

Frankton and Arrowtown Hospitals

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FRANKTON AND ARROWTOWN HOSPITALS

With the start of the building of the new Frankton Hospital and the eventual disappearance of the old building a letter was sent to Mr G.T. Piercy, Deputy Chief Executive of the Southland Hospital Board seeking information on the present buildings. His reply for which we are grateful follows -

"In 1980 when carrying out research for background information in relation to the preparation of a Service Development Plan, I became so engrossed in the old Minute books that I decided to mark down some facts and later compiled to the best of my ability, an historical background to hospitals and their evolving services.

The Lakes District was difficult because Minutes books which must have been used by local Committees at Frankton and Arrowtown are not in our archives. Nevertheless I managed to find some things of interest. Following are the relevant excerpts from the Regional document.

Frankton and Arrowtown

"When the Southland Hospital Board was formed in 1885, two of the four hospitals which came under its jurisdiction were in the Lakes County. It was thought that although these strictly speaking were in the Otago province, they were easier to administer from Invercargill than from Dunedin. It is for this reason that the Southland Board has responsibility for the Lakes County District.

These two hospitals were Queenstown, Wakatipu or Frankton hospital as it was variously known, and the Arrow Hospital at Arrowtown. The reason given for the close proximity of these two hospitals in the Lakes area, was that the Frankton hospital was built in the gold rush days when the area contained thousands of miners who were engaged in hazardous occupations.

The Frankton hospital was opened in 1863 and the Arrow hospital in 1880. It was thought that poor communications may have been the chief reason for the erection of the latter hospital. The two hospitals were no doubt essential at that time.

Frankton hospital was burned down in 1894 and Board did consider centralising services with the Arrow hospital which at that time had accommodation for 16 patients. It was suggested to the Board by the Inspector-General of Hospitals that it should have only one hospital in the area because the daily average for the combined institutions could be handled at the Arrowtown hospital. But because of the geographical position he advised the Board to build at Frankton and to close the Arrowtown hospital. The Board did not adopt this suggestion, rebuilding at Frankton and retaining the hospital at Arrowtown. It is interesting to note that in 1915 it was stated by the Chairman of the Board that the two hospitals had been retained because of a 'certain local feeling' between Queenstown and Arrowtown. The Chairman, however, doubted if it was in the best interests of the district. In November 1915 the Arrow Hospital was closed and the patients transferred to Frankton."

Lake County Hospital, Frankton

"Just two years after the first hospital in the Southland Board's area was opened in the Crescent in Invercargill in 1861, a hospital was erected at Frankton.

The Frankton Hospital was built by the Otago Provincial Government in the gold rush days and with thousands of miners engaged in what was known as a hazardous occupation in very "tough" country, it made a very real need.

The Frankton Hospital was opened in April 1863 and to show how much this hospital was needed in the area these are the figures for the ten week period, 1 August to 11 October 1863:

Patients discharged as cured	82
Died	5
Under treatment for scurvy and dysentery	31

When the Southland Hospital Board was formed in 1885 it became responsible for the Frankton Hospital.

On 13 December 1894 the Frankton Hospital was burnt to the ground and the present buildings were erected. From a very extensive perusal of the Board's minute books it is obvious that the hospital at Frankton did not play a very important part in the Board's 'scheme of things' because it hardly rates a mention until the post Second World War period. A plan of the hospital which was unearthed dated 1917 shows the existing cottage on the property as an isolation unit and also shows that the hospital at that time had two wards with a dispensary with verandahs on the north and west side.

In the 1940's a small addition was made to the hospital and this addition incorporated a sluice room, sitting room for patients and a staff toilet. There were some additions made to the kitchen in 1956, and in 1971 the west facing verandah was built in and the kitchen and theatre was extended.

Since that time there have been minor alterations including some additional patient toilets and an isolation unit built in the mens ward and the buildings have been regularly maintained. The hospital, however, remains substantially the same as it was when it was erected nearly 90 years ago."

From another source the following information about the Frankton Hospital in its early days has been gleaned :-

USE of Wakatipu Hospital 1.9.1863 to 29.2.1864

Indoor patients	227
Outdoor patients	164
Cured	203
Deaths	7
Cost	£1917
Average daily patients	15

391 miners used the hospital between September 1863 and March 1864.

