

Wedding Traditions We Think We Know



Basic traditions

The bride and groom don't see each other before the ceremony

This started in the Victorian era, when women were viewed as property who needed to be hidden away.

White wedding dress

The tradition also originates from across the pond in England. Queen Victoria had a beautiful and very public wedding in the early 1800s where she donned a white lace blouse.

The father giving her away by handing her over to the groom

Historically, young women were used as collateral to resolve debts or conflicts with neighboring tribes.

Carrying a bridal bouquet

Back in Ancient Rome and Greece it had been in vogue to carry aromatic bouquets of onions, garlic dill and other herbs to repel evil spirits. Carrying a favorite flower variety is a tradition that became popular in 1840.

The veil

In the past, there were some different reasons for the veil. Some believed that hiding the bride protected her from evil spirits. In other situations, like arranged marriages, the veil covered the bride so that she wouldn't be recognized and approached by other men.

The first kiss

The first kiss started in Ancient Rome when a married couple kissed in front of family and friends to show their love for each other, the community, and the Gods. They believed that this kiss would protect them from evil spirits or bad luck during their marriage.

Something old, new, borrowed and blue

The "something old" was worn to connect the bride to her family and her and the "something new" signifying she was about to start a new family and journey now. Unlike the old, the bride's borrowed possessions should have been taken from happily separated couples so that their good fortune could be passed

through for the bride. Something blue was identified in relation as faithfulness and loyalty similar to true blue.

The phrase “Tying the knot”

This comes from a hand fasting ceremony. Hand fasting is a Celtic ritual which represents an unbreakable promise to bound the couple together. They would actually put the couples hands together and tie them together.

The Wedding Cake

Originally, instead of wedding cakes, they had a wedding pie. The couple would eat from the same piece of meat to show their love for each other and that they were sharing everything together. Wedding cakes started becoming more popular during after 1780.

Cake Topper

Cake toppers started when Prince Albert and Queen Victoria had chosen to celebrate their wedding with miniature sculpture of herself.

Tossing the Garter

A garter is a frilly piece of material the bride wears around her thigh, and often is a symbol of a bride's virginity. The groom will remove this, often with his head under the dress, and toss it to all the men in attendance during wedding reception. Whoever catches the garter is going to be next married, since they're considered lucky!

Throwing rice

The wedding exit is really exciting. Wedding guests would throw rice as they left. Rice was thought to bring fertility and good luck.

Carrying the bride across the threshold

This started in ancient times when women were said to be frail and couldn't walk across the threshold. The idea behind this is that it shows how strong her husband must be, just as he carries all their burdens together.

Sources: strieglerphoto.com/blog/17-american-wedding-traditions-why-we-do-them

Unique traditions in the US

Burying the Bourbon

In the South, there's a tradition of burying a bottle of bourbon upside down at your wedding venue one month before the big day to ensure beautiful weather and good fortune.

Jumping the Broom

Many Black and African-American couples partake in jumping the broom at the conclusion of the wedding ceremony as a respectful homage to their ancestors that fought for their freedom. The tradition originated in the days of slavery as a way for couples to mark their marriage even when it wasn't legally recognized.

Pittsburgh Cookie Table

While couples typically enlist a professional baker for their wedding cake, this dessert spread is a compilation of homemade goodies baked by friends and family of the to-be-weds.

Second Line Parade

Especially popular in New Orleans, a Second Line parade involves a brass band festively leading a group of celebrants down the street. It's also a unique way to transport wedding guests from point A to point B.

Hawaiian Wedding Traditions

One iconic custom is the exchange of leis that traditionally takes place during the ceremony and wedding vow exchange. Traditionally, in lei making, there was the gathering of the materials to make the lei, harvesting those plants and flowers, and then presenting that special person with the lei."

Military Saber Arch

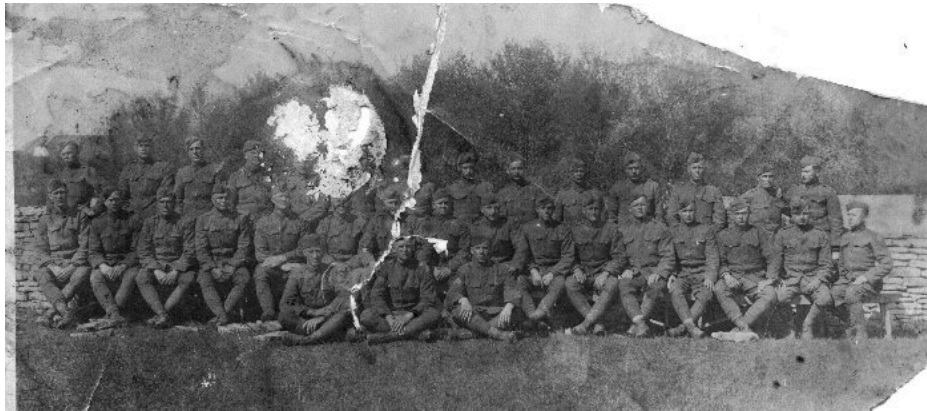
During a saber salute, the couple will pass underneath an arch created by military sabers. It's meant as a way for the people forming the arch to pledge their loyalty and support to you as newlyweds.

Foot-Washing Ceremony

In recent years, many couples partaking in Christian wedding ceremonies in America have included the practice of foot washing in the wedding ceremony. Inspired by the Bible passage in John 13:1–17 where Jesus washes his disciples' feet, this act is meant to symbolize sacrificial love and devotion.

Sources: theknot.com/content/wedding-traditions-from-across-the-country

Memorial Day - Remembering those we've lost.



My family and I are proud to be Americans, and to have served this country's military. My dad, five brothers and I have all served in various branches of military service. Dad served as a Forward Observer in France in WWI. My wife's father and his 2 brothers served in the Navy. During WWI, the eldest brother's ship was attacked by the Japanese -- there were no survivors.

Old photos (above) show the brave men our father served with and the USS Manchuria bringing him home.

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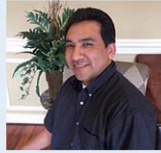
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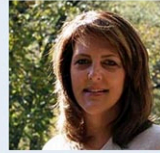
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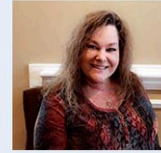
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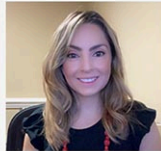
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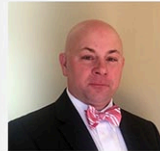
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