

# WEDDING DRESSES THROUGH THE DECADES

Madison Historical Society 2016





This original book is titled:

"Marriage Book Commenced in 1855  
by James Mierrow Town Clerk of Madison"

Please Do Not Touch.

Madison September 1<sup>st</sup> 1855  
Received this day at this Office  
notice of the intention of Mr  
Simon Littlefield Jr of Madison  
aged 25, and Miss Alice Robert of Eaton  
aged 20 yrs, to be joined in  
Marriage Attest James Mierrow  
Town Clerk of  
Madison

Madison Sept 22 1855  
Received this day at this Office notice  
of the intention of Mr John S. Herren  
of Eaton Aged 28 and Miss  
Melissa Harman Aged 18 (of Madison)  
to be joined in Marriage

Attest J Mierrow Town Clerk  
of Madison

Madison October 1<sup>st</sup> 1855. This certifies intention of the  
Marriage of Mr Charles K. Benson of Madison aged 42  
and Mrs Lydia Lunt of Ossipee aged 37 has this  
day been received at this Office

James Mierrow Town Clerk  
of Madison

Madison October 27<sup>th</sup> 1855  
Received this day at this Office Notice  
of the intention of Mrs Samuel Frost  
of Madison Aged 34 years and  
Miss Rebecca F. Lamy of Madison Aged  
22 years, to be joined in Marriage  
Attest James Mierrow  
Town Clerk of Madison

Madison December 29<sup>th</sup> 1855  
Received this day at this Office Notice  
of the intention of Mr Ebenezer Peterson  
of Madison Aged 54 years and Miss  
Elizabeth Peabody of Berwick Maine,  
Aged 55 years, to be joined in  
Marriage Attest James Mierrow  
Town Clerk of Madison

Madison January 1<sup>st</sup> 1856  
Received this day at this Office Notice  
of the intention of Mr Enoch C. Bickford of  
Farmville aged 29 years, and Miss Susan  
Lord of Madison aged 31 years, to be joined  
in Marriage Attest James Mierrow  
Town Clerk of  
Madison

## **Wedding gowns and accessories graciously loaned by community residents:**

**Dale Appleton:** - Dale Edwards m. David Appleton - August 15, 1959, Cullowhee NC

**Kathleen Avery:** - John Benjamin Rogers m. Agnes Parsons - November 13, 1895, South Berwick ME

**Barbara Lancaster Bellini:** - (1) 1920's dress worn by an unknown bride  
(2) Ruth May Clayton m. J. (Jean) Emmons Lancaster - June 4, 1954, Madison NH

**Sally Bledsoe, Lynne Gilman & Edith McNair:** - (1) Dress worn by Mary L. McNair at her wedding – June 25, 1918 – also worn by her mother and aunt  
(2) Dress worn by Edith Virginia Woodbridge m. Bob McNair – 1949  
Also worn by Carol Coburn (Edith's sister-in-law) m. Elliot Woodbridge – 1950  
Also worn by Susan Jones (like an adopted daughter) m. Jerry Driscoll – 1956  
Also worn by Sarah (Sally) H. McNair (Edith's daughter) m. Kelly Bledsoe – 1983  
Also worn by Julie Driscoll (Susan's daughter) m. Mr. Lord– 1986

**Sandra Carr:** - Sandra Larson m. Lawrence Carr - September 6, 1967, Poughkeepsie NY

**Jan Connolly:** - Jan Anderson m. Michael Connolly - August 26, 1965, Washington Crossing PA

**Patty Curotto:** - Patricia Aleda Coman m. Bruce Alexander Curotto - September 12, 1986, Dudley MA

**Nancy Devine:** - (1) Elizabeth Edna Lay m. Walton E. Devine – October 24, 1939, Hartford CT  
(2) slip worn by Elizabeth Edna Lay Devine

**Jan Eskedel:** - Jeannette (Jan) Budicin m. Glen Eskedel - August 27, 1966, Mt. Prospect, IL

**Betty Fernandes:** - Elizabeth (Betty) Reid m. Justino Fernandes - May 28, 1977, Dartmouth MA

**Anne H. Filson, Mary Holmes, Stewart Holmes & Margaret H. Kelly:** - Katherine MacKenzie m. P. J. Holmes - April 25, 1936, Suffield CT

