



Cameron



The Magazine of Clan Cameron New Zealand Inc.

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Ben Nevis from Loch Eil

Photo: Bill Cameron



Jenny Mair Square Day
Palmerston North



Manawatu members running the haggis and sandwich stall.
From left: John Cameron, Jessie Annabell, Harry Lampen-Smith, Georgia Hendry,
Bryan Barber, Jo Cameron, Dean Cameron, John Annabell.

Photo: Ewen Grant

“Cameron”

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

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A Message from our Commissioner...

Dear Clansfolk,

The last two months for me have been somewhat busy with grass plant crossing, recording and seed harvest – at this time of the year as plant breeders we are always busy and need to work to a biological /environmental need – it is not a job where we can disappear for several weeks over the Christmas period and sit on the beach – and so like many others in the farming community we keep a constant eye on the weather and sometimes become a little frustrated when asked why we can't do just that.

Some of you may know that I am heavily involved in developing novel endophyte fungal strains for grasses which have application world-wide in controlling insects and nematodes in a useful organic way without harming the grazing animal. We have recently been granted a patent in Europe for our U2 endophyte which interestingly has now come under the scrutiny of the Scottish Government.

Julie and I have now sorted out our travel arrangements with Opportunity Travel for the Clan Cameron gathering event in Australia in April and have decided to join the tour group via Auckland – so that we can be with the tour throughout. In speaking to John Cameron from the Manawatu branch last week – he is also doing the same – going up a day earlier to also be with this group.

Our local Canterbury branch is having an exec meeting at Colin Cameron's home in the morning before the Ashburton pipe band competitions on the 28th January to further sort details for the AGM.

For anyone in the South Island during February and in the vicinity of Dunedin – a major pipe band contest is being held in the Octagon square on the 17th and 18th February. The National Pipe Band contest is being held in Rotorua from the 9th to the 11th March – so we may see some of you there.

Russell Cameron has also let me know of the Manawatu branch dinner for the 18th August at the Whararata Building at Massey University – a building I have fond memories of during my studies in the 70's.

Cheers,

Nick.



Correction and Apology

There was a mistake in the last Clan Cameron magazine. The obituary to Donald Cameron gave incorrect information about Donald's father. Donald's father was Percival Charles Armitage Cameron, who was an early member of Clan Cameron New Zealand, but was not the radiologist, Dr Percy Cameron, the first President of Clan Cameron New Zealand. This error is acknowledged by the authors of the obituary and the Editor. We apologise to his daughter Lynette for not researching thoroughly.

Clan Cameron New Zealand
Website

www.clancameronnz.co.nz



Next Magazine Deadline is 15 March.

Printed By

Congratulations to Lochiel

Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II has appointed Donald Angus Cameron of Lochiel, Lord-Lieutenant of Inverness-shire, a Commander of the Royal Victorian Order (C.V.O.) in the 2018 New Year Honours List



By Editor..

I am often asked to tell you something about my 32 years in the Royal New Zealand Navy so here is a little snippet.

During the 1977 Commonwealth Tour to celebrate Her Majesty the Queen's Silver Jubilee, the Royal Yacht was escorted during the Pacific Island part of the tour by the frigate Taranaki.

The picture shows HMNZS Taranaki carrying out a ceremonial steam-past of the Royal Yacht Britannia. Her Majesty is bottom left and your editor is standing on top of the bridge (arrowed) leading the Hip.. Hip.. Hooray.

Later, in Auckland, the officers from the Taranaki were personally thanked by Her Majesty and Prince Phillip on board the Britannia - a treasured memory!

Coming Events:

Further events and details on our web site

Saturday 10 February 2018
25th Paeroa Highland Games and Tattoo
 9am to 9pm
 Paeroa Domain. The Cameron tent will be there. Please come and support us.
www.paeroahighlandgames.co.nz

Sunday 18 February 2018
Clan Cameron BOP Summer pot luck finger food luncheon
 11 am onwards
 Home of Denis and Joy Cameron
 8 Kokomoa Key, Papamoa

Sunday 25 February 2018
Manawatu Branch AGM

Mt Lees Reserve, near Feilding.
 AGM at 12 noon, followed by a shared pot luck lunch

Sunday 4 March 2018
Auckland Branch AGM and Barbecue
 Parnell Cricket Club, Shore Rd., Remuera.
 6.30pm. Please let Jenny Haggitt know if you are coming and are bringing a sweet or a salad. Meat provided.
 Jenny: 09 524 5254 bchecho@xtra.co.nz

Friday 9 March—Sat. 10 March 2018
NZ Pipe Band Championships
 Rotorua International Stadium

