

**CLAN CHISHOLM SOCIETY INC.**  
**AUSTRALIAN and NEW ZEALAND BRANCH**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> NEWSLETTER**  
**January 2022**





## Céad Míle Fáilte

(One hundred thousand welcomes – Gaelic)

***HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYONE! from your editors Kim  
(Australia) and Robert (New Zealand)***

*Lang may yer lum reek*

Translation: long may your chimney smoke. In other words, have a long and healthy life.

In Scotland New Year's Eve is called Hogmanay (sounds like 'hog-muh-nay') Often street parties, concerts, fireworks and ceilidhs are held. I am sure that COVID would have dampened some celebrations in 2021. In Stonehaven in Aberdeenshire, a fireballs parade occurs to burn off any bad spirits left from the old year so the New Year could begin clean and purified. A piper leads a procession of people through the streets just before midnight as they swing balls of fire above their heads.

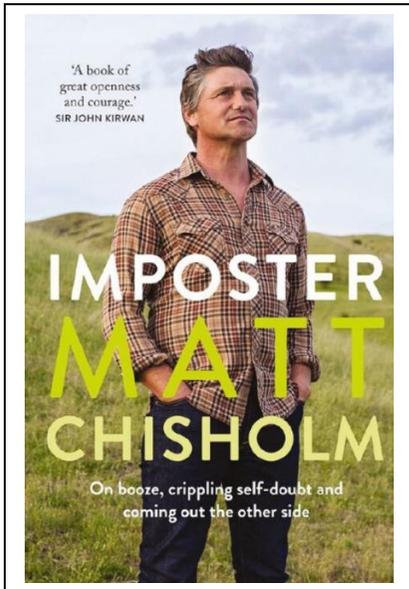
Here is another tradition. 'One Scottish superstition commands all debts must be paid before the midnight bells sound out on Hogmanay night otherwise the following year is sure to be filled with misfortune. The best way to invoke good luck for the coming year is considered to be by welcoming a first-footer – a friend, neighbour or stranger – into your home for a drink as the new year begins. There are, however, certain stipulations. Ideally, the first-footer should be a dark-haired man since fair-haired visitors were associated with Vikings. Women, red-haired people and doctors have also been said to make unlucky first-footers. And it is imperative the first-footer offers gifts such as a coin, bread, salt, a lump of coal and whisky representing all the things the new year would hopefully bring, such as prosperity, food, flavour, warmth and good cheer.' <https://inews.co.uk/news/hogmanay-meaning-scotlands-new-years-eve-celebration-main-traditions-explained-1375441>

## A message from the President of the NZ Branch

Dear Chisholm folk

First, may I recommend Googling "Gaelic Songs" and "Celtic Songs" - some wonderful items and fine-looking singers and musicians. And one can of course google bagpipe music and Burns's "Address to a Haggis".

Another matter of interest - a book by Matt Chisholm, titled *Impostor*. As a boy, he lived in Milton, an Otago country town, *with* links to farm work through his father's work as a stock agent. He engaged for some years in radio or television programmes, with much short-term successes, yet was regularly troubled by alcohol-abuse, chronic self-doubt, and awful bouts of depression. He now has a small farm in the Omakau area in Central Otago, and is much happier. Priorities: family, first; farm, second; and occasional television work, third. Recommend the book.



These are strange times, aren't they? How long will it be before we're back to some kind of normal? Will "normal" be living with moderate anti-Covid precautions, since the virus keeps mutating?

This year has been rather quiet, with no annual get-together. Unfortunately the Uniting Church hall in Miramar in Wellington we've used is no longer available, since the church itself has shut down, no longer having a viable-sized congregation, so we'd need another venue. Our older members, also, are getting older, and younger people seem to be rather busy, and moving around the country, so it's a matter of "now you see them, now you don't."

Anyway, let's keep on keeping on, as best we can.

Wishing you an excellent year in 2022, wherever you are and whatever you're doing.

John C. Ross

## A message from the President of the Australia Branch

Hello Aussie Clan Folk

And a Happy New Year to you all.

2021 has been a difficult year for sure; we have all put up with a lot; at various stages we have had stuff put up our noses, jabbed, been locked up, socially distanced, not to mention job disruption, not being able to visit family and friends etc. And no Clan meetings! However, we're a resilient lot; life will go on and hopefully, now that most of us have been double vaxed and the weaker omicron is the new variant, a happier but still cautious 2022 awaits. While this is good news it is still uncertain if we will be able to catch up for another of our memorable meets. If not, I am sure it will happen in 2023. In the meantime, we can keep in touch reading our new Trans – Tasman newsletters and Clan journals. I urge you all to think about contributing to these publications. Kim and Robert will willingly assist anyone who is hesitant. Remember, all news or snippets keep 'our family' together and will be of interest to us all.

We will hold our AGM via Zoom again this year on Sunday 27 March at 10am. If anyone has an item they would like added to the agenda please forward it to Kim by 7 February. An agenda will be circulated thereafter.

It is that time of the year when subscriptions are now due. See page 27 for details. We do appreciate your wonderful support.

Best wishes to you all for a happy and prosperous New Year.

Tony Morrison

## Scottish Words and Sayings

About	about
Aebody	anybody
Aw	all
Ben	inside (cam ben the hoose – come inside the house)
Blootered	very drunk
But and ben	cottage
Bridie	meat in a pastry pie
Clarty	dirty
Clockwork Orange	name for Glasgow underground due to the colour of the coaches
Coorie down	cuddle down (to sleep)
Crabbit	ill tempered
Crivens!	Crumbs!
Dreich	miserable cold and wet (weather)
Drookit	soaking wet
Drouht(y)	thirst(y)
Dunny	room at the bottom of a tenement
Ee, een	eye, eyes
Eechie ochie	neither here nor there
Fash	bother ('dinnae fash yersel' = don't bother yourself)
Fowk	folk
From	frae
Fush	fish
Gae, gang	go
Galoot	idiot
Gaun	going

Gey	rather
Gillie	hunting/fishing guide
Gloaming	dusk
Gralloch	to disembowel, entrails (of a deer)
Guid	good
Havers!	Nonsense!

