



Cameron



The Magazine of Clan Cameron New Zealand Inc.

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Looking along Glen Nevis



The daffodils at Claggan



North Ballachulish and the Glen Coe mountains from Onich.

Photos this page by Bill Cameron

“Cameron”

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Clan Cameron Association of New Zealand (Inc)

Directory

Hereditary Chief and Captain of Clan Cameron
Donald Angus Cameron of Lochiel,
Lord Lieutenant of Inverness,
Achnacarry, Spean Bridge,
Imverness-shire, Scotland. PH34 4ES

New Zealand President and Commissioner
Nick Cameron
322 Auchenflower Road, RD 1 Darfield 7571
Ph. 027 232 6664 nick.cameron@cropmark.co.nz

Secretary
Tanya Cameron
97B McGarvey Rd, Whakatane 3120
Ph. 027 293 5603 Tanya.cameron30@gmail.com

Treasurer
Alison Thompson
4 Nelson Avenue, Surfdale, Waiheke Is. 1081
Ph. 027 525 4766 alison.th59@gmail.com

Genealogist and Historian
David Weston
14 Tanguru Street, Wanganui 4500
Ph. (06) 343 2539 westmor@yahoo.com

First Light Exchange Convenor
Bryan Haggitt
96A Lucerne Road, Remuera, Auckland 1050
Ph. (09) 524 5254 bchecho@xtra.co.nz

Branch Presidents

Auckland
Norman Cameron
31/37 Natzka Road, Ostend, Waiheke Is, Auckland 1081
Ph. (09) 372 8442 norman.cameron37@gmail.com

Bay of Plenty
Tanya Cameron
97B McGarvey Rd, Whakatane 3120
Ph. 027 293 5603 Tanya.cameron30@gmail.com

Gisborne
David Cameron,
885 Wharekopae Rd, RD2 Gisborne. 4072
Ph. (06) 862 7803 camerondvd@xtra.co.nz

Hawke's Bay
Helen Shaw
3/33 Avondale Road, Napier. 4112
Ph. (06) 844 8398. locaber@xtra.co.nz

Iar (Taranaki / Wanganui)
Neville Wallace
275 Turuturu Road, RD 14, Hawera 4674
Ph.(06)278 6005. neville.wallace@talk2me.co.nz

Manawatu
Russell Cameron,
5 Ranui Place, Feilding 4702
Ph. (06) 323 7432 russelldcam@gmail.com

Wellington / Wairarapa
Graeme Cameron
4 Karamu Street, Ngaio, Wellington 6035
Ph. (04) 977 6250 glcameron@outlook.com

Canterbury
Colin Cameron,
11B Wills Street, Ashburton 7700
Ph 03 308 8334 colincameron1938@gmail.com

Magazine Editor
Neil Cameron,
28 Oxford Terrace, Devonport, Auckland 0624
Ph: (09) 446 1177 kncam@xtra.co.nz

Web Co-ordinator
Tanya Cameron Tanya.cameron30@gmail.com

Clan Cameron New Zealand website
www.clanameronnz.co.nz

Facebook
<https://m.facebook.com/ClanCameronNZ>

A Message from our Commissioner...

Dear Clansfolk,

A reminder that Locheil has 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. We want to get a more definite number at the Auckland AGM in April.

The national pipe band contest this year is to be held in Dunedin on the 29th and 30th March – and I know that a number of Clan Cameron pipers, drummers and Clan members will be in attendance. I think for these sorts of events it would be nice to have a meal out on one of the contest nights?. It would be useful to develop a list of pipers and drummers who are in the Clan throughout New Zealand and perhaps Australia.

As usual it has been a very busy time for members of our pipe band with events most weekends leading up to the nationals. I was able to catch up with Alan Cameron two weeks ago who was competing against us playing for the Blenheim pipe band at the Riccarton Bush contest. This event is held in a bush reserve donated by the Deans family who originated from Scotland and were one of the early sheep farming families of Canterbury. This Riccarton bush reserve in the heart of Christchurch is well worth a visit for those that visit this neck of the woods. The Deans family named their farm “Auchenflower” which in Gaelic means “Field of Flowers”.

This weekend our band played at the opening of the Canterbury Athletics Club which turned out to be a very sombre occasion as it followed a day after the mass slaughter of at least 50 people at two of our Christchurch Islamic Mosques. A terrible event such as this reminds us of the importance of family and especially our clan members. Keep safe.

Cheers,

Nick.



As descendants of immigrants ourselves, seeking to uphold our own traditions and customs, our hearts go out to the families of those killed by a terrorist attack in Christchurch while celebrating their traditional time of prayer. We mourn with them.

