



THE CLAN CHISHOLM SOCIETY

ANNUAL REPORT

2024

THE CLAN CHISHOLM SOCIETY

EXECUTIVE

President:	Robert Chisholm
	32 Warner Park Avenue, Laingholm, Waitekere City, NZ
	Email: nikaudesignstudio@gmail.com
Immediate Past President:	Juliette Chisholm-Broomfield
	11 Croyard Drive, Beaulieu, by Inverness. Scotland IV4 7EE
	Email: juliette@morella.co.uk
Vice President:	David Holmes
	2635 – 30 th Street S.W., Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3E 2M3
	Email: bandit77@shaw.ca
Vice President:	Kim Polley
	PO Box 84, Longford, Tasmania 7301 Australia
	Email: kim.polley13@gmail.com
Secretary/Treasurer:	Susan Chisholm of Chisholm
	127 Undley Hall, Lakenheath, Brandon, Suffolk IP27 9BY UK
	Email: susanchisholm@tinyworld.co.uk

CLAN COUNCIL

Chairman	Robert Chisholm
Secretary/Treasurer	Susan Chisholm of Chisholm
Immediate Past President	Juliette Chisholm-Broomfield
Vice President	David Holmes
Vice President	Kim Polley
Australia Branch	Kim Polley
Canada Branch	David Holmes
New Zealand Branch	Fay Chisholm
United Kingdom Branch	Ben Chisholm-Broomfield
United States Branch	Joyel Chisholm Morris
Webmaster	Alastair Chisholm (Lasne, Belgium)
Editor, <i>Clan Chisholm Journal</i>	Martin Chisholm
Genealogy Co-ordinator	Alastair Chisholm (Hampshire, UK)
Honorary Counsel	Marc Chisholm
Clan Historian (Emeritus)	Dr Jean Munro
Co-opted Member	Duncan Chisholm
Historian	Dr Margaret Collin
DNA Project co-ordinator	Robert Chisholm
Artefacts Register	Fay Chisholm
Auditor	Michael Sayers, Thetford, Norfolk UK (RIP Dec 2024)

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2024

The International Gathering in Inverness was the main event of 2024. A huge vote of thanks was due to the UK Branch for their efforts to ensure the success of the gathering, and grateful thanks to David Holmes for chairing the 73rd AGM on 12th July 2024. I don't propose to repeat too much in this report as many accounts of the Gathering have been recorded in the inaugural edition of a combination 4 branch newsletters, I should say perhaps a four and a half branch newsletter, as the Chism Family Association (CFA) is a Chapter of the US Branch of Clan Chisholm Society.

This combination newsletter was itself a product of the 2024 International Gathering whereby representatives for the Australia, New Zealand, Canada, and US Branches thought that through the sharing of news and information, the social bonds between the branch members will grow; and importantly the workload required to produce the newsletter can be shared more widely. Time will tell if this turns out to be a successful experiment, it will require a conscious effort on the part of all the branches. A temporary name of the newsletter was trialled, the "Colonial Newsletter", seeking something which can tie the four branches together, and the constituent branch countries had all been colonies of the United Kingdom at some stage during the period of Chisholm migrations. The editors are open to any other name suggestions which members may feel more appropriate.

Another product of the 2024 International Gathering was the germ of an idea which Fay Chisholm presented to the Clan Council at the March 2025 meeting. This was to extend the artefacts project whereby photographic and fine art portraits of historical Chisholm personages could be gathered together in a digital format. The idea was approved in principle by the Council, with a subcommittee tasked with addressing the various issues of privacy, access, and copyright which may arise. It anticipated that this subcommittee can work through 2025 and report back to Council with recommendations.

A project from the previous year, digitisation of Clan Chisholm Journals up to the year 2001, was completed, though no decision on wider access has been made. This should be a task for the Clan Council during the 2025 year. In the meantime, digitisation of Journals from 2002 to 2017 will continue, but without a fixed timeframe for completion.

I thank the various Project Leaders for their continued work through 2024, and look forward to reading their reports, and thanks also to executive and Branch Officers for their dedication. We all know too well that this is voluntary work, and the more volunteers available the lighter the load will be.

As always, retention of membership remains an issue, and I hope that the council and the various branches can make some progress in arresting any decline. One of the great ironies of the digital age is that the easier access to media and information does not translate into membership of those groups which do a large amount of providing and safeguarding that information. The recruitment of millennials (b 1981-1996) into Clan Chisholm Society is going to become more imperative as time passes.

Feros Ferio,

Robert Chisholm,

President - Clan Chisholm Society, West Auckland, New Zealand. 17-3-2025

BRANCH REPORTS – for the year ending 31st DECEMBER 2024

AUSTRALIA BRANCH

Chairman: **Tony Morrison**

Branch Secretary: **Kim Polley** OAM

Branch Representative on Council: **Kim Polley** OAM

Greetings to all members of the Clan,

During July 2024 seven of our members attended the International Gathering of the Clan Chisholm Society in Inverness, Scotland. A comprehensive coverage of this event appeared in the January 2025 newsletter. Everyone had a wonderful time meeting fellow members worldwide and learning more about our Clan history.

