



# Cameron



*The Magazine of Clan Cameron New Zealand Inc.*



Vol 53 No 6  
December  
2019

*Reflections on Loch Eil photo: Bill Cameron*



*Turakina*



*Hororata*

Round  
New Zealand  
with our  
Clansfolk



*Wellington / Wairarapa*



*Auckland*

*We wish you a Happy Christmas and hope you have a rewarding and healthful 2020*



## “Cameron”

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

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## A Message from our Commissioner...

Dear Clansfolk,

Your executive held a meeting on the 7th September in Turangi which included a very enjoyable pre-meeting meal on the Friday night. It was pleasing to find out that Hamish Cameron had stepped up to become the Hawkes Bay branch president. It was sad to hear that Trish Topham had passed away so soon after Mike. They will be greatly missed.

I was pleased to see the support received from the clan for Maisie Earle's 90th birthday – so well done to the Manawatu branch for this gesture.

This year the Hororata Highland Games on the 9th November attracted over 8000 people. Our clan tent was very busy giving away free haggis and informing people about the clan. I know my wife Julie, daughter Rowan and offspring Andrea and Evan had a great time. The whisky raffle was won by Maggie Donald – one of the principal organisers (via the Canterbury Scottish Heritage Council) for the Clan Alley – a very deserving winner in my opinion.

It is now coming up to a very busy time for me pre-harvest and with a range of pipe band events my time to do much else has become limited. I know for some of you in the agricultural industries (like me) you do not get to take much time off during Christmas – but for those that can ... have a great and relaxing Christmas!

Cheers, Nick



## And from Lochiel, our Chief ....

I would like to wish all clansfolk a very happy Christmas and I hope that 2020 brings you all health and happiness.

We, the family, are all well although, very sadly, my lovely sister Caroline passed away in October after a massive stroke which was heartbreaking as she was a shining beacon in all our lives.

On a brighter note, my youngest daughter Emily got married to a lovely man, Simon Williams, in September. They had a wonderful wedding in London which everyone much enjoyed.

We are in the middle of planning the clan gathering which will take place at the end of July next year and I hope very much that some of you will be able to attend as it should be an interesting and happy few days.

The Estate is, I think, in good shape with the hydro schemes enabling us to make plans for the future. We are involved in all sorts of activities such as forestry, tourism, holiday apartments, fish farming, stalking and quarrying.

Achnacarry is still being renovated and we hope to have it finished within the next three months. It is, I think, looking lovely.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who help to keep the spirit of the clan alive and I realise that many of you spend a lot of time and trouble on matters relating to the clan for which I am very, very grateful.

With very best wishes to you all

Donald Cameron of Lochiel



**Clan Cameron New Zealand  
Website**

[www.clancameronnz.co.nz](http://www.clancameronnz.co.nz)

**The Clan Cameron Interactive  
Network**

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

**Next Magazine Deadline is 15 Jan 2020**

**Printed By**

Welcome to the following Members who have recently joined us:

Auckland Branch

Miriam Cameron  
Mirren Stevens  
Juandre Daly

Bayswater  
Hauraki  
Browns Bay

*Ceud Mìle Fàilte  
One Hundred  
Thousand Welcomes*

Canterbury Branch

Chris McKay

Blenheim

## Christmas and Genealogy

*By David Weston . Clan Historian and Genealogist*

No obvious connection you say as you look at the heading above. Not so, if you think laterally all becomes clear.

The Christmas and New Year period is a time to connect with family and friends. Even if you do not meet face to face most people make an effort to ring, email or SKYPE those they know. You exchange news, catch up on what you have each been doing and ask about what your children and grandchildren are up to.

Now if you are interested in genealogy, or just recording family stories for others this is the ideal time to record this information. Don't just chat and forget, make a note and add the information to your records. In addition if you have given information on your Cameron family to our records sent the extra information you learn them to me so I can add them to our data base.



If you haven't put together a tree of your Cameron family it may also be a time you can put a family tree together and sent it in .All these people you are going to contact or visit can provide the information for this you don't know.

Also remember there are a lot of us out here without "Cameron" in our surname but who have Cameron ancestors. Obviously I am one and in January I am planning to join in with some cousins, also not Cameron's but descended from Big John Cameron who settled in Turakina.

His granddaughter, Mysie Cameron married Robert McAlley and both families have strong connections to the Rangitikei area. We plan to meet the weekend of the Turakina Highland Games, attend the games, visit places the family lived in and have a meal together. You can be sure I will be taking notes so I can add information to both my family tree and to the Clan records.

