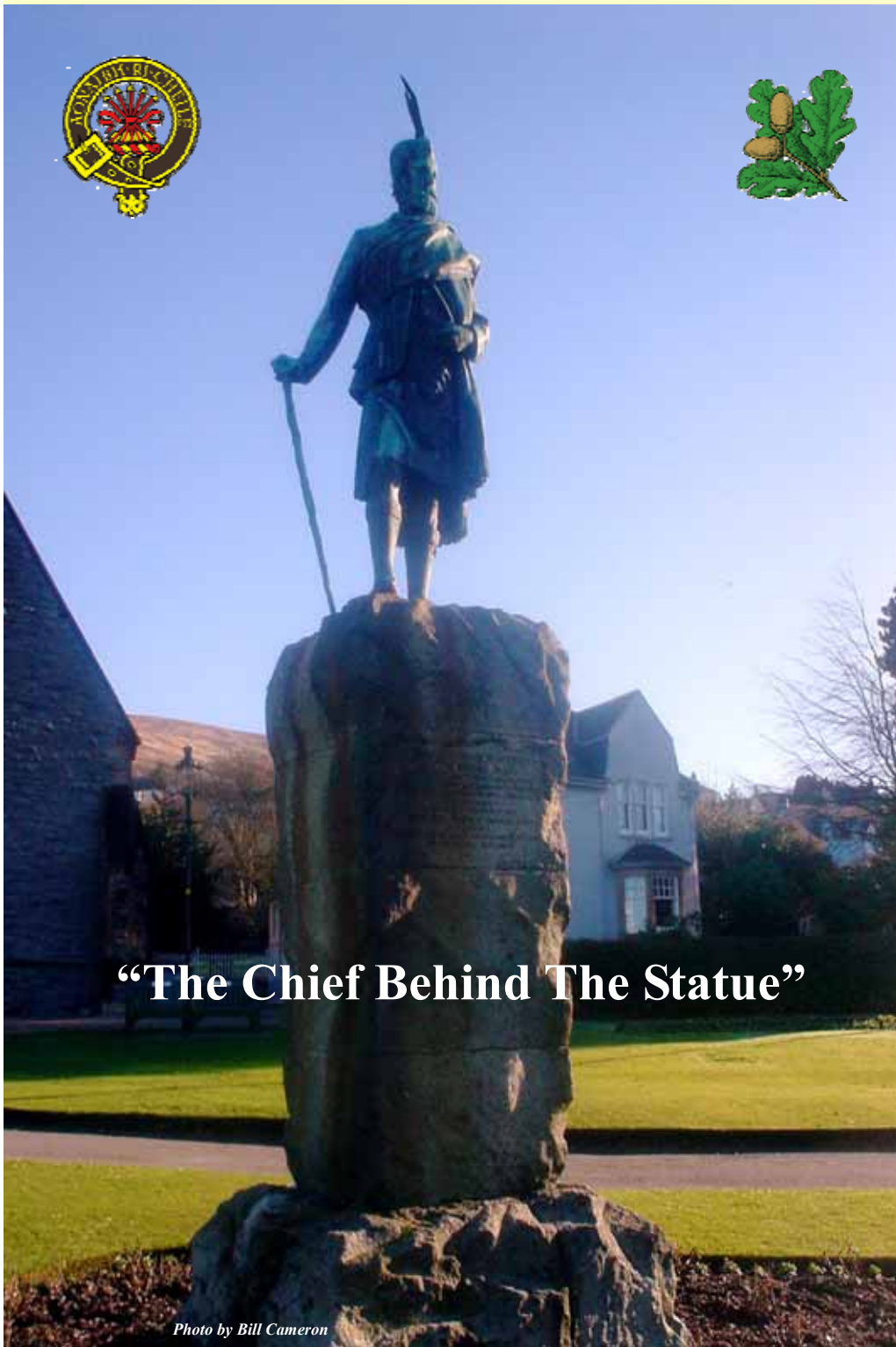


◆ Cameron ◆

Volume 41, Issue 5

October 2007



“The Chief Behind The Statue”

Photo by Bill Cameron



The 24th Chief by J. Cameron 1894



Achnacarry

Renovations to the Castle (above) and Old Stable Building (below) are well underway

Photos by Bill Cameron



The 2009 Gathering - Have you registered your interest?

