



Cameron



The Magazine of Clan Cameron New Zealand Inc.

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2022**

Sunset over The Parade Fort William

Photo: Bill Cameron



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The Fort William War Memorial in the heart of Cameron Country
Many Cameron names are inscribed on this monument

In the background is the steeple of St. Andrew's Church and the monument
to the 19th Chief of Clan Cameron.

“Cameron”

is the magazine of the
Clan Cameron Association of New Zealand
(Inc.)

Directory

Hereditary Chief and Captain of Clan Cameron

Donald Angus Cameron of Lochiel,
Achnacarry, Spean Bridge,
Inverness-shire, Scotland. PH34 4ES

New Zealand President and Commissioner Nick Cameron

322 Auchenflower Road, RD 1 Darfield 7571
Ph. 027 232 6664
nick.cameron@cropmark.co.nz

Secretary

Tanya Cameron
97B McGarvey Rd, Whakatane 3120
Ph. 027 293 5603
Tanya.cameron30@gmail.com

Treasurer

Alison Thompson
61B Ascot Road, Mount Maunganui 3116
Ph. 027 525 4766 alison.th59@gmail.com

Genealogist and Historian

David Weston
14 Tanguru Street, Wanganui 4500
Ph. (06) 343 2539 westmor@yahoo.com

First Light Exchange Convenor

Bryan Haggitt
96A Lucerne Road, Remuera, Auckland 1050
Ph. (09) 524 5254 bchecho@xtra.co.nz

Branch Presidents

Auckland

Rob Cameron
15B Gavin Street, Ellerslie, Auckland 1060
Ph. 022 525 3151 robcameronnz@gmail.com

Bay of Plenty

Tanya Cameron
97B McGarvey Rd, Whakatane 3120
Ph. 027 293 5603
Tanya.cameron30@gmail.com

Gisborne

David Cameron,
885 Wharekopae Rd, RD2 Gisborne. 4072
Ph. (06) 862 7803 camerondvd@xtra.co.nz

Hawke's Bay

Hamish Cameron
76 Jarvis Road, RD 5, Hastings 4175
Ph. (06) 876 7509. h.jcameron@nowmail.co.nz

Iar (Taranaki / Whanganui)

Neville Wallace
242B Turu Turu Road, RD 14, Hawera 4674
Ph.(06)278 6005.
neville.wallace@talk2me.co.nz

Manawatu

Russell Cameron,
6 Woodland Grove, Feilding 4702
Ph. (06) 323 7432 russelldcam@gmail.com

Wellington / Wairarapa

Graeme Cameron
4 Karamu Street, Ngaio, Wellington 6035
Ph. (04) 977 6250 glcameron@outlook.com

Canterbury

Nick Cameron
322 Auchenflower Road, RD 1 Darfield 7571
Ph. 027 232 6664
nick.cameron@cropmark.co.nz

Magazine Editor

Neil Cameron,
28 Oxford Terrace, Devonport, Auckland 0624
Ph: (09) 446 1177 kncam@xtra.co.nz

Web Co-ordinator

Tanya Cameron
Tanya.cameron30@gmail.com

A Message from our Commissioner...

Dear Clansfolk,

COVID issues tend to dominate our lives at present with many of the events we usually attend now cancelled. I mentioned in the last newsletter that our Caledonian Society pipe band held a mini-band contest judged by Chris Stevens, Graeme Bryce and Michael Jenkins. This was a great way to keep the band functioning. Incidentally the winning band was entitled “Nick Cameron and the Good Seeds” ... a word play on a Wellington based rock band “The Black Seeds”. I have recently found out that the Canterbury District pipe band contests will still go ahead at Innovation Park, Christchurch on the 26th and 27th February for anyone interested. My brother Andrew is now stuck in Germany and was to return to New Zealand in February but with our MIQ allocation system the earliest he can apply for re-entry is late May – a great shame as he has nursing skills our country surely needs if we have a serious COVID outbreak.

I hope you have all had a great Christmas Break with your families and not eaten too much! For Julie and I we had a very enjoyable time with our daughter Rowan and grandchildren and son Hamish and his partner. At present we are spending weekends net covering our orchard from birds and weekdays for me is spent covering many thousands of individual grass plants with cloth bags prior to harvest, as well as inserting bumble bee colonies into our pollination cages to inter-cross chicory and brassica plants. Julie and I had a quick visit to the West Coast to Blackball on the 27th December for a wedding anniversary and purchased a very tasty local delicacy “Blackball Black Garlic Honey Infusion”.

In mentioning the topic of bees and honey – my grandfather Finlay Cameron was a bee keeper and electrical engineer in London. Recently my daughter enrolled in a bee-keeping course and seems to be following a family tradition with her own hive now operating on her property in North Canterbury. I wonder how many other Clan Cameron members keep bees?

Good wishes, stay positive and keep safe.

Cheers Nick.



Coming Events

Manawatu Branch AGM Sunday 20 February 2022 12 noon.

Mt. Lees Reserve, near Feilding.
See Manawatu report page 4.

