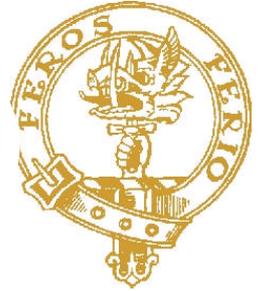




Clan Chisholm Society NZ

Newsletter # 40 March 2007



Editor's note:

Happy New Year to all readers.

In the last issue you may recall that I included a relationship chart, to help you sort out how various people are related to each other. One reader came back with a query. "The obituary of James Baird Chisholm, son of the Auckland colonial settler Robert Chisholm esq., ex Edinburgh, claimed that his grandfather was Sir Walter Scott's first cousin. How can the chart help sort this out?"

This led to a flurry of activity and research, and led both the questioner and myself on a merry ride right across the heart of the original Chisholm homelands, and this issue of the newsletter attempts to share some of the ride with you.

The Borders, and the Border Chisholms, are a somewhat slightly neglected part of our folk lore annals. The International Journal of 1999, under the editorship of Roger Chisholm-Batten, covered this topic in splendid fashion, and was used as a resource for some of the articles.

Chisholms worldwide tend to fall into 4 categories when they reflect upon their ultimate heritage.

Some can point to a likely origin in the Border area of Scotland. Many can trace their genealogies back to Strathglass, though often find them evaporating into the Scotch mist which seemed to cover the Highlands during the late 18th-early 19th century. A third group can not trace their last known Chisholm ancestor beyond somewhere in England, be it Yorkshire, Northumberland, or London. There is a sizeable group of Chisholms in North America, descendents of the first wave of emigrants prior to the Jacobite risings, and also of Clansmen captured during the troubled times and transported as prisoners. For this group the paper trail runs cold, often somewhere in the eastern states of the USA, with South Carolina being popular. Connection with the original homeland has been lost for so long for so many of these folk, that spelling variations of the name have crept in, giving us names such as Chisum and Chism.

A DNA project may help unravel some of these genealogical mysteries, and a good start has been made on this.

But it is the first group on which we focus in this newsletter, The Borderers, from the ultimate origin of the Chisholms.

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Calendar of Coming Events

Clan Gathering and AGM
New Lynn Community Centre.
Saturday April 28 2007
from 10.30 am- 3.30pm
and evening event to be advised



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Some of the tunes:

Music varies between band, accordion, pipes, whistle & fiddle, and vocals.

Ceud Mile Failte

The Old Chisholm Trail

Miss Chisholm of Chisholm

Highland Laddie

Erchless castel

The Ceilidh Song

Lament to William Chisholm

Ross's March to Strathglass

Highland Wedding

And many others

Limited Edition of CD now available in New Zealand. But only from Clan Chisholm Society!

Susan Chisholm of Chisholm has kindly arranged for this CD of highland tunes with a Chisholm flavour to be made available for NZ members. Price \$20.00, available from John Ross. Great for yourself, and also for that special birthday or Christmas gift.

Three essential documents on one CD now for sale

William MacKenzie's History of the Chisholms, The Wilfred Medlam Files, Chisholm Genealogies written by UK Clan Genealogist Bob Chisholm. This contains corrections and additions to both the Medlam Files and MacKenzies work as well as a couple of controversial articles. The big advantage of the CD is that the documents are hyper linked which makes searches that much quicker. It costs £12-00 + £2-00 p&p Profits go to the CCS Renaissance Fund .

Only a few copies available, contact the editor if you are interested.

MISLAID OR LENT

At either the Wellington or Christchurch Gathering, in 2004 or 2005, Audrey showed a video called "A celebration of Kilmorack Beauty" which is no longer in the Chisholm archives. Can anyone help here?

Acknowledgements:

Thanks to the following for contributing to this newsletter:

Audrey Barney, John Ross, Barry Chisholm Clan Chisholm Int Journals (Ed Roger Chisholm-Batten)

The Clan Chisholm in Australia (Ed Carolyn Chown) Chisholm Pioneers in Colonial NZ ed Audrey Barney .

Michael Robson; "Surname and Clansmen, Border Family History in Earlier Days"

Sir Walter Scott: "The Lay of the last Minstrel"

Jim Chisholm (A .Barney, A&J Evans, A. Jones) Various Websites as noted within articles, in particular:

The Beshara Organisation for providing information on Chisholme Estate, and Matt Rodger for his wonderful journey down Borthwick Water , the Border Reiver websites, and the Celtic Goldsmith website.

From the President

Dear Clan Chisholm people

Greetings. Here's wishing you a marvellous year ahead in 2007. Let's hope that many of you will be able to make it to the national Clan Gathering in Auckland on 28 April.

You'll doubtless have received the flyer from Robert, about this gathering, and about the possibility of getting your own DNA tested, as a way of tracing back what part of Scotland your ancestors came from (if you don't already know). It's a fascinating business; and the more of us do so, the more informative it will be. While it would be too costly for the Clan Council to put money into, they are happy to encourage individuals to have the test done.

For a longer, broader view of ethnic origins, may I recommend a book by Bryan Sykes, *Blood of the Isles: Exploring the Tribal Roots of our Tribal History* (London [etc.]: Bantam Press, 2006). Sykes and his colleagues tested many thousands of DNA samples from many parts of Britain and Ireland, looking at mitochondrial DNA for maternal ancestral origins, and at Y-chromosome DNA for paternal ancestry, and related their findings to what was already known about European 'tribal' DNA.

What they found everywhere was a high degree, especially along maternal lines, of descent from the earliest inhabitants, the Picts, or Celts, who turn out to have the same genetic origins (with subsequent divergences), with later arrivals adding to rather than displacing the basic stock. Within Scotland, degrees of Viking origins are especially strong in Shetland, the Orkneys, and down the Western Isles. All the same, the real interest is in the detail, and especially in the exceptions.

For Chisholms, some have origins in the Border counties, and others in the Highlands, in the catchment area of the River Beaully (Glen Affric, Glen Cannich, and thereabouts). This could be a way of discovering this much, at least, for your own ancestors.

We have made an offer to the Clan Council to host the 2010 International Clan Gathering, in Dunedin, as our most Scottish city. The Dunedin area has plenty to interest visitors. We will see in due course whether this offer will be taken up.

With every good wish John Ross (President)



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This newsletter is produced for swift and economical electronic distribution in full colour. A black and white edition is printed and copied for all of our postal subscribers. The newsletter is distributed free of charge to all members of Clan Chisholm Society NZ, to Clan members on the International mailing list, and to several research or genealogical organisations.

The Last of the Border Chiefs

Clan Histories tell us of the first ever Chisholm on written historical record, John de Cheseholme, 1254 AD, in the middle border march of Roxburghshire. We also know that following the death of the seventh chief, also named John de Chisholme, a dynastic struggle ensued. The crisis was because John died, leaving an only daughter, Morella, who had married Alexander Sutherland of Duffus. When the dust had settled, Morella and her husband received an extensive variety of scattered landholdings, John's second brother Alexander took the Strathglass estates, and the youngest brother Robert succeeded to the original family possessions in Roxburghshire, and became the progenitor of the Border Chisholms. This was around the year 1436, and we need to wind the clock forward 463 years to see what became of the last Chisholm in the direct line from Robert de Chisholme. We are looking at John James Scott Chisholm, a successful career soldier, late of the 5th (Irish) Lancers. He was selected to be the Colonel of a newly formed regiment raised from local volunteers in Johannesburg "The Imperial Light Horse" (ILH), the Boer war was imminent. Let us read a small part of an account of the war written by one of the young doctors who served in the medical corps. He is describing the feelings and events leading up to the first set piece battle of the war, the charge at Elandslaagte, on October 21 1899.

