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Sources of information on Otago Goldfields History - Peter Chandler

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SOURCES OF INFORMATION ON OTAGO GOLDFIELDS HISTORY

Contributed By :-
Peter M. Chandler,
Historian.

This paper covers the main sources of material related to the history of the Otago goldfields. In consequence, it bears only an incidental connection with genealogy, showing more clearly the sources of information from which it is possible to determine where certain people were at certain times, rather than establishing whether they were descended from William the Conqueror, or some other desirable ancestor.

The main Otago gold rushes were confined to the years 1861-3, and followed on the Californian discoveries of 1849-50, and those in New South Wales and Victoria, Australia, in 1851-52. As a background to the readiness of thousands of men, most of them young, to rush to the ends of the earth in search of wealth, we must consider conditions in their homelands at that period in history. Thus, the Irish potato famine of 1846-51, due to the destruction of what had become the staple food of a large part of the population, by the spread of Potato rot (*Phytophthora infestans*), caused the death by starvation and typhus of an estimated 1,500,000 people, and large scale emigration which reached a peak in 1852, when over 300,000 people left Ireland for America and other overseas destinations. Depressed conditions in agriculture - both in England and Scotland - coupled with the large size of families, left emigration of some kind as the main hope of young people for personal advancement. Political unrest had been a feature of European life since the Napoleonic Wars, and 1848 saw several revolutions in countries where self-determination, or a wider-based form of government was sought.

Some of the miners who reached New Zealand, had already had experience on the Californian and Australian goldfields; it is certain that a high percentage of those who came to the Otago "rushes" had already sampled the digger's life in Victoria, or New South Wales. Many misapprehensions exist about the origins of the mining population. Not all were the youngest sons of titled families. While some were from a background of education, or military service, many were illiterate, or semi-literate; others (mainly those from the former

Australian penal settlements) had a criminal past, or a past they wished to forget. Among documented cases are deserters from ships and draft-dodgers from European armies: Hermann Schurstedt ("German Charlie") of the Shotover, was a Westphalian who had left Germany to avoid the Prussian conscription: Andrew Southberg, "native of Norway", is stated to have been a Swedish army deserter named Anders Söderberg.

All nationalities were represented - English, Scots (from as far north as Shetland), Irish, Welsh, French, Italians and Slavs (often described as "Austrians", through having been born under Austrian rule), Americans (but here the common pose of "Yankeeism" must be watched for, as "Yankee Ford" came from Bournemouth, England), a sprinkling of Spaniards and Portuguese (we can but guess at "Mexican Joe" of the Teviot), Negroes, Swedes, Finns, Norwegians, Danes, Poles (commonly classed as "Russians") and several parties of Maoris. "Caribou", stated to have been a Red Indian, may merely have borne the name of a clipper ship as a nickname, but Julien Bourdeau, the Skippers storekeeper, was a French-Canadian, from Montreal. Chinese, reversing a traditional trend to remain in China, were, under the pressures of population and political unrest, forced to emigrate in increased numbers. There are many cases of doubtful identity. One that comes to mind is John Kapatzo, who is described in an obituary as having been born in Constantinople, of Greek parents, but stated in his application for an old age pension, that he was an Italian!

Most of the sources referred to, cover gold discoveries, mining claims and mining methods, with the emphasis on historical aspects. Information on the miners themselves has been derived from incidental sources - some reliable, some definitely not! According to death certificates that I have studied, nearly every adult who died in Central Otago prior to 1914 is presumed to have arrived in 1862, when, in fact, some had arrived years earlier, or years later. It is common to find that some well-chronicled miner who became a permanent settler, had a brother, or brothers, who left only a slight record, having died, returned home, or passed on to Westland, or some other field. Chain migration must, therefore, be considered as having operated quite as extensively among the miners as it did among the farming and runholding population.

In my view, history cannot be written successfully unless the basic research is undertaken with a rather critical approach. The attainment of a perfect record is clearly impossible, when much of the "colour" of the gold rush period persists only in oral tradition are now becoming so garbled through repetition that they are passing into the "traditmyth" class - of legends with a basis in fact, but condensed or misplaced in the time scale and with other characteristics substituted for those who were originally involved. This is not a feature peculiar to the Otago goldfields, as I find it commented by writers on other subjects and in other countries.

