

THE QUEENSTOWN COURIER

WINTER 2018

Issue No.99



Rose Douglas Park, Arrowtown

Contents

Lives of Service People Honoured in Arrowtown's Parks

Arrowtown's Reserves and Parks Part Two by J. Taylor Reed and Rita Teele

Page 3: Jack Reid Park

Page 10: Reed Park

Page 17: Rose Douglas Park

Page 23: De la Perrelle Park

Page 28: Hansen Place

Page 32: Algie Park - Errata and Renaming as Algie Reserve

Cousins Who Went to World War I

Page 33: In Memoriam - George Cockburn Salmond by Clare Salmond

Page 36: David Cockburn - War Veteran and Community Leader by David Clarke



ARROWTOWN'S RESERVES AND PARKS PART TWO

Rita Teele & J. Taylor Reed

With Anne Maguire, Archivist, Lakes District Museum

In the last century, the Arrowtown Borough Council (ABC, subsumed under Queenstown Lakes District Council, QLDC, in 1989) managed the expansion of Arrowtown and creation of subdivisions for new housing. Part of its policy in this process was acquiring open land whenever possible and maintaining green spaces for all to enjoy. There is now an emerald necklace of small and large reserves that make Arrowtown a special place. The reserves and parks are named in honour of people who have contributed to Arrowtown, and to the nation at large. Part One of this two-part series was published in the 98th *Queenstown Courier*. In Part Two we tell the stories of those for whom 5 other parks or reserves were named.

JACK REID PARK

Jack Reid Park is between Centennial Avenue and Inverness Crescent. It includes the Arrowtown Holiday Park, rugby ground and the Arrowtown Community Centre that is used by community groups.



Jack Reid was 95 years old when he died in July of 2016. Born in Arrowtown on 7 April 1921, he lived in his home on Villiers Street for nearly all of those 95 years. Time away was spent in Dunedin for an engineering apprenticeship that was interrupted by WWII and duty overseas.

This quiet, unassuming, gentle man was the grandson of James and Jane Reid who came from the Orkney Islands to the Otago Gold Rush in 1864. The Reids, and their family of seven sons and two daughters, stayed in Arrowtown to become one of the first farming families in the Wakatipu Basin. By 1866 the family had enough resources from gold-mining to move from their camp along the Arrow River into the stone house that James Reid had built. After James's death, John, the fourth son, took over the farm and dairy. In 1913, John married Jane Shiels, the daughter of a flax miller, and the couple lived in the family home with James Reid who by then was a widower.

With so many Reids in the district, and confusion at the post office as to which letters belonged to which John Reid or J. Reid, "Reidhaven" was created as a postal address. Letters to the family were from thenceforth addressed to the house although they were still collected from the post office itself. John Reid acquired the moniker "Johnny R" but this had nothing to do with his last initial. In her interview with a radio host circa 1950, his wife Jane explained that the Chinese who were in the district at the time would



Reidhaven, built 1866, photographed in 2013.

call her husband "John Ah Reid." (Other men in the town would also have an "Ah" inserted before their surname when addressed by Chinese.) In John Reid's case, this name persisted and segued into "Johnny R".

John and Jane had two children. A daughter, Jane Scott (who was always called Jean), was born in 1916 and son John David (Jacky, later, Jack) was born in 1921. When old enough, Jack attended first the Convent School in Arrowtown and then the local primary school on Anglesea Street. When asked why his staunch Presbyterian parents chose to send his sister and him to the Roman Catholic School, he thought that his protective mother may have considered discipline to be less severe in the cottage school of the nuns. His interview in the newspaper at the time of the 150th Anniversary of Arrowtown School mentioned the strappings he received when he later attended public school, (although the nuns handled out their share of punishment when he was late for music lessons at the Convent.)

Many of Jack's memories of childhood years have been republished in the 97th issue of *The Queenstown Courier*. In that article Jack did not admit to using his mother's empty 'wagonette' to fly down the hill from Reidhaven to Buckingham Street! Jane Reid owned tearooms on Buckingham Street (currently the Jade Shop) and catered to the Public Works employees in the early days of the Great Depression. She would do the baking at home in her kitchen, then transport biscuits and cakes to the tearooms in her homemade trolley. After attending school, Jack would go to the tearooms and often curl up to sleep under the counter until the shop closed.

During the latter part of the Great Depression there was no high school nearby so Jack's education was by correspondence. Each week he travelled 5 miles up the Arrow River on a bike or on foot to the Sims camp "at the Billy" (Soho Creek). The father was participating in the Mining Subsidy Scheme, reworking areas previously mined in the gold rush, as was his oldest son Clifford who at the time was engaged to Jack's sister Jean. The parents and children were housed in a rectangular shack, and Jack would take as much food as could be carried from the farm in return for a week's stay there. A tent served as sleeping quarters and schoolroom for Jack and Des Sims, with Joy Sims joining them for lessons during the day. Beryl, the oldest daughter, was on hand to help as she had completed her 6th form at Waitaki Girls High School. When not in school, Jack worked on the family farm alongside his father and mother. He was accepted for an engineering apprenticeship in Dunedin and would have continued there but for the advent of WW II.

Fast forward to 1941 and 20-year-old Jack, now a member of the RNZAF, was leaving Arrowtown for further training in Canada prior to entering the war in Europe. Early on a cold dark morning Mrs Effie Reed, good friend and neighbor of the Reids, Ruth Dagg, Shirley and Taylor Reed, waited with Jack's mother on the verandah of the Royal Oak Hotel to bid Jack good-bye. The Mount Cook Coach would take him to Cromwell where he would catch the train to Dunedin, then travel north to Auckland where he



John, Jane, and Jack Reid, 1940.

Courtesy LDM and family of Jack Reid.

would board the *Aorangi* for Vancouver. Taylor Reed remembers Jack's mother deciding that the Mayor should also be there to see her son go off to war. Mr W.H. James, the Mayor at the time, happened to be the owner of the Royal Oak Hotel. Mrs. Reid knocked forcefully on his ground floor bedroom window to awaken him so that he could provide an official farewell. The Mayor appeared in his dressing gown and obeyed her command!

Jack had received initial instruction in New Zealand and was sent to Canada to train as navigator and gunner before he was deployed overseas. He went to wireless school in Winnipeg and sent a long letter back home, which his mother gave to the *Lake Wakatip Mail* for publication. Jack's quiet humour can be seen in the last paragraph:

wife. He was enquiring after Rev. and Mrs Renwick, and I was able to give him news about them. The mosquitos are bad in camp and seem to take a delight in sampling new blood. They appear to prefer us to the Canadians. This letter has been written over a period of five days at intervals between swoting (swatting mosquitos).

In Europe Jack flew with the RAF as gunner or navigator in Hudson bombers that were used for convoy coverage in the Coastal Command. He survived in spite of attacks and one particular hair-raising landing in

Gibraltar when his plane was badly crippled. He left the RNZAF having been awarded a King's commission as "pilot officer". He later wrote that he had learned to fly a Tiger Moth at age 19 but didn't know how to drive a car until age 26 or 27 years.



RAF squadron; Jack Reid is second from right. Date unknown.

Courtesy LDM and family of Jack Reid.

When Jack returned to Arrowtown he found temporary employment at the Post Office as telephone exchange clerk. He took up residence again at Reidhaven, where he helped his elderly parents with their property. His father died a year after his return in 1947 and his mother died 12 years later. In the meantime, Jack's temporary job had become permanent and he made great friends with Jim Wilcox, a fellow employee, and Bill Hore, a generous and civic-minded postmaster. When the War Memorial Swimming Baths were under construction, Jim and Jack were relieved of their duties at the post office in order to help pour the concrete. (Jack was expert at making concrete fence posts which he did as a side business for some years.) Jack and Bill Hore served together on their first terms on the Arrowtown Borough Council in 1951.

Jack worked in the Post Office and Exchange on Buckingham Street for nearly 19 years until the exchange became automated. In 1964 he bought a little shop from Mrs Parsons across the street. He increased the size of the shop, Reid's Cash Store, over the years, and when he married in 1970, his wife Margaret worked there with him.

Margaret, née Wishart, had ancestry that matched Jack's. Her mother, née Annie O'Fee, was the granddaughter of Gilbert and Helen Mackie who had been the first settlers of the Crown Terrace. Margaret Wishart had connections with the Reid family through Jack's sister Jean who had married Cliff Sims and gone to live in the North Island. One of their four daughters married a man named Graham Wishart. Margaret Wishart was Graham's sister, and Jack's four nieces conspired to get Margaret and Jack together!



Reid-Wishart wedding, 1970. From left to right, Jack Reid, Margaret Wishart Reid, Jean Sims (Jack's sister), matron of honour, and Jim Wilcox, best man.
Courtesy of the families of Margaret Wishart Reid and Jack Reid.

