

THE QUEENSTOWN COURIER

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Places and People



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Finding Our Local History

We encounter history daily in the places surviving from the past, as demonstrated in our 2014 calendar, 'Then and Now', and in the smartphone app which we are creating of heritage sites around the district. With some research, these places can connect us to the people who inhabited them. But that is not sufficient, as many old buildings have gone or are very much changed, and many people belonged to no specific place. To gain a fuller picture of the past, we must search. 'Moriah' was a mystery person in a book until Rita Teele and her collaborators traced her through other written records. Family histories provide portraits such as those of Letitia Tobin and Ellen Mackie, admirable everyday folk who do not feature in newspapers or history books. To find out about other people we search in newspapers, books, and the archives at the Lakes District Museum. In the *Courier* we try to capture the life and liveliness of our past places and people.

Marion Borrell (Editor)

Cover: Frederick Daniel (*Lakes District Museum EP 3096*) and 47 Hallenstein St, Queenstown, today

WHO WAS MORIAH OF THE OTAGO GOLDFIELDS?

By Rita L. Teele, Anne Maguire, Mellissa Ferris, Maxine Duncan, Jayne Reader

A woman known only as Moriah is the subject of three chapters in Josephine Trail's book, *Child of the Arrow*. Josephine Trail, who was born in 1903, recalled the people and stories from a childhood spent at Bullendale and Arrowtown. Beginning in 1979 she wrote down her memories for inclusion in feature pages of the *Otago Daily Times*. The book, with illustrations by Karen McLeod, followed in 1984.

Josephine Trail née Churchill grew up amongst family and neighbours who had participated in the Otago gold rush or who were descendants of those early pioneers. Moriah was one of the notable women. The author portrayed her as a sympathetic character and an important figure in her childhood.

Who was the Moriah remembered by a child named Josephine Churchill?

From *Child of the Arrow*:

At the age of 16, she and her husband had arrived in Dunedin from South Africa.

They were on the beach of the Arrow River when it flooded in 1863.

Her husband, mentioned only once, was a miner named John.

Moriah lived for twenty years after her husband died.

She delivered a son on the same day as Lucy, the barmaid, bore twins, then cared for the twins when the mother died.

She was available as midwife, nurse and comforter.

She was seldom seen without her spotless white apron over her clothes.

On one occasion, she is described as wearing 'a stern black dress...[and] a short black cape adazzle with tiny jet beads....She wore a bonnet to match.'

She had made a patchwork quilt with each patch telling a different story.

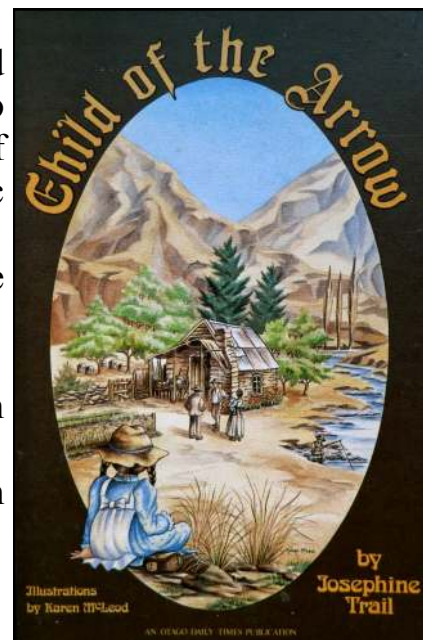
In one essay, she went to live at Lorne Farm in Southland at the end of her life.

In another she is said to have lived into her nineties amongst the mountains she loved.

Who was the real Moriah? Finding her was a circuitous but always interesting journey via the internet, museum archives, and people's memories. Her unusual name is of Hebrew origin and refers to a mountainous region, possibly the site of Abraham's planned sacrifice of Isaac.

Entering 'Moriah' and 'Arrowtown' into Google's search engine led directly to a transcription by Olwyn Whitehouse from a registry of 19th century deaths held at the Lakes District Museum. <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nzbound/macetown.htm>

512: John FERGUSON Died 13 April 1884 At Arrow District Hospital, aged 52 yrs, a gold miner. Son of William Ferguson, a farmer, and Mary Ann. Born Blyth, near Morpeth, Northumberland, England. Lived 22 yrs in New Zealand. Married at 34 yrs to Hannah Moriah Wake, at Arrowtown. Living issue; 2 sons aged 16yrs, 12yrs. 3 daughters aged 17yrs, 9 yrs, 6 yrs. Witnesses: Henry B. Smith & William McWhirter, householders. Informant: hospital wardsman in charge.



Entering 'Ferguson' into the museum's database resulted in the discovery of scanned photographs of various family members and an envelope in the archives that was labelled 'Forrest, Loft and Ferguson.'

Some of the available photographic material and documentation came from Martha Hannah Dewar, née Forrest. An undated nine-page letter from Martha Dewar, which is in the envelope, outlines much of her family's history. In addition, descendants of the Loft and Ferguson families left information that they had obtained through their research. We found Moriah, but we also found a complex story of relationships that remains an ongoing puzzle.



We do not know the date or the location of this photograph. The adults from left to right are Catherine Loft (née McNamara), Catherine's sister Lizzie, Hannah Moriah Ferguson, and Hannah Moriah's youngest daughter, Sarah Ann Shackles Forrest, née Ferguson.

The three children on the left are Catherine's: Annie, James and John. The girl to the right is 'Mattie', latterly known as Martha Hannah Dewar, and the writer of the explanatory letter.

The season seems to be late autumn or very early spring. Mattie was born in 1899 as was James; therefore, this photograph was taken in the early 1900s. It is tempting to assign a date of 1905 or 1906 to the photograph. All the women except for Catherine's sister, Lizzie, are in dark, probably black, dresses. Catherine Loft lost her husband on 5 June 1905 in a mining accident in Waihi. Newspaper reports of the time reported the accident in gruesome detail. When John Loft fell from a cage, his injuries were horrific. In her letter, Martha Dewar noted that a leg, found after the rest of his body was recovered, was buried at a later date in his grave. Hannah Moriah Ferguson had been a widow since 1884. Sarah Forrest, deserted by her husband six months before their daughter, Mattie, was born, may have considered herself a widow. (James William Forrest was registered as dead in 1907.) More likely, the three were wearing mourning clothes specifically because of John Loft's death.

Hannah Moriah Ferguson, née Wake, was born on 21 August 1833 in Hull, England, to Anthony Wake, a timber merchant, and Hannah Moriah Shackles, a school teacher. The family baptismal records are below.

She sailed from England on 19 May 1853, on the ship *Banker's Daughter*, arriving in Geelong on 3 September. On the shipping document she is listed as being 20 years of age. She married in Melbourne on 3 April 1854 where her age is noted as being 22 years when she was not yet 21. Her occupation was listed as dressmaker; her husband, Richard Huckle, was listed as being 34 years of age and a plasterer. Both belonged to a nonconformist church, i.e. not Church of England. (Hannah Moriah had been baptised in 1838 at the Cogan Street Chapel, Independent or Congregational, Kingston upon Hull, York, England).

What happened to Hannah Moriah in the years after the wedding is unknown, but there is documentary evidence that Richard Huckle returned to England, remarried, and then journeyed back to Australia with a new wife.

Skipping 10 years forward in time, and across the Tasman Sea, 'Hannah Maria [sic] Thomas formerly, Wake' appears as mother on the birth certificate, below, of Elizabeth Thomas who was born in Cardrona in 1864. Martin Thomas is listed as the father.

Name	Parents' Names	When born	Where born	Baptized by -
William Shackles Wake son of	Anthony Shackles Wake, and Hannah Moriah Wake	Nov: 2. 1828	Martin and Gambro's Leeds	James Sibree Minister
Mary Elizabeth Wake Daughter of	Anthony Shackles Wake, and Hannah Moriah Wake	April 25 1830	Leeds	James Sibree Minister
Richard Boyes Wake Son of	Anthony Shackles Wake, and Hannah Moriah Wake	Nov: 14 1831	Holy Trinity Parish Hull	James Sibree Minister
Hannah Moriah Wake Daughter of	Anthony Shackles Wake, and Hannah Moriah Wake	Aug: 21 1833	Holy Trinity Parish Hull	James Sibree Minister
Thomas Moriah Shackles Wake, Son of	Anthony Shackles Wake, and Hannah Moriah Wake	Nov: 18 1835	Leeds	James Sibree Minister
David Ann Wake Daughter of	Anthony Shackles Wake, and Hannah Moriah Wake	Dec: 29. 1837	Holy Trinity Parish Hull	James Sibree Minister
Harriet Whitehead Daughter of	Thomas Whitehead and Ann Whitehead	Sep: 5 1855	Holy Trinity Parish Hull	James Sibree Minister
Henry Whitehead Son of	Thomas Whitehead and Ann Whitehead	Sep: 10 1857	Holy Trinity Parish Hull	James Sibree Minister

REGISTRAR'S RETURN OF ALL RETURNS OF BIRTHS IN THE REGISTERED-DISTRICT FOR THE DISTRICT OF <i>Cardrona</i> DURING THE QUARTER ENDING THE <i>30th</i> OF <i>September</i> , 1864.									
No.	When Born, and Where.	Sex.	Name and Surname of Father.	Name and Surname of Mother.	Rank or Profession of Father.	Signature, Description, and Residence of Informant.	When Registered.	Signature of Registrar.	Place, if other than Registrar's Office.
<i>112</i>	<i>15 September, Cardrona</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Martin Thomas</i>	<i>Hannah Moriah Thomas formerly, Wake</i>	<i>Miner</i>	<i>Martin Thomas, Cardrona 1864</i>	<i>15 September</i>	<i>Henry Brown</i>	

There is a Martin Thomas, 30 years of age, listed as a passenger on the ship *Norwester* which sailed from Victoria to Port Chalmers in 1862, but we don't know if he is the same person who was in Cardrona in 1864. A 'Mrs Thomas', listed as being 29 years of age, sailed from Victoria on the *Princess Royal*, with her final destination listed as Otago, New Zealand in February of 1863. Could he and Hannah Moriah have travelled separately from Australia to Otago and been together on the beach of the Arrow when it flooded in 1863 as recounted by Josephine Trail?

'M. Thomas' is listed as gold miner in Cardrona in 1864 on Kae Lewis's website of miners in the region. <http://www.kaelewis.com/> Is this Martin Thomas? And if so, what happened to him?

While John Ferguson is noted as being widower, Hannah Moriah is called spinster on the marriage certificate, below, dated 1871, that documents their union. (This document is a *registration* of marriage, but they were together in 1866 according to Ferguson's death notice from Arrow District Hospital.) With Richard Huckle and Martin Thomas preceding John Ferguson, Hannah Moriah was certainly not a spinster!

Form 12j

COPY OF REGISTER OF MARRIAGE.

1871. Marriages in the District of *Arrow*

27 JUN 1996
REGISTERED AT
FOWO HQT
REF NO: 1210696 277

No.	When and Where Married.	Names and Surnames of the Parties.	Age.	Rank or Profession.	Condition of Parties. 1. Bachelor or Spinster or as may be. 2. Married or Widower or as may be. 3. Divorced or as may be.	Where Married.	Parents' Names and Surnames (if known).	Mother's Name (if known).
114	1871. Jan'y 24. At House of Mr Ferguson Arrowtown	John Ferguson	full	miner	Widower	Arrowtown		
		Hannah Moriah Wake	full	—	Spinster			

MARRIED, after the delivery to me of the Certificate required by "The Marriage Act, 1856" by

This Marriage was solemnised between us,
John Ferguson
Hannah Moriah Wake

In the presence of us,
Richard Colley
Jessy Colley
Thos Geo Dugard Registrar Arrow

I CERTIFY that the above is a true copy of the entry in the Register-book of Marriages kept by me,
D. O. Hampton
 Officiating Minister

1780

John Ferguson was a miner in Cardrona. He was named in Arrowtown Council records of the 1870s and was cited in a newspaper article from 15 July 1868 when the resident magistrate and warden was farewelled from the district. He had a mining claim up the Arrow River adjacent to Swiper's claim. He served as 'Inspector of Nuisances' for the Arrowtown Council from 1876 to 1878 and also did roadworks in the town. His house, and by inference, Moriah's, was on Section 4, Block 17. This correlates to 6 Derby Street, Arrowtown.

