

South Canterbury Genealogy

March/April 2024



From the editor

Carol Bell



Hope you enjoyed Rootstech at the end of February. I spent three days watching talks and overloading on family history tips. As I've already said, the talks are copyright so can't be published in this newsletter, but I'm happy to share my conference notes if anyone has any requests.

April is a military month in New Zealand incorporating Anzac Day, and we have recently launched a military project, so do have a look at P4 and see what you can contribute. We all knew people who had been involved or impacted by this war and will surely have much to share.

There will be no newsletter in June. I'll be in the UK then visiting family history sites and taking lots of photos. We're going to stay with family in Kent and visit friends in Anglesey, Wales and together spend a week in Ireland at a cottage in Eniskillen. From there we can visit the area in Co Tyrone that my Irish ancestors came from. One thing about family history: it gives you a focus for your overseas holidays! Then we're meeting friends and doing a two-week cruise in the Mediterranean, terminating in Trieste where the NZ Army ended their Italian campaign in the Second World War. That should be interesting too.

The AGM has been postponed until May because there's insufficient time between the end of the financial year and the April meeting to get the books closed off and approved. May will now be AGM month every year.

Chair's report



from Liz Shea



South Canterbury genealogical resources timaru.gen.nz

Annual report 2024

It is with pleasure I present my annual report for the South Canterbury Genealogy Society. I would like to thank the committee members, Teresa Scott, Leslie Tennent, Lois Shears, Carol Bell, Carolyn Johnson, Clare Palliser and Hilary Coles for their loyal support during the past year. Every committee member has put in extra time to ensure the society runs well, that we have good speakers and events, and they go the extra mile to achieve this.

We lost our Arcade location which had been a home for our faithful transcribers for over two years, but they have made the move to the new location at the Timaru Library. This has also provided the society another outlet to assist members of the public with their genealogy queries. Library staff are very supportive and both groups are learning from each other. We continue to appreciate the work all the transcribers and our library of research material is building up. A considerable amount of data is now accessible through the website.

We are back to our Sunday help desk in at the SC Museum and these sessions have been well patronised by both local and out-of-town visitors. We appreciate the SC Museum assistance to allow us to run our help desk, and a big thanks to Janette Clarke for organising the roster. Meetings are now back at the SC Museum and where possible we have had some field trips. The highlight for me was visiting the Geraldine War museum in February 2024, an amazing treasure trove of war machines and vehicles, war memorabilia and plenty of uniforms.

Meetings during the year have been well attended and thanks to members who made presentations themselves of recent trips to find ancestors or just sharing family history stories. It is great that you are able to tell your own family stories which makes all that research worthwhile. Thank you again to all our members for your support and I look forward to meeting up with you and sharing more stories and information on the road to family history.

**I woke up this morning
determined to drink less,
eat right and exercise...
But that was 4 hours
ago...when I was younger
and full of hope.**





News



E-book Downloads - All Free

Gould Genealogy continue to convert police gazettes for CD to downloadable e-books. They have completed New South Wales, Queensland and are well into South Australia now. FREE Indexes for all five states they have digitised are available.

<https://www.gould.com.au/police-gazettes/>

New South Wales Police Gazette Indexes 1866-1938; Queensland Police Gazette Indexes 1881-1945;

South Australian Police Gazette Indexes 1869-1947; Tasmania Police Gazette Index 1861-1933; Victoria Police Gazette Indexes 1864-1924.

From Palmerston North branch newsletter

Many of us had ancestors who came to New Zealand via Victoria, perhaps after seeking their fortunes in the goldfields there. The Public Record Office of Victoria has some extensive photographic collections.

<https://prov.vic.gov.au/explore-collection/photographic-collections>

Wairarapa branch NZSG closure

The Wairarapa branch of NZSG has announced its closure in its magazine The Aboretum. Group members are working on the distribution of the resources and assets. This is expected to take some time in consultation with Wairarapa Archives, and other historical groups. It is anticipated that Wairarapa information and resources will be placed locally.

Plans for the year

April: Remembering the Anzacs - committee members.

May: AGM and the Grant Family legacy

June: Library archives update

July: to be arranged.

