

Fact sheet: *researching family history and whakapapa*

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

Contact: Archivist, Methodist Church of New Zealand Archives
54 Langdons Road, Christchurch 8053, New Zealand
PO Box 931, Christchurch 8140, New Zealand

Telephone: (03) 366 6049

Email: archives@methodist.org.nz

Web: <http://www.methodist.org.nz/archives>

Hours: By appointment only. Closed weekends, public holidays, Christmas—New Year and Easter Tuesday

Sources of information for family history research held in the Methodist Church of New Zealand Archives

The Methodist Archives holds biographical information on file about people who served in the Methodist Church. The majority relates to ministers in the Methodist Church of New Zealand. The sort of information held includes birth and death dates, records of places they were stationed and obituaries.

People who served the church as Ministers, Home Missionaries, Overseas Missionaries, Lay Preachers, Deacons or Deaconess, may also have biographical information held in the Archives. This information is contained within the Archives' People Information files, which are arranged alphabetically by surname. There may also be papers held belonging to them in the Personal Papers and Historical Records Collection.

Family members who attended Methodist churches can sometimes have their name recorded in membership rolls. These rolls are not indexed, and the name of the church or parish needs to be known before these can be searched efficiently. Baptism registers are not yet indexed by name with the exception of some of the registers kept by Wesleyan missionaries 1830-1850.

If a family member was prominent within a church, and participated in committees or meetings, their participation may be recorded in the minutes of committees held within the Parish Archives Collection. Again, the name of the church needs to be known first, as these minutes are not indexed. There may be an obituary published about them in a Methodist newspaper.

Methodist newspapers have been digitised from 1870-1948 – see our fact sheet *internet sites for researching New Zealand Methodist history*.

Printed resources and indexes held in the Methodist Church of New Zealand Archives

- *A history of Methodism in New Zealand* by William Morley (also available digitally <http://www.archive.org/details/historymethodis00morlgoog>)
- Church Histories Collection
- *Minutes of the New Zealand Methodist Conference* (published serial)

- In-house indexes in our Research Room:
New Zealand Wesleyan Missionary Registers index 1830-
New Zealand Methodists name index 1840-
People information files index
Methodist newspapers index 1948-1986

Sources for in-depth research using original documents held in the Methodist Church of New Zealand Archives

- Photographs Collection
- Baptism registers, marriage registers, membership rolls
- Parish Archives Collection
- Personal Papers and Historical Records Collection
- Methodist Church of New Zealand Conference archives

Inventories of our collection holdings are available online:
<https://www.methodist.org.nz/whakapapa/archives/archives-collection/>

See our fact sheet *internet sites for New Zealand Methodist research*

Written/email enquiries

If you are unable to visit in person, the Methodist Church of New Zealand Archives offers a limited written research service.

Charges for this are detailed on our fact sheet *research fees and charges*

Whakapapa research

As well as the sources above, there are some records held specific to Maori, particularly for the period of first contact between Maori and Wesleyan missionaries.

- Wesleyan Missionary Registers index 1830-. This incomplete index to baptism and marriage registers dates from 1830 and records ceremonies performed by Wesleyan missionaries. A full list of baptism and marriage registers held is on our website and includes Wesleyan missionary registers. It can only be viewed in our Reading Room
- 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

Some Wesleyan 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