

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)

AUTUMN 2024 - VOLUME TWENTY-FIVE

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QUEENSBERRY – PART 2

This is the second part of the history of the Queensberry Inn and the area surrounding it, principally in the late 1800s/early 1900s.

Other DPL Properties – Sections 3 to 8 From the Inn to Kidds Creek

Sections 3 to 8 were opened to applicants for DPL's on 6 May 1880.

Section 3 – Robert Kidd

Robert Kidd is mentioned in the newspapers on 25 May 1880 as applying for approval for a water-race to end on this property. Therefore, he clearly has an interest in it, probably as a result of applications for this property and others being invited for on 6 May 1880. Later, in November 1880, Henry Tobin applied for a DPL on this Lot. It was declined, probably as he already had a DPL over Section 29, Blk 3 at Cromwell of 20 acres. That would have taken his "DPL" ownership over the maximum 320 acres. Robert appears to be a bit of a "wheeler-dealer" or speculator when it comes to land transactions as his name appears frequently in the Land Board hearings.



Robert had been the owner of an accommodation house at Albert Town (south side of the Clutha River) about 1860, the Sandy Point punt, the Cromwell Hotel, the Golden Age Hotel at Cromwell, the Halfway House at Kidds Gully, and others in the Upper Clutha in the Hawea area.

Presumably, Kidd relinquished or sold his interest in Section 3 to Tobin and Tobin was granted a DPL in March 1881 (did he sell his interest on a 20 acre property at Cromwell?). In 1890 he asked for a reduction in licence payments and in 1895 he was given approval to transfer the property from DPL to a Lease in Perpetuity. He sold the property at auction in 1903. A fuller account of his history is given in the commentary on Section 8.

Section 4 – Sam Downes

First owner (under a DPL) appears to be a Sam Downes. He had a record of not paying the Licence fees and not being resident on the property (a condition for all DPL's). On 19 April 1895, George Mills is recorded as having a DPL over Section 5, but it was forfeited that day for non-payment.

Section 5 – William Reid Robertson

This is the property nowadays known as Blair Atholl. In the mid-1880s it was owned by Reid Robertson who passed away in 1886. His estate was given consent to sell the property in 1888.

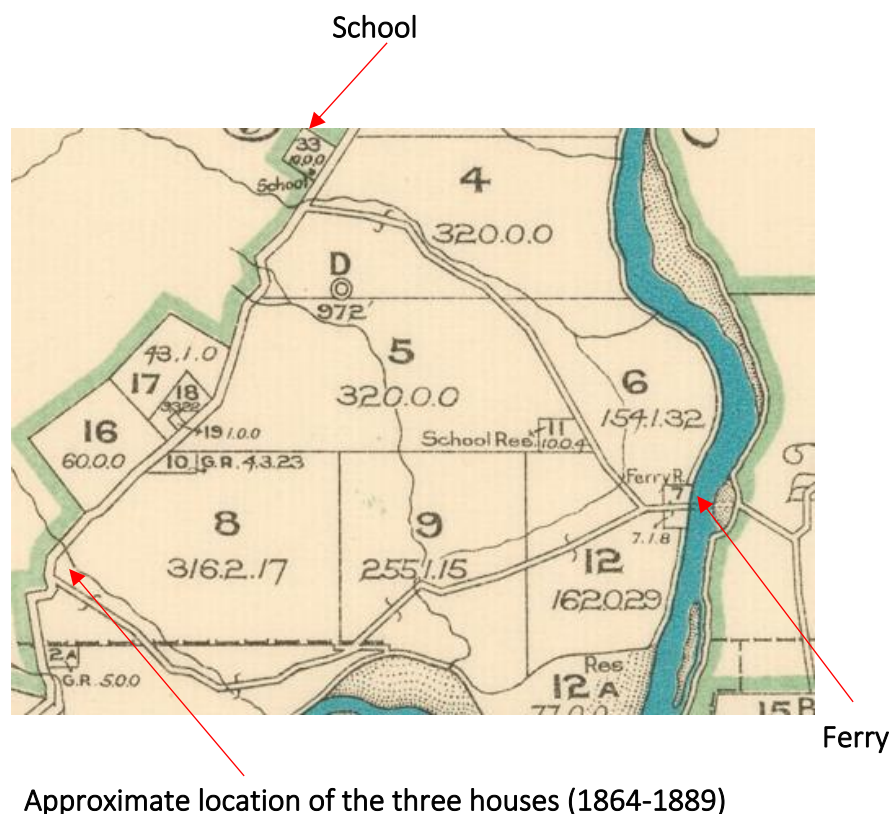
Section 8 – Robert Kidd, Francis and Elizabeth Woodhouse

