

eColenso

ISSN 1179-8351

eColenso is the free email publication of the Colenso Society,
32 Hawkestone St, Thorndon, Wellington 6011: please forward it
to interested others. Contributions should be emailed to the
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Volume 8 number 7 July 2017

Contents

2 The tamariki write to Papa

The teachers...

9 Mr JS Ballantine

13 Mrs C Birnie

14 Mr J Matthews

20 Wakitipu, Wakatupu, Wakatipu...



The tamariki write to Papa

In the collections of Hawke's Bay Museums Trust Ruawhāro
Tā-ū-rangi are two 1851 handwritten letters (2011/34/1 & 2)
to William Colenso from his children...

Waitangi April 28/51
My dear Papa
I was very glad to
see your kind letter and
thank you for it. Keep-
er's sore place is quite
well. The melons are all
gone, the frost killed
them, they were very
nice. The grapes are nice

too, there are some hanging up for you in the surgery but they still hope you are well and remain fast. Latty and I pray your dear little girl.

Frances Mary Colenso

for you, every morning and evening to God, to take care of you, and bring you back to us. Make haste and come back to your dear little

Hua mate a Wiramino i
kite maua i te
tafuketanga. he maha nga pu

i tona tapuketanga i kite maua
i nga pu.

Love

Kia Moko.

Ki Muehatai.

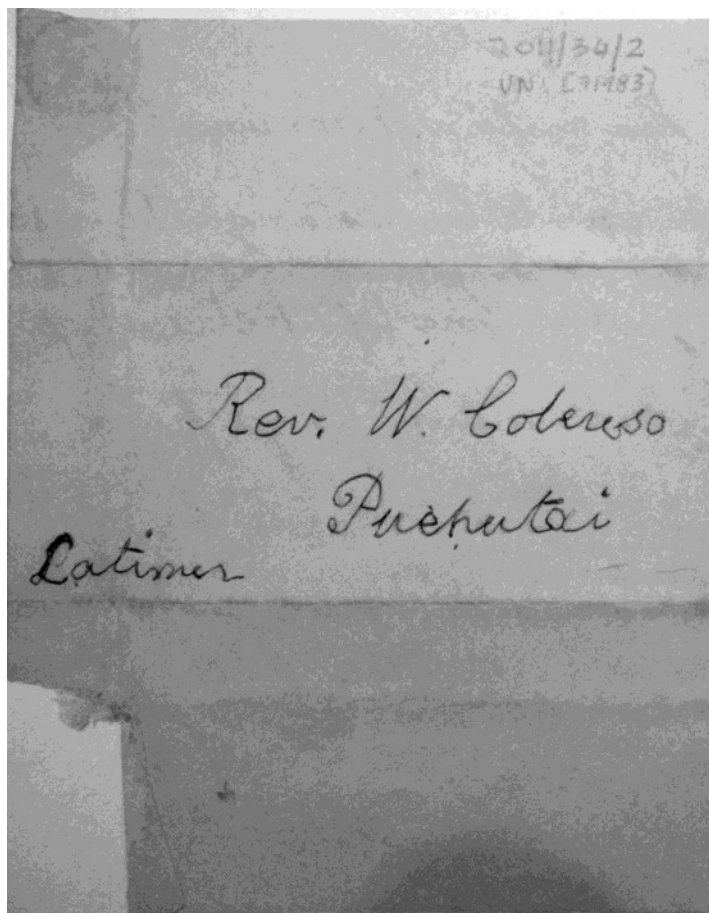
Waitangi April 28th/51
My dear Papa

I love you very
much. I was so glad to
see your letter. I hope
you will soon come
back again to your
dear little children
who both love you so

dearly, we are all
well and hope you
are too Good bye
my dear Papa and
believe me to be

your very dear little
boy Ridley Latimer
Colenso

Kua mate a Wiramina i kite
maua i te tapuketanga. he maha
nga fu i tona tapuketanga
i kite maua i nga fu.



The 28 April 1851 letters are addressed to Colenso at Puehuta (a village near the Oringi Loop of the Manawatu river, just south of Dannevirke) and Colenso read them there on his way home...

21 May 1851: At Puehuta. Ihakara, the Monitor of the village, gave me a packet of Letters, which had been left for me by Mr. McLean;

Both letters referred (in te reo) to the death of Wilhelmina, a wife of Tareha Te Moananui, a principal chief of Ngati Kahungunu: *kua mate a Wiramina i kite maua i te tapuketanga. he maha nga pu i tona tapuketanga i kite maua i nga pu* (= Wiramina died, we saw the funeral, many were at her funeral, we saw the gun). Colenso had already heard of her death,

17 May. (At) Ngaawapurua village.... I found a letter from Mr. McLean informed me, of the death of Wilhelmina (Tareha's wife), which much affected me.

Fanny's letter referred to "Keeper": *eColenso* December 2013 related how Colenso's dog Keeper was impaled at Waimarama. On 21 March 1851 Colenso had left the mission station on what he called his annual "autumnal journey" and reached Waimarama that evening,

25 March: Just as we were about to leave, my faithful watch-dog & travelling companion Keeper—who has ever accompanied me in all my wanderings—unfortunately staked himself in his exuberant joy, in leaping an old fence of the village. Falling outside, he turned round & implored my aid in a most expressive manner. Jumping over the fence I soon had him in my arms, and bringing him in, I had to sew up the wound, a large rent in the lower belly; which done, I was obliged to leave him tied up, as he could not walk....

