

Fact sheet: *researching Home Missionaries*

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

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

Sources of biographical information about Home Missionaries held in the Methodist Church of New Zealand Archives

The Methodist Church *Law Book* defines a Home Missionary as “a Local Preacher who is employed as a full time agent of the Methodist Church of New Zealand and is in receipt of remuneration for his services.”

Home Missionaries were allowed to use the title “Reverend” without having been ordained. However they still had to pass exams to be a Home Missionary.

Home Missionaries were directed by the New Zealand Methodist Conference as to where they would be stationed. They were paid at a lesser rate than ministers.

The first Home Missionaries in New Zealand were appointed about 1875. The last died in 1995.

Home Missionaries’ files are held in the Methodist Church Archives.

Please note that access to personal files is restricted if individuals are still alive due to the Privacy Act.

General information about Home Missionaries can be found in the book *Out of the common way* by E W Hames, p 53. This has been digitally copy – see our fact sheet *Internet sites*

Printed resources and indexes

- People information file
- *A history of Methodism in New Zealand* by William Morley
- Wesley Historical Society publications index
- Church histories collection
- Minutes of the New Zealand Methodist Conference (published)
- Name index of Home Missionaries’ files by Rev Doug Burt

Resources for in depth research using original documents

- Photographs Collection
- Baptism registers, marriage registers, membership rolls
- Parish Archives Collection
- Personal Papers and Historical Records Collection
- Home Missionaries' files (held at the Methodist Archives Auckland)

Internet sources

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

Methodist Church of New Zealand Archives Collection

While few documents have been yet been digitised, our descriptive catalogue lists of the Archives Collection are available:

<https://www.methodist.org.nz/whakapapa/archives/archives-collection/>

New Zealand Methodist newspapers 1870-1948

Digital copies of these can be word-searched. They can include information about births, marriages, deaths and obituaries:

<http://kinderlibrary.recollect.co.nz/>

New Zealand newspapers

All newspapers can also include information about the New Zealand Methodist Church and its people. These can be searched on the National Library's PapersPast site:

<https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/>

New Zealand Methodist publications

Many books have been digitised by international libraries or internet companies such as Google, which have information about the New Zealand Methodist Church. Of particular interest is William Morley's *A history of Methodism in New Zealand*:

<http://www.archive.org/details/historymethodis00morlgoog>

The Wesley Historical Society of New Zealand, has also digitised publications about the history of the Methodist Church, mostly published by the Wesley Historical Society:

http://www.methodist.org.nz/organisations/wesley_historical_society/history/history_index

