



Cameron



The Magazine of Clan Cameron New Zealand Inc.

Vol 53 No 1
February
2019



*Turakina Highland Games
Massed Bands*

Photo: Ewen Grant

The National Gathering Auckland 2019

You can be sure of a warm welcome



Register now



The Bee Above the Door - Bill's Story



Waipu welcomes the New Year

The opening ceremony at the Waipu Highland Games 1 January 2019

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,

Locheil has recently asked if we could nominate an approximate number of those likely to attend the 2020 gathering at Achnacarry for their planning purposes. If you are intending to attend can you please let Neil know.

Like many people who are involved in agricultural pursuits we are always busy over the Christmas period. I sometimes wish our seasons emulated those in the northern hemisphere where there is less pressure to holiday over this busy period. One of my lesser tasks this Christmas was to cook a turkey with advice from my daughter Rowan and Uncle John Cameron - which involved marinating in a mixture of lemon, bay leaves, garlic, brown sugar, peppercorns and salt. On Christmas day the turkey was taken from the brine and roasted after stuffing with thyme, lemon, butter, onion, garlic and the body covered in manuka cured bacon strips. So a big thanks to Rowan and John as it was simply delicious.



When our family was growing up one vivid memory I have is that of our mother Margaret Cameron as a keen spinner and knitter of raw and carded wool. She would knit fair isle jerseys for us all using circular needles so that no stitching was required to join the sleeves to the body and always made them with intricate patterning and often using wool from coloured sheep or wool she had dyed using natural products. I remember helping her cook up walnut and onion skins and lichens in a copper tub and adding a mordant such as aluminum sulphate to fix the colour. I remember helping to beat some tanekaha bark she used to produce a reddish/orange colour. She also did some weaving and this led me recently to reflect on our tartan and its origin. I was interested to find out that the old French word *tertaine* came from the east through Tartary. The earliest record of a tartan comes from Elizabeth Barber's discovery of mummies of Urumchi 2000 B.C. wrapped in plaid (tartan) remarkably similar to those of the Scottish Highlands. The Gaelic word for tartan is *breacan*. I wonder what natural products the highlanders used to obtain the colours used to produce their woollen tartans hundreds of years ago. Perhaps someone might like to research this and produce an article on this for Neil.

For interest the national pipe band contest this year is to be held in Dunedin on the 29th and 30th March – so we may see some of you there.

Cheers,

Nick.

54th Clan Gathering and AGM Auckland 5-7 April 2019

The programme is below. Registration form can be downloaded from the website.

Friday 5 April. Meet and greet barbecue at St. Aidan's Social Lounge, corner Remuera Rd and Ascot Avenue. (note changed venue)

Saturday 6 April. 9am EC Meeting.
10.30am Morning Tea
11am. Annual General Meeting
12.30pm. Lunch
6pm. for 6.30pm. Clan Dinner

Sunday 7 April. 9am. Church Service in Naval Base Chapel
9.50am. Walking tour of Naval Base
o/c Early Lunch at Navy Museum.

**Clan Cameron New Zealand
Website**

www.clanameronnz.co.nz



Next Magazine Deadline is 15 March

Printed By

Welcome to the following Members who have recently joined us:

Auckland Branch

Janet Clark
Judy James
Wayne Dumbleton
Beverley Cameron

Te Atatu
Devonport
Kamo, Whangarei
Milford, Auckland

Ceud Mile Fáilte
One Hundred
Thousand Welcomes

Iar Branch

Bryan Kyle

Eltham

Armistice Service at St Ciaran's Achnacarry

For the hundredth anniversary of the armistice at the end of the first World War, a very moving and special service was held at St Ciaran's to remember those from Achnacarry who had served in both world wars, and especially those who gave their lives. Twenty seven current members of the community and others who had lived on the estate many years ago made up the congregation to mark two minutes silence at 11am on the 11th day of the 11th month, 100 years on from when the guns fell silent in 1918.

A Roll in the vestibule at St. Ciaran's lists 29 men from the area who fought in the 1st World War.

A plaque on the East wall of the Church lists 16 men who died – over half of those who fought.

Vale

Clarice Nita Cameron

30 July 1925 - 2 January 2019.

Long serving member of the Wellington-Wairarapa Branch of Clan Cameron. Loved wife of the late Donald Douglas (Don) Cameron. and loving mother of Lynette.

Dr J.S. Rowarth CNZM CRSNZ HFNZIAHS



Taranaki/Whanganui, Clan Cameron Iar; is proud to present eminent scientist Dr. Jacqueline Rowarth to speak at a meeting to be held in the Hawera Club 38 High Street on Saturday March 30th commencing at 7 pm. Dr. Rowarth has a very strong public profile in Agri academia as well as an Agri - environmental analyst, tutoring university students. She is a very creative writer of articles for various farming publications.