26 May: We reached Patangata about 2 hours after sunset; and found a messenger just arrived from the Mission Station, bringing me my faithful dog "Keeper," quite healed of his wounds, and the very welcome news of all being well.

Fanny told him the frost had killed the melons at the station. Winter had come early in 1851; Colenso recorded the first frost on 2 April and at Puehutai on 21 May he wrote,

I ... retired to my cold and icy tent, which now presented a beautiful and uncommon appearance. For, having been taken down and rolled up wet this morning, it had, on being pitched, soon froze hard, so that, when the candle was lit, it appeared as if covered with myriads of minute spangles.

Is there something very formal and even stilted and awkward about these letters? Perhaps Fanny and Latty, who were fluent in te reo, were less so at written English (their te reo writing appears more assured)... but the content and phrasing are very similar (“come back to your dear little children”); I wonder if Elizabeth suggested what they might write? Ripeka’s pregnancy was advancing. A difficult time was soon at hand and their mutual denial could no longer hide the truth: as Colenso wrote in his CMS journal,

28 May....Reached the Mission Station by 2 p.m., after an absence of 69 days; and found all well.—Blessed be God, for all His mercies! This evening one of our Native girls dwelling in the house was taken in labour, in which, poor soul! she remained all night, to the no little disarrangement of us all—particularly Mrs. Colenso, who had to be up with her.—

29 May. Ascension Day. This morning our Native girl gave birth to a fine boy. At xi. I read prayers in the Chapel, but, there being only a few present, and my feet very sore, I did not preach.

There is another letter (see page 9), written in te reo and dated Monday 12 May 1851, folded and sealed with red wax, from the children to Colenso at Waipukurau (HBMT Collection no. 2011/34/4).

My interpretation of Google Translator’s best efforts may be inaccurate, but you will discern the sentiments expressed...

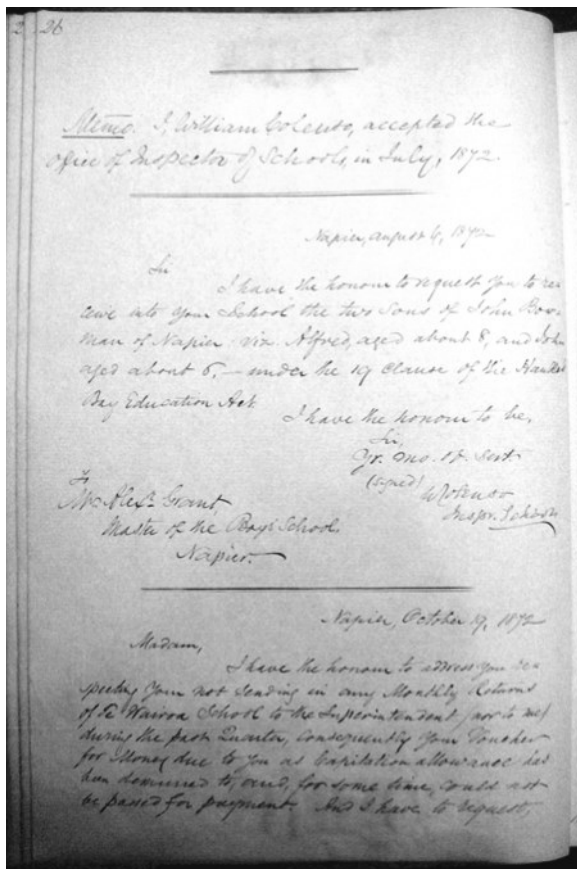
*My dear Papa, nui atu toku aroha ki a koe ka hari rawa atu maua no te mea kotahi anake te Ratapu e toi mai nei kahoki mai ai koe otira me hohoi mai koe a tuaatu o tenei Ratapu ka nui hoki ta maua hiahia, kia hoki mai koe tatau haere maua i Ratapu a ka hari rawa maua no te mea ka tata koe. **tae mai a te Wenerei ka haere atua a Matiaha ki te mau kai atu mau, a nui ana hoki te raru o Mama ki te hanga rongoa mo nga tangata – he maha no nga turoro he nui hoki te raru ki te hoko taewa etahi ka ki nga rua kua whanau te poti waere ene tahau nei e rua tahi aua tamariki ka mutu. Na maua Na o tamariki aroha. Na Frances Mary ana Ridley Latimer Colenso.*

My dear Papa, we love you and are really happy because we know Sunday will restore you to us but if you cannot be home this Sunday despite our great desire for you to come back on Sunday we will be very happy because you will be close. On Wednesday Matthias went to get more food, and Mama is making medicines for the people—many of the sick have great trouble buying a few potatoes and the unloading of the two boats pleased the two children. With love from Frances Mary and Ridley Latimer Colenso.



My dear Papa Waitangi May 12th 1851

nui atu toku ~~aro~~ aroha ki a ka ka
hari rawa atu maua no te mea kotahi
anake te Ratahu e toe mai nei ka hoki
mai ai koe oira me me hohonu mai koe
a tuatu o teni Ratahu ka nui hoki
ta maua hokia, kia hoki mai koe ki tatou haere maua i
Ratahu a ka hari maua no te mea ka tata koe
e toe mai a te Weneri ka haere atu a Matiaha ki te
mau kai atu mau, e nui ana hoki te rarua o Mama ki te hanga
rongoa mo nga tangata - he maha ~~mo~~ no nga tumo,
he nui hoki te rarua ki te hoko taewa kahi ka ki nga
rua kua wana te poti waereere takau nei e tua
tahi ana tamariki. ka mutu. Na maua Na o
tamariki aroha Na Frances Maryana & Bidley
Latimer Latimer Colenso.



