Genealogical Sources Guide

Occupations

George Street, Port Chalmers. 1860s. SO4-124c.

Hocken Collections/Te Uare Taoka o Hākena,
University of Otago Library
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 on microfiche or 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We hold numerous other sources—both published and unpublished—and you can search for material on our Online Public Access Catalogues: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://goo.gl/HVNTqH 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 pictures, photographs and archives and manuscripts, use Hākena - https://hakena.otago.ac.nz

   The Hākena Search Help Guide https://otago.libguides.com/hakena contains helpful tips and assistance for using Hākena;
• some of the photographs from the Pictorial Collections are available for viewing online via Hocken Snapshop at https://hocken.recollect.co.nz/. Some other photographs and artworks can be viewed at http://otago.ourheritage.ac.nz/.
What do you know already?

Occupations of individuals are listed in many sources – directories, electoral rolls, obituaries, burial registers, marriage registers, biographical dictionaries, etc. Try to obtain as many clues as possible from known details such as dates, places, etc., as this will make it easier to locate further information.

If you are not sure exactly what is meant by a term for an occupation, check a dictionary. *The Shorter Oxford English Dictionary* (1950, in two volumes) and *A dictionary of old trades, titles and occupations* by Colin Waters in the ready reference area are useful for older terms.

Sources

The following records are starting places only and there will be varying amounts of information available depending upon each occupation.

**New Zealand Gazette**

The gazettes contain references to a number of government appointments, resignations, etc. They also include a number of registers for various occupations, although some were only published for limited periods. Use the indexes at the front of each volume to locate appropriate references, if you know exactly what year you wish to search. Otherwise, search for personal names in the *New Zealand Gazette Archive 1841-2002* on any of the public computers in the library. The gazettes include the following registers:

- Register of medical practitioners
- Register of dentists
- Register of engineers
- Register of pharmacists
- Register of nurses
- Register of midwives
- Lists of teachers
- Lists of masseurs
- Lists of officiating ministers (listed by religious denomination)

**Appendices to the Journals of the House of Representatives (AJHRs)**

AJHRs contain a number of useful lists of government employees, such as civil servants, railway employees, engineers, teachers, seamen, postal employees, police officers, mine managers, early military personnel, and sheep owners for some periods. Early copies of the
AJHRs are available on the ready reference shelves and some are available online at https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/parliamentary. A series of articles describing these lists was published in the New Zealand Genealogist – ask staff to see copies of the compiled articles. See the Archives New Zealand research guide on Government Employment at http://archives.govt.nz/government-employment.

**Otago Provincial Government Gazette**

These include appointments and resignations for the Otago Provincial Government to 1876, as well as references to other occupations eg. hotel licensees applying for bush licenses. Search for personal names in the New Zealand Gazette Archive 1841-2002 (there are some issues lacking in this database but you can request physical copies via Library Search|Ketu).

**Directories**

These contain a wealth of information relating to peoples’ occupations. You can trace individuals over the years in the alphabetical section (especially if they are male) and follow their listed occupations. You may be able to find advertisements for businesses by checking the index to advertisements at the front of each volume. You can check the trades section for lists of individuals with the same occupations. At the back of each volume after the trades section you will locate a number of other directories such as official and judicial, municipal and county, educational, and ecclesiastical directories and a list of societies and their office bearers. Almanacs contain similarly useful information. The Residences guide lists the main directories and almanacs held or you can check Library Search|Ketu for holdings. Wise’s New Zealand Directory is available via the Ancestry database.

**Electoral Rolls**

Occupations are listed in the electoral rolls. Women were listed from 1893. Rolls of seamen and absent voters were published for the years 1905-1906, 1908, 1911 and 1914. New Zealand electoral rolls up to, and including, 1981 are available via the Ancestry database or on microfiche. Electoral rolls from 1982 onwards are available as print copies in the ready reference area.

**Published journals of organisations or associations**

Check both Library Search|Ketu, and the pictures, photographs and archives catalogue, Häkena, https://hakena.otago.ac.nz for holdings of these, and jubilee publications of
organisations or firms. Some organisations may have published registers of their profession eg. *New Zealand Law Register*. You may be able to locate obituaries in the journals of others eg. *New Zealand Medical Journal*. The annual reports of organisations may also contain useful references to particular individuals eg. Synod annual reports contain references to clergy.

**Archives of organisations or associations**
Check Hākena for holdings of these. The records of many organisations and associations, such as trade unions and professional bodies, may include lists or registers of their members and photographs.

**Military records**
A number of lists of military personnel can be found in the *New Zealand Military* folder in the microfiche collection. They include Imperial Regiments 1856, 1862 and 1864, New Zealand Contingents to the South African War 1900-1902, New Zealand Expeditionary Force and Reserve Lists 1914-1918, and New Zealand Expeditionary Forces 1939-1948. Some of these sources can be accessed via the Ancestry database. The Archives New Zealand War Research Guide is available at [http://archives.govt.nz/war](http://archives.govt.nz/war). Cenotaph, [http://www.aucklandmuseum.com/war-memorial/online-cenotaph](http://www.aucklandmuseum.com/war-memorial/online-cenotaph), is a biographical database of New Zealand service men and women and includes 19th and 20th century conflicts.

**Other useful publications**
Check Library Search! Ketu for holdings. Examples include:

- Friends of the Hocken Collections Bulletins – these include information about a number of occupations, available at [https://www.otago.ac.nz/library/hocken/otago038951.html](https://www.otago.ac.nz/library/hocken/otago038951.html).
• J.G. Sinclair (comp.) (2003). Who was who in Otago among the Run Holders[,] Club Members[,] Company Promoters up till about 1880. Ask at reference desk.
• University Calendars for lists of academic staff.
**Other contacts**

Archives New Zealand  [www.archives.govt.nz](http://www.archives.govt.nz)

Dunedin City Council Archives  [https://www.dunedin.govt.nz/services/archives](https://www.dunedin.govt.nz/services/archives)

Defence Force Archives


Katherine Milburn, Hocken Collections, January 2019
Other guides in this series include:

A General Guide
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For hours, please check our website:
https://www.otago.ac.nz/library/hocken/