



# Cameron

*The Magazine of Clan Cameron New Zealand Inc.*



*Looking across to the salmon farm on Loch Arkaig.*

*Photo: Margaret Steedman*

## 150th TURAKINA HIGHLAND GAMES

John S. Grant [4th. Generation]

January 2014

'Tis a 150 yrs now, they have woken on this day  
To the sound of bagpipe music as the pipers play.  
The wearing of the Tartan, and of course a sprig of heather,  
One day a year, for families to celebrate high endeavour.

The Clans are represented, as Banners they unfold,  
The music it is ancient, as old, as old, as old.  
They watch the graceful dancers, in kilts of red and green,  
Who step and prance, and posture, surely just a dream.

There's the tossing of the caber, for those with mighty muscles  
The shot put too, there is some mighty tussles.  
A tot or two to slake the thirst, or perhaps a glass of ale.  
This day is life in this dear spot, may it never fail.

The light has gone the children tire, old stories they are told,  
Revellers still celebrate, perhaps the not so old.  
We wander home soul satisfied, with just a trace of tear,  
Ah! But we'll be back there is no doubt, in just another year.

Though years they pass, and we wither and we age,  
The 4<sup>th</sup>. Saturday in each New Year, will ever be the gauge.  
Will be remembered, conjure up forgotten names,  
Of the people who are the "Turakina Highland Games"

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*The massed bands ready to play at the National Pipe Band Championships in Tauranga.*

*Photo: Jean McQueen*





## "Cameron"

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

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## A message from our President.....

Dear Clan members and friends,

Welcome to the newsletter again with thanks to our editor. My thoughts are with the history of our families. I get asked frequently - "have I started my life story, what about your home as it was part of your life". Yes, one needs to give these subjects some thought.

Photos of events as well as family gatherings - these must never be destroyed or disposed of. They can be put on modern video, CD disk or what have we, but the problem is they are not full-proof. Already it is not easy to have video, tape recorders or similar modern devices repaired by many of the experts. So Kodak is still the best record. This brings me to the thought of going through the records looking for A.G.M gathering photos in the hopes of a good display at the Annual meeting later this month.

I have taken up the position of President for the Opotiki Rotary for 2014/15 when the change -over in June takes place. I spent last week-end at Waipuna Lodge for the meeting of presidents elect.

This newsletter should arrive before the meeting this month and it may have raised some interest in members.

Regards to all

*Fraser Cameron.*

## Coming Events:

**Weekend 28-30 March 2014**

**National Annual Gathering and AGM.**

at Daniels in the Park, 11th Avenue, Tauranga.

Registration Form available on the Clan Cameron web site.

Enquiries to Joy Cameron 07 575 4659

**Saturday 19 and Sunday 20 April 2014**  
**64th Easter Highland Games**

at Lindisfarne College, Pakowhai Road, Hastings (near Stortford Lodge).

Come and soak up the atmosphere at this annual event. You will be sure of a great welcome in the Cameron tent.

Enquiries to Mike Topham 06 879 8215

**Saturday 26 July 2014**

**Manawatu Branch Midwinter Dinner**

In Palmerston North. Further details will be advised.

Enquiries to Jessie Annabel 06 355 2705

## Editor's Corner

Apologies for putting the magazine out slightly early this time. This is due to the AGM and other commitments I have at the end of the month.

I am privileged to be able to publish - for the first time - three poems by John Grant of Wanganui. John was reluctant to have them published but Roz Grant was able to persuade him. These are on the front and back pages and page 3.

Congratulations to Auckland member Al Cameron who has just been elected President of the Devonport RSA.

Alan Cameron of Scotland, has informed me that there is a Clan barbecue planned for August 14 at Achnacarry as a contribution to Homecoming Scotland 2014. This is the day before the Glenfinnan Games and each event will

complement the other.

While the details are not yet worked out, it will be informal and will give an opportunity to visit the Museum, the Clan Oak woodland, and the grounds of Achnacarry. Short walks will be organised and a barbeque provided. This event will be in the afternoon of Friday 14th August starting at 2.00. More details will be posted on the website:

www.clancameron.org.uk

Alan Cameron has said that New Zealand Camerons visiting Lochaber are most welcome but asks that he be informed in advance for catering purposes. His email address is:

aicameron21@gmail.com

Thank you for your contributions to the magazine - please keep them coming.

