James Manson

of

Hanmer Springs 1893-1971 and his family origins

by

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in collaboration with Michael Scott (stepchildren)

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Early Life

Jimmy Manson, as he was known to us, was born at Craigieburn Station, in the Canterbury back country, seventh of the eight children of David and Jacobina Manson from Caithness. Separately, they had ventured half way around the world to make a better life for themselves and their children, and had shown themselves capable of doing just that. David was a single, 20 year old shepherd, when he arrived in Otago in 1876, and by the time of Jimmy's birth in 1893 was managing a 300,000 acre station, carrying 70,000 sheep, and very successfully by all accounts. We know nothing of David's education or training before coming to New Zealand but we can surmise that he was not uneducated, and that he possessed an innate intelligence which developed into a shrewd understanding of the country he worked with, the stock he cared for, and the men who worked for him.

There is evidence that the children inherited their father's ability. They were sent to school in Springfield, though this meant boarding with strangers. Donald, the eldest, was his father's apprentice, to a point where he became the natural successor when his father retired. David, the second son, must have shown particular promise, as he was sent on Ashburton High School, and then to night classes at the Engineering School in Christchurch, all before World War I. Alice, the second daughter was one of the first Christchurch trained nurses to take charge of a ward at Christchurch Hospital.

.... And then there was Jimmy. The expectations for a third son were perhaps not so high, and he had been born with a slight deformity. Muscles in his left shoulder were not fully developed, and his left hand was much smaller than his right. Added to this, he was to suffer three bouts of rheumatic fever in childhood, which affected his heart. He would proudly tell us that it was unusual to survive a third bout. His heart was a bit troublesome, but it lasted him for 78 years.

Like the others, Jimmy attended Springfield school and he learned his letters well. His handwriting had a beautiful cursive style, always large and confident. He took great pride in his book keeping, and would as soon add columns of figures in his head as with an adding machine. He was very interested in reading, particularly local history and politics, though poor eye-sight made this a struggle in later years. His eyes were intolerant of bright light, so he always wore tinted glasses in the time we knew him (from the late 1940s).

Young Adulthood

Perhaps because of his handicaps, Jimmy did not leave home as his next older brother David did. He did not have the stamina to become a stockman like Donald, but he could be useful around the station homestead keeping the accounts and other records, and helping to organise the staff.

When his father moved from Craigieburn to Hanmer Springs to manage St Helens station, Donald came with him as head shepherd, and Jimmy came along too as the station book-keeper. This arrangement continued for three years after his father's retirement, under brother Donald's management.

Marriage

The St Helen's homestead was close by the village at Hanmer Springs, allowing for full participation in the Hanmer community, and it was here that Jimmy found his wife. Living in the shadow of his older brother, and latterly working under his direction would not have been easy, and in 1923 at the age of 30 he found an escape in the form of **Janet (Nettie) McDONALD**. Marriage to her brought with it a change of career.



St Helen's Station homestead, built during David Manson's time as manager.

Image supplied by Hurunui Kete

The McDonalds

To understand Jimmy's new job we need to look first at the history of Janet's family. Her parents came to Hanmer Springs in 1897 when Donald McDonald was appointed first manager of the Government Sanatorium (the forerunner of Queen Mary Hospital), but in 1902 Mr and Mrs McDonald were transferred to the Hermitage, Mt Cook.²

The McDonald family returned to Hanmer Springs in 1916 to manage the old "Lodge" under the direction of Duncan Rutherford when it reopened as a private hotel after a brief period of use for returning soldiers.

Donald and Elizabeth McDonald had two daughters, of whom the elder, Mary, had married Francis Stark in 1912, while Janet, born 1881, remained at home, understudying her parents, first at The Hermitage and then at The Lodge. Under the McDonald stewardship The Lodge developed a reputation throughout the country for the high standard of its hospitality and cuisine.

As her parents approached retirement Janet took on additional responsibility, and as early as 1920 she described herself as "proprietress of The Lodge, Hanmer Springs" when she appeared before the arbitration court seeking exemption from the Private Hotels award.² It was not the wages she objected to but the hours, as staff were sometimes needed for early breakfasts and meals late at night. She had proved herself quite capable of hotel management so why, at age 42, would she marry a man twelve years her junior? Could it be that the Rutherfords were already thinking of a larger hotel at Hanmer, and for that they required a husband and wife team at the helm?

The Lodge

Whatever the reason, Jimmy and Janet were married, and Jimmy had about eight years to prove himself to the Rutherfords as a capable hotel manager, before they launched their major expansion. He took up the challenge enthusiastically, confidently embracing his elevation in status. He supported anything that would advance Hanmer Springs, because that would bring more tourists. More tourists would boost the shareholders' profits, and they were after all his employers.

This advertisement began appearing regularly in 1930 in a feature column in the Press under the banner "See New Zealand First".

VISIT HANMER SPRINGS AND STAY AT "THE LODGE."

Situated in its own extensive grounds, where tennis, croquet, garden golf, and bowls (indoor and outside) afford favourite pastimes. All modern conveniences. Ten lock-up motor garages. Tariff 15s per day; 24 10s per week. Telegrams, "Lodge." J. MANSON, manager. —6

In 1931-32 the old Lodge was replaced by a magnificent new building in Spanish style, claimed to be the finest hotel in the Dominion. Mr and Mrs Manson were still in charge, but although Janet was the one with pedigree in the tourist trade, it was increasingly his name which appeared. It was a significant promotion for the station book-keeper to step up to managership of a top tourist hotel, and he seems to have carried it off successfully.



The Lodge, Hanmer Springs, circa 1930s



Jim Manson, President, at Hanmer Springs Golf Club
Image supplied by Hurunui Kete

Community Involvement

At the same time James Manson was taking a leading part in many village activities, with older brother Donald often in a lesser role. The tables had turned. Some examples:²

1927 First Domain Board: J Manson (member), D A Manson (filled a vacancy later)

1933 Promotion of a Hanmer Springs National Park – public meeting abandoned in disagreement, J Manson stepped in inviting everyone to reconvene at The Lodge. D A Manson opposed.

