

NEWSLETTER

Clan Cameron Association Scotland



Congratulations to Donald Andrew

I am sure that Camerons all over the world will be delighted to read that Donald Andrew has been called this year to the Scottish Bar. This means that he can practice as an Advocate at the High Court. Donald, who gained his BA degree at Oxford University, followed by legal training at the City University, specialises in Commercial Law and Industrial Relations. The Faculty of Advocates has been in existence since 1532 and so dates back to the first Scots Parliament. Total numbers now stand at just over 460.



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As the composition of the Council and contact details will change at the AGM, I suggest in the meantime you contact myself or Elizabeth:

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Big Changes at Culloden

On 24th August, Past President, David attended a meeting called by NTS to outline and consult on their plans for a total rebuild of the visitor centre at Culloden. The present centre is to be demolished and a new much larger one built at a cost of £8 million. Already about £5 million has been raised for this project for which the planned completion date is April 2007. The display which is being designed by The Ralph Appelbaum Association seems, in David's view, to be well thought out and following a "timeline"

Recent archaeological investigations suggest that the Jacobite troops were lined up over a wider area than previously thought (a view expressed by Col Charles Cameron to David some years ago). NTS are negotiating with neighbouring landowners to acquire all of the battle field. David asked particularly how individual clan members could follow the progress of their clan's role in the battle and they agreed to investigate this.

With regard to marker stones the proposal was for Caithness slabs. However, David made a very good suggestion that the marker stones for each clan be taken from a quarry in the Clan's principal territory. (eg a stone from a quarry in Lochaber for the Camerons.)

We look forward with interest as this exciting project develops.

HIGHLAND 2007

At the same meeting a representative of Highland 2007 gave a presentation on their proposals to celebrate the Year of Highland Culture. It is their intention to have a Clan Gathering (of all the Clans) in Inverness in July 2007. They will be communicating with the clans in the near future and further information will appear in future newsletters.

Hills & Mountains of Lochaber

by Alan I Cameron

One of the fascinating aspects of the study of place names is the story behind the name. Sometimes this background is lost; others were myths and others still have a quite prosaic meaning. Some in Scotland are remnants of the Viking era. Examples of those are the “ness” or “-nis” names found in the west coast.

My favourite story which is almost certainly a myth is associated with the ancient Columban monastery of Deer in Aberdeenshire. The story as related in the “Book of Deer” is that when St Columba was leaving the Monastery at Deer, his friend St Drostan was so sad to see him go that the tears started to stream down his face. The Gaelic word for a tear is “deur” pronounced dear and Columba seeing the tears said, “*let this place from henceforth be called Deur*”.

In my earlier article on the field place names, I said that I would follow up with an article on the hills and mountains. Indeed David trailed the article with the following appropriate little verse:

*A mountain's a mountain in England, but when
The climber's in Scotland it may be a Beinn,
A Creag, or a Meall, a Spidean, a Sgor,
A Carn or a Monadh, a Stac or a Torr.*

The most common term for a hill in Scotland is Cnoc. The correct Gaelic pronunciation is in fact croch-k where the “n” is sounded as “r”. However, in English usage it is most often pronounced as “knock”. An example of this in Lochaber is **Cnoc nam Faobh** which means *Hill of the Spoils*. However, there are few examples of Cnocs in Lochaber – most of the hills in Lochaber are on a grander scale.

A common name, however, for hills in Lochaber is Meall (pronounced m-yall). The name, **Meall Mòr** means a large hill and indeed this hill is actually 2478 ft high. Other hills derive their name from a colour so that **Meall Dubh** means black hill while **Meall Ruadh** is Red Hill, and **Meall Odhar** is olive coloured hill. Some of these colour names have extensions so that we have **Meall a' Choire Bhuidhe** which is hill of the yellow corrie and **Meall Cian Dearg** which is distant red hill.

Other hills are called after animals or plants. Thus we find **Meall an Fhèidh** which is hill of the deer and **Meall nan Damh** meaning hill of the stags. **Meall a' Chait** means Hill of the Cat and **Meall**

nam Maigheach translates as Hill of the Hares while **Meall a' Chruidh** means Hill of the Cattle.

Other hill names represent physical features such as **Meall a' Bhealach** meaning hill of the pass and **Meall Cumhann** which is narrow hill. Meanwhile, **Meall nan Clèireach** means Hill of the Clerics and **Meall na Lice** is Hill of the Flagstone.

