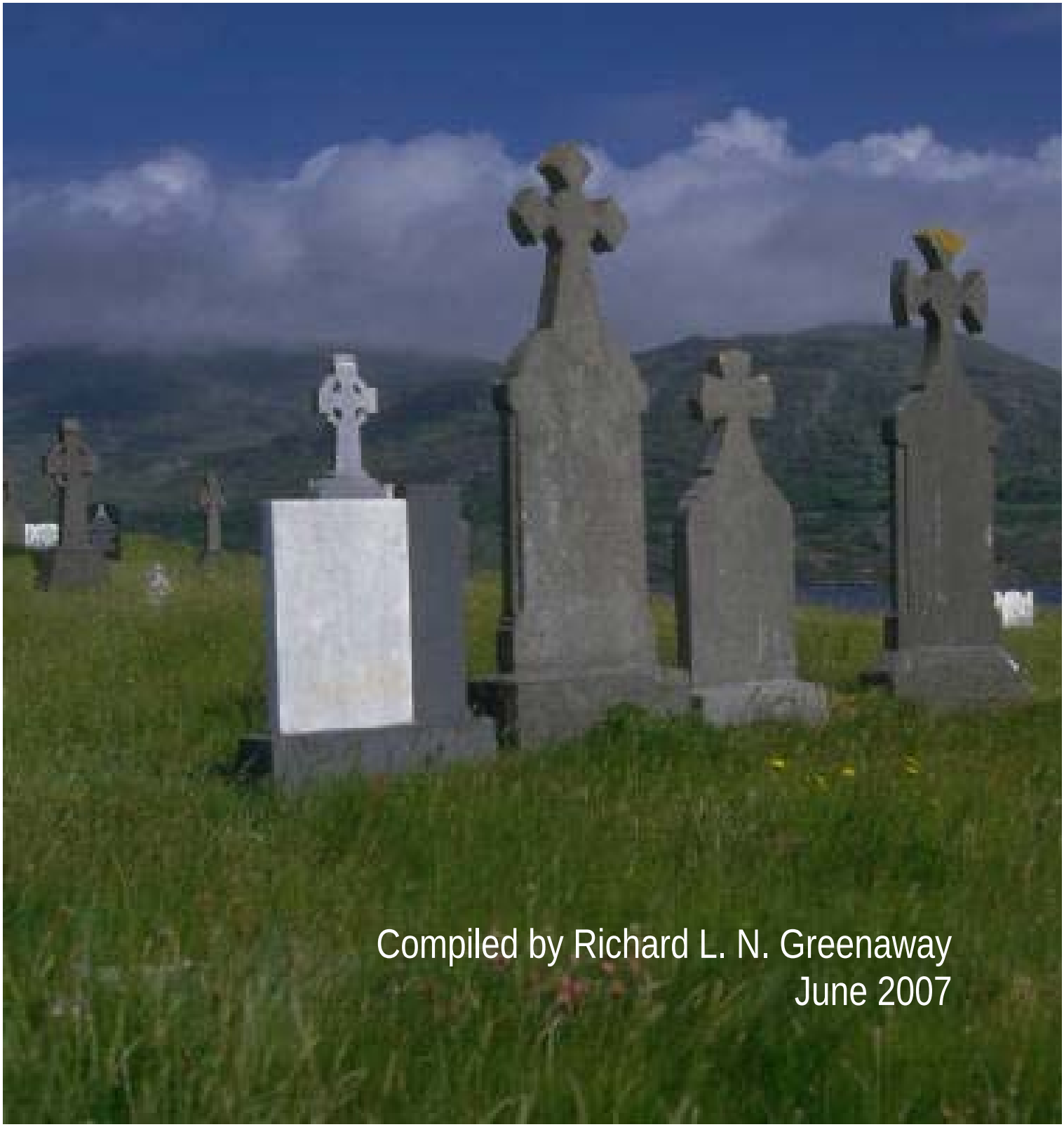
St. Paul's Anglican Cemetery Tour

Papanui



Compiled by Richard L. N. Greenaway
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Area 1
Row A
No 1
Shead

Just to the left as one enters St. Paul's cemetery there is a gravestone with the wording: 'In loving memory of Thomas Edward Shead, beloved son of J. and A. Shead, died 11 October 1882, aged 11 years and six months. Late of Phila., Penn., U.S.A.'

Atop the monument there is a striking sculpture of a handsome vigorous boy.

It would seem that Thomas died of an illness. His parents, Joseph and Annie Shead, were living in Papanui at the time of their son's death but do not appear to have remained long.

No. 15
Thomson

Edinburgh-born and the son of a printer, William Thomson worked as an accountant in Glasgow. He emigrated with his family, arrived in Canterbury in 1853 on the *Hampshire*, a vessel of about 600 tons. Theirs had been 'a protracted voyage of five months'.

Thomson attended the ball on Queen Victoria's birthday – on 24 May – in Highland costume. The Lyttelton Maori 'hearing of his costume, gathered along Norwich Quay to see the Taipo coming – rather peculiar considering their style of dress'.

Thomson bought a property, 'Hemingford', at Governors Bay. It became the famous and beautiful property of sheepfarmer, scientist and conservationist T. H. Potts and was - and is - known as 'Ohinetahi'. To get home the family had to travel by boat or walk along a very narrow track and pass through the big and little Rapaki Maori pas. William's son, J. J. Thompson, was to recall that

> … in one … the natives … stuck up my father for the purpose of levying blackmail. However, an old woman being seized with the colic, he was allowed to go on after prescribing for her.

William purchased 50 acres at Papanui and an estate which he called 'Scotstown'. The name survives in corrupted form in a street name – Scotston Avenue. J. J. Thomson reminisced about pioneer life in the area:

> … the roads – especially the North Road – were in a dreadful condition, a quagmire in places. At time we had to accommodate people who couldn't get through the mud'.

William Thomson, an accountant and auctioneer, was a shareholder in the 1854-66 newspaper, the *Canterbury standard*, and took up a North Canterbury station, Lochinvar, in 1858-59, holding it till 1861. A member of the Canterbury Provincial Council from 1855-61 he was a leading representative of the pastoralists. W. E. Burke described Thomson as 'a burly Scot, with a large voice and a big laugh, who made a

grand picture lounging at his ease'. When describing provincial council members, Crosbie Ward wrote of Thomson:

> First rose burly Scotie – Tomson,
> he the portly, big and bulky,
> round proportioned, talking loudly,
> making little men to tremble.

Thomson opposed Superintendent William Sefton Moorhouse's plan to speed up the transport of produce and people throughout the province by drilling a tunnel through the Port Hills and building a railway system. He changed his stance, being chairman at an 1861 dinner held to celebrate Moorhouse finding an Australian contractor who would do the tunnel work. He went on to hold the position of Provincial Auditor.

Thomson was caught up in the scandal of 1862, an event which G. R. Macdonald called 'one of the most interesting and exciting scenes in the life of early Canterbury'. In July 1862 a crowd followed Henry Jones, a professional boxer nicknamed 'the Spider', and George Barton, a navvy working at the tunnel site, to the banks of the Waimakariri. There the bare-knuckled pugilists, fists hardened by vinegar, set up stakes and ropes as a rudimentary ring and the masses placed their bets and settled down to watch some serious blood sport.

Sub-inspector Revell and two constables rode up to break up an affray which was 'to the terror and disturbance of Her Majesty's subjects'. They presented firearms in an attempt to enforce their authority. Unfortunately the rougher element was accompanied by a sprinkling of the gentry; a Member of Parliament and doctor of divinity were seen together. The police, receiving no support from such pillars of the community, were forced to sit idly by while Jones beat Barton into submission.

The case came to court, Jones claiming that one of the presiding magistrates (possibly Edward Jerningham Wakefield) had encouraged him to take part in the fray. Judge Gresson considered that the pugilists had degraded themselves to the level of the brutes. The *Press* thundered that professional boxing had nothing to commend it:

> 'The promoters … have no object but gain; the spectators … none but that of seeing two of their fellows injuring and disfiguring each other'. Prize fighting led to 'riot, debauchery and excess [and was] an object of attraction principally, if not exclusively, to the dissolute and depraved'.

In London Canterbury's English Agent, H. S. Selfe, read of the affair when the Christchurch papers eventually reached him. He wrote to John Hall:

> … I was thoroughly disgusted and so was everyone of the old friends of Canterbury. I can imagine to myself the exact expression of pain and disgust which would have come over dear Godley's face had he lived to know of it.

John Robert Godley had died on 17 November 1861.

And William Thomson's involvement? He and political colleague T. S. Duncan claimed that they had not been among the spectators. Rather they had been out riding

about in the sandhills and had come to the area where the fracas took place in a vain effort to help the police. Thomson did admit that he had crawled out of the ring on his hands and knees among the horses' hooves. Nevertheless, he wrote criticizing the police for showing their revolvers, conveniently ignoring that there were three officers and a violent crowd of several hundred people.

The response to this letter was 'The ring', a poem published in the 26 July 1862 *Press*:

> Me? A friend?
> to the prize fight and ring?
> I abhor the whole thing.
> Now attend:
> they might talk. I don't care.
> but I never go there.
>
> For a ride? I may happen to go
> with a friend who's both learned and tried:
> but tis merely to see in full flow
> the Waimakaririan tide
> and the rush of its waters so wide.
> When a mob round a circle is seen,
> I retire to a hillock of sand.
> There I view with disgust the sad scene
> of a fight that is waging at hand.
> Me? A friend?
>
> At the cry of: "The Peelers they come",
> I descend to prevent an affray.
> What's the use of policeman and gun
> when the mob are determined to stay?
> I think they are much better away.
> If you say that the mob should disperse,
> as tis they who are breaking the peace:
> would you have the mob bullied or worse,
> and not caution the stupid police?
> Me? A friend?
>
> It is false. I attempted to fly
> to a flax bush, in safety to hide;
> Not so easy in this: and for why?
> No flax bush is sufficiently wide
> to screen me in, supposing I tried.
> But, enough. Twas a slanderous thing:
> If I want, tis to breathe the fresh air;
> No spectator was I at the ring –
> I was simply an auditor there.
> Me? A friend.

Were Duncan and Thomson innocent ? No. In the 1920s William 's son wrote:

> There was a prize fight … in the sandhills near the Empire Bridge. On the morning of the occurrence my father sent me over to the Crown Prosecutor to inform him what was taking place and wanted to know if he would like to see the fun. Rather to my father's surprise, he acquiesced and I drove them there …. When the combatants were brought to court, the Crown Prosecutor, having been a witness, was unable to prosecute and it fell to the hands of Mr. W. T. Travers.

When road boards (very rudimentary local authorities) were established, Thomson became chairman of the Avon Road Board.

William Thomson, a captain in the Canterbury Yeomanry Cavalry, died, at 48, on 20 April 1866. His military funeral was the greatest such event up to that time in the history of the province.

The *Press* reported on the funeral:

> A very large crowd accompanied the remains of Mr. Thomson … to its final resting place at Papanui. The … funeral was … conducted with miltary honours. The procession formed at Mr. Thomson's late residence, 'Scottstown', shortly after three o'clock in the following order: - the firing party; the band, playing the Dead March in *Saul*; the body on the gun carriage of the artillery drawn by four horses with postillions (members of the deceased's company), the horse of the deceased with the accoutrements …relatives and members of the Executive Council, Yeomanry Cavalry, Volunteers and friends, numbering about 200, as well as several carriages. The burial service was read by the Bishop, and, after the body had been lowered into the grave, three volleys were fired over it. The funeral was very largely, representatives of all classes being present to pay a last tribute of respect to the deceased.

Thomson had scarcely breathed his last when candidates came forward for the position of Provincial Auditor. John Ollivier carried off the prize.

Thomson had large debts in association with the *Canterbury standard*. The family had to move out of and sell their property immediately after William's death. They later lived at a house called 'Cardowan' at 64 Opawa Road.

With William are buried his wife, Georgiana, 75, who died on 13 January 1894; children, David, 22, who died on 22 March 1876; Georgiana, who was born on 24 May 1853 and died on 24 January 1942; and Alice, who was born on 6 August 1860 and died on 26 July 1950.

Area 2
Row A
No. 35
Dunnage

George Dunnage was baptized on 24 July 1803 at St. Martin in the Fields, London, the son of Elizabeth Dunnage and her husband, George Dunnage of the Mall, Hammersmith, Middlesex. He graduated M. A. from Cambridge University and, in 1829, was a settler on the Swan River.

In 1851 George Dunnage and his family emigrated to Canterbury on the Canterbury Association vessel, *Fatima*; George was chaplain. His home was shifted from England and was the first large building erected in Papanui, standing on the 50 acre block of land, much of it swamp, which George purchased in the area now bounded by Papanui Road, Grants Road, Proctor Street and the Main North Road.

George was appointed Papanui's first incumbent (the old name for vicar) and the future seemed rosy. However, he had already suffered a slight stroke on the voyage and, soon after the first St. Paul's was opened, he fell victim to paralysis, dying on 19 May 1853 before he could take any active part in parish life. The first vicar of the parish was the first person buried in the graveyard.

George's widow, Mary, died in September 1891. Their son, George, 76, and his wife, Louisa, 74, died on 1 September 1904 and 8 September 1905 respectively.

Mary L. Dunnage, George's granddaughter, was born in 1857. For many years she travelled from Papanui to the side church at Harewood to conduct Sunday School. At first she rode side saddle on her horse, 'Vanity', and then used a bicycle. Of cycling she commented: "At first I hated it, then I hated it with a double hatred, then I hated it with a treble hatred. Then I got used to it and then I liked it". Mary Dunnage was no gentle soul when it came to giving her charges work to do. A typical piece of homework was the memorizing of the General Thanksgiving together with the collect for the day.

Mary Dunnage was called 'the mother of Harewood'. Even when she moved to Sumner, she still cycled out to Harewood each Sunday. Miss Dunnage lived a long life, dying in 1940.

A grandson of George and Louisa Dunnage, Harry Herbert Ffitch, is commemorated on the family gravestone. At 26, on 26 April 1915, he was killed in action on Gallipoli Peninsula.

Row B
No. 37
Duncan

Thomas Smith Duncan was born in 1821 at Perth, North Britain (that is, Scotland) where his father was Procurator-Fiscal. Duncan junior was called to the Scottish Bar in 1843. He eloped to Gretna Green with a ward in chancery and came to think it best that his family should emigrate.

In August 1850 Duncan purchased land in the Canterbury Settlement, he and his wife emigrating on the *Randolph*. Duncan selected Rural Section 92, 50 acres, at Decanter Bay, Banks Peninsula, an area which could then be reached only by water.

> Matters went hard with him and, during some years of uncongenial work, the prospect of success was by no means promising …The young lawyer was easily persuaded by his friends that he was wasting his time in the wilds of the bush and, accordingly, about the year 1856, he returned to Lyttelton and resumed the practice of his profession.
>
> Duncan crossed the Port Hills. Sir Thomas Tancred, who was planning to visit England, leased to him 50 acres and a house. The property commenced … at a point in the North Road distant about one mile, 54 and a half chain from Christchurch Market Place [Victoria Square] … following the said road northerly twelve and a half chains and running back in a rectangular block 40 chains.'

In 1865 Tancred sold the property to the lessee for 2500 pounds. Duncan made the first additions to the original buildings including 'the Lodge' on the mound adjacent to the driveway. He named the property 'Strowan' after his brother-in-law's estate near Crieff in Perthshire, Scotland. This Scottish 'Strowan' 'is derived from a learned and brave ecclesiastic, St. Rowan, who lived about the middle of the seventh century.'

Duncan became Provincial Council representative for Akaroa (although he did not live there) and, later, for Avon. He supported W. S. Moorhouse and his plans to have a Port Hills tunnel and Canterbury-wide railway system. Although Provincial Solicitor under 'Railway Billy' and a supporter of the Superintendent's policies, Duncan 'never really seemed to take much interest in matters'. He was, however, 'a good battler … when soused'. He was Provincial Solicitor when he and William Thomson were discovered supposedly admiring the beauty of the Waimakariri at sunset but, in reality, viewing the infamous prize fight.

James Edward FitzGerald took a dim view of Duncan's political views. When, in 1868, there was a public breakfast for the visitors, Lord Lyttelton and Henry Selfe Selfe, FitzGerald said of Duncan: "Before me I have my dearest friend and one of my strongest enemies".

Duncan had his own business but, at various times, took into partnership Joshua Strange Williams (who left to became a judge in Otago); and then Messrs. Jameson, Cotterill and J. C. Martin. The firm survives as Duncan, Cotterill and Co.

A 'homely, unpretentious man of exceeding kindness and good nature', Duncan 'frequently provided from his own pocket 'the money to keep unfortunate clients from imprisonment for debt. On the voyage from England, he was described as 'handsome', of 'free and easy speech', possessed of brown hair, a 'magnificent brown beard' and excelling in agility and muscular strength. In later years Duncan had 'slightly stooping carriage … lined features and … whitened hair'.

Duncan was the first Crown Prosecutor for the Supreme Court in Christchurch. Although, in his later years, he left much of the work to J. C. Martin, he kept the title till his death. Duncan was also the first President of the Law Society of Canterbury. This was another position which he held until his death.

Duncan's death, 'not altogether unexpected [though] still all too sudden', took place at his Papanui home, on 22 December 1884. A daughter had died when very young. The Crown Prosecutor was survived by his wife and six sons.

In April 1890 Duncan's executors sold an irregular block of 10 acres 38 perches embracing the area on which stand most of the present St. Andrew's College buildings and the north-west corner of the grounds to prominent merchant George Gatonby Stead. It was after Stead's death that the school was established.

The tombstone of T. S. Duncan was 'erected by a number of … personal friends to whom he had endeared himself by his generous and amiable qualities from the time he landed in the colony'.

Duncan's widow, Eliza Zephemia, died at Wellington on 13 July 1910 and was interred at Karori.

Row C
No. 47
Alley

Sarah Ward claimed to have had an upper class Irish upbringing. A granddaughter was to recall that:

> Titled aunts, dukes and duchesses filled Grandma's early days: visits to … aunts in the brougham on Sundays; her father's hunting; starving villagers trying to snatch meat for the hounds from the loaded drays, then all younger members of the family disappearing 'as far as God had any ground' in search of land, as she had done with her brothers in the fifties.

On 20 September 1864, at St. Paul's, Papanui, the Rev. Lorenzo Moore officiated at the wedding of the genteel Sarah and John Alley, a farmer. Three children were born to the couple, Henry (1865), Frederick (1866) and Amy Jane (1868). Two, Frederick and Amy, were to become primary school teachers.

The Alleys had a property contiguous to the Sawyers' Arms Hotel. At 5 p.m. on the evening of 13 February 1869 John went out on horseback in search of stray pigs. He did not return and, next day, his partner found him lying unconscious in a paddock, the horse standing nearby with its foreleg broken. It was 'so much injured that it was found necessary to shoot it'.

John was taken home but, despite the ministrations of Doctor Prins and Dr. Coward, he died, aged 34, at 6 p.m. on Sunday 14 February.

At an inquest at the Alley house, surgeon Coward became coroner Coward. Evidence suggested that the horse had fallen throwing John on his head and causing concussion of the brain. The jury brought in a verdict of 'accidental death'.

Frederick married Clara Buckingham in 1892. Sarah was visiting her son and his family at Amberley when Queen Victoria died in January 1901. As a sign of respect, she put black velvet ribbons on her white lace cap. When her grandchildren asked her why she had never remarried, she drew herself up and replied with dignity: "What was good enough for the dear Queen was good enough for me". Sarah Alley, 74, died at Cashmere Hills in November 1913.

Amy Alley was sometimes considered unladylike. On one occasion, when young, she danced home from church at the head of the family holding her skirt above her ankles, 'even with young men present'. She loved children but, when a young woman, did not marry. Frederick considered that she was 'too good for anyone'. As compensation, she was allowed to name one of her nephews. Thus a blond Anglo-Saxon baby received the Maori name 'Rewi'.

Amy 'was a very important looking' woman. Her nieces and nephews:

> … adored her quite without reservation …. She represented all the magic and excitement of holidays and far-away places. But most of all, she gave us all the praise and appreciation we craved. We were her 'wonderful, clever, lovely nieces' and 'manly nephews'; everything we did was worthy of praise and we blossomed under her warmth, feeling we fully deserved it all and more. Possibly she satisfied a deep need as our parents rarely praised us.

In her school teaching days Amy spent some Christmas holidays 'down South' among gold diggers near Queenstown and Gabriel's Gully. Other holidays she spent 'up North' among Maori relatives. It was in the north that she came to admire Rewi Maniapoto, the warrior who would 'fight on for ever and ever and ever', and whose Christian name she bestowed on her nephew. Maori boys would find wild horses for Miss Alley and marvel as the excellent horsewoman rode bareback 'with her golden hair floating behind her in the wind'.

Amy's school teaching career is well documented. A pupil-teacher at Papanui, she went with her brother to the Charteris Bay School. While Frederick taught the older pupils, Amy 'occasionally taught the infant class in the porch', being 'kind and considerate in every way towards the children'. However, she was prepared to use slightly underhand strategies in attempts to get what she wanted. A previous teacher, Mr. Gordon, had been notorious for flogging the pupils. A small boy climbed onto the top of the porch roof. Said Amy: "Come down at once, Arthur. Do you want me to bring Gordon back with his cane?"