Auckland Branch AGM and BBQ. Sunday 13 March 2022

Date will be confirmed by email to all members.
Parnell Cricket Club. AGM 4pm,
BBQ 5.30pm. Meat provided but please bring either a salad or a sweet, letting Jenny Haggitt know you are coming and which food you would like to bring. Cash bar.
Jenny: 09 524 5254 bchecho@xtra.co.nz

Clan Cameron NZ AGM and Gathering 13/14 May 2022 at The Hotel Coachman, Fitzherbert Avenue, Palmerston North.

Mark the date on your calendar.
Registration Form with the April newsletter.
Any queries to Branch Secretary, Anne Walker:
clancameronmanawatu@gmail.com



Clan Cameron New Zealand Website

www.clancameronnz.co.nz

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Finding out about your Scottish Ancestors

By David Weston (Clan Genealogist and Historian)

Scotland's People, <https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk> is the web site for National Records of Scotland and is where you go to access Parish records and Birth, Marriage and Death Certificates. You can search for these records but need to pay if you wish to see or copy them to verify you have the right people.

More recently they have begun to allow access to Kirk Session records and other church court documents. These are free to view and you see the actual records made by the Kirk Session although you have to trawl through them as they are not indexed.

If you know which parish your ancestors came from it can be interesting to read through these records which give information on loans and payments for headstones among other things. What may be of more interest and may also help you finding an unknown ancestor is that the Session dealt with couples who had illegitimate children. These people were bought before the Session to confess their sins and seek forgiveness.

As yet not old Kirk Session records are accessible but if you know where your family came from you may be interested in seeing what you can find. I have had a quick look at Kilmallie Parish and saw a number of Cameron's appearing before the Session, as well as some who were members of the

session.

Also thinking ahead the 1921 Census for Scotland will become available later this year. As with the previous census returns, which are already available on Scotland's People, I expect they will be on a pay to view basis. If your family were comparatively recent arrivals in New Zealand you may have close relatives who appear in the 1921 Census who you might like to know more about.

Other records available on Scotland's People on a pay to view basis include wills, valuation rolls, and emigration records.

Often you can find out information by searching records on the site, which is free, without actually paying to access them although you will need to access them in some cases to ensure you have the right person and to obtain full details.

There are other sites where you can search for records although they will not be as complete and some records may need to be paid for. These include

<https://sctbdm.com> Scotland BDM

<http://www.scotsgenealogy.com/Home.aspx> The Scottish Genealogy Society

<https://www.scottishindexes.com/default.aspx> Scottish Indexes

Other web sites that may be of interest include:-

Clan Cameron <http://www.clan-cameron.org> (For those who have not already visited)

The Scots Magazine <https://www.scotsmagazine.com>

Maps of Scotland <https://maps.nls.uk>

I hope you find some of this information useful and I wish you all the best in exploring your family history this year.

Don't forget to let me know of new family members so I can add them to our Cameron data base.

Hogmanay by Bill Cameron (Lochaber)

Written and published in 'Cameron' 10 years ago.

Hogmanay, what is it all about?

So what does Hogmanay mean to you? Is it just the changing of one old calendar for another, or a cause to gather with friends and family to celebrate?

I was recently asked what New Year, or Hogmanay as we call it here in Scotland means to me. Not an easy thing to summarise. Like most Scottish traditions, its origins go back many centuries and have evolved with each generation.

Over the past few years I have taken in Hogmanay on the Isle of Skye with old friends.

In Lochaber there is still a gradual build up on the last day of the year to the bells of midnight, when most people gather with family and friends in their homes, raising a glass, or two, to the year past and the year ahead. It is still quite common to hear shotguns going off to mark the arrival of the New Year. There is also an organised Ceilidh in Fort William that attracts a large number of young and old people - dancing into the early hours of January.

Within my own village of Inverlochy, people still 'first foot' family, friends and neighbours. First footing is when (ideally) a tall, handsome dark-haired man knocks on the front door of the house and wishes those indoors a Happy New Year. The first footer usually carries a bottle of whisky to toast everyone's health, and in some cases a piece of coal to put on the fire. It is widely thought that if such a first-footer is welcomed in to the home, then this is a good sign for the year ahead. First-footing can go on through to the wee small hours of new years day - and beyond!

These very informal gatherings (ceilidh's) in the homes of family, friends and neighbours allow people to catch up on all the goings on of late and of the year past. There is often a

lot of stories told, traditional songs sung and if there are musicians amongst those gathered, they will also play some tunes. The house ceilidh can go on for many hours with songs, stories, tunes, drams and usually a spread of food at some point.

As Hogmanay falls on one of the darkest months of the year in Scotland, it is a great opportunity for people to come together, think of what happened in the year past and generally enjoy each others company in the celebration of the New Year ahead.

Although the majority of places in Lochaber celebrate Hogmanay on the 31st of December. In Blarmachfoldach, a township high above the town of Fort William they still celebrate the old New Year on the 11th of January according to the old Gregorian calendar.



The Upper Falls of Nevis (An Steall)

An Steall Bhàn, "White Gush." Located in Gleann Nibheis (Glen Nevis). A beautiful cascade which leaps over a rock face from a hanging valley down into the glen.

Photographed by Bill Cameron on New Year's Eve 2021.

From the Branches....

