

The Queenstown Courier

The Official Publication of the
Queenstown & District Historical Society

Fifty-Third Issue - November 1994

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Annual subscription \$10.00 per person or family) Corporate Membership
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included in subscription.

All correspondence and accounts should be addressed to the Society's
permanent address - P O Box 132, Queenstown

Annual Report

*Presented at the Annual General Meeting of the Society on 12 October 1994
by the President Mr R J Clarkson.*

I am pleased to present the Annual Report on the many aspects of the work of your Society from 1993-1994. Our membership has again shown a healthy increase approaching the 300 mark.

During the year we have been involved in numerous activities which are relevant to our aims of preserving and promoting the appreciation of the history of this most interesting region. It is often concerning that many businesses and developers who wish to capitalise on this have little real empathy with the history of this unique area.

In order to carry out our aims, the Society has been closely involved with the activities of associated organisations. It is pleasing that we are well regarded and our opinions sought on local historical concerns. We work in with the Lakes District Museum and our representatives on that committee - Cicely Morrison and Duncan Wilson have a significant voice. We have direct contact with the Otago Liaison Officer of the Historic Places Trust Lois Galer and the local representative Max Wild, and make use of their expertise. The Society attends meetings, by invitation, of the Upper Shotover Management Committee - we are interested in this region because it includes the historically important Skippers Road, bridges and the mining relics of Skippers and Bullendale. Also, as a representative of the Society, I am a Trustee on the active Queenstown Heritage Trust.

Informative social events for the benefit of members have been organised regularly through the summer season. These have been very well supported by our large membership. In this regard I would like to thank the staffs at Les McAndrew's shop and at the Lakes District Museum. The trips had variety and depended on the generosity of our hosts and guides. Trips featured the Wakatipu Basin area, Maori Point, Wanaka-Cardrona, Sam Summer's Hut; the February trip was cancelled - Thomson's Track and alternative Macetown. In August a large group met for lunch at the Remarkables Resort Hotel and listened to an on-the-spot account of life and activities in the Upper Shotover. Our thanks to Winky and Jerry Hohneck for their interesting contribution to our day. These winter functions are an important way of keeping our members in touch and of introducing a different style of activity and different speakers.

I would like to make a mention of the Queenstown Heritage Trust which was set up in 1993 when the Capt. Williams Cottage issue was again to the fore. The interests of this group and our Society overlap to a certain extent and it is good to see that the idea of preservation of historic items in this area is at last being taken seriously. We are no longer an isolated group. The history of the basin is now being recognised as an important feature which has to be protected. Therefore we must be active and lead. In this respect the decision over the Cottage marks a significant victory. Now for the restoration.

During the year we have supported the setting up of the Otago Central Trail which was an excellent way of preserving land for recreational purposes; seen the launch of Alan De La Mare's book on the Shotover River; successfully finished the compilation of buildings in the basin worthy of preservation at the request of the Q.L.D.C. - Mrs Margaret Templeton and I dealing with Queenstown, and Taylor Reed, Barry Lawrence, David Clarke and I working on the Arrowtown and rural district. A rewarding sideline to this task was to see the work which the St Patrick's group have done on refurbishing their church and restoring the Mary McKillop Cottage. The Society made a donation towards this. Bruce Hamilton's work on recording notable trees must be recognised. Appropriate plaques for the general interest of visitors and as permanent records have been suitably placed. Our magazine 'The Courier' is also an excellent record of local written material plus pictorial. Duncan Wilson has edited this most valuable local magazine. We have also shown an interest in the publication of the Chandler papers which are at present held in the Hocken in Dunedin. This could well become a future project.

Our opinion has also been sought on the Transit of Venus site and the Observatory Hotel, the reconstruction of the power house and the One Mile, the Smokehouse at Lake Hayes and the Gardens proposal. Research information has been supplied on Thurlby, Elliott's Cottage on Malaghan Road and speakers have been provided for groups anxious to know more about the Wakatipu Basin.

Not everything has been successful, however. The integrity of the McNeil Cottage and 47 Hallenstein Street have been compromised in spite of our objections. Nature has beaten us in an attempt to preserve Mitchell's hut up the Arrow and the stabilisation of Lister's hut on the Sawpit Gully Track has stalled. Central Electric have still not concealed their power box placed unsympathetically next to the Arthur Monument and our suggestion to the Q.L.D.C. that where appropriate a short comment on street names identifying their origin would be interesting, has not received acknowledgement.

