

Queenstown & District Historical Society
2008 Incorporated

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ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION

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Corporate Membership: \$50 a year

Life Membership: \$100

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THE QUEENSTOWN COURIER
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MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL



THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE QUEENSTOWN & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC

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If you have comments on an article, memories to share, an opinion, an interesting photo please forward to the Editor.

A special thank you to Danny Knudson for his contribution to this edition.

SNIPPETS

Ray Clarkson

Rees and Von Tunzelman commemoration

REES AND VON TUNZLEMAN

This year marks the 150th Commemoration of the entry of W.G.Rees and N.P. von Tunzelman into the Wakatipu, and of Donald Hay's remarkable expedition on the Lake and into the Frankton flats. We are indebted to Mrs. Rosemary Marryatt for her generosity in supplying information about her great-grandfather W.G. Rees and providing artefacts to the Lake District Museum. Among these are the Silver Tea Service inscribed, "Presented to William Gilbert Rees, Esq. as a mark of affection and respect of his friends and well wishers in the Wakatipu District, Queenstown April, 1867". The Museum arranged the purchase of this from the family. Also attractively displayed are the mementos of his daughter, including the citation stating: "Staff Nurse Miss M. G. Rees mentioned in Despatches 1917". She was awarded the Mons Star and other medals and made an Associate of the Royal Red Cross. (Mildred Gertrude Rees joined up at the age of 46 and served for four years. The Mons Star is one of only two awarded to New Zealand service personnel). The Rees Hotel on Frankton Road has, in the foyer, a very good display of art and memorabilia associated with Mr Rees. This is open for public inspection.

SPRING LUNCHEON

The Spring luncheon was a well attended social occasion and gave the Society the opportunity to launch the 2010 Calendar which features historic scenes of the Wakatipu Basin. Thanks to Brian Bayley, Jocelyn Robertson, Viv Campbell, Nan McIntyre, Shona Blair, Elizabeth Clarkson, Barbara Hamilton, Judy Reid, Roly Duff, Bill Doan, Geoff Bradley, and Mary Anna Baird who all spoke enthusiastically about a chosen photo relating to a month in 2010. The Calendar provides money for the Society to fund extra activities and grants. They are available from the Committee members and outlets in Arrowtown, Frankton and Queenstown.

Gibbston trail

GIBBSTON TRAIL

Susan Stevens reports that the Gibbston Trail, of which our Society is very supportive, has now secured all its funding, is advancing over very exciting gold mining remains and should be finished by February 2010.

LOCAL AUTHORS

Several of our members are involved in writing books and their efforts will be published soon. They include Danny and Julie Knudson, Maxine Alterio, Bill McDonald and Joan and Alan Cooke.

WAKATIPU HERITAGE STRATEGY

The Society is actively involved in the Wakatipu Heritage Strategy meetings with the Council, has submitted on the additions to St John's Church and the Arrowtown cottage precinct, Lakes District Museum affairs and boundary changes.

AGM

Highlight of the first AGM of the new Society on 5th November, 2009 was the presentation of Life memberships to two previous committee members Peter Mills, a most efficient Treasurer for many years, and Rupert Pies, who served on the Committee as trips organiser and President.

Then, we had a most interesting talk from Joan Cooke about her early life in Kingston. All were charmed by her personal reminiscences. Joan's notes will be published in a later edition of the "Courier." The Lakes District Museum provided some interesting Kingston and Lake road construction photographs. Unfortunately, a storm blew up shortly before the meeting, which resulted in only about 30 members attending. Bill Dolan was elected our new Chairperson on the nomination of outgoing Chair, Brian Bayley, and Geoff Bradley Vice Chairperson. Otherwise, office bearers remain unchanged. The business part of the meeting was dealt with quickly, leaving time for all to enjoy a social supper.

PROPOSED EVENTS FOR 2009--2010

Spring Luncheon	September 13th
AGM	November 5th
Christmas Barbeque	December 5th
Paradise - Glenorchy Trip	January 25th
Nevis Trip	February 21st
Arrowtown Cottages (half day)	March 28th

MARGARET TEMPLETON SCHOLARSHIP, 2009

Danika Bourlay



I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all the Trustees for choosing me as the Margaret Templeton Scholarship winner for 2009. Mrs T was a very generous woman to have set up this Trust. Equally, she was good to me, like a grandmother, always giving me \$10 on my birthday. Mrs T's Trust has made it a lot easier financially for my family to support me in continuing my education.

