



# Cameron

*The Magazine of Clan Cameron New Zealand Inc.*



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2015

Looking up Glen Shiel from Shiel Bridge -the peaks are the Five Sisters. (see page 7) *photo: Bill Cameron*



**Robbie Burns statue in Dunedin**, photographed by Bill Cameron in August. The annual celebrations to honour the birth and poetry of Scotland's National Bard, took place on 25 January.

**Are you interested in helping form an Otago Branch of the Clan Cameron Association of NZ?**

See page 4.



*Photo: Editor*

**A spirited "Address to the Haggis"** was given by Tom McDonald outside the Clan Donald tent (next to ours) at the Waipu Highland Games. This draws people to learn about their heritage, as well as introducing them to the taste of haggis. **'Well Done'** to the Canterbury Branch of Clan Cameron, who do this at the Scottish Cultural Festival.

# “Cameron”

is the magazine of the  
Clan Cameron Association of New Zealand (Inc)

## Directory

**Hereditary Chief and Captain of Clan Cameron**  
Donald Angus Cameron of Lochiel,  
Lord Lieutenant of Inverness,  
Achnacarry, Spean Bridge,  
Imverness-shire, Scotland. PH34 4ES

**New Zealand President and Commissioner**  
Fraser Cameron  
P.O Box 180 Opotiki 3162.  
Ph. (07) 315 7105. Fax (07) 3158527 fl.me@xtra.co.nz

**Secretary**  
Tanya Cameron  
360 Kawerau Rd, RD2, Whakatane 3192  
Ph. (07) 323 8581 Tanya.cameron30@gmail.com

**Treasurer**  
Alison Jordan  
1/5 Justine Way, Mount Maunganui 3116  
Ph. (07) 571 6307 thejordanfamily@clear.net.nz

**Genealogist and Historian**  
Fiona Cameron  
7 Radcliffe St Glen Innes Auckland 1072  
Ph. (09) 521 3019 clancameronhistory@gmail.com

**First Light Exchange Convenor**  
Bryan Haggitt  
96A Lucerne Road, Remuera, Auckland 1050  
Ph. 09 524 5254 bchecho@xtra.co.nz

## Branch Presidents

**Auckland**  
Norman Cameron  
31/37 Natzka Road, Ostend, Waiheke Is, Auckland 1081  
Ph. (09) 372 8442 norman.cameron37@gmail.com

**Bay of Plenty**  
Denis Cameron  
8 Kokomo Key, Papamoa, Tauranga 3118  
Ph. (07) 575 4659 Fax (07) 575 4661  
camisky@kinect.co.nz

**Gisborne**  
David Cameron,  
885 Wharekopae Rd, RD2 Gisborne. 4072  
Ph. (06) 862 7803 camerondvd@xtra.co.nz

**Hawke's Bay**  
Helen Shaw  
3/33 Avondale Road, Napier. 4112  
Ph. (06) 844 8398. locaber@xtra.co.nz

**Taranaki / Wanganui**  
Neville Wallace  
275 Turuturu Road, RD 14, Hawera 4674  
Ph.(06)278 6005. neville.wallace@xtra.co.nz

**Manawatu**  
Russell Cameron,  
5 Ranui Place, Feilding 4702  
Ph. (06) 323 7423 camfamily@clear.net.nz

**Wellington / Wairarapa**  
Rob Cameron  
114D Willow Park Drive, Masterton  
Ph. (06) 377 0377 opakirob@gmail.com

**Canterbury**  
Nick Cameron,  
322 Auchenflower Rd, RD1 Darfield 7571  
Ph (03) 318 8721 nick.cameron@cropmark.co.nz

**Magazine Editor**  
Neil Cameron,  
28 Oxford Terrace, Devonport, Auckland 0624  
Ph: (09) 446 1177 Email: kncam@xtra.co.nz

**Webmaster**  
Warren Cameron w.lcameron@xtra.co.nz

**Clan Cameron New Zealand website**  
www.camclan.orconhosting.net.nz  
(This has links to other Clan Cameron sites)

## A message from our President.....

Dear Clan Cameron members and friends,

All the best for the New Year and for your good resolutions. Mine was not to be late for the Editor but the days pass and I try to get my effort started, only to be called to duty by the customers.

I must admit I have failed in my duty by not contacting the other musketeers in Tauranga but trust they are in good health. I have not been as well as I should be but a good whisky helped and medical checks now give me the OK..

I hope members will not forget to register for the April Annual General Meeting.

I trust the Turakina Games were well attended and don't forget the Paeroa Games on February 14. I must apologise to the Turakina folk as I was not able to attend.

We have recently enjoyed a visit from Bill Cameron and this, together with the election in Scotland of Commissioner Roddy Cameron, gives us hope that First Light will be given priority. The idea of candidates arranging their own employment could have merits. This does not mean we cannot, as a Clan, be hosts or assist with the visits during their time of stay. This is a good matter for discussion at Executive level.

