

Colonel James Cameron —with Compliments of Colonel Colt

By Henry A. Truslow

The inscription on the backstraps of these two civilian model 1860 Colt Army revolvers tells just a part of their story. The recipient, Col. James Cameron, was a brother of Simon Cameron, the first Secretary of War under President Lincoln. The Cameron family was politically influential in Pennsylvania politics and Simon Cameron used this influence to assure Lincoln he had the delegate support needed for the Republican nomination in the election of 1860. In return, Lincoln gave Cameron his choice of a Cabinet position, either as Secretary of State or Secretary of War. Cameron chose the War Department post.

Simon's brother William resided in Lewisburg, Pennsylvania and had vast real estate holdings in Philadelphia as well as in the Lewisburg area. He also owned a bank and, most importantly, the railroad system between Sunbury and Philadelphia known today as the Main Line. Prior to the war, his brother James Cameron had apprenticed as an attorney, worked at the newspaper, and managed the railroad station, all in Sunbury. James and his wife Rebecca also operated two farms, one in Milton, Pennsylvania where they



resided and the other in West Chillisquaque Township, Pennsylvania. These properties will reappear later in the presentation. Rebecca was the daughter of Henry Lemaire, the famed gun maker from Lancaster, Pennsylvania. The Cameron family had migrated to the Sunbury area from Lancaster in the 1840s.



Figure 1. Colt Model 1860 army revolvers presented by Col. Colt to Col. James Cameron of the 79th New York Highlanders.

When the war broke out, Simon would do two things that would influence the family for generations. The first was his accomplishment of getting Congress to reimburse the railroads twenty-five cents a head for each soldier it transported. With his brother William controlling the railroads, it is easy to see how William amassed a fortune during the war. The other action taken by Simon would cost the life of his brother James. Simon pressured Governor Morgan of New York to appoint James to a position in the New York militia. Included in my display is a letter from the New York Adjutant General pointing out that it was not legal for a non-resident to serve in a state militia unit. In spite of this, James Cameron's appointment went through. This commission is also included in the display. I have not yet been able to determine exactly what influence Simon Cameron used on Governor Morgan but the transaction has his fingerprints all over it. Because of these and other hints of corruption, Lincoln was forced by Congress to replace Cameron with Stanton less than a year into his term. Cameron landed on his feet, however, as he became the United States' first Minister (now called Ambassador) to Russia.



Figure 2. Painting commissioned by the family after Col. Cameron's death at Bull Run.



Figure 3. Col. Cameron's commission from Gov. Morgan.

it was at this gathering in Washington that Col. Colt presented James Cameron with this pair of pistols and Simon Cameron with the pair of pistols on display at the Civil War Museum in Harrisburg. These are two of the earliest known wartime presentations made by Colt.

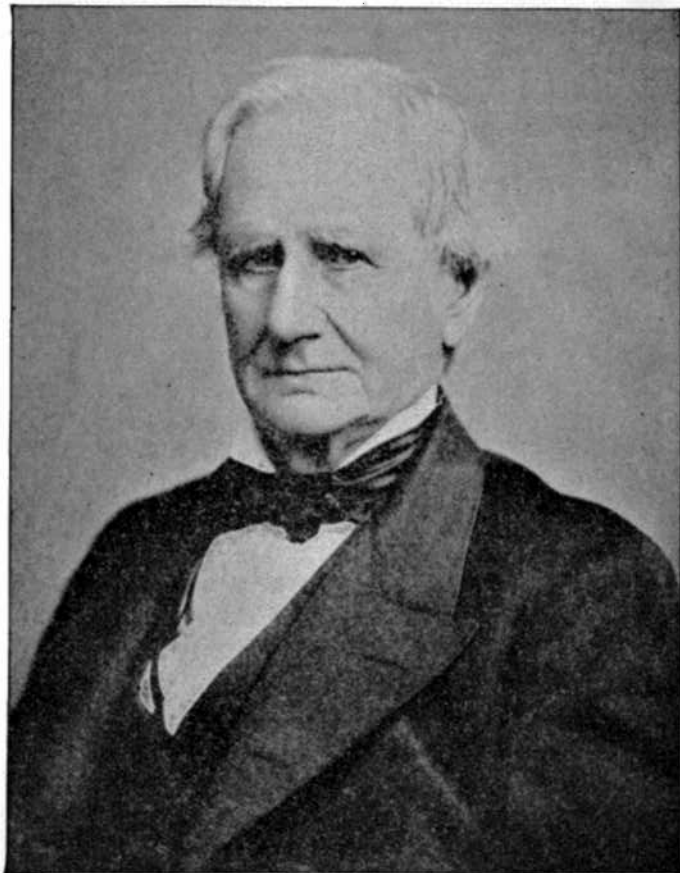
On July 21, 1861 James Cameron fell mortally wounded while rallying his men at Bull Run. His horse, sword, and pistols were recovered on the battlefield and sent to Simon Cameron via James Cameron's orderly. They were then sent on to William in Lewisburg. For many years one of the revolvers and the double casing were on display at the Sunbury GAR post. The second revolver was assumed to have been lost and all hope of finding it was lost as well.

Remarkably, after a separation of an unknown length of time, the guns were reunited on November 17, 1988. The odds that the pair would be restored have to be astronomical. By chance, Virgil Mylin stopped in at the Pennsylvania Antique Gun Collectors Association fall show. He was on his way to Long Island to deliver some guns that he had sold and decided at the last minute to stop and check out the show. I happened to be at Ted Dolan's table when Virgil came up and announced that he had a gun presented to James Cameron by Col. Colt. I had never met Virgil and thought right away that he had been put up to play a joke on me by all those in the room who knew I was looking for just such a gun. Only after Virgil showed me the pistol and I showed him the picture of its mate did we realize what had hap-

pened. Virgil's gun had been in the famed Johnnie Basset collection and was found in Indiana. James Cameron had a sister who married a doctor in Indiana, thus leaving Lewisburg. We can only guess that she took one of James' revolvers with her, leaving the other one with William. Along with the gun came family images and other artifacts that lead me to believe that this is how and why the guns were separated.