Like my grandmother, Roma McAndrew, and my mother Karen Boulay, Mrs T was very dedicated to preserving our district's history. I hope my generation continues to care about our community with her passion.

Danika Bourlay

**QUEENSTOWN & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY
2008 INCORPORATED**

CHAIRPERSON'S 2008/09 ANNUAL REPORT

This is the first annual report of the new Society, which was formed on the 28th September, 2008 with enlarged and wide ranging powers. The Certificate of Incorporation was issued by the Registrar on the 21st of November 2008 under No 2192192. Since incorporation, the new Society has received an exemption from Tax and been granted Charitable status. Any donation of \$5 or more will enable an individual donor to claim back one third of all donations made to the Society, up to the amount of their taxable income.

I am pleased to report that the winding up of the old Society has been completed and, after payment of the \$400 liquidator's fee and legal costs of \$150 +GST, the surplus of \$14,591.08 on winding up was paid to the new Society. The new Society's legal fees of \$650+GST thereon and disbursements totalled \$831.25. The professional fees on winding up and formation costs were modest.

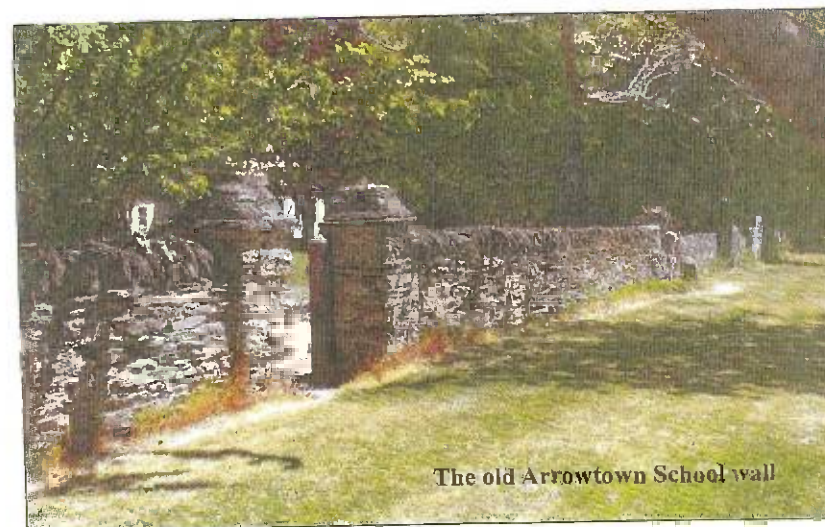
The transition to the new Society proceeded quietly and effectively. I wish to record my thanks to many of our members, to the former Committee members and the present Board for their support and encouragement. I am certain that the course we have taken was essential, and it is with some relief that we can now safely take initiatives which the former Society was not empowered to do.

Having been President of the old Society for three years, and Chairman of the new Society for one year, I believe it is now time to appoint a new Chairperson. Rule 9.3 provides that no one shall serve more than five consecutive years as Chairperson.

It is my delight to nominate Bill Dolan to this position. Bill will fill the role with distinction. My enthusiasm and work for the Society will continue.

It is a relief that the frantic pace of development within the Wakatipu basin has slowed. There is no room for complacency. A stream of applications for resource consents or plan changes continues, albeit in lower numbers. There always seems to be someone endeavouring to stretch the boundaries of new developments. Some could result in a loss of heritage. Just two examples within the last few weeks:

- an application for subdivision of six new lots adjoining a listed early Arrowtown dwelling.
- an application to modify the protected former school stone wall in Arrowtown.



The old Arrowtown School wall

The Society has submitted in favour of the Arrowtown Trust application for restricted commercial use of the cottages, the St John's new hall application and against an application by Royalburn Farming Co Ltd for 20 houses on Crown Terrace. This demonstrates the need for careful balance between controlled and sensible development and over development and possible destruction of heritage values. I am satisfied that the Society is acting responsibly and sensibly in these issues.

I have said in the past that we need to work with developers early in the planning stages to achieve the best results. Recently, a developer was telling me Queenstown CBD land is now so expensive it is necessary to increase the present 12 metres height limitation to allow additional levels to be built and enable the land to yield an adequate return on its cost or present value. A reduction in the cost of land would achieve the same result. It is developers who have paid increased land prices. People continue in their endeavours to increase the size of buildings beyond the provisions of the District Plan. New commercial buildings are built to maximum allowable height which is then exceeded by lift shafts, ventilation and heating plant etc on the roof tops.

