

The Marriage Locator

This issue Julie Goucher spotlights a website aimed at saving you money

The Marriage Locator site at www.marriage-locator.co.uk has existed since 2010, is owned by the Guild of One-Name Studies <https://one-name.org> and is freely available. It is a rather clever site and uses the information based upon the General Register Office (GRO) marriages index, which can be accessed via a number of sites, including FreeBMD. It is ideal for those who are new to genealogical research or reside outside of the UK and therefore perhaps not used to the GRO indexes.

The GRO index provides the name of the individual, the Registration District along with volume and page number and the quarter March, June, September or December in addition to the year.

What you do not know – from the GRO index – is the church or venue of the marriage. It is quite possible, if the marriage took place at a church, to access the parish registers via either the county archives or via one of the online providers should you have a subscription, and should the parish marriage indexes be available online.

The Marriage Locator comes into its own, however, because you can enter into the year, quarter, volume and page number, and hopefully the venue of the marriage will be revealed – without you having to buy a marriage certificate.

In some cases, the location is not identified, and this can be for a number of reasons; perhaps the marriage took place in a church that shares the volume with another in the same registration district; or it could be because the marriage took place at a venue that was not Anglican. This is not because those marriages are excluded from the site, but because of how the GRO indexed marriages in England and Wales.

When the information from the registers was sent to the GRO the material was added in a particular order; Anglican churches in alphabetical order followed by Jewish and Quaker marriages, then Nonconformist and secular marriages. In some cases, the individual venue was not able to retain its own register and therefore

some venues shared a book which was completed by the District Registrar. Nonconformist and Roman Catholic venues were able to hold their own books from 1899.

The site will increase and improve if genealogists are willing to share the venue of marriages they hold, especially if they took place in non-Anglican venues.

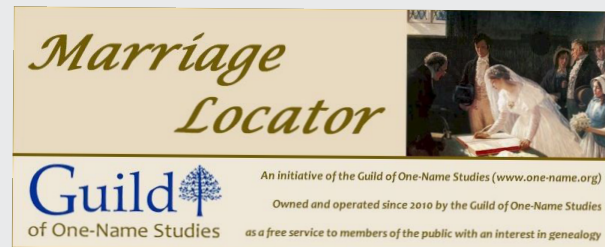
The Guild will gratefully receive all submissions and you can contribute by emailing guild@one-name.org

About the author

As an avid history lover, Julie Goucher has been researching her family history since the late 1980s and has an interest in Italian ancestry, one-name studies and DNA projects. Julie is tutor for the 'Introduction to One-Name Studies' course run by Pharos Tutors, and is a Trustee and Secretary for the Guild of One-Name Studies. Find her website at www.anglers-rest.net



Use The Marriage Locator website to deduce where your ancestors tied the knot. Once you know this, you could visit the archive to view the actual marriage register that your ancestors signed or you may be able to find the entry online for free via a website such as FamilySearch or the local Online Parish Clerk – listed at www.ukbmd.org.uk/online_pariah_clerk – saving you the cost of a GRO certificate or pdf



Case study

1 **Marriages Jun 1902** (>99%)

Matthews Edith Annie Guildford 2a 122

In this example, we've found the marriage of Edith Annie Matthews in the Guildford registration district on FreeBMD.org.uk in the June quarter of 1902. Be sure to note down the volume and page number as well – here '2a' and '122'

2 **Marriage Locator Search Results**

GRO Index: 1902 quarter 1, volume 2a, page 122:

Sorry, we cannot locate the church for this marriage. The entry is located between entries for Guildford St Nicholas and Stoke next Guildford, both in RD Guildford.

Search again:

Year: 1902 Quarter: 1 Volume: 2a Page No.: 122

Go to www.marriage-locator.co.uk and input the GRO index details to try to locate the church where the marriage took place. Unfortunately, in this case, the site cannot locate the venue exactly, however, with more contributed data, the site will grow

3 **Marriage solemnized at the Parish Church in the Parish of Holy Trinity, Guildford in the County of Surrey**

No.	When Married	Name and Residence	Age	Condition	Rank or Profession	Address at the time of Marriage	Partner's Name and Residence	Rank or Profession of Partner
130	1902	Charles Jelley 18th	26	Single	Labourer	26 Copsey Road, Guildford	Edith Annie Matthews 18th	Labourer

Witnessed by: Charles Jelley, Edith Annie Matthews, William Jelley, C. York Matthews

4 **CERTIFIED COPY OF AN ENTRY OF MARRIAGE** Given at the GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE, Guildford

Application Number: COL 404933

1902... Marriage solemnized at the Parish Church of Holy Trinity, Guildford in the County of Surrey

No.	When Married	Name and Residence	Age	Condition	Rank or Profession	Address at the time of Marriage	Partner's Name and Residence	Rank or Profession of Partner
130	1902	Charles Jelley 18th	26	Single	Labourer	26 Copsey Road, Guildford	Edith Annie Matthews 18th	Labourer

Witnessed by: Charles Jelley, Edith Annie Matthews, William Jelley, C. York Matthews

MXC 665782

Edith and Charles Jelley's marriage entry appears in the parish register for Holy Trinity, Guildford

If you're not able to find the marriage in a parish register, you'll need to order the GRO certificate