



# FEROSFERIO!

Spring 2017

Issue 2

## Chisholm Family Gathering in Alberta by David Holmes, Clan Chisholm Society Branch

### A SECOND ISSUE!

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Happened? ?

On the July 1<sup>st</sup> weekend of 2016, many of the Western Canada Chisholms gathered at the Holiday Ranch west of Innisfail, AB for a weekend of getting acquainted (with the new little ones), re-acquainted (with the no-so new big ones) and a lot of laughs, singing, a ceilidh and a dance (with one or two adult beverages being consumed).

The Chisholms attending were the descendants of Forbes William Chisholm (1890-1976). Merritt Chisholm and Lorna Mae Chisholm Holmes are his surviving children and were there along with over eighty of their children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, nephews, nieces (second, third and fourth generations) and spouses/significant others as well as a sister-in-law (Fay Chisholm) and a brother-in-law (Gordon Dittberner). Of 22 second generation cousins, 18 were in attendance.

Attendees came from places as diverse as Sidney, Brentwood Bay, and Saanichton, BC, Whitehorse, YT, Ottawa, ON, Washington, DC, Wellsboro, PA, and Rainbow Lake, AB with central and southern Alberta also being well represented.

This gathering was the 13<sup>th</sup> that has taken place since the first one in 1986. One of the reasons for this gathering (as if a bunch of Chisholms need an excuse to have a party) was that

was Lorna Mae's 85<sup>th</sup> birthday (June 28<sup>th</sup>). Her entire family of four generations and 29 people were there to celebrate the event along with everyone else.

Mother Nature offered a spectacular light show (and torrential rain storm) on Friday night to help celebrate Canada Day, with beautiful Alberta summer weather the rest of the weekend.

The golfing and games took place Saturday afternoon. Much dexterity was shown (and laughter derived from) throwing water-filled balloons to (at) each other with the younger bunch doing their best throwing the cabre which, thanks to Rob's chain saw, got shorter and shorter as the day went on. About 18 golfers took to the links at a near-by course and ended their rounds with varying levels of success, all having enjoyed themselves.

A storage box of a bunch of stuff from previous gatherings turned up after being missing for six years. It included a trophy for the cabre toss which was duly awarded to this year's winner, Ian Holmes.

The "herding of cats" took place after the games for the "formal" photos. Clan tartans and kilts were prominent. The photographers are to be commended for displaying the patience of Job in this endeavor.

It was great seeing the third and fourth generations getting to know each other and everyone else. For

those of us (first & second generations) who have attended the previous gatherings, it was fun to see the third generation who we have met in past years as little ones and who now have grown up to be young adults, many of whom are now parents in their own right. The little ones of the fourth generation had a wonderful time running around and playing with each other. Remarks were made (more than once) about what a handsome bunch we all are. Hopefully, those third gens enjoyed themselves enough to accept the torch that is being passed to them to continue this legacy.

The ceilidh evening on Saturday was catered (delicious turkey dinner) and the music for the dance was provided by a live band. Much more music and singing were provided by Clan members and was enjoyed by all. A beautiful evening followed with a great fire in the fire pit that lasted to the wee hours (for the third gens anyway).

A rather melancholy Sunday came far too soon with everyone departing for home with happy memories and anticipation for the next time we all get together. Stay tuned.....

Many thanks to all those who took part in organizing the event. You all did a wonderful job.