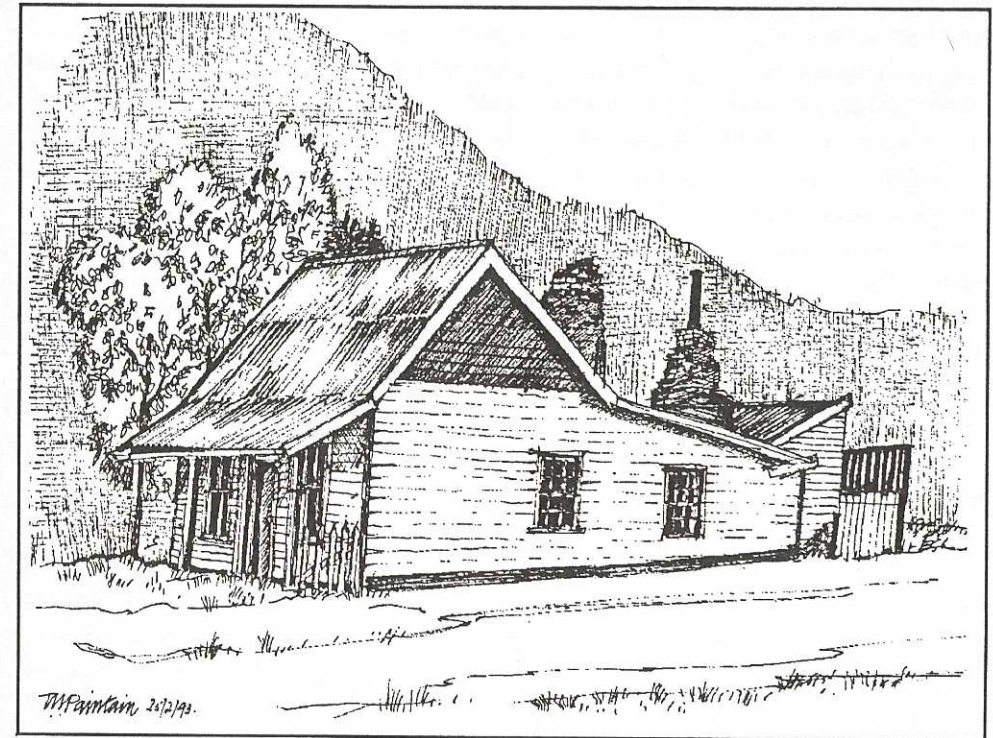
From the year's activities I have learned that our ideas have a great deal of support among the thinking and caring members of the community who wish to enjoy and preserve the historical foundations of this area. The days of neglect of our heritage are past and the future looks rewarding for Societies such as ours.

We have followed our aims of:

Firstly, that we use our power to advise concerning the saving of the historical aspects of the district and

Secondly, preservation of and education in all aspects of historical research and interest.

This is due in great part to an active and informed committee who work very hard, attend meetings and undertake all kinds of tasks to carry these aims out, and I sincerely thank them on your behalf.



The 'Williams Cottage' at the corner of Marine Parade and Earl Street, constructed in 1866 for John Williams, Boatman for W G Rees. Sketched by Mr Thomas Paintain QSM, an English visitor from Northampton on 25 February 1993, before the proposed restoration.

Resignation

Clive Geary has announced his decision to retire from the Committee of the Society. This has been accepted reluctantly. Clive has been a most active member and committeeman since his arrival in the district, and his valuable history background and reasoned opinions will be greatly missed. Thank you Clive for your considerable contribution to promoting and preserving the historical integrity of the Wakatipu.

Life Membership

A new departure for the Society has been the awarding of Life Memberships to members who have made a valuable contribution to furthering the aims of the Society and preserving items of historical importance. At the 1994 Annual General Meeting awards were made to Mrs Margaret Templeton and Mr Edward Sturt recognising their involvement with the Society's aims.

