

EDWARD CAMERON: A MINE MANAGER IN THE TUI MINES

Philip Hart

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Historical Research Unit  
Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences  
The University of Waikato  
Private Bag 3105  
Hamilton, New Zealand

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Contact: [prhart1940@gmail.com](mailto:prhart1940@gmail.com)



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
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*Te Whare Wānanga o Waikato*

## EDWARD CAMERON: A MINE MANAGER IN THE TUI MINES

**Abstract:** *Edward (Ned) Cameron was an experienced miner before settling in New Zealand, where he worked on the Thames goldfield in many mines and becoming a mine manager. He also mined on other Hauraki fields, in particular Waiorongomai after 1881 and Tui after 1885. In both, he managed several mines and undertook a considerable amount of prospecting, anticipating good results that were not achieved (or achievable). As with others who worked in the Te Aroha district, his efforts were defeated by the low quality of the ore, and although he earned sufficient to make a satisfactory living, he did not prosper.*

### INTRODUCTION

Edward Cameron, commonly known as Ned,<sup>1</sup> was born in Scotland in 1831. When he died in May 1899, it was estimated that he had lived in New Zealand for about 40 years. He never married, and his parents were unknown to those who provided the information for his death certificate.<sup>2</sup> In 1887 he told the Minister of Mines that he had mined for over 30 years,<sup>3</sup> meaning that he was an experienced miner by the time he came to New Zealand.

### MINING AT THAMES

In June 1868, Cameron obtained his first miner's right for the Karaka portion of the Thames goldfield.<sup>4</sup> He immediately bought one of the five shares in the Shamrock, at Waiotahi Creek, for £65.<sup>5</sup> He bought and sold interests until his remaining half share was transferred to the company

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<sup>1</sup> *Ohinemuri Gazette*, 17 May 1899, p. 2.

<sup>2</sup> Death Certificate of Edward Cameron, 11 May 1899, 1899/2106, BDM.

<sup>3</sup> Edward Cameron to Minister of Mines, 26 May 1887, Mines Department, MD 1, 87/583, ANZ-W.

<sup>4</sup> Thames Warden's Court, Register of Miners' Rights 1868, no. 6821, BACL 14358/2a, ANZ-A.

<sup>5</sup> Thames Warden's Court, Thames Claims Register 1868, folio 342, BACL 14397/1a; Register of Agreements 1868, folio 18, BACL 14417/1a, ANZ-A.

formed in July 1869, in which he was allotted one-tenth of the interests.<sup>6</sup> His dealings in this claim were remarkably profitable. Having purchased two half shares for £100 he sold one of these and a quarter share for £895, the other quarter share being sold for £270 plus a one-twentieth interest of all the gold and other assets.<sup>7</sup> In July, he bought ‘one equal half share’ in the Surrey, Moanataiari Creek, being one-twelfth of the interests, for £25, selling it one month later for £37 10s.<sup>8</sup>

No more share dealings were recorded until March 1869, when he purchased a half share, a one-fourteenth interest, in the Nonpareil, at Waiotahi, for an unrecorded sum, selling it one month later for £200.<sup>9</sup> Also in April, he bought one share in the Princess Alice at Waiotahi Creek for £2.<sup>10</sup> In September, for £50 he bought a one-sixteenth interest, a quarter sleeping share, in the Harp and Eagle at Waiotahi.<sup>11</sup> In January 1871 he applied for the A1 claim at Tararu but promptly withdrew his application.<sup>12</sup>

In early 1872, Cameron was appointed to manage Russell’s Company, of Tararu. Being ‘thoroughly au fait with the peculiarities of Tararu mining’, by April he was ‘fast getting the ground into good working order’.<sup>13</sup> He also ran the company’s battery for an unknown period.<sup>14</sup> Also in April he

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<sup>6</sup> Thames Warden’s Court, Thames Claims Register 1868, folio 342, BACL 14397/1a, ANZ-A; *New Zealand Gazette*, 16 July 1869, p. 341.

<sup>7</sup> Thames Warden’s Court, Register of Agreements 1868, folios 380-381, 384-385, BACL 14417/2a; Register of Deeds 1869, folios 254, 291-292, BACL 14417/3a; Register of Deeds 1869, folios 330-331, BACL 14417/4a, ANZ-A.

<sup>8</sup> Thames Warden’s Court, Register of Agreements and Licenses 1868-1870, folio 94, BACL 14417/1a; Registration of Agreements 1868, folio 177, BACL 14417/2a; Certificates of Registration of Transfer of Shares, no. 154, BACL 14424/1a, ANZ-A.

<sup>9</sup> Thames Warden’s Court, Thames Claims Register 1868-1869, no. 545, BACL 14397/2a; Register of Deeds 1869, folio 66, BACL 14417/3a, ANZ-A.

<sup>10</sup> Thames Warden’s Court, Register of Deeds 1869, folio 44, BACL 14417/4a, ANZ-A.

<sup>11</sup> Thames Warden’s Court, Thames Claims Register 1868-1869, no. 418, BACL 14397/2a; Register of Deeds 1869, folio 548, BACL 14417/3a, ANZ-A.

<sup>12</sup> *Auckland Provincial Government Gazette*, 13 January 1871, pp. 1-2, 23 January 1871, p. 12.

<sup>13</sup> *Auckland Weekly News*, 27 April 1872, p. 10.

<sup>14</sup> Thames Warden’s Court, Address Book 1872-1878, entry for 5 April 1872, BACL 14456/1a, ANZ-A; *Thames Advertiser*, 26 August 1885, p. 2.

became the sole owner of the Captain, two men's ground at Tinker's Gully, Tararu, transferring it to the Russell Battery Company in October.<sup>15</sup>

In January 1873, Cameron became the owner of the Martha, two men's ground at Tararu; it would be declared abandoned in 1878.<sup>16</sup> In June, with a partner he took up the Rosina, of two acres, at Tararu. It would be forfeited late the following year.<sup>17</sup> In July 1873, when he lived at Tararu and gave his occupation as a battery manager, he held 200 of the 1,600 shares in the City of York Company, whose mine was at Waiokaraka Creek.<sup>18</sup> Originally a director, he forfeited his directorship later in the year,<sup>19</sup> presumably because he had sold most or all of his shares. In October, he was granted the Tinker', one man's ground at Tinker's Gully, Tararu; it was sold two weeks later.<sup>20</sup>

When still living at Tararu in February 1874, he held 400 of the 6,000 shares in the Vanguard Company, operating at Karaka.<sup>21</sup> In July, he obtained Mount Pleasant and Mount Pleasant No. 2, at Hape Creek, forfeiting them in October the following year.<sup>22</sup> In September 1875, he was granted the Provincial, which he surrendered one year later.<sup>23</sup>

In April 1877, he was registered as one of the six owners of Little Emily, at Tinker's Gully; all had equal shares. Three months later, it was amalgamated with other ground before being sold two months later.<sup>24</sup> In

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<sup>15</sup> Thames Warden's Court, Register of Claims 1872-1874, no. 6, BACL 14397/8a, ANZ-A.

