

A peep into the Victorian Image Collection

Part 10 – Weddings

By Ron Cosens

The earliest known photograph of a bride was taken in Boston (USA) in 1854.

Victorian wedding pictures were usually taken in the studio but some were taken outdoors; however, pictures taken inside churches were not seen until the 1920s.

Here is the famous painting by Pascal Dagnan-Bouveret – where all the family seems to be involved.

Weddings have always been an occasion for celebration and for dressing up.

In early Victorian times it was only the brides of the rich and famous that wore 'white' dresses, albeit many were actually ivory in colour as they were better to photograph. Orange blossom was a very popular adornment and added a little colour to the bonnet or the veil.

However, from the late 1870s, brides started to wear bolder colours; examples of bronze, claret and amethyst etc. still exist in museums today.

As time went on, some ladies from lower classes also started to wear white wedding dresses but many still got married in brighter colours in the style of 'Sunday Best' clothes that could be worn thereafter.

The groom's new suit often had to last for life!

In the late 1880s the canonical hours were changed and afternoon weddings became popular, thus allowing brides to get married in their 'going-away' apparel.

Although most of the photographs in the Gallery below show full length poses, Victorian newspaper reports often showed just head and shoulders portraits.

Wedding celebrations come in various forms. On the right is a rare and beautiful piece of photographic ephemera; an invite to a 50th anniversary party.



The institution of Marriage has been viewed differently throughout history but today it appears it is in danger of becoming an endangered species. The ONS reported in 2021 that, for the first time since 1845 when records began, more than 50% of children in the UK were born outside of marriage.

Gallery

All photographs have been dated from studio details.

Cartes de Visite (cdv)



Fine early wedding photo (cdv 1863 Nottingham).



Rare picture of a wedding feast (cdv 1867 London).



Hand coloured cdv of Katie E Pointer (cdv 1869 Blackheath).



Marriage report (cdv 1876 Bromley).

Cabinet Cards



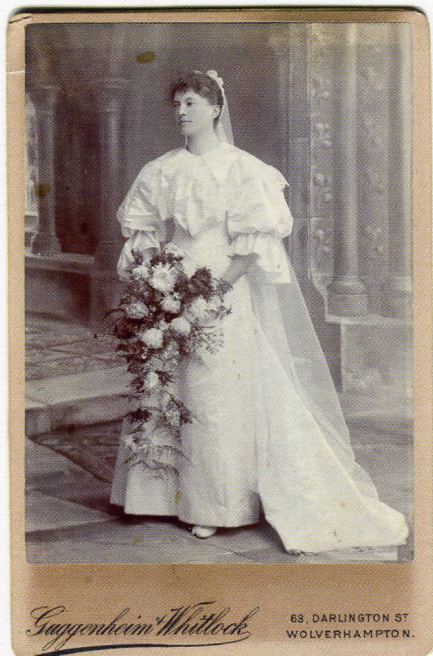
*Nicely posed, early cabinet portrait
(cab 1869 London).*



*Captain Martin V Bates and his bride
(cab c1874 Newcastle upon Tyne).*



*Special wedding background
(cab c1890 Ramsgate).*



*Wonderful floral bouquet
(cab 1890 Wolverhampton).*



*Find the bride & her two bridesmaids
(cab c1893 Walkley, Sheffield).*

*Sitting on a bridge !!
(cab c1893 Not known).*



*Pretty teenage bridesmaid
(cab c1894 Chesham).*



*Heginbottom sisters
(cab c1895 Manchester).*



*Flowers everywhere
(cab c1897 Windsor).*

continues over



PEARSON & Co.,
PHOTOGRAPHERS
32 Greyhound Road
FULHAM PALACE ROAD W

Soldier & his bride
(cab 1897 London).



Gill & Phipps
33, CATHERINE ST.
DEVONPORT.

Interesting pose showing her veil
(cab c1898 Devonport).



A. M. Bliss & Co.
LEWES

Coloured dress; possibly pregnant
(cab c1898 Lewes).



Kate Osborne
ST MARY'S STREET
BRIDGWATER.

Sisterly bridesmaids
photographed by a lady
(cab 1899 Bridgwater).



H. D. Badcock
OTTERY
ST MARY.

Bridesmaids in colourful dresses
(cab c1901 Ottery St. Mary).



IN COMMEMORATION OF GOLDEN WEDDING.—16TH APRIL, 1902.

Wm. H. Gilchrist & Kimloch
202 HOPE ST
GLASGOW

Golden Wedding celebration
(cab 1902 Glasgow).



Lee
Wishing you a MERRY CHRISTMAS
and a HAPPY NEW YEAR.
SAVADOWN

Rare Christmas Card
(cab 1903 Portrush).



*Very affectionately yours,
Amelia Holding.*

Ernst
1 WAVERLEY PLACE
ST JOHNS WOOD N.W.

You can find more of these wonderful images on
the dedicated page on the PCCGB website:
<https://bit.ly/3NZ8yDx>



In front of the greenhouse (cab c1905 Wibsey).

Amelia Holding in wedding dress
(cab c1903 London).

further images and information:
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*Harry W. Wilmer, Photographer,
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