*Neil*

**Clan Cameron NZ is now on Facebook**



**Next Magazine Deadline is 15 May**

**Printed By**

## Expression of interest sought

# The Barque *Blenheim's* arrival in Wellington 1840.

**I**n 2015 it will be 175 years since the *Blenheim* arrived.

To celebrate the 150th. there was a dinner held in Wanganui to mark the departure from Greenoch, Scotland on the 25<sup>th</sup> of August 1840 and a picnic at Kaiwharawhara Park, Kaiwharawhara, Wellington to unveil the cairn there and mark the arrival on the 27<sup>th</sup> of December 1840.

We are planning to hold similar commemorative events again. If you are interested in attending or helping with these events please contact us.

Roz & Ewen Grant

0 6 327 3861 Tullochgorum@xtra.co.nz

### The passenger list consists of the following families;

Brown James wife Mary 3 children,  
Cameron Alexander wife 2 children unnamed,  
Cameron Allan wife Janet 3 sons,  
Cameron Angus  
Cameron Catherine - 2-  
Cameron Donald wife Christina 7 children settled Wairarapa  
Cameron Donald wife Mary 8 children settled Turakina  
Cameron Dugald wife Christian 3 children  
Cameron Dugald  
Cameron Ewen wife Maria 11 children  
Cameron Ewen  
Cameron John wife Janet 9 children settled Turakina  
Cameron John settled Wanganui  
Cameron Mary  
Campbell Capt Moses wife Jessie 5 children settled Wanganui  
Chisholm John  
Drummond James

Dunnet Mathew wife Margaret 2 children  
Easton George wife Mary  
Ferguson Donald wife Mary 2 children  
Ferguson John  
Ferguson John wife unnamed 2 children  
Fraser Duncan wife Margaret 10 children  
Frazer Jane  
Frazer Jane 1 child  
Grant Alexander settled Turakina  
Harvie William  
Johnston ? Mrs  
Keith Alexander  
McCollsty Daniel  
McConnel William wife Elizabeth  
McDonald Donald wife unnamed 8 children settled Wellington  
McDonald Dr. Sinclair  
Mc Eachnie Michael  
McFarlane John  
MacGregor Gregor settled Turakina  
McKay John 6 children  
McKenzie Hugh wife Catherine 6 children  
McKinnis Lachlan  
McKinnon John  
McLachlan Dugald wife Jane 5 children settled Turakina  
McLellan Archibald wife Christina  
McMaster Angus  
McQuarrie Donald wife Margaret 6 children  
McQueen Archibald  
Miller William wife Marian 5 children  
Mitchell James wife Jane 2 children  
Morrison Hugh wife Anne 7 children  
Murray John  
Nicol William wife Janet 5 children  
Rankin James  
Ross George  
Sinclair Francis wife Eliza 7 children  
Smith Mary  
Sutherland Dr. Sinclair?  
Thompson Alexander wife Helen  
Turner Isabella  
Turner John

## History Corner by Fiona Cameron

### Edward Gibbon Wakefield and the Heiress

**P**assengers of the *Blenheim* may never have heard of Ellen Turner of Pott Shrigley, but this young woman, in her own way, played a vital part in their arrival in New Zealand in December 1840.

Edward Gibbon Wakefield was a man with ambition but somewhat lacking in funds. In 1816, at the age of 20, he had eloped to Scotland with a 17-year-old heiress, Eliza Pattle. Her mother accepted the marriage and settled £70,000 on the young couple. However Eliza died four years later and Edward was not successful in gaining more money from the Pattle family. So Edward and his brother William planned another lucrative marriage.

Through various lies and shenanigans, (they told her her mother was ill and that her father's business had collapsed) the brothers convinced Ellen Turner, a fifteen year old heiress, to leave her school and travel with them to Gretna Green in Scotland. Scottish law allowed marriages of minors without parental consent and also allowed for "irregular marriages", meaning that if a declaration was made before two witnesses, almost anybody had the authority to conduct the marriage ceremony. So Edward and Ellen were married by the local blacksmith Duncan Lang.

