

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, Wanaka and Lakes Wanaka and Hawea)

SUMMER 2018 - VOLUME FOUR

DECEMBER 2018

CONGRATULATIONS!

The winner of the first winner of The Upper Clutha History Prize was MAC student Dara Beattie-Johnson. The subject of her project was "Chinese Immigration during the Gold Rush of the 1800s". President Graham presented the Certificate and the \$100 prize to Dara at the MAC Prize Giving ceremony on 23 November.

The Committee has been in discussions with MAC about next year's subject material.

THE NORMANS ARRIVE

No, nothing to do with Norman the Conqueror and 1066! More importantly to the Upper Clutha, this story is about the first known European family to permanently settle here – Henry Norman, his wife Mary Ann and their son Richard.

Henry was christened as Abel Ferris Dominy in 1833 in Dorset, England. When he was 15, he became an indentured apprentice sailor and may have jumped ship in Wellington in 1851, changing his name to

Henry Ferris Norman (his mother's maiden surname) to avoid detection. Mary Ann Edwards came from Yorkshire in 1849 and married Henry in 1858. Their first child, Richard, was born in 1859 and was initially named Henry Robert Norman.

In 1859/60, Henry was employed by John Roy to manage what we know as Roys Station here in the Upper Clutha. Roy had visited the Upper Clutha in October 1859 and applied for a Crown Grant of Run 334 with a Depasturing Licence. In May 1860, Henry, Mary Ann, Richard and shepherds he had employed, landed on the foreshore at Oamaru from surf boats (no wharf then!), together with 1700 merino sheep, a bullock dray, poultry, cats, a cow and a calf. They travelled up the Waitaki Valley and over the Lindis Pass to arrive in mid-June at Roys Bay on Lake Wanaka, where they set up their first home in wattle and daub huts.

If you think we have mid-wife issues in Wanaka today, sympathise with the Normans. In May 1861, Henry had to ride a reported 80km+ to Longslip Station to get the mid-wife (Mrs Careless). It took two days travel each way and then Henry had to

ride to Oamaru to register the birth of Robert.

In late 1861/2, John Roy faced major financial problems and was forced to borrow funds, £8,800 (over \$2m. in today's values). From his father-in-law, Richard Barton, against the security of the Run, livestock and other properties Roy owned. He was in a serious financial position and in December 1863 he sold the Run to Robert Wilkin against Bills of Sale but even that transaction had a different ending from what was expected in 1863.

Henry and Mary Ann moved to what was then Albert Town (located then on the north side of the Clutha) about December 1862, and they purchased the accommodation house off David Robertson, a store, and the ferry business. Following the Provincial Government's decision to lease the rights to a ferry crossing, Henry was granted the lease for the Albert Ferry in February 1863 with fixed prices for the crossing. In 1863 the town of Newcastle was surveyed – this included the existing Albert Town settlement and land on the south side of the river. "Newcastle", as a name, never caught on but Henry purchased several new sections on the south side in 1865 and shifted his hotel and store over to that side. The bridge that had been earlier built over the Clutha near Cromwell had shifted miners' 'traffic' to that side of the river. Henry also became the first Postmaster at Albert Town.

Henry and Mary Ann prospered and had a further 7 children (total of 9) though three did not survive to adulthood. Most of the children were educated in Oamaru and Dunedin.



Norman's Store, Hotel and Post Office

They took a keen and active interest in the activities of the local community and were well respected. When the Great Flood of 1878 came through Albert Town it destroyed much of the town, including the Normans' businesses and the local cemetery. Henry purchased 2 acres of new land to re-establish his businesses in October 1879 but unfortunately, he died on 5 December 1879 aged just 47.

Mary Ann continued to run the hotel business and she remarried to Hugh McKinley in May 1881. She died in September 1885 after a long illness, aged just 46.

Henry and Mary Ann left a lasting legacy and their children continued to be active members of the Upper Clutha and other communities to which they moved to.

Henry's obituary follows – I am not sure what he would make of "...an old and esteemed resident" given he was only 47!

