



Clan Cameron New Zealand; founded 1935, incorporated 2000

Cameron

Volume 43, Issue 6

December 2009



The year 2009 is rapidly coming to a close. Joy and I would like to wish the Cameron's both here in New Zealand and throughout the World, a very happy Christmas; with plenty of quality time with your families. Do enjoy your time together, and may you all have a wonderful New Year. Do make the most of your family and friends over the festive season – they are so important in our lives. Please take care everybody and drive safely. -- Denis



Photo: Alan Cameron

“Erracht - the Place of Assembly” by Bill Cameron - page 10

Two Highlights of 2009 - The wedding of Donald the Younger of Lochiel and Sarah (above) and the Achnacarry Gathering. The Lochaber Schools' Pipe Band tune up in front of the Castle (below)

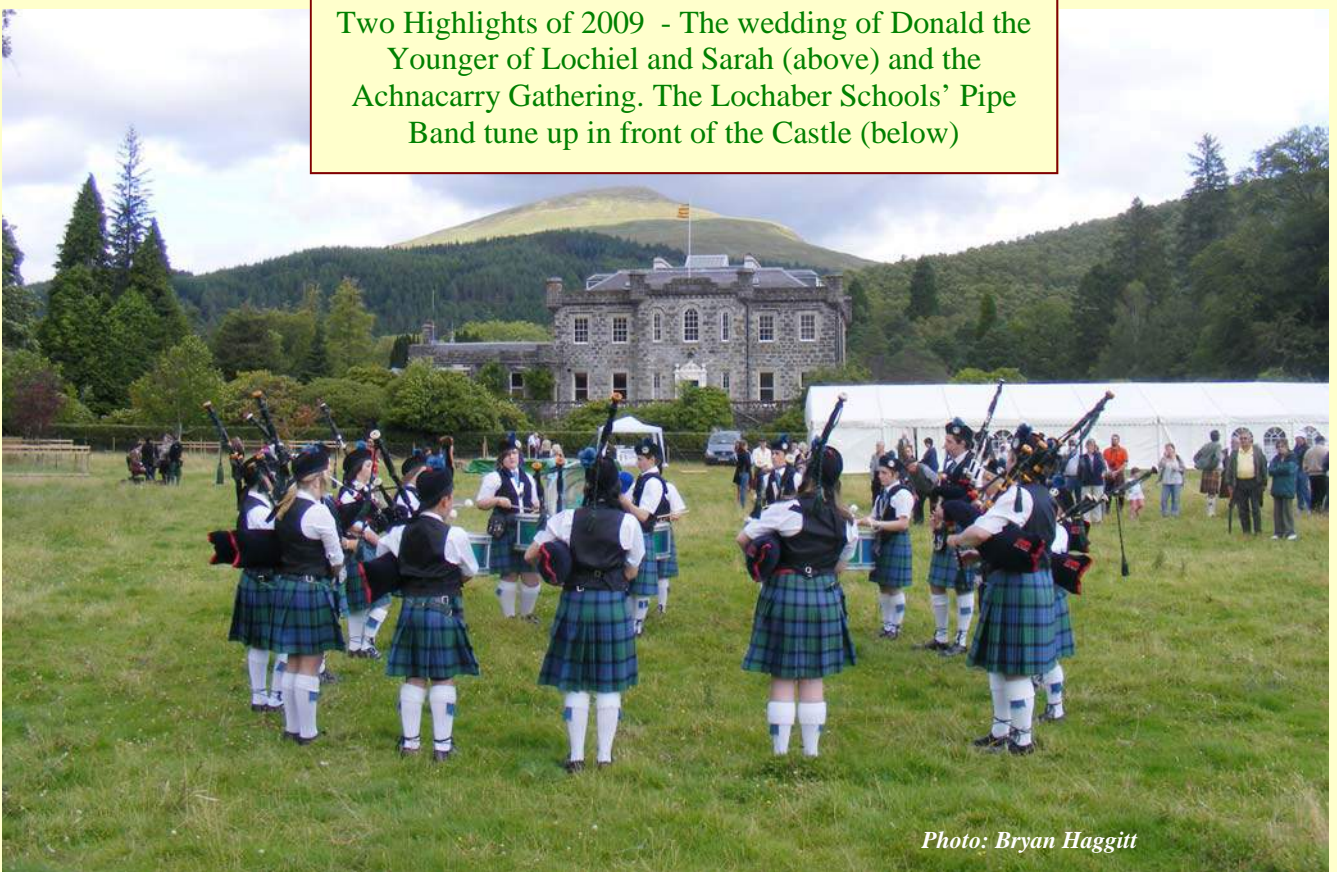


Photo: Bryan Haggitt

Auckland News

by Donald Cameron

When a small bunch of Clan Cameron Auckland members -- Neil Cameron, Norman Cameron, Valmar and Don Cameron -- decided to take up an invitation to attend a combined clans' day at Huntly on October 3 they were not quite sure what they would find at the Waikato river-side town.

Ever since the main street of the township has been skirted by a by-pass most travellers hustle past the township without taking much notice.

For the combined clans folk, all that has changed.

A gentleman named David McLachlan, of Hamilton, is eager to arrange similar clan gatherings in the Waikato area, usually in early October.

When he contacted Shirley Boyde he struck the ideal organiser. Born and bred a Cameron in Kaitangata, South Otago, Shirley and her team really put Waikato, and especially Huntly, on the Clan map.

The Camerons, led by their President and Commissioner Denis Cameron of the Bay of Plenty branch, were hosts for representatives from ten other Clans --- McDonald,

Campbell, Wallace, Armstrong, Davidson, McLean, Fraser, Gordon, McMillan, Johnstone and McLachlan.

