

No. XXI.

PARISH REGISTERS. An Act for better regulating and preserving Parish and other Registers of Births Baptisms Marriages and Burials in New South Wales and its Dependencies including Van Diemen's Land. [1st November, 1825.]

After the 1st January 1826 Registers of Baptisms Marriages and Burials to be kept by the officiating Minister of every Parish.

In books of parchment or of durable paper.

How to be kept.

BE it enacted by His Excellency the Governor of New South Wales with the advice of the Council That from and after the first day of January one thousand eight hundred and twenty-six Registers of public and private Baptisms Marriages and Burials solemnized in the said Colony or any of its Dependencies according to the rights of the Church of England or as hereinafter mentioned shall be kept by the officiating Minister of every Parish respectively to be hereafter established therein in books of parchment or of durable paper to be provided by the said Parishes respectively whereon shall be printed on each side of every leaf the heads of information herein required to be entered in the Registers of Baptisms Marriages and Burials respectively every entry being numbered progressively from the beginning to the end of each book and being divided from the next entry by a printed line according to the Forms A hereunto annexed and every page being numbered progressively at the middle of the top.

Parish Registers.

2. And be it further enacted That whenever the ceremony of Baptism Marriage or Burial is performed in any other place than the Church or the Church-yard of a Parish providing its own distinct Registers by any other Minister than the officiating Minister thereof the Minister performing the same shall on that or the next day transmit to such officiating Minister a Certificate of such Baptism Marriage or Burial who shall thereupon enter the same in such book adding to such entry " according to the Certificate of the Rev. A. B. transmitted to me on the day of &c."

Where the ceremony of Baptism Marriage or Burial is not performed in the Church or Church-yard of a Parish and by another Clergyman it is to be registered there upon his Certificate.
Form of such entry in the Register.

3. And be it enacted That the above Books of Entries and all Register Books heretofore in use shall belong to every such Parish and shall be safely kept by the officiating Minister thereof in a dry well-painted iron chest provided and repaired at the expense of the said Parishes respectively and which shall be constantly kept locked in some dry and safe place in his house or in the Church and shall not be removed therefrom except for making the above entries and inspection of persons desirous to search the same or to obtain copies thereof or to be produced as evidence in some Court or for inspection into their state or for the purposes of this Act and immediately after shall be forthwith returned into the iron chest.

All Registers to be safely kept by the officiating Minister of the Parish in his house or in the Church.

Not to be removed from thence except for certain purposes.

4. And be it further enacted That before the expiration of one month after every year's end fair copies of all the entries of Baptisms Marriages and Burials solemnized in the year preceding shall be made by the officiating Minister or under his direction on parchment or durable paper to be provided by the said Parishes respectively of the same size and dimensions and according to the same plan as the original Register and the contents thereof shall be verified by such Minister in the form following—

Within one month after the end of each year copies of all entries of Baptisms Marriages and Burials of the year preceding shall be made by the officiating Minister upon the plan of the original Register.

" I A. B. officiating Minister of the Parish of C in the County of E do hereby solemnly declare that the several writings hereto annexed purporting to be copies of the several entries contained in the several Register Books of Baptisms Marriages and Burials of the Parish aforesaid from the first day of January to the thirty-first day of December both inclusive are true copies of all the several entries in the said several Register Books respectively from the said first day of January to the said thirty-first day of December inclusive and that no other entry during such period is contained in any such books respectively and that these copies are truly made according to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Form of such copies of entries taken from the Register Books.

" (Signed) A. B. Minister of the Parish of "

Which shall be fairly written on the said copy immediately after the last entry therein and the signature thereto shall be attested by a Magistrate or Churchwardens if any or by two of the principal inhabitants of the said Parishes respectively.

Signature to be attested by a Magistrate or Churchwardens if any or by two principal inhabitants.

5. And be it further enacted That the said copies of such Register Books verified and attested as above shall be transmitted to the Registrar of the Archdeacon's Court in the said Colony on or before the thirty-first day of January in each year.

To be transmitted to the Registrar of the Archdeacon's Court on or before the thirty-first of January in each year.

6. And be it further enacted That as often as copies of such Registers and Lists are transmitted to the Registrar aforesaid they shall be safely kept from damage and be so arranged as to be resorted to when required and one general alphabetical list shall be made in books of the names of all persons and places therein which with the above copies and the said parochial registries shall be open to the public search at reasonable times on payment of the fee of One Shilling for each name searched for by the party or parties searching stating at the time of search the name or names of the person or persons sought for and a copy of any entry in the said Registers shall

Such copies to be safely kept by the Registrar and one general alphabetical list made for public reference.