Editor

Clan Cameron New Zealand
Website

www.clanameronnz.co.nz

Next Magazine Deadline is 15 May

Printed By



Welcome to the following Members who have recently joined us:

Canterbury Branch

Stefanie Arthur

Ashburton

Auckland Branch

John Cameron
Diane Carterton

Auckland
Auckland

Ceud Mile Fáilte

One Hundred

Thousand Welcomes

Vale In Loving Memory of :

John Greig Atkinson 7.11.1934 - 6.3.2019



John was born in Lincoln, Canterbury. He attended Christchurch Boys High School, and when he left school enrolled in the Air Force. Was there for several years, leaving for a

few years and eventually enrolling in the NZ Army where he remained for many years. The highlight of his Army career was being sent to Moscow to renovate the NZ Embassy for the Olympic Games. They seemed to think that New Zealanders should do this renovation, they did not want any cameras or listening devices installed! He was married, and had three children. A sad time of his life was when his son Matthew was killed in an accident, but there was a little granddaughter. John always felt very proud of Keela. He left the Army and had the Christchurch Church Corner Dairy, but this proved to be difficult to manage when his wife suddenly died. He bought motels, and after a couple of years met Rae Magson from Ashburton. They married in 1994 and John settled into Ashburton. He managed this transition very well. John was a member of the Ashburton Rotary Club, which he loved, and a member of the St David's Union Church. He also enjoyed activities of the Clan Cameron, especially attending the Hororata Highland Games. His mother was a Menzies, and his grandmother was a McLachlan. He admitted to having an alcohol problem while in the Army, but for thirty years afterwards was "dry", a proud achievement. In his later years he had a stroke, this left him with dementia, and then in December he became ill. The last two years of his life were lived in a resthome, but Rae lived nearby. He died on 6 March 2019 and is buried in the Ashburton Cemetery.

Rex Alfred William Cameron 2.1.1939 - 3.2.2019



Loved Husband of Patricia and father of Bryan and Jane; Terry and Kay; Dennis and Lisa; Sheryl and Andrew; Rachelle and Rob. 9 grandchildren and

2 great grandsons. He served as Clan piper and Vice President of the Bay of Plenty Branch for many years.

'Rex was born in 1939 and brought upon the Cameron farm at KIWITAHU, the eldest of four. After marrying Patricia in 1961, they moved to their own farm in Tokoroa, working hard and bringing up their five children.

Rex was a valued member of many clubs and organisations in Tokoroa, pipe bands, motorcycles, Jaycees and Lions. Always willing to lend a hand to help out whether it be with tools, piping or supporting, Rex loved to be involved. He was proud of his Scottish heritage, shown with his talents of playing the pipes, wearing a kilt and drinking whisky. A member of Clan Cameron New Zealand, he also befriended a lot of Scottish immigrants to Tokoroa and made them feel most welcome.

Retiring at Pukehina Beach in 2003, it wasn't long before Rex was involved in the community and both Rex and Patricia have many good friends here. In recent years they have travelled to Europe, spending time in Wales, and tripped around New Zealand briefly in their campervan.

His family are very proud to have Rex as our chieftan and will miss his great personality very much.'

(Transcribed from the service sheet.)

Coming Events:

Easter Saturday 20 April and Easter Sunday 21 April 2019

The Hawke's Bay Highland Games
Lindisfarne College, Pakowhai Road, Hastings
Look for the Cameron Tent.

Saturday 10 August 2019
Manawatu Branch Annual Dinner
Wharerata Function Centre, Massey University, Palmerston North.

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. Quality Hotel
10.30am Morning Tea
11am. Annual General Meeting
12.30pm. Lunch

Sunday 7 April. 6pm. for 6.30pm. Clan Dinner. Quality Hotel
9am. Church Service in Naval Base Chapel
9.50am. Walking tour of Naval Base
10.30am. Visit to HMNZS Canterbury
11.45am. Early Lunch at Navy Museum.

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.

Since the last report we have participated in the Paeroa Highland Games. Neil and Vice President Rob Cameron drove down from Auckland and with the help of Auckland member Rex Garland, who lives in Paeroa, had the new tent erected in quick time.



A new lay out for the Clan tents was tried this year, with the idea that the tents would face the main arena, but it didn't really work well and I believe fewer people visited the tent than in the past.

Tanya Cameron and Ian Martin from the Bay of Plenty Branch joined us for the day and were a great help in answering the questions of those people who did visit us. Thank you Tanya and Ian.

We have been very busy working towards the Annual Gathering and AGM, for which we are the hosts. A full programme has been arranged over the weekend. We look forward to seeing you here.

It is disappointing that so few Camerons from other Branches have indicated they will be attending.

On Sunday 24 March we will be holding our Branch AGM, followed by a barbecue.

In his annual report, to be presented at our Branch AGM, President Norman comments on our many activities over the past year, which included a very successful dinner, a boat cruise to the Riverhead Tavern, a visit to a Highland Cattle Farm hosted by James and Fay Cameron and a Pre - Christmas lunch in Devonport. We also attended the Kirkin' O' the Tartan service in St. Andrews Church and Highland Games in Waipu, Paeroa and Auckland for which our new tent was a great asset.

