

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 1990

Presented by the President, Mr D.B. Wilson, to the Annual General Meeting held on 5 November 1990

The aims of our Society have again been fully upheld, in that we have used our power to advise concerning the saving of historical aspects of the district, and the preservation of, and education in all aspects of historical research and interest.

Unlike previous Presidents and Office Bearers, I have not had sufficient experience in the Society, or the knowledge of our local history, so I was grateful to have your support and advice, particularly from our Past Presidents. However I presume that we are all members of the Society to learn a little more, and to record, something of what happened in the past.

It is with sincere regret that during the year, the deaths of five members were recorded: Mrs I. Dennison (Arrowtown), Mr J.D. Knowles (Geraldine), Mr W. Watson (Dunedin), Mr R.E. McDonald (Queenstown), and Mr Alex. Miller (Arrowtown). We extend to each of their families our sympathy. Mr Alex. Miller's death was indeed a great loss to this Society, not only for his knowledge of the district and his eminent style of conveying his knowledge, but for his leadership as President from November 1989 until his sudden death on 4 April 1990.

MEMBERSHIP : Membership numbers have remained reasonably static during the year at around 220. The eight new members equate with resignations and deceased. New members are important for the Society and I believe that younger people could well benefit from membership, and in time greatly contribute to our aims and objectives. I therefore suggest that if each present member enrols one new member, we could be one of the stronger Historical Societies in the Country.

FIELD TRIPS : Four field trips were planned for the summer period: Ophir (3 December '89), Walter Peak (22 January '90), Riverton (26 February) and Cromwell (25 March), and were all extremely successful except for the Walter Peak visit which was cancelled

owing to the excessive cost of chartering the ferry. The success of these trips depend largely on the commentaries provided, and again we were not disappointed with Rex Austin at Riverton, Alex. Miller at Cromwell, and Mrs McDonald a former Post Mistress at Ophir.

PROJECTS :

The Turkish Field Gun at Arrowtown will shortly be mounted on wheels. This project has been rather protracted due to the difficulty in obtaining suitable wheels. However a pair have now been purchased and after some modifications they will be placed on the Gun.

Your Society has continued to provide essay prizes to the Wakatipu and James Hargest High Schools for original historic research in the Queenstown district. In memory of your late President Mr Alex. Miller, two books were purchased and suitably inscribed. "The Speculators Dream" by J.T. Hearn was donated to the Queenstown Library, and the "Circlet of Gold" by J.S. Murray went to the Arrowtown Library.

1990 Sesquicentennial. Members may recall the discussion at the last A.G.M. on the suggestion of a placement of a statue or plaque to commemorate the Maori people who lived for some time in this area. Efforts to obtain a grant from the 1990 Commission were unsuccessful, however your committee decided to fund a bronze plaque from donations, which will be placed on a prominent rock on the point of the Gardens peninsular. The plaque will be worded "In commemoration of the early Maori of this area, and the legendary swim across Lake Wakatipu of Haki Te Kura, the young Ngati Maroe woman who lived in the early 18th century."

Restoration of Garden Gates. Our offer to financially assist with the restoration still stands, but we await notification from either the Department of Conservation or the Queenstown Lakes District Council.

THE WILLIAMS COTTAGE : Your committee is still strongly supporting the protection and restoration of the cottage. On 18 June an

appeal by the owner on the protection order was heard by the Planning Tribunal in Alexandra, and subsequently on 15 August the Planning Judge in his decision announced 'that the protection order be revoked, which will leave all parties free to consider the best way ahead'. Which means that the cottage is presently unprotected. However, following further discussions with senior officials of the Historic Places Trust, and the Chief Executive of the Lakes District Council, there is still some hope for the Cottage, and there appears considerable enthusiasm for the block bounded by Marine Parade, Earl and Church Streets to become an Historical Precinct.

THE N.Z. FEDERATION OF HISTORICAL SOCIETIES, ANNUAL CONFERENCE, MARCH 1991 : More than a year ago your Society accepted an invitation to host this National Conference. Planning is already well advanced with quite an exciting programme which has been referred to Wellington. Such an event is quite an honour for Queenstown, but its success will largely depend on the enthusiasm and participation of our own members, and your committee looks forward to your support.

Finally I wish to record my appreciation for your support during the year, and to all Office Bearers for their time and good judgement to make this Historical Society the worthwhile organisation it is.

