



# Clan Chisholm Society

Combined Newsletter January 2023



## Australia and New Zealand Branches

### Inside this issue:

It's a Happy New Year to all members and their families, and big thank you to all the contributors to this newsletter, from your editors Kim and Robert. Without your contributions this would be a very thin newsletter, and we even have copy left over for next time. But please don't rest on your laurels, if you see something of interest or have something to say, please bear in mind that we need this for the next newsletter in 6 months time. A case in point is the showcase of 3 talented Chisholm women in New Zealand; Lael, Ceri, and Hannah. If you have somebody in your family who has done well or has news to share, let us know so we can share it with everybody else.

There is a real mix of articles in this edition, Sombre, informative, lighthearted, and all with that important Chisholm connection. Important Branch information is provided in the pages at the end of the newsletter.

Happy Reading everybody. Any queries, get in touch with the editors. Don't forget to distribute the e-letter to family members, and print a copy for those who are not computer users.

This newsletter prints to standard A4.

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## A Grenadier's Tribute



An old Chief of the Clan reputedly claimed that only three persons in the world were entitled to use the definite article “The”, namely **The Pope, The King, and The Chisholm**. This was still true when the revitalised Clan Chisholm Society was founded in 1951 by The Chisholm (Chief Alastair) and his Aunt Mairi. However within a very short space of time, a modification was needed when young Princess Elizabeth ascended to the throne, and for the past 70 years, it's only been **The Pope, The Queen, and The Chisholm** who were so entitled. Sadly with the passing of the Queen, this time has also passed. An integral part of the magnificent pomp and ceremony of the funeral service was of course the role of the Grenadier Guards. We have our very own Grenadier, in the form of **Ben Chisholm-Broomfield**, UK Branch Chairman. I knew for a fact that he was a participant with the Grenadiers during the coronation of our late Queen, and I was hoping he might have something to say, and indeed he did. I take great pleasure in reprinting his comments, as they appeared in the recent UK Branch newsletter.

*“Sadly the passing of her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II has left the nation mourning a remarkable lady; whose faith in her religious beliefs as well as faith in the nation and Commonwealth never faulted. If I may be allowed to say a few words as I was just 17 years of age when she succeeded to the throne in 1952. On reaching my call up papers in the May (1952) aged 18, I joined the Grenadier Guards at Caterham Barracks; on completion of training I joined the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion and was stationed at Chelsea Barracks. In 1953, during that time I was on duty lining the Street for the Coronation, something I will always remember. The Pageantry, Pomp, and Glory was amazing. Crowds were huge and very humble, honoured to be there in the thousands and thousands. A truly magnificent occasion.*

*Seeing her Majesty, Prince Phillip with Charles and Anne in the gardens of Buckingham Palace at times relaxing, whilst being on Sentry duty made me proud to have served Queen Elizabeth II.*

*Not only then but doing duties such as Trooping The Colour and Sentry duties at St James Palace, Tower of London, Windsor Castle and the Lord Mayors Show amongst routine duties. After watching her Majesty's Funeral on television it reminded me of how well organised and spectacular, such Royal tributes are enacted. We bow our heads in honour of such a Monarch who was loved by so many throughout the world.”*



Flickr: photo by U.S. Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Dominique A. Pineiro



Ben relaxing at Howick Village in 2012

## Companion to the Queen Consort

With the passing of the Queen Elizabeth, King Charles's wife Camilla becomes Queen Consort Camilla. One of Queen Consort Camilla's new 'companions' (not ladies in waiting any more) is Baroness Chisholm of Owlpen. Caroline Elizabeth Chisholm, Baroness Chisholm of Owlpen (born 23 December 1951), is a UK life peeress and member of the House of Lords, where she currently sits as a Crossbencher. She is the only daughter of John Wyndham, 6th Baron Leconfield,<sup>1</sup> and Pamela Wyndham, Lady Egremont.

In 1976 she married Colin Chisholm, son of Archibald Chisholm CBE. This Chisholm family has distinguished itself over many generations, with various members being in wartime military intelligence, editors of Financial Times,



<https://members.parliament.uk/member/4330/portrait>

The Times, Encyclopaedia Britannica, Warden of Standards. Of particular note is one of the women of the family the mathematician Dr Grace Chisholm Young.

Service to the Royal Household in this family did not start with Baroness Chisholm, it actually was the beginning of this branch of Chisholm in England. A paragraph from the Medlam files reads as follows:

*"That is to say, in 1714 probably to avoid the anticipated Jacobite rebellion, William's father left Strathglass for London, where Queen Anne, who was to die later in the year, appointed him to a minor post, with residence, at St. James's Palace. She is believed to have shared the Royal preference, with her successor Queens Victoria and Mary, for tall good-looking Highlanders. He stood six foot four and a half inches in kilt and hose and is believed to have changed his religion in order to keep his employment. In the course of time he was succeeded in his post and residence at St James's Palace by his son William, and the latter by his son George, with the post and residence enlarging all the time. George died in 1811 from his exertions to stop a big fire at the Palace. In view of that bravery, his widow was then appointed to his post of Keeper of the Royal Apartments with residence and perquisites to match. She occupied that position until her death in 1872 by which time great trust was reposed in her at the Palace. She was well-known and respected by the older members of the Royal Family and especially by Queen Victoria. Respect for her extended also to King George IV who invited her to his Coronation Banquet where she sat next to the author, Sir Walter Scott."*



Editor's note: Clan Chisholm DNA Project Data shows that the original Strathglass emigrant was a descendant of a Chisholm Chief



Hugh Chisholm (left)  
Editor of  
Encyclopaedia Britannica



Grace Chisholm-Young (right)  
(wikipedia images)





## BRUCE CHISHOLM

By Carolyn Chown

3rd June 1949 – 18<sup>th</sup> October, 2022

Bruce and Kerry  
at Clan dinner  
in Goulburn 2017



Many members will have fond memories of Bruce Chisholm who, with his wife Kerry, was a long-standing member of our Clan. Miriam Chisholm started the Australian branch of the Clan Chisholm in 1954 after returning from a trip to Scotland; Ken Watson joined the Clan shortly after and encouraged his cousin Bruce to join as well. Bruce and his family were part of gatherings back in the 1980s; I can remember Bruce and Kerry, with their three girls at meetings around that time. Ken became President from 1957 – 1996; Bruce was Vice President until recently and Kerry also contributed as our representative with the International Clan.

Bruce died in hospital on 18<sup>th</sup> October this year after a long battle with his health. His life centred on his family, his farm, his engineering career and our Clan.

Bruce was born on 3<sup>rd</sup> June, 1949, only child of Mary and Laurie Chisholm of Barrington, near Gloucester NSW. The farm had been settled by Bruce's grandfather Kenneth and his wife Christina (nee Bethune (Beaton)), one of the many families that came out from Skye in the mid-1850s to escape famine in the Scottish Islands (including Skye). Emigration was assisted by companies such as the Highland and Island Emigration Society, which started around 1846. At one stage there were up to nineteen Skye families living in the Barrington River area. They came to the early farming settlements along the Barrington River and up towards Stroud, sometimes via the gold diggings in Ballarat and closer in the Hunter regions.



A young Bruce  
with his parents on the RHS  
Maisie and Roy Watson on LHS

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Bruce spent his childhood on the farm, in fact most of his life, with some excursions connected to his engineering career. When his father died Bruce was only 15 and his mother leased the farm to neighbours so that Bruce could continue his schooling. With his interest in maths and science he decided to study civil engineering and took up a traineeship with the Department of Main Roads. This led to Newcastle where he did his degree. After graduation he went to Ballina, then to Gloucester to be closer to home, always aiming to be connected to the farm; however work took him further north to Murwillumbah and Bulahdelah. It was here he met Kerry and they married in 1973. They were able to return to Gloucester and take up the farm when the lease expired.

They settled on the farm and their three daughters (Catherine, Alison and Jennifer) were born there. They reopened the dairy and operated it for several years with hired help for the milking during the week. Eventually, family and travel meant they closed the dairy and concentrated on beef cattle only. Bruce decided to retire and just do short term contract work in the area for the Council. This was a convenient lifestyle until Kerry retired from Fairfax and they could spend time travelling, including a trip to Skye to explore his family origins.

