

**My mother
Lorraine Alice
McMurray (Walters)
McDonald
1929–2016**

by
Kristy Pearl McDonald

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Acknowledgments

I want to thank my mother's great friend Phyllis Simcic most sincerely, for her memories, her scrapbooks, her photographs and her warmth. She is an inspiration.

I also thank my husband Ian St George for help with writing and publishing this booklet.

Along with family sources, Archives NZ, the National Library, the Hocken Library, *Papers Past*, the *British Newspaper Archive* and *Ancestry.com* were essential.

My eight great grandparents were Agnes McMurray and Joseph Stokes (parents of my maternal grandmother Pearl Stokes), Alice O'Neil and George Walters (maternal grandfather Stuart Walters), Ellen Keating and John Tansey (paternal grandmother Daisy Tansey), Elizabeth McLachlan and John McDonald (paternal grandfather Peter McDonald).

Some notes on the Stokes family are in my booklet *My great grandfather Joseph Stokes 1878–1944*. Notes on the Tanseys, McLachlans and McDonalds are in *My grandmother Daisy Alice (Tansey) McDonald 1884–1974*. Notes on the McMurray and Walters families are in this booklet, *My mother Lorraine Alice McMurray (Walters) McDonald 1929–2016*.

Ellen Keating's and Alice O'Neil's parents (four of my sixteen great great grandparents) remained in Ireland after their daughters' emigration and I have little knowledge of them.

Kristy Pearl McDonald ONZM KC
Winter 2024.

Front cover: Central Otago mountains.

Back cover: The Wairarapa from above Gladstone. Images by the author.

My mother Lorraine Walters was born in 1929.

The first Walters in my family to emigrate from Britain, however, were my great great grandparents William and Charlotte Walters and offspring. He was born and christened in Great Cheverell, Wiltshire in 1832 (though his father was born in Pembrokeshire, Wales), married Charlotte Jane Smith at Saint Matthew, Bethnal Green, London in 1853 and lived in Woolwich where he gave his occupation as “engineer”. By 1861 they had three children, the second son my great grandfather George Robert Walters born 1856, christened at St Mary Magdalene, Woolwich. By 16 June 1874, when they sailed as assisted emigrants for Port Chalmers on the *Tweed*, there were six children—Benjamin William 20, George Robert 18, Charlotte 16, Nicholas 15, Ellen 10 and Eliza 8. William gave his occupation as “Blacksmith”.

The *Tweed* arrived, but Dunedin’s *Evening Star* was not overly generous in its welcome,

Another batch of immigrants has been poured in upon us—the ship *Tweed*, from London, which port she left on June 18, having arrived at the Heads this afternoon with 680 immigrants (3 September 1874).

ARRIVAL OF THE TWEED.

Last night the tug *Geelong* towed up the fine ship *Tweed*, from London, and she came to anchor in the Quarantine Ground on account of the darkness of the evening. The Customs and Health Officers proceeded down in the p.s. *Golden Age*, and the answers to the usual questions being satisfactory, although there had been a number of deaths and a great deal of sickness during the voyage, the ship was immediately boarded, and shortly afterwards cleared by the Clearance Officer. During the usual inspection, the passengers were asked if they had any

complaints, their answer being that they had received the best attention from the captain, officers, and doctor. The single women, of whom there are ninety-one occupy the fore part of her saloon, and are under the charge of Mrs Baker, matron, who gives them a very good character, the married couples occupying the main hold, and the single men forward. There were three births on the passage. The immigrants have been under the charge of Dr Cunningham. Captain Stuart reports leaving Gravesend on the 16th June; passed the Downs the next night, and cleared the Channel on the 18th, having had N.E. winds; and until reaching Madeira she had moderate northerly breezes. Passed Madeira on the 23rd, and caught the N.E. trades the day following, and lost them on the 1st July, in lat. 15 N. She had then a spell of N.W. doldrums for seven days. The S.E. trades were caught north of the line in lat. 1 N., and on the 8th she was carried across the Equator, in long. 29 W. These trades were favorable, and carried to lat. 19 S. on the 13th; and on the same day passed the ship Zoroaster, forty days out from London, bound to Brisbane. She had thence variable weather for a long time. Passed the meridian of Greenwich on the 29th, in lat. 30 S., and that of the Cape on the 2nd August, in lat. 42 S., upon which parallel of latitude she made her easting. The westerly breezes were very unfavorable, and throughout she had only one week's running. The best day's work was 328 miles. She passed Cape Leuwin on the 22nd with a southerly breeze, and from the 21st to the 24th, she had severe southerly gales; and thence had variable winds until arrival, making Stewart's Island on the 2nd inst. She had a N.W. gale up the coast, arrived at the Heads at 8 a.m. on the 3rd, and was boarded by the pilot. She then came to anchor, and was towed up as above. She belongs to John Willis and Son, of London, and is the last vessel

built as a steamer for the East India Company. She is built throughout of teak, and has by her present owners been reduced from a steamer to a sailing ship. Under her present rig she does splendidly. Her dimensions are—287ft over all, 40ft beam, 24ft depth of hold. She was put together in Bombay. On the 21st July, Jeremiah Bemaud, a married passenger, who had been frequently warned not to go out upon the rigging, was swept away. The life-buoys were thrown to him, the ship hove-to, and the boat lowered, but no sight of him could be obtained. The ship was then sailing at nine knots per hour (*Evening Star* 5 September 1874).



The *Tweed* was built at Moulmein (Mawlamyine, Myanmar) originally for the Royal Indian Navy as a paddle wheel frigate named *Punjaub*. She was purchased by John Willis and Company in 1863 and fitted out as a barque and later as a fully rigged sailing ship.

The Walters settled at Caversham, Dunedin; but soon there was tragedy, their youngest, Eliza, a victim of typhoid,

DEATH.

WALTERS.—On the 9th inst., at Mavy Hall, Caversham, Eliza Anne, daughter of Charlotte and William Walters, of typhoid fever, aged nine years and six months. Home papers please copy.

Evening Star 12 May 1875.

William Walters, engineer, was the subject of an interesting snippet in the 1876 newspapers,

The experiments that have been carried on for the past thirty or forty years for the rapid and inexpensive extraction of gum from the native *phormium* without injuring the fibre, are still being made. Mr William Walters, a resident at Caversham, and an engineer by trade, claims that he has solved the problem. He claims that, by means of chemicals, he can successfully extract the gum without injuring the fibre, and that the chemicals required can be obtained at a small cost and can be used over and over again. Should Mr Walters patent his process, and can show that it has a commercial value, he will no doubt be able to obtain the assistance of capitalists (*Otago Witness* 28 October 1876).

This may have been his eldest, 22 year old William Benjamin, who would become an habitual inventor.

The family moved to Maryhill, Mornington where their daughter Charlotte was married in 1877.

Marriage

KEARNS—WALTERS.—On the 1st inst. at St. Paul's Church, by the Rev. Archdeacon Edwards, John Kearns, to Charlotte, eldest daughter of William Walters, of Mornington. Home papers please copy.

Evening Star 31 December 1877.

On 9 May 1881 the *Evening Star* reported charges of drunkenness dealt with in the Resident Magistrate's Court, "William Walters was fined £1, with the option of three days".

In the next night's *Star* our WW reassured readers:

William Walters, engineer, South Dunedin, requests us to state that he was not the person who figured in the Police Court yesterday for drunkenness.

Furthermore he pestered the Mornington Borough Council,

W. Walters applied for a few loads of gravel. — Referred to Works Committee (*Otago Daily Times* 8 May 1879).

Mr William Walters wrote calling the attention of the Council to the bad state of Argyle street, to which he said there was neither inlet nor outlet.—Referred to the Works Committee (*Otago Daily Times* 19 May 1881).

Mr William Walters wrote requesting the council to complete the portion of Elgin road in the vicinity of his property, Maryhill.—Referred to the inspector to report (*Otago Daily Times* 4 April 1888).