Some at least of the men were animated by feelings such as seldom find a place in the breast of the British soldier as he marches into battle. A sense of duty, a belief in the justice of his cause, a love for his regiment and for his country, these are the common incentives of every soldier. But to the men of the Imperial Light Horse, recruited as they were from among the British refugees of the Rand, there was added a burning sense of injustice, and in many cases a bitter hatred against the men whose rule had weighed so heavily upon them. In this singular corps the ranks were full of wealthy men and men of education, who, driven from their peaceful vocations in Johannesburg, were bent upon fighting their way back to them again. A most unmerited slur had been cast upon their courage in connection with the Jameson raid--a slur which they and other similar corps have washed out for ever in their own blood and that of their enemy. Chisholm, a fiery little Lancer, was in command, with Karri Davis and Wools-Sampson, the two stalwarts who had preferred Pretoria Gaol to the favours of Kruger, as his majors. The troopers were on fire at the news that a cartel had arrived in Ladysmith the night before, purporting to come from the Johannesburg Boers and Hollanders, asking what uniform the Light Horse wore, as they were anxious to meet them in battle. These men were fellow townsmen and knew each other well. They need not have troubled about the uniform, for before evening the Light Horse were near enough for them to know their faces.....

.....And now amid the hissing of the rain there came the fuller, more menacing whine of the Mauser bullets, and the ridge rattled from end to end with the rifle fire. Men fell fast, but their comrades pressed hotly on. There was a long way to go, for the summit of the

position was nearly 800 feet above the level of the railway. The hillside, which had appeared to be one slope, was really a succession of undulations, so that the advancing infantry

alternately dipped into shelter and emerged into a hail of bullets. The line of advance was dotted with khaki-clad figures, some still in death, some writhing in their agony. Amid the litter of bodies a major of the Gordons, shot through the leg, sat philosophically smoking his pipe.

Plucky little Chisholm, Colonel of the Imperials, had fallen with two mortal wounds as he dashed forward waving a coloured sash in the air.

A more sobering account of the same event, recalled many years later.....

Concealed in the trees on the northern crest of the horseshoe ridge are another two monuments; one to the men of the Imperial Light Horse who died storming the main Boer position there, and another to their command-



ing officer, Colonel John James Scott Chisholme. This rocky ridge runs south for some 350 yards, before dipping into a deep, grassy hollow, and then rising up again on the far side to form a plateau which then bends away to the west to form the bottom end of the horseshoe; in all, about 3 miles long.

Drive around over the railway crossing, past the Naval Cemetery, and turn left, following the battlefield signs. This dirt road will take you over the neck with the low ridge and

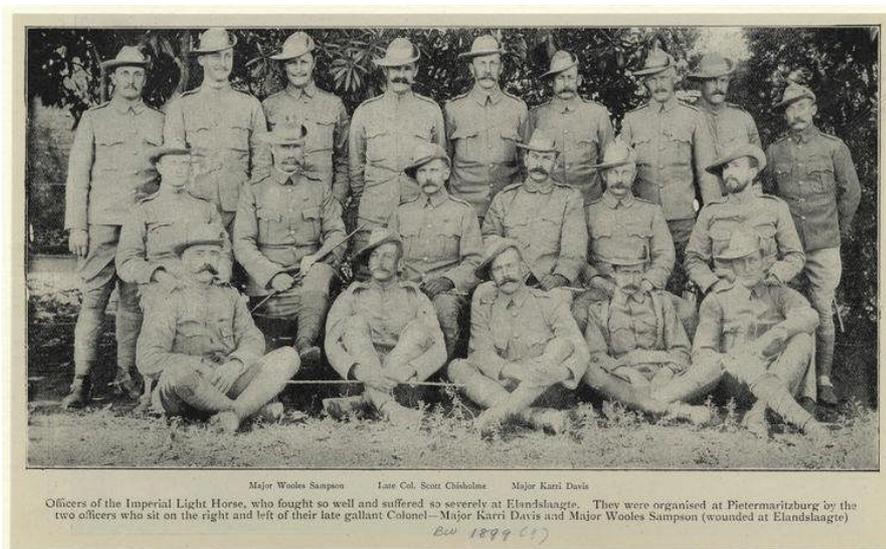
kopje on the left, and the higher ridge on the right. Some 100 yards further on, on the right, one will see the main battlefield cemetery where the names of 13 Imperial Light Horsemen, 26 Gordon Highlanders and 14 troops of the Manchester Regiment who died in the battle are recorded on the monuments.

As the infantry attack began, Colonel Scott Chisholm of the I.L.H. refused to maintain a passive role as a spectator and approached General French. French asked him "What do you want to do?" Chisholm replied "I want to take that hill!" French answered "Very well, take it!"

The Colonel then proceeded to do just that, his position being marked by his orderly carrying a red pennant. Colonel Hamilton remarked that it was a splendid sight to see Jabber Chisholme's "little red rag going on and on."

Colonel Scott Chisholme stopped to bandage a wounded trooper, and was shot in the ankle. He waved his men on, crying out "My boys are doing well! My boys are first!" He was carried to cover by Troopers (Dick) Turpin (who survived the siege of Ladysmith only to be killed later on in the war serving in Marshall's Horse) and C. Lamb, who was severely wounded, losing a leg. However, it was to no avail as he was shot shortly afterwards in the chest, and then in the head, and was killed.

Colonel Chisholme had been married to the army, a lancer all his life, following in the traditions of his border baron forbears: John de Cheseholme who rode with Robert Bruce, Sir Robert de Chisholm who fought and was captured at Nevilles Cross, George Chisholme who



Officers of the
 Imperial Light Horse
 Inset: Col. Scott Chisholme

fought with Scott of Buccleach at Melrose, attempting to wrest James V from the control of the Earl of Angus, Walter Chisholme who was actively engaged on Mary Stuart's behalf during the civil wars of her reign, and his grandson Walter who was a staunch royalist during the civil war, and no doubt many others involved in various raids and feuds during the Reivers era. He had no brothers, he left no sons, the last man in an unbroken line of descent since the vast Chisholm estates underwent the three way split. The Border holdings, first at Borthwick, and later at Stirches, have long since been sold out of the family, but somehow, somewhere out there, there must be an heir male to this line who may be entitled to be called "The Chisholm of that ilk". Could it be you? Christian Anderson Chisholme who lived in the first half of the 1800's was the Colonel's great uncle; is he in your family tree?

And that young doctor who described the battle, he served throughout the Boer war, capturing the stories from the wounded soldiers, and publishing later his book "The Boer War". He received a knighthood for his medical services in the war, but became rather infected by the writing bug, and branched into crime and detection. He was Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.

The Border Reivers

While the Chisholm(e)s are not noted as one of the major reiving clans, such as Armstrong, Graham, Douglas, Kerr, Robson, Percy, Scott, Maxwell, Johnstone, it's most likely that some of them dabbled to some degree. It would be a reasonable assumption that they tucked themselves under the wing of their big neighbour, Scott of Buccleach, perhaps joining in cross border raids, or siding with Scotts during feuds. We have evidence that Chisholm rode with Scott at the Battle of Melrose, and some evidence crops up in the writings of Sir Walter Scott. The subject of The Border Reivers is far too large to cover in this newsletter, there will be



many hits if you google this name. Try borderreivers.co.uk and www.reivers.com

The writings of the likes of Sir Walter Scott, and the passage of 400 years since the end of the era, may have given a rather romanticised view of Border life. The reality was rather more harsh: life for these people in that place during those times was often nasty, brutish, and short. Their contribution to the English language includes words such as bereaved and blackmail, do you get the picture? "Bereaved" was often what you were if you had a visit from the Reivers, Blackmail (blackmeal) was your "tax payment" to help ensure that you did not receive a visit.

