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**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.*

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Secretary:	Jocelyn Robertson	442 1468
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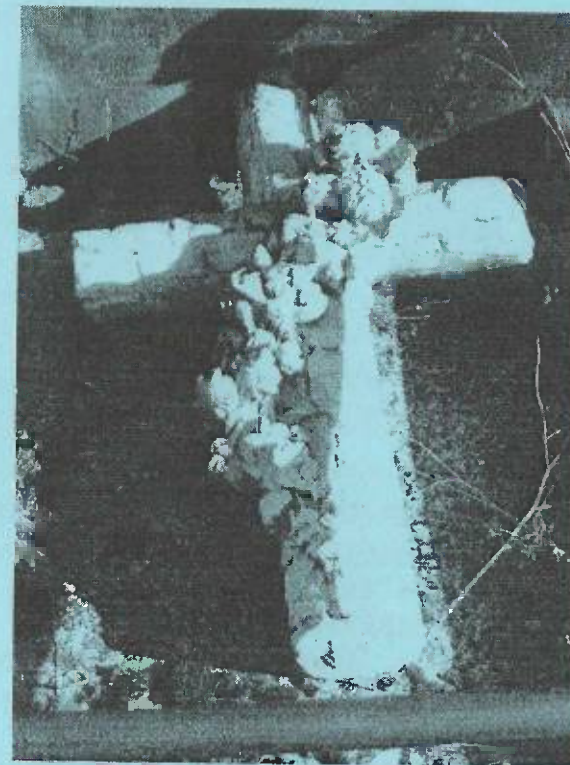
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**The Courier Acknowledgement**

This issue has been produced by staff at the  
Lakes District Museum.

Their quality work is hereby acknowledged

# The Queenstown Courier



Queenstown Cemetery - History Unearthed

The Official Publication of the  
Queenstown & District Historical Society

**The Queenstown Courier**  
 The Official Publication of the Queenstown and District Historical Society  
 Seventy-second Issue - June 2004

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

Environment Court Appeal over Court House

**In Court over Courthouse**

History has a habit of repeating itself in the Wakatipu. In this issue we have a series of brief biographies on some of the pioneer personalities buried in the Queenstown Cemetery.

These people lived in turbulent times. But by and large it is their effort and their foresight that helped make the district what it is today.

A century has gone by, and effort and foresight is doubly needed to help preserve the fast-vanishing remnants of their legacy. The Historical Society has become mightily embroiled in a prolonged Environment Court battle to prevent the venerable Queenstown Courthouse and its precinct being encroached on by a couple of the three-storey buildings of the proposed Ngai Tahu Post Office site development. From the Steamer Wharf to the Police Station, segments of Queenstown that were once assumed to be in Government custody and sacrosanct have suddenly gone under the hammer, to the disquiet of locals over the loss of what was assumed to be open and public space.

As you will see from the following appeal from Society president Malcolm Boote, cash is the key for the Courthouse. Some have dug deep; more money is needed.

But there have been success stories this year too. The Society's Heritage Walk booklet on central Queenstown is selling well; the refurbished One Mile Powerhouse is scheduled for opening round October. And we continue to fight to preserve other iconic streetscapes – from Queenstown's Marine Parade to Arrowtown's Buckingham Street.

## APPEAL TO THE ENVIRONMENT COURT

A year ago I promised to keep members informed about progress on the Society's appeal to the Environment Court. This relates to the QLDC decision to allow two of the five buildings comprising the Ngai Tahu Property Group development on the Post Office site to encroach into the adjacent Courthouse historic precinct.

The hearing commenced on March 29, and after five days proceedings were adjourned without completing all the evidence. There has been no indication yet of a firm date to reconvene the hearing. It is therefore inappropriate to comment on progress or the outcome until the hearing is completed and a judgement made.

A year ago, I said the Society might need to appeal to members for financial support. At that time I said every member would be approached individually, and the enclosed letter contains that appeal and explains the current situation in detail. I can report that initial reaction to our fund-raising effort has been positive, but much more financial help is needed.

The financial crisis has been created by the departure overseas of our legal counsel, and the late need to secure and brief a replacement. This change has involved serious increases in costs, and together with the prolonged court session the costs to date are in excess of \$42,000 -- which is \$20,000 more than the grant towards our expenses from the Ministry for the Environment.

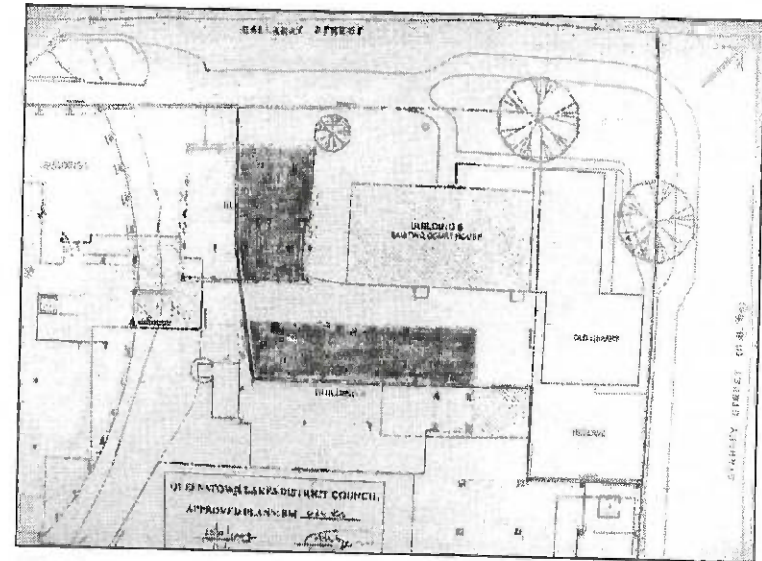
The Society is not able to meet these costs. Therefore the committee has decided to raise the extra sum, plus the costs of the reconvened hearing, by appealing for funds in order to pay its way out of the crisis.

I look forward to your continued support at this critical time.

