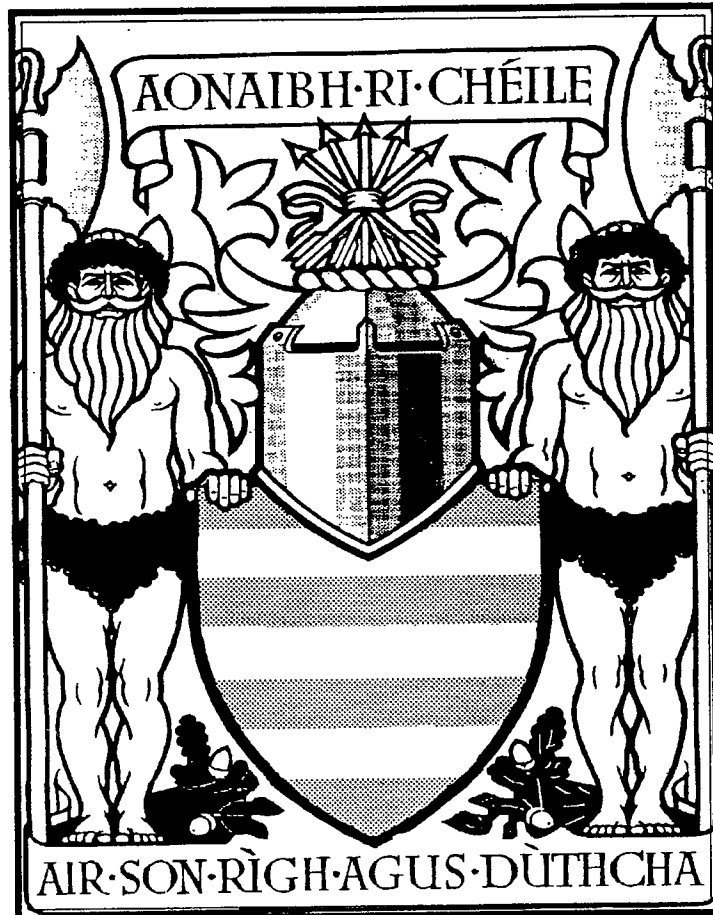


THE CAMERONS



"In the wild country of Lochaber, among the hills which surround Loch Lochy, Loch Arkaig and Loch Eil, there grew up a clan which was described by Drummond of Hawthornden in the 17th century as 'fiercer than fierceness itself.' They were the Camerons, who were so constantly harassed from without that they were virtually compelled to live by the sword. Holding their own for centuries without a legal title to much of the land they occupied, they earned a reputation for valour with which they clung to the name even in the great wars of recent times."

ORIGINS OF OUR CLAN

Clan Cameron is truly one of Scotland's ancient and noble Highland clans and, in defending its ancestral lands in Lochaber near modern day Fort William, it has lived up to its reputation as "fiercer than fierceness itself." Clan Cameron is known to have been established in Lochaber about 1400, but the tribes which united in the confederation that became "The Camerons," had been in the area for centuries.

The Gaelic word "clann" means "children." The chief or captain was the father, judge, and protector of his clan. He lead them in war and ruled them in peacetime. Taken from the Gaelic *Cam-shorn* ('s silent) the name chosen for the confederation is translated as meaning 'hook-nose', a description which is said to have fitted many Highland Camerons. However, the name Cameron may also have been contributed by Camerons who had migrated from the Scottish region of Fife where they were known by the Normans as *Combrons*.

