St Peter’s, Upper Riccarton, is the graveyard of owners and trainers of the great horses of the racing and trotting worlds. People buried here have been in charge of horses which have won the A. J. C. Derby, the V.R.C. Derby, the Oaks, Melbourne Cup, Cox Plate, Auckland Cup (both codes), New Zealand Cup (both codes) and Wellington Cup.

**Area 1**
**Row A**
Robert John Witty.

Robert John Witty (‘Peter’ to his friends) was born in Nelson in 1913 and attended Christchurch Boys’ High School, College House and Canterbury College. Ordained priest in 1940, he was Vicar of New Brighton, St. Luke’s and Lyttelton. He reached the position of Archdeacon. Director of the British Sailors’ Society from 1945 till his death, he was, in 1976, awarded the Queen’s Service Medal for his work with seamen.

Unofficial exorcist of the Anglican Diocese of Christchurch, Witty did not look for customers; rather they found him. He said of one Catholic lady: “Her priest put her on to me; they have a habit of doing that”. Problems included poltergeists, shuffling sounds, knockings, tapping, steps tramping up and down stairways and corridors, pictures turning to face the wall, cold patches of air and draughts.

Witty heard the ringing of Victorian bells - which no longer existed - in the hallway of St. Luke’s vicarage. He thought that the bells were rung by the shade of the Rev. Arthur Lingard who came home to die at the vicarage then occupied by his parents, Eleanor and Archdeacon Edward Atherton Lingard. In fact, Arthur was moved to Miss Stronach’s private hospital where he died on 23 December 1899.

**Row C**
**No. 68**
Henry Francis Wigram, 18 Jan 1957-6 May 1934
Agnes Vernon Wigram, 24 Jan 1862-23 Sep 1957.

Henry Wigram’s maternal grandfather was the fifth Viscount Haberton. His father was a London barrister and Henry was educated at Harrow. Poor health caused him to emigrate to Canterbury in 1883, though he returned to England to marry Agnes Vernon Sullivan on 31 March 1885.

Wigram had a Heathcote Valley malthouse and brickworks, a Woolston brickworks, founded the Canterbury (N.Z.) Seed Company, began a nail factory; and took over the South Malvern pipeworks. Mayor of Christchurch from 1902-04, he facilitated the amalgamation of the Linwood, St. Albans and Sydenham boroughs within Christchurch city. As well, he brought about the demise of privately owned tramway companies which, in the main, used horse power, and established the Christchurch Tramway Board which electrified the tramway system.

Eventually Wigram left day-to-day business concerns, keeping directorships of bodies such as the Lyttelton Times Company. He helped establish lifesaving as a sport, enjoyed painting, tennis, shooting, fishing, deerstalking and, in 1916, wrote *The story of Christchurch, New Zealand*. 

*Upper Riccarton Cemetery*  
2007
On the Legislative Council, the old Upper House of Parliament, from 1903, Wigram tried unsuccessfully to interest his fellow councillors in the potential of aviation. In 1916, he and business friends established the Canterbury (N.Z.) Aviation Company to promote aviation in local defence; pioneer commercial flying; and, more immediately, train pilots who would join the Royal Flying Corps and fight in World War I. On 10 October 1916 Wigram ‘motored out to … Plumpton Park [Trotting Club] to look at 106 acres offered for sale’. This was the site eventually purchased, the transfer taking place a month later.

Wigram purchased further property and added this to the airfield. When, after the war, the Government dithered about taking over the flying school, Wigram kept it going largely out of his own pocket. In 1923 he gave 10,000 pounds to the Government which took the school over, naming it Wigram Aerodrome. Wigram was knighted in 1926 and gifted another 81 acres to the aerodrome in 1932.

Agnes Wigram was, for more than 40 years, a prominent member of the Red Cross Society, ‘the noblest humanitarian society this world has ever known’. Sir Henry was one of the first car owners in the province and Agnes one of the first women drivers. In 1949 she presented the Lady Wigram Trophy for competition at the international motor race subsequently held annually at Wigram.

The Wigrams lived in Riccarton prior to moving to their home (formerly a girls’ private school) at No. 1 Park Terrace. Sir Henry died there in 1934, the Press commenting: ‘This was a man notable for the wisdom that sees far, reaches for much and is sure of its grasp’. Agnes lived on in Park Terrace, dying there in 1957.

Row C
No. 72
Laurel and Shirley Campbell

Laurel Amy Eva Doyle, granddaughter of Joseph Doyle, founder of Doyleston, was born in 1902. Her father became a full-time horse breeder, trainer and dealer, with a special interest in race horses. Laurel worked in her father’s racing stable, trained her first thoroughbred (which she owned) at 20 and was ‘best lady rider’ at the Canterbury Agricultural and Pastoral Show. She was ‘admired for her attractive appearance and fastidiousness of dress and habits’.

Laurel needed no permission to train her own horses but, as a woman, needed permission to train horses for others. In 1927 she received a racing licence from the New Zealand Racing Conference; she was the second woman to obtain such a licence.

On 30 May 1929, to the dismay of her family and the racing community, Laurel married charming but drink-sodden Scottish-born jockey James Campbell. A daughter, Shirley, was born five months after the wedding. Laurel, head of the household, continued to train horses, winning the New Zealand Grand National Steeplechase in 1933 and being listed seventh on the trainers’ table, ahead of most male trainers. ‘Wee Janny … adored and adorable … sunny natured, bright …[and] pretty’, was ‘too perfect to live’. While playing on the roadside, she was killed by a truck.

Upper Riccarton Cemetery
2007
Laurel’s horse, Willie Win’ was second in the 1937 Melbourne Cup. In the early ‘40s, Laurel left her husband (they were divorced in 1950) and moved to Hastings where she and lover Jack Jefferd headed the 1947-48 trainers’ table. The personal relationship distressed Jefferd’s wife and family.

Jim died in the Porirua Mental Asylum in 1956. Laurel returned to Canterbury and, after years of alcoholism and depression, died in Sunnyside Asylum in 1971.

The gravestone reads: ‘Shirley Janet, daughter of James and Laurel Campbell, accidentally killed 16 December 1935 aged 6 years; and her mother, Laurel, died 3 January 1971’.

Row C
No 86
Donald Fraser.

Donald and Elizabeth Fraser had a daughter, 16, and son, seven At 2.37 a.m. on the night of 17 November 1933 Donald, 43, licensee of the Racecourse Hotel, Racecourse Road, Upper Riccarton, was sleeping in his bedroom. There were French doors leading from the bedroom onto a balcony at the front of the hotel. The balcony could be reached by means of a fire escape, the bottom end of which was not above the reach of a man of average height. Probably by this means somebody entered the bedroom, fired two blasts from a double-barrelled shotgun at point blank range into the chest of the sleeping licensee, and knocked him to the floor, killing him within minutes. The ammunition could have been purchased locally, at Ashby Bergh’s.

Despite their efforts – which included a house-to-house canvass over many miles and the draining of the ponds in the Riccarton racecourse - the police could not find the murder weapon. They did find an imprint on the ground below the balcony. This was similar to the imprint which would have come from the galoshes which were found wrapped in brown paper in the deceased’s drawer (which are now part of the file on the case at Archives New Zealand, Wellington). The police were not able to establish a clear motive or direct evidence linking the crime to a specific person.

At the inquest, seven months after the murder, the police presented voluminous bundles of papers tightly packed and bound, the result of exhaustive interviews and other investigations. These papers were 12 inches in height.

Mrs. Fraser was represented by perhaps the greatest criminal lawyer in Christchurch, Charles S. Thomas. The domestic life of the Frasers came under close scrutiny, it was ascertained that the couple had had many disputes and, just prior to the murder, there was talk of divorce proceedings. In October 1933 Fraser had spent two weeks motoring in the North Island with a Wellington woman and, through the whole of the trip, they travelled as husband and wife.

The pillows on the bed were also a subject of much interest. That on the left, where the deceased had lain, had a depression in the centre and a small bloodstain. The pillow on the other side showed no sign of having been slept on. Mrs. Fraser said
that, at the time of the shooting, she had been asleep with her husband. However, she had slept on the edge of the bed, hardly using the pillow at all.

The coroner decided that while some witnesses had been truthful, others had not. He named the truthful witnesses; Mrs. Fraser was not in the list.

The police posted a three hundred pound reward ‘for information which leads to the discovery and conviction of the person or persons who caused the death of … Donald Fraser’. The reward was never claimed.

Row D
No. 106
Richard John Mason, 1853-1932.
Sarah Jane Mason, 1864-1939.
Percy V. Mason, 1883-1963

Richard ‘Dick’ Mason was ‘possibly the most successful trainer this country has ever seen’. He was Wellington-born and

… at an early age took service with Mr. Fawns, a veterinary surgeon, who kept a few horses …. During his stay with Mr. Fawns his services were sought for catch-weight race-riding, and, on hacks from the Wairarapa, He gained some experience, winning his first race on a horse called Conquest.

Mason went to Wanganui and then to Nelson. At the meeting there, in 1869, in honour of the Duke of Edinburgh, he rode his horse in a match against another beast on which five to one was laid. It

… was a proud day for Mason who won the match and was complimented on his horsemanship by the Duke who gave him some kindly advice and predicted for him a successful career.

Mason went to Thames, Auckland and Otago before accepting, from Henry Redwood a five year engagement as his first horseman. Redwood was the ‘Father of the New Zealand turf’ – and Mason became ‘the Prince of New Zealand trainers’ Mason became private trainer of thoroughbreds for the Hon. William Robinson and George Gatonby Stead, reaching a position where he could choose to train only the best horses. After Stead’s death in 1908, he worked at Riccarton for George Dean Greenwood, the owner of the Teviotdale Estate in North Canterbury. Greenwood, knowing Mason’s skills, left him largely to his own devices. The best trainer trained one of the best horses ever, ‘Gloaming’.

Row D
No. 120
Leonard Hagerty

Hagerty, 35, boxer and rugby player, was ‘perhaps the most dashing steeplechase jockey in New Zealand’. He died of spinal meningitis on 23 March 1922 and a monument was ‘erected by the sportsmen of New Zealand to the memory of a brave and honest rider’.

Upper Riccarton Cemetery
2007
Row D
No. 124
Randolph Theodore Chaney born Randolph, Bay of Biscay 10 September 1850-died 6 Nov 1928
Mother, 1854-1932

As with children who had the Christian names ‘Ocean Annie’ and ‘Atlantic Sea-borne’, Randolph Chaney had a name which showed that he had been born at sea and, in this case, on one of the First Four Ships. Randolph was baptised aboard ship by the Rev. Charles Puckle. His father, William, was a mason; throughout his working life, Randolph was a labourer.

Row E
No. 155
Alfred Edward Luttrell, 1865-1924
Ellen Mary, 1866-1939

Alfred Luttrell and his brother, Edward Sydney (1872-1932) were the sons of an Australian cabinet-maker and contractor. Alfred served an apprenticeship as an architect and Sydney was apprenticed to his brother. A partnership was established in Australia and, later, in Christchurch.

The Luttrells showed architectural skill and business acumen, had their own contracting company and encouraged the use of reinforced concrete. Unofficial architects to the Roman Catholic diocese, they designed parish churches at Hokitika, New Brighton and Sumner, and a chapel for the Sisters of the Good Shepherd at Mount Magdala. Other works included the King Edward Barracks, Theatre Royal, Royal Exchange Building (later the Regent Theatre) and racecourse grandstands at Addington, Riccarton and Trentham. Alfred, a man of ‘most jovial disposition’, was overshadowed by his showy brother.

Row E
The memorial is touching:

Early didst thou leave the world.

John Henry Atkinson, 2 October 1909-9 October 1945:
Beloved husband of Mabbie.


The years have been long, my love.

Row E
No. 167
Henry Philip Hill, born Shropshire 1845-died 1923. Nora Alice, his wife

Henry Philip Hill, son of Colonel Hill of Press Hall, Shropshire, was educated at English public schools, Cheam and Marlborough, and spent some years on an Ionian island where his father was governor, the chaplain being the Rev. F. Broome. He left Gravesend on 10 March 1863, the wedding day of King Edward VII and Queen
Alexandra. He and the son of his father’s chaplain on the Ionian island, Frederick (later Sir Frederick) Broome were cadets on the Steventon run on the south bank of the Upper Selwyn River. Later they became the runholders at Steventon.

Hill moved to properties at Leeston and Sedgemere. He had Romney sheep and was also a dairy farmer. He imported from the Channel Islands and England the first Jersey cattle to come to Canterbury. One of his importations was from a relative, the Rev. J. Hill, Shropshire, whose herd was described as ‘one of the few which had been kept pure in England for the preceding 50 years’. Amongst the importation was ‘Primrose … fountain-head of the famous family of that name’. Under another owner, the second George Gould, the herd was favourably known throughout the country.

Hill bought a property at Dallington which he called ‘St. Helier’s’. He and a new partner, H. J. C. Jekyll, built the Dallington bridge free of cost to the ratepayers, thus making it easy for people from this area to have contact with the city. The bridge building activity was not entirely altruistic. Hill and Jekyll planned a horse tram to New Brighton via the bridge. This scheme came to nought.

Hill was a major figure in the Anglican Church. He gave the land for the Sedgemere church; was 40 years a churchwarden and vestryman; 25 years a synodsman; and, for 18 years, a Fellow of Christ’s College. In the 1870s and 1880s he was a pioneer lay reader in the Burwood-New Brighton area. His name is commemorated in Hills Road.

An obituary stated that:

Mr. Hill’s many friends will remember him for his great love of his garden, in which was always to be found some rare and beautiful plant; also his love for birds - at St. Helier’s he had an aviary of native birds.

The Church news described Hill as ‘an excellent example of that fine old type of English gentleman who came here in the early days’, a man of ‘courtesy … gentleness … humour’ and ‘sanctified common sense’ who was beloved by all who knew him. He experienced a long illness but ‘his courage and unfailing cheerfulness were an inspiration and his passing … a complete triumph over the sting of death’.

Mrs. Hill, a daughter of H. A. Scott of Glenthorne station, was a keen rider to hounds.

Row E
No. 181

The wording on this stone tells all that one needs to know:

In loving memory of Elizabeth, 30, youngest daughter of Joseph and Sarah Irvine, who was killed at Riccarton on 8 August 1930. Also: Harry, 20, their youngest son, who was killed in action, Belgium, 13 December 1917.

In perfect health they left their home

Upper Riccarton Cemetery
2007
not thinking that their time had come.

In a few short hours their race was run.

Weep not, dear friends, God’s will be done.

Joseph Irvine, 77, husband of Sarah, died 26 September 1937.

Row F
No. 205
William Coles Webb

Born in Berkshire in 1834, William Coles Webb started his career in racing at the age of 14 and became an experienced trainer. He decided to visit the colonies and, in 1862, met the Hon. Lancelot Walker of Four Peaks Station, Canterbury, who arranged that he bring out, on the ship Kensington, a number of horses, among them ‘Traducer’ and ‘Mermaid’. The former would become one of the world’s great sires; the latter was the ancestress of one of New Zealand’s great equine families. The voyage took six months and the horses arrived in such wretched condition that Walker was glad to sell them.

Webb trained horses in Canterbury. Among the men who worked under him – and found him a hard taskmaster – was Patrick or Patsy Butler. Butler was to take as his apprentice the famed Freeman Holmes.

Webb opened the Bush Inn in 1866, holding the licence till 1905. He owned a large block of land about the hostelry - the 1882 Return of the freehold of New Zealand describes it as 77 acres worth 6630 pounds.

In 1906 it was recorded of Webb that he had

… recently sold out his long time home, the well-known Bush Inn hostelry, which was managed in an exemplary manner, Mine Host, however, spending the greater part of his life attending to his stud and farming.

