



Clan Chisholm Society NZ
 Newsletter #39 September 2006

Editors note:

In this issue, Spring 2006, NZ President John Ross reports on his trip to The international gathering in Inverness. His reports includes a visit to a Highland market stall, apparently selling things to put under your kilt. What exactly that might include is revealed in an undercover photo taken a few years ago somewhere in America, see the last page.

Secretary Barry Chisholm has provided some photos taken at the gathering, and these, along with his captions, are reproduced on page 9.

Page 3 introduces you to the new President and executive, and pays tribute to the retiring President. Most of this info is freely available on the clan website, please visit www.clanchisholmsociety.org.

All this talk of Chisholm Presidents has got me going, so I will pose you a question , a little out of left field. Which Chisholm made a bid to become the President of the USA? Should be simple for those more than fifty something members.

Answer on page 8.

For those who could not attend the AGM Audrey's annual address to the NZ AGM is printed in full. This is a speech, and is written and printed as such. At the end of her address, Audrey points out how technology is taking genealogical research to new levels through DNA testing, and she lays down a challenge. For a follow -up see page 10.



This newsletter is produced for swift and economical electronic distribution in full colour. A black and white edition is printed and copied for all of our postal subscribers. The newsletter is distributed free of charge to all members of Clan Chisholm Society NZ , to Clan members on the International mailing list, and to several research or genealogical organisations.

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Calendar of Coming Events

Viking Exhibition currently on at Auckland Musuem. Part of this will be a DNA and genographics lecture on Sept20.

www.aucklandmuseum.com

November: The Auckland Highland games

REPORT on the CLAN GATHERING, INVERNESS, 22-29 July 2006
by John Ross

All went well, with a string of interesting happenings going reasonably smoothly, decent-enough weather, and good company.

Quite a few people stayed in the Chieftain Hotel, I stayed in the Royston Guest House a few minutes down the road one way, Donald Chisholm and his sister Betsy Higgins, from Carterton, stayed in a B&B in the other direction, and Barry Chisholm, with his son Alistair, heroically camped in a tent. The other members of Team New Zealand were the Southlanders Stewart & Teresa Stephen, and from Wellington, Anne & Shiley O'Regan



On the weekend before the gathering, some of us visited the local Highland Games, which offered the likes of competitive solo bagpiping, dancing of jigs, flings or reels by hoards of young girls, and hefty blokes heaving around heavy weights or trimmed tree-trunks. (the famous cabers). A Clan Village inside a big tent included a respectable Chisholm desk, and display, manned by Juliette and Ben Chisholm-Bloomfield. Sundry military displays invited you to join the British artillery or RAF. Other stalls offered fine whiskies at reduced prices, or things to wear under your kilt (like: socks).

Sunday evening featured the first of a string of social gatherings at the Chieftain Hotel, with live music, and dancing, varied (on Wednesday) . by a civic reception at Inverness's Town House, amiably hosted by the Provost (mayor).

Monday's coach tour to Glen Affric offered a green valley, with its lochs, much of it now given over to forestry, with nary a Chisholm crofter to be seen.

Tuesday's tour to a folk museum at Kingussie introduced us to a 'blackhouse', reconstructed from one that people had lived and died in on the Isle of Lewis in the Hebrides, with stone walls, a heavily thatched roof, and warmth provided by a peat fire in the middle of the floor of the main room, and by the cows in one of the two side-rooms (it must have been dark, smelly, smoky and damp). In the afternoon there was a sobering tour of the site of the Battle of Culloden, the last battle on British soil, in 1746, in which a hopelessly out-numbered, out-classed and incompetently-led Highland army was defeated in less than an hour, with many of the fleeing survivors later killed or enslaved. A Chisholm contingent took part, near the left side of the first line of the Jacobite army, but they were evidently too few for their dead to merit a separate gravestone. Several stones are marked as for 'Various Clans'. The battle's consequences put an end to the Highland way of life for ever. Sad.

Wednesday was free, apart from social events in the evening, but on Thursday we had a coach tour to Glen Strathfarrar, which had been, pre-Culloden, mainly a Fraser glen rather than Chisholm territory, saw something of a deer-farm there, and then lunched in Beaulieu and saw something of this town, and the ruins of its priory. On Friday, we went by coach to Glen Cannich, like Glen Affric historically Chisholm territory but now almost empty of people, and given over to hydro schemes. As in Glen Affric, being able to walk and scramble around a bit was good value; and a keen young Canadian took the chance to play his bagpipes from a high knob. Then we moved on to Erchless Castle, once the seat of The Chisholm, now owned and well-looked-after by a genial man called Maurice Robson, and had a good look inside, and a wander around the grounds, with an ample lunch. It was rather more a large country house than a traditional castle, but a handsome building, inside and out, all the same

On the Saturday morning, the FORMAL BUSINESS meeting take place, in a scout-hall at the edge of Inverness, with Val Chisholm Perry (USA) being elected president in place of Merritt Chisholm, who had honourably completed his five years, and was presented with a silver quaich (a two-handled whisky bowl, as you already knew). With candidates for election pre-arranged, it was all over in less than an hour; and a barbecue lunch completed the programme.

