

Extract from some of Douglas notes at Hoka under Leary's Pass
I found this page (Leary's) when traversing the Arawata in

Arthur R. Harper

Dear Newton,
I was glad to hear from you, and hope that you are as fit as I am - I couldn't wish you anything better!
I don't know how we stand as to age - I am well on in my 80th year and "still going strong" I'm thankful to say.
Since getting your letter I have gone through my old diaries of the time I was with Charlie Douglas - here are some points which may help you.

Wellington Club
Wellington
16/10/44

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Douglas began traversing in 1873 up the Paringa. That is, he used a prismatic compass, chain, aneroid etc and carried out (as we did in '93, '94, & '95) what we called a "step traverse".
1st we ~~made~~ measured a base-line of ~~xxx~~ from 20 to 60 chains (according to space available) and "tied" to either a low country trig. - or fixed, by observation, to 4 or 5 trigonometrical fixed peaks. From this we carried our traverse. Incidentally when I explored the Karangaroa in 94/95 the first place where I could get a base-line was at the head of the river - so I had to fix my base-line at the end of my traverse, instead of at the start!
Our traverses were not chained - country too rough - they were "stepped" or estimated, but checked by ~~xxx~~ a systematic compass triangulation. The result was as "near as dammit" and quite good enough for such rough country.

Douglas began doing this in 1873 and until 1879 his work was unofficial, but used thankfully by Roberts - I don't think he got any pay for this. But in 1879 he was officially classed as "Explorer" at 8/- a day - as I was in 1893. He did no alpine work - had no experience of snow and ice, that was why I was asked to join him in 1893.

Mueller went up Arawata in Jan/Febr 1885 - by "last year's exploration" he is referring to Douglas's reconnaissance survey of 1883/4. The map published with Mueller's report is Douglas's. Mueller couldn't do much, if any, survey work in the time he was in the valley.

He went under Douglas's leadership, and therefore had all the previous season's tracks available. From my old diaries I find that Douglas named Lydia, The Ark etc in the Arawata "and fixed their positions from the river".
In my statement N.Z.A.J.No6 "1884" would refer to the summer of ~~1884/85~~ 83/84.

Douglas was a "lone" worker. Except Harry ~~Cuttance~~ Cuttance he never had a reliable mate until he got me - He often regretted that we had not come together earlier. He was, of course, a "sahib" well-born & well educated - very well read. He was a courteous gentleman of the old school in the truest sense of the word and had a good deal of contempt for some of the men officially above him in the Department - who got the credit which should have been ~~solely~~ wholly his. He was most ~~punctilious~~ unscrupulous about that sort of thing himself - for instance when Roberts asked him to sign my report &

map of the Karangaroa country in '95, he refused saying it was all my work. He said "I don't want credit for what I haven't done - like some others do" I hope this rambling screed will help you.

Amalona
a photo
stook
from the
saddle at
head of West
mountain
in 1941 -
Stobors
Lonia
that was
my last
climb but
I hope to do
some others
yet!

Extract from report by Gerhard Mueller
Appendix to Journal of the Hon. of R. Mueller's 1885

"It took me 2 1/2 days hard climbing to get to the top of Tonia. The rope had to be used again & again both in ascending & descending, and for well nigh half a mile steps had to cut into the frozen snow to get footing, but the trouble & exertion were well repaid. I could not have had finer days for observing. Tonia is near Tonia found to be the very suitable peak 'Chimeluh' - Pros no matter will ever ascend the top of. Both Caria & Cilicia, if practicable at all, are very difficult to climb and I think it is too low, being most of the back country cut off from view of the high Tonia range."

- N.Z.A.S. 1931 Mt. Tonia 15th ascent - Gerhard Mueller 1885
- 1932 Correlated to Gerhard
- 1933 "D. Clark record & Subtitle: 15th ascent C.E. Douglas 1885" ? 1884 sect. 166

In 1944 after an inspection of the map, which I had to see, I read the account of the Tangle of Douglas's ascent of Mt. Tonia & Mueller's climb. After getting together with the information I could get, see clipped letter printed in, I wrote Harper. This is printed on the opposite page. It makes quite clear, that Douglas had been up the Arawata this season before Mueller & that he was the first to Mueller's party. Had we not seen this in the letter that Douglas had climbed Mt. Tonia in 1883/4 but the notes in N.Z.A.S. above - which were of Harper make it clear that Douglas had.