Duncan B. Wilson

30/10/90

Conference of NZ Federation of Historical Societies March 1991
CONFERENCE OF N.Z. FEDERATION OF HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

Queenstown, 22/25 March 1991

This society has been asked to host the 1991 conference of the Federation of Historical Societies and has agreed to do so. It will be held at the Sherwood Manor Hotel, Frankton Road, on the dates shown above.

We are privileged to hold this conference and expect delegates to be present from all parts of New Zealand. There are over 70 societies affiliated with the Federation. Your committee have planned to provide an interesting and entertaining programme, details of which are shown below, but the success of the conference will depend largely by the support given by our own members. We hope members rally around and show their support by registering and attending all the functions, or if this is not possible attend as many as you can.

DRAFT PROGRAMME: (May be subject to some minor changes)

Friday 22 March:

- All afternoon - Registration
- 6.00pm to 7.30pm - Social get-together with light
- 7.30pm to 8.00pm - Discussion Session (refreshments)
- Rest of evening free

Saturday 23 March:

- 8.45am to 10.00am - Opening of Conference by His Worship the Mayor of Queenstown, Mr David Bradford.

Guest Speaker : Mr George Griffiths, Historian, author, journalist. The title of the address: "Must historians be the only animals that try to walk forward while facing backwards".

- 10.00am to 10.30am - Morning Tea
- 10.30am to 12 noon - Annual General Meeting of Federation

- 12.15pm (approx) - Depart by London Bus to Arrowtown via Arthurs Point for an afternoon of "Learning Experience".
Lunch at Lakes District Museum and talk by Museum Director, with an inspection of the Museum and other historic Arrowtown sites including the restored Chinese Settlement.
Return to Queenstown via the Kawarau Historic Bridge, arriving at Queenstown at approx. 5.00pm.
- 7.30pm - Conference Dinner at Sherwood Manor with entertainment by local musicians and a short topical after dinner speech.

Sunday 24 March:

- 10.00am to 12 noon - An historic walk in Queenstown and other points of interest.
- 12.00 noon - Lunch and conclusion of Conference.

REGISTRATION FEES:

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| Conference registration (Basic Fee) | \$10.00 |
| Friday Evening Social get-together with light refreshments | 10.00 |
| Saturday - Conference morning tea | 5.00 |
| - Transport to Arrowtown and return | 10.00 |
| - Lunch at Lakes District Museum | 12.00 |
| - Conference Dinner at Sherwood Manor | 28.00 |
| Sunday - Luncheon | 10.00 |
| | <u>\$85.00</u> |

At a later date full details together with a registration form will be sent to all members. Please help to make this conference a success by actively supporting it.

Frederick Henry Daniels - Queenstown Mayor and County Chairman

FREDERICK HENRY DANIELS

Frederick Henry Daniels has the distinction of holding the offices of Mayor of the Queenstown Borough Council and Chairman of the Lake County Council at the same time. This was in 1879. Though not unique, holding dual offices like this is rare and gives Daniels a place in local history. He will also be remembered for his stone house on the top side of Hallenstein Street near the top of Ballarat Street. It is thought to have been built in two stages, the first about 1874 and the second some ten years later. Though not exactly handsome the house is a good example of the stone mason's craft and barring accidents will remain a monument to Daniels for many years to come.

Daniels was an unusual character and either had the unfortunate trait of generating trouble and controversy or had the misfortune to be persued by such problems. He was born in the United Kingdom about 1841 coming to New Zealand in his early twenties. It is likely he followed the gold rushes bringing him to the Wakatipu. He bought a section in Lake Street in the first sale of land in Queenstown in 1864. It was near the top of the street on the east side. It was probably bought as an investment and it is unlikely he built on the site. He joined the Masonic Lodge in February 1867 and his address was shown as care of Howell's Station, Fairlight, his age 26. His brother, R. Daniels, two years his senior joined at the same time and was described as an hotel-keeper, Kingston.

A few years later Daniels moved to Queenstown where he set up in business as an auctioneer and built the first stage of his house on the eastern terrace. He was a member of the Hospital Committee and probably took a prominent part in the public affairs of the district.

Daniels was first elected Mayor of Queenstown in November 1878 and again in 1879 when he was unopposed. In November 1880 William Warren the proprietor of the Wakatipu Mail stood against Daniels. In the poll Daniels received 32 votes and Warren 25. However Warren was not satisfied that the Returning Officer, William Donne, had carried out the election in a proper fashion and he and others petitioned for an inquiry under the relevant act. In January the

Resident Magistrate, Major Keddell held an inquiry and found that of the fifteen irregularities alleged five were proved. The election was declared null and void which left Queenstown without a Mayor. The reason for declaring the election void were fairly minor and included :-

1. The Returning Officer leaving the booth during voting hours.
2. The Returning Officer himself voting.
3. The Returning Officer did not provide the proper facilities for voting such as a private place to record a vote, etc.
4. The Returning Officer did not initial each voting paper and record on each one the roll number.
5. The Returning Officer did not parcel up the voting papers and lodge them with the Court as required to do so.

