

Sarah Fogo pleaded self-defence. But the prosecution argued that she had no injuries on her. She had used a kitchen knife to stab Thomas — a proof of daughter gave evidence at the trial of their father's violent behaviour. He was a heavy drinker and would often hit his wife.

Sarah was charged with murder on that Saturday in 1900. She had stabbed her husband of thirty years, Thomas Fogo, London-born Sarah had married Thomas after she arrived in Dunedin in 1869. Sarah's son and

Georgia Fogo was woken from her sleep by her mother Sarah calling out to her. She ran to her parents' room where she found her father, bloody, lying on the floor with her mother standing near clapping a knife. Her mother Sarah said, 'I have done it. Had I not done it, I would have been a corpse myself.'

## Block 29, Plot 6 Sarah Fogo 1841-1911

had found a wedding sweetheart after all.

of a life cut in its prime. Why is a servant's gravestone so grand? Perhaps she two years after arriving. On her gravestone is carved a broken ly, symbolic New Zealand, however, was not to be a new beginning for Annie. She died

shudder at the thought — actually have to do their work themselves',

The Otago Daily Times sided with the servants and wrote in 1875, 'Those whose you why I left my last place, if you tell me why you dismissed your last cook.'

employers was when upstairs maids asked the employers for references. 'I'll tell annoying for some

shocked their employers.

One habit that was

were thought brazen and 'servantism'. They scoldingly referred to as self-confident air often not have in Britain. So power which they did gave them bargaining

The demand for servants



6:30 a.m. until 11 p.m., with one night off a week.

a potential husband, let alone marry one. Servants worked a long day from families. Domestic work was, however, back-breaking, with no chance to meet aimed to encourage young women out to the colony to be servants for wealthy programs, because she became a servant when she arrived. These programmes to get a husband. There was a shortage of men in Britain but New Zealand

Annie Garty came to Dunedin in 1873 when she was 25. Possibly she came

## Block 30, Plot 8 Annie Garty 1848-1875

because she had to go down stairs to the kitchen to get it. Also, they argued, Thomas's first injury was to the back of his head, indicating that he had been hit from behind. In the end, the jury returned a guilty verdict but with a strong recommendation for mercy. Murder incurred an automatic death sentence and so the Judge sentenced Sarah to be hanged. Sarah spent a month in Dunedin Gaol, waiting to die. Then a telegram arrived advising that the death sentence had been commuted to life imprisonment.

## Intriguing Ladies



Find out about the lives of these fascinating Victorian women buried here in the Northern Cemetery.



Larnach realised that Eliza's stepfather was filching her inheritance from her father, and took his father-in-law to court in 1861. The case depleted Eliza's inheritance. Her dowry was £11,000 — substantial, but not a fortune.

Eliza stayed in Melbourne.

Larnach went to the Victorian goldfields representing the Melbourne Bank and married him. Donald was born a year later, in 1860. Kate in 1862. Douglas in 1863 and Colleen in 1865. The young couple spent a lot of time apart while Larnach became a Melbourne banker, Eliza owned the homestead near her family's early. Eliza had met Larnach, whose father Victoria girls were encouraged to marry them didn't marry.



often live together when one or both of them didn't marry.

together. This was common, sisters would close and spent a lot of their adult lives her half-sister Mary was born. They became Eliza, then re-married. Eliza was seven when they had known each other for years, and Mary died when she was two. Her mother, also beauty in her youth. Her father, Richard, Guise family in 1842 and was considered a Eliza was born in Australia into the wealthy

Mary, daughter Kate and son Donald.

Robert Lawson, who built it for William Larnach, the well-known banker and politician, for his first wife Eliza in 1880. He is buried there, also his second wife

## Block 100, Plot 4 The Ladies of Larnach Castle

The splendid tomb is a replica of Dunedin's First Church designed by architect Robert Lawson, who built it for William Larnach, the well-known banker and politician, for his first wife Eliza in 1880. He is buried there, also his second wife Sarah was about sixty when she murdered her husband and was released after ten years. She died five months later. She is buried in the same grave as her husband and their son, an infant, who had died 35 years earlier. The peaceful grave gives no hint of the violent story behind the occupants' deaths.

It is in these Fogo

premeditation, they said, because she had to go down stairs to the kitchen to get it. Also, they argued, Thomas's first injury was to the back of his head, indicating that he had been hit from behind. In the end, the jury returned a guilty verdict but with a strong recommendation for mercy. Murder incurred an automatic death sentence and so the Judge sentenced Sarah to be hanged. Sarah spent a month in Dunedin Gaol, waiting to die. Then a telegram arrived advising that the death sentence had been commuted to life imprisonment.



