

WAIMAIRI CEMETERY

October 2002

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The Waimairi Cemetery on Grahams Road was established by the Waimairi County Council. When that council was absorbed into the Christchurch City Council in the great amalgamation of 1989, the cemetery came under the control of the city council's Parks Unit.

In the early summer of 1985 Denis Hampton and Nancy McLaughlin visited the Waimairi Cemetery and transcribed information from the gravestones in the two large blocks at the eastern end of the burial ground. Their work became the *Transcript of the monumental inscriptions of the older part of the Waimairi cemetery*. Hampton and McLaughlin commented:

The earliest burial recorded was in 1911 and the latest in 1985. The plots covered by this transcript were mostly sold by the mid 1950s. Since then large areas to the left and rear of the older part have been opened up. It is expected that all available plots will be sold by mid 1986.

The plots have now, indeed, been sold although some are not yet occupied. In the 'Public notices' section of the Press, in 1997, there was an advertisement:

Grave plot to sell in vandal-proof area of Waimairi Cemetery.
Owner moving.

AREA 1:

ROW A:

No. 2

LAMBIE

George **LAMBIE** was born in 1843 and died on 9 December 1917. He was manager of the Christchurch office of the Union Steam Ship Company. In middle age he married a much younger woman. This was quite common in Victorian times. Margaret Sidey **LAMBIE** was born in 1863 and died on 2 October 1914.

No. 36

LAMBIE

George and Margaret **LAMBIE** were not prominent personalities. Their daughter was May **LAMBIE** was born in 1889 and became a nurse. She had experience in hospitals and, as a public nurse, became aware of the poverty and other problems in the community which could lead to people being sent to hospital.

She showed great administrative skill in establishing an emergency hospital during the 1931 Napier earthquake. Within months she was offered, and accepted, the position of Director of the Division of Nursing in the Health Department. Among her duties were those of approving hospitals as nursing schools and determining the courses to be undertaken by student nurses. She retired in 1950 and died on 22 January 1971.

Mary **LAMBIE** was interested in the welfare of nurses. However, she accepted the traditional view that they should put service above self. She commented: "It's no use talking of the spirit of Florence **NIGHTINGALE** The forty hour week complex has taken her place."

No. 32

WALTER

Wilfred John **WALTER** belonged to one of the families who bought swamp land at Marshland in the 1870s and himself farmed in the district.

In a career in local body politics which lasted from 1906 till his death 40 years later, **WALTER** was a member and chairman of a large number of authorities including the Christchurch Tramway Board, Christchurch Drainage Board, Waimairi County Council and Lyttelton Harbour Board.

WALTER was elected to the Avon Road Board in 1908, was chairman in 1909, and it was on his motion that the name 'Waimairi County Council' was adopted for the board's successor local authority.

WALTER died on 28 October 1946.

W. J. **WALTER**'s wife, Emma Marie, was a schoolteacher at Marshland Primary School prior to her marriage. She taught early in the 20th century when it was common for a teacher to have something like 80 pupils.

I met Mrs **WALTER** early in 1975. She told me that, in his last years, Wilfred had gone round Marshland and interviewed people who had long resided in the area. He had written up his notes and, many years later, Mrs **WALTER** had got students from Mairehau High School to put the material in typewritten form. She showed me the notes which were in a side cupboard. On 4 July 1975 Mrs **WALTER** died.

In 1980, when I was appointed to a position in the New Zealand Collection, I visited the **WALTERS**' son, Fred. He had the historical material and this he donated to the archives collection at the library. The Walter Papers are a valuable source of information for genealogical and local history research.

ROW E:

No. 165-166

RATTRAY

Waimairi Cemetery has a feature one finds only rarely in Christchurch graveyards - a vault raised above the ground. The vault is that of the **RATTRAY** family. The most notable member of the family laid in the vault was Andrew Innes **RATTRAY**.

Andrew **RATTRAY** was born in Scotland in 1855, emigrated to Canterbury as a boy, worked in the Bank of New Zealand and became secretary of the New Zealand Metropolitan, New Brighton and Canterbury Park trotting clubs.

