



Clan Chisholm Society

Australia and New Zealand Branches

Combined Newsletter January 2024

Chisholms Down Under



Inside this Issue

It's a Happy New Chisholm Year to all of our subscribers. Please feel free to pass on this e-letter to your wider family members. Even better, sign them up for membership. The Society always needs new blood, and especially if its younger blood. Membership does not have to be burdensome, its as simple as receiving the newsletters twice a year, the Clan Journal, and the benefits of access to the Clan Website, to the Genealogical Database, to the Genealogical Forum. Of course it's going to be very much appreciated if any member can assist with newsletter contributions, and most importantly with helping to run the society.

Its all well and good to "like" a Facebook Page, but membership of Clan Chisholm Society is the way to show your commitment to Clan, to help us uphold the Mission of the Society, to care for and protect and preserve the heritage of Clan Chisholm.

This year is the year of the Clan Gathering, its been 10 years since the last International gathering, please turn to page 13 for the details.

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There is a nice mix of articles in the January Newsletter, and it's a bumper crop from the West side of the ditch. Three book's are featured in this issue, congratulations to the authors. A big congratulations to a newly capped PhD in Physics- from Gisborne to Barcelona; and wedding bells at The Vines.

Please think about what you can contribute to the mid year Newsletter.

If you see a hyperlink, you can Ctrl+ click or Tap and go directly to the linked site.

We hope you enjoy the read.

Kim Polley and Robert Chisholm, Editors

Acknowledgements: Thanks to the following for contributing to this newsletter: Sue Woolnough, John Ross; Fay Chisholm; Tony Morrison; Carolyn Chown, Duncan Chisholm (Inverness), Michael Cope, Sir Henry Chisholm CBE, Harry Chisholm (UK), Chis Maxwell, Dr.Craig Chisholm.

New Member Sue Woolnough



I am writing to inform you of the passing of my mother Patricia Carter (nee Chisholm) from Geelong, Victoria. Mum was a long time member of the Clan Chisholm Society and very much enjoyed the articles and news provided in your journals.

She was very proud indeed of her Chisholm heritage and wore her silver brooch with the Chisholm motto to many family gatherings. She also had an enviable collection of Chisholm memorabilia which is now very special to me.

I recently read one of the journals which Mum had saved and noticed an article about the Chisholm Highland Dress shop in Inverness. I was most interested to see that there is a visitors book there that only Chisholms may sign. So I determined that I needed to see this place for myself. What a gold mine it turned out to be!

The store is located centrally in Inverness, on Castle St, right opposite Inverness Castle. It is an unassuming little store from the outside but the quality of the wares is immediately apparent in the fascinating window displays of all things tartan and leather.

On entering we were immediately greeted by a charming and friendly saleswoman called Heather, who has been in charge of the shop floor since the early seventies. She was appropriately rugged up in a snuggly Arran cardigan and of course a tartan kilt. She looked uncannily like my late mother who was so proud of her Scottish



Outside Duncan's shop in Castle Street

heritage and dressed in a remarkably similar way and had exactly the same hairdo!

Heather might be called the guru of the world of tartan! We were shown numerous swatches and I quickly became educated about the colours and uses of the Chisholm tartan in particular. Her knowledge was astounding.

After being quizzed about the legitimacy of my quest to sign the Chisholm book it was brought forth with much reverence and care... from memory it was leather bound. I was certainly well cared for and treasured, which made me feel quite emotional.

The earliest entries were from 1963 (though I found myself wishing it had started earlier). I carefully glanced through the signatures of the many Chisholms represented there and wondered about their stories and connections.

Along with every style and colour of kilt imaginable the shop is filled to the brim with displays of accessories such as kilt pins and sporrans in glass cabinets and covering the walls. The feeling was both nostalgic and magical.

It was a day to remember, and with every nook and cranny of the shop explored I was so happy to have connected with my Chisholm heritage in such a meaningful way.



Heather and me

Sue Woolnough

ANOTHER MILESTONE FOR A CHISHOLM OF GISBORNE



By Grandma Fay

On 19th June 2023 at the Technical University of Catalonia in Barcelona, Spain

CRAIG STERLING CHISHOLM

youngest son of Ivan and Marita, passed his final exam and gained his degree of **Doctor of Philosophy** in Photonics. His thesis was entitled '*Raman Dressed Bose-Einstein Condensates with Tunable Interactions: Topological Gauge Theories and Supersolids*'

Craig was Dux of Lytton High school Gisborne before going on to Otago University to do his BSc in Physics. Craig has spent the last five years in Spain working towards his doctorate.



Congratulations to Dr Craig Chisholm
from the Clan Chisholm Society

May the Feros be with you!

[Read more here](#)

<https://www.icfo.eu/news/2204/congratulations-to-new-icfo-phd-graduate/>

ICFO – The Institute of Photonic Sciences is a research centre devoted to the science and technology of light. Located in Castelldefels, Barcelona, ICFO was created in 2002 by the Government of Catalonia and the Technical University of Catalonia.

AN IMPORTANT BOOK LAUNCH WITH A CONNECTION TO THE CHISHOLMS

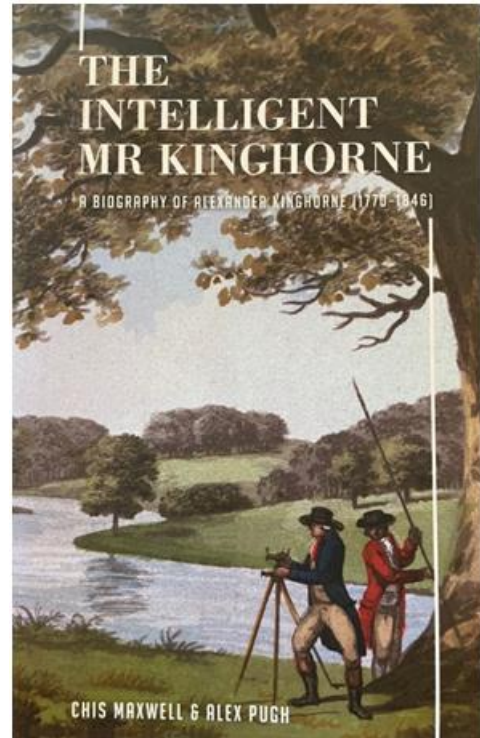


By Carolyn Chown

In June, 2023 Chis Maxwell and Alex Pugh launched another interesting book with connections to the Chisholms in Australia. "The Intelligent Mr Kinghorne" is the second book detailing the Kinghorne family's endeavours in early Australian settlement; following "The Master of Hell's Gates", a study of Captain William Kinghorne in 2018.