From the register of John Ferguson's death in 1884, there is mention of **5 living children**. The oldest girl, **Lydia**, sometimes spelled Lyddea, was born in 1866. The copied birth certificate lists her mother as 'Anna Maria' but other details tie her to Hannah Moriah and John Ferguson.

The oldest son was **William Alfred**, born 1868.

The second son, who was alive at the time of his father's death, was **John Richard** who was born in 1872.

A third son, **Ralph**, who was born in 1873, died at 15 months of age, and was buried in the Arrowtown Cemetery. Lack of documentation in the current cemetery database is probably due to destruction of wooden grave markers in a fire during the 1940s.

The two youngest girls were **Eliza Wake** who was born in 1875 and **Sarah Ann Shackles**, born in 1878.

The puzzle generated by the photograph of the women and children was the connection between the Loft and Ferguson families. The link seems to be Annie Loft - an elusive person who exists by virtue of the 1899 marriage certificate of her son, John Loft, and Catherine McNamara. On that document, she is listed as Annie Ferguson, previously Loft, née Thomas. (A newspaper article announcing the Loft-McNamara marriage noted that the groom was the second son of the late John Loft.)

Part of the marriage certificate

COPY OF REGISTER OF MARRIAGES.

MARRIAGES in the District of *Arrowtown*

Date	Age	Rank or Position	Condition of Parties 1. Single or Married 2. Widowed or Divorced 3. Date of Divorce or Marriage (if applicable)	Birthplace	Residence 1. Present 2. Usual	Parents	
						Father's Name and Surname (1), and his Rank or Profession (2).	Mother's Name (1), and Maiden Surname (2).
33	Labrador			Shall England	1. Dunedin 2. Kipling	John Loft	Annie Ferguson formerly Loft née Thomas
34				Shall Kipling	1. Dunedin 2. Kipling	John Loft	Annie Ferguson formerly Loft née Thomas

Witnesses required by "The Marriage Act, 1899," by

In the presence of us,

P. C. Griffiths Registrar

Mary Ann McNamara Bride

Catherine sisters who married alexandra richardson

P. C. Griffiths Registrar

2429

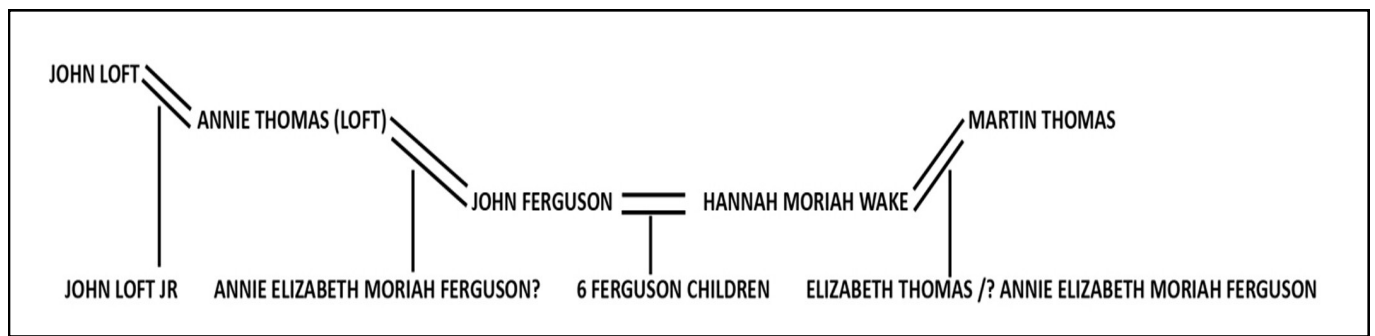
John Loft was considered brother to the children of Hannah Moriah and John Ferguson. This would account for his widow, Catherine, being with Hannah Moriah in the group photograph. There is another piece of information from the *Otago Daily Times* of 13 June 1905, below, that is relevant. On the same day that John Loft died, Hannah Moriah's youngest son, John Richard, is listed as having died in Waihi.

FERGUSON.—On the 5th June, 1905 (accidentally killed), at Waihi, North Island, John Richard, youngest son of Mrs John Ferguson, of Arrowtown; in his thirty-third year. Deeply mourned.

Could the reference really be to John Loft and the details scrambled? The newspaper reports of the accident note only the death of John Loft. The online register of deaths, <http://www.dia.govt.nz/Births-deaths-and-marriages>, notes John Loft's death in 1905. There is no John Ferguson listed as having died in 1905.

Adding to the puzzle is another Ferguson daughter, who was not included in the list of surviving Ferguson children, but who was considered sister to them. Her name was Annie Elizabeth Moriah Ferguson. Her birth certificate has not yet been found. She was probably born in 1865. (Her marriage certificate gives her age as 16 in 1880 but this might be incorrect.)

Josephine Churchill Trail was the granddaughter of Annie Elizabeth Moriah Ferguson. (Annie married Andrew Reid, and her oldest child was Hannah, Josephine's mother.) This explains the close connection between Josephine and Hannah Moriah.



This is where our research has brought us, and as of this writing, we have been able to go no further. Annie was either the daughter of Annie Loft and John Ferguson, or the Baby Elizabeth of Hannah Moriah and Martin Thomas. (Of note, Hannah Moriah Ferguson was witness at Annie's wedding to Andrew Reid and was listed as 'married woman' not mother.) There is the interesting coincidence of Annie Loft's maiden name being Thomas, and the father of Hannah Moriah's baby Elizabeth being named Martin Thomas. Could Annie Loft Ferguson have died, leaving a small son, (John Loft Junior), and a newborn baby? Could Hannah have adopted the boy and nursed baby Annie after her own baby died? Is this the origin of Annie Elizabeth Moriah Ferguson's four part name and, possibly, Josephine's story of a mother's death and Moriah's intervention with twins? And is it just coincidence that Hannah Moriah Wake was born in Hull as was John Loft Jr? (His birth certificate has not yet been found.) Regarding Annie Loft Ferguson and Annie Elizabeth Moriah Ferguson, we have more questions than answers!

After 1884 when her husband, John Ferguson, died, Hannah Moriah stayed in Arrowtown. She still had two young daughters to raise. She was a nurse and midwife in the area, binding broken limbs, stitching gashed skin and helping women through childbirth. In her book, Josephine Churchill Trail told of time spent with Moriah when she was sent from Bullendale to go to school in Arrowtown. Possibly other children were under her care as well.

Josephine Trail also told a story of harsh times on the goldfields:

But there was another side to Moriah. She could be stern, she could be bitter and she could be an avenger. In her own day she stock-whipped a monster of a husband, aided by other indignant wives armed with stout sticks. He was an odd-bod of a man who worked a claim in one of the dim, sunless gullies up one of the tributaries of the Arrow River.

He disappeared entirely for some time, but returned one day with a beautiful young bride who trudged behind him carrying her own heavy carpet-travelling bag and hand-grip up the Arrow Gorge, and that was the first and the last anyone saw of her. Miners' wives sent invitations to dinner, to spend Sundays, to come to concerts, to sing-songs, but no replies ever came back of acceptance or of refusal.

Angered and concerned for the pretty young bride, Moriah and a dozen other women one day crept up amongst the tussocks and waited until they were sure the husband was safely away at his claim. Then, stealthily, they made their way down to the rough cabin.

There they found the miserable little bride securely fastened by her leg to a heavy piece of mining equipment. There was enough rope for her to move about a few yards outside the cabin and for her to prepare a meal inside, but as far as setting out on a visit to another woman was concerned, there wasn't a chance. The girl pleaded with them to hurry away before her husband returned. She was so truly scared that the women went but not before promising that they would return and help her to escape.

The next Saturday night was the night he came down for provisions. The women quietly watched him swagger into town, then Moriah took her stock-whip and the other women their stout sticks, went up-river and concealed themselves in the tussocks just above the track he would take on his return journey.

Just before dusk, his drunken voice was heard cursing and bawling its way home again and as he drew level with them the women went into action. The stock-whip cracked and lashed and the stout sticks thudded. They left him lying unconscious on the hillside, quickly went down to the cabin and released the girl, then took her home with them to Moriah's cabin.

Where the young husband went, no-one knows. He was gone next morning and was not seen on the Otago goldfields ever again. For weeks Moriah and her friends petted, cosseted and nursed the young girl back to health again.

We do not know when Hannah Moriah left Arrowtown but her obituary notice in November 1915 states: 'Mrs Fergusson [sic], erstwhile a resident of the Arrow district, aged 86 years passed away at Lorne Farm, Invercargill....Deceased who has been in failing health for some years, lived with various members of her family until three months ago, when she became an inmate of Lorne Farm....'

Cause of death was listed as 'Senile Decay' which would cover a long list of potential medical conditions. Born in 1833, she would have been 82 years of age.

There is another mystery to add to Hannah Moriah's uxorial past. Her death certificate, on which her last name is Ferguson, lists a prior marriage to a Michael Mitchell! But we have found no documentation of that marriage.

This photograph, opposite, is of Block 1 in the Queenstown Cemetery where Hannah Moriah was buried. Her grave has an unmarked or missing headstone, as is true for others in this block. Did her patchwork quilt get buried with her?

What an incredible life this woman had, journeying by ship from England to Australia and thence to New Zealand where she arrived during, or before the Otago gold-rush. Undoubtedly, there were other women like her on the goldfields of Otago. Because of her unusual name and Josephine Trail's book, she has not been buried and forgotten in archival documents.

In searching for Hannah Moriah, we learned some lessons in genealogy. Not everything is available on the internet! Original documents may be misleading: names can be misspelled; ages may be wrong; registration of an event, such as a marriage, does not necessarily correlate with the time of the event; copied documents may introduce mistakes; women are more difficult to trace than men because, until recent times, their last name always changed with marriage. Husbands and wives, separated by the sea, reverted to being 'single' in some cases.

Just because something can't be documented doesn't mean that it didn't happen. Original documents may have been destroyed, grave markers (e.g. the early wooden markers in Arrowtown) can be gone, and stillborn infants or miners who went missing may not have been registered as having died.

Recollections and stories connect a name to a person. There are often subtle changes in the telling of a story as it is handed down to descendants; collapse of events and people into a single timeframe occurs. Some events considered shameful at the time are hidden by elders in the family and never passed down in family lore.

