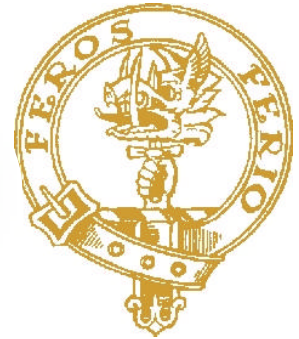




# Clan Chisholm Society NZ

Newsletter # 43 February 2008



## Editor's note:

This month (March) we are blessed with the visit to New Zealand of two Clan Chisholm Society dignitaries, who are doing a tour of the country, and visiting relatives in Christchurch. Juliette Chisholm-Broomfield is the Vice President of the International Society, husband Ben Chisholm-Broomfield is Chairman of the UK Society, and also editor of the Clan Journal.

A new internet based forum for those interested in Chisholm history and genealogy has been set up. It has already scored a number of successes in helping people track down their ancestral past. The inspiration behind the forum is UK genealogist Bob Chisholm, and you will be able to learn more about it in an article he has written for this year's Clan Chisholm journal, coming your way soon!

The Clan Chisholm DNA project continues to grow, continues to help put people in touch with others, continues to help people track down their individual ancestral pasts, and adds valuable data to enable a picture of the clan structure to start emerging. A " Blood of the Clan " report will be found on the Clan Chisholm website, and this newsletter will contain an abbreviated update on the last page.

The AGM of the society, and annual gathering, will be held in Wellington in May, details inside the newsletter.

Clan Council has authorised expenditure for the upgrade of the Clan Chisholm international database, and for ongoing research. It is proposed to have the database up and running on user friendly software, and to set it up so that all family trees which have been authenticated and validated can be posted there.

Clan Council has also approved in principle an idea a future cyber-project to work things of Chisholm interest--- History, Genealogy, Geography , current affairs ---into a Google Earth type of arrangement.

A membership drive is underway, please do your best to help the society sustain itself and to grow. A small article is in the newsletter. I have started the ball rolling by recruiting my brother. What can you do?

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## Acknowledgements:

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## From the President



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## New Zealand Branch Report for 2007

The major event for 2007 was the Clan Gathering held in Auckland, on Saturday 28 April, in the New Lynn Community Centre, followed by a dinner in the evening, and a social gathering on Sunday at the home of Audrey Barney, our Historian and Genealogist, in Orewa, focussed around family history interests. These proved enjoyable, worthwhile happenings, highly successful in bringing in a goodly number of Chisholm people from the Auckland and Northland areas, with some of them not able to come on the Saturday present on the Sunday. Quite a few of them signed up as members of the Society.

While the greater Auckland area is our country's largest population-centre, it has till recently been hard to hold a gathering there, with few local members and no one local prepared to take on the role of organising it. This time, Robert Chisholm and his wife Angelika did a fine job of making all the arrangements for the gathering, with some support from Audrey Barney.

Apart from the formal AGM business, with existing officers re-elected, Robert gave an illustrated talk about the current state of play for the Chisholm DNA Project, and Audrey presented one mainly on Robert Chisholm 'of The Whau', in the Avondale part of West Auckland, not far from the gathering's venue, and his family. This man had been born in Melrose in 1797, had moved to Edinburgh by 1833, when he married, and arrived in Auckland via Melbourne in 1854, at the age of sixty, dying there in 1877. The Adam Chisholm who had arrived in Auckland in 1841 was probably his younger brother. Curiously, Robert is believed to have a family connection to Sir Walter Scott. Audrey also shared information about two other Chisholm families who moved into the Avondale area. Several descendants of Robert and of one of the other families were present.

The modern-day Robert Chisholm has been doing admirable work as our newsletter editor, with three newsletters issued during the year, and also has taken a lead role internationally in promoting the Chisholm DNA Project. Audrey has been continuing her family history researching, and has successfully integrated her records into the international genealogical database. Fay and Michael Chisholm have continued as coordinators of the Chisholm Artifacts Register.

A clan leaflet has been prepared, although this has not yet gone into mass production. It should be a valuable asset in informing people about the NZ branch, and enrolling new members.

Looking ahead, we have planned for gatherings in Wellington in May 2008, and in Dunedin in May 2009, as well as a shared gathering with the Australian Branch at Glen Innes in northern New South Wales in 2009.

Every good wish  
John C. Ross

Do you have anything to share in the newsletter. Some piece of your own Chisholm family history? Something current? A local event which you think may be of interest. Perhaps a theme or a specific topic which you would like to see brought into the next edition of the newsletter. Just phone, write, or e-mail to the editor. Your feedback is most welcome.

## NZ Branch News:

### ARTIFACT REGISTER

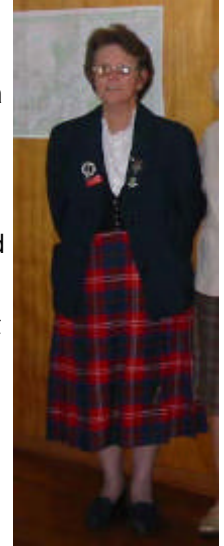
Would all members please give this register a long hard thought as it is known there are a few objects out there that would qualify, such as the piano that was brought out from Scotland, a set of bagpipes that are over a hundred years old and still being played. Plus there must be others we are unaware of, but please NO family papers or certificates.