- see Page 4

Bay of Plenty Branch Gathering

On Sunday September 2nd – we journeyed to Opotiki to arrive at 10.30am to be met by President Fraser and Elaine with a very welcome cup of tea and muffins.

Present: Fraser & Elaine Cameron; Joy & Denis Cameron; Patricia & Rex Cameron; Helen & Phil Renner; Patricia Duncan; Hazel Cameron; Karen Carmichael; Harold & Betty Cameron; Ray & Janet Crafts. (*see photo back page*)

President Fraser welcomed us all to the day and hoped that we would enjoy the programme that had been arranged for us.

The weather turned out a lovely sunny day, with a warm temperature, so that after a very nice pot luck luncheon, we proceeded to the Opotiki Wharf to view the improvements that had been made. It is envisaged that in the future Charter Boats would call in to take people out on fishing trips or guided tours and mussel farming is being looked at as an option for the area.

We had a group photo taken for the record, and then visited the local museum to view the interesting items that are kept there, mostly of our grandparent's era, which created a lot of interest.

Fraser managed to contact the person in charge of the key to the new museum, a building of three stories high, not yet completed, but eventually will display all the wonderful and interesting items from the previous museum building.

We were able to view the bottom floor with machinery and tractors etc, and then go up to the top floor to see original photographs on stands, depicting Opotiki from the early 1900's.

All this work is done by volunteers, and we were most impressed by their efforts. There is still a lot of work yet to be done, but it will make a wonderful "place of memories" when it is completed.

We arrived back at the Opotiki Lodge hall to have a much needed cup of tea or coffee before we set off for home.

An old set of half – size bagpipes, that are dated 167 years of age, and came out on the *Blenheim*, which were made by David Glen & Sons, Edinburgh, were played by Rex Cameron and Ray Crafts also played a bracket of tunes.

Our thanks go to Fraser and Elaine for a very successful day.

by Patricia Cameron (Secretary)

Gisborne Luncheon

The Gisborne luncheon on 16 September was attended by eleven members and it was great to have Marion Lewes with us again.

The following were unable to attend and sent apologies: Kay and Don Orchiston, Seton and Pauline Clare, Allan Cameron, Beth and Bob Rampling, Alec and Rachel Cameron.

Denis gave a report on progress and plans for the 2008 Clan Cameron Annual General Meeting which is being held at Opotiki and arranged by Fraser Cameron.

It was good to be able to spend a time of friendship and fellowship together and Gisborne turned on beautiful sunny weather for the occasion.

by Mike Topham

See photo on back page

Hawkes Bay News

On Saturday 15th September, thirty six people gathered at the Quayside Restaurant, Ahuriri, Napier on a typically sunny Hawke's Bay day for a Clan Cameron luncheon. (*see photo on back page*)

We were piped into the Restaurant by our youthful piper Todd Mancer and introduced to our distinguished guests by Mike Topham.

Leading us was N.Z. Commissioner and President of Clan Cameron New Zealand, Denis Cameron and his wife Joy, together with Manawatu Branch President Joy Cameron and her husband Colin, Sonia MacKenzie, Commissioner of Clan MacKenzie New Zealand and Les Hewitt, Commissioner of Clan Johnston New Zealand, and Harry and Mary Lampen-Smith from Manawatu.

Together with members from the Hawkes Bay area we enjoyed a very nice lunch and were then addressed by Denis who encouraged as many as possible to consider going to the Clan Gathering at Achnacary, Scotland in July, 2009. Definite food for thought!

Joy then gave an informative address on our First Light Exchange Scheme which was of much interest, especially to those new members who had no knowledge of the scheme or the way in which it operated.

Sonia MacKenzie then told us about the Scottish exhibition being held at Te Papa Museum Wellington and recommended this as being very worthwhile visiting. Sonia is on the team responsible for the staging of the Scottish display.

Raffles were held to raise funds for the First Light Scheme and there were some very happy recipients. A group photograph was taken and after a chat over tea or coffee the afternoon came to an end.

It was so good to have Colin Cameron from Palmerston North with us and looking well. Colin had driven up from Palmerston that day which was a good test for him after his recent illness.

