

THOSE WERE THE DAYS

NEWSLETTER OF THE UPPER CLUTHA HISTORICAL RECORDS SOCIETY INC.

(Upper Clutha includes Cardrona, Albert Town, Luggate, Queensberry, Tarras, Hawea, Makarora, Wanaka and Lakes Wanaka and Hawea)

SUMMER 2021 - VOLUME SIXTEEN

DECEMBER 2021

UCHRS HISTORY PRIZE 2021

This year, the Society's History Prize for the best paper on an Otago related subject from a Mt Aspiring College pupil was awarded to Abigail Shaffer. Abigail's paper was on the Seacliff Lunatic Asylum and its history.

Congratulations to Abigail.

THE YEAR GONE PAST

What a year for us all! As we grow older, time seems to pass that much quicker (remember at school when each term seemed to take forever until the next holidays?). COVID19 has had a huge impact on our lives in all sorts of ways – and still many to come I suspect. Many have been the frustrations, but we have survived and hopefully in 2022 we can look forward to a different and better year – but I am not holding my breath!

The last couple of months have also had an impact on the Society as we have had to vacate the use of the Records Room whilst the Council repairs the roof of the Library building. At short notice we were able to rescue our computer so that we had access to the digital records but it is not quite the same as accessing the actual original documents. Our lounge is now a little smaller with the computer etc sitting in one corner. It rather looks like it will be into the New Year before we are able to fully access our records.

But that aside, it is the season of good will etc, so the Committee wishes everyone a safe, healthy, and enjoyable time with family and friends. We look forward to catching up with everyone though it may not be until the beginning of February that the Records Room will be officially open.

Have a Merry Xmas and a great New Year.

HENRY MAIDMAN, FANNY COLE AND THE LUGGATE HOTEL



MR HENRY MAIDMAN,
For many years hotelkeeper and
storekeeper at Luggate; now a
retired farmer

Henry was born on 21 November 1831 at Bermondsey, London, England. His birthname was Alexander but as we shall learn a little later, he became known as Henry (and sometimes Harry). To make it simple, we will call him Henry for the purpose of this story.

A lot of what follows was told by Eva Harris to her granddaughter, Robyn Radke-Cooper and backed up with subsequent research. Eva was Henry's granddaughter.

Henry's parents were Charles John Thomas Maidman and Frances Habens and they christened their new child, Alexander, at St Mary Magdalen Church in Bermondsey on 6 November 1831.

Bermondsey is in the borough of Southark on the south side of the Thames River and about 4km from Charing Cross. In 1841 the family was living in Chatham Place Road which is on the northeast of London in Hackney, and the father's occupation was given as a carpenter. Apparently, Henry was also to become a carpenter but by the 1851 Census he was no longer to be found in any records. Eva stated that he

had joined the Merchant Navy as a seaman in the late 1840s (but I have been unable to find him on the registers - that is not to say he was not a sailor). Eventually he sailed from England bound for Australia and after sailing around various ports he arrived in Lyttleton NZ about 1860.

As was common within the Merchant Navy of that era, many seamen "jumped" ship at various Ports due to the extremely poor wages and harsh working conditions. When seamen jumped ship, they would often change or alter their names to avoid detection by the local authorities. Alexander dropped his first name and became known as Henry Maidman. He was not the only Upper Clutha settler to jump ship in New Zealand and change his name!



Henry did undertake a voyage back to Australia on 19 Oct 1860 on the "Mountain Maid" from Lyttleton and then returned to Port Chalmers on the "Barnett" from Sydney on 26 November 1861. It is not known what the purpose of the voyage was.

Henry was one of the head drivers to lead bullock teams through the Lindis Pass to the Upper Clutha in the early 1860's. Most of these bullock teams would have come from Oamaru and Timaru and Henry's presence in these towns in the early 1860s is born out by his name appearing in Unclaimed Letters lists published in newspapers.

He met Frances Maria Cole, known as Fanny, at Cardrona and married in 16 Oct 1864. This is claimed to be the first marriage of European settlers in the Upper Clutha. His marriage certificate lists his name as Henry Alexander Maidman, but from 1870-onwards, the NZ Electoral Roll records his name solely as 'Henry Maidman'.

Henry and Fanny left Cardrona and appear to have moved directly to Luggate which was perhaps a more central hub for bullock teams etc. Whilst there, and using his carpentry skills, he built the first hotel and store at Luggate which was opened in 1869. Henry advertised the hotel on 1 December 1869 under the name "Luggate Creek Hotel" but four weeks later, was calling it the "Albion Hotel and Store", a name that remained for quite some decades thereafter under different licencees.

