

A Pioneer Jewish Community – Septimus Myers

Research Group – Overview of roles and tasks for data gathering



Roles and Tasks

Your group task is to find out as much as you can about Septimus Myers.

Your group roles include the following people. You need to choose or assign the following roles...

8A Researcher: The role of the researcher is to locate and gather information resources about your subject from websites and books. This will include biographies and other historical information.

8B Archivist: The role of the archivist is to locate original information resources (primary resources) about the subject. This will include a visit to the cemetery for photographs of personal information, printing out or taking notes from newspaper cuttings, and archived photos where these are available.

8C Journalist: The role of the journalist is to write a series of short narratives or paragraphs about the subject for publication using material located by the researcher and the archivist.

8D Editor/Producer: The role of the editor/producer is to gather cemetery data and to design the layout and create the end product.

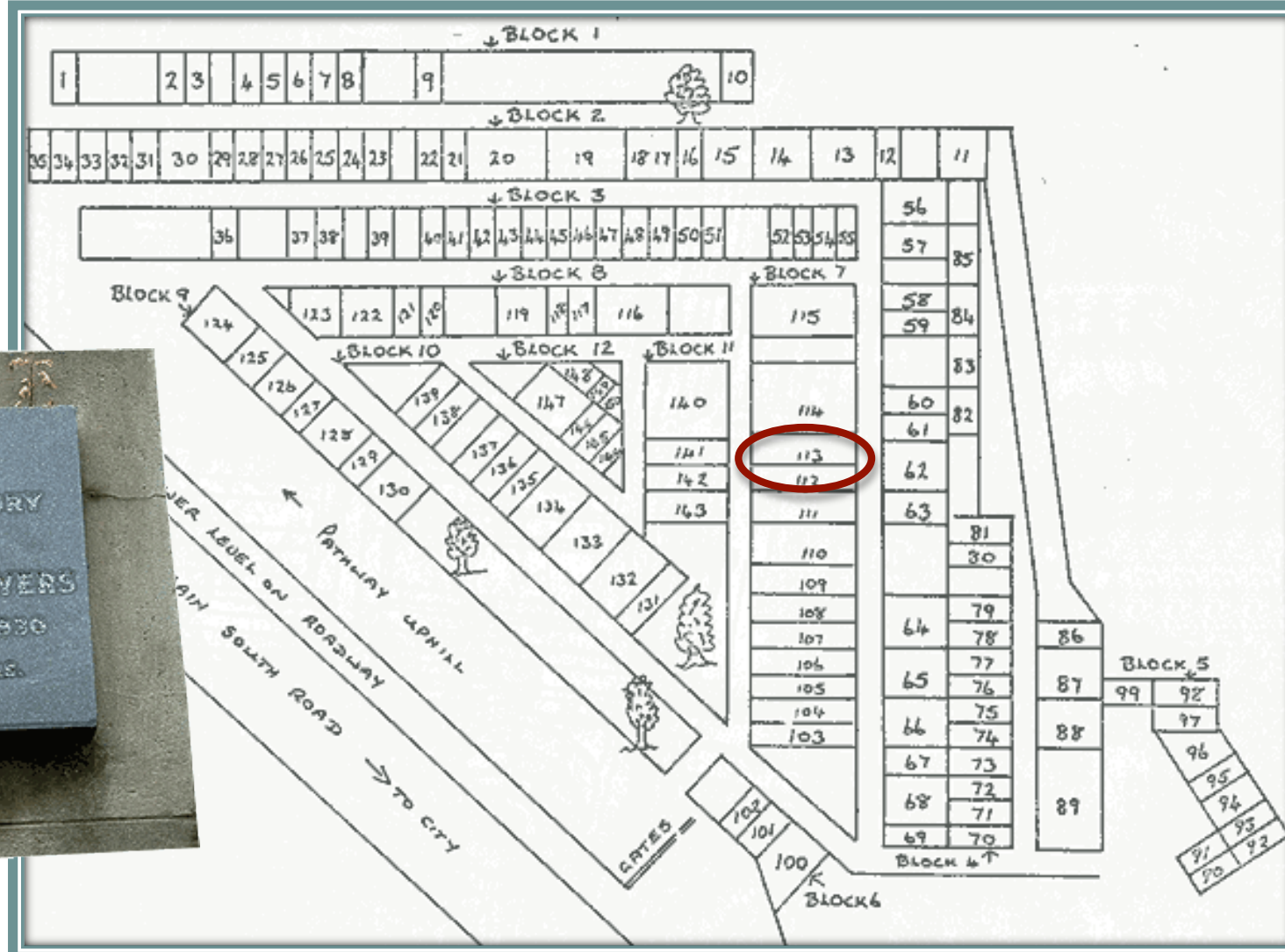


Septimus Myers 1852 - 1930:

For the Researcher



Septimus Myers is buried in the plot labelled 110 on the Genealogy Society map.