**Summer 2016 Calgary  
Clan Chisholm Gathering**



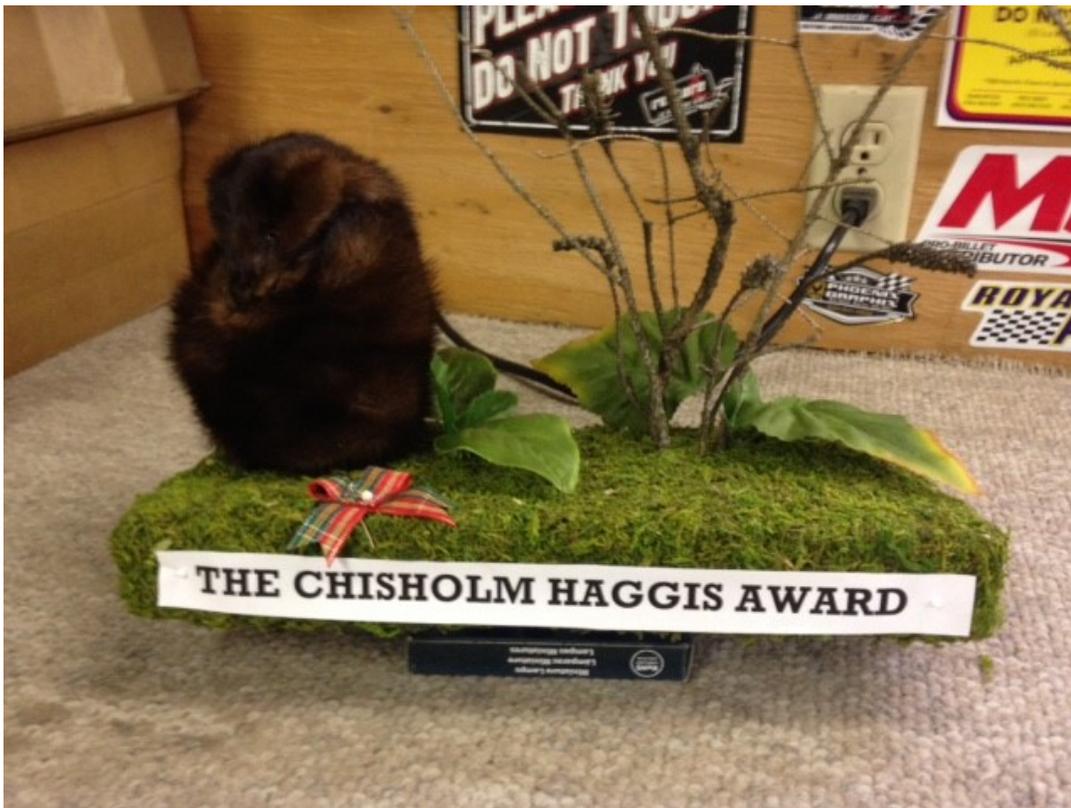
**18 of 22 Chisholm First  
Cousins**



**NEWSLETTER OF THE  
CANADIAN CLAN CHISHOLM SOCIETY**



**Chisholms All: Bennie,  
Merrit, Lorna Mae & Fay**



**Cabre Toss Trophy**



## Chisholm Characters in the Movies: What do They Say About Us? by Derek Chisholm

The first major movie with Chisholm characters was “**The Petrified Forest**”, which was released in 1936 American film by Warner Brothers. It was directed by Archie Mayo and starred the legendary Humphrey Bogart and Bette Davis. It was Bogart’s first major film and was also a precursor of the film noir genre.

The two Chisholm characters enable the entire plot to unfold. They are designated as Mr. Chisholm (played by Paul Harvey) and Mrs. Chisholm (played by Genevieve Tobin). The film was adapted from a Broadway stage play by Robert E. Sherwood that had also starred Humphrey Bogart.

The plot of the film is set in the midst of the Great Depression. Alan Squier (played by Leslie Howard), who was once a respected British writer is now a disillusioned, penniless drifter, who wanders into a roadside diner in the remote town of Black Mesa, Arizona located on the edge of the Petrified Forest. The diner is run by Jason Maple (played by Porter Hall), his daughter Gabrielle (played by the legendary Bette Davis), and Gramp, Jason’s father (played by Charley Grapewin), who



**Genevieve Tobin and Paul Harvey as Mr. & Mrs. Chisholm in “The Petrified Forest” (1936)**

regales anyone who will listen with stories of his adventures in the Old West with such characters as Billy the Kid. Gabrielle shows Alan her paintings — the first time she has shown them to anyone — and reads him her favorite poem. Love blossoms between the two but is their relationship becomes endangered by Boze Hertzlinger (played by Dick Foran), a former football player who works at the diner and has designs on Gabrielle. Alan decides to leave forthwith and mooches a ride from wealthy tourists, Mr. and Mrs. Chisholm. After only a few minutes on the road the Chisholms encounter Duke Mantee (Bogart), a notorious gangster fleeing a massive police pursuit, whose car has broken down in an attempt to escape to Mexico. Duke and his gang seize the Chisholms’ car and in-

tend to drive to the Diner to meet his girlfriend, Doris, on the way to Mexico.

