

Initial Upload 20 November 2013

Daniel Keane

Daniel was the youngest child of Andrew and Bridget Keane. He was born in William Street at the corner of Halifax Street, Brighton on 6 April 1879. He would have been baptized at St Finbars at the corner of Centre Road and Point Nepean Road.

1876	Finbar			Andrew	3 rd June 1865	Bridget
	April			Keane	Marston	Keane
	1879			Gardener	Victoria	family
	at	Daniel	male	39 years	Bridget 12 years	Kelly
	William Street				Paul June 10	28 years
	Brighton				Andrew 6	
	Borough of Brighton				Michael 3	
	County of Bourke				James 22 months	
	and present			River		River
				Co. Clare		Co. Clare
				Ireland		Ireland

Daniel's Birth Certificate Left Hand Side

Andrew Keane	his			
and	his			
Father	Announcement	25 th June		
William Street	at	1879	Samuel J. Linn	
Brighton	Mr Farrington			
After declaration made		Brighton		
as by law required	Not any			

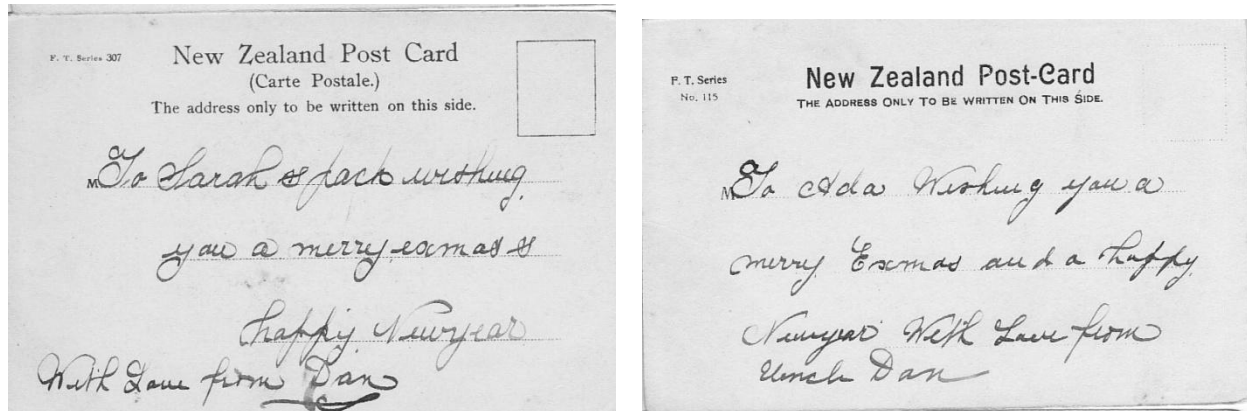
Daniel's Birth Certificate Right hand Side

Daniel was very unfortunate to experience the loss of his mother when he was less than two years old. We have been told that she left the family and returned to Ireland. Bridget left her seven children, four of whom were ten years old or younger with Daniel being the youngest.

Daniel's father Andrew could not have been expected to work at his gardening job and at the same time manage the household. He was fortunate that he had two older daughters, Bedelia and Sarah Jane both of whom could assist him. In 1880 Bedelia was aged 13 and Sarah Jane 11. Both would have been expected to be at school.

It is likely that Bedelia was active tending to the children in the earlier years because of her age. However, we have been told that Sarah Jane ultimately took up the lead role. Certainly there is some evidence that Sarah Jane was held in high regard by the children in later years. As an example, Martin later regularly provided Sarah Jane and her husband Jack Holmes with a good supply of flowers and vegetables from his garden at Mayfield Street, free of charge. At the same time he was expected to pay for his milk from the Holmes dairy.

As well, we are aware that Daniel regularly sent postcards from New Zealand to Sarah Jane and her children.



Cards from New Zealand

Daniel went to school at Brighton State School and on 21 December 1889 the newspaper reported on the end of year school concert and prize giving held at Brighton Town Hall. There were 920 pupils on the roll and the average attendance was between 500 and 550. The school Inspector reported that "a high moral tone prevailed in the school."¹ Scripture lessons were provided to the students.