To date an oak box that came from the boat "Clan Chisholm", and a sword that was used in one of the Scottish battles, have been registered.

We know a fireplace surround taken from Erchless Castle is somewhere in Canada and yet to be documented.

From NZ there is the bugle that has quite a story.

So come on folks, think about what you may have that needs registering, and do it today, contact Fay & Michael Chisholm at [mj.f.d.chisholm@xtra.co.nz](mailto:mj.f.d.chisholm@xtra.co.nz)  
Write to 7 Stevenson Lane, Gisborne, NZ Phone 0064- 06-8677995.



### Annual Clan Chisholm Gathering

Saturday 24 May 2008. Keep this date free.

Miramar Uniting Church Hall, 56 Hobart Street, Miramar, Wellington.

Programme: A more detailed agenda will be distributed in May

Start 10.00am: Meet and greet.

Audrey will be bringing her laptop with all those Chisholm Family trees for you to see. She will no doubt be doing her Annual Historical Talk.

Robert maybe there to explain all that technical data surrounding DNA.

Have you some Chisholm material which other Chisholms could be interested in?

1pm Lunch

2pm Formal Business

Local Trip

Dinner.

### Membership Drive:

It's not much of a subscription fee, but look at the big bang you get for this buck:

- \* At least 3 newsletters per year
- \* An international Clan Journal every year
- \* Part ownership of the Clan Chisholm website
- \* Access to experienced Clan Historians and genealogists.
- \* Access to International Database (to be arranged)
- \* Access to the new Clansman Forum
- \* Opportunity to attend annual meetings, and an international meeting approx every 4 years
- \* Opportunity to stay in touch with Clansfolk from around this country, and the other major Chisholm countries: Australia, Canada, England, Scotland, USA
- \* Opportunity to participate at whatever level you feel comfortable; most are just happy to relax and receive the various publications, and that's fine. Some go a bit further and research their own family, or write articles of interest for Clan publications.
- \* The sense of Whanaunatanga, of belonging to a worldwide clan.

If you have a family member, or know of an apparently unrelated Chisholm in your locality, please do your best to ask this person to consider membership of the Clan Chisholm Society of NZ. It's easy to join; just contact one of the executive members for any details.

# WANTED



## BEN & JULIETTE CHISHOLM -BROOMFIELD

**HIGH RANKING MEMBERS OF THE NOTORIOUS CLAN CHISHOLM-GANG SOCIETY, THIS PAIR ESCAPED FROM STRATHGLASS ON 5 MARCH 2008. THEY WERE LAST SEEN AT SKY CITY AUCKLAND ON MARCH 7TH, AND ARE NOW BELIEVED TO BE ON THE RUN IN A BIG BUS, DISGUISED AS TOURISTS. IF YOU SEE BEN AND JULIETTE, ALL MEMBERS OF CLAN CHISHOLM NEW ZEALAND ARE ENCOURAGED TO OFFER THEIR WARMEST HOSPITALITY. A PLATE OF FISH AND CHIPS IS THE BEST BAIT TO ATTRACT THIS PAIR, AND IF WATERED WITH GISBORNE CHARDONNAY A CATCH IS MORE LIKELY**

### REWARD:

**YOU WILL BE TREATED TO THEIR DELIGHTFUL COMPANY**



## TWO GRAND CHISHOLM MATRIARCHS LEAVE US

By Audrey

The spring of 2007 saw the death of two of our most knowledgeable Chisholms. Joyce Ross, our President's mother, died in Wellington on 27<sup>th</sup> October, just a few weeks short of her 98<sup>th</sup> birthday, and Jessie Small died three weeks later in Christchurch at the grand age of 96.

For both ladies their Chisholm heritage had been of great importance, and both had written of their Chisholm background, and had talked at length to many family members of early Chisholm days in New Zealand, as told by their grandparents. The chance to talk at length and often to Joyce and Jessie in the early days of the NZ Clan Chisholm, as well as to read what they had written, was of great assistance in building their family's NZ Chisholm history.

Family members have written about these two Chisholm matriarchs for our Newsletter.

### JESSIE VICTORIA SMALL nee CHISHOLM

By her son Ron Small and her son-in-law Bob Cotton,

with edited snippets of extra Chisholm history by AJB.

In her writings about her grandmother, Jessie told how as a girl she had sat and listened to her Granny's stories of her Chisholm family for hours.

The pendulum swung and as years passed by, it was Jessie who became well known in her family not only for her stories of the Chisholms, but also for her strong opinions and views that the family listened to. Many were the debates at family Gatherings such as Christmas, birthdays, Fathers and Mothers Day where Jessie would hold forth on public issues of the day - some criminal trial result, the latest bit of social engineering by the government, or a piece of disputed NZ history. These sessions could get very intense and rowdy with Jessie with her broad knowledge and sharp mind, in the thick of it right up to the last birthday gathering for her 95<sup>th</sup> birthday. But no one ever took these sessions seriously and they always finished up in banter and laughter with everyone the best of friends.