Once again, in his 60s, Bruce took on projects for the Council that were in the Hunter Mid-Coast area so he could still spend time on the farm. It turned out that almost any car trip he and Kerry took around the area went past projects he had worked on. It was around his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday that he decided to retire completely. He enjoyed running the farm himself for some time before his health started to deteriorate and he was able to find a helper to run things. Medical troubles were well cared for in Gloucester and he and Kerry were kept busy with their growing family; three married daughters and six grandchildren (Mikey, Emily, Gabrielle, Lachlan, Sophie and Jessica). Bruce and Kerry joined us in Ballarat for our last holiday Clan Meeting, before Covid kept us all at home and using zoom for meetings.

We will miss their cheery faces at meetings in the future and we hope we can persuade Kerry to join us sometimes. Bruce and Kerry along with my husband Peter and me had some wonderful meetings at the Bonnie Wingham Scottish Days over the years. They were the custodians of the Clan gazebo and banner that we would set up among the Clans to have really super days, chatting and laughing while watching the marching bands and the games.

We have thought of Bruce and his cousin Ken Watson as "The Tall Men of Skye" after the story that we published in our Clan Chisholm Book in 1990. Their wisdom, connection and friendship have been immensely valued by us all over the years.





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## RUTH & KEN WATSON

By Carolyn Chown

Writing Bruce's story has reconnected me with Elizabeth Flockton, daughter of Ken and Ruth Watson. She, Ken and Kerry provided many details for this story. Ken and Bruce were cousins and were part of the Tall Men of Skye. Sadly we lost Ken's wife Ruth last year and, as a tribute to her I have added some thoughts that Elizabeth sent me.

Ken Watson also lived at Barrington in his early years; a previous photo (in Bruce's story) shows his parents Maisie and Roy, the two families very obviously very connected. Ken left Barrington to study pharmacy at Sydney University. He and Bruce shared the same grandfather Kenneth Chisholm who settled on farms at Barrington in the late 1800s.

Ken and Ruth devoted many years to the Clan. Ken joined not long after Miriam Chisholm started the Australian Branch in 1954. He became president of the Australian Branch in 1957 and remained its guiding president until 1996; he married Ruth in 1958. His daughter Elizabeth took over from him as President for many years. Throughout the years Ruth joined Ken for the Clan Chisholm meetings, travelling to Glen Innes and Bundanoon Celtic gatherings, as well as regular meetings in Goulburn in the old Church at Kippilaw. At times they hosted AGMs in their home, preparing many a delicious lunch or supper.

They enjoyed trips to Scotland, meeting the Scottish and English Clan folk, also attending an International AGM.



- 1: Pam Chisholm (Ruari's wife)
- 2: Ruari Chisholm, brother of Chief Alastair Chisholm of Chisholm
- 3: Sheila Jones
- 4: Sheila's mother.
- 5: Ruth Watson
- 6: Wilfred Medlam
- 7: Virginia Medlam
- 8: Juliette Chisholm-Broomfield

In London meeting Ruari Chisholm who was President at the time. This meeting took place at the home of Ben and Juliette Chisholm-Broomfield.

Ruth Watson died peacefully at home on 26<sup>th</sup> August 2021. She had struggled with dementia for several years, cared for by the family prior to her death. As it was during Covid restrictions, Ruth was farewelled with a beautifully simple ceremony by the graveside with her immediate family present.





## IN ABERDEEN AND INVERNESS

By Heather Boyd

Geoff and I have currently been in Aberdeen on grandparent duty for the last four weeks. This is not our first trip so we have done the castles and other touristy things. Aberdeen is a beautiful city with a lot of interesting history and we enjoy just walking.

So I thought you may be interested by a couple of things not on the tourist route!

The parents have arrived home so last weekend we took the train to Inverness for an overnight stay. Autumn in Scotland is stunning and the weather has been very mild so we had a very pleasant train trip, only to find ScotRail were going on strike and we either had to walk back to Aberdeen or hope the family would pick us up!

An obligatory visit in Inverness is the Chisholm Kilt shop, where I was invited to sign the special visitors book, for “Chisholms only”, that has been going since the 1960s. I have visited before but never knew the book existed. So next time you visit and you haven’t signed the book, tell them you are a Chisholm!



We stayed in the Royal Highlander Hotel, which is the original railway hotel connected to the station in Inverness and has a fascinating history, especially its contribution to the First World War, providing meals for naval personnel at the station on their way to the ferry to Orkney and Scarpa Flow. The hotel staff also discovered spies in the hotel, who were sentenced to death and life imprisonment. The decor has been kept so has a great ambiance and is well worth a stay. The staircase is the model used for the main staircase on the Titanic. (see overpage)

On a previous trip to Aberdeen (2019), I found a book called “Hidden Aberdeen” and discovered that the steersman and quartermaster who was steering the Titanic when it hit the iceberg was buried in Aberdeen. I have an interest in the Titanic as my grandfather Colin Chisholm and his brother John were booked on the Titanic, but as it was overbooked fortunately they did not sail.



Chisholms Highland Dress  
47-51 Castle Street Inverness



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Royal Highlander Hotel

So we had a family outing to find his grave and after much searching found the little wooden cross. Shortly after our visit my daughter in law sent me an article that his great grandchildren had given him a proper headstone, so of course this visit we had to go and find him again.

Robert Hichens had an interesting but sad life after the sinking of the Titanic. He has been blamed for the sinking by hitting the iceberg, but he was obeying direct orders from the first officer. He was in charge of lifeboat number 6 and was accused by a passenger of not going back for more people. He was taken to court and absolved of any wrong doing for if they had gone back they would have been dragged down by the ship or sunk with too many in the lifeboat.

The woman who accused him of not saving lives and reportedly telling her to “shut up, sit down and row” was an American millionaires Mrs Molly Brown, who was later immortalised in the musical “The Unsinkable Molly Brown”.

He served in both wars and died aboard a ship off the coast of Aberdeen in 1940. For many years his family believed he had been buried at sea until his great grandchildren started a search hoping he would no longer be remembered as “the man who sank the Titanic”.

Heather Boyd in Aberdeen







## GERALDINE KENWAY

By Tony Morrison

21<sup>st</sup> March 1941 - 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2022

It is with great sadness that I have to report that Geraldine Kenway died on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of September aged 81. Geraldine was my first cousin. I have an everlasting picture in my mind of when I first saw her upon our arrival out from England after the war, skipping down the path, her red hair in pigtails in a red and white checked dress.

Geraldine's mother, Betty and my Mother Margaret were sisters, Chisholms, from "Raeburn", Breadalbane. Even though both our families lived in Sydney, we spent a great deal of our holidays at "Raeburn", living the country life and talking about various branches of The Chisholm family who had holdings, not just around Goulburn, but throughout Australia. They were pioneers and we were proud of their achievements. Geraldine loved "Raeburn" and was so influenced by the Chisholm family's achievements that although she wasn't christened Geraldine Margaret Chisholm Kenway, she added 'Chisholm' to it.

Geraldine led an extremely interesting and adventurous life.

After having successfully completed the leaving certificate at Frensham, as The HSC was known then, Geraldine left Australia for Italy the year after, bound for a life in Italy, where she studied art. Whilst visiting Greece later on, Geraldine became captivated. She returned to England, studied Greek, forsook art and studied photography, with the idea of combining it with her artistic talents and returned to Greece where she became the first female photojournalist in Athens, covering such things as the takeover of The Greek Government by The Colonels, The Turkish invasion of Cyprus, murders, nudist colonies together with meetings with and about in some cases dubious businessmen etc. as well as stories further out in the rural areas. All her news was interesting to readers of various publications for which she worked, including The Sunday Times, The Daily Express, Life Magazine etc. This was interrupted with time back in Australia where she created a series of historic photographs of the construction of The Sydney Opera House.

She left Greece in the 1990's and spent 10 years or so in England in Stour Provost in a beautiful thatched cottage complete with a lovely garden and three gorgeous Tibetan Terriers.

However she still called Australia home and was still very much a 'Chisholm', and inevitably returned to Australia where she lived in Elizabeth Bay, Sydney, and where she caught up with a lot of old friends and family, joined The Royal Sydney Golf Club where she played lots of tennis, her new passion.

In her later years she encountered some serious medical issues and sadly 'died' on September the 3<sup>rd</sup>, last year. Always the straight talker, not keen on euphemisms, she stated that, in the event of her death, she wanted it known that she had 'died', that she hadn't just 'passed away'.

A Memorial Service was held at St Marks, Darling Point to commemorate her life, and afterwards at The Royal Sydney Golf Club on the 1<sup>st</sup> of December following a private cremation at Northern Suburbs Crematorium on the 19<sup>th</sup> of December, 2022.