The Magistrate in his judgement stated the election was void because of the laches of the Returning Officer. (To save you reaching for the dictionary, laches is culpable negligence). William Donne the Returning Officer, had been appointed Town Clerk in 1878. Donne was an early settler in Queenstown. He was a member of the Police Force and was appointed gaoler in Queenstown in June 1863. This was probably his first election and should have been his last though it is not known if he was dismissed for his shortcomings.

One meeting of the Borough was held before the election and was declared void. At the next meeting in February 1881 Lewis Hotop was elected Chairman. The minutes of the last meeting were rescinded and then all matters passed again except portions considered inappropriate. Another election for Mayor was called for and in July 1881 Lewis Hotop was elected unopposed. Finally in November 1881 William Warren became Mayor.

Daniels was appointed Chairman of the Lake County Council in November 1879 and retained the office until November 1884. He continued as a member until December 1886. During the entire seven year period he was County Treasurer. During the same period the County Clerk was one P.B. Boulton and his shortcomings made William Donne look like a paragon of efficiency. Over the period of Daniel's treasurership the affairs of the County were conducted in an extremely sloppy fashion, and became a public scandal. Finally in

1886 a public petition was submitted to government seeking an inquiry into the affairs of the County. C.T. Batkin, Assistant Controller and Auditor General arrived in Queenstown in 1886 and with the District Auditor, H.L. Livingston spent six weeks in an investigation. The results of the inquiry were contained in a 48 page report tabled in parliament which disclosed a deplorable state of affairs. Every aspect of the County administration came under criticism including embezzlement by the Clerk of almost £1000: the rate books for four years being missing having been burnt by the Clerk: the Clerk paying himself salary months in advance. The members of the County were guilty of making payments they had no authority to make which in total exceeded £1000. Included in the total was travelling expenses to member attending meetings. The Act provided paying expenses to members coming from a distance. Daniels accepted payment for a journey of a few hundred yards from Hallenstein Street to Stanley Street. Daniels had on occasions received rate payments and had been known to sometimes settle his private account with clients by deducting money due to the County for rates. This disastrous state of affairs had been going on for a number of years and had been allowed to continue despite warnings submitted by the District Auditor each year over the period. The Clerk was charged with embezzlement and was sentenced to five years gaol. The members too had to share the responsibility and were surcharged by the Audit Office for the items they had spent money on without authority.

In both cases outlined above Daniels was in a position of authority and must bear much of the responsibility for the short-comings in the affairs of both the Borough and the County. Had he carried out his duties diligently and not been prepared to accept poor performances by his staff these situations probably would not have arisen.

At the end of 1886 Daniels was again in trouble, of his own making. By this time he had given away auctioneering and held the license of the Alpine Hotel at Glenorchy. Glenorchy at this time had no less than three hotels. It would be an understatement to say that Glenorchy had an over supply of licensed premises. The licensing

laws at this time provided for periodical polls to decide whether or not the number of licenses in each district should be increased. The Greenstone Licensing Committee who had met to decide the validity of the local option vote postponed consideration of three licenses one of which was Daniels, for 14 days. Daniels immediately applied to the Supreme Court for an issue of mandamus calling upon the committee to issue such licenses. The Court so ruled and the committee were faced with legal costs of over £40. Upon meeting subsequently the committee refused to grant two licenses one of which was Daniels. No doubt the committee did so to remind Daniels who was Boss and to penalise a Smart Alec.

The result, Daniels hotel was unlicensed but a mere technicality of this nature did not stop Daniels selling liquor. The authorities took a dim view of Daniels patently breaking the law and took some action. An undercover official was brought from Auckland and very swiftly obtained evidence to charge Daniels with sly-grogging while staying in the hotel. Daniels was convicted of the sale of liquor in an unlicensed house and fined £25 with cost of £18.10.0. He was also fined on a second charge of having a quantity of liquor in his possession and the judgement provided for its confiscation. The law thus gave Daniels a very expensive lesson for not playing the game according to the rules.

