

The Lesbian Archive and Information Centre Timeline

Revealing the hidden history of British lesbian women.

1954: Smug Marrieds?

Long before the advent of Civil Partnerships, women were determined to legitimise their relationships - even if it involved duplicitous methods!

This image comes from a 1954 psychological study on the cause of female homosexuality and the accompanying statement reveals a level of sexism that in this case worked for the women involved, allowing them to escape prosecution.

A famous case of a homosexual marriage—the bridegroom in the picture is a girl. The two were officially married in England in September, 1954. The officiating clergyman was under the impression that the bridegroom, Violet Ellen Katherine Jones, was a male named "Vincent Jones." The bride was Joan Lee. Since England has no law against homosexual activities between women, the only penalty they incurred was a fine for making false statements in order to obtain a marriage license.—

Combine Photos.



Violet Ellen Katherine Jones (left) and Joan Lee, who obtained an official marriage license in 1954.

