

# Simple Marriage Certificate

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## Introduction

This plugin records a Marriage Certificate based on the format of the England and Wales Marriage Certificate/Parish Register since 1837. To ensure consistency, it uses the Civil Registration Certificate Template as the layout for saving the source record.

The screen has been designed to look like the physical marriage certificate, to make input easier. It is a single screen to capture the information and to save the relevant information to Family Historian.

Apart from saving the actual marriage certificate as a source record, it also formats the text of the certificate as in the source text and copy the image of the certificate to the appropriate media directory.

If the occupations of the husband, wife and fathers are provided they are added as facts to the relevant individuals. Similarly, if a place is provided for the husband or wife's residence, this fact is added to the individual.

The age of the husband or wife are only saved as facts if the age is a valid age (not text).

The names of witnesses are recorded for the marriage, but not as facts to those individuals.

The formatted text produced is best edited in the Source record in Family Historian itself.

## Screen

Below is an example of a completed screen. The Region, Repository, Assessment, Image Directory and Media Directory fields are pre-populated after the first marriage certificate has been saved. The Marriage and Residence Place lists are populated with the current list of places.

Add Marriage Certificate for George Frederick Martin 1847 - 1923

Region: England and Wales

Repository: General Registers Office

-----Marriage Certificate Details-----

Where Married: Parish Church

Marriage Place: Southwark, London, England

Shadwell, London, England

Shoreditch, London, England

Southwark, London, England

St. George in the East, London, England

Entry Number: 125

Date of Marriage: 25/12/1869

Husband	Wife
George Frederick Martin	Annette Nicholls
Age: 22	Age: 19
Condition: Bachelor	Condition: Spinster
Rank or Profession: Rope Maker	
Residence at time of marriage: Princes Street	
Place: St. George in the East, London, England	Shadwell, London, England
Shoreditch, London, England	Shadwell, London, England
Southwark, London, England	Shoreditch, London, England
St. George in the East, London, England	Southwark, London, England
Whitechapel, London, England	St. George in the East, London, England

Fathers Name and Surname: George Martin

Rank or Profession (Father): Sugar Baker

Rites and Ceremonies: Established Church

Marriage Type: After Banns

In the Presence of: William Nicholls

Mary Ann Martin

Married by: R Bickerdike

Assessment: Primary information

-----Marriage Certificate File-----

Image Directory>> C:\Users\Normie\OneDrive\Family Tree\Certificates\2020\_02\_03

Media Directory>> C:\Users\Normie\OneDrive\Family Historian Projects\Blank\Blank.fh\_data\Media\Marriages

As Source: Marriage certificate of George Frederick Martin and Annette Nicholls, 25 December 1869

Media: Please select a file to select the image to copy

Image File: C:\Users\Normie\OneDrive\Family Tree\Certificates\2020\_02\_03\George\_Annette Marriage.jpg

Status: Marriage Certificate Saved

Save Exit Help

## Pre-Requisites

Before it can be used, the "Civil Registration Certificate" template from the Essentials collection must have already been added to the project. This can be done by selecting Tools>Source Template Definitions and then highlighting the Civil Registration Certificate template and adding it to the project.

This plugin does NOT create any individuals and all relevant individuals (husband, wife and fathers) should be created before the plugin is called. The husband and wife needs be established as being married.

Before the plugin is called, either the husband or wife must be selected (i.e. have the focus in Family Historian).

## Guidance

When you first run the plugin, the dialog form will be completely blank, except for the list of places, names of husband, wife and fathers. This means that you will need to select the **Region** where the marriage took place, **Repository** if you intend to use them, the **Assessment** you will associate with the marriage certificate and the **Media Directory** where the certificate will be copied to. You may also wish to specify the default directory (**Image Directory**) where the original image of the certificate is to be found. All these fields are saved after a certificate is saved, and consequently will be shown on the form the next time the plugin is run.