This new biography studies the life of Alexander Kinghorne in Scotland and his decision to bring his family to Australia. Alexander spent the first 50 years of his life in Scotland pursuing productive agricultural-based endeavours until, after his wife's death he made a momentous decision to follow his sons, William and James and bring his family to the new horizons and opportunities in Australia. He brought all the rest of his children, with the exception of his son Andrew who remained in Scotland until, at his death his wife decided to bring her family to Australia and join Alexander.

The story details the achievements of Alexander and his hard working family. Alexander carried letters of introduction with him to Australia which helped him gain the appointment of Superintendent of the convict farm at Emu Plains outside Sydney and other administrative endeavours. He received land grants in the Goulburn area close to Kippilaw and the Chisholm family. It was not long after he arrived in Sydney that Alexander had met James Chisholm and they became



Chis Maxwell and Alex Pugh signing copies of their new book

friends. This was soon followed by the marriage of Alexander's daughter Elizabeth to James Chisholm's son James.

It was a most interesting afternoon, with many of Chis and Belinda's connections at the launch. My connection to Alexander Kinghorne is through both his daughter Elisabeth's marriage to James Chisholm; also of Alexander's granddaughter Jane (daughter of Alexander's son Andrew) and her marriage to William, (second son of James Chisholm, of Kippilaw).

I was so happy to see Val Kinghorne again at the launch. Val carries the Kinghorne name and is a descendant of Alexander's eldest son also Alexander.



Val Kinghorne and myself at the launch.



My Visit To Inverness 11th to 13th September 2023

By Tony Morrison

My wife, Sue, and I took off for a trip last August, which was primarily designed as an opportunity to visit family. Family being the Chisholms in Scotland, on my mother's side and the Morrisons scattered through various parts of England.

It may sound as though we all breed like rabbits, but in fact our numbers are diminishing, especially on the Chisholm side of the family in Australia. This may have been the result of having a disproportionate number of, dare I say it, females in successive generations coupled with, but not literally, some self-absorbed males who either felt threatened by the opposite sex or weren't sufficiently attracted to them, or whatever selfish reason didn't understand their obligation to further continue the procreation of the Chisholm family line.

However, we didn't head off on this beautifully happy saga because we felt we were close to extinction, but because we wanted to 'come home', in a sense to the roots of our amazing Australian family history. Scotland and the Chisholms.

I couldn't help but think how similar yet how different our two countries are as I drove up to Inverness from Edinburgh. The road wound through beautiful farming country dotted with lovely white farmhouses here and older grey houses and castles

there, which gave way to livestock country, then pine and birch forests beneath some of Scotland's beautiful rugged, relatively untouched heather-covered hills, which, although different, stirred feelings of an isolated Outback in my heart. I could understand how Australia's Chisholm pioneer families felt at home so far away from home.

That evening Duncan Chisholm and I had dinner at his son's innovative restaurant, La Tortilla Asesina Spanish, one of the first tapas bars in Scotland, together with some friends of mine, Andrew and Judith Mathieson. Judith, an Aussie, and Andrew, from Inverness. Imagine their surprise



Duncan Chisholm(L) and Tony Morrison getting ready to demolish a killer tortilla at La Tortilla Asesina

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when they arrived. Andrew and Duncan, as it turns out, were friends from way back in the scouts over 30 years ago and hadn't seen each other since, so, even though, at times, it was hard to get a word in, we had a most enjoyable fun-filled evening. But there's more. I recounted this story to Kim Polley, our ever-diligent Australian Clan secretary, and it turns out that her 5th great grandfather used to work on what is now Andrew's family farm, Brahan, just out of Inverness. This is just one example of the connection Australian families have with their Scottish forebears.

I was determined to buy a Chisholm kilt while I was in Scotland, so what better place to be next morning than Duncan's Shop, Chisholm Highland Dress. It was a great pleasure to have met him the previous evening. We hit it off straight away, as have the many Chisholms from all over the world who have come to his shop for the same reason. Duncan's family have been making kilts for well over 50 years and they are very good at it. And strangely enough, not that I was thinking about it at the time, my seven times great grandfather, James Chisholm, who came out to Australia with the second fleet, in 1791, was a corporal and tailor in The NSW Regiment. From such humble beginnings, he became a wine and spirit merchant and was a large landholder in NSW when he died in 1837.

Which reminds me of the message out front of The Glenalbryn Pub in Inverness;

Friendship is like whiskey (Scotch Whiskey), the older the better.

Too much of anything is bad, but too much of good whiskey is barely enough.

Duncan fitted me out in the Chisholm hunting tartan with numerous accessories. I can 'ardly wait orrrright. Me kilt an' all arrives out here in March, an' I have a wee dram every night.

I met Andrew later that morning and on Kim Polley's excellent recommendation, headed off on a memorable trip to Glen Affric. Andrew used to go there as a boy, climbing the incredibly steep heather-covered hills or boating on the river's still waters which mirror reflections of the spectacular scenery. Hills shrouded in misty cloud; river valleys below with the ubiquitous stone houses dotted throughout the landscape. And Glen Morriston and Glen Affric itself. Stately, magnificent. Serene in its isolation. An unspoiled wilderness. Quiet.

We visited Erchless Castle, The Chisholm's ancestral home for five centuries and a substantial reminder of our family history. Erchless is situated amongst 12,000 acres of forest with about two or three hundred acres of beautiful grazing land and cattle.