We had a visit from Colin (John's son from Gisborne) and Gael. They were going to be entertaining a Scottish friend of daughter Mandy in a camping venture on the side of the Lake Waikaremoana. Colin also told us that his son Alister is at present in Edinburgh working. He is a software corrector for the banks and has recently spent time in Brisbane.

We have of course enjoyed the company of the family over the holiday period - for myself it was a little quiet with much resting.

Regards,

Fraser, Your Clan President.



## Coming Events:

### Saturday 14 February 5015 22nd Paeroa Highland Games and Tattoo.

Paeroa Domain from 9am. Join us for the Clan march to the town centre at 11am. The Cameron tent will be there. Tattoo at 6.30pm.  
[www.paeroahighlandgames.co.nz](http://www.paeroahighlandgames.co.nz)

### Friday 17-Sunday 19 April 2015 50th Annual Gathering and AGM

Palmerston North.  
See corrected registration form on the web site. (\$10 Registration cost was omitted on the original).

### Sunday 1 March 2015 BOP Branch Get Together

Clan Cameron BOP will hold a "Summertime" Get together on Sunday 1st March at the home of Denis and Joy Cameron, 8 Kokomo Key, Papamoa. This will take the form of a Pot Luck Finger

Food luncheon and commence at 11:30. Please bring along family and friends to enjoy the fellowship of your Clanspeople and share your memories and summer holiday experiences. We will hold a committee meeting following the luncheon.

**Friday 27 March 2015**  
**Auckland Branch AGM and Barbecue**  
Parnell Cricket Club, Shore Rd, Remuera. 6.30pm. Please let Jenny know if you are coming and if you are bringing a sweet or salad.

Meat provided. No charge but donation to defray costs welcome.  
Jenny: 09 524 5254 bchecho@xtra.co.nz

### Saturday/Sunday 4/5 April 2015

**Hawkes Bay Highland Games**  
at Lindisfarne College, Pakowhai Road, Hastings (near Stortford Lodge). Come and soak up the atmosphere at this annual event. You will be sure of a great welcome in the Cameron tent.  
Enquiries to Mike Topham 06 879 8215

Clan Cameron NZ is now on Facebook



Link to Facebook and 'How to Get Started on Facebook' are on our website.

Next Magazine Deadline is 15 March.

Printed By



**Auckland Branch:**  
Ron Jinks (Cameron)

Kaiwaka

*Ceud Mile Fàilte*

*One Hundred Thousand Welcomes*

## History Corner *by Fiona Cameron*

### Flying the Flag

Doing research on Scotland's national flower, the thistle, got me thinking about the origin and meaning of other Scottish 'emblems'. For instance, the official flag of Scotland is the St Andrew's cross or 'Saltire' and its origins are full of myth, legend and visions.

Why St Andrew's Cross? And why is it called the Saltire? The actual word 'Saltire' means 'a cross with diagonal bars of equal length'. It's believed that around 60 AD St. Andrew, one of Jesus' Apostles and the younger brother of Simon Peter, was crucified by the Romans on an X-shaped cross at Patras in Greece. The reason the use of the x-shaped cross depends on which story you follow – either that St Andrew felt that he was unworthy to be crucified in the same manner as Jesus (with an upright cross) or, and possibly more likely, this was the form of cross used by the Romans for crucifixion in that part of the world. Years after, St Andrew's remains were moved to Constantinople and then, in the 13th century, to Amalfi in southern Italy where they are kept to this day.

The connection with Scotland came about when a Greek monk known as St Rule or St Regulus was ordered in a vision to take a few relics of Andrew to the 'ends of the earth' for safe



keeping. He set off on a sea journey to eventually come ashore on the coast of Fife at a settlement which is now the modern town of St Andrews.

Some 700 years later in 832, Pictish King, Angus II, was leading his forces into battle against the English King Aethelstans' army. The night before the battle, King Angus had a vision of St Andrew who promised him victory in the following battle.

The next morning the Picts saw Angus' troops were awestruck by the sight of a huge white Saltire cross shining against the background of a bright blue sky. This 'omen' led the Scottish troops to victory.

And so the white saltire on a blue background came about.

It was approved as the flag/badge of the Scottish people in a statute made in 1388. The first historical reference to the white saltire being used on the Scottish flag (albeit with a red background at that point), occurs in 1503.

St Andrew was first recognised as an official patron saint of Scotland in 1320 at the signing of the Declaration of Arbroath - an appeal to the Pope by Scottish noblemen asserting Scotland's independence from England.

His patronage extends to fishmongers, gout, singers, sore throats, spinsters, maidens, old maids and women wishing to become mothers.

And if you want to make sure your Saltire is correct; a Scottish parliamentary committee declared that the shade of blue used on the flag should be Pantone 300.



