



CLAN CHISHOLM SOCIETY INC.
AUSTRALIAN BRANCH
NEWSLETTER
January 2021





Céad Míle Fáilte

(One hundred thousand welcomes – Gaelic)

Hello fellow Clansfolk

At the beginning of 2020 much of our beautiful country was ablaze. Not only were the effects of the catastrophic fires being felt here in Australia but also around the globe as the smoke from the bushfires travelled far and wide. Sadly, many people will carry mental, physical, financial, and emotional scars with them for life. As the flames died down, they were probably wondering when would their lives get back to normal again? However, before long we were all plunged into an even deeper catastrophe, a world-wide pandemic. In some ways Australia was a lucky country in its fight against the COVID-19 virus however we are all now pondering what shape our new 'normal' life will take? Will our lives ever be the same as pre COVID-19?

Therefore, it will come as no surprise that our 2021 Gathering has been cancelled due to the continuing uncertainty of COVID-19. In its place, we are going to adopt a process which has been on everyone's lips during the pandemic – a zoom meeting! It is a popular way for many people to join a video conference. Zoom can be used on a smart phone, tablet or computer. Your device will need to have a microphone and webcam. I suggest that if you are not familiar with the process that you download the Zoom app and study the helpful videos and links in readiness for our AGM on Sunday 28 February 2021 at 10:30am. One link I can recommend is

[How to Install and Use Zoom for Videoconferencing](https://www.computerhope.com/issues/ch002126.htm)
<https://www.computerhope.com/issues/ch002126.htm>

Prior to the zoom meeting anyone who has indicated to our Treasurer Alistair Thompson that they would like to attend, will receive an email which contains the Meeting ID and Password. Alistair's email address is alistairth@gmail.com

I suggest you test your Zoom settings well before the meeting –
<https://zoom.us/test>

In previous newsletters I have mentioned the Strathglass Heritage Association exhibition featuring the Clearances from Strathglass. It was due to be held in August 2020. The Association were requesting anyone with any information such as family stories, trees, photos etc to forward to them to be included in the exhibition. Due to the appearance of COVID – 19 the exhibition did not take place. They now hope to hold it in August 2021. Please keep this in mind and support this wonderful group who are doing a grand effort in exploring the history of our traditional lands.

Each year I share our Australian Branch newsletters with other Branches around the globe. Some branches are struggling to produce a newsletter. After discussion with the editor of CCS New Zealand Branch, it is proposed that we might work more collaboratively in producing newsletters. You will notice that one of our articles this edition was borrowed from a New Zealand Branch newsletter. If you would like to contribute an article, ask a question, share a photo or brick wall or a newspaper clipping please let me know. All donations are gratefully received. My contact details are on page 27. I know our CCS Journal Editor, Martin Chisholm, is also always looking for contributions from the branches. He can be contacted at mchisholm1@sky.com.

Subscriptions to our Clan Chisholm Society Branch are now due. Please refer to the notice on page 19.

Let us hope that 2021 is kinder to everyone. I look forward to meeting members as they participate in our AGM via Zoom. Video meetings can be fun. If you have any problems please contact either the President Tony Morrison, Treasurer Alistair Thompson or me. Our contact details are listed on page 27.

Kim Polley
Secretary

Cover photo: Urray area (K Polley, 2018)

A Scottish folk musician's initiative to entertain people during the coronavirus lockdown has come to an end.

In our last newsletter I featured an article about Duncan Chisholm from Inverness in Scotland. He is a world-famous Scottish fiddler and composer. Duncan shares his love of Strathglass and the Glens. He has made soundscape recordings inspired by our ancestral clan lands of Glen Strathfarrar, Glen Cannich and Glen Affric. During Covid, he posted each day traditional tunes under the banner 'Covid Ceilidhs'. The posts have been viewed tens of thousands of times by his fans all over the world. After four months when reduced restrictions on travel and social distancing were announced, Duncan decided to cease the posts. On Twitter Duncan wrote "After over four months of daily #COVIDCeilidh posts, last night I experienced the joy of a safe and socially distant real ceilidh. It seems timely then, as we negotiate such tentative and positive steps, to bring to a close these daily posts. Thanks for listening and sharing."

Thank you, Duncan, for your kindness. I do hope you and your family continue to stay safe.

(Reference: <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-highlands-islands-53471385>)

Duncan Chisholm's website is www.duncanchisholm.com. Do check it out.



DNA TIP

Did you know that you can look for your matches by using the country in which they tested? At My Heritage you can filter your DNA matches by country. If you have tested with another DNA testing company, you can upload those results to My Heritage. See Roberta Estes' article called DNA Tidbit #4: Filter matches by country at My Heritage (<https://dnaexplained.com/author/robertajestes/>)



Have you taken an autosomal DNA test at Ancestry, FTDNA, My Heritage, 23andMe etc?

If so, you may consider uploading it to FTDNA (familytreedna.com) so you can join our Chisholm Project. We may be the only clan which offers the benefit of a surname project to those who have taken an autosomal test. Autosomal testing reveals both your mother and father's line back 5 or so generations.

