

Clan Chisholm Society NZ

Newsletter # 45 December 2008



Editor's note:

Christmas 2008, Seasons greetings to all readers. The prominence of Venus, with Jupiter nearby in our Skies at the moment, has a Bethlehem-esque quality about it. The 12 day journey of the Magi, guided by the star of Bethlehem, is recalled by guest writer Marcey Hunter in her article on the 12 Days of Christmas, to be found, naturally, on Page 12. Turn back to page 10 and you will see a tribute to a bright star of Clan Chisholm, Wilf Medlam. The last page is dedicated to our Canadian Cousins, who just could not wait till December 25 to organise a celebration. In between, are a variety of articles which I trust you will find an enjoyable read over the festive season. Our wonderful Historian Audrey has taken some time out, as she attends to her dear husband David, who has been in poor health recently. The

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entire clan is wishing you two the very best, and more, for this Christmas. I have written the History article for this issue, although "written" may not be the correct term. I have simply plucked a few stories from Alexander McKenzie's' History of the Chisholms, and attempted to simplify them somewhat. I have picked on three important personages, all bearing the same name, but living through very different times. Colin Chisholm I of Knockfin saw out the penultimate stages of the Clan system, Colin Chisholm IV of Lietre fought his way through both of the Jacobite uprisings, 1715, and 1745. Colin Chisholm VII of Lietre became a legend in his lifetime, and beyond, for his encyclopaedic knowledge of Highland, Gaelic, Strathglass, language, customs, traditions, poems, and genealogy. Enjoy the read.

30 April 2009

Celtic Festival
Chisholm Gathering
Standing Stones Park
Glen Innes NSW



Quiz: This cowboy (right) was not seen recently riding on the Chisholm Trail, but was spotted many miles further north, in the Canadian Rockies.

Who is he?

Answer on page 14



www.australiancelticfestival.com

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From the President



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President's Report

Dear Chisholm people

Hope your Christmas/Hogmanay prospects are shaping up congenially.

Hope too that a goodly number of you will get to our 2009 Gathering, which will be on Easter Saturday, 11 April, in Dunedin, at the St Clair Presbyterian Church Hall, 51 Albert Street, St Clair (more precise details as to how to find it will be in our next newsletter).

Starting at 10am, with socialising, then more structured things from 11am, lunch at 12, then from 1pm, AGM formalities, including various reports, etc., going on to about 2.30 or 3pm, finishing with afternoon tea.

From then till the evening, free time, but people might like to visit the Chinese Garden, in lower Rattray Street, or Olveston House, a fine old house full of beautiful things. From about 6.30pm, dinner at the Speights Ale House, Rattray Street, preceded by a tour of the Speights Brewery, from 5pm, for those interested (there's a small charge for this).

We are hoping that a reasonable number of out-of-town people will stay around for all or most of Sunday, and there are quite a few things you could do, including a trip to the Albatross Colony by land or boat. For some, this could expand into a more extended tour of this area of Otago.

Given this is Easter, if you're thinking of flying in and out of Dunedin, it would clearly be a good idea to book early, to get on to flights when you want to, as well as getting better rates. And, also, booking accommodation fairly well in advance would be a good idea - Lorna Ryder, one of the organisers, email: <<dlryder@actrix.co.nz>>, could advise on this.

Then, at the end of April, we are invited to join with the Australian Clan Chisholm Society for their gathering at Glen Innes, northern New South Wales, from Thursday 30 April through to Sunday 3 May 2009, which will coincide with the local Celtic Festival at the Standing Stones Park, with Highland Games and the like. It would make sense, geographically, to fly into Brisbane, and take a train or bus south from there. Again, it would be good to book into accommodation early, which can be initiated by contacting the Glen Innes Tourist Information Centre, email: <<tourism@gleninnes.nsw.gov.au>>.

Regretfully, I decided against attending the international Clan Gathering at Banff/Canmore on the eastern side of the Canadian Rockies, in August this year, and, as it turned out, the only representation from the Southern Hemisphere was of people from South Africa. The Canada Branch newsletter contains a lot of photos and of brief accounts of happenings. Clearly, everything went well. To make the already spectacular landscape even more so, halfway through, down came quite a fall of snow (in mid-summer!).

We have at last printed out copies of a fully satisfactory Clan Chisholm Society of NZ leaflet, which we'll send out copies of with the Journal, so that members can pass them on to possible members. But - contact me if you'd like some copies earlier.

Duncan Chisholm's book, "The Mussel Poachers of Orere Point, and other Poaching Stories" (Hazard Press, 2005) is a wonderfully lively read. It turns out the author is our newsletter editor's brother, and not a poacher but a retired Fisheries Officer. He has written two previous books, fictional works based on his experiences, but the accounts of them here, and of some of the rogues he encountered, are really good value in themselves.

Wishing you and yours a marvellous Christmas and an excellent year ahead.

John C. Ross, President, CCS of NZ

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.

