

My great grandfather

Joseph Stokes

1878-1944

by **Kristy Pearl McDonald**

HOTELS.

Bannockburn Hotel.

J. Stokes - **Proprietor**

E. STOKES begs to announce to the general and travelling public that he is now in possession of this popular and old established hostelry and extends the assurance to patrons that their requirements will be attended to in every detail.

Only the Best Brands of Wines and Spirits Stocked.

BEST ALES ON TAP.

First-class Stabling, with good loose-boxes.

My great grandfather
Joseph Stokes
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Joseph Stokes.

A fanfare for the common man

This is the story of an ordinary man, the son of a nineteenth century Irish immigrant to New Zealand. Not a politician, not a scholar, not a rich man—no diaries or essays or speeches or letters have survived—but a working man, a fireman, an engine driver, publican, shopkeeper. Such men formed this country and they too should be celebrated.

Fortunately for my record, he lived at a time when every town had a newspaper and every newspaperman was alert for local stories and gossip. Much of what I have found is derived from *Papers Past*, so inevitably this account overemphasises the newsworthy and sensational rather than the everyday activities, the appetites, the opinions, the emotions and the personal and human aspects of the lives of my ancestors. Further, the mores of the time tended to exclude women from the news in favour of men, so the sources for the women in my family tree are even more scarce.

Thanks especially to Leoné Boddington for her memories. I also wish to thank staff at Archives NZ, Alexander Turnbull Library, the Cromwell museum, Dunedin Early Settlers museum and Bannockburn hotel for access, searches and responses.

Thanks too, to my husband Ian St George for his help in writing and publishing this memoir.

Kristy McDonald ONZM KC,
Autumn 2024.

Joe Stokes was the licensee at the Bannockburn hotel from 1921 to 1924. He was my great grandfather.

When his family emigrated from County Antrim, the Irish were accustomed to fleeing their country for better opportunities abroad.

Edward, a carpenter, son of James Stokes, a carpenter of Ballymacarrett, County Down and Ellen, daughter of Thomas Brown, weaver, of Belfast, had married on 23 May 1863.

In 1876 Edward (35) and Ellen (33) and their five children left Antrim and embarked at London, among 180 assisted immigrants on the ten year old Aberdeen clipper *Countess of Kintore*, 752 tons, Captain Norie, bound for Lyttelton. The elder two, Leonard (13) and Emma (12) sailed as single adults, the younger three, Thomas (7), Alfred (6) and Jane (3) accompanying their parents. The *Countess* also brought 14 salmon.



The *Countess of Kintore* at Gravesend. Photographer unknown.
Alexander Turnbull Library reference 1/2-028729-F.

The ship arrived on 1 May, but it had not been plain sailing, as the *Lyttelton Times* of 2 May reported,

Sickness on board having been reported by the Sydney telegrams, the Health and Immigration Officers alone proceeded to the vessel in H. M. Customs' steam launch. Arriving alongside, the health report was handed to them, which set forth that there were 197 passengers all told on board, and that the saloon passengers and crew had been free from sickness throughout the passage. Among the immigrants measles had broken out on Feb. 5, just after leaving. The last case occurred on April 10, and the patient became convalescent on April 27. There were twenty-four cases altogether, and four deaths among the children, none of whom being more than three years old. One infant also died from inanition. One case of malignant scarlet fever had also occurred during the latter part of the voyage. The report also showed, that every precaution to prevent the spread of the disease had been taken. The patients were kept apart from the others, and clothes, &c., thoroughly fumigated, while disinfectants had been largely used. On reading the report, the Health Officer decided at once to place the ship in Quarantine, and the yellow flag was hoisted accordingly. On the return of the launch the s.s. *Gazelle* was despatched to the ship for the purpose of towing the boats from the ship to Ripa Island. This work was carried out under the superintendence of Mr March, Immigration Officer, and was safely accomplished by 5.30 p.m. on Saturday. As all communication with the ship was strictly interdicted, our reporter was unable to obtain a full account of the voyage. Mr March kindly furnished the following information:— The passage had occupied 83 days. The vessel was under the command of Captain Norie, and Dr Davidson was the Surgeon-superintendent, it will be remembered that Dr Davidson

came out as Surgeon-superintendent of the Cicero, and knowing that, every one may rest assured that nothing was neglected on his part to conduce to the general health and comfort of the immigrants. The Countess flies Messrs Shaw, Saville and Co's house flag this trip, and is consigned to Matheson's Agency. The Customs' launch visited the Quarantine Island yesterday morning, when the following report was given by Dr Davidson, "Alfred Stokes, the patient suffering from scarlet fever, is now convalescent, and the rest of the immigrants are in good health. The saloon passengers remain on board the vessel, as it is not deemed necessary to send them ashore, no sickness having existed among their number, and after the usual fumigating process has been gone through, they will be released."

Alfred was their 6 year old with "malignant scarlet fever": he was lucky to survive. The passengers were finally brought to Screw Pile jetty from Ripapa island on 13 May.



Lyttelton c. 1874. The first jetty, known as Thomas's or 'the Government Jetty,' was soon extended with the addition of screw piles.

In Christchurch Edward found employment in the Addington Railway Workshops (opened in 1877 by the Public Works Department) as a coachbuilder. He and Ellen would have two more children, Joseph (the focus of this memoir), born 28 February 1878 in Waltham—when his mother was said to be 35 though may have been 41—and Eleanor Lizzie (aka Nell or Nellie, 1880).



Addington Railway Workshops, Christchurch in 1946 (*Star*)

But my great great grandmother Ellen soon found herself in trouble. On 1 February 1877 the *Press* reported,

CONSPIRING TO DEFRAUD.—Ellen Stokes, a woman of respectable appearance, was charged on warrant with having conspired, with two other women, to defraud Mr Berry Cass, draper, by obtaining goods from him. Inspector Feast told his Worship that there was a third person still to be arrested. Accused had been identified as the person who had received the goods, and he would ask for a remand until the 7th February.

The *Globe* told its readers the day before that Agnes Brown (“a respectable looking woman”) had been arrested and charged with receiving fabrics obtained from Mr Cass. She was probably Ellen’s sister-in-law.

It seems Ellen (Brown) Stokes had presented a cheque from Mr Brown in payment for the fabrics and the cheque had been dishonoured (the cheese factory of Bishop and Brown in Kaiapoi had failed) and Brown could not be found. After a series of delays the case was dismissed.

But then in 1880,

LARCENY.—Ellen Stokes was charged with stealing a gold eye glass and watch chain, value £10, the property of Annie Fairhurst. On the application of Inspector Hickson, the prisoner was remanded until Friday, January 9th, bail being allowed, the accused's husband in the sum of £50 and two sureties of £25 each. (*Press* 5 January 1880).

One of her sons had found the chain and given it to his mother who had kept it. The judge dismissed that case too.

In 1882 the Stokes were the victims of theft, the *New Zealand Police Gazette* reporting on 23 August,

Stolen on the 4th instant, from the clothes-line of Edward Stokes, Selwyn Street South, Addington, a white shirt with a small tear in left sleeve, a damask table-cover, corners worn at one side; a plain white table-cloth, a small hole darned with white-thread in one of corners ; two white-twill calico pillowslips with muslin frills, a new grey-calico nightdress with loops on wrists instead of buttons, a nightgown with new half sleeves, two pairs of children’s grey-calico drawers, a pair of men’s white woollen drawers, a pair of ladies’ white-calico drawers, and six ladies’ linen collars ; value £1. Identifiable.

