

Methodist ministers' family members who signed the 1893 women's suffrage petition

Introduction

2018 is going to be commemorated as 125 years after women in New Zealand gained the right to vote in parliamentary elections.

Earlier this year meetings were held throughout New Zealand by the Suffrage 125 project group, a partnership between the Ministry for Women and Ministry for Culture and Heritage.

Since the 100 year celebrations in 1993, the 1893 women's suffrage petition has been indexed and it is possible to search it by name. There are approximately 24 000 names and addresses of women over the age of 21 in support of the petition.

The index and petition can be seen at: <https://nzhistory.govt.nz/politics/womens-suffrage/petition>

Each page of the petition has been photographed and attached to this database. The petition is currently on display in the He Tohu exhibition in the National Library in Wellington as one of the constitutional founding documents of New Zealand.

The Methodist Archives volunteer team in Christchurch have been looking closely at the 1893 petition, with the aim of seeing if any Methodist ministers' family members signed it.

In December 1892 and early 1893 when pages for the petition were taken round districts of New Zealand, we know from records kept in the Methodist Archives where each minister of the Wesleyan, Bible Christian, Primitive Methodist and United Methodist Free Church was stationed.

Cross matching this information to the signatures on the petition and the addresses given by the signatories, we have found that of the 126 ministers, 34 signatures on the petition can be linked to these ministers. Wives, daughters, sisters, mothers and even a daughter-in-law and a niece.

This project was completed in September 2017 by members of the Archives volunteer team: Enid, Jan, Joyce, Katherine, Marlene and edited by the Archivist, Jo Smith.

2018

Methodist ministers' family members who signed the 1893 women's suffrage petition
Researched by the Methodist Church of New Zealand volunteer team, 2017

Methodist Church of New Zealand Archives, PO Box 931, Christchurch. Email: archives@methodist.org.nz

Signature on petition	Page number	Full name	Brief biography and connection to Methodist minister	Notes	Source of information
G E Abernethy	127	Georgina Elizabeth Abernethy nee Shorland (1859-1906)	Wife of Wesleyan minister Rev Christopher Abernethy (1845-1927) who was stationed at Gore Wesleyan Church.		People Information File, Abernethy, Methodist Church of New Zealand Archives
E Katherine Berry	192	Elizabeth Katherine Berry (1872-1931)	Daughter of Wesleyan minister Rev Joseph Berry (1846-1907) who was stationed at Pitt Street Wesleyan Church, Auckland		People Information File, Berry, Methodist Church of New Zealand Archives
Anna Woods Best	26	Anna Woods Best (1830-1910)	Wife of retired Wesleyan minister Rev Edward Best (?-1900). They both attended Pitt Street Wesleyan Church, Auckland.		People Information File, Best, Methodist Church of New Zealand Archives

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F R Brooke	246	Fanny Rogers Brooke nee Waby (1861-1941)	Wife of Wesleyan minister Rev Thomas George Brooke (1849-1931) who was stationed at St Pauls Wesleyan Church, Greymouth.		People Information File, Best, Methodist Church of New Zealand Archives, obituary, Auckland Star 22 November 1941
Elizabeth S Buttle	178	Elizabeth Sarah Buttle nee Harris (1865-1943)	Wife of Wesleyan minister Rev J Newman Buttle (1850-1914) who was stationed at Sydenham Wesleyan Circuit, Christchurch.		People Information File, Buttle, Methodist Church of New Zealand Archives

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Annie Cannell	524	Sarah Annie Cannell nee George (1846-1940) (known as Annie)	Wife of Wesleyan minister Rev William Douglas Cannell (1836-1921) who was stationed at Hawera Wesleyan Church. Their daughters Elsie, Gertrude and Winifred who also signed the petition. They had 16 children		People Information File, Cannell, Methodist Church of New Zealand Archives