Unfortunately for Edward, the Turner family were not as acquiescent as the Pattles. They brought in the Colonial Secretary

and both Edward and his brother were convicted of kidnapping and sentenced to three years in jail.

It was during his time in Newgate prison, that Edward turned his mind away from heiresses and towards plans for the colonisation of Australia and New Zealand. He published a pamphlet and a series of newspaper articles promoting the plan to buy land from the indigenous residents very cheaply, then selling it to 'gentlemen' settlers for a much higher sum. Assisted emigrants would provide the labour to break in the lands and cater to their employers' everyday needs.

The first New Zealand Company ships arrived in this country in 1839, followed not long after by the first emigrant ships, including the *Blenheim*.

And what of Ellen? Her marriage to Edward was annulled. She married Thomas Leigh but died in childbirth aged 19. ☆

#### Turakina Cemetery

150<sup>th</sup>. Anniversary Highland Games 2014

We stood upon this sacred ground,  
And listened to the piper sound,  
A lament to those who had gone before  
Who gave us this and so much more.  
The sun it shone on every head,  
No sound was heard, the air was still,  
As we stood atop this "Hallowed Hill"

John S. Grant January 2014

# From the Branches....

**Auckland** by Don Cameron

The Auckland branch of Clan Cameron started 2013 with the outstanding celebration of the annual meeting of the New Zealand clan and there was the marvellous sight of some 100 guests spread completely around the dining room to sing Auld Lang Syne.

The Auckland branch had an equally special opening planned for the start of 2014 with the election of Norman Cameron as the ninth branch president since the Clan was reformed in 1958.

Norman's forebears were among the band of Scotsmen on board the good ship Blenheim when it dropped anchor in Wellington harbour in 1840. Norman's band started work on building a road from Wellington to Petone and they later moved north and farmed in the Turakina area. In later years Norman made a close study of his particular branch of the clan, and this was later to be turned into his handsome book "The Camerons of Springhill"

Norman also had the good luck to marry Jill, a member of the Canterbury cricketing elite -- which did him no harm at all when on a London holiday they were made most welcome at Lord's.

Recently Norman became a member of the Auckland committee, moving up to secretary. He took over the presidency from this writer when he and his wife Valmar passed their 80th birthdays and found that the duties of moving to important meetings elsewhere in New Zealand became a problem.

There have been many memories from the recent past, especially with organising the annual clan dinners -- which raised quite a lot of money for the First Light enterprise. Fiona Cameron and Hillary Hakaria were the star raffle-ticket sellers, and brought in a hefty total for First Light each year.

There seemed to be a steady trickle of new members in recent years although the attendance has dropped away at the Waipu and Paeroa gatherings early in the year. The New Years Day event at Waipu is no longer a comfortable day's struggle with holiday traffic, but at the last festival in Waipu the only Cameron in the formal march into the gathering was Neil Cameron.

Neil also produces the six-a-year Newsletters, each of them a tribute to his work as editor and the proof-reading assistance from his wife Ruth,

**Canterbury** by Rae Magson

Several members attended the Scottish Cultural Festival held at Riccarton Bush early in February. It was a lovely sunny day and our tent attracted lots of visitors. That was probably due to the haggis we were giving away, lots of people had never tried it before. As well there was interest in the literature we had on display. The usual highland dancing, Scottish country dancing, and most of all, the pipe bands filled in this fun day.

We are wishing our President, Nick Cameron well. He is on his way to Stornoway (Isle of Lewis, Scotland) from 14th to 28th May to visit an elderly relative and to attend his birthday party.

**Bay of Plenty** by Denis Cameron

We are very busy with the organisation of the National Annual General Meeting which will be held in Tauranga from 28th -- 30th March. We have a few surprises in store for everyone and look forward to a good gathering of clans folk and friends. We look forward to enjoying the company and friendship from members from all over New Zealand.

Joy and Denis, Fraser and Elaine, Hazel and Logan, Ray and Janet, Tony Stevens-Graham, Duncan Gillies of Huntly, all BOP members went to the Paeroa Highland Games and assisted Neil in the Clan Tent. It was hot and humid with occasional rain but all had a good day. Some members stayed on for the Tattoo in the evening.

Unfortunately we did not get to the National Pipe Band Championships which were in Tauranga on the 7th and 8th of March. Ray Crafts, our bard, had a busy week-end there and was involved in some of the organisation and we thank Ray for his input.