Vale Geraldine

Tony Morrison



## TARTAN DAY IN TASSIE

By Kim Polley

Launceston held its inaugural Tartan Day on the third of July this year. A good time was had by all as we enjoyed the massed bands from around the state, highland dancers and other entertainment. Many dressed in their tartan. I was most excited to find a man wearing a Chisholm tartan and I hoped I might be able to recruit him to our Society. I was a wee disappointed when he explained that he was in fact not a Chisholm but had found the kilt in an opportunity shop and liked it immensely. He has an interest in MacRaes and in learning Gaelic. He was a good sport and allowed me to publish this photograph in our newsletter.



Sketch of Erchless Castle by the late Peter Chisholm, Life member, UK Branch

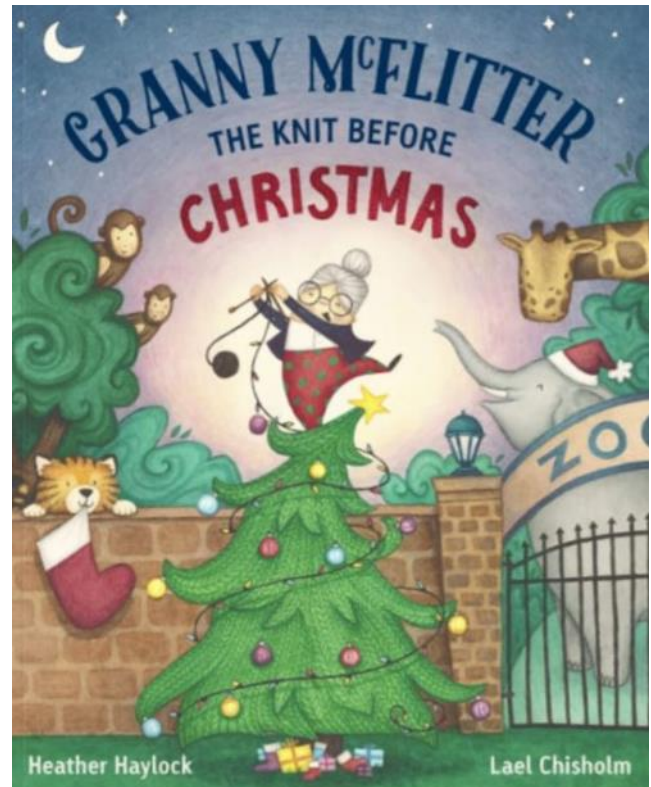
*Peter Chisholm* 1983  
ERCHLESS CASTLE  
'STRATHGLASS'





### Lael Chisholm

I had a sneak peak of what Santa bought for my Grandaughter, and noted that a children's book had wonderful illustrations and that the illustrator was none other than **Lael Chisholm**. I could see by her [Facebook page](#) that Lael was indeed a real talent. As Palmerston North was shown as her residence, I contacted our President John Ross, who confirmed she is from the same Chisholm branch, descendants of early settler Joseph Wilson Chisholm. In fact she is the great niece of the Clan Chisholm NZ Branch co-founder, Douglas Chisholm, and the niece of Len Chisholm, who so kindly drove me around Wellington at a Clan gathering a few years ago.



<https://www.facebook.com/laelcillustration/>

### Ceri Chisholm

<https://www.facebook.com/ceri.chisholm.artifacts/>

Ceri provided a lot of the information for the article on her ancestor, John Storm. (see page 17). Ceri is not only an Artist but also Art Historian and Educator.

Some of her work is displayed on her Flickr Page, which is accessed from the Facebook Page.



Taranaki Rhododendrons 2017





## CHISHOLM STREET, SWAN HILL, VICTORIA

By Valerie Chisholm and Kim Polley

Valerie Chisholm, whilst on holiday in Swan Hill, Victoria, was, as usual, on the lookout for Chisholm related information for our Clan newsletter. Valerie discovered Chisholm Street in Swan Hill. She put her sleuth cap on and unearthed the reason for commemorating Chisholms in that area.

Two brothers, Robert and Thomas Murdy Chisholm, were born in Victoria in the 1860s to parents Thomas Chisholm 1825-1908 and Elleanor Short 1829-1896. Their parents and their three older siblings arrived in Melbourne in late December 1858 on the ship *John and Lucy*. Robert and Thomas became very successful pioneers in the Swan Hill district. By the time they retired, they were known as the best wheat growers and pastoralists in the district. Robert was elected to the Swan Hill Shire Council in 1907 and was the Shire President in 1911-12.

Thomas established a very successful shop in Campbell Street. His son, also known as Thomas Murdy, was a member of the Swan Hill Borough Council in 1942-47. He was the Mayor in 1946-47. Another of Thomas's children, Robert Elliot Chisholm, predeceased his father in November 1926. Robert had been working on a station at Hillson, in outback New South Wales, when he succumbed to typhoid fever and pneumonia. He was 22 years of age. He was buried at Swan Hill.

Investigating Thomas and Robert's family further revealed their family roots were in Tweedmouth, Northumberland and, possibly before that, in Berwickshire, Scotland but this requires investigation. Their grandfather had been a collier in Scremerston, a little village on the North Sea just over four miles from the Anglo-Scottish border.

**References:** Ancestry.com.au; booklet about streets in Swan Hill, produced by Swan Hill Genealogical and Historical Society Inc; death notice for Thomas Murdy Chisholm, *The Age*, 10 September 1929, p. 1; Trove, <https://trove.nla.gov.au>.

### **Pictured:**

Right: Chisholm Street sign in Swan Hill; home of Robert Chisholm in Swan Hill;

Below: death notice for Robert Murdy Chisholm;



**CHISHOLM.**—On the 9th September, at the residence of his sister, 14 Bendigo-avenue, Elwood. Thomas Murdy, del. loved husband of Beatrice Chisholm, of "Elwood," Spatt-street, Swan Hill, and loving father of Robert (deceased), Thomas and Keith, aged 68 years. Remains at Sleight's Chapel.



# Doctor Chisholm

By The Editor 

On 14 December last year, Hannah Chisholm, an Auckland member of CCSNZ, was capped with her Doctoral Degree. This was completed through the Auckland University Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences, School of Population Health. Her Doctoral thesis was entitled “An epidemiological inquiry into pertussis vaccine failure in children under four years in Aotearoa New Zealand”. During the course of her post graduate studies Hannah

was employed at the University in tutoring roles, and now takes up a position at AU as a Research fellow/ epidemiologist in the Global Vaccine Data Network; part time as she needs to balance work with motherhood.

In case you are wondering about the blue cone thing, that’s a German tradition which has been stretched a bit. It’s a *Schultüte*, a cone shaped package filled with assorted goodies and treats and used throughout the German speaking world to bribe the children to attend their first day of school. In Hannah’s case, this tradition was extended to the opposite end, firstly the Bachelor’s graduation, and again for the Doctorate, albeit as a reward rather than a bribe. Look closely and you may see photo’s of Hannah’s mother, and grandmother, with their *tüte* on their first day of school.

It’s a long way for this branch of Chisholm, just 4 generations back from Hannah to the pauper’s croft at Breakachy, congratulations Doctor Chisholm.



Dr.Hannah Chisholm BHSc(Hons) PhD

FEROS FERIO

First day of school



First day of school



Bachelor’s Degree

## JAMES CHISHOLM III AT SCHOOL IN SYDNEY IN 1840's

By Alastair Thompson



This article is a note on a book published by James Kinghorne Chisholm, the eldest son of James Chisholm of Kippilaw, near Goulburn in New South Wales. In 1907, James published a book, *Speeches and Reminiscences*, which included a chapter on his school days in Sydney. He attended a school called Sydney College, a predecessor, and on the same site, as the present Sydney Grammar School. The areas where the boys went to school, played and roamed can today all be observed from the canteen in the Supreme Court Building.

Attached are two copies of a map of Sydney in the 1840s. On one copy, I have noted the areas of Sydney in which James roamed as a schoolboy. The other copy has a link to the State Library of NSW copy which, if viewed magnified online, clearly shows the map in detail and the school is marked.

James, with 2 of his younger brothers, attended the school from 1843. At that time, the family was living on the family sheep station at Kippilaw near Goulburn, and with communications the way they were, their clothes were quite out of date, which led to a great deal of teasing from the other boys.

The headmaster, James described, as pompous and aloof and not friendly even with the other teachers but was a good disciplinarian. The curriculum included mathematics, English, Latin, Greek, French, drawing and dancing. The dancing teacher was Italian and was married to Madame Caradini, a prima donna on the Sydney Stage.

On Sunday, the boys attended church at St James Church in King Street, just across Hyde Park. The church was opened in 1824 and is still a Parish Church. The convicts from the Hyde Park Barracks also attended the same services.