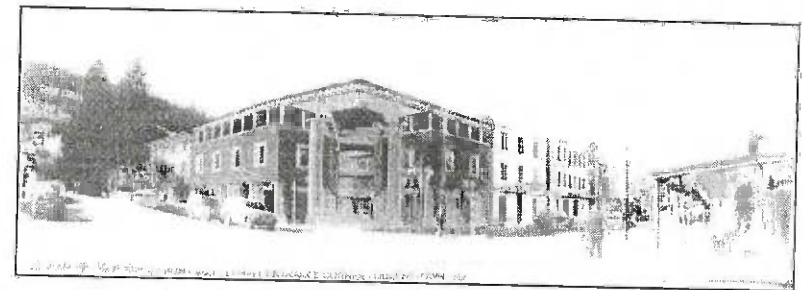
Malcolm Boote  
President

29<sup>th</sup> May 2004

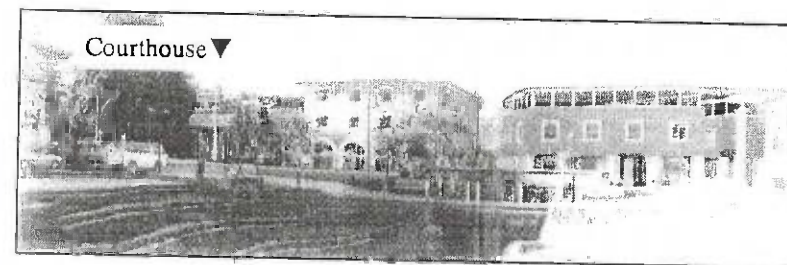
## QLDC-approved Ngai Tahu development plan



The shaded area shows incursion by two proposed buildings into the Courthouse Precinct



Ngai Tahu impressions of proposed Post Office corner



Impressions of proposed Ballarat St frontage - Courthouse on left

## Cemetery Walk

Earlier this year the Historical Society held a well-attended walk around some of the more notable graves in the Queenstown Cemetery, with members retailing a brief biography of some of the inhabitants.

See pages 16 and 17 for map of plots

- |                            |                                   |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Moraine Boulder         | 12. Malaghan Family               |
| 2. Ah Gum                  | 13. Albert and Julia Eichardt     |
| 3. Wong Gong               | 14. Francois and Frank St Omer    |
| 4. Chinese Memorial        | 15. Father John Francis O'Donnell |
| 5. Nicholas Von Tunzelmann | 16. Thomas Hicks                  |
| 6. Warren Family           | 17. Hugh Mackenzie                |
| 7. Henry Homer             | 18. Robert Anderson               |
| 8. Joseph Fenn             | 19. Otto Theune                   |
| 9. Wesley Turton           | 20. James McNeill                 |
| 10. J.W. Robertson         | 21. Neil McInnes                  |
| 11. Peter Bell             | 22. Henry Manders                 |

### Moraine Boulder — No 1

The many plaques attached to this boulder are mostly memorials to those cremated or have no grave marked. Two commemorated, John Scott Worthington (covered in the last Courier) and Eric Ohlsen, the discoverer of the Bullendale mine, are buried in the cemetery but the exact position of their graves are not known. The same applies to Henry Manders (No. 22).

### Chinese graves

#### Chinese Graves and Memorial — Nos 2, 3 & 4

The cemetery was established in 1886 and the first burial was in October of that year.

In accordance of the custom of the day the cemetery was divided into religious sections — Presbyterian or Protestant, Roman Catholic and Anglican. This segregation was strictly adhered to for many years, resulting in husbands and wives being buried in different sections to

conform to their religious beliefs. We live in more enlightened times now and this division is past.

There were a lot of Chinese living in the area at this time, and some 23 are buried in the cemetery. The Europeans looked down on the Chinese, who spoke a foreign language, had different habits and culture and were considered heathens. They were treated as second-class citizens in life and the same treatment was carried out in death. They were regulated to the western end of the cemetery.



Chinese Memorial

The Chinese had a great desire to return to their native land and many struck it rich enough to do so. Those not so lucky toiled on to death, and were buried in what they considered a foreign land. In 1883 and again in 1902 Chinese were exhumed and their remains returned to China. In 1883 there were 230 shipped out, and in 1902, 474. The cost involved was met by Burials Societies, which raised funds and were supported by rich countrymen.

Exhumation was controlled by both the Health Department and the Local Authority. Those who had been dead a long time had their bones carefully cleaned, washed and wrapped in calico. The more recent dead were placed in sealed coffins, which in turn were placed inside wooden ones. The result was small coffins for those long dead and extra large ones for the recent dead.

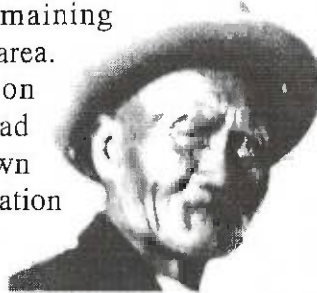
The second shipment, which included 265 from Otago, ended in disaster when the vessel (the Ventnor) carrying the coffins hit a rock and sank off the west coast of the North Island. One of the coffins lost was that of Sew Hoy, the very successful gold dredger and merchant whose wealth had probably contributed to the cost of the exercise.



Two Chinese graves with headstones remain, Wong Gong and Ah Gum. Wong Gong is probably the only Chinese with a geographical feature named after him in the Wakatipu. For many years he ran a store, market garden and orchard on the terrace named after him on the Shotover near Skippers. He died in 1909 aged 63.

Ah Gum was buried in 1937 and was the last remaining Chinese in the area. He lived on Frankton Road and was known

and respected by all. He was buried by the Salvation Army and his funeral was widely attended.



Ah Gum

There are two Jewish graves on the extreme northern boundary of the cemetery. The headstones are in Hebrew and the dates follow Jewish tradition.

### Von Tunzelmann

ADLM

### Nicholas Paul Baltazar von Tunzelmann — No 5

Born Revel, Estonia in 1825, to a German father who was a major in the Russian Army, he was godson of Czar Nicholas I. He was educated in Germany and England. But because this was done without the consent of the Czar, the family were banished, forfeiting their big estates and being given only 24 hours to leave.

After a time in America, he returned to Europe and qualified as veterinary surgeon at the Universities of Paris and Edinburgh.

He emigrated to New Zealand around 1860 and joined an expedition to seek pastoral land. Initially, he sought to lease land to the west of Lake Wanaka. Then with William Rees, he discovered the Crown Range route

to Lake Wakatipu in February, 1860. Rees applied for the east shore run, and von Tunzelmann Run Number 350 to the west of Lake Wakatipu, being 50,000 acres. He named it Fernhill. This was developed with brother John and brother-in-law Gilbert Pickett.

