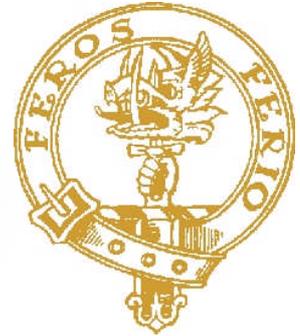




# Clan Chisholm Society NZ

Newsletter # 41 June 2007



## Editor's note:

Tradition has it that the newsletter following the AGM contains the reports delivered at the AGM and deals with any matters arising out of the AGM. Hence in this issue, we have the report from the President, some housekeeping items, a report from the DNA project, and Audrey's History speech delivered at the AGM. As the AGM was held in West Auckland, Audrey uses this fact as an excuse to hone in on Robert Chisholm Esquire from Edinburgh, one of the Chisholm colonial pioneers who has always fascinated her. I trust you will find it an enjoyable read. If there is anything you would like raised any subsequent newsletter, please write. The in-box this month has a nice letter from Douglas Chisholm of New Plymouth. This contains archival material, concerning the Clan Chisholm representation at the Kirkin o the Tartan, at Napier in 1994. There is also supplementary material explaining the stories behind this ancient tradition, and it will be included in a future newsletter.

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## AGM , New Lynn, 28 April 2007, and gathering at Orewa, 29 April.

In attendance were:

Special guest Lisa Truttman, Historian and researcher from the Avondale/Waterview Historical Society.

Angelika Chisholm, John Ross, Audrey Barney, Lorna Ryder, Harry Guitry , Tracey Chisholm, Dick Chisholm, Toni Clark, Jan Graham, Jenny Signal , Margaret Playle, Noel Playle, Alun Chisholm, Coral Chisholm, Ray Chisholm , Dianne Chisholm , Elliot Chisholm , Kirsty Chisholm, Hannah Chisholm, Frances Chisholm , Lesley Allan, Gill and Reg Kidd, Robert Chisholm.

## Genealogy with DNA



This topic is covered in several articles of this newsletter. The DNA tool is extremely useful in establishing kinship lines along the direct male line. While the project to date shows Chisholms belong to four different bloodlines, it does not, can not, show the kinship that exists because of relationships along female lines. Records show that a marriage between a Chisholm man and a Chisholm women were quite common. Thus a DNA test which shows that you are "not related" to somebody else in the clan, refers only to the ultra male bloodline, and you may be very closely related to that person via another branch in the tree. Of 512 males in the last 10 generations of your family tree, the -DNA is only specific to 10 of them. The Chisholm DNA project therefore is not a "divisive" project. It searches for some genealogical and biological truths, while acknowledging that there are so many other ways which bind us together as "clansfolk", ways which will most likely remain as a hidden treasure in the tapestry of our past.

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.

Newsletter Editor: Robert Chisholm 09 817 7131 rroberto@clear.net.nz

## From the President

Dear Chisholm Clanspeople

Our holding our 2007 AGM in Auckland on Saturday 28 April proved wonderfully successful, due to the capable organising by Robert Chisholm and his wife Angelika, and Audrey Barney, and to the very pleasing turn-out of people from the Auckland and Northland areas. Indeed, Lorna Ryder, from Dunedin, and I were the only ones from south of the Bombay Hills. The room hired in the New Lynn Community Centre, and the other facilities, were fine for our purposes.

On the Sunday, a 'family history' open day at Audrey and David Barney's home in Orewa brought together some Chisholms from Saturday's gathering, and others who had not been free on the Saturday. Everyone clearly enjoyed meeting each other. Our thanks to Audrey and David.

We had previously had very few members in Auckland or Northland, and it is excellent that quite a good number of you have joined up, on one day or the other. The future of the Society depends on gaining new members as others get older, and let's hope you can encourage others to join. Thanks very much to Lesley Allan for raising the banner in the north, and feeding the masses on the Sunday.

With our Secretary and Treasurer, Barry Chisholm, only just returned, from taking a school party to Vietnam, a few days earlier, he was not able to come, although he had provided his reports. We are most grateful to Lorna for taking over as Secretary for this meeting, and typing up the minutes.

As in past gatherings, Audrey Barney gave her historian's talk, this time about an Auckland Chisholm, printed in this newsletter. We do seriously need someone with good computer skills to take over some of the work she has been doing as our genealogist and historian.

Within the AGM proper, the existing officers and committee were re-elected, and the subscription charge was retained at the present level. A membership leaflet has been prepared and we hope to have a good stock of copies printed soon for wider distribution. Within general business, Robert explained the state of play regarding the analysis of Chisholm DNA, including his own.

On the international scale, the Clan Council has approved the holding of the next Clan Gathering at Banff in Canada in August 2008, at the time of the Canmore Highland Games. As the New Zealand Branch, we had offered to host a gathering in Dunedin in 2010, but as this would be rather soon after the 2008 event, the Council's discussion made it clear that if this happened it would need to be a couple of years later. Hence the offer was for the meanwhile withdrawn. Maybe we could organise a Southern Hemisphere gathering with the Australians, with others welcome to attend.

The 'Chisholm Chronicles' project has a new general editor, Dr Margaret Collin, based in England. The clan website ([www.ClanChisholmSociety.org](http://www.ClanChisholmSociety.org)) has a new webmaster, Bard Higgins, who has been re-designing it. Bard has been working with the Genealogy Project coordinator, James Fitz-Gerald, on linking the genealogy database to the website, although this has so far proved quite difficult.

On a quite different tack, more recently I attended the Clan Ross Association gathering in Napier, which featured, among other events, the piping in of a very fine haggis, which was then formally addressed in the words of Rabbie Burns, before being carved, and sampled, with tots of whisky or sherry. For our own next gathering, probably in Wellington, let's try to organise a haggis.

With every good wish,                      John C. Ross                      President



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(06) 357 4614. email: [j.c.ross@massey.ac.nz](mailto:j.c.ross@massey.ac.nz)  
Secretary/Treasurer: Barry Chisholm, Palmerston North .



## NZ Branch News:

### Subscriptions:

The 2007 subscription is now due. This is \$15 each individual member.

The cheque should be sent to :

The Treasurer, Clan Chisholm Society, 17 Phoenix Avenue, Palmerston North.

At the committee meeting on 19 June the following resolutions were passed:

That a leaflet be produced and distributed to Clan Chisholm Society members to help with publicity and recruitment.

