

South Canterbury Genealogy

May/June 2025



From the editor

Carol Bell



Last month I used DNA to prove a long-held theory in our Phimester line. My target was an Alexander Phimester who was alive to father a child in Perth, Scotland in 1846. I had identified several Alexander Phimester/Phemister/Fimister/Femister/Flemisters - wishing that I was at least looking for someone who didn't have about 16 possible name variations. I had, as far as possible, built out several family trees and worked out that the family groups originated in Morayshire.

Then I went to work on DNA matches - tying as many as I could into the family trees. I have identified 10 separate trees, all originating with a Phimester from Morayshire, their DNA matches of varying strengths from 37cM to 8cM, but I can't tie these trees together. This is probably because these lines and matches are so far back - long before civil registration and stretching back into the times before parish registers as well. And there, strangely, I let it lie, probably overcome with the tangled and confusing nature of what I'd created. But last month I happened to come across the strongest of these DNA matches - an American man who matches our family on 37cM, or fourth cousin strength, and looked again at his tree. Four people in his generation have good matches and four people in the next generation also match strongly. And then the penny dropped - they are a strong match because they are the target family. They have an Alexander Phimester in their family at the right age and birth place - and he was a soldier stationed at Perth, Scotland. Now why didn't I see that before?

The moral of the story is, of course, never give up!

Chair's report



from Liz Shea



South Canterbury genealogical resources timaru.gen.nz

It is with pleasure to present my annual report for the South Canterbury Genealogy Society for 2025. Firstly, I would like to thank all the committee members who willingly served their time this year, Teresa Scott, Leslie Tennent, Lois Shears, Carol Bell, Carolyn Johnson, Clare Palliser and Hilary Coles. We also co-opted Dave Jack and Lois White this year, and appreciate their input into the committee meetings. Tony Rippon, SC Museum has also been able to attend meetings and his input from the museum point of view has been useful. We all appreciate the time spent by committee members to ensure that the society aims are achieved.

This year a strategic plan was drafted up and the committee are still working on this along with the reformatting of a new constitution which is required to be completed by 2026. Members will get a chance to provide input at the June 2025 meeting where the draft constitution will be presented for review and acceptance.

The move to the Timaru Library last year has been beneficial as it has provided the society another outlet besides the museum to assist members of the public with their genealogy queries. Library staff continue to provide us with an excellent service and thanks to Marie Rapley and Julie James for their continued support. The initial group of transcribers has increased and our library of research material is growing and much is now accessible through the website. A big thanks to those transcribers who put in the time to ensure our heritage is not lost. We are also working with library staff to have current transcriptions uploaded to the Aoraki Heritage site.

During the year, we ran open days for Armistice Day and Anzac Day and these sessions were well supported by the public. A "How to" presentation was also run and again, a good turnout ensured its success. In May 2024, we had a stand at the Age Concern Expo to promote the society and encourage new members to join.

The big project this year is WW2 stories which is under way and thanks to Lois White for organising the photo collection. We received a \$500 grant from TDC and the society contributed a further \$500 to support the printing of WW2 photos, several of which are in the current museum display celebrating 80 years since the cessation of WW2. Members have also been supportive of this project providing photos and stories to build the collection. The stories will be accessible on our website in the future.

The Sunday help desk in at the SC Museum continues to be well patronised by both local and out-of-town visitors. We appreciate the SC Museum assistance to allow us to run our help desk with a big thanks to Janette Clarke for organising the roster. We have some new people assisting and they are finding the experience rewarding.

The Facebook page is getting more attention. Please share with friends to get a wide circle. The website is also busier than ever with more data being added all the time. We also provide a research service through an online portal. Thanks to Teresa Scott for her time and effort to answer all enquiries promptly and accurately using records we have on hand.

Our meetings during the year have been well attended by members and guests with a good selection of guest speakers as well as our own members contributing with their own presentations. Thank you again to all our members for your support of the society and I look forward to meeting up with you to share more stories of your family history.



News



Lois White has discovered Waitaki Culture online which has a searchable database of photographs and other things www.culturewaitaki.org.nz/home
.....typing in Timaru brings up many photographs, she says, and there is family history too.

FOCUS ON A GROUP HOLDING

HAVE YOU TRIED

SCHOOL ROLLS

If you're researching locally, have you looked up your families in our school rolls? And not just your grandfather or direct ancestor, but their brothers, sisters and cousins? Have you got a full picture of where they lived, how they entered and left school, perhaps multiple times, and their reasons for leaving? Did they always live at home with their parents or were they occasionally in the care of wider family or guardians? Did they move within Timaru, or perhaps from town to country and back again? Or did they spend some time "in the North Island with Auntie Lizzie" when Mum was sick or Dad was out of work? There might be much more to know than you realise.

