



This headstone in Dunedin's Southern Cemetery records the death of Catherine Haggitt on 17 May 1868, and other family members. Catherine [Robertson] had 10 children by Bryan Cecil Haggitt who is buried in Dunedin's Northern Cemetery with his second wife, Jessica [Tolmie], by whom he had another 9 children. Thus we are led into the Haggitt family. Since the beginning of the legal

profession in Dunedin there has hardly been a period when a member of the Haggitt family has not practised law here.

Brian Cecil was born in Toronto, Canada, where his father D'Arcy was a lawyer. The family moved to Tasmania where BC Haggitt and his brother D'Arcy trained in law. BC Moved to Dunedin in May 1862 and began practising law immediately. He was joined in 1866 by his father, who died in 1869, and in 1871 by his brother D'Arcy.

There were many opportunities with the rapid expansion of Otago during the goldrush. B.C. Haggitt made his mark as a practitioner, becoming provincial solicitor and crown prosecutor, and was instrumental in forming the Otago Law Society, the New Zealand Law Society, and the legislation governing all law societies. He was also a provincial councillor. Hardworking as he was he was also a [very] busy family man with some 19 children. They lived at "Wychwood" in Belmont Lane which still stands. B.C. Haggitt died, still practising law, on 1 February 1898, aged 59 years. Three of his sons followed the family tradition and went into law.

Prepared by the Historic Cemeteries Conservation Trust of New Zealand from "Southern - People a Dictionary of Otago Southland Biography". www.cemeteries.org.nz