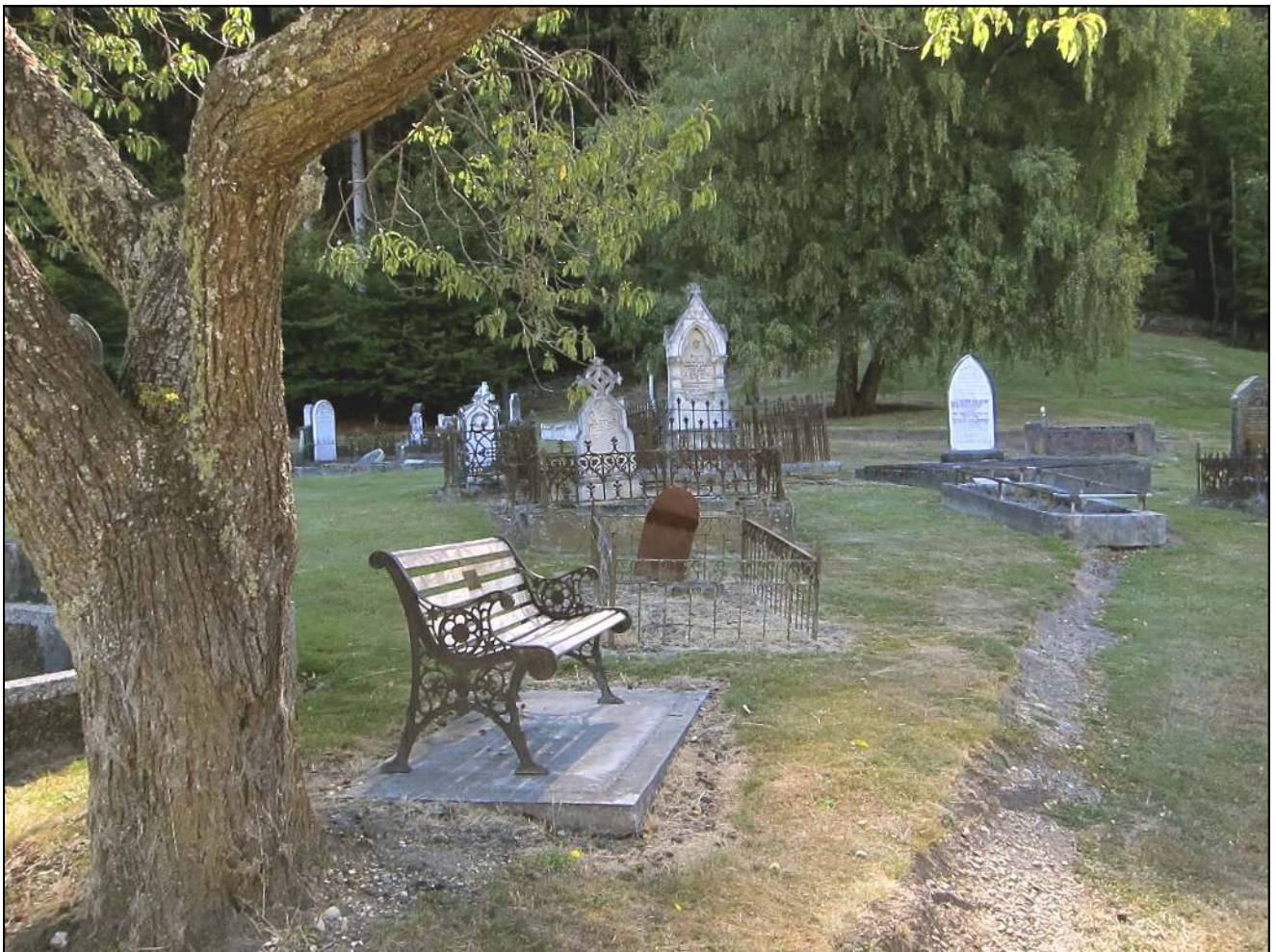
We have also learned that the envelopes in the filing cabinets of the museum carry the

fingerprints of descendants as well as the memorabilia of the past. It has been a great pleasure for the authors to collaborate on this article and bring Hannah Moriah's story, such as we know it, to you. The search for the elusive Annie Loft continues!

Thanks to Olwyn Whitehouse for the initial and vital clue to Moriah's last name; Lakes District Museum for access to archives and photographs; Maurice Trail who helped in contacting Jean Davidson and Aileen Fletcher (Josephine Trail's daughters who provided family history and whom we also thank); Maxine Alterio for information regarding pioneer women of the Otago Gold Rush; Kae Lewis for her superb website on the gold rush, <http://www.kaelewis.com/> and her instant help; Jack Reid for historical information regarding John Ferguson in Arrowtown; Kay Healy, librarian at Queenstown Public Library; Kaye Saunders in Dunedin who provided documentation of Hannah Moriah's birth; Paddy-Ann Pemberton, Central Otago's Town Crier, Holly Pemberton, Kara (Murdoch) Leckie, Raymond O'Callaghan, Judith Franklin, Lindsay Churchill and other helpful sources.

Postscript: If any readers of this article have information regarding the Loft/Ferguson family, and in particular, the history of Annie Thomas Loft Ferguson, the Archives Department of the Lakes District Museum would be very interested.

Email address is archives@museumqueenstown.com



HISTORICAL CUTTINGS

This is the third of occasional notes from **Rita L. Teele** (enthusiastic but amateur botanist) with the help of **Jack Reid, Margaret and Graeme O'Callaghan, and Beverley Ford.**

A Horse's Tale and a Cat's Ear

At the very beginning of the Gold Rush in 1862, John (Jack) O'Callaghan was in the district with Bill Fox, Richard Cotter and William Melody. Beginning in 1915 O'Callaghan's son (John Junior) lived with his family in the handsome stone house, which has adjacent stables, on Caernarvon Street in Arrowtown. The O'Callaghan connection with Arrowtown continues: 150 years since the gold rush, the pioneer's great-grandson, Graeme, lives in the town, and another great-grandson, Raymond, often visits.

Less known in the historical annals is the performance of one of the pioneer's grandsons, (also called Jack), during the summer of 1925-26. During that time, the New Zealand and South Seas International Exhibition was in full swing in Dunedin, and sideshows and rodeos sprang up around the city to take advantage of the visiting crowds.

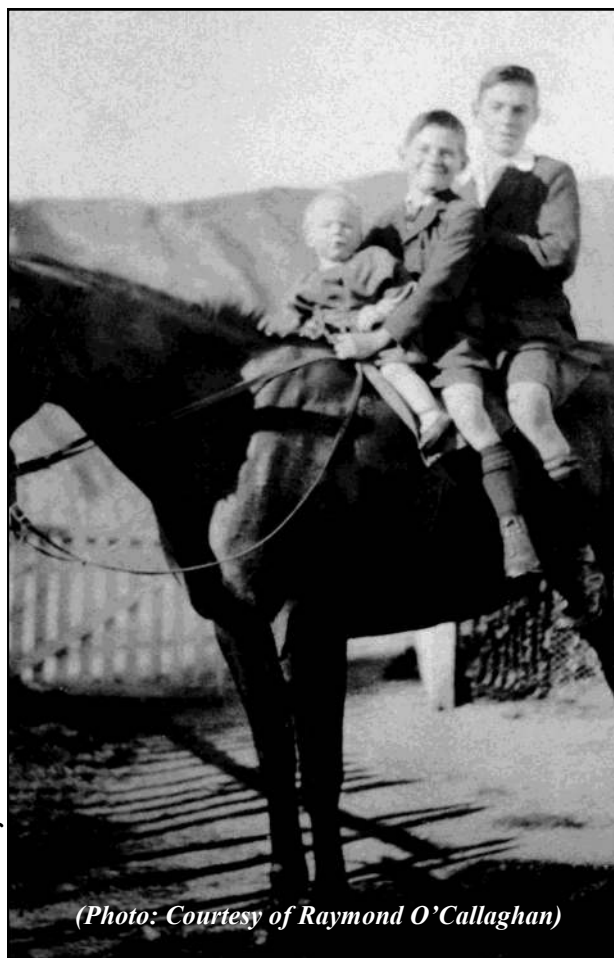
18-year-old Jack managed to stay on a 'buckjumper', the term for a bucking horse, at one of the Dunedin rodeos. This was a situation considered highly unlikely by the men who had offered a gold medal and cash prize for the feat. In fact, the crowd shamed the owners into living up to their promise.

How did Jack ride the buckjumper to a standstill? And what is the connection to botany?

When Jack was a young lad he rode a horse named Cob from Arrowtown to the Crown Terrace School. Cob—often referred to as 'Cob the pony' by the family—had stringhalt. This affliction of ponies and horses is quite common in Australia and New Zealand and has been associated with the ingestion of an introduced weed, *Hypochaeris radicata*, popularly known as 'Catsear' because of the velvety touch to its leaves. Massey University is currently involved in research on the neurotoxin in this plant that is believed to be a cause of involuntary and exaggerated upward flexion or 'puppet-like' action in one or both hind legs of ponies and horses as they try to walk. Shakespeare is credited with coining the original word 'springhalt' in *Henry VIII* to describe the affected walk of courtiers. 'Springhalt' evolved into 'stringhalt'.

The rider of a pony or horse with stringhalt has to cope with sudden unexpected upheavals. One can imagine that young Jack O'Callaghan, on the long journeys to and from the Crown Terrace, quickly became expert at staying on Cob so as not to fall into the Arrow River.

This photograph of Cob, carrying Jack's three younger brothers - Eldrid, George (father of Raymond) and Tom - was taken about 1923 in Caernarvon Street.



(Photo: Courtesy of Raymond O'Callaghan)

You can see catsear throughout the district. It has yellow dandelion-like flowers, but the stems are forked rather than single. The leaves are lobed, form a rosette around the base of the plant, and are covered in fine hairs—just like a cat’s ear.



Beverley Ford, sister of Graeme O’Callaghan, sent the photographs, reproduced below, of their father’s medal. Note the name **J. Callaghan**, and initials **JC** on the medal. It was not uncommon in that era for the ‘O’ to be dropped from an Irish name, only to be replaced when conscription during WW II required names to match birth certificates.



CREATING OUR SMARTPHONE APP OF 64 HERITAGE SITES

By Marion Borrell

This is our current project, and to describe it as major would be an understatement. We have received a \$20,000 grant from the Southland Community Trust to assist with the cost of building the app, but the work involved is largely voluntary and very time-consuming. Anthony Mason, a history and computing graduate and local resident with wide experience in IT communications, came to us with the proposal and is constructing the site – a highly technical and expert job. Marion Borrell is preparing the contents, with help from others, and making much use of our archive of *Couriers*. The Lakes District Museum is allowing us to access their photographs and archives, in exchange, of course, for full acknowledgements. The app will be an excellent way of promoting our heritage much more widely. As there is much work still to be done, we don't have a date for completion.

A mock-up of the start of a thematic article about a collection of sites



Available on the internet, iphones, ipads, android phones and tablets

This means that people will be able to download and read it anywhere in the world. When in the district, people will see the QR barcode on buildings. Once they have downloaded the app, they will be alerted by their phones when they are near a site. Also they can walk, drive or cycle to the places that interest them.

Levels of information

There is a FREE level of information, which, for the 64 sites we're starting with, amounts to 28 A4 pages of written material with one photo of each site.

The second level of information, if people choose to know more, will cost a small amount, and will contain a longer article associated with the site with more photos.

In addition, the sites are sorted into Collections of 8-14 sites each with an overview article, and people can pay to download complete collections including the second-level articles.

The collections are: early Queenstown, gold, development of society and community, homes, civic development, rural life, engineering, commerce and trades, hotels and tourism, transport and infrastructure, and the Queenstown Trail.

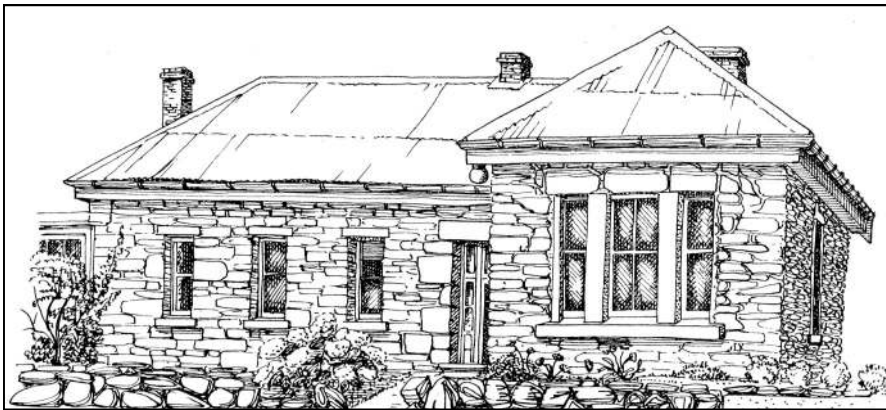
Sponsorship

Only two of the sites are not businesses, and the owners have given us permission to include them. The other sites are commercial, so the app will provide extra exposure to these businesses. We'll be offering sponsorship arrangements (not advertising) which will create an income for the Society. With this funding we hope to increase the number of sites, translate the app into other languages, and also fund our other projects.