A list of local schools and our holdings are on our website, along with basic indexes, but the originals hold much more information. The rolls themselves are held by our group at the museum. As members these are free to you. Just see the Sunday team or ask Lois or Teresa to help

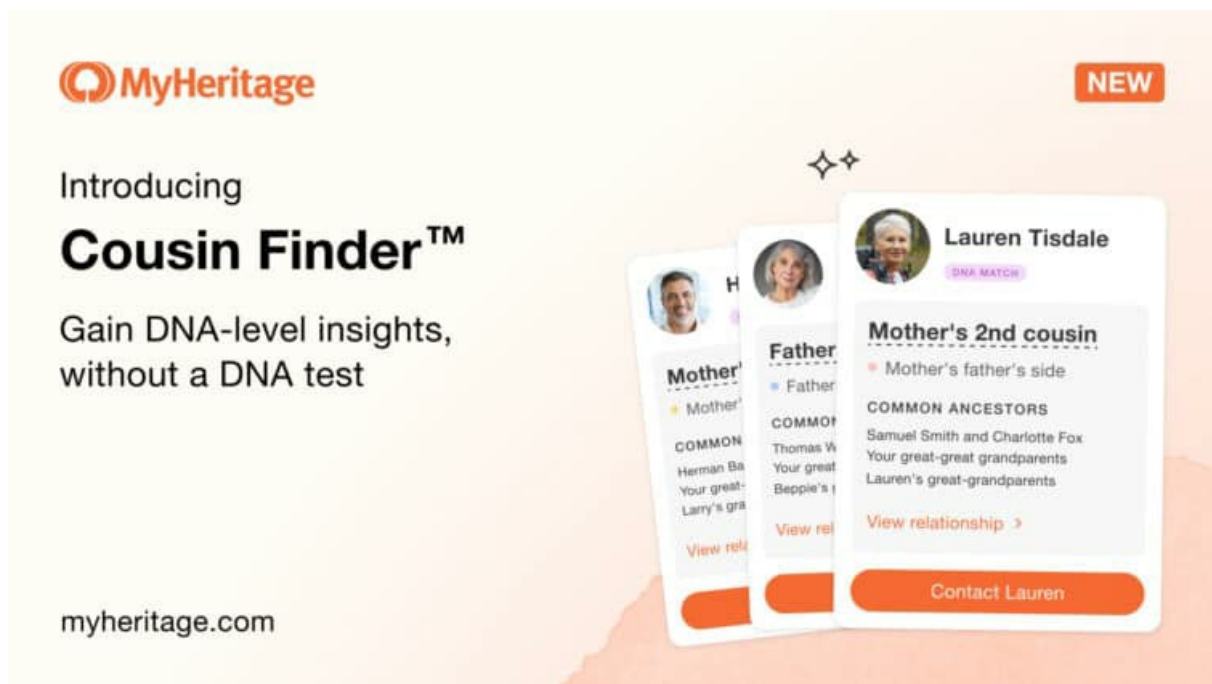
Plans for the year

June:	AI - Dave Jack
July:	John Farrell - Clare Palliser
August:	How-to session for Family History month
September:	Strategies for brick walls - Carol Bell
October:	Remembrance Army
November:	Trip to archives
December:	Christmas theme



Introducing Cousin Finder: Gain DNA-Level Insights, without a DNA Test

https://blog.myheritage.com/2025/03/introducing-cousin-finder-gain-dna-level-insights-without-a-dna-test/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=409404_newsletter_202504&utm_term=cousin+finder&utm_content=EN&tr_date=20250330



Another interesting development in the world of genealogy. From their blog:

We're happy to introduce Cousin Finder™, a useful new genealogy feature unique to MyHeritage that uses the power of family tree matches to find members of MyHeritage who are your blood relatives — cousins — with whom you share common ancestors. Cousin Finder™ then lets you easily get in touch with them so you can collaborate and gain new insights about your shared ancestors and family history.

Think of Cousin Finder™ as a new way to find DNA Matches, but without a DNA test. The MyHeritage members that Cousin Finder™ reveals may be relatives you already knew about, but you didn't know they use MyHeritage, and in many cases, they might be new relatives you've never heard of before. Unlike DNA Matches, Cousin Finder™ shows precisely how you are related to each relative. With Cousin Finder™, growing multiple branches of your family tree further has never been easier.