W. C. Webb, 86, died on 15 August 1920.

Row G
No. 222
Julius Whitehead M.A. (All Souls, Oxon.), was the son of the Rev. Arthur Whitehead, Barnjet, Kent, England. Julius was ‘late vicar of this parish’. He died, aged 55, on 4 July 1918.

Whitehead, a man of ‘tolerant, charitable disposition’, was vicar from 1904-06 and resigned because of ill health. His wife is buried here but has no gravestone.

Row G
No. 224
Charles Stuart Bowden, 1860-1909

Upper Riccarton Cemetery
2007
Jessie Bowden nee Gould 1855-1936

Born at Portsmouth, Charles Bowden was a son of Caroline Letitia Stewart and her husband, Major Herbert George Bowden of the 22nd Regiment, Lochfield, near Dumfries, Scotland. Educated at Fettes College, he was head of the school, carrying off prizes for Latin hexameters and an English poem. He won an open scholarship at Hertford College, Oxford, taking a second in ‘Mods’ and third in ‘Greats’. Graduating B. A. in 1884, he emigrated in 1886 and was ordained by Bishop Harper in 1889. During his 1889-1894 St. Michael’s curacy, he ‘endeared himself to the parishioners’. He showed ‘natural modesty’ and ‘a genuine kindness and thoughtfulness, especially towards the sick and suffering’.

On 14 July 1891 Churchill Julius officiated at the first wedding he had taken as Bishop, the society nuptials of C. S. Bowden and Jessie Gould, daughter of pioneer capitalist George Gould. The great Canterbury chronicler, George Ranald Macdonald, was one day to write of his aunt, the bride, that she was ‘35 and had nearly given up hope’.

The wedding received much media coverage.

Inside the church the vergers were kept busy, insisting on decorum and order. Many persons in their anxiety to witness a pretty sight seemed to forget where they were, talking audibly and standing on seats, much to the discomfort of others. The bride looked exceedingly well in a handsome thick white Ottoman chord made with a train and trimmed with frills and ruckings of chiffon round the foot of the skirt and on the bodice.

The carriages for the bridal party were drawn by white horses. A coach, drawn by four white horses, was provided for the choir as they were invited to partake of the hospitality at Avonbank, Fendalton.

Vicar at Mornington, Dunedin, from 1894 till 1906, Bowden was then transferred to Riccarton. Bowden was a ‘very scholarly and thoughtful preacher’; the sermon he gave at the 1908 Christ’s College Commemoration Day was printed in full, the text being taken from Psalm 90:9: ‘We bring our years to an end as a tale that is told’.

One of Bowden’s noteworthy characteristics was his devotion to duty. ‘He practically gave his life for the cause’, contracting a chill on a wet Saturday in September 1909. Next morning he conducted the early morning service. The chill turned to pleurisy and a few days later he was dead. At Bowden’s funeral, Archdeacon Averill preached from the text St. Matthew XXV., 21: “Well done, good and faithful servant … Enter thou into the joy of thy Lord.”

Averill’s eulogy read in part:

Charles Bowden was a man with a very distinct personality, a man of considerable mental attainments, and a man with a very high ideal of life and duty, and it was impossible to converse with him for long without feeling
instinctively, in spite of his natural modesty, that he was a man of considerable depth of assimilated learning and deep piety.

Later Bowden was described as.

… no ordinary preacher … he knew nothing of the tricks of oratory and his earnest words always carried weight because they expressed what he felt so intensely viz., that the only true standard of life is the standard of the Gospel. Of his real sympathy and genuine kindness with the sick and suffering many of you know well. Of his constant and systematic devotion to the ordinary duties of a parish priest you are all aware. For his thoughtfulness and unobtrusive generosity many will rise up and call him blessed. It is quite true to say that he lived for his work, that his work was never out of his mind, and that he continued to work when men much physically stronger might well have given in …. We hardly realise sometimes what a tremendous strain the ordinary life of a parish priest is upon the nervous system and what must it have been upon him who was naturally of a nervous and highly-strung disposition. We can see it, we can feel it now, we can realise only too well that he was living and working up to every ounce of his strength, and, consequently, that he had no reserve to fall back upon when severe illness overtook him. Truly, he has died in harness ….

Bowden was … buried at the east end of the chancel, close to the last resting-place of the late Archdeacon Bowen. The grave was bordered with primrose and the mound beside it covered with choice white flowers …. Mrs. Bowden and their three children followed the coffin which was borne by members of the vestry. The weather was calm and bright and the whole of the proceedings in keeping with the modest and reverent spirit of him whose earthly career thus found its close.

A Bowden daughter, Jean, married the historian, Randal Mathews Burdon and, after her divorce, the lawyer Denis Cotterill of Duncan, Cotterill and Co. Jean is buried with her parents, her memorial reading: ‘Jean Stewart Cotterill, born 13 November 1898, died 10 May 1989, wife of Denis Cotterill, daughter of J. and C. S. Bowden’.

Row H
No. 227


Row H
No. 228

Charles Christopher Bowen K.C.M.G., 29 Aug 1830-12 Dec 1917

Born at Milford, County Mayo, Ireland, Charles Christopher Bowen was the son of an Irish gentleman, Charles Bowen. In 1850, with parents and sibling, he emigrated on the Charlotte Jane. Charles Bowen held positions in provincial government before retiring with his wife and daughter to Guildford, Surrey. Charles Christopher and his brother, Croasdaile, remained.
Charles Christopher was one of the most successful of the colonists. For two years he was private secretary to John Robert Godley, founder of Canterbury; in 1867 he would deliver the oration at the opening of the Godley Statue in Cathedral Square. He was in charge of the police force; president of the North Canterbury Acclimatisation Society; and became, with Crosbie Ward, co-owner of the Lyttelton times. He wrote for the paper and eventually sold out, the paper being owned in the 1860s by Crosbie Ward and William Reeves.

In 1859 Bowen returned to England via the Americas, walking across the Andes with explorer and geographer Clements Markham. His account of his travels would earn him a fellowship of the Royal Geographic Society. In 1861, in England, he married Georgina Elizabeth, sister of Clements Markham. There would be seven children of the marriage. In 1868 Lord Lyttelton and Henry Selfe Selfe visited Canterbury and stood as godparents to one of the Bowen children.

From 1864-74 Bowen held a central government appointment as Resident Magistrate in Christchurch. The position allowed him to be independent from provincial politics, ‘paid well and allowed him to be his own master and the judge of others’. He was well-respected but somewhat soft-hearted when dealing with the petty crime of prostitutes, thieves and drunkards.

Offered a position in central government, Bowen entered Parliament as M.P. for Kaiapoi in 1875 and remained till 1881. As Minister of Justice he introduced the ‘mark’ system which meant that good behaviour on the part of prisoners would result in a reduction of their sentences.

Bowen’s great achievement, the 1877 Education Bill, gave the masses free, secular and compulsory primary school education. The bill was very much Bowen’s work. He defended it in a long speech at its first reading, guided it through subsequent readings and, when the government fell, persuaded the incoming minister to take it over and pass it into law.

Bowen supported Robert Falcon Scott’s work in Antarctica. His daughter, Gertrude, married Scott’s cousin, Robert J. Scott, Professor of Engineering at Canterbury College. His brother-in-law, Clements Markham, President of the Royal Geographic Society, was Scott’s mentor. Members of Scott’s 1901-04 and 1910-12 expeditions were guests at Bowen’s house, ‘Middlton’, now the site of a private school.

Bowen was on the Senate of the University of New Zealand from 1881-82 and 1888-1915. He was also in the Legislative Council, being Speaker from 1905-15. He was knighted in 1910 and made K.C.M.G. in 1914. He died on 12 December 1917.

Bowen’s funeral was

… attended by a very large gathering of old friends and the beautiful churchyard was pervaded by an atmosphere of peace and hopefulness that uplifted the hearts of all who were there.

The Vicar spoke of Charles as one

Upper Riccarton Cemetery
2007
… who for the past 60 years worshipped at the church …. In spite of the call of his public life, the late Sir Charles … had attended the church Sun day after Sunday …. They would miss that kindly face and genial disposition and all those good traits of character which went to make up the beautiful life which gave joy and pleasure to those who came in contact with him.

Sir Charles was like St. Paul. He could say with the Apostle: “I have fought a good fight, have finished my course, have kept the faith”.

Gertrude Scott’s gravestone reads:

Gertrude Elizabeth Scott, the beloved wife of Robert Julian Scott; eldest daughter of Charles C. Bowen, born 24 August 1864 - died 20 June 1909.

Robert Julian Scott lived from 1861-1930.

An aside. In England Robert Falcon and Katherine Scott associated with all the right people. When their son was born, the names which they gave him were associated with his godfathers - Peter, after ‘Peter Pan’, the creation of Sir James Barrie, and ‘Markham’, after Clements Markham.

Some of Georgina Bowen’s letters have survived. In these she shows that, at her home she did not mind mucking in; indeed, she was pleased to be able to show that she was a competent dairy woman. However, she was always conscious that she belonged to the landed gentry and that pretenders could not fit in.

William Reeves was

… a shrewd sensible man of the merchant class … slightly vulgar but not at all offensively so. I have heard that his wife is a wonderful musician and she is, I believe, a very good sort of person, though not quite a lady.

In a provincial council election the contenders were the Australian-born lawyer, William Cowlishaw and ‘a Capt. Anderson who is a gentleman by birth but … at present drives Cobb’s coach and is not a respectable member of society’.

There was, in the provincial council, a contest for the Speaker’s chair, the claimants being

… Mr. Ross, a gentleman and a very fit person … and Mr Ollivier, a very bumptious auctioneer …. Canterbury has always been so highly respectable that it would be a pity to see it fall lower in the colonial scale.

At the turning of the first sod of the Great Southern Railway in May 1865, the Bowens and other elite families were in an enclosure. There was a Volunteer ball in the evening at which there was ‘a very mixed assembly indeed, and some of the dresses would, I think, have rather astonished you. We left early, as did most of the ladies and gentlemen’. Two years later, at Sir George Grey’s levee, Grey ‘shook hands with everyone who was presented to him which struck me as being rather a Yankee proceeding’.

Upper Riccarton Cemetery
2007
Georgina spent much of her time at calls, dinners, balls, croquet and charitable work. Calls were a duty rather than a pleasure. For Georgina five calls in an afternoon was light work. Sometimes calls were an onerous duty. A cleric and Christ’s College master and his wife were ‘exceedingly dull people’ and the Bowens waited two years before visiting them again.

Although very conscious of their social status, the Bowens allowed the locals to use their property on special occasions. On 20 January 1898 the Sunday School pupils attended a brief service at St. Peter’s and then went to ‘Middleton’ where games and races took place. The vicar wrote that thanks were due to the Bowens ‘who, for many years past, have kindly allowed the treat to be held in their grounds’.

**Row H**

No. 230
Croasdaile and Annette Laura Bowen


Croasdaile Bowen arrived in 1850 as ‘a lad of 18, fresh from Rugby’, where his headmaster had been Archibald Campbell Tait. He worked on his father’s farm and studied under the Rev. Henry Jacobs. In 1857 he was made a deacon at the original St. Michael’s church when Bishop Harper carried out his first ordination.

Archdeacon Octavius Mathias gave land for a church and school at Upper Riccarton, stipulating that Croasdaile become vicar. Originally he served a wide area which included Halswell.

Croasdaile was in England in 1875-76 and his former headmaster, now Archbishop of Canterbury, conferred on him the degree of Bachelor of Divinity. He also met the ‘charming Miss Annette Laura Wiles, daughter of Mr. Henry Wiles of Denny Abbey, Cambs’. The friendship was maintained by letter until the couple married on 27 May 1880 at which time Croasdaile was once more in England. Croasdaile was 48, his bride 37. A week later

… 68 aged, poor and needy of the village of Waterbeach, Cambridge, were entertained to a substantial dinner at the expense of Mrs. Bowen …and tea and supper were provided for the whole of the church Sunday School in which she had been for years one of the most active teachers….The vicar spoke of the work done among the poor, the sick and the young by the bride whose sphere of labour was now to be transferred to a far distant field of church work in the Antipodes ….

Croasdaile Bowen was active in public education, especially with regard to having the Bible taught in public schools in such a way that feathers were not ruffled. His versatility was shown by the fact that he drew the plans of the state school and was chairman of the school committee.

*Upper Riccarton Cemetery*  
2007
In May 1889 Dean Henry Jacobs resigned as Archdeacon of Christchurch and Bowen took his place. The appointment ‘was looked upon by … fellow clergy and friends as well merited promotion and he was warmly congratulated’. In June he became a Church Property Trustee. In September he had the honour of proposing Churchill Julius, Archdeacon of Ballarat, as successor to Bishop Harper. While delivering a sermon in November he was struck down by ‘paralysis of the brain’, his speech becoming incoherent. He went on to travel to Kaikoura, Blenheim and Wellington in an endeavour to improve his health. On one occasion he apparently rallied ‘but it was only the last flicker of the expiring flame of life and on Friday [3 January 1890] the end came’.

A Church news obituary stated:

The Ven. Archdeacon Bowen was a man of uniform uprighteousness of character, and, in the Synod, his counsels were always listened to with respect.

His life having for so many years been bound up with the Church progress of the province and the immediate welfare of a large parish, the deceased gentleman was widely known and esteemed, and not only his parishioners but a large circle of acquaintances will lose a tried and trusted friend.

The Cathedral bell tolled, ‘the strokes given at intervals of half a minute and equal in number to the years which the deceased clergyman had attained … 58’.

The Church news noted that Croasdaile Bowen’s uncle was ‘one of the oldest clergy men in England, being 89 years of age and still strong and vigorous’. Bishop Harper, 86, the man who had ordained the archdeacon, took the funeral service at St. Peter’s, being assisted by the Rev. Canon Stanford and the Rev. Walter Dunkley. The service was semi-choral, the boys from the Cathedral Choir and the St. Peter’s men’s choir ‘singing several appropriate hymns very sweetly’.

A large number of the old parishioners of St. Peter’s assembled to pay a last token of regard to one who had so long and so faithfully taught them and it was quite a touching sight to see both old and young throng the little church to overflow and crowd round the grave to obtain a last look at the coffin or place thereon a little offering of flowers. The grave was dug close under the shadow of the chancel of the church and in that fitting spot the minister was buried.

Many years later E. M. Lovell-Smith imagined Croasdaile Bowen … an unusually gifted clergyman, planting the trees surrounding the church and glebe and stamping the impress of his character upon the place. We see him riding on his sturdy, well-bred horse, of a beautifully rich cream colour. As he canters by he gracefully raises his hat, a salute that is returned by all.

Lovell-Smith also described this ‘clergyman of the old school …farming the glebe attached to his church’.

In Riccarton Annette’s

Upper Riccarton Cemetery
2007
... personality and her loving care for them all quickly established her in the affections of the parishioners, and when ... the Ven. Croesdaile Bowen died ... there was universal sorrow that the beloved Lady of the Vicarage had to leave the parish.

Fortunately or ‘in the providence of God’ it happened that a new source of income appeared. In 1874 Miss Johanna Lohse had established, at Matlock Bank, Middleton Road, Upper Riccarton, a private day and boarding school ‘for the higher education of gentlemen’s daughters’. The school had, later, been moved to Armagh Street. Miss Lohse was planning to leave the school and persuaded Annette to take it over. Mrs. Bowen ‘had no experience whatever in school teaching and, in later years, ... used to marvel at her own courage in undertaking the venture’. However ...she had the courage and, more than the courage, the ability and the personality with which to carry it through to a brilliant success. The courage she found was that of a widowed mother who had four small children to support. The school became known as Mrs. Bowen’s School for Young Ladies.