Dan was mentioned as being in Grade Two with a General Proficiency. This grade seems to be well below the level we would expect today for someone of Daniel's age. However, this was only the year after his father Andrew had retired and there was no mother in the household. It appears Daniel was late starting school.

The more obvious place for Daniel to attend school was at St Finbar's. The church and school for the Parish of St Finbar's had opened in 1853 but in 1881 Elsternwick was established as the headquarters of the parish and the Catholic school was transferred to East Bentleigh. The older Keane children born between 1865 and 1871 probably attended St Finbars and perhaps Margaret Helen born in 1874. However, the school had closed before Martin and Daniel reached school age.

A school was later established in East Brighton in 1924 when it was taken over by the Presentation nuns.²

¹ The Caulfield & Elsternwick Leader 21 December 1889

² A Brief Biography of St Finbar. Rev. J Ashe PP East Brighton 1948

There was a further reference to Daniel in the newspaper in 1901:

About 9.15 on Sunday evening, the 13th ult., while Constable Healey was on duty in Bay street, he saw Daniel Keane, David Grant, William Pritchard, Ada Gay and Bella Hansen obstructing the footpath, jostling and pulling each other about and misconducting themselves generally. Residents of Bay street have reason to complain of these young people who congregate about the doorways and conduct themselves badly in the streets. The above-named, having been frequently spoken to by the justices, they were

Oakleigh Leader 5 January 1901

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Caulfield & Elsternwick Leader 5 January 1901



Daniel Keane³

³ Royal Studio 257 Collins Street Melbourne

The above photograph was taken in Melbourne probably about 1908/9 before Daniel went to New Zealand. His father Andrew had died in 1903 and left him 300 Pounds which at the time was enough to buy a house. In 1908 his sister Helen also died and her estate was distributed equally among her siblings in late 1909. Daniel's share from her estate was L33/6/2 and by the time he would have received this he was already in New Zealand.

Daniel left a very significant trail in the New Zealand newspapers but it is a trail we would rather not have found. From September 1909 there were reports of court cases brought against him for drunkenness. These led to continuing fines and imprisonment sometimes for extensive periods. There is no evidence that his time in prison did anything to change him and his addiction to alcohol.

In 1909 and 1910 Daniel received sentences totalling thirteen weeks in prison. In 1911 He was sentenced seven times. On two occasions he was using the alias, Samuel Kane. After his fifth offence in six months Daniel was sentenced to twelve months at Roto Roa Island for breaching a Prohibition Order.

At the Magistrate's Court this morning, before Mr A. D. Thomson, S.M., two first-offenders were charged with drunkenness; one forfeited the amount of his bail, 5s, and the other was fined a similar sum, in default twenty-four hours'. Daniel Keane, alias Kane, was charged with his fifth offence within six months, and with procuring liquor during the currency of a prohibition order. The police stated that it seemed useless to let him out, as he was back in the lock-up the same day or the following day for a recurrence of his intemperate habits; only two days ago he was released after serving a term of fourteen days' for drunkenness. His Worship said it seemed that the only hope for accused was to send him to the Inebriates' Home. Keane excused his latest lapse by stating that he was unwell, and procured some brandy. He was committed to Rotoroa Island for twelve months.

Manawatu Standard 22 November 1911

Roto Roa Island is an island to the east of Waiheke Island in the Hauraki Gulf off the coast from Auckland. It covers 82 hectares (200 acres). The Salvation Army purchased it for £400 in 1908 to expand their alcohol and drug rehabilitation facility at nearby Pakatoa Island. Men were treated at Home Bay at Roto Roa, while women were treated at Pakatoa. The treatment facility was closed in 2005.

Daniel escaped from custody at Roto Roa when he had only about a month of his sentence to serve. The Auckland Star reported that he was found drunk in Queen Street, Auckland. With such a short time still to serve he was remanded in custody until he could be put on a train to Palmerston North which was where he lived. He celebrated his return home in his customary manner.