Queenstown and District Historical Society

Statement of Receipts and Payments for the Year Ended 30 September 1994

1993	Receipts	1994
6686	Bank Balances fwd	7155.04
1440	Subscriptions	2768.50
71	Donations	39.00
500	Grant from Trustbank	500.00
0	Research Fee	200.00
58	Art Society for PO Box	52.50
4	Sales of Couriers	42.50
4953	Trips	1792.00
1453	Luncheon	1305.00
71	White Horse Hotel Collection	-.-
323	Interest	331.81
15 558		14 186.35

1993	Payments	1994
92	Subscriptions	117.00
382	Donations	150.00
0	Advertising	46.95
518	Printing & Stationary	170.70
42	Pamphlet & Tolls	-.-
26	Room Hire	24.00
115	Post Office Box	105.00
719	Couriers & Postage	794.85
4209	Trips	1468.75
1513	Luncheon	1 240.00
100	Rees Memorial Prize	100.00
439	Plaque	399.04
250	Travel - R Clarkson	-.-
0	Gifts & Vouchers	75.05
7155	Bank Balances Closing	9 495.01
15 558		14 186.35

Bank Balances at 30 September 1994

Current Account	3 352.52
Term Deposit	6 142.49
	<u>\$9 495.01</u>

Auditor's Statement

I have examined the financial records of the Society which in my opinion have been properly kept. I have obtained the information and explanations I required. In common with other similar organisations, control over income and sundry donations prior to its being recorded is limited, and there are no practical audit procedures to determine the effect of this limited control. In my opinion the financial statements presented above give a true and fair view of the financial activities of the Queenstown and District Historical Society for the year ended 30 September 1994.

D G Warrington B Com ACA

Skippers link with grave in western Australia- John Aspinall

Skippers' Link With Remote Grave Found in Western Australian Desert

By Brian R Hill

A book published in Australia last year will interest Historical Society members who are intrigued by the history of Skippers. The book *And Some Found Graves. The Goldfields Diary of John Aspinall* is not only the fascinating diary of a young Skippers' man who took part in the great 19th century gold rush to Western Australia, but is also the riveting story of tracking down the lost connection between a lonely bush grave in the remote WA desert and Skippers.

The fascinating saga began when A J Thompson of Albany WA, who was prospecting for gold in the Mount Margaret Goldfield, several hundred kilometres from Kalgoorlie, in 1980 discovered in the bush a remote grave from the original gold rush days. Such lonely gold rush graves are occasionally stumbled upon in the remotest areas of the WA goldfields. Often there is no marker, but if there is an inscription it is startling to see how young many of the men were who perished in the search for gold, many dying of thirst. This argonaut's lonely grave was at Hawks Nest, a deserted gold diggings some 15 kilometres west of Laverton and about 200 kilometres north-east of Kalgoorlie. The grave was almost obliterated; the slight mound of red earth was marked by a single termite riddled post. On the ground nearby was a piece of tin carrying a partially indecipherable epitaph. The inscription read:

*Sacred to the memory of John Aspinall late of Point, Otago, NZ.
Killed byning March 18th, 1896. Aged 23 years. Gone but not forgotten.*

Thompson tidied up the grave and marked it to protect it from mineral exploration and gold prospecting activities in the area, and while gold mining in the locality over the next few years, he tended the grave. Then, his daughter who had visited New Zealand, returned with June Wood's Gold Trails of Otago which referred to 'John Aspinall' who 'had a successful sluicing operation at Skippers Point 400 feet above the Shotover, which worked for fifty-six years to produce an estimated £70,000 worth of gold.' This solved part of the missing puzzle of John Aspinall's epitaph, identifying Skippers Point. Alf Thompson set about repainting the crudely lettered inscription and as he cleaned up the tin, the word 'lightening' (sic) showed up, revealing the cause of John Aspinall's death.

Feeling he would like to know more of this young man who had died so tragically and so far from his home and family, Thompson wrote a letter describing the grave and inscription and addressed this to the Editor, 'A Newspaper' Dunedin, New Zealand. Within a few weeks he had received numerous replies; he heard from several relatives of John Aspinall and from people whose ancestors had historical links with Skippers and who knew of the Aspinall family's connection with the area. He was also contacted by the 'Director of a museum in Arrowtown'.

He learned that John Aspinall, whose grave he had stumbled across, had been born at Skippers in 1873, the second son of John Aspinall Snr, who had come to New Zealand from England in 1861, pegging a gold claim at the confluence of Skippers Creek and the Shotover River. There were nine children in the family, all born and raised at Skippers, the children attending the Skippers school which opened in 1879. John Aspinall and two brothers went away to boarding school, attending Southland Boys' High School in Invercargill for three years. When his father died in 1890, John Aspinall and two of his brothers worked the family's sluicing claim. The Aspinall family operated their Skippers Point claim until 1922 but John left Skippers in 1895 to join the great gold rush to Western Australia, never to return.