Before leaving for Inverness, President Robert Chisholm (New Zealand) requested that I approach the Canada Branch regarding their participation in a joint newsletter with Australia and New Zealand. The United States Branch also expressed interest. From that discussion, the inaugural Colonial Newsletter was born. It was circulated in Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the United States in January 2025. The editors are keen to receive feedback on how to proceed in the future.

Our Assistant Secretary, Judy Buchanan, has decided to vacate her position. I wish to thank her for her diligence and professionalism. We all enjoyed working with Judy and her husband Malcolm. They are a delightful couple dedicated to the growth of Scottish Clans both here in Australia and around the globe.

Members were reminded to do 2 things to help the Australia Branch continue to grow: contribute to the newsletters and encourage others to join. These actions will ensure the continuation of the Chisholm Clan Society and family histories for future generations.

Kim Polley
International Representative
Australia Branch

26 February 2025

NEW ZEALAND BRANCH

Chairman:

John C Ross

8 York Place, Palmerston North, NZ, 4412

E-mail: JRoss@Massey.ac.nz

Branch Representative on Council:

Fay Chisholm

7 Stevenson Lane, Gisborne, NZ

E-mail: mj.fd.chisholm@xtra.co.nz

It has been a quiet year for us, but one with a sense of order, with Alun Chisholm as Secretary and Fay Chisholm as Treasurer.

Due partly to Alun's earlier health issues, it was convenient to have our annual general meeting relatively late in the year, on Saturday 16 November, by Zoom, which he organized, and we had quite a good attendance. An imaginary haggis was duly addressed and celebrated. Incidentally, later that same day, a large hikoi, a "march" involving several hundred people, mainly Māori, arrived in Palmerston North, in The Square, to stay the night in the city, before proceeding to Wellington to protest against a proposed government measure affecting Māori rights.

Sadly, during the past year, a couple of members have died, and others have become unwell, or more debilitated. Our first branch historian and genealogist, Audrey Barney, is in her nineties (born in 1927) and in a care home. My current project is to get printed in hard copy her latest book, on "Blind Jim" Chisholm of Houhora, which already exists as an e-book. James (1877-1954), originally from Melrose, Roxburghshire, came to New Zealand in 1903, and worked in Northland as a gum digger and then as an orchardist. Although he was already 38 in 1915, he volunteered to serve in the New Zealand army, in the First World War, and when his brigade went into action during the Battle of the Somme, he was badly wounded by shrapnel and permanently blinded. Back home, eventually, he was able to manage his orchard, with the help of his sister, and wrote quite a number of poems.

We seriously need to boost our branch membership, by inducing current members to enrol family-members or friends.

Dr John C. Ross

18 March 2024

UNITED STATES BRANCH



President- Joyel Chisholm Morris

17 Eldorado Road, Chelmsford, MA 01824 USA

E-Mail: uschisholm@yahoo.com

Mobile: +1-617-981-3973

Vice President - John "Jack" Chisholm

Treasurer/Membership - Gene Chisholm Jones

Newsletter - Gene Chisholm Jones

Secretary - Open

Genealogy - Open

Minneapolis, Minnesota

Acushnet, Massachusetts

Acushnet, Massachusetts

Sixteen Chisholm's from the USA joined the International Gathering in July 2024 in Inverness.

These included Joyel Chisholm Morris (US Branch president) and her aunt Val Chisholm Perry a past President of the Clan Chisholm Society.

During the gathering Val was delighted to be taken to see the ruined township of Achblair in the Lower Guisachan Forest where her ancestors lived before leaving Scotland to go to Nova Scotia and then the US.

The branch hopes to encourage support from members to take on vacant positions on its committee. The joint newsletter produced with the Australia, New Zealand and Canada branches may help to raise interest in the Society and Chisholm matters.

Susan Chisholm on behalf of:-

Joyel C Morris

Joyel Chisholm Morris

CANADA BRANCH

Annual Report for the Year Ending December 31, 2024

March 1, 2025

The Canada Branch of the Clan Chisholm Society has now completed its twenty-seventh year as a separate entity. Our membership numbers have dropped to 52 this year with 8 members from whom we are waiting their 2024 annual dues. Those 8 have been sent an initial invoice as well as a second and reminder. It being early in the year, we hope that all 8 come through.

We have finally initiated an effort to recruit members to serve on the Branch Executive and, so far, have three who have stepped forward. The executive positions that have been vacant for a number of years will be filled by these members after consultation with each of them as to which they would prefer to take on. The final Executive will be announced in due course.

BRANCH EXECUTIVE:

The Executive for 2025 will, until the changes mentioned above are implemented, continue to be:

President: David Holmes, Calgary, Alberta

Vice-President: George Pyron, Toronto, Ontario

Past President: Vacant

Treasurer: Vacant (acting) - David Holmes, Calgary, Alberta

Secretary: Vacant

Membership Secretary: Vacant (acting) – David Holmes, Calgary, Alberta

Clansman Editor: Vacant

Web Master: Vacant

Branch Genealogist: Vacant

Branch Council Representative: David Holmes, Calgary, Alberta

CLANSMAN NEWSLETTER:

Dormant. The Editor position is vacant.

WEBSITE:

This portfolio remains dormant as we are unable to find anyone in the membership to assume its responsibilities.

GENEALOGY:

We look to the International Society genealogist for support in this regard.

