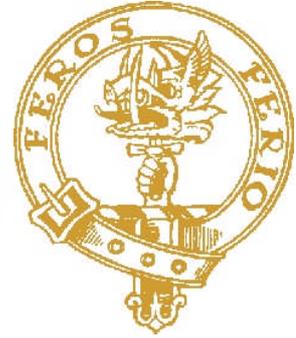




Clan Chisholm Society NZ

Newsletter #54 October 2012



Editor's note:

Greetings to the Clan:

Here is the late Spring issue of your newsletter. I trust that there are articles of interest for you, and remind you that we would like to hear your stories, and publish them in the newsletter.

Much of this issue is devoted to some of the formalities arising from the AGM held earlier this year. There are a few pages of pictures of some of the faces seen at the meeting.

On page 13 there is a little plug for one of the world's great fiddle players. This month, Duncan Chisholm has released the final album in his Strathglass Trilogy. The first two albums are "Farrar", "Canaich", and now we have "Affric". Chisholms should be aware that these albums are named after the three river valleys which pour

from the Highlands into Strathglass. As you go upstream on the Glass, the first valley is Glen Strath Farrar. This joins the Glass near Erchless Castle, and though it's the domain of Fraser of Lovatt, many Chisholms have ancestral connections there, including the Southland family whose ancestor last lived at Deanie. Further upstream, opposite Comar, the ancient seat of The Chisholm, is Glen Cannich, once home to a great number of Chisholm clansfolk, and branches of the Chief's family, such as Lietre and Muckerach. Following the clearances, it was home to an even greater number of sheep, and since the 1950's it is home to a large body of water, having been flooded to provide for the Highland Hydro electric system.

Finally at the head of the River Glass, near Knockfin, is the commencement of Glen Affric, generally acknowledged as a beautiful part of the Highlands. Both Cannich and Affric were part of The Chisholm's estate. The visit to Duncan Chisholm's website is worth the visit. Browse the pages and you will find an interview with Duncan, and you will be able to hear some of the music. If you like it, don't be afraid to buy it, it's all very simple now with downloads.

Barry has been continuing with his History articles, and this edition he writes about John Simpson Chisum, well known in the annals of the old West. Audrey's History report to the AGM is published in this newsletter. On the topic of history, I have added a little piece on the Battle of El Alamein. The 70th anniversary commemoration of the Allied Offensive is now in progress, with 21 Kiwi participants attending in Egypt. Readers may be aware that the New Zealand Division played a major role in this battle, in fact our Division ended up organising the final breakthrough, with General Freyberg in command of the Highlanders and the other British regiments, and Armoured Brigades.

Slán, and happy reading. Merry Christmas
And never forget, Feros Ferio!

Acknowledgements: Thanks to the following for contributing to this newsletter:

John Ross, Barry Chisholm, Audrey Barney, Alistair Chisholm, Ashley Chisholm

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From the President

President: John Ross, 8 York Place,
Palmerston North

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Dear Chisholm people,

Hope all's going well with you and yours, as we move into the warmer days of late spring and early summer.

Those of us who are, like myself, in our seventies, and have them, can enjoy, without responsibility (as the commonplace has it), the company of our grandchildren, and grand-nieces and -nephews, as they are born, grow, and explore their worlds. On the other hand, bits of one can wear out, and I've been getting over a knee joint replacement operation a couple of months ago, and am now appreciating the advantages of it. How many of you have had hips or knees "done"?

Once again, we had our annual gathering in the Miramar Uniting Church Hall on 5 May, and we are most grateful to the local members who organised things.

Coming up, for members in the Wellington region, on Saturday 10 November there is the Highland Gathering in Harcourt Park, Upper Hutt, 9.30am to 4pm. Also, on Sunday 25 November, there will be a celebration of St Andrew's Day (which is strictly on 30 November, a Friday, this year), at Frank Kitts Park in Wellington, from 1pm to 4pm, again with a variety of piping, traditional and modern music of other kinds, Highland dancing, Clan displays and the like. We will have a Chisholm presence at the first of these occasions, and I hope very much at the second as well. There may be similar events in other parts of the country. Do support them if you can. If you would like to have copies of the Clan Chisholm membership leaflet to distribute please contact me.

As you'll gather from other items in this newsletter, Audrey Barney and I have been working away at investigating and writing up the experiences of Chisholms who served in the two world wars. She has completed her work on World War I individuals. I'm still plodding away on those in the Second World War, and would be grateful for whatever you out there could share about your own family members.

All best wishes

John Ross (President, CCS of NZ)

If readers turn to page 9, you will see as part of the photo montage, the armed, dangerous, and kilted John Ross, addressing the poor wee haggis. For those wondering what he saying during this action piece of the address, see the text adjacent. John did a great rendition of Burnsian dialect. Translation approximate. Having pointed out some poor and spindly specimens of mankind in the previous verse, fed on pathetic continental fare such as Ragout, Olio, and fricassee, take a look at the Haggis fed Scotsman, presumably a soldier. The earth shakes beneath his tread, and clasped in his mighty fist, his sword, which he will make whistle, and will slice legs and arms and heads like tops of thistle.

But mark the Rustic, haggis fed,
The trembling earth resounds his
tread.