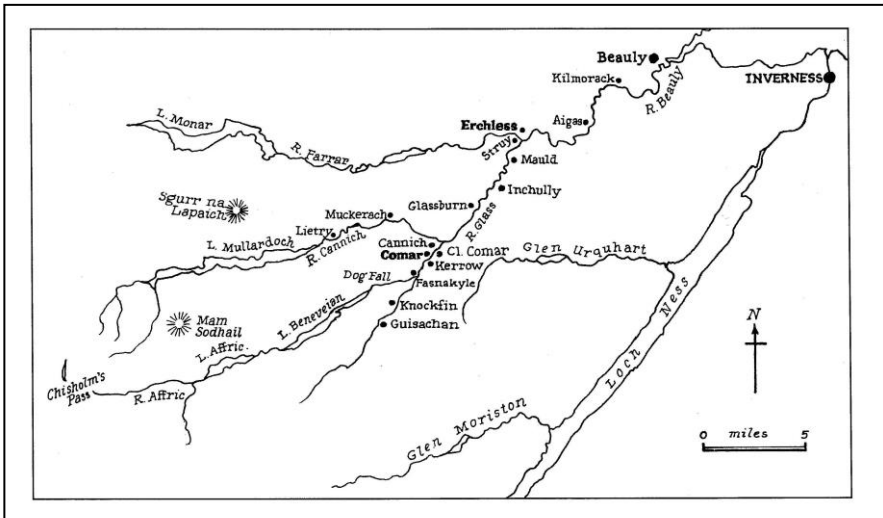
FTDNA is the testing company to which our menfolk submit their Y-DNA test (traces father's line) and both males and females can add their mtdna test (traces mother's line). If you transfer your autosomal kit to FTDNA (familytreedna.com) there are several benefits. Firstly, you will have a new database of kits with which you can compare. You also have a chromosome browser which one of the major DNA companies does not have. This will help you discover exactly on which chromosome(s) you match and who else matches there as well. It makes the task of identifying your link easier. Thirdly, you are also able to join the Chisholm Project. Through this you will be able to identify immediately who else who has taken an autosomal test in the Chisholm Project that you match!

Prince Charlie's Culloden Battle ammunition found

A group of amateur archaeologists recently found a stash of 215 musket balls, coins and gilt buttons. These were destined to arrive in Scotland to assist Bonnie Prince Charlie defeat the government forces in the Battle of Culloden which ended in 1746. Sadly, the shipment arrived too late. During the battle 1500 Jacobites supporting him were killed.

The objects were located in an area known to have been receiving goods for Prince Charlie's cause. The three men, who had been given permission to search using metal detectors, found the musket balls and coins near a ruined croft house which once belonged to the Prince's Gaelic tutor at Sandaig on the shores of the sea loch, Loch nan Uamh, Lochaber. The men believe that the goods may have been distributed at the time between sympathisers and hidden for safe keeping. (<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-highlands-islands-54904272>)

A Walk to Knockfin



**Jean Munro, *Strathglass Home of the Clan Chisholm*, undated brochure
Map of Strathglass**

I discovered it is possible to walk from Beauly to Strathglass, Glenstrathfarrar, Glen Cannich, Glen Affric (sp) and then to Kintail and absorb the views and delights as recorded through the eyes of George and Peter Anderson in 1834! It is free to read or download *Guide to the Highlands and Islands of Scotland including Orkney and Zetland*. (<https://www.google.com.au/books>). They described Strathglass as follows:

‘Both sides of this valley may now be described together. Its course is nearly south-west, and almost rectilinear. It is throughout pastoral; traversed by a sluggish river, and overflowings of which give rise to the much luxuriant pastures, although at the same time they render the grounds rather too wet for cultivation. The sides of the glen are all along fringed with beautiful woods of birch, over which, in ancient days, large pine forests stretched up to the summit of the hills. Successive burnings, the necessities of the proprietors, the general introduction of sheep and cattle into the country, (some will have it a change of climate,) have entirely swept these away; and a few solitary trees, clinging to the precipices, or trunks dug up from the peat mosses, are all that now remain to attest their former abundance. Strathglass was, at one period, a great storehouse for timber, and it contributed in no small degree to the scanty commerce which this country carried on. The Protector Cromwell used

an immense quantity of the pine from the Struy estate in the construction of his fortifications in Inverness.’ p. 524

‘On the north side of Strathglass, about seven miles above Struy, a wild torrent comes pouring down from the glen on the right, called Glen Cannich, along the banks of which are seen two groups of black huts, styled Easter and Wester Invercannich. This stream is crossed by a strong massive bridge, from the farther end of which a branch road slants up the acclivity of the neighbouring hill, and bringing us to a considerable elevation, ushers upon the upland glen, which we will presently describe.

Nearly opposite Invercannich, seven and a half miles from Struy, is the old clachan or chapel of Fasnakyle; the area of the sacred enclosure, with a small space around it, being occupied by the graves of the inhabitants of the glen. A little further on is the wide moor of Comar, the house of Fasnaklye, and a neat Roman Catholic chapel, embowered among weeping birches. At the bridge of Fasnakyle, the two Strathglass roads unite. Here the river Glass flows through a rocky channel, from a wooded glen, lying to the westward, which leads up by the Chisholm’s Pass to Lochs Benneveian (sp) and Affrick, the main road deviating towards the south. The high bold crag, rising betwixt the two, and forming a conspicuous object through the greater part of Strathglass, is called Knockfin, or Fingal’s Fort. It is surrounded on the summit by two enormously thick walls of stone, but it is not vitrified.’ p. 325 Vitrification referred to the procedure of subjecting the stone walls to intense heat to fuse the rocks together and strengthen them.



Photo: K Polley 2018

I have always been intrigued by the settlement of Knockfin and even more so since my DNA test results have appeared. The Knockfin tree in our Chisholm Genealogies, is the second largest with 1,183 individuals and 406 families. <http://chisholmgenealogy.com/DB/index.php>

There were 70 Knockfin men sent to Culloden of whom only seven returned. Knockfin holds sad memories. I investigated further.

There are many archaeological items recorded for Knockfin (references - National Monuments Record Collection www.rcahms.gov.uk; Highland Council Site Monument Records www.ambaile.org.au; Strathglass Heritage Association <http://www.strathglass-heritage.co.uk>; Highland Historic Environment Record

<https://her.highland.gov.uk>). There is the already mentioned fort or stronghold, known as Fingal's House or Knockfin, (NH32NW0002 3064 2792), called Larach Tigh nam Fionn, in which human remains were found in 1870. It is classified to be from the Early Bronze Age to Pictish 2400 BC? to 900 AD? The fort rests at about 500 feet, on the rocky spur of the ridge that divides the River Affric from Amhuinn Deabhag. It measures 100' (30 m) in length N-S by about 70' (21 m) transversely within a wall about 8-10' (2.4-3 m) in thickness.



