

Notes on the Children of William Hay

born to Marion Shaw and ? Young:

Duncan, 1828 or 1829, probably Glasgow; p.1

born to Marion Shaw and William Hay:

Jane, 8 May 1834, Greenock; p.6
 William, 19 Aug 1836, Greenock; p.7
 Joseph, 27 June 1838, Greenock; p.10
 Thomas, 26 Dec 1840, Greenock; p.12
 James, 2 Aug 1843, Greenock. p.12

born to Euphemia Shaw and William Hay:

*David, 2 Aug 1845, Greenock. See separate essay

*Great-grandfather of Daphne, Laurence, Glenys and Lynette Hay

Duncan Hay or Young

Duncan Young, the nephew (and step-son) of Euphemia Shaw, William Hay's second wife, is not closely related to the Hays by blood, but he lived with the Hay family in Greenock from the age of 4 or 5, was the first of the family to emigrate to NZ, and is interestingly newsworthy in his own right.

Birth and parentage

Duncan's mother was Mary (aka Marion) Shaw, daughter of Duncan Shaw and Margaret Galbreath, born 15 June 1804 in Tighnabeine on the island of Bute in Scotland. Nothing is known of Duncan Young's father except his surname, and that he had died or otherwise disappeared by 1833, by which time Marion must have been married to William Hay, though no record has been found of this marriage – or, indeed, of Marion's first marriage.

In the UK census taken on 6 June 1841, Duncan Hay (as he was then known) is stated as being 12 years old; if so, he must have been born in 1828 or '29, though I have been unable to discover any contemporary record of his birth or christening. The register entry for his marriage in 1855 gives his age as 23 and states that he was 'born and registered on 12 May 1832 at Glasgow'. However, it is likely that, just as his bride claimed to be 18, though actually 19, Duncan wished on this occasion to appear somewhat younger than he really was. This presumption is borne out by the fact that the register entry for his death (2 Aug 1878) gives his age as 50, thereby making 1828, not 1832, the year of his birth, reinforcing the evidence of the census record.

It is also interesting to note that the fields for his father's name and occupation have been left blank in Duncan's death entry. This is especially peculiar as Duncan's wife, step-father (William Hay) and mother's sister (Euphemia) were all living in Oamaru at the time and must have known the details of Duncan's birth and parentage. Could there have been something to hide? Or was it simply that the coroner (the informant for the death register entry) just hadn't bothered to ask?

Marriage

Duncan Young was married in Rothesay, Bute, his young wife being his illiterate cousin Margaret, born 9 August 1835 in Kingarth, Bute, daughter of Duncan's mother's brother Donald (aka Daniel) Shaw and Ann McMurchie. At the time of his marriage (3 April 1855) Duncan was a seaman, still resident, when not at sea, in the Hay household, West Quay Lane, Greenock. After his marriage he continued to reside in Greenock (at 13 West Blackhall Street) where his first two children, Margaret and William, were born. Duncan used the surname Hay until his advent in New Zealand – apparently immigrants to Otago were not permitted to use aliases, so Duncan reverted at this time to his biological father's surname of Young.

Dunedin, Otago, New Zealand

On 17 August 1857 Duncan Young purchased a 10-acre block (Section 36) in Upper Harbour, East Side, Dunedin, Otago (though the crown grant for this purchase was not issued until 29 October 1862). Duncan again applied for land in Upper Harbour East in 1858 (20 acres) and in 1859 (50 acres) but does not seem to have been successful in these cases.

No record of Duncan's arrival in New Zealand has been found. It is likely that he came as a member of the crew of a ship and obtained his discharge (or deserted) when in port. His earliest land purchase indicates that he was in Dunedin certainly by August 1857, and his applications for further land purchases seem proof that he continued in residence in the area over the next two years. This poses a problem, however, as his wife in Greenock was delivered of a child, William, on 2 July 1858. The birth register entry claims 'Duncan Hay, Seaman' to be William's father, which would mean that Duncan must have been back in Greenock by, at the very latest, mid-October 1857.

From mid-August 1857, when Duncan paid for his 10 acres in Dunedin, to mid-October is about 60 days, but even as late as 1894 the fastest passage from southern New Zealand to England by a sailing ship was 72 days and the average was more like 90 days. So, either Duncan was not in New Zealand in 1857 or he wasn't the father of William! My preference is for the latter. Though sad, it was possibly fortuitous that William died before his father had a chance to see him, as Duncan may have been unaware of the boy's existence.

Other early evidence of Duncan's presence in the country all post-dates 1857; for example, a 'List of Persons Qualified to Serve as Jurors for the Province of Otago', published in the *Otago Witness* of 5 February 1859, includes 'Duncan Young, Upper Harbour, labourer', and the register entry for his death (a notoriously unreliable record type) states that he had been in the country for 20 years, which would suggest an arrival in 1858. Certainly by January 1860 he was making his mark: the *Otago Witness* of 14 January of that year reports that a Duncan Young of Port Chalmers was fined 5 shillings, apparently for drunkenness.

It is certain, also, that his wife Margaret and his two children sailed from the Clyde on 19 November 1859 in the ship *Gala*, and that on 31 December of that year, while the ship was still at sea, William aged 18 months died. The *Gala* arrived in Port Chalmers on 23 February 1860. (It is interesting to note that in an 1869 list of immigrant debtors to the Otago Provincial Council 'Hay or Young, Margaret' is listed as still owing £32.) The arrival of his wife and surviving child does not seem to have had any sobering effect on Duncan, as on 10 September 1860 he was again fined 5

shillings, this time for 'creating a disturbance at the Immigrants' Barracks' in Princes Street, Dunedin.

It is not clear exactly how long the Young family remained in Dunedin, with Duncan attempting to make something of his 10 acres. Margaret Young's obituary, published in the *North Otago Times* of 17 November 1931, states that the family stayed on the Upper Harbour block for five years 'striving hard to farm the bush land', before moving to 'the Kakanui district' and finally to Oamaru, no earlier than 1866.