Annette ... gathered round her a singularly able staff of teachers who loyally helped her to build up the school until its fame was Dominion-wide, and at the beginning of this century had over 100 pupils and a large staff of teachers. It was an astonishing achievement for one who had served no apprenticeship ... and the only explanation of her success lies in the influence of her own character on the girls who came under her care, and her remarkable flair for associating with her the right kind of teacher

A December 1905 Church news advertisement says much about the character of Mrs. Bowen’s school. The school stood between Hagley Park and Cranmer Square ‘in one of the healthiest situations in Christchurch’. Four large and well-ventilated classrooms, built with special regard to health and comfort had ‘lately been added’. In front of them was a large veranda ‘in which the girls can play and be drilled in wet weather’.

Care of the boarders is Mrs. Bowen’s special concern. The head of the school itself is Miss Greenstreet B. A., who has lately returned from England. The education given is thoroughly sound, special attention being paid to backward girls. Religious instruction, both in the Old and New Testament, forms part of the regular school curriculum. The Bishop of Christchurch and vicar of the Parish also attend at intervals to give religious teaching ....

If parents desire, girls are prepared for matriculation [university entrance] and the school is justly proud of its record of passes. But Mrs. Bowen feels that a wider course of study than that necessitated by preparation for examinations is, in many cases, more truly educating and imparts greater culture ....

The great aim of the school is to assist girls prepare themselves for home life in the future by self-discipline and by the cultivation of sensible interests which can be pursued in after life ....

Upper Riccarton Cemetery
2007

14
Mrs. Bowen retired in 1909, handing the school to the Sisters of the Church. The sisters purchased the largest of the three houses which Annette owned on Armagh Street. On another site the school was to become St. Margaret’s.

In retirement Mrs. Bowen worked for the Ministring Children’s League, heading the committee controlling the ‘little Convalescent Children’s Cottage at New Brighton’ whose work was taken over by the Cholmondeley Memorial Home at Governor’s Bay. She supported Elizabeth Gard’ner whose domestic training school was eventually absorbed into the Christchurch Technical College. Mrs. Bowen was also president of the committee which ran the Rhodes Memorial Home.

Mrs. Bowen, 85, died on 18 January 1935, 45 years after the death of her husband. A Church news obituary states that she was

… honoured by all who knew her, beloved by all who had any intimacy with her, and revered by all of the great number of girls who passed through her school …. By the church people of today who only knew her in her charming old age, she will be remembered for the old-time courtesy, the loving personality, the keen humour, the alert intelligence and the deep spirituality of a woman who contrived to wear her garland of years with the perfect grace of one who had grown old in the service of Christ.

A friend stated that Mrs. Bowen was ‘absolutely selfless’ and that ‘her spirituality was a living force’.

No one ever appealed in vain for her sympathy and help, and her wise counsels will be greatly missed by very many people of all classes. A keen sense of humour, allied to her varied interests, made her a delightful companion, and now that she has been called to higher service, it is not only her children who will rise up and call her blessed.

Another wrote:

Death had no terror for her. She never made those wrong distinctions between the here and the hereafter that most of us do. One never met anyone who so fully and joyfully knew the meaning of Eternal life as ‘the always now’. The world of the spirit was always so much in her home, in spite of her eager interest in things here.

On 2 May 1960 George Ranald Macdonald, who was compiling his great biographical dictionary, wrote to Dr. David Macmillan:

I have been seeing the Miss Bowen who was head of a considerable girls’ school in the north of England. She was lively, entertaining but could give me no Bowen news at all. She was only three when her father died.

This daughter, Margaret Bowen, was principal of Duncan Park Girls’ School, Yorkshire but, on retirement, returned to Christchurch..
‘Girls’ schools in early Christchurch recalled’, *Press*, 30 April 1956

**Row H**
**No. 231**
Emily Mabel, 1874-1936, wife of Campbell West-Watson.

Campbell West-Watson, 3rd Bishop of Christchurch C.M.G., D. D., M.A. (Cantab.); Bishop from 1926-1951, Primate and Archbishop of New Zealand, 1940-1951; died 19 March 1953

Campbell West-Watson was English-born, had a brilliant academic career and, at 32, in 1909, became a bishop. Third Bishop of Christchurch, he arrived in 1926, served till 1951, and was also Archbishop of New Zealand. He liked the appearance of St. Peter’s and its graveyard and chose it as the place where his wife would be buried in 1936.

An interesting story, told by John A. Lee in *Rhetoric at the red dawn*, has the ashes of Professor A. W. Bickerton being posted from England to Christchurch. Bickerton’s friend, Edwin John Howard M.P., buried them in the sandhills at Sumner and stored them in the left luggage office at the railway station. Bishop West-Watson did not want the ashes of a rationalist placed in the Great Hall at Canterbury University College as was intended. When Howard threatened to send the ashes to West-Watson by registered mail, the bishop backed down.

Bishop West-Watson’s ashes were buried at St. Peter’s in 1953.

**Area 2**
**Row A**
**No. 239**
Gerrit van Asch of Sumner, died London, 3 March 1908
Emmeline Isabella van Asch, born Sunderland 19 April 1837-died Sumner 27 February 1922.

Born in Holland in 1836, van Asch moved to England and became well-known for his skill in teaching deaf children. William Rolleston, as Member of Parliament, lamented that deaf children were sent to Melbourne for their education and worked to establish an institution at Sumner. Gerrit van Asch was appointed principal in 1880.

Principal for 27 years, van Asch had to teach his other teachers how to manage deaf children. The four daughters of Gerrit and Emmeline van Asch also taught at the school, one being there for 17 years.

After van Asch’s retirement, he and his wife travelled back to Europe. Gerrit died of a stroke in London and is buried in Highgate Cemetery though his name is on the gravestone at St. Peter’s. Emmeline is buried at St. Peter’s.

**Row A**
**No. 235**
Charles Dilworth Fox, 1852-1931
Clara Emma Fox, 1860-1935

*Upper Riccarton Cemetery*  
2007
Charles Dilworth Fox was a runholder, being, for many years, at Foxdown, North Canterbury. In 1895 the widowed C. D. Fox married Emma Clara, daughter of architect, landowner, Volunteer leader and champion of music Alexander Lean.

Row B
No. 248
Annie Quayle Townend, only daughter of George Henry Moore of Glenmark, died 16 May 1914

My father, George Henry Moore of Glenmark, 10 December 1812-7 July 1905 G. H. Moore was the only son of Catherine Currin and her husband, Thomas Moore of Billown, Isle of Man. Thomas was a J.P., member of the House of Keys and captain of the parish.

George grew to be very tall, handsome and erect. He emigrated to Tasmania with his friend, Robert Quayle Kermode, working at ‘Mona Vale’, the sheep run of Robert’s father, William. In July 1839 Moore married William’s daughter, Anne. A descendant, Richard Levingston of Canberra states that their children, included William, Annie, Edward, Thomas and Frank. George and Anne Moore separated, probably before George came to New Zealand.

Of the children, William was a partner in the Glenmark venture but died young and estranged in England. The other sons were to receive no money from their father’s estate but may have been provided for in his lifetime. The child whom George favoured and brought to New Zealand was Annie.

In the 1850s Moore established Kermode and Co., his partners including brother-in-law, Robert Kermode and a Presbyterian divine, Dr. John Lillie who came to Christchurch, lived at Papanui, died in 1866 and is buried at Addington Cemetery. Moore’s partners put up the bulk of the money. Moore put his limited capital into the purchase of 2000 sheep and acted as manager. He made his headquarters at Camp Bay, Lyttelton Harbour and from there made a methodical survey of Canterbury.

The company looked at Glenmark. Messrs. Lawrie, Robert Waitt and Mark Stoddart then leased the property, the latter having apparently named it after his run in Victoria. Waitt bought enough freehold to defend his principal run, Teviotdale, but the trio did not have the capital to protect Glenmark against the invader. Sixty thousand acres were freeholded and, by 1864, the flock stood at 64,000 sheep. Moore refused to use drafting gates in his yards, saying that he did not care to employ a shepherd who was too lazy to lift a sheep over a rail.

In 1857 Moore discovered moa bones in the Glenmark swamp. Sir Julius von Haast arrived and Moore loaned him workmen so that the bones could be excavated. Von Haast gave moa bones to overseas museums and extracted from them valuable curiosities. Thus were established the collections of Canterbury Museum whose free-standing building was opened in 1870.

There were found, in the Glenmark swamps, the bones of the creature which fed on the moa and sometimes died with it - the largest bird of prey ever to have existed, the.
New Zealand eagle, *harpagornis moorei*. Von Haast named the eagle in honour of the Glenmark magnate.

When asked about his duty to his neighbours, Moore replied: “What do I care for my neighbours?” He allowed his sheep to suffer from scab, being known as ‘Scabby’ Moore. A. W. Rutherford hated Moore, saying that he was the enemy of all good farmers and ‘the king of scab’. Each month a scab list appeared in the newspapers and Glenmark was consistently given as the scabbiest run. Generally scab existed and could not readily be got rid of in rough or scrubby country. Moore would have had no problem getting rid of it from his clean country. In 1864 he was fined more than 2400 pounds for having scabby sheep. Then, as always, he appeared promptly in court and counted out the money. On one occasion some scabby sheep got into another flock which was sent to the saleyards. A number of flocks were thus infected.

Dr. David Macmillan would one day theorise - probably correctly - that after Moore purchased the bulk of the Glenmark property

… he still had large areas of leasehold which he could not, at the time, find the cash to buy … He kept his sheep scabby to frighten off intending freeholders who would not be keen to buy with Moore’s scabby sheep all around them.

On 8 May 1857 Dr. David Macmillan wrote to G. R. Macdonald:

For many years it was believed that Mrs. Hornbrook of Arowhenua had written a book deriding Moore of Glenmark for his naughty ways and that Moore bought the whole edition.

Macmillan had not seen a copy and L. G. D. Acland had told him that there was no book. ‘I am not so sure’.

At its peak, Glenmark carried 90,000 sheep. Indeed, it was overstocked. People who travelled along the main north road and through the run could usually see thin, scabby and dead sheep.

On Wednesday 7 March 1860, a ‘dreadful wet night’, Moore denied hospitality to an elderly swagman, Davis. He was to state: “I have given my hutkeeper orders not to take in any person without my orders as I have been imposed upon too often”. The man went off and shot himself, after which the runholder refused to allow his carpenters to construct a coffin (“It was the Sabbath”) and obstructed the police in their attempt to remove the body. A coroner’s jury stated:

We are of the opinion that the deceased died by his own hand, there being no evidence to show the state of his mind at the time. And the jury cannot too severely reprobate the conduct of Mr. Moore for denying the deceased shelter, and committing him, in an exhausted state, to the inclemency of the weather in a dark tempestuous night with an almost certainty of his not being able to find any other accommodation.

The Lyttelton times waxed lyrical:

*Upper Riccarton Cemetery
2007*
A man … [who] was not strong in health and had little or no money … went on foot as best he could trusting that the spirit of hospitality, for which our settlers are famed, would shelter and forward him on his way …. None refused a sick and weary fellow creature what help lay in their power but one - that one was Mr. Moore of Glenmark.

It seems to have been … [Mr. Moore’s] object, besides the growth of wool, to keep as far removed from him as possible the society and sympathies of his fellow creatures. Inside his boundary humanity has no rights; he has bought them up with the freehold at so much an acre.

So when a man, fatigued, sickly and hungry, came to him on a wet, bitter night and prayed first for work and then for shelter, Mr. G. H. Moore felt he was exercising an undeniable right in uttering a blank refusal and shutting his door upon him. The door was shut - and not only the master’s door but the servant’s, by the master’s repeated command; the man was left outside in a bitter night; and whether from hunger or from having lost himself in the darkness or from the effects of the storm, or from all together acting upon a diseased frame to the injury of the mind … he took the means of speedy death which lay within his grasp, and killed himself but a mile away from the food and shelter which he had failed to obtain.

Shame - a thousand times shame - to the individual who sent from his door into the waste a famished, footsore man …. What man with a spark of feeling would serve a dog so? …. When a constable came up on Sunday, he found the body … lying where it had fallen…not a hum an hand having been moved to rescue the remains … from being literally a prey to the beast of the field and the bird of the air. He [Moore] gave no help to the constable for one reason - because it was the Sabbath. Mean, hard-hearted, barbarous blasphemous man.

We cannot say with certainty that Mr. Moore’s offence is within the letter of the law …. But this we do know - that no hand of a Christian man should clasp that of Mr. Moore till he has done penance for his deep crime against the laws of God and man.

In Christchurch the masses showed their abhorrence of Moore’s behaviour by burning him in effigy. Two years later, when a similar incident occurred, there was not so much public feeling.

Sometimes Moore showed a kind face. An 1873 Star article contains the statement that

Mrs. Schoolbaid of Chester Street East acknowledges, with thanks, the receipt of six pounds from Mr. G. H. Moore and persons employed by him towards the fund in aid of the widow and family of the late John Senior who died suddenly, in Christchurch, some time ago ….

A Lyttelton times entry of 7 July 1868 shows that the grim ‘sheep king’ still had an eye for a pretty face:
Legal: We understand that the case McKay v. G. H. Moore (action to recover damages for seduction) will not go for trial, a settlement having been come to by the parties concerned.

We are indebted to David Gee’s research at Archives New Zealand for information on the McKay-Moore relationship. Elizabeth McKay was one of the many children born to Mary and Angus McKay, a shepherd from Sutherland, Scotland. The family emigrated on the Canterbury, which was launched by Lady Lyttelton and arrived in Lyttelton on 19 August 1857 when Elizabeth was 19. Angus became a Glenmark employee and Eliza one of Moore’s domestic servants.

Thomas McKay was born to Eliza McKay and George Henry Moore on 6 July 1866 and baptised by the Rev. Charles Turrell at the Leithfield Anglican church on 31 January 1868. The child is described as the illegitimate son of Elizabeth McKay of Waipara. As is mentioned above, Moore had settled out of court, paying 3000 pounds. With this money Angus McKay took over an 88 farm, Laidmore, in the Glenmark district. He died, at 91, in 1901. The area where his farm was situated is now covered by a pine plantation.

When Robert Kermode died in 1870, the property was put up for auction. Moore secured a huge mortgage from the Union Bank of Australia (ancestor of the A.N.Z. Bank) and bought 38,935 acres, to which was attached 78,470 acres of leasehold. The Return of the freeholders of New Zealand shows that Moore owned, in the Ashley County, 75,769 acres worth 339,960 pounds. In Ashburton he had 1718 acres worth 14,320 pounds. In Christchurch he had land worth 8500 pounds. His property was worth, in total, 362,780 pounds and had the highest value of any estate in the country.

Christchurch architect Samuel Charles Farr designed a grand Glenmark homestead, work beginning in 1881 and continuing for seven years. The walls were of concrete and, inside, were lined with rusticated woodwork. The staircase was of marble and the carpets and furnishing were of the best quality. The house, and the manager’s house, had no back door. Perhaps this demonstrated Moore’s suspicious nature; he may have thought that servants or others could smuggle valuables out through the tradesman’s entrance. In 1891 the homestead was destroyed by fire.

Andrew Todd saw Moore about 1890.

… I was invited to Glenmark …. Things just then were busy at the station. Shearing was in full swing, and 50 shearsers were on the board …. 

…. One Monday morning … I saw and met old Mr. Moore …. I was standing at the far end of the board, watching the ringer, when I saw coming towards me a commanding looking old man – I suppose he was about 80 – as straight as a gun barrel and with a long white beard. It was old Moore himself. He inspected every shearer’s work as he passed.

