



The revenge of Iain Lom *Dìoghaltas Iain Luim*

Pronounced: Deelras En Looeem

The Well of the Seven Heads Tobar nan Ceann monument in front of you commemorates a gruesome story of a MacDonald clan feud.

The story begins in September 1663 when Alexander, the young chief of the MacDonalds of Keppoch A' Cheapach, and his brother, Ranald, were murdered.

Although there were different theories about the motives behind their deaths, there was little doubt about who the killers were - Alexander MacDonald from Inverlair (near Roybridge) and his six sons. However, the only person who wanted them punished was Iain Lom Iain Maol (Bald Iain), a Gaelic poet and relative of the victims. For two long years he pressed for action. He finally convinced a MacDonald chief on Skye to request the King's permission to capture the killers by "fire or sword" "teine no claidheamh".

The story goes that Iain Lom and fifty men then set out for Inverlair Inbhir Làir, where they not only captured but also beheaded the killers. Afterwards, Iain Lom took their seven heads to Lord MacDonell at Invergarry Inbhir Garadh, cleaning them in the waters of Loch Lochy on the way.

Did you know...?

Many years later, seven headless bodies were found buried near Inverlair - suggesting that the story of Iain Lom's vengeance is true.



The Well of the Seven Heads monument.