Cousin Finder™ is available on the MyHeritage website on desktop and when using a mobile web browser. Support for Cousin Finder™ on the MyHeritage mobile app will be added in the future. Cousin Finder™ is a free feature on MyHeritage; contacting relatives requires a subscription.

IN SEARCH OF DECENCY AND GOOD TASTE

By Carol Bell

Who was the bully who was writing for the Tuapeka Times in the 1870s-1880s? Surely there was only one person involved - surely this was not editorial policy?

My first exposure to his unapologetically bigoted work was around 2009 when I was writing up the lives of the Danish Muller/Friss/Petersen families of Waitahuna. Here is a clipping of that story:

Peter and Annie Friss's brother-in-law Asmus Petersen and his wife Maren were not so lucky with their life in the colonies. Four children were born to the couple between 1880 and 1886. Asmus farmed 300 acres at Waitahuna and he was elected to the committee of the Clark's Flat school in 1884, but in April 1887 he filed for bankruptcy. Unfortunately Asmus seems also to have fallen foul of the editor/reporter of the Tuapeka Times who, for reasons best known to himself, decided to fix on the language difficulties Asmus had in court and ridicule him in print.

Tuapeka Times 16 April 1887

AN HONEST BANKRUPT

Mr A. Petersen, a Waitahuna farmer, filed his schedule a few days ago, and the first examination of the bankrupt was held in the Official Assignee's office yesterday afternoon, and proved as interesting as anything of the kind we have had to do with for some time. Mr Petersen appears to have very suddenly found himself in difficulties, as no sooner had he laid in a fresh stock of groceries, paid his son and daughter their wages, and realised on his crop, than he (to use his own familiar expression) "talked the matter over with his old woman" and decided that there were worse places on earth than the Bankruptcy Court. He, however, appears to be a novice at the business, as in his statement of assets he overlooked in a most unaccountable manner some trifling items, such as one hundred and sixty-eight sheep, a waggon, an acre of turnips, a crop of potatoes, and a patch of oats. He had also, in a fit of friendliness, given his brother-in-law two good horses in exchange for two of very indifferent value, and, in the exuberance of his charity, sacrificed four head of cattle for the exceedingly small sum of £7. He seems to have had a remarkably good friend in Mr John Thompson, who, with characteristic liberality, provided him with bags for his oats, paid his rent, and otherwise became his creditor to the tune of some £110, and who now figures in the unenviable capacity of chief mourner. Some of the bankrupt's statements while under examination appeared to afford his creditors no small amount of entertainment, whereat his solicitor (Mr M'Coy) objected to his being made a laughing stock, and threatened to withdraw him if the hilarity continued. Mr Herbert said some of the bankrupt's answers were very amusing indeed, and, with Mr M'Coy's permission, they would just detain him for their amusement a little longer. Mr Petersen's creditors have been good enough to promise him a happy time when he comes up for his public examination before Judge Broad.

The brother-in-law who he exchanged horses with was Claus Muller [the focus of my story]. Whether Asmus was intending to defraud his creditors or simply doing the best he could to realise some cash, cope with day-to-day expenses and clear some debts we will never know. He was assessed in court that month as having liabilities of £202 and assets of £90 - receipts included money paid in wages to his son Peter aged 16 and his daughter Maria aged 21. Asmus also claimed to have sold a reaping machine to Peter Friis for money lent. Poor Asmus's next mistake was to sue for libel.

Tuapeka Times 20 April 1887

The proprietors of this journal have received the following communication from Mr F. H. M'Coy, solicitor :—

Lawrence, 19th April, 1887.

Messrs PILLING BROS., Lawrence
(Publishers of "Tuapeka Times" newspaper).

Gentlemen,—I am instructed to take proceedings to recover damages from you for a libel published in last Saturday's issue of your paper, headed "An Honest Bankrupt," in which Mr A. Petersen is grossly defamed.

As this may have appeared inadvertently, I will not proceed if you publish in your next paper a reference to it, stating that the libel appeared inadvertently and conveyed a false impression, and apologise for the injury done Mr Petersen.—Yours obediently,

F. H. M'Coy.

As Mr M'Coy very rightly suggests, if we said anything *libellous* about Mr Petersen's bankruptcy, it was purely inadvertently. We are not aware, however, that what we said on the matter "grossly defamed" Mr Petersen. If it was "gross defamation" to call Mr Petersen "an honest bankrupt," we most sincerely apologise for the expression and hasten to withdraw it. At the same time, we would respectfully suggest to Mr Petersen, if he has any spare capital to spend on libel actions, that he devote it to the liquidation of his debts and relieve some of his unfortunate creditors, by whom, we doubt not, the smallest donation will be thankfully received.

