

Genealogical Sources Guide

Births, Deaths and Marriages



Mr & Mrs William Esquilant. 1900. De Maus Collection. c/n E3024/34

Nau Mai Haere Mai ki Te Uare Taoka o Hākena:

Welcome to the Hocken Collections

He mihi nui tēnei ki a koutou

kā uri o kā hau e whā arā, kā mātāwaka o te motu, o te ao whānui hoki.

Nau mai, haere mai ki te taumata.

As you arrive

We seek to preserve all the taoka we hold for future generations. So that all taoka are properly protected, we ask that you:

- place your bags (including computer bags and sleeves) in the lockers provided
- leave all food and drink including water bottles in the lockers (we have a researcher lounge off the foyer which everyone is welcome to use)
- bring any materials you need for research and some ID in with you
- sign the Readers' Register each day
- enquire at the reference desk first if you wish to take digital photographs

Beginning your research

Most of the commonly used genealogical sources available at the Hocken Collections can be found in the Ready Reference section of the main reference area on the ground floor. Please ask staff if you need help locating any of these.

We hold numerous other sources—both published and unpublished—and you can search for material on our Online Public Access Catalogues:

- for books, theses, journals, magazines, newspapers, maps, and audiovisual material, use Library Search|Ketu. The advanced search - <https://tinyurl.com/mtske2x9> gives you several search options, and you can refine your results to the Hocken Library on the left side of the screen.

The Library Search Guide <https://otago.libguides.com/ketuhelp> contains helpful tips and assistance for using Library Search|Ketu;

- for art, photographs and archives, use Hākena - <https://hakena.otago.ac.nz>. Listing of the ephemera collection has just begun on Hākena; please talk to desk staff if you have any questions about this collection.

The Hākena Search Help Guide <https://otago.libguides.com/hakena> contains helpful tips and assistance for using Hākena.

- digitised images of many collection items are available via Hocken Digital Collections at <https://hocken.recollect.co.nz/>. There are also digitised images of Hocken and University of Otago Special Collections material that can be viewed via <https://otago.ourheritage.ac.nz/>.

There is an online guide to the Hocken Collections for researchers at <https://otago.libguides.com/hocken>. It includes tips on referencing Hocken sources.

What do you know already?

Use the information you already have about your ancestor and their closest relatives (parents, children, siblings) to search for possible dates of events, such as

- birth, death, or marriage records
- school records
- headstone entries
- first or last entries in directories and electoral rolls
- wills

Sources

General

Ancestry

A few resources relating to New Zealand births, deaths and marriages are now available via the Ancestry database. This is available on any of the public computers in the library (University of Otago/Otago Polytechnic staff and students can also access this database offsite with their account details). The resources include New Zealand, Cemetery Records, 1800-2007; New Zealand, Death Index, 1848-1966; New Zealand, Birth Index, 1840-1950; and New Zealand, Marriage Index, 1840-1937.

Birth, Death and Marriage Historical Records

You can search online at <https://www.bdmhistoricalrecords.dia.govt.nz/search/> for births of living people that occurred at least 100 years ago; births of deceased people who died at least 50 years ago or were born at least 80 years ago; stillbirths registered at least 50 years ago; marriages and eventually civil unions that occurred at least 75 years ago; and deaths that occurred at least 50 years ago or the deceased's date of birth was at least 80 years ago. You still need to apply to Births, Deaths, and Marriages for the full details – just click on “Order product” from the search results screen.

Often the Christian names of both parents are provided in birth records, which can help you to work out if you have the right person and help you to find siblings. To find out the place of birth, or death, (before 1956) you will still need to look up the Registrar-General's Index to

Births, Deaths & Marriages (see below) to get the folio number and then use the district key books.

Registrar-General's Index to Births, Deaths & Marriages [microfiche]

An index of births, deaths and marriages for all New Zealand for the period 1848-1990. Registration of European births, deaths and marriages became compulsory in 1856 but registration of Māori births and deaths was not compulsory until 1913. Māori marriage registration became compulsory in 1911. Māori births 1913-1960, Māori deaths 1913-1960, Māori marriages 1911-1951, War deaths 1914-1919, and War deaths 1939-1945 are included on separate microfiche. For births and deaths to 1955 you can use the district key books to find the quarter of the year and place of registration. From 1956 the place of registration for births and deaths is recorded. The quarter of the year and place of registration cannot be calculated for marriages but both spouses should have the same folio number. For full details of the birth, death or marriage (available as certificates or electronic printouts), apply to Births, Deaths and Marriages - <https://tinyurl.com/5fsf6hzc>.

Church records

Look for transcripts of marriage and baptismal registers in the ready reference area. There are three overall indexes to Presbyterian, Anglican, and Catholic marriages in the Otago/Southland area to 1920. Check Hākena <https://hakena.otago.ac.nz> for the holdings of other registers and records after 1920. Presbyterian records are held at Presbyterian Church Archives in Dunedin – their website <https://pcanzarchives.recollect.co.nz/> contains online indexes to marriages and baptisms for the period 1848-1920. Catholic records are held at the Diocesan Archives in Dunedin (email: archives@cdd.org.nz). There is an index to pre-1905 baptisms in the Catholic Diocese of Christchurch on any of the public computers in the library.