Sample of one site

To whet your appetite, here's a sample of the free information and the second-level article. Photos of Frederick Daniel and the house as it is now are on the cover of this magazine.

Frederick Daniel's House, 47 Hallenstein St, Queenstown



Drawing by Audrey Bascand, 1971

Most of the early houses in Queenstown were wooden, but stone was more prestigious and durable. Frederick Daniel, who had this residence built in about 1874, arrived from England and set up an auctioneering business. A prominent citizen, he served a term as Mayor of the Queenstown Borough and was also both the Chairman and the Treasurer of the Lake County Council. The original building was a cottage, being the left wing between the two chimneys, at which time the middle window was the doorway. In 1887 the entrance hall and grander right wing were added. But the project came to an unexpected halt before the room behind the double chimney had been built. It is likely that financial and other troubles were the

cause, as Daniel's reputation was sullied by Philip Boulton's embezzlement of the County Council funds during Daniel's chairmanship, and the house was sold in a mortgagee sale in 1893. Subsequently it had various uses including as a maternity hospital. Later it was completed and extended to become the boutique accommodation it is today.

Collections: Homes and Civic

Frederick Daniel, and the Perils of Public Life and Enterprise

Daniel's story demonstrates how fickle the fortunes of early settlers could be. Born in Fairlight, Sussex in 1839, he came to New Zealand in about 1860 and married Clare Rose Paulin at Riverton in 1865. With a view to the future he bought a section in the first sale of land in Queenstown in 1864. He joined the Masonic Lodge, moved to the town to live, and set up in business as an auctioneer.

On a rising wave of prosperity, he built this house in Hallenstein St and entered public affairs, becoming Mayor of Queenstown in 1878 and 1879. However, in 1880, when he was at first re-elected, there were irregularities caused by an inept Returning Officer; the election was re-held but Daniel did not stand again. By that stage he was also Chairman and Treasurer of the Lake County Council. Throughout Daniel's 7-year tenure, the County Clerk, Philip B. Boulton, was conducting business in an inappropriate manner. The situation became a public scandal, and an audit revealed that £1,000 had been misappropriated by Boulton, rates books burnt to conceal theft, and other serious shortcomings. Boulton was duly tried and imprisoned. But Frederick Daniel was far from blameless. As Chairman and Treasurer, he should have been overseeing Boulton properly, and furthermore his own actions had been irregular, for example in claiming 'travelling expenses' for the stroll down the hill from his house to attend meetings. He had been known to settle his own accounts by deducting money due to the Council for rates. He was required to refund such money, but was not charged with embezzlement.

In 1886 Frederick Daniel was again in trouble, this time as the licensee of the Alpine Hotel in Glenorchy. When the Greenstone Licensing Committee did not renew his licence promptly, he protested by taking court action. The following year the Committee decided not to renew his licence. Unperturbed, Daniel continued to sell liquor until an undercover official found evidence of sly-grogging. He was convicted, fined, and had his liquor supplies confiscated. Perhaps setbacks such as this were the reason why his Queenstown house was sold in a mortgagee sale in 1893. Daniel continued as a publican until 1894. That year, accompanied by a son and a daughter, a lady from the UK and a guide, Joseph O'Leary, he climbed Mount Earnslaw. This was one of the earliest ascents of the mountain and the first by women.

Soon afterwards Daniel left for Sydney, then returned to Invercargill with a new, patented method of poisoning rabbits. He commenced manufacture and almost immediately three of his employees became violently ill, one dying. The inquest severely criticised Daniel for the lack of safety measures.

Whether he should be described as enterprising or high-handed, Frederick Daniel was certainly an aspiring and energetic member of the Wakatipu community from the 1860s until the end of the century.

Sources: A. J. De La Mare in *Wakatipu's Golden Days* (Lakes District Museum, 2000) and *The Queenstown Courier* Issue 45 (Queenstown and District Historical Society, 1991) which is available on our website, www.queenstownhistoricalsociety.org.nz.

LETITIA TOBIN NÉE NASH 1832-1919

Fifty-Five Years in the Arrow District

By Frances Lewis, a descendant of the Mackie family of the Crown Terrace

Adapted from a presentation of 'People From Our Past' at the Arrowtown Autumn Festival 2013

By the time of her death aged 87 Letitia was one of the oldest residents of Arrowtown not only in age but in residency, having lived in this area for 55 years.

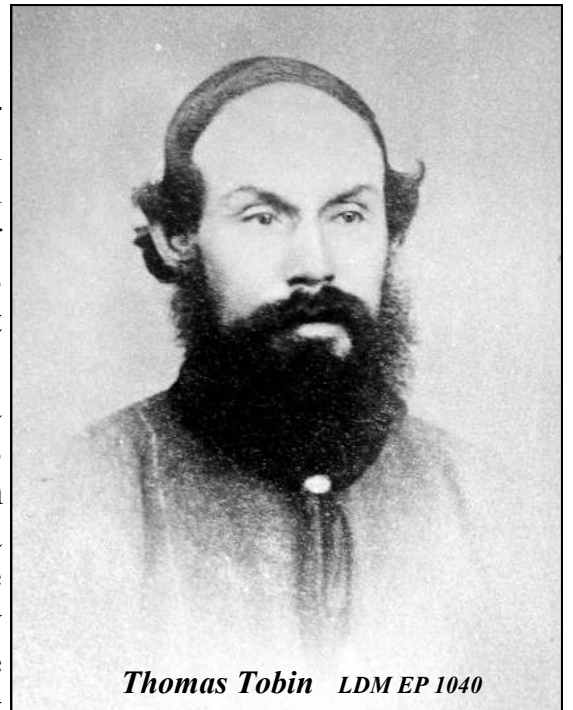
She was born Letitia Nash in Dorset but when she was quite young her Irish parents returned with their children to Rosscarbery County, Cork, Ireland where she grew up. In 1859 she took a passage to Australia, stayed there a short time then travelled to Dunedin where her sister lived.

She must have been a fit and adventurous young woman as she decided in 1864 to join the rush to the goldfields. Even though she had never ridden a horse before, she purchased one and set off. What a long arduous journey it must have been, rather terrifying initially, yet she travelled all the way to Macetown (or Twelve Mile, as it was called then), surely one of the most distant goldfields. She found work in Robert McDougall's haberdashery shop and it was there that she met Thomas Tobin. Thomas came from Enniscorthy, Wexford in Ireland. He had gone to Victoria, Australia during the gold-rush in the early 1850s and farmed for a while in Victoria before coming to New Zealand, arriving in Macetown in 1862. They were married in September 1865. They lived in Macetown for nearly ten years and their oldest three children, Martin, Tom and Pat were born.

In 1874 Thomas was awarded the contract to make a road from Arrowtown to the Crown Terrace. This was very important as access to the gold-fields from Cromwell, Wanaka, and Cardrona. Thomas built a stone cottage for his growing family a short distance up the hill from the ford across the Arrow River. They planted poplar and fruit trees around the cottage which was not surrounded by forest in those days but had wide views over Arrowtown and down the river, and afternoon sunshine. The poplars or their offspring are still there marking the site.



Letitia and her daughter Annie LDM EP0193



Thomas Tobin LDM EP 1040

Letitia and Thomas had five more children, Catherine, Mary, Annie, Andrew and Letitia.

The road was well-used, and people would stop to talk on their way up or down the track. The Mackie children from Crown Terrace (See next article) always called in on their way home from school in Arrowtown for a drink of water and Letitia always found a slice of bread or something extra for them.

Thomas toiled for eight years building and maintaining the track. One cold July evening after a hard day's work he stood chatting to passers-by and caught a chill. He died of pneumonia at the beginning of August 1882 aged 51.

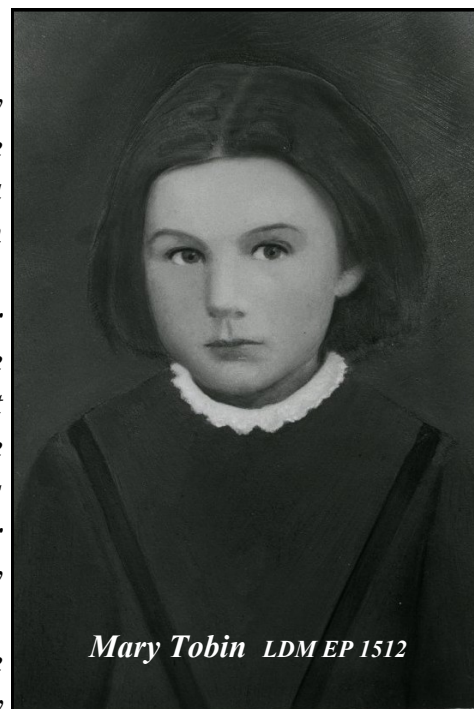
Letitia and the eight children stayed in the house and many people were kind to them. Martin took over his father's work and continued this for many years.

Tragedy struck again a few months after Thomas's death. Tom aged 15 drowned while swimming at Whitechapel. It is said that he was trying to retrieve an object thrown into the river by a friend as a dare.

Misfortunes continued. In April 1884 when Letitia was away from home, some of the children playing in the outhouse with matches set fire to it. It was a calm day and fortunately the fire didn't spread or they would have lost the house as well.

More tragedy came in March 1886, as reported in the *Otago Witness*:

'A very sad accident occurred on Saturday last about noon, by which Mary Tobin, 14 years of age, lost her life. Attempting to cross a temporary plank over the Arrow River ... while the river was in high flood, she fell off the plank, but clung to the fencing wire which served for a handrail, her body falling across the plank. In this position she was seen by her brother [Pat] from his mother's house, which overlooks the scene of the accident. He ran to her assistance with another man [Mr Bailey]. They tied a rope to her body in order to haul her off the plank, but the weight being too much for their combined efforts, the unfortunate girl ... slipped into the current, which swept her away in its muddy stream. The loss is a very distressing one to her widowed mother, who a few years ago lost her husband very suddenly, and a few months after his death her eldest son ... The greatest sympathy is felt for Mrs Tobin, who is the mother of a large family – a number of them being still very young – and who is not in the best of circumstances.' Her body was eventually found at Bannockburn, 40 miles downstream.



Mary Tobin LDM EP 1512

Martin Tobin also drowned, in 1900, in a mining accident in a tunnel at Skippers Point when aged 34.

Pat Tobin became editor of the Lakes County Press in Arrowtown. After the family home was destroyed by another fire, he bought a house in Merioneth Street in Arrowtown in 1910 for £70.15s.9d to provide for his mother and remaining siblings.

Letitia lived in the cottage until her death in 1919. Her obituary describes her as 'an exemplary Christian woman. Her qualities of sympathy, charity, and neighbourliness were proved over and over again during her long residence in the gold-mining townships with which she was associated.'



Tobin's Cottage, 31 Merioneth Street now.

After Pat died in 1941 the cottage was left to his widowed sister, Annie McClintock. It has been modernised a little bit but still looks much the same as it did when Letitia lived there.

A cairn, right, has been erected near the site of their home beside Tobin's Track to commemorate Thomas Tobin's hard work. It is fitting that the efforts of the early pioneers are recognised and that their names should live on in the names of roads, streets, hills, settlements and districts.

