

Bringing the Past to the Future

THOSE WERE THE DAYS

NEWSLETTER OF THE UPPER CLUTHA HISTORICAL RECORDS SOCIETY INC.

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

SUMMER 2022 - VOLUME TWENTY

DECEMBER 2022

CHRISTMAS AND A NEW YEAR

We wish everyone a happy Christmas and New Year with friends and family. Hopefully the coming year will be a more peaceful one and people throughout the World can look forward to peaceful and normal life – but we are not holding our breath!

THE MCCALLUM FAMILY – AMONGST OUR FIRST RESIDENTS



MRS O. P. MCCALLUM.

Jane was born on 13 February 1843 to Robert Watson and Jane Swan in the parish of Kirkmichael, which is about 8 miles north of Dumfries in Scotland. The family lived at Shawfoot

Cottages.¹ She married Oswald Pagan McCallum (1839-1902) at Kirkmichael on 4 January 1861, aged just 17, in the full knowledge that shortly thereafter, she and Oswald were to emigrate to New Zealand – specifically Wānaka. Whilst waiting to emigrate, they lived with Jane’s parents and siblings.

From here on, it is best to let Jane tell her own story covering the period 1861 to 1875.

In 1922, the year before she passed away, Jane wrote a letter to George Hassing who then passed it on to Richard Norman. Richard arranged to have it printed in the Otago Witness on 2 January 1923 as part of one of his contributions to the newspaper and it was discovered, by accident, by the Editor when researching another person mentioned in the letter. Some of Jane’s facts are not quite right, but footnotes have been appended with the correct information.



Jane McCallum (Snr).

Photo possibly taken about 1880s

Photo provided by Gaylene Morrison, a Great Great Granddaughter of Oswald and Jane

“I was married in the first week of January, 1860², in Dumfries, I being in my 17th year at the time. My husband, Oswald Pagan McCallum knew then we were going to New Zealand, and on to Wānaka.³ When we landed from the “*Stormbird*”⁴ the diggings had broken out; Tuapeka first. We went down from Christchurch in the PS “*Geelong*” to Oamaru,⁵ on our way to

¹ Scottish Census 1861

² She was actually married on 4 January 1861 at Kirkmichael. The date ‘1860’ could well be a transcription error interpreting her handwriting.

³ Early settlers spoke of “Wānaka” in describing the area, just as we now describe the area as “Upper Clutha”.

⁴ In actual fact they travelled on the “*Storm Cloud*”

⁵ She is mistaken here. The “*Storm Cloud*” landed at Dunedin direct from Glasgow and Jane and Oswald travelled on the “*Geelong*” to Oamaru on one of it’s regular “every Tuesday” voyages up the coast , stopping at

Wānaka, but we had to stay in Oamaru owing to winter and snow for three months (with Mr Hassall at Cave Valley⁶), until Yorkey⁷ came down with the bullock team from Wānaka to take back stores for the shearing.⁸ The two brothers Merrilees came up with us, also one Docherty, also one named Joseph B. Ewing, aged about 15 years. I thought him a smart boy; he had sawmills afterwards. So there was 10 of us. Mr Robert Wilkin, Wānaka station owner, sent with Thos. Anderson, afterwards the flourmill owner at Luggate, down from Christchurch, a horse and side saddle for me to ride to Wānaka station – it was a 150 mile journey – and so we were a very happy company going to the land of our adoption. I well remember when we got to the Upper Clutha River.⁹ Mr John Heuchan¹⁰, also from Dumfries, the first station manager, and some other men came to take us across the river, and I was very much afraid. There was no Albert Town at this time. Then, when we got to the station, I had to stand a lot of remarks when Mr H. S. Thomson and his cousin Mr McAlister, came from West Wānaka station for their mail. They all had come to hear me speak, as I was young and very Scotch. Mr Candy, of East Wānaka station (father and uncle of the Canterbury Candys) called to see me, also Henry and Mr Norman from Roy's Bay.¹¹ He said he did not know a word I said.¹² When the shearing was over we were sent to a sod hut up the Cardrona Valley until Jimmie the Mason Dewar built the stone thatched hut for us in the Cardrona Valley, the walls of which now only remain. We were flooded out of this in the middle of the night in '62, and had to ride across the flooded stream and take shelter in a digger's tent. I had a baby then.¹³ One day I was standing outside the house when a man came, and after talking to me awhile, he took a pound note out of his pocket and gave it to my little girl, and said he always liked children. I felt rather afraid and distressed, as I did not know him. I afterwards found out that was the first time I had seen Henry Maidman, who, with his wife, threw in his lot with Wānaka until they died.¹⁴ Then we went to live at Roy's Bay. There was no Pembroke then¹⁵ but two thatched cottages built by Mr Norman.¹⁶ Mrs

Moeraki, Oamaru, Timaru and sometimes to Christchurch then return. Passenger records are clear on this matter.

⁶ John Lloyd Hassell was a well known early settler (1859) to North Otago. His farm (house built in 1860) was about 8km inland from Oamaru harbour.

⁷ Nickname for Thomas Primate,

⁸ Oamaru was the main supply town for the Upper Clutha in the early days. The Lindis Valley route was frequently unable to be used in winter (and occasionally still happens nowadays – 2022).

⁹ Originally named Mata-Au, then Molyneux by the European settlers and then to the current name Clutha River

¹⁰ Uncle of the previously mentioned Thomas Anderson

¹¹ I suspect that there is a transcription error here and it should read "Henry and Mrs Norman".

¹² The Normans emigrated from the south of England in 1859.