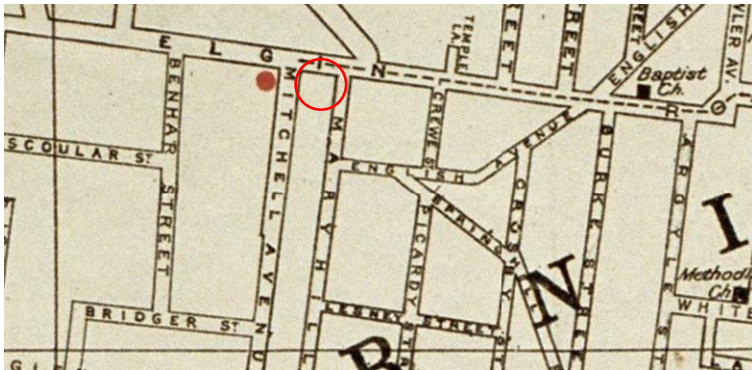
Applications from... Mr W. Walters, calling attention to the state of Elgin road... were referred to the Works Committee *Evening Star* 3 October 1888).

W. Walters wrote drawing attention to the fact that a promise to place a culvert at the end of Elgin road had not been fulfilled.—Received (*Otago Daily Times* 10 August 1889).

Mr W. Walters wrote calling the council's attention to the dangerous state of the termination of Elgin road.— Referred to the Works Committee (*Otago Daily Times* 4 September 1889).

Mr John Clegg wrote asking, on behalf of Mr Walters, of Mary Hill terrace, for a drain, opposite that gentleman's premises.— Referred to the Works Committee (*Otago Daily Times* 6 August 1890).

W. Walters, Maryhill, drew the attention of the council to the dangerous condition of the streets there— especially Elgin road, near its termination—owing to their unfinished condition.— Referred to the Works Committee to confer with the Caversham Borough Council, and report at next meeting (*Otago Daily Times* 3 December 1890).



The corner of Elgin road and Maryhill terrace Mornington in 1880
("Stone's handy reference street map of Dunedin and suburbs, expressly
compiled from official surveys" —

<https://kura.aucklandlibraries.govt.nz/digital/collection/maps/id/26/>)

Then in 1884, calamity,

The house of Mr W. Walters, at Maryhill, Mornington,
was completely destroyed by fire at about eleven o'clock

last evening. The manner in which the fire occurred is a perfect mystery. Mr George Walters, a son of the owner, states that he locked up the house at about seven o'clock, and went to town. He left in the grate of a stove the remains of a small wood fire, from which he thinks the fire could not possibly have originated. On returning at a quarter to eleven he found the house enveloped in flames. The owner of the house, who is, unfortunately, away from the district, will be a considerable loser by the occurrence; for besides the ordinary domestic necessities, the house was almost stored with machinery, etc. Mr William Walters, another son of the owner, is also a heavy loser, as he had about £80 of engineer's appliances and machinery in the house; and Mr G. Walters, too, has lost all his effects, besides £10 in money. The house has been virtually unoccupied for some months past, and yesterday was the first time for a considerable period that a fire had been lit in the stove. From what we can gather fully £300 worth of property has been destroyed. The house was insured in the South British office for £100 and the furniture for £50 (*Evening Star* 15 September 1884).

William Benjamin, the eldest son, was also known as William and was an engineer too; G. Walters was my great grandfather George. Of each, more soon.

MR AND MRS WILLIAM WALTERS,
Sen., beg respectfully to Thank the
South British Insurance Company for the
prompt manner in which their Claims in con-
nection with the late fire at Maryhill were
Settled.

Evening Star 27 September 1884.

Three months later George married an Irish girl, Alice O'Neil, my great grandmother,

Marriage

WALTERS—O'NEIL.—On the 10th November, at St. Peter's Church, Caversham, by the Rev. W. Donaldson, George, second eldest son of Mr William Walters, Morningson, to Alice, second eldest daughter of Mr Hugh O'Neil, Dublin. Home papers please copy.

Evening Star 11 December 1884.

From the *Otago Witness*,

Thought for Pansies.

Mr William Walters contributes to Gardening Illustrated an article about pansy culture, from which we extract what follows:— Let the soil be sandy, open, and light. Take say two parts of old turf (carefully picked over for wireworm, &c), one of leaf mould and sharp sand, and the other part very old manure—cow, if you like; but very old and crumbly, as pansies cannot stand new and strong manure. Mix all well together. Pansies will, however, grow and do well in any light soil, and heavy soil can be made suitable by mixing with it road scrapings, sand, spent hops, decayed leaves, and anything to give the roots space to move properly. In planting let the plant be well in the ground, so as to leave only the few top leaves above the surface. This saves pegging down, and the roots, too, are kept moist, a great consideration, as pansies like the soil cool and rather damp. Plant rather sloping than upright—that is lay in the plant, as it were to slope from head to root, as the young growth proceeds usually from the base of the plant, and it thus has an opportunity to push its way to the daylight. Plants in beds should be from six to eight inches apart—even more if space is no object. When blooming spread a little bone dust, guano, and soot mixed, all over the bed, and water freely with rain or soft water around and between the plants. This will feed the roots and give fine blooms. In dry weather water often, but with discretion, as to hour, &c, to avoid frost soon

after the operation, and stir the surface frequently with a pointed stick. This does much good, and saves watering. All long growth should be pegged down (*Otago Witness* 6 June 1885).

At the Police Court in February 1892 William Walters was fined 5s for permitting horses to wander in Mornington. Perhaps it was a dry summer and they were running out of feed.

He owned land further down the hill,

I, WILLIAM WALTERS, Give Notice that
I intend to FENCE Sections 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8,
Block II, Balaclava. 9au

Otago Daily Times 9 August 1893.

But then, in 1896 he died at Naseby,

WALTERS.—On the 11th February, at Naseby, William Walters (cutler), late of Maryhill, Mornington, Dunedin; aged 63 years. Deeply regretted.

Otago Daily Times 15 February 1896.



He is buried in Dunedin's Southern cemetery, block 4p. plot 77, the stone flaking with the frosts, the lettering long gone.

His eldest son, William Benjamin Walters was an engineer too but also an inventor. He married Mary Ann Hemsley in 1876. They would have four children, John Charles 1876, Ellen Elizabeth 1878, Mary Ann 1880, William George 1885. The First Annual Report of the Registrar of Patents, Designs and Trade-marks in 1890 recording registered patents,

3858. 7th August. William Benjamin Walters, of Dunedin, New Zealand, Engineer.—An invention for extracting acids and other deleterious ingredients from timber used in making packages to contain butter and other dairy-produce.

3859. 7th August. William Benjamin Walters, of Dunedin, New Zealand, Engineer.—An invention for a varnish to be used for coating boxes, packages, and ferkins, made to contain butter and other dairy-produce.

In 1891 New Zealand produce arriving in Britain was in poorer condition than that from America. WB Walters concluded that “what was required to put the colonial exporters of dairy produce on more of an equal footing with the exporters on the American continent, was proper ventilation of the ship’s storage, which could only be obtained by taking a current of pure air to the bottom of the cargo and ejecting the bad air from the hold. The ‘ejector ventilator’ was therefore designed with this object in view.” He sold the patent.

In 1892, among other new patents gazetted, were,

William Benjamin Walters, Dunedin, an invention for the reduction of antimony ore and the recovery of metals and residuals therefrom by a continuous process.

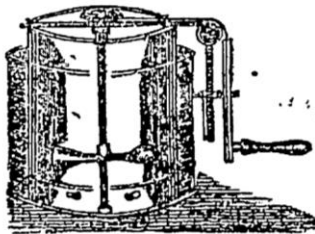
... and in 1894,

6376. 23rd August. William Benjamin Walters, of Dunedin, New Zealand, Engineer.—An invention for a new method of, and apparatus for, making butter and condensed milk.

At the Otago A&P Society's winter show in 1894, "The Defiance churn, the invention of Mr W.W. Walters, of Mornington, is shown in wood and tin" (*Tuapeka Times* 13 June 1894). It was William Benjamin Walters who invented the churn, extravagantly marketed by the Defiance Churn and Condensed Milk Company (Limited) through its agents until 1896.

THE DEFIANCE CHURN.

PATENTED THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.



THE
LATEST
and
BEST
INVENTION
of the
AGE.

PERFECT AERATION

AND GRANULATION.

With complete control of Temperature in any
Climate, with a MINIMUM OF LABOUR.
NO EXPERT KNOWLEDGE REQUIRED.
SIMPLICITY IN ITSELF.

A MARVEL OF CHEAPNESS!

