

CLAN CHISHOLM JOURNAL



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EDITORIAL

The Edinburgh Branch this year celebrate forty years of continuous Clan Society activities and are to be congratulated in keeping the spirit alive when it is difficult in this day and age of recession and decline in personal terms of financial hardship.

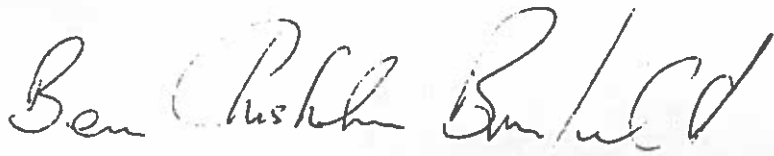
Miss Barbara Chisholm, the branch administrator is organising an outing to Chisholme House to celebrate the occasion, details are in the Journal, and I am sure that if any clansfolk would like to attend on the day then, Barbara would like to hear from you.

There is the final installment of The Journey Home by the Rev. James Chisholm in this years journal and my thanks once again to Mrs McClymont for this interesting article.

Our Council have been meeting to try and make the 1993 gathering in Invernessa varied and interesting happening or event for all who are interested in history and countryside activities and we hope that our clansfolk will participate fully.

Editorials are always difficult to compose in as much as it is nice to be able to express one's thoughts but at the same time not be too contraversial in outlook, so perhaps it may be time for the Editor to offer the chance for anyone or more interested clansfolk to write the next one on any subject relating to the Journal or Society whatsoever, there now, what a challenge, perhaps someone will have a go at putting pen to paper, I hope so.

With all Good Wishes
Thankyou,



Ben Chisholm-Broomfield

WORLD BOOK OF CHISHOLMS - PUBLISHED IN USA

This book has been read by Members of our Council, who do not recommend our Members to purchase this book

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions to the Clan Chisholm Society fall due on 1 January each year. It would be greatly appreciated by the Honorary Treasurer and by the Honorary Treasurers of the overseas branches if members could ensure that their subscriptions are fully paid up. Sending out reminders is a costly exercise and funds used in this way could be better employed carrying out the aims and objectives of the Society.

Annual Membership ...	£3.00
(as from 1 January 1986)	

AS FROM 1st JANUARY 1993 - £4.00

Junior Membership ...	£1.00
(as from 1 January 1986)	

NO INCREASE

Life Membership...	£21.00
AS FROM 1st JANUARY 1993 - £25.00	

Clan Chisholm Journal cost £1.00 per copy to Life Members only

Payment of dues should be made to the undernoted:-

AUSTRALIA

Mr. Ken Miles, Honorary Treasurer, Clan Chisholm Society (Australia Branch),
15 Keats Street, Carlingford, New South Wales 2118.

HIGHLAND (INVERNESS) & PARENT SOCIETY

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EDINBURGH BRANCH

Miss B.C. CHISHOLM, 1 Salisbury Road, Edinburgh EH16 5AA

Attention is drawn to item 5 (f) of the Constitution of the Clan Chisholm Society which states that a "member who has not paid his/her subscription by 1 January in the year following the date due thereby ceases to be a member. Any person who loses his/her membership under this provision shall be reinstated on payment of arrears".

THE POSTCODE: A short form of address is essential in today's postal services in most countries. Pass on your Postcode: write it: quote it: use it! Please assist your branch officials in this matter.

Thank you.

FAMILY ANCESTRY TREES

Over the past few years information has been collected and the family trees of the two main cadet families, Leitre and Knockfin, have been collated by Mr Wilfrid Medlam. These are available in charts of manageable size. The cost is £5 (sterling) per chart plus postage, United States 7 US dollars per chart, Canada 12 Canadian dollars per chart, and other currencies at commensurate rates. Any member interested can obtain a copy of each or both from Mr Wilfrid Medlam. Please make cheques payable to the Clan Chisholm Society.

CLAN LITERATURE

There are three publications relating to Clan Chisholm of which Dr Jean Munro, our Clan Historian, is the author. These are:-

1. The Clan Chisholm £1.00 plus postage 30p (UK) SOLD OUT (*reprint later*)
2. Erchless Castle 50p plus postage 20p (UK)
3. Strathglass £1.00 plus postage 20p (UK)

Obtainable from:-

- 1 Mrs Juliette M.H. Chisholm-Broomfield, Honorary Treasurer,
17 Davies Street, Mayfair, London W1Y 1LN.
- 2 Duncan Chisholm & Sons Ltd., 47-51 Castle Street,
Inverness IV2 3DU

Please make cheques payable to the Clan Chisholm Society, (Literature)

PLEASE SEE PAGE 33 FOR FORTHCOMING '92/'93EVENTS

THE HIGHLAND CLEARANCES

Although born and brought up in Inverness, the Capital of the Highlands, history lessons in our schools never included the awful tale of the "Clearances" and it was only through browsing in my father's library after I left school that I came across books dealing with the subject; and it is only in recent years that the public seems to have been aware of the way in which thousands of tenants were cleared from their land to make way for sheep.

In the old days, the Clan Chief held his land on a patriarchal basis more-or-less for behoof of his Clan (from the Gaelic "Clann" or "Cloinne", meaning "Offspring", or "Children") and he depended on his Clansmen to help him in times of battle. By the end of the eighteenth century, the Clan Chiefs had lost the role of "Protector" or "Father" to his Clan and had assumed the role of "Laird" or "Landlord" with a feudal power over his tenants. Some of the Chiefs no longer lived in the Highlands but spent most of their time in their town-houses in Edinburgh or London, where they needed plenty of money to keep up with their friends. They discovered that much money could be obtained by leasing their lands to sheep-farmers from the south, rather than renting small crofts to their tenants so the so-called "Clearances" then began.

It was a bad day for the Chisholms of Strathglass, when William Chisholm of Chisholm, in 1795, married Elizabeth, daughter of the infamous "Marsali Bhinneach". Marsali (Marjory) was the widow of Duncan Mac Donnel of Glengarry, and was responsible for the Knoydart evictions.

William Chisholm wasn't in good health and the management of his estate fell into the hands of his hard hearted wife, with the result that, in 1801, no less than 799 people took ship at Fort William and Isle Martin from Strathglass The Aird, Glen Urquhart and the neighbouring Districts for Pictou, Nova Scotia which in the following year, 473 from the same district left Fort William for Upper Canada and 128 for Pictou. 550 went aboard another ship at Knoydart, many of whom were from Strathglass. In 1803 four different batches of 120 each left by four different ships from Strathglass for Pictou, while others went away with emigrants from other parts of the Highlands. During these three years, we find that no less than 5,390 were driven out of Highland Glens and a large proportion of them were evicted from Strathglass to make way for sheep by the daughter of "Marsali Binneach".

The only Chisholms to escape the evictions were those tenants on the farms which were left to his widow by the previous Chisholm - Alexander Chisholm of Chisholm, half-brother of William. Alexander was the father of the well-loved Mary Chisholm and she and her mother ensured that no tenants would be evicted from any of their farms.

On hearing of the harsh way tenants were being evicted from Strathglass, the neighbouring Fraser Clan Chief of Lovat, asked one of his large sheep-farmers to give up his land, in exchange for the full value of the land, so that he (Lovat) could settle some evicted Chisholms there; and those Chisholms were able to pay full value for the stock, according to the value placed by two leading Valuers - which goes to prove that they were able to pay their dues, in the first place. The usual practice by the evicting Laird was to say that tenants couldn't pay the rent and, therefore, must be evicted; but the real reason was that he knew he could get far more money from incoming sheep-farmers.

The cruel work of eviction was carried on by heartless landlords all over the Highlands and Islands and it seemed as if the tenants (or crofters) could find no redress, particularly as the people acting as Factors for the landlords usually held down several official positions as magistrates, sheriffs, chamberlains, etc. It wasn't until 1883 that the Government decided to step in and appoint a Commission to look into the problems. Lord Napier headed the Commission, which chartered a ship to tour the Highlands, Orkney, Shetland and the Hebrides, taking evidence from people as they went along. As a result of this the Crofters (Scotland) Act was passed in 1886, giving crofters security of tenure and freedom from eviction, except in exceptional cases. The Crofters Commission was established and, to this day, it is supposed to concern itself with the right of Crofters.

It is said that most of the clergymen in the Highlands took the part of the landlords, despite the cruelties and burnings of homes involved in the evictions and they told the people that it must be "God's will" for them to go. However, other clergymen (mostly from the Free Church who did not have to bow to patronage of the Lairds, as the Established Churchmen had to) supported the crofters and, among those interviewed by the Commission in 1883 was Rev. James Chisholm, C.C., Craigstone, Isle of Barra. Part of his statement reads as follows:

"In order to remedy the sad state of matters, I would suggest that the large farms should be broken up and converted into smaller farms, with rents fixed by disinterested parties and given to those who are willing and able to pay just rents".

"I also suggest that the crofters should get leases, for those who are tenants-at-will and are subject to be turned out at any time, generally speaking, would not enter into any improvements, not knowing who would benefit from those improvements. Compensation should also be given for improvements. The people in their mode of living and dress are very frugal and morally good."

