

South Canterbury Genealogy

March/April 2023



From the editor

Carol Bell



I put aside a whole weekend for RootsTech this year. It was possible to create a playlist from the available talks, and I certainly did that, but several I watched, if not live, at least within 24 hours of their delivery. It was fun to be part of it all. I also enjoyed “Family at Rootstech” where the world-wide tree was mined for conference participants who traced back to joint ancestors. And if your tree wasn’t that far back the computer often filled in the gaps, giving me wonderful things like 12th cousins three times removed. Flights of fancy maybe, but entertaining. I have also downloaded conference notes from some of the talks I watched and I will share some of these notes in subsequent newsletters. This newsletter shares ideas on identifying the correct ancestor.

I strongly recommend RootsTech. It’s all free, and although not held within our time zone it is very accommodating for world-wide viewers. And the speakers are top rate. We’re hoping to run some of the videos at a meeting during the winter, but if anyone wants to see anything before that they are still available on the website, or you can call into our rooms at 19 The Arcade on a Thursday 10am-1pm and we will set it up for you there.

Chair's report



from Liz Shea



South Canterbury genealogical resources timaru.gen.nz

Chair's report 2023

It is with pleasure that I write my first annual report for the South Canterbury Genealogy Society that came into being in June 2022. Again, I would like to thank the new committee for their support during our last year of operation and all loyal members that came along for the ride. While it had been a long process to set up the new society, in the end it turned out well.

We love our new logo which reflects the South Canterbury colours, green and black, with reference to the family tree and books which provide us with information in our study.

We have been able to retain our Arcade location for our faithful transcribers who turn up every week for another batch of records to transcribe. And another group works at the museum. With some grants, we have been able to purchase some more laptops to make the process easier. We appreciate the work the transcribers do and every bit of information provided helps others expand their family tree.

We have also been able to have meetings again, firstly at the Arcade site but in recent months we have had field trips. We have visited a number of cemeteries, namely Arowhenua and then Timaru. Also, churches with the highlight being a visit to the new refurbished Coptic Church, previously Chalmers Church. We also did a tour of part of Stafford Street, Timaru, looking at the shops that are there now and comparing with previously retailers who no longer trade. Thanks to our transcribers we were able to track retailers from back in the 1950s and many of our members added their own memories of retail stories. The upper facades are still there, many with names and dates but below tells a different story of bookshops now mobile phone sites, dress shops replaced by sportswear, and toy shops disappeared altogether.

We were also able to resume our Sunday help desk at the SC Museum and these have been well patronised as people start to come out again looking for answers to family mysteries. We appreciate the SC Museum allowing us back after two years' absence.

Thanks go out to the committee who meet monthly and have organised these great field trips, applied for grants, kept transcribers busy and manage the newsletter.

Also a big thank you again to our members, we are here for you and the numbers turning up for field trips and meetings is very heartening. We were lucky too with the weather for each trip.

The AGM is on Tuesday 18th April and I look forward to seeing everyone there.

Annual General Meeting of the South Canterbury Genealogy Society Inc.

Tuesday, 18 April 2023 at 7.30pm

(Note – week later than usual because of Easter)



News



The group's AGM is to be held this month. Please consider standing for a role. All positions are open for nomination, and the committee would particularly welcome nominations for:

Members' Interests co-ordinator
Treasurer
Newsletter editor

From 1 April British military service records are free - reduced from £30. Service records date from:
1750 for Foot Guards (not including Scots Guards)
1920 for the RAF
January 1921 for British Army soldiers if their service ended after January 1921
April 1922 for British Army officers if their service ended after April 1922
1926 for Royal Navy including Royal Marines

Each service record may include:

surname, first name, service number, rank and regiment or corps
Place and date of birth
date they joined and left the armed forces
date of death, if they died in service
good conduct medals
details about their career, for example the units they served in

You can only get details about their career 25 years after the date they died unless you have consent from their immediate next of kin - spouse, parent or child.

<https://www.gov.uk/get-copy-military-service-records/apply-for-someone-elses-records>

Spuddle (17th Century): to work ineffectively; to be extremely busy whilst achieving absolutely nothing. -
Me with my genealogy!!