Our thoughts are with those who may not be enjoying the best of health at the moment and we look forward to their recovery and continued participation and friendship at our social gatherings.

See you at the AGM.

**Gisborne** by David Cameron

The Gisborne Branch of Clan Cameron New Zealand Annual General Meeting was held at the Tatapouri Sports Fishing Club on 13 February 2014

David Cameron was returned as President, Georgina Cameron

McLeod was returned as Secretary/Treasurer.

An enjoyable lunch and company was shared by attendees before committee business being the order of the afternoon..

**Manawatu** by Jessie Annabell

The Manawatu branch hosted a tent at the Turakina Games on Saturday January 22<sup>nd</sup>, due principally to the efforts put in by John Cameron. This year was especially significant because it was the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first recorded games at Turakina in 1864. We hoped that local members would be interested without being chivvied but in fact it was the other branches who put up a strong showing and made us look good. Neville & Shona Wallace, John Grant (Taranaki-Wanganui), Trish & Mike Topham (Gisborne), Helen Shaw (Hawkes Bay) and Tanya, Robbie & Hunter Cameron, David & Elaine Cameron (Bay of Plenty) and Neil & Ruth Cameron, (Auckland) were amongst those who came and there were four banners in the clan parade.

There were 20 clan tents, a strong showing, and a good chance to bring our clan contacts up to date. Many thanks to local members Richard, Ruiha & Margaret Steedman (Taihape & Taumarunui) David Moore (Otaki), John Cameron (Marton) Ian and Sue McKelvie, Jessie and John Annabell for enhancing the lovely day. And thanks to Manawatu members Roz & Ewen Grant for having their Grant tent adjacent to ours and hosting a barbecue.

Mount Lees Reserve- a bit off the beaten track, but an exceptionally beautiful and sheltered place - was the site for Manawatu branch AGM and pot luck lunch on Sunday 23 February. Over 20 people came, including some new members. We were especially pleased to have Dean & Jo Cameron (Feilding) and their 3 children. Our outgoing treasurer Dianne Burke, who will be much missed, is replaced (for the time being) by Harry Lampen-Smith. Manawatu Branch proposes to hold a midwinter dinner in Palmerston North on Saturday 26 July. Details have yet to be worked out.

The forthcoming 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the sailing of the "Gaelic" ship *Blenheim* will be next year in 2015. At least 8 people at the AGM could trace their ancestry back to this ship. Organiser Roz Grant has not finalised the details yet, but it is envisaged that there will a dinner, or dinners, on the sailing date (August 25<sup>th</sup>) and a picnic at Kaiwharawhara on the arrival date (December 27<sup>th</sup>) ( - see page 3 -Ed)



Bill Cameron's article 'The Last Cameron Seanachaidh' will be continued at a later date. Bill has been extremely busy of late and has not had time to complete it. The photo of Alasdair Cameron in the February issue should have been credited to the Iain Thorber Collection. My apologies to Iain.

Editor.

# Visit to Achnacarry

by Margaret Steedman (Manawatu)

Richard and I arrived at Fort Augustus Scotland on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2013 after a long drive from down south. There was a lot to do & see in a very short time so it was a matter of getting a move on.

On Tuesday we explored some of the old places around the back roads of Lochs Lochy and Arkaig. Two ancient cemeteries firstly Kilfinnan on the west side of Loch Lochy where Janet MacGregor's father John MacGregor was purported to have been born in 1750. Only found one MacGregor in the cemetery but several Kennedys. We met a man on the road who gave us directions and added the information that the MacGregors were sheep rustlers. Luckily he had a smile on his face. From here we could look across the Loch to see the slopes of Letterfinlay (MacMartin Cameron lands) which are on the road between Fort Augustus and Fort William. The second cemetery was Strone where lots of Cameron's lived and died. Both the cemeteries were on farms with no fence around Strone. Couldn't read much on the monuments as they were very old. We wanted to go back to the 1700's so it was almost impossible to read anything. We were most intrigued with the skull & crossbones on a number of the graves. Do they mean anything specific, I wonder?

From Strone we drove up Glen Loy alongside the river Loy. On the opposite side of the glen was Erracht. Strone is the place where the MacGilllonie Camerons, who are our lot, hung out. All these areas are very close to one another.

