

Quick Guide to West Virginia Marriage Records

- Inception of each county to present:** records available in each county. Originals are in the county courthouses, with a few original records located at West Virginia Archives and History or in the West Virginia University West Virginia and Regional History Collection. Uncertified and certified copies of records may be obtained from the relevant county clerk. Certified copies of marriage applications from 1964 to the present may be obtained from the West Virginia Dept. of Health Vital Registration Office with a \$12.00 fee.
- Inception of each county to 1968–1971:** County records microfilmed by the Genealogical Society of Utah (GSU), available in the West Virginia Archives and History Library and elsewhere, generally include marriages up to the date of filming, usually 1968 to 1971. Digitized images from the microfilm are available in a free searchable database, West Virginia Vital Research Records (WVRR), http://www.wvculture.org/vrr/va_select.aspx. *Please note that all of the records on microfilm may not be available through WVRR. Some of the earliest records are not legible on the microfilm for a few counties. Aside from a few scattered rolls, no additional marriage records will be added to microfilm or WVRR.*
- 1853–1860:** some duplicate county records are preserved on Library of Virginia microfilm, available in the Archives and History Library and elsewhere.
- 1921–1991:** annual index of marriages by bride (except 1936, 1937 and 1938) and by groom, compiled by the West Virginia Dept. of Health Vital Registration Office, available for public searching on microfilm in the West Virginia Archives and History Library. The index is useful for finding the date and county of a marriage so the actual record can be located in county records. *Ignore the book and page numbers cited in the index itself, since those refer to a state record project that was abandoned.*
- 1964 to present:** certified copies of applications for marriage licenses for marriages performed in West Virginia are available through the West Virginia Dept. of Health Vital Registration Office with a \$12.00 fee. For more information visit <http://www.dhhr.wv.gov/Pages/default.aspx> or call (304) 558-2931.

Revised January 2020.

See *West Virginia Archives and History News*, Vol. VIII, No. 9 (November 2007) for full article. Available at <http://www.wvculture.org/history/ahnews/ahnews.html>.