



Cameron



The Magazine of Clan Cameron New Zealand Inc.

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Photos: Editor



Clan Parades at the Turakina (top) and Paeroa Highland Games

“Cameron”

is the magazine of the
Clan Cameron Association of New Zealand Inc.

Directory

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

New Zealand President and Commissioner
Dale Cameron Bailey
6 Harapaki Street, Meadowbank, Auckland 1072
Ph. 09 521 5329 dale.bailey@xtra.co.nz

Secretary

Vacant

Treasurer

Hillary Hakaraia
2 Crestlands Place, Papakura, Auckland 2110
09 299 8672 HillaryHak@xtra.co.nz

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

Rob Cameron
15B Gavin Street, Ellerslie, Auckland 1060
Ph. 022 525 3151 robcameronnz@gmail.com

Bay of Plenty

Tanya Cameron
7 Sundell Place, Opotiki 3122
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

Hamish Cameron
76 Jarvis Road, RD 5, Hastings 4175
Ph. (06) 876 7509. h.jcameron@nowmail.co.nz

Iar (Taranaki / Whanganui)

Neville Wallace
242B Turu Turu Road, RD 14, Hawera 4674
Ph. 027 416 3563 neville.wallace@talk2me.co.nz

Manawatu

Russell Cameron,
6 Woodland Grove, Feilding 4702
Ph. (06) 323 7432 russelldcam@gmail.com

Wellington / Wairarapa

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

Canterbury

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

Magazine Editor

Neil Cameron,
SA 551, William Sanders Retirement Village
7 Ngataranga Road, Devonport,
Auckland 0624
Ph: 027 948 5808 kncam@xtra.co.nz

Web / Facebook Co-ordinator

Dale Bailey
dale.bailey@xtra.co.nz

Facebook

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

A Message from our Commissioner.

Naumai haere mai, failte, Welcome

It has been great to get out and about this summer and enjoy the highland games at Waipu, Turakina and Paeroa. Such wonderful celebration of our Scottish heritage, welcoming all comers. I have met a number of people at these events wanting to understand a bit about their Cameron heritage. In some cases they only have a few scraps of information about their family. Having our clan tent is a great way for them to start their voyage of discovery. I met one young man who wanted to learn about his background and was so excited to put some of it together.



Included in this newsletter there are further details of our annual gathering this year being held in Napier on the 4th May. The Hawkes Bay is a beautiful part of the country and we are pleased to be able to host our meeting and annual dinner in the historic Hawkes Bay Club. I do hope you will be able to make it, Hamish Joan and I have been pulling together the programme.

Later this year a good number of New Zealand Camerons will be making the journey to Lochaber to attend the International Gathering. Its going to be a wonderful experience and there will be many Camerons from around the world there. By my count we will have 20 New Zealanders there, which is a great turnout. Lena and I will be in Scotland attending this and the Clan Matheson gathering on Skye as well a week ahead of the Cameron event.

It's been very good to follow Sarah McQueen's journeys in Scotland as our First Lighter. She has been exploring her own family heritage, piping and enjoying some wonderful Scottish hospitality.

I have extended to Lochiel our chief congratulations on his appointment to the House of Lords now Lord Cameron of Lochiel. He has moved from the Scottish Parliament where he was a MSP and has been appointed Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Scotland.

Please let me know if you are travelling to Scotland later this year for the International Gathering so I can keep you up to date of arrangements.

Thank you all for your support of Clan Cameron.

Aonaibh ri Cheile

Dale Cameron Bailey



The Hawkes Bay Club - 2024 CCNZ AGM venue



Next Magazine Deadline is 15 May 2024

Printed By

Welcome to the following Members who have recently joined us:

Auckland Branch

Kaye Forrester-Hill
Andrew Wilkie
Reuben Cameron Shadbolt

Hamilton
Auckland
Auckland

*Ceud Mìle Fàilte One
Hundred Thousand
Welcomes*

Clan Cameron takes over the House of Lords for a day as former MSP is sworn in

Scottish Daily Express

There was a Clan Cameron takeover in the House of Lords on Tuesday as a former Conservative MSP took his seat on the red benches. Donald Cameron stood down as a

member of Holyrood for the Highlands and Islands to become a minister in the Scotland Office.

The current chief of Clan Cameron, who has the title Lord Cameron of Lochiel, was flanked by his supporters Foreign Secretary Lord Cameron of Chipping Norton and independent crossbencher Lord Cameron of Dillington. The 47-year-old wore the traditional scarlet robes for the short ceremony in the Lords, where he swore the oath of allegiance to the King.

Previously an advocate after passing the bar in 2005, Lord Cameron was elected as a regional MSP in 2016 and held a series of roles in the shadow cabinet. The Oxford graduate will serve as parliamentary undersecretary of state at the Scotland Office under Alister Jack.