Clan Chisholm International Genealogical Database

Part of report by Ian Chisholm (Vancouver) Vice President of Clan Council . 6 Dec 08



Back in 2001 Bob Chisholm, the UK Branch Genealogist, had created a database using an effective database software product called FileMaker Pro. His next step would have been to develop the means to launch this database on the web. However as he could not generate interest within the society he chose not to pursue it. Subsequently, Bob discovered a web based software product that had the potential to meet the requirements of the Branch Genealogists. It took some time to convince his peers that he had discovered a far superior product than the original database. However, he persevered and eventually a majority of the genealogists became converts. The next step for Bob was to garner support from the Clan Council. This he did in late 2007 and the project was re-formed in early 2008.

New Web-based Solution

The approach recommended by Bob Chisholm and endorsed by the Chisholm Genealogies Database team was to utilize a software package called TNG which stands for The Next Generation of Genealogical Site building. This web-enabled genealogy software can be uploaded and installed on a Web server. Genealogy information in GEDCOM format can then be uploaded to the same Web server, along with associated pictures. Data can also be entered manually, if required.

Using this software, a master database can be assembled from approved family trees based on information gathered at the branch level. This is the version of the database that will be made available to Clan Chisholm Society members in good standing. The master database will be administered by the master database administrator.

Project Team

The Project Team consists of one individual from the Clan Council who acts as the Project Liaison, and the Consultative Group. Their respective responsibilities are described below:

Project Liaison (Ian Chisholm)

Liaise with the Consultative Group and provide periodic progress reports to Clan Council.

Consultative Group

A consultative group has been formed consisting of, the Branch Genealogists, and supplemented by subject matter experts. The duties of the group include: Administer the master database,

Administer branch or regional versions of the TNG software and/or upload Gedcom files to the master database, in conjunction with the master database administrator,

Participate in team meetings and the team decision making process

resolve disputes regarding family trees, e.g., elimination of duplicate entries, and

Make decisions on family trees that do not have proper genealogical documentation.

The core members of the Consultative Group are:

Bob Chisholm, UK Branch Genealogist and Master Database Administrator

Audrey Barney, NZ Branch Genealogist

Bill Pickering, Canada Branch Genealogist and backup Master Database Administrator

Alastair Chisholm, Hampshire, UK

Anna Chisholm-Dickinson, Spokane, Washington State, USA

Eve Marie Lutz Mackenzie, Glasgow, UK

Bob Chisholm, the UK Branch Genealogist has volunteered (some would say 'was coerced') to be

Clan Chisholm International Genealogical Database (cont)

the Administrator for the master database. Ultimately, there needs to be at least one person in a position to take over the running of the master database, i.e., to function as the backup administrator. Bill Pickering, Canada Branch Genealogist has volunteered his services as the backup administrator.

Closing Remarks

Many members state that their main reason for joining the Clan Chisholm Society is to discover the history of the clan and specifically, their own ancestors. Discovering the history of families and the line of descent from their ancestors invokes the discipline known as genealogy. To assist our members in their genealogical pursuits the Society has embarked on a three-pronged approach (think of a three-legged stool - all three legs are required to make the appliance useful). These initiatives are:

DNA Surname Project

Approved as an official Clan Chisholm Society project at the 8 September 2007 Clan Council meeting. For details on this vital and interesting initiative see the Clan Chisholm Society web site.

Chisholm Genealogies International (CGI)

A web enabled bulletin board style of open forum on which "things Chisholm" are discussed.

See the introductory article in the 2008 Clan Chisholm Journal, written by the CGI founder, BobChisholm, UK Branch Genealogist. Sign up using this link

<http://www.clansman.info/cgi-bin/yabb2/YaBB.pl> .

The Chisholm Genealogies Web Site

An integrated collection of multimedia genealogical information organized around family trees, and the subject of this article.

Happy ancestor hunting!! Ian Chisholm Project Liaison

Hastings Beach ca 1866

A peaceful, idyllic scene, a watercolour by

James Gooden Chisholm
XXIXth Chief of Clan.



An atmosphere far removed from that prevailing 800 years earlier, when James' ancestor may have been one of those knights who landed on this beach with William, Duke of Normandy, in the last successful invasion of Britain.

History Topic: Cailean Siosal Cailean Siosal Cailean Siosal

Three Colin Chisholms, Dynastic struggles, and a brief waltz through the later pages of Alexander McKenzie's book "History of the Chisholms" 1891, reprinted 2003.

For historical reading in this Christmas edition of the newsletter we will have a brief refresher course of three of the greatest who ever carried that most traditional of Strathglass names, Colin Chisholm, and incorporate some of the later dynastic history of the Chisholms of Strathglass. Readers of McKenzie's History of the Chisholms will know all about these three, Colin Chisholm I of Knockfin, Colin Chisholm IV of Lietre, and Colin Chisholm VII of Lietre. The first two were well remembered for their feats with the sword, the last for his feats with the pen. Both Lietre and Knockfin are names used to designate Cadet families, family groups which developed from siblings of a Chief, and the names are taken from the location generally associated with the respective families.