1933 Cemetery trustees: J Manson (chairman), D A Manson (member)

1933 Cricket Club committee: J Manson (chairman)

1933 Volunteer Fire Brigade Board: J Manson (member)

1933 Hanmer Springs Progress League: J Manson (inaugural president)

1935 Miniature Rifle Club: J Manson (inaugural president), D A Manson (committee member)

1933 Hanmer Springs Golden Jubilee Committee – J Manson among 5 on the pilot committee and deputy chairman of the celebrations committee of 12 which included D A Manson. This was an ambitious project for such a small community, but there had been a long history of Government involvement at Hanmer, both in the Sanatorium / Hospital at the Springs, and in the Forestry. Both the Governor General and the Prime Minister were in attendance.

At the end of a long article on Jimmy's father which appeared in 1934 (refer page 12) the sons are listed as Mr J Manson, manager of The Lodge, and Mr D A Manson, manager of St Helens, suggesting that the public perception by that time was that Jimmy was the elder brother.

The Hanmer Springs Progress League was affiliated to the Canterbury Progress League, which may be how Jimmy came to be a member of the parent body, an interest he continued for many years. A particular battle he fought in that arena was to open the road from Hanmer through to Molesworth for public use. A chain barring access had been placed across the bridge at the Acheron, where a fine picture of Jimmy was taken by the Press, arms outstretched in protest. It was eventually opened for the summer months only, but not until after Jimmy's death. He was also a member of the North Canterbury Electric Power Board.

Jimmy regarded these contributions as an important part of his life, and it was at his direction that his ashes were interred at Harewood memorial gardens in an area recognising public service.

Property

In 1929 J Manson purchased section 6 Hanmer Plains Reserve from the Rutherford estate, and this may have been the beginning of his acquisition of land in the village. The sections were all on Government lease, with nobody permitted to hold more than one residential and one commercial section. Jimmy took no notice of this rule and held a number of sections in his own name, his father's name, his wife's name, and even his house-keeper's name. This avarice would come back to bite him in the case of his personal residence.

He and Janet had built a new house for their retirement on the section held in her name. It was his pride and joy with many special features including an office equipped with a built-in safe, and it was, he said, specially strengthened to withstand earthquakes which were not uncommon at Hanmer. But then unexpectedly, Janet died aged 62 in 1944, leaving him only a life interest in both the house and her chattels. As the beneficiaries were her two nephews, both overseas fighting for their country, Jimmy felt he could not contest the will, which was in his view quite unfair, but he nursed a bitterness for the rest of his life. The Public Trust made an inventory of all the chattels which would need to be produced on Jimmy's death. In the early years they visited to check on these items, but later made only external inspections, demanding that painting and any other repairs were put in hand.

Jimmy outlived his wife by 27 years, resisting all replacement of curtains, carpets and furniture. Ragged curtains were carefully stored with the instruction that they were to be rehung after his death. It was only when a hole in the carpet caused him to sprain his ankle that he agreed to replace it. A particular issue was a marble statue given to Mr and Mrs Manson by the manager of Beaths on completion of the furnishing contract for the new Lodge. It was on "The List", but we were instructed to hide it if necessary. By the time of his death, he (with the statue) was living in Christchurch, leaving the Hanmer house locked up. There were no complaints from the Public Trust about missing chattels, and the ragged curtains were not rehung.

The Hanmer store

In 1895 Frederic Hampton Flower had married Annie Jane Dorman, and they had two sons Eric and Fred. In 1925 F H Flower is listed as a merchant in Kaikoura, but some time before his death in 1936 he must have come to Hanmer. The Hanmer store traded under the name F H Flower & Co, with Eric and Fred running the shop and Annie looking after the office.

At some stage Jimmy entered into partnership with the Flowers, but it was not a comfortable relationship, and he seemed to resent their controlling interest. Eventually he was able to buy them out, and put in his own managers. By then he was not particularly popular with the Hanmer locals, and not wanting them to think of him as "rich", he concealed the store's ownership by trading as Waters More Ltd., his mother's names.

The store building was a rambling affair, tacked onto the front of what had once been a private dwelling. Jimmy now set about demolishing much of this old structure and replacing it with a large bulk store, for in those days groceries were purchased in bulk and repackaged on site by shop-keepers. Adjacent to the store was the old Hanmer hall which he also owned, as both were on a single large section. Renovation of the hall was not economically viable, but it was totally unfit for purpose by the 1960s. Never-the-less Jimmy was really hurt when the locals decided to raise money and build a smaller modern hall, choosing as the site another of his properties, which he was obliged to relinquish. The old hall was demolished and replaced by an off-street carpark.

Jimmy might have been public spirited when it came to putting his effort into community advancement, which incidentally benefited local business, but his generosity did not extend to paying his share of taxes. He seemed to consider it his right to fiddle the books, and he made a special hobby of it. At the same time he impressed on us the importance of spending such money in a way which would not attract public envy, as people were likely to report you. Neither should tangible assets be purchased. But a case of best whiskey, a ham at Christmas, a case or two of ammunition to take to the gun club or a holiday down south were perks he felt entitled to. He was also averse to paying wages to an employee if that would diminish their pension, so he preferred to arrange some sort of payment in kind. The possibility of paying death duties did not sit well with him.

Protegees

Although he had no children, there were nieces and nephews, both his and his wife's, who fell upon hard times and who he attempted to help. The story is told below of the Bradshaw children, left with a drunken father after their mother's death. We have found snippets indicating that in their teens they were living at least partially in Hanmer, and have no doubt that Jimmy was involved. Brian Bradshaw had a menswear business at Putaururu for which Jimmy provided advice for a time, visiting Putaururu on occasion.

At about the same time as the Bradshaw children were in trouble, Janet's sister's husband died and she was admitted to psychiatric care. The two Stark boys also came to Hanmer and were enrolled for a period at the Hanmer school. Later they boarded at St Andrews' College, returning with Brian Bradshaw to Hanmer during the school holidays. Flight Sergeant Frank Stark, RNZAF, was killed in an air crash on Mt Ruapehu in 1951, leaving a widow and 2 infant sons. Brother Donald (or Dougal) Stark died in 2006, aged 89.

