



# Cameron

*The Magazine of Clan Cameron New Zealand Inc.*

Vol 49 No 4  
August  
2015

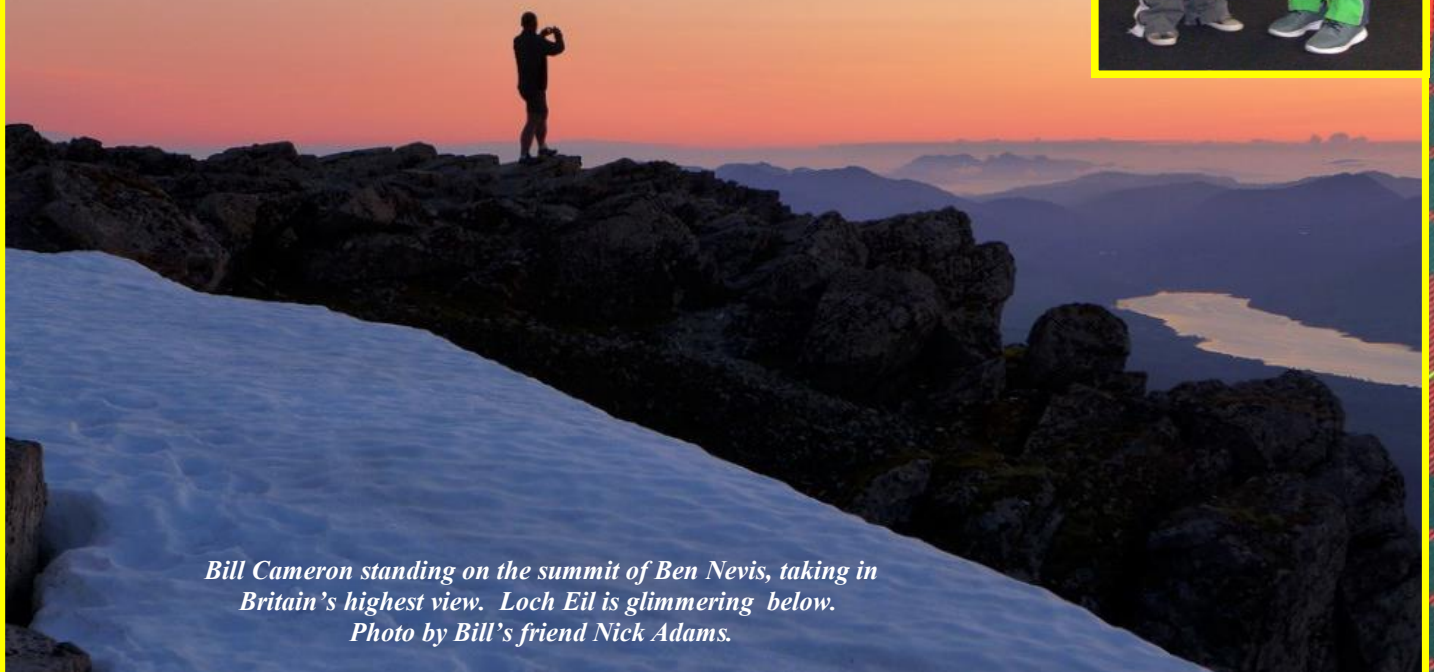


*Going Down*

*Bay of Plenty member Jean Barker celebrated her 90th birthday with a tandem jump. Also jumping was her great grandson Cameron Bevan (right)*



*and Up....*



*Bill Cameron standing on the summit of Ben Nevis, taking in Britain's highest view. Loch Eil is glimmering below.  
Photo by Bill's friend Nick Adams.*

## “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**  
Nick Cameron  
322 Auchenflower Road, RD 1 Darfield 7571  
Ph. 027 232 6667 nick.cameron@cropmark.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. 027 525 4766 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

**Iar (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 027 232 6667 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**  
Decision pending on new site  
Use Clan Cameron facebook page in the interim

<https://m.facebook.com/ClanCameronNZ>

## A Message from our President.....

Dear Clansfolk,

I hope you are all keeping warm. This winter we have had significant snow falls in Canterbury and across other parts of the country. I have had several outings with the Caledonian 4A band over the past 8 weeks where our fingers were barely covering the pipe chanter in minus 4 to minus 6 degree temperatures. Last weekend was spent in the thermal pools at Tekapo with family members. I think the feeling of snow landing whilst in the thermal water is a little surreal. Encountering long strips of black ice on the road home around Stavely and Alford Forest was enough to remind us how cold it currently is.

Since the AGM my own activities with the clan have been quiet, but Julie and I will be coming up to the Auckland branch dinner for Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> August where we hope to catch up with some of you. We also have a September Executive meeting planned in Wellington.