Besides all of this interesting information, Alf Thompson was excited to learn from Aspinall family members who responded to his letter to the 'Dunedin newspaper' editor, that John Aspinall had kept a diary of his gold rush experiences; this diary had been returned to the family by one of his goldfields companions when John Aspinall had been killed by lightning, and the original diary was now in the Hocken Library! This was really striking it rich, as the diary was a bonanza lode of historical material.

John Aspinall started his diary on the ship to Australia, but he referred back to his departure from Skippers, and the trip from there to Queenstown. The diary not only chronicles his journey to the WA goldfields, but is an accurate depiction of the

frenzied quest for gold in the gold rush, joining rushes to new gold finds and making hazardous journeys by camel to chase up rumours of discoveries in the remotest locations. An energetic prospector, John Aspinall was daring, enterprising and resourceful. When their Afghan cameleer deserted his party when they were out in very harsh, waterless country, John Aspinall took charge of the string of camels, and he became proficient in handling these obstreperous beasts, efficiently getting the party back to safety.

John Aspinall's diary observations and reflections on what he experienced and saw in the gold rush show the benefit of his education. His attitudes, while consistent with his time, would today be described as intolerant, or even bigoted, but they were in accord with the views one would expect of a young man of his background in that era. The last entry in John Aspinall's diary, dated Friday, 13 March 1896 - the day before he was killed when struck by lightning, is poignant in that it mentions that 'For the last few nights we have had some heavy thunderstorms'

I found this book exciting, because not only have I become interested in the history of Skippers since acquiring a holiday house in Queenstown, but I am also acquainted with the Hawks Nest area where John Aspinall's lonely grave is found. Twenty-five years ago an Australian gold mining company I floated, and which company I was managing director of for 10 years - Kia Ora Gold Corporation NL - carried out extensive exploration for nickel in the Laverton region. In 1969 we pegged mineral claims only a few kilometres from John Aspinall's grave. (At the time I was not aware of the existence of the grave.) I found the connection developed in the book between this remote desert area and Skippers a fascinating theme. It would be difficult to imagine a starker contrast than Skippers where John Aspinall was born and raised and Hawks Nest where his young life ended. Set in a steeply eroded canyon, overlooked by massive and bare, but often snowcapped mountains, Skippers is dominated by rushing water - the sometimes raging Shotover River. Hawks Nest is hot, dry and waterless, with red sandy soil and scrubby plains, almost featureless except for a few low hills stretching to the far horizon through a shimmering heat haze. It is easy to appreciate John Aspinall's nostalgic comment in his diary about the potential value in Coolgardie of 'the magnificent sight of Lake Wakatipu', with water in the gold rush centre then selling for six shillings a gallon.

Fatalities caused by lightning are fortunately rare. I have had some experience of the spectacular lightning strikes that can occur in the Western Australia goldfields, usually during late summer. During the 1970s we were reopening a gold mine which required continuous pumping twenty-four hours a day to control the water and our efforts were occasionally bedevilled by violent electrical storms when lightning strikes to earth, usually during the night, would trip out the power supply to our pumps.

A J Thompson is to be congratulated not only for arranging the publication of this interesting book (for which he merits the gratitude of all gold rush history enthusiasts), but also for his effort and gratuitous enterprise in restoring John Aspinall's grave and

not the least for his initiative and perseverance in tracing such a fascinating historical connection.

A regrettable fault in the book is the lack of a map. Readers who are unfamiliar with Western Australia would have welcomed a map showing the locality of Hawks Nest where John Aspinall's lonely grave is found, in relation to Kalgoorlie and Perth and possibly other identifiable goldfields towns. Gold rush history buffs would also have found a map tracing John Aspinall's gold rush odyssey through the Western Australia desert goldfields most useful.

And Some Found Graves. The Goldfields Diary of John Aspinall, compiled by A J Thompson, was published in 1993 by Hesperian Press and copies can be ordered from the publisher (PO Box 216, Victoria Park, Western Australia 6100).

Brian R Hill

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and

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New Zealand

Richard Beetham - Mining Registrar - Magistrate - A De La Mare

Richmond D Beetham

By Alan De La Mare

Richmond Beetham was born at Horncastle, County York on 30 April 1836. His father was William Beetham, who was a farmer and his mother before her marriage was Mary Horsley.

