



Cameron



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Loch Linnhe, Fort William and Ben Nevis from Trislaig Hill

Photo: Bill Cameron



*Above: At the Turakina Highland Games
Photos by Dean Cameron*



The City of Hastings Pipe Band about to compete at the Paeroa Highland Games photo: Editor

“Cameron”

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

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A Message from our Commissioner...

Dear Clansfolk,

On the 17th February a pipe band contest was held in Dunedin's Octagon square and the following day in a small park in the northern end of the city. The following weekend a contest was held on both days – at Innovation Park and on the Sunday at Riccarton Bush. All of this was a lead up to the National Pipe Band contest held in Rotorua from the 9th to the 11th March where I managed to compete as well as catch up with a number of Clan Cameron members. This combined with a very early seed harvest and re-seeding programme has given me more than enough to do.

I will attend the Highland Games in Hastings during the Easter weekend – 31st March to 1 April and my Uncle John Cameron has again offered to help the Hawkes Bay members with the Clan Display – so we may see some of you there. This is held at Lindisfarne college on Pakowhai Road Hastings.

The Australian gathering is now not far away and Julie and I are looking forward to attending this as part of the New Zealand contingent. It looks to be a very well organized event by our Australian Clan Cameron members.

Driving home after the Rotorua contest I stopped on the side of the road to pick some very large “horse” mushrooms (*Agaricus arvensis*)– which we had later that night with chopped caramelised onions and butter. Delicious!

I thought about our ancestors choice of this delicacy and found an article on Wild mushrooms in Scotland which may be of interest:

<http://www.wildmushroomsonline.co.uk/Wild-Mushrooms-in-Scotland/index.php>

Some of them have interesting names such as Cep, Chicken of the woods, Chanterelle, Wood blewitt, Hedgehog fungus and Morel. I wonder how many of our clans folk have eaten these and how they cook them

My workmates at Cropmark Seeds knowing my partiality to such things gave me several truffle inoculated oak tree seedlings for my birthday – but I think it may be many years before I see the results from these.

Cheers

Nick.

Genealogist's Corner

Further to my previous item there are still booklets, maps and journals surplus to our requirements which can be had for a small donation to Clan Cameron New Zealand. If people are interested in items please contact me. I can email or post the list if you no longer have it.

I also would like to acknowledge donations to our records. Jessie Annabel has provided indexes she has put together on Cameron Births, Deaths and marriages in New Zealand and Mike Topham regularly provides information on the Cameron families he is researching.

Which reminds me I always welcome information on Cameron families in New Zealand even though it increases the number of records I am working on getting on to our computer data base. Even if you may have provided information in the past your families keep growing and our records need updating.

David Weston

Clan Cameron NZ Genealogist

Clan Cameron New Zealand
Website

www.clanameronnz.co.nz



Next Magazine Deadline is 15 May.

Printed By

Celtic Celebrations in the Spring Period

by David Weston Clan Cameron Genealogist and Historian

there are many rituals throughout Wales and Scotland today that bear vestiges of the earlier celebrations, many of which were connected with the rites of purification. In ancient

St. Columba's Day

One of the best-loved of all the Celtic saints was Columba, whose day was celebrated throughout the Highlands on Maundy Thursday, the Thursday before Easter. St. Columba's Day (*Diardaoin Chaluim-Chille*) was celebrated in a variety of ways throughout the Highlands where it was looked upon as a day of good luck, especially for setting out on a journey. On the eve of the festival, a bannock of oats or rye was baked containing a silver coin; the cake was roasted on a special fire built of oak, yew or rowan (all sacred woods). On Maundy Thursday, the cake was divided among the children and the lucky finder of the silver coin was given the major share of the crop of lambs for the year. On Lewis, even up to the beginning of this century, offerings of ale were made to a sea-god, now obscure, called Shony. The ale was poured into the sea at midnight before the Eve of Maundy Thursday, accompanied by a ritual chanting and the inevitable merry-making.

Easter Sunday

Di-Domhnuich-caisg, Easter Sunday, was a very special day, for this day all the food so carefully saved for so long, the eggs, milk, meal or flour was made into pancakes a food that could be totally consumed without waste. Eggs were also dyed and rolled before being eaten. At Easter, too, many invocations and special rites accompanied the annual marking of the lambs, an occasion thought to be fraught with potential evil and danger. The marking was never done on a Friday, nor was any blood drawn from the animals on that day.

Beltain (May Day)

Beltain was sacred to the god Belinus, whose cult formerly spread throughout Europe. Beltain was thus one of the most ancient and widespread of all Celtic Calendar festivals. A great Celtic king, Cunobelinus, had reigned over the Catuvellauni in much of southern Britain just before the arrival of the Roman armies in 43 A.D. It is believed that the mythological king in the story of Lludd and Llefelys in the medieval Welsh tales known as the *Mabinogion* is a folk memory of Belinus. His festival took place on May 1st and

times, cattle were driven between two fires to protect them from both natural and supernatural evil. Sacrifices were made to Belinus, cakes of oatmeal replacing animals. In North Wales, children used to smear their faces with soot from the chimney and dress up in old rags to go from door to door, banging ash staves and singing an obscure rhyme for which they would be rewarded with small gifts.