Friday 6 and Saturday 7 April 2018
53rd Clan Cameron NZ AGM and Gathering
 Ashburton Event Centre
 See enclosed registration form

Friday 20 - Sunday 22 April 2018
Australian Clan Gathering
 Gold Coast.
 See Clan Gathering 2019 - Australia facebook page

Saturday 4 August 2018
Auckland Mid Winter Dinner
 Quality Hotel Parnell

Saturday 18 August 2018
Manawatu Branch Dinner
 Wharerata Building Massey University

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 Norman Cameron

On the 29th of November Jill and I stayed a night at the Lochiel Estate Winery, Mangawhai Heads, hosted by Gary & Liz Cameron. The vineyard has beautiful views of the Brynderwyns but sadly the winery has closed and the production has been moved to their son's winery at Te Kauwhata. Gary and Liz showed us around their garden and shrubbery. We had a very enjoyable stay, purchasing a couple bottles of "Lochiel" Chardonnay and a bottle of Port for this year's dinner raffle.



The Clan held their annual pre Christmas luncheon on the 17th of December at the Esplanade Hotel, Devonport. Angus Fletcher our Patron attended, as did Elaine Ebbett, Rex and Linda Garland from Paeroa, Hillary and Cass Hakaraia Neil Cameron, Norman and Jill Cameron.

I wish to thank James, Fay and Jamie Cameron, Gary Cameron and Duncan McQueen for helping Neil at the Waipu Highland Games on the 1st of January 2018, it was much appreciated.

Jill and I will be attending the Paeroa Highland Games on the 10th of February 2018. when we will be the guests of Rex and Linda Garland.

And by the Editor: -

About thirty members visited the Cameron Highland Cattle Farm, north of Kaukapakapa, for a wonderful day in the country on January 21st. A big thank you to our hosts James and Fay Cameron, and son Jamie, for making us all so welcome and planning such a memorable day. From the welcome by the lone piper, Rob Cameron, playing on the hill overlooking the farm, the tasty Highland Cattle sausages and pizzas, the companionship, the pool so enjoyed by the children on a hot day, to the Cameron quiz to round the day off, it was a day to be remembered.

The Auckland Branch AGM and barbecue will be held at the Parnell Cricket Club on Sunday 4 March. See Coming Events on page 3.

Bay of Plenty by Tanya Cameron

Well, our family has had an exciting and stressful start to the year. After attending NZ Trials on the 16th of December 2017 for the opportunity to represent New Zealand, the World Kickboxing Association of New Zealand (WKA) has invited my 17 year old son Robbie Cameron-Henry to attend the International Thailand Martial Arts Games and Festival in Bangkok, Thailand from the 12th – 22nd of March 2018 as a member of the New Zealand Team fighting in the 17 years, Male, K1, 71kg Open Division. Robbie and his friend Zaane Walker will represent not only New Zealand, but our town of Whakatane, and our club Whakatane Fight Club. Robbie is very proud of the opportunity he has been given and thankful to his coach Carl Cowley for the opportunity.



In 2016 Robbie had 7 fights including a Cage fight in Tauranga and fights in Hamilton, Rotorua and Whakatane. In

2017 Robbie had 7 fights also. The first was against his fellow team mate Zaane Walker at an event they were attending, 2 main event fights, the TBANZ title fight, the WKA Central North Island Under 76kg fight (where he has won his title belt), and a 4 man WKA Central North Island Junior K1 Kickboxing Under 70kgs Title fight where Robbie won his first fight with a TKO in the second round of the first of 2 fights that night.

Robbie has a can do attitude and is committed to training and fundraising in 2018 to make himself, his friends, family and supporters proud. We are very proud of the opportunity and we are now desperately trying to fundraise to get Robbie to this event and trainings beforehand as there is a very tight timeframe for fundraising. We have set up an account for this fundraising and if you would like to contribute to this cause, it is listed below. Please, if you can, any donation is a good donation. Robbie NZKB Thailand - Westpac - 03-0502-0606782-017

On the 10th of February 2018 the 25th Annual Paeroa Highland Games and Tattoo will once again be on and attended by our enthusiastic Clan Cameron crew who will ably assist our unwavering Neil Cameron and his wonderful collection of historical information. It is a great day out with an interesting evening of entertainment also, and they are assuring us it will be the best one yet.

Our BOP Branch is having our Summer pot luck luncheon on the 18th of February 2018 at Denis and Joy Cameron's house again this year. We enjoy this opportunity to have a relaxed social gathering and catch up with our Clan members after their summer holidays.

What a great line up so far for the year. We hope to see you support these events.