Many in Arrowtown will remember buying sweets from Margaret at Reid's Cash Store, currently owned by Night'n Day. Margaret, who died in 2005, is remembered for her gentle caring ways, her smile and infectious little giggle. Trained as a nurse, she had also worked in retail and was training to be a buyer for sportswear when she met Jack. She loved pretty things, the colour pink, lace and decorated china. Roses were special for her; her favourite was a beautiful apricot-coloured rose near the letter box at Reidhaven. She particularly enjoyed being the Mayoress for official functions when Jack was Mayor of Arrowtown.

In town politics Jack followed in the footsteps of his father and grandfather. He was on Council, filling a vacancy from 1951-1953, then served three terms from 1971 until being elected as Mayor of Arrowtown in 1980. He kept a close eye on the accuracy of meeting minutes and copied, by hand, many of the Council papers. However good he was at chairing the Council as mayor, promptness at meetings was not high on his agenda. Walking to the Borough Chambers from Reidhaven required meeting and greeting folks along the way, so he was perpetually late. His wife, Margaret was well aware of



Jack and Margaret at Stone Cottage, Arrowtown.
Date unknown. Courtesy LDM.

this shortcoming and would subtract half an hour from the allotted time so that he would get to an appointment at the proper time! When the town lost its autonomy after the creation of the Queenstown Lakes District Council in 1989, Jack, as the grandson and son of two prior mayors, was the last mayor of Arrowtown.

Reidhaven had been listed as a Category 2 Historic Place in 1983. In 2007, alone after his wife had died and with his remaining family on the North Island, Jack sold Reidhaven to Eamon Cleary in exchange for an estimated \$4.5 million and life tenancy in his house. Encouraged by Ray O’Callaghan, who used a visit to the Duxford Air Show in England as enticement, and accompanied by June, his niece, he visited his ancestral home in the Orkney Islands.

During their six weeks abroad, he and June, on a whim, also travelled to Ireland for a short time. He loved English pubs, visiting old haunts remembered from his time in the RAF, and learning of his Scottish history on his mother’s side. Taking a trip in a canal boat was a major highlight of his trip. Ray recounted the story of Jack finding his way to his London hotel by bus. From his wartime visits 60 years earlier, Jack remembered the number of the bus and the route that would take him there.



Jack Reid at Stronsay, Orkney Islands in 2008, from whence his grandparents had travelled to New Zealand in the 1860s.
Courtesy Ray O’Callaghan.

Throughout his life Jack was a loyal member of St John’s Presbyterian Church in Arrowtown. When he died, a handwritten certificate from 1993 electing him to Elder Emeritus was among his papers. Anzac Day was a special holiday. As one of the few World War II veterans in Arrowtown, Jack walked to Memorial Hill to pay his respects, needing a lift only on his last visits.

In his later years Jack was content to keep close to his house but would always welcome a visitor who knocked (loudly) on his door. In his final years those who cared for him when he needed more help adored him. Never one to make a fuss, he was delighted to be fussed over! He was Arrowtown’s most valuable repository of local knowledge. Not only did he share it in conversation, he wrote it down. His memoirs, which are held in the Lakes District Museum, capture the essence of a town and its people for over a century because he included the stories handed down to him by grandparents and parents. His detailed written accounts reach back to the days of the gold-rush. He has left a treasure trove of memories.



Jack Reid at Memorial Hill, Anzac Day, 2016.



Jack Reid with Rae Nicoll on his 95th birthday. Rae had also cared for Margaret Wishart Reid before her death, and Jack's cousin, Alan Reid.

Resources:

Jack Reid's papers at the Lakes District Museum

Audiotape of interview with Jane Reid, date uncertain, held at Lakes District Museum

Contributions by Jack Reid's nieces, with Gay Schofield of Hastings providing photographs

Conversations with Ray O'Callaghan

Photographs and notes in collection of Rita Teele

Mackies of the Crown Terrace: A story of Hope, Hardship and Endurance

(book prepared for the Mackie family reunion)

Contributions by Margaret Chirnside and members of the Wishart family: Jennie Galler, Carolyn Duncan, Rose Dillon.

REED PARK



With entry points from Cotter Avenue, Reid Crescent and Adamson Drive, Reed Park is one of the most accessible parks in Arrowtown. Furnished with some playground equipment, it is immediately adjacent to the Four Square Grocery Store – a boon for children and parents in need of refreshment after a long spell of swinging!

This green space is unique in that it honours not one man but two: a father, John William Reed, and son, John Taylor Reed. Each served on the Arrowtown Borough Council, and each was Deputy Mayor. Both also supported many other community organisations, and the son, known as Taylor, continues to be involved in Arrowtown groups.

John William Reed was born in 1895 in Cheshire, England. His widowed mother died when he was nine years old. Brought up by relatives, he left England at 14. He worked on the *SS Nairnshire* for passage to New Zealand and arrived at Port Chalmers in 1909. Until the age of 16 he worked on his maternal uncle's farm in South Otago and then became a self-employed rabbitier on farms and stations in Otago. At the time one earned a good income from selling rabbits for processed food and for their skins.

A keen horseman, he joined the Otago Mounted Rifles and was on exercises in Dunedin when war was declared in 1914. Fifty-seven of those young men volunteered immediately. With the Otago Infantry and men from other units as well as 3,800 horses, John Reed sailed for Alexandria, Egypt, on 14 October 1914. He was 19 years old.



John W. Reed in WW1 uniform c.1919. His revolver was later used by Reg Romans in WW2.

John Reed survived Gallipoli and service on the Western Front including Passchendaele, the Ypres Salient and the Somme. He was among the few men, who had been through so much, to return to New Zealand at the end of the war. He went rabbiting in the Omakau area, and in 1922 married 24-year-old Effie, the youngest of eleven daughters and one son of the McGuckin family. The couple bought a fruit shop in Dunedin but took up land when Mt Pisa Station was broken into six blocks for returned servicemen. John Reed had been successful in the ballot, drawing Eastburn Station on the Crown Terrace, and thereby earned his nickname of 'Squatter'.

After a daughter Shirley, then a son John Taylor, were born, the run was sold in 1935 and the family moved to Arrowtown where schooling was available. John Reed had already been involved in the Arrowtown Borough Council beginning in 1932. He served until 1938 when he rejoined the army and was posted to Burnham Military Camp as an instructor. In 1943 he went back on the Council and served until 1951. He was Deputy Mayor from 1935 to 1938, and 1949 to 1951. After the move to a home on Wiltshire Street, John found a job as a grader driver for the Lake County Council, and he and Effie took on ownership of Arrowtown Pictures.

People flocked to the Arrowtown Hall (the Athenaeum) on Saturday nights to see 'the pictures.' Preparation for the evening began in the morning. Two 2-gallon cans of petrol were bought and poured into the four-cylinder Buick motor that was housed in a shed on what is now Ramshaw Lane. The motor ran the generator that provided power to the equipment in the Athenaeum. Effie Reed sold tickets, admission costing one shilling and six pence. Seating was on wooden benches, so customers often brought their own cushions for the two-hour programme. A recording of 'God Save the King' began the evening at 8pm. Music, advertising slides and local information bulletins preceded the major feature. In the intermission Henderson's, the shop next to the hall, was open for snacks and sweets. (It is rumoured that the pub was open as well.) When the film had flickered to its last frame, the benches were pushed back and the piano was pulled out. A pianist emerged from the crowd, and music and dancing filled the hall until the evening was brought to a close at midnight.

In 1939 Romans and Son (George and Reginald Romans) sold their butchery and bakery business to the Reeds. The Reed and Romans families were linked by another event as World War II began. Reg Romans was leaving for Europe where in the months ahead he was to serve with distinction as an army officer. In the years before the war,



John, Shirley and Effie Reed in the early 1930s.

John Reed and Reg had been instrumental in establishing the Arrowtown Golf Club. John had a WWI revolver in his possession and he swapped it for Reg's golf club until his return. Sadly, that was not to be; Reg died of battle wounds in Italy in 1943.

The bakery and butchery were on the northern side of Buckingham Street opposite the post office and housed in property owned by the Royal Oak Hotel. The shop was closed only on Wednesday and Saturday afternoons and Sunday. John Reed chose his animals from the local farms after business hours. He and Alex Hamilton went on horseback and drove the animals back to his property and slaughterhouse that were located towards the river off Centennial Avenue. In the 1940s the baking business was dropped after the oven burned out, and the butchery moved to 14 Buckingham Street. (In the past the building had been a butchery, but at the time the Reeds bought it Flix Fletcher was leasing it for his shoe repair shop,)



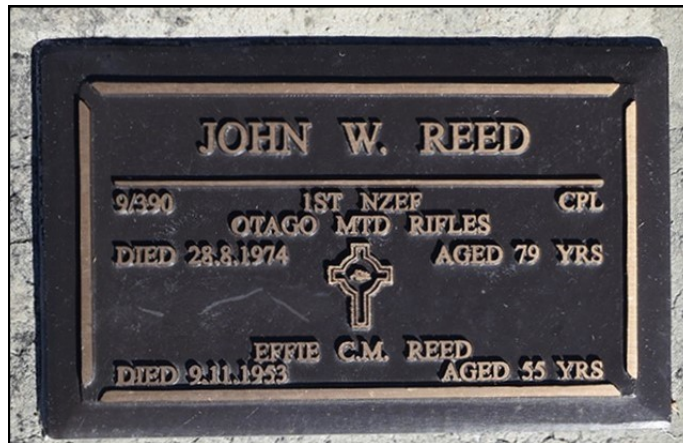
Buckingham Street in 1910. Arrow marks the shop later owned by the Reeds and currently used as a real estate office.