The King approved the appointment last month and conferred on him a life peerage. Lord Cameron was replaced as Highlands and Islands MSP by former leader of Moray Council Tim Eagle.

Lord Cameron of Chipping Norton, who served as Prime Minister between 2010 and 2016, has strong links to Scotland. His father was born in Huntly, Aberdeenshire and he is a descendant of grain trader Alexander Geddes.

Lord Cameron of Dillington is a distant relation to Lord Cameron of Lochiel. His father Major Allan John Cameron was the second son of Colonel Sir Donald Walter Cameron of Lochiel who was 25th Chief of Clan Cameron.



Lord Cameron of Lochiel, centre, is flanked by his two namesakes, including the former Prime Minister Lord Cameron of Chipping Norton, right

(Image: ParliamentTV)

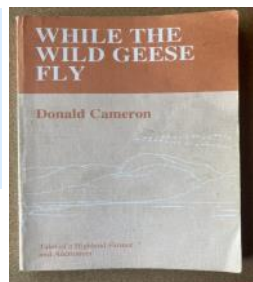
Book Review: "While the Wild Geese Fly"

By Bruce Cameron

A book review of Donald Cameron's "While the Wild Geese Fly - Tales of a Highland Farmer and Auctioneer."

This book is a memoir by the late Donald Cameron, Glen Nevis. Donald's grandson is Finlay Cameron the 2022/23 First Lighter. Self published as a paperback in 1985 and I found a signed copy on Abe Books online. Written in a conversational style, Donald being an auctioneer has an astute eye and the ability to tell a good tale. The book covers many changes in Highland life from transport by horse and dray early in Donald's life to an agricultural trip via jet plane to Iceland.

All sorts of Highland characters grace the book. Archibald "Baldy" Sinclair a Ghillie who lived up the top top Glen Nevis, he and his cattle get 2 chapters early in the book.



Droving gets a chapter and John "Corriechollie" Cameron makes an appearance. The various trials and tribulations of auctioneering are covered.

There is the use of poems and song verses to illustrate the agricultural seasons. The chapter of shearing features an illustration of the horn of a sheep and the description of the life of the sheep from the growth rings on his horn. This line drawing by the author's granddaughter Janet

MacCallum is excellent. The chapter of Cameron of Erracht and the Boneshaker, Donald's great uncle Alexander "Erracht" who had the ability to set broken limbs and is a fascinating glimpse into how folk lived before modern medicine.

This book is a relaxing read with many keen and often humorous insights into life throughout the 20th century in Lochaber. Donald loved the people and place he called home and this wee book is his testament. The book has numerous black and white illustrations and photos. Recommended for those with an interest in Lochaber tales and agricultural pursuits.

Coming Events

Saturday 4 May 2024
Clan Cameron NZ Gathering and AGM
Hawkes Bay Club, Napier.
Registration Form enclosed

Saturday 6 July 2024
Auckland Branch Annual Dinner
The Parnell, 10-20 Gladstone Road,
Parnell. 6pm for 6.30pm. \$65
Great company and great entertainment.
A farewell for those going to the
gathering at Achnacarry

1 to 4 August 2024
Clan Cameron Gathering at
Achnacarry, Lochaber, Scotland.
A very full programme is being arranged
which will include all the traditional
gathering events - plus a lot more.

From the Branches....

Auckland by Rob Cameron

Our branch has been quite active since the last newsletter. A small group of us travelled to attend the Turakina Highland Games. It was great catching up with the Manawatu members at the Clan Tent at the event.



We also attended the Paeroa Highland Games. There was a bit of disruption early in the morning on the placement of the tents, however, after everyone was set up the day went pretty well. The solo piping and band participation was a little light compared to previous years however other attendance seemed ok and the weather was good. There seemed to be a greater steampunk presence than in previous years.

We had our branch AGM on Sunday, March 3rd. It was a great opportunity to summarise another successful year for the branch, the major highlight being Sarah McQueen travelling to Scotland as part of the First Light Exchange. The committee remained unchanged, and I am grateful to each of the committee members for committing to another year. The meeting was followed by a barbeque and a chance for other members to socialise.

I have also been busy with the City of Sails Pipe Band, ultimately preparing for the RNZPBA Nationals competition this year. As part of the build-up, the band attended the Auckland Centre Contest at Waikaraka Park on 18th of February and the Central North Island Contest in Mount Maunganui on the 2nd of March.

The RNZPBA Nationals ran over the 15th and 16th of March and was hosted at Onewa Domain on the north shore here in Auckland. It has been a while since the nationals was hosted in Auckland, plus it was supposed to be here 2 years ago but was cancelled due to Covid. Funding was also down this year and the event ran at a loss, however, it seemed like a perfect place to hold the competition. You can see the 2 day coverage on the RNZPBA YouTube channel if you missed it.