My daughter Rowan recently announced she and Glen are expecting a second child in late November – (a boy) – and this led me to think about how we were named in previous times. The old ancestral Scottish onomastic system of naming is now largely broken down and probably largely because our family sizes are generally much smaller. For those that don't know, the pattern was traditionally as follows:



The 1st son was named for his father's father.  
The 2nd son was named for his mother's father.  
The 3rd son was named for his father's father's father  
The 4th son was named for his mother's mother's father  
The 5th son was named for his father's mother's father.  
The 6th son was named for his mother's father's father.  
The 7th through 10th sons were named for their father's 4 great-grandfathers.  
The 11th through 14th sons were named for their mother's 4 great-grandfathers.  
The 1st daughter was named for her mother's mother.  
The 2nd daughter was named for her father's mother.  
The 3rd daughter was named for her mother's father's mother  
The 4th daughter was named for her father's father's mother  
The 5th daughter was named for her mother's mother's mother  
The 6th daughter was named for her father's mother's mother  
The 7th through 10th daughters were named for their mother's 4 great-grandmothers  
The 11th through 14th daughters were named for their father's 4 great-grandmothers

For any of you planning a trip to the South Island in either September or November – the Alexandra blossom festival on the 27th September and the Hororata Highland games events on the 7th November are well worth attending. Both events have a number of Scottish activities including pipe band and dancing competitions. Clan Cameron will again have a tent at the Hororata Games with free haggis. Please make yourself known if you wish to attend. You may even get a wee job on the tent!.

Best wishes

*Nick*

### *Lochiel's Message to our President..*

Dear Nick,

I want to congratulate you on becoming President of the Clan in New Zealand and look forward to working with you in the years to come.

I have what we call "Commissioners" in North America (Tom Cameron), Australia (Dr Bob Cameron) and, of course, the UK (Roddy Cameron) whose role is to oversee the activities of the Clan in those areas. The President is very akin to a Commissioner but the latter is the Chief's appointment rather than being elected by the Clan members of the relevant country. However, it has never been the case when my Commissioner is not the same person as the President in New Zealand and I am therefore delighted to confirm you as Commissioner.

With very best wishes

*Lochiel*

# Scotland in the Spring 2015

by Elaine Ebbett (Sec/Treas. Auckland Branch)

I arrived at Kings Cross Station. London, on a Sunday in May to travel to Edinburgh. The 'Flying Scotsman' train was fast, reaching speeds of 220 kmh. A truly smooth ride, with all the services, and views of the beautiful countryside all the way. To be recommended!

Edinburgh was sunny and warm. On day two I awoke to sunshine again. Unfortunately it didn't last. In the afternoon between sun and showers and plummeting temperature, I did a walking tour of ancient medieval Edinburgh and Castle.

Tuesday morning it was fine for a tour of Loch Lomond and Stirling Castle, where Mary Queen of Scots was crowned. Beautiful.

Wednesday travelled along Queensferry Road over the Forth Bridge with a very interesting and knowledgeable tour guide. Spent the day in the land of the Scots heroes, Rob Roy, Robert the Bruce, and William Wallace.

Thursday travelled to St Andrews, into the medieval kingdom of Fife and stopped at a quaint fishing village of Anstruther. Also visited the village of Falkland and James V Palace.

Friday I travelled to the Highlands, through Glencoe, scene of the clan massacre, Fort William, Fort Augustus and Loch Ness. The tours were by a Mercedes Mini Coach, no more than 15 people. The guides were excellent, full of information, historical and modern. I can recommend a "Rabbies Tour".

Holyrood Castle in Edinburgh was very interesting. The pipe bands were in full force at 8 a.m. and a rousing sight it was.

I've had a taste of Scotland and am keen to see more.

Went through the area from where my ancestors left in 1850, approx. Thought it looked very nice in springtime!

## Precious cargo to accompany Rugby Fan

by Mike Topham

Napier physiotherapist Garry Sye will be carrying special items when he travels to the UK for the Rugby World Cup in October. He will be returning two 1932 made drumsticks bearing the insignia of the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders, to the Regiment's museum at Fort George, Scotland.

Garry, a former physio for the Hawke's Bay Magpies Rugby Team, who also worked with the All Blacks under Coach Laurie Mains in the early 1990's, has been the "caretaker" of the drumsticks for 20 plus years after they were entrusted to him by a former client who had been a drummer with the Regiment's Pipe Band in the mid 1930's. The bandsman won the Sterling silver tipped drumsticks after finishing second in a drumming competition. By researching the markings on the insignia, Garry discovered they had been made for the Regiment in 1932 by the firm F. Narborough of Birmingham, which he said made most of the silverwork for the British armed forces around that time. The Regimental insignia includes an image of the Sphinx which was a battle honour for the Regiment's part in the 1801 campaign in Egypt.