Erchless is a picture. It stands proudly white in its rural setting as it has done since the 1300's, in times before The Chisholm, together with several old well-maintained farm buildings going back, how far who knows. There is the hanging tree to remind



Erchless Castle

us of sterner times when justice was meted out instantaneously after court proceedings, if you were found guilty of a 'major offence'. No time for an appeal then, and the 'offence' didn't need to be too 'major' either.

And away from the castle in a simple but magnificent sylvan setting, is the graveyard. Towering headstones, and the graves and ghosts that commemorate the Chisholm families of the past.



Farm Buildings on the Erchless Estate

It was short, but satisfying. An enjoyable visit and one we hope to repeat and meet more of our Chisholm family at The Annual Gathering in July next year.

Tony Morrison

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Affric Lodge on the Glen Affric Estate



Tony Morrison (L) and Andrew Mathieson (R) at Duncan's Highland Dress Shop

From the VP of CCS



During mid 2023 I visited Scotland too with my husband Michael.

We caught up with some good friends:



L-r Duncan Chisholm owner of La Tortilla, 99 Castle Street in Inverness, his father Duncan Chisholm from Chisholm Highland Dress, 47 Castle Street and Kim and Michael Polley from Tasmania.



Kim and Michael Polley,
with
Juliette and Ben Chisholm-Broomfield,
from Beauly

47 Years ago Clan Chisholm Journal Number 20, 1977, page 5: The Chisholm Pipes

From a family of distinguished English Chisholms, whose members include the Warden of the Standards, The Editor of Encyclopaedia Britannica, the author of this article was the Chairman of the New Town Corporation of Corby in Northamptonshire. The Pipes of Chief James Sutherland Chisholm are still in Sir Henry's Family, and have been noted in the Clan Chisholm Artefacts Register.

Sir Henry also penned an article in the subsequent Journal, No 21, 1978, about his grandfather, Henry Williams Chisholm, who was Warden of the Standards between 1866 and 1877, whose string recommendation to go metric went unheeded, and so Britain and the colonies had to endure another century of stones and feet, pecks and perches, farthings and furlongs, chains and threepennybits, and water which froze at 32 degrees above zero.

THE CHISHOLM PIPES by Sir Henry Chisholm, C.B.E.

This set of silver mounted bagpipes, made by Messrs. Glen, of the Royal Mile, Edinburgh. was bought by me when the Chisholm Estates were sold in 1936. They had been for many years in Erchless Castle and are believed to have been made for James Sutherland Chisholm, who was Chief from 1858 to 1885.

I had them put in good order by Pipe Major Macaulay but they remained unused until I became Chairman of Corby Development Corporation in 1950. That New Town having a largely Scottish population, I brought the pipes into use there, and they were played before me at appropriate festivities, first by Dr Leslie M. Craig (a Member of the Corporation), and later by Pipe Major J. R. Stewart. These pipes were played on many notable occasions, including the visit by the High Commissioner for Canada (His Excellency J. H. Warren) on 23rd October, 1972. and by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother on 11th April, 1973, as well as at the dinner given by the Corporation to celebrate my 25 years as Chairman on 16th December, 1975. On this last occasion, Pipe Major Stewart presented me with three of his own compositions, namely, a waltz, "Fineshade Abbey", and two marches, "Her Majesty the Queen Mother's Welcome to Corby". and "Sir Henry Chisholm".

The wooden box was made by Mr D. Bettles, the Corby Development Corporation's carpenter, to contain the pipes when they were returned to me by Pipe Major Stewart on my retirement on 30th September, 1976.

Note by Pipe Major J. R. Stewart.

I was taught piping by my father, a well-known competitor at Gatherings in the north of Scotland. I played in various bands as a boy and young man and also studied under other teachers including my Grand Uncle, Pipe Major John Stewart, who was for a time Piper to His Majesty King George the Fifth at Holyrood.

I joined the Black Watch as a regular and after my demob. I came to Corby in 1955 and I have been Pipe Major of the British Steel Corporation Band for most of that time.

About seven years ago, (1970) I was asked to look after the Chisholm Pipes by Dr L. Craig, who