For his sister Bessie, Jimmy would occasionally cut a trailer load of best manuka firewood on his saw-bench and deliver it to Christchurch. He sent comforts to his sister-in-law Mary at Seaview Hospital. He took an interest in certain elderly pensioners such as the Rippingale brothers, former station hands and Boer War veterans, who lived alone on the outskirts of Hanmer. These were Joe (Joseph Woodhead 1874-1957), and Bill (William Henry 1880-1962), sons of Charles and Mary Rippingale.

Artefacts at Canterbury Museum

The following items are relevant to this James Manson:

Papers of Upper Waimakariri Roads Board

System ID 12145 **System ID** 138483 These seem to be duplicate entries for the same material

James Manson's father David was a member of the Upper Waimakariri Roads Board in 1911 when it merged into the Tawera County Council.² These papers were found in James Manson's home after his death and deposited by Mary Skipworth, his step-daughter, not daughter-in-law as stated in the Museum database. He had no daughter-in-law.

Mt Cook collection

System ID 84379

We are not specifically aware of these items. However given "our" James Manson's wife's association with Mt Cook, and the date of deposit we feel that it is likely to have been James Manson of Hanmer Springs who made this deposit. However, neither he or his wife was ever associated with the Mt Cook National Park Board, We note the possibility of confusion with **System ID** 87403.

James Manson definitely had a historic ice-axe during the time that we knew him. It was brought down from the top cupboard to show an occasional visitor. The associated story was that it had been taken to the top of Mt Cook by Jack Clarke on the first ascent, and that on his return to the Hermitage Jack gave it to his current girl-friend, Janet McDonald whose parents were managing the Hermitage at that time. Janet brought it with her to Hanmer Springs and after her marriage to James Manson it came into his possession. We have no knowledge of it being used on other ascents.

James was aware and accepted that more than one axe purporting to have been used by Jack Clarke on the first ascent of Mt Cook was in existence.

Refer to page 20 for a discussion of the connection to the unrelated family of Mansons of Banks Peninsula.

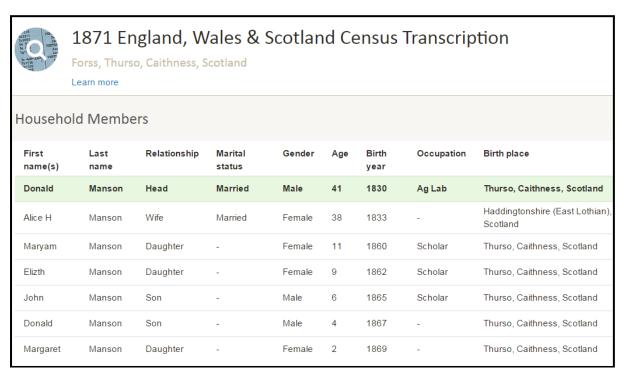
Jimmy's Parents - David and Jacobina Manson

David MANSON was born in 1856 in Thurso, Caithness, died on 6 Jun 1941 in Christchurch, NZ at age 85, and was buried in Bromley Cemetery, Christchurch. David's parents were **Donald MANSON**, a foreman quarryman, and **Alice**, **nee HUSH**.

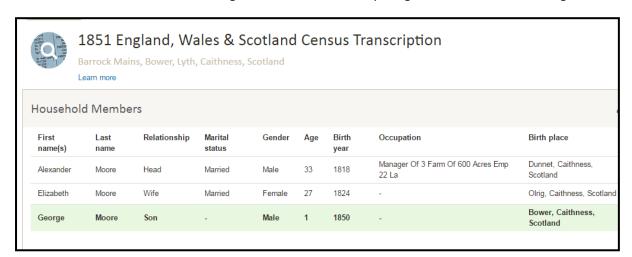
David with his maternal grandparents in 1871, with his parents and siblings living nearby. Note that his father was still a labourer in middle age, but his maternal grandfather was a shepherd.



David's parents and siblings in 1871:

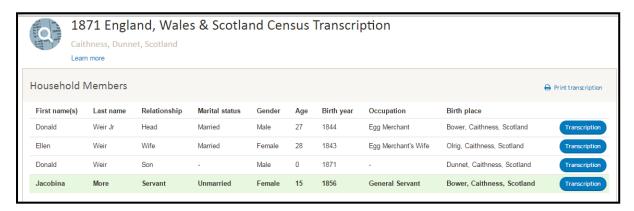


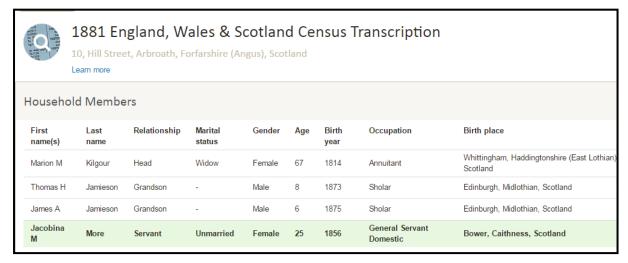
Jacobina with her family various census. Although her father is a farm manager (grieve), Jacobina is in service with other families from age 15. She would be acquiring skills in household management.



1861 census, Wick

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David Manson:

1876 arrival in Otago on ship Invercargill, aged 20, single, a shepherd from Caithness

1882 shepherd, Clydevale Station, marriage in Dunedin ¹

1885 shepherd, Hakakaramea Station ³

1888 manager, Aviemore Station [briefly] manager, Glentanner Station

1890 manager, Tarndale-Molesworth Station for Acton-Adams ³

1892 resigned as Manager of Molesworth (dispute over rabbits), went to manage Craigieburn Station, then owned by Jones and Edmund James, but sold to F J Savill in 1906.³

1911 Upper Waimakariri Road Board merged into Tawera County Council, David Manson elected for Cass riding. Resigned March 1917. ²

1917 F J Savill purchased St Helen's station and brought David Manson from Cragieburn as manager. David's acceptance conditional on his son Donald coming with him as head shepherd.^{3,5}

1917 David Manson, St Helens appointed with 2 others to advise the Government re preserving mustering efficiency in view of so many high country musterers volunteering for war service.²