Region, Repository and Assessment are drop-down lists, where you can select the appropriate value. The image and media directories can be determined by pressing the image or media directory button which will display a windows folder dialog to select the appropriate folder path from. In the case of the media directory, it will start with the media directory for the current project. You may wish to create a sub folder at this point to save the marriage certificates to. Alternatively, you can type the directory paths directly into the adjacent fields to the button.

Completing the main part of the form is essentially copying the information from the certificate. The information you enter, will be transferred to the source text as is. You can change any of the names of individuals, and these changes will only appear on the source text and will not change the names of the individuals themselves.

The date of the marriage will initially be set to today; this **MUST** be changed to the correct marriage date. Condition and Marriage Type are drop-down lists from which you should select the appropriate value.

You can select the applicable place from the drop-down list of places or type a new place name in that field, if it does not already exist. If the residency place is left blank,

then no residency fact will be created for the husband /wife. All the other fields are free text where you copy the details from the certificate.

The only information that must be transferred from the certificate are Date of Marriage, Place of Marriage, and Married By.

You also need to identify where the marriage certificate image is to be copied from. This is done by pressing the **Media** Button which will display a windows file dialog to select the file. The name given to the file when copied can be either **As Source** (the title given to the source record itself), **As Filename** (the name of the original file) or **My Choice** where you type the name you want the file to be called when copied.

When you are happy with the information you should press the **Save** button. This will first validate the information and report any information that needs to be provided before saving the certificate details. If successful, it will indicate this in the status message and change the **Cancel** button text to Exit.

Pressing the exit button will then exit the form. If the Cancel button is pressed whilst the text is 'Cancel' (i.e. before a certificate is saved) you will be asked to confirm this.

Pressing the **Help** button at any time will display the Help dialog form for the plugin.

## Results

When saved the following changes are made:

The following **templated source record** is created.

Citation: Marriage certificate of George Frederick Martin and Annette Nicholls, 25 December 1869

Citation | Text from Source | Notes | Media

Source Record [9] - 8 citations

Title: Marriage certificate of George Frederick Martin and Annette Nicholls, 25 December 1869

Template: Civil Registration Certificate

- Type: Marriage
- Region: England and Wales
- Principal: George Frederick Martin
- Principal 2: Annette Nicholls
- Date: 25 Dec 1869
- Location: Southwark, London, England
- Address: Parish Church
- Reference: 125
- Repository: General Registers Office
- Collection: Online data collection if any
- URL: URL

Citation-specific Details

Assessment: Primary information

Note:

Within the source, the text has been formatted to be like the actual certificate. This can be edited here if necessary.

**Certified Copy of an Entry of Marriage**  
**1869 Marriage solemnized at Parish Church**  
**of Southwark in the county of London**

No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the time of Marriage.	Fathers Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
		George Frederick Martin	22	Bachelor	Rope Maker	Princes Street St. George in the East, London, England	George Martin	Sugar Baker
125	25 December 1869	Annette Nicholls	19	Spinster		Shadwell, London, England	William Nicholls	Rope Maker

Married in the Parish Church according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church After Banns by me.

This marriage was solemnized between us, George Frederick Martin Annette Nicholls In the presence of us, William Nicholls Mary Ann Martin R Bickerdike

And a media record copied to the appropriate media record and linked to the source record. In this case, the name of the media record matches the title of the source.

Media	Fmt	Pref	Date	Fl...	Cit.
Marriage certificate of George Frederick Martin and Annette Nicholls, 25 December 1869	jpeg	1	25 Dec 1869		-

The following facts were created:

**Marriage to Annette Nicholls**

Date:  Age:

Place:

Address:

Note:

Sentence:

**Marriage fact for Husband** (and similar marriage fact for wife)

**Residence**

Date:  Age:

Place:

Address:

Note:

Sentence:

**Residence fact for Husband** (similar residence fact for wife)

Occupation:	Rope Maker	
Date:	25 Dec 1869	Age: 22 yrs
Place:		
Address:		
Note:		
Sentence:	On 25 December 1869 he was a Rope Maker aged 22.	