The school didn't have much in the way of grounds but had the use of a portion of the "Race Course", now known as Hyde Park, for cricket. Winter sport was principally athletics.

The boys could wander around the Riley Estate, which included the land between William, Bourke and Oxford Streets, which was covered in thick grass and native shrubs.

When James started at the school, there was only one house in William Street and one house between William Street and Woolloomooloo Bay. The Chief Justice's home was at the corner of William and Victoria Streets (Kings Cross today).

Elizabeth Bay House, still a famous building in Sydney, was built between 1835 and 1839 and is now a museum in the suburb of Elizabeth Bay on the other side of Kings Cross from the Riley Estate. It is still one of the most splendid houses in Australia. It was built for Alexander Macleay who was financially ruined in the 1840s. The land around it re-

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mained for many years as natural bush which had a native fruit tree that was very popular with the boys. Once James, with a group of friends, was engaged in “poaching” this fruit and was threatened with being attacked by bloodhounds.

Some of the others at the school with James were Richard Driver, who became a member of the NSW Legislative Assembly. He was also a keen cricketer and played for NSW. He was also involved in the management of cricket in NSW and in organising visits by English and intercolonial teams. Another was Robert Still, who played for NSW against Victoria and Tasmania.

Tops were very popular for competition, the sort where you tried to destroy your opponent’s tops, heavy wooden tops turned on a lathe. There was a very popular top maker in a shop in Hunter St belonging to a Mr Parkes, later to be Sir Henry Parkes, the “Father of Federation”.

In 1844 there was a notable murder in Sydney. The murderer had been a captain in the Royal Navy but had been transported for some crime. After completing his sentence he was boarding with a woman and murdered her for a few shillings. He was sentenced to be hanged, which in those days was carried outside the prison walls. A group of students, including James, snuck out to join the crowd (which included women and children). James recorded that the hanging was a “ghastly” sight which haunted him for weeks after, and he had no intention ever seeing another.

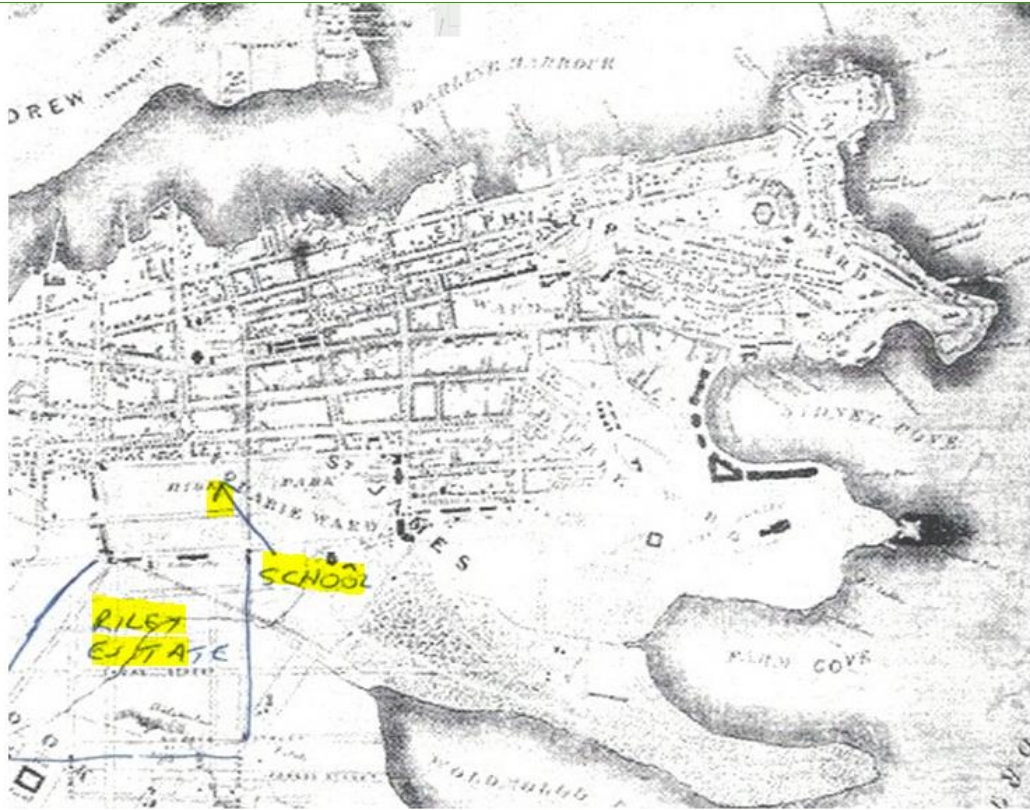
The defence barrister for this case was Robert Lowe. He was an English barrister who had been told that he would go blind in a few years. He decided to see what he could of the world and came to Australia. After travelling around for a while, he resumed practice as a barrister in Sydney. After some time, he became a member of the NSW Legislative Council and was very active in government reform in NSW. His home, Bronte House, in the suburb of Bronte, is on the Register of the National Estate. He later returned to England and became the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Holidays for the boys at Sydney College were three weeks at Christmas and June and ten days at Easter and Michaelmas (29 September). Before railways, much of the holiday was taken up travelling to and from the school. The stagecoach trip to Goulburn took three days!

In 1845, the headmaster took leave of absence in England. The acting headmaster was very unpopular and took little interest in the interests of the boys. At one time round 30 boys attended a cricket match in Hyde Park between a Sydney club and Maitland after having been refused permission to do so. The punishments for this transgression and other events led to a violent break up party in which windows and bathroom crockery were smashed. Numbers started to decline after this and after a more incompetent headmaster was later appointed, numbers further declined, and the school closed in 1847.

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<https://collection.sl.nsw.gov.au/record/74VvyQr7VGvO>







Whilst researching the WW1 centenary project I often checked the Clan Chisholm Genealogical Database, generally it's to add information whenever I find it. I had cause to supply information on two occasions, to a Family Tree which Audrey Barney had submitted to Bob Chisholm, our Clan Genealogist who was instrumental in getting the database operational. This FT was named NZ\_Nairn, so named because it was researched by the NZ genealogists, as a branch of this tree had settled in NZ, but the Chisholm ancestry could be traced by the Nairn, on the Moray Firth, just east of Inverness. The casualty I was referencing was Alexander Chisholm, a merchant seaman on board the SS Astrologer, which had been brought into War Service. This ship was mined in the English Channel off Lowestoft, on 26 June 1916, causing much loss of life, including that of Alexander Chisholm aged 54, father of seven boys. I noted that Alexander's wife was named Margaret Storm, a relatively unusual surname, and thereafter I used her name when searching the database to find the correct family. (Alexander Chisholm=277 hits, Margaret Storm = 1 hit). I needed to reference this family tree a few times, and thought long and hard on Margaret Storm, she not only lost her husband and father of her seven sons, but less than a week later the second son, John Chisholm, was killed on 1 July 1916, the first day of the Battle of the Somme.

Alexander Chisholm is the great grandfather of our CCSNZ secretary, Alun Chisholm, and so I took the opportunity to discuss the surname "Storm" with him, and he revealed that there was a lot of local lore regarding his great grandmother's family, indeed, a family legend. Alun's sister Ceri Chisholm provided the following two pieces of information: Firstly a note from their late cousin Muriel Anderson (1st cousin once removed) who went back to Nairn to investigate, and secondly, extracts from a late 19th century book.

### JOHN STORM

*"My father, William Chisholm, was the 5<sup>th</sup> of seven boys born in Edinburgh to Alexander Chisholm and Margaret Storm. (Editors note: William was a younger brother of Robert Chisholm, grandfather of Alun and Ceri). There had always been a story told within the family that Margaret Storm's father John had been washed ashore as a baby following a shipwreck in the North Sea. It was said that he had been found in a cradle and wrapped in a beautiful shawl with the initial J.S. embroidered in the corner. It was only natural that he was christened John Storm.*

*After my husband had been retired for some years we decided to return to live in Edinburgh and one summer we went up to Nairn where Alexander and Margaret had originally come from. Nairn is a pleasant market town and fishing port on the north-facing coast of the Highlands in the Moray Firth and about 16 miles east of Inverness. I had an address for John Storm which we went to. It was a narrow street with what had obviously been a row of stone-fronted fishing cottages but now most of them had been modernised with picture windows and porches – in some places two houses had been knocked into one. They were probably much better to live in but the whole character of the area had been changed and it could have been any suburban street. So went to the local Fishing and Maritime Museum where I met a local lady and told her the story. She said that if I looked in the telephone directory I would find there were a lot of Storms registered in Nairn and she had heard this story several times from different people. It would seem that the kernel of the story was probably true but somewhere in the distant past. What a pity!*

*When I returned to Edinburgh I went to Register House and found John Storm from Nairn listed when he had married a woman 10 years older than his 18 year-old self. I was a bit puzzled that at different times he was registered as a seaman, a salmon-fisher and a quarryman. Then I found his death in 1895 in the Workhouse where he was described as a Pauper. It was all very sad and very very disappointing.*

(continued)

*I have also found that John Storm's parents were John Storm and Ann Macdonald both By Muriel Anderson residing in Nairn which would prove that my great-grandfather was NOT the baby found in the cradle."*

Ceri adds further context by providing an email to her from the late Alexander Barron, which gives some background to the text of the John Storm Legend, and coincidentally provides an clue to the linguistic divide in Scotland during the era of James VI.

