

## Old Books – Salen

I recently had the opportunity to examine some old books found in one of the outbuildings of Loch Shiel Hotel. From entries made in them, often in childish handwriting, it seems that the books were originally kept in Salen Hotel.

The first thing I noticed were the addresses; no mention of Acharacle, for instance:

Duncan Cameron,  
Salen Hotel  
Lochsunart  
Ardgour  
Salen

M.L.Cameron  
Salen Inn  
By Strontian

Donald Cameron  
Salen Inn 1876

Donald MacMillian  
Camusaine

Donald MacLachlan  
Branault

Mr Waddell  
Tobermory  
Mull 1864

The Waddell family are featured prominently: Volume V of the Sermons of Hugh Blair, printed in Edinburgh in 1820, has ‘John Waddell’s Book 1820’ inside the back cover and also the names of Christiana Waddell, Marian Waddell and Jannet Waddell.

The four printed books are not very exciting reading for children: ‘The Annual Register or a View of the History, Politics and Literature for the year 1763’; ‘the Dublin University Magazine – January to June 1844’; ‘Select Practical Writings of John Knox’ published 1845, and Rev. Blair’s sermons.

There was one other book, mostly handwritten with a few pages of a printed Almanack for 1851. One cover and the first pages are missing but the back cover and a clasp survive, the clasp illustrated with the ‘New Houses of Parliament’.

The written entries show it to be a record of deliveries to addresses in the Bambugh district of North Eastern England. One of the recipients signed his address: William Dixon of Bamburgh, and there is a change in November 1866 to ‘An Account of Goods to and from Bamburgh Castle’, starting on November 11<sup>th</sup> 1865 and finishing on December 20<sup>th</sup> 1872. After a few blank pages it starts again on January 6<sup>th</sup> 1873 continuing to April 23<sup>rd</sup> 1875. Bamburgh Castle was operating as a school and most of the entries involve transport to and from the nearest station.

Mr Peter Maybank, Moss, comes from this area and was able to provide some local photographs including one of a delivery vehicle which could have been the one involved. This being a part of the Bamburgh District Local History, Peter transferred the book to a local archive.

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