"We sincerely hope that some scheme will be devised to better the present condition, but such a one as would have its object the removal of the people to some foreign country would be entirely opposed to the wishes of the people and, instead of being considered a benefit, would be looked upon as dangerous to their interests."

Although lots of the emigrants made good in their new lands, they and their descendants have always regretted the "Clearances" and identify with the words of the anonymous writer of the "Canadian Boat Song":-

"From the lone shieling of the misty island
mountains divide us and the wast of seas -
Yet, still the blood is strong; the heart is Highland ...
.... And we in dreams

Behold the Hebrides!
Fair these broad meads - these hoary woods are grand
But we are exiles from our fathers' land!"

Chris Morrison
Uig, Isle of Skye

PS: It should be noted that the descendants of the evicting Chiefs have all died out and the present Chief is descendant from another Branch through Miss Mary Chisholm, who disapproved of evictions..

THOUGHT ALONG THE WAY

by a Canadian

We drove to the top of the "Hill of the Fairies"
And rode to Calais on a cushion of air.
We toured Glasgow city with a "dinna know" cabbie
And wondered what for the £14 fare.
We sailed to Iona past the big caves of Staffa
And saw the black ravens at old London Tower
We walked around Holyrood, Stonehenge, Mullardock
And climbed the steep mile in Edinburgh Town.

Way up on Craig Dhu we had tea with a lady,
Admired her strath view and petted her lamb.
The Castle Street Chisholms offered coffee and sweets
While Tam looked on longingly, wanting his share.
Through Affric we drove with friends met in the morning
And chatted with 'enemy' on Culloden Moor
At Chez-Nous and Ardnachaille, Glenshiel and Craigmore,
Wherever we travelled the people were great.

But now -

Farewell to the castles, cathedrals and towers
The country, the cities, the history we love
The beauty of nature in pine wood and hillside
All covered with heather and bluebell and gorse
Farewell to the lakes, the strath and the mountain
And even the monster we didn't quite see
Farewell to the gammon, the chips and the salmon
Farewell to the lentils and other pub grub.

For -

New we are winging our way o'er the ocean
Wherever we travel, home's still "The Best".

Elisabeth Miller

EVICTON AND BURNING AT WESTER RUNIVRAID, INVERCANNICH
 on
MONDAY 13 SEPTEMBER 1886
 of
PETER SHAW AND CATHERINE CHISHOLM

On Monday, 13 September, 1886, at midday, there took place at Wester Runivraid, Invercannich, probably the last case of eviction and burning on the Chisholm estates.

Peter Shaw and his wife Catherine Chisholm were tenants to the Chisholm on the farm of Wester Runivraid. The farm had been in Catherine's family possession for over fifty years, her father, William Chisholm, built the house stone by stone and had paid for the wood required for its construction. His annual rent was set at £27 10s but this was increased a few years later to £30 and it was only by hard labour that he was able to pay this sum. James Sutherland Chisholm, who inherited the estate in 1858, granted a new nineteen year lease to William in 1876 with the right of his daughter Catherine to succeed him. The opportunity was not lost, however, to increase the rent to £40, a massive rise of 30%. On the very week that this increase came into effect William suffered a severe stroke whilst visiting the nearby village of Beaully and was thereafter unable to actively assist around the farm. Sometime after it was reduced to £35 but was quickly increased again back to £40. Her father was unable to pay and consequently borrowed heavily from the Bank to avoid the ever present threat of eviction.

In August 1880 poor, honest William passed away. All he had to show after a lifetime of hard work was a £150 debt to the bank, he left this world financially poorer than when he entered it. There can be little doubt that he would have been sadly aware that his devoted daughter was about to inherit an impossible legacy.

Catherine, the eldest daughter out of a family of girls, succeeded to the farm and shortly afterwards had repayed the Bank £100 of her father's the debt, but in doing so fell seriously into arrears herself. Her neighbours stated that she worked hard to overcome her financial problems and had done much to carry on the farm work successfully. However a succession of bad seasons, together with crop losses due to flooding, cattle deaths and other misfortunes added to and compounded her financial difficulties. In 1884 she married Peter Shaw, a ploughman on the farm, but by 15 June, 1885 their rent arrears cam to £127 16s 11d being make up as follows:

Rent (Half Year)	£20 0 0
Arrears	107 16 11
	<hr style="width: 50%; margin-left: auto; margin-right: 0;"/>
Total	£127 16 11

The Shaw's were unable to pay this amount in full and she made an offer to pay half the arrears by selling the sheep stock, undertaking also not to fall into arrears in the future provided her annual rent was reduced to £30. Mr J B Grant, the factor (or estate manager), would not agree to this or any other arrangement and directed that they must leave by Martinmas (11 November) taking only the stock with them.

They were reluctant to leave their home and hoped that somehow their problems would be resolved. However they were threatened with legal action and Mrs Shaw made a further offer whereby she offered to quit provided they could take with them the stock and farm effects and be given other accommodation. She had also carried out improvements by erecting fencing on the farm four years earlier and was willing to leave it. The factor, presumeably after having spoken to or, at the very least, was fully confident that he had the Chisholm's support, replied that he did not think that the Chisholm would not be prepared to renew the offer that he had made earlier.

The first legal proceedings on the road to their eviction began on March 1886 when a petition was presented by the Roderick Chisholm, with the consent of the trustees of his late father James who died in 1885, before the Sheriff Court in Inverness for the sequestration of the farm stock in security of 1885/6 rent. The pursuer stating that he was afraid that his right of hypothec would be lost unless he took action.

A hypothec, to explain, is peculiar to Scotland whereby the landlord can claim the crop as security for rent. In 1853 Mr R Alister in a letter printed in 'Gloomy Memories' had this to say about them. "The laws of hypothec I also found operated most injuriously against society, by unduly enlarging the size of farms, by giving illegitimate security to lairds for rents, and for increasing the price of rent to a fictitious amount."

Returning to the text a copy of the petition was given to the Shaws but they could not attend court and the sequestration was granted. In June the trustees of the late Chisholm presented a petition for cessio against the Shaws. On 24 June Hugh Rose, solicitor, Inverness, was appointed trustee for the general creditors and on 31 July had sold the greater part of the stock, implements and household furniture. Finally the pursuers obtained a petition of ejection against the Shaws on 2 September.

At 9am on Monday, 13 September, 1886 Mr Alexander Macdonald, messenger-at-arms (or bailiff), left Inverness railway station for Beaully taking with him a locksmith and, as a precaution, five burly henchmen, in case, one supposes the unfortunate victims or their frineds should resist. It was dull and drizzly when this fearless bank left Beaully for Invercannich. They drove quietly through Strathglass followed, in a separate carriage, by a reporter whose diligently recorded report I have freely borrowed. Only a dozen people were passed during the whole sixteen mile journey and three of them were ministers, none of whom would have offered molestation. This dismal party would have passed on their way the magnificent home of the wealthy but absentee Chisholm and the comfortable house of the compassionless factor. Arriving at the humble abode of the Shaws, which was some fifty yards from the road, they dismounted from their carriage and walked briskly, their heavy boots desecrating the muddy gravel path, the remainder of the way. There was nobody to be seen around the premises.

Mr Shaw, who appeared to understand the meaning of this visit, met Macdonald at the door and was asked by him why they had not removed themselves, particularly as they had been offered a house rent free for two months at Millburn, Inverness until Martinmas. Mr Shaw replied that they could not leave as the house offered was

uninhabitable and Mrs Shaw added later that they did not have the means to pay for the removal.

Macdonald proffered the decree of eviction to Mr Shaw who declined to accept it. The decree was then read out and witnessed by Macdonald's assistants who then entered the house. Mrs Shaw, who was sitting inside anxiously talking to a neighbour, was informed of what was to happen and she replied that "it is very hard, but we will not hinder you."

The house consisted of a parlour, kitchen and small bedroom all of which were dimly lit. The parlour and bedroom were adorned by Mrs Shaw with prints cut out of the Illustrated London News and the Ladies Pictorial. Cuttings of the royal family from latter journal were the prominent theme on the bedroom walls. The house was also well supplied with furniture as Mrs Shaw's uncle had bought some for her sister who was staying with her. To our eyes their home would appear rustic but it should be borne in mind that, up the time of the passing of the Crofters Act, in 1886, there was no incentive to improve existing houses as the crofters had no security of tenure. As soon as they obtained this the housing standards rapidly improved throughout the Highlands.

The evictors then began their task in, what was described as, 'a quiet but decisive manner.' Mr Shaw became excited through frustration and despair, he remonstrated with them and endeavoured to interfere and obstruct their progress when he saw their furniture being roughly handled. Mrs Shaw remained calm throughout realising that protest was futile. Only once did she interfere and that was when the men came to remove her old fashioned wooden bed. It was impossible to take out without breaking it up. This touched her heart. Nothing could be done however and it was destroyed and carried out piece by piece.