How special that was for Jessie, as her early days were not easy. Her much loved mother had died after a short illness, when she was just 11, and the four Chisholm children, Jessie being the eldest, were entrusted to 90 year old Granny, while their father was travelling with his work and rarely home. Jessie had to leave school to run the house. There was much joy, when her father remarried, but this was short-lived, as her stepmother died in childbirth eighteen months later, and the Chisholm children had to move back in with Granny again, with Jessie again shouldering much of the responsibility of looking after her 97 year old Granny and her home, her three siblings and the new baby!

But along came Jack Small, a railway man, whom Jessie married in 1935, and this was Jessie's chance to build a new tight and loving family of her own and to develop new interests. Jessie's two children, Ron and Marion, were followed when Marion married Bob Cotton with grand children, Megan and Chris - all equally precious.

Her energy seemed unlimited, and she became a keen sportswoman, playing golf, championship croquet and bowls, representing Canterbury at bowls when she was in her 60s. She was kind to all, with a wide general knowledge, which she shared not only with her family and friends, but with radio talk-back listeners round New Zealand. She could often be heard commenting on some current issue or filling in historical background on Radio Live in the wee small hours of the morning. She was a great admirer of the Royal Family, and would wear her tartan and join crowds of spectators when there was a Royal visit to Christchurch.

Jessie's own family life was not always easy, but she was a battler, a determined survivor and remained mentally very strong and sharp, right up until the last few days of her life. She was not quite 70, when her Jack died, but with support from her family she carried on with a triple by-pass and a new heart valve at 80, and survived twice as long as her doctors expected. More operations followed in her last years, when she was a resident at the Margaret Stoddart Retirement home. But it was the death of her daughter Marion eighteen months ago that shattered Jessie and one of the last things she said, before slipping into a coma, was that she had never really got over it. They had always been very close.

At her funeral service, Kay Hood read from a book of the poems of Jessie Violet Chisholm, Jessie's father's favourite cousin, who in her mature years lived in San Francisco, and after whom, Jessie believed she was named:-

#### Looking My Best

I'm getting old but I still have my pride,

I like to look smart at home and outside,



I have my hair styled and I wear pretty dresses,  
And no-one, it seems, my true age guesses.

I wear pastel shades and I like pretty things,  
Necklaces, bracelets, brooches and rings.  
I can never look elegant, too short and dumpy,  
And now that I'm older, my back's a bit humpy.

To real good looks I can make no claim,  
But I can look pleasant all the same,  
I keep neat and tidy and always I'm clean,  
I'm always presentable, fit to be seen.

To be really attractive, to be appealing,  
Depends a great deal on how one is feeling,  
I'm sure I look better, in any case  
When I'm feeling contented with a bright happy face.

"That's me!!" had said Jessie! - a multi-talented  
Chisholm matriarch.



Jessie Small

## Joyce Amy Ross, née Chisholm 1909-2007 by John Ross

Joyce, my mother, who died at the age of 97 in Wellington Public Hospital on 27 October 2007, was at that time the oldest of the surviving grandchildren of Joseph Wilson and Elizabeth Chisholm. Her father, George Stanley Chisholm, had lived on to a hundred; but unlike him, she was able to stay on in her own home till the last day of her life. Her deafness was worsening, and the effects of a series of small strokes were making her speaking and tottering-around more difficult, and yet she was still able to get some enjoyment from her life, and her grandchildren. Much of her story is told in 'Chisholm Cameos' (pages137-139), so this skips over and adds to that account.

When she was born, on 5 December 1909, her parents had a handsome wooden house in Derwent Street, at Island Bay in Wellington, which is still there. With her younger brothers Alan and Bob (Robert), she loved playing on the beach, and investigating the rock-pools, and Italian fishing-boats. At the Island Bay primary school, she appeared in a pageant as 'Princess Sunshine.'

In the 1920s, with their father's business affairs failing, their mother, Amy Sarah Chisholm, nee Clark, who was a fully qualified pharmacist, took on a position in a chemist's shop in Eastbourne, so the family went to live at Rona Bay on the other side of the harbour. Joyce and her brothers came to secondary school on the SS 'Cobar', from Days Bay, and when she and her fellow 'boat girls' felt like it, they would turn up at Wellington Girls' College a bit late, and pretend it was the ferry-boat's fault.

Finishing there, she set out to train as a primary school teacher, and also started taking units for a Bachelor of Arts degree at Victoria University College (now, the Victoria University of Wellington), majoring in History. A probationary year at Brooklyn School, and two at the teachers' training college, led on to a year's work as a student teacher, back at the same school, with a class of 48 children.