You should not believe all that you hear or read. A short acquaintance with some of the prime sources listed below, will soon show "sloppy" much published work really is. With the availability of Warden's Court records, there is no excuse for a goldfield history to be merely a re-hash of earlier poor research, nor for an author to be merely a "blotter-up" editor or compiler of dubious facts. Those in past time, have existed the excuse that Warden's Court records were not accessible, but this is not now the case.

There is not at present a complete history of any single goldfield. Some published works provide a useful guide to source material, but I have tried to expand this list, and to show how the available records can be used to provide a balanced coverage of life and action on a particular field in Otago. The present attitude of publishers is to regard goldfield history as having a poor sales potential. It is, in my opinion, better to attempt a good job on a small area, than to attempt a superficial coverage of the whole of Otago - a field which is becoming glutted with such efforts, to the extent that every one who picks up has the same familiar photographs and the same familiar stories retold. The first requirement is a suitable map. While the series now covers the whole province, it may be found easier to interpret the evidence of mining activity which is so clearly shown on the modern aerial photographs available from the Department of Lands and Survey.

The use of Xerography and photo-copying is valuable for copying articles, documents and cemetery registers, so that they may be referred to at leisure. In my experience, the tape recorder has limited value.

Methodical manual abstracting has still a large part to play. I favour ruled paper, of good quality, in A-4 or A-5 size, punched for filing. Good paper - even having specially printed headings - may be considered, as notes are frequently referred to. An advantage of a loose-leaf system of filing is that additional material can be readily filed in subject or date sequence - something which is not possible with fixed-leaf notebooks.

SOURCES

Wardens' Court Records: Held by Hocken Library, Dunedin. Available by arrangement as they are still the property of Department of Justice. Coverage is for all Otago and Southland goldfields, but is not uniform, as some of the Clyde records are stated to have been destroyed. Some mining areas are covered by the records of more than one court, as the general requirement was that applications should be filed in the nearest one.

The principal records are :- Application books, claim and water right registers, agricultural lease registers, letter books, old age pension correspondence (some details of date and place of birth, marriage, or arrival in N.Z., but not consistent), electoral and licensing records. Queenstown records include some interesting bankruptcy records. Many incidental references in Wardens' decisions, reports, etc. Claims were usually granted by description - useful for identification, except in congested areas, or ground worked over several times. Larger alluvial and quartz claims were usually granted on the basis of a survey - plans of which are usually held by Department of Lands and Survey. This situation also applies to grants of agricultural leases over land not already surveyed, in which case the plan may show applicant's name. It must be borne in mind that mining section numbers and Crown grant section numbers are not always the same.

Appendices to Journals of House of Representatives: - Usually quoted as "A.J.H.R.". Copies are held by most large libraries. Subject index is a little difficult to follow, as it is not based on any recognised system. As an example, reclamation of New River Estuary, Invercargill, done with prison labour, was indexed under "W. - Works carried out by Prisons Department". Principal section is "C" - Crown Lands, Papers and reports relating to mining and minerals.

Many topics, ranging from descriptions of claims at work, to new methods and machinery. Some very useful data on gold dredges.

Another interesting (if morbid) series is the list of persons drowned in New Zealand since 1840, first printed as paper D-46, in 1870, revised as follows: 1875, H-37; 1877, H-42; 1882, H-36.

Hand book of New Zealand Mines: Published 1887; revised edition 1905. A useful supplement to "A.J.H.R.". Summarises mining activity and includes many useful lithographs.

As an adjunct to the above, may I recommend "The Goldfields of Victoria", by R. Brough Smyth, available on inter-loan from General Assembly Library. Interesting in providing details of the Victorian background to miners and mining, also in the light it throws on Otago goldfield place-names.

Otago Provincial Government Gazette: The "O.P.G.". Copies are held by main libraries, also by Lands and Survey, law libraries, etc. Indexing defective. Contains reports on gold discoveries, notification of appointment of goldfield officers, advertisements covering registration of mining companies, leases granted, or declined, proclamations, expenditure on goldfield works, and many other topics. I understand a start has been made on an index of goldfield topics.