Beetham was educated at the Elyceleesten Grammar School, emigrating to Australia in 1853 at the early age of 17. He spent two years on the Australian gold fields until in 1855 he left for New Zealand, arriving in Wellington on 1 December. It is not known what occupation he followed for the next seven years until he was appointed a Mining Registrar for the Dunstan Goldfields on 8 October 1862 at the very time gold was discovered in the Wakatipu. On 6 May 1863 he was appointed Warden and Resident Magistrate at Queenstown, a position he was to occupy for some thirteen years.



Richard D Beetham

Beetham arrived when the gold rush was still at its peak. Fortunes were being won daily and there was plenty of work for the Magistrate with serious disputes about claims and water rights.

Gold had drawn to the area a criminal element intent on reaping a financial harvest by any means, even claim jumping and robbery with violence. There was also present many petty criminals, confidence men, card sharps, pimps and prostitutes. Many of their activities came before the Court.

Beetham's job was to administer justice, a task for which he was ill-prepared. He had never been in a Court before and had no formal legal training. He had to rely on good judgement, common sense and presumably a reasonable knowledge of the Gold Fields Regulations. His early Court House was an 18 by 12 foot tent with walls 5 feet high and no window, the door alone admitting air and light. On the earthen floor stood a plain deal table while the bench was represented by a wooden form. Beetham himself recorded that when he first took office oaths were taken on a book which he later discovered contained instructions on the best way of baking potatoes, etc. In August 1863 the tent was replaced with a building, presumably wooden, and the present stone Court House was built in 1876. Beetham left Queenstown late in 1876 so presumably held Court in the present building.

Besides his Magisterial duties until the Queenstown Borough Council was established in 1886 as senior public servant he represented the Otago Provincial Government in the area which involved making decisions on a wide range of subjects.

The first survey map of Queenstown dated April 1864 shows a building called Warden's Quarters beside Horne Creek at the bottom of what is now called Hotops Rise. Presumably Beetham occupied this house and in keeping with his position no doubt it was larger than the two-roomed shacks which were the norm for the town at this time. This was the house where Governor Grey and his private secretary stayed when he visited Queenstown in 1867 while the rest of the entourage were accommodated at Eichardts and Powell Hotels which were no doubt pretty basic at this stage. Later Beetham either bought or built a house above the town. Its exact position is not known but it is described as 'looking obliquely down the long wall of the Remarkables and across Queenstown Bay to Walter Peak. In 1879 after Beetham had left Queenstown the house was rented by William Mason a prominent architect and first Mayor of Dunedin. Mason offered to buy the house for £750.00 but Beetham did not accept. The size of the offer indicates a quality residence.

Beetham took a prominent part in public affairs though his official position would have precluded his involvement in certain areas. With William Rees he took the initiative in founding St Peter's Anglican Church. He, as chairman of the committee, layreader and treasurer and his wife as organist played a very active part in the formative years of the Church and without doubt their contribution was vital. Their association with the church ceased in 1874 over a difference between Beetham and the Vestry about the use of his organ. Beetham supplied the organ for use in the church

but insisted it not be used without express permission when he and his wife were absent. This was unacceptable to the vestry and Beetham resigned his offices and left the church. Beetham over the years had a series of disagreements over comparatively unimportant issues and he either must have had a low boiling point or a lack of tolerance to opposing points of view. Being a Magistrate from the age of 27 may have been a factor in this area. Beetham was an early member of the Queenstown Masonic Lodge and here again he fell out with his fellow members over a minor matter.

In 1869 he was asked to explain certain remarks about Masonry he had made outside the Lodge and was summoned to a meeting to do so. He failed to attend and when he later agreed to appear he gave an explanation and an apology which was accepted by the members albeit reluctantly. At this point Beetham resigned. It is difficult to avoid the opinion that taking the Magistrate to task was unacceptable to Beetham.

About the time of Beetham's arrival in Queenstown scurvy was affecting many miners far from any medical attention or the type of food which would restore them to health. Some were carried into Queenstown to lodge in hotels but there was an urgent need for a proper hospital. Beetham took a leading part in raising funds and obtaining a government subsidy which resulted in the hospital being opened in Frankton in August 1863. That there was a need for the hospital is illustrated by its use by 391 miners in its first six months.