Daniel Keane, whose fondness for stimulants threatens to become second nature, has profited little by a lengthy sojourn on Roto Roa Island, to which place he was committed by Mr A. D. Thomson, S.M., a year ago. Keane, who is in the prime of life, was discharged on Wednesday, he returned to Palmerston yesterday, and celebrated his arrival by becoming intoxicated. At the Police Court this morning, before Mr W. Park, J.P., he had the distinction of appearing as a "first offender," a period of more than six months having elapsed since his last conviction. He was fined 5s and released. Another statutory first offender, who was sixpence short of the amount required for bail, was fined 4s 6d.

Manawatu Standard 25 October 1912

From November 1912 until October 1916 there were no newspaper reports about Daniel Keane. This is difficult to explain especially the two year period up to 1914. After 1914, the newspapers were full of reports about World War 1. They also included lists of persons volunteering and also of those killed and wounded. Perhaps this indicated censorship by editors of self indulgent behavior and preference to highlight the heroic sacrifices of the volunteers. From late 1916 through to May 1917, Daniel received convictions for a number of thefts and drunkenness. He was referred to as an "*old offender*" and was cited as having twenty six prior convictions at the end of April 1917 when he was sentenced to 12 months at Roto Roa Island for a second time.

An irrepressible optimist is Daniel Keane, whose chief failing is an abnormal appetite for liquor. He is in and out of gaol like a veritable will-o'-the-wisp, but always comes up smiling. When he appeared in the dock in the Magistrate's Court to-day to answer still another charge of drunkenness he grinned at all and sundry, in spite of the fact that the prospect of removal of residence to Roto Roa hung over his head. "This man is a confirmed drunkard," stated Inspector Marsack, and Keane nodded affably in the direction of the press table. The Inspector thought that twelve months at Roto Rot might reform Keane to some extent, and the Magistrate (Mr. L. G. Reid, S.M.) agreed. "I will send you to Roto Roa for twelve months," said his worship, and as Keane left the dock he was almost doubled up with laughter.

Evening Post 1 May 1917

After serving this sentence Daniel returned to Wellington where he started to offend again.

Coming into town from the country some days ago with a considerable sum of money in his possession, Daniel Keane started on a career of drunkenness. On Saturday, Monday, and Tuesday he came before the Court for having overstepped the bounds, and in each case he paid the fine. Last evening, however, in Molesworth-street, he went too far. Not content with being drunk, he used very bad language just before the hotels closed at 6 o'clock, and he appeared before Messrs. J. W. Ellison and I. Salek, J.P.'s, in the Magistrate's Court this morning. For drunkenness he was fined 40s, or seven days' imprisonment, and for the language he was sent to gaol for a month. "You will be sober by that time," said Mr. Ellison, as the defendant, who has over 30 previous convictions against him, left the dock.

Evening Post 14 August 1918

"This is his fourth offence in four consecutive days," said Inspector Marsack, when Daniel Keane pleaded guilty to drunkenness. Accused also admitted that he made use of obscene language when being taken into custody. "He has a long list of previous convictions, totalling thirty in all," added the inspector. "In the man's own interests, I ask that he be sent to gaol." Keane was fined 40s., in default seven days' imprisonment for drunkenness, and was sentenced to a month's hard labour on the charge of having used obscene language.

Dominion Post 15 August 1918

The report in the Dominion Post on 15 August indicated the repetitious nature of Daniel's offences and also that the sentence was for a month's hard labour. None of these sentences in any way changed Daniel's behavior. By October 1918 he had committed six offences in six

months and on 22 October after breaching a Prohibition Order he was sentenced to One months gaol and was warned that *"the next time it will be Rotaroa."*⁴ This was not long in coming and by 9 December 1918 Daniel had breached a Prohibition Order was sent to Roto Roa Island for twelve months for a third time.⁵

There was only one report of Daniel's activities in 1920 but this was significant:

PALMERSTON NORTH, This Day.
A man named Daniel Keane, alias Kane, was charged at the Police Court yesterday with numerous petty thefts from hotels and other places, and also with a breach of his prohibition order. The charges in all numbered 14, and the Magistrate imposed cumulative sentences totalling 21 months' imprisonment.