Clap in his wallie nieve a blade,
He'll mak it whistle;

An' legs an' arms, an' heads will sned,
Like taps o' thistle.



Anne O'Regan



Heather Kinsey



Lynley Holdaway



Dick Chisholm



Len Chisholm

RIP Margaret Renee (Peg) Chisholm 1922 - 2012

Peg was one of the original members of our Clan Chisholm society, joining late in 1993 and also enrolling her children, Barry Chisholm and Anne Stratford, at the same time. She lived most of her life in Auckland, shifting to Mosgiel in later years.

Peg married Lance Chisholm, third child of Albert and Ethel Chisholm of Waipukurau. Albert lived his early life in Eglinton, a village near Alnwick, Northumberland, an area with a rich Chisholm heritage stretching back to Norman times. He moved to New Zealand some time after 1900. The marriage triggered Peg's keen interest in the origins and significance of her new family name. She wore the Chisholm tartan with pride.



Peg always approached activities in which she took part with unbounded enthusiasm. The clan society was one of many groups in which she was involved: tennis, tramping, bridge, local history, church, women's, conservation, were just some. She backed up her organizing efforts with a winning smile.

Peg followed up her interests with high levels of commitment. It was not in her nature to sit back and let others do the work. In the course of her life, Peg built up a network of lasting friendships and community contacts, maintaining her worldwide web by dedicated letter writing.

Many people were able to take part in celebrating Peg's 90th birthday earlier this year. They know that she had lived her life to the full. She has left a huge gap in the lives of her family and friends.

John Simpson Chisum: Cattle King of New Mexico

By Barry Chisholm

John Simpson Chisum (1824 – 1884) was a wealthy cattle baron in the American West. He was of Scottish, English and Welsh ancestry. Reliable information about much of Chisum's career is sketchy but his life story seems to have been defined by his association with Billy the Kid and a singular, epic cattle drive across the barren expanses of West Texas to New Mexico. In an unlucky twist of historical circumstance the totally unrelated Chisholm Trail stretching north to Kansas and named for Jesse Chisholm would be forever confused with John Chisum's Western Trail.

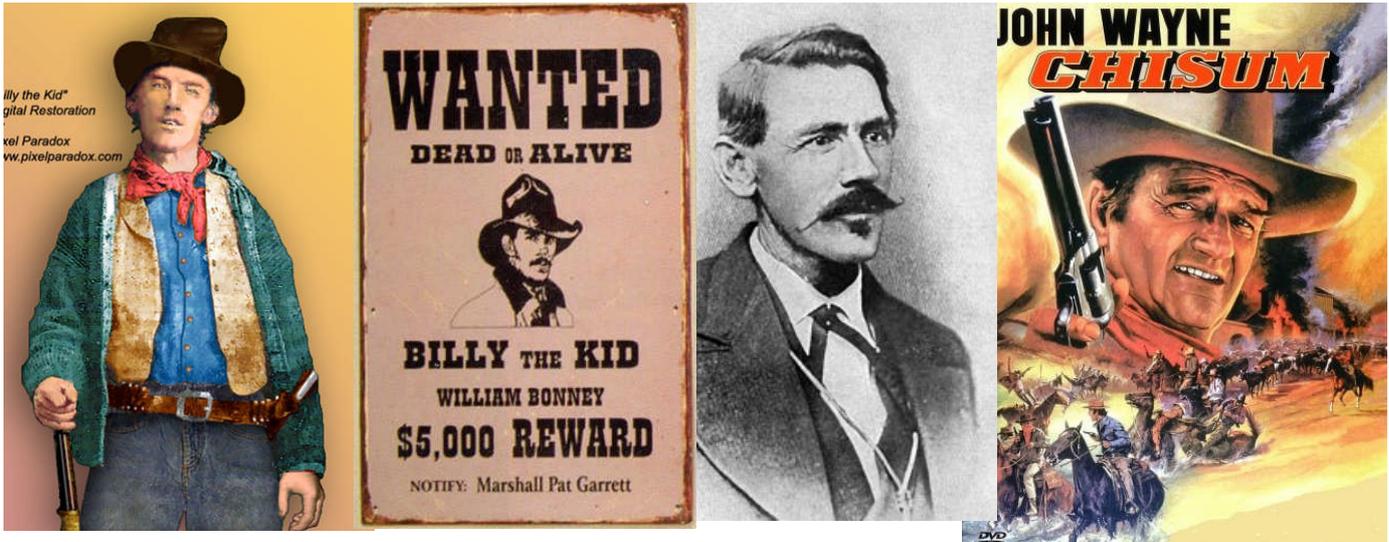
Given all the gaps and sketchy information about Chisum's life, plus vast amounts of hypotheses and folklore, his biographers have often been forced to conclude that what remains of his story is a blurred picture. All that is certain is that he built a cattle empire in New Mexico that, in its time, was second to none.

John Chisum was born on his grandparents' plantation in western Tennessee and his parents moved to the growing community of Paris, Texas, in 1837. Apparently he had no formal education but worked at odd jobs. He became a county clerk and speculated in real estate, and in 1830 formed a cattle ranching partnership with a New York investor. Chisum managed the enterprise for a share in the profits and by 1860 Chisum evaluated his half interest at \$50,000.

