



# Clan Chisholm Society NZ

Newsletter #35 January 2005

### Editors Notes:

Newsletter # 35 is being published in A4 format on a trial basis. The merits of this format can be compared with the A5 booklet format, and can be discussed at the forthcoming AGM. This issue will be easy to print on all the common printers, just as a single sided A4 document. For the postal subscribers, the newsletter will fold comfortably into a standard envelope.

Talking about subscribers, there are 27 members who receive a printed newsletter via post. 45 members receive the electronic newsletter, and a further 15 are "international" subscribers, these are generally officers or members of other branches of Clan Chisholm Society. In addition to there may be indeterminate number, possibly in the hundreds, who receive the electronic letter as a "forward" from family or friends. Next time you fwd the newsletter to a family member, don't forget to add a big hint and becoming a member of the society. It doesn't cost much to belong, just contact the secretary for an application form([chis@paradise.net.nz](mailto:chis@paradise.net.nz)).

Here is your Clan Chisholm Challenge for 2005... Let every member enrol a new member . To those members still on the postal list, but with access to a computer, you are invited to have a trial of the e-letter. It's in full colour, and doesn't get soggy in the letterbox if delivery day is wet and miserable. Just contact me with your details.

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I am happy to report that the "Fronds of the Fern" column again remains empty. If there is significant milestone, (Birth, Marriage, Death) that you would like recorded or acknowledged, then please advise myself or a committee member. We can report a birth and a marriage since the last newsletter!

Johanna Chisholm of Waitakere City, and her partner John, have given birth to a bonnie wee lassie, Kaia Ani. Kaia is the great,great,great granddaughter of Allan Chisholm, born in the Highlands above Strathglass, and arrived in Dunedin in 1871. Kay and Peter Hood were pleased to be able to host the marriage of their third daughter, **Marie** to Shannon Paul Howe in their garden at West Melton, Christchurch, last November.

Have YOU visited the Clan Chisholm website lately? [www.ClanChisholmSociety.org](http://www.ClanChisholmSociety.org) There are quite a number of new items. For example, the appointment of James Michael Fitz-Gerald to the position of Hon Genealogy Project Co-ordinator. Read more about this project, and about James, on the website.

For those members without access to a computer, pop in to your local library, and ask them if they have an internet access computer available. Age is no barrier, if you are retired, learn how to surf !(on the internet)

## Clan Chisholm Society NZ 2005 Gathering and AGM:

To be held at Manchester Unity Lodge Hall, 6 Brake St, off Riccarton Rd., Upper Riccarton. Christchurch, on April 23rd, 2005 from 10am. Please bring a plate of finger food for lunch. Evening meal at Riccarton Buffet Restaurant and Bar, at approximately \$22 per head.

Please Note: This year, Audrey will not be bringing down all the files for all the Chisholm families she holds, as she usually does, but if you get in touch with her (09-426-7772 )to say you will be there and will be wanting to see the material she holds on your family, she will make sure she puts it all in. She is planning yet another interesting Historical address, this time it will be pertinent to Anzac weekend. Don't miss it!

## CLAN CHISHOLM Society of New Zealand - Annual Report 2004

This year has seen a major changing-of-the-guard for the NZ Society, with Fay and Michael Chisholm stepping aside after eleven years' admirable efforts, in founding and running the Society (initially, with the active involvement of Douglas Chisholm). At the 2004 Annual General Meeting, held on 24 April 2004, at the Miramar Uniting Church, 56 Hobart St., Miramar, Wellington, I was elected, in place of Fay, as President, and Barry Chisholm, of Palmerston North, was elected, in place of Michael, as Secretary and Treasurer. Fay retained the position of NZ Delegate to the Clan Council. Audrey Barney continued as Clan Historian and Archivist. Robert Chisholm, of Auckland (not present, but by agreement), took over the role of Clan Newsletter Editor, although the immediately following newsletter was produced by Fay, with Michael's help, so that Robert's first newsletter would be Number 34, October 2004.