The Lietre sub-family is descended from Thomas Chisholm Tomas Mor Mac an t-Siosalaich, born in the early 1600's, the second son of Chief John XVI, younger brother of Chief Alexander XVII. The Lietre named comes from the small settlement associated with the later generations of this family, up in Glen Cannich. There is a place, near Loch Mullardoch, which is spelt in different variations of Lietre, Lietry, Liatry, all renditions of the Gaelic Liath-doire.

One generation below the Lietre family the Knockfin branch commences. This branch descends from Colin, who is a son of Chief John XVII, and therefore a nephew of Thomas the founder of the Lietre branch, and he is the younger brother of Chief Alexander XVII.

Back in the days when it all started, Thomas would have had little idea that his descendents would be herded by latter day genealogists into a "cadet family" named after a place which neither he nor his son or Grandson ever lived at. Thomas was just the Chief's brother, who tried to keep his wife happy by building her a house away from the hills and on the gentler slopes at Eskadale. He may have seen some signs that his nephew Colin would become rich and powerful, but would not have known that the same historians and genealogists would use him as the head of another "cadet family"

Thus the Lietre branch is the senior cadet family, but the Knockfin family is closer, by that one generation, to the Chiefs line.

Below these two "cadet families", there developed families based on younger siblings of the then current chief. These were the families of Struy, descended from Theodore, a younger son of Chief Alexander XIX, An Siosal Og, and of Muckerach, descended from Alexander, a younger son of Chief John XX and younger brother to Chief Roderick XXI, Ruairi 'n Aigh, who was the chief during the uprisings of 1715 and of 1745. Alexander of Muckerach played a significant role in resurrecting the Chisholm fortunes in the 1720's and 1730's, after the confiscations following the 1715 defeat.

Roderick's son and heir Chief Alexander XXII set up the famous "entail", a legal instrument, in 1777. This detailed the inheritance order for the title and estates. He designated the male line heirs via his various sons, and then his brothers, and then the heir's male of his late Uncle Alexander of Muckerach. Should all of these fail, the title and estates reverted to the eldest heir female and "the descendents of her body". The effect of the 1777 entail was to put the descendents of the lines of Struy, Knockfin, or Lietre, out of the equation, should an unlikely situation ever arise where these lines would fail to produce a male heir. Bear in mind Chief Alexander XXII had five sons and two brothers, and his Uncle Alexander of Muckerach had two sons.

The first line failed in 1793, where Chief Alexander XXIII left an only daughter, Mary, who along with her mother Elizabeth, was much beloved by the Chisholm tenants of Strathglass. However this Chief had a surviving brother, William, and he took over, followed by his two sons, Alexander William, and Duncan MacDonnell. His third child was a daughter, Jemima, who married the distinguished barrister and scholar, Edmund Batten. Fast forward to 1858, when Chief XXVIII Duncan McDonnell Chisholm died, unmarried, in London, there are now no heirs male from the entailer himself, and from Canada comes the great grandson of Uncle Alexander of Muckerach, James Sutherland Chisholm, the 27th Chief. In 1883 this chief did some legal maneuvering and undid the entail of 1777, thus the estates would be inherited solely by his own family. His only son, of delicate constitution, became the 28th chief, an honour he held for only 2 years before he died of diabetes aged 25, in 1887. He was unmarried with no children. In the 110 years since 1777, there were no living male descendents from all the men mentioned in the entail. I have heard somewhere, a vague refer-

History (cont)

ence to a curse, with reference to the clearances of the Chisholm tenants of Strathglass. Not only no male heir, but also nothing left to inherit, except for a 600 year old title and the right to bear the Chisholm Arms. In 1888, this right was contested by the families of Mary and Jemima, with the court deciding in favour of Mary, and her son James Chisholm Gooden -Chisholm became the 29th chief. While both families would have presented meritorious claims, Mary's family may have been the popular choice in view of the respite that she and her mother gave to many ordinary Chisholms during devastating era of the Highland clearances. From this family is descended our present chief, Hamish Chisholm of Chisholm. The family name was changed in 1938 when Chief Hamish's grandfather became recognised by the Lord Lyon King of Arms as Roderick Chisholm of Chisholm.

Moving back Chief Alexander XVII: he had a younger son named Colin who became very skilled in the cattle business and became very wealthy. In 1678, by wadset or mortgage to his brother, Chief Alexander XVIII, he took over the lands around Easter, Middle, and Wester Knockfin, plus certain other grazings, and this was redeemable for 12,000 merks, nearly 8,000 pounds, a tidy sum in those days. For those unfamiliar with the geography of the Clan lands, you can just imagine the great stretch of the River Glass, it lies parallel to the great glen which divides the Highlands, but is located some 20km north of it. From Erchless at the top end you would go in a south westerly direction further up the River Glass, with three great valleys running off the sides of the strath. These are firstly Glenstrathfarrar, which is Fraser country, then midway near the ancient seat of the Chief at Comar is Glen Cannich, closely associated with Lietre, and finally comes the beautiful Glen Affric, thankfully still in original condition, unlike Cannich which has undergone great changes due to Hydro electricity. If you came up the River Glass, and instead of turning right up Glen Affric, no matter how tempting, but proceeded in the same south west direction as the Glass, up into the hills past Fasnakyle, you would be entering the Knockfin territories.