Norman concludes his report by thanking the committee for their support over the year.

Bay of Plenty by Tanya Cameron

Clan Cameron NZ Bay of Plenty Branch has had a relaxing break over the summer.



The Annual Paeroa Games were well attended and Neil Cameron, Ian Martin and I were kept busy. Rob Cameron from Auckland was able to call in from time to time in between competing and help us out. There seemed to be less Clan tents there this year which was disappointing to see, but understandable with our continuing low numbers in our own Clan events.

The Bay of Plenty Branch had our pot luck lunch at Denis and Joy Cameron's Papamoa home with a very small attendance of Cameron's including my own family. Thank you again for opening your home to us. Although there were many of the same faces there, it was nice to meet casually for a catch up.

Recently our Bay of Plenty Clan Cameron secretary Patricia Cameron lost her husband Rex Cameron and the memorial I attended on our Clans behalf, along with others from the Clan was amazing. There were around 200 there

from all over the country, and all areas of Rex's life, to show their support for Patricia, Rex and their family.

Rex, after marrying Patricia went farming in Tokoroa, had five children and was a valued member of pipe bands, motorcycles, Jaycees and Lions there before retiring to Pukehina beach. Rex was proud of his Scottish heritage and he was a wonderful addition to Clan Cameron Bay of Plenty branch. He and Patricia were some of the continuing few who were always available to put in time and effort to our events. We will miss him and send our condolences to the family and our continuing support. See you soon Pat.

Our AGM will be held, as always, mid June with the date being advised in the next magazine. See you all at the Gathering in Auckland in April; I know it will be great.

Iar by Shona Wallace

Clan Cameron Iar is having a Haggis night and gathering on March 30th with eminent scientist Dr Jaqueline Rowarth speaking on genetics. We are hoping for a good turnout. We will hold our AGM in April. It is still very hot and dry in South Taranaki with most people looking forward to cooler weather.



Our thoughts and sympathy are extended to the Muslim community in Christchurch after the horrific tragedy, Hawera Hospital lost a wonderful, caring Doctor and our sympathy is especially extended to his family.

Manawatu by Anne Walker

The AGM of Clan Manawatu was held at Mt Lees Reserve, near Feilding, on Sunday 17th February. It was a beautiful summer's day and members, family and friends who attended enjoyed a brief and informative AGM, followed by a shared potluck luncheon and opportunity to enjoy a bushwalk in the Mt Lees Reserve. All committee officers were elected. The President, Russell Cameron, provided a good overview of our busy year of activity. The next focus for the Clan Committee is preparation for the mid-winter dinner, which will be held at Wharerata Function Centre, Massey University, Palmerston North, on Saturday 10th August. A focus for this year is to grow the membership of the Clan in our region. Clan Cameron Manawatu will be represented at the April AGM in Auckland by Clan Cameron Manawatu Vice-President, John Cameron.



Wellington/Wairarapa by Graeme Cameron

On Sunday 17 February 2019, The Wellington-Wairarapa Branch held a lunch at Lake Ferry Hotel on the South Wairarapa coast. It was a lovely fine day and the views across the lake and to the open sea were outstanding. Thirteen members or friends enjoyed lunch but due to a dog issue we would have had another 4 members attend. Not included in the photograph were two friends of the Clan, David and Gail McLean. (Photo on page 6)



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.



Robbie Burns

Burns Supper in Fort William

Photo by Iain Ferguson of The Write Image

The Lochaber Burns Club held their annual Burns Supper on the bard's birthday this year in the Ben Nevis Distillery - a venue to which Robbie himself would no doubt have given his approval!

First Lighter Bill Cameron is the president of this club and is here shown with members prior to the haggis ceremony.

Note Bill's possum sporran - as Bill says "brought up in New Zealand and fashioned in Scotland."

DNA in Genealogy

By David Weston Clan Historian and Genealogist

Clan Cameron members will have read about the Clan Cameron Y DNA project from Jo Cameron's articles. This project focuses on the links between the different Clan Cameron septs/cadet lines so linking people into which one they belong to.



Unless you are into researching your own ancestors you may not be aware of the other ways it has been used by genealogists. Many people now take DNA tests so they can find ancestors that cannot be located by other research because they are not named on records or where records are very limited. For example if a child was illegitimate there is often no record of the father.

By taking a DNA test and putting the results, along with a copy of your family tree, onto a number of family history web sites, such as Ancestry, My Heritage or Family Tree DNA, the sites will come up with possible cousin matches based on the

amount of DNA each share. The more DNA people have in common the closer their relationship.

Using these tools people have now been able to work out with a good degree of certainty who that unknown father was. Obviously it also allows you to identify cousins you may not have known about because they stayed in the UK while your family moved to New Zealand or Australia.