Curiously, the geographical distribution of the officers and committee has worked out as between Palmerston North (a provincial city, about 120 km north of Wellington), where Barry, I myself, and one committee member, Marjory Fox, live, and Dunedin, where the two other committee members, Lorna Ryder and Rhonda Hansen, are living. Since the AGM, we have had two committee meetings, by telephone, with Marjory and I coming to Barry's home, and the two Dunedin members coming together in Lorna's, or Rhonda's.

It was a very great pleasure to have the Clan Chisholm President, Merritt Chisholm, and his wife Bennie, who has done sterling work for the Canadian Branch, present at the AGM, and at the dinner in the evening at the Eden Café, in the course of their tour around Australia and New Zealand. At the meeting, Audrey Barney spoke about her ongoing work as Clan Historian, and made available her family tree charts and family history folders and photo albums. Audrey and Fay were both awarded Life Memberships of the Society, in appreciation of their dedication.

Since then, the one major event has been a gathering in the Kingsgate Hotel, Wellington, on Saturday 13 November, to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the arrival in Wellington, NZ, of Joseph Wilson Chisholm, the ancestor of some of us, including Audrey and myself, on 15 November 1854. It also served as the occasion for the launching of Audrey's third book, Chisholm Cameos: Joseph Wilson Chisholm's Yorkshire Ancestors and New Zealand Descendants, a very fine effort, and the culmination of two years' intensive work. Having been in a small measure involved, mainly in relation to my own family branch, I am very well aware of the horrendous amount of work she did in collecting and exhaustively checking out her information. She tried, moreover, to make her narratives lively and vivid, without violating their accuracy.

A substantial number of the descendants were present, including two from Australia and England. Joseph's wife had been Elizabeth Gell, and a few representatives of the Gell family also came to this meeting. In the afternoon, Gary Tonks took many of us for a walk around the nearby areas where the Chisholm and Tonks families (linked by several marriages) had lived in the 19th Century. On the following day we went to the regular morning service at the Taranaki Street Methodist Church, which the family had attended, many of them playing active roles in the activities of the church community; and in the afternoon we went to the Karori Cemetery, to visit the graves where Joseph, Elizabeth, and some of their descendants are buried. We appreciate the work of Jan Peleton, Anne O'Regan and Fay White, who organised the whole occasion.

Otherwise, it has been a gently yet steadily busy year for the Society's organisation. Fay and Michael clearly took considerable care to pass on documents, accounts and other materials to Barry Chisholm and myself in a tidy and well-organised state, for which we are grateful, and Fay met with Barry and myself to go over them. Society membership stands at about seventy-five members (Barry is overseas till later this month, so I can't check his latest figures).

Marjory Fox has accepted the role of keeping up to date the NZ sector of the [www.ClanChisholmSociety.org](http://www.ClanChisholmSociety.org) website. I have accepted the role of editor of the NZ contributions to the Chisholm Chronicles, whatever these may turn out to be. Audrey Barney is liaising with James Fitz-Gerald about linking-in her NZ genealogy database with the international genealogy database project.

It has been good, from other Clan Branches' newsletters, emails, and greetings cards, to have some contact with individuals overseas, whom I am getting to know even though we have not yet met face-to-face, and I greet you all.

Yours in Kinship, John C. Ross, President



President: John Ross 8 York Place, Palmerston North  
(06) 357 4614.

email: [j.c.ross@massey.ac.nz](mailto:j.c.ross@massey.ac.nz)

Secretary/Treasurer, Barry Chisholm,

Palmerston North : [chis@paradise.net.nz](mailto:chis@paradise.net.nz)



## 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Report of the Clan Chisholm Historian, Audrey Barney: April 23, 2005

As we start the second decade of having a Clan Chisholm Society in New Zealand, I felt that things might quieten down - that I had unearthed and mainly traced the Chisholm families that came to New Zealand, and once I had finished my current Chisholm book, all would be smooth and slow sailing. How wrong can you be.

For the major part of the year, my own Chisholm family had my undivided attention. I had a date to meet in November for a special Gathering of my own Chisholm family, to celebrate the 150 years our family had been in New Zealand -- and a book needed to be produced!! Long hours were spent on the computer, getting in touch with descendants, writing, editing and preparing for printing—but I got there and the Celebration in Wellington, organized by three of our Clan Chisholm members, Jan Peleton, Anne O'Regan and Fay White was a great success. So was the book, with all books now being sold! Our guests who travelled the furthest came from England, another from Queensland and there were eleven there, representing the NZ Clan Chisholm Society.

