



Lachlan Langlands, son of a sea captain, arrived at Port Chalmers from Argyleshire, Scotland, aged 18 years. He obtained employment as Clerk to the Customs, Post Office and Treasury based at Port Chalmers. In 1849 he was appointed Postmaster in Dunedin, carrying on this role until 1857.

Langlands then had a change of career, heading for North Otago to manage the Waikakahi Estate and for the next forty years he managed various estates from North Otago to Southland.

In 1898 he retired to Dunedin and became involved in the Jubilee Celebrations commemorating the arrival of the first ships. In that year he joined the Otago Early Settlers Association and was elected to the position of secretary. He was also a regular contributor of articles and letters in the Otago newspapers.

His position of secretary was to be on a part-time basis, but Langlands was soon fully occupied travelling around Otago and Southland seeking members for the recently established Association.

He was involved with the collecting of photographs which are on display in the Smith Gallery today.

In 1901 Langlands, with the support of the committee, suggested the establishment of a permanent location to display artifacts of historical interest. However the collection of portraits and items continued to grow but there was still n permanent area for displays.

Eventually permission was given to use a piece of surplus railway land and fundraising started. By 1907 work had begun on the new building which opened the following year. With this opening Langlands had achieved his goal and resigned from the Association. At their request he continued to provide assistance to the new secretary until ill health finally compelled him to retire.

Lachlan Langlands died on 19 October 1911, leaving his wife Sarah (nee Culling) whom he had married in 1906.

They are buried together in Dunedin's Andersons Bay Cemetery