As part of my work I meet with adopted people trying to find out about their birth parents. In many cases while they can locate their birth mother from available records often the father is not named. Many adoptees are now turning to DNA testing to see if they can identify their paternal birth family by this means. As they already have located their birth mother's family they can identify DNA matches where there are no obvious links to her family and thus try and find close paternal links.

Certainly DNA testing is becoming big business in a very short period of time and can be a useful tool for those who are researching their family tree. If people are interested in finding out more there is a website, <https://www.genie1.com.au/>, which gives a good introduction to the subject and leads on to more in depth information.



New Zealand Camerons at the 2009 Achnacarry Gathering
Will you be there in 2020?

Wellington / Wairarapa Lunch see page 4



From Left: John Thompson, Graeme Cameron, Warren Cameron, Lorraine Cameron, Hazel Cameron, Cath Cameron, Jan Thompson, Shirley-Anne Thomson, Rex Wood, Erina Wood, Rob Cameron

The MS Serenissima Adventure -Scotland

By John and Lynne Cameron (Australia)

This is the first instalment of the 'adventure expedition' John and Lynne Cameron experienced following the two years of planning and organising "The Gathering" in Australia.



MS Serenissima at anchor – Village Bay, Hirta.

The twelve days on the Atlantic Ocean and North Sea, among the islands off the west coast of Scotland, left us with special memories, even to the point of thinking that living permanently at sea could capture the best of all worlds.

As background, 'small ship expeditions' allow visits to remote places where larger vessels cannot go. Small ships such as the Serenissima (maximum 100 'adventurers') provide personal, special and on-board comforts, along with professionally organised expeditions each day to remote places. Experts on-board included botanists, historians, biologists, geologists, environmentalists and zoologists. Each expert gave excellent lectures on things of interest following each daily 'landing' via Zodiac.

We went ashore on many remote islands. This feature is a brief look at the far flung Atlantic archipelago of Scotland ... the four islands of St Kilda. These tops of a ring of volcanoes are reported to be around 63 million years old.

Approaching St Kilda Archipelago – Atlantic Ocean. St Kilda is well known for its dramatic sea cliffs, profuse populations of seabirds and its ancient breed of sheep – the Soay. This breed is believed to be a true relic from as early as the bronze age.



In 1930, the last 36 residents requested evacuation to the mainland. Temporary residents now include National Trust for Scotland (NTS), Ministry of Defence, volunteers and scientific staff.

How did we get from the MS Serenissima, that has to anchor in deep water, to the shores of remote islands such as St Kilda? The vessel has six Zodiacs

that take 10 'adventurers' and one very experienced coxswain. Two fit and strong support staff ensure nobody ends up in the water when boarding.

Zodiac loaded and about to depart to the shore - St Kilda, Village Bay.

The first impressions of St Kilda village is the row of abandoned stone houses, cleits, and the ancient soay sheep. Cleits were used as stores and housed processed seabirds, eggs and turf ready for winter and export. The stone fence in the background was to keep the soay sheep away from the village.

Soay sheep, whose fleece falls off naturally as summer



The abandoned village of Hirta. One house is the museum. Volunteer staff live in others.

approaches, are the wild ancestors of domestic sheep. They are remarkably agile and sure footed, well suited to steepcliffs. Following lectures from a historian, a botanist and a geologist and an outline for plans for the next day.... and yet another sumptuous meal, we said farewell to Hirta and the St Kilda Group.



Adult and child - Soay sheep.

Adventurers retired in anticipation of waking to see the Orkney group of islands on the horizon after Serenissima sailed, during the night, north east for over two hundred miles across the Atlantic

To be concluded

Thanks to the editor of Clan Cameron Australia News and to John and Lynne Cameron for permission to re-produce this article

Achnagauna: A Sense of Place - Part 2

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)

**TABLE 2. Big John and Janet's two lists of children;
Scotland's People OPR Database vis-à-vis the Blenheim's 1840 Passenger List.**