Before Andrew **RATTRAY** took over as secretary, trotting was considered 'a pursuit of rogues, thieves and vagabonds'. **RATTRAY** raised standards within the sport, prevented ring-ins, banned bookmakers and insisted that clubs should have no more than four meetings a year. He was very strong-willed. It was thought that a 1910 meeting should be abandoned as a mark of respect for King Edward VII who had just died. The crowd demanded that its money be refunded, but, despite threats of mob violence, **RATTRAY** refused to return the cash. That day the officials had to wait some time before they dared leave with the takings.

No. 176

McCLELLAND

Annie Elizabeth **McCLELLAND** erected a memorial to her husband, William Warden **McCLELLAND** who lived from 1874 — 1936. The memorial reads:

To all the world just one,
to me, just all the world.

Annie did not pine away and die. Her dates are given as 1884 — 1966.

ROW G

No. 226-228

LOVELL-SMITH

William Sidney **LOVELL-SMITH** born 23 October 1852, died 16 April 1929

Jennie Mary **LOVELL-SMITH** born 3 December 1948, died 30 June 1924

William, his wife, Jennie, his sister, Lucy, and other family members were involved with the women's suffrage movement. William had a printing business, Smith, Anthony, Sellars and Company. One of its publications was the Women's Christian Temperance Union periodical, the White ribbon. At one stage Jennie was business manager for the White ribbon. In 1905 William wrote the pioneer history, Outline of the women's franchise movement in New Zealand.

On 15 August 1925, a year after Jennie's death, William married the woman who led the suffrage movement, Kate **SHEPPARD**. William is buried with his first wife. Kate is buried at Addington Cemetery with her parents, whose surname was **MALCOLM**.

ROW I

No. 358

ADAMS

ADAMS, Alexander Samuel

b 4 August 1861, died 10 September 1937.

Alexander **ADAMS** was of Otago stock. His father arrived in the province in 1848.

Alexander was a lawyer, being in partnership with his brother and later with his sons. He had been educated at the Stone School in Dunedin where Robert **STOUT** was a teacher. In 1888 he successfully fought the Roche case against his former teacher who had gone into politics and law and was currently a dominating personality in the legal world. **ADAMS** won the battle which meant that married women could not hold a publican's licence. This was an interesting case of two men fighting a battle on purely legal grounds and not allowing their judgement to be affected by the anti-liquor viewpoint which they shared.

ADAMS was 'a rather dour Baptist prohibitionist of fearsome rectitude'. From 1921-33 he was a Judge of the Supreme Court of New Zealand.

ROW K

No. 392-394

McCOMBS

McCOMBS, James, 1873 — 1933, M P 1913 — 1933

Elizabeth Reid, first woman M P, 193 — 1935

Terence, 1905 — 1982. Parliamentarian, 1935 — 1951

James **McCOMBS** was Irish-born, worked as a draper, and, through his association

with left-wing political groups in the 1890s, met Elizabeth Reid, one of the several politically and socially active **HENDERSON** sisters. The couple married in 1903. James was a member of the Christchurch City Council, an unsuccessful mayoral candidate, and M. P. for Lyttelton from 1913. In 1916, on the formation of the New Zealand Labour Party, he became a member.

James was a supporter of prohibition and the rights of women. He was the opponent of the radical socialist leader of the party, Harry **HOLLAND**, and, several times, tried to unseat him. Harry **HOLLAND** died not long after James **McCOMBS**.

James and Elizabeth Reid **McCOMBS** worked as a team. Elizabeth was on the city council and tramway board. On her husband's death, she was chosen as Labour Party candidate in the Lyttelton by-election. Women had gained the right to vote in parliamentary elections in 1893, the right to stand for Parliament in 1919, but no women candidate had yet been elected. The Coalition candidate who stood against Elizabeth was a prominent civil engineer and surveyor, Frederick **FREEMAN** (1881 - 1969), a man who long figured in Who's who in New Zealand but is now forgotten. Elizabeth won the by-election.

Elizabeth has symbolic rather than practical importance as the first woman M.P.; she did not live to witness the Labour landslide of 1935. When she died, her son, Terence, became M. P.

Terence, a minister in the last years of the first Labour Government, lost the Lyttelton seat after the family had held it for 38 years. He was defeated when National Party Prime Minister Sidney **HOLLAND** called a snap election after crushing the 1951 waterfront strike.

Terence returned to his original profession, school teaching, was a headmaster, and, in his later years, spent a period on the Christchurch City Council.