The major surprise for the Camerons came earlier when preparing for the 100 or so metre march down the main street of Huntly.

Joining us were 11 Maori, all wearing black t-shirts with "Cameron Whanau" stencilled on the front. The group, based in Hamilton, had adopted that uniform as tribute to a family member who had died, and they were warmly welcomed into the Cameron party for the ceremonial march to the Town Hall. They took a large part in the lunch and afternoon entertainment and then bought busily when Neil Cameron displayed his stock of Cameron material, badges, jig-saws and the like, on a table outside the hall door. Several took membership forms to fill in and so far the Auckland branch has gained two more groups of family members.

Clan people familiar with such gatherings described the Huntly effort as an outstanding mixture of music and song and friendship at a most attractive setting beside the Waikato River, with miles of parking on a Saturday.

The Essex Arms Hotel, across the road from the Gathering centre, even offered free and secure parking if required.



The Cameron Whanau

Auckland Highland Games - Editor

Saturday 28 November dawned cloudy and warm - an ideal day to try out the new Clan Cameron Auckland gazebo at the Auckland Highland Games. This tent (pictured right) is strong and waterproof and should stand up to the worst of conditions, as well as providing more space for the many visitors who usually show a great interest in our display.

Visitor numbers were down somewhat however, due probably to conflicting events on elsewhere in Auckland and an inclement weather forecast. We had a number of Camerons visit the tent and were thrilled to see Patricia and Rex Cameron, also Heather and Andrew Lowes, all from Tauranga.

Sixteen clans had their history on display and a walk along the clan tents gave the visitor a good idea of Scottish history and culture and also that clansfolk who once fought on opposing sides in battle, now co-exist in harmony and unity of purpose.

A great day, with some seven pipe bands playing and the usual Highland and Scottish Dancing, tossing the sheaf and hurling the haggis, caber tossing and Highland stone lifting. Historic battle enactments also drew a large audience.

The Games should have been opened by the Mayor of Auckland, John Banks, but he was delayed with traffic. However, he arrived in time to give a stirring speech.



Towards the end of the afternoon it began to rain, though quite lightly, and we enjoyed having a tent which did not allow the rain to damage our display. Overall, we were very pleased with the tent and now look forward to taking it to Waipu and Paeroa - a wonderful way to publicise the Clan.

Welcome to the following Members who have recently joined us:



Auckland Branch

Richard Cameron
Liz Horne
Stuart Cleary

(Rototuna, Hamilton)
(Pukete, Hamilton)
(Auckland)

Manawatu Branch

Maxine Cameron (Palmerston North)
Dianne Burke (Palmerston North)

Manawatu News

by John Cameron
(Branch President)

Our annual dinner was held recently on October 10 at the Awahuri Hall in the heart of the Manawatu. The night was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended. They came from near and far, Rob and Kath Cameron from Masterton, Mike and Trish Topham from Hawke's Bay and our new friends John, Val and Jan Grant from the Wanganui branch. Last but not least President Denis and Joy Cameron. A feature of the evening was the talk Denis gave on the History of his special Cameron kilt and how it was presented to him by Roddy Cameron at Achnacarry on our recent trip to Scotland.

A big highlight of the evening was the Life Membership presentation to two members. Joy Cameron had been awarded her Life Membership a few months back but had not been presented with her Certificate, the belated presentation of the certificate to Joy was conducted by Harry Lampen-Smith.

I had the honour of presenting the Life Membership and certificate to Mary Barber. Both Joy and Mary have had a long involvement with the Manawatu Branch holding All positions on the committee over the years. Their long term commitment and participation in the events and activities over the years is to be admired and is a model to other members especially the younger ones.

Young Ben Woodham a local talented young man piped us into dinner. If he keeps up his piping he will have a great future.

Between the dinner courses Bruce Cameron "addressed the



Mary Barber and Joy Cameron flanked by Manawatu President John Cameron and New Zealand President Denis Cameron after the presentation of their Life Membership certificates

Photo: Elizabeth Shearer

Haggis" and then, following dinner, we were treated to a song from another young local talent, Fran Barber.

There was the usual raffle of a bottle of "Scotch" donated by Mac Cameron and another which contained several items acquired in Scotland by Sonia Cameron and myself on our recent trip to the Gathering and Homecoming. They were drawn and to the delight and mirth of the crowd Bruce Cameron won the 1st draw and chose the Scottish items "and the 2nd draw was won by Trish Topham. Bruce has been known to win many a clan raffle.

The evening was rounded off with some excellent piping from William Rowe from the Rangitikei Pipes and Drums. This completed a wonderful evening of good food, fellowship and entertainment.

Sunday 8th November the Branch held their annual AGM at the home of Sonia Cameron in Hunterville. A beautiful sunny day to enjoy the charms of a country town. We started with a pot luck lunch.

The formal meeting was uneventful with my re-election as President. However with the retirement of our long serving Secretary/Treasurer Mary Barber there was a large gap to fill but I managed with some prodding and persuasion to have 2 new members take on the roles. Maxine Cameron and Dianne Burke. (I have kept it in the family as they are my 2 sisters). Jessie Annabel will continue as the Historian and all the members will form a part of the committee.

Planning is well in hand for a variety of activities for the coming year including our annual fund raising event, selling haggis sandwiches at the Palmerston North Square Day in December. The annual participation in the Turakina Highland Games will also be a highlight. Some new events planned also include a haggis making workshop for those members who would like to acquire this as a skill. We look forward to participating in local and national events and continuing to meet our old and some new clan friends as we move into 2010.