Courtesy LDM.

In spite of running two businesses until 1949 or 1950, John Reed found time to participate on the Arrowtown Borough Council, and in addition to be active in the Returned Services Association, the National Party, the Arrowtown Horticultural Society, and many sporting clubs in which he was usually an officer - a very impressive résumé. In 1945 together with Ernest L. Thompson he organised the shifting of the bowling club from below the old Wesleyan Church on the corner of Berkshire and Wiltshire Streets to its current site at the corner of Hertford and Anglesea Streets.

He was the first to travel to Macetown by car, probably in the early 1929s. He drove a Dort – an American car named after J. Dallas Dort that was only manufactured from 1915 to 1924. Jack Reid remembers it being parked on the Reids' property near the implement shed, next to Shaws' traction engine and wooden threshing mill that were stored there in the off-season. As a child Jack Reid climbed in the Dort and used it as a magic carpet, pretending that it took him to many exciting places. The fate of the car is unknown.

Effie, John's wife and business partner, died in 1953 at the age of 55. John left Arrowtown in 1958 to live near his daughter in Oamaru, then later in Wellington. This valiant old soldier died at the age of 79 in 1974. His ashes are with Effie's in Arrowtown Cemetery.



John Taylor Reed was born in 1933 to hardworking parents Effie and John. At that time they were renting the house on Wiltshire Street which they later bought

and which was to be Taylor's home for the next 25 years. He attended Arrowtown Primary School when it was located on Anglesea Street. There he was taught by Rose Douglas and Sally Shaw (Jimmy Shaw's mother). After primary school he was off to Queenstown District High School, travelling by school bus during the next three years. The school was staffed by only two teachers: Mr Morris O'Connor taught science and maths, and Miss Christie taught English, geography and history. In winter the Queenstown Bakery provided a warm lunch and a warm place to eat; a pie cost 4d as did a milkshake, so a shilling covered the cost of two pies and a drink.

There wasn't much time for young or old to spend lazing around in those years. Taylor moved into the position of projectionist for the Saturday evening pictures after studying and taking the examination required. He went rabbiting and bred ferrets to use and to sell. He got his driving licence at 15 and did casual work at Shaws Motors. After three years at high school he left for Dunedin and an apprenticeship to be an electrician. The work and pay were not to his liking, and on his Christmas break after nine months in Dunedin he got the chance to come back to Arrowtown for good. His friend Bob Jenkins got him a rabbiting job over the Christmas holiday, and Joe Bagrie offered him a permanent job with the Pest Destruction Board. Five men comprised the Arrowtown unit which was responsible for keeping the rabbit population down from Lake Wakatipu to the Nevis Bluff.

Five and a half years later, after helping out at Shaws Motors, digging holes for septic tanks and haymaking after hours and on weekends, Taylor was hired as a truck driver at Shaws Motors. By then his hard work had paid off in the shape of a new 1957 Austin with white-wall tyres that cost the princely sum of £1005. Shaws Motors was a vital part of the town and of the region in those days. It was the Central Otago agent for the Atlantic Union Oil Company and it also managed their Cromwell depot. The transport section of Shaws Motors employed five truck drivers who provided general cartage to Southland, and as far north as the



freezing works in Pareora, near Timaru. Fat lambs, hay and grain were the typical products carted out of the area. That northern trip took 14 hours on gravel roads; only large towns had tar seal. Two days a week trucks carried 'empty returns' - butter boxes, beer barrels and the like - to the rail-head in Cromwell to be reused. During the holidays some of the boys in the town were allowed to accompany the drivers. David Ramshaw spent a number of hours seeing the country from the front seat of Taylor's truck.

There was sometimes a challenging job that popped up between the routine ones. The Crown Terrace School building was sold to become the new hall at the Presbyterian Church in Cromwell. Shaws Motors was contracted to move the building. Taylor, who was at the time transport foreman, was in charge of the process. Preparations had to be made far in advance, and because the truck could not pass under the wires on the Kawarau Bridge, Taylor had to drive over the Crown Range. The road was inspected for problems, one of which was an overhead irrigation pipe. Measurements were made of the distance between the road and the underside of the pipe to make sure that it was greater than from the road surface to the top of the building when on the truck. No problem. A group of volunteers from the Presbyterian Church was schooled in stopping traffic when needed along the route from the Crown Terrace to Cromwell. All was arranged, and the building was loaded onto the Bedford-S lorry the night before the planned journey. All went well until the truck passed under the irrigation pipe, at which point the building got stuck. Why the problem after such careful planning? The measurements had been made when the pipe was empty. On the day of transfer the pipe was full of water that had dragged it downwards. The water was diverted, but a crane from Cromwell was needed to pull the pipe upwards the couple of inches that would allow passage of the truck and its cargo. All of this had to occur before dusk as the licence for moving the building was only good until evening!

Taylor had been part of the volunteer Arrowtown Fire Brigade while on the pest control board. He helped to pour the concrete blocks and build the current fire station. Shaws Motors supported the brigade with men and equipment, and did not dock the wages of their staff if they were called out to fight a fire. When Taylor left for Winton in 1969 he was secretary and deputy chief with Charlie Henderson as chief.

Marie Millar, a teacher from Southland Girls High School, also had a background in acting and was well recognised in Invercargill amateur theatrics. She met Taylor when she came to Arrowtown on weekends and holidays, and they married in 1960.

With her background in staging productions for students at SGHS and acting, Marie was involved in producing plays for the community when she moved to Arrowtown. The plays included many participants from the town and were presented at the Athenaeum Hall. She also worked as a relieving teacher at Queenstown District High School.

Taylor and Marie's son John was born in 1964. In 1969 the family moved to Winton for four years while Marie taught there. On their return to Arrowtown in November 1973, Taylor took on management of the camping ground at the start of the busy summer season. Facilities included 36 power points, one amenity block and one toilet block. Varsity students helped in the holidays, with some returning after graduating, often with her families in tow. Marie did the office work, but when the sole charge Postmaster asked for help, worked at the Post Office for 10 years.



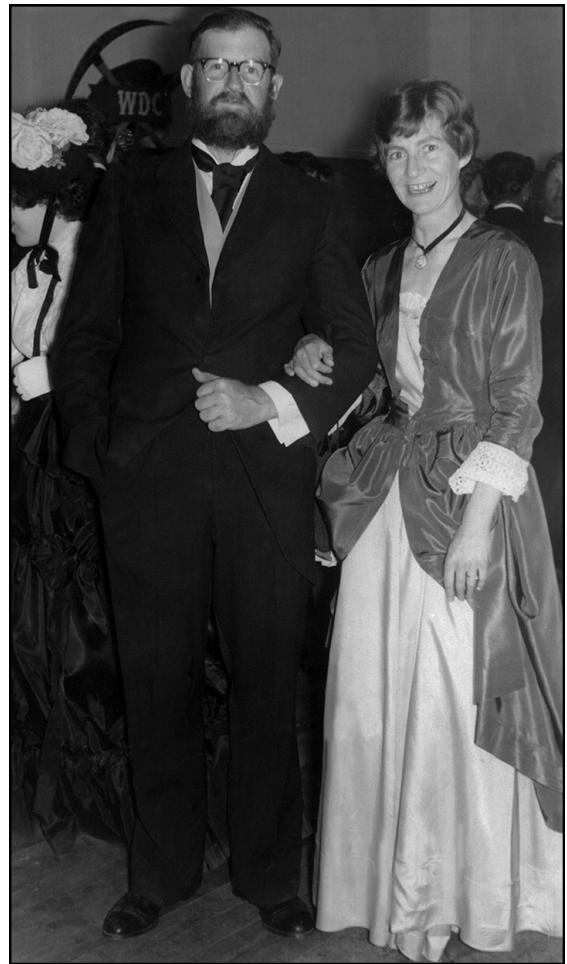
Clockwise from above:

1. Wedding photograph, 1960. From left to right, Jim and Shirley (Reed) Douglas, J. Taylor Reed, Marie (Millar) Reed and John W. Reed.

2. J. Taylor Reed and Marie Reed at the Wakatipu Centennial Ball, 1962.

3. J. Taylor Reed photographed in Aspen, Colorado, USA, at a Sister City Conference, 1993.

4. J. Taylor Reed, wearing his father's WW1 medals, Anzac Day, Memorial Hill, 2016.



Marie Reed died in 2005 and is buried in Arrowtown Cemetery.

