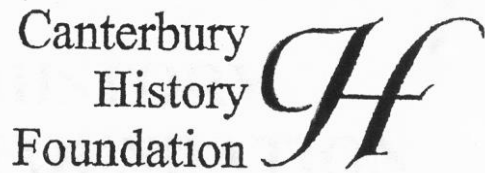


To encourage and support study, research, publication, and interest in history, particularly in Canterbury, and to promote awareness of the social value of history in our community.



PO Box 29070, Christchurch, 8540

Newsletter
September 2013

E-mail Contact

A repeat notice to the effect that in future we should like to use e-mail as much as possible in communicating with our members. This will include the Newsletter. The object, of course, is to save on postal costs. If e-mail contact is acceptable to you, please advise the Secretary at geoff.rice@canterbury.ac.nz.

World War I Centenary

Throughout New Zealand many local groups and national institutions are gearing up for next year's observance of the commencement of the war. It is easy to be overwhelmed by the complicated diplomacy that preceded, and, in the end, failed to avert the outbreak of hostilities. This prelude has been exhaustively researched, originally on the part of the victorious allies to establish Germany's 'war guilt'. Lately, however, the opening of Russian archives has produced additional material.

Military history has a strong presence in New Zealand. Doubtless over the next few years there will be much re-fighting of the major battles and much commentary on how the war affected the civilian society. The longer term effects of national mobilisation perhaps interest the historian even more.

As local and regional commemorations are being encouraged, it will be interesting to see how much variety occurs.

Our Vice-President

The University of Canterbury has made Professor John Cookson a Professor Emeritus.

Rhodes Medal Award

Therese Angelo, Director of the Air Force Museum, is this year's recipient of the Rhodes Medal. Paul and Sally Rhodes, whose generosity has made the award possible, made the presentation at the Jim Gardner Lecture on 21 July.

Under Therese's leadership Wigram became an important temporary repository for artifacts and archives rescued from local museums and other buildings damaged in the earthquakes.

Since the initial salvage, a Cultural Collections Recovery Centre has been established where sorting, cataloguing and conservation work can be carried on by the curators who had the collections in their care.

The award also recognises the high standing of the Air Force Museum as a visitor attraction and educational resource.

A Project Completed

Oliver Sutherland's biography of his father, *Paikea: The Life of I.L.G. Sutherland*, has been noted in a previous Newsletter.

The book will be launched at Rangitukia on the East Coast on 8 October followed by another ceremony in Wellington on 10 October.

The Rangitukia occasion is being held in conjunction with the 2013 Sir Apirana Ngata Memorial lectures. Much interesting material in the book comes from the correspondence between Sutherland and Ngata.

The Wellington launch is at Unity Books, Willis Street at 6pm.

The CHF made a grant towards the cost of publication. Canterbury University Press is the publisher.

Community Historian

The last award was made in 2010, the Foundation not applying to the Community Trust for grants in the intervening period because of the many calls on the Trust's funds as a result of the earthquakes. This year the Executive decided to renew its application and we have been fortunate to receive a grant of \$5,000. This is less than in previous years but we appreciate the heavy demands still being placed on the Trust which will certainly continue for some time.

We also acknowledge that the generosity of the Trust has all along underwritten the whole scheme.

Another consequence of the earthquakes is that the History Department in its temporary quarters cannot offer room accommodation to our Community Historian. It will offer what assistance it can in other respects.

Applications for the 2014 Community Historian Award close on 31 October.

The revised terms and conditions can be obtained from the Secretary or viewed on-line on the Foundation's website.

Captain Thomas

Not much is known about Joseph Thomas, whatever his Canterbury fame as the surveyor who laid out Lyttelton, Sumner and Christchurch in time for the arrival of the First Four Ships. His family origins in England are a mystery, as is much of his army career and his post-Canterbury life. In the NZDB a query remains over when and where he died.

The elusive Thomas is the subject of Colin Amodeo's latest research on the foundation years of the Canterbury settlement. Colin has published extensively on this period and he now asks members for help in securing further information about Thomas. He wonders if anyone knows of any material in private hands; letters or journals would be an El Dorado find! Otherwise information relating to Thomas's early years in Portsmouth or Worcester and to his 'American Drawings' would be most

welcome. The latter provide a record of his time in North America in the 1830s.

The Foundation has made Colin a small grant to help cover the cost of employing a researcher in England.

Eric Beardsley

Eric, a long-time member of the Foundation, died on 1 September. A journalist by training, he was for many years the Information Officer at the University of Canterbury.

He will be well-known for his historical novel *Blackball 08*, published in 1984, which reconstructed the events of the famous miners' strike that some regard as the effective origin of the Labour Party. Eric also published a memoir, *Sliding Down the Hypotenuse* (2011).

The Foundation has sent its condolences to Eric's family.

Canterbury Museum

The Museum's Documentary Research Centre is again in business, though in a limited way. Researchers wanting to access material need to book in advance in order to visit on the *third Monday* of every month. On these days the Centre can be used for the full day.

Most of the manuscript collection is available but access to pictorial material is more restricted.

Research enquiries should be addressed to: docinfo@canterburymuseum.com.

Gardner Memorial Lecture

Associate-Professor Peter Field entitled his lecture, 'Distant Mirrors: American Reflections on New Zealand Democracy'. The topic was inspired by a recent book by renowned American historian, David Hackett Fischer who took study leave in New Zealand in the 1990s. Fischer compared the political culture of the two countries summarised by his title, *Fairness and Freedom*.

As is our usual practice, we hope to make the text of this Gardner Lecture available to members.