The survival of such activities in many areas of Britain well into this century is remarkable. During a stay at Llanbedr-Pont-Stephan in Wales during the 1990's, a person happened to be at the livestock market with a shepherd from East Anglia who, listening to the auctioneer counting in Welsh, in tens, remarked that he used exactly the same counting system to count the sheep in his area of Lincolnshire. This means that the Celtic language, in one form, had survived over 1,400 years of occupation by the Angles and directly contradicts those historians who believe that the native Celts, along with their language, were quickly and ruthlessly exterminated from eastern England.

In the Celtic World, the First of May was the day that the summer grazing (the sheilings) traditionally began and there was always an accompanying ceremony. The flocks were driven to the pastures to the reciting of ancient incantations. The summer huts were repaired, flowers were strewn on the doorposts, songs were sung and a sacrificial lamb killed and eaten. It seems that, just as a new-born child is in need of special blessings to protect it from danger, so the stock (upon which so much depended) had to be guarded against evil. The songs and chants remained in the memories of the herdsmen long after the ceremonies had faded or had been suppressed by the Protestant clergymen as pagan practices.

On May Day, bonfires were lit on the hillsides, but in the households, fires were extinguished so that they could be rekindled from the sacred flame. A large bannock was baked in one of the bonfires with one piece deliberately blackened. The one who received the special slice had to jump through the fire six times in order to avoid the penalty of sacrifice.

<http://www.britannia.com/celtic/celtictraditions.html>

I can find no mention of any of these celebrations occurring in New Zealand from a perusal of Paper's Past as specific Celtic activities although there are regular mentions of Easter and May Day. It would be interesting to know if any members can recall stories of their family celebrating these in a specifically Scottish manner.

Coming Events:

[Further events and details on our web](#)

Friday 6 and Saturday 7 April 2018
53rd Clan Cameron NZ AGM and Gathering.

Ashburton Event Centre.
Registration form from the Editor or downloaded from the website.

Friday 20—Sunday 22 April 2018
Australian International Gathering.
Gold Coast
See Clan Gathering 2018—Australia Facebook page.

Saturday 4 August 2018
Auckland Mid-Winter Dinner
Quality Hotel, Parnell.
Registration form with next magazine for Auckland members.
Expected cost \$63 per person.
Inquiries to Neil Cameron.

Saturday 18 August 2018
Manawatu Branch Dinner
Whararata Function Centre, Massey University, Palmerston North.

Friday, Saturday, Sunday
12-14 April 2019
54th Clan Cameron AGM and Gathering
Quality Hotel, Parnell, Auckland and other venues.

From the Branches....

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

Auckland by Editor for Norman Cameron

The Auckland tent was at the Paeroa Highland Games, erected by Neil and Rex Garland, who now lives in Paeroa, in the pouring rain. The forecast was for some improvement so we took the plunge. The weather did improve with even some sunshine in the afternoon. Thankyou, Rex and also John Cameron from Palmerston North, who was a great help during the day, including carrying the banner on the street march. A big thankyou also to Andrew McQueen, who in a break from his piping duties with the City of Auckland Pipe Band, assisted in dismantling the tent, in the rain, which had begun again.



The Branch AGM was held in the Parnell Cricket Club on 4 March, followed by an excellent barbecue. A thankyou to Jenny and Bryan Haggitt for their preparation and organisation, also to Cass Hakaraia for helping with the BBQ. Most of the committee remain the same except that the vice-president is now Rob Cameron. Rob is young, enthusiastic and a member of the City of Sails Pipe Band. One item discussed at the AGM was the current clan tent, which is labour intensive to erect and is not completely waterproof. Approval was given for Neil to investigate a replacement which can be easily erected by one person, is waterproof, and possibly have printed signage. The old tent may be available for sale to other branches if they wish to make a bid for it.

We are busy planning our mid-winter dinner which will be held in the usual venue on 4th August. We are privileged to have Fay and James Cameron as our guest speakers. They will tell us something of their life and how they came to settle in New Zealand and establish a Highland Cattle farm. Entertainment is being arranged by Rex Garland and Rob Cameron—expect something exciting! More details in the next magazine.

Bay of Plenty by Tanya Cameron

Clan Cameron BOP had a relaxing break over the Summer

The 25th Annual Paeroa Games were expected to be rained out this year, but the weather held long enough for the hardy to attend. Unfortunately I put my neck out on the Friday morning and was not happy risking my life and endangering everyone else's to travel in such atrocious weather the night before. Our trusty Neil Cameron was there however with a small contingent to represent on the day.



The Bay of Plenty Branch had our pot luck lunch at Denis and Joy Cameron's Papamoa home with about 15 Cameron's 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 meet casually rather than for a meeting.

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 Ashburton.

