

Henry George Nutsford

By Alan McKenzie

Daniel Edward Nutsford married Priscilla Jane Croad in 1889 in Gore. They had nine children including Henry George who was born 1896.

Initially the family lived in the Wyndham area in Southland and at one time were the leases of the Farmer's Private Hotel in Wyndham. Daniel was also recorded as a farm worker. Later they were to move to South Canterbury and at the time of Henry's enlistment Daniel was a farmhand at Woodbury.

Henry was recorded as a saddler working for Triggs and Denton in Timaru when he enlisted in 1916. He sailed on the troopship *Tofua* in October 1916 and in June 1917 died in Belgium from wounds. He is buried in the Trois Arbres Cemetery in North France. The Nutsfords were living at Maungati when the sad notice appeared in the local paper. Timaru Herald 26 June 1917 -- Henry Nutsford. Died of Wounds. Mr and Mrs Nutsford of Maungati have received official notification that their son Henry died of wounds in France on June 11. "He died serving his country".

Henry's mother Priscilla died in 1920 aged 49 years. Sadly, not only was she predeceased by Henry but also by four of her five daughters.



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Families expressed their grief in a variety of ways. Memoriam notices often reflected the belief that a life had been "given for God and country" and as well there was the sadness at losing a loved one. Henry was remembered by two separate notices in the Timaru Herald on 11th June 1918.

Only a grave of a hero,
Only a mound of earth;
Far from the ones that loved him
And the land that gave him birth.
His King and Country called him,
The call was not in vain;
On Britain's roll of honour,
You will find our hero's name.

Dear Harry, could we have been there in that hour of death,
To have caught the last sigh of your parting breath;
Your last faint wishes we may have heard,

And breathed in your ear a parting word,
Oft do our sad thoughts wander
To your grave so far away,
Where they laid our loving son,
Just one year ago today.