Hawkes Bay News

by Helen Shaw

Hawkes Bay members met for a pot luck lunch followed by the A.G.M on Sunday 27th September at the Clansman Motor Lodge. Hosted by Leigh and Maree Cameron, owners. The day was fine and sunny and quite the warmest day we had had for some time. The lunch was very good with a good variety of dishes to choose from. We sat outside under the umbrellas and some people went home with a little sunburn. Present were two new members.

The A.G.M. went well. The President and Committee were re-elected, with one exception, owing to his move to Auckland. Another member has since been approached and has consented to fill the gap.

Our next event will be a gathering nearer to Christmas. Notice re this is attached in the news letter. I wish all other Clubs good wishes for the festive Season and a Happy New Year.



Another view of the Gathering

By Patricia and Rex Cameron (Bay of Plenty)

We arrived at the Gairloch Holiday park at Spean Bridge on Thursday 30th July where we had booked a campsite to accommodate us for the four days of the Gathering at Achnacarry Castle.

We were travelling in a VW Transporter van that was set up with a small kitchen, a bed, and cupboards with all the necessary equipment available to make the trip an enjoyable one.

We had travelled up from Wales where we were staying with our daughter Sheryl who lives in the village of Hirwaun close to Merthyr Tydfil. It had taken us 6 days travelling from Wales by way of Kings Lynn for two nights, on to Yorkshire where we stayed in a camp for two nights visiting places of interest, then to the borders of Scotland staying in Stow just outside of Edinburgh for another 2 nights. From there we picked up our daughter from the airport in Edinburgh and travelled up to Spean Bridge arriving at 10.30pm. It was raining all the way, and continued for most of the weekend.

However, Saturday was a nice day with some sunshine, so we were able to take our coats off and enjoy the outdoor entertainment with the opening of the Cameron Heritage trails, the falconry, the commando ducks, the opening & blessing of the Oak Wood and the

various stalls inside the marquee providing lots of interesting things to purchase made in

Scotland from hats, scarves, music, raffles, kilts made to measure, & food.

We listened to speakers talking about the running of the Lochiel estate, the history of the clan, and genealogy. It was all very interesting, and when Alan Cameron decided to teach us how to sing the "March of the Cameron Men" in gaelic, it created a lot of fun. He is also a very good singer.

The Lochaber Schools Pipe band of young people played the pipes and drums with a lot of skill and it was good to see young people enjoying the music. We were also entertained with highland dancers. Then there was the Tug of War, with all the younger members put into groups to try their strength against each other. Every one else on the side line calling out to encourage their group to win.

That night there was the Ceilidh, it was a lovely night with lots of music from Astie Cameron on the pipes and the band the "Skipinnish" with Robert Nairn playing the accordion, with Scottish songs being sung in gaelic by other artists. They certainly made the evening hum along.

All the visiting groups had to sing a song from their country and there were lots of fun with all the different songs being sung.

Lochiel was not to be outdone, and

sang his favourite song "Donald where's your trousers" and then told a story that had everyone laughing and enjoying the moment.

It was a lovely time meeting with all the Camerons from America, South America, Canada, Australia and NZ. Every second person was a Cameron but what a great time we had. We were just like one big family with Lochiel making us all so welcome.

Our daughter had a wonderful time, and enjoyed for her first time being involved with the hospitality of the Scottish people.

Sunday, raining again, the service was held at St.Ciaran's church, then we headed back thru the highlands to Wales. The Highlands are very barren, and the valleys and lochs are just great to see but where are the people? Every now and again we would see a small cottage and wondered how they lived there during the cold winter months. But then we came to St.Marys loch, and there was a sign saying that a fete would be held there to raise money for the local school, and to come along and join in with all the festivities. So, that is how they meet up and catch up with their neighbours.

It was a lovely time up there in the Highlands, such a lovely experience, I would certainly go back again. Thank you to Lochiel, Alan & Elizabeth, Bill, Astie and everyone who made the gathering such a warm friendly place to be.



Wood carving

Photo: Bryan Haggitt



The Lochaber Schools Pipe Band march at the Gathering

Photo: Denis Cameron



Achnacarry in its scenic setting

Photo: Bryan Haggitt



NZ Camerons march past the dais

Photo: Bryan Haggitt

The Editor's Column

Our President Denis is in good spirits after his recent illness and is making steady progress to good health. He is able to achieve a 30 minute walk each day. We wish him a speedy recovery as we do former President Harold Cameron who is making slow but steady progress after his stroke. He now has a new physiotherapist who is doing him a lot of good.



The editor and Ruth are grandparents again after 13 years. They were thrilled when grandson

Max was born recently to son John and partner Amy.

Neil

Pioneer puts pen to paper

By John Keast

Brian Cameron is an irrigation pioneer and a man of vision.

He also reckons, when it comes to water, that he is a bit of a fanatic.

And the retired Pendarves farmer was the first person in Canterbury to sink a deep bore, finding water – against all advice – 68 metres down.

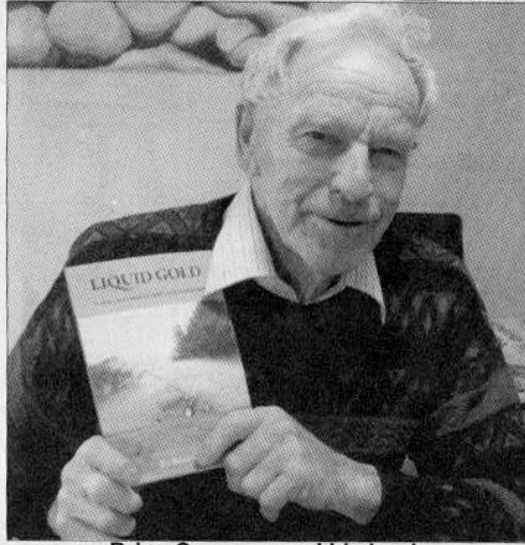
And as the water rose up the slim bore, Mr Cameron and the driller, Sam Maw, danced in the paddock.