August: Family History month - back to basics

September: Visiting family history sites - Carol Bell

October: Machinery museum

November: Military theme for Armistice month

December: Christmas



The SC WW2 project

One thing leads to another. During the group's February visit to the Geraldine Military Museum Lois White commented that if our generation didn't name their parents' war photos our children would probably not be able to do so. And we've all got them. Most of us had fathers or uncles or even grandfathers who served between 1939-45 in whatever capacity, and we've grown up with the photos from that time. We don't even really think of them as particularly historical, but Lois is right. For many of those photos it's now or never. Are yours catalogued? Are they named? Are they in danger of being summarily discarded by the next generation? We might not see the centenary of WW2 but all the more reason to make a start. So Lois is organising a project to collect, save and name our WW2 photos, and even those we can't put names to can be collected and shared in the hope that someone else might know who they are. They will be put together on our website and made safe for future generations in the best traditions of genealogists. So we hope you will all contribute. If you would like to take part please email your WW2 photos to Lois White at darcycat26@gmail.com



Christmas dinner at Maadi camp, Egypt, 1942



A common wartime photo taken before embarkation. This one is James HR Macdonald

But Lois's bright idea started the conversation. What about the other resources we have relating to WW2? What about memories that aren't photographic? What about the stories that each family has about its war service? What about the lists and notes held by the group that have never seen the light of day? So, in a very small way, we will also start to bring together these stories and lists on the website to complement Lois's photographic collection. They will be safer and get better coverage if they are together and not locked away in our minds or in our old boxes and drawers. We can use the same criteria employed for the WW1 SCRoll project: anything that relates in any way to the greater South Canterbury area, even if that just means the service person's sister moved to Temuka later in life. No need to be exclusive. So again, if you can contribute in any way please do. It's a great chance to ensure these memories live on as they should. Contributions to lshears@xtra.co.nz



There were lots of these photos taken around 1945 as soldiers returned home. Here Bob and Joan Macdonald greet Joan's brother at the Timaru railway station

Home defence in South Canterbury, WW2

From The Timaru Herald

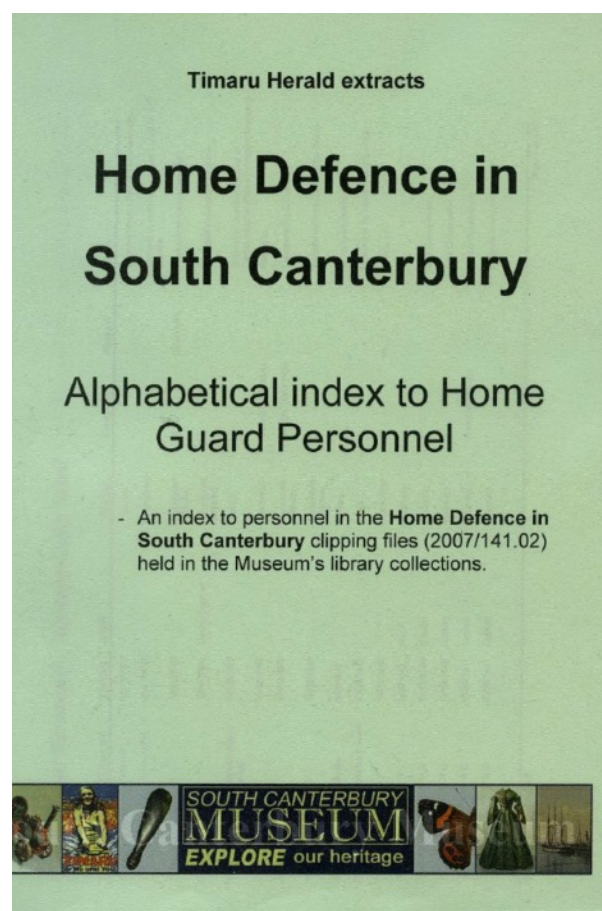
Collated by Mark Denne

For SC Museum

A unique series of bound volumes of copied newspaper clippings related to home defence in South Canterbury during World War Two.

Twenty seven volumes currently cover August 1940 through to August 1945. Includes the following subjects:

- Home Guard
- EPS (Emergency Precautions Service)
- Timaru Fire Emergency Service
- New Zealand Women's War Service Auxiliary
- The Semple Tank
- New Zealand Women's Land Army
- Black out trials
- Food rationing
- Defence building programme
- Air raid shelters



Also includes two volumes of indices, providing an alphabetical index to Home Guard personnel and a general subject index (a copy of each can also be found in the Research Room).

