

NAUGHTON

GENERATION THREE:

**DESCENDED FROM (2/1) WILLIAMJohn
& Annie Marie Moloney:**

(3/1) JOHN: was born at Kerrytown in 1875.

He left school at 14 & worked alongside his father on farms around the Levels & Opihi areas. I dare say from an early age John learnt that there might be better ways of working for, & with, people, than what he might be experiencing with his mentor. (My comment is made with reference to an item in the Timaru Herald of the 7th of September 1889 page 3)

In 1903 John began a 16 year working relationship with Robert McKeown, the owner of a large property at Tycho. The period included the time John spent overseas in WW1. He was known to have been very popular in Tycho & the surrounding district, & was much sought after as a guest or to act as MC on countless social occasions. (There are numerous accounts in past copies of the Timaru Herald relating to the way he was regarded).

He was drafted into the Army on the 5th of May 1917, & after periods of training at Trentham, he left for England on the 13th of October with the 29th Reinforcements, H Company, 4th Battalion of the New Zealand Rifle Brigade. He served mostly in France.

His father had already been advised before a Casualty List was published on the 16th of April 1918 saying John had been wounded in action on the 31st of March, on his left hand & arm. On the 1st of May the Army decided John was "no longer physically fit on account of wounds received in action". He was returned home.

(Of interest; two other men who worked for McKeown, were also overseas, but in different units. One of them, a man named Rowland Piper, was killed in Ypres on the 8th of December 1917).

John was finally discharged from the Army on the 26th of March 1919.

He was presented in 1924 with the Victory Medal & the British War Medal.

A social evening was held at Tycho in February 1919 to welcome home local soldiers. John's name is displayed with others from the district on an Honours Shield which can be seen above the fireplace in the Tycho Community Hall.

In September 1919 John won a land ballot under the Discharged Soldiers Settlement Act, which offered part of the Woodstock Run. Some 2077 acres. This block was in the Waimakariri Gorge & a long way from Kerrytown. The land files I looked at in the National Archives, Wellington, describe the land as: "no buildings fencing or roading, quite hilly, very poor quality, light & shingly, having only exotic grasses. sparse vegetation of tussock, patches of manuka scrub, & would only support a handful of sheep/acre at best".

Given the strict conditions of accepting the ballot, John had the wisdom to decline. He had also applied, though unsuccessfully, for settlement lands closer to home.

In late 1919 Bob McKeown sold his Tycho farm & John returned to Kerrytown to work until he retired in 1941. He lived in the family home with his mother & two younger brothers...Joe & Frank.

On retirement he lived periodically with his brother Mick's family at 124 North St, Timaru, & also with his sister, Johanna's family at Roker St, Christchurch

In 1955 John died at Roker St.

He is buried at the Temuka Cemetery with his sister, Catherine, & next to his parents. grave ref. Section 7, Row 205, Plot 458.

PERSONAL.

A delightful gathering took place at Opihi School on Friday evening when a farewell social was extended to Mr and Mrs Buxton and family, and a presentation made to Mr John Naughton. The weather was cold and wet, but in spite of that there was a crowded attendance. Songs were capitally rendered by Mrs James Chapman, Mrs Arthur Bishop, and a delightful pianoforte solo, while Mrs Smith contributed an amusing recitation. Mr John Goldie, chairman of the Opihi School Committee, paid a tribute of respect and appreciation to Mr and Mrs Buxton, and asked Mrs Buxton to accept a silver teapot, and Mr M. O'Connor, chairman of the Hazelburn School Committee, presented Mr John Naughton with a gold chain and locket, and thanked him sincerely for the good services he had rendered the district at school functions for more than ten years. Mr Buxton returned thanks in a very neat and hearty speech, and Mr Naughton also returned thanks. Appreciative speeches were also made by Messrs William Ley, W. Waugh, and James T. Steven. The ladies provided an indulged in for several hours. Mrs excellent supper, and dancing was in- Waugh, Mr Sullivan and others sup- proved a first-class M.C. Mrs and rlied fine music, while Mr Naughton Mrs Buxton and family leave for Tim- aru in a few days. Messrs Lamb Bros., of Ashburton, who were pre- sent, have purchased their farm.