Just before New Years we were advised that my son had been selected to represent New Zealand in Thailand for

his Kickboxing. He left on the 9th of March and returns on the 23rd of March. He has had one fight so far on the 12th of March that he lost to an Italian giant, and has another fight on the 15th of March. The New Zealand team participated in the opening ceremony and were allowed to be alphabetically last so they could go straight into a Haka in front of the Thailand officials and everyone there. It was awesome, and there is a video online.

I am heading down to Ashburton for our Clan Cameron National AGM and then 2 weeks later we head off to the Gold Coast to join the Clan Cameron Gathering from the 20th to 23rd April 2018. It is looking like April will be a blast.

Canterbury by Rae Magson

Arrangements are well in hand for the Annual Gathering in Ashburton on 6/7 April, we are looking forward to meeting you there. Registrations are coming in, at the time of writing this report the due date is yet to arrive so we do not know the final numbers. Would you please bring your Clan Cameron name badges with you.



Otherwise we have not had any social events, too much to think about!

On a personal level, I have the results of a DNA test for myself, and have been corresponding with another Cameron distant cousin. We find we both have Nova Scotia in our results, this was a surprise, although I am aware a lot of people from Scotland went to settle there. Therefore I am wondering if one or some of my ancestors also did that before arriving in New Zealand. More research to be done!

Hawke's Bay by Helen Shaw

Though our membership remains small, we have recently had two new members join. Mrs Kirsty Dinsdale and Miss Meg Cameron Short. We extend a very warm welcome to these new members to our Branch and to Clan Cameron N.Z. Inc.



Once again we will be hosting a stand at the Easter Highland Games held at Lindifarne College, Hastings and running our usual Whisky Raffle.

Prior to the Games, Shane and Mike spent time setting out Information Boards to have on display and we were greatly assisted in this by Neil with his generous donations of special photographs and information. In previous years Neil had kindly let us borrow his boards but with transportation of same to and from Auckland it will be of great advantage having our own. Thankyou Neil. Your assistance has been much appreciated.

Mike and Trish will be attending the 53rd Annual General Meeting of Clan Cameron New Zealand Inc. at Ashburton representing Hawke's Bay and Gisborne and we wish all attendees a very happy and fruitful gathering.

Iar (Western North Island) by Shona Wallace

Clan Cameron Iar is quietly ticking along. We meet about every three months to catch up. The same stalwart members always. Our AGM is to be held in April after the National AGM. Unfortunately no one from Iar will be attending the AGM in Ashburton. I am



Welcome to the following Members who have recently joined us:

Hawke's Bay Branch

Meg Cameron Short
Kirsty Dinsdale

Rotorua
Auckland

Bay of Plenty Branch

Sandra Larsen

Papamoa

Ceud Mìle Fàilte

One Hundred

Thousand Welcomes

still not able to travel very well so our apologies must sadly be tendered. However we do wish Canterbury every good wish for a successful event. We do hope you all enjoy the occasion.

Manawatu by Anne Walker

On Saturday 27th January 2018, Clan Cameron Manawatu attended the Turakina Highland Games with a Clan Cameron stand providing a point to gather, catch up with Clan members and friends, and to share information with anyone interested in their Clan heritage. Once again this was an extremely well attended day, with wonderful weather to enjoy the piping, dancing and sports.



Clan Cameron Manawatu held its AGM on Sunday 25th February 2018 in the summerhouse at Mt Lees Reserve, near Feilding. A brief AGM was followed by a shared potluck lunch.

Saturday 18th August 2018 is the date of our annual mid-winter dinner. A festive occasion which will be held this year at the Wharerata Function Centre, at Massey University. Members, friends and supporters of all Clan Cameron branches are welcome to join us. Planning is underway, and invitations will be sent in due course.

Mindful that not all members can attend the AGM or our special mid-winter dinner, Clan Cameron Manawatu is planning an informal event during the year. More information about this will be sent to members closer to the time.



The motor vessel 'Lochiel'

by the Editor

One of the famous MacBrayne mail boats, the motor ship *Lochiel* was built by William Denny and Bros at Dumbarton in 1939 for the mail run to the Inner Hebridean Island of Islay from West Loch Tarbert, on the Kintyre Peninsula. She was the fourth MacBrayne vessel to be named *Lochiel*, after the Chief of Clan Cameron.

As the pier at West Loch Tarbert had to be modified to take her she began her career on the Fort William to Oban service but was soon on her designed run, on which she remained until replaced in 1970. She continued on this run during the Second World War. Although she was strengthened to take a 4 inch gun, I'm not sure this was ever fitted.

She called at Port Askaig and Port Ellen on Islay and also serviced Gigha and Jura. Islay, of course, is known as the Queen of the Hebrides and also very well known for it's whisky. There are eight active distilleries on the island, including the well known, strong peaty flavoured Laphroaig, typical of the southern distilleries. The more northern Islay



distilleries produce a lighter tasting whisky, such as Bowmore. Some of this whisky would have been carried to the mainland in the hold of the *Lochiel* which may have prepared her well for her later life as a restaurant.

