



Cameron

The Magazine of Clan Cameron New Zealand Inc.



**Vol 60 No 2
April
2026**

*The Wairarapa Fern and Thistle Pipe Band, in their
Hunting Maclean tartan, being judged at Turakina*

Lochiel Nielsen's father Garry (bass) and brother Hunter are drumming.

Photo Editor



*A wet day at the Paeroa Highland Games - but the
bands still played - Here the City of Auckland Pipe
Band being judged.*



Photo Duncan McQueen

“Cameron”

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

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A Message from our Commissioner....



Nga mihi nui, failte, greetings

This week I was invited to Kohimarama School to take part in their culture's week. Grandsons Ryan and Finn attend this Auckland school. Their Year 2s (6-year-olds) came to listen about different countries and from people who lived in New Zealand. Mexico, Russia, China, Samoa and many others were on the list. The children were enthusiastic and interested in our diverse World. I was the entertainment on Scotland, and wearing my kilt sparked a lot of questions and comments from the children (and the staff).

We talked about where Scotland was, what the national emblem was, the national animals of New Zealand and Scotland, piping, dress, flags, languages, tartan and the long journey to New Zealand by sailing ship. I took along our Clan Cameron banner and the children loved the colours and patterns of our tartan. In the spirit of the week, I was more than happy to talk about our shared heritage alongside many of the other cultures that live on here in our country.



Dale with the students of Kohimarama School

The children were most interested in learning about the Loch Ness monster. Opinions in the class were split evenly: one third believed Nessie was a hoax, another third thought it was real, and the remaining third were unsure. Some students created their own tartan designs. I truly enjoyed being back in the classroom, appreciating that we live in a peaceful country where cultural expression is encouraged. We are able to celebrate diverse cultures and openly share what makes each one special. Clan Cameron New Zealand excels at this by welcoming everyone to events, hosting tents at Highland Games and Piping gatherings, and using media to showcase our heritage.

In January, I visited Oman and Qatar for a holiday and conference. Their cultures impressed me with their pride, openness, and hospitality—qualities shared by our Scottish heritage and at the core of Clan Cameron NZ's identity. It was distressing to later see these nations embroiled in conflict. This year marks my 40th in education, and throughout my career, I've enjoyed watching young people engage with culture. Passing our country's best traditions to new generations is a privilege.

I do hope you are planning to join us in Auckland for our annual gathering. The local team have a good plan in place and you will be sure of some good old fashioned hospitality. The gathering is a place for all comers, so if you haven't come along to one before please be assured you will be warmly welcomed and enjoy it greatly.

Aonaibh ri Cheile

Dale Cameron Bailey

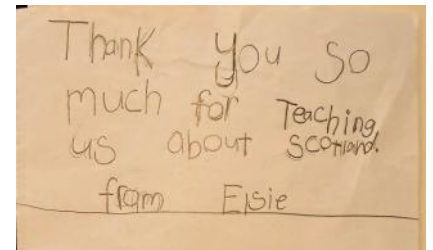
Next Magazine Deadline is 15 May 2026

Printed By



Finn Hawken, Dale Bailey and Ryan Hawken at Kohimarama School

Kohimarama School 6 year old feedback. Sea monster of course is the Loch Ness monster, and the pictures of tartan and the Scots flag.



2026 AGM and Annual Gathering

On behalf of the national executive and the Auckland Branch you are warmly invited to attend the 2026 Annual Gathering of Clan Cameron New Zealand. It's going to be held in Parnell, Auckland's oldest suburb, from Friday 15th May to Sunday 17th May 2026.

This is a gathering for all Clan members and friends, not just for the committee members. There is no danger of being elected onto any committee, so do not let that put you off. Rather it's a time for friendly experiences with Clan Cameron people from all walks of life and across the country.

The local team have an opening barbecue event planned for Friday evening, the AGM on Saturday morning and our wonderful annual dinner in the evening. We are planning an excursion to an Auckland treasure on the Saturday afternoon. There will be some great food, customs and traditions to participate in. You can be assured of a very warm and friendly welcome. On the Sunday morning we will have a church service at St Andrews Presbyterian Church, 2 Symonds Street, to round the weekend out.

The cost of all these events is being kept to \$150 for the entire weekend, including two dinners, lunch and morning tea. The registration flyer is on the web site and copies also can be obtained from Neil at kncam@xtra.co.nz

So mark up your calendars for a great weekend in Auckland Tamaki Makaurau.

Dale.