To Shane East – thank you so much for all the work you so willingly put in to arrange the luncheon. Everyone who attended the friendly meeting had a thoroughly good time.

by Mike Topham

First Light Update

Kim has concluded her stay in Scotland. Before she left a combined ceilidh was held for her and for Margaret's daughter, who was recently married. Kim has just been back to Lochaber with her parents who are meeting all those who were so kind to her. Bill reports that they had an enjoyable meal with Margaret, Shona and himself at the Smiddy Restaurant in Spean Bridge.

Kim is now back in London where she has been offered a three month internship with a multi-national company as a trainee executive.

Kim will be back in New Zealand in time to attend the AGM in Opotiki and will also be visiting branches.

by Mary Barber

Welcome to the following Members who have recently joined us:



Bay of Plenty Branch

Ann Jackson (Omokoroa)
Tony and Shannon Cameron (Papamoa)

Canterbury Branch

Glenys Wooley (Blenheim)
Brian Cameron (Ashburton)

Hawkes Bay Chapter

Robert and Robyn Stout (Hastings)

Auckland Branch

Adam Cameron Claydon (Te Awamutu)

Auckland News

Auckland Branch Annual Winter Dinner

Rising costs may mean the Auckland branch will have to leave their favourite dinner venue, the harbourside Romfords establishment (the Tamaki Yacht Club headquarters in the summer) so the dinner on August 18 will have provided a fitting farewell.

Mid-winter winds coming off the Waitemata harbour can chill the Camerons and other clan members and friends, so the free mulled wine available on arrival always gave the dinner a warm and lively start. Alas, change of ownership is likely to take the mulled wine off the free list, so the Auckland clan committee is hunting for possible new venues.

The Clan Cameron New Zealand president Denis Cameron, and his wife Joy, headed the guest list, which also included Murdock McDonald, president of the Scottish Clans Association Auckland District and his wife Lois.

Special guests included John and Shiela Graham -- John recently stepped down from the presidency of the New Zealand Rugby Union, and is a former headmaster of Auckland Grammar School.

Shiela is of McGregor stock, with her ancestors coming from Galashiels in the Borders.

A welcome addition was John Cameron who led the singing splendidly, helped by Moira Neal who managed to make a sometimes off-key piano mind its manners.

The Cameron version of the Trapp musical family of past fame -- the three young McQueens, reared by Duncan and Jean, and grandchildren of Neil, past president of Auckland and commissioner of Clan Cameron New Zealand, and Ruth -- were splendid entertainers.

Sarah, the youngest, has been a regular and rapidly improving dancer at Cameron dinners, followed by her older brother Andrew, an accomplished piper. This time Matthew, a most promising drummer, completed the trio -- Matthew in combination with Glen Rodgers, a leading senior drummer and drum instructor for the St Kentigern College pipe band.

Matthew and Andrew joined Bryan Haggitt, son of committee man Bryan Haggitt, and Aidan Cameron, grand-nephew of the branch president, in the haggis ceremony -- Bryan making a stirring address.

Valmar and Diana Cameron extracted just under \$400 for the First Light funds from raffle-ticket buyers, one of the prizes being a bottle of Glenmorangie donated by Margaret Cameron, the Lochaber convenor of First Light, when she attended the 2006 dinner.

by Donald Cameron



Cass and Hillary Hakaraia with Charlie Emery looking contemplative at the Auckland Branch dinner on 18 August

Scottish Clans Assn (Auckland District) Annual Dinner

Three weeks after the Cameron dinner, the Scottish Clans Association held their second dinner at Alexandra Park. This is set to become a looked forward to annual event. We were entertained by a recital from the Royal New Zealand Navy Pipes and Drums, which included some stirring nautical tunes, and a very interesting talk on the history of Saint Kentigern College by Warwick Bell, who has been associated with the college as pupil and master for fifty years.

K.N.C.



VALE Sir James Muir Cameron Fletcher, ONZ

Much has been written in the papers recently about the life and death of Sir James Fletcher. What was not mentioned was that he was a long time member of the Auckland branch of Clan Cameron. His mother was a Cameron and he was very proud of his Cameron lineage and very interested in Scottish history. His grandfather, James Muir Cameron, was a baker in Port Chalmers and later became Ship's Provender to the Union Steam Ship Company, headquartered in Dunedin. James Muir Cameron prospered and he retired at age 40, finally moving to Auckland in the 1920s.

