

Membership of Clan Cameron Association Scotland

This is open to all Camerons (or to those whose mother or grandmother bore that name) and to Sept names of the Clan.
For further information you can contact:

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Address

e-mail _____ (important for communicating)

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		Retired couples over 60 yrs	£15.00

NEW!! Please consider paying by standing order at a fifth of term rate. Standing Order forms available from membership secretary. ie Note: Applications after October each year will include membership for the next year.

Additional donation to help with Newsletter/events £..... Total enclosed £

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CLAN CAMERON ASSOCIATION SCOTLAND



Aonaibh ri Lochiall NEWSLETTER

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Editorial

With this Newsletter, I am sending information about the AGM in October. The Council wished to hold the AGM in Lochaber, this year not only to take us back to our roots but also because the National Mod is being held in Fort William in October. In addition, this is the Year of Highland Culture. By drawing those strands together, we can promote the idea of Clans and Clan Associations in our homeland. In the early evening of Tuesday 16th of October, we will host a reception at the Mod for our own members and those who might promote the clan throughout the nation.

During the summer, Elizabeth and I were privileged to spend two weeks in Nova Scotia. Ostensibly, we had gone to take part in the International Clan Gathering in Halifax but this developed into a tour around Nova Scotia meeting Camerons and encouraging them to re-form a Branch in Nova Scotia. We were also promoting 2009 and the Clan Gathering at Achnacarry and had a very positive response. We both learned a great deal about the Cameron diaspora and the extent to which Camerons had made their marks in the new world. Everywhere we went we were struck by the connections - Lake Lochiel, Lochaber District, Cameron Street etc. We even stayed in the "Cameron Farmhouse".

I have put in a note about legacies and would ask all of you to consider the future of the Association in your will.

Alan I Cameron

EDITION No 13

Price (non members) £2.40

Printed by Clan Cameron Association Scotland (UK & Europe)

Autumn 2007

WEBSITE www.clanameron.org.uk

CAPTAIN JOHN CAMERON'S ODYSSEY 1850 TO 1925

By Colin Cameron

John Cameron, the subject of this Odyssey, was born in Lochaber on 1st February, 1850 in a small fishing village lying between the Highlands and the Atlantic. It was scoured by salt winds and vexed by the roar of western surges. He began seeking his fortune on the sea after having stood by the monument which was erected near his home. The monument was to Captain John Cameron, one time master of *The Earl of Balcarres*. The call of the seas did not excite his parents. They used all the arguments they could to dissuade him but he broke parental authority and at the age of 17 following in the footsteps of many Camerons before him he took the long walk down to Glasgow.

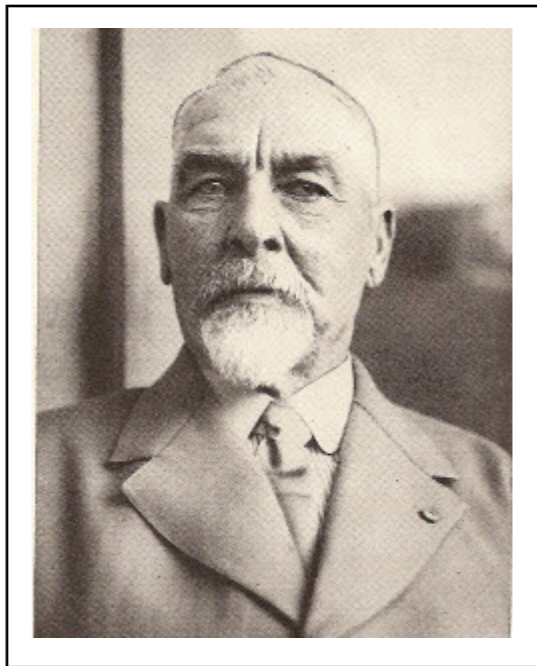
To get work, he became a parcel delivery boy in a dry goods firm, but during all his free time he moved around the Glasgow docks wondering where the ships came from and where they were bound for. His landlady, a friend of his mother, told him his fortune as was the custom at that time and it spelt well for a future at sea. Soon after that he was introduced by his employer to the Master of a bark called *The Ida* bound for Demerara in British Guiana, South America and took up a position as a trainee officer. So began a journey at sea mostly under sail which lasted for 30 years and mostly in the South Pacific Ocean.

