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<https://www.bda-online.org.au>**Queanbeyan, New South Wales
Church of England parish registers 1838-1866**

This collection of datasets comprises full transcripts of original Church of England baptisms, marriage and burials for the District of Queanbeyan, New South Wales, for the following years:

Baptisms 1838-1866**Marriages 1838-1856****Burials 1839-1856**

The original registers for Christ Church, Queanbeyan, are held by the archives of the Anglican Church Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn. They were microfilmed in the 20th century as part of a Joint Copying Project (JCP) between the Society of Australian Genealogists, National Library and the Mitchell Library. Filmed by W.F. Pascoe Pty Ltd (ref SAG Reel 212). This resource has been used for these transcripts of the registers (transcription by Paul Gunning; editing by Michael Flynn and Malcolm Sainty 2024).

The extent of the parish in its embryonic stage from 1838 covered a vast area around what was the small frontier settlement of Queanbeyan. The stated residence and occupations of parents at baptisms and of persons buried in the years 1838-1856 are a useful guide to this early period of settlement in the region:

Residence of parents of children baptised in the parish of Queanbeyan 1838-1866:

Arable, Aston, Ballalaba Creek, Benandra, Bibbenluke, Black Range, Bobundarah, Bombala, Booroomba, Booths Flat, Braidwood, Bugong, Bungendore, Bunyan, Burra, Bywong, Canberra (Canbury & other variants), Captains Flat, Carwoola, Charnwood, Coirangaramble, Congawarra, Coormating, Creek Station, Creekborough, Cuppacumbalong, Delegate, Duntroon, Edward River, Emu Bank,

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Forbes Creek, Foxlow, Gabramatta, Gear, Gegedzerick, Gidleigh, Ginninderra, Glenwood, Googong, Gudgenby, Guises Creek, Gundaroo, Janefield, Jerrabomberra, Jindabyne, Jingera, Land Hills, Lanyon, Limestone, Little Plains, Lobbs Hole, Long Swamp, Maharatta, McCarters Station, Micelago, Mitchells Flat, Molonglo, Monaro, Mount Campbell, Mount Cooper, Muldoon, Naas (Creek & Valley), Palmerville, Reids Flat, Snowy River, Taylors Flat, Tidbinbilla, Urila, Wanniasa, Woden, Yaouk, Yarrowlumla, Yass, Yeumbera.

Residence of persons buried in the parish of Queanbeyan 1838-1856:

For the earlier year range of 1838-1856 the residence of persons buried by Queanbeyan based ministers are:

Borgood (1), Bungendore (7), Burra (1), Canberra (including Canbury & variants: 4), Cohen (1), Colyers Creek (1), Monaro (7), Cuppacumbalong (2), Duntroon (4), Foxlow (1), Ginninderra (1), Gundaroo (4), Lanyon (2), Mahratta (1), Molonglo (3), Murrumbidgee (1), Naas Valley, Queanbeyan (38), Waniassa (3), Woden (1), Yeuminbera (1).

Stated occupation of fathers of children baptised in Queanbeyan parish 1838-1866:

Baker (1), Blacksmith (12), Brewer (1), Bricklayer (4), Brickmaker (3), Carpenter (14), Carrier (9), Clergyman (3), Constable (5), Cook (1), Farmer (1), Farrier (1), Gardener (2), Gentleman (1), Grocer (1), Groom (2), Horse Breaker (4), House Servant (1), Hut Keeper (1), Innkeeper (6), Labourer (66), Magistrate (7), Member of Council (2), Miller (1), Overseer (15), Plasterer (2), Police Magistrate (2), Policeman (2), Sawyer (3), Servant (1), Settler (69), Shepherd (26), Shoemaker (15), Shop hand (1), Stock Keeper (1), Stockman (1), Stockman (9), Stonemason (1), Storekeeper (5), Surgeon (5), Tailor (3), Tenant (13), Wheelwright (5).