They imported sheep from Australia, and a stone two-storey house was built. In 1865 he married Gertrude Gilbert, sister of Frances Rees; they had two sons and three daughters. The run flourished for a few years, then scab broke out in the flock and rabbits infested the land, causing them to be sold up.

They moved to small run at Table Bay, across from Queenstown on Lake Wakatipu. This was not a success; keas were blamed for the loss of 300 of 600 ewes in one round-up.

The family went to Australia for five years, growing fruit, then back to Beach Bay, a 200 acre holding at Walter Peak, where they were able to eke out a living. He planted the Wellingtonia trees there with seed from Austria.



He was appointed station master at Kingston about 1884. He was said to be a gentle person, a charming man, the best of company as he could sing, yodel, play the violin to entertain and he was fond of dancing.

He often walked and rowed for miles to enjoy an evening of song and dance. Later he was described as a fine old man with a white flowing beard and white hair. He died in poverty on July 31, 1900 in Frankton Hospital.

Gertrude died at Walter Peak in 1918. Her body was taken by launch to Queenstown and she too is buried here. She left a beautiful pink and yellow rose garden at Walter Peak.

Lasting reminders of von Tunzelmann are the Von River, Mount Nicholas, and Von's Hill on Walter Peak.

MB ADLM

## The Warren Family — No 6

### The Warren Family

#### William Warren

William Warren was a newspaper man. Every small settlement soon established a paper to communicate local happenings and as an avenue for businesses to advertise their produce. Mr Warren owned the premises where the paper "The Observer" then "The Lake County Press" were set up, the latter published from 1882 – 1928. He became prominent when he took over the "Lake Wakatip Mail" as proprietor and editor in 1868, the weekly Queenstown paper which was distributed throughout the Basin.

As well as being very active in business, Mr Warren took a considerable part in public as municipal affairs as councillor, mayor and JP. During his Mayoralty finances were reorganised. The Ballarat and Shotover street bridges were built. Pig and Pigeon Islands, which were Corporation endowments, became sources of Municipal revenue, and streets were laid out on the eastern terrace of Queenstown.

He was one of the first settlers in the Wakatipu, having left England and followed the gold rushes to Victoria, Gabriel's Gully and the Dunstan.

At the time of his death in 1900, aged 67, he was still actively involved in his many interests – the Masonic Lodge, the Anglican Church and public affairs. The management of the "Lake Wakatip Mail" was left to his son.

#### William David (Bill) Warren

Born 3.10.1874, he successfully fitted into the family business until his retirement, with a break while he served overseas in WWI, when the paper was incorporated in the "Central Otago News" in 1947. Mr Warren was the Queenstown correspondent. His greatest interests were membership of St Peter's Church and the Masonic Lodge. Like his father, he was a supporter of several community organisations, playing football and cricket for Queenstown as well as being a foundation member of both the Bowling Club and Rotary. He died 4.8.1956.

#### Margaret Sarah Warren

Margaret was affectionately known as "Daisy" by her parents. She inherited considerable talents – a love of music and an ability with words. She received her schooling and musical tuition at the local Dominican Convent where she excelled as a very bright pupil. At an early age she

opened a music studio and successfully prepared her students for Trinity College examinations. At St Peter's she was the organist for 40 years.

She was generous with her energies, being most interested in the wellbeing of Queenstown and District. During WWI she entertained at patriotic concerts and was a long-time member of the Red Cross and Progressive League.

Her attitude to the role of women in society was way ahead of the thinking of the day. When her brother left for WWI, the management of the family newspaper fell to her. Despite prejudice and doubt, she closed the music studio and became a very successful full-time publisher and editor. This was her natural vocation and she continued writing for the "Lake Wakatip Mail" and "The Press" in later years.

Her enthusiasm, philanthropy and genuine care for her fellow citizens were quite remarkable and were much commented on in the obituaries following her death on 18.6.1937. Warren Park, beside the Wakatipu High School, commemorates this family.

#### William Henry Homer

RC

### William Henry Homer — No 7

William Henry Homer was born about 1839 in London, the second of three brothers.



He proved to be an adventurer. According to a letter written by his nephew Harry he cleared away from home aged 16. He was with British forces fighting in the Crimea (Crimean War, 1853-1856). Subsequently he served in the Indian Mutiny, being present at the fall of Lucknow in 1857.

On his return, the talk of migration to New Zealand and tales of gold strikes perhaps proved irresistible. In 1862 he booked a passage from London to Port Chalmers on the Sarah M. On the day of his departure his younger brother Charles decided to accompany him to New Zealand.

The two brothers first venture was goldmining, but William Henry, with a passion for exploration, made trips all over the area, returning generally broke and in rags. For a while younger brother Charles, who worked hard and saved his money, would set him up, but eventually saw no future in this. They parted company about 1864, and apparently lost contact for about 14 years.

There are no known family records of William Henry from when they parted until the 1870s, when he purchased a couple of sections at Jamestown (Martin's Bay). However it is recorded that he was living in Invercargill in 1878-79, when he met up again with brother Charles – later shifting to Orepuki for a while, followed by Charles and family.

Early in 1872 Homer was nearly drowned on the Hollyford Bar when setting out on a sealing expedition. In September, 1872 Homer made a dramatic dash from Jamestown to Queenstown to tell of the plight of the settlers there, where the food was running out. He arrived “a moving bundle of rags, scratches and bruises” to tell the grim news. By 1889 Jamestown was reported as being deserted. However, Homer took up a section and it was from here — Homer's Clearing — that he would set out prospecting. It was from here too that he sighted and named the Homer Falls and the Little Homer Saddle.

He eventually abandoned this section and took up residence at Glenorchy, mining, cutting firewood and continuing some exploration. Hence Homer's Terrace, above the banks of the Rees River, where he had a mine.

It was from Glenorchy in January, 1889 that he set out with George Barber looking for a pass from Lake Wakatipu to Milford Sound. “On January 27, 1889 they reached the head of the Hollyford Valley and ascended a saddle which led to the west, and which Homer had not the slightest doubt was a good pass to Milford”. He called this saddle Homer's Pass.

