

Published by
Queenstown & District Historical Society (Inc.)
Queenstown

Aims of the Society

- 1 That we use our power to advise, concerning the saving of historical aspects of the district.
- 2 Preservation of and education in all aspects of historical research and interest.

General Information

President:	Malcolm Boote	442 0004
Secretary:	Jocelyn Robertson	442 1468
Treasurer:	E. C. (Peter) Mills	442 7930
"Courier":	Karen Boulay	442 8564
	Mike Lynch	442 8812
Trips:	Cicely Morrison	442 1744
	John Heenan	442 1796

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Address

All correspondence, accounts and subscription payments should be addressed to:

P.O. Box 132, Queenstown

The Courier Acknowledgement
This issue has been produced by staff at the
Lakes District Museum.
Their quality work is hereby acknowledged

Issue No. 71

The Queenstown Courier



Duncan Wilson 1929 - 2003

The Official Publication of the
Queenstown & District Historical Society

The Queenstown Courier

The Official Publication of the Queenstown and District Historical Society
Seventy-first Issue - December 2003

Officers of the Society:

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Ray Clarkson (submissions)	442 3681	Cicely Morrison (trips)	442 1744
Margaret Templeton	442 8312	John Heenan (trips)	442 1796
Mike Lynch	442 8812	Elizabeth Macdonald	442 7487
Colin Wilson	442 9754		

Annual Subscription	\$10 per person or family
Corporate Membership	\$50 per annum
Life Membership	\$100 per person

The Courier is included in the subscription.

All correspondence and accounts should be addressed to the Society's permanent address:
PO Box 132, Queenstown.

Environment Court Appeal

QUEENSTOWN & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2003

2003 has been another busy but somewhat frustrating year. Committee members have invested hundreds of hours of their valuable time and we have little or no results to show as few of the projects have reached completion at this time.

The most serious item in terms of time and funds has been the Society's appeal to the Environment Court of the QLDC decision to grant planning consent to Ngai Tahu for their development on the Courthouse and Post Office site. The appeal is based on the proximity and size of the buildings adjacent to the old courthouse particularly on the Ballarat Street frontage and the encroachment into the designated historic precinct surrounding the Courthouse. We still await a date for the court hearing, likely to be held early next year. Efforts to seek a solution by mediation with QLDC and Ngai Tahu appear to have fallen on deaf ears. Costs to date are in excess of \$20,000, much of which concerned the preparation and submission of written evidence and consideration of rebuttal evidence. Most of these costs have been met by a grant from the Ministry for the Environment, but it is estimated that total costs could exceed the grant by as much as \$8,000. Only after the hearing when the total costs are known, will it be possible to appeal to members and supporters for help to meet this overrun.

Thanks are due to Peter Beaven, Tony Oxenvad and in particular Elizabeth Macdonald, who as a member provided her services free. A great team effort in compiling the substantial amount of evidence required to support the appeal. We have a very professionally prepared case, so we look forward to a successful conclusion! For the benefit of members, you are reminded that as a Registered Incorporated Society, individual members are not financially liable for the actions of the Society.

Ray Clarkson, Elizabeth Macdonald and Karen Boulay, our planning sub-group, have continued with their difficult task and have made submissions on the heritage developments within the area. Redevelopment of heritage sites in Queenstown and Buckingham Street, Arrowtown continue to be of concern. The council have met earlier promises and called public hearings on almost every submission within the sensitive heritage areas.

The saga of Skippers Road continues. Action on deterioration of the ancient retaining walls and road depends on the results of a study promoted by QLDC, with findings eagerly awaited. Proposed alterations to the Kawarau Bridge winding gear to assist in flood alleviation have been abandoned by QLDC and the maintenance of the structure is of ongoing concern. There is better news regarding the old Shotover Bridge as the plans released by the Wakatipu Trails Trust and Queenstown Rotary include restoration of the structure, with a target of 2005 for completion.

The revised District Plan was made operational in September and the Inventory of Protected Features will be updated and included later as a variation. This addition is badly needed as there have been losses of buildings over 100 years old during the past year, notably the Roaring Meg cottage and number 68 Park Street. Neither of these were protected, the importance of the inclusion of all heritage buildings in the listings cannot be over emphasized. Please inform a committee member if you know of an unrecorded item.

One Mile Power House

After two years of careful planning and fund raising the trustees of the One Mile Powerhouse Restoration Trust have decided to commence the restoration work and by the autumn it is hoped that the building will be complete and equipment installed. Final plans include a record of the early days of power generation in Queenstown and district with samples of the nineteenth century equipment on display. Old photographs and stories of the powerhouse and area would be welcomed. The trustees are working with QLDC to complete major landscaping improvement of the creek, access, parking, and signage. Thanks are due to a large number of individuals and organizations who have helped to make this project viable. The Society made a contribution of \$5000. When completed the project will be an important addition to the heritage and educational assets of the district.