Stated occupation of persons buried Queanbeyan parish 1838-1856:

Blacksmith (3), Brickmaker (2), Bullock Driver (1), Butcher (1), Chief Constable (1), Constable (1), Cook (1), Cooper (1), Farm Servant (2), Glazier (1), Labourer (19), Plasterer (1), Schoolmaster (1), Servant (5), Settler (7), Shepherd (13), Shoemaker (1), Tenant (2), Wheelwright (1).

Background

The Rev Edward Smith (1805-1892) arrived in New South Wales in January 1838 on the ship John. Also on board was the Rev Henry Sparling and his wife. Both were among a new batch of Anglican clergymen arriving from England in recent months sponsored by two British missionary societies: the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge and the Society for Propagating the Gospel in Foreign Parts.

Smith was born in the parish of St George Bloomsbury, London in 1805, the third son of Seth and Catherine Smith of St Marylebone, London and had commenced study St Magdalen Hall Oxford in 1831, aged 25, and was awarded a Bachelor of Arts in 1837.

About six months after his arrival Smith was assigned to the newly designated parish of Queanbeyan. He was still classified as a deacon but was ordained as a priest at St. James's Church of England, Sydney in February 1839. Described as a resident of Jerrabomberra, he married Elizabeth Martha Wilkinson in his own parish in 1843.

Smith raised funds from church, government and community donations for the construction of a church at Queanbeyan. Work continued through the economic recession of the early 1840s on a building with stone rubble walls which was completed in 1845. Prior to this time services were held in Queanbeyan and other parts of the parish in private dwellings and other buildings.

Churches were completed at Ginninderra (St Pauls' 1844) and Canbury [Canberra] (St John the Baptist 1845). Smith continued to act as the minister for both these churches till they were excised from Queanbeyan parish in 1850 to become parishes in their own right with their own ministers.

In January 1848 Smith described his work to a meeting of the Queanbeyan Parochial Association. His parish was roughly 80km by 64km with completed churches in Queanbeyan, Canbury [Canberra] and Ginninderra. He listed other places where he held divine service in private homes or other buildings at Bungendore, Gidleigh, Gundaroo, Molonglo, Charnwood, Waniassa and Lanyon.

Owing to distance and his role as the sole minister in a huge parish, services could only be performed from once every 4-8 weeks to once every 6-7 weeks in some of these localities. In many cases parishioners may have travelled to Queanbeyan to marry or have children baptised. Many burials in more remote

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areas were probably not recorded in the parish register. Funerals in these cases were conducted by family or local police or officials.

Smith was transferred to Campbelltown in 1857 and later served as minister at Manly and Seven Hills. His replacement at Queanbeyan was the Rev Alberto Dias Soares. Later in 1857 the first church was completely destroyed in a fire. A new Christ Church completed in 1860 still stands at 39 Rutledge Street, Queanbeyan.

Clergy Returns

These are copies of the church registers sent by the minister of a parish to Anglican authorities and the end of every year and later transferred to the New South Wales Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages.

Select sources

Website, Queanbeyan & district Anglican Church:

<https://www.queanbeyananglican.org/>

<https://www.queanbeyananglican.org/Christ-Church-Queanbeyan.html>

Website, Queanbeyan Museum, timeline of Queanbeyan history

<https://queanbeyanmuseum.org.au/queanbeyans-timeline/>

Queanbeyan parish registers, Anglican Church Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn, Reel 212, Society of Australian Genealogists

<https://catalogue.sag.org.au/attachments/42983/reel%200212.pdf>

Resources relating to the history of the Anglican Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn, Compiled by Alan Wilson for the Anglican Historical Society of the Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn 2020.

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Ian Matheson, 'Soares, Alberto Dias (1830–1909)', Australian Dictionary of Biography, National Centre of Biography, Australian National University,

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Select news items

July 1. — The ship John, Smith, master, laden with merchandise; left London, February 12. Passengers —The Rev. Mr Smith, the Rev. and Mrs Sparing [Spalding], Messrs C. T. Weaver, East, Porter, Hatfield, Mrs Fielding and child, Mr and Mrs Fox and 2 children, Mr and Mrs H. Davis and 1 child, Mr and Mrs Digby, Messrs Thornton, Fowler, and Bayley, Messrs Drew, Marrtell, Johnson, Coleman,

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Simmons and Richards ; Mrs Burnett and 2 children, Monsieur M. Barteagle and Monsieur Guilame.