Amy was at the Belfast Side School from June 1891 to October 94. Inspectors commented:

> The instruction appears quite satisfactory both in method and quality. The teacher shows very considerable interest in her work and in the welfare of her pupils. The children are quiet, orderly and obedient.

April 1894

The small school makes a very pleasing appearance. The pupils, more particularly the boys, are remarkably bright and meet the demands made on them with considerable readiness. They have in Miss Alley a very competent teacher. September 1894

On 1 November 1894 Amy assumed sole charge of the Eyreton School. Comments made included:

Miss Alley has entered on her duties with much earnestness and is achieving creditable success in dealing with the more backward portions of the school work.
March 1895

During the year the school has made a marked advance under Miss Alley in many ways. Reading has, in a great measure, been placed on a prominent footing. Writing is very good. In composition much improvement has still to be made and more oral practice in arithmetic would be desirable.

October 1895

Miss Alley's industry and earnest purpose may be taken as assuring a very useful service and satisfactory progress among the children in her charge.
May 1896

Miss Alley's energy in dealing with the increased attendance is commendable. Her teaching is careful and intelligent, the pleasant manner in which it is conducted being noteworthy.
June 1897

As regards … 'pass' work, Miss Alley has achieved, on the whole, a satisfactory measure of success. Reading, spelling, writing, drawing and arithmetic frequently present features of merit.
October 1898

… Miss Alley has now acquired considerable skill in the management of her classes and her sympathetic nature is attractive to the children.
May 1902

On 1 February 1905 Amy took up a position at Belfast. Inspectors commented:

The mistress devotes herself unsparingly to the best interest of her charges, keeping high ideals in view, and the progress made is very commendable.
July 1907

The group has been taught with exceptional ability and success.
1908

> Conduct of department characterized by the two essential features in successful school work viz. intelligent and sympathy with the child, coupled with genuine devotion to [the] work of teaching.
> July 1909
>
> Much attention devoted to the decoration of the walls. Methods thorough and up-to-date.
> March 1910
>
> Classes taught under bright and cheerful conditions. Methods of instruction show an open mind for up-to-date developments. Pupils make a very successful appearance.

On 1 July 1910 Amy took up a post at Sydenham. Inspectors' comments continued to be positive.

> Scheme of work well considered and comprehensive. Methods highly commendable and pupils receiving a thoroughly sound and liberal training.
> August 1910
>
> Work very carefully planned and detailed and thoroughly and skillfully directed. Children receiving a careful training in desirable habits and making good progress.
> June 1911

In those days teachers were assigned a letter between A and E which showed their academic qualifications and a number which was associated with their teaching skill. The top teacher was A1 and the bottom E5. In 1894 Amy was graded E3 and, by 1907, she was graded E1. She started out as a pupil-teacher, a person who, in her teenage years, took up teaching classes of younger children. Like many others, she worked long hours, was paid low wages and, before and after the school day, picked up from her headmaster knowledge of the practical side of her craft. There is no archival reference to her having paid out a considerable sum to join the elite of her profession. These were the people who received instruction in the training college sited in the Normal School in Cranmer Square. Though she was obviously a skilled classroom practitioner, her 'E' status points to her having gained few academic qualifications.

A keen purchaser of land, Amy was an early property owner at North New Brighton. In 1913 a chronicler recalled how, formerly, this area had been known to but a few and how these people sighed 'again for the former times, when the silence was broken only by the call of the sea-gull and the restless varied music of the surging surf'.

Now, however, progress was taking place, the tramway to the pier had been resurrected and people were settling on Bowhill Road.

> On each side of Bowhill Road are dwellings nestling amongst shrubs and trees … the gardens in the sand producing flowers and vegetables … of surpassing excellence. On a section … a few chains from the sea was grown a potato crop yielding at the rate of 12 ½ tons per acre. No manure was used

> other than decayed lupins of which an abundant supply can be obtained. One root gave five pounds of large potatoes and was exhibited in the city.

Reference was made to Amy's property.

> One shack close to the sea … had solved the difficulty of drift-sand …. A schoolmistress owned the place and, by first placing broom or other branches to hold down the sand, and then applying water which is readily obtained at a short depth by driving down a two-inch pipe, the sandhill was made to blossom with ice plants, geraniums and other plants, the moisture assuring an abundance of flowers.

One niece, Gwen, reminisced:

> We clambered over sandhills empty except for marram grass to reach her [Amy's] home. We swept the sand clear of the doors each morning and sometimes oftener depending on the wind. We collected pipis on the beach and ate them for breakfast …. My main memory is of my aunt collecting hordes of cousins and feeding them on Irish stew cooked in kerosene tins

Gwen's brother, Philip, recalled how he and his siblings had campfires on the beach. He also remembered strong winds and how the children collected seaweed and put it about the piles of the baches in the hope that this would stop the buildings from being blown away.

On 27 March 1915, at her home in Hackthorne Road, Cashmere, Amy Alley, 46, married Herbert Cole, 56, a partner in the real estate company, Cole, Taylor and Derrett. The firm had sold land in the Cashmere area and one of Herbert's partners, and a Cashmere resident, had been famed Prohibitionist and politician T. E. (Tommy) Taylor.

Herbert Cole died on 8 August 1917. On 6 April 1926, at St. Faith's Anglican church, New Brighton, Amy, 57, married a farmer, Edward Thomas Mulcock. Edward was the widower of Amy's first cousin, Anna Ward.

Amy lived to see a number of her nieces make a name for themselves. Gwen, a schoolteacher and pioneer of the Play Centre movement, co-wrote, with her husband, Crawford Somerset, a pioneering study of a rural community, *Littledene*. Rewi, fire officer, factory inspector and headmaster of a village school in China, was eulogized for his work in Asia. Later, because he supported the Communist cause, he became 'the notorious Rewi Alley'. When diplomatic relations were established between New Zealand and mainland China in 1972, he was brought in from the cold. Philip, a lecturer in Engineering at the University of Canterbury, was Rewi's staunch supporter in this country. Geoffrey, an All Black, would become the first National Librarian. Joyce was a nursing educator and administrator.

Great-nephews and nieces who met Amy not in her prime but when she was elderly recalled her not as a kindly but, rather, a commanding figure. She was …a big, tall, woman with patrician features, aquiline nose and short-cut, silvery white hair pulled well away from her face. Even in the warmth of summer days at New Brighton she

dressed in black. She provided some extraordinary foods which we disliked – for example, raspberry sago – but which we had to eat. A superb raconteur, she could hold you captive. Perhaps she wasn't so bad after all.

Edward Mulcock died on 21 March 1937. Amy died on 23 September 1944 and is buried at Papanui with her parents. Her siblings and husbands are buried elsewhere.

No. 48
Lane

In 1855 Daniel Inwood bought the Avon River island opposite the site of the old Canterbury Public Library. On 11 February 1858 the Canterbury Provincial Council passed the Inwood Mill Ordinance. This gave Inwood permission to establish a flour mill on the island. He would be allowed to use the river for 30 years, could not raise the stream more than 90 cm above its then level and, at his own cost, must 'make a safe and commodious cart-bridge across the said river, adjacent to the said mill'.

The mill was virtually complete by 19 November 1859. The grinding apparatus consisted of only a pair of stones but they made so much noise and disturbed passing horses so greatly that the miller had to wall in the river side of Oxford Terrace. W. E. Burke noted that 'it was a busy place before exportation of wheat had become a business and drays might be seen waiting to unload extending up … as far as the Royal [Hotel]'. Inwood found it necessary to build stables for waiting horses in Hereford Street. In March 1862, for 5000 pounds, Inwood sold the island and what had become known as the City Mill to an Australian resident, William Hannibal Lane.

Lane, the third son of William Lane J. P. of Orton Park, Bathurst, New South Wales, was born at Bathurst in 1828. He followed pastoral pursuits in association with his father's estates and, on 11 December 1852, married Alice Jane Erskine, daughter of Lancelot Iredale of Sydney.

On purchasing the City Mill, Lane brought his family to Christchurch. One of his first actions was to encase the mill wheel in a hoarding of galvanized iron, thus further limiting the chance that the mill would frighten passing horses. Lane also allowed the Christchurch City Council to use the power of his mill to fill a 20,475 litre tank. Water could thus be drawn from the river and used for fire brigade purposes. The tank also supplied water to carts which, in summer, went about the streets laying the dust.

In 1878 Lane leased the mill to Charles Wesley Turner, then to Messrs. Clark and Bull, and, afterwards, to John Aulsebrook. When the Inwood Mill Ordinance expired in 1888, the wheel which had driven the machinery was removed as was also the dam above the island. From 1894-95 Lane allowed Baptist pastor William Birch to use the mill house as the site of his Avon Refuge for destitute men (women were turned away), but, in 1897, he sold the property to the city council and the mill house was dismantled. Today a replica wheel marks the site of the old mill.

Lane was a city councillor; one of the first directors of the Press Company and chairman of the Christchurch Gas Company. He was a founder of the Canterbury Club which stands on Cambridge Terrace almost opposite the place of his enterprise. A prominent figure within the Anglican church, Lane promoted the building of churches at Merivale and Sumner.

On 11 December 1902 William and Alice Lane celebrated their golden wedding 'in the midst of a large gathering of children and grandchildren'.

William, 75, caught a severe chill on the bowling green and died of heart failure on 3 February 1903. Alice, 70, died on 12 August 1904. Also buried here are 'our dear

little boys, William and Sydney', and Elliott Heathfield Lane, 56, who died on 14 January 1922.

Row D
No. 65
Jackson

Robert Simeon Jackson was born in 1838 at St. Petersburg's, Russia. He was educated at a small town on the Gulf of Riga where he became proficient in English, French and German. His parents were Isabella Mary and Alexander Sherwood Jackson. At the time Alexander Jackson was an officer in the Russian Imperial Army.

The family arrived in Canterbury on the *Duke of Portland*, on 26 September 1851, and from 1852-57, Robert attended Christ's College. His father, commonly known as 'Russian' Jackson, was, with Sir Michael Le Fleming, in charge of the Easedale Nook run.

Robert Jackson became a clerk with the Union Bank of Australia. This was 'an occupation which he found of great value … in later life in instilling habits of punctuality and method'. Later he was a farm labourer at Easedale Nook He 'met with domestic trouble' and decided to enter the Anglican Church. Bishop Harper ordained him deacon in 1865, sending him to the cure of Prebbleton-with-Templeton. On Trinity Sunday 1867 he was ordained priest at St. Michael's church. He resigned his cure in 1868 as he was 'feeling symptoms of declining health'.

Jackson was a clergyman of 'outstanding quality' who longed to undertake missionary work. From 1870-74 he was a missionary in the Diocese of Melanesia.

> Here the energy of his character found an ample field for exercise, while his powers as a linguist, which enabled him to acquire the dialect without difficulty, made him a valuable acquisition to the mission.

He devoted himself to the work 'with the warmest interest and it was not without a feeling of deep reluctance that, in 1874, he was compelled by the state of his health to return to New Zealand'.

Jackson left Norfolk Island on the *Dauntless* and arrived in Auckland on 26 January 1874. In Auckland Bishop Harper offered him employment as his private secretary. Jackson was the bishop's secretary from 1875-78, also acting as diocesan treasurer and secretary to the Church Property Trustees. At the beginning of 1878 Jackson moved to the Papanui parsonage, the home of the Rev Frederick George Brittan, where, 'in the seclusion of a quiet home and with such comfort as the pure air and country life could afford, he spent the remainder of his days'. His last sermon at St. Paul's, on Whitsunday, 9 June 1878, on behalf of the Melanesian Mission, 'was characterized by all his old fire and vigour; it will long be remembered by those that heard it'.

Jackson rose on the last morning of his life, had breakfast and could not be prevailed upon to retire till the normal time, though he was evidently sinking fast. His official

duties ‘were discharged with a fidelity worthy of all commendation and were not, indeed, finally abandoned until a few hours before his death so that he … literally died in harness’ in September 1878. The *Press* commented that he had ‘been in delicate health for some time past and his death was not unexpected.’

In a forthright statement the *New Zealand church news* described him as

> … a man of energetic and impetuous character … [who] used an outspokenness in his conversation which was apt to give offence to some but which he was himself the first to deplore. A warmhearted friend and a generous giver, his charities, many of them unknown except to the recipient, were numerous and bountiful.

On Thursday 26 September the Rev. F. G. Brittan took the funeral service, being assisted by Dean Jacobs. In a eulogy the Dean described Jackson as ‘fresh and original … outspoken to a fault’ and a ‘tender-hearted man’.

No. 68
Brittan

Born at Sherborne, Dorsetshire, England, in 1809, William Guise Brittan was unlike many other figures associated with the Canterbury Association in that he came from a middle-class rather than landed gentry family. He studied medicine and was a ship’s doctor on voyages to India and China. Afterwards he was a surgeon in his home town with his elder brother, Joseph, who was also to become an emigrant. He was the proprietor of a newspaper, the *Sherborne Mercury*.

William was the first person to apply to purchase land from the Canterbury Association. On 30 July 1850 well-heeled Pilgrims enjoyed a mid-day banquet on board the *Randolph* which was moored in the East India Docks, Blackwall. The toast of ‘Success to Canterbury’ was proposed by Lord John Manners and acknowledged by W. G. Brittan. Two months later Brittan brought his wife, Louisa, and children to Canterbury on the *Sir George Seymour*.

On 16 December 1850 the ship was coming into Lyttelton Harbour. Brittan was ‘already a man of mark – a position he owed to his experience of life, his talents [and] his maturer age ….’ He assembled the immigrants, many a decade or more his junior and delivered a lengthy address. Those who survived him thought that moment ‘one of peculiar brightness in their lives’. Brittan explained to his fellows ‘the duties of colonists, and … the virtues which together entitled their enterprise to be numbered amongst the things that are heroic’. A more down-to-earth commentator stated that he ‘gave … good advice with reference to the new life’ which lay before the immigrants.

On 25 April 1850, at the Adelphi Rooms, London, Brittan had chaired a meeting at which the Society of Canterbury Colonists was formed. Three months later Brittan became chairman of this body which was responsible for the establishment of the *Lyttelton times* in Canterbury. In New Zealand the Society of Canterbury Colonists was renamed the Society of Land Purchasers. Brittan was chairman once more. Two years later this body, which had aspired to lead the settlement, was dead.

Brittan became de facto head of the Canterbury Association's Land Office and was associated with John Robert Godley in the first big public event after the arrival of the First Four Ships. C. E. Carrington wrote:

> The allotment of sections according to the serial numbering of the land orders took place at the site of Christchurch on 17 and 18 February 1851. On the rough grass in a bend in the… Avon, carpenters were at work upon the land office, a wooden shed in which sat Godley and Brittan with the surveyors to receive selections in due order, and to enter them on the map. In a marquee nearby an enterprising caterer from Lyttelton served substantial meals of beef and mutton. The scene must have resembled a country agricultural show, but for the empty landscape ….
>
> Section Number One had been drawn for one of the few absentees, Mrs. Maria Somes, who bought it for the College [Christ's College] and in memory of her … husband, Joseph Somes, a Member of Parliament and a Governor of the New Zealand Company. Godley and Brittan had already selected a quarter-acre on the frontage at Lyttelton with this land order and had let it to a hotel keeper for 100 pounds a year. The rural section for this land order was chosen on the hill slopes just behind the town. The second order was held by Felix Wakefield who selected his land at Sumner; he had not yet arrived in the colony. Not till the twenty second order was produced did any land-purchaser select as his town section a site which afterwards became a valuable city-freehold in Christchurch. The interest of the day, as the founders desired, was agricultural and not speculative; purchasers selected land to cultivate, not land to sell again.

This was, perhaps, Brittan's finest hour. In private the land official wrote to Edward Gibbon Wakefield describing Godley as 'an ardent politician, led away by theory, heady and indiscreet, with an overweening opinion of his own superior judgment'. Brittan was doubtless envious of Godley and his aristocratic friends whom he described as 'the Right Honourable Privy Council'.

Other notables did not trust Brittan. Henry Sewell was told: "Latet anguis in herba - a snake is hiding in the grass'. On one occasion James Edward FitzGerald, described him as 'more offensive and vulgar than ever'.

In 1853 Brittan put his name forward as a parliamentary and provincial council candidate. When he failed to get into Parliament, he spoke bitterly:

> Gentlemen, in coming forward … I… was urged by no private motives. Indeed, your election of me … would have involved … personal sacrifices on my part to such an extent that the escape from them which your decision has afforded me …more than counterbalances any … feeling of mortification I may have experienced from a sense of defeat …. To those 63 electors whose names I hold in my hand and who I am proud to say represent a large proportion of the property and intelligence of the province I … tender my grateful thanks …. Gentlemen, I have been blamed by many that I did not secure my election … by merely having recourse to the same expedients which my honourable opponents did not scruple very freely to use … I am

> proud to say I rejected the offer with scorn …. It is true that … I have not the honour of standing before you … this day your elected representative but I have that which is dearer to me … the consciousness that I have done nothing that would render me unworthy of such a distinction …. I have had recourse to no mean and degrading expedient.

Brittan then withdrew his candidature for a place on the provincial council.

In 1876 the writer of Brittan's obituary wrote tactfully: 'He has come forward but little in public affairs … has not appeared on platforms at public meetings, nor been a candidate for senatorial honours'.

On 7 January 1858 G. R. Macdonald was to tell Dr. David Macmillan: 'W. G. Brittan's speech from the hustings when he was beaten at his first and last election tells you all you need to know about him'.

The failed politician remained as the Provincial Council's Commissioner of Crown Lands. He was appointed Commissioner of Waste Lands, becoming the civil servant in charge of all the waste lands of the province and not just the limited area which had been in the hands of the Canterbury Association. Although appointed by central government, his task was to ensure that revenues would be delivered to the provincial government through leaseholders stocking their runs to the level which had been agreed upon.

Brittan promptly made his own land policy, spending what the executive considered an excessive amount on surveys and the expenses of his department. Thus much less than was expected came into the provincial coffers. Brittan also became the central figure in the 'great seal farce'.

Egged on by the Canterbury Association's old enemy Governor Sir George Grey, Brittan refused to hand to the provincial government the land office, seal, survey maps and other chattels which had belonged to the association. To Superintendent J. E. FitzGerald this was 'an act of violent seizure of private property which I suppose has no equal in the annals of governorship'. There were threats of taking the office by storm. Brittan worked behind closed shutters, prepared for a siege and, it was rumoured, took the Association's seal to bed with him. Not till 1856 did FitzGerald persuade the general government to bring its creature into line.

Brittan continued on as Commissioner of Waste Lands, eventually securing himself an office in the Provincial Council Chambers. W. E. Burke commented with his usual acidic wit:

> William Guise Brittan, to whom was entrusted the distribution of the great provincial estate, sat here in state supported by the old veteran [Thomas] Cass and having, at call, busy, bustling surveyors, young and active, and rolls of untold land mysteries ….

Brittan does have a place of honour in Canterbury history. In January 1854 he became a pioneer of acclimatization. R. C. Lamb stated:

> To … Brittan … belonged the credit of raising the first partridges in the province. They were hatched from eggs set under a common hen towards the end of 1853 …. They were destroyed by some unscrupulous poacher and the work of introducing the bird had to be begun all over again some years later.

As well, Brittan was a pioneer of cricket, the game being played in a 'nice paddock' opposite his home, 'Englefield'. Perhaps it was the onset of middle age which caused him to play with a substitute runner.

Brittan established notable properties. Early on he had a house on the site of the Clarendon Hotel, now Clarendon Towers. His second home, Rural Section 26, a 50 acre property situated at the northern end of FitzGerald Avenue, was the site of the famed 'Englefield'.

Within a few years Brittan had established there a neat wire fence fronting on to the road for a short distance, this being succeeded by a row of healthy looking hawthorn and furze plants on top of the bank. The kitchen garden displayed an abundance of flourishing vegetables - cabbages, turnips, onions, carrots, parsnip, celery, peas and beans and fruit trees of many kinds. Wheat crops produced 28 to 30 bushels per acre. By 1864 the house had been built.

Brittan took up two runs. One, 'Buccleugh', ran from Alford to the south branch of the Ashburton River. 'Lansdowne', Run No. 4, was 15,000 acres in extent, ran from the Halswell River, along the Port Hills, and took in the country between Coopers Knob and Mount Pleasant. Brittan's partner, M. J. Burke, added the 5000 acres of Run 104 which lay across the Halswell River. The combined property was known as the 'Halswell Station'.

In 1860 Brittan and Burke dissolved partnership. Brittan went to live on part of Run 4, built a house and ran a sheep farm. Pheasants wandered about the gardens and, in his 'true English' homes, Brittan exercised 'a wide-spreading hospitality'. At his properties, and at Hagley Park, Brittan encouraged the sport of cricket. The lease of the 'Lansdowne' run was sold in 1870.

A 'humble and devout Christian', Brittan was 'a steady and unvarying supporter of the church' and a member of the first diocesan synod in 1859. He was a generous supporter of churches at Avonside and Halswell but was particularly associated with Papanui. In the February 1851 ballot much of the Papanui bush had fallen into Brittan's hands. In 1853 he donated timber for the first Papanui church, the second church erected on the Canterbury Plain.

As Brittan got older, his friends 'marked with pain his worn look and enfeebled walk'. Nevertheless, he continued to preside at the sittings of the Waste Lands Board. At a meeting in July 1876 Brittan 'an unusual amount of business, some … of a difficult and troublesome nature, was transacted'. Brittan died a few days later, on 18 July 1876, aged 66. He had long before expressed a wish to be buried at Papanui, where, at the time of his death, his son, Frederick was the incumbent.