The short version goes something thus:

The lowlands and borders had reached some form of civilization under the later Kings of the Canmore dynasty. The untimely death of Alexander III, compounded by the loss of his granddaughter, the Maid of Norway, plunged Scotland into a succession crisis.

Longlegged Edward I, fresh from the conquest of Wales, saw his chance to exercise suzerainty over the entire island of Britain. He butted in to the Scottish crown selection process, and threw John Balliol the hospital pass. Robert Bruce, who had shown himself perfectly willing to grovel to Edward, now took this opportunity to indulge in murder most foul and seize the Scottish crown. He also made the same offer that Edward made to the Scottish nobles, and it is clear that de Cheseholme took up Bruce's offer (all or nothing) and renounced the signature he had affixed to the Ragman's roll in 1296. It was game on, and for 300 years the wars raged between England and Scotland, and did not end until one of the Bruce familie's descendents, James Stewart VI, assumed the English crown in 1603. During those 300 years the border regions were often laid waste by invading armies, and it was thus difficult to set up a system where peaceful commerce could reign. The king's law could not rule, the Border Law took over. Cross border raids were encouraged, but feuding between clans on the same sides of the border was common, as was feuding within different branches of a clan. Some snippets of border life or Reiving follow:

Jedhart Justice. Hang them first and hold their trial later.

This practice was not quite as barbaric as it would seem today. Almost all of the prisoners who were thus hanged were known to be established criminals who had repeatedly offended. They were executed because of their complete record and reputation rather than for any one particular offence. Also, witnesses were much more likely to come

Jedhart Justice (cont.)

forward and give evidence if they knew that the accused was dead.
That is indeed practical!

Muckle Mou'ed Meg Young Wat of Harden lived with his family in the Yarrow valley. He was a handsome young man, well liked by his peers. Like so many men of his day, Wat was not averse to a bit of reiving, and from time to time, he brought home welcome additions to his family's stock. Sir Gideon Murray lived at Elibank Castle about 15 miles to the north by the Tweed. He was locally renowned for the good quality cattle he bred. One day, Wat mounted a raid on Elibank, but things did not go according to plan, and young Wat found himself a prisoner in Sir Gideon's dungeon. Normally, he'd have been strung up that very day, but Sir Gideon, having recently suffered some annoying losses, decided to make the hanging of Wat a special event as a dire warning to all other potential miscreants. Arrangements went ahead, and due publicity was given to the forthcoming event. Meanwhile, Lady Murray, being most impressed with the bearing and appearance of the young man in the dungeon, felt that it was such a shame that so desirable a young man should die. An idea slowly matured in her head. Now, the Murrays had several daughters all of whom had been successfully married off, with the exception of one, Meg, the youngest. Many suitors had come from afar, showing interest in the Murray's unmarried daughter, as the Murray were a very respected family and quite wealthy. But when they saw Meg, invariably they quickly made their excuses and were off into the distance with embarrassing haste. And the reason was that Meg was ugly. Really ugly, and she had acquired the name of Muckle Mou'ed Meg on account of her huge mouth. Here was a husband for Meg, decided Lady Murray, and Sir Gideon agreed with enthusiasm. Meg's lack of suitors had been a long burden to bear. Wat was brought out of his cell and given a choice, marry Meg, or hang. Now, Wat knew of Meg and indeed had encountered her. This was a choice, he thought, he could not lightly make, and he asked to be returned to the dungeon to consider. In the dungeon, Wat considered, and the Lord and Lady of the castle anxiously awaited his decision. Life was sweet to Wat, and, weighing all the considerations, he decided that living, even with Meg, was better than dying. He chose to marry Meg. As the years passed by Meg made an excellent wife and a devoted mother. They all lived happily ever after.

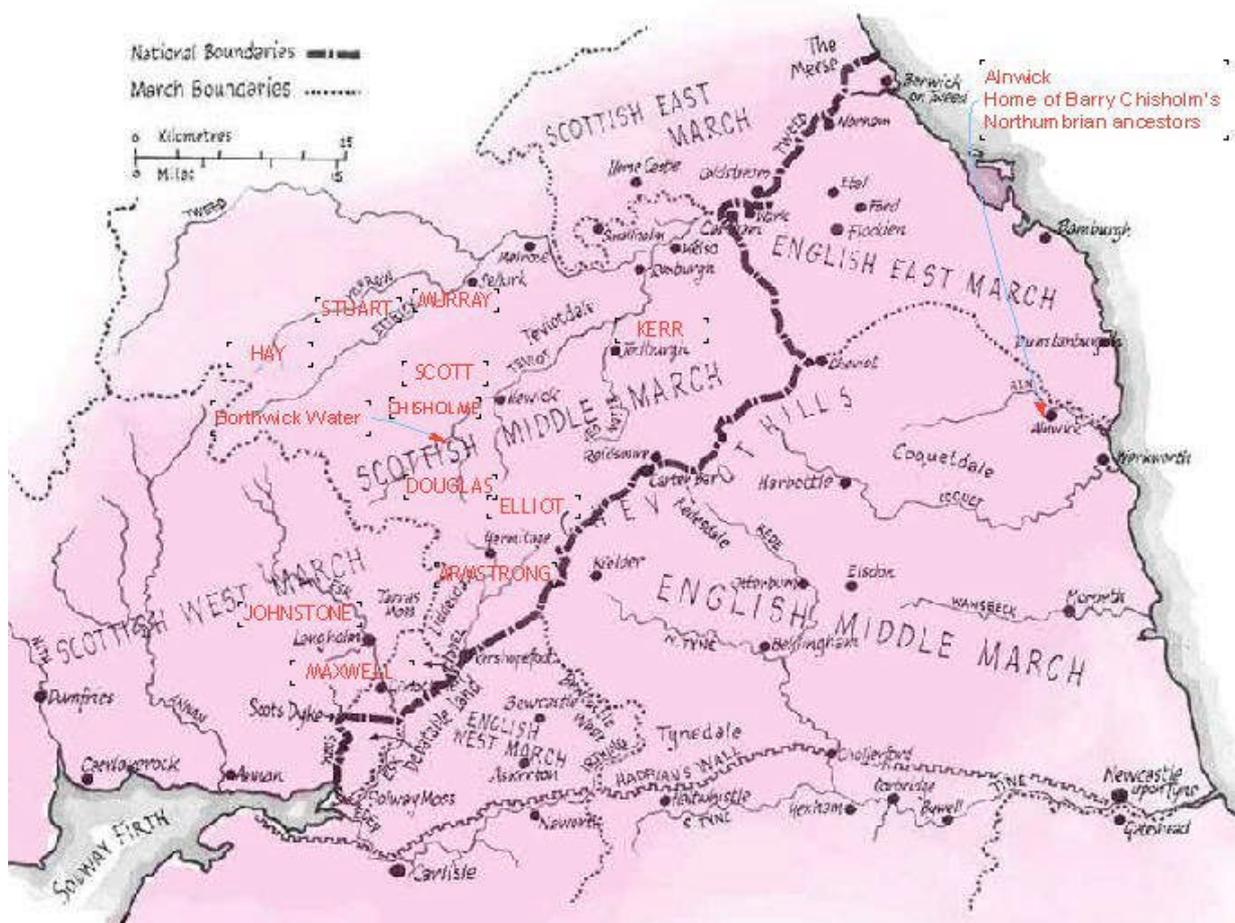
Scabbit Sheep: The River Tyne is found in England and flows east into the North Sea. It has two main tributaries, the North Tyne and the Rede, and in the valleys of these two rivers lived the most active and the most feared of all the reivers in England. These infamous people vied with the Armstrongs of Liddesdale in notoriety, and for generations were a constant threat to their neighbours, not only in Scotland, but in England, too. There lived the Robsons, the Halls, the Dodds, the Herons, the Fenwicks, the Selbys, the Charltons, the Potts and others. Their descendants still live there as they were not deprived of their land and dispersed, as were the Armstrongs in Liddesdale.