In 1991 Taylor retired from work at the camping ground but continued his work for the community. His 'Recollections of an Arrowtown Councillor' was published in 2015 in issue 94 of *The Queenstown Courier* [available on our website]. That article describes his debut on the 'Kiddies' Council' of 1956.

In all, Taylor spent 15 years on the Arrowtown Borough Council, six of those as Deputy Mayor from 1983 to 1989. This service was followed as a Councillor for QLDC for three terms from 1989.

The list of other community services in which he was involved would take another page! A précis follows:

In total Taylor spent 32 years in planning for Arrowtown from 1980 – voluntary for all but nine years. He was on the board of the Lakes District Museum for 30 years, president for nine of those years and 13 years as treasurer. Because of his experience, he wrote the history of the first 50 years of the museum and is currently writing the history for the 70th anniversary. He was a charter president of the Arrowtown Lions Club, chairman of the Diabetic Society of the Wakatipu that supported the nurse-educator Jenny Britland, and has been Secretary of the RSA for the last ten years. He was the first to be awarded life membership of the Arrowtown Village Association. He is also a member of St Paul's Anglican Church and Past Master of Arrow Kilwinning Lodge.

With all of the above committee meetings there had to be some 'extra-curricular' activities. Basketball was a favourite sport as was bowling. At the Arrowtown Bowling Club he was on the executive for 30 years, 23 as secretary, three as president, eight as selector. He became a life member of the club in 1995, and in 2008 wrote the history of the club. He spent a term on the Central Otago Bowls Association executive, and in spite of liking warm weather rather than cold, he was Secretary-Treasurer of the Arrow Curling Club for 13 years. In addition, he was past club captain of the Arrowtown Golf Club and the Arrowtown Basketball club.

There is one story about Taylor when young that foreshadows his later deep involvement in the community and its history. He rode his bicycle to Macetown some time in the mid to late 1940s when he was a young teenager. The school building was still there, and school rolls and books had been left abandoned within. Bringing as many of them as he could carry in his basket and knapsack, he delivered them to J. Haddow Douglas who at the time was managing the museum collection. He realised at a young age that the past was worth saving.

Reed Park is a reminder of this family's major contribution to Arrowtown's history.

Sources

History of the family provided by J. Taylor Reed.

Photographs are from the Reed family collection unless otherwise noted.

ROSE DOUGLAS PARK

Rosina May Daplyn was born in 1888 in Waikaia, Southland. Her father Arthur Richard Daplyn practised as chemist, dentist and doctor. (Although listed as a medical practitioner, he had no medical degree.) At 46 years of age, Arthur Daplyn drowned in 1903 at Fortrose in a boating mishap. He left his widow Carolyn (Carrie, née Moffitt) and six daughters; Rosina was the second daughter; the third child, a son, had died at five months.

Wanting education for her girls, Carrie Daplyn carried on her husband's dental practice, taught music, and worked as dressmaker and librarian to earn the necessary funds. At least three girls attended Southland Girls High School as boarders, and Rosina was Dux there in 1904.



Senior girls from Southland Girls High School circa 1904. Rosina Daplyn is sitting on the far right.

Photograph courtesy of Pam Read and Southland Girls High School.

Rosina obtained a B.A. at Otago University in 1909, passed teachers' exams in 1909, then taught in Otautau before coming to Arrowtown in 1911 to teach Latin, English, Mathematics, History, Geography and Philosophy at the High School. When the Arrowtown High School closed in 1913, she was appointed to teach at Gore, but a month later, the newspapers noted an appointment to Pembroke (renamed Wanaka in 1940).

Rosina Daplyn wearing her B.A. cap and gown circa 1909. Original image courtesy of LDM



The following article in the *Southland Times* in November 1913 is of a bad accident in Pembroke that sent Miss Rose - no longer Rosina - Daplyn to Arrowtown for medical attention:

Miss Rose Daplyn, mistress of Pembroke school, was received into the Arrow Hospital on Thursday last, suffering from severe burns on the face and arms caused by the explosion of a bottle of methylated spirit. It appears that Miss Daplyn had lighted the lamp and was in the act of pouring in some more spirit when the flame caught the liquid, with the result that the bottle exploded. Miss Daplyn's hair and also her dress caught fire, but with rare presence of mind the young lady threw a rug over her head and rolled upon the floor, thus extinguishing the flames. Assistance was soon at hand and there being no medical man at Pembroke Miss Daplyn was conveyed to the Arrow Hospital—a distance of 40 miles—by motor car. Although she is suffering considerably from shock we understand that under the care of Dr Thomson Miss Daplyn is making good progress towards recovery.

Rose Daplyn resigned her teaching job in Pembroke in 1915; her marriage to John Haddow Douglas, the nephew of Doctor James Douglas of Frankton, was in the same year. Their first child was a girl named Helen Clare. The appointment of Rose Douglas to Arrowtown Primary School as head teacher was noted in the newspapers of 1918. Their second child, John Graham, usually referred to as Graham, was born in 1919.

In her years as Head Teacher at the Arrowtown Primary School, Rose Douglas was in charge of the senior students in the 'big room' in the school on Anglesea Street. She is remembered as a very good and also very strict teacher in an era when punishment with strap and cane was the norm. But not only did she teach the basic subjects required in all primary schools, she coached the boys in cricket and rugby - with some help from the local minister - and hockey and basketball for both boys and girls. Most of the children learned how to swim from her instruction. Rose also taught dancing. Traditional dances like the First Set, Lancers, Polka, Plain Schottische, Military two-step and Canadian Three-step were performed at a school concert and a fancy dress dance that were held each year. Personal recollections of her years as teacher at Arrowtown Primary School were published in the Centennial booklet edited by John Bell Thomson III. These included a notable trip to Invercargill in 1920 for several pupils from the 'Big Room' via truck, the *TSS Earnslaw* and train to see H.R.H. Edward, Prince of Wales, on his royal visit to New Zealand in 1920.

Most memorably, Rose Douglas taught children to care for plants and trees. The spring of 1923 saw the start on what was to become a famous school garden in front of the school. From that year onwards the garden, filled with flowers and vegetables, was recognised as a showpiece by visitors from the Southland Educational Board. Produce from the school garden also won awards at horticultural meetings and shows.

In the School Garden Competition at the Southland Winter Show the Arrow Public School was awarded first prize for carrots (17 entries) and also for vegetable marrows. Queenstown Public School was awarded second prize for swede turnips.

During the course of his address to the children in Arrowtown on Tuesday last, Lord Bledisloe complimented those responsible for the appearance of the Arrow Public school garden. His Excellency said that he was keenly interested in school gardens, as he was one of those who were instrumental in inaugurating school gardens in his home country in England. He intimated that he would donate two prizes for the best kept plots in the local Public school garden, and before leaving he handed over the prizes to the headteacher, (Mrs Douglas.)

These are just two of many articles in newspapers regarding the success of the school garden. The first is from Lake County Press in May, 1927. The second is from Lake Wakatipu Mail in March, 1933. <https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/>

A room at the eastern end of the school housed garden tools and a lawnmower for use in the garden. Woe betide the pupil who did not replace tools properly cleaned! Children had an hour off for lunch, but in the late summer half of that time was required to collect seeds from plants in the garden. The seeds were sold to support school projects. In her recollections Rose mentioned planting plots of nemesia and veldt Daisy for seed. Taylor Reed remembers collecting seeds from marigolds (*Tagetes*). Carrots were grown for sale to the Rabbit Board which would combine them with poison for use in rabbit control.

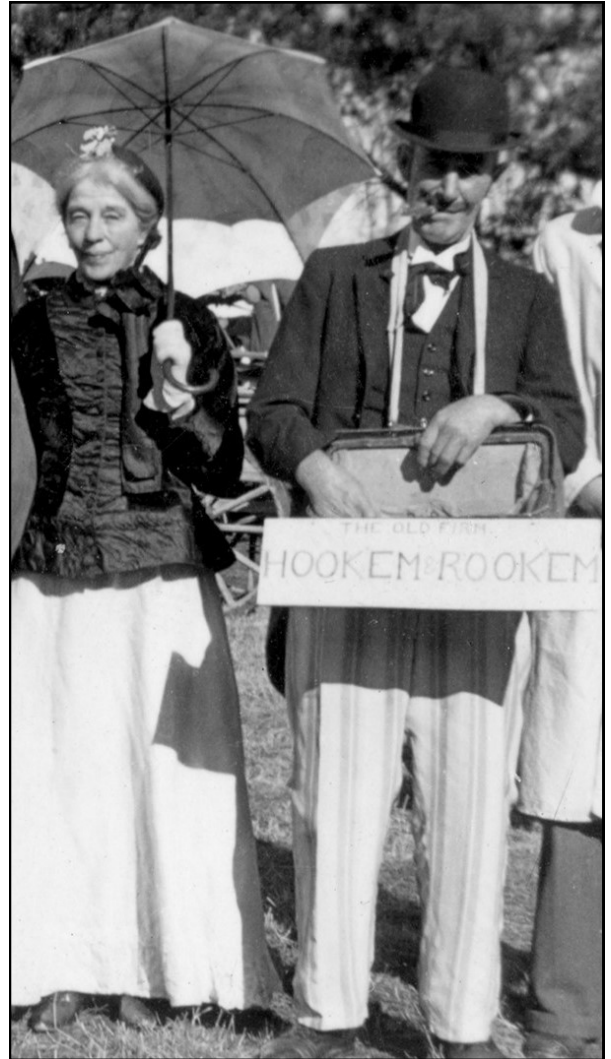
A number of trees and shrubs, planted near the school and around the town particularly on Arbour Day, are credited to her initiative. Rose Douglas lived to see some of the trees that she had planted cut down to make space near the swimming pool and camping ground.