Whereas Colin paid good money for his piece of Strathglass, other men from the southern reaches of the Great Glen had different ideas. The Cameron's of Lochaber were apparently the most notorious of all the Highlanders in the ancient and noble art of cattle lifting, though I have heard that Chisholms were also very skilled in the practice. Enlisting some MacMillans for good measure, the men of Lochaber intended to not only lift cattle from Strathglass, but sieze the land as well. It was Colin of Knockfin who organized the Chisholm defences, and skillfully disposed his forces on the ground of his choosing, and dealt a fearsome blow to the enemy in their first charge that although they rallied and attacked again, it was to no avail. Some of the finer and deadly details are retold in McKenzie's History of the Chisholms. Colin of Knockfin went on to produce sons, grandsons, great grandsons etc, people whose names litter the Histories of the Chisholms, far too many to mention. The Knockfin family is also well known for helping the Roman Catholic Church retain a strong presence in Strathglass. Many of the Knockfin descendents have since spread themselves out through the new worlds, and would appear to be very strong in North America, on both sides of the border. One who made his way down under and is indirectly responsible for promoting the Chisholm name big time in Australia is Major Archibald Chisholm of the Madras Army. He was the fourth son of John Chisholm, the fifth chief of Knockfin, and he married Caroline Jones, aka Caroline Chisholm, the immigrant's friend. The last chief of the Knockfin branch is reported by McKenzie as being Colonel William Chisholm of the Madras Infantry, born 1836. Chisholms of Knockfin heritage, by the powers of multiplication, will be in large numbers around the world. Several DNA project participants have reported as being of the Knockfin branch of Clan Chisholm.

It was not a bad thing for the clan the Knockfins took proprietorship over large tracts of land in the Strath, for just three generations later Chief Roderick XXI Ruari 'n Aigh, took the clan to Sheriffmuir, and after the defeat, suffered the inevitable fate of the confiscation of his estates. Thus the Knockfin territories were spared this ignominy.

Also to be found at the battle of Sherrifmuir in 1715, at the sharp end, was a close relative of the Chief, 2nd cousin once removed, Colin the fourth head of what was to become known as the Lietre family. There was nothing stopping this Colin, he fought again, 30 years later, at Culloden. McKenzie notes that Colin showed a great attachment to the arms which he bore, and very effectively used. In a tradition which may resonate amongst some Chisholm readers, he gave the double digit salute to the Disarming Act which compelled Highlanders to relinquish their weapons. "Before his death, he enjoined upon his family to take the greatest care of his claymores in particular, an injunction which has been faithfully given effect to. That which he

History (cont)

used at Sherrifmuir is in possession of one of his descendants in Nova Scotia, and the other, used at Culloden, is carefully preserved by his great grandson, Colin Chisholm, of Namur Cottage Inverness". This was written in 1891, the Sherrifmuir sword is still in Nova Scotia, treasured by the Mackintosh family, but the Culloden Claymore seems to have disappeared off the radar. It was seen towards the end of the 19th century, in London, cutting up the wedding cake at the marriage of a Lietre daughter to Alex McDonald, the fabled "Klondike King". Its current location is unknown, but is an artifact which is truly sought by Clan Chisholm. More on these swords is promised in a future newsletter.

Colin's oldest son, by his first wife, was Roderick (Rory), who also fought at Culloden, and survived, albeit wounded in the head. In terms of inheritance, he was passed over in favour of the only son from the second wife. Unperturbed, Rory set himself up in Breakachy and started up his sub-branch, Clann ic Ruaridh, and from this family came six sons, and these six sons begat even more sons, and so on. Thus from this union of Colin IV Lietre and the daughter of Fraser of Ballindown, come a very large number of Chisholms currently populating all parts of the globe where Chisholms are normally found.

Leadership of Lietre thus passed to the second son who became Colin V, and although he had five sons, it was only the second son, Colin, who produced a male line which extends into the current generation. This second son, Colin VI, seems to have attempted to make up for the lack of male progeny on his brothers parts, as he produced four daughters and eleven sons. Amongst these sons were people like number two Aeneas Chisholm, whose son Archibald became Procurator Fiscal in Lochmaddy, and

whose other son Duncan settled in Colorado.

