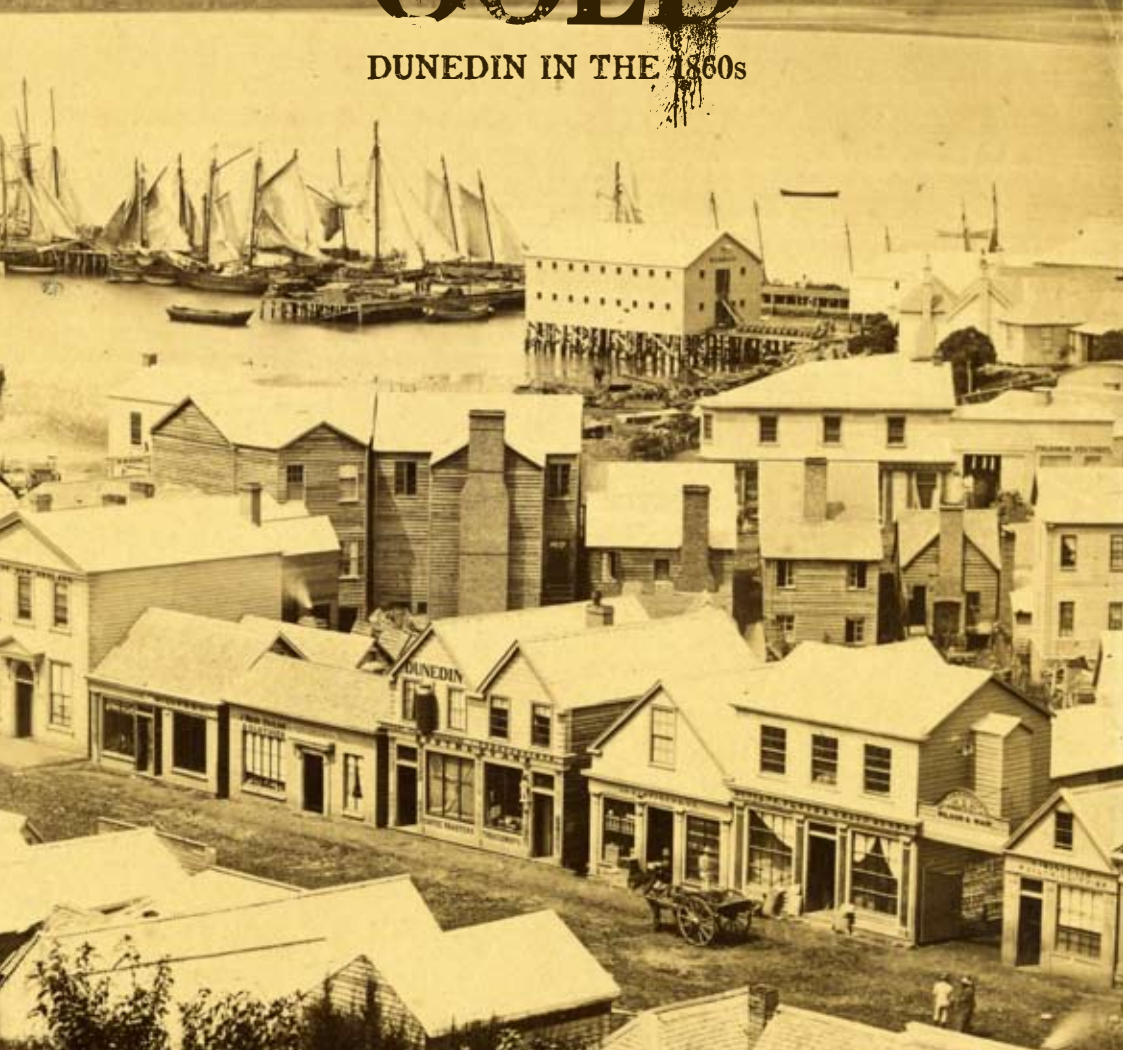


GUTS GOD & GOLD

DUNEDIN IN THE 1860s



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Item List

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‘Gold [was] shining like the stars of Orion on a dark, frosty night’.

Gabriel Read on his discovery of gold in Otago, 1861

2011 marks the 150th anniversary of the discovery of gold in Gabriel’s Gully, near Lawrence Township, in May 1861. The gully was named after Gabriel Read (1824–94), an Australian prospector who had already worked in the goldfields of Victoria and California before unearthing the precious metal in Otago. This exhibition commemorates Read’s discovery, and explores what life was like in 1860s Dunedin – a city built on the proceeds from the goldfields – through a combination of books, manuscripts and objects from the Heritage Collections and Otago Settlers Museum.

Prior to 1861, Dunedin was a small town with a population of under 2,000 people. The sparseness of Dunedin is evident in two photographs taken by Walter Mantell (case 6) in 1860 and 1861. The discovery of gold, however, changed the face of Dunedin. Among the items highlighting Read’s discovery are an early photograph of the goldfields accompanied by a hand drawn key (case 7), a contemporary transcription from Read’s diary commenting on his finding (case 8), and a hand-drawn map, or ‘miner’s guide’, of the goldfields by John (Jock) Graham (case 9), whose bugle is also on display (case 5).