This is a property of 316 acres. It is mainly on the north side of Kidds Gully/Creek and the rest on the south side of the Gully where Tom Anderson built the Way-side Inn¹. Readers need to refer to the following maps as there have been physical changes to this area since the 1870s. The first map is a section of a 1913 map. The material changes since then have been a realignment of the main road, the disappearance of Schoolhouse Road and Ferry Road (Probably no more than tracks originally). Ferry Road branches off the main road at the Gully and heads easterly towards the river where a ferry used to operate (details are unknown). Schoolhouse Road branches off the main road near the School and meets up with Ferry Road near the Clutha River bank. The Ferry Road junction with the main road would have been an influence on Tom Anderson locating the Way-Side Inn near this point. Likewise, Robert Kidd and Francis Woodhouse were possibly influenced to some extent in their decisions to build

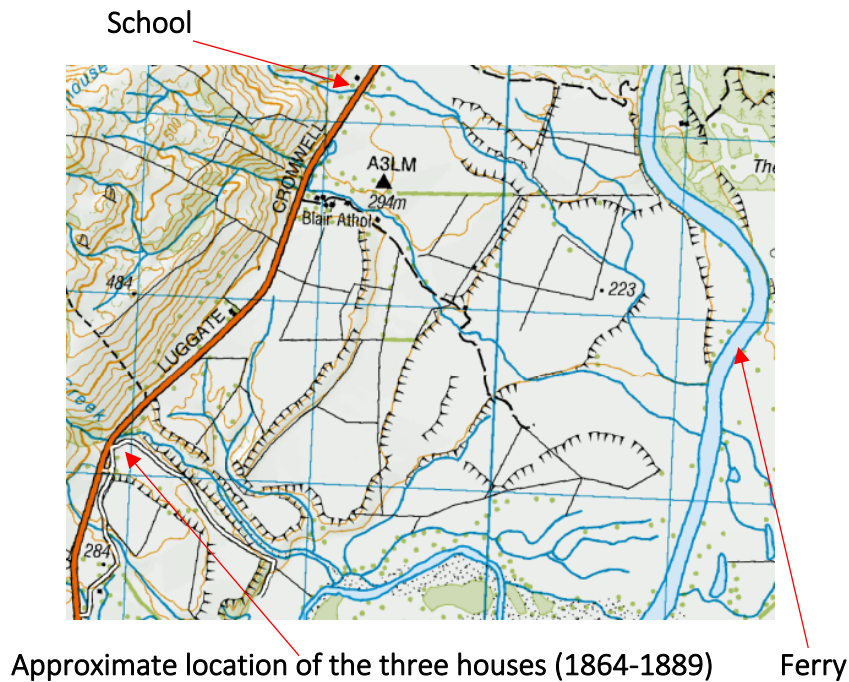
¹ I suspect that this creek was originally named Shingle Creek (a name frequently used for creeks throughout Otago in the early days). Certainly, there is a large fan of gravel coming down off Mt Pisa and in 1881, Robert Kidd was looking for an approval at Shingle Creek. In all probability Kidd renamed it after 1881 as there is no prior mention of the name Kidds Creek/Gully.

new houses by this junction. The kink in the main road exists to facilitate a way across the Gully. A track that follows this section of the old road still exists today.

