

Registrars of Births, Deaths and Marriages for the Hutt Valley

Registration district history

1848-1891	Wellington (includes Hutt Valley)
1892-1895	Hutt
1896-1899	Hutt, Petone
1900-1989	Lower Hutt, Upper Hutt, Petone

In 1900 the Hutt and Upper Hutt districts were 'constituted' and their boundaries described using full legal definitions.
(Reference New Zealand Gazette 1900 page 1111)

The Petone District Office was closed on 31 Jul 1990 and the registers were moved to the Wellington District Office.

Registrars

1848	New Munster	Robert Rodger Strang	(1795-1874)	Registrar General & Deputy Registrar Wellington
1848	New Munster	James Rumsey Foster		Clerk to Registrar General
1848	New Munster	Henry Bowman Sealy	(1825-1896)	Clerk to Registrar General
1866	Wellington	John Elisha Smith	(1826-1900)	Registrar (appointed Jan 1849)
1868	Wellington	John Boyle Bennett	(1808-1880)	Registrar (appointed Nov 1854)
1871	Wellington	Robert Chisenhall Hamerton	(1839-1913)	Registrar
1875	Wellington	Henry Chirdleigh Wilmer	(1842-1882)	Registrar
1879	Wellington	Wilmer		Registrar
1879	Wellington	Henry Chirdleigh Wilmer again?		Registrar
xxxx	Wellington	Henry Clapcott	(1830-1897)	Registrar
1880	Wellington	Joseph Godfrey Holdsworth	(1824-1884)	Registrar
1880	Wellington	William Thomas Wyatt	(1816-1904)	Deputy Registrar
1884	Wellington	Amelius Morland Smith		Deputy Registrar
xxxx	Wellington	Frederick William Mansfield	(1858-1921)	Registrar
1892	Hutt	Isaac George Price	(1844-1914)	Postmaster and Telegraphist Lower Hutt
1894	Hutt	Alexander Ramsay		Deputy Registrar
1896	Petone	Charles Joseph Cowan		also Vaccination Inspector
1896	Hutt	Isaac George Price	(1844-1914)	also Vaccination Inspector

1897	Hutt	J. T. Fahy	Deputy Registrar
1898	Hutt	Frederick William Mansfield	Deputy Registrar
1900	Hutt	Isaac George Price	(1844-1914) [NZ Gazette 1900 p1125]
1900	Upper Hutt	John Hanning	[NZ Gazette 1900 p1125]
1902	Wellington	Robert Talbot	Registrar of Marriages
1904	Hutt	John F. Carr	Deputy Registrar
1906	Hutt	A. J. Muller	Deputy Registrar
1907	Upper Hutt	Henry Bennett	Deputy Registrar
1907	Hutt	R. N. Percy	Deputy Registrar
1908	Petone	W. F. Y. Stewart	Deputy Registrar
1909	Upper Hutt	James Comeskey	Registrar
1909	Petone	G. H. Cates	Deputy Registrar
1909	Petone	W. C. Drake	Registrar
1909	Upper Hutt	W. P. Jenks	Deputy Registrar
1912	Wellington	Gilbert Graham Hodgkins	Registrar of Marriages
1914	Wellington	Joseph Lissant Palethorpe	Deputy Registrar of Marriages

Evening Post 09 Aug 1865 Provincial Council

Mr Fagan asked the Provincial Secretary if it was the intention of the Government to appoint an efficient person as Registrar of Births and Deaths in the Valley of the Hutt? The Provincial Secretary replied that the appointment of such an officer was in the hands of the General Government, but that the Executive would recommend such an appointment.

Evening Post 17 Oct 1866

The following gentleman has been appointed registrars of births, deaths, and marriages, in this province: - John Elisha Smith, Esq., Wellington. The appointments to take effect on the 1st November.