PRICE: 2gal Churn, £2 10s; 4gal, £3 5s.

Pamphlets with full particulars and testimonials will be forwarded on application to the undersigned, to whom *all orders should be addressed.*

W. E. REYNOLDS & CO.,

WOOL, GRAIN AND PRODUCE
BROKERS AND SEED MERCHANTS,
STAFFORD STREET, DUNEDIN.

SUB-AGENT: JOHN EDMOND,
Don Street, Invercargill.

Otago Witness 27 September 1894.

His butter churn was described in laudatory terms in the *Otago Witness* of 30 October 1890, page 7 (and see box, above). Furthermore, “This churn is highly spoken of by the late manager of the Owaka Dairy Factory....” (*ODT* 10 March 1891). Well, say no more.

On 12 November 1891 he sailed for London in the *Arawa*. He was back in 1892 and sailed again for London later in the year, “sent Home (by the Government) to arrange with shipping companies for improvements in cool chambers” (*Otago Witness* 9 June 1892). Later in the year he showed a group of reporters

... a new system of ventilation recently adopted by the owners of the ‘Shire’ line of steamers, and which has been fitted up in the Nairnshire. At the Custom-house station we were met by Mr W. B. Walters, of New Zealand, the patentee of the pneumatic churn and other devices used in the dairy produce industry, who conveyed the party to the Nairnshire, and acted as showman-in-chief. Mr Walters has been in England for some time, and has been studying the question of cool chamber ventilation. He has, moreover, patented a system of ventilation adapted for ships engaged in the product carrying trade, which has found favor with the ship-owning community (*Star* 3 November 1892).

He reported at length to the Middle Island Dairy Association on the conditions during the voyage and made recommendations for improvements (*ODT* 24 June 1892).

In 1894 he and the Defiance Churn and Condensed Milk Company (Limited) sued one Launcelot James Tait who, he claimed, had copied his churn. His Honour delivered a lengthy judgment, concluding for the plaintiffs but awarding only 20s damages (*ODT* 6 October 1894).

In March 1895 he demonstrated inventions for extracting oil from engineers' waste, lanoline from wool and gum from flax, as well as a process for speedily and effectively seasoning timber by extracting acid and sap from it (*ODT* 9 March 1895).

WB Walters was interested in gold. He had a gold prospecting licence for part of the Taieri river, a mining licence for an area of Nenthorn near Hindon and in 1892 advertised for "a First-class Practical Quartz MINER, with thorough knowledge of timbering" (*ODT* 19 November 1892). In 1895 he was granted permission for a machine site of five acres at Flat Stream, Barewood (*ODT* 2 February 1895). In 1897 he, Frederick Howorth Jeffcoat and Thomas Sing Lee (the Columbia Gold Dredging Company) applied for a special claim to seek gold at Tuapeka Flat. In 1901 he was the registered owner of a dredging claim called "Walters & Co." at Oparara, near Karamea, Westport.

ON View, Walters's Gold Amalgamator, at
Greig, Park, and Co.'s Rooms.

Evening Star 8 August 1896.

In 1896 he was sued by Thomas Rushton of St Bathans who claimed the (patented in NZ and Australia) gold amalgamating machine he had bought from Walters was useless,

William Benjamin Walters, defendant, deposed that he had his machine patented in New Zealand, New South Wales, West Australia, and Victoria. Had been making the machines for about eight months, and had sold ten. They had gone to different parts of the colony—Auckland, Hokitika, and Otago. Had written to those who had purchased machines, but had got no replies. The only men who had complained were Rushton and M'Culloch. He had tried the machines in his yard and in the Water of Leith. He had had hundreds of miners looking at his operations with the machine. He had put

through about 6cwt of stuff in seven minutes. Had made no gold-saving experiments in Dunedin; he had not been able to get the necessary material. Had a two days' trial at Hyde, and the machine worked satisfactorily. In all his trials the machine had never got choked. One of the points of the machine was the "concussion" which kept the stuff always in motion, and the tables being sloped the stuff was helped along. When Rushton came to him about a machine witness took one to pieces and explained the working as well as he was able. Never suggested the use of cocoanut matting, and would not do so because it neutralised the effectiveness of the machine. Rushton said he might use cocoanut matting, and witness said if he took his advice he would not do so, because his plates would be no use with matting on the top of them. After Rushton had taken the machine he bought to St. Bathans he had tampered with the pump; for when the pump was sent back it was so tightly screwed down that no machine could work satisfactorily with it. [Pump produced.] (*Star* 9 December 1896).

After a demonstration of the machine in the Leith the Court was convinced of its utility and nonsuited the plaintiff.

In January 1899 he demonstrated at his home a patented apparatus for concentrating milk. Walters's process pasteurised and sterilised the milk with a high temperature and aeration. The result was unsweetened condensed milk.

He was appointed a Justice of the Peace in June 1899 and sat in the City Police Court on 6 March 1900 but resigned on 30 March. In September 1902 he applied to patent a hydrocarbon gas.

Their daughter Mary was married in July 1903 and on 22 August he was dead at 49 years of age.



William Benjamin Walters 1854–1903.

He had applied for a patent for a carburetter two days before he died.

A curiously defensive notice appeared a fortnight after his death. Why? was it suicide?

MRS WALTERS wishes Busybodies to know that her late Husband's (W. B. Walters) Life was Not Insured.

Evening Star 4 September 1903.

In 1885 William Benjamin Walters and his wife Mary Anne had a son named (William) George, who would also become a well known figure in Otago and Southland. He came to public attention as a competitive motorcyclist, riding an army Indian,

Messrs G. Walters and E. Howlison, on a 7 h.p. Indian outfit, attempted to set up a side-car record from Dunedin to Christchurch. The pair were sent off at 6.52 a.m. yesterday. They had a particularly bad run owing to tyre trouble. The actual running time was 8h 58min, but the puncture fiend settled all chances of record-making (*Evening Star 5 November 1917*).

He worked as custodian at His Majesty's Theatre and tried to sell the motorcycle combo in 1918,

FOR SALE, 1917 Indian and Side Car (electric lights); or make deal with motor car. G. Walters, His Majesty's Theatre, Dunedin.

In late 1919,

The speed and reliability of the modern motor cycle was demonstrated on the Wingatui road during the last race meeting. Near the spot where the railway line branches

to Central Otago a horse and cart bolted towards Mosgiel. There was a good amount of traffic on the road at the time, and a motor cyclist, on an Indian and side car combination, seeing the runaway, dismounted and tried to stop the horse, but was unsuccessful. He thereupon jumped on his machine and gave chase, and finally, after dodging, by skill and good luck, various cars and vehicles of sorts, managed to get ahead of the animal and stopped it about the Mosgiel quarry. This prompt action on the part of the motor cyclist averted what might have been a serious accident (*Evening Star* 30 December 1919).

The identity of the rider was revealed a few days later, the *Star's* motoring correspondent "Carburettor" commenting,

In connection with the smart overhauling and stopping of a runaway horse and cart one day this week, it is but fitting that the rider's name should be recorded! The rider was Mr George Walters, a member of the Otago Motor Club, and a well known competition rider. Doubtless George's stunts on his Indian and side car served him in good stead in his very fine piece of work. I tender him my congratulations (*Star* 3 January 1920).

He competed in Otago Motor Club events in 1920,

G. Walters had an unfortunate if not humorous experience. He was crossing one of the numerous creeks on the road, when his machine stopped, and, being forced to dismount, stepped into a deep hole and received an unexpected ducking; but as the weather was warm he was soon dried, and arrived back in Clyde amidst the applause of his fellow-competitors (*Star* 26 October 1920).

In March 1921 Carburettor "was sorry to see George Walters a non-starter. Both prior to the beach races and last week's events

machine, carried two other “broken down” competitors on his side car to Clyde The total weight of the persons carried was 45 stone. Mr Walters left Palmerston at 10.30 a.m. on Saturday, and reached Clyde at 6.15 p.m. The road was decidedly heavy, and a moderate to strong wind interfered with the riders’ progress (*ODT* 25 October 1922).



He was made captain of the Club but in 1925, now aged 40, he sold his machine...

WANTED To Sell, real Indian Chassis
and Sidecar; cheap, £15.—Apply G.
Walters, His Majesty's Theatre.

Star 16 December 1925.