Canterbury by Rae Magson

Members met late in November to start planning for the Clan Cameron New Zealand Annual Gathering on 6/7 April 2018 in Ashburton. As the last Gathering held here in 2012 was so successful, we wish to repeat this and impress all the North Islanders with our hospitality!

However before telling you of our plans for the Gathering, we had attended the Hororata Highland Games early in November. Although the weather was a little chilly it was still a fascinating and worthwhile day for members. We gave away lots of Cameron information and membership forms, but no new members yet!

Now for the Annual Gathering, we have lots of ideas. Bookings have been made in the Ashburton Motor Lodge for the Executive Council Meeting on the Friday night, accommodation is available there as well. On the Saturday we have booked the Bradford Room at the Ashburton Event Centre for the Annual General Meeting and then dinner at night. Scottish entertainment will be provided on the Saturday evening. Day trips on the Saturday could be the Ashburton Aviation Museum, and the Museum and Art Gallery, there are other alternatives as well.

We are meeting again on 28 January to finalise some of these arrangements.

Accommodation is available at the Ashburton Motor Lodge (03 3070399) or Bella Vista Motel (03 307 7505), these are both on West Street. There are other motels on East Street. Any questions please contact me at raejohn@xtra.co.nz or 03 3088927.



Welcome to the following Members who have recently joined us:

Ceud Mile Fàilte

Auckland Branch:

Jill Morrow

Whangarei

One Hundred

Jonathan Rishworth

Whangarei

Thousand Welcomes

Hawke's Bay by Helen Shaw

On Saturday, 2nd December, we gathered at Speight's Ale House, Ahuriri for our Christmas lunch and get together. It was a beautiful Hawke's Bay day and we thoroughly enjoyed our meal and the camaraderie that goes with being in the company of special friends. Hamish and Joan have recently settled into their new home and it was good to see Leigh and Maree who have retired from the Motel industry, looking tanned and relaxed after their recent cruise. We wish all Clan members a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.



Manawatu by Anne Walker

On December 9th, Clan Cameron Manawatu members supported the Jenny Mair Highland Day in the Square at Palmerston North. The day was successful with a good crowd attending to enjoy the piping competitions in



brilliant sunshine, and the Clan Cameron staff was very busy. As in past years, Clan Cameron Manawatu sold popular haggis sandwiches, as well as barbeque sausages, and steak sandwiches, cooked to perfection in the portable barbeque loaned to the Clan by Humphries Construction Limited. This year these treats were supplemented with Christmas shortbread baked by Jessie Annabel. All proved popular and stock was completely sold out by mid-afternoon. Clan members who were available to assist on the day shared the busy workload, but special recognition must go the Bryan and Barbara Barber who coordinated the effort.

On Saturday 27th January 2018, Clan Cameron Manawatu will be attending 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. We look forward to this annual event, which is always extremely well attended and great fun.

Clan Cameron Manawatu holds its AGM on Sunday 25th February 2018 in the summerhouse at Mt Lees Reserve, near Feilding. The format of the day is a brief AGM at 12 noon, followed by a shared potluck lunch. All members, family and friends are very welcome.

More on

John Cameron of Corriechoillie

By Mike Topham

John's first wife was Amelia McPherson, the widow of the Reverend John Ord, Rector of Fort William Grammar School, who died in 1811. Amelia's father John McPherson was a sub tenant of the Corriechoillie farm.

All five of Amelia and Corry's children emigrated to South Australia, where their kinsman Alexander "Black Sandy" Cameron, was in 1840, the pioneer settler of Mount Sturgeon Plains, approx. 150km east of Penola.

John in 1840, William in Jan 1851, Mary in late 1851, Marjory in 1852 and Donald in 1854.

The three Cameron brothers held the Lease of Morambro Station approx, 60 km north of Penola from 1851 – 1859. Marjory Cameron married George McKenzie at Ardgour in 1840 and the family emigrated in 1852.

Mary Cameron married John MacNicol at Portland, Victoria in 1854. He was from Craginish, arrived Australia 1842 and was farming Comaum and Elderslie Stations, the northern neighbours of Penola Station.

William Cameron moved to New Zealand in 1855 and his brother Donald joined him in 1859.

Corriechoillie's second cousin was John "Muillear" Cameron (1772 – 1837). They shared the same Great Grandfather, Donald Cameron (1678 – 1754).

John "Muillear's" son, Alexander Cameron (1810 -1881) emigrated to Australia on the "Boyne" in 1839. On that

voyage the "Boyne" carried 285 mainly assisted immigrants, 101 being Cameron's- including Alexander's sister Sarah, her husband Archibald McDonald and several of their cousins.

Alexander joined their Uncle "Black Sandy" Cameron on Mount Sturgeon Plains whilst Sarah and Archibald McDonald managed "Morgiana" Station, also owned by "Black Sandy".

