



Cameron

The Magazine of Clan Cameron New Zealand Inc.



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Vale



Artist: Julian Calder Title: Queen of Scots, Sovereign of the Most Ancient and Most Noble Order of the Thistle and Chief of the Chiefs (1926 -2022)

National Galleries of Scotland. Bought with the aid of the Patrons of the National Galleries of Scotland 201

By New Zealand President and Commissioner Dale Bailey.....

It's with such sadness that we learnt the death of our remarkable sovereign Queen Elizabeth, Queen of Scotland and New Zealand. what a remarkable life of leadership and service. She has been such a constant presence in our lives.

It seems so appropriate she passed away at Balmoral in her beloved Scotland. Her love and appreciation of her Scottish heritage and the customs and lands of Scotland are well known.

This official Scottish portrait in the Scottish National Portrait Gallery is entitled 'Queen of Scots, Sovereign of the most ancient and most noble order of the Thistle and Chief of the Chiefs'.

On behalf of the members of Clan Cameron New Zealand we extend our sincere condolences and thanks to the Royal Family.



The late Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip outside the Glen Nevis restaurant in July 2005.

Lochiel is bottom right and was then the Lord Lieutenant of Inverness-shire. Ewen Cameron is on the far left. Ewen owns the Glen Nevis Estate and is the uncle of Finlay Cameron who is the potential First Lighter.

Image: Iain Ferguson

“Cameron”

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

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A Message from our Commissioner..

Kia ora tatou, nga mihi nui
Greetings to you all

The death of Queen Elizabeth has certainly been a milestone in our lives and that of the country. It was clear how attached the Queen was to Scotland, and somehow felt fitting that she passed away in her beloved Balmoral. In the last week we have seen her journey through Scotland, and lying in state in Edinburgh.

We have just returned from our annual executive council meeting held in Turangi. It was great to meet together in person again and talk about what we have been doing and would like to do. The drive to the centre of the North Island is certainly a great treat for me and reminds how lucky we are to live in such a great part of the World.

On the agenda was the arrival of our latest First Lighter Finlay Cameron, due to be in New Zealand in early November. Finlay's plans are evolving, but will involve getting about the country, participating in piping events and competitions and being at our Highland Games across the country. Thanks to our Auckland Branch for taking the lead on this. Thank you also for the generous donations made to First Light fund to allow us to get Finlay out and about to meet our members. I think this is a great way to both connect us to our heritage to the community of Lochaber, and to generate new interest in Clan Cameron. Thank you so much to Bryan Haggitt and Rob Cameron for all the work you are doing in bringing this to fruition.

We have been talking about connecting to new members and getting together as we emerge from the pandemic. One activity we want to do is to talk about what strategy and develop a plan of how we would like to be in the future. If you have any ideas about how we can develop I would love to hear from you.

I have been able to visit recently the Bay of Plenty branch annual meeting in Mount Manganui. It was great to meet our members there and talk about membership of our Clan.

Recently the Auckland branch held a most successful dinner with 85 in attendance. It was a great night with excellent entertainment. Our MC on the night Duncan McQueen did such a fine job. It was a real privilege to be able to enjoy this time together in such a wonderful way.

I want to thank all of those who have taken up and continue to hold leadership positions within the Clan Cameron Association. They work so hard for us all, thank you for your service and efforts. It is much appreciated and valued.

We are about to start the summer season of our Highland Games. I hope to see you at the Clan tents over this time in Hororata, Auckland, Waipu, Turakina and Paeroa.

Aonaibh ri Cheile

Dale

Clan Cameron Gathering. Achnacarry August 2024

Tentative date is August 2nd - 4th.

Accommodation is often difficult in Fort William at that time of the year so early booking is essential

If anyone is interested in a group tour please contact the Editor.

**Clan Cameron New Zealand
Website**

www.clancameronnz.co.nz

**The Clan Cameron Interactive
Network**

<http://clanameron.ning.com/>

Next Magazine Deadline is 15 Nov 2022

Printed By

Welcome to the following Members who have recently joined us:

Canterbury Branch
Iar

Roger Tobin
Shona Cameron

Dunedin
New Plymouth

*Ceud Mìle Fàilte
One Hundred
Thousand Welcomes*

Queen Elizabeth the Second and Scotland

by David Weston

The death of Queen Elizabeth is a time of sadness but also a time to acknowledge the many years of service she gave to the people of the United Kingdom and the wider Commonwealth. I am sure our thoughts are with her family as they cope with their loss and the changes that will follow.