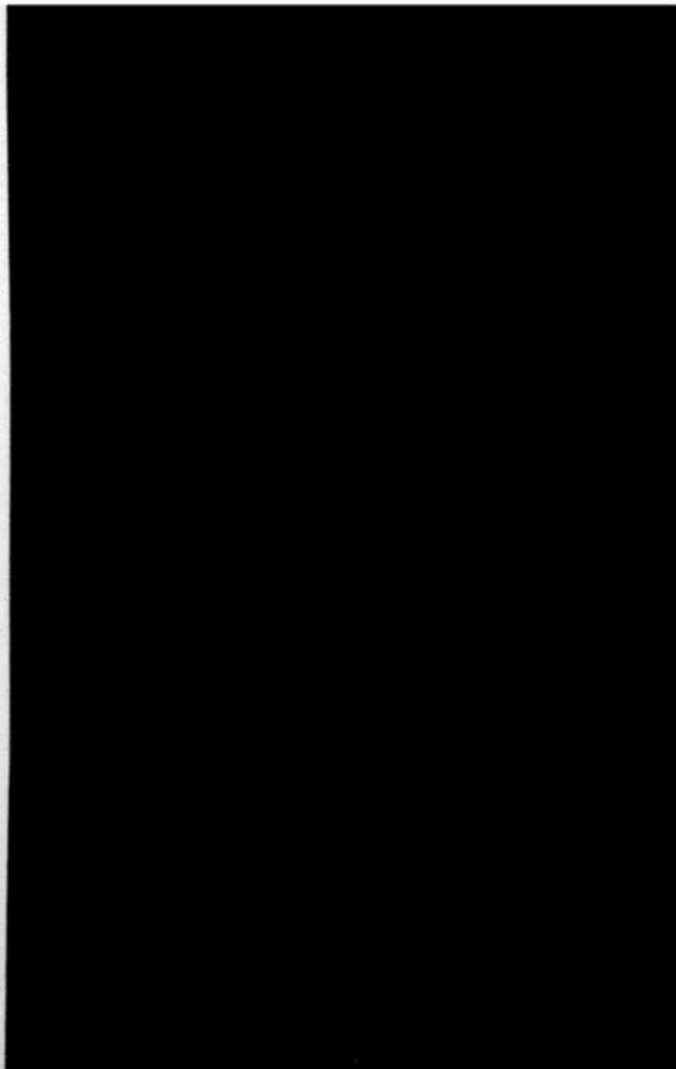
As an epilog, the Cameron family remained powerful in Pennsylvania politics into the 1920s, with Simon's son J. Donald Cameron influencing much of what went on in Harrisburg. After James' death at Bull Run, his farms were put up for sheriff's sale by the very bank owned by William. Simon and William purchased both properties for dimes on the dollar and sent widow Rebecca packing to Lancaster with her \$300 widow's dower, thus making them two of the pioneer robber barons on the 19th century!

James Cameron's body was buried near the Henry house on the battlefield. The Confederates knew where it was but General Beauregard did not allow the body to be returned to the family for over a year. Many negotiators traveled under flags of truce to try to arrange for its return and most of them ended up held as prisoners of war. A newspaper account gave credit to Confederate General Wade Hampton for shooting Col. Cameron, a charge that General Hampton fiercely denied.



(Photo by Brady, Washington.)

SIMON CAMERON, 1865.



"copy"

General Head Quarters State of
Adjutant General's Office
Albany July 4. 1861.

Brig. Genl. John Cowen
4th Brigade N.Y. M.

Genl.

In reply to your letter of yesterday, which did not come into my hands till 2. I have to state that the Governor has not yet signed commission for Col. Cameron, and when I saw him about it a day or two ago, he wished it withheld for present - He is absent from the office today - I will see him again on the subject and send it to you when signed -

Yours very respectfully
D. Campbell
Act. Adj. Genl.

QUESTION OF
LEGALITY OF
OUT OF STATE
OFFICER TO HEAD
N.Y. STATE ??
MILITIA.

Headquarters 4th Regt.

New York July 17th 1861

Col. Samuel H. Elliott.

Captain of the 79th Regt.

Regimental Adjutant Wright &c
Dear Sir,

About the time I left the
city for the camp of the 79th Regt.
by appointment with Col. Cass
the Governor hesitated to sign
and refused to issue Col. Cass
commission as appeared from
letter of the Secy Genl. of War
the enclosed is a copy. On
my return from the camp of the
Regt. to Washington, I learned from
Major Taylor that the Attorney Genl.
of our State had informed him
that he had given an opinion
against the validity of the election
on the ground that a citizen
of another State could not hold
a commission in the regular mi-
litia of this State. and I regard
it as almost certain that no com-
mission would be issued, and ex-
posed the opinion to Col. Cass

that he could not act without
it - except by the courtesy of the
officers - and I supposed another
election might be necessary.

Looking to such expectations,
however, I find on my return
to this city that the nomination
had been sent to me, the former
not having received from the attor-
ney General the opinion referred
to. I therefore inclose this com-
munication to you, with the request
that you will please sign and have
the Governor sign the enclosed
order, and administer the same
to him. You will please certify
to the same and forward the order
to me.

Very truly yours,

John E. ...
By: Genl. ...
Samuel B. ...

CAMERON SHOULD
NOT HAVE
RECEIVED
COMMISSION

Harrisburg July 22
1861

To Mr Cameron -

I want James
buried here beside his mother,
brother and sister -

Come down

Eliza Warford

Harrisburg July 22

To Mr Cameron

The only information I have is a despatch stating that he was killed in the battle yesterday.

From reports here, our army retreating today towards Washington. They are so much occupied that I have not been able to obtain particulars.

I can't tell whether or not his body has been taken care of. Dr. Bobbs left here this morning for Washington. I will let you know as soon as I get any further information.

J. Cameron

Harrisburg, July 2

To Mr. William Cameron — I have just received
a dispatch from Father. He tells me that
I need not go to Washington, that he
not know whether they can get the bill.
Send this to Aunt Rebecca

J. D. Cameron

July 24, 1861.

Dear Margaret,

I fear we shall
not find the body of Rogers.
Mr. Mayner & Mr. Arnold
Means, volunteered on
Monday afternoon to go for
it, & have not yet come
back. The chance is that
the rebels have kept them
as prisoners. Gen. W. Donnell
sent out a flag of truce
yesterday - but it was not
suffered to enter the lines of
the enemy. Before he can
now be distinguished, he
will probably be buried in
a common grave - but
there is this hope, he was
left in a farm house
with his arms & coat given

A soldier brought to me
his hat. Another one
brought his sword, and his
servant brought in his
horse & pistols. He died
bravely at the head of his
regiment, and was on the
ground, & killed when many
all had fallen or retreated.
Poor fellow. He was pre-
-pared for death, if we may
judge from his conversations
with his Chaplain, & kept
him on Saturday night, 3 or 4
hours before he marched
from his camp, and he
was then very sick but
better than he had been
for some days. I believed
then we would not agree-
ment, but did not say so, to
him. His death has

given me great pain - but
the general disaster to the cause
has occupied my whole mind,
since ~~the~~ it occurred. I am now
using all my exertions to fill
up the loss. We are in a
danger in this city, but there
is great danger apprehended
indeed for for 2 days we
were surrounded by all our
of rumors, - all kinds of con-
but still they made the town
crazy. One of the worst
features was the spread
of drunken rumors, so that
that filled the streets.