It was cold and raining heavily by then but this did not deter the men from continuing to remove the household articles and unceremoniously discarding them on the public highway unprotected from the elements, the whole operation lasted two hours.

There were several houses in the neighbourhood but non of the occupants gathered to watch the proceedings.

Their disagreeable work was not yet complete for Macdonald announced that, unwilling as he was, he must carry out the warrant, and raze the building to the ground.

The prints which Mrs Shaw had hung to brighten and decorate the interior of her little home were insensitively torn down, roughly folded and used as torches to set the farm house on fire. The damp thatch was at first reluctant to burn and, for a while, it was thought that the fire would extinguish itself. Macdonald watched carefully and when he saw that fire would catch hold he dryly remarked, "It's going to do yet." Dense black poignant smoke broke through rising to broadcast it's sad and evil message. This was followed quickly by the unmistakable sound of crackling burning timbers from within. Angry and untrammelled flames suddenly burst vena

mously through the roof which soon succumbed and collapsed inward showering the confines with a pyrotechnic display, sealing for ever the fate of the poor couple's humble abode.

The wooden roofed barn and the cow-shed were then set on fire and were quickly devoured by the hungry flames. The dairy was of a wooden structure and it was pulled down.

Macdonald's final remarks were, "the law must be upheld," and with that he and his men then left, their mission complete.

By this time a small silent group had gathered. They stood some distance back and viewed the scene with sorrow and regret no doubt recalling earlier similar atrocities in the glen and wondering if they too one day would become victims. Also to offer opposition would only attract attention to themselves. for the fear of factors was very real.

Mr and Mrs Shaw stood dignified and alone, Mrs Shaw saying "I have not a farthing in the world, and I have no place of shelter to which I can go." Being a person of considerable intelligence she fought off the temptation to despair and was soon busy covering her discarded and water-logged furniture.

Their hens, which had fled from the burning stable, had then to be collected and secured. This done their pig had to be transferred also. He was reluctant to go and squealed piteously. It was only after great deal of pushing and coaxing that he was finally induced to leave his quarters.

The fire burned itself out leaving only the blackened shell of the house standing. It was becoming dark and the broken and crushed Shaws departed. Bedraggled and cold they made their wet and weary way to the Cannich inn where they had been kindly offered shelter. What happened to them after that I have been unable to find out.

In a house, close by, an old man stood and watched the proceedings with deep regret. For 53 years he had paid rent to the Chisholm estate but had fallen in £120 arrears. He too was unable to liquidate his debt and, in early 1886, his land was taken from him but was allowed to remain in his house.

Stewart, Rule & Burns, solicitors, Inverness, who were agents to the Chisholm, fearing public outrage and revulsion for such barbaric proceedings rushed to publish, on the 16 September, a letter which lamely attempted to exonerate themselves, their paymaster and the sycophantic factor and dishonourably palce all the odium upon their puppet Macdonald's shoulders. Great concern was expressed for the loss of the buildings and they emphasised that it was the Chisholm alone who suffered from the burning unless he recovered compensation from the officer. The Shaws, they miserably wrote, "were not entitled to commiseration beyond what other people may be, who by shiftlessness fell into poverty." They also pointed out that the tenants "were removed from the house before the officer set fire to it," generosity indeed. The legal agents could not think of them simply as fellow

suffering human beings. The following is an extract of their letter: "We regret that an officer, instructed by us, as agents for the Chisholm, to put in force a warrant of ejection, took it upon him, after executing his duty, to set the buildings on fire. The officer has not only been severely reprimanded, but intimation has been made to him that he will be held responsible for the value of the buildings. Lest the incident should be made the occasion of comment upon the action of the Chisholm, we think it right at once to publish the fact that neither the Chisholm nor his factor, nor ourselves, had the slightest intention to destroy the buildings, and that we knew nothing of the occurrence till we saw it reported in the newspapers on Tuesday morning. We at once saw the officer, who admits that he exceeded his warrant and instructions, but partly excuses himself on the ground that the persons ejected told him that they would reoccupy the house immediately on his leaving. Of course the officer should have reported this statement to us, instead of taking the law into his own hands."

The Scottish Highlander newspaper dismissed this letter outright by saying that any attempt by the proprietor or his agents to remove the blame of burning out to the tenants to another cannot be listened to. The Chisholm, and no one else, was accountable and also responsible for the conduct of those that he employed to do his dirty work. The paper observed that landlords had only recently started to explain, justify or even apologise for any unusual proceedings that occurred on their estates. There was a time, it wrote, when the whole matter would have been disposed of by an appeal to the convenient maxim, that a man can do what he likes with his own.

Roderick Chisholm then instructed his legal agents to take proceedings against Macdonald for destroying the buildings and also reported his conduct to the Sheriff (i.e. judge).

Sheriff Ivory in response to the Chisholm's complaint wrote the following letter, on behalf of the Lord Advocate, to Alexander Macdonald. In it he severely censured Mr Macdonald for the rash way in which he had turned the young couple out -

25 November 1886

Sir, - I have received a report from Sheriff Blair, with various documents, in regard to the proceedings taken by you in burning the house formerly occupied by Peter Shaw and his wife at Strathglass on 13th September last. Sheriff Blair, reported to me, states that he is of the opinion that the act of Macdonald in burning the house was reckless and unauthorised, and one which should be strongly reprobated. After a careful perusal of Sheriff Blair's report, and the accompanying documents, I regret to be obliged to state that I have no alternative but to reprimand you for your indiscreet and reckless conduct. I have to inform you, further that the Lord Advocate, who has made full inquiries into your conduct, has desired me to convey a severe reprimand to you at his lordship's instance for your conduct on the occasion

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

W. Ivory.

Sheriff William Ivory has been described as a judicial monster for, to him, mere suspicion was sufficient for conviction. He was no friend of the oppressed or the struggling crofters. Instead of relaxing their ligatures he did his best to tighten them. It was he who sent and led an army of alien policemen from Glasgow to Skye which culminated in what became known as 'The Battle of the Braes' where women and Children were brutally clubbed. His behaviour was well documented at the time and, paradoxically, it was ultimately a blessing in disguise to the crofters. The Scottish Highlander newspaper commenting on the Sheriff's letter simply said, "What a splendid instance of the pot calling the kettle back."

In January 1887 Roderick Chisholm lodged an action in court against Mr Macdonald for the injury and damage of his property to the value of £70. Mr Macdonald maintained that this sum was excessive and suggested that £5 was the real value. I have not found any information as to the outcome of this case.

It is worth noting that Peter and Catherine were not alone in falling into arrears for, in December 1887, a large number of the Chisholm tenantry petitioned Mrs Chisholm for a reduction in rent.

The Scottish Highlander pointed out that Roderick was but one of a distant collateral branch of the original owners, into whose hands the estate fell by the application of a deed of entail. The paper explained that the entail excluded the female line of succession and thus deprived Mary Chisholm (Gooden) from her rightful inheritance. It was she, by her heroic and patriotic interposition, that saved the estate from sharing in the disgrace which the wholesale clearance of the native people in the past to make room for sheep had brought on so many parts of the Highlands. Roderick died in 1887 aged 24. After the death of Roderick's sister Anne in 1932 the chieftainship passed from the hands of the interlopers to the descendants of the good Mary who, as stated, so vigorously opposed the evictors and so gallantly protected her people. The full circle had turned, poetic justice had taken its course.

"With them there is no place for us to dwell, -
With all has gone before - we go - FAREWELL.""

J. Sobieski Stuart

D Mackay, Inverness 1991

THE SOCIETY REGRETS TO HEAR OF THE DEATHS
OF

PETER SUTHERLAND CHISHOLM, *Annan, 1991*
ALEXANDER R. CHISHOLM, *USA, June 23rd 1991*
RALPH H. A. CHISHOLM, *Cheshire, July 1991*



EVICTION



BURNING AND DEPARTURE

Illustrations extracted and slightly altered from
 "The Highland Clearances"
 by J. Prebble

The Glen Affric Walk

Morvich to Cannich is 64 miles by car and 30 miles by foot through Chisholm country. Having previously walked halfway from the Cannich end I had a yearning to do the more remote upper end of Glen Affric. Other members of the family wanted to go too but as we could not co-ordinate a date it became a solo effort in June when the days are long and most of the midges are still hibernating. The YHA hut at Albieth opens from June 1st and makes a useful halfway stop. I had little idea how difficult the journey would be or what facilities I could expect at the hut so I settled for a backpack two day walk.

