

INDEX TO MARRIAGE LICENSES POSTED ON WEBSITE

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An index listing existing marriage licenses issued in Washington County from 1778 through 1950 is now available to researchers on the archive website. There are **18,137** marriage records found in this index. The URL to the site is: www.wctnarchives.org.

Prior to the completion of this multi-month project, the index only existed in 10 large bound notebooks and could only be viewed by researchers in the archive Reading Room. The loose marriage licenses were originally arranged and indexed into the notebooks in 1998 as a project of volunteers of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, long before the archives existed. While very useful, there were two problems with the index. Only the surnames of the grooms could be searched. So, if you only knew the bride's name, you were out of luck. Secondly, the index was not available online. "Our goal with this latest project was to remedy these two problems," said County Archivist Ned Irwin. "Now groom and bride surnames are interfiled, and any name can be easily searched. And the guide is available to anyone with Internet access to our webpage."

Irwin had a special commendation to Britney Helton, Archives Associate, who typed the thousands of names and other information from the notebooks into the new searchable online database.

The licenses provide the name of the groom and bride being married, the name of the individual performing the marriage service, and the date of the marriage, as well as the date the license was issued by the County Clerk. Marriage licenses issued after 1975 are still housed in the County Clerk's office. Britney is now working on a project to add the 1951-1975 licenses held in the archives to the marriage license index.

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