Officers in the Employ of Government 1866 - Appendices to the Journal of the House of Representatives 1866 Section D3

District Registrars Births, Deaths & Marriages

Wellington	J. E. Smith	appointed Jan 1849	£100
Wellington Deputy	W. F. Cheesman	appointed 22 May 1863	£55 11s 6d (1 st employed April 1846)

Wellington Independent 06 Feb 1881 Local and General News - Inquest

An inquest was held at Porirua Bay on Monday, the 3rd instant, by Frederick John Knox, coroner, on view of the body of Alexander Collins, a settler in the district, and the following verdict returned:- "That the said Alexander Collins died at his dwelling house, Porirua Bay, on Friday night, 31st ult, about twelve o'clock, of an attack of cholera, induced by some unwholesome, irritating, and indigestible matter (supposed to be mussels) taken into the stomach; the season and weather predisposing to attacks of bowel complaint, and from no other cause." It appeared from the evidence that Collins had been at his usual work upon the roads on Thursday, and complained on his return home in the evening that he had suffered dreadfully from pain in the stomach and bowels, but the pains had gone away, and he went to bed about nine o'clock, and that a violent vomiting and diarrhoea almost immediately came on. This continued the whole of the night, and towards morning a fatal collapse occurred. He survived the whole of Friday, the diarrhoea increasing and life terminating about 12 o'clock. It may be remarked that the district of Porirua is at present free from epidemics of any kind. Collins was about 38 years of age and a quiet, inoffensive, sober, steady man. He originally came from Melbourne, and it does not appear that he had any friends. He was married on the 15th of June last in Wellington, to a widow who had one child. The marriage was rather a sudden one, the ceremony having been performed by J. E. Smith, Esq., Registrar of Deeds.

Evening Post 01 Jun 1867 Provincial Council

Yesterday - In reply to Mr Fagan, the Provincial Secretary said that the appointment of a Registrar of Births Deaths and Marriages for the Hutt was vested in the General Government, but that the Provincial Executive were willing to intimate that such an officer was required.

AJHR 1868 D13 p24 Nominal Roll of the Civil Establishment of New Zealand on 1 July 1868

J. E. Smith, Registrar of Deeds and District Registrar of Land, Wellington £500; Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages £100; Registrar of Joint Stock Companies, Fees

Evening Post 01 Apr 1874

Robert Chisenhall Hammerton, Esq., has been appointed Registrar of Marriages, and of Births, Deaths, and Marriages, for the district of Wellington.

Evening Post 6 Nov 1873

Statistics furnished by Mr Hammerton, the Registrar of Births and Deaths for the Wellington District, show that the rate of mortality for the past few months has been unusually low, which is readily accounted for by the favourable climatic conditions experienced during that period. During the month of October there were only 19 deaths – 6 females and 13 males – a number which contrasts most markedly with the death rate during the warm weather at the end of last summer, which reached as high as 35 during one month. The contrast becomes still greater when it is borne in mind that the population since then has greatly increased, which may account for the fact that the births during last month reached 76 – 31 males and 45 females. This again is a remarkable feature, for whilst in Dunedin, where the population is nearly twice that of Wellington, there were only 101 births there was the large death rate of 57. This says something in favor of the climate of Wellington. Mr Hammerton's records further show that 14 marriage certificates were issued in October.

Wellington Independent 1 Apr 1874 Resident Magistrate's Court

Breach of the Marriage Act - Ebenezer Moxham was charged with making a false declaration for the purpose of obtaining from the Registrar of Births, Deaths, and Marriages a certificate of marriage. Mr Izard stated that the charge against the prisoner was, that on the 4th March he made a false declaration before the Registrar of Births, Marriages, and Deaths in order to enable him to obtain a certificate authorising a marriage between the prisoner and Josephine Adams. The statute provided that a declaration must be made before a certificate could issue, and in order to comply with that provision, the prisoner made a declaration in writing to the effect that Josephine Adams, whom he wished to marry, was of the full age of twenty-one years, she being at the time not seventeen years old. R. Hammerton, registrar of births, deaths and marriages for the district of Wellington deposed.

Evening Post 18 Nov 1874 Advertisement – Public Notice

The Office of the Registrar of Births, Deaths, and Marriages, has been removed to the building occupied by the Head Office, Stamp Department, opposite Government House. Gate at the foot of Molesworth Street. By order, R. C. Hammerton, Registrar. 16th November.

Evening Post 26 Feb 1875

The duties of the Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages will be carried on at the Supreme Court House, Lambton Quay, on and from Monday next, 1st March. R. C. Hammerton, Registrar.

Evening Post 27 Feb 1875

We learn with much pleasure that the offices of Deputy-Registrar to the Supreme Court and Registrar of Births, Marriages, and Deaths – vacated by the appointment of Mr Hammerton to the post of Secretary of Stamps – have been conferred on Mr H. C. Wilmer, who for some years past has performed the duties of secretary to his Honor Mr Justice Johnston.