OBITUARY

Murdock McDonald (Clan Donald) by Tom McDonald

Murdock McDonald passed peacefully on 20th February. Murdock had been a leader in his Clan, and a founder of the Auckland Associated Clans, for the Scottish traditions were a keen interest of his. In Clan Donald Auckland Murdock had been a founder, served as President, then on the committee and finally as Patron

Murdock is descended from emigrants who sailed from St Ann's in Cape Breton and arrived in Waipu 1860 on the Ellen Lewis. The Waipu Caledonian Society presented Murdock with the Assynt Quaich in 2005 as recognition of his support of Scottish and Nova Scotian traditions and heritage. In his younger days Murdock worked as a shepherd in Northland and was popular for piping the dancers. Later he settled with Lois in Papakura.

In addition to his interest in things Scottish, Murdock was active in politics - having stood for parliament; he was a regular at a Friendly Society and a leader of his local amateur radio club. For many years he had been in charge of Levene's wallpaper department.

Sympathy is extended to Murdock's wife Lois, and daughters Janet, Beryl and Fiona.

By Editor: Murdock was a great help to me in the early stages of the establishment of Clan Cameron Auckland. He had very strong views on the way our Scottish heritage should be celebrated and no hesitation in telling us what we were doing wrong. It was good advice,

We will miss him.

Welcome to the following Members who have recently joined us:

Canterbury Branch

Vicki Reid
Don McKay
McKenzie Woolley

Nelson
Rai Valley Marlborough
Christchurch

*Ceud Mìle Fàilte
One Hundred
Thousand
Welcomes*

Manawatu Branch

Noel Kissick
Stallard Duthe

New Plymouth
New Plymouth

Wellington Wairarapa Branch

Ben Lilley

Pongaroa

From the Branches....

Auckland by Rob Cameron

I hope everyone is enjoying the Summer. At the end of January a few of us Auckland members travelled to the Turakina Highland Games. The weather was great and the music was brilliant during the day. Hats off to the bar staff for the generous whisky pours during the afternoon.

Back in our own region, the clan attended the Paeroa Highland Games on Saturday February 14th during what appeared to be the worst weather in its history. Heavy rain in the morning washed out the grounds, no clan march, and very little public participation made the day a bit disappointing. The rain stopped for most of the band competition, but I think it had come back by the evening Tattoo.

The clan also attended the Auckland Centre Pipe Band Contest on Sunday February 22nd alongside Clan Matheson and McPhee. Positioning of the clans was between the bands warm up area and the competition circle giving it good exposure to the passing bands people. Visitors were greeted by Duncan and Dale during the event.

Auckland was the New Zealand host of the Edinburgh Military Tattoo, a great night enjoyed by many of our members. As I write this, I am preparing for the Pipe Band Nationals at Inglewood just outside of New Plymouth in which I will be competing with City of Sails again. I am also tasked in taking our branches tent down to participate in the Clan Alley for the competition. Dale will be taking down some of the banners and information boards and will be looking after the tent during the competition. My parents, Allan and Morea, will be travelling up from Blenheim as Clan supporters and will be helping Dale out at the tent when not watching the music. I am not sure where the Clans will be placed but it will be great to see some of the local members if they decide to attend.

We have had to move our Branch AGM, previously set for 29th of March, the date now will be the 19th of April at 4pm at the Parnell Cricket Club Junior Pavilion, Thos. Bloodworth Park, Remuera. Further details will be emailed out to our Branch Members before the end of March.

Everyone is invited to join us at the Nation AGM and Gathering which we are hosting. Dates are May 15th to 17th, registrations went out with the last newsletter but please get in touch if you want to attend. We will have a barbeque meet and greet on Friday evening (15th May) starting at 6pm at the Carlton Cornwall Bowling Club. Please note that you will need to register before attending this for catering reasons.

For Saturday there will be morning tea available at 10am, before the AGM meeting starting at 10:30, a lunch at 12:30, and an afternoon activity between 1:30 and 3:30. A dinner in the evening at The Parnell Hotel and Conference Centre, 10/20 Gladstone Road, Parnell starts at 6 for 6:30. I would recommend out of towners book their stay there as well.

Accommodation ranges from \$178 (special) for a single room to \$271 for a two bedroom apartment. Prices do not include breakfast, and can be booked online through Expedia, Wotif.com, Trivago or similar sites.

Clan members are also invited to join a church service on Sunday (17th May) at the St. Andrew's First Presbyterian Church, 2 Symonds Street, Auckland CBD starting at 10am.

Manawatu by Anne Walker Long

Clan Cameron members were in good force at the Turakina Highland Games in late January. Our new tent is quite impressive in size and stood out very well in the Clan Avenue, where this year a number of Clans were present. We were



fortunate to have great weather for the event and the piping, dancing, and competitions ensured a great day out for everyone.