Government offices were closed from 1.30 p.m. on the day of the funeral which was described thus:

> The funeral obsequies of … W. G. Brittan took place yesterday and were of a quiet, unostentatious character. The cortege started from the deceased's … residence, in Cashel Street West, at 3 o'clock in the afternoon, proceeding along Montreal Street to the Whately Road [Victoria Street], and thence to the Church of England cemetery, Papanui.
>
> There was a numerous attendance of friends in private carriages and cabs, among them the 'Dean of Christchurch [who took the service] members of the Provincial Executive, Provincial Government officials and professional gentlemen'.

Brittan's house, 'Englefield' still stands. Owners have included W. T. L. Travers, the Hon. Edward Cephas James Stevens, the architect J. J. Collins and the present owners, Mr. and Mrs. Ryman.

Louisa Brittan, 92, died on 19 August 1901.

No. 67
Brittan

Born at Sherborne on 12 June 1844, William Guise Brittan junior was educated at Christ's College, and, in 1875, appointed the college's business agent. In 1889 he became Christ's College bursar, holding this position for the rest of his life. Vestryman, church warden and superintendent of the Sunday school at St. Michael's, Brittan was also chairman of committees of the Diocesan Synod and local representative on the General Synod of the Anglican Church in New Zealand. An originator of the Church Building Insurance Fund, he saw the substantial profits from this fund placed in the Clergy Pension Trust Fund of which he was secretary and treasurer. Brittan's 'annual reports … were most business-like', there were excellent profits and ageing priests and their dependents were well cared for.

Brittan was much respected by fellow Canterbury Pilgrims. In 1911 there was took place the somewhat ironic event where the son of John Robert Godley's old critic unveiled a stone in the Botanic Gardens which marked the spot where, in 1852, Godley had made his farewell speech to the Canterbury Association immigrants. The wording on the stone reads:

> This stone was laid by William Guise Brittan at the request of his fellow pilgrims on the 16th Dec 1911 to mark the spot where John Robert Godley, the founder of the province of Canterbury, bade farewell to the Pilgrim Fathers, Dec 25th 1852.

William Guise Brittan junior never married. In his later years, he moved to the Cashmere Hills. A diocesan lay reader, he gave great help on Cashmere Hills in this capacity and was also churchwarden at Cashmere. His spare time he devoted to his garden 'which was noted for its beauty'. He 'remained in harness so nearly to the end that he left the left the minutes of a meeting of the governing body of Christ's College half-written, to be completed by another hand'. died at his home on 5 March 1916.

John Anderson junior said of his contemporary:

> You cannot record too high an opinion of his character and sterling worth … he was thoroughly sympathetic and always kindly. He was uncommonly well read and one of the most pleasant men you could possibly meet. Whenever a few old colonists were gathered together, it was a pleasure to have Guise Brittan because of his interesting reminiscences. He was a most charming and polished gentleman and one who set a close watch on his development. He ordered his life as a young man with a certain aim, and attained a high degree of usefulness, especially in helping his fellows.

The *Church news* commented:

> Of his personal character it is needless to speak; his friendship was shared by so many …. All recognized the true Churchman and the English gentleman. With the touch of unique courtesy, with the ready knowledge of nature and history, of books and men, and the punctilious regard for others which go to make up a kind of character not common in everyday life. He leaves us the memory of a very strenuous, helpful and blameless life.

Brittan's funeral was a grand affair. The newspapers stated:

> The funeral will take place this afternoon [7 March]. The body will leave Christ's College at 3.30. The service in the Cathedral is fixed for 3.45. Space will be reserved for the governing body of Christ's College, for the staff and boys on the south side of the nave: and for personal friends the front portion of the north side of the nave: and seats behind for members of the Standing Committee, church officers of Sydenham and St.Michael's, and members of other bodies with which Mr. Brittan was connected. Members of the Chapter and clergy attending the service are requested to robe in the north vestry and take their places in the choir.

William's brother, Frederick George, was born at Sherborne on 19 February 1848, brought up in his parents' home on the Clarendon Towers site and spent 10 years at Christ's College, becoming senior Somes scholar. He took an M. A. degree at Queen's College, Oxford. Ordained priest by Bishop Harper, he was curate at Addington, then, from 1873-83, vicar of Papanui.

During Frederick's incumbency the present St. Paul's church was built. On the afternoon of 2 February 1876 Bishop Harper laid the foundation stone. The clergy entered the grounds, being preceded by a choir which sang 'Onward Christian soldiers'. The church, built to a B. W. Mountfort design, was opened on 21 December 1877.

A servant girl, having returned to her home in the parish, was indecently assaulted by Brittan during a visit to the vicarage. Her father complained to the bishop and, in February 1883, Frederick was 'inhibited from ministry by Bishop Harper'.

At several different periods – the last from 1912-23 - Brittan taught at Christ's College where he was 'loved …by boys and staff'. On his retirement at 75 the school

board granted him a pension of 75 pounds a year for life. Late in his career he was in charge of the Methven, Tuahiwi and Courtenay parishes and, in extreme old age, preached at Christchurch Cathedral..

Two passions may have contributed to F. G. Brittan maintaining mental and physical vigour until extreme old age. One was a deep interest in the affairs of the Canterbury Pilgrims' and Early Settlers' Association; the other an enthusiasm for gardening. Brittan created a neat garden out of a waste section and was a devotee of 'the cult of the long handled shovel'.

F. G. Brittan, 97, famed as the last survivor of the Canterbury Pilgrims, died at his home on 10 September 1945. His funeral service took place at Christchurch Cathedral.

No. 69
Foster

Born in Sherborne on 18 December 1842, Emily Sophia Brittan was the daughter of Louisa and William Guise Brittan and a sister of William junior and Frederick George Brittan. Her belief in Christianity developed early and was a strong influence and source of strength throughout her life.

Domestic work and the care of younger siblings occupied much of her time and it was only with difficulty that she persuaded her Christ's College-educated brothers to teach her Latin and Euclidean geometry. Her father gave her lessons in Greek and she also acquired a knowledge of German. A Sunday School teacher, Emily moved into day teaching and, at Addington School, worked with Thomas Scholfield Foster. She became headmistress of the girls' division at Christchurch West School (then a primary school but now Hagley Community College), her department gaining a reputation for scholastic excellence. Emily's

> range of learning was remarkable and this store of knowledge was penetrated with such brightness, humour and good sense that she was ever one of the most delightful of companions'.

Emily 'never took a university degree but … was more than competent to do so'. Her certificate (awarded in 1875) was adjudged equal to a B. A. degree and her examiners were surprised 'at finding a lady reading Greek'.

Thomas Foster became headmaster of Christchurch West School in 1882. On 29 August of that year Emily and Thomas married at St. Paul's, Papanui. The couple moved into the headmaster's house adjacent to the school. Unusually for the time, Emily continued to teach even though she had three children. Her life was busy with school, family, charitable work, reading and gardening.

In 1894, after 19 years at Christchurch West, Emily succeeded Helen Macmillan Brown as headmistress at Christchurch Girls' High School. She gave her pupils religious instruction and, considering herself weak at mathematics, made a point of overcoming this difficulty and taught the subject.

Emily had dark brown hair, soft brown eyes and a pale complexion. She died suddenly, at 54, on 30 December 1897. Her body was laid close to that of her father and 'under the shadow of the church where she was married'.

The *Church news* obituary stated that:

> From every class and section of the community, from history professors and men of business, as from school girls and old servants, there came the one expression of a sense of personal loss combined with a reverent admiration for a mind so keen and a heart so warm.

Thomas Scholfield Foster, the son of a silk mercer, was born in London on 13 September 1853, emigrating to Canterbury with his parents in 1856. He won a Somes Scholarship to Christ's College, became a primary school teacher, was one of the first students at Canterbury University College and in 1882, graduated M. A. with first class honours in Latin and Greek.

From Christchurch Boys' High School Thomas went on, at 29, to be principal at Christchurch West, the colony's largest primary school. Foster offered secondary subjects such as Latin, algebra and bookkeeping and attracted pupils from rural areas and other parts of the city.

Thomas became inspector of schools for the North Canterbury Education Board, principal at the Christchurch Training College and lecturer in education at Canterbury College. He was on the Governing Body of Christ's College and the Diocesan Education Committee. He was involved in the boy scout movement and Christchurch Free Kindergarten Association.

Foster was a genial, stocky, active man of medium height. His academic qualifications were hard won and it was his determination, teaching skills and administrative ability which led to his having such a successful career. The *Church news* thought him 'an honourable, helpful Christian gentleman …. very quiet and reserved in manner', and with 'great force of character and a friendly readiness to help which won him universal affection and esteem'.

Foster suffered a stroke in 1917 but struggled on, resigning as head of the Normal School 'a few days before his death', at 64, on 8 September 1918.

Bishop Julius officiated at the funeral. The first part of the service was at St. Michael's where Foster had been a vestryman. The church was 'filled to the doors by … old friends and associates'. Foster 'was followed to his last resting place by a very large number of leading men representing every educational institution in Christchurch'.

No. 70-71
Triggs

James Triggs was born in Suffolk and, in 1859, arrived on the *Clontarf* with his wife, Sarah Ann, and family.

Triggs bought a farm just west of the railway crossing at Papanui next door to Henry Matson's estate, Delce'. He worked as a dairy farmer and, later, grew fruit trees. He supplemented his income by working for St. Paul's church and, in the 1870s, was the 'beloved verger'.

A son, John, 18, died on 24 October 1876. James, 82, died on 29 October 1898. Sarah Ann, also 82, died on 23 December 1898.

James' land was subdivided after his death .St. James Park and St. James Avenue were named in his honour.

Row E
No. 77
Turner

The Rev. Nathaniel Turner, pioneer Bay of Islands Methodist missionary, arrived in New Zealand in 1823. His son, Charles Wesley Turner, was born in Hobart, Tasmania, in 1834 and his first employment was in the Union Bank of Australia, ancestor of the A.N.Z. Bank. In 1857 he married Emily Susanna Reece, daughter of Lancelot Iredale of Surry Hills, Sydney. The same year he came to Lyttelton to be in charge of the branch there. He went back to Australia but was in New Zealand in 1861 opening offices of the Bank of New South Wales.

A man of strong religious views, Turner 'preached on Sundays as vigorously as he dealt in the markets on weekdays'. In 1862, with another young man, Beverley Buchanan, he bought Peacock and Co. The assets included Peacock's Wharf at Lyttelton, a fleet of small sailing vessels, lighters and warehouses. Turner's nickname was 'Hundredweight Charlie'. In 1867 Turner and Buchanan were bankrupt but, within a few months, Turner was on his feet auctioning sugar and tea.

In the 1870s Turner was given the task of founding a London office and securing a fleet of ships for the New Zealand Shipping Company. Within 16 months he had opened the office, made the company's name known, chartered 37 vessels, bought four more and made preliminary arrangements for building the company's fleet. He returned to New Zealand to become chairman of directors in a company of which he was the largest shareholder.

Turner tried to take control of all flour milling businesses in Canterbury. Among the concerns which he bought was the City Mill which had belonged to Daniel Inwood and W. H. Lane. In February 1882 he told farmers that he 'wanted for the City Mill 100,000 bushels of the primest milling wheat'. However, the 1890s depression struck. Turner again went bankrupt.

Turner bought 10 acres of Rural Section 105 (which ran from Papanui Road to Winchester Street) and built his home, 'Fassifern' (the name is of Queensland Aborigine origin). To accommodate a family of 13 children, Turner had the house twice extended, it was thought to a total of 23 rooms. There were eight sons in the Turner family and each Sunday they could be seen walking in crocodile fashion in Christ's College uniform to the Durham Street Methodist church.

Emily Turner, 44, died on 13 October 1881. Charles Wesley Turner, 72, died on 25 October 1906. Their daughters, Edith Emily Turner, 60, and Adeline Mary Turner, 78, died respectively on 19 January 1921 and 19 June 1938.

Row F
No. 86
Matson

This is a large oblong block with 20 name plates inserted round the outside edging. People buried here include the 'grandfathers' of the family, Henry Matson, 71, who died on 24 October 1885, and John Thomas, 80, who died on 1 March 1897.

Henry Matson was born at Delce Farm, Wingham, eastern Kent, the son of Robert Matson. He went to sea and, at 20, was an officer on the George III, a vessel which was to transport 200 convicts and 40 homeless boys to Australia. Two miles from Tasmania, in a big sea, the ship ran on a submerged and uncharted rock and ripped her bottom. Those convicts who were unshackled made for the deck and were shot; those who were shackled were drowned. There were few survivors, most of these being soldiers and crew members.

Henry Matson worked at various jobs on the waterfront at Georgetown, Tasmania, eventually receiving the coveted appointment of harbour master. At last he could propose marriage to his intended, a Miss Manifold of Kelso, across the Tasman River. She accepted him. When the marriage was celebrated, Henry was 30.

Henry Matson and his wife moved to Victoria with Mrs. Matson's family who were sheep and farming folk. Henry proved himself skilled at buying and selling sheep and, later, dealt in gold.

Mrs. Matson died in the early 1860s; five of the couple's nine children also died. In the spring of 1862, the widower, 48, came across to Christchurch and met Charles Torlesse, nephew of Edward Gibbon Wakefield and one of those who had surveyed the settlement for the Canterbury Association. Torlesse thought Matson …

> … not one of your keen money makers. I believe him to be a good man in every way. We are both agreed to do an honest straightforward business and depend more on faithfulness, diligence and quick dispatch rather than any wonderful shrewdness or business ability.

Thus did Matson and Torlesse establish themselves as real estate agents and sheep importers. Torlesse felt that he must frequently write to his parents in England assuring them that, in the colonies, gentlemen must stoop to occupations such as this which would be beyond the pale at home.

The business started in a wooden building on the western side of Colombo Street between Hereford and Cashel streets. A disastrous fire at the property and the fact that the partners had different temperaments meant that Torlesse moved into the building which had replaced that which had been burnt out, while Matson worked from a stone building (which the business had got Maxwell Bury to design) about where Kiwibank now stands in the south-west corner of Cathedral Square Henry Matson maintained his links with the Manifolds and emphasized that he could import sheep from Australia to order. Torlesse brought to the business his longstanding contacts with the province's pioneering farming fraternity. Eventually Torlesse moved back to England where he died – but not before the firm had become well known.

Henry Matson remained in Christchurch. On 24 June 1867, at St. Michael's, he married a much younger woman, Edith Dearden, settled on a 29 acre estate in Papanui, 'Delce Farm' towards the Papanui end of Harewood Road and raised a second family.

Born at Kilmarnock, near Loch Lomond, Scotland in 1817, John Thomas was a builder and contractor 'in a fair way of business'. Seeing little scope for his abilities in his homeland, he emigrated to Victoria on the *George Grey* in 1848, continuing to work as a contractor. His 'energy, perseverance and indomitable courage were typical of the old colonists, and, in his case, led to success'.

In 1854 there took place, by auction, the first public distribution of land, Thomas securing a Pentland Hills estate which he called 'Oakfield'. An originator of the Port Philip Farmers' Society and Royal Agricultural Society of Victoria, he twice took prizes for the best-managed farm in the colony and, at agricultural shows, exhibited draught horses, English Leicester sheep, Berkshire pigs, cereals and seeds. In 1862 his oats and English barley were first and his wheat second in the London Exhibition.

So that his family might gain an education, Thomas moved to Melbourne in 1868. Returning to contracting, he built, on the site of Batman's Hill, Victoria's largest goods shed adjacent to the Spenser Street railway station. He completed the railways from Castlemaine to Maryborough, Geelong to Colac and Creswick to Clunes, retired in 1877 and, in 1895, came to New Zealand 'to spend his last days amongst his family, all of whom, with the exception of one daughter, are in Canterbury'. Thomas settled into the household of his widowed daughter, Marion Matson.

The 4 March 1897 *Press* comments:

> Up to a short time ago he was hale and hearty, but, since the New Year, he suffered much from failure of the heart's action, so that his family were not altogether unprepared for his very sudden, though peaceful, end.

At his death on 1 March 1897, John Thomas left six children, 32 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. One grandson was the famed criminal lawyer C. S. 'Charlie' Thomas.

John Thomas Matson, son of Henry Matson and his first wife, was born in Victoria on 30 March 1845, and started his working life in the Warnambool branch of the Bank of Australasia. In 1862 he came to Christchurch with his father. Soon after he returned to

Australia and, in 1864, married the girl whom he had left behind, Marion or 'Min' Thomas of Oakfield, Pentland Hills, Victoria. After farming in a remote district in partnership with his wife's brother, he returned to Christchurch and joined his father's business. It was John who added an auctioneering branch to the firm. He imported from England an iron store in sections and had it erected in Lichfield Street where bales of wool were collected and displayed. John was a superb salesman and conducted the first wool sale in the province. H. Matson and Co. 'became one of the largest stock and station businesses in the colony'.

In the first decade and a half of the Canterbury Settlement wool was taken by bullock dray to Ferrymead and then, by small craft, over the Sumner Bar and round to Lyttelton where the squatter would enjoy a 'shipboard dinner' as his product was loaded on a London-bound vessel. With the opening of the Lyttelton railway tunnel in 1867, the Matsons introduced wool sales in Christchurch, after which the wool was sent to London at the expense of the buyer rather than the seller.

In 1873 there was a slap-up champagne lunch, after which the Matsons managed the sale which terminated the Kermode-Moore partnership at Glenmark. Father and son worked together till the former retired in 1879. Henry Matson died on 24 October 1885 'after a most painful illness of long duration'.

The J. T. Matsons had 'Islesworth Farm' on Harewood Road and a fine estate, 'Springfield Farm', on the east side of Papanui Road, St. Albans, in the Innes Road-Murray Place-Browns Road area. It has been stated that 'Springfield' was the second-to-largest house in Christchurch – 'Holly Lea' in Manchester Street being the largest – and that the 'grounds leading up to the house were immense'.

Marion, the soul of generosity had 40 people to Sunday lunch after church. Sometimes the numbers were so large that the meal had to be eaten in several sittings. Many balls took place at 'Springfield. The Matsons had a large family, 'the three girls ... [having] more than their share of good looks'.

Humble locals marvelled at the wonders of 'Springfield Farm' which included a running track on the land facing Browns Road; the Matson boys were all good runners. Then there were the animals which included llamas, monkeys, and alpacas. William Barnard Rhodes of Wellington had sent alpacas to his brother, Robert Heaton Rhodes of 'Elmwood' in the hope that they might be farmed for their wool. The experiment did not succeed and Robert was happy to pass them to J. T. Matson. There was much bird life including peacocks, parrots, parakeets and kookaburras.

Another novelty appeared at the Matson properties. In 1886 John read an article in the *Australian* about the arrival, in Adelaide, of a consignment of South African ostriches. It was intended that the feathers would be used in the manufacture of women's hats and fans. Matson sent a telegram across the Tasman and managed to secure four of the best specimens of the flock. A male was killed on the voyage and a female so badly injured that she too died. The remaining pair survived, thrived and, on 30 December 1886, there were hatched, at Matson's property, the first ostrich chicks to be born anywhere in New Zealand. When the chicks matured, long white feathers were taken from their wings and made into fans. These the Governor presented to Queen Victoria and her daughter-in-law, Princess Alexandra.

Eventually John Matson had 43 birds, some at Harewood Road, some at St. Albans. People came to admire the spectacle of the birds marching solemnly, especially John's prize pair whom he named 'Mr. and Mrs. Gladstone'. They also gawked at other birds which careered at full speed with outstretched necks. On one occasion tourists returned to Warner's Hotel and, to the amazement of fellow guests who were not in the know toasted 'Success to Mr. Matson and the ostriches'.

Matson's neighbours complained of the male birds becoming temperamental in the mating season. One day there was much commotion when a bird escaped and was trapped only when it reached Sydenham. A groom armed with a pitchfork had to steer the creature home.

The *Canterbury times* commented:

> The credit of introducing ostriches into New Zealand must be given to Mr. John Matson of Christchurch and it is not too much to say that the introduction of such an important industry as that of ostrich farming is deserving of more substantial recognition than the mere mention of the fact in the columns of a newspaper. One has only to inquire at any of the soft goods merchants and note the amount of money that is currently sent out of the country for ostrich feathers to have some conception of the value of these birds as an adjunct to the income of any one who wishes to make a business of feather growing …. We hope it is only a matter of time – and a short time at that – when ostrich farms will be seen in every province and many hundreds of pounds that are now annually sent away for feathers will be kept here to enrich and reward those who are enterprising enough to follow so bold a leader as the man we have just named.

John Matson supported St. Paul's and, each Sunday, the family coach, complete with livery, would arrive at the front door after breakfast. Marion would step out in the latest fashion and the coach could be seen travelling up Papanui Road to the church.

John was one of St. Paul's great benefactors. When it was suggested that the second St. Paul's should have a peal of bells, Matson knocked on the vicarage door and asked the Rev. F. G. Brittan how much a peal would cost. On being told the answer, he wrote out a cheque for the whole amount. A peal of five bells was ordered from John Warner and Sons of London and shipped on the *Knowlesly hall* but the ship was lost off the South African coast. Fortunately the bells had been insured and the insurance money was sufficient for new bells and also for the installation of gas in the church. The inscription on the tenor bell read: 'We sing the Lord's song in a strange land. St. Paul's, Papanui, 1880'. The church tower was strengthened to carry the weight of 26 cwt and, on Tuesday 27 July 1880, Bishop Harper dedicated the bells.