Scabbit Sheep (cont)

One day, a body of Charltons made their way by well-worn tracks, not into Scotland, but west, across the hills into neighbouring Cumberland. Reaching the territory of the Graham families, they 'lifted' several hundred of their sheep and made off for home. The journey back was a slow one, being restricted to the unhurried pace of the flock of sheep, and the need to keep to secret tracks to avoid detection. Eventually, they returned to Northumberland safely, well satisfied with a job well done. But only days later, they noticed that all was not well with their sheep, and on close examination they discovered that their newly acquired flock was infected with sheep scab and, worse, the Charlton's own sheep had become infected too. This was more than the Charltons' could suffer and, in fury, they rode off back to Graham land. There, they grabbed the first Grahams they encountered, seven in number, and promptly hanged them. Before leaving they left a warning:-

'Next time gentlemen cam to tak ther schepe, they were no to be scabbit!'

Borders Map, showing original Chisholme area, and other areas of nearby Border Families



Proposed World Heritage Park, showing the Ancient Border Marches.

For more details on the proposed park, visit www.thecelticgoldsmith.com

BARRY CHISHOLM AND HIS NORTHUMBRIAN ANCESTORS

By Audrey Barney



We all have to set limits! And so when writing Chisholm Pioneers, a Chisholm arrival in New Zealand before 1900 became the cut off point. I always felt sorry for our secretary Barry Chisholm, that his grandfather Albert, didn't arrive till the early 20th century, so his story never got written. So this year, when Barry decided to go to the Chisholm Gathering in Inverness, I determined to remedy this, by researching and writing about Barry's

family, as much as I could in the short time available.

It was already known that Albert's mother Mary had not been married and his father's name was not on his birth certificate and unknown -- that Albert had been brought up by his grandmother and Aunt Catherine, Mary's sister, while Mary worked near Cambridge, well away from Eglington, where Albert was born and raised. From censuses it was also known that Albert's grandfather George was a Master Tailor, who had set up his business in Eglington, just before the 1851 census.

From here, the mistakes began. The 1841 census is the only census that separates adults from fourteen years up into five year age groups, thus George's age as 15, was only correct within five years. An entry of a George Chisholm, baptised in 1826 in Alnwick a nearby county town, about eight miles to the south of Eglington, who was the son of Robert and Sarah Chisholm had always seemed the line which would need to be followed for George's ancestry. It was fortunate I felt that verification for George's marriage to a Mary would be relatively easy to trace, and securing the certificate, would give the accuracy for his parentage that was sought. An order to the Record office in the UK brought the news that because of demand due to the Television programme "Who do you think you are?" there was a five week delay on certificates being issued, but this was within my writing framework so there was nothing to do but press on, accepting George as the son of Robert and Sarah.

The tracing of George's background immediately became murky, as it was quickly found that at this time Northumberland, and in this area, Glendale, was very rich in Chisholms. In the end I had isolated seven different male Chisholms, including a George, born or baptised in the period 1786-1804 in Glendale County, any one of whom could have been Barry's ancestor. But who was related to whom and who were the parents of these seven males needed much more research.

The research was extensive and many families built up, particularly for Robert and Sarah, with some mysteries sorted and many others remaining. But, as has come to be expected, for these seven male Chisholms, their families used a paucity of Christian names, leading to duplication of names close in age, so it was easy for mistakes to be made. However, by the time of writing, mainly with the use of censuses, it was possible to be sure that at least four of these seven men were brothers - and landowners. This included George's father, Robert.

These four, owning land, was a surprise to someone used to researching Chisholm Highlanders, who were not able in the early 19th century to legally own land - and these Northumbrian Chisholms owned not just a few acres but 6-800 acres, employing in one case 26 men. This was providing an interesting background, I thought, for Barry as I wrote, and quite different to what I had expected.

Just two weeks before he was due to leave for Inverness, the marriage certificate of Barry's great-grandparents arrived. I had been wrong! Albert's grandfather, George was not the son of Robert and Sarah, but James and Mary!! Further checking! - Yes, like Robert and Sarah with their son baptised in 1826, James and Mary, did also have a son George, and he was baptised in 1822 in Glanton, a small village I now knew to be at the base of the Cheviot hills,

Barry's Northumbrians (cont)

also not far from either Eglington or Alnwick. The whole story had to be rewritten and gone was the interesting story of Barry's ancestors being big time landowners, and replaced by agricultural labourers, constantly on the move.

James, now known to be George's father, was the eldest of the seven men I had found baptised in the Glendale area and seems to have worked in many places locally, as farm servant, labourer, or in his last job at Moss Hall as a shepherd, but never as a land owner. He and his



wife Mary had married in Whittingham in 1814 and had had 7 children, with George, Albert's grandfather and Barry's g.g. grandfather, being child No. 3. Of their five sons, only one, Joseph, the youngest, remained as a farm worker, earning his living as a shepherd in the area he had been brought up in. Of the other four, the eldest son was a shoemaker, another a house servant, George was a tailor and one son died young.

Unfortunately with Barry's departure imminent, it was impossible to delve further into his ancestry, as there was much rewriting to be done, but these landowning Chisholms were for me, an intriguing and unusual group needing further research. When and why had so many come south across the Borders? Why? Had they actually ever been in Scotland? And of course, where did they get money to buy land?

Six months on, not too many of these questions can be answered. Not long after the Inverness Gathering, through the English Genealogist, Bob Chisholm, I made contact with a descendant of one of the landowning Chisholms, Steve Chisholm of Newcastle. He had had the same problems as me, in researching these families, and we were able to verify a lot of the work we had in common, particularly that he too, had found that as I had accepted, that four of the males, out of the original seven born round the turn of the 18/19th century were all landowning brothers. But this did not include Barry's ancestors, who were mainly about 10 miles to the south. However, since the Inverness Gathering, I have been able to verify Barry's family back another generation into the mid 18th century. Like me, Steve had found Chisholms in Northumberland records, back into the sixteen hundreds, and he, too was wondering whether these Chisholms had ever been in Scotland. The unsettled and violent history of the borderlands from before the time Chisholms were verified as being in Roxburghshire, makes this a distinct possibility.