My great great grandfather Edward Stokes won prizes for his fowls and, it seems, his fowls were also prized by his neighbours. Christchurch's *Star* gleefully reported this Marx Brothers *melée* on 12 October 1883,

ALLEGED FOWL STEALING. — William George Osborne was accused—on information—of stealing three fowls, value 6s, the property of Edward Stokes. Mr M'Connel appeared for the accused. Edward Stokes, a carpenter employed in the Addington Workshops, stated that he lived at Simmons street, Addington, near accused's house. Went to bed about midnight, and shortly after, early on the morning of Oct. 7, heard a noise in the to fowlhouse, and went out. Saw a man in the fowlhouse, and pulled him out. Struggled and fell on a dog box. Fell from this on to a bed of peas, and rolled into a gooseberry tree. Called his wife to come to his assistance, and also for Mr Osborne (accused), who lived close handy, before witness recognised that it was Mr Osborne that he was struggling with. Had no doubt before he let the man go that it was accused. Found a fowl dead (produced) in the fowl-house. The bird's neck was twisted. Missed two other fowls from the house. Witness' daughter went for Osborne, and found he was out; but Mrs Osborne came, and when she saw witness and accused struggling on the garden path, she said, "Don't hurt him; that my husband." Then witness knew it was accused, and let him go, saying, "Bill, I wouldn't, you are the last man I should have thought would come to my place." Cross-examined: The man never spoke during the struggle. Mr M'Connel asked the witness several questions as to quarrelling with his wife. Inspector Pender objected, and the Bench thought Mr M'Connel was going rather too far. Mrs Stokes corroborated her husband's statement. She was certain that accused was the man. She saw her husband

struggling with him in the gooseberry bush. Cross-examined: Did not see accused take anything away with him. Thomas James Stokes, 13 years of age, son of the prosecutor, told “his own story” of the occurrence, so far as he knew. When he went to Osborne’s house to ask Osborne to come to his father’s assistance, Mrs Osborne told him her husband was out. This witness also had recognised accused at the time. Emma Stokes also gave evidence. Mr McConnel submitted that there was no case for him to answer; that there was no evidence of removal or taking away necessary to constitute larceny. He called James Hainesworth, who stated that on the night in question, about 10 p.m., he met accused, who remained in his company till about 12.30 a.m., when witness left accused at the Addington Workshops gates. Accused was drunk when witness left him. Witness then walked home immediately he left the accused, and it was after 1 a.m. when he got home. It was about ten minutes’ walk from the railway gates to witness’ house. The Bench said that they were perfectly satisfied the accused was on the prosecutor’s premises. They considered that the witness Hainesworth must have been mistaken about the time. Still, there was no evidence that any property had been taken away, and the case would therefore have to be dismissed.

On the 1890 electoral roll Edward Stokes, carriage builder, was living in Simeon St, Christchurch. My great great grandfather Edward died of “Stoppage (of the) Bowels” and heart disease, aged 50, at Westport on 29 May 1893 and is buried in plot 388 in Old Orowaiti cemetery; he left £145, placed with the Public Trustee for administration (*Evening Post* 2 November 1893).

The next we read of Ellen Stokes is in February 1893 when she and her son Leonard, a “professional trainer and jockey”, were charged with having sold liquor at the “Old Wanganui Hotel”

without a licence (sly grog selling). She told the court she was a widow, but Edward was not yet dead.



Old Wanganui Hotel c.1860.

Photograph: William James Harding, ATL Reference 1/1-000265-G (detail).

Joseph Stokes (aged 15) reassured the court that he had not been told what to say and gave evidence in support of his mother and brother's protestations of innocence (*Wanganui Herald* 7, 8 February 1893). The judge did not agree and he told them so,

In giving judgment his Worship said, "I am satisfied from the evidence that there has been sly grog selling in this old Wanganui Hotel on or about the dates given in the information, and I am also satisfied that Mrs Stokes and her son were parties to the selling of it. I need not go into the evidence, as that is clear enough, and I am satisfied from it that those unfortunate prohibited men, Kirkwood and Reid, were fleeced to a considerable extent whilst they were in the house on the 11th and 12th of January. The money which they had appears to have disappeared, and I think it probable it went in drink. Mrs Stokes will be convicted and fined £25 and costs. Leonard Stokes will be convicted and sentenced to imprisonment for the term of one calendar month with hard labour without any alternative." In the case of Mrs Stokes the alternative would be fixed if the money was not paid. This judgment was for selling to Reid, and the other cases were withdrawn at the suggestion of the

Court. An order was also made for the confiscation of the liquor seized. The costs amounted to £7 13s, bringing up the money to be paid by Mrs Stokes to £32 13s. A week was allowed for its payment (*Wanganui Chronicle* 11 February 1893).

Leonard was in more trouble at the Old Wanganui Hotel,

R.M. COURT

ACTIONS OF THE INSPECTOR OF NUISANCES

Leonard Stokes was charged with having emptied a privy without having a licence from the Borough so to do. The Inspector said that he visited the defendant's premises in December, and found the privy in bad order. He gave him the address of the nightman and told him he must have it emptied. He went again shortly after and found it empty, and defendant told him the nightman had emptied it. On inquiring of the nightman, however, he denied that he had ever been called in. On January 29th he again visited the place and found the pan running over, and warned the defendant that he must have it emptied. On going back a few days after he found it empty, and the defendant told him that it had been cleaned out by a neighbour who had thrown the contents into the river. Leonard Stokes, who gave evidence on his own behalf, said he had no interest whatever in the premises, which were leased to his mother. He did not empty the pan nor did he authorise anybody else to do so, and he did not hold himself responsible. His Worship said that the evidence showed that in this case the pan had been emptied into the river without the authority of the Borough. He was satisfied that the defendant was part proprietor of the premises, and that being so he should inflict a fine of 20s and costs 7s (*Wanganui Chronicle* 11 February 1893).

Leonard Stokes married a Melbourne girl two years later. Two children died in infancy in Melbourne and then this,

STOKES.— On the 23rd August, at Wellington, New Zealand. Leonard Edward Stokes, formerly tobacconist, Lygon-street, Carlton, of consumption, in his 30th year;—Inserted by his widow, Adelaide Stokes.

—The Age (Melbourne) 12 November 1900.

My great great grandmother Ellen Stokes died at Wellington hospital on 5 July 1911—she was said to be 74; she had been living in her last years with son Alfred and youngest daughter Nellie. She is buried in Karori cemetery, plot *Public 2/N/67. Her son Alfred inserted a notice “in memoriam” in the paper for the next two years.

But I digress. This is a memoir of the youngest son of Edward and Ellen, born 1878—Joseph Stokes, who grew up in this rather interesting family. He was not a distinguished scholar: he (12) and Nellie (10) were among many pupils awarded prizes “for attendance” at the annual prizegiving of the West Christchurch main and side schools (*Star* 19 December 1890).

In 1900 Joseph Stokes (fireman, 22) and Agnes Cameron McMurray (machinist) were married in her parents’ home in Rankeilor St, South Dunedin. She was also NZ-born (on 6 December 1875, Maori Hill, Dunedin), the daughter of Alexander (32) and Mary Ann (Wilkie) McMurray (30); Alexander was a brass moulder at the Hillside Workshops.

In 1904 their son Leonard (Len) Wilkie Brown Stokes was born in Phillips St, Caversham, Dunedin (Joe gave his occupation as fireman) and in 1910 their daughter, my grandmother Eleanor Pearl Stokes was born and named for Joe’s youngest sister but known as Pearl, after whom I was named.

In 1905 Joseph Stokes, engine-driver, was living at Leet St, Invercargill. In 1910 the family was living at 25 Bridgman St, Caversham, Dunedin, then 31 New St, St Kilda, then moved to Oamaru briefly about 1919.



Agnes Cameron (McMurray) Stokes behind convex Victorian glass.



Len and Pearl Stokes

In 1910 the *Otago Witness* of 15 June reported an inquest into the death of a man who was killed when he fell between the carriages of the Otago Central train near Salisbury (just north of Mosgiel). The question was, did a jerking of the train cause his fall?