Memo. I, William Colenso, accepted the Office of Inspector of Schools, in July, 1872. Colenso's letter book (Hawke's Bay Museum Trust Ruawhoro Tā-ū-rangi #67845.

Mr JS Ballantine

Names appear fleetingly and tantalisingly in the lives of the people we study. One character crops up repeatedly in School Inspector William Colenso's letter book (Hawke's Bay Museum Trust Ruawhoro Tā-ū-rangi #67845). He is J.S. Ballantine, schoolteacher at West Clive. We will let Colenso's letters, rising to a crescendo of frustration, speak for themselves.

Napier, December 28, 1876.

Mr. J.S. Ballantine,
Master Public School,
West Clive.

Sir

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Quarterly Register for December quarter;—also your monthly Return for December month, —and I will thank you to send me by return mail the names of the seven children (as per your Monthly Return) “not receiving Government aid,”—from their being under age.—

I have, &c.
(signed) Wm. Colenso.
Inspr. Schools.

In a memorandum dated 22 January 1877 Colenso included West Clive in a list of School-houses that required immediate enlargement—though added that, “West Clive can be considerably enlarged by the removal of a huge (preaching) rostrum, which blocks up entirely the W. end; which end, unfortunately, is the only portion of the walls of the School-house available for the proper use of Wall maps.”

Napier, June 25, 1877.

Mr. J.S. Ballantine,
School,
West Clive.

Sir

I have the honour to inform you, that there is an error in your Quarterly Register just sent in, you having inserted five children of a person named O'Connell, and also five children of a person named Jeffares, in your Register, for each of whom you have been charging fees. This is against the Education Act, which strictly limits the charge to four children of one family;—as, I think, you know, I having before called your attention to a similar circumstance.

I shall await the receipt of your explanation in writing of this matter, before that I can send in your Vouchers to the Education Board.

*I have, &c.
(signed) Wm. Colenso.
Insp. Schools.*

Napier, July 13, 1877.

Mr. J.S. Ballantine,
School, West Clive.

Sir

Yesterday I received a curious note of yours, dated the 6th. instant;—as your "Returns" were all sent in to me, I could not understand it, until I went to town and saw Mr. Fannin. I find, that Mr. Fannin told you (at my request), that you were to see me; this, however, you have not done.

Probably you may find me at home on Saturday next (14th.) should you be coming to town on that day.

*I am, Yours truly,
(signed) Wm. Colenso.
Insp. Schools.*

There follow letters dated 26 December 1877 to Mr. John Davidson of West Clive, advising him to take his son to another school (ie, other than West Clive); and another to Mr. John Mill ("Hawke's Bay Boiling-down Establishment, West Clive") with similar advice.

Napier, Feby. 15, 1878.

Mr. J.S. Ballantine,
Teacher,
West Clive.

Sir

To prevent any recurrence of what has lately taken place I am obliged to write now to inform you, that I only yesterday received your monthly Report for January, which you have sent me (on my applying for it) last week, but which had been returned at the P. Office through your not having put a postage stamp on it, and which amount, including the fine, 4d., neither the Board nor myself would pay, such (from you in particular) having occurred so frequently. At first (as I understand it) the Post Office authorities were to have sent it back to you (and so making you pay 8d.,) but subsequently they informed us, that if not taken up here, they must send it out to the Dead Letter Office at Wellington, so that, eventually, and to facilitate matters, I have taken it out.—

In your sending in any of your Reports (seeing they are but very meagre ones,)—if you were to send them open at the ends and with merely a bit of paper round the middle (newspaper fashion), the postage would only be a 1d. This plan has long been adopted by careful teachers,—who have, also, so much more school information to communicate.

*I have, &c.
(signed) Wm. Colenso.
Insp. Schools.*

Napier, March 12, 1878.

Mr. J.S. Ballantine,
Teacher,
West Clive.

Sir

I have the honour to inform you, that the Education Board having placed in my hands for compilation the several School Returns sent in to them from the School Committees of this Educational District, I find several gross errors in yours: in the very first entry (which you have also repeated,) you give no less than "499 different Scholars" who have attended your School during 1877!! Then you give as the total sum received by you from the Board for the year, as "£96.19.9," which does not tally with your own receipts for 1877; and there are other errors. Do you really mean this? Do you really wish for these glaring errors to be sent on to Wellington?—

I must request an answer by tomorrow's mail.—

I have, &c.
(signed) Wm. Colenso.
Inspr. Schools.

Napier, March 14, 1878.

Mr. J.S. Ballantine,
Teacher,
West Clive.

Sir

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, dated "12th." inst. (but only posted this day, 14th., at Clive,) in reply to mine of the 12th. And, as the matter in question is of some consequence to you, I write at once. In your reply you have admitted one error, (or, "misunderstanding," as you call it,) and you have made many more.—

(1.) The number is not "83" (which you now make it,) "instead of 499."—

(2.) The monies you were paid by the Board for 1877, were not £96.19.9: as is shewn by your own Receipts filed here.—

Further: I find, you have carried all your many mistakes right through your School Returns!! And so giving hundreds of Readers, of Writers, and of Cypherers, &c,—all grossly erroneous. I did not know of these when I wrote my last to you.—

You say,—that I seem to imply your errors are wilful—(that is your own charitable construction:)—I have not done that,—rather (which I now repeat,) they are owing to your natural stupidity and conceit,—which I have so often pointed out to you privately.—

Had you done what was plainly laid down for you to do (in the printed "School Returns" sent you from the Government,)—got them "audited," and "certified to,"—then you would have escaped all your own natural mistakes: as the Auditor would have detected them, and set you right. But in this you have again done, as so often before, being so wrapped up in your own self! Men like you never improve, because they are not humble enough to learn.

