



# CLAN CHISHOLM SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

AMERICAN BRANCH

P.O. Box 1091  
Keene, NH 03431

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FALL/WINTER 1989

Fellow Clansmen,

I hope that all of you enjoyed the holiday season. On behalf of Clan Chisholm Society in America, I wish all of you a very Happy New Year!

## INTERNATIONAL GATHERING

As previously mentioned, the 1990 Gathering will be held in Santa Rosa, CA and will coincide with the 125th anniversary of the Caledonian Club of San Francisco, sponsors of the games. We are on the mailing list for news and events and hope to have full details in the next issue. Locally, Paul Chisholm of Oakland, CA has offered to help members who will be attending with recommendations for accommodations and sightseeing. Please let us know if you are interested.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

The list that follows is not complete but it will give you a fair idea of games and events scheduled in 1990. As usual, a more complete listing will be included in our Spring/Summer issue. We cannot endorse or participate in all of these events but we encourage you to attend and enjoy the festivities. Chisholms will

SCOTTISH EVENTS 1990

Jan.

12 - 14 Orlando Highland Games  
P.O. Box 2149  
Orlando, FL 32802

March

7 7th Annual South East Florida  
Festival & Games  
Crandon Gardens, Key Biscayne  
P.O. Box 633, Miami Shores, FL 33153

April

7 Dunedin Highland Games  
P.O. Box 507, Dunedin, FL 33528

REPORT ON CLAN GATHERINGS

Glasgow Highland Games & Gathering  
June 2 - 4, 1989

Chises/Chisholms were represented again this year at the Glasgow games which took place at the Barren River Lake State Resort Park. A full schedule of events and activities were planned. Included among them was the dedication of a cairn honoring the clans that attended the first games in 1986.

Quotation from the ceremony follows: "This megalith was chosen as a piece of native limestone placed in this area by God. This stone is to serve as an ebenezzer and symbol to the ongoing expansion of the culture, heritage, pageantry and advancement of the principles and traditions of the Scottish traditions in the United States of America. This edifice was donated by Mr & Mrs D. B. "Red" Sims of the Chisa/Chishola Clan. The preparation of the labors involved were the end result of Fred Keith and the Keith Clan Society. All materials were freely given by Scotty's Contracting, Inc. and Square Deal Concrete Products Co. May this monument stand as a symbol and lasting tribute to the continued growth of the traditions of man's devotion to Almighty God."

The cairn weighs six tons and is eight feet long. The clan groups that attended the first gathering were: Campbell, Chattan, Chisholm/Chisa, Douglas, Gordon, Gregor, Gunn, Johnston/e, Keith, MacDougal, MacKenzie, MacNeil, Moffat, Sinclair and Smith.

Our Secretary/Treasurer James Gillenwater provided this report and is active in the Scottish community around Glasgow, KY.

New Hampshire Highland Games  
Loon Mountain, Lincoln, NH  
Sept. 16 & 17, 1989

Clan Chisholm was represented for the fourth year at these games. The events scheduled included a return visit by the Pipes & Drums of the 48th Highlanders of Toronto, Canada who are considered to be the premier military pipe band in Canada. They led the opening and closing ceremonies and performed four times over the weekend. A full slate of events including Highland Dancing, Scottish Athletics, Scottish Fiddle Championships and Clan Tents were enjoyed by all. The crowds were estimated at 14,000, the largest to date in the 14 years the games have taken place. Thanks to those members who stopped by to support our tent. They included: Tom Chisholm of Hampton, NH; Florence Chisholm Wiggins of Stratham, NH; John Chishola of Nashua, NH; Weade Clarke of Portland, ME. Many other Chisholms stopped by and signed our Guest Book. I would like to also thank my parents, John & Chris Chisholm of Wells, ME for sponsoring the tent and underwriting expenses. My sisters Jeanne, Barbara & Beth Chishola also pitched in. Without them, we might not have had a tent at all! I was unable to attend at the last minute due to a medical problem and they took over. One other note of thanks is due to Mrs. Ruth Chisholm Brennan of Melrose, MA who donated yardage of the Chisholm tartan to be used for a banner at future NH games.



Glenn Chisholm      Jeanne Chisholm      Chris & John Chisholm  
Newton, MA              Waltham, MA              Wells, ME

Glenn Chisholm stops by every year to visit with us and to participate in the games. He brought his banner along this year!

## FAMILY REUNIONS

Chisholm Family Reunion  
Melrose, MA  
July 30, 1989

Tom Chisholm of Hampton, NH sent this report recently. The family reunion was a big success. We had 230 adults and 50 children in attendance. We enjoyed a catered turkey dinner and a "DJ" provided music for dancing. The family tree was on the walls of the hall so that everyone could locate their family line. An updated family tree is being put together from information received at the reunion and we are all looking forward to receiving it. A Chisholm Crest done in 3D and a Chisholm plaid scarf were raffled off. We had a video tape of the event taken to remember it by. It was nice to see so much interest when only a small part of the family was able to attend! Personally, Tom mentions that his father was John of Malden, MA and his grandfather was Valentine of Malden, MA. Tom and I are trying to figure out how our families tie in together. It's going to take some time...Tom and his wife are in Florida for the winter but will keep in touch.

