



Your Clan Needs You!

The Blood of the Clan

The Blood of the Clan



Robert Chisholm Project Administrator

Bob Chisholm, Audrey Barney, Alice Fairhurst, John D Chism Co Administrators

December 2009

Names included in project:

Chisholm, Chisolm Chisum, Chism, Chisam,

Other names, welcome to join:

Chisholme, Chisom, Chisham, Cheesam, Cheasm,
Cheesome, Chesham, Chisett, Chezem

As of 1 Nov 2009, the project has 111 members. This includes several "guest" members, people who joined the project because they have a common ancestor, as shown by Y-DNA.

One of the key objectives of the project has been fulfilled. This is the identification of the old chief's line.

Most helpful in this endeavor has been the sample from a member in Australia, who possesses an unequivocal pedigree to the Knockfin family thence to Chief Alexander XVII, a Yorkshire Chisholm, who has a good paper trail to Chief John XVI via Colin V of the Lietre family, and one in Vancouver who likewise has a link to Chief John XVI via Clann ic Ruaridh and Colin IV Lietre. **The DNA identity of the Founder line of Clan Chisholm will be first publicly announced as an exclusive to the Clan Chisholm Journal 2010.**

This journal is distributed free of charge to every member of Clan Chisholm Society. To see if you would like to become a member, go to <http://www.clanchisholmsociety.org>. Contact details of the various branches are listed under the name of your particular country, on the bars at the top of the homepage.

The project has assisted in getting some sticking points in the database sorted out. This is where the genealogies accepted per McKenzie, are not established in the database due to the lack of primary evidence. The Database has connected the Lietre families from Colin V, VI and VII to Colin IV Lietre. There is no OPR or CW to connect Colin IV to Colin V or his other son Roderick. A mass of secondary evidence was presented to the Verification committee, along with DNA evidence to show that the descendents of Lietre matched the DNA from the Knockfin descendent. It is hoped to use similar procedures on a couple of other sticking points.

Several members have struck it lucky with DNA match helping to identify their family and lengthen their known pedigrees. Two examples can be easily recalled.

An Ohio family had knowledge of only a few generations back in time. DNA matching provided the vital clue and they linked up with a project member from the west, who could show them how their pedigree branched from his, and he could give them something quite important, an immigrant ancestor. In this case, one of the *Glasgow* immigrants who was pressed ganged into service for the 84th Regiment of Royal Highland Emigrants, and was post Revolution settled in Nova Scotia, a far cry from the Hudson River where he was meant to settle in 1775.

A recent member from Australia could find ancestry also only a few generations back, with a vague notion of an immigrant from Aberdeen. The DNA project combined with the Forum to present this lucky Australian with a Chisholm pedigree longer than his arm, right back to AD1254.

For many Project members, it remains a waiting game to see when or if there is a match to another Chisholm, and with it, perhaps a clue to their Scottish place of origin. In this category are many examples of Celtic core of Clan Chisholm. These groups make up the majority of the Highland Clan, but they are distinguished by being small groups of distinctly different genetic families. Amongst these Celtic groups

comes the revelation from various experts that some of our number are descendants from the Royal House of Dalriada. We have a group who are descended from Erc, King of Dalriada prior to the Invasion. This group numbers 5, but within it there is a group of 3 who are from the same Chisholm family, and 2 other individuals where the common ancestor occurred in times long before the Chisholms entered the Highlands.

The Spanish group remains enigmatic, statistically the second largest genetic family in the Highland Clan, but without any other matches in Scotland, few in Britain as a whole, and many in Mediterranean places. The very close matches within the group, where there is only 3 single differences out of a total of 335 comparisons, indicates that it is a "relatively" recent addition to the Chisholm gene pool.

It's hard to keep DNA out of History and Genealogy; the three parts are inextricably linked. Some of the items "rediscovered" in Sydney, via participation in the DNA project, continue to throw light on some old puzzles, and the innocent letter written by John Knockfin VI to his brother Archibald has provided a few gems. The bulk of the Sydney document is however a history of the Chisholms, which goes into Clan origins, and covers the principal family plus Knockfin, Borders, and Cromlix. I personally am of a considered opinion that this document is a copy of the manuscript, "A History of the Chisholm Family", written by James Logan in 1840. Furthermore, I would not be surprised to find that much of the work attributed to Donald Og or his descendants, is a copy from this manuscript.

The DNA project committee added a new co-administrator, John D Chism, of South Carolina. John brings a charming southern perspective and has been very helpful in recruitment, and in research, both genealogical and historical. John has done major research on the descendants of Adam Chisholme, one of ye majesties rebels, deported to Virginia in 1716, and because of the entanglements of southern genealogies, he adds several other families to his area of interest, in the hope that things one day may be sorted out. These others include:

The descendants of Richard Cheesome, allegedly in Virginia in 1642; The James Chism of Virginia group; The two Chisholm families of Charleston (Alexander the elder, and the younger); Recently he has gathered a lot of original data to help sort out John Chisum (of Watauga and Franklin, not Cow John from Texas) from the colourful John D Chisholm of Nashville, and also to try and throw a bit more light on the real origin of John D Chisholm, whose grandson Jesse is possibly the most famous of all Chisholms, including our Chiefs.

A special invitation to join the project is extended to descendants of John Chisholm, school master in Charles Town, Cecil County, Maryland. There is a body of evidence to suggest he may be from the same family as the jacobite Adam Chisholm, and DNA is one way to see if this hypothesis is worthy of further exploration. Adam in Virginia, and John in Maryland, are amongst the earliest of all Chisholms into the new world.

Why should YOU become part of the project?

The database needs to be as wide as possible in order for valid conclusions to be drawn. You can help establish the bloodlines of the clan by enrolling in the project. In your ancestral past, the clan has succored and protected you, now it's time for you to give something back.

You can find out who your distant ancestors were, and who you are genetically related to within the clan, and outside of the clan.

Testing is not expensive relative to the detailed nature of the scientific work involved, this is your chance to be at the cutting edge of modern science. 37 marker tests cost \$119, and 67 marker tests cost \$209 (US dollars). Due to a large uptake in tests, the prices have been reduced considerably.

A DNA test kit makes a wonderful gift, it is something which will literally last forever, the knowledge can be handed down the generations. As a member of the DNA project, you will be assisted by several of the volunteer genealogists who give their valuable time to try and map out all of the individual families within the greater Chisholm family.

<https://www.familytreedna.com/group-join.aspx?code=Y42908&Group=Chisholm>

For further information, and any questions, contact:

Robert Chisholm: nikaudesign@clear.net.nz



Chisholm