The Australian (Sydney) 3 Jul 1838: 2.

<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article36857510>

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND. Thursday last was the day appointed for holding the Anniversary Meeting of the Diocesan Committee of the Societies Promoting Christian Knowledge and Propagating the Gospel in Foreign parts.... The report of the committee speaks in the highest terms of the venerable parent Societies In furnishing the colony with clergymen, in answer to the pressing appeal of the committee. The Rev. W. Sowerby, the Rev. W. Stack, and the Rev. J. K. Walpole arrived in the Andromeda; the Rev. G. N. Woodd, by the Samuel Winter; and the Rev. T. C. Makinson, by the Siam, before the close of last year; and since then, the Rev. E. Rogers, the Rev. T. Steele, the Rev H. Sparling, and the Rev. E. Smith have arrived

Sydney Herald 23 July 1838: 2. <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article12857392>

ORDINATION - The impressive ceremony of ordaining to the holy office of priesthood according to the rites of the Church of England, took place in St. James's Church [Sydney], on Sunday last. After the Liturgy had been read by the Rev. G. N. Woodd, M. A., the Bishop preached a sermon on the duties of the members of the ministry towards the people, and the people towards the ministers, taking his text from the seventeenth verse of the Fourth chapter of St Paul's Epistle to the Colossians, " Take heed to the ministry which thou hast received in the Lord, that thou fulfil it ". After the Sermon, his Lordship proceeded to the altar, and having taken his seat, the Rev. Mr. Woodd presented John Troughton late of St. Bees' College, but now of Parramatta, as a candidate for the office of Deacon, and answered the usual enquiries respecting the qualifications of the candidate. The Reverend Gentleman then introduced the Rev. Edward Rogers, of Brisbane Water, Deacon ; the Rev. Edward Smith, B.A., late of Magdalen Hall Oxford, now of Queanbeyan, Deacon ; and the Rev. Hart Davis Draper Sparling, B.A., late of Pembroke College, Oxford, now of Appin, Deacon, as candidates for the Holy Office of Priesthood, and certified that he had examined them, and believed them to be fully qualified for the office. The candidates then underwent the usual examination, and having answered the prescribed questions, His Lordship appointed Mr. Troughton a Deacon, and then

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proceeded to the ordination of the other candidates, being assisted in the imposition of hands by the Rev. Mr. Woodd, the Rev. Mr. Forrest, Master of the King's School Parramatta, and the Rev. Mr. Turner, a recently arrived minister, who is officiating at Kissing Point during the illness of the Rev. Mr. Dickenson. After the Ordination, the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was administered to the Reverend Gentlemen and such of the congregation as remained to partake of it.

Sydney Herald 27 Feb 1839: 2. <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article12860132>

Report of the Committee on Police and Gaols. The Committee of the Legislative Council, appointed on the 11th June, 1839, to Inquire into, and Report upon, the Establishment and Strength of the Police Force in all its Branches – to what extent it may be expedient to maintain or increase it - and the expense it will occasion... The addition to the establishments generally have been the following, viz [with year of appointment and salary]:

Queanbeyan.

Police Magistrate appointed 1st December, 1837. £250

Clerk appointed 1st March, 1838 £100

Chief Constable, 1st January, 1838 £75

One Watchhouse-keeper, in 1838 £54 15s

Four Constables at 2s 9d each per diem in 1838. £200 15s

(One scourger transferred from Goulburn establishment 1st June, 1838)

Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser 16 Nov 1839: 4.

<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article2550779>

PROTESTANT CHURCH AT QUEANBEYAN. By our advertising columns it will be seen that a number of the most influential gentlemen resident at and in the vicinity of Queanbeyan have held a meeting, and taken the necessary steps for the erection of a Church in connection with the Church of England.