Detecting a cut, he’d stamp with his stick and nearly scare the shearer out of the port. Fifty such inspections he made – for he stopped at every man – and then he walked out of the shed right beside me …. I’ll never forget the remarks that filled the air as he left – and I’m not going to say they were by

Upper Riccarton Cemetery
2007
20
any means complimentary. But I must add this: … it was obvious that his decisions were everywhere respected and his word law absolute.

**Todd** took photos of **Moore**:

In one he is standing on the board watching a shearer. In the other he is just coming out of the woolshed. What a figure he made. Over six feet tall, slim as a youngster, with piercing dark eyes, a long white beard and carrying a heavy walking stick.

Perhaps **Moore**’s good health was due to the fact that, when he came to Christchurch, he would walk both ways with his tent on his back. Rather than spend a few shillings at a hotel, he would pitch the tent in Market Square (now Victoria Square).

With the Liberal Government in power and threatening to ‘break up the big estates’, **Moore** sold off large chunks of his land, leaving only about 11,000 acres. He stored half a million pounds in his daughter’s bank account. On 7 July 1905 he died, aged 92, at his daughter’s Sumner home. In financial terms, his career had been a triumph. In one of his many successful years, 1871, he had shipped away in the *Monarch* 1069 bales of wool, 73 bales of skins, 38 kegs of butter, 126 casks of tallow, 609 cases of preserved meat, 28 cases of hams (hind legs of mutton), 13 casks of meat and 14 bales of flax.

**Moore** left an estate of 253,000 pounds. Annie was left as trustee and main beneficiary of the old man’s estate. The Tax Department took the estate to court, arguing that it had been trying to evade death duties. The judge stated that an attempt to evade the penalties of the law did not necessarily mean that a penalty should be imposed. None was imposed on this occasion.

**G. R. Macdonald** was to write:

He [**Moore**] was successful in his aim which was to build up a station and a fortune on the largest scale and he can be considered an able man so far as that goes. But many men could make fortunes if they were willing to disregard all human feelings, all claims of affection, those qualities of charity and unselfishness which raises humanity above the beasts of the field.

**Moore** had tried to tie his daughter to him but, on 15 September 1900, when he was blind, the 55 year old spinster married widowed physician Joseph Henry **Townend**. **Townend** died two years later.

After her father’s death, Annie Quayle **Townend** bought ‘Karewa’ which had been the home of Frederick **Waymouth** and his family. She renamed the property ‘Mona Vale’, the Tasmanian birthplace of her mother. She added the lodge which can be seen from Fendalton Road. In a dispute with the Sumner Borough Council, she had her seaside dwelling uplifted, hauled by two traction engines up the embryonic Dyers Pass Road and established as two properties in Macmillan Avenue. She dwelt in one house which was called ‘Glenholme’.

Annie had a number of interests. She was active in the Anglican Church, loved flowers and animals, bred sheep and was a supporter of the Canterbury Agricultural
and Pastoral Association. A generous benefactor, she usually shunned publicity and ‘never wished the right hand to know what the left hand did’. She ‘lightened the lot of a number of struggling people’ and her death would, it was feared, ‘bring hard times to quite an army of pensioners’.

In November 1905 Bishop Julius brought before the Church Property Trustees Annie’s proposal to convey to the trustees an area of 26 acres, one rood and 25 perches, part of Rural Section 7538 in the Glenmark Estate. There she would build a church in substantial materials, the centre of a new parish, as a memorial to her father. She would set aside a glebe, build and furnish a vicarage and pay 10,500 pounds as an endowment for the vicar’s stipend of 600 pounds per year. A further portion of Rural Section 7538 – three acres, one rood and eight perches in area – would be conveyed to the trustees for a cemetery. Needless to say, the offer was accepted. A new parish was constituted with defined boundaries.

Annie had the whole of the grounds properly laid out and built the church which was consecrated as St. Paul’s. The church was consecrated on 10 October 1907 ‘in the presence of a large number of visitors, many of whom had come by special train from Christchurch’.

When, in May 1914, Annie died, at ‘Glenholme’, the interment was private. In contrast, her will, which was ‘perhaps one of the most interesting bits of local news ever published’, appeared in all the papers. Annie left the city a large orchid house and conservatory which stood, originally, at ‘Holly Lea’ in Manchester Street but, later, in the Botanic Gardens. The first Townend House was eventually replaced by the present structure.

Charities which were left money included the Prison Gate Society, Dr. Barnardo’s Homes, the Salvation Army and the New Brighton Children’s Convalescent Cottage. The June 1914 Church news said of Annie that ‘her love of animals was a predominant feature in her character and her will contains several provisions for the relief of the dumb creatures. Among her bequests is one of 5000 pounds to be invested for the poorer clergy’. Individuals benefited, including servants, solicitors, Anglican clerics whom Annie had known (among them Frederick Richard Inwood and Cecil Alexander Tobin), Isle of Man relatives and Dr. Townend’s children, one of whom was the Countess of Seafield.

G. R. Macdonald would write that since the ‘wool king’s time, his area has become ‘the garden of Canterbury, a lovely stretch of country enriched by the labours of man’.

And what of the children other than William and Annie?

**Row C**

**No. 265**

Georgina (Martha) Mortimer, died 12 July 1912, for many years the faithful servant and friend of Francis D. S. Neave of Okeover

**Row E**

**No. 296**

*Upper Riccarton Cemetery*  
2007
Richard May Morten, 82, died 20 August 1909; Helen Vernon Morten, 72, died 15 Feb 1906, at Stonycroft.

Richard May Morten was born in Buckinghamshire, educated at private schools and brought up in the shipping trade. He left England for Victoria on the ship Yorkshire in 1859 and came on to Canterbury in 1860. He purchased small sheep stations such as White Rock and larger stations, Mount Pleasant (6000 acres) and Ahuriri at Tai Tapu (4000 acres).

In 1865, for 3950 pounds, Morten bought the private land on the south-west corner of Cathedral Square right round to Hereford Street. This was considered an extremely high price as the centre of Christchurch had been Market Square rather than Cathedral Square. For years there were humble businesses - for example, a tattooist - on the property. The city council tried to buy the land for civic offices but councillors disagreed and the plan went nowhere. Eventually T. S. Lambert won a competition with his design for a four-storey building for the site. In February 1885 R. M. D. Morten, nine, laid the foundation stone in the Square and, a few days later, his younger brother, A. R. M. Morten, laid the foundation stone on Colombo Street. Morten’s Buildings housed various businesses and it was not till after the 1906-07 International Exhibition that the place became a high-class hotel where Queen Elizabeth II would one day choose to stay.

Over the years the Anglican Church received various gifts from R. M. Morten. In 1877 he gave an obscure plot in the east of Christchurch for a church and burial ground. A small church, All Saints’, New Brighton, was designed by the great B. W. Mountfort and opened on 9 September 1877. It later became the first All Saints’, Burwood, and was demolished in the 1990s.

Morten made a later, more substantial offer. He offered the 1902 synod 1000 pounds to be added to the Cathedral Building Fund. The gift came on condition that synod went ahead immediately with the completion of the grand church. Synod raised loans so that it might take advantage of Morten’s offer. It was decided that Column No. 8, at the south-east of the choir, was Morten’s gift. The column has a tablet inscribed thus: ‘This column was erected by Richard May Morten A. D. 1904’.

On 25 September 1871, at St. Saviour’s Anglican church, Templeton, Richard May Morten, ‘gentleman’, married Helen Vernon Downes. The groom gave his age as 41 (he would appear to have been about 44), while the bride (who was probably 37) claimed to be 35.

E. M. Lovell-Smith pictured Richard May Morten

… who also drove into town in his own wagonette. His delicate features and curling grey locks and beard were surmounted by a light grey belltopper and he wore a grey overcoat when driving.

Row E
No. 297
Francis Digby Spencer Neave, died Okeover, 7 Oct 1913

Neave belonged to the English gentry resident in India during colonial times. He married, at Dresden, Miss Cormack of Bombay.

Neave emigrated to Canterbury on the Devonshire and, for 27 years, owned the Mount Algidus run. A landowner in Marlborough, West Melton and Waipahi in Otago, he was on the board of governors at Canterbury College and Lincoln College, was a company director and a keen follower of the Christchurch Hounds.

Neave’s property, ‘Okeover’, was originally part of J. C. Watts Russell’s land. Later the land went to Alfred Richard Creyke who married Mrs. Elizabeth Watts Russell. In 1900, during her second widowhood Elizabeth sold 30 acres and her house to Francis Neave. His daughters sold land for the Ilam School and the rest of it, including the house, went to the University of Canterbury in 1950.

Neave’s gravestone bears the words: ‘Not slothful in business: fervent in spirit: serving the Lord’. Georgina Mortimer, buried elsewhere in the graveyard, is described as Neave’s ‘faithful servant and friend’.

Row E
No. 310-313: Morten
No. 310
Edna May Downes, daughter of Arthur and Mary Morten, aged 7 years 4 months, died on 18 October 1918:
Archibald Ferguson, ‘Scotty’, 75, ‘for many years the faithful servant and friend of the family of R. M Morten of Stonycroft, died 10 August 1915

No. 311
Richard May Downes Morten, 1877-1950; Ngaore, 1910-1952; Violet Marion Burrowes Morten, 1881-1976

No. 312
Violet Marion Burrowes Morten, 1881-1976

No. 313
Arthur Roscoe Vernon Morten, 1878-1931; and his wife, Mary Anne, 1884-1968

Row F
No. 314
Bassett

Thomas Bassett, 27 October 1859-28 March 1907, was the father of Violet Marion Burrowes Morten. Like Richard May Morten, he lived at Hornby. Born in Belfast, Ireland, he was, for 25 years, sole proprietor of the implement firm Morrow Bassett and Co. Outside of business his interests were hunting and coursing.

Area 3

Upper Riccarton Cemetery
2007
Row A
No. 355

Louisa Witty, 63, died on 4 July 1929; George Witty, 85, died on 20 November 1941. Born in Yorkshire in 1855 and the son of a gamekeeper George was seven when he had his first job - frightening crows from crops. In 1875 he emigrated on the Star of China. A shearer in Canterbury, he entered public life when he joined the West Melton School committee pledged to overthrow the edict of the old committee that dancing should be banned from the schoolroom.

Witty was on many other local authorities, eventually, in 1902, winning the Riccarton parliamentary seat as a Liberal. Four times he refused office in the shaky 1911-12 Mackenzie Government. In 1922 he campaigned as a Liberal but, with the Liberal and Reform factions having equal numbers in the chamber, he and two others crossed the floor to support the government of William Fergusson Massey; Witty greatly admired the Prime Minister. He retired in 1925.

In 1912 Witty left the Templeton farm he had owned for 24 years, purchasing the property at Avonhead whose pioneer owner had been civil engineer W. B. Bray. Of Bray Crosbie Ward had written:

At Avonhead lived one Mr. Bray
who every morning used to say
I shouldn’t be much surprised today
if Christchurch city were swept away.

The Waimakariri flood took place in 1868.

On the Bray-Witty property are found the springs from whence comes the Avon River.

Bray had built a substantial pug clay house. Portions of the estate were sold off over the years but the land which Witty bought had on it the clay house. The Wittys did not live in the house but, recognising its historical importance, kept it in a satisfactory state of repair. However, the place was torn down at the end of 1944. It had been the second oldest dwelling in the province after the Deans’ cottage at Riccarton.

Row D
No. 398
John Murfitt

In 1939 John Murfitt, 21, was schooling a novice jumper at Riccarton Racecourse when a horse rolled on and killed him. His memorial refers to him as ‘a brilliant and fearless horseman’. He had been married but two months and the thoughts of his wife, Victoria, are recorded ‘Yet in my grief I feel the thought we will meet again one day’.

Row F
No. 453
Hill

Upper Riccarton Cemetery
2007
Cecil McKenzie Hill, 34, killed in a flying accident 1 Feb 1919. He was the first instructor of the Canterbury Flying School and qualified 180 pilots for service in the Great War. Erected by his friends and pupils. Also Elsie Mary Hill, wife of the above, mother of Marjorie and Cecil, 1893-1975.

A summer meeting of the Canterbury Jockey Club was held at Riccarton Racecourse on 1 February 1919. People looked up to see that a pilot, later identified as C. M. Hill, was flying over the course. The plane was an 80 h.p. biplane built at Sockburn aerodrome. Hill looped the looped. At a height of 1000 feet, he commenced a second loop but first one and then the other wing fell off and the plane crashed into the ground. That evening an inquest was held at the aerodrome.

Hill’s relatives lived at Bridgwater, Somersetshire, England. Hill had been chief instructor at Hall’s School at Hendon, where English aviators were trained. On the recommendation of Sir Thomas Mackenzie, New Zealand High Commissioner in England, Hill was offered the job of instructor at Sir Henry Wigram’s school, came out and the first people he took up were Henry and Alice Wigram. Hill taught the young men who went off to fight in the Royal Flying Corps. They wrote many letters from the front praising his skills as a teacher.

Row G
No. 460-463

Guyon Kenneth Macdonald, 30, Major … accidentally killed 21 Nov 1919
Gertrude, wife of R. M. Macdonald, born 14 Sep 1863 - died 12 May 1922
Ranald Macintosh Macdonald, b 1 June 1860 - d 21 Oct 1928.

Gertrude, born Gertrude Gould, was a daughter of pioneer merchant George Gould. She married, on 27 January 1885, at ‘the house of George Gould Esq., Springfield Road’, Ranald Macintosh Macdonald, civil engineer, the son of Annie Macpherson and her husband, minor runholder William Kenneth Macdonald; he had farmed at Orari. The bride was 21, the groom 24. After the death of George Gould in 1889, the couple were to live on in his big house, ‘Hambleden’, which still stands on the Bealey Avenue-Springfield Road corner.

In old age, Annie Macdonald lived at ‘Orari’ - now a guest house - on the Gloucester Street-Montreal Street corner. She always looked forward to visits from her small kilt-clad grandson, one day to become Canterbury chronicler George Ranald Macdonald. To get to his grandmother’s little George had to endure taunts and occasional stones when passing the working class boys at the Normal School. Managing director of the Christchurch Tramway Company, co-founder of agricultural machinery business Booth Macdonald, Ranald, was, like his father-in-law and son, a director of the Press Company. His son was to recall:

My father was a great afternoon tea caller. He had about a dozen regular ports of call and he was always well loaded with the latest stories and gossip. He stopped work early, as soon as he considered he was comfortably off. But he had a good business sense and was always on the look-out for a good investment. He left an astonishing
amount – over 300,000 pounds. My mother, like all the Gould girls, had 1000 pounds a year handed to her when she married and I guess this gave him a start.

‘Elegant and educated’ and ‘one of the beauties of her day’, Gertrude had costly clothes to drape her slender figure. She was also ‘shy, diffident [and] had the misfortune to be very deaf’. When she spoke ‘shortly and severely’ to her errant children, they listened. Ranald took ‘absolutely no part’ in his children’s upbringing.

On 12 May 1922 the couple walked into Cathedral Square and Gertrude mounted the tram for Sumner. At Sumner she walked from the tram stop and climbed to Whitewash Head.

Ranald came from town in the mid-afternoon to collect his wife but failed to find her. He climbed to Whitewash Head, walked back, found a policeman and, together, they went back to the clifftops. The missing woman’s handbag and umbrella were found on the grass at the edge of an almost 100 metres high cliff which dropped ‘straight down into the glinting waters of the Pacific’.

A boat was sent from Sumner into the surf. Next morning ‘Gertrude was found, lifeless and broken …. Her stylish body had been cracked open and then dumped by swells onto rocks at the foot at one of the cliffs’.

