

PRESIDENT'S REPORT ... September 1983

The most widely popular activity of the Society are the trips to historic places, which Mrs Hudson organises, the best supported being the Mavora Lakes trip last November, 70 people booking. The two buses got as far as Bullock Creek, where one got stuck in the water and, after an exciting struggle to get it out, all had to come home. However, demand was such that we tried to do the trip again in February through to Mt Nicholas, as originally planned; but this was cancelled due to the weather. The Society will try again this year. More successful were the visits to Dansey Pass Hotel, Kelburn Diggings and Naseby, to Riverton, Nokomai and the Five Rivers Estate and to Gibbston.

In November, a Telegram was sent on the occasion of the opening of the Kingston Flyer run, and in February the "Earnslaw" had her birthday. The Society gave lunch to some of the former crew and staff, and birthday cake was given to all on board. There were some surprised and delighted tourists that day!

The Settlers Takeaway used historical illustrations for their building and paid the Society for their use. In March, a Hearing was conducted on the Arrowtown Stone Cottage which had a door knocked in one wall. The Hearing decided that it would allow the retention of the door, but did point out that permission should have been obtained before the work was begun. The Arrowtown Council also wish it to be known that their actions in giving permission for building additions to the Stables was not considered illegal. Help was offered for the repair of the stone wall around Arrowtown Cemetery. It was suggested that a Sign be erected at the back of the Lakes Museum, but this was not allowed under the planning scheme.

Mr De La Mare has worked hard to produce two issues of the "Courier" this year, for which I would like to thank him. Mr Neville Ritchie has written two thorough Articles for it, on the 12-Mile Creek sites and survey, and the Chinese settlements in Cromwell.

Our sympathy is extended to the family of Mr Cox of Dunedin who died. He was due to give a Talk at our August meeting.

The Society has investigated some trees that were felled by the Welcome Home Hotel on the Skippers Road, and also the building of the Tunnel Barn at Maori Point, also at Skippers.



In July, a book on the Historical Buildings of New Zealand (South Island) was presented to the Council for use at the Library.

Mr Ross Harvey has come recently to inspect all old Newspapers held in the area, and found them all well preserved.

The Chip scheme to help the preservation of old buildings was unfortunately cancelled after members of the Society had helped with a survey of the Arrowtown needs.

The fate of the Williams Cottage on the Queenstown water-front was in doubt for a while, but it will now be moved by the Lands & Survey Department to the Gardens, where it will be on display.

The Society has been active both in preserving the past and enabling people to see places of historical interest in the area, thereby increasing interest and awareness.

Roma McAndrew  
President

30.9.83

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Walter Peak Station - Jessie McKenzie

WALTER PEAK STATION ...

Part 2 of Miss Jessie Mackenzie's history of Walter Peak Station follows -

Mt Nicholas Station

After the Whites left Mt Nicholas, the next occupants were John A. Hodge and J.O. McARDell. Some references say Henry K. Hodge was included in the partnership but he is never mentioned by others. He may have held a share in the place. Henry K. Hodge married Letitia White, a sister of John and Taylor White. It was about the time that Letitia married Henry K. Hodge that Elizabeth White was found drowned in the artificial lily pond in Mt Nicholas homestead garden. The Whites and the Hodges were cousins.

Henry Kirke Hodge and John Ambrose Hodge were the two younger sons of the Rev. Charles Hodge M.A., Vicar of Clarborough, England, who

arrived in New Zealand by the 'Rose of Sharon' in January 1857. There were four sons. One, Charles Hodge died young in Christchurch. Vere Hodge of Wanganui was a lawyer and then came Henry and John. Rev. Charles Hodge went back to England on a passenger ship 'Roy Charter' but the ship was wrecked off Ireland and the Rev. Hodge was drowned. Mrs Hodge remained in New Zealand and died in 1890.

John Hodge was 15 when he was given a job by his cousin Thomas Woollaston White as a cowman. Later he and his brother Henry took up carting from Lyttleton to Christchurch. Once when John was on a roadmaking contract he "lived in a cave with very rough men." It is obvious he and his brother were made of tough stuff according to their experiences when they took up their Run at Te Anau, first called Eglington Run and later to this day, Te Anau Downs Station. He once rode over 90 miles to get fresh supplies when a fire burnt all their provisions on their run.