Auckland by Rob Cameron

I hope everyone has had a great summer so far and has been able to spend time with family and friends. I have travelled back to the Marlborough sounds to spend time at our family batch. I have had to write this before I leave as there is no network where I am going and won't be back to civilisation before the newsletter cut-off.



At the end of November, the Auckland Scottish Clans Association held its AGM at the residence of Trevor Stewart. Trevor stood down as president and David Harvey has been elected as the new president. Clan Macfie also joined the Association at this meeting.

The clan had a small gathering for a lunch in December at the Good Home in Mt Eden, it was great to see some faces and hear how people have been managing after being locked down for several months.

Believe it or not, I do have some positive news for events happening in the piping world.

February 20th will see the Auckland Pipe Band Provincials Competition go ahead at Waikaraka park in Onehunga. Auckland will need to be in Orange or better for this to go ahead but at this stage it looks promising. This will be a bit different to the normal competition as there will be no street march, and the tune structure is not as strict. Bands outside of Auckland have been invited to attend. Due to Auckland bands not being able to practice, the performances will be critiqued instead of judged.

Also, in place of cancelled nationals the local council have decided to have a series of pipe band performances on the beach in Takapuna in which all of the local bands have been asked to attend. The date for this is March 12th.

Our Branch will also setting a date for our AGM soon, planned to be held sometime in March, so please keep an eye out for that notification.

Manawatu by Anne Walker

Clan Cameron Manawatu extend our best wishes to all for a happy and successful 2022. We are all very mindful that the Covid-19 pandemic continues to be a major problem for us all particularly as the Omicron variant looms. We wish all a safe and healthy 2022.



It was hugely disappointing that local planned events (Jenny Mair Square Day, and Turakina Highland Games) at which Clan Cameron Manawatu always has a presence were cancelled due to Covid, but we are optimistic that these events will return in due course. In the meantime, Clan Cameron Manawatu will meet shortly to consider new ways to reach out to our Branch membership in 2022.

Members are advised that the AGM of Clan Cameron Manawatu Branch will be held at Mt Lees Reserve, near Feilding at 12 noon on Sunday 20th February. All members, family and friends are welcome to attend the short AGM, which will be followed by a shared alfresco potluck luncheon.

Please diary note the weekend of May 13th -15th for the Clan Cameron NZ AGM and gathering in Palmerston North. We anticipate that this will proceed as planned, and look forward to warmly welcoming you all here

Hawke's Bay by Hamish Cameron

For various reasons the thought of organizing some sort of Christmas Clan gathering stumbled, and was deemed unworkable, so as a branch we employed last years Covid induced



plan. Stay out of harms way!

While we may all be openly voicing our frustration at the restrictions and requirements imposed on us as a Nation in order to manage this pandemic, it is also useful to reflect on our successes. As annoying as these requests are, they have however kept us in control of our own ability to manage the situation.

Sure, hindsight shows some patently better courses of action, but the statistical facts remain that we have successfully kept a greater proportion of the population out of hospitalisation than practically anyone else in the world. After the initial phases of lockdowns etc, and our adaption to the "new normal" of Covid, we all watch in horror as other countries experience second and third "waves" of infections and wonder "how-come and why ----?"

Like most, I have seriously questioned the necessity of all this masking- distancing and vaccinating on such a massive scale. -- But maybe -- just maybe -- we have adopted the right philosophy and tactics - after-all ----- people before profit----

What prompted the above exposition happened last evening, when we received the second of two separate calls from Aussie -- about how was N.Z managing the 5 - 11 year old children vaccinations

and whether it was really a safe and good idea. Over the last little while we have received several "hello - how are you?" catch-up calls from the UK -France and Aussie that all start off quite innocuously then turn into an inquisition as to how N.Z has managed to keep its people so safe etc.----

So one would suspect that, while we in N.Z are sick of its intrusions, the rest of the world are enviously looking at us and wondering how we managed to keep the human cost so low.-----

The financial cost is another thing----- but I suppose if you are still alive its something you still have the ability to correct.

Bay of Plenty by Tanya Cameron

Clan Cameron BoP Branch have had no get togethers recently with Covid in the Bay of Plenty region to keep our members safe.



Recently our branch has lost another member when Mary Cameron's husband Barry passed away. A memorial service was held for him after a private funeral. Barry was the brother of the late Harold Cameron, a past President of Clan Cameron New Zealand. We also mourn the death of Betty, wife of the late Harold, who passed away on 23 November. We will miss them both. (eulogies in next newsletter -ed)

Stay safe and prepare for Omicron as best you can and then carry on making the most of the Summer.

Canterbury by Rae Magson

Greetings. There have been no activities on the Clan Cameron Canterbury front, however when our Clan magazine arrived I couldn't help thinking aren't we fortunate to have such a wonderful Editor as Neil? Such interesting articles well set out.



Hopefully everyone is coping with Covid, it can be a difficult time for so many. So far in the South Island life has been mainly normal, some restrictions of course, but not too bad. We are aware that could all change very quickly.

Best wishes to everyone for a Happy, Healthy 2022.

