

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)

SPRING 2022 - VOLUME NINETEEN

SEPTEMBER 2022

PART 2 OF EMILY ROSS' MEMORIES OF QUEENSBERRY

In the previous newsletter, we published the first part of Emily's memories. If you want to go back and re-read it, don't forget all our newsletters are available on our website at www.uppercluthahistory.org. Please remember that Emily's record has been typed up as it was originally written – typos and all.

QUEENSBERRY PICNICS

We had some wonderful picnics at Queensberry and we looked forward to them all year. They were always held on Boxing Day in a paddock straight across the road from Holden's Hotel. The women must have worked hard for them because I remember all the cold meats and sandwiches and cakes etc. spread out on tablecloths on the ground. The children would have their meal first and then the dishes would be washed and the adults would have theirs, sitting on the ground around the tablecloths talking and eating. There were two coppers to heat the water. One clean for making tea and the other one with hot water for washing dishes. Afterwards we had races and games. Everyone in the district came and also the people from Luggate. It was always a wonderful day for us.

On New Years Day it was Luggate peoples turn, and we all went up there for their New Years Day sports. My Father took us up in the spring cart and he took us to the Luggate Hotel for dinner before going to the sports. That dinner at the hotel was our father's Xmas treat for us. Tom Trevathan was the hotelkeeper at Luggate and Mrs Trevathan would keep a special table for us where we could all sit together. It was a wonderful day for us. Those two days were the highlights of our year.

There was a family of Collins lived near the hotel and one of the children, Mabel Collins ran in the same races as I did at the sports.

A CLOSE CALL WITH THE MAIL

We walked up to the Post Office at Queensberry¹ once a week to collect our mail. It was usually a Saturday. If Father was working up that way, he would bring it home with him during the week.

When it rained the streams rose very quickly and the road became impassable for a time. Mills Gully was a particularly bad place for flooding. One Saturday when I walked to the Post Office for the mail, the day was fine and sunny. There was a little water in Mills Gully and I crossed by stepping on the stones. When I came back with the mail, the day was still fine but the creek was a raging torrent. The hot sun had melted the snow on the mountains and this was the result. I wondered what I could do and finally decided I would climb along the wires on the fence and cross safely that way. I managed to do just that. Unknown to me, I was being watched by a man, a shepherd on the Mt Pisa Station by the name of Anderson. He crossed the stream with his horse and told me he had seen what I did and that I must never do that again. He said I could have slipped and been caught in the wire of the fence where I would never have got free. When I got home, I told my father what he said and Father said that if it happened again, I must wait on the other side and he would get to me when he came home from work. If the creeks rose during the day while we were at school, someone would come for us in a dray. The teacher was always careful to watch for any sign of a rise in the creek. We had a stone in the creek that we used to measure the rise of the water. If the water covered it, the teacher would close the school and send us home.

QUEENSBERRY FAMILIES

Clark Family (Sam Clark)

The Clark Family lived between Gravelly Gully and Woodhouse Creek². There was a large family of children – mostly boys. The names that I remember were Bob, Charlie, Tom, Agnes. Agnes was in the same class as me at school. Before the school was built at Queensberry, the Clark children went to school at Lowburn. They stayed with relatives there.

Woodhouse family

The Woodhouse Family owned the hotel at Woodhouse Creek, moved out not long after we arrived at Queensberry. The hotel had been a licenced one but for some reason it no longer had a licence. The Woodhouse family moved to Bannockburn taking with them their belongings and furniture and the iron off the roof of the hotel.³

¹ At the Queensberry Inn

² Now known as Kidds Creek or Gully

³ About 1889. The exact location of this hotel is subject to conjecture, but likely to be where Anderson and Kidd built their hotels. Were the remains of Anderson's Inn (mud walls) in such a condition it could be renovated to use once again? Kidd was reported to have built a new set of buildings but they were lost on the 1882 fire of his building.

After they left, I remember us children playing about in the empty rooms without a roof.

Mills Family

George Mills Snr was still a single man when we first arrived in Queensberry. He married a woman from Dunedin by the name of Cairns (or Kearns)⁴. When they arrived back to Queensberry there was a 'tin-canning'⁵ which my parents took part in.

Mrs Mills told my Mother that she had a son in Dunedin whom she was bringing up to live with them. He duly arrived and was known as Jack Mills. He went to the Queensberry School with us. I remember him dawdling to school and us calling to him to hurry up, that he was getting behind. He yelled back that he didn't care if he was getting behind or getting before!