That the Clan Chisholm Society NZ recognise Audrey Barney's outstanding contribution to Chisholm genealogy, by awarding a her a sponsorship to search out Joseph William Chisholm's roots via DNA. (see page 7)

That next year's AGM be held in Wellington on Saturday, 26 April 2008.

### Clan Chisholm Society of New Zealand: Election of Officers

John Ross: President, Barry Chisholm: Secretary -Treasurer

Committee: Marjory Fox ,Rhonda Hanson, Lorna Ryder.

Historian/ Genealogist: Audrey Barney , Assistant Genealogist: Fay White

Newsletter Editor: Robert Chisholm

Delegate to Clan Council: Fay Chisholm



### Ceud Mile Failte. A hundred thousand welcomes to our new members

Harry Guitry, Toni Clark, Dick Chisholm, Tracey Chisholm, Ray Chisholm, Diane Chisholm , Gillian Karl.

### 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](mailto:malcolm.a@xtra.co.nz) or drop her a line at 3 Magdalen St., Tawa, Wellington.

### Chisholm Surname DNA Project

Administrator: Alice Fairhurst. (USA)

Co -administrators: Bob Chisholm(UK), Robert Chisholm(NZ)

Committee: Audrey Barney (NZ)

Clan Chisholm NZ Branch members: Anne O'Regan, Sonny Chisholm (brother of Margaret Whitford)

Joseph Wilson Chisholm descendant

Project open to membership for all NZ Chisholm descendents, not just Clan Society members.

Project Website :

[http://www.familytreedna.com/\(lertpkmlr4f40g5513scw555\)/public/Chisholm/index.aspx](http://www.familytreedna.com/(lertpkmlr4f40g5513scw555)/public/Chisholm/index.aspx)



### Acknowledgements:

Thanks to the following for contributing to this newsletter:

Audrey Barney, Lisa Truttman ( For assistance to Audrey in Whau research)) John Ross, Barry Chisholm,

FamilyTreeDNA.com, Alice Fairhurst, Bob Chisholm (UK branch genealogist) Clan Scott Genealogical website.

# The Blood of the Clan!

[www.familytreedna.com](http://www.familytreedna.com)

Chisholm surname DNA project



*Your Clan Needs You!*

## General

Over the past few months, a group of Chisholm men have put their hands in their pockets and their blood on the line in order to launch a Chisholm Y-DNA project. Seven of the DNA test results have now been posted, and the Chisholm DNA project committee is ready to publish the emerging details. What the results show thus far is that the Clan, incorporating Highland and Border branches, does not spring from one single progenitor, but is built up of several distinct bloodlines, with no doubt more to be found.

## Purposes of the project:

To establish the bloodlines of the Chisholms.

To use this knowledge to assist in genealogical research, helping Chisholms see how and where they are interconnected, to look over that brick wall.

To help clarify the history of the Chisholms.

## Results of the Project, as at 6 June 07

	Participant	Residence	Location of earliest-known ancestor	Haplogroup	Bloodline
3	Steve	Newcastle UK	Northumbria	I1a	Viking-Danish
7	David	Northumbria UK	Roxburghshire	I1a	Viking-Danish
1	Robert	Auckland NZ	Strathglass	I1b2	Mediterranean, "Sardinia".
5	Ian	Vermont USA	St. Stephens, Canada	I1b2	Mediterranean, "Sardinia".
2	Sonny	Southland NZ	Strathglass	R1b1c	Celtic-Pictish
6	John	Florida USA	Strathglass	R1b1c	Celtic-Pictish
4	Bob	Sussex UK	Glen Covinth	R1b1c	"MacWho"?
8	Gary	Mississippi USA			Yet to be tested
9	JWC descendant	NZ	Yorkshire		Yet to be tested

## Commentary on results 1-7

The first test result came back for Robert, and it was a rather strange result, very rare DNA for Britain, and unique in Scotland, when compared to the database. When our fifth result came in, from Ian, it provided the first match up, and with 35 markers matching out of 37, a common ancestor is estimated within the last 250 years. While Ian's earliest known ancestor, Hugh Chis-

holm, is from St Stephens in Canada, DNA has now provided proof that his ancestors were from the heartland of the Highland Branch, in Strathglass. For discussion purposes, we give this bloodline the nickname "Sardinian". Within Scottish ancestry, this DNA type has only been found in Clan Chisholm to date. It evolved in the Mediterranean island of Sardinia, some time after the last Ice Age, and working out how it got to the Highlands of Scotland will be most interesting.

The second result received for the project was from Donald Peter (Sonny) Chisholm of Southland. His DNA type is matching up to a large number of people generally associated with Scotland and Ireland. His match up with the 6th member of the group, John from Florida, at 65/67 indicates a common ancestor approx 250 years ago. The DNA haplogroup of R1b is the most common in Western Europe, and accounts for the majority of the British population, but can be divided into many different subgroups. The science of genetic genealogy is advancing daily, and some recent research indicates that this bloodline could be Pictish. I wonder if it was the ancient ancestor of Sonny and John Chisholm who left the Pictish artwork at Breakachy, known to antiquarians as the "Erchless Pendant". This second bloodline will therefore go by the name of Celtic-Pictish?

The third result was for Steve. His ancestry tracks deep into Northumbria; it is unknown whether his Chisholm roots are Highland or Border, though one would suspect the latter. His Y-DNA type is associated with post-Roman invaders of Britain, and is typical of Viking ancestry, more of Danish variety than the Norwegian. David's result recently arrived, and it provided a match with Steve. David has a documented ancestral link to Jedburgh in Roxburghshire, not too far from the home of the original Chisholme. This 3rd Chisholm bloodline can be nicknamed Viking (Danish), and its entry into Britain could have been through the Danelaw in modern Yorkshire, or via the Norman conquest.

Bob's result came in fourth, and although it belongs to the same great West Atlantic R1b family as Sonny & John, it was far too different to consider that there was a common ancestor within the Chisholm era. It is also clear that although Bob belongs to the most popular Y-DNA group in Britain, within this group his particular sub grouping is relatively rare. There is a small bunch of people generally with Scottish ancestry, but has 3 Irish amongst them. They have formed an active interest group to try and determine exactly who their common ancestor was, and where and when he lived. The cross-clan interest group have nicknamed this ancestor "MacWho", and in order to help track him down, Bob has submitted his DNA for a more intensive "deep clade" investigation. As many in Clan Chisholm well know, Bob is not a stranger to genealogical puzzles, and now the science of genetic genealogy has thrown him a curly one to sort out. Until he does, his bloodline must retain the nickname of "MacWho".