That was in 1968, and it turned the farm into an oasis.

Now Mr Cameron has put his life-time of work on irrigation into print, publishing *Liquid Gold, A Mid Canterbury Irrigation History*.

The book sets out the history of irrigation in Mid Canterbury, its value to the district, and the challenges faced by those whose vision it was that water would one day turn Mid Canterbury into the agricultural powerhouse that it is today.

And Mr Cameron, now



Brian Cameron and his book.

living in Ashburton, believes that the current production of Mid Canterbury could yet double, given adequate water storage and better irrigation reliability.

He thinks Lake Coleridge is the obvious place for storage.

“As (farm advisor) Bob Engelbrecht has noted, without the RDR (Rangitata Diversion Race), Ashburton would be a town of 5000.

“We could double production (in Mid Canterbury) without hurting the environment,” Mr Cameron says.

“Storage is the answer. Any bad effects of irrigation can be mitigated, and this can be a win-win,” he says.

Mr Cameron admits to being a risk-taker.

In the late 1960s, he approached hydrology experts about his idea of a deep bore at Pendarves.

He had already explored various dry-land farming techniques, but with increasing costs and falling prices, the family farm was struggling to make ends meet.

The experts did not believe there would be enough water for irrigation.

The risk-taker in Mr Cameron asserted himself, and he called McMillan Water Wells.

It arrived with an old percussion plant, which dropped a large crowbar into a hole to loosen material, and a special bucket to lift it out.

It took three and a half weeks to reach 72m

At 60m driller Sam Maw was concerned, and suggested work stop.

“However, we desperately wanted irrigation and persevered,” Mr Cameron said.

His optimism was confirmed when he arrived on-site one day to find Maw grinning from ear to ear and jumping around.

The aquifer was penetrated at 68m, with the water rising to 50m.

Some time later Mr Cameron told the Hydrological Service – and they did not believe him.

Extraction was small and slow, but it watered 70 hectares via two hand-shift spray lines.

And so began the greening of the land.

Mr Cameron has been involved in irrigation planning, and with the BCI scheme.

His book is an authoritative account of irrigation development in Mid Canterbury, with particular emphasis on the Pendarves-Rakaia area, a work he began two years ago.

The book chronicles the physical, financial and political struggles that have turned Mid Canterbury into the farming mecca it is today, and all from an insider’s view.

* *Liquid Gold* is available from Mr Cameron at 29 Catherwood Avenue, ATS, Ashburton Museum, Ashburton Federated Farmers, or Rainer Irrigation.

This above appeared in The Courier, Ashburton, on 22 October. Brian Cameron is the new Canterbury Branch President. The cutting was sent by the Canterbury Branch and is reproduced with the kind permission of The Courier and John Keast

History Corner by Fiona Cameron

So what’s been happening on the clan history front?

Newsletter Index

The Clan Cameron newsletter must be one of our greatest resources and treasures. When I first took over the Historian’s position, I wondered what could be done to preserve this resource and make its contents accessible for both present and future Clan members.

So, with wonderful help and advice from the people at the Auckland Research Centre of Auckland City Libraries, I have started recording the contents of each newsletter on a database – gradually building up an index of every article, letter, titbit and photo that has appeared in the newsletter since its very first issue in January 1972.

It is a long and slow process, not helped by the fact that I often get distracted and end up reading an interesting article in its entirety rather than just skimming it for the main subjects covered!

Stage I of the project will be to record the basic information from each ‘article’ in the newsletter. This will include the volume and issue number, date, title, author and general subject(s) covered.

Stage II will expand on the basic index - doing things like adding names of all the people and places mentioned in the articles.

Helpers? If anyone is interested in helping build the newsletter index, please email me!

clancameronhistorynz@gmail.com

Shipping Index

I am also working on creating an online searchable database for Dorothy Cameron-Gavin’s fantastic Cameron Shipping Index.

This will enable people to search the index by family name, first name, arrival year, ship name, arrival place or even occupation.

For the next step in the process, I would love some ‘testers’. Anyone interested in trying out the database and giving some feedback, please email me

clancameronhistorynz@gmail.com



A message from our President

Dear Clan Cameron Members



The Cairn at Loch nan Uamh

The year 2006, was the fiftieth anniversary of the building of the Cairn at Loch nan Uamh, so perhaps the extract below is appropriate.

On 19th September 1746, Prince Charles arrived from “Cluny’s Cage” that wonderful refuge on Ben Alder, accompanied by Lochiel, John Roy Stewart and others. There they found L’Heureax, the French frigate that was to carry him to safety.

All that day, the 19th, they embarked the refugees that were to accompany the Prince into exile, and on the 20th they sailed away from Scotland. The Prince never saw it again, except perhaps in the dreams which may have helped to mitigate the bitterness of his later life. The “Gentle Lochiel” was another person who sailed away to France with Bonnie Prince Charlie – to where he died of a broken heart in a foreign country.

One can imagine, the thoughts that may have filled Charles’ mind as he stood aboard a French frigate again, and gazed on the shores of lovely Loch nan Uamh and recall his first jubilant sight of these very shores.

And one can imagine the full hearts of Cluny and the others who elected to remain in Scotland when they saw L’Heureax slip off into the dark hours of the 20th, before daybreak, carrying their beloved Prince away from them. Nothing remained, but to try and dodge Cumberland and await events disastrous events for the Highlands as they proved to be.

“on 4th October
1956, the loch witnessed
a strange and
moving sight.”

