

## BDA Source Description Pages

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

This dataset comprises full transcripts of Church of England baptisms West Maitland, New South Wales, for the following years:

**Baptisms 1838-1840****Background**

European settlement at what is now West Maitland began in about 1819. Originally known as Wallis Plains, it was renamed Maitland in the 1820s. From 1828 an Anglican clergyman began to send returns of baptisms, marriages and burials at Maitland to church authorities. Maitland's population grew rapidly and a school house was built in 1829 on the east side of the town which was used as a temporary church. In 1838 Maitland was split into two parishes known as St Peter's East Maitland and St Mary's West Maitland. East Maitland retained the old parish register and a new register was commenced for West Maitland in 1838.

**Notes on the registers**

The original Anglican parish registers for West Maitland covering the years 1838 to 1856 (and beyond) are held by the Anglican Diocese of Newcastle. They were microfilmed with support from the National Library of Australia and have in recent years been made publicly available online through the Special Collections section of the Library of the University of Newcastle, New South Wales.

The collection called 'Baptism, Marriage and Burial Registers - Archives of the Anglican Diocese of Newcastle' can be viewed online at this location:

<https://livinghistories.newcastle.edu.au/>

This resource has been used for transcripts of registers for 1838-1840.

Transcripts of baptisms 1841+ and marriages and burials 1838+ will be added at a later date.

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### **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.

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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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