Evening Post 6 Mar 1875

H. C. Wilmer, Esq., is gazetted to be Deputy Registrar of the Supreme Court here, and also to be Registrar of Marriages, and of Births, Deaths, and Marriages, and Vaccination Inspector, for the District of Wellington.

Evening Post 4 Jan 1876

By the new Registration Act, now in force, a large amount of additional information, compared with the former system, is required to be supplied to the Registrar of Births, Deaths, and Marriages by persons registering or seeking certificates of such events. It has, moreover, to be supplied in duplicate.

Evening Post 11 Apr 1876

Concerning the Upper Hutt and its wants, a correspondent writes: - "The district of the Upper Hutt has been improved by the establishment of a bank, as well as by the completion of the railway. A perfect mania seems to have possessed people for building near the site of the present terminus. Land has realised fabulous prices, and stores and buildings of all kinds are being erected. But we are not at all sanguine that these improvements will continue to go on. When the railway is opened to the Wairarapa, a collapse must follow this excitement, and the present undertakings to provide for the wants of a transient population will soon be looked upon less ardently. There are still two or three requisites for this hitherto neglected district which nobody seems to consider worth supplying, viz., a J. P., a Deputy-Registrar of Births and Deaths, and last and not least, a baker. There are plenty of public houses (too many in fact), butchers, shoemakers, &c., but there is only one baker, who is overworked."

Evening Post 3 Oct 1878 Advertisement

It is a noteworthy fact, as showing the increasing tendency to a secular marriage ceremony, that no fewer than 49 marriages have been celebrated in Wellington before the Registrar, during the first nine months of the present year, of which as many as 11 took place during the month of September, just expired. In previous years the number of marriages before the Registrar have usually been only about a dozen or so.

Evening Post 2 Jan 1879

The Wellington vital statistics for the year just expired cannot but be regarded as highly satisfactory. While the number of births showed a large increase as compared with 1877 – being 986 as against 888 – there was an equally large diminution in the number of deaths, which were only 296 in 1878, as compared with 338 in 1877. Thus the births showed an increase and the deaths a decrease each of nearly 12 per cent. The marriages were 348, as against 268 in 1877, an increase of 80, or more than 30 per cent. It is noteworthy, also, that 62 marriages were celebrated before the Registrar in 1878, whereas in the preceding year only 38 marriages took place at the Registrar's Office. During the month of December, 1878, 113 births were registered in this city, the largest number ever yet recorded in Wellington. The deaths were 28, and the marriages 33.

Evening Post 2 Apr 1879

We understand that the first marriage of a Maori woman by a Registrar of Marriages took place today at the Supreme Court House, the happy bride being a chieftainess from Oroua.

Evening Post 17 Oct 1879

Mr Wilmer, Deputy-Registrar of the Supreme Court, and Registrar of Births, Deaths, and Marriages, has resigned his appointment for the purpose of entering the office of Messrs Izard and Bell. During the time that he has held the offices referred to Mr Wilmer has gained the reputation of being an exceedingly efficient and painstaking official. As such he gained the respect of all with whom he was brought into contact. Mr Wilmer's successor, it is understood, will be Mr Hall, associate of his Honor the Chief Justice.

Evening Post 15 Jun 1880 Death

On the 15th June, at his residence Wellington Terrace, John Boyle Bennett, M.D., in his seventy-second year.

Evening Post 1 Nov 1880

During the month of October there were registered in Wellington 83 births, 16 deaths, and 24 marriages. The office of the Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages has been shifted from the Government Insurance Department to a room adjoining the Waste Lands Office in the Provincial Buildings. Mr J. G. Holdsworth assumes the post of Registrar from today, and Mr Clapcott, the former Registrar, will confine himself to the Insurance Department.

Evening Post 2 Nov 1880

In reference to the transfer of the appointment of Registrar of Births, Deaths, and Marriages, alluded to yesterday, we understand that Mr W. T. Wyatt, who has been for the last 22 years second clerk in the Crown Lands Office, will act as clerk and Deputy Registrar in that Department, under Mr Holdsworth, vice Mr J. M. Adams, as well as continuing to fulfill his duties in the Crown Lands Office, as heretofore.