How is it that none of the other Teachers (several of whom are women*) have made in their "School Returns" any such mistakes?—

Fortunately for you the Education Board has not yet sat: it may, I hear, sit on Saturday, or, certainly on Monday. I will keep back my Report until the last moment, as I do not wish to do you the least harm; but, if your errors are not timely rectified by you, I shall then be obliged to send in my whole Report with blanks for your West Clive Returns; and, also, send in your own erroneous School Report,

* (ie, let's face it, you would expect mere women to make mistakes)!

—all of which, I know, will then be forwarded on to Wellington. You cannot conceive the great trouble you (alone) give me!

I wholly despair of your setting this right by writing from West Clive:—therefore, (to help you,) this will I offer to do:—bring your School Papers & Register in to town with you on Saturday (morning or afternoon), and I will give you an hour to help you to put your Returns to rights. It may be the last official kindness I may have in my power to render you.—

I have, &c.

(signed) Wm. Colenso.

Insp. Schools.

Colenso ceased to be School Inspector on 30 April 1878. Ballantine must have left West Clive for the school at Port Ahuriri shortly after receiving Colenso's last letter, for on 2 December 1878 he was teaching at Port Ahuriri school and was in a different kind of trouble. The *Hawke's Bay Herald* of 2 December 1878 reported ►

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30.
(Before R. Stuart, Esq., R.M.)
DRUNKENNESS.
JOHN HEMPESTALL was charged with this offence, and fined 5s.
DISTURBING A PUBLIC SCHOOL.
William Henry Gollop was charged, on the information of J. S. Ballantine, with having, on the 7th November, disturbed a public school at Port Ahuriri under the provisions of the "Education Act, 1877."
Mr Cotterill appeared for the complainant; Mr Lee for defendant.
John Somerville Ballantine deposed: I am master of the Port Ahuriri school. On the 7th November a boy named Hurfit came in late for school. I told him to stand aside till I had reprimanded him. I then told him to go on with his spelling. He commenced cleaning his slate but not in a proper way, and was laughing at the other boys. I struck him on the arm with a pointer I had in my hand. About 10 o'clock Mr Gollop came into the school and asked if I was the teacher. He then asked me if I had struck his boy on the head. Before I had time to explain he struck me twice in the face. I went out to see the chairman of the school committee. The business of the school was stopped in consequence of Mr Gollop's conduct.
By Mr Lee: The door was open on the morning in question. I advanced to meet Mr Gollop when he came in. He said "Are you teacher of the school? I'll teach you to hit my boy on the head." I proceeded to explain how it happened. I did not deny hitting the boy. I did not rush at Mr Gollop or put him out of the school. He struck me with his open hand. I did not hit the boy on the head with a stick. The boy proceeded to hit a slate to strike me. He also gave me impudence, and said "That clock is wrong." My temper was good enough that morning.
Alexander Anthony deposed: I was at Port Ahuriri school on the 7th of November. Mr Gollop came into the school on that day. He asked Mr Ballantine if he had beaten his boy. Mr

Ballantine said "no." Mr Gollop then struck Mr Ballantine in the face with his open hand. Mr Ballantine asked him to come out and not to make a disturbance in the school.
By Mr Lee: Mr Ballantine caught Mr Gollop by the coat after he had struck him in the face. Mr Ballantine then went outside. He was away for about half an hour. There are no other teachers in the school. The school work was not stopped.
Some argument here ensued between counsel as to whether Mr Gollop was justified in entering the school and disturbing its progress.
His Worship ruled that he was not justified in doing so.
Mr Lee then said he should not call any witnesses for the defence.
Defendant was fined 20s, and costs 11s 6d.
The second charge, for assaulting Mr Ballantine, was then, by leave of the Court, withdrawn.
ASSAULT.
John Somerville Ballantine was then charged by William Henry Gollop with having, on the 7th November, assaulted a boy under twelve years of age, named Albert Hurfit, the adopted son of the said W. H. Gollop.
Mr Lee was for plaintiff; Mr Cotterill for defendant.
Albert Hurfit deposed: I live at the Spit. I attend at the school there. On the 7th November I went to school at 25 minutes to ten. When I went in Mr Ballantine told me to write my spelling. I did so. He told me to go on two or three times. He had a pointer in his hand. He was holding the thick end, and he struck me on the forehead and on the arm. He told me to go home. The blow he gave me made a big lump on my head. I said nothing to the master to make him strike me. I only said the clock was wrong.
Alexander Anthony deposed: I go to the Port School. I remember the last day Hurfit was at school. He was a little late. The master said something to four of us about being late. He told Hurfit to go and write his spelling. He began to do something to his slate. The master told him to go on. He had not started to

write his spelling, and was looking at the other boys. The master then struck him on the forehead with the pointer. It raised a lump on his forehead. I am not sure whether he said anything to the master.