## The Blood of the Clan!

### The Blood of the Clan!

Trace your ancestry, all the way back to Africa.

Join the Chisholm DNA project.

#### Notes:

Every person is a product of all their various ancestors, and these characteristics are mixed up and blended within the cell nucleus. The Y-DNA test only tests on a part of the Y chromosome, and this is handed down only from father to son, and is not subject to the normal blending process which takes place on conception. Thus, as a Chisholm male, you incorporate all the characteristics of all your various other lines, but you carry, virtually unchanged, genetic information on your Y chromosome only from your male Chisholm ancestors. The small amount of changes which do occur over time in this section of DNA, is used to determine how various ancestral lines have diverged.

Females also test for DNA, and the Chisholm project has five pioneering female members. However their testing, on mitochondrial DNA, does the exact opposite of the male Y-DNA testing, as it traces back along the ultra maternal line.

Therefore, within the Genealogical DNA testing programme, your Y-DNA can only track your father's father's fathers' etc family, and your mitochondrial DNA can only track your mother's mother's mother's etc family. What this means for a surname project such as Chisholm, it that it is the Y-DNA which provides the more useful information. Chisholm women can, and do, trace their Chisholm heritage by asking their close male relatives to test for them.

For an update on the Chisholm MtDNA project, see next page

## Chisholm MTDNA project:

As with most things to do with Chisholms, it was the women who led the way. It was Audrey Barney, NZ genealogist and historian, who prodded the NZ branch into action. When such action was undertaken, it was found that four American women had already set up the project and were just waiting for some men to join them. Alice, a member of the International Society of Genetic Genealogists, is the administrator. She also runs a number of other projects, including her own Clans of Macrae and Matheson. Genealogy is somewhat interwoven, and it turns out she is also related to Sonny Chisholm, our second male tester, via his "other side", the Macraes. Sonny's result turned up many matches of varying degrees of closeness, and one of them was a Macrae of Kintail. Students of Strathglass history will know that the Macraes of Strathglass were branched from nearby Kintail.

The first three Chisholm project members were Ann, Nancy, and Joni. Two other women joined them, Norma of Canada, and Anne of NZ. They all have Chisholm ancestry, but close kinship is not expected, as the mitochondrial DNA follows the direct female line, and this generally changes surnames with each generation.

An interesting way to distinguish the various bloodlines is to follow the lead given by Professor Bran Sykes of Oxford University, in his fascinating study of European DNA. He deduced that 95% of the population were descended from seven different women, and he named these women and called them the "Seven Daughters of Eve".

NZ Society member, Anne O'Regan, and her genetic cousin Anne of America, belong to the haplogroup "H". This group is from Helena, who lived 20,000 years ago near the French Riviera, at a time when the last Ice Age was at its most severe. This group is the most common in Europe.

Norma belongs to haplogroup "J", for Jasmine. Jasmine lived at the end of the last ice age, on the banks of the upper Euphrates in modern day Syria. It was her ancestors who developed a more settled way of existence, and her descendents brought you the idea of settlements and farming westward into Europe. Thank you Norma, and Jasmine.

Nanci's haplogroup is "T", which is particularly numerous in the west of Britain, and Ireland. Tara herself however, was a native of Tuscany, and lived some 17,000 years ago, in the depths of the last ice age.

Joni belongs to haplogroup "U", for Ursula, born some 45,000 years ago, near Delphi, at the foot of Mt. Parnassus, in modern day Greece. Ursula's descendents are well represented in Western Britain, and Scandinavia.

## Why should YOU become part of the project?

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

You can find out who your distant ancestors were, and who you are genetically related to within the clan. You can provide this information as a gift to your descendents.

Testing is not expensive relative to the nature of the scientific work involved, this is your chance to be at the cutting edge of modern science. 37 marker tests cost \$189, and 67 marker tests cost \$269 (US dollars)

Further information: Read the tutorials at FamilyTreeDNA.com, or DNAHeritage.com. Look at the DNA projects on other Clan websites, such as McLaren, Campbell, Bruce. Books available from libraries: The Seven Daughters of Eve, and Blood of the Isles (Bryan Sykes) Search for the Chisholm project at FamilyTreeDNA.com, or go direct to the joining page by clicking this link: [https://www.familytreedna.com/surname\\_join.aspx?code=Y42908&special=true](https://www.familytreedna.com/surname_join.aspx?code=Y42908&special=true) As a member of the project you will be able to join other groups, depending on what your results show up. Project news is on this page, copy and paste in your browser: [http://www.familytreedna.com/\(lertpkmlr4f40g5513scw555\)/public/Chisholm/index.aspx](http://www.familytreedna.com/(lertpkmlr4f40g5513scw555)/public/Chisholm/index.aspx)

Contact the editor for any information. The 3 page DNA project report "Blood of the Clan" is available as a separate file for you to distribute amongst family members. Print it and send to others. Download it now at [www.clanchisholmsociety.org](http://www.clanchisholmsociety.org) Spread the cost by selecting one member of your family to do the test on behalf of you all. NOW is the time, the exchange rate is very favourable, nearly 80 US cents for a dollar.

## Presentation

By the editor



A presentation was made, at the AGM, to Noel Playle, the nephew of Flt Sgt Allan Chisholm, the Spitfire pilot from Featherston, who never returned from WWII. Noel is the husband of society member Margaret Playle, who has given Audrey valuable assistance on some past projects. Noel recalls, as a

child, the family pilgrimage on Anzac Day to the Chisholm plot in Featherston cemetery, where poppies were laid in Allan's memory.

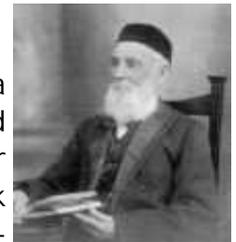
In 2006, the Year of the Veteran, the New Zealand Government made available Veterans' Certificates and Lapel Badges, and on behalf of various deceased family members, including Allan, I made application and received these awards. I was honoured to present Allan's Badge and certificate to my second cousin Noel, whose family will continue to honour the memory of their uncle, Allan Robert John Chisholm, of Featherston, in the Wairarapa.

## Genealogy Award: DNA Sponsorship

There can't be many members of Clan Chisholm NZ Society who don't have a debt of gratitude for the amazing way that Audrey Barney has helped to build up and deepen their genealogical record. This applies also to a fair few other Chisholms outside of New Zealand. Audrey has taken the foundation work done by herself and Fay, and built upon this, worked it all into the new technology, computerised Legacy files. Most recently, Audrey has researched the family of new members Tracey and Dick Chisholm from Dargaville, whose ancestral home, as known to them, stretched all the way to Braidwood NSW. Through our super sleuth Audrey, Dick and Tracey can take their Chisholm roots out of the Highland of New South Wales, back to where it belongs, into the real Highlands.