Much credit is due to Juliette and Ben, and to the Secretary, Susan Chisholm of Chisholm, who organised everything. Altogether, the gathering included about 50 Brits, 50 Americans, 45 Canadians, and 9 New Zealanders, with not one Australian, a pity since I'd hoped to meet some of them.

Meet the President

Val Chisholm Perry, President , Clan Chisholm Society



Val Perry's great,great,grandfather, The Pioneer, came to Nova Scotia from Scotland, ca 1832 with his wife and three young children. Val's great grandfather, William Chisholm, was the youngest of the three. Some years later, Val's Grandfather Kenneth Chisholm, left his parent's farm outside Antigonish and moved to the Boston area in search of work, and settled in Sommerville, where he and his wife raised a family of nine children. Val's father, John Valentine Chisholm Snr, and his siblings in turn, married and raised their families in this area. There are now three more generations of the family residing all over the United States who are proud of their Scottish heritage.

Borne and raised in Boston, Val now resides in Keene, New Hampshire, with her husband Jack and two children. Val has had the pleasure of traveling to many parts of the US and Scotland to meet other Chisholm's at re-unions, highland games and gatherings.

She attended her first Chisholm gathering in Antigonish, Nova Scotia, in1978, the first of many gatherings that she would attend. Her parents and siblings joined her in hosting a Clan Chisholm tent at a local Highland games many years ago. The tent was a gathering place for immediate family, aunts and uncles, cousins and distant kin over the years. Although the location may vary and the faces may change, it is a tradition which continues.

Val became a member of Clan Chisholm Society in the 1970's. She was appointed editor of the US Branch newsletter in 1984, and was later elected Secretary/Treasurer. Val served as US Branch chairman from 1994 through July 2006, while also serving the international Society as Vice President from May 2002 through July 2006, when she was elected President of the Clan Chisholm Society.

(reprinted from Clan Chisholm Website)

Immediate Past President Merrit Chisholm



Merrit has worked hard and achieved a great deal in his 5 year term of office. Read his 2005 report on the Clan website. Merrit was the first "colonial" to take up this, the highest position within Clan Society Executive. Looking towards the colonies for suitably qualified talent was however a precedent established in the Chiefly dynasty, as in 1858, James Sutherland Chisholm, also of Canada, became the 27th chief.

(Read how, page 114 reprinted edition of Mckenzie's History of the Chisholms) .

Key achievements of the Society during Merrit's presidency were:

Revised Constitution, Clan Website, Renaissance Fund, Reprint of McKenzie's "History of the Chisholms", International Genealogical Database ,33% increase in membership.



Secretary- Treasurer:
Susan Chisholm of Chisholm



Vice President
Juliette Chisholm -Broomfield



Vice President
Ian Chisholm



Int. Genealogical Database
Co-ordinator
Jim Fitz-Gerald

Talking Chisholms, 2006

Audrey Barney

(annual address to AGM)

Today is the twelfth time I have stood before you all and "talked Chisholms". They have been twelve very busy years, gathering material for a Chisholm archive, researching our Chisholm family in many different records, and trying to keep it all filed sensibly for the future. Sadly, because of the amount of material I have gathered, I'm finding that my filing is not as logical, wise, and neat as it possibly could be! Too much material doesn't neatly fit into one category often, though I have worked on the maxim "Don't throw away anything!" So I know if I hunt long enough, it will turn up!



Over the last few months I have had occasion to look at some of the material I gathered in those first few years, and find it incredible how much research and the way of collecting material has changed. Fay and Michael will also remember vividly the way we used to visit the LSD Family History Centre, peer through the microfiche and order a film, only to have to wait sometimes three, sometimes six months for it to arrive, and then sit and scroll, scroll, scroll, through a film barely legible- and come away with nothing. They will remember too, the letters written overseas that never got a reply, and the frustration of documents that were too faint to be read. But with the frustrations there were obviously great discoveries and many friendships formed, and new relatives found, working in a similar area.

One of my earliest finds, when visiting the Alexander Turnbull Library, was the name of a man in Sheffield, who had written to the library from England, wanting help with part of his family who had migrated to Wellington-the Tustin family, which was my Grandmother Chisholm's maiden name. Today, that man, living and still involved in family history in Sheffield, is one of my best friends and contacts for my Chisholm family. We have worked closely for nearly twenty years, and he has unearthed some absolute treasures in Sheffield, which I would never have had the access or the local knowledge to find. And he still doesn't communicate by computer!