It is also an appropriate time to reflect on the relationship she had with Scotland throughout her life. Her mother was from Scotland, with her family being from Glamis Castle in Angus where her father was the 14th Earl of Strathmore. As well her parents spent time at Balmoral Castle so growing up she spent time there with her parents at Balmoral and at Glamis Castle with her maternal grandparents.

Her time in Scotland was obviously enjoyable and as an 11 year old she wrote to thank her grandmother, the Countess of Strathmore. "Darling Granny, thank you very, very much for having us to stay at Glamis. It was one of the happiest weeks I have ever spent."

After she became Queen she continued the tradition of holidays in Balmoral. It was a time when she could relax and be herself with close family and friends. As one staff member recalled:- "She can relax, with her dogs, just doing what she thought normal people did, and indeed what normal people do."

As well as enjoying holidays she had official engagements in Scotland, visiting virtually every part of Scotland. These included going down a coalmine in Fife in 1958 and in 1960 she became the first reigning monarch since the Viking King Haakon to visit Shetland. She has opened the Scottish Parliament's sessions, addressed the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, opened numerous bridges and launched many ships.

Another activity she took part in while at Balmoral was the Ghillies Ball. This was an occasion when she hosted neighbours and estate staff in an annual dance. By all accounts she took an active part in the dances. One commentator said "It's funny isn't it, because I didn't imagine that she [the Queen] would be a keen dancer. But apparently she did every dance and she'd stay up late into the night and be there to just enjoy it".

The Queen herself spoke of the special place Scotland

was for her. When she opened the Scottish Parliament in 2021 she said: "I have spoken before of my deep and abiding affection for this wonderful country and of the many happy memories Prince Philip and I always held of our time here. It is often said that it is the people that make a place and there are few places where this is truer than it is in Scotland, as we have seen in recent times."

So while we reflect on her death we should also remember her words which tell of the place Scotland held in her heart and trust that King Charles will carry on the interest she had for Scotland and its people.

Vale Alison Cameron 1936-2022

Wife to the late Rodney Cameron, both were life members of the Wanganui branch during the late 70s and 80s. While Rodney was secretary/treasurer of the New Zealand Clan Cameron Committee from 1974, Alison became assistant secretary from 1982. Both Alison and Rodney worked on the Clan newsletter from 1984 till 1992.

In 1992 Rodney and Alison moved to Auckland and mostly retired from Clan activity to pursue other activities. Rodney passed away in 2014 after a short illness. Alison moved to Fielding in 2017 to be closer to family members and where she got medical assistance for her Parkinson's.

Alison's service was at the Fielding Baptist Church on Wednesday 17th August. She was then brought back to Auckland to be laid with her husband at Manukau Memorial Gardens cemetery

Rob Cameron



Visit to Jeff Thomson's Studio on Labour Day

Shona Cameron and Jeff Thomson live and work in a large 100 year old warehouse in Helensville, a 45 minute drive from central Auckland.

Jeff, a sculptor renowned for his use of corrugated iron, has assembled a large collection of his work that can be seen in their large studio.

He made the large tin gumboot in Taihape, the corrugated iron clad Holden station wagon in Te Papa and those of you lucky enough to have visited the Gibbs Sculpture farm on the Kaipara, will have seen his life-sized corrugated iron giraffe, one of eleven sculptures he has on the property.

Jeff will talk about his work and give a guided tour of his workshop, demonstrating some of the machinery and equipment he uses to build sculptures.

Shona, a painter, and ex University of Otago photographer will have a

collection of her paintings on display.

Also happening in Helensville over the three days of Labour weekend is ARTS in the Ville. There will be over 30 artists studio's open plus pop up exhibitions for those of you who wish to venture out into the town.

BYO lunch and Beverages but Shona can supply tea, coffee, water and juice.

Shona and Jeff are members of Clan Cameron Auckland but members of all branches will be most welcome.

Meet at 11am on the 24th October, Labour Day. The tour by Jeff will be at 11.30am, followed by lunch.

Address is 12 Awaroa Road, Helensville.

Please let Shona or Jeff know on email: jefshone@iprolink.co.nz if you are coming.

From the Branches....

Auckland by Rob Cameron

Activities for our branch are progressing well. With the government dropping the traffic light system entirely, we are able to securely plan for our summer events for this upcoming season.