Sydney Monitor and Commercial Advertiser 13 Jan 1841: 2

<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article32187916>

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Report of the Committee on Police and Gaols. THE DIVISION OF THE COLONY INTO POLICE DISTRICTS. Your Committee now proceed to describe the Boundaries of the several Police Districts into which they recommend the colony should be divided, making in all, exclusive of Sydney and Port Phillip, twenty-nine Districts, of which it is proposed that twenty-five should have the services of a Police Magistrate, viz: ...

QUEANBEYAN—Bounded on the east by the Braidwood Police District; on the north by the south portion of Lake George to the Gap on its west side; thence by a line to Bywong, and the crest of the range at the head of the Gundaroo Waters to the Murrumbidgee River, including the various properties on the Gininderry [Gininderra] Creek....

Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser 19 Nov 1839: 4.

<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article2549784>

TITLE DEEDS. Colonial Secretary's Office, Sydney 11th January, 1844.

The undermentioned Deeds have been transmitted from this Office to the Registrar-General of New South Wales, for enrolment, to be by him forwarded, through the Surveyor-General, to the Colonial Treasurer, by whom notification of their receipt at his Office will be made to the Grantees by Letter, after which they will be delivered on application, viz. Town Allotments-Purchased under the Regulations of 11th January, 1843; Proclamation of 10th April, 1843 Alured Tasker Faunce, and John Weston, Trustees of the Episcopalian Church, Queanbeyan, 1 acre.

Sydney Morning Herald 24 Jan 1844: 4.

<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article12412018>

The Lord Bishop of Australia is still in the country, he consecrated a new church in Queanbeyan on the 8th instant. He was most cordially received in this township, and an eloquent address was presented by a most respectable deputation.

Port Phillip Gazette (Vic) 26 Mar 1845: 2.

<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article224813020>

AUSTRALIAN DIOCESAN SOCIETY. Wednesday last was the day fixed for the anniversary meeting of the members of the Australian Diocesan Committee of the Societies for the Propagation of the Gospel and Promoting Christian Knowledge... At Bungendore the shell of a brick building had been completed, and he had endeavoured to make arrangements to render it fit for occupation.

Sydney Morning Herald 8 Jan 1847: 2

<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article12899728>

QUEANBEYAN PAROCHIAL ASSOCIATION. A MEETING was held at the Court-house, Queanbeyan, according to advertisement, on the 6th instant, for the purpose of forming a Parochial Association for the parishes in this district. The Rev. E. SMITH having taken the chair, said: My Christian friends, being about to engage in so very important a business, so intimately connected with the glory of God and the spiritual welfare of our fellow-creatures ; and it being customary on the occasion of meetings for the promotion of religious objects to commence with prayer, I beg to call upon all present to join with me in prayer for the Divine blessing upon our undertaking. [Prayers having been read, he continued]: It affords me unfeigned pleasure to witness the present meeting, to see that we are assembled to form the first Parochial Association in this district. It has often appeared to me, and I know it has appeared to others also, that the formation of such an Association is very much to be desired. What we want is to excite a spirit of zeal and energy among the members of our Church generally; that every one, whatever be his station in life, whatever be his means, may feel that he has a part to perform in advancing the cause of our Zion; and we trust that the Association which we are about to form will produce this effect. I would first state the object which we have in view; that object, as mentioned briefly in the advertisement by which this meeting has been called, is "to provide funds for the support of clergymen of the Church of England, the building and repairing of churches, and the promotion of education. I think I am now called upon to state, and I will do it as briefly as I can, the wants of the district in all these respects, and the means by which it is now proposed to supply the servants. And let us first glance at the extent of the district; here is a tract of country more than fifty miles long, and nearly forty miles broad. There are twelve places at which Divine service is performed periodically, at distances from Queanbeyan varying from nine to twenty-five miles. Some present are of course well aware of this, but

