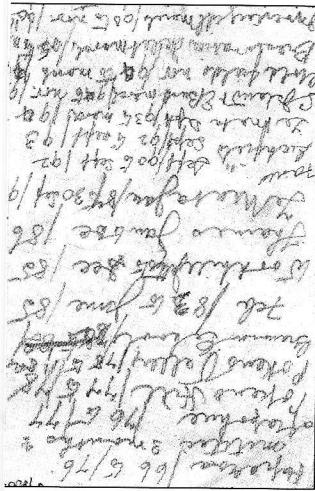


Part of George Meynen's
Calvert's penicilled record of
his little travels around New
Zealand. Written in 1907.



When the Stockton Mine suspended its workers during 1951, Bob and son George would head off up Charmining Creek, pan a ponyweight or three of gold and be back within a couple of hours - "enough to pay for some tucker". According to pencil notes in this own hand (see above), and reinforced by the Les Wright interview with Bob Calvert, George Meynen Calvert (George's grandaughter) was based as a teacher in the Thamees/Cromandel area (from November 1894 until March 1895, and had once been a gold-miner for some five years at Preservation Mine - this between March 1895 to March 1900. Our George's love of solid, dependable gold, of his golden neck and finger lining, may well have its origins in this glittering history.

Between 1895 to 1951 some miners at Preservation Mine - this money for months. And they used to play cards out the back, he had three sheds out the back, they'd go out the back and play cards, a bit of low stakes, gambling. Ted Ross took it over from Bronc, George: "The Nakawau publican, old Bronc, Hayward at the comradely largess, local generosity and an eye to the future. But we got kicked out of the pub when I was 14, before I went up Blair, Jimmy Murray and a whole group of us you know. You could get a glass for trumpery [three cents]. And on a Saturday Snowy Williamson [Snowy] was Don Williamson's father. Don would later be one of George's best men at his wedding to Jane - see Nakawau to Seddonville and stay there for 3 hours, and then bring a crowd down to the pictures. So we used to go up there, old Snowy would get on the piss at Bowie's Watson's pub. Ted Ross said to me that Les Hdstrom the cop had cautioned him. He said "I've got to kick these jokers out of the pub, because they're too young you know", so fair enough. Because of that the old man used to buy us a 4½ gallon keg [of beer] on a Saturday, and we'd go and sit in our garage at home and drink it and play up something shocking. Well, it only lasted two weeks and Les Hdstrom said "Let them back in, they're more goddamned trouble out there than they are in here, at least while they're in here I know where they are".