

Contributors

Angus Cameron who contributed the article on Camerons in South America is the son of Alan & Elizabeth. He graduated with Honours in Spanish and teaching English as a foreign language from Heriot-Watt University and is currently a driver and guide with Highland Experience Tours.



James Cameron who contribute the article on Gaelic in Australia is currently the President of the NSW branch of Clan Cameron. He has long had an interest in Gaelic and has fostered the language in his home state.



Calendar 2010

Saturday, March 20th

SYHA Stirling

Saturday, April 17th

Culloden Service & Clan Lunch

Saturday, June 4th/11th

Council Meeting

(Date & venue to be confirmed)

Saturday 21st August

Glenfinnan Games

Mid October

AGM & Council in Derby
(to be confirmed)

Check website for latest.

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CLAN CAMERON ASSOCIATION SCOTLAND



NEWSLETTER

HOMECOMING 09



***THE CLAN CAMERON ASSOCIATION RECEPTION AT
FORT WILLIAM, JULY 31st, 2009***

Photo by Iain Ferguson, Fort William

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A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Dear Clan Cameron members,

It was a great honour to receive the support of the members at the AGM on 24th October 2009 and become the new President of the Clan Cameron Association Scotland (UK & Europe), in this 120th year of the association. I look forward to serving you and taking the association into the future, with the support of the council and members. I hope you enjoy the activities of the association throughout the year and I look forward to meeting you.



I thank Alan and Elizabeth for all the work they have done over the last five years to make the association so successful and give us, as association members, so many happy memories. I recognise it will be a hard act to follow.

The task now is to take the association forward with innovation, whilst at the same time maintaining the best of the past. To this end a range of activities will be undertaken in the coming year, the web site is being up-dated and made interactive and a CD of Cameron Music recorded live at the Cawdor Tavern will be available.

A benchmarking exercise has been undertaken and the work of thirty three clan societies examined, to be able to measure the Clan Cameron Association against the best of the rest. The council will be examining these findings in order to bring the members the services they want from the Association.

It is only with the help and enthusiasm of fellow clansfolk and council that the association can continue to be a success in the future. I welcome your support.

Duncan Cameron

James is the editor of An Teachdaire Gàidhealach (The Gaelic Messenger), the journal of Comunn Gàidhlig Astràilia (The Australian Scottish Gaelic Society).

He hails originally from the Bathurst, but has been very involved in Gaelic for many years, most recently a participant in Gaelic classes in the ACT. Scottish Gaelic is one of the Celtic languages (ie Welsh, Irish, Breton Manx and Cornish), and is still spoken in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland and in maritime Canada.

It is not to be confused with Scots or Lallans, which is a language of the Scottish Lowlands in the Germanic group of languages which includes English. From the 1820s Gaelic was commonly spoken in Goulburn (where a number of Hotels were run by Gaels) and surrounding districts such as Taralga.

A couple of Goulburn Gaelic anecdotes: Campbell's Lane on the Middle Arm Road commemorates a family from the Canadian Gaelic speaking area of Antigonish, Nova Scotia. Mary Gilmore (née Cameron), who was born at Roslyn and lived in Goulburn in the 1920s, breached WWII censorship rules by attempting to send a congratulatory telegram in Gaelic. When told by the telegraphist that messages in foreign languages were forbidden, she gave him firm advice that Gaelic was anything but foreign, presumably based on her Goulburn experience!

Lochiel Statue

It has been reported that the Lochiel statue in Fort William is to undergo a condition survey. The 100 year old bronze statue is badly oxide stained. A spokesperson for Highland Council said that the survey would identify any immediate issues and specify the correct cleaning and maintenance regime.

Photo Bill Cameron



JAMES IS KEEPING GAELIC ALIVE IN AUSTRALIA

Many of you will remember James Cameron from the various events held last year. He is currently the President of the NSW Camerons. He has a keen interest in SCOTTISH Gaelic - a language that Highland emigrants took with them to Australia. This article appeared in the *Goulburn Post* of 16th December 2009.

Historically Gaelic was spoken throughout the district of Goulburn and has been revived there in 2009. It was the first language of Governor Lachlan Macquarie, the language of the poetic tradition of Dame Mary Gilmore and the daily language of numerous less famous residents. It has been resuscitated thanks to the efforts of Goulburn resident James Cameron.

After moving to Goulburn this year, Gaelic enthusiast James was contacted about Gaelic lessons, and had previously considered starting a class in Goulburn to expose others to the language. So, he placed an ad in the *Goulburn Post* and started a class teaching introductory Scottish-Gaelic. Southern Region Community College kindly offered to provide a room for the course, and it is now in its 10th and final week.

