1.   Introduction

This document describes the BDM Registrations Marriages dataset.

2.   Death Registrations

2.1   Summary

This database is an index of marriage records between 1842 and 1948 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 July 1937 and then again from 1 January 1946 to 31 July 1948.

SAGHS holds data for marriage registrations in the years before 1 January 1842 and for those between 1 January 1938 to 31 December 1945 and is the process of converting this data into a format suitable for inclusion into this database.

2.3   Source

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

2.4   Additional information

2.4.1   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 *(bachelor/spinster/widow etc)*	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)
- *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.

2.4.2   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.

2.4.3   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 first update to the BDM Registrations of Marriages dataset since it was first created. 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.

3.1   Version M-20171003

Table T_RMarriages: records 228,603

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

3.2   Version M-20240408

Table T_RMarriages: records 245,972

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

4.   Appendix A

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 complied and published by the South Australian Genealogy and Heraldry Society Inc.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN MARRIAGES

INDEX OF REGISTRATIONS

1842 to1916

Editor and Project Co-ordinator
A L Cobiac BMechE

Compiled by the South Australian Genealogy and Heraldry Society Inc
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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 *b*220 *p*368

and the corresponding bride entry:

HITCHCOX Hilda Blanche *m* BARRON Ernest James *b*220 *p*368

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 *b*220 *p*368

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 *b*220 *p*368

and the corresponding bride entry:

HITCHCOX Hilda Blanche *m* BARRON Ernest James *or BARTON Ernest James b*220 *p*368

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 *b*117 *p*54

and the corresponding bride entries appear as:

MARTINS Mary *or JOHNS Mary m* ROWE William *b*117 *p*54

JOHNS Mary *or MARTINS Mary m* ROWE William *b*117 *p*54

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 *b*117 *p*83

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.

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Fathers names

The given and surnames of the father of the groom and bride are preceded by 'f' and enclosed in parenthese 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 <u>the church's</u> parish, diocese, or district name as the place of marriage, rather than the <u>geographical</u> 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

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- 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.

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

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

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

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

Registration District Codes

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		

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

From:	To:
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

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Jaenschton	Kerkanya
Kaiserstuhl	Mt Kitchener
Klaebes	Kilto
Klemzig	Gaza
Krause Rock	Marti Rock
Krichauff, Hd of	Beatty, Hd of
Krichauff	Beatty
Kronsdorf	Kabminye
Langdorf	Kaldukee
Langmeil	Bilyara
Lobethal	Tweedvale
Meyer, Mt	Mt Kauto
Muller's Hill	Yandina Hill
Neudorf	Mamburdi
Neukirch	Dimchurch
New Hamburg	Willyaroo
New Mecklenburg	Gomersal
Oliventhal	Olivedale
Paech, Hd of	Cannawigara, Hd of
Petersburg	Peterborough
Pflaum, Hd of	Geegeela, Hd of
Rhine Park	Kongolia
Rhine Hill	Mons
Rhine River Nth	The Somme
Rhine River Sth	The Marne
Rhine (Nth), Hd of	Jellicoe, Hd of
Rhine (Sth), Hd of	Jutland, Hd of
Rhine Villa	Cambrai
Rosenthal	Rosedale
Scherk, Hd of	Sturdee, Hd of
Schoenthal	Boongala
Schomburgk, Hd of	Maude, Hd of
Schreiberhau	Warre
Seppelts	Dorrien
Siegersdorf	Bultawilta
Steinfeld	Stonefield
Summerfeldt	Summerfield
Vogelsang's Corner	Teerkoore
Von Doussa, Hd of	Allenby, Hd of
Wusser's Nob	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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