It is great to record the Society's involvement in the publication "Historic Sites of Queenstown : a walking guide", the new Queenstown heritage guide book. The efforts of Mike Lynch and Karen Boulay must be highly commended, they have spent endless hours researching and preparing the historical facts and photographs. Now at the printers this publication will provide visitors with a much needed guide and hours of informed pleasure

on the treasures of old Queenstown. The project serves the objectives of this Society well.

The Society is looking forward to a joint venture with the Wanaka Historical Society. A cairn and plaque built at the summit of the Crown Range road. The plaque will record the discovery of the "Promised land of Rees" in 1860 and the use of the route by gold miners and prospectors. The Society has an ongoing project for the placement of plaques, recording places and times of significant historical events, all around the district. We see opportunities to work closely with groups like the Wakatipu Trails Trust on this subject, as many of the likely trails cover historical routes and have significant heritage connections. The Shotover Bridge project mentioned earlier is a fine example.

The Rees Prize, for the best historical essay from pupils of participating secondary schools continues to be promoted. We have one excellent essay from an Otago Girls High School pupil, this essay received a \$75 prize award. Entries from pupils from other schools would be welcome.

A successful programme of trips was organised by John Heenan, and Cicely Morrison. Visits to Clyde, Christmas lunch at Bannockburn, Hawea and Luggate, the Northern Southland Heritage Trail, and Tuatapere were very popular. The Spring lunch was followed by a talk by Roberta Laraman of the Otago Goldfields Heritage Trust on organisation of the Cavalcades, ending with a superb video of the 2003 Cavalcade to Waikaia. The Society is extremely fortunate to have such dedicated members like John, he never ceases to surprise us with the treasures he unveils, they are often hidden so close to our everyday life. We look forward to another exciting programme in the months to come.

There are now 62 members on the Society's e-mail list and we would like to hear from anyone else who can be added. It is a far more reliable and quicker means of keeping in touch.

The Society continued its participation on the Museum board. Thanks are due to our representatives Jocelyn Robertson and Cicely Morrison. The Society is totally supportive of the plans to extend the archives section of the Museum. Your committee have pledged funds to support new equipment and microfilm records in the new facility.

Obituaries

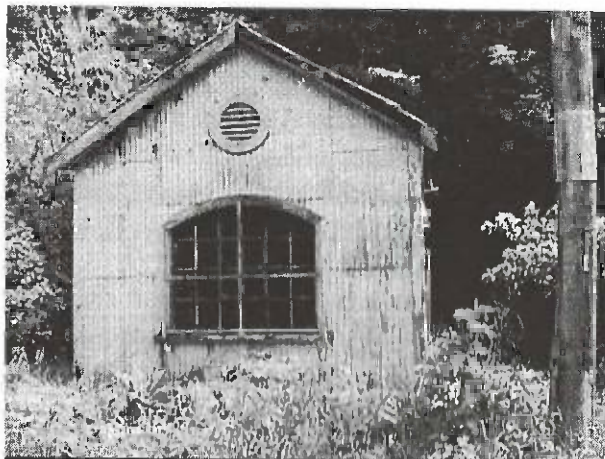
Duncan Wilson

We are pleased to welcome more new members, their support is a great tribute to the Society and the work done in the community. I would like thank treasurer Peter Mills for the splendid job done in a very difficult and testing year. Also secretary Jocelyn Robertson and of course to the whole Committee for their dedicated support, I make a special mention of vice president Karen Boulay, I would not have come through the year without Karen's continuing support.

The most poignant item is the last in this report - the saddest moment of the year. The sudden death of friend, committee member, past President and editor of the Courier, Duncan Wilson came as a huge shock to all. On your behalf we recorded the Society's sympathy to his family. We are indebted to Duncan for years of dedicated service to this Society. He did such an outstanding job in recent years by continually producing superb issues of the Courier. He will be a hard act to follow and the magazine is bound to take a different direction under the new editorial team of Mike Lynch and Karen Boulay. Members are encouraged to support the new editorial team and contribute any articles of historic interest for future issues.

We look forward to another stimulating year in 2004

Malcolm Boote
20th November 2003



One Mile Powerhouse - A suitable case for treatment

He thought deeply. He cared passionately. He was meticulous. But he was never hurried into a decision.

The Historical Society lost one of its stalwarts in July.