It was a pleasure to meet and to be able to host so many visitors to our tent. A huge thank you to members from Auckland and Wellington who attended in good numbers and supported the Branch.

Our next event planned is a farewell for Issac Grant, who will leave on 17th May to take up the First Light Exchange in Scotland. Issac has been a great supporter of Clan Cameron events over the years and has been studying at Lincoln University. Issac is taking a break to travel, and work, before returning to complete his studies. This gathering is scheduled for Friday 1st May in Wanganui. An invitation has been sent to our Branch members, and CCNZ executive, but we would welcome any CCNZ member who would like to attend. Please contact us on clancameronmanawatu@gmail.com for details.

Branch members are planning to attend the Annual Gathering and AGM in Auckland on May 15-17th.

A reminder to those who are keen to join us for our Annual Clan Cameron Manawatu mid-winter dinner. This will be held on Saturday June 13th 2026. More information will be available in due course.

Hawke's Bay by Hamish Cameron

As was somewhat whimsically explained in my last report, Harvest time has proved not to be an ideal time for organised social gatherings in H.B. It doesn't matter whether its ground crops or tree harvested bounty, the continual push to grow even earlier varieties while also trying to extend returns from even later bearing produce, all means that a "season" now lasts practically half the year..... (hint...)...Now's not a good time to mention "work-life balance" to those trying to keep up with "Mother Nature's" clock.

Therefore – other than a deepening suntan – there is still nothing of note to report from Hawkes Bay.....



Canterbury by Nick Cameron

We have not yet managed to organise a suitable time for a meeting of our branch. Our farming members are always very busy during the summer period. I am hoping we can get a suitable time in early May before the National AGM in Auckland.

We have had a busy round of pipe band contests initially in Ashburton and then 2 weeks later I was able to spend some quality time in Dunedin with Sarah McQueen (our First Lighter) who was competing for the City of Dunedin pipe band. She is currently studying to become a medical doctor and I was able to introduce her to some of our PhD pipers at our function on Saturday evening.

The Canterbury Centre contest was held on the 7th & 8th March in Deans Bush. I was able to catch up with a Nokomai Cameron descendent... Peter McLean who with his son were both piping for the Canterbury Caledonian G3 pipe band. Peter has



previously played for the NZ Police G1 band and has been a national judge in the past.

We have the National Pipe Band contest in New Plymouth, Taranaki – 20th & 21st March... so it has been a busy time for some of us preparing for this event and trying to deal with a very difficult wet seed harvest.

First Light News

by Bryan Haggitt—First Light Convenor



Here in NZ at time of writing, NZ Commissioner Dale is attending the National Pipe Band Championships at Inglewood, Taranaki. Past Commissioner Nick will be there piping for Canterbury Caledonian as will Auckland President Rob, City of Sails and Lochiel Nielsen's Dad, Garry, drumming for Wairarapa Fern & Thistle Band.

After strong winds at the Turakina Games and a disastrous washout at Paeroa, we are now getting some real summer. The Nationals lucky for once!

Turakina was still most enjoyable thanks to Bryan Barber erecting the Clan's Manawatu tent to replace the combined Grant/Cameron one used for many years. And notable was the absence of Ewen and Roz Grant for the first time for many decades. They have retired from Tullochgorum to Wanganui – age having caught up with Ewen. Their grandson, Isaac, was also called away for a different reason – needed to harvest the barley – that essential ingredient for both beer and whisky. We will see Isaac, our forthcoming First Lighter, when he attends our National Dinner in Auckland on 16 May. Isaac, Trump and Ayatollahs permitting, is due to fly to Scotland the next day.

At Inverlair, with spring about to burst, it will be all excitement – Sandy and Eireann are to be married this Saturday and our very best wishes go to this wonderful couple! Further news from Scotland is that First Lighter Lochiel has left Inverlair, is now flatting in Edinburgh and has a job in early childhood education.

Before leaving the Highlands, Lochiel, thanks to David Cameron making the introduction, was interviewed by a reporter for Lochaber Life, a freebie newspaper widely distributed, with the outstanding result below:

Well done Lochiel – if this publicity doesn't find us a Scottish First Lighter, nothing will!



Issac Grant, our next First Lighter.

