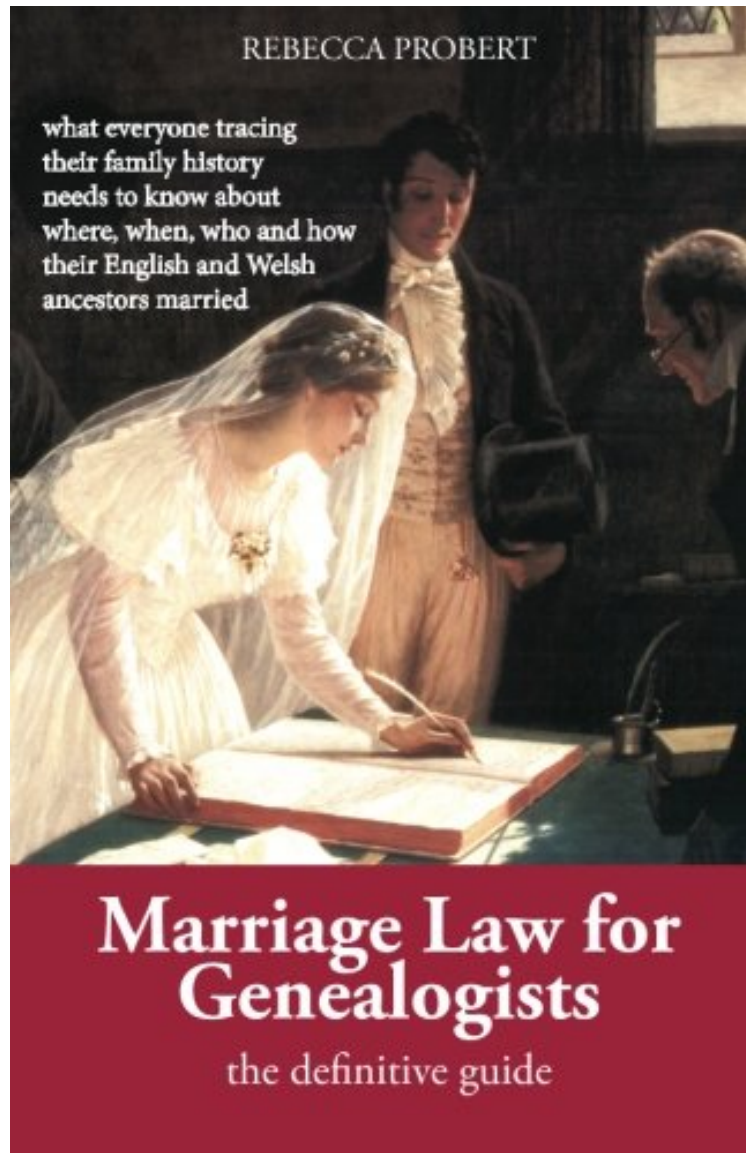


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Marriage Law for Genealogists: The Definitive Guide what everyone tracing their family history needs to know about where, when, who and how their English and Welsh ancestors married

Rebecca Probert

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purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Marriage Law for Genealogists: The Definitive Guide what everyone tracing their family history needs to know about where, when, who and how their English and Welsh ancestors married:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Useful, authoritative and readable...By V. VesperI'm giving this book a 5-star rating for a couple of different reasons. First, from all I can tell this is a very definitive source on marriage law in England and Wales. The author is a law professor--not a genealogist. She has clearly done extensive research not only into the law itself but into local marriage records in various parts of England and Wales. It's one thing to have a genealogist tell you that "at that time the law required xyz." It's quite another to have a law professor who specializes in marriage law in that country tell you. Second, the book is very readable. Ms. Probert gives numerous examples of questions she has received and really speaks to the questions we have as genealogists. It's not only useful, but interesting. That's a big bonus! As a corollary to this point, you may be surprised at what was legally mandated long ago. Not only do I know that my ancestors married in 1806 in Shropshire, but I now also know that they most likely married in the morning, as that had been part of canon law since 1604. (The Marriage Act 1823 made clergy who solemnized marriages outside of the hours between 8 am and midday guilty of a felony!) The book is organized to make it easy to find information, and I expect to utilize it frequently as my British research progresses.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A must have for a researcher's libraryBy RegencyMissI am not a genealogist. I am an amateur researcher into marriage law in the 18th and early 19th century in England. Ms. Probert presents her material in a way that even a non academic and non professional genealogist can understand it. Her examples are clear. This small book is worth three or four others I have on my shelf. So much information in one place makes this book an essential addition to any library of those interested in the marriage laws of England. I do think it a definitive guide on the subject.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Excellent addition.By MorganJ.An excellent source of information about marriage laws and regulations, customs and regional differences. In addition the author gives the reader her personal website and offers to help with difficulties, unusual situations, brick walls etc. She also asks that her readers send her details of any unusual or amusing stories arising from their research so that she might consider them for her next work. Definitely a worthwhile addition to one's library.

The indispensable guide for all family historians tracing the marriages of their English and Welsh ancestors between 1600 and the twentieth century. Based upon years of painstaking primary research, including new studies of thousands of couples, this book explains clearly and concisely why, how, when and where people in past centuries married. Family historians just starting out will find advice on where missing marriages are most likely to be found, while those who are already well advanced in tracing their family tree will be able to interpret their discoveries to better understand their ancestors motivations. How, for example, should we interpret our ancestors decisions to marry in a particular form or place, or at a particular time? Did their choices make them exceptional or normal for their day? Might their marriages have been bigamous, clandestine, or void? Or might they have conscientiously followed the rules set down by Church and State? Professor Rebecca Probert explains the mistakes and confusion found in most genealogical guides, and thoroughly rewrites how family historians should understand their ancestors lives in this most personal and universal of areas.

About the AuthorRebecca Probert is widely recognised as the leading authority on the history of the marriage laws of England and Wales, a subject on which she has written extensively. Currently Professor of Law at the University of Warwick, she read law at St Annes College, Oxford, took her LLM at University College, London, worked as a researcher at the Law Commission, and has lectured in family law since 1997. She has spent many years deeply engrossed in the large-scale genealogical case-studies which underpin the conclusions of her academic work and of this book. Her many TV and radio appearances include the BBCs Who Do You Think You Are?, Heirhunters and Harlots, Heroines Housewives.