Chinese in Queenstown

CHINESE IN QUEENSTOWN

The following is a newspaper report of 1892 :-

The Chinese New Year which fell on the 5th of February was duly observed by the Chinese in the Lakes District who assembled in force in Queenstown. The police had reason to believe fantan was being played in the establishment of Jimmy An Young. The local sergeant together with a constable and the constable from Arrowtown paid a surprise visit and found 30 to 40 Chinese enjoying the national game of chance.

There was a regular stampede and a number escaped through a small window. One fat fellow had so little room to spare he carried the sash away round his neck and dashed into the neighbouring oyster saloon to the consternation of the owner. The police managed to round up fourteen who were duly charged.

Chinese in Nokomai

CHINESE AT NOKOMAI

Lee Lum

(Contributed by 'Speargrass')

In the year 1925 Lee Lum was the Chinese race keeper on the second length of the Lion water race. His sod hut was down a steep face below the Garston to Nevis road where the road travels along the summit before dropping down into the Fox's valley. Jimmy Long was on the next length. It was a fine day every second day they met up.

Lee Lum failed to meet Jimmy Long so Jimmy went to Lee Lum's hut to investigate. He opened the door to find Lee Lum sitting in a corner on his bed. The next thing Jimmy knew he was about six or seven miles away reporting to the manager at the mine. "Me look at him, he look dead." "Me speak to him, he no answer." "Me shake him, one eye open." "Me get such fright me run all the way to Nokomai." The police and a local farmer went with horses in a 4 wheeler to bring the dead man out for inquest and burial.

They got him outside the hut door and looked up at the impossible task up the hill face. Only one way. They got a horse and a rope and so the dead man was dragged up to the cart.

He was taken to Garston for an inquest, (he had over £20 in his pockets which was big money in those days), and from there he was buried in the little Chinese cemetery in the upper Nokomai.

WILLIAM REES MEMORIAL ESSAY

The William Rees Memorial Essay was won by the following :-

James Hargest School Invercargill

Nicola Crennan

Wakatipu High School

Sarah Sheehy and Annabell
Watson joint winners

The essays by Nicola Crennan and Sarah Sheehy follow, the essay by Annabelle Watson not being available for publication.

Choie Sew Hoy

Choie Sew Hoy Memorial essay

by Nicola Crennan

The achievements and contributions of the Chinese in Otago have been clouded by racial prejudices. Known as the "yellow peril" or "celestials" their part in the History of Otago was once discounted. But today we recognise their worth when we see the resurrection of the Chinese settlement on the banks of the Arrow and through the contribution of men such as Choie Sew Hoy in raising the Chinese profile.

Choie Sew Hoy, known as 'Charles' was among those Chinese collectively ostracised and repressed by their European counterparts. Nevertheless he was able to use his family commerce contacts, and his keen business sense to build a virtual dynasty that is continued today by fourth and fifth generation Sew Hoy's. A prominent Dunedin merchant, instigator of the gold dredging boom of the 1880's, and committed to the care of his kind, he is a man who achieved success in the European world whilst remaining true to the Chinese way of life.

Born in 1837 the son of a farmer, he lived in an agricultural village twenty kilometres north of Canton City. After the death of his first wife, Soy May, he left his son, Kum Poy, with relatives to travel to the Californian goldfields. This move was similar to many southern Cantonese during the latter part of the

nineteenth century in an effort to escape the abject poverty and over-population of the area. Having no success in California as a miner, he then went to the Victorian goldfields. Here he began the first of many commercial operations when he opened a merchant business in Melbourne.

Sew Hoy's move to Otago in 1869 was a shrewd business calculation. Here he could capitalise on the increased business opportunities arising from being amongst people of his region. Each group of Cantonese favoured their own particular store and merchant. Sew Hoy (originating from an area known as Poon Yue) was undoubtedly the most influential Dunedin merchant due to the numerical majority of Poon Yue immigrants in this area.