Nebraska-Kansas-Iowa-Missouri Chism Reunion  
Lincoln, NE  
August 1989

This family reunion was held at the Knoll's Country Club in Lincoln. The day was spent visiting and catching up on all the family news. It was a delight to have Raymond & Virginia Nichols of Winfield, KS with us. Virginia gave us some up-dates on the Chism Book. We all must unite and work together to get it published. Darlene Honeycutt from Los Angeles came the farthest distance. It was a difficult day for the family with the absence of Neal Chism who was so close to us all. We carried on as he would have wanted us to. Let's look forward to the next reunion. Family reunions bring out wonderful memories.

Margaret Chism Truhlar of Salina, KS was kind enough to send us this report. She mentions some of the family who were ill or hospitalized in 1989: Clair Chism, Hebert Chism, Mrs. William (Pat) McCloud, Ethel Rae Robinson and Elsie Robinson. Our best wishes for a speedy recovery goes to all of them.

We send our sincere sympathy to Margaret who lost her husband, Edward, on July 14, 1989 just prior to this reunion.

Spurlock Reunion  
Gravois Mills, MO  
June 16 - 18, 1989

The Spurlock Clan met at the Harbour Resort on Lake of the Ozarks, Gravois, MO on the 16, 17 & 18th of June. Forty-eight members attended the three day reunion. Most stayed at the Resort. All were the direct descendants of John Haywood Spurlock and Nancy (Minor) Spurlock. The time was spent renewing old memories with relatives, looking at old and new photos, etc. This was our second reunion. The oldest Spurlock in attendance was my uncle, Drua Joshia Spurlock who is 87 years old and still lives on the original Spurlock farm. He is my father's youngest brother and the only living descendant of that generation. There were relatives from five states representing four generations.

It was voted to meet in three years at Ardmore, OK in June 1992.

I am very interested in my Chism heritage and want to stay in touch with the national organization. Submitted by Clif Spurlock of Sunrise Beach, MO.

## UPCOMING REUNIONS

1990 Chism Family Association Gathering  
Dallas, TX  
August 2 - 4, 1990

The Dallas Chisms are working hard at getting everything ready for this event. Don Robinson, President of Chism Family Association is busy scouting out locations in the Arlington area (half way between Dallas and Fort Worth). Hope to have more details later.

Faye Chism reports that plans for the genealogy workshop and meeting are coming right along. Something very different can be expected.

A blend of southern and western hospitality will greet us and that, added to the congeniality of Chisms, can only mean that we can expect to have a really good time. Be sure to mark your calendars!

These excerpts were taken from the last CFA newsletter with permission of the editor, Paula R. Dale.

## "CIAD MILE FAULTE"

We welcome the following new members:

John J. Chisholm, 59 New Searles Rd., Nashua, NH 03062  
Florence Chisholm Wiggin, 66 Squamscott Rd., Stratham, NH 03885  
Evelyn Stafford, 76 Dothan St., Arlington, MA 02174  
Mary M. Fricchione, 126 Dartmouth St., Everett, MA 02149

## TIDBITS

We received holiday greetings from the Australian Branch.

Mrs. Florence Chisolm of Rapid City, SD recently telephoned me and we had a very interesting conversation. I'd like to share a part of that conversation with you. Florence spoke about jewelry that her family had made with the Chisolm crest on it. Her family consigned a jewelry manufacturer to cast a mold of the crest in order to make this jewelry. That mold is available to any member who would like to have custom pieces such as rings, pins, pendants made by this same manufacturer. The mold has been paid for by Florence and her family and will be held for safe-keeping by the manufacturer. You may inquire directly to him if you are interested: Mr. Lee Aarani, 62 West 47th St., Room 1405, NYC, NY 10036 (Phone 212-575-9609). You have the Chisolm's permission to use the mold. Although you will not have to pay for the use of the mold, you will have to pay Mr. Aarani for the manufacturing of the jewelry. His is a reputable manufacturer and the Chisolms have done business with him for several years now. They do not hesitate to recommend him.

Florence also promised to submit an article for a future newsletter about a well known member of her husband's family -- Dr. Chisolm, surgeon for the Confederacy during the Civil War. It should be quite interesting from what she told me.

Jack Trotter of Allentown, PA sent along news of The Alliance of Border Scots. The Alliance sponsored a tent at the Second Annual Celtic Classic held in Bethlehem, PA on Sept. 29 - Oct. 1, 1989. These events were attended by over 60,000 people. Eleven bands and nine celtic athletes competed for the highest prize money in North America. This weekend event was also the location for a Saturday evening reorganization meeting and dinner for The Alliance that was attended by over 30. Also in attendance was Father John Chisolm and his wife. Father John was instrumental in forming The Alliance and is its Chaplain. The Alliance elected new officers to serve for one year: Ed Bell, Clan Bell, F.S.A. (Scot), President; Jack Trotter, Clan Chisolm, F.S.A. (Scot), Vice President; Jim Nethery, Clan Graham, Secretary/Treasurer. The primary goal of The Alliance is to acquaint people of Border heritage with their clan associations, their clan and district tartans and bring them into Scottish heritage fellowship.

