John McKinnel who was born in 1865 at Mountmistable near Waiwera. shifted with his parents to Waikaia where he received his education at the Waikaia School and then worked with his father for a time. He took up shepherding on the Otama Station where he spent about eight years. From there he went to Wantwood Station under the management of the late Mr. Bell where he spent one year. At this time he married Elizabeth Stark and they shifted to Waitane where he spent three years under the late Mr. Donald McDonald at Edendale as manager and twenty three years under the management of the late Frilander Bros., a house was built in Waimumu about two miles from the school. They lived in this house seventeen years and then shifted to Croydon where they lived for another fourteen years at which time he was mustering at Bushey Park and Glenaray. They lived in Mataura for two years and later resided in Gore until his death on June 21st 1951.

John's wife Elizabeth is at present living with her eldest daughter in Dunedin. They had a family of sixteen children; Rosy (Mrs. R. Leathby), Violet (Mrs. J.A. Christie), James, Robert, Elizabeth (Mrs. Capill deceased) Peggy (Mrs. N. Celland) May (Mrs. T. Williams), Mary (Mrs. G. Bruce) Grace (Mrs. J.A. Jeffrey) Ethel (Mrs. E. Mackley) Janet (Mrs. J. Breen) Eva (Mrs. W. Bishop) Ivy (Mrs. A. Millar) Bert, Mavis (Mrs. J. Millar), and John who died at the age of 18 months.