

Final resting place of the MANSSEN Family in New Zealand

(Weblink Final Resting place of the Manssen Family in NZ)

This chapter deals with the final resting places of the first, second and third generations of Manssen. I have recorded the details so that their descendants can visit the cemeteries and pay their respects.

Original Wakapuaka cemetery

The first death recorded in the Manssen family was Eliza who died in 1856. I have found no details of her burial either on her death registration or anywhere else. The family were living in Wakapuaka at the time. Just after coming down Gentle Annie Hill, on State Highway 6 towards Nelson, lies the old gravel pit quarry on the left. Opposite is the site of the old Black Horse Inn. Looking across from the Inn site lays a piece of land, which is believed to be the first Wakapuaka Cemetery. Little is known about the cemetery and there is no trace of its existence today.

In the 1887 New Zealand Gazette it recorded Charles Henry MARTIN (Eliza's half brother) as one of the trustees appointed for the maintenance of the Suburban North Public Cemetery, It reads:

All the piece or parcel of land containing by admeasurements 2 acres and 16 perches, more or less, situated in the Land District of Nelson, being Section no 57b, Suburban North. Bounded as follows: On the North-eastward by a public road and all other sides by section No 1 Suburban North.

In 1904 Charles Henry MARTIN was still a trustee for the Public cemetery. I believe Charles' only interest was because his sister Eliza was buried there, but we may never know for sure. My last resort will be to research the yearly cemetery returns that were made to the Nelson Provincial Council. I am always hopeful that I will find the answer as to whether this was the last resting place for Eliza MANSSEN.

Picton Cemetery

George Heinrich Conrad MANSSEN, our pioneer ancestor, died in 1887. His death certificate reads that he was buried in the Picton cemetery. At the turn of the century all Picton cemetery records were destroyed in a fire so we do not know what plot or block number he was buried in. There is no headstone there. I wrote to the Diocese of Nelson but they could give me no more information.

Blenheim Cemetery

Carl William MANSSEN was buried at the Taylor Cemetery in Blenheim, which is now called the Omaka Cemetery. There is no record of which plot as the records were also destroyed in the same fire that destroyed his grandfather's records in Picton. No headstone bears the name of Carl William MANSSEN at this cemetery.

Florence (PAGE) and Thomas George FLOWER are buried together at the Omaka Cemetery. They rest in No 3 cemetery Block 4. Florence in section 18 and Thomas in section 20. There is no headstone on this joint grave.

St John's Churchyard, Hira, Nelson

Amy Elizabeth (PAGE) and William Thomas FROST are both buried together at this cemetery. I have not found the Block or Plot number for their grave but their headstones are very easy to find. Many of their children are buried here, along with many of the FROST ancestors and their descendants.

Wakapuaka Cemetery, Atawhai Drive, Nelson

Our Pioneer ancestor Johanna MANSSEN was the first of the MANSSEN to be buried in this cemetery and here her children and many of her grandchildren are also buried. I have made a list of the entire first three generations of MANSSENS who are buried at this cemetery, with their names, block and plot numbers. All the graves have headstones except the one that belongs to Mary Elizabeth MANSSEN.

MANSSEN Johanna C E	Anglican	Block 10	Plot 22
MANSSEN Mary Elizabeth	Anglican	Block 10	Plot 22
MARTIN Charles Henry John	General	Block 7	Plot 15
PAGE William	General	Block 5	Plot 25
PAGE Caroline (MANSSEN)	General	Block 5	Plot 25
MANSSEN George Frederick Henry	General	Block 30	Plot 52
BARNES Daniel	Anglican	Block 10	Plot 21
BARNES Caroline Mary (PAGE)	Anglican	Block 10	Plot 21
BARNES Lillian Ida (PAGE)	Anglican	Block 43	Plot 60
BARNES John Thomas	Anglican	Block 43	Plot 62
SLOSS Edith (PAGE)	General	Block 28	Plot 167
SIMPSON Ethel (PAGE)	Presbyterian	Block 15	Plot 21
SIMPSON Archibald	Presbyterian	Block 15	Plot 21
LESSELS Bertha (MANSSEN)	Presbyterian	Block 7	Plot 12
LESSELS James Bertie	Presbyterian	Block 7	Plot 12
MANSSEN Conrad	General	Block 20	Plot 44
MANSSEN Emily Ethel	General	Block 20	Plot 45
MANSSEN William Cuthbert	Anglican	Block 32	Plot 37
MANSSEN Inez Muriel	Anglican	Block 32	Plot 37

The first time I visited the grave of Johanna Catherine Elisabeth MANSSEN was in 1990. My father was with me at the time and we shared the experience together. To find the grave, drive up the roadway, past the Crematorium, around two more bends till you come up to a shed. Park your car here and walk across the road in line with the bottom of the shed. Walk down the path a few metres looking towards your right. The headstone is a beautiful marble cross bearing the name of Johanna at the base. When I first visited the grave the headstone was broken. When I returned the following year it was repaired. I wish to thank the person concerned, but to this day I do not know who is responsible. This peaceful old cemetery, with its overgrown trees, is a beautiful resting place for many of our pioneer ancestors.

St Barnabas Churchyard, Stoke, Nelson

Three children of Charles and Emma MANSSEN are buried here according to their death registration. Margaret Eva MANSSEN died in 1888, aged eight years, and was buried in Plot A15 but there is no headstone bearing her name.