If there are people out there with connections to Robert McAlley I am happy to provide further information.

So this brings us to the end of 2019. I wish you all the best for Christmas and New Year and look forward to the information you will send me next year.



## Clan Cameron International Gathering. Achnacarry 2020



curator of the clan Cameron museum. The Facebook page will have all the information about the programme as it stands, along with information on tickets, transport, accommodation etc. Catriona is working on this just now, and intends for it to go live in the week commencing 25 November. It's most likely to be called Clan Cameron Gathering 2020 Official page, as I think there are a few others out there across the world set up for the gathering.

### Clan Cameron Gathering Facebook Page

A Gathering meeting, chaired by Lochiel, was held on 17 November at Achnacarry

A decision was made by the committee to set up a Clan Cameron gathering Facebook page which will have all the information about the gathering.

This is being set up by Catriona Flemming who is the

Visit Scotland are happy to fix bookings for visitors. If accommodation is tight they have a list of otherwise unlisted B&B providers as well as their own members. The can be emailed at: [fortwilliam@visitscotland.com](mailto:fortwilliam@visitscotland.com) <<mailto:fortwilliam@visitscotland.com>> or phone on +44(0) 1397 701801.

## Coming Events:

**Saturday 7 December 2019**  
**Jenny Mair Highland Square Day**  
The Square, Palmerston North  
8am –6.30pm.  
A great day for all.  
See Manawatu Report on page 4.

**Wednesday 11 December 2019**  
**1230 pm. Auckland Branch Christmas Luncheon at the Northcote Tavern, Auckland**  
Come and meet First Lighter Shona, who is visiting New Zealand with her husband and young son Alasdair. If you knew Shona during her time here in 2006 or would like to meet her, please come along.  
Please let Jenny Haggitt know if you are coming.  
<[bchecho@xtra.co.nz](mailto:bchecho@xtra.co.nz)> 09 5245254

**Wednesday 1 January 2020.**  
**Waipu Highland Games**  
The Cameron tent will be there. Visit us and give us your support.  
Begins with a street march at 9am.  
[www.waipugames.co.nz](http://www.waipugames.co.nz)

**Saturday 25 January 2020**  
**Turakina Highland Games**  
Cameron Road, Turakina  
Come and enjoy a day in the country.  
Starts 8.30am.  
[www.turakinahighlandgames.co.nz](http://www.turakinahighlandgames.co.nz)

**Saturday 8 February 2020**  
**27th Paeroa Highland Games and Tattoo**  
9am to 9pm Paeroa Domain.  
Special guests include the Topp Twins.  
The Cameron tent will be there.  
[www.paeroahighlandgames.co.nz](http://www.paeroahighlandgames.co.nz)

**Sunday 16 February 2020**  
**Manawatu Branch AGM**  
12 Noon at the Summer House  
Mt. Lees Reserve

**Sunday 8 March 2020**  
**Auckland Branch AGM**  
Details in the next newsletter.

**Saturday 4 April 2020**  
**55th Clan Gathering and AGM, hosted by the Bay of Plenty Branch.**  
This will be a one day event with the main meal being lunch.  
The venue will probably be the Classic Flyers Conference Room, Mt. Maunganui. Registration Form will be enclosed with the next newsletter on 1st February.  
When confirmed, details will be on facebook and on the website.

## From the Branches....

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

### **Auckland** by Norman Cameron.

Since the last clan report the Auckland Branch of Clan Cameron has not been active.

By time this report is read the Auckland Highland Games will have been held and I will give a report in the February edition.

First Lighter Shona Shirley, nee Cameron plans to visit New Zealand with her husband Gavin and baby Alasdair in mid December this year. The Auckland Branch of Clan Cameron are having a luncheon for the Shirley's at the Northcote Tavern on Wednesday the 11th of December at 12.30. Please let Jenny know if you are able to attend.

The Auckland Branch of Clan Cameron will be holding their AGM on the Eighth of March at the Parnell Cricket Club.

Attached to this report is an article about Alexander "King" Cameron of Penola, South Australia. This article was sent to me by my Sister and Brother -in-Law Jill and John Strang. (See page 5 - Ed)



### **Manawatu** by Anne Walker

Clan Cameron Manawatu are about to conclude another busy year. We are grateful for the support and enthusiasm of Clan members who have attended Clan events, and our special mid-winter dinner celebration. We are very grateful to the Committee members who gave their time and energy to support the Clan, and especially to Committee member John Cameron who has represented Clan Cameron Manawatu at national meetings and regional gatherings.

