

BDA Source Description Pages

<http://www.bda-online.org.au>
Church Registers: St Matthews Church of England, Windsor NSW

This page provides details of all available versions of the St Matthews registers, with a guide to the sources actually used in BDA. Those marked "Online" are included in BDA as at: July 2018.

Baptisms

Document	Start	End	Location	In BDA
Church Registers	1810	1856	ML: SAG Reels 53-54	See below
Clergy Returns	1811	1820	SRNSW: Reel 692, Vol. 2/8298	Not processed
	1821	1827	SRNSW: Reel 692, Vol. 2/8299	Not processed
	1826	1826	SRNSW: ARK Reel 5002, Vol. 10	Not used*
	1827	1827	SRNSW: ARK Reel 5003, Vol. 11	Not used*
	1828	1828	SRNSW: ARK Reel 5003, Vol. 12	Not used*
	1829	1829	SRNSW: ARK Reel 5003, Vol. 13	Not used*
	1830	1830	SRNSW: ARK Reel 5003, Vol. 14	Not used*
	1831	1831	SRNSW: ARK Reel 5003, Vol. 15	Not used*
	1832	1832	SRNSW: ARK Reel 5003, Vol. 16	Not used*
Colonial Office Clergy Returns (being located)	Jul 1813	Dec 1813	ML: PRO Reel 33, CO 201/72 pp.201-04	Not processed
Kerrison James	1810	1831	SRNSW: ARK Reel 5001, Vol. 1	Not used*
Lake Macquarie FHG Dataset	1810	1856	Transcription from Church Registers	Online

Marriages

Church Registers	1810	1856	ML: SAG Reels 53-54	See below
Clergy Returns	1811	1820	SRNSW: Reel 692, Vol. 2/8298	Not processed
	1821	1827	SRNSW: Reel 692, Vol. 2/8299	Not processed
	1826	1826	SRNSW: ARK Reel 5002, Vol. 10	Not used*
	1827	1827	SRNSW: ARK Reel 5003, Vol. 11	Not used*
	1828	1828	SRNSW: ARK Reel 5003, Vol. 12	Not used*
	1829	1829	SRNSW: ARK Reel 5003, Vol. 13	Not used*
	1830	1830	SRNSW: ARK Reel 5003, Vol. 14	Not used*
	1831	1831	SRNSW: ARK Reel 5003, Vol. 15	Not used*
	1832	1832	SRNSW: ARK Reel 5003-4, Vol. 16	Not used*
Colonial Office Clergy Returns (being located)	Jul 1813	Dec 1813	ML: PRO Reel 33, CO 201/72 pp.201-04	Not processed
KerrisonJames Lake	1810	1831	SRNSW: ARK Reel 5002, Vol. 3	Not used*
Macquarie FHG Dataset	1810	1856	Transcription from Church Registers	Online

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Burials

Church Registers	1810	1856	ML: SAG Reels 53-54	See below
Clergy Returns	1811	1820	SRNSW: Reel 692, Vol. 2/8298	Not processed
	1821	1827	SRNSW: Reel 692, Vol. 2/8299	Not processed
	1826	1826	SRNSW: ARK Reel 5002, Vol. 10	Not used*
	1827	1827	SRNSW: ARK Reel 5003, Vol. 11	Not used*
	1828	1828	SRNSW: ARK Reel 5003, Vol. 12	Not used*
	1829	1829	SRNSW: ARK Reel 5003, Vol. 13	Not used*
	1830	1830	SRNSW: ARK Reel 5003, Vol. 14	Not used*
	1831	1831	SRNSW: ARK Reel 5003, Vol. 15	Not used*
	1832	1832	SRNSW: ARK Reel 5003-4, Vol. 16	Not used*
Colonial Office Clergy Returns (being located)	Jul 1813	Dec 1813	ML: PRO Reel 33, CO 201/72 pp.201-04	Not processed
Kerrison James	1810	1831	SRNSW: ARK Reel 5001, Vol. 2	Not used*
Lake Macquarie FHG Dataset	1810	1856	Transcription from Church Registers	Online

Churchings (for explanation, see Notes below)

Clergy Returns	Apr 1811	Sep 1811	SRNSW: Reel 692, Vol. 2/8298	Not processed
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Notes re the St Matthews registers:

Church Registers

The entries from the St Matthews church registers formed the basis of the transcription made by the Lake Macquarie Family History Group. The datasets of these registers were kindly donated to BDA by the Lake Macquarie FHG (see below) so were used for the Biographical Reports rather than having staff re-input the registers.

