



Cameron

The Magazine of Clan Cameron New Zealand Inc.

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2017



Sunset on the Parade Fort William

Photo: Bill Cameron

Loch Lochy, Lochaber

A view looking down Loch Lochy from Laggan. Loch Lochy takes its name from the Scottish Gaelic: Loch Lochaidh, meaning place of the dark water.

Loch Lochy is situated in the heart of Cameron country a short distance from Achnacarry castle.

It is one of three lochs that are joined by the Caledonian Canal along the Great Glen fault line between Fort William and Inverness. The other two Lochs are Loch Oich and Loch Ness.

Photo: Bill Cameron



“Cameron”

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Clan Cameron Association of New Zealand (Inc)

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A Message from our Commissioner...

Dear Clansfolk,

Following on from my interest in the Rowan tree - I have had a number of people comment on this topic including a Cameron from Canada who had read the article in our last edition. My wife Julie made some Rowan tree berry jelly which required some setting agent and careful boiling and straining of the juice (without squeezing). The end result is a particularly flavorsome product.

The last 3 months have been fairly full on for me. Apart from a very intensive seed harvest - in the pipe band scene we have had provincial contests in Dunedin, Christchurch and Nationals in Nelson. Our local Canterbury Clan Cameron had a tent at the Riccarton Bush contest with great support by our Ashburton members. Unfortunately the day was very wet and our free haggis had to be aborted due to the public disappearing following heavy rain. Congratulations to Callum Cameron (our newsletter editor's nephew) who competed in his first National event with the Canterbury Caledonian Grade 1 band who won all of the events in Nelson on the day. Next year the National pipe band contest is to be held in Rotorua - so perhaps the Clan should make an effort to have a tent at the site?

I recently thought to do a google search on Clan Cameron NZ and looked at the Wikipedia site. I wonder how we go about linking the information here to our facebook and internet site?

Locheil is interested in holding an international gathering possibly in 2020 around early August at Achnacarry - so we will be gauging interest from our branches over the coming year.

An Australian Clan Cameron gathering is to be held in April 2018 (next year) on the Gold Coast so this might be a good opportunity for us to catch up with relatives and enjoy the sun that this country can provide!

Julie and I are looking forward to attending the AGM in Masterton next month. The following week I will be attending the Hastings Easter pipe solos - an event the Clan Cameron has become famous for.

See you all soon...

Nick.



Coming Events:

Further events and details on our web site

Saturday 8 April 2017
Clan Cameron Gathering and AGM.
At the Masterton Club.

The Masterton Club is the venue. The Executive meeting will be held first, followed by the AGM, then lunch.

There will be time to visit local places of interest. Currently we are trying to arrange a visit to The Vintage Aviator Fighter Collection at Hood Aerodrome and also the Sports and Vintage Aviation Museum. Shear Discovery and Pukaha Mt Bruce are also worth a visit.

The evening will begin with a get together, followed by a Scottish themed meal and entertainment.

Registration form is on the website.

Saturday 19 and Sunday 20 April 2017
The Hawke's Bay Easter Highland Games.

Lindisfarne College, Pakowhai Road, Hastings.

You are sure of a great welcome at the Cameron tent.

Enquiries to Mike Topham 06 879 8215

Saturday 12 August 2017
Auckland Branch Annual Dinner.

At the Quality Hotel, Parnell 6pm for 6.30pm.

Details next issue. This will be the 30th anniversary of the re-constituted Auckland branch.

Saturday 19 August 2017
Manawatu Branch Annual Dinner (proposed)

Details next issue.

Welcome to the following Members who have recently joined us:

Auckland:	Rob Cameron	Auckland
Manawatu:	Camshron Tan Walter Coe	Palmerston North Wanganui
Canterbury:	Phillip Bell	Christchurch

Ceud Mile Fáilte

One Hundred

Thousand Welcomes

Thoughts from the Clan Cameron Genealogist and Historian

by David Weston

It is now coming up to a year since I took on the role of Genealogist/Historian for the Clan and I have had some time to reflect on our resources and what is involved in caring for them. My priority continues to be transcribing the family histories provided by members into a computer based genealogical data base. This was begun by our previous genealogist and I assisted her in this.

Now I am in possession of all the material I realise what a big job it is. I think we have somewhere in excess of 300 family trees of which perhaps half are on the data base. As well there are full family histories which give full details of many of our Cameron families. Obviously a lot of work ahead.