Audrey herself would dearly love to find a Scottish home for her ancestors. For many of us, we can go back into Scotland, until at some point, generally late 1700's, early 1800's, the Scotch mist descends and blocks us out. But at least we can point to some distant Turangawaewae. For Audrey there is no Scotch mist, just coal dust in the black hole of a Yorkshire mine. Joseph Wilson Chisholm's grandfather, Hugh, born about 1770, does not appear to have been born in Yorkshire. Where did he come from? The time, and his name, give the suggestion of a Highland origin. However, as UK Genealogist Bob Chisholm says, genealogy without documentation is mythology.

A motion was put to the Society executive, to the effect that in gratitude for her outstanding genealogical service to society members, the Society would sponsor a DNA test to help Audrey answer this question. This was passed unanimously, and now Audrey has the task of finding a willing male line descendent of Joseph Wilson Chisholm to provide the DNA sample, a very simple and painless scrape from the inside of the cheek. Watch this space for further developments.



## Address to AGM

Chisholms of the Whau (West Auckland) By Audrey Barney



Most of this talk this morning will be about one West Auckland Chisholm and his family's background, -- he was Robert Chisholm, born in the Borderlands of Scotland at the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century -- Robert of the Whau I call this gentleman. For non Aucklanders, the area called The Whau took in part of what is now Avondale as well as a peninsula of land just down the road from where we are this morning. Its northern end is now under the North Western Motorway, on land where our Newsletter Editor,

Robert Chisholm lived as a boy. And at the southern end one hundred years earlier we had another Robert Chisholm - Robert of the Whau. I will tell you about the early Robert Chisholm, and Robert, will tell you later about his family connection to the Whau.

The first Robert with his family of nine were the first Chisholm family to settle in New Zealand, arriving in Auckland in November 1854, when Robert was close to sixty years old.

Now why would a man of that age want to migrate to a new colony? The central Auckland area, settled for less than fourteen years, had a population of only around 4000 with another 3000 folk in surrounding rural areas. Parnell Village, where the Chisholm family first settled, was connected to the central area by a couple of miles of rough track, but already had a sprinkling of some of the more well to do in its midst. As I learned more about Robert, I recognised he was a man of substance, who had no fixed occupation from the time he arrived with his large family who ranged in age from twenty years of age to five. Not once have I heard mention in any NZ record that Robert had been a flesher, in Edinburgh. In all records he is Esq., once a farmer, another yeoman and in one of his daughter's marriage notices a landed proprietor. It was a big help to me in learning more about Robert that he was not publicity shy! Many of the records I found, were from the newspapers of the day, where he was always Robert Chisholm, Esq. This increased my interest to find out more about this Scot, and this I might add, over the first few years what was found about this family was all from written records.

About why this family came, I can venture two reasons. Firstly, it could have been for a better life for his large family. But secondly, Scottish records show that he had a younger brother Adam, and I am 90% sure that the Adam Chisholm who had migrated to Auckland in 1841, was Robert's younger brother. Like Robert, Adam had migrated from Edinburgh, was in the butchery trade, well educated, eligible to have his name on Jury Lists, and able to lay claim to a large acreage on Auckland's outskirts, and in his first few years in New Zealand was considered a trustworthy citizen. Like Robert he was a robust character who knew how to get publicity - with his name also appearing in the paper frequently - but in quite a different manner. Adam was frequently before the courts for his blatant disregard and contempt for those who challenged him, and he always ably defended himself, and had friends in the newspaper trade to make sure his concerns were published. For twenty years many of his court appearances were because of his efforts to secure title to his land. He had laid claim to nearly 6000 acres on the outskirts of Auckland when Fitzroy was governor in 1844, and after many court appearances, when the titles came through as valid, in the 1860s, Adam was a ruined and despised man, and his obituary in the Herald stated in part that :

He was a man once well known in our midst, as a substantial citizen, the owner of considerable property and an old settler. How step by step, the deceased during his life descended the social ladder until he reached the last rung of it; how at last, those who knew him in his more prosperous days, came to shun him, or failed in their recognition of the old man as he passed on his way.

I have no written evidence that these two Chisholms ever met in Auckland in the twenty years they both lived here, - in fact by the time Robert had settled, Adam, though still running a butcher's shop in Shortland St., was well on the downward path, but earlier, Adam, whose records all show him to be single, had stated in defending some charge in Court, that he desperately needed title to his land, so members of his family could migrate, and in a letter to The New Zealander in 1852, not long before Robert and family actually came to Auckland he said:-

I have those connected to me at home, who have been long looking for the settlement of my claims, that the hopes which I held out to them many a year ago, when I thought it may be realised, of settling down with me in a country which I looked upon at that time as the one which was to me my own future home and theirs also.

## Whau Robert (cont)

I'm sure he was talking about Robert and his family, but guess we will probably not ever be able to prove this conclusively.

Over the years I have researched this family, their habit of putting everything in the papers had meant I was able to write quite extensively about them in my book on Pioneer Chisholms, but last year, a chance e mail remark to "our" present day Robert led to more joint intensive searching, and established better, the background of the 19<sup>th</sup> century Robert's position in the Scottish borders.

The remark was in an obituary in 1912, for one of Robert's sons, James Baird Chisholm, which reported that "his grandfather, also Robert Chisholm, was a cousin of Sir Walter Scott". About the same time I had also heard from a descendant of Wilhelmina Chisholm, Robert's youngest daughter, who had written evidence of the same link. Over the years, I had tried to prove this, but it needed a fresh face - Robert over there, who looks on family history in quite a different way to me, as he works away at it on his computer, night after night. Eventually between the two of us, we agreed there was only one possibility - that a Chisholm male must have married a Scott female. Because of Sir Walter Scott's fame, Scott genealogies are well researched way back, but whatever Robert or I checked, we were thwarted, as in what we felt was the right generation to find that Scott female, all the Scott genealogies researched gave the male Christian names and then, the comment, plus three daughters - nameless. Robert over there wasn't going to be beaten and eventually, was rewarded by finding a website with a printout of a London Gazette for 1870, in which there was an article stating the many genealogical inaccuracies which had been accepted by Sir Walter Scott's biographers. The article quoted from Thomas Halliburton, Sir Walter Scott's maternal great grandfather, who obviously years previously had been annoyed at these inaccuracies, and gave the full parish register entries relating to the generation of Scotts with the unnamed daughters we were looking for. Bravo - Robert! This proved the case that yes, Robert Chisholm Esq. of the Whau's paternal grandmother, Jean Chisholm nee Scott, was the sister of Sir Walter Scott's father, so Robert of the Whau's father and Sir Walter were first cousins!