<http://www.cs.stir.ac.uk/~kjt/general/scots.html>

Some older sayings:

Whit's fur ye'll no go by ye! – *What's meant to happen will happen.*

Failing means yer playin! – *When you fail at something at least you're trying.*

Mony a mickle maks a muckle! – *Saving a small amount soon builds up to a large amount.*

Dinnae marry fur money! – *Don't marry for money – you can borrow it cheaper.*

Is the cat deid? – *Has the cat died? Means your trousers are a bit short – like a flag flying at half-mast.*

Haud yer wheesht! – *Be quiet.*

I'm fair puckled! – *I'm short of breath.*

Some more recent sayings:

At dis ma nut in – *That does my head in.*

Pure dead brilliant – *Exceptionally good.*

Yer bum's oot the windae – *You're talking rubbish.*

<https://scotlandwelcomesyou.com/scottish-sayings/>

***Check this out!***

[Paul McCartney & WINGS – Mull of Kintyre \(1977\) - YouTube](#)

# The World is getting smaller with Family Trees

by Fay Chisholm, Gisborne NZ.

Having worked on uncorrupting a large family file for posterity in recent months I decided it was time I updated a rather large file, "The Gordon Family", which had 1600 names.

When I first became interested in the Gordons I wanted to know who my Aunt's children were, as my side of the family had no contact with them. This quest for information became a major undertaking as there were three Gordon families in the Gisborne area, all with similar Christian names.

I quickly discovered my Gordons had come from the South Island, so that made things a little easier. As I progressed, I met a direct descendant, and now between us we add to this family tree and we exchange information and seeing it has been some time since the last update it is now a work in progress.

I know I can hear you all saying they are not Chisholm's! Well, there is a connection.

Isabella Chisholm married Andrew Watson 1838 in Kelso near the Scottish Borders, and with further research we found that is where our Gordon's came from, most of the early generations were from Kelso and Greenlaw.

Now our David Gordon, born 1843, was a lad of 18 shepherding sheep at the Glasgow docks, when he was spotted by a wealthy New Zealand landowner and was offered the job of bringing a boat load of sheep to NZ. David declined, saying he would not leave his sweetheart.

He was promptly told to go marry his sweetheart and come to NZ, which he did.

David married Jane Watson (niece of Isabella) 1861 in the village of Gordon Scotland, they arrived in NZ with 1060 sheep aboard the "Simoon" at Port Chalmers in January 1862, from there they drove the sheep to Tautau west of

Invercargill where David became head shepherd and their family of 16 were born.

As the years passed David developed arthritis so they came north to Gisborne to a warmer climate.

So you see there are Chisholm relations/descendants at rest in our Historic Makaraka Cemetery; Jane Watson 1919 with her husband David Gordon 1912, along with John Chisholm 1911 from Milton in the South Island, and Michael John Chisholm 2020.

A group of Genealogists here in Gisborne had been fighting the Council to lift the headstones at Makaraka which were buried in the 1980's. This finally happened 2 years ago and they are now all back where they belong. About the same time it was decided to get family members to write about their loved ones buried at Makaraka, which is one of the oldest cemeteries in Gisborne. My dad's eldest brother Edward Trumper was buried there in 1911, my parents Victor 1980 & Dorothy 1997, their ashes are with Edward, along with Michael's ashes. The first book "FOR THOSE WHO LIE BENEATH" was published in 2020, and a second book is in the pipeline. <https://www.makarakacemetery.com/>

### ***THE SIMOON.***

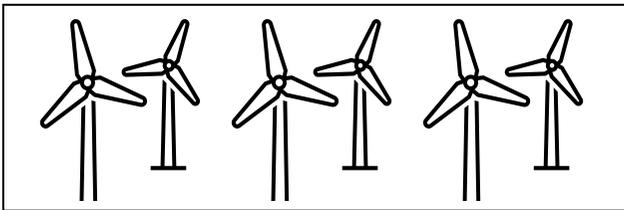
Several of the American clippers of the 'sixties put up good times between the Old Country and New Zealand. A memorable trip was that of the ship *Simoon*, 1600 tons, Captain Langly, which, on January 3, 1862, arrived at Port Chalmers, after a passage of 77 days or 72 days land to land, which created a great amount of talk in nautical circles. On that occasion the *Simoon* brought out one thousand valuable Leicester sheep for Mr. Holmes, a well-known squatter, and they carried wonderfully well, only 5 per cent succumbing to the rigours of the long voyage from the Clyde. In the newspaper account of the ship's arrival mention is made of the fact that she fired a salute of twenty-one guns to celebrate her feat. Captain Langly was entertained by the local shipping firms and congratulated upon making the fastest passage to date from Scotland.

## COUNCIL CLEANUP

The Cook County Council has decided to clean up the Makaraka cemetery by removing broken and neglected headstones and monuments and tidying up the place in general. This cemetery has historic significance in that most of Poverty Bay's pioneers are buried here. The monument to those massacred in the Te Kooti raid of 1868 is also situated at the Makaraka cemetery but this is in good repair. The cemetery dates back to 1857 when it was bought from the Maori owners for \$170. In 1915 the cemetery was closed to burials, except in plots already reserved, and the present one at Taruheru was opened.



## WIND FARM BUSINESS



Following on from the article in our last newsletter I have shared an update on the Fiodhag (previously named Fasnakyle) Wind Farm proposal by Glen Affric. When the previous Beinn Mhor proposal was refused at Appeal by the Scottish Government, it was thought that was the end of wind farm applications in the area. However, this new proposal incorporates the old Beinn Mhor site that

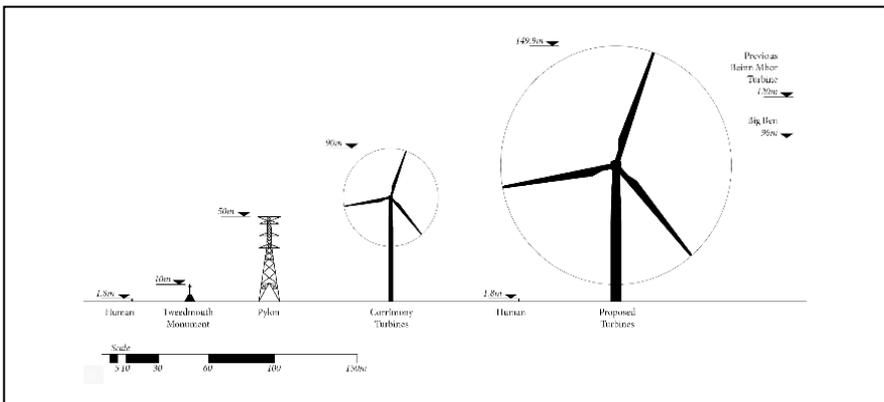
was for 6 turbines. It is now proposed for 46 massive turbines covering 5000 acres. The proposal is at the scoping stage.

