

Recorded: 4th March 2021 & 28th May 2021
Interviewer: Michael Rooney
Abstractor: Liz Holland

The time codes in this abstract summary have been recorded based on the original audio files. Please note that the times may differ for the online audio due to the original files being combined into one file. However, the order of content in this abstract below will match the online audio.

**Dates removed for privacy and security reasons. For enquiries related to genealogy, please apply directly to the Central Otago Oral History Project manager.*

File 01

0:00 Recording agreement. (separate file 01)

File 02

0.14 Father - Farmer
Brought up CROOKSTON, WEST OTAGO. Broke leg before he started school—hospitalised 8 weeks.
Recalls

2.45 **FAMILY BACKGROUND**
Father, stretcher bearer, WORLD WAR 1. Injured twice.
Father- Farmer, Slump came. Died at 62 of heart attack. [1956]
Ivan got pacemaker and bypasses at the same age.
Father a “trickster” to entertain people. Explains

6.10 Mother from ORKNEY ISLANDS. Her whole family came out to NZ-Uncle BILL (TURFUS)(killed in PASSCHENDAELE)
Uncle JIM, Uncle PETER, Aunty MOLLY, Aunty ROSIE (TURFUS/SIMS)

Siblings: 2 brothers and 3 sisters. Ivan second youngest. EVELYN (BRENSELL), 7 years younger (still alive, May 2021)

9.02 **EDUCATION**
Recalls 3 of his family rode to school on same horse.
100 children approx.

12.29 **PASTIMES:**
RABBITING- WW2 \$24/100; Ferrets used to chase rabbits out of burrows; milked cows before school;
Father’s garden.

16.45 HIGH SCHOOL [Oamaru]- 1 year. Recalls Initiation ceremony.

17.35 **EMPLOYMENT**
Mustering, GLENARAY STATION [Northern Southland] ARGYLE STATION, GLENLAPA STATION

LOGAN MERCANTILE [1865 – 1961]

23.28 **End of File 02**

File 03 EMPLOYMENT CONTINUED

MUSTERER for MATHEW KIRKPATRICK – ROMNEY SHEEP STUD FARM, WAIKAKA,
Lived in a hut; mustering on horseback; horses killed and used for dog food

4.49 NZ LOAN and MERCANTILE Agency Company, Stock and Station Agent, HERIOT, office worker

NATIONAL MORTGAGE, [merged with WRIGHT STEPHENSON & CO, 1972]
DUNEDIN + ROXBURGH. “on road” VAUXHALL VELOX 1950-brand new car to drive.

6.48 NZ REFRIGERATION COMPANY, Buyer – 6 months on, 6 months off. Drove FORD CUSTOMLINE.
Stock went to BURNSIDE FREEZING WORKS, DUNEDIN, also ISLINGTON CHRISTCHURCH.
Contract Fencing during 6 months off – 21 Shillings a chain. WINTON EXPERIMENTAL FARM- did
fencing. Built concrete restraining posts.

10.05 Met wife (JOSEPHINE) in ROXBURGH. Worked at ROXBURGH HEALTH CAMP. Married 1952- 2020.
3 daughters, 3 sons, 3 left-handed, 3 right-handed.

11.53 Transferred WINTON to RANFURLY. BLAKELY BROTHERS, GIMMERBURN. 2,200 sheep to BURNSIDE
[Freezing works].

14.29 Bought house in TIMARU. Worked in COOLSTORE. Bought land for raspberries and strawberries;
mass of cooch [interrupted by son Andrew calling in]

16.35 End of File 03

File 04 EMPLOYMENT CONTINUED

0.10 COOLSTORE – diary, peas. Broke his leg.

2.15 CROMWELL – SIMS FOOD STORE, 7 day week shop, 7am to 10pm. Greg [SIMS] assisted and 2 shop
assistants. 5 years. Describes

3.45 ALEXANDRA –Real Estate JUDITH [HEWARD]. Only 2 Real Estate Agents in ALEXANDRA- DOUG
STEWART
Sold sections SHORT CUT ROAD. Sold land to SEW HOYS, DUNEDIN. Gained Auctioneers Licence.

7.54 FAMILY

GREG – Director General of Roman Catholic Church- known around world. [Father Michael Mary]
Visited RUSSIA with GREG. Now based in SCOTLAND. Home base CHRISTCHURCH.

TONY –England. Top Dressing Pilot. Flew for KLM, married woman in UK. Retired

ALEX – Pilot

DEBORAH – (married IVAN ROLLESTON) West Otago on farm

SUZANNE (second eldest) – CULVERDEN –retired

ANGELA – CLYDEVALE, farming

Wife JOSEPHINE (Jo) died May 2020.

Travelled around the world.

15.55 End of File 04

SESSION 2 – 2 MONTHS LATER, FOLLOWING EMAIL FROM SON TONY IN UK

File 05 Reintroduction

File 06

0.42 **FAMILY HISTORY**

Great Grandfather JAMES SIM sailed on AVALANCHE from DUNKELD PERTSHIRE
Lost in BLUE MOUNTAINS- Ivan's father found his body years later.

Ivan's father, ALEXANDER SIM farmed at CROOKSTON. Married HELEN SPENCE TURFUS, from ORKNEY.

A stretcher bearer with Ivan's wife's father. Ivan's father unhappy he married a Roman Catholic. Explains.

Ivan's father badly injured in World War I. Returned home via hospital ship.

Jo's mother had 11 children, died in SEACLIFF fire. [1942] Jo brought up in Dunedin Orphanage.

09.56 **FARMING CROOKSTON**
Horses – used on farm.

LINEN FLAX –grew during the war for aircraft and clothing. Children helped. HUKARERE STATION.
Went to Flax Mill, TAPANUI. Explained.

Recalls School Days- 3 rode dappled pony, part- Arab, "Old Blue" to school. Sheepskin saddle.
WAITAKI BOYS HIGH SCHOOL (WBHS)- "slushies" got caned by prefects. SID BRYANT – Head Prefect
FRANK MILNER, Head Master. Reminisced with Interviewer who also went to WBHS.

22.50 **Mustering.** (covered first interview)
Horses ridden until too old; pack horses; turned into dog "tucker"[EXPRESSION]= food .
JACK MAC's block- ride 4 hours before starting mustering. Used 6 dogs.
6 Musterers on GLENARY. Big musters would take weeks. Got lost. Describes

28.00 **Joined Stock + Station Agents to get a car.**
WEDDERBURN PUB, self-service, left money on bar. VINCE DACRE "The Spider"

30.00 **7 Day a week Dairy, CROMWELL. 7am to 9pm. TIP TOP ice-cream. GREG + TONY [SIMS] helped in shop.**
7 years.

34.00 **File 06 Finished.**