Plans for the year

- 18 April** - AGM and Julie James and Marie Rapley from the library talking about the new Aoraki Heritage Collection
- 9 May** - Philip Howe from the museum talking about the new heritage centre plans
- 13 June** - Digital NZ
- 11 July** - RootsTech
- 8 August** - Alexander Turnbull library
- 12 Sep** - A Memory Tree



How Do I Know That's My Ancestor?

Amy Johnson Crow

People with the same name. Nicknames. Changing names. How do you know if the record you're looking at is referring to your ancestor? Take a close look at records and see how you can tell if it's really referring to the person in your tree and not just someone with the same name.

The Sanity Check

- Does the record even make sense for it to be that person?
- How "outside the norm" is this event? (Marrying at age 12; military service at 14; giving birth at 50, etc.)
- When it is outside the norm, what other records might exist to explain or refute it?

What Are Your Assumptions?

- Are you reading the record accurately?
- Terms
- Are the facts driving your theory?

People Are More Than Names

Think of all the ways you can describe a person, such as:

- Age
- Birthplace
- Relatives
- Friends
- Occupation
- Economic status
- Religion
- Military service

All of those descriptions can help you sort out records and the people they refer to. It's building your ancestor's identity.



Looking Around at Others

"You'll be known by the company you keep." People don't live in vacuums. Who are the neighbours in the census? Who are the sponsors at the baptisms? Who is buried in the same plot at the cemetery? These other people are another way to "identify" the person in the record.



You Have to Evaluate the Source

"What does the record say and who is saying it?" We hear that advice a lot, and it's good advice. But you need to take it one step further.

What about the source itself?

How close is that source to what was originally recorded?

Are you looking at the record or just an index?

Is it an abstract or a transcription?

Your question should always be "Can I get back to something better?" If you can, do it. Look at the entire record. What clues does it contain that will help you identify the person?

A short history of the Timaru cemetery from the Remembrance Army walk at our March meeting

The Timaru cemetery originates from the time the town was first surveyed. The Timaru Herald said on Saturday (11 Mar 2023) that the first burial at the cemetery was that of Morris Clayton on 16 Oct 1860 but we've found one on the cemetery website for four-year-old George William Wood Rhodes on 9 August 1859. There were probably earlier burials that are now unmarked.

The cemetery was said to be fenced and the land cleared in 1863 but complaints began early. The Timaru Herald of 19 Dec 1866 carried a letter noting that the area was unfenced and that graves were being trampled by bullocks. The gate was fastened by a thin piece of flax (although why that should matter when there's no fence is hard to understand), the pathways were not formed, and anyone wishing to go to the eastern area would have to travel through thick bushes of "wild Irishman" or flax. And there was no order in the digging of graves. The cemetery at that time was under the jurisdiction of the Superintendent of the Provincial Govt in Christchurch.

A follow-up letter in March 1867 says there were unsightly mounds scattered here, there and everywhere without any attempt at regularity or order, so that if paths were formed some burials would be in the pathways. The whole place was said to have a most miserable and neglected appearance. Numbers of the older graves had fallen in and left unsightly holes. The vegetation through the whole ground (except where small tracks have been trodden) was so strong and coarse that it was next to impossible to go through any part of it. The area was labelled a sad disgrace.



In 1879 the paper noted that the bodies of a number of apparently stillborn children had been found buried in the footpaths and graves in the Timaru cemetery, having been placed there by stealth during the night and in 1886 the cemetery was under police guard day and night following the exhumation of Capt Cain's body for forensic investigation.

An early caretaker was Edward Drake who came to NZ in 1875. He was given charge at a young age, according to his 1910 obituary, and lived to see two extensions to the grounds. In 1882 his salary was 100 pounds per annum and a free house. He asked for a salary increase that year but it was declined by the cemetery board.

In the early days the cemetery was divided into areas for Roman Catholics, Anglicans, Presbyterians, Methodists etc. In 1882 there was a plan to exhume the bodies of those who had been drowned to replace them together. In 1883 it was decided that the Jewish community had been given too much ground and they were asked to give some back. They replied offering three plots on the condition a fence was erected around their remaining area.