Evening Post 5 Nov 1880

Mr J. G. Holdsworth, Commissioner of Crown Lands for the Wellington District, has been appointed to be also Registrar of Births, Deaths, and Marriages, and Vaccination Inspector for the same district.

Evening Post 19 Nov 1880

Mr D. M. Luckie, Commissioner of Annuities, requests us to contradict an erroneous statement which has appeared in some of the local and country papers, to the effect that Mr Clapcott has been removed from his position in the Government Insurance Department. He has merely vacated the office of Registrar of Births, Deaths, &c., which for some time he held in addition to his appointment of chief agent for Wellington district of the Government Insurance Department, and which latter office he still retains as formerly.

Auckland Star 04 Oct 1881 Death

At Wellington, on 15th September, 1881, Horatia Marian, widow of the late John Boyle Bennett, M.D., aged 68.

Roll of Persons in Government Employ at or near each Post Office in the Colony

Appendices to the Journal of the House of Representatives 1881 Section H2 p102

Wellington – Insurance: Henry Clapcott, Chief Agent £165 per annum; and Registrar Births, &c., £140 per annum – total £305 per annum.
Changes since Session of 1880: J. G. Holdsworth., now.

Evening Post 19 Aug 1892 Council Appointments

Mr W. T. Wyatt is gazetted Registrar of Births and Deaths for Wellington, and Mr Isaac George Price Registrar for the Hutt.

Evening Post 9 Feb 1894

Mr Alexander Ramsay is gazetted Deputy Registrar of Births and Deaths for the Hutt District.

Evening Post 10 Dec 1895 Petone Borough Council

Councillor Findlay moved that the Council endeavour to procure the appointment of a Registrar of Births, Deaths, and Marriages for Petone. This was agreed to.

Evening Post 10 Jan 1896

As Petone has now a population of over 3000, "Raupo" thinks it is time the borough was provided with an office for the registration of births, deaths and marriages, a courthouse, and a proper post and telegraph office. All Court and registration business has now to be done at the Hutt, the present post office is only a private dwelling, and outgoing telegrams have first to be telephoned to the railway station. The member for the district should move in the matter, our correspondent thinks.

Evening Post 30 Apr 1897 Local and General

Mr J. T. Fahy is gazetted Deputy Registrar of Births and Deaths for the Hutt District.

Evening Post 21 Jul 1898 Local and General

At yesterday's sitting of the Hutt Magistrate's Court, E. W. Collett, a Petone undertaker, was charged by Mr J. G. Price, Registrar for the Hutt district, with having neglected to forward a certificate of death within the period of seven days from the occurrence, as prescribed by the Act. Mr Price stated that he had been requested by the Registrar-General to point out that the offence was a serious one. It was necessary before a body was interred that a medical certificate of death should be produced. In the present case the burial took place eleven days before the Department was in possession of particulars. Defendant said he was under the impression that he had 31 days in which to file a certificate of death, that time being allowed for filing the certificate of burial. The bench (Messrs Fitzherbert, Jackson, and Wilkins, Justices) considered that accused had been misled by the lack of instructions on the face of the certificate form. The Act, however, made it clear that an offence had been committed, and under the circumstances they would inflict a nominal fine of 20s, with 7s costs, pointing out that neglecting to comply with the provisions of the Act rendered persons so offending liable to a fine of £10.

Evening Post 13 Dec 1898 Local and General

In the publication of the regulations under the Old Age Pensions Act the names of the Deputy Registrars are also gazetted. Mr F. W. Mansfield, Registrar of Births, Deaths, and Marriages, Wellington, is to be Deputy Registrar for the County of Hutt, which includes the city and suburbs and all the local townships as far as Waikanae on the one side and Kaitoke on the other.

Evening Post 15 Jun 1900 Local and General

Mr Isaac George Price has been appointed Registrar of Births and Deaths for the Hutt district, and Mr John Hanning has been appointed to a similar position at the Upper Hutt.

Evening Post 26 Aug 1904 Personal Matters

Mr John F. Carr is gazetted as Deputy Registrar of Births and Deaths for the Hutt.

Evening Post 14 Dec 1906 Personal Matters

Mr A. J. Muller is gazetted Deputy Registrar of Births and Deaths for the Hutt District.

Evening Post 30 Mar 1907 Personal Matters

Mr G. G. Hodgins is gazetted Registrar of Marriages, Births and Deaths for Wellington, and Mr Henry Bennett, Deputy Registrar of Births and Deaths for Upper Hutt.