Duke prepares to flee in the Chisholm car with them as his hostages. Alan heroically rewrites his life insurance to make Gabrielle the beneficiary then asks Duke to kill him. Duke obliges and Gabrielle is able to realize her dream of moving to France. Alan dies in Gabrielle’s arms, secure in the knowledge that she, unlike the rest, will escape her dead-end existence to pursue her dreams. A classic “film noir” and the beginning of Humphrey Bogart’s legendary career.

“**The Keys of the Kingdom**” is a 1944 American film released by Twentieth Century Fox. It was based on the 1941 novel of the same name by the Scottish medical doctor / author Archibald Joseph (A. J. Cronin). Father Francis Chisholm is the leading character in this film. It stars Gregory Peck as Father Francis Chisholm, a Scottish Roman Catholic priest. Unlike “The Petrified Forest,” where Mr. and Mrs. Chisholm are supporting actors, Francis Chisholm is the lead actor in “The Keys



The film opens with Father Chisholm being visited in his old age by Monsignor Sleeth at his parish in Tweedside Scotland. The Monsignor informs Father Francis that the Bishop thinks it would be better if he retires, as Father Francis' somewhat unorthodox recent teachings have become a distraction. The Monsignor retires to his room in the rectory, and finds Father Francis' diary that recounts his story from 1878. As the Monsignor begins to read the diary a flashback begins.

Francis' first two assignments as a priest are unfulfilling to him, so the Bishop asks Francis to be a volunteer missionary to China. Francis readily accepts the position, even though that means it would take him far from home, as well as far from Judy, Nora's (Francis's deceased admirer) daughter. Francis arrives in Paitan, Chekhov Province in China to find their mission destroyed by floods, and not rebuilt because the true Christians all left, leaving only those who attended to receive free rice. Because the Church hadn't given the mission money for rice in over a year, "the faith left them when the rice gave out." Francis rents a small room in the city to evangelize, but because he has no money or influence, he is attacked by those same "rice Christians" who were supposed to help him.

Father Francis faces many hostile opponents but two important events completely transform his relationships with the Chinese

people. First, his rudimentary medical skills save the life of the son of a local wealthy Mandarin. This act of mercy bears some resemblance to the necessary amputation of an arm in William Hugh Chisholm's brief 1938 booklet, *Vivid Experiences in Korea by a Missionary Doctor*. Second, Father Francis and his mission station fulfill a gracious medicinal role during the Chinese civil war. Both these events transform his mission into a success.

Ten years pass, and Francis' mission is flourishing, and the area is peaceful. The Reverend Mother tells Francis that American Methodists are building a mission inside town, and Francis goes to visit them. Francis becomes friends with the Methodist missionaries, thereby overturning the conflict that had opened the film. More years pass, and as Francis prepares to depart China, he learns that Angus is now Bishop.

Later, Angus arrives -- now a Monsignor -- as he is making a review of world missionary sites. He tells Francis that the Church cannot pay for the rebuilding of the mission and Francis has the lowest conversion rates in the world despite his gracious and successful missionary work.

The flashback ends, and Monsignor Sleeth admits to Francis that he read the diary. Francis is flattered, and Sleeth tells Francis that he won't tell the Bishop anything is amiss at Francis' parish, leaving Francis be as he spends his remaining time doing what he loves doing: serving a parish.

"**Brigadoon**" is the third major film with a Chisholm character. It's a 1954 film based on the successful 1947 Broadway musical written by Allan J. Lerner and Frederick Lowe with the same name. It was released by Metro Golden Meyer and stars Gene Kelly as Tommy Albright and Van John son as Tommy Douglas. Jimmy Thompson plays Charlie Chisholm Darlymple (probably his mom was a Chisholm). Charlie's impending marriage to Jean MacLean is the central theme of the film. Two Americans, Tommy Albright and Jeff Douglas have traveled to the Scottish Highlands on a game-hunting

vacation, but they get lost on their first



**Gregory Peck as Father Francis Chisholm in "The Keys of the Kingdom" (1944)**

night out. They hear music ("Brigadoon") coming from a nearby village that does not appear on their map of the area. Seeking direction for how to get back to their inn, they find a fair in progress and preparations for a wedding, with villagers dressed in traditional Scottish tartan. Harry Beaton is still madly in love with Jean and is both depressed and bitter at the thought of her marrying another. One of the girls asks Jean's older sister Fiona when she'll marry, and she says she's waiting for the right person ("Waitin' For My Dearie").