## From the Branches...

**Auckland** *by Norman Cameron*

I missed the Auckland Highland Games because a member of the family was taken to hospital on the day. The first time I have missed since joining Clan Cameron. As usual Neil & Ruth Cameron manned the tent, helped by their family and others, in particular committee member Anne Cameron.

In mid December a committee meeting and BBQ was held at Bryan and Jenny Haggitt's residence. It was decided to have the AGM and BBQ on April the 4th but as this is Easter Saturday the date might have to be changed (now 27 March - Ed). The date for the Branch dinner has been set for August the 22nd when we will celebrate the departure of the barque "Blenheim" 175 years ago.

Full marks to Neil & Ruth for attending the Waipu Highland Games and a special thanks to Duncan McQueen for towing the trailer both ways and helping erect and take down the tent.

I will be attending the Turakina Highland Games on Saturday the 31st of January. Neil and Ruth will be going to the Paeroa Highland Games & Tattoo on Saturday the 14th of February - any support would be appreciated.

The Branch is hoping to have a table at the Burn's dinner on the 24th of January at the Quality Hotel, Parnell.

On the 26th of December Alistair Guthrie (Jock) Davidson died, he was the Chief of Clan Davidson and he attended many Clan Cameron dinners.

Neil Cameron attended the funeral on behalf of the Branch.

**Bay of Plenty** *by Denis Cameron*

We must thank Neil and Ruth for once again representing the Clan at the Waipu Games and taking the Clan Cameron tent and display up there. These two octogenarians do a great job for the Clan and we must support them at all times. Neil will again have the Clan tent and display at the Highland Games in Paeroa on February 14th. He requires assistance particularly early in the morning to put the tent and display up and again late in the afternoon to dismantle and pack everything away. During the day we also need people to help in the tent and attend to the many visitors. Any assistance from our BOP members, especially some of the younger and fitter people would be much appreciated. If you can assist please let Denis know – phone 07-575 4659.

**Canterbury** *by Rae Magson*

*By Editor: I must apologise to Canterbury members for publishing the wrong report in the last issue - here is what should have appeared:-*

The Hororata Highland Games. Beautiful weather, crowds of people and tartan everywhere. What more could the Clan Cameron want? Several members of the Clan looked after the Clan Cameron tent, giving away masses of haggis and shortbread, very popular we were. It was amazing how many people asked us if we had made the haggis and what was in it. Well, it was made in Dunedin, and we were a little careful in our reply emphasising "lots of oatmeal and spices". We had membership forms, many were taken away, three were filled in at the time so we intend to

## From the Branches - *Canterbury* continued :-

follow these up, so hopefully we will get some more members. So many people said "my mother was a Cameron" or maybe it was grandmother! We all had time to have a good look at the other activities, it was an enjoyable but exhausting day. If you would like to see some of the other activities, go to Google, put in AshburtonTVOnline. On there is a film taken at the games, so go to the Hororata Highland Games, and watch some of the events and listen to "The March of the Cameron Men." The photographer (my hairdresser's husband) thought this was an appropriate piece of music, so naturally I agreed. Soon we will be having an Annual General Meeting, followed by lunch.

*And on to the current report:-*

There have been no Clan Cameron Canterbury events over the Christmas/New Year period, however we have the Canterbury Scottish Cultural Festival, coming up on Sunday 1 February 2015 at Riccarton Bush, Christchurch. This Festival is hosted by the Scottish Society of New Zealand (Inc) Christchurch and is to promote Scottish Culture in Canterbury. Band competitions in the morning followed by a great line up of entertainment in the afternoon. Willie McArthur will entertain and MC, Children's colouring competition and caber tossing, Highland dancing, Scottish Country dancing, Address to the Haggis and the Grand Parade.

The Clan Cameron Canterbury will be beside the Heritage Council tent, it is usually a lot of fun. We give away haggis, it is amazing how many people have not tried this before. We also have a visitors book, maybe we will get some new members. Our intention is to have a committee meeting the weekend before to organise our tent.

### *Hawke's Bay* by Trish Topham

On 11th December we once again gathered at The Clansman Motor Lodge, Hastings, for our Annual Christmas soiree, where over drinks and nibbles we enjoyed a couple of happy social hours together. Our grateful thanks to Leigh and Maree our friendly hosts, especially as they had just received very sad family news, yet soldiered on with the evening in their usual friendly, warm, and generous manner. We do very much appreciate your hospitality Leigh and Maree. Thank you so much.

It was good to see everyone all dressed up in party attire, and to be able to share the news from Robyn and Pat Vuleta who sent a Christmas card to Shane. The Vuleta's are enjoying their time in Sri Lanka and have now been there for almost two years. One member of our group, Ian Cameron, was resplendent in his newly acquired Cameron kilt and cut a fine figure indeed in his regalia. We were lucky enough to be able to persuade Ian to pose for a camera shot.