Read’s discovery touched off the Central Otago gold rush and led to a population explosion. By 1865, Dunedin’s population had trebled and the town became New Zealand’s largest and wealthiest urban city by the end of the decade, with a



population of approximately 15,000. One such émigré was William Turnbull Smith from Scotland, who arrived in 1862. His diary (wall carrel 2) provides insight into not only the journey, but also the trials and hardships of life in a new land. The influx of people and goods became so great, that sixty-five ships were once counted in Otago Harbour on a single day. One such ship, the 'Alexandrina' sailing from London, arrived in Port Chalmers in late 1866. Its voyage and account of life in Port Chalmers was recorded in the diary of crewman William Edeson (wall carrel 5), displayed in the section themed 'Transportation'.

Dunedin's new found wealth created many opportunities for business ventures. November 1861 saw the first issue of the *Otago Daily Times* (case 17) come off the press as New Zealand's first daily newspaper. Five months later, in April 1862, plans to lay a telegraph line from Dunedin to Port Chalmers were drawn up, as outlined in the surveyor's hand-drawn map (wall carrel 6). Three original deeds written on vellum (cases 12 & 13) and the transaction book of James Adam (wall carrel 3), which records land purchases for road clearances, highlight the drive to purchase and work the land for business and development.

Wealth, of course, has its grittier side. Prior to 1861, less than ten public houses were counted in Dunedin. This number rose to more than one hundred by 1865, and publicans ran attractive ads in Harnett's *Directory* (case 2) in the hopes of attracting residents and visitors alike away from their competitors. 1862 saw the establishment of the popular and notorious Vauxhall Pleasure and Tea Gardens, which gained



a reputation as a place for excessive drinking and prostitution. Clapboard theatres appeared in Stafford Street (case 4), and must have been rowdy venues as miners and other labourers crowded into the cramped spaces.

If Dunedin's mercantile side flourished during the 1860s, so did its spiritual side. The city was, after all, founded by members of the Free Church of Scotland. St Paul's and St. Joseph's cathedrals were both first established as churches in 1862, and construction of R. A. Lawson's Gothic-style First Church began in 1867 (case 16). Miners unable to attend church in town could hear the sermons of lay preachers and missionaries from a variety of Christian denominations, who visited the goldfields on Sundays, many preaching from atop overturned boxes. Small, portable hymnbooks, similar to the two on display (case 14), one of which was printed in Auckland in 1865, were counted among the personal effects of the goldfield miners.

The more than thirty-five items on display do well to highlight the three themes of 'Guts, God & Gold'. It took 'guts' to board a ship bound for Dunedin. Leaving London, for instance, meant an arduous three-month journey at sea to start life anew. The construction of a myriad of churches during this decade expanded the word of God and remain at Dunedin's spiritual heart; and lastly, but most importantly, it was the discovery of gold that allowed the immigrants, merchants, bankers and miners, to change an infant town into a thriving and vibrant city.

Anthony Tedeschi, *Rare Books Librarian*



This exhibition was jointly curated by a number of Heritage Collections staff:

Lorraine Johnston, Heritage Librarian (Social history)

Anthony Tedeschi, Rare Books Librarian (Early Dunedin and gold discovery)

Malcolm Deans, Senior Library Assistant (Deeds and *Otago Daily Times*)

Cheryl Hamblyn, Senior Library Assistant (Communication)

Jackie McMillan, Senior Library Assistant (Religious aspects)

Delyth Sunley, Senior Library Assistant (Transportation)

The Library wishes to express its sincerest thanks to the Otago Settlers Museum for the loaning of material from its collection to this exhibition.



Item List

CASES 1 THROUGH 4: SOCIAL HISTORY

CASE 1

Alfred Eccles. *The First New Zealand Exhibition and Dunedin in 1865*. Dunedin: Crown Print, 1925.

Official Catalogue of the New Zealand Exhibition, 1865. Dunedin: Printed for the Commissioners by Mills, Dick & Co., [1865].

Photograph reproduction. New Zealand Exhibition Building As Finally Built, ca. 1864.

CASE 2

Harnett & Co. *Dunedin Directory*. Dunedin: Harnett & Co., 1865.

Ray Hargreaves. *Barmaids, Billiards, Nobblers & Rat-Pits: Pub Life in Goldrush Dunedin*. Dunedin: Otago Heritage Books, [1992].

CASE 3

Otago Punch. Dunedin: s.n., 23 December 1865.

Otago Punch. Dunedin: s.n., 17 November 1866.

CASE 4

*Photograph. Clapboard Building in Stafford Street, early 1860s.



*Photograph. 'One of the First Theatres in Dunedin', Stafford Street, early 1860s. Photograph taken in 1899 or 1900.