Following Dr. Rowarth's presentation, we will have the haggis ceremony followed by supper

Tickets will cost \$20 each, available from Tobi Hipp at 4UComputers, High street Hawera. If you are out of towners, please deposit your money at this Bank number 15 -3950-0650035-00 please make sure you identify who you are when you register before Tuesday the 26th of March

If you need further information or assistance please call 027 416 3563 or Shona 027 663 2825

Coming Events:

Saturday 9 February 2019

25th Paeroa Highland Games and Tattoo

9am to 9pm Paeroa Domain.
The Cameron gazebo will be there.
www.paeroahighlandgames.co.nz

Sunday 17 February 2019

Wellington/Wairarapa Branch Lunch

Lake Ferry Hotel, 2 Lake Ferry Road, South Wairarapa Coast. 12.30pm.
Please let Rob Cameron (06) 377-0377 or Graeme Cameron (04) 977-6250 know the number attending by Monday 11 February 2019

Sunday 17th February 2019

Clan Cameron Manawatu AGM

Mt Lees reserve, near Fielding.
See Manawatu report on page 4.

Sunday 24 February 2019

Bay of Plenty Branch BYO Lunch

Home of Denis and Joy Cameron
9 Kokomo Key, Papamoa. 12 noon.
See BOP report on page 4.

Sunday 24 March 2019

Auckland Branch AGM and BBQ.

Parnell Cricket Club. AGM 4pm, BBQ 5.30pm.
Meat provided but please bring either a salad

or a sweet, letting Jenny Haggitt know you are coming and which food you would like to bring. Cash bar.

Jenny: 09 524 5254 bchecho@xtra.co.nz

Friday– Saturday 29 / 30th March 2019

2019 New Zealand Pipe Band Championships.

Otago University Oval, Dunedin

Friday - Sunday 5-7 April 2019

54th Clan Cameron AGM and Gathering

Quality Hotel, Parnell, and other venues.
Registration form is on the website or can be obtained from the editor.

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.

Thirteen members of the branch met for a pre Christmas lunch at the Esplanade Hotel, Devonport on December 9th. It was a very pleasant get together. A big thank you to Elaine Ebbett for arranging it.



The new Cameron tent was at the Waipu Highland Games and was admired by many. Thank you to Duncan, Jean and Sarah McQueen, who helped erect it, and to Gary Cameron, James, Fay and Jamie Cameron, and John Cameron, all the way from the Manawatu, who helped to look after the tent during the day.

The weather was good and the crowd was bigger than ever. Fay Cameron won first prize in the adult section of 'Tartan in the park'. This event is promoted as a fun and fashion show in which contestants must wear garments either of tartan material or having some tartan component. Contestants will also be expected to speak briefly about the origin of the garment and of the tartan worn. Congratulations, Fay, you are a great ambassador for Clan Cameron.

The Branch AGM will be held on Sunday 24 March at the Parnell Cricket Club, Shore Road, Remuera. The AGM is at 4pm, followed by a barbeque at approx. 5.30pm. We would love to see you there and we would welcome your input to the year's programme. See 'Coming Events'.

On 26th January we were once again guests of James and Fay Cameron at their Highland Cattle Stud near Kaukapakapa. The Highland beef sausages were superb! Thank you, James and Fay for again making us so welcome.

We are looking forward to hosting the 54th Annual Gathering in April. Please register soon if you are coming. You will be very welcome.

Bay of Plenty by Tanya Cameron

Clan Cameron BOP branch have been very quiet recently. We are always on the lookout for ideas for outings and Cameron Connections in the area. We are looking for volunteers for Paeroa Highland Games on Saturday 9th February 2019 to help us man the tent on the day and enjoy some Cameron hospitality.



At this stage we are going to hold a pot luck lunch for any who would like to gather at the home of Joy and Denis Cameron, 8 Kokomo Key, Papamoa from 11am with BYO Finger Food lunch at 12 noon on the 24th of February 2019. This is a casual lunch with all welcome.

Canterbury by Rae Magson

Early in December the 28th Annual General Meeting was held at the home of Pat and Rex Tarbotton. There were no surprises in the election of officers except there has been a change of Treasurer. Sharon Wallace has agreed to this role. Everyone else has agreed to remain in their positions. A letter was sent to the Hororata



Highland Games committee advising that Clan Cameron were not happy with the site of Clan Alley. President Colin Cameron in his report advised that it had been a quiet year. After the meeting members went to the Phat Duck Restaurant (formerly known as Robbies) for lunch and a chat.