As the Turakina Highland games are only a short distance away and the Clan has a tent there, I decided to go along and take some information on the Cameron families from that area. Joanne Cameron from the Manawatu Branch was also there with information on her Cameron DNA project. The display did attract interest and I can envisage that if information was available on a searchable data base even more people would want to look for connections.

This lead me to think of the long term involvement of the local Cameron families in the Highland Games and a quick search on Papers Past brought up the following article from the Evening Herald, one of the local Whanganui papers of the time. As can be seen, the Cameron's were prominent in the

competitions, perhaps someone can identify the H Cameron and Alex Cameron who took part and see which family they belong to.



The Evening Herald. Saturday, January 25, 1873.

"Anniversary Day was celebrated in Turakina by some excellent Caledonian sports, which were arranged and carried through with satisfaction. The attendance was very good, the fair sex particularly assembling in good force. We have been favored by Mr James Steadman, the Hon. Sec, with the names of the winner of the various events, and which we append :—

Putting stone, 201bs, H Cameron, distance, 29 feet 6 inches. Throwing the hammer, 6 lbs, H Cameron, 94 feet 5 inches. Tossing the Caber, H. Cameron. Highland Fling Dance, Alex. Cameron. Running High Jump, L. McLaughlin, 5 feet 3 inches. Vaulting, L. McLaughlin, 8 feet 4 inches. Standing High Jump, L. McLaughlin, 4 feet 2 inches. Standing Long Leap, H. Cameron, 10 feet 1 inch. Hop Step and Jump, McLaughlin, 36 feet. Sword dance, Alex. Cameron. 100 yards flat race, Jacobs. 1 mile flat race. McLaughlin; ½ mile hurdle race, 12 hurdles 3ft 6in high, McLaughlin. Wrestling body hold, McLaughlin and Grant, no fall prize divided. Wrestling, collar and elbow, McLaughlin. Hornpipe step dance, McLaughlin. 3-legged race. McLaughlin and Grant. Sack race, McLaughlin."

<http://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/WH18730125.2.5>

Commemoration

Robert Cunningham Bruce

b. 1842 - d. 23 April 1917

Invitation

"Friends" of the Rangitikei, Manawatu & Wanganui districts invite

Clan Cameron New Zealand

to attend the 100 - year Commemoration of the death of Robert Cunningham Bruce on Sunday 23rd April 2017, 1.30 pm at the Bruce Memorial Reserve, Turakina Valley Road

Robert C. Bruce - AB/seafarer, gold prospector, author, orator, Rangitikei settler & farmer, pioneer conservationist, benefactor, MHR Rangitikei 1884 - 1890 & 1892, 1893.

- The Bruce Memorial Reserve is opposite 'Ngaruru' the former home and farm of Robert C. Bruce. At Hunterville, follow Bruce Street into Ongo Road before turning left into Turakina Valley Road.

- Wear suitable footwear for the short climb to the Bruce Memorial.
- Meet, greet, music, static displays to follow at the 'Ngaruru' woolshed .
- A plate for afternoon tea would be appreciated.

The Commemoration for Robert C. Bruce is a unique event to which the public is invited. The occasion should appeal to those who are interested in Rangitikei history, conservation and the contributions of a significant settler of his time.

RSVP/Enquiries: Roz Grant, 'Tullochgorum', 2153 SHW3, RD 11, Wanganui 4581

T: (06) 327 3861 or E: tullochgorum@xtra.co.nz

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From the Branches....

The views expressed in these reports are those of the writers. Some have been lightly edited.

Auckland by Norman Cameron

After the successful visit to James and Fay Cameron's Highland Cattle Farm, James and Fay have kindly offered to have a return visit next year.

Gary and Liz Cameron's "Lochiel Vineyard" would be a worthy visit in the spring, they live close to Mangawai with beautiful views of the Brynderwens.

We also had an invitation to Jeff and Shona's sculpture factory at Helensville, Shona was born a Cameron from the Bay of Plenty.

Neil Cameron took the Cameron tent to the Paeroa Highland Games to support the Bay of Plenty Branch of Clan Cameron

This year seven new members have joined Clan Cameron Auckland - however two have resigned.

I wish to welcome Rob Cameron who Neil signed up at the Paeroa Highland Games and I understand he plays the pipes.

At the Branch AGM held on Sunday the 12th of March the meeting was chaired by Bryan Haggitt as I was unable to attend because of flooding on Waiheke Island. Sixteen people attended, well chaired by Bryan followed by a very enjoyable BBQ. The meeting elected two new members onto the committee namely Rob Cameron and John Cameron and I would like to welcome you both onto the committee. A big thank you was given to our Patron, Angus Fletcher, for arranging for the replacement of the decals on the clan trailer. It looks very good.