The place where deceased was said to have sat—on the platform with his legs between the cars—was not safe; a jerk or a swing round a curve might cause an accident. There was no curve where deceased fell. The fact of two engines being on would not cause jerkiness—instead, they would tend to steady it. Joseph Stokes, who had been driving the leading engine, said that it was impossible for a jerk to have occurred near where deceased was picked up. To get a jerk there must be a slack coupling, and that was impossible on that grade. The Coroner: Two of the passengers have said that they distinctly felt a jerk at this point. Witness: I can't understand them giving that evidence at all. There was absolutely no jerk to be felt at that point. Had the train been past Salisbury there might have been some justification for it. Continuing, witness said that on the brakeblock of the car which struck deceased were a piece of cloth and some hair, and other indications which showed that deceased must have fallen outside of the rail—all except his arm, which was practically cut off.

A report in Dunedin's *Evening Star* (3 October 1918) may refer to Joe: "MAGISTRATE'S COURT. (Before J. R. Bartholomew Esq., S.M. Judgment by default; with costs, was given for plaintiff in the following cases; James King v. Joseph Stokes, £3 0s 4d, for goods supplied...".

My mother, Pearl's daughter, remembered hearing stories from Pearl's childhood at Oamaru. They moved from Torridge St to Beach St, to a house with a long passage through the middle and domestic animals at the back. Joe was an engine driver on

the main trunk line and when he passed they all waved and he blew the train whistle.



Detail of Oamaru map dated 1924 and showing section 3. Beach St ran along the shore. Sourced from LINZ. Crown Copyright reserved.

They had a pet pig who, Pearl claimed, could tell the time: he would anticipate the train's arrival and on one occasion, when the front and back doors were left open, ran through the house to the front to wait for it.

Joe drove the engines on the Central Otago line, including, family tradition insists, the famous NZR E class Double Fairlie steam locomotive "Josephine", now on show outside the Early Settlers Museum in Dunedin. It was in January 1919 that the first passenger train arrived at Cromwell from Clyde.

He must have liked the look of Cromwell, for in November 1920 Joe advertised their Oamaru property for sale,

OAMARU.—Convenient 6-roomed HOUSE, concrete; close to town; 3 acres and outbuildings; make an ideal poultry farm; immediate possession.—Apply J. Stokes, Beach street, Oamaru. 16n

Otago Daily Times 17 November 1920.

TUESDAY, 30th NOVEMBER.

At 2 p.m.

On the Premises, North Town Belt.

WALTER SUMPTER
instructed by Mr JOSEPH
STOKES (who is leaving Oamaru), will
sell:—

FREEHOLD PROPERTY, being
part section 3, block 1, Oamaru
Survey District, containing just
over 3 acres, together with con-
crete Dwelling of Six Rooms
(Wizard Light and Waitaki
water), Bath-room, etc., Loose
Box, Cowshed, Workshop, large
Fowlhouses, and numerous other
sheds.

Also—

Sideboard (B.M. Back), Exten-
sion Dining Table, Tapestry
Suite, Stuffed Wicker Chairs,
Morris Chair, Hand-painted
Mirrors, Occ. Table, Tables,
Chairs, Clock, Pictures, Cur-
tains and Poles, Sewing Machine
(guaranteed), Linoleum, Hearth
Rugs, Books, 2 Wooden Bed-
steads, Duchesse (wing mirrors),
three-quarter B.R. Bed, 2 S.I.
Beds, quantity Bedding, Duch-
esse, Garden and Carpenter's
Tools, Bench, Hose, Cooking
Utensils, Separator, 1/2 inch
Piping and Couplings, Good Gig,
Spring Cart, Gig Harness, Rid-
ing Saddle, Planet Jr. Grubber,
Churn, Meat Safe and Sundries,
Cow in full profit, 14 Laying
Hens

Anyone desirous of starting a Poul-
try Farm or Carrier's Business should
not miss inspecting this handy place.

Further particulars of the property
from Messrs Lee, Grave and Grave.

Oamaru Mail 29 November 1920.

TWO LET BY PUBLIC TENDER.

Tenders, closing on the 7th AUGUST, 1920, will be received for a Lease of the BANNOCKBURN HOTEL, Bannockburn, Central Otago. Term: Three years, with right of renewal. Further particulars on application to Mr DONALD M'RAE, Ophir, or to W. A. BODKIN, Solicitor, Alexandra. 27jy

Otago Daily Times 27 July 1920.

The Bannockburn hotel had been advertised for a three year lease by Donald McRae, publican from 1908–1911 and presumably still the owner, who was farming at Ophir. It is not clear whether Joe bought or leased the hotel, but he was welcomed in Central Otago,

The Bannockburn Hotel has changed hands, the new proprietor being Mr J. Stokes, of Oamaru, who entered into possession last week. There is no doubt that under Mr Stokes' management this well known hostelry will enjoy the same popularity and be conducted on the same up-to-date lines as during Mr. McLedowney's time, and the travelling public can depend on first-class accommodation and all attention. Mr Stokes is a keen sport, and takes a special interest in the light harness brigade, and brought with him from Oamaru the trotting mare Ribbon Maid, who will be a competitor at the Central meetings (*Cromwell Argus* 20 December 1920).

Indeed he did bring Ribbon Maid to Central Otago and in 1922 added the bay mare Billy Houi to his stable.

At the Otago Central Trotting Club meeting on New Year's Day 1923 Billy Houi won the Maniototo Handicap by 60 yards. She "moved off nicely and never left the issue in doubt, winning by two lengths." (*Alexandra Herald and Central Otago Gazette* 3 January 1923). She came second by half a length in the Vincent Trotting Stakes a week later (*Dunstan Times* 8 January 1923).

Ribbon Maid won the Publicans' Handicap at the Central Otago Trots meeting at the Dunstan racecourse in January 1921 (*Evening Star* 3 January 1921). The *Argus* reported the success of the Cromwell race meeting on 15 January 1923, when "the locally owned Ribbon Maid" won the one mile Kawarau Trot in 2 minutes 23 seconds, "A pleasing feature of the recent racing was the success of local owners.... This result will doubtless inspire other sports to train a horse, as the success achieved shows that the 'Country Johnnie' can hold his own with the Pros."

On 14 June 1921 the *Lake Wakatip Mail* reported that the Wakatipu Licensing Committee had granted a new licence for the Bannockburn Hotel to Joseph Stokes. The building was clad in corrugated iron and had 18 rooms, the publican's family occupying another four.

In December 1921 the Committee granted a conditional licence to "Joseph Stokes, Bannockburn Hotel, for Cromwell races on 12th and 13th January" (*Lake County Press* 15 December 1921).

LICENSING NOTICES.

"THE LICENSING ACT, 1903."
 LICENSING DISTRICT OF
 WAKATIPU.

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR
 TRANSFER OF LICENSE.

I, JAMES ANDREW M'LEDOWNEY, being the holder of a Publican's License in respect of the House and Premises situate at Bannockburn, known as the Bannockburn Hotel, do Hereby Give Notice that I desire to obtain, and will at the Next Licensing Meeting to be holden at Queenstown on the 1st day of MARCH, 1921, Apply for a Transfer of the said License from myself to JOSEPH STOKES, my appointee.

Dated at Bannockburn this 22nd day of December, 1920.

(Signature) J. A. M'LEDOWNEY.
 IRWIN AND IRWIN, Solicitors for Transferee,
 11 Moray place, Dunedin. 27ja

Otago Daily Times 27 January 1921.

LICENSING NOTICES.

"THE LICENSING ACT, 1908."

**LICENSING DISTRICT OF WAKA-
TIPU.**

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A
PUBLICAN'S LICENSE.**

I, JOSEPH STOKES, of Bannockburn,
Do Hereby Give Notice that I desire to
obtain and will at the Next Licensing Meet-
ing to be holden at the Courthouse,
Queenstown, on the seventh day of JUNE,
1921, Apply for a Certificate authorising the
issue of a Publican's License for a house
situate at Bannockburn, and known by the
name (or sign) of the Bannockburn Hotel,
containing 18 rooms, exclusive of those re-
quired for the use of the family.