A fee of One Shilling to be paid for each name to be searched for and of Two Shillings and Sixpence for the copy of any entry in the Registers.

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be given to any person paying a fee of Two Shillings and Sixpence for the same to the Registrar.

To falsify any Register certificate list or copy

7. And be it further enacted That every person who shall knowingly and willingly insert or cause or permit to be inserted in any such Register of such Baptism Burial or Marriage or in such Certificate as aforesaid or any such copy or in any list or declaration ordered to be transmitted to such Registrar any false entry of any thing relating to any Baptism Burial or Marriage or who shall falsely make utter forge or counterfeit or cause procure or wilfully permit to be falsely made altered forged or counterfeited any part of such Register list or declaration or copy of such Register or who shall wilfully destroy deface or injure or cause to be wilfully destroyed defaced or injured any such Register or part thereof or shall wilfully sign or certify any copy of any such Register required to be transmitted as aforesaid which is false in any part thereof knowing it to be false shall be deemed guilty of felony and be transported for fourteen years.

Or to destroy deface and injure any Register or to sign and certify any false copy constituted felony punishable by fourteen years transportation.

Certificates of Baptism Marriage and Burial not performed or solemnized by the established Minister of the Parish to be transmitted to him within one week and such Certificate to be signed and entered by him as if solemnized and performed by himself.

8. And be it further enacted That a Certificate of every Baptism Marriage and Burial lawfully performed or solemnized within the said Colony or its Dependencies shall (in case the same shall not have been solemnized or performed by the established Minister of the Parish wherein the same shall have been solemnized or performed) be transmitted within one week from and after such solemnization to such established Minister and such Certificate shall be signed and entered by such Minister in like manner as if the same had been by him so solemnized or performed.

Fee for entering such Certificate One Shilling.

9. And be it further enacted That there shall be paid by the person solemnizing or performing such Baptism Marriage or Burial as last aforesaid to the parochial Minister for entering the aforesaid Certificate of the said last-mentioned Baptisms Marriages or Burials a fee of One Shilling for every such Certificate as aforesaid.

From and after the 1st January 1826 no Burial to take place within the walls of any Church or Chapel nor elsewhere than in the Burial Ground set apart for such purpose distant one mile from any town or township.

10. And be it further enacted That from and after the first of January one thousand eight hundred and twenty-six no Burial shall take place within the walls of any Church or Chapel of any denomination whatsoever nor within the limits of any town otherwise than in any Burial Ground which may be set apart for such purposes and which Burial Ground must be distant one mile at the least from any town or township.

Act to take effect from 1st January 1826. Forms of Registers to be supplied by the Government Printer.

11. And be it further enacted That this Act do take effect from and after the first day of January next ensuing and that each parochial Minister be in the meantime provided with the forms of Registers aforesaid by the Government Printer.

Penalties for not complying with this Act and the appropriation thereof.

12. And be it further enacted That any Minister or other person mentioned in this Act not complying with the enactments herein made and for which specific penalties have not been imposed shall be subject to a penalty of not less than Four Spanish Dollars and not exceeding Twenty Spanish Dollars and that all fines which shall be paid or levied by virtue of this Act shall be paid appropriated and accounted for in the same manner as in and by a certain Act of the Governor in Council intituled "*An Act to prevent the harbouring of Runaway Convicts and the encouraging of Convicts tipping or gambling*" is directed and prescribed.

Parish Registers.

A.

PAGE I.

BAPTISMS solemnized in the Parish of _____ in the County of _____
in the Year 18 .

Form of Register of Baptisms.

When Baptized.	When Born.	Child's Christian Name.	Parents' Name.		Abode.	Quality or Profession.	By whom the Ceremony was performed.
			Christian.	Surname.			
(No. 1.)							
(No. 2.)							

PAGE I.

MARRIAGES solemnized in the Parish of _____ in the County of _____
in the Year 18 .

Form of Register of Marriages.

(No. 1.) _____ of th Parish _____ and _____ of th Parish
were married in this _____ by _____ with consent of _____
this _____ day of _____ in the Year 18 _____ by me _____ Chaplain.

This Marriage was solemnized between us {
In the presence of { _____ of _____
_____ of _____

PAGE I.

BURIALS in the Parish of _____ in the County of _____
18 .

Form of Register of Burials.

Name.	Abode.	When Buried.	Age.	Ships' Name.	Quality or Profession.	By whom the Ceremony was performed.
(No. 1.)						
(No. 2.)						