On Saturday 7th December, Clan Cameron Manawatu will be present at the Jenny Mair Highland Square Day which will be held in the Square, Palmerston North. As in past years Clan Cameron Manawatu will have a hospitality tent there, hopefully in an ideal position to enjoy the piping. Every year, the Cameron cup is contested at this piping event. Clan members, and friends, are welcome to come along to the tent to enjoy the piping and company of others. The Clan will offer delicious Christmas shortbread to sale and a raffle, as we did so successfully last year. All members and supporters are most welcome.

Shona Cameron (First lighter 2008) will be briefly visiting the Manawatu just before Christmas with her husband and young child. A gathering is being hosted on Saturday 22nd December to enable all to 'catch up' with Shona during her visit. For further details, please contact akwalker@xtra.co.nz In late January, you will find Clan Cameron Manawatu members at the Turakina Highland Games. We invite all members and friends to visit the Clan Cameron tent, and catch up with Clan members, and old friends.

The Clan Cameron Manawatu AGM will be held at 12 noon Sunday 16th February, at the Summerhouse on the Mt Lees reserve, near Fielding.

### **Hawke's Bay** by Hamish Cameron

Just where has this year gone? As a Branch it doesn't feel like we have been involved in anything memorable apart from the Hastings Highland Games.

Looking back however, brings to mind a



phrase the Queen once used to describe the past years events - the Latin phrase "annus horribilis".

Very apt for our branch when reflecting on the events that have occupied us this year.

The passing of Mike Topham and the horrific injuries suffered by Shane East resulted in a changing of the guard at branch level. To this end, I attended my first executive meeting accompanied by Trish Topham. This was to be Trish's last official act and, as she put it, introduce the new Hawke's Bay representatives to the Clan Cameron New Zealand Executive.

This she carried out with aplomb and obvious enjoyment. It was heartening to see her regaining her old enthusiasm after the recent months of undoubted stress.

It was only three weeks after that trip that we got the shattering news that Trish had been rushed to hospital. She survived that, only to slip-away two days later - on the 1st October

Those that knew Trish will undoubtedly remember her as the quiet half of a truly remarkable couple. Indisputably devoted to each other and demonstratively passionate about everything "Cameron".

Trish, with her mischievous wit, the perfect foil for Mike's intensity for perfection.

We are all the better for having known them both. But life goes on, and here in Hawke's Bay our major gripe of the moment is the constant high temperatures. Ideal for the building fraternity, and I am aware of at least one Cameron house that will be completed and occupied before Christmas. So its not all doom and gloom.

Just another thought --- how does Santa keep track of where all these new houses are.....?

Clan Cameron Hawke's Bay has survived its "annus horribilis" and we now look forward to our "annus mirabilis" (wonderful Year) next year.

A Merry Christmas A Happy New Year and safe travelling to everyone from all of us in Hawke's Bay.

### **Bay of Plenty** by Tanya Cameron

Sadly another magazine contains the loss of a dear friend. Trish Topham came across to Turangi for the Clan Cameron Executive meeting to introduce Hamish as the new President for Hawke's Bay. It was lovely to see her after having lost Mike Topham. Unfortunately Trish died on the 1st of October 2019 (my birthday) and we will miss her happy smile and all the time she has devoted to Clan Cameron.



The BOP Branch will be flat out organising for the Annual Gathering in April in the New Year. We are planning a one day event so that those that want to visit with others in the area while they are here or enjoy a relaxing event will have options. The National Gathering will be held on Saturday the 4th of April 2020. This will allow for those coming from out of town to arrive the night before if they chose. Easter Sunday is the following weekend on the 12th of April 2020.

The Executive meeting will be held in the morning with the AGM to follow and the main meal will be the lunch. The afternoon will be available for local activity events or relaxing and catching up with our visitors. At this stage we are looking to hold our events at Classic Flyers conference room which is upstairs and has a lift and stairs. There is some parking, otherwise there is airport parking as it is right near the airport.

There is an aviation museum and lots of planes to look around. There are also flights available. I also have a friend nearby who does Virtual flights through virtual reality simulators at The Aviator Experience. These businesses are nearby and complement each other and allow those that want to be entertained to do so. The Tauranga airport is based in

Mount Maunganui and therefore your closest accommodation for those not flying in and out for the day will be in the Mount. Who knows, maybe a cruise ship will be in on the day too.