I am full of annoyance
from all sorts of people
Yours
Simon Cameron

Wm. Cameron

South country
home room

Dr Williams

The house is
here, with pistols
& need, & his military
hat. I will send the
papers by his order
on Tuesday. The man
is very intelligent and
a great favorite with
Jews. I intend to

to go home, if possible
in a day or two, for I
am nearly overdone
The likeness I send
is very complete.

Pinoakamison
28 July 01

Worcester

Wm Deft
26th July 61
On William

There is now
I fear no prospect of
getting the body of James.
He died nobly, bravely
and valiantly. Everyone
admits his merits. Poor
fellows. He was only
a very short time
before us. May we
hope that you & I may
die as well & as much
regretted.

There is much danger
of another battle, but

intend to be that all
desires to win the
next battle. When it
is over I will go home
God has this contest
in his hands & He
will stand by the right.

J.C.

Wm. J. C.

Ally Monday Evening ^{July 29 1861}

Dear Sir

This will be handed
you by the young man who
is to accompany Mr. Perrell
He will hand you the amount
needed ~~to~~ to pay the expenses
of the search.

If successful, the charges
for the Coffin Attendants &c
will be paid on account in
this city.

* The two hundred dollars
named as the endowment
for entering upon the matter
will also be paid upon the
arrival of the body at the
Navy Yard or Steam boat
wharf as may be hereafter
directed.

On your return to Alexan-
dria, or I should say on the
return of Mr. Perrell, he

had better send the bearer of
this immediately to this city
for such instructions as the
relations of Col. Cameron
may wish to have followed.

If it is possible to go on
with the search, ~~and~~ the
return without using the
letter directed to

Genl Beauregard

Hon Wm Smith

Col. John S. Babine &

A D Banks

I would prefer it; but if
not then let Peverell
seek Genl Beauregard
and deliver all of them
to him. He will know
where the parties are to
whom they are addressed

If Mr Peverell acts

as energetically as I think
he will - and as he is bound
to do, as a mason seeking
the remains of a brother mason
I have scarce a doubt
of his success

I explained fully to him
all that was to be done.

Very Resp^{ly}

W Green

A W Mendenhall

P.S. I have just learned
that the officers were carefully
separated from the map of the
slain & buried apart. This
simplifies the search, as there
will only be about 60 or 70
bodies to turn over before all
will be known

Copy

Washington July 30/61

Col. John S. Barbour

Dear Sir

The parties bearing this note seek the corpse of the late Col. Cameron who fell at the battle of Bull Run on the 21st Instant

The widow of Col. Cameron is in great distress, and prays for the recovery of his body. Her only wish is to possess, and place it in their family ground, that she may be united with him in death as she so long has been in life

If it is in your power to aid in this, May I ask the favor of your doing so? Sympathising with the family of Col. Cameron in their great distress, I make this appeal to you, which I feel well assured will not be made in vain.

Should any change

circumstances placed in my
power I will promptly reciprocate
the favor which you will confer
in aiding the object now sought

I am Very Truly Yours
old friend

Amos W Thompson

copy

1861

Alexandria V. Kelly Esq.

Hon. Wm. Smith

of Warrenton

Dear Sir

May I trespass

so far upon our old friendship

as to beg your aid, in facilitating

those who bear this, in their search

for the body of the late Col. Cameron?

They go at the earnest prayer

of the widow of the dead Soldier

to seek his corpse, & if possible to

convey it to her who is now afflicted

with such deep sorrow at

her loss. The only wish she has

is that in death she may be

placed ^{near to him} ~~near to him~~, who for so long

a period has been her companion

in life: and being now aged the

day may not be distant when

she will require this place of

rest

I know your goodness of heart

too well, to doubt for a moment
its promptings, to aid in this work
of kindness. If Col. Cameron
was living a sense of duty
might cause you to resist all ef-
forts for his release, - but he is
dead, and no exigencies of war
can require the retention of his
remains. Let me beg then, that
you will do what you can assist
entirely, to restore to the broken heart
of the widow, so much of happi-
ness as may come from the
sorrowful pleasure of possessing
his remains.

In the trials and changes
which are before us, it may be
in my power to reciprocate ^{the} ~~your~~
kindness which you, or others,
who may aid in this will come,
or extend, and I assure you
that I will do so & that you,
or they may command my
services. I came to Alessan-

dria, out of sympathy for the
bereaved family of Col. Cameron,
and I have employed the Misses
Green to search on the battle field
for the body aided by each descrip-
tion as I have been able to obtain.

I am Very Truly

Ambrose W Thompson

Copy - Alexandria Aug 30
61

to O Banks Esq

Dear Sir

I came here this morning to aid a sorrowing lady whose whole happiness in life has been stricken down by the death of her husband, Col. Cameron, who fell in the battle of the 21st inst. near Bull Run.

Her great and only wish is to obtain his remains, that they may be placed in the family resting place, & that she may have the prospect of being laid beside them when the few years yet to be left her, shall terminate.

I do not hesitate to call upon your kindly sympathies to aid those who bear this, and whom I have sent upon this service, in safely bearing the body beyond your lines. You know me

too well to doubt that I will extend to the utmost similar aid whenever circumstances shall place it in my power to do so. to, and for any of my old friends of the South. You know all those whom I know, and if by good fortune this should reach you, say to them that I ask them aid, if your faith, and that in asking it, I seek only to heal, as far as may be the broken heart of a true and faithful wife suddenly widowed, by the war calamity that rests upon our common country - You, and they, have mothers, sisters, wives - think of their feelings, & what their work would be under similar circumstances - and you will act with me in this

effort, and share in the pleasure I shall have, if it is successful in pouring balm upon the wounded heart.

I am Very Truly
Ambrose W. Thompson

United States Military Telegraph.

Received Aug 8 1861.

From War. Department

To Isaac Stevens.

The party referred to has
to wait on special govt
mission he will see you
tomorrow & you can depend
upon his going don't think
of starting without him

I Lesley Jr
Chief Clerk

United States Military Telegraph.

Received Aug 12 1861.

From War Department

To Isaac Perrell

Mr Applegate
has not returned do
not know where he
is Genl Cameron is
now here.

