



South Canterbury Branch Newsletter Mar/Apr 2012 Volume 16 No. 2

Editor' Note

This edition features a couple of requests, one with a mystery woman to identify and another looking for descendants from people who originally lived in Timaru district. There is also a request for information on a local farm so hopefully, we will get some replies and help fill in some gaps. Often good to be able to help other people and we can all learn something new along the way.

April is a remembrance month with ANZAC Day a chance to remember our ancestors who went off to war, some surviving and some not. A lot of websites have resources available to research your ancestors military career. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission site is always interesting and kept updated but sad as it records only deaths. The Auckland Cenotaph site is another good site covering both those that died and those that came back. There are often photos and stories submitted by families to keep you interested.

April 14th is the 100th Anniversary of the sinking of the Titanic so keep a lookout for interesting articles and website that cover this even.

Happy Easter

Liz

AGM Reminder

Tuesday 10th April at 7.30
Nominations required for:

**Convenor
Treasurer
Secretary**

So if you have the will, energy and plenty of spare time to put into the branch, please indicate to Dave Jack or another committee member so we can have your nomination sorted well before the formal AGM. Please note that all these roles require branch members to be current 2012 financial Members of NZSG.

Mystery Photos ??????????

These two photos were found in an old photo album purchased at the Hospice fair in Timaru. They would appear to be the same person taken at different dates. On the back of the younger woman's photo she has written, "Dear Sadie, Taken when 21 1916, Loving Sister Queen" . The photo of the older woman appears to be at some event, perhaps her birthday as she has a lovely corsage and there appears to be a cake stand and other people in the background. She is wearing her best hat and a large brooch that maybe a family heirloom - could be the same brooch on the younger woman.

Does anyone recognize this person or the brooch as we would love to know and also would like to return the photos to family who may have forgotten where they left them.

Please contact the editor at sheafamily@farmside.co.nz



More Mystery - Can you help ??

Gillian Fox is looking for descendants from the South Canterbury area - can any one help?

Mary Jane Unwin was the 2nd child of Thomas Unwin and Annie (nee Reid) who came to ChCh in 1874 on the Carisbrook Castle from Birmingham, UK.

Thomas Unwin had been in the Royal Canadian Rifles in Canada until 1872 and married Annie Reid in New Foundland.

Mary Jane (Polly) Unwin married Robert Erskine in Timaru in 1890

Because **James Reid** was a witness to the marriage , we thought that he might be related



and wondered where his father **John Reid** had come from.... New Foundland?

Robert Erskine was buried in Nelson .

Erskine children - Leonora Lucy Timaru Erskine m William Bruce in 1920.

Frederick William Erskine,b.1893

Clarice Erskine m Norman Nicholls 1924

Hilda Erskine m Ronald Wakelin 1923

Anyone searching these names, please email Gillian Fox at lwgmfox@iconz.co.nz

Lucy UNWIN married Edwin BAKER in 1893 at Timaru

James REID, Traindriver, Timaru married Rosina Heavens EDWARDS in 1894 Timaru

Member's Story

David John MCGIMPSEY

PUBLISHED DECEMBER, 1893 Timaru Herald
INQUEST:

DAVID MCGIMPSEY. At the inquest on the body of David McGimpsey, who was killed at the Pakihi Estate, Orari, on Monday, a verdict of accidental death was returned. He was engaged in rolling a paddock, in which there was a gully. Knowing his team was a restive one he left the roller and took them by the head. The horses trampled him and the roller passed over his head. He died before assistance was procured.

While researching her family, Lorraine Gascoigne found that her grandfather's brother, David John McGimpsey aged 23 had been killed in a farm accident while working on the Pakihi Estate at Temuka in 1893. The family had not been aware of this incident or that there was even a brother but further research has got Lorraine interested and she is now trying to find where the Pakihi Estate actually was and if it still exists.

From Papers Past, an article noted that the estate was to be broken up and sold into different lot in December 1893 at about the same time as David died. The estate had been previously owned by the late Angus McDonald. His sister was Eleanor Jane Nicholson who lived in Yaldhurst outside of Christchurch and she died in 1954 age 86.

If you have any further information, please contact us at SouthCanterbury@genealogy.org.nz - we would love to know more about the estate

Star , Issue 5123, 4 December 1894, Page 3 (Found in Papers Past)

McGIMPSEY.—In loving remembrance of my dear brother, David John McGimpsey, who was killed by accident, at Pakihi Estate, Temuka, on Dec. 4, 1893.