Duncan Wilson, former society president, and long-standing editor of this magazine will be sorely missed. He was described in one newspaper obituary as "a meticulous gentleman of the great outdoors." He was a mountaineer of wide experience, a deeply-felt conservationist, and above all someone who cared for his fellow man.

That, and his capacity for organisation, will stick in our memories. He maintained copious and comprehensive files on past and present people and places. He left his desk tidy, as they say.

Duncan and wife Ann retired to Queenstown in the mid-Eighties after his long career in the freezing industry – ending up as executive manager of the Southland Frozen meat Company Mataura works. But he'd already been a trumper, a skier and a mountaineer some 40 years. Coming to Queenstown was simply coming back to the mountains he loved.

The Historical Society was a natural place to carry on what had been a lifetime of giving back to the land he loved. He was after all a man of the South. He represented Southland on the New Zealand Alpine Club council, he was a member of the Fiordland National Park Board for nine years, he was a key member of the Deep Cove Hostel Trust – set up to introduce schoolchildren to the outdoors.

Duncan didn't do things by halves; he went further. His son John talked at the funeral of the military precision and organisation that went into the family tramping expeditions – down to cutting the handles of toothbrushes to save weight. He was righteously irate when copy for his beloved "Courier" was changed without his permission during publication.

But he did everything with manners; he didn't bluster. At Historical Society committee meetings he would listen, and listen. Finally, there would be a cough, a flex of the fingers, and a pertinent and concise comment. He knew his mind.

Jean Malpas Obituary

Jean Malpas

He was a hands-on history man too. With climbing mate Jim Childerstone and others he was out many weekends clearing bush and mountain tracks and cutting new ones. They put in a lot of work ten years ago re-cutting an old pack track from Fernhill up to the ridge of Ben Lomond. What was going to be a grand tramp though was quashed when the landowner got the jitters about town dogs getting up the hill to worry his sheep.

He was a community man. He cut lawns for the elderly. He did the Council's job maintaining their reserves in his own time.

Where he didn't think the system was working, he just stepped in. His wife Ann was bedridden, a long-term patient at the local hospital. Duncan wasn't that happy about the level of care available for her so religiously and regularly he'd drive out there twice a day to feed and care for her.

Duncan died suddenly, aged 74. He is survived by his wife, his five children, and our fond memory of him.



The Wakatipu district has been hard hit by decades of development. That the natural landscape is not even more destroyed is perhaps due in large measure to one small woman.

For the last 40 or so years Jean Malpas has been a constant in the fight to save the heritage of the lake, the valleys, the mountains. The tributes rolled out at her funeral last month. "At an age when most people retire from hard, difficult and frustrating work, Jean joined the Wakatipu Environmental Society and virtually ran the Court battles to insert rules in the District Plan to protect landscape and ecological values."

"Jean was always there with her piles of documents and knowledge of Court deadlines, chiding, encouraging, reminding, demanding excellence."

Just how wide-ranging this self-imposed task was can be measured by the extent of the fights the handful of society members took on. It is a situation peculiar to Queenstown; a few locals versus big business – perhaps a hundred District Plan hearings during Jean's tenure, a similar number of Resource Consent hearings, and dozens of Environment Court cases; no-one at the funeral could remember the exact number. Suffice to say, the Environment Court sitting in Queenstown took a minute's silence on the week of the funeral; there was a fine sprinkling of dark-suited lawyers at the event.

Jean carried on the torch of litigation, through the illness and death of her partner four months ago, virtually right to the end of her own terminal illness.

She came to Queenstown as a young English woman in the late Fifties, fresh from service with the WRENS as an aircraft mechanic. She worked for a lawyer, ran a coffee bar, a bookshop, then an accommodation agency. She left her life and the town as a much-loved, and utterly-respected pillar of the community. "You enriched our lives Jean, gave of yourself way more than expected, and provided us with the stable rock of reliability we all need," went another tribute – from a former councillor.

The Mayor made a special trip back to town to speak at her funeral. There must be, he said, at least a park named after Jean. But then she might well have snorted at any presumed vanity.

Jean had her finger in many worthy pies --- Garden Club, Historic places Trust, Citizens' Advice Bureau (life member), Wakatipu Club secretary, Queenstown Heritage Trust, Wakatipu Millennium History Trust, Queenstown Community

An Extract from the Writing of James Boyne

A Jaunt up Ben Lomond - 5 January 1886

Network, holding the Wakatipu Ski Club together during difficult times as secretary during the Sixties and Seventies. She was vocal on the Historical Society. She was a trumper, a music lover. She was key to saving the endangered William's Cottage in the centre of town – as custodian, gardener, and bailer-out to a cash-starved cause.