The clans were invited to attend the Nationals this year and were able to get quite close to the action. Clans Donald, Matheson, MacMillian, Gordon, McPhee, Campbell, and Stewart alongside Clan Cameron lined the path just outside the circle. A great spot to catch all the music and it appears that the tents had many visitors. I have to thank Neil for looking after the tent over the 2 days. I would also like to thank my parents Allan and Morea, for helping out during the 2 days at the tent and taking the clan banners to the Street March. The weekend event was great exposure for our clan and we had a lot of interest across the competition, especially with many NZ and Australian bands wearing the Cameron tartan.

Some of us will be starting our preparations for the Executive AGM set for the 4th of May in Hastings.

We look forward to preparations for our annual dinner this year on July 6th. We have set the price which has not changed from last year at \$65 per person. We have Originz back again, and we are trying to get a "Blenheim" theme organised for the night. If you are interested tickets can be purchased through Neil Cameron. For some of us, this will be the last event before travelling to Scotland for the Clan Cameron Gathering.



Manawatu by Anne Walker

Clan Cameron Manawatu have enjoyed a busy summer. Although it has generally been a hot dry summer, the weather gods were unkind for the Turakina Highland Games with high wind, and threatening rain. The rain held off until late in the day but unfortunately started just as the massed bands began to play at the conclusion. The highland dancing competitions had been moved to the Marton Hall earlier in the day. This meant the crowd was smaller than usual, as many families and supporters of dancers had decamped to Marton. Maybe next year another marquee might be available to accommodate the dancing in such circumstances. We were very pleased to have the Clan members from Auckland join us at this annual event and we were able to field several interested enquiries at our hospitality tent.



The branch had a small annual meeting at Anne and Nigel Long home on Sunday 19th February, where apologies greatly outnumbered the attendees. However, it was quality over quantity, and we had a lovely afternoon tea on the deck while discussing Clan matters and making some plans for the coming year. Treasurer, Bryan Barber, has sent out annual subscription renewal notices by email and we gently remind members to make their payment as soon as possible.

Members are looking forward to the AGM and gathering in Hawkes in early May.

The Clan Cameron Branch annual dinner is planned for Saturday 8th June. More information about the dinner will be available in mid-April.

Hawke's Bay by Hamish Cameron

Hawkes Bay branches annual public showing takes place at the Hastings Highland Games over Easter weekend--- as it has done for decades. However, this year there was a pause in this tradition while the main "tent erector and janitor" was away in Hamilton effecting the relocation of an increasingly at risk sister to Rest Home Care ---hopefully reducing the number of Ambulance trips to Hospital!! A major life shift such as this is always a traumatic upheaval for someone entrenched in familiar surroundings.....



The other major happenings in Hawkes Bay is the hosting of Clan Cameron N.Zs AGM. A small far-flung membership such as we have in Hawke's Bay finds running these occasions nigh on impossible. To have Dale Bailey use his contacts and lead a team from all over the country does really demonstrate the power of the Clans motto -UNITE --- a truly appreciated move !!

These contacts have led to the securing of one of Napier's iconic buildings as a venue, right through to the delivery of all the necessary entertainments. A big job shared amongst many branches experienced exponents.

The fact we can occupy the whole Clubs premises all day will really add to a sense of belonging - and its right on the Marine Parade!! I'm sure those attending wont be disappointed.

Bay of Plenty by Tanya Cameron

Bay of Plenty branch are currently not active. Our last official get together in June will be for the last branch AGM.

Another great event in Paeroa in February, and although there were some BoP branch members at the Paeroa Highland Games, there were no offers of holding the fort.



Please make an effort to pay your \$25 overdue membership from last year and outstanding \$25 membership

for this year. Although we are not currently an active branch, this amount covers you receiving your newsletter, just, and many of you haven't paid last year's subscription.

Please bring your subscription up to date as when the Bay of Plenty Branch goes into remission at the next National AGM in May 2024, those that aren't financial members will no longer be receiving their Newsletter.

Please email me if you have any questions.

Canterbury by Rae Magson



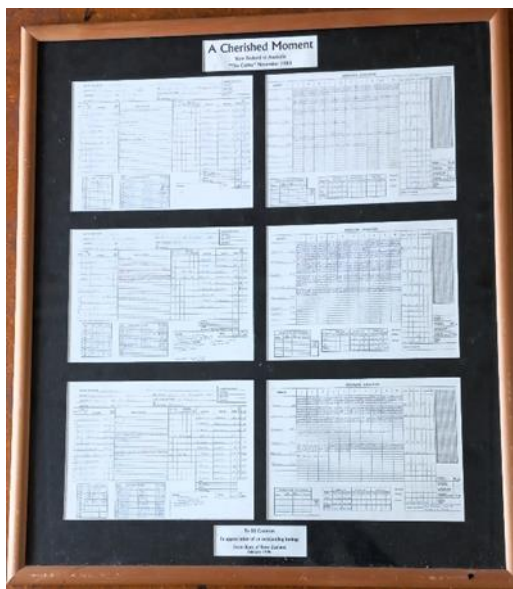
It is planned to have a meeting soon to make plans for the year. Any suggestions would be welcome.