... and his house (where his uncle George had died in 1920)...

The properties on account of Mr G. Walters, No. 12 Willis street, Mornington, with a five-roomed dwelling thereon, was sold to Mr Miller for £447 10s, and the property No. 8 Forbes street, with cottage thereon, to the same buyer for £200.

Star 14 December 1926.

... left his job at His Majesty's...

The staffs employed at His Majesty's Theatre gathered at the back of the stage on Saturday night for the purpose of making a presentation to Mr George Walters, who has held the position of theatre caretaker for the past 10 years. Mr A. Mar.
ODT 22 November 1926.

... and became licensee of the Portobello Hotel. From there he would sing at concerts, show flowers, vegetables and dogs at A&P shows, would become vice-commodore of the Yacht Club and would found and be elected the only life member of the Portobello Bowling Club.

He moved to the Winton hotel in 1937, became president of the Winton Bowling Club and retired in 1944. He died in 1952.

Which brings me to William George Walters's uncle, George Robert Walters 1855–1920, my great grandfather, married in 1884 to Alice Rebecca O'Neil (born in Dublin in 1864), still living at Mornington in 1887, probably farming, though he seems to have been rather careless with stock,

LOST, Young Black Pig. Finder rewarded by returning to Mr George Walters, Maryhill, Mornington.

Evening Star 23 April 1887.

LOST, from Mornington, Dark bay Horse; no visible brand. Please return George Walters, Maryhill, Mornington.

Evening Star 22 December 1891.

They would have seven children, Alice Maude Mary b.1886, George William 1887 (died 1893), Amy Violetta 1896, Stuart Andrew 1906 (my grandfather), Charlotte Jane, Nicholas Hugh and May Malvina.



My great grandmother Alice Rebecca (O'Neil) Walters.



Alice Rebecca Walters in later life.

George Robert Walters was fined 10s for “driving a vehicle faster than at walking pace whilst crossing the intersection of Princes and Rattray street” in April 1900. He was fined 5s for leaving a vehicle unattended in Mornington in 1912.

Amy Violetta married James Archibald Tasman Steel in 1916; they had two children, George and Violetta Edith; George and Irene Steel owned an orchard in Earnsclough where we would visit when I was young; their children were Roger, Denise, Jeffrey, George junior and Jeanette. I have happy memories of helping in the packing shed.



My mother's aunt, Amy Steel.

In 1907 Charlotte Jane married George Richard Orr of Kurow. She and May Malvina would later move to Australia where May was also a Mrs Orr.

It is difficult to be clear about George Robert Walters's occupation: probably at least at first farming at Mornington, then this in August 1911,

WANTED Known—Mr G. Walters has taken over Mr Yeates's business on account of ill-health. Carpet Beating and Chimney Sweeping; all orders promptly attended to; terms moderate. H. Yeates, Buchanan street, Mornington.

WANTED KNOWN—Carpet Beating and Chimney Sweeping or Cleaning done; all orders promptly attended to.—Mr G. Walters, No. 12 Argyle street, Mornington. 16s

He died at age 65 in 1920,

WALTERS.—On August 28 (after a long, painful illness), at his residence, 12 Wills street, Mornington, George Robert, beloved husband of Alice Walters; aged 65 years. "At rest." Private interment.—Hope and Kinaston, undertakers.

Alice died in 1927,

WALTERS.—On February 5th, 1927, at Dunedin, Alice Rebecca, relict of George Robert Walters, late of 12 Wills street, Mornington. Private interment. — Hugh Gourley, Ltd., undertakers.

George and Alice Walters are buried together in Anderson's Bay cemetery block 57 plot 7.



Their third child, born 1906, was Stuart Andrew, my grandfather, known as Steve.



Stuart Andrew ("Steve") Walters.



An older sister, possibly Charlotte, with Steve Walters.

Like his uncle George, Steve was mad keen on motorbikes and anything mechanical. He was also an accomplished accordion player.

He was a cook and in 1929 he would marry Eleanor Pearl Stokes, aged 18, in Cromwell.



Eleanor Pearl Stokes on a Wolf Vixen motorcycle, Central Otago, about 1930, probably Steve Walters's machine.

She was the second child and only daughter of my great grandparents Joseph Stokes and Agnes Cameron (McMurray) Stokes.


I have made notes on the Stokes family in *My great grandfather Joseph Stokes*: let me digress now and write some notes on the McMurrays.

My great grandmother was Agnes Cameron McMurray 1875–1927. Her parents came to New Zealand in 1875. Had they read this advertisement, widely published?

FREE EMIGRATION TO OTAGO, NEW ZEALAND, AND FREE GRANTS OF LAND

SHIP TO SAIL IN THE END OF APRIL

FREE PASSAGES

 **ARE granted by the Provincial Government of Otago to Married and Single AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS, NAVVIES, PLOUGHMEN, SHEPHERDS, TRADESMEN, and SINGLE FEMALE DOMESTIC SERVANTS.**

To SMALL FARMERS and CAPITALISTS, this flourishing Province affords special inducements.

The splendid New Iron Clyde-built Clipper Ship "ALDERGROVE," 1260 Tons Register, highest class at Lloyds, will sail from Glasgow for Otago direct in the end of April.

A duly qualified Surgeon will accompany the Ship.

Approved Emigrants paying their own Passage Money are each entitled to a Free Grant of Land of the value of £20.

Parties desirous of obtaining Free and Assisted Passages, and others intending to pay their own Passage Money, will receive full information on applying to
GEO. ANDREW, Secretary.

**Otago Home Agency,
3 Hope Street, Edinburgh.**

Newry Telegraph 27 March 1875.

Alexander McMurray was born on 14 October 1843, the son of Margaret and John McMurray and baptised at Barony, Lanark twelve days later. In 1851 he was a 7 year old scholar at home with his parents; in 1861 he was a 17 year old apprentice brass moulder, living with his parents at 46 Water St Glasgow.

Mary Ann Wilkie was born in July 1846 at Ardrossan, Ayshire, the daughter of Daniel Wilkie and Ann Hamilton.

They married on 22 May 1866 at Central District, Glasgow and in 1871 were living at 8 Ronald St Glasgow Barony.

On 30 April 1875 Alex (30) and Mary (28) McMurray sailed from Greenock as assisted emigrants in the ship *Aldergrove* with their three children Ann (b.1868), Margaret (1872) and Jane (1874). He said he was a brassmoulder from Lanark.



The ship *Aldergrove* at the wharf at Port Chalmers. Photograph taken in 1875 by David Alexander De Maus. ATL 1/2-012016-G.

The *Aldergrove* was an iron three masted sailing ship of 1331 tons, built on the Clyde, launched on 26 March 1875, chartered by Messrs Patrick Henderson & Co., Glasgow to take emigrants to New Zealand. This, her maiden voyage, would be her only visit to New Zealand. Captain James Fullarton, Surgeon-superintendent Andrew Pyper.

In early July news reached Dunedin that she was on her way,

Advices have been received by the Immigration Department, Dunedin, of the departure of the Aldergrove from the Clyde with 371 souls, equal to 309 statute adults, on the 30th April. Her passengers, who are spoken of as a most desirable class of immigrants, consisting mainly of farm servants, domestics, and such like, are forwarded by the Otago Home Agency, through the Provincial Agent, Mr Adam (*Clutha Leader* 1 July 1875).

She arrived at Port Chalmers on 25 July 1875. There had been six births but it had been a heart breaking voyage, with eighteen infants dead from diarrhoea and one from tuberculous meningitis. The three McMurray children survived. One man had died from an abdominal tumour: Dr Pyper had prognosticated, rather indelicately, that he “was dead when he came on board.” All the children had had measles but none had died of it (contrary to what is stated in <https://teara.govt.nz/en/document/4227/a-shipboard-measles-epidemic>) and the ship was immediately put in quarantine.

The *Otago Daily Times* noted, as she came in,

Her passengers lined the bulwarks, and, in the majority of instances appeared to be a stalwart lot, but would certainly lose nothing by a few days’ intimate association with soap and water.... (26 July 1875).

Dr John Brown of the Board of Health recommended they be landed at the quarantine station and be “cleansed and purified”. A twentieth infant died on shore.