The cemetery was once known as the southern cemetery. A Timaru North cemetery was gazetted behind the residences of Mr Le Cren and Mr Perry's Beverley on a reserve made by George Rhodes. It is shown on a map in the Streets of Timaru book. But it was never used for burials and the land was sold around 1882. The Timaru Herald of 2006 stated there was very little life left in the cemetery and estimated there was only about 10 years left. This week we were told the cemetery was still expected to reach full capacity within five to 10 years, so we've done well. The council is now in talks about creating a new cemetery in Claremont Rd. Let's hope they at least begin with tidy rows.

Clare Palliser has shared this history of her family with permission from the author. It is reproduced here as a piece of local interest and also to show what can be achieved in our own family history when we put pen to paper. It will be serialised for this format and printed over the next few months.

CISSY

1888-1967

by Libby Clark



The continued story of Siceley Clark and the Palliser family: From Yorkshire to Timaru to Napier

Once the harbour was operational, Timaru became an industrial centre, processing and shipping products from south Canterbury farms. The breakwaters also benefitted the town in an unforeseen way: the altered ocean currents created a sandy beach, inviting bathers and visitors.

The council leased the new foreshore from the harbour board in 1902, to turn the bay into a European style beach resort. Tea rooms, a playground, a hot water swimming pool and a band rotunda were built, and Christmas Carnivals have been held at Caroline Bay since 1911. This postcard is dated 1908. In the middle can be seen the Palliser Fountain, of which more details are related later.



The newly-arrived Palliser family would find that Charles had already made a name for himself. The ground was fertile, then, for Frank and Margaret to build their new life there, and Frank had skills that were in great demand as the town grew.

Frank and Margaret's new life

According to records in the South Canterbury Museum, Frank and Margaret's first Timaru home was in a suburb known as St John's Wood, which was where Cissy was born, so this is where they lived in 1887.



Frank may have worked for Palliser and Jones when he first arrived, but we know that he soon formed his own building company, F. Palliser and Sons. Thomas Charles (Tom, or TC), James (Jim), Francis (was he Frank too?) and William (Will) all worked for and with their father as bricklayers.



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Frank may have worked for Palliser and Jones when he first arrived, but we know that he soon formed his own building company, F. Palliser and Sons. Thomas Charles (Tom, or TC), James (Jim), Francis (was he Frank too?) and William (Will) all worked for and with their father as bricklayers.

The family home on the corner of North and Wilson Streets, Saltburn House, was designed by Duvall and built by Frank. As previously mentioned, it was named after the seaside resort of Saltburn-by-the-Sea, which Frank was very fond of and where he had married Margaret. As my father noted, the section was large, and the photos tell us that a lot of effort was put in to landscaping and garden features, including a dove house and a fernery. The current address is 2 Wilson St. The home's floor area is 243



SILVER WEDDING.

A large and merry company met last night at the residence, North street, of Mr and Mrs Frank Palliser, in response to invitations to celebrate their silver wedding. There were about 100 ladies and gentlemen present, among them being old friends from Temuka, Lower Pareora, and other places. The arrangements for the reception of the guests had been thoroughly planned and proved excellent. After the welcome to the guests and an hour had been spent in music, song and various indoor games, a move was made to the supper room. A choice supper having been done full justice to, the health of "Bride and Bridegroom" was proposed by a very old friend and resident of Timaru, Mr James Shepherd. His remarks in praise of the happy couple were cordially endorsed by Messrs J. Mee, C. N. Macintosh (Mayor of Timaru), J. Hole, Colonel Jowsey, Major Crawshaw, Messrs W. Priest, J. J. Grandi, D. J. Caldwell, W. A. Aldred, R. Orwin, R. H. Ferguson, R. Brookland and H. B. Kirk, and the toast, "A Long and Happy Life to Bride and Bridegroom," was most cordially drunk with musical honours. The toast of the health of Mrs Palliser, senior, and T. Palliser and the family was also duly honoured. Mr F. Palliser made a very happy reply on behalf of his wife, mother and family. After supper, dancing and indoor games were resumed, and all spent a most enjoyable time. Mr and Mrs Palliser were the recipients of many presents, of a valuable and useful kind.

square metres, with five bedrooms. The surrounding land is now reduced to less than a third of an acre.