Today, the computer is king-an unruly, not to be anything but correct, frustrating, but oh so valuable monster. The finds for the Chisholms over this last year would mainly not have happened if I hadn't had the ability to use a computer. But even so, I really am technically illiterate, and wishing I had been born 40 years later.

Our Clan Chisholm Parent Society took a big step forward, five years ago, when Helen Chisholm Black in the States somewhere, was appointed webmaster with the job of setting up a website for the Clan Chisholm Society. Its amazing just how popular that site has become, and how it has made contact possible for many.

Two stories of this year's discoveries as a result of this website can be told.

Firstly, from my own family-and that of John Ross, and Brian Chisholm. In 2004 our Chisholm family had a Reunion to celebrate the 150th year since our Joseph Chisholm had arrived in Wellington, and I had written and published the family's story. Joseph arrived in Wellington, and he and his wife Elizabeth had eleven children, all of whom lived and married and had children of their own. In all they had 32 grandchildren, and in the end 31 grandchildren were found and 31 were written about.

But, as reported in my Annual Report, there was one granddaughter, Hazel, who had been born in Queensland to Alfred Chisholm, who had simply disappeared and could not be found. Every creative method of researching was undertaken on both sides of the Tasman, but nothing was found other than that she was alive at eight years of age when her only brother was born in Queensland. She hadn't married in any of the Australian States, all who keep separate registers, nor had she died in any Australian state. Searching was extended to NZ and the UK, unsuccessfully. But this year one of her descendants found me! How?

Hazel's father Alfred had left NZ as a young man, and lived the rest of his life in Queensland, and was either a bad writer of letters or had become estranged from his NZ family. All contact was lost, though John Ross's mother remembers her father saying that the Minister at the Wesleyan Taranaki Street church had had a letter from a minister in Cairns to say Alfred had died, but no one had remembered when. Queensland records are not accessed easily, but eventually I was able to verify records for this family up to about 1920, and there it stopped, till one Saturday afternoon about five years ago. I had at least five friends who knew of my interest in

things Chisholm, who emailed me and told me there was somebody on a Wellington computer mailing list looking for the family of Alfred Wilson Chisholm, and could I help? I couldn't believe it-my reply was swift, and Robyn Rayner, Alfred's great granddaughter and I swapped our information and started working together. She had only just discovered that her family had NZ contacts. But for Robyn too, Hazel, her great Aunt, had never been heard of past the age of eight, when her age was entered on Robyn's grandfather's birth certificate. Alfred and his wife had parted, and it seems from what little is known from the family story, it was not an amicable parting, and his only son (Robyn's grandfather) refused to talk about his background to his children, and it had not even been handed down that Alfred was NZ born and raised. However Robyn's mother did remember there were some cousins she had known as a child, and so eventually and with a lot of hard work in Queensland by Robyn and her mother Joy, good contact was made with the second of Alfred's children and her descendants. But of Hazel, there was nothing from the Australian side either. So this chapter of the book had eventually to be closed off and published without any knowledge of Hazel once she had turned eight.

Fast forward nine months. An email came from an unknown Carolyn McGregor, with no indication of where in the world she lived, just saying: "I recently came across your website detailing the NZ branch of my Chisholm family. Joseph Wilson Chisholm was my Great-Great-grandfather. My Great-grandfather was Alfred Wilson Chisholm, his son, who immigrated to Australia around 1890. My mother, who is in her 90's has only sketchy details from her mother of the New Zealand side of her family, and would be delighted to hear about them."

There was much quick e-mailing-oh what a change from waiting weeks for letters, and yes, Carolyn's mother was Hazel's daughter, and was living in Sydney. Robyn and Joy became involved and were as thrilled as me.

Why hadn't we been able to find Hazel?? Well, whoever transcribed the original marriage records in Brisbane, called Hazel "Hope", and as Hope Chisholm marrying, she was literally lost forever! She had moved to Sydney when her marriage failed, and never saw her brother or sister again. If the Clan Chisholm website hadn't existed, and Carolyn hadn't found it and got in touch, then we would never have found Hazel!

But now to the second story researched by email connections across the world-this time to Canada and, as reported in my annual report, with the past president of the Clan Chisholm Society of Canada, Ian Chisholm of Vancouver Island. I can't remember just how I started helping Ian with his research, but 4-5 years ago, we jointly worked out that there was a possibility that his grandfather, Alexander Bain Chisholm, was part of our editor Robert's family in Breakachy, as in Robert's family tree there is an Alexander Bain Chisholm, was born in the same year, and in both cases the father was John, born in Kilmorack. Also, both families were Catholic. But in this game you can never assume, and as we attempted to verify, a few names didn't seem right, so Ian sent off for his Alexander Bain Chisholm's birth certificate, and when it came back an email to me quickly followed-we had been on completely the wrong tack!. There had been two Alexander Bain Chisholms, both born to a father John Chisholm of Kilmorack, but his Alexander Bain Chisholm's parents were John Chisholm and Catherine Grant, whereas Robert's were John Chisholm and Jessie Bain. Dearth of Christian names in Scotland really makes life difficult at times!! But-amazing! With the new details from the birth certificate, I was able to immediately email back to Ian and say "we still have a New Zealand connection". And what's more, I have lots of material on this second family. His Alexander Bain was the brother of William Farquarson Chisholm who came to NZ with his family in the 1880's-the great grandfather of Bruce and Roland Chisholm, members of our society from Christchurch.