The ringing of the bells for the first time was a event 'to be remembered by the inhabitants of Papanui and the many visitors who joined with them in the ceremony of inaugurating the peal of bells …. The tramway, opened by a happy coincidence on the same day, brought large numbers from Christchurch, and, amongst them, the members of the railway band who enlivened the day's proceedings by their performances'.

> At 11 o'clock there was a full choral service in the church, Bishop Harper … delivering an interesting and thoroughly appropriate address, special reference being made to the means which had, at various time, been resorted to for calling people together for worship.
>
> The church was crowded and to very many of those who were present the unwonted sound must have vividly recalled early associations.

The Rev. E. A. Lingard, who had charge of the treble bell, started the ringing of the bells. After the service, luncheon was held in the schoolroom, at which the Rev. F. G. Brittan presided, John Matson sitting at his right hand. The parishioners presented John Matson with an illuminated address which was 'beautifully emblazoned on parchment in colours and gold in a frame of elaborated inlaid native woods'. John expressed

> … thankfulness for the prosperity which had attended him during the 15 years of his residence in Canterbury and the pleasure he felt in giving from that prosperity the bells they had heard that morning. The afternoon was devoted to sport in a neighbouring paddock and the evening to an entertainment in the schoolroom.

In Christchurch there is no danger in being a benefactor of the Church of England. Public life, however, brings many stresses. For years John Matson's constitution seemed up to it. Although he refused to seek a seat in the Canterbury Provincial Council or, later, Parliament, he was prominent as an advocate of various policies. One of his projects was the Midland or West Coast railway and he helped found the league which pressed for the construction of the line. His advocacy of the construction of the … railway which 'in season and out of season, he was always urging, was an instance of his steadfastness to anything he took up'.

John Matson gave financial support to Sir Julius Vogel during the 1884-87 StoutVogel government. Later he took up the Liberals and, at Tattersall's Horse Bazaar, introduced Premier Richard John Seddon to the Canterbury public.

Today Seddon's desire to cut up big estates and allow small men to gain access to the land seems tame. To Matson's clients, big men who feared the loss of their acres, the idea sounded like revolution. They could not dislodge the Liberals but could, and did, desert Matson. The auctioneer's promising son and namesake died, John's health collapsed and, about 1893, he handed the business to his three surviving sons. Late in 1894 he fell ill. 'For some little time … Mr. Matson … [was] confined to his room with the disease to which he …succumbed', aged 50, on 15 April 1895. The bells at St. Paul's church rang a muffled peal in his honour and Bishop Churchill Julius took the funeral service.

The conservative *Press* commented:

> For many years Mr. Matson's vigorous personality, push and energy made him well-known, not only in his own immediate locality but all over the colony. He had a wonderful vigour of character and, once he took up a line, he

> adhered to it with unflinching pertinacity, despite all opposition. Indeed, it seemed that opposition only increased and redoubled his efforts …. Kindly to a fault … he will be missed by many.

The *Lyttelton times*, which shared John's world view, stated that the auctioneer

> … was a man of large heart and undaunted energy and … always foremost in assisting in any movement that he conceived to be for the benefit of the colony, often to his own personal disadvantage.

Marion Matson was 'a woman of strong personality and force of character' whose … influence was felt within a large circle of friends. Her knowledge of the Bible was far above the average and her faith such that made her religion practical.

In her younger day Marion 'was ever in the front in doing all that was in her power to help in the church's work' though 'the infirmities of age' meant that, later, she could not take an active part in church matters. Despite this she was, for over 50 years 'a staunch supporter of St. Paul's, Papanui'.

Marion, 75, died on 23 November 1917. Ironically, at the time of her death, the church tower was subject to structural weakness. The bells hung, 'a silent witness to the generosity of one [J. T. Matson] who, up till the time of his death, took a living interest in the affairs of the parish'. They could not be rung at the time of his widow's death.

John Thomas – Jack – Matson, eldest son of John Thomas and Marion Matson, was born in 1865 and was a man of promise. The *Lyttelton times* wrote that

> … at school, at college and … as an auctioneer for the firm of H. Matson and Co., Jack Matson was admired and respected by all who came in contact with him. In his business career he showed a more than ordinary fitness for his avocation, into which he threw his whole energy. A cheerful disposition aided him greatly to achieve success as an auctioneer and his good-humoured banter and smart repartee with which he was wont to enliven otherwise dull gatherings did much to make him one of the most popular auctioneers in the district.

Jack, 'the life and soul of the social circle at Papanui', was ably supported by his wife, Louise. Alas, he fell ill with typhoid and, although his 'very large circle of friends' was led to believe that the critical stage of the illness had passed, he died, at 27, on 9 November 1892. He left behind 'a sorrowing young widow, two fatherless children, loving parents and brothers and sisters, to whom …[he] was a brother in the fullest sense of the term'.

About 600 people representing 'every class and … every age' followed Jack to his last resting place. Immediately behind the hearse came 'the well known gig and horse used by the deceased'. Next came carriages occupied by family members and then friends and 'leading businessmen of Christchurch'. One very handsome wreath bore the inscription 'From his brother salesmen'.

One of Jack's children, William Ivo, predeceased his father, dying at 10 weeks on 21 November 1891. The 6 May 1907 *Lyttelton times* has the following:

> Matson – May 5, at Nelson, Janet Beatrice Esma, the only daughter of the late John Thomas Matson jun.., of Christchurch; aged nineteen years.

Marion Matson's brother, John Thomas, was born in 1854 and, at 19, went to Scotland to study medicine at Glasgow and Edinburgh universities. In England he 'played in an international football match though he was then a man of 20 stone'. A Licentiate of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons, England, John Thomas went to America, India and China as ship's surgeon and, about 1895, began to practise at Pleasant Point, South Canterbury. Known in bowling circles throughout the country, he gathered about him 'a very large circle of friends'.

Dr. Thomas went into 'Strathmore' private hospital in Ferry Road, and there, at 5 a.m. on 19 May 1901, he died of blood poisoning. He had never married.

There is a sad story about a later Matson. Marion Hamilton Matson

> … was chosen to be one of the ladies-in-waiting for the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall [later King George V and Queen Mary] when they visited Christchurch. This was considered a great honour. For some reason the royal couple were late and the girls were kept waiting. Since it was a cold night … Marion caught a chill. This later turned to pneumonia and she died at the age of 19. There was a very large funeral as she was very popular.

Marion died in January 1902. Her father, Conway Matson, had already lost his wife and eldest son and this 'led him into what was then called melancholia'.

Row G
No. 90
Norman

Some people who rise from humble beginnings like to conceal their origins. William Norman was such a person. In Norman's obituary there is the statement:

> Mr. Norman was a practical farmer and an authority on all matters appertaining to husbandry, as was his father and grandfather before him. The family occupied the same property for many years – a farm situated near the market town of Blandford, in Dorsetshire, where the name of Norman is as highly respected and honoured by those of the last generation who remain there as any in the county.
>
> In 1850, when attention was being attracted to New Zealand as a sphere for colonization, Mr. Norman, then a young man possessed of sufficient capital and determination to make a successful colonist, set sail for Canterbury in the Sir George Seymour.

In reality Norman did not put his money together and arrange to come out to New Zealand. In 1850 genteel landowner Henry Slater Richards of Bridgforth, Shropshire,

worried about his idle sons, Henry and Joseph, decided to provide funds and send them to the Antipodes as *Sir George Seymour* cabin passengers.

Richards planned to send a couple in his employment as steerage passengers. At his country home, 'the Beeches', he found William Norman, a farm worker and part-time coachman, who was a 'good practical man … able to turn his hand to most tasks'. William's wife, Amelia, a woman of high moral character, would monitor the young men's behaviour and attend to their household needs.

Norman was to claim that, on arrival, 'he at once purchased and settled down on a piece of land on the Kaiapoi Island'. In reality, Mr. Richards senior paid for his servants' employment for a period of 15 months. Not till 1852 did William strike out on his own. On 28 April 1852 a contract was drawn up between the Canterbury Association and William Norman whereby the latter would supply 16 chords of firewood – 10 to the Land Office and the balance to the new Grammar School at Christchurch (Christ's College). He then carted black pine and totara planks cut from the Papanui bush which were to be used for bridges 'over the ditches on the Heathcote Bridge Road', that is, Ferry Road

> William carted goods from Heathcote along Ferry Road to the city. He was known 'for the excellence of his team, driving two magnificent grey dappled mares', 'Jewel' and 'Diamond' which he had imported. In 1853 he won first prize with one of the horses in Christchurch's first agricultural show in Market Square (Victoria Square). Amelia Norman died in 1854. At St. Michael's church, on 6 May 1856, William married Matilda or Martha Matilda Gunning. The couple bought a farm in Kaiapoi which they named 'Highfield'.
>
> So well did he [William] manage the business of farming … one requiring constant and unremitting attention, that, in 1865, with the profits of his in dustry, combined with the result of advantageous speculation, chiefly in city property, he was enabled to retire into private life to enjoy the fruits of his labour.

The Normans took an overseas holiday and, on their return, bought land in Papanui Road close to the modern Normans Road. William called the family home 'Dorset Villa' after his county of origin in the West Country. In keeping with the Victorian gardening style of the time, he built a conservatory. He also created a beautiful garden, a croquet lawn and pony paddock.

In 1871 the Christchurch Horticultural Show was held in two tents in Victoria Square. William Norman showed a begonia and native ferns, the latter having been collected on family holidays to the West Coast. As well as winning prizes for orchids and pot plants grown in the conservatory, he took the trophy for the finest plant in the show, an *Allocasia metallica*, the Indonesian elephant's ear plant which was noted by the judges for its shining metallic lustre. Norman was 'one of the most ardent supporters and active members' of the Christchurch Horticultural Society.

Norman was active in horse racing. He helped establish the Agricultural and Pastoral Association, serving as chairman, and, till his final illness, attended regularly and punctually at committee meetings. He was an active supporter of St. Paul's, Papanui.

‘The duties of churchwarden for 12 years in succession was no sinecure but those duties were faithfully and zealously carried out’.

In March 1889 William Norman accompanied Hugh McIlraith to the show grounds in Lincoln Road. He

> … was thrown from his dog-cart, sustaining internal injuries from which he suffered … till the time of his death. An operation was rendered necessary, and this was successfully performed … but the injuries were of such a nature that, but for a wonderful constitution, they must long since have proved fatal.

At Easter 1891 the Papanui parish sent the ailing William Norman ‘a heartfelt expression of regret … at the loss of services which had been so much valued’. William died, aged 75, on 14 June 1891. Martha, 76, died on 24 March 1898.

The couple’s only child, Elizabeth Matilda, married a Customs officer, Rochfort Snow. The Snows and their three daughters lived in Dorset Villa with the old couple. Elizabeth Matilda, 54, died on 20 March 1912. Rochfort’s second wife, Lucianne Robina, nee D’Oyley, 53, died on 12 November 1919. Rochfort Snow, 77, died on 16 March 1929.

William’s property has long since been subdivided and the striking garden dismantled.

Area 3
Row E
No. 134
Dobson

Born in 1816 and the son of a merchant, Edward Dobson was articled to a well-known architect and surveyor, Herring, from whom he learned the practical side of the profession of civil engineer. In 1839, aged 23, he married 17 year old Mary Ann Lough. Dobson studied at University College, London, was skilled as architect and artist and was elected A.M.Inst.C.E. in 1842 and A.R.I.B.A. in 1843. He joined the firm of railway engineers, John Rastrick, and was engaged on railway construction. For a time Rastrick stationed Edward and his family at Nottingham. A line was to be built from that city to London.

> Belvoir Terrace … was Edward’s address and his house stood on high grounds overlooking the river Trent. Behind it was a row of windmills and, across the river, were large fields here cattle grazed and wild flowers grew in confusion. It was really a delightful spot and, though during the week, Edward was away at work - sometimes many miles away - on Sundays he’d always contrive to be at home and would take his two young boys, George and Arthur, for walks.
>
> First the three would attend service in a nearby parish church where the boys would be told something about its architecture. Then they might explore the underground passages beneath the city – ancient passages with a wealth of legend – or stroll in the woods and watch the birds, or go to Lincoln where was the largest cathedral in England, or, a special treat, to Derby where the Midland Railway was establishing its head offices.

But a period of slackness followed the boom. Dobson decided on emigration and was one of the original purchasers of Canterbury Association land. He and his two eldest sons emigrated on the *Cressy*, arriving in Lyttelton in December 1850; Mrs. Dobson and the rest of the family emigrated later on the *Fatima*.

A man of 'strenuous action', Dobson served as provincial engineer between 1854-68. He planned and introduced New Zealand's first telegraph line between Christchurch and Lyttelton; attempted to confine the tempestuous Waimakariri within its banks; was in charge of the draining of 10, 000 acres of low-lying land about Rangiora; and designed and supervised the breakwater from Officer's Point which made the inner part of Lyttelton harbour safe for shipping. The physical labour used on this last project was supplied by the prisoners in the Lyttelton Gaol.

W. S. Moorhouse wished to establish a railway system throughout Canterbury. To Dobson fell the task of turning the idea into reality.

The initial tunnel contractors were John Smith and George Knight of Westminster. Their agents argued that the rock in the Port Hills was so hard that they could not undertake drilling without being paid a substantial amount of money beyond that which was originally agreed upon. Dobson did not accept their arguments and his conclusions were corroborated in impressive detail in the report of a newly arrived geologist – and Dobson's future son-in-law - Julius Haast. Dobson took control of the contractors' equipment and miners and continued with the cutting and breastwork of both Heathcote and Lyttelton ends of the work while Moorhouse set off to find new contractors in Australia.

Thereafter Edward Dobson spent much time checking progress on the tunnel work. At 6.30 a.m. on 24 May 1867 the south end miners broke through to a drive from the Heathcote face. An iron rod 14 feet long was passed through and the alignment and levels proved to be exact. On Whit Sunday, 10 June, 2000 people tramped through the tunnel and, at the end of the month, the workmen entertained the provincial government at a banquet inside the hill.

Dobson was in charge of the establishment of part of the public works scheme which proved to be New Zealand's first railway, that which ran from Christchurch to Ferrymead. Before his departure from Canterbury, part of the province-wide system – that from Christchurch to the Selwyn River – had been completed.

The provincial engineer was also an explorer. In September 1857 he and two others were the first Europeans to cross the Southern Alps via a pass at the head of the Hurunui River which had been seasonally used by Maori. Two months later Leonard Harper was guided over the same saddle, afterwards called Harper Pass, and became the first white man to travel from the East Coast to the West Coast.

Dobson's exploit was later described thus:

> A Maori path had been believed to exist from East to West by the gorge of the Hurunui at Mount Noble, at … Mr. Mason's station … A certain precipitous gully in the river gorge, which the Maoris it was found crossed with ladders of

> tree vines and flax ropes, was pointed out to Mr. Dobson, and, with Mr. Mason, Mr. Taylor … Mr. Dampier and a shepherd in order to discover a track to the West Coast country that might be possible for horses. They attacked this gully with spades and picks and, in a few days, under … Mr. Dobson's direction, a track was cut by which horses could be led through, and the party, pressing its way up the Hurunui Gorge above the river level, came out on some flat land superior to their anticipations in many respects. The main branch of the Hurunui flowed slowly through it, and, on all its streams were lakes of which Mr. Dobson drew several sketches showing them to be very beautiful reaches of water. The headwaters of the Hurunui were reached for the first time. Mr. Dobson was not content with exploring the country, but proceeded to lay out a road through it.

In 1864 Dobson's son discovered a primitive track through to the west Coast. Edward named it after the young man – Arthur's Pass. Within a year the gold rushes had broken out. Dobson's 1857 route became the first road to the West Coast for the gold seekers. However, Arthur's Pass, although originally neglected, was soon deemed the better route. The elder Dobson

> … accompanied … Sir John Hall – part of the time in a snow storm – laying out a road through the Otira and putting … gangs … to work in order to assist the constant stream of gold diggers on their way into Westland.

Work on the West Coast side was particularly difficult. Equipment and supplies were transported up to the headquarters of the Hurunui, over the Harper Pass and down the Taramakau.

Dobson was active in Anglican Church affairs. He was a member of the Cathedral Commission. This was the body charged with turning into reality the plans for an Anglican cathedral which were drawn up by the English architect, Sir Gilbert Scott. It was considered that a supervising architect should be employed. Alas ….

> Architects were the black sheep of the liberal professions in the early days of the Canterbury Settlement; it was widely believed that any substantial building designed locally would prove structurally unsound.

In January 1863 local architect Benjamin Woolfield Mountfort offered his services. Other local architects, hoping to improve their poor image (which was largely undeserved), supported his candidature. The Cathedral Commission referred the request to Scott. However, cathedral fund subscribers were against Mountfort because of the spectacular failure of his early work, the first Lyttelton church. Even though Scott approved Mountfort's candidature, the commission decided that it must have a supervising architect from Great Britain.

Edward Dobson showed himself in a bad light in the controversy. Bishop Harper wrote: 'Certainly with Mr. Dobson's opinion of Mountfort's construction powers, I should have some reluctance to trust myself on the scaffolding which might be erected by him'. Dobson then swapped sides, joined the architects who wrote to Scott supporting Mountfort and, indeed, wrote privately to Scott. Perhaps he hoped to be associated with Mountfort as supervising architect. Certainly, he commented:

" Vanity apart, I am the only man in the province capable, from my knowledge of the principles of construction, of undertaking such work as the cathedral."

In 1864 an Englishman, Robert Speechly, was appointed supervising architect. He laid the foundations of the cathedral but economic depression meant that, in 1868, work had to be abandoned for a decade. When the task was resumed, Mountfort was supervising architect.

There were those who recognized Edward Dobson's contribution to the development of the province. In 1861 he was unhorsed when crossing the swollen Rakaia River. The *Press* gave thanks that he had survived: 'There is no single man in this country whose life is more valuable, whose loss would be more felt, and whom it would be more difficult to replace'. However, in 1868 he lost the position of provincial engineer and left Canterbury without receiving

> … a word of thanks or an expression of regret, without a gesture from the provincial council or a function from its citizens. How many dinners were given and toasts drunk to pompous nobodies; and yet he departed unhonoured and unsung.

Perhaps Dobson was undervalued because he was of independent character, 'brusque, abrupt and given to plain speaking'.

Edward Dobson became engineer to the Melbourne and Hobsons Bay United Railway Company. When the company's lines were purchased by the Victorian government, Dobson again became a government servant. He carried through a water supply scheme, building the Anakies dam and Malmesbury reservoir.

In 1876 Dobson returned to Canterbury and, in private practice, was responsible for the erection of bridges, irrigation races and river protection work. Arthur Dudley Dobson stated that there was consulting work to be done which was

> …quite suitable for my father, who was getting past field work, and who, from his long experience with Christchurch and district, was much wanted for advice on law points involving title and occupation of land etc.

Johannes Carl Andersen saw him in these later years as he walked along Chancery Lane and Gloucester Street.

> He wore a roomy grey top hat and usually held a key at the end of a piece of red tape in his right hand, and the key he twirled as he walked like a revolving planet at right angle to his line of march. He smiled affably to acquaintances as they passed, between whiles blowing out his cheeks as he emitted his breath.

Between 1887-92 Edward Dobson was lecturer in engineering at Canterbury University College.

Edward's son, Arthur, was knighted. His son-in-law, geologist and founder of Canterbury Museum, Julius Haast was also knighted, being known usually as Sir Julius von Haast.

Another of Edward's son, George, did much valuable exploration in the Southern Alps-West Coast area. In 1866, he was walking alone on the Arnold River track near Lake Brunner. The infamous Burgess-Kelly-Levy gang mistook him for a gold buyer. The 'energetic and resolute young explorer' laughed at their mistake, saying: "Did you think I was a banker? Here is all I have, about six pounds". The gang dared not let him report their whereabouts and promptly murdered him. The township of Dobson, near Greymouth, is named in his memory and his monument stands there.

On Edward Dobson's memorial there appear the words:

> Associate and Member of the Institute of Civil Engineers. Arrived in Canterbury 1850. First Provincial Engineer, 1854, and Engineer to the Moorhouse Tunnel. 'His life's desire was that his labours might be of benefit to his fellow Colonists'.

Edward Dobson, 91, died on 19 April 1908. His wife, Mary Ann, 92, died on 29 December 1913.

Row H
No. 185
Kinsey

Born at Plumstead, Kent, in 1852, Joseph James Kinsey was educated at the Royal Naval School, Greenwich, and, for some years, was a master in the Lower School, Dulwich College, one of his pupils being Ernest Shackleton. In 1872 he married Sarah Ann Garrard and, eight years later, emigrated to Christchurch. He established the firm of Kinsey and Co., shipping and travel agents and ships' provendors. He had offices in Christchurch and Lyttelton.

The Kinseys lived in a grand house in Papanui and, later, had a week-end home, designed by famed architect Samuel Hurst Seager, at Clifton, Sumner. The front lawn extended to the edge of the cliff which towers over the road into Sumner. The couple were eager to join the social elite but an early setback was the sinking of the *Tararua* in Foveaux Strait in 1881. Francis George Garrard, dashing captain of the ship, was Sarah's brother. As well, he had been Joseph's school friend at Greenwich and had made Joseph his heir. Garrard was one of the 131 people who went down with the ship, there being but 20 survivors of this the second largest maritime disaster in New Zealand's history. Worse, the captain's negligence was judged to be the prime cause of the shipwreck.