In 1902, Frank and Margaret celebrated their Silver Wedding Anniversary in grand style, as reported in the *Timaru Herald*, 13 February.

Frank – and probably Margaret – belonged to the Floral and Horticultural Society. In 1903, the *Timaru Herald* reported on the annual exhibition of the society, with a detailed description of Mr F. Palliser's "very nice" arrangement on the stage, featuring foliage plants, ferns and grasses, "which made a good mass of varied colour".

Frank and Margaret also served on the Timaru Park Floral Fete Committee, and in January 1914, it was reported that, in the absence of the Mayoress, Mrs Palliser was voted to the Chair. The meeting chose which stalls would be included in the fete. Mrs Palliser's "tea kiosk, red and white" was one of those selected. There are photos of two of the family stalls over the years, and they are very elaborate.

MORE TO COME NEXT TIME . . .

Meeting reports



with Lesley Tennent



February 2023

The February gathering was held at 7pm, 14 February in Stafford St north. Present: 15 members.

Apologies: Lesley Tennent, Beverley Peebles, Adrienne Bruce, Patricia Smolenski, Ann Munro, Heather Fifield, Carol Johnston, Denae Holwell, Esme Jones. Teresa Scott took the notes.

The meeting started at the piazza where Liz Shea commented on the number of plaques and sculptures located in the vicinity commemorating, among others, Eddie and Gypsy Poulston, sculptors; Humphris, Turnbull family, Robin Shears Landscapes Ltd, Llew Summers, Debbie Templeton-Page, Margaret (Peg) Hervey, Kerr Charitable Trust. The Port Loop Bridge plaque marks its opening on 9 December 1972 by Sir Basil Arthur.

In the course of the Stafford Street walk, the plaque was noted in the lane beside the Farmers building which commemorates Constable James Dorgan who was killed there in 1921 while on duty.

There followed a Living Memory walk south along Stafford Street from the Bay Hill to the Strathallan - Church streets intersection, odd-numbered premises, then returning north past even-numbered premises. The recollections started with 1955 directory entries, each site traced by street number and occupants. There appeared to be changes in numbers for some premises (or perhaps shops/businesses moved a short distance). Some premises saw frequent change of occupier while others remained stable for many years. Changes and discrepancies were discovered even while walking and reminiscing. (The lack of numbers on some present buildings hampers precise identification.) There was much discussion, debate, interaction, and many recollections, stories concerning the changes which occurred at many sites and the personnel there. Supper was at Coffee Culture.



March 2023

Liz Shea welcomed about 28 members and some visitors from Fairview to our monthly meeting that was held at Timaru Cemetery, commencing at 6.30pm.

Apologies: Heather Fifield, Ann Munro, Carol Boulton, Hilary Coles.

Liz gave a brief history of the cemetery. Noted it was there from the time of the first surveying of Timaru. 1859 is the earliest burial found. There was no order in the siting of graves early on in its existence. She read out a short history, including some snippets from the local paper. In early days burials were divided into religious denomination areas.

It is felt that this cemetery will be full to capacity in five to 10 years. Another site is presently being negotiated on Claremont Road on the Timaru boundary.

Liz also talked about the Remembrance Army volunteers and their work looking after and improving headstones that remember people who served in wars, or were killed overseas and remain overseas in a foreign country. Headstones are sprayed with Bioshield and left for about a month. Next step is to scrub with a soft brush. After that painting is done and a special red poppy is glued to the headstone by the person's name. 21 headstones were visited. The walk concluded at 7.45pm. Many took the opportunity to end the evening with supper at Coffee Culture.