This coming year we are having our annual dinner on Saturday the 12th of August at the Quality Hotel, Gladstone Road, Parnell.

Neil and I will be representing the Auckland Branch at the National Clan Cameron Gathering to be held in Masterton on Saturday the 8th of April.

To me it is a long way to travel for just one day and I feel that should be discussed at this year's gathering.

Bay of Plenty by Tanya Cameron

The Paeroa Games were a new event for me.

We are very thankful to Neil for his continuing attendance at the games and the magic trailer of tent and contents he brings with him. From the Bay of Plenty branch we had Tanya, Hazel and Logan Cameron man the tent with Neil and John Cameron and we had other members pop in and out throughout the day. We had several families and individuals through the tent asking all sorts of questions. I was very glad Neil was there. Thank you Ruth.

I stayed for the Tattoo also and was able to share that event with my cousin Vivienne Cameron, her partner Paul, and John Cameron. We went out to watch the pipers parading and the caber throwing. The events were certainly worth the trip. We watched with the McLeods and had a great time.

The Bay of Plenty Branch had a wonderful pot luck lunch at Denis and Joy Camerons' Papamoa home with about 20



Camerons including many of my own family. Thank you again for opening your home to us. Although there were many of the same faces there, it was nice to see them in a casual setting rather than a meeting, with plenty of hilarity had by all.

We hope to have more casual events through the year as time permits.

Our AGM will be held, as always, mid June with the date being advised in the next magazine in June. See you all at the AGM in Masterton.

Canterbury by Rae Magson

It usually is a wonderful day at the Canterbury Scottish Cultural Festival held in the beautiful grounds of Riccarton House - this is to celebrate Scottish Heritage in Canterbury.

This year, there were some problems, it was raining, and not just a little bit! The Highland Dancing was held at a Hall, but the Pipe Band Competition was still held. Oh dear, all those kilts getting wet in the pouring rain! The bands had come from around the South Island. There was to be Scottish Country Dancing, the haggis address, and the massed bands, but it was decided not to have these. The people had mainly gone home anyway. We did have the Scottish Heritage Clan tents, and the Cameron tent was to be giving away haggis, but there was no point, with hardly any people left. Willie McArthur enthusiastically sang, and the Junior Caber Toss was still held. However, we still managed to talk to a few people about Clan Cameron, and received a subscription from a new member, although we had spoken to him at the Hororata Highland Games. Maybe next year the sun will shine on us.



Hawke's Bay by Helen Shaw

The majority of our Branch functions take place at Hastings and as four of our members live many miles away at Whakatane, Omakere, Porangahau and Ormondville they find it difficult to attend.

We continue to be invited to the Annual Dinner organised by Clan Donald and members attended the Band Concert hosted by The City of Hastings and Manawatu Scottish Pipe Bands at Lindisfarne College.

The proprietors of The Clansman Motor Lodge, Leigh and Maree Cameron, make their premises available for all branch functions. They are generous Hosts and we are most appreciative of their hospitality.

Our main activity each year, is to organise a Clan Cameron display at the Hawke's Bay Easter Highland Games. We are greatly assisted with this project by Neil Cameron who loans his Clan Cameron display boards, and in recent years our National President Nick Cameron has also attended.

In January, four members Monica and Quinney Olsen, Trish and Mike Topham attended the Turakina Highland Games. The combined display tent for Clan Cameron and Clan Grant was very well organised by John Cameron, Ewen Grant and their team. We were treated to scrumptious Whisky Cake, Scottish shortbread, a choice of Grants or Cameron Whisky and John's authentic Haggis. David Weston and Jo Cameron had extensive genealogy data to share with those who were interested. Jo has carried out extensive research of her husband Dean's Great, Great, Great Grandfather Archibald McDonnell of Auchluachrach, Glengarry. Archibald's widow, Annie McRae, and ten of her children emigrated to New



Zealand in the 1850's and settled in the Rangitikei. Four of her children married Camerons.

One of our Branches Foundation Members, Hilary Stout has resigned this year.

Hilary, who celebrated her 92nd birthday recently, feels she can no longer attend Branch activities.

Hilary is fiercely proud of her Cameron ancestry and has had a long association with Clan Cameron N.Z. Prior to joining our Branch in 2008, Hilary had been a member of both Manawatu and Wairarapa branches for many years.