¹³ Jane McCallum, born 7 June 1862 but did this flood event happen in 1862 or 1863?. Jane (the baby) was certainly born as stated but the sentence "I had my baby then." can be interpreted two ways i.e. she already had the baby or it was born at the time of the flood. In addition, Jane's dates in the early 1860s have proven to be one year out (too early). It is more likely that it was the flood that occurred in July 1863 (the "Old Man Flood"). The timeline still indicates that Jane (Jnr) was born whilst they lived in the Cardrona Valley.

¹⁴ The Maidmans initially lived at Cardrona before moving to Luggate where they built the first store and then the Albion Hotel opened in 1869. Henry and his wife Fanny could not have children of their own but did adopt two Chinese girls, progenitors of two large Upper Clutha families.

¹⁵ Pembroke was the name given to what was to be the town in 1863. The town name was changed to Wānaka in 1940.

¹⁶ These were built in 1860 by Henry Norman for his wife and their first child, Richard, when they first arrived to work for John Roy.

Broughton lived there. Her husband was formerly a lieutenant in the Royal Navy, and she was formerly a governess. We always spent the evenings in my house, as our husbands were always out in the hills nine months of the year, keeping the sheep from straying. One night we found my house was on fire. We took out my two children and tried to save something.¹⁷ When the house was burnt down I went away out into the darkness and found my horse, and then rode over to the homestead to tell them what had happened. It was twelve o'clock then. Six months after that, Mrs Broughton's house was burnt down and they lost everything. When I lived in the Cardrona Valley they gave me a loaded revolver and told me to use it if needful, but no one interfered with me. When we left the lake we went to the Wānaka homestead and lived in Mr Wilkin's first temporary residence, a thatched wooden whare near the garden.¹⁸ When I was living there, the men I knew used to bring their gold for me to keep, as they were afraid to keep it themselves, and I never let on. Sometimes I had as much as £300 worth. They told me to just put it in the big box I brought from Bonnie Scotland.¹⁹ There was just one compartment. Anyone could have come down the sod chimney quite easily. Sometimes I tied up a kangaroo dog²⁰ at the door. Everyone was kind to me. I like to look back on the early days when we travelled up first. We stayed a few days for a rest at the Lindis. A digger named McDonald gave me a nugget. When I lived at the whare, Docherty and Merrilees came to me one Saturday and asked me to bake them a batch of bread. I got it ready for them on the Sunday afternoon. I have never baked on a Sunday since. They went away in haste to look for Hartley and Reilly's claim down the Clutha River. One time it blew a gale for two days, and I was very much afraid the whare would blow down. In the evening A. E. Farquhar (late Stirling) called, and recognising the situation, persuaded me to go to Albert Town to Mr Norman's²¹, and he would help me with the two children. I stayed here till my husband came home. The whare fell down eventually. I had three trials – flooded out, burnt out, and last blown out. Then we shifted to one of the three stone houses with iron roofs. These have since been pulled down: the whole homestead, in fact, abandoned. For two seasons, Mrs Norman and I went to Wānaka West, per whaleboat, to make Mr Thomson's jam. Once we had a head wind, and had to land and camp until the weather moderated. After being at Wānaka fourteen years, we left for Temuka, and went to Dunedin on Peter McIntosh's ten-horse waggon. We had six children at the time.²²

Clearly it was a hard life in the Upper Clutha and subsequent research has elicited some more information about Oswald and Jane (some of it with the help of the South Canterbury Museum).

But let us now return to 1861 to give some background information to Jane's letter. Oswald and Jane left the Clyde, Glasgow, on 3 May 1861 bound for Dunedin, where they arrived off

¹⁷ Jane and Oswald's second child was Mary Ann who was born on 9 March 1864

¹⁸ A whare is the Māori word for a house.

¹⁹ Could this be the first bank and banker in the Upper Clutha?

²⁰ A Kangaroo Dog was an Australian breed of rough-haired dogs that resembled greyhounds and that were used for hunting kangaroos (but you would not find any kangaroos in the Upper Clutha!).

²¹ Henry Norman operated a hotel, store and post office at Albert Town, a short distance from the Wānaka Station – about 1km.

²² Their seventh child, Jessie, was born at Temuka in 1875.

the Otago Heads on 26 June 1861.²³ Their names appear on the list of Steerage Passengers and there were 322 other passengers on board.



LATE MR O. P. M'CALLUM,
Who, after shepherding at Wanaka,
became manager, and before his death
was farming, managing, and wool-classeeing
at Temuka. Left two sons and a number
of daughters, all well married.

A Photo of Oswald McCallum perhaps about 1880s

Oswald had been employed by Robert Wilkin as a shepherd for Wānaka Station. Many of the shepherds were from Dumfriesshire where Robert also came from originally (a village called Tinwald, a short distance south of Kirkmichael). Eventually Oswald became the Head Shepherd for the Wilkin and Thomson partnership.

Oswald took part in the very first Sheep Dog Trial held in the World on 18 April 1867. One of his competitors was his friend and workmate H Broughton, who had lived in the adjacent house previously owned by the Norman's. Both men had two dogs in the trial, but it was Oswald who came on top with his dog Keilder in 2nd place.²⁴

Although we have no records, it is probable that Jane (Jnr) was a 'first day pupil' at the Albert Town School (opened 1868) and that that her siblings, Mary, Annie and maybe Oswald (Jnr) also attended the school. Oswald (Snr) was a member of the second school committee for the school at Albert Town²⁵. In 1872 the average attendance was 25 pupils.²⁶

It is reported that his last seven years at Wānaka were spent as manager of the property for the subsequent owners, Holmes and Campbell before the family moved to the Arowhenua Station just outside Temuka about 1874/5. There, Oswald acted as Manager for J T Ford & Co

²³ Otago Witness

²⁴ Trial of Sheep Dogs, North Otago Times, 30 April 1867, Page 3

²⁵ Albert Town, "Wanaka Story", by Irvine Roxburgh, Page 111. The surname is given as 'MacCullum' but no one of that surname spelling can be found.