In February my sister, Pat Tarbotton passed away at the age of 84 years. In the past she attended many Clan Cameron events and for many years she was Treasurer. Her main interest, apart from family history, was gardening and she was also very proud of her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Cricket - We Have Beaten Them Before!

By Bryan Haggitt

A Cherished Moment
New Zealand vs Australia
"The Gabba" November 1985



To DJ Cameron
In appreciation of an outstanding innings
From Bank of New Zealand
February 1998

The recent Test losses to Australia were most disappointing but we have beaten them before. Not often but the most significant win was in Brisbane, November 1985, when New Zealand met Australia in the first of three cricket Tests across the Tasman and then three in New Zealand.

The Brisbane Test was sensational as the details below reveal:

AUSTRALIA	179	K Wessels 70, R Hadlee 9/52
&	333	G Matthews 115, R Hadlee 6/71
NEW ZEALAND	553/7 dec.	JF Reid 108, M Crowe 188, R Hadlee 54

Result: New Zealand won by an innings and 41 runs with

Richard (later Sir Richard) Hadlee having match figures of 15/123

Sensational indeed and, years later, when that great sports journalist DJ (Don) CAMERON put his pen to rest and retired from the NZ Herald, the Bank of New Zealand recognised his contribution to sport and to the news media by presenting him with the full score sheets of this historic game.

These sheets, framed as on left, were given by Don's daughter, Fiona, to the Parnell Cricket Club for whom Don played in the early 1950s when he first came to Auckland from Dunedin.

Don had a large sports library and many of his cricket books were given to Parnell. His rugby books were given to the Barbarian Rugby Club and housed in a handsome rimu bookcase. "Sleepy's Corner" is in the Barbarian's clubroom at Eden Park – on the top level at the east end of the northern ASB Stand.

Don was, of course, a past President of Clan Cameron Auckland and a Life Member. He did immense work for the Clan and these score sheets were viewed with interest by our members attending our recent AGM.

DONALD JOHN ("DJ"/Don/"Sleepy") CAMERON
20/2/1933 - 7/9/2016



Don - as seen by Malcolm Evans, a former NZ Herald colleague, and "at work", as Don said: "Someone had to do it", the very apt title of his auto biography.



Turakina and Paeroa Highland Games



Left: Dean Cameron. Above: The Clan March at Turakina.
Right: Isaac Grant and Ewen Grant



Lochiel Nielson proud of her Cameron heritage (Turakina)

Peter Cameron



John Baillie and Duncan McQueen



From Left: Ray and Janet Crafts, Tanya Cameron, John Baillie, Dale Cameron Bailey, Duncan McQueen, Rob Cameron.

Rob Cameron, Mary-Anne Cameron, Rhys Fenton, Tanya Cameron

Sarah in Scotland. Story on page 11



The Caledonian Canal and Ben Nevis



Sarah at the Glenfinnan Monument



With First Lighter Shona and son Hamish



The Glenfinnan Viaduct



View from the top of the Glenfinnan Monument



The Prince's Cairn from where Bonnie Prince Charlie embarked for France in 1746



Arisaig Beach



Piping the speed March at the commando monument

The Prince's Route and the Commando Dark Mile

By Max Kitson

Between Loch Arkaig and Loch Lochy lies the Mile Dorcha, or Dark Mile. This is a deeply wooded section of road in a valley flanked by walls and trees. It has been claimed that near Loch Arkaig is the hiding place of a consignment of gold landed by the French on 30 April 1746 at Arisaig for the Jacobites, although it was never recovered and subsequently became a source of conflict among the surviving Jacobites.

On the west bank of the river Arkaig is the house of Achnacarry, the paternal mansion of the lairds of Lochiel, chiefs of the Clan Cameron; and close by the present building (which is in the modern castellated style) are the walls of the old fabric, burnt by the Duke of Cumberland in 1746, and the orchard and summer-house where the "undaunted Lochiel" and the emissaries of Prince Charles Edward hatched the plans of the rebellion.

From Achnacarry Castle I followed the 'The Commando Dark Mile' course heading over the 'White Wooden Bridge' at the end of Loch Arkaig. I was overcome with the emotional atmosphere of my surroundings, of my Great Uncles' boots (Roy Carpenter) had crossed these worn oak timbers during his Commando training at Achnacarry during World War II.

