

Tēnā koutou and greetings



If you've travelled down Victoria Street recently you will have seen that the museum is currently cloaked in plastic wrap. With the recent wet and windy weather, this wrap has been a welcome protection for the building itself and the team from Fosters Maintenance as they re-roof and strengthen the old Courthouse. Elizabeth had the opportunity to look at the original roof timbers close-up and even had a peek at the decorations above our main door. It's amazing to think that this is the first time these timbers have been seen since the builder Fred Potts and his team worked on the roof in 1908-1909.



Fred Potts (pictured) was known in Cambridge and the greater Waikato for the many buildings he constructed in the first years of the 20th century. Other examples of his work include the Masonic Hotel, the National Hotel and the Cambridge Bowling Club, as well as many homes around the town. If you would like to find out more about how Fred Pott's shaped our town, make sure to visit us when we open again. Phyllis Jeans' family history *Generation of Genes* and Eris Parker's *Fred's Legacy* include extensive research and photographs of his buildings. They are available to view in our library.



A Call to Arms

Talking of library, as you may know, Waipā District Council is about to start an investigation into a new library and community hub for Cambridge. Our Community Board supports this proposal and is currently running a survey to find out what the community wants to see in the new space. The feedback will be provided to Council and captured in the feasibility study. You can read and have your say using a questionnaire, which is available at the front desk of the Cambridge Library.

However, the inclusion of a Cambridge Museum in the proposed building is only one of the 36 amenities and services that the survey gives as options.

A new museum and heritage centre holds the key to enabling our town's rich heritage and culture to be acknowledged and appreciated. The Cambridge Historical Society supports the concept as a better way of telling our story, reflecting and understanding history and creating a sense of belonging, whilst providing the much-needed space to preserve and display our vast collection. Many towns and cities throughout New Zealand are already successfully using the concept.

You can help the Society better to advocate for the inclusion of a museum in the plan by emailing admin@cambridgemuseum.org.nz and just tell us YES or NO to a combined museum and library concept.

The strength of advocacy comes from numbers and the more Friends and Members we can say are behind us, the greater the influence we can have. We look forward to having you on board!

Elizabeth Harvey
Museum Manager

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A warm welcome to our new members

- Colleen & Bryan Bassett
- Lyn Tairi
- Barbara Wilson
- Allison Vince
- Simon & Liz Dench



Henry and Kathleen Tod



Dr Henry Tod as Mayor of Cambridge shown with Queen Elizabeth II during her visit to Cambridge in 1953. Behind him is the Duke of Edinburgh with Kathleen Tod.

Henry and Kathleen Tod arrived in Cambridge in 1923. Dr Tod took over a practice either near or on the site of the Cambridge Medical Centre. He was a Cambridge Borough Councillor and later Mayor in the 1950s, Chairman of the Electric Power Board and honorary surgeon to the Cambridge Volunteer Fire Brigade. He was a charter director of Cambridge Rotary, a foundation member of the Cambridge Historical Society and held other offices too numerous to mention. Kathleen was one of the few people awarded the Companion of Honour from the Red Cross and was also active in the community.

The Cambridge Museum has a manuscript written by Dr Tod about his medical practice in Cambridge (ref 3220.4) excerpts of which are reproduced here.

Medical Practice 1923-1973

By Dr H C Tod, MBE, MB, ChB

My first impressions of Cambridge were not favourable. In 1923 June was a very wet month. There were lots of deciduous trees. The fallen leaves lay neglected and rotting on the ground. The footpaths were very few and in most streets non-existent.

Many patients attended surgery by horse-drawn vehicles or on horseback.

There were two nursing homes in Cambridge. Whitiora, a general purpose hospital in Hamilton Road and a maternity hospital in Thornton Road. Whitiora was in use for many years but closed when the new Government Maternity Hospital was opened in [Taylor] Street on October 7, 1962.

Many patients were nursed in their own homes by untrained women, who besides nursing the mother, cooked and kept house for the husband and the other children.

The Early Days

When I started work in that June of 1923, conditions were vastly different from those of today. The principal differences were (1) much worse roads, poor communication, slower and less comfortable cars, and (2) visits to homes were more numerous

over a wider area, Arapuni, Tirau, Matamata, but over the years this steadily declined as patients came to the surgery in greater numbers.

My first car was a Model T Ford with celluloid curtains which soon became cracked and discoloured then non-existent.