George Gould, 16 Apr 1865-26 May 1941

George Gould, son of the original George Gould, was a brother of Jessie Bowden and Gertrude Macdonald. He was handsome, direct-speaking and keen on fishing, shooting and horse-riding. He married Helen Maude Lane.

Gould farmed, imported Jersey and Guernsey cattle and Suffolk sheep, crossing the latter with Shorthorns and sought recognition from the New Zealand Sheep Breeders’ Association for recognition of his flock. The flock was recognised as South Suffolk. He had the Hermitage station near Rotherham, Ranald Macdonald being a partner. A breeder of thoroughbreds, he had horses in training at Riccarton for 40 years.

Gould’s stock and station agency joined with others to become Pine, Gould, Guinness, a provincial firm but, nevertheless, one of the biggest in New Zealand.

A Press Company director for most of the period between 1903-1941, Gould was involved in the 1932-35 ‘penny paper war’ among the four Christchurch newspapers.

The struggle ended with the papers adopting Gould’s solution. The Sun disappeared, the Press was published in the morning, the Christchurch star-sun appearing at night.

The Goulds lost a son in World War I. Gould became the leader of a faction seeking to erect a World War I monument in Christchurch. Mrs. J. Wyn Irwin’s group got in first with the opening of the Bridge of Remembrance on Armistice Day, 11 November 1924. Gould wanted a memorial beside Christchurch Cathedral. The city council long opposed Gould who declared that ‘the opposition came from half a dozen men who could not resist the unusual sensation of being able to defeat the hopes and desires of their betters’. When Gould finally got permission to go ahead with his scheme, he
arranged that the sculptor William Trethewey create figures representing Youth, Justice, Peace, Valour and Sacrifice. The models were Trethewey’s family, friends and employees. The statue was unveiled in 1937.


Row G
No. 465

Edgar Fraser Stead, 1882-1949

The son of Lucie Maria Wilkinson and her husband, George Gatonby Stead, a grain merchant, Edgar studied electrical engineering. George died in 1908 leaving a substantial fortune, Edgar settled in Christchurch and, thereafter, pursued his own interests. On 19 August 1915, at St. Mary’s, Merivale, he married Irene Mary Phillips who came from the farming family which had the ‘Point’ station.

Stead organised the recovery of the skeleton of a blue-nosed whale which had been cast ashore at Okarito and had it brought back to the Canterbury Museum; lectured on bird life and how it had been affected by mammalian invaders; and had papers published in the Transactions and proceedings of the Royal Society of New Zealand.

Stead had 53 acres on the banks of the Avon at Ilam and built a substantial house, now the University of Canterbury staff club. He imported seeds from the Rothschilds’ gardens in England, created the Ilam strain of plants, and his rhododendron and azalea collection became world famous. He angled in summer, shot animals and birds in winter and was a world class marksman.

Area 4
Row A
No. 473
York

Herbert Thomas York, fifth vicar of St. Peter’s, was Nelson-born, served at St. Peter’s from 1910-39 and was the last vicar to farm the glebe land, being very proud of his potatoes. York was assisted by his wife, Marie (died 27 September 1948) and, latterly, by his brother, Archdeacon G. W. York. He had excellent health throughout his life. He died suddenly, in his sleep, aged 75, on 19 May 1939.

Row B
No. 503-04
Mary Lilian Nedwill, 20, died 3 July 1891
Ada Mary Nedwill, 45, died 29 July 1893
Courtney Nedwill, b 14 August 1837-died 10 April 1920

The son of an Irish farmer, Courtney Nedwill was educated at Queen’s College, Belfast, gaining distinction in his medical studies. Illness forced him out of the Army Medical School at Chatham and he emigrated in 1863, as surgeon on the Chariot of fame.
Briefly at Rangiora, Nedwill made perilous journeys to get to patients. On one occasion he had to reach St. Helen’s station beyond Hanmer Springs. He ‘crossed the Waiau at night with a shepherd, finding his way back the next day alone and having to swim the river in a strong nor-wester’. In 1864 Nedwill came to Christchurch, where, for 30 years he lived at ‘Avon House’, Oxford Terrace (formerly Mrs. Charles Thomson’s school for girls).

Nedwill was staff surgeon of the Addington Prison and the volunteers. Medical officer to the Christchurch Drainage Board, acting in its capacity as a Local Board of Health, he met opposition from commercial interests and other doctors but was determined to eliminate cesspits in the inner city, the prime cause of the contaminated water supplies and typhoid which made Christchurch the country’s unhealthiest city. He checked all suspected typhoid deaths, inspected dairies and abattoirs, leaky pan closets and threatened people with fines should they pollute the waterways.

On the honorary surgical staff at Christchurch Public Hospital, Nedwill nevertheless twice demanded inquiries. One concerned the hospital’s refusal to record deaths from typhoid. On the second occasion, Nedwill accused a surgeon of ineptitude when a patient died of a strangulated hernia. An inquiry led nowhere. Nedwill could not get anybody to examine the case and wrote an article for Wellington’s 21 May 1885 Evening post. The title was ‘Extraordinary hospital scandal. Revolting disclosures, manslaughter or worse. The government trying to hush it up’. Nedwill was sued. Although the jury found against him, they awarded damages of but one shilling.

A ‘sportsman to the backbone’, Nedwill was fond of shooting ‘and was a constant visitor to Lake Ellesmere in all weathers’. When over 50 he took to tennis and, 10 years later, to hill-walking. At 75 he took up gardening.

Nedwill ‘retained almost all the vigour of youth and the clear mental outlook of a man in the prime of life nearly to the end’. He was

… always ready to fight to the last for what he considered… right … [and] did splendid work in having typhoid fever cases reported, in which work he met with much opposition. He also was prominent in bringing about a proper sewerage scheme in Christchurch … and in supporting the system of concrete side-channels.

Nedwill was ‘a peppery Irishman who, for the times, read a lot, kept up-to-date, tried all new treatments and was generally active. His knowledge and skill were not to be despised’

Row B
No. 506
Esther Seager, 5 November 1835-16 March 1911
Edward William Seager, 5 August 1828-14 July 1922
Harry, 51, died 23 May 1901
Julia, 22, died 8 August 1878

Edward William Seager was born in London. ‘Tall, impressively built, with aquiline nose and long pale hands’, he emigrated on the Cornwall in 1851, became a
policeman in the province, gained the rank of inspector and designed a uniform for the force. Learning that James Mackenzie, the sheep stealer who gave his name to the Mackenzie Country, had eluded his captors, he waited for him at Lyttelton and, disguised as a farmer, rushed him in the loft of a small boarding house.

Seager was chief gaoler at Lyttelton and, in the 1860s, took the lunatics from the gaol to an institution built for them - Sunnyside Asylum. He spent 24 years there as warden, ‘keeper’ or ‘steward’, being ably assisted by his wife who was matron. An enlightened manager, Seager took his charges on picnics and to the circus, and put on plays and magic lantern displays. Ultimately he was displaced in favour of a man with formal medical qualifications. He retired, at 81, as usher at the Supreme Court.

Along with George Hart, Seager, conducted ‘exceedingly successful and interesting lectures on old Christchurch history, Mr. Hart doing the lecturing and Mr. Seager supplying the lantern slides and manipulating the lantern’.

Seager, Ngaio Marsh’s grandfather, was as imaginative as she was. In 1887 he claimed that bones discovered at New Brighton were the remains of a skeleton which he had found in 1854 and which were supposed to be the remains of Captain Cook’s doctor. Montague Mosley recalled New Brighton’s past, ‘when that mythical spectacled skeleton yarn was concocted by E. W. Seager and the Land Office officials’.

Seager reminisced about his days in the police force in the 1900 publication, Canterbury old and new, and in articles in the Star in the first years of the 20th century. On 24 May 1919, in the ‘Brighton breezes’ column, there appeared the following:

A frequent visitor to Brighton and North Beach is Mr. E. W. Seager. There are few survivors among the early settlers who can remember the district earlier than this veteran. One can scarcely imagine it taking two days to journey overland from Lyttelton to New Brighton but that is the time it took Mr. Seager when in charge of the police at Lyttelton to pay his first visit through swamp tracks to this now popular seaside borough in search of smugglers.

Ngaio Marsh describes her grandfather in Black beach and honeydew and Madeleine Seager wrote a biography, Edward William Seager, pioneer of mental health.

Row D
No. 536-539
John Shand

The Shands emigrated on the Isabella Hercus in 1851. John Shand owned 100 acres on Riccarton Road, the land running through to Blenheim Road and extending from Matipo Street to Wharenu Road. As Shand had paid half the price of the land before leaving England, he was entitled to buy four quarter acre town sections and did so in Hereford Street. He built ‘Shand’s Emporium’, a small wooden building that once faced a dirt road … [and] now faces the bustle of Hereford Street’ and is the oldest commercial building in the central city. Shand was a successful farmer, businessman, trainer and breeder of horses and publican; he built and had the licence for the Wheatsheaf Hotel on Shand’s Road.

Upper Riccarton Cemetery
2007
John Shand had a large house, ‘Avon Lodge’, an example of fine workmanship, in Riccarton. The timbers in the structure included kauri, totara, matai, rimu and Honduras cedar, most of the native-grown timber being milled on Banks Peninsula. John, 69, died at his home on 8 January 1874.

John’s son, Thomas, ploughed a furrow from the Wheatsheaf Hotel to the family’s 200 acre farm, ‘Racliffe’, at Springston to provide a guide across the plain. This became known as ‘Shand’s Track’. ‘Shand’s Track’ was, for years, commemorated in the name of a Roman Catholic parish.

The Return of the freeholders of New Zealand has Thomas J. W., in 1882, as a farmer of Riccarton. His land in the Ashley County was worth 100 pounds. His 400 acres in Selwyn County was worth 18, 158 pounds. Christchurch property was worth 24, 000 pounds. The total value of the land was 42, 258 pounds. Thomas J. W. Shand, 83, died on 29 Oct 1918.

Shand descendants have included farmer, writer and Anglican Church personality Yeo Tresillian Shand; 1960s National Party cabinet minister Tom Shand; and Environment Canterbury’s local body politician Diana Shand.

John Shand’s house eventually came into Government hands. An attempt to turn it into flats failed, and, in 1941, it was torn down. Many tradesmen lamented this ‘criminal waste’.

Row D
No 555
Bowen

Anne Bowen, a woman of property and the spinster aunt of Charles and Croasdaile Bowen, had strong aquiline features, penetrating eyes and tight, corkscrew ringlets. She was an original land purchaser, buying the Canterbury Association’s Section No. 3, which consisted of 50 acres in the Papanui bush.

Anne, 44, arrived on the Charlotte Jane in 1850. From Dr. Barker’s hut she took on the development of Sunday Schools ‘on a truly impressive scale’; indeed, she was described as ‘the famous Sunday School teacher’. At the Rev. Henry Jacobs’ house, in 1856, she introduced, for the Sunday School children, the first Christmas tree ever seen in Christchurch. The newly arrived daughters of Bishop Harper sat beneath it, making toys and decorations.

Anne befriended Emma Barker and the pair spent much time poring over the Bible and other good books. In 1858 Emma’s health declined and, on her death, Anne moved in and devoted herself to caring for her children. ‘Dr. Barker’s letters are full of Miss Bowen’ and she was the subject of one of the doctor’s notable photographs; this was dated 1858.

Anne Bowen, 69, died at Armagh Street West on 1 September 1875.

Row D

Upper Riccarton Cemetery
2007
No. 557
John Charles Watts Russell

Dr. David Macmillan stated that J. C. Watts Russell’s family had achieved gentry status after being tradespeople. He wrote:

Old Russell, the soap boiler, had often his whole property embarked in speculations and yet he broke up every lump of sugar used in his own large family. Jesse Russell’s son married John Constable’s cousin, Mary Watts. [Constable was, of course, a prominent English artist.]

Whatever his origins, John Charles Watts Russell was born at Ilam Hall, Staffordshire. He arrived on the Sir George Seymour. Supposedly the wealthiest of the Canterbury Pilgrims, he emigrated (so it was believed) for the sake of his health; he was a chronic asthmatic.

On arrival Watts Russell bought land in Lyttelton; 22,000 acres near the Deans’ station at Homebush; and 500 acres at Riccarton. The latter property Watts Russell named ‘Ilam’. It was bounded by the modern Riccarton, Waimairi and Clyde roads.

In October 1853, at a cattle show in the Market Place, (Victoria Square), held under the auspices of in the horticultural society, he was one of the chief winners.

Watts Russell returned to England in 1856 and was back in 1858 with 20,000 bricks which were used in the building of a home at Ilam. The largest private home in Canterbury, ‘Ilam’ was also the scene of many grand entertainments.

Although he served in the Canterbury Provincial Council and the Legislative Council, Watts Russell was chiefly interested in building up sheep farming in Canterbury. He made what was to prove a blunder on the grand scale when he imported rabbits and even planted acres of buckwheat as feed for the creatures.

The Press, born as the conservative opponent to Superintendent William Sefton Moorhouse, was conceived at ‘Ilam’. In a letter dated 5 June 1861 James Edward FitzGerald told Henry Selfe Selfe:

Sitting after dinner at Ilam about a month ago, I said I saw no hope for a better state of public policy here unless there was a new newspaper started which would tell the truth without fear or favour. In five minutes the thing was settled. If I would undertake the management of it, it was to be started and five hundred pound was put down on the spot; it was soon found there was a little press and some types to be bought. I promised I would write and would exercise a general superintendence over the matter …. The first number appeared three weeks after the conversation referred to.

In 1866 Watts Russell went back to England, returning in 1871. He died, at 49, at his house in Cathedral Square on the Friday of Easter Week, 2 April 1875. The Rev. Croasdaile Bowen and Bishop H. J. C. Harper officiated at the funeral service.
In the 1870s there was a move among the Anglican clergy to have simple funerals. The Rev. Edward Atherton Lingard recounted how, on one occasion, he had been waited on by an undertaker who offered him a silk hat band and gloves which he declined. The undertaker exclaimed: “Oh, do accept them. I have a carte blanche”.

The family of J. C. Watts Russell took little notice of this reforming zeal.

The remains of the deceased were enclosed in three coffins, first in a wooden shell, then in a lead coffin and, lastly, in a wooden coffin covered with violet velvet, nailed down with brass nails. On the lid was a brass cross about 2 1/2 feet long on which was inscribed the name of deceased, age and date of death. On the termination of the religious ceremonies, the top of the coffin was strewn with immortelles, placed there by the hands of Mrs. Russell and other ladies who attended her in the moments of her bitter affliction, an tried all they could by their kindly presence to console her in some measure for the great loss she had sustained. The cemetery in which the remains were interred adjoins the Ilam estate which was founded by the deceased … and it was mainly on this account that the Riccarton Cemetery was selected as a resting place for his mortal remains.

The University of Canterbury is now on the site of Watts Russell’s land, though the grand house was burnt down in 1911.

Row D
No. 569
Elizabeth Ann Gregg
Elizabeth Ann, 30, wife of James Gregg, died 15 Nov 1880

Elizabeth Cant married James Gregg, farmer, on 13 June 1871, at St. Peter’s church. Witnesses included Thomas and Etty Corlett, the people whose name, slightly altered, has survived as Curletts Road. Children of Elizabeth and James included Sarah Ann Christina (born 10 June 1872), Louisa Mary (born 16 November 1873) and Elizabeth Ann (born 17 April 1875).

Like many people of the Victorian era who had been left without a spouse, James soon married again, his second wife being Margaret Ferguson. The wedding took place at St. Luke’s on 11 May 1881.

More dramatic than the sad story of poor Elizabeth Gregg was that of her parents-in-law. The father-in-law, James Gregg senior is buried somewhere at the St. Peter’s. There is no surviving gravestone.