BRANCH CONTACT INFORMATION:

Branch President:

David Holmes

2635 – 30th Street S.W., Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3E 2M3

Phone: 403-686-6048

Email: bandit77@shaw.ca

Respectfully submitted,

David F. Holmes, President, Clan Chisholm Society, Canada Branch

UNITED KINGDOM BRANCH

Submitted by Chairman - **Ben Chisholm-Broomfield**

11 Croyard Drive, Beaulieu, by Inverness, Scotland, IV4 7EE Email: juliette@morella.co.uk

UK Branch Committee:-

Secretary/Treasurer – Susan Chisholm of Chisholm.

Genealogist – Acting – Alastair Chisholm (Minstead).

Vice Chairman 1 – Duncan Chisholm.

Vice Chairman 2 – Norman Chisholm.

Historian – Dr Margaret Collin.

Clans Liaison – Juliette Chisholm-Broomfield.

Co-opted members – Mairi-Angela Foster, Martin Chisholm.

Please note that this is a joint report from myself and Juliette.

Greetings to all our Members in The Clan Chisholm Society, and to anybody who is thinking of joining one of our branches. These are situated in Canada, United States of America, New Zealand and Australia as well as our own UK branch. We also have other Members dotted around the world.

The highlight of this year for the UK branch, as everyone knows was the International Clan Chisholm Gathering held from Monday 7th to Saturday 13th July. The week went very well with mixed weather but mainly sunny and dry. Clansfolk from around the world enjoyed the various events held across the week and went home having made many new friends.

Our branch is fortunate to have many talented volunteers. Christina and Norman Chisholm gave a first-class display of hand-woven scarves and other items in Chisholm Tartan as well as a wider range of patterns which they had spent the winter months producing. These items proved extremely popular at the booking in evening and at Erchless Castle where we hosted a garden party. Our thanks to another UK member Dr Andrew Whitelaw now living in Norway who played the pipes at the castle.

Dr Margaret Collin and husband John have a wonderful knowledge of history and archaeology and have been researching the Borders Chisholm's; they gave an extremely interesting talk on their research on the Monday evening. The week was packed with events and we both thank Susan and Danu for the work involved in the Gathering.

The late Mairi Chisholm of Chisholm founder of our Society would be proud and pleased the Society is still active. Mairi would be delighted that ledgers she started back in 1951 held in our archive are sometimes referred to and that members information is still being collected and stored safely in the archive for the Society.

In late December 2024, sadly we learned of the death of our clan auditor Mr Michael Sayers. Michael had audited the financial statements for both the UK Branch and the Clan Chisholm Society for many years. Our condolences have been sent to Lorna and the family. We thank our chiefs elder daughter Katrina for stepping in to take on this annual task.

Ben thanks Susan for all the administration work she does for the Society, he also sends thanks to all our Office Bearers.

Ben and Juliette.

Ben Chisholm-Broomfield. Chairman UK branch Clan Chisholm Society and Juliette Chisholm-Broomfield Immediate Past President of the Clan Chisholm Society.

6th March 2025

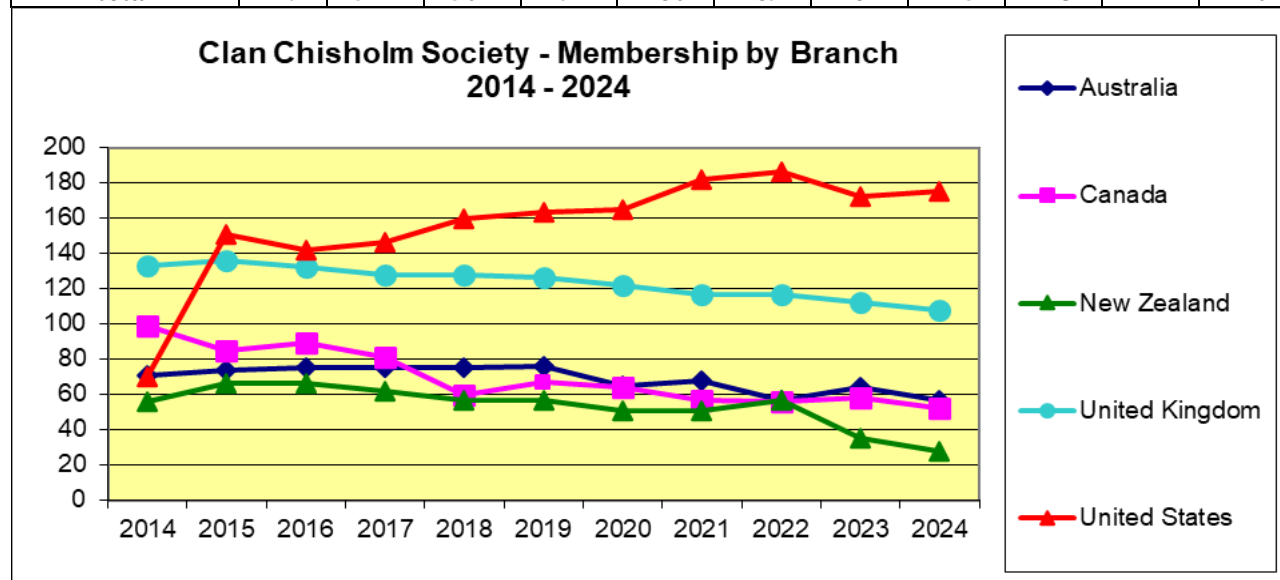
GENERAL REPORTS

MEMBERSHIP REPORT - compiled 5th March 2025

Membership of the Society in 2024 continued to fall in all branches except USA.