The class has had an enthusiastic response with 10 students in all participating during the term, and attendance has averaged around eight per class. Attendees cite an interest in Gaelic music (Irish or Scottish), family history, Scottish culture such as pipe bands or just an interest in languages as their reasons for joining.

(Continued on page 15)



Book Reviews

A Backward Glance by Sharon Dabell

This story which is a romance is based around the time of the '45 and is very much centred in the Cameron country with Camerons as the main characters. It revolves round the present day Helen Taylor having flashbacks to the times of her ancestors. It is not my style of book and there are one or two errors in the historical context but it is nevertheless a good story.

The author met with Lochiel at the Edinburgh Homecoming. The book is published by Cuthill Press and costs £9.99



Commando Country by Stuart Allan

This is the story of the formation of the Commando and Special Operations Executive during WWII. It tells how the big houses in the Area west of Fort William were requisitioned - particularly Lochailort, Arisaig and Achnacarry. I found it to be an interesting book with lots of helpful references. It was certainly a good read.

The book is published by National Museums of Scotland and costs £12.99.



The Scottish Gaelic alphabet

by Alan Cameron

Scottish Gaelic is written with just 18 letters each of which is named after a **tree or shrub**. The consonants all have more than one pronunciation depending on their position in a word and which vowels precede or follow them:

A = Ailm (Elm) B = Beith (Birch) C = Coll (Hazel) D = Dair (Oak)
E = Eatha (Aspen) F = Fearn (Alder) G = Gort (Ivy) H = Uath (Hawthorn)
I = Iogh (Yew) L = Luis (Rowan) M = Muin (Vine) N = Nuin (ash)
O = Oir/Onn (gorse) P = Peithe (Guelder Rose) R = Ruis (Elder)
S = Suil (willow) T = Teine (Furze) U = Ur (Heather)

There is an excellent Gaelic alphabet walk in the Sunart Oakwood on the Ardnamurchan Peninsula. This was opened in 2006 by The Duke and Duchess of Rothesay. In the walk, the letters of the alphabet and the different trees and shrubs are used as stage posts round the walk.

The Grid reference for this gentle walk is NM691645. The distance is about 1.5km and it will take about 1 hour. The scenery is breathtaking. On our visit we saw a young eagle and a hind but in all honesty, the area is teeming with wildlife. The start point is on the A861 at the car-park.

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A word about Membership

At the 2009 AGM, the decision was taken that membership should be based on a family household and should be a single rate for 2010, anyway, of **£12.00**. That means that for £1.00 per month the whole household can have membership of the Clan Cameron for one year. This does away with all concessionary rates. It was the hope of the council that members would choose to pay membership by Standing Order. For those who have Standing Orders, would you now change that to £12.00. For many of you, you are getting a bargain this year!

Rosie the Parrot

Last August, a parrot or rather a parakeet took residence in our garden. At first we thought it might have wandered away from its home and landed in our garden by chance. We contacted police, RSPB, Animal Rescue, the local vets and indeed everyone we could think of who might help. The responses ranged from the sceptical to the unhelpful including a request from the police for a



description. We let it be known on local radio that we had found this exotic bird but there was no response. Even the local bird expert was not really interested. So we did some research ourselves and Elizabeth found that it was a Rosella Parakeet which is native to Eastern Australia - hence the name - Rosie. As you can imagine it has attracted a great deal of interest from all of our neighbours.

Elizabeth feeds her (him) every morning with exotic parrot mixture which costs £5.00 a kilo, with peanuts, with fatballs, sunflower seeds and scraps. The parrot is flourishing and her distinctive call (which is a high pitched “bo-peep”) can be heard at a considerable distance from the house.

We were worried that she might not survive the winter because parrots apparently have poor circulation in their claws so I built a house for her but she turned up her nose at that. Recently the parrot has disappeared but we hope that she will return soon.