J. Lesley Jr
Chf Clerk

THE MAGNETIC TELEGRAPH COMPANY. PRINTING AND MORSE LINES.

DIRECT TO ALL STATIONS IN THE UNITED STATES AND BRITISH PROVINCES.

OFFICES.—432 Pennsylvania Av., U. S. CAPITOL, Willard's, and
NATIONAL Hotels, Washington, D. C.

Terms and conditions on which Messages are received by this Company for Transmission.

The public are notified that, in order to guard against mistakes in the transmission of messages, every message of importance ought to be repeated by being sent back from the station at which it is to be received to the station from which it is originally sent.—Half the usual price for transmission will be charged for repeating the message, and while this company will as heretofore use every precaution to ensure correctness, it will not be responsible for mistakes or delays in the transmission or delivery of repeated messages beyond an amount exceeding five hundred times the amount paid for sending the message, nor will it be responsible for mistakes or delays in the transmission of unrepeatd messages from whatever cause they may arise, nor for delays arising from interruptions in the workings of its telegraphs, nor for any mistake or omission of any other company over whose lines a message is to be sent to reach the place of destination. All messages will hereafter be received by this company for transmission subject to the above conditions.

CAMBRIDGE LIVINGSTON, Sec'y,

145 BROADWAY, N. Y.

E. S. SANFORD, Pres't,

145 BROADWAY, N. Y.

Dated *Alexandria* 15 1861.

Rec'd, Washington, 1861, o'clock, min. M.

To *A W Thompson*

National

*I Has left will return
about saturday in
washington
J.P.*

*9/col 20
An*

August 17th / 1861

Mr Thomson

Dr Isaac Severill

To hire of Wagon not used two days	\$10.00
To hire 2 days used	20.00
To Cash paid for ice	5.00
To Cash paid for lime at Harco	1.50
To Cash paid for flannel	2.00
Cash paid for two hands	<u>24.00</u>
	\$ 62.50

For any time in full

50.00
112.50

Received in Cash

40.00

Balance due

\$ 72.50

To Cash paid expenses ^{down} up and 10.00

Need payment \$ 82.50

Isaac Severill

August 17. 1861

Isaac Perrell.

Dr. Al. Flicks

To hire to 2 Days not use	\$ 10.00
To do to 2 Days use	\$ 20.00
	\$ 30.00

Alexandria Va

August 17. 1861

Reserved Payment
Al. Flicks.

obtain the body. As the
altogether its delivery
a rough Coffin being
fully identified by.

Washington Aug 19/61

Mr Percival returned this morning
He reports - That in company with a gentleman
of position & respectability (who was induced to
go as a brother Mason & because he was Master
of the lodge to which a number of the officers
of the Confederate Army belong) - he visited the lines
of Beauregard. Detained himself at Fairfax, the
gentleman named went on to Head quarters. The
letters were delivered & secured immediate & respectful
consideration. Genl. Beauregard said, - "but for the re-
peated attempts to get the body by disrespectful flags
of truce, that it should at once be delivered - and
that had the letters and person come at the date
indicated, it would then, not only have been given
up, but should have been sent under honorable
escort far as their own lines. As it had become
a question of Military Etiquette he must telegraph
to Richmond" - He did so. - Without stating the
reply - he, as soon as it was received, informed
the party - that in a short time the body should
be sent, that in the mean time a guard of honor
should be placed at the grave, and the gentle-
man, who went with Percival (and whose name I
am not permitted to give) was invited to remain
at the Camp until the body should be sent
on under his care. Genl. Beauregard then added
that he hoped no other attempts would be made
by any parties under military pretence, or pass to

obtain the body. As they would only delay - or defeat altogether its delivery. The body was enclosed in a rough Coffin before its burial - having been fully identified by articles upon the person. These articles are all to be delivered with the body - & were at first offered to be sent at this time, but afterwards it was proposed to retain them until the final delivery. They comprise most of those named in the list sent up, with the addition of a locket, having the likeness of a lady & of a gentleman, the latter believed to be that of the Secretary of War. Mr Percival is to be informed of the time & will receive the body. The Coffin has been left to encase it.

I have requested Mr Percival to call on you & give an account of all that has ^{been} done, verbally to you.

Enclosed are the bills showing each item of cost. - The whole amount is \$122.50. - \$40. of the was advanced him, & the balance 82.50. was paid him this morning as per receipt on the bills.

I believe the reason why the body was not delivered at this time, is, that movements are going on, which they would not permit the two hands accompanying Percival to see.

You will please bear in mind that this cost would not have been incurred but for the interference of others. - It is not however thrown away entirely.

I enclose the remaining copies of letters sent with Percival.

Saw Very Truly
A W Thompson

Col. Garrison

Worcester
Sec. Senate
U.S.

Hon:

Simon Cameron
Harrisburg
Pennsylv^a

Wartburg.

Aug. 27, 1861.

Allow the bearers, J. M.
Rouse and R. S. Henry,
to pass to our advanced
posts and back, without
molestation.

Simon Cameron
Secretary of War.

William Howard
a letter from Richmond
stating that the body
of Jones will be sent
home, in a few
days. I will sail
about the 1st April

Wm Howard
Simon Cameron
Mar 2/62

W

March 5th 1862

Hilton March 5/62

Wm Cameron Esq

Dear Sir

I called on Mrs.
Cannon, she wishes you
to arrange the funeral
to suit yourself, and
she will be perfectly satis-
-fied,

Yours truly

J. M. Huff

Susquehanna Telegraph Lines.

Lewisburg Office in the "Star & Chronicle" Printing Office.

Sunday March 17

To Mr. Carr

Yes, I will come

Rev. Rizer
Chaplain of the 79th
Highlander Regiment

March 11, 1862
Susquehanna Telegraph Lines.

Lewisburg Office in the "Star & Chronicle" Printing Office.