All remarked on how quickly the year had passed and we look forward to good things to come in 2015. A happy and healthy New Year to all Clan Cameron New Zealand members.

### *Manawatu* by Jessie Annabell

Abelated Merry Christmas and New year to you all. The branch has moved into the 21st century! We now have a Facebook page under the name "Clan Cameron Manawatu". It is still in a very rudimentary stage and we are looking for people who would be interested in maintaining it.

Our branch AGM is on February 22nd at 12 midday at beautiful Mount Lees, just north of Mount Stewart. This site is very

sheltered and has a kitchen. Last year's AGM was well attended and very much enjoyed. As usual, please bring something for a shared lunch. If you would like transport please contact Jessie 06 355 2705.

We are hosting the national AGM in Palmerston North on the weekend of the 17th-19th April. We have worked out a good programme with a good accommodation deal. Please note that there was an error in last month's registration form. Although the total cost remains the same (\$83.50), the secretary inadvertently omitted to mention the registration fee of \$10, to cover name badges and other costs. If you have not made your booking yet, please do so soon to take advantage of the concessions that we have negotiated.

### *Taranaki/Wanganui* by Shona Wallace

Clan Cameron Taranaki/Wanganui Branch held a pot luck lunch in December. However not well attended, just the usual stalwarts. It is very hard to enthuse Camerons in this part of the country. We look forward hopefully to a better year.

### *The Blenheim 175th Anniversary*

The working party had a recent meeting and would like all interested persons please to register their interest if wishing to attend any of the events: Dinner in Wanganui on 25 August, Dinner in Auckland on 22 August, and the picnic at Kaiwharawhara Park Wellington on 27 December 2015. We would like to know if anyone has photos of their family members who came out on the Blenheim plus family stories and memorabilia as we plan to put these up on the u tube site and to be used for family's to make displays.

#### **Contact details are:**

Kaiwharawhara Picnic:

Hugh McPhail, 7 Westland Road, Mt. Cook, Wellington 6021. Tel. 04 970 9851, email: blenheim175@gmail.com

Wanganui dinner:

Roz & Ewen Grant, Tullochgorum, 2153 SHW3, Turakina, R.D.11, Wanganui 4581. Ph. 06 327 3861. email tullochgorum@xtra.co.nz

Auckland dinner:

Norman Cameron, 31/37 Natzka Road, Ostend, Waiheke Is. Auckland 1081. Ph. 372 8442.

email norman.cameron37@gmail.com

Information about the events and some historical background about the "Blenheim" and other Scottish people and places in New Zealand can be found at:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/Blenheim1840/>

Clan Cameron's web page has the journal of Jessie Campbell's Blenheim voyage on its website at:

<http://camclan.orconhosting.net.nz/>

### *Proposed Otago Branch in Dunedin*

We have a person who is interested in helping to form a Clan Cameron branch in Dunedin.

Nick Cameron (President, Clan Cameron Canterbury) will be in Dunedin on 21/22 February for Octagon Days (for Pipe Bands) and will be there with the banner, and hopefully a stall to answer any questions you might have.

If you know of anyone in Dunedin who would be interested in joining Clan Cameron please contact -

Rae Magson, phone 03 3088927 or e-mail [raejohn@xtra.co.nz](mailto:raejohn@xtra.co.nz)

**The Clan Cameron Museum at Achnacarry is now on facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ClanCameronMuseum>**

# The Battle of Glenshiel

by Alan I Cameron (Scotland)

I have driven past the site of the Battle of Glenshiel on many occasions and for one reason or another, have been unable to stop. The site is on the A87 about 10 miles east of Eilean Donan Castle.

Last April, however, on a beautiful Spring day, we visited the site and were impressed by the majesty of the surroundings and the tranquility of the setting.

What was this battle in 1719 about? The date gives us a clue; it being an episode of the struggle by the Old Pretender the Jacobite claimant to the throne in exile James Stuart in his attempt to regain the crown from the Hanoverians and was the only battle of the 1719 uprising. The European backdrop, however, against which this drama was played out was more complex and related to the fallout from the 1713 Treaty of Utrecht, among the conditions of which was that Gibraltar would be ceded to Great Britain. Incensed by this, the Catholic King of Spain, supported by the Vatican proposed to raise an army to support an insurrection in Scotland. The plan was to have a two-pronged attack. Firstly, George Keith, the Earl Marischal, and a prominent Jacobite was summoned to Spain to recruit exiled Scottish aristocracy such as John Murray, the Marquess of Tullibardine and Lord George Murray to support an uprising in Scotland while a second force under the leadership of James Butler (2nd Duke of Ormonde, an experienced officer of the British army who had fled to Spain after a trumped-up charge of treason) was to mount an invasion in South West England. As was often the case with the Jacobites, luck was not on their side, and this latter larger force barely made it out of Spanish territorial waters as a result of adverse weather conditions. However, a smaller force with some 300 Spaniards led by George Keith, the earl Marischal slunk out of the Seine and reached Loch Duich in April 1719, having come round the North of Scotland with the intention of taking Inverness.