Fiona invites the two lost Americans to have a meal and rest at the MacLaren home. Flirtatious dairymaid Meg Brockie immediately takes a liking to him by Charlie rejoices in his impending nuptials and shares a drink with Tommy, he raises a dram to the health of a Mr. Forsythe whom he thanks for "postponing the miracle".

When Tommy asks what that means, Fiona shushes him and leads him away as Charlie celebrates the end of his bachelorhood ("Go Home with Bonnie Jean"). Tommy tells Fiona that he has a fiancée, Jane, in New York, but he's in no hurry to marry her, and Fiona reveals that she likes Tommy very much.



marry her, and Fiona reveals that she likes Tommy very much.

Tommy insists on accompanying Fiona to gather heather for the wedding ("The Heather on the Hill"). Meanwhile, Meg takes Jeff to a place in the forest with a shack and a cot. She tells him she's "highly attracted" to him, but he spurns her advances, wanting only to sleep. She reflects on her unusual love-life ("The Love Of My Life").

At the MacLarens', Jean's friends help her pack her things to move into Charlie's home ("Jeannie's Packin' Up"). Charlie arrives to sign the MacLarens' family Bible. He wants to see Jean; told that it's bad luck to see her on the wedding day, he begs for her to come out anyway ("Come to Me, Bend to Me"). Tommy and Fiona return with a basket full of heather, and Fiona goes upstairs to help Jean dress for the wedding. Jeff arrives wearing a pair of Highland trews (trousers); apparently his own pants have been damaged on a "thistle". Jeff finds that Tommy is so happy that he can barely contain it ("Almost Like Being In Love"). Tommy notices that all the events listed in the family Bible, including Jean's wedding, are listed as if they had happened 200 years earlier in 1754. When he asks Fiona about this, she sends him to the schoolmaster, Mr. Lundie.

Fiona, Tommy, and Jeff arrive at Mr. Lundie's home, where he relates a story that the two New Yorkers can hardly believe: to protect Brigadoon from being changed by the outside world, 200 years ago the local minister prayed to God to have Brigadoon disappear, only to reappear for one day every 100 years. All citizens of Brigadoon are forbidden to leave the town or it will disappear forever. Tommy asks hypothetically if an outsider could be permitted to stay. Mr. Lundie replies, "A stranger can stay if he

loves someone here--not jus' Brigadoon, mind ye, but someone in Brigadoon--enough to want to give up everythin' an' stay with that one person. Which is how it should be. 'Cause after all, lad, if ye love someone deeply, anythin' is possible." The group leaves to go to the wedding, which opens with the clans coming in from the hills. Mr. Lundie marries Charlie and Jean, and they perform a traditional celebratory wedding dance. Sword dancers appear, led by Harry, and they perform an elaborate dance over their weapons. All the town joins in the dance, but it abruptly halts when Jean screams as Harry tries to kiss her. In anguish over Jean's wedding, he announces that he's leaving the town (which would end the miracle, causing Brigadoon to disappear forever into the Highland mists) and sprints away.

The men of the town, including Tommy and a reluctant Jeff, frantically try to find Harry before he can depart the town ("The Chase"). Suddenly an agonized scream is heard. Harry, who appears to have fallen on a rock and crushed his skull, is found dead by the other men. Deciding not to tell the rest of the town until the next morning, the men carry Harry's body away. Fiona and her father arrive to see if everything is all right. As Mr. MacLaren leaves, Tommy sees Fiona, and they embrace. She reveals her love for him, and he tells her he believes he feels the same way ("There But For You Go I"). Fiona reminds him that the end of the day is near, and Tommy tells her he wants to stay in Brigadoon with her. They go to find Mr. Lundie.

Meanwhile, in the village, Meg tells about the day her parents were drunkenly married ("My Mother's Wedding Day") and the townsfolk dance until the sound of highland pipes pierces the air. Archie Beaton enters carrying Harry's body, led by the pipers playing a piobaireachd. Maggie, who loved Harry, performs a funeral dance for her unrequited love. The men of Brigadoon help Archie carry his son to the burial place.