Not much is known about Chisum's personal life. While living in Bolivar, Texas, it appears he lived for a time with a young slave girl called Jencie and had two daughters with her. Later in his life Chisum had an extended family living with him at his main ranch near Roswell, New Mexico, and this family, along with hired help, often numbered two dozen. He never married and left his estate, worth \$500,000 at his death aged 60, to his brothers Pitzer and James. Chisum's niece, Sallie, daughter of his James, lived in the Roswell area until 1931. Both she and her uncle John are honoured by statues to their memory in Texas.

When Texas joined the Confederacy in 1861, Chisum became a beef supplier to Southern troops. At the end of the war he became one of the first to drive Texan cattle into New Mexico to sell to the military and to Native American reservations. He drove his herds further west in an epic pioneering feat to establish a series of ranches along the Pecos River, obtaining ownership by right of occupancy. Employing a hundred cowboys to handle 80,000 head, he became known as the "Pecos Valley Cattle King".

Chisum's biographers tend to claim that, overall, Chisum was a man of integrity. However, he was involved in business deals that led to pro-



longed litigation, and he spent at least one short period in jail. He employed gunmen to protect his herds from cattle rustlers and Indians. With two other men he established the Lincoln County Bank in Sante Fe, but the murder of one led to an outbreak of violence. In this Lincoln County War the outlaw Billy the Kid was rumored to be in Chisum's employ. Billy claimed Chisum owed him \$500 but Chisum refused to pay, claiming that he had given the Kid horses, supplies, and protection over the years in lieu of payment. The Kid responded by promising to steal enough cattle to make up this sum. The Kid's gang also stole from other cattlemen and became a serious problem in Lincoln County. Chisum was largely responsible for the election of a new sheriff of Lincoln County, Pat Garrett, and when the sheriff shot Billy the Kid, and killed or captured others in the gang, Chisum breathed more easily. Chisum also claimed friendship with Lew Wallace, who had been sent to New Mexico as territorial governor to restore peace.

John Simpson Chisum is a legendary character of the American West. Chisum and his story have been portrayed several times on film. Some of the prominent performers to play him include John Wayne in Chisum (1970) and James Coburn in Young Guns II (1990). In keeping with the usual Hollywood treatment, Chisum's life is likely to have been heavily misrepresented but nothing can take away the fact that Chisum was a giant of his time and era.

Pics above: 1st Left, digital restoration of a Photograph of Billy the Kid, 3rd from left is John Simpson Chisum.

THE QUIET BENEFACTORS

By Audrey Barney



“Cuimhnichaibh air na daoine” Or “Forget not the people from where you have come”, quoted John Ross in the foreword to my book Chisholm cameos. This has proved a very apt quote for my current search for the significance of the name Chisholm in an Auckland private trust called “The Chisholm Whitney Family Trust”.

The question put to me recently when my daughter took visitors to Couldrey House at the Wenderholm Regional Park was, “Where did the Chisholm name come from, in the Chisholm Whitney Trust, and why did the Trust help in the upkeep of Couldrey House?” All I could tell her was, “I don’t know much about it, other than the name and that they were benefactors of Couldrey House, and did know a few years ago, when I first learnt of the Trust and fairly casually looked into it, that probably the Chisholm name was back in Scotland, many years ago - but will see what I can find out for you”. So the search began.

It took little to find out that a Major John Whitney had owned, and his family had lived in, the house at Wenderholm for 30 odd years, having bought it from John Graham, the original pioneer settler, in 1885. And because of the work I have done over the last few years, I knew there was a William Chisholm Whitney. He had joined the NZEF in England in World War I, and had been sent home, as his services were needed in running the Colonial Ammunition Company in New Zealand, which had been set up by his grandfather, Major John Whitney, not long after reaching Auckland, late in 1884. I also remembered from previous work that there had been a William Chisholm Wilson who had been one of the founders of the New Zealand Herald. Was he related and where were the links to all this? The information slowly grew. I have long searched the net, and the NZ Society of Genealogists’ resources, and made a visit to our branch of the NZ Society’s Library.



CHISHOLM WHITNEY FAMILY CHARITABLE TRUST

So eventually I was able to answer my daughter’s first question. It turned out that John Whitney’s second son, Cecil Arthur Whitney, married the grand daughter of William Chisholm Wilson, the founder of the NZ Herald in 1891. With the marriage of William Chisholm’s grand-daughter Mary Ellen Wilson, (the daughter of Joseph Liston Wilson and Mary Ellen Martyn), to Cecil Arthur Whitney in Auckland in 1891, two prominent Auckland families were joined. Their second son was the William Chisholm Whitney (1894-1986) who was sent home from the Front to help the Colonial Ammunition Company increase their production of ammunition for the War Front in 1917.

Further delving found that William Chisholm Wilson (1806-1876) was the son of John Wilson and Helen Chisholm who married in Nigg, Ross and Cromarty, in 1804. He had trained as a journalist and came to Auckland with his family in 1841. So the link for the Chisholm Whitney Family Trust seems to have come through the marriage cited above in 1891. This is a maternal Wilson link to Helen Chisholm in Nigg, who probably was born round 1780.

