Clan Chisholm Society

Great War Centenary Project

“every clansman remembered”

Roll of Honour

Volume 11

Middle East 1914-1918

Simpson and his Donkey by Horace Moore-Jones
My great aunt Miss Mairi Chisholm of Chisholm was of course legendary in the family as I was growing up. A copy of 'The Cellar House at Pervyse' was to be found in our sitting room and often referred to. We were proud of her war-time reputation and of the many medals she had been awarded due to her work in WW1. She was of course also a loving aunt to my father, Chief Alastair.

Less well known was her beloved brother Uilean Hamish McUistean, my grandfather, who served during World War I in Palestine and Egypt. Uilean had resigned his position in the Trinidad Constabulary in 1915 and enlisted as a 2nd Lieutenant with the British West India Regiment. Photograph albums and other memorabilia from his time in Palestine reminded us of his war service.

World War One therefore, although distant in time, was a current topic of conversation within the family during my childhood and beyond. The scale of the 1914 - 1918 war and the huge loss of life was well known and the topic was and is covered in the educational curriculum in Britain. Both Mairi and Uilean returned to their families, so many did not.

Travelling through Belgium for the unveiling of a statue in Ypres to honour Elsie Knocker and Mairi’s work and attending the nightly ceremony at the Menin Gate brought home to me even more so the sacrifice made by so many. The Chisholm clan is not a large one but there are many Chisholm names from around the world listed on the memorial showing all those still missing whose remains have not been found.

The Clan Chisholm Society which was founded in 1951 by Miss Mairi and my late father Alastair, has supported the creation of these memorial volumes to those Chisholms who fell in battle or died of their injuries later. I thank all those clansfolk who have contributed to the pieces of work and especial thanks go the Robert Chisholm of New Zealand without whose dedication the memorial would not have been possible.

Andrew Francis Hamish Chisholm of Chisholm
About this book

This memorial booklet is a product of the Clan Chisholm Genealogical Forum, a discussion group open to all who share an interest in anything and everything related to Chisholm, with a heavy bias on Clan history, family histories, and Genealogies. 2014 saw the commencement of the centenary of the Great War, and we reflected initially on the remarkable courage of one of our Clan Chisholm Society Founders, Miss Mairi Chisholm of Chisholm. Her story is well told in many places, so it won’t be repeated here, but in her memory we dedicate this commemorative series, and specifically the first booklet, which catalogued the Chisholm lives lost in the West Flanders section of the Western Front. In remembering Mairi, the Forum decided also to remember all those Chisholms who served and never returned. Those covered in the booklets are those whose names have been retrieved from Commonwealth and War Graves Commission Records. Regrettfully we cannot cover many Clansmen who are sons of Chisholm mothers, as there is no easy way to retrieve that data. On some occasions, such a person who has “Chisholm” as part of the name, gets captured by the search engine, and these people have been included.

We have not been able to cover the great many Chisholms who served and did return, in many cases shattered in body and/or mind, but to them we acknowledge our respect. Likewise there would have been a courageous group of conscientious objectors; we can only sadly reflect that their views did not find favour with the politicians who lead the nations of Europe into a disaster of such magnitude that we are still suffering from the effects of the Great War. The defeat of the Russian Empire saw the rise of communism and the Soviet Union; the defeat of the German Empire gave rise to Nazism and a second world war; and the defeat of the Turkish Empire gave us the hodge-podge which we now have today in the Middle East.

This booklet is the second in a series of five proposed to commemorate the lives of our Chisholm clansmen who fell during the conflict. This booklet will cover the Middle East, subsequent editions will cover France (2 editions) and those who are buried or commemorated on home soil. The memorial booklets would not have been possible without the information being available from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, and its US counterpart. Of great value have been the personal archives made freely available by the Australian and Canadian governments. Many photos have been taken from internet sources, and an apology is offered in advance if any copyright has been infringed.

The format is chronological, listed in order of the date of death. Varying amounts of information concerning the fallen clansmen has been found. Great effort has been made to identify the family, and to note the parents and siblings. This is so that readers might identify one of their own family members. If that is the case, and the reader can provide further information, or a photograph, please get in touch.

If the family has been found in the Clan Chisholm Genealogical Database, this has been noted on the commemorative page. Several families on the database have been extended, based on the information found during the research phase of the project. In many cases where a family is not found in the database, the Forum and the research files contain a sizeable cache of genealogical information, awaiting only an interested family member to get in touch and use the information to create a family tree for inclusion on the Database.

In the same manner, if the soldier has a known link to a family which is part of the Clan Chisholm DNA Project, that information is shared.
Where there is a link to a family known to descend from a Clan Chief, this information is shown by the use of the Chisholm heraldic device. With one exception, these families are limited to what are known as the Lietre and Knockfin branches of the Clan. While we know from the DNA project that many more families descend from a Clan Chief or a Border Baron, we do not have accurate genealogical information to positively identify the link.

The project is an ongoing electronic project. This means that further information or photographs can be added if readers recognise their own family member, and submit the information. Readers are encouraged to assist the project in this manner.

The World War 1 centenary memorial project would not be possible with the assistance of many people, too many to mention all by name but among them are:

Bob Chisholm of Sussex, Forum Founder and Database Administrator, who has provided both genealogical and military information and whose vigilance ensures that enthusiasm does not override accuracy.