From 'Clan Cameron New Zealand' by Dorothy Cameron-Gavin

A message from our President



Dear Clan Cameron Members

Joy and I would like to thank the members of the Auckland Branch, for their very warm welcome when we arrived at Romford's for the Annual Winter Dinner, 18th August. The evening was great with plenty of fine food, good company and a celebration of our Scottish Heritage.

With names like 'Fresh Achnacarry

Haggis with Neaps and Tatties' - how could it not be a grand evening.

The evening was well planned and we thoroughly enjoyed ourselves. We would like to congratulate Duncan McQueen [MC] for the way he kept the evening running so smoothly. In fact we have a lot to thank the McQueen family for, with Andrew [Piper], Sarah [Dancer] and Matthew [Drummer] to entertain us. We even saw young Cameron's at work, when Bryan Haggitt Junior, did 'The Address to the Haggis' with surety and aplomb. Bryan was ably supported by some other young clansmen. Our congratulations to President Don and his committee for a well run evening.

I would like to thank Margaret Cameron, for all her hard work as the co-ordinator for First Light in Lochaber, making sure that First Light really does work. Nine years is a long time, and we have much to thank her for in ensuring that the programme continues to grow and prosper.

Our First Lighter Kimberley Walker will be home shortly, and we thank her for her efforts as our representative, which she did with dignity and enthusiasm. Kimberley was such a great ambassador for New Zealand particularly in the way she promoted the concept of First Light in Lochaber.

While surfing the internet, I came upon the following information that I thought might **provoke** some interesting conversations?

What is a Cameron?

The name of Cameron is thought to be over one thousand years old. It is a name that comes from the country of Scotland. Many people, for many years have disagreed about what the name really means. There are two possibilities:

[1] "**Crooked Nose**": That's right, it may mean "crooked nose!" The name of Cameron has two "parts," both of them are in a Scottish language called Gaelic. The first part is "Cam," which means "crooked," "bent" or "hook". The second part is "shron," which means "nose". Together they make up the name "Camshron," which many people think is the real meaning behind the name of Cameron. Now you might be wondering why we call ourselves "crooked noses?" There is a very old story which says that the very first man by the name of "Camshron" was a Prince from another country who came to Scotland and lived in an area the Cameron's would eventually call their home, Lochaber, deep in the beautiful mountains of the Scottish Highlands. The story says that he had a very crooked nose. Another story says this "Camshron" wasn't a Prince, but a super - strong warrior who came to Lochaber to find a wife and to make a home. This "hero" married the daughter of one of the most important men in Lochaber and defended his family in many battles. This "Camshron" had a crooked nose from a fight with another

strong man, a friend, who hit him in the nose by mistake one day when they were goofing around. His nose was broken and when it finally got all better, it wound up being crooked.

[2] "**Crooked Hill**": The other possible meaning behind the name of Cameron also has two parts, "Cam," once again meaning "crooked," "bent" or "hook." The second part of this possible meaning is "brun," meaning "hill." The name, "Cambrun" was popular in an area of Scotland far away from the Highlands and Lochaber. This area called Fife, has many places named Cameron [and many "crooked" hills!] and is now thought to be a possible meaning for the name of Cameron too. I too have a crooked nose, but that was from playing rugby!

Remember, if anyone ever tells you "Don't get your nose all bent out of shape," tell them [with a great big smile] that it already is, because you're a Cameron!

[A Cameron Kids Online Feature] <http://www.clan-cameron.org/kids/meaning.html>

"Leis gach deagh dhurachd and Slainte mhath"

[With every good wish and good health]

Denis Cameron

The International Clan Gathering 2009

The Gathering 2009 will take the form of an international clan gathering which will be the largest highland games ever held in Scotland, and will be one of the key events of **Homecoming Scotland**. This will be at Holyrood Park, Edinburgh, on **25 and 26 July 2009**

It is estimated that there will be over 80 clan tents, with around 7500 clan and Scottish association members from around the world. The highland games will attract a further 30,000 people over the two days.

It will showcase competitors from all disciplines that constitute a traditional highland games such as piping, dancing, and heavy athletics.