Second dispatch

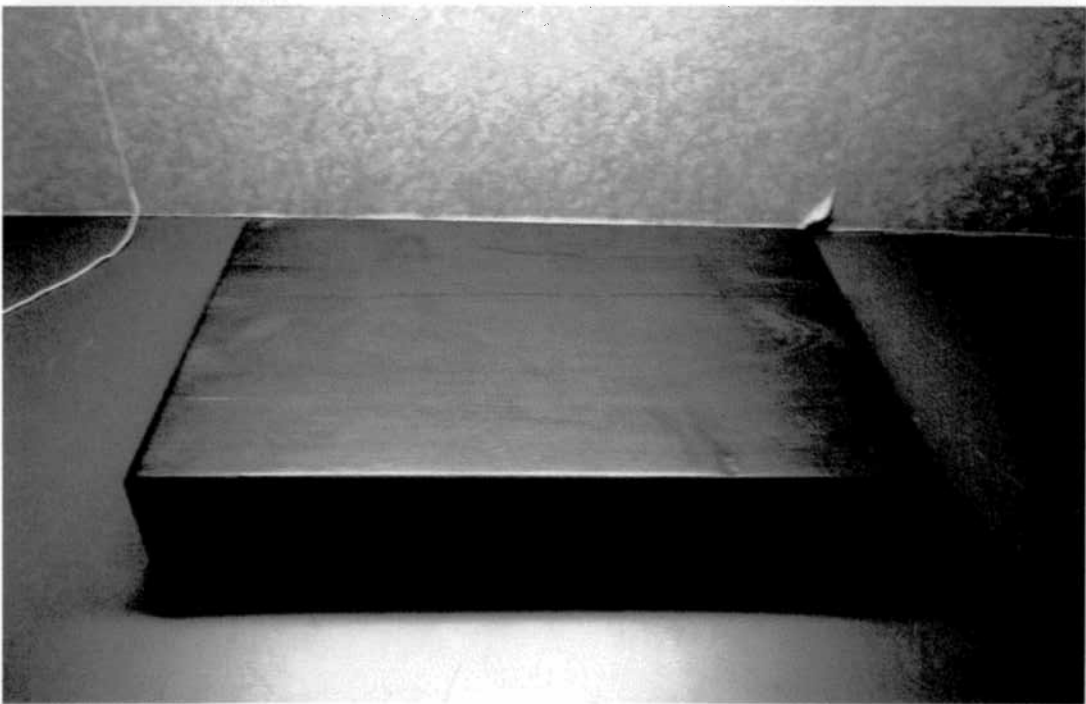
Lewisburg, March 16/62

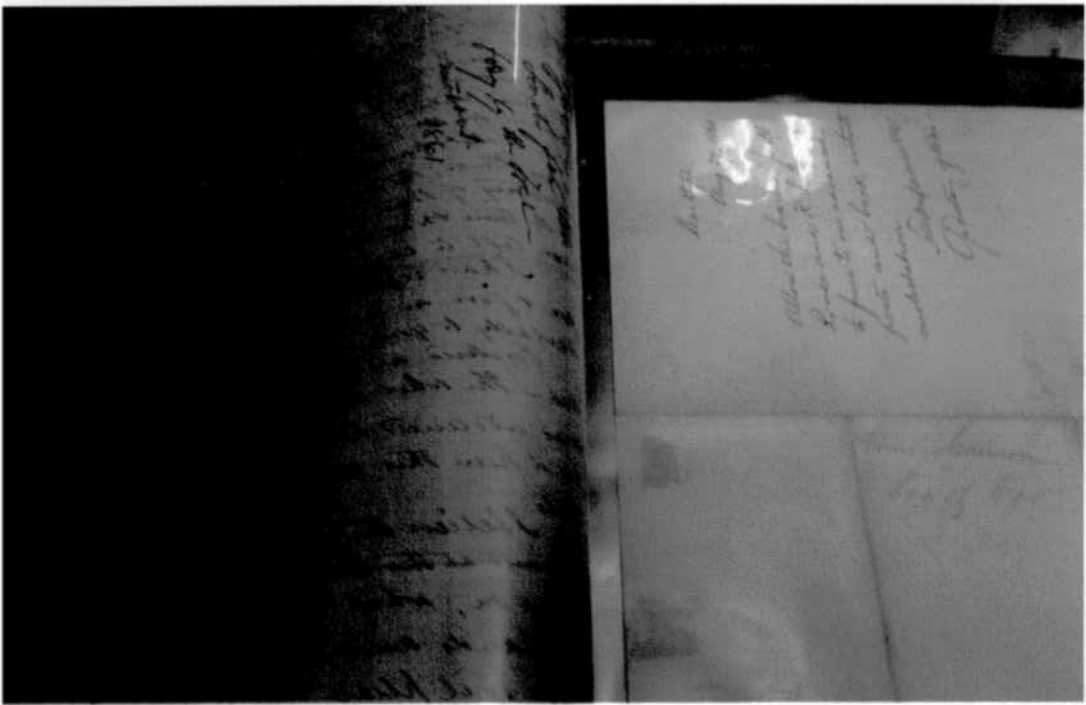
To William Cameron

Uncle James will leave
Washington tomorrow morning
at 11 o'clock accompanied by
eight officers and eight
soldiers. We will join
them here in the evening
and arrive at Lewisburg
at 11 o'clock tomorrow night.
I have made the necessary
~~preparations~~ arrangements

J. Hancock











NOVEMBER 17, 1988

PD photo by HAROLD CHATLOSH

Virgil Mylin (left) places a Colt .44 circa 1860 Army revolver in the gun case of its new owner Henry Truslow.

Wabash man's chance meeting leads to a high-caliber reunion

By CHRISTINE RAVENDER
Plain Dealer Reporter

The chances of the pair ever being reunited were slim — almost nonexistent.

But fate took things into its hands and a Wabash resident's chance meeting at an antique gun show led to a reunion.

Two Colt Model 1860 .44-caliber Army Revolvers, presented by Col. Samuel Colt to Col. James Cameron (who served under Col. William Sherman in the Battle of Bull Run and was the brother of Simon Cameron, President Lincoln's Secretary of War) at the outbreak of the Civil War, are once again a matched pair.

About one year ago, Henry Truslow, of Pennsylvania, purchased a Colt 44 with its matching case, and an empty side where the gun's twin should have rested.

He never thought he'd find the other gun.

But that changed when he bumped into Virgil Mylin, 29 Broadmoor Drive, at an antique gun show Saturday in Pottstown, Pa.

The two gun collectors happened to be at the same table at the show, where Truslow heard Mylin talking about a Colt 44 he owned.

"At first I thought it was one of my friends playing a joke on me," Truslow said. "They knew I was looking for the other gun."

But further conversation, and a picture Truslow had with him of his case and gun, convinced the men both had what the other was looking for.

The duo talked about Truslow purchasing the gun, but it wasn't until Sunday night, after Mylin had returned to Wabash, that a deal

was made.

"He had already talked to other people about buying it, but we agreed they (guns) should stay together," Truslow said. "I let it sink in and told him I would get back with him."

He did, and after a counter offer from Mylin, Truslow ended up the owner of a matched set of Colt 44s, circa 1860.

Truslow flew to Wabash Thursday to collect his gun.

"I would have come sooner but the storm kept me out," said Truslow with a laugh. "I was so excited though, I almost came storm or no storm."