But the romantic story of Loch nan Uamh does not end here. Over two hundred years later, on 4th October 1956, the loch witnessed a strange and moving sight. Just before eleven o’clock on that morning some two hundred people had gathered on the small promontory on the shores of the Loch, which had been trodden so often by The Prince.

But it was a different promontory now, for it was crowned with a cairn, the ancient Highland symbol of remembrance. The cairn was draped with the cross of Saint Andrew and around it fluttered the banners of the loyal clans.

To this scene at noon came Scotland’s Lord High Constable, the Countess of Erroll. With her were Cameron of Lochiel, and the Laird of Inverailort; Francis Cameron-Head, who was a descendant of the Cameron Chieftains of Glendessary.

It is a strange quirk of fate that only once before has Scotland’s hereditary Lord High Constable been a woman - and that was during the ’45. As the Countess unveiled the cairn, its loving builder John Mackinnon of Arisaig played the Piobaireachd in salute. So, later, did Angus Macpherson the doyen of Scottish pipers, a descendant of Cluny’s piper, who hid with the Prince and Cluny in the “Cage” on Ben Alder.

And as an apt conclusion, Francis Cameron-Head, the Laird of Inverailort, and the man who did most to get the cairn built by the Forty-Five Association, played a tune “Prince Charlie’s Farewell to Moidart”. This was composed at the time of the Prince’s final departure, and was known only to his family. It was the first time the tune had been played in public for two hundred and ten years.

The driving rain did not dampen the proceedings. The two hundred Jacobites descendants there had gathered from far and wide ... from as far afield as Kentucky, USA, to see the cairn unveiled.

This was no exhibition of maudlin sentimentality. As Seton Gordon has written, the Prince “was the means of showing the world that loyalty and devotion were, in the opinion of his followers, such noble ends that discomfort, pain, even death itself, were as nothing in comparison”.

That is why sober and industrious

citizens of the modern world took time from their daily tasks to assemble on Loch nan Uamh [An extract from “The Highlands in History” by C R Mackinnon of Dunakin. Published by Collins in 1961

Joy and I would like to thanks the many Clan members both here and from overseas for their wonderful cards, emails and phone calls during my recent ill health. Your support was very much appreciated by our family members.

“Leis gach dhurach and Slainte mhath”
[With every good wish and good health]

Denis Cameron

More Gaelic and English Phrases

From Mary MacKellar’s “Tourists Hand-Book of Gaelic and English Phrases for the Highlands”

<i>Gaelic</i>	Co tha sin?
<i>Pronunciation</i>	Ko ha shi
<i>English</i>	Who is there?

<i>Gaelic</i>	C’ainm ’tha ort?
<i>Pronunciation</i>	Kanem ha orst?
<i>English</i>	What is your name?

<i>Gaelic</i>	Thig a stigh
<i>Pronunciation</i>	Hik a styè
<i>English</i>	Come in

with thanks to the Clan Cameron Museum

Clan Genealogist

Our new Clan Historian, Fiona Cameron, has expressed a willingness to also take on the duties of Clan Genealogist. She will be nominated by the Auckland Branch for this post at the AGM in April.

I know that Fiona is very capable of doing both these interrelated tasks. If elected her aim would be to back up and preserve the extensive records left by the late Audrey Rosoman, as well as continuing Audrey’s great work.

Please give her your support.

Editor



Aonaibh ri Cheile

Cameron

is the magazine 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 February issue:

15 January 2009

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Coming events

Thursday 10 December 2009
Hawke's Bay Branch Christmas Gathering
Clansman Motor Lodge, 5pm. Come and have something to drink for the festive season. There will be a small raffle for Branch funds.

Saturday 12 December 2009
Palmerston North Square Day
Manawatu Clan Cameron will have a stall selling sizzled sausages and haggis sandwiches, always very popular.
Enquiries to John Cameron . 06 358 0417

Friday 1 January 2010
Waipu Highland Games
Events open with the Clan March at 9.30am. Clan McLean will be host clan this year. Come and visit the Cameron tent and give us your support. Details: www.waipugames.co.nz

Saturday 30 January 2010
Turakina Highland Games
Cameron Road, Turakina.
NZ's oldest Highland Games. Come and enjoy a day in the country. Starts 8.30am.
Details: www.turakinahighlandgames.co.nz

Saturday 13 February 2010
Paeroa Highland Games
Paeroa Domain commencing 9am. Clan Cameron will be there.
Details: www.paeroahighlandgames.co.nz

12 and 13 March 2010
Royal New Zealand Pipe Band Championships at Masterton. Accommodation may be hard to find. Contact Warren Cameron: camcraft@orcon.net.nz

15 - 17 April 2010
Clan Cameron Annual Gathering and AGM.
Cophorne Hotel and Resort Solway Park, High Street, Solway, Masterton.
See www.camclan.orconhosting.net.nz

Useful Websites

Clan Cameron New Zealand website
<http://www.camclan.orconhosting.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 NZ Webmaster:
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The Royal New Zealand Navy and some Scottish Links by the Editor

When I joined the Navy a few weeks off 60 years ago and for some seven years afterwards my eyes were always drawn to four trim little vessels of the Reserve Fleet cocooned in the Basin at the Naval Base. These were Isles (sometimes called Scottish Isles) Class antisubmarine minesweepers. Based on a North Sea trawler design, these seaworthy little vessels were built in large numbers for minesweeping, patrolling and escorting coastal convoys.

Four of these ships were offered to and accepted by the NZ Government in 1941. These were **Scarba, Sanda, Inchkeith** and **Killegray**, all named after Scottish Islands. The ships were worked up in Scottish waters and did escort work until early 1942 when they sailed for home being part of convoys' escorts to Canada, then to the West Indies and through the Pacific. Being coal burners, getting to New Zealand was a story in itself but they all arrived, some under tow after suffering from a shortage of poor quality coal taken on en route, ready to start minesweeping in NZ waters in late 1942.