So here was another Chisholm connection with two bits of a family, one part going to Canada, another New Zealand. But more was to come. I haven't as yet talked about the international database, but when the first basic index got online for initial testing by committee members, as a member of the team, Ian was checking, and found to his great delight, the parents of his first Aberdeenshire ancestor, John. He'd known that John's parents were John Chisholm and Janet MacDonald, and knew they were from Kilmorack. But again, he found they actually came from a Breakachy family (like Robert's John), from a house called Cruinassie, and living in fact right next door was the John Chisholm of Robert's family. A small world!

The e-mails were once more flying fast between New Zealand and Canada, as again I had a lot of material on this family from Breakachy. Two of Ian's great grandfather John's brothers had gone to Australia, and much later one descendant of another brother had come to NZ, while one part of the family lived in Breakachy until the 1970's-Kate Chisholm, who at the time of her

death in 1974 was the only inhabitant of Breakachy. I'd researched and had contacts with them all, in particular with Sheila Porter of Australia, who was known to many of our members.

But perhaps the biggest thrill of all was that this John, Ian's ancestor who had gone to Aberdeenshire, had been lost to his Kilmorack family since at least the time of McKenzie, who wrote the History of the Chisholms in 1891. McKenzie wrote of this John in the chapter on the Cadet family of Lietre, that he "emigrated early in life and nothing is known of him". Guess you could say that going to Aberdeenshire was emigrating! But also through McKenzie Ian is now able to link his family into the Cadet family of Lietre. If you are confused by all that, Ian has written about the excitement of finding his family roots in the 2006 Clan Chisholm Journal.

In the last year the really big, exciting, and interesting development for the Clan Chisholm has been the development of the International database. This has been extremely time consuming for me-though of necessity, because of my technical ignorance, I have often just sat on the sidelines. Security and privacy has been of utmost concern for most of those on the committee-these are the genealogists from each country represented on the database committee.. It is felt that members only should access the index, and discussion has been endless about such things as verification of information, passwords, downloading information from the site etc, and always somebody from the committee threatening to resign if their idea isn't accepted. We, the genealogists, have had access to the index from around Christmas, and already it has proved its worth, as you can see from the story of Ian Chisholm's discoveries. If the information is available, the index will give you the name of the person, date and place of death, and the name of who provided the information. But how you, the general member, accesses the database has yet to be decided.

It has really been the amount of ongoing work on this database which has led me to try and break up the job of Historian and genealogist, which I have been doing over the last twelve years, and to share the load before departing the scene. To this end, and with all the family trees loaded on my laptop after days and days of work, I have been able to download all this information on to two of the Palmerston North committee's computers. Theoretically it should be possible for any member who has a computer, to access this information now. Perhaps this is an idea our committee should consider. In all, I have sent to the International Database in America information re pre 1906 births for 26 of our NZ families.

Another very pleasant surprise this year was the unexpected arrival in the post of a small booklet, the oral history of one of our members, Brian Chisholm. Was thrilled to get this, as this is the sort of thing I have envisaged, and hoped that many of our members could do to preserve our Chisholm history-to write on themselves or on relatives. Margaret Whitford was writing about a cousin of hers when I got Brian's booklet, so I suggested to her that she followed Brian's example and she has put her story on Donald Kennedy into this format. I am ever hopeful that more members will get writing.

This year has also seen quite a lot of new information on the family of Robert Chisholm of the Whau. (The Whau formed the western edge of early Auckland, now engulfed by Avondale-Waterview, Rosebank Industrial Estate, and North West Motorway. ed) As reported in newsletters in full, I found an interesting website which led me to Wilfred Opawa Rutherford, a great grandson of Robert's. Two other people, with links to Robert of the Whau, also found me through the Clan Chisholm website. Firstly, an Auckland architect, wanting information on one Robert Chisholm who had built a house in Burrows Avenue, Parnell, 1863. With the architects information, I was able to find the house and get a photograph for the Archives. The other contact came from Michael Horton, of Wilson and Horton (proprietors of NZ Herald) , whose grandmother was Jessie Chisholm, daughter of Whau Robert. And so it carries on-I have to confess I find this all very interesting.