Top quality vendors of Scottish produce, genealogists, children's entertainment and contemporary musicians will all be present.

The special clan ceremony will take the form of a clan parade on the Royal Mile culminating in a unique clan pageant on the magnificent esplanade of Edinburgh Castle.

Over the next two years The Gathering 2009 team will appear at select highland games and Scottish festivals around the world promoting the event.

The **Clan Cameron** gathering will take place the following weekend, **30 July - 2 August 2009**, at Achnacarry.

If you are considering attending the above please register your interest with President Denis. This will help us with planning and negotiating various tour options.

Web site: www.thegathering2009.com

If you have visited '**The Scots in New Zealand**' at Te Papa, I would be very interested in your impressions. I hope to have an article on the exhibition in the next newsletter. -Editor



Aonaibh ri Cheile

Cameron

is the newsletter of the Clan Cameron Association of New Zealand (Inc) and is published on or near the 1st day of every even month of the year

Deadlines for articles are on the 15th of the month before publication. Items of urgency or importance may be accepted up to 10 days later.

Articles about Camerons, Branch activities with photographs, and advice of Coming Events are especially welcome.

Deadline for the Christmas and Hogmanay issue:

15 November 2007

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Coming events

Saturday 6 October

The **BOP - Waikato** Combined Clan Gathering is to be held at the Matamata Primary School, Broadway, Matamata. The host Clan will be Clan Stewart and the host is Ian Stewart of Tokoroa. Registration at 10.30am followed by entertainment.. Clan march at 1pm followed by ceilidh. Adults \$5. Please bring own food for picnic or buy there. Finish 4pm. Enquiries to Denis Cameron 07 575 4659

Saturday 27 October 10.30am

Executive Council Meeting at Turangi. Morning Tea at 10.30 with meeting starting at 11am.

Saturday 17 November

Auckland Highland Games. Three Kings Reserve. A wonderful day - and it's free! Official opening around midday but some competitions start at 9am. The Cameron tent will be there. Enquiries to Neil Cameron 09 446 1177

Saturday 17th November, 2007

The **Bay of Plenty Branch** members together with friends and relatives will be holding a Pre - Christmas Luncheon, venue the Flanders Restaurant at the Tauranga RSA, 889 Cameron Road, Tauranga, starting at 11.30am. The Piping in the Haggis will be at 12.00pm. The Buffet meal will cost \$13.00 per person. Please bring along a \$5.00 parcel per person to put under the tree for those present. Please ring Ray or Janet Crafts at [07] 577 9562 with numbers by 10th November.

Saturday 8 December

Square Day in Palmerston North. As usual, Manawatu Clan Cameron will be holding a stall selling a sausage sizzle and haggis sandwiches, always popular. Enquiries to Joy Cameron.

13 / 14 May 2008

Clan Cameron AGM and Gathering. Opotiki. Details later but mark the date.

Useful Websites

Clan Cameron New Zealand website
<http://camclan.orcon.net.nz/>

Clan Cameron Online
<http://www.clan-cameron.org/>

Clan Cameron Scotland
<http://www.clancameron.org.uk>

Clan Cameron Australia
<http://www.clan-cameron.org.au>

Scottish Clans Association Auckland District
<http://www.scottishclans.co.nz>

Clan Cameron DNA project
<http://www.clan-cameron.org/dna/>

A Great Site showing Images of Lochaber by J.A.Cameron (includes archive of old postcards)