The Kinseys picked themselves up, dusted themselves down and tried again. They associated themselves with the St. John Ambulance Association and Joseph was Consul for Belgium with jurisdiction over Canterbury, Marlborough, Nelson and Westland. As well, he was in the Christchurch Savage Club and joined operatic and musical societies, including the Liedertafel.

The Kinseys were collectors and connoisseurs of art of all kinds. They sponsored scientists such as Leonard Cockayne (who named a Wakatipu celmisia for them) and

writers, notably Edith Searle Grossman and historian of education A. G. Butchers. Mark Twain stayed with them during his visit to New Zealand.

Joseph took a keen interest in Antarctic exploration and was attorney in Christchurch during Sir Ernest Shackleton's Nimrod expedition. An even more important post was that of attorney during Robert Falcon Scott's *Discovery* and *Terra Nova* expeditions. When Scott and his wife, Kathleen, came in 1910, Cantabrians showered the visitors with meat, drink, vegetables, clothing and personal hospitality. Joseph provided them with accommodation but had to share them with the ancient grandee, Sir Charles Christopher Bowen, whose brother-in-law, Sir Clements Markham was Scott's mentor and whose son-in-law, Robert Julian Scott, was Scott's cousin.

Kinsey used his business acumen to get the best possible commercial deals for the cash-strapped expedition. He also housed them at the Clifton property for seven nights. Scott is said to have slept outside in order to toughen himself for the conditions to come. From a garden ablaze with red and gold flowers, the couple gazed at the panorama of the Southern Alps and felt 'inexpressible satisfaction with all things'.

Succeeding generations

> … would like to believe … that on this site … people such as Scott and Shackleton stopped to consider … their fates and the fates of those men they were taking with them to the Antarctic.

The *Terra Nova* was to leave for the ice not from Lyttelton but from Dunedin, a tug returning Kathleen from Otago Heads to Port Chalmers.

It should be remembered that, despite philanthropic urges and a genuine interest in Antarctic-related matters, Kinsey had a pecuniary interest in acting for the explorers. Nevertheless, in 1919 he was created Knight Bachelor for his services to the polar ventures.

Kinsey may have pondered on the fact that his Sumner property was associated with the great days of Antarctic exploration. However, it was also real estate. Rather than gift it to Christchurch, he sold it in 1928. In 2005 the owner's plan to demolish the bulk of the much-altered building led to much debate about heritage buildings and sites.

Kinsey died at his residence, 'Warrimoo', Papanui Road on 5 May 1936. Lady Kinsey died in 1941.

No. 197
Turrell

The Rev. Charles Turrell was born on 7 October 1828. He studied in Germany, England and Ireland, gaining his M. A. in 1863 and becoming a priest in the same year. He was a curate in England, was in charge of Ashley north in Canterbury – effectively the Leithfield area - from 1866-71 and, from 1872-82, was owner and principal of Midmont School, Upper Riccarton.

In 1873 Turrell had, as a pupil, Robert Heaton Rhodes, later Sir Robert Heaton Rhodes. At that time the fees were 25 pounds and four shillings, there being textbooks in arithmetic, spelling, geography, history, English and French grammar and a junior Reader. To give some idea of how expensive Turrell's fees were, one can note that, in 1888 average private wealth in the country was 216 pounds per head and the average income of breadwinners in 1893 was 91 pounds.

'A thorough linguist', Turrell became part time lecturer and, eventually Professor of Modern Languages, at Canterbury University College. He was well-known locally as a chess player.

Turrell's wife, Charlotte Wilhelmina Turrell, 63, died on 9 October 1900. Turrell died at Mays Road on 27 October 1906.

No. 210
Forwood

Henry Forwood, son of T. W. J. Forwood of Tiverton, Devonshire, was educated at the Forest School, Walthamstow, Essex, and, for 12 years, worked in the Dorking branch of the London County Bank. He arrived in Lyttelton on the *Red Gauntlet* in 1879, gaining employment as a clerk. On 2 September 1880, at St. Mary's church, Merivale, he married Susannah Jane Foote. Henry, a bachelor, was 'full age' while Susannah, a spinster, was 'under age'; Henry was 30, his bride 17.

The Forwoods lived at Oak Hill Lodge, 7 Murray Street Place, a St. Albans enclave where the social elite were ensconced. They became well known when they leased 50 acres of rich quality land in Church Road (Rutland Street), an area which, though not far from their home, was the dwelling place of more humble people.

Part of the property belonged to a deceased estate and part was Church Property Trust Land. On the property Henry established 'Churchill Farm' or the 'St. Albans Model Farm'. A 'perfect picture', this example of intensive farming was also highly profitable. The farm was devoted to cropping, dairying and the raising of pigs and poultry. It gave regular employment to four men (including a manager), a boy and a dairymaid.

Crops included spring sown wheat, oats which were used for winter feed, carrots, potatoes, meadow hay and rye grass.

Forwood was a great believer in housing and feeding his stock well. The corrugated iron sheds on the property were lined with timber, possessed of evenly laid brick floors, open to the sun and housed a dozen Jersey and Shorthorn cows. In the winter the cows were fed on oaten and meadow hay and carrots, the latter being first put through a slicing machine.

Two compact dairies stood under the shade of trees and were match-lined for the sake of coolness and cleanliness. In the centre of the concrete floors, artesian fountains played during the summer months. The comment was made:

> An extra precaution has been taken …By covering the pans of milk with light-screens. No wonder, then, that Mrs. Forwood says she can sell all her butter on the farm and could get rid of double the quantity that is made.

There were four horses on the farm. As might be expected, the stables, coach houses and harness rooms were 'substantial buildings, well ventilated', and, like the cow sheds, models of cleanliness, comfort and order.

The pig-stys were raised three or four feet above ground level, the pigs being fed three times a day on skim milk, potatoes and sharps. Berkshire sows were kept for breeding, together with Berkshire boars. Porkers were raised, being disposed of when 13 weeks old and weighing 70 to 75 pounds.

Forwood was a bird fancier and produced eggs and birds for the market. There were 150 fowls 'of the best breeds' – Orpington, Langshan, Silver and Golden Pencilled Hamburgs, Silver Spangled Hamburgs, Andalusians, Brown Leghorns, Minorcas, Golden and Silver Wyandottes, Buff Cochins, White Brahmas, Game, Seabright, Black Rose-combed and Game Bantams. Each breed was separately housed. Forwood found the Orpingtons the best birds, sitting early, laying well and being first- class table birds. Around the homestead or manager's residence there were 'beautiful ornamental grounds in which there are numerous aviaries of pigeons, doves, canaries and Australian birds of beautiful plumage'.

In 1903 a chronicler enthused:

> On the stream which flows through the property a black swan is swimming in company with a flock of Muscovite ducks. A rustic bridge crosses an artificial pond stocked with trout and planted with water lilies, and two greenhouses are stocked with rare varieties. A beautiful fernery near the house is constructed in the style of a Maori whare; many varieties of native fern are inside and small cascades flow over broken surfaces.

Henry was one of the 'most stalwart sons' of the Church militant. A High Churchman he 'became known throughout the Dominion and beyond as the publisher of the *Layman*, the most ambitious attempt in Anglican journalism in our history'. Forwood was

> … a man of strong opinions, profoundly devoted to the Catholic conception of the church in the special sense attached in modern times and the *Layman* was published by him to advance that point of view

Forwood belonged to the English Church Union whose members espoused views similar to those which had been expressed in the *Layman*. The union

> … was formed for the purpose of uniting the clergy and laity of the English Church in defence of the doctrine and discipline of the church and of the rights and liberties of her faithful children.

> Forwood became manager of a prominent Anglican periodical, the *Church news*. As well, in the first decade of the 20th century, he published the high

quality *New Brighton monthly magazine* which This was free to seaside residents. Forwood used advertising revenue to cover his costs but sought donations 'from threepence upwards'. Soon Forwood was giving away eight hundred copies per month. Although covering all aspects of life in the seaside suburb, the periodical, a joint venture between Forwood and literary minded vicar Henry Thomas Purchas, dealt especially with the Anglican church.

The Forwood belonged to the congregation at St. Matthew's, St. Albans, Henry contributing money to and being involved with bringing about extensions to the building. Henry was a life member of the St. Matthew's Young Men's Guild and a member of the Sons and Daughters of Temperance, Hope of St. Albans Lodge of Druids and other local societies. He also mundane business interests, especially with regard to shares.

For some years Henry was 'in a delicate state of health'. Nevertheless, he looked forward to attending St. Matthew's 60th birthday celebrations. Alas, 'an attack of bronchial pneumonia came on … and brought to a close a life of devout activity in worship and good works'. Henry, 75, died at Abberley Road on 22 September 1925. Susan Forwood, 68, died on 3 September 1931.

No. 217
Blakiston

Charles Robert Blakiston, fifth son of Sir Matthew Blakiston, baronet, of Derbyshire, England, came to Australia as a young man with his brother, A. F. N. Blakiston. Friends in England told him that Canterbury was 'a High Church scheme and sure to break down …. Don't think of settling'. Ignoring this advice, he came 'as it were, by the back door from Australia'. He came with friends, the Macdonald brothers, taking up Run No. 18, of 5000 acres (part of the Springs Station), stocking it with six rams and 250 ewes. However, he soon passed the run over to the dominant person at 'the Springs', J. E. FitzGerald. This was the site of the present Lincoln University.

Blakiston had 25,000 acres on the sea coast at Orari. This run was to become associated with the Macdonalds, the Canterbury biographer, G. R. Macdonald, being a grandson of one of these men. As well, Blakiston bought land on Ferry Road. There he farmed a property called 'Ashbourne' – the name being taken from the area where the Blakiston family had its seat in Derbyshire.

About 1880 the land was broken up for building sections. The name 'Ashbourne' survived for a time as a place name and people could recall guards on the Woolston trams calling out 'Ashbourne, Ashbourne'. A street name in the suburb which survives is Mackworth Street.

In 1858 Blakiston married Mary Anne, daughter of Henry John Chitty Harper who, two years earlier, had been enthroned as Bishop of Christchurch.

For a time Blakiston was in Canterbury provincial politics. In 1860-62 he was in England where he was appointed manager of the Trust and Agency Company of Australia, a branch of which he established in Hereford Street. He was manager for 35 years, retiring on a pension in 1897.

From his first days in Canterbury, Blakiston was a J. P. He represented St. Luke's parish on the Diocesan Synod and belonged to the governing body of Christ's College, was on the Cathedral Commission which was responsible for the building of Christchurch Cathedral and was a member of the Church Property Trustees.

In St. Luke's parish Blakiston worked hard to get St. Matthew's church built 'in what was then an outlying part … but the severance of which from the mother church … he strenuously opposed'.

The 2 September 1898 *Press* has the following information about Charles Blakiston's demise.

> Though not of a robust constitution, he was a man who was singularly free from illness during his lifetime, and his death was not expected to follow so suddenly the attack of congestion of the lungs and pleurisy which caused him to take to his bed on Sunday last. At 11 o'clock yesterday morning his wife and brother, who were attending him, noticed an apparent improvement in his condition but, in less than an hour and a half afterwards, he succumbed to the complication of diseases which had attacked him.

The *Church news* considered that

> … Mr. Blakiston belonged to that band of honourable, unassuming, devout and good men who were leaders in founding the province and whose fine example and influence have been an inestimable blessing.

No. 246
Travis

William Travis, a Staffordshire man, belonged to the Guild of Silversmiths. In 1856 he emigrated on the *Joseph Fletcher* with his wife, Sarah, and two sons; two daughters were born in Canterbury. Travis worked as a watchmaker in premises on Gloucester Street between Oxford Terrace and Colombo Street and had a family home in the Merivale section of Papanui Road.

Very soon Travis took to buying and developing farm land in the Eyreton and Rangiora districts. By 1882 he had about 1800 acres worth more than 12, 500 pounds in the Ashburton, Ashley, Selwyn and Waimate counties. At his death he had 22 farms ranging in size from 25 to 100 acres.

Travis' most famous purchase came in August 1883 when Edmund Norcross Corser sold him - for almost 3500 pounds - the block of land which is bounded by Burwood Road, Travis Road, Frosts Road and Mairehau Road. The property, known as Travis Swamp, was leased to tenant farmers. Profits cannot have been large – indeed, Mrs. Travis thought the swamp a curse – as further land had to be purchased so that water from the property could be drained into the Avon. Travis would come around to collect the rent from his tenants. Tom Bisman, the son of one tenant, described him as 'a real English gentleman.'

Sarah Travis, 65, died on 7 May 1897. William, 83, died on 20 December 1910. William left his housekeeper 450 pounds. The rest of the property was divided equally among the four children, the sons, Edward and William Henry, being trustees of their sisters' shares. Edward got the western half of the swamp; William Henry the eastern half of 'my farm at Burwood known as Travis Swamp'.

Area 4
Row B
No. 278-282
Rhodes

This is a large square concrete plot with five headstones inside.

Sophia Latter, 76, 'relict' or widow of a Lyttelton merchant, Robert Latter, was the mother of Sophia Circuit Rhodes, mother-in-law of Robert Heaton Rhodes senior and grandmother of Sir Robert Heaton Rhodes. She died on 7 March 1878.

Robert Heaton Rhodes senior was the sixth surviving son in a family of 14 children born to Theodosia Maria Heaton and her husband, William Rhodes, a tenant farmer in the southernmost corner of Yorkshire in the district surrounding Doncaster.

An older brother, William Barnard Rhodes, the first to come to New Zealand, looked down from the Port Hills at the site of Christchurch He noted that he had seen the Plain and two pieces of bush. 'All the land that I saw was swamp and mostly covered with water'.

Three of William's siblings settled in the Antipodes, Robert Heaton, Joseph and George. Robert arrived in Australia in 1837 and, at William's instruction, spent 13 years driving sheep and cattle between various settlements. He bought stock to Lyttelton as arrangements for the Canterbury Settlements were getting under way in 1850. William, the 'Millionaire of Wellington', was now the controlling personality in a vast family pastoral business, William Barnard and George being active in the South Island while Joseph held property in Hawkes Bay.

Within the Canterbury Block, Robert and George ran a farm at Purau. From there they supplied Lyttelton and Christchurch with fresh meat and vegetables. The two men drove stock to an area outside the Block and there George established the famed Levels Station which was named after the area whence the family came in Yorkshire.

James Hay thought that the brothers had 'sterling qualities … [and were] just the right sort of men for starting as young colony'. Alfred Cox described Robert as 'active minded, practical, persevering and thrifty'. The genteel looked down on the family because they had not been to university and, beside planning their enterprises, also laboured manually so that they might be carried out. Henry Sewell described Robert as 'a substantial old Shagroon, wealthy and respectable but uneducated and with a hankering after cheap land'. Writing of the sheep men who were a powerful influence in the Canterbury Provincial Council, Crosbie Ward described Robert as:

> The hard-headed one from Yorkshire.
> He the prince of all the squatters, largest holder of run holders.

Robert was a long-term member of the Canterbury Provincial Council, serving from 1853-62 and 1866-74. He was Deputy Superintendent in 1870.

On 16 March 1858, at the Temporary Anglican church, Lyttelton, Robert Heaton Rhodes, 43, bachelor, a stockowner, married Sophia Circuit Latter, 25, spinster. In 1863 Robert took his family to England for a holiday and to see his siblings and aged father. George came up from the Levels to look after the Purau property and, while dipping sheep, caught a chill which developed into a fever. He died, aged 47, on 18 June 1864 and was buried in the Lyttelton Anglican Cemetery.

Lawyers insisted that the death of George meant the end of the family concern and Robert was forced to give up the Purau property. William Barnard Rhodes lived on in Wellington, was accepted by the establishment to the extent that he was called to the old upper house of Parliament, the Legislative Council, and died in 1878. He was twice married but his only child was an illegitimate daughter by an unknown Maori woman. Her son, William Barnard Rhodes Moorhouse was keen on cars, motor bikes and aeroplanes. After an adventurous life in which he knocked over and killed at least two pedestrians, he fought in the skies during World War I. He was the first airman to receive the Victoria Cross; the award came posthumously.

To return to Robert Heaton Rhodes. After leaving Purau, he had a new home built in Papanui. 'Elmwood', completed in 1868, included trees, shrubs, a glass house, orchard and sunken tennis court.

In 1873 Robert suffered a severe illness and was unable to write or even to walk unaided. The family took him to England and the Continent so that he might receive treatment. He returned and, as his physical strength slowly declined, his monetary worth increased. He took part in the establishment of the New Zealand Shipping Company and Kaiapoi Woollen Company and made wise investments in land, becoming co-owner of the Coldstream Station near Longbeach. He purchased Rhodes' Swamp, now Marshland. Contractors covered with slush and surrounded by underground roots argued that the task of draining the swamp could cost them dearly. The ailing capitalist insisted that the men would be well paid and spent 5000 pounds getting the job completed.

An active member of St. Mary's, Merivale, Robert was also a member of the Cathedral Commission, the body charged with the task of building the Cathedral. He paid for the building of the tower as a memorial to his brother, George, George's family paying for the cost of the spire. He also paid for the tower bells. These were blessed by Bishop Harper on All Saints' Eve, 31 October 1881, and, the following day, the Cathedral was dedicated although the nave was not as yet complete.

In November 1882 much of 'Elmwood' was destroyed by fire. Frederick Strouts designed the replacement building. Robert had little time in which to enjoy it, dying at 69, after a brief final illness, on 1 June 1884. The *Lyttelton times* noted:

> He is to be buried tomorrow in the Papanui Church of England cemetery. Tonight the bells of the Cathedral will ring a muffled peal and, tomorrow, the passing bell will be tolled during the funeral

If one tries to work out Robert's wealth by today's standards, one can say that, at his death, he was worth about 150 million dollars.

The Rhodes Memorial Window in Christchurch Cathedral and the Rhodes Memorial Home on the hills at Cashmere commemorate the pioneer magnate. Heaton, Rhodes and Circuit streets are all associated with the family as is also the name 'Elmwood School'. In Balby church, Yorkshire, there is a stained glass window, donated by a sister, 'in memory of William, George and Robert Rhodes of New Zealand'.

In her widowhood Sophia Circuit Rhodes lived at 'Elmwood' but spent periods in England and France. At Tunbridge Wells, England, on 16 October 1906, she died of cancer aged 73. She was buried at St. Paul's, Rusthall.

Born at Purau on 27 February 1861, Robert Heaton Rhodes junior was the son of Robert Heaton and Sophia Circuit Rhodes. To distinguish the son from the father, the former was usually known as Heaton Rhodes. He went to Mrs. Ann Alabaster's school in Cranmer Square and the Rev. Charles Turrell's school in Upper Riccarton.

Instead of going on to Christ's College, Heaton Rhodes junior accompanied his family to England. He attended the Cathedral School at Hereford, studied at Brasenose College, Oxford, graduated M. A. in 1887 and the same day was called to the Bar of the Inner Temple. When returning to New Zealand in 1888, Heaton Rhodes befriended the Australian, Alister Clark, who later married Heaton's sister, Edith. Their bridesmaid and Alister's sister, Jessie Cooper Clark, caught Heaton's eye. Heaton and Jessie were married at Bulla, near Melbourne, on 20 May 1891 and honeymooned in Japan.

Admitted as a barrister and solicitor in Christchurch, Heaton Rhodes abandoned the law in favour of farming. From 1893 he accumulated land (eventually 5000 acres) at Tai Tapu, some of it being bought from people who had purchased their land from the Rhodes brothers. In 1895 he approached Frederick Strouts, who designed, for the Canterbury grandee, his 'home and … pride and joy', the two and a half storey, 40 room, timber and slated house, 'Otahuna'. Today the formal dining room has one of the few remaining pieces of Heaton Rhodes' furniture, 'a magnificent mirrored sideboard of elaborately carved oak'.

At first grounds about the house were bleak and windswept. However windbreaks, specimen trees, lawns and avenues were established. So too were the famed daffodil flower beds which generations of Christchurch people came to view between 1928-1954. Surplus bulbs were donated to the Christchurch Public Hospital and the Government Domain (later the Botanic Gardens), forming the nucleus of the daffodil beds now lining the Avon.

A cattle breeder and President of the Canterbury Agricultural and Pastoral Association, Heaton Rhodes established the first herd of Norfolk red poll cattle in New Zealand and championed the merits of the breed. He farmed Corriedale and English Leicester sheep and his Clydesdale stud competed at shows and ploughing matches. Even in old age, Rhodes moved with the times, one of the first demonstrations of aerial topdressing in Canterbury being held at Otahuna in 1949.

St. Paul's Papanui Cemetery
2007

A member of the Canterbury Yeomanry Cavalry volunteers in the 1890s, Heaton Rhodes volunteered for service in the Boer War in 1902, shipping his own horses and having other horses sent from Otahuna to the field of combat.

By this time Heaton Rhodes had already become a Member of the House of Representatives, having won the Ellesmere seat in 1899. In 1912 he entered W. F. Massey's Reform Government Cabinet as Postmaster General and Minister of Public Health. He was 'hard working, efficient and honest but not forceful or ruthless enough to make a big impact on politics'. He resigned as minister in 1915 to enable Massey to form a wartime coalition government and was sent to Egypt, Malta and Gallipoli to investigate complaints about the transport and treatment of sick and wounded New Zealand troops. His report led to improvements which saved many lives. Parliament voted him 500 pounds to cover his expenses. Instead of accepting the money, he added 500 pounds of his own, asking that this be used as a scholarship fund for the sons of returned soldiers. This was the nucleus of the Kitchener Memorial Scholarship.

