

## **Nicholas Paul Baltazar VON TUNZLEMANN - No 5**

Born Revel, Estonia in 1825, to a German father who was a major in the Russian Army, he was godson of Czar Nicholas 1<sup>st</sup>. He was educated in Germany and England. But because this was done without the consent of the Czar, the family were banished, forfeiting their big estates and being given only 24 hours to leave.

After a time in America, he returned to Europe and qualified as veterinary surgeon at the Universities of Paris and Edinburgh.

He emigrated to New Zealand around 1860 and joined an expedition to seek pastoral land. Initially, he sought to lease land to the west of Lake Wanaka. Then with William Rees, he discovered the Crown Range route to Lake Wakatipu in February, 1860. Rees applied for the east shore run, and Von Tunzelmann Run Number 350 to the west of Lake Wakatipu, being 50,000 acres. He named it Fernhill. This was developed with brother John and brother-in-law Gilbert Picket. They imported sheep from Australia, and a stone two-storey house was built. In 1865 he married Gertrude Gilbert, sister of Frances Rees; they had two sons and three daughters. The run flourished for a few years, then scab broke out in the flock and rabbits infested the land, causing them to be sold up.

They moved to small run at Table Bay, across from Queenstown on Lake Wakatipu. This was not a success; keas were blamed for the loss of 300 of 600 ewes in one round-up.

The family went to Australia for five years, growing fruit, then back to Beach Bay, a 200 acre holding at Walter Peak, where they were able to eke out a living. He planted the Wellingtonia trees there with seed from Austria.

He was appointed station master at Kingston about 1884. He was said to be a gentle person, a charming man, the best of company as he could sing, yodel, play the violin to entertain and he was fond of dancing.

He often walked and rowed for miles to enjoy an evening of song and dance. Later he was described as a fine old man with a white flowing beard and white hair. He died in poverty on July 31, 1900 in Frankton Hospital.

Gertrude died at Walter Peak in 1918. Her body was taken by launch to Queenstown and she too is buried here. She left a beautiful pink and yellow rose garden at Walter Peak.

Lasting reminders of von Tunzlemann are the Von River, Mount Nicholas, and Von's Hill on Walter Peak.

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## HUGH MACKENZIE - No 17

Born 17 October 1847 at Ardmore, Scotland, the seventh child to John and Ann, he joined Royal Navy where he became chief gunner on the Iron Duke, contracting smallpox. He married Anastasia McKenzie Rossiter in Edinburgh in 1873. They left for New Zealand in 1874, on the Cathcart.

He first worked unloading rails on Oamaru beach, used to build the Christchurch to Dunedin railway line, then was joined by his brother Alexander as partner on Coronet Peak Station. In 1878 they survived terrible snow storms, saving 5000 of 6000 sheep from certain death by snow-raking.

They sold up and bought 350 acres at Beach Bay, Walter Peak. They supplemented their income by mustering, rabbiting and netting rainbow trout and quinnat salmon from the lake between Walter Peak and Greenstone. The fish were smoked, shipped to Kingston, and were in great demand in the Dunedin market.

1882 the partnership was dissolved and Mackenzie was granted 10,000 acres at Walter Peak by the Waste Lands Board, as it had been abandoned due to rabbits.

Being a tough, strongly built and determined man, he with his six boys and two daughters reduced the rabbits, cleared paddocks of stones, ploughed and regrassed the lakeside terraces. They built homes, yards, sheds and fenced all the steep ranges without borrowing money. In 1904 he bought the Mount Nicholas and Fernhill runs, calling it all Walter Peak, a total of 178,000 acres of Crown land plus freehold areas. They formed a family syndicate and with lots of hard work made it profitable. Sheep numbers increased from 300 in 1882, to a total of 40,000 in 1933.

He was a generous hospitable man, helping many people and causes, a good host to visitors from all over the world. He was a good churchman, regularly rowing to Queenstown to attend service. Normally it took two hours, but the return journey could take anything from five to nine hours. Eventually he bought a house in Gorge Road, Queenstown in order to rest and wait for winds on the lake to drop.

He was a great sportsman, and supporter of the Queenstown Easter regatta. He organised and donated prize money for the rifle club and held annual shoots at Walter Peak.

His first wife died in 1897, two sons served in World War One, one of whom was killed at Gallipoli. He married Flora Gardiner in 1905, but there were no children.

Hugh McKenzie died on May 6, 1933, aged 85, in Dunedin, but he is buried here in this cemetery. In 1949 the Mt Nicholas and Fernhill runs were sold by the family. The remainder of Walter Peak was sold in 1959.

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**HERMAN ADOLPH ALBERT EICHARDT 1829 to 1882**  
**JULIA EICHARDT 1838 to 1892 - No 13**

The pair are famous for the name they gave to Queenstown's best known hotel.

Born in Prussia in 1829, Albert emigrated to Australia, where he worked a quartz mine in Inglewood, Victoria, then moved to Arrowtown with two of his brothers.

They were in business as cordial manufacturers in Arrowtown, then in 1863 he won a raffle for a nugget of gold (64 pounds value) and bought the Queens Arms Hotel, Queenstown in 1865, later renaming it Eichardt's.

In 1867 he was naturalised, and in 1868 married Julia O'Meara, formerly Shanahan, who had managed the hotel's dining room since 1863, first working for William Rees.

They developed it to be the best hotel in town, and in 1872 replaced the Rees' wooden woolshed building with the stone and concrete structure much as we know it today. The completion of the railway to Kingston in 1878 brought tourists from all over world to stay at Eichardt's.

Albert was a Queenstown councillor, captain of M Battery of Artillery, member of the Masonic Lake Lodge of Ophir, conductor of the Philharmonic Society and the Garrison Band.

In 1878, Fred Denham, who drove the Cobb & Co coach from Queenstown to Cromwell for years, described Albert as a fine military looking man, six feet two inches tall, a splendid businessman, always courteous and straightforward. The hotel was the booking office for Cobb & Co. Albert died of pneumonia in August, 1882. There were no children.

Julia ran the hotel for ten years, extending it by making two parlours, one for men, one for women, both with pianos and the best quality fittings. The upper floor had bedrooms, and bathrooms with water laid on. Electric light and bells were installed in every bedroom in 1886; power was generated from a Pelton wheel, using water from town water supply. It was one of the first buildings to be lit by electricity in New Zealand.

Julia died after injuring her head in a fall on 2 May 1892. The funeral was attended by 700, the procession led by four Catholic priests. The question asked was "Who will take her place and carry on the hotel." She is buried in the Catholic sector of the cemetery.

The restored building, with its façade largely unchanged, still bears their name and is a lasting memorial.

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