Both agree fate had a large role in the two meeting.

"If I had come to that table five minutes earlier or later we wouldn't have met," Truslow said. "But we got the guns together and made a good friend on top of that."

General Head Quarters State of N.Y.
Adj. Gen. Office
Albany, July 4, 1861

Brig. Gen. John Even
4th Brigade NYSM
General

In reply to your telegraph of yesterday, which did not come into my hands till today, I have to state that the Governor has not yet signed the commission for Col. Cameron, and when I saw him about it a day or two ago, he wished it withheld for the present - He is absent from the office today - I will see him again on the subject and send it to you when signed.

Yours very respectfully,

D. Campbell
Asst. Adj. Gen.

Harrisburg, July 22
1861

To Mr. Cameron -

I want James
buried here beside his mother,
brother and sister -

Come down

Eliza Warford

Harrisburg, July 22

To Mr. Cameron

The only information I have is a despatch stating that he was killed in the battle yesterday.

From reports here, our army retreating today towards Washington. They are so much occupied that I have not been able to obtain particulars. I can't tell whether or not his body has been taken care of. Dr. Bobbs left here this morning for Washington. I will let you know as soon as I get any further information.
L. Cameron

Headquarters
New York July 17, 1861

Lt. Col. Samuel N. Elliott
Camp of the 79th Regiment
beyond Arlington Heights, Va.

Dear Sir:

About the time I left the city for the camp of the 79th Regiment by appointment with Col. Cameron, the Governor hesitated to sign and forward to me Col. Cameron's commission as appeared from a letter of the Adj. General of which the enclosed is a copy - on my return from the camp of the Regt. to Washington, I learned from Major Taylor that the Attorney General of our state had informed him that he had given an opinion against the validity of the election on the ground that a citizen of another state could not hold a commission in the regular militia of this state and I regarded it as almost certain that no commission would be issued and expressed the opinion to Col. Cameron that he could not act without it, except by the courtesy of the officers, and I supposed another election might be necessary.

Contrary to such expectations, however, I find on my return to the city that the commission had been sent to me, the governor not having received from the Attorney General the opinion referred to. I therefore enclose the commission to you with the request that you will fill out and have Col. Cameron sign the enclosed oath and administer the same to him. You will please certify to the same and forward the oath to me.

Very truly yours,

John ~~Fuer~~
Brig. General

"copy"

General Head Quarters State of N.Y.
Adjutant General's Office
Albany July 4. 1861

Brig. Genl. John Owen
4th Brigade N.Y.S.M.

Genl.

In reply to your telegraph of yesterday, which did not come into my hands till today, I have to state that the Governor has not yet signed the commission for Col. Cameron, and when I saw him about it a day or two ago, he wished it withheld for the present - He is absent from the office today - I will see him again on the subject and send it to you when signed -

Yours very respectfully
D. Campbell
Act Adj't. Genl.

[July, 22, 1861]

Extract from a letter to Mr. Fred. Robie, Washington
City, D.C. dated "Manassas Junction,"
signed S. Le Hawkins, or Huntins.

"If Sec Cameron is brother of the Col,
might say that he died in my ambulance.
When he died, I had him put in a house,
and an officer promised to have him buried
where he can be found at some future time.
He was shot through the lungs, and died
very soon."

July 22, 1861.

Rev. Jacob Smith.

324. 4th Avenue
22 July 1861

My dear Sir I feel to tender
you my expressions of sympathy
and regard in the drift of
your gallant brother! You
have every thing to comfort
you in the cause for which
he offered up his life.

In my daily visits to the
hospital I had the melancholy
sight of ^{this of all} your brother laid
near the bed of a wounded
Captain. It can easily be
had.

In sympathy
John C. Smith

Pastor of First Church

United States Military Telegraph.

Received July 27 1861.

From Middletown

To Hon S Cameron.

Is Uncle James
killed? I leave
here for Washn
to night & live.

Bruce Cameron

THE MAGNETIC TELEGRAPH COMPANY. PRINTING AND MORSE LINES.

DIRECT TO ALL STATIONS IN THE UNITED STATES AND BRITISH PROVINCES.
OFFICES: 132 Pennsylvania Av., U. S. CAPITOL, Willard's, and
NATIONAL Hotels, Washington, D. C.

Terms and conditions on which Messages are received by this Company for Transmission.
The public are notified that, in order to guard against mistakes in the transmission of Messages, every Message of importance ought to be repeated by being sent back from the station at which it is to be transmitted to the station from which it is received. If sent—half the usual price for transmission will be charged for repeating the message, and while this company will as heretofore use every precaution to ensure correctness, it will not be responsible for mistakes or delays in the transmission or delivery of repeated Messages beyond an amount exceeding one hundred times the amount paid for sending the message, nor will it be responsible for mistakes or delays in the transmission of subsequent messages from whatever cause they may arise, nor for delays arising from interruptions in the workings of its telegraphs, nor for any mistake or omission of any other company over whose lines a message is to be sent to reach the place of destination. All messages will hereafter be received by this company for transmission subject to the above conditions.
J. KENDALL, Gen'l Sup't. 143 BROADWAY, N. Y. E. S. SANFORD, Pres't. 143 BROADWAY, N. Y.

10 Dated Harrisburg July 25th 1861.
Rec'd, Washington, 25th 1861, o'clock, min. M.

To Hon Simon Cameron

If possible have
Uncle James body suit
on here - Dr Booras left
this morning for Washn
& will attend to it, if
you tell him - Shall
I come over -

J. S. Cameron

29/col 169-63
DH

To William Cameron

I want James buried here beside his mother, brother and sister.

Come down.

Eliza Warford

July 22, 1861

J.D. Cameron to William

To William Cameron

The only information I have is a dispatch stating that he was killed in the battle yesterday. From reports here our army retreating today towards Washington. They are so much occupied that I have not been able to obtain particulars. I can't tell whether or not his body has been taken care of. Dr. Bobbs left here this morning for Washington. I will let you know as soon as I get any further information.