The following tables show membership numbers by branch for the past eleven years (at year end)

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Australia	71	74	75	75	75	76	65	68	57	64	57
Canada	99	85	89	81	60	67	64	57	56	58	52
New Zealand	56	66	66	62	57	57	51	51	57	35	28
United Kingdom	133	136	132	128	128	126	122	117	117	112	108
United States	70	151	142	146	160	163	165	182	186	172	175
total	429	512	504	492	480	489	467	475	473	441	420



CLAN CHISHOLM JOURNAL

In 2024 500 copies were printed at 56 pages plus quality cover of 4 pages at a cost of £1,540, with no increase on 2023 cost. Distribution to branches came to £575.55 (2023 £611.05). The price per copy is currently set at £3.50 and intended to cover all costs. *Susan Chisholm – Hon Secretary.*

Thank you for the continuing trend of positive feedback on the 2024 Journal, #67, my eighth as editor. The balance of articles was a little heavy on the USA, which partly redresses the balance from previous years, but also is indicative of the direction the research takes me once I start a thread. Overall, the size and broad balance of articles for the global readership has been maintained covering individuals, companies, countries and items of general interest to all.

As always, I give priority to submissions from members, which allows me to edit and potentially expand, rather than research and create from scratch. I really do encourage both articles and ideas from members. Australia and Canada were underrepresented this year, so I will look to amend that next year, if possible, with member help.

I am very conscious that a significant proportion of the membership fees goes towards the production and distribution of the Journal. Current feedback is that it is an interesting read as well as a communication tool, so I plan to continue with my sometimes-random thoughts for content unless guided otherwise.

Martin Chisholm. Clan Chisholm Journal Editor. 8th March 2025.

Webmaster's Report

2024

The annual domain subscription to www.one.com was renewed as usual in mid-year.

Updates to website in 2024

Announcement and Invitation to 2024 Gathering.

Article on wych elm in Glen Affric written for UK branch.

Reorganisation of Gatherings page with link to 2024 Gathering reports added.

Digitised journals uploaded to archive and prototype search feature made.

Prototype page developed for Canada tartans page suggestion.

No new artifacts added

Newsletters were added from UK and Australia & New Zealand as usual.

Other

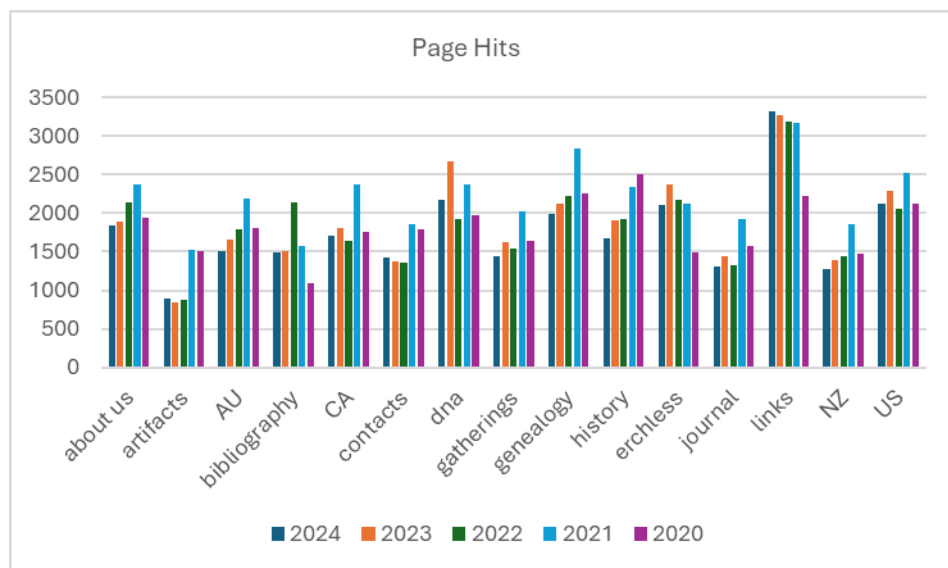
The website continued to receive scam messages particularly after the Gathering.

Facebook

The number of followers stands at 429 but with very little activity.

Popular pages over the last five years

Accesses to the main pages are down in most areas, with most interest in links.
(the UK figures have been removed due to suspected robot access).



Alastair Chisholm (Belgium)

6th March 2024

GENEALOGY REPORT

Forum - (<https://www.chisholmgenealogy.com/cgi-bin/yabb2/YaBB.pl>);

It has been a relatively quiet year on the genealogy front., The Forum and The Database being the interfaces provided by the Society, both of these theatres being the brainchild of the late Bob Chisholm, thank you Bob for your foresight and effort in setting these up/

The Forum Introductory thread has had just four visitations over the past year; these concerned Chisholms from New Hampshire, Aberdeen, and Chisms from Missouri. There was also a thread of 21 posts initiated by a correspondent (Graham Browne) from South Africa, concerning Donald Malcolm Chisholm, OBE. Graham was trying to locate descendants, so that medals, including the OBE, and other treasures could be returned. The Medlam charts for India (SmL1 Page 02) were very helpful in the quest.