### *Canterbury* by Rae Magson

I was not able to attend the Hororata Highland Games but Nick Cameron and his family very ably looked after the Clan Cameron tent. Here is his report on the day –



The Hororata Highland Games event was extremely well attended with dancing, piping, and various strong man events well organized. The novelty events such as the kilted mile are fun to watch. Once again Clan Cameron provided a tent display and this was very well attended with some enquiries as to new membership. Our clan once again provided free haggis which was a great draw card. The haggis is made by the Tauranga butchery who follow a recipe provided to them from an Auckland butcher Gordon Smart who now resides in Christchurch. Gordon stocks these in his freezer for any Canterbury folk who might need a locally provided one.

Plans are being made to have the Annual General Meeting on Sunday 1 December and to go out for lunch afterwards.

### *Wellington / Wairarapa* by Graeme Cameron

The Wellington-Wairarapa Branch held a lunch at the Gladstone Inn, Gladstone, Wairarapa, on Saturday 9

November 2019. Eighteen members and two guests enjoyed the get-together in fine warm weather in the beautiful countryside by the Ruamahanga River.



Our next event will be a presentation by Rob & Cath Cameron on their recent journey of approximately 8,000 kilometres on the Trans-Siberian express from Shanghai to St. Petersburg. We especially look forward to hearing about their spell staying in a yurt in Mongolia. More information will be provided to members when a date and venue has been organised.

### *Iar* by Shona Wallace

Clan Cameron Iar is celebrating Xmas and Hogmanay on St Andrews Day this year. Early I know but with everyone's commitments over December this was the most suitable time.



We are planning another Haggis evening in March with entertainment. If it is as good as this year it will be a good evening.

Things are ticking away quietly here but we take this time to wish all Clan members a Happy, Healthy And above all a safe Xmas and New Year.

Slainte maith h-uile laiha, na chi'snach fhaic! ( Good health every day, whether I see you or not.) Lang may yer lum reek!

## Alexander 'King' Cameron (1810-1881)

by Norman Cameron

Alexander Cameron, overlander and pastoralist, was known to his contemporaries as "King" Cameron, founder of Penola S.A. Born on 18th August 1810 in Lochaber, Inverness'shire. He was the fourth of nine children of John Cameron, saw miller, and Margaret, nee Fraser. One of his earliest memories as a four year old would have been hearing the news of the death of his uncle Angus at Quatre Bras and the wounding of his uncle Donald at Waterloo. He attended school at Inverroy near Ben Nevis, and worked as a shepherd before obtaining an assisted passage on the *Boyne* to Sydney. The healthy, literate, six foot, 28 year-old Highlander catholic stepped on ashore on 2nd January 1839 with 101 other enterprising Cameron's.

He immediately embarked on an epic clan trek droving sheep to Port Phillip, following the wheel ruts left by Major Mitchell's bullock wagons three years previously. One of his uncles Duncan Cameron (1801- 1860) settled on the Glen Roy Run, named after his birth place and now a Melbourne suburb, while another, Alexander 'Black Sandy' Cameron (1791- 1858) advanced into Australian Felix to pioneer Monte Sturgeon Plains, near Dunkeld. A fellow clansman, Donald Cameron (1818- 1890), established Clunes in 1840, where gold was later discovered.

After marrying Margaret MacKillop, daughter of John and Helen nee McNab, in St Francis' Church, Melbourne on 27th of June 1843, Cameron continued to overland his sheep westwards to new pastures in South Australia where he was first to apply, on the 19th December 1845, for the 48 square mile Occupation licences surrounding the future site of Penola. This frontier venture, subsequently in partnership with his uncle 'Black Sandy', prospered, as did a lucrative sideline shipping remounts to the Indian cavalry, prepared by local

horse breaker and poet, Adam Lindsey Gordon, who 'received the greatest kindness' from 'Highland gentlemen' while recovering from a violent kick to the groin.

Having built the original Royal Oak Hotel by 1848, Cameron encouraged his station tradesmen to establish their own independent businesses by purchasing 80 freehold acres on the 4th of April 1850, which he sub-divided to found the private township of Penola. He initiated the renowned Penola races in 1852, with their famous highland balls and would drive through the township to the racecourse with a piper in full blast and ribbons flying' to the great astonishment of his nostalgic kinsmen. Handsome and commanding in stature, but with a curiously falsetto voice and a strong highland accent, he was remembered as 'a fellow....like the highland chief both in person and hospitality.