Gloria decided to accompany me to Scotland to man 'base camp' at the Polmaily Hotel near Drumnadrochit and drop me off at the start point in Morvich. On Friday in Fort William I still had the effects of vertigo virus. It looked like a no go, but Saturday morning blue patches appeared in the sky, Too good to waste. After a splendid Scottish breakfast and an hours drive I was dropped off to head east behind Ben Attow to a 'horseshoe' pass. Contours on the map are too close to say accurately but it cannot be must less than 2000 feet. After a mile of easy going one crosses a new footbridge over the river by Dorisduan, on to grass. Red deer watched me intently from the slopes above. The euphoric spell was broken by the sight of an elderly woman coming down. "Just been for a walk to the top". Near the top, two Austrian student types appeared. The wind whistled through the pass like draught through a keyhole. The scenery changed. Below me Loch Bhealaich lay shallow and still in a wide treeless glen. To the north it breaks through the ridge to drop its waters down the Falls of Glomach. The highest in Great Britain. Eastward Glen Gnoinhaidh runs between thousand metre peaks with snow still lying in the corries. No trees, no birds, no deer and no people. A dark green splodge and a red patch appeared in the distance. Two rowan trees and the tin roof of the hut. It was 3pm when I read the notice on the door saying do not trouble the warden before 5.30. but he beckoned me in to join him by the coal fire with it big black kettle hanging on a chain with a whisp of steam coming from its spout. A welcome sight. We drank tea and chatted. Ian MacDougall hailed from Glasgow and would be in residence until Oct. Every Monday he sets off for Cannich to collect his mail. obtain his food supply, coal, Calor gas and stuff for the Elsan. On Tuesday he manhandles it back. At six o'clock a Dutch/ Austrian pair came over the ridge from Clunie side and three Munro baggers came down having added three to their score. A Munro is a peak over 1000 metres. One of them had overdone it trying to keep up with his younger companions. My small flask of emergency whisky was drained between us. Two young men from Montrose walked in followed by a lone German. A variety of cooking smells wafted from the kitchen. I was supping packet soup, Ryvita, cheese, nuts, sultanas and chocolate ginger biscuits. And a big lump of marzipan. Tea changed to coffee and we talked about hills in many parts of the world. The wind brought driving rain as high packs bobbed passed the window. A mixed bunch of teenagers, on a D of E first experience hike, struggled to pitch their tents and cook their meal whilst we watched in comfort, making comments about their abilities. "They'll all blow away in the night!". There are no facilities at Albieth. You draw water from the burn above the plank bridge and was below it. The Elsan is for emergencies. There are Calor gas cookers in the kitchen but lighting is by candle. The original hut has a family dorm

for four and one for ladies but the army kindly left a 26 bunk hut behind after a training op. It came by helicopter. I rose at 7am, had my muesli, cleaned the kitchen as my chore and was getting ready to leave when the warden appeared to say cheerio. Everyone else was sound asleep including the tenters. The path was varied. Stoney, boggy and sometimes non-existent. Curlews called, stonechats chatted and rock pippets pipped away. Odd mounds and banks indicate the remains of stone cottages. Here lived Chisholms. Every Chisholm can claim an ancestor from this or the adjoining Glen Cannich. Some of the large stepping stones would have been handled by my forebears. The thoughts stayed with me as I wandered on down to the really beautiful parts where the streams become a river of glass before tumbling through the rocks, birches, rowans and pines of the finest glen in Scotland. I was determined to brew up over a wood fire and found a perfect spot with stones for the fireplace, a fallen birch for fuel and water gushing from the rocks. Two joggers trotted passed as I swigged by coffee. I could have sat all day but I wanted to get as far down the glen as possible before my chauffeur came up. I had said, "about two" but there she was at the beginning of the road at twelve. A bit of a doddle really.

Robert Chisholm, Essex

A FAMILY OF CHISHOLMS MIGRATE TO AUSTRALIA IN THE 1850'S

The 1850's saw the migration of many people from the Isle of Skye to other parts of the world, with high hopes of better living conditions for themselves and their families. Conditions in Skye were hard; families were mostly large and in most cases very poor, intensified by the fact that many were thrown off the land they rented by greedy landlords, more interested in the accumulation of their own wealth than the welfare of their tenants who were struggling to support their families.

Imagine the heartache as they bundled their meagre belongings aboard ship, leaving their beautiful homeland behind, knowing they were never likely to return! The wild, rugged island, with green grassy slopes on which their sheep had grazed; the tranquil coastline and misty skies, with only the thought of virtually unknown pastures; perhaps known only by a brief description in a letter from a relative or friend already settled in Australia.

One such family that left Skye was that of Farquhar Chisholm and his wife Marion nee MacDonald who were married in the Bracadale parish in 1822, who, along with their children Ann, John 1, Angus, John 2, and Donald Grant made the long and sometimes hazardous sea voyage to Australia hoping for a more prosperous life in a new country, Farquhar was the son of John and Catherine Chisholm nee MacKinnon. His sister Isabella also accompanied the family to Australia.

They sailed from Liverpool on the ship "Switzerland" and disembarked in South Australia in 1855. It seems that their eldest son Kenneth, born in 1824, had come to Australia in 1852, lured by the prospect of finding gold in the colony, and had sent home for his parents and brothers and sister to follow. Kenneth went to New South Wales in 1857 and married Christina Beaton whose family also hailed from the Isle of Skye. This Beaton family had migrated to Australia in 1837. Kenneth and Christina

were married at Williams River, N.S.W., on 7/7/1857 where Christina had been living with her family. They very soon returned to Victoria, a journey of over 700 miles, to live with other members of Kenneth's family in Geelong. Here their first child, a daughter, Marion was born. Sad to say, Marion only lived for seventeen months. Kenneth and Christina returned with a second daughter, Sarah, to N.S.W. in 1861. After a short stay in Morpeth they settled further north on the Barrington. The land they took up fronts the Barrington River, consisting of rich river flats which were covered with dense bush and ran to low flat ridges.

Kenneth built a slab house on the ridge and cleared the land on the river flats. It was ploughed with bullock teams and a wooden plough that had an iron share or cutting part. Wheat was grown and cut with a reaping hook, stacked to dry and threshed by hand. It was then taken to Raymond Terrace, a distance of 70 miles, by bullock team and wagon to the flour mill where it was ground into flour. Supply for a year was brought back home for their own use and the remainder sold. The family depended on their farm entirely for their living. They made their own cornflour, butter and cheese, cured their own bacon and kept sheep and cattle for meat supplies. Many other families from Skye also settled here on the Barrington River, N.S.W. Since they all only spoke Gaelic, their native tongue, English was introduced when school classes commenced and the students were required to speak English at school.

Kenneth and Christina reared a family of seven children here. They soon prospered and a new house of red cedar, sawn into wide boards with a pit saw, was erected. Native pine which grew along the Barrington River was used to make the floors. Descendants of this same family are still living and farming on the same property at Barrington, today.

Farquhar and Marion Chisholm, their sons John 1, John 2, and Donald, daughter Ann and Farquhar's sister Isabella remained in Victoria and eventually died there.

What happened to any other brothers and sisters of Farquhar and Marion nee MacDonald? Did they also leave Skye for distant lands or are their descendants still living in Scotland? Where did they settle? Perhaps in Canada, with a climate more like the one they had left behind; or, perhaps they were lured further afield to New Zealand and Australia with the prospect of making their fortune at the gold diggings?

We know that one of Farquhar and Marion's sons, Angus Chisholm left Australia for New Zealand and married there. The family's address in 1917 was "3 Chapman Street, Dunedin, New Zealand". Angus had two sons, Ewen Farquhar and Angus and a daughter Ann who married a Mr Clapman. Ann's address in 1917 was "Foster Street, Sale, Victoria."

The descendants of Kenneth Chisholm, son of Farquhar and Marion nee MacDonald, living in Australia, would be delighted to hear from anyone living overseas who thinks they may be related to the same family; possibly in the Isle of Skye, New Zealand, Canada or elsewhere??

Please contact - Ruth Watson, 8 Parkham Road, Dundas, N.S.W., Australia for prompt reply.

Friday 24 - Lovely day again. A German barque was sighted in the morning, and came quite close, but her name could not be made out though she signalled. Other vessels in sight. A small party of us went down into the engine room in the evening to see the lower regions. There we saw what may be called the great pulsating and propelling heart of the ship - the engine. The heat was great. What must it have been in the tropics. Although the engines are 3600 nominal horse power, yet they can be stopped with the utmost ease. The engineer put his hand on a small lever and presto, the great machine with its snorting and clanging was still. There are a dozen furnaces. After seeing the glowing fires, one does not wonder at the great consumption of coal. The dynamo for generating the electricity was an object of interest. We also saw the wires by which the electricity is sent through the ship for lighting purposes. There is also a little machine for registering the number of revolutions made by the shaft in a given time. We went along the tunnel in which the great shaft which drives the screw revolves. The shaft is of solid iron, and is fifteen inches in diameter. We also got a sight of the refrigerator apparatus. The engineer took out a handful of loose ice and snow, and gave us some. It felt so cool. It was strange to be handling snow amidst such heat. After giving backsheesh to the fireman we climbed on deck again. How pleasant the cool breeze of the beautiful heavens.

Saturday 25 - Another fine day. What appeared to be a private yacht passed. Everything, hull, sails, and rigging clean and neat. It seemed a pleasant thing to be cruising over the summer seas in such a beautiful craft. Numerous sights. Another big steamer, said to be one of the P. and O. line. It was going at great speed. We saw grampuses, white and black fish like hugh porpoises. We saw the dorsal fin of a shark. It was rather far away. A dense fog came on towards evening. As we were in the track of outgoing vessels the steam horn was blown every minute. How necessary this is was shown by the fact that another ship blowing its horn passed close by during the night. In such a dense fog lights could not be seen till vessels were on each other. We saw dimly the outline of Cape Finnisterre in the afternoon. We are now in the Bay of Biscay. It is noted for its storms, but for us it is calm and pleasant.