The Genealogy Board had activity over 2 threads. One involved an item sent by my cousin in Inverness, concerning the family of Pipe Major Malcolm Chisholm. Members of this family were contributors to Clan Chisholm Society in its earlier years. A thread a Chisholm family from Skye, initiated 4 years ago, received some updates. Perhaps the biggest buzz on the genealogy front during the year has been concerning the connection, or lack thereof, of the Teawig Family to the Thomas Chisolm of Georgia Family. This thread was initiated over 12 years ago, as Bob Chisholm had uncovered a document which cast light on a family history story which had been growing in the US since the 1980's. In part, the propagation of this family history was aided via an article by Wilf Medlam in a Clan Chisholm Journal. Resolution was achieved some time ago, but general publication was withheld so that it could be released via an article in the Clan Chisholm Journal. The chief researcher, (Sherrie Cork) a descendant of Thomas Chisolm of Georgia, and a forum member, conducted much of the research behind the scenes, off forum, but still maintained contact. She sought to prove once and for all that Lieutenant Thomas Chisolm of Georgia was Thomas Junior, son of Rev Thomas Chisholm of Kilmorack (known as Teawig Family). Ultimately she proved Bob's contention, that the Teawig and Georgia families were unrelated. She did scour all the Highland Articles, but found the answer which eluded so many Clan Chisholm Society sleuths, hiding in absolutely plain sight. Thomas the younger of Kilmorack was just a mile or two down the road from the Kilmorack Church. Sue Thomson and the KHA knew all along but no doubt never knew we were looking. He was found in the KHA booklet on Teanassie.

As far as the database is concerned, when new information is found, it is sent to the DB administrator for updating. This is the case for the Teawig Tree, and any other for which information comes to light either in Forum activity, or elsewhere. A future project for the Database has been mooted, the integration of the Family Trees held in the Australia Branch Database. This sounds like a great idea, as the Australian database is comprehensive, but its looking like software incompatibility makes simple transition either not possible or very difficult.

Robert Chisholm, Auckland, New Zealand /Alastair Chisholm, Minstead, Hampshire, UK

Updated 2nd May 2025

[CHISHOLM HISTORICAL RESEARCH / \(Chisholm Chronicles Project\)](#)

Border Chisholmes Research:

During the International Clan Chisholm gathering in Inverness in July 2024 Dr Margaret Collin gave a lecture on her recent research into Border Chisholm History. Margaret has uncovered material not examined previously and was able to share it with those in the room. The talk was fascinating and showed the immense amount of research that Margaret has been doing over the past few years. Questions on the research followed which provoked good discussion within the room. Margaret is hoping to bring the research together into a book for the Society. Before that can be completed, she must obtain rights to use various documents and images, that is why she was unable to share her presentation with us and asked that we did not take photographs of it.

Susan Chisholm August 2024

See below for further comments from Margaret.

The historical research into the Borders Chisholmes has now progressed a long way as, I hope, I demonstrated at the International Gathering in Inverness last summer.

Many of the original documents, although not impossible to trace, were not all held together, but were scattered into various collections or into the hands of private individuals. Well, needless to say, more documents have turned up and my search continues!

For a long time I have been pursuing the documents left by the Chisholme families who lived in The Stirches at Hawick - and at long last I have found some information on where they may, or at least some of them, may be located. I have still to investigate this possible new source - but I shall keep you posted on progress.

Dr Margaret Collin, Chisholm Chronicles/Chisholm Historical Research. 29/04/2025

[ARTEFACTS REGISTER](#)

Progress has been slower in 2024 due to other commitments.

At present there are 41 artifacts registered.

Some discussion has begun on an idea which arose at the International Gathering on extending the project to include photographic information on artefacts of Chisholm interest not held by Society members. There are a number of concerns already raised regarding this potential project.

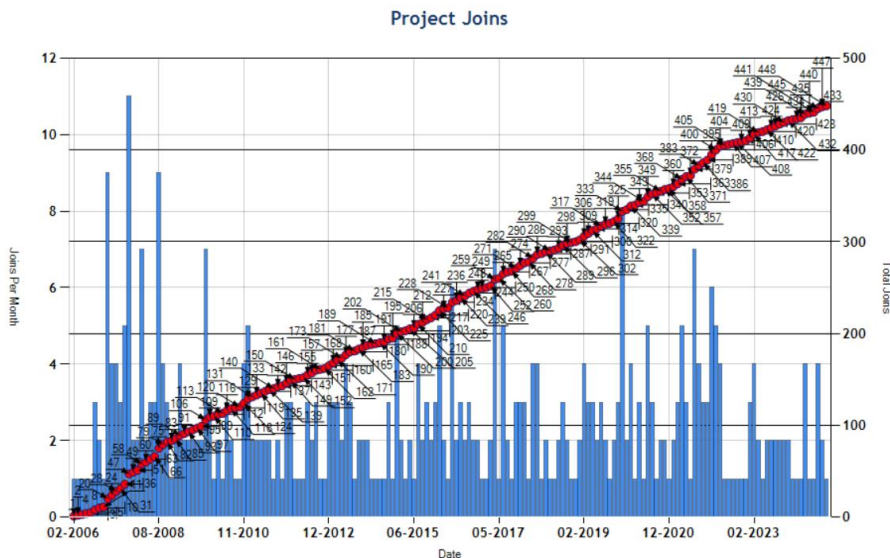
Fay Chisholm, Artefacts Register 16th March 2025.