1917 Gazetted a trustee for Hanmer Plains public cemetery replaced by D A Manson 1920 ²

1917 Trustee for Red Cross funds for Queen Mary Hospital, resigned 1920

1919 Assisted Dr Cockayne in pioneering trials of sheep preferences for various forage ³

1920 Retired from St Helens, and left the district, son Donald took over as manager ³

1922 of Kirwee - wife's death notice.2 1925 farmer Kirwee ⁷

1929 Clearing sale for David Manson at Aylesbury (near Kirwee), flock of about 1000 sheep ²

1929 Transfer Section Q, Block 11, Lyndon S.D, Hanmer Springs township to David Manson

1933 Retired and living in Christchurch ⁴

1941 Buried at Bromley cemetery with his wife, station manager, 65 years in NZ $^{\rm 6}$

MANSON—On June 6, at Christchurch, David Manson, 318 Cashmere road, husband of the late Jacobina Waters Manson; in his 86th year. No flowers.

David married **Jacobina Waters MORE** on 23 Dec 1882 in Dunedin, New Zealand, though both were ordinarily resident at Clydevale at the time. [She adopted the additional name "Waters" in New Zealand records, acknowledging her inheritance of her name from her grandmother.] Jacobina was born in Scotland in 1856, died on 21 Jan 1922 at age 67, and was buried on 24 Jan 1922 in Bromley Cemetery, Christchurch. Her parents were Alexander and Elizabeth MORE, nee ANDREW.

In the opening section of this paper I wrote "we know nothing of David's early education and training." We do know from the census that in 1871 he was still at school, aged 14. That leaves a 5 year gap before he sailed to New Zealand. During this period he gained skills as a shepherd and formed an understanding with his future wife's family, that when he was established in New Zealand, Jacobina would come out to marry him. I think it quite likely that David obtained his shepherd's training from his future father-in-law, and married the boss's daughter. In 1851 Alexander More was managing 3 farms of 600 acres, employing 22 men. In 1871 he was farm manager for Sir John Sinclair at Quintfall, near Wick. Jacobina would have seen her mother in the role of Farm Grieve's wife, an excellent preparation for her future running homesteads at several large stations in New Zealand.

Children of David and Jacobina were:

i. Donald Alexander MANSON 1883 - 1973

ii. Elizabeth MANSON "Bessie" 1885 - 1968

iii. Alice MANSON 1887 - 1961

iv. Marion Ann MANSON 1889 - 1920

v. **David MANSON** 1891 - 1915

vi. **John MANSON** 1891 - 1891

vii. James MANSON "Jimmy" 1893 - 1971

viii. Mary Isabella MANSON 1896 - 1902

Station Man's Experiences Pastoralists' Problems

Otago in the 70s

There are few men who have had a longer experience of station management in the South Island than Mr Donald[sic]* Manson, of Christchurch who was employed in shepherding or managing back country sheep stations for a period of some 45 years[sic]*.

Mr Manson came to Otago from Caithness, in the North of Scotland, by the sailing ship Invercargill, in 1876. Following his calling he went to Clydevale, Otago, shortly after his arrival and remained there nine years. Clydevale, which was owned by the New Zealand and Australian Land Company, comprised some 30,000 acres, and carried more than 20,000 sheep, mostly crossbreds, the others being halfbreds. Mr James Mitchell was the station manager. The winters were, generally speaking, good, and as the run contained a large extent of good country, stock did well. Prices of wool and sheep were low, but on the other hand the working expenses were light. In 1878 a heavy fall of snow in the back country caused the Clutha river to rise rapidly, and to flood an extensive area of adjoining country. Many settlers lost stock and had their crops destroyed. There were no labour or rabbit troubles. Dunedin was then the commercial capital of the colony and was a prosperous town, which did a consid-erable business with the goldfields in Central Otago, Gold mining was not in evidence on the Clydevale side of the Clutha, but in the Central and at Lawrence, Waipori, and higher up at the Beaumont and on the Poma-haka, a tributary of the Clutha, alluvial mining was actively carried on. Shearing was done by blades and mostly by farmers' sons. There were no shearing awards and no trouble over wet sheep.

In the Kurow Country

About 1885 Mr Manson went to Hakataramea station, owned by his Clydevale employers, the New Zealand and Australian Land Company. The station was a large one, running from the Waitaki to the Mackenzie Country, and was managed by Mr D Macfarlane, who also came from Scotland. They shore from 60,000 to 70,000 sheep, merinos and halfbreds, the wool being waggoned to Kurow railhead. There were no rabbits or deer on the country. The rate for shearing was 16s 8d, but dropped later to 15s for a time. One bad winter was experienced when sheep had to be taken out of the snow.

After being there three years, Mr Manson took over the management of Aviemore for the owner, Mr Sherris, while the latter visited England. Aviemore was situated some 15 miles from Kurow and carried 15,000 merinos. On Mr Sherris' return he temporarily managed Glentannar station in the McKenzie Country, for Mr Brown. Glentannar carried about 7000 merino sheep.

Marlborough's High Country

In 1891 Mr Manson went as manager of Tarndale-Molesworth station for Mr William Acton-Adams, who had recently taken over Molesworth from Messrs. Taylor and MacNaughton. The whole station, including the Rainbow, comprised more than 300,000 acres of which about 10,000 acres were freehold, and carried between 60,000 and 70.000 merinos for a year two, until the rabbits came. The pest spread all over the country, rather lightly on Tarndale, but Molesworth being warmer country, was more affected. Mr Acton-Adams had tried various methods for killing rabbits, such as ferrets, stoats, and weasels, trapping, poisoning, and the liberation of cats on the run. He bought ferrets at 10d a head. Stoats and weasels were not effective as they killed only when hungry and they suffered also from trapping. Trapping was also found unsatisfactory, as trappers in their own interests trapped between April and August, in order to get winter skins instead of in the owner's interests in the summer to get the does. Poisoning proved the most effective way of keeping rabbits down, 4d a skin being paid.