What subsequently happened to this gluten for trouble is not known. Clara Rose Daniels described as a hotel-keeper of Glenorchy and presumably Frederick's wife died in November 1889 aged 48. Daniels was still hotel-keeping at Glenorchy in 1894. He was then about 53. In the same year Frederick Daniels with May Daniels and Gordon Daniels, presumably his children, together with C.F. Price a lady from the United Kingdom and Joseph O'Leary a guide climbed Mount Earnslaw. This was one of the earliest climbs of the mountain and the first ascent by women.

At some time Daniels must have left Glenorchy because in 1901 the Queenstown Borough Council was writing to him in Sydney about outstanding rates amounting to 4/9d. It would be interesting to know if trouble other than a dunning letter from the Queenstown Borough Council crossed the Tasman with him. Knowing his record it seems likely.

Diary of William Speid of Martins Bay 1870/

DIARY OF WILLIAM R. SPEID OF MARTINS BAY

1870/71

Where space is available it is proposed to include extracts from Mr Speid's diary. Life was not exciting but the diary gives a good picture of how tough it was taking part in James McAndrew's dream of a settlement and port on the western coast of Otago.

DIARY OF EVENTS:

April 5th 1870 Left Dunedin for Martins Bay (via Hokitika). On the passage visited Lyttelton, Christchurch, Wellington and Nelson. Landed in Hokitika on the morning of the 13th and sailed for Martins Bay on the night of the 14th, landing there in the afternoon of the 16th inst. Was very favourably impressed with the scenery on the banks of the Hollyford River, and Lake McKerrow, and found the site of the town pleasantly situated in a small bay on the north side of the lake. Got our goods ashore from the steamer "Waipara", erected our tent, boiled the billy, made things as snug as possible, and so ended our first day in Martins Bay. As the next day is Sunday I will begin a new page with it.

Sunday, April 17th. Occupied with reading but found it necessary to bake a few scones in the evening, and so ended my first Sabbath in Martins Bay.

Monday, 18th. The Steamer left us today, and four of us intending settlers started on a prospecting tour. Got some indications of gold on the south west side of the, but no precious metal. Found the sandflies very troublesome.

Tuesday, 19th. Raining all day, Storm increased at night.

Wednesday, 20th. Light rain in the morning. Went down the river in the company boat, had a look over some of the land, soil inferior. Raining again in the evening.

- Thursday, 21st. Started this morning for the valley at the head of the lake; camp at night about a mile and a half up the River.
- Friday, 22nd. Took the boat up the river over the rapids, and had a look at the soil, found it much better than that down by the sea. Camped for the night about four miles up the river.
- Saturday, 23rd. Went today as far as it was safe to take the boat went some distance farther on foot. Country much improved bush opens more level land. Started back about 12 o'clock noon; and reached the township at dusk. And a week passed.
- Sunday, 24th. Wet this morning - cleared up in the afternoon. This day chiefly devoted to reading. I wish for my darling.
- Monday, 25th. Very wet and stormy.
- Tuesday, 26th. Fine day, with light frost.
- Wednesday, 27th. Started for Kaipō Bay a small bay about seven miles to the south of Martins Bay. Got there at sunset and pitched our camp for the night.
- Thursday, 28th. Prospected the beaches to the south as far as we could go for rocks. Got the colour. On the way back made a collection of sea urchins and other shells for my dear wife.
- Friday, 29th. Returned to Martins Bay on account of threatening weather.
- Saturday, 30th. Began to rain early this morning and rained all day.
- Sunday, May 1st. Our dear wee son is a year old today and I am far away from his mother and he. Oh how I wish I could be with them this night. I know my darling will be thinking of the absent one and wishing he was present to caress her on the anniv. of this day.
- Monday, 2nd. Started up the north coast for the Gorge river, with ten days provisions. Good accounts of Williamson and Party. Very rough to Martins' point. Terrific thunderstorm tonight, tent nearly blown down, in fact we had to hold it up.

Tuesday, 3rd. Crossed the boundary line between Otago and Westland and camped in the store at Big Bay. Big Bay is a large deep indentation in the coast line open to the west.

Wednesday, 4th. Continued our journey and made as far as the "Three Mile" river about 13 miles from B.B. and camped for the night.

Thursday, 5th. Arrived at the Gorge river at 11a.m. and found the party preparing to leave the ground and return to Big Bay. Tried a few dishes of stuff in the drive, found only a few specks in each dish. Not encouraging.

Friday, 6th. Rested today, and had a look about; got some very poor prospects.