William Henry Gollop deposed: I am a hotelkeeper at the Spit. The boy Hurfit is an adopted son of mine. He came running home to me on the 7th with a lump on his forehead, and said that the master had struck him. I rushed straight off to the school.

William Routledge deposed: I am a merchant at the Spit. I know the boy Hurfit. I saw him on the 7th. He had a raised lump on his forehead, which appeared to have been done with a stick.

That was the case for the defence.

John Somerville Ballantine deposed: I am master of the Port Ahuriri school. I remember the 7th of November. The boy Hurfit was five minutes late on that morning. I told him to stand aside till I reprimanded him. He proceeded to clean his slate, but in a slow manner, laughing at the other boys. I struck him over the arm with the pointer. He then took a slate to strike me. I was going to give him another on the arm, but he threw up his arm, and the stick glided off his arm on to his forehead. I had no intention of striking the boy on the face. It was purely accidental my doing so.

By Mr Lee: I did not strike the boy on the head. He did not lift his slate to defend himself. He showed unmistakable signs of going to strike me.

His Worship said there were far too many cases of this nature occurring. Defendant would be fined 40s, and costs 24s; in default, 14 days' imprisonment.

There was no other business.

John Somerville Ballantine died aged 84 at Manaia on 24 November 1919.

Mrs C Birnie

Napier, July 10th 1875.

Mrs. C. Birnie,
Mistress Public School,
Porangahau.

Madam,

I have the honour to inform you that certain complaints respecting your conduct towards some of the children of your School having been received by the Government,—it is my duty to write to you concerning the same, in order to let you know of them, and to put a stop to all such for the future.—

At present I will merely give you two prominent instances of those complaints,—made by Mr. J. Stewart (who is also a Trustee of your School):—1. That on the 24th. of May he had occasion to write a note to you respecting something that had occurred in the School, and that you on receiving and reading it threw it on the floor and jumped on it, and then you picked it up and threw it at his daughter Kate, (one of your Scholars who had delivered it to,) telling her,— “Take that back to your father, and tell that he had better not write such impudent letters to me again.”—

This note has also been sent to me, and I may tell you, that both His Honor the Superintendent and myself see nothing whatever improper in it.

2. “That on the 18th day of June” (Mr Stewart also writes,) “my 3 children went to School perfectly clean and decent, and they returned at 10 minutes before 2 o'clock,—and on being asked why they came so soon, they replied, that Mrs. Birnie had turned them out, saying,

that they were dirty, and that she would stand it no longer. I then, without allowing any of the 3 children to come inside the house, forthwith sent Kate for a neighbour to inspect them. The 3 children were perfectly clean and decent, and fit to appear in any School in the Colony. Sir, I place these complaints before you, praying for an immediate inquiry. My children have been driven from a Common School without just cause.”—

You will, I dare say, recollect a short note which I wrote to you from the hotel at Porangahau, when there in April last, just before I came away. I did so because I had heard of some strange proceedings on your part towards some of the little ones attending the School, and I hoped that a quiet remark from me to you would have been sufficient to put a stop to it. And now, from your own School Returns, I also find, that while in April every thing seemed to be progressing nicely, the average number at school being 20½,—in May and June it was no longer so, the average attendance being only 17 and 7, respectively: (no doubt this is partly owing to weather:) while from the Quarterly Register it seems as if several of those residing the nearest to you had left the School entirely.—

Our Public Schools are for children of all the Settlers, whatever their condition in life may be. They are not instituted for the benefit of the Teacher, neither for that of the children of the wealthy few or of those who are better off than their poorer neighbours. And (as I told you before,) even if children come poorly clad and without shoes, such are not to be ill-used or roughly spoken to, and cannot be turned away.

Of the little girl herself, Kate Stewart, whose name has been prominently mentioned, I must say, that from the little I have seen of her during my visits to Porangahau, both at the School and at her own home, I had formed a very favourable opinion of her; and I also notice that her name is among those of the six of your School whom you

have selected to receive the Government prizes.—

In conclusion I would further say, that I view this matter so seriously, as affecting not only the usefulness but the very continuance of your School, that were it not summer instead of winter I should deem it my duty to leave immediately for Porangahau to fully investigate the whole matter.—

Trusting, however, that Mr. Stewart and others (to whom I shall also write by this mail,) will continue to send their children to the School, and that nothing of the kind will ever again occur,

*I have &c.,
(signed) Wm. Colenso,
Inspr. Schools.*



3rd Colenso
conference
Napier
22-23 Feb
2019

Mr J Matthews

Memo: I, William Colenso, accepted the Office of Inspector of Schools, in July, 1872.

So begins the bound “Correspondence and Returns Book, Hawke's Bay Provincial Council Inspectors of Schools” (Hawke's Bay Museum Trust Ruawhara Tā-ū-rangi #67845) containing copies of letters written by Colenso.

By December he was aware of trouble at Hampden school...

The Cyclopaedia of New Zealand 1908 (Taranaki, Hawke's Bay & Wellington Provincial Districts) tells us **Tikokino**, formerly known as **Hampden**... was first settled in the year 1863. The railway line from Napier to Wellington was originally intended to run through the township, and many settlers availed themselves of the opportunity of the proposed advancement of the district to purchase holdings at Hampden. The railway route was, however, subsequently changed. In the district are several large sheep stations, which run back as far as the foot of the Ruahine Mountains. The land around Tikokino is nearly all flat, rich in quality, and capable of producing large crops and good feed for sheep. Saw-milling is also carried on in the district. In the township there is a combined post and money order office, with a savings bank and telephone bureau, and mails are despatched and received daily by a coach service to Waipawa.