After a busy four years mainly spent on minesweeping and antisubmarine patrols in the Hauraki Gulf and Bay of Islands and with the odd escort duty to Norfolk Island and Noumea, these four ships were paid off in 1946 and laid up at the Devonport Naval Base, Auckland until finally being scrapped in 1957.

Only Killegray was, in fact, built in Scotland - the remainder were built in the North of England. I will describe the four Scottish Islands they were named after.

Scarba (Gaelic: *Sgarba*.)

The nearest to Cameron country, Scarba is located to the north of the island of Jura, half a mile across the Strait of Corryvreckan. The island is uninhabited. It has an area of 3640 acres, with a peak rising from the sea to 1473 feet. On the eastern side of the island there are ruins of crofts and a chapel. Covered in heather, it has a population of red deer, wild goats and sheep and Luining cattle are grazed here in the summer months



HMNZS Scarba in the Hauraki Gulf. *Photograph courtesy of the Navy Museum*

Sanda (Gaelic: *Sandaigh*)

Sanda is a small private island lying just off the south tip of the Mull of Kintyre. There is a small population and the island is busy with boat trips and self-catering accommodation. It is a favourite for yachties and is a site for scientific interest (SSI).

Sanda Island has the distinction of having the remotest public house in the British Isles. Called the "*BYRON DARNTON*", it is named after a Liberty ship that ran aground, on March 17th 1946, in dense fog, 100 yards South West of the Sanda Lighthouse. Legend has it that St Ninian himself is buried on Sanda and that death within a year will fall upon anyone who stands on his grave.

Inchkeith (Gaelic: *Innis Cheith*)

An island in the Firth of Forth. It is part of Fife. Inchkeith has had a colourful history as a result of its proximity to Edinburgh and strategic location for use as home for a lighthouse and for military purposes defending the Firth of Forth for attack from shipping, and more recently protecting the upstream Forth road bridge and Rosyth Dockyard. Inchkeith, by some accounts, has been inhabited (intermittently) for almost 1800 years.

Inchkeith is approximately half the size of the Isle of May at the mouth of the Firth, but is higher.

Killegray (Gaelic: *Ceileagraigh*)

An island in the Sound of Harris, in the Outer Hebrides.

Killegray supported a small permanent population until just before the Second World War. The 19th century Killegray House was renovated as holiday accommodation in the early 1990s. A jetty lies on the northeast coast opposite Killegray House and the remains of an ancient chapel and graveyard lie on the coast to the north.



Sanda Lighthouse



Inchkeith from Portobello, Edinburgh

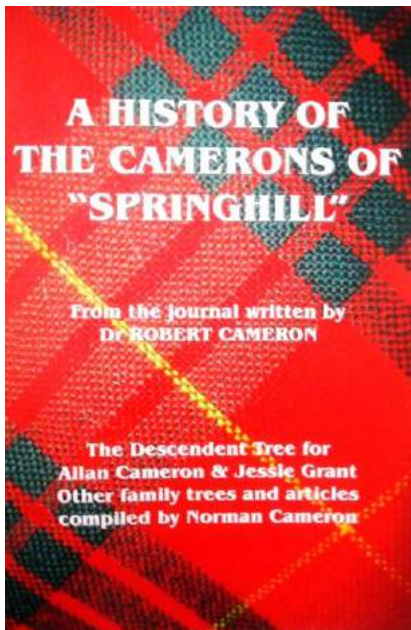
With thanks to Wikipedia

The Camerons of Springhill *By Norman Cameron*

Auckland member, Norman Cameron has been researching this book for 50 years. It is the Family Tree of the descendants of Allan Cameron and Jessie Grant over 5 generations and also includes various other articles, including the journal of Dr. Robert Cameron.

I have printed his preface to the book and also the acknowledgements to show the depth of his work.

*Copies are available from Norman at <normanc@xtra.co.nz>
Price: Hard Copy \$35, Disc \$5
-editor*



PREFACE

The first part of this project is the journal written by Dr Robert Cameron.

I was lucky to acquire the manuscript from the late Doug Falloon of "Bowlands". This manuscript was in long hand in a school text book, but the tragedy is that the last few pages are missing.

The article starts with Robert's father Allan aged eight sailing out to New Zealand on the barque "Blenheim", growing up in Wellington, marrying Margaret Millar who was born on the "Blenheim" in the Tasman Sea. The couple farmed at "Pencarrow" later moving on to Te Whiti in the Wairarapa. After a while they sold Te Whiti and went into partnership with Margaret's brother at "Bowlands Station", Bideford. This partnership dissolved after a few years and Allan & Margaret moved to Tinui and farmed at "Springhill". It was here that Robert was born and the article talks about growing up with his sister and brothers.

I have copied the manuscript as Doctor Robert has written it.

However I have added a photo of the "Blenheim" plus photos of various homesteads, the land titles at Te Whiti and a chapter on the Cameron's of Gollans Valley and Robert's fathers venture to the goldfields of Otago. The article finishes with a resume of the lives of Dr Robert, his sister and brothers.

The next section starts with a history of the family in Scotland and early New Zealand, this leads into a series of family trees. I have stayed with five generations and I know that there will be mistakes. The last two trees are one of Dugald Cameron and the known family of Angus Cameron & Ann

McIntyre. Included in this section is a photo of a family Christmas Party at Glencrieff and the mutilated Will of John Cameron of Gollans Valley. John's wife Catherine tore up the will "in a fit of passion".

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Alexander Turnbull Library's photo of the Barque "Blenheim" from the F.G. Layton collection.

Chris Doak, for the many hours he spent researching our family in Scotland

John Laing's book on the Laing family "Through The Mist Of Time".