Homer agitated for a tunnel to be put through, but without success. Forty-five years elapsed before work was started, and the tunnel was finally pierced in 1940. The Homer Tunnel was officially opened to traffic in 1954.

William Henry Homer died at Frankton on January 24, a single man without issue. Alice McKenzie, in her book “Pioneers of Martins Bay” said “only five people followed his remains to his last resting place, so little thought did the people of that time give to the men who valiantly endured cold, hunger and hardship to explore the country of their adoption”.

References:

Milford Sound – John Hall-Jones

Martins Bay – John Hall-Jones

Early Fiordland – John Hall-Jones

Far Famed Fiordland – Herries Beattie

Men of Milford – Harold J Anderson

Joseph Cyprian Fenn

### Joseph Cyprian Fenn — No 8

In his mid-twenties, Joseph Fenn visited Paradise, to fall in love with the mountains, rivers and clean air. He never lost his fascination with the grandeur of the Upper Wakatipu, which claimed his whole life – he seldom left the area.

He was born at Stotford, Bedfordshire on October 2, 1854, son of Joseph Finch Fenn. After education at Cheltenham College, he went to Cambridge University. His prowess seems to have been in rowing, where he won the Colquhoun Sculls in 1876 and his ‘Blue’ in 1877, when the race against Oxford resulted in a dead-heat. (Several of his uncles had also attended Cambridge, graduating with high honours, including Christopher Cyprian Fenn who was a General Secretary of the Church Missionary Society 1864-94.) Between 1878 and 1881, Joseph took a ship to Canada. From there he moved to New Zealand, and in Queenstown met with his Aunt Catherine and her husband William Mason, New Zealand's first architect.

In the 1881-83 period Fenn purchased smallholdings in the Paradise area, and by 1885 possessed 1252 acres (506ha) of freehold with frontage to Diamond Lake, 516 acres (208 ha) of leased land from the Queenstown Borough Endowment (1882-92) and Runs 346 B&C of 1500 acres (600ha). He became a sheep-farmer, and was known as a reserved, cultured man with a generous nature and high sense of honour. He did not marry.

RI

Between May 1906 and January 1907, Arcadia was built for him from timber milled nearby. This spacious and imposing two-storied accommodation house boasted 13 bedrooms in addition to a library, smoking, sitting and dining rooms. An annex with 16 rooms was added in 1911, although plans for a large octagonal tower never eventuated. Between 1911 and 1914 Arcadia surpassed Paradise House, the first accommodation house in the area, with over 400 patrons.

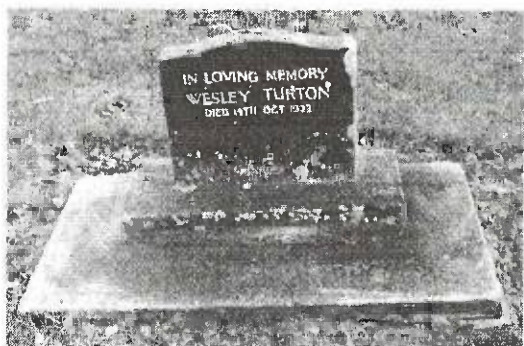
Fenn never slept at Arcadia. He built a three-roomed hut beside the River Jordan, from which he could see the accommodation house. Arcadia was managed for him until it was sold on February 25, 1920 to Alexander Reid of Galloway. Fenn lived on in his hut until Boxing Day, 1923, when he was taken to the hospital in Queenstown. He died on January 3, 1924.

Fenn's love of the outback is remembered in some of the classical names he gave to some of the peaks above Arcadia.

CG

### Wesley Turton

### Wesley Turton — No 9



Turton was born and raised in the North Island, the son of Henry Hansen Turton (an early missionary and later a Warden in the Coromandel). After taking part in the Maori Wars, Turton qualified as a solicitor and practised on the Thames goldfields.

He moved to Queenstown around 1870 and remained practising law, mostly as Queenstown's only solicitor, until his death. He married Annett Elizabeth Swainson soon after coming to Queenstown and they had six children.

He was solicitor for the Lake County Council and then the Queenstown Borough Council, and acted as Crown Prosecutor. He represented some overseas gold-mining companies and probably knew everybody's business in the area. Probably to avoid conflict, he took little part in local affairs.

Turton's most famous case was *Eager v Grace*, in which Turton acted for

Grace. Eager claimed Grace had been working his adjoining gold claim for a year. It was very rich land and Eager sued Grace for 12,000 pounds. The Warden and assessors gave judgement for 8124 pounds, which resulted in a legal fight which went to the Supreme Court three times and finally to the Court of Appeal.

Both parties were immensely rich and enjoyed the contest, but finally got sick of litigation. Grace settled to pay 4000 pounds in full and final settlement. The only winners were the solicitors, and Turton benefited considerably. Soon after, he built a large home on Frankton Road, which contained the latest in facilities and used the very best of materials. It did not take long for the locals to christen Turton's home "Grace's Folly".

Turton had premises in Ballarat St and also had an office in what is now the Stone Cottage at Arrowtown. Practising mostly as the only solicitor in the town, he must have trodden a fine line at times. This is illustrated when he was the prosecutor in the case against P.B. Boulton (the County Clerk), for embezzlement. The two must have been close business associates, if not friends.

### J W Robertson

### J.W. Robertson — No 10

ADLM

James William Robertson was born at St John's, New Brunswick, Canada. In his youth he followed the gold rushes to California, then Victoria, where in Ballarat he was a sawmiller, and then onto the Otago discoveries.

When he arrived in Queenstown he recommenced his carpentry trade, but soon opened up a mill in partnership. Such ventures were to mark him as a most innovative, progressive settler.

Then came his involvement with the Antrim steamer and the Brunswick Flour Mill at Frankton in partnership with Bendix Hallenstein.