Her Grandfather, Captain Angus Cameron (1833-1909), master mariner, sailed his own topsail schooner, the "United Brothers" into Port Chalmers in 1861. Captain Cameron, who had a lifetime association with shipping in New Zealand, also owned the "Three Brothers", the "Yarra" and the "Dutch Gulliot" which were employed in the coastal trade and also carried cargo from Port Chalmers to Dunedin in the days when the channel of Otago Harbour was too shallow for large overseas ships to sail beyond Port Chalmers. In 1869 he visited the Clyde where he supervised the construction of the 345 ton Barque "Otago" which was built to his own design. In 1871 the little vessel made a remarkable passage from Liverpool to Port Chalmers in only 85 days. The Otago Daily Times reported "a handsomer vessel for her tonnage could scarcely be desired." After sailing her for two years he sold her to a syndicate of Adelaide businessmen.

When the Railways took over the transport of cargo from Port Chalmers to Dunedin, Captain Cameron joined the Dunedin based Union Steam Ship Company of N.Z. Ltd as it's first Marine Superintendent.

Hilary's father, Dr. Percy Cameron was a foundation member of Clan Cameron N.Z. in 1935 and was our first Dominion President. He was also our first Life member (1966) and Clan Patron in 1968. Dr Cameron was a pioneer Radiologist, qualifying at Edinburgh University in 1907. He was Dunedin's first Radiologist where he practised from 1909 - 1922 and was also a Lecturer in Radiology at Otago Medical School. From 1923 until his retirement in 1951 he practised in Wellington. Dr. P.D. Cameron was awarded the O.B.E in 1959 for his services to Radiology.

Hilary's family association with the Clan continues in the membership of her son Robert and his wife Robin.

Manawatu by Anne Walker

Since our last report, Clan Cameron Manawatu have attended the 153rd Turakina Highland Games on Saturday 28th January. The day was blessed with wonderful weather, and the displays of piping, dance, and competitions generated good crowds and interest. Clan Cameron Manawatu shared a tent with Clan Grant, and included a display of Clan Cameron genealogy prepared by David Weston, Clan Genealogist and Historian, from Wanganui Branch. This display created a great focus for conversation. Two new members joined Clan Cameron Manawatu at this gathering.

The Branch AGM was held in the lovely surroundings at Mt Lees Reserve on Sunday 5th March. A brief meeting was followed by a pot-luck lunch. Special thanks was given to Jessie Annabel who has concluded her term as Branch Secretary, but will continue to be actively involved in Branch Committee work.

Branch members are planning to attend the Annual Meeting in Masterton on the 8th April, and the Committee is

currently planning for a mid-winter social event, details of which will be available in due course.

Iar (North Island Western Area)

By Shona Wallace

Clan Cameron Iar held our AGM on 2nd March, We met in Hawera at the Wallace's home and had a pot luck finger food lunch followed by the AGM. Apologies were from the usual members and also Kathy Sandford who has just undergone surgery for a long standing problem with her knee. We wish her a speedy recovery.

Our AGM was uneventful and all officers returned unopposed,

Concern was expressed at the lack of interest by Scotland in the First Light programme and members feel that consideration should be given to establishing a connexion with Australia and Canada as so many of our forebears emigrated to those countries.

A further matter of concern is the lack of interest by the younger members of families.

We look forward to seeing other branches at Materton.

My email will be changing to shona.wallace@talk2me.co.nz

Wellington/Wairarapa by Catherine Cameron

Greetings everyone from the Wairarapa and Wellington.

Thank you to all those who have registered for the Clan Gathering on 8th April 2017 in Masterton. We are looking forward to the fun and fellowship AND the indoor Highland Games to take place in the evening. It is not too late to be part of the fun. Go to the Clan web site for registration forms.

During the afternoon there are many places to visit including Pukaha/Mt Bruce, Stonehenge (New Zealand Style), Martinborough's wine trail and the boutique shops of Greytown. Walk/cycle the park in Masterton and cycle in the Opaki region.

Looking forward to seeing you.

Turakina Highland Games by Jo Cameron

After a dismal summer here in the Manawatu the Turakina Highland Games day dawned bright and clear with barely a cloud in the sky, optimism was in the air and the day didn't disappoint.

We had our Clan Historian David Weston join us this year, armed with books and knowledge which was wonderful as many people stopped by and were very interested in their family history.

Clan members and visitors came from as far away as Taumarunui, Hamilton and the Hawkes Bay and it was wonderful to see the Cameron tent so well patronised, it was for sure one of the most visited sites at the Games this year and we signed up two new members with inquiries for membership for some of our other branches also.