In 1845 Alexander (Jnr) moved west to Limestone Ridge where he established Penola Station and in 1850 founded the township of Penola, where he was popularly known as "King of Penola".

King's younger brother George (1817 – 1871) and family, immigrated to Australia in 1854 and managed Sutledge Station for King before acquiring Dorodong Station in 1857. These two properties were neighbours to Penola on it's eastern boundary. George and family moved to Southland, New Zealand in 1863 to join his kinsmen Donald and William Cameron.

When John "Muillear" Cameron died in 1837 he was laid to rest in Plor #56 at the Cille Choirill Cemetery, Lochaber, and when John "Corriechoillie" Cameron died in 1856 he was buried in the adjacent Plot #57. That is, two closely related MacMartin Cameron's were buried side by side at Cille Choirill, whilst on the other side of the world at Riverton, Southland New Zealand, a son of each, George and William were also buried in adjoining plots at the Riverton Cemetery.

George Cameron died 25 September 1871.

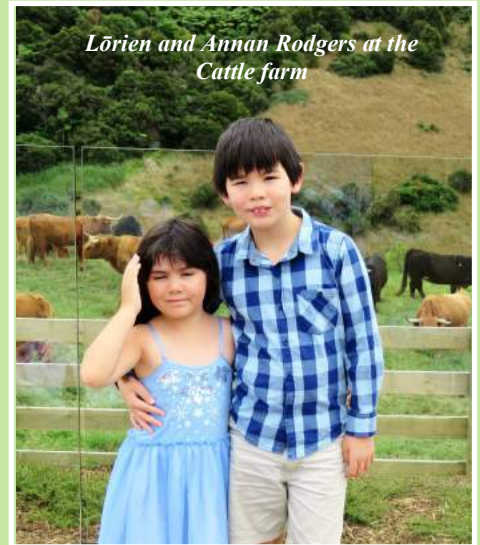
William Cameron died 5th November 1898.





Hawkes Bay Branch Christmas Gathering at Speights Bar and Café

*From left: Helen Shaw, Shane East, Joan and Hamish Cameron, Mike Topham, Janice Willson, Trish Topham, Ian Cameron, Leigh and Maree Cameron.
Photo: Helen Shaw*



Lōrien and Annan Rodgers at the Cattle farm



Above and Below: A wonderful day for Auckland members at the Cameron Highland Cattle farm.



Photo: Duncan McQueen



Congratulations, Robbie Cameron-Henry. See Bay of Plenty report. Robbie is pictured with his coach, Carl Cowley



More of Bill 's

Photo: Bill Cameron

**Sunrise on Càrn Dearg, Ben Nevis
(Càrn Dearg means Red Rocky Mountain)**



Great Photos

Photo: Bill Cameron

The snow clad remains of the old weather observatory on the summit of Ben Nevis that operated between 1883-1904.



Warren Cameron with Fynn Brown, (6 years old) who was about to March in his first parade with the local Wairarapa Fern and Thistle Pipe Band. Warren has been teaching Fynn the snare drum for about 6 months and was a very proud tutor watching him play in the local Carterton Christmas Parade.
 Photos: Lorraine Cameron



Alan and Neil Cameron after the 9am Street March at Waipu

Prize Winners All! Auckland members Morea and Alan Cameron and son Rob, who received prizes in drumming and piping at Waipu



Below: Morea Cameron receives certificates for coming first in the D Grade 2/4 and 4/4 Marches



Lachlan Dean holds the Cameron Cup, which was donated by Clan Cameron Auckland, for presentation to the overall winner of C Grade drumming at the Waipu Games. Congratulations, Lachlan!

Waipu photos by Duncan McQueen

By Editor: This is an updated version of an article written by Bill Cameron and published in this magazine in October 2007

The Cameron Memorial

The Chief Behind The Statue

By William A. Cameron

For well over a hundred years now, the kilted figure of a highland chief has stood elevated from the everyday on a rock hewn granite plinth overlooking Fort William's Parade Ground. The life-like representation of Donald Cameron of Lochiel, 24th Cameron Chief, stands quietly observing the seasons - seemingly exempt from the passage of time.

Turning the clock back some one hundred and eight years, to the snowy Monday afternoon of the 20th of December 1909, when Mrs. Cameron Lucy of Callart removed the Cameron of Lochiel tartan plaid, we can only imagine the high esteem with which the assembled crowd would have received the statue before them. Contrast this public show of admiration, against our current celebrity obsessed society, where many people crave fame and notoriety, and the very idea of a permanent memorial stands out as an outdated symbol from a bye-gone era; it is far removed from today's media driven culture where public admiration is both transient and disposable. Evidently our perception and appreciation of such public figures has radically changed in the intervening years.