Roy Carpenter volunteered for Commando training in North Africa as the weather seemed a better choice than in Scotland. After arriving at Spean Bridge Railway Station all the new volunteers had to quick march the 11km in full kit to the Commando Castle with bagpipes. Then after they settle in, the instructors asked if any of them wanted to see a film at the local picture house. Roy thought that might be fun. So they made them run 20km into Fort William to see the film. Roy sat next to a nice girl, but still all hot and sweaty from the run. Regardless, he enjoyed it and after the movie finished they then ran the 20km back in the dark. He later transferred into the Paratroops and as soon as he gained his Jump Wings, he volunteered for the 2nd Regiment of the SAS. He was then dropped into the Loire Valley in France after D-day with Jeeps as part of Operations Wallace and Hardy and somehow survived the war. During World War II Achnacarry Castle, served as the Commando Basic Training Centre from early 1942 onwards. Some 25,000 men were trained there, making the most of the remote mountainous terrain on both sides of Loch Arkaig.

After crossing the Long Bridge I reached the spectacular Chi-aig waterfall. I leaned against the stone bridge with the roaring thunder of the water as a backdrop, and I looked up to find the large black pool, forever after known as the Witches Cauldron.



The story goes that a local witch accused of a crime that she probably didn't commit, was chased over the falls and drowned in a large black pool. The wealth of the clan was in its

cattle and if an illness befell them, witchcraft was often suspected to be the cause. There was always the fear that a bana-bhuidseach (witch woman) would put the eye on the cattle out of spite and envy. When Cameron of Lochiel's cattle fell ill, the local Bana Bhuidseach was hunted down and chased over the falls. She fell to her death in the deep brown pool below the last fall and to this day, the pool is called the 'witch's cauldron'.

I headed east along the Mile Dorcha, or Dark Mile, so called because of the dense trees that used to overhang the road, blocking out the light. Nowadays they are a little further back from the road. The valley is traversed longitudinally by a line of rocky knolls, clothed with oak and birch trees, among which are scattered some large and hoary trunks of ash, alder, and hawthorn.



The map shows part of the area where Charles Edward Stuart spent time during the summer of 1746 after Culloden, staying at various locations and moving constantly to avoid capture. He spent a period hiding in the braes between Loch Arkaig, Loch Quoich, Glengarry and Glenmoriston, and apparently remained cheerful despite the 'midges'. In August he returned to Loch Arkaig using the old drove road from Loch Garry past Greenfield to Fedden. After the defeat of Culloden, the Prince found a refuge in the hills to the north of Achnacarry, in one of which the cave is still shown where he stayed. The following is the description of his appearance at this time, given in the journal of Mr. John Cameron, chaplain at Fort William, and for sometime companion of his wanderings: "He was then bare-footed, had an old black kilt-coat on, a plaid, philibeg, and waistcoat, a dirty shirt, and a long red beard; a gun in his hand, a pistol and dirk by his side. He was very cheerful and in good health, and, in my opinion, fatter than he was at Inverness."

At Achnacarry is a double-barrelled fowling-piece, of an old-fashioned make, (having only one lock,) which the Prince was in the practice of using frequently, and which bears the appropriate inscription, "Tu ne cede malls, sed contra audentior ito."

August 16. - At Loch Arkaig. Joined by Cameron of Clunes, who took them to a wood at the foot of Loch Arkaig.

August 17. - At Loch Arkaig. The Prince sent John Mac Pherson or M'Colvain to summon Lochiel.

August 18-19. At Loch Arkaig.

August 20. - Dr. Cameron, Lochiel's brother, accompanied by the Rev. John Cameron, arrived with Lochiel's apology for not coming himself.

August 21.- On the 21st moved to the wood of Torvault a mile off, opposite Achnacarry. [Probably] this was the day that the Prince, disguised as Captain Drummond, received the two French officers who came with Dr. Cameron, read their despatches, but found nothing of importance. Dr. Cameron, Lochgarry, and Clunes left, and [probably] young Glenaladale and young Borradaile returned to the west coast to look out for French ships.

August 22. At Torvault.

August 23 [Probably] the French officers left. [Probably] this day the Prince was surprised by a party of Lord Loudon's men and hid near the Prince's Tree on Mile Dorcha, or Dark Mile.

Prince Charles and his small party, eight in all, having made a

precipitate and narrow escape from 200 of Lord Loudon's men, removed from his retreat near Achnacarry to the top of the high mountain of Mullantagart, in the braes of Glen Kingie, where he remained without fire or any covering, and durst not rise out of his seat. It appears certain, however, that Charles was nearly surprised at Torr a' Mhuil by a detachment of Loudon's regiment under Captain Grant of Cnoc-ceanach, but Clunes having received warning of the soldiers' approach from one of his children, a lassie of six, was able to send timely notice of their appearance to his Royal Highness, who thereupon retired by way of Glen Cia-dig to the top of Meall an t-Sagairt' (the Priest's Hill; pronounced Myaul an taggart), in the Braes of Glen Kingie, where he spent a night presumably that of August 23rd-and the forenoon of the following day, sleeping in his plaid and wet hose, altho' it was an excessive cold day, made more so by several showers of hail."

