



Mr .George **Cook**, whose death occurred on 12 April 1898, was born in Ipswich, England, and was admitted to the bar in England in 1848 and practiced for some years as a solicitor in London.

Coming to Dunedin in the early 1860s, he was admitted to the colonial bar on the 10th January, 1861, and ever since that date had practised in Dunedin. He bought the practice of C.W. Richmond who was appointed to the Supreme Court in 1862. His first partnership, in 1864, was with David Forsyth Main another English lawyer, but this only lasted eight months. For the next 8 years Cook practised on his own account. Between 1872 and 1875 he was in partnership with Sidney Nimmo Muir. On the dissolution of this partnership his son, John Alfred, was admitted into partnership.

His business was chiefly a conveyancing one, and he did not care particularly for court work. However for many years he frequently appeared as a pleader and he was engaged in some of the most important commercial cases that have been tried here in Dunedin.

The most important case in which he appeared was that of Isaac v. Mills, recently decided by the Privy Council, and it is understood that it was on his advice that the successful appeal to the supreme tribunal was presented.

Mr George **Cook**, was about the only survivor of the band of brilliant legal practitioners who practised in Dunedin about 30 years ago, and certainly the oldest and most respected member of the local bar.

Within recent years his appearances in court were not frequent but his firm retained the valuable connection which he had built up for it, and his advice was always regarded as sound, and was much sought after.

Mr **Cook** had the reputation of being an eminently safe lawyer and one who preserved the best traditions of the profession.

For some time past he had been in feeble health, so that he was unable to attend his office, and his death, which occurred at the advanced age of 82 years, was not unexpected.

He leaves a widow, and a grown-up family consisting of Mrs F.R. Chapman, his daughter, and sons - Mr G. L. **Cook** (Government engineer), Mr J. A. **Cook** (who was a partner with his father), Mr Spencer **Cook** (of the Bank of New Zealand), Mr M. **Cook** (of Dalgety and Co), and Mr R. F. **Cook** (who is also associated with the legal profession, being connected with a leading firm of solicitors in Sydney).

Since George Cook's death the firm has reinvented itself many times with names such as - Cook Lemon & Cook, Cook Allan & Cook, Cook Allan & Co, and is now known as Gallaway Cook Allan.

George Cook is buried in Dunedin's Northern Cemetery in the family grave.

Prepared by the Historic Cemeteries Conservation Trust of New Zealand from information on PapersPast website, and Gallway Cook Allan records.