With Lochiel in Scotland

Lochiel Nielsen

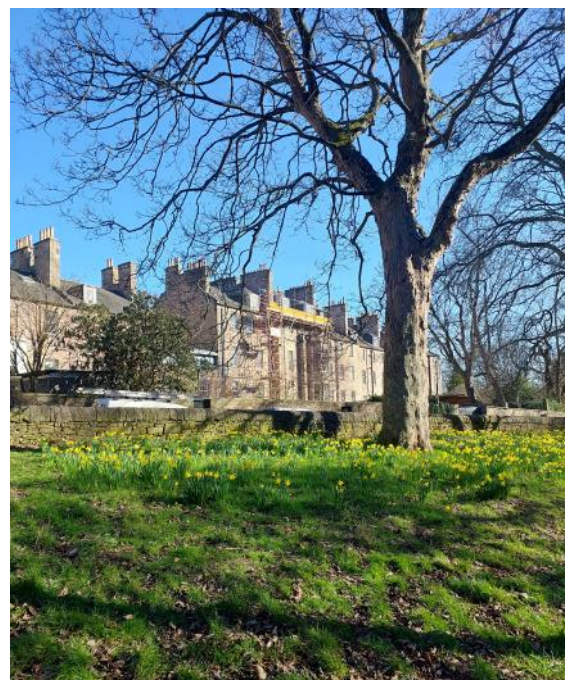
Hello everyone!

I've very recently moved to Edinburgh to live here for a while and to work in early childhood education. I originally applied for the job back in January and was meant to start in February, but there was a bit of a delay while all the required checks and paperwork were completed. It took a little longer than expected, but everything has finally gone through and I've now started the role. So far I'm really enjoying it and I'm excited to continue learning and gaining experience in this field.

Although I'm really happy to be starting this new chapter, I'm definitely going to miss the Highlands. I'm incredibly grateful to Ken and Rhona for letting me stay with them while I was there. I'll always appreciate their kindness and hospitality.

Back in January I also had the chance to write an article to help promote the First Light Exchange for the Lochaber Times and newsletter. It was a great opportunity to support something positive in the community, and I was really pleased when the article ended up making the front page of the magazine, which was a really cool moment!

Overall it's been a busy and exciting start to the year with a few big changes along the way, but I'm looking forward to what the next few months in Edinburgh will bring.



Spring has arrived in Edinburgh

Photo: Lochiel Nielsen



Clan Cameron member Andrew Wilkie official today, make sure you're on time for entry to the circle



Auckland President Rob Cameron (far right of photo) Pipe Seargant competes in the street march with City of Sails Pipe Band.



We are at the Auckland Regional Pipe Band competitions today in Onehunga.



A



B



C



D

Cameron folk at the National Pipe Band Championships in Inglewood, Taranaki. (More photos in June issue)

(A) Morea Cameron sporting her new MacDonald dress tartan kilt with Elizabeth Cheetham, proud Clan Cameron member.

(B) Clan Cameron member Michel Tent, Kintail House, competing with Feilding Caledonian at the Nationals. Michel was the designer of the new Eden Park tartan revealed for the Edinburgh tattoo held at Eden Park last month (see next issue).

(C) All bearded. Rob Cameron, Phillip Bell, Nick Cameron, Allan Cameron & Dale Bailey

(D) Proud Clan Cameron member Malissa Nielsen supporting Wairarapa Fern & Thistle pipe band.

(E) Auckland President Rob Cameron and Canterbury member Cameron Taylor. Cameron is competing with the Scottish Society Band and Rob with the City of Sails Auckland band.



E



Great country Highland Games. The only Grade 1 Band at the Turakina Games, Manawatu Scottish Pipe Band, wearing Cameron tartan, being judged



Patron Neil and tartan punk extraordinaire Kaye who sports Cameron tartan in her wonderful outfit. Kaye is a proud member of Clan Cameron New Zealand.



Duncan McQueen and Dale with Auckland Branch member Rex Garland.



At least the Food Stalls were keeping us happy.



Early morning—all set up



But later!



Anton Hodson, piper with City of Sails Band and Navy Pipes and Drums, with Duncan McQueen



Dale, Shirley and John Baillie and Jean McQueen



Jean finds time to progress her knitting



A murky day



The Saint Kentigern Pipes and Drums being judged during a break in the weather.



The Clan Matheson tent with Lena Orum in charge

Alexander MacArthur: The Brae Lochaber Drover

By John MacKintosh



Longhorn Cattle on Highland Pass. Oil on canvas by Henry Garland

A drover's flintlock pistol and walking stick that once belonged to the Brae Lochaber drover Alexander MacArthur (1774 – approximately 1844) was gifted to the Museum recently. This blog was written for The West Highland Museum by the donor, John MacKintosh, who has kindly allowed us to reprint it in *Cameron*.