From the exposed summit of this bleak hill, Charles descended into the strath of Glen Kingie, and stayed there for two nights. On August the 26th he crossed the river Arkaig, now considerably fallen, but still up to the haunches of the party, and made for the braes, or high country, between Achnacarry and the ford of Lochy, where all his trusty Glenmoriston comrades were dismissed except Patrick Grant, who was told to remain behind until the Prince obtained some money from Lochgarry.



compliment to the patient and cheerful deportment of the Prince under his adverse fortune. "He was cautious in ye greatest danger, never at a loss in resolving qt to do with uncommon fortitude. He regretted more ye distress of those who suffered for adhering to his interest, than ye hardships and dangers he was hourly exposed to.

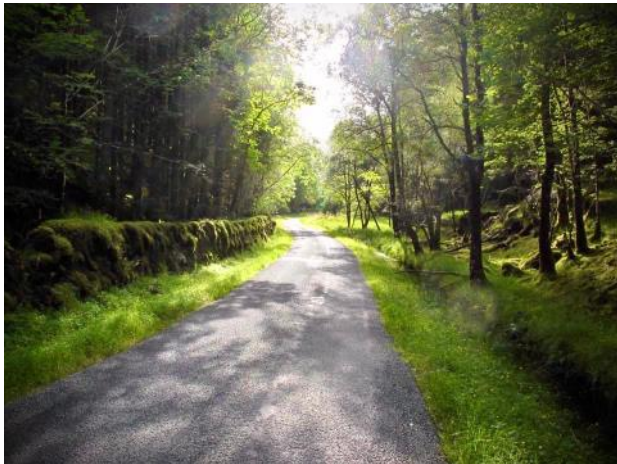
Donald Angus Cameron of Lochiel (27th Chief) informed me that this 'fast place' is a cave about two miles east of Achnasaul, in the wood of Torre Chronne, on the left bank of the stream flowing through Glen Cia-aig, to the north of the dark mile (Ord. Sur. Mile Dorcha), about a mile from the east end of Loch Arkaig.

The second shelter was probably near Clunes House, at the east end of the same wood.

The third shelter (the three are specially mentioned) was in the wood erroneously called Tor Gallain in the Ord. Sur., now spelt Torvault. They remained two days at Torvault.

He hid in "a fast place" or cave about two miles east of Achnasaul. Here the wanderers were so hard put to it for food that, taking all the risks, they had to shoot a stag. A second shelter was found the next day, when Cameron of Clunes took them to another hiding place in the wood near Clunes House. A third shelter was found in a hut within the wood of Torvault, opposite Achnacarry. Here they stayed for two days, when Dr. Cameron, Lochiel's brother, arrived with an apology from the chief for not coming to welcome the Prince to the shelter of his woods - Lochiel, courteous and loyal to a punctilio.

Then came the flight to Cluny's Cage, and finally the last journey back to Achnacarry on their way to join the ship - a privateer called the Heureux, which was waiting in Loch-nanagh to carry the Prince to France. The whole adventure was over for Tearlach Og, but he was yet to remember his adventure abroad for other forty-two years. Lochiel went with him, and died in France as Colonel of the Scoto-French regiment of Albany in the year 1748.



"The Prince slept all ye forenoon in his plaid and wet hose, altho it was an excessive cold day, made more so by several showers of hail. From thence we went that night to the strath of Glen Kenzie, killed a cow, and lived merrily for some days. From yt we went to the braes of Auchnacarie. The water of Arkeg, in crossing, came up to our haunches. The Prince in wet condition lay that night and next day in open air, and though his clothes were wet, he did not suffer the least in his health." Mr. Cameron concludes his journal by a merited

Bill Cameron's Recent great photos.



Climbers beneath the North Face, Ben Nevis.