We held our annual dinner on the 6th of August. It was a great night overall. We took in over \$700 in raffle takings and making an excess of over \$1000 for the night. This includes several donations towards the evening. I must say a huge thank you to our Auckland branch members for making it a great night. All proceeds will be put aside for use when Finlay arrives in New Zealand.

After many requests for status, we finally got a response from Finlay. He has his visa and will be arriving in Christchurch at the start of November. We are now able to progress his programme further. We will be able to have a broader discussion with other branches on the programme at the executive meeting in Turangi on September 17th.

Dale, Hillary, Bryan Haggitt, Neil and myself will be making our way to Turangi on Friday 16th September for the first mid year face to face executive meeting we have had in some time. The agenda looks pretty packed with a few great ideas about the future of the clan put forward by our new commissioner.

The upcoming spring and summer season is also beginning to flesh out. We have the upcoming visit to Jeff Thomson's Studio over labour weekend for anyone willing to attend. We will also need to start planning for the Auckland Highland Games held at Lloyd Elsmore Park for the last Saturday of November (26th), which will be the first outing of the clan tent in over a year. We are also planning to have Finlay in Auckland over December where we are organising a recital/bbq at the Parnell Cricket Club on December 3rd. We then have The Waipu Highland Games on January 1st, the celebration of the 150th highland games in Waipu.

City of Auckland Pipe Band are continuing practices, but it will be more of a social band until the members grow. City of Sails Pipe Band recently celebrated their 30 year anniversary, the band will soon decide if it is going to compete in next year's Nationals competition.

If anyone was interested in joining the Scottish Clans Association Annual Dinner, it has been postponed. Originally set 17th September, it is being pencilled in for November 19th. Once the date is set, a new flyer will be sent out. The AGM has also been shifted to October 10th, the next regular monthly meeting.

Manawatu by Anne Walker

I write this as we finally see the end to our Covid traffic light system and various restrictions. We are all very pleased to have life returning to a sense of normality after so long.



We were delighted to be able to hold a Spring gathering on Sunday 11th September 2022 at the Coach House Museum in Feilding. Fourteen Clan Cameron branch members gathered for an informal afternoon tea hosted by Clan Cameron branch. All appreciated the opportunity to catch up with Clan members, after our long, wet winter. We were able to visit the amazing heritage collection within the Coach House Museum. The collection consists of heritage horse drawn carriages and early vehicles, including an impressive collection of early John Deere machinery, together with displays of vintage memorabilia from our local region. Displays change from time to time. Members who have never visited the museum, or had not visited for many years, were so impressed they all said they must return for a longer visit. We

were grateful to the staff of the Coach House Museum who hosted us so well.

Clan Cameron Manawatu hope to attend the Jenny Mair Highland Square Day in early December as usual, but this year are short on numbers to man the hospitality tent, as some of us have family commitments out of town that weekend. If anyone can help, please let us know.

We are looking forward to hosting Finlay Cameron, our visiting First Lighter from Scotland, in the Manawatu over the summer. We shall also be present at the Turakina Highland Games in late January with our usual Clan Cameron tent.

Please keep up to date with our news on the Clan Cameron Manawatu facebook page, or email us on:

clancameronmanawatu@gmail.com.

Hawke's Bay by Hamish Cameron

Right now, as I write this, we should be enjoying the uplifting effects of spring with its euphoric feelings of rejuvenation. Instead - - we have more of the lashings of winter that seems never-ending. No wonder nobody was keen on venturing out these last few months.



That will make my trip to the Executive Committee meeting in Turangi the only Clan activity to be undertaken this winter.

We in Hawkes Bay, are not used to experiencing sustained rain over such a long period, plus the sheer amount of water has seen us move from inconvenienced to depressed-----,

But on reflection, we should be grateful to our far-sighted forefathers who recognised what could flood and, about a century ago, started massive earthworks realigning three major rivers that meandered across the plains on their way out to sea. The earthquake of 1931 also intervened to give a helping hand with direction -- the end result meaning for decades now H.B has weathered really severe rainfall periods without the land flooding prevalent in other provinces.

In today's political environment -- with the R.M.A act -- such an intrusion on the landscape wouldn't be allowed--

I bet the big Insurance companies say a little prayer to these old folk though -- every-time we experience another prolonged rainy period

Bay of Plenty by Tanya Cameron

Clan Cameron BoP Branch has not been active recently except for our AGM in July.