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Elsie Cannell	524	Elsie Cannell (1871-?)	Daughter of Wesleyan minister Rev William Douglas Cannell (1836-1921) and Annie Cannell (1846-1940). One of their 16 children. Her sisters Gertrude and Winifred also signed the petition, as did her mother Annie. Cannell was stationed at Hawera Wesleyan Church.		People Information File, Cannell, Methodist Church of New Zealand Archives

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Gertrude Cannell	524	Gertrude Cannell (1866-?)	Daughter of Wesleyan minister Rev William Douglas Cannell (1836-1921) and Annie Cannell (1846-1940). One of their 16 children. Her sisters Elsie and Winifred also signed the petition, as did her mother Annie. Cannell was stationed at Hawera Wesleyan Church.		People Information File, Cannell, Methodist Church of New Zealand Archives

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Winifred Cannell	524	Winifred Mona Cannell (1869-?)	Daughter of Wesleyan minister Rev William Douglas Cannell (1836-1921) and Annie Cannell (1846-1940). One of their 16 children. Her sisters Gertrude and Elsie also signed the petition, as did her mother Annie. Rev William Cannell was stationed at Hawera Wesleyan Church.		People Information File, Cannell, Methodist Church of New Zealand Archives

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Frances Caverhill	383	Hannah Rebecca Frances Caverhill	Wife of Wesleyan minister Rev Leonard Monk Isitt (1855-1937) who was stationed at East Belt (Fitzgerald Avenue) Wesleyan Church. He was one of the leading prohibition advocate.		See sources under Isitt. Information sent by researcher Andrea Oosterwijk who is researching Te Aroha's connection with the suffrage petition. Sent 12 May 2020

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D Dewsbury	208	Dora Jane Dewsbury (1865-?)	Niece of Wesleyan minister Rev Henry Rohan Dewsbury (1849-1926), daughter of Benjamin Dewsbury (1839-?) and Isabella. Lived in Spreydon, Christchurch. Moved to Darlinghurst Australia as an artist with her sister Gwendoline and mother Isabella circa 1913 and appears not to have returned to NZ		People Information File, Dewsbury, Methodist Church of New Zealand Archives Photograph held in Alexander Turnbull Library Ref PA1-q-708-07-3

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Sarah A Dukes	494	Sarah Alldritt Dukes nee Scott (1840-1910)	Wife of Wesleyan minister Rev John Dukes (1845-1919) who was stationed at the Masterton Wesleyan Church		People Information File, Dewsbury, Methodist Church of New Zealand Archives
Ada L Ellis	316	Ada Lydia Ellis nee Orchard (1869-1950)	Wife of Bible Christian Church minister Rev John Gillies Whait Ellis (1865-1941) who was stationed at Palmerston North Bible Christian Church. Daughter of Rev John Orchard (1838-1907) and Susan Orchard (1839-1906). Ada's sister Emma Orchard (1871-1951) also signed the petition		People Information Files, Ellis and Orchard, Methodist Church of New Zealand Archives

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Mary Griffin	181	Mary Griffin (1851-1944)	Wife of Wesleyan minister Rev Cornelius Griffin (1851-1929) who was stationed at Springston Wesleyan Church.		People Information File, Griffin, Methodist Church of New Zealand Archives
Agnes E Isitt	195	Agnes Isitt nee Caverhill (1857-1918)	Wife of Wesleyan minister Rev Leonard Monk Isitt (1855-1937) who was stationed at East Belt (Fitzgerald Avenue) Wesleyan Church. He was one of the leading prohibition advocate. Agnes' parents were Hannah Rebecca Frances Caverhill and John Scott Caverhill.		https://teara.govt.nz/en/biographies/3i2/isitt-leonard-monk https://teara.govt.nz/en/biographies/1c10/caverhill-hannah-rebecca-frances People Information File, Isitt, Methodist Church of New Zealand Archives