Knockfin iron age fort

Photo: Strathglass Heritage Association

W Jolly, in 1882, noted remains of a cairn with some standing stones enclosing a cist (NH22NE 2 2930 2599). A cist is an ancient coffin or burial chamber.

W Jolly in 1882 noted the foundations of a chapel (NH22NE 1 2950 2627) in a cultivated field about 250 yards west of the previously mentioned hill called Knockfin or Fingal's Hill. It is believed that formerly it was surrounded by a graveyard. Jolly noted that there was a font-like stone set upon another stone. This was known as the Mid Knockfin Baptismal Stone. The basin was 6 inches across and 2 and a half inches deep. It was not recorded on an OS visit in 1964. It is now to be found in Our Lady and Saint Bean's Catholic Church, Marydale, Cannich (NH 2950 2627). It has been recorded as a medieval stoup, that is, a receptacle to contain holy water. It is pictured at left.



Photo: <http://www.strathglass-heritage.co.uk/the-church-of-st-mary-and-st-bean-at-marydale/>

Also, on display at Our Lady and Saint Bean's Church is Clack-a- Bhaistidh is a font mounted on a stone plinth. The boulder has a natural depression used to hold water. Father Farquharson, a Catholic priest, used to baptise children in a cave at Glen Cannich in which he was hiding whilst the Catholic faith was prohibited in the

eighteenth century. It is believed to have come from Fasnakyle chapel. (Blundell, I, *The Catholic Highlands of Scotland*, Vol 1, 1907). See photo below.



Photo: Clack-a-Bhaisidh

K Polley 2018

Other matters of archaeological interest are the inclusion on the OS 6" map (Inverness shire 1876 sheet xxxix) of a township (NH22NE 10 centred 2805 2507) consisting of three roofed buildings, four unroofed buildings and one enclosure. It is dated Post Medieval - 1560 AD to 1900 AD. Various other enclosures, a late eighteenth-century farmstead (NH22NE 15 2996 2680), the early nineteenth century built Knockfin bridge (NH32NW0017) (pictured below) over the River Deabhag are some of the

other objects recorded.



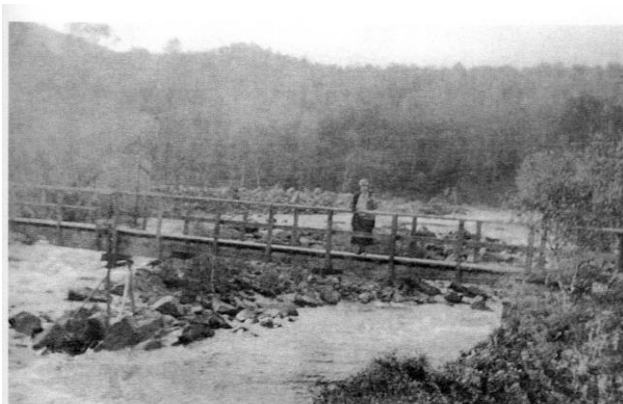
Photo: Knockfin bridge

<https://her.highland.gov.uk/Monument/MHG15756>

A grey Neolithic ground stone axehead (NH 284 253), found in the riverbed at Knockfin has been relocated to the Inverness Museum & Art Gallery (Museum Accession No. INVMG 2001.023).

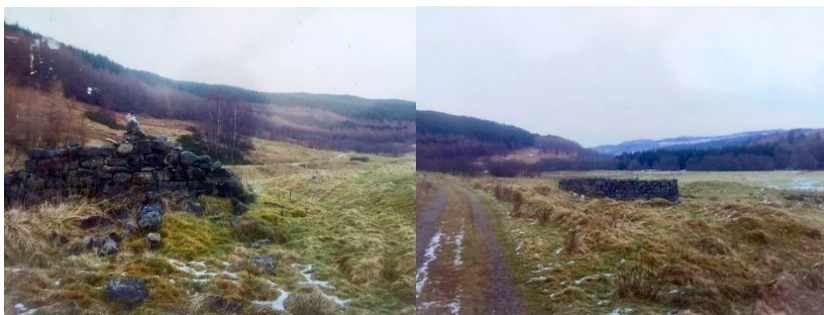
A report was published after a walkover study in 2004 of the Knockfin Forest by M Wildgoose and S Birch which found 43 separate archaeological sites. Fifteen of these sites were mentioned as in well-preserved condition. One of those is a nineteenth century fank or sheep sorting pen. (<https://her.highland.gov.uk/Event/EHG1215>)

I was able to obtain a photo of a relatively more recent bridge at Knockfin (see below). The bridge was used as part of a short cut between the village of Tomich and Fasnakyle. It would also have been used to access the lands of Knockfin, part of The Fasnakyle Estate, at that time for stalking and sporting purposes.



The main bridge on the river Affaric on path to Knockfin washed away by flood in 1966 circa 1920

Photo courtesy J MacLennan



Photos: two more recent photos of Knockfin in winter

Photo Courtesy A Chisholm

Whilst researching this article I became aware of the Fasnakyle Wind Farm Project being proposed. It could power up to 175,000 homes a year and help Scotland strive to continue towards its climate change targets by producing carbon-free electricity. Knockfin is one of the areas it mentions in its report. There are several other areas of interest to Chisholms. More details can be found at <https://www.fasnakylewindfarm.co.uk/publications/>

Good news from the Highland Archive Service Newsletter December 2020

‘In other exciting online news we are delighted to officially announce the launch, after many months of hard work, of the [Highland Archive Service online catalogue](#).