Manawatu by Anne Walker

Clan Cameron Manawatu extend our best wishes to all for a happy and successful 2019.



Clan Cameron Manawatu concluded 2018, with a presence at the Jenny Mair Highland Day in the Square, Palmerston North on the 8th December 2018. Clan Cameron has been a fixture at this event for more than 30 years and donated the Cameron Cup for the youth piper many years ago. This year Clan members sold Christmas shortbread and a raffle of a Scottish themed Christmas raffle from their hospitality tent, and by all accounts the day was relaxed and enjoyable, with everyone able to enjoy the piping and great summer weather. The shortbread (baked by Jessie Annabel and Barbara Barber) sold out, and raffle was popular. The raffle was drawn at the end of the day in the presence of the Secretary and Treasurer of the Manawatu Scottish Society and won by branch member, Mary Barber. Our thanks to all who supported the event.

On the 26th January, Clan members will be present at the Turakina Highland Games. This is always a wonderful event which has huge community support and is a great day out. Clan Cameron invite all to call by their Clan tent, to catch up with friends and enjoy Clan hospitality. Information about Clan genealogy and the Clan Cameron DNA project will be available for those interested in exploring more of their Clan heritage.

The AGM of the Clan will be held at Mt. Lees Reserve, near Feilding at 12 noon on Sunday 17th February. All members, family and friends are welcome to attend the AGM, which will be followed by a shared potluck luncheon and opportunity to enjoy a bushwalk in the Mt. Lees Reserve.

The Kilt - Annan Rodgers at Turakina.

Annan's father, Auckland member Glen Rodgers, says; "Interestingly the kilt Annan is wearing belonged to Nicks father (my grandfather). I think it will be the last time Annan fits into it before it gets passed back to Nick for his grandson to wear!"

Our president, Nick Cameron, says; "The kilt was my grandfather Finlay Cameron's kilt. Finlay served in WW1 (Gallipoli) and WW2 (London... bomb disposals). Finlay was born in Stornoway to Donald Cameron and his wife Anne Fraser. Donald was the police superintendent on Lewis and Harris. There is an old otter skin sporran that Donald supplied to his son Finlay which came with the kilt."



Did your Relations own Plantations in Surinam?

By David Weston

Other Clan Cameron members have recently drawn my attention to a number of Cameron's who owned plantations in Surinam, a former Dutch Colony in South America. There is some evidence that they are connected to the three siblings who came to New Zealand, John Mor, Allan and Angus Cameron, sons of Angus Cameron from Invermallie. There is a lot of evidence that an Angus Cameron and a number of siblings owned plantations in Surinam in the late 1700's and early 1800's. Angus himself who was said to have been born around 1764 died in Surinam on 3 August 1854. Other brothers also died in Surinam, Duncan in 1835, and Alexander in 1821. (See Slaves and Highlanders <http://www.spanglefish.com/slavesandhighlanders/index.asp?pageid=607272>).



The question for me would be if the Angus that died in Surinam is the father of the brothers that came to New Zealand when did he actually move to Surinam? While the number of children he had is unclear it is suggested he was producing them between 1785 and 1810 by which time he was approaching 50. Did he then leave his wife and younger children to move to Surinam? If he waited until they were more independent he would have been at least 65. Does anybody know how long Angus Cameron was in Surinam before he died?

Also if we remember the DNA research reported by Jo Cameron in our October 2017 magazine, John and Allan appear to be more likely to be half siblings to the Angus that came to New Zealand. (In itself something of a problem as Allan was allegedly younger than Angus, with John being the oldest of the 3). So what happened to his wives? Did either of them go to Surinam?

A further question – if they were sons of a presumably successful plantation owner why did they migrate to New Zealand with apparently limited money and need to start from scratch in establishing themselves?

I have no doubt that John, Allan and Angus descended from the Cameron's from Invermallie, although John lived in the Morvern area before coming to New Zealand. (See articles in the Magazine by Roger Cameron in February 2017 and following). They thus will be related to the plantation owners of Surinam who are known to have come from the same area. So while we may have ancestors who owned plantations (and implicitly slaves) in Surinam further research needs to happen to verify the link. I would welcome others comments and thoughts on this, perhaps there are family stories out there about family who moved to South America.



South America

Clan Cameron Y DNA Project Update

by Jo Cameron (Manawatu)

On looking back at 2018 I realise what a big year it was for our Project! Our Project, which had effectively been going nowhere, found its legs and really got moving with the help of our new admin Loraine Smith.