It may well be that the motive for moving from Dunedin was provided by Duncan Young's conviction on a charge of unlawful wounding at Waikouaiti, to which he pleaded guilty (giving his name as Duncan Shaw!) in the Supreme Court on 2 June (*Otago Witness*, 10 June 1865). The newspaper quotes the Crown Prosecutor as saying that Young 'seemed to have been a good deal ill-used by the prosecutor [*i.e. the victim*], and, in the consequent excitement, to have used a knife in the way complained of'. After the guilty plea was accepted, the case was adjourned as Duncan 'wished to call witnesses as to character'. Sentence was pronounced on 5 June: six months' imprisonment with hard labour! The character witnesses must not have been very convincing.

Duncan retained ownership of the Upper Harbour land until at least 1875 as he is listed on the electoral roll (Caversham electorate) for 1875-76 with his property qualification given as 'freehold, Upper Harbour East'. He must have made some profit out of the property as, on 10 April 1863 he was able to purchase two blocks in the newly-surveyed township of Hawkesbury (now Waikouaiti), East Otago, though it does not seem that he ever made use of them.

Oamaru, Otago

The first documentary evidence of the Young family's arrival at their final New Zealand destination is the register entry for Duncan and Margaret's sixth child, Ann, who is stated as having been born on 3 February 1867 in Oamaru. The Waitaki electoral roll for 1871-72 is the first to include the name of Duncan Young, giving his place of residence as Oamaru. The 1877 roll includes details of property qualifications, and for Duncan states his as 'leasehold; Section 11, Block 1, Oamaru Town'.

Duncan's heroism

In this town, Duncan found employment initially as a boatman with Captain Sewell's surfboat service, and it was while he was so employed that he experienced his moment of glory. On 3 February 1868 a vicious southerly gale drove a ship, the *Star of Tasmania*, aground off the Oamaru shore. At 623 tons, the *Star* is the largest ship ever to have been wrecked off Oamaru. The sea was very wild, 'breaking on the beach with a violence never equalled in the memory of the oldest inhabitant', and despite many attempts it had not proved possible to get a boat or even a line to the ship in order to rescue the 23 people aboard her. A report in the *Wellington Independent* of 11 February 1868 (copied from the *Oamaru Times*) continues:

Duncan Young, one of the men employed by the Landing Service Company, then ventured boldly into the water, with a line fastened round his waist, and succeeded in reaching the vessel's side, up which he clambered, amid the cheers of the bystanders. By this time the masts were over the side, and the vessel, as far forward as the forehatch, completely broken up. Darkness had now set in.... Cheers greeted the daring man who, at the risk of his own life,

had borne the means of salvation to the almost perished crew, which were redoubled as one after another made the perilous descent by the life-line from the vessel's side to the shore.... We cannot help...expressing our hope that the noble conduct of Duncan Young will meet with the recognition which is its just due at the hands of the Government and public.

Gavin McLean in his 1982 book *Oamaru Harbour: Port in a Storm* gives a fuller account of the rescue including this additional detail of the swashbuckling Duncan Young's return to shore: 'Disdaining use of the line, [Young] leaped over the *Star's* shattered bulwarks, jumped onto a portion of the mast wedged under the keel and plunged ashore to the elation of the crowd only seconds before a massive wave broke on the beach'.

Bankruptcy

However, financially things were not going well for Duncan: the *New Zealand Government Gazette* of 15 July 1872 has a supplement containing the annual report of the Accountant in Bankruptcy, which includes the name of Duncan Young, beachman, adjudicated bankrupt on 1 May 1871 with debts totalling £137 15s 6d and assets estimated to be worth a mere £20. Despite this, he was discharged from bankruptcy – debts unpaid – on 3 July of that same year.

It may have been awareness of his straitened circumstances – and his criminal record – that led the Oamaru constable to arrest Duncan on suspicion of theft, as reported in the *Otago Police Gazette* of 10 August 1875; however, fortunately for him Duncan was discharged without conviction.

Duncan's death

The next significant record relating to him is a report in the *Oamaru Mail* of 3 August 1878, which commences: 'Mr. Duncan Young, the night watchman at the Breakwater, has been missing since Thursday night.' In the short time that Duncan had held this post he had not, it would seem, gained the reputation of a conscientious employee – the report goes on to say: '...the fire in the steam crane was not alight..., and the lamp room was in a state of confusion. No particular attention however was paid to these circumstances, as it was thought that Young had gone home for some reason, and left things in the state mentioned'.

The mystery of Duncan's whereabouts was not solved until 24 September, more than seven weeks later, when a body identified as that of Duncan Young was found floating alongside the breakwater. It would appear that he had attempted to climb from the breakwater onto a ship early in the morning of 1 August 1878 and had fallen into the sea.

Some further clue as to the character of the man can be gleaned from two comments made in relation to his death, the first in the newspaper of 19 September, which concludes that Duncan Young 'is either drowned, *or has somewhat secretly left Oamaru*' [my italics]. The second comment was made by the coroner in the preamble to his report: 'That Young was drowned was only a presumption, and, when all the efforts made to recover the body had failed, *an opinion held by many from the first, namely that he had absconded*' [my italics], began to prevail'.

However, the *Oamaru Mail* in an editorial on 25 September speaks of 'the many who had appreciated [Duncan] for his good qualities', and in full oratorical mode encourages its readers not to want in charity towards the widow and children:

We would carry the minds of those of our readers who were here when the Star of Tasmania was driven ashore back to that event. On that occasion there was found a man who needed no goading, no pat on the back, or incentive of any kind to send him forward to the performance of his duty; a man who imperilled his own life in order to save the lives of others; a man who was worthy of the name. That man was DUNCAN YOUNG. He is beyond our reward now; but we could do something for those he has left behind. Let us pay such a tribute of appreciation to the memory of a man who, for his manliness, won the regard of all who knew him while he lived, and who died while in the execution of his duty.