After contacting the Highlander's Museum, Garry received a nicely worded reply, saying they would be delighted to have the drumsticks returned.



## Coming Events:

**Saturday 22 August 2015**

**Auckland Branch Mid-Winter Dinner**

6pm for 6.30pm. Quality Hotel, Parnell, Auckland. Price \$ 57.50. This will be a special dinner to commemorate the 175th anniversary of the departure of the barque *Blenheim* from Greenock for Port Nicholson. 197 Scots were on board, including many Camerons. Our President, Norman, is a descendant, as is our guest speaker for the evening, Marc Ulyatt. Marc is the author of 'The Kaiwarra Camerons'

The City of Auckland Pipe Band's Fusion Band will play for us.

Enquiries to Norman Cameron 09 372 8442.

norman.cameron37@gmail.com

Please contact Neil (kncam@xtra.co.nz) for a registration form.

**Saturday 12 September**

**Scottish Clans Association - Auckland District Inc.  
10th Annual Dinner**

This is a preliminary notice to advise that this dinner will be held in the Rutherford room, Alexandra Park Raceway.

It will include a formal welcome, as guest of honour, to the Hon. Grant Guthrie Davidson, Davidson of Davidston 3rd, Chief of that name and Mrs Davidson.

If you would like an invitation please contact Murdock McDonald <murdock@clear.net.nz>

**Next Magazine Deadline is 15 Sept.**

**Printed By**



# From the Branches....

**Auckland** by Norman Cameron

The annual Clan Cameron Auckland Branch Dinner will be held on Saturday the 22nd of August at the Quality Hotel (Barrycourt) Parnell, starting at 6pm for 6.30 pm.

The theme for the dinner is the 175th anniversary of the arrival the Barque "Blenheim" on the 27th of December 1840 at Kaiwharawhara, Wellington. Quite a few descendants of the "Blenheim" have accepted the invitation to attend the dinner. Hugh McPhail is at the present writing a book on the passengers, their ancestors and a history on their arrival. Hopefully copies will be on sale on the night. The guest speaker is Marc Ulyatt who wrote the book "Kaiwarra Camerons". Marc is a descendant of Donald (the weaver) and Christina Cameron who were passengers and settled in the Wairarapa. The City of Auckland Highland Pipe Band's Fusion Band will entertain us, along with Highland dancers, and songs by Celia Haggitt and Malcolm Campbell. It will be a very interesting night and I hope there is a good attendance.

On Sunday the 29th of June the Kirkin of the Tartan was held at St Andrew's Church in Symonds Street, six banners were presented and I wish to thank Heather Cameron, Jenny & Bryan Haggitt for their support.

At the Scottish Clans Association Auckland District May meeting there was a move to liquidate the organization but this was averted and the format has been changed. Where before the Association organized all the activities this has now changed and Clans will be asked to run the events. There will be four events:- Kirkin of the Tartan, Association Dinner, Tent sites at the Auckland Highland Games and the fourth event to be a Burn's Night in July. Possibly Clan Cameron could combine the Burn's Night with their annual dinner.

**Bay of Plenty** by Denis Cameron

A small number of members gathered together and we held our Annual General Meeting on the 14th June. All officers and committee members were returned. Yes – I am still the President but only for one more year.

Unfortunately we had to cancel our luncheon which was to be held on June 28th as we only had a few replies and would have been committed to the caterer for whatever number we gave him.

We have a number of subscriptions still outstanding. Our treasurer has sent accounts via email or post and we would appreciate prompt payment by return.

We have booked and paid for a separate room at the Tauranga RSA for a lunch function on the 18th October so let us all get together and make it a great occasion. Hopefully we will have representatives from other Clans join us. Put the date in your diary now.

We have passed the shortest day of the year and although there is still a "winter chill" in the air we look forward to spring in Paradise.

Congratulations to Jean Barker on her exhilarating leap into the nineties.

Best wishes and keep warm and well.

**Canterbury** by Rae Magson

We have been resting on our laurels lately, however we have two events to look forward to. Firstly, the combined Clan luncheon held in Christchurch in July. This is a fun event and gives us a chance to mix with members of other Clans. Then in November we have our tent at the Hororata Highland Games. Each year these Games are becoming more and more popular, they are enjoyable, even if we go home exhausted.

Congratulations to Nick Cameron on being elected President of Clan Cameron New Zealand.