Prior to Mr Manson's management, Mr Acton-Adams' cat experiment had proved a failure probably on account of the cat's propensity for finding its way back. Hundreds of cats were purchased at 2s 6d a head. It was said housewives in Christchurch were much concerned at the mysterious disappearance of their feline pets, and it was rumoured that the spending power of small boys had surprisingly; increased. One lad who lived near the station, traded his cat in as often as it came back until Mr Acton-Adams' powers of observation frustrated the boy's "get rich quick" scheme.

"Smoko" machines in conjunction with blades were tried for shearing but the machines did not then prove a success. Later Mr Acton-Adams installed machines which were used continuously for a number of years. Only on one occasion did he lose sheep at shearing time.

Runholders maintained accommodation houses for which certain extra country was allowed. The Clarence accommodation house was maintained by St. Helens, while the Rainbow house was maintained by Tarndale. When the Rainbow house was destroyed by fire, the caretaker and cook, Johnny Watson, lost his life. On the Tarndale, Rainbow, and Wairau country 2000 head of cattle were carried in addition to 500 breeding cows. The bulls used were Black Polls. A large proportion of the clip was scoured on the place. One year the wool was carted to Culverden. Afterwards it was carted to Blenheim, the return trip taking a week and sometimes longer.

At that time Mr Low owned St. Helens, Mr John McArthur managed St. James, while the Clarence Estate was held by the Bank of New Zealand's Assets Board. Mr J. S. Sim managed the Clarence and did good work in reducing the rabbits. The three big stations in North Canterbury then were Glenmark, Horsley Downs, and Cheviot. The Amuri was largely held by the Rutherfords and the Sheep were very cheap, Macfarlanes. merinos selling at 2s 6d to 3s. Mr Acton-Adams was an active man. He would truck his horse to Culverden, ride to Woodbank, and continue his 40 mile ride to Tarndale next day. The three winters at Molesworth were very good considering the high country. Bob Boddington was stockman, and his brother George was shepherd.

Mr Reginald Acton-Adams succeeded Mr Manson as manager at Molesworth. After about 12 months Mr Jackson was appointed to the position, which he held for some three years, being followed by Bob Boddington, who managed for the same owner till the sale of the station to Mr Duncan Rutherford in June, 1911, and for Mr Rutherford till 1917.

Craigieburn and the 1895 Snowstorm

After his three years at Tarndale-Molesworth, Mr Manson went to Craigieburn in 1894, where he remained for 22 years. Craigieburn then comprised some 50,000 acres, carrying about 20,000 merinos, and was owned by Messrs Jones and Stronach. Mr Gus Stronach, son of the owner, had been managing for some years, and was followed by Mr James, a son of Mrs Jones. Shortly afterwards, when Mr F. J. Savill bought the station. Mr Manson was appointed manager. Sheep did well on the country, and the wool turned out well; the death rate, with the exception of a few bad winters, was ordinary. Halfbreds in limited numbers were tried, and did well. Ewes as two-tooths and wethers about four-tooth were sent regularly to market or sold privately.

1895 winter was the worst experienced by Mr Manson. Very heavy falls of snow over an extensive area and on thousands of acres of flats were responsible for a heavy loss of sheep. Snow started on June 22 and continued for three days, with frequent falls afterwards. Cassidy's coach service was held up for eight weeks, the first coach to get through arriving a week before Porter's Pass was badly the National. blocked, and as fast as the road was cleared it became blocked again. Mails were packed about twice a week, the trip taking three days. The storm wiped out one third of the flock. Craigieburn was good clean sheep country, and could be made to pay on a moderate rent. There were no rabbits to deal with then.

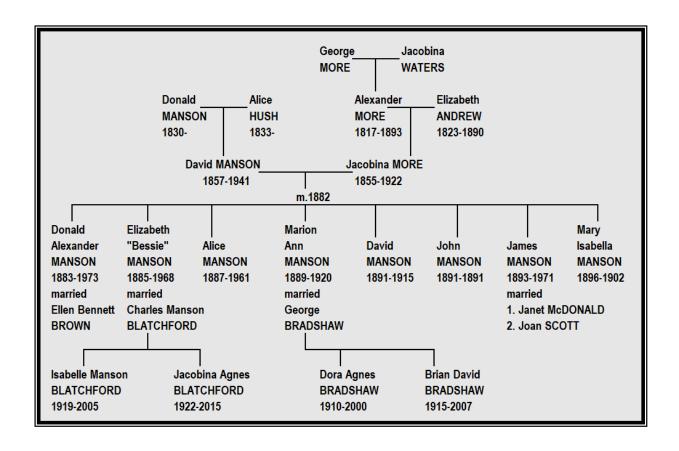
Mr Saville, after buying out Mr James's interest in the station, held it till the lease expired in 1916. He then had a public sale of the stock. The place was divided into three runs, the leases of which were offered at auction. Messrs McAlpine and Studholme secured the homestead block, and Mr Milliken the other two places. Situated between Castle Hill and the Bealey, Craigieburn was a landmark for swaggers, who could always depend on a shakedown and a feed. Mr F. J. Saville had previously held Mount White, which was previously owned by the Loan Company, Mr T. Douglas being manager. Mr S. E. Rutherford held Grassmere till his lease expired, this property being formerly held by Mr J. S. Sim.

High Country at St. Helens

After the Craigieburn sale, Mr Manson went to St. Helens, Hanmer Springs, as manager for Mr F. J. Saville, and remained there till 1920. During that time the new homestead was built and other improvements made to the station. The station carried between 30,000 and 40,000 sheep - merinos and halfbreds.

Mr J. Manson, manager of the Lodge, Hanmer Springs, and Mr D A Manson, manager of St. Helens, are sons of Mr Donald [sic]* Manson.

* Father David and son Donald have been confused, the interviewee in this article was Mr David Manson.



NZ Marriage certificate of David Manson and Jacobina Waters More 1882, naming their parents and providing the link to their families in Scotland.