Sunday 26 - Mild foggy day. Passing vessels of various kinds often. Mr Claxton read prayers and lessons. It would have been very becoming and enjoyable to have had a thanksgiving service on the last Sunday. It was spoken of by some of us, but the state of matters between Mr Watts and Mr Claxton is somewhat strained and they could not work together. We have truly much reason for being thankful. Even the old seamen say they have never known such a fine passage. Hugh Millar tells us in one of his books the story of a sloop labouring under a fierce storm in the Moray Firth. It seemed as if the little craft were to be overwhelmed. One great wave came rolling up as the two men on deck stood silent beside the helm watching its advance. As it broke over them they clenched their teeth and bravely met what they expected would be their death shock. The sloop quivered for a moment, then bounded forward and shook itself free of the churning water. The men looked at each other, one said "Ah, Saunders some God's soul has been at work for us or she'd never have cowed you." Many God's souls I know have been at work for us. Many have been praying for a prosperous voyage, and their prayers have been abundantly answered. There is no end to difficulties when we begin to question and speculate. And their can be no doubt that God answers prayers in far other ways often than we

expect. In face of all speculative difficulties let us hold fast by the Great Charter. "If ye being evil know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father in Heaven give good things to them that ask him."

Monday June 27 - There was a dense fog in the Channel to-day, which obscured everything. Vessels came steaming now and again out of the mist. We got to Plymouth about mid-day. We could see the harbour very dimly, but the houses could not be recognised in the haze. A steamer came off, and after some delay several passengers went ashore. Some more of us thought seriously of doing so owing to the fog which not only prevented us seeing anything but involved some degree of danger.

June 28 - Glad we did not leave the steamer at Plymouth, for the morning is bright with sunshine and the sea smooth. The coast can be seen with a belt of mist still lying along the beach. Soon we were in sight of classic ground. Hastings was dimly seen, then after a time Calais on the opposite shore. Afterwards Dover with its long line of chalk cliffs came into view. Goodwin Sands were passed to our right. There must be great danger for vessels here in stormy weather. The masts of one were seen above the water not far off - wrecked mayhap after a voyage such as ours, almost at the harbour mouth! After getting into dock we had to go through the ordeal of having our luggage examined. It was a very simple affair so far as I was concerned. I was asked to open by portmanteau, the officer gave a hurried glance and passed on. As soon as Reid and I got settled down in lodgings near the famous Strand, we went in search of Dr Christie. We found him busy at his books. He is working hard to fit himself for higher work in New Zealand. He was anxious to hear all about his old friends. After a long chat with the doctor and young Butement his companion, we left for our hotel. There was little sleep during the night, what with the crashing thunder and the vivid lightening, the pouring rain, and the medley of sound from the crowded streets, we could only wait patiently the time for rising.

June 29 - Started for Glasgow at 10 a.m. The train soon got through the smoke and stir of the city into the quiet open country. The scenery was at first attractive in its rich spring dress. By and bye it became monotonous. It became more interesting as we got further north. It was specially interested in Ecclefechan - the birthplace of Carlyle. We could see it nestling amongst the trees in an undulating country to the west of the line. The train was an hour late owing to the damage done to a part of the railway, by the heavy rains. From Glasgow, which we reached at 8 p.m., I took train for Helensburgh.

June 30 - Moving about admiring the beauties of this fashionable watering place. The streets are lined with trees which are now in richest foliage. Greenock lies exactly opposite on the other bank of the Clyde. Steamers and sailing vessels are seen coming and going. They give a lively appearance to the scene, while the silvery water contrasts finely with the deep green of the wooden slopes. Went to the head of Gareloch to call on the Free Church minister for whom I had a letter of introduction. The sail was a most pleasant one, although the rain and mist on the hill sides detracted somewhat from my enjoyment of it. We pass Roseneath with its castles belonging to the Duke of Argyle, also on the other side of a large hydropathic establishment at Shandon. Found Mr Ireland very pleasant. He took me a short walk up a hill to have a better view of the lovely place, but it was wet, and got back to Helensburgh late, although still good light. It is daylight till about 11 o'clock.

DARING EXPLOITS OF AUSSIE WAR HERO



The exploits of Australian war hero, Keith Chisholm, who died last weekend aged 72, read like stories from a *Boy's Own* annual.

In five action-packed years from 1939 when he was a 21-year-old RAAF Flight-Sergeant and Spitfire pilot, Chisholm:

Made 92 successful sorties in seven months against the Germans.

Shot down numerous German aircraft, including two Messerschmitts in less than one minute.

Cheated death when his Spitfire was shot down over enemy territory.

Escaped twice from Prisoner of War camps.

Tried to make another daring escape by stealing a German plane.

Was tortured for 10 days by the dreaded Gestapo.

Worked undercover for the Polish and French Resistance.

Escaped across Europe to freedom disguised as a German Army soldier.

Keith Bruce Chisholm was born in Petersham, Sydney, on December 2, 1918, the son of a dentist. He was educated at Newington College, Stanmore.

In 1939, when war broke out, he quit a dentistry course at Sydney University to join the RAAF.

He trained in Canada as a pilot and in March 1941 went to England to join the RAF's newly formed 452 Fighter Squadron, which consisted mainly of Australians.

The crack 452 Squadron became one of the most successful in the RAF, destroying 22 enemy planes in its first four months.

Flight-Sergeant Chisholm made his name as one of the top Spitfire pilots - but his luck ran out in October 1941.

His Spitfire's tail unit was blasted off in a dog-fight with a German plane over the coast of occupied France. Chisholm bailed out and landed in the English Channel, only to be captured by a German patrol boat.

He was taken to Stalag VIII B prisoner-of-war camp in Sudetenland - a former Czech possession - but within days hatched a plan to escape.

Chisholm swapped uniforms with a British soldier, who was less closely guarded, and got out of the camp with a working party bound for nearby railway lines.

Fifteen of the party were locked up overnight in a disused flour mill and escaped in the dead of night by ripping out floorboards and climbing through an air vent.

German search parties recaptured all the escapees except Chisholm, a Canadian

and a Briton, who trekked to a Czech village near Brno and contacted the Czech Resistance.

In a mix-up caused by language difficulties, the escapees were sent to see the Mayor of Brno - who turned out to be a Nazi collaborator who informed the Gestapo.

The Gestapo soon realised Chisholm was not a soldier. They suspected him of a recent assassination of a local Nazi and for 10 days, Chisholm was interrogated, bashed, tortured and abused - night and day - but refused to talk.

He finally collapsed and was sent to a hospital, where he befriended another captured pilot, Wing Commander Douglas Bader, the legendary English ace with tin legs.

Within days, Chisholm and Bader hatched an audacious plan to escape by stealing a Messerschmitt fighter and flying it to England.

They decided to swap identities and join a working party heading for Gliwicz, on the old German-Polish border, where there was an air strip with German ME110 planes.

But the Gestapo caught wind of the escape attempt and a carload of agents screamed into the work camp the day before the escape attempt.

Security at the camp was tightened but that only fuelled Chisholm's obsession to escape.

A few nights later, Chisholm and five other prisoners cut a hole in the roof of their sleeping quarters, climbed through the roof, scaled a barbed-wire perimeter fence and ran for cover to a wheat field.

Two of the escapees were recaptured two days later but Chisholm and his three partners hid in a farmhouse for a week then moved to Cracow and Warsaw with help from the Polish Resistance.

In Warsaw, Chisholm became fed up with running and hiding and decided to join the Polish Resistance in the spring of 1942.

For the next five months he risked his life again and again by smuggling more than 20 Allied soldiers over the Polish border.

Chisholm, who had assumed the identity of a Polish company director, then went into counter-espionage.

In March 1944, Chisholm and a Dutchman decided to escape to England via Brussels. They disguised themselves as Belgian members of the German Army and caught a train from Warsaw to Brussels.

In Brussels, Chisholm swapped identities again and got himself smuggled to Paris, where he teamed up with a French spy and began transmitting top secret information about German troops to Whitehall in London.

Chisholm joined the French Resistance, becoming bodyguard to underground leader Colonel Rol.

When the Allied forces liberated Paris, Chisholm was flown back to England.

He eventually returned to Sydney a war hero, having been awarded the Military Cross (MC), the Distinguished Flying Medal (DFC) and Poland's Gold Cross

Chisholm died of liver disease last weekend in New York, where he had lived for 15 years.

He leaves a widow, Marie-France (his second wife) and four children aged 30 to 37: Caroline, Tony, Kim and Peter.

1991 ANNUAL REPORT

Minutes of the 40th Annual General Meeting held in the Royal Abbey Hotel, Carlton Place, Edinburgh, on Saturday 10th August 1991 at 11.00 a.m.