Dated the 15th day of April, 1921.

(Signature) JOSEPH STOKES.

IRWIN AND IRWIN, Solicitors for Applicant,
11 Moray place, Dunedin. 18ap

Otago Daily Times 18 April 1921.

He began advertising regularly in the *Cromwell Argus*,

HOTELS.

Bannockburn Hotel.

J. Stokes - Proprietor

E. STOKES begs to announce
to the general and travelling public
that he is now in possession of this
popular and old established hostelry
and extends the assurance to patrons
that their requirements will be atten-
ded to in every detail.

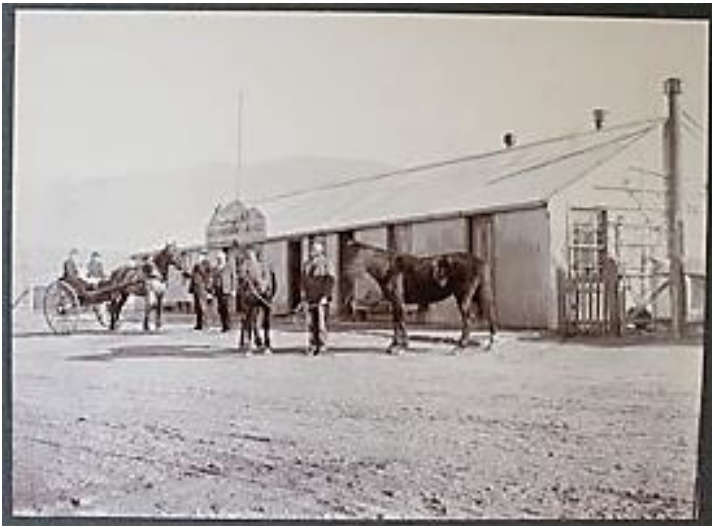
Only the Best Brands of Wines
and Spirits Stocked.

BEST ALES ON TAP.

First-class Stabling, with good
loosesboxes.

The advertisement wasn't a difficult job for the *Argus* compositor, who had only to change the name in the regular ad. from McLedowney to Stokes, so was "E. Stokes" a typo?

Or was this perhaps a cousin? an "E. Stokes" had sold his farm and stock at Enfield in 1919, at the same time Joe and Agnes were selling up at Oamaru. An "E. Stokes" played cricket for Lowburn till 1934—but who was he, or were they?



Bannockburn Hotel in the early 20th century: Donald McRae (publican 1908-11) holding horses at right, Mrs McRae in buggy on left.
Photograph Charles Augustus Tomlinson, Christchurch.
Ophir Post Office collection.

There is a note in the Bannockburn School records of Peal (*sic*) Stokes who had arrived there "from Oamaru".

Joseph Stokes placed second in the Bannockburn Rifle Club's Hotop Trophy shoot in March 1922 (*Cromwell Argus* 3 April 1922). He had registered a .303 Lee Enfield rifle on 17 February. (Henry Hotop was the Cromwell chemist).



Bannockburn Hotel in Donald McRae's time: 1908-1911.



Bannockburn Hotel in J McLedowney's time as publican: 1916-1922.
Cromwell Museum collection.



The Bannockburn Hotel today.

There was a Dominican convent in Cromwell, staffed by teaching nuns: the *Cromwell Argus and Northern Goldfield Gazette* of 4 December 1922 proudly reported,

The Dominican Nuns received a degree of credit per medium of the recent examinations in music held in Dunedin. Miss Pearl Stokes, of Bannockburn, passed with honors 80, and Miss Ruby Cavanagh, of Cromwell, with honors 70. These two add further to the success of candidates who have received their tuition from the Nuns.

But all was not well at the pub, Dunedin's *Evening Star* reporting on 12 June 1923,

Consideration by the Wakatipu Licensing Committee of the application by Joseph Stokes (Bannockburn Hotel) for a renewal of a publican's license occupied the committee for about an hour and a-half, the question involved being the fitness of the licensee to hold the license. Considerable evidence was given by the police, and a lengthy cross-examination of the licensee took place regarding the circumstances surrounding two weeks' residence at the hotel of an elderly man named Davis, during which period he appeared to have spent over £100, of which sum it was alleged by the police he cashed with the licensee cheques to the value of £95. Mr F. Shortland addressed the committee at some length in defence of the licensee, and produced certificates of character. The chairman announced that the committee was not pleased about the whole matter, and was not satisfied that Stokes was the right class of man to have an hotel. The place seemed a good property, and it would be better for him to sell out. The application would be adjourned till September, and the committee advised Stokes to get a transfer in the meantime.

In September,

Mr Bodkin, for Mr Stokes, asked for a rehearing on the grounds that the latter was taken quite unawares at the annual meeting. He received no written notice that his fitness was to be questioned nor that such a complaint was going to be brought against him. Had objection been lodged or a charge formulated, Stokes would have been prepared. Counsel would like, therefore, to submit the licensee's true position in connection with the affair, and call evidence. (The Chairman here interposed that licensee's solicitor at the annual meeting never intimated to the Committee that he was not prepared to go on). Sergeant McGlone (Clyde) submitted that there was nothing in the Act to justify a re-hearing; and the police had received no notice that such was to be asked for. Verbal notice was given Stokes prior to the annual meeting. Mr Bodkin reiterated that Stokes had no written notice and he was not in a position, therefore, to bring witnesses at the annual meeting. He proposed, therefore, to place documentary evidence, regarding Stokes' character before the Committee, and under the Act these must be admitted. Mr Bodkin then produced a certified return of Stokes' banking operations, shewing that the total amount of credits from Davis' cheques amounted to £85. Lengthy evidence was also given in which it was sought to show that Davis was in the habit of going through a great deal of money in a short time and there was no accounting for what he did with it. Gambling was suspected, but there was no actual proof of it. He did not drink to excess while staying at the hotel and the licensee was quite at a loss to know what Davis did with all the money he gave cheques for. The licensee ultimately refused to cash any more for him as he felt his connection therewith was liable to be misconstrued. In the light of this evidence Mr Bodkin submitted that Stokes' position

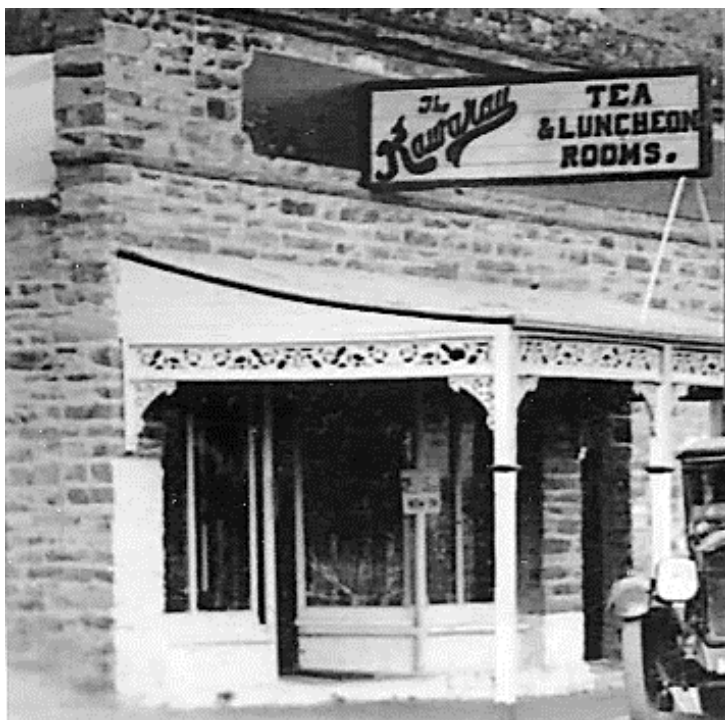
had been misunderstood and the finding of the Committee at last meeting had been very severe. There was no proof whereon to convict him and he was entitled to the benefit of any doubt there may have been. His lease would expire in December (he had a right of renewal) and if he were compelled to go out of the business he would have to take what he could get for the stock and furniture and would be unable to get another house for 3 years. In conclusion Mr Bodkin suggested that even if the Committee did not alter their opinion of the licensee a warning would meet the ends of justice. Evidence was given by Ed. H. Holloway (Davis' employer), Leonard Stokes (son of the licensee), and Thomas Soden. At 3.15 the rehearing was finished and the meeting was adjourned till 7 p.m. The committee sat in camera till 9.15 p.m., when the chairman announced that they had decided to renew the license for the balance of the year. (*Lake Wakatip Mail* 11 September 1923).

