

Fact sheet: *Wesleyan missionary registers*

Methodist Church of New Zealand Archives National Archive of the Methodist Church of New Zealand

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Wesleyan missionaries

Believing it was their Christian duty to take the Wesleyan faith to the far reaches of the world, the British Wesleyan Missionary Society sent missionaries and their families to New Zealand. 1822 is accepted as the date for the first Wesleyan missionary stationed in New Zealand. Samuel Leigh was stationed at Whangaroa.

Missionaries arrived with two essential pieces of stationery – baptism registers and marriage registers.

These documents record first contact with Maori and are historically of national significance.

Maori who converted to Christianity were baptised, often in groups by missionaries, and then in some cases married on the same day.

Registers also include pakeha baptisms and marriages, but missionaries commonly kept two registers, one for Maori and one for pakeha by about the 1850s. Sometimes a register was used for both events.

Spelling, despite early adoption of literacy by Maori and missionaries having access to Maori dictionaries was often as the missionary heard it. Researchers are advised to also check names that are similar rather than focus on a specific spelling.

Wesleyan missionary baptism registers

Sometimes these registers were notebooks, rather than the pre-printed registers. In the case of adult baptisms, parents were not recorded. When children were baptised usually there are parent's names given, but not always recorded with last names or surnames.

Maori would sometimes take a Wesleyan name – for example Pumipi is Maori for Bumby – Rev John H Bumby.

Wesleyan missionary marriage registers

In 1836 the Marriage Act and the Registration Act were passed in Britain which led to the creation of the office of the Registrar General. These acts provided for the proper keeping of records and a system of issuing certified copies. In 1842 an ordinance was issued decreeing that a marriage was valid if solemnised by any minister of any Christian denomination. These Acts were why missionaries could perform marriages in New Zealand.

It is uncommon in the 1830s-1850s to have parent's names recorded of the individuals being

married, but occasionally witnesses are noted.

Despite marriage being a civil function, it was not until 1854 that marriage information was lodged with the Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages.

Wesleyan Missionary marriage registers prior to this date may contain marriages that were not registered.

For more information see

<https://www.bdmhistoricalrecords.dia.govt.nz/>

For an understanding of Maori and Pakeha marriage to each other, see Wanhalla, Angela. *Matters of the heart. A history of interracial marriage in New Zealand.* 2013

Methodist Church of New Zealand Archives Wesleyan Missionary Registers Index

This volunteer project started in 2016 and is on-going. The index is held in the Reading Room of the Methodist Archives and is arranged by last name.

The index is **not** a transcript of the entry and the original register will need to be checked for the full entry.

Registers indexed include any that were started prior to 1850.

Some missionary registers are held by Methodist Church of New Zealand Te Taha Maori in their archives. This collection is not part of the Methodist Archives and whakapapa researchers are advised to contact them:

Te Taha Maori

Methodist Church of New Zealand

409 Great South Road, Penrose, Auckland

Phone 09 525 4179

Registers held at the Methodist Church of New Zealand Archives

Please see our website for inventories of baptism and marriage registers held. Marriage registers are restricted post 1920.

http://www.methodist.org.nz/archives/archives_collection

Research

If you are unable to visit in person, a written research service is available. Research fees are \$25 per half hour.

Names of Wesleyan missionaries in New Zealand

ALDRED, John, 1818-1894, b Suffolk, England

1839 Entered ministry

1840-1842 Port Nicholson

1843-1848 Nelson

1849-1853 Wellington

1854-1849 Canterbury

1860-1863 Wellington

1864 Otago

1865-1866 Dunedin

Superannuated

BUDDLE, Thomas, 1812-1883, b Durham, England

1835 Entered ministry
1840-1844 Waipa
1845-1853 Auckland
1854-1860 Manukau
1861-1865 Auckland
1866-1869 Christchurch (Durham Street)
1870-1872 Wellington
1873-1875 Nelson
1876-1881 Auckland (Three Kings College)