Welcome was made by Miss Barbara Chisholm, Administrator of the Edinburgh Branch to the President and Pamela, his wife, Edinburgh Branch members and all other members present.

GREETINGS were received from the Australian Branch and The United States of America.

Apologies were received from

Mrs S Jones
Mr Wilfrid Medlam
Mrs Joan MacKay
Mrs Jessie Chisholm
Mrs C Morrison
Mrs H M Chisholm
Mr and Mrs D Chisholm and Miss F Chisholm
Mrs Isabel Chisholm
Mr J Lockhart
Mr Duncan Chisholm (Senior)
Mr Peter Chisholm
Miss Josephine Chisholm
Mr and Mrs J Skinner

Honorary General Secretary
Parent Society, Gloucester
Inverness Branch
Edinburgh Branch
Inverness Branch (Isle of Skye)
Parent Society, Sussex
Edinburgh Branch (Wigan)
Edinburgh Branch
Edinburgh Branch
Inverness Branch
Edinburgh Branch
Inverness Branch
Edinburgh Branch

Present

The Chief, Alastair Chisholm of Chisholm
Mr Ruari Chisholm
Mr Duncan Chisholm
Mrs Juliette Chisholm-Broomfield
Miss Barbara Chisholm
Mr Benjamin Chisholm-Broomfield
Dr Jean Munro
Miss Catherine Chisholm
Mr John Chisholm
Mrs Margaret Chisholm
Mrs Margaret Lockhart
Mr Robert Atkinson
Mrs Liliat Atkinson
Mrs Rosemary Chisholm of Chisholm
Mrs Mary Chisholm
Mrs Pamela Chisholm
Mrs Mairi-Angela Foster
Mrs Lyla Monaghan

President
Vice President
Honorary Treasurer
Administrator Edinburgh Branch
Editor Clan Journal
Clan Historian
Edinburgh Branch
Edinburgh Branch
Edinburgh Branch
Parent Society
Parent Society
Parent Society
Inverness Branch
Parent Society
Parent Society
Edinburgh Branch

Minutes of the Meeting held in the Royal Abbey Hotel, Carlton Place, Edinburgh, on Saturday 11 August 1990 as published in the Clan Chisholm Journal were taken as read. Proposed for adoption by Mr Duncan Chisholm and seconded by Mrs Mairi-Angela Foster and agreed.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising.

THE PRESIDENTS REPORT

During the year, the Executive Committee of your Clan Council has produced the final draft of the New Constitution which you will be asked to approve later. I feel I should review for you how the new constitution came to be required, as this will show the need to consider what adjustments are necessary in the Aims and Actions of the Society to allow for present circumstances, particularly our financial circumstances.

In 1987, the President, Duncan Chisholm mentioned in his report the problem this and other Clan Societies face in falling membership and our Society has the additional disadvantage of no property in the Clan territory to focus the interest of the Clans folk. During 1988 and 1989, the feeling developed that overseas branches and independent groups were more buoyant in membership and fired with enthusiasm, and if the Clan Society could be made truly International with perhaps an overseas President, the Society would acquire a sound financial basis from which to tackle more ambitious Aims. At the Annual General meeting in 1989, my name was proposed as President and one proposer suggested "Acting President" with a view to encouraging an overseas nomination. The Secretary correctly refused to minute the term "Acting" as not in the Constitution.

Our questioning of Branches and members throughout the world soon indicated that there is no support for a restructured internationally controlled Clan Chisholm Society. Both sentimental and practical reasons were given. Australia gave the comment "Our connections and feeling are to the Parent Society and to Scotland and our concerns are local". This supported the Chief's view that Clan Societies are mainly local social groupings with no particular interest in international management structures. Although this stopped work on the international line there did appear to be a case for enabling Corporate Membership of the Society, so that Independent Chisholm groupings could be affiliated to the Parent Society without the complicity and obligations of Branch status. In amending the Constitution to allow this, many other necessary amendments became apparent and have been included.

With the dream of a financially strong internationally run Society abandoned, we are left with the problem of an ageing and falling membership. Nor are the overseas territories free of this trend. With a view to checking recruitment prospects, a Mail Shot was arranged in the London area. This was done with the help of Alastair and Frances Chisholm in Uckfield, who collected from telephone directories, forty

names of Chisholms in the South and thirty one letters were sent. As a result, we have been able to welcome two new life Members, Donald Chisholm of Rinmer near Lewes and Mrs Dorothy Chisholm, whose husband, the Reverend C F Chisholm, now deceased, was an early member of the Society. The cost in this case is covered by the result, but it is still doubtful that Mail Shot recruitment could be economically successful on a larger scale. It also begs the question as to what is being offered to those we recruit.

There is a need to decide what we should be doing with the limited and indeed reducing funds we have available. Aims such as a new Chisholm history are supported by membership and would attract new members, but our poor resources leaves the plan in limbo. One possible use of funds is a greater effort on the 1993 Gathering. But suggestions from the membership are needed. To concentrate the mind, a summary of Membership and Accounting Statistics are available at this meeting.

On behalf of Members, I will thank Miss Barbara Chisholm for once again being Host to the Annual General Meeting in Edinburgh. We will note also that she runs the only remaining and successful Branch of the Society in the United Kingdom. Ben and Juliette Chisholm-Broomfield and Sheila Jones all deserve a mention and thanks for carrying the work load of the Society. With or without thanks, the President announces that he is 70 years next month and is looking for someone, male or female, to take on the President's Office.

During the President's Report, he thanked Miss Barbara Chisholm for sending him a McLaren Society Newsletter and discussed the feelings of issuing a full Members List. As suggested, our Society could produce the same if requested. A paragraph on this will be included in the next issue of the Clan Journal.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS, AUDIT AND REPORT

The Financial Statement was proposed for adoption by Miss Barbara Chisholm and seconded by Dr Jean Munro.

This statement had been presented by Joan MacKay for the year ended 31 December 1990.

Members expressed their thanks for her continued good work and her generous assistance to the Clan.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

The President announced that as from 1 January 1992, the Clan Council had agreed for the rates to be increased as follows:-

Annual Subscription	-	From £3 to £4
Life Membership	-	From £21 to £25

Junior Membership remains unchanged.

The President asked the floor if any member present objected, there were none.

Proposed by the Vice President, Seconded by Mrs Mairi-Angela Foster.

HONORARY TREASURER'S REPORT

The President and Secretary with myself have met during this past year which I feel has proved useful and satisfactory.

This year, I tried in vain a new policy (to try and save postage) to place inside the Clan Journal "Renewal Notices", the "pulling-in" on Subscription dues has been slow.

Due to the cost of postage going up in September there will be no second reminders sent.

The USA Branch and Australian Branch remain well under their own Office Bearers.

Finally, I thank Ruari, our President, for his unfailing attention and help, which he has given to us all.

HONORARY GENERAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

Presented by Mrs Sheila A Jones and read by the Honorary Treasurer.

"My sincere apologies for not being with you all today, due to unforeseen circumstances; my thanks to Juliette for reading the following.

Having always been interested in my family history, I had the opportunity, with my mother and step-father, to visit Scotland for the first time in May 1989. This was for the International Clan Gathering held in Inverness. I met many people and we were taken care of by Juliette and Benjamin Chisholm-Broomfield. On my return, I had the opportunity of meeting our President's sister, who lives very near to me. I with my mother, then attended the meeting in London, at Juliette and Benjamin's home last August, and the fateful step was taken, to become Secretary.

So far I don't feel that I have contributed much except for typing letters and minutes etc, and not being with you today has added to that.

The 1993 Gathering will, I think, help me to be much more involved and ideas are flowing through the Committee.

One general piece of information was sent to me by Elizabeth Watson, General Secretary of the Australian Branch, that the cost of the book they published last year, sent to the UK is as follows:-

43 Dollars Air Mail, 42 Dollars Economy Mail and 36 Dollars Sea Mail.

The purchaser would need to send a Bank Draft for the amount.

Although I have written to each individually, I would like to record, at this meeting, my happiness at the welcoming messages expressed in letters from Branches worldwide."

CLAN CHISHOLM JOURNAL 1991 - EDITOR'S REPORT

This year's Journal I think, was very interesting and also very satisfying to prepare for publication and I will always be thankful for the material received from various parts of the world for inclusion.

Unfortunately, costs are always rising and we are finding it more and more difficult to 'break even', so perhaps the time has come to consider that horrible thought, a rise in subscriptions, to offset future costs.

Thank you for your comments regarding the contents of the Journal and I hope to continue in the same vein for years to come.

The President reported that he felt this Journal was in particular very interesting and that it had been much appreciated by our Members. "Thank you Ben".

The Vice President reported that he had received several encouraging reports from the North of Scotland.

CLAN GATHERING 1993

The President explained to the Members present that the proposed Gathering would include the following:-

THURSDAY - Tour of Strathglass, Erchless Castle
Strath Farrar, with a good guide.
Lunch and Tea.

FRIDAY - Inverness, Sight-Seeing
A guided walk through the Town and Museum.