Septimus Solomon Myers 1852 - 1930



For the Researcher

Septimus Solomon Myers was born in Liverpool on September 14, 1852. A spice of romance came into his life as early as his baptismal day, when the Christian names of Septimus Soloman Arthur Wellington Daniel were bestowed upon him. The fact that he was the seventh son accounts for the name Septimus and Solomon, and the fact that he was born on the day on which the Duke of Wellington died led to the names Arthur and Wellington being added. By this time the child's father thought he should be in the picture so therefore his Christian name, Daniel, was added.



Myers, qualified as a dentist, and arrived in Dunedin on the *Lady Egidia* in 1868, and during his life in Dunedin played a prominent role in a remarkable number of activities of value to the community generally. In fact one wonders how he found time to earn a living, so numerous were his community involvements, with some of the highlights as follows.

He was an enthusiastic cyclist, enjoying touring, and becoming president of the Otago Cycling Club. He took a keen interest in rowing and yachting and held office as president of the Otago Rowing Club and commodore of the Otago Yacht Club. He was a foundation member of the North End Boating Club. This club was formed in the early 1890s and he held the office of president from its inception until he retired in 1925 when he was elected Patron.

In his younger days he lived in North East Valley and was one of the leading figures in public life. He was mayor of the borough for five years and chairman of the local school committee, and chairman of the North East Valley Licensing Committee. He was a member of the Otago Harbour Board from 1888 until 1890. He was a Dunedin City Councillor from 1910 until 1914, and stood for mayor in 1915 but was narrowly defeated.

One of his greatest pleasures, especially in later life, was playing chess. He was a long-term member of the Otago Chess Club of which he was a past-president, and finally elected as Patron. He was first president of the Southern Star-Bowkett Society, holding that office from 1899 until 1930. He was a Justice of the Peace and a member of the Masonic Order. Having spent some 30 years in the service of the community he suffered ill health and died on 8 April 1930, aged 77 years, and is buried with his wife, who had died some three years earlier, in the Jewish Section of Dunedin's Southern Cemetery.

Stories in Stone Historic Cemeteries Conservation Trust of New Zealand. Research taken from Otago Daily Times' files dated 9 April 1930. Photograph used with permission from Otago Daily Times 9 April 1930.

Septimus Solomon Myers 1852 - 1930

Obituary 1930 Otago Daily Times.



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OBITUARY.

MR. S. S. MYERS.

The death occurred on Tuesday night, at 17 Elder street, of Mr S. S. Myers, a well-known Dunedin dentist.

Mr Myers, who was born in Liverpool, first saw the light of day on September 14, 1852. A spice of romance came into his life as early as his baptismal day, when the Christian names of Septimus Solomon Arthur Wellington Daniel were bestowed upon him. Apparently various considerations of a widely divergent nature entered into the calculations of the parents in connection with this all-important event. The fact that Mr Myers was the seventh son accounts for the names Septimus and Solomon, and the additional fact that he was born on the day on which the Duke of Wellington died led to the names mentioned above being supplemented by Arthur and Wellington. By this time the child's father thought he should be in the picture, and therefore his Christian name (Daniel) was added to an already somewhat for-

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midable list. The boy carried his burden of names with ease, and, affectionately known as S. S. Myers, he went on to reach an age well past the allotted span. His death will be deeply regretted by all who had the pleasure of knowing him. He possessed a most genial nature, and every one who was acquainted with him held him in the highest respect as a gentleman in every sense of the word.

Mr Myers, who adopted dentistry as a profession, arrived in Dunedin by the Lady Egidia in 1868, and during the greater part of the intervening years played a prominent part in a remarkably large number of activities of value to the community generally relinquishing his numerous offices only when advancing years compelled him to take a rest. He served the people faithfully for many years on various public bodies, and was a prominent member of numerous organisations which have done a great deal of good in encouraging clean and healthy sport amongst the young people. It can safely be said of Mr Myers that if he took an

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interest in anything he was not content to be a mere figurehead, but always worked hard to secure the best results, sparing neither time nor money in his efforts to promote success, and it may be added that any movement for the welfare of the city and province was staunchly supported by him.