Tommy finds Jeff and announces his intention to stay. Jeff thinks the idea absurd and argues with Tommy until



**Jimmy Thompson as  
Charlie Chisholm  
Darilymple in  
"Brigadoon" (1954)**

he has convinced him that Brigadoon is only a dream. Jeff also reveals that he tripped Harry and accidentally killed him. Fiona and Mr. Lundie arrive, and Tommy, shaken by Jeff's confession, tells Fiona that he loves her but he can't stay; he still has doubts ("From This Day On"). Fiona tells Tommy that she will love him forever as she fades away into the darkness.

Four months later, Jeff is drinking heavily at a hotel bar in New York. Tommy, who has been living on a farm in New Hampshire, enters and greets Jeff. Tommy is still in love with Fiona and cannot stop thinking about her. His fiancée Jane Ashton, a beautiful socialite, talks to him about their impending wedding, but everything she says causes him to hear Fiona's voice and dream of Brigadoon ("Come to Me, Bend to Me" (reprise) and "Heather on the Hill" (reprise)). Tommy tells Jane that he cannot marry her, and she argues with him, but he continues to daydream about his true love ("Go Home With Bonnie Jean" (reprise) and "From This Day On" (reprise)). Jane leaves, and Tommy tells Jeff that he wants to return to Scotland, although he knows the village will not be there.

Tommy and Jeff return to the spot where they found Brigadoon and, as they expected, see nothing there. Tommy laments, "Why do people have to lose things to find out what they really mean?"



Just as he and Jeff turn to leave, they hear the music again ("Brigadoon"), and Mr. Lundie appears. Tommy walks across the bridge in a daze to him, as Mr. Lundie explains: "Oh, it's you Tommy, lad. You woke me up. You must really love her", to which Tommy, still dazed, stammers "Wha--how....?" and Mr. Lundie replies, "You shouldna be too surprised, lad. I told ye when ye love someone deeply enough, anythin' is possible. Even miracles." Tommy waves goodbye to Jeff and disappears with Mr. Lundie into the highland mist to be reunited with Fiona.

"**Chisum**" is an American film released in 1970 by Warner Brothers and starring the legendary John Wayne as John Chisum. The movie was a personal favourite of President Richard M. Nixon, who often mentioned it in his speeches.

Wayne is John Chisum. It is based on the life of John Simpson Chisum of New Mexico, who spelled our name phonetically. Although the movie is historically inaccurate in many details, it is loosely based on events and characters from the Lincoln County War of 1878 in New Mexico, which involved Pat Garrett and Billy the Kid among others.

Chisum is an aging rancher with an eventful past and a paternalistic nature towards his companions and community. Murphy, a malevolent land developer, plans to take control of the county for his own personal gain. The story begins with Murphy's men tipping off Mexican rustlers who plan to steal Chisum's horses. Chisum and his sidekick Pepper (Ben Johnson) stop the bandits with help from a newcomer to the area, William Bonney (Geoffrey Deuel), also known as Billy the Kid. A notorious killer, Billy has been given a chance to reform by Chisum's philanthropic neighbor, rancher Henry Tunstall (Patric Knowles). Billy also falls for Chisum's newly arrived niece,

Sallie (Pamela McMyler).

Murphy is buying up all the stores in town and using his monopoly to push up the prices. He appoints his own sheriff and deputies. He also brings in a lawyer, Alex McSween (Andrew Prine), whose principles lead him to switch sides and seek work with Chisum and Tunstall. The two ranchers set up their own bank and general store in town under McSween's control.

Chisum's land and cattle remain targets. Murphy's men attempt to steal Chisum's cattle before he can sell them to the Army. Chisum's ranch hands are warned by Pat Garrett (Glenn Corbett), a passing buffalo hunter. Garrett agrees to help Chisum and soon befriends Bonney. Together they foil an attack by Murphy's men on the wagons bringing in provisions for the new store.

Fed up with Murphy's underhanded activities, Tunstall rides off to Santa Fe to seek the intervention of Gov. Sam Axtell (Alan Baxter). On the way he is intercepted by Murphy's deputies, who falsely accuse him of cattle rustling and shoot him dead. Chisum and Garrett hunt down the deputies and bring them back to town for trial. Bonney, seeking revenge for the murder of his mentor and skeptical that the men will truly face justice in town, overpowers Garrett by surprise and shoots dead both deputies. Before Sheriff Brady (Bruce Cabot) can organise a posse, Billy rides into town and kills him, too.