The remains of High Bridge by the Spean

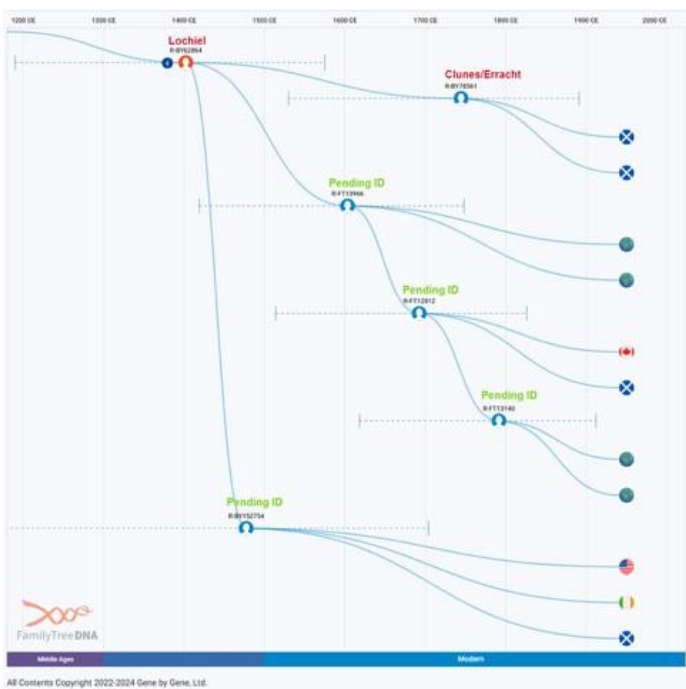
Cameron YDNA Update

February 2024. *by Joanne Cameron*

Huge progress for the Cameron YDNA Project has come this month after the Big Y700 test results, one last year and one this month of known descendants of John Cameron of Clunes born c. 1725 (who married Mary Cameron of Glennevis) came in which put their relevant shared SNP's onto the Tree Of Mankind. In targeting these specific testers, we were hoping to define a branch point between the main Lochiel stem, and the cadet houses of Erracht and Clunes (for this, we'll keep Erracht and Clunes together – Clunes branches off Erracht a few generations after Erracht branches off from Lochiel (to date, we don't have an Erracht tester).

The new results show us that these men share several mutations that none of the other testers downstream of R-BY62864 have - 5 of them, to be exact. We know that the most recent common paternal ancestor of both of these testers was born about 1725.....which coincides very neatly with FTDNA's estimate shown in the graph.

This has enabled us to put a label on R-BY62864 as the current Lochiel SNP which is huge for the Project. There are another 4 distinct branches that also sit downstream from the "Lochiel" SNP which we are hoping to be able to define further in the future with further targeted Big Y700 testing that are almost certainly not Erracht or Clunes, but either unnamed offshoots of Lochiel (younger sons of younges sons who never established an official cadet house) or one of the as-yet unidentified cadets (including Kinlochiel, Druimsallie, Callart, Lundavra, Culchenna, Dungallon, Glendessary, Worcester, Fassiefern, Ardnamurchan, etc.).



On the right is the current Cameron Group Time Tree which we have labelled with the known cadets & lineages that are named:

- M64 - far bottom left at just before 1300 - MacSorley
- FT25194 - above M64, right on the 1300 line - Macgillonie Cameron of Strone (Invermaillie)
- BY62864 - above FT25194 on the 1400 line - Cameron of Lochiel
- BY178561 - below BY62864 Cameron of Erracht & Clunes (note the date here of 1750 represents not when the line broke off from Lochiel, but the MRCA for the two new tests- there are 5 SNPs in the block they share, which span the period from 1750 back to 1400, but we don't yet know in what order they occurred. If we can find an Erracht descendant to test, that should split that block and give us a branch point between Erracht and Clunes)
- BY50904 - above BY62864 just past the 1400 line - Macmartin of Letterfinlay

BY101707 - below BY50904 is Macmartin of Blarachaoran, and below it BY172820 Macmartin of Camuserracht
FT115862 - below BY50904 is Macmartin of Corriechoillie

As you can see, we're making great progress on the central purpose of this project, which is to "map" the core lineages of Clan Cameron genetically, attaching specific mutations to specific lineages, in hopes that the day will come when any Cameron belonging to this haplogroup will be able to learn which cadet house his ancestors belonged to just by doing a BigY test. We still have a ways to go though! For anyone wishing to contribute to the effort, here's what you can do:

- 1) If you've done an STR (Y37, Y67, Y111) test but not BigY, consider upgrading to BigY at the next sale
- 2) If you know or suspect that your ancestors came from a particular cadet, PLEASE share those details with us. Likewise, if you haven't previously done so, please send us a short outline of your direct-male-line Cameron ancestors.
- 3) If you've already upgraded your test, and are in a position to do so, please consider making a contribution to the General Fund. This allows us to occasionally offer 'scholarships' (as it were) to key testers to encourage them to upgrade. (in general, these scholarships are reserved for those with verifiable connections to known cadet houses; if you wish to earmark your donation for a tester from a specific lineage, or for a specific tester, please let us know). This page tells you how to make a contribution - be sure you choose 'Cameron yDNA Project' to ensure your money gets to the right place. <https://www.familytreedna.com/group-general-fund-contribution.aspx>
- 4) If you are able to assist in identifying agnatic (direct male line) descendants of any of the cadets not yet genetically identified, we would be delighted to hear from you.
- 5) Regarding new testers on your line or any other, please discuss with Jo and I before plunking down your hard-earned cash. Some lines are more in need of additional testers than others, and some tests are more worthwhile than others. Just as one example, testing an immediate relative (father, son, brother, uncle) when you've already tested is of very limited value. It's not that we're trying to control you - we just want to help you get the most bang for your testing buck!

As always Loraine and I are only too happy to answer any emails and questions you have about YDNA testing and the Cameron YDNA Project.

The Project is open to all men with the surname Cameron and also those who find themselves positive for the Cameron defining STR's at 37 markers & the INDEL R-A6138 which is discovered after taking the Big Y700 test at FamilyTreeDNA.