I now wish to record my thanks to the members of the Board. I am indebted to their enthusiasm, their knowledge, their support and their good humour. We have worked cohesively and to good effect. The Society has had considerable assistance from outside the Board. Michael Anderson, as editor of *The Courier*, Rob Blair, as back-up to our treasurer, Shona Blair, for enthusiastic support for field trips. I thank them and others who have played valued supporting roles.

DONALD HAY – UNHERALDED HERO

DANNY KNUDSON

One of the most intrepid explorers in the Wakatipu was Donald Hay who, 150 years ago, in August 1859, showed remarkable fortitude by becoming the first known man to sail the southern and middle arms of Lake Wakatipu, see the northern arm of the lake and discover Lake Hayes. It appears unjust that he left New Zealand,



The large boulder and inscription (insert) that commemorates Donald Cameron and Angus Macdonald.

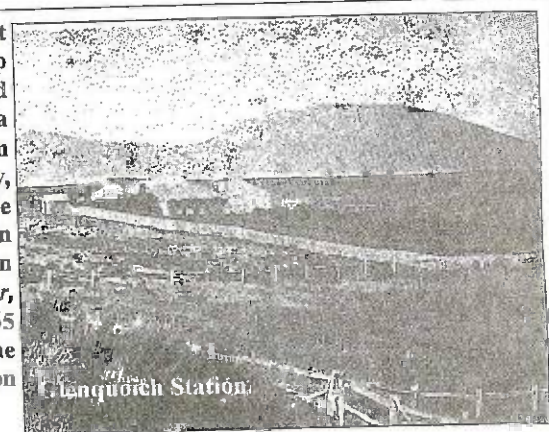
disappointed at not receiving pastoral rights to the farmland for which he applied. Furthermore, he was subsequently denied the honour of having his name associated with the picturesque lake he discovered, Lake Hayes. Donald Hay was deserving, but denied.

As inland Otago and Southland were explored in the late 1850s, land was claimed by prospective farmers, many of them from Scotland. Pastoral rights were issued by the Waste Land Office on the principle of first come, first served. If an explorer/farmer were first to lodge a claim for land which could be identified by a sketch map showing features such as hills, rivers and lakes, grazing rights could be issued on condition that the property was stocked within 12 months.

In 1858, William Cameron took up a sheep run at Glenquoich, near what later became Athol, south of Lake Wakatipu. When two of his relatives, Donald Angus Cameron and Angus Alphones Macdonald, reached the area in 1859 in search of suitable pastoral land, William guided them to Lake Wakatipu. Donald Cameron and Angus Macdonald subsequently received grazing rights to property known as Staircase Station, along the eastern shore of Lake Wakatipu, and Nokomai Station, south of the lake.

In order to stock the country, D.A. Cameron and Macdonald purchased 3,592 merino sheep from near Adelaide in South Australia. This mob was brought to Bluff in two ship loads. A barque named the *Peregrine Oliver* under Captain Rippon was chartered for the purpose.

Accompanying the first shipment of 2,060 sheep with Cameron and Macdonald, was a passenger, also from Scotland, Donald Hay, keen to find suitable farm land in southern New Zealand. The men on the *Peregrine Oliver*, together with the 765 sheep that survived the voyage, reached Bluff on 5 July 1859.



(Offwood, pp. 51-53)

The two Donalds formed a close friendship, and Cameron took Hay to Lake Wakatipu where Hay was sufficiently impressed with what he saw to return south and buy provisions in preparation to explore land around the lake. As a surveyor, Hay was used to journeying into uncharted country and he was prepared to venture into uninhabited parts of Central Otago, even in winter, because time was of essence if he were to be first to claim suitable farmland.

Back at Lake Wakatipu, Hay was pleased to find a mokihi (often called a moki), a raft built of dry flax sticks, but unused, by David McKellar, an earlier explorer. Hay was soon to find, however, that sailing a moki on Lake Wakatipu had a major drawback: "My craft became saturated with water so that I was in it ankle deep and had to haul it up on the beach to let it dry. Occasionally, my legs and feet swelled a little and the dazzling snow and glistening water made me partially snowblind, otherwise I was alright [sic]." (Letter Hay/ Cameron, 12 Jan. 1910)

As it transpired, sailing on Lake Wakatipu in winter may have represented good timing for Hay because August is typically calm and cold. Hay would have been restricted, or in greater danger, had he encountered strong winds on the lake, and the cold conditions delayed snow-melt which otherwise would have flooded rivers, particularly the Shotover, preventing Hay from exploring land on the Arrow Flat.