Over all the day attracted over 3000 people to the Games, it is great to see the history and the heritage of what are the oldest Highland Games in New Zealand carry on so strongly. We look forward to another successful Highland Games in January 2018!





Bay of Plenty AGM at the home of Denis and Joy Cameron

Left: Tanya Cameron, Denis Cameron, Patricia Cameron, Pat Duncan, Hazel Cameron, Fraser Cameron, Raewyn Potaka, Mary-Anne Cameron, Joy Cameron, Betty and Harold Cameron, Sandra Larsen, Jean Barker, Elaine Cameron, Matt Larsen, Robbie Cameron-Henry, Mikayla Larsen. In the other photo, Lance Potaka is on the left and Rhys Fenton on the right. *Photo: Right by Robbie Cameron-Henry.*



Manawatu Branch AGM at Mt. Lees. Left, from left: Ewen Grant, Russell Cameron, Harry Lampen-Smith, Jessie and John Annabell, Barbara Barber, Caroline Dunnachie, Roz Grant and Anne Walker. Russell presents a bouquet to Jessie as thanks for her long service as Secretary.



Auckland Branch AGM at the Parnell Cricket Club.

From left: Cass and Hillary Hakaraia, Bryan Haggitt, Jean McQueen, Heather Laird, Pam Cameron, Elaine Ebbett, Brian Cameron, Jenny Haggitt, Angus Fletcher, Heather Cameron, John Cameron, Ruth Cameron, Duncan McQueen / Neil Cameron and Andrew McQueen. *Photos: Neil C and Duncan McQueen.*
Below: A fine bunch of Camerons at the farm.



A wet day at Dean's Bush for The Scottish Cultural Festival



Isabel Cameron and Rae Magson at Dean's Bush





Achnacarry Castle in February / March. Snowdrops and Daffodils. *Photos from the Achnacarry Facebook page (Astie Cameron)*



A February picture of 'the Ben' by Bill Cameron (Lochaber)



North Uist sunrise by Heather Laird (Auckland)



Two views of the Arkaig Pine Forest taken by Bill Cameron on 19 March 2017. See story on page 11

The Road back to Invermallie

Places in Scotland where John 'Mor' Cameron lived prior to his 1840 emigration.

by Roger Cameron

(Continued)

This new road no longer takes the route shown on the topographic map (see the concluding Locality Diagram). This new route, better seen on Google Earth (Google Earth Image 1), takes an arcuate route south from the Inver Mallie bothy and crosses the River Mallie at a post-2007 bridge some 720m upstream from the old crossing point at Alexander's house. This road then follows the northern bank of the River Mallie for a further 5.5km to the crofts at Glen Mallie (another tenanted farm).



Google Earth Image 1: A 3-D view to the SSW over the delta area of Inver Mallie, with the River Mallie feeding into Loch Arkaig. The positions of the red-roofed cottage, the stone wall and the new bridge are also shown.

(Base image courtesy of Google Earth - accessed 05 Jan. 2017 - three images from different dates comprise this composite image).

Following the new road around almost to the river, there is a new track off to the right leading ENE over to the bothy. I was impressed with the good condition of the bothy, given that the building is 240 years old (Frontispiece and Photo 7).



Photograph 7: Another view to the SSW showing the northern face of the bothy (now maintained by the volunteer work of bushwalking clubs). My main point here is that the bothy's 240 year stone-work is still robust

I was not expecting the bothy to have a first floor, which I initially suspected, judging by the substantial ground floor ceiling joists, to be an original feature. The building standards of this house are clearly superior to the average croft of the day (see house diagram next issue): the walls are substantial and thick, the windows are small, there is a fireplace in every major room and the vestibule in the entrance provides cold-weather entry. However, this bothy has nevertheless been modified, probably in Victorian times. A recent communication, based on my photographs, from Mr. Chris

Doak, architect and historian in the Clan Cameron Association, Scotland, based in Glasgow, notes:

These days we tend to orientate our houses towards the sun and the best view, but it is obvious that when the Camerons built Invermallie, they were less concerned about having a pleasant look out to Loch Arkaig. A big blank wall would have been needed to provide protection from the fierce winds and rain that funnel up the Loch from the west. The centre window might be original, but the higher one (to a toilet?) has definitely been added later. In your photo, there is a continuous horizontal line in the rubble just above this window, which shows that the wallhead has been built up by approx. one metre, and with the roof lifted up correspondingly, the useable floorspace in the Attic Floor would have been considerably improved. I would think that the front porch is also a Victorian addition.
Doak (pers comm., 2017)

So, this was a tacksman's house. I continued taking photographs both outside and inside (Photographs 8, 9 and 10). In fact, my recorded family history substantially starts here - and this was my field data day! I also drew a sketch plan of both the ground floor and the first floor with a view to drawing a more accurate plan later (see concluding plans).



