

“A most impressive and memorable scene...”
 “Sealladh iongantach nach tèid à cuimhne...”

Pronounced: Shalla eengantach nach tayet a cooinna

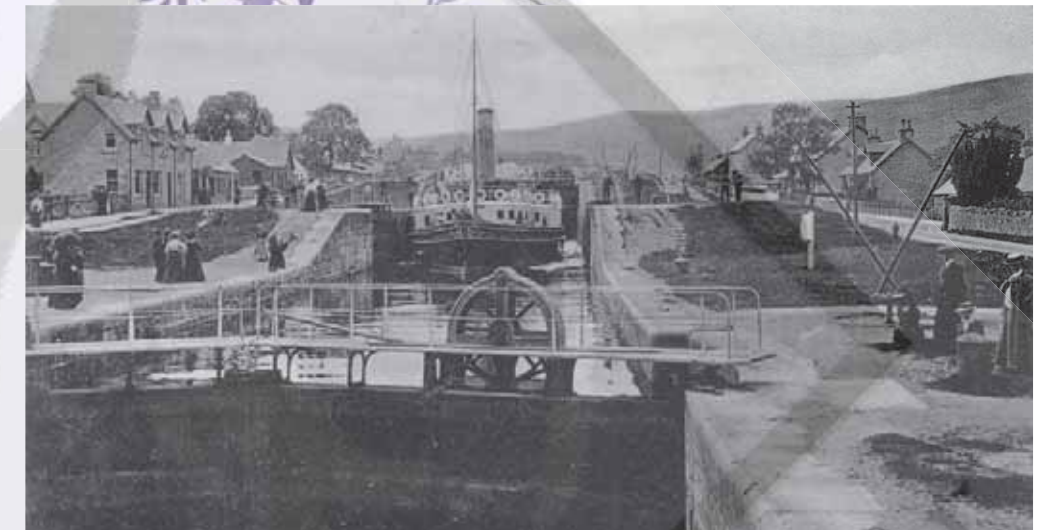
In 1819 the poet Robert Southey described the lock-building work going on here:

“Such an extent of masonry, upon such a scale, I had never before beheld ... It was a most impressive and memorable scene.

Men, horses and machines at work; digging, walling and puddling going on; men wheeling barrows, horses drawing stones along the railways ... The dredging machine was in action, revolving round and round and bringing up at every turn matter which never before had been brought to air and light ... The iron for a pair of lock gates was lying on the ground, just arrived from Derbyshire.”

Around 200 masons clachairean, labourers luchd-obrach, carpenters saoir, blacksmiths goibhnean and quarrymen luchd-cuaraidh were involved in the work. By 1821, the locks were finished, ready to raise ships 12 metres (40 feet) up from the level of Loch Ness Loch Nis.

To find out more about the history of the canal, why not visit the Caledonian Canal Visitor Centre nearby? (Open April - October).



Fort Augustus locks in the 1890s. Queen Victoria, when she travelled through the canal in the Gondolier in 1873, remarked that the canal was “a very wonderful piece of engineering”.

