

THE QUEENSTOWN COURIER

SUMMER 2017

Issue No.98



People From Our Past
Law and Justice in the Wakatipu
1862-1909

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE QUEENSTOWN & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.
www.queenstownhistoricalsociety.org.nz

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Cover Photo: Presenters of 'People From Our Past – Law and Justice'
(L-R) David Mayhew as Warden Richmond Beetham, Kirsty Sharpe as Hannah Moriah Ferguson, Kathleen Brentwood as Mary Anderson, Greg Dorn as Sergeant-Major Hugh Bracken, Sue Harcombe as Catherine Firth and Graeme Todd as George Barton

Photo courtesy of Jo Boyd (riverleaphotography.com)

Bolt-Cutters Used to Break INTO Arrowtown Gaol



Boltcutters

Photo: Jo Boyd

On 7 May 2017 the Director-General of the Department of Conservation, Lou Sanson, used bolt-cutters to break a chain across the door of the restored stone gaol and declare it open.

The Gaol was built in 1876 at a cost of £500; in 2017 the cost to restore and strengthen it was \$215,000.

In the early days of the gold rush at the Arrow in spring 1862, lawlessness such as claim-jumping, theft, thuggery and drunkenness was commonplace. Sergeant-Major Hugh Bracken and two constables soon arrived to keep order among the 1,500 (and ever -increasing) miners. An early method for holding prisoners at the Arrow Police Camp was to shackle them to a heavy log. This did not deter an Irishman nicknamed Flower of Wheat who picked up the log and walked to a nearby pub to quench his thirst. Later the wooden building now at Butlers Green was used as a cell. The stone replacement we see now was much more secure.

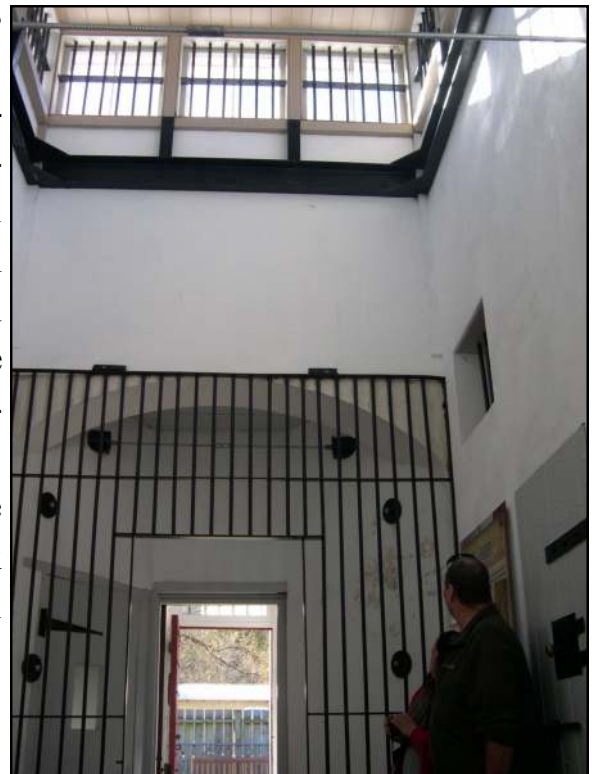
The Gaol has five cells (one being for women), an exercise area and a guards-room. It must have been very cold in the winter, so perhaps being sentenced to 'hard labour' outside the gaol had some compensations. Only one prisoner has ever escaped from it, in the 1920s, which he managed by overpowering the guard and locking him up. But his freedom was short-lived.

Congratulations to the Wakatipu Heritage Trust

After three years of investigations, consultations including Heritage NZ Pouhere Taonga (as it is a Category 1 Historic Place), planning and fund-sourcing, followed by nine months of building work, the Wakatipu Heritage Trust has completed its first restoration project. The gaol belongs to the Queenstown Lakes District Council while the Lakes District Museum is the custodian. The major funder was the Department of Conservation. David Clarke, who is a Trustee and the Director of the Lakes District Museum, was the prime mover and project manager supported by Grant Hensman. Roy Bagley of Arrowtown, who has experience in heritage conservation, was the building contractor.

Although the structure was sound, there was much to do due to the ravages of time and damp. The work included seismic strengthening, replastering with traditional lime plaster, lime-washing, renovating the stonework and upgrading drainage. Information panels both outside and inside tell vivid tales of the past, and an audio provides voices of old-timers. The rooms are furnished and inhabited by suitably-attired mannequins.

The Historical Society contributed to the celebration of the re-opening by selecting six people involved in law and justice for our annual



‘People From Our Past’ presentation. Our cover image shows the presenters outside the Presbyterian Church where the event took place. Four of the monologues are published below.

Articles about Hannah Moriah Ferguson and Catherine Firth can be found in past *Couriers* Issues 91, 2014 and 96, 2016.

The Gaol is located at 8 Cardigan St. A key can be collected from the Museum.

Sergeant-Major Hugh Bracken

**Written by Marion Borrell and presented by Greg Dorn at
'People From Our Past', May 2017**

Situation

It is New Year's Eve 1862. We are in William Fox's Golden Age Hotel, Arrow River, to farewell Sergeant-Major Hugh Bracken on the occasion of his leaving the police force and the Arrow in order to become a partner with William Rees in the Queen's Arms Hotel, Queenstown.

Speech

Gentlemen, I am greatly honoured and humbled by your attendance tonight. Thank-you, Mr Fox, for your hospitality in this fine and well-run hotel.

I beg your indulgence if I reminisce a little, pondering on the changing of scenes of my life. I was born in County Fermanagh in northern Ireland where my family farmed. At the age of 17, I joined the 6th Inniskillen Dragoons, and served my country against the Russians in the Crimean War in 1853-56. We were part of the mounted Heavy Brigade. It was hard soldiering there.



Greg Dorn as Hugh Bracken

Photo: Jo Boyd

Enough of warfare. Two of my brothers had gone to Australia, so I followed them. Three years with the Victorian Police Force introduced me to policing on the gold-fields, surely the liveliest of societies. Not all was well done there by certain officious officers, and there was unrest as you all well know. So it is to the credit of the Otago Provincial Government that, when the Otago gold-field was declared, it engaged me and my colleagues to keep the peace. Most of our companions on the voyage were decent men who are now the bone and sinew of Otago and have given tone and vigour to this now-prosperous and flourishing province.

However, among the new arrivals we noted some scoundrels and layabouts – many of them former convicts – who were well known to us. These ruffians prefer to prey on honest men rather than bend their own backs to toil. I was posted to various locations. It was routine goldfields policing, taking care not to be officious: checking mining licences, settling disputes over gold-claims, preventing fights, securing the drunkards, investigating robberies, escorting the Gold Coach. You know the drill.

So it was that down near Waitahuna it fell to me and my men to apprehend a gang of bushrangers, ex-convicts the lot of them, violent and slippery characters. They were well armed, and desperate enough to attack Detective Johnson with a pick, and shoot at us as we pursued them. But we hunted them down to their camp in an isolated gully. What more satisfying task can there be in the line of duty than to creep up to a tent, slit it open and stand over the two occupants, with a revolver in each hand? Their trial in Dunedin for 'highway robbery under arms' was an entertainment - to hear them making preposterous assertions about police conduct. And now they are well employed in hard labour in Her Majesty's prison.

Recently I was sent here to Fox's Rush, my task being to establish a well-ordered gold-field. All decent people have made me and my officers very welcome. At this juncture I wish to acknowledge the fine work done by our host, Mr William Fox, in keeping the peace before the great mass of diggers poured into the area. However, the newcomers have included the usual lawless crew set upon creating mayhem through claim-jumping and outright theft. To settle disputes I have called on the miners to appoint two independent men to be assessors. We have listened to the two parties, explained the law, and the assessors have made the decision. And it has worked. I heartily thank those of you who assisted in this process, and hope that it will continue to be used.

With 1500 diggers now on the Arrow and more people arriving by the day, our police contingent is fully occupied. You are all familiar with the police camp – one tent to house the three of us and the gold we have to guard day and night until the gold escort comes for it. Our 'gaol', as you know, consists of a tent housing a hefty log to chain prisoners to. It is my hope that one day a proper secure gaol will be built here.

To Mr Fox I express my proud and gratified feelings in receiving this ring, made, as he has said, from gold he dug himself. I will value it, not so much for its intrinsic value as for the expressions of respect with which you have given it. I shall cherish and preserve it; and in the coming years it may recall to me the generous friends I have had during my short sojourn on the Arrow gold-field.

As you know, this is the last occasion when I can wear this uniform, as I do with pride. I will become a civilian for the first time since my youth. It has been an honour to serve the Otago Police for the past three and a half years. However, the sight of the fortunes being made very quickly in this exceptional goldfield, has given me food for thought. Just last week one party brought to us for safe-keeping 100 pounds weight of gold gained in just four weeks – amazing. Therefore I beg you to consider the allure of a more lucrative life than policing, and not judge my decision amiss.