There has been nowhere else in the United Kingdom that has had such a long and protracted period of constant violence and instability as these Anglo-Saxon borderlands. The Romans were there from round 80AD till the 5th century, when it became the area for raiding Angles, Picts and Britons with eventually the area coming under continued attack and finally settled by Norsemen. The violence continued over the three hundred years from round 1300AD till the 17th century with bitter border disputes led locally by many of the marauding families of the Border Reivers. These gangs of men, called Reivers, considered local harassment of neighbours as a way of life, and were involved at frequent intervals in neighbourhood raids, local disputes and vendettas with much cattle rustling. As well, these men had no regard for the current boundary between Scotland and England, and raids were initiated from both the south and north. The Chisholm name is amongst those listed by authorities as taking part in this Reiver in fighting, so perhaps some stayed?? On both sides of what we now know as the border between Scotland and England, just everywhere the land is dotted with magnificent castles (and ruins of), pele towers and forts dating from these days, with the boundary with Scotland ever changing and disputed, till after England was united with Scotland under the Scottish King, James VI in 1603. However it took another century till political union was achieved and their parliaments merged in 1707.

It has been widely discussed over the years from just where the Chisholms originally came from. It has been generally accepted that the origin of the Chisholms was Norman, with first verification of a Chisholm in 1254 in a bull of Pope Alexander IV when John de Chesholme is named when he married and was granted a charter of land near Berwick. Before this, it ap-

Barry's Northumbrians (cont)

pears there are no written records pertaining to Chisholms, but it does seem possible as is said in MacKenzie's History of the Chisholms, that the de Chesholmes had been like many other Normans originally in the Tyndale area of Northumberland, inland from present day Newcastle. Maybe DNA testing, which as a tool for broad genealogical background is gathering pace and authority, will give some credence to this theory.

Some known Border names :-Do any of these appear in your family tree? Note that many of the names have spelling variations which may not be shown in this list.

Ainslie, Archbold, Armstrong, Ballantine, Beattie(son), Bell, Boyd, Bromfield, Burn, Carleton, Carlisle, Carnaby, Carr, Carruthers, Chamberlain, Charleton, Charteris, Chisholm, Collingwood, Coulter, Cranston, Craw, Cresswell, Crichton, Crisp, Crozier, Curwen, Cuthbert, Dacre, Davidson, Dixon, Dodds, Douglas, Dunne, Edgar, Elliot, Fenwick, Fleming, Forster, Fraser, Gilchrist, Glendenning, Graham, Grey, Hall, Halliday, Harden, Hedley, Henderson, Heron, Hetherington, Hislop, Hodgson, Hogg, Hume, Huntley, Inglis Irvine, Irving, Jamieson, Jardine, Johnstone, Kerr, Kilpatrick, Kinmont, Laidlaw, Lindsey, Little, Lowther, Maitland, Maxwell, Medford, Milburn, Moffatt, Moffat, Murray, Musgrave, Nixon, Noble, Ogle, Oliver, Orde, Percy, Porteous, Potts, Pringle, Radcliffe, Reaveley, Reed, Riddell, Ridley, Robson, Routledge, Rutherford, Salkeld, Scott, Selby, Shaftoe, Simpson, Sommerville, Stephenson, Storey, Swinton, Tait, Taylor, Telfer, Trotter, Threipland, Tudhope, Turnbull, Tweedie, Veitch, Wake, Watson, Wilson, Woodrington, Yarrow, Young.



DNA Project Update by Robert Chisholm

The project has certainly taken off, with a membership now of 11. Anne O'Regan has taken the plunge and is the first Chisholm girl from anywhere down under to take the test. Who is brave enough to join her?

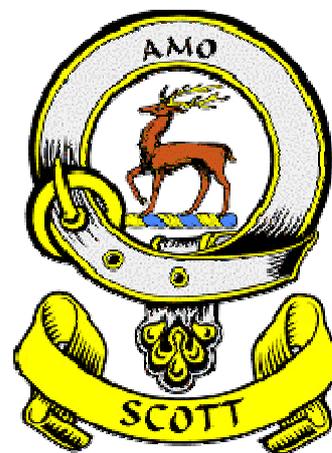
A third cousin of mine from Canada has also joined, someone I would never had known if it wasn't for Clan Chisholm and in particular, Audrey Barney. Along with our three original Americans, this brings the mitochondrial DNA section up to

five, plenty of room for more women wishing to check out their maternal ancestry.

In the men's corner, the number has steadily grown. I was the first to enrol, and to date, my results are the only ones fully available. Margaret Whitford's brother, Sonny Chisholm signed up shortly after, and his results are filtering through as I write. Sonny has been kindly sponsored by his nephew, Peter Barron. Since then there has been a Northumbrian, a New Englander, a Borderer, and an Englishman well known in Clan circles, Bob Chisholm, the UK genealogist. His genealogical knowledge will certainly be a boost to the project when the time comes to start interpreting results and looking for match-ups. But of course for meaningful conclusions to be drawn, Clan Chisholm needs to be like many of the other Clans out there, with a much wider database. More men are needed to sign up and mark out their branch of the Clan. While it's helpful if you have a long pedigree, it's not essential, DNA may help you write a long pedigree. An analysis of the first 6 results will be available by the time of the AGM on 28 April, and will appear in the next newsletter. In the meantime please consider how you can contribute to the wider knowledge of the Clan. There is always a time for giving, and that time is now! Contact me for details or check out www.familytreedna.com and search for "Chisholm project". It's an international project: we have New Zealand, English, Canadian, and American members of the project. We need you as well!

The Scotts of Teviot and Borthwick

As most Highland Chisholms would find their families and histories linked in some way to Frasers, so it was in the Borders, but to a greater degree, where the Chisholmes were inextricably linked with the Scotts. The Scotts were one of the largest and most formidable of the Border Families, and they surrounded the Chisholmes. Not far to the south of the Chisholme estate on Borthwick Water was Branxholme House, on the upper Teviot, home to the Duke of Buccleuch, Chief of the Scotts. Read Matt Rodger's reminiscences later in the newsletter and you will find that the watershed between Teviot and Borthwick formed the boundary between the Chisholme Estate and Branxholme. Immediately to the east



were the Whitehaugh Scotts and to the North was the Ettrick Forest, hunting grounds of the Scotts. Opposite the Parkhill farm part of Chisholme, on the north bank of Borthwick Water, were the Scotts of Harden. To the west, at the head of Borthwick Water, was Bellendean, the gathering place of the Scotts when the call to arms went out. The slughorn, slogan, warcry of the Scotts was "A Bellendean", and it was very likely that some Chisholmes would have joined the various Scott families and allies as they rallied up-river at Bellendean. While it seems clear that the Chisholmes themselves were not major players in the Reiver era, one can infer that they were reasonably steadfast allies of the Scotts. The close connections of Chisholmes with Buccleuch and the Scotts is wonderfully documented by Michael Robson in his book "Surname and Clansmen, Border Family History in Earlier Days." This book is essential reading for all those with an interest in Chisholmabilia, and can be obtained on loan from Audrey, or possibly via your local library service.