The Cameron's 18 year old niece, Mary MacKillop, joined the family as governess in 1860, and soon met the charismatic local scientist and priest, Julian Tenison Woods, with whom she founded the Sisters of St Joseph. Tragedy struck in 1863, when Cameron's 42 year-old wife Margaret died, as did his eldest daughter and his first grandson, in childbirth. Selling Penola Station the following year, he expanded his pastoral holdings on Mt Sturgeon Plains and at Avoca Forest near St Arnaud. He married 23 year old Ellen Keogh, daughter Anthony and Helen, nee Fotheringham, at Lara on 14th February 1867, where they lived at Moreland Hall, Coburg, where he died 2nd September 1881, and aged 71.

Predeceased by five children but survived by six from his first marriage and seven from his second, he was buried in the Melbourne General Cemetery, leaving a net estate of 72,000 pounds that included 22,000 freehold acres and 53,000 sheep. Alexander 'King' Cameron is commemorated today as the founder of Penola by a John Downie life sized bronze statue erected by public subscription in the main street beside his Royal Oak Hotel.





**Wellington/Wairarapa**

Luncheon at the Gladstone Inn  
Gladstone, Wairarapa

*Rob Cameron, Lorraine Cameron,  
Warren Cameron, Hazel Cameron,  
Jill Cameron, Jan Thompson,  
John Thompson, Brian Cameron,  
Colin Cameron, Marion Cameron,  
Shirley-Anne Thomson,  
Erina Wood, Rex Wood,  
Graeme Cameron, Jennie Vogel,  
Cath Cameron.*

*Photo: John Vaughan*



*Warren Cameron, Lorraine  
Cameron, Marion Cameron,  
Graeme Cameron, Colin Cameron,  
Hazel Cameron, Jennie Vogel,  
Cath Cameron, Sonja Cameron,  
Erina Wood, John Vaughan,  
Shirley-Anne Thomson,  
Rob Cameron, Rex Wood,  
John Thompson, Jan Thompson,  
Brian Cameron, Jill Cameron.*

*Photo: Graeme Cameron*



***Vale.***

We were saddened to learn of the death of  
Trish Topham, so soon after the loss of her  
dear husband Mike.

A moving tribute is given in the Hawke's Bay  
report.

We will miss them both very much

*Photo taken by editor at the Ashburton Gathering*



*The massed pipe bands in the closing ceremony at the Auckland Games  
Below: The bands are followed by the Scottish Terriers*





*Addressing the Haggis*



*Bryan jnr, Bryan Haggitt and Neil Cameron in the Clan march*



*The Clan March*



*New member Mirren Stevens, husband Barry and dog Freya with Bryan Haggitt*



*Dancing on the green*



*Battle: Scots versus Vikings*



*New member Juandre Daly*



*Auckland President Norman and Vice President Rob*



*Games for the young*

# Clan Cameron DNA Project

by Jo Cameron (Manawatu)



in contact with other male Cameron descendants of John Corriechoillie Cameron. We know that John had nine sons from two wives and many of their descendants, cousins to Fraser, would most likely be here in New Zealand and also Australia. If we could get a 4th or 5th cousin of Fraser's to test it would help us to further understand the

McMartin Cameron line.

In late August we lost one of our longest serving Clan Cameron New Zealand members who not only lived a life of service to his community but has also left a legacy to the Cameron YDNA Project which will last forever.

Being a Great Grandson of John Corriechoillie Cameron, Fraser Cameron QSM was born to one of the most infamous of Cameron families and many stories are still told of his Great Grandfather who was an infamous Highland cattle drover in Scotland.

Because Fraser's paternal lineage is so well known and documented we knew that when he tested his YDNA the results would be extremely exciting for our Project and they didn't disappoint.

In previous articles I have written about a subclade within the Project which was significant in number but of which the sept was unknown, until now! Fraser's BigY 700 has led us to now name this subclade as McMartin Cameron thus enabling all of those within this clade to know (or in one case confirm) that they too belong to this ancient line of Cameron's.

To say Loraine and I were excited is a bit of an understatement. We couldn't have wished for a better outcome for some of the families who have for so long yearned to know where they belong in the Cameron tree. One New Zealand family who had long thought that they too were McMartin Cameron's are those who descend from Thomas Ross Cameron who emigrated from Lochaber to Australia in 1851 onboard the Sea with his wife Annie MacDonell and their young family. The family then came onto New Zealand where Thomas set up farming in the Rangitikei district. When Thomas died in 1913 his obituary alluded to him being born at Dochanassie which lies at the south-east corner of Loch Lochy and this is well known McMartin Cameron country.

Because we already have the YDNA of one of the descendants of Thomas we were able to confirm that this family were also McMartin Cameron's thanks to Fraser's testing.