ROW N No. 490 **INWOOD**

Mary, died 1 September 1930 aged 88
Frederick Richard, died 1 May 1939 aged 89
Mary Teresa died 8 May 1959 aged 86

Mary **INWOOD** and her brother, Frederick Richard **INWOOD** were 'Canterbury Pioneers' — they came here with their parents, First Four Ship immigrants, in 1850. Their father, Daniel, was prominent in the growth of Southbridge, but, before that, he had a flour mill on Mill Island, in the Avon River, opposite the old Canterbury Public Library. The water wheel recently established there recalls his endeavours.

Frederick Richard **INWOOD** was an Anglican minister. He was at Flaxton-Ohoka,

and, from 1889-1906, was first Vicar of New Brighton, which included Burwood. In 1906 Burwood and New Brighton became separate parishes, and **INWOOD** took Burwood where he remained till his retirement to Cashmere Hills in 1910.

INWOOD's decision to stay at Burwood in 1906 was based partly on the fact that he was very familiar with the people of the area, having bought land on the corner of New Brighton Road and Bassett Street in 1889, built the tall striking house which is still there, lived in it and used it as the de facto vicarage. **INWOOD**'s successor, the Rev Cecil Alexander **TOBIN** was to purchase the property. After **TOBIN**'s retirement in 1937 and death in 1938, the house was to lose the status of vicarage. It was purchased by the Anglican Church as official vicarage in the 1950s and sold in the 1980s.

INWOOD, a man of literary interests, wrote a book of poems based on John **KEBLE**'s Christian year. This was A Christian year beneath the southern cross. **INWOOD** was, according to a nephew, 'very fond of a game of cribbage'.

INWOOD's first wife, Isabella, died in 1899 and is buried at Burwood with the couple's three unmarried daughters. She has a memorial at St Faith's, New Brighton: 'She hath done what she could'. **INWOOD** then married Mary Teresa **PURCHAS**, whose father, Charles, was one of his parishioners at New Brighton. In 1906 Mary's brother, the Rev. Henry Thomas **PURCHAS**, became Vicar of the New Brighton parish. Henry was married to a grand-daughter of Henry John Chitty **HARPER**, first Bishop of Christchurch, and was a church historian. One of his publications was a biography of Bishop **HARPER**.

ROW O
No. 539
ALPERS

Oscar Thorwald Johan **ALPERS**, Judge of the Supreme Court of New Zealand, born Copenhagen 28 January 1867, died 21 January 1927. Natalie May **ALPERS** died 12 March 1969 aged 78.

O. T. J. **ALPERS** came to New Zealand as a child. His father did not prosper in New Zealand and the son was ever helpful to the parents, buying them a house, and, after the father's death, bringing the mother to live with him in Christchurch.

Oscar both identified with Christchurch and climbed the socio-economic ladder. He graduated M. A. from Canterbury University College, was a high school teacher and edited the Jubilee book of Canterbury rhymes and College rhymes. In his late 30s, he returned to university and qualified as a lawyer. He was prominent as a defence counsel and had excellent histrionic skills. When approaching 60 he was elevated to the position of Judge of the Supreme Court but, soon after, fell ill with cancer.

ALPERS has married, at 44, Natalie May **ROSE**, then not quite 21. By the time of his illness he had three young children so he set about dictating his memoirs to his

wife. After his death, his friends in the legal profession helped bring the memoirs to the point of publication under the title Cheerful yesterdays. The book was very popular and helped bring a modest sum into the household for the care of Mrs. **ALPERS** and the education of the children.

O. T. J. **ALPERS** had, in his last months, come to terms with his impending death and, having seen photographs of the Waimairi Cemetery, chose it as the place where he wanted to be buried.

No. 551
GREEN

A plaque here notes the burial place of 'two pioneers', Charles Alfred **GREEN**, 1833— 1929, who arrived on the ship Monarch, on 2 April 1850, and his wife, Susannah, 1835 — 1928

Charles Alfred **GREEN** was born in London in 1833. His father, Edward **GREEN**, tailor, Queen's habit maker, 21 Cork Street, Burlington Gardens, and late 8 Clifford Street and Bond Street. fare from the United Kingdom to Canterbury was paid by

Charles was a 'pre-Adamite', that is, he arrived in Canterbury prior to the arrival of the First Four Ships in December 1850. He worked as a pit-sawyer and married, on 13 August 1857 at the Akaroa Anglican church, Susan **BLACKBEE**. Susan would seem

to have been a person of humble origins. Certainly, she signed the marriage register with her mark 'X'.