SCOTLANDSPEOPLE			BLENHEIM PASSENGER LIST				COMMENTS
No	FORENAME [OPR 4-digit Ref & Parish name]	D of B (dd/mm/yyyy) Birthplace	No	FORENAME	Stated Age	D of B (deduced by RGC)	<i>Notes and occupations written in the passenger list are in italics. Other notes are mine (RGC).</i>
	NOTE: No OPR birth reg- istration	Circa.1790 Born in In- ver Mallie, married in Morvern: 03/06/1806		John 'Mòr' CAMERON ['Big' John]	49	c.1790	* John was earlier thought to have understated his age by 11 years. In the light of recent data on his father Angus, this is closer to reality. * <i>Letters of recommendation from Sheriff Gregorson and his parish priest</i> (ie John, b.1776) * <i>Labourer</i>
	NOTE: No OPR birth reg- istration	Circa 1789 (if 17 at mar- riage), perhaps born on Island of Lismore		Janet McGREGOR	44	c.1788	* Janet reduced her age by about 7 years. * See Note B below regarding Janet's records. Assuming Janet to be 17 & not 20 when married, this would still leave her being 46 at the birth of her last child in 1835.
1	Alexander [19 16 Morvern]	21/12/1808 Born in Drim- in, ph of Morvern (all subsequent births in parish of Morvern)		---			* Did not sail on the <i>Blenheim</i> in 1840. * Four Alexander Cameron(s) were married in the parish of Morvern between 1828 & 1840, but without parental data the search stops here. * His naming does not follow the protocol of naming the first male child after the paternal grandfather - ie Angus (Notes 1 & 5 below). * Big John's status is listed as a "Resident" in the OPR.
2	Donald [10 20 Morvern]	11/08/1810 Born in Drim- in.		---			Did not sail on the <i>Blenheim</i> in 1840. * Big John is listed as a "Resident" in the OPR.
3	Lachlan [10 4 Morvern]	18/06/1812 Born in "Achlinan"		---			Did not sail on the <i>Blenheim</i> in 1840. * Big John is a "Crofter" in OPR. * "Achlinan" is now Achleanan.
4	Cirsty [10 28 Morvern]	01/05/1814 Born in Drim- in.		---			Did not sail on the <i>Blenheim</i> in 1840. * Record of a Cirsty Cameron marry- ing a Duncan Livingstone in Drimmin in 1848. Both listed at Savary in 1841 Census (Map 1). * Big John is a "Resident" in OPR.
5	John [10 31 Morvern]	06/01/1816 Born in 'Achnagauna',	1	John	26	1814	<i>Ploughman</i> * Big John is listed as a "Resident" in OPR.
-	---	--- [Possibly 28/02/1816 - see Note C below]	2	Angus	24	c.1816	<i>Labourer</i> * Between 1814 & 1818, 3 'Angus Camerons' were born in Morvern but none registered to John and Janet. 23 'Angus Camerons' were registered as born in Scotland in the same period but none registered to a John and Janet (see Note 'C' below).
6	'John' [20 04 Morvern]	14/09/1820 Born in 'Achnagauna'.	3	Charles [The 'Commodore']	20	1820	<i>Labourer</i> * The registers show the erasure and overwriting of 'Charles' name with 'John'. * Big John is a "Resident" in OPR..

7	Duncan [20 08 Morvern]	23/02/1823 Born in 'Achnagauna'	4	Duncan	17	1823	<i>Cowherd</i> * Big John is a "Residenter" in OPR.
8	Alan [20 15 Morvern]	19/09/1825 Born in 'Achnagauna'	5	Allan	15	1825	<i>Cowherd</i> * Big John is a "Crofter" in OPR
9	Anne [20 25 Morvern]	23/03/1828 Born in 'Achnagauna'	6	Ann	12	1828	* Big John is a "Residenter" in OPR.
10	(Blank space) [20 38 Morvern]	27/03/1831 Born in 'Achnagauna'	7	Archibald	9	1831	*The register shows a long space for the intended name to be written at a later date. Big John and Janet never got around to later have "Archibald" written here. Also Janet is written as "Jenet" in the digital data base for this entry, so this entry did not come up in earlier searches. * Big John has no status description in OPR.
11	Dugald [20 47 Morvern]	15/06/1833 Born in 'Achnagauna'	8	Dugald	7	1833	*. Big John is a "Crofter" in OPR
12	'Mary' [20 53 Morvern]	09/07/1835 Born in Achrnich	9	Marjory	5	1835	* Big John is described as a "Labourer" in OPR.

ACHNAGAUNA - THE FOUR STAYERS.

The 'stayers': So, there were 4 adult children at the time of sailing (25/08/1840) who chose not to emigrate on the *Blenheim* in 1840: Alexander (then 31 years, 8 months), Donald (then 30 years), Lachlan (then 28 years, 2 months) and Cirsty (26 years, 3 months) (ages calculated using www.timeanddate.com).

I searched the OPRs for possible infant deaths for any of the first four children for the first 20 years of each of their lives - and drew a 'nil' result for all four names. My conclusion: they all survived.

1. Alexander: He was probably named after his paternal great grandfather Alexander Cameron, Tacksman of Invermallie from ?1762 to 1804. Usually, back then, the first-born son is named after his paternal grandfather - here purportedly Angus (see 5 below).

2. Donald: There were 5 Donald Camerons married in Morvern between 1825 and 1841. So, in a similar manner to Alexander, without OPR parental data, our search stops here. Census results for Morvern show 7 Donald Camerons in the 1841 list and 3 Donalds in the 1851 list. To date, another dead end.