*"With regards to the John Storm legend, I can help with information about this. In the late 1800's the Editor of the Nairn Newspaper (Nairnshire Telegraph) published a book called "David Main, Seaman". In this book he refers to this legend and I have attached a file giving extracts from the book. There is a tombstone at Auldearn (a village 2 miles from Nairn) on which is inscribed "John Storm 1765" (as stated in the above mentioned book) so the book's character is probably based on this person.*

*The place Maviston mentioned is some 3 miles to the east of Nairn and at one time it was a fishing village but the village has disappeared and is part of a forest. It was part of Auldearn Parish.*

*The book is written in the Scots tongue which was spoken by the fisherfolk in Nairn in the early/mid 19th century - but no longer.*

*It may interest you to learn that King James 6 of Scotland and 1 of England at one time boasted that he had a town in Scotland where the eastern part of it spoke a different language from the western part. He was referring to Nairn where the eastern part spoke in the Scots tongue and the Western part in Scots Gaelic."* By Alexander Barron

#### Extract 1

Most folk think there's but three races in the fishertown o' Nairn, and it's true in a way, but yer fayther, Tommy, kens better. There's Delnies folk come in, and there's Nairn folk, and there's Mavistown folk in the place —that's three families ; but there's the Storms— where did they come fae ? As ye ken yersel', Tommy, though ye're no very old, the Storms are a proud race, and think themselves better than other folk. Maybe they are, although they nichtna jist show it so muckle. Of course, everybody will tell ye that the Storms cam' fae Mavistown, and so they did, but how did they come to Mavistown?

I'll tell ye the story, Tommy, but ye'll never speak aboot it unless there's occasion. One nicht, in a great gale o' wind, a big ship was lost on the Old Bar; and next morning, when the Mavistown folk went down to pick up the bits of wreck on the shore, they saw a wee kisty floating in the Muckle Strype.

The head o' the Strype, as I daresay ye ken, Tommy, is gae deep, but they joined hands, and one man got bid o' the box and brought it oot. And there they found in it a bonnie bairnie, a loonie, livin'—aye, and smilin' for a' that it had come through that fearful nicht. Under its head, like a pillow, they found a book wi' black boards. It wasna an ordinary book o' paper leaves, but what they call parchhment. One half o't was in a foreign language, which nobody could read, and the other was in our ain mither tongue. The Laird o' Brodie, who owns Mavistown and a' the lands aboot, got notice *of the* wreck, and the Mavistown folk showed him the bairnie, but they said never a word aboot the black bookie.

The Laird was awfu' ta'en up wi' the wee thing, as yer grannie used to relate, having head it fae her ain mither, and he would hae liked weel tae hae ta'en it awa' tae his castle, but the women a' began to greet, and he hadna the heart to deprive them o't, so he told them to gae it every nourishment it need-ed and no spare expense o' anything, and lat him ken when he cam' back fae London, where he might perhaps hear aboot any ship that was missing. It was five years afore the Laird cam' back, but he aye

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minded his word as lang as he lived, and rewarded them that brought up the laddie; but he never heard onything about the lost ship.

But the Mavistown folk, by putting two and two together, made oot that the bairn's folks were by ordinar'. Hoo could it be other when they found the bairn's claes were rael purple and fine linen, and in a corner o' his frock the letters JS in gold? So the Mavistown folk said they would ca' the wee laddie 'John Storm'—as they got him in a storm—until his parents, or them that owned him, cam' for him and gave him his richt name. But no word ever cam' across the seas. Some said he was a son o' the Prince o' Norway, and that the Black Book was the richts o' his possessions and the laws o' his do-minions.

The laddie went to the fishing along wi' the other lads, and marriety, and his son and his son's son were called John Storm, and so on down to the present generation. But here's yer mither, Tommy, and she'll no be pleased at my telling you all this."

#### Extract 2

In the fulness of years, Dauvid Main was gathered to his fathers. It was much remarked that, although only connected with Mavistown on the mother's side, he gave instructions to his relatives to bury him at Auldearn, next lair to the grave of "John Storm, seaman, 1765."



South West end of Moray Firth, 1832, (<https://maps.nls.uk/view/74400177>)

Places mentioned in the text:

- |  |             |
|--|-------------|
| 1: The Old Bar.                                | 4: Auldearn |
| 2: This is most likely to be the Muckle Strype | 5: Nairn    |
| 3: Maviston                                    | 6: Delnies  |

(continued)

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

ALEXANDER CHISHOLM  
BELOVED HUSBAND OF MARGARET STORM  
WHO WAS LOST AT SEA THROUGH  
ENEMY ACTION 26TH JUNE 1916  
AGED 54 YEARS.

ALSO THEIR SONS

CORPL. JOHN CHISHOLM  
15TH ROYAL SCOTS  
KILLED IN ACTION 1ST JULY 1916  
IN HIS 22ND YEAR.

ALEXANDER CHISHOLM  
WHO DIED 15TH JANUARY 1919  
AGED 26 YEARS.

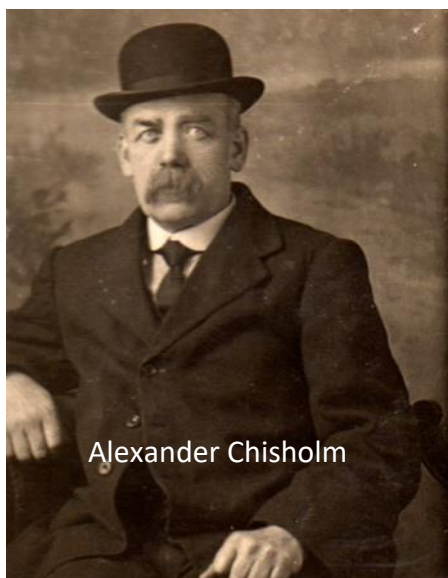
DAVID CHISHOLM  
ACCIDENTALLY DROWNED  
16TH JUNE 1935  
AGED 39 YEARS.

ALSO THE ABOVE  
MARGARET STORM  
WHO DIED 6TH DECEMBER 1942  
AGED 78 YEARS.

ALSO THEIR SONS, WILLIAM  
DIED 2ND FEB. 1956, AGED 54.

RICHARD  
DIED 9TH AUG. 1956, AGED 52.

ROBERT, DIED 26TH JULY 1958, AGED 55



Alexander Chisholm



[Gravestone at Seafield Cemetery, Edinburgh](#)

For the memorial page on Alexander Chisholm,  
[click here, this takes you the booklet housed on  
the Clan Chisholm Society website, Vol 5, Page 13](#)



For the memorial page on Cpl. John Chisholm,  
[Click here, Vol III, Page 30](#)



Margaret Chisholm nee Storm





## DEATH PENNY

By Kim Polley

I have received a photo from Scott Kiel-Chisholm. He noticed a memorial plaque for a John Chisholm in a display cabinet at the Hervey Bay Returned Servicemen's League in Queensland. I contacted the RSL Club for further identification. They could not produce any specific details other than the following information:

*Nine John Chisholms served in Australia Forces during WW1. Five returned home. Two were killed in Action, and Two died of wounds. The casualties were:*