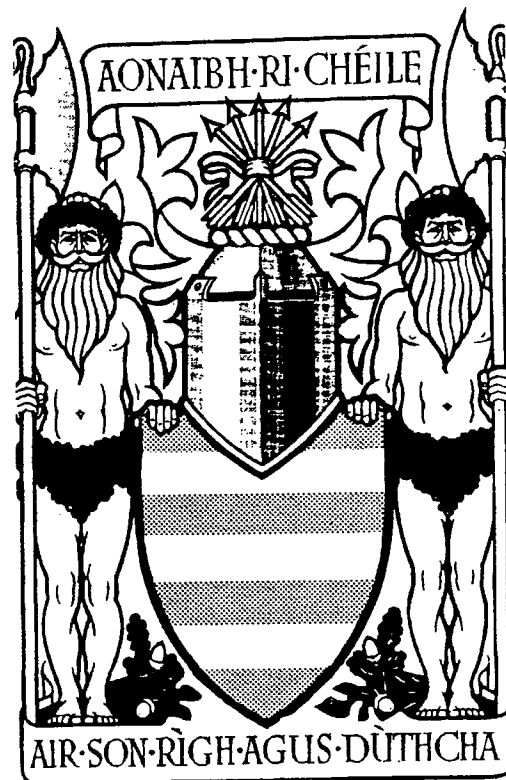
Originally, the confederation of tribes consisted of Macgillonies, of Strone; MacMartins, of Letterfinlay, and MacSorlies, of Glen Nevis. As time went on, MacMillans and Macphees from Locharkaigside, MacLachlans from Coruanan and others tribes were absorbed in the confederation. Many of these tribes then took the name Cameron themselves. The Camerons of Lochiel, destined to provide our Chiefs and Captains, descended from the Strone branch and intermarriage with the Letterfinlay branch. There were also Camerons in other areas: the Camerons of Callart, Lundavra, and Cuilchenna; Erracht and Clunes; Kinlochiel, Glendessary and Fassifern... all of these Camerons were descended from Lochiel chiefs. The clan lands still lie in the Lochaber area of the western Highlands. They now comprise the lands of Lochiel; Glenloy and Locharkaig; Mamore, Glennevis, and Letterfinlay -- and The Cameron of Lochiel remains Chief of Clan Cameron. He is called "MacDomhnuill Dubh" (Son of dark haired Donald) in the highlands after Donald Dubh Cameron (1400-1450) the first authentic captain of the clan.

OUR CURRENT CHIEF

Colonel Sir Donald Hamish Cameron of Lochiel, KT, CVO, TD, JP, Lord Lieutenant of Inverness-shire, became the 26th Chief of Clan Cameron in 1951 in succession of his father, Sir Donald Walter Cameron. He was born in 1910 and educated at Harrow and Balliol College, Oxford. He married Margaret Gathorne-Hardy in 1939 and the couple has two sons and two daughters. Lochiel saw military service with the Lovat Scouts, the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders and the Highland Volunteers. He is past president of the Scottish Landowners' Federation, vice chairman of the Royal Bank of Scotland, and director of several financial and philanthropic institutions. Lochiel and Lady Cameron live in Achnacarry Castle in Inverness-shire north of Fort William in an area still known as Lochaber, the traditional "Cameron Country."



It is in keeping with highland custom for Clansfolk to refer to their chief as Lochiel. Lady Cameron is also referred to as Lady Margaret.



The Coat-of-Arms of Cameron of Lochiel, Chief of Clan Cameron, shown above, is the personal coat-of-arms of our Chief and, like his personal tartan, no one else, including clansfolk, are entitled to use it. (To do so in Scotland is, in fact, a punishable offense!)

PRIOR CHIEFS:

While it is safe to say that all Past Cameron chiefs were brave and able men, two deserve special mention here: Sir Ewen Cameron of Lochiel (1629-1748) and Donald Cameron of Lochiel (1694-1748).

A devoted supporter of the Stuart kings, Sir Ewen Cameron was the only Highland chief who never submitted to Cromwell. Under Sir Ewen the clan became famous as a formidable fighting force.