JD Ormond, the Hawke's Bay Superintendent (the one who would avail himself of the opportunity to have the rail route changed to go through Ormondville) had received a petition from locals about the standard of teaching at the Hampden school.

Colenso wrote,

Napier, Decr. 20. 1872.

*Mr. J. Matthews,
Secretary to the Trustees,
Public School,
Hampden.*

Sir

I have the honour to inform you that I have received from His Honor the Superintendent your letter to him of the 25th. ulto., together with the accompanying Petition from Messrs. Inglis and Glass: with an Instruction to investigate the matter therein mentioned. And this I shall therefore proceed to do as early as possible, of which I will give you due notice. And I will thank you to inform them of this.

I should have done this before, (and, indeed, have visited Hampden to Inspect the School,) but I have been laid up more than 3 weeks with severe Rheumatism from which I am now only slowly recovering.

*I have &c
(signed) W. Colenso
Inspr. Schools.*

He wrote to JJ Buchanan, the teacher at Hampden, telling him of the petition from local residents, “*complaining of your incapacity for Teaching, of the shortness of your School hours, &c, &c.*” and of his proposed investigation—duly arranged for 1 pm on 29 January 1873 in the Hampden schoolroom (“*weather permitting*”).

This was Colenso’s first investigation as Inspector of Schools, and his report is careful and detailed...

Report

of the enquiry concerning the charges preferred against
the Master of Hampden Public School.

Napier, Feby. 3rd. 1873.

To His Honor, the Superintendent of Hawke’s Bay.

Sir

Having been requested by your Honor to investigate certain charges made against the master of Hampden school, and having performed that duty, I have now the honour of forwarding to you the following outline report of the same.—

On Wednesday the 29th ulto., I went to Hampden; and at one o’clock, according to the notice, I proceeded to make my enquiry into the School Room, which was open to the Public. (I had, the week before, officially informed all the parties immediately concerned, of my intention to be there on that day, and that I expected them to be present in the school room at one o’clock.)

The persons whom I had fully expected to see, were Messrs James Inglis and James Glass (the complainant’s in particular), and Mr J. Matthews, who, as “Secretary to Trustees,” had supported and conducted their complaint to your Honor.

Shortly after one o’clock, finding, that, of the above-named, Mr. J. Inglis only appeared, I proposed to wait half-an-hour, when I was informed, that Mr. J. Glass had gone of that morning to Kereru and would not be present; and that Mr. J. Matthews (although dwelling close by and at home) had said, that, “he should not be there.” On ascertaining this to be correct, I entered on the business of the Meeting.—

Commencing at the beginning, I read all the correspondence, and then asked Mr. Inglis whether he was prepared to prove the various charges against the Teacher of the School, made by him and Mr. James Glass in their Letters.—

This, however, he wholly refused to do,— save, and except the first statement therein, respecting his own two boys; who, he said, were at School, & learnt nothing, indeed fell back from what he had himself taught them; (this had happened some 12–18 months previous;) and that now, as he was left unsupported to bear the brunt, he “regretted that he had ever written the Letter about the Teacher.”

The Teacher here placed in my hands a note which he had that morning received, signed by twelve residents of Hampden, “approving of him & requesting him to remain as Teacher of the Hampden School:”— many of those are parents long settled in the place, and some of them having children now at the School. The last person signing the same, Mr. Wm. Ingram, (who was also present, and who spoke both of and well during the Meeting,) said, repeatedly, that he had had 4 children taught at the School, 2 of whom were still there; that he was satisfied; and that he felt sure the complaint would never have been made, but for a falling-out between James Inglis and the Teacher about the formers pigs, some 4–5 months ago, and that it was entirely owing to Inglis’s “vindictive feelings.” That their first Teacher (Mr. Hudson) was an excellent one and a gentlemen, but that they had never rested till they got him removed, and then burnt his effigy, and that this was mainly done by James Glass, &c, &c.— And, as a further sample of their village “talk” about the School, he, over and over, related the last on dit,— that it was currently reported, that Mrs Weekes had agreed to give his eldest son, lately a scholar at the School, 2/- per week to stay away from it! When the truth was, his boy had been for some time working for Mrs. Weekes at so much per week with the express stipulation of going, as usual to School, but that Mrs. Weekes, finding that so much time was thus lost to her, had

subsequently offered to give him 2/- more per week, on condition of the boy giving her the whole of his time, and she continuing to teach him at her own house with her own children: which he, the father, had agreed.

The “falling-out about pigs” (which was known to all present), was admitted by Mr. J. Inglis, but the vindictiveness denied.

No such number of children as (stated in the Letter of Complaint) “from 25 to 30 between the ages of 5 and 14,” could be shewn to be dwelling in the neighbourhood of Hampden: a few there were besides those who attended the School, but these were too far away, or variously employed at home, (as is always the case in our country villages,) and with reference to some “being sent to School at Napier”,— I found that one, the child of Roman Catholic parents, had been placed at the Roman Catholic School in the Town.—

There were the two men residents present (besides the Teacher), the aforesaid J. Inglis and W. Ingram, the men, generally, being absent at their work: there were, however, several women, (wives of the Hampden Settlers, with their little ones,) some of whom spoke, and that, too, more than once, and to the point.