On 26 June 1880, Robert Kidd applied for a “half DPL” which was declined. A full DPL over the whole of the Section was approved in November 1880 and then Kidd applied for a “bush licence”. Kidd built a new set of buildings, presumably close to the remains of the Way-Side Inn. In March 1882 the “relatively new” inn (named the Kidds Halfway House) was burnt to the ground leaving no evidence of its existence today (2022). Fortunately, all the staff and guests were outside of the Inn when it caught fire and nothing was saved. Insurance was £500 and Kidd claimed to also be out of pocket about £1,000 after payment of the insurance claim. The fire was investigated by the police and the insurance company, but the cause of the fire was never established.



Compare this to a modern map of the area that follows on the next page:



In 1885, Kidd still had the DPL over the property but was in arrears £94 and had not been resident on it since the fire. It appears he was in financial difficulties. According to a short history of his second wife, Edith Cayford, he farmed the property until 1888 but that cannot be right as in 1886 he purchased the Panama Hotel at the Lake Hawea outlet area from his brother-in-law, Richard Cayford. The Lands Board inspector had reported that as early as 1885 the property (Section 8) was not being lived on or farmed. Only the rabbits were living there – “undisturbed”.

Another factor is that in 1886, whilst at Lake Hawea, Kidd was convicted of sheep stealing and sentenced to two months jail (he was 75). Local “notables” from the Upper Clutha petitioned the Governor to have him released on probation.

It appears, though it is not conclusive, Kidd may have had his DPL cancelled by the Lands Board. As previously mentioned, he was in arrears, the property was infested with rabbits and he was not resident on the property. Effectively he had abandoned the property. Francis and Elizabeth Woodhouse from Teviot then obtained a DPL over the property in 1888.

Francis had been a gold prospector but did have some financial difficulties (bankruptcy) before they decided to venture into the accommodation business. It is presumed that the Francis built a new house and outbuildings. It is maybe unlikely that they would have been able to reuse the remains of the Way-Side Inn. Unfortunately for them, they had not sought information or approvals before acquiring the property and the Licensing authorities declined their application for an accommodation house and public house. It is thought that it was probably due to the Queensberry Inn being within 10 miles of their new inn that they named the Liverpool Arms Hotel. Certainly, that was a requirement for Bush Licences. That did not seem to be a barrier to Robert Kidd a few years earlier but perhaps Mr Kidd used his ‘connections’!

Francis and Elizabeth endeavoured to sell the property privately and then at auction, but without success. Francis had obtained the lease of the Carrick Range Hotel at Bannockburn, so they decided to 'cut their losses', stripped the iron roofing off the buildings and abandoned the property.



Kidds Creek 2013 – Section 8 Blk IX is to the right and up towards the base of the hill. The track running down the lefthand side of the gully approximates a boundary.

Queensberry School – A Short History

Queensberry School opened in 1889 with Isabella Hitchcock as the first teacher. It was originally named the Wanaka Road School and was reputed to be the smallest school building in Otago.

Stepping back a little, before the opening, the children in the area had little choice but to either travel to Lowburn School or to Luggate School for an education. It is known that George Elliott and John Anderson were two of a group of parents that set out in 1888 to get a local school for their children. George was the local road-surfaceman and John was a farmer (and brother of Thomas Anderson, previous owner of the Queensberry Inn). We know that George travelled around the district raising funds and interest (undoubtedly he would not be alone in this action). John applied for 10 acres of land at what was 18 Mile Creek (now known as Schoolhouse Creek) on which to build the school.

TARRAS.—Mr John Anderson, for the School commissioners, requested that 10 acres be reserved as a school site on block IX, Tarras district, opposite section 4.—Resolved to recommend the Government to make the reserve as requested.