Dr William Thomson sent a telegram to the Colonial Secretary,

75/2221

NEW ZEALAND TELEGRAPH. No. 314

fro
 #14 for
 #17
 8 45 am
 26
 The col legy
 15.11.1875

Ship *Albion* arrived yesterday from
 Glasgow master on board 20
 deaths during voyage from chronic
~~dysentery~~ all children under 2
 years except 1 adult ship
 in quarantine -

Dr Thomson
 Health off
 9

D.D.

London
 Waterloo Road and
 Princes Street
 Wellington Street N.Z.

Dr Thomson to Colonial Secretary: Archives NZ R26250252.

Serious complaints against the doctor (of the ship, Surgeon-superintendent Dr Pyper) have been preferred by the passengers (*Auckland Star* 27 July 1875).

In fact a written complaint was made and an investigation was held before Mr Allan, Immigration Agent, and Captain William Thomson, Health Officer, on 2 August. They duly reported and on 9 August the Immigration Commissioners, Drs Drysdale and Thomson and Mr Allan, wrote to His Honor the Deputy

Superintendent of Otago, outlining the complaints against Dr Pyper: that he did not issue the children's stores in the first fourteen days of the voyage, that he was intoxicated, he was irregular and neglectful in attending on the sick, he lacked discipline and control over the single women, that one of the single women (E. Kerr Gullan, 26, a domestic servant) spent a considerable portion of her time in his cabin and that other single women visited the cabin. The Commissioners seemed to accept the good doctor's explanations for these matters, noting he was unwell and that Ms Gullan was acting as his nurse. In fact he had undertaken the voyage in the hope that his health would improve, poor fellow. They nonetheless recommended that he should not receive his gratuity of £50 and made the point that "the choice of a healthy person as Surgeon is almost as important as the selection of healthy immigrants".

The Agent-General, Dr Featherston advised the Minister that, rather than leaving it to others, in future he himself would select surgeon-superintendents for immigrant ships.

Dr Andrew Pyper sat his examinations for Licentiate of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons, Edinburgh in November 1874 but passed only the first professional examination in surgery. He was entered as a medical practitioner on the UK Medical Register on 18 February 1875—two months before the *Aldergrove* sailed. He must have been well out of his depth dealing with a dying man and a double epidemic on board! He was on the Register in 1879 (Scotland St, Edinburgh) but not thereafter—no reason given.

The *Aldergrove's* single men were allowed ashore on 31 July,

The male immigrants from Aldergrove got drunk in town on Saturday and created a terrific disturbance at the Barracks. Smashed windows, broke up forms and chairs to use as bludgeons, and indulged in a regular faction fight. The police arrived just in time to prevent a fatal

affray. Six arrests were made. Five men are in the hospital (*Auckland Star* 2 August 1875).

The married couples and families were finally allowed out of quarantine on 2 August and taken to Dunedin on the train. By 6 August nearly all had found employment. The *Aldergrove* sailed for Newcastle on 7 September to load coal for Guam.

Alexander McMurray was a brass moulder, a city job: a brass moulder worked in a foundry or large engineering company (railway workshop for example) making moulds into which the molten metal was poured. It was regarded as highly skilled work. They stayed in Dunedin and he probably worked at the government railway workshops at Hillside, founded in the mid 1870s.

Mary McMurray was pregnant when she landed and Agnes was born in Dunedin on 6 December 1875. John (1878), Ellen (1881), Alexander (1883) and Charles (1885) followed.

The 1878 City Directory finds Alexander McMurray brassfounder living on the left side of St Andrew St between Castle and Leith Sts. The 1882 Electoral Roll has Alexander McMurray brass-founder at Marion St Caversham. The 1886 City Directory has Alex McMurray, brass moulder at Rankeilor St South Dunedin. In 1887, Gordon St Caversham. The 1890 and 1893 Electoral Rolls have Alexander McMurray brass caster at Caledonian St, South Kensington, Dunedin.

Women were included on the Electoral Rolls from 1893 in New Zealand. The 1894 Roll curiously has Alexander at Caledonian St and Mary Ann at Rankeilor St. The 1897 Electoral Roll has Alexander, brass caster, Mary Ann, domestic duties and Jane Keller McMurray, boot machinist, all at Rankeilor Street in South Dunedin. Alex and Mary Ann were still there in 1900–1902. It was close to Hillside road where he worked.

Alexander McMurray died on 15 January 1902. He is buried in the Southern cemetery, plot 5, block 143E.

In 1905 and 1908 Mary Ann McMurray, a widow, is listed with her son Alexander McMurray aged 22, in 1905, at Waverley Street, South Dunedin. My great great grandmother Mary Ann Wilkie McMurray died at McBride St Dunedin on 11 October 1919 at age 73 and is buried in the Southern cemetery with her husband and son: plot 5, block 143E.



Their eldest daughter Ann (b.1868) married William Connor. Margaret Liddell (b.1872) married Alexander Mackie. Jane Keller (b.1874) was with her parents at age 23 in Rankeilor St, occupation boot machinist. She married James Murdoch Leslie in 1897. She died in 1960.

My great grandmother Agnes Cameron McMurray (machinist, 25) and Joseph Stokes (fireman, 22) were married in 1900 in her parents' home in Rankeilor St, South Dunedin. In 1904 their son Leonard (Len) Wilkie Brown Stokes was born in Phillips St, Caversham, Dunedin (Joe gave his occupation as fireman).



Agnes Cameron (McMurray) Stokes.

In 1910 their daughter, my grandmother Eleanor Pearl Stokes was born and named for Joe's youngest sister—but she was known as Pearl and I was named after her.

John McMurray (b.1878) married Euphemia Gray in 1902; he died in 1920 at 42. Ellen Wilkinson (b.1881) died 1945, unmarried. Alexander (b.1883) married Isabella Gray in 1907 but died in 1908 at 25. He is buried in the Southern cemetery with his father: plot 5, block 143E. Last address: 19 George St, NEV, Dunedin, occupation: cutter.

Charles Wilkie McMurray (b.1885) married Alice Smith. They lived at 2a Arney St South Dunedin and he worked at the railway workshops. My mother knew Alice well and we would visit them when I was very young. Alice, known to me as Auntie Alice, was a kind and motherly woman. She sometimes looked after me when my mother went to work. She made the best porridge. She and Uncle Charlie lived in a small semidetached house. It had a coal range, which I recall Auntie Alice keeping well stoked in the Dunedin winter. I never knew Charlie, he died in 1950, before I was born but my mother spoke fondly of him. Auntie Alice died at 97 in the Scared Heart Rest Home in Dunedin in 1893.

But I digressed. Now I return to my maternal grandparents.

Steve Walters and Pearl (Stokes) Walters's first child, a daughter (my mother Alice Lorraine McMurray Walters), was born in the Victorian villa behind the two *Wellingtonia* trees in the old part of Cromwell.

It was soon the Great Depression and they travelled to events and camps in Otago, wherever he could find work, usually as a cook.



My mother Lorraine was born here.



Pearl and my mother up a creek in Central Otago, with suitcase, c.1929.



Pearl and Lorraine later, at a camp in Central Otago, mid1930s.



Steve, Pearl and Lorraine in Princes St Dunedin.



Lorraine.

Pearl and Stuart Walters had two more children, Stuart (aka “Bill”) born in Alexandra in 1935 and Kenneth (Ken) born in Dunedin in 1943.

Pearl (Stokes) Walters was a bright, capable, musical, greatly admired woman and her husband Steve a talented musician. Their older children were, like their parents, entertainers—Lorraine would become a recorded singer, actor, later a champion of children’s theatre, Bill Walters an accomplished musician, a piano accordion player much in demand in his youth and adult life. Their proud mother kept scrapbooks of newspaper reports and letters about their performances.

They lived for some time in Dunedin (456 Cargill Road, Dunedin South in the 1938 Electoral Roll), later at Waverley.

In 1939, at St Philomena’s College, Lorraine passed her “First steps” Trinity College music examinations “with merit” and at the end of the year came third in Standard IV “Christian doctrine” at school. She passed her Trinity College elocution examination in 1941 and competed in the Dunedin Competitions in the final of “Recitation, Girls 12 years and under 16 years. Own selection. Not humorous.”

She won a Trinity College elocution prize in November for “The Elfin Artist” and was awarded Honours for top mark.