<https://sites.rootsweb.com/~nzlscant/>

Olwyn's South Canterbury website

FAMILY TRADITIONS

Many families in South Canterbury probably had family traditions and didn't even realise that other families had similar traditions. For us living on a farm Sherwood Downs, Fairlie, Mum and Dad would drive into town Friday afternoon, Mum would have telephoned in the grocery order, and the groceries would be ready lined up on the floor at Pyne, Gould, Guinness Ltd, along with other families' groceries, and that was the only day of the week we would not ride the school bus home. Other farmers and their families were in town as well. New Year's Eve everyone was in town with the firms serving drinks out the back, the children would get lemonade.

Easter Monday we would attend the Mackenzie Highland Show and our first stop was the RSA booth to get a poppy. We would make the rounds and watch the show jumping, the Celtic dancing, the wood chopping, walk through trade displays the stock yards, and watch the dogs perform at the Kennel Club and have lunch on the ground behind the car - a bacon and egg pie. We would also attend the Timaru A&P Show and the Christchurch Show and the Tekapo sale, every year

Anzac Day in Fairlie was a day we did not miss - an open air service, with the parade starting up School Rd, led by the Mackenzie Pipe band with Returned Servicemen marching behind, followed by different community organisations and groups, like the Fire Brigade, the Girl Scouts and Boys Brigade. Great Uncles Hal, Arthur and Edwin fought in the trenches in France during WW1. Dad served in WWII as a driver in the NZEF2 but would not march, but stand to attention and saluted his comrades, for he said they played a more important role than he did, even though Dad served overseas for 4½ years in Italy and North Africa. Round wreaths made from poppies with laurel leaves at the top would be laid at the foot of the Mackenzie District war memorial, a prayer, two-minute silence, and the public would unpin their poppy from their lapels and walk forward laying them in a special hollow box in the shape of a cross and ending with a lone bugler playing the Last Post. Following this there would be a gathering at the Aorangi Hall, Main St, Fairlie to reminisce and with another service people, and a cup of tea. Throughout the communities ladies made wreaths for the other war memorials at the country crossroads and poppies would be laid on the graves of servicemen in the local cemetery.



Uncle Hal aka Harold Charles Bray, 26/1087 served in the NZEF1 and the Australian Navy and Aunty Thelma at the Mackenzie Highland Show, Fairlie. Thelma was an Australian, they met in Eden, NSW. They lived on Dee St, Timaru and are buried at Timaru Cemetery.



Timaru Herald 17 Dec 1929 MACKENZIE DISTRICT WAR MEMORIAL

Mr Talbot said he would like it to be realised that the memorial was a county one, and hoped that in no sense would it be regarded as a Fairlie memorial only. Mr Talbot commended the work of the designer Mr H W Hall and the builders, McBride & Co. The design was unique in South Canterbury. It was a catafalque, a cairn upon which symbolically the remains of the Unknown Warrior were elevated, and were contained in the representation of a casket at the top of the structure.



Members' Interests

from Teresa Scott

admin@timaru.gen.nz

AIRD	SCOTLAND	Inverness		1800s
ALLAN	IRELAND	Tipperary		abt 1847
ALLEN	ENGLAND	Cornwall	Gwennap	pre1870
ALLCHURCH	ENGLAND	Cumberland	Millom	1800s
ARCHBOLD	ENGLAND	Northumberland	Chatton	1730-1850
ARCHBOLD	ENGLAND	Northumberland	Cornhill-on-Tweed	pre1740
ARMSTRONG	SCOTLAND	Dumfries	Middlebie	1780+
AULESBROOK	ENGLAND	Leicestershire		1800s
BAIN	NEW ZEALAND	Otago	Oamaru	1860+
BAIN	NEW ZEALAND	Sth Canterbury	Ikawa	1860+
BAIN	SCOTLAND	Berwickshire	Greenlaw	1790+
BALL	ENGLAND	Derbyshire		pre1860
BARRETT	CHANNEL IS	Jersey		1837
BARRETT	ENGLAND	Cornwall	St Austell	1850+
BARRETT	ENGLAND	Hampshire	Portsea	1850s
BARRETT	ENGLAND	Surrey	Vauxhall	1870s
BARRETT	NEW ZEALAND	Sth Canterbury	Temuka	1875+
BARRETT	NEW ZEALAND	Wellington		1891+
BARROWMAN	SCOTLAND	Lanarkshire	Tollcross, Glasgow	All
BAXTER	SCOTLAND	Isle of Bute		1821
BEARD	ENGLAND	Gloucestershire		1720+
BEER	ENGLAND	Somerset	Membury	1700-1900
BEGG	SCOTLAND	Banff		abt 1740
BELL	NEW ZEALAND	Sth Canterbury	Timaru	1900s
BELL	SCOTLAND	Angus	Dundee	1830-1930
BELL	SCOTLAND	Berwick	Hutton,Edrom, Ladykirk	pre1800
BELL	SCOTLAND	Perthshire	Forgandenny	1800-1850
BILLS	ENGLAND	Sussex	Brighton	1860s
BILLS	NEW ZEALAND	Otago	Dunedin	1860+
BLEASE	NEW ZEALAND	Otago	Dunedin	1887+
BOOTS	ENGLAND	Kent	Chatham	1780s
BOWHILL	ENGLAND	Northumberland	Berwick upon Tweed	1800s
BOYCE	ENGLAND	Kent	St Mary Cray	pre1900
BREUNING	GERMANY	Hessen		All
BROADFOOT	SCOTLAND	Lanark	Glasgow	1800s