We went from having 2 Big Y Kits to the current 17 with another 3 ordered over the December 2018 Family Tree DNA sales. We have found the defining Cameron SNP (R-A6138) and have been able to give a better age estimation in R-A6138's ancestor's R-A7298 & R-A7299 which McPhee's and McNabs descend from. We have been able to re-connect families lost through time, helping break down brick walls with the help of traditional Genealogy research.

Cameron septs/cadets are now becoming clearer which will enable future testers to know where they fit into the Clan.

All this being said, there is still so much more to learn and discover. On Christmas Day we had our latest Big Y kit come through (what an awesome Christmas Pressie) which excited us because it has given more form to a Cameron line which we don't yet know the sept/cadet. What we do know is that this Cameron line is very significant.

So we put the call out to you all, we are looking for Cameron men who belong to the following lines to consider testing:

- 1) Callart, Lundavra, Culchenna (these lines appear to be heavily intertwined).
- 2) Kinlochiel/Druimsallie.
- 3) Worcester.
- 4) Glendessary/Dungallon.
- 5) Inverailort .
- 6) Any of many younger sons of earlier Lochiel Chiefs who aren't identified as a specific cadet line.
- 7) MacMartin/Cameron.
- 8) Possibly early Macgillonie.
- 9) Fassifern.
- 10) MacSorley.
- 11) Clunes.
- 12) Erracht.

We recommend all Cameron men start with an initial Y37 STR test (which will clarify which group you belong to). Following that test, the project admins will provide you with a review and explanation of your results, and options for further testing. For all testers who fall within the Lochiel group BigY testing will be strongly recommended.

We know that in April FTDNA will have another sale, please ask if you have any questions about DNA testing, our team of volunteers is here to help with any aspect of the process.

All the information about the Clan Project is now also up on both the New Zealand and Australian websites.

<https://www.familytreedna.com>
Loraine Smith email (Canada) - macnabhistory@gmail.com
Joanne Cameron (NZ)- jocamsclan@gmail.com



A happy picture of the family of Donald Andrew Cameron MSP photographed on the ferry to Knoydart.

Rose, Donald Fergus, Sarah, Ossian (held by Sarah) and Finnian.

Mary Barber of the Manawatu Branch with the raffle prize she won at the Jenny Mair Square day in Palmerston North.

Photo: Bryan Barber



Members of the Auckland Branch meet for a pre Christmas lunch.

Photo: Editor

Congratulations to Shona and Alieu who were married on January 10th in Ashburton.

Shona Cameron was New Zealand's first First Lighter in 2002 and is the daughter of Canterbury president Colin Cameron and Isabel



The Turakina Highland Games photos by Ewen Grant, Colin Cameron, Glen Rodgers and Dean Cameron



Margaret Steadman, Colin Cameron, Monica Olsen, Michael Gardner, John Cameron, David Weston, Bev Morrissey.



Cousins Christina Benton nee Cameron, Bruce Cameron, John Cameron



Siobahn and Rosie Grant, Margaret & Puck Hughes, Janne, Hector and Chloe Grant (Descendants of Donald [Bane] & Mary Cameron) -Blenheim people



Descendants of Archibald & Annie MacDonell nee McRae at the H/S of Annie, Roman Catholic Cemetery, Turakina. From left Bruce Cameron, Lindsay Campbell, Dean Cameron, Gail Cawkwell, John Cameron, Michael Gardner.



Catherine & Jock Cameron (Auckland Branch), Colin Cameron, Joanne Cameron, James Cameron.



The clan march



Gathered at the headstone of Thomas Ross Cameron are some of his descendants, Michael Gardner, Bruce Cameron & John Cameron.