This is a long time for a family to remember a maternal ancestor. I suggest she must have been a special person, for her descendants’ both the Wilsons and later the Whitneys, have had a long record of recognising her surname in their children’s names, as well as being philanthropists in their communities, and seemingly have not forgotten “the family from where they had come”.

Helen Chisholm’s grandson, Joseph Liston Wilson, (1837- 1902), was well-known for his work for the

THE QUIET BENEFACTORS (cont)

Auckland community, while his daughter, Mary Ellen Wilson, who married Cecil Arthur Whitney in 1891, is especially remembered in her 1941 obituary as being "A well known philanthropic worker in Auckland [who] gave widely to all charities", while her brother Martyn Wilson also gave generously to the community. He was responsible for the donation of the original Roselle Wilson home that Joseph Liston Wilson had built in 1879 in Lower Victoria Ave, Remuera, to help in the development of St. Kentigern's College, which opened in Remuera in 1959. The Martyn Wilson Field Reserve, below St. Kentigern's in Shore Rd. is named after him, too. And it was another of this family, William Robert Wilson, who was partly responsible for the establishment of the Wilson Home in Takapuna.

So seemingly the children of Cecil Whitney and Mary Ellen Wilson carried on with significant donations to the Auckland community. It is only my opinion, from the recent research I have done, that it is because of this joining of the Whitney and Wilson names in marriage in 1891, that a private charitable trust named The Chisholm Whitney Family Charitable Trust was later established, probably by Cecil and Mary Ellen's son, William Chisholm Whitney, after the death of his committed parents, and his cousin, Chisholm Martyn Wilson, post World War II.

It has not been difficult to find organisations that have benefited from the Trust's generosity on the net, other than the known Couldrey House at Wenderholm. The Auckland War Memorial Museum, Motat, and the Voyager New Zealand Maritime Museum all have mention of them on the net as recent benefactors. But evidence of the Trust's generosity, shown on the net, is much wider, with donations to help in the renovation of the bach on Rangitoto Island, the restoration work on Motutapu Island, the Michael King Writers' Studio Trust, the Auckland Observatory and the Lake House Art Centre to name some.

However, it has not been possible, in the short time I have had available, to find just when the Trust began nor to gain any awareness of its generosity as a benefactor over the years. I have to date not been able to find any clues to these questions, and obviously this private Trust works quietly to be a benefactor to many worthwhile Auckland organisations, and has not sought public recognition for itself.

For me, who has worked with Chisholm males at war for over the last five years,* it is indeed fitting that the memory of Helen Chisholm has been preserved and has provided a female link back to a Chisholm lady who married in Scotland over 200 years ago.

* The latest Wilson I have found bearing the Chisholm name was Flying Officer Chisholm Martyn Wilson who died in the air over the English Channel on 25 March 1944 - presumably the grandchild of Martyn Wilson and the great-great-great-grandchild of their Chisholm link, Helen Chisholm.

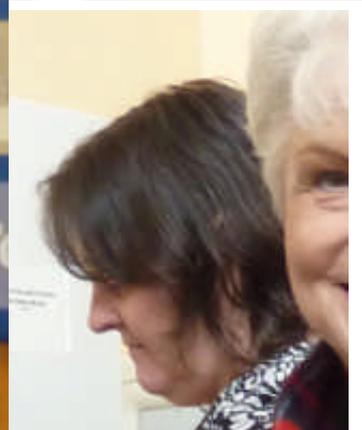


Couldrey House, Wenderholm



Lake Arts Centre, Takapuna

Faces from the AGM



CLAN CHISHOLM SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND (INC)

Minutes of the 18th Annual General Meeting which was held at the Miramar Uniting Church Hall, Wellington, on Saturday 5 May 2012, starting at 1.50 p.m.

Prior to the start of the meeting:

From 10 a.m. there was a social gathering, morning tea and displays of Clan material, printed and electronic. From 11.30 a.m. a paper by Audrey Barney outlining some of her research into Chisholm participation in WW1 was read out by Ashley Chisholm, and John Ross spoke about preliminary findings into research on WW2 participation.

Lunch at 1 p.m. followed a ceilidh ceremony featuring a haggis, tatties and neeps *, a Burnsian address by the kilted John Ross, dirk and all, and toasted with a Glen Nevis single malt.

Present: John Ross (chair), Barry Chisholm (recorder), Robert Chisholm, Angelika Chisholm, Dick Chisholm, Brian Chisholm, Fay White, Anne O'Regan, Heather Kinsey, Len Chisholm, Ashley Chisholm, Lynda Chisholm, Lynley Holdaway, Shane Chisholm and Sharon Logie.

Apologies: Craig Chisholm (Wellington), Alex Chisholm (Palmerston North), Anne Stratford (Dunedin), Bruce Paterson (Wellington), Bev Mackie (Wellington), Jan Peleton (Wellington), Fay Chisholm (Gisborne), Allan Chisholm (Australia), Douglas Chisholm (New Plymouth), Rosemary Cole (Wellington) and Doreen D'Cruz (Palmerston North).

Moved that the apologies be accepted. Barry / Anne CARRIED.

John welcomed those present.