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ŧ	I CERTIFY that the	e above is a true copy of the entry in the Reg	ister-Book	of Marriages kept				. Streat Officiating		

Jimmy's Siblings - children of David and Jacobina Manson

- **1. Donald Alexander MANSON** was born on 15 Oct 1883 at Clydevale (inland from Gore and Balclutha in South Otago registered in Popotunoa District), died on 6 Jun 1973 at age 89, and was buried in Waimairi Cemetery, Christchurch.
 - 1891 attended Wendon school, guardian Alexander Barclay ⁹ (probably a weekly boarder)
 - 1891 2 years at Molesworth with family, then to Craigieburn, attended Springfield school
 - 1911 shepherd on Craigieburn Station ⁷ appointed head shepherd at age 17 ³
 - 1917 Dispersal sale of stock when Savill vacated Craigieburn, D A Manson is reported as the manager, and complimented on the quality of the stock. It is uncertain whether he had taken over from his father, or whether the reporter was mistaken.
 - 1920-1938 Manager St Helens Station, Hanmer Springs ³
 - 1920 Trustee Red Cross Fund, replacing his father who had left the district
 - 1925 Patron, Hanmer football club 1927 Trustee Hanmer Plains cemetery
 - 1927 Vice President Hanmer Golf Club
 - 1931 Plunket fete held at St Helens, Mrs D A Manson, secretary
 - 1934 Mrs D A Manson convened a meeting to establish a Hanmer branch of Women's Division, Federated Farmers, elected a vice-president, also prominent in the Plunket Society
 - 1938 retired to Christchurch, still issuing annual weather forecasts, widely followed
 - 1973 burial Waimairi cemetery block PR29 Plot 16 ⁶
 - 1973 probate Christchurch Station Manager available at Archives NZ Christchurch
 For an account of Donald's outstanding contribution to St Helen's refer McCaskill pp172-175 ³

Donald married **Ellen Bennett BROWN "Helen"** in 1924.¹ Helen was born in 1880 and died in 1964 age 84.¹ They had no children.

- 2. Elizabeth MANSON "Bessie" was born in 1885 at Clydevale and died Christchurch in 1968 age 83.
 - 1911 spinster Craigieburn 7
 - 1929 Mrs C Blatchford and daughters at the Federal Hotel Christchurch ²
 - 1933 Visitors to Hanmer House included Mrs C. Blatchford, Isabel and Bena Blatchford.²
 - 1968 Elizabeth Blatchford widow of Hedgehope, will available Dunedin Archives [Elizabeth's daughter Bina lived at Hedgehope at the time of her death]

Elizabeth married **Charles Manson BLATCHFORD** on 10 Nov 1915 at 201 Linwood Avenue, Christchurch. Charles was born in 1879 in Teddington, Canterbury, and died in 1955 at age 76. Refer to Appendix 1 for information on the Blatchfords.

Children from this marriage were:

- i. **Isabel Manson BLATCHFORD** 1919 2005 married Percy James FORD (refer to page 18)
- ii. **Jacobina Agnes BLATCHFORD "Bina"** 1922 2015 married Joseph Askew TAGGART (refer to page 19)

- **3. Alice MANSON** was born in 1887 at Hakataramea (registered at Waimate) and died in Christchurch on 19 Apr 1961 at age 74.
 - 1916 passed NZ State Registered Nurse examination
 - 1934 April Miss A Manson a visitor to The Lodge, Hanmer Springs
 - 1934 November, farewelled with 3 others prior to her departure for England by *Rangitikei*.
 - 1935 wrote to Christchurch Victoria League about her experiences in England

1961 probate available at Archives Christchurch, retired nurse of Christchurch; trustees were brother Donald and nephew-in-law Percy James Ford; personal effects to niece Isabel Manson Ford; Donald Alexander Manson and Helen Bennett Manson, also James Manson £50 each; sister Elizabeth Blatchford £75; Dora McRae and Russell McRae £25 each plus £20 for their 4 children; Brian Bradshaw £25; Jacobina Taggart £25; Nurse Maud Association £100; 8 friends £25 or £50 each; residue to Percy and Isabel Ford equally; value under £4500.

Marjorie Chambers, matron of Christchurch Hospital, included this brief glimpse of Alice in a chapter on "Personalities" in her book, *My life in nursing:*¹⁰

"Alice Manson had been a nurse and sister on the staff all her nursing years. She was in charge of one of the corridor wards when she retired soon after I started my training [1936] so I knew her only by reputation. She was a very good practical nurse, strict with her staff and always insisting on a high standard of work. She was rather feared by the younger generation until they realised that she had the welfare of her patients at heart, and also the maintenance of a high degree of excellence in the nursing care that was given in her ward. She must have been one of the first of the Christchurch trained nurses. I was told that she would emerge furiously from her ward if anyone made a noise in the corridor outside. She had Ward 4 in her later years. I wish I had known her."

4. Marion Ann MANSON was born in 1889 probably at Aviemore Station, birth registered at Duntroon, and died in Christchurch Hospital (of Sheffield) on 13 Jun 1920 at age 31.

1920 Death On Sunday, June 13th, 1920, at Christchurch Hospital, Marion A., dearly loved wife of George Bradshaw, of Sheffield, and dearly loved youngest surviving daughter of Mr and Mrs David Manson, late of "Craigieburn"; aged 31 years.

Marion's older sister Alice was nursing in Christchurch Hospital at this time, so may have been able to support Marion in her final illness.

Marion married **George BRADSHAW** in 1909. Children from this marriage were:

- i. **Dora Agnes BRADSHAW** 1910 2000 married Russell Richmond McRAE (refer to page 19)
- ii. Brian David BRADSHAW 1915 1999 (refer to page 19)

George and Marion were farming at Sheffield in 1911, and in 1918 a find of coal was made on their farm only 110 ft from the surface. Five bores were put down, and a shaft sunk, indications pointing to the seam being 5ft 6in thick.