Until now, researchers wishing to find out more about our holdings have had to rely on printed catalogues available in our searchrooms, with our digital catalogue accessible only to staff. Now our extensive archive catalogue can be explored online, opening up our fantastic and varied collections to the world like never before.

The catalogue contains nearly 100,000 descriptions of archives and library holdings held in our four Archive Centres in Inverness, Portree, Fort William and Wick and it will be continually added to, with new content added on a monthly basis. You can search by text, reference number or Archive Centre to help you find entries relating to the subject you’re interested in, and once you have found records you would like to view, you can contact the relevant Archive Centre about accessing them – either by booking an appointment to view them or by a member of staff conducting a remote enquiry on your behalf.’

Postal Address: The Highland Archive Centre, Bught Road, Inverness, IV3 5SS

Email: archives@highlifehighland.com

CADET FAMILIES – WHAT ARE THEY?

This article has been taken from the Clan Chisholm Society NZ Newsletter # 55 April 2013 p. 10 by Robert Chisholm. Robert cautioned that more recent information may have come to light since his article was researched in 2013.

Some Clan members wonder just what is meant when various “Cadet Families” are mentioned. These are families which have descended from various younger sons of the chief, the oldest surviving son inevitably becoming the next Chief. The Cadet families have been handed down to us by historians such as Alexander McKenzie, and we continue with them as it makes it more convenient to break a large family into smaller sub-units. All of the cadet families mentioned in the McKenzie History are descended from a younger son of a chief.

Senior Cadet Family: Lietre

This is only the senior cadet family because it is the oldest one written about in our Chisholm historical records. There may be others, and there certainly were oral records. The oral records for the most part have been sadly lost to us. The name is given as Lietre, as the location up in Glen Cannich where later generations of the branch resided. This location is now either underwater (Loch Mullardoch), or close to being under-water, as our famed Highland Valley was flooded and dammed in the interests of Hydro electricity generation. Do I hear some Chisholms putting out their hands for a cut of the profits? The Lietre cadet family is descended from Chief John XVI, who lived in the late 1500's, early 1600's. His oldest son was Alexander, who became Chief Alexander XVII. His second son was Thomas, who settled on the east bank of the River Glass, at Kinneries. Thomas Chisholm's only recorded son, Thomas Og, became the second in this family line; he was famous for his hunting skills, and his red rifle, Gunna Dearg. Next we have son Archibald, and after Archibald, his son, known as Colin IV, who became a significant character in Chisholm histories. He fought not only at Sherrifmuir in 1716, but also at Culloden in 1746. In the years between these events, he moved his family into Lietrie up in Cannich, and it's from here that the cadet family gets its name. This word is spelled in a variety of ways, it's a Gaelic word that seems to be not so easy to render into

easy English, for convenience we use the spelling Lietre. Colin IV's oldest son was Roderick, also a fighter at Culloden; there he was wounded in the head, but otherwise escaped with his life. For some reason he did not inherit at Lietrie (maybe the mother-in-law), that honour went to the oldest son of the second marriage, Colin V of Lietre. Roderick himself settled up at Breakachy, and he had many children, and his offspring and their multitudinous descendants are categorised under the subgrouping name "Clann ic Ruaridh". Following on from Colin V are many sons, the oldest being also named Colin. Thus, we have Colin VI, and Colin VII. Colin the seventh of Lietre deserves extra special mention. He lived from the early 1800's to the turn of the next century. He worked for many a year in England for HM Customs, and returned in his retirement to his native glens. He became an encyclopaedia of all things Gaelic and all things Chisholm. Alexander McKenzie, writer of the History of the Chisholms, leaned heavily on Colin Chisholm. He was born when the diaspora was in its infancy; when he died, it was all over, and scarcely a Chisholm remained in the glens of our ancestors. Colin's son (named Colin) sadly died aged 6, thereafter survived 2 daughters. The end of the line for Lietre, but descendants live on; mostly they don't even know their distinguished line of descent. Audrey believes we have Lietre descendants in New Zealand.

Cadet Family: Knockfin

In the previous section we heard that the sixteenth Clan Chief John had a son Alexander who became the 17th chief. Now this Chief Alexander XVII had an oldest son named Alexander who became the next chief. He also had a younger son named Colin, a very enterprising lad, who established himself in the cattle droving business. It is thought by some, that perhaps through the cattle business, which permeated many highland areas, particularly west of Strathglass, we came to have the Chisholms of Skye. Colin became relatively wealthy and was able to purchase by wadset the lands of Knockfin (Upper Strathglass) from his brother the Chief, for 12,000 marks in 1678. This became quite significant 43 years later. Colin of Knockfin was also an able military leader, and he defeated Camerons and McMillans of Lochaber at Fasnakyle, a dangerous foray where the invaders sought not only to lift cattle, but to take the land as well. Colin had two younger sons, Archibald of Fasnakyle, and Alexander of Buntait, whose many descendants fill up pages of Clan History. His first son was John, who became John II of Knockfin. He was also handy with weapons and a leader of men. It was he who

