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## 1. Introduction

This document describes the BDM Registrations Marriages dataset.

## 2. Marriage Registrations

### 2.1 Summary

This database is an index of marriage records between 1842 and 1951 from the registers of the South Australian Birth, Deaths and Marriages Registrars Head Office.

### 2.2 Coverage

Coverage in this database is for marriages from 1 January 1842 to 31 January 1951.

A small number of records for the period 30 November 1940 to 21 December 1940 are not included in this database version (dates are inclusive). SAGHS holds data for marriage registrations for the years noted above and is the process of converting this data into a format suitable for inclusion into this database. They will be included in future updates as they become available.

### 2.3 Source

From the District Registers of the South Australian Birth, Deaths and Marriages Registrar.

### 2.4 Volume

There are 313,507 marriage records in this version [20260326] up from 310,384 record [20260113].

## 2.5 Additional information

### 2.5.1 Details/Fields

The Index contains core details from the registers with the Certificates holding additional information. More detail has been recorded on certificates over the years. Use the table below to see what details are available in the index data and when that data was first collected.

| Detail / Field  | Year of appearance |
|---|--------------------|
| District Name   | 1842               |
| Date and Place of Marriage  | 1842               |
| Name of Groom & Bride   | 1842               |
| Age of Groom & Bride  | 1842               |
| Condition of Groom & Bride ( <i>bachelor/spinster/widow etc</i> ) | 1868               |
| Name of both Fathers  | 1856               |

Note that original Certificate holds additional content. A table of the details available on the Certificates over the years can be found on our website [here](#). More information about Certificates can be found in section 2.4.3 of this document.

In addition to the fields from the Certificate, we also include in the Index dataset:

- *Book/Register Number and Page Number* – which book and page the entry was recorded in
- *District* – which District the death was recorded in (unavailable for records from 1946 onwards)
- *Notes* – additional useful information provided by the BDM Registrar or Genealogy SA staff when collating the data, as well as other information such as alternate names.

### 2.5.2 Important Notes

- *District* is not available in the Index for records from 1 January 1946 but is available on Certificates for all time periods.
- Duplicate records have been created for Grooms and/or Brides who were recorded to be known by other names.

### 2.5.3 Certificates

Genealogy SA holds copies of the original District Registration Certificates for Births, Deaths, and Marriages from which this index entry was derived. The original Certificates hold additional information that many researchers find valuable. The Certificate information content varies according to when it was created and [you can see tables here](#) showing what you can expect to see.

However, Genealogy SA is not permitted by law to provide an image copy of these original Certificates, but we can provide a transcription of the Certificate. You can request a transcription of the Certificate via the detailed results page of your search and following the instructions under “*Want More Information?*” section.

## 3. Versions

This is the latest update to the BDM Registrations of Marriages dataset. The updates are outlined below, and the action taken, where available, is provided for each update.

1. 02/10/2017: Original conversion for MPCviewer. Coverage from 1843 to 1936.
2. 08/04/2024: Added records from 1946 to 1948.
3. 08/04/2025: Added records from 1938, 1939, 1940, and August 1948 to 28 February 1949.
4. 20/07/2025: Added records from 30 March 1940 to 27 April 1940 and all of 1941.
5. 15/09/2025: Added records from 1 January 1942 to 31 December 1942.
6. 08/11/2025: Added records from 23 April 1948 to 13 September 1950.
7. 09/12/2025: Added records from 1 January 1943 to 31 December 1944.
8. 13/01/2026: Added records from 1 January 1945 to 31 December 1945.
9. 26/03/2026: Added records from 3 February 1950 to 31 January 1951.

### 3.1 Version M-20171002

Table T\_RMarrriages: records 228,603

- Original conversion for MPCviewer.
- Coverage from 1 January 1842 to 31 December 1936.

### 3.2 Version M-20240408

Table T\_RMarrriages: records 245,972

- Added 17,369 records.
- Coverage from 1 January 1946 to 31 July 1948.

