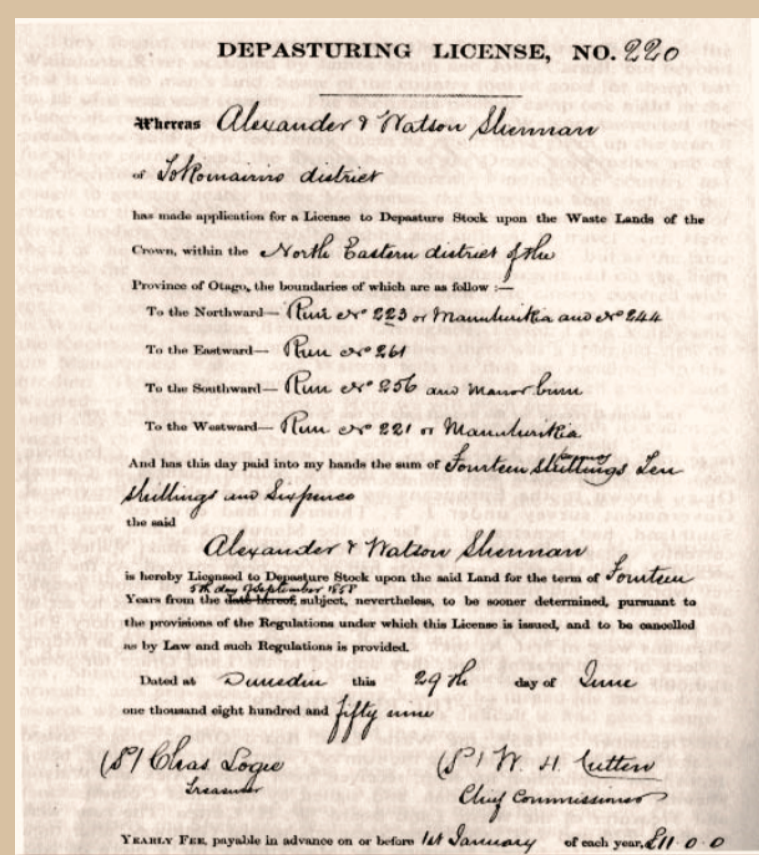


Important Events

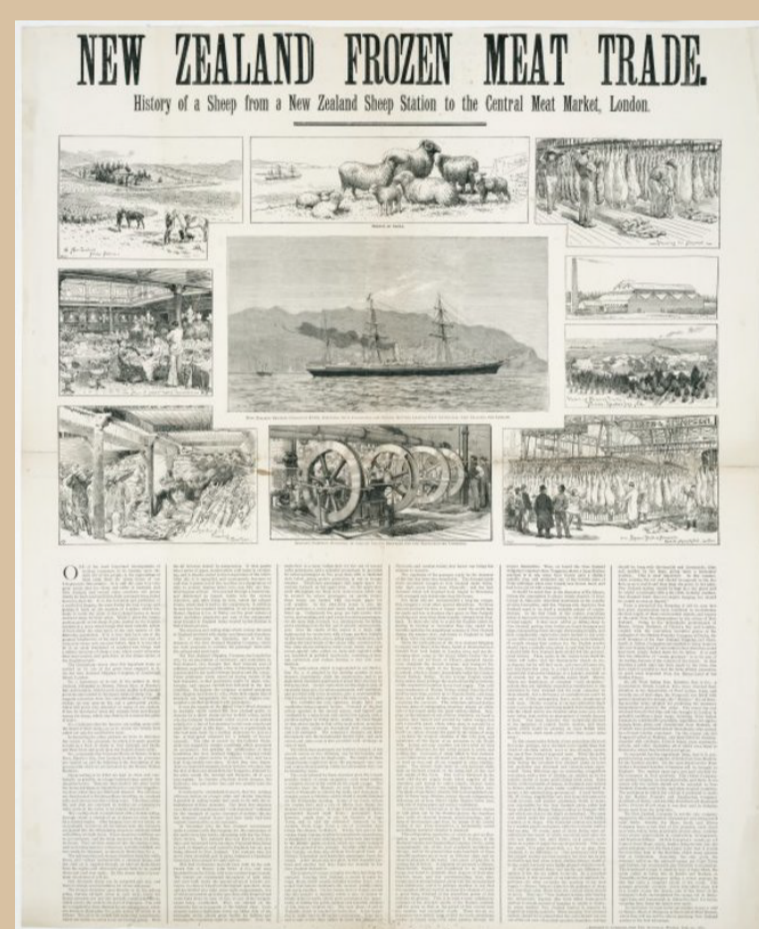
- 1773 First sheep bought to New Zealand by Captain James Cook
- 1837 The patent for Galvanic paint awarded in France
- 1840's The first significant number of Merinos arrive from Australia
- 1844 Johnny Jones leases land from the Maori in Waikouaiti and maintains a small run of 2000 sheep
- 1849 Scab Ordinance passed to limit the spread of scab
- 1850's Surveyors travel through Central Otago and produce the first maps
- 1850-60's Introduction of numerous British sheep breeds to New Zealand including; English Leicester, Lincoln, Romney, Cheviot, Shropshire and the Dorset Down
- 1855 James Mackenzie attempts to steal 1000 sheep, is caught and sentenced to penal service
- 1856 John Turnbull Thompson is appointed Chief Surveyor of the Otago Region
- 1857 Shennan Brothers establish Moutere and Galloway Stations
- 1860's The swing gate for drafting sheep and galvanised wire is introduced
- 1862 Hartley and Reilly discover gold at Brewery Creek beginning the Otago Gold Rush
- 1862 Alexander Shennan dies in Scotland
- 1866 Otago Acclimatisation Society releases 60 rabbits
- 1866 First Dunedin wool auction occurs
- 1868 Wool returns drop and decrease steadily over the next two decades
- 1870's Walter Miller launches a punt that leads to the establishment of Miller's Flat
- 1870 Meat first shipped to Britain in cans
- 1876 Rabbits first reported as a pest in Central Otago
- 1882 First shipment of refrigerated meat leaves Dunedin
- 1888 Steam powered shearing first utilised in New Zealand
- 1890's Rabbit fencing first used
- 1904 First tractors arrive in New Zealand
- 1904 The first car arrives in Central Otago
- 1906 The Otago Railway reaches Clyde
- 1906 & 1910 Drought causes lower returns for runholders in Central Otago
- 1913 The Swandri woollen work shirt was created
- 1916 Robert Jopp invented a rabbit fumigator
- 1920 Watson Shennan dies in Dunedin
- 1921 Otago Central railway reaches Cromwell
- 1924 The first New Zealand wool press is made by Donald & Sons of Masterton
- 1932 First Polwarth is introduced to New Zealand
- 1940's Planes first used for topdressing and aerial sowing
- 1940's Fleeces are weighed for the first time
- 1940's Border dyke irrigation systems developed
- 1948 "Killer Policy" introduced to deal with the rampant rabbit population
- 1950's Beginning of a massive Hydatid control effort
- 1950's Miss Wool Competition is established
- 1951 NZ wool boom with prices tripling 'overnight'
- 1953 Henry Gallagher invented the electric fence