From 20 Years ago -

Waipu Highland Games 2002

On New Year's Day Ruth and I decided, for the first time, to visit the annual Waipu Highland Games and set up a Cameron tent there.

It was a rewarding experience to be in historic Waipu and to be able to contribute something to the event and to talk to the many visitors not only from New Zealand but also from Scotland and Canada.

It is 149 years since Rev. Norman McLeod led a migration of 800 Scots from Nova Scotia to settle in Waipu and the surrounding district. Most had come to Cape Breton Island in the 1820's from the North Western Highlands and the Hebrides – north of Cameron Country but interesting to me as I have traced my Cameron ancestors through these areas.

Six ships, over a period of several years, sailed from Nova Scotia. The first two initially to Australia but finding that this country, in gold rush times, was not the Promised Land, Norman McLeod led his followers to New Zealand. Later ships sailed to Auckland direct. One of these was the *Spray*, a small vessel of only 107 tons, which carried the only Cameron family (of six) I can find recorded.

One can imagine the conditions the hardy 82 passengers had to face on their five and a half month journey down the Atlantic, round South Africa and across the Southern Ocean to Auckland. The settlers formed a close knit Scottish community who kept their traditional way of life in a pleasant land and retained their kinship and ties with Nova Scotia and Scotland.

A hundred years after their arrival it is recorded that the children still spoke the Gaelic language fluently. In the last newsletter Maisie talked about the Gaelic language and Celtic culture in Cape Breton. It is interesting to note that Waipu is twinned with St. Ann's/ Baddeck, the Cape Breton area from which many of the settlers came and where the Gaelic College of Celtic Arts and Crafts, one of whose aims is the revival of the Gaelic language, is situated.

Next year Waipu will be celebrating it's 150th anniversary of settlement commencing on New Year's Day with a two day Highland Games and another day of celebrations. The Clan Donald Chiefs will be there and possibly the Scottish Premier and Canadian High Commissioner. It would be nice to have a strong Cameron presence.

Mark your calendars now.

Neil (President CCNZ)

By Editor:

The article above was my Commissioner's report for February 2002 and marked the start of a long association with the Waipu



Highland Games. Apart from Games cancelled due to weather and Covid, I don't think we have missed a year.

We usually travelled up on New Year's Eve and put up the tent, devoted all New Year's Day to the Games and drove home on 2nd January. We were lucky to be the first occupants of a B and B, which we then booked for the years ahead. We always looked forward to the local fish and chips on the evening of New Year's Day.

The Waipu Games are very cosmopolitan, with many holiday makers in the area. It was always a joy to speak to Camerons from other countries, particularly from Scotland.

The following year, 2003, was the 150th anniversary of the settlement which was celebrated with a special Games over two days.

Special guests included Norman A. MacAskill O.B.E. JP Chief Assynt Caledonian Society from the home of Nova Scotians in Scotland, who opened the Highland Games, Ranald Alexander Macdonald of Clanranald, 24th Chief and Captain of Clanranald from the Highland of Scotland. The Canadian High Commissioner – His Excellency Mr. John Donaghy. Nova Scotia representative Roland Thomhill. Alister G. (Jock) Davidson of Davidson, Chief of Clan Davidson.

Shirley Anne Thomson was there as a Highland Dancing adjudicator and reported the following:

Day one dawned with much activity in all areas. Neil and Ruth Cameron put up the Clan Cameron tent right next to Clanranald. There was a descendants march with Pipe Bands and Neil and Shirley-Anne marched to represent the Cameron's. Two others appeared from the crowd to join them.

Many families migrated in 1853 to Waipu to follow the Reverend Norman McLeod. The first group arrived in 1817 when 66000 acres were purchased from the Government and became the main settlement. A pageant put on by local families dressed from that era depicted the life in Scotland and the crofts being burnt for not paying their dues and then showed how they were building a tall ship for their journey to Nova Scotia, Australia and onto New Zealand. The Maori even appeared in their waka. There were hard times and the close living quarters on the ship did not make life easy. – On the humorous side, a husband and wife team kept the audience amused with some quick-witted banter.

Beside us was the large pavilion of Clan Donald, whose members were hosting the 24th Chief and Captain of Clanranald, representing the High Council of Chiefs of Clan Donald.

Clanranald was most interesting to talk to and knew Lochiel well.

A very special 150th Highland Games should have been held in 2021 but were cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic, as they were the following year, 2022. They are now scheduled for 2023 and we hope that restrictions will allow them to take place. These games will be very special and we hope that Camerons from around New Zealand will come and support us, or just enjoy a wonderful day.



The Cameron tent at the Waipu Highland Games. Left, in 2003 and Right, in 2019. The tent grew over the years.

Pictures from 'Cameron' of 10 and 20 Years ago.....



Prizes won by former Clan Historian Dorothy Cameron-Gavin at the 2011 Auckland Camellia Show. The prizes were the Joy Rogers trophy for Champion bloom, 'John Hunt', Hawea trophy (rose bowl) for best reticulata, 'John Hunt', Beileski trophy for best hybrid, 'Spring surprise,' and Memorial trophy for 'Spring surprise', 'Desire' and 'Jean Purcell'.



Left: Camerons from five branches gather before the Cameron tent at the 2012 Turakina Highland Games.