George Mills came to my Mother one day and told her that he had to go to Dunedin on business. He could be away for several days and he was worried about his wife who was expecting a baby soon. He asked Mother is she would make sure that Mrs Mills was all right. I had to go down to the Mills' place twice a day and say to Mrs Mills, "My Mother wants to know if you are all right?" One day Jack Mills arrived up at our place and said to my Mother "My Mother says you are to come down straight away or she will die.". My Mother was doing the washing at the time. She took off her apron and put on a clean one and went away. She arrived back a long time afterwards, very tired and with a headache. She had arrived a Mills' place and found Mrs Mills and the baby lying on the floor. Granny Small came down on the coach the next day and she stayed with Mrs Mills for about two weeks (That was about the usual time that a midwife stayed after a birth). That baby was names George and he was the eldest of the Mills children.

I went to Mills' place and looked after George when he was a very small boy while his Mother was cooking for the harvesters.

Tobin Family

The Tobin Family lived in a house on the North side of the Nineteen Mile Creek. Mr and Mrs Tobin were younger than my parents and their children - Ada, Fanny, Jack, Nellie and Frank were much younger than me.⁶

Mr Tobin was not a very energetic man. Part of his income came from England so he was not independent on the farm for a living. His wife was a big woman and she liked to live well.

The school teachers all boarded with this family in the early days.⁷

⁴ It appears to be Mary Cairns who married a George William Mills in 1892 (BDM)

⁵ The custom of tin-canning was once widespread. Once a newly-married couple was settled in their new home their friends would arrive one night and make a deafening clatter outside by banging tin cans together until they were invited inside.

⁶ Henry Tobin of Queensberry Farm married Isabella Underwood of Essex England, in Queenstown, on 19 Jan 1886 (BDM)

⁷ The Tobins took over the Queensberry Inn and Henry was bankrupted in 1889 but quickly recovered.

Jack Miller

Living across the road from Tobins was a bachelor named Jack Miller.

Kirbys

Mr and Mrs Kirby lived in a little lean-to cottage just south of Holden's Hotel and Post Office.⁸ It was on the hill side of the road and little of it is left now.

They were an elderly couple and Mrs Kirby was a good friend of Mother. She had the first spinning wheel which I had seen. It was she who taught me to knit.

When I walked up to the Post Office to collect our mail, I would also collect Kirby's mail and take it to them. Sometimes Mrs Kirby would say as I was leaving "Tell your Mother I will be down to see her on Tuesday. If she has any mending that needs doing, I will do it for her. I will be down about 10 o'clock." She would come down and do the patching and sewing. Usually she patched the trousers and shirts whilst Mother cut out the patches or did some darning. She would stay for lunch and go home in the late afternoon.

Mrs Kirby had a son and a daughter by a former marriage. They were much older than me but I can remember them quite well. Their names were George and Ida. Ida disappeared one day and could not be found. I can remember there was talk that perhaps she had gone to visit someone at Tarras as she sometimes visited a family there. There was talk also that someone had seen her going towards the river, but she could not be found anywhere. Sometime later her body was found in the river at Beaumont. At the inquest the coroner made the comment that from the position of her body – spread-eagled – it would appear that she fell from a great height. The general opinion was that she fell from the chair while crossing the river. No one really knows of course because no one saw her. She was about fifteen years old when she died.

Holden Family

The Holden family lived about halfway between the Nineteen Mile Creek and Poison Creek. They ran the Hotel, Post Office and the stables (now Stalkers)⁹.

There was quite a large family of children. The ones I remember best were Annie, Jack, Maggie and Alice. Alice was the youngest and she was in my class at school.

Maggie was the eldest and I was very fond of her. I was always pleased if I saw her when I went for the mail. Sometimes she would ask me to come into the kitchen and wait while the mail was sorted.

She later married a man name W Kane and went to live at Cromwell or Lowburn.

One day when I was at home washing the floor my father came in and said to my Mother "Do you know what has happened? Maggie has had twin babies and she died." I was very upset at that news but I tried not to show it. As far as I know the twins survived.

⁸ Now known as Queensberry Inn

⁹ This was from about 1890 to 1895

John Anderson's Family

John Anderson and his wife and family lived further north than the Holdens – nearer to Poison Creek.

There were seven children – Mary, Lizzie, Alf, Bella, May, Bob and Louie. Mr Anderson helped his wife at her confinements and they did not have a midwife.