Going forward we would be really interested in getting

If you are interested you can contact either myself at [jocamsclan@gmail.com](mailto:jocamsclan@gmail.com) or Loraine [macnabhistory@gmail.com](mailto:macnabhistory@gmail.com) for more information.

As our Project stands today we can now tell a BigY tester whether they belong to the MacGillione, McMartin or Clunes Cameron lines. The whole point of YDNA testing is to use it together with traditional genealogy to break down brick walls in family research. Our common goal and aim of the Project is to help families identify where they belong. At this time of the year Family Tree DNA have their main sales on their DNA tests. Good savings are to be found. The entry level YSTR 37 test is only \$99USD!

The sales in the mid half of 2019 brought about a good number of BigY testers who upgraded from their YSTR tests. This has resulted in the MacGillione subclade to grow quite significantly.

As I reflect on the last extremely busy twelve months, I think of those who we have lost and those who we have also found. Time waits for nobody. I am truly thankful for the help we have from Loraine whose time and expertise come freely. The ties with our Clan Members in Australia have never been stronger and I look forward to meeting more of the Clan next year at the Gathering in Scotland where Loraine and I will present a talk about Genetic Genealogy and our Clan Project. I would also like to once again thank all of our Project members for their participation, without you there would be no Project! Our future looks bright and we look forward to more exciting finds in 2020.

I wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year



## Kirkin' o' the Tartan

by Roz Grant (Turakina)

The St. Andrews Turakina Kirkin' Service held on the 13<sup>th</sup> of October was once again well attended. Many thanks to Jessie Annabell for the loan of her tartan scarf collection, 68 in all, which decorated the church.

Ainsley Watson from Palmerston North played the Blenheim Bag pipes during the service which was conducted by the Rev Alan Shaw.

Robin Wellwood from Upper Hutt, fourth great grandchild of Donald [the Cooper] and Mary Cameron, third great grandchild of Alexander and Mary Grant, Barque Blenheim people, did a reading from Mary Cameron's Psalm book brought out on the Barque Blenheim, along with Elizabeth Cheetham from Masterton, third great grandchild of Donald Cameron the Piper, who brought these very Bag Pipes out from Scotland on the Barque Blenheim in 1840. Donald married Isabella Glasgow in Turakina in 1853. Also a reading by Capt. Robert McMillan, from Levin, for the Wanganui Robbie Burns Club.

Other descendants from The Barque Blenheim attended the gathering with people travelling long distances.

The organist was Heather Cameron from Waikanae, and the Gaelic blessing was spoken by Peter McNaughton.

Later Jimmy Whittle from Taihape addressed the haggis - he had earlier filled the church with his great singing voice.

Again a Scottish Barque Blenheim themed afternoon enjoyed by all.

During the past year that Ewen Grant has been entrusted with the Barque Blenheim Bag Pipes they have been displayed at last years Kirkin' service, also at the Wanganui Founders Society, Wanganui Robbie Burns Club & the Turakina Highland Games, played at Maisie Earles 89 and 90<sup>th</sup> birthdays, and John Grant's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday. Also the Manawatu Clan Cameron dinner and this years Kirkin' service with our grandson Aidan and other pipers who have attended the above functions, and old time piper Ross Duncan.

These pipes have been in New Zealand 179 years and were made by Alex Glen in Edinburgh, Alex was born in 1801 and died in 1873 so when he made these pipes is any ones guess but had to be before 1840. These pipes are to be played and enjoyed at any Clan & family function.



# Cameron Square - Cearnag Chamshroin.

*By Bill Cameron*



*Cameron Square around 1870 with the church at the top of the Square.*

There's a lot going on in Cameron Square, or to give it its Gaelic name - Cearnag Chamshroin.

The Square is believed to take its name from the place where Cameron volunteers were gathered before being marched off to war.

Located just off the High Street, Fort William's traditional and now pedestrianised shopping and business area. Cameron Square is made up on both sides by long established grand limestone buildings, one of which includes The West Highland Museum that contains the finest collection of Jacobite artefacts.

At the top of the Square there have been a number of notable buildings in the Square's history, including: a church, town hall, tourist information centre, a cinema and more recently, a clothes shop.

Cameron Square has always been regarded by locals as the central meeting point within the town where various celebrations take place throughout the year. A recent addition to the Square has been the popular Ben Bronze Model T sculpture that celebrates the journey made up Britain's highest mountain in a Model T car which started and finished in Cameron Square back in 1911.