Actively involved as founder and leader of the local Girl Guide troop, Rose Douglas was also a Sunday School teacher and member of the vestry at St Paul's Anglican Church, and secretary of the Horticultural Society. She enjoyed a game of golf and liked skating - in spite of a broken ankle from a fall and the need to teach for some time on crutches. Involvement in amateur theatrics, volunteering at the library, and working on behalf of the museum didn't leave much free time. Her husband, (John) Haddow Douglas had established the museum in Arrowtown. He served as secretary of the Lakes District Museum from its beginnings in the Billiard Rooms of the Ballarat Hotel in 1948 until his death in 1958. Rose continued in his stead and was secretary until 1973.

Upon retirement from teaching in 1945, having been the longest serving head teacher at the Arrowtown Primary School, Rose continued her involvement in the community.



It was a sad day when Rose and J. Haddow Douglas saw their son, Graham, off to WWII in Europe. *Photograph courtesy of Pam Read.*



Rose and J. Haddow Douglas at Arrowtown's party celebrating WW II Victory over Japan. *Courtesy J. Taylor Reed*

Douglas-Christie wedding. From left to right: Archibald (Archie) Christie, Helen Clare Douglas, Jesse Reid Jardine, Graham Douglas, Rose Douglas, J. Haddow Douglas and unidentified flower girl. Photograph (outside of Anglican Church cottage circa 1948).

Photograph ourtesy of Pam Read.



Baked goods from her small oven were delivered to the skating club and, while it was being built, to the workers at the Memorial Swimming Baths. She was of particular help to her son Graham, his wife Ruth (née Dagg) and their six children who lived at Cave Farm. She had a special relationship with her grandchildren and was particularly proud of her accomplishment at the official opening of the Arrowtown Memorial Swimming Baths in 1957. In the grandmother and granddaughter race she and her seven-year-old granddaughter came in first!



Arrowtown Schools Centenary Committee, 1963. Rose Douglas is sitting in the front row at far left next to her friend Annie Hansen.

Photograph courtesy of LDM.

In spite of a full and productive life, how difficult it must have been for Rosina, aged 15 when her father died, to persevere in her studies, be sent away to other towns for her early teaching duties, have her position at the high school cancelled when the school closed, be uncertain as to her future thereafter, then cope with a young family as she began all over again as a primary school teacher in Arrowtown.

Rose Douglas Park was established in the summer of 1973-74 and she was present at the opening ceremony. Her death followed shortly thereafter in April 1974. A pin oak, *Quercus palustris*, that now towers above the park was likely planted by her in 1923. In one corner is a sundial - built by George Beale who lived on Anglesea Street - that commemorates the reign of King George V. A full day celebration of the coronation of King George and Queen Elizabeth in 1937 included the Arrowtown Primary School children, and, of course, their head teacher, Rose Douglas. A ceremony and speech by the Mayor (Mr James) took place in the garden where the Mayor planted a kowhai, and the children were given a Coronation Medal. The park with its trees, green lawn and playground, is a fitting memorial to a long-serving teacher, a central figure in the Arrowtown community for most of her life, and a dedicated gardener. Its border of heritage roses is an appropriate enclosure.



Rose Douglas Park with *Quercus palustris* beyond the commemorative sundial, 2018.

Acknowledgements

Special thanks to Pam Read for memories of her grandmother, Rose Douglas, and for photographs from the family album.

And to:

Fran Powell who was a student at Arrowtown Primary School, and whose mother, Annie Hansen, was a friend of Rose Douglas

Barbara Clark, archivist, Southland Girls' High School, Invercargill

Marion Hawkes, archivist, Invercargill City Libraries & Archives

Margaret Tomlinson, Wanaka

Elinor Teele and Oweena Frew for helping with the research

Jean Britton and the Heritage Rose Society

References are from Papers Past, Centennial and 150th anniversary booklets of the Arrowtown Primary School, and the Archives of the Lakes District Museum.

DE LA PERRELLE PARK



De la Perrelle Park slopes downward from Cotter Avenue to Adamson Drive with portals from Douglas Avenue and Bracken Street. “Perrelle” is a French diminutive form of Peter, meaning “little Peter” or “son of Peter” but the origins of the name are lost. We do know, however, the origins of Philip Alderborough de la Perrelle, parliamentarian and minister, after whom the park is named.

Philip’s father, Elie (later anglicised to Elias), was born in St Ouen, Jersey, in 1836. Elias was the third son of a farmer who owned ten acres of land. Usually the oldest son inherited land; Elias became a blacksmith’s apprentice. From Butel family history, it seems that Elias met Jean and Pierre Butel from Normandy while they were visiting Jersey. Sometime in the 1850s all three were either voluntary or involuntary passengers on a ship bound for Boston, USA. They jumped ship, made their way to California and thence to Melbourne where all three worked for the Governor of Victoria.

According to published information on the Butels, Elias married the governor’s housekeeper, Helen Lindsay, and travelled to Frankton at the end of 1863 with Jean (John) Butel and his family. Elias worked as blacksmith and farmer in and around Arrowtown, and also had interests in gold-mining. His farm was a major part of what later became Dalgleish Farm. A son, Philip, named after his grandfather in Jersey, was born in 1872 or 1873. Why this baby was encumbered with the middle name of Alderborough (which later was contracted to Aldoborough or Aldborough in various citations) has yet to be discovered.

The family had difficult times ahead. Elias died at his farm, apparently by his own hand, in 1881. Philip, his two younger sisters, and mother stayed in Arrowtown, where the children attended school. Helen de la Perrelle kept on managing the blacksmith business on Buckingham Street until 1886. She filed for bankruptcy in 1896. By this time, Philip, who had been printer’s apprentice, was owner of the *Lake County Press*. Somehow, (perhaps the Butel brothers were backers?) he managed to acquire the business in 1895.

In 1899 Philip was appointed to the Commission of Peace, thereby earning the title, Justice of the Peace. Later, he was on the board of the Southland Hospital and Charitable Aid Board, was a member of the Wakatipu Licensing Committee, and importantly, in reference to his later political career, a steward of the Lake County and Arrow Jockey Clubs. When he wasn't attending to meetings of the above societies, he was also on the Borough Council, Vice-president of the Arrow Literary and Debating Society, belonged to the Arrow Football Club, the Tennis Club, and was on the committee of the Cricket Club and the Caledonian Society. (His mother, born Helen Lindsay, was a Scot from Fossoway, Perth & Kinross). He was promoter or founder, depending on the reference, of the Lake County Agricultural and Pastoral Association. Add onto the above list Captain of the Wakatipu Mounted Rifles, and you have a curriculum vitae that served him well as he moved into national politics.



Philip de la Perrelle is seated at front right in this photograph of Officers, Wakatipu Mounted Rifles, circa 1908.
Courtesy of LDM.

What is not included in the above list is his involvement in the Arrowtown Dramatic Society. The group photograph below shows him standing at the far right in top hat and formal wear for a production that was likely staged in the late nineteenth century. (See Courier Issue 95 for more about the Arrowtown Dramatic Society.) A seated woman on the left, is identified as P. Perrelle but the initial does not match either of Philip's sisters: a mystery person!



Courtesy LDM

In 1902, Philip married 22-year-old Annie Louisa Grant, born in Milton and working as a schoolteacher for the Otago Education Board. Ten years later, the couple and their three sons moved to Winton where, in 1912, Philip became the owner and editor of the *Winton Record*. From this time onward, Philip retained ties to Arrowtown via his sister Mary (also known as Marie) who had married Richard Cotter in 1901, and, when in parliament, as patron of the Arrowtown Bowling Club. While he was member of parliament, four of his sons, Harold, Frank, Lindsay and John printed and published the *Winton Record*.

Annie Louisa de la Perrelle, fulfilled the role of mother, and community volunteer in Arrowtown and Winton. Her obituary in the *Lake Wakatip Mail* noted her involvement with local entertainments thanks to her musical talents, and as volunteer worker for St Paul's Anglican Church. In Winton, she had two more sons, and was involved with the Plunket Society, Athenaeum, Horticultural Society and Girl Guide Association amongst other community associations. She was the quintessential politician's wife.

Annie Louisa died in January of 1929 at the young age of 49 years. Philip remarried in 1932. Little has been recorded about his second wife, Perth Lindsay McLean from Australia, who was left a widow in 1935. Newspaper references to governmental functions, where wives of parliamentarians were in attendance, included her name from 1932 until 1935. It is quite possible that she returned to Australia.