So it is that I am leaving you to become a partner with William Rees in his new Queen's Arms Hotel beside the lake. I will be the first hotelkeeper in the town, and I hope a successful one. But maybe I will still combine a little civic duty too – so that people may go peaceably about their business and sleep soundly at night.

I invite you all to seek me out when you come across to Lake Wakatip, and we can toast each other's health in proper style. I thank you all for your kind sentiments of friendship, as I bid you a humble farewell.

Post Script

Hugh Bracken became one of the leading figures in Queenstown in 1863 and 4 as the town was forming. He superintended the nightwatchman service, and often patrolled at night with his revolver. He was one of the elected members of the Queenstown Improvement Committee, and helped to raise funds for a hospital. He took part in the founding of the Masonic Lodge and the Jockey Club.

At the end of 1864 he sold the hotel to Captain Albert Eichardt before he and his brother moved on to Hokitika, where the rush in its early stages. They set up hotels there and in Greymouth. Two years later they returned to Australia. After their mother's death in Ireland a year later, Hugh returned to County Fermanagh where he married and had three children. He died in 1904 aged 81.

Disclaimer: The facts in this monologue come from historical sources, but the personality is in part constructed by the writer.

Sources:

Otago Witness, *Otago Daily Times* and *Lake Wakatip Mail* accessed through PapersPast, especially Bracken's speech in detail in the *ODT* 10 January 1863.

Lakes District Museum archives especially Bracken family documents

Queenstown Courier Issue 64, 2000

Mrs Mary Ann Anderson aka 'The Bull Pup'
Written by Marion Borrell and presented by Kathleen Brentwood

Situation We encounter Mrs Anderson in the street in Arrowtown in 1864

Speech

Good afternoon, sirs. What brings you out today? Looking for a little bite to eat? A drink maybe? With some good company? I happen to know a fine establishment not far from here – know it because I own it, see? The Arrow Restaurant and Boarding House.

Good gracious, where have I put my manners? My name's Mary Anderson, MRS. Some folks call me 'the bull pup' – just behind me back, mind. Can't think why.

So you'll come round for a drink then? Some good company? No?

Now don't you be believing any tittle-tattle about me. I'm an upstanding citizen, I am.

Just give me a wink if you see a policeman coming this way. They've got it in for me, you see. So keep a lookout, won't you? They make up charges against me. I got fined 20 shillings last time, and for what? They said I was selling liquor without a licence and running a 'disorderly house', as they call it. Disorderly house, my fundament! There's nothing disorderly about my house – just ask me beloved husband Otto or the girls who board with us.

Oh them policemen! There was the time when I was sticking up for me friend Sarah Ritchie. Happened like this: I was just waiting outside the Royal Oak about 11pm to see Dr Douglas at his rooms there - suffering from a bit of paralysis, you see. And who should come past but the coppers with me friend Sarah Ritchie on a stretcher, taking her to the police camp. She was locked up for being a bit tipsy. Oh, I thought it was too bad to lock her up and leave her little daughter all by herself. Us womenfolk, we've got to stick together. So I, all decent-like, offered to go bail for her. And what did they do? Shoved in the clink with her! The bastards! Charged me with 'drunk and disorderly'. The magistrate fined me 20 shillings. Just for being a good neighbour!

And another time they fined me forty shillings for D and D. Forty shillings! And to top it off, another forty shillings for ripping the copper's precious jacket! I was just keeping



Kathleen Brentwood as Mary Anderson

Photo: Jo Boyd

me balance. But they called it ‘wilful destruction’. I calls it discrimination, not justice.

Just as well I’ve got some friends. There’s Bully Hayes – you heard of him? I lent him money once when he was down, as friends do. But he’s left now, seeking his fortune in pastures new.

Lots of young fellas have gone over to the West Coast. Humph! If it gets any worse here, me and Otto can head that way too. Get away from the coppers harrassin’ me. We’ll take the children and go. Follow the money, I say. I’ll have a word to Otto. He minds what I say.

So, sirs, what’ll it be then? A little bite, a sip of something?

Oh, you reckon you’ve got other things to do, eh? Well I’ll be off then afore a copper comes by. GOOD AFTERNOON!

Postscript

Not long after this, she and her husband did indeed leave for the West Coast goldfields. You can decide whether or not her house was ‘disorderly.’ But her sense of injustice and her problems with drink show that it wasn’t easy being a woman on the gold-fields and dealing with the enforcers of the law.

Disclaimer: The facts in this monologue come from historical sources, but the personality and language are constructed by the writers.

Sources: A monologue written and presented by Victoria Gray for the Queenstown and District Historical Society’s ‘Living History of Arrowtown Pioneering Personalities’ historic walk in February 2000, and published in the *Queenstown Courier* Issue 65, 2000 Expanded with material from the Lakes District Museum archives and *Lake Wakatip Mail*

Richmond Beetham, Goldfields Warden and Resident Magistrate, 1863-1876

Written by Marion Borrell and presented by David Mayhew

Situation: We are at the Queenstown Town Hall in 1876 to farewell Richmond Beetham.

Speech

Good afternoon, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Arrow and Queenstown districts. I am honoured to be asked to give an account of my 14 years in the Wakatipu area, and my observations on the exercise of justice to which I have contributed between 1863 and now in 1876. The changes in the district from those first days of the gold-rush have been remarkable, while human nature and the principles of British law have remained as they ever have been.

I was aged only 27 when I was appointed to the Arrow, and my ignorance at that time appals me. Certainly I knew the Gold Fields Regulations, but I had no legal training beyond that. Indeed, I had never set foot inside a courtroom nor dealt with any matters other than those pertaining to mining. Yet overnight, in this outpost of the empire, I was charged with administering justice to all. Fortunately by far the majority of citizens held my office in high respect, even though I was myself unproven. Little did those who first appeared before me realise that the book on which they took their oaths was, as I later

discovered, just a recipe book with instructions on the baking of potatoes and other humble dishes. The court's accommodation was scarcely more appropriate: the Queenstown Courthouse was a simple tent measuring 12 by 18 feet with an earth floor - freezing in July when I first arrived after being at the Arrow. Everyone was grateful for speedy decisions! There was a plain wooden table, and the 'bench' was literally a wooden form. The tent was soon replaced by a wooden building, and now, 13 years later, we have just moved into our fine stone Courthouse which is a worthy symbol of status and permanence.

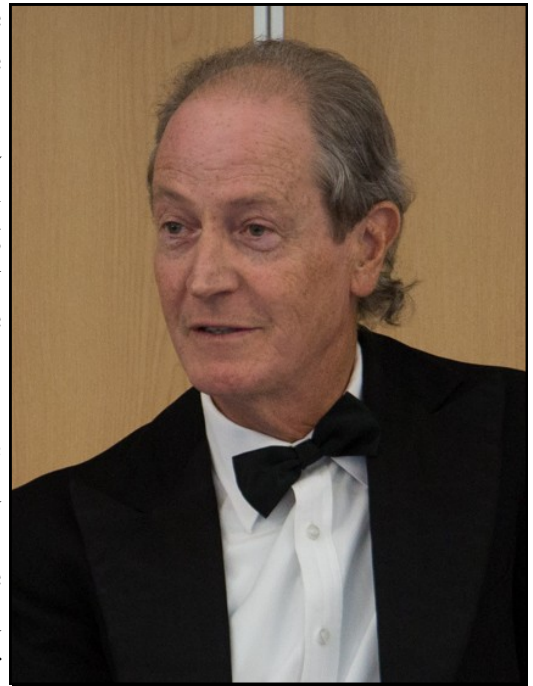
Of course many cases had to be settled out on the goldfields. It was better for one person to ride and often walk into the remote gullies and gorges than for the disputing parties to travel to a court – besides, if they left their claims, they risked losing them to the claim-jumpers. So I often found myself surrounded by the warring parties intent on securing a judgement

in their favour either legally or through force of picks and shovels. It was a delicate undertaking requiring mediation to establish calm and order. On one occasion two parties totalling about 200 men were in dispute over the boundary between their claims in a particularly rich field. The area in question measured merely 10 feet by 3 feet, yet fortunes might depend on the outcome. My solution, which everyone agreed to, was that ten men appointed by each party were to commence work at my signal, and pitch the rich pay-dirt onto their own side. This satisfied everyone. As someone commented (and I apologise to my worthy friends in the legal profession for this opinion) if lawyers had become involved it would have continued at length until the lawyers had the gold, and the miners were left with the dirt.

It is through experiences such as this that I have formed a high opinion of the miners of the district. I believe that upon the whole a nobler, more manly, and more hardworking class of men does not exist. The isolated and independent life which they lead seems to generate a more than ordinary amount of self-reflection and self-reliance. I have frequently been astonished in court at the acuteness, even subtlety, of their remarks, and I am not ashamed to confess that I have on more than one occasion been put right by them, in a respectful way.