James Gregg senior, a Scot and a quarryman by occupation, was born about 1799 and, on 8 October 1834, in the parish of East Kilbride, Lanarkshire, married Christina Ferguson, who was 19 or 20. On 4 November 1842 the couple arrived in Nelson on the New Zealand. They became ‘pre-Adamites’, people resident in Canterbury prior to the arrival of the First Four Ships. James laboured for Captain Joseph Thomas, the Canterbury Association’s surveyor, who prepared the settlement for the Pilgrims’ arrival. He appears in the archives as one who, on 23 November 1849, was entitled to
squat on Section 81. He was involved in excavation work for the Lyttelton barracks and tendered for the job of constructing a sea wall. A ‘singular specimen of a colonist, [he was] shrewd, industrious, comical and extremely independent’.

A son, also James, born to ‘James Gregg, labourer, and Christiana Ferguson’, was baptised at St. Michael’s, by the Rev. G. T. B. Kingdon, on 11 May 1851.

The family went to farm on the corner of Cutlers Road, Riccarton. This was Rural Section 153, 50 acres, situated at Riccarton Road. James senior purchased this land, through the Canterbury Association, from the Crown. E. M. Lovell-Smith would write that the barn on the property served as a polling booth in provincial elections. As well

… it frequently happened that when a storm was raging over the plains or the dray was bogged in the road by the [Riccarton] Bush that the traveller found shelter in the attic of the old house.

All was not well in Gregg’s house. The family had a young male servant, Edmund Langstreth. The accusation was to be made that Christina became pregnant by the hired man but there is no evidence that she had any child other than James junior.

In October 1859 James senior fell ill with a violent sickness. Langstreth trudged in to town to get the doctor but it was too late. On 11 October James died. The Rev. Octavius Mathias officiated at the 15 October funeral of ‘James Gregg, 60, farmer of Riccarton’. Beside the entry in the burial book there is a note ‘coroner’.

The doctor, suspicious, had taken away the deceased’s stomach and therein found sufficient arsenic to cause death. At an inquest at the Plough Inn, Langstreth made a written statement acknowledging a ‘criminal intimacy’ with his mistress. The jury found Christina guilty. She was tried on 5-6 December and, after deliberating for 30 minutes, the second jury found her not guilty.

Christina continued to farm at Riccarton. On 14 December 1862, the Rev. Croasdaile Bowen officiated at the wedding of Edmund Langstreth, bachelor, farmer, and Christina Gregg, widow. The witnesses were Charles Hodgkinson, sexton of Riccarton, Mabella McCosker and John McCosker, mason of Durham Street, Christchurch.

Under the terms of the old farmer’s will, the property was to pass to James junior on his mother’s death or second marriage. Eventually James brought a court case against his mother and stepfather, claiming the profits of the estate after their marriage. The Langstreths owned over 500 acres of land at Templeton, sold 133 acres and paid James junior 750 pounds. A reconciliation took place as Christina was godmother to her grandchildren, Sarah Ann Christina and Louisa Mary. Edmund left his wife and returned to England.

The 1882 Return of the freeholders of New Zealand gives Edwin (not Edmund) Langstreth, of England, as owning 571 acres in Selwyn County to the value of 5600 pounds; presumably Christina was still farming the land. Also in Selwyn County,
James Gregg, butcher of Riccarton, owned 50 acres worth 7,400 pounds. Christina died at Riccarton on 17 November 1882.

On 13 March 1883, at the parish church, Bradford, Yorkshire, Edmund, farmer of Bolton Le Sands, Lancashire, married Isabella Wilson, 37. The couple had two sons and two daughters. Edmund, 72, a ‘retired colonial farmer’, died on 11 March 1908. He left his estate of 12, 700 pounds to his widow who died in 1918.

James junior continued to farm on Riccarton Road. He made an interesting purchase outside his area. On 6 May 1878 he bought from William Walls, for 2250 pounds, Rural Section 593, 50 acres bounded by New Brighton Road, Locksley Avenue, Mundys Road and Cresswell Avenue. Most of the land was quickly sold off. However, until his death in 1932, Gregg retained a small amount at 148 New Brighton Road. The local authorities in the area lost track of the Gregg family. Indeed, the property was used as though it were a public right-of-way to market garden land owned by a Chinese family and was known as the ‘Chinaman’s Drive’.

As the Christchurch City Council was unable to locate Gregg descendants, it decided, in June 2004, that outstanding rates, $64, 249, should be wiped.

Row D
Nos. 568, 570 & 571
Cant

Eliza Cant, 66, wife of W. R. Cant, died 8 Jan 1926
Sarah Ann Cant died 6 Sept 1874
Danzie Cant, 79, died 30 April 1901
Robert William Cant, 80, died 27 Nov 1928

Sarah Ann and Danzie Cant were the parents of Elizabeth Ann Gregg who is buried with her family.

Danzie, 42, carpenter of Essex, his wife, Sarah Ann, 38, and daughter, Elizabeth, 15, came out as assisted immigrants on the Tudor in 1865. Danzie worked for the Boag family and Douglas Graham, representative of the Deans family, at Burnside. A cattle and pig dealer and pig expert, Danzie judged the latter animal at various shows. He had an enormous pig thought to weigh not less than six hundred weight. G. R. Macdonald wrote that Danzie was a ‘card’, ‘hard case’, ‘illiterate [and] evidently a famous character’.

Row E.
No. 575


Born at Littlehampton, Sussex, William Francis Warner was the son of Eliza whose ‘maiden name [was] not known’ and Thomas Francis Warner, ‘land steward’.

Upper Riccarton Cemetery
2007

35
Warner emigrated to Canterbury as second mate on the *Rhea Sylvia* in 1861. His exploit during the voyage was to dive off the ship and rescue a passenger who had fallen overboard.

With provincial geologist Julius von Haast, Warner explored the unknown territory of the West Coast. The pair suffered much privation, being nearly drowned several times and subsisting on flour and wekas. A second trip into the recesses of the Southern Alps was nearly as arduous.

Tiring of this type of life, Warner became a hotel-keeper at the Golden Age Hotel on the Colombo Street-Hereford street corner. Then, when John Etherden Coker left a hotel in Cathedral Square, Warner took it over and it became ‘Warner’s’.

On 25 February 1869, at the Scotch manse, Kaiapoi (the home of the town’s Presbyterian minister, the Rev. William Kirton), William Francis Warner, full age (he was about 34), bachelor, hotel keeper, married Amelia Hill, a spinster. She was, supposedly, of full age – that is, 21 or more. It is more likely that she was about 19.

Newspapers were to write thus of William Francis Warner:

… His jovial demeanour and stock of yarns’ [made] him very popular. The suave rough and ready style, coupled with an anxiety to make all who visited his house thoroughly at home and his putting himself to considerable pains to make tourists acquainted with anything of interest here made Mr. Warner immensely popular … The fame of the ‘General’ … and of ‘the Warehouse’, as he himself called the hotel, spread far and wide.

Under a brusque and somewhat quaint exterior, there was a strong vein of kindliness and sympathy in Mr Warner’s character, and his aid and assistance were always proffered and that gladly and willingly when any case of charity demanded his help.

Warner made two trips to England and, shortly after his return from the second voyage, ‘met with the greatest sorrow of his life’, the loss of his first wife.

Amelia Warner died when the couple had been married almost 20 years. William Francis married a second time, on 17 September 1891, at Holy Trinity, Avonside. He was 55, his bride, Alice Little, perhaps appropriately the daughter of a brewer, being 27. The witnesses included C. P. Hulbert, who served as Mayor of Christchurch, and Francis J. Smith, jeweller, from the pioneer Colombo Street business, Giles Coates and Co. Three children were born of the union. The family moved to New Brighton where Warner could once more indulge in his maritime interests. He was commodore of the Fishing Club which became a yacht club and was the ancestor of the New Brighton Power Boat Club.

On a Friday night, at the end of February 1896, three young men, Harry Nelson Hawker, Francis Herbert Stewart and James Murray, together with the older William Francis Warner went by tram to Moncks Bay where they climbed aboard the yacht *Waitangi* and sailed out in the Avon-Heathcote Estuary. Hawker was later to
state that: ‘Everything about the yacht was in good condition and we were perfectly sober’.

A gust of wind tipped the vessel over. The quartet survived the capsizing and Hawker swam ashore, rolling through mud and quicksand till he reached the house of one, Nankivell. In the early hours of the morning, the two men searched the mudflats, after which they raised the alarm at New Brighton.

For some little time there seemed to be a shadow of a hope that the occupants of the yacht had managed to get ashore all right, several statements to that effect being made at various times during the morning. But as time went on these hopes were dissipated and were finally swept away altogether by the finding of the body of Mr. Murray of the New Brighton Hotel … and, later on, that of Mr. W. F. Warner.

Warner’s body was found in about two feet of water. His funeral service, along with that of James Murray, was held at New Brighton. The cortege then moved up the New Brighton tramway line - now Pages Road. Murray’s body was taken into the Catholic section of the Linwood Cemetery. Warner’s cortege travelled down the Mile Road (now Woodham Road) to the city and then out to St. Peter’s churchyard.

Warner had been interested in politics, being not left-wing but rather of what one might be called ‘progressive’ views. He supported Sir Julius Vogel and then Richard John Seddon. The latter sent a wreath to the funeral.

A new hotel was built on the site of W. F. Warner’s hostelry in the early years of the 20th century. The name ‘Warner’s’ was now so popular, that it was retained.

Row E
No. 583

Paul Eugene Langoulan or Langoulin or Languillome, French pre-Adamite, was cook when Charles Torlesse, was surveying the Canterbury block prior to the arrival of the Canterbury Pilgrims.

On 13 August 1855 James Edward FitzGerald, Superintendent of Canterbury, wrote to the Colonial Secretary:

Sir - A Frenchman has applied …to be naturalised. He cannot write his name but in two conveyances of land to him it is spelt Paul Eugene Langoulan in one and Paul Eugene Langoulin in the other. I have the honour to request that His Excellency will take the necessary steps for having him naturalised.

The Colonial Secretary told FitzGerald that the application came too late to be included in the act just passed. The … person to be naturalised should himself furnish the name by which he wishes it to be done and … moreover, the information required by the Naturalisation Act 1854 and the Act 1855 has not yet been supplied.

Upper Riccarton Cemetery
2007
On 1 January 1856, at St. Michael’s Anglican church, Christchurch, the Frenchman married a widow, Sarah Ann Brunning. He had Rural Section No. 1401 of 20 acres at Harewood Forest.

On 22 May 1860 Langoulan signed his will. The witnesses were Bishop H. J. C. Harper and Charles Bowen senior, J. P. of ‘Milford’, Riccarton. Langoulan, 39, died two days later. On 27 March 1862, at St. Peter’s, Sarah Ann married a farmer, Richard Walker.

Row E
No. 589


Row E
No. 590

Eliza Jane Robinson, wife of William, Cheviot Hills, Amuri, born 2 May 1829, died 6 May 1873.

At Adelaide, on 4 July 1846, Eliza Jane Wood, a mild, pleasant girl of 17, married William Robinson, a strong-willed man 15 years her senior. Much loved by family and servants, she died of catarrhal nephritis, a slow-acting disease probably contracted when the family were returning to New Zealand via Panama. She contracted the disease in 1866, at the same time that her husband was employing the Negro servant Simon Cedeno.

Row E
No. 591

William Robinson, Cheviot Hills, Amuri, born 4 May 1814, died 9 September 1889

Row E
No. 592

Elizabeth Eliza Robinson, eldest daughter of William and Eliza Jane, Cheviot Hills, Amuri, born 5 April 1847, died 30 June 1919

Row E
No. 593

Samuel Robinson, brother of William, Cheviot Hills, Amuri, born 12 March 1823, died 23 June 1873.

William Robinson was the most famous family member. Born at Bold Hall, near Warrington, Lancashire, he came to South Australia about 1840. ‘Being a … keen man of business, he took advantage of opportunities, bought and sold stock, and was

Upper Riccarton Cemetery
2007
quickly on the road to wealth’. He purchased ‘what turned out to be one of the grandest estates in South Australia’.

In 1856 Robinson crossed the Tasman. He was now ‘a man in his strong prime, of a shrewd resolute disposition …. a good judge of stock … a despotic temper … and a habit of grinding his teeth and letting out musical improvisations’. He bought from the Nelson provincial government the 84, 248 acre Cheviot Hills estate which lay between the Hurunui and Waiau rivers, and was, in reality, one huge paddock, the sea and Hurunui River forming two of the boundaries and buildings thereon consisting of three small whares.

Robinson built a homestead and other structures, ‘some of the finest of their kind in the colony’. English grass was sown, sheep were grazed and, by 1888, 2079 bales of wool were sent from the port which Robinson had established, Port Robinson, to Lyttelton. Cheviot was later to be included in the Canterbury province.

Robinson set about ‘picking the eyes out of [another North Canterbury run], ‘Stonyhurst’. This brought the young absentee landowner, George Clifford, out from England. He ‘got to work immediately … freeholded every strategic position and … made a bargain with Robinson who was allowed to retain Happy Valley and, in return, abandoned his Stonyhurst sections’. In his letters George Clifford ‘left no doubt of his feelings towards William Robinson …’

It was the fact that he could pay for Cheviot in cash which earned Robinson the nick name ‘Ready Money Robinson’. An uncomplimentary nickname – resulting from the fact that he was miserly when providing food for his workforce, was ‘One chop Robinson’.

Robinson may have preferred the title ‘Honourable’ which came when the Government sent him to the Legislative Council. Robinson’s contribution to the political life of the country was not great. The Press could only say of him: ‘… His shrewd common sense has been exerted on more than one occasion for the benefit of his fellow colonists’.

Robinson endured the harsh life of his employees. Dr. David Macmillan reported that, in July 1858, Robinson and four others galloped from Canterbury to Nelson. They suffered severely from cold and had to camp, without firing or food, in snow which was five feet deep. On reaching Nelson, all but Robinson being in poor health.

Robinson was ‘a staunch, wealthy, liberal, though reserved and most remarkable supporter’ of horse racing. He imported stud horses ‘Golden Grape’ and thoroughbred mares ‘Skybird’ and ‘Coronaria’. Another import, ‘Ravensworth’, mated with ‘Skybird’ to leave ‘Day Dawn’. ‘Ravensworth’ and ‘Day Dawn’ were champion hurdlers and cross country horses.

Robinson gained an unenviable fame through his association with the murder at his Park Terrace home. In 1866, in a Panama hotel, he engaged, as butler, a tall, slightly-built, light-skinned Catholic Negro, Simon Cedeno. The Lyttelton times would say that ‘for a man of colour [he] was somewhat good looking’. Mrs. Robinson showed Cedeno great kindness; Robinson said of him, before dinner guests: “Black nigger,
black heart”. In 1871, when Robinson was away buying a bull, Irish servants Catherine Glynne and Margaret Burke scorned Cedeno about his supposed upcoming marriage (an ‘intention to marry’ file for Cedeno has never been found). Cedeno attacked them with a long-bladed breadknife, injured Catherine and stabbed Margaret to death in front of Mrs. Robinson, her daughters and prospective son-in-law Patrick Campbell. While Patrick struggled with Cedeno, the butler handed his mistress the knife with the words: “I give the knife to you, Ma’am”.

Five hundred people attended Margaret’s funeral in the Catholic section of the Barbadoes Street Cemetery. The Robinsons erected a stone ‘as a mark of respect’ to Margaret Burke, native of Galway, who was murdered on 9 January 1871 in the 22nd year of her age. She was loved in life, mourned in death’. The gravestone gained fame as the ‘blood-stained tombstone’. On her death certificate it is stated that Margaret Burke was ‘about 40’.