effectively led the Clan into battle at Sheriffmuir in 1715, chief Roderick at age 18 being too inexperienced for this job. A consequence of defeat was the confiscation of all the estate belonging to the Chief. When the commissioners of the forfeited estates tried to obtain the rents for the Knockin land, there was blood spilt in Glen Affric. Ultimately the matter went to court and John II of Knockfin produced the wasdet deed, which showed that the Knockfin lands were NOT part of The Chisholm's estate, and were therefore not subject to confiscation. Just as well the commissioners and the courts never knew exactly how closely John II Knockfin was involved in the rebellion. John's oldest son succeeded as Colin III Knockfin, who had several sons whom we don't know a lot about, but one of them may be tied up in the Canadian mystery when we come to a search for the heir of Knockfin. Colin's youngest son warrants mention, Valentine of Inchully, who lived until the age of 96, and had two bishops amongst his many children. Colin's oldest son was named Colin, and he inherited and became Colin IV of Knockfin, Cailean Ogin Gaelic. The eldest son in the next generation was also named Colin, and he was distinguished as Colin 'a boige'. Colin a boige served in Fraser's Highlanders during the American Revolution. He was killed at the Battle of the Cowpens in South Carolina, a rebel victory in the south which greatly helped the cause of victory for the revolutionaries. This left, as the heir of Knockfin, Alexander Chisholm, the second son of Cailean Og. The search for Alexander, and his descendants, has occupied many people for a long time, and is on-going. He is reported as having led the Chisholm emigration from Strathglass to Glengarry County in Canada in the 1780's. Meanwhile back in Scotland, a younger son, John, succeeded at Knockfin as John V. He was the last of this family to live at Knockfin. His heir is known to us as John VI; he was a long serving member of the East India Company Army, and resided in Cheltenham when in Britain; and there is a similar story for his son, known as John VII in the history books. John VI had two brothers who were also officers in the East India Army. Brother William was killed on New Year's Day in 1818. Brother Archibald became a Captain in the Madras Army, and it was he who married Caroline Jones, famed and feted in both Australia and in her native Northampton for her deeds. Descendants of Archibald and Caroline live on in Australia today. Indeed descendants of both the Lietre and the Knockfin families reside through the Chisholm world, and while

many are aware of their descent via one of these Cadet families, others have not yet been able to connect the dots or fill in the gaps.

Cadet Family: Theodore

Theodore (I) was the second son of Chief Alexander XIX, brother to Chief John XX, An Siosalach Ruadh, or “the Red Chisholm”. Theodore lived at Invercannich. His son John II lived and died at Wester Knockfin. In the next generation, Theodore III lived and died at Comar, and in the following generation, the eldest son John became John IV, and though he resided for most of his time at Comar, he was at Struy when he died. The next generation sees Theodore Chisholm (V), who resides at Struy. In 1887 he is 81 years old, unmarried and without issue; he possesses not an inch of land and has no visible means of sustenance. Chief Roderick XXVIII has just died, and under the feudal system he would now be Chief of the Clan and proprietor of the Chisholm Estates. But the Chisholm estates no longer exist; they had been privatised in 1883. Whoever the new Chief will be, he will have a title, but no estates to go with it. It will not be Theodore at Struy, and his descent is outside of the entail, so the Courts will decide the merits of the claimants from the female line. The Goodens via Mary, daughter of Alexander the 23rd chief, or the Battens, via Jemima, daughter of Alexander’s younger half-brother William 24th chief. The Theodore Chisholm Family, sometimes called somewhat erroneously “of Struy”, is devoid of any direct male line descendants. There are plenty of descendants via the various maternal lines. Many of the daughters over several generations of this line married other Chisholms, so there is some apparent continuity there. Muckerach Red John, the 20th Chief, had Roderick as his heir, Roderick who was the chief during both the 1715 and 1745 Jacobite uprisings. The second son of Red John was Alexander, who lived at Muckerach up in Glen Cannich. This Alexander married into the Knockfin branch, and had several children, one being Archibald, his eldest son and heir; but that was not his claim to fame. Where Alexander of Muckerach was important was in the wheeling and dealing behind the scenes, whereby the forfeited Chisholm estate was largely restored to the family, through a complex series of manoeuvres. This deed was not forgotten by the next generation. Chief Roderick’s heir, Chief Alexander XXII, in 1777, made a strict entail of all the family inheritance. This went right down through the heirs male from his line, included all the generations and possible heirs not yet born. If all possible male heirs were ever exhausted, then the inheritors of the Chiefship and Chisholm estate

would be the heirs male of his cousin Archibald of Muckerach. If the Muckerach line failed, then the Estates and chiefship would fall to heirs female. Alexander the Entailer's male line of heirs expired just two generations and 81 years later with the death of his grandson Duncan MacDonnell, the 26th chief, in 1858; and so the Muckerach clause of the Entail was invoked. The three sons of Archibald II of Muckerach had long since moved to Canada. The heir male was grandson James Sutherland Chisholm, who became 27th Chief of the Clan; his son Roderick survived him by only two years. I don't know if there is any truth to the rumour that a curse was uttered on The Chisholm when the clansmen were pushed out of their highland homes during the clearances, but within 57 years, the line was extinguished. Less than 30 years later the closely related Muckerach line was also gone, and while the Muckerachs had no part in the clearances, they certainly did not help the cause of a strong and vibrant Clan Chisholm emerging to face the 20th century, by flogging off all the family wealth, lock, stock and barrel. It was left to the courts to work through the Entail, deciding the merits of the claimants from the heirs female, and as karma would have it, the decision was in favour of the Alexander the Entailer's granddaughter, Mary Gooden, the one who in conjunction with her mother resisted ongoing attempts to clear the clansfolk from Strathglass. Visitors to Erchless burial ground will find the grave of Chief Alexander William XXIV, and all the other graves and monuments are those belonging the Muckerach descendant family. (see photo at end of this article)

Cadet Family: Teawig

This is not a cadet family which is mentioned in McKenzie's History, but it was an influential family, especially in the early 18th century. The origin of this branch is lost in the mists of time, although there is a strong hypothesis that they descend from the youngest son of Chief John XIV. The border Chisholms have no known cadet families as such, but some observations can be made. The Eastern Borders has a Chisholme branch which appears (by DNA) to be descended from a very early branch off the main tree, remembering that the first de Chesholmes had strong interests in Berwick. An early Chisholm family was noted at Harehope and at Peebles, we are talking 1500's. A branch formed at Cromlix, north of the Forth, became famous for producing several bishops. The main Chisholme Border family was in great trouble in the early 1600's, and an element of testosterone should not be ruled out as part of the cause. A descendant branch of this main family is

believed to have been established as Chisholmes of Stirches (becoming extinct in 1899). At the same time as Chisholme of Stirches was being established, there was, in Hawick itself, one James Chisholme, styled as “Laird”, in my opinion it cannot be taken for granted that the Stirches Chisholmes were inheritors of the title of Border Chief for the Chisholme.