Born in 1835, to Donald Cameron of Lochiel and Lady Vere Hobart, the eldest son in a family of five was named Donald in the Lochiel family tradition; a pattern that can be seen throughout the history of Cameron Chiefs, right up to the present day. Like many children of highland gentry, young Donald was educated at Harrow. Entering the diplomatic service at an early age, his first appointment was as first attaché to Lord Elgin on a mission to China, following which he was employed at the British embassy in Berlin. On the death of his father in 1858, Donald assumed the patriarchal title of Lochiel, Chief of Clan Cameron, a title he would hold for a further forty-eight years.

Retiring from the Foreign Service shortly after his father's death, Lochiel returned to Lochaber, the land of his ancestors, to run the large family estates - estates which at that time covered over 100,000 acres of mountain, moorland and lochs, all of which is dominated by the snow capped figure of Ben Nevis, Britain's highest mountain. As the first Cameron Chief to permanently live at Achnacarry since the Gentle Lochiel was forced to leave the burning remains of the old Achnacarry House a hundred years previously, Lochiel established himself at the new house. He became actively involved in all matters of estate management, most notably sheep farming - the knowledge and understanding of which he would be called upon to defend and promote in his various roles of public office representing the district of Inverness-shire.

Appointed Conservative Member of Parliament for Inverness-shire in 1886, Lochiel's intimate knowledge of the highland way of life and the people he represented became much valued by his fellow parliamentarians. In his inaugural address in Inverness, Lochiel stated: "You have elected me, you have to try me. All I can say is that you will not find me too fast in the saddle. If you don't like me you can just turn your backs on me and send me back to my people and my sheep." Evidently he proved to be a worthy representative of

Inverness-shire, holding the seat for a further seventeen years until the new constituencies came into being, whereupon he retired - only to take up the position of Convener of the new County Council shortly afterwards. During his time as MP for Inverness-shire, it is thought that because of his intimate knowledge of the highland way of life and the needs of the people he represented, Lochiel played an influential role in persuading the then Chancellor of the Exchequer, Sir Michael Hicks Beach, to provide government backing for the establishment of the West Highland Line between Glasgow and Fort William and the subsequent Fort William to Mallaig Line. As well as playing an influential role in opening up transport routes into the Highlands, Lochiel was also elected to serve on the 1883 Royal Commission to investigate the grievances of crofters throughout the Highlands; a position he could easily relate to, as one of the largest sheep farmers at a time when sheep farming was experiencing a serious decline.



Married to Lady Margaret Scott in 1875, Lochiel and Lady Margaret had four sons, the eldest of whom, Donald Walter, would succeed him as Clan Chief in 1905. Appointed Lord Lieutenant of Inverness-shire in 1887, Lochiel held this esteemed position for eighteen years right up until his death. A position all subsequent Cameron Chiefs have held up to the present day. As the Queen's representative for Inverness-shire, Lochiel was called upon to officiate at formal occasions throughout the district. One of which would see him welcome Queen Victoria to Loch Arkaig in September 1873 as she records in her Highland Journal. "He (*Lochiel*) received us wearing his kilt and plaid just above the pier, and we all went on board the little steamer. (*This was most likely Lochiel's S.S. Rifle although she does not mention it by name.*) The afternoon was beautiful, and lit up the fine scenery to the greatest advantage. We went about halfway up the Loch, as we had not time to go farther, to the disappointment of the Lochiel who said it grew wilder and wilder higher up. To the left as we went up is the deer forest; to the right he has sheep." Coincidentally, Mrs. Mary Mackellar (née Cameron), a native Lochaberite, author and bardess to the Gaelic Society of Inverness, was later selected to translate Queen Victoria's

Highland Journal into Gaelic. Mrs. Mackellar was also one of the founding members of the Clan Cameron Association, founded in Edinburgh in 1889 - the Lochiel commemorated in the Cameron Memorial being its first Chief.

Throughout his seventy-one years, Lochiel became an instrumental figure in highland life; as an MP, he was actively involved in promoting the needs of people living in the West Highlands, at a time when the distinctive highland way of life was so closely linked to the land. It is, however, as the Chief of Clan Cameron, that small but well known highland family whose descendants are now settled throughout the new world far beyond the shores of Lochaber, that I believe the statue encapsulates the idea of an archetypal Clan Chief.