Right: Our first New Zealand First Lighter, Shona, daughter of Colin and Isabel Cameron of Ashburton, meets Lochiel in 2002.



First Lighters at a fund raising Ceilidh in Scotland in 2002. From left Bill, David, Shona and Astie. Bill and David were shortly to join us in New Zealand.

Prior to the 1989 Gathering at Achnacarry—not published before. The editor's son John, son-in-law Duncan and daughter Jean. There was 'no room at the inn' so these resourceful Kiwi purchased tents and camped.

DNA Update

by Joanne Cameron (Manawatu)

In the world of Genetic Genealogy and YDNA a huge milestone was met in early December 2021 with Family Tree DNA announcing that the YDNA Tree of Mankind has reached 50,000 branches. That's quite a milestone

men either upgraded their older test or new tests were ordered.

The flow on effects for surname Projects such as our Clan Cameron YDNA Project was huge. In the last three years we have defined our understanding of certain septs of the Clan immensely.

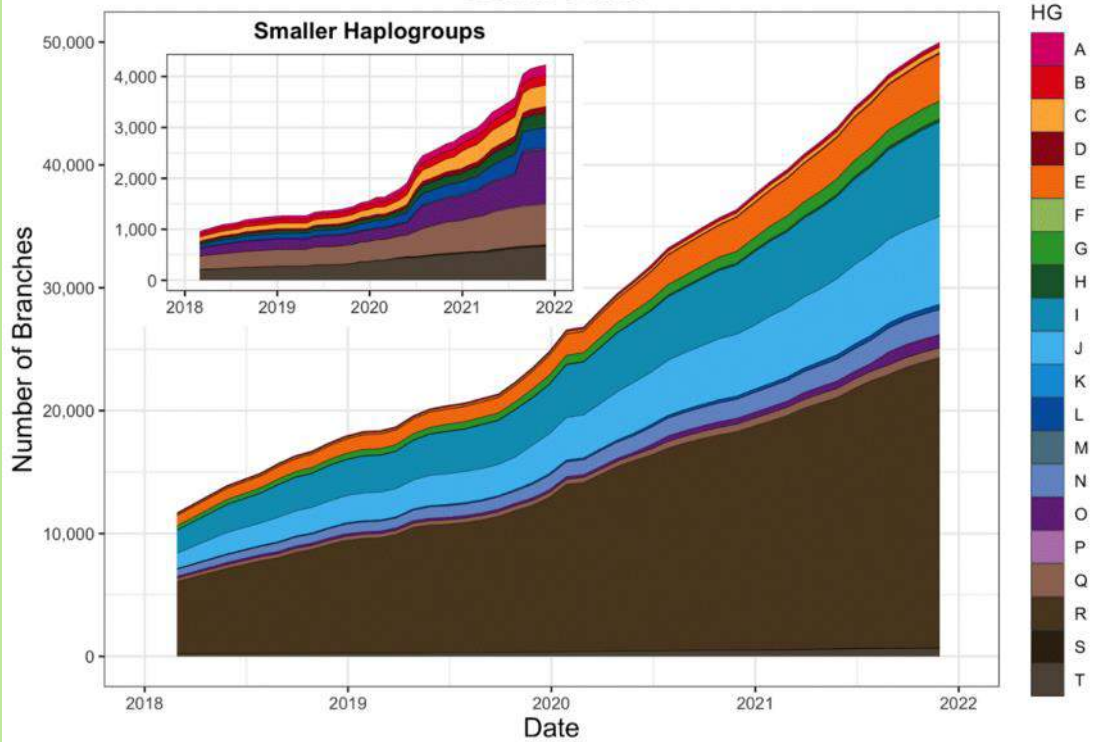
If we look for example to the McMartin Cameron subclade, we have been able to further define, with the help of traditional research, the testers into family lines such as Blarachaorin - a branch of the Kinlochleven family and

Camuserracht (Rannoch). This is huge both for the testers themselves and also any future testers.

As a whole the understanding of familial relationships vs geographical location ie. where families emigrated to has been greatly enhanced by Genetic Genealogy. Many are surprised to find extended cousins scattered to places they would never had thought to look using traditional research. Their stories add to the rich tapestry of Clan Cameron. All men with the surname Cameron are welcome to join The Cameron YDNA Project, a simple cheek swab is all that is taken which is sent off to the US for analysis.

FamilyTreeDNA Y-DNA Haplotree Summary 2018-2021

Branch Count



considering that in 2002 there were just 153 branches!

By far the last three years has come with the biggest growth in the YTree of Mankind.

Since the BigY 700 test was announced in 2019 which provided dramatically increased resolution, meaning that the tests could find more mutations or SNPs, many more

you can find the website here:

<https://www.familytreedna.com/products/y-dna>

<https://www.familytreedna.com/groups/>

For more information



The Nevis Range and Loch Lochy from Bunarkaig.