Children

Duncan and Margaret Young had a family of 10 children (Margaret's obituary claims 11) of whom six survived into adulthood. The 10 were:

- **Margaret (Margaretta/Margueretta Hay)**, born 26 January 1856, Greenock, Renfrewshire, Scotland; married Alexander Clydesdale, 22 March 1876, Oamaru. Children (full birth dates are from *transcriptions of school records* – so doubly unreliable!):
 - Mathew Alexander, born 5 September 1876; death registered in 1951
 - Margueretta Maude, born 25 June 1878; death registered in 1891, buried in the Oamaru Cemetery.
 - Agnes Isabel, birth registered in 1880; death registered in 1884, buried in the Oamaru Cemetery.
 - Annie Florence, born 31 January 1882; married William Thomas Mason in 1904.
 - Rubina Marion, born 29 August 1883; married Robert Jenkins in 1908.
 - Gertrude Agnes Isabel, born 14 July 1885; married Charles Lockhart in 1911.
 - William Clements Shackell, born 26 March 1888; married Elizabeth Maria Pearson in 1909; death registered in 1918
 - Beatrice Georgina May, born 31 September 1889; married Cyril Charles Marsh in 1911.
 - Albert Daniel Duncan, 13 August 1894; killed in action in France, 25 May 1918, as a private in the Otago Regiment, Service No.9/1801; buried in the Euston Road Cemetery, Colincamps, France, Grave III. M. 10. Awarded Military Medal for bravery.
 - Herbert Ernest, born 28 November 1895; death registered in 1912.
- **William**, born 2 July 1858, Greenock; died 31 December 1859 on board ship 'Gala' en route to New Zealand.
- **Duncan**, born 17 December 1860, Upper Harbour, Dunedin, Otago, New Zealand; married Margaret Ramsay Holmes, 25 September 1888, Hilderthorpe, North Otago. Children: Jane Wilson (birth registered 1889), Duncan Shaw (1891), William (1895), Ellen Craig (1897), Samuel (1898, lived two hours), Samuel Robert (1900). The *Police Gazette* of 3 March 1890 records that Duncan Young, 29, Dunedin-born labourer, was sentenced to two months' probation and ordered to pay £6-17-7½ costs for 'larceny as a bailee'; died 25 December 1925, Rongotea, Rangitikei, New Zealand.
- **Daniel**, born 4 January 1863, Upper Harbour, Dunedin; married Elizabeth Carter, 1884, Wellington, New Zealand. Children: Marion Jane (birth

registered 1885). Daniel died 15 October 1954, Greymouth and Elizabeth in 1957; they are buried in the Karoro Cemetery, Greymouth.

- **Peter**, born 3 December 1864, Dunedin; married [?]; died 6 November 1936, Shannon, Rangitikei, New Zealand.
- **Ann**, born 3 February 1867, Oamaru; died 23 December 1868.
- **Mary Maud Bennett**, born 30 December 1868, Oamaru; married Andrew Ingram, 1888. Children: Andrew (birth registered 1888), Margaret Maude (1889, lived three months), Jane Adelaide (1891), Annie Shaw (1894), James Ernest Lumley (1896, died 1905), Vera Jessie Isabel (1898), Daniel Peter Stanley (1899). Maud died 1939, Auckland, New Zealand.
- **Marion Shaw**, born 3 January 1871, Oamaru; died 20 August 1884, Oamaru.
- **William**, birth registered 1875, Oamaru, Otago, New Zealand; died 28 December 1893, Oamaru.
- **Ann (Annie Shaw)**, born 29 January 1877, Oamaru; married Thomas Stacey Adams, 22 May 1902. Children: Mona Stacey (birth registered 1903), Annie Irene (1906), Mary Harriet (1908). Ann died 18 January 1959, Oamaru.

Margaret's death

Margaret Young née Shaw died at the age of 97 in November 1931 and is buried with her husband in the Oamaru cemetery, Block 2, Plot 5. An obituary was published in the *North Otago Times* of 17 November 1931.

Jane Cross née Hay

An OPR of St John's Episcopal Church in Greenock, Renfrew, Scotland, records that on 8 May 1834 a daughter, Jane, was born to William Hay, sailor, Greenock, and his wife Marion. Not until two and a half years later, however, on 13 November 1836, was Jane baptised (and the register entry made), along with her brother William. This OPR record is corroborated by the family's listing in the UK census of 6 June 1841, where Jane is recorded as 7 years old and as having been born in the county (Renfrewshire).

Jane does not appear in the family's listing in the 1851 census – she was probably in domestic service living in the household of her employer. Possibly she is the unmarried, 17-year-old, Scottish Jane Hay employed as a house servant by George Bell and his wife at 127 Clarence Street, St Giles, York – remembering that Jane's father was a Yorkshireman.

Jane married George Cross, seaman, on 13 March 1855, when she was 20 and he 22 (baptised 29 April 1833). They were married in Greenock, in the Church of Scotland (Presbyterian) parish church, both signing their own names. Jane's occupation is recorded as 'servant', and her usual place of residence is given as 2 Williams Street, Greenock. George was from Aberdeen, his parents being William Cross, joiner and cartwright, and Christina Ross.

At the time of the 1861 UK census (7 April) Jane and George were living at 4 West Quay Lane, Greenock West, with three children. They later moved to Aberdeen (12 Wales Street) where two more children were born. In about 1866 the family emigrated to Otago and settled in St Kilda, Dunedin, where they had another son and five further daughters. [Part of the following information on George and Jane Cross's children has been taken from the register report for William/Donald Cross compiled by Lisa Wisniewski in 2012.]