Islay (pronounced *eye*-la) has always been strongly Gaelic speaking, almost as strong as my ancestral Hebridean island, Tiree, with still about 25 percent of the islanders having the Gaelic.

Lochiel had one mishap. In 1960, she struck submerged rocks in West Loch Tarbert and settled on the bottom. Luckily the Loch is very shallow (this was the reason the *Lochiel* was designed with a flat bottom, which made her notorious for rolling). She was soon raised and repaired but was off the run for five months.

In 1970 she was made redundant by a car ferry and then spent a short-lived period as the *Northwest Laird* on a new run between Douglas, Isle of Man, and Fleetwood - but this service was not a success and she was withdrawn.

After a period laid up, in 1975 she began a new career as a floating restaurant in Bristol, once more named *Lochiel*, which was to last for over 20 years.

Ruth and I photographed her there in 1989 and she looked very smart (on left) in cream and dark blue paint.

Lochiel was finally sold for scrap in 1996, after a long and useful life.





The Wedding of Bruce and Samantha Cameron of Hunterville

In front: Flynn, Shaun & Sonia Cameron. Standing: Monica & Ben Olsen, Sheila Cameron, Samantha & Bruce Cameron. Next row: Quin Olsen, Iona Cameron-Smith, Sarah Green. Back row: Sam Olsen, Huon Fraser, Richard Moody, Andy Cameron, Alana Cameron & Ella Cameron-Smith



At Fraser and Elaine Camerons' Sapphire Wedding Anniversary

They were married at Waerenga-a-hika, Gisborne on 12 March 1953.

With Fraser and Elaine above are their children, Shona, Stuart, Mary-Anne and Vivienne.

On Right: Grand children Eliot and Kendra Fenton, Zailie and Isla Sanders with their sons Kyran and Daelyn, great grandsons of Fraser and Elaine

Elaine and Fraser celebrated with immediate family. They also received a card from HM the Queen, the Governor General of NZ and the Prime Minister which they were surprised and very thankful for.





Manawatu Branch AGM

Held at the Mt. Lees Reserve on 25 February 2018.

from left back clockwise: *Bryan Barber, Barbara Barber, Ewen Grant, Alex Lampen-Smith, Russell Cameron, Ros Grant, Jo Cameron, Anne Walker, John Annabel, Harry Lampen-Smith, John Cameron and Jessie Annabel.*



Manawatu's John Cameron helps out at the Paeroa Games.

Auckland Branch AGM

A pleasant AGM and Barbecue at the Parnell Cricket Club on Sunday 4 March 2018.

From front left, round the table: *Bryan Haggitt, Rob Cameron (Vice President), Cass Hakaraia, Hillary Hakaraia, Pam Cameron, Dorothy Cameron-Gavin, Jenny Haggitt, Neil Cameron (Treasurer), Elaine Ebbett (Secretary) Morea Cameron, Allan Cameron, Brian Cameron and Norman Cameron (President).*



Auckland member and MC, Duncan McQueen, after completing the Half Ironman at Taupo. Duncan came 8th in his age group



Auckland members Rob, Morea and Allan Cameron competing in the National Pipe Band Competition in Rotorua.

The Cameronians (Scottish Rifles)



By Editor: Much of this article was written and published in this newsletter 25 years ago by the then editor John Cameron. I have added to it.

While the name of this regiment is well known, its origin is not so familiar and can be confused with the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders, particularly as the latter were raised in 1793 under the name of the Cameronian Volunteers. This was later known as the 79th Regiment of Foot (Cameron Highlanders).

The 26th Regiment, the Cameronians, was raised in 1689 by the Earl of Angus. The 90th Regiment was raised in 1794, by Thomas Graham of Balgowan, as the Perthshire Volunteers (Light Infantry). In 1881 the two regiments were linked under the present name. The regiment served in many of the battles fought by the British Army, including in India, South Africa, Gallipoli in the First World War and the evacuation from Dunkirk in the Second. Some of their battalions gave cover for this withdrawal.

The Cameronians were the last of the six original Lowland regiments to be raised. They were unique in being the only regiment named after a religious reformer. The organisation was religious as well as military, as the officers were selected partly for their suitability to inspire respect in men of the Presbyterian faith. An elder was appointed to each company and every man carried a bible in his kit.

It must be appreciated that in the 17th century Scotland was divided by political and religious factions, the most austere and militant group being known as 'The Covenanters'. These were men and women who believed in the principles laid down in the National Covenant of 1638, which was designed to prevent any encroachment on the Presbyterian faith. The Stuart kings did not favour this Covenant, but lived with it until Charles 2nd took the throne in 1660.

Charles 2nd more or less outlawed the Presbyterians by attempting to impose Episcopacy on the whole of Scotland. The Covenanters' reaction to this was to hold their church services at secret meeting places; sentries were posted strategically to prevent disruption of the services.