Kate, Larnach's favourite daughter, was four when the family came to Dunedin. Educated in England and Leipzig, she learnt languages and music. Her father returned home. 'I am sorry to think that Kate is more backward than she ought to be.' This worried him; he thought that music and languages could allow Kate to support herself as a governess if his business interests failed. She died of typhoid in Wellington, where she was working, aged 29. Larnach wrote, 'Family troubles knock me over more than anything ... the death of my dear good little daughter Kate ... has been a great blow to us all'. Eliza's other 'baby' Gladys died in childbirth when she was 22.

Larnach felt guilty about having left Eliza alone in the castle because Mary accompanied him on his travels. Sadly, after five years of marriage, Mary died at the age of 38.

1882. It was a marriage more of convenience, but they had known each other for years, and Mary died when she was two. Her mother, also beauty in her youth. Her father, Richard, Guise family in 1842 and was considered a Eliza was born in Australia into the wealthy



Now William had a motherless child, and he needed a wife to whom he could make over his property as an insurance against bankruptcy. His investments were falling due to the 1880s depression, poor business decisions, and costly education in England.

England, heard of their mother's death by letter. William wrote, 'I even now were on either side of Melbourne, and the older children, in her'. However, Gladys was only two when tragedy struck. Eliza died suddenly his eyes, with all the hair on his face. Baby loves him, as long as he doesn't kiss 'baby' and Mr Kitchings, a servant. [The] will soon not be able to see out of In England and so she lavished affection on her last child. She wrote about At 36 Eliza gave birth to Gladys. She missed her children who were at school paid to be built at Pukehiki.

The two sisters' lives were focused on the children and their clothing, education, and ponies, the servants, and the local Presbyterian church which Eliza had fire, the wind used to blow me almost out of bed.'

gold. I used to have three or four hot water bottles at night as well as a great cold. I used to have three or four hot water bottles at night as well as a great cold. I used to have three or four hot water bottles at night as well as a great cold. I used to have three or four hot water bottles at night as well as a great cold.

Eliza's first overseas trip was to London. She had four children under the age of six, but she was only 24 and she thought London was exhilarating.

## Pioneers, Maids, and a Tragic Marriage

In the nineteenth century many women came to New Zealand from Britain, Ireland or Australia. They left crowded industrial cities to improve their lives, maybe even to have their own homes. Many, like Annie Garty, had been servants in Britain, and the chance to run their own household would have been tempting. Marriage was an important decision; there was no option of divorce for most women. Far from being the Victorian ideal of the 'angel in the home', Victorian Dunedin women often lived physically demanding lives. Many died in childbirth. Gravestones testify that Victorian parents often experienced the death of children, sometimes more than once, as with Mary Bales.



In the colony, male and female spheres were separate. Men moved in the world while women occupied the home. However, many women whose husbands had died or abandoned them had to go beyond the home to seek employment to support themselves and their children, at a time when there were few avenues for female employment. What was usually available was poorly paid factory or shop work, or better-paid but arduous domestic service. The women mentioned in this brochure lived in urban Dunedin and their work reflects this: Matilda Lo Keong was a storeowner, Anstiss Silk a hotel manager, Mary Bales a boarding-house manager, Jane Rundman a union leader, and Emily Siedeberg a prominent doctor.

Dunedin was a good city to grow up in if you were a girl and wanted to be educated. Because of Dunedin's Scottish roots, there was an emphasis on education for everyone, including women. Otago Girls' High School was the first high school for girls in the southern hemisphere and the Otago University was the first university in Australasia to admit women to its classes. New Zealand's first woman medical graduate, Emily Siedeberg, and first woman lawyer, Ethel Benjamin, both went to Otago University.

There was a 'mourning mania' after Queen Victoria's husband, Albert, died in 1861. The Queen slept with a deathbed photo of him and wore black for the rest of her life. Widows throughout the colonies, including New Zealand, emulated the Queen, wearing black clothes and weeping veils. Brides wore grey and even girls wore black clothes; babies could wear black booties. Working-class women couldn't buy a new black wardrobe, so they would dye their clothes black. Men usually wore a black armband to show they were in mourning. Apart from going to church, widows didn't participate socially. This custom came from an older belief that a widow was shadowed by her husband's death and should be shunned.



The death of husbands brought economic and social uncertainty for women and, unlike for men, it was less acceptable for women to marry again. On some tombstones you can see widows described as 'relicts' of their dead husbands, reflecting the idea that once their husbands died they were 'left behind', waiting to join them.

Most of the women mentioned emigrated to Otago as young women. Coming to the unknown was a gamble. Some lost and met despair, others found hard but satisfying lives, and a few even prospered.

Sexton's Cottage  
Northern Cemetery  
Lovelock Avenue  
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Annie Garty's grave, photographed by Fiona Hyland  
A Victorian image of women: sisters Margaret and Elizabeth Golliar, reproduced by kind permission of Deniece Gresham

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