Jane and George Cross's eleven children were:

- **Marion:** born c1857, Greenock, Renfrewshire, Scotland. Married James McNeill, 11 October 1877, Dunedin, New Zealand. Three children: Jane Hay, birth registered 1879; John Cross born 22 April 1881; Helen Euphemia, birth registered 1883. Marion died 7 January 1947 and is buried in the Anderson's Bay Cemetery, Dunedin, Block 40, plot 32. Her last residential address was 3 Brent Street, Maori Hill, Dunedin.
- **Christina:** born 5 August 1858, Greenock. Married William John Burk, 12 January 1881, Knox Church, Dunedin. Three children: Chrissie Marion Lenore born 10 November 1881; Hector George William, birth registered 1884; William John, 1893, at which time the family was living in Larkworthy Street, St Kilda, Dunedin. Christina died 25 May 1943, Christchurch.
- **Jane Hay:** born 13 September 1860, Greenock. Married William Clinksale Allan, 1881. Five children: Verona Chrissie Robertina born 26 November 1883; Marion Gertrude Violet, birth registered 1885; Lillie Annie, 1889; Thomas William Darcey, 1891(died aged 4 mths); Bessie Gwendoline Willie born 30 August 1896. By 1904 the family was living at 12 Brook Street, Thorndon, Wellington. Jane died November 1912, Wellington, New Zealand and is buried in the Karori Cemetery, Section PUBLIC2, plot 155 J.
- **Georgina:** born 7 September 1862. Died 20 May 1865, Aberdeen, Scotland.
- **William Hay:** born 29 July 1864, Aberdeen, Scotland. Died of scarlet fever 7 September 1867, Dunedin, and is buried in the Southern Cemetery, Block H, plot 27.
- **Euphemia Shaw:** birth registered in 1866, New Zealand. Married William Robertson in 1887. Five children: Williamina, birth registered in 1888; William James, 1890; Doris Euphemia, 1900; Agnes Myrtle, 1902; Ivy Elys May, 1906. Euphemia died 21 June 1909, aged 44, and is buried in the Southern Cemetery, Dunedin, Block 131, plot 32.
- **Wilhelmina:** birth registered in 1868. Married Thomas Thomson Paul in 1890. Three children: Sarah Lilian, birth registered 1891; Basil Thomas, 1895; Cyril Thomson, 1898. Thomas Paul died in 1916 and Wilhelmina in 1948; they are buried together in the Linwood Cemetery, Christchurch, New Zealand.
- **George:** born 17 October 1870, Dunedin, New Zealand. Married 1902, Sydney, Australia, where he died on 10 April 1951.
- **Ellen:** birth registered in 1872. Married William Arthur Turner in 1891. Nine (or ten) children: George Lindo Ross, birth registered in 1892; William Henry Arthur, 1895 (killed in action in France, 5 April 1918); Reta Ellen, 1897; Drucy Irenest (so in register transcript) Bessie, 1899; Gwynnie Marion, 1901; Walter Frederick Alfred, 1903; Douglas Albert, 1905; Emily Dorothy, 1907; Nelson Horatio Jack, 1909; and Edith (proof of birth not seen). Ellen died probably in 1942.
- **Elizabeth Hay:** born 6 September (or 10 Oct) 1874, Dunedin. Attended Forbury School, South Dunedin, from 2 March 1879 leaving in November 1886 to go to work. As Bessie Cross she married George Waitangi Coppin in 1901. Three (or four) children: Rita Marion, birth registered in 1901; Jean Shaw born 8 Dec 1906 (married Alfred John Munro, 1930); Eric George born 2 Feb 1913; Leslie (proof of birth not seen). George Coppin died in 1958 and

Elizabeth in 1974; they are buried together in Taruheru Cemetery, Gisborne, New Zealand.

- **Barbara Ross:** born 29 May 1879, Dunedin. Married Arthur Hillson on 15 Nov 1899 in Gisborne, New Zealand. Ten children: Arthur William, birth registered 1900 (died 1966); Madeline Effie born 9 Jun 1901, Napier (married Norman Alfred William Rayner, 1921; died 18 Nov 1966, Napier); Doris Kathleen, 1903 (married Edgar Eddy, 1932); Hector Ross, 1906 (accidentally electrocuted and died 1938); Mona, 1907; Ellen, 1910; Charles born 4 Aug 1913 (died 1998); Iris (proof of birth not seen; married Donald Christopher Reid, 1931); Kenneth (proof of birth not seen); Jean (in April 2012 was living with her daughter in Brisbane, Australia, aged 92).

George Cross died in Dunedin, aged 49, on 17 February 1882 (occupation: 'expressman*'). Jane did not long outlive him, dying on 17 November 1886, aged 52, leaving two dependent children, the youngest only 7 years old. Husband and wife are buried together in Dunedin's Southern Cemetery, Block 131, plot 33.

Jane made and signed her will on 25 February of the year she died, presumably being aware even then of her poor prognosis. She appointed two of her sons-in-law, William Burk, Venetian-blind manufacturer, of St Kilda and James McNeil, blacksmith, of Maori Hill, as executors of her estate and guardians 'of my infant children during their respective minorities'. The value of her estate's 'effects and credits' was less than £100.

* A courier delivering parcels and mail or, according to Wikipedia, a man responsible to ensure the safe delivery of a train's valuable freight secured in the express car.

William Hay Jnr

William and Marion's first son, William, born on 19 August 1836, was baptised, along with his older sister Jane, in St John's Episcopal Church, Greenock, Renfrew, Scotland, on 13 November of that year.

In the UK census of 30 March 1851 William is recorded as a 14-year-old ropemaker's apprentice, still living at home in Rodger's Land, 5 West Quay Lane, Greenock. He eventually became a sailmaker, spending much of his time at sea. There is a record of William being a member of the crew of the Conway carrying immigrants to Sydney in 1856. His brother Joseph was 'sailmaker's mate' and his father 3rd mate of the ship.

An intriguing item in the Hay family archive is an anonymous, undated poem that seems to relate to William Hay Jnr. It reads:

Farewell adieu to Scotland
I can no longer stay
I'm born *[sic]* down with poverty
So I must now away

To leave the land where first i *[sic]* drew
My breath it greves *[sic]* me sore
To cross the briny ocean
For the South Australian Shore

I leave my William Dear to mourn
And tender parents too

I swear by all the powers above
To him i will prove true

If providence proves kind to me
The Lad that i adore
Shall quickly follow after me
To South Australian Shore

The Ship She is in harbour
And my passage it is paid
The passengers are gone on board
The anchor it is weigh'd.

Despite the spelling errors, the poem is written in a fine, careful copperplate script. The paper has been much folded, and is now badly discoloured, with a tear from top to middle.