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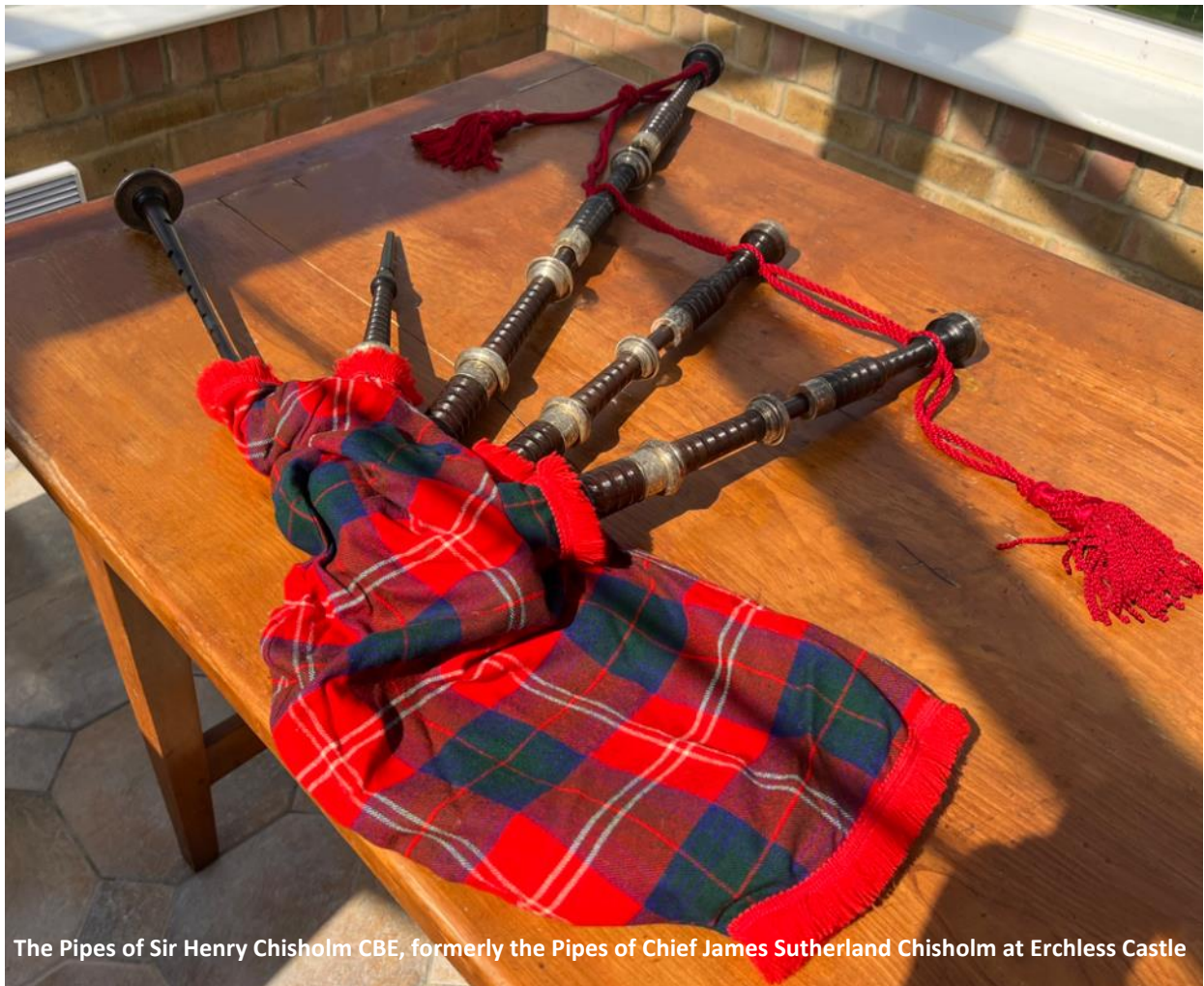
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was keeping them at that time for Sir Henry Chisholm. I agreed to do this and, after putting the pipes in going order, I played them for most of the time that they were in my possession. During that time they had been instrumental, with me, in winning the Marquis of Huntly's Challenge Quaich, the Clan Cameron Cup (twice), the Nairn Challenge Cup (twice), the Brassway Cup (twice), the Scottish Clans Cup, and many other awards at Highland Gatherings on both sides of the border.

The pipes have also been with me to Germany (Velbert) and they have taken part in the 600th Anniversary of the Royal Burgh of Banff. I was invited to take charge of the resurrected Banff Pipe Band for the day of the parade and the Band was featured in the Aberdeen Press and Journal.

The pipes have played for the Canadian High Commissioner at the opening of Canada Square, also for the Queen Mother at the opening of Queen's Square. Almost the last act, while the pipes were with me, was playing for the British Ambassador to Austria in Vienna this year.

These are some of the highlights of the career of the Chisholm Pipes over the past four years. There have been hundreds of parades and engagements and contests, both Band and solo, far too numerous to mention here, but I think I have included all the main events. The pipes have performed twice for their owner, Sir Henry Chisholm, at Corporation Dinners and have always sounded well.



The Pipes of Sir Henry Chisholm CBE, formerly the Pipes of Chief James Sutherland Chisholm at Erchless Castle

Book Review

by Kim Polley



During my time in Inverness in 2023 I picked up a copy of SG Maclean's book titled *The Bookseller of Inverness*, published by Quercus in 2023. It is a totally absorbing, gripping historical fiction book set in the era of the battle of Culloden and its aftermath. It even takes one back to the Chisholms in Strathglass.

On a plane from Heathrow to Singapore as we returned to Australia, I had my head buried in the pages, anxious to devour every morsel of the story. Suddenly, when we were unexpectedly interrupted by the captain about 2 hours into our flight and solemnly advised that 2 of our 3 navigation devices had failed and as we were about to head into the Middle East where we most definitely had to be in the correct air corridor, he had to return us to Heathrow post haste. My face was not ashen unlike some crew and passengers, nor was I thinking of the disaster that could potentially end our journey. My thoughts were solely on the fact that I just had to finish my book and anything else was irrelevant. I can thoroughly recommend it as a good read.



Michael and I holidayed in Melbourne recently to catch up with our wonderful Canadian Chisholm friends, Kevin and Leslie Chisholm.

Left to right: Leslie and Kevin Chisholm, Michael and Kim Polley

2024 International Clan Chisholm Gathering

8-13th July in Inverness and Strathglass

The UK Branch committee is in the very early stages of planning for next years International Gathering of Clan Chisholm. A tentative timetable is outlined below

Australia and New Zealand Branches would like to hear from Members who are interested in attending the International Clan Gathering. We would like to be able to confirm the hotel bookings as soon as possible. Susan Chisholm of Chisholm is handling the organising in the UK, for CCS members downunder, first point of contact should be Branch Representative Fay Chisholm in New Zealand, and Vice President Kim Polley in Australia, contact details are on the last page of the newsletter. Once there is a group of members who wish to register, it is proposed to set up a "WhatsApp Group Chat" to keep in touch and to share notifications, items of interest, photo's etc. While its not compulsory to have "WhatsApp" on your phone, it is recommended as an easy to use method of communication.



International Gathering 2024 Draft Timetable

Monday	8th July	6:30pm onward	Meet & Greet/Register	Glen Mhor Hotel booked
Tuesday	9th July	09:30	Fort George	Coach trip
"	"	12:30	Culloden	Coach trip - Lunch at Culloden
"	"	7pm	Ceilidh evening	Glen Mhor Hotel booked
			Newtonmore - Highland Folk Museum.	
Wednesday	10th July	10:30	Free evening	possible visit to collections Am Fasgadh
Thursday	11th July	11:00	Glen Cannich - Cairn	mini coaches - people swap over if want to do both
"	"	11:00	Cannich - Marydale.	Strathglass Heritage - Clearances exhibition
		12:30	Lunch	May be a packed lunch or at Slaters Arms
"	"	3pm onward	Erchless Castle visit & Tea party	Castle booked
			AGM - International Society	
Friday	12th July	11:00	Society	Glen Mhor Hotel booked
"	"	12:30	Buffet Lunch	Glen Mhor Hotel booked
"	"	14:30	Inverness Archive - Chisholm material	Booked talk and display with Highland Archive
Saturday	13th July	11:00	City of Inverness Highland Games	Opens 11:00 - make own way there/buy own tickets