²⁶ "Our Public Schools", Cromwell Argus, Page 5, 3 May 1873

until he left in 1880 and went farming on his own account at “Hazleburn” in the Totara Valley until he died in 1902.



THE LATE MR. O. P. McCALLUM.

A photo of Oswald in later life.

Only two references can be found in local history books relating to Oswald and then they are limited to just his name and occupation. As it transpires, Oswald and Jane were amongst the very first European settlers to live in what we now know as Wānaka at a time when there were perhaps only 20 to 30 people in the Upper Clutha.

Jane and Oswald’s children were (source is principally Melinda Wiggins, NSW, Australia, a relative)²⁷ :

Jane born 7 Jun 1862 at Wānaka – died 1932 (see also the next section)

Mary Ann born 9 Mar 1864 at Wānaka – died 1918

Annie Borthwick born 3 April 1866 at Wānaka - died 1938

Oswald Pagan born 2 Feb 1868 at Temuka – died 1946

Robert John born 1870 – died 1970 (his birth was not registered)

Jessie Agnes born 5 Nov 1875 at Temuka – died 1952

Katie Isabella born 14 Jan 1878 probably at Temuka – died 1950

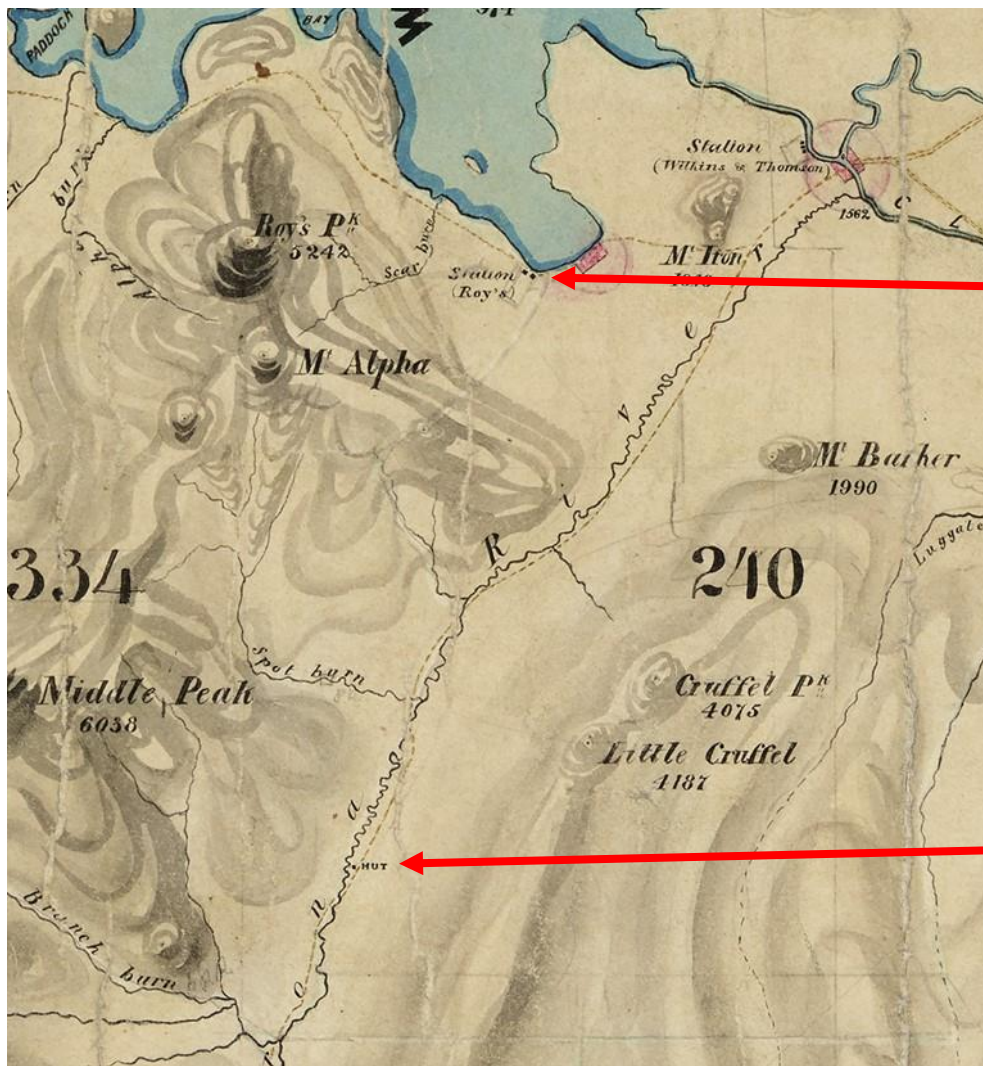
Alexandrina Florence born 18 Jan 1882 at Temuka – died 1939

Eneas William Mackintosh born 1885 at Temuka – died 1888

²⁷ <https://www.ancestry.co.uk/family-tree/person/tree/169105200/person/222360889863/facts>

RE-WRITING OUR HISTORY – THE NEW FIRST FEMALE CHILD BORN TO A SETTLER IN THE UPPER CLUTHA

As mentioned in the previous item, Jane McCallum was born on 7 June 1862 in probably a stone thatched hut or a 'diggers tent' somewhere up the Cardrona Valley. It is not clear exactly in which place the birth took place, but most likely in the thatched hut the year before the flood.



