

## BDA Source Description Pages

<https://www.bda-online.org.au>**St Andrew Church of England, Sydney NSW: Parish Registers**

This dataset comprises full transcripts of baptisms and marriages in St Andrew's Church of England (later Cathedral) in the City of Sydney between 1842 and 1856. The BDA transcripts were made from the original registers in the Sydney Diocesan Archives microfilmed by the Society of Australian Genealogists.

**Baptisms**

Baptisms transcribed for 1,425 children for 1842-1856 record date of birth and baptism, name of child, names of parents (mother's own surname only given if unmarried), residence and occupation of father (and sometimes the mother). Mothers are listed under their husband's surname unless unmarried. Children marked as 'privately baptised' were christened at home rather than in a church ceremony, usually owing to health concerns,

Some baptism records allocated incorrect numbers by the New South Wales Registry of Births Deaths and Marriages on their indexes have been included with a note of the likely error. These will be removed when the error is confirmed.

**Marriage**

The records of 425 couples married in this parish in the years 1842-1856 note whether the bride, groom and witnesses signed with their name or with their X mark if unable to write. These are signified on the transcript by the name as signed or 'X mark' respectively. The names of brides, grooms, witnesses and a few spelling variants transcribed in this dataset total 1,714.

Parish or district of residence is usually given for the bride and groom and the street and/or suburb of residence is given for most witnesses. Couples with financial means paid for a marriage license, while less well-off couples married by banns. The name and status of the parent or guardian giving consent is recorded if the bride or groom was a minor (aged under 21).

The first couple married at St Andrew's, on 17 August 1842, were Edward Martin Storey, a wharfinger based at a wharf on Darling Harbour, and Rebecca Mattinson, the 20 year old daughter of a merchant ship captain who had lived in Tasmania. Rebecca belatedly baptized their three children at St Andrew's in 1851, a few weeks after her husband's sudden death at the age of 35, described as a gentleman in the baptism register.

### **Burials and Marriage Banns**

Burials and marriage banns for 1842-1856 and any surviving records from 1840-1842 will be added at a later date.

### **Background**

St Andrew's Cathedral is located at the corner of George and Bathurst Streets, Sydney, next to Sydney Town Hall. In 1819 Governor Lachlan Macquarie had laid a foundation stone for a church on a site a little to the east of the later Cathedral. It was to be Sydney's second Church of England. A decision was made soon afterwards to stop work on the site following spending cuts imposed as a result of the Bigge inquiry into the Macquarie administration.

Construction of the second church began several years later on a new site at the junction of King, Castlereagh and Phillip Streets where the church of St James was completed in 1824. The old parish of St Phillip's retained parts of the town north of King Street, while the new parish of St James was allocated the urban area to the south.

In 1835 Sydney was divided into four Anglican parishes, comprising the existing parishes of St Phillip and St James and two new parishes, St Lawrence and St Andrew. The old parishes were each reduced to a smaller area on the north side of King Street, divided from each other by George Street. The two new parishes excised from a small portion of the southern part of St Phillip's and a large area of the southern part of St James', south of King Street. At the time, the four parishes also served as civil divisions for police, property, census and other government administrative purposes.

The boundaries of the new Anglican parish of St Andrew were formed by George Street and Broadway on the east and King Street to the north. Its western area

occupied the densely populated wharf and warehouse areas on Darling Harbour, as well as the whole of the modern suburbs of Pyrmont and Ultimo, then thinly populated, hosting several quarries for building stone. In 1841 the parish had a total population of 6,925 persons of all denominations living in 1,232 houses.

In September 1836 a public meeting was held to discuss the planning and financing of a temporary church on the site reserved for public use by Macquarie in 1819, partly occupied by Sydney's old burial ground since 1792. The cemetery was closed in about 1820. The proposed structure was envisioned as a grand cathedral building for the local Church of England, now led by William Grant Broughton, who came to Sydney in 1829 and was appointed as the first bishop of Australia in 1836. Behind this site, a Baptist Chapel and a Presbyterian St Andrew's Church (easily confused with its Anglican neighbour) fronted Kent Street.

From November 1840 services in St Andrew's Anglican parish were held in temporary church premises provided rent-free to the parish by two wealthy businessmen, John Hosking and John Terry Hughes, in 'a large and convenient room in the Albion Mills, at the bottom of Market-street'.

The Albion Mills bakery and warehouse complex hosting the temporary church was burned to the ground in an accidental fire in March 1841. Services were held in a schoolroom on Clarence Street until a temporary weatherboard church roofed with timber shingles was built. It opened for services in May 1842, fronting George Street at the south-east corner of the Old Burial Ground, roughly between the sites of the later cathedral and town hall. The trustees in 1842 were John Edye Manning, Registrar of the Supreme Court of New South Wales, merchant Robert Campbell Jr and Major Henry Smyth, formerly of the 39<sup>th</sup> Regiment.

In May 1843 the trustees issued a circular calling for funds to increase the capacity of the temporary church from 250 to 500 to service the Anglican population in the parish, estimated to be 3,500.

Enlarged several times, it served as a modest temporary pro-cathedral for 26 years. The foundation stone of the present stone cathedral was laid on the adjacent site in 1837. With several stops and starts, work proceeded until its completion in 1868. The temporary church was demolished soon afterwards to make way for the construction of Sydney Town Hall on the site.