'The Chisholm Letters: The Tale of a Town Scavenger'

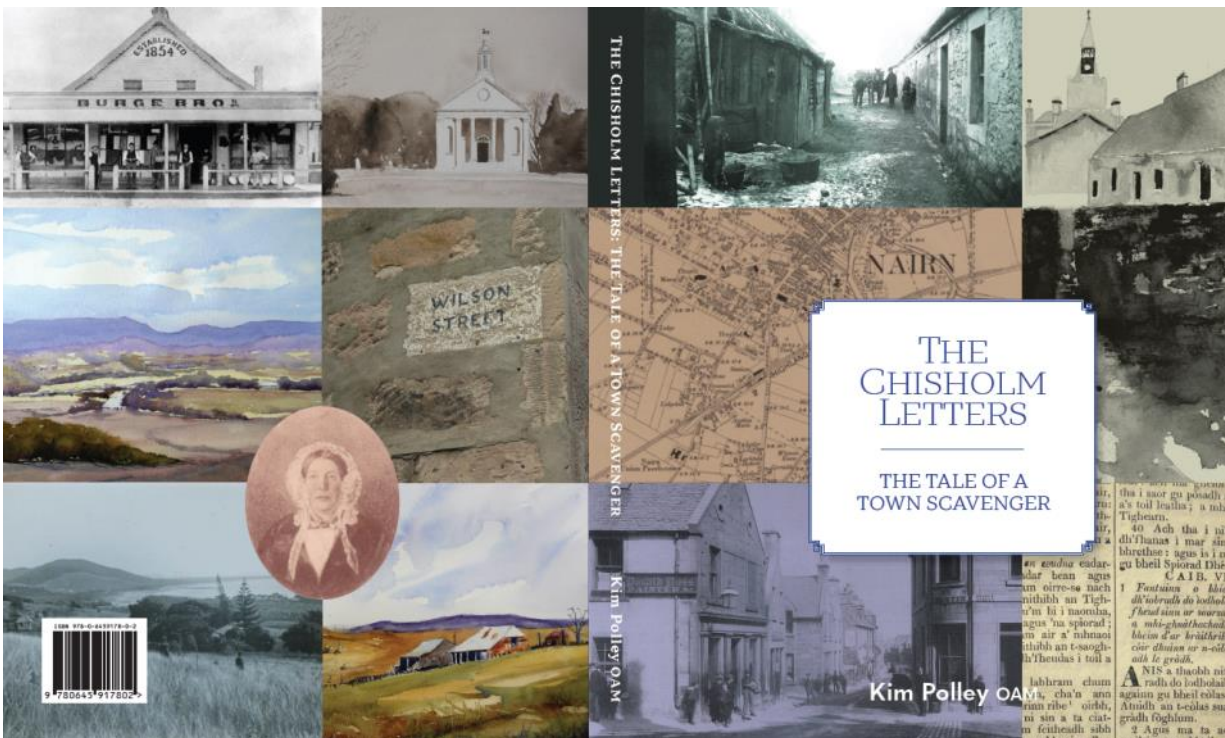
By Kim Polley



Writing family histories can be an exhausting task. I know this for a fact, having many years ago undertaken this very process as I traced the history of my Chisholm family from their roots on Scottish farms and villages to the vast openness and emptiness of Australia. It can also be a frustrating enterprise, trying to inject life into the narrative while being held captive to the inevitable litany of births, marriages and deaths that by necessity shape any family history.

Last year, in writing *The Chisholm Letters: The Tale of a Town Scavenger*, I was determined to break that mould, to delve more deeply, to walk alongside them as they went about their lives, to become a living spectator, to sense their emotional highs and feel their grief as they went about their days both in Scotland and the colony of Australia. Fortunately, and in part by chance, I discovered an on-line repository of Scottish newspapers, which opened a whole new world of information reaching beyond the old parish records and statutory registers. Suddenly, I was able to put my ancestors into the world as it existed for them, I could hear their voices, and I could see and smell and taste their lives, almost as if I was sitting in the corner by the hearth, or riding in the back of the wagon in New England.

But what could I do with the treasure trove of information that I found? How could I use it in an authentic manner, and yet draw the threads of family across the oceans? By creating a narrative through the concept of letters between Colin Chisholm and his siblings, I found that I could be both true to the history of the times whilst injecting the story of the Chisholm family – a personal saga within the (and their) real world. The second part of the



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book follows the lives of Colin's children and his brother and sisters after his death in 1868, as they navigate life in Scotland, Canada and Australia up until the early 1900s.

The Chisholm Letters has been meticulously annotated throughout and contains 292 pages, hundreds of current and historical photographs, diagrams, maps, and original drawings. Since its publication, the book has become widely acknowledged as a social history and a family saga.

Kim is offering a discount of \$10.00 to Clan Chisholm Society members who wish to purchase the black and white version of the book. The cost of the book and postage/packaging to



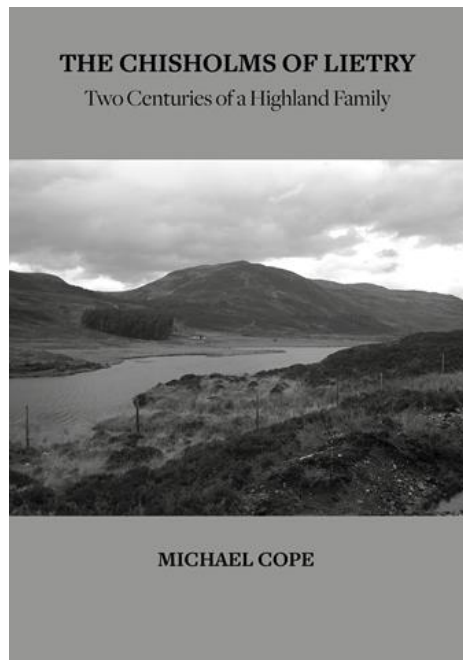
Scavenger off to work

Australia is now \$40.00 plus p/h \$19.60 = \$59.60 (Australian dollars). The cost to New Zealand members is now \$40.00 plus p/h \$38.30 (Australian dollars) = \$78.30. All items are tracked through Australia Post.

