

Richardson decided to settle in Otago after a preliminary visit to New Zealand in 1852. Back in England he wrote a Summer's Excursion in New Zealand and acquired farming skills and equipment. One of Otago's most prepared early settlers, he finally sailed to New Zealand in 1856 with his three children, bringing twenty tons of chattels with him. He bought a farm in South Otago and built a house called 'Willowmead'. This was only the start of his New Zealand story. He participated vigorously in colonial

John Larkins Cheese Richardson was born in Bengal, India. His father was an East India Company civil servant. At 29 he joined the Bengal horse artillery, fought in Afghanistan and was decorated for gallantry. He retired at 41 and was free to follow his life's passion, farming.

## Sir John Richardson 1810-1878

Harris also speculated on land, on the Tairā and in North Dunedin. Tragedy struck, however, in the late 1860s when his investments failed and he lost £28,000; he declared himself insolvent. Forced to resign from politics and return to being a lawyer, he never recovered his losses. In the end he died in Dunedin in 1886 after a year of imprisonment for debt, with only a hundred pounds in the bank.

John Hyde Harris was born in Oxfordshire and trained as a lawyer before sailing to Otago in 1850, becoming Dunedin's second lawyer. His ambition was to create a fortune worthy of his Clarendon ancestors, an old aristocratic family.

John Hyde Harris married Anne Cargill, daughter of William Cargill, who became the first Superintendent of Otago in 1853. Family life must have been challenging as Harris went into politics and was often at odds with his father-in-law, siding with his brother-in-law William Cutten. Harris was a member of the 'little enemy', prominent Englishmen who were drawn in the side of the Scottish founders of Dunedin. Harris became the Superintendent of Otago after defeating John Richardson from 1863 to 1865 and he was president of the successful 1865 Dunedin Exhibition. He gained a prominent position in national politics when he became the Solicitor-General in Stafford's government (1867-68). Harris had acquired high social standing in Dunedin, worthy of his Clarendon ancestors.

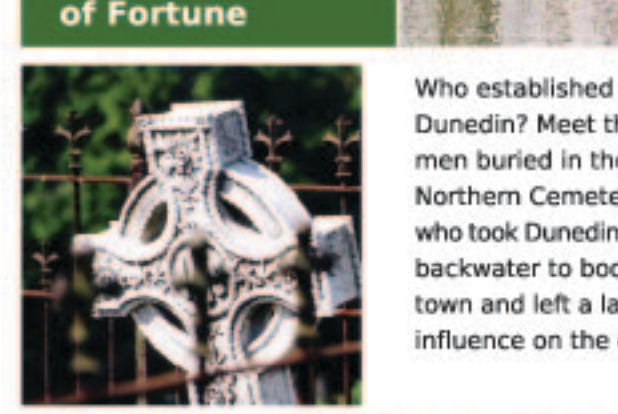
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## John Hyde Harris Lawyer, politician, businessman 1826-1886

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## Gentlemen of Fortune



Who established Dunedin? Meet the men buried in the Northern Cemetery who took Dunedin from backwater to boom town and left a lasting influence on the city.



Bradshaw was born in Derbyshire, England, in 1855. At the age of 23 he went to the Victorian goldfields and, coming to Otago in 1863, he worked as a metallurgist. He was keenly interested in local politics and by 1866 Bradshaw was elected the representative for Goldfields towns. He became involved in mining concerns: the establishment of a mine, the price of gold, mining location and mine safety.

James Bradshaw was an early labour reformer and was involved in securing the Saturday half-day holiday when people worked six days a week.

## James Bradshaw Politician, labour reformer 1832-1886

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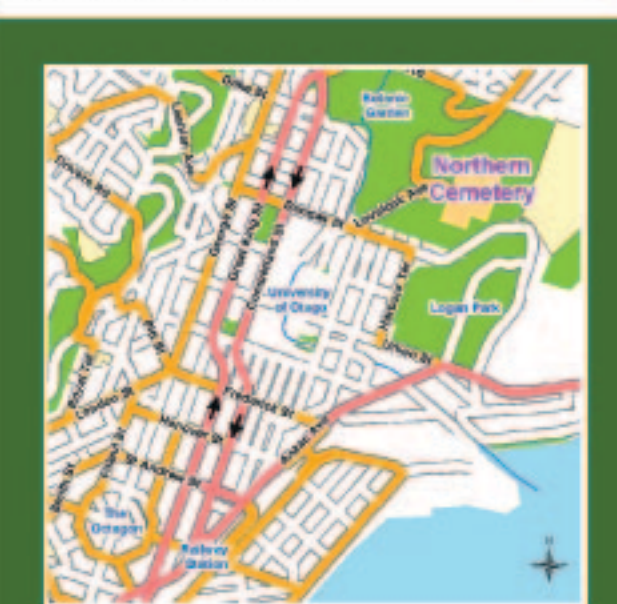
Many Dunedin families became wealthy from the gold rush, creating a huge demand for servants. The Otago Provincial Council brought young women from Britain to satisfy the demand. Scandal ensued when the women had to wait weeks in cold barracks before finding employment after curfew. His opponent John Hyde Harris took advantage of this, saying that Richardson treated the women so ill that the ranks of prostitutes are weekly augmented. His constituents showed their disapproval by rejecting him in 1863. Returning from Wellington he was greeted at Dunedin wharf by a jeering crowd and as he walked up the street with police protection he was preceded by a band playing 'The Ragged March'.