John A Hodges' first wife died when their first child was born and she and the child were buried in the Queenstown Cemetery in 1876. Where J.O. McARDell lived I do not know. A reference to him says "Mr McARDell, Hodges partner, took over to Mt Nicholas 52 trout." He could have been living somewhere on the place. It seems John Hodge took over Mt Nicholas at a bad time as the rabbits were swarming everywhere and in an effort to control these pests he paid his men 10/- a week and three pence each for rabbit skins. His head shepherd, in the year 1877, pressed 13,680 skins. They attempted to clear the rabbits by poisoning them with phosphorised oats.

He was pestered also by wild dogs attacking his flocks. They were apparently numerous in the early days, large highbacked animals. They were finally eradicated by being shot and hunted down by Deer hounds. Hodge worked hard at Mt Nicholas, improving and enlarging the garden, continuing to plant trees and putting in and renewing fluming for water to house and garden. In 1884 he had taken over Mavora Run as well but here too the rabbits were swarming everywhere. On June 12th 1884 he had a signed and stamped agreement with 13 rabbiters who were to work Mavora Run and kill out the rabbits.

For a time Hodges and his partner seemed to prosper. Prices were good. After shearing in 1874 Hodge and McARDell sent home to England 215 bales of wool, sold at public auction there. This clip bought £2,940.6.7. The following shearing they sent home 255 bales



of scoured wool. We presume, scoured on the station. After the fall muster 1875 these partners on May 10th counted 28,557 sheep and the numbers must have been much larger, for the previous spring after terrific rain the shepherds had a full time job skinning dead sheep.

From his diary we find Hodge had a good crop of potatoes but that year a heavy frost killed the cherries. He also planted a crop of turnips 'just for a try out'. The 1878 snow, plus rabbits, beat him and after that big snow storm, which killed most of his sheep, Hodge abandoned Mt Nicholas. He returned to England where he married his cousin Isobella Pringle White. She and John Whites first wife were sisters and they had inherited a large sum of money from a great great Aunt. It was Isobella White who insisted on John Ambrose Hodge changing his name to Kirke by Deeds Poll. The reason is not given. After he returned from England he lived in Invercargill and ran Mavora which he had retained. He took up another property at Kelso in 1886 and until his death in 1912 he held this place. By his second marriage there were one son and two daughters.

For the next 18 years, Mt Nicholas was run by a stock firm, the Loan and Mercantile Agency Co. Rabbits roamed the country with packs of dogs, trapping and trying to eradicate the pest, without success, and finally the Station was handed back to the Government. At that time the Valtor Peak end had been in the Mt Nicholas Run. It too had been abandoned.

In 1896 Thos. Clute Ellis bought Mt Nicholas and Mavora from the Ellis Estate for £1,000 with any sheep there on - about 3,000 in all. He ran the place with managers, two being one named Taylor, and David Maider. One Manager was a very tough one. He carried a short whip and if any musterer displeased him he would not hesitate to give him a lash with the whip. He carried a cheque book with him too, gave the unfortunate man instant dismissal and ordered him off the place. One can imagine what would happen today if such action was taken.

The Ellis family have an interesting history. The father of Thomas C. Ellis was Captain John Ellis who was born in Devon in 1809. He joined the Royal Navy as a midshipman. He resigned and went as a boy clerk to Jardine and Co. of Calcutta. His employers were pleased with him and allowed him to buy a load in one of their ships.

£1,000 worth of tobacco which he sold in London for £2,000. He continued to load and ship and when he had amassed £40,000 in one full ship load, he was dismissed by the company. He set sail for Australia and arrived in Adelaide in 1839. Here he entered partnership with a Captain William Allan and acquired large tracts of land. He also invested in a coppermine, with others but sold his share at the peak of the boom, clearing £250,000 and continued to prosper. He took his family of eleven back to England and made periodical trips back to Adelaide and New Zealand until his death in 1873. Thomas C. Ellis was born in Adelaide in 1848 and taken to England in 1859. He returned to Adelaide in 1870 as attorney for his father. He died in 1920.