Droving cattle was an important part of the Highland economy up to and including the 19th century. The droves consisted of black cattle (bovines) and horses (equines) collectively specified as cattle. The purpose of droving was to meet the needs of the population further south. Highland drovers generally traded at fairs in central and lowland Scotland but were also known to take the livestock further south and on one occasion at least sold as far as the south coast of England, trading as they went.

There were two categories of drovers. There was a class of men who were entrepreneurs who bought the cattle from the farming population in the Highlands and were it seems trusted to pay up on return north if they had not paid before. Another group gave their services for a fee. In between there were others who partly worked for a fee but did some trading. All were referred to as drovers.

In medieval and early post medieval times payment, one imagines, would have been by coin or barter with goods bought in the south. Therefore, a fairly heavily armed group would have been required to protect the cattle from theft on the way south and the revenue on the journey north. This would have been possible up until the Disarming Act of 1746 which made it a capital offence from then on to carry a weapon. Exemptions did apply. Hence drovers were permitted to carry a firearm for personal protection and did so into the 19th century. However, the need for such protection diminished. For example, the banking system developed and by the early nineteenth century it was possible for a drover (and others) to deposit their takings in one bank and, with a receipt, withdraw them at a bank in the north.

The pistol shown here belonged to a well-known drover by the name of Alexander MacArthur who lived in Brae Lochaber in the early 19th century. Many of his descendants live in

Lochaber to this day. According to what is said of him in the locality he traded on his own behalf. It is not known how able he was in his business, but he did "go bankrupt" as local repute has it. He was on the other hand reputed to be generous to poor people whom he met on his way back north. Whatever it is he died in poverty unable to pay his church dues or satisfy his creditors and is buried in a pauper's grave. The exact location is unknown. He is also known for building a house replicating the style found in Aberdeenshire which suggests he had business contacts with that part of Scotland. Further research may reveal a yet more interesting and complex character.

This flintlock has been a working pistol. There is no significant ornamentation. It is compact being only six inches long. It is slab butted and therefore narrow so that it can be easily concealed in the folds of a plaid or under a worsted tweed garment for example. Sadly part of the firing mechanism has been lost but it had the "box lock" system introduced into flintlock pistols manufactured in the late 18th and early 19th centuries where the firing mechanism was located within the breech of the pistol effectively reducing the overall width of the pistol in comparison with side slung mechanisms. Box lock pistols were loaded with powder and shot directly into the breech by removing the barrel with a barrel key, which is lost in this instance. There are registration marks on the underside of the breech

There would have been four skills involved in making the pistol. The barrel is likely to have been made from horseshoe



MacArthur's flintlock pistol

nails by a skilled blacksmith. Iron was scarce in Scotland and old horseshoe nails were melted and beaten round a gauge to form a barrel of the correct bore. The breech is of what appears to be cast iron. The stock is of carved wood probably walnut. Making the firing mechanism would have required a similar skill to that of a clockmaker or locksmith of the age.

The makers name Gourlay is shown on the left-hand side of the breech. In 1818 their business is recorded in the Glasgow



Close up image of the flintlock showing the maker's mark

Directory at Nelson Street, Glasgow and between 1822 and 1836 they were recorded at Argyll Street doing business as C&J Gourlay. It is not known whether MacArthur bought the pistol new from Gourlay's or acquired it at a later date. It came into my possession when the house at Number One Murlaggan was sold.

Also donated was a walking stick believed to have belonged to the 19th century Highland drover, Alexander MacArthur. It was passed from Uisdean Campbell to Alistair MacKintosh from whom the donor inherited it. The shaft is made of ebony and the handle of horn. There is a metal collar covering the joint. A second part is ornamental but damaged at the collar. The stick may have been adapted or added to as parts of it seem modern.



Walking stick thought to have belonged to MacArthur



Close up of the walking stick

Biographical information about the Drover Alexander MacArthur

Source: *ancestry.com* in Bing

Alexander was born on 20th August 1774 at Breagach, Glenroy, son of John MacArthur, Murlaggan and Sarah Beaton. John died in 1805 age 72 and is buried in Cille

Choirill. Sarah was still alive in 1813.

In 1802, Alexander, by now a successful cattle dealer, wrote to the Mackintosh estates from Falkirk asking for a farm in Lochaber offering 120 guineas for Breagach for himself and his brothers stating that he and his forefathers had been brought up there. He was granted this and then in 1804 Bohasky and part of Brunachan were added.