We had our AGM for the Bay of Plenty Branch at Classic Flyers in Mount Maunganui and we had a small turn out that included our Commissioner Dale Cameron which was a great event for our group to meet our commissioner in person.



The weekend following was the Auckland dinner, and I represented our branch again there. Attending these out of town dinners makes a change to my staying home for the rest of the year.

I am looking forward to a long weekend in Turangi getting to know some of the new Executive and relaxing while solving all the problems of the world over wonderful meals together.

We are looking forward to the Annual Paeroa Highland Games that were deferred in February 2022 due to COVID and are to be held in 2023.

Canterbury by Rae Magson

On a beautiful Sunday recently a luncheon was held at the home of our President, Nick Cameron, in Darfield. They have a beautiful garden, and have acquired two boisterous puppies. A pleasant time was had by the people



who attended.

Plans are being made for the Annual General Meeting to be held on Sunday 9 October in Ashburton, to be followed by a luncheon at one of the many restaurants that Ashburton offers.

Wellington/Wairarapa by Graeme Cameron

A lunch was held at the historic Royal Hotel, Featherston on Saturday 24th September. See photo below.

From left: Erina Wood, Hazel Cameron, Cath Cameron, Jill and Brian Cameron, Rob Cameron and Rex Wood. Photo: Graeme Cameron.



First Light News by Bryan Haggitt—First Light Convenor

Great news - Finlay now has his visa and has booked his flight here arriving at Christchurch on 1 November. He will be met, and hosted in the first instance, by Immediate Past Commissioner Nick and in time to compete at the Hororata Highland Games. The Games are on Guy Fawkes Day, 5 November.



Meantime, very recently in Glasgow, the Field Marshall Montgomery Pipe Band, including Finlay and his brother Sandy, became World Champions. An incredible achievement – we are very privileged in being able to host here a member of that World Champion Band.

The standing of the Band is such that at the Summer Piping School, not only will Finlay be tutoring but the Head Tutor is a former member of the Band and the snare drummer tutor is also a colleague of Finlay.

At the Executive Meeting at Turangi, the vibes were very positive with great interest in Finlay being hosted in all parts of the country. We are planning to have him play at a number of social events and, by passing a hat around, provide Finlay with some pocket money and to meet travel expenses. Finlay has expressed an interest in motor cycles, hiking and mountain biking – I am sure members will come forward to assist him in pursuing these interests whilst he is here.

Roll on 1 November!!



A Picture from the past



Elizabeth Cameron, nee Cameron, meets Her Majesty the Queen in Marton in 1954. This is the grandmother of Bruce Cameron of Rangitikei and of the late Al Cameron of Auckland. Photo taken by Jim Richards, Lynn Lumsden's father.



Photo: Duncan McQueen

Welcoming Receptionists at the Auckland Dinner.

Tanya Cameron and Diane Casterton

Glenfinnan Gathering - see page 11



Photo: Iain Ferguson



Photo: Bill Cameron

Bill Cameron holding the flag of the Clan Cameron Association Scotland during the opening address of the Gathering by Count Peter Pininski.



Bryan Haggitt addresses the Haggis

With Michel Tent, Lachlan and Annika Cameron, chef, Bryan Haggitt Jr and Ben Davis.



The McQueen family - Nina Richards, Andrew, Duncan (MC), Jean, Matthew and Rebekah



Murdock McDonald and Neil Cameron



Miriam Cameron with daughter Lily Shadbolt and Tanya Cameron



Cass and Hillary Hakaraia



The Executive Committee meet in Turangi

From left: Neville Wallace, Joan Cameron, Graeme and Hazel Cameron, John Cameron, Shona Wallace, Hillary Hakaraia, Dale Bailey, David Weston, Tanya Cameron, Nick Cameron, Hamish Cameron, Neil Cameron and Rob Cameron. Photographer: Chenara Cameron



Photo: Editor

Chenara Cameron, Motel Manager, with Dale Bailey



Photo: Editor

Above and Below left. Great companionship on the evening before the meeting.



Photo: Neville Wallace



Photo: Neville Wallace

David Weston and John Cameron share a joke. With Graeme and Hazel Cameron



BOP Branch AGM. Left photo from left back: Tanya Cameron, David Cameron, Patricia Cameron, Dale Bailey. Front: Judith Bean, Patricia Duncan and Jessie Scott.



