



Domenico Vito Monti was born in 1875 on Ischia, an island in the Bay of Naples, Italy.

He came from a family of fishermen.

In 1900, he was serving as first mate on a cargo ship out of Marseilles, *Guiseppi d'Abundo*, when it arrived in Dunedin on 4th May. Its cargo included roof tiles, and in the *Otago Witness* of the time, it was noted the use of roof tiles such as these would turn Dunedin into the Marseilles of the south!

On 5th May, Domenico, along with 4 shipmates jumped ship, and headed for the hills ending up at Sonntag's Pig farm in the Glenross area where they laid low for 2 ½ weeks.

They were arrested on 24th May and appeared before the Police Court. Mr A C Hanlon defended them and the charges were dismissed, due to an error in the gazetted law.

Domenico settled at Careys Bay, and bought a small boat in which he fished the lower harbour. He sent for his older brother, Dionisio, in 1903. Their sister Caterina came too, to keep house and keep a watch against "unsuitable liaisons".

In 1905, he returned to Ischia to marry Concetta Iacona, and returned with her and her sister, Rita, who married Dionisio. Both brothers fished, did some coopering and made wine, which they sold for a time in a small shop in Great King Street.

Domenico Monti died in 1941 and is buried in the Port Chalmers 'new' Cemetery..

The oldest of Domenico & Concetta's children, Michelo, born in 1906, started his apprenticeship as a shipwright at Miller & Tunnage in 1922, and finally retired from

there in 1973. The family house was across the road from the shipyard on Macandrew Road.

Caterina married Sebastiano Poli in 1906.

Caterina & Sebastiano Poli's grave is adjacent to the Monti grave.

Dionisio & Rita (actually Restituta) are buried on the opposite boundary of the cemetery, along with their niece, Domenico's youngest daughter, Carmelina.

Prepared by the Historic Cemeteries Conservation Trust of New Zealand (www.cemeteries.org.nz) from information supplied by Gabrielle Monti Sheehan of Dunedin.