

Family History

Australian parish records

Why use parish records for family history research?

Before civil registration began, church records of baptisms, marriages and burials are the main means of tracking the major life events. These records can also supplement or substitute for missing civil records.

What parish records are available?

Below is a selective list of records held by State Library of Queensland. New records are increasingly available. Check our **One Search** online catalogue for additional titles.

<https://onesearch.slq.qld.gov.au/>

Queensland

See New South Wales for the period up to 1859

The *Queensland Family History Society Cemetery Series* index (MFL 016.9293943) on microfilm contains several churchyard cemetery records from around Queensland. It is not a complete listing.

Anglican

Index to marriages Diocese of Brisbane, 1843-1910 with a guide to the index (MFC 929.3099431 1999). Contact the Anglican Records and Archives Centre to access the records.

<https://anglicanchurchsq.org.au/records-and-archives/contact-records-and-archives>

Catholic

Genealogical Society of Queensland's index to Catholic parish records is on microfiche (MFC 929.3943 199-). Find the records individually by the church name, and by suburb or town. Contact the Genealogical Society of Queensland to get a copy of the original records. There is a cost.

<https://www.gsq.org.au/>

Nudgee Cemetery monumental inscriptions [microfiche] (MFC 929.5099431 1991) includes an index. Nudgee cemetery is also available online, <http://www.nudgeecemetery.com.au/>.

Jewish

The Brisbane Hebrew Congregation's *Register of births and marriages 1861-1946* (Film 0149) has some name entries in Hebrew.

Lutheran

Lutheran Church of Australia records for Pimpama Pimpama, Alberton and Norwell (OM77-29) are in the John Oxley Library's (JOL) manuscripts collection.

Also available are:

- St John's Lutheran Church, Ipswich (OM78-12);
- St Peters Lutheran Church, Beenleigh parish (OM77-62); and
- the United German & Scandinavian Lutheran Synod of Queensland (OM74-14)

Presbyterian

The Historical and Records Committee, Presbyterian Church of **Queensland** has:

- *An index compiled from all known baptismal registers (as at 30.04.2002) for the Presbyterian Church of Queensland 1845-1920* (MFC 929.3943 2002) and
- *An index of all known marriage registers with the addition of some taken from other sources (as at 30.04.2001) for the Presbyterian Church of Queensland 1849-1920* (MFC 929.3943 2001).

Contact the Presbyterian Church Office for a copy of their original records. Information is provided for a cost.

Uniting

Uniting Church in Australia, Synod of Queensland records are in the JOL manuscripts collection. You can access most records more than 20 years old. Baptismal, marriage and burial registers are restricted in accordance with the Registrar General's Office, Queensland.

New South Wales (NSW)

NSW included Port Phillip until 1851 and Moreton Bay until 1859.

The first NSW Acts to regularize recording of births, deaths and marriages

1825	Church of England
1834	Roman Catholic Church (Church of Rome)
1834	Presbyterian Church (Church of Scotland)
1839	Wesleyan Methodist Church
1840	Congregational or Independent and Baptist denominations

Church records were made before these years including during the period of the First Fleet but they were not always retained.

Church records are available on microfilm for the period until 1856. They are indexed in the *NSW Pioneer Index 1788-1888* on microfiche, and online at

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/family-and-relationships/family-history-search>.

Information Leaflet No 35 from NSW State Archives & Records (MFA 929.3944 1984) provides further information on the historical background of these records and how to work from the indexes to the original church records, including the microfilm numbers. Ask for it at the desk on level 3. Can also be viewed online:

<https://mhns.w.au/guides/births-deaths-and-marriages-registers-1787-1856/>

Mutch card indexes [microfilm] (MFL 929.3944 1974) on AO/SR reels 2125-2129 are supposed to cover most parish record references 1787-1828. Check the *Microform Quick Look for Family History* held at level 3 desk for further information. See also Museums of History NSW State Archives collection online *Births, Deaths and Marriages guide*

<https://mhns.w.au/guides/births-deaths-and-marriages-guide/>

Anglican

The Anglican Church of Australia. Diocese of Newcastle. *Parish registers 1826-1986* [microfilm] (MFL 929.39442 1986) are available as a separate run. A handbook held at the level 3 desk provides a guide as to which records are held, for what area, and the specific time periods and events covered for that area.

Some of this has also been digitised and can be found through the University of Newcastle.
<https://libguides.newcastle.edu.au/anglican/> (See Volume 3 Parish Registers)

Parish register index Church of England Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn [microfiche] (MFC 929.39447 1999) mostly covers the period 1850s to 1920.

Tasmania

The Tasmanian pioneers index 1803-1899 [CD-ROM] (QCFS 929.3946 2003); and [microfiche] (MFCB 929.3946 1993) indexes birth, death and marriage records for the period. The original registers are located at the Tasmanian Archive and Heritage Office, and State Library holds microfilm copies of them.

The index provides registration numbers. The handbook Registrar-General's Department *Pre-1900 births, deaths and marriages records* (MFA 929.3946 1985) gives the matching microfilm numbers and provides guidance in searching the film. The handbook is available at the at the family history area.

Search online through the Tasmanian Archive and Heritage Office *Tasmanian Name index*, https://libriaristas.ent.sirsidynix.net.au/client/en_AU/names/. Digitised images of the registers are available.

Civil registration commenced in Tasmania in 1838. The only records before this were church records. Some of these have been copied by the Registrar-General from before 1838 and after 1838 when civil records were missing.

Colonial Tasmanian Family Links database, <https://libraries.tas.gov.au/Digital/1573910/1f80945e-b669-4e0f-a395-eddbc9796327>, links individuals with other members of their families living in Tasmania in the 19th Century. It should be crosschecked with the *Pioneer index* for accuracy.

Church Registers held in Archives Office of Tasmania (PAM 929.1 1988) lists the registers held in denominational and then geographical order. Contact Tasmanian Archive and Heritage Office for more information.

Western Australia

Anglican

Records of births, deaths and marriages 1829-1861 (MFL 929.3941 1990), Reel 214.

The film covers Anglican records only. Check the handbook, *Access to ancestors: guide to part 1: a research kit of resources in the State Archives of Western Australia* (MFA 929.3941 1990) (p26), held at the desk on level 3, for further information.

Birth and baptism records of the Parish of St. John's Anglican Church at Pinjarra; Death records at St. John's Church, Pinjarra [microfiche] (MFC 929.39412 1991).

Records of baptisms administered in the church at the Kingsley Fairbridge Farm School near Pinjarra as part of the parish of Pinjarra [microfiche] (MFC 929.39412 1990).

Catholic

Birth & baptism records collected from the Catholic Church at Pinjarra [microfiche] (MFC 929.39412 199-).

Uniting

Uniting Church of Australia, Synod of Western Australia produced a CD-ROM *Baptisms, September 1840-May 1999* (QCFS 929.3941 2002).

Need further information?

(07) 3840 7810 | slq.qld.gov.au/ask

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