Then it was time to go to the Achnacarry Museum to meet up with Lochiel. Donald Cameron was most hospitable and generous with his time. He took us all around the Estate and pointed out different things of interest. I couldn't wait for Lochiel to tell us the wonderful mysterious story of the dark mile but it turned out to be very ordinary and referred to all the trees that once grew there forming a dark tunnel. The one about the witch leaping into the falls on the river Arkaig and changing into a cat had more promise. We could see the salmon farm they have set up on the Loch, a few deer, also an abundance of very fat pheasants but not a sign of the ovine animal - apparently they are not profitable. We saw more sheep in one fenced paddock in NZ than all the places we visited in Scotland, Mull & Iona. Lochiel pointed out an Ospreys nest up in the top of a very high tree on the Lochside at Bunarkaig. There is a programme in which naturalists are trying to attract the Osprey back to where they once nested in numbers.

Lochiel was living at Clunes because Achnacarry was being renovated. His youngest daughter Lucy was to be married that weekend and the gardeners were busy sprucing everything up. We had a look around a few of the downstairs rooms such as the library etc. It was very nice with a great view of the Arkaig river out of the windows. Close to the Castle are self catering holiday apartments. They have been converted from the original estate farm steading. They looked most inviting.

On Wednesday we walked along the southern shore of Loch Arkaig to visit Invermallie the place where Big John Cameron was born. This is the place of the MacGilllonie Cameron's of Invermallie. The land seems to be so poor, peaty and swampy and not a lot of it. Must have been with great difficulty they farmed and survived here. There was a large stone fence running up the hill presumably the boundary of their holdings and a few heaps of stones here and there. The only thing standing is a bothy which is thought to have possibly originally been Alexander MacGilllonie Cameron's croft.

Our current research indicates that this Alexander was the Grandfather of Big John & Angus Cameron our ancestors, who came to New Zealand and are buried at Turakina. These Bothy's are just like hunters huts really - you have to bring in your own

stuff. We encountered three fellows from Malta who were staying there and looking for something suitable to catch for their tea. We did meet people on our travels who actually go bothying - similar to Corbett & Munro bagging I suspect. Our walk took us about four hours by the time we took photos and fossicked around. Along the path we walked were wild primroses, violets, bluebells and a couple of fat black slugs, managed to get a photograph of them all.

We were very lucky to meet Astie Cameron and his wife Tracey thanks to Bruce Cameron who had asked Richard to deliver some shirts made to commemorate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Turakina Games also greetings to deliver from Ewen & Roz Grant. Tracey kindly asked us to stay a night with them when we returned from Iona. Their house is on the Estate at Bunarkaig and was once the Kennels. In times long past it was a black house where humans and animals lived together in the winter which must have helped to keep everyone warm. Astie and Tracey built the house themselves and live there with their two children Nina and Alan. Their lives seem to be extremely busy. While we were on Iona they attended Lucy's wedding for which of course Astie played the pipes. Tracey said the bride was so beautiful.

Richard and I had a great time in Scotland visiting all the ancient places and meeting such interesting people who were always so eager to help and inform. Pity we didn't have a lot more time.



*The bothy at Invermallie on Loch Arkaig*



## Obituary

## Rodney Cameron

We regret to report the death, on 15 February 2014, of Rodney Cameron, aged 79 years.

Rodney joined the Wanganui Branch in 1973, when living at Ohingaiti, and served on their committee and as vice-president. As a talented piper and a member of the Hunterville Pipe Band, he was much in demand and piped for the visit of Lochiel and Lady Margaret in 1986. He visited Achnacarry for the 1989 Clan Gathering - the photo (left) was taken at the evening ceilidh.



Rodney was elected to the position of Dominion Secretary/Treasurer in 1978 and served in that position until 1987, then Secretary from 1987 until 1988. Together with his wife Alison, Rodney edited the Clan newsletter from 1982 until 1992.

Joy Cameron remembers that when the branch began to have a presence at Square Day in Palmerston North each December, Rodney lent his caravan for some years to set up the stall selling baked potatoes. He was also present with his caravan at many of the Turakina games.