At the time of his death, Charles was living at Upper Riccarton.

ROW P
No. 564
FREEMAN

Thomas Isaac **FREEMAN** put up a rather touching memorial to his wife, Grace Ann.

Warm summer sun shine brightly here.
Sweet southern wind blow lightly .
Green sod above, lie light, lie light.
Good night, sweet wife, good night.

Grace died on 2 February 1929. Thomas did not die till 26 April 1956.

No. 582
BATES, John William, 18 April 1860-10 September 1937

John **BATES** had a well-established deep long china shop in Cashel Street just along from Ballantyne's. His business was noted for the excellent service which he and his staff gave and for the quality of the products.

ROW Q
No. 622-623
McNAMARA

William **McNAMARA**, 1871 — 1938
Bertha Marion **McNAMARA**, 1877 — 1954

Although not prominent, the **McNAMARAS** were well off. Bertha was the daughter of Thomas **GAPES** and grand-daughter of James **GAPES** senior. Her family had a painting and paperhanging business. Thomas **GAPES** had been Mayor of Christchurch in 1894 while James had been Mayor in 1877 and 1881.

ROW S
No. 714-717
MERTON

Over a couple of generations the **MERTONS** rose from obscurity to prominence. The founder of the family was James **MERTON** who worked for the genteel **TORLESSE** family at Stoke-by-Nayland and then for Charles Obins **TORLESSE** at Rangiora. In 1859 he appeared before New Year's Day revellers clad in linen smock, Bedford cord breeches, gaiters and hob-nailed boots. With brimming beer mug in hand, he reminded the company of Home by performing the John Ploughman's Dance.

James' son, Charles **MERTON**, 1821 — 1885, was a bootmaker, had a successful school in Rangiora and brought song and drama to the scattered hamlets of North Canterbury.

At Waimairi there is buried Charles' son, Alfred James **MERTON** who was born on 7 October 1857 and died on 7 February 1931. He was a music teacher and choirmaster at Christ's College. Alfred's wife, Gertrude Hannah, lived from 18 August 1855 to 15 December 1956.

One son of Alfred and Gertrude, Owen Heathcote Grierson, was born on 14 May 1887. Educated at Cathedral Grammar and Christ's College, he studied painting in both Europe and New Zealand and had the work of his youth on display at the 1906 — 1907 Christchurch International Exhibition. He was assisted by a wealthy artist, Dorothy Kate **RICHMOND**. Owen's painting reflects the influence of Chinese masters.

For a long period Owen lay ill in England, and, during that time, a substantial article was written about him for Art in New Zealand. He died in London on 18 January 1931. Although Owen **MERTON**'s name figures prominently on the memorial at Waimairi Cemetery, he is not buried here.

A sister of Owen who is buried at Waimairi was well known locally. Agnes

MERTON lived from 1889-1968, was tall and thin with prominent teeth. A teacher of English at Christchurch Girls' High School, she was especially prominent in putting on drama productions. A capable woman, she had a fund of sarcasm which she used against those of her charges who chose to be rebellious. She was drowned when the Wahine went down in Wellington harbour in 1968.

Owen's son, Thomas, 1915 — 68, gained fame as a philosopher, writer and Trappist monk.

No. 726

WARNER, Beatrice Alice, died 2 May 1969

WARNER, Ina Frances, died 26 September 1981 aged 88

William Francis **WARNER** of Warner's Hotel was the patriarch among licensed victuallers in Christchurch. In 1891 his first wife died and, on 15 October 1894, at the age of 55, he married Alice **LITTLE**, 27. Beatrice **WARNER** was born in 1892 and Ina **WARNER** in 1894. On 29 February 1896 William Francis **WARNER** was drowned with two others when the yacht Waitangi capsized on the Avon-Heathcote Estuary. There was one survivor. The search for bodies and the subsequent funerals probably constituted the grand event of Christchurch in 1896.

ROW T

No. 740

HAMILTON

Most of the achievements of Thomas Albert **HAMILTON**, 1849 — 1937, are listed on his gravestone. He was Canon of Christchurch Cathedral and Vicar of Fendalton Parish for 21 years.