Evening Post 24 May 1920

This sentence would have run through to March 1922 and in June 1922 Daniel faced two charges one *"being an idle and disorderly person"* and another of vagrancy. In respect of the latter charge *"the Salvation Army agreed to give him a trial."*⁶

A further offence in 1923 resulted in Daniel receiving a sentence of two months hard labour.

Daniel Keane, alias Kane, charged with being a rogue and a vagabond in that he was found by night on the premises at 89, Thorndon quay, was sentenced to two months' imprisonment, with hard labour.

Evening Post 21 February 1923

There was another gap in newspaper reports for four years until 1927. Daniel did not work and appears to have exhausted his funds. He needed to find shelter at night and he did this by locating vacant houses and other places and staying in them.

⁴ Dominion Post 22 October 1918

⁵ Evening Post 9 December 1918

⁶ Evening Post 26 June 1922

FOUND IN "TIMBER YARD." SQUANDERED HIS MONEY.

MAN SENT TO GAOL

"It is a dangerous thing for a man to sleep in a timber yard, for he might strike a match and cause a big fire," said Senior Sergeant Edwards at the Police Court this morning, when Daniel Keane (40) admitted that he had been found without lawful excuse on Thursday night, in a shed on Leyland O'Brien's property, Fanshawe Street.

The senior sergeant added that some time ago Keane came from Wanganui with a large amount of money. He squandered it and now had nothing. However, what he still had was 24 previous convictions, some for theft and some for drunkenness.

Keane was sentenced to one month's imprisonment.

Auckland Star 16 April 1927

ON A BED OF PAPER.

SNEAK THIEF GAOLED.

Early this morning a constable found Daniel Keane (48) asleep in an outhouse in Lorne Street. Keane, who was arrested on a charge of vagrancy, later appeared before Mr. F. K. Hunt, S.M., at the Police Court. He pleaded guilty.

"This man has for some time now been sleeping in an outhouse in Lorne Street, upon a bed which he made out of paper," said Senior Sergeant Cummings. "He only had a penny on him when arrested. He is not fond of work, and the last job he had he left, because he said the wages were not sufficient. Keane is a bad sneak thief and is a menace in the town."

"You have 34 previous convictions for all sorts of offences," Mr. Hunt told Keane, in consigning him to prison for the next three months.

Auckland Star 15 May 1928

When Keane appeared at the Police Court this morning for being found on the premises without lawful excuse, it was stated that he was sent to gaol for one month recently for a similar offence.

"Twenty-five previous convictions, mostly for theft and drunkenness. He won't work—only thieve—and he is better out of the way," said Mr. Hunt, in sending Keane back to Mount Eden again for three months.

Auckland Star 23 May 1927

DRUNK'S BAD LANGUAGE.

FINED FIVE POUNDS.

"HE IS A NUISANCE."

With red hair and moustache and florid face beaming, Daniel Keane, a labourer, aged 49, appeared before Mr. F. K. Hunt, S.M., in the Police Court this morning, charged with being drunk in the railway station entrance, and with using obscene language. He smilingly nodded, indicating that he pleaded guilty.

Sub-Inspector McCarthy said that Keane had staggered round the railway station entrance on Saturday very drunk, and had used bad language in a loud voice.

"I think we will put this man away for some time," remarked the magistrate. "He has been a nuisance for a long while."

Keane was fined £5 with the alternative of a month in Mount Eden on the obscene language charge, and was convicted and discharged on the minor offence.

Auckland Star 18 June 1930

Daniel's Death certificate records that he died on 12 September 1931. A Coroner's Inquest was held to determine the cause of death and the finding was that Daniel died *"from a fractured skull probably caused by an accidental fall down stairs at 4 St Paul's Street Auckland, an unoccupied house."*

LABOURER'S DEATH.

NO SIGN OF VIOLENCE.

BODY IN EMPTY HOUSE.

CORONER ADJOURNS INQUEST.