Rodney and Alison have lived in retirement in Papatoetoe, and though no longer involved with the Clan Association, Rodney retained an interest in his Scottish heritage.

Alison said - "He had a good send off with 'Amazing Grace' played as he was carried from the church. He was enthusiastic about Clan Cameron and clan history".

- Editor





# Down Memory Lane

An interview with

**Lt.-Col. Charles Cameron**  
for 'the Braes of Lochaber'

*You must notice great changes in the Estate since your young days.*

Oh yes, one would expect that, but, curiously the biggest is the change in the community. If you set aside all the social change of the past 80 years, the biggest difference now is in the makeup of the community and the state of the houses – there are so many smart houses now; in my young day, every house on the lochside, at Achnacarry, Bunarkaig and Clunes was part of the estate and the occupants were all estate workers; the housing is now mostly owned by people with no connection with the estate.

*Can you remember how many estate staff there were?*

There must have been about 12 shepherds, Flora's father, who was the cattleman, looked after the dairy herd, a general farm worker or two, 3 stalkers, 3 gardeners, the household staff and all the seasonal people who came at various times of year. And of course, there was James Weir who was the factor cum manager who farmed at Achnasaul and later Annat on his own account. There was also Allan Kennedy, Lily's father, who was the skipper of the yacht as well as the blacksmith, Rebecca who walked up to Glendessary twice a week, the head gardener, Mr Moss and his wife lived in what is now the museum and Kirsty Cameron, the washerwoman who lived at

Laundry Cottage; we think she lived to be one hundred but nobody knew, as she was born before records were kept. I think there must have been 30 or 40 or so. Apart from immediately round Achnacarry, there were also estate houses and staff at Torcastle,



Achdaliu, Glendessary, Glenloy, and Kingie. As I said, there was a head gardener as well as two under gardeners and we had glasshouses producing peaches and tomatoes and a very productive walled garden. When we had lunch parties, after coffee, Father would invite people to walk round the garden to look at a particularly fine Sino-Grande, and when we got

back it was time for them to go – a good way of getting rid of guests!

Donald Cameron was head keeper and stalker for the south forest and Alex Macdonald was the stalker for the north forest. There were lots of horses, garrons for the stalking and Clydesdales on the farm. My father used to say "I keep horses to plough the land to grow food to give the horses."

Norman MacRae was Father's butler; he started as a footman in 1906 and married my mother's ladies maid and was his batman during the war. He was very alcoholic and my mother said "If you give up drink, so will I," and he never drank again. In the evening, he served sherry and always offered it to my mother as well, and she always refused. He packed our trunks and saw we were generally well turned out. As long as I remember, he lived at Fir Cottage and if we ever had important people staying, we were sent off to stay with him.

During the war, Father spent a lot of time in Inverness and was lent a flat in Ardross Terrace by Wotherspoon – James's Grandfather – and MacRae looked after him; very convenient as he could walk to the Council Buildings. He used to stay with the Moniak Frasers lot as he was on the Council too.

*How do you remember your father?*

The First World War had a tremendous effect on people. After the first battle of Loos, my father and the adjutant, James, later General, Drew were the only two officers left not wounded or killed. He used to wake up with nightmares. I remember him as a rather austere, slightly aloof but very kind man whom we wouldn't have dreamt of calling anything other than 'Father'; no 'Dad' or 'Daddy'. He didn't really pay much attention to us until we started growing up. My parents' bedroom was where you have the kitchen now and the kitchen was in the basement; in 1923 or so, we had a flood and cook was walking about with water up to her ankles, so the kitchen was moved upstairs, away from the basement when the house was altered after the war.

Father invariably wore a kilt as did we boys. I never knew Grandmother who died before I was born; she lived at 'Ravensdale' in Corpach after my grandfather died.

Strange things come to mind; I remember that there was no outside telephone line to Clunes, so Mrs Moss in the post office would take a message and pass it on.

(To be continued - with thanks to 'The Braes of Lochaber'.)



## The Camerons of Callart...

by Alan I Cameron

To trace the link between the Camerons of Callart and the Camerons of Lochiel, we have to go back to the late 15th C and Donald Dubh, the first authentic Captain of Clan Cameron. His son Allan nan Creach had two sons—Ewen who succeeded to the Captaincy and John, the second son, from whom the Camerons of Callart are descended. The Callart lands were three or so miles east of North Ballachulish.