They made contact with Lochiel and Clanranald both of whom were dispatched to recruit men locally while the main army marched to Glenshiel. Consequently, the Jacobite army, which comprised a disparate collection of Highlanders, Reivers and Spaniards, met a much better organised Hanoverian force under General Wightman in Glenshiel on 10th June 1719. The Jacobites gathered from the west, choosing the near hilltops either side of the river gorge from which to fight with muskets and swords -an apparently invincible position. The government troops came from the east and spread out across both sides of the river and up the

mountainside from where they fired 4 Coehorn mortars into the Jacobite troops, followed by a musket charge.

After some inconclusive fighting, the Highlanders retreated into the hills and the Spanish mercenaries surrendered. Although there were few casualties on either side, the Government force claimed victory and yet another rising was effectively over. Without the main force, the diversionary action in Scotland was doomed to failure as it was merely the supporting act and the headline act did not turn up. After the battle, John Cameron of Lochiel returned to exile in France.

This defeat was disastrous for the Jacobite cause following on the Cairn commemorating the Battle of Glenshiel humiliating withdrawal in 1715 when the Jacobites snatched defeat from the jaws of victory at the Battle of Sherrifmuir and this latter was at least partly the result of the indecisiveness of the leader of the Jacobite force-the Earl of Mar.

Ironically had James Stuart renounced his Catholicism, he may well have been preferred to the very unpopular George, son of the Elector of Hanover. However, this James refused to do and so the struggle by his followers continued through one abortive uprising after another until the eventual defeat of James's son, Prince Charles Edward Stuart and the Jacobite cause at Drumossie Moor in 1746.

To the North of the site, are two reminders of the Spanish presence at this battle. These are Sgurr nan Spainteach and Coirein nan Spainteach Peak and Corrie respectively of the Spaniards. The site which is looked after by the National Trust for Scotland is next to the road from Cluanie to Kyle (the A87). There are two car-parks and the interpretation boards are very helpful.



## Big John Cameron's Chair

*Further information to that written in the last issue - from Roz Grant.*

This chair had a matching one and a much smaller for Big John's wife Janet. These 2 chairs lived at Big John's daughter, Ann Baldwin's place "Te Aunui" up the Turakina Valley where Janet and John saw out their days. Great grand daughter Betsy Baldwin took great pride of these 2 chairs & they sat at her front door. Unfortunately only Johns chair now remains, Ewen did some repairs on it and it now lives in St Andrews Church in Turakina in the old pulpit. Though it may appear very rustic in fact it is a rather delight full chair of it's time



and the three legs are very stable - rather like the old milking stools.

Rangitikei Heritage's DVD on World War One Stories was launched at the end of November in Taihape. This is made up of stories from each area in the Rangitikei and the two from Turakina have Cameron links. Mysie McDonnell with her work at the Aotea Convalescent in Home in Egypt, "For our Boys a Home Away from Home". Mysie is the Granddaughter of Big John and Janet Cameron Also Robert Grant's "Letters Home." He is the Great Grandson of Donald Bane and Mary Cameron. This DVD will be shown at Turakina on ANZAC Eve - if any would like

to attend contact Roz Grant. The DVD can be ordered also from Roz for \$20 plus postage.

06 327 3861 - tullochgorum@xtra.co.nz

# *Extracts from the letters of Jessie Campbell,*

to her family from Petone and Wanganui 1841-1845

Wanganui Dec. 4th 1842

My dearest Isabella,

I fear I shall be obliged to make this a shorter letter than usual. When I tell you my reason you will not complain, for the last fortnight I may say I have had no servants, the damsel I've had since coming here chose to get a beau and left me at 10 minutes notice to prepare for her marriage. I cannot get her place supplied here, the only help I have is from a smart little girl about 12 years old who comes in every evening. You may believe I have very little time—I have tried to write at night when all were gone to rest but felt so sleepy and tired I was obliged to give it up. I wrote some time ago to Wellington, I hope Mrs. McDonald has succeeded in getting a servant for me, the one I had was a most ill tempered gypsy and she is to be married to an excellent steady tradesman, a blacksmith who came out in the Blenheim. I often think what a host of admirers Flora Kennedy would have here—where such drabs get good husbands.