In the last weeks of the year, with Clan members having from my point of view been mercifully quiet, new members this year, presented work they had done on their family trees to be added to our database. Bev and Ian Chisholm's family are our first family to have come from Angus, and both Derek Chisholm and Mark Jordan, sent in additions to the family of Robert and Isabella Chisholm. Add to this, the additions to my own family, and it is not surprising to find just on another 300 names added to our database. Total now on the New Zealand database, 8635.

With most people who are interested in family history on internet, and with knowledge of the Clan Chisholm website, communication worldwide has become more common and much easier. I am quite regularly now getting e mails from Chisholms requesting help, and usually not for work within New Zealand. The advent of e mail has meant a big change. Currently, I have felt great to be able to introduce a Chisholm in Glasgow to another in Cambridge who wrote to me two years ago for help. They have common ancestors in Scotland in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Along with the work for our own New Zealand Chisholms, as our President has pointed out, the work internationally has increased. Last year I reported that I had sent our records on a floppy disk to England, for safe storage in the meantime. To my great relief, as my family tree programme is now "old", they were successfully loaded. 2004 saw the appointment of an International Database Co-ordinator from the States - Jim Fitzgerald, who has impressive qualifications in information technology. The work towards getting this international database up and running, is progressing logically and well under Jim's guidance, with active cooperation between all the genealogists. Such issues as to who should be on, who should have access and what we are hoping to achieve are all being debated. An important issue now decided is that there will be no entries for people born in the last 100 years, which means the individual genealogists will need to filter out all these folk before sending - a task I am not sure how I will manage!! It probably will mean switching to another Family Tree programme.

As well, as John has told you, and Robert in the Newsletter has reinforced, the International Society is hoping to produce a new Chisholm book and is asking all members to consider contributing. Again, this is requiring quite a lot of further research and writing, which is still going on for me.

So after all the hectic work of the last ten years, it looks as if the position of being a Clan Genealogist and Historian can still be a busy one. I feel my "use by" date is approaching fast, and would be interested in hearing if there is someone out there, who would consider an appointment as my deputy this year.

Acknowledgements: Thanks to all the contributors for their articles. In addition to her multiple contributions to this issue, Audrey has also kindly acted as proof reader and has helped a lot with the layout.

Pictures and text have been freely borrowed from various websites, including ClanChisholmSociety.org. I trust this usage is acceptable, the context and location generally indicates the source. Thank you to the various webmasters. Editor

## EUREKA!! FOUND!! - NEW ZEALAND'S FIRST CHISHOLM - JOHN MOFFATT CHISHOLM

By Audrey Barney

In family history, it is not unusual for verification of hunches to turn up unexpectedly after years, and so it has been with New Zealand's first known Chisholm - J. M. Chisholm who was reported as being in Kororareka (Russell) in December 1826 when he witnessed and signed a land claim document for Alexander Gray.<sup>(1)</sup> Chisholm was one of four Scotch mechanics<sup>(2)</sup> who set up a forge and sawpit there. In "Chisholm Pioneers in Colonial New Zealand"<sup>(3)</sup> some theories are looked at, as to who J. M. Chisholm might have been, and it now seems likely, one, if not two of these ideas is accurate.

On a recent visit to Jocelyn Chisholm in Eastbourne, Jocelyn casually mentioned that she had "found" the full Christian names for J.M. Chisholm. Jocelyn has been involved in writing on whaling ships and pre-Waitangi shipping to New Zealand for many years, and although when Chisholm Pioneers was being written she had kept a sharp eye out for JMC, she hadn't thought that a "Scotch mechanic" working in the sawpits, had later sailed on the whalers, which called into the Bay of Islands. Recently she noticed in Robert McNab's book "The old whaling days" (1913), that he cited a certificate, signed by James Busby, the British Resident in the Bay of Islands in December 1834, which stated in part that: -

"I certify that John Moffatt Chisholm a British subject, has this day appeared before me and declared that twenty casks containing about 3500 gallons more or less, of black oil, which has been shipped at this place, bound for Sydney...is "British caught" ... (4)

It fits!! By the beginning of the 1830s the Bay of Islands, had become a well-known stopping off place for whalers to refit, take on fresh water and provisions. With a whaler having a crew of twenty to thirty men, J. M. Chisholm would have not found it difficult if he had wanted, to obtain a crewing job on a whaler. By December 1834, according to Busby's statement, John Moffatt Chisholm must have had sufficient experience on whalers to sail off, obtain the oil, and then sell the black oil under his own name.

