

Clan Chisholm Society



Great War Centenary Project “every clansman remembered”



Sketches from the Trenches: Lt. MW Williams, 17Bn. Welsh Regiment



Roll of Honour

Volume 111



France August 1914 – April 1917

Foreword

Clan Chisholm Society. Introduction to WW1 Memorial volumes.

My great aunt Miss Mairi Chisholm of Chisholm was naturally legendary in the family as I was growing up. A copy of 'The Cellar House at Pervyse' was to be found in our sitting room and often referred to. We were proud of her war-time reputation and of the many medals she had been awarded due to her work in WW1. She was of course also a loving aunt to my father, Chief Alastair.

Less well known was her beloved brother Uilean Hamish McUistean, my grandfather, who served during World War I in Palestine and Egypt. Uilean had resigned his position in the Trinidad Constabulary in 1915 and enlisted as a 2nd Lieutenant with the British West India Regiment. Photograph albums and other memorabilia from his time in Palestine reminded us of his war service.

World War One therefore, although distant in time, was a current topic of conversation within the family during my childhood and beyond. The scale of the 1914 - 1918 war and the huge loss of life was well known and the topic was and is covered in the educational curriculum in Britain. Both Mairi and Uilean returned to their families, so many did not.

Travelling through Belgium for the unveiling of a statue in Ypres to honour Elsie Knocker and Mairi's work and attending the nightly ceremony at the Menin Gate brought home to me even more so the sacrifice made by so many. The Chisholm clan is not a large one but there are many Chisholm names from around the world listed on the memorial showing all those still missing whose remains have not been found.

The Clan Chisholm Society which was founded in 1951 by Miss Mairi and my late father Alastair, has supported the creation of these memorial volumes to those Chisholms who fell in battle or died of their injuries later. I thank all those clansfolk who have contributed to the piece of work and especial thanks go to Robert Chisholm of New Zealand without whose dedication the memorial would not have been possible.

Hamish

Andrew Francis Hamish Chisholm of Chisholm



About this book

This memorial booklet is a product of the Clan Chisholm Genealogical Forum, a discussion group open to all who share an interest in anything and everything related to Chisholm, with a heavy bias on Clan history, family histories, and Genealogies. 2014 saw the commencement of the centenary of the Great War, and we reflected initially on the remarkable courage of one of our Clan Chisholm Society Founders, Miss Mairi Chisholm of Chisholm. Her story is well **told in many places, so it won't be repeated here, but in her memory we dedicate this commemorative series, and specifically this booklet, which catalogues the Chisholm lives lost in the West Flanders section of the Western Front.** In remembering Mairi, the Forum decided also to remember all those Chisholms who served and never returned. Those covered in the booklet are those whose names have been retrieved from Commonwealth and War Graves Commission Records. Regretfully we cannot cover many Clansmen who are sons of Chisholm mothers, as there is no easy way to retrieve that data. On some occasions, such a person who **has "Chisholm" as part of the name, gets captured by the search engine, and these people** have been included.

We have not been able to cover the great many Chisholms who served and did return, in many cases shattered in body and /or mind, but to them we acknowledge our respect. Likewise there would have been a courageous group of conscientious objectors; we can only sadly reflect that their views did not find favour with the politicians who lead the nations of Europe into a disaster of such magnitude that we are still suffering from the effects of the Great War. The defeat of the Russian Empire saw the rise of communism and the Soviet Union; the defeat of the German Empire gave rise to Nazism and a second world war; and the defeat of the Turkish Empire gave us the hodge-podge which we now have today in the Middle East.

This booklet is the third in a series of five proposed to commemorate the lives of our Chisholm clansmen who fell during the conflict. Previous volumes covered the theatres of Flanders and the Balkans/Middle East. Subsequent editions will cover the France from May 1917 till 1919, and those who are buried or commemorated on home soil. The memorial booklets would not have been possible without the information being available from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, and its US counterpart. Of great value have been the personal archives made freely available by the Australian and Canadian governments. Many photos have been taken from internet sources, and an apology is offered in advance if any copyright has been infringed.

The format is chronological, listed in order of the date of death. Varying amounts of information concerning the fallen clansmen has been found. Great effort has been made to identify the family, and to note the parents and siblings. This is so that readers might identify one of their own family members. If that is the case, and the reader can provide further information, or a photograph, please get in touch.

If the family has been found in the Clan Chisholm Genealogical Database, this has been noted on the commemorative page. Several families on the database have been extended, based on the information found during the research phase of the project. In many cases where a family is not found in the database, the Forum and the research files contain a sizeable cache of genealogical information, awaiting only an interested family member to get in touch and use

the information to create a family tree for inclusion on the Database.