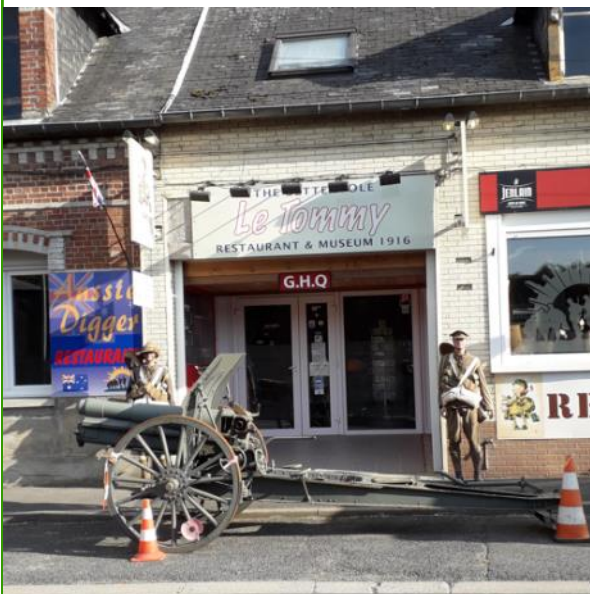
*6970 Pte. John Chisholm, 13Bn, 23rd Reinf. Presbyterian, Farmer from Fifield NSW, aged 26. No known grave. NOK Father D Chisholm, Craggtan Valley, Kiltarlity, Inverness, Scotland*

*3049 Pte. John Chisholm 21 Bn 7th Reinf. 27 Gardner St. Richmond, VIC. Died of wounds aged 24, Buried at Querrieu British Cemetery, France. NOK Father John Chisholm, Airdrie, Scotland*

*2193 Pte John Chisholm 16 Bn 6th Reinf. KIA aged 36 at Mouquet Farm, Somme No known grave. NOK Mother, Martha Chisholm, Whangarei, NZ*

*5985 Pte. John Chisholm, 5Bn 19th Reinf. Presbyterian, Farmer from Day Trap North, VIC. Died of wounds sustained at the Battle of Polygon Wood, buried at Lijssenthoek aged 36. NOK Father, Ewen Chisholm, Day Trap North, VIC*

None of these four members of the AIF were born in Australia, 3 Scots and a Kiwi. The burial and memorial places of the latter two were visited by Clan Chisholm Society in 2019. Kiwi John has an extra memorial, his name is on the wall at Le Tommy Restaurant in Pozieres. John from the outback near Mittyack is also known as "Bomber Jack", and he has a wheat variety "Jack Chisholm" named in his memory.



Left: Restaurant-Museum Le Tommy, at Pozieres.

Right: Bomber Jack's grave at Lijssenthoek,

where was a medical station just behind the front line at Ypres



## The Black Chanter (*Feadan Dubh an Siosalach*) By Fay Chisholm

A few days ago I was looking through some very old clan journals and came across a mention of the "Black Chanter". Then today sorting out very small photo albums that needed to be put into archives such as the photos taken at the first meeting of NZ branch of the Clan Chisholm, and amongst them was the story of the "Black Chanter", and it crossed my mind did the Chanter want its story told again, as it was told back in 1802?

Black Chanter (*Feadan Dubh an Siosalach*). Long ago, Chisholm of Strathglass travelled to Italy to learn black magic -- *chaldh an Siosalach Glaiseach air aiseag don Eadailt a Dh 'fhaotainn leason don sgoil duibh.*

His wife became very uneasy about his absence, and sent their piper, a man called Cameron, to look for him. He found him in a church in Italy and told him at all costs (*air na huile car*) he must go home. They went to the master of the school (*char iad an sin a Dh 'ionnsaigh a' Mhaighstir-Sgoile*), who urged them to go, telling them that there was a man lying in bed with the lady of Strathglass, but that for a certain sum of money he could transport them both home to Chisholm's house at Erchless before daybreak (*gun cuireadh esan lad le che'ile gu tir an Earghlais mun tigeagh an la'*). He gave him a chanter (*thug e fradan da*), which they had to keep playing till the cock crew, Chisholm asked him to give it power (*buaidh a thiort air*) to tell him every event (*na h-uile car*) that would ever happen to his family, and so he did.

They played it turn about far into the night, fell asleep and woke up in Rose Wood, below Erchless Castle, as the day was breaking. (*Bhu fear mu seach dhuibh a' cluich gu fada den oidhch, agus thuit iad 'nan cadal, agus dhuisc, lad ann an coillidh Roise, fo Chaisteal Earghlais, am beul an latha*)

Naturally Chisholm ran to the castle to see who was with his wife, and the 'man lying in bed' turned out to be his own son, a bouncing baby boy born just the previous night. So all was well, and the chanter continued to do its good work, for death never came to a Chisholm without a crack appearing in it. Each time this happened a silver band (*cearcall airgid*) was fitted around it.

There are five on it now, the storyteller says, but some have fallen off, because it has always been in use as a pipe chanter (*na sheannsair do phiob*). The presence of five silver bands on the chanter made it a powerful object, in the occult sense. Just one silver band on your walking stick was enough to keep the devil away. So they say.

Reading on through two accounts of the story I see where the chanter cracks when the Chief passes, and the piper no matter where he is must go home as the Chisholm "is no more."

Then from the account by Donald Chisholm 1881 which clearly confirms the above story from earlier than 1802 and that this chanter was always kept at Erchless Castle.

Now I wonder is it still there, or is it "no more"?

Now here is another version of the same story, with more detail, plus something extra of peripheral interest, unless you are McCrimmon or McLeod. Note that the Rev Norman Macleod referred to is not the minister of that name who bought the Gaelic settlers to Waipu in Northland.

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## The Italian Connection The Quern-Dust Calendar — Ragnall MacilleDhuibh 4 February 2005

<https://www.querndust.co.uk/PDFs/482Italy.pdf>

WRITING in “The Celtic Magazine” in 1876, a certain Alexander Mackay claimed that in the traditional Gaelic mind, the country above all others in which the “Black Art” (by which he meant witchcraft) was to be acquired was Italy.

At first sight this may seem like a very strange claim to make. Today we associate Italy with sun, smart cars, pasta, smart suits, gondolas, ice cream, Inter Milan, the Mafia, hmm, the Pope. Hmmm. Could it be that there is some basis for the idea after all? Throw in fine wine and Signor Berlusconi, and you begin to get a feel for how the traditional Gaelic mind was working.

Actually if we were to explain it by reference to such things, the explanation is none of the above. We can exclude the Pope and the Catholic Church completely, because the belief is a very old one and comes up as much in Catholic areas of the Highlands as in Protestant ones. In fact the culprit seems to be the first phase of the Renaissance.

A thousand years ago the first Arabic treatises on science and medicine were appearing in the Italian-speaking world, and a college sprang up at Salerno in which they could be translated and studied. In due course universities were established further north in Italy, in places like Rome, Florence, Padua and Milan.

Among the scholars who worked on these texts was one of our own, Michael Scot, who has been described as “the leading intellectual in western Europe during the first third of the thirteenth century” – that is, 800 years ago. According to Lowland tradition his birthplace was Balwearie in Fife, his principal residence Aikwood Tower near Selkirk, and his last resting place Melrose Abbey, but he is known to have spent his life in the rapidly-developing universities of France, Spain and Italy. Gaelic tradition is full of stories about him, and in all of them he is a wizard who knows how to call up the devil.

The tales about Michael Scot don’t say where or how he acquired his skills, but other Gaelic stories about the black arts make it quite clear that their source is in Italy. Take “The Chisholm’s Black Chanter” (*Feadan Dubh an t-Siosalaich*), which was collected for J. F. Campbell nearly a century and a half ago and is published in “More West Highland Tales”. Long ago, it begins, Chisholm of Strathglass travelled to Italy to learn black magic – *chaidh an Siosalach Glaiseach air aiseag don Eadailt a dh’fhaotainn leasan don sgoil duibh*.

His wife became very uneasy about his absence, and sent their piper, a man called Cameron, to look for him. He found him in a church in Italy and told him that at all costs (*air na h-uile car*) he must go home. They went to the master of the school (*Char iad an sin a dh’ionnsaigh a’ Mhaighstir-Sgoile*), who urged them to go, telling them that there was a man lying in bed with the lady of Strathglass, but that for a certain sum of money he could transport them both home to Chisholm’s house at Erchless before daybreak (*gun cuireadh esan iad le chéile gu tìr an Earghlais mun tigeadh an là*). He gave him a chanter (*thug e feadan da*), which they had to keep playing till the cock crew. Chisholm asked him to give it the power (*buaidh a thoirt air*) to tell him every event (*na h-uile car*) that would ever happen to his family, and so he did.

*Bha fear mu seach dhiubh a’ cluich gu fada den oidhche, agus thuit iad ’nan cadal, agus dhùisg iad ann an coillidh Roise, fo Chaisteal Earghlais, am beul an latha. “They played it turn about far into the night, and fell asleep, and woke up in Ross Wood, below Erchless Castle, as the day was breaking.”*

Naturally Chisholm ran to the castle to see who was with his wife, and the “man lying in the bed” turned out to be his own son, a bouncing baby boy born just the previous night. So all was well, and the chanter continued to do its good work, for death never came to a Chisholm without a crack appearing in it. Each

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time this happened a silver band (*cearcall airgid*) was fitted around it. There are five on it now, the storyteller says, but some have fallen off, because it has always been in use as a pipe chanter (*'na sheannsair do phiob*).

