

# Caroline Mary Hunter (Carrie)

Born on 30<sup>th</sup> July, 1905, in Whiteness near Lerwick, Shetland Islands, Scotland

Died on 2<sup>nd</sup> November, 1998 at Maranatha House, Mosgiel, Dunedin, aged 93 years. Funeral Directors were Campbell and Sons, 95 Gordon Rd, Mosgiel. The Celebrant, Rev Irving Rutherford, was husband of Ron Hunter's sister Jean.

Her parents were James Hunter (1858-1915) born in Whiteness, Zetland, and Christina Hunter (b 9th Sept 1863-1917), born Quoyness, Whiteness, SHI). James and Christina had 8 children, of which Carrie was the youngest:

- Helen (Nellie) Mina Hunter (1889-1930). Married Gilbert (Bert) Taylor, also from SHI(1892-?) in 1923. They had a child called Thelma in 1928 who died in Dunedin in 1981. Both Helen (Oamaru) and Gilbert died in 1930 in Naseby ([check this fact](#)).
- William Hunter (1891-?). Married Margaret? (1890-?)
- [Margaret Ann Hunter \(1893-1908\). Only 15 when she died.](#)
- George Gair Hunter (1895-1948)
- [1970. Check it out](#)). Married Minnie Louisa (nee Hankie) Hunter(1890-1978) in 1930.
- [Andrew M Hunter \(1897-1917\). Only 20 when he died.](#)
- James Hutchison Hunter (1900-23<sup>rd</sup> June 1970 at Dn Public Hospital aged 69)
- [Edward Hunter \(1902-1918\). Only 16 when he died.](#)
- Caroline Mary (Carrie) Hunter (b 30th July 1905, d 2<sup>nd</sup> Nov 1998). Carrie was bridesmaid for George and Minnie.

Both James and Christina died between 1915 and 1917, as did two of their kids, Edward and Andrew. Margaret preceded them in 1908. The 1915-17 deaths may be associated with the Spanish Flu??

Helen, James, George and William migrated to NZ (together or separately??). [Investigate Immigration Records 1923-1928. Does Ron know? When di Carrie arrive in NZ and who was she with?](#)

As yet we don't know what happened in Carrie's early times in NZ. The following Census information gives an idea of where she was from 1938. From this, we will attempt to build up a picture of her life story.

1935	Dn West	Selkirk St	Spinster	30 years old
1938	Dn South	Ashburn Hall	Spinster	33
1946	Palmerston North	189 Fitzherbert Av	Spinster	41
1949	Brocklyn (wgtn)	107A Mortimer Tce	Spinster	44
1954	Wgtn Central	93 Brougham St	Spinster	49
1957	Wgtn Central	93 Brougham St	Spinster	52
1963	Wgtn Central	93 Brougham St	Spinster	58
1969	Wgtn Central	93 Brougham St	Receptionist	64

1978	Wgtn Central	93 Brougham St	Spinster	73
1978	Clutha	370 King St, Mosgiel	Beneficiary	73
1981	Clutha	37 Bush Rd, Mosgiel	Beneficiary	76

Carrie received a letter from the Dept of Health Mental Health Division Director commending her for her great service in “public relations” and that they would miss her outstanding service and loyalty. It was her retirement (she apparently worked in the office of the mental health dept).

Carrie was a spinster all her life. At age 24 (1929), she had her only child, Sydney Hunter, born 3<sup>rd</sup> November, 1929 at 56 Essex Street, Linwood, Chch. The father is not known and never recorded.

Syd was adopted out, 18 months from birth, on 20<sup>th</sup> July, 1931 (H.A.Young SM made the court order) to Alfred Edwin (Landscape Gardiner) and Gertrude Martin Husband of 31 Percy Street, Chch. Syd became Sydney Edwin Husband.

I now have added the information provided by Ron Hunter, son of George who was an older sibling of Carrie. The information was kindly collated by Paul Oliver after initial findings from Wayne Lewis. The info is very precious Guys!