Timaru Coast Defence Battery

<https://www.heritage.org.nz/list-details/7761/Listing>

The Timaru Coast Defence site at Smithfield freezing works was built in 1942 during World War Two. The site was intended to provide a measure of security for the port and people of Timaru at a time when a Japanese invasion of New Zealand was genuinely feared. The battery had two guns, each of which was set in a large concrete emplacement with a small magazine and overhead cover. The fire of the guns was directed by fire-control equipment housed in a Battery Observation Post (BOP) built, also in concrete, in front of and below the guns. A battery camp was built about 300 metres behind the guns. The site was used as an active defence site for only two years. At the end of the war, an agreement was struck with the then owner, the NZ Refrigerating Co to retain the concrete structures, for which the company was compensated. Coast artillery was removed from active New Zealand defences in 1959, since which time the emplacements have sat idle. One, the northernmost, was converted into a water tower in the late 1970s or 1980s. The installation is a good surviving representative example of the smaller type of coastal defence installation that was commonly built around our coastline during WW2.



Meeting reports



with Lesley Tennent



February

Meeting on 13 February, 6.30pm at Geraldine Military Museum. **Present:** 11 members and 3 visitors.

Apologies: Carolyn Johnston, Esme Jones, Ann Munro, Barbara Ford, Adrienne Bruce, Hilary Coles, Christine Stewart.

The meeting was a visit to the Military Museum, Talbot Street, Geraldine. We were hosted by Don Pelvin. He welcomed everyone and gave a short history on how the museum came about. Initially the area was purely for storage of his exhibits. There are Vietnam and German displayed memorabilia. The mannequins, dressed in various uniforms from wars past, are actual people.

There has been an average of 50 visitors per day. The biggest day was 120 people. Don is surprised at how popular it has become.

He has some very rare vehicles. There are donated items that are on loan, and the rest he has acquired over the years. The museum is spectacular, well laid out, with very realistic setups. Well worth a visit.

March

Meeting on 12 March at Timaru Museum. **Present:** 18 members. **Apologies:** Carolyn Johnston, Lois White, Heather Fifield, Pat Smolenski, Esme Jones.

Lesley Tennent gave a presentation on Teams Farm, a well known property in Otaio. Started with Andrew Martin Snr, born in Scotland 1834, then to Victoria, Australia in 1854 with his brothers George, John H, and David. He was mining, and a wagonner. Was married in 1859, to Isabella nee Thomson (born 1838 in Scotland), who had come to Australia in 1857 as an assisted immigrant. Here about 7 years before coming to Otago, where he worked as a wagonner to the goldfields. Came to Otaio in 1865. He and brother George took up 100 acres cut from Jeannie Collier's Otaio run. While the house was being built they lived in tents. Large eucalyptus marks the place on the farm.

Andrew Snr and George continued their partnership, increasing the property size to 1500 acres. House, large and wooden, increased in size also as the family grew. While at Otaio a further seven sons and one daughter were born into the family. The farm partnership was dissolved in 1881. George was returning to England, on the Taurarua when it was shipwrecked at Otara Reef, Southland. He drowned and is buried in the Old Waimate Cemetery. Teams Farm was named because of the horse teams that were there. They made the farm the success it was in those early times. Andrew Snr was known to be a first class judge of Clydesdale horses. The farm was also a stopping point for Cobb & Co coaches.

It was a model farm in Andrew Snr's time. Had a grain shed, granary, staff accommodation block (included cook area), smithy, stables, woolshed, plus two large sheds, a well with windmill. Andrew Snr died 1908 at home and is buried Otaio cemetery.

Percy was the last of the Martins. He died 1973 while out on the farm. Buried at Otaio Cemetery. Farm auctioned in 1973 and Tennent family the lucky bidders. Farm needed a lot of work as it was very run down. Hard to do much as was in the days of 24% interest rates. Lesley & husband Robert Tennent resided here until about 1981 then the house and 5 acres was rented out. A horse stud at one stage, but sold in 1985. After that it changed hands several times. October 2023 saw the original Teams Farm homestead demolished, and in November 2023 the new home arrived. The Tennent family still farm the rest of Teams Farm, also known to them as Martins.

Raffle: Teresa Scott.

Geraldine Military Museum





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

Olwyn's South Canterbury website

I just read that Iain Davidson, a farmer from Riverton, who managed the FB site Unknown Warriors of the NZEF passed away suddenly in November 2023 at the age of 56. He helped many identify unnamed soldiers' photos and loved solving a good mystery. For South Canterbury connections he would send me the images of the RPPCs (real photo postcards). Some do have names on them for a start. The others need a lot of research. Knowledge of badges helps and that narrows it down.