Peter and Maria Petersen, their mother, now known as Mary, and Peter Friis were all summoned to the bankruptcy hearing during which Mary gave evidence: "I do not interest myself much in my husband's affairs. I do not understand English well, and wish the questions put plainly. I know my husband is in difficulties. I can neither read nor write English." She, probably wisely, denied knowledge of anything and everything and was soon stood down. The hearing was complicated by the Deputy-Official Assignee who was hearing the case being one of Asmus's creditors and being accused of bias by a witness, Alexander Fraser, who refused to give evidence on that basis. Mr Fraser subsequently complained about the reporting of the hearing in a letter to the editor and was, in his turn, ridiculed by the editor, who suggested among other things that "Mr Fraser's reference to the libel action which his friend Mr Petersen has commenced against this paper is as puerile and contemptible as the source from whence it emanated". During the libel hearing in June Asmus gave evidence that the article had insinuated that he was not honest so that reflections had been cast on him, and that even his own Danish countrymen had turned their backs upon him. He said things had been steadily going from bad to worse over the last five or six years and he was continually held to account in the hearing for bags of flour and farming equipment "given away".

Peter and Maria Petersen, their mother, now known as Mary, and Peter Friis were all summoned to the bankruptcy hearing during which Mary gave evidence: "I do not interest myself much in my

Evening Post 24 June 1887

Bankruptcy and Libel

AN IMPORTANT DECISION.

[BY TELEGRAPH.]

[UNITED PRESS ASSOCIATION.]

DUNEDIN, THIS DAY.

A libel action of unusual character was heard before Mr. Justice Williams to-day. Mr. A. Peterson sued Pilling Brothers, proprietors of the *Tuapeka Times*, for libel, claiming £500 damages. The statement of claim set forth that the plaintiff, on the 9th April, had filed a petition of bankruptcy, and on the 16th defendants published in the *Tuapeka Times* an article headed "An honest bankrupt." This article has a running comment on the statements by Peterson at a meeting of his creditors, and which, it was contended, meant that plaintiff had fled from dishonest motives, and that he had dishonestly made preparations for filing, intending to defraud his creditors, and that the publication was false and malicious. Defendants contended that the article was published in the usual way by the defendants as public journalists as a fair and *bona fide* comment on a matter of public interest, for the benefit of the public, without any malicious motive. After hearing evidence, his Honour gave judgment for defendants.

There was a public examination into the circumstances of the bankruptcy and whether Asmus acted illegally but it was closed with no further action. On 30 July 1887 it was advertised that interim dividends were payable on Asmus's bankrupt estate and a second and final dividend of 1/6 in the pound was announced in November. However, the *Tuapeka Times* was not finished with the hapless Asmus Petersen. In the Year in Review on 31 December 1887 a reference was made to the libel action in which "The *Tuapeka Times*, for discharging a duty to the public, was dragged into court and, though victorious, made to pay their own costs. It is to be hoped that the day is not far distant when the law of libel will be improved in such a manner as to protect respectable newspapers from petty annoyances that they may be in a position to deal fearlessly and outspokenly with pilfering rascals and public miscreants." It was also to be hoped that the future would bring a press that refrained from holding a man up to public ridicule and kicking him when he was down!!

So that was the story of the Petersens. Asmus and Maria sold up in 1891 and moved to Hamilton. Who can blame them? As a journalist I was astounded at the way the story had been presented and muttered frequently about it not happening in my day.

There the story lay until May 2025 when, during my investigations into the Phimester/Nisbet/Allen clan of Dunedin and the Lawrence district, a family member, Jan Hayes of Waikanae, sent me this:

Mary Ann Nesbitt/Allen married Sam Yeck Mong in Lawrence on 24 August 1876. ... There was an incident involving a runaway horse and buggy a few months after her marriage that shows something of Mary Ann's strength of character. The driver of the buggy, on which she was a passenger, lost control of the horse and then fell off, leaving just Mary Ann and a young child on board as the horse tore at speed, up and down hills, through countryside and towns, until finally being brought to a stop in the streets of Lawrence. Throughout this terrifying experience, Mary Ann clung tenaciously to the buggy while holding the child tightly so she would not fall. The event was covered extensively by the local newspaper and Mary Ann was hailed as a heroine.

What a lovely story! I searched for the original article and found:

Tuapeka Times 21 February 1877

SINGULAR BUGGY ACCIDENT.