Alastair Chisholm of Hampshire, Forum master, who shares his wide knowledge of Strathglass genealogy, and who ensures the Forum is kept operational.

Anna Chisholm Dickinson, the sleuth of Spokane, who has helped track down many of the families concerned.

Ian Chisholm and Juliette Chisholm-Broomfield also provide valuable assistance, and several other individuals have provided valuable information on specific families, including Val Chisholm-Perry who provided a personal copy of the book “Catholics of Antigonish in the Great War”.

Kerry Chisholm of Australia for proof reading the nearly finished products.

Contact details for various Clan Chisholm projects associated with the World War One Centenary Remembrance Project are listed below.

Robert Chisholm (Auckland NZ) convenor of the WW1 Centenary Memorial Project Group.

Clan Chisholm International Genealogical Forum: Open to all. Registration required.

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

Clan Chisholm Genealogical Database. Open to all members of Clan Chisholm Society, ask your branch secretary for the password.  http://www.clansman.info/index.php

Clan Chisholm DNA Project. Open to all (testing fees apply) Help locate your family history by following the trail of the Y chromosome back in time. Clan Chisholm contains traces of all those who have invaded Britain, or attempted to, from days of Druids and Stonehenge, the Roman Empire, The Gaelic Invasion, The Angles and Saxons, the Norman Conquest, and the Spanish Armada, and then several New World additions as well. The project has been able to confirm the historically accepted account that the Chisholm Founder was of Norman origin.


To offer support or further information regarding any serviceman, go to the Clan Chisholm Forum (address above) or the Clan Chisholm Society website

Dame Alice Chisholm

“Mother Chisholm” 1856-1954

Alice Chisholm (née Morphy) was a devoted war welfare worker who established soldiers’ canteens in Egypt and Palestine providing meals and refreshments to thousands of troops every day. During her four years of voluntary service during the war, she became known as “Mother Chisholm”.

She had “earned the gratitude of many anxious mothers and the warm thanks and regard of thousands of brave men.”

Her son, Bertram Chisholm, a light horseman with the Australian Imperial Force, was wounded at Gallipoli, and the call of the mother was irresistible for Alice Chisholm, so she set sail to be with him. Fortunately, Bertram recovered, but Dame Alice had seen enough to be concerned for the sons of all the other mothers, and so she set forth in her efforts to provide a homely place in Egypt where the young men could receive comfort during their time away from the front.

She established a canteen, largely at her own expense, in the outer Cairo suburb of Heliopolis. The enthusiastic response from the AIF encouraged her to open another at Port Said, and in 1916 at El Kantara, assisted by Rania McPhillamy and Jean Rout. Beginning with a single tent on the west bank of the Canal, and at their own expense, these women built up a Soldiers’ Club capable of catering for many thousands without distinction of rank. Dormitories and dining rooms were built, kitchens established, flowers obtained, eggs and butter were served with freshly baked bread. Perhaps the greatest luxuries, especially for men returning from the front, were the showers and beds. Alice Chisholm gave personal attention and spoke to most of the troops she served; they never forgot her kindness.

In recognition of her work in Egypt she was appointed O.B.E. early in 1918 and D.B.E. in 1920.

Many years later, replying to the toast on her ninety-seventh birthday, Dame Alice remarked: ‘I have had a pretty good innings but I suppose Don Bradman would not think so’. Survived by two sons and a daughter, she died at her home at West Pennant Hills on 31 May 1954 and was buried in the Church of England cemetery at Kippilaw, NSW, Australia.

Images below, clockwise from top left:

Alice with one of Colonel TE Lawrence’s men; Alice Chisholm at Kantara by George Lambert [ART02756, AWM]; Alice at Kantara; Duke of Connaught, General Allenby, Dame Alice, Rania MacPhillamy, Kantara 1918; Alice with some of her boys.

Images from “Chis Maxwell, private collection”.

Clan Chisholm Society  Roll of Honour  Vol II Middle East  1914-1918
Those heroes that shed their blood and lost their lives ... You are now lying in the soil of a friendly country. Therefore rest in peace. There is no difference between the Johnnies and the Mehmets to us where they lie side by side here in this country of ours ... You, the mothers who sent their sons from faraway countries, wipe away your tears; your sons are now lying in our bosom and are in peace. After having lost their lives on this land they have become our sons as well.

Mustafa Kemal Ataturk
<table>
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<th>Name</th>
<th>Last Residence</th>
<th>Date of Death</th>
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<td>30/04/1915</td>
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<td>Alfred Chisholm</td>
<td>Maybole, Scotland</td>
<td>16/12/1917</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
HE WHOM THIS SCROLL COMMEMORATES
WAS NUMBERED AMONG THOSE WHO,
AT THE CALL OF KING AND COUNTRY, LEFT ALL
THAT WAS DEAR TO THEM, ENDURED HARDNESS,
FACED DANGER, AND FINALLY PASSED OUT OF
THE SIGHT OF MEN BY THE PATH OF DUTY
AND SELF-SACRIFICE, GIVING UP THEIR OWN
LIVES THAT OTHERS MIGHT LIVE IN FREEDOM.
LET THOSE WHO COME AFTER SEE TO IT
THAT HIS NAME BE NOT FORGOTTEN.

The names of the members of
Clan Chisholm
listed on the preceding pages