DNA PROJECT REPORT

Total membership of the project stands at 448 (as of 17 March 2025) and the graph shows the same slow but steady growth since 2020.

Of the 448 total, 72% have been in the Y chromosome side of the project, with 252 members having taken the all-important Y67 test, while 134 of these have extended to the Y111 test.

Membership of the Family Finder test continues to grow; this type of test covers the wider family rather than the specific Chisholm family which is targeted by the Y chromosome test.



One of the results to note was that Chism named tester matched to the Chisum/Chisholm named members descended from John Chisum/Ellender Gillentine of Amelia Co. Virginia. This is a family group whose Chisholm origin is still shrouded in mystery, and the Y-DNA clues point to a distinct possibility of a maternal descent.

Other results in the Y chromosome project tended to consolidate existing known groupings.

The project has been in existing for 19 years, and has many years ago completed one of the primary goals, which was to provide a scientific basis for the Norman origin of the Chisholm founder. Another main task was to categorise the various separate family groupings which made up the Highland Clan. It is proposed that on the 20th anniversary of the project, a thorough review of the findings should be made.

Robert Chisholm 17th March 2025.

MINUTES OF 73rd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Friday 12th July 2024 - 11.00 am BST Glen Mhor Hotel, Ness Bank, Inverness IV2 4SG Scotland.

Susan Chisholm of Chisholm greeted members and commented on the success of the International Gathering so far and the great feeling of clanship. She would create a list of all those who had attended together with their email addresses so that they could keep in touch.

Susan then introduced the other officers of the Society and Clan Council members seated at the Top Table – David Holmes, Chairman of Canada Branch and Vice President of the Society who would be chairing this meeting. Kim Polley, Australia Branch Secretary and second Vice President of the Society. Fay Chisholm, NZ Branch representative and Artefacts register admin. Juliette Chisholm-Broomfield immediate past President and Ben Chisholm-Broomfield Chairman UK branch.

Ben Chisholm-Broomfield welcomed all to the Highlands of Scotland and to the meeting. He had met many of those present over the years and particularly welcomed David Holmes chairman of the Canada Branch. He had first met David in Edinburgh in 1978 or '79 together with Forbes Merritt Chisholm and a large group of Chisholm's. Merritt had been a huge influence on the development of today's Society. Ben had also worked with our founder Miss Mairi and many other folk across the years. It was nice to see everyone and he hoped they had been enjoying the International gathering. He thanked Secretary Susan Chisholm of Chisholm for organising events over the week and remarked she had 'done a good job'.

Susan then read out the list of apologies:-

Robert Chisholm, Auckland, New Zealand – President of the Society was unable to travel due to family health issues. He was very sorry to miss the Gathering and the meeting and was sure his deputy Vice President David Holmes, Canada will do a fine job.

Hannah Chisholm, New Zealand.

John Ross, New Zealand – Branch Chairman

Val Chisholm Perry, USA – past President.

Alastair Chisholm, Belgium – Webmaster

Alastair Chisholm, Minstead, Hampshire, UK – Genealogy database and admin.

Martin Chisholm, Darlington, UK – Journal Editor

Margaret Chisholm, Bearsden, Glasgow UK

Ella Cook, Aberdeen, UK

Pam and Francois Baronnet, Nancy, France

Dr Janet Eldred, York, UK

Murray J Chisholm, Storrington, West Sussex, UK

Duncan M Chisholm, Inverness, UK

Sir John and Kitty Chisholm, Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire, UK

Bobby and Lucy Greenfield, Co Kerry, Ireland

Mike Casselden, Matlock, Derbyshire, UK

Those Present and Branch:

Canada – David Holmes (Branch Chairman), Anne Brand, Kate Lund, Marie Chisholm.

Australia – Kim Polley (Branch Secretary and Clan Council Representative), Michael Polley, Tony Morrison (Branch Chairman), Sue Morrison, Kim Reeves.

USA – Joyel Chisholm Morris (Branch Chairman).

New Zealand - Fay Chisholm (Clan Council representative), Teresa Fisher.

UK - Juliette Chisholm-Broomfield, Ben Chisholm-Broomfield, Duncan F Chisholm, Margaret Collin, John Collin, Norman Chisholm, Christina Chisholm, Mairi-Angela Foster, Wendy Huntriss, Elaine Hunter, Andrew Whitelaw, Robert Atkinson, John O'Sullivan, Jenni Atkinson, Fergus Atkinson-O'Sullivan, Danu Stratton-Kent, Susan Chisholm of Chisholm.

Chair of the meeting David Holmes said a few words of greeting and invited Kim Polley to read out an address from Robert Chisholm, New Zealand, President of the Clan Chisholm Society. This is shown in full below:-

Greetings to all of the Clan assembled for the 9th International Gathering.

Clan Chisholm Society International has come together in 1985, 1989, 1993, 1996, 2001, 2003, 2008, 2011, and 2014. These have all taken place in the Scottish Highlands and Chisholm Heartlands, with the exceptions of 2003 (Antigonish, Nova Scotia, Canada), 2008 (Canmore, Canada), and 2011 (Duluth, USA). It was not meant to be a 10 year interval since the last gathering; however the Covid situation meant that an earlier date could not be planned.