I received all your letters by Capt. Gray on the 17th. Nov. and the box in perfect order. My gown did not suffer the least damage—and most extraordinary all the shoes fitted as well as possible. How can I sufficiently thank you and my dear Mother for all your kindness. My gown is most suitable and will make a very pretty winter dress. I wish you could have seen the children on Sunday when they got on their Edinburgh shoes, Maggie might well say of them “So proud as you are”. They said everyone noticed their shoes—the truth was, they obliged everyone to notice. I can assure you the Capt. thought much of his present, the sitting room is the only place he will honour with the slippers on, the shoes are a perfect godsend to him, his stock was getting very low—he says it would be long before any of his own friends would remember his necessities. The purse is very pretty and is carefully put up in the scritoire and only gets the air to be shown to strangers. I can assure you all our friends here give you great credit for the judicious contents of your box, I only regret the expense of so many things.

John is beside me perspiring at the letter to his Grandmother, I do not know what he is saying but it seems hard work to judge from his face. Colin and Louisa were most anxious to write to thank Grandmama but as they would require my assistance, I have persuaded them to put it off to another opportunity. Your little notes gave great satisfaction.

I wrote a long letter to my mother in October, very little has occurred since, worth mentioning. The Captain has had a few attacks of his old enemy rheumatism, he thought it was caused by the unusual wetness of Winter and Spring. Since the Summer set in he is as brisk as ever before. Up at 5 o'clock every morning.

John Cameron has gone to Wellington on business of his own, also to purchase cattle for the section, if he can get any to his mind. We miss him very much, he makes himself very useful, he sleeps on a sofa in the sitting room, makes his bed every evening and in the morning clears everything away and even sweeps the room. I often tell him, what would his friends at home say if they could see him with a scrubbing brush cleaning his canvas trousers or in the evening mending them, he can patch as neatly as I can. One evening the Capt. asked, to our great amazement, for a needle and thread and set to work putting strings in a night shirt which I had long forgot to do, he finished the job tolerably but has never been induced to follow John's example in that respect since.

The boys make their own beds and Louisa dressed Susan - this is the country for making young people of use.

I wrote to my mother our reasons for building in the town section. John drew the plan of the house, the walls are of clay which makes the warmest house, the natives will thatch the roof, the sitting room and our own room will be boarded, off our room will be two small ones for the children, a room for John and a store room will be

the whole concern with a kitchen outside.

The Captain often takes a stroll to see his country sections and each time seems more pleased with them. The Chief, to whom they belong, made us a present lately of a dish of eels from our own lake, which had a superior relish coming from our own property. John Cameron shot a brace of wild duck the last time he was at the lakes, which we all thought superior to anything we had ever tasted.

Col. Wakefield has not returned from Auckland, he is daily expected accompanied by Shortland who is doing all he can to make himself popular during his short reign, he has done much good already and it is to be hoped will do still more by getting us settled on our land. The Chief, to whom our place belongs, says when he gets the price of the land he is quite willing to give it up.

I wrote to my mother about Drimantoran having lost his situation, alas miserable man, the accounts we had a few days ago are still more wretched, he is a ruined man.

Everything he has was seized for debt. His son Adam, saved him from being sent to jail by giving up the little pittance he had saved. God help his poor wife, I feel deeply for her, with all her faults she is well principled. He, poor wretch, is lying dangerously ill, scarcely expected to recover, I think his death would be a happy release to his family, he has brought such disgrace upon them. Adam is very steady and a sensible lad. Donald's death was a blessing, he was as drunken as his father without his abilities when sober. Catherine's intended has not returned from Auckland, all this blow up has occurred during his absence. I wonder what he will feel about it when he hears of McDonald's disgrace. The Capt. and John Cameron were thankful to be at such a distance from him, they would not like to have intercourse with a man spoken of as he is.

I cannot tell you how vexed I was to think Capt. Grey and the old Blenheim were so near – and yet not to see them, he was off for Taranaki before we even heard of his arrival. I would have given a great deal to see him and the old ship again.

It was so kind and considerate to apprise you of his coming here, I would have written to him if I had known of his arrival.

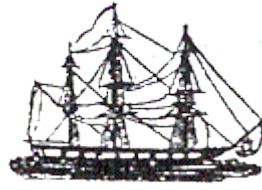
**8th Dec.** We were much astounded and I must say not altogether pleased to receive a letter from George Wright dated Port Nicholson, he had taken out his passage to come here so that we expect him daily. What he is to do here unless he commences saving I am sure I cannot tell, he cannot be a burden upon his uncle. I am determined I will work hard for my own family but for no other person, I can assure you the prospect of a grown man being added to our family is not a pleasant lookout for me to have so much to do. Precious little trouble his mother would take for me or mine, she would have taken her brother's last farthing if she could.

The salaries given in Wellington to clerks are so small in proportion to the expense of living that without a home he can scarcely support himself.

Cattle are the only thing that pay here, but it requires judgment, experience and money. Of all this John Cameron is possessed, so that instead of being a burden upon us as George would be, he is a very acquisition. He was busy making oars for the boat when he went away, he intends making some of the doors for our new house, in short he can put his hand to anything, even to the nursing of Willie who is an immense pet of his. Besides he is well enough informed to support his own side of an argument rather stiffly which makes him a pleasant companion for the Captain. He is quite au fait in all farming matters and gardening.