Tomich is a Conservation Village with one of the highest numbers of listed buildings in Scotland. The attached photo of the Tweedmouth Monument shows the area where some of the turbines would be located.

The Glen Affric National Nature Reserve and National Scenic Area is set amidst an area that is considered so beautiful it is a World-renowned destination and has recently been short listed for National Park Status.



Tweedmouth Monument  
National Nature Reserve  
and National Scenic Area



Human 1.8m, Tweedmouth Monument 10m, Pylon 50m, Corrimony turbine 90m, Human 1.8m, Proposed turbines 149.9m, (top right) previous Beinn Mohr turbine 120m, (bottom right) Big Ben 96m

For more information including map of the area see

<https://www.glenaffric-friendssayno.com/>

# Surviving the Pandemic

## **1. Tony Morrison - 18 November 2021 (Australia)**

It has interfered in all our lives. However, although it has been inconvenient as well as highly politicised. Australia has done well comparatively speaking in spite of some idiotic decisions some States came up with but in fairness the whole world has been, and still is, feeling its way. Sue and I were booked to go to Portugal and Morocco last March with a group of friends who we have travelled with previously but that got knocked on the head, thanks to COVID. We have booked a holiday to NZ in March next year but I'm not too sure about Jacinda, we'll just have to wait and see. Sadly, as previously reported, COVID claimed the life of Robert Crichton Brown, who hosted The Clan at Merrilla during our 'AGM' week in 2019. He was so generous and such a lovely man. It makes us realise just how cruel and sad the pandemic has been. He was a very fit 77-year-old.

## **2. Alistair Thompson - 17 November 2021 (Australia)**

I have found the whole COVID thing quite a nuisance. Just before we were aware of COVID we were taking the whole family to Vanuatu. The day before we left my son went down with pneumonia and we had to defer the holiday – to the following April 2020.

With the outbreak underway in Feb and March 2020 I thought I should check my travel insurance which I was assured covered the pandemic. However, when making a routine enquiry, I found that the pandemic cover had been removed. I checked with another two companies which both had removed their cover a couple of days before. Therefore, we deferred the holiday until October 2020. Then to April 2021. Then to April 2022 – and that is still not available, but we are hoping.

Also living in Sydney, we have been subjected to a number of lockdowns or probable lockdowns as neither the Government nor the Health Department seem to be sure what the rules were. One day the Minister approved a visit from returned overseas travellers to The Northern Beaches local government area where we live and of course they had COVID and we went into lockdown which meant we had to stay in the LGA. Later that was relaxed to travel 10 km from home which allowed me to play golf so after a while the distance was reduced to 5 km. I could have played at Roseville Golf Club but as some holes were outside the 5km limit I couldn't play there at all.

We had 2 weeks in home quarantine because Marianne visited the local Woolworths for a few minutes when an out-of-town employee was working in the office and later tested positive to the virus. It turned out that she only passed the virus to one other staff member who gave it to her mother in another suburb but for that we had to stay at home for 2 weeks with a limited menu (it was unclear whether we were allowed to go to the mailbox or stay inside the front door).

Gyms were closed for a long time which was a health problem for my wife who really needs aquarobics. Of course, we had the usual problems in not being able to visit our daughter who lives in NSW but outside greater Sydney

(a larger area with strange boundaries) or our son in Adelaide where they discourage foreigners from the Eastern States (as they are all carpetbaggers) and by keeping everyone out they can pretend the COVID doesn't exist.

I think one of the weirdest lessons we learnt was that the Federal Government has limited control over the States and the State Government apparently have limited control over the Chief Medical Officers who seemed to be able to convert any political matter into a health matter. Of course, this has the advantage for the government in being able to shift some of the blame for which the Medical Officers have been amply rewarded with state Governorships or Departmental Heads.

Any way it has all settled down somewhat as we can go anywhere in NSW unless you are one of the anti vaxers who are now getting really grumpy because the rest of us can go to pubs and night clubs and they can't.

### **3. *Kim Polley - 1 January 2022 (Australia)***

COVID saw an end to a wonderful holiday we had meticulously planned to the UK in 2020. Thankfully our travel agency was successful in organising reimbursement for much of our holiday expenses. Our garden received the brunt of our frustrations and has had a major makeover. Various small home projects were completed, grandchildren visited, time was devoted to sick family members and I had spare time to continue my research in earnest.

Tasmania was a safe haven until mid-December 2021. Up until that time we were experiencing great economic growth and only a small number of people had perished from COVID. On 15<sup>th</sup> December the borders were opened to our

beautiful State. Since then, COVID numbers have soared. As we have the highest rate of aged people per head of population in our State, this is a huge concern.

### **CCSNZ Subscriptions:**

A reminder for Clan Chisholm NZ members. The Clan Journals are ordered on the basis of financial membership. Please ensure your subscription is up to date, if you are not sure, please ask.

Subs due are \$20.00 and payable to Bank account:

**06-0701-0134415-000**

## **John Chisholm 1864 – 1904**

**By Fay Chisholm (New Zealand) for the Makaraka Restoration Project**

John, born 20 July 1864, was the eldest son of Duncan and Catherine of Milton, Otago.