For more than 30 years Mr Myers placed his services at the disposal of the public in numerous ways, and the appreciation in which he was held is shown by the fact that some of the positions held by him were relinquished only when he insisted on retiring, much to the regret of those associated with him. During a lengthy residence in North-East Valley in his younger days he was one of the leading figures in the public life of the community. He was Mayor of the borough, which then had an existence apart from the city, for five years, and he also held the position of chairman of the local school committee. At that time a North-East Valley Licensing Committee was in operation, and Mr Myers held the position of chairman of that body. Subsequently North-East Valley was included in the Port Chalmers Licensing District, and he then became a member of the Port Chalmers Licensing Com-

Obituary on this and following pages is reproduced with permission from the Otago Daily Times 9 April 1930.

Septimus Solomon Myers 1852 - 1930



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mittee. In later years he became a member of the City Council, and for a period of three years he was chairman of the Tramways Committee. He was a candidate for the mayoralty of the city in 1915, and in a triangular contest he was defeated by Mr J. J. Clark. The voting on that occasion was:—Mr Clark, 6783 votes; Mr Myers, 5220; Mr Marlow, 3911. This contest marked Mr Myers's retirement from public life, though he continued to hold office in other bodies for many years. Mr Myers was an enthusiastic supporter of the Volunteer movement in the days before the territorial forces came into existence, and devoted many years of service in the interests of our defence forces, rising from the rank of private to the honourable position of lieutenant-colonel in command of the Otago Rifle Volunteers. He took commissioned rank with the North Dunedin Rifles, of which he was captain, and was subsequently promoted to the rank of major of the 1st Battalion, Otago Rifle Volunteers, while still later he attained the rank of lieutenant-colonel. He received the V.D. in recognition of his long and faithful services. Hospital and charitable aid work engaged Mr Myers's attention for several years. He was one of the Hospital Trustees prior to the establishment of the present Hospital and Charitable Aid Board. He was one of the original members of the latter body, which came into existence in 1910, and held office until 1915, when he did not seek re-election. During his term of office he held at various times the position of chairman of the Hospital Committee and chairman of the Sanatorium Committee.

It is doubtful whether any other man in Dunedin has ever been actively associated with so many bodies catering for

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sport and various forms of athletics as Mr Myers was. All forms of racing, cricket, football, coursing, boxing, cycling, rowing, and yachting received his support, and in all of these organisations he held official positions at one time or another. He was a steward of the Dunedin Jockey Club from October, 1897, when he filled a vacancy caused by the resignation of Mr J. H. Jowitt, till 1925, and in recognition of his services he had the honour of life membership bestowed upon him on July 20, 1926. After the death of Mr P. Miller the deceased and Mr James Gow were the only two life members of the club. At one time he figured prominently amongst the list of owners, having no fewer than 19 gallopers in training in addition to some trotting horses. On one occasion he and Mr F. J. Townsend set out from Dunedin together in a gig and by using six changes of horses which had been previously sent to various towns, between here and Christchurch, completed the journey in what was probably record time, saw the New Zealand Cup, and started on the return journey immediately afterwards. Mr Myers was one of the early members of the Tahuna Park Trotting Club (now the Forbury Park Trotting Club), which was formed in 1892, and after being vice-president for some years he became president in 1897. He held the latter position till 1906, and in the same year he was elected patron of the club. He has been a life member of the club for nearly 20 years, sharing that honour with Mr L. C. Hazlett since 1921. The inaugural meeting of the Otago Hunt Club, which was formed in 1911, was held in Mr Myers's rooms. He was the first president

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of the club, and after holding that position from 1911 till 1915 he was patron for about six years. He was associated with the Opoho and Anderson's Bay Cricket Clubs, in each of which he held the office of vice-president. His interest in football was devoted to the Association code. He was the first president of the Otago Football Association, which was formed about 1890, and held that office for some 32 years, when advancing age compelled him to retire. Since his retirement from the presidency he has been patron of the association. He took an exceptionally keen interest in coursing, and at one time his kennels, which were situated at Tapanui, were amongst the finest in New Zealand, as many as 30 greyhounds being in training at the same time. He was a very prominent leash man for several years, and was an ex-president of the New Zealand Coursing Association. The Otago Boxing Association had the benefit of Mr Myers's services as an executive officer for a lengthy period, and at the time of his death he was a life member of that body. In his younger days the deceased was an enthusiastic cyclist, and he derived great pleasure from almost innumerable tours in his spare time, covering extensive distances in a very short space of time. He was at one time president of the Otago Cycling Club, which was then an organisation of considerable strength. Aquatic sports had a staunch friend in Mr Myers, who took a keen interest in both rowing and yachting. He had held office as president of the Otago Rowing Association and commodore of the Otago Yacht Club, but probably his greatest interest in this branch of sports was centred in the North End Boating Club, of which he was one of the foundation members. This

Septimus Solomon Myers 1852 - 1930



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club was formed in the early nineties, and he held the position of president from its inception until his retirement some five years ago, when he was elected patron in recognition of his valued support. On the attainment of his majority as president he was the recipient of a presentation of a handsome clock and a silver salver from the club members. He was a member of the Otago Harbour Board from 1888 till 1890.