Photo: Dale Bailey

Flora MacDonald - Part 2

by Mark Bridgeman



2022 marks the 300th anniversary of Flora MacDonald's birth. With it comes the opportunity to honour her life and her bravery, in assisting Prince Charles Stuart and his escape from British justice following the calamity at Culloden.

Continuing with the article from the London Illustrated News, dated 27th January 1872, in which the Victorians marked the 150th anniversary of Flora MacDonald's birth.

Protected by her passports, Flora visited Clanranald and his lady at their residence at Ormaclade, a few miles distant from her brother's house at Milton; and here arrangements were promptly made for obtaining a boat and crew, and for extemporising for the Prince suitable wardrobe for his acting the part of Betty Burke. They then visited the hiding-place of the Prince, and found him engaged in roasting the heart and liver of sheep upon a wooden spit! This was Flora's first interview with the Prince. They all dined together, and laughed heartily over the Prince's appearance when he joined them in the dress prepared for him, consisting, we are told, "of a flowered linen gown sprigged with blue, a cap and apron, and mantle of grey-coloured camlet, made after the Irish fashion, with a hood."

A camlet (or, sometimes, camlot) is a garment traditionally woven from goat's hair.

But, in the midst of their merriment, at that very time a voice warning of the danger of their position was hurriedly brought to the hut. A messenger arrived to tell Lady Clanranald that an officer and troops were at her house, and that she must return immediately. She had to bid farewell to the Prince; and now he had to part with his last companion, O'Neal. It was trying and an anxious moment, and the alarm was increased when, on reaching the shore, wet and much fatigued, they saw four wherries full of armed men, making apparently for the beach. But the boats passed on, within gunshot of the place where the Prince and his companions lay concealed amongst the heather. This danger passed, they embarked in the boat and got safely away to Skye. The passage was stormy, wet, and tedious. Next day they sighted the coast of Waternish; but as they approached it, a party of soldiers appeared on shore, armed, and possessed of a boat, but having no oars. To put back to the water was the work of a moment; a few vain shots were

fired from the shore; but no harm was done, and they sought a landing at a more convenient place. This was found within few hundred yards of Sir Alexander Macdonald's seat of Monkstadt House. The chief himself was at this time at Fort Augustus, in attendance upon the Duke of Cumberland; but his wife was at home, and, like the rest of the Clan Macdonald, sympathised with the Chevalier much more than with her husband and the Royalists. Flora waited on Lady Margaret, and was received as became her position. The house was full of Royalist officers, one of whom beset her with questions as to the search for the Prince at that moment going on in the Long Island. The same officer had been in the custom of examining every boat which landed from Uist; but, meeting this young lady in the drawing-room of Lady Macdonald, and deceived by the easy manner in which she accounted for her appearance and parried his efforts to procure information, his suspicion was disarmed, and Flora found opportunity, in course of the evening, to communicate with Mr. Macdonald, of Kingsburgh, who acted chamberlain or factor for the Macdonald estates, and with Lady Margaret, both sound Jacobites.

Meanwhile, the poor Chevalier had been left all this time sitting on his trunk by the seashore. The difficulty was what to do with him. To offer shelter at Monkstadt would be ruin to the Macdonalds; but Mr. Macdonald of Kingsburgh, who was a cool, sensible man, said he would take him to his own house, "I am now an old man," he said, "and it makes little difference whether I am to die with a halter round my neck or a natural death, which cannot now be far distant."

Kingsburgh left forthwith to find the Prince, taking in his hand a wallet of wine and biscuits. It was not easy to discover the Prince's whereabouts, but when approaching the place where he ought to be found, he saw some sheep run off as if startled, and, with a farmer's instinct, made for the source of the alarm. The Prince had seen him approaching, and came forward in very unfeminine manner, with a large knotted stick in his hand. "Are you Mr. Macdonald, of Kingsburgh?", he demanded, and matters were of course at once amicably arranged.

The journey across country to the house of Kingsburgh was not without its perils. Neither Kingsburgh nor Flora Macdonald, with their retinue, could travel in Skye without being seen by all observers; and Betty Burke had an unfortunate trick of bowing instead of curtseying to passers by, and while crossing the streams that traversed the route she either kilted her petticoats indecently high or let them draggle through the water. Kingsburgh had to remonstrate. "Your enemies," he said, "call you a pretender; but, if you be, I can tell you, that you are the worst at your trade I ever saw!"