He had come north when things became unbearable at home. For many years he was employed at the British Empire Stables in Gisborne. John relinquished his employment in April 1904 but was allowed to sleep in the loft of the stables. According to the local newspaper John fell from the loft about 3am on August 29<sup>th</sup> 1904 and was found later that morning and taken into the then Cook hospital where he died. His friend produced a document showing John had siblings somewhere in New Zealand. On doing further research I found the following:

Duncan and Catherine Chisholm and their family of ten

John 1864	Sarah McLean 1865
Hellen 1866	Catherine 1870
James McGrowth 1872	Margaret 1873
David 1875	Alexander 1877
Stuart 1879	Thomas Weymiss Brown 1883

John was laid to rest at Makaraka Cemetery, Gisborne

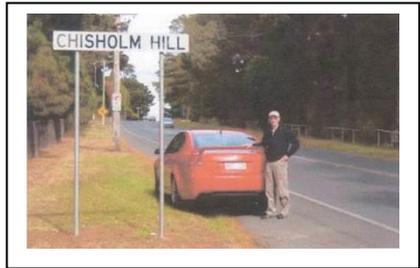
## Named after a Chisholm?

### 1. *Tony Morrison (Australia)*

We live in The Goulburn district which has a strong Chisholm history. Consequently, Goulburn has a 'Chisholm Street' and a 'Kinghamne Street'. Elizabeth Margaret Kinghorne was the wife of James Chisholm of Kippilaw. Breadalbane has Chisholm Park, a memento to The Chisholms, pioneers in a previous era.

### 2. *Carolyn Chown (Australia)*

This picture was sent to me from New Zealand with a query from the Kiwi traveller as to who was the Chisholm named on the hill outside Bowral, New South Wales. On researching this I discovered that it was named for Edwin Chisholm, youngest son of James Chisholm (who came to Australia in



1791 with the NSW Corps). Edwin was born just before his father died in 1836, youngest son of James' second marriage, to Mary Bowman. Edwin went to The King's School, Parramatta and then took his MD in 1877 at the Royal College of Surgeons in London. He set up practice in Darlinghurst, Sydney and lived in Ashfield (inner city Sydney) where his home was called 'Abergeldie'. He bought property in the Southern Highlands, near Bowral, which he also called 'Abergeldie' and the Chisholm Hill was named by the local Historical Society on part of his once-owned property.

### 3. *Professor Chis Maxwell AM (Australia)*

Chisholm Street, North Ryde

James Chisholm (1772-1837) is well known by members of the Clan in Australia, for whom he was the pioneer settler and, for some, ancestor. He came from an impoverished family, who settled in the Scottish village of Mid Calder, some time before 1765. At the age of 16, James left his home to join a British army regiment. In 1790, he transferred to the infamous New South Wales (NSW) Corps and travelled to the colony of that name on the Third Fleet whaler,

Britannia, arriving in Sydney Cove on 14<sup>th</sup> October 1791. James remained in the Corps, in which he had *special duties*, until 1810. These responsibilities saved him from the early challenges faced by the Corps, notably the Rum Rebellion and the military interregnum which followed, in which he played no part.<sup>1</sup>

By the end of 1809, James, aged 32, was on the verge of a transformation that would set him on the road to gentrification and influence. He was married to Mary Brown, the daughter of the free settler, David Brown, who had modest entrepreneurial interests. His marriage gave him access, through Mary, to an education in literacy. This brought with it encouragement to transform his outlook and skills, as well as a potential source of funds. James, to his credit, was open to these influences.

James' *special duties* in the NSW Corps were as regimental tailor, a key role in the British Army of the time. These located him in substantial quarters in central Sydney, over which he was later to gain a lease, and eventually freehold ownership. They also provided the opportunity to listen to, and learn from, the officers and NCOs of the Corps, as he or his men took their measure and fitted or refitted their uniforms. James' situation in the Quartermaster department, also provided him with skills in the trading of agricultural commodities on behalf of the Corps. Based on this knowledge and the freedom of his military position, he began to expand his property interests, and took the first steps in trading on his own account.<sup>2</sup>

In 1808, while still in the NSW Corps, James Chisholm commenced his first private farming venture, with the acquisition of a 140-acre block of land at the Eastern Farms, which he purchased from Michael Connor for £85.<sup>3</sup> He would have known of the pending sale from his father-in-law, David Brown, who owned the adjoining block (Fig. 1).<sup>4</sup> David Brown's land (granted 1802) joined James Chisholm's on the southern boundary. One can imagine that James might have gained his first experience of livestock production at his father-in-law's farm, and that this encouraged his purchase of the adjacent

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<sup>1</sup> Maxwell, Chis and Pugh, Alex, *The Merchant of Sydney*, Australian Scholarly, 2015 (**Maxwell & Pugh, *The Merchant of Sydney***), Chapters 1 to 5.

<sup>2</sup> Maxwell & Pugh, *The Merchant of Sydney*; Chapter 6.

<sup>3</sup> Maxwell & Pugh, *The Merchant of Sydney*; Appendix 1, List of real estate (farms and city property) granted to, purchased or sold by James Chisholm, p. 230.

<sup>4</sup> Griffiths, John, *Industry and Perseverance*, <http://www.davidbrown1801nsw.info>, Chapter 2, p. 15. Maxwell & Pugh, *The Merchant of Sydney*; Appendix 1.

block when it became available. This farm allowed him to produce his own commodities to trade, and he moved, as effectively as he could under the illegal military regime, to gain title over his property holdings along Spring Row (now George Street, Sydney).<sup>5</sup> The record shows he was trading in the second half of 1808 in meat and grain, then the main products from the Eastern Farms.<sup>6</sup>

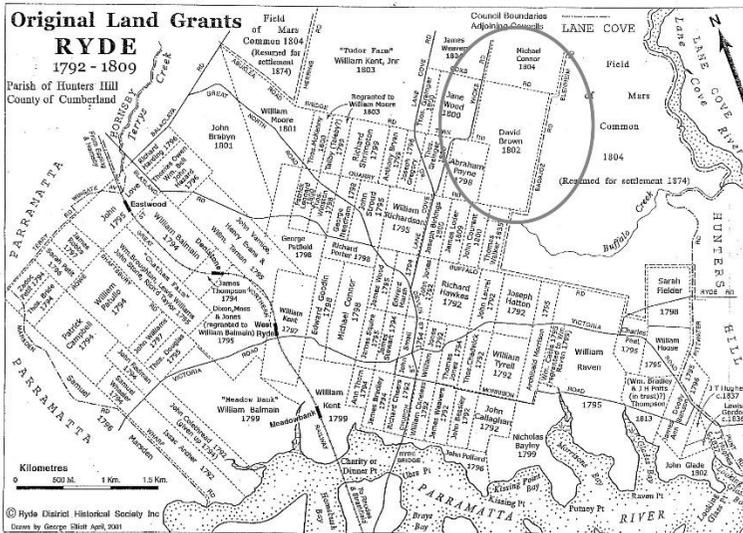


Fig. 1. The original Land Grants in Ryde, NSW. The grants of Michael Connor and David Brown are circled [Ryde District Historical Society].