Number 6 son Theodore also had a son who settled in Colorado. But it was number one son, Colin, who has indelibly left his mark on Clan Chisholm Society, and indeed on Gaelic Scotland. This Colin Chisholm was born in the ancestral home at Liath-doire in Glen Cannich, and at age 29, in 1835, he secured a position with HM customs and worked for some time in Liverpool, then in 1842 he moved to London, where he became a central figure in the Gaelic Society. After 34 years in London he returned to the Highland, not back to Glen Cannich which has long been alienated from his family, but to Namur Cottage in Inverness, where he again became a central figure in the Gaelic Society. This little newsletter article cannot hope to do justice to Colin Chisholm VII of Lietre, and all which he achieved, not with the sword, but with the voice and the pen. His writings on Highland and Chisholm histories, poetry, and traditions are legion. In the words of Alexander McKenzie "Mr Chisholm is a walking encyclopaedia of Highland Traditions, Gaelic Poetry, and lore, and is in this respect, without any living competitor amongst the present generation of Highlanders". As a child, he lived through the Highland clearances, and although somewhat protected by his more noble birth, relatively speaking, he certainly absorbed the feelings of the Chisholm tenants. In later life, he was a key witness in the 1883 Lord Napier's commission concerning Land law reform, where he gave valuable evidence on the clearing of the Glens. Despite his long residence in England, Colin retained his native Gaelic, which he spoke with great force and purity. He was beloved by all, for he was courteous and manly, a rare old highland gentleman, all of the golden time (Celtic



Monthly Obituary). Colin's knowledge is passed on to this very day, much of his writings are accessible because of his contributions to the Gaelic Society of Inverness. He was also a key informant to Alexander McKenzie who wrote the History of the Chisholms. Alexander McKenzie dedicates his History of the Chisholms to Mary Gooden Chisholm (see overpage) but it is to Colin Chisholm of Namur Cottage, Inverness,

whose "interesting Traditions of Strathglass, and genealogical storehouse, he has freely and profitably drawn upon". Colin Chisholm was, in 1882, made an honorary chieftain of Comunn Gàidhlig Inbhir Nis, (Gaelic Society of Inverness) and was eventually referred to as "the father of the Society".

Inscribed to the memory of Mary Chisholm of Chisholm, afterwards Mrs James Gooden, London

A noble souled woman, whose warm hearted and patriotic conduct toward her father's and, subsequently, her mother's tenants in Strathglass, under the most trying circumstances, first attracted the author's attention to her clan, and without whose inspiration this book would never have been written.

Alexander McKenzie's dedication in History of the Chisholms, 1891, to Mary, only child of Chief Alexander XXIII, An Siosal Ban, the fair-haired Chisholm, great, great, great grandmother of Chief Hamish XXXIII.

To listen to somebody talking about Colin Chisholm VII Lietre, go to this website.

http://www.bbc.co.uk/scotland/alba/radio/cuairtean/inbhirnis/cailean_siosal.shtml

Health warning, it is in Gaelic, but some of your ancestors survived thousand of years listening to this language, see if you can manage 2 minutes.

The Celtic Monthly, vol IV 1896, has an obituary for Colin:

www.ambaile.org.uk/en/item/photograph_zoom.jsp?item_id=24830&zoom=3

Ceud Mile Failte New Members, Brother and Sister Robert & Sonia Chisholm, Wellington

Hello, our names are Sonia Chisholm and Robert Chisholm. We attended the last Clan Chisholm gathering in Miramar, Wellington. We were astounded to see the depth of research that has been done about our family heritage! We are part of the ancestry of the first Chisholm family that permanently settled in New Zealand. Our great-great-great Grandfather is Robert Chisholm (Esq.) born in Melrose Scotland, 1797, lived in Edinburgh, immigrated to NZ, lived in Parnell, and bought up the up North East side of the 'Whau' Peninsula. Robert passed away in Auckland, NZ in 1877.

We both reside in Wellington.

Robert - I work as a carpenter in Wellington City. I have always enjoyed engineering and construction and I am also a passionate musician. I studied a diploma in music. I am currently playing in two bands during the weekends



and have recently started an originals funk band. I sometimes don't have spare time but when I do I like to go see other bands in the city, go outdoors walking in parks and going snowboarding or weekend holidays with my partner Keely, whom I met through my studies. Keely also sings in our originals and cover bands and by day she works at Proetel, a music and film equipment retailer.

Sonia - I work as a Parks advisor in planning and policy. These are the 'larger wilderness parks' around the Wellington region. I like to get into the outdoors in my spare time with hiking, mountain biking, snowboarding and also am training for a half marathon in April. I also like to do travel, go camping, eat out at Wellingtons many gastronomical delights and spend time with family/friends socialising.

Robert and I are about to be a uncle/aunt for the first time in Jan, with our other Brother, Duncan Chisholm and his wife, Rebecca, coming to live in Wellington from the UK. Their baby '?' Chisholm is due in Jan 09.

Our parents, Derek and Rosalie Chisholm currently reside in Sonning, Berkshire in the UK, where they are doing their post OE, and are loving it.



A New Chisholm Tartan

Dear Family,

I am pleased to announce the arrival and registration of Chisholm Colonial Tartan. The category of "Clan Tartan" is what this new design is registered as. At our Clan Gathering in Canada this past August 2008, our Chief Hamish Chisholm of Chisholm viewed the new design and approved it officially! Duncan Chisholm of Inverness, Scotland has been extremely good about having the initial cloth woven, doing all the important paperwork and other labors as well, that were required to make this project a reality.

I wanted to create a tartan that honored all those Chisholms who left Scotland to start a new life in the various "Colonies" around the world. My original inspiration for this project came from the desire to honor my ancestor, James Chism of Virginia (1657-1698). He was one of the many first generation American born Scots of our Clan. I am of the twelfth generation of this American-Scots line.

The colors that were chosen for the new tartan have specific significance. The following is the rationale for my color choices:

In order to begin a new life in distant lands, ocean crossings had to be made for most of our families. The blues in the tartan are representative of the oceans.

The brown color literally represents the earth of the lands that were colonized.

The Clan Chisholm badge is the Fern. The green in the tartan represents our ties to our clan and to Scotland.

The blood red in the tartan represents the blood that all Chisholms, worldwide, share by birth and heritage.

It is my fervent hope that Chisholms of all spellings and nationalities will find this tartan pleasing.

I am proud to present Chisholm Colonial as my gift to Chisholms everywhere.

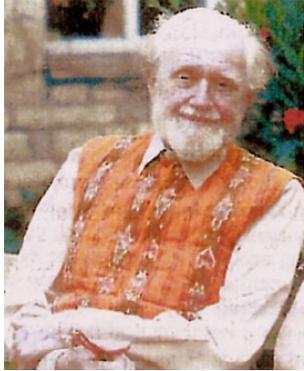
Kat Moore - Lenexa, Kansas, U.S.A.

Above, Kat Moore presents the new tartan to The Chisholm.
Left: Registration Certificate. Right, Chisholm Colonial Tartan.

Thread Count (half sett, full pivots)
R2, B24, G2, B6, G2, B6, G12, LT48, W2, NB12
Colours: R=Red, B=Blue, G=Green,
LT=Light tan, W=White, NB=Navy Blue



Wilf Medlam
Memorial Seat
Cannich Brae



W. G Medlam
1914-2005



Wilfred's outstanding work in helping to revive the Clan Chisholm Society, and his pioneer work on the Chisholm Genealogies, is recognised with the placement of a memorial seat near the Chisholm Stone, overlooking Comar Lodge, and not far from the entrance to Glen Cannich. It was up this Glen, to Lietry, where Wilfred's ancestor, Colin Chisholm IV of Lietry, moved to in the 1700's, and thus established the family connection to this area of Strathglass. Wilfred's great-grandfather Theodore Chisholm was a brother of Colin Chisholm VII of Namur Cottage, Inverness.



New Culloden Visitors' centre

The Society has acquired a stone in the Culloden Walk leading up to the new Visitor Centre at Culloden Moor. Because of the hard work of Ben and Juliette Chisholm Broomfield, we were given a place of prominence in the walk! The Society would like to extend their thanks and appreciation to Ben and Juliette for their wonderful efforts involved with the restoration at Culloden Moor. This part of the Culloden Walk is another reminder of the Chisholm's place in this part of Scottish history.

Ben and Juliette
being entertained
by Wellington
members of
CCSNZ





Chisholm DNA project

Chisholm DNA project

www.clanchisholmsociety.org

www.familytreedna.com (search for Chisholm)

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The status of the DNA project has been reported for the Clan Journal, which will be distributed early next year. As it's an ongoing project, its status is constantly changing. The Clan Journal report will show how Clan Chisholm is made up of a variety of ancestral backgrounds. A simple way to look at it is to think that if it ever invaded Britain, it's ended up in Clan Chisholm. This might even be extended to include unsuccessful invaders, such as people washed ashore after the Spanish Armada was dispersed in 1588. So you can expect to see an ancestral picture emerging. A picture which represents the evolvement of Scotland itself: A good splattering of Picts and Britons to form the base, a touch of the Romans, a small injection of Anglo and Gaelic, a few Vikings lurking at the edges, a seriously major Norse influx from the south -could this Norseman be the Norman, of Chisholm lore? Into this genetic mix, add a bit of seasoning from Spain and the eastern fringe of Europe.

While the more ancient background is very interesting, most people join the DNA project to try and untangle more recent genealogical puzzles. The database has grown to a size where successes are now being scored in this regard. On two separate occasions, American families who have struggled to get over their genealogical brick walls, barred by having an earliest known ancestor who could not be tracked back to Scotland, have via DNA, found a likely origin point in the olde worlde.

In the quest to identify the foundation line of Clan Chisholm, the project is now on red alert, running very hot. Recent results from Delaware and Vancouver have given strong pointers. These have been further strengthened by a major result coming in from Yorkshire. As with all scientific projects, meticulous checking of documented records is required to ensure authenticity. A down under result from Sydney, just posted a few days ago, has the most impressive of credentials, thank you Australia. More of this in the next newsletter.

To counter act the abysmal exchange rate, DNA testing prices have been reduced, with a bonus discount for Christmas. Until the end of December, the prices are \$119 for a 37 marker test, and \$218 for a full 67 marker test (US dollars). Excellent value for a unique and everlasting Christmas gift, not only for the Chisholm man in your life, but the whole family, including ancestors and descendants. Join at: https://www.familytreedna.com/surname_join.aspx?code=Y42908&special=true

CLAN CHISHOLM SOCIETY NEW ZEALAND: SUBSCRIPTIONS 2008

Clan Chisholm members are reminded that subscriptions for the current year are now overdue. The sub is \$15-00 for ordinary members. A cheque for this amount may be sent to The Treasurer Clan Chisholm, 17 Phoenix Avenue, Palmerston North 4401. You can also pay online via our Bank account: Clan Chisholm Society (New Zealand) Incorporated account number 06-0701-0134415-000

Christmas Gift Idea: For some of those other Chisholms in your life, be they family, friends, or acquaintances. A subscription fee of just \$15.00 gets you at least 3, sometimes four, Branch Newsletter per year, plus the highly prized and professionally printed International Clan Journal. In addition you get to become a member of a world wide family with an ancient tradition. You get the opportunity to join in and participate as much or as little as you wish. You can order an advance subscription for 2009 by contacting the secretary.

Meri Kirihimete Nollaig Chridheil Feliz Navidad Frohe Weihnachten Joyeaux Noel Vrolijk Kerstfeest
Felix dies Nativitatis :no matter which way you say it, Clan Chisholm Society wishes you a very Merry Christmas!

A Blythe Yule an a Guid Hogmanay

The Twelve Days of Christmas

By Marcey Hunter, Virginia

Do you sometimes suffer from the post-Christmas blues? Are you so stressed about making Christmas Day so perfect that you don't have a chance to actually enjoy in the holiday? Are you looking for any chance to party between Hogmanay and Burns Nicht? Well, don't take down your Christmas tree or begin your New Year's diet too soon! There's still some fun to be had long after the hustle and bustle of Christmas commercialism has subsided.

Traditionally, Christmas does not end at midnight on December 25. On the contrary, the well-known "12 Days of Christmas" actually begin on December 25, and last until the Twelfth Night, January 5, which is the eve of the Feast of the Epiphany. In Christian tradition, the Epiphany celebrates the appearance of the Magi (the Three Wise Men) at the manger in Bethlehem, and the gifts they gave to the new born Jesus. Epiphany is sometimes known as "Little Christmas," or "Nollaig Beag" in Scottish Gaelic.

The Twelfth Night of January 5 is technically the last celebration of Christmas and is marked by much feasting, merrymaking, and the lighting of bonfires. In days of old, Twelfth Night was a final celebration before the community returned to its daily working grind for the rest of the winter. Unfortunately in modern times, the traditions of Twelfth Night have largely been forgotten.

It is traditional for Twelfth Night celebrations to include the consumption of a cake. In Scotland, it was the Black Bun cake. A bean was baked in the cake, and the finder of the bean would run the feast, and be named the "Abbot of Unreason", known elsewhere as the "Lord of Misrule". This is all meant to symbolise



"Lord of Misrule" Oil on Panel 2008 by David Normal

the world order being turned upside down. That is because on 12th Night, the order of things were reversed - gentry would become the peasants, masters served their slaves, women dress as men and so on. Midnight signaled the end of the Abbot's rule and the world would return to normal.

Food and drink were the center of the Twelfth Night celebrations. Along with the Black Bun cake it was customary in Britain to participate in Wassailing. Wassailing is the Celtic custom of sharing baked apples and cider. Wassail comes from the Old English, was hel, 'Be whole,' and in the old religion it was a blessing ritual for the trees so they would yield a good and productive crop during the growing season.

The English word "Yuletide" actually means the twelve-day period between Dec. 25 and Jan. 5. In Britain, the Yule Log that was lit on Christmas Day remained burning until Twelfth Night in order to bring good fortune to the house. Its remains were carefully preserved both to kindle the next year's Yule Log as well to protect the house from fire in the coming year.

Some believe Twelfth Night is when all Christmas decorations should be put away so as not to bring bad luck upon the home. This has its roots in pre-Christian pagan practices. People believed that tree spirits lived in the greenery (holly, ivy, etc.) they used to

decorate their homes. The greenery was brought into the house to provide a safe haven for the tree spirits during the harsh winter. Once this period was over it was necessary to return the greenery back outside to release the tree spirits into the countryside once again. Failure to do this would mean that vegetation would not be able to start growing again (spring would not return) leading to an agricultural disaster. It was also thought that, if you left the greenery in the house the tree spirits would cause mischief in the house until they were released.

In some countries, and in the Catholic religion worldwide, the Twelfth Night and Epiphany marks the start

The Twelve Days of Christmas (cont.)

of the Carnival season, which lasts through Mardi Gras Day.

