



INCLIS  
EUPHEMIA,  
BELOVED WIFE OF ALEXANDER INCLIS  
DIED 23<sup>RD</sup> AUGUST 1876. AGED 31 YEARS  
ALEXANDER, HUSBAND OF ABOVE  
DIED 7<sup>TH</sup> JULY 1887. AGED 53 YEARS  
AGNES,  
DIED 25<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 1867. AGED 1 YEAR.  
JOHN ALEXANDER INCLIS  
DIED 20<sup>TH</sup> NOV. 1942. AGED 72 YEARS.  
A LOVING FATHER

## **Alexander Inglis**

On his arrival in Dunedin in 1863 on the Victory Alexander Inglis had five pounds in his pocket. He took some pride in the ingenuity with which he increased this by going around pack-selling at the Mt Ida gold rush. In 1865 he married a widow with two children, Euphemia Simpson and they had four children. After her death he married Mary Appleton Sanders but there were no children from this marriage.

Alexander had been trained as a calico printer in Kilmarnock, Scotland, and had some knowledge of shop-keeping through his father's work as a shoemaker. In 1866 he set up a small drapery shop, in which he was joined by his brother Thomas. They called their business A & T Inglis. The brothers fulfilled their ambition of having a shop on the main street when Alexander bought the corporation lease site at 71-83 George Street. A new building was opened in 1877 (although Thomas had died in 1876 and did not live to see it opened) and was described in the Otago Daily Times as an immense structure which overtopped everything in the street and was an ornament to the city and colony. The firm flourished and branches were opened in Port Chalmers, Invercargill and Oamaru.

'Sandy' as he was affectionately known, was always looking for new ways of attracting business. He drew a crowd by displaying a giant fish which had been caught by a local fisherman – later giving it to the museum. Another time he placed a dozen turnips in the shop window and called them "The Twelve Apostles", much to the consternation of some in the city. He had fireworks let off from the roof of the shop and had a band playing there to draw attention to the shop. Towards the end of his life he set up a 'butchers' market' to provide cheap meat for the poor. He also humorously captured the coffin market by producing them at a lower price than the undertakers, inviting customers to "try them for size".

Generous and warm-hearted, Alexander Inglis took considerable interest in the Benevolent Institution and the Industrial School and gave his money and time to these and many other charities. Philanthropic motives were combined with entrepreneurial skills – he found charitable acts gave a wonderful boost to business.

He died on 7 July 1887, but a son and grandson continued to be involved in the business until it ceased in 1955. Alexander Inglis is buried in Dunedin's Southern cemetery with his wife and two children.

Thomas Inglis died on 8 September 1876, and is buried in Dunedin's Northern Cemetery.