By 1810, James Chisholm's career in the army was drawing to a close. He had served loyally and faithfully for 21 years. He had avoided the conflicts of interest raised by the overthrow of the colony's legitimate government, by his own superior officers, in the Rum Rebellion. He would not be one of those who would seek to re-enlist in the 73<sup>rd</sup> Regiment when it arrived under Governor

<sup>5</sup> Maxwell & Pugh, *The Merchant of Sydney*; Appendix 1.

<sup>6</sup> Blaxell, Gregory, *Putney, that special place*, Putney and District Progress Association, 2012; <http://www.putneyprogress.com.au/downloads/Putney-PPAssoc.pdf> [Blaxell, Putney].

Macquarie's command. He chose a different course, outside the army, resigning his post in 1810. His new life was to involve interests in the wine and spirits business, currency trading, banking, estate management, politics, the courts, the Presbyterian church, farming and eventually the wider pastoral industry.

Today, there are at least nine roads, streets or avenues, named after James Chisholm in the greater Sydney area. These are located in the suburbs of Auburn, Clemton Park, Darlinghurst, Greenwich, North Ryde, Quakers Hill, South Turramurra, Surrey Hills and Wolli Creek, all adjacent to or running through former Chisholm properties. To some extent, these reflect the vast landholdings of James Chisholm across Sydney and the County of Cumberland. There would be 10 streets in this list, but for Chisholm Lane, in the Central Business District of Sydney, being re-named Ash Street in 1886 after the sale of the Chisholm Estate on the death of his second wife, Mary (née Bowman). Today, Ash Street runs through half the length of the 116-metre frontage owned by James on George Street (the old Spring Row), between Hunter Street and Martin Place, some of which was purchased with the proceeds of his early farming enterprises.<sup>7</sup>

The land grants in the Eastern Farms area were east of the original 1792 grants to the Marines on the Field of Mars, hence the name. In 1793, an unnamed surgeon from the *Britannia*, on a river journey from Parramatta, noted that "...meadows were filled with grass and fields of corn....and although the Aborigines relied principally on fish for their diet, of late [they] have become addicted to Indian corn which they steal with great boldness."<sup>8</sup> The various blocks in the Eastern Farms were initially clumped together owing to fear of attack by the traditional owners, the Wallumedegal people. In his history of Putney, Gregory Blaxell records three attacks by aborigines on white settlers between 1797 and 1805 but suggests that the indigenous occupants were initially tolerant of the 1792 settlements. As the farms developed and settlement spread, restricting traditional land use, according to Blaxell, tensions gradually grew and eventually spilled over into physical conflict, with

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<sup>7</sup> Maxwell & Pugh, *The Merchant of Sydney*, Chapter 10.

<sup>8</sup> Geeves, Philip, *A Place of Pioneers: The Centenary History of the Municipality of Ryde*. Ryde Municipal Council, 1970, Chapters 3 & 12.

the inevitable consequence that the aborigines were driven off or died of disease.<sup>9</sup>

By the time James Chisholm acquired his block, it is likely that the Wallumedegal people had gone. The principal land-use during early settlement was cereal cropping (about 50% of the cleared land) and the raising of small numbers of sheep, goats and pigs. There were also orchards, vegetable patches and poultry runs. Both Governors King and Hunter gave prizes of breeding livestock, mainly sheep and cows, to successful farmers at *Kissing Point*, as Hunter had renamed the Eastern Farms.<sup>8,10</sup>

Kissing Point remained farming country until it began to be divided into smaller farms, orchards and some large estates in the late nineteenth century.<sup>8</sup> Ryde was the name used from the 1840s and adopted when the Municipality of Ryde was proclaimed in 1870. The district's first school, which opened in Cox's Road in 1878, was known initially as City View, but was changed to North Ryde in 1879. The post office, which opened in 1885, has always been known as North Ryde. Many market gardens and small farms persisted there until the 1950s.<sup>11</sup>

What happened to the Eastern Farms properties of James Chisholm and David Brown? Today, both would be located in the suburb of North Ryde. Brown's block is occupied by the Macquarie Hospital precinct.<sup>12</sup> Chisholm's is approximately bounded by Wicks Road on the west, Coxs Road on the south, Blenheim Road on the East and Epping Road in the North (Fig. 1). This land encompasses **Chisholm Street** (Fig. 2), which, according to the Ryde District Historical Society, is named after Dame Alice Chisholm. This is neither correct nor likely, as Dame Alice lived some distance away at Pennant Hills (her house, *Boldrewood*, was in present-day Cherrybrook). The Chisholm Street in North Ryde runs through the north-west corner of what had been James Chisholm's land.

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<sup>9</sup> Blaxell, *Putney*.

<sup>10</sup> Blaxell, *Putney*.

<sup>11</sup> Levy, M.C.I. *Wallumetta: a history of Ryde and its district*, 1792 to 1945. Ryde: Ryde Municipal Council, 1947.

<sup>12</sup> Ryde District Historical Society, *The Original Land Grants*:

[http://www.rydehistory.org/html/the\\_original\\_land\\_grants.HTM](http://www.rydehistory.org/html/the_original_land_grants.HTM).

