

Bringing the Past to the Future

THOSE WERE THE DAYS

NEWSLETTER OF THE UPPER CLUTHA HISTORY SOCIETY INC.

(Upper Clutha includes Cardrona, Albert Town, Luggate, Queensberry, Tarras, Lindis, Hāwea, Makarora, Wānaka, Matukituki and Lakes Wānaka and Hāwea)

SUMMER 2024 - VOLUME TWENTY-EIGHT

DECEMBER 2024

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SEASON'S GREETINGS

Another year has almost passed us by and hopefully for you all, next year will be a good one and everyone will enjoy good health. I hope the Christmas and New Year period will bring you together with your families and that you have an enjoyable time. Roll on 2025!

CHANGE OF NAME AND CONSTITUTION

Along with the change of our Constitution (required to comply with new legislation applying to Charities), we took the opportunity to slightly shorten the Society's name from Upper Clutha Historical Records Society Inc. to Upper Clutha History Society Inc.

The Society's purposes were also modernized:

- 2.1 To collect, record and preserve historical records and images of all types, that principally relate to Wānaka and surrounding areas.
- 2.2 To promote and provide access to records held to all members, persons and organisations interested in the history of Wānaka and surrounding areas.
- 2.3 To research stories, trends, events and other historical knowledge relating to the history of the Wānaka area.
- 2.4 To promote and communicate the history of the Wānaka area, by any available means, to assist in the education and meet the interests of residents and visitors.
- 2.5 To raise and manage funds to support the Purposes of the Society.
- 2.6 To provide an organisation and support resources for individuals who wish to participate in activities consistent with the Purposes of the Society on a voluntary basis.
- 2.7 To build relationships and collaborate with key community stakeholder organisations in Wānaka and surrounding areas on historical matters and joint projects.

We are still doing the same work though!

PEMBROKE OR WĀNAKA – JUST SO YOU KNOW IT IS OFFICIAL!



CHANGE OF NAME OF LOCALITY

PEMBROKE TO WANAKA.

GALWAY, GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

A PROCLAMATION.

WHEREAS settlers in the locality known as “Pembroke,” in the County of Lake, desire that the name of such locality should be changed to “Wanaka,” and it is considered expedient to alter the same:

Now, therefore, I, George Vere Arundell, Viscount Galway, the Governor-General of the Dominion of New Zealand, in pursuance and exercise of the powers and authorities conferred on me by the Designation of Districts Act, 1908, and of all other powers and authorities enabling me in this behalf, do hereby proclaim and declare that the name of the locality known as “Pembroke,” in the County of Lake, shall be and the same is hereby altered to “Wanaka,” and do assign the last-mentioned name to such locality accordingly; and also do hereby proclaim and declare that this Proclamation shall take effect on the first day of September, one thousand nine hundred and forty, not being earlier than six months after the first publication thereof in the *Gazette*.

Given under the hand of His Excellency the Governor-General of the Dominion of New Zealand, and issued under the Seal of that Dominion, this 28th day of February, 1940.

W. E. PARRY,
Minister of Internal Affairs.

GOD SAVE THE KING!

And what they did to celebrate:

Golf Tournament

The annual tournament of the Wanaka Golf Club was held in fine weather, and was a success in every way. A dance was arranged for the final evening, and the trophies were presented by the president of the club, Mr F. H. Collings. Mr W. Shepherd (Dunedin) appealed to the visiting golfers to contribute 5s each as the first contributions to the Wanaka queen carnival fund, and the sum of £6 was collected in five minutes. To celebrate the changing of the name of Pembroke to Wanaka on September 1, a coffin was carried around the hall just before midnight, the pall-bearers being Messrs F. Collings, W. A. Scaife, R. Scott, and Dr Douglas. At midnight Mrs A. M. Douglas entered the hall with the "newly-born Wanaka" (Miss Joan Scaife).

Amazing what we find hidden away in our records as David continues with the project of scanning all our records into computer files as a backup!

NOT ONLY FARMERS HATED RABBITS!

As most people know, rabbits quickly became a pest in the 1870's after they were introduced to rural areas.

A typed article, by an unknown author, was recently discovered in the Society's records which described a child's attitude towards rabbits:

" In the early days, in fact right up until after the last World War, rabbits were a problem. On one occasion, McPherson¹ was taking his family of four daughters and one son to Wānaka in the dray. On the way through Cattle Flat they set upon an acquaintance who exclaimed "My, McPherson, that is a bonny looking family of daughters you have. What do you feed them on?"

¹ Hugh McPherson who lived with his family up the Matukituki Valley, on what we now know as Mt Aspiring Station, apparently in somewhat 'straightened' conditions.