Hay lost the diary of his exploration of the Wakatipu, but in 1910, 51 years later, he recorded his memories in a letter to his old friend, Donald Cameron. Donald Hay's unedited narrative follows.

Donald Hay's Diary

17 South Terrace
Adelaide
Jan 12th 1910
To D.A. Cameron Esq.
Fassieree
Tapanui Otago
New Zealand

My dear Sir.

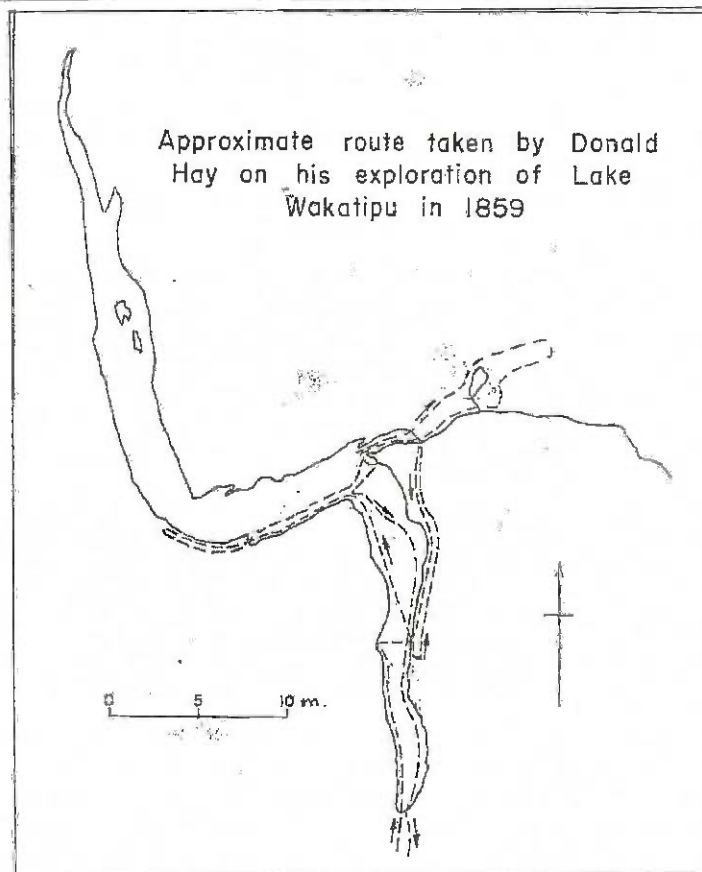
And oft remembered old friend, I received your very welcome letter of the 17 December which revived memories of my youth - almost forgotten.

Having lost my diary, also my tracing of the Lake and adjacent country. After accompanying you to Nokomai Valley and across the Devils Staircase we must have returned to Mr Camerons station [William Cameron's Station at Glenquoich, Athol]. I believe you returned to Invercargill to look after the stock you bought from South Australia. Then I must have returned to Jacobs River Settlement [Riverton], where I bought a pony, saddle & bridle, gun, ammunition, and provisions a tomahawk & quart pot, also a calico oil cloth and single blanket. Being thus supplied I returned via Mr Camerons Station to the Lake. And you will remember, it was reported that a gentleman from the North Island [David

McKellar] had constructed a Moukie [mokihi, often called a moki]. But the prevailing winds were so strong that he had to abandon the attempt to navigate the Lake. This account must have [been] perfectly true because I searched the South end of the Lake and to my joy and surprise I found the Moukie, hidden in the bushes. I examined and improved on it, by adding carrady sides and round bundles of the same material to strengthen it and form a seat in the centre. I then cut out two oares [sic] or paddles and made rollicks, by two forked limbs and drove them through the sides of the Moukie.



Donald Cameron 1835-1918

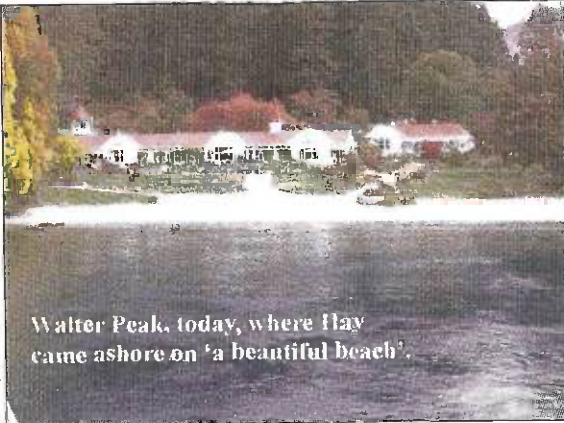


Approximate route taken by Donald Hay on his exploration of Lake Wakatipu in 1859