### 3.3 Version M-20250408

Table T\_RMarrriages: records 266,942

- Added 20,970 records.
- Corrected 20 records at request of members

### 3.4 Version M-20250720

Table T\_RMarrriages: records 274,413

- Added 7,471 records
- Coverage: 30 March 1940 to 27 April 1940 and 1 January 1941 to 31 December 1941

### 3.5 Version M-20250915

Table T\_RMarrriages: records 282,675

- Added 8,262 records
- Coverage: 1 January 1942 to 31 December 1942

### 3.6 Version M-20251108

Table T\_RMarrriages: records 292,478

- Added 9,696 records for 23 April 1948 to 13 September 1950 from the latest provision of data from the BDM Registrar.
- Added 101 records for records where Grooms and/or Brides who were recorded to be known by other names.

### 3.7 Version M-20251209

Table T\_RMarrriages: records 304,988

- Added 12,510 records
- Coverage: 1 January 1943 to 31 December 1944

### 3.8 Version M-20260113

Table T\_RMarrriages: records 310,384

- Added 5,396 records
- Coverage: 1 January 1945 to 31 December 1945

### 3.9 Version M-20260326

Table T\_RMarrriages: records 313,507

- Added 3,123 records for 3 February 1950 to 31 January 1951 from the latest provision of data from the BDM Registrar.

#### 4. Appendix A – Index of Registration Information

Appendix A is a reproduction of the *Understanding and Using this Index* pages found at the front of the South Australian Marriages Index of Registrations books compiled and published by the South Australian Genealogy and Heraldry Society Inc.

**SOUTH AUSTRALIAN MARRIAGES**  
**INDEX OF REGISTRATIONS**  
**1842 to 1916**

Editor and Project Co-ordinator  
A L Cobiac BMechE

Compiled by the South Australian Genealogy and Heraldry Society Inc  
assisted by members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints  
and published by the South Australian Genealogy and Heraldry Society Inc  
under licence from the Minister for Consumer Affairs.

South Australian  
Genealogy and Heraldry Society Inc  
GPO Box 592, Adelaide  
South Australia 5001

Published

November 2001

## UNDERSTANDING AND USING THIS INDEX

### General principles

Because marriage certificates have bride, groom and fathers names available for indexing, we have compiled the index in a way that increases research options. Full index entry details are recorded against the groom's surname and given names to form the main entry. A brief entry has been created against the bride's surname and given names referring to the relevant groom name and the main entry.

Where the bride or groom was also known under another name, additional main and referral entries are available. Brief referral entries have also been created where the father's surname differs markedly from the bride or groom's surname.

### Sorting

Entries were sorted alphabetically on surnames and given names. 'Mc' is treated as though spelt 'Mac' and 'St' is indexed as though spelt 'SAINT'.

### Punctuation

Punctuation such as hyphens and apostrophes occurring within names have been retained, but accents, umlauts and the like have been excluded. No punctuation is used in place names.

### Examples of entries

A typical main entry for a groom contains all the information relating to the marriage. Entries for brides are referrals to the appropriate groom entry. These entries appear as follows:

**BARRON Ernest James** 30y S (*f William BARRON*) m 28 Jul 1918 HITCHCOX Hilda Blanche 29y S (*f Robert HITCHCOX*) at St Augustine Church Unley *dist Ade sym S b220 p368*

and the corresponding bride entry:

**HITCHCOX Hilda Blanche** m BARRON Ernest James *b220 p368*

Where a bride or groom had an alias name recorded, these entries appear as:

**BARRON Ernest James** or **BARTON Ernest James** 30y S (*f William BARRON*) m 28 Jul 1918 HITCHCOX Hilda Blanche 29y S (*f Robert HITCHCOX*) at St Augustine Church Unley *dist Ade sym S b220 p368*

**BARTON Ernest James** or **BARRON Ernest James** 30y S (*f William BARRON*) m 28 Jul 1918 HITCHCOX Hilda Blanche 29y S (*f Robert HITCHCOX*) at St Augustine Church Unley *dist Ade sym S b220 p368*

and the corresponding bride entry:

**HITCHCOX Hilda Blanche** m BARRON Ernest James or BARTON Ernest James *b220 p368*

or in the case of a bride's alias:

**ROWE William** 23y S (*f John ROWE*) m 5 Oct 1878 MARTINS Mary or *JOHNS Mary* 18y S (*f Martin MARTINS*) at Bible Christian Manse Kadina *dist Dal sym X b117 p54*

and the corresponding bride entries appear as:

**MARTINS Mary** or **JOHNS Mary** m ROWE William *b117 p54*

**JOHNS Mary** or **MARTINS Mary** m ROWE William *b117 p54*

In cases where the bride's or groom's surname differed from the father's recorded surname, the bride or groom is also entered using the father's surname as follows:

**JONES Thomas Henry** see **MAY Thomas Henry** *b117 p83*

### Details of an entry

The information for the main entry is composed of the groom's surname, given names, age and marital status, the name of his father, the date of marriage, the bride's surname, given names, age and marital status, the name of her father, the place of marriage, the registration district, symbols and book and page reference numbers. Alias names, if applicable, are recorded immediately following the relevant bride or groom's given names. Details of each of these elements are given below.

### Names

The groom's surname is in bold capitals and given names in bold lower case letters.

The bride's surname is in capitals and given names in lower case letters.

Chinese registrations are a problem because the naming patterns do not match the given names and surname layout of this index. Poor handwriting often compounded the problem. Generally, the first stated name has been extracted as the family surname. 'Ah' (a title of respect) has been extracted as a given name. Errors may have occurred at the time of registration or during the extraction process and researchers are advised to search using variations of name order and spelling.

### Age

Age is given in full years and not rounded up.

### Marital Status

The marital status of the bride and groom.

**Fathers names**

The given and surnames of the father of the groom and bride are preceded by 'f' and enclosed in parentheses thus (f....)

**Date of Marriage**

The date of marriage is in the form day, month (three-letter acronym) and year preceded by 'm'.

- New year date confusions were amended, eg a marriage in January with the previous year's date was amended appropriately and the symbol 'A' added.
- End of month date confusion, eg 31 September, was not amended as the marriage may have occurred on the last day of the stated month or the first day of the next month. An 'E' symbol was added to indicate that the error was identified.

**Place of Marriage**

The place of marriage is preceded by 'at' and is recorded in the form building and locality (town or suburb etc.).

- Church names have been edited for reasons of space and uniformity. The form 'St Georges Church' was preferred to 'Church of Saint George'. Some church names such as 'Primitive Methodist' or 'Evangelical Lutheran' were abbreviated to 'PM' and 'Ev Luth'. Abbreviations already on registrations were generally retained.
- Ministers names have been edited for reasons of space and uniformity. 'Reverend' and 'Doctor' were abbreviated to 'Rev' and 'Dr'.
- The Registrar General's Office (in Adelaide) and the District Registrar's Office were both abbreviated to 'Registrars Office'.
- 'Res of' was adopted as the preferred reference to marriages taken place in a named person's residence.
- 'House' was the preferred term adopted for a private residence, private dwelling or house.
- Street names have generally been omitted unless they are the only place data available. Where there are several churches, manses, etc of a given denomination in the one locality, the street name has been included to pinpoint the place of marriage.
- Entries in which the building is '(not recorded)' most likely took place in a house for which only a street name was recorded on the registration.
- Parentheses () around a locality indicate that the place name was not actually recorded on the registration but has been deduced by volunteers from other information on the registration. The addition of a question mark within the brackets indicates that the inference was less certain.
- Locality names have been corrected to current standard nomenclature spelling.
- House and property names have been used where these were the only place data available

Please be aware that the officiating minister may have used the church's parish, diocese, or district name as the place of marriage, rather than the geographical place name.

**Registration Districts**

The Registration District is encoded as a three-letter acronym, preceded by 'dist'. The codes with their expanded entries are listed under the abbreviations section.

Many of the earlier certificates are headed with a County, church or ecclesiastical district name, rather than the registration district. These have been corrected and the symbol 'A' for amendment added to the entry.

**Symbols**

Up to two single-letter symbols are used, preceded by 'sym'. These symbols qualify items of recorded data.