With that, one daughter piped up “Rabbits hot, rabbits cold, rabbits young, rabbits old, rabbits thin, rabbits tough, my goodness we’ve had enough.” In the 75 years that rabbits were rampant in Otago (and still are!), how many farmers and runholders expressed the same feelings in more lurid details?”



**The McPherson family celebrating New Years Day at the old sawmill site – 1906
(No rabbits to be seen!)**

The rabbits are still with us but one would hope that the rabbits the McPherson family were consuming were not killed by strychnine poison which was the common means of killing them!

In 1915, even Charles Ewing, as secretary of the Pembroke Commonage Committee, was fined £1 with 12 shillings costs on a charge of failing to kill rabbits on the Commonage² (now known as Pembroke Park).

² Failing to Destroy Rabbits, Magistrates Court, Pembroke, Cromwell Argus, 8 March 1915

ROBERT MCDUGALL 1829 - 1915



Introduction

An important event for the Upper Clutha occurred in Carlton, Glasgow in 1829³. It was the birth of a baby boy to Andrew McDougall, a cotton spinner, and his wife Jean (née McFarlane). He was to be named Robert and appears from the records to be their first born.

Records suggest that there may have been five other children born to Robert's parents but only three can be identified to date. They are⁴:

- Andrew McDougall born 29 Sept 1831 (Bapt 16 Oct 1831) in Carlton, Glasgow (2nd child). Died 2 Aug 1860
- Peter McDougall born 5 May 1833 (Bapt. 23 Jun 1833) in Carlton, Glasgow (3rd child)
- Janet McDougall born 23 May 1843 in Carlton, Glasgow (6th child)

About 1849, like other young men and women of his age group, Robert left home and sailed to the United States. It is not known what he did there, but he returned in 1851. What becomes apparent, is that he thought his real future was overseas. The economic situation in Scotland in the early 1850s was not great for the low and middle-class families, so it is understandable why so many emigrated.

It was stated in his Obituary published in the Lake County Press, 18 November 1915 that Robert arrived in Melbourne, Australia in 1853 on the ship "Champion of the Seas". However, that ship was not launched until 1854 and the maiden voyage was from Liverpool to Melbourne between October 1854 and 26 December 1854.⁵ Pure conjecture, but maybe he left Scotland

³ Family records state it was on 16 October 1829

⁴ From Birth Registrations discovered on www.Scotlandsppeople.gov.uk last accessed 24 August 2024

⁵ Internet https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Champion_of_the_Seas last accessed 18 December 2023

in 1853 and worked in Liverpool for a short while. Certainly, he was on this 1854 voyage as evidenced by the Passenger List.⁶

Port of Emigration	Names of Passengers	Adults		Children under 14 & L.		Total	Profession, Occupation, or Calling of Passengers	English	Scott.	Irish	Other Parts	Port at which Passengers have embarked to land
		M	F	M	F							
LIVERPOOL	Borgia Formet	246	44	27	19	9	CB					
	Mr. Hill		53					/				
	Mr. Brown		44					/				
	Mr. Le Vasseur		25					/				
	Dr. ...			26				/				
	Miss ...		16					/				
	Miss ...		11					/				
	James ...		46				Book ...	/				
	James ...		36				House ...	/				
	W. M. ...		6				James	/				
	Mr. ...		29					/				
	Mr. ...			9				/				
	Mr. ...		10				Sergeant	/				
	Thomas ...		30					/				
	Mr. ...			9				/				
	Miss ...				11			/				
	Miss ...				10			/				
	Robert ...		35					/				
	Miss ...		22				Shepherd	/				
	Mr. ...		22					/				
	Mr. ...		27				Mason	/				
	Mr. ...		27					/				
	Mr. ...		27					/				



Whilst in Australia, Robert engaged in gold-mining in various locations. He arrived right in the middle of the “rush”. As he landed at Melbourne, it is most likely he went to the Ballarat/Mt Alexander, Maryborough/Bendigo fields which had “rich pickings”, for a while anyway.

The Rush to New Zealand

1861 and word got around that there were “rich pickings” to be had in a newly discovered goldfield in Otago. Robert sailed to Dunedin in August 1861 where he joined in with thousands of other gold prospectors in the Gabriels Gully gold rush. He also tried the Wetherstones goldfield as well.

It was reported he was “moderately successful”⁷ but he cannot have been there long as he travelled back to Glasgow, Scotland, for reasons unknown. There he met his wife to be, Elizabeth Paterson and they married on 12 June 1862 at Bridgeton, in the Carlton district of Glasgow. Robert was described on the marriage entry in the Register as a gold miner and Elizabeth as a domestic servant.⁸ Elizabeth was aged 23, so born about 1838.