Yet another buggy accident to chronicle, but this time, fortunately, unattended with fatal results. On Saturday afternoon last the town was all astir over one of the most extraordinary buggy adventures we have heard of for some time, and the circumstances in connection with the mishap are singular in the extreme. It would appear that last Saturday Mr Ah Mong, of Waipori, started in a double-seated buggy drawn by one horse, for Lawrence accompanied by Mrs Sam Yeck and Mrs Sing Lee and child. All went well till descending the last hill but one into Weatherstones, when a portion of the harness (the breeching) gave way, and the buggy running on the horse, started him off into a hand gallop. At this time Mrs Sing Lee was not in the trap, as she preferred to walk, owing to the steepness of the hill, and she also told Mrs Yeck to do the same—a piece of advice that lady, no doubt, regretted she did not take, as the subsequent events will show. Ah Mong, who was trying his utmost to stop the runaway, would probably have succeeded had not the bridle given way, and slipped off the animal's head, when the sudden slackening of the reins caused Ah Mong to fall back and roll out of the vehicle. Freed from the bridle, the horse increased his pace, and tore along the road from Weatherstones at a great speed. Mrs Sam Yeck's first thought was to look after the safety of Mrs Sing Lee's little child, who was sitting on the front seat of the buggy alone. This lady, with great presence of mind, leaned over the back of the seat and held on to the little one, while the horse was dashing through Weatherstones, over the creek, then up on the high bank; here missing a passing dray, there running within an inch of a culvert, and the occupants of the buggy perfectly powerless to arrest its progress. At

Weatherstones the people were attracted by the shouts of Mrs Sam Yeck for help, but of course no assistance could be rendered, though several persons did attempt to stop the horse, but on he galloped for Lawrence, and going up Ross Place he appeared to slacken speed a little, and before reaching Mr Sheath's shop, several of our citizens had rushed out and arrested the progress of the runaway. To Mr James Harris is due the credit of having effectually stopped the horse; for that gentleman, at great personal risk, ran alongside and, in the absence of a bridle, seized the animal by the nose—a piece of pluck which we cannot but admire. The next business was to look after the occupants of the buggy, who, as may be easily imagined, were terribly frightened. Mrs Yeck and the child were taken into Mr Sheath's shop, and cared for while a few willing hands removed the horse from the buggy, which was slightly damaged. Another buggy was then sent to pick up Mrs Sing Lee and Ah Mong, and soon both were found, the former in a most excited state, and of course expecting to hear that her only child was a corpse, whilst the latter, in answer to an inquiry as to his health stated that he "was not welly bad." How ever the horse managed to steer the buggy four or five miles at the pace he was going without coming to grief is something miraculous, especially when it is remembered that two steep and winding hills had to be negotiated. Mrs Sam Yeck is deserving of every praise for the plucky manner in which she stuck to the buggy, with a view to saving the child, and if Mr Yeck is not proud of his "better half" he ought to be, for she exhibited an amount of coolness under the trying circumstances, which does her infinite credit. The event caused a great stir among the Chinese in town, who crowded round the heroine of the adventure, and were most profuse in their congratulations and appreciation of her pluck.

So far, so heartwarming. But, over-enthusiastic after their five minutes of fame, the hapless residents of the Chinese camp fell foul of the Tuapeka Times - surely the same charitable soul who so happily tore apart the lives of our Danish friends in 1887. Or did the Tuapeka Times make a habit of employing nasty-natured bigots?

Tuapeka Times 24 February 1877

OUR reporter who "did" the "Singula Buggy Accident" last week, says he does not want to write about another for some years, if there are any Chinamen in it. He says nearly every Chinaman in the County has been a him about the smash, and blaming him for giving somebody else the credit of holding on to the baby, and stopping the horse. San Yeck is "going" for Ah Mong, because he fell out of the buggy, and Sing Lee wants to find out the man who designed that Waipori road. Mrs Sing Lee declares the youngster in the buggy was not a child, but a little girl; and

Tom Smith declares that Mr Harris did not stop the horse by the nose, because he would not know which part of the nasal organ required to be touched to produce that brake-like sensation which caused the interruption of progress on the part of the frightened and highly sensitive quadruped. Then the owner of the vehicle threatens us with libel, because we said it was an old one. We are always free to admit any mistake, therefore we readily state that, on making enquiries, we found the buggy was not by any means out of repair. All it wanted was a pair of new shafts, four wheels, a better body, a little alteration to the springs, and two new axles, but with these trifling alterations the conveyance in question would be as good as new. We cheerfully make the *amende honorable*. Altogether, this Chinese buggy accident has aged our reporter ten years.