The Capt. and his brother Justices are in a great fix at present, trying to get rid of Mr. Dawson, our Police Magistrate. All the inhabitants, with very few exceptions, have petitioned against him. It is too long and uninteresting a story to tell you all the reasons for this, besides the faults found with him in his Magisterial character, he was accused, before his marriage of a crime too horrible to mention, at first few believed it, but although frequently requested to clear himself, he has never taken the least trouble to do so, which leads everyone to believe the horrible accusation to be true.

My husband has not for months, sat on the Bench with him. I pity his poor wife, she is a pretty ladylike creature. I had a note from her yesterday in deep distress at the ill feeling manifested against her



husband, she naturally considers him very ill used. He has two very fine boys by a former marriage.

Wanganui 9th March 1843

My dearest Isabella,

Your 8th letter I received yesterday, I cannot tell you how grateful we all feel for your regularity in writing, every letter has come safely, generally five months after being dispatched. I feel truly vexed that you have been so long in hearing from us. I know how my dear mother and you would be fretting from anxiety about us. There is direct communication from Port Nicholson to England so seldom that our letters take a much longer time and for some time after coming here, John's dreadful illness prevented my writing. This is my sixth letter since the Bailey sailed, my last was dated the beginning of December. I trust you have received some of these long ere this.

We are all in our usual busy state and enjoyment of good health, the Capt. as thin as ever but in excellent spirits. His old enemy, rheumatism, has troubled him more this year than usual. We hope when we get into our own house, which will be very comfortable, that he will not be so subject to it.

I expect an addition to the family end of May, I feel so light and active I am tolerably sure of but one. Fortunately Willie is a stout strong little fellow, except for feeding him and putting on his clothes he is independent of all nursing. Certainly children mature earlier here. Willie is not so good looking as he was, when the warm weather commenced I was obliged to deprive him of his beautiful curls, the loss of them has disfigured him very much.

Susan still promises to be very good looking, she is fair complexioned with good features and dark blue eyes, an old fashioned little body, she sits beside me at dinner, if I forget to enquire for the other children's character book she is sure to remind me by asking "Well children! what kind of characters have you got today?"

John is growing very fast and carries breadth along with his height, he is a sensible boy, notwithstanding that we complain of his carelessness at school, he is making tolerable progress. Miss King takes great pains with all of them. John's great fault is obstinacy from having too much confidence in himself. I sometimes think he is a little inclined to indolence, but this will soon be worked out of him. I cannot say he shows a decided taste for reading, he does sometimes take up a book. He is a great trifler in learning his lessons, when he does attend he learns them very quickly and has a capital memory. He has quite a craze for gardening and is forever collecting seeds and plants for his own little plot. The other day he came to tell me he had such a prize, this turned out to be a present from Mrs. Wilson of some very nice seeds.

I hardly know how to describe Colin, he is very tall and thin, much better made than John and if he can possibly manage it, always neat and tidy. He is very thoughtless and passionate, is rather a favourite of Miss King's who says he is easily managed, kindness or rather--- will make him do anything, he can learn his lessons well, but very often will not. Altho' smart enough in some things his judgment is not so sound as John's. His constitution seems to have changed completely, he never knows an ailment and has a never failing appetite. He has a great deal of spirit nothing will daunt him, to give you an instance of this lately; On a dark night a pig got into our henhouse, on being desired to find out what it was, John hung back. Colin immediately marched out with a stick as big as himself, and strutted back in a little later to laugh at John for being so frightened of a pig!

Louisa has better abilities than either of her brothers, her greatest failing is a violent temper. I often wish she were near you to manage her, she is very affectionate and has a decided taste for reading, she continues very big for her age, I think she has improved in looks, her figure promises to be good. She and Colin have commenced Geography and very proud they are. They all write from dictation every day which is a capital plan.

I hope I have not tired you with this long account of my little ones, I have tried to give you an impartial account of them.

We had, about two months ago, a very unwelcome addition to our family circle, in the shape of George Wright, his mother is certainly a most extraordinary creature, I may call her a most imprudent woman, only think of her sending him off here with only 5 pounds in his pocket? The consequence was he arrived here perfectly penniless, had not even what would pay his passage from Wellington. My better half had to lend him 3 pounds on his arrival, a sum small as it may appear, he could ill afford to pay, between what he has paid for a lot of cattle lately and the expense of this house building, ready cash is rather scarce. It was a great hardship to pay out of the little hoard I make by my milk and butter etc. besides this, where there is but one servant and such a family, a grown man makes a great addition to my toil. Even his ships linen was done here, formerly my own servant was able to do all our washing but now I have occasionally to hire a woman at 3/- a day. There is not the slightest chance of his getting a situation here and if he got one in Wellington.--- if he is fit to keep it, he is the very essence of ignorance and stupidity and so vulgar that I am ashamed to hear him speak. He is totally unaware of his own deficiencies, on the contrary he has a great opinion of himself. His uncle says "If that lad would hold his tongue and not show his ignorance by his silly remarks and questions".