⁶ Internet <https://prov.vic.gov.au/archive/3AF6D5EF-F96C-11E9-AE98-9DD57D8DEA70?image=200> last accessed 18 December 2023

⁷ Obituary, Lake County Press, 18 November 1915, Page 5

⁸ Statutory Register Marriages 644/3 – 1862 Marriages in the District of Bridgeton in the Burgh of Glasgow, No. 99

Elizabeth's parents were George Paterson, a coal miner and Elizabeth Morrison. Nothing more is known about them and like Robert's parents, they had died before the marriage of Robert and Elizabeth.

Whilst they were in Glasgow, their first child, also named Robert, was born in 1863, however an official record of this birth cannot be located to date. The date is recorded on his headstone as being 4 March 1863 and also on a handwritten family record that indicates Robert Jnr was baptized by the Rev. J R Watson at Christ Church, 796 Crow Rd., Glasgow.

The next year they sailed for New Zealand and Robert returned to the goldfields⁹. It was when they were at Macetown that Robert set up as a storekeeper, though wanderlust seemed to still be in his blood, as he travelled to South America and back to Australia before returning to the Arrow. It must have been a quick trip and maybe Elizabeth stayed behind at Macetown as their next child, Andrew, was born in New Zealand on 15 May 1865 at Macetown. Once back, Robert and Elizabeth started raising cattle at 12 Mile, Arrowtown, but maybe this was not to his liking. Not long after, Robert entered into a partnership with a William Tily Smith as storekeepers. They were to have stores in Arrowtown, Cardrona, Macetown and Motatapu. Robert had moved to Cardrona in 1871 about the time that store was purchased and the rest of the family moved over in 1872. Robert and William had purchased the store from the widow of R Patterson who had recently deceased.¹⁰ On 9 April 1877, the partnership was dissolved and Robert retained the Cardrona store¹¹ and he was appointed the Postmaster on 1 August 1872 for an annual fee of £11. Another important business owned by the McDougalls, was the coal mine located up near the top of the Crown Range Pass.

The McDougalls had another connection to business in Cardrona. Elizabeth's brother, Gavin¹², had also come out from Scotland. His son, James Dunlop Paterson, Elizabeth's nephew, owned the Cardrona Hotel for many years until he died in 1961.

Maybe, with Robert being voted in as a councillor to the new Lakes County Council after the elections on 22 December 1876¹³ meant his time being part of the partnership was being imposed on, or Robert's plans to move to Pembroke did not sit well with his partner.

The Pembroke Move

Earlier in 1876, Robert had applied for Crown Grants for a number of properties in the township of Pembroke. Of special importance was the Crown Grant dated 12 June 1876 to Block 9, Sections 29, 30 and 57. These sections were on Ardmore Street and today the location can be identified by the Wānaka Four Square store and the next two sections towards the Lake. This location was to be central to his store business and other activities. He did purchase Section 31 from the Estate of George Barker on 19 March 1885 which completed the total area for the store, not that it took up all of that area.

⁹ The report of Elizabeth's death in the Otago Witness, 6 May 1924, Page 31 suggests Robert came back to New Zealand by himself and Elizabeth followed later, unlike other newspaper articles on this couple. Note that their next son, Andrew, was born on 15 May 1865.

¹⁰ Ray O'Callaghan, Cardrona 150 Years in the Valley of Gold, (Tidy Design Ltd, Wānaka, 2012), 44. Also, Notice, Lake County Press 29 September 1872, Page 3.

¹¹ Dissolution of Partnership, Lake Wakatip Mail, 3 May 1877, Page 3

¹² Gavin became a dairy farmer in the Oamaru district.

¹³ F W G Miller, Golden Days of Lake County (2 ed, Whitcombe and Tombs Ltd, Christchurch and elsewhere, 1949, 275.

The Pembroke store business thrived and in 1883 it became the Post and Telegraph Office having taken over this operation from Celia Russell at the Wānaka Hotel (not without some disquiet from some locals).

In 1885 he briefly opened a new store up on the Criffell Gold Field but the initial business did not continue, so it was closed, as did other businesses that ventured up to the field.¹⁵

By the turn of the century, the age of the wooden Pembroke store was showing through. The attached bakery had suffered a fire in 1888, though it had been rebuilt. In 1904, Robert's sons, Andrew and Peter, demolished the old store and built a new one, marginally closer to the Lake, on Section 29.



The Second Store after D A Jolly purchased it

Robert was ageing though he was still very active in the community and still a Lakes County Councillor when he sold the Pembroke business of R McDougall and Sons to his son Peter. Peter appears not to have been the businessman that his father was and by April 1913 was adjudged bankrupt. Robert had been astute enough to take a Caveat over the land and buildings to secure the liability Peter must have had to his father, so that when David Jolly from Cromwell purchased the business and property from the Official Assignee, Robert was in a position to retain part of the land in exchange for him releasing his Caveat. Sections 29A, 30A and 31A were subdivided off on 27 March 1914. This land was in turn sold by Robert's Estate to Helen Mackay and was where the Dunedin-Wānaka Motor Services Ltd was established (and later became Mansons Motors Ltd).