Sir Walter Scott, Edinburgh born, spent many childhood times in the borders. Unable to get about as easily as the other boys, on account of lameness, his misfortune became

literature's and Scotland's gain. While his legs rested, his ears and mind worked overtime, listening to the old border tales as recounted by his aunt and grandparents, storing them, to one day re-surface in his poems and novels. "The Lay of the Last Minstrel" is an epic poem, with the centrepiece being the love affair between Margaret Scott, the Flower of Teviot, and Henry, a son of the Cranston family, and a match apparently not approved by the recently widowed Lady Buccleuch, the Duke having been assassinated by the Kerrs in Edinburgh High Street. A Romeo and Juliet story long before Shakespeare's version. In the notes to the second canto, Scott reveals some of the sources for his historical information and we find that on 25 June 1557, some 200 gathered in warlike array, for the slaughter of Sir Peter Cranston out of ancient feud and malice prepense. Amongst the accused were Walter Scott of Synton, and Walter Chisholme of Chisholme, and William Scott of Harden, where they were bound jointly and severally that Sir Peter Cranston, his kindred and servants, should receive no injury from them in the future. Upon the 20th of July following, Scott of Synton, Chisholme of Chisholme, Scott of Harden, Scott of Howpaslie, Scott of Burnfute, with many others, are ordered to appear, under pain of treason, at the next calling of the Kirk. Fortunately for Walter Chisholme, no further procedure took place, the Church of St Mary was simply burned down by the Scotts.

The nature of the feud between Scott and Cranston, is unclear, but what is known is that William Cranston of that ilk, is a half brother of Scotts erstwhile ally, Walter Chisholme of that ilk. The deadly feud with the Kerrs is however well known, and forms part of Border folklore.

In addition to events as retold in Sir Walter's writings, the Scott family was actively en-

Introduction to the Lay of the last Minstrel

Walter Scott's poem is told in a manner similar to Coleridge's classic Rime of the Ancient Mariner, in this case it is an old Minstrel who will tell the tale

The way was long, the wind was cold,
The Minstrel was infirm and old;
His wither'd cheek, and tresses gray,
Seem'd to have known a better day;
The harp, his sole remaining joy,
Was carried by an orphan boy.
The last of all the Bards was he,
Who sung of Border chivalry;
For, welladay! their date was fled,
His tuneful brethren all were dead;
And he, neglected and oppress'd,
Wish'd to be with them, and at rest.
No more on prancing palfrey borne,
He caroll'd, light as lark at morn;
No longer courted and caress'd,
High placed in hall, a welcome guest,
He pour'd, to lord and lady gay,
The unpremeditated lay:
Old times were changed, old manners gone;



Sir Walter Scott

Part of canto II

Ye ween to hear a melting tale,
Of two true lovers in a dale;
And how the Knight, with tender fire,
To paint his faithful passion strove;
Swore he might at her feet expire,
But never, never, cease to love;
And how she blush'd, and how she sigh'd.
And, half consenting, half denied,
And said that she would die a maid;—
Yet, might the bloody feud be stay'd,
Henry of Cranstoun, and only he,
Margaret of Branksome's choice should be.

gaged in cross- border warfare , and according to Matt Rodger, certainly played their part in the redistribution of cattle, in fact any beast on legs, and in particular from the south side of the border. The depot for such liberated livestock was in the Beef Tub, on the Harden property opposite the Chisholme estate.

Moving away from the borders for the moment, one can also thank Sir Water Scott for doing so much to integrate the Highlander into Scottish society. Up until that time, the Highlander was generally regarded, in the genteel lowlands, as an uncouth and savage being, speaking a rather foreign tongue and wearing outlandish garb. It was some of Scott's later novels, and in particular his dressing in Tartan kilt for the visit of King George, which helped change perceptions, and counter the prejudices which abounded.

On a political level, Sir Walter tried to influence his countrymen to forgo the nationalism of their ancestors, and embrace the benefits of the union with England, never totally accepted by all those north of the border, a matter still simmering on the agenda today.

Sir Walter Scott's ancestral line is firmly linked to the Scotts of Harden, and contains the very famous Walter Scott of Harden (Auld Wat), but he is also a direct descendant himself of the Border Chisholmes , as Auld Wat's grandmother was a daughter of The Chisholme.

To see if , or how , Sir Walter is connected to Robert Chisholm esq of Edinburgh, come to the AGM on April 28th where Audrey will reveal all.

As for the main line of the Border Chisholmes, the details of marriages in Mackenzies History of the Chisholms are very scant up until the middle of the 16th century, then several marriages with Scotts are mentioned. The inevitable conclusion was reached in 1852 when the 20th chief of the Border Chisholmes, John, succeeded to the estate of his maternal Uncle, James Scott of Whitehaugh, and assumed the surname of Scott in addition to his own. John passed both his own name and his uncle's name on to his only son, John James Scott Chisholme, and this line, along with the name, ended in the hail of bullets at Elandslaagte on October 21, 1899.

An e-copy of "The Lay of the Last Minstrel" original copy in digital format, is available on request.

The Language of the Borders: Matt Rodger's reminisces.

Just what did they speak, our Border ancestors? Their language is still alive and well to this day.

Initially it might seem a totally foreign language to the ear or eye, but with some perseverance you may be able to make some headway. Officially it may be a dialect of English, but many Lowlanders and Borderers would see it as a language in itself. Documents and texts are available on the internet, and of great interest to Chisholms would be an article by Matt Rodger, where he takes us on a journey of reminiscence, around the pre-war localities of his childhood in the Borthwick Valley, around the 1930's-1940's. Understandably the Chisholme estate and farms crop up several times, as do many of the places associated with various Scott families (see *The Borth'ick Waitter* by Matt Rodger www.scottishcorpus.ac.uk/corpus/search/document.php?documentid=1374).

Reading Matt's text, and trying to imagine the sounds of the speech, the language appears to me to be predominantly Germanic in origin. Matt accounts for some out of the ordinary words as having Auld Welsh roots, meaning the ancient Britons who lived untamed beyond Hadrian's wall. He notes phonic similarities, particularly with numbers, to the Afrikaans language, and credits this to the interaction of the old capital Berwick, with the Flemish ports over the channel. No doubt there are some Gaelic influences introduced by the Scots as they expanded their kingdom of Alba southwards. But the framework of the language certainly appears to be that left by the Angles, once rulers of a mighty kingdom stretching from Humberside to the Forth, the rump of which now forms the English shire of Northumberland. Geordies and Northumbrians would be quick to point out that their language is the closest to the original speech of the Angles, less tainted with the admixtures of Latin and French, with a dollop of Danish, which permeated the speech of their Saxon cousins in the south, and which has morphed into the hotchpotch the whole world now knows and loves as Oxford English. If Northumbrian is the number one original English, or rather "Anglish", then the Lowlands-Border tongue of the Scots could well be number two. I must admit that I would have struggled to get through Matt Rodger's story, if I did not have a good working grasp of basic German. There is a glossary at the base of the text, and NZ society members without internet access can write or phone me if they would like a written or e-copy. It's definitely worth a read. Some excerpts follow, with one or two translation attempts by me into standard English.

A mak nae apology fur furthsettin this document in oor nain Scots Tung, kis efter-in-aa, isna ane's hamelt langage thair buist, ken-merk, staump-airn an hallmerk o thair ain ethnicitie n'? Is ae maitter o fack, A wuid leifer speak ma hamelt langage than ochts ense, kis eet's i ma bluid/genes tae dae sae; an onie ithere leid soonds fremmit i ma lug. It's ma ettle throch this airticle, tae spell the names o baith fock an places, is naur is A kan tae hou ma parents, an ithers afore thum, wur wont tae pronoonce thum; an tae yaise oor Border Lallans pronoonciation o the pronouns an saiveral ithere wurd is weil. I make no apology for setting forth this document in our own Scots tongue, because after all is not one's mother tongue a stamp and hallmark of their own ethnicity? As a matter of fact I would rather speak my native language than accents, because it's in my blood/genes to do so, and any other language sounds foreign to my ears. Its my ... through this article to spell the names of both folk and places, as near as I can to how my parents, and others before them, were wont to pronounce them; and to use our Border-Lowlands pronunciation of the pronouns and several other words as well.