Not as cutting as the Asmus Petersen attack ten years later but again the writer is happily holding his subjects up to ridicule. It could be termed amusing - if you're not Chinese. And to be fair the arrogance and superiority were probably endemic for the day. It would be interesting to read through the Tuapeka Times and see what the day-to-day tone was. I am happy to report that, despite claims to the contrary by Donald Trump, mainstream media these days is not so wantonly dismissive. There are standards.

So who were the Pilling Bros? Papers Past tells us that in 1881 the Tuapeka Times was bought by Thomas and Richard Pilling. They published it till 1896 when it was sold to the Tuapeka Times Company, managed by John Norrie. Heritage NZ (<https://www.heritage.org.nz/list-details/5210/5210>) tells the same story so we may never know whether the same person wrote these pieces ten years apart, or whether it was just editorial policy to lampoon their "alien" subjects and treat them with such casual contempt. Does anyone have any knowledge of this newspaper?



This is a photograph depicting Tuapeka Times staff. The date is unknown, however thought to have been taken prior to 1896. Written on the reverse: "Was found in the 60th. It was for some years the property of Thomson & Ferguson, but Mr Ferguson became sole proprietor. Then Messers Pilling Bros became the owners and in 1896 the paper passed in to a company, and shifted to Peel Street." Numbers correspond to names written on the reverse: 1. P. Pilling, 2. J. Rodgers, 3. _____, 4. T. Pilling, 5. J. White, 6. _____, 7. _____, 8. T. Reidy, 9. _____, 10. J. Thompson, 11. _____

MEMORIES

I'm still spending the greater part of my time with this finding old photos and scanning them. So at least it's making me digitise photos that might otherwise not have made the grade. And the most unusual memories are popping up. Things I haven't thought about for years. Here are the questions for the next two months. Remember: it's never too late. You can start now. And it doesn't matter if you've missed the last month. Get back to it at any time. There are no rules.

Relationships and Family Life

22 June: How did you meet your spouse or significant other?

29 June: What was your wedding day like?

6 July: Can you share a funny or memorable story about your married life?

13 July: How did becoming a parent change your life?

20 July: What was the most challenging part of raising children?

27 July: What advice would you give about maintaining a strong relationship?

3 August: What are your favourite memories with your family? Did your family have any funny or embarrassing traditions or stories?

10 August: What values were most important to you in raising your children? How did you and your spouse handle challenges together?

17 August: What houses did you live in as an adult?

In 1942 Norman (RNZAF) gave this photograph to his friend Lydia with a sweet note apologising for his appearance as he hadn't been able to have a shave, he also invited Lydia to his passing out ceremony the same year. Lydia worked at Jenkins Bakery in Timaru and whilst we think Norman was a Timaru person we don't know anything about him and we have no surname.

We are hoping someone may recognise him? Please let us know.





WW2 project

from Lois White

L/CPL BERNARD THOMAS MULCAHY (BERNIE, BRICKY) 405319 SAPPER 3rd DIV ENGINEERS, 20 FD COY 2nd NZEF

Bernard Mulcahy was born in 1919 the eldest son of Bridget and Patrick Mulcahy of Gleniti Timaru. He was educated at the Sacred Heart and Marist schools in Timaru.

In 1941 he began his army training at Wingatui, Dunedin and thereafter was sent to various camps around New Zealand. In between training he was manpowered to work as a freezing worker at the Pareora Works. When he reached Burnham camp, he was told he would be joining the 3rd division in the Pacific Islands and he subsequently served in New Caledonia and the Solomon Islands.

Later in the 1980s when he wrote a book for his family he talked about his early life and also his years in the army describing the camps, training and the skills he learned. He remarked that the training in the cold Kaimai Ranges in NZ was no preparation for the tropical heat in the islands, and he recalled how when training with the Engineers, they once built a Bailey Bridge in downtown Auckland – right by the Post Office.

The Islands he remembered as being beautiful and at Guadalcanal, from the ship, he said you could see right down to the sunken warships and planes on the seabed, the water was very deep but so clear.

He had this to say about the war: "War is a sad time for all people, there are no winners". "The loss of family in their prime of life, who never returned, others were disabled with serious injuries, many diseased or hospitalised for life - A number of my school friends and army mates were killed. I always have a feeling of grief and sadness, especially on Anzac Day, when they are all remembered in my thoughts and prayers".