Such respect for the Bench and for myself has at times been less evident from more educated persons. As some of you are aware, a certain learned lawyer who is no longer among us did not disguise his opinion of my deficiencies. However, no matter how well-founded his views, I could not allow him to disparage the position of Magistrate, and I strove always to uphold the dignity of my office.

The one incident during my time here which cut me to the quick was the petition brought against me by some of our Chinese residents when they accused me of prejudice



**David Mayhew
as Richmond Betham**

Photo: Jo Boyd

in my judgements. They even suggested that I appropriated the fines I imposed for my own use. No doubt, being accustomed to bribery and corruption in their home country, they expected the same here. It was a great relief but not a surprise to me and my family and friends when the official enquiry analysed my rulings in cases involving both Europeans and Chinese and showed that the allegations were without basis. I was completely exonerated.

And here I would make two comments about the principles by which I worked: First, that what is contrary to common sense can't be law. Secondly that every case must be decided on the facts without regard to the social status of the persons involved. And I rely on these principles to preserve me from error.

To consider now the community in which I have been honoured to serve. There can be no greater reward for public service than to contribute to the development of a successful society with strong civic and community institutions. In just 14 years Queenstown has become a well-functioning town which has just elected its first Borough Council. Any part I have played in this transformation has been modest, but I would particularly mention the Lakes District Hospital which we achieved less than a year after the discovery of gold. Now we have a new Town Hall, an elegant Library, and other appurtenances of civil society. I am humbled that the authorities have seen fit to attach my name to a street in Queenstown and a pyramidal peak above Arrowtown.

It is therefore with regret that my wife and I must leave you for the benefit of her health. The Wakatipu with its lakes and mountains, and better than all, its inhabitant, will not fade from our remembrance. I thank you all very much for your friendship and esteem.

Postscript: We must feel that in Richmond's time, the court system in Queenstown was in sound hands. The new stone courthouse he refers to is beside the old library in Ballarat Street.

Disclaimer: The facts in this monologue come from historical sources, but the personality is in part constructed by the writer.

Sources:

De La Mare, Alan J, *Wakatipu's Golden Days*, Lakes District Museum, 2000, and 'Richmond D Beetham', *Queenstown Courier* Issue 53, 1994

Lake Wakatip Mail accessed through PapersPast, <http://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz> especially the farewell and presentation to Mr Beetham 23 November 1876

Miller, F W G, *Golden Days of Lake County*, Whitcombe & Tombs, 1966

George Barnett Barton, Solicitor

Written by Marion Borrell and presented by Graeme Todd

Situation: George Barton reminisces at his home in Melbourne in 1901.

Speech

Quaint little Queenstown in the 1870s, in the outback of Otago where everyone's a scrabbling amateur. To be frank, it wasn't the place for an intellectual. I'm a scholar, an historian, a journalist. Not a bumbling small-town lawyer. Bear in mind that I had established the Melbourne edition of *Punch* that famous satirical magazine. Oh yes, I ruffled some feathers and some wigs in Queenstown.

I'm a Melburnian, and in my youth studied at the university here - until I had a dispute with a professor and went to London instead. I was called to the bar there, and returned to Melbourne. There I pursued journalism and scholarship, and held some public service positions. But I was young, and Otago beckoned. Otago was a flourishing province at that time on account of its gold-fields. In Dunedin 1868, I became editor of the *Otago Daily Times* - until political enemies undermined me because of the paper's anti-government stance. Would you believe that the Telegraph Office withheld telegrams sent to me until the pro-government newspapers had had their scoop? When I revealed this in articles, I was accused of libel. It was scandalous, and I fought it until the charge was withdrawn.



Graeme Todd as George Barton
Photo: Jo Boyd

I left Dunedin to move closer to the source of Otago's gold, for there are better ways for men of talent to acquire gold than by shovelling dirt. In 1871 I set up my legal practice in Queenstown. Naturally I poked some snakes and punctured some egos. It was small-scale work, but sufficiently lucrative. And there seemed to be possibilities for a political career too, so I also stood for Parliament when Bendix Hallenstein stepped down. My ideas were brilliant, but the *Lake Wakatip Mail* was scathing, and the voters followed its lead.

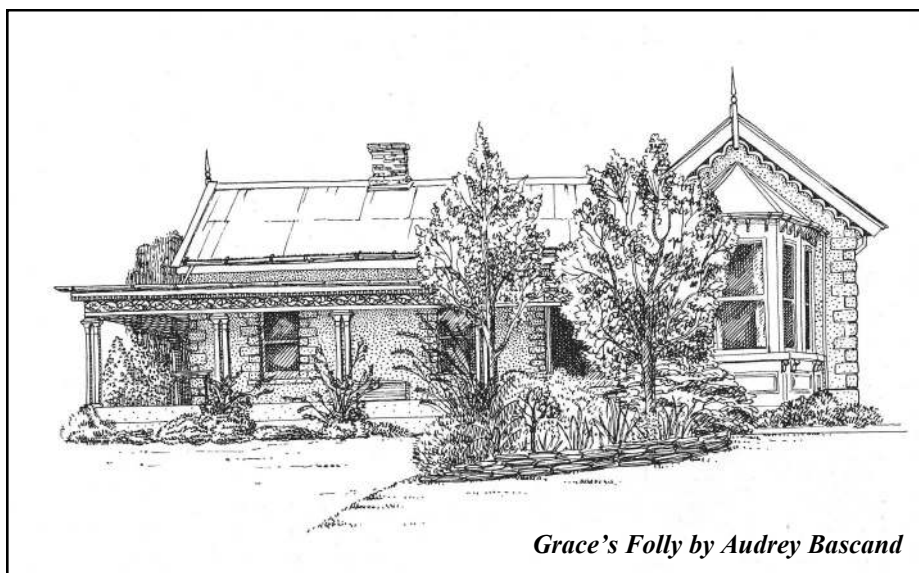
As for the legal fraternity, I hesitate to compliment them with such an appellation. The unfortunate Richmond Beetham was as stuffy as a horsehair sofa, and wholly unsuited to the elevated status of magistrate. He was just a Goldfields Warden, after all, trained to check miners' licences and settle squabbles, not preside over a Magistrate's Court. Totally out of his depth, he was, and ignorant of the finer points of law. At times I had to enlighten him, but he did not value my advice, and the local newspaper always favoured him in its reportage. An example occurred when the Chinese miners claimed that Beetham had discriminated against them in his judgements, and asked for an enquiry. I assisted them, as their legal advisor. But the so-called editor of the *Lake Wakatip Mail* claimed that I'd forged some of the signatures (or crosses or other marks) on their petition. A libellous slur it was, and I threatened to take action.

Ah, true litigation is my forte – to pit my arguments against opponents’ counsel and trump them with my superior scholarship. Clients sought me out. Many cases were distinctly trivial – wandering stock and other minor nuisances. Once Captain Eichardt was charged with allowing billiards to be played in his hotel after midnight! Tut, tut! As if a hotel-keeper is required to stay up all night overseeing his wide-awake guests!

As you’ll surely agree, Queenstown was too small-minded for me. But in terms of remuneration, it proved to be a goldmine. You’ll have heard of the famous case of Eager versus Grace. Thomas Grace was my golden goose. He and Henry Eager had adjoining gold-claims near Skippers, at Pleasant Terrace. Pleasant indeed! Hugely rich! But Grace, whether by accident or design (and who am I to comment on that?) tunnelled under the boundary between the claims, and Eager sued him for £12,000. Now the prudent course for Grace would have been to settle for arbitration, and stay well clear of lawyers – though I say it myself. But these miners can be a belligerent lot. Grace was spoiling for a legal fight, and why would I dissuade him when so much wealth was at stake? I took his case without hesitation.

First, I advised him to deposit his gold somewhere less conspicuous than with a bank. So he gave it to the wife of one of his workers for safe-keeping. That good woman received 19 pannikins of gold each weighing about 22 pounds. Literally pots of gold, altogether worth over £20,000.

Grace made sure his record-keeping was shoddy – no notes or measurements or diagrams or diaries – it pays to play stupid sometimes. We contended that the encroachment had happened inadvertently before Eager took up his mining claim. But we lost the case before Warden Beetham and the assessors, and Grace was ordered to pay Eager £8,000.



Grace's Folly by Audrey Bascand

Grace could easily have paid this sum and ended the matter then and there. But no, he preferred my suggestion of an appeal – truly, he thrived on the drama of the courtroom as much as I do. We appealed to the Supreme Court on the grounds that the Wardens Court acted in excess of its jurisdiction. And when that failed, we went to the Court of Appeal. All the newspapers in the country ran the story and Grace enjoyed his celebrity. In the event, the Court found against us once more, and Grace paid Eager compensation

of just £4,000. As this was only half the sum the Warden's Court had stipulated, it was a successful outcome and no hardship at all for Grace.

And I earned a handy fee, though I had to pursue my ungrateful client for it. It was enough to build a fine stone villa in Frankton Road just above the town. The locals have named the house 'Grace's Folly'. And yes, they are right. His folly, my benefit.