The Clan tent with Colin Cameron and Jo Cameron

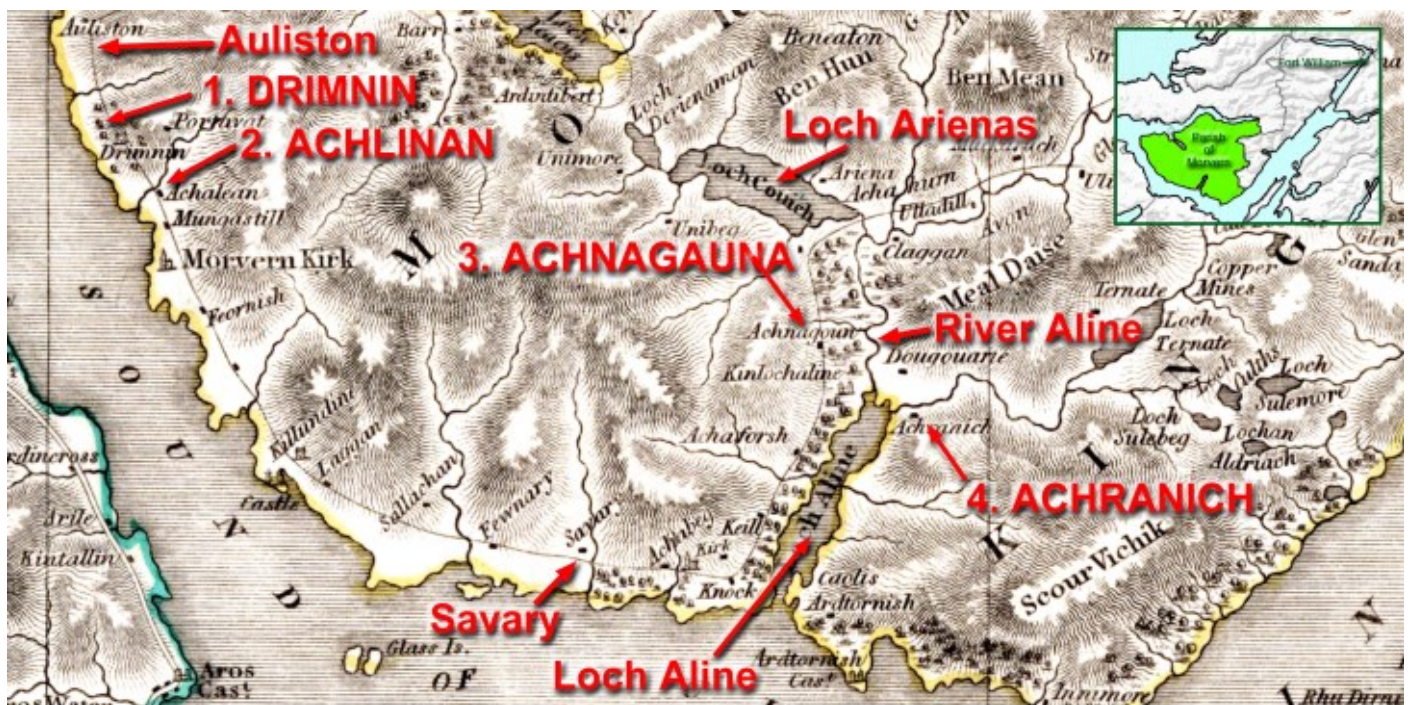
Achnagauna: A Sense of Place

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)

PREAMBLE. This paper has a dual purpose, 1: to explore differences between two separate lists of John Mòr Cameron ('Big' John) and Janet McGregor's children and 2: to locate and explore Achnagauna in the parish of Morvern. The two differing lists of children referred to are that listed in Scotland's Old Parish Registers (OPRs), and the other listed in the Blenheim's 1840 passenger list from Greenoch to Port Nicholson (in Wellington, NZ). The underlying rationale for this paper is that Big John and Janet are my great great grandparents whose history I am exploring. This article also follows on from my 2017 writings, "The Road back to

imagine how Morvern (now traversable with mostly single-lane sealed roads), during Big John's early days, was a terrain "... upon which, perhaps, no wheel had ever rolled" (Dr Johnson in Youngson, 1972, p.1). The first road through Morvern went for 20 miles from Inversanda to "The Sound of Mull" (ie, Lochaline). It was completed in January 1811 (Scotts Magazine, 01 Jan. 1812). Moreover, Dr Johnson found that during his 1773 tour of the Highlands fewer than 10% of the people could speak English (ibid). English speakers found themselves in a foreign culture in their own country.



Invermallie" (CCNZ, Vol.51, Nos 1,2 & 3).

Why Achnagauna? Well, 7 of Big John and Janet's 212 children were born there, according to the OPR search-lists. Achnagauna was a club farm (or co-operative) within the central southern section of Morvern (Gaskell, 1980). Of all the places where they lived in Morvern (SW from Fort William), they spent the longest period of 19 years there. Earlier, they spent 14 years at Drimnin (including nearby 'Achlinan') and finally approximately 3-5 years at Achranich before emigrating to N.Z.