At the end of last year, the building at the top of the Square was demolished. Built in the early 1980's, it originally functioned as a two screen cinema complex to the rear and a tourist information centre to the front.

The sight was cleared to make way for ambitious new cinema complex and cafe/bar. The design of the building has been inspired by vernacular Highland architecture, and in particular, the corrugated iron community hall in the near by village of Onich.

The Highland cinema, as it will be known is the idea of local entrepreneur, Angus MacDonald who has commissioned Skye based architects Dualchas to develop the design. The steel frame structure is now roofed and work is taking place on the stonework, some of which will include granite stones from near by Glen Nevis.

The Highland cinema is due to be completed for opening in May 2020, providing employment for 12 or more people in the area.

Lochaber has featured in Rob Roy, Braveheart, Skyfall and Harry Potter, amongst others as a film location. It will be good to have a cinema in the heart of Lochaber to watch new films.



*Cameron Square in 1970's with the old town hall at the top of the Square.*



*The old building at the top of Cameron Square that was demolished late last year*



*The Ben Bronze Model T and the new Highland cinema being built at the top of Cameron Square.*



*An artists impression of the new cinema building at the top of Cameron Square. Image from Highland Cinema.*

# Achnagauna: *A Sense of Place* - Part 6 and Conclusion

## Further Places in Scotland where John 'Mòr' Cameron lived prior to his 1840 emigration to N.Z.

By Roger Cameron (Marrickville, Australia and Iar Branch NZ)

Chris Doak also comes to our rescue with the meaning of the Gaelic term 'fank' and its function:

*I don't think that there is any difference between a "sheepfold" and a "fank". Sheepfold is an imported English word, whereas as fank is the old Scottish word (and Gaelic - faing - pronounced 'fank' as well). The smaller enclosures are probably just that - enclosures to hold a dozen sheep or so - separating them at lambing time etc. The big enclosure, I would think, is for a few thousand sheep, when they gather them to take them away to the Lowland markets for slaughtering, or make use of it for dipping, or shearing.*

Doak (pers. comm., 2017)



**Photograph 6:** Another inside view of the sheep fank, looking south into Room 'A'. Is this contractor-dumped rubbish or forestry staff-dumped rubbish? Perhaps Rooms 'A' and 'B' were roofed at some earlier stage, and, if so, by whom? A Sitka Spruce tree is now claiming the fank as its own.



**Photograph 7:** A view to the SW showing the moss- and lichen-covered western wall of Room 'C' - with the author as a human photo-scale. I can now prove to my grandchildren one day in the distant future - perhaps when I am visiting the great geological outcrop in the sky - that I did visit places where my ancestors trod.



**Photograph 8:** This view north is from Room C of the sheep fank to the drystone wall of the sheep enclosure, where my wife Lee is standing, on the 'outside'. Some of these stones that the Forestry Commission has bulldozed are huge. Just 'eye-balling' them for weight, many would be well over 200kg. Now, these had originally to be moved by 'bloke-power', and then laid in a

Gaskell (1981, pp.142-143) has a small amount of description and history of Achnagauna. Achadh nan Gamhna was in 1815 (about when Big John moved there) recorded as being 544 acres in area, and was part of the larger Acharn Estate. Gaskell records the "... remains of 3 houses in 1872, now under forest ... cleared (by evictions) in 1838 ...". Based on what I can see in *Google Earth*, which includes a second unmapped large sub-circular sheep enclosure also evident in the 1988 air photos, it seems that Gaskell's record appears a little incomplete.

*The club farm in Morvern about which most is known was at Achadh nan Gamhna, where six tenants farmed between them 840 sheep, forty-eight cattle and their followers and six horses on 2,265 acres of Achadh nan Gamhna, Agh Choire and Unibeg, along the southern shore of Loch Arinas. This farm may have been organised as early as 1823-24 ... it came to an end when Sellar bought Acharn in 1838 and evicted the population.*

(Gaskell, 1980, pp. 51-52).

In the 1841 census, no people were recorded as living here. In fact, it is only a little further up the valley that one can visit Unimore which, to its credit, the Forestry Commission has recognised as having heritage value and has not replanted over this historic scattered village. Unimore is the site of the story of the 1824 eviction of Mary of Unimore:

*The people of Unnimore thought that flitting would not come upon them whilst they lived. As long as they paid their rent, and that was not hard to do, anxiety did not come near them; and a lease they asked not. It was there that the friendly neighbourhood was, though only now one smoke is to be seen from the house of the Saxon shepherd.*

(MacLeod (Ed. Thornber), 2002, p.177)

The remaining feature is the large sheep enclosure (photographs 8 & 9). Most larger, usually sub-circular, sheep enclosures depicted on the early 6 inch to 1 mile O.S. maps have a small rectangular sheep fank or sheepfold attached. It is in this small area that all shearing, sorting and other functions were carried out. By contrast, sporadic small isolated rectangular sheepfolds (without a large enclosure) have also been mapped.