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The school operated until there was some problem in 1900 around the reported lack of a school committee that caused the school to be closed by the Education Board. There are

² Land Board, Otago Witness, 21 March 1889.

letters about this subject in the newspapers of the time. It was apparently re-opened in fairly short time but sometime later, closed before re-opening about 1923.

The School building appears to have become a quasi-local “meeting hall” and by 1927 was perhaps getting a little “tired”. The Education Board offered the school committee a 50% subsidy to refurbish the building. However, after some discussion amongst the locals it was decided to completely demolish the building and rebuild. This all took just over 4 weeks to complete and a new school building was ready early in 1928. It was not a big building (about 16 feet square according to one report),but was perfectly adequate (but maybe not nowadays!) for the small number of pupils attending it.

It should be noted that the story in some publications, (and in ex-pupil Emily Elliott’s memoirs) that the school burnt down in 1924, is incorrect. The school that burnt down in 1924 was the Luggate School and the Queensberry community was regularly using the school building as a meeting place all the way through 1924 to 1927, as indicated in newspaper reports.

1928 was also the time when the school’s name was changed to Queensberry School.

The school buildings were added to some years later. It closed in 1964 and became a residence.



Queensberry School - 1931



1960s Photo

SHORT OF CASH – MAKE YOUR OWN!



Sometimes known as the Wanaka Pound, it is extremely rare and likely to be the only one surviving. It appears to be the forerunner of what was known as a Stock and Station Agent's order i.e. the farmer wrote out an order (a bit like a cheque) drawn on his Stock and Station Agency firm account, to pay a debt.

It is in poor condition, but was drawn up on 1 July 1862 by John Heuchan, manager of Wanaka Station, on behalf of the partnership of Robert Wilkin and Archibald Thomson. It was payable to Henry Sefton (or Sexton) or bearer, at the merchant firm of Young and McGlashan, Dunedin and Oamaru, but has been over-stamped "payable at Christchurch, Messrs Miles & Co, Lyttleton and Messrs Cargill & Co".

Despite the activity of the major Dunedin banks, they could not provide the full banknote requirements of the Otago community. Thus in 1861-1862 at least three Otago merchant firms issued their own promissory notes to aid trade. The first of these was Dalgety, Rattray & Co., established in Oamaru in 1860.

Wanaka, at the time, was a very isolated location and certainly there were no merchants or banks anywhere near the Upper Clutha. The first bank branches/agencies were opened at Cardrona sometime after gold was discovered, but had all closed by 1880.

Some mystery surrounds this note with regard to the wording of payment "on demand". Payment "on demand" was a status which banknotes from chartered banks enjoyed but which promissory notes were not permitted to include. The merchants involved, had no charter from the Governor and the law of the day would have prevented them from using those words. Perhaps the only solution to this riddle lies in the fact that the notes were signed, dated and released in Wanaka and it would have physically taken 3-5 days on horseback to reach the merchants in either Christchurch or Dunedin where they could be redeemed with payment in sterling. Although payment "on demand" is written on the note, the remoteness and travel time guaranteed and ensured that this financial instrument could not be immediately paid out "on demand". Hence in a roundabout way it did not contravene the law of the day.

Acknowledgement: New Zealand Numismatic Journal No.92, December 2012

ALBERT LAFRANCHI AND HIS WORLD WAR I PRESENTATION WRISTWATCH

This article has come about by the acquisition by the horological historian, Terry Sutcliffe, of the World War I period wristwatch that has a very relevant inscription to a highly regarded Upper Clutha family member. It is also tinged with the good fortune that the owner, Albert Lafranchi, did return from the Western Front and lived a long life.

Albert Lafranchi was born at Cardrona in 1879. He was the fourth child of Gioachimo and Anna Maria.

The Lafranchis who were both Swiss nationals who independently emigrated to firstly to the Victorian Goldfields in Australia, and the New Zealand in the 1850s. They met and married in Australia in 1861. They moved to Macetown, Otago in the late 1860s.



