



William Somerville was born at Cranston, near Edinburgh, the fourth of nine children of John and Janet Somerville. His father was stationmaster at St.Leonards, Edinburgh. The family arrived in Otago on the *Blundell* on 21 September 1848, together with their relations, the Beggs and the Laws. All were members of the Free Church. They settled

first at Sawyers Bay but, on the advice of Dr Thomas Burns, established themselves at Andersons Bay. William's elder brothers moved to Milburn and Waitepeka, where support of their local churches was a priority for themselves and their descendents.

Before leaving Scotland William had operated a hand press for W & R Chambers, Printers and Publishers. In Otago he became a school teacher, and later clerk of the Magistrates Court. He married Marion Davidson in 1862 and had nine children. Their home 'Lauriston' in Andersons Bay became a centre for local and church life. A devoted churchman, William specialized in working among the young.

In the early 1890s when the printing firm of J. Wilkie & Co was in financial difficulties, William came to its aid by investment aid. This led to a long connection with the firm and three of William's sons played a prominent part in it for more than 50 years. His second son William George was the first to join J. Wilkie & Co. After a time he became head of the firm, but finally left the firm to take up farming at Te Kuiti in 1917 and later settled in Auckland.

William Sandilands Somerville joined J. Wilkie & Co as a salesman and when Coulls Somerville Wilkie Ltd was formed in 1922 he became chairman of directors and remained so until his retirement.

James Cleland Hall Somerville joined J. Wilkie & Co in 1898 and in 1915 he became a director and played an important part in the company and followed his brother Tom as chairman of Coulls Somerville Wilkie.

William Somerville died at 'Lauriston' on 29 June 1898 and is buried in the Somerville family plot in Dunedin's Andersons Bay cemetery. Marion died on 23 May 1915 and is interred beside he beloved William.

The Somervilles belonged to an era now unfortunately gone. They were paternalistic, humane and kind in business, with a real concern for people. They had a strong sense of family, a strong devotion to the Presbyterian Church, and evinced strong community concerns.