	75
1870	Jul - Dec	75
1871	Jan - Dec	75
1872	Jan - Dec	75
1873	Jan - Dec	75
1874	Jan - Dec	75
1875	Jan - Dec	75
1876	Jan - Dec	76

Years	Covering Months	Film number
1877	Jan - Dec	76
1878	Jan - Dec	76
1879	Jan - Dec	76
1880	Jan - Dec	76
1881	Jan - Dec	76
1882	Jan - May	76
1882	Jun - Dec	77
1883	Jan - Dec	77
1884	Jan - Dec	77
1885	Jan - Dec	77
1886	Jan - Dec	77
1887	Jan - Dec	77
1888	Jan - Dec	77
1889	Jan - Dec	77
1890	Jan - Dec	77
1891	Jan - Jun	77
1891	Jul - Dec	78
1892	Jan - Dec	78
1893	Jan - Dec	78
1894	Jan - Dec	78
1895	Jan - Dec	78
1896	Jan - Dec	78
1897	Jan - Dec	78
1898	Jan - Dec	78
1899	Jan - Dec	78
1900	Jan - Dec	78
1901	Jan - Dec	78
1902	Jan - Jun	78
1902	Jul - Dec	79
1903	Jan - Dec	79
1904	Jan - Dec	79
1905	Jan - Dec	79
1906	Jan - Dec	79
1907	Jan - Dec	79
1908	Jan - Dec	80
1909	Jan - Dec	80
1910	Jan - Dec	80
1911	Jan - Dec	80
1912	Jan - Dec	80

Years	Covering Months	Film number
1913	Jan - Dec	80
1914	Jan - Dec	80
1915	Jan - Dec	80
1916	Jan - Dec	80
1917	Jan - Dec	81
1918	Jan - Dec	81
1919	Jan - Dec	81
1920	Jan - Dec	81
1921	Jan - Dec	82
1922	Jan - Dec	82
1923	Jan - Dec	82
1924	Jan - Dec	82
1925	Jan - Dec	82
1926	Jan - Dec	82
1927	Jan - Dec	82
1928	Jan - Dec	82
1929	Jan - Dec	82
1930	Jan - Dec	83
1931	Jan - Dec	83
1932	Jan - Dec	83
1933	Jan - Dec	83
1934	Jan - Dec	83
1935	Jan - Dec	83
1936	Jan - Dec	83
1937	Jan - Dec	83
1938	Jan - Dec	83
1939	Jan - Dec	83
1940	Jan - Dec	83
1941	Jan - Dec	83
1942	Jan - Dec	84
1943	Jan - Dec	84
1944	Jan - Dec	84
1945	Jan - Dec	85
1946	Jan - Dec	85
1947	Jan - Dec	85
1948	Jan - Dec	85
1949	Jan - Dec	86
1950	Jan - Dec	86
1951	Jan - Dec	86

Years	Covering Months	Film number
1952	Jan - Dec	86
1953	Jan - Dec	86
1954	Jan - Dec	86
1955	Jan - Dec	86
1956	Jan - Dec	87
1957	Jan - Dec	87
1958	Jan - Dec	87
1959	Jan - Dec	87
1960	Jan - Dec	87
1961	Jan - Dec	87
1962	Jan - Dec	87
1963	Jan - Dec	87
1964	Jan - Dec	87
1965	Jan - Dec	87
1966	Jan - Dec	88
1967	Jan - Dec	88
1968	Jan - Dec	88
1969	Jan - Dec	88
1970	Jan - Dec	88
1971	Jan - Dec	88
1972	Jan - Dec	88
1973	Jan - Dec	88
1974	Jan - Dec	88
1975	Jan - Dec	88
1976	Jan - Dec	88
1977	Jan - Dec	88
1978	Jan - Dec	89
1979	Jan - Dec	89
1980	Jan - Dec	89
1981	Jan - Dec	89
1982	Jan - Dec	89
1983	Jan - Dec	89
1984	Jan - Dec	89
1985	Jan - Jul	89

Notes

1. There are photocopies of the volume indexes for the period 1553-1720 on the search room open shelves (q942.44002). These help identify the year in which an event happened, but before the actual bond/allegation can be found it is still necessary to find the month on the film.
2. The volume covering 1645-1660 does include entries from 1582, but the numbers do not correspond with the bonds. It is better therefore to use the volume covering 1553-1645.

A full index to marriage licences 1720-1754 has been made by Dr V Butcher, Mrs M Butcher, Mrs R J Piggott and Dr K Somerton. This is also available on the open shelves in the Self-Service Area of The Hive.

3. The volume covering 1822-1823 has not been filmed.
4. For these years check marriage volume indexes which are located in the Self-Service Area of The Hive.
5. May 1720 was filmed twice.