Possibly the writer was Ann Greaves, whom William married in 1863, though I have found no record of an A., Ann or Miss Greaves crossing the *Tasman* in the years prior to that date. Whoever wrote the verses, they do suggest that William Jnr, and possibly the whole Hay family, originally intended to move not to New Zealand but to Australia.

Whatever the case, William emigrated to Otago as a 24-year-old with his step-mother aunt, Euphemia, his brothers Joseph and James, and his half-brother David, on the *Silistria*, arriving in Port Chalmers on 26 October 1860; it is possible that his father William travelled on the same ship as a member of the crew.

Oamaru

On arrival in Oamaru in December 1860, William Hay Jnr was employed as a boatman in Captain Sewell's landing-boat service carrying cargoes to and from ships anchored in the roadstead (there being no wharf).

When Captain Sewell gave up the service, William Jnr became a member of the syndicate that took it over until the building of the breakwater rendered such an operation unnecessary. William then became a storeman with Anderson & Mouat, flour and oatmeal millers, then worked for a time with his half-brother David running the Kakanui flour mill, before entering business on his own account as a sailmaker as detailed below.

The evidence of electoral rolls suggests that William Jnr, his brother Joseph and father William each purchased a town block in Oamaru in 1866; William Jnr's was Section 18, Block 28, Oamaru town. Then the *North Otago Times* of 16 July 1877 reports that the 'freehold of Section 74, Block V, Oamaru district, was purchased by William Hay, Esq., at the annual rental of 5 shillings per acre' – obviously a rural property. Further, in October 1878 William Jnr was wealthy enough to be able to buy Captain Joseph Pallant's sail-, tent-, tarpaulin- and horse-cover-making business. In the 1902 electoral roll he is still described as a sailmaker, occupying Oamaru town section 11, Block 41.

In 1885 William, at the age of 48, seems to have attempted to diversify his business interests, if the *Oamaru Mail* of 9 April of that year (p3) is to be believed. This issue carried an advertisement 'beg[ging] to inform the Public of Oamaru and Surrounding District' that Hay & Strachan had 'this day entered into PARTNERSHIP as COAL AND WOOD MERCHANTS, in those premises at the Corner of Wharf and Itchen

streets'. However, not much more than a year later the same paper (issue of 14 May 1886, p3) published the following:

DISSOLUTION OF PARTNERSHIP

THE PARTNERSHIP hitherto existing between WILLIAM HAY and WILLIAM STRACHAN, as Coal and Wood Merchants, is this day DISSOLVED by mutual consent.

The notice went on to say that Thomas Davidson had replaced William Hay in the firm. Quite what had happened can only be guessed at. Possibly it was simply that William found the demands of running two businesses were too much to bear.

Marriages, births and deaths

William's first marriage, on 14 May 1863 to Ann Greaves, milliner, ended sadly when Ann died in childbirth on 18 December 1872, aged 42 years. She was the first to be buried in what became the Hay family grave in the Oamaru cemetery: Block 6, plots 1 and 2. No surviving children of this marriage are known.

In 1874 William made a return trip to the UK, visiting Greenock and Belfast (I have photos of him taken in these towns). As far as I can ascertain, William was the only Hay or Baker forebear to make such a trip. Was he looking for a wife, maybe? Unmarried women were a scarce commodity in 1870s New Zealand.

On 21 October 1875 William married again. His new wife, Catharine Richardson, was 29 years old, some 10 years younger than William, having been born on 19 December 1846 at Craigend, Perthshire, Scotland; (see endnote for further information). The wedding, conducted by the Presbyterian minister, Dr Donald Stuart, took place in the house of William Richardson, Castle Street, Dunedin, and was witnessed by two Dunedin friends of the couple, Francis Graham, painter, and Isabella Smeaton. William's occupation is given in the register entry as 'storeman'.

William and Catharine had six children, but two, **Agnes Euphemia** aged 3 years and **George** aged 14 months died of diphtheria, both in August 1883. They are buried in the Hay family grave in the Oamaru Cemetery: Block 6, plots 1 and 2.

Catharine Hay died on 6 May 1912 aged 66. William lived to the age of 91, dying on 19 November 1927. He is buried with his two wives and two infant children in the Hay family grave in the Oamaru Cemetery: Block 6, plots 1 and 2. The four children who survived him were:

- **William**, born 25 July 1876; bootmaker; married Daisy Ethel Wates, 1904. Children: Edward George William (birth registered 1905) and Agnes May (1909). Labourer, Hull Street, Oamaru (according to 1911 electoral roll), Greta Street (1914 roll), storeman, Ouse Street (1925 roll), then 3 Globe Flats, Thames Street (1938 roll).
- **James**, born 18 March 1878; admitted to Oamaru South School 8 October 1883, obtained a First Class pass at Standard 5 in December 1890, and left 16 September 1892 to 'work [in] Mr [George] Sumpter's office'. In June 1894 James was admitted as a communicant in St Paul's Presbyterian Church, Oamaru. On 16 December 1895 he was elected secretary-treasurer of the St Paul's branch of the Christian Endeavour Society, an ecumenical, young people's, evangelical movement. In

February 1897 Charles F. Reeve, founder of the non-denominational Poona and Indian Village Mission (PIVM), addressed a number of meetings in Oamaru, and James responded to his call for workers, leaving Oamaru on 26 August of that year. Eighteen-ninety-seven to 1902 were years of famine and plague in India, with hundreds of thousands dying of starvation and disease. James returned to New Zealand in 1903, and seems to have carried out promotional work for the PIVM, but in 1905 was appointed missionary-in-charge of Seddon Anglican parish.

James married Sarah McPhail on 23 October 1906 in St Paul's, Oamaru.

Children:

- Barbara Christina, birth registered 1908; never married; died 1969, buried in Kowai Pass Public Cemetery, Springfield, Canterbury.
- Catherine Isabella, 28 February 1912; married A.M. Macfarlane.
- Sarah McPhail born 24 December 1914; married H.W. Mills

In December 1906 James was ordained deacon in Nelson Anglican cathedral and priested there on 24 February 1908, subsequently serving in some 10 parishes, including Cheviot (1909-12), Cust (1914-23), Hinds (1923-27), Otaio/Bluecliffs (1927-39), and Glenmark (1939-47), before retiring to 35 St Martins Road, Christchurch in 1947.