After two further years in Queenstown, I'd had my fill of small-town court work and the company of inferior intellects. It was time to return to city life, to Christchurch, then back here to the metropolis of Melbourne, my rightful sphere. In recent years I've campaigned with my brother Edmund for the establishment of a federal system of government for Australia. And now, in 1901, Edmund has been elected as Australia's first premier. On reflection, that has been my worthiest cause and greatest accomplishment.

Disclaimer: The facts in this monologue come from historical sources, but the personality is in part constructed by the writer.

Sources:

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Knudson, Danny, *Skippers – Triumph and Tragedy*, Lakes District Museum, Danny Knudson and Queenstown and District Historical Society, 2016

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A GUIDING LIGHT: The Story of the Lake Lodge of Ophir Building

By Russell McGrouther

Russell McGrouther is a Senior Member, Past Master and Trustee of Lake Lodge of Ophir and has been a member of Freemasonry for 46 years. He is also a member of the Queenstown and District Historical Society Board.



The Lodge Rooms cnr Church St and Marine Parade in the mid-1970s

What is a Masonic Lodge? Is it something material, with body and substance, length and breadth and depth, solid in its form, a mere building occupying space? Is it a group of living beings with perceptions of touch and taste, a memory of the past, a formula for the present and a perspective of the future? What is it that caused men to found The Lake Lodge of Ophir, work tirelessly for it, attend its ceremonies, endlessly repeating or listening to ritual, relax in the fellowship of the refectory and build it into the fabric of their lives?

The answer to these questions lies in the hearts of its members past and present who have found within its walls something which satisfied a need and from which they have got what they were prepared to give.

During the early gold rush days it was to be expected that in a town the size of Queenstown there would be a number of Masons. What was unexpected was the speed with which they found one another in the frantic atmosphere of a mining town and formed the nucleus of a Lodge. The *Lake Wakatip Mail* reported a meeting held in Bracken's Arms Hotel on 6 June 1863 attended by a large number of members of the Masonic Order for the purpose of forming a Lodge called The Lake Lodge of Ophir with Reuben Harris as Master.

With amazing speed a building fund was raised, mostly, it appears, by the sale of debentures. A site was obtained, plans drawn and contractors engaged. The site cost the Lodge £23. On 15 July 1863 the foundation stone was laid with pomp and ceremony unequalled by modern society. The *Lake Wakatip Mail* reported:

On Wednesday last a ceremony took place in Queenstown of no common occurrence, and which in all countries and among all peoples, carries an amount of prestige seldom attendant on ceremonies of a like nature, unless honoured by the presence of royalty, viz., the laying of the foundation stone of the first Masonic Hall in the Province of Otago, which upon completion will leave another imprint on the great road of civilization and order, and be forever a sign among future generations of the exertion, enterprise and enthusiasm of that most honoured order the Freemasons, by whose united efforts a building is being erected, the fair proportions, stern solidity and picturesque position of which will be an ornament to our town and a monument of our progress. By erecting an edifice, having for its objective the advancement of our moral and social condition, the elevation of our tastes, and where we may sojourn after the busy hours and fatigues of the day are past in cheerful communion with our fellow men, and thus feel ourselves repaid by each other's society for the loss we have sustained in our feverish anxiety for the mammon of this world.

The building is twenty feet wide by forty feet in length, is of stone, and of the Norman order of architecture modified: the flying buttresses and other minor details of the order dispensed with, to prevent the unnecessary absorption of funds through profuse ornamentation. Too much praise cannot be awarded to the Freemasons for being instrumental in erecting an edifice of this class in the midst of us and among wilds a few years since comparatively unknown.

The Freemasons met at Bracken's Commercial Hotel and arrived at the location which was tastefully adorned shortly after 12 o'clock and then proceeded with the ancient ceremony of laying of the Foundation Stone. At the conclusion of the ceremony three cheers were proposed for Our Sovereign Lady which were heartily responded to. Cheers were then extended to the Prince and Princess of Wales and the Grand Masters. Money was then deposited on the stone, for the purpose of regaling the workmen employed on the building. The Masons returned to Brackens Hotel where a light collation à la fourchette was served and thus ended one of the most important ceremonies and pleasant days ever experienced in Queenstown.

This report illustrates the importance of the occasion in a raw town consisting mostly of canvas. It also illustrates the character of the Lodge founders in the elaborate arrangements made for the occasion.

The building was constructed with the same amazing speed to be ready for use in October the same year. Beech from the Head of the Lake was used for the timber and the shingle roof. Stone gathered from the lake shore was used to build the walls. The lower part of the interior walls was of timber lining and the upper portion plastered with a mixture of mud and horsehair with a finish of lime wash. The ceiling was canvas lined with paper. A dome and lantern light at the apex of the roof lit the Lodge Room. It is the oldest Masonic Lodge building in New Zealand still being used for its original purpose.

As the building is situated in the centre of Queenstown Bay a light was set up in the

clerestory skylight, and with the building being positioned in almost the centre of Queenstown Bay, this made a good line of sight as a beacon or a guiding light for shipping travelling from Glenorchy entering and traversing the bay during the 1860s and 1870s mainly carrying timber from the upper reaches of the lake. On a pitch black night and without other lighting visible in Queenstown, navigators must have appreciated the guiding light from the Lodge building.

The first Masonic use of the building was on 4 November 1863 when an address was given by Captain Budd on his captivity by the Maoris. The proceeds went to Masonic Charities. In January 1864 the *Lake Wakatipu Mail* reported: 'His Honour, the Superintendent, was liberally fêted on Friday morning by the Freemasons of Queenstown when a very excellent déjeuner à la fourchette was served in the Masonic Hall to which about 25 of the Mystic Craft sat down.'

Having erected a stone building which they could not immediately use as a Lodge, the Masons soon found many organisations clamouring to use the only substantial building in Queenstown. The first were the Anglicans who held a Tea Meeting in November 1863. This was a fundraising venture consisting of a meal and entertainment which resulted in over £50 being raised. In 1869 arrangements were made for its use by the Foresters Lodge and later in the same year the Queenstown Dramatic Society and the Oddfellows Lodge. The Good Templars too held meetings in the Lodge room during the time when temperance and prohibition had keen followers. In 1908, many years after the Good Templars folded due to lack of support, action was taken to dispose of regalia which they had left in the Lodge room. In due course, the Foresters built their own Lodge room and it is now part of Brazz Restaurant after being restored from a rather derelict state.

Once the Lodge building was finished, a dispensation or charter was required for the Lodge itself to operate. This turned out to be a little difficult to acquire. In November 1863 Lowther Broad, the newly appointed Resident Magistrate at Maori Point, wrote to the Secretary of the Lodge of Otago indicating that Masons in the Wakatipu area had raised £600 and had built a Lodge Room. He sought assistance in obtaining a dispensation to form a Lodge and this was finally granted on 18 July 1864.

At that time the general Central Otago and surrounding areas were known as Ophir; hence, being situated at the main lake of the Ophir Area, the name The Lake Lodge of Ophir was chosen. In biblical times Ophir was also a port or region famous for its wealth and is mentioned in the books of Kings and Chronicles when King Solomon and Tyrian King Hiram brought back large amounts of gold, precious stones, silver and algum wood from Ophir.

With the dispensation being granted, there came a flood of applications to join the Lodge which exceeded the capacity of normal meetings, and emergency meetings were necessary to deal with the numbers. In the five months remaining in 1864, 16 meetings are recorded. Most of the candidates for the Lodge were not miners but rather those who serviced the miners' needs including merchants, bankers, hotel keepers and officials.



In June 1869 it is recorded an earthquake partially damaged the walls. In 1871 the original shingle roof was covered with iron at a cost of £58.

In 1878 when the Masonic Rooms were inundated by Lake Wakatipu in the greatest flood in the town's history to that time, Masonic Lodge meetings were held in the Foresters Lodge building. The Minutes for October 1878 merely recorded 'three feet of water in the Masonic Hall and the general meeting lapsed.' This was an understatement. Late in September of that year the lake rose to very high levels inundating all the buildings in the lower part of the town, the water reaching halfway up the present Mall. This caused widespread damage but strong winds early in October created more serious damage. Timber from yards on the lake edge was driven by the wind against buildings with serious results. A substantial building at the brewery on the present Novotel Hotel site was demolished. Serious damage occurred to Hotop's chemist shop on the corner of the present Mall and Rees Street, and also to the Victoria and Prince of Wales (later Mountaineer) Hotels. The Masonic Lodge room, exposed to the driving timber, suffered severely with holes knocked in the walls of two-foot-thick stone. There is no record of the exact damage or cost of restoration, however for four months meetings were held in the Foresters Lodge, and obviously the cost of repairs was high.