Another unusual find this year related to one of my own Sheffield Chisholms. I was reading an article in a Family History magazine about unusual sources worth checking-the author's topic that month was "Musicians in non-conformist churches in the late 19th century"- and finished with a three page list of musicians covered in this small obscure book. And-not surprisingly to me, there was one of my grandfather Chisholms first cousins, Herbert Chisholm Jackson. But then the difficulty-how to get a copy of what was about him in this book? Well, genealogists are often pretty cheeky in trying to get information, so I emailed the author of the article, c/o the family History Monthly, and tried to forget that he was one of the leading professional genealogists in the UK, and lo and behold, on Christmas morning, I received the best present a genealogist can get-an email with a photo and a rundown on the life of one Herbert Chisholm Jackson.

Yes, over the last twelve years as Internet sites have matured, there have been big changes in our ability to find our ancestors easily. But a further change is more than in the air, and one, which I personally feel, will make significant differences in the way we look for and view our distant Chisholm origins. I talk of DNA testing as a tool for searching the roots of our ancestry. The techniques are now well established, websites and registries exist, and the whole movement is gathering speed.

Perhaps some of you saw an "Inside New Zealand" programme, where a Maori lad and his Samoan friend had their DNA tested, and it led them back to ancestors in isolated villages on the Eastern side of Taiwan. Or another BBC programme recently on the racial origins of George Washington. I listened with fascination a month ago, to one of our local genealogists on the Hibiscus Coast, giving an account of how he had discovered, after he had had DNA tests done for part of the National Geographic DNA programme, how his paternal ancestors had migrated from the Rift Valley in Africa. These tests showed how his paternal family, after hundreds of generations, had ended up just north of London by the 15th century!

So: How might this affect the Chisholms? Our ethnic origin has long been disputed. A scanned book I picked up on the internet recently, which had been written as early as 1836, spoke of the Chisholms, along with the Frasers, the Menzies, and the Stewarts, as "being foreigners in the Highlands." Mckenzie, writing in the 1890's, dwells on this at length, and cites many authors he has read, checking out Chisholm origins. He discusses the possibilities of our background being Norse or Viking, coming into Caithness in the north as well as raiding into many of the western isles; Celtic generally from Europe New Stone Age, inhabiting Ireland and later raiding into Scotland; Pictish from very early tribes; Anglo-Norman from soon after the time of William the Conqueror, and even considers Saxon, with some early authors going as far as saying that Chisholms were, about the time of the Norman conquest in an area just east of Carlisle. Here they were known as de Chese, and this had holme added when a Norman de Chese married a Saxon de Chese, to form the de Cheseholmes.

But up till a few years ago, 20th century Chisholms could take it no further on than this early written conflicting evidence. Gradually it was the Anglo-Norman who eventually won the ancestry stakes, with written verifications of Chisholms in the Ragman Rolls of 1296, which cite Richard de Che·ehelm, del counte of Rokeburgh, and his son, John de Che·ehelm of Berwick, as being Anglo - Norman. But personally, I don't feel that's the whole story. It was less than 50 years later, that Richard's grandson Sir Robert, married Anne Lauder, daughter of the keeper of Urquhart Castle on Loch Ness, and we find the Norman Chisholms permanently settled in the north, and becoming the Highland Chiefs and cadet families that we know of today. But what of the folk who were working for them? Had they also come north at the time of Richard de Chesholme and were also Anglo Norman, or could they have been of earlier raiding tribes as the Picts, Vikings, or Scots. We can now look to DNA testing to see.

This is certainly a big new challenge. I would like to suggest to John, and those of you who are hoping to be in Inverness in July, that by the time of the AGM they have thought about this, and come up with some ideas on how the Clan could get involved in DNA testing as an ongoing project. Other Clans, such as the McMillans, are already doing this with a central DNA registry on their website for those members who have already had their DNA tested. In fact there is a project called The Scottish Clans DNA Project already up and running and being contributed to, by various clans. To discover our ethnic origin, our DNA analysis will carry a genetic code from father to son, or from mother to daughter. This will go back over hundreds of generations, so enabling researchers to identify the location of our distant ancestors thousands of years ago, and the migration routes which they followed.

So the knowledge wave on finding our background and ancestors has taken giant steps in the last few years. From putting on gloves in a Record Office to inspect yellowed and crumpled documents three to four hundred years old, which would hopefully help us to verify our family back another generation, to being able to have a simple saliva swab taken, which will enable us to trace the ethnic background of our ancestors through hundreds of generations.



Fronds of the Fern

With sadness we have to record the passing of Marian Cotton, beloved daughter of our Society's most senior member, Jessie Small. To the whole family of Marion, the Clan Chisholm society extends its condolences and deepest sympathy.

Not the U.S. President Chisholm 1972

But if it was, there would have been more than a few changes around Washington DC.

No more “ No Mr President”, it would have been “ Yes Madam President”, and as for the White House, well that might have come in for a name change. However, in 1972, America was not ready for a woman in the top job, nor for a “coloured” President. It seems they are still not ready, but thanks to people like Shirley Chisholm, such an event is no longer unforeseeable, though perhaps not all rolled up into one person .