One of the notable leaders of the Covenanters was a young man, Richard Cameron, (*The Lion of the Covenant*) who became a licenced preacher and spent several years in Holland among exiled Presbyterians. During his absence many of his followers organised and armed themselves. At Drumclog they defeated some government forces, but were hopelessly beaten at Bothwell Brig. On Richard Cameron's return to Scotland, he gathered his followers and unwisely declared war on Charles 2nd. His force was defeated at Aird Moss in Ayrshire in 1680 and he was killed during the battle. This resulted in him becoming a martyr to his not inconsiderable following, who acquired the name "Cameronians".

William 3rd came to the throne in 1688 and decreed that all of Scotland north of the Tweed should come under the Presbyterian faith. This was not acceptable to some of the Scots, particularly those who had continued to have ties to the Stuarts. Although the Stuarts had their failings, replacing them with a king from Holland did not have much support from many of the Highlanders. Graham of Claverhouse, Marquis of Dundee (*Bonnie Dundee*), immediately set to work to raise a rebel army. William 3rd thought it would be a good



The Cameronians Memorial at Douglas, South Lanarkshire

move to raise a regiment of Covenanters. The outcome of a meeting held in the Parish Church of Douglas, was the raising of a regiment of 1,200 men, mostly from the Douglas estates. The first Colonel was the Earl of Angus, son of the Marquis of Douglas. Lieut-Colonel was William Cleland, a Covenanter who fought at Drumclog and Bothwell Brig. This regiment took part in a battle against the rebels at Dunkeld where, outnumbered, they held their ground and finally the rebels retreated.

The Cameronians continued to preserve the memories of those early days and 'made every battle a new exercise of their faith'. Like their ancestors who could only meet in secret places for worship, they carried their arms to outdoor church parades and sent out picquets to clear ground and prevent interruption. Annually, on the Sunday nearest 14 May, a Conventicle (*def: a secret or unlawful religious meeting*) is held to commemorate the raising of the regiment in 1689.

In 1948, along with every other infantry regiment of the British Army, the Cameronians regiment was reduced to a single regular battalion. The 1st Battalion which had been repeatedly decimated in the Burma campaign was placed in suspended animation and the 2nd Battalion was renamed the 1st. It was deployed to Malaya in 1950 during the Malayan Emergency. Under the reforms of the army in the 1967 Defence White Paper, which saw several regiments amalgamated, the Cameronians chose to disband rather than amalgamate with another in the Lowland Brigade.

The Cameronians Museum is located within the Low Parks Museum, Hamilton, South Lanarkshire.

A monument commemorating both the founding of the regiment by the Earl of Angus in 1689 and its disbanding in 1968 can be found at Douglas, South Lanarkshire. Also within the village is a statue of the Earl of Angus to commemorate the bicentenary of the raising of the regiment.

With thanks to Wikipedia for the photo and portions of the text.

Donald Mor Og

From *the Braes of Lochaber* community newspaper

Donald Mor Og was a Cameron – not really a Cameron but a MacMartin; a family that had become part of the Cameron confederation. The MacMartins held the land between Mucomir and Letterfinlay, known in the past as Dochanesie, together with the back lands of Glenturret and Glen Gloy. They were a race known for their fighting qualities.

The *Dochanesie* stick was a short thick oak bludgeon, much like the Irish shillelagh of today...the approved length recommended by a famous bruiser was three fist widths of a stick with a heavy head, and in a house fight where the roof was low they were advised to grip the 'dochy' by the middle.

As his name suggests, Donald Mor Og was a big man with the characteristics of his family. At the battle of Preston Pans he was at the head of the Cameron clansmen and as they hesitated for a moment it was he who cried out in Gaelic, "*This is no time for talking*" and led the charge on the redcoats. After Culloden it was he again who carried the Clan colour back to Lochaber.

When relative peace returned after the war, the MacMartin families seem to have had two separate focus points. The chief, Cosmo Gordon, was an officer in the Montgomery Highlanders and lived at Letterfinlay while Donald Mor Og lived at Annat at the head of Glen Roy and had his own following there. When Cosmo Gordon, eighth chief of Letterfinlay died in 1763, there was no apparent heir. Donald Mor Og took it upon himself to select the late chief's great nephew who was working in the fields at Dellafour in Badenoch. He led a group of clansmen to Dellafour, accosted a very surprised George MacMartin there and brought him back to Letterfinlay as the new Chief. There were other claimants but the decision was accepted. Thereafter, not surprisingly, the Annat grouping appear to have had little interference from their nominal Chief at Letterfinlay.

William Tod, the Gordon estate factor, was constantly troubled by the Brae Roy MacMartins. When another Donald, a nephew of Donald Mor Og received a commission in the Gordon Regiment in 1778, Tod wrote "*by which means we shall get rid of him and half a dozen of the greatest Blackguards in the Highlands.*"

In the event, young Donald's enthusiastic recruiting and general license stirred things up even further while his uncle Donald Mor Og was accused of assisting him with "threats of violence". Five years later, the regiment was stood down but the thieving and violence continued, often assisted by the equally notorious Kennedies from Laggan, Invergarry. Finally, a warrant was made out for Donald's arrest and he disappeared - reputedly to the East Indies. Fifteen or so years later there was another Donald MacMartin in the ranks of the Gordons. Donald Mor Og junior, described as a "man remarkable for his great strength", distinguished himself as a sergeant with Abercromby in Egypt and became a personal friend of his colonel and later landlord, the Marquis of Huntly.