J. D. Cameron

1861

Warisburg, July 22

To Mr. William Cassen - I have just received
a dispatch from Father. He tells me that ~~he~~
I need not go to Washington, that he does
not know whether they can get the body.
Send this to Aunt Rebecca

L. D. Cassen

July 22, 1861

To Mr. William Cameron -

I have just received a dispatch from Father (Simon). He tells me that I need not go to Washington, that he does not know whether they can get the body. Send this to Aunt Rebecca (James' wife)

J. D. Cameron

A British doctor to me.
his hat. Another one
brought his sword, and his
servant brought in his
horse & pistols. He died
bravely, at the head of his
regiment, and was on the
ground, & killed when many
all had fallen or retreated.
Poor fellow. He was pre-
pared for death, if he was
judged from his conversations
with his Chaplain. I kept
him on Tuesday night, 30th
hours before he inquired
from his camp, and he
was then very sick but
better than he had been
for some days. I believed
then, we would not again
meet, but did not say so, to
him. His death was

given me great pain - but
the general disaster to the country
has occupied my whole mind.
Since the it occurred. I am now
using all my energies to fill
up the loss. We are in no
danger in this city, but there
is great danger apprehended -
there's for the 2 days we
were surrounded by all sort
of rumors, - all color of course
but still they made the town
crazy. One of the worst
features, was the crowd
of drunken, rowdy soldiers
that filled the streets.

I am full of arrangements
from all sorts of people

July 30

Amour

Amour

Dear General

July 23, 1861.

Geo. W. Harris.

Dear General

I saw the Post, dated
on Saturday last, & I have
an intimation for you
& therefore wish to tell
you -

I also offer my services
as to endeavoring to
recover the body of your
brother - ~~Capt~~ Parkerford
is in the city, & would probably
join me in the matter

Yours truly

Geo. W. Harris
Tuesday morning

Acknowledged
July 23, 1861.

Senate Office
23 July 1861

Dear General

Allow an humble individual, from your own state, to offer you his sincere condolence for the loss of your gallant brother. Knowing him personally for a long time he shared largely in my highest and warmest regards for his many noble and many qualities of heart. He generously offered his life at the altar of his country as the highest sacrifice within his gift; and, when valiantly defending its glorious flag, in the heat and fury of ~~the~~ deadly conflict, with undaunted courage and daring intrepidity, his cheering voice, appealing to the pride of

In case the body of
Col. Cameron should
be recovered, I should
be glad to receive a
Telegraph dispatch
in reference to the
funeral - at Timbony
Penn^a.

Hon. S. Cameron	{	W. Rizer
July 24 th /61.		Chaplain 79 th Reg. N.Y. S.M.

Philad.

July 26, 1861

T. Dougherty.

Thurs^d July 26th/61

To Gen Cameron

Dear Sir

your
Cursed ambition has been
the cause of the death of
your amiable brother. you
have pushed yourself into position
for which God and nature
never intended. and you will
meet your reward by the
mid night howls of your
conscience. your case is that
of the frog trying to blow himself
up to be as big as the ox and
the result was a bust up.

Yours Respectfully
T. Dougherty

July 21/61.

July 24, 1861

Dear Margaret,

I fear we shall not find the body of James. W. Magraw and his friend W. Arnold volunteered on Monday Afternoon to go for it and have not yet come back. The chance is that the rebels have kept them as prisoners. General McDowell sent out a flag of truce yesterday but it was not enough to enter the lines of the enemy. Before he can now be distinguished he will probably be buried in a common grave - but there is hope. He was left in a farm house with his name and rank given.

A soldier brought to me his hat. Another one brought his sword, and his servant brought in his horse and pistols. He died bravely at the head of his regiment and was on the ground and killed when nearly all had fallen or retreated. Poor fellow - He was prepared for death if we may judge from his conversations with his Chaplain. I left him on Saturday 3 or 4 hours before he marched from his camp and he was then very sick but better than he had been for some days. I believe then we would not again meet but did not say so to him. His death has given me great pain but the general disaster to the country has occupied my whole mind since it occurred. I am now using all my energies to fill up the loss. We are in no danger in this city, but there is great danger apprehended. Indeed for 2 days we were surrounded by all sorts of rumors - all false of course but sill they made the town crazy. One of the worst features was the crowd of drunken runaway soldiers that fill the streets.

I am full of annoyances from all sorts of people.

Truly yours,

Simon Cameron

Wm. Dept
26th May 61
Dr William

There is now
I fear no prospect of
getting the body of James.
He died nobly, bravely
and valiantly. Everyone
admits his merits. Poor
fellow. He was only
a very short time
before us. May we
hope that you & I may
die as well as much
regretted.

There is such danger
of another battle, but

War Dept.
26 July, 1861

Dear William,

There is now I fear no prospect of getting the body of James. He died nobly, bravely, and calmly. Everyone admits his merits, poor fellow. He goes only a very short time before us. May we hope that you and I may die as well and as much respected.

There is much danger of another battle but I intend to see that we deserve to win the next battle. When it is over I will go home. God has this country in his hands and He will stand by the right.

Simon Cameron

to go home, if possible
in a day or two, for I

am nearly overdone -
The likeness I saw

is very complete.

Amos Anderson

28 July 01

Worcester

Mr W. W. W.

The house is

large, with plenty

of wood, a big kitchen

hot. I will send the

message by his order

on Tuesday. The man

is very intelligent and

a great favorite with

us. I intend to

Dear William

The horse is here with pistols, sword, and his military hat. I will send the horse by his orderly on Tuesday. The man is very intelligent - was a great favorite with James.

I intend to go home if possible in a day or two for I am nearly overdone. The likeness I find is very comforting.

Simon Cameron
28 July 1861

William
a letter from Richmond
stating that the body
of Jones will be sent
home, in a few
days.

I will sail
about the 1st. April

Wm
Simon Cameron
Mar 2/62

W

Dear William,

I have received a letter from Richmond stating that the body of James will be sent home in a few days.

I will sail about the 1st April.

Best regards

Simon Cameron
March 2, 1862

Susquehanna Telegraph Lines.

Lewisburg Office in the "Star & Chronicle" Printing Office.

Second dispatch

Harrisburg, March 16/62

To William Cameron

Uncle James will leave
Washington tomorrow morning
at 11 o'clock accompanied by
eight officers and eight
soldiers. We will join
them here in the evening
and arrive at Lewisburg
at 11 o'clock tomorrow night.
I have made the necessary
~~preparations~~ arrangements

J. Starnes

Susquehanna Telegraph Lines

second dispatch

Harrisburg March 16, 1862

To William Cameron

Uncle James will leave Washington tomorrow morning at 11 o'clock accompanied by eight officers and eight soldiers. We will join them here in the evening and arrive at Lewisburg at 11 o'clock tomorrow night. Please make the necessary arrangements.

J.D. Cameron

Susquehanna Telegraph Lines.

Lewisburg Office in the "Star & Chronicle" Printing Office.

Sunday, March 17

To Mr. Cameron

Yes, I will come

Rev. Ryer
Chaplain of the 79th
Highlander Regiment

Susquehanna Telegraph Lines

Sunday, March 17

to Wm. Cameron

Yes I will come.