The Ellis's also controlled a great deal of land in New Zealand. They owned Mt Nicholas, Belmont, Venlaw, Mavora, Merrivale, Northhope, Mararoa, Broadlands, Korimika, Blackwater, also extensive properties in Australia. At one time their sheep in New Zealand exceeded 80,000 with over 2,000 head of cattle. It was common for them to sell 1,000 fat cattle a year.

At one stage the Ellis's became involved with W.C. Wentworth a leading citizen of New South Wales. It would appear that W.C. Wentworth once owned the Five Rivers Estate in Southland and sold part of it to Ellis's (John Ellis, T.C. Ellis father). William Charles Wentworth was born in N.S.W. in 1793, was trained as a lawyer in England and on his return to N.S.W. became prominent in the struggle of that colony for self government. He seemed to be very shrewd, sought wealth through the acquisition of land. In 1840 he was associated in a deal with six Maori chiefs who were on a visit to Sydney in 1840. By this transaction Wentworth and associates purchased 10 million acres of the South Island of New Zealand for £1,000 cash and annuities of £10 a year for each of the six chiefs. Later his unscrupulous action was rightly disallowed as were numerous other land claims.

A portion of the Five Rivers Estate was sold to Captain John Ellis in 1864. His son Thos. Clute Ellis took up Mavora and ran it in conjunction with Mt Nicholas in the name of his wife Florence Ellis. He first bought Mt Nicholas and then he and the Bank sold it to his wife Florence Ellis in the year 1894 with all improvements and 1,000 straggler sheep for £430. 1894 appeared to have been a bad year, for Ellis Bros. were hard up against it until 1896.



In 1896 according to N.W.C. Ellis, of Victoria, who wrote notes about the land owned by his grandfather Captain John Ellis and his father Thomas C. Ellis "In 1896 so bad were the depredations caused by the rabbits that my father Thos. C. Ellis bought the Mavora property from my grandfathers estate for £1,000 with any sheep thereon." They ran Mt Nicholas and Mavora as one, held in the name of his wife.

Captain John Ellis occupied 250,000 acres until his death in 1877 and carried about 70,000 sheep. His trustees sold this run which was subsequently cut in two. The portion lying to the West consisting of 100,000 acres and upon this a house and woolshed were built, was known as Mavora, the other 150,000 acres being Mt Nicholas on Lake Wakatipu with Jetty and Woolshed on Lake Wakatipu. By 1904 the place was running 10,000 sheep with ease although at first it carried 2,000 to 3,000.

There was another tragedy at the Old Nicholas homestead during Ellis's occupation. Caretakers lived in the house and one day the then caretakers wife was found dead in the kitchen. She had received a severe blow to her head. There was no sign of her husband. An old carpenter who did a lot of work for the Mackenzies named Geordie Bisset was only a young fellow at the time and was working at Old Nicholas, told some of my family when under the influence of alcohol, that the caretaker and wife had a violent argument and that he had hit her on the head with a heavy object and killed her. When sober and questioned further on the matter Geordie refused to confirm what he had said when drunk and would never speak of the matter again. My Grandfather Hugh Mackenzie was at Walter Peak at the time and said he saw the body and the woman had suffered a blow to her head. He helped to take the body down to the lake where it was taken to Queenstown. The doctor signed a certificate to say the woman had died of heart failure. Maybe she fell and hit her head, or was it manslaughter? We will never know now. I have no record of the year of this tragic happening and no record of the names of caretaker and wife, but will remember my family speaking about the incident. The house at Old Nicholas had the reputation of being haunted but for some reason the ghost was supposed to be that of Elizabeth White who one morning was found drowned in the artificial lily pond.

In 1882 my Grandfather, Hugh Mackenzie, applied for both the dark side of Walter Peak which faces towards Lumsden and the sunny or winter country of Walter Peak by way of lease. This was granted by the Waste Lands Board and Southland Land Board who in fact wanted him to take more, but he felt he had enough to deal with at the time.

