

## Richard and Mary Hoare

Richard Hoare and his brother Denis arrived in Dunedin in 1860; this settlement was only 12 years old. There was plenty of work for those with farm labouring experience, and it is probable that Richard would have worked as a labourer.

By March 1862, Richard had left Otago and was in the Timaru area as a farm worker, probably working for Mr Rhodes on his run The Levels. By 1863 he is listed as a landowner, holding some acres near to The Levels on the southern bank of the Opihi River. He continued to work in the area on other farms as well as farming on his own account.

The Canterbury Provincial Government ran a nomination scheme, whereby persons already resident in Canterbury could nominate their family for a free passage to New Zealand. In this way, once one Irishman was through the net in this most Anglican of colonies, a whole family of Irish can make it through. Richard used this process to bring out his family and friends.

Richard Hoare and Mary O'Connor married at Timaru on 19 April 1863. As there were no Catholic Churches yet in the district, they are shown as marrying at a Mrs. Joel's place. Richard was 25 and Mary was 18.

The Kerry folk purchased land close to Richard Hoare and they called their community Kerrytown. This was not a town as such, but the name Kerrytown referred to the general area that the immigrants settled in. It did however, have a Post Office and a pub (which never had a license).

In 1884 Richard Hoare presented a property at Kerrytown of 4 acres to the Temuka Parish. He also had built a convent of four rooms. The parish priest then wrote to the Sisters of St. Joseph of the Sacred Heart in Australia. On 6<sup>th</sup> May 1884 two sisters arrived at Temuka to commence their duties at Kerrytown on 12<sup>th</sup> May. The original two-roomed school was shifted onto this site too. Later, when St. Joseph's Catholic Church was built in Temuka, Richard and Catherine gave their time and money to help pay for it, including purchasing a stained glass window.