The presence of five silver bands on the chanter made it a powerful object, in the occult sense. Just one silver band on your walking-stick was enough to keep the devil away. So they say.

Hugh Cheape has a paper in the latest volume of the "Transactions of the Gaelic Society of Inverness", just out, on the origin of the MacCrimmons. He quotes a remark made of Dòmhnall Duaghail, a MacKay chief with an uncanny reputation: *Nach robh e san Eadailt far an d'ionnsaich e an sgoil dhubh?* "Wasn't he in Italy where he learnt the black art?"

The celebrated Gaelic writer the Rev. Dr Norman MacLeod, Caraid nan Gaidheal, tried to turn the Italian connection from folklore into history. He wrote in 1840: *Thainig a' cheud fhear do 'n ainm so maille ri Mac Leòid o bhaile anns an Eadailt d' am b' ainm Cremona. Bu chruitear a bha san duine so. Bha e 'na fhear-ciùil ainmeil 'na latha 's 'na linn féin. Ghabh e ainm an àit anns an d' rugadh e, agus na thainig uaithe dh' ainmich iad Clann-'ic-Chruimein.*

"The first man of this name came with MacLeod from a town in Italy called Cremona. This person was a harpist. He was a famous musician in his own day and generation. He took the name of the place in which he was born, and his descendants they called the MacCrimmons."

Now the name MacCrimmon may be Norse or it may be Irish, but it certainly has nothing to do with a town in Italy. Perhaps MacLeod had heard the pipe tune "The Battle of Cremona", no doubt he knew about the *feadan dubh*; anyway, he put two and two together and made three. The comments of Fred T. MacLeod in his book on the MacCrimmons are revealing: "The oft-repeated statement that the first member of the MacCrimmon family was a native of Cremona in Italy, and that MacLeod of Dunvegan, when on a visit to that town, took this man into his service as a musician and brought him home to Dunvegan, giving to him the name 'Cremonach', is, in my view, erroneous.

"It has been suggested that this man became MacLeod's piper and that his descendants, following the usual highland custom, prefixed 'Mac' to their surname. So far as I have been able to ascertain, these statements first appeared in the short account of the MacCrimmons written in Gaelic by the Rev. Dr Norman MacLeod (Caraid nan Gaidheal). Dr MacLeod, unfortunately, throws no light on the source of his information.

"When in Skye over thirty years ago I conversed with my grandfather, who was then bordering on 100 years of age, and from him and other old people in the MacCrimmons' native parish I endeavoured to ascertain local knowledge as to the origin of the family, and I found the Cremona view strongly supported, which I at first regarded as important. It was, however, frankly admitted to me by the people who expressed that view that they were simply following the lead of Dr MacLeod, with whose Gaelic account of the MacCrimmon family they were familiar."

Norman MacLeod, the old man in question, was born in 1802 and died in 1901. Fred MacLeod was quite impressed by reports of the Cremona tradition being heard in St Kilda, but it has to be said that the essays of Caraid nan Gaidheal would have been read in the ceilidh-house – or indeed in the church – there as elsewhere. When Caraid nan Gaidheal's son-in-law, the Rev. Archibald Clerk, reprinted the offending essay he quietly added some words at the beginning of the statement to absolve his father-in-law from blame: *Tha iad ag ràdh gu'n d'thàinig a' cheud fhear de 'n ainm so maille ri Mac Leòid o bhaile anns an Eadailt d' am b' ainm Cremona . . .* "They say that the first man of this name came with MacLeod from a town in Italy called *Cremona* . . ."

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I recall that in the 1960s the deputy director of the College of Piping in Glasgow, Thomas Pearston, took advantage of a holiday in Italy to research the matter in Milan's Biblioteca Ambrosiana. Not surprisingly, he found nothing!

I described this process as putting two and two together and making three. Maybe it would be better expressed as subtracting one from two and making three. The Rev. Dr Norman MacLeod didn't believe in things like the fairies or black magic and thought he could subtract the supernatural elements from folklore to turn it into history. What he didn't understand is that folklore is about psychology and sociology as well. "Italy" was a good word for "somewhere else". And in my next article I aim to show that "Spain" occasionally did the business in the same way.

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Raghnall MacilleDhuibh / Ronald Black

### Mataura Ensign 1887



### **Claim for Chisholm Estate in Strathglass from Southland NZ**

Mr Archibald Chisholm, farmer, of Hedgehope, claims to be heir to the extensive estates bearing his family name in the north of Scotland and which are said to be worth £40,000 or £50,000 a year. "The Chisholm" as the proprietor is always called, has just died at the age of 24 after being in possession only a short time.

This is a story which has been told before, but Margaret Whitford recently got in touch regarding a Clan Chisholm matter, and so presented the opportunity to repeat this, for the benefit of any newer readers who may not have heard it before. There were of several claimants to the Chisholm Estate and Titles after the death of 28th Chief Roderick Matheson Chisholm, who died of diabetes on 4 April 1887. His father Chief James Sutherland Chisholm, had died in 1885. Actually there was no estate to speak of ready to go to Margaret's grandfather Archibald, the Southland Farmer, in the event that his claim was successful. This is because in 1884, Chief James Sutherland Chisholm took advantage of a legal situation created in 1848, basically privatising the Chisholm Estates. From that point on, the Castle and the lands were the private property of his own personal family and heirs. This meant that when James Chisholm Gooden Chisholm was recognised as the legitimate heir to the Title, The Chief of Clan Chisholm, that's all he got, the Castles and the lands remained with the widow of Chief James Sutherland, and his daughters.

Archie's claim was not via his father's Chisholm family, but that of his grandmother, Mary Chisholm. Several other claimants were also touted, but the closest claimant was via the son of Mary Gooden Chisholm, daughter of Chief Alexander XXIII, to whom Lord Lyon granted the undifferenced Chisholm Coat of Arms, with a change to the attitude of the clubs borne by the Supporters.

None of this stopped Archibald Chisholm of Hedgehope naming his family farm "Erchless, and it remained Erchless until Margaret Whitford's parents moved to Winton.

# The Forum

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



Forum activity has been slow over the past months. There have been a couple of posts regarding Lt.Col Thomas Chisolm of Georgia, a family whose origins are shrouded in some controversy. There may be some genealogical work done on this family in the coming months. It is also planned to use the Forum to construct a verified family tree for the Chisolm family highlighted on page 3. The basic work for this has been done in the Medlam Files, so it will be a matter of just checking the documentation. All members of CCS are welcome to browse the Forum, and if willing, to contribute, and to assist as a researcher

A recent post was made by Michael Cope:

*Hello to the Forum.*

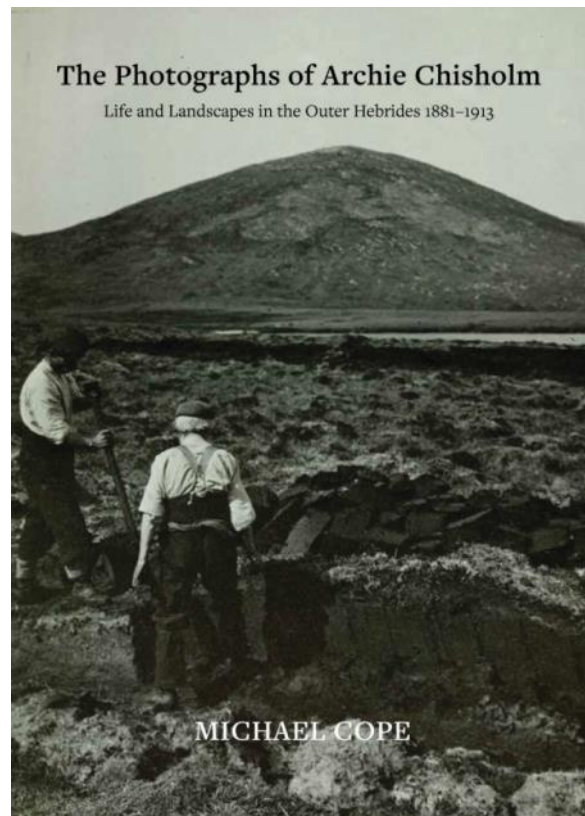
*My wife is the granddaughter of Archie Chisholm (1859-1933), erstwhile Sheriff Clerk of Inverness. For some years I have been researching his life as Procurator Fiscal and as a photographer in Lochmaddy, North Uist.*

*In 2018 I published the book 'The Photographs of Archie Chisholm: Life and Landscapes in the Outer Hebrides 1881-1913' and in 2020 and 2021 I co-curated an exhibition of the same title at Taigh Chearsabhagh Museum and Arts Centre in Lochmaddy.*

*I am now engaged on a more wide ranging social history of the Lietry family, following Archie's ancestors and extended family descendants from the seventeenth to the early twentieth century. Another book is in the planning.*

Michael has already obtained a photograph registered by Fay in the Artefacts Register. (A photo of Nova Scotia descendants of Colin III Lietre, with one of his celebrated swords). News of Michael's next book is good news, especially for the descendants of Lietre, there is at least one known family in New Zealand, maybe more, and no doubt also in Australia. There are also families who might be, but can't yet prove it, due to the lack of genealogical information in Invernesshire from around 1800 and thence back in time.