This property he farmed and developed successfully until in 1901 came an opportunity to expand the run considerably by the purchase jointly with James Milne of the Mt Nicholas Run from T.C. Ellis. Details of the negotiations leading up to the purchase, together with copies of the correspondence and the partnership formed to run the property follow. On completion of the purchase Hugh Mackenzie became the owner of the vast area of Walter Peak, Mt Nicholas and Fernhill runs which were amalgamated under the name of Walter Peak. The land covered over 178,000 acres of Crown Lease with 1,300 acres of freehold on the Walter Peak flats and a smaller area at Mt Nicholas.

The actual negotiations between James Milne and Hugh Mackenzie have been lost but as far as I know and from what I remember my father and Aunt Margaret telling me the Runs 324A and 324B did go up for Auction. In fact twice and as there were no bids, my Grandfather and Milne agreed to purchase them between them with the idea of subdivision. Hugh Mackenzie to take half of Mt Nicholas into Walter Peak. The other half to go to James Milne and into Fernhill. The Runs were actually transferred into the names of Mackenzie and Milne. This arrangement appears to have lasted a very short time. James Milne did not relish the idea of fencing the long and difficult boundary between Walter Peak and Mt Nicholas. When discussing the boundary and fencing in Invercargill, James Milne decided to get out and offered his half of Mt Nicholas, plus Fernhill to my Grandfather, plus 1,000 sheep for £10,000. The year would have been in 1905 because my Grandfather formed a partnership with his five sons and two daughters. One son William decided not to join the partnership as he wanted to go to America to study engineering. He was killed in a snowslide on Walter Peak in 1906.

The Partnership consisted of :-

Hugh Senior 2 shares died 6th May 1933

John died 5th September 1956



Alex died 19th April 1950  
 Margaret died 29 December 1953  
 Hugh Junior bought out by partner 1948 died  
 Anastasia bought out by partners 1928 died 1966  
 Peter (the Colonel) died 12th February 1968  
 Walter killed at Gallopoli 1915

I think it is necessary to give an idea of the family and descendants of Hugh Mackenzie Senior because of relationships claimed by people who are not relations or if so only distant connections.

Hugh Mackenzie Senior married Anastasia Mackenzie Rossiter. They had six sons and two daughters. He married secondly Flora Gardiner. They had no children.

1. His eldest son John married firstly Beatrice Walker in 1906. They had no family. He married secondly Florence Ann Pitican Campbell in 1930. They had no children, so Uncle John has no descendants.
2. Alexander Mackenzie married twice. His first wife was Winnifred Caroline Matheson. They had four daughters as follows :  
 Mary Rossiter Mackenzie (married G. Waring) seven children.  
 Winnifred Caroline Joan King nee Mackenzie two children  
 Margaret Ann Rossiter Nesbit nee Mackenzie five children  
 Betty Rossiter Baker nee Mackenzie two children.
3. Margaret Ann Mackenzie never married. No descendants.
4. Hugh or 'Ted' married Mary Macdowel. Their children are as follows :-  
 Mary Ruth Gray nee Mackenzie six children (one son)  
 Agnes died 9 years old.  
 William Hugh died unmarried, no descendants.  
 Florence Muriel Cook nee Mackenzie two children.  
 Catherine Jean Baker nee Mackenzie three children.  
 Lachlan John Mackenzie not married
5. Anastasia Mackenzie died not married.
6. William Mackenzie died not married.
7. Peter the Colonel, married firstly Margery Twitchell Mathews. Their children are as follows :-

Margery Phyllis Mackenzie (deceased) never married.  
 Margaret Beatrice Ellison nee Mackenzie two children.  
 Mary Isobel Jessie Mackenzie not married.

He married secondly Margaret Elizabeth Mackenzie nee Junker. Their son is Peter Christopher Francis Mackenzie not married.