By 1932, the country was deeply into the Depression, and she couldn't find a proper teaching position. So, with her mother partly supporting her, she went full-time to university to complete her

## Joyce Ross (cont)

degree, and took part in that year's capping show as one of a troupe of 'Country Maids.' Relieving jobs thereafter included a spell at the Havelock Primary School, in the Marlborough Sounds, with the local newspaper proudly announcing 'OUR POPULATION HAS INCREASED BY ONE!' In 1938 she at last got a permanent teaching job, yet soon got married and pregnant (with myself), and left it.

At the university she had taken up tramping, and moved on to the Tararua Tramping Club. Brought up in a proper household, she was startled by men in front of her, or behind her, banging their shins on hidden roots, and growling 'D-- and b - the b-- thing!' By the end of the day she was muttering it herself. One of those men was her future husband Tom Ross. She also gained quite a few life-long friends, and memories of two epic trips in the Southern Alps.

An accountant in various government departments, in 1940 Tom got transferred to Dunedin, where Joyce's second child Janet (Jenny) was born; but Joyce found life there so miserably lonely and cold that she persuaded his department boss to let them return to Wellington, where they were able to buy back their previous house.

In 1942, Tom got called up, into the army, then shifted into the air force. Luckily, a cracked shoulder-blade, from playing senior rugby years earlier, kept him within New Zealand. Still, it must have been fairly lonely for her, with him away in camp for a couple of years, except for brief bits of 'leave'. When the American Marines were in town, she remembers one of them calling out 'Hey Babe, won't you come dancing?'

Things were tight, yet my parents were nearly always able to organise a seaside holiday each summer. They were great walkers. Later, she took on a couple of overseas trips.

In the 1950s, she eased back into teaching, first with tutoring refugees in English language skills, and then with secondary-school relieving teaching, on occasion finding she had to teach maths or supervise a bugle-blowing class.

She enjoyed researching into local history, writing up the earlier decades for a short history of the Wadestown Primary School, and in later years joining the Onslow Historical Society and writing articles for their journal, or simply giving a talk about some topic.

At the age of 92 she failed her driving licence test, despite insisting her driving was no worse than when she was 91, and was getting too deaf to enjoy theatre-going or concerts. Still, she enjoyed reading, meeting people, and gardening.



### Trivial Pursuits:

Chisholm Street:

Which dear old town does this particular Chisholm Street belong to?

Answer on last page





**"THE CHISHOLM"  
HAMISH CHISHOLM OF CHISHOLM**



Robbie Burns Night:

The annual celebratory tribute to the life, works and spirit of the great Scottish poet, Robert Burns (1759-1796). Celebrated on, or about, the Bard's birthday, January 25th, Burns Suppers range from stentoriously formal gatherings of esthetes and scholars to uproariously informal rave-ups of drunkards and louts. Most Burns Suppers fall in the middle of this range, and adhere, more or less, to some sort of time honoured form which includes the eating of a traditional Scottish meal, the drinking of Scotch whisky, and the recitation of works by, about, and in the spirit of the Bard.

**INTERNATIONAL GATHERING OF CLAN CHISHOLM  
BANFF/CANMORE, CANADA 29 Aug-1 Sept 2008**

The gathering will be Held in conjunction with the annual Canmore Highland Games

Hamish Chisholm of Chisholm will be the "Chief of the Games"

Check out the Clan Chisholm website for further details.  
[www.clanchisholmsociety.org](http://www.clanchisholmsociety.org)

**In the aftermath of the celebration of  
Robbie Burns night.....**

**A politician is visiting an Edinburgh hospital.**

He enters a ward full of patients with no obvious sign of injury or illness. He greets the first patient and the patient replies:

"Fair fa your honest sonsie face,  
Great chieftain o' the puddin' race,  
Aboon them a' you take your place  
Painch, ripe or thairm,  
As lang's my airm".

The politician is confused so he just grins, moves on to the next patient and greets him. The patient responds:

"Some hae meat and canna eat  
And some wad eat that want it,  
But we hae meat and we can eat,  
So let the Lord be thankit".

Even more confused, but trying not to show it, the visitor moves on to the next patient who immediately begins to chant:

"We sleekit, cow'rin', tim'rous beastie,  
Thou need na start awa sae hastie,  
Wi bickerin' brattle".

Now alarmed, the politician turns to the accompanying doctor and asks, "What kind of facility is this? Is it a mental ward?"

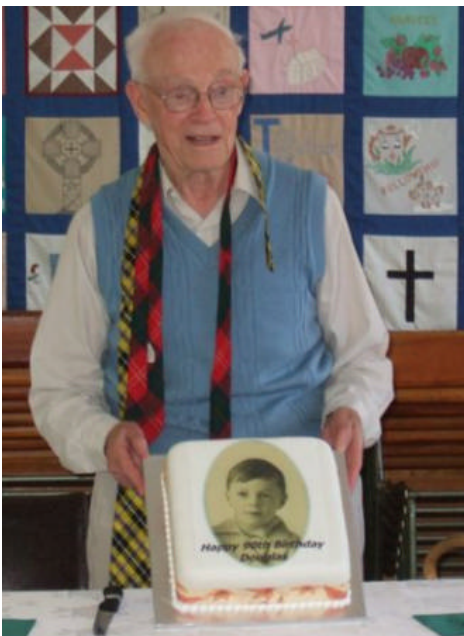
"No", replies the doctor, "this is the Serious Burns Unit."  
(reprinted from CCS Canada newsletter)



## 90TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION, 29<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2007

Reaching 90 was a very special occasion for Douglas Chisholm, who, along with Fay Chisholm of Gisborne, was responsible for the setting up in New Zealand of a Branch of the Clan Chisholm Society in 1994. Douglas was our first Secretary.