But there is quite likely a second connection, as yet unproven, through Robert of the Whau's mother, Nelly Tait. Her mother was Betty Scott who married Robert Tait. Where this Betty Scott fits in with other Scotts we don't yet know. But for Robert Chisholm of the Whau's family, it does seem to have been important that they were closely related to the border Scotts who were titled for generations and could be traced back many more generations till before the 1500s.

Unfortunately, we can not trace the paternal ancestry of Robert Chisholm of the Whau, with the same degree of accuracy. Chisholm, too was a well respected and old name in the Border lands, going back to the 1200s, with the main families seeming to live within a small area centred round Melrose, but how or if, Robert of the Whau is related to the main line has not yet been discovered. He was certainly born in the right area.

Our Robert of the Whau was the second son of Robert Chisholm and Nelly Tait and was born in Melrose in 1797. As a young man he moved north to Edinburgh where he became involved in the meat trade, It was probably through her father James Baird, also in the meat trade that he met his wife, Isabella, and they were married in St. Cuthberts, Edinburgh in 1833 when Robert was 36, Isabella, 25. On the marriage certificate, Robert's occupation is given as a flesher, and Isabella's father is a skinner.

Eight years later, at the time of the 1841 census, the Chisholms were still living in the St. Cuthbert's area and Robert was still occupied as a flesher, and had the help of a live in servant to look after his three eldest girls, while Isabella, his wife had taken the toddler, Robert, their eldest son, and gone home to Mum, presumably visiting before the birth of her fifth child, fittingly called James Baird after his maternal grandfather. Isabella's father, the skinner, is now of independent means and living on a farm run by two of his sons in West Lothian.

Ten years on, at the time of the 1851 census, our Chisholms are now the parents of nine children with the youngest Wilhelmina just a year old. Robert is still a flesher, with his own small business employing one man and two boys, and Isabella has a house servant. But certainly you wouldn't place him

## Whau Robert (cont)

from this as a well to do successful business man.

The Chisholms at this time would certainly have been in the planning stage to move "down under". Their selection of a ship to sail on, was the Hurricane, a new iron clipper sailing ship launched in 1853 in the new shipping yard of Alexander Stephen and Sons, a long established family shipping firm, recently moved to the Clyde, near Glasgow and the ship was built to carry migrants to Australia. These clipper ships were renowned for their beauty, grace and speed - they were long and slim, with a streamlined hull and three very tall masts. On this voyage, the Hurricane only carried 129 adults and 40 children, and on the passenger list, Robert described himself as a 46 year old merchant, when he was actually 57! The ages of the rest of the family were similarly understated. He has similarly underestimated his age in every record I have seen, where age needed to be given. The family sailed from Greenock on the 13<sup>th</sup> May 1854 and arrived in Melbourne 79 days later in the middle of the winter. Unfortunately I haven't been able to find anything about this particular voyage.

Whether it had been Robert's intention to stay in Victoria is not known, but from trips known to have been made from New Zealand to Victoria and return in subsequent years by his eldest girls, and the subsequent marriages of two of his daughters, Helen and Margaret to English born Clergymen in Australia, it seems almost certain, they must have had family or contacts there. It seems unlikely that in that era, young girls of good family would have been left behind alone in Victoria as well as later, travelling backwards and forwards to Victoria from New Zealand without parents or chaperone, if they had had no purpose or folk to stay with.

Whatever, the Chisholm parents stay in Australia was a mere four months. Unfortunately, the passenger lists in the New Zealand papers when they arrived from Sydney in Auckland, just stated Mr. and Mrs. Chisholm and family, as Unassisted immigrants, so it is uncertain if all, or which of their elder daughters did come to Auckland with their parents in November 1854. Seems from records Helen, the second daughter, came briefly, as six weeks after her arrival records show she is on the William Denny going back to Sydney. There is another record of her arriving back in Auckland in 1857 and being accepted into St. Andrews Presbyterian church, where the register showed her previously belonging to the Melbourne Free Church. Margaret too didn't join the church till four months after her parents, so maybe she, too had stayed on in Melbourne. As for Isabella, their eldest daughter, there is no evidence of her joining any NZ church, though eventually she married an Anglican clergyman in a Presbyterian church. The family's trip from Sydney to Auckland was once more on a new boat built in 1853 in the Glasgow shipyards - the William Denny, which was a very different boat from the Hurricane. In addition to its three masts and sails, it sported a funnel and was fuelled by a coal burning engine, which burned 15 tons of coal a day! For the passengers there was not only a spacious poop deck, but a 60' saloon, lined with imitation maple with gilt mouldings and scrolls, and there were handsome marble water stands, a well stocked library - and a piano. The saloon had skylights of "rich stained glass" and close by on the same deck were 12 two berth cabins. Immediately below them were four compartments each holding eight bunks for the second class and below that the steerage passengers existed on the Chisholm's trip, next door to 50 head of cattle and eight horses One guess where the Chisholms were located! For their passage on this grand new ship the Chisholms paid £26 each.

The William Denny had been bought by the Auckland Provincial Council four months before the Chisholms sailed, specifically to hasten the delivery of the English mail from Sydney and was the first ever intercontinental steamer to service Auckland. It provided a monthly schedule Sydney to Auckland usually making the trip in seven days.

To have a ship arrive regularly with mail from home was of great importance to the young colonial town and on its first arrival in Auckland the previous July, there had been great celebrations:-

"On the following day, the populace, to celebrate their good fortune, went wild. An after-

noon down the harbor was arranged....From 11 o'clock the decks of the William Denny were clustered with admirers and every ship in port had a display of bunting. Gunpowder was not spared. There were gentlemen attired in their best suits, ladies in gay costumes with parasols, parading up and down the length of the ship...With 400 on her decks, the William Denny moved away to the music of her own guns and those of the surrounding ships. The melodious strains of the band of the 58<sup>th</sup> regiment, who were also on board, came floating down the harbour, as the ship steamed swiftly and majestically down the flashing waters of the Waitemata."