On 18 Feb 1807 he married Ann (Nany) MacDonald (1785–1810), daughter of Angus MacDonald of Inverigan (1730–1815) and Mary Rankin (1741–1821), Glencoe (both buried in Eilean Mundi, Glencoe). Ann was working in Garrygoulach and they were married there.

She was the youngest sister of Archibald MacDonald of the Hudson Bay Company whose story is recorded in the book, Glencoe and the Indians by James Hunter.

Ann possibly died after the birth of her daughter, Mary (1810–1893) but before 1841.

Mary married James MacKintosh, Murlaggan. They had 7 children. One son, Donald, became an Australian MP.

In the 1841 census, Alexander is in Achavaddy with a Margaret MacArthur... new wife or sister or daughter?

In 1823 he was named on the list of removals. Between 1827 and 1844 he rented Achavaddy and Breagach and had the rental of an inn in Fort William but then in 1844 he had large debts and he applied for sequestration.

His main debtor was Drover John Cameron Corriechoillie (John's mother was a MacArthur so possibly a relation) who took over his affairs. Alexander possibly died shortly after this. So far have not traced his death.

Rescued from a second hand shop, a pack of Whisky cards from 1970, and the top one is Cameron!

"Freedom and Whisky gang thegither" Robert Burns Reviews of the recipe welcomed!

HIGHLAND SPECIAL

3 glasses of Scotch
2 glasses of French Vermouth
½ glass of orange juice
Add a little nutmeg after mixing.

SCOTCH RICKEY

1 glass of Scotch
1 lump of ice
Juice of half a lime
Juice of a quarter of a lemon
Soda



SCOTCH WHISKY PACK

The publishers thank both the Scotch Whisky Association for permission to reproduce the material on cards 1 to 10, and Miss Dionne Pattullo, the author of the recipes on cards 13 to 24.

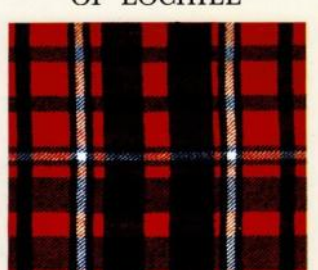
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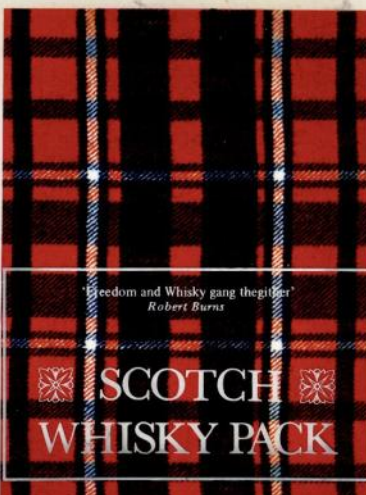
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CAMERON OF LOCHIEL



CAMERON OF LOCHIEL



"Freedom and Whisky gang thegither"
Robert Burns

SCOTCH WHISKY PACK

Fort William and Ben Nevis

From "The Rannoch Line" - edited from "Mountain, Moor and Loch" first published in 1894. (Transcribed by the editor).

The little township of Fort William had sprung up around the fort, which was originally built by General Monck, in Cromwell's time, as a rude fortification of turf, to act as a base for the troops sent to keep in subjection Evan Dhu of Lochiel, the Chief of the Camerons, who stood out like a Scottish Hereward against the forces of the Commonwealth, long after the other clans had submitted. Many a fierce skirmish between Lochiel and the Sassenach red-coats took place around Fort William and Inverlochy, the Highlanders generally getting the best of it, as recorded in Scott's *Tales of a Grandfather*.

In the time of William the Third the fort was rebuilt in its present form by General Mackay, who was afterwards defeated by Viscount Dundee at Killiecrankie. It was a strong fortification of its kind, with ditch, gravis and ravin, of which portions may yet be seen, mounting fifteen twelve-pounders and with a regular garrison of about a hundred men: while in times of trouble more soldiers were thrown into it. Both in the '15 and the '45 it was besieged by the Jacobites, but was never taken.

Some interesting particulars of the second siege will be found in Mrs MacKellar's handbook. "There was no village here," says this authority, "previous to the erection of Cromwell's fort. Then some houses began to arise on the face of the hill. Afterwards, when the present fort was built, the people were encouraged to erect houses there, to form a village to be a sutlery to it. They might built houses where and how they liked, only the houses were to be composed of turf and wattle, so as to be easily set on fire in case of a rising, or of an enemy effecting a lodgment there. This village was demolished, and then the people began to build at the seaside, where the lower streets of the town are now, and the free charters given them accounts for the irregularity of the buildings, which, from the sea, look so disorderly,"

Various attempts have been made to re-name the town after it was raised to the dignity of a burgh of barony. First it was called Maryburgh, in honour of William's Consort; but it remained Fort William, in honour of William himself. Later the Duke of Gordon was made superior of the township and it was called Gordonsburgh; but it remained Fort William. Afterwards Sir Duncan Cameron became superior, and called it Duncansburgh; but it still remained Fort William. We do not think there is any reason to regret the popular rejection of the three names suggested.