Stuart Walters (either Steve or Bill) performed piano-accordion solos at a patriotic concert in the St Kilda Coronation Hall in May and a WWSA concert in July 1942. In August it was certainly Bill: “Piano-accordion solo, Master Stuart Walters (aged seven) at the Mayfair Theatre in August 1942.

Lorraine sang and Bill (still a “seven year old” though he was nine) played for a Liberty Concert in the Concert Chamber in July 1943. Bill was by now becoming famous as the “juvenile wonder on the piano accordion (you cannot afford to miss this treat)” while Lorraine received a “very highly commended” for

her recitation at the Competitions and second places for her prepared speech and for "reading at sight".

SOUTH DUNEDIN SING

The final South Dunedin sing so far as the All Purposes Patriotic Appeal is concerned will be held in the Mayfair Theatre on Wednesday, when a feature of the programme will be the appearance of Master Stuart Walters, who is claimed to be one of the youngest piano-accordion players in the Dominion, being only seven years of age. Several other performers will also assist, and the leaders will be Messrs R. McKenzie and Ray Marshall, with Miss Myrie Hunt as pianist. Contributions of money or produce will be appreciated.

Star 15 August 1942.



Bill, the "juvenile wonder", with piano accordion.

My mother attended Otago Girls' High School in 1943 and 1944 after primary schooling at St Philomena's College. In the 1944 Competitions she won the prestigious elocution Scholarship for Girls. In Pearl's scrapbook is a Floriana Art Florist, Dunedin, card, addressed simply to "Miss L. Walters, 'Prepared Speech', H.M. Theatre"; a note reads, "Congratulations Lorraine from Mum, Dad & Billy".

Now they were appearing at the same concerts, Bill on the piano accordion and Lorraine reciting a humorous sketch,

VISITORS, CHILDREN, EVERYONE.
Here is another opportunity during the
School Holidays to spend that Happy
Hour at the
"WHANG" COMMUNITY SING
THIS WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 29,
Commencing Noon, at the
OCTAGON THEATRE
(By kind permission of the Management).
Leaders: "WHANG" MCKENZIE and
HAROLD DAVIDSON.
Look at the Added Attractions: South
Otago Girls' High School Choir and those
clever little artists, Stewart Walters, the
wizard with his piano-accordion (by
special request), Alan Dodd, the sturdy
little piper, and Miss Lorraine Walters,
humorous sketch.
Donations gratefully accepted. Phone
14-107.
E. BEVERIDGE, Hon. Secretary.

ODT 25 August 1945.

In 1946, not yet 17 years old, my mother advertised her speaking skills in Alexandra and Clyde. Whether she was there

with her parents, or venturing out alone I do not know—nor whether she was successful,

Miss Lorraine Walters

(Late of Dunedin)

Teacher of Elocution, Voice Production, Dramatic Art and Singing—
Will commence teaching in Alexandra.

Persons interested can interview Miss Walters at the Town Hall on Friday, 5th April, at 3 p.m.

Alexandra Herald and Central Otago Gazette 3 April 1946.

MISS LORRAINE WALTERS,
Teacher of Singing.
Voice Production & Elocution.

Dramatic Art a Specialty.

Intending pupils may interview Miss Walters at the Town Hall, Clyde, on Wednesday, May 22nd at 2p.m.

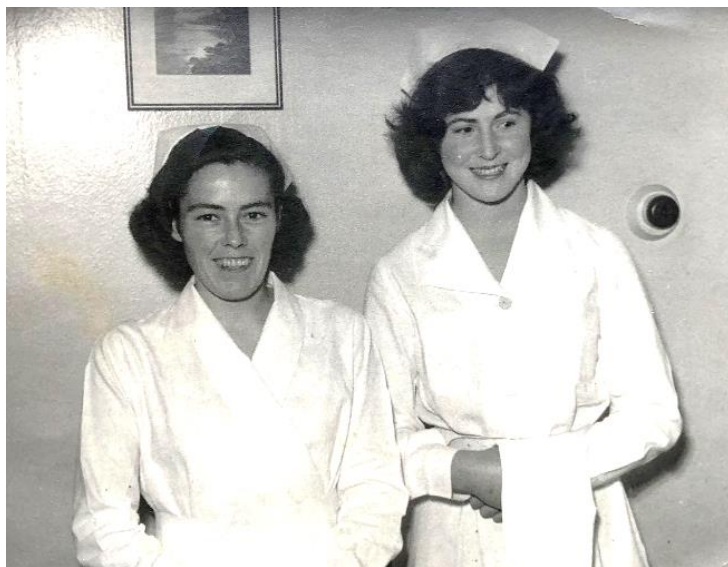
Dunstan Times 13 May 1946.

On 3 September 1946 Miss Lorraine Walters (Alexandra) was very highly commended for “Recitation (ladies or gentlemen, own selection)” at the Competitions in Dunedin. She took a part in the one-act play *The Sisters' Tragedy* by Richard Hughes at the monthly play social of the Dunedin Repertory Society.

In 1949 my mother was 20, still with her parents and their address was “State Forest Service, Hanmer Springs” (Electoral Roll). She always spoke of her time in Hanmer with fond nostalgia: clearly it was an important coming of age phase of her life.

Later the same year they were back at 5 Athol Place Timaru. In June 1950 Stuart was among members of the Timaru Scottish Society that played to “an appreciative audience” at the North Otago Scottish Society in Oamaru. Pearl was running a milk bar and Lorraine may have given her some help.

It was, she would tell me, a time of great fun and excitement with her good friend Phyllis (Leary) Simcic, whom she met at the ice skating rink in 1952, and with other young men and women. Phyllis was working at the Crown hotel. Lorraine was, she said, “My first best friend”.

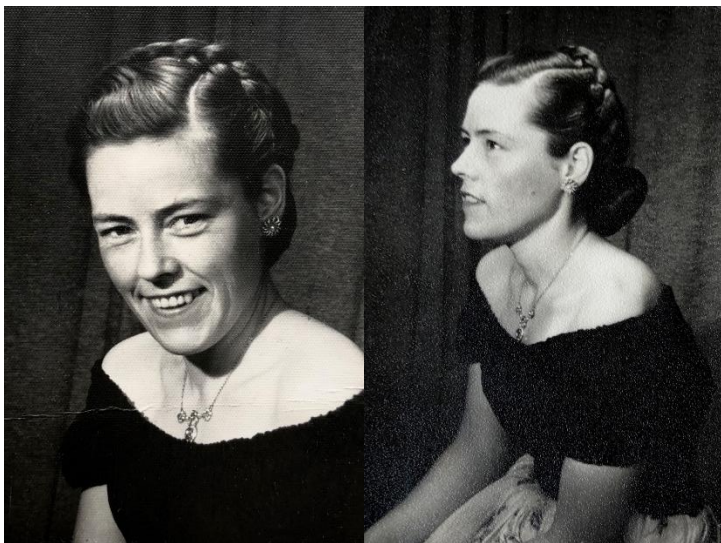


With Phyllis, Wellington 1952.

Lorraine was working for a Timaru photographer (Brehaut) and the images from this period rarely include her—she was the one taking the photographs; these appear to be studio portraits.

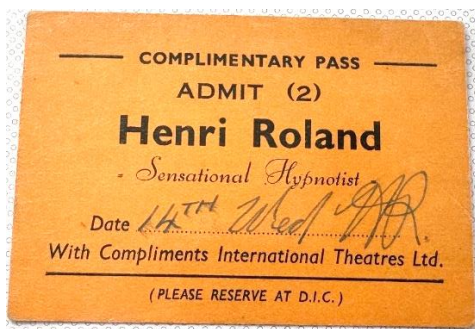


Lorraine on the ice at Timaru.



Lorraine and Phyllis went to see the stage hypnotist Henri Roland when he visited Timaru,

The members of the audience were wary about going on stage, but Lorraine and Phyllis were in their element, and their participation was so successful that they were given free tickets every night and left Timaru with him on tour to Ashburton—unpaid, but with free hotel accommodation.



Two free tickets for the hypnotist, 14 May 1952.

Henri Roland was the stage name of Jack Doyle, an Auckland entertainer and entrepreneur who married Barbara Smith in about 1952. Years later, Barbara Doyle, herself a successful entrepreneur, recalled that "Jack was not only a brilliant hypnotist he was also a brilliant promotions man. I wish I had listened more to his ideas."