From 1917 to 1919 Heaton Rhodes was special commissioner of the New Zealand Branch of the British Red Cross Society, supervised its work in hospitals in France and England 'with unqualified success' and was awarded the KBE (military division) in 1920.

Heaton Rhodes became Minister of Defence in 1920 and, with the purchase of Sir Henry Wigram's flying school at Sockburn as the site of an air force base, helped establish the Royal New Zealand Air Force. He was also minister in charge of state forests and supported the bureaucracy in the establishment of the exotic timber industry. Having suffered a heart attack, he took the advice of his doctors and retired from the House of Representatives in 1925. He stayed on, in the much more sedate Legislative Council, till 1941.

During the royal tour of 1927, Heaton Rhodes was minister in attendance on the Duke and Duchess of York, after which he received his second knighthood – Knight Commander of the Royal Victorian Order. During the tour he found that he and the future King George VI shared an interest in stamps and became a long-time correspondent of the prince on this subject.

Heaton Rhodes was active in humanitarian activities. Working through his sisters and wife, he helped Nurse Maude establish her district nursing scheme. However, the organisation with which he was most associated was the St. John Ambulance Association. In 1920 he was appointed St. John's first director of ambulance in New Zealand and was the first chairman of the dominion executive. When the formation of the Commandery in New Zealand of the Order of St. John in 1931, he became the first knight commander. In 1947 he became the first New Zealander to be appointed Bailiff Grand Cross of the Order of St. John.

Jessie Cooper Rhodes was born on 26 September 1865. Of delicate constitution, she was unable to bear children and, for a long period suffered from a depressive illness. She would take walks in the grounds at Otahuna, crooning to a doll cradled in her arms as if it were a live baby. Her husband employed minders, one of whom, Louisa

Beadel 'betrayed' her mistress by marrying the farm manager, Tom Beadel, and producing several children.
Eventually Heaton Rhodes employed Vera Hynes, a woman who was prepared to live permanently at Otahuna and look after Jessie. Jessie came out of her illness but collapsed and died, as the result of a stroke, after church, on Sunday 13 October 1929. To commemorate her life, Heaton commissioned the architect Cecil Wood to design St. Paul's Anglican church, Tai Tapu, which was opened in 1932. The church was built with stone from Mount Somers and from places which Jessie had known well, the Otahuna estate and Australia.

Heaton Rhodes chaired the board of trustees of the Rhodes Convalescent Home and gave land in Christchurch for a school which was named after him, Heaton Intermediate. Fond of playing the benevolent squire, he would, each year, send buckets of cherries to the Tai Tapu School. On Christmas Day he visited his employees with a leg of lamb for the wives, cash for the husbands and sweets for the children. Banks Peninsula Maori appreciated that he learned their language. On one occasion he acted as interpreter for an elder who was addressing the Governor-General. 'Blessed with intelligence, talent, good looks and wealth', Robert Heaton Rhodes made the most of his advantages. He lived on at Otahuna till his death on 30 July 1956. His titles included K.C.V.O., K.B.E. and Bailiff Grand Cross, Order of St. John, Jerusalem.

Today 'Otahuna' has, from the New Zealand Historic Places Trust, a Class One classification.

Row C
No. 291
Hack

Edward Hack was from Lincolnshire – 'a man of the Fens'. An assisted immigrant, he arrived in Lyttelton on the *Sir Edward Paget* in July 1856, and celebrated his 22nd birthday a month after his arrival. He carried his swag over the Bridle Path – 'it was a case of taking your bed with you in those days'- and put up at the White Hart Hotel, then nothing more than a canvas tent. Christchurch he thought 'a very desolate place …. I don't suppose there were a dozen places about'.

Edward worked in the Hoon Hay bush extracting totara and black and white pine. In 1919 he was to recall:

The bush then was full of birds – parakeets, tui and kakas among them – and the kakas used to kick up such a row that we could hardly sleep in the whares for their din.

Edward went on to do survey work under W. B. Bray. Starting at Ferrymead, the surveyors measured up and over the Port Hills and into Lyttelton. He also did survey work on the old Sumner Road, now the Captain Thomas Walkway, on the hills between Sumner and Lyttelton.

Edward's wedding day was memorable. Tommy Thompkins drove the wedding party in horse and trap through Cathedral Square which was 'then nothing more but high sandhills and water holes'. Thompkins ran the wheel of the trap up one of the

sandhills and the whole of the wedding party was spilt onto the roadway. Despite this, the groom, bride and their guests got to old St. Michael's church' (which was to be replaced by the present building in the early 1870s) and the Rev. Henry Jacobs and Archdeacon Mathias took the service.

The newlyweds went to their residence, a cob whare in what is now Hansons Lane. Alas, it was full of water. Fortunately many of the groom's country friends had come to the nuptials. While they had 'made things merry before and after the ceremony', they now helped bail the water out so that straw could be placed on the ground for the place to be made habitable. Edward recalled:

> I can tell you that those station hands made things round that cob whare lively for us, keeping the wedding up for a fortnight. In those days a man could come down with a 50 pound or 60 pound cheque and set out to enjoy himself until the money was all cut out, and then return quite contentedly back to work again. Shepherding was the principal employment in the country.

Edward cut drains from Harewood Road to the North Road and laboured on the formation of the North Road from Papanui to the Seven Mile Peg. 'The work on the North Road was very tough and, up to the Seven Mile Peg, there was nothing but swamps, gullies and creeks'. Of another job he commented:

> I cut a drain from Dudley's Creek to Papanui and lost a lot of money over it. It was all boggy land and boards had to be placed down to walk on. When work was finished at night, the line of the drain could be seen clearly cut, but on return to the job in the morning it would often be found that the whole opening had closed up again, so boggy and full of springs was the land. In places a hole 15 feet long could be put in the ditch without touching the bottom.

Edward's first shift from Riccarton was to Harewood Road where neighbours Claridge and Higham helped him put up a sod whare. Edward made a comment similar to those made by others of his vintage: In those times everyone used to help one another, no matter what the job was, reaping crops or anything else'. He built a big sod chimney in the whare which had seats along each side and, on cold rainy nights, he and his wife would sit inside the chimney.

About 1858 or '59 Edward used a bullock team to plough the first land on the Canterbury Plains. This was at Weedons, James Mains employing Edward to do the work. Great crowds came to watch trials of the first reapers and binders which were brought to New Zealand. Edward travelled all over the country giving exhibitions of the machine with which he was associated. At first many people were hostile to the machines, fearing that they would cause people to lose their jobs. In reality it became possible for farmers to work more land and employ more labour. Crops of 50 and 60 bushels of wheat were usual and sometimes the crops were heavier.

Edward reminisced that, in the early days

> … ploughing was not the simple matter it is today. When I started ploughing at Harewood Road I had eight or 10 bullocks in a team, sometimes six in a yoke and four in harness, breaking up tutu land. For this work I was paid 50

> shillings an acre …. I can tell you that strength was needed because when the plough struck the tutu, it was a case of the handles flying up in the air. Generally one man had to drive the bullocks and another hold the plough.

For 1500 pounds Edward purchased 125 acres of land at Harewood from Captain Morgan. This property he later sold off. During his career he acted as farmer or farm labourer over most of the Riccarton district from Harewood to Middleton. Edward had 10 children by his first wife. His second wife, whom he married in 1878, was the fourth daughter of Captain William Watts of Bridgewater, Somerset. In 1919 he had 45 grandchildren and commented: 'I could not tell you how many great-grandchildren there are. I was trying to reckon them up the other day. I think there are between 60 and 70'.

Edward Hack died, at 98, on 28 June 1932. He was survived by three sons and five daughters of his first wife we (one son and daughter predeceased him). His descendants were numerous, including 'two of the fifth generation'.

Area 5

Row A
No. 322
Dent

George Dent was the eldest son of Joseph Malaby Dent, bookbinder of Forest Gate, Romford, Essex, who founded the firm of J. M. Dent and Sons. The company was a publishing house noted for its Everyman's reprints of English-language classics.

George was born in 1870, received a business education and, when 20 years of age, left for Australia on account of ill-health. From Australia he moved to Auckland. In 1889 he was ordained deacon, becoming a priest in 1901. In the latter year he married Annie Elizabeth Pearn. The couple had two daughters and two sons.

Dent served curacies at Devonport and Paparoa. In 1903 he became Vicar of Waitara, subsequently serving at Eltham, Brooklyn and Greytown where Annie, 44, died in 1922. At Palmerston North he was assistant priest. 'A cultivated musician', he performed well as a pianist and … singer', was much interested in the young and active in Sunday School and Bible Class work.

For three years from 1929, Dent was curate at St. Luke's, Christchurch, under the long-serving Frederick Norman Taylor. While at the city parish he married Annie Connal Roose.

Dent was appointed chaplain to St. George's Hospital in 1932 and, two years later, moved to St. Paul's, Courtenay as Priest-in-charge. He was ill for some time but, for as long as possible, continued to work for the church. He died at Courtenay on 13 February 1935.

Row B
No. 530
Smyth

Born in 1839 in the days when the Anglican Church was the Established Church in Ireland, Thomas Jasper Smyth was the son of the rector of Rathbarry, Ross, in the County of Cork. He took his M. A. degree at Trinity College, Dublin, was ordained priest in 1863 and was curate at Castle Ventry and Widnes, Lancashire, before emigrating to South Australia. He served as curate at the Mount Gambier church, and as vicar of Christ Church, Kapunda, and of St. John's, Adelaide. Smyth met his wife, Emma, in Australia and it was there that the couple's first two children were born.

Between 1873-1881 Thomas took the place of his late father at Rathbarry. But, as the country was in a disturbed political and social state, the couple packed up and brought their children, now four in number, to New Zealand.

After a short period at Fendalton, Smyth was in charge of Te Ngawai which included the districts of Pleasant Point, Fairlie and Burke's Pass. Smyth moved to Akaroa in 1893, remaining for 11 years.

Smyth had a quirky sense of humour. When a man bought a cemetery plot, the vicar commented: "I am glad you will be buried in our cemetery. You get such a good view from there." When his dog, 'Rover', twice refused to pick up a parishioner's paper, Smyth picked it up instead. From the gate Smyth called: "Rover is used to collecting the *Press*. You get the *Lyttelton times*".

The position of vicar of Akaroa was no sinecure. Twice a month Smyth took services at French Farm, Duvauchelle, Barry's Bay and German Bay (Takamatua). At Akaroa there were evening services every Sunday night and one Holy Communion service a month at 11 a.m. When a lady was uncertain as to whether she should offer the vicar a lift, he responded: "Me, walk? With my two Cork legs?" A friend asked where he got his Cork legs. "Where I got my Cork tongue from," was the reply.

From Akaroa, Smyth moved to Lincoln where he served till 1913. Although by now officially retired, he nevertheless took charge of the church at the Chatham Islands, becoming 'well known to the islanders and … extremely popular'. In his yacht he made visits to outlying islands.

Emma Smyth was born in 1844 and died at New Brighton on 1 September 1928. Smyth continued to live in the borough where his 'exceptionally tall figure (6 ft 2 in) was well known' and he 'assisted with the morning services at St. Faith's'. At the time of his death, he 'probably had more years of service to his credit than any other Anglican clergyman in the world. Undoubtedly he held the record in the Dominion'.

On Friday 4 March 1932 Smyth died at the home of his daughter, Miss H. M. Smyth, 243 the Esplanade (Marine Parade), New Brighton.

Row C
No. 415
Hansen

After attending the Thames High and Auckland Grammar schools, David Ernest Hansen went to Auckland University College as a Gillies Scholar, graduating M.Sc. with first class honours in physical chemistry in 1907.

In 1908 Hansen was junior science master at the Christchurch Technical College. While there he attended Canterbury University College as a part-time student and graduated M. A.

Hansen was the first New Zealander to qualify as a selected student for a free passage to Europe given by the Orient Steam Ship Company and the Union Steam Ship Company. He studied at Berlin University for six months and then to the Technical University at Karlsruhe. He gained a doctorate in electro-chemistry and returned to New Zealand at the end of 1911.

Appointed first principal of the Southland Technical College when it became a day school, Hansen returned, as principal, to the Christchurch Technical College in 1919. The school grew so substantially that a branch, the Papanui Technical College, was opened. This eventually became an independent school.

After the First World War 1200 men went through rehabilitation classes at the technical college; after the Second World War there were 1500. Hansen viewed the benefits the returned men had gained as the most rewarding experiences of his career.

Tall, slim and of distinguished appearance, Hansen was vice-president of the New Zealand Football Association and the New Zealand Bible in School League.

In 1949, the year he retired, Hansen was awarded the C.M.G. He died, after a long illness, on 30 December 1972 and his wife, Margaret Emma, 92, died on 4 October 1976. Their son, Douglas William Heywood Hansen, 15, had died 8 May 1934.

Row D
No. 430
Stocker

The son of a prosperous family, Harry Stocker was born in 1840 in a Kentish village, Boughton-under-the-Blean. He won local fame as an athlete, boxer, horseman, rower and cricketer. As a child he carried a bat out on to the field for the famous Dr. W. G. Grace and cricket was to remain a passion throughout his life.

Stocker attended a private school till the age of 16. He went to King's College, London, Cambridge University (where he won a blue at rowing) and Trinity College, Dublin, where took his B. A. in 1867. It was at Trinity College that he passed his theological examinations.

Ordained priest in 1869, Stocker spent five years as curate at Kingselere and then Farensham. In 1874 he came to New Zealand on the sailing ship *Langston* under two

years' engagement to the Bishop of Christchurch. With him came his young wife, Elizabeth Fey. Of Huguenot extraction, she was the only woman on board.

The voyage was dramatic. A mutiny broke out. It was thought that, for her own safety, Elizabeth Stocker should be locked in her cabin with armed passengers being stationed outside to protect her. After negotiating for several days, the captain and the mutineers agreed on a settlement.

The next exciting event was the shooting of an albatross which the captain dressed and made into a foot warmer for Elizabeth Stocker. Finally, and tragically, the cabin boy fell from the rigging and was killed.

Stocker preached his first sermon in the new land at the place where he would be buried – St. Paul's, Papanui. He then took charge of the Burnham parish 'where there was a lonely little church set in the midst of mile upon mile of flat tussock land, with no homestead in sight'.

The *Church news* had enthusiastic things to say about Stocker's time at Burnham. It stated that the church and vicarage were built in 1864 on a site given by Richard Bethell and, in more senses than one, high and dry. The bulk of the population to which Stocker had to minister were resident on the better class lands of Springston, Lincoln and Tai Tapu, mostly at a distance which precluded attendance at the Burnham church. Stocker set about interviewing the leading farmers

> … with the result that, thanks largely to his zeal and energy and a winning personality which won the love and esteem of his parishioners, all obstacles were overcome and, in the course of three or four years, three churches were built and a fourth was under construction, and the Parochial District, comprising Springston, Lincoln, Tai Tapu and Greenpark, were soundly established. At the time of his resignation, the cure was one of the most prosperous in the diocese.
>
> Many roads … in the recently drained and occupied swamp were … almost impassable. Much of his [Stocker's] visiting and organizing work had to be done on foot and, often, he would arrive at home or whare weary and mud-splashed but always hearty and smiling, cheery and sanguine as to the future. Willing help he received in all directions. Farmers lent their teams or came themselves to assist in [the] transport of building material or to prepare foundations [and], after a hard day's work, would tramp miles to attend a meeting in the evening. And no wonderthat, on Sundays, the men would ride or drive in from distant station orfarm to attend the services in church or schoolroom or men and womencome in, often carrying children too young to be left alone at home. Forthe heads of households were regular attendants and did not satisfy themselves with seeing their wives taking their kiddies to church.

W. Miles was in contact with Stocker who suggested that he, Miles, become a lay reader. Miles 'modestly demurred on the grounds that there were older and more experienced men to be considered'. Said Stocker: "Yes, and they all say that you are the man for the job". Much later Miles was to comment:

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> If, during my 47 years of service as lay reader, I have, in the opinion of others, got on all right … my thanks are due to the teaching and example and true Christian manliness of Harry Stocker.

When the charge of Akaroa became vacant, Stocker was given the appointment for a period of three years.

A man who wished to co-operate with those of different views, Stocker got his parishioners to assist the Roman Catholics in the restoration of the historic French Settlers' cemetery.

When it was time to move on, he told his parishioners that his guiding principles were:

> "First, I have attended to my own business.
> Secondly, if I saw any public work to do, I have done it myself and tried to do it well.
> Thirdly, I have always tried to find out the best, and not the worst, of any person with whom I have been in contact and treated them accordingly.
> And, fourthly, I have said my prayers, and then I felt I had done all I could."

The Stockers made a good impression at Akaroa. They left amid general regret and with an illuminated address and a purse of 70 sovereigns. They moved to St. John's, Invercargill. Harry started the Patients' and Prisoners' Aid Society in the area and was made Archdeacon of Southland in 1885. The couple remained in Southland till Harry retired, at 72, on 27 October 1912.

Harry Stocker enjoyed excellent health, was a regular attendant at St. Mary's, Merivale, and, on his death, in September 1922, left a widow and grown-up family.

No. 447
Tonks

William Tonks' father, founder of the Auckland auctioneering firm of B. Tonks and Co., became Mayor of Auckland. A brother , B. Digby Tonks, took over as head of the firm. Another brother was a partner in the firm of Nolan Tonks and Co. of Hawera.

William Tonks was born on 31 January 1858, was in various agencies of the Bank of New Zealand in Otago, and, for a number of years, was a teller in Christchurch.

In 1888 William left the bank and established an auctioneering business in partnership with William Henry Grantley Norton. They bought the Colombo Street business of J. H. Ross and Co. and, about 1897, moved to a building in Hereford Street. William 'conducted many of the sales and was a popular, keen and able auctioneer'.

Tonks Norton and Co. broke up land at North New Brighton. William Tonks is commemorated in the name Tonks Street and William Norton in the name Grantley Street.

Tonks bred and owned trotters. ‘The colours of ‘Mr. R. Peel’ (his assumed name) were familiar on Christchurch courses’. A member of the Canterbury Trotting Club and New Brighton Trotting Club, he was also an original member and steward of the New Zealand Trotting Club.

After a lengthy illness, William Tonks died at his home in Leinster Road, St. Albans, on 21 May 1912. His wife, Emily Gertrude, was born on 2 May 1865 and died on 27 April 1948.

Area 6
Row A
No. 577
Whitefoord

Caleb Whitefoord was descended from a line of Ayrshire baronets. His grandfather, also Caleb Whitefoord, an 18th century Secretary to the British Embassy in Paris, was ‘celebrated as a wit and litterateur’, his virtues being recounted in an Oliver Goldsmith eulogy.

Born in Tasmania, Caleb was the son of a lawyer and received a ‘liberal and practical education’. Then ‘just as he was merging into manhood’, the Victorian Government afforded an opportunity ‘to young men of education, physical strength and means, to enter the … police force as cadets’. Whitefoord joined the Mounted Police Force and proved himself to be a ‘dashing officer … in the time when hard riding had to be done in pursuit of bushrangers’. A capable officer, he became an inspector.

The ‘days of retrenchment’ having set in, Whitefoord came to New Zealand and impressed the locals. Of ‘imposing appearance’, ‘and ‘fluent and impressive delivery’, he was a ‘genial travelling companion, a good shot and thoroughly versed in literature’. His company ‘was … sought eagerly and appreciated by all who met him’.

Whtefoord was soon in work again. In 1867 he was appointed goldfields warden in the Westport area. In 1869 he became Resident Magistrate in the Grey Valley which included Cobden and Ahaura. During his time there he visited Launceston to marry Rebekah Willis, daughter of R. H. Willis, then resident there but later a ‘retired settler in Merivale and owner of considerable property in Canterbury’. Whitefoord’s sister and brother-in-law, Mrs. and Mr. W. C. Chamberlain, established themselves in Dunedin where the latter was Collector of Customs.

Whitefoord became Resident Magistrate in Nelson and, from 1875, held this post in Kaiapoi, Rangiora and areas north of this district. As well as acting as magistrate, Whitefoord was Registration Officer, Returning Officer for the General Assembly, Census Enumerator and Coroner.

Although Whitefoord’s job was arduous and he did an ‘almost unlimited’ amount of travel, his judicial decisions were ‘distinguished by exceptional clearness and judgment’. Perhaps this was why he was seldom overruled by superior courts. He considered that ‘parents ought not to withhold from their children the splendid system of free [primary school] education’ which government had established in 1877. Thus people who allowed their offspring to play truant or put them to work received little

sympathy from Caleb Whitefoord. The government more than once appointed him to conduct commissions of inquiry, for example, into conditions at Dunedin Gaol. He was concerned about the welfare of individuals and, on one occasion, was in charge of raising money for the widow of a police officer.

Soon after his appointment as Kaiapoi's magistrate, Whitefoord bought a property to the north-west of the town which he named 'Waverley'; (the name of the farm was to become the name of the area.). Whitefoord created a 'nice compact property … out of what was practically a swamp', had a 'charming home' and established a fine dairy herd. The farm was known for the excellent butter produced there.

