

Marriage licence for Henry Valentine Mills (DR304/10/6)

February's Document of the Month is this marriage licence for the very aptly named Henry Valentine Mills and Frances Georgianna Miller. It is dated 18 January 1917 and granted the couple permission to marry. In this instance the couple were permitted to marry in the parish of Radway, Warwickshire (the bride's home parish) within three months of the date the licence was granted. Henry's occupation is listed as a Second Lieutenant in the Royal Garrison Artillery. They were obviously keen to marry quickly, as they paid for a licence rather than have the banns read on three consecutive Sundays in the church. The licence was granted by Thomas Randall, the Archbishop of Canterbury¹.

¹ Information sourced from Henry Valentine Mills marriage licence, Warwickshire County Record Office, DR304/10/6.



Working, J Warnickshire



Randall Thomas by Divine Providence ARCHBISHOP of CANTERBURY. Primate of all ENGLAND and Metropolitan, by the Authority of Parliament То r well-beloved in Christ lawfully empowered for the purposes herein written : Henry Valentine Mills a Secondicuter Mills a Secondficutement in the County of Warwick Bachelor and Frances Georgiana Miller Taresh of Madway in the s GRACE AND HEALTH. County of pinster are, as it is alleged, resolved to proceed to the Solemnization of true and lawful Matrimony, By the and that you desire that the same may be solemnized in the Face of the Church: We therefore being willing that these your reasonable Desires may the more speedily obtain a due effect, and to the End thereof, that this Marriage may be publicly and lawfully solemnized in the Parish Church of Stat Padway aforesaid by the RECTOR, VILLE, CURATE, or Officiating MINISTER thereof, without the Publication or Proclamation . IV of the Banns of Matrimony, provided there shall appear no Impediment of Kindred or Alliance, or of 76 any other lawful Cause, nor any Suit commenced in any Ecclesiastical Court, to bar or hinder the Pro-ceeding of the said Matrimony, according to the Tenor of this Licence, and likewise That the Celebration of this Marriage be had and done publicly in ______ the aforesaid Church ______ of this Marriage be had and done publicly in ______ the Ienor of this Licence, and likewise That the Celebration of this Marriage be had and done publicly in ______ the aforesaid Church between the Hours of Eight in the Forenoon and Three in the Afternoon, Do, for lawful Causes, graciously grant this Our fittence and faculty as well to you the Parties contracting, as to the RECTOR, VICAR, CURATE, or MINISTER of ______ the aforesaid Parish who is the RECTOR, VICAR, CURATE, or MINISTER of the and to you the Parise contracting, as to the designed to solennize the Marriage between you, in the Manner and Form above specified, according to the Rites of the Book of Common Prayer, set forth for that Purpose by the Authority of Parliament. Gibtin under the Seal of Our Offlict of faculties at Doctors Commons, this Explicitly and the Seal of Our Offlict of faculties at Doctors Commons, this Explicitly and the Sear of our Lord One Thousand Nine Mundred and Sevention and in the Fourtheenth Year of Our Translation. to conti hereof. FACULTY OFFICE, 28 Knightrider Street, Doctors Commons, London, E.C. Menza

Henry Valentine Mills marriage licence, 1917, Warwickshire County Record Office, DR304/10/6.

Warwickshire County Council

Working for Warnickshire



Marriage Licences

Marriage licences are documents which permit a couple to marry. They were first introduced in the fourteenth century and allowed a couple to bypass the reading of banns². Despite their expense, they proved popular, and it is estimated that by the early eighteenth century, about a third of marriages were conducted by licence³. They were particularly useful for a couple who wished to marry quickly and avoid the delay caused by the reading of Banns. It was also used as a status symbol, due to the higher cost⁴.

Before one could be granted, the Groom would usually have to swear an affidavit (called the allegation)⁵.

In this instance, the licence was possibly gained due to Henry's occupation. In 1917, the First World War had been raging for three years and as a Second Lieutenant, he was likely serving his Country. This would mean he had little leave in order to marry.

Henry Valentine Mills

Henry was born in 1881 to Francis and Selina Mary Mills. His baptism took place in the Parish Church of Pillerton Hersey, Warwickshire on 1st January 1882⁶. On the 1911 census, he is still living at home with his parents, three sisters and four servants⁷.

g&new=1&rank=1&gsfn=henry%20valentine&gsfn_x=0&gsln=mills&gsln_x=0&msypn__ftp=Warwicks



² <u>https://search.findmypast.co.uk/search-world-records/britain-marriage-licences-browse</u> (accessed 27/12/2018).

³ GILLIS, John R., *For Better for Worse: British Marriages 1600 to the Present*, Oxford University Press, Oxford, 1985, page 92.

⁴ <u>https://www.dur.ac.uk/library/asc/collection_information/family.records/marriage/</u> (accessed 27/12/2018).

⁵ <u>https://www.dur.ac.uk/library/asc/collection_information/family.records/marriage/</u> (accessed 27/12/2018).

⁶ <u>https://search.ancestryinstitution.com/cgi-</u>

bin/sse.dll?_phsrc=JvG6&_phstart=successSource&usePUBJs=true&qh=pD3OR7cbo3UqQD5WEm UR9g%3D%3D&gss=angs-



He married Frances Georgianna Miller on the 27th January 1917 at the Parish Church in Radway, Warwickshire⁸.

Tragically, just a few months later, Henry was killed in action. On the 25th June 1917, just outside Ypres, 321st Siege Battery came under fire and amongst the casualties was Henry Valentine Mills. He is buried at Vlamertinghe New Military Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium³.

https://search.ancestryinstitution.com/cgi-

g&new=1&rank=1&gsfn=henry%20valentine&gsfn x=NP NN NIC&gsln=mills&gsln x=1&msbdy=188 1&msbpn_ftp=Warwickshire,%20England&msbpn=5288&msypn_ftp=Warwickshire,%20England,W arwickshire,%20England,Warwickshire,%20England&msypn=5288,5288,5288&MSAV=1&uidh=ir7&p cat=ROOT_CATEGORY&h=24158557&dbid=2352&indiv=1&ml_rpos=1 (accessed 27/12/2018). Information gathered from the Radway Parish Register, available on microfilm at Warwickshire County Record Office.

https://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead/casualty/142867/mills,-henry-valentine/ (accessed 27/12/2018).



hire.%20England&msypn=5288&msbdy=1881&catbucket=rstp&MSAV=0&uidh=ir7&pcat=ROOT CA TEGORY&h=3327875&dbid=2446&indiv=1&ml rpos=3 (accessed 27/12/2018).

bin/sse.dll? phsrc=JvG12& phstart=successSource&usePUBJs=true&gh=oMgshGIRZKcBllu/KgocF A%3D%3D&gss=angs-