The paragraph above was taken from "The Camerons: A history of Clan Cameron". The chapter contains an

interesting account of the Callart Camerons, the Camerons of Lundavra and Camerons of Culchenna and how they were inter-related. I found a very interesting fact which I had discovered in tracing my own family tree. This was a reference to Alexander Wentworth Cameron who married the daughter of the minister in Tiree. He was not related to me, the only connection being the name and Tiree. He was in fact from the Camerons of Callart line.

I am pleased to say that a new updated edition of this wonderful Clan book will be published in the near future. It will also have an updated account of the development of the Association since the 1970s.

## Update on the Cameron Mausoleum at Callart.

By Bill Cameron

(see Bill's article in our February 2013 magazine - Ed)

With strong and persistent winter gales hitting the elevated spot high above Loch Leven, the Cameron mausoleum has sadly seen some more damage to its structure. A number of slates have now come off the roof, as well as damage to the fallen Cameron coat of arms, as well as a protective cover on the rear window that has fallen down.

Sadly now that the roof is starting to leak, it will only be a matter of time before further damage occurs.



I am now corresponding with the owners of this listed building to look at ways in which this unique piece of Cameron and architectural history can be preserved.

# Donald Walter Cameron and World War 1

by Alan I Cameron (Scotland)

It is appropriate at this time when we are remembering the outbreak of WWI to recall the significant part played by **Donald Walter Cameron of Lochiel**, the 25th chief of Clan Cameron and grandfather of our present chief.

Born on 4 November 1876, he was the eldest son of Donald Cameron, 24th of Lochiel, and succeeded his father as chief in 1906. That same year, he married Hermione Emily Graham, daughter of Douglas Graham, 5th Duke of Montrose. The couple had three sons, Donald Hamish Cameron, 26th Lochiel, Allan Cameron later of Allangrange, and Charles Cameron (later Colonel), as well as two daughters Violet Hermione and Marion Hester. He served in the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders and was knighted in 1934. From 1939 he was the Lord Lieutenant of Inverness-shire. He died in 1951.



Kitchener, realising that the recruitment was not as successful as he had hoped, tasked Lochiel with raising a new battalion of Cameron Highlanders. Copied at right is the letter written by Lochiel and published in The Glasgow Herald and The Scotsman. The recruitment campaign was very successful particularly from Glasgow University from where he recruited many staff and students. So successful was this campaign that Kitchener asked Lochiel to raise a second battalion. At the time, every tram in Glasgow bore a poster saying **"Join Lochiel's Camerons"**. One company was formed by Glasgow Stock Exchange, and another by Glasgow University. Such was the attraction of the Lochiel name and reputation that within a short time the 6th, 7th and 8th Battalions were formed. Each recruit had to demonstrate either Highland descent or a connection with the Highlands.

**"A Company"** was the Gaelic speaking men from the Islands and Lochaber; **"B"** the men from Inverness, Skye, and South Uist; **"C"** the Highlanders from the rest of Scotland and **"D"** the Glasgow Stock Exchange. On 10th May 1915, they embarked for France and took part in all the major battles of the war. At the Battle of Loos, 25th September 1916, the losses of the 5th, in particular, were heavy. Lochiel was left with only two officers and was himself invalided home.

Col Charles, in a letter to me, said that his father never quite got over the huge loss of life at Loos. These, after all were his friends, his colleagues and all men whom he had been responsible for recruiting. So many were killed and wounded at that battle that Lochiel and his Adjutant were the only officers left. Col Charles commented that his father never recovered from this terrible event.

In a contemporary report to the Oban Times a Chaplain home on leave in 1916 commented, "I left Loch-iel's Camerons in trenches somewhere in Flanders, the other day, full of confidence and enthusiasm — a great Battalion whose name is synonymous with courage, and a Battalion of which Inverness-shire and the Islands can justly be proud. Of Loos, the chaplain said,

*"When the history of this war is written, there is no Highlander but will be thrilled when he reads how on the morning of 25th September, they mounted the parapet calmly and deliberately, as if on parade. They had been chosen to lead the assault - to them was given the place of honour and of danger. Amid a veritable tornado of shot and shell there was no hesitation, no wavering. At the word of command, Lochiel's Camerons swept grimly on, carrying the*

*enemy before like sand in a September storm. They gained their objective and there they fought continuously for two days and two nights losing four fifths of their effectives, yet heroically maintaining their ground."*

The conditions in which these men lived were indescribable. A Uist man stepping into his dug-out from four feet of liquid mud commented, *"They said our war cry should be 'Remember Belgium'; we are not likely to be forgetting it."*

Nor would they forget any of the other places in Flanders where they had fought bravely and lost many of their companions.