He well could have been aiming for a financial success such as this so as to be able to join his family in Australia as a "man of substance". He would be aware that two of his brothers were now living in Sydney and had set up a merchandising business.<sup>(5)</sup> The first known written records in Australia for John Moffatt Chisholm are however, not till September 1838, when he married in Melbourne. Unlike the rest of his family whose names all feature in Shipping Records, there has been no evidence found, as to how or when John Moffatt Chisholm reached Australia.

So after selling his oil in the Bay of Islands and seeing it cleared for shipping to Australia, John Moffatt Chisholm was able to arrive in Australia with money and move into the business world. This fits with the information that descendants of his Australian family have, indicating that from the time of his arrival he was involved in business and acceptable in the Melbourne social circle. John became a very successful and influential businessman and as early as mid 1839 the records show him buying rural land outside Melbourne and subscribing towards the construction of a schoolhouse for the Presbyterian Church.<sup>(6)</sup>

We cannot yet categorically say that J.M. and John Moffatt are one and the same man, though it does seem certain that when the Rosanna sailed with mainly "men from Fife" that Fife born John Moffatt Chisholm, as a twenty year old, was the J. M. Chisholm on board. That, as verified, at first J. M. Chisholm stayed in New Zealand being employed in the sawpits at Kororareka, and that it is likely he was the John Moffatt Chisholm who is now known to be an experienced whaler in the Bay of Islands, a few years later.

Perhaps there is yet more to be found about these whaling days of John Moffatt Chisholm, which would settle this definitely. In my book, the Chisholm Pioneers there is mentioned a steward, John Chisholm, who was on the whaler Vigilant between 1831 and 1833, while it was plying the Pacific under Captain Swain.<sup>(7)</sup> John Chisholm left the Vigilant in Sydney in the same month that John Moffatt Chisholm's brother arrived there. Was that a coincidence?

Is it also possible that this John Chisholm the steward, who records show to be an "honest man,"<sup>(8)</sup> is also John Moffatt Chisholm?? The movement of whalers between England and the Pacific make it entirely possible. Once more, time may lead to more reliable evidence.

(1)Lee, Jack I have named it the Bay of Islands. 1983,

(2)So named by Jack Lee, Dillon and Augustus Earle at least.

(3)See Barney, A.J. Chisholm Pioneers, pp.4-6

(4)McNab, Robert The old whaling days. p.269

(5)Two sisters also in the following years migrated to Sydney and a collection of orphaned nieces and nephews.

(6)Historical Records of Victoria, v3 and v.6.

(7)Pacific Manuscripts Bureau. Microfilm on the Log of Captain Swain. Alexander Turnbull Library

## Joseph Wilson Chisholm 150th Anniversary Gathering: Poem, Pictures

The Chisholms  
Descendants of Joseph & Elizabeth

150 years!

What changes have occurred  
since Joseph and Elizabeth  
arrived in New Zealand!  
Sailing ship to motor vessel,  
Horse, cart, to Model T  
and modern vehicle  
Hand cranked telephones  
to cell and radio phones  
Crystal set to radio  
Television  
The aeroplane, cloth, wired and wood  
to airship and modern jet  
bringing the world  
and the Chisholms together.  
Horse drawn trams  
to trams powered by steam  
and electricity  
All these and much more  
have the Chisholms seen  
as the family has grown  
and extended.

From the four corners of the earth  
they have come to Wellington  
New Zealand  
to celebrate the  
grandparents arrival here.  
What stories will be told!  
What photos will be seen  
What conversation will flow  
as memory recalls  
The CHISHOLM story  
we rejoice and celebrate!