Are your genealogical interests reflected in this list? If not, contact Teresa Scott to be included. Take the opportunity to make contact with family members.



Library report

from Teresa Scott

admin@timaru.gen.nz

South Canterbury Genealogy Society Inc - recent accessions include:

Newsletters 2023:

Ashburton District Family History Group– February 2023

Balclutha – January/February 2023

Cambridge – March; April

Canterbury Genealogy Society – April

Dunedin – March-April

Feilding – March 2023; April

Hawera – February-March 2023

Hawke's Bay – April

Hibiscus Coast – March; April

Hutt Valley – March; April

Kapiti – March

Kilbirnie – March; April

Mosgiel – February 2023; March/April

Nelson – February 2023; March

New Plymouth Genealogy – March; April

Oamaru – February 2023; March; April

Otaki – February 2023; March

Palmerston North – February 2023; March

Porirua – March 2023

Rotorua - February

South Canterbury Genealogy Society – January-February 2023

South Waikato – March 2023; April

Southland – February/March 2023

Wairarapa –March

Wellington – February 2023; March; April

Whanganui – January-March 2023

Please send request for forwarding to Teresa.



Fatalities in South Canterbury Alpine Regions (1983 – 2014 incomplete) [MR63]



Local contacts

SC Genealogy - Office bearers

Convener: Liz Shea 03 684 7790 Branch Contact sheafamily@farmside.co.nz

Minute secretary: Lesley Tennent 03 612 6759

Treasurer: Carolyn Johnston 03 684 5709

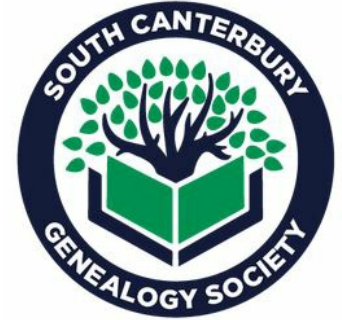
Committee: Teresa Scott 03 688 9034 Library

Lois Shears 03 688 1655 School Rolls

Clare Palliser 03 688 0896

Hilary Coles 03 615 7195

Carol Bell 03 684 7733 Newsletter - carolbel49@gmail.com



Group email: admin@timaru.gen.nz

Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm at the museum.

Research help is available at our rooms 19 Royal Arcade Thursday 10am - 1pm and at the museum every Sunday 1.30pm - 4pm.

The group library is available at the museum whenever the research room is open - Tuesday to Friday and Sunday 1.30pm to 4.30pm. Books can be borrowed on Sundays but must be signed out by the librarian or a Sunday volunteer.

A working group meets on Thursday mornings at the museum to transcribe various historical documents. Can you help? Contact Lois on 688-1655

The "Writing up your Family History" group meets Wednesday 1-3pm. If you would like help getting your research to the final stage contact Carol at carolbel49@gmail.com or 027 3399447.