Iain was an expert on badges. He had a number of South Canterbury soldiers (identified and unidentified) in his photo collection. Iain had an interest in 1st NZEF badges for over 35 years. He had some success but matching them up with period newspaper photos has been his best bet. Iain had been actively collecting NZEF portrait images for the last five or so years but has been quite successful in that time having acquired about 600 photos sourcing them locally by advertising or browsing in shops, live auctions or buying whole collections off collectors downsizing, Trade-me and eBay and contacts are other ways he obtained RPPCs.

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064772497205>

Hints: Match up with rugby photos many of those faces are very recognizable!

Take a close look at the floor. A rough dirt floor or cobbled floor with a painted backdrop is a sure sign of a French mobile photography studio. These studios were set up miles behind the front lines, but close enough for soldiers off duty to get their photo taken.

Possibly there were some props at studios, however the walking belts would have been owned by the soldiers as a rule, and some would have swagger sticks, to impress the ladies.

The photo of Hal and Will Sides was sent to Iain by a friend in the UK who picked it up in a militaria fair. Iain only identified this one by matching it to an exact image on the South Canterbury Museum -SCROLL site (images). <https://museum.timaru.govt.nz/explore/scroll>



Henry James SIDES (Hal) was a son of Henry Alley and Mary (nee PREECE) SIDES. His brothers George William SIDES and Frank Roy SIDES also served in WWI. Identities confirmed by two family members. The photo was taken at Grantham camp in Lincolnshire, England by the Walter Lee Studio, the main Machine Gun training ground. Both the Sides brothers are wearing NZ Machine Gun Corps badges. It must have been of some comfort to the two men, and their mother, that they were both in the same camp and in England.

More photos from Grantham.

Walter Lee (1891 – 1969) photographer for 50 years, born in Grantham, England in 1891. Walter served his apprenticeship under the guidance of Alfred M Emery, whose premises were on London Road. In 1917 he opened his own studio in Watergate.

Henry James Sides 289 and George William Sides 6/542

Look at their image at the Auckland Cenotaph site.

<https://www.aucklandmuseum.com/war-memorial/online-cenotaph>

SIDES, Henry James - WW1 28924 - Army

Occupation: teamster for G. Sides, Studholme Junction.

Born Kaiapoi 6 Aug. 1895

Nok: Mrs Mary Sides (mother) Te Weka St., Timaru

Religion: Methodist.

Still serving with the 2 S.C. Regt. when he signed up.

Attested 29 June 1916 at Trentham.

118 lbs. 5' 7"

Colour of hair: flaxen. Eyes blue. Age 21.

Admitted July 19th 1916 Wairarapa Hospital with influenza J. Coy 18.

Admitted to Kiosk Hospital with measles 5th Aug, 1916.

Mrs Sides, c/o Rev. Hudson. Mount Albert, Auckland.

Discharged 17 Aug. 1916.

Embarked Tofu at Wellington to Plymouth

Marched into Sling 29 Dec. 1916.

Taken on strength at Grantham 5 Jan. 1917

Posted to 4th NZ Mac. Gun. Coy.

28 Feb. 1917 Posted to A. Coy.

Left for France 23 April 1917

3 Nov. 1917 To Paris on leave.

Aug. 14th 1918 Reported wounded in action at Puisieux-au-Mont. GSW left leg.

Admitted No. 2 NZ Gen. Hosp. Walton 25 Aug. 1918

Transferred to NZ Gen. Convalescent Hosp. Hornchurch 6 Sept. 1918

28 Sept. 1918. Discharged on leave to report to Codford 14 Oct. 1918

2 April 1919 Returned per S.S. Carpentaria from London.

Rank: L/Cpl.

Discharged 16 June 1919

Total service 2 years 354 days.

19 April 1919 135lbs. 5ft 7¼"

WW2 service No. 403393 RNZAF

Died 18 June 1956. Wife Mrs E.M. Sides, 154 Beach Rd, Mairangi Bay.

Married Elsie Mary Willis in 1926.