Richardson became Superintendent of Otago in 1861 just as gold was discovered. He coped well with the sudden influx of large numbers of people to the city. Dunedin people turned against him, however, when he opposed the political separation of the North and South Islands. People wanted separation to stop Otago's gold wealth going to the government in the North.

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Front cover:  
Robert Campbell's grave, photographed by Derek Smith  
Detail from an 1875 bird's-eye view of Dunedin



Edward Hulme was born in Kent and, at sixteen, was apprenticed to the Royal College of Surgeons in London. In 1839 he graduated as a Doctor of Medicine. At the School of Medicine in Paris he was introduced to enlightened treatment of the mentally ill. He studied midwifery at the Dublin Rotunda Hospital, one of a number of charitable hospitals for

## Edward Hulme First surgeon in Otago 1812-1876

By 1882 the new technology of refrigeration made large runs redundant. Small farms could now produce dairy and meat, not just wool. This encouraged large runholders to sell parts of their runs, but not Campbell, who opposed the subdivision of his land. In the end it was not politicians but rabbits that made the land unproductive and forced Campbell's vast run to be broken up.

Robert Campbell came to New Zealand in 1860 when he was seven years old. He was the seventh-largest landowner in New Zealand and the most powerful Otago runholder, running some 300,000 sheep. His extensive land ownership made him a target for politicians like Vincent Pyke and John Richardson who predicted that huge runs would make New Zealand like Britain.

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## Robert Campbell Landowner 1843-1889

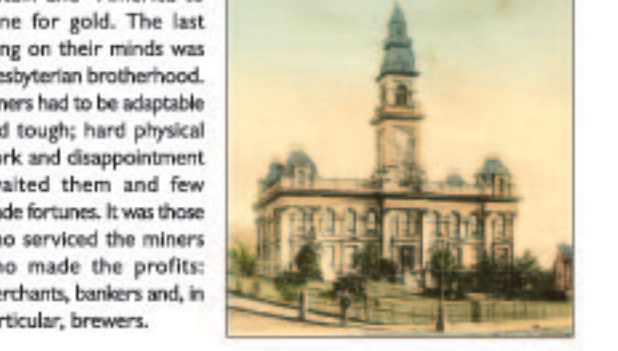
Bradshaw, influenced by his friend John Richardson, believed that too much power was in the hands of employers. There had been a growth in manufacturing in Dunedin in the early 1870s. Conditions, however, were bad for factory workers with starvation wages (especially for women) and long hours. Women worked twelve hours a day, six days a week, with a twenty-minute lunch break. Bradshaw's efforts resulted in the Employment of Females Act 1873 (or Bradshaw's Act). The act reduced working hours to eight and improved conditions in factories. Women factory workers wrote to Bradshaw, offering most sincere and grateful thanks for your exertions happily crowned with success to secure for us and all similarly situated ... a diminution of the hours of work.

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## Gentlemen of Fortune

Dunedin began in 1848 as a Free Church of Scotland settlement, led by William Cargill and the Rev. Thomas Burns. Among them were English Anglicans John Hyde Harris and William Cutten. There was an 'us and them' mindset between the English and the Scots. Cargill, Otago's first Superintendent in 1853, wanted Dunedin to be a Scottish town of hardworking Presbyterians.

When gold was discovered in Central Otago in 1861, Dunedin went from backwater to boom town almost overnight. Thousands of men, among them Vincent Pyke and James Bradshaw, raced from Australia, Britain and America to mine for gold. The last thing on their minds was Presbyterian brotherhood. Miners had to be adaptable and tough; hard physical work and disappointment awaited them and few made fortunes. It was those who serviced the miners who made the profits: merchants, bankers and, in particular, brewers.



The wealth created by gold led to Dunedin's next incarnation in the 1870s as the commercial centre of New Zealand. Along with the creation of industry came sweatshops and dire work conditions. Many were disturbed that the things they had tried to leave behind them in Britain - poverty, grinding factory work and starvation wages - had followed them to Dunedin. James Bradshaw and John Millar fought for union representation and better work conditions. Many of the men were liberal; having experienced class inequality in Britain, they wanted New Zealand to be a more egalitarian society.

By the 1880s economic depression gripped the whole country, and Dunedin lost its predominant position. One thing was still going strong in Dunedin: education. Thanks to the Scots settlers, its importance was established early on in the settlement. They believed that education was essential and should be available to everybody. John Richardson became the Chancellor of the University of Otago in 1871.

Many went into local politics, dealing with the important issues of the day: provincial versus central government, political separation of the North and South Islands and better labour conditions. The most important issue for many was fair land distribution. They did not want New Zealand to become like Britain with its class division between those who had land and those who didn't.

These men often knew each other and worked together. They were friends and acquaintances and, sometimes, bitter opponents.