If you have any question at all regarding anything to do with Chisholm, the Forum is the best place to seek an answer. Plenty of Clansfolk willing and able to help you research.







## CCS Australia Branch 2023 Gathering and AGM



Unfortunately the Australia Branch Gathering in Toowoomba has been cancelled. Our AGM will now be held by Zoom on Sunday 19 March at 10:00 am. Details will be forwarded shortly.

### **Contacts for Clan Chisholm Society Australia Branch**

**President:** Tony Morrison, 39 Quiberon Way, Goulburn NSW 2580 Phone 0428 442231

[tonygmorrison@gmail.com](mailto:tonygmorrison@gmail.com)

**Immediate Past President:** Donald M. Chisholm OAM (deceased)

**Vice President:** Philip Chisholm, Phone 0418817721 [pac666@bigpond.net.au](mailto:pac666@bigpond.net.au)

**Vice President:** Carolyn Chown, 129 Somerville Rd., Hornsby Heights, NSW 2077

[carolynchown@bigpond.com](mailto:carolynchown@bigpond.com) Phone (02) 94771165

**Secretary:** Kim Polley OAM, PO Box 84, Longford, TAS 7301

[kim.polley13@gmail.com](mailto:kim.polley13@gmail.com) Phone 0417035162

**Assistant Secretary:** Judy Buchanan [asstsecchisholm@gmail.com](mailto:asstsecchisholm@gmail.com)

**Immediate Past Secretary:** Carolyn Chown (as above)

**Treasurer:** Alistair Thompson, 5 Marnoo Place, Belrose, NSW 2085

[alistairth@gmail.com](mailto:alistairth@gmail.com) Phone 0415 226852

**Branch Representative:** Kim Polley OAM (as above)

**Genealogist:** Max Bott, 6 Reid Place, Kambah, ACT 2902 [max.d.bott@gmail.com](mailto:max.d.bott@gmail.com)

**Clan Chisholm Society Genealogy Database (international database)**

[www.chisholmgenealogy.com/DB/](http://www.chisholmgenealogy.com/DB/) (Secretary can provide password)

**CCS Forum:** <http://www.chisholmgenealogy.com/cgi-bin/yabb2/YaBB.p>

**Clan Chisholm Australia Branch Genealogy Database** <http://clanchisholm.org.au/>

(Secretary can provide password)

### **2023 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**

**[alistairth@gmail.com](mailto:alistairth@gmail.com)**

**Please pay before the AGM on 21 March 2023**





## NZ Branch Notices

### From the President



Dear Chisholm folk in both countries

Our New Zealand branch has been pretty much in hibernation over the last couple of years. This has been due partly to Covid, partly to our not having a secretary/treasurer after Ashley Chisholm, who had been excellent, stepped down and moved out of Wellington to Hawkes Bay. Now Alun Chisholm has moved into this role, although formally "acting" until we can have an AGM and an election. Meanwhile we have a dearth of younger members, and our older members are experiencing declining energies and fitness (I am myself turned 84).

So, New Zealand members, I urge you extremely strongly to do everything

you can to encourage - especially younger - family folk and friends to join up with the branch, as noted below; and the annual subscription, NZ\$20, is about four coffees.

May I draw your attention to some of 2023's "Scottish" happenings.

25 January is Burns Night, the anniversary of Rabbie's birth, and 21 July, the anniversary of his death.

28 January, as the last Saturday in January, the Turakina Highland Games, near Whanganui.

11 February, the Paeroa Highland Games & Tattoo

10-11 March, the National Pipe Band Championship at Hagley Park, Christchurch.

8-9 April, Easter, the Hawkes Bay Highland Games, at Lindisfarne College, Hastings.

1 July, Tartan Day, Hastings, Hawkes Bay

11 November, Hororata Highland Games, near Christchurch

18 November, the Auckland Highland Games.

So, mark one or other of these on your calendar, and get to it if you can. There may be others, such as Kirking the Tartan.

Anyway, here's wishing you and yours an excellent year in 2023, with good health and plenty to enjoy.

John C. Ross.

### **Contacts for Clan Chisholm Society New Zealand Branch**

**President:** John Ross, Palmerston North. [J.C.Ross@Massey.ac.nz](mailto:J.C.Ross@Massey.ac.nz)

**Branch Rep:** Fay Chisholm, Gisborne [mj.fd.chisholm@xtra.co.nz](mailto:mj.fd.chisholm@xtra.co.nz)

**Secretary:** Alun Chisholm, Auckland [alun.chisholm@gmail.com](mailto:alun.chisholm@gmail.com)

**Newsletter Editor:** Robert Chisholm, Auckland [rpchisholm@gmail.com](mailto:rpchisholm@gmail.com) 027 379 4924

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## NZ Branch Notices



### ANNUAL GATHERING & AGM:

Sadly we have not held an annual gathering/AGM for a few years now. Our last AGM was a zoom meeting during the height of the Covid lockdown. The President has suggested a Gathering an AGM somewhere in Auckland in April. Before this can be done we wish to know how many members would be willing to attend, and also if any members are willing to assist in organising a meeting. Please contact Robert, Alun or John (see contact details on previous page). If an Auckland AGM can't be arranged, then there may be a Wellington alternative. Either way, we want to see you there, don't forget to let us know pretty soon if you would like to attend.

### SUBSCRIPTIONS:

There seem to be several overdue 2022 subscriptions. The subs are needed to keep the Society running. Costs incurred are the printed journals from UK, Stationery and postage within NZ, expenses incurred when annual gathers/AGM's are held. If your 2022 subscription has not been paid, please arrange for the subs of \$20.00 to be deposited in this bank account:

**06-0701-0134415-000**

### MEMBERSHIP

Many thanks to those who have renewed their subscriptions, without them the Society could not operate. But its more than subs, its people. There have been a few of the younger generation who have taken up membership in recent years. This is a good start, but we need more if we are serious in attempting to fulfil our mission. The mission of The Clan Chisholm Society is to preserve the heritage of our Scottish clan and to promote links between Chisholms around the world. If you have a younger generation family member, then the gift of a membership subscription for 2023 could be their start in helping to fulfil the mission.



[www.clanchisholmsociety.org/public/index.php](http://www.clanchisholmsociety.org/public/index.php)

Our own Clan Chisholm Website. Paid for with your subscription.

On the New Zealand Tab you will find CCSNZ newsletters dating back to 2004.

The Clan Journal Tab has a nice selection from bygone years, plus lots of interesting articles.



# CLAN COUNCIL 2023

## EXECUTIVE

President	Robert Chisholm	<a href="mailto:rpchisholm@gmail.com">rpchisholm@gmail.com</a>
Vice President	David Holmes	<a href="mailto:bandit77@shaw.ca">bandit77@shaw.ca</a>
Vice President	Kim Polley OAM	<a href="mailto:kim.polley13@gmail.com">kim.polley13@gmail.com</a>
Secretary/Treasurer	Susan Chisholm of Chisholm	<a href="mailto:susanchisholm@tinyworld.co.uk">susanchisholm@tinyworld.co.uk</a>
Immediate Past President	Juliette Chisholm-Broomfield	<a href="mailto:juliette@morella.co.uk">juliette@morella.co.uk</a>
Co-opted Member	Duncan Chisholm	<a href="mailto:info@kilts.co.uk">info@kilts.co.uk</a>
Co-opted Member	Forbes Merrit Chisholm	<a href="mailto:fmchisholm@shaw.ca">fmchisholm@shaw.ca</a>

## BRANCH REPRESENTATIVES

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