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A M Joughin	383	Anna Maria Josephine Joughin nee Bryers (1870-1895)	Wife of Rev Thomas Alfred Joughin (1863-1942). Stationed at Te Aroha		People information file, Joughin, Methodist Church of New Zealand Archives. Information sent by researcher Andrea Oosterwijk who is researching Te Aroha's connection with the suffrage petition. Sent 12 May 2020
M Lawry	16	Mary Jane Lawry	Daughter in law of Rev Henry H Lawry. Wife of his son Josiah Lawry who lived in Khyber Pass Road.		Wises New Zealand Post Office Directory, 1892-1892 People Information File, Lawry, Methodist Church of New Zealand Archives
Jessie M A Lawry	284	Jessie McHardie Lawry (1860-1920)	Wife of Wesleyan minister Rev Samuel Lawry (1854-1933) who was stationed at Baring Square Wesleyan Church in Ashburton.	Index to petition is incorrect – the "A" is "H"	People Information File, Lawry, Methodist Church of New Zealand Archives

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Lily Laycock	319	Lilian Mary Laycock nee Deakin (1865-1966)	Wife of Primitive Methodist minister Rev William Laycock (1858-1927) who was stationed at Westport as part of the Primitive Methodist West Coast Mission		People Information File, Laycock, Methodist Church of New Zealand Archives
A Marten	322	Alice Marten nee Barham (1868-1966)	Wife of Wesleyan minister Rev William Benjamin Marten (1846-1907) who was stationed at Blenheim Wesleyan Church.		People Information File, Marten, Methodist Church of New Zealand Archives
H U Morley	18	Hannah Watson Morley (1845-1898)	Wife of Wesleyan minister Rev William Morley (1842-1926), principal of Three Kings College, Auckland	Index to petition is incorrect "U" is "W"	People Information File, Morley, Methodist Church of New Zealand Archives

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S E Murray	232	Sarah Elizabeth Murray (1854-1939)	Wife of Wesleyan minister Rev Daniel James Murray (1851-1928) who was stationed at Waimate Wesleyan Church in 1893		People Information File, Murray, Methodist Church of New Zealand Archives

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E Orchard	182	Emma Serena Orchard (1871-1951)	Daughter of Bible Christian minister Rev John Orchard (1838-1907) and Susan Orchard (1839-1906) who was stationed at the Christchurch Bible Christian Church which was in Ferry Road. Emma was the fifth daughter of 13 children. She was an accomplished musician and studied singing overseas and taught in Christchurch. Her sister Ada Ellis (1869-1950) also signed the petition.		People Information File, Orchard, Methodist Church of New Zealand Archives Family history: Peddie, Barbara. "John and Susan Orchard Centennial History 1886-1986".

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E Penney	502	Elizabeth Penney nee Kerby (1851-1896)	Wife of United Methodist Free minister Rev Charles Penney (1851-1917) who was stationed at Waipawa and Woodville United Methodist Free circuit		People Information File, Penney, Methodist Church of New Zealand Archives
Elizabeth Peryman	213	Elizabeth Peryman nee Saunders (1825-1906)	Mother of Wesleyan minister Rev Samuel Huxtable Dewsbury Peryman. Involved with the Women's Christian Temperance Union. Lived at Tai Tapu, Canterbury. Her daughter in law Catherine Mary Peryman also signed the petition		People Information File, Peryman, Methodist Church of New Zealand Archives Pamphlet: Peryman, Nellie. How we won the franchise in New Zealand. New Zealand Women's Christian Temperance Union

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C M Peryman	206	Catherine Mary Peryman (?)	Sister in law of Wesleyan minister Rev Samuel Huxtable Dewsbury Peryman. Married to his brother Henry Edward Peryman. Lived in Tai Tapu, Canterbury. Daughter in law of Elizabeth Peryman (1825-1906) who also signed the petition		People Information File, Peryman, Methodist Church of New Zealand Archives Pamphlet: Peryman, Nellie. How we won the franchise in New Zealand. New Zealand Women's Christian Temperance Union
Fanny Ready	90	Fanny Ready nee Luxton (1860-1940)	Wife of Bible Christian minister Rev William Ready (1860-1927) who was stationed at Dunedin Central Bible Christian Church.		People Information File, Ready, Methodist Church of New Zealand Archives