Over the years improvements were made and repairs effected to maintain the building. In 1910 a quotation of £12/10s was accepted from the New Zealand Gas Company for lighting the building with acetylene gas. This form of lighting remained until the explosion and demolition of the gas company's plant in June 1923. Electricity was installed in 1924 at a cost of £11. The refinement of the building can be gauged from representations made to the Queenstown Borough Council in 1913 indicating the Lodge should not pay a sanitation fee as it had neither a toilet nor ashes. Water was laid on in 1934 and an outside toilet was connected to the sewer in 1941. In 1947 walls and ceilings were lined with pinex. In the 1960s carpet was laid throughout the building and the Refectory Area was added to the South and East Walls of the original building. In 1988 the interior of the Refectory Area was re-designed by shifting the service area from the Marine Parade end to the entire East Wall area.

The waters of the lake lapped the entrance was of the Lodge Rooms on several occasions, then in November 1999 Queenstown experienced continuous rain for five days. Due to headwaters feeding into the lake and the rise of the Shotover River, the waters from the Shotover River back-flowed into Lake Wakatipu causing it to



rise to its highest ever level of 312.77 metres (1,029 feet above sea level). The general



Left, interior of the Lodge room and, right, the exposed floor bearers

level of the lake is 310m (1,020 ft) above sea level. This caused a major inundation of silty water to cover the entire lower area of the town to approximately halfway up the Mall. As a result approximately one metre depth of water entered the entire Lodge and Refectory. For health reasons all items including carpets etc. had to be removed and dumped. Unfortunately the harmonium that was purchased by the Lodge in 1870 had to be disposed of. Fortunately most of the Lodge furnishings were able to be cleaned and restored and where necessary the Lodge obtained similar vintage furnishings that had been in storage in Invercargill.

As the waters receded a major manpower exercise was in full force to clear the Lodge of all furnishings and fittings and the extent of the damage was able to be fully assessed. Fortunately the Lodge had full replacement insurance cover, and with assistance was able to plan the re-establishment of the Lodge Rooms.

In view of the historic status of the building, the Historic Places Trust (Heritage NZ) representatives also had to be involved in decisions in relation to the restoration work. The wooden floor of the Lodge Room was uplifted, and it was then established that the main bearers were only sitting on rock bases, and that continual dampness over the previous 130 years had caused the bearers to become rather unstable. It was then decided to replace the wooden floor with a tray concrete floor leaving a space between the stone walls so that should flooding occur again, the exterior walls would not be affected. This then led to the re-design of the tessellated pavement, and the Master's and the Warden's areas were changed to allow a greater area for perambulation during the Lodge's ceremonial workings. In addition to this work, the wooden panels below the data and the pinex on the walls were replaced with water-resistant panels, and the wooden furnishings in the refectory kitchen were replaced with stainless steel modules, thus alleviating problems in the future of the inundation of flood waters. During the time of restoration the Lodge Trustees met regularly to



The Lodge Room Restored

track the progress. Lodge Meetings were held at various venues for general meetings and also at Lodge Arrow Kilwinning's Lodge Rooms. Restoration costs in relation to the 1999 flood exceeded \$92,000.

In the early 2000s the outer Eastern Wall was replaced with a concrete block fully reinforced wall by the neighbouring developers when it was found to be approximately 20cm over the boundary.

Whilst the interior of the Lodge had been fully restored, it became obvious that the exterior had also sustained damage from the 1999 flood, especially the plaster coating that was placed over the stone work in the 1960s, so the exterior also had to be assessed. This included a slumping of the main roof line, and the clerestory skylight area needed replacing. Once again we were guided by the Historic Places Trust. When entering the roof cavity area, the Historic Places Trust representatives were amazed at the dowel joinings that had been used to secure the roof area. They specified that the replacement of any woodwork and glass in the clerestory area must be of the original style sand-blasted glass rather than that manufactured today. Likewise all of the original stone pointing of horse-hair and mud had to be replaced by pointing mixture that would have been used at the time rather than the standard plaster mix used today. When the roof area was removed and realigned, all the old electricity wiring was replaced.

With the assistance of Owen Lawrence, a retired architect previously of Invercargill, plans were drawn up and the work was commenced, and the Lodge was then involved with a \$90,000 project for the complete restoration of the exterior. In view of the historic nature of the building, funding was able to be obtained from Central Otago and Southland Community Trusts as well as from the Grand Lodge Heritage Fund, and with a contribution from Lodge funds and members' donations the project was completed.



The Refectory restored



Keith Hines of St Bathans was commissioned to do the necessary pointing.



The roofing was removed, exposing the original shingles. The 1871 iron was then re-nailed in its former position.

While in recent times the refectory area has been leased to Art Bay Gallery, the original 1863 building is still used for Lake Lodge of Ophir meetings. The outdoors area has certainly been spruced up and a greater use has been found for the Refectory Area of this iconic building in the heart of Queenstown's Heritage Precinct.

The record of the first 153 years has been a proud one for Lake Lodge of Ophir. The building has survived storm, tempest, earthquake and inundation of the waters of Lake Wakatipu, and we hope that it will remain as an important part of Queenstown's history for many, many years to come. Whether for the early shipping navigation or the general community involvement and workings of the Lodge, Lake Lodge of Ophir has been very much a 'Guiding Light' to the Queenstown community since 1864.

Sources: 100th and 125th History Books of Lake Lodge of Ophir along with Lodge records



After the restoration project in 2008

Arrowtown's Reserves And Parks

Part One

By Taylor Reed and Rita Teele

In the last century, the philosophy of the Arrowtown Borough Council (ABC, subsumed under Queenstown Lakes District Council, QLDC, in 1989) was to maintain pedestrian links from the Arrow River to McDonnell Road. This became possible when the Adamson family undertook the various subdivisions of their farm and provided land as reserves contributions. There is now an emerald necklace of small and large reserves that make Arrowtown a special place. Many are named in honour of people who have lived in or contributed to the community. It seems fitting to tell their stories for new inhabitants of the region and for the enjoyment of those who may have known some of the honourees.

Algie Park



Algie Park, named in honour of Sir Ronald MacMillan Algie, is a triangular piece of land with its apex at the intersection of Caernarvon and Durham Streets. (Red asterisk on Google map below).

At the age of nine, Ronald Algie, born in Wyndham, Southland, in 1888, came to Arrowtown with his parents and two brothers, Doric and Colvin. His father, John Alexander Algie had been appointed postmaster to the town.

The boys' mother, Agnes MacMillan Algie, died in 1899 and was buried in the Arrowtown cemetery. It seems that the family moved around the country thereafter. According to his later biography, Ronald lived in every province except Westland. John Alexander Algie, was often away from home: to be a mail agent on a trip to North America; to fight in the Boer War; and, by paying his own way, to participate in World War I. The second Mrs Algie, Marian Charlotte Tosswill, who married John Alexander in 1904, sued for divorce in 1922 when her husband failed to return to New Zealand in 1915. Penelope Monro from Scotland was John Algie's third wife. Until his death in 1948 John Alexander lived with Penelope in 'Algie's Castle' which he built in Takapuna in 1926.

Miss Mabel Howard, MP for Sydenham, of any chance of being taken seriously on one of her favourite topics – the shoddiness of cotton goods. A solid woman, who spread amply about her when she sat down, she complained to the house that after washing a new dress, it had shrunk three inches around the bottom. A precisian in speech, the MP for Remuera rose in wide-eyed innocence and asked, ‘Does the honourable member mean the hem?’



Ronald, Doric (on John's knee) and Colvin Algie, c.1892
(Lakes District Museum)

Whilst a member of parliament and before he was Minister of Education, Ronald Algie visited the school in Arrowtown which he had attended. He certainly knew how to win the children's vote. On his visit he told the story of an unpopular pupil who, while coming to school, was spotted by classmates. It was a cold and snowy day, so some of the boys decided to ambush this student as he passed through the gate, and then roll him in the snow. (The stone wall, which is there in part on Anglesea Street, bordered the entire front of the school grounds at the time.) The mischief makers hid behind the wall and then pounced when the gate opened. Much to their surprise, they had captured the headmaster! (There was, as far as anyone remembers, no admission of guilt by the Member of Parliament at being one of the ambushers.) Ronald Algie then asked the children if they would like the afternoon off in honour of his visit, or the full day off the next day. ‘Both’ was the reply and that is what happened. Ronald Algie left the school a very popular man indeed. (Recollection of Taylor Reed who was present at the time.)