Donald Cameron of Lochiel, known as "The Gentle Lochiel," was a humane and cultivated man and a staunch Jacobite. When Prince Charles Edward Stuart landed at Moidart in 1745 — without troops, munitions or money — the Gentle Lochiel loath to endanger his Prince and clan, first prudently urged the Prince to reconsider his venture. When this failed, however, the Gentle Lochiel was first to raise his clan and stand with Prince Charlie, a move other were soon to follow. The Camerons then fought with Prince Charles throughout his campaign with great bravery and, after the fatal Battle of Culloden and at great personal risk, they hid Bonney Prince Charlie in huts near

ACTIVITIES: In the United States branch activities are generally centered around Highland Games and Gatherings. The Southern California Branch has its tents at most all such events for hospitality and congenial family fun. At these events we share our Scottish heritage and interests among members, prospective members and guests. We proudly display our banners, tartans, crests, and provide cultural and historical information concerning Clan Cameron. We encourage and participate in these games, and play an important role in their success. In our Cameron tent, you will always find interested clan representatives available to assist those interest in learning more about their Scottish heritage. During the year we also sponsor informal family oriented picnics, barbecues, and "Ceilidhs" (or, parties!) and we often attend mutually interesting events together, such as the appearance of touring Scottish Regimental Pipe Bands, Burns night celebrations, etc.

PUBLICATIONS: All members receive our Branch newsletter *Piper of the South*, in Gaelic "*Piobre An Deas*" — pronounced Pee b'ura On Dee As. It is published four times a year and contains news items from Cameron branches throughout the world, historical information, schedules of Scottish events, and news of our Branch and its members. An annual Membership Directory is also provided as a special edition.

The clansman at the right represents the Clan Cameron as painted by R. R. McLan in the book "Costumes of the Clans of Scotland." The book, with text by James Logan, was completed in 1843 and was the first book to depict the clansman and clan lassies in other than stiff and posed depiction. The present day book "The Clans of the Scottish Highlands," as forwarded by Antonia Fraser is a splendid work and features McLan's illustrations.



A number non-fiction books have been written about, or include, Clan Cameron. The most definitive is "The Camerons: A History of Clan Cameron," by John Stewart of Ardvorlich which is available only through our Clan. "The Clan Cameron," by John Cameron, JP, 1894, covers the stories of Camerons who, to that date, had distinguished or exceptional careers. "The Highland Clans," Moncreiffe & Hicks is considered a masterpiece of clan history and background. "Scottish Clans and Tartans," by Ian Grimble is a modern accounting of Scottish clans and their tartans. "The Clans and Tartans of Scotland," by Robert Bain, is also a good reference. "The Loyal Clans," by Audrey Cunningham contains a very good explanation of both feudal and patronymic societies and laws. Laraine MacClean of Dochgarroch's "Indomitable Colonel," (Shepherd-Walwyn, Ltd., London, 1986), is an exceptionally detailed biography of Lt. General, Sir Alan Cameron of Erracht, K. C. B., founder and commander of the Queens Own, 79th Cameron Highlanders. Semi fictional titles in which Clan Cameron is featured include: "The Flight of the Heron," "The Dark Mile," and "The Gleam of the North," by D.K. Broster.

FINANCES : Annual dues are established to cover authorized out-of-pocket expenses, such as those incurred in printing and mailing our newsletters and renting tent space at various Scottish Gatherings. All labor and talent is provided by volunteer members and friends of Clan Cameron and all travel expenses etc., are borne personally by the personnel involved. Currently our annual dues are \$10.00. Renewals are due each new year on January 1st.

THE TARTANS OF CLAN CAMERON

Camerons of Lochiel -- considered the personal tartan of the chief, Lochiel, and his family.

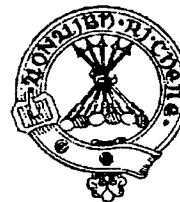
Cameron -- considered the general tartan for use by all clanfolk.

Cameron of Erracht -- especially designed for the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders, it is available in a smaller set as a general clan tartan.

Hunting Cameron -- used for general purpose wear by all clanfolk.

Three Cameron septs, **Clark, MacPhail and Taylor**, also have their own family tartans.