Votes & Proceedings, Otago Provincial Council: Reports on topics of goldfield interest, also petitions.

N.Z. Statutes; N.Z. Gazette; Gazette Law Reports: Cover mining and regulations; proclamations, company matters; reports of law affecting mining.

Newspapers: Refer to Union Catalogue of N.Z. Newspapers, available from most libraries. Practically every goldfield had a newspaper. "Otago Witness" early in the field with half-tone process for illustrations.

Office of Registrar of Companies: Early files now held by Hocken Library. Contents vary from certificate of incorporation, through full records, to merely a gazette notice removing them from registration.

Deeds Registry Office: Records apply to land tenure, both freehold and leasehold. Index and titles useful for tracing later career of miners who became landowners. In association, "A Return of Freeholders in N.Z.", 1881, is useful as a tracking aid.

Department of Lands & Survey: Repository of mining plans, agricultural lease plans, many early plans of exploration and survey. The aerial photograph service is a valuable aid to those contemplating a history of a mining area where topographical maps do not show sufficient detail.

Locken and Other Repository Libraries: All have holdings of official records, published works, photographs and manuscript material. Holding of any work by a library does not signify that the library guarantees the contents of that particular book. The power of the printed word (whether right or wrong) seems to hypnotise some people into a belief that by being printed it must be correct.

Mines Department: I have had no personal involvement with the records of this department, but it appears that the Dunedin office records were purged in recent years, and much valuable material disposed of. The Head Office records in Wellington are fairly complete, but being case files - dealing with only one particular subject - they require much searching by anyone trying to establish a district picture.

Registrar-General, Lower Hutt: Registers of births, deaths and marriages are still retained by some district registrars, back to the start of registration. In others, 1925 seems to be the limit of local retention. The present charge of \$5.00 per certificate, makes use of these records almost a "last resort" approach for anyone contemplating more than an immediate family history.

Miscellaneous: Consideration must also be given to the following classes of records:

Local bodies: Rate rolls, cemetery registers
Education Boards: School examination returns, admission and attendance registers.
Local museums: Holdings of diaries, photographs, local newspaper files, limited archive holdings.
 Diaries, family papers and photographs in private hands.

Ministry of Works, Alexandra: Files on goldfield topics - mainly irrigation schemes, road and bridge construction on goldfields.

Local churches: Registers of marriages, baptisms and deaths among adherents.

Post Office, Dunedin and Head Office, Wellington: Records, some rather fragmentary, of appointment, opening and closing of offices.

Cyclopedia of New Zealand: A rather suspect set, as the biography was supplied by the subject. Useful in that articles sometimes include a date and place of birth, or date of arrival in New Zealand, not available from any other source.

In addition to the above I would refer readers to by Bibliography of Works Relating to Central Otago.

This paper is a recast version of an address given to 1979 annual conference of Archives and Records Association of New Zealand, Dunedin, and repeated in a slightly modified form to N.Z. Genealogical Society conference at Christchurch, in February, 1980.

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Mt Creighton Station

MT CREIGHTON STATION

This history was written by the late Colonel Peter Mackenzie of Water Peak Station, about 1935, and supplied by his daughter Miss Jessie Mackenzie of Cromwell.

Some of the sheep stations in the Wakatipu were settled before discovery of gold in Otago in 1861 such as Mount Nicholas, Fernvale west side of Lake Wakatipu - at Glenorchy, head of the lake, Glenorchy vale at the foot or south end of the lake, Kawarau Falls from the Kawarau River, the outlet of the lake, to Kingston. Mr W.G. Rees had a homestead and woolshed at the Bay .. where Queenstown now is. Mr Rees's lease of the run was resumed by the Provincial Government of Otago on the discovery of gold in the neighbourhood and compensation paid. Ultimately gold was discovered in many of the or

omond in 1872 - still running; the Mountaineer in 1879, not now running and the Earnslaw in 1912; there were two small steamers the Alexandra, and the Victoria, name changed to the Venus on the occasion of the transit of the planet Venus across the Sun's disc in 1874. There were also some sailing vessels or schooners; I can remember the Moa, the Gazelle, the Black Ball and the Mystery; all these are gone long ago; oil launches of course were not thought of then. There were also at that time many rowing boats on the lake.