Shirley achieved her Chisholmhood through choice, via marriage, and some would say that choosing to be a Chisholm was an indicator of superior intellect. It has been reported that superior intellect is not a pre-requisite for the Presidency, indeed some commentators believe that it can be a handicap. Shirley herself, when retrospectively assessing her career, said that being woman was a greater barrier than being black.

Shirley was born in New York to West Indian parents, and was educated in the British School system in Barbados. She won a State Assembly seat in 1964, and in 1968 she was elected by New Yorkers to the US Congress, thus becoming the first African-American woman to enter that body. In 1970 she was co-founder of “NOW” (National Organisation of Woman).

Her Presidential Bid was made in 1972, and then she became the first woman to be seriously considered for nomination. She received 151 votes at the Miami Convention, creditable, but not enough to secure the Democratic Nomination. The Democrats went on to lose the election, and the world got Richard Nixon and Watergate.

Her achievements are too many and too great to list in this newsletter. Try googling her, she is one of the most written about Chisholms, on the internet over half a million results.



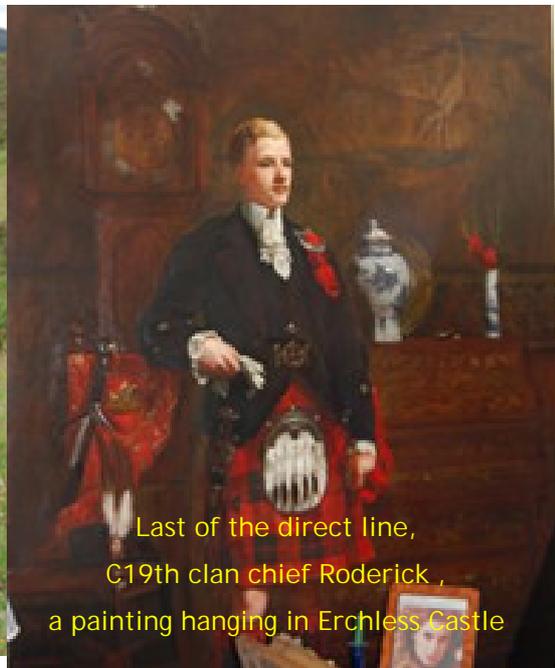
Shirley Chisholm campaigns for the presidency in 1972.

Shirley Anita St.Hill Chisholm 1924-2005

“ Unbought and Unbossed”



Alistair and Barry Chisholm by a Chisholm memorial plaque in Glen Affric.



Last of the direct line, C19th clan chief Roderick, a painting hanging in Erchless Castle



Provost House, Inverness, with a Chisholm sword captured at Culloden, and the Chisholm crest at the top of the window



The Gathering of the Clan 2006



Clan Chieftain Chisholm of Chisholm cuts a celebratory cake, observed by retiring international clan president Merritt Chisholm of Canada.



The nine Clan Chisholm of New Zealand members present at the Gathering, flanked by the two organizers of the Inverness Tattoo

Clan DNA project? Update from page 7 by the editor

That Audrey women is certainly a stirrer, and genealogists in particular never want to leave a mystery unsolved. And once they unravel a little mystery, what do they find, another mystery, always harder to solve than the first. If Sisyphus was a saint, the genealogists should have chosen him as their patron.

Encouraged by Audrey, I have investigated, via internet, some of the DNA projects. I have also written to Society President, Val Chisholm Perry, to see if a Clan wide approach can be adopted. Val will be giving this matter serious consideration, and will be taking it to the Clan Council for further discussion.

I have also found that in fact at least one Chisholm DNA project has been started, and the administrator of this project, a genealogist in California, working with Clans Matheson and Macrae, and well versed in the way DNA relates to genealogy, has been most helpful and encouraging.

As Audrey alluded to in her speech, a clan research project would need to focus on male Chisholm DNA samples. A female can do DNA testing, but it would be testing for different things. If a Chisholm woman was keen to test for her Chisholm heritage, she would need to obtain a sample (saliva) from a close male relative, father, brother, uncle, cousin, but definitely not from her son. This is because the testing will be done on the Y chromosome, which fortunately does not exist in most females.

Will an official Clan Chisholm DNA project be set up to complement to International Genealogical Database? Should one be set up? Do you have any thoughts on the matter? Watch this space!

Clan Chisholm Society(NZ) 2006 Annual General Meeting

This year's AGM was held on 22 April in the lounge of the Wesley-Broadway Church complex, in Broadway Avenue, Palmerston North. As in past years, Audrey Barney provided a fine display of Chisholm family history family trees, and other documents, and photographs. In the morning, after a period of general socialising, she presented a talk on her more recent investigations in family history.

