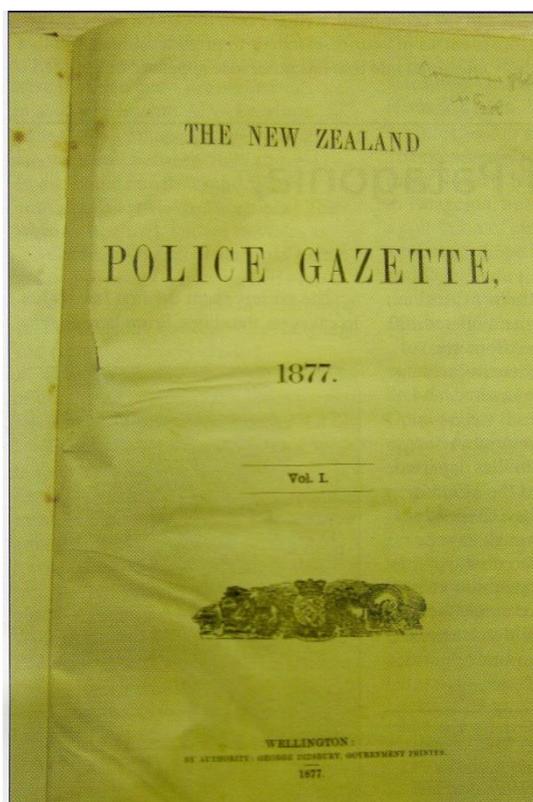


Gen-Guide to
**GRIFFIS ILLEGITIMACIES
COLLECTION**



A guide to accessing information from the Griffis Illegitimacies Collection.



5027
94

that on the *Seventeenth*
39 # a complaint was made before *Robt*
Squire, one of Her Majesty's
Colonies, on the oath of *No any*
ing, that *the said*
October 1894 at *an*
did unlawfully
ling and leave
of support,
was issued by *Henry Wil*
Esquire, one of Her Majesty's Justice
said, directed to the said *Chro*
commanding him in Her Ma
entieth day of *Octob*
last ten in the forenoon, at the *Reside*
in the said Colony, before
there, to answer to the said comp
complaint was from time to time ad
to law: And now, on the said *lud*
me the undersigned *Resident Mag*
Resident Magistrate, but the said
being duly called doth not app
it is now satisfactorily proved to n
the said summons)-
atter of the said complaint, I do ad
I that the said *Christop*

New Zealand Society of Genealogists Inc.

FAMILY HISTORY - PRESERVING OUR PAST FOR THE FUTURE



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NZSG RECORDS COLLECTIONS

Since it was founded in 1967, the New Zealand Society of Genealogists (NZSG) has been steadily building record collections to assist members to research their family history. This Gen-Guide is one in a series that explains what the collections contain, how to access the records, and how to contribute to the collections.

THE GRIFFIS ILLEGITIMACIES COLLECTION

This is a new name-searchable resource involving illegitimate births in New Zealand between 1877 and 1950. The resource was donated to the Society by Derek Griffis (NZSG Member #3730), who spent many years extracting this data from various official records following his retirement in 1992. The database is the result of his efforts and those of Graeme FitzGerald (NZSG Member #19386) who reworked Derek's data to deliver it in its present form.

Illegitimate birth as a subject involves degrees of sensitivity. Because of this, the Society has decided that **records less than 100 years old will be withheld**. Access to this resource will be offered through the Research Services at the Family Research Centre (FRC), and can be accessed by members in person at the FRC (under supervision, because it is password-protected).

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF USE

This service is only available to members of the New Zealand Society of Genealogists. There is no charge for this service.

Information from the collection is available to NZSG members without charge on the understanding that it is to be used for their personal research only. Information gained from the service should not be passed to non-members, nor should access to the collection be made available to non-members.

Any further research in relation to entries found on the database is not the Society's responsibility.

HISTORY OF THE GRIFFIS ILLEGITIMACIES COLLECTION

(Written by Derek Griffis.)

New Zealand illegitimacies, as a topic, was chanced upon back in the very early 1990s, when I was working on a totally unrelated project in the NZ Police Gazettes. It was noticed, in passing, that a number of men were being sought for failing to provide maintenance for their child (or children), born or yet-to-be-born. The name of the mother was usually mentioned in the text of the Police Gazette but was not quoted in the index. In about one instance in six, the father was not married to the mother. It was apparent that if a cross-index were to be created of the parents, complete with aliases, then this would be a useful resource to assist those trying to identify the paternity of illegitimate children. So, over several years, a Police Gazette database index of illegitimacies was put together, and my article entitled "Left Holding the Baby (or Some

NZ Illegitimacies 1877-1925)" appeared in *The New Zealand Genealogist* (pages 296-297) of Sep-Oct 1996.

Several years passed, and chance was yet again to play its part. Whilst browsing through the GRINZ (Genealogical Research Institute of NZ) Yearbook 1998, my attention was caught by an article on pages 35-40 entitled "Finding Fathers - the truth behind some illegitimate births", written by Donald Hansen. From this article I was to become aware that more references to illegitimate births could be found, but this time in court records. These were held in three separate types of court records:

- (1) *Criminal Record Books* which include, amongst very many other charges, those laid by complainants (usually, but not always, the mothers or mothers-to-be of illegitimate children) against defendants (alleged to be the fathers of those children). Often these charges were not followed through as, for example, the parents may subsequently have married each other, or the case may have been settled out of court. Where the charge was sustained, an order for maintenance usually ensued.
- (2) *Guard Books* are the books within which are filed the physical maintenance orders themselves, detailing the two parties, often quoting the sex and date of birth of the child, and the maintenance amount and frequency.
- (3) *Maintenance Payment Registers* or *Maintenance Remittance Books*, as would be apparent from their names, are simply accounting records of payments made by and to the respective parties. These may also contain useful references to names and name changes and also to localities as either or both parties moved around the country over the ensuing years.