Evening Post 22 Nov 1907 Personal Matters

Mr R. N. Percy has been appointed deputy registrar of births, deaths, and marriages for the Hutt district.

Evening Post 25 Sep 1908 Personal Matters

The following deputy registrars are appointed: - Mr W. F. Y. Stewart (Petone)

Evening Post 16 Apr 1909 Personal Matters

Mr Jas. Comeskey is gazetted Registrar of Births and Deaths for the district of Upper Hutt.

Evening Post 9 Jul 1909 Personal Matters

Mr G. H. Cates has been appointed deputy Registrar of Births and Deaths at Petone.

Evening Post 6 Aug 1909 Personal Matters

Mr W. C. Drake has been appointed Registrar of Births and Deaths for the district of Petone.

Evening Post 8 Oct 1909 Personal Matters

It is notified in last night's Gazette that Mr W. P. Jenks has been appointed the deputy of the registrar of births and deaths at the Upper Hutt.

Evening Post 23 Nov 1909 Local and General

"If we had a registrar of marriages out here, do you think it would encourage matrimony?" asked a councillor at last night's meeting of the Petone Borough Council, with reference to a communication received from Mr F. W. Mansfield, Registrar-General. The letter was in reference to a request by the council that a registrar of marriages be appointed at Petone, where there is already a registrar of births and deaths. Mr Mansfield advised that he found that during last year there were 61 marriage certificates issued and 13 marriages solemnised by the registrar at Wellington in which one or both parties resided at Petone, and yet, he pointed out, there were no complaints on the score of inconvenience. The Registrar-General also demonstrated that if a new district of Petone was constituted, there would be the usual trouble about double marriage fees when the parties resided in different districts. Moreover, it was mentioned, the facilities for transacting matrimonial business already existing appeared equal to those provided at the other centres. Therefore, Mr Mansfield maintained that at present he could not accede to the request. "At all events," remarked a councillor, "marriage is worth the eleven penny trip to Wellington." It was decided to make further representations.

Evening Post 09 Jul 1936 Petone's Need – A Government Building?

A proposal that is finding favour in the Hutt Valley is that a Government building should be erected to save residents the necessity of travelling to Wellington. Such a proposal would be unwarranted if there was not the population in the Hutt Valley to use the services of the various Government departments, but there are now 40,000 people in the various parts of the Hutt Valley, Eastbourne, and Wainui. Many centres with a smaller population than this have Government departments with branches in their towns. For instance, the postmasters at Petone, Lower Hutt, and Upper Hutt are the local registrars of births and deaths, but there is no registrar of marriages in the district. It is contended that the size of the districts warrants the appointment of a registrar of births, deaths and marriages. Also, the Labour Department now has greater responsibility cast on it because of recent legislation in connection with the 40-hour week, fair rents, the Arbitration Court, etc., and to avoid continual travelling to Wellington for inquiry on these matters a branch of the Department could very well be established in the Hutt Valley. There is probably more industrial activity in the valley than in any other district in New Zealand apart from the four main centres, and this is an additional reason. The Public Trust and State Fire are two other departments that could well be represented in the Hutt Valley. One point of view has been put forward that Lower Hutt, in the vicinity of the post office and the bridge, is the best place for the situation of a Government building, as it is the natural centre of the valley, but in any case the building would be placed where it would attract the most business.

Evening Post 11 Jul 1939 Marriage Registry – One wanted in Hutt Valley

A unanimous resolution that a marriage registrar's office should be opened in the Hutt Valley was carried at last night's meeting of the Petone Borough Council. Councillor A. M. Macfarlane stated that at present it was necessary to go into Wellington to get a marriage licence, though the offspring of a marriage could be registered in the Hutt Valley. The Mayor (Mr G. London): It is rather appropriate that an unmarried councillor should have brought this up. (Laughter.)

Evening Post 13 Jul 1939 Marriage Registrar for Lower Hutt

The Registrar-General advised the Lower Hutt District Council at its meeting on Monday that certain disabilities would follow the appointment of an officer in Lower Hutt to register marriages. It might mean in some cases that inconvenience would be caused to one of the parties by having to reside in the district for three days prior to the marriage. The council considered that the advantages would outweigh the disadvantages and decided to make a further request for the appointment of a registrar in the district.