In 1882 the freehold farm occupied from the early 60's by Mr Harry Beer came on to the market and was bought by Mrs Meiklejohn and worked in connection with the sheep run. The leases of most of these Wakatipu Runs were sold by auction for the first time at Queenstown in February 1874 by the Provincial Government of Otago. Some were reserved as a commonage adjoining the Shotover River, and the Ben Lomond Run near Queenstown for a few years more but the commonage system not giving satisfaction, were then like the others put up by auction. These were much competed for and went to very high rentals, much more than the sevenpence a head. Run No.9 extended along the lake frontage from the 25 Mile to the 12 Mile. At the auction sale in 1874 Mrs Jane Meiklejohn bought the lease which was run up by another to £225 per annum. Mr Kirkpatrick paying half the rent and running about the same number of sheep. There was an unusually heavy fall of snow in 1878 and a very great loss of sheep in the Wakatipu and it was utterly impossible to pay the high rentals so the Otago Land Board and the N.Z. Government (the provincial Government being abolished by this time) agreed to accept the surrender of the leases and put them up again by auction. The arrangement of having two occupiers on the same run not being satisfactory, the Otago Land Board, not very willingly at last divided Run No. 9 into two runs No.9 and 9a. In 1880 Mr Kirkpatrick decided to leave the district, sold his sheep and went to Wairio Southland where he took up agricultural land. After that Mrs Meiklejohn had both runs 9 and 9a until her death 1893 which then passed to John Meiklejohn, elder son, as administrator of the Estate. The rent has varied from time to time but never like 1874; laterly at the upset.

In 1888 when the runs formerly held by Mr John Butement of Glenora extending from the North bank of the 25 Mile Creek to the head of Rees River and Mt Earnslaw Run between the Rees and Dart Rivers were subdivided into 6 or 7 runs and leases put up by auction at Dunedin the one next, the 25 Mile 346a. was secured by Mr Stewart Duke and stocked with some lambs bought from Mr Butement who did not desire to carry on sheepfarming there any longer. Some years afterwards Mr Duke bought the lease of Run No.11 (at the back of runs 9 and 9a) from Mr Alex Paterson without any sheep. This was part of the country formerly held by Lawton and Gardiner. Mr Duke's and the Meiklejohn's were worked together as Mount Creighton Station but the flocks were kept separate under a different brand and earmark. S. Duke died July 16, 1916 leaving his property to Allan Manson and his surviving relatives in Scotland, two nephews and a niece. The share was bought by John R. Manson; the Manson Bros. then carried Runs 346a, 11 and 12a. 12a was a portion lying between 346a and cut off from Run 12 (McKinlay's) in partnership. In November 1919 John Meiklejohn, Alex G. Meiklejohn and Allan Manson sold out to Messrs G.L. Burdon (of Woodbury, South Canterbury) and J.R. Manson Mr Burdon a year after buying out the share of Mr Manson. In 1920 the whole was sold to Mr Alex Beaton, the present occupier (at the time of writing, 1935).

(Mount Creighton Station was later bought by Key Bros, and recently by Mr H.A. Radford).

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SOCIETY'S ACTIVITIES

Activities of the Society during the year included a conducted tour of historical sites round Queenstown, a launch trip and walk to Elfin Bay and a four-wheel drive outing to Skippers and beyond.

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ARCHAEOLOGY AND PREHISTORY
OF THE UPPER WAKATIPU REGION

Contributed by :-
Neville A. Ritchie
Archaeologist (NZHPT)
Cromwell

Introduction

This paper stems from an archaeological survey undertaken by the author around the head of Lake Wakatipu in 1975 (Ritchie 1975). That survey initiated an on-going interest in the prehistory, and in particular the development of Maori nephrite (greenstone) exploitation in the area (Ritchie 1976, 1977; Beck and Ritchie 1976, 1980).