**Manawatu** by Jessie Annabell

A big thank you to everyone for their support of the national AGM in April. After a period of rest we now have a few events coming up.

Members who are Blenheim descendants are looking forward to the dinner in Wanganui on Tuesday 25 August. It will be 175 years since the Blenheim set sail for New Zealand with a boatload of Scots emigrants, including quite a few Camerons. Because of this dinner and the national AGM in April, which we hosted, there will not be a midyear dinner this year for our branch.

However we are planning a get-together on Sunday October 11 at the Bowlarama Tenpin Bowling centre in Cuba St, Palmerston North. We will send out a newsletter and contact all branch members nearer to the date. This venue will be under shelter and it provides a focus for family and youth activities.

As always, Palmerston North's Square Day, Saturday 12 December, is approaching. This has always been our main fundraising activity. All those who would like to be there, even for an hour or so, are most welcome.

The beautiful Mt Lees will again be the site for our branch AGM in February. We thank all of those who have paid their subs. Do please note that those who have not yet paid will see a red dot on their copy when we send our branch newsletter out.

John Cameron has asked members to indicate their interest in polo shirts monogrammed with the Cameron crest or even t-shirts screen-printed with the crest.

**Iar (formerly Taranaki/Wanganui)** by Shona Wallace

Not a lot of news from our area however plans are well under way for next years National AGM. I will put together a package outlining available motels in the area and send to each branch at a later date. The date we have set for the AGM is April 9<sup>th</sup> 2016. Our branch is meeting again on July 19<sup>th</sup> for further discussion and lunch. As you all know Wanganui suffered badly in the floods but I hope none of our Clan were affected. There was some severe damage in Taranaki but mostly confined to South Taranaki and the Eastern areas. The flooding was certainly horrendous. We offer our best wishes to all affected.

**175th Blenheim Gatherings** by Roz Grant

The Barque Blenheim Wanganui Dinner 25th. of August 2015 celebrating the departure of the Blenheim - we are happy to report that there is has been an overwhelming response. Registrations closed on the 31st. of July but we will take late registrations. In the mean time keep the 27th. of December free for the Kaiwharawhara Picnic Please contact Roz Grant tullochgorum@xtra.co.nz 06 327 3861

We are still taking registrations for the Auckland Dinner on 22 Aug.



A lovely old Model T bakery van outside the Nevis Bakery in Fort William during Ben Bronze Weekend. Photo: Bill Cameron

# Morvern Lines 18 June 2015

By Iain Thornber

Today is the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo which took place in Belgium marking the final defeat of French military leader and emperor Napoleon Bonaparte (1769-1821), who conquered much of continental Europe in the early 19th century. Of the 68,000 British soldiers who fought under the Duke of Wellington, an estimated 23,000 died in the Belgian mud. Amongst them were many men from Morvern, Ardgour and Sunart who joined the 79th Highlanders (later 'the Cameron Highlanders') and the 92nd Gordon Highlanders recruited from the extensive Gordon lands of which Lochaber formed a part.

It is often said that Highlanders, even today, prefer to be led but when they produce a leader he his exceptional. Reading the historical accounts of the way in which these two famous regiments conducted themselves, there is no doubt that at the Battle of Waterloo their commissioned and non-commissioned officers were outstanding.

Two born leaders from the Highland area immediately come to mind. John Cameron of Fassiefern, a grand nephew of Donald, 19th Chief of Clan Cameron, the 'Gentle Lochiel' of the 1745 Rising, was Colonel of the 92nd. Although he was killed at Quatre Bras two days before Waterloo, his contribution in the lead up to the 18th of June ensured Wellington achieved his decisive victory. For this and more a baronetcy was conferred on his father Ewen by a grateful King George III. More than 3,000 mourners are said to have been present when Col John's remains were brought home by Ewen MacMillan, his foster-brother and interred in the old graveyard of Kilmallie, Lochaber the following year. He is remembered by a nearby sixty-foot-high, sandstone obelisk erected in 1816 at a cost of £1,400 by the officers and men of his regiment. It bears an inscription thought to have been composed by Sir Walter Scott. Time and weather have taken their toll but, happily money was raised to have it cleaned for a short service of commemoration which took place earlier this week in the presence of his kinsman, Donald Cameron of Lochiel, Chief of Clan Cameron and Lord Lieutenant of Inverness and no doubt the descendants of many other clansmen who fought and fell with him.