8. Walter Michael Mackenzie killed in action Gallopoli 1915 never married no descendants.

Peter Mackenzie, son of Angus Mackenzie, a brother of Hugh Mackenzie Senior came to New Zealand in 1896. He was known as 'Cousin Peter'. He married Alice Mackenzie of Martins Bay. They had two children as follows :-

Mary Phelan nee Mackenzie.  
 Roderich James Mackenzie who married Charlotte Heaps they had four sons.

Cousin Peter never owned an interest in Walter Peak Station but he was associated with the Stations for many years mustering, cultivating fields, often too as Boss of the Shearing Board, taking sheep counts and generally helping his cousins. He too, often went to Wyuna Station to help his Uncle Alexander there. (Grandads brother Later when Great Uncle Alex died in 1909 he left his money to his sisters in Scotland. So Wyuna was sold to his nephews and niece at Walter Peak. John and Alexander Mackenzie and Margaret Ann Mackenzie. Cousin Peter was appointed Manager of Wyuna and lived up at Glenorchy for many years. Years later he and his son Roderich bought Ringway Ridges, a farm near Otautau in Southland. It was sold about 1958 and Roderich bought Greenhill at Bluff.

The following are copies of letters relating to the sale of Mt Nicholas Station together with the Sale Agreement between F.R. Ellis and Hugh Mackenzie :-

1. Thomas Ellis to Hugh Mackenzie re sale Mt Nicholas 1901
2. Sale Agreement between F.R. Ellis and Hugh Mackenzie for the purchase of the Station by Hugh Mackenzie.
3. Thomas Ellis to Hugh Mackenzie re the Sale Agreement.



Invercargill

21st March 1901

Mr Hugh Mackenzie,  
Walter Peak,  
Queenstown.

Dear Sir,

Mr Milne, through Wright Stephenson & Co., asked if I would sell Mt Nicholas and I told those gentlemen they might offer it to you also.

I am in the humour to sell it now, but not to throw it away. I have just taken over Five Rivers from the lessees and if I once start to work Nicholas with it I must stick to it.

I asked £500 for the Runs, reserving the McKellar's Flat Paddock about 6 to 7,000 acres. I require this piece for Mavora. This in and lease over 100,000 acres. The improvements are on freehold all given in and it is dirt cheap at the money. The lease is fixed tenure and you get back I believe equal to three years' rent at end of lease, say £336.

It is a splendid chance for your sons to start near home. I would make reasonable terms with you if you want such.

I shall be in Southland for the next few weeks and if you care to do business it might be well for us to meet one another.

I remain,

Yours faithfully,

Thos. C. Ellis

Invercargill

9th November 1903

I the undersigned F.R. Ellis agree to sell and I the undersigned H. Mackenzie agree to purchase the Mt Nicholas Station, Lake Wakatipu, on the following terms and conditions.

About thirty acres of freehold land in two blocks with all the homestead buildings, Men's hut, Woolshed and Press also all F.R. Ellis's interest in Runs 324A, 324B, 438 and 452, excepting the small fenced paddock about 5,000 acres adjoining Mavora known as McKellar's Paddock which F.R. Ellis reserves the option of keeping, and if she does, has to pay rent per acre at the average price per acre of the rent of Runs 324A and 324B. The price of the above £250 cash when the freehold of above mentioned is transferred, say about February 1904. Possession to be given and taken on 1st February 1904.

For all purposes under this agreement H. Mackenzie is to pay rent at the rate of £50 per annum for the above Runs as from February 1st 1904.

It is understood that F.R. Ellis is negotiating with the Southland Land Board to surrender or forfeit Runs Nos. 324A and 324B (grouped as one) to obtain a reduction of the now excessive rent to £45.

If the Runs are put up and an outsider buys same it is not to nullify the above sale and purchase but H. Mackenzie is to get the money, the outsider will have to pay for the improvements on Runs 324A and 324B.

It is also agreed if H. Mackenzie disposes part of the above Runs to which F.R. Ellis has no objection he is to protect F.R. Ellis' option to McKellar's Paddock.

(Signed) Florence R. Ellis.



Invercargill  
9th November 1904

Mr H. Mackenzie,  
Walter Peak,  
Queenstown.