"Our Jean – a straight, feisty person of enormous courage," said another tribute.

"You weren't a bully or an ideologue; you actually cared about us foolish fellow creatures, and that warmth permeated what you did."

A measure of this caring is that Jean gave the local Library a couple of hundred books as first dibs on her extensive book collection (provided it be kept in Queenstown), and – having virtually no relatives – decided her estate would be used to set up an tertiary-education trust for needy local children, and a further nationwide environmental trust.

But the theme repeated in the many tributes at the graveside was that Jean Malpas would be utterly missed in the Wakatipu community.

"The loss of a person of her integrity and energy will leave a huge void in the voice of those few willing to speak up for the people of the Wakatipu. Jean certainly spoke up, without fear or favour."

Jean was cared for in her final weeks by friends. They said she was a good, even whimsical, patient. Her one complaint: "I've still got so much to do."



We rose at 6am, got breakfast, and at 6.30 Tina, Willie and I started for Ben Lomond. The morning was cloudy which made it cool for travelling. Tina rode Tommy, Willie and I walked. We jogged on slowly and reached the first saddle at 9am where we had a rest for a little. Here we found a paper bag containing some biscuits, someone leaving it for the benefit of others but not being hungry I wrote a few words of thanks to the good Samaritan, continued our uphill walk, Willie amusing himself rolling stones down the hill - another halt being made I wrote a note and left it on the side of the track to see if anyone would notice it. "The road to Ben Lomond is like the road to fortune with this difference that the road to fortune is all ups and downs, while the road to Ben Lomond is all ups and no downs". We started again and on reaching the spring of water rested again a few minutes. Willie walked round the gully a short distance coming across a "Maori hen". Calling to me, on looking down I saw it was near him, he remained still till it came within reach when he stuck it down with his stick. He carried it to the saddle thinking it dead - when we stopped there he handed it to me when I saw it was alive, so I let it go. It was in grand condition, we had lunch there, from this place a beautiful view obtained of Moke Creek valley and the hills beyond towering one above another in wild grandeur, the snow in the distance making a grand panoramic picture, here and there a green patch is seen, telling us that there is the home of some miner, who with his family live in the solitude of the hills. Having partaken of our lunch which we did enjoy after the long walk, we left the horse and the three of us began the tug of war, the first 2 or 300 feet was easy but we soon got among the rocks. Here Tina began to feel knocked up, so I advised her to stay there, but she said she would try it. But she did not go much further, so I went on and soon joined Willie who had gone on before, when after a hard task reached the top at 11.30. The view from there is charmingly grand. Looking to the North, hill after hill tower one above another in wild confusion, snowcapped and with the midday sun shining upon them made a picture not so soon to be forgotten. Turning to the east, the Kawarau and Shotover Rivers are seen wending their way through the valley, the Kawarau can be traced to its source, the

lake, where it is seen rushing with impetuous force over the falls. Frankton and Speargrass flats are seen to advantage which with their green mantle and cosy homesteads lend beauty to the scene, while in the distance, 14 miles off, Arrowtown is seen nestling under the hills, while the Crown Terrace stands out prominently. As the eye is turned Southwards, the Remarkables stand out bold and grand, at their base the beautiful Lake reposes like a mirror, the hill tops reflecting in the still waters. Continuing the eye Westward Mount Cecil, Walter Peak and Table Bay are seen to advantage. As our gaze reached the West, and casting our eye downwards Moke Lake, also a corner of Little Lake is seen as it were almost at our feet - who can gaze around at the beauties of nature and view the marvelous wonders of creation without casting a thought upward to the Creator of all. Cold indeed is he who can look around on all these magnificent sights and not see in them the goodness of God.

But the next difficulty now is - having reached the top - to get safely to the bottom, that appearing more difficult than the ascent - but before leaving the top we inscribed our names along with scores of others. We then cooeyed to Tina to let her know where we were, having been away about an hour from her and knowing she got giddy we felt anxious, but we could not get an answer. As we were leaving we got a sight of her on a pinnacle below us, having heard our call she scrambled on, twice getting giddy and had to keep on to save herself. We soon reached her and found her alive, Before leaving the top we saw a number of women coming up the track but were too far off to hear us, however we succeeded at last in making them hear us when we three stood on a pinnacle waving our kerchiefs, which they also did in return. Having seen some snow from the top in a gully, Willie went off to search and soon returned with a lump. We were glad of it and ate some, making a good substitute for a drink - it was bitterly cold - talk about ice cream, it beat it hollow. The depth from where we sat was dreadful, only those with good heads could look down. In the cleft of a rock we discovered a stick with a piece of paper tied on. On examination it was found to contain a few notes written by Dr Howard - who reached that point in 1885 but could get no higher on the account of snow. After adding our names and a few remarks, we started on the downward journey, which in places was anything but pleasant or easy. Our wonder was how Tina got up so far - the worst being over, we had some good fun rolling stones down the steep gullies, which in their mad career sent many others after them bounding from one side to the other. We met a man on his way up,

