

# Getting started: Church records

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Church records are those records kept by the church which record baptisms, marriages and burials. These records are different to civil registration of births, deaths and marriages which began in NSW in 1856.

Church records and civil registration records are two different types of records that can be used when doing family history research. These records can co-exist. For example, the birth of a child is registered by the parents and the baptism is recorded by the church.

## Registers of Baptisms, Burials and Marriages 1787-1856

### Microfilm

#### *to find*

- baptismal, burial and marriage records before 1856

#### *notes*

- these records are part of the *Archives Resources Kit* published by the Archives Office of NSW (now State Records New South Wales)
- sometimes the microfilm will have further information about the event

#### *to use these resources*

- search the NSW Births, Death and Marriage indexes (available on microfiche, CD-ROM and the internet)
- if you come across a reference number which begins with a "V" copy down all the information from the index, including the V number, then look up the Guide to the *Archives Resources Kit* (Guide No. 35) to find the microfilm number
- The State Library only holds records for "V" reference numbers up to and including V123.

## Church Registers on Microform Card Index

### Card index

#### *to find*

- unpublished church records which have been copied onto microfilm such as material held in the Mitchell Library Manuscripts collections and SAG reels (turn over for description of these reels)
- other associated records such as:
  - Sydney Hospital births and deaths
  - St Mary Magdalene Women's Refuge, Tempe
  - TJ Andrews Funeral Parlour and Kinsela's Funeral Parlour
  - records from orphanages

#### *to use these resources*

- ask at the Mitchell Library Information Desk
- Entries are listed by
  - Church name
  - Place
  - Name e.g. Kinsela Funeral Homes, Light Horse Regiments
- Some microfilm reels are held on the Open Access shelves while others are held in Mitchell Library stack storage. Ask at the Request Desk for more information.

## **Society of Australian Genealogists Microfilm Reels (SAG reels) Microfilm**

### ***to find***

- NSW church records which have been copied by the Society of Australian Genealogists (SAG) onto microfilm

### ***to use these resources***

- ask at the Mitchell Library Information Desk
- check the Church Registers on Microform card index in the Mitchell Library reading room (turn over for more information) under the name of the church or the place.
- check the Guides to the SAG reels for a more detailed breakdown of the event and dates on particular reels
- the reels are shelved on Open Access. Restricted reels in red boxes are shelved separately and cannot be copied.

## **TD Mutch Index to NSW Births, Deaths and Marriages 1797-1957 Reference books**

### ***to find***

- date of birth, date of death, age, ship of arrival and church
- the birth, death and marriage index cards are divided into two separate time periods:
  - 1787-1814 mainly relates to St Philip's Sydney, St John's Parramatta and St Matthew's, Windsor and does not include the Newcastle Register and the Methodist Church records
  - 1815-1957 selected records only. Later entries are from tombstone inscriptions and news cuttings.

### ***to use these resources***

- ask at the Mitchell Library Information Desk
- these bound volumes on Open Access are in two sequences, 1787-1814 and 1815-1957

## **Parish Registers in Australia: A list of all known originals, transcripts, microforms and indexes of Australian parish registers by Nick Vine Hall Reference book**

### ***to find***

- the location of church records in Australia

### ***to use these resources***

- ask at the Mitchell Library Information Desk or the Family History Service Desk

**For information about civil registration records, see  
*Getting started: BDMs***