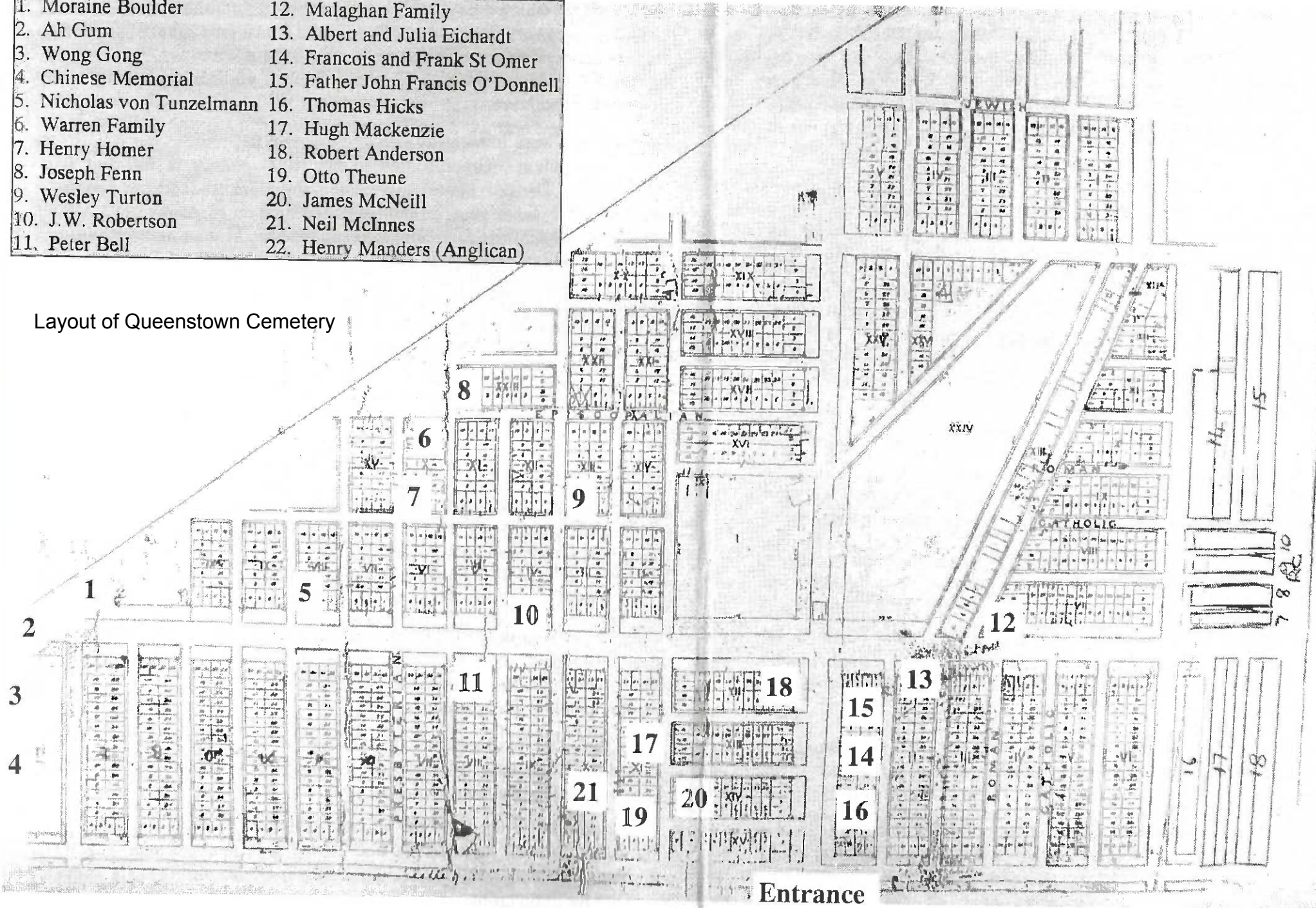
In anticipation of the rail link, he was involved in extensive premises at Kingston, as well as wharves and jetties around the Lake. He also developed several farms at Frankton, aware of the fertile soils and the demand for grain crops.





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| 9. Wesley Turton           | 20. James McNeill                 |
| 10. J.W. Robertson         | 21. Neil McInnes                  |
| 11. Peter Bell             | 22. Henry Manders (Anglican)      |

Layout of Queenstown Cemetery



Brecon Street

Entrance

J.W. Robertson and Co looked forward to developments. His mill and three mile railway at Kinloch opened up the timber resources at the head of the lake. Mr Robertson was an ideas man, though with a very practical side. He agitated for street cleaning, a fire brigade and suitable horse tethering. Today he would be highly regarded for his entrepreneurial dealings. His aim was to encourage farming, business and the prosperity of the district.

Mr Robertson, the town's first Mayor, was good at managing many developments – the establishment of the Gardens Reserve was one – and the finances to pay for them. He cared for the citizens and he cared for the district. His death at the age of 50 of Brights Disease in 1876 was a great blow to Queenstown.

Peter bell - Long Gully Hotel

RC

### Peter Bell — No 11



Although he had a very English name, Peter Bell was of Swedish descent. He owned the Long Gully Hotel from 1881. When he first took up the licence, the hotel was on the road on the eastern side of the gully. From the hotel the track climbed up to Green Gate Saddle, a tough climb for both man and horse, then down the zigzag to Deep Creek and on to Skippers.

In 1889 the hotel burned down; this was convenient for Bell, as he was able to rebuild on the western side of the gully beside the new road, which went at a lower level via Pincher's Bluff to the Shotover River.

Bell carried on until he met a sad end when at the age of 70 he fell from his horse at night into a water race and was not found until morning, frozen to death.

His wife, Honora, took up the licence until 1908, when the hotel came into the hands of the Lewis family, who remained there until the licence lapsed in 1945.

Later the building was dismantled and the material used to build a house at Lake Hayes. A slab of concrete and two chimneys are all that remain of a hotel, which was a welcome stopping place for miners toiling up the track to Skippers.

Queenstown Cemetery Tour.  
No. 72 2004

Honora is also buried in this plot.

ADLM.

### The Malaghan Family

#### Malaghan Family — No 12



In this plot lie four Malaghans who played an important part in early Queenstown. They are Michael John (1835-1884), his wife Mary Jane (1844-1908), and Michael's two brothers, Bernard and Thomas. The Malaghans came from Pomeroy, County Tyrone, in Ireland, and like many before them emigrated to Victoria before coming to Queenstown in 1863.

Michael must have prospered in Australia, for on arrival in Queenstown he set up business on a large scale, in premises on the corner of Rees and Shotover streets. Like Bendix Hallenstein he sold groceries, liquor, tobacco, ironmongery, clothing, furniture, mining gear, explosives, boots, and indeed anything wanted by the miners. He was also involved in insurance, and sold mining shares.