This short account was compiled from contemporary documents, mostly from Col. Charles Cameron to whom I am most grateful.



25 August 1914.

*Sir, I have been commissioned by the King to raise a new battalion of Cameron Highlanders for Lord Kitchener's Army, for service during the present war. This new battalion will have as a nucleus a selected detachment of my own men from the 3rd Battalion, and will be composed, as far as possible, exclusively of Highlanders. The term of service is for the duration of the war, with a maximum engagement of three years. The battalion will be commanded by myself and officered by representatives of the leading clans in Inverness-shire, and, when fully trained, will go out as a complete unit, forming part of the Highland Brigade. I want to raise a thousand men for my battalion, and I have no doubt I shall have little difficulty in so doing; but having regard to the fact that Highlanders are now scattered all over the face of the earth, I must specially appeal to the officials and committees of the different Highland, County, and Clan Societies in Edinburgh, Glasgow, and elsewhere to assist me in my endeavour by becoming my recruiting agents. Any Highlander of good physique between the ages of nineteen and thirty who wishes to serve under me in the defence of his country and for the rights of liberty against military oppression should apply to the nearest recruiting office or post office for a travelling warrant to Inverness. I give my personal guarantee that at the end of the war the battalion will be brought back to Inverness, where it will be disbanded with all convenient dispatch. The companies and platoons will be organised according to the local districts, so that men from each district will always be kept together in their own section, platoon, or company. In view of the fact that I am expecting Highlanders from all parts of the globe to flock once again to the untarnished standard of the Camerons, all eligible young men should at once take the opportunity of coming forward to enlist. Highlanders who are over thirty can assist by helping me to recruit, and should put themselves in touch with Lieu-tenant-Colonel Gunn, Edinburgh Castle, as soon as possible.*

*Yours faithfully,*

*D. W. CAMERON OF LOCHIEL, Lieut.-Colonel.*

Alan I Cameron is the editor of the Clan Cameron Association of Scotland newsletter, in which this article appeared. Thank you Alan for allowing this edited version to be re-printed.

Alan has edited the CCAS newsletter for 10 years and is now handing over the editor's pen to our old friend and First Lighter, Bill Cameron.

We look forward to continuing our strong relationship with both Bill and CCAS.





Aonaibh ri Cheile

*The Back Page*



Photo: Margaret Steedman



Richard Steedman talks to Lochiel outside the Clan Museum

Photo: Duncan McQueen



To start the ball rolling for Fraser - a historical picture from 25 years ago. N.Z. Camerons at the 1989 Achnacarry Clan Gathering. Can you name everyone?



Banners on display. Camerons lead the street march at the Paeroa Highland Games.



Photo: Jean McQueen

Auckland Branch Piper Andrew McQueen completed the Taupo Ironman in 10hrs 38, well inside his target time of 11 hrs.



Left: Riccarton Bush Scottish Cultural Festival From Left: Angus Wallace, Sharon Wallace with Isabel Cameron, and Clans waiting for the parade.

Photos: Colin Cameron

## The Hallowed Hill

Turakina 24 January 2014

The late sun did warm us, some slightly out of breath,  
As we gathered a little closer, in this place of death,  
For we'd come to honour our forbears on this sunny day,

To remember and to thank them, 'tis our special way,  
The silence it was broken, a lament the piper played,  
We heard the words the parson said, as he duly prayed,

Stones were read if possible, for some are very aged,  
Perhaps they tell the story of the battles they have waged,  
We wander down the track again, and think what all this meant,

The gathering, the stories, the prayers and the lament,  
Tis a history of a nation, wrought by those who lie so still,  
By those dear souls, those in "The Hallowed Hill"

John S. Grant. January, 2014

