



The firm of C. Moller & Sons was established in Dunedin in 1862. Carl Ludvig Waldemar Moller, one of the founders of the firm came from a long line of silversmiths and engravers. Carl was born in

Norway on 29 August 1831. The family moved to Copenhagen at the end of the eighteenth century to perhaps be nearer the nobility of Europe – their best customers. The family prospered but at some stage Carl and his brother Hans, both silversmiths, decided to sail for the newly discovered goldfields of Victoria where they hoped the raw materials for their craft would be readily available. Carl carried with him on the voyage many pieces of silver which he thought would have a ready sale. While working as a jeweller in Victoria Carl entered into partnership with a Hungarian Jew, Edward Goldstein. When they heard that gold had been discovered in Otago they set sail on the *Genii*, and arrived at Port Chalmers in 1861.

The two men opened a shop in the busiest street in Dunedin, Rattray Street, where they put up the sign “ Moller and Goldstein, Working Goldsmiths and Jewellers”.

On 5 April 1866, in the manse of the Rev Dr Thomas Burns, Carl married Hannah Sarah Sophia Norton, a 19 year old who had come to New Zealand with her family from Great Yarmouth, Norfolk, England.

In 1890 when Edward Goldstein died, the firm carried on under the name of “C. Moller & Sons”. Carl had five sons all of whom followed the same craft. Sadly none of the grandsons were to carry on the craft.

Over the years the firm produced exquisite jewellery pieces in silver and gold for many wealthy clients and church vestments, and badges for many organisations.

Carl and Hannah lived in Ravensbourne with their family of five sons and eight daughters. The house overlooked the harbour and often when a Danish ship sailed in he would run up the Danish flag. Danes soon came to know where they could receive hospitality. Life was short for four of their daughters - In 1889 Nora died of tubercular meningitis aged 16, Hilda had died in 1885 of croup at 8 years, and Jessie had also died in 1885 of whooping cough and tubercular meningitis aged 5, Nancy died in 1904, aged 5 months from multiple sclerosis.

During Eric Moller's time Bill Morrison was taken on as manager. And on Eric's death in 1939 the firm was taken over by Bill Morrison and the main products became engraving, badge-making, and the making of Masonic jewels. In 1979, with the retirement of Bill Morrison, the firm was sold to an Auckland firm and still trades in Dunedin today as Brandwell Moller Ltd.

Carl died on 19 December 1903 and is buried in Dunedin's Northern cemetery alongside his wife Hannah.

Prepared by the Historic Cemeteries Conservation Trust of New Zealand from information in family histories supplied by Mollie Moller.