Photo: Bill Cameron

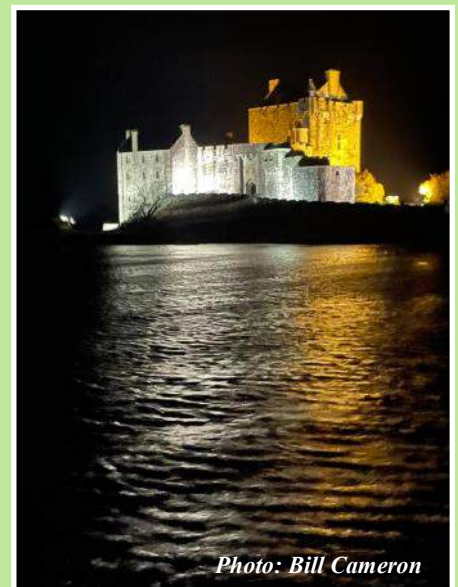


Photo: Bill Cameron

Eilean Donan Castle, especially interesting to the editor with his Clan Macrae ancestors.

By Bill Cameron:

This article on Moidart and the 45 was published in The Oban Times newspaper back in 1963 by the late Alasdair Cameron, the last unofficial Seanachie (bard or folklorist) of the Clan Cameron. Writing under the pen name North Argyll, he wrote on a wide variety of subjects relating to local history and was well respected for his knowledge of the Gaelic language. At the time of publication, a new road was being built connecting the communities in Glen Uig and Moidart.

Cradle of The 'Forty-Five

By North Argyll (Alasdair Cameron)

Transcribed from the Oban Times by Bill Cameron. With thanks to the Oban Times.

The district which the new road from Kinlochmoidart to Kinlochailort will pass through can justly be termed a part of the cradle of the '45. After landing at Loch-nan-Uamh, in Arisaig –not Moidart as I have seen it stated – on July 25, 1745, and becoming a guest of MacDonald of Borrodale, it is generally accepted that on August 11 Prince Charlie left for Kinlochmoidart.

I have here written “generally accepted,” as there is an Arisaig story that he was never in Moidart and only joined members of his retinue at Glenaldale on the 18th by way of Glenbeasdale.

However, in his itinerary account it is said that his first landing place in Moidart was at Forsy on the south side of Loch Ailort from which he walked across the Glenuig hill to Caolas, and then went by boat to Kinlochmoidart, landing at Creagan Dubh.

His visit to Moidart is well commemorated. There is a pipe tune by Macintyre the clanranald piper, “Thainig mo Rìgh air tìr a Muideart” (My King has landed in Moidart); the reel “The Eight Men of Moidart,” and visibly the row of beech trees, above the Creagan Dubh, and the “Princes Walk,” leading up the avenue to Kinlochmoidart House.

The story connected with the reel is that some from Glenuig met some of the local people at the Caolas, and told them the news of the landing of the Prince. They were so overjoyed that right there and then they danced the reel which has come down to us under the above name.

Some 40 years ago an old lady in Moidart told me the following story in connection with it. The Caolas men were peat-cutting, but as there were only seven in the party, they stuck a turf-cutting spade in the ground to complete the set Peat cutting at the time of the arrival of royal Charlie would, however, be a bit late.

The beech trees are said to commemorate the seven men of who accompanied the Prince - a mixed lot for only one of them belonged to Moidart, Aeneas MacDonald, the Paris banker and brother of Kinlochmoidart. As to when and by whom the trees were planted, I cannot give any definite answer. I clearly remember, however that when I was a small boy, probably in answer to questions on the subject, I was told that each of the seven men carried a beech switch. These they stuck in the ground and all of them grew except one, which had to be replaced.

This was taken as an indication that one of the seven men was unfaithful to the cause, and such a supposition could have arisen from the Gaelic poem in which there is a statement that “there was an Achen in the camp.”

I feel, however from the other contents of the poem that it is intended to indicate Lord George Murray.

In addition to all this there is the so-called “Prince Charlie Cave,” which may be damaged by the construction of the new road. I have been to this cave, if it can justifiably be called such – and tramps did at times stay in it, but I am indeed very doubtful if it was ever occupied by Charles Edward Stuart.

Why hide?

What necessity had the Young Chevalier to hide in a cave

when he was at Kinlochmoidart under the protection of MacDonald of Kinlochmoidart himself and a bodyguard of Clanranald men?

At this time also his presence in the country was hardly known to the Government, even though MacLeod of MacLeod, following a visit young Clanranald and Allan MacDonald of Kinlochmoidart, did send a secret letter to Lord President Forbes on August 3. Indeed, it was August 13 before the Lord President went to Inverness to rally supporters to the Government side.

In the other direction news of his landing was conveyed to London through the governor of Mingary Castle, in Ardnamurchan, who passed it on to Campbell of Airds, the factor for the Duke of Argyll in Morvern. He forwarded it to Inveraray, and from there it was sent to Edinburgh and thence to London.

There is a list of persons from the Glenuig district who served in the Prince's army, but its completeness is open to question. For on the basis of this list, the Clanranald contingent must have been less than that of MacDonald of Keppoch, a smaller clan in number.

The inhabitants of the district did, however, escape the severity of punishment inflicted on those of Lochaber, though the hated Captain Ferguson of Furnace did some damage and the Kinlochmoidart House was set on fire by Cumberland's troops.