The lands of Brae Roy must have been more peaceful when he came to retire and it is said that Huntly would often stop at Annat to visit and stalk with his old comrade.

But back to Donald Mor Og himself. He was big man in every way and when finally he died, it proved necessary to take out the window of his house because he was too large to carry out by the door. Then when the funeral party set out, they found themselves unable to take the direct route down Glen Roy. It is said they felt an unseen barrier holding them back so it may be his spirit preferred to take his last journey down amongst the Camerons in Glen Turret and Glen Gloy. It must have been an epic journey carrying this huge man down the Spean to Mucomir and the little MacMartin graveyard there. Even that may not have been the end. Years later when a huge rogue tup (*an uncastrated male sheep*) was plaguing Gairloch, it was said: "It is just Donald Mor Og – always a man for the ladies."

An Bodach

Clan Cameron

From *Romantic Lochaber, Arisaig and Morar*
by Donald B MacCulloch



Clan Cameron, of which Lochiel is chief, is one of the most renowned of the Highland Clans and one which was always to the fore in the fight for the Royal House of Stuart, in addition to having a full share of inter-clan warfare. That Lochiel and Lochaber were held in high esteem by the Jacobites is evident from the code arranged to identify the ship carrying James 3rd, Prince Charlie's father, when he arrived on the east coast of Scotland at the time of the Jacobite rising of 1715. On the arrival of the ship at Peterhead, a boatload of prominent Jacobites went out to meet her and the password for identification was '*Lochaber*' while the countersign was '*Lochiel*'.

In the 'Forty-Five campaign, the first military action, really a skirmish, of the Prince's army after leaving Glenfinnan was by a small detachment of Camerons, led by Dr. Archibald Cameron, brother of Lochiel, in an unsuccessful attempt to capture the Barracks at Ruthven. The first man to give his life for the Prince was a Cameron, named John McEwen Cameron, who was killed in that raid, while the last man to give his life for the Prince was Dr. Cameron himself, who was captured

and executed in 1753.

The clan badge of the Camerons is the oak, of which there are many fine specimens in Lochaber.

In addition to their prowess in warfare and clan feuds, when to the Highlanders fighting and plunder were synonymous terms, Clan Cameron, along with their septs and dependants in Lochaber were famous, or rather notorious, for their numerous and extensive cattle raids, or *creachs*,

When referring to the deeds of the Highland clansmen, it will be more accurate to use the term Lochaber men instead of Camerons, because although all Lochaber men owed their allegiance to Lochiel, they were not all Camerons. There were many others, such as MacMillans, MacGillonies MacPhees etc. In any case, unless a major occasion, the raiding parties were not led by Lochiel, although he would be well aware of their depredations, and no doubt encouraged them. There are few local histories of Highland districts which do not mention some of these raids, and the term 'Lochaber men' is almost always used and not the term 'Camerons'. Lochiel's septs and dependants are sometimes referred to in legal documents as 'broken men of Clan Cameron'.

To be continued in future magazines where space permits.

Transcribed by the Editor.

The power of testing Y DNA

by Jo Cameron (Manawatu)

In the February 2018 Clan Newsletter, we heard from Colin who wrote about his Genetic Genealogy journey so far. I am pleased to write about some more results for this family which have only just arrived in this month.

If you remember Colin is descended from Allan Cameron, brother of John Mor Cameron, both families emigrated to New Zealand onboard the *Blenheim* in 1840. Initial Y STR testing had already been done by Colin's 4th cousin Andrew, who is a descendant of John Mor Cameron, so the family as a whole had already started DNA testing when Colin popped up as a Y STR DNA match to Andrew.

Colin and Andrew had both taken the Y 67 STR marker test and were a match with a genetic distance (GD) of 3, which if we use the guide that Family Tree DNA uses meant that they share a common male paternal ancestor with 99.94% accuracy within the last 24 generations.

Since the known paper genealogies backed up with atDNA testing showed without a doubt that Colin and Andrew were 4th cousins and share Great, Great, Great Grandparents we were at a bit of a loss to understand why they were showing such a large GD distance to each other.

The answer is still an evolving science. Y DNA testing for Genealogy is a relatively new science and the advances made with it in the last two years have been phenomenal.

What we thought two years ago Y STR DNA testing could answer have since been surpassed with Y SNP testing. We are now coming to understand that Y STR DNA mutates forwards and backwards over generations far more than was ever first considered.

This is called convergence and it has caused a great amount of confusion within the Clan Cameron DNA Project as one person might look to be closer in relation to one person and in actual fact not be a close relation at all. To move forward we needed to look to SNP testing.

Colin was the first to move forward in SNP testing and ordered Family Tree DNA's Big Y test which is used to explore deep ancestral links on a common paternal tree. Big Y tests thousands of known branch markers as well as millions of places where there may be new branch markers.