HAMILTON wore a black frock coat and a black soup-plate hat with a big brim. In retirement he lived in a two-storey house on the south-east corner of Manchester Street and Edgeware Road. In the days when members of the clergy wrote autobiographies, he wrote The years that are past. It was published in 1935.

No. 744

HAGGITT

Kathleen Mary Frances **HAGGITT** lived from 1881 — 1930.

Kathleen was the wife of Percy Bolton **HAGGITT**, who did well in the Anglican Church. He died in 1957 and is buried at Halswell. His burial entry in Christchurch City Libraries's church register transcripts says that he was Dean of Nelson and Archdeacon of Christchurch. When Kathleen died, Percy was vicar of Merivale.

No. 780
FERON

Joseph, 'Joe' **FERON** died on 8 September 1973 aged 81. He was an Anglican priest in the Christchurch Diocese, being Vicar of Hinds, St. Albans, Ashburton and Opawa. He had considerable personality and was much liked by parishioners. He was a good preacher. Strange as it may seem, people, including those who did not otherwise darken the doors of a church, came to hear him preach. He had a set of sermons, and, if asked, would preach on a particular topic. When permissiveness was raising its head, he would preach on the topic: 'Will you marry me? Yes, what's your name'.

An example of Joe **FERON**'s sermons appears in the 7 March 1932 Christchurch times. At the Harvest Thanksgiving service 'the church was packed and numbers of the congregation had to stand'.

Mr. **FERON** said:

The first purpose of this service is that we should give thanks to God for all His gifts during the year. Harvest Festival is first of all an acknowledgement to God that our gifts are His, however clever we are in 1932.

Mr. **FERON** referred to the extravagance of the present generation and how the way that people now lived would turn the hairs of their grandfathers grey. It was a case of getting rid of what one possessed at the present with no thought of the future.

No. 798
DUNKLEY

Alice Annie **DUNKLEY** died on 31 August 1931. She lived in the shadow of her husband, a big well-built man, the Rev. Walter **DUNKLEY**. Walter was priest in charge of the New Brighton parish prior to the arrival of the first vicar, the Rev Frederick Richard **INWOOD**, and was first Vicar of Glenmark. One of the parishioners at New Brighton commented on **DUNKLEY**'s physical strength: "Man, you're wasted in the church. You should be chopping logs over on the peninsula".

Walter **DUNKLEY**, who died on 29 December 1912, is buried at Glenmark.

ROW U
No. 811-812
HUMPHREYS

George **HUMPHREYS**, 1848 — 1934, was a man of property, a founder of the firm of wine and spirit merchants Fletcher Humphreys and the man after whom part of the route to Sumner is named, that is, Humphreys Drive. On 6 November 1883 the first

marriage was recorded in the register of St Barnabas' church, Fendalton. The groom was George **HUMPHREYS**, 'gentleman', while the bride was Rose Florence **DANIELL**, 'lady'.

ROW X
No. 945

ALLEY

Frederick James **ALLEY**, 1866 — 1936, came of a pioneer Canterbury family, was an enthusiastic purchaser of land, a teacher, and a man who expressed his views in book form. These were Back to the land, now and how, the F.J.A. two year plan and Something wrong somewhere: an urgent problem in primary education.

Frederick is perhaps best known because of his children. These included a university lecturer, Philip; pioneer of Chinese technical education, Rewi; and Gwen Somerset, co-author of 'New Zealand sociology's base line study', Littledene, and pioneer of the play-centre movement.

ROW Z
No. 1049
SCARVELL

John Larking **SCARVELL** died on 1 December 1937. His daughter, Lucy Julia Barns **SCARVELL**, died on 17 February 1985.

John Larking **SCARVELL** had property at New Brighton. His daughter, known as Julia, was a graduate of Canterbury University College and, although single, was active, in the 1940s and '50s, in the Canterbury Housewives' Union.

The Housewives' Union was dominated by May **FUREY**. It believed that women should take an active part in the community — whether they wanted to or not. The union wanted women in central and local government, school committees and juries. The union would not have been popular with the new right of the 1990s. It wanted government to vigorously control by regulation the cost of household items so that the housewife could efficiently manage her household budget.

AREA 2
ROW A
No. 1074

BUDDO, David, 1852 — 1937
BUDDO, Janet, died 3 December 1945

David **BUDDO**, a Scotsman, bred sheep and draught-horses at his property near Rangiora. He was a man of substance and, when he married Janet **ROLLO** in 1886, he took her on a honeymoon to North America, the Continent and the British Isles.