In the same manner, if the soldier has a known link to a family which is part of the Clan Chisholm DNA Project, that information is shared.

Where there is a link to a family known to descend from a Clan Chief, this information is shown by the use of the Chisholm heraldic device. With one exception, these families are limited to what are known as the Lietre and Knockfin branches of the Clan. While we know from the DNA project that many more families descend from a Clan Chief or a Border Baron, we do not have accurate genealogical information to positively identify the link.

The project is an ongoing electronic project. This means that further information or photographs can be added if readers recognise their own family member, and submit the information. Readers are encouraged to assist the project in this manner.

The World War 1 centenary memorial project would not be possible with the assistance of many people, too many to mention all by name but among them are:

Bob Chisholm of Sussex, Forum Founder and Database Administrator, who has provided both genealogical and military information and whose vigilance ensures that enthusiasm does not override accuracy.

Alastair Chisholm of Hampshire, Forum master, who shares his wide knowledge of Strathglass genealogy, and who ensures the Forum is kept operational.

Anna Chisholm Dickinson, the sleuth of Spokane, who has helped track down many of the families concerned.

Ian Chisholm and Juliette Chisholm-Broomfield also provide valuable assistance, and several other individuals have provided valuable information on specific families, including Val Chisholm-Perry who provided a personal copy of the book “**Catholics of Antigonish in the Great War**”.

Contact details for various Clan Chisholm projects associated with the World War One Centenary Remembrance Project are listed below.

Robert Chisholm (Auckland NZ) convenor of the WW1 Centenary Memorial Project Group.

Clan Chisholm International Genealogical Forum: Open to all. Registration required.

<http://www.chisholmgenealogy.com/cgi-bin/yabb2/YaBB.pl>

Clan Chisholm Genealogical Database. Open to all members of Clan Chisholm Society, ask your branch secretary for the password. <http://www.clansman.info/index.php>

Clan Chisholm DNA Project. Open to all (testing fees apply) Help locate your family history by following the trail of the Y chromosome back in time. Clan Chisholm contains traces of all those who have invaded Britain, or attempted to, from days of Druids and Stonehenge, the Roman Empire, The Gaelic Invasion, The Angles and Saxons, the Norman Conquest, and the Spanish Armada, and then several New World additions as well. The project has been able to confirm the historically accepted account that the Chisholm Founder was of Norman origin.

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

To offer support or further information regarding any serviceman, go to the

This Volume covers the 50 Chisholm casualties from 1914 through to April 1917 and represents approximately half of the casualties in France during the Great War. Losses were suffered at all times and in all places wherever the troops of the United Kingdom and the British Empire were stationed. The Western Front was a dangerous place to be at all times, and particularly when offensive action was the order of the day. The Battle of the Somme, in particular, took a heavy toll of Chisholms, with 15 lives lost. For many there are no known graves and so the names are recorded on memorials. At the Somme on the Thiepval memorial, there are six of our Clansmen, at nearby Vimy Memorial, are recorded the names of 3 Canadian Chisholms, and at Villers-Bretonneux, one NZ Chisholm in the Australian Infantry.

Elsewhere on the Western Front in France, the Loos Memorial in Pas de Calais, has 4 Chisholms.



Sausage Valley, Somme (Pozières)



Thiepval Memorial



Vimy Memorial



Loos Memorial



Villers-Bretonneux Memorial

Dulce et decorum est

*Bent double, like old beggars under sacks,
Knock-kneed, coughing like hags, we cursed through sludge,
Till on the haunting flares we turned our backs,
And towards our distant rest began to trudge.
Men marched asleep. Many had lost their boots,
But limped on, blood-shod. All went lame, all blind;
Drunk with fatigue; deaf even to the hoots
Of gas-shells dropping softly behind.*

*Gas! GAS! Quick, boys! - An ecstasy of fumbling
Fitting the clumsy helmets just in time,
But someone still was yelling out and stumbling
And flound'ring like a man in fire or lime. -
Dim through the misty panes and thick green light,
As under a green sea, I saw him drowning.*

*In all my dreams before my helpless sight
He plunges at me, guttering, choking, drowning.*

*If in some smothering dreams, you too could pace
Behind the wagon that we flung him in,
And watch the white eyes writhing in his face,
His hanging face, like a devil's sick of sin,
If you could hear, at every jolt, the blood
Come gargling from the froth-corrupted lungs
Obscene as cancer, bitter as the cud
Of vile, incurable sores on innocent tongues, -
My friend, you would not tell with such high zest
To children ardent for some desperate glory,
The old Lie: Dulce et decorum est
Pro patria mori.*