☆

*(This has been only lightly edited. To be continued. - Editor)*

## Can You Help?

You won't know me, but my name is Jill O'Brien, and I work with Briar Hamilton. She gave me your email address, because she thought you may be able to assist me in finding out some information about a locket I recently inherited, and which I wish to know the history of.

I inherited the locket from my recently deceased mother, Eleanor Mary Russell Moore, whose mother was Doris Kathleen Clayton. I know my grandmother's mothers' maiden name was Cameron, and she was Eleanor Alice Cameron, although known as Ella.

The locket is of particular interest for several reasons. It has a painted face, and intricately worked silk (I'm guessing), embroidery. I had never seen it, in either my grandmother's or mother's possession, and found it, wrapped in cloth, at the bottom of a box, when clearing out my mothers belongings.

The locket is of silver, but has no markings on it, although Briar suggested that there may be an inscription on the inside of it, or even paper with something written on it, enclosed.



I am reluctant to remove the glass from the locket, for fear of exposing the very old cloth and of course I don't want to damage it in any way.

So really, my reason for contacting you is, can you help me solve the mystery of "the lady in the locket"?

I know a reasonable amount about my family history, as I was always interested in it, even as a child. So I know, as I said earlier, my Grandmother's mother was a Cameron, and I think a sibling maybe of Richard Cameron, the banker from Auckland, or maybe even his daughter?

I am hoping you may have some information you can give me, which will assist me in my search. I have looked back through old family photos, and can't see the locket being worn by anyone in photos.

My mother did attend a Cameron family reunion, held in Auckland some years ago, but sadly, I failed to keep the documentation from this event.

If you can help, please contact Jillian on "Jill O'Brien" <[job1956@gmail.com](mailto:job1956@gmail.com)>

*-Saw something similar on Antiques Road Show recently but can't remember details - Ed*



**Aonaibh ri Cheile**

*The Back Page*



Winter Wonderland - Achnacarry Steading Apartments

*Photo: Astie Cameron*

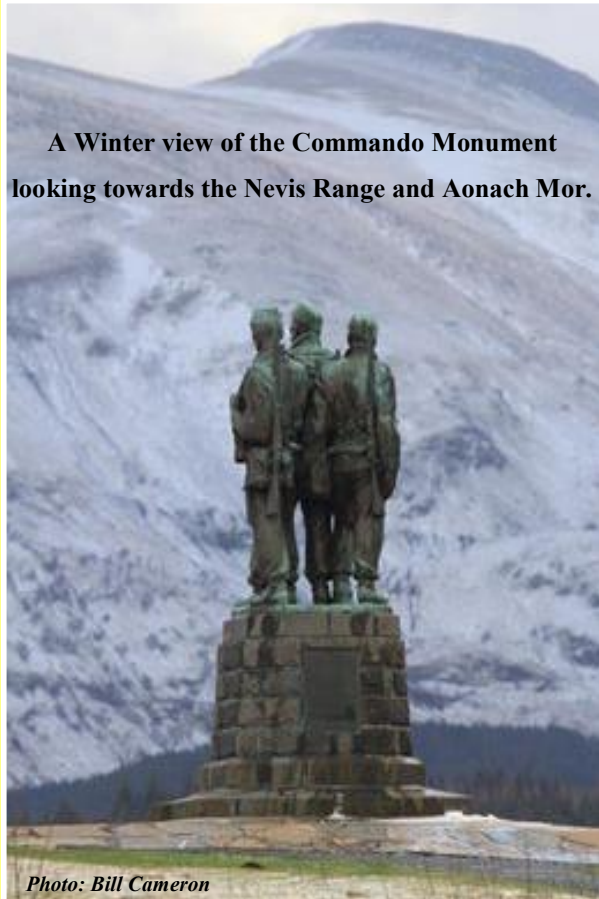


*Photo: Ruth Cameron*

Waipu was not well supported by the Cameron Clan.  
*Top:* Faithful Duncan McQueen and Glenis Cameron at the midday parade. *Left:* Lonely marcher at the 9am opening town march.



A fine day at Waipu - Cameron tent on left.



A Winter view of the Commando Monument looking towards the Nevis Range and Aonach Mor.

*Photo: Bill Cameron*



A fine figure indeed. see page 4



**Hawke's Bay Branch Christmas Get-together.**

*Back Row:* Joan and Hamish Cameron, Trish and Mike Topham, Tony and Shane East, Leigh Cameron.

*Front Row:* Ian Cameron, Helen Shaw, Jan Willson, Maree Cameron