Once when a baby was born he came down and asked Mother to come up. I do not know what was wrong but the baby only lived for a short time.

The older Anderson children drove to school at Luggate before the Queensberry School was built.

The flour mill at Luggate belonged to Tommy Anderson¹⁰ who was a brother of John Anderson.

BIRDS

I was always interested in the birds and loved to watch them. When I came home from school, my Mother would give me piece of bread to eat and I would go to the hill behind our house and watch the birds. Once I watched a pair of birds making a nest. They were green linnets or goldfinches. The male bird was bringing the straw etc and the female bird was building the nest. She was very clever at putting it all together but one stick she just couldn't fit in. In the end she took it and threw it out of the nest. Later on the male bird brought the same stick back to her. She promptly took it and threw it out again scolding him as she did so. It was really fascinating watching them. I would leave some crumbs for them and go and hide behind a bush and watch while they ate them. My Mother would call to me and I would have to go and help her.

There was a lot of Maori hens¹¹ around in the early days. In the evenings we would hear their cries like 'Koeee' as they came down from the hill. My brothers would rush outside to chase them away. We did not like them because they killed our hens if they got the chance. My Father made a cage for the hens and although they roamed about freely during the day, at night they were always shut in.

The men of Mt Pisa Station laid poison bait for rabbits and the Maori hens ate the bait and very few of them survived.

On the hills around our place and the school, we would often come upon a little pile of stones all about the same size and all white stones. Our teacher and our parents told us they were from the gizzards of the Moa. We also found parts of skeletons of Moas and once I saw the complete skeleton of one. It was on the hill between our house and Mills Gully and it was a

¹⁰ Tommy Anderson had built the Queensberry Inn but had sold out in 1880 before Emily arrived in the area.

¹¹ A 'Maori hen' is a Weka

perfect skeleton with the bones of the head, body, legs and feet all complete and in place. They had never been disturbed.

SWAGGERS

There were many swaggers on the road when I was a child. We were very wary of them and would walk past them on the other side of the road. Our parents told us never to speak to them. If they said "Hello" to us, we were just to say "Hello" back to them and keep on going.

We never dawdled or hung around when there was a swagger about. Our Father said you could never tell what sort of people they were, and we must be careful. The same thing applied to the Chinese who were fossicking for gold in various places. I would go a long way out of my way up on the hill, rather than pass one on the road when I was by myself. We children understood clearly that no matter where we were, if a swagger was sighted anywhere, we must go home and be there in the house with our Mother. If we were up on the hill or just around the yard somewhere we always went inside the house.. We were the only protection that our Mother had while our Father was away at work. Mother always kept a cup and a jug of milk and some water handy to the door, so that if a swagger asked for a drink, she could give it to him without turning her back. She never refused anyone anything eat, even if she was short of bread. I remember coming home from school and her saying that she did not have a scrap of bread left as she had six swaggers call in and ask for food that day. She had to make bread that night.

She never allowed them to stay. If they asked for a bed for the night, she said she had scarce enough for her own family and sent them on to some other place where she knew there would be a man at home. If they tended to hang about, she would send one of us children out to see if father was coming. They usually took the hint then and left.

CHURCH MINISTRY

The Presbyterian Minister and the Anglican Vicar passed through Queensberry on their way to Hawea and Pembroke. They rode up from Cromwell and came about every two weeks. They would visit the people either on the way up or coming back and they held a service each time in the Queensberry School.

My younger brothers and sisters were christened at our house during one of these visits. The children all seemed to be all christened at home in those days.

FAREWELL TO QUEENSBERRY

I left Queensberry about 1901 but my family lived there for several more years. Eventually they bought some land at Mt Barker and shifted up there. My Mother died about 1912¹² and my Father a few years later¹³. He died in the Dunedin Hospital. When I visited him in the hospital, he asked me not to grieve for him. He said he had had a beautiful vision. I did not ask him anything about it. He died very peacefully.

¹² 31 October 1913 at Mt Barker aged 63 (Cromwell Argus)

¹³ 20 Aug 1922 at Dunedin aged 70 years

Mrs Kirby also died in Dunedin Hospital. I met Mr Kirby on the street and he told me that Mrs Kirby was in hospital and would not live long. We went to the hospital together and stayed with her all night until she died.

The Clark family left Queensberry and a family named Harding came to live there. The farm belonged to their son Charlie Harding. His parents and his sister Bella lived there with him.