3. Lachlan: There was only 1 Lachlan Cameron born in Morvern from 1810 to 1814 ('our' Lachlan) and only 1 Lachlan Cameron married in Morvern between 1830 and 1845 (to Mary Cameron on 31 Jan. 1831). They are listed as living on "Carna Isle" (in Loch Sunart) in the 1841 census, but then disappear entirely from both the 1851 and 1861 Scottish censuses. No Lachlan Camerons are recorded as having died between 1841 and 1851 in either county of Argyll or Inverness - so, did he also emigrate at some other time?

4. Cirsty: No Cirstys were recorded as born in the county of Inverness from 1800 to 1825 but in the same time frame there were 5 in Argyll and 3 of those were in the parish of Morvern. There is no record of a Cirsty Cameron dying anywhere in Scotland from 1814 to 1841. The only record of

a Cirsty Cameron marrying in Morvern is to a Duncan Livingstone (9 Feb 1848, when she was 34). Earlier, in the 1841 Census, there is a Duncan Livingstone (35) and a Cirsty Cameron (26) living in close proximity in the nearby hamlet of Savary on Morvern's coast (see Map 1). Her stated age of 26 is close to her calculated age of 27 years 1 month. Neither person appears in either the 1851 or the 1861 census (as a married couple) - so did they emigrate too?

5. And here we need to have a word about Angus, Big John's father: Whilst we still lack OPR data on Angus, there are contemporary records of an Angus Cameron taking legal action in Fort William against his father Alexander in 1803 and 1806 (Doak, *pers comm.*, 2016 - ie Clan Cameron Association historian in Glasgow). In 1805, an Angus Cameron was also taking legal action against other Camerons in the Fort William area. Then, in 1823, Angus Cameron again appears in court actions that involved his father Alexander, who seemingly had to go surety (... *a Bond of Caution* ...) for Angus to the tune of £111. So, was Angus Cameron *persona non grata* to the rest of the Cameron Clan? Was he a 'difficult' clan member? Did Big John effectively 'disown' him by not naming his first son after his father? Other court records (*ibid.*) from the era suggest that, well before his death, Alexander did not distribute his money evenly amongst his children and that Angus seemingly missed out whilst his eldest brother Captain Alexander Cameron (of Suriname fame) got the lion's share. Moreover, Angus did not stay out of court even after his emigration to Suriname (Levysohn *et al*, 1843). On the 22 March 1843, he was in court in Paramaribo in Suriname contesting aspects of an estate with his nephew William Mackintosh (who installed the table-top tomb on Alexander and Elizabeth MacBean's grave in Kilmallie Cemetery). Angus finally died in Paramaribo on 31 Aug 1854 at the reported age of 90 (*Inverness Courier*, Thu. 26 Oct. 1854, p.8).

To be continued.

The Bee Above The Door

Part 2

By Bill Cameron

The MacInnes Clan can be traced back many centuries living in and around West Lochaber. It is likely that John MacInnes had family connections to Morvern and was rightly proud of his long established family history.

In utilising his family crest above the door to The Stores, John deviated from using the traditional Gaelic inscription, instead opting for a single Latin word. Underlining the thistle is a wooden ribbon-like band with the Latin word 'Industria' written on its surface. The Latin definition of this word relates to hard work, and also makes a link to the traditional MacInnes Gaelic motto.

Working long hours in his various jobs for over twenty five years at The Stores, it seems that John - and Annabella, were looking for a better, or maybe slightly easier way of life. To this end they followed in the footsteps of Annabella's brother, Mr MacAskill who had emigrated to minister in America. The MacInnes family sold off most of their possessions and boarded the SS Southwark in Glasgow on June 25th 1910, bound initially for Quebec, then onwards to San Francisco.

Leaving the community they had grown up in, as well as the house in which John had been brought up. They took a big risk in searching for a way of life that might be easier on the other side of the Pond. The only thing they left behind was the MacInnes plaque that John had placed above the door to The Stores. This would be his legacy to Nether Lochaber and the Clan MacInnes-both ancestors and descendants.

John was registered as being 49 years old when he emigrated to America. In actual fact he was 59. He kept up this pretence for the rest of his life. It's not quite clear why this was, possibly to make immigration requirements easier.

John and Annabella stayed initially with her brother who had also emigrated to America. They lived in the Santa Cruz area. We don't know too much about what John and Annabella intended to do in America. He applied for permanent residency in 1917, seven years after arriving in the country. This official document makes for interesting reading, as it gives some details of the man himself and his life at that time.

His name is given as John McAlpin MacInnes, aged 56, when in fact he was 66, as he continued to take ten years off his age. Residing at Oakland California, he is described as being white, with a fair complexion, brown hair and blue eyes. He was five foot and five inches in height and weighed 130 pounds. In the section noting any distinctive features, it states that part of his left ear was missing. His occupation was given as a night watchman

It states that John was married to Annabella. However, they were living at different addresses, John in Oakland, and Annabella in Santa Cruz with her brother's family. Sadly it turns out that the couple had divorced earlier that year. This was an unusual occurrence as they were both in their mid 60s.