BUDDO, Liberal M. P. for Kaiapoi for all but six years of the period between 1893 - 1928, was, briefly, a Cabinet minister. He was best known as a hard-working local M. P. Lincoln College (now University) owes him a debt in that, in Parliament in 1926, he praised the work of the institution. Thus, when Massey College, was established, Lincoln remained rather than suffering the indignity of closure.

No. 1101

HAY

Sir James **HAY** was born at Lawrence, Otago, in 1888 and worked in J. Ballantyne and Co., Christchurch, before founded Hay's, 'the friendly store', which had its famous roof where children could play while mothers shopped. He was managing director from 1929 — 60. James **HAY** was the unsuccessful Citizens' Association candidate for Mayor of Christchurch in 1953, and, prior to that, had been, for nine years, a city councillor. He proudly recorded that he had twice topped the poll. James Lawrence **HAY**, Kt. O.B.E., died on 30 May 1969 aged 81

One son became a prominent doctor, the other Mayor of Christchurch. James **HAY** is commemorated in the James Hay Theatre in the Christchurch Town Hall.

No. 1102

MACKAY, Jessie, 1864 — 1938

Jessie **MACKAY**'s father was a shepherd and then a manager of sheep farms. Jessie never married. She was a primary school teacher, contributor to the Otago witness and 'lady editor' of the Canterbury times. She was active in the women's franchise movement, the National Council of Women and was keen on home rule for Scotland and Ireland. However, she was best known as a poet.

A poem which was long popular was 'The burial of Sir John McKenzie'. The poem had intrinsic worth. However, people appreciated the poem because McKenzie was the Liberal politician who helped settle small farmers on the land. The first verse reads:

They played him home to the House of Stones,
All the way, all the way,
To his grave in the sound of the winter sea.
The sky was dour, the sky was gray.
They played him home with the chieftain's dirge
till the wail was wed to the rolling surge.
They played him home with a sorrowful will
to his grave at the foot of the holy hill;
and the pipes went mourning all the way.

Jessie also wrote 'The gray company' which can be viewed at more than one level. At a simple level, it can be considered a eulogy to Europeans who settled in Otago and Canterbury before the close-knit pioneers of the Otago and Canterbury associations arrived in 1848 and 1850 respectively.

O the gray gray company
of the pallid dawn
O the ghostly faces
ashen-like and drawn.
The Lord's lone sentinels
dotted down the years —
The little gray company
before the pioneers.

Nellie **MACLEOD** wrote a biography of Jessie **MACKAY**, *A voice on the wind*.

The quotation on Jessie's gravestone comes from 'The sheepman's prayer'. Jessie wrote the poem but a fortnight before her death. The quotation reads:

Lord of the sheep in the upland ways
have mercy on thy flocks.

ROW E
No. 1258

In memory of those first laid to rest at Methodist Church Cemetery, Withells Road,
Christchurch

STUBBS, Abraham, 1862
CORLETT, Jane, 1877
CORLETT, Rebecca, 1880
SOUTHON, Rebecca and infant son, 1881
BOON, Charles, 1882
STUBBS, Thomas, 1883
STUBBS, Jane, 1883
CANNON, Lillian Mary, 1884
CANNON, Helen Amy, 1887
REEVE, Mary, 1894

whose remains have been moved to this place by the kind permission of their
descendants, April 1982. Also Richard **POTTS**, re-interred at the Hawthornden Road
Lawn Cemetery. Authorized by private act of Parliament, June 1981

ROW F
No. 1305
BALLANTYNE

Josiah **BALLANTYNE**, 1855 — 1938, head of J. Ballantyne and Co., was also one
of the unpaid adult members of the Christchurch Cathedral Choir, serving under John
Christopher **BRADSHAW**. He was a competent rather than brilliant singer and was
always in the chorus rather than centre-stage.

BRADSHAW was a brilliant but extremely severe choir master, especially to the boy

choristers. Josiah **BALLANTYNE** was good-natured, approachable, and always had fruit and sweets for the youngsters. Forty years after his death, the ex-choristers remembered him with affection.