The name Beinn (almost rhymes with line) anglicised to Ben is itself a corruption of Beann (b-yow-n). There is inevitably a little hill - **Beinn Bheag** and (although not in Lochaber) there is a **Ben More** in Argyllshire which means *Big Ben* (Not the clock on the Houses of Parliament!). There is a **Beinn Bhàn** for *Fair Ben* and **Beinn Garbh** for *Rough Ben*. Inevitably in the Highlands there is a **Beinn Sneachda** which means *Snowy Ben* and **Beinn Bhreac** is *speckled Ben*. **Beinn Chraoibh** is *Tree Lined Ben* and **Beinn Iarainn** is *Iron Hill*. **Beinn na Caillich** is *The Old Woman's Ben* whereas **Beinn a' Chlachair** is *the Mason's Ben*.

Going back to David's rhyme we have many mountain peaks called Sgorr in Lochaber. The Gaelic word Sgorr means a peak and is pronounced as “SKORR”. As you may guess there is a **Sgorr Mor** or large peak and **Sgorr an Iubhair** which means peak of the yew tree while **Sgorr an Fhuarain** means peak of the well.

The Gaelic word torr simply means a heap or a Hillock so that **Torr Sonnachain** means *little palisade hill*. Carn is a rock and so **Carn Beag Dearg** is little red rock. Stac on the other hand is a conical hill or a precipice and is found in **Loch an Staic** which is *loch of the steep hill*.

Another word for a hill is Tom so that we have **Tom nan Naoi (fh)Uaran** which means *hill of the nine springs* and **Tom an Teine** is *the hill of the beacon fire*.

This leaves Creag which is a rock and is found in **Creag an Uanach** which means the rock of lambs and monadh which refers to an upland plain so that **Monadh Gorm** is the green upland plain and **Monadh uisge Mhuilinn** means the upland plain of the mill water.

Gifts, Presents, Self Indulgences

Please note the separate pages with details of the Clan Crest, the Clan Certificate and the Letters patent

3rd Pipefest in Edinburgh Sunday

August 21st 2005

Duncan A G Cameron

Pipe bands owe their existence to the mid 19th century and the army. The Scottish Leader of 23rd September 1889 recalls bagpipe duets in Waverley market when six pipers of the Edinburgh police provided a display, parading around the market twice.

Older clansfolk may well recall the 1,000 Pipers marching along Prince's Street in 1951. On August 20th 1995 there were close to 3,500 players on parade along Prince's Street in aid of Marie Curie cancer care. By August 5th 2000 there were 8,000 parading along Prince's Street raising £150,000.

Pipefest 2005, The Edinburgh Review for Marie Curie cancer care, was the biggest and best event of its kind so far. With more bands from more countries than ever before and for the first time the bands playing as a massed Band.



Picture shows Raymond & Duncan at Pipefest

This time the bands did not parade along Prince's Street but in the Royal Park at Holyrood. On such a beautiful day it was a stirring spectacle set beneath the stunning skyline of Arthur's Seat and Salisbury Crags on one side and Edinburgh's historic old town on the other.

To witness such a sight immediately set my mind to drawing the comparison with Prince Charles's Highland Army 260 years before, to see thousands of kilted people as far as the eye could see, spread out on the grass below the hills with banners flying in the breeze and all around the sound of the pipes.

The impression was strengthened when I spied the personal banners of the McPherson clan chief fluttering and the chief surrounded by his supporters. Later he introduced himself to Raymond Mackenzie Cameron, my stalwart companion at such events, and myself. No doubt his eye was drawn to our clan banners and my *feileadh mhor*.

The parade route followed Queen's Drive with the march past the New Parliament and the Palace of Holyroodhouse. The route was wonderful for spectators standing on the flat grassy areas and for the brave up on the surrounding heights. The players marched in blocks 6 abreast and 12 to 22 deep, playing tunes selected from the play list. There was the advantage that the route was downhill.

As our block was finally called there was a sense of relief at finally taking part. The march had begun an hour and a half earlier led by The Royal Army of Oman Band with 102 members, underlining the support given to the event by the Sultan of Oman. The hope was that each subsequent block would cross the start line every 60 seconds with an average pace of 90 beats per minute.