Apart from Victoria Street, which was sealed, all other streets and district roads were gravelled. No sealing meant dust in summer and mud in winter. The wise motorist always carried a set of chains to put around his tyres if it came on to rain. Even the main road to Hamilton was unsealed and for the first three winters impassable. The roads through Matangi and Kaipaki soon followed suit. District roads were full of pot-holes which had to be straddled by the car wheels and which became bog-holes in the rain. Te Miro was practically cut off in winter while the Tauwhare Hills road was notorious. Although tyres were of the high pressure variety and the wheels were higher and narrower the cars really went over the bone-shaking roads very well.

Visiting usually started about 9am and seldom finished before noon. Consultations were from 1pm to 3pm and from 7pm to 8pm onwards. Urgent cases telephoned to the doctor on his rounds could cause frustrating delays to his routine. Maternity cases were frequent and caused many a disturbed night, as in the 1920s and 30s the mother was nursed at home by trained midwives and often too by untrained people. This aspect of the practice became more pleasant and less time-consuming when the birth took place in a nursing home or maternity hospital. Since 1926, all maternity work in the home (domiciliary) was stopped and all cases are conducted in fully equipped maternity hospitals with fully trained staff.

In my early days the GP was expected to do much more and varied work than he does today. The doctor had to treat minor fractures, often without X-ray confirmation and he had to grapple with severe cases of pneumonia, pleurisy and rheumatic fever alone. There were no antibiotics. Now the base hospital in Hamilton attends to all fractures, and the X-ray department and laboratory is available for such diagnosis and treatment.

Māori Illness and Treatment

In 50 years, the attitude of the Māori people to sickness and treatment has completely changed. The Government, through the Health Department, has made a great effort to inspire confidence and improve their treatment. The Māori Affairs Department has waged a diligent campaign to improve the standard of health.

Principal Advances in Treatment during the past 50 Years

Insulin for the treatment of diabetes had just been discovered in 1923. This extract of the pancreas enabled diabetics to live up to the usual life span without starvation diets. With controlled injections of insulin, children, previously doomed to die at an early age, were enabled to live normal lives, get married, have children and reach the allotted span.

The field of treatment has also been considerably widened by the discovery of various drugs to be given by the mouth. In the early 1920s pernicious anaemia was considered a fatal illness. The unfortunate patient had to consume large quantities of raw liver, but this was later administered in powdered form. This preparation smelled like a small freezing works and was very nauseating. In due course concentrated extract of liver was



contained in capsules or injected by hypodermic at regular intervals. Early laboratory diagnosis has helped a great deal.

Antibiotics

The sulphonamides and later penicillin and other antibiotics are easily the most important discoveries in recent years. These drugs have the power of destroying bacteria in the bloodstream and may be given by mouth or by injection. They have completely changed the pattern of treatment and have reduced to very small proportions the great killers of old. Pneumonia, meningitis, syphilis and even tuberculosis are seldom troublesome now and all are curable with reasonable care and proper doses of the appropriate remedies. No longer do medical men wait helplessly for the crisis in pneumonia nor watch the fading away of a pulmonary tuberculosis victim.

Vaccines

After the last war the Health Department introduced a successful scheme for the protection of children. By the injections of vaccines diphtheria has practically disappeared, tetanus is rare, and whooping cough a much less serious complaint. Gone are the days when we watch a young child dying with laryngitis diphtheria, unable to get its breath even after a tracheotomy.

Some ten years later a vaccine for the prevention of poliomyelitis (or infantile paralysis) was discovered by Dr Salk in America. This was first used as an injection but is now given by mouth, in two or three doses at intervals. There has been no positive case of poliomyelitis in New Zealand for ten years.

When these measures were started in 1944-45, I remember being subjected to a great deal of abuse, both by letter, phone calls and personal encounter. Any doctor who practised and gave these injections was accused of being little less than a murderer. "Surely nothing but great deterioration of mind and body would follow!" Almost miraculous results from these wonder drugs have proved the wisdom of the doctors' course of action.

Many arguments still continue because of opposition to the fluoridation of water for tooth decay. Many of us still recall the first modern Battle of Hastings on this issue. It is significant that a dental nurse was once required for every 400 school children for the treatment of dental caries. Now one dental nurse is able to care for 900 children.

More and More Doctors

In spite of all the advances the medical profession has not decreased in numbers. The constant cry is for more doctors both in practice and in the hospitals.

The great killers of the present time are heart disease in all its many forms and malignant disease which is generally incurable. Operation in early stages is still the best line of treatment. Motorcars are responsible for the third highest death rate from excessive speed on the highways, and the number of accidents cannot cope with the demand for admissions. There is a continuous cry for more and more beds and more and more staff.

Advances in medical science have caused a great geriatric problem. People are living longer and care of the aged has become a great national challenge. Homes for the elderly are springing up in every town and still there are shortages.