But Joe had had enough. In March 1924, the Committee granted an application for permanent transfer of the Bannockburn Hotel licence from Joseph Stokes to Joseph Saunders (*Lake Wakatip Mail* 11 March 1924). Saunders would stay only until 1926 when Frederick John Power took over.

Agnes and Joe Stokes were now running the Kawarau Tea-rooms. *Stone's Directory's* entry in 1925 has "Stokes, Joseph, confectioner & tea rooms, Cromwell".

Probably Pearl, aged 15, was at home with them—she had attended the Cromwell School in 1924 but it had not reopened in February 1925, owing to an epidemic of infantile paralysis.

Twenty-one year old Len was listed in the 1925 Electoral Roll as a fruiterer, living at 291 Cargill Rd, South Dunedin.



Detail from a marketing postcard of the Kaurau Tea & Luncheon Rooms, Cromwell, the interior almost in the Arts & Crafts style of Charles Rennie Mackintosh's Willow Tea Rooms in Glasgow.

They catered at local events...

<p style="text-align: center;">A Dance in aid of the Sports Queen will be held in the Athenaeum Hall on WEDNESDAY, 18th, at 8 p.m.</p> <hr/> <p>Admission: Gents 2s 6d, Ladies 1s 6d. Supper provided by Mrs J. Stokes 1s per head extra.</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: right;">E. HAYES, Hon. Sec.</p>
--

Cromwell Argus 16 February 1925.

... and for visiting thespians,

WANAKA AMATEURS.

The Wanaka Amateurs, who visited Cromwell last Monday evening, were greeted with a packed house, and the frequent outbursts of applause conveyed appreciation of the many items presented. The party was particularly strong in numbers, no expense had been spared, in staging and costuming, and throughout the entire programme there was an abundance of gaiety and humor. The personnel of the party is not available, hence we are not in a position to individualise. Humorous sketches, songs, music, dancing, and short, nippy plays featured throughout the evening, and we can only say that the many performers acquitted themselves most creditably. With a lengthy programme encores almost insisted on were denied. The general verdict was that the entertainment was quite a credit to the many amateurs assisting. The proceeds from the concert and dance amounted to £40, and half the nett proceeds go to the local tennis club.

The Wanaka amateurs were quite enthusiastic at the success of the entertainment in Cromwell. More enthusiastic were they at the treatment received at the Kawarau tea-rooms, to which an adjournment was made before returning home. A great spread was laid out, including oyster soup and an abundance of delicacies, and before leaving, one of the party paid a special compliment to Mrs Stokes for the splendid service given, which the speaker considered could not be excelled (*Cromwell Argus* 10 August 1925).

... and they were busy enough to need help,

W	A	N	T	E	D
A capable Girl to assist in tea					
rooms Apply—					
MRS STOKES,					
Kawarau Tea Rooms,					
Cromwell.					

Cromwell Argus 16 November 1925.

The washup after the episode involving the man Davis at the Bannockburn Hotel came in the form of a claim against Stokes, which was reported in the *Cromwell Argus* of 18 May 1925,

MAGISTRATE'S COURT.

WEDNESDAY, 18th MAY
(Before Mr H J. Dixon, S.M.)

Thomas Brydone (Mr Harlow), claimed from Joseph Stokes (Mr Bodkin), the sum of £6 5s. The claim was made up of two separate amounts. The first was £1 5s for car hire to convey a man named Davis, who attempted suicide at Bannockburn Hotel, to Cromwell hospital and return to Bannockburn with bedding, etc. Plaintiff said

that when he arrived at Bannockburn in response to a telephone ring he asked who was to be responsible for the hire and Stokes said he would fix it up. This statement was corroborated by Constable Bradley. When he asked defendant for the money, defendant suggested that plaintiff should write to the Public Trustee. He wrote but did not send an account, and could get no money there, and he held Stokes responsible. The second part of the claim was for £5, balance of an account for the use of a small motor truck. Regarding this, plaintiff said Stokes approached him to purchase the truck. He fixed a price but advised Stokes it would not suit him. It was decided to leave the purchase over until defendant was satisfied the machine would suit. He let Stokes take the machine on the understanding that he (plaintiff) would not be responsible for any expense in any shape or form. After doing some repairs, defendant took the truck and went to Queenstown, Ranfurly, Roxburgh, and Invercargill and used the truck, covering 600 to 800 miles. He had to pay for parts put in before the truck left, and defendant used his premises, tools and telephone. When he returned Stokes asked what the charge was to be and plaintiff said £15. That covered the use of the truck and the cost of parts and work done. He refused to take less. Stokes paid £10, and said he would pay the balance later, but finally refused to pay. —To Mr Bodkin he said he never agreed to charge 10s per day.

Defendant, in evidence on the first claim, said when he got the car to take Davis to the hospital he did not expect to have to pay as the patient was a man of means. If plaintiff had applied to the Public Trustee he would have got it. He never received an account for it. Regarding the truck the arrangement with Brydone was that he (defendant) was to have the truck for 10s per day while it was in use and it could be purchased if it suited

his purpose. It was in very bad condition, and he had to do considerable repairs. He was to do the work if Brydone supplied the parts. He did not remember ordering a ball race. In his opinion this was ordered by Brydone and came addressed to him. He had trouble on the road to Ranfurly and had to pay for a big end bearing which cost over £5. He went to Invercargill and through the starting handle being worn he slipped and hurt his shoulder and was laid up for a week. He used the truck 13½ days. When he asked plaintiff what the charge was to be he said £15. He thought that was too high and gave him £10 to square it. He would not buy the truck, but was glad to get it back as he had lost a lot of money with it.

L. Stokes, son of defendant, said the arrangement was 10s per day for the time the truck was in use. Defendant had to pay petrol, oil, etc., and plaintiff for all spares. The truck was in bad condition. Plaintiff rung up Stedman and ordered the bearing in dispute. His father and himself fitted the bearing under directions from Brydone. The big end at Ranfurly cost £5 15s to fit, and the trouble was due to carelessness with the oil pump before they got the truck.

In summing up the Magistrate said that there was no doubt defendant was liable for the sum of 25s for the hire. In regard to the second claim defendant said he hired the machine for 10s a day, and never seemed to raise any objection. He had the truck in his possession for five weeks and even if he did not use it, it was out of possession of the owner. On those grounds he thought the claim was a reasonable one. Judgment would be for plaintiff for the sum claimed, £6 5s, with costs.

Perhaps he was helping Len move his gear to Invercargill where Len was living soon after this.

In May 1926 “Mr J. Stokes applied for permission to erect a kerbside petrol pump at the Kawarau tea-rooms.—Granted at the usual fee and subject to a deposit in respect to the footpath” (*Cromwell Argus* 17 May 1926).

At the eagerly anticipated Tennis Club Ball, “a set supper under the direction of Mr J. Stokes, Kawarau Tea-rooms, will, judging by previous efforts, leave nothing to be desired (*Cromwell Argus* 26 July 1926).

In 1926 Joseph Stokes was one of four men nominated for Cromwell Borough council: the *Argus* reported on 3 May,

Mr J. Stokes previously offered his services when a councillor was being sought, but the position was filled before his nomination was prepared. Again he is willing to do what he can in the interests of the town.