The gold fever was still running high when Sew Hoy arrived with his entourage of ten people, including his son Kum Poy. The goldfields were no longer producing the amazing returns of earlier years, and speculation now centred on the dredging of the goldrich rivers of Central Otago. But Sew Hoy's business interests were not centred on gold. Instead he continued as he had started in Melbourne by using his family contacts in Canton to stock a warehouse in Dunedin. This provided a variety of Eastern wares which found a ready market amongst the 1270 Chinese miners currently in the Otago region. Before long he had established himself and not only supplied, but operated stores throughout Central Otago.

Sew Hoy became what the European merchants feared, an economically competitive rival. The Chinese were primarily invited to New Zealand by the Dunedin Chamber of Commerce to fill the gap left by departing European miners. The Council had the view that as "Chinese in Victoria having confined their attention principally to ground abandoned by Europeans, it is presumed they will follow that course here". More importantly, they would restore the flagging economic prosperity of the region because "as they are large consumers of produce, they will, if settled amongst us, promote the prosperity of the mercantile trading classes". Businesses such as those operated by Sew Hoy deprived the Europeans of potential Chinese customers and so contributed to the anti-Chinese sentiment of the time. This view was held by both miners and merchants, and

culminated in government restrictions in the form of a poll (or entry) tax, which charged Chinese immigrants Ten pounds at first and eventually rose to One hundred pounds.

Commercial business ventures were Sew Hoy's major concern. His interest in gold developed through contact with miners who bought equipment from his stores - thus keeping accounts with him and selling him their gold as credit. It was as a profitable venture that he began investigations into the possibilities of gold-dredging that were to create a new era in the history of the Otago goldfield.

Terms such as 'enterprising' and 'entrepreneur' define Sew Hoy's involvement in this area. He was familiar with the problems of reaching the vast quantities of gold in the river beds through his tours of the goldfields. It was obvious by the 1880's that with alluvial claims being exhausted, more complex mining methods were needed to recover this seemingly inaccessible wealth. Dredging was the obvious solution, but there were a variety of untried types including the spoon, suction, steam-driven or moored types. History tells us that Sew Hoy made his choice when he saw a Dunedin harbour dredge at work, a process which he decided would be well suited to Central Otago rivers. He commissioned the firm of Kincaid and McQueen to build an improved steam dredge, as they had built its difficulty-ridden prototype in 1832.

Sew Hoy acted upon conviction rather than impulse in forming the Shotover Big Beach Gold Mining Company in 1888 - of which he was the chief shareholder. It had a nominal capital value of Three thousand pounds, which was to increase to Eighty-seven thousand seven hundred and fifty pounds at the time of its dissolution in 1898, making it the most profitable of the companies formed during what was to become known as the 'gold dredging boom'.

By July 1889, after numerous difficulties, the dredge was gaining large quantities of gold. This venture promised to be one of the most successful goldmining enterprises in New Zealand. At the time there were six gold dredges of other types working in Otago and Westland, but none achieving the success of the Sew Hoy dredge. There had been a frenzied rush to peg off claims along all the major

and many of the minor rivers and streams following the success at Big Beach. This was infectious, but many investors held back, waiting to see what dredge was best.

The Sew Hoy dredge worked Big Beach on the Shotover River. The 'false bottom' of the river bed contained large quantities of gold many feet below the water level. Previously the Chinese Company San Sing Ton had leased it, and various Europeans had mined it without success. The profitable returns gained by the Sew Hoy dredge (up to forty pounds per day) sparked off the gold dredging boom in Otago. This began in 1889 and reached a peak in 1902 when there were up to one hundred and seventy dredging companies in Otago alone.

Sew Hoy employed a combination of Chinese labour and skilled European employees on the site. At one stage there were four dredges working on the company site. Big Beach was worked out by 1898 after reaching 10.5 metres below water level. Apart from sparking off the dredging boom, he proved that the Chinese gold seeker could do well amongst the European commercial world of companies, shareholders and associated workings.