Photograph 8: The fire place and cupboards in Room 1. Not knowing which room was used for what purpose, I have simply labelled them numerically for each floor on my accompanying house plan. One point to note (and I should have used my super-wide angle lens here) is that the joists in the ceiling are substantial and seem original to me.



Photograph 9: Room 2. Here the fireplace has, at some stage in the past, been reduced in size. I am left wondering which room was the original kitchen and dining area?



Photograph 10: Room 5 (upstairs), taken from the top of the stairs, now the largest room in the bothy

The River Mallie (and on early maps - 'The Waters of Mallie') lies only 25 metres NW from the bothy and from here it is only 400m downstream to the mouth of the delta (the 'Inver' part of the name Inver Mallie). The channel here is shallow and narrowly braided although just a short distance upstream there are bed-rock bars across the river bed (Photographs 11 to 13).



Photograph 11: The River Mallie, looking ENE downstream towards the mouth of the delta, about 400m away. The Inver Mallie bothy is only 25 metres away, to the SE of this position. The body of water in the intermediate background is Loch Arkaig



Photograph 12: The River Mallie, looking WSW upstream from a point about 50m upstream from the previous photo. Did Big John swim here 220 years ago? How different did the

river bed look then? Another 60m or so up this river, someone has tied a blue rope from an overlying branch above a river pool - clearly someone still swings into this river.



Photograph 13: The River Mallie, looking downstream from the middle of the post-2007 bridge, located about 720m upstream from the bothy. The vertical joint planes evident in these metamorphic rocks actually provide building stones with a flat face (see Photograph 5), useful for houses and neat stone fences



Photograph 14: This view to the NE from a position about 200m NE from the new bridge, shows the hummocky, boggy terrain that is characteristic of the upper reaches of the delta area. In the foreground are twin water-filled tracks presumably from a quad bike. And quad bikes have a very low weight per unit area footprint - which I hope illustrates my point of this being difficult walking. The body of water in the middle distance is Loch Arkaig.

At times the river floods and I have read reports of floodwaters reaching the door of the bothy and even flooding the ground floor to a depth of several inches (Internet - http://www.mountainbothies.org.uk/bothy-details.asp?bothy_id=109). It is only in the lower reaches of the river's delta region that the soils are suitable for agricultural crops. In the mid-sections of the delta region there are increasing thicknesses of peat (readily evident from the drainage patterns in Google Earth Image 1). In the upper sections of the deltaic region and the lowermost adjacent slopes the ground is characterised by an abundantly hummocky terrain that I suspect to be post-glacial moraine deposits (ground moraine) and this hummocky terrain is overlain with thick spongy accumulations of peat with a thick surficial grass. This ground I found to be boggy, waterlogged in places and generally difficult to walk over - deeply spongy in which my feet sunk to many different depths. If I stood still for a moment, water rose around my shoes. Difficult and potentially dangerous - not exactly good grazing country!

.....to be concluded next issue

Dr. Archie Cameron - Part 4

A Highland Gentleman to the end

by Bill Cameron

In supporting Prince Charlie's battles at Falkirk, Glasgow and further down into England. Dr. Archie would be forever associated with the Jacobite cause, whether the outcome was with, or against them. In this case it would take an unexpected family twist to seal his fate in London many years after the Jacobite Rising at Glenfinnan in 1745.

After the Jacobite campaign down in to England, the Jacobite army returned to Scotland. Shortly before the battle of Culloden, Lochiel, along with a party of Jacobite supporters would try to take the Fort of Fort William, a fortification that had been established many years earlier to keep the clans in check - particularly the Camerons.

Positioned on the cow hill above Fort William, a rounded knoll that is known locally as the Sugar loaf would be the area from where the Jacobites would try to fire down on the government troops stationed within the Fort. Unfortunately after a week or so of trying they were unsuccessful in taking the heavily guarded Fort.

It was at this time that the call was heard to make their way towards Inverness as the Duke of Cumberland's troops were thought to be on the move.

The battle of Culloden on Drummoise Moor would see the last land battle on British soil, as the Jacobite army were outflanked and exhausted by the cunning tactics Hanoverian army.