(Wilkinson, J. D. Early NZ steamers. P49-50)

A week after the Chisholms arrived, the William Denny again celebrated with similar ceremony on a day's visit up to Mahurangi and Kawau, again accompanied by the 58<sup>th</sup> Regiment Band. I wonder if the Chisholms joined the throng?

The life they began to lead in this young Auckland town leaves much to conjecture. With the 58<sup>th</sup> English Army Regiment garrisoned in Albert Park, and with its Band ready to play at any celebration, Auckland's small population had developed a lively social life with many functions at Government House, but to my knowledge to date, nothing has appeared in print about the Chisholms joining these social activities.

Over the twenty three years Robert lived in Auckland, there are records over the first fifteen years, of his living in both Parnell and on the southern edge of the Whau peninsula, but it has not been possible to discover just where the Chisholms mainly lived. It looks more likely that a home in Parnell which is usually designated as leasehold in records, was probably at first, their main residence, while the freehold farm on the Whau was at first probably run by a manager and in the 1870s, was probably Robert's main residence.

Parnell Village by the time of Robert's arrival was still sparsely populated, and only connected to the central area by a rough track and a new bridge at the base of Parnell Rise. This would be the Chisholms' way to St. Andrews Presbyterian Church in Symonds St, which along with daughter Margaret they had joined soon after arrival. Robert seemingly leased the land in Parnell he built on, but in only one case have we found just where this occurred. In 1863 he leased for fifteen years from the Hulme family, a piece of land just off St. Stephens Ave, just behind Hulme Court, the well known historical Parnell landmark, where he built a large two storey home which still stands today. But five years later he assigned the lease on this house to the Rev. Robert Burrows and moved on. I think this is when he probably built his new house on the Whau. Parnell would have suited the Chisholm family in their first Auckland years, as they still had four school age children, and the Rev. John Kinder had started a Grammar School, under the auspices of the Anglican Church, just up the road at the corner of Ayr St.

After his arrival at the end of 1854, Robert wasted little time in gaining a foothold in his new country. Within eight months of landing in Auckland he was laying claim to 200 acres in the country—on the Whau - just down the road from here. On the strength of this ownership, he qualified for a vote in 1855 and he also had his name on the Jury list for Auckland by 1858

His land on the Whau, although a mere 10km from the city centre, was much more isolated and difficult to reach than Parnell, and over the first fifteen years of his residence, it is not known if he had a house here or how he managed his land. It is documented that in 1874 Robert had recently built a large home just above Heron Park, Waterview, which with its elevated site would have looked over the top of the increasing number of brickworks on the far side of the Whau Estuary to the Waitakere. The road from central Auckland was a long rough track pretty much following the line of the present day Great North Rd, and was not until the seventies that the road was properly formed and metalled as far as the Point Chevalier corner where the Whau Lunatic Asylum had been built, and was not till after Robert died that a formed metal road extended along in front of his property. A trip from Auckland along this route throughout his lifetime was practically a day's journey. As early as 1859, a group of St. Andrews parishioners, finding the distance to town too great to attend religious activities, had made moves towards establishing a Presbyterian church in the area, and what was to become St.

Ninians was opened debt free at Easter 1860. It is not recorded that Robert played a role in its establishment, but being a St. Andrew's member and having a church handy to his farm would have been important to him - and he had the money to assist. With new moves to improve local government, new Road boards were established and in 1868 the Whau Road Board was set up. Robert became a member, but there seems some query about his not paying his rates and he didn't continue his membership.

A rail trip to town would not have been possible either. Although the Auctioneers marketing his property in 1882 proudly acclaimed his Rosebank Estate was "two to three minutes walk to the Whau Railway station". This station and this line didn't open till more than two years after Robert's death.

So that only leaves access by water - which was the way most of the produce from brick and tile works on the West bank of the Whau River travelled out, as well as the wool from the farms on the peninsula, and where supplies both for the farmer and the industrial firms were brought in from Auckland. From as early as 1852, when the first brick works were established, the waterways of the Whau creek were a boon to the growing number of brick and pottery works being established. Cutters, scows, barges and punts created a busy scene on the river, while in the summer; a ferry steamer would call in to take residents for a picnic to somewhere like Brown Island or Rangitoto. Dr Aitken, Robert's neighbour across Rosebank Rd. had a jetty out into the Whau, and it is possible Chisholm used this to ship out his wool and meat or he may have even had his own jetty on his property in the area now called Eastdale Rd. It seems then that travel by water was probably the most used and easiest way to reach Auckland when Robert was active in the area.

Records seen to date seem to point to Robert leaving Parnell and moving to live fulltime on the Whau by about 1870 by which time he had erected a big handsome house, facing the Great North Rd, with that extensive view talked of earlier. This was the time also he had been elected to the new Whau Road board and improvements to the state of the road were being started. But his elegant new house was not to last, being destroyed in April 1874 by what the newspapers of the day called "a suspicious fire". Robert had just returned to nearby fields from having his lunch when the fire was first seen. It spread so quickly, that he, who was living alone in the house and his man were only able to save a few blankets. What made it suspicious? - Newspaper reports mentioned that Robert had locked the backdoor when leaving after lunch, - not usual in the country, - his wife and daughters were away on a long term visit to their eldest son in Timaru, and most of the valuable furniture had been removed from the house the previous week? To add to this, none of the neighbours came to help. " he was not a general favourite in the neighbourhood" says the local Paper. Nothing further has been found as whether or not a house was rebuilt on the site, but the following year, in March 1875, Robert was warned in the weekly NZ Gazette, that if his land remained unoccupied, it would be bought back by the Crown, which seems to indicate that he was no longer actively farming his property, but then, when he died a couple of years later, the death notice in the Herald indicated that "his funeral procession would leave the Whau for the Symonds St. cemetery ". So another mystery.

By the time of Robert's death, other than his married daughter, Jessie Horton, the rest of the family had left Auckland. Of the three sons, Robert Alexander by 1859 as a 20 year old, is known to have been working in Christchurch in the BNZ and was appointed at the age of 23 to set up the first BNZ in Timaru. James Baird, the second son, also very early became a South Islander, being employed as a printer in Dunedin before 1866. In his Dunedin days, both his sisters, Jessie and Isabella, seem to have spent a lot of time with James and both married from his home. John William, the third brother, was also a Bank of New Zealand man, who was working in Dunedin at the time of his father's death, but must have come back to Auckland soon after as he died in Auckland at 35 of chronic pleurisy a few years after his father. John seems to have suffered poor health, and had been excused duty in the army at the time of the land wars in the 1860s.

