

Cluny Ferry

By

Joyce Cameron

Cluny Ferry was a ferry crossing on the River Tay approximately 3 miles east of Aberfeldy using the traditional rowing boat. Latterly, the ferry was run by the Cameron family, Donald and Joey and Donald's parents before him. The family lived in the ferry house, appropriately named 'Boat of Cluny', where the family ran a small holding. It was in the mid 1940's when the Cameron family came to Boat of Cluny and took over the running of the ferry. They had moved down from Kinloch Rannoch. The family ran the ferry until it was taken off in 1966 but they continued to live there until the late 80's.

The ferry was a service provided by Perth County Council and the fare was 'tuppence'. It was a popular services used by local people and visitors from Aberfeldy, who would walk from Aberfeldy down the Strathtay side - the north side of the river - to 'Boat of Cluny', then take the ferry across the river and either walk back to Aberfeldy on the south side of the river or take the bus, if available.

People doing the walk in reverse, coming from Aberfeldy on the Grandtully side of the river would have to shout "boat" to attract attention and the family dog, Glen - a bearded collie - would bark to alert the Camerons that someone was waiting on the ferry. Mrs Cameron would relate that when the river was high, the current was strong and you had to row upstream against the flow otherwise you may have been carried downstream past the landing point, but despite her being a small, petite woman, she took it all in her stride.

The last ferry crossing was in 1966 when the service was withdrawn, being one of the last operational on the Tay, but many Aberfeldy folk will have happy memories of the ferry at Cluny.