One of Mr Myers's greatest pleasures, especially in his latter years, was derived from playing chess. He was a very old member of the Otago Chess Club, of which he was an ex-president. He was a very keen player of considerable ability for many years, and was one of the ex-junior champions of the club. He held the office of president on two occasions, and after the death of Sir William Sim he was elected patron. To complete the list of Mr Myers's activities it must be mentioned that he has been chairman of the Schools Committees' Conference, president of the Dunedin Poultry Club, president of the Dunedin Fanciers' Club, and president of the New Zealand Poultry Association. He was the first chairman of the directors of the Southern Starr-Bowkett Society.

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holding that position from 1896 till the day of his death. He was appointed a justice of the peace many years ago. Mr Myers was a member of the Masonic Order, and for two years he was Master of Lodge No. 622, S.C. He was also a past grand treasurer of the Otago and Southland District Grand Lodge. A summary of Mr Myers's record is interesting. He was associated with almost 30 different organisations, and was at the head of affairs on at least 18 of them, while he was vice-president or chairman of committee on five others. Apart from the practice of his profession, he was associated in business with Mr H. Divers for some years, but he retired from this connection about five years ago. Mr Myers did not enjoy good health for the last year or so, and his illness took a serious turn a few weeks before his death. His wife died about three years ago, and he is survived by ~~was~~ daughter (Mrs Dingwell), who lives ~~in~~ the North Island.



Septimus Solomon Myers 1852 – 1930 More for the Archivist

APPLICATION FOR LICENSE FOR A CLAIM—No 103.

To the Warden of the Otago Mining District, at Lawrence.

PURSUANT to "The Mining Act, 1898," the undersigned **SEPTIMUS SOLOMON MYERS**, of Dunedin, dentist, hereby applies for a license for a Special Dredging Claim, as specified in the Schedule hereto, in respect of the land therein referred to which has been duly marked out for the purpose.

Address for service: The office of Alfred Crooke, solicitor, Ross Place, Lawrence.

Date and No. of Miner's Right : 22/5/1900; No. 13181.

Dated this 4th day of June, 1900.

SCHEDULE.

Locality where land is situated and its area—Block 15, Maungatua district, on south side of the Waipori River adjoining the eastern boundary of the special claim applied for by George Milne MacLean, extending down stream for a distance of about 80 chains including the flats for an average width of 5 chains and taking in the bed and banks of the said river. Area, about 40 acres.

Proposed term of license—42 years.

Style under which claim is to be worked—Myers and party.

Proposed mode of working—Dredging.

Remarks—Pegs marked S.S.M
S.C.

The land applied for is part of the land comprised in the Prospecting License No. 109 which will be surrendered on the grant hereof.

S. S. MYERS,
Signature of applicant.

Page 2 Advertisements Column 1 Tuapeka Times,
Volume XXXII, Issue 4760, 9 June 1900, Page 2

WELL-DESERVED PROMOTIONS.

The announcement of the promotion of two such well-known volunteer officers as Major E. R. Smith and Captain Myers (of the North Dunedin Rifles) will be received with pleasure. Major Smith has been promoted to the rank of Lieutenant-colonel, and Captain Myers to that of Major of No. 1 Battalion of Otago Rifle Volunteers. Both gentlemen have long been associated with the volunteers, and their self-sacrificing effort in that connection have contributed in no small degree towards bringing the force generally up to their present state of efficiency.

Major Septimus Solomon Myers joined the Rhyertown Rifles in 1876 as lieutenant, and was senior lieutenant in that company in 1877. Captain Hirst, who was in command, being a member of Parliament, and away for somewhat lengthy periods in Wellington, Lieutenant Myers was acting captain for some time. He joined the North Dunedin Rifles in 1885 as lieutenant, and was elected captain in place of Captain M'Nab, who went to Invercargill. Captain Myers has devoted a great deal of time to volunteering, and is fond of and encourages shooting. His lecture on the "Training of Volunteers for Defence Purposes," which was published in the Witness, was favourably criticised. He has been acting major for the 1st Battalion for some time, and while the North Dunedin Rifles regret losing his services as captain, they are pleased at his receiving well-deserved promotion.

WELL-DESERVED PROMOTIONS. Otago Witness,
Issue 2442, 2 January 1901, Page 17

OTAGO CHESS CLUB.