Cedeno was tried, convicted and would have preferred the firing squad to hanging. He died ‘quickly and without … struggling’ on the Lyttelton Gaol scaffold at 8 a.m. on 5 April 1871. Police prevented voyeurs from scrambling onto the rooftop of the gaol but one man allowed his children to occupy a window which had a clear view of the scaffold.

When struck by heart disease, Robinson struggled for several days before dying at his Park Terrace residence on the afternoon of 9 September 1889. At the time, government tax experts valued Cheviot at 324,729 pounds. The value of the Robinson property was second only to that of G. H. Moore.

Robinson’s will stipulated that, if the five daughters came to a unanimous decision, the Cheviot land could be sold. Within a few years the daughters had sold the property to the Liberal Government and a great number of small farmers swarmed onto their segments of the great estate.

In Row D No. 559 there is buried a Robinson son-in-law Henry Porcher Lance, 53, also a runholder, who died on 19 May 1886

Area 5
Row A
Nos. 630-33
Maude family

Emily, youngest daughter of Thomas and Catherine, died 15 Dec 1938
Sybilla Emily, August 1862-July 1935
Thomas William Maude, 72, died 5 April 1905
Emily Catherine Maude, 59, buried Hasketon, Suffolk, 21 July 1902

Thomas William Maude arrived in Canterbury in 1855 and was associated with John Thomas Brown in the purchase of sheep stations, including Mount Thomas, Loburn. He was, at some stages, an employee of the Canterbury Provincial Council and, at other times a member of the council and provincial executive.
A foolish move of Superintendent Moorhouse was to purchase, privately, land for his railway building scheme, find that he did not have the funds to pay for it, and pass the costs on to the provincial government. Enemies construed this as crookedness rather than sloppy management, dubbing the incident ‘the ‘Branch Railway Job’. Maude tried to defend his chief but ‘... in the fierce fighting ... he had to stand the onslaught of much abler men’. In that battle royal J. E. FitzGerald, Joseph Brittan, R. J. S. Harman and others assailed the Moorhouse administration.

Maude married a Brown daughter, Emily Catherine, and one of their children was the famous Sybilla Emily (Nurse) Maude. It was thus that the Brown brothers of Brown Brothers, pump makers, were cousins of Nurse Maude.

A shareholder in the Lyttelton Times Company, Maude was also a director. He was a member of the Canterbury Diocesan Synod and of the General Synod. In 1876, in England, he was called to the Bar at Lincoln’s Inn. He practised in Canterbury in the firm of Harper and Co., and later worked with his son.

In Harper and Co. Thomas Maude and George Harper came under the influence of the latter’s strong-minded brother, Leonard. There is an excellent description of the activities of the company in Southern capital, Christchurch.

... the firm had been receiving large sums from overseas clients for investment in mortgages. Excessively high rates were promised and were paid to clients regardless of whether the money was actually on mortgage or not. Funds were invested without a declaration of trust; that is, as though they were the absolute property of the firm. From 1885 it became clear that many of the investments were exceedingly risky and that the firm’s accounts were used to support continuing speculation. Further funds were obtained from banks by pledging mortgage deeds as security - mortgages were mortgaged.

The three principals - the Harper brothers and Thomas Maude – were struck off; George Harper and Thomas Maude were later readmitted to the profession.

The Press commented:

A large established firm in our midst of the highest respectability and most honourable reputation has failed for something over a quarter of a million .... There is a large class at Home to whom New Zealand means Canterbury, and Canterbury means Harper and Co .... Our honour as a colony stands impeached.

Years later G. R. Macdonald commented:

Leonard Harper was acquitted twice for embezzlement on the grounds that no intention to defraud was proved. Debts proved against the company were 203, 000 pounds The deficiency was 18, 200 pounds.

He also wrote:

Upper Riccarton Cemetery
2007
George Harper and Maude had nothing to do with the financial side of the business but knew things were wrong. [They] opened a trust account to try to save something for the clients but [the] banks wouldn’t let them.

E. M. Lovell-Smith described how Thomas Maude would come in to work in Christchurch as a passenger on the old Riccarton coach. He had a ‘clean shaven kindly face and slight side whiskers’.

The gravestone of Maude’s daughter, Sybilla Emily, founder of the Nurse Maude District Nursing Association, reads:

> In memory of Sibylla Emily Maude, August 1862-July 1935.

> Pioneer of district nursing in New Zealand and founder of the Nurse Maude Association. Not unto us, but unto thy name, give the praise.

Row B
No. 639
Ballantyne

A Scotsman, John Ballantyne served an apprenticeship as a draper at his parents’ request, took over William Pratt’s business, Dunstable House, in 1872, founding Ballantyne’s Ltd., which survives to this day. His sons Josiah, Thorne and William, took over, leaving him to his first love, farming. His farm was ‘Steeple Farm’ at Ruapuna. Ballantyne, 73, died on 6 Aug 1899. There were almost 60 carriages in the cortege at his funeral. The word ‘Kept’ on his gravestone signifies that he was in God’s safe keeping.

Row B
No. 645
Archie McDonald, 20, ‘met his death by accident on the Riccarton Racecourse, 10 November 1898’. On his gravestone there is written:

> The light of his young life went down
> as sinks behind the hill
> the glory of a setting star
> clear suddenly and still.

> Fold him, Father, in thine arms
> and let him henceforth be
> a messenger of love between
> our human hearts and thee

Row C
No. 688

Stephen Southen, 79, died 23 Nov 1926; Edward and Florence Mary, died in infancy, Albert John, 14, died 7 March 1895; Maude Browne, 36, died 22 July 1911; Frances Alice, 64, died 25 Feb 1959

*Upper Riccarton Cemetery*
2007
Row C
No. 689

Mary Ann, wife of Stephen, in her 102nd year, died 2 June 1956. She was the oldest person buried in the graveyard.

Stephen was St. Peter’s sexton from 1886-1905, his salary being originally 20 pounds a year with cottage and garden rent-free. The couple had eight children when they arrived and, in the following 13 years, added six more.

Row C
No. 698
Stoddart

Charlotte Godley had mixed opinions about Mark Pringle Stoddart and his Rakaia station. Her husband and a companion spent time.

… at the station of a Mr. Stoddart who came here from Port Philip, and, although he has been here about a year, he still lives in a horrible den or cabin, into which you creep through a hole, there being neither door nor window. The floor was of liquid mud, and on the best bit of it they slept the night; my husband having a little drip from the roof on his legs, and Mr. Russell, one on his head. Imagine yourself getting up after such a night and finding yourself having to go down to the river to wash, through two inches deep of snow (in which form the storm we had here fell among the mountains); thereby completely and irretrievably wetting their feet …. I believe it is rather the Australian plan to live in this discomfort unless there is a lady concerned; but it seems the more extraordinary because Mr. Stoddart appears to have money and it would certainly cost very few shillings to make a wonderful change as to cleanliness …. And he is, moreover, when he appears in the world, quite a gentlemanlike man, fond of drawing, poetry, reading and so on; and so clever and pleasant that he made them spend a very agreeable evening in spite of the locality.

Stoddart went on to be the runholder at Glenmark, supposedly naming the second station after his Australian run, ‘Glen Mora’ and his Christian name. He lost Glenmark when G. H. Moore arrived with his considerable Australian financial backing.

Stoddart named Diamond Harbour, where he later lived, because of the sparkle on the nearby waters. In 1862 Anna Schjott, 27, took in hand and married Mark Pringle Stoddart, 43, and there was created an attractive clean home. The couple had a family of four sons and three daughters. Stoddart died at a house on the Holmwood Road-Fendalton Road corner and his wife returned to the ‘Big House’ at Diamond Harbour (now called Godley House). Anna, 76, died there in 1911.

Mark Pringle Stoddart, 66, died 28 Aug 1885; Mark Sprot, 2, died 25 May 1865; James, 33, died Bulawayo, Rhodesia, South Africa, 17 Jan 1901; Mary, daughter of above and wife of R. F. Farmer, born 27 June 1868-died 21 Oct 1909; Anne Barbara, his wife, 76, died at Diamond Harbour 6 June 1911.

Upper Riccarton Cemetery
2007
A daughter, Margaret, was commissioned by the government to paint native flowers and is recognised as a painter of landscapes and still life.

Row D
No. 717
Willock

The Venerable William Wellington Willock, M. A., was known as the ‘iron parson’. He was born in England on 18 June 1815, the date of the Battle of Waterloo where the ‘iron’ Duke of Wellington was triumphant. Willock was chaplain on the Randolph, spent 18 years as Vicar of Kaiapoi and was Archdeacon of Akaroa and Canon of Christchurch Cathedral. He died, aged 66, on 23 May 1882.

Row D
No. 731
Ross

George Arthur Emilius Ross, runholder and provincial council politician, gave his name to a town in South Westland. On the adjoining sheep stations of Mount Fourpeaks and Clayton behind Mount Peel, he and his partner, Charles Harper, son of Bishop Harper, were ruined in the 1867 snowstorm.

Ross had the house ‘Stonycroft’, Hornby, prior to the period when Richard May Morten lived there. He died, at 47, in 1876.

Sibella Mary Ross was the eldest daughter of Archdeacon and Mrs. Wilson. As she had a sick husband and seven children under 10, her father provided her with finance. In the words of the lady’s obituary:

… At the corner of Montreal and Gloucester streets Mrs. Ross opened a preparatory school for boys and here, under her skilled and sympathetic guidance, was begun the education of many men now holding responsible positions in the Dominion and overseas. Her pupils, for the most part, after leaving her care, were enrolled at Christ’s College.

Mrs. Ross

… was an interesting, cultured woman, with wide sympathies and a serene and tolerant outlook on life. Her charming personality won for her many staunch friends, especially amongst the older generation of Christchurch residents and her former pupils, who will hear of her death with deep regret.

Christchurch Girls’ High School took over Mrs. Ross’s property and, for years, her old school was called Ross House. Three or four storeys high, it had narrow stairs, poky little rooms and low ceilings. The building has long since gone, the north-west corner of the Christchurch Art Gallery being on the site.

Sibella, 89, died in September 1929.
Row D
No. 732

The Venerable James Wilson M. A., a Scot, Sibella, his wife, and their family emigrated to Canterbury in 1851, James being chaplain on the Isabella Hercus. They came because of Sibella’s poor health. Indeed, it was thought – incorrectly - that she would not survive the journey.

The family settled in Waltham, Wilsons Road and Wilson’s bridge owing their names to James’ presence in the area. Their house, ‘Dullatur’, built in 1852, was mostly of Hobart-town timber ‘with panelling of deal and Baltic bolted together, other timber used being kauri and totara …’ In 1915 the comment was made that ‘such timber is seldom found in houses at the present time’. A ship’s mast, supposed to belong to ‘one of the first four’, was built into the structure. Wilson’s ‘beautiful garden and orchard were much admired’.

The Wilsons moved to Yaldhurst where James farmed. Wilson, 72, ‘of Broomfield in this parish, late Archdeacon of Christchurch’, died on 16 Jan 1886. The delicate Sibella Anne, 82, died at Ilam on 28 July 1900.

The Count of La Pasture, a corn merchant, Banks, and the carter and contractor, John Brightling, later dwelt at ‘Dullator’. An article in the 9 September 1915 Press begins: ‘Yet another of the early landmarks has gone by the demolition of the old house lately standing in Mr. John Brightling’s gravel-pit’.

Press, 9 September 1915 p. 6

Row D
No. 740

Henry Horsford Prins M.R.C.S.E., 61, died 8 November 1896
His wife, Emily Constance, 72, died 10 July 1927.

Their children included Rosaline Lucy, 21, died 22 March 1903; Alma Nellie, died 26 October 1973; Harvey Horsford, 9 December 1892-22 May 1964; and Emily Clara, died 6 January 1954.

Born in Colombo, Ceylon Dr. Prins was the son of a doctor. He studied at the Calcutta University and gained his diploma at the Royal College of Surgeons in England. In Christchurch he ‘had a fine property’ at 158 Manchester Street.

For a time Prins was in sole charge at Christchurch Hospital. He then went into general practice. A ‘small, very dark man remarkable for his reticence’, he was, nevertheless, ‘one of the ablest, most popular and most conscientious physicians there has ever been in the colony’. He had ‘an extremely large practice which … has never been approached in the smallest degree by any other medical man here’.

Dr. Prins’ hobby was racing. He was the owner of gallopers and having stables at Russley. Joseph Chadwick was to recall that ‘at one time [he] had the largest stud of all our medical men and was a prominent man in the executive of the Canterbury Upper Riccarton Cemetery
2007
45
Jockey Club’. He ‘did not meet with a great amount of success at racing and pursued it for pure love of the sport’.

On 13 July 1876, the Rev. Francis Hare officiated at the St. Peter’s, Upper Riccarton, marriage of Henry Horsford Prins, full age, bachelor, surgeon, and Emily Constance Lean, minor, spinster. The witnesses were the bride’s father and brother, Alexander Lean and Alexander C. Lean. Prins would have been 40 or 41 at the time of the wedding; Emily Constance was 20. She had been born in Canterbury on 22 September 1855 and baptised at St. Michael’s church, Christchurch, on 18 November 1855.

From the 1920s, till it moved to what had been the Miller’s Building in Tuam Street, the Christchurch City Council was in a building on the site of the Prins house. Dr. Prins’ house had been demolished in 1900.

Row D
No. 744

Caroline Smith, for 39 years a faithful servant and friend of the family of James Wilson M. A., of Broomfield in this parish, died 5 Jan 1885, aged 63

No. 751
William Sefton Moorhouse

William Sefton Moorhouse was Superintendent of Canterbury from 1857-63 and 1868-70. He was the second Superintendent, succeeding James Edward FitzGerald.

Moorhouse’s opponents wrote much about him. In his period, politics were supposedly pervaded by ‘the jobbing, speculating reckless spirit of the alley’. Said John Robert Godley: ‘I am intensely disgusted with Moorhouse who is evidently a most wretched creature, vain, silly and low-minded’. Even Moorhouse’s women relatives came under fire. When Samuel Bealey took over as Superintendent, W. J. W. Hamilton commented:

His wife is a lady - which is more than we can say of any of that lot of half breds, Moorhouse’s female relatives. She is not fast, loud, nor addicted to tapping you with the fan, nor will she wink at you across a ballroom.

Moorhouse’s most consistent opponent, James Edward FitzGerald, wrote:

You have no idea of the degradation of public sentiment in this place ….It appears in the sort of men … who are creeping into public office, men with vulgar manners, low aims and bad principles.

Under Moorhouse, Canterbury was sinking ‘year by year to the depths of Australia or the still lower hell of Yankee democracy’ When there took place the ceremonial commencement of the Lyttelton railway tunnel work, FitzGerald lamented: ‘The scene was disgraceful. It was a mere beer garden. No one could be heard to speak two feet off’.
Charles Christopher Bowen saw Moorhouse’s right-hand man, John Ollivier, as ‘a frothing, chattering bookseller’. Of Moorhouse he wrote: ‘Every year it becomes clearer and clearer that the atmosphere he carries about with him is pestilential’. On another occasion Bowen referred to the Bible - Samuel 4:21 - where the Philistines capture the Ark of God and the sons of the Israelite leader, Eli, are killed. On hearing the news, Eli falls back, breaks his neck and dies. His daughter-in-law goes into premature labour, gives birth and, before she dies, names her son Ichabod, meaning that the glory has departed from Israel. Bowen saw Canterbury under Moorhouse as akin to Israel after its great military and spiritual defeat.