First depasturing license, Galloway Station



Rabbit canning factory, Alexandra



Newspaper clipping



Shearers at work, Central Otago



Baling lucerne, Central Otago



Miss Wool Competition, 1957

- 1953 Godfrey Bowen broke the world sheep shearing record shearing 453 ewes in 9 hours
- 1954 The poison 'Compound 1080' is developed to control rabbits
- 1960 Wool made up one third of New Zealand's annual export earnings
- 1961 First Golden Shears competition held in Masterton
- 1966 Drop in wool prices due to competition from synthetic materials
- 1970's Motorbikes and Quad bikes first utilised on farms
- 1970's Introduction of white clovers which helps to improve farmlands
- 1977 Government introduces subsidies and guarantees farmers minimum prices
- 1984 Bait shyness (neophobia) detected in rabbits in Central Otago
- 1985 All government subsidies of farmers stopped
- 1987 New Zealand share prices plummet 59% in four months
- 1988 Merino wool prices double at Auction houses creating a boom in merino sheep sales
- 1990's Several new breeds of sheep introduced to New Zealand including; Texel, Finn, East Friesian and Kelso
- 1990 Government introduces a \$25 million Rabbit & Land Management Program to control rabbits in the South Island High Country
- 1990 Application by the Otago, Canterbury and Marlborough Regional Councils to introduce myxomatosis to aid the control of rabbits. Application declined.
- 1990 Computer programmes developed to aid recording of stud sheep
- 1990 Otago Central Railway closed
- 1991 The Resource Management Act is enacted
- 1992 First High Country Tenure Review completed on Mt. Difficulty Station, Bannockburn
- 1992 For the first time, dairying profits surpass those of sheep production
- 1992 An all sheep breeds New Zealand record is paid for a Moutere ram at auction
- 1993 First use of Pregnancy Scanning on farms
- 1994 The NZ Merino Company is formed to market New Zealand merino wool
- 1995 Use of helicopters for rabbit control and mustering
- 1995 Rabbit Calici Virus (RCD) introduced illegally into New Zealand
- 2001 Merino wool prices increase sharply initiating an increased demand for merino sheep
- 2004 World merino tour of Central Otago merino studs
- 2000's DNA (Gene marker) technology available to aid breeding decisions in merino studs
- 2000's Centre pivot irrigation systems developed
- 2000's Creation of water storage dams for irrigation
- 2000's Improved aerial application technology of herbicides for agricultural weed control using GPS systems
- 2000's Increased use of computer technology, cell phones, internet capability
- 2000's Emphasis on sustainability of farming operation