Particularly pleasing were letters from The Chisholm, Chief Hamish, as well as the Clan Society Secretary, Susan Chisholm of Chisholm.



Brother Brian, the Wellington Viking, arranged a luncheon at the Miramar Uniting Church to celebrate the big day. All present enjoyed a data show of aspects of Douglas's life done by Malcolm and Fay White, Brian's daughter and son-in-law before a special lunch with **THAT CAKE**.



Among the guests were many descendants of Joseph Wilson Chisholm. Douglas's nephews and nieces, cousins.

Some 18th century observations of Strathglass, from the Parish of Kilmorack, generally the northern sides of the Rivers Beaully and Glass. Do you recognise any family traits, or perhaps any familiar political issues?

### Parish of Kilmorack, 1791, by Rev John Fraser:

Origin of the name: Like many other parishes in the Highlands of Scotland, this derives its name from having afforded a burial ground, either to some reputed saint, or to some person of distinction; Cill Mhorac signifying the cell or chapel of Young Mary: but from what family this lady sprung cannot with certainty be ascertained, though it seems most likely she was a descendant of one of the lairds of Chisholm, who, long before the Reformation, was the principal residing heritor in the parish, and whose family still continue to bury in it.

Global cooling, 18<sup>th</sup> century: In no respect has this country undergone a greater change than as to climate. About 20 years ago, the farmers, without a coat upon them, were obliged to yoke their labouring cattle, even in the month of March, about three or four o'clock in the morning, as neither the ploughman nor cattle could stand the heat of the day after six or seven. But how great the reverse: No sight more common now, in the latter end of April, and beginning of May, than a ploughman, with his body wrapped up in a greatcoat, and his hands muffled in worsted mitts, to preserve him from the frosty air. Showers of snow and hail are not unusual in June, not even in the dog days.

Character and Habits of the People: In many of the western parts of the Parish, the march of improvement has been very slow, and the strongholds of superstition are not yet demolished. The people are in general below the middle size, but uncommonly hardy, and capable of enduring privation. They are fond of performing long journeys in the night season; and it is nothing strange to see a married man travelling with his horse and cart a distance of thirty miles, without a bonnet on his head. The language generally spoken in the inland part is the Gaelic, while, in the eastern extremity, few are found, who cannot speak the English. There is among all classes an earnest desire that their children should acquire a knowledge of the latter. Little can be said in praise of their sobriety. The quantity of ardent spirits consumed is immense. A great deal, however, of that rioting at marriages and funerals, which formerly existed, has been done away with. Their favourite amusements are shinty matches and dancing. They are particularly fond of being neat and clean: and the ambition for articles of finery is widely spread among the rising youth. Poaching and smuggling are now almost discontinued.

Inns: There is one principal inn in the parish, which is kept in the most orderly manner; but there are also nine public-houses, the effect of which upon the morals of the people is pernicious.

Ecclesiastical state of the Parish: Mr Fraser of Lovat is patron of the parish. On The Chisholm's property, in the Highland part of it, there are from 600 to 700 papists.

A Fishing Story: A little below the Falls of Kilmorack is a stream reckoned among the best in Scotland for angling Salmon; from 20 to 30 have often been taken by one person in the course of a day. The late Lord Lovat, who often visited these falls, once made a very uncommon and surprising experiment. Alongside one of them he ordered a kettle full of water to be placed over a fire, and a few minutes later, a large salmon leaped into it. Fabulous and incredible as this may seem to those who never were at Kilmorack, it is what would undoubtedly happen every season, were the experiment tried. In the months of July, and August, many fish lie at the foot of these falls; when a flood comes they all endeavour to get up the river, but as the water in which they swim is constantly agitated and frothy, on account of the height from which it falls, they cannot see before them, and often mistake their direction and leap on the dry rock

Antiquities: In different parts of the parish, are to be seen the remains of many Druidical temples; and there is a chain of walled structures within sight of one another, proceeding up the river Beaully, and along the course of its parent streams the Farrar and the Glass, and from the latter to Glen Affric.



## MYSTERY IN THE CATHEDRAL

Principal Clan Genealogist Bob Chisholm in the UK was sent a picture of a memorial plaque seen in Canterbury Cathedral by an astute observer. A recent UK newsletter asked if anyone knew the story of the notable gentleman Robert Chisholm to whom it is dedicated? The carving at the top of the memorial uses The Chisholms crest of a boar's head above a hand holding a dagger, not properly surrounded by the strap and buckle but by what looks like laurel leaves. On the banner underneath is written the Chief's motto: *Vi Aut Virtute*.