In September 1922, John James Bates, Presbyterian clergyman, of Sheffield proceeded against George Bradshaw, labourer, of Sheffield for maintenance and guardianship orders in respect of his two children, then aged 7 and 12, on the grounds that he had failed to provide them

with sufficient maintenance. Bates said he had known Bradshaw for three years, and he had never known him to do a day's work. Marion had died in June 1920, and the children were taken over by her relations until February 1921. Bradshaw then asked Bates to find a respectable Christian home for them, but he could not find suitable people. Bradshaw agreed to pay 35s per week to board the children at Bates' place and that continued until June 1922. He then demanded to have his children returned to him, but Bates refused after seeing the police about the matter. Bradshaw was not fit to have charge of children, as he was often drunk, and he did no work. The Magistrate held that Bates had no right to withhold the children when asked for them. He had no doubt Mr Bates had acted on the very best motives. Bradshaw was a month in arrears with his payments, and an order was made against him. One of the most solemn duties of a father was to support his children, and when he failed to provide them with adequate maintenance the law might be invoked. In this case there had been a breach of contract between two persons, and Section 26 of the Destitute Persons' Act did not hold. If defendant was an habitual drunkard, those interested in the children should take other steps to relieve the father of his guardianship. The case was dismissed.

In November 1922 George was ordered to pay £150 damages to the nurse caring for his dying father. He had arrived at the nursing home in an intoxicated state and rough handled his father, then assaulted the nurse who tried to intervene.

In 1923 George married **Jean Elfreida DOBBS** and moved to Auckland. He appeared in court repeatedly, the charges usually involving drunkenness, assault and obscene language. The children's presence during these altercations is sometimes mentioned in the evidence. They must have had a difficult life, which their uncles in Hanmer Springs did their best to improve. However neither had children of his own and they would have found taking in young children challenging. Both children appear to have been living in Hanmer by their late teens. In 1944 George's second marriage finally ended in divorce, though proceedings had commenced in 1935.

5. David MANSON was born on 16 Jan 1891 (twin) at Molesworth, and died on 31 Aug 1915 at the Dardenelles at age 24.

Served WWI 4/424 Embarked 16 Oct 1914 with Main Body, 2nd corporal NZ Engineers Died of wounds at sea from Gallipoli, buried East Mudros Military Cemetery, Lemnos, Greece His will left his money to his sister Alice, and his personal effects to his father. Brother James retained some of his engineering drawing instruments and slide rule. They appear to have been close.

OBITUARY *Press 20 Sept 1915*: Corporal David Manson, New Zealand Field Engineers, who has died of wounds, was the second son of Mr David Manson, of Craigieburn, North Canterbury, and was 24 years old. He was educated at the Springfield School and the Ashburton High School. For three years he attended the evening classes at the School of Engineering at Canterbury College, and won first-class passes in seven subjects. In June of last year he took his marine third engineer's certificate. Before he enlisted in the Main Expeditionary Force he was in the employ of Andrews and Beaven, Christchurch. He was a very keen Territorial, and was a member of the teams from No. 1 Company New Zealand Field Engineers who competed with success at the naval and military competitions in Christchurch in 1912, and the Auckland Exhibition in 1914. He was a member of the University Rugby Football Club's second fifteen.

MEMORIAL *Press 6 Aug 1935*: Hanmer Springs - The general meeting of the newly formed Miniature Rifle Club was held, when the report of the acting committee was received and officers were elected to carry on the formation of the club as follows: President, Mr James Manson; vice-presidents, Messrs D. A. Manson, C, A. Lahmert, and H. D. Muir; captain, Mr V. E. Argelin; vice-captains. Messrs C. A. Lahmert and F. Malaquin; secretary and treasurer, Mr P. McManaway; assistant secretary, Mr B. Bradshaw; auditor, Mr J. C. Wallace; permanent trustees, Messrs J. Manson and D. A. Manson; Committee, Mrs F. Malaquin, Miss E. E. Witty,, and the officers. The president, Mr J. Manson, stated that it had long been his intention to create a memorial to his brother, Mr David Manson, a keen rifle shot, who was killed on Gallipoli, and he offered a permanent trophy. Appreciation was expressed to Mr Manson for his offer, which was accepted.

6. John MANSON was born on 16 Jan 1891 (twin) at Molesworth, and died there aged 7 weeks, on 10 Mar 1891.

Jimmy believed he had twin siblings buried at Molesworth and wanted to look into finding a grave. It appears to have been a twin, rather than "twins". These things were not talked about, and he may never have known it was David's twin.

7. James MANSON "Jimmy" was born on 22 Oct 1893 at Craigieburn, died on 27 Dec 1971 in Christchurch, at age 78, and his ashes interred in the Harewood Crematorium Memorial Gardens. For his biography refer page 2.

James married **Janet McDONALD "Nettie"**, daughter of **Donald McDONALD** and **Elizabeth**, on 23 Jul 1923. Janet was born in 1881 and died on 30 Apr 1944 at age 62. They had no children.

James married **Joan Sinclair SCOTT, nee MULLAN** on 18 Apr 1969 in Christchurch. Joan was born in 1905 in Westport, and died in 1987 in Palmerston North.¹ They had no children.

8. Mary Isabella MANSON was born in 1896 at Craigieburn Station and died there in 1902 aged 6.1

Jimmy's nieces and nephews

Isabelle Manson BLATCHFORD was born on 21 Sep 1919 at Ranui, Cashel Street, Christchurch, elder daughter of Charles Manson and Bessie BLATCHFORD, nee MANSON. She died on 17 Nov 2005, at Rangiora.

Attended West Spreydon school

1933 Accompanied her mother and sister on visit to Hanmer Springs

January 1935 Isabelle Manson Blatchford passed Matric West Christchurch High School

1940 registered teacher - refer NZ Gazette

1941 married Percy James FORD 1915-2003

1981 farmer, Muirburn, Saltwater Creek Road, Sefton

2005 Press death notice mentions husband Percy, death, suddenly at Rangiora, in 87th year mother of Ian and Carol, Owen and Gail, Anne and Rob BONNER, and late Derek,

grandchildren: Alaistair, Colleeen and Mark, and Helen and Tim Molloy; Sara and Gareth; Nicholas and Aimee; Andre and Amy Williamson.

Jacobina Agnes BLATCHFORD "Bina" was born in Christchurch on 12 Oct 1922, younger daughter of Charles Manson and Bessie BLATCHFORD, nee MANSON. She died in 2015.