Can it be true, dear brother,
One sad year hath passed away,
Since we laid your body in the grave,
To mingle with the clay ?

Though others may forget you,
None but parents' hearts can tell,
As they are growing old and feeble,
We miss you more and more.

Inserted by his loving sister, E. J. Nicholson,
Yaldhurst.

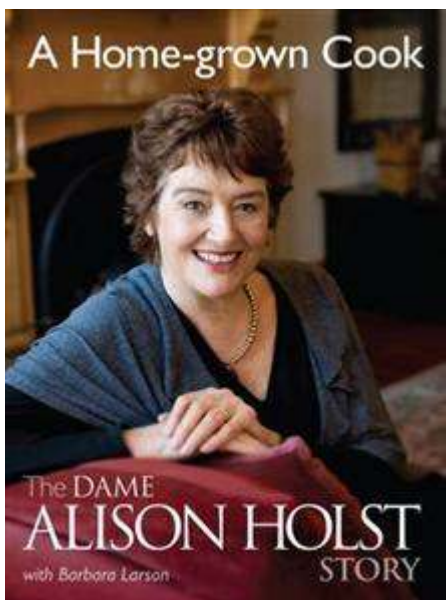
Cemetery Visit - Kaikoura

I visited Kaikoura in February and during a walk through the town, discovered the local cemetery and as an interested genealogist, such places are always interesting. Like most towns, there is the new part and the really old part. I found this marvelous gravestone in the Catholic part of the cemetery and just had to know more about the deceased.

Maria Angela MILES died on 9th June 1907 age 43 and was obviously much loved when you note the size and beauty of the gravestone . When she died, her estate was valued at 550 pounds which may account for the impressive headstone. Maria nee Kelly married Frederick George Miles in 1886. I can only find two children, Reginald George Miles (1888-1970) and Myrtle Miles (1887- ?). Frederick George Miles died in 1946 age 92.



Book Review



A Home-grown Cook: The Dame Alison Holst Story

Celebrating Dame Alison Holst's 100th Book

I just finished reading this book and found it most enjoyable. It covers not only Dame Alison's own story to fame but also her own family history which makes it worth reading just for that part. At the end it lists the covers of all the other 99 books she has written and includes a number of her favourite all time recipes. Again it is another sell out best seller but copies can be found at your local library.

Refer to Beatties Book blog to give a summary of the book and for more information on the book.

<http://beattiesbookblog.blogspot.co.nz/2011/10/home-grown-cook-dame-alison-holst-story.html>

Rangiora Museum

Northbrook Colonial Museum

While attending a family wedding in February, I discovered this amazing museum. The reception was held at Rossburn Receptions in Sparks Lane, in Rangiora and while we were waiting for photos having our drinks and nibbles we were then invited to explore the museum which was at the back of the reception rooms. The Museum boasts an extensive range of New Zealand's colonial history, displayed in 1,200 sq m of buildings.

It was just incredible that there could be so much stuff packed into three very large sheds. Each area was divided off into separate themes such as farming implements like chainsaws, medical display which had old beds and surgical implements, clothes from a variety of eras, old magazines, old records, old plaques and medals, an old bar with hundreds of bottles. There are also lots of old photos from around the North Canterbury and Rangiora region showing weddings, school events, farming events. I spoke with the owner, Richard Spark, and he said that he started off with three old milk bottles and just went from there. He has another shed which I didn't see which has the largest collection of Allis Chalmers tractors in the Southern Hemisphere.



I was there for some time (the wedding party were away for some time while their photos taken) so along with all the other guests ,we wandered around amazed at what we saw.. There is normally a charge but as wedding guests, we were allowed in free. They also cater for bus parties as well as individuals. If you are ever in Rangiora, I recommend going to this museum especially if you are looking for relatives from that area as there are lots of old photos. Richard also takes donations of old goods and was unpacking several large boxes while we were there.

For more information, visit <http://rossburnreceptions.co.nz/4Museum.html>

Library Acquisitions

Newsletter

for April 2012

South Canterbury Branch Library

Recent accessions include:

- * Branch newsletters 2012:
 - Bishopdale –February, March
 - Blenheim – February, February
 - Canterbury – March (membership subscription form attached)
 - Darfield – February
 - Feilding – February, March
 - Hibiscus Coast – February, March
 - Hutt Valley – February, March
 - Kapiti - February
 - Kilbirnie – March
 - Mosgiel – February
 - Oamaru – January-February, March
 - Papamoa – March
 - South Canterbury – Jan/Feb
 - Waimakariri – February
 - Wairarapa – February, March
 - Wellington - February, March

- * Family Tree Magazine – March 2012, April 2012
Each issue is accompanied by a CD which remains in the library.
Please note February 2010, Autumn 2010, September 2011, December 2011, Christmas 2011, January 2012, February 2012 Family Tree Magazines have gone out on the 'round-robin' and will not be on the library shelves for some time. As each new issue is received it will be dispatched to readers.