Sources:

'Opening of the Cairn Commemorating the Life of Thomas Tobin 1831-1882' by Philip Maurice James, *Queenstown Courier* Issue 61 1998

'In Tobin's Tracks' by Annabelle O'Meara, *Mountain Scene* 27 March 1997

The Tobin family file in the Lakes District Museum

Lake County Press 20 March 1886, accessed from <http://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz>



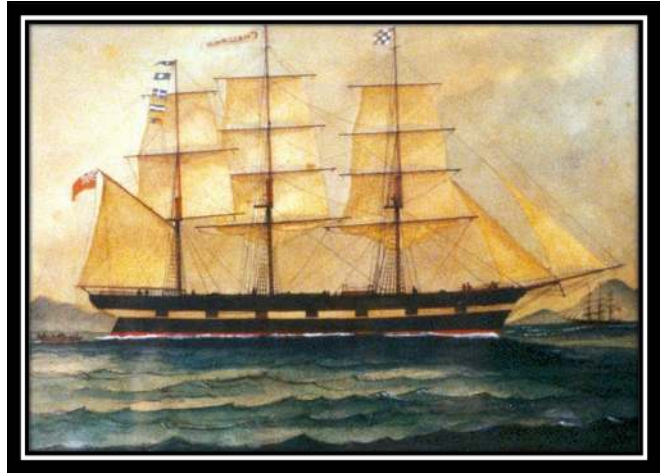
HELEN EWING-MACKIE-THOMAS, c1841-1884

Pioneer on the Crown Terrace

By Barbara Kerr, her great-granddaughter

Adapted from a presentation of 'People From Our Past' at the Arrowtown Autumn Festival 2013

Helen was born in Glasgow in 1841 where her father was a blacksmith. She became a domestic servant, but times were hard, so when she heard of a scheme which would pay the fares for young women to emigrate to New Zealand, the opportunity seemed too good to miss. In 1865 she sailed in the *Peter Denny*, pictured right, on its maiden voyage, appropriately perhaps with 32 other young women, and arrived 92 days later at Port Chalmers. They received a hearty welcome as young women were in short supply in Otago. Within three days almost all of the group had either employment or a husband.



Helen, however, took her time and found her way to Central Otago where she met a good man, a miner and shepherd of Cambrians. She married Gilbert Mackie at Dunstan at the start of 1868. Their first daughter, Mary-Ann, was born at Welshman's Gully, now Cambrians. Almost a year later they shifted, Helen on horseback with the baby on her back and pregnant with David, and Gilbert leading a packhorse. They came through Thomson's Gorge, up the Cardrona Valley, then over the Crown Range to Mt Beetham on the Crown Terrace. They were probably the first family to settle on the Terrace. Gilbert built them a two-roomed



cottage of clay and schist near a stream. They had 100 and later 200 acres, running sheep and cattle, and growing grain. The land was very fertile producing very good grain crops of

wheat and oats for flour and stock feed. Gilbert owned the first threshing mill on the terrace. They also had a good garden of fruit and vegetables so the harvest was a busy time making provision for winter.

One disaster occurred with a mob of cattle which Gilbert was driving. At the far end of the terrace the mob found a salt lick on the steep side of a ravine. The mob stampeded for the lick, pushing to get at it until at least 20 were crushed or pushed to tumble to their deaths into the ravine.

Helen's work was constant, looking after the growing family – Mary-Ann, David, Annie, Ellen, Jessie and Jack. She made bread in a camp oven and milked cows and churned butter to provide for the family as well as supplying the many miners in Brackens Gully. Fuel for the fire was varied as wood was scarce. Some coal was available from the coalmine at Gibbston, and often the dried cow-pats were burned as fuel.

In 1877 Gilbert took up a lease of the Shielburn, Run 22, up the Shotover River to graze 2000 sheep. When he was away there, Helen and the children ran the home farm. Helen considered herself fortunate to have good neighbours to help when the need arose, and the children had to accept responsibility from an early age, doing the milking and feeding animals before they set off to school down Tobins Track to Arrowtown – a long walk for little legs. Often on their way home from school they would stop and politely ask Mrs Tobin for a drink of water. She always obliged and also had a little food for them to set them on their way.

During the great flood of 1878 there was an anxious incident. Gilbert had gone down Tobins Track for supplies. It was getting late and the river was rising, so Helen and Davie started down the track to find him. They spotted him crossing the river and watched in horror as the current swept him away and out of sight. To their great relief he was able to reach the bank and eventually arrived home safely.

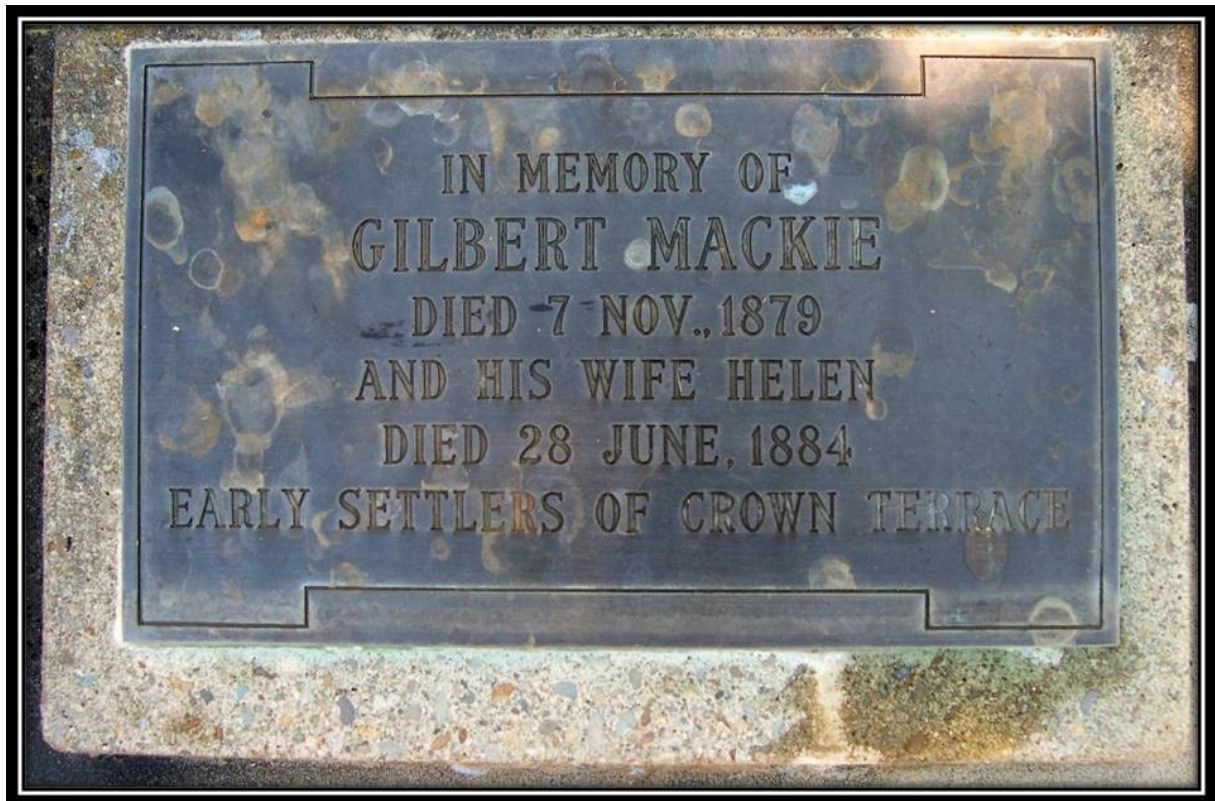
In early November that year there was a heavy snowfall and Gilbert had to go to Shielburn to check his stock. Coming home, he was caught in a snowdrift and got a dunking in the river, arriving home thoroughly chilled and wet through. He developed pneumonia and died aged 40. Jack was not three months old and Mary-Ann, the oldest child was eleven. Helen continued to run the farm, helped by the children and kindly neighbours.



Gilbert and Helen

In the following summer during the harvest the children were playing in the crop, unbeknown to Mr Graham who was cutting the grain with his horse-drawn mower, and three-year-old Jessie's foot was cut off. Helen rushed out with a bag of flour and put Jessie's leg into the flour to stanch the bleeding. Mr Graham rode with Jessie in great haste straight down off the terrace and through the river to the Arrowtown doctor's house. The flour and his ride saved Jessie's life.

In 1881 Helen married George Thomas, a farm hand, and continued to live and work on the farm. In 1882 Alf was born, but in 1883, when pregnant with her next child, Helen was diagnosed with breast cancer. A month after George William Thomas was born, Helen was hospitalised in great pain. The doctors decided to remove her breast, but the strain was too great, and she died. They said it was from exhaustion. She was aged 43.



Her eight children were left in the care of George Thomas, but after a very short while he left some money and gave the two littlest boys to a kind family in Arrowtown to raise. Fifteen-year-old Mary-Ann took care of the other children for nearly a year until she married Charles O'Fee. David was then employed by local folk on the Terrace, and Ellen went to live with a family at Brackens for a time until she became employed by Mrs Hunter. Annie moved to employment in Invercargill, eventually taking Jessie with her to ensure she learned dressmaking in case her disability left her unmarried. Fortunately it didn't. Four-year-old Jack was taken in by Mrs Hazeel as part of her family.

Helen was a very resourceful person who coped with an arduous life. Also notable in this story are her own children, especially Mary-Ann, and the wonderful neighbours who pulled together in those difficult times.

Photos and information from the Mackie family and descendants.

IN DEFENCE OF JACK HANLEY'S NAME

John (Jack) Hanley, c1855-1941

By Marion Borrell

When a huge 520-hectare subdivision for 2,400 new houses was proposed last year on part of the former Kawarau Falls Station, the name chosen by the developers was 'Henley Downs'. However, Rupert Iles pointed out that the correct name was 'Hanley', so the Society set about defending Jack's name, and has been successful in having the spelling corrected.



From Our Submission

'Hanley Downs' has been the name probably since the 1870s. Jack Hanley was a farmer who received the paddock from Bendix Hallenstein who did not own it. A court case ensued. It's a revealing story. Our source is the late Jessie Jardine, wife of Cap (Dickson) Jardine whose family owned Kawarau Falls Station from 1922 until very recently. She told Rupert Iles who published it in the Historical Society's magazine, the *Queenstown Courier*, Issue 76, Winter 2006, pp.8-9. The magazine can be read on our website.

She related: Kawarau Falls Station was owned by the Boyes Brothers from 1866 to 1886. The land between Peninsula Hill [now Deer Park Heights] and the foot of the Remarkables was essential for the welfare of the property, growing hay and turnips for feed before the sheep were mustered down from the mountains to the lower country for winter grazing. Bendix Hallenstein, with an eye to acquiring more land for settlers to grow wheat for the Brunswick Flour Mill, had some of the land marked off into paddocks. To this day these areas still bear the names of the settlers - Cunningham, Black, Henderson and Jack Hanley - who were to grow wheat there.

Mrs Betty Boyes told of the Boyes Brothers, trying to protect their interests, taking Hallenstein to court and bringing W.G. Rees to bear witness for them. Their case must have been successful because when Dickson Jardine and family acquired Kawarau Falls Station in 1922, these areas were part of it.

When approving names for streets, it is the policy of QLDC to favour names which have historical significance, and the same principle surely applies to subdivisions. 'Jack's Point' is a fine example of a significant name which enhances the image of the development.

We therefore submit that the name should be corrected to honour our history. The story behind the name, involving as it does famous people and competition for land between pastoral and arable farming in the early days of colonial settlement, may even be seen as an asset by the developers.

More about Jack Hanley

Our search did not reveal any family, so we have only what is in the public record. When he was buried in the Frankton cemetery in 1941 aged 86, he was described in the records as a labourer. Fortunately, his obituary from the *Lake Wakatipu Mail* tells more.