Once the parade reached St Margaret's Loch it turned left into the playing field. Each block marched across the field, past the saluting area, before forming up 45 blocks abreast 2 deep facing Arthur's Seat. Some two and a half hours after the start with all the bands formed up, the Brass and Reed/Brass bands played *Summon the Heroes* as the national colours and Marie Curie colours were brought on. The pipes and drums followed with *Green hills, Battles O'er* and *Lochanside*. There followed the *Atholl Highlanders*, *Amazing Grace*, *Highland Laddie* and *The National Anthem*.

The final advance with the entire cast of Pipefest 2005 marched forward as one huge block playing *Scotland the Brave*. The historic event ended with *The Black Bear*.

The event was a marvelous and unforgettable experience both for those taking part and the huge crowd estimated at 30,000 that turned out to support and cheer us on to the final parade field. Whilst it was an honour to once more carry the Clan Cameron Association banner, I'm sure every one, whatever part they played, went away with a sense of awe at having experienced the sights and sounds of the day.

Over 15,000 people died of cancer in Scotland in 2003. Last year Marie Curie nurses were able to care for more than 1,500 terminally ill people in Scotland, giving them the choice to die at home, supported by their loved ones. As the great daffodil appeal draws to a close over £2.6 million has been collected. One can only hope that The Marie Curie charity broke its previous records and grows in strength in the future.

Early estimates indicate that between 7-11,000 pipers had taken part.

INVERNESS and BRAEMAR 05

The Association was represented at a number of venues, this year. For the second year we attended the Clan Village at the Inverness Highland Games and made a number of useful contacts. On 3rd September, we had a stall in the Overseas Tent at The Braemar Highland Gathering.



Dr & Mrs Ardith Rutland from Florida with Alan & Elizabeth at our Braemar stall

We were visited by many people from all over the world. In particular a Cameron lady clad in tartan from top to toe and sporting a sporran made from a mink. She was from Florida and greeted us by saying that she had sought out our table. Apparently in America, the Clans are all represented at the Games. I understand that both Inverness and Braemar are trying to promote this idea.

Wallace Commemoration

John Cameron-Nixon, our England South Vice-President represented the clan at the commemoration event in London on 23rd August for William Wallace. Wallace was, of course the great Scots patriot whose exploits as a freedom fighter were brought to the public attention through the film "Braveheart". John commented that it had been a good day commemorating the 700th anniversary of 23rd August 1305 when Wallace was hung drawn and quartered at Smithfield. John placed a posy with a card bearing the Cameron crest as a tribute. He estimated that there were about 1000 participants in the procession accompanied by six pipe bands and two drum bands (one of each from Edinburgh.)

There were representatives from many different clans and societies at the service which was held in St Bartholomew's Church.

After the service, there was a celebration at Smithfield which reached a climax with the arrival of a party from Aberdeen.

To mark the occasion, David Ross of the William Wallace Society walked from Robroyston, where Wallace was captured to Smithfield where he was executed. All in all a good day!

Genealogy Section

Some years ago we stopped at the village of Crinan to admire the yachts navigating the canal and to have a spot of lunch. Shortly after a man and an older woman sat down beside us and tried to engage us in conversation. At one stage the man introduced his mother saying that her father had been minister at Kilmichael-Glassary. At that point my ears pricked up and asked if his name was Cameron.

Indeed it was and we were told that Rev John Cameron had come from Tiree. His father, Archibald Cameron had been a miller and crofter and farming was clearly in John's blood too. He claimed that he accepted the call to Kilmichael because the manse there had the largest Glebe in Scotland. There, he kept sheep and cattle and was affectionately known in the neighbourhood as "Ministear Muc" which means pig minister because he also bred pigs. He also supported his brother, Hector, through divinity training and Hector became minister at Kilfinnan, near Dunoon.

John had two sons and two daughters. His oldest son was lost climbing in the hills and the younger who was a WW11 pilot lost his life during the war. Of the two daughters, one died two years ago and the other was the lady I met at Crinan. Rev John Cameron and my grandfather - also John Cameron were cousins and so the chance encounter enabled me to fill in some gaps in the family tree. Have you any stories about your family which you would like to share?

Dr Ian H Cameron

Friends throughout the world will be saddened to learn that Dr Ian Cameron, Lochiel's High Commissioner in Australia died on 21st July I have sent a letter of sympathy to his widow and family on behalf of the Clan.

Ian & Lilian Cameron

You will be sorry to hear that Ian has resigned as Treasurer and Lilian as Membership Secretary. I thank them on your behalf for the tremendous amount of work they have done for the Clan Association over many years.