Sew Hoy's company had a secondary activity in gold with its sluicing claim at Star Beach. This was later moved to Nokomai, and was known as the Nokomai Hydraulic Sluicing Company, formed in 1898. Sew Hoy was again the major shareholder, and his son Kum Poy was secretary. This became a family affair with Kum Poy's son, Cyril Sew Hoy, taking an active role in later years, whilst another son maintained commercial contacts in China.

Whilst involved in goldmining Sew Hoy retained his merchant business, as this acted as a monetary backbone for the funding of his goldmining enterprises. Today the main Sew Hoy company interests are in clothing, not gold.

Sew Hoy differed from his fellow countrymen from the outset. He arrived in New Zealand aged thirty-two, with money, and with the intention to stay. This broke with the traditional Chinese immigrants as being young peasants who only intended to stay as

long as it took them to earn a living and return to China with small amount of savings.

Other Chinese merchants, and Sew Hoy's rivals, were likely to have been just as successful in their spheres. He was the acknowledged premier Chinese merchant in Dunedin, but his notability was not just achieved through numerical majority. He remembered and recognised because of his contribution to the integration and assimilation of the Chinese into European society. His success in the European business world was accompanied by respect given him as a leader amongst the Chinese. He retained high code of ethics and obligations, which he balanced with his wealth and power. He remained true to Chinese beliefs, especially in his donations to the exhumation fund of the Pooch Yue and Fa migrants. This fulfilled the Chinese belief that the dead should rest in their ancestral home by returning bodies to China.

Choie Sew Hoy died in 1901, aged 64. He left behind him a European wife and second family, plus a self built commercial empire. Perhaps it was a fitting end that when his body was returned to China, it was claimed by the sea, thus exemplifying the personal bridge he built between the European and Chinese way of life.

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Bendix Hallenstein - Sarah Sheehy 12-

BENDIX HALLENSTEIN 1835 - 1905

By Sarah Sheehy

Bendix Hallenstein was born in Burnswick, Germany in 1835. At the age of 22, he went to the Victorian goldfields after working as a shipping clerk in Manchester. In Victoria, Hallenstein opened a general store with his two brothers and it was there he met his future wife, Mary Mountain, who at the time was working as a maid for the Hallenstein brothers. They were married at Alford, Lincolnshire on 14 February 1861. They returned to Australia and then moved to New Zealand, spending their first year in Invercargill. When the Wakatipu goldrush began, they moved to Queenstown and were one of the first to open a store. Hallenstein was described as being "in the right place at the right time".

For the next four years, Hallenstein and his family lived quietly in Queenstown, making huge profits from the thousands of miners in the Wakatipu district. In 1866, Hallenstein and J.W. Robertson became partners in the Brunswick Flour Mill at Frankton. The mill cost £5,000 to erect and it wasn't until 1869 that the mill received enough work to keep it fully engaged. Eventually it came to supply the whole district with flour but it never became very prosperous and work for it always fluctuated. Hallenstein was keen to sell the mill as it wasn't proving to be a very profitable business, the lack of consistent crops and seasonal fluctuations affecting its output too much. So when Robertson (the first mayor of Queenstown) died in 1876, Hallenstein took the opportunity to sell. "Tell the partners ... that it is advisable to take stock and make out a proper statement of all assets and liabilities ... which since one of the partners is dead can only be carried on in liquidation" (in a letter to William Geisow, Hallenstein's lawyer).

In July 1869, Hallenstein was elected as Queenstown's mayor, an office he held for three terms. In a letter to his uncle, Hallenstein wrote "... I have been elected mayor, though it is considered a great honour, it is not much for congratulations as this office will require a good deal of my time and attention, but as I am largely interested in the District I thought it well to have the principal say in the expenditure as the Queenstown Corporation not

only represents the town but also the whole District ...". With the Queenstown General Store, the flour mill and shops in Cromwell and the Arrow, he was a good choice and was prompted to take the job.

In early 1870, Hallenstein bought 1600 acres and built Thurlby Domain, named after his wife's family's property in England. As mayor and prominent businessman, it was Hallenstein's ambition to live in a style that befitted his position in the Wakatipu District, so Hallenstein "built a home that for magnificence out-classed everything else in the district. As a farming property it gained a reputation that was almost world-wide.