Beetham is recorded as presiding over his Court in a dignified, fearless and impartial manner. He had a saying "What is contrary to common sense can't be law". He was of strong character and had a firm way with him which he clearly showed in his conduct of his Court. Like other goldfields' Magistrates Beetham often found it necessary to adjudicate on the site of a dispute. At his farewell in Queenstown he recounted one dispute he dealt with early in his career. Two parties had claimed an area of wash dirt 10 feet by 3 feet which was a mass of gold and extremely valuable. The situation was tense with violence not far away. Beetham's effective but unusual solution was to order 10 men from each party to shovel the wash dirt to their own side on the given word. Beetham in exercising his common sense attitude to law solved a difficult dispute in an acceptable manner.

In 1872 Beetham ran foul of the Chinese population. Being used to bribery and corruption in China the Chinese decided Beetham came down heavily on them when they came before his court and worse, appropriated the fines he inflicted for his own use. A petition was finally organised with a subscription list to cover the cost of presenting the petition to the Provincial Government. The subscriptions ranged from 3/6d to £5. The petition was duly presented to the Government and a Commission of Inquiry consisting of Messrs J P Maitland, J L Gillies and H W Robinson was appointed to inquire into the allegations. They studied cases heard by Beetham over several years and could find nothing to show Beetham had shown prejudice against the Chinese leading him to acts of injustice towards them. During the period examined there were 15 cases between Chinese and Europeans heard in the Warden's

Court, 8 of which judgements went against the Chinese. In the Magistrate's Court there were 43 cases against Chinese including police charges and of these 24 were decided against the Chinese. These cases and other inquiries made by the Commissioners clearly showed there was no substance to the allegations made by the Chinese and Beetham was entirely cleared. The episode must have been a painful one for Beetham who took pride in carrying out his duties impartially and fairly. Having a local row with the Anglicans and Masons was one thing but to be the subject of a Commission of Inquiry was another.

In 1876 Beetham left Queenstown because of his wife's health. He was given a public farewell and presented with a black marble clock with bronze ornamentation. It was a very special clock which had been exhibited at the recent Vienna Exhibition and besides the time registered the months of the year, the days of the week and phases of the moon. Beetham continued his judicial career being Resident Magistrate in Napier, Timaru and Christchurch in turn. He retired in 1903 to live in Masterton.

While serving as a Magistrate in Christchurch in 1897 Beetham had an unusual, almost unique experience in that he read The Riot Act. It is a story in itself. In 1890 one Arthur Bentley Worthington arrived in Christchurch. He was a charismatic religious leader who quickly built up a large following. His influence over his followers was profound. Money flowed in and in 1892 a large building able to seat 1,600 people was built adjoining Latimer Square. Worthington continued to flourish until in 1893 it was revealed he had a criminal record in the U.S.A. and during a long career as an adventurer and confidence man had taken unto himself no less than eight wives. This revelation seriously affected his popularity which culminated in a demonstration against him in 1897 involving 6,000 people. The crowd turned hostile and the outnumbered police were in imminent danger of losing control and being overwhelmed. It was at this critical moment Beetham read The Riot Act. "Our Sovereign Lady, The Queen, charges and commandeth all persons being assembled to immediately disperse and peaceably to depart to their habitation or their lawful business under pain of being guilty of an offence on conviction of which they may be sentenced to hard labour for life. God Save the Queen."

Much to the relief of the police and probably equally to Beetham and Worthington the crowd accepted the message and slowly dispersed. Not since he had faced angry miners in the 1860s had Beetham been in such a perilous position. Soon after Worthington left Christchurch for Australia.

Beetham was a keen trout fisherman, a heavy cigarette smoker, a good story-teller and loved horse racing. He was an enthusiastic painter and was President of the Canterbury Society of Arts from 1885 to 1892. Beetham was married twice. Firstly to Lucella Francis Swainson and two years before his death to Helen Hampton. There was no issue. Beetham died suddenly from a heart attack on 9 December 1912. He had been fishing during the day and dropped dead while conversing with his brother Hugh. He was 77.

Charles Eichardt 1850-1919

By W Rex Austin

Over their lifespan the Goldfields of Otago have attracted thousands of people from every corner of the globe.

Almost without exception they have been enticed by the lure of riches. Gold casts a spell that throughout time has been irresistible for most and even permanently addictive for many.

One of those exceptions was Charlie Eichardt, a man born in Berlin, Germany.

He was almost 60 years of age when he arrived by stage-coach at Jopp's Livery Stables in Arrowtown in July 1910. He spent the first night at the Royal Oak Hotel, and shortly after opened a barbers shop next door.