Whitefoord was churchwarden and lay reader at St. Bartholomew's, Kaiapoi. When, in 1875, High Church adherent Hubert Edward Carlyon, 27, arrived as Vicar, he divided the congregation into passionate supporters and opponents; Whitefoord was among the most vigorous of Carlyon's critics. In 1876 Whitefoord received a petition asking him to conduct Sunday services in the Orange Lodge Hall and another where Bishop Harper was asked to take Easter services because the parishioners would not receive the Sacrament from the Vicar. In the worldly as distinct from the spiritual sphere, Carlyon was humiliated when he allowed his horse to obstruct the footpath. Dragged before Resident Magistrate Whitefoord, he was tried and convicted.

In 1877 the Bench of Bishops found Carlyon guilty of erroneous teaching and unlawful practice in regard to confession and the administration of Holy Communion. He resigned, proceeded to England for further advice, retracted but did not return to New Zealand. He served in South Africa and England, got into a dispute which was similar to that which he had experienced at Kaiapoi and, while on leave, in 1900, died of pneumonia in Moreton-in-the-Marsh cottage hospital.

In 1885 the British Empire feared that the Russian Empire had designs on India. Thus was the Volunteer movement revived in New Zealand. Caleb Whitefoord accepted command of the Kaiapoi Rifle Company and young men marched round the town in scarlet tunics, black trousers and helmets. Whitefoord 'neglected no drills nor omitted any opportunity to give his men encouragement'.

Whitefoord took part not only in Kaiapoi parochial matters but also in diocesan affairs. On 15 December 1890 he attended the Standing Committee of the Diocesan Synod in Dunedin and, during 'a somewhat heated discussion', suffered 'sunstroke' or a 'partial apoplexy'.

After a period at Dr. Meikle's place, Whitefoord obtained leave-of-absence from his judicial post and went to Glenmark. 'A month's quiet in the charming residence of Mr. G. H. Moore, since destroyed by fire', appeared to re-establish him in health. On 26 January 1891 he left his home for Dunedin 'as his health … [was] far from satisfactory'. In the southern city he stayed with his sister and brother-in-law preparatory to making a sea trip to Tasmania. Suddenly, on the morning of 13 February, he died peacefully in the presence of his wife and sister. He was 52.

The *Press* wrote: '… few people have any idea of the enormous amount of work which he [Whitefoord] could discharge with patient diligence and precision' and that 'sterling integrity, honesty, dignity and manliness stamped him as a man among men'.

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The *Lyttelton times* waxed even more lyrically:

> … The news … that Mr. Caleb Whitefoord had breathed his last will be … received with the most profound feelings of regret. Regret at the loss to the colony of one of the most able and impartial Resident Magistrates that ever held that position; regret at the loss to the community of one whose object in life was to benefit his fellow creatures in an unassuming manner; regret on the part of a large circle of private friends and acquaintances that they are thus robbed of a good companion and kindly disposed friend; regret universally at the death of a gentleman in the midst of a useful career which promised to be even more eminently useful as time, leisure and favourable circumstances gave him the opportunity of displaying these natural gifts with which he was largely endowed ….

Bishop Harper officiated at the funeral, being assisted by the Rev. T. Flavell and the Rev. J. O'B. Hoare. The music was led by Clarence Turner, organist at St. Mary's, Merivale, and Whitefoord's favourite hymn, 'A few more years shall roll' was sung. An 'unusually large number of persons' attended the funeral and a contingent of volunteers fired a volley over the grave.

Whitefoord's gravestone was:

> Erected as a tribute of love and sorrow by his friends to the memory of an able upright magistrate, a public spirited citizen, a catholic Christian, a public man who sacrificed to duty, ease, health and length of days. A helper of the many and one who gained the affection of all by the charm of a brave and noble nature. Tout est d'en Haut.

Whitefoord's parents outlived him. In 1891 his father, John, was described in one newspaper as having been Recorder at Launceston. Elsewhere he was called 'Commissioner of Bankruptcy'. All agreed that the Tasmanian government had thanked him for his services and retired him on a pension.

Caleb's wife, Rebekah, died on 28 April 1910.

No. 586
Coates

Charles Coates was born at Whitby, Yorkshire, on 28 January 1847, the son of John Diston Coates, a manufacturer, and Elizabeth Coates nee Millen. He was educated privately and at St. Augustine's College, Canterbury.

Coates was blessed with a 'fine constitution', had an 'irresistible combination of intellectual ability and religious devotion', a 'cheerful … sunny disposition' and was 'always ready to see the bright side of everything'. As well, he was 'interested in all that was going on in the world.' It is not clear which aspect of his personality led him to be present at the last public hanging in London. However, it was doubtless his optimism and interest in the world which led him to emigrate as a cabin passenger on the *Cicero* which arrived in Lyttelton on 18 May 1875. With Coates came H. E. Carlyon. Coates was to act in support of his High Church friend.

Coates became assistant curate to the Rev. H. C. M. Watson at St. John's, Latimer Square, and ordained priest at St. Michael's on 12 May 1876. On 28 April 1881, at St. Michael's, Bishop Harper officiated at the society wedding of Charles Coates, 34, and Harriette Louisa Brittan, 31, daughter of William Guise and Louisa Brittan. The witnesses were the ex-Superintendent of Canterbury, William Rolleston, now a farmer of Orari, and the bride's brothers, William Guise Brittan, church steward, and Frederick Guise Brittan, priest in Holy Orders and Vicar of Papanui.

Vicar of Waimate from 1876-1891, Coates was, from 1891-1913, Vicar of Lyttelton. In the latter capacity he served as chaplain at the Lyttelton Gaol. From 1902-1914 he was honorary canon of Christchurch Cathedral.

Coates visited the Holy Land, contracting a 'distressing complaint' at Jericho. However, he recovered and, in his retirement, was *locum tenens* in Canterbury parishes: Timaru, Avonside, Shirley and St. Michael's. In the Auckland diocese he was locum tenens at Remuera and Waimate North, while, from October-November 1924 he was in charge of the Bluff parish in the Dunedin diocese. In all parishes he 'quickly made himself beloved.'

In a conversation which a fellow clergyman in the last months of his life, Coates was

> … full of the great world and its doings, speaking of a fine article in the *Guardian* by Lord Hugh Cecil on the dangers of riches, his memory of the charms of the Empress Eugenie and the coming election of a Bishop of Christchurch.

Coates 'bore his last illness with beautiful fortitude and anointed, absolved and communicated, passed peacefully on his way.'

The *Church news* wrote that Coates' death, at Christchurch, on 3 July 1925, was 'by no means unexpected or untimely'. It stated that, for 38 years, he had been

> … a devoted parish priest in this diocese and thereafter, for 12 years, a constant succourer of his brethren and servant of Christ's people literally from Auckland to the Bluff.

The paper concluded that Coates had

> … left behind him such an example of steadfastness, fidelity, courtesy and usefulness as must ever be a precious memory and a source of inspiration to all who were privileged to know him.

Harriette Coates died on 21 April 1934.

No. 587
Upham

The son of a civil servant, John Hazlitt Upham was born in London in 1867 and educated in England and France. Coming to the Antipodes, he worked on a

Queensland sugar plantation before visiting his brother, the much-loved Lyttelton doctor, Charles Hazlitt Upham. John stayed in Canterbury, graduated in law from Canterbury University College in 1902 and became partner to J. J. Dougall.

At Lyttelton John met the vicar, Canon Charles Coates, his wife, Harriette Louisa, daughter of W. G. Brittan, and their family. One daughter, Agatha Mary, was 'a woman of especial grace and charm, by nature gentle and shy, but possessed of a determination that was implacable'. On 23 November 1904, at Holy Trinity, Lyttelton, the Rev. A. W. Averill (later Archbishop of New Zealand) officiated at the wedding of Agatha, 20, and John Hazlitt Upham, 37.

Four children, three daughters and a son, were born to the couple in a comfortable two storey house in Gloucester Street. They were reared in the English manner with a nurse, housemaid and a gardener. Upham's main interest outside his work was walking and he was often seen striding across the hills to Lyttelton. A staunch Anglican, he was a long-time churchwarden at St. Michael's.

John Upham has been described as 'one of the best versed men on case law in Christchurch …. An eminent company solicitor …. [and] engaged in many cases at the bar involving legal argument'.

His son's biographer has a more interesting description, picturing a

> …slight, rather pedantic figure …. mild of voice, his air of erudite respectability gave one a feeling that this was a lawyer of the old school, precise, unbending but not a very dangerous adversary. Woe betide anyone who felt that way for, behind his kindly blue eyes was a courageous and fighting brain. In court the harder the going, the more resolute he became. He feared no one.

After 20 years with J. J. Dougall, Upham joined the firm which became Harper, Pascoe, Buchanan and Upham and is now Anthony, Harper and Co. He retired in 1949 and, after a short illness, died on 12 June 1951.

Agatha, who was born on 5 June 1884, died on 10 June 1975. The Upham tombstone contains reference to Lucy Mackenzie, infant daughter of Forbes and Virginia, and great granddaughter of John and Agatha, who died on 8 December 1977.

Also buried here are John and Agatha's son and daughter-in-law, Charles Hazlitt and Mollie Upham. Born on 21 September 1908, Charles was educated at the Waihi Preparatory School at Winchester, Christ's College and Lincoln College (now University), A high country musterer and shepherd, he later joined the Valuation Department.

> World War II broke out in September 1939. On 18 September Upham enlisted in the 2nd NZEF, sailing with the First Echelon. Upham first gained the Victoria Cross
>
> … for sustained gallantry, skill and leadership on Crete between 22 and 30 May 1941. At Maleme he was responsible for the destruction of four enemy

machine-gun nests and brought out a wounded man under heavy fire. He then penetrated 600 yards into enemy-held territory and led out an isolated company. He was wounded three times in the next two days but remained in action. At Galastos, on 25 May, he led his platoon forward as the Germans advanced, killing 40 and forcing them to retire. When his platoon was ordered to retire, he went back to warn other troops that they were in danger of being cut off. At Sphakia, on 30 May, he repulsed an enemy party advancing on Force HQ, 22 being killed before the remainder fled in panic.

Upham was awarded a Bar to the Victoria Cross for outstanding gallantry and magnificent leadership as a company commander in the attack on Ruwaisat Ridge on 14-15 July 1942. He destroyed an entire truckload of German soldiers with hand grenades and, although twice wounded, led his men in the final assault. Held up by machine gun posts and tanks, he led his company forward to gain their objective, personally destroying a German tank, as well as several guns and vehicles with grenades. Though hit in the elbow with a bullet, with his arm broken, and weak from pain and loss of blood, he consolidated his newly won position before having his wound dressed. Returning to his men, he remained with them throughout the day under heavy artillery and mortar fire. He was again severely wounded and completely immobilized. His gallant company, by then reduced to only six survivors, was overrun and all were taken prisoners.

Freed at the end of the conflict, Upham wed his fiancée, Mary Eileen (Molly) McTamney who had been born on 18 February 1912. The wedding took place on 20 June 1945. The couple had three children. Becoming a sheep farmer at ‘Lansdowne’, Conway Flat, Hundalee, North Canterbury, Charles became a member of the Parnassus Rabbit Board and Conway Flat School Committee.

Charles Upham died in 1994 and Molly on 4 August 2000.

No.
589
Beckett

Thomas Wrench Naylor Beckett was an Englishman who, with his wife, Sarah, and children, lived in Ceylon (now Sri Lanka) and worked as a tea planter. One son, Alfred Charles, was four and a half years old when he died on the island on 24 December 1878. When their crop was attacked by pests, the family moved to New Zealand and, in 1884, settled in Fendalton. There Beckett worked as an orchardist.

An amateur botanist, Beckett was known in scientific circles throughout the world. A Fellow of the Linnean Society and member of the Canterbury Philosophical Institute, he made the examination of mosses and lichen his ‘special and life-long study’ and, at his death, left a ‘very valuable herbarium of New Zealand and foreign mosses’.

Beckett was interested in primary school education, being chairman of the Fendalton School Committee. He was also ‘a very earnest churchman’ and, for more than 20 years, was closely associated with St. Barnabas’ church. He was a churchwarden for 17 years and, at the time of his death, parishioners’ warden. In 1896, he was in charge

of the erection of the Sunday School building on glebe land in Clyde Road. A jubilee room was added as part of the 50th anniversary of the Canterbury Settlement and, for 60 years, the structure served as a community hall. Proud of his district, Beckett told the 1901 Easter parish meeting: "When anything was wanted in Fendalton, Fendalton did it". At his death, at 68, on 5 December 1906, Beckett was 'one of the oldest and most respected residents' of his area.

With Beckett are buried Sarah, 83, who died on 8 June 1921, and unmarried daughters, Mary Ethel, who lived from 1871-1947 and Amy Middleton who lived from 1876-1964. The gravestone also recalls little Alfred Charles Beckett.

The east window of St. Barnabas' church is dedicated to the memory of Thomas Wrench Naylor Beckett. The lamp in the church grounds is dedicated to Thomas' and Sarah's son, Thomas Herbert Beckett, who was vestryman, church warden, choir member and synodsman at St. Barnabas'.

No. 615
Fendall

On 1 March 1830 Walpole Cheshyre, son of the Rev. Henry Fendall, was christened in the medieval font of his father's church at Nunburnholme in Yorkshire's East Riding.

Twenty years later the Rev. Mr. Fendall paid 150 pounds for land for his son in the Canterbury Settlement. Walpole emigrated as a cabin passenger on the *Sir George Seymour* and was allotted 50 acres on Fendalton Road between the lines of the present Idris / Straven Road and Glandovey Road. In February 1851, standing 'in the midst of his … rural section', Fendall christened his property 'Fendall Town'; with the passing years it became the modern Fendalton.

Fendall, an industrious settler, constructed a cob cottage, cleared the land and arranged that his fiancée, Lucy Hyacinthe Swan, come out on the Ashmore. On 25 November 1854 they were married at St. Michael's.

The third Fendall child, Walter Croasdaile (baptized by and named after the Riccarton vicar, Croasdaile Bowen), drowned in the Waimairi Stream when just past his first birthday. A fifth child died as an infant. At the same time there was a boom in the value of rural property but two miles from the central city. The Fendalls subdivided and sold their land, moving to Nunburnholme Farm at Balcairn, a few miles inland from Leithfield, North Canterbury.

Fendall raised a large family, was a Member of the Provincial Council, became 'rather stout …. addicted to the pleasures of the table' and had 'material enough in the flabby acreage of his pendulous cheeks for two or three good looking faces'.

The wording on the original gravestone was simple: 'Lucy Hyacinthe Fendall. W. G. Fendall, aged 83'. This stone has been replaced, the new monument having the inscription:

In loving memory of Walpole Cheshyre Fendall of Crambe, Yorkshire, arrived Christchurch, Sir George Seymour, died 13 April 1913 – 83; Lucy Hyacinthe (Swann) of Tideswell, Derbyshire, died 22 September1897, aged 66. Founder of Fendall Town (Fendalton)

Row B
No. 636
Gresson

This is the gravestone not of Canterbury's first judge but of his son and grandchildren.

Henry Barnes Gresson was born in County Meath, Ireland, married Anne, daughter of Andrew Beatty of Londonderry, and was a successful lawyer. There being much competition at the Bar, Gresson decided to practice in a new country. In 1854, aged 45, he brought Anne and their three children to Auckland. The family came on to Lyttelton and walked over the Bridle Path. Their baggage, household goods and personal belongings were dispatched by small steamer from Lyttelton to Sumner. Alas, the craft foundered on the Sumner Bar and the Gressons' belongings were lost, even Henry's complete law library, a rare thing in 1850s New Zealand.

In December 1857 Gresson was appointed a judge. He felt somewhat inadequate but came to the realization that there were only two other judges in the colony – and both died in January 1858. For some months H. B. Gresson was the only judge in New Zealand. The family home, on the corner of Hills Road and Bealey Avenue, has now gone but is recalled in the name 'Gresford Street'.

W. E. Burke did not like the judge, describing him as

> … a middle-aged man with a precise exacting sort of face [who] posed as being a very religious man and a stickler for the highest morality and unblemished conduct …. He was not looked upon as a master hand at law nor as one of great intellect. Intense respectability was his forte. His remarks upon the 'throne of justice' were sometimes cruelly severe and no allowance seemed to be made by him for erring man, aye, even for erring youth. He passed some very severe sentences on unfortunate young men not seeming to think that he was, perhaps, doing what, by its severity, would blast their lives for ever.

After 18 years Gresson resigned in protest at his political masters taking to themselves the right to move judges round the country. He retired to Woodend, devoting himself to sheep farming and agriculture. He died in Christchurch on 31 January 1901.

John Beatty Gresson, only son of Henry Barnes Gresson, was born on 25 September 1848, educated at Christ's College and completed his education at Cambridge University. While there he learned 'to encourage and foster manly sports of all kinds'. On his return to Canterbury, J. B. Gresson was articled clerk to R. W. Fereday. His father admitted him as a barrister and solicitor and he worked as Judge's Associate to his father till Gresson senior retired from the Bench.

J. B. Gresson had a knowledge of racing, did not own horses and was thus welcomed as honorary handicapper to the Canterbury Jockey Club. A keen tennis player, he was an officer in the Canterbury Amateur Athletic Club, Merivale Football Club and Union Rowing Club where he also acted as trustee. From 1869 he was a member of the city's premier men's club, the Christchurch Club. He attended St. Paul's, Papanui.

After his father's retirement, J. B. Gresson visited Victoria to study the law courts. While there he met Frances Helen Mary Macfarlane, the daughter of Melbourne's Commissioner of Customs. The couple were married on 28 August 1875 at Christ Church, South Yarra, Melbourne. At the family home, 'Cartmoor', on Papanui Road, the couple entertained in style. One domestic tragedy struck the family: the death, at 10, on 21 August 1889, of a daughter, Eileen Elisabeth Geraldine. There were two other daughters and three sons.

One wonders what Frances knew of the dark side of her husband's character. W. E. Burke lamented that the judge's example 'did not carry weight even with his nearest connexions'. He called Gresson junior a 'wild shaver' and described how 'the son … once, in a gay mood, smashed a lady love's (called Big Liz) windows. Mr. W. Williams [prominent lawyer William Henry Wynn-Williams] got him out of the scrape'.

Newspapers were pleased that, after his marriage, J. B. 'followed his profession with zest'. Certainly, he established a branch office of his business at Rangiora and became accustomed to going there each Tuesday

By 1890 J. B. Gresson was in poor health. . His physician, Dr. Hacon, was to state that J. B. was 'apathetic … listless' and that he 'had unmistakably had a cerebral disturbance of some sort'. He possessed a hypodermic needle, injected himself with morphine but, eventually, ceased this practice. Hacon was to lament that he had forgotten that J. B. went to Rangiora each Tuesday. Had he remembered, he would have cautioned him against going by train because he

> …was not in a fit state … to travel in a train …. He might have been seized with an attack of vertigo .... [and] would be liable to lose his consciousness and reel at any time.

On 17 March 1891 J. B. boarded the last carriage of the train to Rangiora. As people did at this period, he sat on the platform and read a newspaper. Suddenly his head fell on his chest, he disappeared under the train and the wheels of the carriage and guard's van passed over him.

Seeing what had happened, Joseph Lowthian Wilson called out that an accident had occurred and the guard put on the brake and stopped the engine. Three doctors attended Gresson at the Red Lion Hotel. However

> … it would seem that the wheel of the carriage passed over his left shoulder and arm as the latter was crushed, also the upper ribs, shoulder blade and collar bone. The lung was also badly lacerated, resulting in internal haemorrhage. Under the circumstances medical skill was of little avail except

> to deaden the pain .... At noon Mr. Gresson was semi-conscious but in a sinking condition, and his death occurred a quarter of an hour later.

Although mention was made of the fact that J. B. Gresson might have been suffering depression as a result of the recent death of his bosom friend, Caleb Whitefoord, suicide was not considered as a possible cause of death. Instead, the jury brought in a verdict of 'accidental death'. The *Church news* noted the death of J. B., only son of the judge who, for many years, had been chancellor of the diocese. 'It is with the feeling of profound sorrow that we record … the untimely death of Mr. John Beatty Gresson by misadventure while travelling in the northern train'.

J. B. Gresson was, in fact, playing fast and loose with his clients' money and probably committed suicide. In April 1891, one of his executors filed a statement of assets and liabilities in the Supreme Court. Secured creditors were owed 12, 925 pounds three shillings and seven pence. Unsecured creditors were owed 43, 133 pounds three shillings and ten pence. Gresson senior, but one of many creditors, was owed 1954 pounds six shillings and sixpence.

W. E. Burke made the last, bitter comment on the Gressons. How little had the judge foreseen 'how some of his epithets and scorn might, in later years, be applied and his own name be byword for fraud'.

On 18 July 1891 a posthumous son, Kenneth Macfarlane Gresson, was born to Frances and John Beatty Gresson. He studied for an LL.B. degree, served at Gallipoli, was severe- ly wounded, and came home to complete his studies. A lecturer at Canterbury University College from 1923-47 and dean of the faculty from 1936-47, Kenneth was a Wellington judge from 1947 and first President of the Court of Appeal from 1957-63. From 1964-67 he was first chairman of the Indecent Publications Tribunal. For his contribution to the legal profession, he was knighted.