1933 Accompanied her mother and sister on visit to Hanmer Springs

1933 Bina Blatchford 2nd prize at West Spreydon school 1934 1st prize Std 5

1956 married Joseph Askew TAGGART (1920-1997) in 1956 died 5 May 1997

Death notice mentions "Joe" of Ashburton, wife Bina, children Elizabeth (Christchurch), and Janet and David FISHER; grandchildren Timothy, Emily, Charlotte, messages to 165 Harland St, Tinwald.

Joseph was a Presbyterian Minister who served at Invercargill 1946 Ashburton 1954, 57 Awarua 63, 69 Sydenham 72 78, Ashburton 81

1981 both of 9 Jackson St, Methven (Min of Religion and housewife) ⁷

Dora Agnes BRADSHAW was born at Sheffield on 26 June 1910 only daughter of George BRADSHAW of Sheffield and his wife Marion Ann, nee MANSON. Dora died aged 90 on 23 Aug 2000. She is buried with her husband at Fairhall cemetery, Blenheim.

1923 aged 14 mentioned in court, refusing to sit with her father as he was drunk ²

1926 Miss Dora Bradshaw (Auckland) visitor to The Lodge Hanmer ²

1927 Dora Bradshaw attended the Hanmer Springs Football Club fancy dress dance. ²

1928 Miss Dora Bradshaw won a lucky spot at Hanmer Football Club dance ²

1933, 35 Hurunui

1938 marriage to Russell Richmond McRAE (1915 - 2002)

1981 of 54 Dorest St Picton, housewife with husband a manager ⁷

Refer The Press 24 August 2000. 29 Aug 2002

Brian David BRADSHAW was born on 29 Jun 1915 only son of George BRADSHAW of Sheffield and his wife Marion Ann, nee MANSON. He died on 19 March 2007.

1920 age 5, his mother died and his father remarried and had violent drinking problems

1929 Masters Brian Bradshaw and Frank Stark (St Andrews College) visitors at The Lodge

1946-1978 on various Waikato electoral rolls, but probably all refer to Putaruru

1958 Divorce from Edith Lilian BRADSHAW "Ede" (1910-1996, died in Auckland)

1981 of 3 Terrace St Putaruru, company director – menswear shop,

with Betty Doreen BRADSHAW (1917-2006) probably his second wife.

NZ Herald 24 Mar 2007 Waikato Times 22 Mar 2007

Appendix 1: The Blatchford Manson Connection

Jimmy Manson, when asked if he was related to the Mansons of Banks Peninsula, answered that he was not, but that the families were connected by marriage. I set out to explore this connection.

When Charles Manson Blatchford married Jimmy's older sister Bessie in 1915 he was described as the youngest son of Mrs A Blatchford of Spreydon. The obituaries of Charles' parents, reprinted below, do not indicate any likelihood of a relationship to David Manson's family.

Star 17 Aug 1897: The ranks of Canterbury's earliest settlers were still further reduced yesterday by the death of Mr William F. Blatchford, of Teddington. Mr Blatchford, arrived at Lyttelton from the Old Country in 1851, and was engaged by the late Messrs Gebbie and Manson, to educate their children. This work Mr Blatchford continued to do for three years; and then, as the district extended, he opened the school at Gebbie's Valley. A further term of three years was spent in the education of the sons and daughters of the district, and then Mr Blatchford left the school and engaged in farming. He acquired a farm at the head of the Bay, and named it Teddington, a name subsequently given to the district. Mr Blatchford married the eldest daughter of Mr. S. Manson, and continued farming operat-ions until the time of his death, which, as stated, took place yesterday. Deceased, who was seventy years of age, leaves a widow and grown-up family, consisting of three sons and six daughters. Mr Blatchford, whose genial disposition won him a wide circle of friends, took an active part in the various public affairs of the district in which he lived. He occupied the position of chairman of the School Committee from the time the school was taken over by the Board of Education. He was a member of the Port Victoria Road Board for twelve years, and was a lay reader of the church, and regularly conducted service at Teddington, Gebbie's Valley and Charteris Bay, and occasionally at Governor's Bay, until about eighteen months ago, when his health gave way. He was a member of the Masonic body, and was a Past Master of the St Clair Lodge, Teddington.

Press 16 Nov 1918: Canterbury has lost a pioneer of the best type by the death of Mrs Agnes Blatchford, relict of the late Mr William Blatchford, of Teddington, which occurred on Tuesday, at her residence, 79 Mill road, Spreydon, at the age of 78. Until quite recently the late Mrs Blatchford enjoyed wonderfully good health. She was overtaken by an attack of influenza, which caused her death in a week. The late Mrs Blatchford arrived at Nelson with her parents, Mr and Mrs S. Manson, in the ship Thomas Harrison, in November, 1842. Early in 1844 the family arrived at Riccarton, where Mr Manson built the first house on the plains, for the late Mr John Deans. In 1845 they left Riccarton, and settled in the Head of the Bay, now known as Teddington, where Mr Manson took up land, naming it Kain's Hill. Mrs Blatchford remained with her parents till May 1860, when she married the late Mr William Blatchford, settling on his farm, "Teddington," the name being afterwards given to the district. Mrs Blatchford carried on the farm until about fourteen years ago, when she removed to Mill road, Spreydon, where she resided until her death. The late Mrs Blatchford had a very good memory, and could relate many interesting stories of incidents that took place in the very early days. She was of a kindly disposition, ever ready to lend a helping hand in times of sickness or trouble. Since the war broke out she had been an ardent worker for the Red Cross. The deceased leaves two sons, six daughters, 17 grandchildren, and 4 great-grandchildren. The interment took place at the Governor's Bay Cemetery.

Source Citations

- NZ Registration Births Deaths of Marriages Index
 Papers Past (website) National Library of New Zealand
- 3. Molesworth L W McCaskill 1969
- 4. Hanmer Springs 1883-1933 50 years of progress Hanmer Springs Golden Jubilee Committee
 5. The early Canterbury runs L G D Ackland 1946
 6. Council Burials Database (online)

- 7. New Zealand Electoral Rolls
- 8. Archway online database of Archives New Zealand
- 9. NZSG Kiwi Index School Admission record
- 10. My life in nursing: Christchurch Hospital 1936-1966 Marjorie Chambers 1988, p.76

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