For years after

There is a story current in the district that old Mrs MacDonald of Kinlochmoidart, “Peggy Lochiel,” died as a result of the fire. The Kinlochmoidart papers, now in the Register House, Edinburgh, and the Forfeited Estates papers show, however, that she lived for years after the fire.

She died at Irine, in the house of her son, Ronald Og, who gained the admiration of many a youngster of my generation through the well-known picture which shows him throwing his bonnet in the air and declaring “I will follow Charlie.”

According to tradition and the bardic works of Alexander Macdonald, Alasdair MacMhaighster, the Jacobite poet, the kinder treatment given to the district by the Government forces was due to the leniency of a commander of the Argyll Militia. Captain Duncan Campbell, who afterwards became Captain of Edinburgh City Guard.

The high terms in which MacDonald refers to him leave little doubt that he was a good friend to the local folk in their hour of need.

Tha 'n Saighdean agus an Criosdaidh An aon phearse ghrinn a Chaptin (The soldier and the Christian are in the pretty person of the Captain).

Another who no doubt contributed to the leniency shown the parish priest, William Harrison, who by his prudence and cautious diplomacy gained the approbation of both sides during that difficult period, though not apparently that of Macdonald the bard.

For some years after the 'Forty-Five, Macdonald lived at Eigneig, where his near neighbour was Father Harrison who, I believe had a chapel at Caolas. Macdonald was on very bad terms with the priest, and no doubt contributed to the feelings which inspired his poem “Dispraise of Eigneig,” which depicts it as barren, stony, unproductive, and so on

Reflecting on this one August morning as I partook of the hospitality of the “Eigneig Boys,” the late Archie and Angus Macdougall, it was borne in on me that this unfavourable picture was due to the bards irascible temper rather than to the nature of Eigneig and its surrounds.

When the new road is completed, visitors will no doubt follow in some places between Kinlochmoidart and Forsay the same route as the Prince took when he walked across to Caolas. But there will be a difference – a much reduced native population. With emigration and migration it would be difficult to find in the Glenuig area today sufficient descendants of those who followed Charlie to make a set for “The Eight Men of Moidart.

A Cameron blazer

By Dale Bailey



blazer for the Christchurch Technical College (a past and senior pupils blazer) was produced by Plimsoll's Ltd and has a Cameron provenance.

It was collected by Malcolm Shirlaw on 20 January 1990 from Mr M J Cameron, who purchased the blazer in 1939. It was inherited by Nicola Bruce from her uncle Malcolm Shirlaw when he died in 2019.

The Museum's online collection is rich with Cameron associations and you can enter comments online for this item and all the others. There are many interesting Cameron photographs and a wide range of family genealogical records as well

Christchurch Technical College was formed in 1902, offering technical courses for secondary students in arithmetic, geography and drawing and apprenticeship training. It was later to be the forerunner to the Christchurch Polytechnic and now the Ara Institute of Canterbury.

Measurements

Dimensions (h x w): 740 x 490mm
Sleeve Length: 610cm (240 3/16")

The Canterbury Museum has one of the great Museum collections of the South Island if not New Zealand. This

<https://collection.canterburymuseum.com/objects/1017138/blazer-christchurch-technical-college>

Fort William

by Bill Cameron

The town of Fort William takes its name from the military Fort of the same name - the remains of which still stand at the head of Loch Linnhe - although now in a much depleted state. It was from this remote government stronghold named after King William of Orange, that the Cameron clan were kept in check by government forces throughout the Jacobite risings. It was also from this military outpost that orders were given for the massacre of Glen Coe in February 1692, and where James Stewart (James of the Glen) was kept before standing trial for the Appin murder in 1752.

From an historical point of view, the Fort was very much a thorn in the side of Clan Cameron.

In the Jacobite rising of 1745, the Fort was besieged by a thousand of Prince Charlie's Jacobite forces - many of whom would no doubt have been Camerons. The attack lasted a number of days and was eventually unsuccessful in taking the Fort.

In the 1860's, the Fort was dismantled and sold to a Mr. Alexander Campbell of Monzie who subsequently converted some of the barracks into dwelling houses which would be inhabited up until 1935.

The Fort was then sold by his widow in 1889 to the West Highland Railway Company who demolished

most of the Fort to make way for railway sheds.

In 1896, one of the few remaining features of the Fort was saved from demolition and re-erected at the entrance to the Craigs burial ground on the outskirts of the town - thus preserving one of its distinctive architectural features, and commemorating the place where Sir. Allan Cameron of Erracht raised the Cameron Highlanders in 1793.

A local group of volunteers have recently gathered to form (FOOF) friends of the old fort - with the intention of enhancing the remains of the Fort, improving access and putting together interpretative boards to educate visitors on the rich history of Fort William.



Aerial view of the remains of Fort William. One of the only few remaining features is the Sally Port seen in the middle of the wall on the left hand side.