James died in August 1955 and Sarah in May 1960; they are buried in the Oamaru Cemetery: James's ashes in the Hay family grave Block 6, plots 1 and 2, and Sarah in Block 15, plots 17 and 18.

- **Henry**, born 9 May 1885. Listed in electoral rolls 1908, 1911 and 1914 as clerk, living in Ure Street. Married Jessie McPhail, 4 March 1913 in St Paul's church, Oamaru, and moved to Reed Street; stillbirth of daughter Peggy registered in 1915. 1922 electoral roll lists Henry as accountant, Herbert, and 1925 roll as poultry farmer, Herbert, but from 1928 to at least 1941 as accountant, Awamoia. Jessie died on 6 June 1951 and Henry on 31 August 1970; they are buried together in the Oamaru Cemetery, Block 181, plot 69.
- **Edward**, born 8 November 1887. Listed in electoral rolls 1911 and 1914 as labourer, Ure Street; was living at Te Papapa? in the North Island in 1927.

The obituary published in *The North Otago Times* says that William Hay Jnr:

was of a retiring disposition and sought no public office of any kind. For many years he was a member of St Paul's [Presbyterian] Church but some 16 years ago he became associated with the Baptist Church in deference to his wife.... The deceased made a large number of friends and was held in the highest esteem for his personal qualities and probity of character.

Joseph Hay

Joseph was born on 27 June 1838 and christened in St John's Episcopal Church, Greenock. In the UK census of 30 March 1851 Joseph is recorded as a 12-year-old ropemaker's apprentice, still living at home in Rodger's Land, 5 West Quay Lane, Greenock. There is a record of him as sailmaker's mate on the ship Conway taking immigrants to Sydney in 1856. His brother William was sailmaker on the ship, and his father 3rd mate.

Joseph emigrated to Otago as a 22-year-old with his step-mother aunt, Euphemia, his brothers William and James, and his half-brother David, arriving in Port Chalmers

on 26 October 1860 on the ship *Silistria*; it is possible that his father William travelled on the same ship as a member of the crew.

On arrival in Oamaru in December 1860, Joseph was employed, along with his father and elder brother William, as a boatman in Captain Sewell's landing-boat service carrying cargoes to and from ships anchored in the roadstead.

On 8 October 1862, in his parental home ('there being no church' as the register entry helpfully explains), Joseph was married to Jane Sinclair by the Anglican priest Algernon Gifford. In the register, Joseph's occupation is given as 'Boatman', and the entry is witnessed by five of Joseph's fellow boatmen, all of whom signed their own names. Jane died less than a year later, on 20 September 1863, aged only 22.

On 14 April 1865 Joseph, still 'Boatman', married again, this time to Elspeth Masterton, and by the Presbyterian Charles Connor. Elspeth was admitted to the communicants' roll of St Paul's Church, Oamaru, on 29 May 1865 by certificate from Montrose, Scotland, so presumably was a longstanding Presbyterian and a recent arrival in New Zealand. She is stated to be 26 years old, 'Servant; Spinster'. It is interesting to note that Joseph was admitted as a Presbyterian communicant only in the following year, 1866, and that both were 'demitted' at some unspecified later date: Joseph for 'Neglect of ordinance'; Elspeth is simply 'Taken off'!

Joseph's wife, Elspeth Ingram Masterton had been born on 28 September 1831 in Montrose, Angus, Scotland, the third daughter of John Masterton and his wife Helen Carr. In the 1851 UK census Elspeth's occupation is given as 'Flax Keeler'.

Joseph and Elspeth Hay's first child, **Helen Carr**, was born in Hampden, 34km south of Oamaru, on 9 July 1866. Their five other children were all born in Oamaru:

- **William**, born 29 November 1867;
- **Euphemia**, born 15 July 1869; married Malcolm Brown in 1901; died in 1952;
- **Elspeth Ingram**, born 3 June 1872, died 29 August of that year (buried in the Oamaru Cemetery: Block 16, plot 10);
- **Thomas**, born 6 September 1873;
- **Josephine**, born 4 August 1877; married Patrick Sellar in 1895; died in 1926.

Soon after his second marriage Joseph purchased a town section in Oamaru -- the electoral roll for the year from 1 October 1866 lists him as a freeholder owning Section 7, Block 37 in Oamaru. It would seem, however, that he had taken on more than he could manage financially, and *The North Otago Times* of 9 December 1870 reported that Joseph Hay, boatman, Oamaru, had been gazetted as bankrupt*. His section, 'whereon is erected a SUBSTANTIAL FOUR-ROOMED COTTAGE', was auctioned on 27 June 1871 by the Trustee in Bankruptcy. Hence the 1876-77 electoral roll lists him no longer as a freeholder but as leasing two town sections, both owned by his father -- sections 18 and 19, Block 1.

Eighteen seventy six was not a good year for Joseph Hay. In May he was taken to court by a local firm for not settling an account for £2 18s 2d, which he was ordered to pay. The next month he was in court again, this time with his eight-year-old son William, who, with a friend, had thrown stones at a neighbour's house and broken 29 window panes. William was fined 5 shillings with costs of £1 9s 6d -- which would, no doubt, have to come out of his father's already attenuated pocket -- and Joseph was publicly rebuked by the magistrate for not settling the matter out of court as the other boy's father had done.

It is interesting to note that the burial records of the Oamaru Cemetery show that in November 1888 an Elizabeth Masterton, stated to be aged 54, was buried in Block 16, Plot 10, the plot purchased by Joseph Hay in 1872 for the burial of his infant daughter. As Joseph's wife was a Masterton and had a sister Elizabeth (who would have been 59 in November 1888) it would appear that the sister, also, had travelled to New Zealand, possibly in search of a husband, and had died here, though no such death is recorded in the civil register.