**Kim Force:** - Kimberly A. Smith m. Ronald M. Force - March 22, 1968, Simsbury CT

**Norma Grasse:** - Freeda Harris m. Raymond Underwood - July 25, 1931, Meredith NH

**Lynne Gilman:** - Lynne Rose Curotto m. Saverio (Samuel) Macrina - April 29, 1978, Taunton MA

**Robin Hain:** - (1) Betsey Parks Hammond m. Richard Parks Eldridge - October 3, 1953, Taunton MA  
(2) slip worn by Betsey Parks Hammond Eldridge

**Penny Hathaway:** - Leslie (Penny) Davis m. Michael Ross Hathaway - June 23, 1962, Bethel ME - Headpiece worn by daughter Brenda Marie Hathaway m. Marc Louis LaForce - February 17, 1996, Madison NH

**Mary Holmes, Stuart Holmes, Anne H. Filson & Margaret H. Kelly:** - Katherine MacKenzie m. P. J. Holmes - April 25, 1936, Suffield CT

**Eleanor Bristol Tracy Jenkins:** - (1) Bertha Pauline Bristol m. Rev. Ellsworth Morton Tracy - May 31, 1904, Naugatuck CT  
(2) May Stevenson m. Silas Bent Phillips - September 7, 1907, Galesburg IL

**Eleanor Jones**: - Jane D. Blocher m. Kurt Mason - October 1, 1988, Madison NH

**Margaret H. Kelly**, Mary Holmes, Stuart Holmes & Anne H. Filson: - Katherine MacKenzie m. P. J. Holmes - April 25, 1936, Suffield CT

**Cheryl Littlefield**: - Cheryl Quinn m. Chester Paul Littlefield - January 24, 1970, Hamilton MA

**Karen Lord**: - Karen Robbins m. Stuart P. Lord - June 24, 1978, Mt. Pocono, PA

**Linda & Gary Lovering**: - (1) Beatrice Simpson m. Alton Parker Lovering - June 23, 1930, Silver Lake NH  
(2) slip

**Mary Lucy**: - Mary Knox Weisman m. Mark Batron Lucy - July 17, 1993, North Conway NH

**Rebecca Mattison**: - Jean Margaret Kiley m. David Que Wells - November 21, 1941, Boston MA  
Also worn 1969 - Jean Long Wells m. Linn Hemingway Bealke - September 6, 1969, St. Louis, MO  
Also worn 1981 - Mary Coleman Wells m. Howard Leroy Vickery - July 18, 1981, St. Louis MO  
Also worn 2007 - Emily Roots Bealke m. Ryan Parenteau - July 21, 2007

**Mary McIntosh**: - Agnes Chaloner m. William McIntosh - June 16, 1916, Boston MA

**Edith McNair, Sally Bledsoe & Lynne Gilman**: - (1) Dress worn by Mary McNair at her wedding – June 25, 1918 – also worn by her mother and aunt  
(2) Dress worn by Edith Virginia Woodbridge m. Bob McNair – 1949  
Also worn by Carol Coburn (Edith's sister-in-law) m. Elliot Woodbridge – 1950  
Also worn by Susan Jones (like adopted daughter) m. Jerry Driscoll – 1956  
Also worn by Sarah (Sally) McNair (Edith's daughter) m. Kelly Bledsoe – 1983  
Also worn by Julie Driscoll (Susan's daughter) m. Mr. Lord – 1986

**Nancy Piper**: - (1) Constance Mason m. Harold Lane - June 1, 1940, Melrose MA  
(2) Nancy Lane m. John Piper - June 18, 1972, Sudbury MA

**Mary Russell**: - Elizabeth A. Cronin m. Paul J. Harrington - October 1947, No. Woburn MA

**Ruth Shackford**: - Ruth Prescott m. Jesse Shackford - September 14, 1947, Madison NH

**Linda Smith**: - (1) Florence Marion Stuart m. Herbert Elwin Drew - July 19, 1909, Madison NH  
(2) Hazel Barker Smith m. Leland Stuart Drew - June 8, 1946, Medford MA  
Also worn September 6, 1969 by Linda Lee Drew m. Robert Morgan Newton, Madison NH  
(3) Linda Drew Newton m. Noel Raymond Smith - June 24, 1989, Tamworth NH