CASE 5: JOHN (JOCK) GRAHAM, THE POSTMAN

*Bugle, 'Henry Distin', owned and used by John (Jock) Graham, 1860.

**CASES 6 THROUGH 11:
EARLY HISTORY & THE DISCOVERY OF GOLD**

CASE 6

Letter. Walter Mantell to 'My dearest Mother', 8 December 1861.

Photograph. Walter Mantell. View Towards North East Valley and Port Chalmers, 1860.

Photograph. Walter Mantell. View Towards Dunedin Harbour, May 1861.

CASE 7

Photograph. View of Camp Tuapeka [Goldfield] and Original Key in Manuscript, 30 September 1861.

CASE 8

Manuscript. Gabriel Read. Portion of [His] Diary on the Discovery of Gold in Otago. Bellevue, Tasmania, [n.d.]



CASE 9

*Map. 'Miner's Guide' by 'Red Coat' [i.e. John (Jock) Graham]. 1860s.

CASE 10

Letter-Book. Letters from Peter McTavish and Joseph McMullen Dargaville as Superintendents of the Goldfields in Otago and Westland ... 1865–68.

CASE 11

James Ashcroft. *The Auriferous Resources of Otago and Southland ... A Lecture*. Dunedin: Printed by G. R. Smith, "Otago Daily Times" Office, 1889.

Vincent Pyke. *History of the Early Gold Discoveries in Otago*. Dunedin: Otago Daily Times and Witness Newspapers Company, Limited, 1887.

The Rules and Regulations of the Otago Gold Fields ... Agricultural Leases Regulations ... and Rules of the Wardens Courts ... Dunedin: Printed for the Provincial Government by Harnett & Co., 1868.

CASES 12 AND 13: ORIGINAL DEEDS

CASE 12

Deed of Conveyance. Gilbert Burns, Esq., to the Bank of New South Wales. Dunedin, 2 July 1863.



CASE 13

Deed of Conveyance. James McIndoe to Charles Henry Attwood. Dunedin, 8 December 1864.

Deed of Mortgage. W. H. Cullen to James Adam. Dunedin, 10 June 1861.

CASES 14 THROUGH 16: RELIGIOUS ASPECTS

CASE 14

John Hislop. *History of Knox Church, Dunedin*. Dunedin: J. Wilkie & Co., 1892.

Psalms and Hymns for Divine Worship. London: James Nisbet and Co., [n.d.]

The New Zealand Hymnal; Compiled under Authority of the General Synod ... Session 1862. Auckland: Wayte & Batger, 1865.

Reverend John Wesley. *A Collection of Hymns, for the Use of the People Called Methodists*. London: Published by John Mason, [ca. 1865].

CASE 15

The Colonist. Dunedin: Printed & Published Daily for the Proprietors by John Dick, 25 October 1862.



CASE 16

A.M. Finlayson, compiler. *Proceedings of the Presbytery of Otago, 1854–1865*. Dunedin: The Otago Daily Times and Witness Newspapers Co., Ltd, 1926.

Harnett & Co. *Dunedin Directory*. Dunedin: Harnett & Co., 1864.

Arthur L. Salmond. *First Church of Otago and How It Got There*. Dunedin: Otago Heritage Books, 1983.

CASE 17: NEW ZEALAND'S FIRST DAILY

**Otago Daily Times*. Dunedin: Otago Daily Times Press, 15 November 1861. First issue.

Otago Daily Times. Dunedin: Otago Daily Times Press, 16 December 1863.

WALL CARRELS 1 THROUGH 3: COMMUNICATION

CARREL 1

Vincent Pyke. *The Province of Otago in New Zealand: Its Progress, Present Condition, Resources and Prospects*. Dunedin: Provincial Government, 1868.

Sigismund Wekey. *Otago As It Is, Its Gold-Mines and Natural Resources: Hand-Book for Merchants, Capitalists, and the General Public, and a Guide to Intending Immigrants*. Melbourne: F. F. Bailliere, 1862.



CARREL 2

Manuscript. William Turnbull Smith. Diary Kept During Voyage to Otago on the 'Ben Lomond', and Life in Dunedin and South Otago, 1862–64.

CARREL 3

Manuscript. James Adam. Land Sale Agreements to Sell Land for Roads in Otago and Southland, 1858–82.

WALL CARRELS 4 THROUGH 6: TRANSPORTATION

CARREL 4

Print. George O'Brien. 'View of Port Chalmers, 1868'. Print Reproduced by Avon Fine Prints, 1970.

CARREL 5

Manuscript. William Edison. Diary Kept Aboard the 'Alexandrina', bound from London to Port Chalmers and Return, 1866–67.

CARREL 6

*Manuscript. Plan showing the Proposed Line of Telegraph between Dunedin and Port Chalmers, April 1862.

J. Munro. *Heroes of the Telegraph*. London: Religious Tract Society, ca. 1891.



Cover image courtesy of Otago Settlers Museum



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