See <https://polleybooksaustralia.com.au> for more information and reviews or contact kim.polley13@gmail.com



'Berriedale, Bothwell' by Kim Polley (Watercolour)



New Publication

The Chisholms of Lietry

By Michael Cope

The Chisholms of Lietry are a cadet family of Clan Chisholm that have their origin in the early seventeenth century in Strathglass in the former county of Inverness-shire. In the early 1700s Colin Chisholm (of the fourth generation) moved his family to Lietry in Glen Cannich and later generations would farm there until the late 1830s before moving to the Aird on the coast of the Beaulieu Firth and subsequently to Inverness itself and the wider world. The lives of Colin's descendants can be traced against a background of immense social change in the Highlands of Scotland: upheavals of the Jacobite rebellions; the decline of the clan system and changes in land tenure; land clearances and waves of emigration to North America and Australia; and the emergence of a new mercantile and middle class before the First World War.

'Overall this work shows the dedication of the author to tell his family's history in a highly informative manner, and the use of family photographs adds so much more to the story throughout the book'

- Chairman, Highland Family History Society

[Further information on purchase of the book can be obtained here.](#)



Just two and a half miles separates Lietry from the Chisholm Stone at Loch Mullardoch.

Here the road crosses over Liatric Burn



Barbed Wire Jack

By Kim Polley



Whilst visiting the Melbourne Museum in December my attention was drawn to a collection of barb wire belonging to Jack Chisholm. Jack's collection contains more than 1400 samples, from the earliest patents of the 1870s to modern razor wire.



1. modern ripple wire, 1876; 2. Glidden's "Winner" two-point wire barb on two twisted strands, 1874; 3. Ellis large sawtooth barb on twisted ribbon, 1885; 4. Sim's lance barbs on twisted triangle rod, 1876; 5. Kelly flat ribbon with looped two-point barbs, 1868; 6. Watkins-Scutt twisted half-round rail with straight barbs, 1875; 7. Kirchhoffer stretched ribbon with folded two-point V-barbs, 1881; 8. Reynolds cast four-point star barb on single strand, 1877; 9. Hodge spur rowel on two parallel strands, 1887; 10. Wing two-staple barb on square strand, 1878; 11. Preston three-strand braid with split arrow plate barb, 1881; 12. Bottle brush wire, straight-barbs through two twisted strands, undated; 13. Dulin cooper barbs on large gauge single copper strand, 1875; 14. Crandall zigzag strip in two twisted strands, 1879; 15. Barker five-point hanging star variation, 1881;

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16. Bronson linked single-strand with double-loop barbs, 1877; 17, Shellaberger spiral twist vineyard wire on straight strand, 1891; Dodge steel barb on twisted copper and steel strands, 1883; 19. Robinson's shock absorber barbs on two twisted strands, 1890; 20. Cady barbed link, one and one-half wrap variation, 1884; 16. Bronson linked single-strand with double-loop barbs, 1877; 17. Shellaberger spiral twist vineyard wire on straight strand, 1891; 18. Dodge steel barb on twisted copper and steel strands, 1883; 19. Robinson's shock absorber barbs on two twisted strands, 1890; 20. Cady barbed link, one and one-half wrap variation, 1884; 21. Glidden barbs alternating on two twisted strands, 1874; 22. Abbott's Australian double kink, 1943; 23. Scutt's two-point wire barbs on two parallel strands, 1880; 24. Abbott's all aluminium variation, four-point barbs on single strand, 1943; 25. Schmid linked left and right twist barbs on kinked single-strand, 1928; 26. Hallner single-cut Greenbriar, 1878; 27. Handmade wire of Arrarownie Station, undated; 28. Brinkerhoff ribbon and single strand wire with barb 1885; 29. Hunt drilled double plate link, 1877; 30. Scutt barbless wood block and arrow plate variation, 1880.



Jack Chisholm (1916-2001) was a descendant of Archibald Chisholm and Ann Fraser, both of Breakachy, who married on 6 October 1853 in Kilmorack. They arrived on the ship *Conway* in Geelong, Victoria, Australia on 17 June 1854. Their story can be found in *The Clan Chisholm in Australia 1790-1990* (compiled and edited by Carolyn Chown) on pages 205-235.

Read more about [The Jack Chisholm Collection](https://collections.museumsvictoria.com.au/articles/13422) here:

<https://collections.museumsvictoria.com.au/articles/13422>

Memorial Plaque and Cairn at Loch Mullardoch, Glen Cannich

By The Editor

On Thursday 11th July, the International Clan Chisholm gathering will meet at the Chisholm Stone and The Cairn in Glen Cannich. This location has become a magnet for Chisholms, not only at the International Gatherings, but during all the private visits made, and a photograph at the Cairn and the Chiefs Stone become precious memories and are often displayed proudly on social media. Other Chisholm stone memorials also abound; there is the memorial in Cannich Brae, one in Glen Affric, a paving stone at Culloden. I am sure there is something in Nova Scotia, and I know there is something in Glasgow Kentucky. For Chisholms downunder, there is the Cairn at Kippilaw. So how did all this begin?

We don't have to look very far to find the inspiration, Australia's own Miriam Chisholm, who came up with the idea of the memorial plaque for Chisholm Stone, and the adjacent Cairn for Chisholm visitors from around the world. It can best be explained by dipping into the Archives re-telling the origin story, an account of the opening and dedication of the Plaque and the cairn in Sept 1959, as told in Volume 1 of the Clan Chisholm Journal. The unveiling ceremony was carried out by the Chief's brother, the Ruari Chisholm DFC, a fearless and decorated and very young wartime pilot with Bomber Command, who later in the century became President of Clan Chisholm Society.

From the Archives

THE 1959 GATHERING (Clan Chisholm Journal Number 1 Jan 1960 Pages 1-3)

The Clan Gathering, held in Inverness on 4th and 5th September 1959, opened, as is usual, with the Annual General Meeting, an account of which has already been sent to members.