All the details that could be accessed were extracted and eventually merged into a single database. The database holds some 33,134 cross-indexed entries to about 15,000 births. It should be noted that there are overlaps and replications within that figure. Few events are prior to 1890; the majority fall between 1890 and 1950. Official birth statistics show 72,665 ex-nuptial births within that date range, suggesting that about one in five of those births might feature in this database.

A note on **sensitivity**: Due to the sensitivity of this material, there are a few words of caution warranted. Social attitudes may well have changed, but not everyone is blasé about their origins or the origins of their parents. If your enquiry is for your own research, or for a close or living relative, think carefully before forging ahead. Although many of the people in this index doubtless went on to become pillars of society, many would have stayed on the seamier side of life. This information could open a real can of worms for you and you might not like what you stand to learn. On the other hand, it might help to explain some of the inconsistencies in your research, or to provide an insight into a family anecdote that has otherwise appeared unfounded.

Related Information

- "Launch of the NZ Illegitimacies Records Database - NZ Illegitimacies 1877-1950." Derek Griffis. Projects Corner, *The New Zealand Genealogist*, Vol. 44, No. 341; June 2013; pp. 141-2.
- "Illegitimacy Database success stories." Projects Column, *The New Zealand Genealogist*, Vol. 45, No. 347; p. 111.

- “Finding Fathers – the truth behind some illegitimate births.” Donald Hansen. *GRINZ* (Genealogical Research Institute of New Zealand) *Yearbook 1998*; pp. 35-40.
- “Left Holding the Baby, or Some New Zealand Illegitimacies 1877-1925.” Derek Griffis. *The New Zealand Genealogist*, Sep./Oct. 1996, pp. 296-7.

WHAT INFORMATION CAN I OBTAIN?

Enquiries made of this database will yield a summary of key information transcribed from the source record, and where that record can be found. The database holds 33,000 individual names: both parents and child were named. Details may include the date of birth, place of event, alias, occupation, origin or place of birth of parent, and other miscellaneous information. Researchers should be aware that there is potentially more detail to be found in the source record itself.

Members making an enquiry will be provided with a standard output report for any name that matches. This report contains a partial transcription, but also points the enquirer to the source record. Should there be more than one match, it is then up to the enquirer to determine by other means whether the records are associated or not.

Record restriction periods

There were, and still are, embargoes on access to the four types of source records used in this resource:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------|
| • Police Gazettes | 70 years |
| • Criminal Record Books | 100 years |
| • Guard Books | 60 years |
| • Maintenance Payment Registers | 60 years |
| • Maintenance Remittance Books | 60 years |

The difficulties presented in maintaining three different restriction periods resulted in a decision to apply the 100-year restriction universally across the database. The downside to this is that of the 33,000 line database, there are only approximately 10,000 records that can be viewed in 2015. Nevertheless, the annual uptake should be relatively high due to the system-designed feature to update on log-in and the potential for 3 names to appear with each new record introduced. The system has also been designed to accept new material over time.

HOW TO REQUEST A SEARCH OF THIS COLLECTION

The Griffis Illegitimacies Collection database is offered as a research look-up service, administered from the Family Research Centre, through which members can make enquiries and be provided with a standard output report.

The report will be delivered in PDF format, by email or in hard copy by post. A standard report format has been designed - see the example in Appendix 1.

Requests should be in the form of an enquiry for a name and approximate year, and must be written in a letter or as an email. They should be sent to Research Services at the Family Research Centre in Auckland:

Email: researchservice@genealogy.org.nz

By letter: Research Services
NZ Society of Genealogists Inc.
PO Box 14 036
Panmure
Auckland 1741.

[Letters must be accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed standard DLE (business sized 225mm x 114mm) envelope. A printout will be sent to you in this envelope.]

Appendix 1: Sample of enquiry output report .

New Zealand Society of Genealogists Inc.

FAMILY HISTORY - PRESERVING OUR PAST FOR THE FUTURE



Griffis Illegitimacy Collection

Query Results:

Name: **Rosina Christina AANESON**

Information: Rosina Christina AANESON
 Other party: Leo John MAYERS
 Maintenance 7/6
 Father admitted paternity

Source: 1909 Pahiatua Criminal Record Book

For more information refer to:

Pahiatua Criminal Record Books (1890 - 1939)

<u>Agency</u>	<u>Serial</u>	<u>Accession</u>
AAOY		W3298

Source Reference

The Researcher should be aware that not all records have a source reference code. Those that do have references were those applicable at the time the record was transcribed. In the intervening years, many local public records have been transferred to Archives New Zealand and possibly elsewhere. Records held at Archives New Zealand may since have been relocated amongst its Regional Offices. As a consequence, it may be necessary for you to conduct an Advanced Search on Archway using the Court of interest and Record Type to find the current reference and location. If you cannot find a matching record on Archway, you may need to refer back to the original Government Agency involved.

IMPORTANT:

Query Results provide basic information only - the researcher is encouraged to go back to the original source record.