There were only three vacancies and a ballot was to be held on 5 May but in the event only one nomination went forward, Stokes and two others having withdrawn.

Bad news at about this time may have prompted his withdrawal from seeking public office: his wife Agnes would develop an “illness with little hope of recovery” —presumably cancer.

In May 1927 Agnes, only 47, died,

STOKES.—On May 10th, 1927, at her late residence, Cromwell, Agnes Cameron, dearly beloved wife of Joseph Stokes, Cromwell (late of Dunedin). Deeply mourned.

Evening Star (Dunedin) 11 May 1927

My great grandmother Agnes lies in an unmarked grave, plot 35, block 16, Cromwell Cemetery in Cemetery road.



Our Millie on Agnes Stokes's grave.

She was much admired,

OBITUARY.

The death occurred at Cromwell on Wednesday morning of Mrs Stokes, wife of Mr Joseph Stokes of this town, at the age of 47 years. The deceased lady, with her husband, came to Bannockburn some few years ago, when they purchased the Bannockburn Hotel, and carried it on for a few years. On disposing of this, they established the Kawarau Tea-rooms in Cromwell, and have conducted these up to the present time. The deceased lady was of unusual energy and enterprise, of kindly disposition, and

a hard worker. During her few years residence in the district the deceased lady made many friends, by whom news of her death was received with feelings of deep regret. Some time ago the late Mrs Stokes was attacked by an illness which, on investigation, was regarded as serious, with but little hope of recovery, and all that medical attention could do was of no avail. The deceased is survived by her husband and a family of a son and a daughter, and to these the deepest sympathy of all goes out. The funeral took place in the New Cemetery on Friday, Rev. Chisholm officiating at the grave (*Cromwell Argus* 16 May 1927).

Perhaps Joe, in his grief, lost track of the shop accounts,

A man named John McLennan claimed, against Joseph Stokes, £6 for the hire of a gramophone: judgment was made for the plaintiff with £1 10s 6d costs awarded (*Otago Daily Times* 7 October 1927). The Crystal Ice Company, Ltd, claimed against Joseph Stokes, £4 2s 6d for goods supplied: judgment for the plaintiff (*Evening Star* 30 October 1928).

In 1928 the *Southland Times* (15 September 1928) reported, “Miss Eleanor Stokes, of Cromwell, is at present staying with her brother, Mr Len Stokes, of this town”.

Len and a friend (S. Livingstone) were running the “Pep” fruit shop in Invercargill (*Southland Times* 31 August 1928). They marketed their fruit in highly original and idiosyncratic ways and he performed as a ballroom dancer and speaker in local competitions.

In July 1928 the shop was damaged by fire but quickly reopened in different premises.

SITUATIONS.

PEP, "Pep," "Pep," "Pep,"—more
"Pep" and still more "Pep" at the
"Pep" Fruit Shop, Kelvin Street. Sm533

PERSONAL—Where the "Pep" boys dish
out Fruit at ridiculous prices. To-mor-
row they will sell six sugar bags of Potatoes
at 1/- each. Sm533

PERSONAL—What we live for, "Pep."
What we work for, "Pep." What we
do: Sell Fruit at the "Pep" Shop at "Pep"
prices. Sm533

P"EP" will sell to-morrow only, a few
cases Apples at ridiculously low
prices. Come and see for yourself, Mrs ——. Sm533

THE "Pep" Boys are young. They like
work, in fact it is their hobby, so keep
them busy.—"PEP" Fruit Shop, Kelvin St. Sm533

PERSONAL—Mrs Brown, Mrs Jones,
Mrs Smith and all the other Mrs's
who have dealt at "Pep" have been satis-
fied. Why not you? Sm533

SO try the "Pep." P—E—P. "Pep."
You'll be satisfied like others have.
"Pep" Fruit Shop, Kelvin Street. Sm533



My great uncle Leonard Wilkie Brown Stokes at the races.



My grandmother Eleanor Pearl Stokes in front of the Bannockburn Hotel, early 1920s (see page 25).



Eleanor Pearl Stokes in Cromwell, mid1920s.



Eleanor Pearl Stokes on a Wolf Vixen motorcycle, Central Otago, about 1930. The Vixen had a 148cc Villiers twin port engine with a 3 speed hand change Burman gearbox. She has her right hand on the gear lever.

But, now 18, Pearl returned to Cromwell, where she would marry Stuart Andrew Walters in 1929. He was a cook, it was soon the Great Depression and they travelled to events and camps in Otago, wherever he could find work. Her first child, a daughter (my mother Alice Lorraine [Walters] McDonald), was born in the Victorian villa behind the two *Wellingtonia* trees in the old part of Cromwell.

Also in 1929, Len Stokes married 18 year old Doris Maude Amalric of Nelson, of French descent, in a “quiet wedding at the Methodist parsonage” (*Nelson Evening Mail* 3 June 1929). They lived briefly in Nelson; their daughter Dorothy was born in Hastings in 1933 and they then moved to Palmerston North where Leoné was born in 1935. They moved to Whanganui in 1937, Dunedin in 1940 and Christchurch in 1942. Len’s interior decorating firm was called Speciality Contractors Ltd.

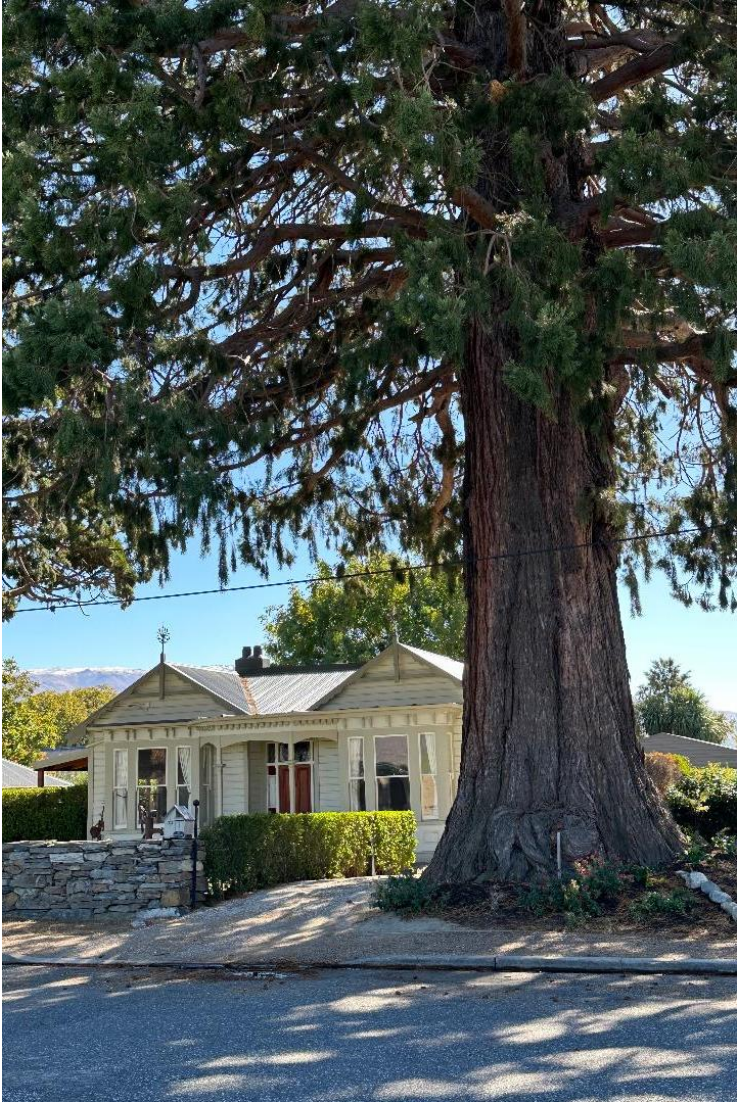
FOR satisfaction in Painting and Deco-
rating, or Carpentering work, Ring the
Speciality Contractors, Telephone 22-228,
and receive prompt attention. — X9275

Press 1 September 1944.