The whole party (Charles, Kingsburgh, and Flora Macdonald) arrived in safety at Kingsburgh House about eleven o'clock at night. Thence, after a night of rest such as he had not enjoyed for months, the Chevalier made his way to the Island of Raasay, and, after many further wanderings, escaped to France.

The fact of the rescue was soon discovered, and it was traced to Flora Macdonald. She was apprehended; so were all who had to do with the enterprise, and sharply had they to pay for their loyalty.

Flora Macdonald was taken from Leith to London in a British government man-of-war on 7th November 1746, amidst the waving of flags and the cheers of thousands of spectators. By this time the Prince had been long safe in France, and, whatever may have been the energy with which those acting under the Duke of Cumberland prosecuted the search for him in the Hebrides, there can be little doubt that those still higher in

authority were secretly grateful that he escaped. The danger of another revolt was not so great as that arising from the embarrassment of either keeping or killing so illustrious and popular a prisoner.

Public sympathy in London went strongly in favour of Flora Macdonald that the Government, after a little while, released her from the Tower, to be placed in the custody of friends who became responsible for her appearance. The house of Lady Primrose of Dunipace was open to her, and there she resided till the amnesty of 1747 set her free.

It seems that Lady Mary Primrose, a prominent Jacobite sympathiser of French ancestry, became Flora's benefactor in November 1746, during Flora's incarceration in London, and presented Flora with a bronze brooch, and a French, painted sandalwood fan. Three carefully painted images on the fan depict a wealthy couple, and what is thought to be their nursemaid tending their child. Lady Primrose's French heritage may explain the fan's origins. These items, among other interesting artifacts closely associated with Flora MacDonald, form part of the Carmichael collection on display on the West Highland Museum.

Following Flora's release on parole, she was allowed to reside at Lady Primrose's London home as a guest. Meantime Flora was, so to speak, the rage of the season. Everyone visited her, even the Prince of Wales, father of George III, to whom it is reported that she said she would have done the same for him had she found him in like distress. A sum of money was collected for the gallant young lady, which Lord Mahon quotes at £1,500.

This sum is today's equivalent of a staggering £340,000! The amount must have been considerable, for as late as April, 1761, Flora acknowledges the receipt of £627, lodged with a business firm in London on her account by Lady Primrose.

Soon after returning to the Highlands, Flora married the eldest son of Kingsburgh, by whom she had a large family of sons — all afterwards officers in the King's service — and two daughters. They emigrated to North Carolina, but returned, after many adventures. One of these was, that in crossing the Atlantic they were chased by a French privateer, and action took place. Flora's spirit was up, and she kept the deck all the time, but had the misfortune to break her arm in the fight. Hence, she used to say that she had fought for the House of Stuart and for the House of Hanover, and suffered for both. In the pleasant old house of Kingsburgh—of which no vestige remains save a few old sycamores—Flora received Dr. Samuel Johnson and Boswell on their memorable tour of Skye, in 1773, and both seem to have been much impressed by the simple dignity of the lady. She communicated to them a narrative of her adventures, which will be found in the "Journal of a Tour to the Hebrides", together with much interesting gossip regarding the place, the people, and the period.

Quantum cedat virtutibus aurum (with virtue weighed, what worthless trash is gold) — was Johnson's philosophical reflection as he quitted the kindly house of Kingsburgh; and he has done much by his references to Flora Macdonald to keep fresh the memory of her loyal devotion. She died in 1790. Even among Highland funerals, that of Flora Macdonald is celebrated for the multitude of people who assembled at it.

A lingering love of the cause attracted many, as it could by then be indulged in without danger either to themselves or to their Chief; but Flora's personal virtues were great, and to this day there is no name mentioned in Skye with more reverence and respect than that of Flora Macdonald. It therefore meet and right that a fitting monument has been erected over her grave.

'Meet and right', meaning 'it is right to so do', seems to be another expression that has passed from common usage, although it has now become the name of online dating app!

Similar articles to the one above appeared in many newspapers during 1872, seeming to indicate that the legend of Flora MacDonald was already marked as one worthy of commemoration. Perhaps our descendants will look forward with equal interest to the celebration of Flora's 450th and, even, her 600th anniversary!