Ron Hunter is the son of Carrie’s brother George. He was born in 1932 and is 88yo currently, living in Mosgiel. He has a sister Jean (b 1936. Ron’s father George was the first to emigrate to NZ, travelling to Junee in Australia first, then on to NZ. George was a stonemason in Dn and worked on the foundations of the Otago Medical School building.

George then went to Owaka, on the farm “Taradale” for a family named Rogers. He worked at a cheese factory in Owaka, and in the off season in the coalmines in Kaitangata. Then he moved to and worked at the Pukerau dairy factory, at which time he met Minnie Hankie. Her Mum and Dad moved to Anderson’s Bay in Dn, and George followed, getting work at Momona dairy factory. He and Minnie married in 1930. By this time, George was a qualified cheesemaker and, after Momona cheese factory closed, he came in to Mosgiel, to a cheese factory in Riccarton Road, which closed in 1939, then to one in Gordon Rd near the Silverstream. George then worked in the Mosgiel Mills, he bought an acre of land where Ron lives now, and in 1948 he suffered death by car accident in Cemetery Rd, Mosgiel, whilst riding his bike (a car came down the hill and bowled him). Ron was 15 at the time. Ron’s Mum paid off the land. Ron worked at Hillside Workshops and then as a fitter and turner at Mosgiel Mills.

During his time in Owaka, George saved as much as he could and bought out his siblings (Helen and Gilbert, James, Carrie). **Bought them out of what? The 1 acre plot of land?**

William came to NZ also, but whether part of that group or earlier/later we do not know – perhaps earlier. William married and had a family, but at some point he committed suicide whilst on the West Coast, NZ. Details hazy at best. His wife up and oft to Oz (maybe she was an Australian, no info on that) and they are there in Tasmania. The boy, Roger, is v. tall at 6’6”. Ron has met him, he has 2-3 or more Sydney to Hobart yacht races. The sisters are, or were, teachers and nurses. Jean is in correspondence with them. **Get contact details.**

Nellie and Bert went to Maheno where Bert worked as a farm hand. They had daughters Doris and Gladys and then twins Myra and Thelma. Nellie died at a home in South Dunedin, Mrs Casserleys.

Doris left home and she worked at Cadburys in Dn because **Carrie was there**. Doris married Arthur Turner, an engraver at the Govt printing office. After Nellie died (1930) Bert worked on a farm in Gimmerburn, and came down to Dn a bit.

At some stage (had to be 1928-29), Carrie was staying with Nellie and Bert in Maheno, and she fell pregnant there. The family story was that it was the swagman who did the business, and no details of him are known. It seems she was a somewhat independent soul, as miscarriage/s and abortion are mentioned, but none too sure of that. Afterwards, Carrie stayed at home in Dn, Seacliff Mental Hospital is mentioned, not sure about that. She worked in a children's home but picked up a black mark for non-attendance and the death of a child was involved, but we are hazy here.

Carrie went to Wgtn where she learnt singing, and in fact sang at Ron's wedding.

Carrie had worked in a chemist shop in the Shetlands, and she worked at Boote's Chemists in Wgtn, and in P.North, so she must have gone from one to the other, not sure about the order of doing so. There is mention of a boyfriend from the time she was in P.North, but he died.

She had a wee flat in Wgtn, I think Ron said he recalls visiting it. (93 Brougham St Wgtn Central?).

At one point, her boarder was Fred Gair, who was for a time Deputy Prime Minister under Muldoon, and she mixed in elevated circles. We trace the Gair connection back to Carrie's Mum, Christina Gair, and some of them came to NZ and resided in Cromwell. Ron can remember his dad George used to go there.

The Gairs were stonemasons (a popular occupation in the Shetlands it seems) and worked on abutments to the Cromwell bridge which is now under water, plus many stone buildings. Harry and Rose???? Had two sons, one a teacher and one who resided in the Pacific Islands and signed the banknotes of some country, perhaps the treasurer or similar.

James Hunter was the other sibling to emigrate to NZ, Uncle Jim as Ron calls him. He was closest to Carrie and he knew her secrets but did not talk about them.

James was a cook and worked before the war in the army camp at Wingatui, and after the war he worked at Flock House in Bulls, an agricultural training centre, then as a cook in the James Smith shop in Wgtn.