Then leaving my little pony I embarked with all my belongings and paddled along under shelter of the precipitous mountains along the West side of the Lake. [Cameron later wrote that he saw Hay set sail on the Lake. (Beattie, p.158)] Shot a Maori hen and found it very savoury. Camped the night, and crossed to the East side of the Lake where I discovered a cave in which were three small sticks, tied together with flax, indicating that some human being had been there before me. [This must have been close to the glacial erratic on which a plaque now commemorates Hay.] And there were very large icicles hanging from the adjacent rocks, and many curious looking depressions on the surface of the earth. [Probably scratch marks from glacial ice.] I explored all that part North of the "Devils Staircase" as far as the great Gorge and outlet of the Lake.

I camped on the shore of the Lake where I found a supply of drift-timber and kindled a fire on each side of me and lay down for the night. Heard great peals of thunder re-echoing between the snow clad mountains which was awe-inspiring. But I had no fear and was quite reconciled to my fate whatever it might be, so long as I used all the caution within my power under the circumstances to preserve my life. Re-crossing the Lake again in a North Westerly direction, untill [sic] rounding the point where the Lake trends to Westward I hoisted my sail [his blanket] on a frail mast, and shipped oars and sailed along the South western side.

But a stormy night overtook me. And my frail bark [barque] was in great danger of being dashed to pieces on the rocks. I had the precaution to procure a long pole and by lashing the small end to the bows of the Moukie and holding the other in my hands all night, and when the surge was strong I held the other end to the rocks by which



Walter Peak, today, where Hay came ashore on 'a beautiful beach'.

means I saved my life, having no other way of escape from so perilous a position. At the same place I discovered a niche in the rocks and found a large slab of slate which I propped up to form a covering from the elements. Next day I discovered a beautiful beach where I pulled the Moukie out of the water in order that it might drain, as it was becoming water-logged. I partly rested for the day, and attempted to climb the snowy peaks of mountains adjacent. And after ascending a considerable height but apparently no nearer the highest peak I sat on a rock too pointed for the snow to rest on. I stuck the stock of my gun in the snow and after a rest retraced my steps to the shore of the Lake. My object of climbing so high, was to get a better view of what appeared to me to be wooded Islands at the West end of the Lake. I then attempted to explore that part on foot. But after proceeding along the shore I came to a stream which I presume was the Green Stone [Von] River. And after following it up some distance I came to the conclusion that I could not cross so rapid a stream. I then returned to where the River emptied into the Lake strapped all my effects on my shoulders and attempted to cross. But the current was so strong and the Water so deep that I abandoned the attempt.

By this time my Moukie had drained nicely and I set sail down the centre of the Lake with the view of inspecting the country I wished to apply for.

In passing to the North shore of the Lake I landed upon a small Island on which I scratched my name which no doubt will have become obliterated long ago. I hauled the Moukie on the beach and inspected all the open country to the North of the Lake. I went West of the small inland Lake North eastward towards a great Gorge between the mountains. I then returned towards the Lake where I discovered a cave and took shelter from a heavy snow storm, for part of the night. But the entrance was becoming blocked up with the snow, & being moonlight I took to my Moukie and crossed the Lake and landed amongst great boulders fastened the Moukie and scrambled to the shore feeling cold and numbed. Rubbing my legs and causing circulation I managed to gather some dry leaves and succeeded in getting a fire. Next morning a Caw. Caw. or blk. Cockatoo sat on a high tree, almost above the fire. I brought him down with the gun, and after resting found it a savoury morsel. And on my way to the South end of the Lake I shot a diving Duck which furnished me with food. Content my exploits of the Lake were finished, I drew up the Moukie on the beach near to where I found it, and went in quest of my pony, and found her not many hundred yards from where I left her. She had a little foal during my absence. I packed my belongings which were very meagre, having exhausted my supply of flour which was eaked [sic] out in one Johney cake about the size of three fingers per. day, besides what I could procure with the gun. But my greatest longing desire was for salt, which I neglected to bring with me. I could get plenty of Pidgeons, but they had a bad taste, through eating something that tainted their flesh. On my way back I was partly snow blind. But Paradise Ducks were numerous on the Rivers I crossed and I faired pretty well on them. My memory fails me but I must have stayed a few days at Mr Camerons's Station [William Cameron at Glenquoich] on my return. The occupants were very kind and had given me up as lost. While on the Lake/country I lit a fire to allay their anxiety. But the distance was too great for them to see the smoke. Strange to say, about daylight one morning I came upon a person I knew in South Australia by name McKay tending a flock of sheep on the Five Rivers Plains, and all the little lambs were frozen and dead in the fold [enclosure for sheep]. Then I passed on to Jacobs River, and followed down to the last crossing which was in high flood. I stripped off all I had on, and put the pony in well up stream, and she took me over safely. But the foal was carried down by the current. And having reached the opposite side safely, I ran down the stream, plunged in got an arm around the little fellows neck, and drew him out. And here I may say ended most of my troubles. I then passed from Jacobs river to Invercargill where I met several parties whom I knew in south Australia.