They finally moved to Cardrona in 1873, where they immediately started the construction of their residence and the All Nations Hotel, which was opened on 5 December 1873. There is this wonderful early photo of the hotel taken approximately 1883 showing the then six-year-old Albert standing next to his mother.

The Lafranchis sold the hotel in 1887 and moved into the mining business. This included Gioachimo and Anna, and their eldest son Alfred at this stage. It was in 1889 that Gioachimo had an untimely accidental death.

As Albert grew up, he naturally moved into the mining business. In the early 1900's he had a one-acre ordinary alluvial claim at the Cardrona Creek. In 1907 Albert went into partnership with his older brother Alfred in the ownership of a dredge. This appears to be a last-ditch attempt to strike gold, however they abandoned it and eventually, in 1916, the dredge finally sank into the pond where it had been working.



Lafranchi's Dredge

In November 1916, Albert's name was drawn in the ballot to enlist in the New Zealand Army, and after his military training, he was transferred overseas in 1917. It is at the time of this pending posting overseas, that the story of Albert and his presentation wristwatch begins. The article that follows below records the social event that was held at Cardrona in honour of Private Albert Lafranchi on 12 May 1917. There is a reference to the presentation of a suitably inscribed wristlet watch on behalf of the Cardrona people. It is very apparent that Albert was well liked as "Mr McDougall spoke in glowing terms of the respect in which Private Lafranchi is held in the district. The gift was suitably acknowledged by Private Lafranchi." And rightfully so!



This elegant sterling silver gent's wristwatch has got a jewelled Swiss lever escapement, with a white porcelain dial and radium filled Arabic numerals. The hands are cathedral style, filled with radium for night-time illumination. Inside the back cover are the U.K. sterling silver hallmarks, with the London Assay Office import make, and the year stamp 1916, as well as the casemakers stamp G.S., and watch serial number 636638.



This type of wristwatch is the conventional trench watch that developed for the soldiers fighting in World War I. The precise hand-engraved inscription on the outer case back reads, "PRESENTED TO A. LAFRANCHI FROM CARDRONA FRIENDS."



When I purchased this watch, it was in a bit of a sorry state with one of the strap lugs broken off, which I have had repaired, but as a testament to its quality, 106 years on, it still runs.

SOCIAL AT CARDRONA.
Farewell to Private Albert
Lafranchi.

A very pleasant social was held in the schoolhouse, Cardrona, on the evening of the 12th ult. in honor of Private Albert Lafranchi, who was home on final leave. There was a large attendance, friends coming from as far as Queenstown, Pembroke, and Mt. Barker, Private Lafranchi being a favorite with all. During the evening Mr Robert McDougall, on behalf of the Cardrona people, presented the departing soldier with a wristlet watch, suitably inscribed. In making the presentation, Mr McDougall spoke in glowing terms of the respect in which Private Lafranchi is held in the district. The gift was suitably acknowledged by Private Lafranchi. Several songs were contributed during the evening. Music for the dance was supplied by Mr P. Galvin, jun., and Messrs Alf. Lafranchi and H. Miller acted as M.Cs. Credit is due Messrs James Miller and P. Enright, who were untiring in their efforts to make the social a success. A most enjoyable function was brought to a close with the singing of "Auld lang syne" and cheers for Private Lafranchi.

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So the War went on, and it took just over half a year for Mrs Lafranchi to receive word that her 40 year old son Albert had been wounded in action in France on 23 January 1918. The Cromwell Argus (30 June 1919) records in the "Wanaka Notes" the return of Pvt Albert Lafranchi to his (Cardrona) home. Albert, and his trusty wristwatch, returned on the troopship S.S. Maunganui, and it is recorded in the Wanaka Notes that Private Albert Lafranchi of Cardrona looking fit and well after his campaign." What a relief for all that one of Cardrona's "favourite" sons returned home.

By 1923 Albert married Margaret Jane Rose, (née Torrie) who also was a Cardrona resident. They then moved to Gore where Albert died in 1958.

