

## President's Report

*Great News!*

Our Mayor announced yesterday that Council's elected officials had unanimously adopted the 10-year plan which included a grant (subject to appropriate planning) of \$800,000 to the Cambridge Historical Society to help build the extensions to our museum.

The cherry on top is that \$50,000 of the grant will be released in the 2018/19 financial year with the remaining \$750,000 being available the following year. We have yet to be advised of the finer details, but this announcement puts us well on the road to our projected budget of \$2.4M.

First of all, I want to thank our local Councillors for their continued support. Although our application for funding to the 10-year planning process was initially turned down, we continued to receive their support. I know the issue was well debated; grants of this size are not given lightly. We have had amazing support from local community groups who gave their written support to our goal of telling Cambridge stories in Cambridge.

Our application to Council has been a combined effort by both our Society and the Cambridge Heritage Charitable Trust (CHCT).

The Trust is a registered charity set up to fundraise and build the Museum extensions. It is led by Chairman Eric Hill and supported by Trust members Mike Pettit, Hinerangi Kara and our own Bruce Hancock and myself. Everyone has worked tirelessly to achieve this result.

As mentioned, we're well on the road to success and now, with Council support, we are in a position to go to our community and Government funding agencies so we can complete the project.

We look forward to your support and ideas as we commence fundraising.

**Grant Middlemiss**  
President

### New Members

A warm welcome to:

**Gordon Calder**

**Kristin Andersson and Wade Parker**

**Noel and Marilyn Flower**

**Elaine Ruis and Denis White**

**Richard and Kerry Johnstone**

**Ann Maclure**

## Museum Manager's Report

*May and June have seen a steady number of visitors to the museum with positive comments received from many.*

We were delighted to work with Cambridge retailers and businesses who celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the New Zealand National Agricultural Fieldays with window displays. The Buckingham photographs, business files and newspaper collections all proved useful in identifying the businesses who were at various buildings in Cambridge in 1968.

We are very pleased to report that the 1921-1949 issues of the *Waikato Independent* (the early Cambridge local newspaper) have recently been added to the Papers Past database.

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

This was done as part of the Collaborative Newspaper Digitisation Project that the National Library of New Zealand runs each year. The Cambridge Historical Society met half of the costs of this work which totalled \$15,151.18, with the Heritage Fund of the Waipa District Council contributing \$5,000 and Trust Waikato contributing \$1,000.



As well as the dedicated team indexing the *Waikato Independent* newspaper, we have keen volunteers currently working on a number of tasks such as arranging subject files, indexing the Cambridge content in directories and transcribing handwritten letters. All this work improves access to the content of the research collections.

**Kathryn Parsons**  
Museum Manager

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## Mrs Shepperd's Diary

*Mrs Shepperd and her husband James set up a trading store at Maungatautari in 1856. Taken from "Plough of the Pakeha" by Eric Beer and Alwyn Gascoigne.*

"The lovely Waikato river, how beautiful it seemed after the rough roads. We enjoyed the trip immensely, travelling all day and landing only to sleep at the native settlements at night, the Maoris always giving us the best house or the church to sleep in. We reached Ashwell's Mission Station on the second day and stayed there for three days. We spent Christmas Day, 1854, with the Ashwells and went to Church service afterwards, which was in both English and Māori. There was a splendid cherry grove there, loaded with ripe fruit which we really enjoyed ...

Sometimes we travelled at night when there were no settlements to stop at. The natives would pitch our tents on the banks of the river and cook a meal so nicely it always made us feel hungry. At night when we were in bed, we could hear the Maoris coming down the river, chanting in measured time to the dip of the paddle. It was a strange, weird sound, until one got used to it ...

[At Te Awamutu] When our things arrived, we moved into our own house which was supposed to be a wooden one, but the timber had not yet been cut. In the meantime our house was of raupo, which I would not have minded if we could only have kept the pigs out. They came in on foraging expeditions and always coming in on one side and going out the other, making a fresh hole as they went ...