Newspapers

Look for birth, death and marriage notices, obituaries and accounts of weddings and funerals once you know the date the event occurred. Check holdings of the closest local newspaper, depending on where the event took place or the usual place of residence, on Papers Past <https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/> or try a search under the individual's name. For holdings of newspapers that are not included on Papers Past, check Library Search|Ketu <https://www.otago.ac.nz/library/index.html> or ask staff to view the *Union List of Newspapers*. Photocopies of compiled obituaries can be found in the *Obituaries* folders in the ready

reference section. Newspaper indexes, available in the ready reference area, on microfiche or on the public computers, include the *Alexander Turnbull Library Biographical Index*, *Otago Daily Times Headlines Index 1946-1996* (incorporating Personals and Obituaries), and Catholic marriage and death notices from the *New Zealand Tablet* and *Otago Daily Times*. Search Library Search|Ketu for holdings of published newspaper indexes.

The Dunedin Public Libraries *Southern Regional News Index* available at https://ent.kotui.org.nz/client/en_AU/srni includes articles from local newspapers. Only recent articles back to 1993, and items from the 1850s, 1930s and 1940s are included in the online version. The full index is available in the McNab Room on the third floor of the Dunedin City Library, but it can be searched online using their *Scattered Seeds* database at <https://dunedin.recollect.co.nz/>.

A Memory Tree <https://www.amemorytree.co.nz/index.php> allows you to search for death notices in New Zealand newspapers from December 2006 onwards. It provides the age of an individual and date of their death as well as the newspaper and date a death notice was published. You can then search Library Search|Ketu for holdings of these newspapers.

Biographical dictionaries

Dictionary of New Zealand Biography (also available online at <https://www.teara.govt.nz/en/biographies>), *Southern People*, and *Cyclopedia of New Zealand* (available online at <https://nzetc.victoria.ac.nz/tm/scholarly/tei-corpus-cyclopedia.html> and through Ancestry) are located in the ready reference collection. Search Library Search|Ketu for other titles, such as *Who's Who in New Zealand* (also available online through Ancestry for 1908, 1925, 1938).

Births

School records

Transcribed Admission Progress Withdrawal registers are available for many Otago primary, and only a few secondary, schools in the ready reference area and they often include the date of birth of pupils. Ask staff to check the Otago Primary Schools database if you don't know which school your ancestor attended. Search Hākena if you cannot locate the register, you are looking for as not all registers have been transcribed. If we do not hold the necessary register check the Otago Education Board Annual Examination Class lists as these provide the ages of

children from which you could calculate a year of birth. Check Library Search|Ketu for holdings of published jubilees and school registers.

Marriages

New Zealand Marriages 1836—1956

This index is available on any of the public computers in the library. It allows you to look for marriage records by name and can help you locate the name of the other spouse when only one spouse's name is known. Only the names of the spouses, year of marriage and the folio number are provided. For full details of the marriage, you need to apply to Births, Deaths & Marriages <https://tinyurl.com/5fsf6hzc>.

Notices of Intention to Marry

These notices must be completed by one of the marriage partners for the district registrar before a marriage takes place. They sometimes provide additional useful details, such as length of residence in the district which, for some individuals, can equate to length of residence in the country, and who gave consent when the marriage involved a minor. Notices of Intention to Marry are held at Archives New Zealand Wellington Office for the period 1856-1956. An index to *Balclutha Intentions to Marry 1861-1920* is available in the ready reference area.

Divorce records

The Dunedin Regional Office of Archives New Zealand holds records of divorces for the Otago and Southland area, but these are restricted until 60 years after the divorce. Some of these files have been indexed and you can locate records on Collections search, the online catalogue for Archives New Zealand, at <https://collections.archives.govt.nz/web/arena#/> under the names of the individuals involved. If you know the date that a divorce took place you could check newspapers eg., *Otago Witness*, *New Zealand Truth* for details. *Divorce information extracted from New Zealand Truth Newspaper* is available on microfiche and covers the period 1946-1966.

Deaths and Burials

New Zealand Cemetery records [microfiche]

Use *New Zealand Cemetery Records: A List of Holdings* to see what cemeteries are listed for a particular district and to help you locate the appropriate microfiche. Hard copies of some Otago and Southland cemetery records are also located in the ready reference area.

New Zealand Burial Locator Version 2

This index is available on the public computers. It allows you to look for burial records by name and provides the location of that burial or death. You then need to consult the appropriate cemetery records or other sources. It is helpful when you are not sure where someone may have died or been buried in New Zealand. You can also locate people with the same surname buried in the same location.

Dunedin City and other Cemeteries

The Dunedin City Council website lists burials in Dunedin City cemeteries at

<https://www.dunedin.govt.nz/services/cemeteries/cemeteries-search>.

The Christchurch City Libraries webpage has links to further cemetery records –

<https://my.christchurchcitylibraries.com/cemetery-databases/>.

Cremation records

Cremation records for Dunedin for the period 1927-1950, 1960-1998 are available in the ready reference area. Records for 1951-1960 are included in the Andersons Bay Cemetery records.