Mrs. Anne Austen (the 5th. name on the Testimonial Note in favour of the Teacher’s remaining,) and Mrs. Burgess (the wife of T. Burgess, the 6th. on the said Note,) both spoke highly in favour of Mr. Buchanan the Teacher “as a Settler and as a neighbour; but not as Teacher, for which post he had not energy enough”; and this they repeated several times. I reminded Mrs. Austen, of her having signed the Testimonial Note; she said, she was not aware at the time that it went so far: I then asked, If she would like to have her name struck out: but to this she strongly objected.

On Mr. J. Inglis objecting to one of the persons who had signed his name to the Testimonial Note, on account of his having no children, his wife present arose, and energetically reminded him, that they paid

the Education Rate, and therefore had a right!

I told them, that I should make an official Report of the whole matter to your Honor; that Mr. Inglis should have seen me when there on duty in September last, about his two sons, (seeing, too, that he lived almost next door,)— that I approved of his parental feelings, and disbelieved the charge of vindictiveness,—that I thought highly of his manliness coming to the Meeting, although unsupported, and of his straightforwardness at it;— that Mr. Glass and Mr. James Matthews both ought to have been present, particularly the latter,— who, with the resident Trustees, I thought, should have first satisfied themselves as to the correctness of the charges before troubling the Government; that the people of Hampden had gained the unhappy notoriety of always falling out with their Schoolmaster, this being the third time of their doing so; that I recommended them to bury all past differences, and to unite in sending their children to School whoever might be the Teacher, as a larger number would be sure to get on better as they would mutually help; and that now there was an Inspector, and that the School would be open an hour longer daily, they might reasonably expect better things, &c., &c.—

Leaving the Schoolroom I returned to the hotel, which I left on my return to Waipawa shortly after 4 p.m. At a little distance I met James Glass and James Inglis, who were there to meet me; the former wished to talk about his share in the Complaint, &c. I told him, the proper time was passed: said, that he would swear to one thing, *viz.* that he had taught one of his children the Alphabet perfectly, & that that child had been six months at the School, and at the end did not know a single letter!! I endeavoured to shew him the absolute absurdity of such talk. He also pulled out his Pocket-book, and produced an old School account (of a few shillings) from the Teacher, in which, on receipting some time after, he had deducted for one child, on account of its not having made much progress. I told him, he should have attended the Meeting, of which he had had due notice, and there

“said his say” before me and the Teacher.

I also heard from very good authority, that it had been ascertained and was now well-known, that what Mr. J. Matthews as “Secretary to the Trustees”, in his letter to your Honor speaks of as the act and wish of them the Trustees, was, in fact, that of one only, Major Carlyon, who alone had been seen by him, J. Matthews, previous to his officially writing to you; and that Mr. J. Matthews had that morning said, that “he would not attend the Meeting for he had washed his hands of the whole affair”!

At Waipawa on the following evening (Thursday 30th), on my return thither from Inspecting the Waipukurau School, I found Mr. J. Matthews of Hampden awaiting my arrival. He accosted me respecting my public remarks at his non-attendance at the Meeting, &c., all which I again repeated and supported. He said, that he now saw that it would have been better if he had attended, but he would not have taken any part in it: he also informed me, that he himself was a Co-trustee, (which I, at first, demurred to as, as I had never heard of it before,) and that it was true that Major Carlyon was the only Trustee whom he had seen about the matter previous to his forwarding to you the letters,—but that he had seen another Trustee (--- Austen) afterwards, who had assented to his proceedings; and that Mr. Buchanan the Teacher was a good neighbour and Settler, but that he wanted more energy as a Teacher: and, further, that he had been asked yesterday morning to sign the Note in Mr Buchanan’s favour, but that he had refused to do so, as he had no children, and would not take one side or the other, &c.—

Before concluding this Report I should state, that, by leaving Waipawa at a very early hour, I managed to get to Hampden before the Morning School had opened. I did this purposely to be in time to inspect the same: 13 children attended, many of whom were very small, the eldest being the Teacher’s daughter of about 10 years of

age; she read very well indeed in rather a difficult book for a child; wrote tolerably, and worked correctly and quickly three sums in Proportions. About half of the number could Read, Write, and Cypher. Ingram's second son, a little boy, was Cyphering in Compound Multiplication. The children had not yet recovered from Hooping Cough, (of which I had during the day to witness several distressing fits) owing to which the School had to be closed earlier than usual in December. A Blackboard as much required for the School, (which I also had pointed out in my visit September last,)—this will be now obtained at Government expense; the School will also be kept open an hour longer each day, and some other small yet beneficial alteration made.—

On the whole it was pleasing to hear the Teacher and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. Buchanan, (who have been in charge of the school so long a time, 5 years,) spoken generally so very well of—“as good neighbours and settlers”; and to see their own large family of small children so well advanced, pleasingly attentive, and obedient,—clean, well-dressed, and healthy. At the same time I could not fail to see, that, although Mr. Buchanan was both a respectable and educated man, the oft-repeated statement, that “the Teacher wanted more energy,” was not wholly without foundation;—his particularly mild quiet manner, and, possibly, want of tact, was rather unsuited to the rough material he had to deal with: yet I would still hope that this may be got over, or, at all events, materially improved.

I enclose, herewith, the “Testimonial Note” above referred to, for your Honor's inspection: and I will thank you to return the same to me at your convenience, to be filed together with the other papers relative to this matter.