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Fig. 2. Chisholm Street, North Ryde NSW, showing its intersections with Wicks Rd and Morshead St, and the location of Morshead Park (lower right) [ google maps]

One hundred acres of James Chisholm's original block remained vacant or utilised as an orchard until the second world war. In 1942, the army began to use the Epping Road end for parking tanks and by 1943 the whole block became a substantial heavy vehicle park and transport workshop. Living quarters and parade grounds were built on the eastern side of Blenheim Road. After the army vacated them at the end of the war, the living quarters were used to accommodate migrants for a number of years.<sup>13</sup>

During the post-war years, the character of North Ryde changed dramatically from rural to suburban. The remnant of James Chisholm's block was subdivided into lots for war service housing, and the New South Wales Housing Commission resumed much of the rest of the area. Many of the streets now on his land bear the names of second world war commanders and battles.<sup>12</sup>

Chisholm Street, North Ryde, is today a quiet suburban thoroughfare, running between Wicks Road and Morshead Street. It contains just 22 houses, most constructed in the 1960s but including a few of the 1950s service houses, and a small recreation area, Morshead Park (Figs 2 & 3). I am sure the descendants of James Chisholm would be happy that his former land is now

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<sup>13</sup> Farlow, Margaret, *North Ryde*. The Dictionary of Sydney; [https://dictionaryofsydney.org/entry/north\\_ryde](https://dictionaryofsydney.org/entry/north_ryde), 2008.



Fig 3. Chisholm St, North Ryde NSW in 2021 [google maps].

dominated by another long Street, and a park, named after *Ming the Merciless* (the late Lieutenant General Sir Leslie Morshead) Australia’s revered wartime commander at Tobruk, North Africa, where many Scottish descendants gave their lives for their country.

Chis Maxwell AM  
July, 2021

#### 4. Gary Chisholm (New Zealand)

Chisholm Crescent in Hanmer Springs, was named after Gary’s Great Uncle, Doctor Percy Chisholm, Superintendent of the Queen Mary Hospital, established in the aftermath of World War 1.



Gary and Dr Percy Chisholm’s great-great niece, Addilyn Chisholm



Named for Doctor Percy Chisholm is the park in Hanmer Springs, here shown with Finley and Addilyn Chisholm



Also sent by Gary, Addilyn Chisholm sitting on an ancient Chisholm masterpiece of Engineering, now adorning the Little River Café near Christchurch. Looks like a valve or pump of some description. Anybody who knows what it might be or where it was made, please write in and let us know.

## Kenneth Charles Wentworth Miles (Australia)

26.07.1927 - 02.01.2022

Kenneth Charles Wentworth Miles was born in 1927 in Enfield, NSW. He married Betty at Windsor in 1949. He had 3 children, 3 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren. He passed away in January this year.

Our President Tony wrote to Ken's family stating:

*I was very sad to learn that Ken had passed away. I met Ken when he came up to Goulburn to attend some of The Clan Chisholm Goulburn meetings, which always included dinner.*

*I can't tell you how much I enjoyed meeting him and what great company he was. He was a breath of fresh air and we talked at length about what he did, which was amazing, what I did and the Clan in general and lots of other things besides.*

*You don't often get to meet such wonderful people during the course of life and although it was far too short, I treasure the time that I spent with him.*

*On behalf of The Clan, it is with great sadness I would like to extend my sincere sympathies to you and your family on Ken's passing.*

Ken provided a comprehensive summary of his family tree in *The Clan Chisholm in Australia 1790-1990* by Carolyn Chown, pages 182-191.

## List of Medical Terms of Cause of Death

TERM	DEFINITION
Amshach	Accidental injury
Anward Trobell	Inward trouble
Asmey	Asthma
Bellythraw	Colic
Bloit	Diarrhoea
Bloody flux	Dysentery
Brown Katies	Bronchitis
Buffets	the Mumps
Canongate Breeks	Venereal Disease
Chokis	Quinsy; suppurative tonsilitis
Croichit	Lame
Cruppen doon	Bent with age
Disjaskit	Depressed
Donsie	Sickly
Fair strae death	A natural death in bed
Gravel	Kidney or bladder stones
Passion	Severe pain
Phthisis	A wasting disease, esp. pulmonary tuberculosis
Purples	Typhus fever
Swarf	Faint
Water on the chest	Possibly pleurisy or pneumonia

This list of medical terms was collected from various 18th and 19th century sources including the Old Parish Registers. It was published in the 'Aberdeen and North-East Scotland Family History Society journal', no 73 (November 1999), pp 33-5.

<https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/research/guides/old-parish-registers/deaths-and-burials/cause-of-death>

# James Walter Strickland Chisholm

## Kippilaw, Goulburn, New South Wales

By Alistair Thompson, Australia



Jim was the elder son of Frank Kerr Chisholm & Jane A. Strickland. He grew up at Kippilaw and was educated at The School (Preparatory) Chatswood and The Kings School Parramatta. Shortly after leaving school Jim joined the Young Australia League with which he toured Europe and Great Britain in 1925. I don't have details of the next few years but by 1929 he was living in the Inverell district of NSW. On 22 May 1929 Jim was fined for a traffic offence (doing wheelies in the main street) at Picnic Race time and was described then as living at Delungra.

By 1930 James was established on Burmah, at Graman near Inverell, where he spent all his working life apart from the war years. Jim was quite well known in the Sydney social scene where he met and married Melanie Faviell in 1934. An Inverell newspaper description of the wedding follows:

CHISHOLM – FAVIELL: A wedding of interest was celebrated quietly by the Registrar, Sydney recently, when Melanie Faviell, only daughter of the late Judge Pickburn and Mrs. Pickburn of Elizabeth Bay, was married to Mr. James W. Chisholm, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank K. Chisholm, of Kippilaw, Goulburn. Although the bride and bridegroom are well known in Sydney society, they managed to keep the ceremony a secret from their many friends. The guests, who were entertained at a table decorated with Radiance roses. Included Mrs. R. A. Black, Mr. T. Chisholm, the bridegroom's brother, and Commander Gifford, who came down from Leura to attend the reception. After the reception, Mr. and Mrs. James Chisholm left for a trip to the South Coast, in the car which was the bridegroom's present to the bride.

Jim was always very active in community affairs. He was the chair of the Inverell branch of the Graziers Association for many years up to the War. He was very much involved in beef cattle industry affairs.

In 1939, when he was 33, Jim joined the AIF and on 24 November was commissioned as a Lieutenant. He joined the 2/18 battalion on 5 September 1940, part of the ill-fated 8<sup>th</sup> Division, and sailed on the *Queen Mary* on 2 February 1941 arriving in Singapore on 18 February 1941. His unit moved to Malaya 26 April 1941. While he was away his wife Melanie managed Burmah until he returned. She went to Sydney to farewell Jim before he sailed then returned to Burmah.