- # OUR HERITAGE: STENHOUSE FAMILY (STENHOUSE – VALLANCE – HODGES: Otago & South Canterbury) – Ray Stenhouse [donated] [FH33]

- # Province of Canterbury Electoral Roll for 1868-69 (quite detailed for time period) [donated] [MR35]

- # Gloucester: A Pictorial History – John Jurica [donated by a member] [ENG251]
- # Northamptonshire: A century in photographs – Northamptonshire Federation of Women's Institutes [donated by a member] [ENG250]

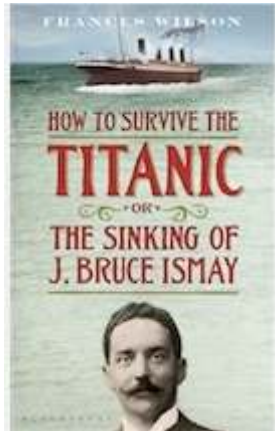
TO GIVE AWAY:

- # *Five issues of 2009 NZ Genealogist*
- # *Set of 2007 NZ Genealogist*

Titanic Centenary

April 14th 2012 marks the centenary of the sinking of the Titanic. The story is well known but list the Wikipedia site for a summary of the tragic events. There are hundreds of websites to visit plus Sky have several programmes this month that feature the Titanic. The 1998 movie "Titanic" is to be released in 3D as well as new music composed by Robin Gibb of Bee Gees fame plus a tourist attraction called "Belfast Titanic" which is on the old Harland and Wolff shipyard where the Titanic was built.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/RMS_Titanic



An interesting book on Bruce Ismay, Chairman of the White Star Line, called "How to Survive the Titanic or the sinking of J Bruce Ismay" by Frances Wilson. It tells the story of Bruce Ismay's life and connection with the Titanic, how he got to be on the maiden voyage and how he survived the sinking when so many others did not.

A review of the book can be found at

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/books/2011/aug/12/survive-titanic-ismay-wilson-review>

Museum New Display



The South Canterbury Museum has opened a new display in time for Anzac day, called "Remembering Them". They have a collection of medals that once belonged to soldiers from the South Canterbury area. Some have been loaned and others donated but they all have a story to tell. There is a wonderful display set up featuring all the different local volunteer units which had their origins in the 19th century and moving on to the 20th. It features such units as Timaru Volunteer Rifles, Temuka Volunteer Rifles, Timaru Port Guards, Timaru Naval Artillery, and Geraldine Mounted Rifles with lots of photos and stories. Well worth a visit on Anzac Day and you might even spot one of your relatives.

Museum Sunday Roster

South Canterbury Museum Research Room Sunday Roster 1.30pm - 4.30pm

NOTE: If you are unable to do your duty please arrange for another on the roster to do it for you and advise your partner who your replacement is. Any queries please ring Maree Bowen 6860584

22 Apr 12	Carole Cowan	6845491	Jeannette Cooke	6846827
29 Apr 12	Lois White	6844173	Robyn King	6884522
06 May 12	Teresa Scott	6889034	Cynthia McCaughan	6884893
13 May 12	Dave Jack	021 5770000	Janette Clarke	6845327
20 May	Lois Shears	6881655	Dilys Loomes	6147302
27 May 12	Doreen Hudson	6862188	Liz Shea	6847790

Contacts

SC Branch Genealogy - Officer Bearers 2011-2012

Convenor:	Dave Jack	021 770 000	Branch Contact
Secretary:	Vacant		
Treasurer:	Maree Bowen	03 686 0584	
Committee:	Teresa Scott	03 688 9034	Library
	Lesley Tennent	03 612 6759	School Rolls
	Lois Shears	03 688 1655	School Rolls
	Dilys Loomes	03 614 7302	School Rolls
	Ann Munro	03 684 8585	Research
	Robyn Davidson	03 615 8000	
Off Committee:	Carole Cowan	03 684 5491	Members Interests
	Liz Shea	03 684 7790	Newsletter Editor
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