Barry summarised the Minutes of the 2011 AGM.

Moved that the summary be accepted as an accurate record. Barry / Shane CARRIED.

There were no matters arising from the minutes though some aspects might be covered in later discussion.

Barry reported that there was no significant Correspondence outside general administrative matters.

Copies of the 2011 Financial Report were distributed. Barry commented that the report was an interim one, as an audit had not yet been carried out, and some minor changes could yet be made. Despite a steep decline in renewal of subscriptions, savings had been made in AGM expenses and photocopying.

Moved that the interim Financial Report be accepted subject to possible amendments after audit. Barry / Anne CARRIED.

Moved that the current rate of subscriptions remain the same. Barry / John CARRIED.

John read out his President's Report (appendixed). He referred to the 90th birthday celebration for Brian, who then addressed the meeting: Brian presented to the Society archive a copy of a 'life and times' booklet he had received at his birthday, and photos of Chief Hamish and family, which he had received from the Clan Society in the UK.

Moved that the President's Report be accepted. Ashley / Fay CARRIED.

Barry read an email from Fay Chisholm, reporting on her role as International Delegate (appendixed). Robert advised that all members can now participate in AGM meetings of the Clan Society in the UK. He is part of a subcommittee set up to define "Chisholms", as a current definition might be

18th Annual General Meeting (cont)

interpreted to exclude those with a Borders heritage.

Moved that Fay's report be accepted. Barry / Brian CARRIED.

Elections of officers took place. John, Barry, Ashley, Robert and Fay C. advised that they were willing to carry on in their present roles. Anne agreed to be nominated to the committee and Fay White proved willing to take over part of Audrey Barney's previous role as Clan Genealogist.

Moved that John, Barry, Ashley, Robert, Anne, Fay C. and Fay W. be elected as officers of the Society. Brian / Shane CARRIED. Please note that if you would like to serve on the committee, and cannot make it to AGM's, it's not a problem. Committee meetings are held by telephone conference so no travelling is required. "Ask not what your Clan can do for you, rather ask what you can do for the Clan!" It's very simple to help out, and you will be most welcome!

Other business:

Shane suggested that the incoming committee could investigate the scanning and electronic storage of the Clan archives, the bulk of them currently being stored in print form at John's residence in Palmerston North.

Moved that the committee investigate the electronic storage of archives. Barry / John CARRIED.

Moved that Shane Chisholm become the foundation IT person for the Society. Barry / Dick CARRIED.

Robert spoke about work being carried out by the international Clan Chisholm community. He said that this could be divided into three main sections. First, there is continuing development of the genealogical database, in which a vital role is carried out by Bob Chisholm, the 'guardian' who vets all new material submitted for inclusion. Second, and this is Robert's area of expertise, is the DNA project. So far, about 150 members have taken part and Robert has reached a number of conclusions about clan origins as reported in newsletters and the Journal. Third, there is a Forum for members to ask questions and share information.

Robert also showed the meeting images of UK clan identities that had been received by Brian from Susan Chisholm of Chisholm. As well, Robert showed images of various Chisholm coats-of-arms, and explained the meanings of different symbols. He also showed photographs of former clan lands in the Strathglass-Affric area.

John concluded the meeting by thanking all the members for their attendance and, in particular, congratulated the organisers of today's gathering such as Anne and Ashley for their fine effort.

Moved that the organisers be thanked. John / Barry CARRIED BY ACCLAMATION.

John also reminded members of the evening dinner to take place at the Grand Century restaurant.



2012 Highland Gathering

10 November at Harcourt Park Upper Hutt

For more information

please email Upper Hutt Highlanders on uhh@ihug.co.nz

Pipes and Drums, Celtic Bands, Dancing, Sword fighting,

Clan Tents, stalls, roving musicians.

**Clan Chisholm Society of New Zealand Inc.
Income and Expenditure for the year ended 31 January 2012**

Income		Expenditure	
Subscriptions (*1)	\$ 645.00	UK affiliation Fees	\$ 452.25
Sale of items	\$ -	Historian's expenses	\$ 7.80
Donations	\$ 20.00	AGM expenses	\$ 179.34
Interest Earned	\$ 26.73	Postage, envelopes, tolls	\$ 54.00
Tax refund	\$ 10.62	Withholding Tax Paid	\$ 8.82
DEFICIT	\$ 139.35	Honorarium to auditor	\$ 30.00
		Misc. charge	\$ 2.50
		Photocopying	\$ 75.00
		Purchase of book	\$ 31.99
<i>Total Income</i>	\$ 841.70	<i>Total expenditure</i>	\$ 841.70

Balance Sheet as at 31 January 2012

Accumulated Fund - Clan Chisholm			
Balance at 1 Feb 2011		\$ 2,849.64	
less deficit		\$ 139.35	
Balance at 31 Jan 2012			\$ 2,710.29
Total Funds			\$ 2,710.29
This is represented by:			
Assets	Cash in Clan a/c Nat 0134415-00	\$ 2,755.29	
		Total Assets	\$ 2,755.29
less Liabilities	(*2) Clan subs in advance for 2012		\$ 45.00
		Net Assets	\$ 2,710.29

(*1) includes \$30.00 received in advance for 2011 and accounted for in 2010 financial report

(*2) includes \$45.00 for future years: 45.00 (2012)

I have examined the books of Clan Chisholm Society NZ Inc. for the year ended 31 Jan 2012. In common with similar organisations internal controls are limited to practical needs, which include recording and independent audit of accounts. I have sighted all accounts and source documents and have been given explanations where needed. Subject to the foregoing, in my opinion the accounts show a true and fair view of the the Statement of Income and Expenditure, and the Balance Sheet for the year ended 31 January 2012.