there may be some who are not; I will therefore mention the names of these places. They are, Queanbeyan, Canbury, Bungendore, Gidleigh, two at Gundaroo, two at Wolonglo [probably a typo for Molonglo], Gininderry [Gininderra], Charnwood, Waniassa, and Lanyon. It would occupy too much time to speak of each of these places; but I cannot forbear to say a few words with regard to some of them, although in so doing I may perhaps, be anticipating other speakers. Even, however, if this is the case I can only say that the facts will bear repetition. Before I do so I would observe, that one main fact which I wish to impress upon your minds is, that for the whole of this district, more than 50 miles by nearly 40, with the twelve places just mentioned some of which are rather populous, there is at present only one clergyman of the Church of England. Besides the regular service at each of these places, there are of course many occasional calls to different parts of the district. Whatever is required to be done of a clerical nature, must be done by one and the same person. I think I ought not to refrain from calling your attention to this fact, simply because in so doing I am obliged to speak of myself; and I think I may truly say that by none is the want of additional clergymen felt more than by myself. Another main fact which I wish to impress upon your minds is this, that great as is the want of additional clergymen, no aid is at present to be obtained from the Government towards their support; the requisite provision must therefore be made by the people. But I am to say a few words more, particularly with regard to the wants of some of the places which I have mentioned. I will take Gundaroo and Bungendore as the most distant, being two of the most important parts of the district, and for which especially some further provision is greatly needed. Gundaroo might be called a district of itself, and contains for the extent of it no inconsiderable population. There the foundation of a church has been commenced. If there were a church, I have reason to think, that a rather large congregation might be assembled. Divine service is performed there once every month but this can only be done by a very inconvenient arrangement, namely, by the clergyman at Yass, and myself, attending alternately. There is at Gundaroo a large number of children, and I cannot help observing that the most gratifying circumstance connected with the discharge of my duties in that locality is that a considerable number of these children generally attend divine service, and are tolerably well acquainted with their catechism. It is much to be regretted that there is at present no school in that neighbourhood. I have been long endeavouring to induce some one to open a school; several attempts have indeed been made, but they have been hitherto unsuccessful. Almost all that I have said with regard to Gundaroo, will apply to Bungendore. But there the spiritual destitution is even greater than at Gundaroo, and the prospects, if possible, less bright. There a small church was commenced a long time ago, and

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has long been quite at a stand for want of funds. Divine service is performed there only once in two months. There also a school is required. I might mention also Molonglo divine service is performed there about five times in the year, some further provision is requisite for that part also. I must not omit to mention the Murrumbidgee, for which no provision whatever has yet been made. I am happy to serve some of the settlers on that river present at the meeting. Although the settlers on Murrumbidgee are beyond the boundary, there is no doubt that they will be benefitted by the Association; we hope therefore for their sakes even, they will come forward to our aid. I am only able thus just to glance at the dark side of the subject before us. But I must not altogether pass over the bright side. I must not omit an allusion to what has been done. We have, as you know, two churches, some may not be aware that we have three schools—all of them provided with suitable masters; one on the township, one at Canbury, and another at Gininderry; but we see that a school is required at two other places, viz., Gundaroo and Bungendore. Indeed I conceive that one of the main objects at which we should aim in this Association is the education of the rising generation. Let it then be generally made known, especially to parents, throughout the district, that one great object which we have in view is to educate their children in those principles in which they themselves were educated in their native land, and I would hope that all parents will come forward to our aid. I have confined my remarks to the wants of the remote parts of the district. But I must remind you that we are not altogether without wants with regard to the church on this township. The church requires to be fenced in, and also requires some additions and alterations, both internally and externally....

Sydney Morning Herald 15 Jan 1848: 3.

<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article28648686>

The Rev. A. D. Soares arrived at Queanbeyan on Thursday last, and performed Divine Service in Christ Church on Good Friday, likewise on Easter Sunday morning and evening, before a respectable and numerous congregation. Surely there will soon be steps taken for the erection of a new church at Queanbeyan, as it is now clearly proved that the present church is not capable of holding all the Protestant inhabitants of this town.