His first experience of ship life was when the enlisted crew were all paid off for being drunk on duty and a new crew enlisted. On leaving the Clyde they hit a severe storm. The Officer of the watch ordered John Cameron to climb to the crow's nest to adjust some sails. He was not aware that Cameron had never been aloft and apologised to him when he returned unscathed.

The Age of Sail which had swept away the Age of Oars was now itself being overtaken by the Age of Steam. Cameron's sea life would be the experience of this change. For the next 30 years he sailed among the Islands in the South Pacific and only once during that time did he return to Scotland to find it a changed land, his family and friends gone and the weather unacceptable.

However his life out there came to be well known for all his exploits. In later years, around 1920, after he had left the sea a correspondent and writer Andrew Farrell wrote some derogatory articles about his exploits thinking that John Cameron was dead. The author got a quick and frosty response from Cameron - then very much alive. As a result of this the pair met up at Honolulu where Farrell found that Cameron's life at sea should be written down and published. They agreed Cameron would write out his story and Farrell would edit and revise it and then publish the book with Cameron's permission. The pair only met once more and exchanged a few letters when Cameron died unexpectedly in Japan on 23rd May, 1925. What Cameron had given to Farrell was a sheaf of 998 closely written pages in his own hand writing - a prodigious effort for a man of 72 years by that time. Nevertheless, Farrell worked on and prepared the Odyssey with the approval of Cameron's widow.

Continued on page 3



Janet placing a posy at the Cameron grave with Chris in the background bearing the Association standard

A service of prayers followed led by the Rev Dr. John Ferguson and when I looked around after, there were few dry eyes in the crowd of around 400 gathered at the Cairn. Pipers Dr. Angus Macdonald and Ronald Maclean performed laments including, for the first time, a performance by Dr. Macdonald of his specially composed piece *Culloden*. The gentle breeze did its part in adding to the effect as the pipers approached from our left with the sound of the pipes gradually increasing as they moved toward and slowly around the Cairn then fading poignantly as they were moving away and off to our right.

The laying of the wreaths at the Cairn was another very emotive period as each clan representative or organisation spoke into the microphone to say who they were and placed their wreath against the old stone. They then paid their respects and moved off ready for the next person.

A Re-Dedication of the battlefield also took place with Shonaig Macpherson chairwoman for the National Trust for Scotland giving an address and explaining

that a new visitor centre costing around £9.37m was being constructed which would tell the story using modern computer images and graphics and be much more user friendly than the old one which it was discovered was actually sited on part of the land used in the battle. It would be less obtrusive and would be more environmentally friendly and take the movement forward for the 21st Century.

We as a clan then proceeded to the marker which has now been re-sited about 100 yards to the west of the previous site and is now based on new archaeological evidence that has arisen during current work on the battlefield. We then went on to the Cameron gravestone and my wife Janet was given the honour of laying a small posy of spring flowers at the site.

Those of us who were booked then made our way a short distance from the battlefield to "Candles" Restaurant for lunch and a chance to catch up with acquaintances. We had a very nice meal in the company of good colleagues and friends and were then treated to a very interesting talk on tartans and making of kilts by Mr Duncan Chisholm of the famous Inverness Company of Kilt Makers.

Our experience had been both enjoyable and moving and we were both happy and honoured to have taken a small part.

From South to North, a view of Culloden 2007

by Barry Chalmers-Stevens.

Thursday morning, at an unearthly hour the taxi arrived to take us to London (Heathrow) for our early morning flight to Aberdeen. We duly arrived at 04:45 am for the bag drop as we had already checked in using British Airways online service. My wheel chair arrived at 05:15 to take us through security and to the BA departure lounge from where we were then taken on board the aircraft at our allotted time.

A good departure on time at 07:10 am set us up for the flight with a breakfast eagerly received. We arrived into Aberdeen on time at 0845 am. The hire car was ready and we then made our way over to Portsoy for our overnight stop and to see friends in the area. Next morning, Friday 13th, for those superstitious, we were on our way refreshed and heading for Inverness and a visit to renew acquaintances with more friends. We were now getting very eager to see for ourselves the site of the battlefield now restored almost exactly to the condition it was in on the day of 16th April 1746.