He was born in Tipperary and arrived in this district in 1873 aged about 18 at a time when there was plenty of work for active men. Apart from two years away, he lived the rest of his long life here, being involved in a series of jobs which give a good picture of activities in the district. At first he was employed as a roadman on the Macetown Road – a very necessary and strenuous occupation. He went on to farm work at Lake Hayes, and as shearer and rabbitier mainly on Kawarau Falls Station. He lived at Frankton, and worked until a mere five years before his death, which would mean that he didn't retire until he was over 80! In his younger days he was a noted athlete, having success in track and field events, and was also a prominent footballer. Maybe this explains his active old age. The obituary describes him as being 'typically Irish in manner and conversation' (whatever that means) and as 'good-hearted with many friends.' His Requiem Mass was held at St Joseph's Church in Queenstown.

If anyone can add to this sketchy biography, please let us know. We hope that soon, when the *Lake Wakatipu Mail* and the *Lake County Press* are digitised and able to be searched on the Papers Past website, we'll be able to learn more about Jack Hanley's life.

BACKGROUND TO THE 2014 CALENDAR

JULY TO DECEMBER

July: Coronet Peak Ski-field, 1947

Memories of Early Skiing on Coronet Peak

By Paddy Strain

Harry and Sandy Wigley from the Mount Cook Company asked Bill Hamilton of jet-boat fame to build this rope tow in 1947. The timber for the shed came from an old hut on the Crown Range, as timber was very scarce after the war. The engine to drive the tow was taken from a bus for the winter season and was put back into the bus for the summer.

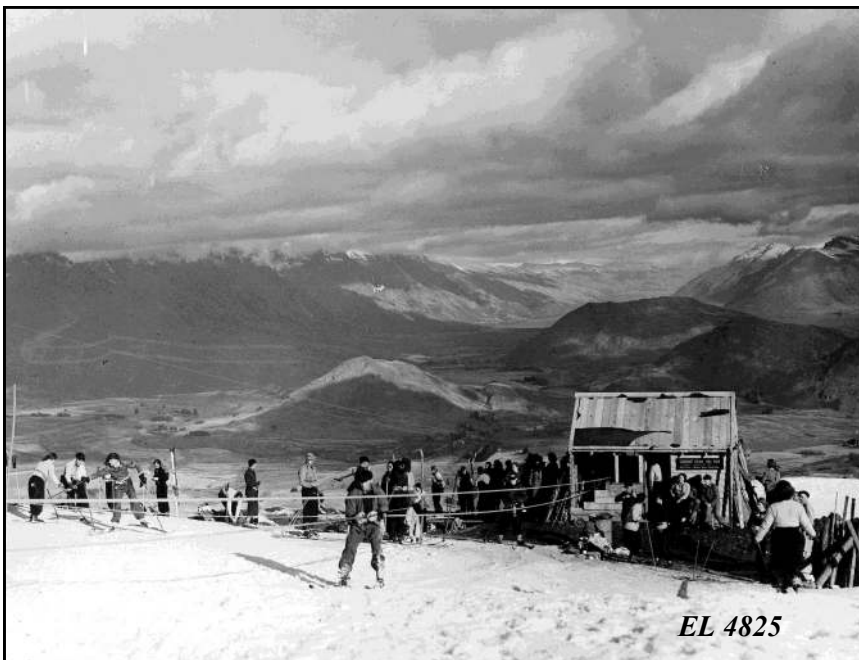
This rope tow was only in this location for a year. The following year it was moved to the back of Old Man Rock. In 1949 it re-located to what was called Happy Valley which is where the lifts are today.

This tow represented an enormous step in the development of skiing, as prior to this skiers would use skins to climb up to the top of Coronet Peak, then ski down at the end of the day. Those who were less capable were left at the Skippers Saddle, side-stepping or herringbone stepping up the hills before skiing down. So the actual mileage of downhill skiing was very little for the whole day.

The rope tow had its little foibles to watch out for, the worst being the continual twist of the rope. If you had any loose clothing or hair, it would get caught in the rope and you would have to extricate yourself before getting to the next pulley. In the case of hair, this only happened once to my knowledge with a hunk of hair going round and round in the rope for the rest of the day. The tow would have to stop at times while they re-spliced the rope. Children who were too young to use the nutcracker tow belt had to hold on with their hands and let go at the pulley, walk around and then grab hold again to continue on their way. Missing from the picture is the iconic Pie Palace which sold pies and tinned tomato soup to the hungry skiers.

The Mount Cook bus which left Queenstown at 8am and returned at 4pm was driven by Snowy Hansen with his ever-present sheepdog, Skip. All the keen skiers were on his bus as it generally got further up the road than all the other buses. Usually we had to walk from the Skippers Saddle.

Ski storage in those days was just sticking your skis into the snow and leaving them there until you returned.



Copyright: Theo White, White's Aviation Photographs, Ref WA-08970-G, Alexander Turnbull Library.

In 1947 Olaf Rodegard from Sun Valley, Idaho, was employed as the ski instructor. He was the first instructor to come from Sun Valley, but not the first instructor on Coronet Peak. In 1939 Otto Santner from Austria had been employed. Unfortunately, when war was declared, the local policeman was meant to arrest him as an enemy alien. However, Otto went to see him with a bottle of whiskey, after which the Southland Ski Club managed to get him on a boat leaving from Bluff for South America.

Skiing has come a long way since the days of long wooden skis, tramping boots, bulky woollen clothing and rope tows. We now have short lightweight skis, hi-tech boots and clothing, high speed chairlifts and snow-making.

Skiing is now an activity for everyone, thanks to those hardy, dedicated pioneers of the sport.

August: Arrowtown School, Anglesea St, c1905

By Shona Blair

After the gold rush started in 1862 there was soon an influx of women and children following their men to the Arrow.

This stone school was built in 1875, but unfortunately has been demolished. The only reminder left is the stone wall in Anglesea Street. However, before this school there was an earlier one established in 1863 which was on the Old Royal Oak site in Buckingham St where the beer garden used to be. There is no photographic evidence of this building.

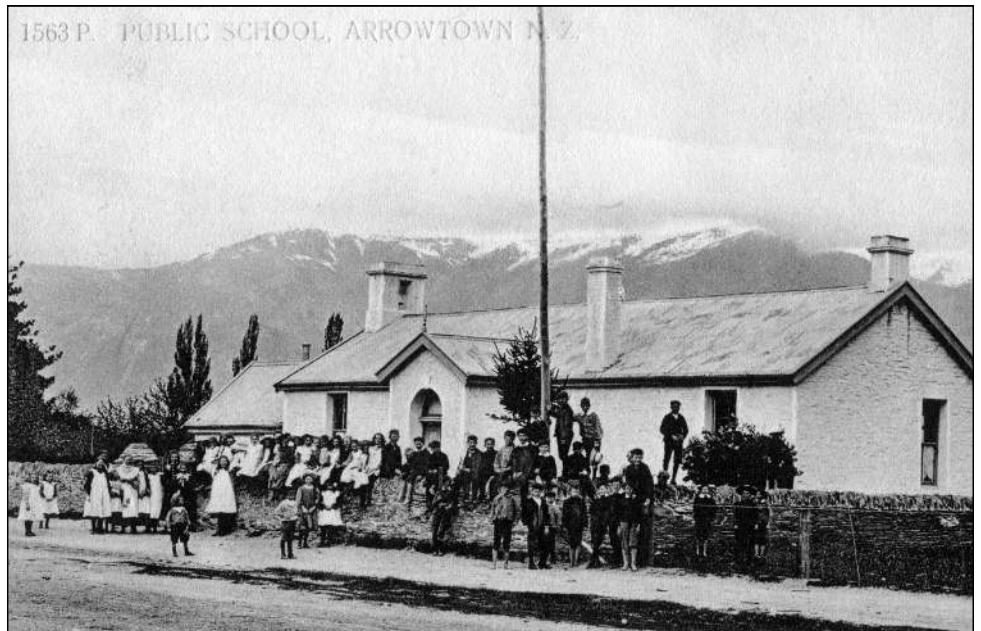


Photo credit: Postcard courtesy of George Singleton

The stone school was built by the Southland Education board. The architect was Frederick W. Burwell who also designed the stone Presbyterian and Catholic churches in Arrowtown. The school had two classrooms and a bell shed at the end. On the far side a wooden room was added which in my day was the store room, craft room, art room. We also went there to see the Public health Nurse, Miss Poole, who tested our eyes and ears and gave those polio injections - not great memories for a child re-entering this room.

When I was there in the late 1950s and early 1960s there was a pot-belly stove in each classroom, and when stoked up they really used to heat up the rooms. I can remember its pot belly glowing red on cold winter days. Going to the toilet was a mission in rain, hail and snow. The boys' and girls' toilets were long-drops side by side and separated by a corrugated iron partition. They were right across the playground close to a large play-shed where we had shelter from the elements. Being outside was where we were all expected to be in all

school breaks. We tended the school gardens, now Rose Douglas Park. We were allowed to have our lunch in this garden and I remember the goldfish pond at the bottom of the gardens. Those tubby goldfish had portions of our sandwiches.

According to the booklet issued at the official opening of the new school in 1997 these classrooms originally had open fires and they were nearly impossible to heat or light. Most of the heat went up the chimney and, in the winter the ink froze in the wells and the slates had to be heated in front of the fires before the children could use them. My grandfather experienced these conditions, so no wonder he left school at 13 to work for his father!

In 1929 the school was renovated and more windows were installed which improved the lighting and heating. This building then lasted until 1964 when, sadly, it was demolished. On the school land next to Caernarvon Street a new school was built. It was thought that this new school would last for many years, however, Arrowtown's growth was one of the fastest in New Zealand and it soon became inadequate, so more classrooms were added.

Land was purchased in the Adamson subdivision and a 10-classroom school was built in 1996-7. At that time there would have been 200 pupils at the school. There are toilets inside between the classrooms. Most classrooms have under-floor heating and heat pumps - what luxury! The school hall was added in 2007 and is used by the community as well.

Now, in 2013, the roll is around 450 pupils. We have Year 7 and 8 (Form 1 and 2) pupils at the school, a further 10 classrooms have been added, and four more classrooms are being planned, 2 upstairs and 2 down. The library is currently being used as a classroom. Fund-raising is happening for a media room. Around the perimeter of the school is an adventure playground where children can exercise around a mini-course.

Labour Weekend 2013 was the 150-year celebration. Education in Arrowtown has certainly expanded in 150 years.

Sources

Arrowtown School Official Opening, Commemorative Programme, 1997

Shona Blair, memories of school days 1956-1963

Sofie Arhamic, current pupil of Arrowtown School

September: Rees St, Queenstown, in the 1878 Flood

By Ralph Hanan

For the Wakatipu district and Central and South Otago, 1878 was the year of the great flood. Many towns along the Clutha River were inundated as the river overflowed its banks, causing widespread damage to property and loss of livestock.

The winter of 1878 was one of the most severe on record. From mid-May through August there was a succession of snow, hail, and sleet, along with cold temperatures. Snow piled up everywhere, and especially in the higher elevations around Lake Wakatipu and beyond Glenorchy. That was until September, when a nor-wester blew for several days. It brought a lot of rain which encouraged rapid melting of the snow.

On the evening of 24 September, heavy rain and wind began in Queenstown and continued for more than two days. On the 25th, Horne Creek overflowed its banks and water poured down Shotover, Beach, and Ballarat Streets, gouging deep channels. Shopkeepers took

protective measures, filling bags of sand and shoring up the fronts of their buildings. Several houses were damaged, as, alas, was Aitken's brewery.