2nd Lt, Wilfred Edward Salter Owen, 5th Bn. Manchester Regiment. KIA 4 Nov 1918

Roll of Honour

| Name | Hometown | Date | Page |
|------------------------------------|------------------------|------------|------|
| William Malcolm Chisholm | Sydney | 27/08/1914 | 10 |
| Roderick Chisholm | Peterhead | 13/09/1914 | 11 |
| James Chisholm | Hawick | 23/10/1914 | 12 |
| John Angus Chisholm | Stornoway | 22/12/1914 | 13 |
| V Chisholm | Wrekenton, Co Durham | 06/02/1915 | 14 |
| Charles Chisholm | Bedale, Yorkshire | 10/03/1915 | 15 |
| Archibald Chisholm | Stow, Midlothian | 13/03/1915 | 16 |
| Andrew Chisholm | Kirriemuir | 09/05/1915 | 17 |
| Alexander Chisholm | Newcastle on Tyne | 17/05/1915 | 18 |
| Alexander Chisholm | Galashiels | 19/07/1915 | 19 |
| Charles James Chisholm | Northampton | 22/07/1915 | 20 |
| Leslie Chisholm | Chesterfield | 16/08/1915 | 21 |
| Charles Chisholm | Stow | 25/09/1915 | 22 |
| Walter Chisholm | Sanquhar | 25/09/1915 | 23 |
| Robert Darling Chisholm | Edinburgh | 28/09/1915 | 24 |
| James Utermarck Chisholm-Batten | Thornfalcon, Sommerset | 25/09/1915 | 25 |
| William Chisholm | Glasgow | 27/10/1915 | 26 |
| J R Chisholm | Coventry | 02/01/1916 | 27 |
| Robert Chisholm | Carluke | 02/01/1916 | 28 |
| William Chisholm | Bournmoor, Co. Durham | 29/04/1916 | 29 |
| John Chisholm | Leith | 01/07/1916 | 30 |
| Alexander (Chummie) Chisholm | Durban | 09/07/1916 | 31 |
| James Chisholm | Glasgow | 18/07/16 | 32 |

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| Name | Last Residence | Date | Page |
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| Stuart Chisholm | Inverness | 18/07/16 | 34 |
| Roderick Chisholm | Glasgow | 19/07/16 | 35 |
| Kenneth James Chisholm | Ealing | 18/08/16 | 36 |
| John Samson Chisholm | Barrabup, West Australia | 31/08/16 | 37 |
| William Turner Chisholm | London | 01/09/16 | 38 |
| George Chisholm | North Shields | 03/09/16 | 39 |
| Alfred Chisam | Yetlington, Northumberland | 15/09/16 | 40 |
| William Chisholm | Brandon, Manitoba | 26/09/16 | 41 |
| Donald Alexander Chisholm | Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan | 08/10/16 | 42 |
| Alexander (Alick) Chisholm | Edmonton, Alberta | 09/10/16 | 43 |
| William Chisholm | Lindsay, Ontario | 27/10/16 | 44 |
| Alexander Chisholm | Gorgie, Edinburgh | 06/11/16 | 45 |
| Gordon Douglas Chisholm | Peterborough | 06/11/16 | 46 |
| Robert John Chisholm | Dundee | 11/11/16 | 47 |
| David Chisholm | Edinburgh | 13/11/16 | 48 |
| Alexander Chisholm | Napanee, Ontario | 19/11/16 | 49 |
| Francis Chisholm Young | Cambridge | 14/02/17 | 50 |
| William Alexander Chisholm | Toronto | 09/03/17 | 51 |
| John Alexander Ross Chisholm | Glasgow | 20/03/17 | 52 |
| John (Jack) Chisholm | Barnet, BC. | 29/03/17 | 53 |
| James Chisholm | Llanbryde, Morayshire | 09/04/17 | 54 |
| George Roderick Chisholm | Saskatoon, Saskatchewan | 09/04/17 | 55 |
| John Anderson Chisholm | Dunfermline | 09/04/17 | 56 |

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| Name | Last Residence | Date | Page |
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| William Archie Chisholm | New Glasgow, NS | 11/04/17 | 57 |
| Colin Chisholm | Vancouver | 14/04/17 | 58 |
| Roderick Chisholm | Glasgow | 20/04/17 | 59 |
| Alick Chisholm | Knocknashalvaig | 23/04/17 | 60 |
| | End of France Part 1 | | |



HE whom this scroll commemorates was numbered among those who, at the call of King and Country, left all that was dear to them, endured hardness, faced danger, and finally passed out of the sight of men by the path of duty and self-sacrifice, giving up their own lives that others might live in freedom. Let those who come after see to it that his name be not forgotten.

The names of the members of
Clan Chisholm
listed on the preceding pages