**Joyce Stevens**: - Joyce H. Sargent m. Peter Smith Stevens - December 2, 1961, Annisquam MA

**Jessica Whitelaw**: - Jessica Sheppard m. Donald Whitelaw - March 5, 2006, Bretton Woods NH

**Ann & David Wilkins**: - (1) Naomi Esther Williams m. George R. Thomas - September 11, 1931, Portsmouth VA  
(2) Matron of Honor dress worn by Naomi Thomas at the wedding of Nancy Lee Codd & Thomas Welsh - August 1941, Portsmouth VA  
(3) Flower Girl dress worn by Ann Lee Thomas at the wedding of her nursery school teacher Ruth Erb & Stuart Whipple - September 15, 1948, Hudson NH



- (4) Ann Lee Thomas m. David George Wilkins - June 25, 1966, Durham NH  
(5) Naomi Thomas, mother of the bride at wedding of Ann Lee Thomas & David George Wilkins - June 25, 1966, Durham NH  
(6) Marjorie Wilkins, mother of the groom at wedding of Ann Lee Thomas & David George Wilkins - June 25, 1966, Durham NH  
(7) Bridesmaid's dress worn by Ann Thomas Wilkins at wedding of Judith Kirkham & Christopher Walker - August 1967, Wellesley, MA

**Rebecca Wilkins & Christopher Colborn:** - Bonnie Fay Morris & Servetus Wesley Ogan - April 15, 1908, Limon OH

Also worn October 11, 1932 - Treva Jane Ogan (Bonnie's daughter) m. Theodore Andre Van Griethurysen, Wynne AK

Also worn August 28, 1993 - Rebecca Louise Wilkins m. Christopher Colborn (Treva's grandson), Pittsburgh PA

**Carol Tremblay Witt:** - Florence Lillian Nye m. Normand Telesphore Tremblay - November 26, 1944, Braintree, MA

# 1890s

## 1895

John Benjamin Rogers & Agnes Parsons  
November 13, 1895, South Berwick ME  
(Lent by Kathleen S. Avery)





# 1900-1910

**1904**

Bertha Pauline Bristol & Rev. Ellsworth Morton Tracy

May 31, 1904, Naugatuck CT

(Lent by Eleanor Bristol Tracy Jenkins)



**1907**

May Stevenson & Silas Bent Phillips

September 7, 1907, Galesburg IL

(lent by Eleanor Bristol Tracy Jenkins)





**1908**

Bonnie Fay Morris & Servetus Wesley Ogan

April 15, 1908, Limo OH



**also worn 1932**

Treva Jane Ogan (Bonnie's daughter) & Theodore Andre Van Griethurysen

October 11, 1932, Wynne AK

**also worn 1993**

Rebecca Louise Wilkins & Christopher Colborn (Treva's grandson)

August 28, 1993, Pittsburg, PA

(lent by Rebecca Wilkins & Christopher Colborn)

**1909**

Florence Marion Stuart & Herbert Elwin Drew

July 19, 1909, Madison NH

(lent by Linda Drew Smith)





# 1911-1919

## 1916

Agnes Chaloner & William McIntosh

June 16, 1916, Boston MA

(lent by Mary McIntosh)



**1918**

Worn by Mary L. McNair at her wedding

June 25, 1918

Also worn by her mother and aunt  
(lent by Sally Bledsoe & Lynne Gilman)





## 1920s

Dress worn by an unknown bride  
(lent by Barbara Lancaster Bellini)



# 1930s

## 1930

Beatrice Simpson & Alton Parker Lovering  
June 23, 1930, Silver Lake NH  
(lent by Gary & Linda Lovering)



“This story begins at the end, has evolved with time, and remains open ended still today.

