



Interview Abstract

Interviewee: Allan Ashworth
 Interviewer: Michael Rooney
 Date recorded: 29 August 2022
 Abstractor: Suzanne MacKenzie and Margaret Bennie

File 01

Time	
00:00:00	Great great grandfather John ASHWORTH born 1895 in Salford, Manchester. Worked as a weaver and a brick layer.
01:24:00	Great grandfather also John ASHWORTH born 1843 immigrated to New Zealand for the lure of gold. Went to Tuapeka and Cromwell Goldfields. Married Margaret PATERSON-HAIRONE from Kilmarnock, Scotland. Arrived in New Zealand with sister Agnes. Worked in service. Met John in Albertown. Married. Moved to Skippers. Gold mining at the Branches. Had 12 children. Seven survived. John built spoon dredge on Shotover River. Moved to Millers Flat under Coronet Peak (now called Malaghans) 250-acre farm. Died 2 years later. Describes hardship family endured. Archibald left school at 9 to support family.
00:08:05	Archibald had a claim at Shotover Bridge. Married Mary Ann TRIPCONEY in 1900. Originally from Cornwall. Moved to Alexandra. Archibald worked as foreman on Molyneux dredge. Had a team of horses. Started Co-operative Society. Built a shop in Tarbert Street.
00:14:13	Describes grain store on corner of Manuherikia Road and Samson Street next to Vallance Cottage – later owned by the late Gordon & Cynthia WHITE.
00:15:21	Archie foundation member of Alexandra Fire Brigade. Describes famous fire in the Molyneux coal pit in 1906. Tragedy averted by community involvement. Archie presented with Valour Award for bravery.

00:18:50	Allan describes his efforts to procure Archie's medal. Archie active in Presbyterian Church. Talks about the Rev DON.
00:26:11	Reminisces about grandfather Archie. Built 5 houses. Jim EARWAKER builder. Each child received a house on Archie's death. Talks about TRIPCONEY family.
00:29:03	Describes TRIPCONEY family mining scheelite in Glenorchy. Also a mine in Bullendale.
00:30:31	Recalls GUNNION family (his mother's name). Managed Galloway Station. Came to Alexandra. Rona married Arthur ASHWORTH (Allan's parents). Owned orchard in Manuherikia Road.
00:37:43	Describes life on the orchard. Worked from age 12 picking fruit and vegetables.
00:40:12	Moved north with wife Barbara. Orchard sold to MARION & FRED PEYTON. Then sold to COCKY MEYERS for housing. Allan disappointed that prime horticulture land now housing.
00:42:21	Recalls life on the orchard in Alexandra – frost fighting, growing produce, bird nesting.
00:48:31	Mentions the demolition of Cobb Cottage. Very upsetting. Historic Places gave permission because they said it was not unique enough to save.
00:52:29	Describes visit to Vallance Cottage as a child. Talks about friendship with TEONIE WESLEY, Hazel Vallance's son. Michael Rooney (interviewer) outlines the work of the local committee that saved Vallance Cottage.
PART 2	
00:00:17	Allan talks about his childhood in Alexandra. Born in Dunedin. Father in Army Camp. Talks about fire at Galloway Homestead. Father a fireman. Mentions childhood pranks at the dump. Confrontation with Constable PAT TREACY and SERGEANT INNES.
00:07:17	Mentions Alexandra Primary School teachers – Miss Moir, Mr Chapman, Miss McKellar, Mr Grant, Doug Blythe (Baldy), Miss Walker.
00:10:35	Discussed times at Alexandra Primary School.
00:11:20	Mentions Ewan & Betty Cameron, Jerry Sawyers & Wiff McArthur. Learnt piano from Ewan Cameron.
00:13:09:	Remembers musicals written by Ewan Cameron. Mentions 'No Roads To Arrow'.

00:13:49	Recalls tragic death of Wiff McArthur.
00:15:40	Talks about Dunstan High School (first day pupil). Cane from Soapy McLeod. Remembers cricket and rugby.
00:16:46:	Sports days at Caledonian grounds in Dunedin.
00:17:53	Apprenticeship with Alexandra Joinery. Went to Ministry of Works. Moved to Hamilton with wife and family. Police workshop in Hamilton.
00:22:59	Stayed at Police workshop Hamilton for 15 years. Took early retirement. Worked as night porter in hotel in Hamilton.
00:24:07	Worked as Property Manager for Real Estate. Divorced from Barbara. Met new partner. Together for 14 years. New partner died of cancer. Met another partner online from South Africa. Moved to Johannesburg for 3 years. Describes time in South Africa. Met present wife Isabel. Worked for Landcare Research. Moved to Millers Flat. Purchased property online. Started a B & B. Involved in community – Ashworth Gardens B & B. Helped to restore the Bakehouse. Became a Trustee of the Bakehouse.
00:32:56	Mentions Denis Kirkpatrick (Jimmy’s Pies). Sold the property at Millers Flat (had an excellent offer). Moved to Winton 2019.
00:35:23	Recalls gardening and orcharding experience with his father in Alexandra.
00:39:06	Talks about his museum of collectibles and his interest in historical objects and talking to old identities.
00:42:41	Talks of a favourable collectible – NZ Post Office Directory 1921. Has set up small museum in garage in Winton. Remembers meeting Professor John McCraw.
00:50:26:	Describes house in Winton. 3-bay garage for museum. Set up B & B.
00:55:52	Talks about his and Barbara’s children, Kane, Angela and Laurence.
00:59:47	Remembers a visit to London with Barbara – 1990. Visited Cyril Kay (Barbara’s relative) who was Air Vice Marshall in WW1 and knew Arthur Ashworth – a top pilot ex Wellington bomber. Talks about his various relatives including Arthur & Vincent Ashworth. Describes Arthur Ashworth’s escapade during WW11 when he flew a fighter plane without a parachute.

01:07:00	Arthur Ashworth won Distinguished Flying Cross & Bar.
01:11:31	Talks about Arthurs brothers Donald, Coran and their WW11 experiences.
01:13:57	Mentions Vince Ashworth. Vince wrote books about his family. Won a scholarship to Otago Boys High School sponsored by Rotary Club.
01:16:13	Repaid the money. Rotary started the Vince Ashworth Charitable Trust. Vince had a successful career in Agricultural Accounting business in Morrinsville Worked for United Nations in New York & North Africa. Worked showing people in Uganda and Nairobi how to grow crops. Wrote several books.
01:19:14	Vince worked for the World Bank and joined the ACT party under Richard Prebble.
01:22:55	Alan Ashworth read extract from one of John McCraws books about Archie Ashworths life.
01:27:59	Alan remembers being balloted into the Army National Service when he was 21 at Burnham.

End of File 01