Saturday 14th the morning of the Culloden gathering dawned bright, sunny and warm for an early April day, and we were up and dressed in our Highland wear ready to make our way to Drumossie Moor - a short drive from our overnight stay. Arriving, we were amazed at the huge numbers of visitors especially those from overseas in the car park outside the visitor centre. Although we had been to Culloden before, this was our first experience as a part of any organisation.

We soon got talking to a large group from the USA who appeared to be "extras" from "Braveheart" but said that they came every year to pay their respects for the men who gave their lives in the brave struggle in this, the last battle to take place on British soil. We spent some 20 minutes in conversation sharing mutual interests and it was good to see so many people in traditional Highland Dress.

The Clan Cameron members soon found each other and assembled together and we were informed of our time to march to the Cairn by our President Alan Cameron. Asti our piper led us off with Chris Doak our standard bearer and Locheil our Chief letting every one know that the Camerons were there.

When all had gathered, the service began with an introduction in Gaelic by Roddy McCrimmon, President of the Gaelic Society of Inverness. His words were eagerly awaited by a now quiet audience. Roddy then went on to introduce John Farquhar Munro MSP who gave the main address.

There was a hush throughout this address as each person present started to feel the importance of his words and he went on to say that although the army of the Duke of Cumberland had won the battle on that particular day it now appears that the Highlanders can claim to have had the ultimate victory with the wearing of Scottish Tartans and a sharing of Culture, Music and Historical links with Scotland taking place in many countries across the world.

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Cameron's writings were composed and printed before political correctness had been thought up. He described the local islanders in racy terms, especially the women. Colour was explicitly used in his writings and the superiority of the white race was never questioned nor that the wealth created from the Islands should belong to the "white man".

For the next 30 years Cameron travelled these seas mostly in sailing ships and in all capacities from able seaman to Captain. He had experiences which would have made Defoe's Robinson Crusoe's own experiences more akin to a Butlin's Holiday Camp. For example, when he was First Mate of the *Wandering Minstrel* under Captain Walker they hit a severe storm near the Midway Island (which gained prominence during WWII). The Captain refused to accept Cameron's advice and this resulted in the ship being wrecked. Cameron insisted that the Captain his wife and family were first to be sent from the ship by life boat. Fortunately, in the end almost all were saved but the result was not only the loss of the ship but a 3 months stay as castaways on the island. Eventually Cameron, a Dane and a Chinese boy built a small boat and left the island and through extraordinary navigation reached safety. The Captain and the remainder of the crew were eventually picked up. And so his life went on.

In July 1890 Robert Louis Stevenson and his wife were sailing off the Gilbert Islands and stopped at the port of Tarawa. By chance, Cameron was also in the Port and went aboard Stevenson's ship *The Janet Nicol* for a drink with his friend, the purser. There he was introduced to Stevenson, one Scot to another, and Stevenson said, "A Cameron, a Cameron a genuine Highlander from Lochaber". "Quite correct", Cameron replied and after a few drinks they began their chaff. The story that Cameron gave to Stevenson became part and parcel of the novel he was then writing and which was published as "The Wreckers".

Among his other exploits was that of *Blackbirding*. In other words, the Hawaiian Government were looking for recruits from the islanders in the Southern Pacific to work on their sugar plantations similar to the Australian *Blackbirding* of Solomon Islanders for the Queensland Sugar Plantations.

For reasons as yet unknown after his 30 years of wandering by sail he settled in Japan and took up employment with the Standard Oil Company of New York and lived there for the next 20 odd years until he retired in April 1925. A few months later he passed away. Even in these last working years he travelled widely criss-crossing Siberia and on different occasions to many other parts of the world with only one further visit to Scotland with the same view of his homeland.

Even at 75 on his retirement he wanted to find employment - "something not too strenuous" for there was, after all, a condition known as age. If he failed to get a position ashore he would "try the sea again even if some skipper would only carry him as ballast" However this was not to be as a result of his untimely death. He is buried in Japan.

For him no epitaph could be more fitting than a line from Tennyson's *Ulysses*:

"I cannot rest from travel".