Goulburn Herald and County of Argyle Advertiser 18 Apr 1857: 5.

<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article118308213>

QUEANBEYAN. (From our own Correspondent.) A few words respecting the work going on in this district will perhaps be interesting to some of your readers. It will be remembered that a change of ministers took place here at the termination of the first quarter of the current year, when the Rev. E. Smith, sincerely and deservedly beloved by the people amongst whom he zealously laboured for the space of twenty years, was succeeded by the Rev. A. D. Soares, late of Collector. Changes of this kind must always be attended by advantages and disadvantages; and thus it is that, while sincerely regretting the removal of one whose faithfulness and kind-heartedness had endeared him to all who knew him, we have to congratulate ourselves on having amongst us one blessed with more health and strength than, unhappily, our late pastor enjoyed, and which we are glad to think he is determined to make the best use of. This is no newly formed district. Other men have here laboured, and the rev. gentleman is now entering into his labours. Thanks, principally, to Mr. Smith, we have two churches, one at Queanbeyan, and another at Bungendore, a parsonage, a school-house, and a master's residence, a well fenced in burial ground, and a benevolent asylum, the last of which, however, it is due to the memory of the late Dr. Murray to say was originated by him. But still, while much has been done, much remains to be done before we can find our machinery is complete and in good working order. Our present church at Queanbeyan (no small undertaking when skilled workmen were greatly at a premium, and the inhabitants few) is now too small, and shows so many signs of decay, that it has been thought necessary to erect anew church in its place...

Goulburn Herald and County of Argyle Advertiser 5 Sep 1857: 6.

<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article118311492>

Our old church is now razed to the ground, not one stone left on another, and rapid progress is being made in erecting the new one. The old building, however, did not fall altogether harmless. While the walls were falling, a lad, by the name of John Ford, was looking on, and a portion of stone or dry mortar struck him, and caused two frightful gashes in the face and ear, and a severe bruise on the head. There is however cause to be thankful that he was not killed on the spot. He is now progressing favourably under the skilful treatment of Dr. Hayley. The Rev. A. D. Soares performed divine service on Sunday evening at the courthouse, and will continue to do so until further arrangements can be made most likely until the completion of the new church.

Goulburn Herald and County of Argyle Advertiser 14 Sep 1859: 3.

<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article118245530>

A PAROCHIAL JUBILEE. THURSDAY last, 26th instant, was chosen as the occasion for celebrating the Jubilee of the parish of Christ Church, Queanbeyan, first formed in the year 1838, and, in accordance with arrangements made by the present incumbent-the Rev. Thomas Symonds, special services were held in the Anglican church, both morning and evening, to commemorate the auspicious event, the officiating clergy being the Lord Bishop of Goulburn (Dr. Thomas), the Venerable Archdeacon Druitt of Cooma, the Revd. Canon Soares, the Revds. P. G. Smith, M.A., and T. Symonds. The interior of the church was very prettily decorated for the occasion, and presented a most tasteful and pleasing appearance, evergreens festooned with flowers in most charming variety having been lavishly used to decorate the walls, aisles, reading desks, lectern, pulpit and communion table... The preacher said they had met together that morning on a very special occasion, at the end of fifty years existence as a parish. It was in the year 1838 that the Revd. Edward Smith first began his ministrations in that part of the diocese, and although they could not fix on the exact date he found the first register of baptism was made on the 8th August 1838, and the first marriage was celebrated on the 12th November 1838. Mr. Smith had however been some time previously in the parish and that was the day selected by him as most suitable for celebrating the jubilee of the parish. It had occurred to him while looking through the lessons for the day that their text provided a not altogether inappropriate subject. They had had able and faithful ministers during the fifty years the parish had been in existence. For twenty years Mr. Smith had laboured amongst them; then he was succeeded by the Reverend Canon Soares, who built the churches at Queanbeyan, Molonglo, Bungendore, and Canberra. Then they had the Rev. Canon Scott, who was succeeded by the Rev. Mr. Ross, who was followed by other faithful ministers. During the first forty years they had two ministers. And during the last ten they had had four.