The original registers covering the years 1790 to 1856 (and beyond) are found in the Society of Australian Genealogists' microfilm reels 53 and 54 (held by SAG and ML). For more information about the years covered in these microfilms, particularly for the post-1856 period, see *Index to the Microform Collection of the Society of Australian Genealogists as at 31 January 1990* (SAG, Sydney, 1990, p.116).

Clergy Returns

These are copies of the church registers sent to the government (similarly to the Bishop's Transcripts in England), and begin in 1811 for St Matthews. Birth/baptism, marriage and death/burial returns have survived from January 1811 to September 1827, except for the following missing returns:

1. Births/Baptisms: Apr-Jun 1813, Jul-Sep 1814, Jul-Sep 1818, Oct-Dec 1825;
2. Marriages: Apr-Jun 1813, Jul-Sep 1814, Oct-Dec 1825;
3. Deaths/Burials: Oct-Dec 1825.

For the period from 1811 to 1827, the Clergy Returns were sent to the Governor every quarter. They were documented differently to the church registers and

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sometimes included additional or different information to the Church Registers. For example, the early church registers recorded only date of burial, however the Clergy Returns included both a Return of Burials and a Return of Deaths, and the latter included dates of death (but not date of burial). For Isaac Cornwall, who was buried at St Matthew's on 3 Jan 1811, the different registers recorded:

- Burial Register: Isaac Cornwall of Richmond, aged 37, came prisoner per William & Ann, buried 3 Jan 1811

- Death Return: Isaac Cornwall of Richmond, aged 37, free by servitude, arrived William & Ann, died 1 Jan 1811, tried Kingston Surrey, shot by accident.

Also, an entry in the burial register for John Smith in 1812 recorded no other information than his name, yet the Return of Deaths provides detailed information including death date, ship of arrival, age, etc.

Four returns were transmitted to the government for the period January 1811 to March 1812, namely baptism, marriage, burial and death returns. From 1813 onwards, only three returns were transmitted and were titled Birth, Marriage and Death returns rather than Baptism, Marriage and Burial returns.

For the period from 1826 onwards, the Clergy Returns found in the ARK volumes are identical to the Church Registers. The easiest way to locate entries for specific individuals in these later Clergy Returns is to use the entry number for that individual listed in the NSW Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages Indexes. For instructions on how to decode these see

Churchings

Churchings were ceremonies in which women were blessed after giving birth. The origin of this ceremony appears to lie in the Jewish purification ritual (google Churching of Women for further information). Churching ceremonies were performed even when a child was stillborn, so a reference to a woman in the churching registers without any concomitant baptism or infant burial entry can provide a clue to the existence of another child, or explain a long gap in childbearing.

Kerrison James Index

This index was not used as a transcription source for these BDA entries as it is merely an abbreviated index extracted from the church registers, and contains many errors. Sometimes, however, the Kerrison James list was examined if specific entries were difficult to read in the pre-1826 period.

Lake Macquarie Family History Group

The [Lake Macquarie Family History Group](#) have transcribed and published the registers for St Matthews Church of England, Windsor NSW in four volumes as follows:

1. 1810-1856 (published 2003)
2. 1857-1900 (published 2004)
3. 1901-1950 (published 2006)
4. 1951-2000 (published 2009)

These painstakingly transcribed volumes are still available for purchase through the group's [website](#).

NSW Registry of Birth, Death & Marriage Indexes

For the pre-1856 period, the online Indexes published by the NSW Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages provides index entries for baptisms, marriages and burials

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found in registers they hold.

For the pre-1826 period for St Matthews, the BDM Indexes source entries from the Kerrison James Index listed above; that is Volumes 1-3 of ARK.

For the period from 1826 onwards, the BDM Indexes source entries from the Clergy Returns listed above. These are published in ARK.

***Not used:** These sources are copies of the originals and were only used if the originals proved difficult to read.

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

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

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