The following gentlemen were elected the office-bearers of the club for the year 1906-1907:—President, Mr Septimus S. Myers;

OTAGO CHESS CLUB. Otago Witness, Issue
2718, 11 April 1906, Page 62

LICENSING COMMITTEE ELECTIONS.

THE CITY.

The polling for the election of the Licensing Committee for the licensing district co-terminous with the electoral district of Dunedin took place on Thursday.

There was not a great deal of interest taken in the voting, and the general impression during the day was that the "Moderate" party would be returned by a substantial, but not an overwhelming, majority.

All returns came promptly to hand, and shortly before 9 o'clock Mr Taylor announced the result of the poll to be as follows:—

MODERATE CANDIDATES.

	Votes.
Hugh Gourley	2941
Septimus Myers	2906
David Pinkerton	2663
Alexander Judge	2791
C. R. Chapman	2759

CHURCH COUNCIL CANDIDATES.

Charles C. Morris	2075
A. H. Burton	1975
J. Braithwaite	1958
D. C. Cameron	1997
Eyre Evans	1814

Informal, 114.

The Returning Officer therefore declared Messrs Gourley, Myers, Pinkerton, Judge, and Chapman elected.—(Cheers.)

OTAGO CHESS CLUB. Otago Witness, Issue
2718, 11 April 1906, Page 62

Septimus Solomon Myers 1852 – 1930 More for the Archivist



Riverton Rifle Volunteers.—Henry Hirst to be captain; Septimus Solyman Myers to be lieutenant; Robert Acheson to be sub-lieutenant. Date of commissions, 5th June, 1879.

NEW ZEALAND GAZETTE. Otago Witness, Issue 1458 25 October 1879, Page 12

NEW ZEALAND GAZETTE.

Robert Wilson is gazetted a member of the Otago Harbour Board; the Hon. J. Menzies member of the Bluff Harbour Board; and Fred. Joseph Locke, Septimus Solomon Myers, and John William Chapman members of the Riverton Harbour Board.

NEW ZEALAND GAZETTE. Otago Witness, Issue 1535, 9 April 1881, Page 19

LOCAL & GENERAL.

The mayor of North-East Valley (Mr Septimus Myers) treated the councillors and officers of that borough to a pleasant drive in a four-horse drag to Outram on Friday. The party spent a highly enjoyable day, and the feature of the outing was a shooting competition, in which all took part, the result being as follows:—Mr Myers, 1; Or Brindsley, 2; Or Short, 3; and Or Calder, 4.

LOCAL & GENERAL. Otago Witness, Volume 05, Issue 1928, 5 February 1891, Page 12

DEATH UNDER CHLOROFORM.

Emily Callick, wife of Mr Walter Callick, surfaceman, of Abbotsford, died while under chloroform at Mr Myers' dental surgery, in the Octagon, on Thurs layat midday. For some time past Mrs Callick has been suffering from tooth-ache, and she went to Mr Myers to have the tooth extracted. It being decided that the operation should be performed with the aid of chloroform, Dr Macpherson was called in, and having examined the patient the anæsthetic agent was administered. While under the influence of the chloroform the woman's pulse suddenly ceased, and although efforts were immediately made to resuscitate her they were without avail, and she quietly passed away. The deceased, who was the mother of three young children, was 30 years of age.

THE INQUEST.

An inquest was held on Friday afternoon in Mr Myers' dental surgery, before the district coroner (Mr E. H. Carew) and a jury of six (Mr Jas. Todd foreman). Sergeant Morice conducted the inquiry, and Mr Gallaway appeared on behalf of the relatives of the deceased to watch the proceedings.

The Jury then returned the following verdict:—"We find that death resulted from the failure of the heart's action while under the influence of chloroform. We desire to add that the evidence fully shows that all necessary medical precautions were taken to ascertain the fitness of the deceased for the administration of the anæsthetic, and that no restorative measures were left untried."

DEATH UNDER CHLOROFORM. Otago Witness, Issue 1981, 11 Feb 1892, Page 15



TAHUNA PARK TROTTING AND RACING CLUB, DUNEDIN:

(Tahuna Park is distant two miles from Dunedin, with a cinder track half-mile round—the best in New Zealand.)

INAUGURAL MEETING.

Saturday, 28th May 1892.]

PRESIDENT: Dr F. H. Jeffcoat.
VICE-PRESIDENT: Septimus Myers, Esq.

Otago Witness, Issue 1992, 28 April 1892, Page 26

Also check out

Past Dunedin City Councils - Council 1910 – 1914

http://www.cityofdunedin.com/city/?page=council_1910

All articles and advertisements on this and previous age have been obtained from <http://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/>