**AGAIN
HOUSE FULL
HOUSE FULL**

At the Theatre Royal on his Final Night
in Christchurch . . . the Master Mind is
returning to present another two perform-
ances prior to leaving for overseas.

— CIVIC THEATRE —

BY PUBLIC DEMAND!

Overseas Theatres Proudly Announce
TWO GRAND
FAREWELL PERFORMANCES

**MONDAY NEXT AT 8 P.M.
TUESDAY NEXT AT 8 P.M.**

**HENRI ROLAND, O.I.A.
HENRI ROLAND, O.I.A.
HENRI ROLAND, O.I.A.
HENRI ROLAND, O.I.A.
HENRI ROLAND, O.I.A.
HENRI ROLAND, O.I.A.**

"The Modern Svengali"

**International Hypnotist
International Hypnotist
International Hypnotist
International Hypnotist**

Prices: Stalls and Circle, 6/-, 4/-, plus
tax. 300 Seats at 2/6 sold at Doors Nightly.

**BOX PLANS OPEN AT D.I.C.
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 28.**

Press 26 February 1952: "O.I.A."? clearly not Official Information Act, so perhaps the Organisation of Independent Artists. He didn't leave for overseas but moved in with Barbara Smith in Auckland.



Lorraine and Phyllis, Timaru 1952.

Over the next three years Lorraine was briefly in Wellington (she and Phyllis worked at the Grand Hotel at the end of 1952) and Auckland, where she stayed in Ponsonby and performed at the Civic Theatre: she made a 78 rpm 10 inch record of the song *The loveliest night of the year*.

Henri Roland had introduced her to the Civic Theatre where the star attraction was Mavis Rivers and they sang on the same card. When Lorraine proved popular with the audiences the accompanying pianist, who just happened to be Mavis's boyfriend, would play off key to spoil her performance.

In 1953 she went back to Timaru.

In January 1954, living with Pearl and Steve back at 5 Athol Place, she was on the staff of the Grosvenor Hotel during the Royal visit of Queen Elizabeth and Philip Duke of Edinburgh.

Always the Royalist, she collected photographs, menus, letters and cards from that momentous occasion and recalled the memories of it years later.

Towards the end of 1954 she went to Balclutha, why, I do not know, perhaps for work.

She and Phyllis, who was in Dunedin, got together again and went to Coronet Peak skiing, where ("We were a couple of show-offs," Phyllis told me) they pretended to be Austrian. Lorraine could ski a little but Phyllis couldn't and that, Phyllis told me, rather gave the game away.



January 1954: waiting for the Queen. Lorraine in front at right.



At Coronet Peak with Phyllis, 1954.

It was in Balclutha she met my father Murray Walton McDonald. He had been divorced in 1945 and was in the following years regarded as a handsome man, but shy and sad.

My mother was working in the Balclutha tea rooms and Murray would come in each night after work for his dinner. All the girls wanted to flirt with him and her friends bet her she could not get him to take her out. In the end she wore him down and they went out together—but he could not bring himself to make another commitment after the failure of his marriage. She was having none of that nonsense and gave him an ultimatum: commit or I go away.

He was slow to respond and indeed she departed for Timaru.

Some time later Murray did come to Timaru looking for her. They married on 28 July 1955 at the St Virgilius church in Balclutha.

In 1957 their address was the Madeira hotel Akaroa and I think they probably went there immediately after their marriage. She was short but she was strong willed and determined, well able to stand her ground with the fishermen and seamen who frequented Akaroa's pubs before it became a fashionable tourist destination.

My mother told me of an occasion when the Police wanted to enter the hotel, suspecting after hours trading, and she stood in the doorway with her very large Pyrenean mountain dog *Beau*, blocking the entrance; surprisingly she was successful and the Police eventually went away.

In 1958 her mother Pearl died suddenly and they moved back to Timaru to care for 15 year old Ken. I was born in Timaru later the same year and looked up to Ken as my older brother, too young to be my uncle.



Bill and Steve—Stuart and Stuart.



About 1952, Ken on Steve's bike, perhaps a c.1946 BSA B31, 350cc.
The car being cleaned—a can of polish on the bonnet and its doors open—
looks like an early 1950s Humber 80?



The Madeira Hotel, Akaroa, about 1910.
John Jackson held the licence 1910–1913.



The Madeira Hotel now.



Beau and Lorraine.



Beau and me.



Lorraine and me.

In 1960 Murray was working as a factory manager and they were living at 17 Newman St Timaru, moving back to Dunedin soon afterwards.

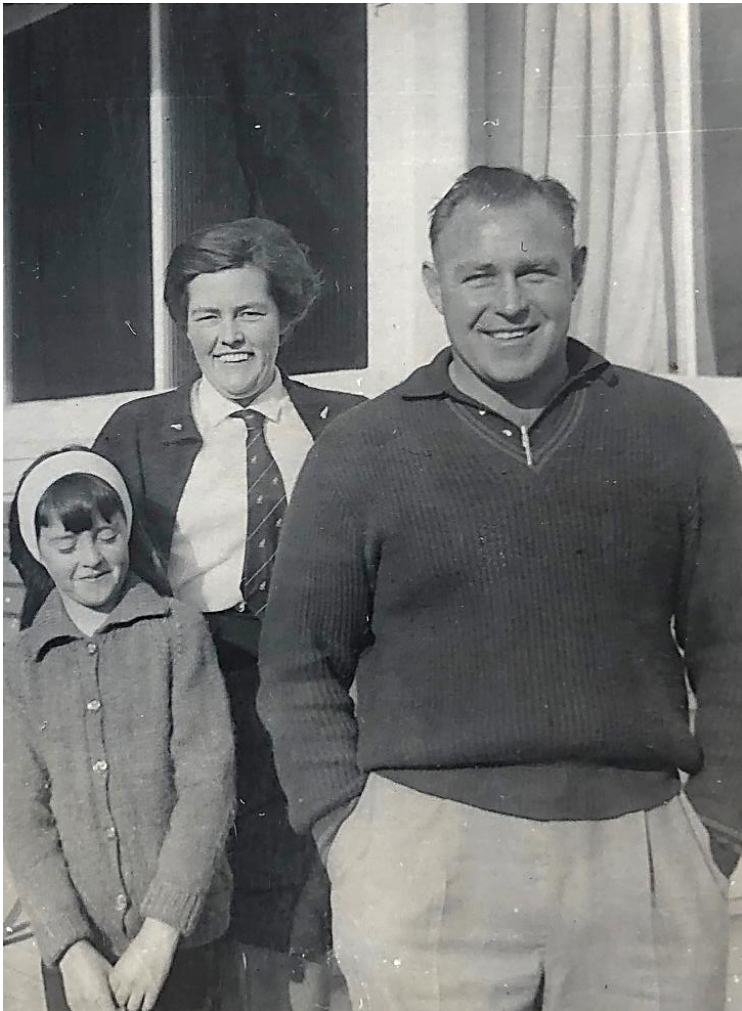
For years Lorraine had in her possession a rugby boot and an All Black tie that Don Clarke had given her when she was managing the catering staff at Wains Hotel in Dunedin. I think it must have been the 1962 Australia test: NZ won 3-0 (a Don Clarke penalty goal) in the first televised test in New Zealand. It has been described as an error ridden match. The boot disappeared but I still have the tie.

By 1966 we were at 20 Lynn St Dunedin North and she was catering manager at the Balmacewan Golf Club when, in an exhibition game, the great Arnold Palmer drove his ball 370 metres to the heart of the green of the daunting par 4 Glen.

Later she was catering manager at Dunedin public hospital and my father was managing the laundry at Seacliff hospital. I was at St Dominic's College.

In 1972 my paternal grandmother Daisy was fading and we moved to her house at 17 Old Brighton Rd. After she died I went to university in Dunedin and my parents moved to Te Anau where my mother managed the dining room at Fiordland Motor Lodge and my father opened a laundry business.





Mum with Arnold Palmer and me, Dunedin 1966.

I lived at Dominican Hall, a Catholic young women's hostel in Dunedin, for a year, before going flatting.

After I graduated in 1981 I spent six months in the USA before working in a Christchurch law firm; my parents moved to 279 Ilam Rd Christchurch where my mother was Matron at Laura Ferguson home and my father worked as a professional gardener.