After the war Bernie returned to Timaru and he married Kath Gallagher in 1947. They were parents to five children. From the 1950s on he became involved in the grocery trade in Timaru owning a Four-Square shop in Evans Street on the corner of Grasmere Street, and some years later Mulcahy's Foodarama in the new Gleniti shopping centre, a complex which he also helped develop. Rugby played a big part in his life. In his younger days he played for Celtic and also coached many Marist teams. He was a staunch supporter and life member of the Celtic Rugby Club and was also the coach of the South Canterbury rugby team for 16 years.

Bernard Mulcahy died in 2009 aged 90 years and is buried in the Timaru Cemetery. He is also remembered on the War Memorial at Gleniti.

Information supplied by Margaret Cosgrove



Meeting reports



with Lesley Tennent



April The monthly meeting was held at the Timaru Museum. Teresa Scott welcomed those present, in the absence of Convenor, Liz Shea. **Present:** 16.

Apologies: Fred Knewstubb, Heather Fifield, Carol Bell, Liz Shea, Margaret Cosgrove, Ann Munro, Hilary Coles, Clare Palliser.

Chris Rapley, museum curator, welcomed members to the new exhibition, World in Flames. This was pertaining to South Canterbury in WW2.

Chris thanked South Canterbury Genealogy Society for the support given in these uncertain times of proposed restructuring. The recent Timaru Herald article reporting our group's position on proposed staff losses hopefully shows the wider public what they would be losing, and the value the library and museum and their staff are to South Canterbury. He also thanked Lois White for her help with the exhibition.

Chris explained how and why the exhibition had been set up. Wanted it to be appreciated by all age groups. He had received many donations of objects from the RSA. The exhibition was to show the South Canterbury connections. Chris was thanked by Teresa.



Left: A ballistic calculator, used at Smithfield Coastal Battery.



Right: A photo from North Africa in WW2.

May All executives were returned at the AGM. Subscriptions – It was recommended by the committee that these remain at \$35 Individual and \$55 Joint membership.

Afterwards, Lois White gave a presentation on the WW2 Project. She had always had an interest as both her parents had served. She also had many photos, some of which were not named. The idea was to start now and see if can get these photos she and others have named before it is too late.

She plans to do stories of as many as she can. This involves using Auckland Cenotaph. The Cenotaph is for anyone that served. Can load photos, letters etc. Lois explained how to search . She also said anybody, not just relatives, can load photos etc. Under browse you can also put in an area and this will bring up names of those from that area.

She touched on the Aoraki Heritage Site which has some old photo magazines, photos, newspaper clippings, old letters, plaques, school year books, just to name a few.

Liz Shea thanked Lois White for her interesting presentation. Liz noted there is a template available to enable members to upload photos etc, in a particular format, to the WW2 Project.



scant.scgenealogy.nz

Olwyn's South Canterbury website

We all have dozens of old photograph albums. Over time photograph albums fall apart, pages with sticky pages and a plastic sheet cover have photos stuck to the page, or the adhesive has already dried and the photographs are falling out and curling. You can use dental floss to detach the photograph from the page. But don't do what my mother-in-law did recently. She rearranged the photographs in the family photograph albums and got a glue stick and glued the photographs in. She has four children and instead of sorting the photographs so each of her grown children could take an album home she sorted the photographs by decades. She also trimmed up the old photographs taken by a professional photographer, mounted on board, so they would fit in the photograph album. These photos were taken in the 1910s. All this took her a couple of weeks to do and then she discarded the photographs that she could not identify.

I remember hearing a motivational speaker say "If someone offers you a biscuit, accept it." It makes them feel good. When we start to get older, we start to give away things. I remember my Aunt Lorna offering me old family photos and I said for her to hold on to them that they are hers. I had no idea that she would die within a few months so I never got the family photos.

The best thing to do is take photographs of the family photos and place them on a flash drive and share them with your cousins. The best part of genealogy is sharing. Share group photos on a local community Facebook site. My favourite site is the Albury District site "Albury Mob." Albury is a community just south of Fairlie and this Facebook site covers the surrounding communities. <https://www.facebook.com/AlburyDistrict>. Crowdsourcing on Facebook sites is one way to identify people in photos. So, share your old photos.