In fact, it seems that other than their two youngest girls, Mary and Wilhelmina, none of the family lived with their parents for long after they arrived from Scotland. Two of the elder girls, Helen and Margaret as noted above, probably didn't spend much time in Auckland at all, with Margaret marrying a Presbyterian minister in Melbourne in 1861 and Helen marrying a Congregational minister in the same town in

April 1867. Although shipping records show some of the girls attended the Australian weddings, to date no records have been found to show that the parents ever crossed back to Australia, or that Helen and Margaret returned to visit New Zealand after they were married. Jessie, the fourth daughter, married in early 1867 in Dunedin where she had been living for nearly two years, presumably housekeeping for her single brother James Baird Chisholm. But Jessie must have also spent time with her brother Robert and his family in Timaru, as it was there that she would have met her husband-to-be Alfred Horton, who had set up the Timaru Herald, a few years previously. Alfred and Jessie later came to Auckland where he produced the Southern Cross and later amalgamated his paper with the Wilson brothers', New Zealand Herald, forming the well known Auckland firm, Wilson and Horton. It seems Isabella, the eldest girl also met her man in Timaru where he had been teaching science, before moving to Dunedin and becoming ordained as an Anglican Minister. Thomas Stanley as an Anglican Minister moved around the South island and the young couple also had time in London before settling in Gore. Isabella also spent time before she married living in Dunedin, probably with her brother James, and it was from his house she was married in March 1868. It was another twenty years before the youngest of Robert and Isabella's daughters married a Wellington wine merchant, John Hill Jack. She was Wilhelmina Tait Chisholm and she and her mother and sister Mary had been living in Wellington at least since the time of Robert's death. Mary, the second youngest of the Chisholm girls, remained a spinster and seems to have regularly moved around the country all her life, finally dying in the Jubilee home in Christchurch in 1936. She was buried in the Bromley Cemetery in Christchurch, with her gravestone noting she was 61 years of age. A Christchurch index I read had the comment that her nephew, a son of James Baird, snorted, More like 81, but in actual fact her age was 89. Like her father before her, stating her correct age was not a strong point. So this Chisholm family quickly became one that was well spread around the country.

As would be expected of a man owning land, when Robert died, there was a will - and a complex one it turned out to be. He turned over all his affairs to a group of eleven executors, who were the Manager of the Bank of New Zealand, two Insurance Managers, three Presbyterian ministers, a farmer, another banker and John Logan Campbell, the father of Auckland. As Trustees, they were required to turn all his shares and personal assets into cash and invest for five years, at which time, the two youngest girls, Mary and Wilhelmina, were to be given £500 each and then the surplus to be divided between all his living children. There was nothing left to his wife. As to his real estate on the Whau: - that was to be leased out for twenty-five years on a yearly rental and the income over the years to be invested "wisely". After the twenty five years were up, the land was to be sold at public auction, and presumably the whole estate wound up with the proceeds to be divided between all his living children, and the children of any of his children who had died.

Isabella, his wife, who was not mentioned in his will, lived on in Wellington with daughter Wilhelmina for another ten years. Her will was a simple document, in which she gave all her daughters still living the proceeds of all the shares she held in Wellington companies, and to her two youngest daughters, Wilhelmina and Mary, the residue of her personal property. The two boys were not considered.

What went wrong over Robert's grand plans I know not. But within six months of his death, all the Trustees bar two, John Murray, a banker, and George Pierce, an Insurance Manager, had resigned. As in other wills I have researched, there is no indication of Probate, other than a letter from John Murray, which indicates that his preliminary guess was that the value of the estate was likely to be about £46,000. And then five years after his death, not twenty five years, his land was all sold by the two Trustees mentioned above. Why Robert's wishes were not observed I know not.

This was a very important sale for the growing city of Auckland. According to Robert Stone, a man who has written much on early Auckland, starting in the sixties, it had become the thing to build in the suburbs. It gave you social standing and many handsome residences in spacious park-like land had been created. By the early 1880s there was a heavy demand for more such land and prices increased very rapidly. The sale of the Rosebank estate of Robert Chisholm was looked forward to as a benchmark to establish value in the western areas. To quote from the NZ Herald of July 6 1882: -

"Sometime before the appointed hour, the auction mart was crowded with intending bidders and land speculators who remained till the very end of the sale, every section being disposed of. The farm sections [of 5-22 acres] ranged as high as £40 per acre...It was stated yesterday that all the buyers were bona fide investors, and among them were some of the oldest settlers in the district, who were considered to be good judges of land, and what could be realised from it in crops. In a very short time these purchasers will make a change to the aspect of affairs at Rosebank as buildings will be erected, fencing completed, and cultivation commenced at an early date. The township lots were in great favour and varied from half to  $\frac{3}{4}$  an acre, and one section was run up to £100, leaving an unsatisfied demand. The whole estate was cut up into some 80 sections, and offered unreservedly. The sale realised close on £9000" .

Mary, Robert's spinster daughter, was the only one of the family who either bought or was granted land, owning an 11 acre section of land next to the lot where her father had built round 1870. Whether she built on it or it had a house on it when she bought is not known. In the 1882 auction it was valued at over £400. This was eventually sold to Sir Alfred Jerome Cadman, the Auckland Central MP, in 1903, and this particular Chisholm family departed West Auckland for many years. However, some of Robert's descendants are back in the west and here today.

To the best of my knowledge it wasn't till the early 20<sup>th</sup> century that any more Chisholms came into this immediate West Auckland area - they were Walter and Rachel Chisholm, also from the Scottish Borders, with Walter having been born in Southdean, near Hawick in the early 1830s. He was the eldest son of James Chisholm and Janet Brown, who had married in Hobkirk, close to Southdean in 1830. James, Walter's father, was an agricultural labourer and the family seemed to have moved round regularly within the area. By the time of the 1851 census, James and wife Janet with a family of four were living about five miles to the east of Southdean at Mossburnford. Walter, now aged 17, was working away from home, living on the large estate of Henry Elliot of Westerhouses, Chester, only a mile or two from his parents. He was living in the estate stables along with two other farm hands and gave his occupation as a molecatcher!