Terry lives in Christchurch but regularly visits Wanaka. He is an historian researching the social history of horology in New Zealand. He is particularly passionate about the importance and relevance that military timepieces record and evoke of a soldier's, sailor's, airman's or nurse's wartime experiences and stories. A watch was a companion that was at the serviceman's side through the horrors of the battlefield, the remoteness of the oceans, the vulnerability of the skies or the bloody conditions of a field hospital. This attachment often continued into civilian life and has given much sentimental relevance to an often now long dead relative.

Author: Terry Sutcliffe

Historian www.terrysutcliffe.com

SOURCES: "CARDRONA - 150 YEARS IN THE VALLEY OF COLD. " BY RAY O'CALLAGHAN "PAPERS PAST" ONLINE NEWSPAPERS, UPPER CLUTHA HISTORICAL RECORDS SOCIETY

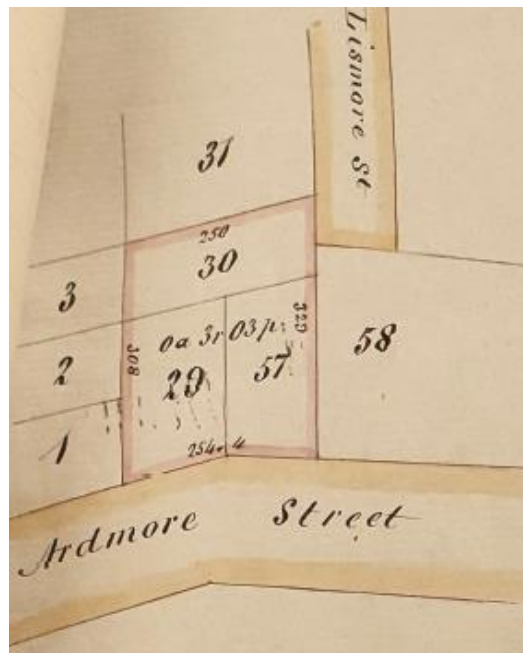
³ Social at Cardrona, Lake County Press, 7 June 1917, Page 5

OLD PHOTOS

If you have any old photos of events or scenes in the Upper Clutha that you feel you can donate or even if you wish to lend them to us so we can copy them, please contact us. All photos are scanned and saved for posterity and those generations still to come.

ARDMORE STREET – STOREKEEPER ETC. ROBERT MCDUGALL SNR

Robert came to Cardrona in 1871 and his family followed shortly after in 1872. In brief, he and a partner took over Patterson's store that eventually became Robert's store. A man not renowned for "standing still" applied in 1876 for a number of properties in the township of Pembroke. Of special importance was the Crown Grant dated 12 June 1876 to Block 9, Sections 29, 30 and 57.



These sections were on Ardmore Street and today, the location can be quickly identified by the Wanaka Four Square store which was at eastern end of McDougall's land. This location was to be central to his store business and other activities. He did purchase Section 31 from the Estate of George Barker on 19 March 1885 which completed the total area for the store, not that it was initially going to take up all of that area.

There is little doubt that Robert saw the potential for commercial business in Pembroke. Cardrona was slowly losing population numbers and businesses, as the miners left town because of the gold takings markedly reducing.

But Robert's first priority was to build new home for his family in Pembroke.⁴

We are going to have an addition to our population ; Mr M'Dougall is now building an eight-roomed house in which, when finished, he will locate his family.

The house still exists in McDougall Street (though some modifications have occurred since 1877) and is very visible with the giant Sequoia trees, planted by Robert, on the section.

The New Store

Having completed living arrangements for his family, the next step was to build a general store building. In April 1879 it was reported in the Bruce Herald that ".....Mr R. McDougall, storekeeper, Cardrona, is having large general Storekeeping premises built on the rising township of Pembroke, Lake Wanaka. The building is of timber and measures 40 x 20 feet, The contractor is Mr Edward H Thomas. On completion of this building, Mr McDougall purposes (sic) building another very commodious stone store as the requirements of the district demand more storage accommodation."