**Occupation fact for Husband** (similar occupation facts for wife and fathers - if an occupation has been provided)

## Help Dialog Screen

***The information shown on the help screen from the plugin is below.***

This plugin records a Marriage Certificate based on the format of the England and Wales Marriage Certificate/Parish Register since 1837.

It also creates of marriage, occupation and residence facts. To ensure consistency, it uses the Civil Registration Certificate Template for the source.

### Prerequisites

Before it can be used, the "Civil Registration Certificate" template from the Essentials collection must have already been added to the project. This can be done by selecting Tools>Source Template Definitions and then highlight the template(s) and add to project.

This plugin does NOT create any individuals. Before it is called, It requires that a person is first selected and that that person is married.

Any fathers should be created before the plugin is called, as any name changed on the form will be considered as information printed on the certificate (text from source).

To avoid replication of input, the following fields are saved to be displayed next time the plugin is used:

Region, Repository, Assessment, Image Directory and Media Directory.

The Region is a dropdown list of Regions declared in the source template; Repository is a dropdown list of Repositories you have set up; and Assessment is a dropdown list of valid assessments for the source.

Image Directory is the windows directory where the marriage certificate image can be found. It can be populated by typing the directory name in manually, or found by pressing the 'Image Directory' button to the left of the field and showing a Windows Folder Dialog screen.

Media Directory is where the image of the Marriage Certificate will be saved. It can be populated in the same method for the Image Directory. Note you can create the appropriate media directory in the Windows Folder Dialog screen.

### Form Fields

Region (Required):- this is a list of Regions declared in the source template

Repository : - this is a list of Repositories you have already set up

Where Married : - Address where marriage took place e.g. Parish Church (if known)

Marriage Place (Required) : Place married - either select from drop down for existing place or type new place which will be added as a new place

Entry Number: - Entry number of certificate (if known)

Date of Marriage (Required): - Date marriage took place

Name and Surname: -Pre selected on loading form - can be amended

Age : -Age when married (can be text e.g. Full Age)

Condition : - Dropdown list of condition (e.g. Bachelor, Spinster etc)

Rank or Profession: - Description of job (if known)

Residence at time of marriage: - Address of husband/wife living when married (if known)

Place : - Place husband/wife were living (if known)

Fathers name and surname: - Pre selected on loading form - can be amended

Rank of Profession (father): - Description of job (if known)

Rites and Ceremonies : - if stated (e.g. Established Church)

Marriage Type : - Dropdown list of marriage types (e.g. After Banns, By Licence etc)

In the Presence of : - List of witnesses to marriage

Married By (Required) : - Name of person performing the marriage

Assessment : - Dropdown list of valid assessments

Image Directory : - Directory to initiate search for image of certificate

Media Directory (Required): - Directory where image will be saved

As Source : - Dropdown list to determine name given to file when saved in the media directory

Options are As Source - filename same as source title

As Filename - filename same as original filename

My Choice - type your own filename in Image File field

Media : - Button to invoke windows file dialog to identify certificate image to be copied

Image File (Required): - name of media file to be created

Status : - status of form - e.g. errors or certificate saved

When you press the save button, the form is validated and any errors reported in the status bar.

If the action is successful, then the appropriate message is shown in that status bar.

When the certificate is saved, the ini file is updated to retain the Region, Repository, Assessment, Image Directory and Media Directory fields.

Saving a Certificate will create a source record for the marriage certificate and create a formatted 'text from source' and a link to a newly created media record. The source record is linked to the Marriage Fact.

The text written to the 'text from source' contains the values derived from the form as you have entered them.

This text can later be amended in the Citation record in Family Historian to correct any textual errors.

If the information has been provided, then the appropriate occupation and residence facts are created and linked to the source record. These can be for the husband, wife and their fathers (occupation only). Age will only be saved as a text if a valid age (e.g. 25) is entered.

You will need to press the Exit button, after saving, to exit the form and return back to Family Historian.