Queanbeyan Age 28 Apr 1888: 2. <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article30919465>

In Memoriam. Early on Monday morning the Rev. Edward Smith, B.A., passed to his long rest, at his residence, Stanmore, in his 88th year. Mr. Smith was well-

known in this district, having for some years been incumbent of Prospect, etc., where he is kindly remembered, and where his gentle pleasant ways have left him many friends. He was a graduate of Oxford, and served the church in this diocese when the present reigning Sovereign was but heir-presumptive to the Throne. For some months past Mr. Smith has been in failing health, and never thoroughly recovered from a serious operation he underwent a few weeks since. He leaves a widow and large family, one son being incumbent of Walgett, and one daughter, the respected and estimable lady of the present incumbent of Prospect, Rev. G. Middleton.

Cumberland Mercury (Parramatta) 17 Dec 1892: 7.

<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article249012316>

Rev. Edward Smith, B.A., the oldest Anglican clergyman in this colony, died on Tuesday morning. The deceased gentleman was ordained by the then Bishop of London in 1837, and came to the colony in 1838. He first settled at Queanbeyan, where he remained for 20 years. Later he removed to Campbelltown, where he stayed 12 years, and subsequently to Manly, where he ministered for six years. His last charge was Seven-Hills, which he occupied for three years, after which he retired from the active work of the ministry.

Daily Telegraph (Sydney) 17 Dec 1892: 9.

<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article235975273>

Church History — Address by Diocesan Registrar. At the rally in the Parish Hall on Saturday evening last, in connection with the centenary of the "first" Christ Church in Queanbeyan, Mr. R. T. Wyatt, registrar of the Goulburn Diocese, delivered an address extracts from which are as follows: An interesting, scientific speculation suggests sound waves are never lost but continue throughout infinity. Let us imagine we have a wireless set of the future and pick up on the air—Limestone Plains 107 Years Ago. First we hear the steady clipperty clop of a solitary horseman, riding over the trackless plains upon which Canberra now stands. Towards evening he arrives at a lonely station called Palmer's Vale or Palmerville and now known as Gininderra. As he introduces himself to George ThomasFalmer, we learn that the solitary horseman is the Rev. Joseph Docker who five years before had resigned the parish of Windsor. Palmer was a soldier,

formerly of the 61st regiment of Foot, who had fought at the battle of the Nile. Listening carefully we hear one of the stockman leading away Docker's horse, while he himself is hustled into the evening meal and assured of a safe lodging for the night. After dinner Palmer broaches an awkward subject. They have never had a parson so far south as Palmer's Vale and there are two children on the estate unbaptised. Old Parson Docker was a bit of an Erastian and he was not too sure he ought to do it without a license. However we hear the dining room being cleared and the stockmen and shepherds filing awkwardly in. Two of them, Cameron and McIntyre are accompanied by their wives and infant daughters. As we listen we hear the old parson read the whole of the 1662 service in full as he baptised them both "Catherine Cameron" and "Catherine McIntyre." Then he calls for pen and ink and paper and writes up the whole story of what he has done and he gives the record to Palmer to "be duly registered, by the Minister hereafter appointed to take charge of this district." And although we don't hear this over our retrospective radio, that half sheet of notepaper, with the account of the baptism of those two children at that lonely sheep-station, over the signature of Parson Docker, is pasted in the front page of the first volume of the Queanbeyan parish registers: A twist of the dials just a fraction and we pick up the track between Arkstone Forest near Boorowa and Canberra a few months later in the same year and find we have tune in to Robert Cartwright's Itinerating Ministry. It is not much of a track but the conveyance which is using it is making enough noise for a tank column. Here is another retired parson, voluntarily exercising an itinerating ministry over three counties and more. Too old for the saddle he has bought from Governor Bourke a great lumbering coach and the pouches which once held a governor's pistols now accommodated the Bible Prayer-book and the Communion vessels given to him by King George III. Queanbeyan only remained in Robert Cartwright's charge for a few months and the record of what he did here has been lost. Three months later Queanbeyan received its First Resident Parson in ...