ROW G
No. 1306

THACKER, Henry Thomas Joynt, 1870 — 1939
THACKER, Monica Alexandra, 1871 — 1955

H. T. J. **THACKER** belonged to a pioneer Okains Bay family and, in Scotland, gained qualifications as a doctor. He had a large private income as the result of his family's farming activities on Banks Peninsula.

In Christchurch **THACKER** was into conspicuous consumption, keeping a motor car and chauffeur at a time when most people were fortunate if they owned a bicycle. However, he had a concern for the common man, running a successful general practice where he treated all people irrespective of their ability to pay. He was a participant in sport and, later, a sports administrator. A playing field in Woolston, 'Monica Park', was named after his wife.

THACKER, M. P. for Christchurch East from 1914 — 22 was, from 1919 — 23, Mayor of Christchurch. In 1920 he met the Prince of Wales (later Edward VIII and Duke of Windsor) on the prince's long-remembered tour of New Zealand.

From 1908 — 25 **THACKER** vigorously supported the idea of 'Port Christchurch', that is, he wanted to have a port established within the Estuary with small vessels bringing goods via canal to the city. Both Marshland Road and Linwood Avenue have been envisaged as part of the canal project.

THACKER was a big man, about 18 stone in weight, and was bluff and outspoken. He called the Canterbury Women's Institute 'a gathering together of prudes' and 'a set of bloody hens'. He gave radio talks in which he advocated that people eat wholemeal bread, vegetables and fruit. He always ate pineapple before delivering a speech.

ROW L
No. 1543

MANNERING

George Edward **MANNERING** was born in Canterbury and spent his working life in the Union Bank of Australia. His memoirs, which have much on late 19th century Christchurch, are entitled Eighty years in New Zealand.

MANNERING's real interest was the outdoors and he could shoot, ride, fish and canoe, and play such sports as tennis, golf and lacrosse. His greatest love was

mountaineering. He was a founder of the New Zealand Alpine Club and wrote a book which was an inspiration to the generation which came after him, With axe and rope

in the New Zealand alps.

MANNERING, never the first person to climb a major peak in New Zealand or overseas, maintained his fitness throughout life and, at 60, climbed the Matterhorn. He died, at 85, on 29 October 1947.

There is an appropriate Biblical verse on the gravestone:

I will lift mine eyes unto the hills
whence cometh my help.

ROW O
No. 1672
HERVEY

John Russell **HERVEY** was a well-known Anglican vicar and a minor New Zealand poet. He died 15 April 1958 aged 69

ROW P
No. 1716
HOLMES

HOLMES, Freeman Wright, died 21 February 1967 aged 95
HOLMES, Mary Theresa, died 5 December 1952 aged 80

Freeman **HOLMES** was born near Ashburton in 1871. In 1882, when 11 years old and weighing five stone, he was asked to ride in a galloping event. He had to be laden with ballast so that he might be the correct weight. He won.

HOLMES was involved in galloping till his 7 October 1896 marriage to Mary Theresa **WEBB**. One of the wedding presents was a trotting pony. **HOLMES'** success with this animal led to his decision to breed, train and race trotters and pacers. In the U.S.A. **HOLMES** chose important sires, including 'Logan Pointer', sire of New Zealand Trotting Cup winner 'Harold Logan'. A 1944 racing law forced him to retire from racing at the age of 73. He returned to his first love, training.

Freeman **HOLMES**, grand old man of horse-racing and founder of a racing industry dynasty, claimed that the secret of his longevity was the consumption of whisky.

ROW W
No. 1977

ALLEY

Philip John **ALLEY** died on 12 May 1978. One of the remarkable children of Frederick **ALLEY**, he was a lecturer in the Engineering School at the University of Canterbury and has been credited with the idea that the campus move from town to its present Ilam site. A supporter of his brother, Rewi **ALLEY**, he travelled widely in China before it was fashionable to visit this country.

Philip's wife died in 1999 at the age of 100 years.

MS 3 Den P Row 30 Plot 1

PERCY

Alexander 'Sandy' **PERCY**, foreman at the Colombo Street joinery firm of Hardie and Thomson, died suddenly of a heart attack on 8 January 1959. He once said of Bertha **FORBES**, daughter of Prime Minister George **FORBES**: 'I think Bertha has missed the bus'. Such politically incorrect sayings are not confined to the West. In the Philippines the expression is: "She's missed the train".

Sources

Books

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