In a few weeks, Charlie was accepted as a friendly pleasant bloke, a good barber and one whom the miners enjoyed talking to.

It was, however, his special affinity with children that endeared him to all and pretty soon parents were sending their children to him for counsel, advice for attentions to cuts and abrasions and just plain old TLC. He was an important part of their childhood and parents accepted him as such.

Christmas was an especially happy time for all and Charlie made his contribution in a very special way.

Just prior to Christmas several large cases began arriving at Charlie's shop. They were dispatched from Germany. In no time the children understood what they contained and each succeeding Christmas excitement and anticipation overflowed. These cases were filled with the most beautiful toys manufactured, it was claimed, by Charlie's family who were toy-makers in Germany.

Each Christmas Charlie invited his young friends to his little shop where he dispensed these wonderful gifts. At that time Germany probably made many of the world's most beautiful and sophisticated toys. The impact on this small community seemed to be profound.

These happy events were soon however to halt dramatically. In August 1914 we were suddenly at war with Germany.

Charles Eichardt was the most obvious of that dreaded race. What began with some tolerance soon turned to anger then naked hatred. All the sins of his country of birth descended on Charlie. Business ceased overnight. Cowardly messages were scrawled on his doors and windows. People's feelings had gone berserk.

From that point Charlie was seldom seen out and about. He was forced to lock himself in his shop for days, even weeks, on end. The joy of living faded from his face. His once bright eyes became furtive and fearful. Some observed "He seemed to shrink within his own body." Few cared: he was just "a dirty Hun."

World War 1 ended in November 1918. That same month Charles Eichardt died. He had not survived to enjoy 'The Peace' nor to seek forgiveness for being a German.

Now normally that would be the end of the story but for Charlie Eichardt it was really just the beginning. It was his last will and testament that set the community alight.

His final message acted like a benediction, bringing forgiveness and understanding to everyone who had known him or known of him.

The will read:

"After the discharge of any debts incurred in my name I leave the total of the residue of my estate to be divided equally between the seven families of the township of Arrowtown who have the largest number of children."

Postscript:

Each family received £100 - enough in those days to build each of those families a new home.

PPS:-

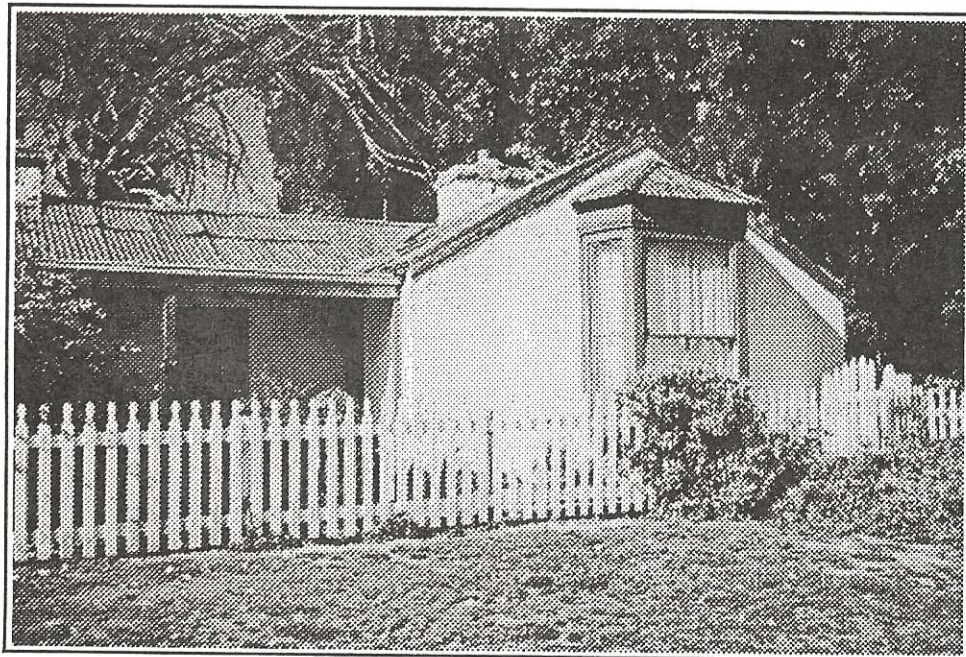
- The people of Arrowtown, in appreciation, erected a white marble headstone. It stands at what was once an unmarked grave.
- During the past 75 years the lead lettering has begun to deteriorate.
- Our Society in conjunction with Arrowtown hope shortly to fully restore the headstone to its original condition.