Photo: Alex Gillespie

The Governor's Room

by Betty Bruce

With thanks to the West Highland Museum

Although the first garrison at Fort William was erected in 1654, it was not until 1690 that the timber and earthwork construction was replaced by a more permanent fort with stone walls and a deep protective ditch on the one landward side. The officers' houses were stone built but the private soldiers were housed in wooden barracks. This new impressive fortification was no longer the garrison at Inverlochtié, but Fort William named in honour of the king

It was to this refurbished fort and to the Governor, Colonel John Hill, that Maclain of Glencoe came on 31st December 1691 in the mistaken belief that Colonel Hill could administer the oath of allegiance to the Crown. There in the Governor's room he was directed to Inveraray and as history relates signed the oath six days late. Maclain's fate and that of his clan was sealed.

From the Governor's room at Fort William the final orders for the massacre of Glencoe were issued. Indeed, a detachment of troops left the Fort to assist in the slaughter but a severe storm delayed them so that they arrived only in time to share the plunder. Arising from this black day in Highland history the Governor's room became known in later times as the Glencoe suite.

The policing and administration for a large part of the Highlands continued to be centred with the Governor at Fort William.



Walls of the old fort—Fort William

The Fort and the Governor survived a siege mounted by Jacobite supporters in 1746. It was from the Fort that James of the Glens was despatched for trial for a crime (the Appin Murder) that he did not commit, to the court at Inveraray. And, it was to Fort William and the Governor that he was returned prior to his hanging at Ballachulish.

The Fort continued to be manned by regular soldiers until 1854 and during the time of military occupation the Governor's room was used by the officer in charge. The first



stone house in the town of Fort William was built to house the Governor once it was considered safe for him to live outwith the precincts of the Fort. The core of the house probably dates from the late eighteenth century.

By 1864 the Fort was sold to Alexander Campbell of Monzie. Part of the barracks was made into dwelling houses but the Glencoe suite remained.

After the founding of the West Highland Museum in 1922 the trustees were desperate to find a permanent home for the growing collection. Moving exhibits for a series of summer exhibitions was not a happy option. The Glencoe suite was considered but rejected as too small and of difficult access.

However, in 1936 the panelling of the Glencoe suite was removed from the Fort and presented to the museum. Once re-erected the vivid green colour was soundly criticised and a notice which read "This paint is the exact shade of the original paint found on the ground wood underneath many layers of paint and papers" had to be posted at the room entrance.

Today the panelling is still green. Amazingly despite the grim reminders of military horrors and instruments of torture on display within the cabinets and considering the unhappy and sometime tragic decisions that emanated from this room the atmosphere is now almost benign.

A Cameron Canterbury Wedding 1974

By Dale Bailey



The Canterbury Museum has a good number of photo negatives with limited associated details. This one from 1974 has the simple inscription 'Woods and Cameron wedding, bride and groom.' Taken by photographers Standish and Preece, who were New Zealand's longest running photography business (1885-2020).

This photo taken here in front of the Christchurch Town Hall's iconic fountains which were very new at the time, the Town Hall opened in 1972. The Museum has some 80,000 images taken by this firm.

If any of our members have information about the happy couple, they would love to have the details.

<https://collection.canterburymuseum.com/objects/674292/film-negative-woods-and-cameron-wedding-bride-and-groom>

The West Highland Museum's Top 10 objects relating to Bonnie Prince Charlie

By Vanessa Martin, Curator and Manager

9. DEATH MASK

Prince Charles Edward Stuart's death mask. Thought to be a copy of an original made by Barnardino Lucchesi, one of a family of modellers in Rome, brought this mask to Scotland in 1839. The mask had been handed down through his family. Lucchesi settled in Glasgow where he continued to work as a modeller until 1863. Lucchesi fell on hard times and some of his belongings, including the mask, were sold.

Eventually the mask ended up being purchased by a sculptor named Ferguson. When it came into Ferguson's possession it was said to have hairs attached adhering to the eyebrows and eyelids! This bronze cast of the death mask came into the care of the museum in 1951 courtesy of the Scottish independence campaigner Wendy Wood.



10. TREE ROOT STOOL

This unimposing curved stool made from a tree root has a fascinating history. A label attached to the object states "Stool on which Prince Charlie sat when in hiding in Uist after Culloden." It was given to the pioneering Victorian folklorist Alexander Carmichael (1832-1912) by Rachel MacDonald, the great granddaughter of Morag MacDonald.



Legend has it that three sisters living on a croft on Uist provided food to Prince Charles Edward Stuart one evening when his party passed through the area when they were on the run from Hanoverian troops in 1746. When the sisters realised who their visitor was, they quarrelled as to whom should keep the stool. Morag won the fight and the stool became a treasured family heirloom, until it was gifted to Alexander Carmichael. Part of the Carmichael Collection is now in the museum's care, while his archive is in the care of Edinburgh University.



Auckland Branch Camerons gather for a Christmas Lunch at the Goodhome Mt Eden Whisky Room. From Left: Angus Fletcher (Patron), Bryan Haggitt, Rob Cameron, Michel Tent, Dale Bailey, Jenny Haggitt, Hillary Hakaraia and Lena Orum.



Rob and Michel give Santa a helping hand in Papatoetoe



Photo: Bill Cameron

Christmas Day Reflections—Inverlochy



Photo: Bill Cameron

Loch Eil



Photo: Bill Cameron

Fort William and Ben Nevis



Photo: Bill Cameron

The lights of Fort William