

## **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

### **Pre 1856 New Zealand Marriage records**

Collection of marriages that took place before compulsory civil registration. Contact New Zealand Genealogical Society [www.genealogy.org.nz](http://www.genealogy.org.nz)

### **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](http://www.methodist.org.nz/archives/archives_collection)

### **Research**

If you are unable to visit in person, a limited written research service is available. Research fees are \$30 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*