Some early historians have suggested that the current hotel building at Luggate was the one built by Henry, but this is incorrect. Henry sold the original hotel and store to Tom Trevathan in November 1881 and in April 1884 Tom advertised for tenders for "the building of a Stone Building for a Hotel at Luggate Creek". On 26 August 1884 and 9 September, he advertised an "Application for a Removal of Publican's Licence". See the copy of the advertisement below. Note the words "*the Removal of the licence for the aforesaid house and premises to a house situate at Luggate about 20 yards distant from old house.*" The "old house" he refers to was Henry Maidman's hotel and store.

To add to the evidence, on 12 August 1884, he advertised an invitation for one and all to an "EVENING PARTY on FRIDAY EVENING, August 22 1884 to Celebrate the Opening of his new Building".

So what happened to Henry's hotel and store building? Well, it became the Luggate School House for a while. An article in the Cromwell Argus of 23 June 1885 describes the local School Committee having "*...been put to considerable expense in lining, flooring, and fitting up a School House (Mr Trevathan's old hotel)...*". The above is clear evidence that today's "Luggate Hotel" was not built by Henry Maidman and is in actual fact, the second hotel built and operated in Luggate. Notwithstanding, it has to be said that Henry and Fanny had considerable foresight in establishing their hotel and other business activities at Luggate.

During Henry and Fanny's time at the Albion Hotel, Henry undertook a voyage back to England (date unknown but likely about 1872/3). This was presumably to meet up with his siblings as his parents passed away in 1869. On 2 October 1873 he departed London and arrived in Port Chalmers on 2 January 1874. In between times, a John Mace had sued Henry for £50 for breach of contract on the part of Fanny. This related to the purchase of oats

which suggests that Henry did not restrict himself just to hotel business. The Judge ruled in Henry and Fanny's favour because there was no evidence of the original contract existing and in any case, the contract was conditional on an event taking place which did not occur.

The other big event during Henry and Fanny's sojourn at Luggate was the marriage of their adopted daughter, Sarah Ann to Fred Collings on 27 April 1881. Sarah was born to James Chin Chee and his wife, but when his wife died, Sarah was placed with Henry and Fanny. After a lot of to-ing and fro-ing, Sarah's adoption was documented (adoptions as we know them today, did not occur back then). Sarah had a sister called Letitia who was placed with another family, but after a dispute she joined her sister Sarah with the Maidman's. Letitia married James Davis on 2 June 1884. These two sisters are progenitors of the Collings and Davis families here in the Upper Clutha and now spread around New Zealand. Fifteen children were born to Sarah and fourteen to Letitia.



Letitia and Sarah

In 1878 Henry applied for and got leases to Block 1 Sections 31 and 32 (Cromwell Argus 10 Sept 1878) and probably also Block 1 Sections 17,18 and 19 at Mount Barker, at the same time. They were subject to what were named Suburban Deferred Payment licences (a form of lease with a right to buy, in simple terms). Suburban allotments could not exceed 20 acres and were supposed to be for no more than 5 years). Henry renewed the leases for another 10 years in 1885. Henry may have subsequently purchased the land as freehold sometime after 1885. He built a two-bedroom house on Ballantyne Road (Sect 17-19) and when it was renovated in relatively recent times, it was discovered that the foundations were made from stones carted from the Cardrona River.

Henry was a man of many occupations. As mentioned previously he was trading with oats but not always successfully. In 1877 whilst driving a two-horse dray laden with oats across the flooded Cardrona River, he lost the lot when the dray was swamped. He also successfully operated a pig-drum threshing machine for oat crops back in 1882.

Whilst being an astute businessman, he was once taken in by a fraudulent lottery which he apparently won first prize in – the vessel "Eureka", but the organiser (reportedly a Catholic priest from Taranaki), left for Australia just before the raffle was drawn. This was in the 1890s.

Eva Harris' clear recollections of her great grandfather was of a very gentle quietly spoken old man and Fanny was an elderly lady who had a disability in later life and unable to walk. Eva clearly remembered Fanny being pulled around the farm in a wooden cart and she passed away in Dunedin on 16 April 1917. Henry never spoke of his early childhood or family life in England over 70 years earlier. He passed away on his farm on 13 Dec 1919.

We think that the following photo is the last one taken of Fanny. It was only In November that the two people in the back seat of the car were recognised as being Henry and Fanny. It is believed that it was taken in 1917 when their son-in-law, Fred Collings, drove them to

Dunedin so that Fanny could be treated for her cancer. The young man in the photo is believed to be Henry and Fanny's grandson, Arthur Gladstone Collings, and the back-lit soldier is most likely to be another grandson - Cecil or Herbert. Up till the end of October this year, the photo had been recorded as "Fred Collings in his car"!