Murphy appoints bounty hunter Dan Nodeen (Christopher George) as the new sheriff, giving him orders to hunt down Bonney. Nodeen has a score to settle, as a previous encounter with Bonney has left him with a permanent limp.

Billy's plans for revenge are only just beginning. He breaks into McSween's store looking for dynamite to rob Murphy's bank. He is spotted by Nodeen, who surrounds the store with Murphy's men. McSween's wife is allowed to leave. McSween later comes out unarmed but Nodeen shoots him in cold blood.



**John Wayne as John Chisum  
in "Chisum" (1970)**

Chisum is alerted by McSween's wife (Lynda Day George) and rides into town as Billy the Kid. A notorious killer, Billy has been given a chance to reform by Chisum's philanthropic neighbor, rancher Henry Tunstall (Patric Knowles). Billy also falls for Chisum's newly arrived niece, Sallie (Pamela McMyler). Murphy is buying up all the stores in town and using his monopoly to push up the prices. He appoints his own sheriff and deputies. He also brings in a lawyer, Alex McSween (Andrew Prine), whose principles lead him to switch sides and seek work with Chisum and Tunstall. The two ranchers set up their own bank and general store in town under McSween's control.

Chisum tracks down Murphy and takes him on in a fist fight which ends with both men falling from a balcony. Murphy ends up impaled on steer horns. With his paymaster dead, Nodeen flees, with Billy in pursuit.

The film ends with Garrett taking over as sheriff and it is implied that is settling down with Sallie. It is learned that General Lew Wallace has become governor of the area. With law and order restored, Chisum can resume his iconic vigil over the Pecos valley.



“**Young Guns II: Blaze of Glory**” is a 1990 western film, and the sequel to *Young Guns* (1988).

It stars Emilio Estevez, Kiefer Sutherland, Lou Diamond Phillips, Christian Slater, and features William Petersen as Pat Garrett. The renowned actor James Coburn plays John Chisum. It has a similar setting as the 1970 “Chisum” film but the perspective is totally different.

It focuses heavily upon the life of Billy the Kid (played by Emilio Estevez), in the years following the Lincoln County War in which Billy was part of “The Regulators” – a group of around six highly skilled gunmen avenging the death of John Tunstall – and the years leading up to Billy’s documented death.

The film, however, is narrated by Brushy Bill Roberts, a man who in the 1940s appeared claiming to be the real Billy the Kid.

While the film takes some creative license, it does show some of the main events leading up to Billy’s documented death, including his talks with Governor Lew Wallace, his capture by friend-turned-foe Pat Garrett, his trial and his subsequent escape in which he killed two deputies.

Whereas the 1970 film cast John Chisum as a traditional western hero, this same John Chisum is a member of the emerging Arizona elite and is portrayed as a relatively unpleasant rancher who confronts Billy the Kid and his ‘Enforcers’ unsuccessfully. The film’s portrayal of Chisum signifies a new generation of Westerns where distinctions between right and wrong and between bad guys and good guys is far less clear cut.

### **So What do these Movies Say About Us?**

All the films that have Chisholms in leading roles were produced in America. All of the Chisholm

characters are portrayed as being relatively successful in the roles that they play.

Our historic functions in society accurately show our Roman Catholicism (Keys of the Kingdom) and our highland roots (Brigadoon) as well as the tremendous successes of Chisholms in the cattle ranching business (Chisum & Young Guns II), which accurately goes far back into our highland roots.

One wonders if the high regard of the Chisholm movie characters might have something to do with the important role of the Canadian Jack Chisholm who played an important role in early Hollywood as discussed by Benni Chisholm in the 2016 issue of the *Clan Chisholm Journal*.

While the Chisholm movie characters bring out important aspects of the history of us there are other aspects of our history that have not been portrayed in the movies. For example, many, many Chisholms have served in the armed services and our heritage as a Scottish highland clan means that military violence and valor is almost ‘written in our blood,’ but I could not discover a war film with a Chisholm character.