On Route, to Dunedin, I sold my pony and walked the remainder of the journey.

On arriving at Dunedin I went to the Land Office and gave a sketch of the country I wanted, which had been applied for by some one in the Office with a view of selling it. After getting the lines of the tracing altered in the Office I made an offer to the party whose name appeared on the map which was refused. I then embarked for Victoria and thus ended my endeavours to settle in New Zealand.

Trusting the above will be somewhat satisfactory. I am dear Sir

Yours truly

Donald Hay

Postscript

When he wrote to Cameron in 1910, Hay was recalling his adventures of 51 years earlier and a small inaccuracy regarding his course from Walter Peak is understandable. Hay wrote that he left Beach Bay and sailed down the centre of the middle arm of Lake Wakatipu. This would seem an unlikely route for two reasons. Firstly, it would not be prudent to guide a fragile moki down the centre of the lake when a safer passage was available nearer the shore. Secondly, Hay reported landing on an island. The only island in the middle arm or south arm is Hidden Island by Cecil Peak at its closest point to Frankton Arm. This indicates that Hay probably sailed along the foot of Cecil Peak to Hidden Island, then across the lake into Frankton Arm, drawing his moki out of the water at what is now Frankton Beach.

Hay's longest journey on foot in the Wakatipu was his exploration of Arrow Flat stretching from Frankton to Arrowtown. When William Gilbert Rees and Nicholas von Tunzelmann crossed this area from the Crown Range about six months later, they found the vegetation inhospitable. Scratchy matagouri and spiky speargrass ripped the men's trousers and cut the legs of their horses before they reached Queenstown. Hay must have experienced at least as much discomfort without a horse. When he reached Glenquoich after his lake exploration, Hay's clothes were so tattered and torn that Robert Cameron gave him a more respectable looking outfit.

As a surveyor, Hay would know his directions. (Gilkison, p.25) When he reported heading north from Frankton, that direction would take him towards Lake Hayes supporting the contention that he was the first European to discover the lake. He skirted Lake Hayes along its western shore before heading, what he recorded as, north-east, which would take him directly to Arrowtown where he found the Arrow Gorge, describing it as the great gorge between the mountains.

There are two other gorges in the general vicinity, but to reach the Kawaran Gorge he would have had to travel south-east from Lake Hayes, and the Shotover Gorge was west of Lake Hayes.

Some doubt remains regarding the integrity of the land claim made by someone in the Land Office in Dunedin. If Hay were the first white person to identify Lake Hayes, how could someone else claim the area before him? One interpretation of Hay's comment, "after getting the lines of the tracing altered," is that the successful claimant had drawn a sketch map inaccurately. Was Hay duped by insider trading tactics by the first land speculator in the Wakatipu?

There is no record of Hay's request in the Registers of Applications for the Purchase of Land Received at the Waste Land Office in Dunedin in 1859. All that was needed on a purchase application form was the locality and description of the area, and the number of acres. Most purchase applications lodged at that time did not even have a sketch map identifying the locality. There is no reason to doubt that Hay sought land in the Wakatipu Basin, but it is conceivable that he asked informally about it, then made a private offer to buy the property that someone in the office had claimed already. In any case, news that the land was unavailable to him shattered Hay. He left Dunedin on board the *Pirate* and returned to Australia. Thus, the colony of New Zealand lost one of its most courageous explorers who may have graced the Wakatipu with further distinction during its formative years.

In other letters written to D.A. Cameron, Hay gave brief mention of his later milestones. After returning to South Australia, he joined the gold rush to West Australia and admits that he did not find a speck of gold. After leaving Lake Wakatipu, Hay had heard rumours about gold being found in Otago. (Beattie, 1911, p. 157) If only he had tried his luck in the Arrow River when he was there three years before the gold rush started in 1862! Hay speculated in property investment at Esperance, near Freemantle, but that prospective town failed to develop and his investment was lost. Hay returned to South Australia where he sold most of his property, keeping one small holding south-east of Adelaide where he grazed cattle.