Dear Sir,

Re Mt Nicholas Station

I enclose you two copies of Agreement regarding Mt Nicholas.  
I think it contains nothing but what we all agreed to at Queenstown.  
I have just set it out short and in plain language. Please sign  
one copy and post to me and keep the other. No doubt you will show  
it to Mr Milne first and you must make your own little agreement  
with him.

I am so glad my old neighbours are getting the Run and may we  
always get on as well from this instance and may the exchange turn  
out to the benefit of you and Mr Milne.

With kind regards.

I remain,

Yours faithfully,

Thos. C.E. Ellis.

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Bank of New Zealand - Queenstown and Arrowtown

BANK OF NEW ZEALAND - QUEENSTOWN AND ARROWTOWN ...

Recently the Bank of New Zealand opened splendid new premises in  
Rees Street, Queenstown. This building is the third on the site the  
first being erected in 1875. This building was demolished in 1941  
to make way for a bigger and more modern bank which in turn met  
the same fate to provide a site for the new building. The bank first  
opened in Queenstown as an agency on the 29 of November 1862  
and was thus providing banking services within a week or two of the  
discovery of gold at Arthur's Point. Their service to the town is  
therefore unique.

The bank has kindly made available some details of its early history  
which follow :-

Opened 29 November 1862 - Wm Jamison was the first Agent and opened  
the Branch at Queenstown.

Some of the earlier Managers were -

Mr G.M. Ross October 1865 - July 1886

Mr S. Fischer July 1886 - August 1888

Mr H.W. Mitchell August 1888 - March 1891

Mr A.R.W.P. Green April 1891 - July 1895

Mr E.C.W. Porter March 1899 - December 1904

One of Mr E.C.W. Porter's sons, Mr P.L. Porter, became the Banks  
General Manager in 1945.

An extract from "The New Zealand Banker" - 20th April 1929 -  
with reference to the reminiscences of Mr G.M. Ross, related at his  
home in Surry Hills, Victoria, on the occasion of his diamond  
wedding on 9th April, 1929, may be of interest.

Mr Ross joined the Bank of New Zealand at Dunedin on 29th September  
1862. He was appointed Sub-Agent at Shotover in October 1863 and  
two years later, in October 1865, was transferred to Queenstown as  
Manager. Mr Ross was teller at Queenstown for a period during 1864:-

Mr Ross said - "He was known as the 'boy bank manager'. From  
Dunedin he had a three days' ride to his first job at Queenstown.  
His horse was poor, and he had to walk nearly all the way. He  
stopped one night at a tent hotel. They charged him 2/- for some  
straw to lie on and 2/6d for some coffee and bacon. When he got to  
his destination, he found a canvas bank.



Shortly after arrival, a Government proclamation was issued, warning everyone to leave Queenstown, because the winter was expected to be so severe. We stayed on. It was terribly cold. I shudder even now to think of living in those canvas tents in the rain and sleet and intense cold. I next opened a bank at Arthur's Point, four miles away. This settlement was almost surrounded by the Shotover River. There was only one ford. One flood-time 20 men were drowned there. The waters swept everything away. Three times a week a fiddler would come from Queenstown for dancing. Immediately he arrived, shops would be closed, tools thrown down, and dancing would start. Some of the miners would come to the bank all night for singsongs. Ice was so thick at Skipper's Reefs, and the way was so steep, that I had to hang on to the horse's tail to get along. It was impossible to ride. I always had a policeman with me on my travelling about the goldfields. I would often get home at 1 and 2 a.m. One of my banks was burnt down. The gold bags were just singed, and the gold did not melt."

Mr Ross died on 20th April, 1931.

#### Arrowtown -

Branch opened 1st October, 1867 - Mr H.H. Holmden was first Manager. On 9th January 1907 - Name was changed from Arrow to Arrowtown. Branch closed 21st November, 1916 and business ever since that date has been conducted as Agency of Queenstown Branch.

The original premises at Arrowtown were erected in stone in 1875 and additions were made to the residential portion of the building in 1905.

