



OF YOUR CHARITY PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOUL OF

MICHAEL CASEY,
DIED 19 APRIL 1905.
AGED 65 YEARS.

AND OF HIS SISTER
JULIA.

BELOVED WIFE OF
FRANCOIS ST OMER,
DIED 6 AUGUST 1911 AGED 78 YEARS

AND OF
FRANCOIS ST OMER
DIED 7 APRIL 1915 AGED 28 YEARS
NATIVE OF MARSEILLES

FRANCE
ALSO ALFRED BELOVED SON OF
F. & J. ST OMER
DIED 15 DECEMBER 1932.
REQUIESCAT IN PACE.

ALSO OF FRANCOIS ST OMER,
DIED 8 JULY 1950. AGED 88 YEARS.

BY THE PRIESTS
DIOCESE OF DUNEDIN
THE MEMORY OF
REVEREND AND AMIABLE
FELLOW-WORKER
REV. JOHN RYAN,
BORN AT ROSCREA,
CO. TIPPERARY, IRELAND
DIED AT QUEENSTOWN 30 OCT. 1905
AGED 57 YEARS.
R.I.P.

MARY
DIED 27 FEBRUARY 1908

MARY

Francois St Omer, one of the earliest pioneers of the Queenstown district, had a rather remarkable life.

From his early years in Marseilles he travelled to London. He soon joined the "gold trail" heading first to California then to Victoria, Australia, and finally to Otago.

He arrived in the Wakatipu in 1863. In Queenstown he took over the operation of dining tables previously run by William Gilbert Rees, a pioneer sheep farmer in the Wakatipu. Later, St Omer acquired a bakery to which he added a restaurant. These he continued to run for the rest of his life.

St Omer took a very active part in local affairs, serving as councillor for 11 years and mayor for 14. He was also connected with many other local institutions, believing it was his duty to support worthy causes with his time and money. The Charitable Aid Board and Wakatipu Hospital Trust were two long-term projects.

Frank St Omer, a son, worked in the bakery and also established a confectionery shop. Like his father, he was a member of the Acclimatisation Society and a very enthusiastic promoter of tree planting around the foreshore, especially willows. A lakeside park is named after him.

If the repeated story concerning the rivalry between Albert Eichardt and Francois St Omer during the Franco-Prussian War is true, it must have been an unequal flag-raising contest. The French had few victories and ultimately lost the war.

St Omer died in April 1915, aged 88 years and is buried in the Queenstown Cemetery along with his wife Julia, who had died in 1911, and other family members.