Much has been written of the traditional history and Maori placenames of the Wakatipu region, notably by Horries Beattie (eg 1945), whilst others have drawn on his writings (eg Taylor 1950, Newman 1971, Miller 1972). Without belittling the work of the early recorders, they seldom attempted to relate their information (in Beattie's case largely derived from interviews with elderly southern Maoris) to the then known physical evidence, ie the archaeological sites and artefacts found in the region. Instead they tended to dwell on the romantic and the legendary.

This essay may be somewhat the duller for it, but it is based on the archaeological and documented evidence of Maori occupation in the Upper Wakatipu area.

Description of the Environment

The area locally known as the 'head of the lake' nestles between two parallel mountain ranges; the Humboldts to the west and the Richardson Range to the east. To the north the area is dominated by the terminal peaks of long mountain chains, namely Mt Earnslaw, Mt Alfred and the Sugarloaf. The Dart and Rees Rivers have formed a large alluvial delta at the northern end of the lake. The delta is surmounted on both sides by lake terraces. The terrace on the eastern side near Glenorchy, which overlooks a lagoon and former swampland, would appear to have been as favoured for settlement in

prehistoric times as it is now by the present inhabitants.

Vegetation

At the time of the first European settlement in the mid 1800's the whole north-western side of Lake Wakatipu along the Humboldt Range was covered in dense native forest (predominantly beech but containing some podocarps). The forest stretched from the lake shore to about 650 metres above sea level.

After European settlement at least eight sawmills have operated in Upper Wakatipu, which together with disastrous bush fires around the turn of the century and subsequent forest clearance for pasture, have resulted in a vastly decreased forest area.

No major studies of the pre-European vegetation in the Glenorchy area have been undertaken. It is likely, however, that the eastern margins of the lake were dominated by tussock grassland, extensive patches of bracken fern and occasional cabbage trees, with remnant forest in creek gullies. Matagouri is also likely to have been a significant vegetation in some areas, whilst swamp-grasses would have dominated the river delta area.

Archaeological Background

Two factors stand out with regard to the prehistoric occupation of the more inland areas of Central and Western Otago. Favoured locations around the inland lakes appear to have served as foci for Maori occupation; and the known sites tend to occur in relatively concentrated 'oases' separated by extensive areas largely devoid of evidence of occupation. Travel between these favoured locations, based on the evidence of transient camp sites, ovens and artefact findspots, was generally via the line of least resistance, up the river valleys, taking to the tops occasionally to avoid obstacles. Presumably mokihis (Bathgate 1969) were used where possible on the inland waterways.

The Upper Wakatipu, like many other areas of Central Otago, has to date seen little archaeological research compared with coastal areas. A number of factors have contributed to this situation :-

The known evidence indicates that Central Otago has never been greatly occupied by prehistoric peoples.

There is a lamentable lack of known undisturbed sites.

There is a lack of economic evidence in the sites that are known, although the small number of excavations perpetuates this situation.

The distance of the area from the main research institutions.

The Sites

The Upper Wakatipu constitutes one of the 'concentrations' of prehistoric settlement in Central Otago. About 30 prehistoric sites are known to exist, or formerly existed within about a 20 kilometre radius of Glenorchy. For the record there were also Maori settlements in the 'middle Wakatipu area' at Bobs Cove, Queenstown Bay, Frankton, near the mouth of the Kawarau River and down at Kingston (Beattie 1945:32; Taylor 1950:144). However, other than an oven (Site S132/3) near Bob's Cove and isolated finds of artefacts, little firm evidence of the precise location of these settlements has been recorded. Sparse details about the existence of ovens, middens and adze finds at Kelvin Heights have also been recorded (S132/1) but this area has never been adequately examined. MacKenzie (1948:16) stated that there were formerly many Maori ovens (S132/34) in the vicinity of the Walter Peak homestead, but most of these have been destroyed by landslides, cultivation or stock trampling.

A cache of adzes and a midden containing freshwater mussel shells (S132/2) were uncovered in 1874, and are believed, from the few details provided, to have been located on the shore of Frankton Arm (Keyes 1967:22).