appearing in a hurry and looking very hot. Further on another was met taking it more leisurely. We had not got very far before the first man re-passed us, not stopping to say a word, evidently trying how long it would take him to do the journey. Reaching the horse, we started at once to get over the Saddle as a cold wind was blowing, soon we met the party coming up, consisting of five ladies and three gentlemen. Thinking it would be a treat for them, we carried a lump of snow down and gave it to them, the eagerness with which they took it was amusing. They seemed very tired but were determined to reach the top. Separating, we continued on our downward march and having again reached the water spring halted and enjoyed the remainder of our lunch. Resuming our journey and keeping a lookout for the others going up, we soon saw the second man we met on the summit, also the others making their way up the ridge. After a most enjoyable day's outing we reached home at 3.15pm feeling not much the worse - a good bathe and tea soon put us right.

Article submitted by Sheila P. Weedon (grand-daughter of James Boyne)



View of Lake Wakatipu from the summit of Ben Lomond

QUEENSTOWN DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Statement of Receipts and Pmts for the Year Ended 30 September 2003

2002	Receipts	2003	2002	Payments	2003
16058	Bank Balances Fwd	16217.73			
3840	Subscriptions	3382.08	95	Subscriptions	50.00
285	Donations	300.00	750	Grants and Donations	
			68	Postage and Tolls	
			394	Printing, Stationery, Typing	276.99
			63	P.O. Box	62.50
				Bank Fees	3.00
386	Trips	871.72	2009	Couriers	1774.58
	Luncheon	114.00	8	Trips	
				Luncheon	
			247	AGM & Meeting Expenses	125.34
864	Interest	728.27	1350	Oak Tree	
				Prizes	75.00
				Power House Trust	5000.00
				Qn Historical Book	3000.00
				Ngai Tahu Appeal	3496.36
			233	Sundry	
			16218	Bank Balances Closing	7750.03
21433		21613.80	21433		21613.80

Bank Balances @ 30 Sep 2003

Current Account	1606.92
Term Deposit Westpa	4626.10
Term Deposit Bldg S	1517.01
	7750.03

Auditor's Statement

I have examined the financial records of the Society which in my opinion have been properly kept. I have obtained the information and explanations I required. In common with other similar organisations, control over income and sundry donations prior to its being recorded is limited, and there are no practicable audit procedures to determine the effect of this limited control. In my opinion the financial statements presented above give a true and fair view of the financial activities of the Queenstown and District Historical Society for the year ended 30 September 2003



D. Warrington BCom CA

JOHN SCOTT WORTHINGTON
1837- 1883

By Alan De La Mere

John, though he died at an early age, played an important part in early Queenstown. He was born at Lowestoft on 23 September, 1837 the eighth child of William and Sarah Worthington. William was a physician in the town, a small fishing port on the East Coast of England.