I am not sure where the Tobins went. I think they may have gone to the North Island¹⁴.

The Holden Family left Queensberry and the hotel stables and Post Office were taken over by the Scheib family. I remember the girls best – Iris and Violet Scheib. Vic and Eric were the two boys.

I do not know if there are any of my schoolmates still living. I think the original school was burnt down at some stage.¹⁵ It consisted of only one room and a porch and a small coal shed at the back.

The bluegum tree which I planted is still there.

The End

HOW WAS PEMBROKE (THE NAME ORIGINALLY GIVEN TO WANAKA) NAMED

Sometimes when I have heard a family story from the past and then researched it, I have found that the story as told to me, doesn't quite match the facts. Have you come across this before as well? Sometime stories have been modified to hide what was considered to be an "embarrassing fact", or simply, that over the generations the original story has been changed and goes through stages from fact to myth and then with some more time, it becomes the new truth or facts. Some local ones that come to mind are:

- Queensberry was named after the Earl of Queensberry (of boxing rules fame) – wrong, it was named after a hill in Dumfriesshire, Scotland.
- The first Library in Wanaka was in 1887 – wrong, one was operating about 1878 and the first specific library building, opened in 1880.
- In 1958, "the town was stunned when its hotel, built in 1867, was burnt to the ground." – wrong. The hotel built in 1867 was destroyed by fire on 27 Nov 1922 and a new hotel was built on the same site. Unfortunately this incorrect information was recorded for prosperity in the Cyclopedia of Otago and Southland published 1999 and so becomes "official history" in the eyes of some.

Back to the naming of Pembroke. In 1862/3, a surveyor, John Aitken Connell, was given the job of surveying plans for towns in four areas of the Upper Clutha. Incidentally, John was born

¹⁴ Their names appear in the 1908 Electoral Rolls as living in Kilbirnie, Wellington.

¹⁵ It did not burn down (Luggate School did in 1924) but was replaced by a new school building (very small) in 1925/6.

in Scotland and not Ireland as some scribes have written. John named many streets after places in Ireland and therefore the story developed that he must have been from Ireland, to eventually “he was born in Ireland”. John and his assistants surveyed the area from roughly where Roche Street is, to just past Helwick Street. His map is dated April 1863. He named this new town as Pembroke. He also surveyed a town at Albert Town and named it Newcastle; one on the shores of Lake Hawea near John Creek he named Gladstone; and one near Bendigo he named Wakefield. You may notice a theme of naming these places after important politicians etc in England of about that time and that only the name “Pembroke” was actually accepted by the locals (well, until 1940 that is).

Since I arrived in Wanaka (2011), I have been informed that the town was originally named after the Earl of Pembroke. But was it? Following up on some research being done for a local project about the change of name from Pembroke to Wanaka in 1940, one of our researchers wrote to the NZ Geographic Board and the official response was that “The township of Pembroke was named after the British Colonial Secretary in 1855.” Being inquisitive, I looked for who the British Colonial Secretary was in 1855. There was no British Colonial Secretary, but there was a Secretary of State for the Colonies named Sidney Herbert, though admittedly for only 15 days! But Sidney was the younger son of the 11th Earl of Pembroke. His older brother was the 12th Earl of Pembroke, but at that time he was living permanently in Paris. It appears that he got himself in a bit of strife at times, including a disastrous marriage, hence the move to Paris. Prior to his move to Paris, a family arrangement had been made whereby Sidney and his family would manage the Herbert estates (all owned by the Earl) and live in the family home at Wilton House in London, which he did for most of his adult life. Sidney was the heir apparent to the title as his brother never left any issue and it might have appeared to many, that Sidney was the Earl because of his status, management of the earldom and living in the family home. Certainly the 12th Earl kept well away from England for the rest of his years. Sidney was a very intelligent and astute man having entered Parliament in 1832 and was in the Cabinet with a number of posts, including Secretary of War twice. He was also a friend of Florence Nightingale and apparently was responsible for her leading a team of nurses in the Crimean War. But Sidney never got to hold the title of Earl of Pembroke. In July 1861 he was given the title 1st Baron Herbert of Lea and the next month he died of Bright’s disease. So he did not get to inherit the Earldom but his brother, the 12th Earl died the next year and as he had no issue, Sidney’s son, George, became the 13th Earl of Pembroke (and 2nd Baron Herbert of Lea, both titles being merged).