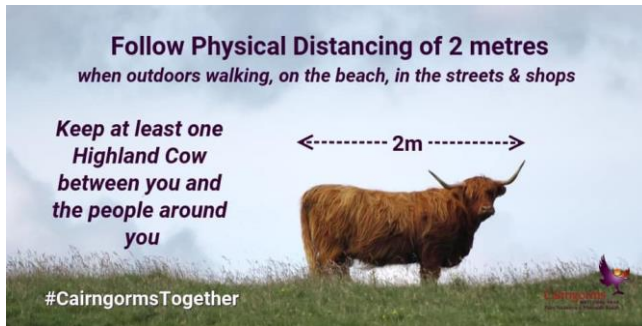
[Editor: The Chisholm Burial Ground opposite Erchless Castle has several headstones. The large monuments at the rear are (from left to right) The Chisholm Alexander William XXVth chief (1810-1838), Annie Cecilia, wife of JS Chisholm (d 1905), The Chisholm James Sutherland XXVth chief (1806-1885) and The Chisholm Roderick Matheson XXVth Chief (1862-1887).]



**Photo: Chisholm Burial Ground
K Polley 2010**

#LearnWithLorna

Lorna, the Community Engagement Officer at the Highland Archives, presents videos of interviews regarding various topics of interest to those who are keen to learn more about Scottish life especially in the Highlands. You can view over 40 videos on the High Life Highland YouTube channel.



Ancestral Mathematics

In order to be born, you needed:

2 parents
4 grandparents
8 great-grandparents
16 second great-grandparents
32 third great-grandparents
64 fourth great-grandparents
128 fifth great-grandparents
256 sixth great-grandparents
512 seventh great-grandparents
1,024 eighth great-grandparents
2,048 ninth great-grandparents

For you to be born today from 12 previous generations, you needed a total of 4,094 ancestors over the last 400 years.

Think for a moment – How many struggles? How many battles? How many difficulties? How much sadness? How much happiness? How many love stories? How many expressions of hope for the future? – did your ancestors have to undergo for you to exist in this present moment...

2021 FEES ARE NOW DUE!

\$35 single, \$45 double, children under 18 are free

PLEASE PAY VIA DIRECT DEBIT:

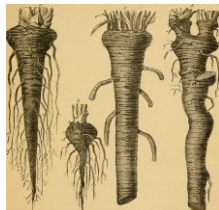
Account 205832169, BSB 012 865

Stating your name and member number if possible

**OR: cheque to The Treasurer, Clan Chisholm Soc. Inc
Alistair Thompson, 5 Marnoo Place, Belrose, NSW 2085**

Did you know that three Catholic priests were poisoned?

In January 1856 the Catholic congregation at St Mary's of Eskadale, Kiltarlity must have been shocked when they learned of the death due to poisoning of their Parish Priest, Mr Angus Mackenzie, a native of Strathglass and a descendant of Colin Chisholm I of Knockfin. Mackenzie and two other priests were attending a dinner hosted by the Provost in nearby Dingwall discussing the building of a new Dingwall church. The three men took seriously ill during dinner and died very suddenly. Apparently, a servant preparing the meal thought he had picked horseradish from the garden to accompany the roast beef. Sadly, it was discovered that he had retrieved a deadly but attractive blue perennial called monkshood instead. The two images on the left below are monkshood, the two on the right are horseradish. The Provost had planted them 18 inches apart in his garden. (<https://oldweirdscotland.com/tag/poison/>)



Newspaper snippets relating to Knockfin

- Appointment of Schoolmaster - The appointment of a school master at Knockfin, in the parish of Knockfin, having devolved upon the Commissioners, applications for the vacant situation were received. There were four candidates, all highly recommended. Mr Macaulay, teacher of the General Assembly School at Torridon, received the appointment – the preference being given in the consideration that his wife would be able to conduct a sewing school for girls, a condition on which Mr Marjoribanks of Guisachan expressed himself that he would be willing to give a liberal addition to the schoolmaster's salary, as well as to take measures for rendering the girls's school advantageous to all concerned. (*Inverness Courier*, 4 October 1855)
- At Knockfin Schoolhouse, Strathglass, on 18 February 1856 Mary Macvinish, the affectionate and beloved wife of Mr Donald Macaulay, parish schoolmaster – much and justly regretted (*Inverness Courier*, 21 February 1856)
- Deaths: At Anchnaich on the 31st ult., Mrs Chisholm, late of Knockfin (*Inverness Courier*, 9 February 1831)
- At Sydney New South Wales on the 15 November last Alexander, youngest son of the late John Chisholm Esquire Knockfin, in the 46th years of his age (*John O'Groat Journal*, 30 Mar 1855)
- Lieutenant Chisholm was of a family whose name is everywhere prominent in the toils of war and he has left behind him two brothers of similar character – Lieutenants John Chisholm of his own corps, and Archibald Chisholm of the Hon. Compay's Native Infantry. The three sons of the late John Chisholm. Of Knockfin, and nephews of William Fraser Esquire of Culbukie, in Strathglass, Inverness-shire (*Military Register*, 5 April 1820)
[I believe the deceased Lieutenant is William Chisholm, son of John Chisholm 5th of Knockfin]
- Some genealogists wonder if those who leave the Scottish shores ever return. Well, Archibald Chisholm did! (see newspaper article)

VISIT OF A FOUNDER OF A TOWN.

THE FASCINATION OF THE OLD COUNTRY.