The Lochaber hero of Waterloo was undoubtedly Alexander Cameron (1778-1850) youngest son of Donald Cameron of

Glendessary and Murligan on Loch Arkaig-side and a direct descendent of Sir Ewan Cameron, 17th Chief of Lochiel. When Alexander was nineteen years old he ran away from the family sheep farm at Glendubhlochan in Knoydart to volunteer with the Breadalbane Fencibles in Perth. On the way he stopped at Inverailort for a few days and was so taken by the place that he vowed that if he ever had sufficient wealth he would return and purchase it. Alexander accompanied the Fencibles on an expedition to Holland under the command of the Duke of York and soon afterwards received an ensigncy in the 92nd Regiment. In 1800 he joined the newly formed experimental Rifle Corps and from then on his rise in the British army was meteoric. He became a personal friend of the Duke of Wellington who promoted him to the rank of Colonel and gave him command of the 1st Battalion of the Rifle Brigade at Waterloo. There he led his men until near the end of the battle when he was forced to leave the field with a serious neck wound. By the time he retired from military service he had been awarded a knighthood and elevated to the rank of Major General. Not bad for a shepherd from the isolated Knoydart Peninsula!

In 1818, Alexander married Christian, only daughter and heiress of Coll MacDonell of Barrisdale - a prosperous sheep and cattle rancher. Her dowry, his army pension and loot from the battlefields of Europe, enabled him to buy Inverailort which he had so admired. Following the capture of Napoleon and peace in Europe, the highly decorated Sir Alexander settled down at Inverailort where, in the words of a local Gaelic bard, who composed a song honouring his military exploits, spent the remainder of his years listening in place of the cannon's roar to the comparatively peaceful roaring of

the stags on his hills. He died at Inverailort on 26 July 1850, the bullet with which he was wounded in the neck at Waterloo being still in his body.

Sir Alexander is buried in the old cemetery of Kilmallie not far from Col John Cameron of Fassiefern. He is commemorated by a bronze plaque in the private Cameron-Head burial aisle at Inverailort and by a small monument in front of the Kilmallie Parish Church which is badly in need of repair. It would be a generous act on the part of today's 'Rifles', if they would put a stone to the cairn of whom it was said, 'was one of the best officers ever trained by Moore [Lieutenant-General Sir John Moore, KB, who was killed fighting the French at the Battle of Corunna] and employed by Wellington'. With the Duke of Wellington's approval Sir Alexander Cameron's descendants were given the right to bear forever in their coat of arms, the medals of the Peninsular and Waterloo campaigns and the bugle horn of the Rifle Brigade which can be seen on his memorial.

*With thanks to Iain Thornber and the Oban Times*



*Maj-Gen Sir Alexander Cameron  
of Inverailort*



## The Cameron Monument

The 200th anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo was remembered by a gathering of about 200 people at the restored obelisk at Kilmallie Church. This also marked the completion of restoration work on the memorial to Colonel John Cameron.

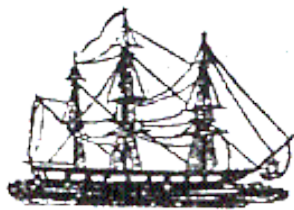
Local historian, Roddy Mainland, explained that the B-listed monument commemorated the life and death of John Cameron of Fassiefern, who was mortally wounded in action at Quatre Bras, near Brussels, in the service of his country on June 16, 1815. He said "The outcome of this engagement delayed Napoleon's army long enough for Wellington to select a place for the allied armies to make a stand against the opposing French forces. This encounter took place near the small town of Waterloo and the rest, as they say, is history."



# *Extracts from the letters of Jessie Campbell,*

**to her family from Petone and  
Wanganui 1841-1845**

*Continued from the April issue.*



Wanganui, 27th. June, 1843

My dearest Mother,

A lady has offered to enclose a letter in a small parcel for me, she is to send it to her friends in Yorkshire, she assures me of its safe transmission. I am delighted at having so early an opportunity of announcing to you the birth of another grandson on the 27th of May. I was safely delivered of a fine stout little fellow, and have only to repeat the tale of most women in this country that I suffered nothing in comparison to what I would have at home.

Dr. Wilson was my medical attendant (midwives are not known here) my kind friend Mrs. Wilson did everything for me that you could have done, she came every day to dress the baby until I was strong, in short as I often told her, she was both mother and sister to me. I will give you an instance of her care of me. I had a slight threatening of my old pains two days after the baby's birth and had resources to my old remedy ---bottle of hot water---one of them broke in the bed. Mrs. Wilson heard of it late in the evening she guessed, as was really the case that I would not be at the trouble to get my bed so thoroughly changed as I should, she immediately came up and made everything dry and comfortable, except our own family, I have no relation of whom I have such regard. When the baby is strong enough to be taken to church he is to be named Ewen Alexander, he is very like Susan Anne.

We got comfortably settled in our new house 3 weeks before my confinement. I was saying the other day, if you could have a peep at us, how pleased you would be to see us so very comfortable, the house is an excellent one for the country, commodious and well planned. Many a hot argument the Capt. and John Cameron had while planning it, the walls are of clay with a roof of shingle, all the partitions inside of wood, the walls outside are white washed which gives it the look of a clean English cottage. The accommodation consists of a sitting room on one side as you enter from the outer door--opposite is our own bedroom---opening from our room are two smaller rooms, one for the boys and one for the girls. On the end of the passage is a small place to be used as a laundry or pantry, opening from it is a small storeroom. John Cameron has a very neat room, the first place he has had he could call his own since he came to N.Z. The rooms are very warm, a capital brick fireplace in the sitting room and what is more in this country it does not smoke in the least.

Captain Campbell enjoys excellent health, his appearance is improved by being thin, he suffers nothing from rheumatism. Since we came to this comfortable house he is in excellent spirits, he has just the life he likes, he works hard during the day and during the long winter evenings we very often have some friends in to play Backgammon or Chess or perhaps Dr. Wilson pops in to have an argument, we can always have a pleasant society whenever we wish for it. The class of settler is very respectable in general and their numbers are gradually increasing. I am always so busy I have less time than inclination to be sociable.

I wrote to you some time ago that our troublesome missionary was drowned. The Bishop has supplied his place by sending Mr. Taylor, a clergyman educated at one of the English universities and different from his predecessor in every way, he has a very ladylike wife and four children so neatly dressed.

Mr. Taylor brought a letter of introduction from Mr. Busby to Capt. Campbell it is a blessed change for this place to have a clergyman officiating every Sunday. Mr. Taylor preachers pretty well and reads the service beautifully. It is now time for me to give an account of the all important subject, the land question. I rejoice to say that after all our disappointments and delays, we have at last a certain prospect of getting our land very shortly.

Mr. Spain and Mr. Stafford were down here last April and after passing a month, the natives agreed to give up the land for so much additional payment without referring to the Company. If they decline to pay, which is very unlikely, Government will take the whole matter into their own hands. The natives are very anxious to have the white people settled among them, they cannot live without tobacco, blankets etc. all of which the Pakehas or white people provide them with. Our old native here, came yesterday with a fine eel. He told the Capt. he was anxious to give him the land, but could not do it until they got more payment. The settlers would at once advance the required payment but fear if they do so, the Company may refuse to repay them.

We are all delighted with Mr. Spain, he spared no exertion in settling the question, he is a most pleasant gentlemanlike man. All the good people here paid him great attention, there was such a slaughtering of poultry giving him dinners. Capt. C. supplied the market with good beef. He sold a fat cow to a butcher, the only one that has been killed in the place. A regular invited dinner party is such an event in this part of the world that very few are provided with the necessaries for a dinner table. My things were in constant requisition and so the Capt. followed his spoons etc. and got his own share of the good things that were going. My dinner party consisted of 8 and their fare of fish, beef, chickens and ham, brown soup, cape gooseberry jam and dried peaches. Mr. Spain's mother-in-law, an old lady of 78, came to N.Z. with his wife and family. She stood the voyage well until one stormy night she was tossed out of her berth and broke her collar bone. She recovered from it much sooner than could be expected.

Mr. Spain's residence is in Auckland. He walked with Capt. C. to see our country sections and was delighted with them. On getting to one spot from which there is splendid view he exclaimed he had seen nothing like it in this country. The Capt. and he became such friends after this !!

I will now give you an account of my domestic concerns. Since January, I have had a Skye girl who came out on the Blenheim. I am counted fortunate in having her, she is honest and sober, milks the cows, is strong and not likely to marry in a hurry as she does not speak good English. Her wages are 16 pounds a year.

Some purchases made last summer have increased our cattle to 40 head. I still get 3/- per lb. for fresh butter and 2/6 for salt. 3d. per pint for milk. I made a good deal by my dairy during the summer and autumn. We get nothing from our own land except the comfort of growing our own wheat and potatoes. As for raising crops for sale, it is not half so profitable as cattle.

Labourers' wages have lessened very much, the men we had working at this house got 15/- per week, a year ago they would not have worked under 1 pound and rations.

The natives have a very large crop of Indian corn and potatoes this year which we get for very little from them, the meal of the Indian corn makes very good porridge and cakes and very good puddings, we have had no oatmeal for a long time, the children's breakfast in general is mashed potatoes or rice and milk, bread and milk for supper. They thrive well on their fare, as they are all so strong and healthy. John carries breadth and well as height he is a very sensible boy of his age, he is very useful to his Father, he is doing pretty well at school. Miss King takes great pains to give them general information and to give them a taste for reading. I hope by the time John is ready to begin higher branches we may have a good school master to send him to. In ciphering he is the rule of three. Colin is a strong fishing rod but perfectly strong and healthy, he has not the sound judgement of John nor the same confidence in himself. He puts me very much in mind of Donald McDonald, he can apply but is so very thoughtless, yet he is a favourite of Miss King. I consider it an advantage for both boys to have the example of such a steady well principled young man as John Cameron.

Your grand-daughter is the cleverest of them, she promises to be as greater reader as papa, every spare moment she has is devoted to her books, her memory is excellent. From of her body and her mind, you forget she is only 7 years old. She is a great romp too and a famous hand at destroying her clothing.

☆

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

# The Camerons of Marangai in WW1

By Jenny Haggitt

This is the WW1 story of three of the sons of John Cameron, who arrived on the Blenheim and settled at Marangai near Wanganui. John Cameron is mentioned in Jessie Campbell's letters. Marangai remained in Cameron hands until recently.



**John Cameron** was born on 6 March 1867, second son of John and Annie Cameron nee Sutherland. After his schooling at Wanganui Collegiate, he worked on the family farm at Marangai. In 1900 with his brother Hector he volunteered for the Boer War, in 1902 he was appointed Captain in the 8<sup>th</sup> Contingent of Mounted Infantry.

Telegram 28 3 01 from Wanganui Mayor: "Yes, Cameron of

*Wanganui was splendidly spoken of by Jowsey and others....*

Excerpt from Military History Journal of the South African Military History Society, Vol. 14, No. 4:

.... Our gallant little crowd - only nine strong - kept at them refusing to surrender when called upon. White stood up to get a shot and actually got six bullets into him ... Milner was shot some distance to the front... racing for cover. With only twenty rounds left, the survivors gave up and handed over their rifles and bandoliers to the Boers. The prisoners were stripped of all their clothing and possessions, rifles, bandoliers, trousers, hats and one man even said that they took his razor. Wessels told them: 'Never since I have been fighting have I seen such dogged resistance as shown by you men, and as for that man (pointing to the body of Pooley) he is the bravest man I have seen.' After dark, the prisoners were released, one at a time, to make their way back to their own side.....

(Chamberlain and Drooglever, 2003, pp 497-501, quoting graphic descriptions of the fight on Dewetsdal from letters by Lieutenant J Loynes and Trooper A W Walker).

It is estimated that the fight lasted for about five hours.

John returned to Marangai and took up farming at the family farm with his eldest brother, Allan. When World War I was declared he carried on farming, and then enlisted at Trentham on 23 August 1915, the day before his brother James enlisted in Dalby, Queensland. His medical records note that he was 5ft 9 ½ ins, with a tanned complexion, blue eyes, brown greying hair

He enlisted with Service No. 7/1705 in the "G" Squad, 7<sup>th</sup> reinforcements, Trooper Canterbury Mounted Rifles 1<sup>st</sup> Squadron, embarking on 9 October 1915 with the contingent on the ships *Aparima*, *Navua* and *Warrimoo*

He disembarked at Suez 18 November 1915. He was promoted temporary Lance Corporal at Zeitoun Camp on 21 December 1915.

On 23 January 1916 the CMR and the rest of the NZMR left Zeitoun Camp for the Suez Canal, 140 km to the east. The journey took seven days in all. The CMR then spent February training, playing sport and swimming in the Suez Canal. From April until he fell ill in September the Canterbury Mounted Rifles saw action in Sinai. When most of the New Zealand Expeditionary Force sailed for France in April 1916, the CMR remained in Egypt as part of an Anzac Mounted Division which was helping defend Egypt against the Ottoman Turks. A rethink of British strategy in the region saw this defensive effort changed into an offensive one designed to take the fight to the enemy and destroy or neutralise his bases in the Sinai Peninsula.

On 20 September John was admitted to 31<sup>st</sup> General Hospital, Abbassia with dysentery then to 31<sup>st</sup> General Hospital, Port Said. On 4 November he was discharged to duty and taken on Strength at Moascar

On 20 November he fell ill again and was admitted to the 27<sup>th</sup> General Hospital, Abbassia, Cairo. On 1 December he was placed on the dangerously ill list and

died the next day from an abscess on the liver. He is buried at the New Cairo War Memorial Cemetery, Egypt

(Sources: Online Cenotaph NZ; Family Records)

**Hector Sutherland Cameron** was born 25 June 1869, the third son of John and Ann Cameron, nee Sutherland, of Marangai.

He was educated at Wanganui Collegiate and took up farming upon leaving school.

He belonged to the Alexandra Mounted Rifles when he joined the First Contingent to South Africa, his service no. 26. Known as the First New Zealand Mounted Rifles, the First Contingent consisted of men who had been selected from regional volunteer forces.

Commanded by Major Alfred Robin, it was divided into two companies and departed from Wellington aboard the SS *Waiwera* on 21 October 1899.

Hector Cameron returned to New Zealand with the First on the SS *Orient* at the beginning of February, 1901, and departed again for South Africa with the Seventh Contingent as Lieutenant in April of 1901.

After the war he came back to New Zealand and returned to farming. He married Eleanor Grierson Robertson, and had two children. He died on 27 December 1944 at Wanganui.



(Sources: St Clair Inglis; Online Cenotaph NZ; Family records)

**James Cameron**, born 23 April 1873 at Marangai, was the youngest son of John and Annie Cameron (nee Sutherland) of Marangai, Wanganui. He attended Wanganui Collegiate from 1887 to 1900, and after leaving school he travelled to Queensland, Australia, where for fifteen years he worked as a sheep farmer. On 24 August 1915 he enlisted in Dalby, Queensland in the 12<sup>th</sup> Brigade, Australian Imperial Forces, Service number 4473. His medical records tell us he was 5ft 8in tall, with blue eyes and black hair.

He embarked from Brisbane on 31 January 1916 on the HMAT *Wandilla*, arriving in Egypt by 7 March 1916. He was marched to Camp Zeitoun where he was on guard duty at the Canal for some months. He joined the 47<sup>th</sup> Battalion, AIF, before proceeding to France on 2 June, arriving in Marseilles on 9 June. The 47<sup>th</sup> then entered the trenches of the Western Front for the first time on 3 July. It participated in its first major battle at Pozieres. Initially, the battalion provided working parties during the 2nd Division's attack on 4 August, and then, with its own division, defended the ground that had been captured. The 47<sup>th</sup> endured two stints in the heavily-contested trenches of Pozieres, as well as a period in reserve.

James was severely wounded in both arms and legs on 11 August, 1916 and died four days later at the 44<sup>th</sup> Casualty Clearing Station just behind the firing line. He was 42 years old when he died, and unmarried. He was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

He is buried at the Puchevillers British Cemetery, Somme, France.

(Sources: Australian War Memorial.gov.au; Online Cenotaph; Family records)

These men were Bryan Haggitt's great uncles, his grandmother Mary's brothers. Mary is shown on left.



Allan, John, Mary, Hector and James Sons and daughter of John Cameron



*A Happy 90th Birthday from us all*

*Jean Barker (nee Cameron) with her brothers from Australia; Alan, Doug and Donald Cameron*

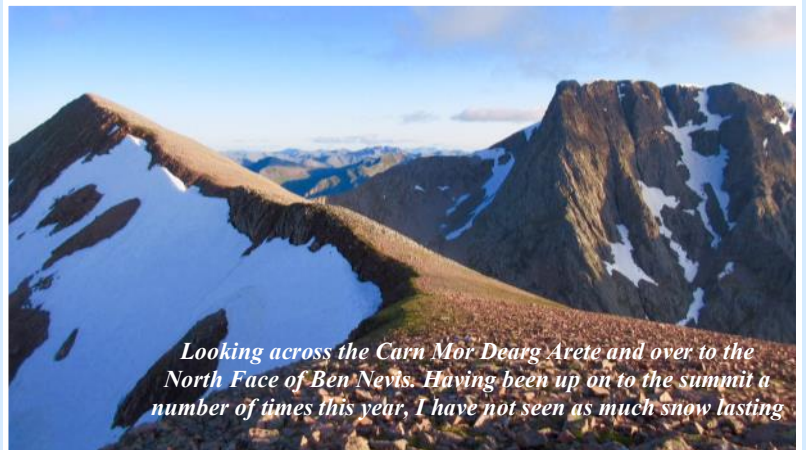
Jean Barker cuts her Birthday cake, and with her piper and great nephew, Loic cameron



The Auckland Kirkin' O' the Tartan



Scottish Heritage Council Tartan Day Lunch in Christchurch The names are Jenny Leishman, Sharon Wallace, John Atkinson, Rae Magson, Pat Tarbotton and Rex Tarbotton.



*Looking across the Carn Mor Dearg Arête and over to the North Face of Ben Nevis. Having been up on to the summit a number of times this year, I have not seen as much snow lasting*

Two of Bill Cameron's splendid Lochaber pictures. The one below shows Bill on the Lochaber Traverse.



At the Auckland Kirkin' O' the Tartan. Norman Cameron, Heather Cameron, Jenny and Bryan Haggitt.

