



Gloucestershire Marriage Indexes: after 1837

Background

There are a number of indexes which can help you to find a marriage if you're not sure where it took place. But, please remember, it is possible that the couple never married formally so there is no written record at all.

Before July 1837, marriages took place in the Church of England, generally the parish church, so the main source for information is the parish registers which are open for research. From 1st July 1837, it was legal to marry in a nonconformist chapel, provided it was licensed for marriages or with a civil ceremony in a register office. The main source of information from 1837 is the civil certificates which are not open for research

What indexes are there after 1837?

Ancestry

Ancestry has digitised and indexed all the Church of England marriage registers held at Gloucestershire Archives up to and including the year 1938. You can search the marriage registers on Ancestry by name of bride or groom or you can check the registers for a specific place. You can access the Ancestry website for free from Gloucestershire Archives or any Gloucestershire library www.ancestry.co.uk. If you can't find the person you're looking for in the parish registers in Ancestry, it is possible that the name was misspelled, mistranscribed or that the person didn't marry in the parish church.

Our online catalogue will tell you whether a marriage register has been digitised by Ancestry. See our **Parish Register Guide** for details of how to search for specific parish registers in the online catalogue.

You could also try the following indexes:

Index to civil registration records compiled by Gloucestershire Family History Society

This index was compiled from the copies of the certificates held by the local registrar and covers the six registration districts which were combined in 2006 to form the current Gloucestershire Registration District. They are Cheltenham, Cirencester, Forest of Dean, Gloucester, North Cotswold and Stroud. This means that the index doesn't include events registered in the South Gloucestershire registration district which covers parishes in the south of the historic county or any events registered outside Gloucestershire.

- Check the index online ww3.gloucestershire.gov.uk/bmd/. Full information about the areas and dates covered are included
- It includes births, marriages and deaths but the marriages are the most complete and are covered from 1837 into the 2000s
- It should include every marriage, whether it took place in a parish church, non-conformist chapel or register office and identifies the church or chapel so you can check the individual register for full information

The General Register Office Index (St Catherine's House Index)

This index was compiled from the copies of the certificates sent to the General Registrar in London – it was stored in Somerset House and then St Catherine's House. It covers the whole of England and Wales; Scotland and Northern Ireland have separate systems.

- You can search this index online through various websites, including: www.freebmd.org.uk, www.ancestry.co.uk and www.findmypast.co.uk. You can use these websites for free at Gloucestershire Archives and any Gloucestershire library.

Scotland and Ireland

- See www.gro-scotland.gov.uk for information about Scottish certificates (historical Scottish certificates can be viewed for a fee at www.scotlandsppeople.gov.uk),
- See www.nidirect.gov.uk/gro for Northern Ireland and www.groireland.ie for Ireland and Northern Ireland pre 1920.

What indexes are there for British citizens living abroad?

Marriages, births and deaths that took place abroad are indexed separately and these indexes are available on www.ancestry.co.uk and www.findmypast.co.uk. You can use these websites for free at Gloucestershire Archives and any Gloucestershire library. There are three main series:

- Registers of births, marriages and deaths from British Consulates, 1810-1968
- Registers of army and navy births, marriages and deaths, 1730-1960
- Registers of births, marriages and deaths at sea, 1844-1890