Evening, Ceilidh

SATURDAY - Annual General Meeting - AM
Optional Trip to the River Ness - PM

Mrs Mary Chisholm felt the days could be Thursday, Friday and Saturday, with the Ceilidh on the Saturday night. The Vice President stated it was easier for a licence to be obtained for a Friday night.

Mrs Lillas Atkinson and Mrs Mairi-Angela Foster reported that Self Catering Homes changed on a Saturday, hence Friday was agreed to be a more suitable date to hold the Ceilidh.

The Vice President then explained that he and his wife, together with other past Committee Members would be pleased to organise this. The Vice President also stated he had one or two contacts to approach for certain aspects of the Gathering.

The President thanked the Vice President and Mrs Mary Chisholm for taking this project on and he agreed that he would keep the Council informed on the progress.

The Council agreed that we would need help to make up the numbers for the Ceilidh to make it a success, and the Vice President said he would approach the Caledonian Society in Belgium (who have a Membership of 700), to see if a few could come over. They also give displays of Scottish Country Dancing, which would be an advantage.

Miss Catherine Chisholm felt that 1992 would be better than 1993 due to the fact that the Edinburgh Branch were celebrating their 40th Anniversary.

The President said we would need to give advanced warning to the Overseas Members, and that this would be done in next year's Journal.

The Vice President suggested he would try to get access for the Society to visit Erchless Castle on this occasion.

Mrs Rosemary Chisholm of Chisholm suggested a visit to Comar House, although Mrs Webster had died, she had left it to the next-of-kin.

Dr Jean Munro felt a good view was available from the Chisholm Stone on the Hill going to Cannich.

Mrs Mairi-Angela Foster raised a point of having a collection of memorabilia for the members to view. The Vice President felt that if Erchless Castle would help, maybe a display in one of the castle rooms would be suitable.

The President did mention that both Mr Wilfrid Medlam and Mr Duncan Chisholm has tried to make contact with Mrs Robson a few months ago and neither had received a reply.

Mrs Pamela Chisholm proposed that Mrs Mairi-Angela Foster and Dr Jean Munro should look for a suitable venue and proceed with the memorabilia idea. Mr Benjamin Chisholm-Broomfield seconded the motion.

The President explained that putting on a function was going to cost the Society money, as the Society funds would have to subsidise the event. He also suggested that approximately £700 from the funds should be allocated. Mrs Mary Chisholm felt that it was a great deal of money and that it should not be necessary to use that amount; surely the members would pay towards it? Mr Benjamin Chisholm-Broomfield asked Miss Barbara Chisholm the cost of hiring a coach last time and she said it was £60, plus tea, therefore the one idea alone accounted for nearly £100.

Mrs Mairi-Angela Foster proposed the adoption of the Clan Chisholm Societies'

Funds to fund, if necessary, up to £700; this was seconded by Mr Robert Atkinson.

Mrs Pamela Chisholm suggested that the Vice President could approach the Inverness Tourist Board for suitable accommodation for members to use. The floor stated "en bloc" that the members would pay for their own accommodation.

BRANCH REPORTS

These were received from Australia and the United States of America.

They were not read, but will be circulated in the Clan Journal.

Miss Barbara Chisholm read the Edinburgh Branch Report, which was then handed to the Honorary Treasurer to hand to the Honorary Secretary.

Dr Jean Munro asked if she could see the Australians' Book on their History. The President said the Society would purchase a copy for her.

The Honorary Treasurer agreed to do this; also she would chase up two sets of amendments which she had been informed were now available.

NEW CONSTITUTION

The New Constitution was considered by members present and was accepted with the amendment that Honorary Membership should also be listed under Clause 5.

Proposed by Mrs Liliat Atkinson, seconded by Dr Jean Munro and by a show of hands passed unanimously.

ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS AND CLAN COUNCIL FOR 1991/1992

The following members were elected at the meeting:-

President: Mr Ruari Chisholm
Vice President: Mr Duncan Chisholm
Honorary Treasurer: Mrs Juliette Chisholm-Broomfield
Honorary General Secretary: Mrs Sheila A Jones

These were elected "en bloc".

Proposed by Mr Benjamin Chisholm-Broomfield

Seconded by Mrs Mairi-Angela Foster

Ex Officio Members: Dr Jean Munro
Mr Benjamin Chisholm-Broomfield

Proposed by Mr Ruari Chisholm

Seconded by Mrs Mairi-Angela Foster.

ELECTIONS OF HONORARY AUDITOR

The Clan Council can appoint Honorary Members, one of whom is Mrs Rita Gibson, who together with her late husband had done a great deal for Chisholms touring the Chisholm Country. The Council also proposed Mrs Joan Mackay for Honorary Membership in view of her work for the Clan. Members were asked to agree this appointment. It was agreed unanimously by the Members.

The Honorary Treasurer explained Mrs Mackay never charged for her services nor would she accept a gift; she was also always willing to give advice when required regarding the Society's Funds.

The election for the Honorary Auditor was:-

Proposed by the Honorary Treasurer

Seconded by Mrs Liliat Atkinson

Mrs Pamela Chisholm gave a vote of thanks for the services of Mrs Joan Mackay, our Auditor.

The Floor gave an applause of thanks and appreciation for her services.

DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

The President felt that this should be in Edinburgh, as did Mrs Pamela Chisholm, due to the 40th Anniversary Celebrations.

Miss Barbara Chisholm mentioned that the Branches outing would be to Chisholme House. Hence it was felt by members present that Miss Barbara Chisholm could organise details/arrangements for 7 August 1992, the day prior to the proposed Annual General Meeting.

Proposed date and venue of the next meeting:-

8 August 1992
The Royal Abbey Hotel
Carlton Place
Edinburgh
Time: 11.00 am.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was none.

The President thanked everyone for attending the meeting. Mr Benjamin Chisholm-Broomfield gave a vote of thanks for the Chair. Miss Barbara Chisholm thanked the Chair for the compliments paid to the Edinburgh Branch.

MEETING CLOSED AT 12.08 pm.

THE UNITED STATES BRANCH REPORT

On behalf of Clan Chisholm Society in America, I would like to extend greetin to those members and officers in attendance at your AGM this August 10th.

I will try to summarize the activities of our Branch for this past year.

We continue to be represented as a Clan at three popular Highland Games. Our Chairman, Mr James E Gillenwater and his family sponsor a tent at the Glasgow, Kentucky games. As our Secretary/Treasurer, I sponsor a tent along with my family at the New Hampshire Highland Games at Loon Mountain. One of our members, Sylvia Chisholm, continues her family's tradition of sponsoring a tent at the Dunedin Florida games. These games are most enjoyable and offer an opportunity for exposure that we might not have otherwise. Reports on the games are usually included in our newsletters.

Our next biennial meeting will be held in Louisville, Kentucky on July 30, 31 and August 1, 1992. Several smaller groups among our membership held reunions or meetings this year. They include the Chisms of NE/KS/IA/MO and the Dallas Area Chisms.

Membership renewals seem a bit slow this year. I will provide a membership list (to date) for 1991 to your Secretary and Treasurer but it will be subject to change when the James Chism of Virginia Chapter of CCSA reports to me. I will also send the appropriate funds. I ask your pardon on this until I can return from vacation in Maine around August 5th.

I would like to congratulate Mr Benjamin Chisholm-Broomfield on the fine job he has done on the 1991 Clan Chisholm Journal. My thanks go to Juliette Chisholm-Broomfield for her continuing support and correspondence on Clan matters.

I commend the Australian Branch for their publication which I have recently read. I hope that this offers some incentive to continue efforts at publishing a new history of the Chisholms. This subject will, no doubt, be a topic for discussion amongst officers and Clan Council. Our membership continues to express interest in this project.

Best wishes for a successful meeting.

Respectfully submitted Mrs Val Chisholm Perry Secretary/Treasurer.

AUSTRALIAN CLAN CHISHOLM REPORT

This report is sent with greetings and best wishes for your AGM this year. Since your last AGM our President and his wife had the opportunity to visit the UK and see some Clan Country and meet some Clansfolk. They had a wonderful time and we were able to share their exciting trip when the video which was taken at that time was

shown at the AGM this year.

For the second time in two years the Australian Clan AGM was held in Victoria. This time the venue was historic Ballarat on the weekend of the 13th and 14th April 1991 and was organised by our Hon. Vice President, Jack Chisholm.

Our weekend commenced with a most enjoyable visit to Sovereign Hill. We were met by Jack Chisholm and his daughter Elizabeth and son-in-law David, who guided us through this most interesting recreation of early Ballarat.

It is certainly a credit to the people of Ballarat who have built, operate and maintain it and particularly to our Hon. Vice President, Jack Chisholm who conceived the idea for the original development, though perhaps he hadn't envisaged such a scale and magnificent operation as it now is.

Each one of us found many places of particular interest, from the blacksmith's shop to the gold mine battery where the ore was crushed, the many shops, houses and finally their museum and theatre.

On Saturday night members and friends joined other tourists at the Victoria Theatre Restaurant, Sovereign Hill for dinner and a show.