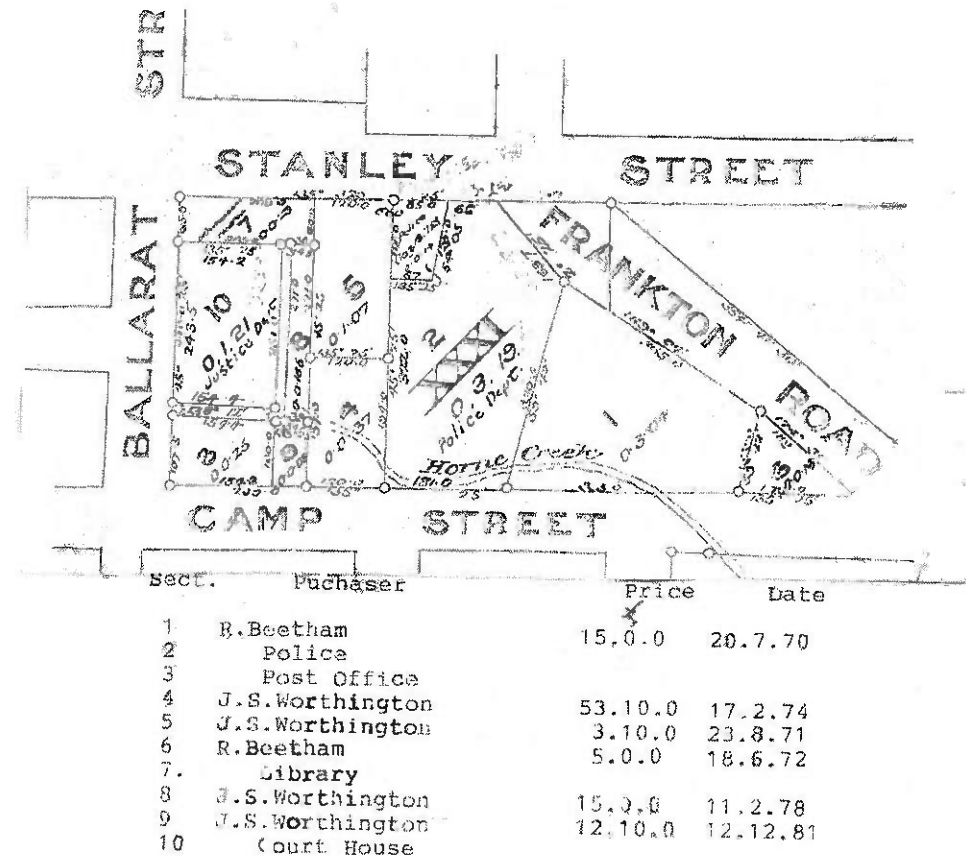
John served in the Crimean War in the medical branch of the British Army, and this experience he put to use in his life in Queenstown, when he assisted the local doctor on occasions. After the war, he emigrated to New Zealand, arriving in Dunedin in 1858. He took up land in the Roxburgh area but was not successful at sheep farming and joined the Otago Provincial Government's Civil Service.

In 1861 he married at St Paul's Cathedral, Dunedin, Mary Elizabeth Susannah Norton who came from Great Yarmouth, another East Coast town not far from Lowestoft. It is likely they knew one another in Britain.

On November 11, 1863 John was appointed Clerk of the Court and Receiver of Gold Revenue at Queenstown. He was just 26. His superior Richmond Beetham, the Resident Magistrate, was only one year older and had held office for six months. These two, with a small staff, were the hub of goldfield activities. All mining and water rights were issued by the Court, in addition to the rights to carry on certain businesses. The Court heard all police prosecutions and adjudicated in the multitude of disputes generated by mining. The Court, at this time, was a wooden building, probably very basic but at least a considerable improvement on the tent which had served until August, 1863.

When Worthington arrived in Queenstown, the survey of the town was proceeding and in February, 1864 officials of the Provincial Government held a sale of all the newly surveyed land. In this sale, John bought section 1, Block 22 on the corner of Weaver Street and Gorge Road. Whether he built a home on this section is not known, but he retained possession of the

land for over eleven years. Later he bought sections 4, 5, 8, and 9, Block 31 with an access from Ballarat Street, and this was the site of the family home, which presumably he built. It was a plum site, well over an acre in extent, as the following plan illustrates, surrounded by, is now the Post Office, Courthouse, Library (now the Citizens Advice Bureau) and the Police Station. Richmond Beetham purchased sections 1 and 6 in the same block and in time built a home on this site.



It is hard to look at the plan without thinking that, perhaps, the two senior Provincial Government officials in the town used their influence to obtain probably the best sections in the town not subject to pre-emptive rights. One possible explanation is that these two, as members of the Goldfields

staff, were in addition to generous salaries, entitled to build their own homes rather than occupy their official ones. The survey plan of 1864 shows a warden's house near present Earl Street which would have been Beetham's quarters, but it would have been primitive and Beetham would have wanted a home more in keeping with his position. Worthington, with his ever-increasing family, would have needed a larger home than the department provided. Worthington was still drawing an allowance in lieu of quarters when he died.

John and Mary's first child was born in Dunedin, but there must have been something in the Queenstown water for from 1864 on, with an odd exception, the Worthington brood increased each year until there were fourteen in all. Unfortunately three died in infancy, a common occurrence in those days, but there still remained a large family to raise and maintain. Almost certainly John had some financial reserves, and as he had a well-paid job bringing up his large family was probably not too difficult in a time when domestic help could be employed cheaply. His starting salary was probably 350 pounds per annum; a substantial figure at that time, and Beetham's was probably 500 pounds.