¹⁵ Advertisements, Business Notice, Cromwell Argus, 6 October 1885, Page 3

Note that it was D A Jolly & Sons that built the existing store (operating under the Four Square trading name) in 1926/27 to replace the store built in 1904.



Note the road level – no steps to get up to the store entrance like today!

Shipping

With increasing numbers of tourists and demand for shipping on the Lake, Robert ventured into shipping on the Lake using the trade name Wānaka Steamshipping Company. About May 1892 he purchased the paddle-steamer *Theodore* that had been plying the Lake since 1883. The vessel had previously sunk at the jetty in 1891 but was repaired. The *Theodore* was finally laid up and grounded about 1906/7 where it disintegrated over time before being removed altogether between 1910 and 1914.

William Allan put up his steamship, *SS Makarora*, for sale in 1906 as he intended leaving the area. Robert purchased it, possibly as a prospective replacement for the *Theodore*. It sank on 27 April 1909 and that was the end of Robert's commercial interest in shipping on Lake Wānaka.



L A K E W A N A K A
TOURIST SEASON, 1892-93.

**REINTRODUCTION OF STEAM UPON
 THE LAKE.**

The Royal Mail Steam Packet
T H E O D O R E
 (Captain MATHIESON)

Will leave Pembroke daily (Sundays and Tues-
 days excepted) at 9 a.m. for the various places
 of interest on the Lake, prominent amongst
 which are Makarora, Manuka Island, Lake
 McDougall, Glendhu and Minaret Bays, &c ;
 returning same evening at 6 o'clock.

Punctuality in despatch and low charges are
 prominent features in our management.

For Rugged Alpine Scenery, embracing in its
 variety the more mellowed aspects of natural
 grandeur peculiar to the Lakes of Scotland,

LAKE WANAKA HAS NO RIVAL.

FARES:

	Single	Return
Pembroke to Head of Lake, cabin	10s 6d	17s 6d
steerage	7s 6d	12s 6d
Pembroke to all other places, cabin	7s 6d	12s 6d
steerage	5s 6d	8s 6d

NOTE—Free Cabin Passages will be granted
 to Clergymen, School Teachers, Artists, Photo-
 graphers, Press Representatives and Gold Pro-
 spectors.

AGENTS:

CRAIG & CO, Lawrence and Queenstown ;
COOK & SON, throughout New Zealand.
 For further particulars apply to

B. McDOUGALL & SONS,
 no80 Pembroke.

Councillor McDougall

In January 1914, Robert gave notice to the Lakes County Council that he would not be standing again in the coming October elections. This meant that having been first elected in 1876, he was a councillor for more years than most other councillors.

It had not taken him long to make his presence known to the other councillors. In April 1877 he presented a petition to have the Cardrona Riding (and adjacent Ridings in the Upper Clutha), separated from the Lakes County and included in Vincent County.¹⁶ Robert, as Chairman of

¹⁶ Notice, Lake Wakatip Mail, 24 May 1877, Page 2

the Separation Committee, led the presentation of the information, to the Lakes County Council and The Governor of New Zealand. It was noted that rates being collected from the Cardrona Riding far exceeded the expenditure by the Council on facilities in the Riding (when have we heard that argument repeated?). The petition was unsuccessful.

N O T I C E

I HEREBY NOTIFY that a Petition, having for its object the Separation of Cardrona Riding and that portion of Matukituki Riding on the Western Watershed of Lake Wanaka, from Lake County, and union with the Ridings of Harwea, Kawarau and Nevis in the present County of Vincent, is being signed within the districts above-mentioned, and will be forwarded to his Excellency the Governor one month from date.

ROBERT M'DOUGALL,
Chairman Separation Committee.
Cardrona, 18th May, 1877.

17

In October 1877, Robert proposed to the Lakes County Council, that £40 and £30 be granted to purchase books for the “Wānaka (Pembroke) and Cardrona Libraries” respectively¹⁸. It was approved by the Council, unconditionally for the “Pembroke Public Library”, but with a condition on the Cardrona grant, that the Cardrona Library had to first declare itself a public library¹⁹. It is difficult to believe that Robert McDougall operated entirely on his own, to promote a motion at Council for funds for the Libraries, which leads to the premise that a Pembroke library group (committee) already existed in 1877. Cardrona formed a library committee very quickly in early December 1877. Pembroke did not have to form a Public Library as it was already in operation, but not from a specially built building until 1882/3.