Are these the two cottages built by Henry Norman at Roy's Station

Was this the hut where the McCallums lived and Jane Jnr was born?

This is map is extracted from McKerrow's Reconnaissance Survey of the Interior Districts of Otago Province 1862-1863. The top arrow points towards two buildings at Roys Bay (given the date, very likely to be the two thatched cottages built by Henry Norman) and the lower arrow, to a hut marked beside the Cardrona River between Spot Burn and Branch Burn (their 1863 names). Was this latter hut where the McCallum's lived and Jane Jnr was born, remembering the McCallums were living in a hut up the Cardrona Valley in 1862/3?

The Birth Register records the birth taking place at Wānaka, but note that at that time "Wānaka" was the name that generally described the area we now call Upper Clutha and not

the town - it did not exist then. Forget about the pinkish mark on the map indicating where Pembroke was to be, as it is a later “addition” to the original map).

Jane’s younger sister, Mary Ann, was born on 9 March 1864 and was the very first birth registered in the Register Book for the District of Wānaka by Henry Norman. In the absence of any other information, it appears that Mary Ann was the first settler’s female child born in what we now know as Wānaka Township, the first boy having been Robert Norman born in 1861.

Past writings on the history of the Upper Clutha have recorded that Catherine Maria Pipson, of Makarora, born 1868, was the first female settler’s child born in the Upper Clutha, but Catherine was not even close to being the first. In addition to Jane, her parents, whilst living on Wānaka Station, produced two other daughters before Catherine was born. History gets re-written once again and there is always the chance that an earlier birth occurred from amongst the other families who came to the Wānaka area to work on the new Sheep Stations!

EARLIEST PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE UPPER CLUTHA BY KEN THOMLINSON

There are two photos of farm buildings that have been in the Society’s collection for over 30 years. One is labelled “Wilkin and Thomson’s (sic) Station, 1870s”.



Wilkin and Thomson’s Station.

The buildings are also shown on an 1865 Survey Plan by John Connell. The plan names them, from left to right, part of the shearers’ house, the men’s house, the kitchen, the house and the woolshed. The station at that time was at what is now Albert Town. The renovated “kitchen” cottage can still be seen looking across the Clutha/Matau River from the D.O.C campsite.

Robert Wilkin and his wife’s uncle, Archibald Thomson, purchased the station in 1860, subsequently adding several other pastoral leases until, by 1864, they had all the land on the

west side of the Clutha/Matau and Hawea Rivers from Cromwell to Lake Wanaka and had also acquired John Roy's Station extending around the lake to the Motatapu River, over 300,000 acres. They sold most of the station to Mathew Holmes and Henry Campbell in 1866.

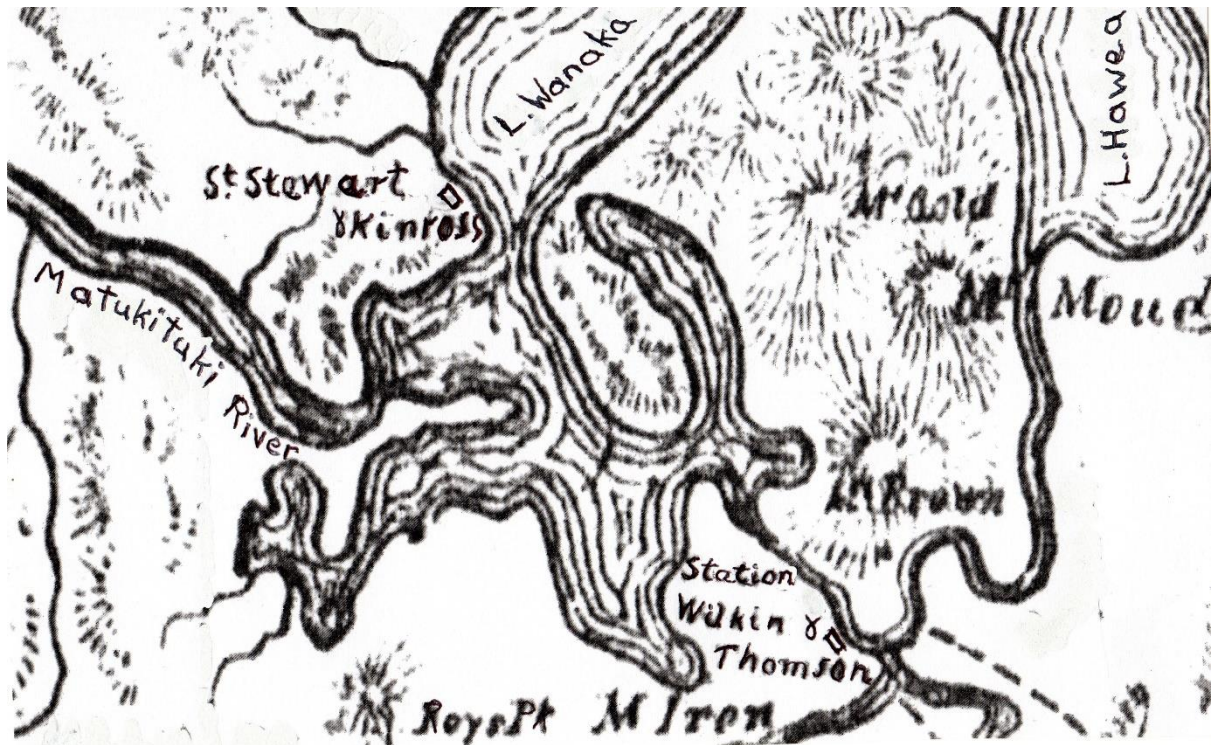
The second photograph has written on the back "Cattle Flat" but it is not the Cattle Flat Station in the Matukituki Valley and it was assumed that it was not in the Upper Clutha area.

