

HELEN MILLER ELLIOT. Aged 81 yrs.

Death has claimed still another of our worthy pioneers in the person of Helen M. Elliot, who passed away at Nevis on Tuesday morning at the advanced age of 81 years. Deceased lady, with her husband, who predeceased her some 29 years ago, arrived at the Bluff in the "Flying Mist" in 1862, the late Mr Elliot being in charge of the first draft of sheep for Messrs Rattray and Dalgety. Incidentally it might be mentioned that the "Flying Mist" foundered at Bluff on that particular trip. The first scene of the couple's activities was Invercargill. From there they spent varying periods at Hillend, Five Rivers, Fairlight and Kawarau Falls. Forty-seven years ago they took up their residence at Nevis, where the late Mr Elliot accepted an appointment with Mr James Cowan. In 1889, they acquired the Nevis Hotel property, but two years later the deceased lady had the misfortune to lose her husband, and she controlled the hotel until 1905, when she disposed of the property. In her control of the hotel, as in later life, the late Mrs Elliot's hospitality knew no bounds. With the exception of but a short period, deceased made the Nevis her home for close on 50 years, and many can bear testimony to her untiring efforts and ready assistance to the sick and ailing, and by reason of that and the many noble characteristics with which she was endowed, deceased was admired and respected on all sides. Deceased is survived by three of a family of five daughters (Mrs C. Scott, Mrs E. M'Nulty, and Mrs J. Ritchie, Nevis), and claimed twenty-seven grand-children, and thirteen great-grand-children. To these the deepest sympathy goes out in their bereavement. The funeral in the New Cemetery, Cromwell, on Thursday, was attended by friends from all parts of the district, the funeral service being conducted by Mr Witheford.