Another major achievement was the creation of the Lake County Forestry Nursery at Spotts Creek. He started work on this in 1878 and despite strenuous opposition from the Lake County Council, he won out and proved that it could be a profitable project. Bill Studholme was appointed the manager. At one stage it was reported they had over 25,000 seedling trees in the ground.

Robert was a very active councillor and missed very few meetings despite his age and having to travel over the Crown Range to attend.

Service to the Community

He had a remarkable career in service to his community and was well respected, most of the time. Whilst he may have sued clients for non-payment of accounts he was generous in providing credit to miners and others who could not afford to buy essential goods. There was one, at times intense rivalry between Robert and William Monteith. It was reported that “their personal animosity grew to such an extent that finally, topcoats off and waistcoats popping,

¹⁷ Lake Wakatipu Mail, 24 May 1877, Page 2

¹⁸ Example is “Lake County Council” in the Lake Wakatipu Mail, Issue 1037, 11 October 1877, Page 3.

¹⁹ Prior to the Cardrona grant, only a book club had been in existence – Lake County Press, Cardrona, 13 December 1877, P2

they laid into each other with walking sticks and riding whips. Soon exhausted, the two shopkeepers continued their battle in Court with mutual charges of assault. A wise magistrate awarded each man equal damages and costs.”²⁰

That aside, the list of his involvement in the community was extensive and includes:

- Providing a joint guarantee of £200 for two years to obtain a competent schoolteacher for the district and working on the school committee
- Member of the Wānaka Islands Domain Board
- His efforts to get roads for wheeled traffic built
- Effort to have the four islands in Lake Wānaka vested in the Wānaka Domains Board
- Advocate for the Central Otago Railway
- Strong advocate for the breaking up of the large Runs
- His generosity towards deserving new settlers to enable them to establish a home
- Coroner
- Obtaining funding to form tracks and improve Manuka Island (now known as Mou Wahu). It involved him donating 25% of the cost and having to find another 25% before the General Survey Office would provide the balance (£50)
- Participating in many local bodies and community activities
- Registrar of Births Deaths and Marriages

Such was Robert Snr’s standing in the Community he has been called “King of Pembroke” and “Father of Pembroke” but that is probably taking matters a bit far as there are others who also contributed quietly in the background to the establishment and welfare of the Pembroke community.

His Family

Nine children were born to Robert and Elizabeth:

1. Robert born at Glasgow, Scotland in 1863
2. Andrew born at Macetown in 1865
3. Jean born at Sunnyside, Dunedin on 1 Apr 1867 (from a family record. No registration details can be found). A Jean McDougall appears on the Electoral Rolls for 1893 and 1896 at Pembroke. It appears she may have married a Hugh McEldowney, on 16 Aug 1898 but he died on 17 Dec 1898. It then appears that she then entered into a relationship with John McLennan (no record of a marriage can be found but their child, Margaret Elizabeth, was born in 1907). Jean died in 1939 and is buried in the Northern Cemetery, Dunedin.
4. Janet born Arrow Flat in 1869
5. Peter born at Arrow Flat in 1871 married Blanche Russell on 11 Aug 1892
6. Alexander born at Arrow Flat in 1873
7. John born at Arrowtown in 1876
8. Allan born Cardrona in 1878 (died 1910)

²⁰ Aspiring Settlers , John H Angus (John McIndoe, Dunedin, 1981) pages 66-67 McIndoe

9. Annie born 1882 at Pembroke (died 1886)

All of these children contributed to the Upper Clutha Community – Andrew as Captain of various lake vessels and other business activities, John at Tarras, Peter working in the store and the Wānaka Hotel, Robert Jnr as partner and then owner of the store in Cardrona. Like his father, Robert Jnr became a valuable and important member of the Cardrona community.

Robert died in Pembroke on 13 November 1915 aged 86. Elizabeth, who was a capable supporter for her husband and her children, lived at Cardrona with her eldest son, Robert Jnr, after the death of her husband. She died on 8 April 1924 at Frankton Hospital. They are both buried in the Wānaka Cemetery.



Whilst there are two additional children named on the Headstone in the Wānaka Cemetery, (May, born 1895 and George, born 1897), that is an error.²¹

The aforementioned history of Robert McDougall Snr is but a summary and does not cover everything that he was involved in.

Addendum: A few days ago we discovered some writings of Bob Norman (1900-1996). Included was this story from his childhood at school (written in 1996!):

“Mr. and Mrs. Robert McDougall lived up by the school creek on the road to Mt. Barker, (Old Mac we used to call him) and every day he would ride a black pony over to his store across the Pembroke Flat to his office in the top store. He was 85 and we thought “heavens that are old” (sic). We saw him every day going home for dinner, and one day a red deer, it must have been a stag, went across the flat heading for Mt. Roy and Taddy Goodall, as we called Maud Goodall's younger sister, came running into school and told Miss Murdock that she had just seen Old Mac's pony going across the flats with sticks on his head.”