Recently we have seen a copy of this photograph that Mark Orbell obtained from the Hocken Library in Dunedin. It is labelled as "Stewart (sic) and Kinross's Station" and names the photographer as "Perry".



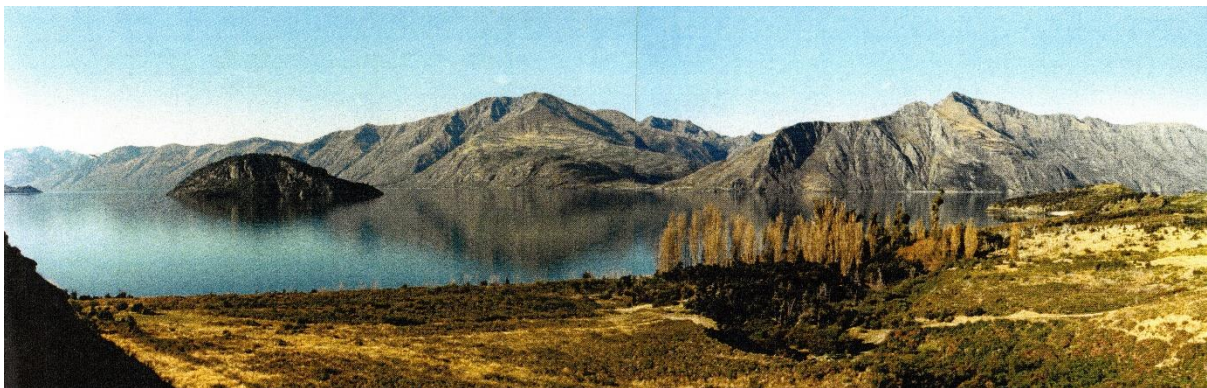
Stewart and Kinross's Station.

In 1860 James Stuart and John Kinross, both of Wellington, obtained the pastoral lease for Run 333, 100,000 acres west of Lake Wānaka from the Motatapu River to the Minaret River. Stuart and Kinross contracted George Hassing and Bill Atkins to supply the sawn timber, posts, rails and shingles for the station to be established on the lake shore at what is now known as "Colquhoun's", named after a later station manager. The first manager was Henry Sinclair Thomson. The station was later known as Wānaka West and in 1900 subdivided into West Wānaka and Cattle Flat stations, separated by the Matukituki River.



Part of Hamett and Co's map, published in 1864.

A search on the Hocken Library's website "Hakena" has shown that Joseph Perry was an amateur photographer commissioned by Dr James Hector, the Otago Provincial Geologist, to take a hundred views of Otago during 1864 and 1865. Both of the station photographs were taken by Perry, as well as several others around the Upper Clutha. They are the earliest known photographs of this area.



"Colquhoun's". The remains of the station buildings are among the poplar trees.

Photo: Ken Thomlinson, 1995

2022 HISTORY PRIZE AWARD

Congratulations to Felix Blanchard of Mount Aspiring College for winning the UCHRS History Prize. Felix wrote a paper on The Significance of the Otago Gold Rushes on Otago and New Zealand. Well-done Felix.

RECORDS ROOM SUMMER BREAK

The Records Room will not be manned on Wednesdays after 7 December until it re opens on 1 February 2023. Enquiries can still be generated through our website or via the Wanaka Librarians.

WHAT'S IN A NAME – MOU WAHO?

Renaming place names has not been an unusual occurrence in New Zealand, but a local one caught the eye – the story of Mou Waho Island and its features. Over time, it has been named Te Mou-a-hou, Mou Waho, which is claimed to be its original name (translates as the Outer or Far Island), Mouaho as recalled by Rawiri te Maire in 1898, in 1862/3 James McKerrow recorded the name Manuka Island on his Reconnaissance Map, Pigeon and Harwich before returning to the “original” name of Mou Waho. The pool/small lake on the island is now named Arethusa Pool and not the former name of Paradise Lake, nor the apparent original Māori name of Moutimu. The highest point on the island is named Tyrwhitt and there is a Scenic Reserve gazetted named Harwich Scenic Reserve²⁸. What has Harwich, Tyrwhitt and Arethusa to do with the Upper Clutha? Well, absolutely nothing that can be discovered!

It all came about after a visit to the area by Lord Jellicoe, GCB, OM, GCVO who was appointed Governor General of New Zealand from 1920. He visited Wānaka in 1923 and went deerstalking (successfully) and the area must have “taken his eye”. Relatively briefly, with the help of Sir Frederick Chapman, a former Supreme Court Judge and member of the Honorary Geographic Board of New Zealand, it was suggested that some re-naming of what was then known as Manuka or Pigeon Island, should take place. Lord Jellicoe was reported as not being above breaching the convention of Governor Generals not interfering in domestic politics.