While Mary was busy with her family John took a very active part in public affairs. He was a founding member of the Anglican Church and was present at the first recorded meeting, held only a few days after his arrival in Queenstown. He took an active part in the local Acclimatisation Society and the introduction of trout into local waters. He has even been associated with the introduction of rabbits. He was a long-time member of the Hospital Committee and First Lieutenant in the Queenstown Cadets, which must have been part of the Volunteers Movement. In 1874 when the Queenstown Borough Council was required to enter into arbitration with J. W. Robertson and Co over the water rights for the One Mile Creek, the Borough seeking someone with integrity and ability chose Worthington for what would have been a difficult task.

At one stage he bought some rural land, perhaps as an investment. It consisted of 16 acres being sections 9, 20 and 26 of Block 21, and 6 acres being section 58 of Block 20 in the Shotover District. The land was on both sides of the Frankton Road about halfway to Frankton.

Disaster struck about 1880, when he developed cancer of the tongue. In February, 1882 he journeyed to London for an operation by an eminent surgeon. He returned home in September without there being any change in his problem. It must have been a big decision to leave his wife and large family for such a long period and the journey must have been costly. He finally died of his cancer in June, 1883, aged only 46.

With his death coming at such an early age, and having a large family dependent on him, John was faced with a problem to provide for them. The six daughters were aged nine to 19 and the four sons four to 21. As he had considerable financial resources and property, he decided to make a will which would place all his assets in the hands of trustees given the task of the upkeep of his wife and family, and the children's education until the males were 21 years of age and the females likewise or on their marriage, whichever was the earliest.

The trustees were Wesley Turton, his solicitor, who practised in Queenstown for 50 years; James Douglas, his doctor, who likewise practised in the Wakatipu for a similar period, and Richmond Beetham, the Resident Magistrate, with whom he had worked closely for some 13 years, and who had left Queenstown in 1876. Besides his real estate he had an asset unusual at the time, namely life insurance for 500 pounds, the Government made his estate a substantial gratuity of almost 700 pounds, probably a year's salary.

On John's death the trustees began what was a difficult task, and the documents submitted to the Court to obtain probate illustrate the size of the task. Details about the administration are not known but what is known is Mrs Worthington married again in July, 1884. Her second husband was William Branson, aged 25, described as an accountant. Mary gave her age as 35 but this is obviously understated by five years, otherwise on her first marriage she would have been only 12.

The Bransons at some point left Queenstown, and were living in Blenheim when she had two more children, in 1888 and 1889. Two of the family were witnesses at the wedding, Alice whose married name was Baker, and Ethel, whose married name was Trythall. Mary died in Blenheim in March, 1922, aged 78.

The marriage changed the administration of the will, as provision had been made for Mary to receive, in the event of her remarriage, one quarter of the estate.

Further details about the estate are not known, except that the fate of the real estate can be gleaned from the title deeds. Sections 4 and 5 were transferred to the trustees in 1883 and in 1885 were transferred to the Public Trustee. They were later leased to one Robert Ross for two three-year periods, and on 29 Nov 1897 were transferred to the Crown. What the Crown paid for the land is not known. Presumably Sections 8 and 9, which were part of the same parcel, had a similar history.

The four sections of rural land were similarly dealt with, being transferred to the trustees and then to the Public Trustee. Sections 26 and 58 were sold in 1891/92, and Sections 9 and 20 in 1894/95.

Why the Public Trustee was bought into the picture is not known. Possibly the sale of the land was difficult and the trustees wanted to be relieved of a long-term responsibility.

The writer began to research John Worthington in 1989 when a descendent, Ron Hill of Queensland, in Queenstown on a brief visit was offered assistance to follow up the record to enable John's grave to be marked. It was found impossible to do so, as the records were confusing and in conjunction with Queenstown undertaker Russell McGrouther permission was sought to place a plaque on the big moraine boulder in the cemetery. This was done, and the boulder now has a rash of plaques as others have followed the lead, mainly because of the number of people choosing cremation.

John Worthington's connection to St Peter's church is also marked with a plaque to John Ah Tong, who in 1874 carved the magnificent eagle lectern made from wood donated by Worthington.