THE 2007 AGM

The Annual General Meeting of the Clan Cameron Association will be held in **Clunes House, at 2.00 on Tuesday 16th October**, by courtesy of Lochiel. The guest speaker will be Iain Thornber, the author whose book is reviewed in this newsletter. I hope that we will have a good turn-out for this important event in the Clan Cameron calendar. It is your opportunity to change the composition of the Council and to make suggestions as to how we can improve the services to you and the activities we undertake. It is also the annual formal forum for making changes to the constitution of the Association.

The Council have no amendments to make to the constitution and are recommending that the subscriptions should remain at the same level. This is well below what other clan associations are charging and I hope that it is regarded as good value for money. I would encourage you to consider paying by Banker's Order when your subscription is due for renewal. This avoids the tiresome task of chasing up overdue subscriptions and relieves you of having to remember to renew your subscription. The subscription is from January to January and is renewable on the 1st of January, each year.

THE RECEPTION

To tie in with the year of Highland Culture and the fact that the National Mod will be held in Fort William, this year, the Council approached the Mod Committee about having a reception. This will be held in the Nevis Centre from 6.30 to 8.00 on Tuesday, 16th October. The aim is for us to meet with non-members - hopefully Camerons at an informal reception. We will invite local Councillors and Mod Officials and ask as many Camerons as are interested to join us. I hope that you can come on this occasion which is tied up with the AGM and the ceilidh later in the evening. All are invited to attend. Let Elizabeth know if you are coming to the Reception 01358-720130.

THE CEILIDH

This will be held in a local hotel and there may be a small charge for entry to cover costs.

DRAFT CLAN ACTIVITIES 2008

Culloden Memorial Service & Lunch April
Inverness Highland Games July
Arisaig Highland Games Wed 23rd July
Lochaber Highland Games Sat 26th July
Glenfinnan Highland Games Sat 16th Aug.
Braemar Gathering Sat 6th September 2008
Clan Picnic - July/August TBA
Clan Council & AGM October TBA
Bergues: Gentle Lochiel Memorial - Oct.

For latest Information, consult the Clan Association website:

www.clanameron.org.uk



HOMECOMING SCOTLAND

2009 has been designated as the *Year of Homecoming* and is being extensively marketed as Homecoming Scotland. It is our opportunity to welcome clan members from throughout the world to Scotland and to show them what a wonderful country we have.

Clan Cameron Gathering 2009

Lochiel has decided that there will be an International Cameron Gathering at Achnacarry from Thursday 30th July until Sunday, 2nd August 2009. This will tie in nicely with the International Gathering of the Clans.

International Gathering of Clans July 2009

Homecoming Scotland is being heavily promoted - especially in North America. One of the themes is genealogy. If you wish to find out more about the project, there is an excellent website: www.homecomingscotland.com

CAMERONS IN THE NEWS

FIRST FEMALE BEEFEATER



Moira Cameron comes from Argyll in the west coast of Scotland and started on 3rd September, 2007 in the coveted position of Beefeater at the Tower of London. She will wear the traditional ceremonial dress of a distinctive scarlet and gold tunic, white ruff, red stockings and black patent leather shoes. Her duties will include guarding the Crown Jewels, participating in the Ceremony of the Keys and giving visitors guided tours. Beefeaters are traditionally responsible for the Tower's ravens.

Moira Cameron joined the Army in June 1985. She joined the Women's Royal Army Corps and trained as a data telegraphist with the Royal Signals and saw service in England, Northern Ireland and Cyprus. To apply to become a Beefeater, candidates must have earned medals for long service and good conduct. Beefeaters, believed to have earned their nickname from their daily ration of meat, date from 1485 when King Henry VII formed a bodyguard. Historically their duty was to guard "the Tower of London and all things within it" -- a role which included the supervision and care of state prisoners. Today, there are 35 Beefeaters, plus the Chief Yeoman Warder and Yeoman Gaoler. The Tower of London was begun in 1078 by William the Conqueror. Its primary functions were as a fortress, royal palace and a prison, but it has served as a place of execution, an armoury, a treasury, a zoo, a mint and -- since 1303 -- the home of the Crown Jewels.