Charles Wesley Cameron

Recently while walking down the Royal Mile, my son pointed out the plaque shown here. It commemorates the contribution made to entertainment in Edinburgh by Charles Wesley Cameron. Wesley Cameron was born in 1927 and died in 2001. He specialised in bizarre Magic and was known as the godfather of bizarre magic. Although a qualified accountant, Charles chose a career in magic and in 1947 was one of the founding members of the Edinburgh Magic Circle. He took part in the club circuit at home and abroad. He had an abiding interest in the weird, supernatural and mysterious and was a keen student of the occult. In 1776 he was made curator of the Edinburgh Wax Museum. At night the top floor was turned into Count Dracula Theatre with Charles's friends as supporting cast and complete with coffin. He performed mind reading and mock ghostly seances in the mid '80s. In 1989, the Wax Museum closed and all the wax models were disposed off, thus depriving Edinburgh of one highlight of the tourist trail. The plaque erected by Charles's friends is at 142 New Assembly Close at the former entry to the Wax Museum. In addition to his many personal appearances, Charles had regular radio and television appearances and wrote many books.



A NEW CD OF CAMERON MUSIC

Cameron Music 120 years of the Clan Cameron Association
 Founded 27 April 1890
 On 18 April 2009, after the Culloden Service, the Clan Cameron Association held a lunch at the Cawdor Tavern, followed by this musical entertainment, recorded live.
 Musicians: Astie Cameron: pipes, Pamela Cockburn: violin & viola, Keith Cockburn: vocals and guitar, Gordon Anderson: keyboard
 Recording and photographs: Duncan G Cameron Editing: Bob Sharp

1. Pipe set by Astie Cameron: *The Loons of Lake Macara (slow air) / Station Officer Hugh Cameron MBE (march) / Highland Harry (strathspey) / The Sound of Sleat (reel) / The Loons... (reprise)(slow air) / Mrs Cath MacDonald (hornpipe) / Loch Rannoch (slow air) / Itchy Fingers (hornpipe) / Panspik's Fancy (hornpipe) / The Chimsy Lover (hornpipe)*
2. *Cameron Highlanders / 100,000 Welcomes P&G.*
3. *Battle of Harlaw K&P*
4. *James Cameron / Maybelle's compliments to Cameron / Jim Cameron / Pibroch of Donald Dubh (also called Lochiel's March) P&G*
5. *The Lonsach Song (Comp. Gayo Anthony), K&P*
6. *Battle of Waterloo / A.A. Cameron / Jack Cameron P&G.*
7. *Killiecrankie K&P*
8. *Joan Cameron / Highland Lassie P&G*
9. *Ye Jacobites by name K&P*
10. *Banks of Loch Eil / Cameron's Got His Wife Again / Cameron's Wife P&G*
11. *Skye boat Song G&P*
12. *My Bonnie lies over the Ocean K&P*
13. *Lady to her Husband Killed at Culloden / Tears P*

The music was recorded at the Clan Lunch at Cawdor Tavern following the Culloden 09 memorial service and includes pipe tunes played by Astie along with tunes played on the fiddle, guitar and keyboard. The CD costs £7.00 + £1.00 p&p (UK only) and is available from:

**Duncan Cameron,
 Hillockhead, Fortrie,
 Turriff AB53 4JA**

Camerons Restaurant at the Glasgow Hilton

When the Hilton Glasgow decided to open a new restaurant, they called it "Camerons". For the opening the Association was invited to send a few members along for the launch. Our photo shows David & Rosemary from Edinburgh and Angus and Jessie from Glasgow.



Richard Cameron - Covenanter (Hero or Hothead?)

Richard Cameron was born during an age of extreme religious tension in Scotland following the Reformation. Over a period of many years the church in Scotland swung from Episcopalianism to extreme Presbyterianism. Even after the Presbyterian Church became the established Church in Scotland there were a number of secessions from this church. The most important of those was the formation of the Free Church in 1843. Many of these secessions centred on the right of the congregation to appoint their own minister. *The Solemn League and Covenant* was an attempt to settle the disputes between Church and State and to secure Presbyterianism in Scotland and its strict adherents were called Covenanters.

Richard Cameron was born, the son of a wealthy merchant, in Falkland, Fife about 1648. He was University educated and became a schoolmaster before turning to preaching. Initially he seems to have had little sympathy with the Covenanters but in attending the conventicles (or open air services), he was drawn more and more into the covenanting principles. He was a highly successful field preacher in the strict Presbyterian mould and was such a powerful and natural leader that he became a national figure and his followers were called the *Cameronians*. He came into conflict with the crown when Charles I declared that all preachers should submit to Anglicanism. He spent some years in exile in Amsterdam which was a hotbed of anti-Catholicism and returned to Scotland in 1680. He and his fellow Covenanters signed the *Sanquhar Declaration*, calling for the deposition of King Charles II and the exclusion of the king's brother from succession. That same year Cameron was killed in a skirmish at Aird's Moss during a Government attempt to suppress Covenanters. Many Presbyterians were persecuted for following Cameron's views. However, after the accession of William of Orange all were pardoned. His followers were incorporated into the British army and were renamed *The 26th (Cameronians) Regiment of Foot*.