With Sarah in Scotland

Greetings from Scotland. How are we already into March 2024? My time on the First Light exchange is flying. It seems crazy that I have been here for over four months now. When I wrote my last update, I was in the South of England, and I have done a number of exciting things since then.

My trip back up the island of Great Britain started with a few days in London, where I managed to catch up with some fellow Kiwis who now call London home as well as treating myself to seeing two West end shows; Back to the Future and Frozen (both of which were super entertaining nights out). On the day I was meant to travel back up to Scotland, a significant storm hit Scotland, which caused major train disruptions. I survived the chaos at Euston Station and ran to the correct train just before it left! I took the train up to Carlisle, just on the English side of the border and was met by Shona Shirley. Shona (nee Cameron) was the First Light exchange participant from Scotland to NZ back in 2006, and she kindly offered for me to stay with her family in Castle Douglas, in South West Scotland for a few days.

I had a lovely time staying with Shona, her husband Gavin and their two boys, plus Bute the dog (I quickly became his new best friend). Seeing a part of Scotland I had never been to before was great. The landscape was quite different to the Highlands, but I did tick off seeing a few more castles. Sadly, while I was there, the weather decided not to play ball, and it was raining constantly most of the time (but one might say this is the authentic Scottish winter experience!). One highlight was a day trip to explore the quaint town of Kirkcudbright. Another was a lovely day out and lunch accompanied by Shona's Mum Margaret (previous First Light Scotland liaison) and sister. Our lunch spot had a great view, which I am told would have featured the Isle of Man on the horizon if it wasn't so rainy!

I then made my way back up to the Highlands and to the Cameron's at Inverlair, where I have been based since. My focus recently has shifted to the job hunt, as I am looking for post-doctoral work here in the UK. This has meant many hours writing applications for roles and also preparing for Zoom interviews.

I am involved with the Clan Cameron gathering committee, which means helping with the planning for the gathering at Achnacarry later in the year. I had a bit of a pinch myself moment when I was sitting in an in-person meeting in the dining room at Achnacarry with Lochiel and the committee. I am already looking forward to the event and can't wait to see the Kiwi Clan Cameron members attending in August!

Ken and Rhona have kindly shown me around more of Lochaber and the Highlands. This included a road trip to Glenfinnan (where I went up the monument and played a few tunes on my pipes) and visiting Tioram Castle before taking the car ferry back across Loch Linnhe.

I also had a day trip that involved visiting parts of Scotland related to my family ancestry. I visited Plockton and saw the house where my 3rd great-grandfather lived as a tailor's apprentice. This trip inspired me about researching my family tree, and I have since been learning more about my ancestors and updating the family tree!

I recently played my pipes near the Commando monument in Spean Bridge as Army personnel (carrying 16.5kg!) passed by as part of this year's Commando speed march. This 11km route was first undertaken by Commandos during WWII. When individuals arrived at the Spean Bridge Train Station, they had to complete the run to Achnacarry Castle with equipment and weapons within an hour. Back then, those who were unsuccessful were returned to their unit the following day!

Lastly, I wanted to mention our recent trip to Arisaig Beach. Oh, how I have missed walking on a sandy beach! We

had a perfect spring blue sky day, and the water looked sooooo inviting, but I can confirm from paddling in it, that the water was still freezing! We enjoyed our picnic with a great view of the Isles of Rum and Eigg, and when looking in the other direction, we could see the Isle of Skye.

That is all for now before I write an entire novel about my time here! Thanks so much for reading!



Castle with bridge is Eilean Donan Castle near the Kyle of Lochalsh



The outline of Isles of Rum and Eigg in the distance. Eigg was where First Lighter Heather Cameron spent her exchange teaching the four local children at the island school.



Plockton with Harbour St behind with the house with the green door being where Sarah's great-great-great-grandfather had lived as an apprentice tailor. Later he and his family emigrated to Napier, New Zealand, sailing from Glasgow on the ship 'Ballarat'



Photo: Editor



Auckland Branch AGM

Jean McQueen, Brian Cameron, Jenny Haggitt, Rob Cameron, Don Cameron, Pam Cameron, Hillary Hakaraia, Jill Cameron, Neil Cameron, Norman Cameron, Bryan Haggitt, Dale Bailey and Cass Hakaraia.

Pipe Band Championships



Left: New Auckland member Reuben Shadbolt, Centre: Rob Cameron marching with the City of Sails Band. Right: Our banner crew on the streets of Takapuna. We drew lots or requests for photos. Dale Bailey, Morea and Allan Cameron. Photos: Dale Bailey and Duncan McQueen



The Street March in Takapuna. Left: Patrick Coogan in the Manawatu Scottish no 2 band Centre: Nick Cameron in the Canterbury Caledonian No 2 band. Right: Manawatu Scottish No 1 band—Championship Runners Up. Photos: Dale Bailey.



The Massed Bands Parade at the conclusion of the Nationals. Photo: Editor