Douglas Chisholm  
New Plymouth



The Grandchildren of Joseph and Elizabeth Chisholm

Back row: Douglas Chisholm (New Plymouth) and  
Wesley Chisholm (Palmerston North).

Front row: Joyce Ross (Wellington); Brian Chisholm (Wellington)  
and June Stewart (Christchurch)

### The celebration of Joseph Wilson Chisholm's arrival in Wellington, Nov 15, 1854. By Audrey Barney

On the weekend of Nov 13-14 2004, some of the descendants of Joseph and his wife Elizabeth, including eleven NZ Clan Chisholm society members, gathered in Wellington to mark this special occasion, which had been organized by three of our NZ Clan Chisholm members, Jan Peleton, Anne O'Regan and Fay White. It was marvellous to be able to welcome, one couple from England, who had never before been in the Southern Hemisphere, and Joy Whittingham from Queensland who until three years ago, didn't know she had any New Zealand roots. After 150 years, Joseph still has seven grandchildren living and it was a big occasion to welcome five of them (the men all NZ Clan Chisholm members) seen in the picture on page 3. Other than looking at all the mounted displays and family photos, the social gossip with good food, and the launching of the family book "Chisholm cameos", many of the group in the afternoon, followed Gary Tonks to look at the area where the Chisholms, the Gells and the Tonks had lived in the 1860s, about to be redeveloped into a Heritage Village. The morning activity on Sunday was a church service at the Chisholm's old church - the Taranaki Street Wesleyan Methodist Church, today, having services for four different ethnic groups. The Celebration finished with a visit to the Karori Cemetery, where not only Joseph and Elizabeth are buried, but many other younger members of the family. (picture overpage)



At the grave of their common ancestors, Joseph William Chisholm & Elizabeth Chisholm nee Gell  
Anticlockwise from front right:

John Ross, Audrey Barney, Fay White, Jan Peleton,  
Judith Howick (England), Anne O'Regan's daughters Sharon and Nikki

### International Clan Chisholm Gathering 22-29 July 2006 Inverness, Scotland



The UK Branch will host the 2006 International Clan Chisholm Gathering in Inverness. The Clan Chisholm Society's International Gathering will begin with the City of Inverness Highland Games on Saturday, the 22nd of July and will conclude with the Society's Annual General Meeting and an informal barbecue on Saturday, the 29th of July, 2006. The International Gathering will also feature excursions to Clan Lands, as well as evening ceilidhs and other activities. Additional details will be available soon on the clan website For more information, please email [Juliette and Ben Chisholm-Broomfield](mailto:jmhr@waitrose.com). (jmhr@waitrose.com)

If anybody is contemplating a trip to Scotland to the gathering, there are of course plenty of other things to do before or after. For those who prefer something on an organised basis, there are no doubt plenty of tours available. Organisers of two such tours, each with a specialist theme, have written to advise of their services. (see page 7). Check out Swordsman Tours, or Absolute Escapes, on the internet sites, to see what they offer.

Andy Gabe and Sheila Tulloch of "Absolute Escapes" (Edinburgh) write:

I am writing to inform you of a new Scottish Company that has recently been formed which may be of interest to you and your Society. The Company is called **Absolute Escapes Limited**, is based in Edinburgh and specialises in the management of Tailor-made Travel for groups and individuals. This could include anything from a Clan Gathering, to a visit to a major Scottish sporting event, or simply a holiday in Scotland. So if you've always wanted to walk the West Highland Way, island hop around the Western Hebrides or stay in a Highland Castle then please get in touch. We would be delighted to send you further details on Absolute Escapes and the packages that we offer. We can send you as many leaflets as you may need for distribution within your Society, or you can access our website at [www.escape2scotland.co.uk](http://www.escape2scotland.co.uk). We are always willing to discuss any Travel requirements you may have and are only too happy to provide you with a free quotation for your individual or group itinerary.



Urquart Castle on Loch Ness, of Historical significance to Clan Chisholm, is on one of the tours offered by "Absolute Escapes"

Blair Kerr of Swordsman Tours writes:

I have just set up a Scottish Historical tour company called Swordsman Tours and would be grateful if you would consider using my services should you decide to come to Scotland.