Hay married a "good kind Christian woman", the sister of the Rev. John Sinclair (letter, Hay/Cameron 12 Jan. 1910). He described his wife as "a lady I should be very satisfied with after my chequered life," but he failed to mention her name in his correspondence to Cameron. (Ibid.) Donald Hay and his wife had no children, and in 1910, he wrote that he was the last surviving member of his family.

No photograph of Hay has been found. The first known navigator on Lake Wakatipu arrived quietly, explored alone, failed to secure grazing rights, so left Otago as an unheralded hero.

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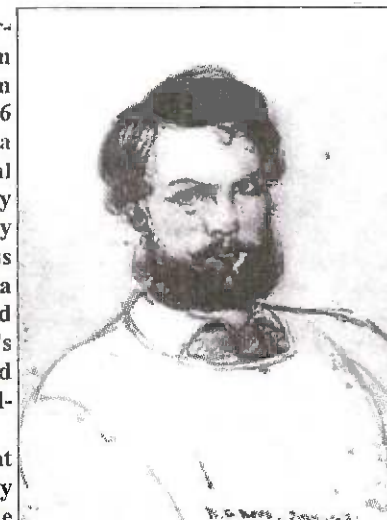
Newspapers (Selected Editions Only)

Otago Witness – first published in 1851
Otago Daily Times – first published in 1861
Southland Times – first published in 1862
Wakatipu Mail – first published in 1863

William Gilbert Rees - Biographical note

WILLIAM GILBERT REES A BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE 1827 - 1898.

Pioneer runholder, he had a larger-than-life quality suited to his place in Wakatipu history. Born in Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, on 6 April 1827, he was the eldest in a family of four. His father was a naval officer while his mother, Mary Pocock, belonged to a Bristol family outstanding in education, business and the arts. His aunt, Martha Pocock, married Dr. H.M. Grace and their son W.G. Grace (William's godson and named after him) would become the great English cricket all-rounder.



W.G. Rees, aged 26. A self-portrait sketched in July 1853, Australia.

William had his primary schooling at his grandfather's Prospect Academy in Bristol and, at 12, went to the Royal Naval School at Camberwell. There, he received a sound education and became skilled in cricket, boxing and swimming, earning, at 15, the bronze medal of the Royal Humane Society for saving a life in the Hungerford Canal. For a time, he served an engineering apprenticeship but, from 1849 to 1852, he taught at Mt. Radford School, Exeter.

In 1852, Rees emigrated, recording in his remarkably competent sketchbook incidents from the passage out, a short spell on the Turon Diggings and management of various runs in south Queensland. In 1857, Rees and his cousin, George Gilbert, top scored for NSW in only the second cricket match played against Victoria. Rees then returned to England to marry his 19-year-old cousin, Frances Gilbert, and present his promising godson with a cricket bat before sailing for New Zealand. His first-child, Mary Rose, was born in Dunedin on 14 May, 1859.

Rees, now 32, began his Otago career by taking up Run 140 (Dalvey) near Tapanui with George Gammie (a neighbour in Queensland) and W.L. Grant. In November 1859, Rees applied for depasturing licences in the still unsurveyed district around Wakatipu.

In January 1860, he and a few companions, including his wife's brother-in-law, Nicholas von Tunzelmann, carried out a reconnaissance trip up the Waitaki valley, over the Lindis to Wanaka, up the Cardrona to the Crown Range, across the Arrow to the site of Queenstown, then by raft towards the head of Lake Wakatipu. While they covered little new ground in terms of exploration, the reports brought back to Dunedin in mid-March gave readers of the "Otago Witness" their first real knowledge of the interior and what became known as 'Rees's Promised land.'

He was only two years on the Wakatipu runs before the gold rush transformed his life and prospects. His runs were the only source of fresh meat; his boats the only means by which provisions could be brought in from the south. Rees, rationing out the food, and using fists and revolver to thwart troublemakers, earned a tremendous reputation among the hungry diggers for fairness and authority. But the declaration of the homestead run at Queenstown as an official goldfield forced Rees and his family to move to the adjoining Kawarau Falls run. One consolation was the visit in 1864 of the first All-England eleven, including yet another cousin, E.M. Grace, who wrote home: 'Everybody likes him and calls him King Wakatipu.'