He had a reputation for fair trading, and helped many miners prove a claim by backing them with food and tools. One of the claims he was involved in was the Wire Rope Sluicing Company, which took water across the Shotover River at Maori Point to work an area on the western side of the river.

He was a member of the first Queenstown Borough Council, and the first Lake County Council, and was Mayor from 1872 to 1874. He took an active part in many local organisations, and was a major benefactor of the Catholic Church. He owned three hotels – the Prince of Wales, on the corner of Beach and Rees streets; the Victoria, on Rees Street, and Malaghan's, on the back road to Arrowtown. He did not take an active part in running them, however.

When Michael died at an early age, his widow Mary carried on his many interests. She rebuilt the Prince of Wales in stone in 1885, and renamed it

the Mountaineer. The building still stands, though ceasing as a hotel in the 1980s.

Bernard did not marry, but Thomas had a son, Patrick. His son, Leonard Aloysius Patrick prospered in business, particularly with the nationwide Tip Top ice cream company. He and his wife Ann established the Malaghan Medical Research Institute, which over the years has made many important advances in medicine and the treatment of diseases, and continues to do so.

Leonard and Ann, though living in Wellington, continued their interest in Queenstown, mostly by financial support. In 1935 they made a substantial contribution which enabled the building of a new Library. They too are buried in the Queenstown cemetery, though in another area than the pioneers.

Albert and Julia Eichardt

ADLM

### Herman Adolph Albert Eichardt and Julia Eichardt — No 13



The pair are famous for the name they gave to Queenstown's best known hotel.

Born in Prussia in 1829, Albert emigrated to Australia, where he worked a quartz mine in Inglewood, Victoria, then moved to Arrowtown with two of his brothers.

They were in business as cordial manufacturers in Arrowtown, then in 1863 he won a raffle for a nugget of gold (64 pounds value) and bought the Queen's Arms Hotel, Queenstown in 1865, later renaming it Eichardt's.

In 1867 he was naturalised, and in 1868 married Julia O'Meara, formerly Shanahan, who had managed the hotel's dining room since 1863, first working for William Rees.

They developed it to be the best hotel in town, and in 1872 replaced the Rees' wooden woolshed building with the stone and concrete structure much as we know it today. The completion of the railway to Kingston in 1878 brought tourists from all over world to stay at Eichardt's

Albert was a Queenstown councillor, captain of M Battery of Artillery, member of the Masonic Lake Lodge of Ophir, conductor of the Philharmonic Society and the Garrison Band.

In 1878, Fred Denham, who drove the Cobb & Co coach from Queenstown to Cromwell for years, described Albert as a fine military looking man, six feet two inches tall, a splendid businessman, always courteous and straightforward. The hotel was the booking office for Cobb & Co.

Albert died of pneumonia in August, 1882. There were no children.



Julia ran the hotel for ten years, extending it by making two parlours, one for men, one for women, both with pianos and the best quality fittings. The upper floor had bedrooms, and bathrooms with water laid on. Electric light and bells were installed in every bedroom in 1886; power was generated from a Pelton wheel, using water from town water supply. It was one of the first buildings to be lit by electricity in New Zealand.

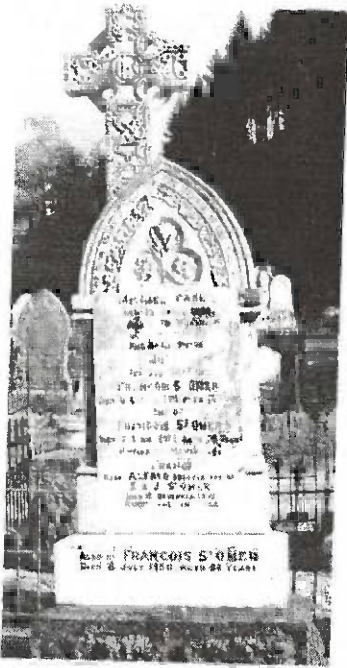
Julia died after injuring her head in a fall on 2 May 1892. The funeral was attended by 700, the procession led by four Catholic priests. The question asked was "Who will take her place and carry on the hotel?" She is buried in the Catholic sector of the cemetery.

The restored building, with its façade largely unchanged, still bears their name and is a lasting memorial.

MB ADLM

Francis St Omer  
**Francois St Omer — No 14**

St Omer was one of the oldest and earliest pioneers of the District; he died aged 88 in April, 1915. He had a rather remarkable life. From his early years in Marseilles, he traveled to London. He soon joined the 'gold trail', first to California then to Victoria experiencing all the hardships, and finally to Otago.



He arrived in the Wakatipu in 1863. In Queenstown he "took over Mr Rees's dining room tables". Then he acquired a bakery in Rees St, to which he added a restaurant. He continued to run these for the rest of his life.

He took a very active part in local affairs, serving as a councillor for 11 years and mayor for 14. He was also connected with many other local institutions, believing that it was his duty to support worthy causes with his time and money. The Charitable Aid Board and the Wakatipu Hospital Trust were two long-term projects.

**Frank St Omer**, a son, worked in the bakery and also established a confectionery shop. Like his father, he was a member of the Acclimatisation Society and a very enthusiastic

promoter of tree planting around the foreshore, especially willows. The lakeside park running down to the One Mile is named after him.

If the oft-repeated story concerning the rivalry between Albert Eichardt and Francois St Omer vying to display respective flags to mark victories during the Franco-Prussian War is true, it must have been a very unequal flag-raising contest. The French had few victories and ultimately lost the war.

RC

Father John Francis O'Donnell

**Father John Francis O'Donnell — No 15**

Father O'Donnell was appointed to the Wakatipu parish in 1896, and remained until his death in 1917.

Born in Glenroe, County Limerick, Ireland in 1852, he was not ordained until the age of 37, and at that time came to New Zealand. He served in the Otago Diocese until his appointment to Queenstown.

Like all early clergy in the Wakatipu, he was a great horseman, and renowned for the horses he owned. He took an active part in local affairs, being a trustee of the Wakatipu Hospital and a leading figure in the establishment of the Lake Hayes show. He lent his support to the committee that opposed motor traffic on the Frankton road, and he founded the Remarkables football team.