Within the official document quoted below, it asks the individual to renounce all their former allegiances to Britain if they wanted to become a citizen of the United States of America.

"It is my bona fide intention to renounce forever all fidelity to any foreign prince or potentate state or sovereignty and particularly to George V King of Great Britain of whom I am now a subject."

There is a sad touch of irony in this declaration, as a

number of years earlier John was very proud to have been patronised by Royalty when he sold a good number of items to King Edward over a number of years from The Stores at Onich. Yet here he was, signing away any allegiance to the King.

Unfortunately, it seems that the grass was not greener on the other side of the pond for John. He appears to have fallen on hard times after his divorce from Annabella. He was employed as a night watchman for a number of years and shortly before his death, was employed as a retail assistant within a department store - returning to his first occupation. He died on the 21st of September 1920 in Alameda California at the age of sixty-nine. His resting place remains unknown at this time.

Annabella was employed as a nurse for a number of years from looking at the 1930 census record. She was cared for by her relatives, although in her later years she is recorded as living in the Laguna Honda Home. She died there on the 29th of October 1941 and was buried in the family plot at Odd Fellows Cemetery in Santa Cruz. Her obituary was recorded in the Santa Cruz Evening News in which her three nieces were mentioned.

The MacKinnon family at The Stores 1910-1920

John and Annabella MacInnes sold the Stores when they left for America to John MacKinnon in 1910. John had worked previously as a shopkeeper in Invergarry and together with his sister Margaret, they operated The Stores as a general store much like John and Annabella had done previously.

A black and white photograph of Margaret MacKinnon has survived from around 1910. It shows her as an elegant lady in her twenties standing alongside the entrance to The Stores with the MacInnes plaque clearly seen above the door. This image also shows that the MacKinnon family were still operating as Registrar's for the Nether Lochaber area. On the right hand side window you can make out a series of clothes on display, as well as postcards of Highland views. These indicate how the shop was now catering for more visitors to the area.

It's believed that the MacKinnon's also took over the house next to The Stores.

It was here that Margaret Mackinnon met the local policeman, Simon MacDonald, who was staying just along the road in a cottage in Onich village. They would go on to marry in 1913 and move up to the Cannich area where Simon continued to work as a policeman. Margaret and Simon had one child. Two of their grandchildren, Agnes Cameron and Margaret O'Donnell would go on to make Lochaber their home in later life. Both Margaret and Agnes worked as primary school teachers in schools across Lochaber.

I am grateful to both Marg and Agnes for providing an insight into their grandmother's and grand uncle's time at The Stores.

The Cameron family at The Stores. 1920 to the present day.

In 1920 the MacKinnons sold The Stores to Angus and Catherine Cameron.

Two years after the end of the First World War, the country was still struggling to get back on its feet, so not an easy time for this young couple to set up in business when people didn't have a lot of money to spend on provisions.

Angus Cameron had come from a large family at Gobshellach Farm near Acharacle. He had been part of the military campaign in Gallipoli during the First World War with The Royal Artillery. On his return to Scotland he served his time as a master grocer with Liptons in Oban. Here he learned how to cut and bone butcher meat, as well as acquiring the knowledge of how to keep a store well stocked and meeting the

customers' ever changing needs.

Catherine was brought in Onich Village. The family home was called Woodlands, a solid stone two-storey property alongside the old Onich Post Office. Her father Seamus Cameron worked as the harbour master at the pier on Loch Leven. Her mother Ann hailed from Oban. Catherine was one of six children - Jean, Kirsty, Mary, Calum and James.

Taking on this established business with his new wife, Catherine, in 1920, Angus initially set up in partnership with his brother, Duncan Cameron.

In one of the earliest photographs of the Stores taken during the Cameron years, it shows the shop sign – "D&A Cameron, Provision Merchants" clearly above the MacInnes plaque at the Stores. This business partnership would only last a couple of years, as Duncan would move on to another line of work near Glasgow.

Angus and Catherine continued to run The Stores initially by themselves, then with their family for the next seventy-nine years.

With an ever-growing number of motor cars on the roads in the 1920s, Angus had the foresight to install two Shell petrol and diesel pumps out in front of The Stores. This venture encouraged more people to stop in at The Stores after they had filled up their vehicles.

As well as running the day to day business, Angus and Catherine went on to have a family of three boys: Angus, Hamish and Alexander.

The family stayed initially in the upper storey above the stores itself, before they bought the adjoining house next to The Stores.

The Stores continued to diversify by selling a wide range of grocery supplies, as well as not so common items such as gas, paraffin, grain and other agricultural products required by customers in the surrounding villages. Angus would also deliver groceries and papers down to North Ballachulish and Kinlochleven a number of times each week.