Undertakers' records

There is one volume in the ready reference area containing a transcript of *Cole and Springer, Dunedin undertakers, Registration of Death and Ledger Book* for the period 1896-1902. For holdings of other undertakers' records, you should check Hākena.

Wills

The Hocken Collections do not hold wills. Check Collections search, the online catalogue for Archives New Zealand, at <https://collections.archives.govt.nz/web/arena#/> for the location of an individual's probate records. FamilySearch provides an index to Archives New Zealand probate records for 1843-1998 <https://familysearch.org/search/collection/1865481> and images of these records (except those issued in the previous 50 years) will eventually become available for viewing <https://bit.ly/3aG9hpq>.

Other contacts

Archives New Zealand – <https://www.archives.govt.nz/>

Their research guide on Identity - <https://bit.ly/2SaJG1u> includes some useful information.

Presbyterian Church Archives of Aotearoa New Zealand -

<https://pcanzarchives.recollect.co.nz/>

Births, Deaths, and Marriages – <https://tinyurl.com/5fsf6hzc>

Dunedin City Libraries – <https://www.dunedinlibraries.govt.nz/home>

Toitū Otago Settlers Museum - <https://www.toituosm.com/collections/archives>

Other guides in this series include:

A General Guide

Researching Whakapapa

Shipping

Education

Occupations

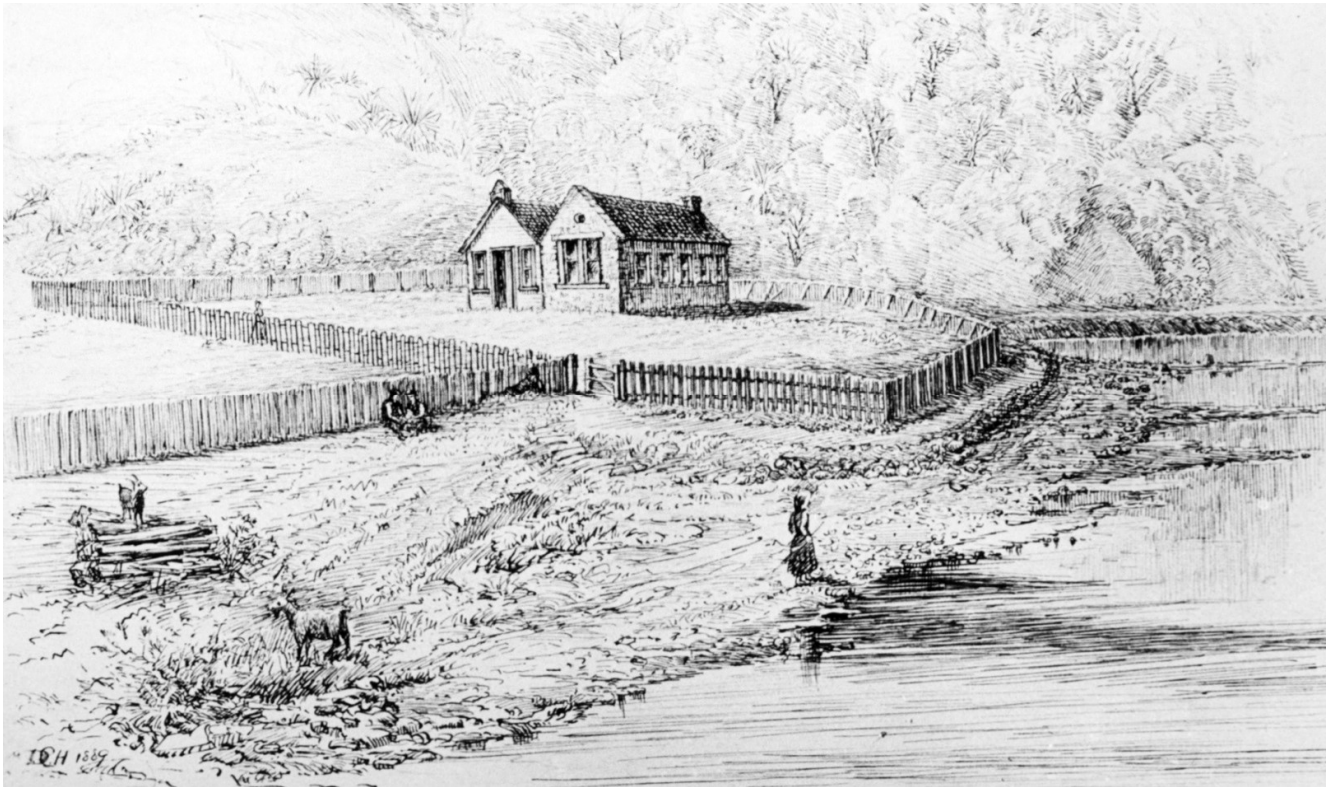
Residences

Orphanages

Internet Sources

Printed guides are freely available in the Hocken or can be downloaded online at

<https://www.otago.ac.nz/library/hocken/otago038951.html>



First Church and School 1848. Photograph of Pen and Ink Drawing by DC Hutton. 1889. S06-443d

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