Given the foregoing, I cannot imagine Pembroke being named after Robert, the 12th Earl and my interpretation of the facts is that it was named after Sidney, maybe under the misapprehension that he was the Earl of Pembroke. He was an astute politician, manager of the Earldom etc and had considerable skills and political influence.

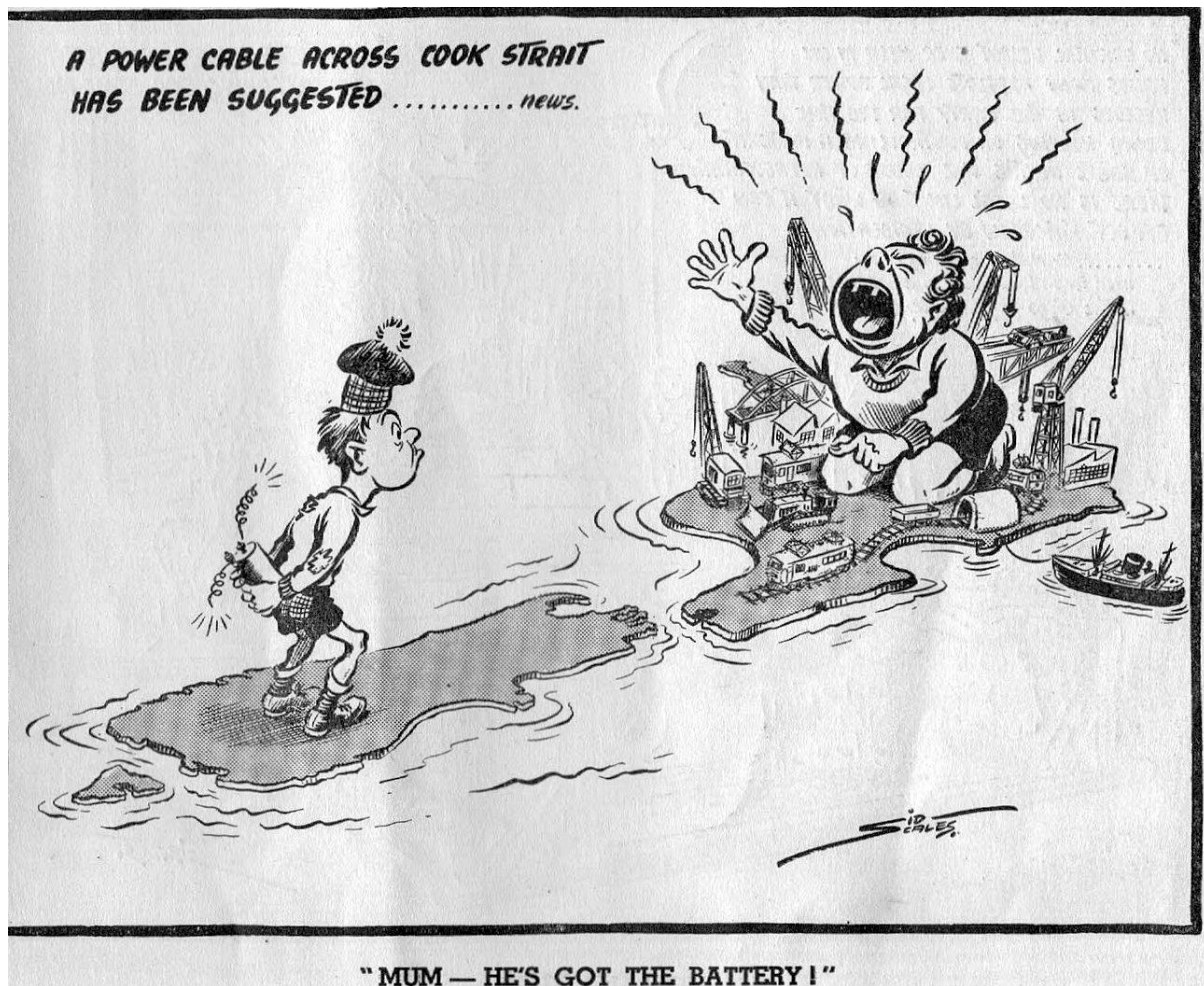
But Irvine Roxburgh had it right also! Page 114 of “Wanaka Story” – “The township itself was named after a member of the Pembroke family who, as the Hon. Sydney (sic) Herbert, was Colonial Secretary in the United Kingdom for a brief period in 1855”.