The inscription reads:- To the memory of Robert Chisholm esq. MD formerly of Ashmore in the county of Dorset, but late of Canterbury, where he practiced many years as a physician generally, and in the Kent and Canterbury hospital. In this field of usefulness, his professional skill, and his general benevolence of heart, diffusing their effects through a large circle of rich and poor, have caused his loss to be felt as a public calamity. This tablet is erected by his friends and fellow citizens who are desirous of recording their sense of his worth. Died 29<sup>th</sup> August 1838. Aged 52.



Nobody has come forward with any explanation whatsoever! Now Canterbury Cathedral is a very prestigious place for a memorial, and the memorial itself bears the arms, and motto, of The Chisholm family, and in heraldic tradition, the use of these arms is quite restricted. Bob threw something else into the mix recently. A letter by one Alfred S Leatham, to the "Scotsman", in 1877. The hot topic of the day was the legal case concerning the rights to the hereditary titles of The Chisholm, following the extinction of the male line with the passing of 28th Chief Roderick Donald Matheson Chisholm, on 4th April 1887. When the Lyon Court were considering the cases of the various claimants to the title, Alfred Leatham drew attention to the existence of another contender with a very strong claim, his brother in

law, William Tylden Chisholm. The basis of the allegation was that the 26th Clan Chief Duncan Macdonnell Chisholm, unmarried, childless, and living in London, had asked, by letter, Alfred Leatham's father in law, Rev Charles Chisholm of Kent, to assume the title. Alfred's letter to the "Scotsman" also posed a question: Who is the father of the Rev George Chisholm, Rector of Ashmore in Dorset. (George himself was 52 years dead by this time)

The [Genealogical Forum](#), incorporating Chisholm e-detectives in Scotland, England, Canada, USA, NZ, plus Alistair, who is actually everywhere, has not yet been able to answer that question. However, they quickly established just who the sons of Rev George Chisholm were, and these sons included Rev Charles Chisholm of Kent & Essex, Chaplain to the Duke of York, and Doctor Robert Chisholm, whose memorial bearing the Chisholm arms is to be seen in Canterbury Cathedral, and Rev George Chisholm Junior DD, of St Peters, Hammersmith. An examination of a book of British nobility, published in 1830, lists Charles Chisholm of Eastwell, Kent, describing his arms, and the description matches the Chisholm arms. By the time of the 1887 succession dispute, Rev Charles was long dead, and his sons and grandsons no doubt had different agendas, for it is believed that nobody from this family laid a claim for the title in the Lyon Court. [But questions remain.](#)

Are there any blue-blooded Chisholms running around Australian sheep stations, descendants of Rev Charles, oldest surviving son of George Chisholm? And just who was George Chisholm? He was born in 1752, just 6 years after Culloden. He was educated at Aberdeen, the famous Marischal College, and graduated Doctor of Divinity. He rose high in the Church of England, mixed with the Lords and Ladies of the time, ran the Grammar School in Blandford Forum, Dorset, sent his sons to Oxford. [Who was the father of George Chisholm DD, Rector of Ashmore?](#) What right did his sons have to bear the Chisholm arms and appear amongst the lists of nobility, to be allegedly asked to take on the Chieftainship of Clan Chisholm? Any answer, please contact the editor, or watch this space.

## The Englishman's Dilemma

The average Englishman, in his home he calls his castle, puts on his national costume - a shabby raincoat patented by Charles MacIntosh of Glasgow, Scotland. He drives a car fitted with tyres invented by John Boyd Dunlop of Dregthorn, Scotland. At the office he receives his mail with adhesive stamps which, although they bear the Queen of England's head, were invented by John Chambers of Dundee, Scotland. During the day he uses the telephone, invented by Alexander Graham Bell of Edinburgh, Scotland.

At home in the evening he watches his daughter ride her bicycle, invented by Kilpatrick MacMillan, a blacksmith from Dumfries, Scotland. He watches the news on television which was invented by John Logie Baird of Helensborough, Scotland and hears an item about the U.S. Navy founded by John Paul Jones of Kirkbean, Scotland.

He has now been reminded too much of Scotland and in desperation picks up the Bible, only to find that the first man mentioned in the good book is a Scot - King James VI - who authorized its translation.

Nowhere can an Englishman turn to escape the ingenuity of the Scots, he could take to drink but the Scots make the finest in the world, he could take a rifle and end it all but the breech-loading rifle was invented by Captain Patrick Ferguson of Pitfours, Scotland.

If he escaped death, he could find himself on an operating table, being injected with Penicillin, discovered by Alexander Fleming of Darvel, Scotland, and given an anaesthetic, discovered by Sir James Young Simpson of Bathgate, Scotland. Out of the anesthetic he would find no comfort in learning that he was as safe as the Bank of England which was founded by William Patterson of Dumfries, Scotland.

Perhaps his only hope would be to get a transfusion of good **SCOTTISH** blood.