As a whole Clan Cameron has been rather slow to embrace this level of testing, there had at that time only been two other Cameron men worldwide who had also taken the testing to this level so the pool of matches was rather small. If you remember from some of my previous articles Y DNA is passed down from father to son and once in about every 140 years or so a mutation happens in the inheritance of that Y SNP DNA. Once a mutation happens it lives on forever in every son born down through the ages. This is how we can trace a particular family line and branches off that line, by looking for those known mutations which are given names, every male who has that mutation knows that they are of that line. The mutation rate is variable and conditions such as how old the father is when a child is conceived may alter the mutation rate.

Andrew's test was ordered late in December 2017, in a world first two known Cameron cousins have had their Big Y done, and his results came in early March this year.

Not only did it confirm this Cameron family line but it has set them apart from the other Cameron men who have taken the Big Y test. It has split the clade and for now, until



another close match comes along, separated them from all but two of the others, by between 600-800 years. The age of certain SNP's is still being studied but at this stage it is likely that the other Cameron men shared a common ancestor with Colin and Andrew as far back as the year 1200 AD.

As I have already said Clan Cameron as a whole have been very slow to partake in further SNP testing to trace the different Clan branches, not helped at all by an administrator in the USA for the Clan Cameron Project who has taken little to no interest in advancing the idea. This is slowly beginning to change however with the invitation from another Y DNA Project for our members who fit the Cameron profile to join in their Project.

The R-ZZ10 and Subclades Project encompasses not only Cameron's but McPhee's, McNab's and a number of other Clans whom all descend from the same male ancestor who lived long before surnames were even considered.

This Project is run by two administrators, one of which, Loraine Smith the Shennachie to the Chief of Clan Macnab, has been a huge help to myself and others looking for the direction of which was lacking in the Cameron Project.

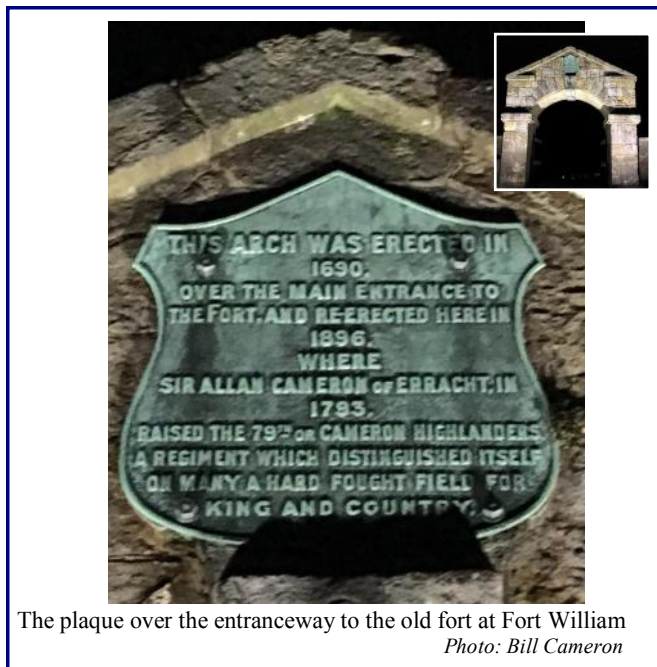
The power we have is in known lineages, the hard graft done and written down through generations and then further advanced with today's online data. Connections made with distant cousins, information shared and a common goal of wanting the line documented and confirmed through DNA testing.

We now need more Cameron men who have taken Y STR tests to consider upgrading to the Big Y. The Project will only get better with each man who does. It is worth waiting however for a sale, which ftDNA seem to have regularly, as this test is quite expensive.

For those who are thinking about joining in on the action, I would recommend an entry level Y STR test of Y 37 and then putting the bulk of the investment into the Big Y.

By Editor: How to get started on DNA testing was discussed by Jo in the December 2017 magazine.

For further advice, Jo can be reached via the Clan Cameron Manawatu facebook page.



The plaque over the entranceway to the old fort at Fort William
Photo: Bill Cameron

Clan searches for burial spot of “Ulysses of the Highlands”

Alison Campsie, The Scotsman, 4 January 2018

A search is underway for the final resting place of a revered chief of Clan Cameron who was known as the Ulysses of the Highlands given his brute strength and fighting prowess.

Clan Cameron members have embarked on finding the burial spot of Sir Ewen Cameron of Lochiel, 17th clan chief, with hopes of creating a fitting memorial to the man described as a “true legendary leader” of his people.

Sir Ewen, who is remembered for biting out the throat of an adversary and killing the last wild wolf in Scotland, died from a high fever in February 1719 aged 90. While most believe he was buried in the now ruined old church at Kilmallie in Lochaber, there is only faint documentary evidence to confirm this. No grave marker for Sir Ewen exists with it likely destroyed after the Battle of Culloden by Hanoverian forces who ripped their way through Lochaber following their victory over the Jacobites in April 1746.