Saturday, 7th. Started on our return to Martins Bay, Williamsons mates bearing us company.

Sunday, 8th. Travelled today and got to Big Bay in the evening. Raining all afternoon and evening.

Monday, 9th. Prospected about here, got a few specks anywhere, but great difficulty will be met with in working the ground on account of the large boulders. Went on a voyage of discovery to the top of the range very steep climbing. Left our initials on some trees at the top. Had more difficulty getting down.

Tuesday, 10th. Arrived at Gravel Cove tonight in a heavy rain. Met three men on their way to the Gorge, but they turned back when they heard our a/c. When we got to camp found that the rats had been keeping house for us, and eating our sugar.

Wednesday, 11th. Raining this morning, afternoon bright and clear.

Thursday, 12th. Caught some flounders down the river this afternoon. Clear frosty night.

Friday, 13th. Fine day. Made a harpoon for floundering.

Saturday, 14th. Went on a hunting and fishing excursion to the heads and got a wetting on our way home. Got some ducks and a few flounders.

- Sunday, 15th. Heavy rain all day and all night, lake rose considerably.
- Monday, 16th. Cleared up this morning. Three men started for Queenstown, intending to return in three weeks.
- Tuesday, 17th. Commenced to rain last night and has rained all today. Weather mild though wet.
- Wednesday, 18th. Raining still.
- Thursday, 19th. Cut down a large red pine for the purpose of making a canoe. Three men arrived from Queenstown bring the news that a party of men was engaged making a track across the Saddle from Wakatipu to Lake McKerrow.
- Friday, 20th. Began to shape the bottom of the canoe today. Rain today.
- Saturday, 21st. The work progresses well.
- Sunday, 22nd. Rained all day. This day devoted to reading, as I do with all sabbaths when in camp.
- Monday, 23rd. Sharp frost this morning, day fine, evening wet. Working hard at our boat.
- Tuesday, 24th. As usual on the Queens birthday, it has rained all day so that we had a holiday.
- Wednesday, 25th. Got our boat ready for turning. Wet in the fore noon.
- Thursday, 26th. Collected all the men in the township to assist us in turning our boat, and when we were gathered it took us about three hours to put her on her keel.
- Friday, 27th. Not much done today for wet weather.
- Saturday, 28th. Very wet today. Thunderstorm in the afternoon cleared the air.
- Sunday, 29th. Frosty last night, beautiful day, frost in the evening again.

- Monday, 30th. Fine day, made progress with our work today.
- Tuesday, 31st. Still working away, getting into the heart now.
This endeth May.
- Wednesday, June 1st. Nothing done. Very wet all day. Weather looks very bad and continues.
- Thursday, 2nd. Raining today, not much done.
- Friday, 3rd. Still wet. Work made retarded.
- Saturday, 4th. Raining all day incessantly.
- Sunday, 5th. Still raining. No appearance of clearing up.
Reading as usual on this day.
- Monday, 6th. Cleared up this, and we got a good days work done to our boat.
- Tuesday, 7th. Fine day - getting well on for finishing with our boat.
- Wednesday, 8th. Got the inside cleared out. Raining in the evening.
- Thursday, 9th. Turned her bottom up today preparatory to dressing.
More rain.
- Friday, 10th. Commenced the dressing but got little done on account of the rain.
- Saturday, 11th. Launched the boat this afternoon, sits well in the water. Heavy rain.
- Sunday, 12th. Raining in the morning, fine afternoon and night.
Steamer due tomorrow.
- Monday, 13th. I enter on the service of the Government in the room of one of the survey party who is returning to Dunedin. After breakfast started for the camp at the head of the lake in the boat in company with Welch. Strong wind down the lake so that we had a hard pull up.
- Tuesday, 14th. Wet today again.

TRIPS FOR THE 1990/91 SEASON

3.12.90 Monday Morven Hills Station, Lindis
25.02.91 Monday White's Cottage, Von River via the
Mavora Lakes.
Optional return by Earnslaw.
14.04.91 Sunday Clyde

Note:

1. Bookings - Alpine Artifacts, The Mall - Open 14 days before the trip.
2. Mark your calendar. Will be included in 'Whats On' in the Mountain Scene and Resort Radio.

NEW SKIPPERS HISTORY

Mr Duncan MacNicol who farmed in the area for many years has written a book on the area called "I, Duncan of Skippers". It is understood the book has been published privately but Mr and Mrs Borrell of The Branches Station have donated a copy to the Queenstown Library where no doubt it can be obtained.

Duncan McNichol - Skippers*****