(US Branch Newsletter, Fall 2008)

### Ceud Mile Failte Welcome to new members.

Alexander **Allan** Chisholm, late of Avondale and Titirangi, now well established in Campbelltown, NSW, Allan becomes one of a number of trans-Tasman members of the Society. Being the oldest son of an oldest son, he gets the honour of bearing the ancestral names. He is the son of Allan Bruce of Wairarapa, son of Allan Alexander, son of Allan Chisholm, the 1871 immigrant to NZ, who was the youngest of many children born to John Chisholm and Abigail Forbes, at the Lleadaghrur cottage, in 19th century Breakachy, that ancient Chisholm enclave sitting high above Erchless Forest. Further research puts Allan's great great great grandfather Roderick Chisholm at Balnabruich, just south of Clachan Comar in the heart of Chisholm land, and his disappearance from this area after 1801 indicates that he may have been one of the many victims of the first clearances. Associations of some of his sons with Struy, Culligran, and Aigas suggest that Roderick may have been one of the fortunate ones kindly taken in by Lord Lovat.



Allan, in association with wife Jill, has two children. Shannon, of Gerringong, is the eldest, an environmental engineer who has worked on the Sydney Olympic Stadium, and the Wembley Stadium. Daughter Megan is known around the world for her role in Australian Humanitarian organizations, and has served in various disaster localities, plus the war zone in Baghdad.

He has one grandchild, Gracie Chisholm, and I am informed that another is being "planned".

Editor's note: We are continually looking for material to be included in the newsletter and we urge you to provide us with items that may be of interest .



## Scots Soundtrack to New Year, everywhere

It's New Year's Eve and the bells have just struck midnight. From Bombay to Baltimore, Moscow to Madrid and Sydney to Swindon, what is everyone singing? No question about it, with the possible exception of 'Happy Birthday', 'Auld Lang Syne' is the most popular song in the world!

While most countries' national songs are unique to their own cultures, and are specifically patriotic, 'Auld Lang Syne' is unique, in that, although it is universally recognised and many know it as Scottish, it embraces the whole of humanity; people in every corner of the earth almost know it better than the Scots themselves! However, the words and the music of the song, as we know it today, have developed over the years and the story of its evolution is fascinating.

The earliest known version of 'Auld Lang Syne' was a 15th century poem called 'Auld kindnes Foryett' - the story of a man in impoverished circumstances, who is reflecting on the ingratitude of those who claimed to be his friends in better days. Then in 1711, in Watson's collection of Scottish verse, a poem appeared called 'Old Longsyne' Attributed to an unknown writer, it consists of twelve stanzas of eight lines, and is written throughout in English, rather than Scots. It begins - "Should old acquaintance be forgot, and never thought upon?" There was also a song published by an Allan Ramsay in 1724, entitled "Auld Lang Syne," which began, "Should auld acquaintance be forgot, tho' they return with scars?"

The first record of the song in the version that we know it in today is to be found in Robert Burns' letter to his friend Mrs Dunlop, dated December 17, 1788. Burns enclosed a copy of the verses; saying, 'Here is an old song and tune which has often thrilled through my soul.' Burns claimed to have taken it down 'from an old man's singing.' Five years later he sent a copy of the song, with new verses composed by himself, to George Thomson, who was compiling a collection of Scottish songs with music. A few years after Burns' death, in 1799, his version of 'Auld Lang Syne' was published in Thomson's 'Songs of Scotland' - appearing for the first time with the melody to which it is sung today.

The huge appeal of 'Auld Lang Syne' continues today, indeed Burns' song has spread to almost every corner of the globe and is used for very different purposes. In Taiwan and Hong Kong, for instance, it is a well-known funeral song, whereas, in the Philippines, it is played at university graduation ceremonies. In Japan and Hungary, 'Auld Lang Syne' is often played at the end of the business day to tell customers that a store or restaurant is closing, while in Italy and Holland it is used - with different words of course - as a football supporter's anthem. The song's huge popularity in America is often ascribed to bandleader Guy Lombardo's use of 'Auld Lang Syne' to end his New Year's Eve radio broadcasts in the 1920's. However, there are newspaper reports from the likes of the 'New York Times' which report people singing the song on New Year's Eve and which date back to the 1890's!

India and Pakistan reserve the use of this song for their military passing out parades. Indeed, recently, it was to the strains of 'Auld Lang Syne' that the Pakistani President finally resigned as army chief in a ceremony in Rawalpindi. It's probably safe to say that a military resignation was probably not one of the uses Burns imagined when he wrote the immortal words over two hundred years ago!

<http://www.friendsofscotland.gov.uk/scotlandnow/issue-10/sports/scots-soundtrack.html>

## Love Stories

### Canadian Love Story, Cape Breton style.

An elderly Chisholm man lay dying in his bed. While suffering the agonies of impending death, he suddenly smelled the aroma of his favourite biscuits wafting up the stairs. He gathered his remaining strength, and lifted himself from the bed. Leaning on the wall, he slowly made his way out of the bedroom, and, with even greater effort, gripping the railing with both hands, he crawled downstairs. With laboured breath, he leaned against the door-frame, gazing into the kitchen. Were it not for death's agony, he would have thought himself already in heaven, for there, spread out upon the kitchen table were literally hundreds of his favourite biscuits. Was it heaven? Or was it one final act of love from his devoted Nova Scotian wife of sixty years, seeing to it that he left this world a happy man? Mustering one great final effort, he threw himself towards the table, landing on his knees in ruffled posture. His aged and withered hand trembled towards a biscuit at the edge of the table, when it was suddenly whacked by his wife with a wooden spoon.