In 1922, Philip contested the Awarua seat, was elected to parliament but served only one term. He stood again in 1928, served until 1935 and was given the portfolios of



The de la Perrelle family: Philip, Annie Louisa and their five son in the 1920s. Photograph courtesy of LDM.

Internal Affairs, Industries and Commerce for the United Party's Government under Sir Joseph Ward. In his book recounting the history of the Department of Internal Affairs, Michael Bassett used as his title, *The Mother of All Departments*. Beginning as the Colonial Secretary's Office, it became the home for multiple government functions, some quite disparate.

The following abbreviated listing of responsibilities is from the first of Philip de la Perrelle's reports when Minister of Internal Affairs:

Department of Internal Affairs, 1928-1929

Philip Alderborough de la Perrelle, Minister

Local government, districts created, local legislation

Legislation governing licensing of auctioneers, municipal corporations

Rating of farm lands

Land agent licensure

Town planning

Animals protection and Game Act (included scientific investigation and conservation of endangered species)

Fire Brigades

Raffles—licensure

Passports (4169 issued, 862 renewed)

Naturalisation. (326 persons including 3 Samoans)

Soldiers' and Historical Graves, Great War Graves Abroad

War Funds (incorporated societies which acted as lending agencies to soldiers)

Dominion Archives

Dominion Museum (multiple departments)

Alexander Turnbull Library

Census and Statistics Office (multiple sections, publications)

Cinematograph-film Censorship (1,671 films, of a total length of 4,373,200 ft, were censored. Of this number, 31 were rejected in the first instance, 147 were passed subject to excisions, and 65 were passed with recommendations for adult audiences only.)

Inland Fisheries (multiple sections including stocking of trout, harbor control, scientific research)

Registrar-General's Office (Births, deaths, marriages, ministers, dentists)

Office of Chief Inspector of Explosives (Licences, dangerous goods, accidents, cinematograph-film, theatre licences)

Publicity Office - 'trout-fishing and deep-sea sport are attracting increasing numbers of visitors...' advertising, cinematograph branch, publications, photographs, etc.

Distinguished Visitors (included Admiral Byrd, and Prince Takamatsu of Japan)

It is apparent from newspaper reports that he enjoyed his role as Minister of Racing. As Minister in charge of the Tourist Department, he did his best to popularise the mountain and lake scenery of Central Otago. When the Coalition Government was formed in 1931, Philip de la Perrelle resigned his ministerial positions - with good grace according to later accounts by colleagues.



BACK FROM THE ANTARCTIC: DUNEDIN'S WELCOME TO REAR-ADMIRAL BYRD AND HIS PARTY.
Left: The expedition's ship, City of New York, steaming up Otago Harbour, escorted by small craft. Right: Rear-Admiral Byrd with members of the official reception party on board his ship. The Hon. P. A. de la Perrelle, representing the Government, is on the extreme right, while the Mayor of Dunedin, Mr. R. S. Blaikie, is on the left of the picture. The inset shows Rear-Admiral Byrd conversing with Commander C. E. Hotham, of HMS. Laburnum.

Admiral Byrd's return to Dunedin, New Zealand from Antarctica in 1930. Philip de la Perrelle is at far right.

Herald, March 14, 1930. <https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/>



Philip de la Perrelle is standing in the centre in this photograph of the Forbes Coalition Government. Date of image between July 1930 and September 1931.

<https://natlib.govt.nz>

In failing health in the latter years of his membership of the House, Philip de la Perrelle was awarded the King George V medal before he died at 62 years of age in December, 1935. He is buried in the Winton Cemetery as is his first wife Annie Louisa and his mother, Helen. He is remembered in Arrowtown by de la Perrelle Park. In Winton, the de la Perrelle home at 224 Park Street, is on the Winton Heritage Trail.

References

Elias (Elie) de la Perrelle: documents held in Jersey Archive, St Heliers, Jersey.

Information re Butels: <http://www.rootschat.com/forum/index.php?topic=539775.0>

de la Perrelle births, marriages: <https://www.govt.nz/organisations/births-deaths-and-marriages/>

Philip de la Perrelle as parliamentarian, multiple entries: <https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/>

1905 Cyclopedia <http://nzetc.victoria.ac.nz/tm/scholarly/tei-Cyc04Cycl.html>

Residence in Winton: <https://discover.stqry.com/v/winton-heritage-trail/s/d2c8d6687733689ca552ce002a5e0a96>

Eulogies in *Parliamentary Debates*, March 25 to May 6, 1936.

HANSEN PLACE



George Herbert Hansen, son of Christen and Elizabeth, née Meldrum, was born on 29 May 1888. His parents farmed Rotoiti Farm near Lake Johnson. After schooling at Lower Shotover School, he gained a certificate in operating steam engines. By doing so, he would have found work on farms that used traction engines prior to the introduction of tractors.

With World War I already begun, George and his two brothers, James and William, went off to war on 9 October 1915. They left Wellington for Suez on one of four troopships. Sadly, William did not survive the Battle of Passchendaele.

James and George Hansen returned home to New Zealand but throughout his life, George carried the pulmonary injury from being gassed in battle. In 1919 he was awarded a Military Medal for bravery under fire in the preceding August.

On his return to Arrowtown, George married his longtime sweetheart, Annie McMaster, at St John's Presbyterian Church. Their firstborn child, a son, lived only three days and the couple were told that there would be no more children. However, a few years on, four children, Olga, Lloyd, Zita and Vernon were born in quick succession. Five years later their last child, Frances, was born.

The Hansen house was right beside the Arrowtown Primary School on Anglesea Street—handy for the children going to school at the last minute, but too handy for basketballs and other projectiles that landed in Annie Hansen's garden. Annie and Rose Douglas, head teacher at the school, were friends, with Annie caring for Rose when she broke her leg after slipping on the ice of the outside toilet block at the school.

In the early 1920s, George Hansen and a partner, Matt Elliot, purchased a solid-tyred Sterling truck and established the Wakatipu's first motorised carrying business. When Matt Elliott bought the Dalglish farm on Malaghan's Road, George carried on the business alone, carting coal from Gibbston to Arrowtown twice daily, as well as general cartage.



HANSEN, George Herbert 9/1432

M.M. Driver, N.Z. Field Artillery
L.G. 11 Feb. 1919; p. 2144
(Recommendation 2607)

These two Drivers during the recent operations were attached to the 2nd N.Z.L.T.M. Battery and when taking ammunition forward to the Battery on the 26th August were caught in a barrage and had all their animals wounded.

They unloaded their ammunition and brought their vehicle out to a place of safety. They then went back to their Section and obtained fresh animals. Then they went forward and picked up the ammunition and delivered it to the Battery.

In doing so they were again caught in a barrage and unaided unloaded their ammunition and returned to their lines. When they returned for fresh animals they were asked if they wished to be relieved but refused.

These two drivers are extremely reliable and have on previous occasions proved themselves self-reliant and resourceful.

Clockwise from above:

1. George Hansen after being injured by gassing.
Courtesy Fran Powell.

2. Commendation for bravery.
Courtesy Fran Powell

3. George Hansen's medals with military medal lower left corner.

Courtesy Fran Powell.

4. Wedding photograph of George Hansen and Annie McMaster.





The Hansen House on Anglesea Street next to the school yard. The school wall extends in front of the tennis court. Undated photograph.

Courtesy LDM

In her recollections of Arrowtown School, published in the Centennial Booklet, Rose Douglas mentioned travel to Invercargill for a group of school children. George Hansen's truck was their conveyance to the wharf at Queenstown where they boarded the *TSS Earnslaw* for the trip to Kingston.

As his health deteriorated due to the gassing he had endured during the war, George Hansen had to find lighter jobs. His precious Sterling truck was sold to Jim Shaw, thus becoming the nucleus of Shaws Motors.

For a time, in the 1930s George was manager of the Golden Arrow sluicing claim on the Arrow River. On one notable occasion, that was highlighted in the *Lake Wakatip Mail* of 5 November, 118 oz 16dwts of gold was produced from twenty days of work. It was washed and weighed in the kitchen of their Anglesea Street home, then dried on the back of the range. The *Otago Daily Times* saw fit to publish a photograph of the haul.

When World War II came along and the young men went off to war, George Hansen decided that he couldn't sit at home doing nothing while the young ones were fighting. He gave up his Army Disability Pension and drove a truck for Shaws Motors.

A pillar of the community, George Hansen was an Arrowtown Borough Councillor, a long-term School Committee Chairman, member of the Arrowtown Masonic Lodge, an officer in the Home Guard and member of the Defence Rifle Club.

George Hansen died in 1945 at the age of 57 and is buried in the Arrowtown Cemetery. His name is on the Foundation stone of the Athenaeum Hall, and the Hansen Carpark is named for him.