With the town cleaning up, a second and more sinister calamity was unfolding. Lake Wakatipu had been rising and at midnight on 2 October, a



Wednesday, the lake flowed slowly into the town. Panic set in. People living in the lower parts of the town evacuated to higher ground. Three days later, on the Saturday, the waters had risen to about 1 metre above street level at the corner of Beach and Rees Streets. One report has it that the water reached the top of the bar counters at Eichardt's Hotel, seen here at the end of the street. [For those interested in figures, the mean level of Lake Wakatipu is 310 m. The 1878 flood level was about 312.30 m, 2.3 m above normal, or 70 cm above the level of Steamer Wharf.]

Then on the Saturday it began to rain again. Stormy winds blew on-shore, whipping up waves, and smashing floating timber like battering rams into the façades of buildings, causing a huge amount of damage. The next day, Sunday, Horne Creek overflowed again, causing yet more damage to the streets and property. We can only try to imagine the mess, and the courage and resilience of the local people as they set about cleaning up their town and bringing their lives back to normal.

Let's turn to the photo, taken as the water was receding. You'll see the high-water mark on Eichardt's Hotel. Across to the left, is Hallenstein's building, which today houses Wilkinson's pharmacy. Next to Hallenstein's is the old Bank of New Zealand building, a formidable and elegant structure.

By way of epilogue, the high-water mark of the November 1999 flood was 15 cm above that of the 1878 flood. Both levels are marked on a column erected near Steamer Wharf.

Some of us may wonder how it is that Lake Wakatipu can flood instead of draining down the Kawarau River. The answer lies in a water dam being created near the confluence of the Shotover and Kawarau Rivers when the Shotover is also in flood. At that point water builds up, effectively creating a water dam that constrains the flow from Frankton Arm. Remedial measures have been proposed. Contemplating the considerable private and public costs of another flood, I'd have thought that any reasonable cost:benefit analysis would have indicated that the problem should have been sorted by now.

Lake Hayes Cheese Factory

By Gavin Jack

We know from the book entitled *Dairy Factories of the South* by Ossie Collinson that the factory and the house to the right were built in 1912. One hundred years ago all farms had house-cows, and many found it worthwhile to have additional cows in order to sell the milk and boost their incomes. The factory was established as a co-operative venture, owned by the milk suppliers of the district, of whom at one stage there were some 24, many of them up on the Crown Terrace, and nearby on Speargrass Flat. Between 1919 and 1925 the factory exported 30 tons of cheese per season. The manager who ran it for a long time was Bert Jackway. The last manager was Bill Smythe.



Painting by Thomas Brown

Little more is known of the fortunes of the factory, but clearly dairy farming in the Wakatipu did not continue to flourish, and so the factory eventually closed in 1958, after which the building had various uses including being a plumber's workshop.

Happily, in 1992, the property was bought by its present owners, Thomas and Elizabeth Brown, who have converted the old factory into an art studio, gallery and venue for concerts and other events. They have kindly allowed the Society to reproduce Thomas's painting which is a reconstruction of the way the cheese factory would have looked one hundred years ago.

November: Frankton Wharf, 1898

By Marion Borrell

The lake was a major transport route from the early days before there were good roads, and by 1863 there was a jetty at Frankton. The busy wharf in the photo was built in 1878 to handle wool and grain being sent away, while timber, coal, mining pipes, machinery and other goods were landed. Its site, 130 metres nearer Queenstown than the present pier, is marked by a plaque, donated by the Historical Society in 1992, situated on a large rock.



Postcard courtesy of George Singleton

The two newly-restored buildings near the present pier belong to Wakatipu's maritime past. The former Queenstown ticket office, moved here in 1936, was built in about 1869 beside Queenstown Bay by J.W. Robertson & Co as a store. It later became the ticket office of the NZ Railways which operated the *TSS Earnslaw*. The boatshed with slipway was built in the 1930s, and boats have received maintenance there ever since. In 1999 both buildings, by then owned by the Queenstown-Lakes District Council, were in danger of demolition. However, the Wakatipu Community Maritime Preservation Trust was formed, and in 2012 it completed major restorations. Excellent information panels in the Boatshed Café display the history of these buildings and of shipping on the lake.

December: Welcome Home Hotel, Skippers Road, 1890s Long Gully Hotels: Widows' Mite

By Danny Knudson

Men, be warned! If you are considering buying a hotel in Long Gully, you are doomed. Best that you marry a woman who will become a resourceful widow. The first such widow

in Long Gully was 'Green Gate Maggie' Balderson. Margaret, born in Ireland in 1826, was orphaned as an infant. As a young adult she joined the exodus to the gold-rushes in Australia where she hoped to find a husband. In that she was highly successful, marrying three of them. The first one died, the second one also died, but it was third time lucky for Margaret when she married John Balderson. At the first whiff



Postcard courtesy of George Singleton

of gold in Otago, Margaret and John set sail from Australia and headed to the Wakatipu, where in 1863 John staked a claim in Long Gully, and Margaret turned part of their cottage into a pub at Green Gate Saddle on the original bridle trail from Queenstown to Skippers. As a two-time widow, Green Gate Maggie was one tough cookie. She smoked a pipe filled with the strongest tobacco she could buy. One day, John was caught and buried in a landslide at his claim. He didn't arrive home for dinner and Maggie noticed. She raced down to John's claim, dug him out, bandaged his broken leg in a splint, and then she carried him home. Once the road to Skippers was built on the opposite side of Long Gully in 1888, John and Maggie closed their pub and retired to a cottage overlooking the new road where they felt closer to civilisation.

In 1863 another hotel was opened in Long Gully, also alongside the bridle trail to Skippers. This was the Travellers Rest Hotel operated by John and Violet McArthur. Sadness occurred for the McArthurs when their daughter of five weeks, baby Emily, died suddenly. Further tragedy occurred when husband John died of a stroke at the age of 41 in 1874. Now Violet

McArthur was another Long Gully widow. She continued to manage the hotel with help from her surviving daughter for another seven years until she sold the pub to a Swede named Peter Bell. Violet never remarried, but moved to Bullendale where she operated the Phoenix Hotel for 11 years until it burnt down in 1892. She was aged 90 when she died and was buried alongside her husband in Queenstown Cemetery.

Seven years into his tenure as owner of the Travellers Rest Hotel, Peter Bell experienced declining patronage when the road to Skippers was constructed on the opposite flank of Long Gully. Mysteriously, but fortuitously, the Travellers Rest burnt down and Bell transferred his licence to new premises he called the Long Gully Hotel, built alongside the road. The new pub was profitable for Bell until misfortune struck in 1899. He was thrown from his horse one winter's night in Long Gully, and was found next morning lying in the frozen water-table beside the road where he had died from head injuries and exposure. Margaret Balderson, twice widowed; Violet McArthur, widowed; now Honora Bell, all widowed in Long Gully. Honora continued to operate the hotel until her son, Laurie, sometimes called Harry, was old enough to take over. As a youngster living in Long Gully, Laurie had attended school at Millers Flat. Each school day he rode his horse up Long Gully to Skippers Saddle, down the Coronet Peak road and along Arrow Flat. That's 25 kilometres a day to school and back. It was Laurie Bell who changed the name of the pub to Welcome Home Hotel.

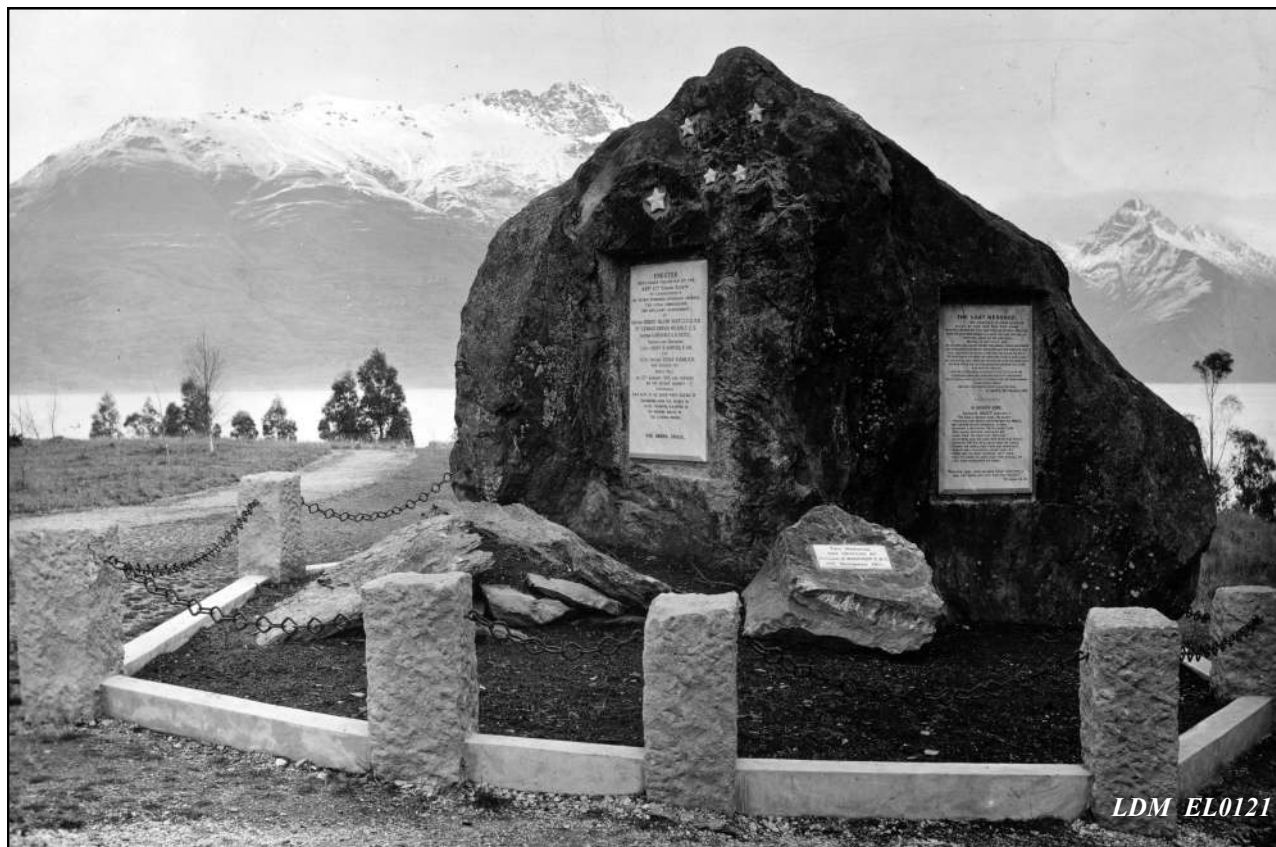
In 1908 Laurie sold the Welcome Home to Henry John Haines Lewis, known to everyone as Charlie Lewis. It wasn't until after she married Charlie that wife Sarah first saw the hotel where she was to live. Charlie tried different occupations including alluvial mining, underground mining at the Nugget mine near Skippers, carting stores from Queenstown and operating the mail delivery service to Upper Shotover. Charlie and Sarah had six children, but the family experienced sadness when Charlie died in 1915, son Thomas died in 1924 and daughter Adelaide, died two years later. Margaret Balderson, Violet McArthur, Honora Bell, now Sarah Lewis!

Like other widows in the Gully, Sarah continued to operate the family hotel. It had to be rebuilt following a serious fire in 1930. Later a prominent verandah was erected along the road front. Sarah enlivened the business by introducing a catering service for passengers on coaches driven daily from Queenstown to Skippers and back. On the outward journey, Sarah found how many visitors would dine at the Welcome Home Hotel on the homeward journey. She prepared a sumptuous cooked meal of home-grown vegetables, and fresh meat killed on the property. The dinner cost two shillings. Sarah's culinary skills became legendary in the Wakatipu, and residents journeyed to the foot of Long Gully to dine there for Christmas or New Year's dinner, birthday celebrations and the like. Sports meetings were held for Shotover locals each year on the roadway outside the hotel. Sarah proved fast enough to lift her hem sufficiently to be placed in the open races for women. Of course, her hotel was available for losers to toast the winners, and the winners to shout the bar.