Mr. F. K. Hunt, S.M., this afternoon opened an inquest into the cause of the death of Daniel Keane, 51, whose body was found at the foot of the staircase in an empty house, 4, St. Paul Street, yesterday.

Constable Mahood gave evidence of finding the body and of identification. He said police inquiries showed that deceased was a native of Australia, and had no relatives in New Zealand. He was a labourer by occupation.

Describing the finding of the body, Constable Mahood said there was no evidence of foul play or anything to indicate the cause of death.

The inquest was adjourned sine die, pending the report by Dr. D. N. W. Murray as to the post-mortem examination.

Auckland Star 15 September 1931

DEAD IN EMPTY HOUSE.

FATE OF MIDDLE-AGED MAN.

NO SIGN OF FOUL PLAY.

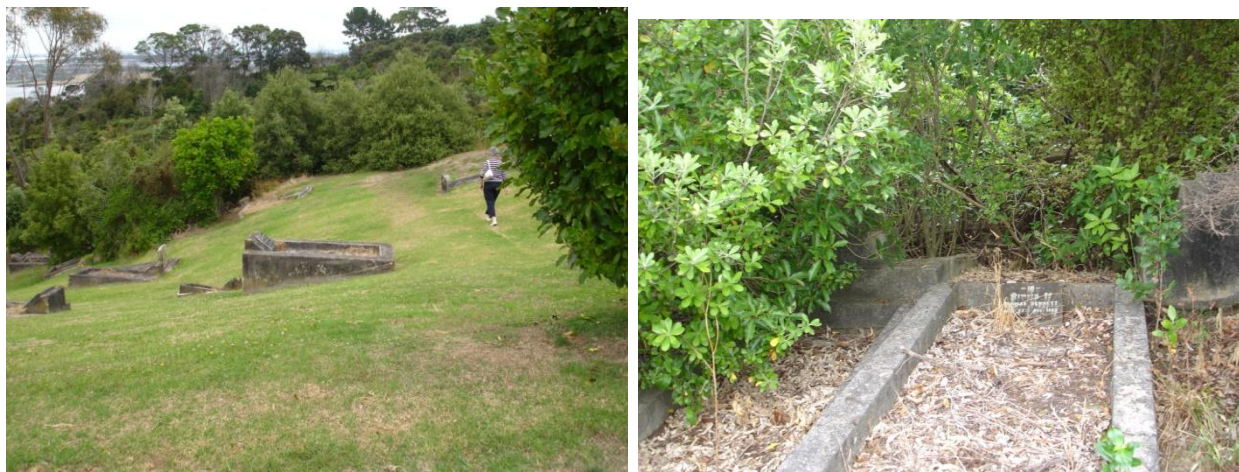
An inquest concerning the death of Daniel Keane, aged 51, labourer, was opened before Mr. F. K. Hunt, S.M., coroner, yesterday afternoon. The body of deceased was discovered in an empty house in St. Paul's Street on Tuesday, the police visiting the premises following the receipt of a telephone message from a woman who refused to give her name. The body was found huddled at the foot of a staircase and the man had apparently been dead for several days.

Constable Mahood, who gave evidence of identification and the finding of the body, said police investigations did not reveal any indications of foul play or show the cause of death. Deceased was a native of Australia and had no relatives in New Zealand.

At this stage the inquiry was adjourned sine die pending the report of Dr. D. N. W. Murray, police surgeon, on the result of a post-mortem examination.

NZ Herald 17 September 1931

Daniel was buried in a pauper's grave at Hillsborough. The cemetery is located on a hill with picturesque views over water. There is no marking or headstone to indicate the location of his grave. The left side photograph below shows the row in which Daniel's grave is located. Daniel's grave is at the far side of the row and in the trees. It is behind the grave shown in the right side photograph. As well as being well treed the land has also slipped significantly.



Hillsborough Cemetery, Auckland

We cannot provide any explanation for Daniel's behavior other than that he was significantly affected by the departure of his mother when he was very young. However, his older brother Martin was only about 20 months older never took a drink in his life.