Strathglass, which attracts so many notable visitors, was visited this week by one of its sons, Mr Archibald Chisholm, of Duluth, Minnesota, whose father, Mr Donald A. Chisholm, was a native of Strathglass, having been born at Knockfin, near Guisachan, 74 years ago. Mr Donald Chisholm, in his early youth, served an apprenticeship of 4½ years with Mr Noble, shoemaker, Struy, but being a man of an active and energetic temperament, he went to Canada, resolving to push his way there with little more than the proverbial "half-crown." Mr Donald Chisholm, who was characterised by great shrewdness, indomitable energy, perseverance and sterling integrity, started a store in Alexandria, Ontario, and very soon established a flourishing business. There he married Miss Catherine Chisholm, whose father was a native of Strathglass, but died at the early age of 44, survived by his wife, who is still living, and a family of 8. His son, Mr Archibald M. Chisholm, began life as a clerk in a mining office, but not finding this work congenial he started out as a prospector, and discovered and developed many valuable copper and iron mines. He has now large holdings both in copper and iron in various parts of the United States. He founded the town of Chisholm, and is president of the Bank of Chisholm, which he also founded. His father, instilling his son's mind with the lore and stories of the Highlands and the Highland people, developed in him an intense love for them, and he determined that if ever he was able to do so he would visit the scenes of his father's early days. He was glad, on returning to Strathglass, to discover many relatives there, in whose welfare he is taking a very practical interest. We understand that the deficit on the Public Hall now being built at Cannich will be provided by him, and as a tribute of his reverence and affection for his well-loved father he proposes to give annual prizes to be competed for in the various schools in Strathglass. He has presented a silver cup to the Beauly Golf Club, and is interesting himself in other local institutions. Mr Chisholm has also presented a similar cup to the Inverness Golf Club.

Highland News, 17 September 1910



A tribute to Joyce Bott (nee Chisholm) (1933-2020) by her sister Marjorie Mill

Joyce was born in 1933 to Eliza Blanche and Robert James Chisholm. The family lived in Mitchell, Western Queensland. Robert's father, James Chisholm, had moved to Mitchell in 1883 to work on the Maranoa River railway bridge. Joyce and her siblings Donald and Marjorie moved with her parents to Southport during the war years, followed by another move to Dalby, Qld, where her primary schooling finished. Another move to Brisbane followed where she attended Brisbane Girls Grammar School.

It was in Brisbane where she attended the Congregational Church and became a committed Christian, maintaining that commitment all her life. After school Joyce worked in a bank before starting her nursing career at the Brisbane General Hospital. She became a Registered Nurse, then Midwifery followed at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Adelaide. A move back to Brisbane to complete her training in Maternal and Child Welfare followed, then practical experience in Maternal and Child Welfare at Goondiwindi.

While in Goondiwindi she met Wilf Bott, but before marrying she spent 6 months in New Zealand on a working holiday. Returning to Goondi, as the locals call it, she married Wilf and settled down to married life and motherhood with the couple's first child, Robert, being born. With Wilf working for the Dept of Primary Industries another move soon followed to Dalby where children Wendy and Max were born. While in Dalby Joyce, who was always interested in art, became a member of the "Flying Art School" run by an artist called Mervin Moriarty, who flew into remote areas to encourage the local artists. A final move to Maryborough, Qld. followed where Joyce's love of art flourished. I remember her Stocking paintings, very different collages of wispy nylon.

Joyce wrote all our family history, complete with funny anecdotes, to be passed on to our children. She sponsored her children as Chisholm Society members, and attended many Clan Gatherings, enjoying the sense of family these occasions generated. Joyce was a kind and caring soul who left us on 3rd of April 2020.

[Editor: Rest in peace, dear Joyce. To learn more about Joyce's life go to <https://www.ourfrasercoast.com.au/news/article/21/artist-profile-joyce-bott>]

This copy of a letter is from my much-valued correspondent Donald Chisholm (South Australia). He found the letter whilst cleaning up during the pandemic. It was given to him by his cousin Jim Chisholm who fought in the Pacific area during World War 11.

The 'Vildebeest' Squadrons Nos 36 & 100 in RAF, Singapore 1941-2

These squadrons (with 36 aircraft) call for special mention in the story of the Air Force in Malaya. Flown by seasoned English pilots many of whom had been in the Far East for years, Vildebeest were in operations from 8th December to 18 March near Kalidjoti in Java. The navigators and gunners were mainly Australians.

Up until the Endau attack on East Coast of Malaya on 26th January (p. 344 Official History) this aged bi-plane had (I think) been used mainly on night bombing of aerodromes. It was a cruel decision for AVM Pulford to be forced into making, to send them on the Endau attacks – p 344 of Official History RAAF.

On the 3rd attack, they had no air cover and very little cloud. Due to some error the planned cover by Hurricanes misfired – Tengah's station commander Watts suicided (blew his brains out, Geoff Sheppard told me here in 1983) from mortification over an error he had made.

I knew several of the Australians who were in these squadrons, viz:- Mick Hornibrook of Melbourne, died in Thailand; Vic Ryan of Adelaide, died in Melbourne not long ago; John Blunt of Adelaide, now in Melbourne; Ivan Jones of Melbourne, I met him at POW ? reunion in Adelaide February 1978; Bill Chisholm KIA off Java 1 March 1942. Vic Ryan was shot through a foot in the Endau strike. The nervous tension of the flight back was so acute that he was unaware of the wound until he had landed.

Night after night at Sembawang we would hear the Vildebeests flying northwards. Few squadrons of the RAF in any theatre of the war probably had a more nerve-racking task than Nos 36 and 100.

D C Howie 1984, Waikerie

Another letter was penned by Douglas Cullen Howie, former Flying Officer A280805 to Rotary International in Mermaid Beach, Southport, Queensland in March 1998. He was thanking them for aiding a book to be published called ‘The Darkest Days of the RAAF’ by Alan Morris.

As a member of the No 1 Squadron from June 1941 and through to VP Day (spent in Kanburi POW Camp, Thailand) I saw many of its members bear with dignity and resilience. in at the time, appalling conditions inflicted upon them. As an officer I did not have to do the manual work. This privilege gave me a much better chance of survival compared with the other ranks.