Jim was promoted to Captain in Malaya 5 August 1941. On 18 October 1941 he was transferred to the Johore Military Forces as army leader at the request of the Sultan, much to the annoyance of his Australian superiors. On 15 February 1942 he was taken prisoner along with the entire Allied garrison in Singapore, when General Percival surrendered to the Japanese and for many months was listed as missing. It wasn't until 8 January 1943 that Melanie learnt that Jim was a prisoner of war interned at Tokyo camp. On 10 October 1945 he arrived back in Sydney and was immediately hospitalised.

He was in hospital until at least November 1945. In his termination papers he was described as being in an anxiety state giving him a 20% disability. On the medical papers his eye colour was listed as green but on his service record, the photo of him taken at recruitment listed eyes as blue. Jim's date of discharge was 8 November 1945.

While a POW he invented wire tie hay baler. The idea was confiscated by the Japanese who patented it after the war - talk about adding insult to injury!

Also, during his time as a prisoner of war there is a story about him teaching the Japanese Australian swear words which of course they didn't know the meaning. He would teach each soldier one word and when they were marching they would shout their word in turn to the great amusement of the Australian prisoners. After leaving hospital he was able to return to managing Burmah. However his marriage was over. It appears that divorce proceedings must have commenced virtually as soon as he returned to Sydney. The divorce was applied for in October 1945 and the decree nisi granted in September 1949.

On 3 October 1946 Jim re-enlisted as a Captain and was attached to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Australian War Crimes Section to 19 December 1947. This duty included going to Japan to act as a witness in War Crimes Trials. I think he would have been very happy to help prosecute those who had imposed torture, murder and starvation merely for the pleasure of doing so.

When I knew him, Jim was over 60, very fit and still playing tennis. He pretty much recovered his health but never recovered from his hatred of those Japanese. He was not totally one eyed though. He defended a Japanese prison doctor who was charged with war crimes. Jim told the court that when he was appointed the doctor was able to make many improvements and the prisoners virtually stopped dying. When he was a prisoner in Thailand, he was travelling one day with a Jap guard and he had a photo of Miriam which the guard saw and said he would rape her when he got to Australia. Imagine how that made him feel.

Jim's second period of service was completed in January 1948 when he was able to return to Burmah. Jim was always very active in agricultural and community affairs, particularly in the field of beef cattle husbandry and industry management. In 1949 he was active in a group erecting a telephone line to his locality.

On 26 October 1949 Jim married Gwen Holden in Inverell. Tom Chisholm was the best man, and sisters Anne and Miriam were present. Jim, although an Anglican, was married in a Presbyterian Church as, both parties being divorced, no Anglican Church would marry them.

Jim was innovative in the changeover from bagged wheat to bulk handling in the 1950s. In 1953, on Burmah, trucks would be filled from the headers then tip the grain into a 22,000-bushel concrete silo built into the side of a hill. However, the changeover to bulk handling was not universal for over a decade. He continued running the station until nearly 1980 when due to ill health he retired to a house in Inverell. He died on 1 October 1983. Gwen lived on until September 2008.

### [The Late Ruth Watson \(Australia\)](#)

On 26<sup>th</sup> August 2021 Ruth Watson passed away. We anticipate publishing an obituary for Ruth in our next edition. We pass on our sympathy to Ken and his family. Both Ruth and Ken contributed enormously to our Branch.

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

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

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

**Clan Chisholm Australia Branch Genealogy Database:**

<http://clanchisholm.net.au.s3-website-ap-southeast-2.amazonaws.com/>

(Secretary can provide password)



This woman in West London in the 1930s was paid sixpence a week for shooting dried peas at windows to wake people for work. She was known as a knocker-upper.

Photo: John Topham

(Facebook – Scottish Indexes Group)

**2022 FEES ARE NOW DUE!**

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

**PLEASE PAY VIA DIRECT DEBIT:**

**Account 205832169, BSB 012 865**

**Stating your name and member number if possible**

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

**alistairth@gmail.com**

**Thank you to the following who kindly contributed to this newsletter:  
From New Zealand - Fay Chisholm, Gary Chisholm, John Ross, Robert  
Chisholm**

**From Australia - Alistair Thompson, Carolyn Chown, Chis Maxwell, Kim  
Polley, Tony Morrison**

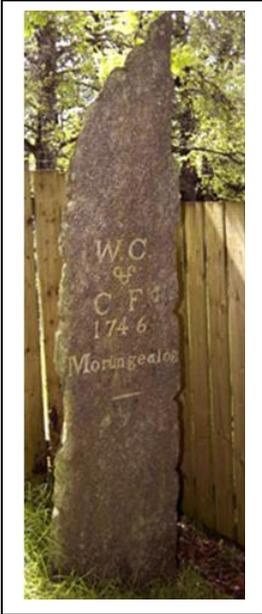
## The Smiddy of Contin, his daughter, her husband

### Mo run geal og By Robert Chisholm (New Zealand)

Juliette Chisholm-Broomfield, our Clan Chisholm Society President, has received a letter regarding the Smithy at Contin, that's a place in Ross-shire just a few miles beyond Beauly where Juliette lives, near the heart of Chisholm Country. The Smithy of Contin no longer makes Dirks and Swords for the Clan, instead it's a coffee bothy with tasty Highland treats. At least it still gives an adrenalin rush. In response to the letter, the Forum decided to gather as much information as possible regarding the "Smiddy", his daughter, and above all, his son in law, just to see if anything "new" turned up. Full details are at [The Clan Chisholm Genealogical Forum](#) The proprietor back in the 1740s, Fheargus Gobha, was an armourer for the Clan and it is said that many of Clan Chisholm at Culloden Battlefield in 1746, used weapons forged by him at Contin. In our lore he may be better known as the father of Christina Fergusson, who penned the lament *Mo run geal og* (My sweet young one) for her husband William Chisholm, standard bearer for the Clan at Culloden. (Alternative name "Lament for William Chisholm/*Cumha do dh'Uilleam Siseal*). YouTube has many renditions of the Lament, here is one which features Clan Chisholm violinist Duncan Chisholm [Mo run geal og](#)



The deeds of the standard bearer are a well-known part of Chisholm lore. We are told that he was reluctant to become involved in the uprising, but at the goading of his wife Christina, he set off belatedly to join young Rory who was leading the Chisholms in support of the Prince. William and Christina said their last goodbye on the road from



Mauld to Eskadale, at the junction where the Bridge to Struy crosses the River Glass. It is here that Alexander Fraser of Mauld, who lived in the later 1700's arranged for the commemoration stone to be erected.