In 1953 the Bank made a gift of the premises to provide a permanent home for the Lakes District Centennial Museum and ran their agency from a small building in the main street. With their recent return to operating the agency from a banking chamber built in the style of the gold rush days in the Museum building, the clock has gone full circle.

#### BNZ Building, Ballarat Street, Queenstown

Prior to 1895, this building was the premises of the Colonial Bank of New Zealand. Unfortunately most of the records of this bank were destroyed by Court Order when its affairs were finally wound up in 1905. We have no information about the building before 1895. The Colonial Bank was founded in Dunedin in 1874, but the first recorded staff appointments in Queenstown were of Acting Accountant on 21 December 1887, and Manager on 1 January 1888. Presumably the building was erected after this. There were two Certificates of Title for the land occupied by the Colonial Bank, the C/T for Section 22, Block 2, Town of Queenstown, area 7 poles, was dated at Dunedin 6 March 1876, while that for Section 23, Block 2, Town of Queenstown, area 16 poles, was dated Dunedin 30 June 1882.

The Colonial Bank of New Zealand, although it steadily opened new branches throughout New Zealand during the twenty one years of its existence, was never a resounding success, and was not strong enough to survive the long depression of the 1880's and 1890's. In 1895 the Colonial Bank was bought by BNZ, and its business, buildings and most of its staff were taken over. Throughout its short existence in Queenstown, the Colonial Bank manager had been Cyril Edmund Gudgeon. He had been recruited from BNZ in 1875 to serve as manager at Cromwell until he was promoted to Queenstown in 1888. When the Colonial Bank was absorbed by BNZ, Gudgeon became Queenstown manager for BNZ, a position he held until 1899.

However BNZ had its own building in Rees Street, and had no use for the Colonial Bank building. It appears that it was never used for banking purposes again. There was very little demand for either residential or commercial buildings in Queenstown at this time, and for several years the building stood untenanted and unearning. In September 1898 a tenant was found. The Borough rates at this time were £4 per annum.

A buyer for the property was not found until October 1918. It was then sold to John Thompson. The tenant at this time was Mrs McBride who left the building reluctantly.

The building still stands and is better known as Eureka House.

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THE ASPINALLS OF SKIPPERS ...

Following the short article about John Aspinall which appeared in the last issue, Mrs Ruth Horn of Dunedin who is a granddaughter of John Aspinall has written and indicates she would be extremely grateful for any information any member may have which could help her in recording the family history. Can anyone help?

She writes, "I have traced the family back to my great, great Grandfather's birth in 1775 but now the gaps turn up. My grandfather John came out in 1861 and joined his older brother in Bendigo Australia. He found it too crowded, and headed for Auckland and the Thames and straight to Skippers via Queenstown, then un-named (the Camp).

He had a family of six sons and three daughters all of whom were born at Skippers, my mother being the eldest girl. My father Robert White was an electrical engineer who arrived about 1890 to install the Sandhills Dredge, the first electrically run dredge in the world. When it was completed he found himself as manager because no one else could fill the job. My brother John Aspinall White and I were born at Skippers and were at the opening of the Skippers Bridge in 1901. The Aspinall home was just above their sluicing claim above the bridge. My Mother's three older brothers were sent off to boarding school at the Southland High School.

The company put in a wing dam to cut off the river to get at the bed. They made fair findings but not spectacular and the dredge was shifted to Millers Flat in the 1900's. Think of the shift - no roads - the poor horses did everything. We had electricity all through our corrugated house.

Other relatives were the Southbergs at Frankton now all deceased. Our grandmothers were sisters. They lived at Bullendale and would ride down to the Skippers home, plus babies. Uncle Andrew Southberg had the "Phoenix" mine before the Bullendale bought it."

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The pioneer settlers were a tough breed - they had to be to survive. Clergymen were no exception and the following story, written by the late Rev. A.J.T. Fraser illustrates. Bishop Harper was an early visitor to Queenstown holding services here in March 1863.

