



Henry Sydney Bingham, a stone mason from England arrived in Dunedin around 1905 and secured work at one shilling and sixpence an hour, on the new Dunedin Railway Station. Bingham's father, who was also stone mason, had died from a disease caused by inhaling stone dust for too long. Henry had suffered from bad health in London and was advised to emigrate or he would be dead in a few months. He subsequently lived until he was 94.

(Inhalation of stone dust was an ever-present danger for those working with stone. Silicosis was caused by inhaling dust containing silica particles which accumulate and cause thickening and scarring to the lung tissue. The disease primarily affected workers over 50 years of age, leading to shortness of breath, emphysema, heart failure, an increased risk of tuberculosis.)

When funds ran out on the Railway Station, (or was it an economic downturn?), or was the Station completed? (The foundation stone was laid by the Minister of Railways, Sir Joseph Ward on 3 June 1904. While it was opened in October 1906, it was not finally finished until November 1907) Bingham was put off, being the last on, and went looking for other employment in Dunedin. He found work as a mason with one George Lawrence, a builder who was building the Musselburgh School. Such was the regard in which he was held that Lawrence allowed him to marry his daughter Emma. George Lawrence was by now (1906) Mayor of Dunedin. When this job finished Bingham bought into Munro Monumental Masons in Moray Place, at some stage changing its name to H S Bingham Monumental Masons which continued until 1980. Bingham and Co (three sons, Claude, George and Arthur, also joined the trade) worked on almost all the building jobs in Dunedin where there was any stone work required. First Church Renovations 1933, Knox College, St Mathews Church renovation, Caversham Presbyterian Church, Various War Memorials, Hanover Street Baptist Church, Olveston, Savoy Restaurant, HB Building, and many more. A stone quarry at Teschmakers was bought about this time. Bingham was deeply involved with the Masonic lodge, and at some stage was a member of Lodge Maori at Ravensbourne. He died 9 February 1979 and is buried at Andersons bay Cemetery under a headstone crafted by his own firm of monumental masons.