Members' Interests



from John Sutherland

john-m-s@xtra.co.nz

SHRIMSKI	NEW ZEALAND	Sth Canterbury Oamaru	1870s
SIDES	IRELAND	Queens County Clonin	1830+
SIDES	NEW ZEALAND	Sth Canterbury Waimate	1900s
SIMPSON	SCOTLAND	Lanarkshire New Monkland	pre1815
SKUDDER	ENGLAND	Surrey Kingston on Thames	pre1900
SLUCCOCK	ENGLAND	Kent Chatham	1770-1855
SMALES	ENGLAND	Yorkshire Wakefield	1820-1830
SMITH	AUSTRALIA	Victoria Ballarat	1850+
SMITH	AUSTRALIA	Victoria Geelong	1850+
SMITH	ENGLAND	Devon Devonport	1750-1820
SMITH	NEW ZEALAND	Canterbury Banks Peninsula	1870-1918
SMITH	SCOTLAND	Dumfriesshire Kirkpatrick-Fleming	c1790+
SNELL	ENGLAND	Devon Broadwoodkelly	1650-1750
SPALDING	SCOTLAND	Roxburghshire Hawick	1810+
SPALDING	SCOTLAND	Roxburghshire Wilton	1810+
STACEY	ENGLAND	Somerset Langport	1775-1875
STEVENSON	NEW ZEALAND	South Canterbury	1860-
STEWART	NEW ZEALAND	Southland Mataura	1880
STIRLING	SCOTLAND	Lanarkshire Bothwell	pre1878
STOCKMAN	ENGLAND	Somerset Castle Cary	1720-1757
STOCKMAN	ENGLAND	Somerset Stogursey	1600-1730
STOCKTON	ENGLAND	Staffordshire Knutton	1800s
STRONGMAN	ENGLAND	Cornwall Tregonwy	abt 1700
STUBBS	ENGLAND	Yorkshire Otley	abt 1750
SUGRUE	IRELAND	Kerry Ballymacelligott	1872+
SUTHERLAND	SCOTLAND	Hopeman	1800
TARRANT	ENGLAND	Essex Plastow	1800+
TAYLER	NEW ZEALAND		1862+
TAYLOR	ENGLAND	Somerset Castle Cary	1700-1900
TAYLOR	ENGLAND	Somerset Selworthy	All
TAYLOR	NEW ZEALAND	Canterbury Rakaia	1874-1950
TEAHAN/TAEHEN	IRELAND	Kerry Ballymacelligott	1870+
TENNENT	ENGLAND	Worcestershire Great Malvern	All
TENNENT	SCOTLAND	Lanarkshire Glasgow	All
THICKETT	ENGLAND	Lancashire Tootingham	pre1874
THOMAS	ENGLAND		pre1900
THOMPSON	ENGLAND	Northumberland Berwick upon Tweed	1800s

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

South Canterbury Genealogy Society Inc - recent accessions include:

Newsletters 2025:

Cambridge – May
Canterbury Genealogy Society – April; May
Dunedin – June
Feilding – April; May
Hibiscus Coast – April; May
Hutt Valley – May; June
Kapiti – May
Kilbirnie – May; June
Matamata – May; June
Mosgiel – April
Nelson – February 2025; March; April; May
North Shore – March 2025; April; May
New Plymouth Genealogy – May; June
Waitaki (Oamaru) – March
Otaki Family History Society – May
Palmerston North – April; May
Papakura – April; May; June
Porirua – May; June
Riccarton – April; May
South Canterbury Genealogy Society – March-April 2025
South Waikato – May
Wellington – April; May; June
Whanganui – April; May; June



Please send request for forwarding to Teresa.

ANCESTORS Census Special 2009 [MM32] [donated]
Family History Monthly (& CD) February 2009 [MM33] [donated]
Glasgow & West of Scotland Family History Society Journal, October 2023
[SCOT07a] [donated]
Glasgow & West of Scotland Family History Society Journal, June 2024
[SCOT07b] [donated]
Glasgow & West of Scotland Family History Society Journal, October 2024
[SCOT07c] [donated]
Glasgow & West of Scotland Family History Society Journal, March 2025
[SCOT07d] [donated]

Local contacts

SC Genealogy - Office bearers

Convener: Liz Shea 03 684 7790 Group 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

Lois White 03 684 4173

Dave Jack 021 770 000

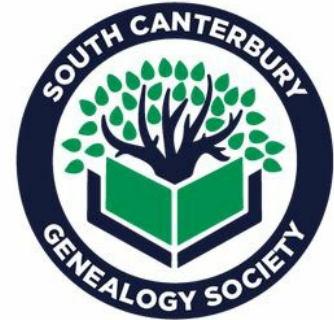
Carol Bell 027 3399447 Newsletter carobel49@gmail.com

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

Janette Clarke Museum roster jansuscar@gmail.com

Branch email and research inquiries: SouthCanterbury@genealogy.org.nz

Website timaru.gen.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 Wednesdays 9am - 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

"Writing up your Family History" help is available. If you would like help getting your research to the final stage contact Carol at carobel49@gmail.com or 027 3399447.