During those years my mother introduced important innovations in the institutional care of disabled people and considerably improved the lives of many of her charges.

She also saved the life of a steer!

He was Herbie—a record breaker—the heaviest bullock ever sold at a Canterbury saleyard—a gentle giant—and he was destined for sausage meat. He immediately appealed to my mother's love of animals and she hurriedly began what was essentially a crowdfunding campaign to save his life. It attracted attention, became a *cause célèbre* and in rapid time the money was raised. An animal farm offered him a permanent home and he lived happily ever after.



Herbie and Lorraine.

I still have the typed romantic children's story she wrote about him. A local cartoonist illustrated it for her.



I moved to Wellington and they to Carterton in about 1990, as Mum took the position of Matron of the Carterton Home of Compassion, a home for special needs children.

My father developed Alzheimers and deteriorated quickly which necessitated my mother retiring from her position at the Home to look after him. They moved to 37 Michael St Masterton, their last home. My father died in 1994 and without the distractions of work, retirement at last gave her the time to reinvigorate her creative energy. In her last 25 years she threw herself whole heartedly into theatre and painting and the company of friends. She was an extrovert.



On stage, in an early role.



Some later roles.



With All Blacks Jonah Lomu and Royce Willis, Masterton, about 2000.



With Prime Minister Helen Clark, Wairarapa Youth Festival, 2002.

In 2008 she was awarded the QSM for services to the arts, youth and community in the Wairarapa.



Lorraine receives her QSM from Sir Anand Satyanand.

Locals nonoured

QSM for theatre stalwart

By NATHAN CROMBIE
nc@pdp.co.nz

Laurels from the throne eclipse even the brilliance of an Oscar, says Masterton theatre stalwart and 2008 New Year Honours recipient Lorraine McDonald.

Mrs McDonald, awarded a Queen's Service Medal for services to the arts, youth and community in Wairarapa, has toiled for more than a decade as a volunteer and leader in the field.

"It's so very exciting to be named. It makes the hair stand up on the back of your neck - even better than an Oscar - but like anything, it's not a solo effort; for me there have been very talented production teams and strong committees," Mrs McDonald said.

There must be hundreds of thousands of volunteers throughout the country who are never recognised and I'm very obliged to be one of the few seen for recognition."

McDonald started in theatre school, studying speech drama at Otago Girls High School, she said, although she

she said, and in that time has enjoyed continuing success with

Garden.

"It's very rewarding to have a

Wairarapa Youth Festival in 2007 which involved more than 1500 wairarapa and secondary school

The *Wairarapa Times-Age* interviewed her and traced her stage experience,

Laurels from the throne eclipse even the brilliance of an Oscar, says Masterton theatre stalwart and 2008 New Year Honours recipient Lorraine McDonald. (She was a devoted Royalist!).

Mrs McDonald, awarded a Queen's Service Medal for services to the arts, youth and community in Wairarapa, has toiled for more than a decade as a volunteer and leader in the field.

"It's so very exciting to be named. It makes the hair stand up on the back of your neck even better than an Oscar but like anything, it's not a solo effort; for me there have been very talented production teams and strong committees," Mrs McDonald said.

"There must be hundreds and thousands of volunteers throughout the country who are never recognised and I'm very humbled to be one of the few chosen for recognition." Mrs McDonald started in theatre as a schoolgirl, studying speech and drama at Otago Girls High School, she said, although she "gave drama away" while she raised a family with late husband Murray McDonald.

For 15 years Mrs McDonald, a qualified speech teacher, worked as matron of the Laura Fergusson Trust Home for disabled youth in Christchurch before shifting to Wairarapa to take up a position for three years during its closure as manager of the Home of Compassion in Carterton....

Mrs McDonald stepped back into the footlights after the death of her husband about 15 years ago, she said, and in that time has enjoyed continuing success with Masterton Amateur Theatre and Harlequin Theatre productions as an actor, director and administrator.

She also established the Harlequin Junior Theatre for children aged from 5 to 16 years old and counts her work with younger thespians as one of her greatest joys.

She has twice directed plays that were finalists in the New Zealand Drama Federation regional finals and two young actors Thomas Hoskins and Alexandra Birchfield, then 10 and 12 won best actor and actress awards for their parts in her favourite Wairarapa production to date, *The Secret Garden*.

“It’s very rewarding to have a successful play but Thomas and Alexandra beat out all the adults that year and that was so very, very special for us all.

“Both have gone on to bigger and better things and that’s also a great privilege to witness the continuing successes of actors you worked with when they were starting out.”

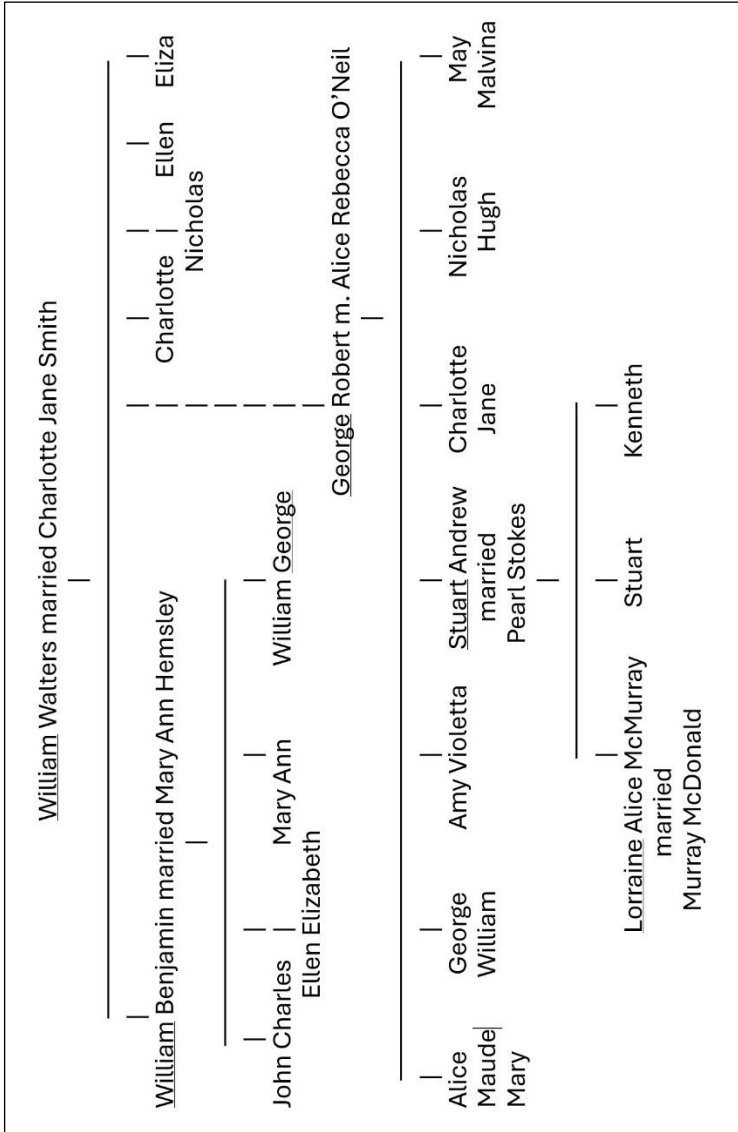
Mrs McDonald has also served as president of the Harlequin Theatre committee and has also taught drama at several primary schools in the region.

She is also involved with the Masterton Art Club and Probus and was chairwoman of the Wairarapa Youth Festival in 2002, which involved more than 1500 primary and secondary school pupils and she was also on the 2006 Summer MASH organising committee in Masterton.

Mrs McDonald is looking forward to productions next year that will include an adaptation next Christmas of *Are You Being Served?* and during the year the play *Olivia* with the Harlequin Junior Theatre.

“I’m probably just a bossy person and I have to admit I like conducting the orchestra if you like, but there must be a team and I like to think I am a team player above all, because it’s the team that makes things happen.”

My mother Lorraine McDonald QSM—extrovert, animal lover, actor, painter, teacher, leader, organiser—died in 2016.



Parts of a Walters family tree.



Lorraine and Murray with Beau, mid1950s.



Lorraine with Beau.



With Murphy, about 2015.