²¹ Source: Catherine Little of Wānaka, a descendant. George in fact is a son of Andrew and Florence McDougall as per his Death record at Births Deaths and Marriages. There is no record of May at Births Deaths & Marriages.

THE GREAT IRISH MYTH!

I don't know how many times I have picked up a book on local history and I am confronted with the statement that John Aitken Connell was born in Ireland and named the streets of Pembroke in 1863 with Irish placenames. Those statements are absolutely incorrect!

For those unaware of who he was, he was the surveyor who in 1863 surveyed the first streets and sections in Pembroke (Wānaka), Newcastle (Albert Town), Gladstone (Lake Hāwea) and Wakefield (near Bendigo).

John Aitken Connell (it appears he used the name 'Aitken' as his first name), was born in Glasgow, Scotland, to James and Jessie (née Douglas) Connell on 9 February 1840²². His father was a Doctor of Laws, but best known for his work in mathematics and teaching thereof. He died in 1846 when John was just 6 years of age.

On 2 Dec 1858 Connell sailed from London, heading for New Zealand on the sailing ship *Excelsior*. It arrived in Auckland on 17 March 1859²³.

There are no records found as to what Connell did between arriving in Auckland and arriving in Dunedin. Connell's descendants have wondered if he was employed by the well-known firm of Connell and Ridings, Auctioneers, Commission Merchants, Real Estate Agents and Surveyors in Auckland. One principal was a William Connell. He died in December 1859 aged 53 but there is no record found connecting him to Aitken Connell.

We do know that he started advertising for work as a qualified surveyor in the Otago Witness on 1 December 1860. Then on 10 January 1863 we find this advertisement in the Otago Daily Times:

C O N N E L L A N D M O O D I E
LAND AND ESTATE AGENTS AND
SURVEYORS.

Surveys, Engineering Works, and Mapping of every description executed.
Loans on Mortgage negotiated.
Land office business transacted, and every description of Land and Estate Agency attended to.
Interests and Rents collected.
Maps of all Government Lands in Otago kept for reference.

CONNELL & MOODIE,
From their many years experience in Otago, and from having executed surveys in every part of the province are in a position to furnish reliable information regarding properties, whether pastoral, agricultural, or urban.
Offices, above C. T. ICK, Draper,
PRINCES-STREET.

²² 1840 Parish Register of Births 644/1 Glasgow page 656

²³ Passenger List, The New Zealander, 19 March 1859 (a transcription) found at www.yesteryears.co.nz/shipping/passlists/excelsior.html, last accessed 6 Nov 2024

Principally they were involved as Land and Estate Agents and Surveyors²⁴ in arranging purchase of land and in lending money. Surveyors were much in demand around this time as inland Otago opened up following the discovery of gold. The original firm contracted to the Provincial Council undertaking surveying work from time to time.

Connell and Moodie eventually merged with others to become part of the Perpetual Trustees Estate and Agency Co of New Zealand Ltd., which eventually became part of Pyne Gould Corporation.

On 1 February 1871 John married Mary Monica Jones and they had a family of nine children. Every child had John's mother's maiden name, Douglas, as a second name – females included!

His legacy to the Upper Clutha has been his surveying of the area, especially the Albert Town and Wānaka settlements in 1863. Unfortunately his descendants, in a family history published in 2013²⁵, are well off the mark, i.e. “..the towns never amounted to much”!:

Moving on, he undertook various business activities, including national politics and ended up in Auckland after a short sojourn in Melbourne, Australia. His health was reported to be “indifferent”²⁶ and on 21 August 1891 he was discovered in his hotel room, deceased, with a bullet wound to his head and a revolver alongside. He was just 51 years of age. Incidentally his mother also committed suicide in 1860.

But why have people come to the incorrect conclusion that he was born in Ireland? It was because the streets of Pembroke (Wānaka”) that he surveyed, were all named after places in Ireland. But it was not he who named the streets, but someone of ‘influence’, probably back in the Otago Provincial Council Surveyor's offices in Dunedin. Connell's notebook of the 1863 survey does not mention the name of any streets at all, but does use the name “Wanaka Township”! The paper attached to the notebook cover does record his name and the names of the towns he surveyed, but that cover is almost certainly attached later on and is not in Connell's handwriting. He was just a contractor to the Chief Surveyor for the Provincial Council, John Turnbull Thomson, in undertaking the survey.