Image: I. Markluin, Mrs Flora MacDonald, 1747, print. © WHM (OR.1247)

With thanks to Mark Bridgeman and the West Highland Museum

Mark Bridgeman, author of *Blood Beneath Ben Nevis*, has appeared on ITV, Channel 5, and BBC Radio. His stories have been dramatised on Canadian radio, and featured in newspaper serial form. Nominated for the John Bryne Award in 2022, Mark has also appeared at several literary festivals presenting his popular 'Trial By Jury' event. He is also the author of eight books (and counting...) which are currently available in paperback. For further details please visit www.markbridgemanauthor.co.uk

Mark Bridgeman's book "Blood Beneath Ben Nevis" is available at West Highland Museum. A full range of his books are available at Waterstones and on Amazon.

The Battle of Inverlochy 1645

by Betty Bruce

Time line – leading up to the battle , the battle, after the battle.

1639 – 1640 The Bishop’s War. – The Scots fought against Charles 1 because the Presbyterian Church in Scotland did not want to use the Anglican Prayer Book which Charles was insisting they use.

1642 – 1645 Civil War. Parliament (The Roundheads) fought against King Charles 1 (The Cavaliers) because they did not agree with his style of government.

1645 The Marquis of Montrose defeated the Marquis of Argyll at Inverlochy.

1649 Charles1 beheaded.

1650 Marquis of Montrose captured and hanged at Edinburgh.

1654 Oliver Cromwell ordered a fort to be built at the junction of the River Nevis and Loch Linnhe.

What Happened at Inverlochy?

The Marquis of Montrose had decided to fight for King Charles and was winning several skirmishes throughout Scotland.

The Marquis of Argyll reached Inverlochy with a force of three thousand men and hoped to surprise attack Montrose who was at Fort Augustus. Somehow, no-one knows how, word reached Montrose about Argyll’s plan of attack. What followed has always been rather a mystery. It was wintertime and by some means Montrose marched from Fort Augustus to the entrance of Glen Nevis undetected by Argyll’s sentries. The mystery is that no-one can agree on what route he took. Argyll’s forces were taken by surprise but a fierce battle took place. It was said the the River Lochy and Loch Eil ran red with blood. Argyll fled, sailing his galley down Loch Linnhe leaving

Montrose victorious.

Results of the Battle of Inverlochy.

Montrose was finally defeated at Philiphaugh. He fled but was finally captured in 1650 and hanged at Edinburgh.

1653 Cromwell Leader of the Government Roundheads became Lord Protector.

1654 Cromwell ordered the fort at Inverlochy to be built to subdue the Highland clans so that they would not rise against the Government. This became the Fort at Fort William Nowadays the village of Inverlochy has streets called Montrose Ave, Montrose Square and Battlefield Crescent in memory of the battle.

In the West Highland Museum can be seen Montrose’s trooping helmet and battle axe, spear heads and pistol from the battle – all found in the River Lochy.



Inverlochy Castle

The Lock from the Fort at Fort William

by Betty Bruce

In 1690 General Hugh MacKay rebuilt the old fort at Inverlochy into a substantial garrison which he named after his king – William. The stone walls, some twenty feet high were mounted with fifteen twelve pound cannon taken from the warships which had carried the building materials. The surviving part of the fort walls shows the lower part was constructed of river boulders and the upper of roughly squared stone. One sally port or sea gate now remains. In 1864 the fort was dismantled and sold to Alexander Campbell of Monzie.

Parts of the barracks were demolished and stones were used in the building of the old Belford Hospital. The two gateway arches were taken down but one was rebuilt and stands at the entrance to the Craigs burial ground. The great main door was demolished and the huge lock and key now reside in the Governor’s room at the West Highland Museum. The bell which is shown on plans as having been mounted above the door has disappeared without trace.

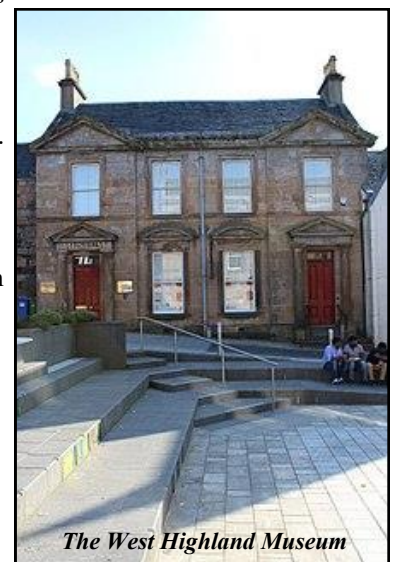
THE BUILDING IN CAMERON SQUARE.