Tom Scott o Mulsintoun's wife wis Nannie Kirkpatrick o Chaipel Hill Ferm, wheech mairches wi the Chisholm Estate, on the waite-shed atween it an Brankholm Hoose i the Ti'iot valley. Ay, Mr an Mrs Scott hed twae bairns, Kathleen an Charles, whae ma sister an mei gaed tae the schuil wi

Tom Scott of Mulsintown's wife was Nannie Kirkpatrick of Chapel Hill Farm, which borders the Chisholm estate, on the watershed between it and Branksome House in the Teviot valley. Yes, Mr & Mrs Scott had two children Kathleen and Charles, who my sister and me went to the school with.

Jimmy's feet wur camshach (deformed) an hei hed tae weir spacialie made buits. Hei wis the Chis-

holm Estate horseman, an kis o his feet, hei hed tae aye bide on his cairt, an A've seen 'um yonner, after styin himself atweesh the sides o the cairt, on his kneis, gangin throwe some gey precarious terrain n'. It the stert o the 1939/45 War, is ae beild frae the air-raids owre Glesca, ae Mrs Helen Nelson nee' Lothian, whae wis sib tae the Brydon's, bade i the boddom cottage wi hir twae sons, Stewart an Billy Nelson, whae baith gaed tae Roberton Schuil fur ae yeir or twae, afore retournin til Glesca, i Dizember 1941. Stewart mairiet ane Australian an hes been oot yonder fur 50 yeir or sae, an Billy hes been doon England fur monie ae lang yeir, mairit wi saivrel bairns.

Chisholme 18nt. centuar mansion Hoose an policies. Mr. Bruce, a retired Banker, wis the resident laird whan A wis growin up. (A, pages 147/153). Thair wur saivrel servans i residence i the Big Hoose, an the estate manager / heid gairdner wis ae Johnnie Howe, him an his marrow hailed frae the Blairgowrie airt: thay bade i yon hoose i the steidin. Bill Jirdin, whae wroucht on the estate, bade i yon airn hoose athort the road frae Mr an Mrs Howe an Mr. an Mrs. Addie Heatlie bade i the Ludge. Addie tuik owre frae Mr Howe whan hei retired. Chisholm Hoose hes been fur ae gey when 'ear nou, awned bi the Bshara Institute. Ma faither an mei, whan A wis ae teenager, did ae gei bit o wurk on the Chisholm estate. The milieu o the place wis ay plaisant an relaxt.

Authourt the Big Hoose policies is Pairkhill ferm. Gin A mynd richt it wur Pringle the Butcher frae Hawick whae hed the tenancy o this ferm whan A kent the bit ferst. The herd wis ae Mr. Dickson, whae hed fowre or five o ae faimlie, whae A gaed tae the schuil wi. The Pairkhill bairns walkit doun owre the Bunkers Hill an owre the Snoot fit brig an than alang the road til the schuil it Roberton. Harry, the auldest i the faimlie, jyned the RAF (air crew) i the 1939-45 War, bot wis killt, gin A mynd richt, in ae training accident. A'm telt at Billy Dickson, ane o the sons, is nou bidin i Denholm, doun ablo Hawick. Ae Mr an Mrs Roedemor an faimlie, frae the Dumfrieshire airt, mued intil Pairkhill is resident tenant fermers, an wur thar fur ae gey when yeir. Mr Roedemor, whae wis glib, cuid tell ae guid storie an cuid speak on monie subjecks. Hei aince hed the pownie an trap milk roond i Copeshaw Holm, whan hei fermed de Main Holm, Kershopefit, juist doun the railway line frae the Holm, yonder.

Makkin towartis Ashkirk, alang yon back road, on yer kerr haund, juist is ee ir about tae gang forrit owre the mairch atween Roxburghshire an Selkirkshire; i the corner o the Borth'icksheils ferm hill grund; stands ae hoose ca'd, 'Blawearie'. Nou than, gin thar bei onnie bit weill naemit, yon's it, staundin yonner on the waiter shed atweesh Borth'ick an Yill Waitters: leukin doon owre the Harden hill an Harden Hoose, oot owre the boddom end o the Borth'ick Valley, richt owre Ti'iot intil Sliitrig Waitters an ay, mebbies richt owre twartis the Scottis an Englis Border. Frae the back o the hoose, ane hes ae siclik vizzie doon owre the Yill Waitter an Sheilswud, twartis Ashkirk, an mebbies the Eildon Hills ana. I ma young days up Borth'ick, Blawearie wis feklie staundin empie, gin A mynd richt.

Makkin eer wey doun twartis Harden Glen, yin suin kums til, on yer ker haund, the sindrins fur Harden Hoose an Mabonslaw. Harden is the ancestral hame o the Scotts o Harden, the praisent awner, Laird Polworth, is himsel, ae descendent o the notour Border Reiver, "Watt Scott, o Harden", whae, i 1576, marriet Mary Scott, ae dochter o Philip Scott o Dryhope, kent is the "Flouer o Yarrow".

Whan A wur ae laddie up Borth'ick, oral tradition hed eet at ae day whan Watt an his men wur abreid, herrien ither focks cattle, thay kam upo ae stack o hey an Watt wis reputit tae hae sayed til the stack, "gin yow hed fowre legs, A wuid dreive yow awa an aa, alang wi thaim bease."

When I was a lad up Borthwick, folklore had it that one day when Wat and his men were abroad, harrying other folks cattle, they came upon a stack of hay, and Wat was reputed to have said to the stack " when you had four legs, I would drive you away and all, along with them beasts."

The Scotts o Harden keepit thair herried cattle; (gey affen frae the English syde) juist ablow the big hoose; i hidlins, i whit wis, an still is, euphemistically ca'd, the Beef Tub: whilk is, i ackwal fack,

the top end o the glen; The Scotts of Harden kept their stolen cattle, (got often from the English side), just below the big house, hidden in what was, and still is, euphemistically called the Beef Tub, which is in actual fact, the top end of the glen.

....accordin til the Royal Commission on the Auncient Moniments Inventorie o Roxburghshire (1956) thar ir threi o the five mansion hooses i the waittergate, o spacial architectural intrrest, viz. Harden, Chisholm an Borthw' ickbrae.

A think it wuid bei trew tae say at the men fock wur fairlie weel domesticated, helping thair marrows oot wi sindrie chores ithin the faimlie hoose, an mebbies tae ae griter extent, the wee-man focks cuid turn thair haunds tae monie oot side jobs; sic is leukin the sheep, helping wi the lambin, hervestin the fodder fur thair kye an ither bease. I think it would be true to say that the menfolk were fairly well domesticated, helping their wives out with sundry chores within the family house, and maybe to a greater extent, the women folk could turn their hands to many outside jobs, such as looking after the sheep, helping with the lambing, harvesting the fodder for their cows and other beasts.

This last excerpt shows that you should not believe everything you read about the Reivers, the Border man was clearly the prototype sensitive new age guy.

Are you a Borderer?

Are your ancestors from the original homeland of the Chisholms? If you don't exactly know there are plenty of things to use as clues. A birthplace in a town like Melrose, Selkirk or Jedburgh is a dead giveaway. Being born in Edinburgh prior to the 19th century is a strong sign, as is having a Walter Chisholm in your family tree. Does a spouse have a typical border name, perhaps a Tait, Elliot, Scott, Moffat, Johnstone or Maxwell? See page 11 for more.