After the battle Lochiel, Dr. Archie and the Prince would all make their way into hiding, all three of them with a price on their head after almost changing the balance of power within British society.

It is believed that Dr. Archie spent months in hiding as his old Achnacarry house had been ransacked and burnt to the ground by Cumberland's army, his own properties in Strontian and Glenkingie were no longer safe places to stay for him and his family.

In May 1746 a large consignment of money, weapons and supplies arrived in Borrodale from France. The Louis d'ors - (French coins) would later become known as the Loch Arkaig treasure. Dr. Archie and Cluny Macpherson were responsible for hiding large quantities of the treasure in undisclosed areas along Loch Arkaig side. Some believe that the some of the French treasure remains unaccounted for and may indeed still be buried near the settlement at Murlagan.

I was informed a number of years ago about the exploits of two local men from Lochaber who thought they would have a look for the treasure near Strathan at the head of Loch Arkaig. Off they went with metal detectors in the hope of finding the treasure. Shortly after their search began, one of the men hearing loud beeping noises from his detector. He thought he had struck



Jacobite gold. His friend quickly pointed out that he was wearing metal toe capped boots!

Dr. Archie would make his way to France later in 1746 where he and his brother, Lochiel, were enlisted within the Regiment d'Albany. He would over the years make a number of secret visits back to Scotland, collecting some of the

buried treasure and using it to assist with the Jacobite cause. This pattern of returning home to Scotland would continue up until 1753, when on a trip visiting a friend in the area around Loch Katrine, his whereabouts was relayed to government troops staying near by and he was captured.

Various local accounts still to this day attest to who the informant was of Dr. Archie's whereabouts in Scotland at that time. This gentleman had known Archie and had stayed not too far from Achnacarry itself.

Eight years after Culloden, Dr. Archie was still seen as a threat to the state and was imprisoned initially at Stirling castle, then transferred to Edinburgh Castle and eventually taken to the Tower of London.

Although appeals were made by members of the establishment to show leniency to Dr Archie, these would sadly fall on deaf ears.

During his time in the Tower, Dr. Archie managed to secretly write down his final thoughts and pass on his wishes to his wife and family. In his final note smuggled out by a friend to his wife he writes.

"These I send by you to my wife (steel shoe buckles) as my last present to my son, and bid her tell him from me that I send him these and not my silver ones, and that if I had gold ones I would send him gold but these steel ones which I wore when skulking. For steel is hard and of small value, it is therefore an emblem of constancy and disinterestedness. So I would have him constant and disinterested in the service of his King, Prince and country, and neither be bribed nor frightened from his duty."

It was widely considered, even at the time, that he was not given a fair trial and was sentenced death by means of hanging, drawing and quartering at Tyburn in central London on the 7th June 1753. He was just forty-six years old.

His body was taken by friends under the cover of darkness and was buried in the Chancel vault in the Queens Chapel of the Savoy behind the Strand.

Dr. Archie Cameron was the last man to be killed for supporting the Jacobite cause. Even in his darkest hour this Lochaber man remained a Highland gentleman to the end.

Over the years the Savoy Chapel has been refurbished and altered. The original plaque to Dr. Archie was replaced a number of times, on one occasion by a stained glass window to his memory. Today there stands a brass plaque and a short piece of text explaining the drawing alongside it.



Interior of the Savoy Chapel



Saved - The Loch Arkaig Pine Forest!

- With thanks to *The Braes of Lochaber*

The remote Glenmallie and South Loch Arkaig forest blocks ('An Giubhsaich') have at last been bought by the local community-based charity Arkaig Community Forest and national conservation charity the Woodland Trust – following a race against the clock to raise funds.

Loch Arkaig pine forest near Achnacarry, west of Spean Bridge, had been declared as 'surplus' and was being sold by Forest Commission Scotland under the National Forest Land Scheme - which gave community organisations the opportunity to buy state-owned land at market value where this could provide increased public value. The community groups' application and outline business plan for the forest were approved by FCS in May 2014.

Since then Arkaig Community Forest have succeeded in developing a partnership with Woodland Trust Scotland to work together to acquire and restore the 2,500 acre site. An appeal was launched by Woodland Trust in April 2016 to raise £500,000 to fund the purchase, and a further £4m to restore the forest - which was a filming location for a Harry Potter movie.

Gary Servant of Arkaig Community Forest said: "This is a great moment! The land has been bought and we have a fantastic opportunity to work together to restore these native woodlands and to reconnect local people with their forests. Everyone is very excited and we give heartfelt thanks to all who have supported us and have contributed to the appeal."