The Motto of Clan Cameron is: "AONAIBH-RI-CHEILE"
(Pronounced ooniv-ree-chayle) meaning "UNITE"



The Clan Cameron Bonnet Badge:

As shown above, our clan bonnet badge has five arrows, representing the originating tribes, united with a ribbon inside a belt with buckle and overlap featuring the clan motto. There is also an older bonnet badge bearing the motto "Por Rege et Patria", (For King and Country) which may worn by Cameron clansmen.



The Cameron "**Plant Badge**": The Oak Leaf and Acorn as shown here serves as another Cameron identification.

REGIMENTS

Many Camerons have distinguished themselves in military service, and there are two regiments which have borne the Cameron name.

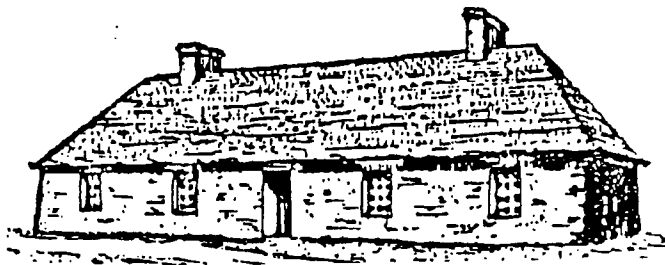
The 79th Regiment, The Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders, was raised at the sole expense of Alan Cameron of Erracht. In 1793 he was granted Letters of Service for the purpose of raising a corps of Highlanders. Many were Camerons from Lochaber. Alan Cameron was appointed Lieutenant-Colonel Commandant. The regiment had a long and distinguished career which lasted until 1974 when the regimental system was abandoned by the British Army. Attesting to this record, on April 17, 1873 on the isle of Wright Her Majesty, Queen Victoria conferred upon them the highest honors in her power. She presented them new colors to them and directed that from then on they would be known as the "Queen's Own."

The Cameronians (Scottish Rifles) also got their name from their founder, Richard Cameron (1648-1680). However, there was little connection between this regiment and Clan Cameron. Richard Cameron was a controversial religious leader and political activist who founded a sect nicknamed the "Cameronians." In its ordaining this regiment represented a religious outlook and political opinion alien to most all Scottish Highlanders.

Cameron Music:

There are several songs associated with Clan Cameron, and there is well known pipe and band music, including: "Farewell to Lochaber", "Lochiel's Lament", the "Cameronian Rant" and "The 79th's Farewell to Gibraltar." Perhaps the most famous, however, is the "March of the Cameron Men." It was written to commemorate the raising of the Clan by Lochiel on 19 April 1745 -- to meet Prince Charles at Glenfinnan!

"There's many a man of the Cameron Clan
that has followed his Chief to the field;
He has sworn to support him, or die by his side,
For a Cameron never can yield".



"The Old Post Office"
Achnacharry Castle

THE CLAN CAMERON CENTRE

In May, 1989, the Clan Cameron Centre was opened to the public. The building housing the exhibits, shown above, is known as "The Old Post Office," and is the oldest building on the Achnacharry Castle estate. It has become a popular tourist attraction not only for Camerons who visit but for the general public as well. The Centre's museum contains tartans, clan artifacts, relics, memorabilia, pictures, furniture and items of interest. There is also a pictorial history of the clan and a register with the names of all of those who have subscribed to the trust which operates the centre.

OFFICERS OF CLAN CAMERON

CAPTAIN AND CHIEF OF CLAN CAMERON

Sir Donald Cameron
of
Lochiel, KT, CVO, TD
Achnacharry, Spean Bridge
Iverness-shire, Scotland

COMMISSIONER
for
NORTH AMERICAN
Donald J. Cameron
"The Charters"
Charlotte, NC

REGIONAL PRESIDENT
WESTERN USA
Shaun Rex

PRESIDENT
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
BRANCH
Kenneth All
Costa Mesa, CA