It transpires that Henry did have other relatives here in New Zealand. His sister Elizabeth, with her husband Francis Connor, emigrated in September 1875 to Dunedin with their two daughters, Louisa and Elizabeth. Was that the result of Henry's trip back to England in 1873?

So when you next sojourn down to the Luggate Pub for lunch or whatever, just remember the building was not Henry and Fanny's, but the walls have listened to many stories over the years.

Many thanks to Robyn Radke-Cooper for her assistance.

PETITIONS

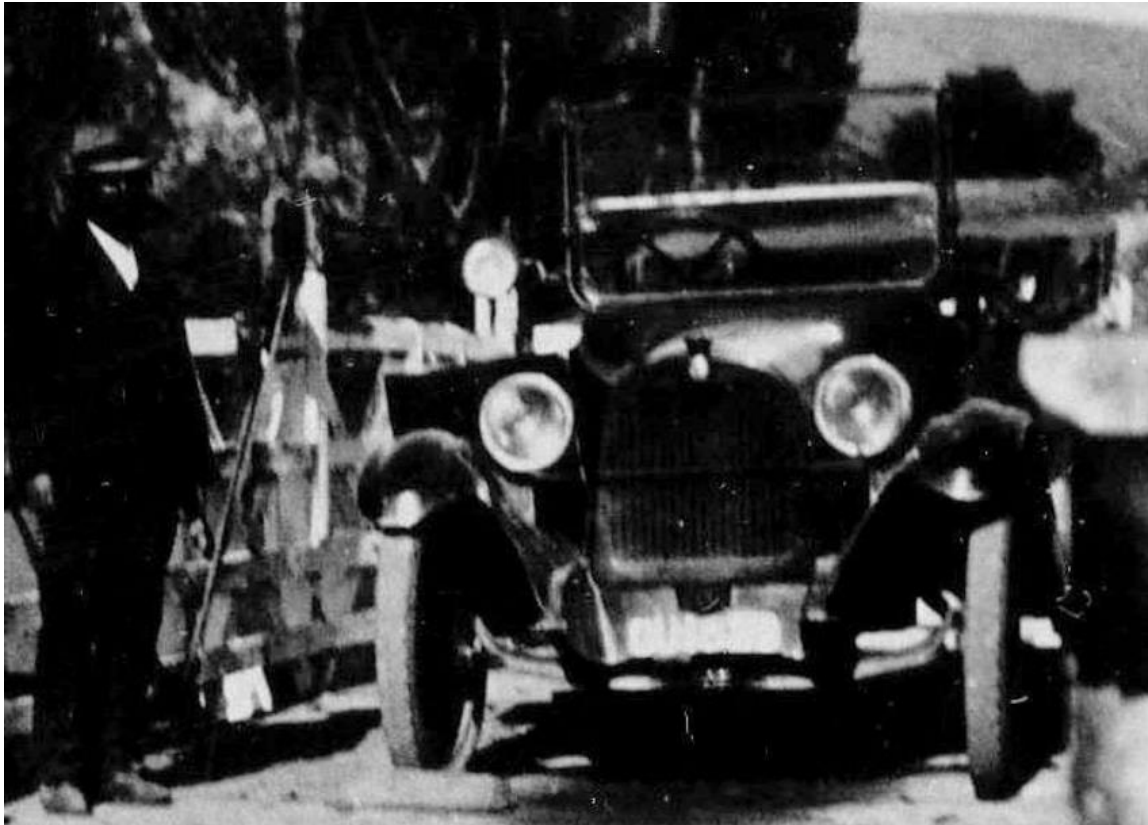
You should all be aware of the petition being presented to the "powers that be" on the future management of the Upper Clutha as a separate District Council. Well did you know that 68 years ago (1953) the then residents of Wanaka had to petition the Lakes County Council to become an official town? A petition dated 9 Dec 1953 was presented to the Lake County Council that given the area was "not a town district or part of a town district", that "the said area should be constituted a County Township for the purpose of public works for the improvement and development thereof."

A brief inspection of the documents in the scanned file might suggest that the residents of Wanaka were not averse to petitioning the Council to get matters addressed. Interesting reading.

Wanaka was eventually made a Lakes County Town in 1955.

MYSTERY CAR

Can anyone identify the car in this Upper Clutha photo? We are most interested in the approximate date of manufacture as part of a research project.



THE WINCHES

Remember that I asked for any information on the two winches (see photo below?)



Well, a bit of luck concerning one arrived in our email box. Not quite what was expected, but Dick Kane has kindly allowed us to publish his reply that relates to the winch on the left.