Stone's Otago and Southland Directory for 1887 lists Joseph Hay, labourer, as living in Hull Street, Oamaru. According to later oral report, he and Elspeth later moved to Gisborne, however, there is evidence that the Joseph Hay family first moved to Napier:

- the *Hawke's Bay Herald* of 29 December 1891 reports that a Joseph Hay appeared in the Napier magistrate's court charged with drunkenness – (he pleaded guilty);
- *Wise's Post Office Directory 1892-93* lists a Joseph Hay living in Onepoto Gully (now Main Street, Corunna Bay), near the port of Napier; and
- in its issue of 24 August 1895 the *Hawke's Bay Herald* reports that a Joseph Hay, 'laborer', appeared as a witness in the coroner's court in the case of a suspected suicide by drowning at the port – (he had found the body floating near the wharf).

The first evidence of Joseph Hay living in Gisborne are references in the *Poverty Bay Herald*. The newspaper issues of 26 February 1906, 25 February 1907, 24 February 1908 and 31 January 1910 record an old age pension of £26 (per year) being granted to a man of that name. Interestingly, in the issues of 29 August 1910 and 28 August 1911, it's reported that respectively 'Elopet Ingram Hay' and 'Elspet I. Hay' had been granted a similar pension – but no further mention of Joseph. Possibly it is relevant to note that to receive an old age pension at this time one had to be not only old and poor but also *deserving*; there were strictly enforced moral criteria to be met – for example, your pension could be stopped if you were seen in a pub!

Of interest also is the following report in the 25 May 1909 newspaper:

Another accident occurred about 9:30 this morning when the S.S. Flora was transhipping wool to the Mimirol. A stevedore, Joseph Hay, had his leg broken by a bale of wool jamming him against a steam pipe. Every attention was given the sufferer, who was quickly taken ashore by the Tuna and removed to the Gisborne Hospital.

Our Joseph Hay would have been 71 at this time, and – assuming it is he receiving the old age pension – apparently destitute. It is possible, then, that he would have needed still to be in paid employment even at that age.

The issues of *Wise's Post Office Directory* from 1910 to 1913 list Joseph Hay as living at 12 Rangi Street (no longer extant), Gisborne. In using this information it needs to be kept in mind that directory street listings are often a year or more out of date.

Information given on Elspeth's death certificate strongly suggests that her marriage to Joseph had fallen apart while the couple were in Gisborne: the certificate seems to refer to (but gives wrong, illegible or no details of) a first marriage – to William [sic]

Hay (described as 'Former husband'), and a second marriage – to 'Elspit Ingham Masterton'! (Was the registrar drunk?)

As there is no official record of any Hay divorce in Gisborne between 1888 and 1913, or of Elspeth's 'second marriage', it would seem that Joseph and Elspeth had simply parted, and that she may have subsequently co-habited with another, unnamed, partner. The fact that there are many wrong or missing details on the death certificate suggests that at the time of Elspeth's demise Joseph was no longer in Gisborne to provide the information required, or that he was no longer capable of doing so.

Elspeth Ingram Hay née Masterton, named on her death certificate as 'Elspit Ingham Hay' aged 61 (she was 82!) died on 7 February 1913 in Rangi Street, Gisborne. The causes of death are given as 'Senile Decay' and 'Exhaustion'. She was buried (named 'Elizabeth Hay') by a Presbyterian minister in the Houhoupiko (now Makaraka) Cemetery, Block MKE, Plot 1483.

A few months later, on 11 June 1913, Joseph Hay was committed from Napier to the Porirua Mental Hospital suffering from 'senile dementia'. He was committed by two justices of the peace on the basis of certificates provided by two local medical practitioners. Joseph remained in the mental hospital until his death, of 'Senile decay', on 1 August 1920. The report of the coroner's inquest into his death (Archives NZ Reference: J46 Box 624/ COR1920/967) sadly reads in part: 'He was never visited by any relatives [*in more than seven years!*] but notification of his death has been sent to his son Mr Thos. Hay c/o Gas Works Auckland, and also to his brother Mr D. Hay, Miller of Oamaru.'

Joseph's death certificate describes him as 'Labourer' aged 86 (he was actually 82). The certificate correctly indicates that his wife 'Elspit Masterton' had predeceased him, but incorrectly states that of his five adult children only his two sons, William and Thomas, were living at the time of his death – at least two of his daughters, Euphemia and Josephine, were also still alive in 1920. Joseph is buried in the Church of England section of the Porirua Cemetery, Row C, Plot 21.

*According to *The NZ Government Gazette* of 15 July 1872 (Supplement, p12), Joseph was not officially adjudicated bankrupt until 2 January 1871, when he was stated as having unsecured debts totalling £157/10 with assets of an estimated value of £155. He was discharged from bankruptcy – with his debts apparently unpaid – on 6 February 1871.

Thomas Hay

Thomas was born to William Hay and Marion Shaw on 26 December 1840 and was baptised a month later in St John's Episcopal Church, Greenock. In the UK census of 30 March 1851 he is recorded as a 10-year-old 'scholar', living with his family in Rodger's Land, 5 West Quay Lane, Greenock.

Another extant record relating to Thomas is a certificate of discharge and character preserved in the Hay family archive, which states that Thomas Hay, born in Greenock in 1843 [*sic*], served as an OS (ordinary seaman) on the ship Conway for an Australian voyage, and that he was discharged at Liverpool on 19 July 1856. His ability and conduct are both rated as VG. It is signed on the back 'Thomas Hay' in an unpractised hand. He would have been 15 years of age. Later in 1856, Thomas's father and his brothers William and Joseph – but not Thomas – sailed as crew members on the next voyage of the Conway.

As Thomas did not come with the family to New Zealand in 1860 (he would have been 19), and nothing further is heard of him, it is likely that he had died by then – though no record of his death has been found either in registers of deaths at sea or in Greenock. However, he is not listed on William's 1889 death certificate amongst William's 'living issue' so was certainly dead by that date.