In the formal business, in the early afternoon, following the presentation of various reports, the previous office-holders and committee were re-elected for a further year. Later, several of us went for a drive up the Saddle Road, from Ashhurst, to view the new windfarm, with its giant generators. In the evening we went to the South Asian Restaurant in George Street for dinner.

As mentioned in my report, the international genealogy database project is moving along reasonably well. So far, relatively few artefacts have been listed on the artefacts register, and we hope to get more. The 'Chisholm Chronicles' project still awaits the appointment of a general editor, to replace Helen Chisholm-Black, who has had to resign because of other commitments. Helen has likewise done grand work on the website, but is also having to retire as webmaster and a new person for this role is to be appointed (at the time of writing, there are three good candidates).

Locally, our major worry is that Audrey Barney, after all the gallant work that she has done, as Clan Historian and Clan Genealogist, now feels she must retire from these roles, and we need one or more other people to come forward and carry on these roles. She has put her files on a disc, in the Heritage programme, and several other people have been able to download them on to their own computers.

If you out there, reading this, have an interest in participating in one or other of these roles, please get in touch with Barry Chisholm, or myself. John C. Ross

Never give up!

For descendants of Joseph Wilson Chisholm: A lesson in "never give up". Five years ago, Audrey posted a request on a Rotherham mailing list website requesting anyone who had information on her earliest ancestor, Hugh Chisholm, who married in Rotherham in 1795, to get in touch. An e mail in reply, arrived, in July 2006, from a Gordon Chisholm whose g.g.g. grandfather, James (1798-1865) was the brother of Audrey's g.g. grandfather Daniel Chisholm(1802-1879) He was as surprised as she.

How had she missed this Chisholm link?? Gordon's family were illiterate up to about 1895, and so gave their information to census takers with the result there was not one Chisholm name spelt correctly in official records. Gordon's g.g.grandfather died at 36 after 8 years of marriage, and three children were buried with him. There was no record found of any other children. His wife Esther disappeared, but if only Audrey had known, from then on when she remarried, and in censuses she was named Eliza!!! Gordon was a great grandson of the fourth child in the family, Walter. Audrey's grandfather is also Walter! and she had not known that Walter was a Chisholm name. There was just three years between these two Walters.

Highland Archive Centre:

The UK Heritage Lottery Fund has recently granted £4.3 million towards the construction of a new Highlands Archive Centre to be built in Inverness, with secure archive storage, environmentally controlled and with a Family History Centre within the building for the likes of Chisholms wishing to trace their ancestry.

How to figure out your distant relatives.

Sometimes its confusing working out how people are related, particularly if the common ancestor is getting back quite a few generations. The Relationship Chart printed over the page should help you. Here are some Clan Chishom NZ examples, starting with an easy one.

Audrey Barney & John Ross share the same great grandfather, Joseph William Chisholm, who is the grandfather of another member, Brian Chisholm. Follow the instructions on the chart, and you will find that this would make Audrey and John 2nd cousins, while Brian is a 1st cousin, once removed.

How about the rest of the committee? Lorna Ryder, Rhonda Hanson and Marj. Fox are all from one family -- the same family as Jessie Small. The most recent common ancestor is William Chisholm.

Jessie Small is a grand-daughter (father Thomas Chisholm

Lorna Ryder is a great grand-daughter (grandfather James Chisholm)

Marj Fox is a great granddaughter, (grandfather George Chisholm)

Rhonda Hanson is a great great grand-daughter (great grandfather George Chisholm)