Carrie was still working in Wgtn then, maybe at Boote's but she did go on to the DoH, Mental Health Division, and Ron has found from there a very good reference for Carrie.

James returned to Dn where he worked at the Salvation Army Home in St Clair. He died in 1970. Meanwhile, Doris had died. Before that, she had remarried and there was a son from that marriage, Murray, who came down to study in Otago Uni. When Doris returned to Dn, Carrie decided to come too, and she moved into Council Flats in Dn, then into Maranatha Home.

Carrie's death notice reads:

"HUNTER, Caroline Mary (Carrie) – On November 2 1998, in the loving care of the staff at Maranatha Home, Mosgiel, beloved Aunt of Gladys Fibbes, Myra Taylor, the late Doris Tenant, and the late Thelma Colston; Ron Hunter and Jean Rutherford, and a loved great-aunt and great-great-aunt; aged 93 years. A service for Carrie will be held in our chapel, 95 Gordon Road, Mosgiel, on Thursday, November 5, at 2pm followed by a private cremation. Messages c/- G.Fibbes, 11E Lanark Street, Mosgiel. Robert Campbell and Son Funeral Services, FDANZ."

At one stage, Gladys Fibbes (married Alan Fibbes) went to Shetland on a journey of discovery and found the place family lived in in Whiteness, said Ron, and it was fairly basic, with the stock pens attached to the rear of the house, but when she returned and described it to Carrie, Carrie said “oh, no, you must have got the wrong place, ours was a beautiful house”. This illustrates – right or wrong, who knows – Carrie’s attitude to life, that she was a cut above, a fine lady and she conducted herself accordingly and fondly regarded within the family as such.

Some bits and pieces that Olly has picked up:

- 1 The Maran-Atha records are kept in Mosgiel, I think by a chap called Richard Horne, 69 Perth St; tel 034897455. Hasn’t been approached yet.
- 2 There is a c.Fibbes listed at 1019Brighton Road, Brighton, 034811885. From Ron, that is a (not too sure, but I think a daughter of Gladys...?Carol...?)
- 3 Ron says there were two daughters, Carol (in Brighton) and Judy Gaillie, she is Hampden, plus two boys, the younger boy never married, worked as a cook on fishing boats, the older boy was a carpenter. No approach yey.
- 4 The only Tennants in Mosgiel are PM & AE Tenant, 6 Cornish Lane, Mosgiel tel 03 489 2402 No approach yet (Ron said Doris remarried to a Tennant after the death of her first husband).
- 5 Two Coulstons listed in the phone book in Mosgiel:
  - a. DA Coulston (listed with CA Russel), 18 Elmwood Drive, Mos; Tel 03 489 5142
  - b. J&S Coulston, 14 McFadden Drive, Mosgiel Tel 03 489 7536.

From what we know thus far, we can begin to develop a timeline of Carrie’s life story, albeit with many gaps to be filled in.

Date	Event	Notes
30/07/1905	Born in Whiteness, Shetland Islands to parents James and Christina. The youngest of 8 siblings.	Carrie worked for a chemist shop in the Shetlands, so presumably she was there into the early 1920’s at least?
1908	Older sister Margaret died, aged only 15	Cause?
1915	Father James died aged 57, when Carrie was only 10	
1917	Mother Cristina died aged 54, as well as her brother Andrew at age 20. Carrie was only 12	
1918	Brother Edward died age 16.	
1923	Helen and Gilbert married. Some time after their wedding (and before 1928) they emigrated to NZ. Given that Nellie died in 1930 after she and Bert had 4 daughters	Given that Nellie had 4 daughters (Doris, Gladys, Myra, Thelma) before she died in 1930, maybe they were in NZ for all of their births? Ie by 1926 latest?
1923-28	William, George, James and Carrie also emigrated to NZ but we need to discover when.	
1928?-29	Carrie staying with Nellie and Bert in Maheno when she falls pregnant to unknown father.	WHO?
03/11/1929	Syd Hunter was born in Christchurch to Carrie.	