We thank Frances Powell, daughter of George, who gave us her time, her family's history, and photographs to use for this article. (She has happy memories of bonfires for cooking spuds and onions, harvested from her Dad's garden.)

Other references are from Papers Past and Archives of Lakes District Museum.





From above:

1. George Hansen in front of his Sterling truck carrying a load of wool from J.W. Reed at Eastburn Station.

Courtesy of J. Taylor Reed.

2. From the Otago Daily Times, November 8, 1935.

<https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/>

3. George Hansen with his dog, Snap, on Ladies Mile. Undated.



£1000 FOR TWENTY DAYS' WORK

More than 118oz of gold are seen in this picture. It is the result of 20 days' work on a claim on the Arrow River, and is worth approximately £1000.



Algie Park - Errata and Renaming as Algie Reserve

Somewhere between the submission and publication of *The Queenstown Courier*, Summer 2017, Issue 98, a few errors crept into the article. The Editor apologies for these.

Page 22. A photograph of Algie Park replaced the original map, therefore the information in the text did not match.

Page 22-23: There is a gap in the text between the end of page 22 and the top of page 23. The complete paragraph follows:

In spite of these disruptions in the family, Ronald MacMillan Algie (sometimes spelled Macmillan) became a lawyer, was elected member of parliament from Remuera, became Minister of Education from 1949 to 1957, and presided as Speaker of the House from 1961-1966. He was knighted in 1964. This passage from his obituary in *The New Zealand Herald*, 1978, is telling: ‘A touch of naughtiness to his quips pleased an age that reserved four-letter words for the cowshed. One Algie interjection forever robbed Miss Mabel Howard, MP for Sydenham, of any chance of being taken seriously on one of her favourite topics – the shoddiness of cotton goods. A solid woman, who spread amply about her when she sat down, she complained to the house that after washing a new dress, it had shrunk three inches around the bottom. A precisian in speech, the MP for Remuera rose in wide-eyed innocence and asked: “Does the honourable member mean the hem?”’

Page 34: The photograph is of Rose Fletcher and Jim Wilcox. Courtesy LDM

New Name and Signage

The reverse of the new sign gives a short history of Sir Ronald’s life.



Sir Ronald Algie was born in 1888 in Wyndham, Southland and came to Arrowtown when his father was appointed post master in 1897.
He was educated at the Arrowtown School during his primary years and eventually attended Auckland University College where he obtained qualifications as a lawyer.
In 1943 Algie was elected as a member of Parliament for the Remuera electorate. In 1949 he was elevated to cabinet and appointed Minister of Education through until 1957.
Algie then presided as Speaker of the House from 1961 to 1966, received a knighthood in 1964 and retired in 1966.

IN MEMORIAM: George Cockburn Salmond, 1893-1917

By Clare Salmond

George Cockburn Salmond was the second son and fourth child of John Salmond, a Scots-born carpenter in Queenstown, and his Scots-born wife Sarah, neé Cockburn. The family lived in a stone cottage in Eastern Terrace on the lower slope of Queenstown Hill. It was called *Nil Desperandum* [never despair] and still exists, hiding within an up-market make-over.

George was a bright lad at school, and was just 15 when he began work in the Post and Telegraph Service in Queenstown on 5 February 1909. By 1916 he was a telegraphist although he was noted as 'absent with the Expeditionary Force'. (1) George died at Bellevue Spur, Passchendaele on 12 October 1917. He was 23. He was buried on the battle-field by a Canadian Chaplain after



the battle. Many years later his body was exhumed by the War Graves Commission and identified. He was then re-interred in the British cemetery at Poelcapelle in Belgium. (2)



Grave in Poelcapelle Cemetery.
Photo by George's namesake in 1989.

The following comments put flesh on these bare bones of George's story, a reminder that the fallen were real people, not just grim statistics.

The *Lake Wakatip Mail* reported a farewell to George on 15 August 1916 as he was heading off to the arenas of war (3):

'Notwithstanding the short notice that was given there was quite a large and enthusiastic attendance of local and country people at the Town Hall on Friday last for the purpose of honouring a deservedly popular Queenstown boy, Private George Salmond, who was on

his final leave prior to going to the front. His officer-ship in the local Post Office over a period of some seven years brought George Salmond into contact with all classes of the community and even the most jealously-minded official would concede that there never was a more popular young man than the guest of the evening.'

The *Mail* then outlined the speeches. The first was from the chairman for the event, who stated that 'as a private citizen and a personal friend of Private Salmond, he had been requested to perform a pleasing duty on behalf of a number of his friends, who felt that it would not be right to allow their friend to leave the town without recognising in a tangible manner their indebtedness to him for the many good offices and obligations that had been extended to them during the time he was employed in the local post office. He therefore had much pleasure in handing Private Salmond a luminous-faced wristlet

watch and a purse of sovereigns.’

In his reply, George said that ‘he did not deserve any special treatment or honour, for thousands had gone from New Zealand including many from this town. They might rest assured, however, that the gifts which had been handed to him that evening would help him to carry away with him fond recollections of Queenstown and his many friends.’

Rev G.H. Gibb noted ‘that he did not think that there was a single person belonging to his congregation or outside of it that had not received some kindness or courtesy from Private Salmond. He had often wondered at the infinite patience that was shown by the Post Office officials to people who were not initiated into the mysteries of P.O. forms. He, as well as other people, had found difficulty in filling in many forms in this relation, but he had always found Private Salmond—George Salmond—infinately tactful and considerate. He personally knew that Private Salmond's kind and courteous services to the citizens of Queenstown did not alone flow from an easy mind or kind nature, but from a deep-seated religious conviction. ... Private Salmond had, as they knew, volunteered for active service.’

Dr Stewart noted that ‘a large number of boys had gone away from here to the war, but they had not assembled in that relation. They were here to recognise the faithful and courteous services of a public official. In losing George Salmond they were making a public sacrifice. The doctor spoke of those who had gone to the war in its first stages. Those who went out first did not know that they were going to face a ruthless enemy, nay the most terrible enemy that anybody could face on this earth. Those who were going now knew what they had to face, for we had now learnt of the awfulness of our enemies. It therefore required some pluck now to take up a musket. George spoke of the delay in his getting away to the war, but he, as his medical adviser, would say that he would have gone long ago if it were not for illness.’

Other young men were also farewelled at special functions, such as Sarah Salmond's nephew David Cockburn, the eldest son of her brother John and the subject of the next article, who was also presented with a wristlet watch. George's watch was obtained from the local RSA secretary years later by his brother Jim—well known as Dr J.D. Salmond, a Presbyterian minister and educator in Dunedin. In July 1939 Jim sent it to his brother Bob—who was then in charge of a Bank of New Zealand branch at Ohura—‘since your young hopeful bears the name’.

Letters to and from men in the Expeditionary force were prized. George wrote a number to family members that were kept by his siblings Mary and J.D. Salmond. (4) His letters start off cheerfully enough. On 1 October 1916, while at the Military Camp at Featherston, he wrote to his older sister Mary, in India, where she was on missionary service: ‘... I have had 127 letters and a few parcels since I came to camp. That's not bad is it? My word I had a lot of girl friends. It's just about time I got out of the country. Ha. Ha.’ His girl friends continued to write to him at the front, as he noted in a letter to ‘Mum and Dada’ dated 22 April 1917: ‘I have many correspondents including a few of my late girl friends. I'll be getting sort of mixed up with these girls. I can hear Mum saying: “be very careful my boy”.’

In June that year he wrote to his father pleading for more letters, noting: ‘I like to hear from you as it seems to bring home nearer.’ The next day he wrote to Mary: ‘My word

Mare[sic] I'm the lad to get letters, 27 within 14 days. How ever am I to answer them. ... Your letters are indeed an inspiration to me on this job, so full of sustaining thoughts. I had a fine letter from Dada. He is going into public life. Well I'm glad to hear it. PS. No, the tin never arrived.'

Many care packages did arrive, both from Mary in India and from other family members back home. In September, sugar, soap, socks and eatables all arrived from his parents, and he suggested later that they separate the food from the soap! In the same letter he said: 'What worries us to death are lice. They get into our shirts and pants. Fellows nearly scratch themselves to death. I think the billet straw must be very lousy.' He went on to note that though he played football for his company he had requested not to play on a Sunday and so would probably lose his place in the team.

Cleanliness was a severe problem. Writing to his parents on 9 September 1917, he began: 'Fifty of us were to march a mile or two for a bath. The party was numbered and I was No. 51 so I was dismissed and sent back to my billet.' In another letter, he said: 'We walked 10 miles yesterday for a bath. At the baths French girls used to iron the seams of our pants to kill the parasites but now they have flitted away. As a result we now have to chase the lice ourselves. One chap said he held a record: 104 in one hunt. Another fellow hopped in and said he had secured 106.'

Fast forward one hundred years. George's nephew, Dr George Cockburn Salmond CNZM, and his niece, Anne Malcolm, daughter of the late Dr J.D. Salmond OBE, travelled to Queenstown last October. Together with representatives of the local RSA, they stood at the Memorial Archway to honour their uncle exactly 100 years after his death. At a very personal level they reiterated the promise:
We shall remember them.