I sincerely apologise for not being in attendance at this gathering, something which I was greatly looking forward to; but not for the first time, medical circumstances prevented my arrival. In this instance it was not my condition, but my nearest and dearest. I am happy to report however, that a scan on 1st July revealed that the DVT has dissipated.

I looked forward to meeting all of you who managed to make the trip, many of whom I have had electronic contact with over the recent years, through various activities of the Society. To mention but a few:

Duncan, a Stalwart of the Society since forever, including, being a former President, and a party to the 1959 opening of the Plaque and Cairn above Loch Mullardoch, who does such a great job in representing the Clan in the Highland Capital.

Ben and Juliette in Beaulieu, Gatekeepers to the Clan lands. Is there anything in Clan Chisholm Society they haven't done? They have been down under to the Shaky Isles, twice for Ben, and I would have liked to meet up again.

Val, the President who helped set up the Clan Chisholm DNA Project, and with whom I have enjoyed corresponding with over the years, whose Chisholm forbears came from just a few miles further down the Strathclyde from mine.

Kath Gordon, whose ancestral family I have helped chase around the hills and valleys of Virginia and Kentucky, through Tennessee to Alabama, with a small side trip to Missouri. Outcome of this hunt has pinned her immigrant ancestor as Alexander Chessum who came to Virginia in 1691, and this makes Kath's wider family what I believe to be the earliest Colonial Chisholm family known to us today. And so, it's appropriate that Chisholm Colonial Tartan comes from a descendant of this family, designed by Kat Moore in conjunction with Duncan Chisholm, and approved by Chief Hamish at the 2008 gathering.

David, I am very confident and happy that you will be at the gathering to fulfil the Presidential role, a VP from a family which has given such long and valued service to Clan Chisholm Society.

Kim, Tony, and the rest of the Australians, the senior colonial branch of the Society, while I am sad at not being able to meet up with you this time, you are just across the ditch so I won't be ruling out another trip or two to the West Island.

Project Leaders and Branch Reps, I don't know who will be at the gathering, but I thank you all for all your valuable input: Margaret with the Historical work, Joyel looking after our biggest branch, Alastair with the Database and the Forum, Martin who is doing such a great job with the Journal, Alastair with the website management, Fay with the ever-growing Artefacts Project, and NZ Branch Rep on the Clan Council, Susan, our secretary, who holds us all together, so sorry that I missed the chance to say goodbye to you at Ypres.

Anybody else from the France and Flanders Trip? Mairi-Angela? Lucy? Jennifer? Pamela?

And of course, the one who everyone wishes to be photographed with, Chief Hamish, so sorry that we won't meet in person, but I look forward to seeing your photo with plenty of Clansfolk who have made the trip.

Sadly it's not to be this time around, but ever the optimist, I am not ruling out a future trip.

In addition to the formal programme many of you will be taking time either before or after to visit other landmarks and places of interest, especially those who may know specifically from whence their Chisholm ancestor came. For me, that would have been to four places:

Balnabruich, nowadays an empty field on Kerrow Farm between Clachan Comar and Fasnakyle, in former days a small settlement and part of the Chiefs lands, unfortunately not part of that controlled by the Fair lady of Strathglass and her daughter Mary. My Gr Gr Gr Grandfather was cleared from here in 1801, and I assume he was one of the fortunate souls saved by Lord Lovat.

Aigas, now a Golf Course, formerly a sawmill, part of the former Lovat Estate. Here my great great grandfather was born.

Eskadale Church where my Gr gr grandparents were married in 1828, and the resting place of so many Chisholm's.

Breakachy, above Aigas and Erchless, an ancient Chisholm estate, where my Great Grandfather was born, from where he left in 1869 aged 19, and made his way to New Zealand by 1871, where eventually he built a fine farmhouse and named it "Beaully".

I wish you all an enjoyable and rewarding time in Clan Chisholm Country and the surrounding areas.

Robert Chisholm, President, West Auckland 4 July 2024

Kim added her thanks to the UK Branch team for organising the Gathering.

Vice President David Holmes chaired the meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 1

- Approval of the Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting held electronically 25th March 2023, West Auckland, New Zealand.

Proposed – Susan Chisholm

Seconded – Kim Polley

All concurred and the minutes were accepted as read.

AGENDA ITEM 2

- President's Report

The Presidents Report for 2023. The Annual Report contains the President's report, branch reports, membership report and project reports as well as financial accounts for the preceding year.

Copies of the report were available to all members present.

There were no comments, and the report was accepted unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 3

- Treasurer's Report

The Financial Statement for Year 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023 was prepared by the Treasurer and audited by Mr Michael Sayers, Clan Chisholm Society Honorary Auditor. The Treasurer's report including profit and loss statement and the balance sheet were provided to all members present.

Mairi-Angela Foster pointed out that the Journal production costs were very high and that branch subscription levels may not cover the costs of production and postage. A direct subscription idea was discussed. Susan Chisholm noted that the UK branch has a lot of Life members who do not pay an annual subscription but are asked to contribute to the Journal cost. David Holmes added that Canada branch had a healthy bank balance and he suggested other branches look at their own position in respect of the Journal.