**A** Volunteers have amended or deduced data (other than mis-spelt names) during the extraction process and the purchased certificate will differ from the entry in this index. This was done to correct a clerical error or add useful information for example:

- Deduction of a registration district
- Deduction of year when a new year date confusion was detected

**B** The entry was created from information in both the Registrars registration and the district copy for the following reasons:

- The original was partially damaged or illegible.
- Some central registrations are typewritten and of unknown origin..

**C** An officially stamped or signed correction made on the registration by the Registrar after the event has been included in the entry. Such corrections will not appear on any version of the certificate issued prior to the date of the correction, and in many cases the district copy will not have been amended.

**D** Extractors experienced difficulty deciphering the handwriting and the extracted detail represents a 'best guess'. The 'D' symbol may mean the whole entry is difficult to read or perhaps only one word.

**E** A possible clerical error exists that was not amended by extractors.

- An end of month date confusion such as '31 September 1849'
- An indefinite date such as when the date stated in the date box on the registration form differs from the certified date at bottom of the registration. Usually the earlier date was entered.

**R** The date of registration was used as the date of marriage because the latter was not recorded or is indecipherable.

**S** Additional, useful information is available on the Registrar's registration that can not be included in this compilation:

- The groom or bride's father was deceased
- A mother's name is stated
- The age is stated in years and months
- A divorce is noted

- Other unusual information is recorded.
- V** Indicates a variation in spelling or interpretation of names exists.
  - A slight difference in spelling of given or surname between the Registrar and the groom or bride's version. The bride or groom's spelling is preferred when it is clearly written.
  - The Registrar has recorded two versions.
  - Due to poor handwriting on the certificate, different interpretations of names are possible.

- S** In the Symbol field, refers to supplementary information.
- SDA** Seventh Day Adventist
- Sq** Square
- St** Street or Saint
- Tce** Terrace
- V** Variation in spelling or interpretation of names.
- W** In Marital Status field, Widow or widower
- X** A cross-reference to another name has been included

**X** A cross-reference to another name has been included because the bride or groom has an alias name.

**Registration District Codes**

**Book and Page**

The BDM Registration Office book and page reference numbers are preceded by 'b' and 'p'.

|     |                 |      |                 |
|-----|-----------------|------|-----------------|
| Ade | Adelaide        | MPW  | Munno Para West |
| Ang | Angaston        | MtB  | Mount Barker    |
| Bar | Barossa         | Nai  | Nairne          |
| BaW | Barossa West    | Nor  | Norwood         |
| Bur | Burra           | Onk  | Onkaparinga     |
| Cla | Clare           | Pal  | Palmerston      |
| Cra | Crawford        | PtA. | Port Adelaide   |
| Dal | Daly            | PtG  | Port Gawler     |
| EnB | Encounter Bay   | Rob  | Robe            |
| Fli | Flinders        | Str  | Strathalbyn     |
| Fro | Frome           | Tal  | Talunga         |
| Gil | Gilbert         | TMu  | The Murray      |
| Gre | Grey            | UpW  | Upper Wakefield |
| Hig | Highercombe     | Wel  | Wellington      |
| Hin | Hindmarsh       | Wil  | Willunga        |
| Kap | Kapunda         | Yan  | Yankalilla      |
| MoV | Morphett Vale   | Yat  | Yatala          |
| MPE | Munno Para East |      |                 |

**Abbreviations**

Abbreviations of names used on registrations were retained. Where the length of given names exceeded the space available on the database, the final given name was reduced to an initial and the symbol 'S' was added to indicate that additional information is available on the registration.