Field Trips for 1994-1995

4 December 1994 (Sunday)	Arrowtown and environs. Transport will be in private cars
30 January 1995 (Monday)	Kingston, including a trip on the Kingston Flyer and a barbeque
26 February 1995 (Sunday)	Kinloch - Greenstone mouth with various walking options
20 March 1995 (Monday)	Matakanui and environs (Dunstan Mountains)
9 April 1995 (Sunday)	Earnsclough and Pisa Stations

Note:

All trip bookings should be made at the Lakes District Museum in Arrowtown or at Mall Mania, The Mall in Queenstown (previously Paper Plus) Only firm bookings can be accepted and payment made at the time. Any enquiries should be directed to the President (442 3681) or the Past President (442 7385)



Kawarau Station Homestead

(Photograph taken on a visit to the Station by our Society on 14 April 1993)

Kawarau Station, near Bannockburn, is owned by Mr and Mrs Richard Anderson and family. On the 12,000 acres they run 5,500 sheep and 100 head of cattle. Mr John Anderson (father of Richard) bought the property in 1927 from D R Corson.

The original homestead (photograph) and shearing-shed were constructed of stone in the early 1860s and are still in use, but it was not until 1872 that the property was freeholded.

Much more information on Kawarau Station can be obtained by reading Chapter 1 of James Crombie Parcell's history of the Cromwell and Bannockburn districts of Central Otago 'Heart of the Desert', published by Whitcoulls Ltd in 1951 and reprinted in 1976. Ed.

Lakes District Museum, Arrowtown

Considerable alterations to the Museum have taken place this year with attractive improved entrances from Ramshaw Lane and Buckingham Street as well as the re-organised reception area. Of particular interest to members is the enlarged archive room with its sliding stacks, the increase in audio record, and the improved research facilities.

Federation of Historical Societies of N.Z.

The Annual Conference of the Federation will be held in Ashburton from 31st March - 2nd April 1995. The programme is an interesting one and participants can be guaranteed a most enjoyable three days.

Further information from Ray Clarkson, 442 3681.

NZ Federation of Historical Societies Inc, 24th Annual Conference Ashburton, March 31, April 1 and 2, 1995

Conference Details

Final date for registration, Friday March 3, 1995

Conference Programme:

Friday March 31	2.30pm	Executive Meeting Ashburton Museum, Cameron Street
	6.30pm	Registrations, welcome & refreshments Ashburton Museum
Saturday April 1	8.00am	Late registrations Brigadoon, Carters Terrace, Tinwald
	8.30am	Conference buzz session, Brigadoon
	10.00am	Morning Tea
	10.30am	AGM
	Noon	Lunch at Brigadoon
	1.00pm	Workshop, Museum Basics by Lynda Wallace of Canterbury Museum
	2.30pm	Afternoon Tea
Sunday April 2	3.00pm	Bus trip to Longbeach
	6.00pm	Conference dinner at Brigadoon
	10.30am	Bus trip leaves for Mesopotamia with picnic lunch, a bush walk at Peel Forest and a visit to the Church of Holy Innocents

Costs

Conference registration (includes Longbeach bus trip and Saturday lunch)	\$38.00
Mesopotamia bus trip (includes picnic lunch)	\$15.00
Conference dinner (if attending whole conference)	\$32.00
Conference dinner only	\$35.00
Billets (per person per night, maximum of three nights)	\$7.00

Essays published by A De La Mare

Essays published by Alan De La Mare

Tales of Southland History

Alan De La Mare has published a small book under this title gathering together a series of articles which appeared in the Southland Times. It contains 90 pages and is illustrated. Thirteen essays on the period 1880 to 1900 are included some of which are:

A Vision at Riverton (Howells Point Harbour)
Invercargill City of Blazes
Death of a Harbour (New River)
Tin Mining at Pegasus
Walter Waterston, Ship Owner
The Loss of the Derry Castle (Auckland Islands)
Samuel Horatio Moreton, Artist and Explorer
Joseph Ward, His Years of Strife 1896/97.

Copies can be obtained from Alan or the Southland Museum. Price \$9.50 – 50 cents from each copy sold by Alan will be given to the Historical Society.

The Courier Acknowledgement

This issue has again been typed and printed by Susan Milligan and Denise Singleton at the Southland Education Centre in Invercargill. Their quality work is hereby acknowledged.