I have studied Scottish History, which I have a great passion for, to degree level gaining my honours degree from Aberdeen University and am therefore one of the most knowledgeable tour guides in the business.

Both the brainchild of and conducted by Blair Kerr, MA(Hons)Hist, Swordsman Tours aim to attract the consumer interested in seeing past, previous 'Braveheart,' and romanticised portrayals of certain turbulent periods in Scottish History, by offering a trio of historical day tours, that will not only educate and inspire, but give an insight into what REALLY happened and why.

[Tour 1 - The Wars of Independence 1296 - 1328](#)

[Tour 2 - Mary Queen of Scots and The Reformation](#)

[Tour 3 - The Jacobite Rebellion of 1745](#)



BLAIR KERR  
SWORDSMAN TOURS

[www.swordsmantours.com](http://www.swordsmantours.com)



## EXPATRIOT CHISHOLMS: Geoffrey Duncan Chisholm (1931-1994)

Surgeon, researcher, teacher, leader and caring friend.

It was an accident of birth, or place in family that saw Geoffrey Duncan Chisholm, the third and youngest son of Sedman Arthur (see below) and Ellen Chisholm find his career and so his adult life, outside New Zealand. His father's career had mainly been in the farming sector in Taranaki, - working as a livestock auctioneer in Hawera and Stratford between the wars. But just before the Second World War, his English owned livestock firm, Henry Lane and Co., transferred Geoffrey's father to London. Geoff at just eight accompanied his parents but his elder brothers, Ian at 14 and James at 16, were left behind in New Zealand boarding at Nelson College. With World War II in progress, Sedman's country needed his expertise, so in 1942, the family came back to New Zealand, with Sedman working in Wellington for the government for the duration. In the post-war era, further government promotion occurred which took Sedman Chisholm back to London with his wife, to represent the New Zealand Meat Producers Board. By now their elder sons were settled into working lives in New Zealand, but young Geoff who had been at Scot's College in Wellington, once more travelled to London with his parents, to finish his secondary education at Malvern College. Whether it was his Scottish heritage, or maybe his Uncle Percy's medical experiences, but Geoffrey chose St. Andrews College Medical Faculty in Dundee to undertake his undergraduate medical training, before going on to do Post Graduate work in Edinburgh and later London.

A remarkable career was underway. In London, where his parents were still living, Geoffrey became interested in urology, and after early training at the St. Peter's Hospital he moved to the well-respected Royal Postgraduate Medical School at Hammersmith, which had become the pioneering centre for developing renal transplants. Geoff never looked back, climbing steadily up the professional ladder and became considered internationally, as one of the great developers and innovators in his specialty. He is credited with over 400 contributions to surgical journals and spent sixteen years as editor of the British Journal of Urology.

When a vacancy became available at the Medical School at the University of Edinburgh in 1977, Geoff became the holder of the Chair of Surgery, and Director of the Nuffield Transplant Unit. He soon built a reputation as a superb teacher of both under and postgraduates, a great researcher and a natural leader of men. His leadership of medical organizations are too numerous to mention, though perhaps his most prized post was the Presidency of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh. For seventeen years his influence in the field of urology, both in the United Kingdom and internationally was well recognised, with awards and honours coming his way from almost every country, but the one of his birth, New Zealand.

His wife Angela, also a scientist, shared many of his artistic and other interests, while his sons Andrew and Ian, have followed him into medical related professions. His friends enjoyed his humour, considered him a warm and caring man, always ready to help others, whether they be students or colleagues. In 1978, he made his first return to New Zealand, since he had left in the middle of World War II and was able to have a "brother's reunion", with Ian and James for the first time in thirty-five years.

Article by Audrey Barney, with thanks to Geoffrey's brother Ian for valuable source material, including an Obituary from the British Medical Journal.

Footnote: Sedman was one of the grandsons of Duncan and Elizabeth Sedman, who arrived in New Zealand in 1858



Geoffrey Chisholm(right) on his first visit to NZ in 35 years, with brothers James and Ian

Newsletter Editor: Robert Chisholm 32 Warner Park Avenue, Laingholm Watakere City NZ  
09 817 7131 rrrroberto@clear.net.nz