Queanbeyan Age 16 Mar 1945: 3. <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article266203788>

PARISH OF CHRIST CHURCH, QUEANBEYAN. An Historical Sketch. One hundred and nine years ago the Rev. Edward Smith, B.A., was appointed 'as "the first Rector of a Parish, so large that it embraced the South-Eastern portion of the County of Murray and included many parts (including Canberra) which are now separate parishes. Queanbeyan was the centre. The then Bishop of Australia reported in 21/1/1837 tells of a church (St Saviour's) to be erected in Goulburn

and "Christ Church in course of erection at Queanbeyan." - This suggests that the little rubble building, the original Christ Church, is the oldest church in the Diocese of Goulburn. There were even earlier ministries of an itinerant character on record. It was the loyal and liberal efforts of Mr. Robert Campbell, sen. M.C., which made it possible for the appointment of a priest here in those early days. Edward Smith was followed by A. D. Soares as Parish Priest. In his time the present Christ Church was built in 1859 and consecrated by Barker on October 30, 1861. Soares also built the major portion of the present Rectory. He also built the Church of St. Paul, Burra, the church at Bungendore, which were then part of the Parish, as were also Molonglo, Sutton and Gundaroo. Succeeding Rectors were Maitland Ware, W Scott (three years), J. A. Ross (three years), Charles Kingsmill (two years), Thomas Symonds (seven years), W. Mantell - (three years), W. M. White (16 years), Gordon Hirst (five years), Robert Elliott (one year...

Queanbeyan Age 24 Oct 1947: 2. <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article266220327>

THE ANNIVERSARY OF CHRIST CHURCH The 119th anniversary of the Anglican Church in Queanbeyan will be celebrated over the next two Sundays. When Christ Church was built, the Rev. A. D. Soares was the Rector. But he was not only the Rector. He was also the architect of the Church. He was later the architect for the Diocese and as well as Christ Church he was responsible for the Churches at Burra and Bungendore and the Rectory at Queanbeyan. The builder of Christ Church was Mr. Daniel Jordan. Before the present Christ Church was built worship was held in the old Christ Church which had been built in 1845. It still stands and is used for parochial purposes and is the oldest Church in the district. But even before that services were held. The Rev. Edward Smith was the first Rector, commencing duties on July 4, 1838. The Parish of Queanbeyan was the parent to that of St. John the Baptist, Canberra, which was commenced during the Rev. Edward Smith's term here. Mr. Smith had the Church at Canberra dedicated to St. John the Baptist because he (Mr. Smith) likened his ministry here to that of John the Baptist, as a preparing of the way. It was a true intuition considering the important role of St. John the Baptist's Church is now fulfilling in Canberra. This is held to be the most important parish Church in the Commonwealth. A note of interest is that the descendents of the Rev. Edward Smith are now preparing to place a window in Christ Church in memory of their grandfather and the subject of the window will be St John the Baptist. This will not only be a fitting memorial to our first Rector but it will also be a link between this parish and the daughter parish, St John's, Canberra. The consecration of the

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present Christ. Church took place 96 years ago, on October 30, 1861. [includes photo of the original Christ Church.]

Queanbeyan Age 15 Oct 1957: 1. <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article270727511>

CHURCH SERVICES The drawing room at Lanyon was used for monthly Church of England services when the first Minister (Rev. Edward Smith) arrived at Queanbeyan. Rev. Smith performed the ceremony for the marriage of Elizabeth, daughter of William Davis, to Dr. Hayley, the first medical practitioner in the Queanbeyan. district, in that same drawing room.

Queanbeyan Age 4 Feb 1964: 5. <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article271052430>

Information Page written by Michael Flynn 2025.

For more detailed information about the different types of church registers and for the list of other church registers included in the BDA see:

<https://www.bda-online.org.au/sources/church-registers>

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