FitzGerald’s most charitable assessment ran thus:

Moorhouse is a very remarkable man … [of] very strong perceptions and a very strong character and will …. physically… a prize fighter [who] has fought in the ring …. socially …a mixture of sailor, Yorkshire horse jockey with a strong gentlemanly tone ….morally …a reformed rake, and intellectually … a man of ill-educated, ill-informed but most vigorous intellect…. liberal and generous to a fault, and so dangerously speculative that no one knows whether he will not be utterly bankrupt at any moment.

What were the facts about Moorhouse?

The eldest son of Ann Carter and her husband William Moorhouse of Knottingsley House, Yorkshire, William Sefton Moorhouse was born in 1825. A sailor and lawyer, he emigrated in 1851 with two brothers on the Cornwall. At one time he owned the brig Gratitude and made speculative shipments of horses. On one disastrous trip with 70 beasts all but three were thrown overboard or eaten by the passengers.

Moorhouse’s fiancée, Jane Anne Collins, formerly governess to his sisters, arrived.

After the wedding Jane and the Moorhouse siblings sailed for the Victorian goldfields. Jane’s first home was a tent on the Yan Yean and, in her first 14 years of marriage, she had 10 homes. Perhaps her happiest period was at William’s farm, Spreydon’ (which gave its name to the suburb) where she produced eggs, butter and milk.

Moorhouse won the Canterbury Superintendency in 1857, held it for six years and, during that time, initiated a government scheme to get around the problem where farmers had to get their goods to Lyttelton either over the Bridle Path or the very difficult Sumner Road. A third alternative was to get goods over the Sumner Bar. However, a craft might be becalmed or dashed to pieces on the bar.

Moorhouse’s solution was to drill a tunnel through the Port Hills and extend railways throughout Canterbury. The Superintendent justified the scheme thus:

As matters now stand the farmer on the Plains justly considers the growing of potatoes and root crops generally to be a reckless speculation, experience having taught him hat the chances are about equal that his potatoes will rot in is fields, on the river wharves or on board a weather bound craft within the river bar.
The scheme was opposed by Canterbury’s cautious, gentrified founders who thought that loans raised to pay for the initiative would be squandered. However, it went ahead. **Moorhouse** had many friends and could persuade working people that he had their interests at heart. At the height of his power, in 1861, he abandoned the first, unsuccessful railway contractor, finding a second in Australia. Arriving home, he was met at the Heathcote ferry by a cavalcade of 100 horsemen and a band playing ‘Hail to the chief’ and: ‘Oh Willie, we have missed you, oh welcome, welcome home’.

The railway tunnel was completed in 1867, during **Moorhouse’s** second Superintendency. In 1868 Henry Selfe *Selfe* and Lord **Lyttelton** became the first grandees to travel through the tunnel. **Moorhouse** would have relished Lord **Lyttelton**’s statement at a ceremonial dinner:

> He felt astonished … there should be any absence of unanimity with regard to … the tunnel …. He had looked upon this province … as he would look on a man half-throttled … and who could not display his energies, or breathe, so long as this massive barrier to communication remained between the entrance to it and the great body of the province …. Mr. **Moorhouse** had contributed most to the execution of what was, admittedly, the most gigantic undertaking in the Colony.

There were cultural aspects to **Moorhouse’s** superintendencies. **Moorhouse** brought Julius von **Haast** to Canterbury to help with geological work on the tunnel and was to support his work in establishing Canterbury Museum. He also appointed Enoch **Barker** as government gardener in the Botanic Gardens.

**Moorhouse**’s later career was one of anti-climax. He was a bureaucrat, Mayor of Wellington and Member of Parliament for Ashley. His neglected constituents asked Charles Christopher **Bowen** to look after their interests. **Moorhouse** was always inept at managing his own affairs and, on more than one occasion, went bankrupt.

Nevertheless the diabetes from which he suffered for a number of years probably contributed to his poor performance.

**Moorhouse**, 56, died at Molesworth Street, Wellington, on 1 September 1881. A ship brought his body back to Christchurch. Shops and offices were closed, flags draped at half-mast, the Cathedral bells ‘ran out the Dead March from Saul and the streets were lined with silent people’. **Moorhouse** was buried at St. Peter’s churchyard.

**Moorhouse** has been honoured with a botanic gardens statue. His name is commemorated in the Moorhouse Range and Sefton Peak in the Southern Alps (both bestowed by Julius von **Haast**); Moorhouse Avenue, Christchurch; Sefton township; and Moorhouse and Sefton streets in Wadestown, Wellington.

In the year 2000, in *And me for all of those*, Kate **Morrison** wrote about the **Moorhouse** statue in the Botanic Gardens:

> And those kids deserve a good kick up the butt. 
> Darn it, another bird.
I would like to reach up with a clenched fist
and rant and rave.
But I can’t. I’m just stuck here
crying to be let out.
Not a soul can hear me
trapped in a useless body of bronze.
Why did they have to put me here?
They could have placed me by my pride and joy,
my own special train tunnel.

Row E
No. 748

Edward Cephas John Stevens

Stevens was born at Salford, Oxfordshire, in 1837 the son of the local rector. He went
to Marlborough College and the Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester. In 1858 he
emigrated to Canterbury on the Zealandia. Fellow passengers were John Henry
Whitcombe, his wife, Maria and their family. Whitcombe drowned on the Coast in
1863. Whitcombe Pass is named after him. Stevens was in charge of the fund which
allowed the Whitcombe boys to attend Christ’s College. On 20 May 1869, at St.
Peter’s, Upper Riccarton, Stevens married Maria Whitcombe. The
marriage produced two sons, of whom one died in infancy.

In 1862, Stevens and Richard Harman, founded the firm of Harman and Stevens,
land and commission agents, which operated successfully for 50 years. A major
activity was that of managing the assets of absentee landowners. As well, the pair
became the financial managers of the Press in order to protect the money owed to
them by newspaper founder James Edward FitzGerald. Stevens was to become a
director and board chairman of the Press Company. He was also to foreclose on
FitzGerald’s property at Lincoln. FitzGerald would call him a ‘thorough Jew’.

A member of the Christchurch Club, Stevens was president from 1877-1910 and
piloted it through hard economic times. He was prominent in the boating world and a
founder of Canterbury cricket. He helped raise funds for the visit of the English
cricket eleven in 1864 and played against the visitors. He played against another
English cricket team in 1878 and retired in 1893. He and A. M. Ollivier initiated a
scheme for the purchase of the property of a Harman and Stevens absentee client,
Benjamin Lancaster. Thus was Lancaster Park (now Jade Stadium) established.

Stevens was in provincial and central government, supported the abolition of the
provinces and establishment of the Public Trust in 1872. A plaque acknowledging his
work is in the Public Trust head office.

Stevens died in 1915, leaving an estate of 282, 272 pounds which was shared by his
wife, son, Charles, and members of the Whitcombe family. Maria is buried with a
Whitcombe son in the Avonside parish cemetery.

Row E
No. 765

Upper Riccarton Cemetery
2007
Hawdon

Joseph Hawdon was born at Walkerfield, County Durham on 14 Nov 1813. An ‘overlander’ in Australia, he is said to have been the first to bring cattle overland from New South Wales to Melbourne and Adelaide; he was also an explorer. The town of Dandenongs is on the site of his run and his name is commemorated in the Hawdon Plains. Forced by drought to come came to Canterbury in the 1850s, he had the Craigieburn run.

In Canterbury the Hawdon River and Lake Hawdon commemorate Joseph Hawdon. Lake Marymere is named after his wife. A Member of the Legislative Council, Hawdon died at Christchurch on 12 April 1871.

Joseph’s son, Arthur, well-known as a heavy drinker, took over Craigieburn. In 1872 he married Sarah, eldest daughter of Dr. Alfred Charles Barker. The first white child born on the Canterbury Plains, Sarah said that she was ‘born in a tent [and] christened in a pie-dish’. In published reminiscences, she took the pseudonym ‘Tentborn’.

Row E
No. 778
Chisnall

William and Steadman Sarah Chisnall came from Suffolk. They were pre-Adamites, arriving in Canterbury on the Phoebe Dunbar but reaching shore a few months before the arrival of the First Four Ships. William was a carpenter and his house-building skills were in demand as the Canterbury Associations great armada arrived within a few months.

Between 1852-53 William Chisnall and his brother-in-law William Derisley Wood had the Sandhills Run which stretched from the Styx River to the Avon-Heathcote Estuary and from what is now Marshlands Road to the sea. The pair worked the run as a dairy farm, supplying Christchurch with milk.

Chisnall owned ‘Russley’, afterwards H. H. Prins’ stud farm, rented an island in the Waimakariri and drowned while crossing the river. The gravestone has the following about Mr. and Mrs. Chisnall: William Chisnall, 49, drowned 8 Sep 1876; Steadman Sarah Steadman, 53, died 10 Nov 1876.

The family are recorded in Chisnallwood School in the east of Christchurch, Russley Road and Steadman Street.

Row E
No. 788
Dilloway

John Dilloway, his wife, Hannah, and their four children arrived on the Sir George Seymour in December 1850. John, ‘a Birmingham man and a gunsmith … started in the line’ in Oxford Terrace before purchasing, in March 1855, the first suburban hotel in Christchurch, the ‘Plough Inn’, ‘Dilloway’s Inn’ or the ‘Traveller’s Rest’, at what is now the Riccarton roundabout. A painted sign of a man holding a plough hung over
the road outside the pub and advertised its products. There were no other public hotels in the area and ‘bushmen, shearsers, sawyers, bullock drivers [and] stockmen made it their camping place’. Not surprisingly, the establishment did a large business. By 1865 the business had proved so popular that Dilloway had to rebuild the premises. The 27 September 1865 Lyttelton times commented:

This well-known inn, so familiar to passengers along the Riccarton Road, has undergone a complete transformation. A large pile of timber buildings has been put up, rivalling in size many of the new hotels in the city. The alteration may be, no doubt, convenient to the public, and rendered necessary by the increased traffic, yet one regrets the loss of the cosy-looking old-fashioned inn which always put the passer-by in mind of some roadside tavern in old England.

Dilloway attempted to establish a cricket ground. In Hagley Park opposite the hotel he put down turf which was 60 by 40 yards in extent. For a few years this was the home of a club which enlarged the area. There was a public meeting, funds were sought so that the grounds could be fenced – there was a pledge of 300 pounds at the meeting itself - and a pavilion built. When an English team arrived to play Canterbury in February 1864, they were surprised and impressed with the facilities. Eventually, however, the ground was abandoned because of its distance from those who dwelt to the east of Hagley Park.

Dilloway was a ‘somewhat peculiar person, a sharp, shrewd sort of man who was full of chaff, much liked and known all over Canterbury’. A descendant, Murray Old, states that he owned land in the Carman Road, Racecourse Road, Buchanans Road and Main South Road area. The provincial government acquired it for railway purposes but, being short of money, gave Dilloway land at Dunsandel which he had to break in. The land was on what was called the ‘Old Coach Road’. This property eventually came in to the hands of John junior.

John Dilloway died, at 55, on 19 April 1868. The Plough Inn licence was held by John junior and then his mother, Hannah, who retired on 12 June 1872 when nearly 60. A daughter, Mary, married G. H. Giggs who drowned in 1867. Henry William Dunn found the body, comforted and married the widow, and, with her, held the licence of the Plough Inn.

Row E
No. 794-795
Lean

Colonel Alexander Lean, 21 May 1824-20 Nov 1893
Clara Eliza, 6 Feb 1832-11 Oct 1885
Constance Harvey, 17 Aug 1864-30 July 1903; Lilian Hope, 22 Oct 1861-4 Aug 1940. Francis H, 8, died 25 March 1876. Also Mabel Adeline, 1870-1944, Malcolm Harvey and Gunner Rocke Harvey Lean, killed in action in Italy 1944.

Alexander Lean, son of a London stockbroker, trained as an architect, married Clara Eliza Haines at Chelsea on 17 July 1851, and, the same year, emigrated on the Fatima. The family had 13 children, of whom five died in infancy.

Upper Riccarton Cemetery
2007
Lean brought capital, invested in runs in the Rakaia area, lived at Hayscliffe (now Mount Hutt station) and had, in all, 75,000 acres. Enthusiastic but inexperienced, he shed some of his stations but still went bankrupt. In the process he lost his favourite, Mount Hutt.

In Christchurch, Lean practised as an architect. His major work, the Supreme Court building, was ‘a Gothic inspiration … built to a budget of 3,000 pounds’. When Lean described it as a ‘symphony in stone’, a judge retorted that ‘there are too many damned crochets in it’. Certainly there were complaints about draughtiness and poor acoustics. It was an imposing Gothic building but its pinnacles and towers were stripped away and it was toppled at the end of 1980.

Overshadowed by B. W. Mountfort and W. B. Armson, Lean kept to domestic architecture. Nevertheless, he joined the heavyweights in an 1870s professional body, the Canterbury Association of Architects. He could do this as he had trained as an architect, rather than picking up the rudiments of the trade in a builder’s yard.

Lean was passionate about music: ‘Nothing pleased … [him] more than to get two or three enthusiasts like himself and have a good afternoon’s chamber music’. A man of both ‘energy … and high musical ideals’, he established the city’s first orchestral society in 1871. He built up an extensive library and conducted more than 40 symphonies and overtures by Beethoven, Haydn, Mozart, Gluck, Weber and Mendelssohn. He commented: ‘The symphony is the true raison d’etre of any orchestral society’. However, there was criticism of the admission prices - and of Lean’s ‘heavy’ programmes - and his ‘visionary enterprise’ failed in 1878.

Lean was deeply attached to the Volunteer movement, fought for the financial incentive of a capitation grant, and boosted morale and efficiency through holding annual camps at Easter. When he retired as colonel in 1891 the Press wrote:

In losing Colonel Lean, the Volunteers lose one who, from the first day he took charge, has never failed to do his utmost to advance their interests in every way. Through good report and evil report, times of prosperity and times of adversity, Colonel Lean has stuck loyally to the Volunteer movement, never losing heart under the most discouraging circumstances, and always speaking in the most encouraging manner to those under his command. All ranks will miss him greatly and, without disparagement to his successor, it is not too much to say that the Volunteers of Canterbury will not soon ‘look upon his like again’.

The historian of the Volunteers commented: ‘Colonel Lean was a pattern Volunteer officer - for all his work he received no pay and, at periods, but little thanks’.

On 20 November 1893 Lean dropped dead in the street. Music at his funeral included his favourite, the ‘Adante’ from Beethoven’s B flat trio, and Chopin’s ‘Funeral March’. A concert in the evening included the ‘Dead March’ from ‘Saul’. The funeral included military pageantry and was attended by representatives from the government and musical worlds.
H. F. Ault

Born in Christchurch in 1902, Harold Frank Ault was a Christchurch Cathedral chorister under the famed organist and choirmaster, Dr. John Christopher Bradshaw.

He gained an M. A. at Canterbury College and sent his copy of his thesis on James Edward FitzGerald to Chief Justice and former Premier, Sir Robert Stout. It was never returned - nor did Canterbury College keep a copy.

Ault gained a Bachelor of Divinity in Melbourne, worked in Highbury, North London and, from 1928-33, was a missionary in Karachi, then part of British India. He wrote the History of All Saints’ parish, Nelson. The dust jacket of Ault’s history of the Nelson diocese, the Nelson narrative contains the following:

It is written in a style reminiscent of the author who, with his mind for detail, has created a colourful vista of the life lived by our pioneers of Church and State. The tales flash with anecdote and … humour …

Another Ault publication was the History of Akaroa parish. When discussing parish and school histories, a mixed bag, George Ranald Macdonald commented that: ‘Ault’s history of Akaroa was the best’.
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Some information on the Dilloways comes from a descendant, Murray Olds, 1/19 Danbury Avenue, Auckland.