William Mackay, in Gaelic Placenames of Upper Strathglass writes as follows:

*“William Chisholm, the Clan Chisholm standard bearer at Culloden, lived with his wife, Christine Ferguson, at Mauld. The site of his house is said to be near the river below the Mauld – Eskadale road at a place called by the old people “Innis nan ceann” – the meadow of the heads – after some old Clan fight. William killed 16 men at Culloden with his broadsword, but was killed himself.”*

*“His widow composed a Gaelic song in his memory, “Mo run geal og” [my fair young love] in which she says that he was the handsomest, bravest, kindest man in Strathglass, the best swordsman, and had the sweetest kisses and the strongest head in the Strath. In the Beerhouse at Struy when all others were below the table he was still on his feet. A stone at Mauld House inscribed “Mo run geal og”, erected by the Frasers of Mauld, commemorates him.”*

With respect to the location “*Innis nan ceann*”, there are three possible explanations. *Innis* is the *gaelic* word for meadow, often a riverside meadow, and *ceann* means head. So it could be the meadow which had the buried heads, relicts of an old Clan fight. This battle was actually between Chisholms and Frasers, and is retold in *Clan Journal* 1997, page 32, *Battle of Ath-Nan-Ceann* in 1590. Cattle were stolen from the Erchless fields, crossed the Farrar into Fraser's Struy fields, and were crossing the Ford, near which the bridge was later built, when Chisholms caught up and the battle ensued. It was said that the next day many heads were found in the pool below the ford, and the ford became known as the Ford of the Heads, *Ath nan ceann*. In 1846, men were digging in a field near Struy, and they found a large quantity of human bones. There are two other options. This location is the head of the River Glass, at the junction with the Rivers Farrar and Beauly. In old books and Maps, the bridge which connects to location of the memorial stone, to the road leading

to the beerhouse at Struy, is named “*Drochaid Innis nan ceann*”. This location is also very close to the fields and meadows of Erchless Castle, and so the reference could be to the meadows of the head of the Clan. Have a look at the maps on the Forum post for this topic.

Perhaps the biggest question remains, who was William Chisholm? We know a lot about his wife, and who her father was, but little about William himself in terms of family of origin. Oral lore has been handed down, and a lot of this has been put into writing by that most reliable chronicler of the *Traditions of Strathglass*, Colin Chisholm of Namur Cottage, in our Genealogies known as Colin VII of Lietre. We are told he was a near kinsman of the Chief, and that may have been one of the reasons he was the Standard Bearer. We also learn from Colin that he (Colin) lived the first 20 years of his life (1806-1826) next door to the son of one of the men who accompanied William when he went to Contin to marry Miss Fergusson. It could be that Colin is talking here about his own Grandfather, Colin V Lietre, who was the son of Colin IV Lietre, the famed clansman who fought at both Sheriffmuir in 1715, and Culloden in 1746, an ancestor who has many descendants down under. (See a picture of one of them on page 3) There is also a coincidence that Colin IV Lietre is married to the daughter of Colin McKenzie of Contin, opening up a possible venue for contact between families in Glen Cannich and those in Contin. There seems to be not enough surviving data to positively identify William Chisholm, but there does seem to be enough circumstantial evidence to say that there is a strong possibility that he was a member of the Lietre cadet family. This family comprises the descendants of Thomas Chisholm, younger brother of Chief Alexander XVII. Perhaps you may be a member of this the senior Cadet family? Write to Kim or Robert and let us know or ask and we can find out.

## ROBERT CHISHOLM HAS DONE IT AGAIN!

**Kim Polley (Australia)**

Robert Chisholm has completed for the Clan the fifth booklet in the series about Chisholms at War. These Commemorative Project booklets recognize Chisholms who lost their lives on Flanders fields, France and the Middle East. This last booklet focuses on those who were buried or commemorated in their home countries.

Robert is a legend. He deserves a medal for his outstanding efforts! Read on.

In 1921, a line was drawn by the authorities regarding the casualties of the First World War. The Clan Chisholm Commemoration Project has followed this system, even though we all know that casualties continued to mount long after the wars end, just ask Dr Percy Chisholm. The project dealt only with those who were killed or died, a far greater number suffered from all types of injury, physical and mental. In New Zealand, Audrey Barney has documented the contributions of all NZ Chisholms, not just the terminal casualties. Likewise, John Ross has done the same for the NZ Chisholms who served in World War II. These books by Audrey and John are available by application to Clan Chisholm Society NZ.

The International Clan Chisholm Commemoration Project documents the Chisholm fatalities from all countries. The 5th and final booklet in the series has been published and is available free of charge to all members of Clan Chisholm Society, just visit the website and download. The 5th booklet dealt with casualties who were buried or commemorated in the home countries. There is one in NZ and a couple in Australia. The majority of the casualties were naval casualties, lost at sea, and are commemorated on the various Naval Memorials in the UK. Some of these casualties have family connections in NZ and Australia.

The first Chisholm casualty of the war was on 27 August 1914, Lt William Malcolm Chisholm, great grandson of James Chisholm, the first Chisholm down under, who came with the 3rd fleet to NSW in 1791. The last official casualty was almost 7 years later, Sapper Joseph Chisholme of the Royal Engineers, who died on 14th July, 1921. A total of 190 Chisholm named casualties have been chronicled. It has been a big effort by the entire team at the Clan Chisholm Forum, where the project was managed. There has been a major spin-off from the project. In addition to fulfilling the solemn pledge, “**we shall remember them**”, we have learnt a lot more about the various Chisholm families, and the Clan Chisholm Genealogical database has been greatly expanded. Volume 5 of the WW1 Commemoration Project is available alongside all other volumes at our website:

<https://clanchisholmsociety.org/public/index.php>

# CHISHOLMS



Join now or recruit another member. It doesn't cost much but it shows your commitment to Clanship. The mission of the Clan Chisholm Society is to preserve the heritage of our Scottish Clan, and to promote links between Chisholms around the world.

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