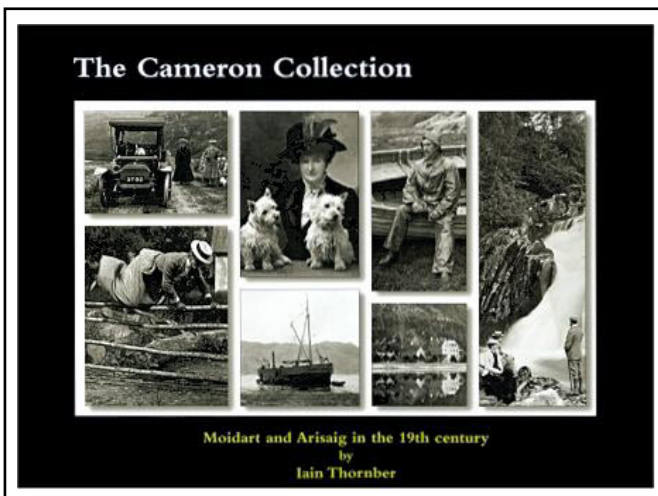
JOHN CAMERON - FARMER & TRAIN ENTHUSIAST

Following on from the article in the last newsletter about Clan trains, I discovered that the John Cameron referred to is actually an Association member. Following a very successful career in farming including a spell in the top echelons of agriculture, John Cameron is now devoting more time to his long term passion - trains. He is renovating the K4 locomotive - Great Marquis and hopes that it will soon join his other engine - The Union of South Africa in an open museum linked to the working rail network.

HONOUR FOR LIZ CAMERON

Former Lord Provost of Glasgow - Liz Cameron - was honoured in April this year when she received one of the highest cultural honours in France because of her contribution to French culture. This award is rarely given to anyone outside France and recognises the efforts the Lord Provost had made to foster links between Glasgow and Marseilles. The Order of Arts and Letters was created 50 years ago and is presented to those who make a significant contribution to the culture and language of France. Within the Order, there are three ranks - *chevalier*, *officier*, and *commandeur*. Mrs Cameron was given the award of *officier* by Charles Courdent, Director of the Alliance-Francaise at a ceremony in Glasgow on 18th April, 2007.





Book Review

This book has many features to recommend it not least that it portrays life on a Highland estate in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. What is remarkable is the quality of the photographs - taken at a time when the exposure time was very long and any movement in the subject would cause blurring of the print. Christian Cameron-Head of Inverailort had a remarkable talent for capturing scenes on a working estate which reflect the character of the people and places and the nature of the Highland society at that time. This book in which the

photographs have been carefully annotated to provide a textual template for the illustrations brings that society to life.

Lochiel has provided the foreword for the book and reminds us of the connections between the Camerons of Inverailort and those of Glendessary and Erracht. I can thoroughly recommend this book to you. There is also a technical section on photography in the late 19th and early 20th century. The book is not only a delight to read or to browse but will be a continuing source of information for those of you interested in clan history. Iain Thornber is to be congratulated in the way he has integrated text and photographs so that neither dominates the other. The book can be obtained directly from the author at the following web address

<http://www.iainthornber.co.uk/>

The price of the book is £14.95 + Postage & Packing

President's Badge of Office

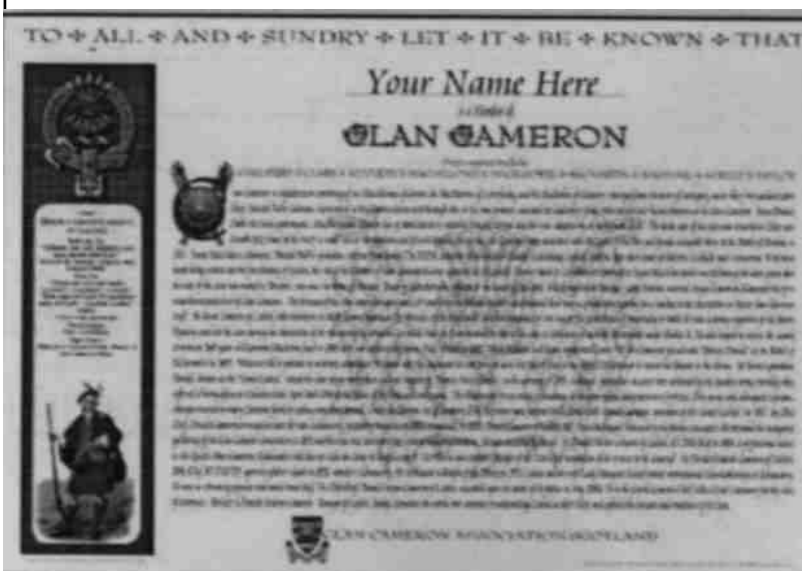
The Council has proposed that there should be a President's badge which should be worn at important clan occasions. In particular it was felt that this should be in place before the International Gathering in August 2009. The badge would contain the clan crest of the Association and would have an appropriate ribbon. It would be worn around the neck. Some initial discussion has taken place about this with among others Gordon Casely who gave the excellent talk on heraldry at the last AGM.