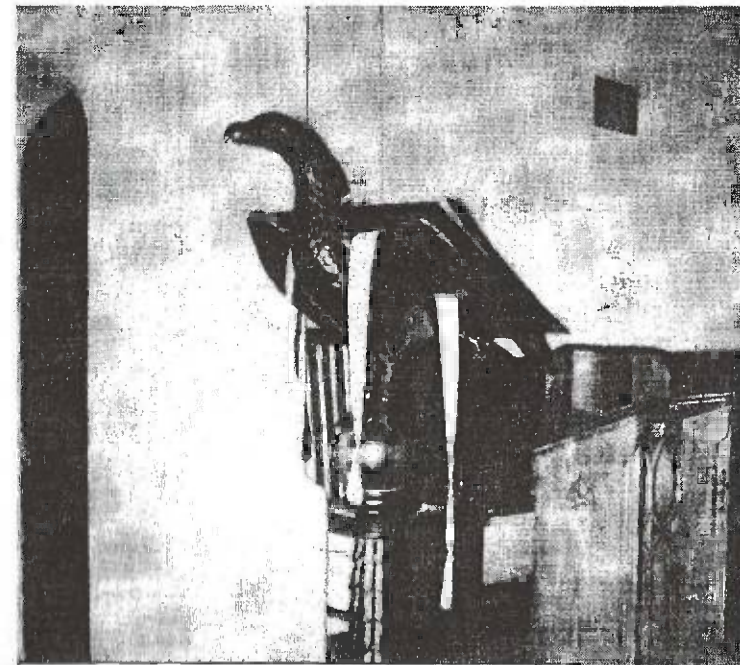
Recently I went back to the file I had assembled in 1989 when preparing a talk to the Historical Society about the cemetery and decided to write an article for the Courier. I got a pleasant surprise to find the museum at

Arrowtown had lots of information on the Worthington family on file. This came mostly from two books which the Worthington family had published in recent times, one about the English side of the family and the other, titled "History Almost Lost, A Story of the Worthington Family in Australia and New Zealand". The author is David Hill, and the Museum has a copy.

Some of the information for this article has come from David Hill's book, but most of it has come from other sources including:

Otago Provincial Gazettes
Archives NZ
Lake County records
Wakatipu Anglican records
Birth and Death certificates

Hocken Library
Land Title Certificates
Wakatipu Mail
Queenstown cemetery records



Carved lectern at St. Peter's Church, Queenstown

Field Trips 2003/2004

16 November 2003 (Sunday)	Bannockburn & area (bring lunch & tea)
7 December 2003 (Sunday)	Glenorchy Christmas Lunch (included)
19 January 2004 (Sunday)	Half Day Queenstown Cemetery (tea provided)
22 February 2004 (Sunday)	Day to Skippers (bring lunch & tea)
21 March 2004 (Sunday)	Macraes Gold Mine (bring lunch & tea)

Snippets

Committee news

Just what has your committee been doing over the past year? It is not all trips and meetings (although we do have a monthly meeting, and sometimes a decidedly sparky one). Committee members have spent endless hours on many issues. For example:

- Writing submissions on various resource consent applications, with an aim to protect what is left of the Wakatipu's heritage. The most notable of these is the appeal against the Council's decision to allow Ngai Tahu's giant five-building development to encroach into the historic precinct around the Queenstown Courthouse. There are many more, especially in Arrowtown.
- Saving the One Mile Powerhouse from demolition, acquiring funds and equipment to restore it as an authentic and educational display of Queenstown's earliest electrical generation - an on-going project.
- Continual pressure at local and Government level to get better status for the Skippers Road - with an aim to protect the historic walls and vistas. Likewise, the Kawarau Bridge.
- Consultation with the Queenstown Lakes District Council over the naming of reserves; the merit of including historical names, or those of people who have done worthy things for our community in more recent times, or (and this is a very recent one) putting some Maori perspective into things. The discussions continue.

- Brokering a better relationship between all parties involved in heritage matters in the Wakatipu. Our Society has been active in the formation of a group, which meets quarterly, to discuss historical issues. This group comprises members of the Society, the Historic Places Trust, QLDC and Civic Corp planners.
- The Queenstown Heritage Walk booklet. This is a postcard-sized booklet with old black and white photos of Queenstown and a commentary describing what is left of our few remaining old buildings. With a bit of luck this will be out for the Christmas stocking.

email addresses

The Society would welcome any members with email, who are not already on the list, to add their name to the regular mailing list for news and notices. Send your email address to Malcolm Boote at mandpboote@actrix.gen.nz.

New Blood Needed

If any member wants a more hands-on involvement with the society, why not join the committee? We do want more, and younger, members. Contact Malcolm Boote or Karen Boulay.

Powerhouse

Has anyone any old photographs or stories about the One Mile Powerhouse, during construction, or of its working life. Contact Malcolm Boote.

Courier articles

We are keen to hear from anyone with stories about local people, or historical tales, for possible inclusion future editions of the Courier. Contact Karen Boulay.

Historic Places Trust

If you are keen to support the heritage of New Zealand or are traveling in NZ or abroad, particularly to the UK, then membership of the NZ Historic Places Trust is a real advantage. There are many historic sites and buildings open for you with HPT membership. Contact Karen Boulay or Mike Lynch.