On the following morning, in brilliant sunshine, two buses took one hundred members from Inverness to Glen Cannich where lunch was provided at a marquee set up below the Mullardoch dam. After lunch the party proceeded to a hillside above the loch where the commemorative plaque stood draped in the Chisholm tartan. The chief's banner was set up beside the plaque, and the golden boar's head on a red field made a gay splash of colour among the heather.

Mr Ruari Chisholm, the *Tanastair*, introduced by the President, said: "I know how sorry my brother the Chief is not to be here today. It is not easy for him to get away, and this occasion particularly he would have liked to have attended. "Clansmen from this glen gathered here to meet the Chief who rode up from Comer House to discuss matters of interest, collect rents, and listen to complaints. There was a restriction on the number of cattle that could be run on the hills and that number was decided with the Chief, depending on the conditions of previous

years and so on. "This ceremony today we really owe to Miss Miriam Chisholm from Australia, who has organised the whole of our branch in Australia. She came here first in 1927, when it looked very different. She took a photograph of The Chisholm Stone, and when she came back again in 1957 she identified the stone from the photograph. We believe it is the right stone, or as close as makes no difference, and nobody can deny it. I mention that because some people might have other views. It was a suggestion of Miss Miriam's that we put this plaque in the glen to bring the name of the Chisholm Clan back into the glen permanently, and she subscribed the money for the plaque. I am glad to hear it is made of aluminium, being in the aluminium industry myself.

"The plaque was designed, paid for and made by the



Miriam Chisholm Photo taken in 1920's which is when she first visited Glen Cannich. Photo courtesy of National Library of Australia NLA MS6207

(continued)

late Alex. Chisholm, Fort Augustus. We should remember the efforts of this most active clansman when we unveil it today. The plinth was put in position with considerable effort I am sure, by Duncan Chisholm and his sons and we have them to thank for laying it here on a solid foundation and for making the way up to it a bit easier than it was. The reason that the plinth was put so high up is that the water level rises above the grass when the water is up to the spillway of the dam. The stone is then well under water, and we wanted the plinth to be clear of the water and always to remain so. This loch is connected with Glen Affric by a tunnel through these hills.

"Miss Miriam suggested that we construct a cairn here, so that the clansmen who visit the spot can leave a stone to commemorate their visit, and also that overseas clansmen might like to send stones to be put on the cairn. If anybody from America should send us a three-ton block, I hope they will arrange to deliver it here, Archaeologists in the future will probably be puzzled by the variety of stones if the records are destroyed by an atom war. I will try to collect one typical of India".

The *Tanastair* then unveiled the plaque, the inscription on which reads as follows:

HERE ACCORDING TO TRADITION
THE CHIEF HELD COUNSELS WITH
HIS GLEN CANNICH CLANSMEN.
THE CENTRE STONE NOW SOMETIMES
SUBMERGED IS KNOWN TO THE CLAN
AS THE CHISHOLM'S STONE.
CLAN CHISHOLM SOCIETY.



After Piper Kenneth Chisholm from Edinburgh had played "*Mo Dachaidh*", the building of the cairn was started and the stones quickly rose to a fair size. In the evening the party, held at what is fast becoming the traditional gathering place for our day - Cuming's Hotel in Inverness - was attended by more than 150 people, among whom were Mr and Mrs Frank Lee, from Ontario. The programme was arranged by the Inverness and Northern Counties branch, to whose work the success of the weekend was largely due. Run on the familiar lines, it made a fittingly informal close to a Gathering which this year will be remembered for its ceremonial as well as its business and social side.



The Chisholm Stone, The Plaque, The Cairn.
Photo by Kim Polley



Chisholm Genealogies
International

The Clan Chisholm Forum

The Forum recently received this enquiry.

"Hello Everyone,
I'm XXXXX, am new here and so excited that this site exists! I didn't know so much Clan Chisholm information existed until last week. Can't wait to learn more and share with my family.

I've been building our family tree on Ancestry for a while now and have hit a wall identifying my paternal grandfather. Maybe someone out there is familiar with this group of Chisholms? My father is Robert Andrew Chisholm Lane (Lane is adopted). I have two primary source documents, my father's birth certificate and his mother's death certificate that show my grandfather's name written as Albert A. Chisholm and Andrew A. Chisholm. He would have lived in or around Philadelphia, PA or New Jersey between 1920-1930 and would probably have been born in the very late 1800s. My father's mother died at the early age of 27 when he was 3 years old. It was at this point that his father disconnected from his life so he really didn't know him. His mother's sister raised him along with her husband, Arthur Lane, but it wasn't until his 20s that my father asked to be adopted by them and have Lane added to his last name. The identity of my grandfather was never discussed and there are no pictures or documents other than the two mentioned and a letter from a great Aunt referring to him as Al. Any remaining relatives who might answer my questions have passed on."

The Genealogy Detectives at the Forum set to work, and helped to map out a Chisholm Tree and take it back across the Atlantic to Ireland. With the help of a Y-DNA test as part of the [Clan Chisholm DNA Project](#), related Chisholm and Chism families have been found in the USA, and Ballyshannon in Ireland is being searched for the origin of this branch of the Clan.

[Clan Chisholm United Facebook Group](#)



Clan Chisholm United
Public group · 1.3K members



A proud Chisholm PhD Graduate at the University of Southern California (USC) adds the Clan Crest to her graduation sash

[Clan Chisholm Facebook](#)



Clan Chisholm
Private group · 654 members



Clan Chisholm



Captain Archibald Macra Chisholm and Shinty



Captain Archibald Macra Chisholm
42nd Highlanders
THE BLACK WATCH



Clan Chisholm Society

394 likes · 413 followers



[Clan Chisholm Society Facebook Page](#)



Often, when away from home, we miss our regular treats. Upon stepping into a little, unassuming corner cafe in the town of Stornoway on the Isle of Lewis, we were delighted to find that they served coffee supplied by an Australian. It was superb, far surpassing any other we had tasted for weeks. It really hit the spot! In fact, we made it a habit to return each day for a coffee or two whilst we were on the island.

