

## BDA Source Description Pages

<https://www.bda-online.org.au>**Wellington Church of England NSW: Parish Registers**

This dataset comprises full transcripts of 477 baptism records kept by Church of England ministers in Wellington, New South Wales for the years 1837-1856. The BDA transcripts were made from the original registers microfilmed by the Society of Australian Genealogists.

A total of 1,431 individual children and parents are recorded. The baptism records provide date of birth and baptism, name of child, names of parents (the mother's own surname is only given if unmarried), residence and occupation of father (and sometimes the mother). Marriages and burials to 1856 will be added to BDA at a later date.

Wellington was surrounded by the Districts (later Counties) of Bligh and Wellington and its early parish catchment stretched across this region. The residences of parents baptizing children are spread across an area encompassing modern Dubbo, Dunedoo, Cassilis, Tambaroora, Molong, Orange, Hill End and Lake Burrendong. Many little-known Aboriginal place names are given.

**Background**

In 1819 a small military and convict stockade was established near the site of modern Wellington, 350km north-west of Sydney. In 1832 the Anglican Church Missionary Society established a mission and school near the confluence of the Macquarie and Bell Rivers in the vicinity of modern Barton Street, Wellington.

The mission aimed to convert and educate the Aboriginal population belonging to the surrounding Wiradjuri language group following a period of violent frontier conflict in the region in the previous decade. Its location was moved several times during this period. It was known in the 1840s and 50s as the Apsley Mission. The baptism of 26 Aboriginal children and adults are recorded. For most of the children baptized one or both parents are identified in the register as Aboriginal.

Clergy stationed there also ministered to the local settler population around the twin settlements of Wellington and Montefiores on either side of the Macquarie

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River in what was still a frontier region. The early parish register commencing November 1837 was initially kept by the Rev William Watson, assisted from 1838 by the Rev James Günther.

Following the closure of the first mission site a temporary timber slab and bark church was erected across the river at Montefiores in about 1846. It served as the main site for Anglican worship until 1869 in both Wellington and Montefiores.

The church standing in the 21<sup>st</sup> century at 43 Warne Street, Wellington was in operation by 1869. It was known as St John the Baptist Church of England from 1877.

### Sources:

#### Newspapers:

"A Tour to the Northwestern Interior." *Australian Town and Country Journal* (Sydney) 25 July 1874: 24.

<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article70483675>

"The Late Archdeacon James Gunther." *Australian Town and Country Journal* (Sydney) 26 Jun 1912: 39.

<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article263735866>

"SOME WELLINGTON HISTORY" *Wellington Times* 8 Sep 1921: 3.

<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article137398474>

"The Church of St John the Baptist, Wellington. Centenary to be Celebrated" *Wellington Times* 1 Dec 1932: 3. <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article143127412>

"The Wellington Valley. Early History" *Wellington Times* 15 Jan 1940: 3.

<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article141713137>

#### Books & theses:

Owen J. Kennard, *The Church of S. John the Baptist, Wellington, NSW, Wellington* [O.J. Kennard], 1943.

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David Andrew Roberts, "Binjang" or the "Second Vale of Tempe": the frontier at Wellington Valley, New South Wales, 1817-1851, University of Newcastle Research Higher Degree Thesis, 2000.

<http://hdl.handle.net/1959.13/1312936>

County of Bligh, N.S.W. : supplement to The Sydney Mail, May 1876 [Sydney : John Fairfax and Sons], 1876, National Library of Australia:

<https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-231328055/view>

Map of the County of Bligh NSW 1872, Atlas of the settled counties of New South Wales, National Library of Australia: <https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-231005104/view>

### **The parish registers**

Those marked "Online" are included in BDA and are available to be searched for online.

Baptisms 1837-1844 were transcribed by Paul Gunning and edited by Michael Flynn.

### **Baptisms**

Baptisms 1837-1855 ML: SAG Reel 341 : 1837-1844 Online

### **Marriages**

Marriages 1838-1856 ML: SAG Reel 341.

### **Burials**

Burials March 1838-1856 ML: SAG Reel 341

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Information Page written by Michael Flynn 2024

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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