

Temuka teacher died at Gallipoli, aged 21

SCRoll (South Canterbury Roll of Honour), hosted by the South Canterbury Museum, was born out of a vision to develop short biographies of all South Cantabrians who served their country during World War I. They have been compiled to be publicly accessible in order to support the 100th commemoration of World War I. The *South Canterbury Herald* is currently featuring some of the biographies. This week we feature Private David Calder Mills, No. 6/1155 Canterbury Infantry Battalion, Born November 30, 1893, Green Island, Otago, and died August 10, 1915 Gallipoli, Turkey, aged 21.

Private David Calder Mills was born to parents David Calder Mills, Sr, and Margaret, nee McKinnon. They had married in 1887, and had children: John, Robert McKinnon, Mary McMillan, David Calder, Jane Calder, Douglas, Winifred, Smart, James Fergus.

David Calder Mills Sr was the son of John Mills, and Jane nee Calder.

John Mills had immigrated to New Zealand (Otago) in 1847 on the Philip Laing. Jane Calder arrived in Wellington in 1849 on the Mariner. John and Jane married in 1849 and had a large number of children.

John died 75 years of age (died and buried February 28, 1893), and Jane died at 71 (February 21, 1898), and both are buried in Green Island Cemetery, Otago, in Block 3, Plot 2.

Jane Calder was a daughter of David Calder and Jane nee Paterson, of Caithness, Scotland.

David Calder Mills Sr appears in New Zealand electoral rolls 1890 and 1896 as a farmer at Taieri, Otago; 1900 a farmer in Waitati in the Waikouaiti district Otago; 1905-06, 1911, 1914 and 1919 as a labourer in Temuka. Initially at 2 Wilmhurst St, then 2 Thomas St. By 1928 he was a farmer.

Margaret died April 12, 1923, aged 62, and is buried in Temuka Cemetery, South Canterbury, Row 125, Plot 462. David Calder Mills Sr died May 26, 1932, aged 77 years, and is buried with his wife.

David Calder Mills had attended Waitati School, Otago. When his parents came to Temuka, David Calder was admitted to Temuka School on June 9, 1902. His last day was July 26, 1907.

David Calder Mills, a Presbyterian, on enlistment (August 19, 1914), was noted as a student with the Canterbury Education Board. He was single and a teacher.

He was said to be well known in Ashburton, having been a pupil teacher at Hampstead School.

He was 5 foot 7 inches tall, of fair complexion with grey eyes with light brown hair.

He embarked at Lyttleton on October 16, 1914, in the Canterbury Infantry Battalion, on Tahiti or Athenic, bound for Suez in Egypt.

According to his Personnel Record, he was



Remembered: Private David Mills died at Gallipoli.

wounded in action at the Dardanelles, Gallipoli, Turkey, on August 10, 1915, and died the same day.

He is remembered at Embarkation Pier Cemetery, Turkey. His grave reference is Special Memorial C.60

In New Zealand he is remembered on the Cenotaph, Queen St, Timaru, the Temuka War Memorial and Temuka RSA, and Ashburton War Memorial.

This is part of the SCRoll project. You can find SCRoll stories, hosted by the South Canterbury Museum, at museum.timaru.govt.nz/scroll