*Rev. Riger
Chaplain of the 79th
Highland Regiment*

CASUALTY SHEET.

Name: James Cameron
 Rank: Colonel Company: _____ Regiment: 79
 Arm: Inf State: New York
 Nature of Casualty: Killed in action

CAUSE OF CASUALTY—(NAME OF DISEASE, &c.)

BY WHOM DISCHARGED.

DEGREE OF DISABILITY.

FROM WHAT SOURCE THIS INFORMATION WAS
OBTAINED.

BY WHOM CERTIFIED.

List of killed re 79. N.Y. S.M.
See Index 1. No 29

REMARKS.

DATE OF DISCHARGE, DEATH, &c.

PLACE OF DISCHARGE, DEATH, &c.

List not signed

July 21. 1861.

Bull Run, Va.

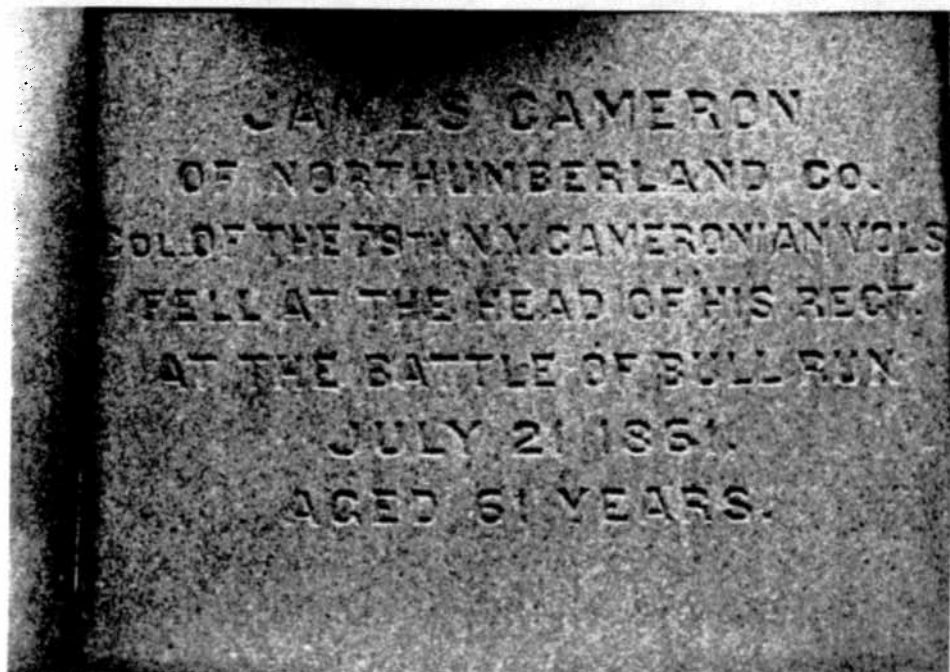
Chas. E. Connor

8.9.75

Clerk.

MONUMENT OF COL. JAMES CAMERON
CAMERON PARK, SUNBURY, PA.

— X —



MARKER OF COL. JAMES CAMERON
LOCATED IN THE FAMILY PLOT - LEWISBURG, PA.
X



Head Hunter & Dr. H. J. S. M.

New York July 17th 1861

Genl. Col. Saml. H. Ethell
Camp of the 79th Regt.
Beyond Arlington Heights Va.
Dear Sir

About the time I left the
City for the Camp of the 79th Regt.
by appointment with Col. Cameron
the Governor hesitated to sign
and forward to me Col. Cameron's
commission as appeared from a
letter of the 10th Sept. in which
the enclosed is a copy. On
my return from the Camp of the
Regt. to Washington I learned from
Meyer Taylor that the attorney General
of our State had informed him
that he had given an opinion
against the validity of the action
on the ground that a citizen
of another State could not hold
a commission in the regular mi-
lity of this State. and I regarded
it as almost certain that no com-
mission would be issued, and I
prepared the opinion to Col. Cameron

Washington
Aug. 10/61

Rev. J. C. Smith, D.D.

Enclosing an letter from
National Association
at the
in the

THE SWORD OF COL. CAMERON.
We find in the Philadelphia "American Presbyterian" an interesting and characteristic letter from the pen of Rev. J. C. SMITH, D. D., of this city, dated the 28th of July, in which, after describing the arrival of the wounded at the Infirmary, (where the writer officiates as Chaplain,) under the authority of the War Department, he proceeds to relate an incident honorable to a gallant wounded officer and tenderly commemorative of his distinguished and lamented commander.
"The wounded," says the letter, "are from all the regiments engaged. Among these—though all did their duty—I may name the Ellsworth [Fire] Zouaves, the 63d, the 71st, and the 79th, all of New York. Colonel CAMERON commanded the 79th [Highland] Regiment, and was killed. He fell into the arms of Capt. LEAG, a gallant native Scotchman, who received the Colonel's sword, and, though desperately wounded himself, brought it with him to this hospital. I saw the Captain on Monday morning, and reported to the Secretary (Gen. MONTAGU) that his brother's sword was with Captain LEAG. Yesterday he called at the hospital and received it from the hand of the gallant Captain—a very proper medium between the noble dead and the distinguished living."

Aug 12/61

Ed. Fitch
about 1861

July 1861.

Genl J. Cameron
Sery. of War -
Washington
D. C.
Private
Rev. Mr. Rizer }

Camp Cochen
Dear Genl
July 23. 1861.

I have exerted my
self to preserve, of poplite,
every little relic of the
personal efforts of our late
beloved & brave Col. of
the 49th Reg. N. Y. S. Vol. -
His horse & part of his mor-
tue are all here, including
the Revolver, which he held
in his hand, waving above
his head rallying his brave
Regt forward. His last

words were - Remember
Born a Scotland, my boys
I fell to the south, saying
no more." and expired

Most truly Genl

I am as ever

Yours &c
J. M. Ball

Mr. Lincoln to Simon

March 29th
Dear General.

I understand
that you forgive me, for all
~~past offences~~, yet I am
not Christian enough, to
feel the same towards you
as you pass me so "lightly
by" when you visit the
White House -

Very truly yrs Mr. Lincoln

Remitting May 24 1861

Dear Simon

Some of our friends at
the Remitting station, after this place, are
trying to get a Post office to be
called Cameron. & I wish you would
see that they would get it. I am a
great lover of law there. & I have been
selling it out in lots. There are
several houses here put up on the
land. & there is a pretty good store
where there is so far. At this place
the market is very anxious to have
the Post office. & I wish you to a
fine to get it if you please

your brother

Wm Cameron