In 1961 he became Speaker, refusing, with true Algie stubbornness, to follow tradition and be dragged reluctantly to the chair. Such play-acting, he felt, was out of touch with modern conditions. He respected Parliament's traditions and was jealous of its reputation, but he did not regard its institutions as holy and unchangeable. ‘Parliament is a valuable, indeed a precious, institution,’ he once said. ‘Its reputation must ever be kept high in public esteem. But its methods and practices need modernising from time to time.’ For all that, Ronald Algie was a stickler for parliamentary courtesies and procedure. In 1975, still a daily listener to broadcasts of



(www.teara.govt.nz)

debates, he commented that in his day members had been more disciplined. Of his own days as Speaker he said simply, ‘I always tried to be fair.’ Sir Ronald retired in 1966, two years after he had been knighted. A man of many accomplishments, he insisted to the end in retaining one particular item in a rather modest entry in *Who's Who in New Zealand*. The item reads: ‘Keen mountaineer (with wife climbed Mt Cook and other peaks: has made 29 ascents of Ruapehu).’ (*New Zealand Herald* 24 July 1978, p.3)

Buckingham Green



Buckingham Green, August 2017

Photo by Ben Teele

Buckingham Green, on the western side of the main street in Arrowtown, is a gathering place for locals and tourists alike, particularly in the summer months. It wasn't always an open space. In the years that followed the gold rush of 1862-63, buildings crammed both sides of Buckingham Street. In the photograph below from the 1890s (from the Hocken Library) the large two-storey building was Robert Pritchard's store. In 1896, a disastrous fire burned down the Morning Star Hotel and Campbell's butcher shop - the two buildings to the left of Pritchard's store in the photograph. The fire also destroyed the second floor of the store, which remains a single-storey building to this day.

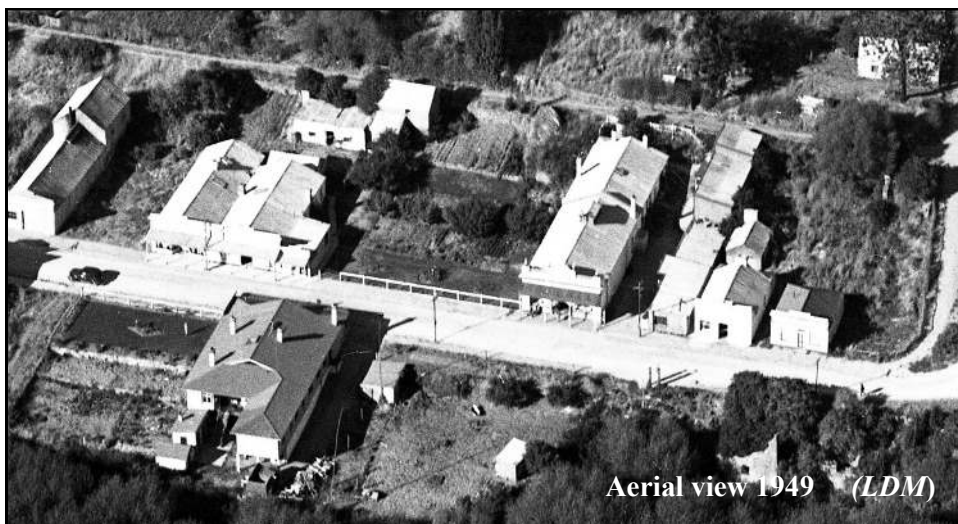
The retaining wall along the width of the property and the stone stable in the back corner of Buckingham Green, (better seen in the present-day colour photograph), were likely built in the 1870s. There is debate as to whether Bendix Hallenstein was the stable owner, or just the property owner before Henry



Wilkinson who had a hotel and stable in 1878 on Section 12. His Shamrock Hotel burned to the ground in June 1878 as did the adjacent Commercial Hotel that also had stone stables in back. Neither hotel was replaced but the stables on section 13 survive to the present day. By 1920, Thomas McDonnell owned sections 12-16, but ownership later passed to Ernest L. Thompson. Beginning in the late 1940s, he, his wife Rita, and their four daughters lived in the timber house. Thompson ran a billiard room and a hairdresser's shop in adjacent buildings while his wife ran tea rooms. His civic contribution included serving as Mayor and Chief Fire Officer of the town.

Buckingham Green was purchased for \$57,500 by Arrowtown Borough Council, on 3

August 1982, from a later owner, Clive Manners-Wood. Council transferred the ownership to the Crown in May 1983, receiving in exchange 4320 square metres of Crown Land with frontage onto Nairn Street which was later sold off as building sites. The addition of the connecting lean-to between house and stables resulted in a complex building now run as the Stables Restaurant.



The above aerial view from 1949 (courtesy of LDM), demonstrates a main street that is more sparsely populated with buildings compared to 60 years before. The space that became Buckingham Green was then owned by Ernest Thompson whose gardens, flowers in front, vegetables at the back, filled the expanse between buildings.

But why is the space now called Buckingham Green? The obvious answer is that it is on Buckingham Street. But there is mystery associated with the genesis of the name, 'Buckingham.' When the town was first surveyed by Charles Shanks in 1863, he was also charged with surveying Frankton, St Johns town (now Kingston) and Queenston [sic]. Many streets in Queenstown had already acquired names, and as a matter of protocol these were kept unchanged. The other three towns were issued street names of English counties, and in the case of Arrowtown some Welsh counties as well. Shanks's field books did not include street names. The assumption, unproven, is that street names were assigned by Chief Surveyor Thomson when Shanks returned to Dunedin. However, Charles Shanks was present in Arrowtown when the Buckingham family was performing at the Provincial Hotel. Could using the family's name, shared with a British county, be part of an inside joke between Shanks and Thomson? (See article by Teele and Maguire, *The Queenstown Courier* Issue 95, 2016).

In September 1862 an orphaned group of entertainers - the nine Buckingham siblings, George, at 22 years, being the oldest - arrived at Port Chalmers on a leaky coal barque from Sydney. Accompanying them was their 'manager,' the infamous William (Bully) Hayes whom they had met in Sydney. The group moved from Dunedin to Clyde where they gave performances over the Christmas holidays. By March 1863 they were in Arrowtown as the featured act at the Provincial Hotel. A staged or real feud ensued between the family and Hayes who set up a competing venture at the Prince of Wales Hotel. However, Rosetta (stage name of Rosa) Buckingham, the oldest girl and 19 or 20 years old, was already pregnant by Hayes. The Buckinghams stayed only weeks in Arrowtown as we know from newspaper articles from May and June which document performances by the family in Invercargill. A baby girl was born to Rosa in Riverton in

July of 1863. In 1864 tragedy followed when Rosa, her baby, brother George and nursemaid Mary Cowley drowned in Croisilles Harbour, northeast from Nelson on the South Island. Bully Hayes, who was captaining the boat that capsized, was the only survivor. After multiple other nefarious adventures Hayes was killed in 1877 by one of his crew in the Marshall Islands. (See article by Danny Knudson, *The Queenstown Courier* Issue 83, 2010).

Whether named after family or street or from a synthesis of the two, Buckingham Green remains an oasis in the centre of town and a favourite space for events associated with Arrowtown's Autumn Festival.

The articles in *The Queenstown Courier* referred to above can be found by searching keywords in the Magazine Archive on our website, www.queenstownhistoricalsociety.org.nz

References for Stables and Buckingham Green:

<https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/LCP18740619.2.5.3?query=%22the%20commercial%20hotel%22>

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<http://www.heritage.org.nz/the-list/details/2118>

Marshall Park



Marshall Park is the triangle of land at the northern corner of Buckingham Street and Ramshaw Lane. In the photograph an abstract metal sculpture is just in view at the far end. Installed in 2003 and entitled *Workings*, it was created by Ann Wadworth and Rachel Hirabayashi to represent the historical machinery of agriculture and gold mining.

Owen Marshall, born in 1913, left secondary school early to become a plumber's apprentice in his home town of Invercargill. After finishing his training, he established a plumbing business and built his own house on Tay Street with a workshop in the back. When war broke out he joined the RNZAF, and after learning to fly was made instructor. He flew Tiger Moths with his students. (These training runs included low flying practice

chasing geese on Lake Ellesmere in Canterbury.) After serving in New Zealand for two years, he was sent to the Pacific theatre where he flew Corsairs. He was stationed in Papua New Guinea, was part of the allied forces of the Bougainville Campaign, and survived to come home to New Zealand.

Back in Invercargill Marshall resurrected his plumbing business which in those days included work on drains and roofing, as well as traditional plumbing. An inveterate tinkerer, his invention with brother Noel, an engineer in Gore, of long-run spouting was an enormous success. The design was patented in New Zealand but international patents were too expensive at the time and the invention was copied around the world. Another invention, a washing machine called 'Swish', was the first twin tub machine having both washer and spinner in the same unit.

An early believer in saving native habitat, Marshall became a member of the Acclimatisation Society, the forerunner of the Department of Conservation, that was trying to save local wetlands. Driving by 20 acres or so of native bush one day, he noted the presence of a bulldozer about to clear the trees. The bulldozer driver was convinced to stop his work in return for £20 - a lot of money in those days. His wife Jessie was not amused at the time, but the 20-acre area of native bush in Southland that he donated now bears the name Marshall Bush Scenic Reserve.

In the late 1950s, Marshall was one of the 'Cribbies' - folks from out of town, many from Invercargill - who built holiday homes in Arrowtown. His house, still standing, was off Arrow Lane, above Buckingham Green. During the 1970s Owen Marshall and his family moved permanently to Arrowtown where he assumed multiple civic roles on the Arrowtown Borough Council. He served as chair of the Planning and Works Committee where he was always ready to fix a problem, but also had the skill of delegating responsibility to others.