We learned that the cafe, called *An Taigh Cèilidh*, or the Cèilidh House, is a not-for-profit community house run by Dr Teàrlach Wilson. It is designed to encourage the use and survival of the Gaelic language through conversation circles, music, singing, books and art and craft. We were greeted by very friendly Gaelic speaking staff who immediately put us at ease. By the time we left we could say a few words in Gaelic, and were rewarded by 10% discount on our drinks.

My most precious memory was the small crockery croft houses scattered around the cafe which were burning peat cut from the moors on Lewis. The aroma which emanated was really earthy and very comforting. It reminded me of my favourite spirit, Laphroaig Scotch Whisky. Oh goodness, did I say that? We hope to return again one day.

Gàidhlig gu bràth! (Gaelic forever)



Dr Wilson outside a unique cafe in Stornoway



Duncan Sean Chisholm and Madison Chelsea Hart

Celebrated their marriage in Gisborne at The Vines at 3.30pm on the 27th January 2024



It surely is a date to remember as just 62 years and 5 hours earlier at St Peter Channel Church in Whakatane, Duncan's grandparents were married in 1962 and on their day it rained as well.

As a Samoan lady was heard saying 62 years ago as she walked by
"you are blessed for the rain fell on you"

and so right she was; as they had 58 wonderful years before Grandad departed for a heavenly place, which left Grandma Chisholm to wish Duncan and Madi many happy years together .



NZ Branch Notices



From the President

Dear NZ Chisholm people

We did manage an annual general meeting in 2023, at Robert's home in Auckland, partly face-to-face and partly via Zoom, and we can hope to be more active in 2024.

May I strongly urge our current members to persuade younger members of your families to join up. Not only can you get a sense of your heritage, but if you travel overseas you can go to places that your ancestors came from.

If you have old photo albums, you can get a sense of who these people featured were, and maybe something of their life-stories. For folk in this country, Papers Past is a wonderful resource, accessed via www.natlib.govt.nz. (Lamentably, one thing I found in old newspapers was a report on my Ross grandfather's bankruptcy - you can't choose the past you'd prefer.)

Anyway, here's greetings to Australian Chisholms, wishing all of you, and yours, an excellent and enjoyable year ahead

John C. Ross, President NZ Branch of Clan Chisholm Society



2024 SUBSCRIPTIONS DUE

Our Constitution notes that the Financial Year for the NZ Branch of Clan Chisholm Society runs from 1 February to 31 January. This means that the subs for 2024 will soon become due.

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 gatherings/AGM's are held.

Please arrange for the annual subs of \$20.00 to be deposited into the accounted as listed below.

06-0701-0134415-000

Your continued membership is very important. It signifies that you value your membership of our ancient Clan, and that you appreciate the work which the Society does to maintain the cultural heritage of our Clan. As a bonus, your membership comes with 2 electronic newsletters per year, the printed copy of the International Clan Chisholm Society Journal, and various intermittent flyers. Membership offers you the opportunity to use the resources of Clan Chisholm Society, which includes a very thorough genealogical database. There are also other services provided via the Society website. Membership also provides an opportunity for you to assist in helping to run and maintain the society. Help from members in any way is always appreciated, and new committee members would be most welcome. Please contact John or Fay or Alun or Robert if you would like to become a more active member. And don't forget what President John has written about encouraging a younger member of your family to join the Society

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Clan Chisholm, Australia.



President's Report. December, 2023



Hello and welcome to 2024 but not a fond 'goodbye' to 2023. Last year was a turbulent and angry year both internationally and at home. It was a year in which opinion was beginning to triumph over fact at home and a year when the world looked on as Russian ambitions subjected Ukraine to a relentless war and Hamas threatened to wipe Israel off the face of the map, this being met with an Israeli response: to wipe Hamas out of the pages of history. Not to mention Covid and millions of other things that were going wrong in our world.

But for all that, while bad news occupied the headlines, Sue and I came across a far bigger and more beautiful world full of wonderful people out there than mainstream media would have us believe, as we travelled through South Africa, Ireland, Scotland, England and Portugal last year.

Our Clan Chisholm reminds me not to forget who we are, and to recognise the good work that members of the Clan do in bringing us all together in the spirit of love and friendship that binds us as a family.

Two of our Clan members have written inspiring books about their families' history that goes back to their original Chisholm roots in Scotland. They are Chisy Maxwell and Kim Polley.

Chisy Maxwell has authored two, the first one being 'The Merchant of Sydney'; the story about a young James Chisholm who arrived in Sydney in 1791, and the second about William Kinghorne, 'The Master of Hell's Gates', a relative by marriage to James Chisholm of Kippilaw.

Kim is also the author of two books, 'The Chisholms: Their Journey from Urray to Murray Street and Beyond' in 2011 and in 2023, 'The Chisholm Letters: The Tale of a Town Scavenger'. While the time and effort that has gone into these masterful works, which preserve family history, is absolutely awesome, they represent a tiny fraction of the fabric that makes the world we live in, so special and so valuable. So great.

Kim Polley dedicates her books to her late father stating "*Cuimhnich air na daoine o'n d'thainig sibh*" (Gaelic) meaning 'Remember the people from whom you have come'.

Sue and I are looking forward to the International Clan Chisholm Gathering in Inverness this year where we hope to meet up with members of our 'extended family' from throughout the rest of the world, as well as Australia, and to share stories and friendships in the place where it all began.

Best wishes to you all for a Happy New Year.

Tony Morrison

The Australia Branch AGM will be held at 10.30-11.30 am on

Sunday 14 April 2024

via Zoom. Details will be distributed closer to the date



CCS Australia Branch



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Clan Chisholm Society Genealogy Database (international database)

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/>



2024 FEES : Due Date 29 February 2024

\$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

The Gathering of the Clan 2024



Glen Mhor Hotel and Apartments

On the East Bank of the River Ness, just 200 metres from Inverness Castle.

This will be home base for the International Gathering of Clan Chisholm, July 2024.

<https://www.glen-mhor.com/>



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