Members' Interests



from John Sutherland

john-m-s@xtra.co.nz

HAXTON	NEW ZEALAND	Wairarapa	Carterton	1860+
HAY	SCOTLAND	Aberdeenshire	Forgue	pre1870
HAYES	IRELAND	Offaly	Finnoe, Roscrea	abt 1817
HICKS	IRELAND	Co Cavan		1845
HICKS	NEW ZEALAND	Coromandel	Thames	1870
HILL	ENGLAND	Somerset	Pitcombe	1650-1750
HOARE	NEW ZEALAND	Sth Canterbury	Kerrytown	1860-
HOGG	SCOTLAND	Angus	Montrose	1740-1800
HOLDEN	ENGLAND	Kent	Kemsing	1800-1900
HOOPER	ENGLAND	Wiltshire	St Leonards	pre1847
HOPKINS	ENGLAND	Buckinghamshire	Hoggeston	1780+
HOPKINS	NEW ZEALAND	Sth Canterbury	St Andrews	1870+
HOPKINSON	NEW ZEALAND	Sth Canterbury	Temuka	1860-
HOWELL	ENGLAND	Gloucestershire	Alvington	All
HOWELL	ENGLAND	Gloucestershire	Lydney	All
HOWELL	ENGLAND	Gloucestershire	St Bravels	All
HOWELL	ENGLAND	Gloucestershire	Woolaston	All
HOWELL	NEW ZEALAND	Otago	Dunedin	All
HOWELL	NEW ZEALAND	Otago	Waipiata	All
HUNT	ENGLAND	Derbyshire	Hilton	1800s
HUNTER	ENGLAND	Warwickshire	Coventry	pre1837
HUNTER	ENGLAND	Warwickshire	Foleshill	pre1837
HYAMS	NEW ZEALAND	Sth Canterbury	Timaru	1875-1925
INWOOD	ENGLAND			pre1900
IRVING	ENGLAND			pre1900
JACK	SCOTLAND	Banff	Keith	abt 1740
JACOBS	NEW ZEALAND	Sth Canterbury	Timaru	1860-1910
JACOBS	WALES			pre1870
JAMIESON	ENGLAND		Haddington	1800s
JOHNSON	ENGLAND	Yorkshire	Pocklington	All
JOHNSTON	ENGLAND	Durham	Barnard Castle	1793
JOHNSTON	ENGLAND	Kent	Medway	1793+
JOHNSTON(E)	SCOTLAND	Berwickshire	Coldingham	pre1870
JOHNSTONE	ENGLAND	Cumberland	Egremont	1820s
JOHNSTONE	NEW ZEALAND	Otago		1860s
JONAS	AMERICA	California		1905+
JONAS	NEW ZEALAND	Sth Canterbury	Timaru	1905+
KEARNS	IRELAND	Fermanagh		1856

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



Library report

from Teresa Scott

Recent accessions include:

Newsletters 2023, 2024:

Ashburton District Family History Group– February 2024
Cambridge – March; April
Canterbury Genealogy Society – March
Dunedin – March-April
Feilding – February 2024; March
Hibiscus Coast – March
Hutt Valley – March; April
Kapiti – February; March
Kilbirnie – March; April
Matamata – March
Mosgiel – February 2024; March
Nelson – February 2024; March
New Plymouth Genealogy – March; April
Oamaru – February 2024; March
Otaki Family History Society – February 2024; March
Palmerston North – February 2024; March
Papakura – March; April
Porirua – March; April
Riccarton – March; April
Rotorua – March 2024
South Canterbury Genealogy Society – January-February 2024
South Waikato – March; April
Wellington – February 2024; March
Whanganui – March; April



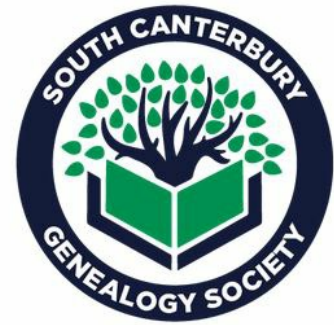
Please send request for forwarding to Teresa.

Station Amusements in New Zealand – Lady Barker (1953) [CANT84] [on loan]
The Early Days of Canterbury – Selwyn Bruce (1932) [CANT85] [on loan]
Eileen Anita Birdling and James Dickson Stewart – compiled by Kevin Quattrin (2024) [BIO33] [online link provided by compiler]
Gwenda Turner's Christchurch – An enchanted journey through the Garden City – Gwenda Turner (2011) [CANT86] [on loan]

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
Off committee:	John Sutherland		Members Interests	john-m-s@xtra.co.nz



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

Research help is also available at the Library on Thursday 10am - 12pm 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 4pm. Books can be borrowed on Sundays but must be signed out by the librarian or a Sunday volunteer.

A working group meets on Wednesday mornings at the Library and Friday 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.