Elizabeth O'Connell "The Descendant Tree for Angus Cameron & Ann McIntyre".

Doug Falloon's "Early Days of Bowlands".

Gareth Winter of the Wairarapa Archives for various photos and general information

Lynley Goldsmith of the Wellington Research Centre.

John S Grant's poem "The People of the Blenheim". (Courtesy of the Clan Cameron Archives)

The Journal of Jessie Campbell (nee Cameron)

The following have helped me in my research :- Brian Cameron, Colin Cameron, Andrew Cameron, Phyllis French, the late Graeme Cameron, Janice Willson,

Rosemary Laing & Helen Micklejohn

APPENDICES

The barque "Blenheim" passenger list. The poem "The People of the Blenheim" by John Grant.

Mrs Campbell's journal of voyage out on the "Blenheim" as written by her.

Cameron Family of Halfway Bush

Can you help?

I would like to make contact with any descendant of this Cameron family.

Donald Cameron came to New Zealand in 1849, and his wife Janet (Jessie) McDonald came to NZ in 1852. Both arrived at Port Chalmers.

I have not been able to find a marriage but they had three children - Hugh, b1853; Janet (Jessie), b1855; and Donald, b1858.

Their daughter Jessie was my great-aunt and she married William Jackson Campbell in 1881, in Kaikorai Parish.

Both the Campbells and the Camerons lived at Halfway Bush, Dunedin, the Campbells arriving in 1862.

I am slowly writing a book on the Campbell family inclusive of their spouses,

and would very much like to have a bit more information on the Cameron family if that was possible. While I am not a direct descendant of the Cameron family, I am a descendant of the Campbell family.

I have found trying to find these Camerons rather exhausting, as there are just so many of them - all with the same first names - it is like looking for a needle in a haystack!

I know that Donald and Janet Cameron, their son Hugh and wife Agnes along with two other men, James and Hugh Cameron, are buried in the same plot in the Southern Cemetery in Dunedin

I have no idea of the relationship of these last two gentlemen - but have assumed

they could be brothers of Donald. I do have a little more knowledge but not much, and nothing on son Donald's family, if he married, to whom, and had children, or when and where he died.

I do have quite extensive information on his sister, Jessie Campbell's family which I would be happy to share.

Please write to Dawn Isles (nee Campbell), 33 Swansea Street, Palmerston North 4410; email dawn.dot@inspire.net.nz

Erracht

-the Place of Assembly

by Bill Cameron (Lochaber)

In October this year it was announced in the press that Erracht House is up for sale - thus ending a unique chapter in Cameron history.

There are few houses in Lochaber that can claim to be continuously owned by one family, far less having a tartan named after it, a military regiment founded by one of its former inhabitants; and most surprisingly, for its distinctive architectural features to have survived the ravages of time.

Erracht House has withstood many a wet night on its rounded knoll at the entrance to Glen Loy. For over 300 years, possibly even more, a house (in various forms) has looked out upon Nevis Range, commanding some of the finest views of Ben Nevis in the whole of Lochaber. Looking up from the adjacent Caledonian Canal, Erracht stands out in the Lochaber landscape as one of few remaining examples of indigenous architecture, sympathetically designed to withstand the wet climate, yet carrying a quiet strength about its white washed façade.

The history of Erracht plays an important role in the collective history of Clan Cameron. During the height of the old clan system, the Camerons of Erracht were one of the leading cadet families, at one stage challenging the Lochiel family to the chieftainship of the clan. Much has already been written about this unfortunate episode in Cameron history and I think its best to leave the five arrows where they are and present a united front – it is our motto after all!

Erracht is derived from the Gaelic *An Eirachd*, meaning “*place of assembly*”. It is recorded in 1772 as being a creel and turfed building - continuing in this form until 1816, when Col. Alexander Cameron raised it from a one, to two-storey building. Interestingly, the best rooms in the house are to be found on the upper floor, such was the interior design of the day.

Walking through the front hallway at Erracht, you are presented with one of the most unique features of the house – a sturdy length of timber which slides out from one side of the thick walls - past the front door and into the opposite wall. One could draw

comparisons with the tale of Kate Barlass at this point. This original feature harks back to a bygone era when unwelcomed visitors would literally be barred from entry. Opposite the front door a sweeping staircase takes you up to four large rooms on the upper floor. With coved ceilings and fires at either end of the house, these large rooms would have no doubt entertained many interesting and distinguished guests over the years.

Wandering up the rough track to Erracht House, you will find a commemorative cairn, remembering Erracht's most distinguished former inhabitant – Lt General, Sir Alan Cameron of Erracht, founder of the 79th Cameron Highlanders. Known affectionately to the men of his regiment as “*Old Cia Mar Th'a*” – due to his regular use of the Gaelic greeting



Erracht House

“How are you”. An extensive biography of Sir Alan was written by one of his descendants in the 1980's, covering his long and distinguished military career. *'The Indomitable Colonel'*, by Loraine MacLean. It is also worth mentioning that one of the most popular Cameron tartans worn by Camerons around the world has its origins in Erracht. Sir Alan's mother, Marsali Cameron, specifically designed the Cameron of Erracht Tartan for the 79th Cameron Highlanders - blending the colours of the MacDonald and Cameron tartans into a single weave.

A jovial story of the tartan rivalry is recorded in Sir Alan's biography in which we are told of two men arguing in the garrison over their respective tartans. One Cameron man refers to another man's Black Watch tartan as a ‘mongrel tartan - owned by no clan in particular’. Meanwhile the man of the Black Watch asserts that Cameron of Erracht resembles ‘the reddish hue of bully beef’.