ACHNAGAUNA - EARLY MAPS. There was a strong Clan Cameron presence in Morvern before the Jacobite rebellion. A map produced and published by John Cowley in 1732 of the Duke of Argyll's dukedom clearly labels several large areas of Morvern as "... pofsess'd by Camerons" (National Library Scotland - <https://maps.nls.uk/counties/rec/201>). It is also worth noting that after 'The Forty Five' (the Jacobite Rebellion's march south and subsequent withdrawal north, culminating at Culloden in 1746), many parts of Morvern were seen as Jacobite strongholds and came in for significant post-Culloden retribution. We also have to

Map 1 - Morvern in 1832, in the time of Big John. The locations where Big John and Janet lived: 1: Drimnin, 2: 'Achalean' (Achlinan), 3: 'Achnagoun' (Achnagauna) and 4: Achranich are clearly labelled (see also Table 1). The Morvern Kirk near Achlinan is presumably where Big John and Janet were formally married on 3rd June 1806 - according to the OPR in the ScotlandsPeople website. This is the map from which I first determined the location of Achnagauna. This annotated map covers most of the parish of Morvern, being based on John Thompson & Co's 1832 map - Northern Part of Argyll Shire. Southern Part (NLS). INSET shows the extent of the parish of Morvern in green.

ACHNAGAUNA - KIDS, KIDS, KIDS. 7 of their 12 children were born at Achnagauna. I have not found the name "Achnagauna" on any old map of Scotland to date; in fact the gazetteer within Scotland's Places doesn't recognise this name. By contrast, when you enter Big John and Janet's names as the parents in the Old Parish Registers (prior to 1855) held by Scotlands People, searching for births in Argyll, most of their children were born at "Achnagauna" (Tables 1 & 2). This was the then-preferred form of the name for a club-farm (a co-operative) within the

larger Acharn Estate that has later been called "Achadh nan Gamhna" (... "the field of calves") since 1872. Earlier variants of the name included: "Achenagawyn" (first used 1494), "Achnagown" (1755) and "Achnagaune" (1808) with Achnagauna's formal usage starting in 1815 (Gaskell, 1980). In fact the MacLeod Ministers were using this form of the name in their parish registers prior to 1815 (I have noted "Achnagauna's" use in 1810 in the OPRs).

registered to Big John and Janet. So, between December 1816 and December 1819 (9 months before Charles' birth) there is plenty of time for Janet to have had a 13th child. Just stop and think about that for a wee bit - certainly 12 and perhaps 13 children (from 1808 to 1835), in a croft with stone walls, thatched roof and probably a compacted dirt floor. And they all survived - there were no OPR-recorded infant deaths for the first four children.

Locality of Birthplace [Years of residence]	No. of Children Born	Old Parish Register (OPR); Birth Order & Name	COMMENTS I am assuming that the birth locality is where Big John & Janet were living.
1. Drimnin [1806 - c.1814]	3	1: Alexander, 2: Donald, 4: Cirsty.	1: This does not follow the protocol of naming the first male child after the paternal grandfather (ie Angus - see notes below). 2: In 1840, the first 4 then-adult children did not sail on the Blenheim.
2. "Achlinan" Included in Drimnin	1	3: Lachlan.	Current name is Achleanan & it is located close to Drimnin. This also suggests that Big John was moved around within the Drimnin estate.
3. Achnagauna [c.1815 - c.1834]	7	5: John, 6:"John", 7: Duncan, 8: Alan, 9: Anne, 10: "Blank", 11: Dugald. NOTE: Angus is the only son in the Blenheim list without an equivalent OPR birth listing - see also Table 2 and note C below.	1: The second "John" in the OPR is actually Charles - one can see the subsequent alteration (from ?Charles to John) in the OPR. 2: One child is left with a "blank" space for the name to be added later (and "Archibald" was never added). Also, Janet's name is "Jenet" in the OPR digital database for this entry, which is why earlier searches failed to find Archibald's entry.
4. Achranich [c.1835 - c.1838]	1	12: "Mary"	Mary is listed as Marjory in the Blenheim's passenger list.

TABLE 1. Summary of Big John & Janet's Children's OPR-listed Birthplaces

Table's 1 and 2 are a mute testament to Janet's hardiness. She gave birth to 12 (as in twelve!) children according to the OPRs and quite probably 13 if indeed Angus was also their child (see Note C below). Whilst this number may have been usual for the times, our 21st Century brains do have trouble with this number. Between 1814 and 1818, three 'Angus Camerons' had births registered in Morvern but none were

Roger Cameron Email: cameronrg@optusnet.com.au Phone: +612 9558 3204 (H), +614 27 430 688 (M/cell).

By Editor: To be continued over the next few issues as space permits.

Clan Cameron Gathering Achnacarry

This will take place between July 30th and August 2nd 2020.

A very full programme is being arranged which will include all the traditional gathering events - plus a lot more.

Lochiel has asked for numbers likely to attend from NZ. If you intend going, either individually, or with John Cameron's tour party please let Neil Cameron know.

John Cameron's tour was described in the December issue of 'Cameron'. This is really a 'Grand Tour of Scotland' and will include the Achnacarry Gathering.

