

Prince William County Virginia Marriages: 1938-1943

From the end of 1938 through July 1940, the majority of marriage licenses issued in Prince William County, Virginia were to out-of-state couples. By December 1938, Washington, D.C., Maryland, Pennsylvania, New York, and the New England States had imposed restrictions (blood tests and waiting periods between the issuance of a marriage license and certificate) for obtaining marriage licenses. Couples seeking hasty marriages made their way south and the number of marriages performed in northern Virginia counties skyrocketed. ¹

Virginia imposed similar restrictions beginning August 1, 1940, and initially most licenses issued in Prince William County were again given to county residents. The United States' entry into World War II, however, spurred another wave of non-resident marriages as women from all over the country traveled to Quantico, Virginia to wed their servicemen.

Many thanks to RELIC volunteers Charlotte Cain, who indexed the Prince William County Marriage Register for 1938 and especially to Barbara Rio, who indexed the years 1939-1943. RELIC Librarian I, Tish Como, proofed and edited the database and takes responsibility for any errors therein.

The index to the Prince William County Marriage Registers (1938-1943) includes the following information: GROOM: Surname, First Name (including middle name or initial), Current Residence, Age, and Place of Birth (state or country abbreviation). BRIDE: Surname (maiden name in parentheses if she was previously married), First Name (including middle name or initial), Current Residence, Age, and Place of Birth (state or country abbreviation). The last column of the index table includes the Date of Marriage. If the date of application differs, it also is provided.

You may search for an individual name or place within the database by using the FIND feature (Control & F).

Interested persons may obtain a copy of the actual marriage license, which contains additional information <http://www.pwcgov.org/government/courts/circuit/pages/copies-of-marriage-license.aspx>; click on the "Marriage License Copy Request Form" link at the bottom of the page. ², by contacting the Prince William County Circuit Court. For details, see

Abbreviations: The following abbreviations were used: POB = Place of Birth; (Surname in parentheses) = Bride's Maiden Name; * = Colored; LI = Date License Issued. The abbreviations for POB and Current Residences are the standard two letter abbreviations for U.S. states and the three letter abbreviations for countries provided on the following page.

1. For more information, see "Manassas Virginia: An Unproclaimed Gretna Green," in the July 2007 issue of *Reliquary*,

http://www.pwcgov.org/government/dept/library/Documents/RELIC/Reliquary/PWR_3-2007.pdf

2. Groom's occupation, names of both parties' parents, name of person performing ceremony and place of marriage. Beginning on August 29, 1942, the bride's occupation is also noted.

CODE COUNTRY

ARG ARGENTINA
ATG ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA
AUS AUSTRALIA AUT AUSTRIA
BEL BELGIUM
BMU BERMUDA BRA BRAZIL
BRB BARBADOS
BWI BRITISH WEST INDIES CAN CANADA
CHE SWITZERLAND CHN CHINA CUB CUBA
DEU GERMANY
DNK DENMARK
ESP SPAIN
FIN FINLAND FRA FRANCE
GBR UNITED KINGDOM GRC GREECE
GUM GUAM
GUY GUYANA (Formerly British Guiana)
HUN HUNGARY
IRL IRELAND
ITA ITALY
JAM JAMAICA
KNA SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS
LTU LITHUANIA LVA LATVIA
MDA MOLDOVA, REPUBLIC OF
MEX MEXICO MLT MALTA
MUS MAURITIUS
NLD NETHERLANDS NOR NORWAY
PHL PHILIPPINES
POL POLAND
PRI PUERTO RICO PRT PORTUGAL ROU ROMANIA
RUS RUSSIAN FEDERATION SGP SINGAPORE SUR SURINAME
SVK SLOVAKIA SWE SWEDEN
SYR SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC TUR TURKEY
VEN VENEZUELA
VIR VIRGIN ISLANDS, U.S.
ZAF SOUTH AFRICA