On the death of Lochiel on the 29th of November 1905, there followed extensive obituaries in both the local and national press, all conveying a sense of loss and genuine admiration with which he was held across the Highlands and further afield. Some notable local gestures of respect included: the flag on Inverness Castle being lowered to half-mast; the pulpit and Holy Communion area in West Street Parish Church in Inverness being draped in black mourning cloth, and in his native Lochaber, businesses closed from eleven o'clock till three o'clock on the day of his funeral as a mark of respect.

Three years after his death, William Kilgour, in his book 'Lochaber in War and Peace', dedicates an entire chapter to Lochiel. Read like a eulogy, we get a glimpse of the somber atmosphere of the day in the following extract; "In reverence and sorrow did Lochaberians bow as the mortal remains of their well-loved chief were committed to the grave, and the funeral was probably one of the largest witnessed in the Highlands. Chieftains and clansmen, farmers, crofters, and retainers; ecclesiastical bodies and dwellers in strath and glen followed the bier to the last resting place. Not soon shall his memory fade, and many a long year will pass before another shall arise who shall occupy the same high place in the hearts and affections of Highlanders as did the Twenty-Fourth Chief of Clan Cameron." After the service, Lochiel's coffin was laid to rest in the grounds of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Fort William; however, this would only be a temporary resting place, as he would later be re-interred in the newly established family burial ground overlooking Loch Arkaig.

As early as 1906, we read of moves to raise a memorial to the late Lochiel in the Inverness Courier. "It would not be fitting that such a personality should be allowed to pass from among us without some recognition of the great services he rendered, and some suitable memorial to perpetuate his memory. No man had the interests of the Highlands more truly at heart, and no man of his generation was more deserving of a public memorial." The article supplied information for those wishing to donate to the appeal, along with a list of friends and professional colleagues of the late Chief who had already donated to the statue fund. Reading through the first minute book of the Clan Cameron Association, it is not until March 1908 that we read extensively about the proposed Memorial to Lochiel, in which the eminent Edinburgh sculptor William Birnie Rhind is mentioned. "Mr. W. Birnie Rhind promised to execute a Statue 7ft 6ins in height in bronze, and to have a granite pedestal 10ft in height, with a bronze inscription plate, at the cost of £700.00." Pound for pound, the same amount in 2018 would now equate to £80,000.00

From a distance, the Cameron Memorial may look like just any other bronze statue of an unknown figure to be found in any town or city centre throughout Scotland. Although I

have been unable to source any preparatory material relating to how the sculptor produced the Cameron Memorial, given that it was produced posthumously, it is my belief that alongside the use of a life model, Mr Rhind would have also used photographs of the late Lochiel - in particular, an image of Lochiel standing in front of the River Arkaig in which he adopts an almost identical stance to that shown in the statue. The only difference being, three eagle feathers have been added to his hat, the symbol distinguishing him as Chief.

DOMHNALL CAMSHRON LOCH-IAL MAC DHOMHNAILL DUIBH

**XXIV CEANN-CINNIDH NAN CAMSHRONACH
TOISEACH IS FEAR-TIONAL SIORRACHD INBHIRNIS
RE IOMADH BLIADHNA FEAR-IONAID NA SIORRAMACHD
ANNS A PHARLAMAID
RUGADH E 1835 CHAOCHAIL E 1905
CHUIR LUCHD-CINNIDH IS CAIRDEAN SUAS
AN CARRACH SO
AN GEALL AIR AM BAIGH AN SPEIS AGUS AM MEAS
AIR AN UASAL URRAMACH**

The fact that the oxide stained inscription on the front of the granite plinth is in Gaelic, means those English speaking passers-by do not know who it is they are looking at - unless of course they walk around to the back of the plinth, where you will find an equally fading inscription in English.

DONALD CAMERON OF LOCHIEL

**24TH CHIEF OF THE CLAN
LORD LIEUTENANT, CONVENOR AND
FOR MANY YEARS REPRESENTATIVE IN PARLIAMENT
OF THE COUNTY OF INVERNESS
BORN 1835 DIED 1905
ERECTED BY CLANSMEN AND FRIENDS
IN TOKEN OF THEIR DEVOTION,
RESPECT AND ADMIRATION**

Reading an account of the statue's unveiling ceremony in the Oban Times of December 1909, we are told that after the statue was unveiled, a contingent of Cameron pipers marched twice round the statue to the doleful strains of "Lochaber no More". Shortly afterwards, Provost Mackenzie spoke of his respect and admiration for the late Lochiel, publicly accepting the statue on behalf of the Town Council and taking on the responsibilities of its upkeep as its future custodians. We also learn that a small bronze bust was produced of the late Lochiel, and was later presented by his son to the Town Council. I was recently informed that this same bust latterly resided in the Town Hall in Fort William - unfortunately the hall burnt down in 1975 and the bust was never seen again.