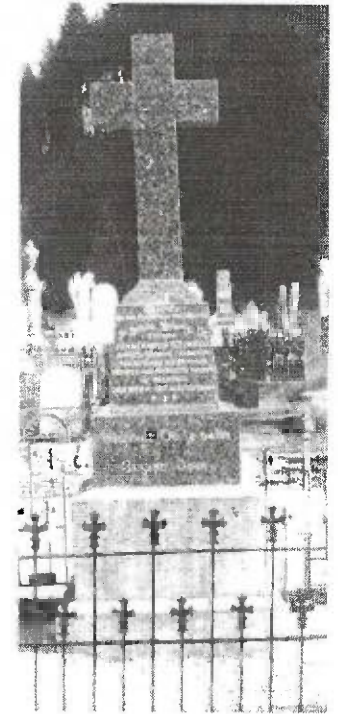
In the latter part of his life he suffered ill-health. He is recorded saying he "could have drunk Lake Hayes dry" as he passed on his way to Arrowtown. (He probably suffered from diabetes.) He died on May 3, 1917.

ADLM

Thomas Hicks  
**Thomas Hicks — No 16**

Thomas Hicks was born in Cornwall in 1827. As a young man he moved to Australia in 1849, and was then attracted to the Californian goldfields. He shifted to the Wakatipu in 1862.

In the business community he became prominent in transport, especially shipping. He became a member of J.W. Robertson & Company's syndicate which operated in the Greenstone area, where they milled red beech. This was very profitable, catering for an expanding, wood-starved market. The company also built the "Antrim" on site, which became for many years an important lake steamer.





Hicks represented the Greenstone Riding in the first Lake County Council, which met on January 4, 1877.

He died in 1911 and in his will he bequeathed 1500 pounds to rebuild St Peter's Anglican Church in stone. He specified it was to be done within a time limit of 20 years. The tender was let on March 11, 1932 and the new church was built in traditional English style.

RC

Hugh McKenzie

### Hugh Mackenzie — No 17

Born October 17, 1847 at Ardmore, Scotland, the seventh child to John and Ann, he joined Royal Navy where he became chief gunner on the Iron Duke, contracting smallpox. He married Anastasia McKenzie Rossiter in Edinburgh in 1873. They left for New Zealand in 1874, on the Cathcart.

He first worked unloading rails on Oamaru beach, used to build the Christchurch to Dunedin railway line, then was joined by his brother Alexander as partner on Coronet Peak Station. In 1878 they survived terrible snow storms, saving 5000 of 6000 sheep from certain death by snow-raking.

They sold up and bought 350 acres at Beach Bay, Walter Peak. They supplemented their income by mustering, rabbiting and netting rainbow trout and quinnat salmon from the lake between Walter Peak and Greenstone. The fish were smoked, shipped to Kingston, and were in great demand in the Dunedin market.

In 1882 the partnership was dissolved and Mackenzie was granted

10,000 acres at Walter Peak by the Waste Lands Board, as it had been abandoned due to rabbits.

Being a tough, strongly built and determined man, he with his six boys and two daughters reduced the rabbits, cleared paddocks of stones, ploughed and regrassed the lakeside terraces. They built homes, yards, sheds and fenced all the steep ranges without borrowing money. In 1904 he bought the Mount Nicholas and Fernhill runs, calling it all Walter Peak, a total of 178,000 acres of Crown land plus freehold areas. They formed a family syndicate and with lots of hard work made it profitable. Sheep numbers increased from 300 in 1882, to a total of 40,000 in 1933.



He was a generous hospitable man, helping many people and causes, a good host to visitors from all over the world. He was a good churchman, regularly rowing to Queenstown to attend service. Normally it took two hours, but the return journey could take anything from five to nine hours. Eventually he bought a house in Gorge Road, Queenstown in order to rest and wait for winds on the lake to drop.

He was a great sportsman, and supporter of the Queenstown Easter regatta. He organised and donated prize money for the rifle club and held annual shoots at Walter Peak.

His first wife died in 1897, two sons served in World War One, one of whom was killed at Gallipoli. He married Flora Gardiner in 1905, but there were no children.

Hugh Mackenzie died on May 6, 1933, aged 85, in Dunedin, but he is buried here in this cemetery. In 1949 the Mt Nicholas and Fernhill runs were sold by the family. The remainder of Walter Peak was sold in 1959.

MB ADLM

Robert Anderson = Hotel owner

### Robert Anderson — No 18

Not much is known about Robert Anderson except that he owned a hotel at Frankton as early as 1863. It was probably strategically placed one day's journey to Queenstown for a wagon. It must have been the first building on the Frankton flats, and probably remained until the Antrim Arms was built near the Frankton wharf in 1878, one kilometre further west.

Robert had a son of the same name who became closely associated with Joseph Ward in a mercantile firm J G Ward Farmers Association of N.Z., Ltd. In 1896 the firm was placed in liquidation, and in 1897 Ward filed for bankruptcy and resigned his seat in Parliament. But Ward and Anderson survived their commercial disasters and subsequently both made a fortune in another venture J G Ward and Co, and other interests. Both men were knighted.

Robert Anderson left his imposing home on the outskirts of Invercargill to the city to be used as an art gallery. With the adjoining Anderson Park it is now a prized possession.

Otto Theune - gold miner

ADLM

### Otto Theune — No 19

Otto Theune died in 1914, aged 73. He was but one of the number of people who were washed up in the Wakatipu by the tide of the gold rush.

They arrived alone, often did not reveal details of their past life, did not marry, and lived a lonely life to be mourned by a few friends. We can only speculate about the reasons for their leaving their homeland. Was it poverty, oppression, or perhaps desertion from a Continental Army. If it was the latter, they knew the penalty was swift and certain, and continuing to walk till they were half a world away was wise.

Theune followed mining, without striking it rich, and sometimes worked as a labourer. Little is known about him except his rather strange association with the Masonic Lodge. He joined Queenstown's Lodge Ophir, and later he resigned. Later he rejoined, and then again resigned. He repeated this process no less than six times. He might well qualify for a Masonic entry in the Guinness Book of Records.

Later in life, and possibly in poor health, he offered a proposition to the Lodge. He would give it 25 pounds, which could be invested with the Post Office, if they in turn offered to arrange for his burial in due course. By some type of Dutch auction, the Lodge eventually accepted the proposal, but only subject to his increasing the offer to 27 pounds 10 shillings.