.....Date.....
H.Hatch B.Ag.Econ. M.Ed.Admin Led. Hon. Auditor

El Alamein. 23 October 1942. 70th commemoration

9.39pm, central sector on the northern front. Bruce Chisholm has loaded the Number 3 gun of F Troop in 47 Battery, 5th Field Regiment of the New Zealand Artillery, and waits with the next shell while the gun layer counts down the remaining seconds. 9.40pm FIRE! Along the entire line 891 other gun crews have done the same thing. The Battle which turned the tide of war has commenced. 15 minutes of programmed rapid fire on pre-ordained targets. Enemy batteries first up, and then other known strong points. 9.55pm, range decreases and the front edge of the Axis line is targeted for 5 minutes.

In the near distance the infantry brigades have formed up on their start lines, and at 10 o'clock they advance. The gunners are now dropping shells just 100 yards in front of the troops, and at every five minutes, the gunners target 100 yards further into the front and the infantry advances by 100 yards. And so it goes on over the course of the night. 600 rounds fired in 5 and a half hours. 10 minutes per hour the gun must cool and rest, that makes 600 rounds in 280 minutes, 2 rounds per minute. At 25 pounds per round, that's 15,000 pounds of explosive delivered from just one gun, and that's just the first few hours of what will be a 12 day battle.

0300. Time for a few hours of sleep, get up before first light, as the gunners will now need to protect the infantry who have made it through the frontline to their objectives.

Searching the records, it seems that Bruce Chisholm is the only Chisholm there at the battle in the NZ Division. There are likely to be a few Chisholms very close, just to the right of the Kiwis. As the Auckland battalion advances on the far right of the NZ front, their neighbours on the right are the Highlanders (51st Division), with the 7th Black Watch and the Camerons right beside the Kiwis. The Highland Division may have contained some Chisholms and some would be expected also in the 50th Division, the Northumbrians, who were engaged in the important diversionary ruse in the south. Fifty miles away, Canadian pilot W.L Red Chisholm DFC, of the Desert Air Force, listened to the barrage, and in the morning surveyed the carnage from his reconnaissance flight.

The end of the battle, phase 3, came when Field Marshall Montgomery pulled the Kiwi infantry out of the line (reserving them for the coup de grace), and placed the Highlanders and Northumbrians, and British Armour, under the command of the NZ Division. In between the first assault (Operation Lightfoot) and the Final assault (Supercharge) came the middle part, where our Australian cousins (9th Division) knocked the stuffing out of the Axis forces. A combined effort led by the forces of the UK, integrating Australia, South Africa, New Zealand, India, Free France, and others from countries such as Poland and Greece

El Alamein signified not the beginning of the end of the war, but the end of the beginning of the war. Before Alamein, the Allies were never victorious, after El Alamein, they were never defeated. (Winston Churchill). The battle at El Alamein was not a sideshow. It was, literally, the final line in the sand. Beyond Alamein lay the Suez Canal, the Arabian and Persian Oilfields, and the underbelly of Russia. The Nazi defeat at Stalingrad in 1943 would possibly not have happened if the Axis forces had breached the Eighth Army defences at El Alamein during 1942.



Pictured: Bruce Chisholm (front)
and the Gun Crew, F troop 47 Battery

On the Chisholm Forum: www.chisholmgenealogy.com/cgi-bin/yabb2/YaBB.pl

Recent forum traffic was initiated by somebody looking for the Scottish origin of his Nova Scotian Chisholm ancestor. Forum participants identified the Nova Scotian as a brother of the Reverend Donald Chisholm of Boleskin. This aroused much interest, as a very reliable source of Chisholm genealogy placed Reverend Donald in the Teawig family. This family are the descendants of Alexander Chisholm, who lived at Teawig Farm on the outskirts of Beauly, and was a very influential figure around the turn of 17th century. It raises the possibility that a living Chisholm descendant might be found, with the possibility that DNA might assist in further research.

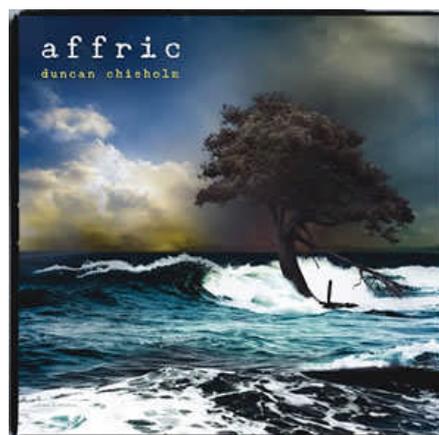
Forum master Alistair reports:

Fiddle player Duncan Chisholm from Kirkhill has completed the concluding part of his "Strathglass Trilogy" which will be launched in October of this year.