The small garden at the front of the house was always kept in good order with fine displays of coloured plants as well as an array of small animal ornaments, including some colourful little gnomes. The façade of the Stores was freshened up annually during the summer months. The walls were painted white and the window surrounds were neatly finished in black gloss. Paint was also added to the MacInnes plaque above the door. This included applying lavish coats of green paint on the thistle leaves, purple on the flower and a combination of yellow and black on the small bumble bee. The little banner below was latterly painted pillar box red.

As the Cameron family grew up, the three boys attended the nearby Onich Primary School, then on to Fort William Senior Secondary School. They were also involved in helping out their mother and father with work on the croft, the shop and serving fuel.

Angus senior would go on to be a Justice of the Peace for the Nether Lochaber area.

At the outbreak of war in 1939 all three of the Cameron boys would go off to serve in the war overseas. This would no doubt have been a worrying time for Angus and Catherine, as they didn't know if they would see their three boys again. Thankfully, Angus, Hamish and Alexander would all return

home safely after the war.

As the boys went off to find their way in the world, they would follow different paths in life. Angus would go on to work in the British Aluminium factory in one of the laboratories.

Hamish went to work for a number of years after the war in Malaysia.

Alexander worked for Bulloch Lade whisky as a salesman operating across the west coast.

The Stores continued to be run by Angus and Catherine up until Angus's death at the age of 74 in December 1970. At this point Angus junior would take on his father's role at The Stores helping his mother operate The Stores up until her death, aged 85, in January 1980.

From 1980 Angus and his wife Rosemary ran the Stores which continued to diversify with the petrol pumps being relocated over to the other side of the road, as well as a number of other ventures including vehicle insurance and a taxi service.

Angus, Rosemary and their children Ann Marie, Catriona and Angus all helped out with the running of the Stores, croft and The Filling Station. The Stores had very much become a hub for the community over these years.

When Angus passed away in 1994, Rosemary, Ann Marie and Catriona continued to operate The Stores and The Filling Station. Angus by this time was working at the Aluminium factory in Kinlochleven, although he continued to work the croft behind The Stores, as well as croft land in North Ballachulish.

As larger petrol stations opened up in Fort William, namely Morrisons, The Filling Station bore the brunt of low cost fuel becoming available in Fort William and so a decision was made by the family to close it.

In 1997 The Stores would also close its doors for the last time after 135 years of serving the Onich community, as well as the many visitors who stopped in over the decades as they made their way along the A82.

Throughout all these years the MacInnes plaque remained above the door to The Stores long after John MacInnes had it made back in the 1870s.

After The Stores closed, the building remained dormant for a year or two before it was demolished. Fortunately Rosemary Cameron had the foresight to ask the builders to keep the MacInnes plaque and put it in the byre at the other end of the building for safekeeping.

As The Stores were mainly constructed out of wood, the façade and roof trusses were easily disposed of, and the Ballachulish slates were saved and reused on new stone building constructed on the same foot print as the original Stores. This was designed as a new holiday home with two bedrooms, a lounge, kitchen and bathroom.

The exterior of the building has been designed to fit in very closely to the adjoining original house. This has proved to be a successful business operated by Catriona Cameron.



The Stores at Onich, 1910

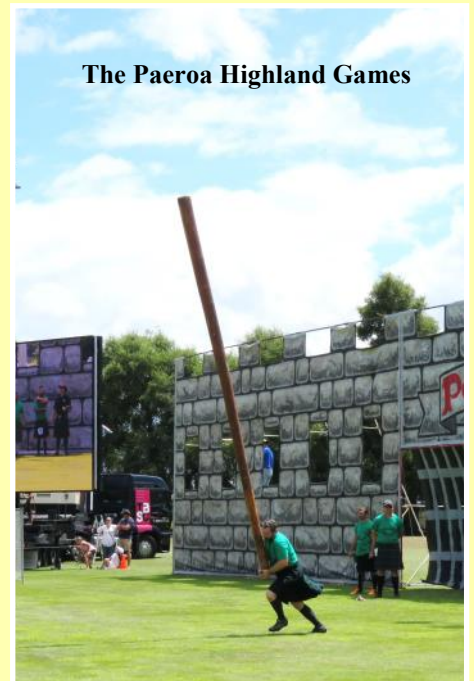


To be concluded in the next issue.



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The Back Page



The Paeroa Highland Games



Rob Cameron, Tanya Cameron and Ian Martin at the Paeroa Highland Games. At the tent and Tanya and Ian preparing for the Clan March



Three great-grandchildren of Dorothy Cameron-Gavin, life member and former Clan Historian of Clan Cameron New Zealand. Left: Dane and Lily, children of granddaughter Lauren Gavin-Young. Right: Isabella, daughter of grandson Benjamin Gavin-Young.



Manawatu Branch AGM at Mt. Lees. Front: John Cameron and Ewen Grant. Seated Middle: Dean and Jo Cameron, Jessie Annabell, Harry Lampen-Smith, Anne Walker. Standing Back: Russell Cameron, Roz Grant, Bryan and Barbara Barber, Nigel Long, Alison Jarden