I have the honour to be,
&c &c
(signed) Wm. Colenso
Inspr. Schools

Who was the “manly” and “straightforward” Mr Inglis?

“MR. JAMES INGLIS was born in Fifeshire, Scotland, in April, 1821, and was brought up to farming. In 1864 he emigrated to New Zealand, in the ship ‘Strathallan,’ and landed at Napier. For some years he managed a run at Waipukurau for Mr. Henry Russell, and was afterwards employed as ploughman for about eight years by Mr. Sydney Johnston, at Takapau. In 1873 he took up a small farm of 150 acres at Hampden, which he subsequently increased to 400 acres. This he successfully worked till about 1900, when he sold out, and has since resided at Makaretu. Mr. Inglis has always taken a keen interest in public affairs, and for some time was a member of the road board and school committee at Hampden. He is married, and has two sons and four daughters.”¹

The barque *Strathallan*, a vessel of 550 tons, sailed from London on July 21, 1864, and arrived at the Port of Napier on November 24 the same year in command of Captain Paddle. Shortly after sailing, when off Beachy Head, the barque collided with the ship *Ann*. The *Strathallan* suffered much damage and put into Portsmouth for repairs and resumed the voyage on August 6. She had a rough passage out, and during a heavy gale on August 21 laboured heavily and shipped large quantities of water. During this storm the foretopmast, trussel trees and topgallant mast, bulwarks, were carried away. She made a good run of 109 days from Portsmouth.²

Among the passengers listed were “Inglis, James; Inglis, Mrs & 3 children (Margaret, Helen, Janet); dau. born 10 August 1864.”³

The daughter born four days out from Plymouth was Annie Paddle Strathallan Inglis, named for the Captain's wife Annie Paddle (who may have delivered her) and the barque. She would marry James McIlwraith Robertson Lochhead and have 8 children including Helen Josephine (Nellie) Lochhead who married Arthur Douglas St George of Greytown. Arty and Nellie were my paternal grandparents.



MR. AND MRS J. INGLES, SENIOR.

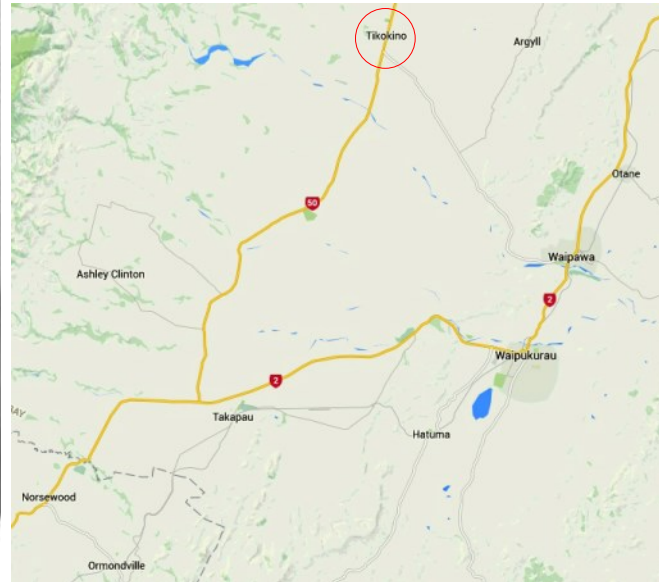
On 12 April 1889 Colenso was 78, Inglis ten years younger, and Colenso would write to Andrew Luff from the Imperial Hotel in Waipawa,

Rathbone, Inglis, Bibby, &c are all looking very well.... this is a nice quiet old-fashion place—I like it.—

In 1893 29 year old Mrs Annie Lochhead would sign the petition for women's suffrage. Colenso would have been dismayed.

References

1. *The Cyclopaedia of New Zealand* (Taranaki, Hawke's Bay & Wellington Provincial Districts). The Cyclopaedia Company Ltd, Christchurch, 1908.
2. <http://nzetc.victoria.ac.nz/tm/scholarly/tei-Bre02Whit-t1-body-d1-d7.html>
3. *Hawke's Bay Herald* 26 Nov. 1864.



Wakitipu, Wakatupu, Wakatipu...

On 9 May 1898 William Colenso wrote from Woodville to his son Wiremu (Willie) in Penzance,

I send you, enclosed, specimens of our new (small) postage stamps, the large 2½ d. one is now extinct (sold out) and therefore of some value to the collector—owing to an error in the spelling name of Lake—Wakatipu for Wakatupu—this has been altered. [ATL Ms-papers-10535-1].

He was referring to the new 1898 pictorials. The stamps in this issue were selected from over 2,400 entries in a design competition—to include characteristic or notable New Zealand scenery symbolic of the land. The quality of entries was high and a decision made to print the issue using the expensive recess printing method, with the anticipation that costs would be covered many times over by sales to stamp collectors.

It was one of the world's earliest pictorial definitive issues. The stamps were engraved and initial printings done in England and subsequently printed in New Zealand from the plates supplied from England.

The tuppence ha'penny stamp featured Lake Wakatipu, initially wrongly spelt Wakitipu. A new plate with the correct spelling was produced a month after the initial issue. But interest among collectors for the original error was so high that special printings were made, so the mint stamp is easy to find still, although used copies are rarer.

Mount Earnslaw is in the background and flax, cabbage trees and toi toi frame the scene. [http://stampsnz.com/1898_pictorials.html]

Colenso had never been in the South Island and clearly didn't know how to spell Wakatipu either.