A WET BISHOP ... Bishop Harper

This is a tale about an early Victorian Bishop who nearly lost his life fording the Mataura River in September 1857. John Chitty Harper had been consecrated Bishop of Christchurch in 1856. In those days - until 1871 - the Christchurch Diocese included Otago and Southland. Bishop Harper was then 56, an age when most men are inclined to sit back. Bishop Harper must have been the exception or else the Victorians were tougher than we realise. Every year Bishop Harper paid a visit to Otago and Southland. On his first visit he left Christchurch in July 1857 on a strawberry roan horse called "Dick" who had been given him by Bishop Selwyn. Selwyn in turn had received him from Johnny Jones of Waikouaiti.

Harper arrived at Tutanui about the end of August. In those days the traveller had the choice of two routes from Tutanui to Invercargill. One was to cross the Mataura and follow a single ploughed furrow, which the Otago Provincial Council had turned up as a traveller's guide. The alternative was to follow the Mataura River to its mouth at Portrose. There one could be ferried across the estuary and make one's way along the coast. The only hazard was Lake Waituna. Bishop Harper was advised to choose the coastal route. At Wyndham he stayed with Dr Menzies of "Dunalister" where he met Mr Pinkerton, a stock inspector. As Pinkerton knew the route fairly well he took the Bishop under his wing. At Lake Waituna they had to strip off and wade through the lake with water up to their chins. They had wrapped their clothes into a neat bundle which they carried on their heads. Ultimately the Bishop got as far south as Riverton.

This is not the wetting which is the point of this story. On the return journey the Bishop took the overland route following the ploughed furrow. Unfortunately the furrow did not make an impression on bush and bog. To make matters worse a recent snowstorm had altered the appearance of common landmarks. The mailman



had given the Bishop detailed directions where to cross the Mataura River. With the features of the landscape altered, the Bishop who was accompanied by his son, Henry, mistook the ford. In he plunged to find only deep water flowing swiftly. The Bishop was washed off his horse. Seeing his father being carried down the stream Henry swam after him. Both the men were strong swimmers. Striking out they reached the far bank. This was steep and rocky and exhausted by the current they were hard put to haul themselves out. The horses fortunately had drifted onto an island and were got over only after repeated effort. The problem was how to get their clothes dried. At Tukurau there was a stockman's hut. Here they were hospitably entertained and dried out. There were thirteen other men in the hut clad only in red blankets in a similar plight. To add a frontier touch to the scene there were in the rafters a quartered bullock and the drappings of wet clothes.

After further adventures in the Clutha River and over Mt Flagstaff the Bishop and his son reached Christchurch in October. As they rode up to where a group of men were standing on a warm spring evening it was seen that the Bishop's clothes were held together by strips of flax. In a newspaper interview the Bishop's comment was that apart from the weather the journey had been without difficulty.

Bishop Harper made this journey every year till 1871 when Dunedin became a separate Diocese under Bishop Nevill. His journeys took him also to Banks Peninsula, North Canterbury and the West Coast Goldfields. He died in 1893 at the ripe age of 89. On his memorial in Eton College are the words "Forgetful of ease and pleasure, he never wearied of duty, and even in advancing age proved himself equal to the endurance of toils and dangers travelling through pathless wilds".

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## The Twelve Mile Apostles

### THE TWELVE MILE APOSTLES ...

Contributed by A. De La Mar

The Lake District correspondent of the Southland Times in a report on the 22nd of August 1881 records the death in the Arrow hospital of Edward Callaghan.

The report indicated that Edward or as he was probably known, Ned was the King of the Twelve Mile Apostles and the last of the twelve.

The alcoholic activities of the Twelve Apostles who lived in the Macetown area is recorded in Fred Miller's Golden Days of Lake County and Eileen Beaton's Macetown, and needs no repeating. The names of the twelve in these histories differ and though both record two Callaghans none have the initials of "E". Their names are no longer important but prior to Edward's death they had all either died, left the district or joined the Good Templars, or as we would say 'gone on the Wagon'.

Although the twelve will always be known as hard drinkers, they were not very much different in this respect from most miners. And miners in turn were little different from the rest of the population whose drinking habits in those days were deplorable.

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