One of the largest fragments of remaining Caledonian pine forest, this will be the Woodland Trust's largest ancient woodland restoration site. The partnership between Woodland Trust Scotland and Arkaig Community Forest has the dual aim of restoring the forest and stimulating sustainable economic activity around it. The pinewoods are magnificent but have been degraded by historic felling, and planting with non-native conifers – which will be slowly removed over the next twenty years. It is hoped that the local economy will benefit from forest management, wildlife tourism and the development of businesses using products from the forest.

The Woodland Trust's Scotland Director Carol Evans said: "We are going to consult widely on our detailed plans for the wood. We want to see this special place established as a benchmark for the joint regeneration of both its native forest and local community."

Simon Hodge, Chief Executive of Forest Enterprise Scotland, said; "This was one of the last applications to the National Forest Land Scheme. It has been great to see the way Arkaig Community Forest and Woodland Trust Scotland have worked in partnership to achieve their joint aims. I hope this success inspires other community organisations to consider how they might be able to develop similar projects under the new Community Asset Transfer Scheme."

Well-wishers across the UK and beyond backed the appeal to make the purchase possible. The largest donation - £750,000 - came from players of People's Postcode Lottery. Clara Govier, Head of Charities at People's Postcode Lottery said: "Our players like to support initiatives for a better future, so nurturing trees and woodlands as an investment for the next generation is perfect. We are delighted that our players are able to back the exciting partnership of conservationists and community at Loch Arkaig." The Loch Arkaig Appeal continues with a final target of £4.5million.

"The purchase is just the first step," said Carol Evans.

"Our long term goal of restoring this wood to its full glory will cost more than the purchase price. But today is a day for great celebration nevertheless. We are on our way!"

British Commandos and allied special forces trained at Achnacarry during WWII. During exercises with live ammunition in 1942 forest fires raged through the forests on the south side of Loch Arkaig. Hundreds of acres of Scots pines were scorched and killed by the fire, many of these scorched trees were later harvested but hundreds still stand like ghost trees across the hillside.

The area is home to sea eagles, golden eagles, ospreys, pine martens, otters, red squirrels, badgers, wild boar and red deer amongst many other species.

Steeped in history, the area is also the ancestral home of the Clan Cameron. A consignment of gold sent from France to help fund the escape of Bonnie Prince Charlie is also said to be hidden in the area.

Loch Arkaig was also the location for a sequence in Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows. Harry, Hermione and Ron cling to a dragon as it flies above the forest before jumping off into the Loch below. Filming on the shore is thought to have been cut short because the midges were too fierce!

A short thank-you film, featuring great aerial footage of the forest can be viewed at

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5KMT_u1oQRU

More details on the ACF website: www.arkaigforest.org

And also on the Woodland Trust appeal pages:

<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/supportus/support-an-appeal/arkaig-pinewoods/vision/>

See photographs on page 7

Australian Gathering 2018.

James Cameron, Australian Commissioner, writes...

'The big news recently is that all of the organising committees have now decided that the Australian Clan Cameron Gathering, to be held from 20-22 April 2018, will be held at the stunning Royal Pines Resort on the Gold Coast. I'm really pleased about this, and think that Royal Pines will do the gathering justice. While we won't be at Achnacarry, we'll be gathering at another magnificent location, which will be a fitting venue for a fantastic weekend.'

If you are thinking of attending please register your intention and you will receive updates.

Details of programmes, venue and accommodation can be found on the Clan Cameron Gathering 2018—Australia facebook page.

Clan Cameron Gathering 2018 - Australia

20-22 April 2018 Gold Coast Queensland
Information on Gathering facebook page as above

Registration of intention to attend form is on our website



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Paeroa Highland Games



John Cameron, Tanya Cameron, Hazel Cameron, Logan Cameron, Elaine and David Cameron helped Neil in the tent during the day. *Photos: Editor*

Pipe Band Championships in Nelson—President Nick in front row. *Photo: Glen Rodgers*



Turakina Highland Games

1. The Clan March. 2. Jo Cameron, Daniel Cameron, Emma Cameron, Geena Lindsay, David Weston, Ewen Grant, Trish Topham, John Cameron, Mike Topham. 3. Bruce Cameron adds to a Cameron Family Lineage scroll while David Weston & Jo Cameron watch on... 4. Daniel Cameron, Dean Cameron, Mike Topham, John Cameron, Bruce Cameron, front: Shaun Cameron. Right: Trish Topham. *Photos: Dean / Jo Cameron*

