

# **Blain Biographical Directory** of Anglican clergy in the South Pacific ordained before 1951

**Editors: Michael Winston Blain & Robert Arthur Bruère**

## **2025 edition**

This is a voluntary database established by the Reverend Michael Blain in 1991. From 1991 to 2021, Michael was responsible for compiling entries of clergy ordained before 1932. He has been assisted by hundreds of correspondents and agencies over thirty years. He was greatly assisted by Christine Hickton with genealogical details. Christine continues to research.

The Reverend Robert Bruère began assisting during Covid-2019.

His early additions are indicated (424).

In 2022 Robert took over managing the directory, adding people ordained from 1932 to 1950.

Work continues adding people ordained in the early 1950's, plus enhancing earlier entries.

Robert thanks Christine Hickton and Johann Williams for their assistance and others who have contributed.

There are now 2342 entries for everyone ordained in the province before 1951, and who have held a bishop's licence in NZ. All ordained elsewhere before 1951, and who have come to serve in New Zealand before 1950 are included, plus some of special interest.

**Information and enquiries can be sent to [robertabruere55@gmail.com](mailto:robertabruere55@gmail.com)**

Bracketed numbers at the end of lines indicate the range of sources, explained at [http://anglicanhistory.org/nz/blain\\_directory/bibliography.pdf](http://anglicanhistory.org/nz/blain_directory/bibliography.pdf)

The first Anglican priest appointed in the South Pacific was the Reverend Richard JOHNSON. He came in 1788 from England as chaplain to the settlement and penal colony of New South Wales. His assistant and then successor, the Reverend Samuel MARSDEN, was responsible for establishing a Church Missionary Society settlement in New Zealand in 1814 with the support of Māori rangatira (chief), Ruatara. Initially clergy outside Britain were the responsibility of the Bishop of London which explains many being ordained by him. In 1825 Archdeacon SCOTT was responsible for Australia to the Bishop of Calcutta (now Kolkata). He was succeeded by W G BROUGHTON in 1829. After the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi in 1840, Bishop George Augustus SELWYN came as the first and only Anglican bishop of New Zealand.

Until the signing of the Anglican Constitution in 1857, New Zealand was part of the Australasian church with its metropolitan William Grant BROUGHTON, bishop of Australia in 1836, then bishop of Sydney with bishops of Tasmania (1842), Melbourne (1847), Adelaide (1847) and Newcastle (1847). It wasn't until 1959 the church in Australia had its own constitution and it became autonomous in 1962.

By accident or design Melanesia was part of Bishop SELWYN's charge. In 1975 the diocese of Melanesia became an independent province.

The Church Missionary Society missionary did not go to the territory of the LMS (London Missionary Society) in the Pacific. With the arrival of Indians and Melanesians to work in the Fijian sugar plantations, their governor requested Anglican ministry to them and hence began the ministry of Archdeacon FLOYD. The diocese in Polynesia later became part of the Church in Aotearoa New Zealand.

A project to record all clergy ordained before 31 Dec 1961 in Australia, when it became autocephalous (had its own head), was begun by Dr Kenneth John Cable (1929-2003), then assisted by the Revd Noel Pollard (1929-1999) and Ken's wife Leonie Cable. Michael Blain helped greatly by transcribing their card system to a word document. Leonie continues to expand Cable Clerical Index.

There is considerable and enjoyable collaboration across "The Ditch" (Tasman Sea).

The Cable Clerical Index can be found at <http://anglicanhistory.org/aus/cci/index.pdf>

#### **FURTHER NOTE ON SOURCES**

Some information comes from family trees and other material now posted on the internet which wasn't the case when this data base was begun. Where there are major references to a source - it is quoted. Where there is a variance with source such as New Zealand Births, Deaths and Marriages or *findagrave* it is noted. Births, Deaths and Marriages have been very good in checking if there has been a transcription error, but they are required to retain the original record, where a mistake may have been made.

**New Zealand Clerical directories are now available on the Kinder Library website**

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