Finally, all the films with centrally important Chisholm characters have Chisholms as males. Yet there have been very famous Chisholm women such as Caroline Chisholm the famous 19th century Australian known as ‘the emigrant’s friend,’ or Mairi Chisholm of Chisholm who is definitely a unique war hero and also the founder of the Clan Chisholm Society, or Mary Chisholm the daughter of our Twenty-Third Chief, Alexander Chisholm of Chisholm, who had raised the Clan and brought them to Erchless Castle to prevent their being cleared from our historic clan lands.



**James Coburn as John Chisum in “Young Guns II” (1990)**



**What Might Have Happened? Speculations on the Fate of the Chisholm Family If the 1745 Rebellion Had Been Successful**

**By Derek Chisholm**

The defeat of the Bonnie Prince Charlie, and his Jacobite army comprised mainly of certain highland clans, including the Chisholms, at Culloden on the dark, cold, wet and windy, Wednesday of April 16, 1746 was an important turning point in British history. It was the last full-scale armed rebellion in Britain that was motivated and executed to achieve a significant change in the governance of Britain through the restoration of the Stuart dynasty. It was a seditious attempt to seize power by military force.

In response to the 1745 Jacobite Rebellion Britain withdrew its army from the European continent, where it had been involved in the War of the Austrian Succession, which lasted from 1744 to 1748. Although 18<sup>th</sup> century wars were much less devastating than 20<sup>th</sup> century wars, the 1745 Rebellion has some superficial similarities to the Easter Rebellion in Ireland that occurred in April 1917, which only lasted for about a week. Like the 1745 Rebellion the promised German support for the Irish Rebellion never materialized and ultimately doomed the Rebellion. The brutal suppression of the Easter Rising stimulated widespread sympathy for Irish independence from Britain, which eventually led to the creation of the Irish Republic in December 1922.

The Battle of Culloden terminated the rebellion against the dynasty of the House of Hanover that had begun in August of 1745 with Prince Charles Edward Stuart's raising of the Stuart standard at Glenfinnan. Unlike the preceding Jacobite rebellions of 1715 and 1719 the conclusion to the 1745 Rebellion at the Battle of Culloden was a horrific, total defeat.

The Highland clan Chisholm had actively participated with the Jacobites in their unsuccessful 1715 Rebellion. After the collapse of this rebellion the property of Roderick Maclain Chisholm of Chisholm (21<sup>st</sup> hereditary chief) at Erchless, Comar, Breakachy, Glencannich and Invercannich had been forfeited to the British crown. However, in 1725 Chief Roderick procured a pardon and his property was restored to him in 1727. Roderick's Maclain son (Roderick of Comar) was a Colonel of about 80 Chisholm clansmen in the Jacobite army of Bonnie Prince Charlie. The Chisholms were on the left side of the Highland line with Clanranald on their right and the MacLeans / Maclachlans on their left. Colonel Roderick of Comar was killed early in the battle at Culloden and only about 50 of the original 150 Chisholm clansmen in the Jacobite army survived. Yet two other sons of Chief Roderick: James Chisholm and John Chisholm, were captains in the Hanoverian army that defeated the Jacobites at Culloden. There must have been some challenging moments at Roderick Maclain's dinner table in the Summer of 1746!

The horrific consequences of the end of the Jacobite rebellion at Culloden for the Chisholms occurred in the aftermath soon after the battle. Many of the wounded and dying Highlanders on the battlefield were cruelly slaughtered by the triumphant Hanoverian soldiers. Throughout the remainder of the Spring and early summer of 1746 the Hanoverian army ravaged the Highlands in a futile attempt to find Bonnie Prince Charlie and to punish the highland places where the seditious Jacobite army had drawn its soldiers. The punishments often involved burning the homes and stealing the livestock of the Highlanders. The Chisholm clansmen suffered for their prior allegiance to the Stuart cause.