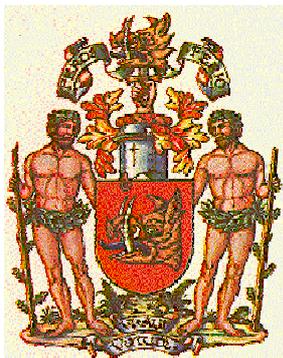
This was a long way from the Whau, now called Avondale, and Walter was to travel far before reaching this destination. He paid his own fare to sail from Liverpool for Melbourne in May 1854 on the maiden voyage of the three-masted, American built clipper, the Red Jacket. For the next thirteen years he worked in Victoria, during which time in 1863 he married Rachel Graham, who was Irish and had had an assisted passage to Victoria in 1860 as a nurse. They married in Carisbrook, Wedderbourn, a small gold town no longer existing, north west of Ballarat. At the time of their marriage, Walter was working as a mail contractor. As in his New Zealand years, he worked in a job supporting the gold mining community, rather than in gold mining itself. After the discovery of gold on the west coast of the South Island, Australian miners flocked across the Tasman. Ships sailed directly from Victoria to the west coast and two years after the beginning of the gold rush, Walter and Rachel followed, having sufficient finance to pay for cabin accommodation on the Alhambra. They set up home in Hokitika, by this time a fairly stable sort of community, and bought a home in Sale St., close to the town centre, where as far as is known they stayed for the twenty-plus years they lived on the Coast.

Records of the era show Walter to have worked at different service-type jobs within the town, but his chief dedication was to the local Methodist church, where he taught Sunday School, was a Poor Steward and a Chapel Society Steward. It was here in Hokitika that the Chisholms only son James spent his early years, after, according to the records, having been born in Richmond, Melbourne. It must have been during a trip back to Australia, as his birth was 14 years after the family left Victoria. But when James was about ten, the Chisholms moved north to Mauriceville, just north of Masterton. The minutes of the Hokitika Circuit of the Methodist Church expressed their sense of great loss at their going. Walter and Rachel set up a general store in Mauriceville, and as in Hokitika they became pillars of the Methodist Church, he taking on the roles of local preacher, Sunday School Superintendent and church Trustee, with Rachel being involved in welfare work.

But age was catching up with the Chisholms, and with son James now married and able to take over the store, the decision was made for Walter and Rachel to retire to Auckland. The accolades from the Mauriceville church community were as loud in their praise of the Chisholms' work as Hokitika had been. The occasion was marked by presenting the Chisholms with a magnificent hand-drawn plaque in gold, black and red, now in family hands in Australia. So after 15 years in Mauriceville, Walter and Rachel arrived in Auckland, and came out west in 1905, interestingly finding a home on the edge of the old Rosebank Estate of Robert Chisholm in Princes St. - now called Elm St. Walter was past 70 when they arrived yet immediately took up duties with the local church. Unfortunately he only had five years here, dying suddenly after taking a turn and falling on his walk to church. He was buried in St. Ninian's church, the 1859 church which had been established by the Presbyterians of St. Andrews in Symonds St.

James, Walter and Rachel's only son, who had recently separated from his wife and young daughter, came up to Auckland to live with his mother. He soon remarried, to Annie Brockenshaw, and he and his new wife after a couple of years with Rachel moved to Ellerslie, where James was a horse trainer. James and Annie had four children and moved to Campbell Rd in One Tree Hill, where till recently Chisholms still lived. When Rachel died in 1921, she too was buried in St. Ninian's, and this family of Chisholms also left the area.

16 years later, a new Chisholm family moved to the Whau. This was Nellie Chisholm, widow of Alexander Chisholm who had died in the 1918 flu epidemic, and her three children, Cathy, Bruce, and Jack. After Alex's early death, Nellie and the three children had returned to the Wairarapa, where grandfather Allan settled them into a house in Greytown. In the mid 1930's, Cathy returned to the bright lights of Auckland, and the others came shortly after. This was at the height of the depression, and as there were no jobs around, the family adopted the traditional Highland resourcefulness by establishing a small vegetable garden on the very flat and fertile volcanic soils of the Rosebank peninsula. They were very successful in the circumstances, and were able to later purchase a large acreage at the northern tip of the peninsula. This land was reduced down to 32 acres once the North West motorway was constructed. As you hit the small section of land between Pt Chev and Te Atatu, just remember that you are driving over the old Chisholm potato patch. Up until the early 1960's the northern part of the peninsula remained a rural backwater almost in the heart of the city. The harbour bridge could be seen, and the TEAL and RNZAF aircraft were visible and audible just over the water, yet buses would not dare drive down Patiki Road, such was its rural condition. On the Chisholm garden were plantations of Karaka, the remnants of former Maori occupiers coming down from Owairaka, and a large stand of tall, original, native bush, including Taraire, no longer common in Auckland. In the name of progress, and with the blessing of the Auckland City Council, all the fertile earth was scraped up, the trees clear felled, and the sterile industrial wasteland which you see today was created. Three of this Chisholm family remain near the Whau today: David to the North in Waimauku; Jim very close by in Glen Eden; Robert to the south near Titirangi.



### Personal Arms of The Chisholm

On the left is the personal coat of arms of our Chief Hamish, 33rd Chief of the Clan Chisholm. It is important to note that it is specific only to the Chief Hamish.

Clansfolk are entitled to use the Clan Crest as shown on the right.



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.

Editor's Note re Robert Chisholm of the Whau:

It was great that one of Robert's descendants, Frances, could attend the AGM. Here she was presented with a chart showing the Sir Walter Scott side of her pedigree, and a rather impressive pedigree it is as well. Included on it were some of the notables of this part of Scotland, the Campbells of Silvercraig, the Halliburtons who owned Dryburgh Abbey. One special character was "Auld Wat" the bearded Walter Scott of Harden, famous during the Reiving days.

Further back in the pedigree is a daughter of the Border Chisholme, wife of William Scott of Harden.

Another of the tales which persisted in the Whau Robert family was that they were related to The Border Chisholm family, and it is true because of the connection with the Chisholme daughter via the Scott line. However I believe that this connection would have been far too remote in time, and in generational distance, for Whau Robert to have made such a claim. A closer connection might be via his earliest known ancestor, gr grandfather William Chisholme. Now this William spelt his name with an e, and had his son Robert (Whau Robert's grandfather) married off to a daughter of the Scott-Halliburton family, people with long pedigrees who would surely be looking for a suitable match for one of their daughters. A younger son or nephew from the ancient Chisholme family of Roxburghshire might be appropriate. Documentary evidence of this assumption is unlikely to exist. Whether or not Whau Robert's family was related to the Border Chisholmes may be a question which could ultimately be answered by the Chisholm Y-DNA project. It would be a great gesture if this family could arrange for a participant into the project.

Pedigree:

