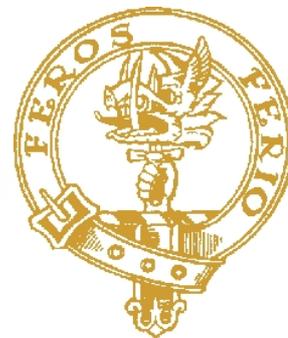




Clan Chisholm Society NZ

Newsletter # 48 March 2010



Editor's note:

In this Autumn issue of the newsletter we note the last post being sounded for two of our long time members, John Francis Chisholm (Jack), and Rhondda O'Donaghue. Family members have provided written tributes, on pages 7 and 8 of the newsletter. We offer our condolences to the families, and acknowledge the contributions of Jack, and Rhondda, two lives well lived. An extra thought goes out to Jack next month on Anzac Day, another of the old soldiers of the 2nd NZEF has handed his rifle in.

On the topic of long time members, Foundation member Audrey Barney is contemplating a move into a retirement home and wont have the extra room required for all the Chisholm archival material, and will be looking for someone to take over the guardianship of about seven boxes of books and files. These are not large boxes, the sort

which hold 5 reams of A4 paper. Please give this some thought, if you would like to help your Clan Society and become a more active participant.

This issue has a mixture of contemporary and historical articles which I hope you will find of some interest. Remember that if you have topic you wish to explore, or an article you wish to publish, please contact me. It makes for a much better newsletter if we have a wide spread of authors, all with their own particular viewpoints. I have included some references to various Chisholm groups which are springing up spontaneously on Facebook, something for the younger generations to have a look at. Indeed, we would like to see a few of our younger Chisholms join the Society. As the world heads off deeper into cyber-space, Clan Chisholm will no doubt be dragged along, and we will be needing net savvy youngsters to help out.

The world wide Chisholm DNA project continues to make breakthroughs, and an important announcement will be made in the forthcoming Clan Journal, regarding the origin of the Chisholms. Chisholms from USA, UK, Canada, Australia, plus a few Kiwi's, are all part of this project, and the inspiration for Clan Chisholm to go down this pathway was little Audrey in Orewa.

Acknowledgements: Thanks to the following for contributing to this newsletter: John Ross, Barry Chisholm, Audrey Barney, Kay Hood, Rex Chisholm, Alistair Chisholm, Fay Chisholm. Phil and Jeanie Chisholm, Electric Scotland Website, Transactions of the Gaelic Society.

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. It may be reproduced and copied, and is available from the NZ page of the Clan Chisholm website.

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From the President



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Dear Chisholm people,

Greetings. Hope this year's going well for you all.

The main thing we've got coming up is the annual gathering, this year in Wellington, on Saturday, 1 May, once again at the Miramar Uniting Church hall (see the notice below); and we hope that plenty of you who don't live too far away will make an effort to come along, and bring members of your families with you.

It is going to be a big concern this year to build up our membership. With older members getting even older, and every year a few passing away, it is vitally important to have new and younger people coming in. With the copies of the Clan Journal soon to be sent out, once they arrive from England, we'll send out membership leaflets with them, in the hope that you will be able to pass them on to family members, or others possibly interested.

Naturally, it would be excellent to have new people taking on roles with some responsibility. Still, none should be deterred from coming along to the gathering, from caution about that!

We do need an archivist, a historian and genealogist to take over from Audrey Barney, someone to help Robert put together these newsletters, and new committee members. Is there a keen and capable person who would like to take over as President even? Sooner or later, every role should pass on to someone else, and I'd be willing enough to pass my role on if there was. Think about it. It's all interesting.

At any rate, I propose we should follow the example of the Australian Clan Chisholm Society (or indeed of some other New Zealand clan organisations) in bringing into being the position of Vice-President, through a motion to vary our constitution at the upcoming AGM, with the understanding that the Vice-President would be responsible for things when the President was for any reason not available, and well-placed to stand for election as President at some later time.

With all best wishes

John C. Ross

Annual Gathering for the Clan Chisholm Society of New Zealand

Saturday 1 May 2010

Miramar Uniting Church Hall

56 Hobart Street, Miramar, Wellington

Starting 10.30am, with a social gathering, morning tea, and the opportunity to investigate Chisholm family history records. From 11am talks by Fay White, and by Audrey Barney, our historian and genealogist, on family history.

1 pm, annual general meeting, including reports by Audrey Barney, and by Robert Chisholm, on the state of play with the Chisholm DNA Project.

A clan dinner in the evening, and in the meantime an excursion to the beach on the south coast, and for those interested a walk to Red Rocks.

Here's Good Luck to Jessica

by Audrey Barney.



I wonder how many who may have read of young Jessica Watson from the Gold Coast, who is currently making an attempt at 16 to be the youngest person ever to sail solo, non stop around the world unassisted, had realised her background to be that of a New Zealand Chisholm! Jessica's mother is Julie Chisholm, born in Ohaupo, near Te Awamutu, while her father, Roger Watson, came from Wellington. Jessica is a great-great-grand-daughter

of Angus Chisholm, who came firstly to Australia from the Isle of Skye, with his parents under the Highland and Island Emigration Society scheme. Maybe this is where her interest in the sea came from. Angus and his brother Donald travelled on to Otago in 1861, just after gold had been discovered. Jessica's grandparents, Gordon and Margaret Chisholm live in Lowburn, Central Otago and are following their grand-daughter's progress keenly.

Jessica left Sydney harbour in her yacht, Ella's Pink Lady, on October 18, 2009 and headed north-east to cross the equator, to comply with the international rules, that a boat must travel in both hemispheres. Then it was south-east to the notoriously dangerous Cape Horn which she passed, in grey misty conditions, on the 24th January 2010, only to run into even worse conditions in the South Atlantic, as Jessica so descriptively writes in her blog. She certainly has a lovely turn of phrase and the maturity and humour of her writing is a joy to read.

The wind had been expected to rise to a near gale, but none of the computers or forecasts picked that it would reach the 65 knots that I recorded, before losing the wind instruments in a knockdown!

That much wind means some very big and nasty waves. To give you an idea of the conditions, they were similar to and possibly worse than those of the terrible 1998 Sydney to Hobart Race. We experienced a total of 4 knockdowns, the second was the most severe with the mast being pushed 180 degrees into the water. Actually pushed isn't the right word, it would be more accurate to say that Ella's Pink Lady was picked up, thrown down a wave, then forced under a mountain of breaking water and violently turned upside down.

With everything battened down and conditions far too dangerous to be on deck, there wasn't anything I could do but belt myself in and hold on. Under just the tiny storm jib, the big electric autopilot did an amazing job of holding us on course downwind, possibly or possibly not helped by my yells of encouragement! It was only the big rogue waves that hit at us at an angle (side on) that proved dangerous and caused the knockdowns.

The solid frame of the targa (the frame that supports the solar panels) is bent out of shape and warped, which provides a pretty good idea of the force of the waves. Solid inch thick stainless steel tube doesn't exactly just bend in the breeze, so I think you could say that Ella's Pink Lady has proven herself to be a very tough little boat!



A few days later a most emotional experience for both parents and daughter took place, when, at the instigation and sponsorship of the *Daily Telegraph* newspaper, Julie and Roger flew out from the Falklands to circle over Jessica, with her mother's first words being "You look so small on that huge ocean". The weather had been so bad, this had been the third day the plane had attempted to make the flight, an hour off Argentina, and for Jessica. "A treat": her first glimpse of humans in three months.

As I write she is thinking forwards to passing to the south of the Cape of Good Hope, 1500km still to her south east. In her blog on Feb 7, she describes dolphins playing round her boat.

Before the wind started coming up I was treated to a visit from some dolphins, actually hundreds of dolphins! There were dolphins everywhere, in every direction right off to the horizon. Long lines of dolphins leaping out of waves, dolphins shooting off down the swell, dolphins playing on Ella's Pink Lady's bow and dolphins quietly swimming along chatting away to each other in small squeals and squeaks. I didn't know where to look and their visit came just at the right time too, as I'd been feeling a little bit mopey and frustrated, but the dolphins sure put the smile back on my face!

The dolphins haven't been my only company lately, I've also been seeing a bit of shipping lately. By that I mean three ships in the last two days, which is a lot by my standards.

It is a most interesting read and I will be continuing to follow Jessica's journey at www.jessicawatson.com.au She is one very courageous young lady, well prepared and understanding of the perils and thrills of her journey, with a maturity well beyond her years. And of course she is backed by one special understanding Chisholm Mum.

STOP PRESS MARCH 10th In early March Jessica did pass south of the Cape of Good Hope and is now well out beyond Madagascar, sailing in fair conditions across the Indian Ocean. She has been sailing now over 20 weeks and as of 10th March she still has 3500 nautical miles of the Indian Ocean to sail before she reaches the south west tip of Western Australia.

More Chisholm mysteries solved (By Audrey Barney)

Brick walls are always appearing in trying to trace family histories, and often I have been really stymied in finding my earliest known Chisholm for a family when I am told his father is John Chisholm who lived in Scotland!

This year my concentration has been on Chisholms who were in the Army in World War I which has mainly been researched from personal soldiers' files from National Archives. As so many other New Zealanders have also been hunting their WW1 ancestors, the queue for material has proved to be a long one - but the news is good -for although the wait has been long, and there is much in these files that is illegible and incomplete, there have been some finds outside the sphere of war. Also, National Archives when they found the demand was so strong decided the best way to deal with increasingly fragile material was to photocopy each file and put it on line. So the most recent Chisholm files I have accessed are now on line for everyone to see.

The first big find was for Roderick Chisholm, who married in Bulls in 1913. For years I have known he came to New Zealand through South Africa, and from his death notice he was born in Scotland around 1880. A search of his WW1 records has provided his exact date of birth, in Bute, Argyll, and that he had been in the South African Mounted Police in the Boer War, and had stayed on in South Africa after the war ended. From that extra information, it is then possible to go back to further research, which quickly showed that he was the son of Duncan John Chisholm and Catherine Dingwall, and the grandson of Roderick Chisholm and Catherine Sinclair, who had married in Argyll in 1840. The naming pattern of their children fitted perfectly. There had been three generations of Chisholms round Bute, Argyll, all gardeners, and Rod followed in New Zealand taking up land after the WW1 at Bainesse in the Manawatu. Further information has now been found, showing that he had come to New Zealand in 1906 on the "Devon" and that his grandfather, Roderick, had been born in Urray in Ross and Cromarty and had probably come to Argyll in the 1830s. There for just now the story ends, and unfortunately I no longer have contacts with any of Roderick of Bainesse's descendants to let them know this background.

The second find, not yet fully researched, was suggested by Lorraine Salter, who realised the information we now had on a mystery Robert Chisholm, who was, she thought, probably the Robert Chisholm, brother to Alexander Chisholm, the Veterinary surgeon from Otautau. He had come out to be Best Man at Alexander's wedding in 1913, but she had heard he hadn't much enjoyed New Zealand, and it had been thought he had gone straight back to England. However, perusal of the records and further research showed Lorraine to be correct in that this Robert was Alexander's brother and that he had stayed long enough in New Zealand to be conscripted and to leave New Zealand on the Corinth for England on 2 April 1917. His war history we do not yet know, or whether he took his discharge in England or New Zealand, but obviously he didn't establish a permanent residence in New Zealand.

Christmas Down under, 2009.

This past Christmas, New Zealand played host to three clansfolk visitors.

Firstly, Alistair Chisholm, based in Hampshire, came down to Wellington, as he has done on previous occasions, for professional reasons. Alistair is involved in the complex technology of nautical electronics, and so our Kiwi boatbuilders like to hire his expertise in this department. Alistair is otherwise known in Clan Chisholm circles as the Administrator of the Clan Chisholm Forum, and as a resident expert on Chisholm histories and genealogies, with a particularly deep knowledge of the catholic families of Clan Chisholm. See the following page for a brief note from Alistair.

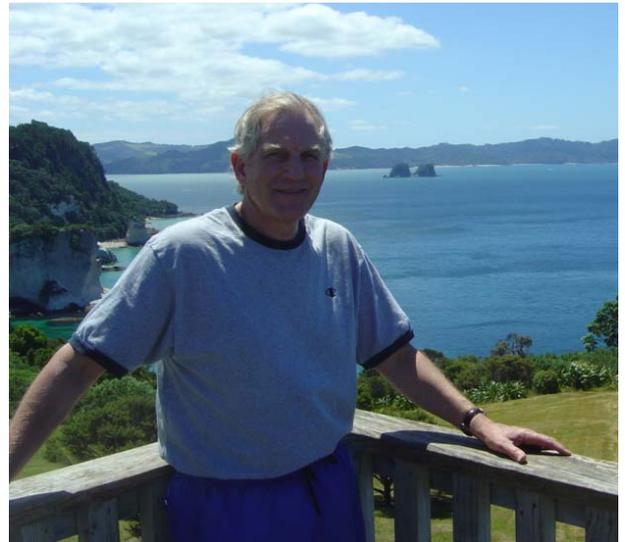
New Zealand has also had American visitors, Phil and Jeanie Chisholm from Boston, Massachusetts.

Phil is the Historian for the USA Branch of Clan Chisholm. Phil and Jeanie had organized a month long visit, much of it hiking through some of the scenic wonderlands of both the North and South Islands.

Along with my wife Angelika, I was fortunate to be able to spend a few days pre Christmas time with Phil and Jeanie at Whitianga, on the Coromandel Coast. On a memorable Saturday afternoon we managed a swim in the cool and pristine waters of Cathedral Cove, followed by a hot bath at nearby Hot Water Beach, with a pod of dolphins putting on a nice display just offshore. Following this Phil and Jeanie headed south for central Otago, Milford Sound, and worked their way north through the Nelson lakes area, and then back into the North Island and into the Volcanic Plateau. A few pictures follow:



Jeanie with "Mt. Doom" behind her
And below, with Angelika at cathedral Cove



Phil at Cathedral Cove
And below, with Jeanie in the Southern Alps



Clan Chisholm Society NZ



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Hello Clan Chisholm New Zealand,

I was contracted last summer by the *Hamburgischer Verein Seefahrt* Club in Germany to supply and fit the navigation and communications electronics for their new 52 foot offshore sailing boat being built at the factory of Hakes Marine in Seaview, Wellington, a world-renowned builder of composite yachts with whom I had worked previously on the construction of two IMOCA 60 racing yachts for the British single-handed round-the-world skippers, Mike Golding and Dee Caffari.

I have always enjoyed my visits to Wellington, in spite of the unpredictable weather, and so I was happy to spend 10 very busy days there in December 2009 fitting out this new yacht and taking part in initial sea-trials after the launch.

The last couple of weeks of a build are always very intensive and I probably put in about 140 hours in the factory and on the water in those ten days, so had little time to spend on leisure, although a Kiwi boat-yard is always a lively and entertaining place to be in itself!

I'm pleased to say the project went well and the German team were very happy with the result. The boat is due to be shipped from Auckland back to Germany in February.

You can read the story of this yacht at <http://www.sail-world.com/UK/52-Haspa-Hamburg-launched-in-Wellington/64456>

With Best Wishes, Alastair Chisholm. (Hampshire, UK)



Haspa Hamburg, before the launch



Aviva, Dee Caffari's boat, on sea trials in Wellington



Haspa Hamburg, on sea trials



Alastair, and son Ruari, relaxing in Scotland

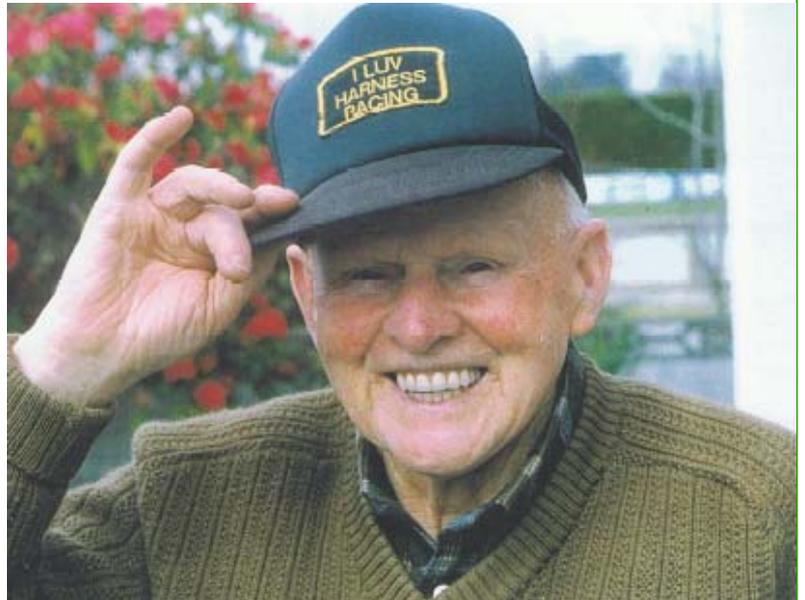
John Francis Chisholm 1915-2009

Written by Rex Chisholm, John's oldest son

John Chisholm died in McKenzie Healthcare, Geraldine, aged 94 years on 16 June 2009. John, known as Jack, was born on 20 February 1915. He was the second son of John Alexander and Mary Chisholm and the grandson of Archibald Chisholm who immigrated to New Zealand from Kilmorack, Scotland on the New Great Britain on 9 August 1863 and settled in the Southland area.



Jack did his schooling at the Grove Bush School, Southland. He travelled 4 miles each way, each day with his sisters, to school by horse and gig. He was one of a family of 7 children. His first job at the age of 15 was milking cows in Taranaki. Jack did not like the cows and soon returned to Southland. He took a job mustering at Glenorchy. From 1934 to 1945 he had a job working a team of horses on his uncle's farm at Myross Bush, near Invercargill. In this period he courted and in 1938 married Gwendoline Gardiner. They had two sons before he went overseas to serve in Egypt in the Second World War in 1943.



Jack purchased their first farm at Morton Mains in 1947 and began a long farming career. Morton Mains area had a reputation for ill thrift in sheep and Jack was the first to sow 12 tons of cobaltised super by horse-drawn top-dresser. This transformed the area into one of the best lamb fattening districts in New Zealand. The bush sickness caused by the lack of cobalt was known as Morton Mains Disease.

During his time at Morton Mains, 1947 -1963, Jack served on many local committees. He chaired the local RSA; Federated Farmers; School Committee; Bowling Club; Hall Committee and the Community Centre. Jack's and Gwen's daughter, born in 1954, was a cause for great celebration in the district. Jack sold their farm in Morton Mains in 1963 and moved from Southland to South Canterbury.

In 1964, in partnership with his two sons, Jack bought another property at Beautiful Valley, near Geraldine. This was a larger foothill property, running sheep and beef cattle. Jack still used his horse for mustering and often told the story of him riding home while watching the boys pushing their motorbikes. He retired to Geraldine in 1975.

Jack's greatest interest, outside of family and farming, was harness racing. He joined the Wyndham Trotting Club in 1959, became a steward, and went on to the Committee in 1961 while still in Southland. After moving to South Canterbury, he joined the Geraldine Trotting Club serving as President for 4 years and retiring in 1996. It was in this year he was inducted into the South Canterbury Harness Racing Hall of Fame - an honour of which he was very proud. He bred many horses, the most successful being Avon Bel and Sir Avon. In later years he was seen on most courses in the South Island, the last time being at Geraldine in 2008, always wearing his 'I Luv Harness Racing' cap.

From 1997 he kept in his cupboard a bottle of Johnny Walker whiskey, to be opened when his first great-grandson arrived. In 2004, after 6 fillies, a twin colt was born, carrying on the Chisholm name, from Archie through John, Jack, Bruce, Gregory to the new arrival, Isaac. The bottle was opened and celebrations began.

After retiring from farming to Geraldine in 1975, Jack was able to enjoy his other passion, singing. He had a trained voice, and loved sing-alongs around the piano with family and friends. His reper-

John Francis Chisholm cont

toire of Scottish songs was large, including "Amazing Grace", "Scotland the Brave", "Scottish Soldier" and the very appropriate "Campbelltown Loch". Jack spent much of his time entertaining at McKenzie Healthcare where Gwen was in care. In 1995 Gwen passed away. Jack continued to entertain for many years at the centre before he moved to live there for the last two years of his life.

Rhondda O'Donaghue - nee Chisholm

2/1/50-5/6/09

Written by Kay, her oldest sister.



Rhondda was born in Christchurch, 5th child to Georgina Jessie, nee Gilder, & Daniel Boyes Chisholm. I was 7 when Mum brought her home and I thought she was the most beautiful baby I had ever seen. She had a halo of beautiful red hair, as bright as a new penny & when I had my own children I wanted a red-haired daughter, just like her (none of my 4 girls were). Rhondda married young in 1967 & her first son, Roger, was born 1968. Michael followed in 1971 (born in Reefton where Rhondda went to help Dad in the hotel after Mum's sudden death in 1970) Gina was born 1973 back in Christchurch as Dad had sold the hotel in Reefton by then. The marriage dissolved right after Gina's birth. A year or two later Rhondda met Matthew O'Donaghue who was the love of her life, her soul mate and sailing mate & they married in Nov. 1978 - Matt adopting all 3 of the children and giving them not only his family name but becoming the most wonderful Dad they could have had. Matt is very close to his children as they support each other these days. Matt has had made a DVD of Rhondda's life & she really crammed some living into her short time. Rhondda was a competent diver - the videos



of them diving in Pupu Springs is quite magical. They bought a yacht with Rhondda receiving sailing lessons from one of the best persons available. They sailed it up and down the coast & through a terrible storm off the East Coast which was to stand them in good stead for their trip of a lifetime to the Islands, including Vanuatu. This trip can be seen on www.defiant.net.nz Matt had an inner ear infection at sea which rendered him unable to stand up and ill every so often. A storm struck & Rhondda sailed the yacht for 18 hours straight with the sea anchor out to steady it into the waves which were humungous. Matt was in awe of her skill & ability which saw them through the storm safely. Rhondda supported Matt through all his crazy ideas, sewing his parasail on Sonia's sewing machine, after which he took off from Sugar Hill & crashed ½ way down, spending several weeks in hospital mending his broken legs, etc. They were keen motor sport fans, never missing a Lady Wigram where Rhondda was the only wife allowed to go as an honorary 'guy'. They took their bus there & Rhondda took it for a spin around the track at the end of racing one year. They were members of a wine club, enjoying a huge circle of friends in all the areas of their lives.

When the grandchildren started arriving Rhondda slipped into this role as a natural - her pride worn on her sleeve of her love for them. Her greatest regret was not to be able to be there to enjoy them,

Rhondda O'Donaghue cont

Daniel Matthew 18, Hayden 8, Michaela 6, Keira 3, Aimee 3 & Shelby 2 & Jade 1. For all the wee girls she picked out and left a locket each for them for Christmas - Matt brought out a tray of them from the jeweller for Rhondda to pick one each for them, in those last weeks when she was nursed at home for 6 weeks by Matt & her best friend, Sonia. Rhondda & Matt were going to leave last May for their trip of a lifetime and sail the yacht to Valencia to the America's Cup - it was not to be. These days Matt is readying the yacht to sail around NZ then the Islands again before heading to Antarctica. It has given him a focus as he works on the Defiant.

Rhondda was close to all her sisters, Kay, Denise & Cherie & brother Terry, sharing 21st, engagements, weddings & any other cause for a party with us and our families. Denise's husband, Laurie, died 6 days after Rhondda after insisting that as he was also dying of cancer & in hospital, he had nothing to lose when the Doctor told him to attend the funeral was to put his life in jeopardy. He had a wonderful day out meeting all the family and friends, so, no regrets.

Too ugly to eat! A tale from Texas

Richard (Dick) H. Chisholm arrived with his family of 4 in De Witt Colony, Texas, in Feb 1829 and received a sitio of land on the west bank of the Guadalupe River. According to some stories in the Early Tales of Texas, Dick Chisholm was just too ugly to kill, and too ugly to eat.

"About the time that the Comanches were trying to make a treaty with the Texans they spared another man's life. Old man Chisholm was a blacksmith at Old Washington. He was a funny little old man, and regarded by every one as the ugliest and most harmless man in the world. He was at Old Washington first, and was a great favorite with Gen. Houston and all other prominent men. He was a little dried-up old man, and would not have weighed much over a hundred pounds; but his muscles were of iron and his sinews of steel, while he had the heart of a lion. After the capital had been moved from Old Washington, Old Man Chisholm, concluded he would go out West, where there was some chance of having a little fun occasionally. He had some fun. He was riding his old pony along the trail, headed for Col. King's ranch, when, suddenly looking around, he saw an army of warriors almost at his heels. He knew his old pony could not run, but he spurred him into a gallop and managed to keep ahead of his pursuers for two or three hundred yards. The warriors rode up on him and dragged him off of his horse and then cut his saddle off and threw it on the ground."



"They began to jabber among themselves, little dreaming that he understood their language. All at once they began to clap their hands and laugh. One had said, 'D--n him, he is too ugly to kill.' Another said, 'He is too ugly to eat; he would give an Indian the belly-ache.' They danced around him and laughed a great deal. Finally they put him on his pony, bareback, with his face towards the animal's tail, and then two led the pony and the balance set up a shout and whipped him with quirts all the way to camp. When they got into camp they all surrounded him and laughed as if they would kill themselves. They got an old silk plug hat and put it on him, and then they would pry open his eyes and blow in them and ask him how he came to be so awful ugly. Some said, 'Maybe he is the devil.' The squaws and the little Indians stuck arrows in him and said to him, 'They won't hurt you; you are too ugly.' After they had exhausted themselves with laughter, the chief told the warriors that they might decide what should be done with the old man. There were twenty-five Comanches and fifteen Wacos in camp. The Wacos wanted to burn him, but the Comanches voted to spare his life. They still jokingly said that he was too ugly to kill, but the real fact was that the Comanches were becoming alarmed at the growing power of Texas, and they were afraid of being driven entirely out of the country, and they wanted to make a treaty of peace. They had another frolic around Old Man Chisholm; the squaws pulled his nose, and the boys blew in his eyes. Then they told him to 'get on his pony and vamoose to h--l, where he belonged.'"

Clan Chisholm DNA Project

As of 1 March 2010, the project has 112 members. This includes several "guest" members, people who join the project because they have a common ancestor, as shown by Y-DNA. One of the key objectives of the project has been fulfilled. This is the identification of the old chief's line. Most helpful in this endeavour have been the samples, from Don in Australia, who possesses an unequivocal pedigree to the Knockfin family, thence to Chief Alexander XVII; Colin in Yorkshire, who has a good paper trail to Chief John XVI via Colin V of the Lietre family; and Ian in Vancouver who likewise has a link to Chief John XVI via *Clann ic Ruaridh* and Colin IV Lietre. The DNA identity of the Founder line of Clan Chisholm will be first publicly announced as an exclusive to the Clan Journal 2010.

The project has assisted in getting some sticking points in the database sorted out. This is where the genealogies accepted per McKenzie are not established in the database due to the lack of primary evidence. The Database has connected the Lietre families from Colin V, VI and VII to Colin IV Lietre. There is no OPR (Old Parish Register) or CW (Chisholm Writ) to connect Colin IV to Colin V or his other son Roderick. A mass of secondary evidence was presented to the Verification Committee, along with DNA evidence, to show that the descendants of Lietre matched the DNA from the Knockfin descendant. It is hoped to use similar procedures on a couple of other sticking points.

Several members have struck it lucky with DNA matches, helping to identify their family and lengthen their known pedigrees. Two examples can be easily recalled.

An Ohio family had knowledge of only a few generations back in time. DNA matching provided the vital clue and they linked up with a project member from the west, who could show them how their pedigree branched from his, and he could give them something quite important, an immigrant ancestor. In this case, quite a colourful ancestor, being one of the Glasgow immigrants who was press-ganged into service for the 84th Regiment of Royal Highland Emigrants, and was post Revolution settled in Nova Scotia, a far cry from the Hudson River where he was meant to settle in 1775.

A recent member from Australia could find ancestry also only a few generations back, with a vague notion of an immigrant from Aberdeen. The DNA project combined with the Forum to present this lucky Australian with a Chisholm pedigree longer than his arm, right back to AD1254.

For many Project members, it remains a waiting game to see when or if there is a match to another Chisholm, and with it, perhaps a clue to their Scottish place of origin. In this category are many examples of the Celtic core of Clan Chisholm. These groups make up the majority of the Highland Clan, but they are distinguished by being small groups of distinctly different genetic families. Amongst these Celtic groups comes the revelation from various experts that some of our number are descendants from the Royal House of Dalriada. We have a group who are descended from Erc, King of Dalriada prior to the Invasion. This group numbers 5, but within it there is a group of 3 who are from the same Chisholm family, and 2 other individuals where the common ancestor occurred in times long before the Chisholms entered the Highlands. Included in the Royal Dalriada group is the family of John Francis Chisholm (see page 7)

The Spanish group remains enigmatic, statistically the second largest genetic family in the Highland Clan, but without any other matches in Scotland, few in Britain as a whole, and many in Mediterranean places. The very close matches within the group, where there is only 3 single differences out of a total of 335 comparisons, indicates that it is a "relatively" recent addition to the Chisholm gene pool.

It's hard to keep DNA out of History and Genealogy; the three dimensions are inextricably linked. Some of the items "rediscovered" in Sydney, via Don's participation in the DNA project, continue to throw light on some old puzzles, and the innocent letter written by John Knockfin VI to his brother Archibald has provided a few gems. The bulk of the Sydney document is however a history of the Chisholms, which goes into Clan origins, and covers the principal family plus Knockfin, Borders, and Cromlix. This old document would seem to be a handwritten copy of James Logan's 1840 "History of the Chisholms".

Clan Chisholm DNA Project (cont)

The Logan manuscript is held by the National Library in Edinburgh, and is now being examined by Chisholm Chronicles editor, Dr Margaret Collin.

The DNA project committee added a new member, John D. Chism, of South Carolina. John brings a charming southern perspective and has been very helpful in recruitment, and in research, both genealogical and historical. He naturally adopts a rebel stance to issues in 1776 and 1861, and a patriotic stance to certain events in 1812. John has done major research on the descendants of Adam Chisholme, another of *ye majesties rebels*, deported to Virginia in 1716, and because of the entanglements of southern genealogies, he adds several other families to his area of interest, in the hope that things one day may be sorted out. These others include: The descendants of Richard Cheesome, allegedly in Virginia in 1642; The James Chism of Virginia group; The two Chisholm families of Charleston (Alexander the elder, and the younger); Recently he has gathered a lot of original data to help sort out John Chism (of Watauga and Franklin, not Cow John from Texas) from John D. Chisholm, from the early days of Eastern Tennessee, and also to try and throw a bit more light on the real origin of John D. Chisholm, whose grandson Jesse is possibly the most famous of all Chisholms.

Clan Chisholm Artifacts

These are items that have been bought or made by a Chisholm in the way of furniture, grand father clocks and such like, many are personal to a family.

The value of these items is of no interest to the Aritfacts registry, but their whereabouts is, so by registering these items family members in future years will be able to trace them.

We are aware that bagpipes would also qualify as they may have been played by several generations of one family.

To date there have been some extraordinary items registered, like the box from the boat Clan Chisholm and the mantle piece from Erchless castle. The only items not accepted are personal papers, certificates, photos and family histories.

Should you have an item worth registering please contact Fay Chisholm at mj.fd.chisholm@xtra.co.nz



CLAN CHISHOLM SOCIETY NEW ZEALAND:

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 .

Come on folks, it's such a little amount to pay, and for your sub you get the International Journal, at least three NZ newsletters, access to various web based resources, including web based newsletters from our sister clan societies in Canada and USA, plus the opportunity to join in and contribute.

Anybody fancy their writing and editing skills, here is the ideal place to learn, apply for the position of Assistant newsletter editor, and work your way into the job. An ideal way to upskill and enhance your CV. Contact the editor now!

Internet Based Resources

Clan Chisholm Society Website: Your first port of call to keep in touch. www.clanchisholmsociety.org

Chisholm Genealogical Database: Online Chisholm Family Trees, continually being added to as verification and authentication take place. Database Administrator: Bob Chisholm of Sussex
www.clansman.info/index.php. Ask your CCS Secretary (Barry) for access password.

Chisholm Genealogies International Forum:

The CGI is an "open forum," which means it is open to all members of the general public. The reason it is open, and not limited to members of the CCS, is that we want to encourage Chisholms who are non-members to participate and share their family tree histories, too. This information is just too important to miss by excluding them. And hopefully, they will want to join the CCS and continue to support our goals and objectives. To access the forum, go here: www.clansman.info/cgibin/yabb2/YaBB.pl - OR you can access it via the Clan Chisholm website. You will have to register, but it is not difficult. Administrator: Alistair Chisholm of Hampshire.

Clan Chisholm DNA project:

<http://www.familyreedna.com/public/Chisholm/default.aspx>

And now at Facebook.com. Members please let your children/grandchildren know. There are at least three groups on Facebook.

Feros Ferio: Chisholms of the World Unite (166 members) *Common Interest Group-For all Chisholm's...doesn't matter your DNA strain nor the country you live in or if you're related through marriage! Lets build the largest Genealogy group on the net! Post your family lineage and let's discover the past, together!*

Chisholms Unite (92 members) *Just for fun, -Fan Clubs.*

Chisholms Group : (13 members) *Just for fun, totally random.*

What's going on in the Clan Chisholm Forum:

Many topics have been under debate and discussion over the past few months. One topic which has received a lot of attention is the origin of the Teawig Chisholms. This is a Chisholm family who were very prominent in the late 1600's and the 1700's. They are given the label "Teawig" as this is the name of the farm they occupied just outside Beaulieu, on part of the Lovatt Estate. If there were financial deals to be done, the Teawigs were often involved, and they socialized with the leading families of the area. Glenn Chisholm from Chicago put forward an interesting proposition that this family descends from the youngest son of Chief John XVI, and there has been debate and research around that point. It's always difficult trying to dig up evidence from the early 1600's, and so Glenn's hypothesis at the moment remains neither proved, nor disproved. One unrelated, but interesting, side story cropped up during research into the inhabitants of Strathglass during the mid 17th century; this is the story of the "**Witches of Strathglass**". After Chief Alexander XVII died in the early 1660's, his oldest son Alexander became Chief Alexander the XIX. (For the missing 18th chief, see footnote 1). In the early days of his reign, decided to flex some muscle. There lived in Strathglass at that time, kindly tenants from Clan McLean, apparently they had been on the land for hundreds of years. Perhaps Young Chisholm, *An Siosal Og*, our 19th chief, coveted the lands upon which they dwelt, but could not find a legal reason to expel them. He gathered his brother and cousins, forming a formidable gang of five, and resorted to a most underhand method of achieving his goal. Pick up the story first from the Electric Scotland Website:



A group of poor people, tenants in the parish of Kilmorack and Kiltarlity, in Inverness-shire—namely, Hector McLean; Jonet McLean, his spouse;

Margaret McLean, sister of Jonet; and ten or twelve other women of indescribable Highland names—had been apprehended and imprisoned for the alleged crime of witchcraft, at the instance of Alexander Chisholm, of Comer; Colin Chisholm, his brother; John Valentine, and Thomas Chisholm, cousins of Alexander. The women had been put into restraint in Alexander Chisholm's house, while Hector McLean was confined in the Tolbooth of Inverness. Donald, a brother of John McLean, was searched for as being also a wizard, but he kept out of the way. The Chisholms then set to torturing the women, 'by waking them, hanging them up by the thumbs, burning the soles of their feet in the fire,' drawing some of them 'at horses' tails, and binding of them with widdies [withes] about the neck and feet.' Under this treatment, one became distracted, another died; the rest confessed whatever was demanded of them. Upon the strength of confessions extorted by 'tortures more bitter than death itself'—such is the language of the sufferers—the Chisholms had obtained a commission for trying the accused.

Young Chisholm wanted to at least do everything "legally", and what he did do was apparently following due process. For in those days, one could not commit a witch to trial and burning, unless they had first confessed. The appropriate method of obtaining the confession, was to obtain the services of a suitably qualified witch pricker. By inserting a large brass pin into various parts of the suspect's body, the skilled witch pricker could inevitably find a place where the accused apparently felt no pain. This may have been more often than not, located after the accused had passed into unconsciousness or delirium. Regardless of this, if they didn't scream when pricked in such a place, it was an undeniable sign that this was the location of the witches mark. When, if, consciousness was regained, the inevitable resumption of the pricking process must have prompted many a confession. Young Chisholm obtained the services of the best witchpricker in the North, Mr Patterson (see footnote 2). This practice derived from the belief that all witches and sorcerers bore a witch's mark that would not feel pain or bleed when pricked.



Prime positions for witch pricking

Young Chisholm succeeded in sending the McLeans to trial in Edinburgh. However, he had not reckoned with the bonds of clanship, and the Mclean chief, in distant Mull, took it upon himself to protect his clansfolk. It was totally irrelevant that this family had left the Mclean lands centuries ago, they were still McLeans, and he got the Edinburgh court to dismiss the charges, and more or less made a fool of the young Chisholm.

From the Transactions of the Gaelic Society.

We gather, however, from the Rev. James Fraser, whom I have already quoted, that several of the witches pricked by Paterson at Kirkhill "died in prison, being never brought to confession"; the rest for the Commission for their trial was not renewed escaped that fearful death to which at one time they seemed to be doomed. This deliverance they undoubtedly owed to the patriarchal and practical interest taken in them by Sir Allan of Duart, to whom, as their Chief, they still looked for protection, notwithstanding that they and their forefathers had been removed from his country for at least "two or three hundred years," and that a journey from Strathglass to Mull in those times was a more serious undertaking than a voyage across the Atlantic in our day. In the annals of our country there is perhaps no case which illustrates better than the one now under consideration the strength of that cord of care and confidence which in the olden times bound together the Chief and the Clan, and which the more conservative of our Highland Chiefs still strive to preserve; nor do I know of any incident that more vividly reflects the best features of the old clan system. In this present age of boasted "progress," and cold, calculating, and distant dealing between the high and the low, it affords the student of the past no small pleasure to stumble upon such kindly deeds as the exertions of Sir Allan Maclean, the Knight of Duart, to shield from injustice his "kinsfolk and friends," Jonet Nighean Iain Chaoil, and Bakie Nighean Iain Duibh Mhic Fhionnlaidh, the poor witches of Strathglass.

So it looks like it ended up a 1-1 draw. Young Chisholm and the Gang of Five may have been defeated in the Edinburgh Courthouse, but after this episode, these McLeans most likely moved promptly out of Strathglass.

Witches of Strathglass

Footnote 1

Our Clan Historian, Jean Munro, has shown that the 18th Chief listed in McKenzie's *History of the Chisholms* (1891) never actually existed. In this instance, McKenzie merely copied an earlier Historian, James Logan, who wrote a Chisholm History in 1840. It is not the only mistake which McKenzie copied off Logan.

Angus was described as being somewhat deformed, the one eyed Chisholm, *An Siosal Cam*. There is some evidence however, from James Fraser, Minister at Kirkhill, who witnessed the witch pricking of the McLeans, that it was in fact the leader of the Gang of Five, Young Chisholm, *An Siosal Og* (Chief Alex XIX) who had the deformity, and that the sobriquet *An Siosal Cam* rightly belonged to Chief Alexander XIX.

In his Wardlaw Manuscript, James Fraser describes the phenomenon of four Highland leaders all marked by a physical peculiarity... *Mackchinnich Glondow, MackHimmy Baldow, McIntosich Cline, agus Shissolach Came, that is black kneed Seaforth* (McKenzie), *blackspotted Lovatt* (Fraser), *squinteyed McIntosh and Chisholm blind of an eye; and those four are just now contemporary*.

Did you know that Chief Alexander Chisholm XIX is the 7th great grandfather of US President Franklin Roosevelt? <http://fabpedigree.com/s002/f262401.htm>. FDR would not have thought much of the New Deal that Young Alex gave to the McLeans.

Footnote 2

From Transactions of the Gaelic Society:

Paterson, the pricker, we are told, "gained a great deal of money, having two servants. At last he was discovered to be a woman disguised in men's clothes .



Announcing Clan Chisholm International Gathering 2011 in Duluth, Minnesota, USA.

Plans are underway for the next International Gathering of the Clan Chisholm in Duluth, MN. Unfamiliar with Duluth? Well, Duluth is a port city in Minnesota, sitting on the banks of the westernmost point on the north shore of Lake Superior. The population of Duluth is about 85,000. Duluth is the regional epicenter for banking, retail shopping, and tourism for northern Minnesota, northern Wisconsin, and northwestern Michigan. Arts and entertainment offerings, as well as year-round recreation, and the natural environment, have contributed to expansion of the tourist industry in Duluth. Some 3.5 million visitors come each year. The area is known for its cool summers, and it has a rich history and a beautiful historic district. There will be lots to see and do, so please stay tuned for further details about the 2011

AND DON'T FORGET

CLAN CHISHOLM SOCIETY NEW ZEALAND ANNUAL GATHERING, AGM AND DINNER

MAYDAY IN WELLYWOOD

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.