Mr Henry Norman, an old and esteemed resident in the Wanaka district, died on Friday last, after a brief illness. Mr Norman, who had reached his 47th year, was a native of Dorsetshire, England, and came out to Wellington in 1851, where he was engaged on station work, eventually becoming overseer. About 20 years ago he was entrusted by his employer with a large flock of sheep wherewith to stock Roy's Run, Lake Wanaka. The sheep were landed at Oamaru and brought through the Lindis Pass—a work of no little difficulty, as at that time no roads existed, deceased being, in fact, one of the pioneers of the country. Mr Norman managed Roy's run for a number of years, and ultimately settled down in business at Albert Town. He was a man well liked by all who knew him, and the intelligence of his comparatively early death will be much regretted by a wide circle of acquaintances throughout the colony.

(A note: There are many versions of the history of Henry Norman. Most of the above information is based on documentary proof and the writings of his son Richard. This is an edited version of the information now held in the Records Room.

(Albert Town, as we know it now, has been used whereas in the past it was known as one word - Alberttown.)

ARMISTICE DAY 11 NOV 1918

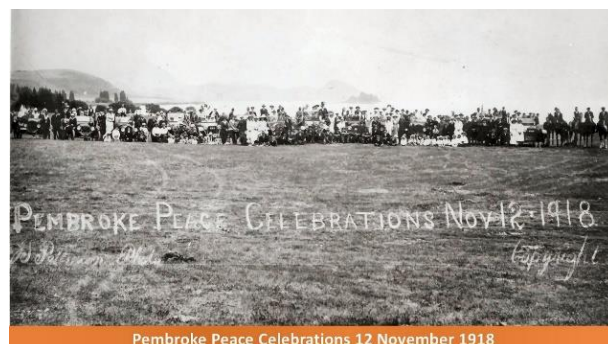
By now we all know that the centenary of the WW1 Armistice was remembered at 11am on 11 November.

One hundred years ago, the Armistice was not rejoiced by the Upper Clutha folk until the following day as the news took that long to reach Wanaka. Word went around the District that a celebration was to be held on Wednesday 13th. It commenced with a Thanksgiving Service at the hall and then led by 14 decorated cars and other vehicles, the attendees took part in a procession followed by a picnic and sports day. In the evening, a dance was held but the hall was too small to accommodate everyone. That did not stop the enjoyment!

Some may ask why it was not celebrated locally on the 11th or the 12th? The answer is simple. Whilst the Armistice was anticipated, official word did not arrive in

most places in NZ until the Tuesday leaving no time to convey the message to a widely spread farming community. Do not forget that England is 12 hours behind NZ time!

When the terms of the Armistice were known on Thursday, a “fresh start” was made! In the evening a group from Pembroke motored to Hawea, all in fancy dress, and a “... noisy, merry crowd, with plenty of life and colour, marched around the hall singing patriotic songs.” The “Hawea folk brought along a liberal supply of refreshments people threw their cares to the wind and did not worry over-much about their dignity.” An overheard remark “If we would not rejoice on this occasion then we never would!” (thanks to the Cromwell Argus for the quotes.)



The caption may be incorrect – according to the newspapers it was Wednesday 13th Nov.

UCHRS HISTORY – PART 1

On 9 Nov 1977 a Museum Committee was formed to establish a museum in Wanaka. The committee collected objects and records for a successful exhibition held in 1978. Unfortunately, they found little available in the way of land or even a space to store their records. The Committee's last recorded meeting was 30 May 1979.

In 1984 Mrs. Peg Mathieson shifted to Wanaka from South Otago. Missing her previous involvement with genealogical

and historical societies she made two important contacts in 1985.

The first was with Dave and Lyn Love, the only members of the NZ Genealogical Society listed in Wanaka. At a meeting organized by them in May for people interested in researching local families, their own family trees and in gathering local archives, the Wanaka Genealogical Group (WGG) was formed.

The second contact was with Stan Kane. They decided to see if there was enough interest to revive the lapsed museum committee. Sixteen people attended a meeting on 7 Jun 1985 and the Wanaka Museum Steering Committee was reformed with Stan as President and Peg Secretary.

In July, a small room at the Lake County Office became available as a Records Room and the next month it was decided they should contact the WGG offering cooperation with collecting historical records.