Not without reason. With his strapping physical build, bushy beard and the Pockonian self-confidence, Rees was the seigneur of the district-patron of the Anglican church, organiser of regattas, enthusiast for horse-racing and other sports. When he left in 1867, to take up the managership of Robert Campbell's runs, he was given an illuminated address and a handsome purse of sovereigns.

At one stage, Rees had stood to emerge from his Wakatipu partnership with 5000, but an unwise mining investment seems to have lost much of his equity. Until 1883, he managed the Benmorre, Otekaike, Station Peak and Galloway runs. He subsequently became a Government stock inspector at Timaru, Greymouth, Ashburton and Wellington and was still in harness when he died on 11 October, 1898 from gallstones and peritonitis in Wairau Hospital, aged 71. His wife, Francis, died in 1926. Of their eight children, Sarah Isobel (1866-1894) was a New Zealand tennis champion.

A plaque on the Lake Wall honours Rees, as the founder of Queenstown, but his real memorial lies in the topography of the district: Rees River and Valley, Frankton (after his wife), Cecil and Walter Peaks (after Cecil Walter Rees, their third child), the Shotover, Dart and Arrow Rivers, the Crown Range, as well as the many lesser names which originated with Rees and his working companions.

George Griffiths.

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Note: At the Lake end of the Mall in Queenstown is a fine statue of Rees by Minhal al Habib, pictured at right.

The Rees complex on Frankton Road has a good collection of memorabilia relating to the family and their time in the Wakatipu.

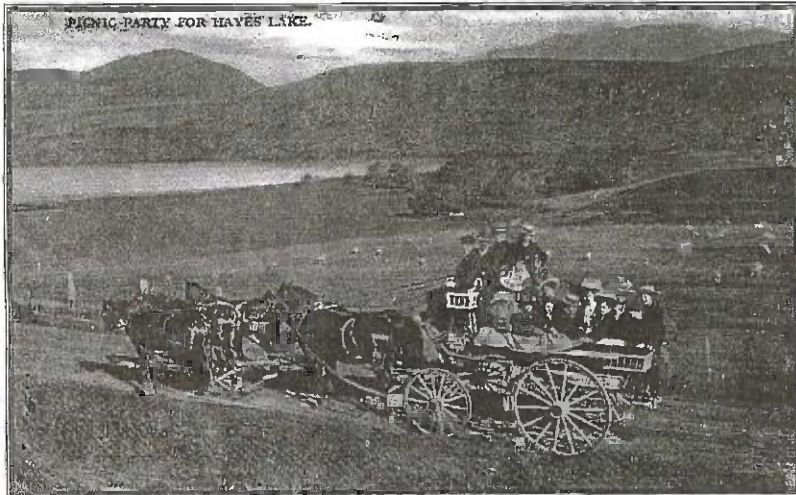
The Lakes District Museum in Arrowtown has two special exhibits, the very fine silver tea

service presented to W.G. Rees on his departure from the District in 1867 which was purchased by the Museum, and a display of the medals, including the Mons Star presented to Rees's daughter Mildred Gertrude who, at the age of 46, joined up in W.W.1 and nursed in France.

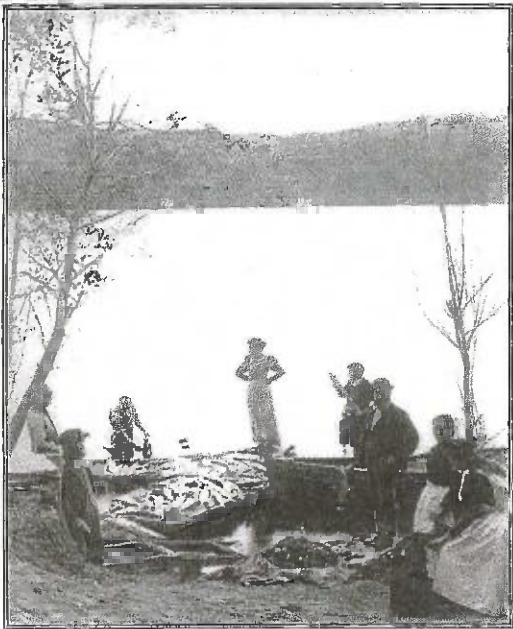


The silver tea set presented to Rees in 1867

THE WAY WE WERE SUMMER DAYS



Above, a picnic outing, with some fine ladies' hats, 'Hayes Lake'.



At right, commercial trout farming at Lake Hayes.



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