“I married my husband, Gary Lovering, in 1968 at the little Baptist Church in Madison, NH. He was born in North Conway and raised in the lovely town of Silver Lake. I grew up in Henniker, NH, but my parents both came from this area, and we visited often. My parents owned summer homes on the lake, which is where I was lucky enough to meet my husband.

“I knew from the beginning that Gary’s mother, Beatrice, had died shortly after giving birth to him. We knew very little about her life except that she had been a teacher. After the passing of his father and beloved stepmother, Alton Lovering and Jenny Twombly Lovering, Gary and I took on the ownership of their old farm. Repairing the exterior and interior took months.

“When we were finally able to begin researching the house’s contents, we were astonished to find a photo of Beatrice, something her son had never seen. Then, in an old family Bible, we found photos of his parents’ 1930 wedding, and we realized that this old house was a repository of many precious mementos and memories. Finally, in an old ‘hope chest’, I found Bea’s wedding dress, a discovery that left me sad. After ten years of marriage, a beautiful woman gives birth to a handsome son and that is it, ‘The End’?

“Now as Gary and I enter those ‘Golden Years’, I am frustrated by the silence that surrounds the life of this woman. I live in Bea’s home and honor her, but I also wanted to break the silence and tell her story.

“Last year I contacted the Madison Historical Society to ask if they would be willing to showcase Bea Lovering’s wedding dress. On June 18, 2016, after 86 years, the Historical Society publically celebrated her wedding and her life, along with those of many other brides and grooms, many of them with connections to Madison, New Hampshire.”

Mrs. Linda L. Lovering, daughter-in-law of Mrs. Beatrice Simpson Lovering

**1931**

Freeda Harris & Raymond Underwood  
July 25, 1931, Meredith NH  
(lent by Norma Grasse)





**1931**

Naomi Esther Williams & George R. Thomas  
September 11, 1931, Portsmouth VA  
(lent by Ann & David Wilkins)



**1936**

Katherine MacKenzie & P. J. Holmes

April 25, 1936, Suffield CT

(lent by Mary Holmes, Anne Filson, Stewart Holmes & Margaret H. Kelly)



**1939**

Elizabeth Edna Lay & Walton E. Devine

October 24, 1939

(lent by Nancy Devine)





## Slips & Negligees



(blue) Elizabeth Edna Lay Devine (lent by Nancy Devine)  
(white) Betsey Parks Hammond Eldridge (lent by Robin Hain)



(lent by Linda Lovering)

# 1940s

1940

Constance Mason & Harold Lane

June 1, 1940, Melrose MA

(lent by Nancy Piper)



**1941**

Matron of Honor dress worn by Naomi Thomas  
at the wedding of Nancy Lee Codd & Thomas Welsh  
August 1941, Portsmouth VA (lent by Ann & David Wilkins)





**1941**

Jean Margaret Kiley & David Que Wells  
November 21, 1941, Boston MA



**also worn 1969**

Jean Long Wells & Linn Hemingway Bealke  
September 6, 1969, St. Louis, MO

**also worn 1981**

Mary Coleman Wells & Howard Leroy Vickery  
July 18, 1981, St. Louis MO

**also worn 2007**

Emily Roots Bealke & Ryan Parenteau  
July 21, 2007  
(lent by Rebecca Mattison)

**1944**

Florence Lillian Nye & Normand Telesphore Tremblay

November 26, 1944, Braintree, MA

(lent by Carol Tremblay Witt)



**1946**

Hazel Barker Smith & Leland Stuart Drew  
June 8, 1946, Medford MA



**also worn 1969**

Linda Lee Drew & Robert Morgan Newton (with different train)  
September 6, 1969

(lent by Linda Drew Smith)



**1947**

Ruth Prescott & Jesse Shackford  
September 14, 1947, Madison NH  
(lent by Ruth Shackford)



**1947**

Elizabeth A. Cronin & Paul J. Harrington

October 1947, No. Woburn MA

(lent by Mary Russell)



**1948**

Flower Girl dress worn by Ann Lee Thomas  
at the wedding of her nursery school teacher Ruth Erb & Stuart Whipple  
September 15, 1948, Hudson NH (lent by Ann & David Wilkins)