Pearl and my mother, Lorraine Walters,
up a creek in Central Otago, with suitcase, c.1929.





My mother Lorraine was born here.



And later, at a camp in Central Otago, mid1930s.

Pearl and Stuart (aka “Steve”) Walters had two more children, Stuart (aka “Bill”) born in Alexandra and Kenneth (Ken) born in Dunedin.

They lived for some time in Dunedin (456 Cargill Road, Dunedin South in the 1938 Electoral Roll), later at Waverley. My mother attended St Philomena’s College. Ken was born in 1943. They moved to Timaru when Lorraine was 14 or 15.

In 1949 my mother was 20 and their address was “State Forest Service, Hanmer Spgs” (Electoral Roll).

Like her own mother, Pearl (Stokes) Walters was a bright, capable, musical, greatly admired woman. Her children were, like her own brother, entertainers, Lorraine (Walters) McDonald a recorded singer, actor, later a champion of children’s theatre, Bill Walters an accomplished musician, an accordion player much in demand in his youth and adult life. Their proud mother kept newspaper reports and letters in scrapbooks about their performances.

HELLO, EVERYONE!

This is the last opportunity these school holidays to be with "Whang" and Harold at the

"WHANG"

COMMUNITY SING

Commencing Noon THIS WEDNESDAY,
AUGUST 29, at the

OCTAGON THEATRE

(By kind permission of the Management).

All visitors welcome. Assisting Artists are South Otago Girls' High School Choir, Alan Dodd, Stewart Walters and his sister, Lorraine Walters, and little Marie Jones, from Gore.

E. BEVERIDGE,

Hon. Secretary.

Phone 14-107.

Evening Star 28 August 1945.

Miss Lorraine Walters

(Late of Dunedin)

Teacher of Elocution, Voice Production, Dramatic Art and Singing—
Will commence teaching in Alexandra.

Persons interested can interview Miss Walters at the Town Hall on Friday, 5th April, at 3 p.m.

Alexandra Herald and Central Otago Gazette 3 April 1946. She was 16.

In 1929 Joe Stokes decided to sell the tea-rooms. His wife had died and both their children were grown up and married.

FRIDAY, 13th DECEMBER.

at 1.30 p.m.

AT KAWARAU TEA ROOMS,
CROMWELL.

THE WHOLE OF THE ASSIGNED
STOCK, SHOP FITTINGS,
CONFECTIONERY, FURNI-
TURE, ETC.

J. R. MUNRO has received instruc-
tions to sell by Auction as above:

SHOP.

Dayton Computing Scales, New
Cash Register, Set Counter Show
Jars, 18 Large Sweets Bottles,
Assorted Confectionery, Paper
Bags, Grease-proof Paper, Brown
Wrapping Paper, 2 Lemon Squee-
zing Machines, 12 Essence Bottles,
Soda Fountain complete, Syrup
Urn, Essences, Kit of Mutton
Birds, Glass Show-case, Shop
Counters and Shelving, Ice
Chest.
Moffat Electric Range, Copper
Urn.
Piano (Howell and Co.), splendid
instrument.
Combined Double Piano Stool with
Music Cabinet.
Ford Motor Delivery Van, in good
running order.

FURNITURE ETC.

10 Small Tables, 33 Dining Room
Chairs, 3 Flower Stands, Flower
Bowls and Palms, Hand-painted
Mirror 4ft 6in by 3ft, Cabinet
Electric Gramophone and Records
Umbrella Stand and Hat Rack,
Large Collection of Paintings and
Pictures, Considerable Quantity

of Lino in first-class order, Carpet
Runner, One S.E. O.C. Wire
Settee, Table-cloths and Tea-
room Linen, Passage Lino, Rugs,
Dining-room Table 4ft by 5ft 6in,
2 Cano Easy Chairs, Chiffonier,
Fender and Ash-pan, Electric
Iron, Wire Mattress, Camp
Stretcher and Mattress, Heater,
Washstand, Large Mirrors, Round
Table, Quilts, Sheetings, and
Blankets, Clothes Basket, Book
Shelves, Double Wooden Bed with
wire and Kapoc Mattresses (new)
Shacklock Range No.-2, Large
Kitchen Cupboard, Table Mangle,
Washboard, Bath, Duchesse,
Double Iron Bed with Wire Mat-
tress, Curtains, Blinds, and Rods,
Vases and Ornaments.

GENERAL.

Benches, Sponge Mixer, Balance
Scales and weights, Cruets, E.P.
Cake Stands, Assorted Cooking
Utensils, Bread Slicer, Meat Safe,
10 tins Nortons Egg Preserver,
Bread Board, Big Assortment of
Table Cutlery and Silver, about
12 dozen, Enamel, Glass, and
Tinware, Kitchen Utensils, Elec-
tric Waffle Machine, 12 Pie
Dishes, 4 dozen Saucers, 10 Milk
Jugs, 48 small plates, 25 Dinner
Plates, 7 Soup Plates, 35 Cups,
Sugar Basins, Salts, Peppers,
Pickles and Jam Dishes, Potato
Chipper, half-tin Fat, Mincer,
Assorted Groceries and Household
Requisites, Clocks, and innume-
rable sundries from the stock and
furnishings of a tea-rooms, too
numerous to particularise.

The sale MUST START at 1.30.

R. G. VARCOE
Auctioneer.

Cromwell Argus 9 December 1929. Even Pearl's piano was sold!

Where did Joe go? the Police could not find him—the *New Zealand Police Gazette* of 22 November 1933 listed “persons to be located so that proceedings for failing to notify their change of address may be instituted against them (Arms Act)”. Among them was,

Joseph Stokes, hotelkeeper. On the 17th February, 1922, he registered a .303 calibre magazine Lee Enfield rifle, No. 12272, and on 4th April, 1922, he registered a .22 calibre Stevens single-shot rifle, No. 528.

A police raid on an illegal gambling joint in Nelson caught one Joseph Stokes of the Public Works Department at Murchison with a race card in his hand and a wireless nearby (*Nelson Evening Mail* 2 May 1930). Probably Joe.

He returned to engine driving, at first, it seems, living on the West Coast. He was recertified as competent in 1935.



At an event in Karamea in 1937, “the Oparara express hove in sight, piloted by Commander Joe Stokes” (*Grey River Argus* 3 February 1937). Indeed, in 1937 and '38 Joseph Stokes is listed in *Stone's Directory* as a “Public Works employee, Oparara”.

In November 1941 members of the Buller Progress League travelled by train from Westport to inspect the unfinished

railway through the gorge. They traversed the quarter mile gap by motor-lorry and were met by the Reefton train, “J. Stokes was driver, J. Hennessey fireman, G. Mangos and P. Greenwood guards.”

En route the party greatly enjoyed the Buller Gorge from new view points.... Tired but happy, the excursionists returned to their homes enthusiastic “boosters” for the new scenic route (*Grey River Argus* 12 November 1941).

Len and Doris had been living in Nelson where, in 1930, he wrote a series of critical letters on issues at the wharf, to the editor of the *Nelson Evening Mail*, using the pen name “Panama Harry” and later his own, “L.W.B. Stokes”. In June 1930 their 2-storey gabled house in Halifax St was destroyed by fire and some time later they moved to Christchurch. In 1942 he was living at 8 St Albans St.

Doris had left him in 1936: on 26 May 1944 the *Press* reported “Undefended petitions” in the Christchurch Supreme Court, where,

His Honour pronounced in favour of Leonard Wilkie Brown Stokes, spray painter, who sought dissolution of his marriage with Doris Maude Stokes, on the same ground (desertion). Married in 1929, he said, she left him with two children in 1936.