The twins Ruby and Mary MANSSEN died in 1892, aged two days, but there is no trace of where they are buried. Some of the old grave plots are now covered over by church buildings. There are no headstones bearing the names of Ruby and Mary MANSSEN.

Marsden Cemetery, Stoke, Nelson

This cemetery is very well marked with block numbers clearly visible at the edge of the road. Annie Amelia (PAGE) and Edward READ are buried in Block 7a General Plot 13. There is a headstone on this joint grave.

Richmond Cemetery, Richmond, Nelson

Charles PAGE and his wife Olive Gertrude PAGE are buried here in Block B11 Plot 77 and they have a joint headstone. This is easy to find. It is on the left side of the cemetery, about

three rows on the left directly out from the tree in the centre of the parking area. The headstone is light in colour and new looking. It can be seen easily from a distance.

St Johns Churchyard, Wakefield, Nelson

Catherine Alice (PAGE) and Herbert CLOSE and some of their descendants are buried in this cemetery. Catherine and Herbert are buried in the New Cemetery No 2 Row 1-4. To find them both you walk up the back of the cemetery from the church until you see a concrete retaining wall. They are in the front row and their joint headstone can be seen clearly.

Greymouth Cemetery

Alfred John SLOSS (Edith Page's husband) is buried here along with their son James William SLOSS. Alfred is in section 4 Row 24 Number 16 and James is buried in Section 2 Row 20 Number 12. They both have headstones but James's headstone reads SLASS, not SLOSS. I have not visited these two graves but if you wish to find them a map of the cemetery should be available from the Cemetery Sexton or the City Council Office.

Homeview Cemetery, Cheviot.

Alfred Edgar PAGE is buried here in Row L. I have not seen this grave but I believe there is a headstone. Alfred's wife Ruby passed away in 1989. Ruby is the only ancestor whose resting place is unknown to me.

Sydenham cemetery, Christchurch

Albert William and Flora Alice PAGE are buried at this cemetery in Area 3 Row J-1910. There is a joint headstone. I have not visited this grave. To find the grave see the Christchurch City Council or Cemetery Sexton for directions.

Southern Cemetery, Dunedin

Hilda Jane (MANSSSEN) and Thomas John ROBERTSON are buried here in Block 105a Plot 1. There is a joint headstone on the grave. I have not visited the grave so, again, see the Dunedin City Council or Cemetery Sexton for directions.

Karori Cemetery Wellington

Mary Ethel (MANSSSEN) and Albert Ernest COOK were both cremated at the Karori cemetery and their ashes are in the Cremation wall, Division 4, Plot 105. This wall can be seen as you enter the cemetery, just past the Office buildings. Travel down the road till you get to the archway of the service men and women's graves. The four memorial cremation walls start here. Go to the last wall; at the end on the bottom row count three inwards. There is a plaque bearing the both Mary and Albert's names. You do not even have to get out of your car to sight this plaque.

Shannon Cemetery, Shannon

Alice Edith (MANSSSEN) BATT is buried in Block XVI Plot 49. I visited the cemetery but found that there was no headstone on Mary's last resting place. Some of Mary's family are also buried at this cemetery and their graves are easy to find, as the cemetery is small in size. If you wish to visit Mary's grave, a map of the cemetery is held at the Horowhenua District Council Office in Levin.

Foxton Cemetery, Foxton

Edward Lewis BATT, the husband of Alice Edith formerly MANSSSEN is buried here in Plot 5 Block 2 Anglican Division. I do not know if there is a headstone on the plot, as I have not visited this cemetery. The Horowhenua District Council Office in Levin holds the plans for this cemetery.

Aramoho Cemetery, Wanganui

Emma Elizabeth (MARRIS) MANSSSEN, the wife of Charles Frederick Henry MANSSSEN, is buried here in F.12-771, in the same grave as her son Percy MANSSSEN. Teresa Mary MANSSSEN Percy's wife is buried in Plot 0-414, along side her son who was known as William Edward MANSSSEN. Frederick Henry MANSSSEN, and his wife Ruby Julia MANSSSEN were both cremated at the Aramoho Cemetery and their ashes scattered. I do not know if they have a plaque bearing their names in the Memorial Rose Gardens of the Cemetery. I visited this cemetery to pay my respects to my husband's aunt, not knowing at that time that my great grandmother and her family were buried here. I have not sighted any of their graves or plaques. The Wanganui City Council or the Cemetery Sexton can give you directions.

Hastings Cemetery, Hastings

John Harold and Malvina Louisa MANSSSEN are both buried in section M Row 17 but the burial register reads section P. They have a joint headstone. I have not visited Hastings cemetery.

Tauranga Cemetery

Francis Moss and Letitia Mary MANSSSEN were both cremated at the Tauranga Cemetery. I do not know what happened to their ashes or if there is a plaque bearing their names.

Glenfield Cemetery, Auckland

Norman and Eliza MANSSSEN are both buried in this cemetery. They rest together in the Anglican Lawn Section Block 1 Plot 97. I have visited this grave with their son Norman and there is a headstone bearing both their names.

Waikumete Cemetery Auckland

Bertha (PAGE and Frederick James LILEY are buried together in Anglican Section K Row 7 Plot 90. There is a joint headstone. Every year before Christmas the Liley descendants paint and tidy the grave of Bertha and Frederick LILEY.

Conclusion

I hope this chapter helps you to locate your ancestors' last resting place. Now that we all know where they are buried perhaps some of these graves can be tended and be preserved for future generations who wish to pay their respect to our pioneer MANSSSEN family.

"Rest In Peace"