

James Allan's life and legacy in New Zealand

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James was born on 21st May 1856 in East Taieri, Otago to Joseph Allan and Henrietta Sutcliffe.

He married Isabella Purvis in Taieri, Otago on the 17th April 1879. They had 8 children together, Joseph (died young), Henry, Margaret, Patience, Agnes, Ethelwyn, Josephine and Sarah.

The electoral rolls have him in Taieri, Otago as a farmer on sections 70 and 71 on the Hope Hill farm when aged 19 to 24.

He then moved the family to a farm at Wyndham, Southland. Which he later sells to his brother Joseph before he makes the move to Nelson after 60 years down South, where he starts an apple orchard in the Tasman area.

James was a pioneer in the fruit industry in Tasman; he took a leading role in the grower's organisations. He was chairman of the Nelson Provincial Fruit Growers Council Limited. He with the other growers in the region tried to pass a bill called "Fruit Control Bill", but unfortunately it was rushed and didn't pass the first session. It was then decided to campaign to get the other fruit growers of the region to sign and sell their fruit in accordance with its provisions.

Following surgery in August 1930 James faced ill health in August 1930, dying on 19th October 1930, aged 74.

Isabella Purvis was born on 04th May 1858 in McCallums Creek, Victoria, Australia. She was aged 5 when her family immigrated to Dunedin, New Zealand in March 1863 on board Jane II.

On 12th December 1930 Isabella joined her husband, not long after he had passed. They are buried together at Wakapuaka Cemetery, Nelson.

The inscription on their headstone reads "In loving memory of our Father and Mother who died at Tasman".

Alicia McKindrick, Historic Stories from Nelson's Wakapuaka Cemetery Team