The first suggestion was to rename the island Syracuse after the “island of Syracuse” as Mou Waho “looked like it”. It was not chosen in the end, which is just as well. Syracuse is not an island but a city on Sicily. The island they were thinking of was Ortigia which is within the city area of Syracuse. This little island also had a pool, just like Mou Waho, called the Fountain of Arethusa. Eventually it was decided that Syracuse was not appropriate, but it would be named Harwich Island, Paradise Lake was to become Arethusa Pool and the highest point, Tyrwhitt

²⁸ Changed to Mou Waho Island (Harwich) Scenic Reserve in 2011 : Source: Land Information NZ

Peak. Why were these names so important as to cause the renaming of a significant part of the geography Lake Wānaka area?

Remember that Lord Jellicoe was First Sea Lord and Chief of Naval Staff after the Battle of Jutland (1916) and although he was dismissed by Lloyd George in December 1917, he still had influence. During World War One the Royal Navy created a naval force called the Harwich Force which was under the command of Commodore Reginald Tyrwhitt and his ship was named the 'Arethusa'. It was quite a successful naval force but as already mentioned, there is no apparent connection to New Zealand.

Harwich Island was gazetted on 18 December 1924 and the other names also added (Arethusa Pool and Tyrwhitt Peak), but without any apparent consultation with the locals, let alone Māori as was required under law. There were protests recorded in the newspapers of the time but to no avail. Most locals simply ignored the official change of name to Harwich Island, to the extent that in 1972, an "about face" occurred and Mou Waho was returned as the official name.

Incidentally, Lord Jellicoe had a number of places named after him in New Zealand.

DON'T FRIGHTEN THE HORSES!

We seem to be constantly bombarded these days with decisions to reduce speeds on our roads – well have a thought with what your ancestors had to put up with! Examples:

1. Try to imagine cycling on Southland roads in 1894. If you approached a horse, you were required by law to stop and dismount when you were 22 yards (20 metres) away from the horse and draw your cycle over to the side of the road. Only when the horse had passed could you resume your journey. At 6 mph you had about 7.5 seconds before the horse traversed the 22 yards. Apart from everything else, how on earth could the law be effectively policed? It was disposed of very quickly!
2. The Lakes County Council, (forerunner of the Queenstown-Lakes County Council), banned motor cars using its roads up till 1912 – they might scare the horses!

As a matter of interest, in a lot of New Zealand areas, the maximum speed for cycles and cars was generally 6 mph in towns. In November 1898, a law was passed making the maximum speed of a motor car could be driven at, to be 12 mph (19kph) and it must be equipped with a bell and a forward-facing light.

WORLD SHEEP DOG TRIALS 18 APRIL 1867 – REPORT EXCERPT

In my humble opinion, it would be greatly to the benefit of masters to see that their shepherds had really good animals to work with; and to shepherds it would be a great advantage and ease to them to keep nothing but well-bred and carefully-trained dogs, since they are condemned by Government to pay a heavy tax for each one, a tax which I never was even asked to pay in one of the most heavily taxed countries in the world, and one which I am sure every man who gives the subject any consideration must admit is at once oppressive and unfair, and one which, in an almost purely pastoral country like Otago, every man should do his utmost to abolish.

In conclusion, I will say a word or two on employers; and now I know I am touching on "kittle" ground. It seems to me that the majority of employers make but little distinction between the man who is really a shepherd—who has been brought up to it, I may say, from childhood, and never followed any other occupation—and the man who, with a good stock of what is colonially termed "cheek," gets a long stick in his hand, and any kind of a mangy cur at his heels, and calls himself a shepherd, at the same time knowing as much about sheep as he does of the "man in the moon." For I notice that one stands an equal chance of employment by the majority of flockowners, and at an equal rate of wages, as the other. I think if employers gave a greater preference to merit in shepherds it would be much to their advantage, and incite men to strive and become shepherds in something more than name.

I am, &c.,

DUMFRIES.

Who wrote this? It would appear to be by one of the many shepherds who were sought out from Dumfriesshire to work on the Wānaka runs. Some of the terms are interesting e.g. "kittle". The earlier-mentioned Oswald McCallum was a competitor at the Trials.

All that aside, the Dog Tax mentioned in the article was an item of great concern to all dog owners. It was introduced under the Dog Nuisance Act 1854 at 5/- per dog and then increased to 10/- per dog under the Dog Tax Act 1880. Imagine if you will, a shepherd or rabbitier with any number of dogs, having to pay over a sizeable portion of their income. Many Māori did

not have a cash income such as we know it today, with which to pay the Tax. The imposition of this tax caused a great volume of protest over the years. A search of PapersPast produces 33,338 items for the period 1854 to 1922, the most I have seen on anyone subject, (letters, Council reports etc²⁹). In 1898 matters got so heated that a rebellion by a number of Māori at Rawene (Hokianga), resulted in the Government of the day rushing troops and a gunboat to the area, but Hone Heke Ngapua, MP, urged the Waimā leaders to lay down their arms. 16 men were gaoled for 18 months.

100 YEARS AGO

It was unfortunate that the Wanaka Hotel (Pembroke) should have been destroyed by fire so near to the holiday season, but the accommodation for visitors will not be so badly affected as was at first expected. The licensee of this hotel has gone to considerable trouble to make matters as satisfactory as possible, and the doctor's house, adjacent to the hotel premises, has been secured, and this will provide accommodation. In addition to this the cottage which formed an annexe to the hotel, and which was regularly occupied by guests, is still available, as it was left standing after the fire. These two buildings are already engaged. A temporary bar has been established in a building on the other side of the road. It is understood that the owner of the property (Mr Glase) purposes rebuilding, and that the plans for an up-to-date building are about to be prepared.

The fire took place on 27 November 1922

The news that the Wanaka Hotel at Pembroke was destroyed by fire involve the Tourist Department in not a few difficulties in meeting the wishes of clients. The Wanaka Hotel had accommodation for 60 people.