Clan Cameron NZ Web master:
Warren Cameron
camcraft@orcon.net.nz

The Cameron Memorial

The Chief Behind The Statue

By William A. Cameron

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

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

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

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

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

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

Married to Lady Margaret Scott in 1875, Lochiel and Lady Margaret had four sons, the eldest of whom, Donald Walter, would succeed him as Clan Chief in 1905. Appointed Lord Lieutenant of Inverness-shire in 1887, Lochiel held this esteemed position for eighteen years right up until his death. A position all subsequent Cameron Chiefs have held up to the present day. As the Queen's representative for Inverness-shire, Lochiel was called upon to officiate at formal occasions throughout the district. One of which would see him welcome Queen Victoria to Loch Arkaig in September 1873 as she records in her Highland Journal. "He (*Lochiel*) received us wearing his kilt and plaid just above the pier, and we all went on board the little steamer. (*This was most likely Lochiel's S.S. Rifle although she does not mention it by name.*) The afternoon was beautiful, and lit up the fine scenery to the greatest advantage. We went about halfway up the Loch, as we had not time to go farther, to the disappointment of the Lochiel who said it grew wilder and wilder higher up. To the left as we went up is the deer forest; to the right he has sheep." Coincidentally, Mrs. Mary Mackellar (née Cameron), a native Lochaberite, author and bardess to the Gaelic Society of Inverness, was later selected to translate Queen Victoria's Highland Journal into Gaelic. Mrs. Mackellar was also one of the founding members of the Clan Cameron Association, founded in Edinburgh in 1889 - the Lochiel commemorated in the Cameron Memorial being its first Chief.

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

On the death of Lochiel on the 29th of November 1905, there followed extensive obituaries in both the local and national press, all conveying a sense of loss and genuine admiration with which he was held across the Highlands and further afield. Some notable local gestures of respect included: the flag on Inverness Castle being lowered to half-mast; the

pulpit and Holy Communion area in West Street Parish Church in Inverness being draped in black mourning cloth, and in his native Lochaber, businesses closed from eleven o'clock till three o'clock on the day of his funeral as a mark of respect.

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

As early as 1906, we read of moves to raise a memorial to the late Lochiel in the Inverness Courier. "It would not be fitting that such a personality should be allowed to pass from among us without some recognition of the great services he rendered, and some suitable memorial to perpetuate his memory. No man had the interests of the Highlands more truly at heart, and no man of his generation was more deserving of a public memorial." The article supplied information for those wishing to donate to the appeal, along with a list of friends and professional colleagues of the late Chief who had already donated to the statue fund. Reading through the first minute book of the Clan Cameron Association, it is not until March 1908 that we read extensively about the proposed Memorial to Lochiel, in which the eminent Edinburgh sculptor William Birnie Rhind is mentioned. "Mr. W. Birnie Rhind promised to execute a Statue 7ft 6ins in height in bronze, and to have a granite pedestal 10ft in height, with a bronze inscription plate, at the cost of £700.00." Pound for pound, the same amount in 2007 would now equate to £50,000.00

From a distance, the Cameron Memorial may look like just any other bronze statue of an unknown figure to be found in any town or city centre throughout Scotland. Although I have been unable to source any preparatory material relating to how the sculptor produced the Cameron Memorial, given that it was produced posthumously, it is my belief that alongside the use of a life model, Mr Rhind would have also used photographs of the late Lochiel - in particular, an image of Lochiel standing in front of the River Arkaig in which he adopts an almost identical stance to that shown in the statue. The only difference being, three eagle feathers have been added to his hat, the symbol distinguishing him as Chief.

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

DONALD CAMERON OF LOCHIEL

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

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

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

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



Photo by Bill Cameron

Postscript: The local council have just agreed to contact a professional body to carry out an assessment of the Lochiel statue with regards to preservation work. I am glad they are taking positive action and I hope the work will be carried out before the gathering in 2009.

W.A.C



Aonaibh ri Cheile

Volume 41, Issue 5

October 2007
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Neil Cameron
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North Shore City 0624
New Zealand



In This Issue...

'The Chief behind the Statue' and Camerons celebrate with luncheon and banquet



Photo : Denis Cameron



Photo by Neil Cameron



Photo: Denis Cameron



Photo by Gavin McQueen

Cameron people

Clockwise from top left:

Hawkes Bay Chapter meet for luncheon in Napier on 15 September (page 2)

Glen Rodgers, Matthew McQueen and Andrew McQueen perform at the Auckland Branch Dinner (page 3)

First Lighters Bill, Kim and Shona in Fort William. This photo appeared in the *Lochaber News* with an article about Kim.

Bay of Plenty Branch members pose on the Opotiki Wharf (page 2)

Gisborne Branch meet on 16 September for luncheon and to meet Denis and Joy. From left, back row: Joy, Trish Topham, Marion Lewes, Mike Topham, Bob McConnell. Front row: Denis, David Cameron, June Cameron, Vivienne McConnell, Theresa Willock.



Photo by Hazel Cameron