James Hay

James was born to William Hay and Marion Shaw on 2 August 1843 and soon after was baptised in St John's Episcopal Church, Greenock. Marion died within months of the birth, and the next year William married her youngest sister Euphemia. In the UK census of 30 March 1851, James is recorded as a 7-year-old 'scholar', living with his step-mother, brothers and five-year-old half-brother David in Rodger's Land, 5 West Quay Lane, Greenock.

James travelled to Otago as a 17-year-old with his family, arriving in Port Chalmers on 26 October 1860 on the ship *Silistria*. By the end of that year the Hays were established in Oamaru.

James married Elizabeth (Betsy) McIntyre in 1867. The official civil register lists six births to a James and Elizabeth Hay between 1867 and 1900, but the only birth that can be definitely identified as that of a child of our Oamaru James and Elizabeth is that of **Robert** on 18 December 1873. Probably the **Elizabeth** whose birth was registered in 1877 was also their child.

A report in the *North Otago Times*, 9 February 1872, of a court case in which James Hay appeared as a witness describes him as 'boatman' in the employ of the Landing Service Company, where he would have worked with his father and brothers. The Oamaru electoral roll for the year 1867-68 is the first in which James Hay's name appears, where he is described as a freeholder owning town section 17, block 28. In 1876 the Waitaki roll (including Oamaru) cites James's land as section 17, block **26**, however 28 is more likely as James's brother William owned section 18, block 28.

From February 1880 to December 1885 James was in partnership with his half-brother David in a milling and grain business having an office and grain store in Oamaru and the Kakanui flour mill over the river from Maheno.

The last found newspaper reference to him is in the *North Otago Times* of 9 January 1886, reporting a court case in which 'James Hay, of Maheno' was charged with having 'ill-treated a certain fowl, to wit a grey hen, by packing it along with 95 others in a crate of insufficient size. The same defendant was also charged with ill-treating a goose in the same way.' James was convicted and fined 10 shillings with £2-10s-8d costs, however he preferred to go to gaol rather than pay the fine and was sentenced to 48 hours imprisonment.

Sometime after 1886 James must have moved from the district as his name does not appear in later rolls or directories; I have found no further information about him.

David Hay [See separate essay]

Endnote: Catharine Richardson – Was she related to Sir John Richardson?

On 21 October 1875 William Hay Jnr married his second wife Catharine Richardson in Dunedin. There is a family belief that Catharine was sister to Sir John Richardson.

Major Sir John Richardson:

John Larkins Cheese Richardson was born in India and, after education in England, served with distinction for some 25 years in the East India Company Army, retiring with the rank of major. In October 1856, John, now a widower with three children, arrived at Port Chalmers. New Zealand was to be his home until his death on 6 December 1878. He never re-married.

In Dunedin, John Richardson soon became involved in provincial politics, serving as Superintendent of Otago from 1861-63. He was elected a member of the national House of Representatives in 1863, was appointed to the upper house, the Legislative Council, in 1867 and was speaker of that body from 1868-78. John Richardson was created knight bachelor in 1875.

The claim:

1. In the 1980s or thereabouts, Mrs Sarah McPhail Mills, a grand-daughter of William and Catharine Hay, created a family tree of William and Catharine's descendants in which she states: 'Catherine [*sic*] was a sister of Major Richardson, an early Superintendent of the Province of Otago'. No source for this information is given.
2. In a letter dated 7 February 1954, Mrs Daisy Hay née Wates, daughter-in-law of William and Catharine Hay, states: '...on Wills mother side [*this William is Daisy's husband*] there is a Baronett that is Richardsons [*sic*]....' This could be either:
 - a. a garbled reference to John Richardson's grandfather William Richardson, whose second wife was the Dowager Countess of Winterton. However, this marriage did not confer a baronetcy on William or provide a title for any children of the couple; or
 - b. it could be simply a vague memory of the knighthood bestowed on John Richardson.

Could it be true that Catharine was related to Sir John Richardson?

The facts:

In general:

- There is no mention of a Catharine (Catherine/Katherine) Richardson in the 2010 biography of John Larkins Cheese Richardson authored by Olive Trotter, and Ms Trotter in a letter to me has confirmed that she found no reference to a Catharine in the very comprehensive archive of letters and papers left by Sir John.
- Mrs Sarah Mills (grand-daughter) states that the Catharine who married William Hay Jnr was born in 1846 at Craighend, Perthshire, Scotland. There is no evidence that the John Richardsons were a Scottish family; London seems to have been their British base.

- The 1875 marriage of Catharine Richardson to William Hay is not reported in any contemporary Otago newspapers – inexplicable if Catharine was related to ‘the old major’ (as John was affectionately known in Dunedin), especially as he had become Sir John by the time of the wedding.
- Equally inexplicable would be the fact that the wedding did not take place in a church but in the private dwelling of a William Richardson, situated in Castle Street, a working-class area, with a house painter as one of the witnesses.
- Also, the marriage was solemnised by Rev Dr Stuart, a Presbyterian minister, while the John Richardsons were staunch Anglicans.

The above points all apply to the specific questions answered below.

1. **Was Catharine Richardson the sister of Sir John Richardson?** No. John Richardson did have three sisters, but all of them had died in India by 1828. In any case, the age difference – 36 years – between Catharine and John would rule out the possibility of their being siblings.
2. **Or his cousin?** Unlikely. As she bore the same surname as John, Catharine, to be his cousin, would have to have been the daughter of John’s father’s brother (John’s paternal uncle). John’s father did have a brother, Francis, who certainly had sons and could well have had a daughter. But even if he did, that daughter would be of the same generation as John, and the age difference between Catharine and John makes this improbable.
3. **Was Catharine the daughter of Sir John?** No. John Richardson and his wife Charlotte Laing did have two daughters, but they were Mary (who married George Maitland) and Eliza (who married Edwin Rich).
4. **His niece?** No. John had two brothers, Robert and Campbell, but neither had a daughter named Catharine.
5. **Grand-daughter?** No. John’s son George never married and had no children.

Conclusion:

It has to be concluded, then, that Catharine Richardson, William Hay Jnr’s second wife, was not related in any way to Sir John Larkins Cheese Richardson.