Approval of the accounts:

Proposed - Ben Chisholm-Broomfield

Seconded – Fay Chisholm.

The accounts were accepted unanimously.

Following acceptance of the accounts there was further general discussion in the room around subscriptions and receipt of the Journal. Susan referred members to the Constitution of the Clan Chisholm Society a copy of which was supplied with the agenda for the meeting. Clan Council were considering a review and possible update of this document which was last revised in 2006.

AGENDA ITEM 4

- Election of Officers of the Society as outlined on the agenda

President	Robert Chisholm (NZ)
Vice President	David Holmes (Canada)
Vice President	Kim Polley (Aus)
Secretary/Treasurer	Susan Chisholm (UK)

Juliette Chisholm-Broomfield (UK) as Immediate Past President remains on Clan Council.

The nominations for officers were put forward:

Proposed – Fay Chisholm

Seconded – Juliette Chisholm-Broomfield

All agreed - approved unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 5

- Honorary appointments on Clan council are as shown below:

Standing appointments

- a. Webmaster - Alastair Chisholm (Belgium)
- b. Editor of Clan Chisholm Journal - Martin Chisholm (UK)
- c. Genealogy Co-ordinator - Alastair Chisholm (UK)
- d. Honorary Counsel - Marc Chisholm (Canada)
- e. Clan Historian - Dr Jean Munro (UK)
- f. Co-opted member of Clan Council - Duncan Chisholm (UK)
- g. Honorary Auditor - Michael Sayers (UK)

Clan Council Projects

- h. New History/Chisholm Research - Dr Margaret Collin (UK)
- i. Artefacts Register - Chairman, Fay Chisholm (NZ)
- j. Clan Chisholm DNA Project Chairman - Robert Chisholm (NZ)
- k. Database Administrator/CGI Forum admin - Alastair Chisholm (UK)

Discussion:

Juliette Chisholm-Broomfield informed the room that Dr Jean Munro was now 100 years old and held an honorary position only, she remained mentally very active. Dr Margaret Collin and others in the Society now manage historical enquiries and research.

David Holmes thanked all the great volunteers who give their time to the Society. He noted that the WW1 project was not now listed as a separate project under Robert Chisholm, New Zealand as it is more or less complete and just running along with a few additions and amends as they arise, and when new information comes to light. David noted that Clan Council had not had any further offers to take on duties.

Appointments are approved by Clan Council – a show of hands in the room supported the list.

AGENDA ITEM 6 – NEW BUSINESS

6a. Branch Newsletters – Joint approach

Kim Polley informed the meeting that the New Zealand and Australia branches had produced a combined Newsletter twice per year for some time. This had been very successful and spreads the workload. The newsletters therefore involve half the effort and provide double the interest. She noted that the UK produces a newsletter four times each year to its members and is very active. Other branches particularly US and Canada have struggled to get help to produce a branch newsletter. It is suggested that the four branches; Australia, New Zealand, Canada and US contribute to a joint newsletter. Kim helps with the Chisholm DNA research. Members might like to read some articles about DNA in their newsletters. Articles can be social with personal articles from members and not just academic. It can be fun. Kim suggested the branches buddy up and the newsletter can be emailed to members of those four branches. She asked if members thought this would be of benefit. It was thought that it could encourage and capture younger members and keep their interest. Perhaps each branch would have 3 to 4 pages. Susan noted that the regular newsletters were a good way of keeping in touch. It was also suggested that some of the UK newsletters articles could be shared. The joint newsletter could be more interactive and include questions especially in respect of DNA and genealogy. David and Susan agreed that regular contact with the membership also helps us know when someone has passed away rather than just decided not to renew membership.

Joyel thought the joint proposal sounded a lot more manageable especially in those branches which have fewer members putting themselves forward for empty positions on branch committees.

Fergus Atkinson-O’Sullivan suggested that more people accept electronic newsletters. Perhaps a website could have an electronic subscription button to access newsletters. There must be thousands of Chisholm’s out there. Kim agreed that new technology is the way to penetrate the ‘market place’. Tony Morrison knew of a person who had found us on line and joined up. Fergus suggested a subscription link on current website and Clan Council members present agreed to look into this. David pointed out this was an embryonic idea at present which would need to be discussed with branches but he added that members should ‘stay tuned’.

Margaret Collin suggested a balance of social and more serious articles but cautioned against infringement of copyright. Margaret had written an article for UK which had been picked up by someone working on a project. Folk can just pick up anything on line and use it.

Tony Morrison added that young people operate on social media, Facebook etc just putting up an item guarantees a reaction from other younger folk.

Ben and Juliette Chisholm-Broomfield raised a question about security and unwanted attention which would need to be guarded against.

6b. 2024 Gathering.

Susan noted again that if all agreed she would list the email addresses of all those who have attended the gathering week and distribute amongst us. She reminded members that their joining packs contained a QR code to use to upload their photographs of the week so that we could all enjoy viewing them.

Fay Chisholm then made a presentation of gifts from New Zealand to both Susan and Juliette with thanks for the hours put in to organising the gathering. She also thanked Danu for her hard work and great support over the week.

The Chairman David Holmes then closed the Meeting at 12.10 BST

Duncan Chisholm called for a vote of thanks to the chair and praised David Holmes capable management of the meeting. He also thanked Susan and Danu for organising the gathering week and this AGM.