



Maurice Joel was born in 1829 at North Shields, England, and was educated at Newcastle-on-Tyne. He was an engraver by trade and for some time was in partnership with his brother in Newcastle-on-Tyne in the Birmingham and Sheffield goods trade.

He came out to Melbourne in 1853 and acted as a gold-buyer in Ballarat, acquiring general mercantile experience before coming to New Zealand in December 1861. Maurice at once established himself in a general hardware and ship-chandlery business in Princess Street. Three years later, in 1864, he purchased the Red Lion Brewery situated on an acre and a quarter section fronting George Street and Great King Street with entrances from both streets, with the main entrance and offices fronting Great King Street.

This well-known brewery was established in 1862 and recently remodelled and refitted with the latest and most modern brewing and malting plant. Their business extended right throughout the Colony.

Maurice Joel was for a number of years a member of the Otago Harbour Board, for nine years treasurer of the Jewish synagogue, and for three years its president. He was a member of the committee of New Zealand and South Seas Exhibition of 1889-90. He married in Victoria in 1859 to Catherine, a daughter of Mr. A. Woolf, of the Cape of Good Hope, South Africa, and afterwards of Melbourne, and together they raised nine children. One daughter, Grace Jane, achieved fame as an artist.

He died on 13 November 1907, survived by three sons and three daughters, and is buried in the Jewish Section of Dunedin's Southern Cemetery.