

## CAMPBELL

**Mary Agnes** – First born child of Thomas and Sarah was born in Wellington on 6th November 1849, and subsequently married Hugh Campbell.

Hugh was born at Londonderry, County Antrim, Ireland in 1840. He travelled to New Zealand as an infant and arrived on board the "Lady Nugent" in March 1841. Accompanying him were his father and two sisters and a brother. His mother died at sea. The family settled at Campbell Street, Karori and were well known early settlers. Hugh's father, John, sent a valuer to Upper Opaki to find property for his sons. The valuer returned to report "that there was not a stone to throw at a crow." He omitted to add that they were all too big!! Hugh and his brother John arrived about 1860 and were the second white settlers in the area. Hugh's wife Mary Agnes was the first white woman. It is recorded that Hugh farmed 2,500 acres called Ngaratanui (many large Rata trees). He was well known as a racehorse breeder and had a quality flock of Romney Marsh sheep and some cattle.

There are two stories about Hugh and John. The first concerns wild bulls which were plentiful. Three such bulls bailed up the Campbell family in their homestead for three days. Any movement from inside would make the bulls rub against the house. They were eventually shot and the house painted a bright colour. The second took place when Hugh and John were ploughing with bullocks. A group of Maoris came down from over Mt Bruce, probably to go to the Pa at Miki Miki. They stopped and watched the boys ploughing. The boys didn't know whether to run or hide. But decided to take no notice and to carry on with their work. In time the Maoris continued on their way. The swing plough probably used is still at Ratanui today.

Hugh and Mary Agnes had five children. Hugh was on the establishment committee for the first Upper Opaki School which was situated near the Paerau Road turn off, and started in 1878. We have two reminders of Hugh and Mary Agnes. It is said that Foxglove flower seeds spread from Mary Agnes' garden, and she donated the pump organ to the Mt Bruce district for church services. Hugh and Mary Agnes lived in a home near the present Ratanui homestead which was built in 1893. Mary Agnes passed away on 7/8/1921 at Mt Bruce and Hugh followed her on 29/9/1922. Both are buried in the Masterton Cemetery.

### THEIR CHILDREN

**Sarah Eliza Jane (1866-1938)** Eldest grandchild for both families, married Robert Nicol (?-1909). They had five children and first lived at Rongomai. Then they shifted to Porirua. Following Robert's death, Sarah returned to Ratanui with the children and moved to Masterton later on.

**Hugh (1868-20/6/1924)** married Mary McAdam Davidson in 1897 at Eketahuna. They also lived at Rongomai. Hugh suffered a stroke when about 33 years old. Mary took the two youngest children and lived in

Taranaki until her death in 1914. The children then returned to live with their maternal grandparents. Alan (the eldest) and Hugh lived at Ratanui. Of their three children Allan and Agnes are still living.

**Mary Agnes (known as Polly) (1870-1946)** married John Ray (1877-1923). They had three sons and lived at Belvedere, Carterton.

**Margaret (known as Maggie)** married Herbert Belford Daken. They had six children of whom Tom, Ivan and Erwin are still living. They bought part of Ratanui when they were married.

**John (1875-18/9/1966)** married Emily Blatchford (1879-1958). They were married on 16/3/1904 at the Blatchford homestead at Rangitumau. They lived at Essendale when they were first married and bought land at Opaki, and lived there before shifting to Ratanui later on. The Opaki farm is retained in the family. They had six children and Isla, Olive and Rata are still living.

Ratanui was split between John's three sons. Rata farmed Ratanui, Raymond (Ray) farmed Awarua and Clarence (Clarrie) farmed Essendale. Rameslie was also bought for the three boys. Later on Clarence farmed this. These farms are still in the family, being farmed by their sons.

(Contributed by – Gill Potter)

## **TANKERSLEY**

**Thomas William** – second son of Thomas and Sarah.

Thomas William (Jnr) was born in Wellington in 1844, and arrived in Masterton with his parents in 1857.

His early years at Upland Farm, and Woodlands equipped him well to handle stock and do the many jobs which typify farm life. These he did on his block No.54 of 63 acres on the Kiriwhakapapa Road near to Forest Home, and also on sections 98 to 100, plus another 50 acres – a total of over 170 acres situated on the north side of Upper Plain Road, just over one mile from Ngaumutawa Road.

At the age of 21 years on 2nd November 1865, he married Fanny Louisa Renall who was 17 years of age. The Rev. Dan Desbois officiated at the residence of Mr Jas. Robieson of Taratahi. From their home in Upper Plain Road, Thomas would travel to his Kiriwhakapapa Block, or go droving for other settlers.

About six months after their marriage, on a day when Thomas was away, Fanny was doing the washing in the yard, when a flame from the firebox of the copper ignited her clothing. Apparently the barking of the dogs was heard by neighbours, but failed to arouse any suspicion of trouble. Fanny crawled to the house, and although she apparently survived for a short