### So, what went on in a Sheep Fank?

Chris Doak of Glasgow has supplied a few very old photographs that bring a sheep fank back to life, as it were. These family ?holiday photos (Photographs 10 and 11) were taken circa 1900 in a sheep fank in Ross Shire:

*For your interest, I attach ... a couple of photographs that I forgot I had. This goes back to your curiosity of the sheep fank at Achnagauna, and how it was used. My great uncle took these photos circa 1900 when he was visiting friends in the far north of Scotland, and I think that they will give you a good idea of what activities went on inside a fank*

Doak (pers. comm., 2018)



**Photograph 9:** The curvilinear dry stone wall of the sheep enclosure, some 25m north from the sheep fank. The 'inside' of this larger enclosure is to the left. Clearly, the crofters built these walls with the intention of permanency. The crofters were not compensated for all the built infrastructure, of course - they were simply, callously, evicted in favour of Lowland farmers.



**Photograph 10:** Holiday snaps from Chris Doak's great uncle ... back in the day, so to speak. The only penciled annotation on the back of these photos is "*Ross shire, uncle Lambert stayed with the Wilson family for one week*". Not exactly an Antipodean shearing shed, but for the scale of operations - sufficient. Clearly, the women helped too.



**Photograph 11:** Another view in the sheep fank at Ross Shire - shearing 118 years ago. This is instructive, not only for the shearing method, but also for the fank's wall construction. Clearly, when drystone walls like this were built, the crofters had permanence and continuity of

### Footnotes and Afterthoughts

The trouble with embarking on a genealogical journey is that one is never quite sure where one will end up ... geographically or genealogically. During my initial meeting

with Chris Doak in Glasgow, before setting out for the Highlands with the material he gave to me, he said he was reasonably sure that Alexander, the last resident Tacksman of Inver Mallie, was Big John's grandfather and therefore an ancestor of mine (oh dear ... a new research objective!). So with instructions as to where to find the graveyard, a visit to Kilmallie Cemetery was shoehorned into our itinerary - and more on Alexander in an up-coming article.

And so I sought to tread where my ancestors trod and to this end Iain Thornber at Lochaline was, and also continues to be, helpful, after my visit to Achnagauna. After going to Achnagauna, and over coffee, Iain and I had a wide-ranging conversation covering crofters and cottars, Morrison's surveys, the inaccuracies and omissions in the OPRs, the role of the seannaiche (storyteller) in the clan, the funding, financial and social problems of the Highlands today, the financial dominance of the Glasgow-Edinburgh 'belt', and resource materials and references still not on the internet. Clearly, this sort of research is both interactive and iterative; records lead to field work which leads to discoveries which lead back to the need for further field work ... and now I need to return to Scotland! If there is to be a next time, a second visit, 2020 perhaps, then much more time is needed - or am I exceeding the law of diminishing returns?



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- NOTE: a plan "Achnagauna Sheep Fank", which includes a locality diagram and an aerial photograph, also accompanies this report. Linework was hand drafted by the author, scanned and then annotated in Photoshop Elements 12. Likewise, all maps, air photos and diagrams were annotated in the same software.
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## The Back Page



### The Hororata Highland Games



An inter-clan throwing stick game organized by the Donald Sisters. The photo shows Ian Grant (NZ chief of Clan Grant) explaining the rules to Andrea who seemed to excel at this game. Her fiery Cameron temperament seems to help with this one! *Photos by Nick Cameron*



Champion Band at the Hororata Highland Games - Canterbury Caledonian Society Grade 4 Pipe Band  
You may notice that this is Commissioner Nick's Band. *Photographer: David Baird*



The picture on the front page shows the early morning setting up of the Clan Cameron tent at Hororata, with Nick's daughter Rowan in charge. With her are her helper's children Andrea and Evan Walton. Andrea (above) loved giving out the free haggis



At the Freemasons Installation in the Michael Fowler Centre, Wellington, Allan Cameron of Blenheim became the District Grand Master for Nelson/Marlborough/West Coast. He shown above with Morea. Allan and Morea are Auckland members.