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Elizabeth Redstone	240	Elizabeth Redstone nee Hambly (1838-1930)	Wife of United Methodist Free minister Rev Harry Blake Redstone (1836-1914) who was stationed at the Rangiora United Methodist Free Church		People Information File, Redstone, Methodist Church of New Zealand Archives
M A Richardson	192	Mary Ann Richardson nee Hay (1843-1897)	Widow of Wesleyan Minister Rev John Bell Richardson (1840-1881). President of Christchurch Women's Christian Temperance Union 1890-1894		People Information File, Richardson, Methodist Church of New Zealand Archives C T J Luxton "John Bell Richardson" Wesley Historical Society Proceedings, vol 19 no 3 August 1962 Margaret Lovell-Smith. <i>How women won the vote – a Canterbury perspective</i> . Canterbury Museum, 1993

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Jane E Richardson	192	Jane Elizabeth Richardson (1870-1903)	Daughter of deceased Wesleyan Minister Rev John Bell Richardson (1840-1881) and Mary Anne Richardson nee Hay (1843-1897) who also signed the petition. Member of Christchurch Women's Christian Temperance Union		People Information File, Richardson, Methodist Church of New Zealand Archives C T J Luxton "John Bell Richardson" Wesley Historical Society Proceedings, vol 19 no 3 August 1962 Margaret Lovell-Smith. <i>How women won the vote – a Canterbury perspective</i> . Canterbury Museum, 1993

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E Rothwell	104	Eleanor Rothwell (1823-1900)	Mother of Wesleyan minister Rev Benjamin Francis Rothwell (1860-1924). Married to Thomas Rothwell (1818-1893) and living in Milton after his death with Rev Benjamin Rothwell who was stationed at Milton Wesleyan Church.		People Information File, Rothwell, Methodist Church of New Zealand Archives

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J D Smalley	236	Jane Donald Smalley (1852-1943)	Wife of Wesleyan Minister Rev Joseph Smoult Smalley (1845-1921) who was stationed at Waimate Wesleyan Church (St Pauls). Jane Smalley presented an address to the Waimate Debating club in 1892 in support of women's franchise. Jane was a lay preacher within the Wesleyan Church		People Information File, Smalley, Methodist Church of New Zealand Archives Wesley Historical Society Journal, No 61, 1994 "Female Enfranchisement" Morley, William. "The history of Methodism in New Zealand", 1900

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E Standage	253	Elizabeth Standage nee Weymouth (1852-1933)	Wife of Wesleyan minister Rev Charles Henry Standage (1847-1936) who was stationed at the Wesleyan churches at Woodend and Amberley		People Information File, Standage, Methodist Church of New Zealand Archives
Mary Taylor	339	Mary Taylor (1837-1897)	Wife of Wesleyan minister Rev Robert Taylor (1839-1918) who was stationed at St Pauls Wesleyan Church, Invercargill.		People Information File, Taylor, Methodist Church of New Zealand Archives
M W Thomas	82	Mary Wilkie Thomas (1853-1920)	Wife of Wesleyan minister Rev William George Thomas (1843-1909) who was stationed at Lawrence Wesleyan Church		People Information File, Thomas, Methodist Church of New Zealand Archives

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Alice M Williams	272	Alice Mary Williams nee Hosking (1847-1905)	Wife of Wesleyan minister Rev William James Williams (1847-1936) who was stationed at Bank Street Wesleyan Church in Timaru and also the editor of the newspaper <i>The New Zealand Methodist</i> .		People Information File, Williams, Methodist Church of New Zealand Archives