The 1745 Rebellion was the last attempt to achieve a significant regime change in Britain by and through an armed rebellion. After the Rebellion Top of Form

the British government passed laws to dismantle the clan system in the Scottish

Highlands ending most Jacobite support in the Highlands. The [Act of Proscription 1746](#) outlawed traditional Highland dress. More importantly for the long-term social structure of the Highlands, the feudal relationships and heritable jurisdictions which underpinned the power and authority of clan chiefs over their clansmen were abolished by the [Heritable Jurisdictions \(Scotland\) Act 1746](#), which removed from Scottish Highland chiefs their [heritable jurisdictions](#). Prior to the 1745 rebellion not all subjects of the King were under the jurisdiction of royal courts either at local or central level. Instead they were answerable to a complex of hereditary jurisdictions in the hands of the Highland chiefs. The execution stone in Strathglass near Struy may be a remnant of this feudalistic legal system. Though resented by the crown, the feudal system had provided cheap, quick local justice. It was abolished after the 1745 rebellion.

After the Culloden defeat, Bonnie Prince Charlie trusted his life to eight of his followers, of whom three were Chisholms. When the Prince left from the west coast towards the Hebrides and exile, Hugh Chisholm shook hands in farewell. He vowed never to shake hands again and is said to have kept his vow to his death at a ripe old age.

The 1745 Rebellion was a disastrous failure for the Stuart dynasty that had important consequences for the Highland Chisholms. What has happened to us over the last 261 years was shaped in part by the abysmal failure of the 1745 Rebellion. While it is very speculative, the possibility of a Jacobite victor and Stuart restoration is worth considering because our judgements of what did happen implicitly make strong judgments of what did not happen.

If two important events had turned out differently the Rebellion might have succeeded. First, if France had provided a significant military contribution to greatly strengthen the Highland Clans in England, as was expected, instead of the 500 Irish 'piquets' and the Royal French Scots that were landed in Scotland the Highland Jacobite army would have had a fighting chance against the three Hanoverian armies that were mustered against it in England. The Highland Jacobite army had not suffered any serious defeats up to Decem-



because a Stuart restoration to the British throne would likely have made Britain a less forceful nation within Europe and probably politically and economically weaker than France.

Second, the restrictions on the wearing of kilts and tartans would not have occurred because they would never have been passed. The identification of the kilt and tartans as the distinguishing features of Scotland would not have had to await until the Waverley novels of Sir Walter Scott and the Romantic idealization of Scottish history, which came after the conclusion of the Napoleonic wars in the next century.

Third, the legal discrimination against the Roman Catholicism, which furnished the religious identity of the virtually all Chisholm clansmen would have undoubtedly have been eliminated much earlier than in 1829 when the British parliament passed the *Roman Catholic Relief Act*. The *Test Act* of 1661 excluded Roman Catholics from a wide range of government offices. Chisholms had played a role in the governance of medieval Scotland such as William Chisholm, Bishop of Dunblane, who was sent by Mary Queen of Scots as a special envoy to the French monarch in the Summer of 1567 to explain her policies to Charles IX, who was the King

of France. Exclusion of Roman Catholics (and virtually all Chisholms) under the *Test Act* of 1661 from positions of authority in Britain or in Scotland would have likely ended with a restoration of the Stuart dynasty in 1746 or 1747.

These favourable developments for us rest on the assumption that the restored Stuart monarch, who would have been King James VIII of Scotland and King James III of Britain, would have governed Britain or Scotland both wisely and prudently. Based on the precedents of his father King James VII of Scotland / James II of Britain, wisdom and prudence were not notable characteristics of the early-modern House of Stuart. Also, the question whether a Roman Catholic monarch could have effectively ruled a religiously polarized Scotland in the 18<sup>th</sup> century is almost impossible to answer.

The most perplexing and difficult question for Canadian Chisholms that emerges out of the failure of the 1745 Jacobite rebellion relates to a 19-year old Captain in the Hanoverian army who was at Culloden on that dark, cold, wet and windy, Wednesday April 16, 1746, alongside Captain James Chisholm and Captain John Chisholm. This 19-year old Captain was none other than the individual who became General James Wolfe, who died 17 years after the Jacobite defeat at Culloden, as the victor of the Battle at the Plains of Abraham.

Little is known about Captain

Wolfe's role at the Battle of Culloden, but he remained in Scotland in the Spring and early Summer of 1746. He probably participated in at least some of the cruel pacification measures of that period. Yet he also conquered New France and this conquest laid an early foundation stone for Canada. It is not beyond the realm of possibility that if the 1745 Rebellion had succeeded there would not be any Canadian Clan Chisholm because there would not have been the Canada that we have flourished in over the last 150 years!!