The Welcome Home Hotel effectively closed in 1942 by which time the goldfields' population had diminished. By the end of the decade the sheets of corrugated iron used as cladding on some walls and on the roof had been removed for a private property at Lake Hayes. All that is left now are two tall chimneys which mark the site and commemorate one of the hotels of Long Gully where male publicans died prematurely, and were succeeded by enterprising hotel proprietors - their widows.

THREE MEMORIALS IN THE QUEENSTOWN GARDENS

By Marion Borrell



One hundred and two years ago the British Empire was dismayed by the deaths of Scott, Henry Robertson Bowers, Edgar Evans, Lawrence Edward Grace Oates, and Edward Adrian Wilson while returning from the South Pole. New Zealand had a particular connection due to Lyttelton being the expedition's last port, and the news of the disaster being relayed to the world from Christchurch. Scott was a patriotic hero, seen to embody the finest British values.

In Queenstown the deaths stirred powerful emotions in a community which identified strongly with Britain where many citizens had been born or maintained strong family ties.

The memorial in the Gardens was proposed by Mrs Marian Algie. She was the second wife of John Algie who was the postmaster in Queenstown at that time, a veteran of the African (Boer) War, and also the captain of the 42nd Company Senior Cadets, a young and enthusiastic military organisation. Mrs Algie's idea was that the huge glacial boulder of greywacke, an 'erratic', at the point of the peninsula, would be a suitable location for a memorial to Captain Scott and his men. Fundraising took place, and the memorial was unveiled in December 1913.

One of the marble tablets set into the rock contains the words of famous pages from Scott's diary, and the other explains the erection of the memorial ending with the words: 'They rest in the great white silence of Antarctica amid scenes of their triumphs, wrapped in the winding sheets of the eternal snows. Sub Umbra Crucis.' The Latin means 'Under the Shadow of the Cross'. Five stars of the Southern Cross engraved the stone indicate that this was to be understood in two ways.

THE LAST MESSAGE.

..... WE ARRIVED WITHIN ELEVEN
MILES OF OUR OLD ONE TON CAMP
WITH FUEL FOR ONE HOT MEAL AND FOOD FOR TWO DAYS. FOR FOUR
DAYS WE HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO LEAVE THE TENT, THE GALE IS
HOWLING ABOUT US. WE ARE WEAK,
WRITING IS DIFFICULT, BUT,
FOR MY OWN SAKE, I DO NOT REGRET THIS JOURNEY, WHICH HAS SHOWN
THAT ENGLISHMEN CAN ENDURE HARDSHIPS, HELP ONE ANOTHER, AND
MEET DEATH WITH AS GREAT A FORTITUDE AS EVER IN THE PAST.
WE TOOK RISKS; WE KNEW WE TOOK THEM. THINGS HAVE COME
OUT AGAINST US, AND THEREFORE WE HAVE NO CAUSE FOR COMPLAINT,
BUT BOW TO THE WILL OF PROVIDENCE, DETERMINED STILL TO DO
OUR BEST TO THE LAST.

HAD WE LIVED I SHOULD HAVE HAD A TALE TO TELL OF THE
HARDIHOOD, ENDURANCE, AND COURAGE OF MY COMPANIONS
WHICH WOULD HAVE STIRRED THE HEART OF EVERY ENGLISHMAN.

THESE ROUGH NOTES
AND OUR DEAD BODIES MUST TELL THE TALE.

R. SCOTT, 25TH MARCH, 1912.

A HERO'S END.

CAPTAIN SCOTT WRITES:—

"HE WAS A BRAVE SOUL. HE SLEPT
THROUGH THE NIGHT, HOPING NOT TO WAKE,
BUT AWOKE IN THE MORNING, IT WAS
BLOWING A BLIZZARD. OATES SAID, 'I AM
JUST GOING OUTSIDE, AND MAY BE
SOME TIME.' HE WENT OUT INTO THE
BLIZZARD, AND WE HAVE NOT SEEN HIM SINCE."
CAPTAIN OATES REALISED THAT HE COULD
MARCH NO MORE, AND THAT HIS COMRADES
WOULD NOT WILLINGLY LEAVE HIM. BY
GOING OUT TO MEET DEATH, HE LEFT THEM
FREE TO PUSH ON AND TAKE THE CHANCE OF
LIFE THAT REMAINED TO THEM.

"GREATER LOVE HATH NO MAN THAN THIS, THAT A
MAN LAY DOWN HIS LIFE FOR HIS FRIENDS!"

ST JOHN 15.13.



Society members during the 'History of the Queenstown Gardens' presentation in March 2014.
Photo: Rita Teele

Sources

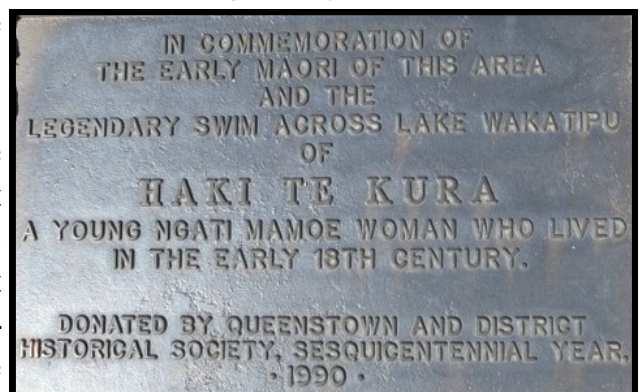
Golden Days of Lake County, F.W.G. Miller, Whitcombe & Tombs, 1949
 Algie Family file in the Lakes District Museum

MEMORIAL TO HAKI TE KARU

This plaque on a rock near the Scott Memorial was placed by the Historical Society in 2001. It reads:

‘In commemoration of the early Maori of this area and the legendary swim across Lake Wakatipu of Haki Te Kura, a young Ngati Mamoe woman who lived in the early 18th century.’

A fuller account of the story is that she was brought up in the village of Tahuna, where Queenstown CBD is now. She decided to excel at swimming and told her father, Te Wiri Roa, who coached her. One day, confidence gained, she set forth before daybreak and swam the two-and-a-half miles across the cold waters of Lake Wakatipu, using Cecil and Walter Peaks as her guiding beacons. She landed safely at Refuge Point and lit a fire to warm herself. Her father observed the fire and proudly sent a canoe across to bring his daughter back. Beside Horne Creek, along the walkway downstream from the Ballarat St Bridge there are sculptures and panels which also commemorate her achievement.

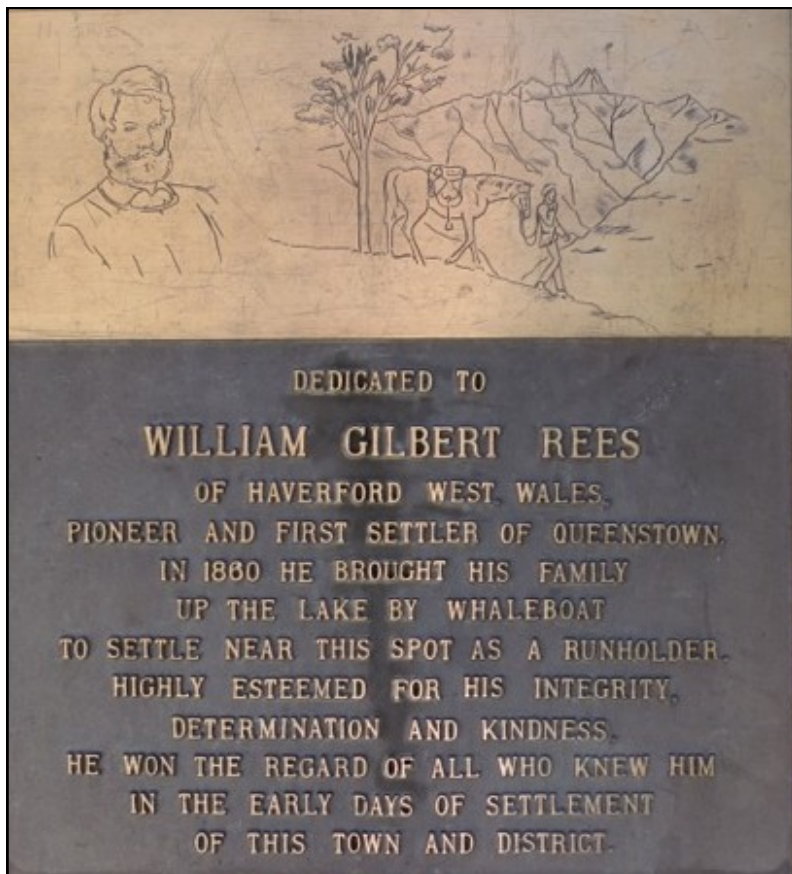


WILLIAM REES MEMORIAL

This memorial was erected in 1978 by the Historical Society. It features an engraved reproduction of a self-portrait of Rees. It has an engraving of his arrival and words from his account of the vegetation he and Nicholas von Tunzelmann found. 'No fires had cleared the country.... Progress was not only fatiguing but really painful. Speargrass often more than three feet high and masses of matagouri constantly impeded us.'

The proposal for a memorial to him has a long history itself, having been put forward in 1950 and a brass plaque was erected on the concrete breakwater in Marine Parade. But the Society was not satisfied. It had the new plaque made, designed by Rees's great-granddaughter Pamela Haworth, and including wording taken from an illuminated address presented to Rees when he left the district.

It took several years to find a suitable location and gain permission from the Tourist and Publicity Department.

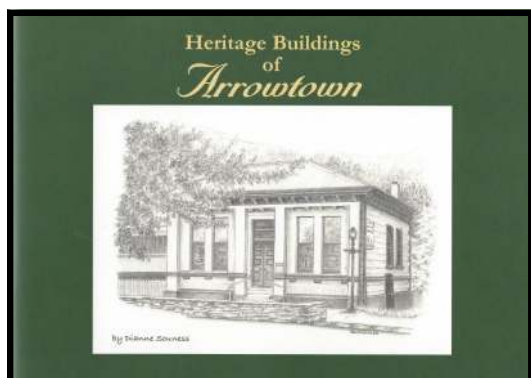


Marilyn Lusk designed the memorial, and the Society raised the \$2500 needed. Bob Rose, a Society committee member, constructed it, with Tom Meehan carrying out the stonework, and Nick Lusk providing the distinctively local landscaping.



RECOMMENDED READINGS

FROM OUR WELL-STOCKED BOOKSHOP

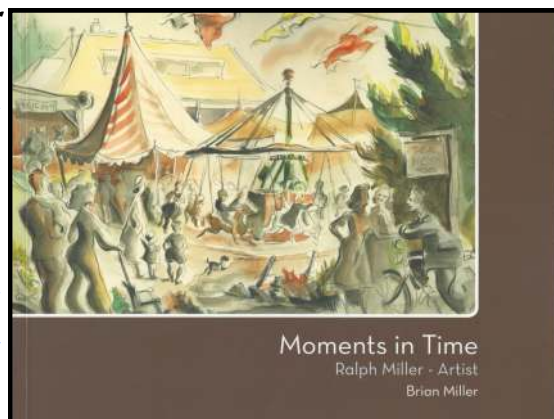


Heritage Buildings of Otago by Dianne Souness

Dianne Souness has produced another beautiful and informative book presenting 31 places in Arrowsmith. Exquisite illustrations and well-researched text combine to present these buildings surviving from our past. \$24

Moments in Time by Brian Miller

Ralph Miller was a Dunedin artist whose son has produced this substantial biography and collection of his works. His lively paintings and drawings capture his wartime experiences in the Pacific with the Army Band and life in Dunedin before his untimely death in 1956. \$50



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Our Heritage Today - For Tomorrow

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