Fort William lies too close to Ben Nevis for a good view of the mountain to be obtained, but the scenery is magnificent without that crowning attraction.

As seen from the Fort William side, Ben Nevis appears a somewhat shapeless mountain, piled shoulder on shoulder, in vast folds of granite into the sky, as if disdaining symmetrical form, and depending on sheer bulk alone to vindicate its grandeur. It is only when it is observed how seldom the summit can be seen free of clouds, that the gigantic height of the Ben is realised (4,406 feet), for it is the highest mountain in the United Kingdom.

For three-fourths of the ascent the mountain is of red granite, the remaining fourth being of porphyry," which weathers of a brown colour, but when newly fractured shows bluish and greenish tints, mottled with specks of white felspar.

The ascent may be made from Fort William or from Banavie, but the feat should not be attempted without a guide, as the densest of mists descend on the mountain without a minute's warning.

To reach the summit of Ben Nevis means a climb of five miles up a bridle path, on so steep a gradient that in the distance named there is a rise of over 4,000 feet. This is not a

task for the weak lunged or weak legged: but the journey may be partly done on a hill-pony, and at the top there is a small Temperance Hotel, with sleeping accommodation for over a dozen guests, where tea, bed, and breakfast may be obtained for half-a-guinea—a small sum to pay for the proud boast in future years that you have slept on the top of Ben Nevis!

The view from the summit is a bewildering one, for the eye looks down on nothing but mountain peaks, except where they are broken by three great sheets of water—Loch Linne, Loch Eil and Loch Lochy, or by the sea itself.

On a clear day the eye can trace in the north-east the form of Ben MacDhui, the second mountain in Britain, which rises to a height of 4,296 feet in the Braemar Highlands. To the north the vision ranges as far as Ben Wyvis in Ross-shire. Westward, the Cuillin Hills in Skye may be distinguished, and in particularly favourable weather, some of the heights in the Outer Hebrides, ninety miles away. Southward may be distinguished Ben Cruachan, at the head of Loch Awe, lying almost east of Oban. South-west may be seen the Islands, and even a glimpse of Ireland may be caught. It is a prospect astounding in its wide expanse, and he is lucky who reaches the summit on a day when the atmosphere permits of a good view. On the Ben itself there is a magnificent chasm to be inspected — a perpendicular precipice, ranging from 1,500 to 2,000 feet in depth, which has been described as the finest precipice in the world.

On the summit of Ben Nevis is the Observatory, where two meteorologists keep watch on the weather day and night, summer and winter, watch and watch about, so that hourly readings of the instruments may be taken, and telegraphed to the low-level Observatory at base of the hill in Fort William.

The Observatory was opened in 1883, but has been considerably enlarged since, and now presents the appearance of a primitive fort, surmounted by a watch tower thirty feet high. It is provisioned for nine months, as it is frequently cut off for many weeks at a time from all communication with the world below, while even in summer the transport of stores is no easy task.



Remains of the Summit Hotel and Observatory. Photo: Bill Cameron

Editor's Notes:

Observations at the summit began in earnest in November 1883 and the 20 years' worth of data recorded before the observatory closed in 1904 is still the most comprehensive set of data on mountain weather recorded in Great Britain to this day as automated recording equipment is not robust enough to withstand the severe weather conditions on Scottish mountain tops.

Following its closure for financial reasons and the dismissal of the observatory staff, the keeper's room was used by the summit hotel during the summer for serving refreshments, until 1916 or so.

Around 1894, probably in response to the arrival of the West Highland Railway in Fort William and the subsequent rush of tourists to the area, an enterprising local hotelier decided to open a small hotel on the summit of Ben Nevis. The Temperance Hotel as it would generally come to be called, as it did not serve alcohol, was annexed to the main observatory building and was run on behalf of the hotelier by two sisters who kept it open throughout the summer months.

In 2016, the height of Ben Nevis was officially remeasured to be 1344.527m by Ordnance Survey. The height of Ben Nevis will therefore be shown on new Ordnance

Survey maps as 1,345 metres (4,411 ft) instead of the now obsolete value of 1,344 metres (4,406 ft).