POWER RESTRICTIONS 1952

Some of you will remember the 1950s when we suffered power cuts with some regularity. I can remember them as a youngster, sitting with Mum in front of the coal range with the fire door open to give us some light, waiting on Dad to arrive home from his second job. Some of you will also remember Sid Scales, who for many years was the cartoonist for the Otago Daily Times. My father left me a book of Sid's 1952 cartoons (44 in all) and I thought you may enjoy a glimpse into the past (70 years ago) of Sid's commentary on power supply. Given that during June, it had been reported that the country came close to "running out of power", maybe the cartoons almost equally apply today!



Ripple Control of hot water cisterns followed much later!



MAPS AND THEIR STORIES BY DAVID SIMMERS STAN KANE'S MAP ANNOTATIONS

The Society contains in its map collection, a series of Survey or Cadastral Maps (NZMS 261) of the Upper Clutha region, which depict the location and sometimes ownership sequence for many Sections or Blocks dating back, in some instances, to the 19th century and up to approximately 1995. Included is interesting historical information such as the positioning of homesteads, cottages, boarding establishments for both rural and some urban (plus in some instances building materials used), old school and hotel sites. Notes on land use i.e., goldmining, timber, and flax milling, are sometimes included.

This work was painstakingly researched and annotated by Stan Kane, a long term resident of the Upper Clutha (b.1917). His grandfather, John Kane, came to the Upper Clutha about 1868 and eventually became the owner of Grandview in 1890. Grandview still remains in the ownership of direct descendants. It should also be noted that Stan was the inaugural President of the Society that was formed in 1985. He spent many hours researching and recording Upper Clutha history, and annotating the maps we have.

For research purposes, please note that these maps have been fully indexed and accessioned in the Society's data base. In the first instance any enquiries can be made via the Wanaka Library staff who will pass on your request to one of our researchers.

Two examples of Stan's work, "cut" from two maps, follow (they are easier to read on the full-size map!):



This shows the area around Luggate.



Area to the east of Hawea Flat – note location of John Kane's house

OLD COUNTRY CLUB BUILDING – WANAKA STATION



Please look at the photo on the next page. Our Research specialist had a request from a member of the public for information about this building that we understand maybe due for demolition. UCHRS has nothing about it in the archives so if you can help, please contact Margaret at research@uppercluthahistory.org

JO'S UPDATE

There has been real progress on oral history abstract writing by our Oral History Group. Also, we were relieved to discover other simplified abstracts done by the Hawea Charitable Dip Trust on those interviewed in the late 1990s and early 2000s of local identities. Progress has commenced with the conversion of tapes and CDs to digital format. The Oral History Group of Helen Howarth, Liz Holland and Kerrie Waterworth would like to hear from anyone interested to being professionally trained in oral history recording procedure. Anyone interested, please contact me as soon as possible to get the details.

100 YEARS AGO

The arrival of wireless reception (radio) in Wanaka - (Cromwell Argus 18 Sept 1922):

A novel introduction into the Wanaka district is a wireless telephony plant for receiving news and such like distributed by the broadcasting service in Dunedin. The plant is the property of Mr Allan W. Scott, mechanic at the Pembroke garage, and he is having it brought through at an early date. It has a radius to embody Dunedin, and residents will get all the news first hand, while music played in the city can also be heard. It will prove of special interest.

And we worry when TV reception goes on the blink!

RECENT PHOTOS ACQUIRED



The Four Square shop we see today in Ardmore Street, was originally built by D A Jolly & Sons about 1926/7. It was built to the right of this shop. This photo was taken c1910.

(Published courtesy of Hocken Collections - Uare Taoka o Hākena, University of Otago).



Here is a photo of the “Four Square” shop built circa 1926/7
Notice that there are no steps up to the shop from the road level!



Temporary camp for the workers on the Hawea-Makarora Road in the late 1920s. Imagine living in what amounts to temporary accommodation that was basically a light timber hut with a canvas sheet over the roof – A BIT CHILLY! see the snow on the mountains?



A closer view of the huts, this time from The Neck with “Mum” hanging out the washing.

Photos from the Robin Collin’s Collection

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. It is available from the Society, and the Wanaka 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 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.

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 (and Editor): Ken Allan

Secretary/Treasurer: Bruce Foulds

Committee Members: Erena Barker, Margaret Thomlinson, Graham Dickson, Pam Kane, Kerrie Waterworth, Jo Wilton.

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 full address

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

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

Email: admin@uppercluthahistory.org