John will attend our 2019 Gathering dinner on April 6th with brochures and be available to answer questions.



The Bee Above The Door

Part 1

By W. A Cameron

At The Old Stores in Onich stands a finely carved wooden thistle with a bumble bee sitting on top of its purple flower bud. It represents an important chapter in the history of Nether Lochaber and the Clan MacInnes.

The carving was proudly placed above the door to the Nether Lochaber Stores 145 years ago this year. A fine display of family pride from a bygone era, this unique oak plaque depicts the old motif of the Clan MacInnes - Mhic Aonghais, sons of Angus. It has survived outside in the challenging Lochaber climate for well over a century and now, after a recent restoration process, it has revealed an interesting history including various local family connections, the creation of the Clan MacInnes Hunting Tartan, Royal patronage and an unusual link with San Francisco.

Many thousands of people stopped in at The Stores during its 123 years of trading as a shop - selling everything from tartans, tweeds, papers, petrol, pegs, groceries and grain, to name but a few.

When days were lived at a slower and altogether more sensible pace, sheep and cattle were led along the then quiet A82 to pastures new in front of The Stores. With the advent of the motor car at the turn of last century, many more people would have stopped in to buy petrol from The Stores. However, most people would have failed to notice the distinctive plaque above the door depicting the old Clan MacInnes coat of arms showing a small bumble bee sitting on top of a thistle and the Latin motto 'Industria' written underneath.

It's not clear when exactly the Nether Lochaber Stores were formally set up. Early photographs show that the premises were established in 1875 and run by Onich man John MacInnes, or 'Tartan' John, as he would come to be known. Mr. MacInnes was a weaver, tailor, general merchant and Registrar for Nether Lochaber for twenty-five years. His well-stocked Store sold general provisions to the surrounding crofting community in Onich, Bunree and North Ballachulish; as well as trading in a variety of tweeds and tartan items to appeal to visitors to the area.

We also know that John's father, Dugald MacInnes, was a merchant in Onich. So, it could well be that the original Stores were established many years before by Mr MacInnes senior, then passed on to his only son.

It appears that John MacInnes was very proud of his clan ancestry. So much so that he was responsible for designing and manufacturing the distinctive dark green Hunting MacInnes tartan in 1908. He was also the first person to weave this tartan on his loom at the back of The Stores. The Hunting MacInnes tartan was subsequently recorded with the Scottish tartan Register later in 1908.

As a result of this, The Stores have always been held in high regard by members of the Clan MacInnes - both here in Scotland, as well as world-wide because of the unique link

with the MacInnes tartan, and the distinctive MacInnes plaque that stood above the door to The Stores for over one hundred and thirty-five years.

Born in Onich in 1851, John MacInnes was the only child of Jean McAlpin and Dugald MacInnes, Cuilchenna, Onich. Having established his name above The Stores at the tender age of twenty-four. We are not exactly sure how John acquired his skills as a tailor and weaver. They could have been passed on by a relative, or whilst working alongside another local tailor?

What is clear is that he was 'a man of parts', managing to juggle a variety of important roles within the community and displaying a good head for business as a young man. He would have been well known in the area as the local store keeper, as well as recording life's important milestones of births, marriages and deaths as the Registrar for Nether Lochaber.

John married Annabella MacAskill in March 1885 at Onich Free Church Manse - in what is now Glen Righ House. Annabella was the daughter of local shepherd Peter MacAskill and his wife Ann Macmillan. Rev Murdo Mackenzie, the minister of Kilmallie Free Church, officiated at the wedding. Their witnesses included a local man, also called John MacInnes and Barbara Linton from Coruanan.

We have little in the way of personal anecdotes about John's character, other than what was written about him in the Oban Times newspaper. Incidentally, it's worth mentioning that this regional paper is still known by some locals as 'The Ballachulish Bible', as if a story was printed in this paper, then it was taken as gospel.

We read in a copy of the Oban Times in the early 1900s about the proposed remodelling and repairs to be carried out within the Onich Free Church, just a short distance from The Stores. The article outlines the work to be carried out and the tradesmen involved in the in doing it. It states, "any contributions will be gladly received by the minister, or by Mr John MacInnes, merchant, Onich."

The most notable articles featuring Mr MacInnes are in relation to items he sold to Royalty on various occasions over a number of years. Prince Edward, who would go on to be King Edward VII, visited Lochaber frequently at the turn of last century, and was involved in several pursuits, including deer stalking on the Mamores above Kinlochleven. An account of one of the King's visits to Kinlochleven was written up in the Oban Times in 1909. Within this news clipping we read of the Royal patronage John MacInnes and another local Fort William businessman, Archibald Macintyre received during the King's visit to Lochaber.