Get out! she screamed, 'they're for the funeral!'

Sent in by Norma from Canada, with punch line amended by the editor, original text reads like a Catherine Tate script.

### Wedding Bells

Shannon White, the elder daughter of Malcolm and Fay White of Wellington was married to Robert (Rob) Digby from Detroit, USA, in Durlach, Karlsruhe, Germany on the 17 November 2007. Both Shannon and Rob are teaching English to business people in Germany.

Shannon is the granddaughter of resident Mirimar Viking Brian Chisholm, and great niece of the birthday boy Douglas Chisholm.

Wir wünschen euch das Allerbeste für Eure Hochzeit und gemeinsames Leben in der Zukunft!

Viel Gluck, von der Clan Chisholm Gemeinschaft Neuseelands.

### April 5th 1958

Just married, somewhere in the United Kingdom, Bob and Muriel Chisholm.

Clan Chisholm New Zealand Branch congratulates Bob and Muriel on their Golden Wedding Anniversary. For the benefit of the general membership of the New Zealand Branch, Bob is the UK branch genealogist, the International Genealogical Database Administrator, the Clan Chisholm Forum administrator, and the co administrator of the Chisholm DNA project.

To the field of Chisholm genealogy he brings the exactitude and precision of an engineer who has honed his skills in German automobile plants. If something passes the Bob test, then its pretty well guaranteed, but be warned, its no easy test to pass. This degree of accuracy is necessary once the International Genealogical Database is on line and opened up to general use.

We wish Bob and Muriel our congratulations and very happy day on the 5th of April, 50 years of marriage!

## Clan Chisholm DNA Project

Brief Report as of 9 March 2008

Membership is now up to 55. We hope to reach the century mark by the end of the year. The wider the membership, the more valid are the conclusions which can be drawn. Latest results show that we are still uncovering new genetic lines of Chisholms. However there has been some movement into the formation of family clusters.

The Pictish group, first found in the DNA of Sonny Chisholm of Southland, has grown to three, and is now the second largest distinct family group within the project. Another R1b line from a participant who is believed to descend from an early immigrant to Virginia has found a match.

The stand out group, the Norse Viking group, is still taking 45 % of all results. There is a subset within this Viking group who share a single mutation not found in the rest of the group, and who have something in common, an ancestral home in the southern states of the USA. One recent result brought this southern sub-set up to four in number, and this participant has an ancestral tree leading to early Virginian immigrant Adam Chisholme. The ancestral tree cannot however be validated back to Adam at this moment. Adam was reported to have been a Jacobite, captured at the Battle of Preston in the 1715 uprising, and for his sins he was transported to the wilds of Virginia.

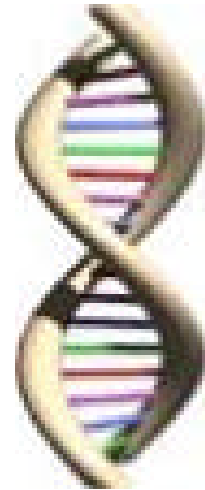
**Recent signing of interest to New Zealand:** A trans-Tasman member of the society, now

resident in Queensland, has ordered a test. This test should show the genetic background of the Fortrose Chisholms, southern blacksmiths in the colonial era of New Zealand. The ancestry of the Fortrose Chisholms leads back to Breakachy, where their family were the millers.

An interesting thing about the DNA project was that many people in December took up membership in the project as a Christmas gift to someone in their family. Almost like what do you get for somebody who has got everything he wants... A DNA test, that way the whole family can benefit with the knowledge, and it can be passed down. On top of that, it's fun waiting for the results, which come in in little packages, revealing a bit at a time. It's a present which takes a long time, and lasts a long time.

The other thing I cannot help noting is how many women get involved, an awful lot of them! Although they can't provide the sample for a Y-test themselves, they manage to prise a cheek swab from an unsuspecting brother, or kid along an uncle, or a long lost cousin. We have at the moment a very keen Chisholm woman in the USA, whose male line has died out, and with some clever detective work she is tracking down a Canadian Chisholm from the same Highland branch, although it split off from hers in 1858.

If you would like to be part of this cutting -edge project, just contact the editor.



### Quiz Answer:

This particular Chisholm Street belongs to Glasgow

Dear old Glasgow Town  
But what's the matter wi' Glasgow,  
For it's goin' roun' and roun'!

I'm only a common old working chap,  
As anyone here can see,  
But when I get a couple o' drinks on a Saturday,  
Glasgow belongs to me!

Glasgow=Glaschu in Gaelic meaning "dear green place"

Thanks to Dr Keith Barber for the photo.