The ruins of the observatory can still be seen on the summit. An emergency shelter has been built on top of the observatory tower for the benefit of those caught out by bad weather.

In 1911, an enterprising Ford dealer named Henry Alexander ascended the mountain in a Model T as a publicity stunt. The ascent was captured on film and can be seen in the archives of the British Film Institute. A statue of Alexander and the car was unveiled in Fort William in 2018.



The summit shelter, Ben Nevis and the North face, Ben Nevis, showing the shelter. Photos by Bill Cameron

Queries re Books

By David Weston, Clan Historian and Genealogist.



Te Araroa: an East Coast Community – a History

by Bob McConnell

I have been approached by a James Hunt, jshunt20@outlook.com, who is trying to locate a copy of this book either to purchase or copy information from. He understands the book may have information on his ancestor, Charles Gerrard, who was a whaler in the area. As members may remember Bob and Vivienne who were members of Clan Cameron NZ and were very active in the Gisborne Branch with Vivienne undertaking extensive genealogical research.

He would also be interested in seeing if it could be republished as many of his wider family would like copies. I have copied his email below and if people are able to assist they can contact him direct.

From: james Hunt <jshunt20@outlook.com>

Sent: Friday, January 30, 2026 11:01:11 am

*To: Clan Cameron Genealogy
<clancameronhistory@gmail.com>*

Subject: Re: Te Araroa: An East Coast Community - A History by Bob McConnell

Kia ora David,

I hope this email finds you well, and you've had a great holiday season. Just looking to follow up on this, and to ask you if you might know who holds the publishing rights to the book (im assuming it could be one or all of his children?), the reason I ask is that I have a lot of family who would also like to purchase this book and if possible it would be great to be able

to enquire if another publishing run is possible.

We are descendant from Harata Gerrard (Daughter of Charles Gerrard), sibling of Kake, Tekana and Tapita Gerrard, Harata was married to Rev Rota Waitoa, when he passed she married Rev Renata Tangata, then moving to Peria in the Far North where she rests.

Harata and Renata had one daughter, Mereana Renata Tangata (also known as marion leonard, then later Marion Hattaway), Mereana Married Vincent Hattaway and had 6 children (due to family circumstance these children lost most of their maori whakapapa history), each of these children had large families also, we are only now starting to become aware of our connections to the Te Araroa region and Ngati Porou, and more and more of us would like to buy a copy of Bob McConnell's book which seems to be impossible to find for sale.

Thank you very much for your time.

Ngā mihi nui

James

Camerons Remember –

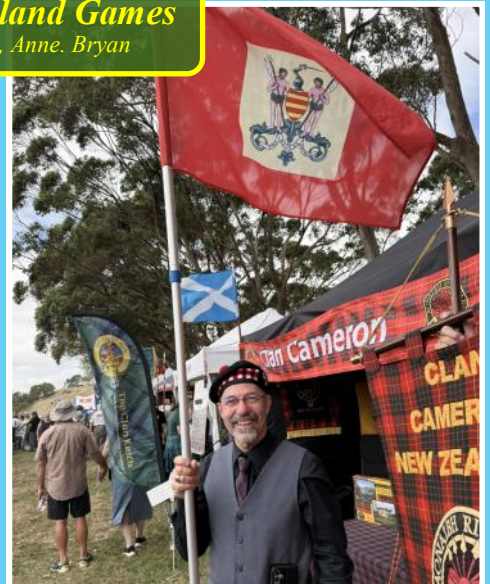
Edited by Maisie Earle – 2005

I was recently given Clan Cameron related material when Ewen and Roz Grant moved into Whanganui from their farm.

The material included draft copies of the above which appears to consist of Clan Cameron NZ members recalling what they knew of their pioneer forebears who came to New Zealand. I was unaware of this book and have never seen a copy. It seems an appropriate publication to be held alongside our Clan Cameron genealogies which the Clan Cameron Genealogist (currently me) holds. Does anyone know any more of this book or perhaps someone would be willing to donate a copy to our genealogy holdings.



The band leads the Clan March



Allan Cameron holds the Culloden Banner



Dale with Shelley Turner and Anne Walker Long



Dale with Malissa Nielsen



Bruce Cameron talks with Allan.



Bryan Haggitt



Graeme, Rees and Hazel Cameron



A fine display of banners with David, Dale, Allan, Rob and Neil.



Scott Turner, National Secretary



David Weston, Clan Historian and Genealogist with Rob Cameron—ready for visitors.



Manawatu Scottish Pipe Band competes in their 101st year proudly wearing the Cameron tartan