George Salmond and Anne Malcolm at the Memorial Archway, October 2017. Photo by Dan Child Photography taken on George's namesake's 80th birthday, which was two days after the 100th anniversary of George's death.

Sources

- (1) Post and Telegraph Lists at <https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/parliamentary/AJHR..>
- (2) Letter from Jim to Bob.
- (3) Under the heading 'Valedictory' at [https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/.](https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/)
- (4) Salmond Family Papers. Hocken Library, Dunedin.
- (5) www.archway.archives.govt.nz.

DAVID (DAVE) COCKBURN, 1894-1975
World War I Returned Serviceman and Community Leader
Cousin of George Cockburn Salmond

By David Clarke

Monologue presented by David Clarke at 'People From Our Past' in April 2018

Imaginary Situation: In about 1970 Dave has returned to Queenstown from Invercargill where he is retired. He is speaking to a large gathering of friends.

Good afternoon, friends. It's so nice to have you here this afternoon. I don't think I have seen a bigger crowd since I came back from World War 1

I'm in my 70s now but I think I have a few more years left in me. Whatever happens, I have had an amazing life - a life of defying the odds. A life of service to the Wakatipu and Southland communities.

I was born in 1894 in Queenstown and went to school at Arthurs Point. I'm from a farming family. My father was John Cockburn and my mother was Jessie Hazeel - hence my middle name. My father's family came from Scotland and my mother from the Branches beyond Skippers where my grandfather was a very early miner. My parents' farm was known as Deep Dale or Junction



David Cockburn when on Lake County Council. LDM EP3405

Farm at the bottom of the Coronet Peak Road. The farm-house is still there today. I had one sister Margaret and three brothers John, James and George - or Geordie as everyone knew him. My father was a great man – a good farmer and a committed community man. He had vision too. One thing he really pushed for was the Homer Tunnel, but he died in 1933 before it was finally completed. He would be amazed if he could see what that tunnel has achieved!

My life was shaped by WW1. I was working on my father's run in Mararoa in Southland when I was drawn in the Military Ballot in early 1917. After training, I left NZ in June of that year. I was six feet tall and weighed 147 pounds. I was whippet thin and fit as a flea. I joined up with the Otago Battalion in France on 9 November but my military service was very short-lived. Eighteen days later I was carrying rations up to the front line when a shell exploded close to me, inflicting massive injuries to my lower legs. I just remember a flash and then everything was black. When I came to the pain was searing, but I quite vividly remember a stretcher-bearer prodding me, and seeing the state of my injuries, saying to his mate, 'Well it's not worth taking him.' Fortunately the other stretcher-bearer said, 'Poor fellow, we'd better give him a chance.' That stretcher-bearer saved my life.

My cousin George Cockburn Salmond was one of the unlucky ones, which was a great grief to our family.

At Boulogne General Hospital in France my right leg was amputated. For most of 1918 I was listed as dangerously ill and eventually my left leg had to be amputated as

well. Due to infection I couldn't eat, and they thought I was going to die. At one stage I remember the doctors in an effort to get me eating asking if there was anything I wanted. Through my delirium I said, 'How about some champagne.' A bottle was duly delivered and it was like nectar. Miraculously I began eating again, and once again I pulled through.

In March 1918 I was transferred to Walton on Thames in England, which was New Zealand's number 2 hospital, where I was listed as a 'cot case.' I was transferred to Oatlands Park Hospital at the end of 1918. It was also a rehabilitation centre for servicemen who had lost a limb (colloquially known as 'limbies'). This is where I had artificial limbs fitted.

I was then transferred to Queen Mary Convalescent Hospital in Roehampton where I spent most of 1919 getting used to my new legs. I was in constant agony, racked with phantom pain, but I had been given another chance at life and I was going to take it. While I was convalescing I took a course in bookkeeping and accounting, getting a first class pass. This helped me in my business life later on.

I finally arrived back in my beloved Queenstown in early 1920 and what a reception greeted me when I got off the *Earnslaw*! There was a full brass band playing and a mayoral reception and it seemed like half the town was there. It was all a bit overwhelming really. It was so good to see Mum and Dad and the rest of the family though.

By then I was 27. In spite of my predicament I was not going to just sit around. Soon after returning I got back into farming, taking over my mother's parents' farm, Hazeel Downs, at the foot of Coronet Peak. Geordie took over the home farm.

You'll all remember Geordie. He was great fun. Everyone has a story to tell about Geordie. He was a great farmer and generous to a fault, but he did like a drink or two. Over time I added other farms that gave me quite a considerable holding. I enjoyed farming and was good at it. I managed to get back on a horse and ride around the property. I got a car, a Scripps Booth, a fine American car. I adapted it to suit my disability with a hand throttle and a box arrangement on top of the clutch that I put both feet on and could exert downward pressure. It worked really well and I went all over the district in that car on farming duties and to meetings.

I remember other amputees from the 'Otagos' I had met in hospital coming to see me at my parents' home, and my sister Margaret commenting on the clomp, clomp, clomp of artificial legs on the wooden floorboards. Another memory regarding my legs was quite humorous. I was travelling down to Mararoa on the bus. A man got on at Kingston and the bus was full. He was an older man than me with a limp, and naturally I noticed this. He asked me if I would give up my seat as he said he had a wooden leg. I said I



Dave, on the right, when at Oatlands Park Hospital. *LDM EP5109*

would do so except that I had two wooden legs. It seems funny now but there were lots of disabled men after the war.

In 1926 I married Margaret Alice May Wilson, known to all as May. She was from Invercargill so we were married at St Paul's Presbyterian Church down there. It was a great day. We have had a very successful life together, but unfortunately we didn't have any children.

As I said before, I didn't dwell on my misfortune and I made the most of my situation. I had been born into a family that gave to the community and I was determined that I would do my bit as well. Dad had been the chairman of the Lake County Council and on the Bluff Harbour Board, so I followed in his footsteps. I was the chairman of the Lake County Council from 1940-1953. People said I was a good farmer and I wanted to try and help the farming community. I was the president of the A and P Society in the 1930s. I was on the NZ Meat Board and the Bluff Harbour Board. I was a foundation member of the Alliance Freezing Works and a foundation member of the Southland Phosphate Works, so you could say I was pretty involved. I was told I was a good chairman and if I had an idea or a project, I insisted in following it through - so you could say I was determined.

I was very humbled to be awarded the MBE in January 1950 by King George VI for my services to local body affairs.

By the late 1950s it was getting hard to live on the farm as it was pretty isolated. May missed her family and I needed to be closer to services and medical care. So we retired to Invercargill and lived in Chelmsford Street. We try to get up to the Lakes District occasionally and I still miss the mountains and hills of the home farms beneath Coronet Peak.

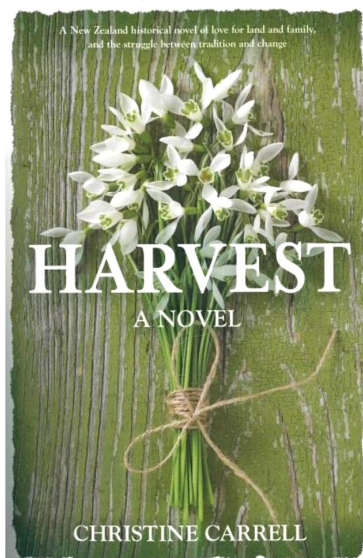
P.S. Dave did live for a few more years, dying in 1975 aged 81. He was blown over in a howling southerly at the bank corner in Invercargill, on the corner of Tay and Dee Street, and succumbed to his injuries.

Sources

Oral history with his sister Margaret M^cDonald.

Queenstown's Farms and Sheep Stations, Bill M^cDonald, 2010, and museum archives.

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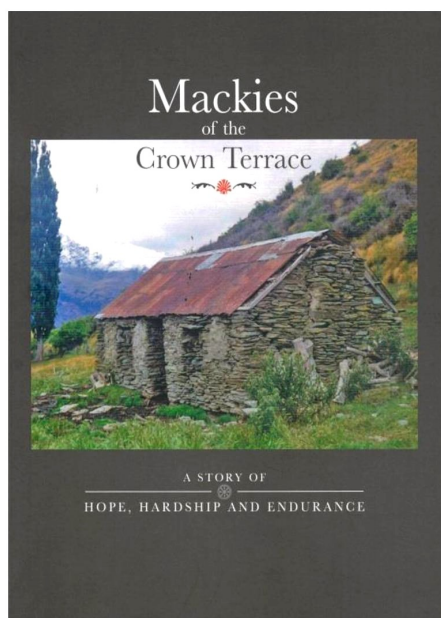
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The Queenstown Courier is posted or hand-delivered to members.

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The Queenstown Courier is produced with the assistance of the Lakes District Museum.

Thanks to the Director, David Clarke, and the Archivist, Anne Maguire.

Printed and supported by Print Central, Queenstown.



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