We eventually started for Maungatautari on horseback, having arranged to meet the swamp party carrying our effects at the foot of the ranges at Puahue, but the swarms of mosquitoes were too severe for us and we had to forego having a rest and lunch until we were further up the mountain range. On a clear spot we camped and dined and admired the lovely view ...

There were large numbers of Maoris coming and going, which we naturally thought was in our honour but then we were told that Wiremu Tamehana, the great Ngati-haua chief, was returning from Auckland and this native meeting was to welcome him ...

We eventually stopped at a village on the northern slopes of Maungatautari called Te Were te Atua, which means the Fire of God."

## Walks and Talks

### UPCOMING EVENT:

**Visit to Morrinsville Museum's "Mana Whenua o Piako" exhibition on Saturday 7 July 2018 at 10am.**

CHS members are invited to visit Morrinsville Museum's latest exhibition "*Mana Whenua o Piako*".

Make it a day out with a museum visit, a wander around Morrinsville's market day, and perhaps lunch. Friends and family welcome.

Those wanting a ride or to carpool meet outside the Cambridge Museum at 9.30am.



Morrinsville Museum is located at **41 Canada Street.**

### UPCOMING EVENT:

**Our Historic Firearms Collection**

A talk by **Amiel Bates**

**Monday 30 July 2018 at 7pm  
at the Cambridge Museum,  
24 Victoria Street**

CHS members are invited to hear Firearms Curator Amiel Bates discuss the history of 12 firearms from our New Zealand Land Wars to World War I collection.



*Friends and family welcome.*



**Past Residents: Jared Allwill**

Born 1843 in County Moynihan, Ireland, Jared Allwill arrived in Auckland in 1861.

**Redwood**

In Cambridge he bought a militia grant. In the rates assessment list for 1869-70, he paid 2p an acre on 101 acres at Hautapu, totalling 16 shillings and tenpence. The redwood trees on his property provided timber for his house and

the farm (later 240 acres) was called 'Redwood'. He is noted in 1872 on a farm map drawn by Charles Chitty in a report on the district to the Armed Constabulary Commissioner's Office.

In March 1872 he joined the Cambridge Cavalry Volunteers as a Sergeant and remained with the troop until 1882 when it disbanded. In 1875 his horse, 'Victoria', won the first racing cup presented at the Auckland Racing Club's first meeting and a purse of £125.

**Marriage**

After 16 years (in 1887) he married Florence Seymour of Tamahere who had come from Queensland, Australia as a young girl with her father. They had taken up farming at Tamahere in 1875. Jared and Florence raised three sons Roderick (killed in World War I), Stephen and Albert, and a daughter, Violet.

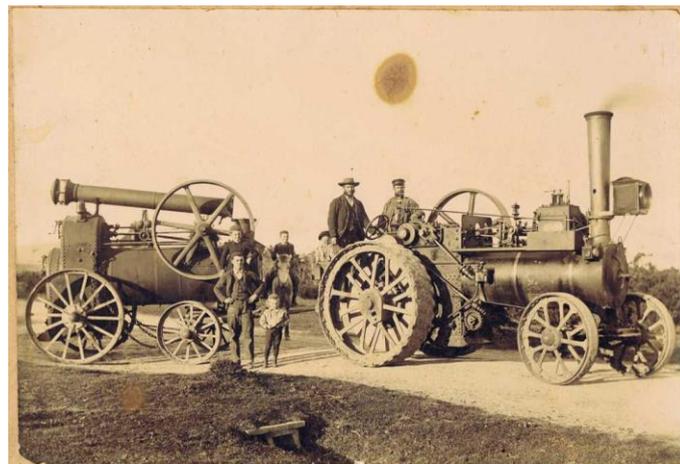
**Claremont**

In 1879 Jared was the first to import a threshing machine, reaper and binder into the Waikato and later (from 1884) he did contract work with a traction engine for chaff cutting etc. In 1888 his farm yielded 27 acres of wheat to Hallys' Mill. As well as the usual operations with sheep, cattle and crops, Jared bred horses and pigs and ran a smithy. He was one of the first to import pure thoroughbred and Clydesdales horses into the district and at this time was living on a property called 'Claremont'.