It was further proposed that a fund should be set up and that contributions to this fund would be asked of members. The cost would be in the region of £500.00 depending on the metal used and the complexity of the design. I hope that you will support this project both from the principle but also from the financial point of view. Every contribution counts and a donation of £10.00 from every family would cover the cost. Please make cheques payable to Clan Cameron President's badge.

LEGACIES

None of us like to think of our passing on but in that context it might be worth thinking of how we can secure the future of the Clan Cameron Association. For those of you who have gained pleasure from being part of the Association or who value the heritage and the need to engage future generations, a legacy to the Association might be a consideration. There is a good saying in the North East - "mony a mickle maks a muckle" which means "every little helps". The running costs of the Association are not huge and the annual membership fee is on a par with or less than that of other clan associations. However, with a more secure base the Association could be more ambitious in the kind of activities it promotes. What is important in this ever-changing world is that we secure continuity for the Association which was founded almost 120 years ago. A possible wording (as an addition to your will) might be: "*By way of pecuniary legacy I give free of tax the sum of £[] to the Clan Cameron Association declaring that the receipt of the person appearing to my [trustees] to be the Treasurer or other proper officer of the said Association shall be a good discharge to my [trustees].*" Please note that you should always seek the advice of your solicitor to make sure the wording suits your own situation.

Clan Cameron Plaques & Certificates.



We have a number of items based on the Association Coat of Arms. These include the Clan Cameron Certificate which you can have printed with your own name on and which makes an excellent gift or even a self indulgence. Please contact David directly as he has special offers from time to time.

In addition, David has for sale full colour copies of the letter patent prepared by the Lord Lyon for the presentation of our Arms. This is again an excellent gift and memento and at

£4.00 will not break the bank. We also have wall plaques with the new shield and motto and these are for sale. Currently the stock is down to 1 copy only. If you are interested and there is sufficient demand, we could commission another run. Please contact David if you are interested 0131 539 2745

ANOTHER BISHOP CAMERON



While travelling in Nova Scotia, Elizabeth and I chanced upon a statue of a Bishop in Antigonish. Outside the St Francis Xavier University stands the statue of Rt Rev John Cameron DD who was a widely respected and quite radical bishop in the Roman Catholic Church. Born in Nova Scotia in 1827, John Cameron was educated at home and at the age of 16 he went to Rome where he studied for the following ten years. He was ordained in 1853 and the same year was awarded a Doctorate in Philosophy and in Divinity. In 1877 he became bishop in the diocese of Arichat. Shortly thereafter he transferred to Antigonish. There he applied himself with great zeal to the pastoral and financial care of the diocese. During his time as Bishop he made some radical changes in the structure of the Church. He was described as an excellent pastor and an eloquent preacher. He died in 1912.

THE MUSICAL CAMERONS

by Patricia Cameron James

In my family tree, there is a combination of the exotic world of the Music hall in the early 1900s and the down to earth aspect of Vicker's Shipyard in Barrow-in Furnace, Cumbria. My Paisley born grandfather, William Cameron - a draper by trade - married a young lass from Londonderry named Lizzie Moore in 1875 and they had ten children. Although he did secure a manager's job in an Aberdeen tailor's, he always seemed to be moving accommodation to escape creditors and eventually settled with his family in Barrow where he is recorded as working as a shipping clerk in the 1901 census. In an age when home-made entertainment around a piano was the normal way of life, I do not know exactly when, or why, the three eldest brothers decided to take the bold step of leaving their shipyard jobs for a precarious life touring the music halls. Being Scottish born, they took the stage name of "*The Cameron Quartette*" – the main members being William Clark Cameron, (my grandfather), James Moore Cameron and Alexander Cameron. The fourth member of the quartet would sometimes be their cousin Donald, or their youngest brother Henry Hervey Bruce Cameron. [The latter turned out to be the "black sheep" of the family and is rarely mentioned after he married a young dancer, Edna Athey, in 1924 when he was 38. He is the one Cameron I've not been able to trace after he upset the apple cart!]

