

Timaru Herald. 22 April 1916 (Papers Past) [17/07/2020]

Miss Banks, Oamaru, is the guest of Mrs A. Grant, "Aigantighe."

A pretty wedding took place at the residence of Mr and Mrs Annand McKellar, Christchurch, on Wednesday, April 12th, when Miss Marian Lorna Guthrie, only daughter of Dr and Mrs John Guthrie was married by the Rev. A. T. Thompson, of St. Andrews church, to Mr James William Grant, of Grays Hills, Mackenzie Country. The bride, who was given away by her father, wore a trained bridal gown of white satin with bodice of ninon over shadow lace, and braces of orange blossom, an embroidered veil of net (lent by her cousin, Mrs A. McKellar), arranged over a spray of orange blossoms and carried a bouquet of white roses and maiden-hair fern. The four bridesmaids were: — Miss Marian Hay (cousin of the bride), Miss Hester Wigley, Fairlie (niece of the bridegroom, Miss Betty Guthrie (niece of the bride), and Miss Marjorie McKellar (cousin of the bride). They wore dainty frocks of white pin-spot muslin with tucked skirts gathered at the waist and sleeves, large bows of pale pink satin ribbon hanging from the waist at the back. Miss M. Hay wore a large black hat of drawn silk, with a posy of pink roses at the side, and the three little bridesmaids wreaths of pink roses, and each earned posies of pink roses. Mr Innes, Stony Creek, Mackenzie Country, was best man. Mrs Guthrie, mother of the bride, wore amethyst satin poplin and a velvet hat. Mrs A. Grant, white satin veiled in black ninon, black velvet hat with ospreys. Mrs W. Hay, black charmeuse, with silk embroidery, black hat with plume and steel buckle. Mrs A. McKellar, shot blue and fawn charmeuse with touches of blue, velours hat with brown feathers and blue berries. Miss A. Hay, shot mauve and silver grey frock, bodice of mauve chiffon, violet hat. Also present were Mrs R. Wigley, Mr T. Wigley, Mr and Mrs J. Hay, Mr and Mrs Campbell Hay, Mr and Miss Banks, Dr. and Mrs T. Guthrie, Mrs and Miss Duncan, and many others.

BITUARY

June '69

MR J. W. GRANT

A pioneer of South Canterbury, public benefactor in Timaru, and one of New Zealand's outstanding philatelists, Mr James William Grant died in the city yesterday. He was 91.

What will be a lasting memorial to Mr Grant's generosity toward Timaru is the Aigantighe Gardens and Art Gallery in Wai-iti Road, the family property which he gave to the city in October, 1955, and toward which he gave \$4000 for proposed extensions in July, 1964.

Aigantighe officially opened as the city's art gallery by the then Governor-General (Sir Willoughby Norrie) in August, 1956, was built in the first decade of this century by his parents, Mr and Mrs Alexander Grant, after their retirement from Grays Hills Station in the Mackenzie Country.

Its galleries house many fine collections, including a number of paintings presented by Mr Grant, and its spacious lawn and tree-studded garden is a city showplace often used as a background for wedding photographs.

Dunedin-born, Mr Grant spent about 70 years of his life at Grays Hills Station. It was purchased by his father who had earlier farmed in Southland. On his father's retirement about 1906, Mr Grant assumed responsibility for the property, and he remained there until he himself retired just after the Second World War. He sold the station early in the 1950's.

For a number of years he served on the Mackenzie County Council.

When he came to Timaru, Mr Grant lived for a short time at Aigantighe with his mother before he purchased "The Croft," in Park Lane, where he remained until his death.

It was just after the death of his mother at the age of 102 that Mr Grant gave the property to Timaru.

Of a retiring disposition, Mr Grant devoted a great deal of his time to his favourite hobby — philately. Over the years he built up one of the finest collections in the country, and was widely recognised for his knowledge of and interest in good stamps. In July, 1955, he won the Dominion's premier award, the grand championship gold medal for New Zea-



Mr J. W. Grant

land stamps, at the New Zealand international exhibition at Auckland.

He served as president of the Royal New Zealand Philatelic Society, and for many years as patron of the Timaru Philatelic Society.

Mr Grant was a lover of trees—he treasured the many fine specimens growing on his Park Lane property—and his garden gave him considerable pleasure with its fine showing of azaleas and camelias. At one time he was president of the local Rhododendron Society.

During the First World War, Mr Grant enlisted with the 1st N.Z.E.F., and served with an artillery unit in France.

He had a close association with the Mt Cook and Southern Lakes Tourist Company, and was a member of the board of directors for many years.

Born of true Scottish stock — his father came from Stirling — Mr Grant held a deep interest in the Presbyterian Church.

Mr Grant is survived by his wife, and six nieces and nephews. He was a brother of the late Mrs J. C. Wigley.