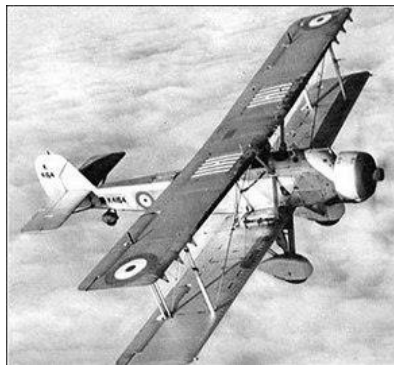
The RAAF in the Far East came from all the states in a fairly even spread and also from diverse backgrounds. I think they represented a segment of the cream of Australia’s youth.

This book should help to make present and future generations understand that the RAAF did play a part in delaying the Japanese advance. It helped to give those vital three months, in which aided by gallant US forces, Australia prepared for the New Guinea battles.

Again, thank you for the help you gave Allan Morris in bringing to fruition hundreds of hours of painstaking research.

Yours faithfully

DC Howie



Role	Torpedo Bomber / Army Co-operation
Manufacturer	<u>Vickers</u>
First flight	1928
Introduction	1933
Retired	1942
Primary users	<u>Royal Air Force</u> <u>Royal New Zealand Air Force</u> Spain
Number built	209 (Vildebeest) 197 (Vincent)

[Editor: It would be wonderful to read ‘The Darkest Days of the RAAF’]

Have you ever visited Chapel Graveyard in Inverness?

About half a kilometre downhill from Inverness Castle is a very old graveyard called Chapel Yard or Glebe Burial Ground. A chapel was located here, built in 1359, but was demolished a long time ago. I was delighted to read on the entrance notice board that Chisholm is one of the Highland Clans who are represented on the headstones. At the time of my visit in 2018, I found it an intriguing place to visit however I was saddened to see apparently homeless individuals living under trees and hedges.



Today it contains a combination of very old headstones and more recent ones from the eighteenth century and beyond. The oldest headstone is that of Hester Eliot dated 1604, a great grandniece of Mary Queen of Scots. On many of the headstones there is a record of the occupations of those buried there. Some of the following occupations are noted - blacksmith, carpenter, cartwright, flesher (butcher), glover, letter-carrier, mason, shoemaker, merchant, stonecutter, vinter, weaver, provost, meal dealer (meal is roughly ground cereal crop). Notably women were recorded as 'beloved wife of'. Their identity was not linked to whether or not they were in paid work such a



textile and weaving, domestic services, seamstresses or maybe brewing alcohol.

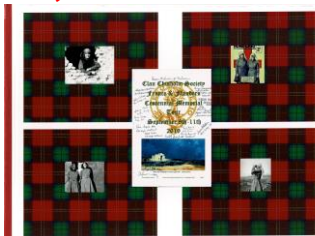
(Photos: britainexpress.com)

Graveyards, especially in olden times, were an important place for families and clans. They are a source of pride and connection. This was probably why Jacobite sympathisers entered the Chapel Graveyard and destroyed the headstones of families who were known not to support their cause but instead were aligned with

the government forces in the Battle of Culloden. It was not surprising to learn that Cumberland used this sacred area to graze the cattle he had taken from Lord Lovatt's estate!

It found that many of the headstones are well photographed and legible and copyright has been kindly waived (<http://www.oddquine.co.uk/gravestones/gravestones24.htm>). I have named some of the Chisholms I found but there are more – Alexander Chissolme and Margaret Juner; Roderick Chisholm commission agent in Inverness; John Chisholm blacksmith and Mary McDonald; Alexander Chisholm Aultnaskiagh and Jane Dallas; Alexander Fraser baker and Catherine Chisholm; William McLeay and Mary Chisholm; Charles Ross and Margaret Chisholm; Alexander McGillivray tailor and Margaret Chisholm; J Chisholm deckhand; John Munro carpenter and Jessie Chisholm; Alexander Chisholm and Roseann Nicholson; Donald Chisholm and Betsy Ross; Donald Bain and Jessie Chisholm. The headstones are worth viewing as many have names of children included.

THANK YOU, MAIRI-ANGELA FOSTER!



During the pandemic I received, for the Branch Archives, a fabulous book about the International Clan Gathering in Ypres (Belgium) 8-11 September 2019. It outlines the Centennial Memorial Tour of France and Belgium. The group was guided by Robert Chisholm from New Zealand and Stefaan Vandenbussche from Flanders, the latter who had been instrumental in erecting the statue of Mairi Chisholm and Elsie Knocker in Ypres in 2014. The book was kindly donated to us by the very thoughtful Mairi-Angela Foster (nee Chisholm) who initiated the tour. There are 68 pages of pictures and stories of what the group saw. It is a wonderful reference book for Chisholms. Thank you for your kind generosity,



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Clan Chisholm Society Genealogy Database

www.chisholmgenealogy.com/DB/ (Secretary can provide password)

CCSForum: <http://www.chisholmgenealogy.com/cgi-bin/yabb2/YaBB.p>

Clan Chisholm Australia Branch Genealogy Database

clanchisholm.net.au.s3-website-ap-southeast-2.amazonaws.com

(Suggest you use Microsoft Edge. Secretary can provide password)

CUIMHNICHAIBH AIR NA DAOINE O 'N D'THAINIG SIBH
REMEMBER THE PEOPLE FROM WHOM YOU HAVE COME



THREE wee Scotties and a
lucky horseshoe —
A guid combination — that's clear,
May they bring ye Guid Health
An' Guid Fortune forbye,
Tae last ye for mony a year !

Thank you to those wonderful people who have assisted me in preparing this newsletter: Donald Chisholm, Robert Chisholm, J MacIennan, Marjorie Mill, A Chisholm