**1949**

Edith Virginia Woodbridge & Bob McNair  
1949



**also worn 1950**

Carol Coburn (Edith's sister-in-law) & Elliot Woodbridge

**also worn 1956**

Susan Jones (like an adopted daughter) & Jerry Driscoll

**also worn 1983**

Sarah (Sally) H. McNair (Edith's daughter) & Kelly Bledsoe

**also worn 1986**

Julie Driscoll (Susan's daughter) & Mr. Lord

(lent by Sally Bledsoe & Lynne Gilman)

# 1950s

**1953**

Betsey Parks Hammond & Richard Parks Eldridge

October 3, 1953, Taunton MA

(lent by Robin Hain)





**1954**

Ruth Clayton & J. (Jean) Emmons Lancaster

June 4, 1954, Madison NH

(lent by Barbara Lancaster Bellini)





**1959**

Dale Edwards & David Appleton  
August 15, 1959, Cullowhee NC  
(lent by Dale Appleton)



# 1960s

## 1961

Joyce H. Sargent & Peter Smith Stevens

December 2, 1961, Annisquam MA

(lent by Joyce Stevens)





**1962**

Leslie (Penny) Davis & Michael Hathaway

June 23, 1962, Bethel ME

headpiece worn by daughter

Brenda Marie Hathaway & Marc Louis LaForce

February 17, 1996, Madison NH

(lent by Penny Hathaway)





**1965**

Jan Anderson & Michael Connolly  
August 26, 1965, Washington Crossing PA  
(lent by Jan Connolly)



**1966**

Ann Lee Thomas & David George Wilkins

June 25, 1966, Durham NH

(lent by Ann & David Wilkins)



## 1966

(left) Naomi Thomas, mother of the bride at wedding of Ann Lee Thomas & David George Wilkins  
June 25, 1966, Durham NH



(right) Marjorie Wilkins, mother of the groom at wedding of Ann Lee Thomas & David George Wilkins  
June 25, 1966, Durham NH

(lent by Ann & David Wilkins)



**1966**

Jeannette (Jan) Budicin & Glen Eskedel  
August 27, 1966, Mt. Prospect, IL  
(lent by Jan Eskedel)



**1967**

Bridesmaid's dress worn by Ann Thomas Wilkins at wedding of Judith Kirkham & Christopher Walker  
August 1967, Wellesley, MA  
(lent by Ann & David Wilkins)



**1967**

Sandra Larson & Lawrence Carr  
September 6, 1967, Poughkeepsie NY  
(lent by Sandra Carr)





**1968**

Kimberly A. Smith & Ronald M. Force  
March 22, 1968, Simsbury CT  
(lent by Kim Force)



# 1970s

## 1970

Cheryl Quinn & Chester Paul Littlefield

January 24, 1970, Hamilton MA

(lent by Cheryl Littlefield)



**1972**

Nancy Lane & John Piper  
June 18, 1972, Sudbury MA  
(lent by Nancy Piper)





**1977**

Elizabeth (Betty) Reid & Justino Fernandes

May 28, 1977, Dartmouth MA

(lent by Betty Fernandes)



**1978**

Lynne Rose Curotto & Saverio (Samuel) Macrina

April 29, 1978, Taunton MA

(lent by Lynne Gilman)



**1978**

Karen Robbins & Stuart P. Lord  
June 24, 1978, Mt. Pocono, PA  
(lent by Karen Lord)





# 1980s

## 1986

Patricia Aleda Coman & Bruce Alexander Curotto

September 12, 1986, Dudley MA

(lent by Patty Curotto)



**1988**

Jane D. Blocher & Kurt Mason  
October 1, 1988, Madison NH  
(lent by Eleanor Jones)



**1989**

Linda Drew Newton & Noel Raymond Smith

June 24, 1989, Tamworth NH

(lent by Linda Smith)





## 1990s

**1993**

Mary Knox Weisman & Mark Batron Lucy

July 17, 1993, North Conway NH

(lent by Mary Lucy)



## 2000s

### 2006

Jessica Sheppard & Donald Whitelaw

March 5, 2006, Bretton Woods NH

(lent by Jessica Whitelaw)