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The addresses given in the registers for marriage witnesses and parents baptizing children were concentrated in the parish or nearby areas. Occupations of fathers in the baptism records reflect the parish's strong maritime, commercial and manufacturing character, with trades ranging from quarryman, tinsmith, tinplate worker, shipwright, master mariner, ballast lighter, butcher, tailor and cabinetmaker to wealthier men described as clerk, merchant, wharfinger, commission agent, schoolmaster, surveyor and gentleman.

### **Notes on St Andrew's Church of England (Cathedral) Sydney registers**

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

#### **Baptisms**

Church Registers Baptisms Jun 1838 – Aug 1856 : SAG microfilm ref 7001 **Online**

#### **Marriages**

Banns Register 1843 –1867 (+ 1 entry 1875) : SAG microfilm ref 7001a Reels 280-282

Marriages Aug 1842 – Jan 1856 : SAG microfilm ref 7001 **Online**

#### **Burials**

Burials 1842–1856 : SAG microfilm ref 7001a Reels 280-282

For more information about the years covered in these microfilms, see *Index to the Microform Collection of the Society of Australian Genealogists as at 31 January 1990* (SAG, Sydney, 1990, p 24) or search for St Andrew's Anglican Cathedral Sydney on the SAG library catalogue: [www.sag.org.au](http://www.sag.org.au).

The original parish registers are held by the Sydney Diocesan Archives of the Anglican Diocese of Sydney:

<https://www.sydneyanglicanarchives.com.au/home.html>

#### **Transcription and editing**

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The St Andrew's baptism and marriages registers were transcribed for BDA by Paul Gunning and Charmaine Hardy in 2022 and edited by Malcolm Sainty.

### **Banns Registers**

Banns registers have only survived for a small number of Church of England parishes. Banns consisted of the clergyman reading out to the congregation the intention of two people to marry, thus giving time for any objection to come forward.

They were read out on three successive Sundays. It should not be regarded as a certainty that a couple listed in a banns register actually married, though most did. This can be confirmed by matching entries in the marriage register proper. Some couples were not permitted to marry when church and civil authorities determined they were ineligible for reasons including absence of consent for minors, real or suspected bigamy or consanguinity.

In some cases, a couple advised the clergyman that they wished to be married and were recorded, but banns were read only once or not at all, indicating the couple had decided not to proceed or had been rejected. In some cases a couple may have decided to reschedule their marriage in another parish.

The St Andrew's Banns Register commencing 1843 will be added to the database a future date.

### **Sources**

#### **Newspapers & periodicals:**

[Governor Macquarie lays foundation stone for new church] *Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser* 4 Sep 1819: 3.

<https://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article2178928>

[New Sydney districts & parishes] *New South Wales Government Gazette* 17 Jun 1835: 414.

<https://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article230655635>

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"LETTERS PATENT FOR ERECTING THE COUNTY OF CUMBERLAND, AND DIVIDING THE SAME INTO HUNDREDS AND PARISHES." *New South Wales Government Gazette* 27 May 1835: 335.

<https://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article230655473>

"THE POPULATION OF SYDNEY." *Sydney Herald* 8 May 1841: 2.

<https://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article12869035>

[Trustees of St Andrew's announce commencement of services in new temporary church], *Sydney Herald* 13 May 1842: 3. Web.

<https://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article12875142>

[Church of England Diocesan Committee on the role of John Terry Hughes in providing temporary chapel accommodation for St Andrew's & St Lawrence's], *Sydney Herald* 9 Oct 1841: 2.

<https://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article12871572>

[Trustees of St Andrew's propose raising funds to increase the capacity of the temporary church]

*Sydney Morning Herald* 4 Apr 1843: 2

<https://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article12412067>

"St. Andrew's Cathedral, Sydney." *Australian Town and Country Journal* (Sydney) 15 Jan 1887: 19. <https://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article71679129>

"Sydney Sixty Years Ago." *Australian Town and Country Journal* (Sydney) 30 Aug 1911: 21.

[includes image of small temporary St Andrew's church to left of unfinished roofless cathedral 1850s]

<https://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article263725117>

"ST. ANDREW'S." by P C Mowle, *Sydney Morning Herald* 3 Nov 1928: 11.

<https://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article16506258>

### Other published works, images & plans:

K. J. Cable, 'Broughton, William Grant (1788–1853)', *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, National Centre of Biography, Australian National University, <https://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/broughton-william-grant-1832/text2107>.

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This article was published in hardcopy in Australian Dictionary of Biography, Volume 1, (Melbourne University Press), 1966

'Parish of St. Andrew, County of Cumberland' [map], printed & published by Dept. of Lands Sydney.

Department of Lands NSW 2nd ed Sydney: Dept. of Lands, 1970.

<https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-570699350/view>

Location of Albion Mills, Dictionary of Sydney,

[https://dictionaryofsydney.org/structure/albion\\_mills\\_darling\\_harbour](https://dictionaryofsydney.org/structure/albion_mills_darling_harbour)

Image of St Andrew's cathedral, corner of George and Bathurst Streets, January 1858 [showing unfinished cathedral with temporary St Andrew's church in foreground at left, parish schoolhouse at right, with decaying headstones of the Old Sydney Burial Ground in the foreground]

<https://dictionaryofsydney.org/index.php/media/4448>

City of Sydney Archives & History Resources, Historical Atlas, Detail Plans, 1855: Sheet 26 [plan showing St Andrew's Cathedral (under construction) & smaller temporary church]

<https://archives.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/pages/historicalatlas>

<https://archives.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/nodes/view/1709097>

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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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