²⁴ Advertisements, Otago Daily Times, 21 June 1864, Page 2 as an example

²⁵ <https://issuu.com/bigtimeproductions/docs/connellfamilytreebook> last accessed 25 Oct 2024

²⁶ Suicide of Mr Aitken Connell, New Zealand Times, 8 September 1891, Page 2

It is not the only occurrence of various authors coming to incorrect conclusions when describing the history of Upper Clutha places. Examples are:

1. Pembroke being named after the Duke of Pembroke. The official records state that it was named after Sydney Herbert, second son of the Earl of Pembroke. Sydney was an important UK politician and also the Colonial Secretary for a time. He was never the Earl.
2. Queensberry being named after the Duke of Queensberry. It was named after Queensberry Hill in Dumfriesshire.

However, when we look at the four settlements surveyed in 1863 by Connell, there is a certain “political” connection apparent to the naming.

Newcastle (now Albert Town) – the 5th Duke of Newcastle, Henry Pelam-Clinton, had been Chief Secretary for Ireland, Secretary of State for the Colonies, Secretary of State for War and the Colonies. Perhaps importantly, he was Secretary of State for the Colonies from 1859 to 1864.

Gladstone (eastern end of Lake Hāwea township) – William Ewart Gladstone was one of the longest serving Members of Parliament and Prime Minister for over 12 years. In the period 1859 to 1865 was the Chancellor of the Exchequer under Lord Palmerston.

Wakefield – near Bendigo – Edward Gibbon Wakefield is the probable candidate. A politician very involved in the establishment of New Zealand principally by immigrants from the UK and he was a director of the New Zealand Company. He died in 1862.

It is suggested that Connell would have little influence on the naming of these proposed settlements and the street names.

I rest my case, which incidentally, in respect of Connell, is fully supported by the article in The Queenstown Courier, Winter 2016, Issue No 95, pages 19 to 24 written by Rita Teele and Anne Maguire. Unfortunately, for me, the article was not discovered until I had researched and written all of the above!



John Aitken Connell 1840-1891

AN OLD PHOTO



Have you seen this cottage before?

The photo was in a bundle of photos that probably came into our collection before 2012. It looks like the cottage has either been moved from another site or is about to go to a new site.

Locality: It is thought to be likely in the area south of Dungarvon and Brownston Streets. If you can help, please contact Erena at collections@uppercluthahistory.org.

HOW TO BUILD A DWELLING IN 1858-9

In 1858-9 there were no buildings in the Upper Clutha when the first settlers arrived. They really only had materials from the land with which to build a shelter. Most of the new arrivals came from Scotland where a large percentage of the houses were cob cottages – made with mud and straw and sometimes mud and rocks. Thankfully, Resource Consents etc did not have to be applied for!

The following is a description of how the walls were made on Morven Hills Station:

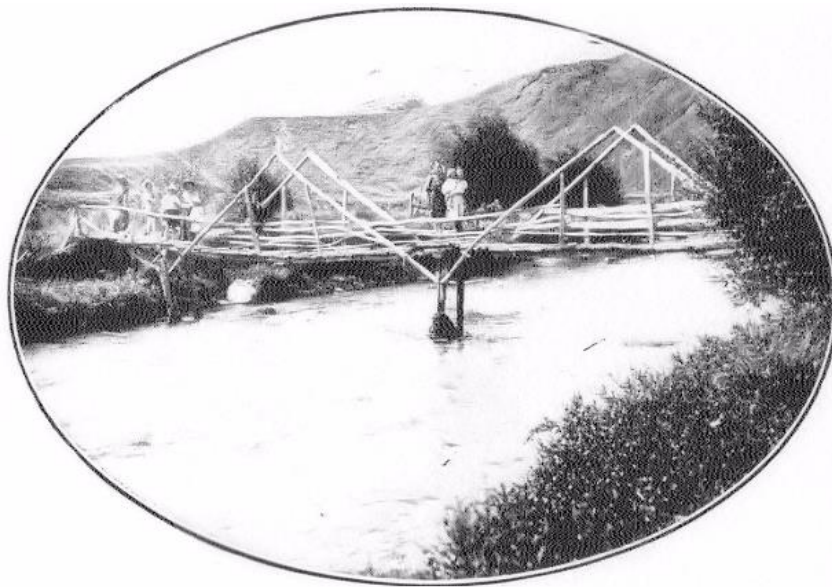
“They dug a trench and into it they threw tussock, toi-toi and horse-hair and, adding water, they walked an old horse up and down to get the mud to the right consistency. Carrying stones from the River Lindis, they build a Scotch settlement exactly the same as may be found in the Highlands to-day. The house, built of stones and mud dried in the sun, had eleven rooms.”

This excerpt is from a booklet “From Little Towns in a far land we came” by Helen MacLean Buckley written in 1950 for the Canterbury centenary (page 45). She was a descendant of the McLean family who established Morven Station. The method used is the same as described in use in Dumfriesshire and can be seen in the remains of the original buildings by Tom Anderson at Kidds Creek. There will be other examples around the country.