There is also a prehistoric camp site (S132/4) at the western end of the Kawarau Gorge which will eventually be inundated by the lake formed behind the proposed hydro-dam at Gibbston. This site which has revealed evidence of worked moa long bones (tibia) and cutters of porcellanite and silcrete, will be investigated within the Clutha valley archaeological programme during the summer of 1980-81 (Ritchie 1979).

Positive information about sites in the Upper Wakatipu area was first brought to the attention of museum authorities around about the end of the First World War. In 1919, Mr Charles Haines, a long standing resident, presented a collection of 215 Maori artefacts from the Upper Wakatipu region to the Otago Museum. Most of these were found in the Glenorchy area, but notable exceptions were ascribed to the Shotover Valley, the Nine Mile, and Martins Bay on the West Coast. Some 51% of the artefacts found near Glenorchy were of nephrite, in the form of adzes, chisels, awls and partially worked pieces. Many of the artefacts are known to have been derived from one 'village' site (S122/1) near the Dart Bridge, and another 17 are labelled 'Camp Hill', but unfortunately precise location details of most of the other artefacts in the collection have been lost because they were only labelled 'Glenorchy'.

Further information about sites in the area has been given to the author by Mr Fergus Heffernan of Glenorchy. As a young man, he spent considerable time in the company of Mr Haines and was, therefore, able to provide additional information concerning many of the locations from which Haines obtained artefacts.

Although the visual indications of sites in the Glenorchy area are rather inconspicuous, evidence of a wide range of prehistoric site types still exists, or is known to have existed until relatively recently.

At least six former open settlement sites are known, near the Dart Bridge (S122/1), the Lagoon site (S123/7) and the Wyuna-Koch site (S123/1) on the terrace above the Glenorchy lagoon, Camp Hill (S123/4), a reputed terrace pa site (Simmons 1967, Miller 1972:7), the Glenorchy recreation ground site (S123/248) which has virtually been destroyed, and the Paradise site (S122/3). It is likely that two rockshelters (S123/3 & 9), adjacent to the Glenorchy-Paradise Road, from which Charles Haines recovered Maori kits and textiles (now in the Otago Museum) were inhabited too. The cave sites are known to have been desecrated by county workmen.

The role of the pa site (S123/4) on Camp Hill is somewhat enigmatic. Seventeen of the artefacts in the Haines collection in the Otago Museum are labelled 'Camp Hill'.

They include eight greenstone adzes and chisels and seven perforated oyster shells. According to Mr F. Herrernan (pers. comm.) Mr Haines found some Maori artefacts on the terrace in front of the Hill in 1915.

Mr D.R. Simmons, the former ethnologist at the Otago Museum, examined the site in January 1967. He considered an area at the southern end of the hill had been terraced and ditched in a horse-shoe around a stand of existing beech trees. House terraces and at least one pit were visible (Simmons 1967:15). He thought it was probably the legendary pa constructed by southern Maoris in response to the Ati Awa (Te Puho's) threats of invasion of Murihiki in the 1830's (ibid:15).

Numerous depressions which dot the sides of Camp Hill are locally attested to be Maori ovens. Some of these features were test-excavated by the writer in 1975. It appears many of the depressions are caused by natural phenomena such as tree dimpling, or the digging of prospecting or borrow pits. This does not, however, totally exclude the possibility that some of the depressions may be ovens, and in fact highlights the need for scientific excavations, if more positive conclusions about prehistoric activities on Camp Hill are to be forthcoming.

The area around the picturesque location of the Paradise camp site (S122/3) has been greatly modified by the imposition of the Glenorchy Scheelite Mining Company's mine (S122/19), the nearby sawmilling on Mill Flat and land development. John Kingsland found many Maori artefacts in this area between 1900 and 1916. They had been rooted out by pigs, which had been originally brought in to control the bracken, (F. Heffernan pers. comm.). The Kingsland collection was eventually presented to the Southland Museum, Invercargill, but unfortunately its value is decreased because precise details about the location of the various artefact finds were not recorded. A few hundred yards upstream, a former 'flint knapping' site (S122/18) below the Narrows, has been eroded away by the Dart River (F. Heffernan pers. comm.).