“Mon, he said with scorn turning to the Black Watch man, dae ye no ken that the Cameron tartan originated in the Garden of Eden? “An hoo dae ye mak' that oot?” scoffingly remarked his hearers. ‘Why’ he said, ‘didna Adam an’ Eve wear a garment o’ leaves?’ ‘Yes,’ they acquiesced. ‘Weel, said Andrew, if ye can understand, the leaves faded in coorse o’ time an’ took on reddish tints, wi here an’ there a yellow hue. An’ there’, he added, triumphantly smacking his thigh, ‘ye can see for yersel’s whaur the idea o’ the Cameron tartan sprang fae’.

Looking back at records of Erracht House, it appears to have been in the Cameron family for a long period of time. During the Second World War it lay empty and was subsequently occupied by a member of the Lochiel family - Ewen Cameron of Lochiel, (1878-1958). A barrister of the Inner Temple and Major in the Lovat Scouts. Major Ewen employed a number of staff in the house during this period.

Leasing Erracht from 1959 until recently. Mrs. Jennifer Ogilvy and her family occupied the property for over forty years. After she moved down to Oxford to be closer to her family - I spoke with Jennifer on the phone and she recalled some of her happy memories of Erracht. During her first visit to the house in 1959 she remembered herself and her husband having to carry out a lot of restoration work, as the house had lain empty for a number of years after Major Ewen's occupancy. She described how she used the upper rooms as bedrooms, and suggested that one of the outbuildings could have been a blacksmiths shop at one time. Above the entrance to another of the outbuildings is a date stone with the initials D.C.L – L.V.H 1842 – Donald Cameron of Lochiel and his wife Lady Vere Hobart. There are also the initials D.M.L which are believed to be of the stonemason.

Jennifer said she never tired of the views looking out towards Nevis Range in all seasons. And who would not. I could sense that she still thinks fondly of her years at Erracht with its rich history and views across to Britain's highest mountain.

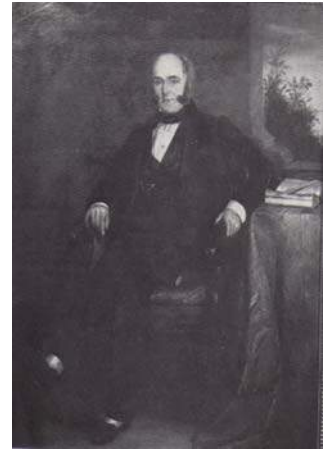
As Erracht embarks on a new path, we can reflect on all the good things that have come from this most Cameron of houses at the entrance to Glen Loy.



The Commemorative Cairn for Sir Alan



The inscription on the Cairn



Sir Alan Cameron of Erracht



The date stone at Erracht House



View of Erracht House and grounds

All photos above by Bill Cameron

State of repair of memorials

SIR, - With Remembrance Sunday almost upon us, crowds will once again gather to honour those who laid down their lives for the freedom of others, much as they have done since the Fort William war memorial was established back in the 1920s.

Nearby stands another memorial, to the 24th chief of Clan Cameron, for his long service to the area.

This monument celebrates its centenary next month.

There are, of course, two other memorials on Fort William's Parade - the Tercentenary Cairn and the Peace Bell.

Walking through the Parade, it's clear to see that this public space (which I believe was gifted to the area for the greater good by the Fairfax-Lucy family) is well kept by the local authority.

The greens and flower beds are maintained in all seasons, and to a high standard.

However, with stained streaks on the shoulders of the soldier, the war memorial is in a sorrowful state. This is not an appropriate patina on its surface.

As well as this, the Gaelic and English inscriptions on the Cameron Memorial are fading fast as oxide stains cover the granite plinth.

Looking at the different memorials situated on the Parade, and their various states of repair, who, I wonder, is responsible for their restoration and preservation?

Lest we forget.
William Cameron,
12 Lochy Road,
Inverloch,
Fort William.



Photo: Jean McQueen

New President of Clan Cameron Scotland

The new President is Duncan Cameron from Turriff, Aberdeenshire. He takes over, in Clan Cameron Scotland's 120th year, from Alan Cameron who was in New Zealand earlier this year. Duncan came to our international Gathering in Auckland in 2005 and is shown outside the chapel displaying the C.C.Scotland banner. He is ably assisted by Matthew McQueen from the St Kentigern Pipe Band.

The Cameron Memorial celebrates its centenary on the 20th of December 2009. At right is a clipping of a letter Bill had printed in one of the Scottish papers around about Remembrance day. He is still trying to get the local council to do something about the poor state of the memorials on the Parade Ground in Fort William - particularly the Cameron Memorial



Photo: Editor

**Left: Camerons at the Auckland Highland Games. Patricia, Norman, Fiona, Heather & Rex Cameron
Right: At the Huntly Clans' Day. Helen Renner, Joy Cameron, Norman Cameron, Karen Carmichael, Don Cameron and Janet and Ray Crafts.
Centre Right: At Achnacarry. Joy, Fraser, and Denis Cameron; Jenny Haggitt and John Cameron.**



Photo: Valmar Cameron



Photo: Denis Cameron

Above: New Zealand Camerons in the Grand Parade at Achnacarry. Foreground right is NZ's first First Lighter, Shona Cameron, now resident in Scotland.

Right: Harold and Betty Cameron after one of their regular visits to the Wharf Shed Restaurant in Whakatane. They can recommend the omelette and crème brûlée.

Below: Members of Clan Cameron listen to the opening (left) and lead the clans in the parade (right) They include Editor, Bryan Haggitt, Pat and Rex Cameron, Heather Cameron and Norman Cameron



Photo: Bryan Haggitt



Photo: Elizabeth Shearer



Photo: Jean McQueen



Photo: Fiona Cameron