Twelfth Night itself was a day for plays and other theatrical performances, and it is thought that Shakespeare's play Twelfth Night is so named because it was first performed as part of Twelfth Night celebrations circa 1601.

And not surprisingly, European immigrants brought the celebrations of Twelfth Night to the New World. In fact, the 18th-century importance of Twelfth Night -- rather than Christmas Day -- is nowhere better documented than in the papers of George Washington. He paid little attention to Christmas Day, which was considered a solemn religious holiday. But Twelfth Night was a different matter. He and his wife Martha often entertained groups of relatives and friends throughout that day. In fact George and Martha Washington were married on Twelfth Night in 1759 in Williamsburg.

Probably many of you remember when the 12 Days of Christmas were more prominent. My mother, who grew up in Boston, often told stories of Christmas parties she attended days after Christmas, going from house to house visiting her expatriated Scottish-Canadian cousins - enjoying a pipe tune here and fiddle music there. And always cider for the kids and harder spirits for the adults.

In recent years, I have arranged my work schedule to have off at least part of that time so that I can enjoy all of the wonderful things about Christmas (the spiritual meaning, the food, the music, the decorations, etc.) without all of the pre-Christmas stress and commercialism.

So why not have a wee feast on January 5, in honor of Twelfth Night? It's still Christmas, after all, and if you follow the tradition, you will still have your Christmas tree to enjoy for a few more hours. Even if it's just sipping some apple wine or homemade wassail in front of a fire, it's a night worthy of celebration.

Marcey Hunter is the editor of Clan Chisholm Newsletter, USA Branch. She is coincidentally a genetic cousin of the family of NZ newsletter editor, Robert Chisholm. A descendent of her ancestor, Seoc Buidhe Siosal, Jock (John) the Blond Chisholm, of Nova Scotia and Strathglass, turned up with the same Mediteranean Chromosome, distinctive in Scotland to Clan Chisholm, as Robert, in the DNA project. Marcey is just mad about festivals and celebrations, especially the Twelve Days of Christmas. Robert has lived through, and survived, some of the post ephiphany festivals, as various Karnevals and Faschings wind their way down the Rhine and into Holland.

Wassail

2 quarts apple cider, 2 cups ginger ale, 1 T. honey 3 whole cloves,
2 cinnamon sticks, 1 medium orange, sliced, 1 medium lemon, sliced
Combine ingredients in a crock pot. Cook on LOW for three hours. Strain mixture, discarding spices.

May be mixed with brandy, blended Scotch, rum or red wine.

Twelfth Night Scottish Black Bun Cake

Ingredients

For The Casing : 8 oz flour; 4 oz butter; 1/2 tsp. baking powder; a little cold water; 1 beaten egg for finishing.

For The Filling

2 lb seedless raisins; 3 lb currants; 1/2 lb chopped blanched almonds; 3/4 lb flour; 1/2 lb sugar; 2 tsp. Jamaica pepper (allspice); 1 tsp. ground ginger; 1 tsp. ground cinnamon; 1/4 tsp. black pepper; 1 flat tsp. cream of tartar; 1 flat tsp. baking powder; 1 tablesp. brandy; 1/4 pt milk, 1 Black Bean.

To make the casing - rub the butter into the flour, add baking powder and mix to a stiff paste with water (about 4 tablespoons). Put on to a floured board, and roll out to a thin sheet. Grease a loaf tin 8 in by 4 in by 3 in and line with the pastry, keeping back enough for the lid.

To Prepare The Filling - mix all the filling ingredients together except the milk. Then add just enough milk to moisten the mixture. Put it into the lined tin and put the pastry lid on top, damping the edges well to make it stick. Prick all over with a fork, and with a thin skewer make four holes right down to the bottom of the cake, brush with beaten egg and cook in a slow (110 deg C) oven for about three hours. It will keep for a year in an airtight tin, but eat it now, and let the bean show who is to be the Abbot of Unreason, or Lord of Misrule, in your family.



Answer to Quiz

There are no feathers in his hat, but he is still a chief.

Chief Hamish Chisholm of Chisholm, leading the Clan at the Highland Games and International Gathering in the Rocky Mountains, surrounded by his sidekicks.

CLAN CHISHOLM INTERNATIONAL GATHERING 2008

One hundred and fifty-five Chisholms from the UK, the US, South Africa, and Canada found the Rocky Mountains impressive, the towns of Canmore and Banff charming, and our host hotel the Radisson comfortable. From Friday afternoon to Tuesday morning Chisholms renewed old friendships, made new ones, and visited scenic places. IT WAS A GREAT PARTY!!!!

For a full account , and many pictures, go to:

<http://www.clanchisholmsociety.org/CANindex.php>



These two certainly get around



Chief Hamish, in more traditional Garb, with the Julie, the First Lady of Clan Chisholm.



Believe it or not,
A Rocky Mountain summer morning!