<sup>16</sup> Thames Warden's Court, Register of Claims 1872-1874, no. 60, BACL 14397/8a, ANZ-A.

<sup>17</sup> Thames Warden's Court, Register of Licensed Holdings 1872-1875, folio 94, BACL 14397/7a, ANZ-A; *Thames Advertiser*, 14 June 1873, p. 4, 18 June 1873, p. 2, 18 November 1874, p. 2.

<sup>18</sup> *New Zealand Gazette*, 13 July 1873, p. 454.

<sup>19</sup> *Thames Advertiser*, 7 January 1874, p. 3.

<sup>20</sup> Thames Warden's Court, Register of Claims 1872-1874, no. 120, BACL 14397/8a, ANZ-A.

<sup>21</sup> *New Zealand Gazette*, 19 February 1874, p. 110.

<sup>22</sup> Thames Warden's Court, Register of Licensed Holdings 1872-1875, folios 141, 142, BACL 14397/7a, ANZ-A; *Thames Advertiser*, 25 April 1874, p. 2, 30 May 1874, p. 2; advertisement, *Thames Star*, 27 October 1875, p. 3.

<sup>23</sup> Thames Warden's Court, Register of Licensed Holdings 1875-1882, no. 76, BACL 14397/10a, ANZ-A.

<sup>24</sup> Thames Warden's Court, Register of Grahamstown Claims 1875-1878, nos. 485, 501, BACL 14397/11a, ANZ-A.

mid-year, he became the sole owner of Lady Bird, one man's ground in the same area; two years later it was abandoned.<sup>25</sup>

In February 1879, with another mine manager he took the Golden Crown on tribute for two years, and immediately employed six wages men.<sup>26</sup> After nine months, despite having received little return for the 'trouble and expense they have gone to to open it up', he remained hopeful.<sup>27</sup> At the end of the year, 71oz was obtained from a 'large parcel'.<sup>28</sup> The following July, he successfully applied for the Waitoa at Moanataiari; it would be forfeited in January 1882.<sup>29</sup> In December 1880, he was probably the Cameron who was tributing in the Alburnia.<sup>30</sup>

Cameron was underground manager in several mines, and for a time mine manager for the Waiotahi Company.<sup>31</sup> He seems to have remained its manager until resigning in early 1884, over two years after settling at Waiorongomai. After receiving a report from another manager 'on the present condition and prospects of the Mine & also on the nature of the work' he had done, the directors were 'highly pleased' and thanked him for his services and regretted 'that owing to the extreme dullness of the times they are obliged to suspend operations'.<sup>32</sup>

#### COROMANDEL, 1869-1870

In July 1869, Cameron bought one of the nine shares in the Great Western, at the head of Waikoromiko Creek, at Kennedy Bay, for £100, selling it for an unrecorded amount two and a half months later.<sup>33</sup> He then

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<sup>25</sup> Thames Warden's Court, Register of Grahamstown Claims 1876-1878, no. 499, BACL 14397/11a, ANZ-A.

<sup>26</sup> *Thames Advertiser*, 4 February 1879, p. 3.

<sup>27</sup> *Thames Advertiser*, 20 October 1879, p. 3.

<sup>28</sup> *Thames Advertiser*, 24 December 1879, p. 3.

<sup>29</sup> *Thames Star*, 6 July 1880, p. 3; *Thames Advertiser*, 31 January 1882, p. 2.

<sup>30</sup> *Thames Advertiser*, 4 December 1880, p. 3.

<sup>31</sup> Edward Cameron to Minister of Mines, 26 May 1887, Mines Department, MD 1, 87/583, ANZ-W.

<sup>32</sup> D.G. MacDonnell to Edward Cameron, 5 May 1884, Mines Department, MD 1, 87/583, ANZ-W.

<sup>33</sup> Thames Warden's Court, Register of Deeds 1869, folios 627-628, BACL 14417/4a; Claims Register 1869, no. 1537, BACL 14397/4a, ANZ-A.

purchased another share, selling it after one month.<sup>34</sup> He was one of the nine owners of Tokatea No. 2, registered early in August; he sold his one-twelfth interest one month later for £50.<sup>35</sup> In mid-August, he bought one of the six shares in the Port Phillip, at Tokatea, for £100.<sup>36</sup> On 27 August, he obtained four miners' rights for Kennedy Bay, transferring three of these to Karaka North in the following July.<sup>37</sup> He purchased an eighth share (out of six full shares) in the Royal Oak, at Kennedy's Bay, in September,<sup>38</sup> The following January, he bought a quarter share, selling it in May for £110.<sup>39</sup>

## TAIRUA

Cameron spent several days at the new Tairua goldfield in early April 1875.<sup>40</sup> Later in the month, he applied for the Eureka.<sup>41</sup> It was granted to him and two others at the end of June, and transferred to the Ajax Company two weeks later; he was allotted 1,438 of the 22,000 shares in this company.<sup>42</sup> At a meeting to elect directors, all on his list of candidates were defeated; although elected on a show of hands, a rival group won by a combination of votes of those in attendance plus proxies.<sup>43</sup>

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<sup>34</sup> Coromandel Warden's Court, Register of Claims 1868-1872, no. 5, BACL 14396/1a, ANZ-A.

<sup>35</sup> Thames Warden's Court, Claims Register 1879, no. 1790, BACL 14397/4a; Register of Deeds 1869, folio 585, BACL 14417/3a; Coromandel Warden's Court, Register of Claims 1868-1872, no. 22, BACL 14396/1a, ANZ-A.

<sup>36</sup> Thames Warden's Court, Claims Register 1869, no. 1749, BACL 14397/4a; Register of Deeds 1869, folios 596-597, BACL 14417/3a, ANZ-A.

<sup>37</sup> Thames Warden's Court, Register of Miners' Rights 1868-1869, nos. 6044-6047, BACL 14358/3a, ANZ-A.

<sup>38</sup> Coromandel Warden's Court, Register of Claims 1868-1872, no. 7, BACL 14396/1a, ANZ-A.

<sup>39</sup> Thames Warden's Court, Claims Register 1869, no. 1713, BACL 14397/4a; Coromandel Warden's Court, General Register of Transferred Shares 1870-1872, folio 17, ZAAN 1160/1a; Instruments 1870, AAAE 15180/3a, ANZ-A.

<sup>40</sup> *Thames Advertiser*, 14 April 1875, p. 3.

<sup>41</sup> *Thames Advertiser*, 23 April 1875, p. 2.

<sup>42</sup> Thames Warden's Court, Register of Licensed Holdings 1872-1875, folio 165, BACL 14397/7a, ANZ-A; *New Zealand Gazette*, 22 July 1875, p. 500.

<sup>43</sup> *Thames Advertiser*, 19 May 1876, p. 3.

In June, when he helped to measure the boundaries of the prospectors' claim, he was believed to be seeking the extra ground.<sup>44</sup> The following month, he was allotted 500 of the 10,500 shares in the National Company, of which he was a director, and 500 of the 10,000 in the Troy.<sup>45</sup> He also 'bought a great number of scrip' in the Tairua Company 'under the impression that there were only 9,000 shares'; there were in fact 10,000.<sup>46</sup> Late in July, he applied for the Provincial, and when this was formed into a company in October, he was allotted 2,500 of its 15,000 shares.<sup>47</sup> In September, he was allotted 250 of the 15,000 shares in the True Briton Company, of which he was a provisional director.<sup>48</sup>

Because confusion over the boundaries of Maori reserves at Tairua caused difficulties for miners, he attended a meeting at Paeroa in July 1876 and supported a petition seeking the defining and surveying of all such reserves at Ohinemuri.<sup>49</sup>

## OWHAROA

From 1875 to 1878, Cameron lived in Owharua,<sup>50</sup> although continuing to be interested in other areas: in October 1875 he went to Waitekauri 'to secure a site for machinery'.<sup>51</sup> In mid-December 1875, he applied for a water race at Owharua.<sup>52</sup> Five days later, he was reported to be pegging out a claim at this new find.<sup>53</sup> Late in December, he became one of the owners of the Annie.<sup>54</sup>

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<sup>44</sup> Warden's Court, *Thames Advertiser*, 16 June 1875, p. 3.

<sup>45</sup> *New Zealand Gazette*, 22 July 1875, p. 498, 29 July 1875, p. 510; *Thames Advertiser*, 28 June 1875, p. 3.

<sup>46</sup> *Thames Advertiser*, 5 July 1875, p. 3.

<sup>47</sup> *Thames Advertiser*, 29 July 1875, p. 2; *New Zealand Gazette*, 28 October 1875, p. 676.

<sup>48</sup> *Thames Advertiser*, 31 July 1875, p. 2. *New Zealand Gazette*, 2 September 1875, p. 592.

<sup>49</sup> *Thames Advertiser*, 13 June 1876, p. 3.

<sup>50</sup> *Thames Electoral Rolls, 1876*, p. 10; 1877, p. 11; 1878, p. 11.

<sup>51</sup> Ohinemuri Correspondent, *Thames Star*, 21 October 1875, p. 2.

<sup>52</sup> Thames Warden's Court, Mackaytown and Thames Letterbook 1876-1896, folio 24, BBAV 14458/1b, ANZ-A.

<sup>53</sup> *Thames Advertiser*, 21 December 1875, p. 3.

<sup>54</sup> Te Aroha Warden's Court, Register of Ohinemuri Claims 1875, no. 118, BBAV 11568/1a, ANZ-A.

The following February, Cameron was registered as the sole owner of the Mount Pleasant.<sup>55</sup> Later that month, he applied for the Excelsior and the Little Dorrit.<sup>56</sup> In August, the former was described as being ‘mostly owned’ by him.<sup>57</sup> Both were forfeited in May 1877,<sup>58</sup> for inadequate working. The mining inspector regularly checked on the work done in the Excelsior, granted to Cameron on 10 March:

30 March: Driving 124’ [feet] – Trench 250’ – 3’ deep – idle  
 12 April: Driving crosscut – 2 men  
 24 April: 2 Men driving – timbering where necessary  
 3 May: 2 men driving – and timbering where necessary  
 18 May: 2 men Do [ditto] -  
 1 June: 2 men Do –  
 28 June: Nothing done since last visit  
 5 July: 1 Man laying rails and timbering drive  
 28 July: 1 Man driving  
 18 August: Nothing doing  
 6 September: Do –  
 6 October: 1 dressing timber for Shaft – will Start a Shaft if men can be obtained  
 25 October: Nothing doing – Winze sunk about 30ft since last visit  
 2 November: 2 Men splitting timber  
 13 November: 2 men getting timber  
 23 November: Nothing doing  
 30 November: Do –  
 13 December: 1 Baling out of winze to commence sinking –  
 19 January 1877: Nothing doing  
 6 February: Do –  
 21 May: Certificate of forfeiture to Warden.<sup>59</sup>

Although Cameron told the mining inspector two weeks after he was granted the Little Dorrit in early April 1876 that he had ‘sent to Grahamstown for men’, no work was ever done.<sup>60</sup>

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<sup>55</sup> Te Aroha Warden’s Court, Register of Ohinemuri Claims 1875, no. 113, BBAV 11568/1a, ANZ-A.

<sup>56</sup> Thames Warden’s Court, Mackaytown and Thames Letterbook 1876-1896, folio 35, BACL 14458/1b, ANZ-A; *Thames Advertiser*, 26 February 1876, p. 2, 11 March 1876, p. 2.

<sup>57</sup> *Thames Advertiser*, 12 August 1876, p. 3.

<sup>58</sup> *Thames Advertiser*, 29 May 1877, p. 2.

<sup>59</sup> Thames Warden’s Court, Report Book of Mining Inspector 1876-1878, folio 13, BACL 14451/1a, ANZ-A.



In May 1876, he was allotted 800 of the 13,000 shares in the Bella Company, of which he was a director.<sup>61</sup> In September, he was allotted 1,000 of the 15,000 shares in the Golden Hill Company.<sup>62</sup> That month, he was reported as managing the Bona Ventura mine.<sup>63</sup> ‘Cameron and party’ tributed in the Smile of Fortune early in August 1878; when their tribute ended in late October, they crushed 2 1/2 tons for 2oz 13dwt.<sup>64</sup>

## WAIORONGOMAI

Although obituaries stated Cameron lived at Te Aroha since the opening of the goldfield,<sup>65</sup> his first miner’s right for the district was issued on 26 November 1881, over a month after the discovery of the Waiorongomai field and a year after the Te Aroha rush.<sup>66</sup> Two days later, he applied for forfeiture of the Kokuku for non-working, and was granted this unsuccessful claim early in December.<sup>67</sup>

He enthusiastically acquired claims and bought and sold shares. On the last day of January 1882, he was registered as one of the owners of the Queen, with one of the 15 shares. In September, he bought another two and a half for £18 15s, and a year later sold three for £19.<sup>68</sup> Also on the last day of January, he was registered as sole owner of the Ruby. In February, he applied for a water race, but withdrew his application before it could be advertised.<sup>69</sup> In June, he sold six shares for £45 and one year later sold

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<sup>60</sup> Thames Warden’s Court, Report Book of Mining Inspector 1876-1878, folio 23, BACL 14451/1a, ANZ-A.

<sup>61</sup> *Thames Advertiser*, 12 May 1876, p. 3; *New Zealand Gazette*, 25 May 1876, p. 379, 22 June 1876, p. 434.

<sup>62</sup> *New Zealand Gazette*, 28 September 1876, p. 674.

<sup>63</sup> *Thames Advertiser*, 14 September 1876, p. 3.

<sup>64</sup> *Thames Advertiser*, 6 August 1878, p. 3, 25 October 1878, p. 3.

<sup>65</sup> *Thames Star*, 15 May 1899, p. 2; *Thames Advertiser*, 16 May 1899, p. 2.

<sup>66</sup> Te Aroha Warden’s Court, Miner’s Right no. 1823, issued 26 November 1881, Miners’ Rights Butt Book 1881-1882, BBAV 11533/1i, ANZ-A.

<sup>67</sup> Te Aroha Warden’s Court, Complaint Book 1880-1898, 67/1881, BBAV 11547/1a, ANZ-A.

<sup>68</sup> Te Aroha Warden’s Court, Register of Licensed Holdings 1881-1887, folio 39, BBAV 11500/9a; Transfers and Assignments 1882, no. 638, BBAV 11581/2a; Certified Instruments 1883, no. 456, BBAV 11581/4a, ANZ-A.

<sup>69</sup> Te Aroha Warden’s Court, Register of Applications 1880-1882, folios 94-96, BBAV 11505/3a, ANZ-A.

another ten for £15.<sup>70</sup> In mid-February, he was registered as sole owner of Emily, and in six months sold all his interest, 15 shares, for £70.<sup>71</sup> He also repurchased one and a half shares from one buyer for £15, £5 more than he had sold them for, selling these one year later, by which time the worth of the claim had been revealed as unpromising, for £5.<sup>72</sup> When a company was formed, in October 1883, he was not registered as holding any shares.<sup>73</sup> He must have done so, as he was a director; presumably some held in trust for the company were allotted to him.<sup>74</sup>

At the beginning of March, he bought one share in the Hero for £20; when it was transferred to the company in May, he was allotted 800 (out of 15,000) shares.<sup>75</sup> In April, another miner applied for possession of his Eldorado for non-working; as the plaintiff did not attend the hearing, the case was struck out, but Cameron promptly abandoned the ground anyway.<sup>76</sup> Also in April, he was allotted 400 of the 20,000 shares in the Waitoki Company.<sup>77</sup> In June, he was one of the owners of the Welcome, with two of the 30 shares, which he sold within a year or £27.<sup>78</sup> Also in June, he was allotted 789 of the 30,000 shares in the Werahiko Company.<sup>79</sup> In early July, he purchased two and a half shares in the Victoria for £20; they were transferred to the company of that name, registered in December, in which

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<sup>70</sup> Te Aroha Warden's Court, Register of Licensed Holdings 1881-1887, folio 40, BBAV 11500/9a; Transfers and Assignments 1882, nos. 430-432, BBAV 11581/2a; Certified Instruments 1883, no. 309, BBAV 11581/4a, ANZ-A.

<sup>71</sup> Te Aroha Warden's Court, Register of Licensed Holdings 1881-1887, folio 52, BBAV 11500/9a; Transfers and Assignments 1882, nos. 238, 250, BBAV 11581/2a; Certified Instruments 1883, no. 419, BBAV 11581/4a, ANZ-A.

<sup>72</sup> Te Aroha Warden's Court, Transfers and Assignments 1882, no. 498, BBAV 11581/2a; Certified Instruments 1883, no. 501, BBAV 11581/4a, ANZ-A.

<sup>73</sup> *New Zealand Gazette*, 11 October 1883, p. 1487.

<sup>74</sup> Company Files, BBAE 10286/13d, ANZ-A; *New Zealand Gazette*, 11 October 1883, p. 1487.

<sup>75</sup> Te Aroha Warden's Court, Register of Licensed Holdings 1881-1887, folio 10, BBAV 11500/9a; Transfers and Assignments 1882, no. 71, BBAV 11581/1a, ANZ-A; *New Zealand Gazette*, 1 June 1882, p. 800.

<sup>76</sup> Te Aroha Warden's Court, Plaintiff Book 1880-1898, 33/1882, BBAV 11547/1a, ANZ-A.

<sup>77</sup> *New Zealand Gazette*, 27 April 1882, p. 646.

<sup>78</sup> Te Aroha Warden's Court, Register of Licensed Holdings 1881-1887, folio 103, BBAV 11500/9a; Certified Instruments 1883, nos. 129, 179, BBAV 11581/3a, ANZ-A.

<sup>79</sup> *New Zealand Gazette*, 22 June 1882, p. 895.

he was allotted 700 of the 20,000 shares.<sup>80</sup> Also in early July, he purchased the Lark on behalf of the New Find Company.<sup>81</sup>

When the New Welcome Company was registered in September 1883, he held 250 of the 20,000 shares.<sup>82</sup> In October, he was registered as sole owner of the Golconda, which was forfeited a year later.<sup>83</sup> In November, he was allotted 333 of the 30,000 shares in the Lady Ferguson Company.<sup>84</sup>

At an unknown date, he purchased 700 shares in the May Queen Company. In June 1885, he was warned that they were liable to forfeiture if a call remained unpaid.<sup>85</sup>

### ‘CAMERON’S COLLYWOBBLES’

Writing in 1925 about the first crushing in the battery in November 1883, John McCombie recounted the story of ‘Cameron’s collywobbles’:

Towards the end of each month there was a general clean up of all the amalgam resulting from the different parcels of ore crushed, especially from the New Find and Premier mines. Shares in both properties were then in strong demand, and the state of the market hinged entirely upon the monthly returns. At 8 a.m. on a certain day, the mill manager issued instructions that the doors were to be locked and no one allowed either in or out until 5 p.m. This was deemed necessary in order to frustrate the speculators’ touts who were prowling about the mill trying to get inside information for the benefit of their employers.

The late Mr Cameron was then supervising a trial crushing from the Werahiko mine, of which he was the manager. He could not help noticing the pile of amalgam which was being transferred from the safe to the retort belonging to the New Find mine. Taking it for granted that it was hot water squeezed he concluded the bullion return would be a big one, and that there would be a

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<sup>80</sup> Te Aroha Warden’s Court, Register of Licensed Holdings 1881-1887, folio 45, BBAV 11500/9a; Transfers and Assignments 1882, no. 451, BBAV 11581/2a, ANZ-A; *New Zealand Gazette*, 14 December 1882, p. 1884.

<sup>81</sup> Edward Cameron to Harry Kenrick, 6 June 1882, Te Aroha Warden’s Court, General Correspondence 1882, BBAV 11584/1c, ANZ-A; *Thames Star*, 6 July 1882, p. 2.

<sup>82</sup> *New Zealand Gazette*, 27 September 1883, p. 1369.

<sup>83</sup> Te Aroha Warden’s Court, Register of Licensed Holdings 1881-1887, folio 180, BBAV 11500/9a, ANZ-A.

<sup>84</sup> *New Zealand Gazette*, 22 November 1883, p. 1345.

<sup>85</sup> Advertisement, *Te Aroha News*, 6 June 1885, p. 7.

corresponding advance in the market value of the shares. Then he decided to work a “schlenter” [a dubious trick]<sup>86</sup> so as to get in touch with some of his colleagues, who were outside awaiting his appearance. Claspng both arms tightly around his solar plexus, and contorting his features into a hideous outward semblance of inward agony he approached the manager. “For God’s sake, Mr Adams, let me out. I’ve got a bad attack of the collywobbles, stomachache you know, and I want to get to the hotel to get some whisky, which is the only remedy for it.” He was allowed to go out, and upon reaching the hotel he found his friends, to whom he imparted the required information. After a brief consultation they decided to telegraph right away for a big parcel of New Find shares, and they had no difficulty about completing the purchase. The amalgam seen by Cameron had been squeezed in cold water, and the return in bullion, when spread over the tonnage of ore treated, was so poor that the market value of the shares came down with a rush, and they never rallied afterwards.

It was rumoured that Cameron’s party lost about £400 over this transaction, and subsequently it was not safe to mention cold water amalgam or collywobbles within reach of his hearing.<sup>87</sup>

#### MINE MANAGER AT WAIORONGOMAI

Cameron was the first manager of the Werahiko and Waitoki mines.<sup>88</sup> For a time, prospects in the former were encouraging,<sup>89</sup> and he acquired shares in the company.<sup>90</sup> In October 1882, a visiting reporter noted that, ‘within three months, and with only three men employed’, Cameron, ‘the energetic manager’ of the Waitoki, had ‘made considerable progress’.<sup>91</sup> Again, he had shares in the company.<sup>92</sup> At the end of April 1884, shareholders were informed that the past year’s operations had ‘not been satisfactory’, for the battery return was ‘far from payable, while the gold was less valuable than in other mines’. As confining operations to

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<sup>86</sup> Eric Partridge, *A Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English*, 8 ed., ed. Paul Beale (London, 1984), p. 1018.

<sup>87</sup> John McCombie, ‘Random Recollections: Te Aroha Goldfield’, *Auckland Star*, 7 November 1925, p. 21.

<sup>88</sup> For details of his management, see paper on these mines.

<sup>89</sup> For example, *Thames Advertiser*, 5 April 1882, p. 3.

<sup>90</sup> *New Zealand Gazette*, 22 June 1882, p. 895.

<sup>91</sup> A.L., ‘The Te Aroha Goldfield’, *Auckland Weekly News*, 28 October 1882, p. 20.

<sup>92</sup> *New Zealand Gazette*, 27 April 1882, p. 646.

prospecting had not led to a payable reef being discovered, the ground was forfeited.<sup>93</sup>

In August 1888, when he was managing the Nevada, adjacent to the Premier, it was reported that some good stone had been found.<sup>94</sup> The following March, when it was liable for forfeiture, Cameron successfully obtained an adjournment of the suit for one month after he described the work done. He had driven two drives, one of 70 feet and the other of 30, whilst waiting Peter Ferguson's return from Scotland<sup>95</sup> to make an arrangement with him.<sup>96</sup> At the hearing at the beginning of April, Cameron appeared on behalf of the owners of this and the adjoining Bismarck,

and stated work had been suspended pending the return of Mr Peter Ferguson, as it was only by putting in a tunnel through the New Era Special Claim the ground could be advantageously worked. He had seen Mr Ferguson since his return, and expected to be able to agree as to terms for putting in a tunnel as proposed. He would therefore ask that the case be adjourned for one month, to allow him time to try and make some arrangements. Mr Ferguson had only been back a week or two yet. A good deal of prospecting had been done on the ground.<sup>97</sup>

Nothing further was reported about these insignificant claims, and Cameron returned to the Tui district.

### MINING IN THE TUI DISTRICT

Early in May 1885, a Thames newspaper reported that Cameron, 'a gentleman who has long been identified with the fortunes of the Thames and Te Aroha goldfields', had left 'for the silver fields of South Australia' and elsewhere in Australia.<sup>98</sup> He returned in late August, 'after some months' sojourn at Silverton', near Broken Hill, 'during which he has acquired practical knowledge concerning the working of argentiferous lodes'. He expressed high hopes for Karangahake as a good district for

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<sup>93</sup> *Thames Advertiser*, 1 May 1884, p. 2; Warden's Court, *Te Aroha News*, 2 May 1885, p. 7.

<sup>94</sup> *Te Aroha News*, 11 August 1888, p. 2.

<sup>95</sup> See paper on Peter Ferguson and his New Era.

<sup>96</sup> Warden's Court, *Te Aroha News*, 6 March 1889, p. 2.

<sup>97</sup> Warden's Court, *Te Aroha News*, 3 April 1889, p. 2.

<sup>98</sup> *Thames Advertiser*, 6 May 1885, p. 3; *Te Aroha News*, 9 May 1885, p. 2.

silver, and was ‘fully convinced’ of the success of the LaMonte process,<sup>99</sup> being used at Silverton.<sup>100</sup> With the discovery of silver lodes at Tui by Clem Cornes,<sup>101</sup> he immediately turned his attention to this district, in late October calling for the construction of a track to the find. He was elected to a committee to seek government aid and was one of three miners who determined the line of the track.<sup>102</sup>

In late November 1885, he became sole owner of the Albion, at the head of the Tui Stream, selling this claim a year later for £20 even though no ore had been extracted.<sup>103</sup> Also on the same date in November 1885, with George Robson, a Te Aroha chemist,<sup>104</sup> he was granted two claims, the Langtry and the Laura.<sup>105</sup> Robson had pegged out the former in early August and in the following month was testing Tui ore from unspecified claims.<sup>106</sup> Both were forfeited in December 1886.<sup>107</sup> Although these and other claims he invested in were unsuccessful, in October 1885 he had managed to sell one-fifteenth of his interest in these three and the Gladstone for £32.<sup>108</sup>

In December 1885, the warden, Harry Kenrick,<sup>109</sup> was looking for ‘reliable men’ who were ‘good prospectors’ to investigate the King Country

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<sup>99</sup> See paper on the Tui mines.

<sup>100</sup> *Thames Advertiser*, 26 August 1885, p. 2.

<sup>101</sup> See paper on his life.

<sup>102</sup> *Te Aroha News*, 24 October 1885, p. 2.

<sup>103</sup> Te Aroha Warden’s Court, Register of Applications 1883-1900, 44/1885, BBAV 11505/1a; Register of Licensed Holdings 1881-1887, folio 191, BBAV 11500/9a; Edward Cameron to D.J. Frazer, 8 November 1886, Certified Instruments 1886, BBAV 11581/7a, ANZ-A; *Handbook of New Zealand Mines* (Wellington, 1887), p. 341.

<sup>104</sup> See *Waikato Times*, 8 August 1882, p. 2, 10 August 1882, p. 2; *Te Aroha News*, 3 July 1886, p. 2, 12 March 1907, p. 2; *Waikato Argus*, 7 February 1912, p. 2; M.A. Frost, *Behind the Dispensing Screen: Early New Zealand pharmacists* (Hamilton, 2004), pp. 159-161.

<sup>105</sup> Te Aroha Warden’s Court, Licensed Holdings Grant Book 1882-1886, nos. 179, 180, BBAV 11549/1b, ANZ-A.

<sup>106</sup> *Te Aroha News*, 8 August 1885, p. 2; *Thames Advertiser*, 28 September 1885, p. 3.

<sup>107</sup> Te Aroha Warden’s Court, Register of Licensed Holdings 1881-1887, folios 196, 197, BBAV 11500/9a, ANZ-A.

<sup>108</sup> Te Aroha Court, Transfer of Shares between Edward Cameron and J.E. Banks, 4 October 1885, Mining Applications 1885, BBAV 11572/1a, ANZ-A.

<sup>109</sup> See paper on his life.

and wanted Cameron to join the party.<sup>110</sup> He did not, preferring to continue prospecting Tui. In that month, he purchased the Mark Moon for £5.<sup>111</sup> The following month, he occupied the adjacent May Bell, which was granted to him as sole owner in May.<sup>112</sup>

His May Bell was directly below the main Tui mine.<sup>113</sup> ‘Stone from Tui Reef’ he took to the Thames School of Mines for testing in either 1886 or 1887 was not encouraging. In the first sample, the quartz was ‘densely impregnated with fine iron pyrites’. One ton would produce 19dwt 14gr of bullion. ‘Not worth parting ... Gold too small to weigh perhaps 1dwt per ton’. The second sample was also ‘heavily charged with iron pyrites’ but produced 1oz 15dwt 22gr of gold and 143oz 3dwt 5gr of silver per ton. The third was ‘pretty clean quartz with black spots little silver stone also some copper pyrites-blende’. There were 6oz 5dwt 18gr of bullion per ton. ‘Gold a strong trace – Unweighable’.<sup>114</sup>

At the beginning of 1887, he spent several weeks working the May Bell.<sup>115</sup> In March, he obtained £5 from the Ohinemuri County Council to make the Tui track ‘practicable for traffic’.<sup>116</sup> Two months later, he surrendered three acres of the May Bell.<sup>117</sup> In October, he arranged to send 15 tons of selected ore for treatment at Freiburg, in Germany.

Cameron thinks that were exporting ore of unquestionable value entered into more largely, it would be the best method of attracting foreign capitalists to our shores. In support of this view he instances the case of Silvertown (S.A.) ore, from which mining district ore was at first largely reported for treatment abroad, and attention was thus drawn to its richness, and processes suitable

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<sup>110</sup> Te Aroha Warden’s Court, Harry Kenrick to George Wilson, 15 December 1885 (telegram), General Correspondence 1886, BBAV 11584/3a, ANZ-A.

<sup>111</sup> Te Aroha Warden’s Court, Register of Licensed Holdings 1881-1887, folio 202, BBAV 11500/9a; Transfer of Mark Moon by Henry Brett to Edward Cameron, 22 December 1885, Certified Instruments, BBAV 11581/6a, ANZ-A.

<sup>112</sup> Te Aroha Warden’s Court, Mining Applications 1888, 143/1888, BBAV 11289/12a; Register of Licensed Holdings 1881-1887, folio 156, BBAV 11500/9a, ANZ-A.

<sup>113</sup> *Thames Advertiser*, 2 April 1886, p. 2.

<sup>114</sup> Thames School of Mines, Assay Book 1886-1887 [no pagination], n.d., School of Mines Archives, Thames.

<sup>115</sup> *Te Aroha News*, 6 February 1887, p. 2.

<sup>116</sup> *Thames Advertiser*, 7 March 1887, p. 2.

<sup>117</sup> Warden’s Court, *Te Aroha News*, 28 May 1887, p. 2.

to treat the ore were soon introduced into the colony. Cameron says that he has seen lying in the quartz paddock at the Kenilworth mine, Karangahake, 30 tons of ore, every ton of which he believes to be worth £30.<sup>118</sup>

The following January, he was 'busily employed opening up his claims, the May Bell and Mark Moon, and has some first-class looking stone to grass'.<sup>119</sup> In March, he applied for the May Bell Special Claim, of 40 acres, adjacent to his existing May Bell property, but reduced this to seven acres, comprising the May Bell and Mark Moon Licensed Holdings, which were granted in late July.<sup>120</sup> When he applied for the special claim, the *Te Aroha News* described him 'as well known in mining circles as a most indefatigable and experienced prospector'. For the past two years he had been 'steadily engaged' in 'putting in a low level in the May Bell mine, prospecting, and other works; and deserves to reap a rich reward for the plucky manner in which he has persevered in the face of so many obstacles'. He had 'unbounded confidence' in the Tui district, and was to send five tons to Adelaide for treatment.<sup>121</sup> Another parcel, also of five tons, was sent for testing in Germany.<sup>122</sup>

Late in March, he accompanied the ore sent to the Australian Smelting and Refining Company in Adelaide, 'where gold and silver-bearing ores can now be treated as efficiently as in England or Germany'.<sup>123</sup> Shortly afterwards, the mining inspector recorded that in the six-acre May Bell he had

extended the low-level drive to 110ft. The drive is through hard rock, and has cost about £1 15s per foot. There has not been a reef found, although it is the opinion of Mr Cameron that he would cut quartz before reaching the distance driven. A parcel of five tons of quartz, from surface-boulders, was sent to Freiburg for treatment, but the return is not yet to hand. Another lot of 4 1/2 tons has

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<sup>118</sup> *Te Aroha News*, 22 October 1887, p. 2.

<sup>119</sup> *Te Aroha News*, 21 January 1888, p. 2.

<sup>120</sup> Te Aroha Warden's Court, Application for May Bell, 17 March 1888, Mining Applications 1888, BBAV 11289/12a, ANZ-A; *Te Aroha News*, 21 March 1888, p. 2.

<sup>121</sup> *Te Aroha News*, 21 March 1888, p. 2.

<sup>122</sup> *Waikato Times*, 27 March 1888, p. 2.

<sup>123</sup> *Te Aroha News*, 28 March 1888, p. 2.



been sent to the Adelaide Company's smelting works, at Adelaide, estimated to be worth from £20 to £30 per ton.<sup>124</sup>

When Cameron returned, he did not reveal the success of the tests, implying that they were not encouraging. By then, and probably earlier, he lived at what was known as 'Cameron's Camp' or 'Cameron's whare', one and a half miles from the flat up the Tui track, which was surveyed as far as 'Cameron's point'.<sup>125</sup> In February 1897, when mining revived in this district, 'a number of sections' were pegged out 'at, and around, Cameron's camp, which is about half way up the Tui track. These sections are being secured by miners for residence sites, and before long we may expect to see a thriving settlement on Cameron's Flat'.<sup>126</sup> Being unmarried, Cameron was able to live so far from the township.

At the end of March 1888, he applied for the El Dorado, of 30 acres, but withdrew the application three months later.<sup>127</sup> In June, he occupied the Monte Christo, which he had marked out for its Auckland owner, and four months later was permitted to prospect with just two men for four months.<sup>128</sup> By December, under his management some large reefs had been found, and prospecting continued.<sup>129</sup> In the following May, he was still prospecting it.<sup>130</sup>

In July 1888, he successfully sought four months protection of the May Bell, as there was 'no method of getting the ore treated'.<sup>131</sup> Five months later, he was granted another three months; 'no means yet to have any ore treated', for the Waiorongomai battery was 'not yet ready'.<sup>132</sup> At the

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<sup>124</sup> George Wilson to Under-Secretary, Mines Department, 4 April 1888, *AJHR*, 1888, C-6, p. 12.

<sup>125</sup> *Te Aroha News*, 19 May 1888, p. 7, 23 May 1888, p. 2, 11 July 1888, p. 2.

<sup>126</sup> *Ohinemuri Gazette*, 17 February 1897, p. 2.

<sup>127</sup> Te Aroha Warden's Court, Application for El Dorado, 29 March 1888, Mining Applications 1888, BBAV 11289/12a, ANZ-A.

<sup>128</sup> Te Aroha Warden's Court, Application for Protection of Monte Christo, 22 October 1888, Mining Applications 1888, BBAV 11289/12a, ANZ-A; *Te Aroha News*, 1 May 1889, p. 2.

<sup>129</sup> *Te Aroha News*, 15 December 1888, p. 2.

<sup>130</sup> *Te Aroha News*, 1 May 1889, p. 2.

<sup>131</sup> Te Aroha Warden's Court, Application for Protection of May Bell, 25 July 1888, BBAV 11289/12a; Register of Applications 1883-1900, 59/1888, BBAV 11505/1a, ANZ-A.

<sup>132</sup> Te Aroha Warden's Court, Mining Applications 1888, 143/1888, BBAV 11289/12a; Register of Applications 1883-1900, 143/1888, ANZ-A.

beginning of October 1889, 'for want of funds' he again sought four months protection, 'If the Te Aroha Co knock of it is no use of any working If mining matter look better in the new year I may then start again'.<sup>133</sup> In announcing that he had 'decided to take a trip to the Australian goldfields', the *Te Aroha News* described him as 'a most indefatigable, experienced and spirited prospector and mine manager'.

For the past two or three years he has been working for himself, in connection with his claim at the Tui adjoining the Champion Lode, and known as the May Bell. Upon this claim Mr Cameron has laid out a large sum of money, but he has now applied for protection for a time, and none on the field better deserve that such should be granted. Without flattering we can say Mr Cameron is known as a man whose expressed opinion on any mining matters could be thoroughly relied on as truthful and honest. We wish him bon voyage.<sup>134</sup>

Six days later, he sold it to the Champion Company for £75.<sup>135</sup>

In 1890, Cameron received a certificate of competence as a mine manager and two years later a mine manager's first-class service certificate.<sup>136</sup> No further involvement with the Tui district was recorded until May 1896, when he applied for the Mayflower.<sup>137</sup> In November, he described it as 'abandoned ground. It is of very difficult complex ores. I cannot say how we will work it. I have been working on it 6 or 7 years. I have sent samples away to various places. We will have to put in low levels

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<sup>133</sup> Te Aroha Warden's Court, Application for Protection for May Bell, 3 October 1889, Mining Applications 1889, BBAV 11289/12a; Register of Applications 1883-1900, 74/1889, BBAV 11505/1a, ANZ-A.

<sup>134</sup> *Te Aroha News*, 12 October 1889, p. 2.