Drug Abuse

Finally, with greater prosperity and more leisure, people are turning to drugs. Alcohol, sleeping tablets and tranquillisers of all types are commonly used. Addiction is fast becoming a great social problem. Without a stiffening of the moral fibre drug abuse will lead to our deterioration and decay.

Most babies are born healthy and with efficient treatment should remain so. The average age at death has now reached approximately 72 years for men and 77 for women. What it will reach in the future is unknown. The span of life will gradually rise. Let us not squander our health through over-indulgence of any kind.

Upcoming Events

Join a Secret Tour at Waikato Museum

Monday 14 August 2023, 10.30 am – Meet at Waikato Museum

\$20 per person (Special Friends rate)

Venture into the usually off-limits areas of the Museum's collection to view amazing objects and learn about the techniques and methods of preservation. See nationally significant artworks, and social history items that show what everyday life was like in the Waikato. Please register by emailing admin@cambridgemuseum.org.nz



with Cambridge Genealogy Society and Cambridge Museum
Saturday 26 August, 10-11am and Wednesday, 30 August, 6-7pm, held at the Cambridge Library

Learn ways to research, collect, organise and preserve your family history. Bring photos of your family memorabilia to share. All welcome. Please note there are two date options for your convenience - Saturday morning and Wednesday evening.

Light refreshments will be available. The timing of each event is a guide only. Sessions may finish a little later if patrons wish to ask questions after the main presentation.

More events on page 4.



Upcoming Events

Deep dive into the Archives – Hamilton City Libraries

Thursday, 14 September, 10.30 am – 12 noon at the Central Library, Garden Place

Archivist Rowan Millar will be our guide as we discover more about the fascinating ephemera collection at Hamilton Library. The morning will focus on materials related to everyday life and culture in the Waikato. Have your questions ready. Free to Friends. Please register by emailing: admin@cambridgemuseum.org.nz

Events in partnership with U3A

Sir David John Moxon KNZM, CStJ, MMCM will be speaking on the first Pakeha woman to live in Piako: Charlotte Brown.

Friday 25 August at the Te Awa Lifecare Woolshed, 1866 Cambridge Road, Cambridge, from 10am for 10.30 until 12 noon



David Moxon was educated at Freyberg High School, where he was head boy. After a year on Volunteer Service Abroad in Fiji, and a year at Massey University, he attended the University of Canterbury/College House, before studying again at Massey University. He studied theology at the University of Oxford Honours School and graduated with a bachelor's degree with honours in 1978 and a master's degree in 1982. He gained a

Certificate in Māori Studies from Waikato University and a Licentiate in Theology (LTh) from the Bishopric of Aotearoa. He has honorary doctorates from Massey and Waikato Universities, is a fellow of St Margaret's College in the University of Otago, and an honorary fellow of St Peter's College in the University of Oxford.

Please register by emailing admin@cambridgemuseum.org.nz



Dr Andrew La Croix will speak on the Geologic History of the Waikato Region.

Friday 27 October 2023 at the Te Awa Lifecare Woolshed, 1866 Cambridge Road, Cambridge, from 10am for 10.30 until 12 noon

Andrew received his Ph.D in Earth Sciences from Simon Fraser University (Canada) in 2016. From 2017 to 2019 he was a Postdoctoral Research Fellow, as part of the Energy initiative at the University of Queensland in Australia.

Since 2109 Andrew has been a Lecturer and then Senior Lecturer at the University of Waikato in New Zealand where he leads the Sedimentary Environments and Analogues Research Group.

King Carter of Carter's Flat

Karen Payne



We recently had the good fortune to purchase a rare image of King Carter parked outside the original National Hotel in Cambridge (shown above). It is a glass-plate negative in excellent condition and is possibly taken at a similar time to an image already in our collection (shown below). It shows Carter's stable "Cambridge Horse Bazaar, W K Carter" roughly where The Sample Room now stands at 8 Lake Street.



King Carter, the namesake of Carter's Flat and Carter's Crescent, was a tall athletic American. An experienced coach driver, he established himself as proprietor of a coach service based in Cambridge.

His coach to Auckland held 25 passengers and the horses were changed nine times. Spades were needed to dig the coach out of the mud, and when climbing steep hills, the male passengers had to walk to make it easier for the horses. Carter used carrier pigeons for sending messages between his various stopping places and Cambridge.

He was always smartly dressed, usually in a brown frock coat with wide brimmed hat, carrying a gold-headed walking stick and sporting a white Van Dyke beard and flowing moustache. He settled with his wife Mary Ann in a house in Carter's Flat. She was over 20 years younger than her husband, but he far outlived her. He died in 1918 aged 95 and is buried at Hautapu.