In 1871 Hallenstein retired to Thurlby as business was starting to fall off. He lived like an English country gentleman and the Hallenstein garden parties were considered one of the major social events of Queenstown. In total Thurlby Domain consisted of about 1600 acres but only 500 of those underwent wheat or oat cultivation the rest was in grass.

Unlike other gold rush towns, Queenstown continued to prosper after the main boom was over. Gold mining was still the principal industry, but farming, sheep and cattle grazing became increasingly important.

In a letter written to his uncle Hallenstein describes Queenstown "... I have been here going on 5 years and have done tolerably well ... We live on the shores of a beautiful lake, nearly 100 miles long and on which run steamers and sailing boats."

To his aunt he noted that Queenstown's climate was much healthier than Victoria's but not as pleasant as the mountains around Queenstown remained snow-capped 9 months out of 12.

Business/Politics

New gold rushes on the West Coast and in Australia had decreased the Queenstown population quite dramatically. Business dropped off and Hallenstein decided to wind up and lease the stock and the

buildings to some of his employees in order to continue the business on a smaller scale and at less risk.

In 1872 he was elected Councillor for the Lakes District on the Otago Provincial Council. He attended 4 sessions from May 1873 to May 1874. He was also elected as a Minister of Parliament for the Lakes District but it kept him from his business so he only represented the Lakes for one parliamentary session.

"Hallenstein, unlike men of similar means, did not have the time to devote to politics. He did not sufficiently trust others to run his business affairs properly and felt his constant supervision was necessary".

As a provincial politician, Hallenstein was genuinely concerned with the welfare of the Wakatipu District. He took great pride in its continued development and his motions put forward in the Provincial Council's sessions reflected his concern for the District's improvement. He was responsible for the creation of the Frankton Racecourse Reserve, the construction of bridges over the Kawarau and Shotover Rivers and the building of the new courthouse and gaol in Queenstown.

Hallenstein was also elected to the Private Petitions Committee and settled several disputes.

Hallenstein also had an acute dislike for the Chinese. In a letter to the Wellington Independent he said: "... everyone admits that no portion of our population is less beneficial to the general welfare than the Chinese. While they impoverish our goldfields carrying their wealth away with them ... our taxes are heavy, why should they (the Chinese) not pay say at least £5 per ton on rice if they continue to use it ... and if the duty should cause them to use more of the produce of this country, it would benefit the real taxpayer and therefore the country ... I do not see the justice of taxing many of our staple articles so heavily and leaving free the staple of these undesirable colonists if the term colonists can be at all applied".

This letter shows that Hallenstein's prejudice was based on the fact that the Chinese did not adopt European eating habits and

therefore did not become customers to his shop.

His interest in provincial politics and concerns never died even after 1876 when he no longer was an elected representative of the district. He still took interest in the district but in the most 'mundane' things. In 1875 he sent his regrets at not being able to attend the first session of the new courthouse at Queenstown. His most notable contribution which still exists today are the trees he got in Dunedin for the Botanical Gardens.

Hallenstein was preoccupied during the early 1870's with the clothing factory he had established in Dunedin in 1873. This was the first clothing factory in New Zealand and its creation had been prompted by a lack of supplies. Previously Hallenstein had to rely on readymade imported clothing from wholesale warehouses. Supplies therefore depended on irregular shipments and the availability of warehouse stocks. There was no guarantee that what was received would be popular or suitable, so Hallenstein opened his factory.

As Hallenstein's business affairs became more widespread, extending to other goldfield towns (Arrowtown, Cromwell and Lawrence) he found it increasingly difficult to supply them. This was worsened by the population growth and consequently, an increase in demand for clothing. He had entered into a partnership with an Australian manufacturer but the business failed to get off to a promising start and as things steadily declined, Hallenstein decided his presence in Dunedin was required to establish the business on a secure basis.

This meant that he had to dispose of his Wakatipu interest as quickly and favourably as possible. In 1874 he went into partnership with de Beer and Walde to lease the Queenstown business. He rented the brick premises to them for seven years at £6 per week and agreed to take up the bills. The arrangement lasted for five years.