"Patronised by the King - During his Majesty's residence at Mamore Lodge, Mr Archd Macintyre, jeweller, Fort-William had the honour of submitting for the King's inspection a varied selection of jewellery, including Cairngorms and other valuable stones. After inspection, his Majesty was graciously pleased to express his approbation of the display and made extensive purchases. This is the second occasion on which Mr Macintyre has been so honoured. On the same occasion Mr John MacInnes, clan tartan and tweed merchant, Onich by



The MacInnes plaque above the door to The Stores in 1910.

Royal command, exhibited patterns of tartans, in piece and rugs, Portree tweeds, Highland costume accoutrements etc, of which his Majesty made a large selection. This is now the fifth occasion on which Mr MacInnes has been patronised by Royalty”

From stories passed down through the generations it's believed that the fame and prestige of selling items to Royalty apparently went to John's head - and he became a little too big for his boots as a result of this Royal patronage.



My Cameron Grandparents at the doorway to The Stores in the early 1920s.

It was widely thought that the clan MacInnes plaque above the door was in every respect John's own self-proclaimed version of a Royal Warrant in the form of a customised clan motif. This is set against the Royal Warrant holders who display highly decorative golden coats of arms above the doors to many luxury outlets - such as those found on the façade of London's exclusive Fortnum and Mason department store - known to many as the Royals' grocer.

It's not clear who was responsible for carving the detailed oakwood plaque that John MacInnes had installed above the door to The Stores. What has become clear is that the single piece of oakwood that makes up the thistle design has been carefully considered in both design and manufacture by a skilled wood carver and would no doubt have cost John a fair amount of money to produce back in the early 1870s.

During its recent restoration, many layers of paint and varnish that were applied over its 145 year history have been removed. Some of these coats were freshened up by my late grandparents and cousins over many years during the summer months. Although the paintwork was not always accurately applied, I believe that these layers of paint are what preserved the wooden plaque against the ravages of Lochaber's damp climate.

From 1874 to 1910, John and Annabella lived in the adjoining, long, two-storey house next to The Stores. With a byre at far end to The Stores, the MacInnes family may also have been involved in working the land behind the premises.

In many of the old photographs The Stores appears to be built of solid stone, much like the adjoining house. However, it was in fact a timber based building with a roof capped in local Ballachulish slate.

The entranceway to The Stores was specifically fashioned to elevate an ordinary doorway. Designed to replicate a classical Roman style threshold, it gives the impression of being made of solid stone. The highly detailed wooden surround includes a slanted open pediment, with the MacInnes plaque at the centre of it. This architectural feature was very much about making a statement. It also has the word 'Registrar' above the door and the year it was established -1875.

The design of the old MacInnes motif included a thistle with a bumble bee sitting on top of its purple flower. Its Latin inscription 'E Labore Dulcedo' translates as 'pleasure arises out of labour'. This was used for many years by the clan and relates to a well-known story passed down through the Clan MacInnes.

The chief of the Clan MacInnes was aware that he was under threat of being attacked by Viking invaders coming up The Sound of Mull. He and his men left Kinlochaline Castle and fell asleep outside whist waiting for the enemy to approach. As he rolled over in his sleep, a bumble bee on a thistle by which he was awakened, stung him. As a result, he got up and spotted the approaching enemy and was able to fend off the attack. It was the bee on the thistle that saved the chief and his clan from being killed and so this was taken up as the family motif.

This motif was used for over a century, although it was never officially registered with the Lord Lyon. The clan used



The Stores at Onich, 1910.

the motif of a right arm holding a bow instead. This has its origins from a branch of the Clan MacInnes on Skye who were the official bowmen to the MacKinnon clan.

To be continued.



Aonaibh ri Cheile The Back Page



The Waipu Highland Games



Left: The start of the day. Right: Fay Cameron with her monetary prize for winning 'Tartan in the Park'



Fay, Jamie, John Cameron, Duncan McQueen and Glenis Cameron ready for the Clan March



A view of the crowd in the Avenue of the Clans
Cameron tent visible at the far end.



Gary Cameron and Duncan McQueen



The view across the field from our tent.



Fay and James Cameron



Rob Cameron plays on the hill above the farm



At The Highland Cattle Farm. Left: Wonderful food. Centre: Three generations of the Haggitt family. Bryan junior, Jenny, Bryan Senior, Katie and the Revd. Bryan (Well known Haggis addresser) Right: Allan, Morea and Rob Cameron play for us on the hill above the farm.