See Page 45 of “From Little Towns”

<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10745-017-9931-4>

100 YEARS AGO



BRIDGE OVER MOTOTAPU AT M'LAREN'S, WANAKA WEST

Thank heavens Santa doesn't have to cross this bridge anymore!

(Otago Witness, 23 Dec 1924, Page 41)

A THANK YOU TO REV. CATHERINE LITTLE

Catherine is shortly moving house and she has allowed us to digitize her photo albums which cover a lot of the history of Cardrona and surrounds. She has also gifted some items that are very important to the history of the Upper Clutha. The Society is very grateful to Catherine for her generosity and trust that she enjoys her new home.

JO'S NOTES

Our volunteers have been exceedingly busy and productive this year with added challenges involving the planning and selection of the Wānaka History new logo and the 2025 website

content. Working with Catherine Hart, our newly appointed Project Manager, has been rewarding as she negotiated on our behalf to accomplish goals and overcome issues as they arose. Kaye Spark, working from Brisbane, has researched and written up an interesting biography of John Faulks 1871-1947 (married Mary Ann MacKay) who became a run holder in the Upper Clutha and contributed much to the development of our area.

The Memorials folders have been scanned and information updated including GPS coordinates for each plaque. If you find a new plaque, please photograph it and email us the details so we can add it to our ever-increasing records. Research hours worked by our dedicated Editor are mind-boggling as he strives to write interesting new material and occasionally correct misinformation previously published. I also must thank Erena Barker on behalf of everyone, for her diligence and huge hours in managing our collection and recording/updating information on our database.

We are beginning a recess in December and will start again in February but if you do have any queries over this period, leave a message with the Librarians and we will see what we can do for you.

Merry Christmas and happy holidays everyone.

HOT OFF THE PRESS

As of Friday 29 November we now have a new logo – it comes in various colours with and without the words, depending on usage:



ENQUIRIES, RESEARCH AND PHOTOS

The Records Room at the Wānaka Library is open on Wednesday mornings from about 9am to 11am (except during December and January). It is manned by a very small team of volunteers. To make an appointment for Research enquiries, please contact the Wānaka Library staff who

will pass on the request, or preferably email admin@uppercluthahistory.org with contact details and the subject of your enquiry.

OUR PUBLICATIONS

The Society has published a small number of books and booklets over the years.

Skirt Tales – 100 Historical Stories of Women from the Upper Clutha Area, Central Otago - \$25 (plus postage if any). This is the 4th time this book has been reprinted. It is available from the Society, and the Wānaka Library.

The Sequel – - \$25 (plus postage if required). A sequel to Skirt Tales. A small number of copies of this book are available from The Society and the Wānaka Library.

125, Look Alive – 125 Years of Schooling in the Wānaka District - \$15.00 (plus postage if required). Available from the Society or the Wānaka Library.

The Upper Clutha – 150 Years - \$5 (plus postage if required). A short history of the Upper Clutha district. Available from the Society or the Wānaka Library.

Courageous and Free – \$30 (plus postage if required) -Stories of Upper Clutha WW1 Soldiers and Nurse who died due to war service.

NZ Post “Bubble Bags” are used to protect the books when posted.

PHOTOS

Copies of the photographs held in our records can only be provided as a digital file. We do not provide printed copies. A small number of photos are subject to copyright or ownership of external parties and we cannot provide files for these.

Costs are:

For individuals:

Digital file: \$30-00

For Non-profit Community organizations:

There is generally no fee for digital copies but a donation would be welcome.

For Commercial Organizations:

Please enquire. The Society only provides a digital file and there are limitations on use of same.

Please note that ownership of the image lies with the Society and further copying requires our written approval and possibly an additional negotiated fee.

WHO ARE WE?

President: Ed Waddington

Treasurer: Bruce Foulds

Secretary: Dawn Bosely

Committee Members: Jo Wilton, Helen Howarth, Ken Allan, Maia Bennett.

The Society was established in 1985, Incorporated in 2010, and became a Registered Charity in 2014, to collect and preserve records and images of the history of the Upper Clutha region and make them available to members of the public. The records are held in a special room in the Wānaka Library and a small team of volunteers provides research assistance (appointments are necessary) to members of the public who may be looking for their family history or for persons searching for aspects of NZ history. Copying costs apply.

Funding is reliant on the assistance of a variety of community funders such as Central Lakes Trust, Otago Community Trust, the QLDC and others. Donations are very welcome, as are new members.

Donations may be made to our bank account 03-1739-0012311-00 with the reference – Donation. As we are a Registered Charity, donations over \$5 are tax deductible – please ask for a receipt. Please note that the IRD require donor's full name and full address.

Membership Subscriptions for year ending 31 March are \$15-00 per person.

Website: <http://www.uppercluthahistory.org/>

Email: admin@uppercluthahistory.org