The Clan President, Ken Watson and his wife Ruth were "piped in" to the Restaurant and the piper entertained us during the intermission of the stage show.

We selected the right night for our visit as the show was called "A Touch of Tartan". In honour of this, those of us with Clan kilts wore them.

This was followed by lunch which was organised and served by Eleanor and Jack Chisholm with help from their family and some other Victorian members.

Unfortunately I was unable to attend the weekend as I was going overseas in May and it wasn't feasible to go to Ballarat as well. However my assistant, Betty Miles went in my place and did an excellent job.

It was good to know there were some new faces at the meeting this year. A special welcome to our newest member Robyn Becker who was officially accepted by the Society at the AGM. Robyn is one of our member's daughter and we are delighted she has joined the Clan Chisholm Society.

Earlier in the year we were introduced by letter to the new UK Hon. General Secretary, Mrs Sheila Jones. We send a warm welcome and wish her well in her new position.

We have been thrilled with the response we have received concerning our Clan Book. Many thanks for the lovely thank you card sent on behalf of the UK Branch.

Within the last year we have been saddened with the deaths of four of our members, Mr Richard Fenton, Rev. Gordon Michael, Mrs Nell Hart and more recently, about a month ago Mr Jack Wann. Each of these members contributed to the Clan in their own special way. As I reflect on the memories we have of these friends, the purpose of the book is brought into reality. The memory and significance of every member in the Australian Branch of the Clan Chisholm Society will never die. They will and always be recorded in our Clan book for generations to come.

Next year we hope to hold our AGM Gathering at Kippilaw, a favourite location for our members. Well that seems to be all the news I have to report, I hope you have a good meeting.

With regards

Elizabeth Watson

**REPORT OF THE EDINBURGH BRANCH
GIVEN AT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF CLAN SOCIETY
ON 10 AUGUST 1991**

The Branch records with great sadness the death of Kenneth Chisholm on 18 November 1990. Kenneth served the Clan Society as Honorary Clan Piper for many years. He was a very loyal member and he is greatly missed.

Present membership of the Branch is 28, and thanks are due to all for their continued support.

The Annual General Meeting of the Branch was held on 20 April 1990. The meeting unanimously agreed that Miss Barbara Chisholm continue as Administrator. After the business meeting and refreshments a video film was shown of the presentation of new colours to the 2nd Battalion The Scots Guards by Her Majesty The Queen at Hopetoun House, near Edinburgh, in June 1988.

During August 1990 Edinburgh was the venue for the Annual General Meeting of the Clan Society when Mr Ruari Chisholm and other officials attended.

The Branch opened the 1990/1991 session with a social evening on 29 September. Scots songs and Gaelic airs were charmingly presented by Miss Rosemary McKerchar (voice and clarsach). A book token signed by members present was given to Mr Peter Chisholm in recognition of his services as Honorary Secretary and Treasurer of the Branch (1984-1989).

A Robert Burns celebration was planned for February 1991 with Mr Andrew Winton of the Edinburgh Burns Club as guest speaker.

During August 1990 I was happy to welcome to Edinburgh Mr Kenneth Watson, President of the Clan Chisholm Society in Australia and his charming wife Ruth. Kenneth presented me with a copy of the Australian Branch's publication "The Clan Chisholm in Australia 1790-1991". The book was signed by the Editor Carolyn Chown and other officials of the Australian Branch. I thank the Australian Branch for presenting this history. Another visitor I welcomed was Mr Grant Chisholm from Ontario, Canada.

Finally the Branch records thanks to the President and the Clan Council for their commitment during 1990. *Report prepared and presented by Barbara Chisholm*

*The Edinburgh Branch
celebrates its 40th Anniversary*

A Trip to Chisholme House, Hawick is being arranged on
August 7th 1992 at 2.15 pm.

*Miss Barbara Chisholm (Administrator) is extending a warm invitation on behalf of the
Branch for any of our Members to join the outing.*

The journey will be by coach; with a bar lunch at Selkirk.

Please return the slips on opposite page to help us make advanced plans

————— Thank You —————

CLAN CHISHOLM GATHERING / AGM 1993, INVERNESS

July 28th - 31st Inclusive.

EVENTS

A trip/talk on the ancient Caledonian Forest, Glen Affric, by the Forestry Commission. A visit to the Power Station at Aigas and the Salmon Leap.

An evening with the Chisholms.

A guided walk on the Town of Inverness and visit to the Museum. A trip to the Military Museum at Fort George.

A coach tour to Glenfarrar. An evening at the Cumings Hotel, Inverness. A Scottish (Ceilidh)


Sat: AM 31st July AGM - PM: A trip up the River Ness.

Accommodation Enquiries:

The Inverness Tourist Board
23 Church Street
INVERNESS, IV1 1EZ, Scotland

Inverness Clan Society contact:

Mr Duncan Chisholm
34 Grigor Drive
INVERNESS, IV2 41S, Scotland

 **Clan Chisholm Gathering 1993**

NAME: _____

FULL ADDRESS: _____

I WILL/WILL NOT be able to attend the 1993 Gathering/ AGM.
RETURN TO: The Hon. Secretary Mrs S Jones, 54 St Martin's Close,
East Horsley, Leatherhead, Surrey KT24 6SU, England.

**CLAN CHISHOLM GATHERING 1992
A TRIP TO CHISHOLME HOUSE**

I/WE..... WILL/WILL NOT be able to attend on August 7th 1992.

NAME: _____

FULL ADDRESS _____

RETURN TO: Miss B. Chisholm, Salisbury Road, Edinburgh. EH16 5AA

MEMBERS ADS

One of our Members Mr PAUL KEANE suggested this title. Mr Keane feels there are several members who may need help with their Family Trees.

Mr Keane requests information on :

FRASER and MACDONALD Ancestors who lived in and around Strathglass. Special interest in John MacDonald who was born around 1760 and was a farmer at Ballacladich; which was land owned by the Fraser family of Guisachan.

Replies please to the Editor of the Journal

Ben Chisholm-Broomfield
17, Davies Street, Mayfair,
London, WY1 1LN.

FROM THE
AUSTRALIAN BRANCH

The Clan Chisholm in Australia 1790 - 1991

This is a book on the Chisholm's in Australia, which the Branch has edited
COST

AIRMAIL \$48 ECONOMY \$42
SEAMAIL \$36

contact

Miss Elizabeth Watson

Hon. Secretary

8 Parkham Road

Dundas 2117

New South Wales, Australia

CLAN CHISHOLM SOCIETY

AGENDA

for

The 41st Annual General Meeting of the Clan Chisholm Society will be held in the Royal Abbey Hotel, Carlton Place, Edinburgh.

SATURDAY 8TH AUGUST 1992 AT 10.45 AM FOR 11.00 AM START

- 1 Welcome and Greetings.
- 2 Apologies for absence.
- 3 Minutes of the meeting held at Edinburgh on 10th August 1991, (Circulated in the Journal).
- 4 Matters arising from the minutes.
- 5 The President.
- 6 Financial Statement, Audit and Report
- 7 Subscription Rates.
- 8 Honorary General Secretary.
- 9 Clan Chisholm Journal (The Editor).
- 10 Inverness Clan Gathering 1993. 28th, 29th, 30th, 31st July 1993.
- 11 Branch Report - To be circulated in the Clan Journal (not to exceed 320 words).
- 12 Election of Office Bearers and Clan Council for 1992/3.
and Ex Officio Members Dr Jean Munro
Mr B Chisholm-Broomfield
- 13 Election of Honorary Auditor.
- 14 Date and Place of Next Meeting. Inverness 1993, July 31st. AM
- 15 Any Other Business.

We are always looking for old photographs, letters or any interesting memorabilia relating to the Clan Chisholm, for inclusion in the Journal.

Please send them to the Editor, and we will return them to you after use.

Mrs Sheila Anne Jones
54 St Martin's Close
East Horsely
Leatherhead
Surrey KT24 6SU
Telephone: 04865 3599

**CLAN CHISHOLM SOCIETY
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31.12.90**

Income

Subscriptions:

Life Membership	42.00
Annual	<u>379.67</u>
	421.67
Interest	261.25
Sale of Literature and tapes	65.14
Deficit	130.98
	<u>879.04</u>

Expenditure

Clan Journals:

Printing	480.00	
Postages	111.36	
Stationery	<u>16.22</u>	
		607.58
Stationery & Postages		36.67
AGM Expenses & Presentation		127.94
Corporation Tax		46.85
Clan Cairns - maintenance (1989-1990)		60.00
		<u>879.04</u>

Balance Sheet

Capital Account:

Balance at 31.12.89	5149.69
Deficit	130.98
	<u>5018.71</u>

Bank Balances:

Current Account	270.48	
Deposit Account	<u>4748.23</u>	
		5018.71
		<u>5018.71</u>

I have examined the transactions of the Society and certify the foregoing statements to be correct according to the information supplied.

Hon. Auditor

Mrs J H MacKay, Inverness

14th May 1991



THE CHISHOLMS
Kiltmakers & Highland Dress Specialists