Two significant artefacts have been found in the vicinity of the Paradise site in recent years by the landholder, Mr J. Veint (pers. comm.). They are a green argillite 2B style adze, and most notable obsidian core found in 1978. On hand specimen characteristics, the latter artefact is believed to have origins from Mayor Island in the Bay of Plenty. It was possibly traded southwards in exchange for southern produce such as nephrite and muttonbirds. A fibreglass cast of the core is held in the Southland Museum.

Although no trace survives today of the former Maori encampment (S122/248) near the Glenorchy recreation ground 'a large amount of Charles Haines collection was uncovered there' (F. Heffernan pers. comm.).

Undoubtedly the reason for the existence of some of these settlements or camp sites is related to the discovery and subsequent exploitation of the nephrite deposits. Two proven Maori nephrite collecting areas, the lower Routeburn (S122/4) and the Dart River source (S113/1) are recorded as archaeological sites.

Ovens are another important site type in the area. Several ovens are known, being principally located on the terrace overlooking the lagoon north east of Glenorchy, and near Diamond Lake (S122/2 and 5, S123/2, 7 and 11). A number of artefact findspots are also recorded. These are mainly of adzes, usually found near ploughed up oven sites, although some were cached (S122/6). Those known to the author were of green argillite (suspected to be from Southland), local greywacke and Routeburn nephrite (eg S122/6 and S123/8 and 12).

A feature of the Upper Wakatipu region is the number of apparent 'oven depressions'. Although most of these features are suspected to be of natural origin, it is virtually impossible to positively differentiate them from conventional Maori oven sites without subsurface excavation. An 'open-oven' variation or fireplaces consisting of depressions excavated into a bank, in which a fire has been lit were described by Ritchie (1975:11). The usage of these features is uncertain. Depressions of this type, infilled with charcoal were observed at Elfin Bay in the 1890's (ibid:11).

They may be quite recent features and are possibly sheltered fire-places excavated by station-hands to reduce the risk of fire 'while milking the billy' in the dry tussock and bracken country.

reported Maori eel trap (S123/5) and canoe launching ramp (S123/6) on Pigeon Island require further investigation. This island was all wooded at the onset of European settlement and may have been used for canoe building.

Presently there are only six recorded historic sites in the Upper Glenorchy area. The most notable of these are the remains of the Mill Creek settlement (S122/11) near Kinloch and the Glenorchy Scheelite Mining Company's mine at Paradise (S122/19). Many more await recording including all the early sawmill sites, the Invincible gold mine in the Rees Valley, the lime kilns at Bob's Cove, the remains of the Dart gold dredge and other mining ventures.

The Excavations

In 1967 Mr D.R. Simmons carried out a survey of sites in the Glenorchy area, using the artefact collections of the Otago Museum as a guide, along with traditional information, local knowledge and surface indications. He undertook small scientific excavations on three of the sites he had located. In each case the excavations were aimed at determining the nature of the sites. He had hoped that larger scale excavations could be undertaken later but these did not eventuate (Simmons pers. comm.).

The survey led him to an early occupation site (S123/1) on the terrace north east of Glenorchy. He named it the Wyuna-Koch site because it straddled at the boundary between Wyuna Station and G. Koch's property. The site consisted of small ovens and blackened occupation material, notably flake knives, early adze forms and flake debris indicative of adze manufacture. These were located on a low ridge running across the terrace. Part of the site had been ploughed up and the remaining portion was badly disturbed by rabbit burrowing and quarrying. Two radiocarbon dates placed the occupation of the site in the fourteenth century AD (Simmons 1973:175).

The second small excavation was undertaken on a site first reported by Charles Haines. The site, which forms a triangle of some 2,500

square metres, is bounded by the Kinloch Road and the true right bank of the Dart River.

Haines presented the artefacts and moa bone he had found in the site to the Otago Museum in 1919, along with a note and sketch indicating that the two 'huts', in which he found many of the artefacts, were demarcated by low mounds of loess which had built up on three sides around the walls of the former structures. Both huts had fireplaces and one had a paved area (5.5 x 2.75m) along one wall.