As a seven or eight year old, 1955/56, I remember being at Timaru Creek with the Urquhart family for a day's fishing on Lake Hawea. On the south side of the Timaru Creek peninsular was a winch and railway track with a wooden frame with railway wheels to carry the boat into the water. [sorry I can't think what it is called]. On this day Harry's father had released the winch and the boat was free-wheeling down the railway track to the water. I was standing too close to the winch as it was unwinding very rapidly and the winch handle caught me on the jaw. This I remember very vividly, as to this day I have a chip of bone from the right side of my jaw free floating which I can feel if I touch the area on my cheek with two fingers.

That night I stayed at the Urquhart home and I must have been whimpering during the night because Harry's mother came and told me to be quiet and "toughen up".

Thank's Dick!

JO'S UPDATE

What was supposed to be a "quiet recovery" following the previous two very busy years turned out to be the opposite. Whilst we had (at the start of the year) no major projects planned, that is not how it turned out. The group of volunteers have done a sterling job in trying to catch up on "arrears" during difficult times, especially with restricted access to our database, PastPerfect.

Apart from work going on behind the scenes, we will be closed down to public access in the Library until early February. In the interim, if you do have any queries, please do make them via our website and where we are able to, we will work on getting a reply back to you.

I wish you and your family all the best for 2022.

THE NEW RECORDS ROOM????



Unlikely! This is a photo of the Library in mid-November. The Records Room is behind that new wall (temporary) i.e. it is not the wall of a new Records Room. It has taken out quite a large area of the floorspace in the Library which now has a temporary “mini-library” at the Recreation Centre to help readers access books. The northern part of the Library roof is being repaired to fix leaks.

It all makes you wonder a little why a flat roof was designed for a building in Wanaka given that it does snow here occasionally!

THANKS

Thanks must be given to the various publications that were the sources of the information in the newsletter. Individuals are too numerous to list but references have been sourced from Paperspast.co.nz, a number of out-of-print publications and the records of the UCHRS.

OUR PUBLICATIONS

The Society has published a small number of books and booklets over the years.

Skirt Tales – 100 Historical Stories of Women from the Upper Clutha Area, Central Otago - \$25. This is the 4th time this book has been reprinted (this time by the organizers of the book “The Sequel”). It is available from the Society, and the Wanaka Library. Postage is \$7-50 if required.

The Sequel – - \$25. A sequel to Skirt Tales and published by a group of Upper Clutha ladies. A small number of this book is available from The Society and the Wanaka Library. Postage \$7-50.

125, Look Alive – 125 Years of Schooling in the Wanaka District - \$15.00. Available from the Society or the Wanaka Library. Postage is \$7-00 if required.

The Upper Clutha – 150 Years - \$5. A short history of the Upper Clutha district. Available from the Society or the Wanaka Library. Postage is \$6-50 if required.

Courageous and Free – \$30 -Stories of Upper Clutha WW1 Soldiers and Nurse who died due to war service. This is the second edition. Postage \$7-50.

NZ Post “Bubble Bags” are used to protect the books.

NB – Some delays may be experienced whilst the Library is under repairs

PHOTOS

Copies of the photographs held in our records can be provided either as a digital file of a printed copy.

Costs are:

For individuals:

Digital file: \$10-00

Printed Copy: \$10-00 plus the cost of printing the Photo at Kodak, Wanaka.

For Non-profit Community organizations:

There is generally no fee for digital copies but a donation would be welcome. For printed copies, the Community organization will need to pay for the Kodak Wanaka printing cost.

For Commercial Organizations:

The fee is \$30.00 plus the cost of any printed copy.

Please note that ownership of the image lies with UCHRS and further copying requires our written approval and possibly an additional negotiated fee.

WHO ARE WE?

President: Bruce Foulds

Vice President: Jo Wilton

Secretary: Steve Moss

Treasurer/Editor: Ken Allan

Committee Members: Ken and Margaret Thomlinson, Graham Dickson, David Simmers, Pam Kane, and ex-officio, Ed Taylor.

The Society was established in 1985, Incorporated in 2010, and became a Charity in 2014, to collect and preserve records and images of the history of the Upper Clutha region and make them available to members of the public. The records are held in a special room in the Wanaka Library and a small team of volunteers provides research assistance (appointments are necessary) to members of the public who may be looking for their family history or for persons searching for aspects of NZ history. Copying costs apply.

Please contact a Librarian at the Wanaka Library who will pass on the request or send us an email to admin@uppercluthahistory.org.

The Society is a Registered Charity. Funding is reliant on the assistance of a variety of community funders and individual gifts. Donations are very welcome, as are new members.

Donations may be made to our bank account 03-1739-0012311-00 with the reference – Donation. As we are a Registered Charity, donations over \$5 are tax deductible – please ask for a receipt. Please note that the IRD require donor’s full name and address

Membership Subscriptions for year ending 31/3/2022 are \$15-00 per person.

Website: <http://www.uppercluthahistory.org/>

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