On 18 Dec 1985 a sub-committee was set up with responsibility for records including three members from their group – Peg, Stan and Jerry Aspinall - and three from the WGG. The last meeting of the Wanaka Museum Steering Committee was on 26 Nov 1986.

The first meeting of the Upper Clutha Historical Records Society (UCHRS), was on 5 Oct 1985. Peg, Stan and Jerry were joined by Dave Love, Phyllis Aspinall and Ivor Hayman from the WGG. Stan was elected President, Peg as Secretary and Ivor as Treasurer. The WGG stopped electing UCHRS members at AGMs in 1990 but stayed close allies.

In 1990 the Lake County Council needed the Records Room space. They gave the UCHRS a cabinet for their records and it was shifted to the Presbyterian Hall. This was home for UCHRS for 13 years.

Apart from managing archives, the UCHRS ran successful Historical Trips each year from 1995 to 2005. It has also designed, funded and built six historical plaques around the Upper Clutha area.

The UCHRS finally moved into their own purpose-built room in the new Wanaka Library in 2003.

Written by Margaret Thomlinson - Part 2 will be in the next newsletter.



The Committee in 2002.

Back Row – Grant Fife, Marie Latta, Shirley McNutt, George Studholme, Dave Power, Ken & Margaret Thomlinson, June Hyde. Front Row – Martin Curtis, Ivor Hamon, Stan Kane, Peg Mathieson, Phyllis Aspinall

THE “SPANISH FLU” OF 1918

This virulent strain of influenza struck the World in 1918 killing millions. In New Zealand, about 9,000 died, the equivalent of about half of the deaths incurred by the NZEF in the four years of World War I. But those flu deaths occurred over a very short period of no more than two and a half

months. The "bug" arrived in New Zealand in October 1918, probably from returning NZ soldiers, and by mid-December it was reported as having steadily abated. That is not to say that other strains of influenza did not continue to affect the populace in the following years.

Most of the deaths occurred in closely populated communities. The Upper Clutha was lucky, and I have only found the names of two residents who died of that strain of influenza. No doubt with the population being dispersed, the quick action to close schools and cancel public activities helped this result. The Government closed hotels, hairdressers and even Church services were suspended.

The following advertisement appeared in the Cromwell Argus which demonstrates the lengths the populace went to avoid catching influenza:

INFLUENZA EPIDEMIC.

INHALATION CHAMBER.

Melmore Terrace, Cromwell.

(Opposite National Bank.)

All travellers arriving in Cromwell are required to go through the chamber.

All residents of Cromwell and surrounding districts may take advantage thereof.

Influenza convalescents are specially required to go through the chamber.

HOURS : 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. Daily.

Attendant in charge who will give certificate of having passed through the chamber.

A. M. BRODRICK,

Mayor.

Royal Disinfectant.

LIFEBUOY SOAP SAVES LIFE.

All sorts of remedies were offered such as Nazol and Influenzol – more to relieve symptoms than provide a cure!

Locally, John Vlietsra, a 46 year old farmer of Luggate passed away in early December. The other death occurred, quite unfortunately and unnecessarily. Thomas Collins, a native of Albert Town and employee of Wanaka Station died due to a visit to Queenstown. He had been required to attend a meeting of the Military Service Board. It had not been conveyed to him that the meeting had been cancelled beforehand (the War was over!) but he contracted the virus anyway. He returned to Pembroke on foot, via the Crown Range and wading the river aggravated his illness. He passed away a few days later. He was reported to be an industrious and popular citizen.

And why was it called the Spanish Flu? Well when the pandemic broke out, most European countries were in the throes of WW1 and censorship was a fact of life. In Spain, that was not the case and when Spanish King, Alfonso XIII fell seriously ill with a form of influenza in May that year, Spanish journalists gave it the populist name of the "Spanish Flu". Spain was not the source of this strain of influenza. It is believed by some researchers that it may have originated in Kansas, USA and made its way to Europe, principally through the movement of troops.

REMEMBER LIFEBUOY SOAP?

Continuing on with the mention in the previous article – do you remember Lifebuoy soap? As a child in the 1950s it was the standard soap that my mother purchased – it didn't stop the occasional bout of flu though!

Lifebuoy soap (Lever Bros Ltd) was once one of New Zealand's best-known consumer brandnames. The brand's prominence was bolstered by its long-running sponsorship of the popular radio music chart show, "The Lifebuoy Hit Parade" which ran from the 1940s to the 1960s (the name changed to that of its manufacturer, Lever Brothers, as the "Lever Hit Parade" in the late 1950s).

Soap commercials which ran during the Hit Parade, played strongly on the fear of social disaster and the horror of giving offence with dreaded "B.O." – or body odour – which could of course be alleviated with regular use of the sponsor's product!

100 YEARS AGO

OK, so you reckon the weather in November was lousy! So what happened in December 1918? -

December 5th "On Thursday morning rain fell throughout the district – a cold rain with snow on the hills. Had it continued it would have caused loss amongst the newly shorn sheep. The weather cleared in the afternoon and appears settled again. Shearing on the farms is now over and is commencing on the runs. There is a shortage of shearers.....

December 21st – the weather turned for the worse – There was a severe blizzard with a southerly wind accompanied by snow and hail. Not looking good for Christmas!

Snow in December!!!

On 26 December there was a big 'welcome back home Private Bert Ballantyne' function – everyone enjoyed themselves.

ANECDOTES FROM THE PAST

1 July 1868 – Only an Irishman would be "brave" enough – "acquire" Father Martin's horse and then defend the action in Court despite numerous witnesses for the prosecution. To cap it all Father Martin was the priest who married the defendant, John O'Callaghan of Arrowtown. Optimism at its best! The end result was "return the horse or pay £20".

And while I am on an Irish theme, do you know the definition of Irish diplomacy? No? Well it is the art of telling a man to go to hell so that he looks forward to making the trip!

Disclosure: I am of Irish descent and proud of it!

JO'S NOTES AND UPDATES

We were all sorry to learn that Pam Dovey and Arthur have left the area and moved to Blenheim. Pam wrote a number of articles in the Wanaka Sun and assisted with the production of the newsletters. She also undertook valuable research for the Society and she will be much missed – though not entirely as she has volunteered to continue with the McCrone work and as proofreader for the newsletters (from a distance!).

We all wish her and Arthur all the best in their new home.

Currently we are sorting Ian McCrone's Alpine News correspondence files from the 1960s-1990s. This has become a challenge and if anyone is willing to assist with the sorting, please contact us.

Does anyone have any photos (b&w or colour) of Upper Clutha landscape views that we could use? See Jo.

Progress is underway for the new structure and updating of content of the Society's website by Zane from the itCentre. It is looking great (no don't bother going to the Society's website just yet – it is timed for release somewhere about 10 December). The new website will still need some "fine tuning" in respect of some additional photos to be added to the timeline and some other information. Ken Allan and I have access to update the website as items need changing or additions made which means it is much easier to make changes than was the case with the old website.

Last Research Day for 2018:

The last day when anyone will turn up on Wednesday mornings for research etc will be 12 December. Wednesday morning

meetings will re-commence in early February. Jo will let everyone know the exact date in due course.

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS

Some of you out there must have some stories from the past that can be shared in the Newsletter. If you have any that we can publish or any ideas for subjects, please contact Ken Allan (ph. 443 6101) or Jo Wilton (ph. 443 8123).

LATEST NEWS

Slide Show: A small number of additional photos have been added thanks to Neville Harris and Mary Robertson. Over 600 are now playing on a daily basis at the Library.

Skirt Tales reprint: The Society has agreed to fund the printing of a further 100 copies of Skirt Tales for sale. The project is underway with the printers.

It is understood that a group of local women involved in the original book are progressing on writing a sequel.

Bella Boyd - one of our 'out of town' members, launched her new poetry book entitled "Finding Voice, Women on the Dunstan 1860 -1900" on 23 November.

PAPERSPAST

This is a valuable website for historians, and sometimes entertainment, so you can read about real life in years gone by.

Go to <https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/>. It is a mine of historical information with

copies of NZ newspapers and other publications extending back to 1839. For me, the newspapers are the interesting publications as they report (for the most part) events of the day before later authors begin to 'sanitise' facts and/or unwittingly changed history.

Additions to the newspapers are being added as time goes on and some stretch as far as 1950.