The stone store never eventuated, however, there is an interesting subsequent history to the land on which Robert built his store. It was principally built on Section 57 (the Wanaka Four Square shop site)

Robert now had two stores to manage – the Cardrona Store and the Pembroke Store. He left his eldest son, Robert Jnr, aged just 14, in charge of the Cardrona store. On 1 October 1883, Robert Jnr was appointed Postmaster at Cardrona for an annual fee of £5, less than half of what his father had been enjoying. On or about the same day, a partnership was formed between Robert Snr and Robert Jnr and named "R McDougall and Son".

The Pembroke store business thrived and in 1883 it became the Post and Telegraph Office having taken over this operation from Celia Russell at the Wanaka Hotel (not without some disquiet from some locals).

By the turn of the century, the age of the wooden Pembroke store was showing through. The attached bakery had suffered a fire in 1888, though it had been rebuilt. In 1904, Robert's sons, Andrew and Peter, demolished the old store and built a new one, marginally closer to the Lake, on Section 29.

⁴ Lake Wanaka, Cromwell Argus, 22 May 1877, P7



Robert McDougall Snr



The Second Store after D A Jolly purchased it in 1914

Robert was aging though he was still very active in the community and still a Lakes County Councillor when he sold the Pembroke business of R McDougall and Sons to his son Peter. Peter appears not to have been the businessman that his father was and by April 1913 was adjudged bankrupt. Robert had been astute enough to take a Caveat over the land and buildings to secure the liability Peter must have had to his father, so that when David Jolly from Cromwell purchased the business and property from the Official Assignee, Robert was in a position to retain part of the land in exchange for him releasing his Caveat. Sections 29A, 30A and 31A were subdivided off on 27 March 1914. This land was in turn sold by Robert's

Estate to Helen Mackay and was where the Dunedin-Wanaka Motor Services Ltd was established (and later became Mansons Motors).

There was another fire in 1926 that destroyed the bakery behind the store and this was the trigger for D A Jolly and Sons to build a new concrete store on the adjacent section. The store is now the oldest building on Ardmore Street.



There is much more to Robert Snr's story to be told which will hopefully come later this year. He had a very interesting life and had much to do with the early establishment of Pembroke and the surrounding district.

AGM

Time is rolling around and the AGM will take place during May. Notices will be sent out in due course but you might want to think about becoming a committee member and assisting in the preservation and recording of our interesting history. Please give it some thought and contact Ken or one of the current committee members to perhaps talk about it.

JO'S NOTES

After many years Greta Bowron, one of our longest serving volunteers, has 'retired' from assisting Margaret with photograph folder updates. This folder system was set up initially to give researchers a quick visual access to photographs including a description of each photograph.

Ed Waddington has become the new Secretary bringing with him an in-depth knowledge of history, particular early local history.

Those of us that use our computers access to the on-line shared files all have the added very real challenge of ensuring we all follow the protocol setup for each naming of documents. Seems simple e.g. SIMPSON, Warren etc not Warren SIMPSON etc; but constant reviewing has become a vitally important task. I take particularly my hat off to Ken Allan and Erena Barker, for their constant attention to detail and alerting the rest of us to where we can all improve.

THANKS

Thanks are extended 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.

ENQUIRIES, RESEARCH AND PHOTOS

The Records Room at the Wānaka Library is open on Wednesday mornings from about 9am to 11am (except during December and January). It is manned by a very small team of volunteers. To make an appointment for Research enquiries, please contact the Wanaka Library staff who will pass on the request, or preferably email admin@uppercluthahistory.org with contact details and the subject of your enquiry.

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 – - \$25. 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 Wānaka 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 or 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

Treasurer: Bruce Foulds

Secretary: Ed Waddington

Committee Members: Erena Barker, Pam Kane, Helen Howarth, Ed Taylor, Winton Davies.

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.

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 March are \$15-00 per person.

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

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