

The Cameron Clan

Our hereditary Captain and Chief, is Colonel, Sir **Donald Hamish Cameron of Lochiel**, K.T., C.V.O., T.D., Lord Lieutenant of Inverness-Shire, shown here at the 1995 Cameron World Gathering in Scotland. He is the direct descendent of a 14th century leader, **Donald Dubh** – surnamed **Cameron** – who is the first authenticated chief, or captain, of the confederation of five tribes which became known as Clan Cameron. Like his predecessors our current Chieftain is called "Lochiel" and, like them, his Gaelic patronymic is **MacDhomhnuill Dhuibh**; son of the dark haired (or swarthy) Donald.



CLAN BADGE: The five arrows represent the five originating tribes: MacMartins, MacGillonies, MacSorlies, MacMillans and MacPhails united with a ribbon inside a belt with buckle and overlap featuring the Cameron **CLAN MOTTO** "Aonaibh ri cheile," which means UNITE and is pronounced: "OONIV-REE-CHAYLU" and "For King and Country."

THE CAMERON PLANT BADGE: The oak leaf and acorn serves as another Cameron identification.



MUSIC: The Piobireachdh, "**Dhomnuill Duibh**," "Farewell to Lochaber" - "Cameronian Rant" - "The 79th's Farewell to Gibraltar" - "March of the Cameron Men" and "We Shall Take the High Road"

MILITARY: Many Camerons have distinguished themselves in military service and there are two regiments which have borne the Cameron name – The famous Queen's Own 79th Cameron Highlanders formed by Alan Cameron of Erracht and the equally renown Cameronians (Scottish Rifles) – the only regiment in the British Army to be named for a religious leader... the martyred Protestant Preacher Richard Cameron.



HOME: The Camerons are headquartered at Lochiel's home in Achnacarry Castle which is in an area of the Western Scottish Highlands called Lochaber. Lochaber is a beautiful and historic area near Fort William. It is near the Lochs of Linnhe, Lochiel, Lochy and Arkaig ... and it contains the UK's highest mountain, Ben Nevis. Lochiel has maintained our historic homeland and is today, one of Scotland's largest landholders.



CAMERON: The most common theory holds that the Gaelic Camshron ("s" silent) used to identify the confederation of aboriginal peoples calling themselves Camerons means "hook or crooked nose." Probably a descriptive adjective for an early chief, it was simply passed on as a surname to his descendants, whether their nose was crooked or not! A second, less popular theory, claims "Cameron" came from the Gaelic word **Cambrun**, meaning "crooked hill"; as used in the Parish of Cameron in Fife. The Camerons of Ballegarno, there, were a prominent 15th century family. The Earls of Fife were chiefs of the Clan MacDuff and the continuity seen in the armorial of the Camerons of Lochiel and the MacDuffs, support this theory. A third theory suggests that the six of the ten early, unauthenticated, Cameron Chieftains, including the father of Donald Dubh, the first authenticated chief, were **Cambrun** Camerons. There is even a fourth theory which argues the crooked nose (Camshorn) case. It claims Cameron descent from the younger son of a Danish king with a crooked nose – who assisted in the restoration of King Fergus the Second – in 404 A.D.!



CLAN CAMERON

Southern California Branch

Membership in the Southern California Branch of Clan Cameron is "open to all persons of Scottish descent who bear the name Cameron, or one of the Septs of Clan Cameron (Listed Below) ... or whose mother or grandmother bore one of these names."

Chalmers
Chambers
Clark
Clarke
Clarkson
Cleary
Clerk
Dowie
Gibbon/Gibson
Gilbertson
Kennedy
Leary
Lonie

MacAldowie
MacAlonie
MacChlery
MacClear
MacCleary
MacGillery
MacGillonie
MacIldowie
MacKail
MacKell
MacLerie

MacMartin
MacOnie
MacOstrich
MacPhail
MacSorley
MacUlrig
MacVail
MacWalrick
Martin
Paul
Sorley
Sorlie
Taylor

UNITE!
(AONAIBH - RI - CHEILE)
-OONIV -RE - CHAYLE-
Clan Motto