His hands-on approach to solving problems is exemplified by the story of the Edward VII Coronation commemorative lamp at the corner of Berkshire and Anglesea Streets. The rather unusual metal work by A&T Burt of Dunedin was hit by a runaway truck from Shaw's petrol station. After the lamp had been rescued and repaired, Marshall decided the memorial needed a touch-up. The colours that you now see on the structure are courtesy of leftover paint that Owen Marshall found in his garage!

Marshall loved airplanes and flying them. In 1954 he was one of the instigators of Tourist Air Travel, an airline that used Grumman Widgeon amphibian aircraft for trips to the islands off Auckland, and later to Stewart Island. When this company was amalgamated with Mt Cook Airlines in 1968, he became a director of that company. It was while on business at Mt Cook airport that Owen Marshall met Americans who became good friends of his and of his family. They happened to be colleagues of Bill Clinton who at the time was Governor of Arkansas, and the Marshalls became acquainted with the governor on a visit to Arkansas. In 1999 when the then President Clinton came to APEC and was staying at Millbrook, Owen Marshall walked from his property at Millbrook, camera in hand, to say hello to his friend. The picture of the two together is part of the montage below that was used to commemorate 75 years of Marshall Plumbing. On an earlier air trip to Marlborough Sounds, Marshall was guide to the Outward Bound camp for the Duke of Edinburgh whose photograph is in the right

upper corner of the montage.

So when you walk through or past Marshall Park you are commemorating a man who worked hard throughout his life - a plumber, an inventor, an aviator, an RNZAF veteran, a conservationist, a business man, a banjo-playing member of the Arrowtown Miners' Band, a civic-minded member of the Arrowtown community, and a man with many friends.

Our sincere appreciation to Oweena Marshall Frew for the family history she provided for this article.



Photographic Montage courtesy of Oweena Marshall Frew and family

O'Callaghan Park



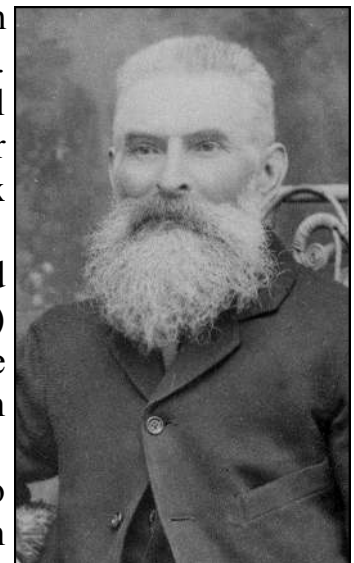
O'Callaghan Park is green space on the western bank of the Arrow River near the bridge to Tobin's Track.

John O'Callaghan, born in County Cork, Ireland, arrived with William (Bill) Fox, William Melody, and Richard Cotter at the Arrow River in October 1862. Melody family history states that Melody, with his wife and child, met Fox, Cotter and O'Callaghan while travelling from Melbourne to Port Chalmers and that they travelled to Central Otago together. Fox (and O'Callaghan, by association) are said to have been the first to find gold in Arrow River. It is likely that Jack Tewa, (Maori Jack), McGregor and Low, preceded their discovery. Fox claimed the credit, although he did not receive the reward for discovery.

Fox and O'Callaghan had multiple projects for making money besides mining. They established a ferry on Lake Wakatipu (*Wild Irish Girl*), a coach connection between Arrowtown and Queenstown, and hotels. John O'Callaghan founded the Golden Age Hotel, the first hotel at the Arrow, on the site where the Ballarat Hotel was later situated at the corner of Berkshire and Buckingham Streets. Fox founded the Shotover Hotel at Arthur's Point.

By the end of 1865 John O'Callaghan went to Cardrona and the West Coast for the rushes there. Elizabeth Barry (Leabody) O'Callaghan, the woman from Portadown Ireland whom he married in Arrowtown in 1864, was left in charge of the Golden Age Hotel while her husband was away from the district.

By the late 1860s the couple had moved to Cardrona with two children and built a stone house there. They had five children thereafter for a total of seven: Julia, George, John, Cornelius, Thomas, Elizabeth, Edward (d. WW I, Passchendaele).



John O'Callaghan
(LDM)

John Senior was bankrupt by 1872; his former partner, Richard Cotter, was in the same predicament a year later. The people of Cardrona helped the O'Callaghan family over this rough spot. John O'Callaghan continued mining until his death in Cardrona in 1915.

In 1899 John and Elizabeth's third son, Cornelius Crosby O'Callaghan, married Alice Rebecca Scurr who was born in Cardrona of English parents. The couple and their first three children moved to Arrowtown circa 1905. Four more children were born in Arrowtown where Cornelius built the house at 16 Caernarvon Street with stables behind.

Cornelius was a wagoner. He was contracted by W.T. Reid, and ran an 8-horse team that made deliveries between the settlements in the district. A trip from Arrowtown, up the Crown Range, to Cardrona, Pembroke (now Wanaka), Tarras, Cromwell, the Nevis, and back would be a week's round trip. The work horses were stabled on the other side of Caernarvon Street from the homestead. Caring for them required a 3:30 a.m. start, followed by breakfast at 6 a.m. After working all day, the horses required further care and the end to a working day for Cornelius was at 9:30 p.m. In 1925 or 1926, Cornelius was shot in the leg. Although not a fatal injury, it ended his ability to work as wagoner and after odd jobs including rabbiting, he took the family to Dunedin so that he could find work.

Cornelius and Alice had seven children: Adalina (Lina), Leslie (Les), David, John (Jack), Thomas, George and Eldred.



16 Caernarvon St, 2017 (*Photo by Ben Teele*)



This photograph, courtesy of LDM, was taken in 1963 beside the Caernarvon Street stone cottage. From left to right are Tom, George, Jack, Eldred, Lina and Les. (David had died in 1951.)

At 90 years of age Lina (O'Callaghan) Tipping, the only girl in the family, was the oldest ex-pupil to attend the 125th Arrowtown School Reunion in 1988.

Jack was the subject of an article "A Horse's Tale and A Cat's Ear" in *The Queenstown Courier* Issue 91, 2014.

George left school to drive horses for 'Johnny R', John Reid of Reidhaven, as a teamster on his farm. He was let go in the depression and found work in roading and transport. By 1945 he was contracted to work at the Homer Tunnel. His wife Pearl, née Anderson, accompanied him and was one of two women at the work site. By 1959 George O'Callaghan was back in Arrowtown as owner and manager of the Royal Oak Hotel, the associated stables, and the bakehouse on Buckingham Street. He served four years on the Arrowtown Borough Council before his death in Arrowtown in 1967. 150+ years after the Otago gold rush which made the O'Callaghan name famous, George's oldest son, Raymond O'Callaghan, lives just along the road from the original stone cottage built by his grandfather Cornelius.

The family name of O'Callaghan has been woven into the history of Arrowtown and of Cardrona since the gold rush of 1862-3. At times the weave has been a little unusual: like many Irish names, the 'O' was sometimes dropped from the full surname, only to be replaced when conscription for war required original birth certificates.

Many thanks to Raymond O'Callaghan for his recollections of his family's history. He wrote *Cardrona: 150 Years in the Valley of Gold*.

<http://campbell.familygenes.ca/index.php> has an extensive genealogy of the O'Callaghan descendants of John O'Callaghan, some of whose names are recorded as 'Callaghan.'

The article in *The Queenstown Courier* referred to above can be found by searching keywords in the Magazine Archive on our website, www.queenstownhistoricalsociety.org.nz

Wilcox Green



With a view of autumn colour on the face of the Crown Terrace and a popular photographic spot, this lovely meadow alongside the Arrow River owes its name to Jim Wilcox whose grandfather was lured to New Zealand by gold.

Richard (Dick) Wilcox from Scotland came to work at the Achilles Quartz Reef Gold mine (formally called the Phoenix) at Bullendale in the Upper Shotover. He is mentioned in a photo held in the records of the Lakes District Museum as being on the staff in 1896. He and his wife Ann had three sons born at Bullendale, but when the mine was no longer profitable, the family moved to Arrowtown where five more children were born. Their home, a lovely white cottage that is still standing on the corner of Devon and Cornwall Streets, had been an unused mine manager's house in Macetown that was dismantled, moved, and rebuilt on the site. Surrounded by 5 acres of land, they were able to run a few cows and sheep.



