

## Wedding Certificates: Traditional Text, Modern Examples

### Traditional wording for a Quaker wedding certificate

Whereas [name] of [place name], son of [names of parents], and [name] of [place name], daughter of [names of parents], having declared their intentions of marriage with each other to [meeting name] Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends held at [place name], their proposed marriage was allowed by that meeting.

Now this is to certify to whom it may concern, that for the accomplishment of their intention, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of the \_\_\_\_\_ month, in the year of our Lord \_\_\_\_\_, they, [name] and [name], appeared in a meeting for worship of the Religious Society of Friends, held at [place name], and [name], taking [name ] by the hand, did, on this solemn occasion, declare that he took her, [name], to be his wife, promising with Divine assistance to be unto her a loving and faithful husband so long as they both shall live; and then, in the same assembly [name] did in like manner declare that she took him, [name], to be her husband, promising with Divine assistance to be unto him a loving and faithful wife so long as they both shall live. And moreover, they, [name and name], did as further confirmation thereof, then and there, to this certificate set their hands.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_

And we, having been present at the marriage, have as witnesses hereunto set our hands.

Some traditional certificates expand the end of the first paragraph:

...[meeting name] monthly meeting of the Religious Society of Friends held at [place name], according to the good order used among them, and having the consent of the parents, their proposed marriage was allowed by that meeting.

If the wife plans to take the husband's last name, the last sentence of the second paragraph may also be modified:

And moreover, they, [name and name], she, according to the custom of marriage assuming the surname of her husband, did as further confirmation thereof, then and there to this certificate set their hands.

## Some examples of wedding certificates provided by NPYM Friends

*Note: the Faith & Practice Committee welcomes Friends to send photos of their wedding certificates to add to this collection.*

Lori Patterson and Lew Scholl



*And having been present on this occasion signed their names as witness:*



[names obscured by request of the couple]