BULLER, James, 1812-1884, b Cornwall, England

1837 Entered ministry
1837 Mangungu and Waima
1838 Newark
1839-1840 Kaipara
1841-1853 Wairoa and Kaipara
1854 Auckland
1855-1859 Wellington
1860 Thames (Shortland)
1860-1865 Canterbury
1866-1869 Auckland
1870-1872 Thames
1873-1875 Christchurch (Durham Street)

BUMBY, John H, 1808-1840, b Thirsk, Yorkshire, England

1829 Entered ministry
1839-1840 Mangungu and Waima
Chairman of New Zealand District
1840 June 26 Drowned in Hauraki Gulf

BUTTLE, George, 1810-1874, b Yorkshire, England

1838 Entered ministry
1840-1842 Kawhia and Mokau
1843 To Sydney, New South Wales
1844 New Plymouth (North)
1845-1848 Whaingaroa (Raglan)
1849-1857 Waipa
1857-1862 To England
1862-1864 Supernumerary at Otahuhu

CREED, Charles, 1812-1879, b Somerset, England

1837 Entered ministry
1839 Kaipara Heads
1840 Kaipara (Wairoa)
1841-1843 New Plymouth (North)
1844-1853 Waikouaiti
1854-1855 Wellington and Hutt
1856 Kawhia and Aotea
1857 To Australia

HOBBS, John, 1800-1883, b Kent, England

1824 Entered ministry
1824-1829 Whangaroa

1830-1831 Hokianga
1832-1839 Launceston, Tasmania
1839 Mangungu and Waima
1840 Newark
1841-1845 Mangungu and Oruru
1846-1854 Mangungu and Whangaroa
1855 Governor, Three Kings College
1856 Supernumerary

IRONSIDE, Samuel, 1814-1897, b Sheffield, England

1837 Entered ministry
1839 Mangungu and Waima
1840-1843 Cloudy Bay
1843-1849 Port Nicholson
1849-1855 Nelson
1855-1858 New Plymouth (European)
1858 To Australia

KIRK, William, 1825-1915, b Epworth, England

1846 Entered ministry
1847 Auckland
1848 Waima (Newark)
1849-1852 Wanganui (Ohinemutu)
1853 Christchurch (short time)
1854-1856 Waikouaiti
1857-1859 Wanganui (Kai Iwi)
1860-1862 Whangaroa (Mangonui)
1863-1866 Nelson
1867-1869 Wellington
1870 Christchurch (Durham Street)
1871-1872 Christchurch (St Albans)
1873-1875 New Plymouth
1876-1878 Auckland
1879-1881 Wellington
1882-1884 Richmond
1885-1914 Supernumerary, Petone

LAWRY, Henry H, 1821-1906, b New South Wales, Australia

1845 Entered ministry
1845 Manukau (Pehiakura)
1846 Auckland
1847-1848 Manukau (Pehiakura)
1849 Auckland
1850-1853 Manukau
1854 Wairoa and Kaipara
1855-1861 Hokianga
1862-1863 Auckland (Three Kings College)

LAWRY, Walter, 1793-1859, b Cornwall, England

1817 Entered ministry
1844-1853 Auckland
General Superintendent of Wesleyan Missions in Australasia and Polynesia

LEIGH, Samuel, 1785-1852, b Staffordshire, England

1812 Entered ministry
1822-1825 Whangaroa

REID, Alexander, 1821-1891, b Edinburgh, Scotland

1848 Entered ministry
1849-1857 Auckland (Three Kings College)
1858-1863 Waipa
1864-1866 New Plymouth (Maori)
1867-1869 Christchurch (Durham Street)
1870-1872 Dunedin
1873-1875 Auckland
1876-1878 Wellington
1879-1881 Christchurch (Durham Street)
1882-1884 Auckland (Pitt Street)
1885-1891 Auckland (Three Kings College)

SKEVINGTON, John, 1814-1845, b Nottingham, England

1839 Entered ministry
1842 Waipa (West)
1843-1845 Taranaki South

SMALES, Gideon, 1817-1894, b Whitby, England

1829 Entered ministry
1840 Waima
1841-1842 Newark
1843 Nelson, Port Nicholson for short periods
1843 Mokau
1844-1849 Kawhia and Mokau
In England
1855 Kawhia and Aotea
1856 Supernumerary