- A** Volunteers have amended or deduced data
- B** The entry was created from information in both the Registrars registration and the District copy.
- BC** Bible Christian
- C** An officially stamped or signed correction made by the Registrar
- CE** Church of England
- Cong** Congregational
- D** In Marital Status field, divorced or deserted seven years
- D** In Symbol field, extractors experienced great difficulty in deciphering the handwriting
- Dr** Doctor
- E** A possible clerical error exists that has not been amended by extractors.
- Ev Luth** Evangelical Lutheran
- FL** In Marital Status field, Full age
- Hd** Hundred
- KI** Kangaroo Island
- MI** In Marital Status field, Minor
- N** In Marital Status field, Not recorded.
- Nr, nr** Near
- Nth** North
- PM** Primitive Methodist
- R** In the Symbol field, the date of registration was used as the date of marriage.
- R** In the Place of Marriage field, river
- RC** Roman Catholic
- Rd** Road
- Rev** Reverend
- S** In the Marital Status field, single, bachelor, spinster, maiden etc

**GERMAN PLACE-NAMES IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA CHANGED BY NOMENCLATURE ACT OF 1917**

|                  |                  |
|------------------|------------------|
| <b>From:</b>     | <b>To:</b>       |
| Bartsch's Creek  | Yedlakoo Creek   |
| Basedow, Hd of   | French, Hd of    |
| Bauer, Cape      | Wondoma, Cape    |
| Berlin Rock      | Panpandie Rock   |
| Bethanien        | Bethany          |
| Bismarck         | Weeroopa         |
| Blumberg         | Birdwood         |
| Blumenthal       | Lakkari          |
| Buchfelde        | Loos             |
| Carlsruhe        | Kunden           |
| Ehrenbreitstein  | Mt Yerila        |
| Ferdinand Creek  | Ernabella Creek  |
| Mt Ferdinand     | Mt Warrabillinna |
| Friedrichstadt   | Tangari          |
| Friedrichswalde  | Tarnma           |
| Gebhardt's Hills | Polygon Ridge    |
| German Creek     | Benara Creek     |
| German Pass      | Tappa Pass       |
| Germantown Hill  | Vimy Ridge       |
| Gottlieb's Well  | Parnggi Well     |
| Grunberg         | Karalta          |
| Grunthal         | Verdun           |
| Hahndorf         | Ambleside        |
| Hasse's Mound    | Larelar Mound    |
| Heidelberg       | Kobandilla       |
| Hergott Springs  | Marree           |
| Hildesheim       | Punthari         |
| Hoffnungthal     | Karawirra        |
| Homburg, Hd of   | Haig, Hd of      |

Jaenschton  
Kaiserstuhl  
Klaebes  
Klemzig  
Krause Rock  
Krichauff, Hd of  
Krichauff  
Kronsdorf  
Langdorf  
Langmeil  
Lobethal  
Meyer, Mt  
Muller's Hill  
Neudorf  
Neukirch  
New Hamburg  
New Mecklenburg  
Oliventhal  
Paech, Hd of  
Petersburg  
Pflaum, Hd of  
Rhine Park  
Rhine Hill  
Rhine River Nth  
Rhine River Sth  
Rhine (Nth), Hd of  
Rhine (Sth), Hd of  
Rhine Villa  
Rosenthal  
Scherk, Hd of  
Schoenthal  
Schomburgk, Hd of  
Schreiberhau  
Seppelts  
Siegersdorf  
Steinfeld  
Summerfeldt  
Vogelsang's Corner  
Von Doussa, Hd of  
Wusser's Nob

Kerkanya  
Mt Kitchener  
Kilto  
Gaza  
Marti Rock  
Beatty, Hd of  
Beatty  
Kabminye  
Kaldukee  
Bilyara  
Tweedvale  
Mt Kauto  
Yandina Hill  
Mamburdi  
Dimchurch  
Wilyaroo  
Gomersal  
Olivedale  
Cannawigara, Hd of  
Peterborough  
Gegeela, Hd of  
Kongolia  
Mons  
The Somme  
The Mame  
Jellicoe, Hd of  
Jutland, Hd of  
Cambrai  
Rosedale  
Sturdee, Hd of  
Boongala  
Maude, Hd of  
Warre  
Dorrien  
Bultawilta  
Stonefield  
Summerfield  
Teerkoore  
Allenby, Hd of  
Karun Nob

(Source: S A Government Gazette, 10 January 1918. Subsequent nomenclature changes resulted in the dropping of the 's in place names.)

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