On his retirement, Sir Kenneth retired to Christchurch. He had an operation to deal with the continuing effects of his war wounds and, as a result, died on 7 October 1974

Members of the family who are buried with J. B. Gresson include a spinster daughter, Kathleen Muriel, 85, who died on 30 December 1961; and Sir Kenneth. It would appear that a new gravestone has been erected well into the 20th century. Family memers who provided information for the wording on the plaque have given J. B. Gresson's year of death as 1890. Sir Kenneth's memorial, erected less than 30 years ago, has been vandalized.

Row D
No. 651
Pattrick

The Canterbury Association ships were, supposedly, crowded with 'men and women of muscular pith and sap … the very best men and women of old England'. These people were also, supposedly, Anglicans. However, a number of Methodists were 'Church Methodists', people who had received communion in parish churches and presented their children for baptism. They claimed a link with the established church

and snuck aboard Association vessels. Among them were Joseph and Alice Pattrick and their six children who arrived on the *Cressy*.

The Wesleyans were outed in the settlement and found that work, and sometimes even shelter, was denied them unless they conformed. Luckily one of them, George Dickinson bought Section 252. This was in a remote, swampy area to the north of the infant settlement and

> … lay along the south bank of the creek (a tributary of Dudley Creek) from about … Cranford Street by English Park, via Westminster Street to Rutland Street and across to St. Albans Street.

Dickinson established his co-religionists on his property. It is not surprising then that, by the end of 1851, people had agreed to name the area 'St. Albans', one of his relatives, Harriet Mellon having married the Duke of St. Albans. Religious services were held at the Pattrick home which was on the site of the present St. Albans School.

One Methodist had a section in High Street and offered a long lease on this property so that a church might be erected thereon. A small weatherboard church, 35 feet by 20 feet, was erected and opened on 16 April 1854 (the centre of Methodist worship shifted to the Durham Street church in 1864). The Pattrick brood went by foot or bullock wagon through swamps to worship in High Street. The swamps ended near where Holly Road now joins Papanui Road. There the women would take off their boots and stockings, don clean clothes, hide their soiled garb in flax bushes and recover and wear it again on the journey home.

From St. Albans the Pattricks moved to the top of Harewood Road where Joseph worked a block of land. Finally they moved to North Loburn.

At the Wesleyan church, Raithby, Rangiora, on 17 September 1877 Thomas Pattrick married Annabella Pearson. Three years later his father died, Thomas and other members of the family taking a share of his property. However, Thomas was best known as one of the Pattrick brothers who ran a Christchurch butcher's shop. A brother, Joseph Laughton was the father of Anne Pattrick, first director of Plunket nursing. Other prominent Pattrick descendants were the poet, D'Arcy Cresswell, and popular historian Douglas Cresswell.

Thomas, 84, died at his residence, 167 Clarence Street, Riccarton, on 31 January 1931. The family tombstone records that he was 'a pioneer [who] arrived [on the] *Cressy*, 1850, one of the First Four Ships'. Annabella, 86, died on 1 August 1944.

No. 655
Searell

Born in Devonshire, England, on 5 March 1911, Thomas Searell was a miller at Bellamarsh, central Devon. His wife, Harriet Pullman Trist, 12 years his junior and the daughter of a naval captain, had spent her childhood in at a strict boarding school where the curriculum included English, French, mathematics and History (British, Grecian and Roman). She was a 'highly disciplined, well-educated and somewhat proper woman in the Victorian model'. The Searells had been active in church life as

far back as 1635 and Harriet ensured that the family maintain the tradition and regularly attended the Chudleigh Kneighton Anglican church. During festivals she was one of those who decorated the building

In the 1860s the economy of isolated rural Devon was in decline. Perhaps prompted by his wife, Thomas sought financial independence and greater social standing in Canterbury. Neither could foretell that, in the new land, they would fall out with individual Anglican clergymen and turn, at times, to the Methodist and Presbyterian faiths.

On 15 March 1865 the *Canterbury* left Gravesend for Lyttelton. Cabin passengers included Thomas, Harriet and their children, Richard Trist, William Luscombe, Thomas, Arthur, Edith Ellen, Harriet Alice (commonly called Alice) and Ethel. Some possessions were the tools of Thomas's trade – for example, two mill-stones, one wheel, 150 tiles and 200 bricks. Other possessions were personal. These included 18 cases, five boxes, one chest, nine casks, one cistern and 13 packages. There was also a 'Wheeler and Wilson' treadle sewing machine with which Harriet made underclothing for the whole family. Fearing shipwreck, Harriet had warm dressing gowns made for the family. Those for the children had a huge pocket stitched on the inside and the servants had strict instructions to fold up each child's clothes and poke them into the pocket of the relevant gown when the youngster retired to bed each night. In Christchurch Harriet discovered that he instructions had never been carried out.

At the time the ship embarked, Harriet was again pregnant. Thomas did what he could to ensure that all would be well. A widow, Mary Carthew, was midwife/nurse and her daughter, Georgina, maid and nurse to the three youngest children. Alas, the baby girl, Georgina, died soon after birth.

Georgina Carthew taught Alice Searell, three, a song: 'I've got a sister in the promised land'. Alice sang the song so often that one passenger remarked: "Hang the sister in the promised land." Other passengers also noted how Harriet drummed an education into her boys – the girls were too young to be instructed. The passengers suggested that the boys throw their slates into the sea but they replied: "That would be no good because we would then have to do our work in exercise books". When the children turned four, Harriet started to teach each child music when he or she reached the age of four. One of Alice's earliest memories was of being tucked up in bed while the boys sang part songs and Harriet played the accompaniment on piano.

The food, canned or salted, was monotonous. There were Sunday services and Alice was later to see her parents' shipboard hymn book. In the hymn 'Eternal Father, strong to save', the line 'for those in peril on the sea' there was an alteration with 'us' being inserted for 'those'.

The *Canterbury* arrived in Lyttelton on 18 June 1865. The Searells took a house in Cambridge Terrace near Christchurch Hospital and there little Ethel died of convulsions.

In 1854 Messrs. Woodford and Stephens had established the Avon Mill – better known as the Carlton Mill - on the north bank of the Avon, 180 metres upstream from where the Carlton bridge now spans the river. The mill race originally took water

from a dam near the south end of Rhodes Street. The head of water being insufficient, a new race was brought in from the Wairarapa stream. The race ran through private property in its upper part and joined the original race near Rhodes Street.

Thomas Searell bought the mill and, on 4 October 1865, placed an advertisement in the *Lyttelton times* 'to inform agriculturalists, and the public generally, that he had succeeded Mr. Stephens in the … mill, consequently is a buyer of wheat and other grain and hopes, by strict attention to business, to merit a share of public support'.

In the 1868 Waimakariri flood, water came into the property to a depth of one foot and Harriet took the children to the Carlton Hotel. There was no time to protect the furniture which, ever after, bore a water mark. Expensive new china had been stored in a shed at the back of the house. Flood waters undermined the foundations and almost all of the china was broken.

Thomas survived flood and bankruptcy, only to have the Riccarton Road Board threaten to close him down because of the damage caused to the road-way by the mill race. Thomas made his position known in the columns of the Lyttelton times:

> … My entire means of procuring sustenance for my family (consisting of nine persons) wholly depends upon the mill …. It seems to me a very hard case that a mill, which has been operating for 15 years, should be closed by a majority of one by a board which holds its meetings with closed doors, without at least, an appeal to the ratepayers and without giving the owner or tenant an opportunity of stating or defending their case. Surely the road board might state what the public injury of which they complain is. The road which is crossed by the mill race at its head leads, and gives access to, two paddocks only, and is not required for any other purpose. There is a still greater hardship in the affair as I had made arrangements with a flax company, who were about to commence operations, in which they would make use of a great part of the water power; and I think that, at a time when native industry is so much required in the province, such obstructive action on the part of the board is, to say the least, uncalled for. Again, to close a mill full of wheat in the midst of the season, at a fortnight's notice is, surely, intolerant and un-English.

Drainage in Christchurch was poor. This contributed to the outbreak of typhoid and, on one occasion, Richard and Arthur Searell fell dangerously ill. A well gave the family 'a perpetual flow of beautiful artesian water'. The boys constantly called for water but were never allowed to drink twice from the same glass. This, said the doctor, saved their lives.

On 19 October 1871, on instructions from John Grigg and Thomas Russell, H. Matson held an auction of land. John Grigg lived at Longbeach and was a famed farm leader and a man much involved with the establishment of the frozen meat trade. Thomas Russell, his brother-in-law, was a darker character, a founder of New Zealand Insurance and the Bank of New Zealand, a man who accumulated much land as a result of the confiscation of Maori land and a person who manipulated all companies with which he was involved to promote his personal ends.

However, there seems to have been nothing untoward about the 1871 auction. Thomas purchased, at a cost of 26 pounds per acre, eight acres three roods and 26 perches on the northern side of Normans Road. Some years later, when land values had risen sharply, Thomas cut the property into sections and sold it. The local authority rather than the property owner made the decision that the name Searells Road was given to the thoroughfare which serviced the new subdivision.

On 11 November 1874 there was advertised for sale at auction. the Carlton Mill, a dwelling house and three quarters of an acre of land and garden. Thomas Searell had already, on 16 July 1873, moved his business to Cust.

Alice thought life in North Canterbury 'quiet and uneventful' until her father took the lead in raising money for the Cust Institute Hall. In the hall Harriet took the older children of the area for singing lessons, her daughters assisting by taking younger children. As well, there were many balls in the hall.

Thomas never found life uneventful. Apart from the fact that the mill was a marginal commercial proposition, there was the threat – and reality – of the river Eyre bursting its banks and flooding the Cust Valley. On one occasion the waters rose all day. At dusk another family came in their wagon and transferred the Searells to higher ground.

In 1880 Thomas, 69, retired. The family lived in the mill house though the business was transferred to others. One lessee sought a reduction in his rent and, when Thomas would not agree, absconded with his rent unpaid.

The last child, Ernest, who had been born in Canterbury and attended the public school at Cust, won a scholarship to Christ's College. He then sought a prized Somes Scholarship which entailed him learning Latin. Harriet learned the language and, when Ernest came to Cust at week-ends, his mother taught it to him. He won the scholarship and his parents, wanting to give him a home during his senior years at the school, came back to Christchurch in October 1883. Arthur Searell was left in charge of the mill at Cust. 'In delicate health for some time', Thomas died at his residence, Hacketts Road (later Idris Road), Papanui on 23 January 1891.

The older boys spent all or part of their school years at Christ's College; Harriet acted as her daughters' governess.

One son, Richard Trist, became organist at the Durham Street Methodist church. A. Selwyn Bruce recalled:

> Hymn books were so scarce in those days that it was necessary to read each verse before it was sung, and we recall with great pleasure the wonderful organ extemporation by that well-known and talented organist, Richard Trist Searell, in which he freely indulged at the end of the singing of each verse, before the minister read the following stanza.

Richard died, suddenly, in Invercargill, in 1909.

William Luscombe, was born in 1853, left Christ's College in 1869, his parents intending that he be a lawyer. However, in 1870, influenced by his mother's musical

training – and perhaps going through a stage of adolescent rebellion – he became pianist in a travelling panorama on 'the works of Charles Dickens'. He then conducted small opera companies in New Zealand and Australia.

William wrote two operas, *Constance* and *Alnaschar*, but neither was produced. On 29 November 1880 his *Wreck of the Pinafore*, a sequel to Gilbert and Sullivan's *H.M.S. Pinafore*, was presented, briefly, in Dunedin and Auckland. In London Searell (now spelling his surname 'Searelle') gained access to the Opera Comique, where *H.M.S. Pinafore* had first been performed, and revived the *Wreck of the Pinafore*. Hounded by an indignant press, he saw it taken off after only four performances.

William achieved success with *Estrella* in Manchester and London. He took the opera to New York where it opened on 11 December 1883. Three nights later the theatre was gutted by fire.

In Australia William had success with *Estrella* and even greater success with *Bobadil*. He took his own troupe to South Africa, made a fortune out of property, and, in London put on the *Black Rover*. In 1891 he returned to New Zealand to see his father but, by the time of his arrival, Thomas Searell was dead. William conducted the Christchurch Musical Society in three successful performances of a cantata, *Australia*.

After leaving Christ's College, Ernest Searell worked at the South British Insurance Company and had a part-time position as organist at St. Mary's, Merivale. Much to the chagrin of Harriet and Alice, William lured Ernest from New Zealand as his assistant.

In South Africa again, William befriended Cecil Rhodes and wrote the words and music of a Rhodesian national anthem. He brought touring artists to the country, one company performing his last opera, *The kisses of Circe*, in 1896. When the Boer War broke out, he refused to join the Afrikaaner forces, saw his property confiscated and put up for auction and was financially ruined.

In America William collaborated with poet Ella Wheeler Wilcox in the writing of a sacred verse-drama *Mizpah*. When *Mizpah* achieved success, Ernest Searell, who had been to the Klondyke gold rush and seen his health deteriorate, became his brother's business manager. *Mizpah* was still touring in America when William, 54, died at East Molesy, Surrey, on 18 December 1907. Ernest died in Los Angeles in 1909.

William's music was not particularly original and, today, his name has been forgotten. Nevertheless he was the first person from Australasia to break into the international world of comic opera.

Arthur Searell was in charge of the Cust Mill, organist at the Anglican and then the Presbyterian church and played at dances. Sometimes he took his own piano by horse and dray, returning home in the early hours of the morning. As well, he taught music, with several pupils coming by train from Oxford for lessons. He died in 1915.

Edith Searell was born in 1859. She was confirmed, at Cust, by Bishop Harper, becoming organist at the Anglican church while still a teenager. Because she suffered from asthma, she took to playing in the morning, while her sister, Harriet, played in

the evening. When the family left Cust in 1883, Edith worked as a governess to the daughter of Mrs. Barber of Christchurch and was then resident governess at the home of Charles Overton of Swannanoa, giving the sons music lessons and the daughter, Edith, all her lessons. The Overtons were Methodists and Edith joined their church and, to fill a gap, sometimes even preached the sermon.

Later Edith was a boarder at the girls' school run by the Misses Ashwin in Armagh Street. She paid for her board by giving music lessons. She ran a private school for girls in the Rakaia district but was with her brother, Arthur, in Cust when she signed the Women's Suffrage Petition in 1893.

Concerned about her asthma, Edith consulted a faith healer who told her that she should devote her life to saving souls. She joined a band of street evangelists who sang and preached in Christchurch. Edith, a talented soprano, accompanied herself on the harmonium. She worked among the Chinese and, in doing this, was very much putting herself offside with her own ethnic group. The Chinese were much maligned people and considered drug dealers, drug takers, behind the white slave traffic and practitioners of every type of sexual perversity.

But this was not enough for Edith's restless soul. She confided to Alice that 'there was nothing she wanted more than to wear a martyr's crown' doing missionary work in China and her wish was granted. She badgered a missionary group who, at first, put her off because of her asthma and age – she was beyond the age of 30. After threatening to pay her own way to China, she was accepted. At first she taught music and French to the children of the missionaries. However, she considered it her destiny to convert the heathen. She was doing this when, during the 1900 Boxer Rebellion, she was murdered. The Searell tombstone refers to her death in China.

Harriet Searell outlived a number of her children and died, aged 94, on 20 June 1917.

One of the Searell children who did live into old age was Alice. She was governess to the daughters of the Westenra family in Papanui and, when the Westenras moved to Avonside, cycled over to teach them. Wanting to go beyond the music training that her mother had given her, she studied hard and qualified as Licentiate of the Associated Board. This qualification later became Licentiate of the Royal School of Music. She learned shorthand (she could take down 130 words per minute) and typing. She worked as a shorthand-typist and bookkeeper; joined the Canterbury Society of Professional Musicians and taught singing and piano; and, when St. Paul's offered her a modest sum, became, in 1895, the church organist. She lost the position of organist in 1917 when the church sought a man who would act as both organist and choirmaster. Three years earlier she had lost another position she enjoyed, that of clerk in the office of Karl Joosten. A German and an indent agent whose business was solely with Germany, Joosten was taken into custody in World War I.

Founder of the St. Paul's, Papanui, Tennis Club, Alice was still able to enjoy a game at the age of 80. Each Christmas Eve she took the choir carol singing after midnight. Parishioners who were still awake would reward the singers' efforts with biscuits and wine. Alice, 85, died on 11 June 1947.

And the Carlton Mill. It was built on a public towpath. Eventually the forceful R. E. Green and other saw and axe wielding individuals asserted the people's right and cut through all obstacles, including the mill house itself. However, no further action was taken. About 1909 there was little objection when the aged, decayed mill house was cleared away. Only the street name Carlton Mill Road survived.

Area 7
Row B
No. 751
Nosworthy

Stephen Nosworthy was born 'at Manaton in South Devon, in 1828, his forefathers for many generations having been farmers in that district'. As a youth, he voyaged with a friend, a sea captain, to China and the Philippines. He 'first arrived in Auckland in 1848', finding it 'a collection of huts on poles along the seashore'. He returned to England but came back to New Zealand in 1852, engaging in pastoral work in the North Island.

Coming to Canterbury in 1860, Nosworthy was manager to George and Robert Heaton Rhodes at the Levels Station. From there Nosworthy moved to the St. Leonard's Station in the Amuri where Robert Heaton Rhodes was in partnership with Robert Wilkin. On 2 January 1867, at St. Paul's, Papanui, Stephen Nosworthy, 38, bachelor, station manager, married Rebecca Ward, 25, spinster, sister and sister-in-law of Sarah and John Alley. The Nosworthys remained at St. Leonard's till the dissolution of the partnership in 1868.

On 2 April 1953 G. R. Macdonald wrote to Dr. David Macmillan:

> When Nosworthy left St. Leonard's in October 1868, he was presented with a gold watch and chain by the old hands and also given an address which spoke of the 'kindness and consideration you have shown to the employees' ….Station managers are not often presented with gold watches and addresses in such language.

In the same year that he got married, Nosworthy took over a number of mares and foals from J. W. Mallock of Horsley Downs. Among them were 'Gitana', 'Malice', 'Mermaid', 'Waterwitch', 'No Name', 'Emmeline' and 'Futurity' and from these and two or three other mares he bred a succession of good horses.

In 1870 Nosworthy won the Canterbury Derby with 'Envy', a filly by the famed 'Traducer' from 'Arucena'. He made an even bigger splash as the breeder and owner of 'Lurline', a mare by 'Traducer' from 'Mermaid' which won the 1872 and 1873 Canterbury Cup 'and proved herself to be indisputably the best racehorse produced in New Zealand up to that time'. Nosworthy also brought out 'Calumny', another daughter of 'Traducer', from 'Gitana', which won the Canterbury Derby and was extremely successful over short courses. Thus Nosworthy's black jacket, scarlet sash and red cap became prominent on the racecourses of the South Island. Henry Redwood bought 'Lurline' and 'Calumny' and had success with them in Australia.

It was stated that Nosworthy became involved with the sport

> … due rather to a love of horses than to a liking for racing. He was a shrewd judge of thoroughbreds, with a good knowledge of both the theory and … practice of breeding, and he obtained a great deal more pleasure from his stud, where he achieved very considerable success, than he did from the racecourse, where he was unable to reconcile himself to some of the methods that were in vogue in the days when he was running horses.

Of quiet, unassuming disposition, frank and open, Nosworthy 'earned the respect and regard of all those connected with the turf who came to understand him and appreciate his integrity'. On selling his stud, he became manager of the Middle Park Stud at Riccarton 'with complete satisfaction to his employers, but without the scope he wished for the development of his own ideas'.

The Nosworthys retired to a house at Canon Street, St. Albans. Rebecca, 75, died on 8 December 1917. Stephen, a member of the Shirley parish, was 'well known to many', and died at his home, aged 89, on 22 May 1918. Perhaps he was the archetypal Victorian paterfamilias. He left 'a family of two sons … and four unmarried daughters'.

One of Stephen and Rebecca's sons, Sir William Nosworthy, held the famed Mesopatamia station from 1917-45 and was M. P. for Ashburton. He was a member of the 1912-28 Reform Government, his portfolios including Agriculture and External Affairs. He was the most senior Cabinet minister when Prime Minister William Fergusson Massey Massey died in 1925. His name was put forward for the post of prime minister but colleagues chose instead the colourful Gordon Coates.

With their parents or nearby are buried the Nosworthys' unmarried daughters: Jane Louisa, 64, who died on 23 February 1940; Mary, 72, who died on 1 July 1941; Rebecca, 80, who died on 28 November 1950; and Amelia Bertha, who died on 6 January 1961.

No. 754
Cooke

In 1882, aged 20, James Cooke obtained his M.D. from the University of Ireland. He went on to become a Licentiate of the Royal College of Surgeons, Edinburgh, in 1884. He came to New Zealand and for many years resided at Lincoln 'where he was extremely popular in a wide country district'. He left a wife, two sons and two daughters.

No. 761
Lange

Carl Augustus Frederick Lange and his wife, Whilhelmena Dorathea, were Germanic tenant farmers at Rhodes' Swamp or, as it became, Marshland. In the W. J. Walter papers at Christchurch City Libraries there is a statement:

> In Langes Road, running about a quarter of a mile from Hills Road, lived a very fine hardworking farmer named Carl Lange. He reared a family of 12, 11 boys and one girl. They were a rare type of strong, healthy, energetic children.

Carl – or, as he became, Charles – Lange died, 77, on 13 September 1919. Whilhelmena, 78, died on 1 July 1926. One of the children, John Louis, died in the 1970s aged over 100 years

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