



William Paton Tulloch of Glenore

By Helen Gilmore

“Strangers might come and go without finding our cemetery. It lies some distance from the main road, but though hidden among the hills, it yet commands a wide expanse of tussock-covered spurs intersected by fern-clad gullies. Although still covered with natural vegetation it has been improved and beautified. The fence has been wire-netted and proves an effectual barrier to the rabbits that once monopolised this country, and inside there is now a nice belt of plantation, whilst one tombstone is sheltered by a few fine trees of older growth.”

This pleasing review under the heading of “God's Acre, Glenore” was published in the *Bruce Herald* in 1896. Glenore was a small township on the Tokomairiro, which grew from the 1860s gold rush, developed into a farming community and later experienced a second gold boom through dredging. Today, however, the Glenore cemetery, has become an overgrown and neglected place, where the remains of headstones and rusting car bodies lie together in long grass. Happily, a restoration project is planned and the Glenore Manuka Trust, led by Alan Williams, has recently commenced preliminary work on the site.

Of the 91 graves the cemetery is known to contain, only 11 still have headstones. One of these marks the grave of the Tulloch family. William Paton Tulloch was an active participant in the affairs of the community, including its cemetery. He was born in Orkney in 1832, and arrived in Otago in the *Three Bells* in 1858. He began his career in Otago by working on the farm of Henry Clark (of Clarksville) who was to become his father-in-law. He later joined the gold rush at Gabriel's Gully. After some time at various Otago diggings, he bought a farming property near Milton, which he named "Gold Bank." He married Elspeth (Elizabeth) Clark in 1863 and had a family of seven children. He continued his interest in gold prospecting, and was one of the founding partners of the Gold Bank Dredging Company, which formed in 1890. Later, in partnership with a friend he acquired a rich dredging claim in Australia.

William was a member of the Glenore Cemetery Committee and in 1883 became a Cemetery trustee. He was also a member of the District Road Board. Consequently he was frequently involved in discussions over the vexed question of a suitable access road to the cemetery. This involved reaching agreement with the various owners of the land through which a permanent road might run, and acquiring such a route without unnecessary expenditure of Board funds (a seemingly impossible mission). The issue was raised, postponed, questioned and argued for almost a decade before the resolution was reached in 1883 that "the new road to the Cemetery be taken through Mr Clark's property, and that the Board give in exchange all unnecessary roads through his property as compensation in full... in the event of Mr Clark's reply being unfavorable, the Chairman and Clerk take the necessary steps to appropriate the land under the "Public Works Act."

William Tulloch died in Victoria, Australia in 1906, but was buried at Glenore. He is remembered as a man who worked tirelessly over forty years for the good of this small community.

Prepared for the Historic Cemeteries Conservation Trust of New Zealand (www.cemeteries.org.nz) by Helen Gilmore. Sources: Issues of *Otago Witness*, *Bruce Herald*, *Tuapeka Times* and *Clutha Leader* www.paperspast.natlib.govt.nz; www.nzetc.org;
'Group Restoring Glenore Cemetery' *Otago Daily Times* Online News 19 Sept. 09