Current street view of the Wilcox Cottage from Google

Two of the oldest three sons saw action in the First World War. James, the firstborn,

left with the Otago Mounted Rifles at the outbreak of war and was killed at the Somme in October 1916. Alfred survived to return home, but his health was affected for the remainder of his life. Alfred married Agnes Jane Cowan and lived in a small cottage on Berkshire Street in Arrowtown before moving to Devon Street in 1935 after the death of his mother. Dick Wilcox remained living there with his son and family until his death in 1945. Alfred and Agnes had three children, Joy, James, and Dorothy. James, probably named for his uncle, was born in 1929 and was better known as Jimmy or Jim. He was a very bright boy, receiving his primary education at the Arrowtown Primary School and then attending the Queenstown District High School. After leaving school Jim was employed at the Arrowtown Post Office, attending to duties on the counter and operating the manual telephone exchange. He was transferred to head office in Wellington to continue his training, but when his father Alfred died in late 1949, Jim returned to Arrowtown to help his mother. In doing this he reverted to the second division of postal office employment and continued to work on the telephone exchange until 1956. In that year he took up employment with Colin Campbell, an Arrowtown builder. Jim was an active member of the community. He played rugby and tennis, was a keen miniature rifle club member, a founding committee member of the Skating Club, and was very involved in the Presbyterian Church.

In November 1956 Jim became an Arrowtown Borough Councillor in what became known as the 'Kiddies Council' because of three members being aged in their twenties! He served two terms and then stood down until again being elected in 1968. He remained a Councillor until 1983 when he finally stepped down having served a total of 21 years, the last three as Deputy Mayor.

Jim owned his own building business for many years and was regarded as a most honest and reliable business man with his word being his bond. He built a caravan park on the five acres in Devon St, and with his wife Patricia whom he married in 1974, operated it for many years. It was recognised as a very friendly and happy park because of their efforts. Sadly, Jim died in 1994 at the age of 65 years, leaving Patricia and three children.

Jim Wilcox was an absolute gentleman his entire life and worked tirelessly for Arrowtown. His was a great contribution, not only for being a councillor for 21 years but as a member of the Fire Brigade for 23 years, Civil Defence Controller for many years, and as a devout Christian throughout his life. He was the President of the Lakes District Museum from 1965 to 1967. At the board meeting in May 1965 Jim Wilcox was congratulated on 'the able and dignified manner in which he had escorted Her Royal Highness the Queen Mother' when she visited the Museum the previous month. (It was also noted that Her Majesty had shown a keen interest in the exhibits!)



Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother with Jim Wilcox (LDM)

When the Arrowtown Borough Council created the reserve in Nairn Street on the site of the old skating rink where Jim had had such influence in the days of the Skating Club, the area needed a name. There was only one name that could be considered: Wilcox Green.



Rose and Jim Wilcox

(LDM)

Chairperson's Report for the Annual General Meeting, November 2017

By Marion Borrell

This has been a steady year of carrying out our roles as set out in the Society's Rules and thinking about future developments. The highlight has been our contribution to the celebration of the restoration of the Arrowtown Gaol by the Wakatipu Heritage Trust, with our presentation of 'People from Our Past – Law and Justice.'

Our membership numbers are unchanged at about 200 memberships or 280 individuals. We thank all members for their continued support and encouragement.

Our financial position is strong with over \$35,000 accumulated. We are grateful for a bequest from Ray Clarkson. We thank Gavin Jack for his financial stewardship and advice.

During the year we farewelled Brian Bayley as he and Pauline have shifted to Nelson. Brian has made an incalculable contribution to the Society since 2005 as Chairperson, legal expert and guide over a crucial period in the Society's life. He was made an Honorary Member in 2010.

Heritage Protection

We have continued to monitor Resource Consent Applications and other matters which have been drawn to our attention. At this time of rapid development, we are grateful for the protections which are in place for historically significant sites, buildings, trees, townscapes and landscapes, and we must remain vigilant.

Publications

Skippers – Triumph and Tragedy: Danny Knudson's wonderful book has continued to sell well, with 1000 copies sold within one year and a further 500 since. As a result, the Society has already recouped the contribution we made towards the costs of publication. It has been a privilege to support this notable local history. We congratulate Danny on its success, and thank the Museum staff for all their work in sales and distribution.

Queenstown Couriers

-Issue 96's articles all by Marion Borrell included one about the history of kea in the high country, as well as items about people and housing in the early days.

-Issue 97 contained articles by Hilary Hunt about Lindsay Kennett, the missing tree in Arrowtown's main street by Rita Teele, and the Queenstown Gardens, Anthony Trollope's visit and the first borough elections by Marion Borrell. In honour of the late Ray Clarkson and Jack Reid, we reprinted articles they had contributed to *Couriers*.

-We thank Michael Anderson for his careful design.

Smartphone App - Heritage Guide to 64 sites: Frustrations have continued this year due to technical difficulties. We continue to hope that they can be overcome.

Community Involvement

- Lakes District Museum: Jocelyn Robertson has once again served as our representative on the Board. Our relationship with the Museum is as strong as ever.



Left, Kirsty Sharpe as Hannah Moriah Ferguson and, right, Sue Harcombe as Catherine Firth

(Photo by Jo Boyd)



Above, Vince Jones at the Glenorchy Cemetery. Below left, Pat Paulin shares memories. Below right, a fraction of the Spijkerboschs' Collection



- Wakatipu Heritage Trust: As Marion is a trustee, we have been able to collaborate in celebrating the restoration of Arrowtown Gaol and in providing letters of support for funding applications.
- Paradise Trust: At last the interpretive panel with a timeline of the history, to which we contributed \$1000, is complete and welcomes visitors to Paradise.
- We have offered QLDC a contribution of \$2000 towards signage at the former Queenstown Library. The panels have been designed, but the project is on hold pending an upgrade of the reserve and street corner outside the Library. Collaboration with Parks and Reserves staff has been positive and mutually beneficial.

Communication with the Public

Blog on www.queenstown.com : Marion writes articles for this website of local information with 16 published since late 2015. A recent and topical series has told the history of Kawarau Falls and Dam. We are grateful for this method of informing a different readership about the history and the Society.

Website: The website has continued to be busy with an average of 66 visits per day. April was our busiest month ever with 88 requests daily. It is gratifying to know that we can so readily promote the Society and share the contents of all the *Couriers*.

Activities for Members from September 2016 to May 2017

- ‘What on Earth is This Gadget?’ with 29 gadgets brought along by members
- Trip to Glenorchy with guides Vince Jones, Chris Grant and Pat Paulin
- AGM, launch of *Courier 96* and ‘Objects with Interesting Histories’ provided by Errol Bulling, Peter Blomfield, Pam Haworth, Wesley and Barbara Kerr, LeBerne and Rupert Iles, and the Museum
- Visit to Bannockburn Community Church and Coronation Hall
- Visit to Erna and Tonnie Spijkerbosch’s Dungeon of Collectibles
- ‘People from Our Past – Law and Justice’ presented by Greg Dorn, Kathleen Brentwood, David Mayhew, Graeme Todd, Kirsty Sharpe and Sue Harcombe, written by Marion Borrell and Rita Teele
- Launch of *Courier 97* and ‘Members Sharing Memories’ with Fran Powell, Bill Sharpe, Shona Blair, Ray O’Callaghan, Pat Paulin and Wesley Kerr

Future Directions

The Wakatipu area is experiencing a dramatic influx of new residents and visitors. As these people know little about local history, the Board at its September meeting decided that the best way to reach them is to ensure that they encounter information panels as they travel around the district. We will allocate some of our funds for this. The bequest from Ray Clarkson is earmarked for panels about Kawarau Falls Dam. We aim to collaborate with QLDC in the first instance.

Board

The Board currently consists of Marion Borrell, Denise Heckler, Gavin Jack, Jocelyn Robertson, Danny Knudson, Russell McGrouther and Anthony Mason.

As Jocelyn is retiring after 17 years on the Board, mainly as Secretary, we thank her warmly for her loyal and gracious service.

We are pleased that two Society members have been attending meetings with a view to joining the Board at our AGM.



It is appropriate that the Museum is built around the original Bank of New Zealand. While originally a repository of gold, the Bank now is the repository of information on the region's past.

Become a Member of the Museum

Membership subscriptions assist the museum to collect, present, protect and preserve the history of the Wakatipu district.

Benefits of membership include:

- Free entry to the museum
- 10% discount on retail purchases
- Members evenings and special events
- Invitations to exhibition openings
- Museum newsletter posted or emailed twice a year

Membership Categories

- Individual \$20
- Student \$10
- Couple/Family \$30
- Life \$200 (life memberships are for individuals)

Membership forms can be downloaded from our website or collected from the Museum.

Donations of Items

If you have artefacts of local historical interest – papers, photographs or objects – which you would like to donate, please contact us.

We appreciate receiving local photographs which we scan and return.

Address: 49 Buckingham Street, Arrowtown

Phone: 03 4421824

Email: info@museumqueenstown.com

Website: www.museumqueenstown.com

Queenstown & District Historical Society 2008 Incorporated

Our Heritage Today - For Tomorrow

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ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION

Individual or Family Membership: \$25 a year

Corporate Membership: \$50 a year

Life Membership: \$250

The Queenstown Courier is posted or hand-delivered to members.

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The Queenstown Courier is produced with the assistance of the Lakes District Museum.

Thanks to the Director, David Clarke, and the Archivist, Anne Maguire.

Printed and supported by Print Central, Queenstown.



Our Heritage Guide for
android smartphones



www.queenstownhistoricalsociety.org.nz