Thomas Cameron, commissioner of the Clan Cameron Association of North America, who is based in Chicago, said: “Sir Ewen was a canny, sharp-toothed 17th Century gentleman. “His many descendants and modern-day clansfolk would love to provide a fitting resting place for him. “Sir Ewen Cameron of Lochiel’s final resting place remains a slight mystery, but the tale of how his grave, then more than 25 years



old, was probably lost in the aftermath of Culloden may be the true tragedy.”

Following Culloden, Old Achnacarry, a traditional home of the Cameron chiefs, was burnt to the ground along with a huge ash tree at Kilmallie which was revered by Lochiel and his men for many generations. Sir Ewen’s long fighting career included the Battle of Killiecrankie in 1689 and an onslaught at Inverlochy in the early 1650, where he led an attack on dozens of Cromwell’s men sent to build a new garrison in the Highlands. Despite this battle record, legend has it that Sir Ewen never lost

a drop of blood or received a wound in conflict.

Mr Cameron added: “I also tend to appreciate how he ended the legendary 360 year long bloody feud with Clan Mackintosh, mostly via strategic acts near the River Arkaig. He was a true leader, a legend to many that we great take pride in.”

Tracing the grave of Sir Ewen has been hampered by the lack of records on this period of Clan Cameron history. Lady Lochiel, the wife of Sir Ewen’s grandson, is said to have taken batches of important family papers in wooden boxes from Old Achnacarry to a hiding place in the hills to save them from post-Culloden raids. However,

they were destroyed after taking on rain water with cattle breaking the boxes open, Mr Cameron said. The search is now underway for any further documentary evidence of Sir Ewen’s burial site. It is hoped that archaeological survey work may be carried out at the churchyard at Kilmallie to help determine the location of the grave.

<https://www.scotsman.com/lifestyle/clan-searches-for-burial-spot-of-ulysses-of-the-highlands-1-4653810>

Australian Clan Cameron Gathering on the Gold Coast

By James Lachlan Cameron, Australian Commissioner

Well, we were first discussing the prospect of an Australian Cameron Gathering in 2014, and now it’s not years away, but a few short weeks! There will be Camerons there from all over Australia and New Zealand, as well as three Commissioners from the Clan Cameron associations in Australia, New Zealand and Scotland. There will be three pipe bands, and many others there to provide various entertainment. It’s being held at the magnificent RACV Royal Pines Resort on the Gold Coast. I enthusiastically encourage all Camerons to attend. It will be a great opportunity to build bonds with others in the clan, and there may not be another such event in Australia for many years. My sincere thanks to all who have been involved in organising this event, you truly are clan heroes. Please see numerous articles and commentary regarding this Gathering later in this newsletter.

I see the role of clan as means social support, and bringing clan members together is a key part of this. It gives us a sense of security, stability and belonging. In many cultures, there is the immediate and perhaps extended family, and then the nation, and that is all. If people from those cultures become alienated from their family by conflicts or distance, they feel lost and alone. However, I know that I could move to another state in Australia, or to New Zealand, the USA, Canada or Scotland, and attend Clan Cameron



meetings and feel that sense of connection and clan bonds. I see Clan Cameron as playing a vital role for Camerons around the world. At a time when loneliness, depression, anxiety, drug use and suicide are scourges of Western societies, clan societies play a key role in providing people with a sense

that they are supported and have others there to feel that they have a valued place in the world. As the poet John Donne wrote “No man is an island entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main”. Humans are very much social creatures, and strong social bonds are very much necessary for our psychological health and well-being.

When I attended the International Cameron Gathering in Scotland in 2009, I formed strong bonds and friendships with Camerons from Australia, New Zealand, Scotland, the United States and Canada, which I still hold to this day. They are important and key social connections in my life. So please, come to the Gathering in April and build bonds and friendships with other Camerons – you won’t be disappointed. I’m really looking forward to meeting Camerons from around Australia, and from overseas – it’s going to be a fantastic event. From the time that I was a nipper, my family were buying me books on Highland and Scottish history, taking me to Highland gatherings, and key Cameron points of interest, such as Achnacarry, Glenfinnan and Culloden. So from 20-22 April this year, I’ll be very much ‘in my element’, and having the time of my life. Join the celebration and the party, and participate in this heart-warming time with other Camerons!



Aonaibh ri Cheile The Back Page



John and Rob Cameron

photo: Editor



Some Paeroa Games photos

Dancing on the green

photo: Editor



The City of Auckland pipe Band tune up at Paeroa

photo: Editor



It's that man again!

John with singers Samantha and Celine Toner (Mo Ghra)



Photo: Nick Cameron

Ella Tent, youngest daughter of Michel Tent of Kintail House, ready to serve at her father's stall.



photo: Editor

Patricia Duncan, of the Bay of Plenty Branch, visits at Paeroa.



At Turakina Above: Roz Grant, Richard Cameron, Richard Steedman, David Weston, Lindsay Campbell. Below: Richard Steedman and his mother, Margaret Steedman, nee Cameron.



Robbie Cameron-Henry, son of National Secretary, Tanya, after winning his bout with the Korean kick boxer in Thailand on 15 March. See BOP report.