The Cameron Quartette seems to have built up a very successful stage career – at one point topping the bill above W.C. Fields, but my mother recalled that it wasn't all that glamorous as the wives and children were usually left behind when the Quartette were touring the halls all over Britain and the Isle of Man. The four men had an original act portraying revellers returning from a carnival, all a little merry and singing, dancing and cross-talking under a street lamp. At some period, the wives of William and Alexander became part of the act and



The original Cameron Quartette (between 1904 & 1912)
l to r: James Moore Cameron ; William Clark Cameron
Alexander Cameron; Donald Cameron (cousin)

toured as *The Six Camerons*, who appeared in colourful Scottish dresses and included traditional songs and dances in their repertoire.

In 1914, The Six Camerons went on a tour of South Africa and Australia where they were feted and given a ticker-tape reception in Melbourne. I have quite a collection of postcards sent by the family, mainly exhorting the children to work hard and be good! A programme from the Tivoli Theatre Kalgoorlie dated 11th July 1914 has the group topping the bill before they began the journey home in Aug/Sept. when they narrowly escaped being

torpedoed by a German submarine in the Red Sea. Once home, they discovered that William Cameron had died in May and that the family needed more stability in their lives, so the act reverted to being the Cameron Quartette again.



The Cameron quartette (post WWI) taken in 1925
William, Trixie, Eric and Ada.
The photograph was taken just before they were due to tour, but Eric enlisted in the army after a row with his father and everything was cancelled.

The 1914-18 war disrupted their touring plans, especially as they were due to record songs on the new cylinder system in order to reach a wider audience, and eventually the group split up. William Clark Cameron continued the Quartette with his wife Ada, eldest son Eric and daughter Trixie (my mother, who hated touring and longed to have a "normal" life!) They finally closed this chapter of their lives in 1925 when Eric joined the army after a family row about a new tour. As their home base was still Barrow, William returned to work in the shipyard where he remained until his death in 1939. Alexander continued with his stage career and I have a programme from The Pleasure Palace Empire, Clydebank, dated

25th October, 1920 where a show entitled "*Scots Skits*" played twice nightly for the week. It seemed to consist of a series of sketches followed afterwards by a picture show starring Pearl White. In 1923, Alexander decided to go out to Canada with his wife, Alice, and children Cecil and Violet where he went into theatre management, as well as building up a successful orchestra. Cecil followed his father's career path, working in both Vancouver and Hollywood, but he always loved to return to Britain during the pantomime season as he adored that particular genre.

In 1910, James married Maude Edwards, a very clever ventriloquist, and they toured the music halls, sometimes taking their young daughter, Babs, who often attended a different school every week! After James died in 1955, Maude took up residence at Brinsworth House, Twickenham, which was a home for retired stage people and supported by the "Order of Water Rats" - a theatrical charity. On one occasion, at a Royal Variety Performance, Maude was chosen to present a bouquet to the Queen Mother and was thrilled by this honour. When taken out to the local pub for a pint of Guinness, she would regale the regulars with tales of her stage career and often got a round of applause on her exit!

I love my Cameron family, with its Scots/Irish connections, its theatrical ups and downs, its stoicism in unsettled times and its pride in its roots. Maude's grand-daughter and I have spent hours piecing together our Cameron story from the early 1700s around Glasgow, but we still haven't tracked down our "Black Sheep". I wonder what happened to Henry Hervey Bruce Cameron?

HELP

Have you a story about a famous relative or one who has done something unusual? If so, why not write an article about him and her and add a photograph. The editor is happy to accept material in any format but preferably by e-mail or on a disc. That way photographs and text can be fed directly into the publication. On a wider issue, it maybe that some of you have Association Records or memorabilia which you may wish to share with other members. Any contributions would be most welcome!