The first Chisholm down under certainly looks like a Borderer. This was James Chisholm who arrived in Botany Bay as a soldier in 1791, and went to found a great dynasty of Australian Chisholms, famous for their properties south west of Sydney, most particularly "Kippilaw" near Goulburn, and "Gledswood" near Campbelltown. He was born south of Edinburgh, his mother was a Wilson, and his son married a Border lassie, Elizabeth Kinghorne. Three good reasons to assume he was a Borderer. Medlam charts show however that James' grandfather was from Plachtaig, a Fraser estate above Beaulieu, so a that's a reminder to treat assumptions carefully.

The second recorded Chisholm immigrant in Australia, George Chisholm, who arrived in 1833, was one with a Border feel about him. All that is known about him is his birth year 1806, his wife's name, Moffat, and his profession, draper. These last two facts tip the scales towards Border rather than Highlander.

On this side of the Tasman, Adam Chisholm arrived in Auckland 1841, and his brother Robert Chisholm came in 1854, both originally from the Borders. Robert has left a large descendant base on both sides of the Tasman. Other likely ex-Borderers amongst the Chisholm Pioneers in Colonial New Zealand, with information gleaned from the book of that name by Audrey Barney et al are:

John and Barbara Chisholm from Berwickshire, who started 100 years of Chisholm farming in the Turakina-Hunterville area.

John Chisholm and sister Jessie Mains, from Midlothian, to Victoria, to Otago.

Walter & Rachel Chisholm, from Roxburghshire to Hokotika to Avondale. Walter's father James was from Hobkirk, very close to the original Chisholme estate.

The family of Benjamin Chisholm, from Berwickshire to Haddington to Dunedin.

Hugh Marshall Chisholm, from the Chisholme heartland of Hawick to Christchurch then Dunedin.

Catherine Chisholm, from Borthwick/Crighton to Michigan, and for the love of her man, back to Scotland, thence to Dunedin.

Atalanta, from Kirkudbright to Dunedin in 1858, the first Chisholm to enter "The Edinburgh of the South".

Jim Chisholm, blacksmith, gumdigger, soldier, orchardist and poet. Jim's sister Jean, father Walter and brother Walter. Not colonial pioneers, but significant characters, from Melrose in 1903 to the far north of NZ.

Chisholm Ancestral Home

The original seat of Chisholme, 6 miles south west of Hawick, on Borthwick Water, passed out of the family in the 17th century, following a number of financial setbacks, and the Border chief moved to the Stirches property on the other side of Hawick. In 1826 the Borthwick estate returned to a Chisholme, when it was pur-



chased by a descendent of the Selkirk Branch in 1826, and held till 1871.

In the 1950's large areas of the estate, including Parkhill and Woodburn farms, were auctioned off. The house itself was left without a resident owner and gradually fell into decay, and when purchased in 1973 by the Beshara School in 1973, it was in an advanced state of dereliction. There was 112 acres of land left with the house, and 100 of these were sold off to timber millers to finance an extensive restoration. In 1986 the lost acres were recovered, the timber milling operation having been a financial and environmental disaster. Further land was added with the help of a "Buy an acre for Chisholme appeal" and the estate grew to 187 acres.

Volunteers, aided by Forestry Commission grants, commenced restoration work on the land, but this was very slow going, until serious professional help was given by the Millenium Forest for Scotland programme, and amongst other things, a Millenium walk was created. This is a Scotland wide initiative involving over 80 native woodland restoration projects which seek to restore Scotland's lost forests and improve their value for people. Since 1998, large numbers of volunteers from all over the world have come to Chisholme each spring to plant trees, again purchased with the help of the MFS grant. Since 1998, large numbers of volunteers from all over the world have come to Chisholme each spring to plant trees, again purchased with the help of the MFS grant. In subsequent years the work has included 'beating up' the previous year's planting, i.e. weeding the seedlings, repairing any damage and replacing losses. To date, 17,000 trees have been replanted. All shelter belts have been, potentially, restored. As well as this, bridges and duckboards built from Chisholme timber have been added to the Millennium Walk; a small tree nursery has been established and some of the dry-stone walls (dykes) acting as boundaries have been repaired. This project, which was initiated under the umbrella of the Borders Forest Trust, has been described as 'one of the best examples of community led Millenium Forest for Scotland projects.'

Beshara School seeks to provide an education towards the knowledge of the self and the knowledge of the One, the purpose of which is conscious re-union with the Essence of existence. The Name 'Beshara' is from a Semitic root found in the Hebrew of the Old Testament, in the Aramaic of the Gospels and in the Arabic of the Quran. It means good news, the announcement of good news, and also the joy that one feels at having received good news. It can also be translated 'omen of joy', when it presages an extremely joyful event, that has not yet come about but which will at some point in the future.

It is nice to know that the ancestral home of Chisholm is now well cared for and in excellent hands, and will be so for the foreseeable future.

The building is listed Grade II with the Historic Buildings Council of Scotland, which supported the initial phase of the restoration.

For a closer look, visit www.beshara.org, where the information for this article was sourced.



Fronds of the Fern

The death occurred in Timaru on 13th September 2006 of James Maxwell Chisholm, loved husband of Fay Chisholm, and loved father of six daughters and eight grandchildren. Jim, as he was known, was the third generation of his Chisholm family to have farmed in the Pleasant Point area close to Timaru and was well known in the area for his work for over fifteen years, assisted by his wife, as a volunteer working on the steam trains, for the Pleasant Point Railway and Historical Society. As well, his wife and youngest daughter, Alison, were early members of the NZ Clan Chisholm Society.

Wedding Bells

Lorna Ryder, a current committee member, and David Ryder were two proud parents when they attended their elder son Stuart's civil marriage in southern Italy at Isolo Capo Rizzuto, to Marileno Salvo, who like Stuart has a doctorate in Astrophysics. So, as Lorna says, they can both enjoy watching the stars together. The ceremony in Italy was followed by a church wedding in Canberra. Stuart is currently working at the Anglo-Australian Observatory in Sydney.



Gracie Chisholm,
Cheerleader for
Team Megs Chisholm
in the Penrith Triathlon

Births : A pair of gr gr gr granddaughters for colonial pioneer Allan Chisholm of Breakachy:

Grace Gemma Chisholm
Born 8 Dec 2006
at Wollongong NSW
to Shannon and Kristen Chisholm
of Gerringong, NSW.



Tegan Joanne Chisholm
Born 17 Dec 2006 at Waitakere
to Kellie and Mathew Chisholm
of Waitakere City

Chisholm Family Trees

Fay White will be continuing as assistant to our genealogist in the coming year and will be looking after any New Zealand new entries. If you have any births, deaths or marriages to be added to your family tree, please let Fay know. Her e-mail address is

malcolm.a@xtra.co.nz or drop her a line at 3 Magdalen St., Tawa, Wellington.

Are you planning a trip to the Highlands, to Culloden, to Inverness, Beaulieu, and the Glens of Strathglass where things Chisholm abound. Well and good, but on your way there, or on the way back, don't forget to spend plenty of time in the Borders, Roxburghshire in particular. This is Chisholm country too, and very fine country by all accounts.

Do you have anything to share in the newsletter. Some piece of your own Chisholm family history? Something current? A local event which you think may be of interest. Perhaps a theme or a specific topic which you would like to see brought into the next edition of the newsletter. Just phone, write, or e-mail to the editor. Your feedback is most welcome.