The collection Haines obtained from the site included a large number of nephrite artefacts (mainly adzes) in various stages of completion, which led Simmons to describe it as 'a greenstone workers village'. The excavation and associated survey indicated that the settlement consisted of twenty 1.8 x 0.9 m² gravelled or stone-paved mounds (23cm high) connected by paved pathways (Simmons 1967:17). He interpreted the mounds as part of houses of a type hitherto unknown. The other notable feature of the site is the large number of both raised rim and rimless pits. These are likely to have been used for storage and are possibly potato clamps.

Cultural material from the site included opaline, jasperoid, basalt and nephrite flakes, charcoal and fragments of dog and bird bone. In 1979 a large midden containing southern oyster shells (*Ostrea sinuata*) was observed eroding from the river bank beside the site (J. Mitchell pers. comm.). The writer examined the site on the 16 January 1980 with Mr Mitchell. We were only able to find one oyster shell. It appeared that the substantial and potentially very important midden deposit has been washed away by the river quite recently, judging by the 'freshness' and undercut nature of the riverbank.

This site may have been occupied intermittently for several centuries. Simmons obtained a sixteenth century AD radiocarbon date from charcoal recovered from the top of the occupation layer on one of the mounds (ibid 1973:175); however, if the numerous

pits are potato clamps, this European introduction would indicate post 1800 AD occupation.

Unfortunately, at the time Mr Simmons worked on this extensive site, his time and resources were limited. The confusion over the function of the various features within the site may be clarified, if the site can be protected and a larger area 'opened up' at some future date.

The third site excavated by Simmons was termed the 'lagoon site' (S123/7). It is situated about 1.5km from Glenorchy on the lowest terrace above the lagoon. He described it as a large oval structure (3 metres long) with a raised 40cm high bank on three sides. A large oven occupied most of the central space. One quadrant was excavated; two samples of wood in postholes again producing radiocarbon dates centred around 1500 AD. It seems likely that this feature was some kind of covered cooking shed although Simmons described it as 'a raised rim oven site'.

- to be continued in next

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"Courier", with 'Greenstone Exploitation'.

Mrs Johnstone of Macetown

THE LATE MRS JOHNSTONE

OF MACETOWN

Mrs Nellie Johnstone, who was born and grew up in Macetown, was interviewed by John Newman and Neil Clayton a few days before she left her last home at Arrowtown to live with her family in Southland. Here are reminiscences of her Macetown childhood and teenage ...

"I was born in 1885, when alluvial mining was still going on at Macetown. I remember when quartz mining started at the Premier and Tipperary reefs, up the Rich Burn.

I was taught at School by Miss Janet Sangster, who later married Berenford Ritchie. Their son, also called Beresford, was the last teacher at Macetown.

There were about twenty families at Macetown then. One of the things that was considered the mark of a good town round here was the number of hotels. There were two, - Elliots on the left as you go into Macetown, and the Alpine on the right. And there was a German baker named Schnieder.

Summertime was hot. The locals swam in the river. As children we played slides and rounders. As we grew older, we had concert basket concerts, where each lady brought a basket of food; these were sold to the men, by auction. We had a nice Hall where we had Quadrilles every month during the winter, and at the end of the season people would come up from Arrowtown and we would have a big basket concert. One year, people came from Skippers; they came over Advance Peak and down, and they thought they would get back again that night, but they didn't.

We would go down to Arrowtown for the circus when it was there, but we didn't go to Queenstown very often.

Our transport was by horse, spring-carts, drays and wagons. Supplies came in by spring-cart and wagon. William Reid had a Store in Macetown and he had supplies brought up from Arrowtown in a spring-cart. Mails were brought up twice a week. There was a Post office at Macetown - the School Teacher looked after it. I looked after it when the teacher was away.

I stayed at Macetown school until Standard 6, and then stayed at home for a while, helping my mother. Later I worked at W.T. Smith's store until I was married. There was a third store at one time - Graham's, but it didn't last long. It was more of a Drapery than a General Store." (To be continued)

In ARTICLES to follow, Mrs Johnstone tells of alluvial and quartz mining, and recalls her marriage and afterwards living at Victoria Bridge. She also tells of her husband's work as a waggoner and later motor lorry proprietor, and her struggle to raise a family following her husband's untimely death in 1921).

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