STACK, James, 1801-1883, b Southsea, England

1825 Entered ministry
1825-1827 Whangaroa
1830-1831 Hokianga
1831 Joined the Church Missionary Society

STANNARD, George, 1803-1888, b Yorkshire, England

1844 Entered ministry
1844 Newark
1845-1847 Waima and Newark
1848 Auckland
1849 Taranaki South
1850-1853 Waitotara
1854-1856 Waimate and Waitotara
1857-1858 Otago
1859-1862 Hokianga
1863-1864 Raglan and Aotea
1865 Supernumerary in Wanganui

TURNER, Nathaniel, 1793-1864, b Cheshire, England

1821 Entered ministry
1823-1827 Whangaroa

1827-1830 Tonga
1831-1834 Hobart, Tasmania
1835-1836 Hokianga
1837-1838 Mangungu and Waima
1839 To Tasmania

TURTON, Henry Hanson, 1818-1887, b Bradford, England

1839 Entered ministry
1840-1842 Aotea
1843 Taranaki (North)
1845 New Plymouth (North)
1846-1854 New Plymouth
1855 New Plymouth (Maori)
1857 Kawhia
1858 Manukau
Retired from the Mission

WALLIS, James, 1809-1895, b Blackwell, England

1833 Entered ministry
1834-1836 Hokianga
1837 Kaipara
1838-1844 Whaingaroa (Raglan)
1845-1862 Whaingaroa
1863-1865 Manukau
1866-1867 Auckland
1868 Supernumerary

WARREN, John, 1814-1883, b Norfolk, England

1836 Entered ministry
1840 Kaipara Heads
1840-1854 Waima
1855-1859 Nelson
1860-1862 Auckland
1863-1865 Auckland (Pitt Street)
1866-1869 Manukau
1870 Supernumerary at Otahuhu

WATKIN, James, 1805-1886, b Manchester, England

1830 Entered ministry
1840-1843 Waikouaiti
1844-1848 Port Nicholson
1848-1853 Wellington *
1854 Wellington and Hutt
1855 To Australia

*Known to have visited Rapaki and Pigeon Bay, 1851: see baptism register B-221

WHITE, William, 1874-1875, b Durham, England

1822 Entered ministry
1822-1826 Whangaroa
1827-1829 In Australia and England
1830-1835 Hokianga
Retired from the Mission

WHITELEY, John, 1806-1869, b Nottinghamshire, England

1832	Entered ministry
1832-1833	Hokianga
1834	Waipa
1835-1836	Hokianga
1837	Newark
1838	Kaipara
1839-1854	Kawhia, Aotea, Mokau
1855	Auckland
1856-1864	New Plymouth (Maori)
1865-1866	Taranaki (Maori)
1867-1869	Taranaki
1869 Feb 13	Killed

WOON, William, 1803-1858, b Cornwall, England

1832	Entered ministry
1833-1834	Friendly Islands (Tonga)
1834-	New Zealand
1836-1838	Mangungu and Waima
1839	Newark
1840	Mangungu and Waima
1841-1845	Mangungu and Oruru
1846	Manukau (Pehiakura)
1847-1852	Waimate and Patea
1853	Supernumerary in Wanganui

Source: CHAMBERS, W A. *Samuel Ironside in New Zealand*. [Auckland] Ray Richards in association with the Wesley Historical Society of New Zealand [1982] p268

Researching Wesleyan missionaries

Resources at the Methodist Church of New Zealand Archives include:

- People information file – contains files on individuals
- Photographs Collection
- Personal Papers and Historical Records Collection in particular MS-39 Wesleyan Missionary Society Papers which consist of letters written by Wesleyan missionaries in New Zealand reporting back to the British WMS in typescript form. Copies of these are also held in the Alexander Turnbull Library in Wellington

See our fact sheet *internet sites for researching New Zealand Methodist history*