²⁹ Excludes any advertisements on the subject in the newspapers

OLD COUNTRY CLUB BUILDING



A query from the public asked about this building and we published a photo in the last newsletter asking for information. It turns out that the Wānaka App published an article on it back in April 2016 and they have kindly allowed us to re-print the article for our readers.

“An old building off Studholme Road offers an insight into a slice of old Wānaka, when much of what is now the town was Wānaka Station.

The building (pictured) is believed to have been built sometime after 1912. It was originally the “cook shop” for workers on Wānaka Station, and farm irrigator Tom McFarlane and his wife lived in the building. After meals, workers would relax in the games room. It was considered the social hub of the station.

Jill Blennerhassett, whose family owned Wānaka Station, said she remembered visiting the cook shop as a young girl when she worked on the farm.

It was in the late 1970s that the Wānaka Districts Club took up residence at the old cookshop, before moving on ten years later.

Willy Rankin was a founding districts club committee member. “We planned to be in the building for a decade before building something of our own and it was damn near ten years to the day that we were there,” Willy said.

He fondly remembers the club’s time at the old cook shop. “We had a hell of a lot of fun there and lots of activities.”

The club was normally open on Friday and Saturday nights and for fundraising the club would hold activities like mystery bus rides, a hangi at Christmas, “round the bay” races and raffles. “We wouldn’t be able to get away a lot of the activities now because of regulations,” Willy said.

The club operated as a co-operative and committee and club members would all pitch in, serving drinks behind the bar, cooking and keeping the building in good condition.

“It was almost all volunteer labour,” Willy said. “By the end we did have a paid cleaner but apart from that it was all about helping out.”

Jill Blennerhassett said the old cookshop was just one of many buildings which were part of Wānaka Station before the farm was split between her and her brother Rolfe Mills following their mother's death in the early 1970s.

There were shearers quarters built close to the cook shop, which housed the many farm workers.

The original woolshed still stands in a paddock behind the old cook shop. It housed 24-30 blade shearing stands and is now a protected feature in the QLDC District Plan.

The stables were originally located in front of the cook shop and were purpose-built to house two six-horse teams.

Additionally, the yards, which were located where Wānaka Station Park is now, was the place where workers would meet at the start of the day. Horses would be brought down from the stables.

Other buildings included the manager's house, which has been relocated to Maungawera Junction and the homestead - which burnt down in 1913 and was replaced, but the second homestead also burnt down, in 1931, and only the foundations remain.

Much of the land has been sold, but some of what was Wānaka Station is still owned by members of the family. Wānaka Station Park was gifted to the town. "It was just too nice for only one person to enjoy," Jill said.

The old cookshop is now owned by Jill's daughter, Robyn. It stands empty but was lived in up until about eight years ago."

Many thanks to the Wānaka App and the author, Maddy Harker.

POSTSCRIPT – JILL AND JOHN BLENNERHASSETT

We wish to take this belated opportunity to acknowledge the death of Jill Blennerhassett in July, just a month after her husband John. Jill and John and their family have been valuable benefactors to Wānaka over many years.

OUR NEW PROJECT – ORAL HISTORIES

For the past few months we have been working on establishing a project to record oral histories of people living in our area. This has involved a small number of members enthusiastically getting the project off the ground and raising funds to cover the cost of the specialized equipment required and costs/planning training of interviewers. To date the Central Lakes Trust, Otago Community Trust and the Connecting Communities Fund have committed to funding a total of \$8,500 of the initial setup costs and training. The QLDC has

agreed to waive the \$1022 fee for hire of the Lake Wānaka Centre for the two-part training course. We are indebted to these organizations for their support.

The next step is building a team of volunteer oral historians. To do this, we have organized a two-day training course which will be held on the Fridays of 3rd March and 14th April 2023, 9am – 5pm. The course will be run by Lynette Shum from Outreach Services, Alexander Turnbull Library, National Library of New Zealand and Helen Frizzell, a professional oral historian from Dunedin. We are excited to have such experienced trainers come to Wānaka!

Leading this project are Helen Howarth and Liz Holland. If you are interested in becoming a member of our oral history team, please contact Helen and Liz at our new email address – oralhistory@uppercluthahistory.org.

We have also discovered some previously recorded interviews on cassette tapes and CD's. These are currently being converted into computer files as tapes and CD's deteriorate over time.

A RANDOM PHOTO

Found on Facebook:



Mt Cook and Southern Lakes Bus outside the Cardona Hotel – 1950s

JO'S UPDATE

Firstly, a warm welcome to Kaye Spark who has joined us on Wednesday mornings and currently is helping us with indexing.

Our oral history members, Helen Howarth and Liz Holland have completed their initial interviews using our newly purchased audio recorders, in the process learning to overcome

various issues that inevitably arise. Oral History Training dates are Friday 3rd March and Friday 14th April next. If you are interested, let us know as soon as possible.

Graham Dickson has for many years kept track of the memorials around the district. If you come across any plaques etc and want to know if we have a record of it, please pass on the details plus a photo if possible, so we can check our spreadsheet and paper records as a means of keeping our records updated.

We are sorry to lose a committee member, Kerrie Waterworth. Kerrie and her husband Andrew are moving up north. We wish them well.