<sup>135</sup> Te Aroha Warden's Court, Edward Cameron to Champion Gold and Silver Mines, 18 October 1889, Certified Instruments 1889, BBAV 11581/10a, ANZ-A; Warden's Court, *Te Aroha News*, 30 October 1889, p. 2.

<sup>136</sup> *AJHR*, 1890, C-3, p. 133; *New Zealand Gazette*, 11 February 1892, p. 298; *New Zealand Mines Record*, 16 August 1904, p. 44.

<sup>137</sup> Te Aroha Warden's Court, Mining Applications 1896, 16/1896, BBAV 11289/14a, *AJHR*, 1897, C-3, p. 98.

to test further down'.<sup>138</sup> After seeking permission in March 1897 to could work it with only one man, he surrendered it in the following January.<sup>139</sup>

The problem of how to treat the ore was of great concern, and when Joseph Campbell lectured in Te Aroha in July about his proposed solution,<sup>140</sup> Cameron seconded the vote of thanks.<sup>141</sup> His only other claim was the Champion No. 4, of 15 acres, which, immediately it was granted, in October 1896, was sold to Tui Gold Mines Ltd for an undisclosed sum.<sup>142</sup>

## FINANCES

Cameron's profitable share transactions have been noted. He also speculated in a small way in business sites. In March 1882, he was granted a site in Te Aroha, and in July another there and one in Waiorongomai.<sup>143</sup> The latter was sold in the following year.<sup>144</sup> The second Te Aroha site was forfeited after three years.<sup>145</sup> The first one was sold in 1884 for £20, repurchased in 1886 from the same purchaser for the same price, and sold

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<sup>138</sup> Declaration of Edward Cameron, 12 November 1896, Mines Department, MD 1, 96/2456, ANZ-A.

<sup>139</sup> Te Aroha Warden's Court, Register of Applications 1883-1888, 43, 155/1897, BBAV 11505/1a; Letterbook 1883-1900, p. 461, BBAV 11534/1a, ANZ-A.

<sup>140</sup> See paper on Joseph Campbell and his thermo-hyperphoric process.

<sup>141</sup> *Ohinemuri Gazette*, 4 July 1896, p. 5.

<sup>142</sup> Te Aroha Warden's Court, Letterbook 1883-1900, p. 349, BBAV 11534/1a; Mining Applications 1896, 15/1896, BBAV 11289/14a, ANZ-A; Jackson and Russell to Edward Cameron, 19 October 1896, Letterbook no. 64, p. 794, Jackson and Russell Papers, MS 360, Library of the Auckland Institute and War Memorial Museum.

<sup>143</sup> Te Aroha Warden's Court, Register of Applications 1880-1882, folios 97-98, 195, BBAV 11505/3a, ANZ-A.

<sup>144</sup> Te Aroha Warden's Court, Rent Ledger 1881-1900, folio 191, BBAV 11501/1a, ANZ-A.

<sup>145</sup> Te Aroha Warden's Court, Rent Ledger 1881-1900, folio 194, BBAV 11501/1a, ANZ-A.

again in 1889 for £45.<sup>146</sup> He purchased another site at Te Aroha in 1889 for £25.<sup>147</sup>

Although his income is not known, and surviving bank records indicate that he had only a small credit balance in his account in the mid to late 1890s,<sup>148</sup> in 1883 he had sufficient funds to lend money to a man who proved unable to repay him.<sup>149</sup> In 1893, he was a surety for a potential lessee of the Waiorongomai tramway.<sup>150</sup>

## INVOLVEMENT IN THE COMMUNITY

Cameron was elected to the committee of the miners' accident relief fund, formed in Waiorongomai in 1883.<sup>151</sup> His only other formal role in the community was as a member of the committee that formed a public library in 1883; he was elected to its committee in the following year.<sup>152</sup>

## ILLNESS AND DEATH

Cameron died in May 1899. 'For a long time past' he had 'been in anything but good health', and about a week before his death 'decided to enter the Hamilton Hospital, so as to receive every attention procurable'.<sup>153</sup> Aged 68, he had died of lung cancer, which had caused severe difficulty in

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<sup>146</sup> Te Aroha Warden's Court, Rent Ledger 1881-1900, folio 418, BBAV 11505/1a; Edward Cameron to J.A. Dobson, 20 September 1884, Certified Instruments 1884, BBAV 11581/5a; J.A. Dobson to Edward Cameron, 30 January 1886, Certified Instruments 1886, BBAV 11581/7a; Edward Cameron to W.J. Hyde, 7 October 1889, Certified Instruments 1889, BBAV 11581/10a, ANZ-A.

<sup>147</sup> Te Aroha Warden's Court, T.P. Judkins to Edward Cameron, 11 February 1889, Certified Instruments 1889, BBAV 11581/10a, ANZ-A.

<sup>148</sup> Bank of New Zealand, Ohinemuri Branch, Half Yearly Balances, Statement of Accounts as at 30 September 1895, 31 March 1936; Half Yearly Accounts as at 30 September 1898, Accounts Closed, Bank of New Zealand Archives, Wellington.

<sup>149</sup> Te Aroha Magistrate's Court, Civil Record Book 1881-1884, 95/1883, BCDG 11221/1a; Home Warrant Book 1883-1928, 9/1883, BBAV 11498/1a, ANZ-A.

<sup>150</sup> Piako County Council, Minutes of Meeting of 31 January 1893, Matamata-Piako District Council Archives, Wellington.

<sup>151</sup> *Te Aroha News*, 23 June 1883, p. 2, 16 February 1884, p. 2.

<sup>152</sup> *Te Aroha News*, 21 July 1883, p. 2, 2 February 1884, p. 2.

<sup>153</sup> *Thames Star*, 15 May 1899, p. 2; *Ohinemuri Gazette*, 17 May 1899, p. 2.

breathing.<sup>154</sup> He did not leave a will, but ill health in his last years probably meant that there was little money to leave to his Scottish relatives, who would receive his estate.<sup>155</sup>

## CONCLUSION

Edward Cameron spent his life mining on several fields, but concentrated on the Waiorongomai and Tui fields from the early 1880s onwards. Regarded as highly competent, he was a prominent mine manager in both fields, and directed a large number of claims almost until his death. For all his years of work he earned sufficient to get by, but never made his fortune.

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<sup>154</sup> Death Certificate of Edward Cameron, 11 May 1899, 1899/2106, BDM; *Black's Medical Dictionary*, 36 ed., ed. C.W.H. Havard (London, 1990), p. 225.

<sup>155</sup> *New Zealand Gazette*, 3 August 1899, p. 1414.