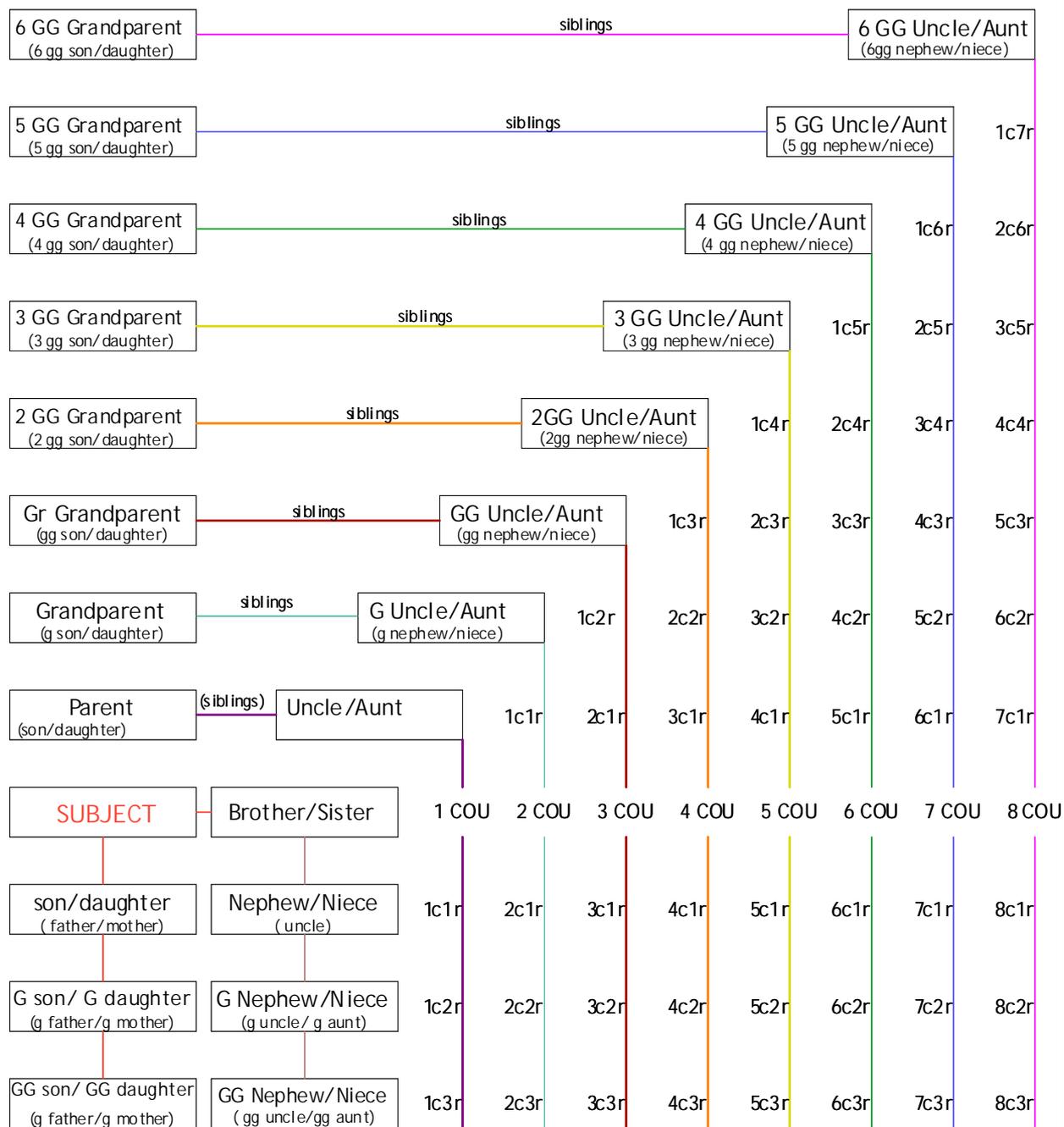
Looking at Rhonda Hanson, Jessie is her 1c2r (1st cousin twice removed), while Lorna is her 2c1r

Looking at Jessie, Rhonda is 1c2r, Marj is Jessies 1c1r, and Marj's mother is Jessies 1st cousin.

Looking at Lorna, Jessie would be 1st cousin once removed, Marj is 2nd cousin, and Rhonda is Lorna's 2nd cousin once removed (2c1r).

Jump back to Rhonda and look at her relationship to Marj Fox. Given only the information above, it is possible to draw a conclusion that Rhonda is either the daughter of Marj, or following the chart, their relationship could be 1c1r. Therefore more information is needed to draw a correct conclusion. In actual fact, Rhonda's grandfather Jack, is a brother to Marj's mother Mary. This further information proves the relationship to be 1c1r.

Relationship Chart



c=cousin; r= generations removed; ggparent=great grandparent

to determine the relationship of yourself or a subject to somebody else, place the person in the subject box, and simply follow the vertical line to the most recent common ancestor, drop down one line, move horizontally along the sibling line and work down the appropriate number of generations to the other person.

The reverse relationship is shown in brackets, otherwise the relationship is the same for both parties

What would you buy to put under a kilt? ..

From page 2

Do you have anything to share in the newsletter. Some piece of your own Chisholm family history?

Something current? A local event which you think may be of interest. Perhaps a theme or a specific topic which you would like to see bought into the next edition of the newsletter.

Just phone, write, or e-mail to the editor. Your feedback is most welcome.

Your views on a possible

Clan Chisholm DNA project would be most welcome.



Hmm, Can't see any socks there John, perhaps we need to switch to a reverse angle camera?

Website of the month:

Have you been to www.electricscotland.com? Its more than a website, it's a portal into a multitude of various websites, all with a Scottish theme. For an easy to read, but very comprehensive, History of the Highlands, this site is recommended. In addition to all the links, there is a weekly newsletter, and a Calendar of Scottish Events around the world.



ELECTRICSCOTLAND.COM

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Notice:

Clan Chisholm members living in the Northern Region, your society needs YOU! The next annual gathering and AGM will be held in Auckland, in April next year. Now is the opportunity to become more involved in Society Affairs, don't just sit back, and read the newsletter every few months. Help your society to organize and host the next gathering. A separate mailout to all Waikato, Auckland, and Northland members, seeking your assistance, will follow .

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