He leased the Cromwell business to Hermann Arndt, a fellow German and the Lawrence shop in April 1875 to Michael Fraer.

Thurlby Domain was auctioned and sub-divided into 13 lots. The house was also sold to Hermann Arndt. Years later, while travelling

in the 'Holy Land', Hallenstein obtained a cone from a Lebanese cedar and sent it to Mrs Ardnt who planted it in the magnificent front garden of Thurlby Domain. This tree still stands today along with many other exotic and native trees.

Hallenstein, always the businessman, bought up many small properties, speculating that the land value would increase when the tourist potential of the district was realised. He also bought four small sheep runs around the district but when these did not prove profitable, he sold his share to Mr John Witters.

All the time that Hallenstein spent developing the Wakatipu District, he was still very German. Most of his letters were written in German and he still maintained his Jewish religion, teaching his eldest two daughters, Sara Elizabeth (born 1862 in Victoria) and Emily (born 1864) the language of Hebrew. He later sent them to boarding schools in Melbourne in 1877 and insisted that they attend the Synagogue. Family ties between himself and his brother was still strong, as they held many partnerships and had to travel frequently between Australia and New Zealand to discuss business. Hallenstein and his wife also had two other daughters, Henrietta (born 1867) and Agnes Fawcett (born 1868).

Three months before the Hallensteins were due to leave the District, Bendix Hallenstein was in a serious accident. The carriage in which he was riding overturned and he ended up with a compound fracture in his leg and a broken joint. Although he recovered, he was left with a permanent limp.

In April 1875, the family left Queenstown for Dunedin. In a letter to his brother he said, "... we were regaled with champagne at the morning of our departure by the principal inhabitants of Queenstown ... I am sure everyone felt sorry at our leaving and I may say the same of ourselves, it was without exception a good time with everyone and I have done a large and very complicated business".

They moved to Dunedin and the business started to build up, even though Hallenstein was prevented from taking an active role in the management of the business, owing to his injury. He went into partnership with his brothers and the company today still bears the name of 'Hallenstein Brothers'. Hallenstein died in 1905 at the age of 70.

Monck and McInnes - Gold miners

MONCK and MCINNES

An advertisement in January 1888 reminds us of two characters of the Wakatipu, namely Monck and McInnes. The advertisement was for the sale of horses on account of the two already named. The sale was of 80 colts and fillies unbroken, all young and sound. The sale was held at Arthurs Point.

Monck and McInnes have gone down in history as partners in a joint venture on the northern bank of the Shotover River near the Saddle hills. One was Irish and the other a Highlander but the two lived in harmony in a joint venture for many years. It is recorded that they treated each other with the greatest of respect even though they lived and worked in the closest association for many years. Working on their claim it was the daily habit to observe a regular ritual. At dinner time Monck would say, "Will Mr McInnes will you take a glass of wine with me". "Thank you Mr Monck I will" McInnes would reply. Down would come the bottle and slowly and ceremoniously they would have the drink.

At tea time McInnes would say, "Mr Monck will you take a glass of wine with me". "Thank you Mr McInnes I will" Monck would reply and thus the daily ritual was continued.

Monck and McInnes must have had other joint commercial ventures apart from goldmining to be able to offer 80 horses for sale.

When old age made goldmining too strenuous they retired to a house in Frankton Road Queenstown where their close association continued until death finally separated these two fine characters of the Wakatipu.

HISTORIC TRIP BY T.S.S. EARNSLAW

On Saturday the 21st of May the Glenorchy School has chartered the T.S.S. Earnslaw to travel from Queenstown to Glenorchy via the Lake Stations which it visited in the days before the road was completed. It includes a stop at Elfin Bay and a chance to walk to Rere Lake. The fare is a modest \$25.00 per head and includes a light lunch. The Society has decided to make this a society outing and all members are encouraged to take part. This is an opportunity which will not be repeated for some time. The proceeds from the day are to be allocated to the Glenorchy School.

Bookings at Fiordland Travel the steamer wharf, or Canterbury Clothing in Shotover Street. Depart 10 a.m. Return 5 p.m.

Take this opportunity for an enjoyable and interesting step back in time.