As the verdigris figure of Lochiel nears its hundred and tenth year, many things have changed since it first took its place on the Parade back in 1909. In telling the story behind the statue, it is hoped that positive steps may be taken to preserve and enhance this unique example of Scottish sculpture for future generations. I will again ask the Council to investigate restoration.

I would like to acknowledge my thanks to Jean Cameron for her input to this article, as well as Ian Cameron for providing access to Clan Cameron Association archives.

W.A.C.

A4 to BigY

Family lore, Family trees, and DNA testing

By Colin Cameron - Auckland member (living Kapiti Coast)

My first exposure to my Cameron family history came to me in the late 1960s in the form of a yellowed photocopy of a handwritten sort of pedigree chart, with cross-outs, arrows, question marks and notes (some right, others completely misleading!). My father's generation were the most recent entries, and it travelled back to grandfather Concrete Charlie, great grandfather Allan who was about 8 when his father Allan (codenamed Jnr and Snr) emigrated to New Zealand in 1840 as a result of the Highland Clearances in Scotland. About 200 Scots arrived in New Zealand onboard the barque "Blenheim" in 1840, among them some 60 Camerons, my lot included. They came under the auspices of the NZ Land Company, their task – in return for their passage – was to construct the road from Wellington to Petone round the foreshore. This they achieved with pick and shovel in about 4 months, after which many went farming around the Wellington, Wairarapa, Manawatu and Whanganui regions.

So, from this A4 starting point it was straightforward enough to create my own Descendant Tree to bring it up to the present day, supported by BDM certificates for each entrant, then work back up the tree, adding and verifying – no computers at that stage. This provided valuable family history, but it's the family lore – the anecdotes and tales - that give spice and life to facts and dates.

So, while my Cameron family lore in New Zealand, as we know it, has been recorded by various members of the family over time, there is still much to discover hidden in archives, publications and records. It gave me a real thrill to track the birthplace of my father's maternal grandmother to Rothesay on the Isle of Bute, Scotland, only a stone's throw away as the seagull flies, to the Isle of Islay and the Kintyre Peninsula where my mother's paternal family hailed from!

Venturing back into the Scottish Highlands of the 1700 and 1800s to find genealogy records has proved a daunting task to all who attempt, where staying alive and fed was way more important than the reporting and recording of births, deaths and marriages!

My family lore records that my 2grt grandfather Allan snr was born in 1795 to Angus Cameron and wife Ann McIntyre. I have an OPR birth notice to this effect, but is this our Angus and Ann, and Allan?

Our Angus and Ann are reputed to have had 11 sons and 3 daughters, some with birth certificates in support of this claim. However, finding birth certs with the right names and supposed dates is one thing. Proving that they are our ones is quite another!

Legend has it that some of these sons fought and died in the Napoleonic and Peninsular Wars, but we haven't been able to verify this in Military records yet. One is believed to have gone to America, one remained in the Highlands, and three came to New Zealand – two on the "Blenheim" in 1840, and one on the "John McVicar" in 1857.

There has always been a question among my wider family as to whether these 3 brothers were full brothers, half-brothers or simply family connections.

In April of this year I decided to get involved in DNA testing to utilise another powerful tool in the search for clues and signposts to all our many question marks. It's a whole new arena in which to play, and the more of us who test, the greater

the chance of tracking the DNA footprints our ancestors have left us. My brother Richard came on board and we both opted for the Family Tree DNA's "Family Finder" test, which identifies genetic matches on both the paternal and maternal sides of the family going back about five or so generations. Because of my greater interest in tracking the direct male line, I also opted for Family Tree DNA's Y-DNA 67 test. The genetic footprint carried by the Y chromosome is passed from father to son, the father having received it from his father and so on, going back in time.

Our results came back, and after analysing our "matches", it gave us a tremendous thrill to find that Richard and I have positive matches with the descendants of "Big John" Cameron of Turakina who have also tested, confirming that our 2*grt grandfather Allan and Big John were indeed full brothers. Results also indicated that the third brother who arrived in NZ in 1857 was more likely a half-brother rather than a full brother to both Allan and John. 18 descendants of these three brothers have now tested, giving us an invaluable genetic pool to work from, enthusiastically encouraged and guided by our various research collaborators!

Furthermore, my Y-DNA test at 67 testing markers revealed 82 "matches", and as well as the NZ ones, the ones that show closest to me live in the USA, & the eastern seaboard of Canada, and Australia. Funnily enough, very few from Scotland itself, yet most nominate their earliest known ancestor as having come from the Lochaber, Fort William region of Scotland. Is this our link to old Angus' son who lore says went to America, and/or yet further back in time?