The first two albums, "Farrar" and "Canaich", are simply beautiful and Duncan promises the new album will be his finest work yet. If you haven't come across his music before I'd recommend you look out for it - and for those of you up North go and see him play!

As well as his solo work Duncan plays with the acclaimed folk-rock band "Wolfstone" and also accompanies the rising international star of Gaelic song, the sublime Julie Fowlis from Uist.

check out his website ... <http://www.duncanchisholm.co.uk>



Clan Chisholm DNA Project:

The project continues to attract members, and membership now totals 164. Recent project joins have come from Idaho, Massachusetts and West Yorkshire. There was also one from Georgia who descends from John Chisholm b 1749 in Strathglass, father of several signatories to the 1832 address of loyalty. It was found that he descends from the large Gaelic genetic group within the clan, one which includes the late Sonny Chisholm of Southland. Also of great interest



The Newest Little Chizzie

This little cutie is Nina Kowhai Hansen, daughter of Rachel Hansen nee Chisholm, and was born on 3 September 2012. She is being well looked after by big brother Solomon. These two are the grandchildren of our ever energetic secretary, Barry Chisholm of PN. Keep him busy by sending your subs in.

was the result for a North Carolina member. This family always harboured an oral tradition of an origin in the Island of Skye. The DNA result matched an Australian member who has a written record of a Skye origin, so the DNA project has confirmed the family story, This particular genetic group is also Gaelic and ultimately descends from the same source as Sonny's ancestral family, a descendent of one of the Dal Riada groups which migrated from Ireland into Scotland some time after the withdrawal of the Romans from Britain.

We have not had a Chisholm from New Zealand join the project for quite some time, so how about it, get in now while the exchange rate is still high. You can find out not only to which Chisholm group your ancestor descends from, you also learn of the more distant origin, back to the ice age and beyond to the dawn of mankind.

Over the last few years there has been mention in Newsletters of my researching the history of Chisholm men during periods of war. It's been a very up-and-down sort of project, with unfortunately lots of time out, but it is looking as if my role in writing about World War 1 is almost there. As a recently operated knee won't let me be with you today, John Ross is letting you know a little of how I see this period for Chisholms.

With a Gathering so close to Anzac Day it is very fitting that Chisholm participation and consequent fatalities in World War 1 was given some prominence in the recent newsletter.

For me, and for many other Chisholms round my age, the major features remembered from school days and family discussions about World War 1 are Gallipoli, the dreadful mud and rain in the trenches on the Western Front, the horrific casualties on the Somme and at Passchendale, and the terrible ending with the Influenza epidemic as the ceasefire was observed. 'Tis ironic, that in each of these events, one Chisholm didn't make it back home.

Reginald Thomas Chisholm, the eldest of the five sons of Hugh Marshall and Agnes Chisholm, and only 22 years old, had just bought his first piece of land near Norsewood in the Wairarapa when war broke out. But as a keen member of the Territorial Army, within a week of war being declared he had signed up to fight for King and Country when the Army opened a centre for recruits in Dannevirke. Six weeks later he was on his way with the Main Body of the Expeditionary Force -10 ships in all carrying nearly 9000 young soldiers, accompanied by almost 4000 horses!

It was not expected by any of the men that they were bound for the Middle East, but that's where they found themselves for Xmas 1914. Four months later they were on their way to Anzac Cove and three weeks later Reg was dead, when his unit fought hard to rescue men from the Canterbury Rifles, trapped on a steep ridge above Shrapnel Gully. 25 others from the Wellington Mounted Rifles lost their lives with him. His was the only Chisholm death on the Gallipoli peninsula, and his name is engraved on the Lone Pine Memorial. Two younger brothers of Reg's volunteered and served in the Middle East during the time of the Gallipoli campaign, and both were sent home after a period in hospital labelled as "medically unfit for further active service", before the end of 1915. A fourth brother, Gordon, was conscripted and balloted as a 20 year old in the First Reserve and got as far as France by the end of 1917, but it seems that constant bouts of bronchitis kept him from the front lines.

John Samson Chisholm was not so lucky. One of only two grandsons bearing the Chisholm name from the early farming pioneers, William and Martha Chisholm of Kaurihorere, John S. had been in Western Australia, working in the forests in the south when war broke out. The landings in Gallipoli perhaps were the catalyst for him to join the Australian Imperial Forces as he was 35 and single. Three weeks after the Landings he showed up at the recruiting office, and three months later he



Dave Chisholm at the Lone Pine Memorial which bears Reg Chisholm's name

had landed in Gallipoli to support and replenish the West Australian 16th Battalion. Then 3 weeks later he was reported wounded when the parapet of his trench was blown down, and a sandbag hit him on the chest. He was evacuated to Mudros and almost immediately sent back to England by hospital ship. His records show he developed severe dysentery on the ship, was shell-shocked, spitting up blood, and on being admitted to hospital his records said he was suffering general debility and insomnia. Yet 16 days later it was felt he was fit to be discharged and sent back to his unit. But of course by the time he got back his unit had been repatriated to Egypt, so after some difficulty he rejoined his old unit in Alexandria in January 1916. Perhaps he had some respite, but like most other units in the Egyptian area, his was sent across the Mediterranean in June to Marseilles and railed north to near Armentieres. All this in readiness for the muddy, devastating battles on the Somme. What happened to John Chisholm is not



known, but he was missing for a long time before his family were informed that he had been killed in action on August 31, 1916. His body was never found, but John's name is among those of the 10,770 Australian servicemen who died on the Western Front honoured on the Australian National Memorial at the Villers-Bretonneux cemetery near Amiens (pictured left). His personal goods and medals were sent back to his New Zealand family.