WHAT ELSE WE HAVE BEEN UP TO

Apart from the work on the Oral History Project the following major activities have occurred:

1. Updating our Timeline on the website
2. Completion of a brief early history of Queensberry, centred on the Queensberry Inn.
3. Completion of research into the McCallum family as recorded earlier in this Newsletter.
4. Indexing of more local history books in our Library to make it easier for researchers to discover facts. Many books only have a basic index. The most important index being worked on is Roxburgh's book "Wanaka Story".
5. Participation in the Cemeteries and Crematoria Week, Nov 2022 with a talk by Ken and Margaret Thomlinson at the Library.
6. Assisting Lake Wānaka Tourism with a project reaching out to the community and tourists with the richness of our local history.

A REMINDER - SUBSCRIPTIONS

There are a few subscriptions (\$15) for membership of the Society outstanding. Subscriptions are very important to the Society's running costs. The Secretary will shortly send out a reminder notice if you haven't renewed your subscription from last financial year.

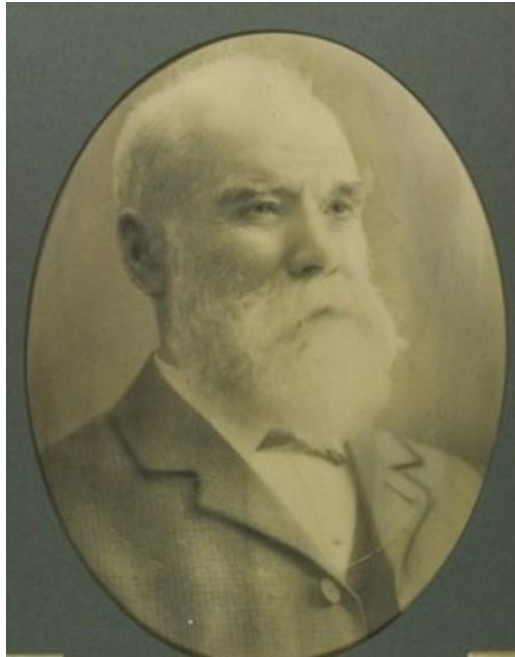
If you wish to become a financial member and support the Society's activities, which include the free newsletters, please go to our website page:

<http://www.uppercluthahistory.org/contact-us/> and click on the "Join Now" button.

Alternatively, write an email to the Secretary (secretary@uppercluthahistory.org) who will inform you how to pay the \$15 to the bank account.

RECENT PHOTOS ACQUIRED

Two of the important Surveyors of the Upper Clutha



James McKerrow who completed a survey report and map of the whole area over 1862/3.



John Aitken Connell – the man who in 1863 surveyed the new towns to be, of Pembroke (Wanaka), Newcastle (Albert Town), Gladstone (around John Creek, Lake Hawea) and Wakefield (near Bendigo). Streets were laid out and tended to have Irish names. Contrary to some records, Connell was not born in Ireland but in Ayrshire, Scotland.

NETSAFE'S GUIDE TO SCAM SPOTTING

No, we haven't been scammed, though that is not to say a few have not tried! A while ago the Society had multiple emails (over 30) that appeared to come from Russia and France all about the same subject (not a bright idea!) and all within 48 hours. Scammers are out there all too willing to take your money.

However, the following guidelines published by Netsafe are worth following. An online scam is any scheme designed to trick people out of money or steal their personal information that uses, or is delivered via, digital communications. Here are a few tell-tale signs you might be being scammed:

- **Contact that is out of the blue** – even if the person says they're from a legitimate organisation like the bank, an embassy or your internet provider
- **Getting told there's a problem with your phone, laptop or internet connections** – often they will offer to fix your device or say they are from your phone or internet company
- **Being asked for passwords** – legitimate organisations will never ask for the passwords to your online accounts
- **Needing to verify your account or details** – don't respond or click on any links in the communication even if it looks like it's from a real organisation
- **Trying to get you to move outside of an online trading or booking website or app (like Air BnB)** – don't pay outside of the normal website or app processes
- **Offering money or a prize in exchange for something up front** – they might say that it's a "processing" fee or something similar
- **Being asked for money by friends/partners you've met online** – this is a very common tactic, do not pay the money
- **Unusual ways to pay for something** – scammers try to use payments that can't be traced such as pre-loaded debit cards, gift cards, bitcoins, iTunes cards or money transfer systems
- **Asking for remote access to your device** – never do this unless you have actively sought out the service they are providing
- **Pressuring you to make a decision quickly** – this could be to avoid something bad (e.g. account being closed, trouble with the IRD) or to take advantage of something good (a deal or investment)

It is a good idea to always research the sender's name and note the email name e.g. the ANZ Bank NZ is extremely unlikely to have an email address that originates from anywhere else than .nz. If the email purports to come from a friend, phone him/her to confirm or otherwise. And it is not always via phones or emails. The Editor had a recent attempt via Messenger – the message suggested that a close friend was very ill over the past few weeks. Funny, the Editor had met her the day before and all was good! Her identity had been stolen and a new fraudulent Messenger account created.

THANKS

Thanks are 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. It is available from the Society, and the Wānaka Library. Postage is \$7-50 if required.

The Sequel – \$20. A sequel to Skirt Tales. A small number of copies of this book are available from The Society and the Wānaka Library. Postage \$7-50.

125, Look Alive – 125 Years of Schooling in the Wanaka District - \$15.00. Available from the Society or the Wānaka 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 Wānaka 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.

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, Wānaka.

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 Wānaka 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 and Editor : Ken Allan

Secretary/Treasurer: Bruce Foulds

Committee Members: Jo Wilton, Margaret Thomlinson, Graham Dickson, Pam Kane.

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 Wānaka 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 Wānaka 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 full address

Membership Subscriptions for year ending 31/3/2023 are \$15-00 per person.

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

Email: admin@uppercluthahistory.org