Was Cameron a hero or a hothead? Whatever we believe, we have to remember that these were very troubled times and that our political and religious leaders showed a lamentable lack of leadership.

For more information: "*Lion of the Covenant*" by Neil Munro.

Ewen and the Carlin Wife

This tale comes from an excellent book about the "other world" as seen from the Gaelic perspective. The book by Ronald Black* is itself a compilation of stories of witchcraft and second sight in the Highlands of Scotland. These tales were compiled by John Gregorson Campbell who was a minister in Tiree and who devoted his life to the collection of such stories and superstitions.

Ewen Cameron of Lochiel was described in Macaulay's *History of England* as the Ulysses of the North and characterised as a "*gracious master, a trusty ally and a terrible enemy.*"

The story goes that, as a young man, he was about to set off on a journey from Aberdeen to Inverness. On the evening before his journey he entered an inn and was greeted by an old hag. She wrinkled her nose, tossed her head and said "*Hib*" to him. Being a man of ready wit, Ewen replied "*HoH*".

The next morning as he was about to set off, she was waiting for him and challenged him, in Gaelic, to step out with her. Every time he flagged she re-issued her challenge and Ewen who did not want to be beaten by an old lady did not slacken his pace until he reached Inverness - a distance of 108 miles. That night he consulted an old man who advised him to answer each challenge from the old hag with words of his own and no harm would befall him.

Sure enough as he left the inn the next morning, she was waiting for him with the greeting *Ceum ann, Eoghain* (which means step it out, Ewen) to which he replied "*Ceum air do cheum, agus ceum a bharrachd, a chailleach*" (a step for your step and a step more, old woman"). That evening they reached the Ferry which crossed Loch Leven from Ballachulish - having covered a distance of 75 miles. Ewen got in the boat first and pushed off. The hag realising that she was losing him shouted, "*My sincere wishes go with you, Ewen.*" to which he replied "*Your wishes be upon your own sides and on yonder grey stone, old wife.*"

The hag turned to the stone and it split in two as can be seen to this day.

* "The Gaelic Otherworld" Edited by Ronald Black
Published by Birlinn ISBN10: 1 84158207 7 £16.99

taking place. Or, perhaps most importantly; whether they care at all. This aspect fascinates me – whether our Cameron *hermanos* retain a sense of what it is to be Scottish or have a desire to be connected to Scotland in some way. I must admit that I am still investigating this. It does seem that two places in British Guyana seem to hold the key – one being Berbice and the other, Demerara. Many of the ancestors of Latin American Camerons seem to have passed through here.

Yet, that there should be any surprise that there is a huge Scottish influence in Latin America is probably indicative of my own ignorance rather than anything else. Two of the most influential families in Paraguay, the Woods and the Stewarts hail from our shores and the country is full of Jose Manuel Stewarts and Maria Graziela Woods. The legacy of Robert Cunnighame-Grahame, a key player in the creation of both the Labour and SNP parties, looms large over Argentina where he is known as Don Roberto. Our celebrated naval officer, Lord Cochrane, chased the Portuguese out of Brazil and the Spanish out of Peru. A descendent of Rob Roy McGregor, Gregorio McGregor became a general in the army of Simon Bolivar, the father of South American independence and retired a war hero in Colombia. The Scottish influence may not be as profound in Latin America as it is in North America but there can be no doubt that it is stronger than many of us have previously realised.

Note - Las Narices Torcidas is the Spanish for “The Twisted Noses”

As a footnote, Angus has recommended to me a book called “*The Scots in Latin America*” by David Dobson (2003) ISBN:0806352027 which gives details of many Camerons who emigrated to the Americas. Particularly, it seems there is a strong link with Berbice in Guyana. I assume it is a connection with the sugar plantations. Among the many Camerons mentioned in the book is John Cameron of Barcaldine, born on June 27th 1824 who died in Berbice on 29th January 1857. I am sure that herein lies a fruitful area for further research.

Ed.

Culloden 2010

The annual service will be held at the Memorial Cairn on Culloden Field on Saturday, 18th April at 11.00. As in previous years we would welcome a good turn-out of Camerons to gather at the visitor centre at 10.45 to be led to the cairn by piper Astie Cameron.

After the service, we will have lunch at the Cawdor Tavern at 1.00.