After 1690 with the succession of William and Mary, the fort was re-garrisoned. A little settlement of local people grew outside the walls as a sutlery to supply food and perhaps food to the garrison. In an eighteenth century letter Captain Burt, a contemporary of General Wades, that the local houses could not be made of stone but only of timber and turf. Should the fort be threatened the houses could be immediately

destroyed. In fact during the siege of 1746 they were indeed torched on the command of the fort governor. This order lasted until 1854 after which it was deemed safe for the governor to live outside the fort. The fort itself was garrisoned by twenty four men of the Staffordshire Volunteers and the governor lived in the first stone built looking over the Parade.

The little town could now embark on a new building programme. Of first importance was a bank. Soldiers had to be paid. Money for the pay roll faced a long hazardous journey either by sea or through outlaw ridden Glencoe. The British Linen Bank was built in Cameron Square and thus lessened the number of journeys made carrying quantities of money. It is possibly the second oldest building in the town and certainly one of the very earliest and is B listed.

In 1922 at the founding of the museum the trustees rented storage space for the collection in the bank. Each spring the collection was wheel barrowed to display in Monzie Square. In autumn the procedure was reversed. In 1926 The British Linen Bank, having moved across the square, sold the building to the museum. The trustees bought it with a mortgage which ran for fifty years. The present trustees are looking to further expansion. A museum is always a work in progress.



The West Highland Museum

Return of The Glenfinnan Gathering

By Bill Cameron

Saturday the 20th of August saw the return of the Glenfinnan Gathering after a two year absence due to covid restrictions.

Over one thousand people passed through the gates to the scenic games field by Loch Shiel.

This year marked the 75th Glenfinnan Gathering, commemorating the Raising of the Jacobite standard on the 19th of August 1745 in support of House of Stuart.

History informs us of the strong Cameron connections with this notorious last land battle in British history. Had it not been for the Cameron of Lochiel and his hundreds of clanmen getting behind the Prince's campaign, then it may never have garnered so much support and almost succeeded.

Established in the late 1940's by a number of local people, including the late Francis Cameron Head of Inverailort, the Glenfinnan gathering has always been a popular event for many local people and visitors alike.

After two years of having no gatherings, it was great to see so many people enjoying the sights and sounds on the games field.

The honorary chieftain this year was Count Peter Pininski, the x6 great grandson of Bonnie Prince Charlie. Led on to the games field by the strains of the Lochaber Pipe Band, the contingent was made up of a good number of Cameron's, MacDonalds and other clans as they made their way from the Glenfinnan monument to the platform where a saltire was raised by local school girl, Christina Ross.

Count Perter Pininski gave a heartfelt address to the assembled crowd, drawing on his ancestral links to the House of Stuart and his families connections with the Raising of the Standard back in 1745. After this he declared the Gathering open.



Bill Cameron, Lochiel, Chris Doak and Dr Roddy Cameron in the Clan Cameron Scotland tent.

Photo: Iain Ferguson

The afternoon saw traditional Highland games events from caber tossing, shot put, running races, piping competitions - as well as many tents surrounding the games field providing various points of interest.

The Clan Cameron Association Scotland tent was once again in attendance at this years gathering. We had a good number of locals and visitors come into see our displays and ask questions. One young Cameron man from Australia and his fiancé (who are soon to be married) were delighted to meet and be photographed with his clan chief, his son, and grandsons.

After two years of having no Glenfinnan Gathering, it was great to see so many people come together in the sunshine and enjoy a diverse array of activities and entertainment by the shores of Loch Shiel.



Photo: Bill Cameron

Getting ready to march on to the games field.

Dr Roddy Cameron left with Count Peter Pininski in the light coloured blazer. Alongside him holding Clan Cameron association flags, young Donald Fergus Cameron of Lochiel Donald Andrew's son and his younger brother, Ossian Cameron.



Photo: Iain Ferguson

Finlay Cameron (potential first lighter) playing at the Glenfinnan piping completion during the Gathering.



Aonaibh ri Cheile

The Back Page



Auckland Annual Dinner Photos: Duncan McQueen



The Fusion Singers



Wendy Cracroft, Gary Russell, Lindsay Ester and Dale Bailey



Sol, Marcus, Brian, Pam and Blake Cameron, Raewyn Jack and Melanie Cameron



Ella and Erin Tent



Jeff Thomson and Shona Cameron



Rough Town Entertainers



Auld lang Syne