



# Willie Gavin, Crofter Man: A Portrait of a Vanished Lifestyle

*David Kerr Cameron*

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## **Willie Gavin, Crofter Man: A Portrait of a Vanished Lifestyle** David Kerr Cameron

Willie Gavin, Crofter Man is a portrait of a crofting life in the bare and sometimes bitter landscape of Scotland's North-east lowlands. It is the closely reconstructed life of one man in particular, and beyond that, the wider story of a croft and its people, assembled from the family's folk memories. Willie Gavin's real identity has been blurred, but this is essentially a true story and is illustrated with a fascinating selection of period photographs. Through the eyes of Willie Gavin we experience the hardships and wretched lifestyle endured by crofters throughout Scotland. But with deep understanding David Kerr Cameron reveals too their love for the land, the fragile bonds of friendship forged by crofting families, the weddings and the festivals they enjoyed, and the children who were raised in that life without luxury. The traditional crofting way of life began to break down in the early-twentieth century, but David Kerr Cameron has captured and recorded for future generations a culture and a landscape that have now gone forever. Willie Gavin, Crofter Man is the second part of Cameron's trilogy of rural life; the other books are *The Ballad and the Plough* (about life on the farmtouns) and *The Cornkister Days* (which focuses on agricultural practices).

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