This he must have accepted, as he now lies at rest, and the Masonic symbol of his headstone shows the brethren carried out their part of the bargain.

ADLM

James McNeill

### James McNeill — No 20

James McNeill was born in 1859, and trained as a stonemason. He arrived in Queenstown as a young man in 1882 and soon after built a home in Church Street, now incorporated into the McNeill's restaurant and brewery. The cottage has dressed stone on the street frontage, whereas the sides are rough-cut stone.



McNeill was a prominent member of the Masonic Lodge. He was master for four years, and held the office of treasurer for many years.

McNeill died in 1920, but his craftsmanship can still be seen today round Queenstown in work that has stood the passage of time. The wall behind the cemetery, the Ballarat Street bridge, and the old Lake County Council building at the corner of Ballarat and Stanley streets are good examples.

ADLM

### Neil McInnes — No 21

Neil McInnes died in 1906, aged 62. His death ended a partnership that endured for many years. It was a strange mixture, with McInnes a Scot from the island of Mull, and Thomas Monk, an Irishman from Dublin; one a Protestant, the other a Catholic,

How they met is not known, but from the early days of the rush they worked a claim on the Shotover above Skippers, with the normal access by cage across the river. It was a good claim, and produced from 100 to 150 ounces a year – sufficient to give the two a comfortable existence. As a sideline they raised horses on the Shotover Commonage. Getting a large number of untrained horses down to Arthur's Point for a sale must have been a tough call.

The two treated each other with Old World courtesy, greeting each other in the morning with a "Good morning, Mr Monk," and the response "Good morning, Mr McInnes." No doubt at the end of the day it was "Mr Monk, will you join me for a dram?" And the response "Sure, and I will, Mr McInnes."

In the harsh environment of the Shotover they toiled together in peace and harmony until old age persuaded them to seek a more comfortable existence in a cottage on the Frankton Road, about two miles from Queenstown.

On the death of McInnes, Monk went to a nursing home in Dunedin for his last years.

Henry Manders

ADLM

### Henry Manders — No 22

Henry was descended from a wealthy Anglo-Irish family, having been born in Dublin in 1829. He was sent to England to be educated at Rugby School, but his adventurous spirit subsequently had him leaving England to follow the gold trail.

In the Wakatipu he became a mining agent, then a journalist for the "Lake Wakatip Mail". He also took an active part in local body affairs, becoming the Town Clerk on October 8, 1866. He was also

appointed the first clerk of the Lake County Council, as well as the Secretary of the Queenstown Improvement Society. The offices he held were all short appointments; he was apparently not that efficient in the jobs he took on.

Leaving the Wakatipu, he moved to Dunedin where he served on the Otago Provincial Council in 1876 and then became a member of the House of Representatives from 1876-79. During this time, in 1877, his housekeeper sued him. The writ was served on him at Port Chalmers as he was about to leave for Wellington and the vessel's departure was delayed. He lost the ensuing case, and the publicity was bad for his career.

He died in 1891; the inquest finding returned a verdict of death through over-indulgence in alcohol.

#### Electronic record of grave sites

RC

Biographical material compiled by Alan De La Mare, Ray Clarkson, Rupert Iles, Malcolm Boote, and Clive Geary.

We are indebted to Wakatipu undertaker Russell McGrouther for further information on grave sites. He has compiled an electronic record of all known burials at the Queenstown Cemetery. It is available at the Lakes District Museum. The Society intends to add this, plus records of other local cemeteries, on to the Southern Heritage Trust Website. The Trust ([www.canny.co.nz/northernccemetery/home.html](http://www.canny.co.nz/northernccemetery/home.html)) has already compiled records of Dunedin's Northern Cemetery, and eventually hopes to cover Otago.

**Booklet selling well** The Society's Queenstown Heritage Walk booklet is selling well, and has almost broken even on costs. Copies available from John Heenan, Colin Wilson or Peter Mills. Bulk orders welcomed.

**Arrowtown development** The main street of Arrowtown is in for whopping changes. Revised plans have been released for the big Royal Oak site, the Postmaster's House is set to get an infill development behind it, and the Emporium building is to be redeveloped. Then there's a scheme to put Queenstown's historic Roaring Meg's cottage on a corner site opposite the Bakery.

One mile power house

# One Mile Powerhouse

With a total cost that might end up around \$120,000, Queenstown's One Mile Powerhouse is well on the way to restoration, and due for opening around October.

By then it will have vintage electricity generation gear reinstalled, display panels up, and parking and landscaping.



Historical Society members, spurred by the hard-driven Malcolm Boote, have been part of an establishment trust that includes local councillors, lawyers, architects and project managers.

Funding has come largely from the Central Lakes Trust and the Lottery Grants Board, with \$5000 from the Historical Society.

Laurel Bank Guest House

## Laurel Bank House — Stanley Street

It's a bit of a tricky one. For the first half of last century Laurel Bank, on the corner of Frankton Road and Stanley Street, was just about Queenstown's leading accommodation house. As you can see from the 1925 advertisement, it was not cheap.

**LAUREL BANK HOUSE**  
 — TARIFF: £4 4s. per week or 16s. per day —  
 IS SUPERBLY SITUATED  
 UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT  
 FIRST-CLASS in Every Detail  
**Golden Terrace House**  
 TARIFF: 12s. 6d. for one day,  
 10s. per day afterwards. 55s. weekly.  
 SUPERIOR AND COMFORTABLE ACCOMMODATION  
 Motors meet all Steamers and run trips to all parts from both Houses  
 White Star Representatives and Coupons accepted  
 Write or wire MRS. M. DAVIES, QUEENSTOWN  
 235



Laurel Bank today - front faces Lake Wakatipu

Laurel Bank House was one of the most expensive establishments in town.

It was the classiest of a bevy of boarding houses nearby: Golden Terrace, Hamilton House, Queenstown House (all where the Copthorne is now).

But after years of neglect, Laurel Bank is in for the chop-to make way for a dense complex with hundreds of backpacker beds. It does have a degree of Council protection though, and the suggestions are to either incorporate part of its façade in the new building, or shift the rambling structure to a new site (the Events Centre or Arrowtown have been suggested).

The Society is seeking a bond to ensure the re-siting is done appropriately.



Laurel Bank today - Stanley Street side