Allwill's Matured Wine was well known and it won the NZ Championship in 1900. Jared had two big underground cellars from which barrels of Allwill's Matured Wine were consigned to Campbell and Ehrenfried, Wine and Spirit Merchants, Auckland.

Jared was also a foundation shareholder of the Cambridge Co-operative Dairy Company at Hautapu and a Director from 1901-1903. He died in 1922 age 81.

*From the Cambridge Museum website, under Biographies:  
[www.cambridgemuseum.org.nz](http://www.cambridgemuseum.org.nz)*



*A traction engine in Cambridge in the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century, possibly owned by Jared Allwill, "The McKinnon boys" in front.  
Photo from the Cambridge Museum archives.*

**Country Women's Institute archives**

I've been cataloguing Central Waikato **Country Women's Institute archives**, including minutes, annual reports, scrapbooks and photos. If you know of anyone who is interested in researching the CWI in this area, please let them know that we have this material. The area includes

Cambridge, Leamington, Fencourt, Kairangi, Hautapu, Karapiro, Tauwhare, Te Miro, Monavale and the Central Waikato Federation.

Amongst it all, I came across this poem that made me smile:

**I dreamed death came the other night  
And Heaven's gate opened wide  
With kindly grace, an angel  
Ushered me inside  
And there to my astonishment  
Stood folks I'd known on earth  
Some I'd judged and labelled  
Unfit of little worth  
Indignant words rose to my lips  
But never were set free  
For every face showed stunned surprise  
No one expected me.**



## Post Office Clock Tower

Article from *Waikato Independent* dated 6 October 1908

“After months of delay, the chiming clock has at last arrived in Cambridge and no further time will be lost in the work of installing it in the tower of the Post and Telegraph Office. The manufacture of the clock was entrusted to the well known firm of Messrs Littlejohn and Son, of Wellington, whose representative, Mr C Burton arrived in Cambridge on Saturday afternoon last. This gentleman is now engaged in placing in position the various parts of the clock. The task of installing the timepiece will, it is expected, occupy three or four weeks. Mr Burton has had considerable experience in this class of work, having installed nearly the whole of the chiming clocks in the Dominion, including the one at the Auckland Art Gallery and Free Library building. The four dials of the clock are 4ft. 6in. in diameter, and were cast in one piece, and glazed with white opal glass, so that, at night, they will be illuminated by the gaslight.

The chimes are of the make known as the “Cambridge” chimes, and the five bells, which, Mr Burton assures us, are of fine quality, weigh 27 cwt., the largest of them being 10cwt (500kg). They were made by the very old established firm of bell-founders, Messrs John Taylor and Sons, or Loughbrough, Leicestershire, who have been making bells for over 200 years. The pendulum “bob” of the clock weighs nearly 3cwt, and the hammer that strikes the big bell weighs 28lbs (12.7kg). The clock will be required to be wound up about twice a week. The construction of the clock has been so arranged that the gas can be turned on or off by it at any hour desired.

The clock has Roman numerals, and in this it is distinct from many of the clocks imported by the Government, in which the hour signs are denoted by dots or strokes.

Photographs of the clock, taken just before being packed, are now on view at Mr J Murrell’s shop, in Duke Street.”



*To fund the tower, a carnival in Victoria Square was organised, contributing £85. Subscriptions of £242 were also raised, and the Government agreed to pay £800.*



*The tower started developing cracks in 1910 and after much public protest, on 12 September 1931 the Public Works Department started dismantling it – which was more difficult than anticipated as the structure proved to be very strong.*

**The chiming clock is now in Jubilee Gardens.**