It's got me hooked, and I want to find out more of what my Y-DNA chromosome has hidden away. So, rather than pay for the intermediary SNP tests, I have opted to bite the bullet and order Family Tree DNA's "Big Y" SNP discovery test when on special.

This will not only add to the whole science of genetic genealogy, but will tell me exactly on which twig of the tree of mankind my family sits – haplotrees and all that.

It will also give a far more accurate indicator of my closest matches in relation to these elusive ancestors whose identities are still shrouded in the mists of time in the Highlands of Scotland.

How to start your DNA journey was published in the last newsletter, which can be found on the website.

If anyone wants advice about DNA testing, Jo Cameron can be reached via the Clan Cameron Manawatu Facebook page.



A wintery Achnacarry photographed on January 20

(From the Achnacarry facebook page)

Highland Dress. Part 3

- the sgian dubh by Bill Cameron

A number of years ago I visited the Scottish parliament in Edinburgh for a function wearing my Cameron kilt, tweed jacket, and the other accessories that make up traditional Highland dress. On entering the building I had my sgian-dubh in hand, much to surprise of the attendant, as I was ready to hand it over to him. He commented that most people try to conceal them and get a little upset at handing them over.

The translation of the sgian-dubh - the black knife, does not exactly translate as such. Instead, the word dubh has a secondary meaning as that of being hidden. Many years ago it was considered good etiquette to take your sgian-dubh, or hidden knife out of your sock or sleeve and leave it at the entrance of the house as a sign of coming in and being unarmed.

The knife or dagger is traditionally worn in either the left or right hand sock that corresponds with the hand in which the user would use it in. This would allow you to take it out with ease and use it quickly in times of threat.

The sgian-dubh can in many respects be seen as an ancestor of the popular modern day Swiss Army knife. Used for a variety of functions including cutting, shaping, skinning and eating with. It would have been an essential part of the Highlanders day to day life whether at home, or used out on the hill when hunting.

Its design has remained more less the same over the last four hundred years. Consisting of a thin pointed knife around 20cm in length with a shaped handle and often held within an accompanying leather sheath. The blade would have been designed and manufactured by a local blacksmith. This would often result in slight variations in the shape of the blade from area to area. Some examples show grooves on the surface and some serrations along the edge. The blade would often be mounted in a handle made from hardwood and leather casing, or deer antler, as both have hard wearing properties in the Scottish climate.

Over time the sgian-dubh has gradually moved away from being a functional item, to that of being a more ceremonial product no longer used for its original purpose.

There are a number of traditional examples on display within the West Highland Museum in Cameron Square,

Fort William. Two 18th century examples stand side by side in one case. The first was owned by Duncan Cameron of Dochnassie and was used at the battle of Prestonpans - the first conflict in the Jacobite uprising. The next belonged to Donald Cameron of Glenpean and was given to him by Prince Charles Edward Stuart for helping him evade government troops looking for him in the Moidart area of Lochaber in July 1746. Both sgian-dubhs display a simple aesthetic with only some small decorative carvings on the handles.

In contrast to the older and simpler sgian-dubhs, a more recent and altogether ornate example is also on display within the museum. Presented to Queen Victoria's personal servant at Balmoral, John Brown in 1871 from her majesty. The silver mounted dirk consists of one large sgian-dubh and two smaller ones held within the front of it. All of the knives are decorated with silver mounted ferrules and topped of with Cairngorm stones. This sgian-dubh was intended to be worn hanging from a kilt belt to which it is attached by a chain and very much viewed as a status symbol.

Sgian-dubhs continue to form part of the traditional Highland dress to this day. Although no longer used for gralloching the inners from a stag out on the hill, they still remind us of how our ancestors once lived and are occasionally used at weddings by the bride and groom to cut the first slice of wedding cake.



Top Left: Traditional Sgian-dubhs from the 1740's. Right: John Browns Sgian-dubh presented to him from Queen Victoria in 1871. Below: Modern day Sgian-dubh.





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Massed Highland Dancing at Waipu



Camerons at Waipu
from left: Duncan McQueen, James Cameron, Gary Cameron, Fay Cameron, Jamie Cameron, Glenis Cameron and Neil Cameron.



The 9am Town March through Waipu to the Park



The Heavyweight Events



The 12.30 Clan March and Opening Ceremony



Waipu after the downpour—an hour earlier this area was crowded



Auckland informal committee meeting and luncheon in Devonport

Elaine Ebbett, Angus Fletcher, Norman and Jill Cameron, Linda and Rex Garland, Cass and Hillary Hakaraia, Neil Cameron



Gary and Liz Cameron with Norman Cameron at their Lochiel Estate vineyard at Mangawhai.

Photo Jill Cameron