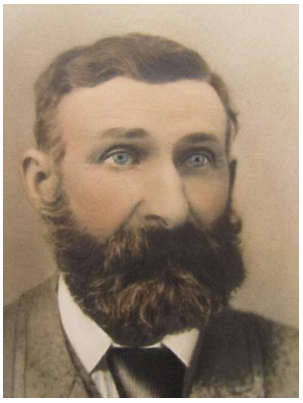
John and Hanorah Brosnahan Tim Brosnahan

Born in 1841 in County Kerry, Ireland, John came out to NZ with his sister, arriving at Lyttelton in December 1862. He directly made to the Mackenzie Country, commencing work as a driver of a six-horse wagon. Approximately two years after he had arrived in the province, he married Miss Hanorah O'Driscoll who was from the same area in County Kerry as her husband. About the same time, he acquired land on the Levels plains, where he farmed with success until 1906, when he retired, taking up permanent residence in Wilkin Street, Temuka. There were thirteen children of the marriage. He was one of the directors of the Timaru Milling Co. for about twenty years, relinquishing the post a couple of years before he died. He took a great interest in the Roman Catholic Church, being responsible for the transport of the bulk of the material where the present fine church is built, and he and his wife donated money for the Church's Stations of the Cross. He was a keen sportsman, being widely known as a huntsman. Because there were so many Brosnahans living in the Levels District, the locals gave them nicknames to distinguish them – Tady Mick, Hughie the Pub, Timaliza and many more; John was known as Peg-leg because he had a wooden leg – the result of falling off a wagon of straw when the horses shied, and his leg being crushed by the wheel. It didn't however stop him from work on the farm or driving a model-T car he later owned.

John's parents are also buried in the Temuka cemetery, though their last name was spelled Brosnan. Of interest is that their "headstone" is at the foot of their grave which apparently is an old Irish custom.