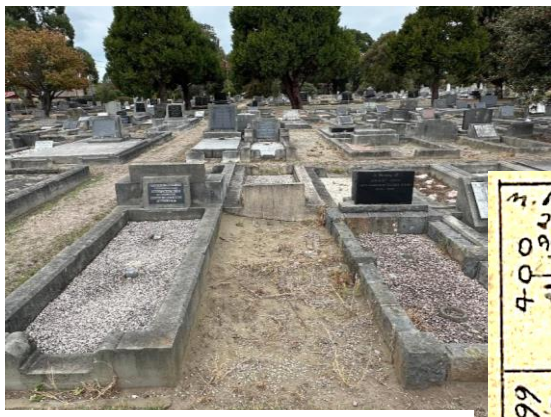
Doris remarried immediately. Len (later with his partner Lyn, whom the girls regarded as their mum) looked after 3 year old Dorothy and 1 year old Leoné.

Joe too had moved to Christchurch. His grand daughter Leoné remembered his frequent visits when they and he were living in Christchurch—on his bicycle, she or her sister riding on the handlebars after they met him on the corner near their home.

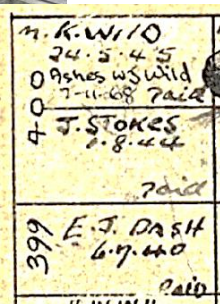
On 29 July 1944 Len, worried he had not seen his father for a week, called at Joe's "batch" behind 173 Ferry road and found his father dead, face down on the floor. Len told the coroner that a year earlier a Hokitika doctor had warned Joe he had heart trouble but he had done nothing about it. An autopsy showed the immediate cause of death was cerebral haemorrhage. Chronic kidney disease, high blood pressure and hardening of the arteries had no doubt led to the haemorrhage; he also had emphysema and cirrhosis. Not good, especially in an engine driver. The *Press* of 31 July 1944,

STOKES—At his residence, 173A Ferry road, Woolston, Joseph Stokes, loved father of Leonard Stokes, 8 St. Albans street, and Mrs Walters, Dunedin; aged 67 years.

My great grandfather was 67. He also lies in an unmarked grave: plot 44SS, block 16, Bromley Cemetery, Linwood Ave, Christchurch. The cemetery record shows the plot was paid for—but not, apparently, a headstone.



Joseph Stokes's grave in Bromley cemetery, unmarked, between MK Wild and EJ Dash.



His son Len died at age 42 a mere two years later. He was buried in plot 89, block 32, Ruru Lawn Cemetery, Bromley, Christchurch.

STOKES—On April 23, 1946, at Christchurch, Leonard Wilkie Brown Stokes, 8 St. Albans street, loved father of Dorothy and Leonie; aged 42 years. A patient sufferer at rest.

Press 24 April 1946.

Dorothy and Leoné had to go and live with their mother, who had remarried in 1944, and their stepfather in Whanganui.

In May 1958, in Timaru, five months before I was born there, my grandmother Pearl died suddenly at age 48.



Pearl's gravestone, block 54, plot 777 in the Timaru Cemetery, "A jewel in the casket of the heart".

Joe's youngest sister Eleanor Lizzie (Nellie) Stokes never married and she outlived them all. She was with her mother Ellen and brother Alfred Edmund Stokes at Gear St, Petone until their deaths. Nellie worked for a time at the Te Kuiti tea rooms. There were a lot of people named Stokes in the area and it seems likely she went there to be with extended family. She died in Te Kuiti at age 79 on 11 February 1959 and is buried there ("Old Block 3 p439 – warrant 637").

I could not have known Joe Stokes of course but I think I would have enjoyed him.

In my imagination (and in his photographs) he was a larger-than-life Irishman, a warm hearted, ebullient, sociable man—a publican, a man who liked to bet, who didn't mind a drink now and then, who showed great generosity of spirit. Not a man attentive to fine detail but one who perceived and cherished the bigger picture. His grand daughter Leoné said he was “lovely”.

In this photograph from my late mother's collection, Joe is the man in the three piece suit standing by the roadster car, a cigarette in his left hand, a proprietorial right hand on the door, Agnes, in her pinny, sitting on the running board beside a well dressed, grim looking, left handed Len (his watch on his right wrist)... Were the men dressed up for the races—intending to drop Agnes off at the tea rooms on the way, to make lunches and suppers for the punters?



Len, Agnes and Joe with a roadster car, on grass, in front of houses. Dodge and Studebaker Roadsters like this were advertised from 1916 in New Zealand. Was Pearl the photographer?

Kawarau Tea Rooms.

**LUNCH FROM
10 a.m. Each Race Day.**

Supper at Night,

Cromwell Argus 17 October 1927.

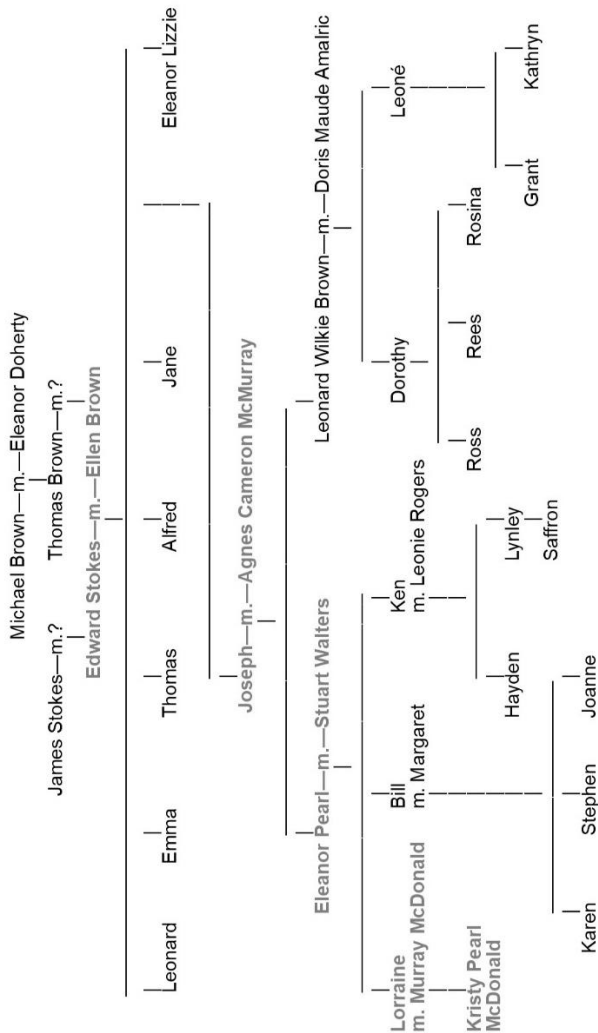
Another photograph, similarly off horizontal (perhaps the same photographer: Pearl?—I do the same) shows four men in front of a moveable steam engine at the end of a barn with a broken sash window; the sun is bright but the men are warmly dressed; the man at right has left his jacket hanging on the end of the barn; a derrick and pulley are above; there are poplars in the background. The man with his hands in his pockets is Joe.





Joe Stokes, not his usual sartorially elegant self but barefoot, spade in a rather arthritic hand, with an unidentified barefoot boy holding a bucket behind him, in front of a ladder for access to a tankstand, a hose on the grass. The sun is high behind the photographer, the subjects' shadows short behind them. They have been cleaning the water tank in the sun.

Some forebears and descendants of Joseph Stokes.



GREAT ATTRACTION.
DANCE
Athenæum Hall, Cromwell,
TUESDAY, 6th APRIL.
Music by
Gordon's Jazz Band.
(From Dunedin).
Supper provided by Mrs Stokes,
Kawarau Tea-rooms.

Cromwell Argus 5 April 1926.

Other newspaper reports of men named Joseph Stokes cannot with any confidence be identified as Joe—items about Joseph Stokes of Greymouth or Dacre, for instance, are certainly not “our” Joseph Stokes.



Steam locomotive with passenger train at Cromwell Railway Station.
Photographed by Albert Percy Godber *circa* 1920s.