The Western Front fighting saw the death of another Chisholm soldier, James Chisholm, a farmhand from Outram, a grandson of John Chisholm and Jean Fisher. James was just on 45 years of age, when he was balloted as a single man in the first reserve intake entering camp in early 1917. By July of that year he was on his way on the Athenic for Liverpool. But that stop was brief and his Company was sent into France by October at the height of the Passchendale campaign, though not involved. A dreary winter for all followed round the Ypres area, trying to right the trenches so badly damaged in the autumn as it was realised the German troops would be now augmented by men returned from Russia. A New Zealand Entrenching Battalion was formed in the spring, of which James was a part. This however was not reported back home till mid-July when the Defence Minister, explained this to the House, commenting that this new Entrenching Battalion had been formed with 22 Officers and 1130 other ranks, and that on April 12 they had been in action in support of the 19th Division and rendered excellent service, but some had been cut off and captured. A cable to New Zealand in June stated that 233 men from the Entrenching Battalion had been captured. It seems that James was one of them. His family heard quite quickly that he was missing but not till late June that he was in a prisoner-of-war camp in Germany. Unfortunately this was not to last, as he came down with dysentery and died on 12th July 1918 in a war hospital in Leutze - a town on the German/Belgian border. He was buried in a corner of the local cemetery along with other Allied soldiers.

Perhaps the most unfortunate of World War 1 deaths was that of William Kinnaird Chisholm - and he wasn't even a Kiwi. He was a Scot from Morayshire - brought up by the sea by a salmon fisher father, he had become a merchant seaman, sailing the world, and for some reason had come ashore in Wellington at the beginning of 1917. He volunteered for service in the New Zealand Army, and with all the red tape of coping with the first ballot, it took six months for him to have a medical where he was passed A1 fit, yet another year elapsed before he was called to enter the Featherston Training Camp. And that's as far as he got. He contacted pneumonia in the flu epidemic and died on Armistice Day, November 11, 1918, without ever leaving the country again.

So of the 36 Chisholms who served overseas, 4 were killed in action or died, approx 11%. How does that stack up, John, with the general population? My reckoning is above par for the course. The Encyclopaedia of New Zealand has some interesting figures - they quote 16,700 New Zealanders in the NZEF alone as losing their lives in WW1 out of the approximate 103,000 who served overseas. These horrific figures can only be approximate.

In talking about the Chisholms who lost their lives, we haven't considered the suffering of the other 32 named Chisholms who I have found have played a role overseas in the NZ Army.

Investigations of their files show that 14 were injured, while 12 had time in hospital or were returned home as no longer fit for active service, whilst four, perhaps more fortunate, didn't get past England. There was also the Rev. John Chisholm on a hospital ship, and Dr. Percy Chisholm, working with the wounded in English hospitals. Their Personnel files from National Archives tell each soldier's history.



There was Jim Chisholm of Houhora (pictured left), who was blinded the first day on the Somme, and after many months of rehabilitation at St. Dunstan's in London, came back and made a great success of a semi-tropical orchard. Roderick Chisholm was a Scotsman from the wild western coast of Scotland, who had volunteered for the NZ army when he arrived in New Zealand as a merchant seaman in 1915. He was wounded three times within a year before being discharged as "unfit for active service", and being sent back to New Zealand, where he spent the rest of his days, mainly as a captain, based in Auckland, serving the coastal trade. There was Leslie Walter Chisholm of Wanganui, blown up by a shell just before the Somme and sent home on a hospital ship. Jim Chisholm of Kaikorai was awarded a MM for his continual courage whilst stretcher bearing in the front line, and got his wounds while on duty on the front line. You wonder what happened to his patient.

Then there were the ones whose lives were scarred forever by gas - Charles McIntosh Chisholm of Port Chalmers gassed four times in November 1917, or Eric Walter Chisholm, my uncle, whose lungs were permanently scarred. As well, those who had it written in their medical reports diplomatically that they were not coping mentally, and were sent home, like James Hastings Chisholm of Hunterville. Through all these reports there is bronchitis, asthma, tonsillitis, rheumatism, pneumonia, and one immediately thinks of

those dank, wet trenches these poor men lived in day in, day out, and don't wonder at the high admittance to hospital.

So one can say, each one of the 32 Chisholms who returned to New Zealand shores returned in a much worse condition. The Encyclopaedia of New Zealand, once again, tells of over 1000 ex soldiers who died within five years of coming home, and that, too includes a Chisholm - Lachlan from Westport.

And this was the war to end all wars - we all know about that, but again, John will be telling you of some of the Chisholms in a very different sort of war that followed just 20 years later.

CLAN CHISHOLM SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND

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