Searching on a subject in newspapers is dead easy – click on Newspapers, type in your search words, change the dates for your enquiry, change the Title (only if required – I tend to leave it on "All Titles, All Regions" as it widens the search). Content -Unless you are specifically looking for an Advert or illustration deselect them. When selecting keywords, the old 'KISS' adage (keep it simple stupid) applies. You can widen your search later. Be patient and if you have too many "hits", you might want to narrow the search by adding a keyword or two.

You might be surprised what you find about your ancestors in NZ and what they got up to! You might also discover some aspects of human society have not changed at all over the years gone by!

A NEW SPORT.

Now that summer is with us (just about!), here is an article from the Otago Daily Times 27 Oct 1932:-

A New Sport

On Friday morning a new sport was christened on the sunny waters of Lake Wanaka. "Aquaskis" made its first appearance in this popular tourist resort. A big, powerful launch belonging to the Lake Ferry Service first made its appearance from behind the wharf, followed closely by what at first sight appeared to be a large seabird, but on closer inspection showed it to be a sun-tanned member of the office staff of Wanaka Hotel astride a pair of long, narrow, gleaming boards shaped like snow skis and attached to the boat by a length of specially adapted tow rope. The rider cleverly guided the skis over the wavelets and negotiated the corners in true dirt-track style, giving the spectators a thrilling exhibition of aquaskis.



1963- Allan Kane skis the length of the Lake



Bill Taylor's "Viking" tows a team of skiers

FINALLY – SEASONS GREETINGS



The Committee wish each and all of you,
all the best for Christmas and New Year.
May 2019 be a happy and enjoyable time
for all of us.

CHRISTMAS CAKE RECIPE

Bad luck! I was asked to include a Christmas Cake recipe from a hundred years ago from old Recipe Books I had inherited. These were printed around 1890 in Dunedin (I was given both books when I was visiting Scotland so they had travelled a long way from Dunedin!) Anyway, they do not have a Christmas Cake anywhere! So to fill out the spare space in the newsletter (target was 4 pages but it now is a bumper 9 page issue!), I have given you a recipe for a yummy crepe that I enjoyed in a café in Athens in 2016.

Lististrati Crepe

Ingredients:

- 1 Egg
- 1 cup of milk
- 6 tablespoons of water
- ¼ cup of canola oil

- 1 & ½ cups of all-purpose flour
- ¼ cup of sugar

FILLING

- 5 cups of thinly sliced peeled tart apples
- 1 cup of sugar (you can try less)
- ½ cup of raisins
- 2 teaspoons of ground cinnamon
- 1 tablespoon of icing sugar
- ¼ cup chopped almonds

DIRECTIONS

Batter: in a small bowl whisk the egg, milk, water and oil. Combine flour and sugar then add to the egg mixture and mix well. Cover and refrigerate for 1 hour.

Filling: In a large saucepan combine to apples, sugar, raisins, almonds and cinnamon. Cook and stir over a medium heat for 8-10 minutes or the apples are tender – don't let it burn! Set aside.

Heat a lightly greased 20cm non-stick skillet, pour 3 tablespoons of batter into the centre of the skillet. Lift and tilt the pan to coat the bottom evenly. Cook until top appears dry; turn over and cook 15-20 seconds longer. Remove to wire rack. Repeat with remaining batter, greasing the skillet as needed. When cool, stack crepes with waxed paper or paper towels in between.

With a slotted spoon, fill each crepe with ¼ cup of apple mixture; roll up. On a lightly greased griddle or in a large skillet cook crepes over a medium heat for 3-4 minutes on each side or until golden brown. Sprinkle with icing sugar and with liquid chocolate. Serve immediately with remaining sauce from the filling mixture. Enjoy – yummy (well I liked it!!)

WHO ARE WE?

President: Graham Dickson

Vice President: Jo Wilton

Secretary: David Simmers

Treasurer: Ken Allan

Committee Members: Ken and Margaret Thomlinson, Bruce Foulds.

The Society was established in 1985 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 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 uchrsoc@gmail.com.

The Society is Incorporated and 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.

Membership Subscriptions for year ending 31/3/2019 are \$10-00.

Website:

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

Email: uchrsoc@gmail.com