Lunch at the Cawdor Tavern

Along with this Newsletter, you should receive the programme for the Culloden Memorial Service and the menu for lunch at the Cawdor Tavern. It would help greatly if you would choose your meal(s) from the menu and return the tear-off slip with your remittance (£16.50 per head) to Duncan. Our speaker is Charles

Burnett who is Ross Herald at the Lyon Court and is going to talk about Clans and Heraldry. The picture opposite is of Charles leading the procession during the ceremony to inaugurate the Fort William Coat of Arms. He is followed by Lochiel in his capacity as Lord Lieutenant of Inverness-shire.

Editorial Note: *I have been asked to continue as the Editor of the Newsletter and would welcome articles both short and long for inclusion in the Autumn 10 Newsletter. The deadline is end of August 2010 but I would like prior indication so as to reserve space. I am also happy to include adverts at £50.00 per A5 page. Many organisations now send out newsletters by e-mail attachment. If you would accept your newsletter in this way, please send me your e-mail address to:*

aicameron21@googlemail.com Alan I Cameron, March 2010

Las Narices Torcidas -The Spread of the Cameron Men by Angus S Cameron

Most of us are well aware of the extensive influence that the Scottish diaspora has had on the English speaking nations of the world such as the States, Canada, New Zealand and Australia. One would only have needed to be in Edinburgh last summer during the Gathering to experience these strong links as the Royal Mile was filled with voices carrying accents from Vancouver to Christchurch to New York. Yet, amidst all the excitement and fanfare of the Homecoming, many of us would have failed to notice the absence of a different kind of accent and indeed the absence of a different language altogether. The people who speak this language appear to be our forgotten cousins and our forgotten clansmen. The language is Spanish and the people come from a continent frequently overlooked in our assessment of the spread of our blood across the globe - South America.

The way in which I stumbled upon these links with Latin America is both improbable and fortuitous. In the spring of 2007, I was accepted by the British Council to teach English at one of their affiliated schools in Latin America. At this point, I had no idea which of the countries they would send me to. While I was waiting to hear of my destination, my father received an email from a woman in Paraguay called Maria Celeste Cameron requesting information about her family roots. Two weeks later, I was informed that I was being posted to Paraguay! In a phone call to my father to tell him where I was going to be for the next year, he revealed that he had had contact from the very same country. At the time, it just seemed like a happy coincidence so I told him I would take a note of her email and get in contact when I arrived. Neither of us knew whether Maria Celeste Cameron was 19 or 90.

A few weeks after arriving in Asuncion, the capital of Paraguay, I began to exchange emails with Maria. It turned out that she was actually 23 and worked as a civil servant for the government. We arranged to meet up but

as often happens in life, we were like two ships passing in the night – she worked through the day, I worked in the evening and at the weekend. As a result, the emails tailed off and as more of my time was taken up at the school, it slipped to the back of my mind. And then things got strange....

I had met a local Paraguayan girl within the first few months of arriving and one day she had asked me what my second name was.

“Cameron!!!??” she exclaimed when I told her. “I know another Cameron!!” As you can imagine Cameron is a fairly unusual surname in Paraguay. It turns out that the best friend of my young lady was having an affair with the boyfriend of Maria Celeste Cameron. Talk about six degrees of separation!! What are the chances of that happening? Maria sends an email to my father from Paraguay, I get sent to Paraguay and end up with a girl who is intimately connected with her.... My young lady was not keen on my meeting up with Maria Celeste Cameron on the grounds that she worked for the feared and hated party of the dictatorship. I think she was just showing solidarity towards her pal.....

This was my first experience of the Camerons of Latin America but then when I returned to Scotland, the floodgates opened. Out of the blue, I received a message from a Juan Cameron Zamorano of Valparaiso, Chile on the social networking site, Facebook. Mr Cameron Zamorano was a Professor of Literature and seemed to have a keen interest in his Lochaber roots, displaying the Cameron crest on his profile and writing “Aonaibh ri cheile” as his status. I entered into a brief email conversation with him and he informed me that he knew his great grandfather had hailed from Fort William and had left for South America in the 1800s. Through Mr Cameron Zamorano, I have discovered there are literally hundreds of South American Camerons. Through the magic of Facebook, I have been introduced to the Camerons of Arecibo, Puerto Rico, the Camerons of Caracas, Venezuela, the Camerons of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, the Camerons of Peru, of Guyana, of Argentina, of Uruguay....they are everywhere! We are everywhere! I can't help wondering if any of them were with us as we walked up the Royal Mile last summer, or if any of them knew it was even