Paul Chisolm of Oakland, CA wrote to me just after the earthquake. Let me share part of his letter with you. "As Mark Twain once wrote from San Francisco; 'Reports of my death have been greatly exaggerated.' Unfortunately, however, I did suffer a severe injury two days prior to the quake. I sustained a multiple fracture of my right heel and ankle." He goes on to explain about his recuperation from surgery. "When the quake hit, I was laying in

bed at Alta-Bates Hospital in Berkeley, and the way my luck had been running, I had a window seat. The hospital is a relatively new building and the entire exterior wall of my 2-bed room was window, except for about two feet of structural wall space at the bottom. I was relatively comfortable and watching the first inning of the world series. ... When the vibrations continued to grow in intensity, I began to have a great concern for my safety. I had visions of my bed flying out the window and landing 6 stories down. The TV went dead and the vibrations exacerbated. I was prepared to hit the floor. As it turned out, the forces peaked and, with wheels in the locked position, transported by bed six feet across the room, coming to a rest with the foot of the bed resting against the opposite wall!" Paul and his wife Nancy live approximately 5 miles east of 880 and were fortunate in that they did not suffer any property damage. I hope that Paul's spirits are up and that his recovery is a speedy one.

James E. (Trail) and Juanite Chism of Dickson, TN celebrated their 50th Anniversary last spring. Congratulations!

Clif and Mary Spurlock of Sunrise Beach, MO celebrated their 50th Anniversary last September. Congratulations!

Richard and Betty Clifton of Prairie Village, KS celebrated their 50th Anniversary in October. Congratulations!

John and Chris Chisolm of Wells, ME celebrated their 40th Anniversary in September. Congratulations Mom and Dad! Incidentally, John unexpectedly required open heart surgery which was performed at a Boston hospital in November. Join me in wishing him a speedy recovery.

## GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH

Please read the editorial on Page 3 of the Clan Chisolm Journal, No. 32, 1989. Help preserve some of our heritage by sending information to the Parent Society and cooperate in the updating of the History of the Chisolms so that future generations can enjoy their clan's rich history.

### ANCESTORS (Author Unknown)

If you could see your ancestors  
All standing in a row,  
There might be some of them perhaps  
You wouldn't care to know,  
But here's another question  
Which requires a different view  
If you could meet your ancestors,  
Would they be proud of you?

The Gaelic word "uisghe" translates into "water of life"  
The Russian word "vodka" translates into "water of life"  
The Danish word "aquavit" translates into "water of life"

MISCELLANEOUS

Hogmanay (pronounced Hog-má-náy) dates back to the Picts, ancient natives of Scotland. An irrepressible folk, they got their name (which means "painted people") from the way they celebrated each New Year: gaily painting themselves, scuttling through the forest, and reveling the night away. Although rather few Scots still paint themselves or dance in the woods, Hogmanay remains the most celebrated holiday in Scotland. It begins on December 31st, when Scottish families scour their homes (to prevent any old dust from sifting into the new year) and bake black bun, a rich moist fruitcake encased in thin pastry. Then they decorate with streamers and mistletoe, bring out fiddles, bagpipes and accordians and eagerly make ready for "first footing". You see, while the celebration often commences earlier than midnight, no Scot will risk bad luck by wishing anyone "Happy New Year" until precisely that magic hour. Thusly, the first person to step over the threshold after the last stroke of midnight is called the "first footing". Legend promises that the New Year will bring extraordinary luck if the first foot is a dark-haired man bearing a gift: shortbread or a lump of coal for the fireplace and always uisge beatha, the "water of life" we call whisky today. (The faith seems to prove especially true for households with unmarried daughters.) And custom has it that everybody brings one or all of these gifts. As friends arrive, they're given a "cup o' kindness" and led to the hearth. ("Gie me ae spark o' Nature's fire, that's a' the learning I desire.") Each dram brings more poetry and song. And as the party grows, the laughter soars until the camaraderie inevitably honors the immortal sentiments of Robert Burns with "Auld Lang Syne." Then it becomes a moveable feast, with marching pipers and skipping lassies visiting house to house. And indeed, well into the wee hours, one still hears echoes of Scotland's beloved poet: "Wi'tippenny, we fear nae evil; Wi'usquebae, we'll face the devil!" This was taken from a Devars advertisement recently. I cannot vouch for it's accuracy but it does conjure up images...

Shortbread Recipe (which I can vouch for)

- 2 sticks of butter
- 1 cup self-rising flour
- 1 1/2 cups all purpose flour
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1/2 cup cornstarch

Mix dry ingredients together. Melt butter and pour into flour mix. Mix and knead until crumbly in your hands. Put in a 9x9 pan and pat smoothly. Bake at 325 for 50 minutes. Watch oven. Do not let it brown or overcook. Cool slightly and prick with a fork partway through as if slicing. Slice when cooled.

I got this recipe from an English friend who got it from her mother back home who got it from a friend in Scotland. I honestly can't give credit where it's due but I have had great luck with this recipe.

DUES

A Dues and Donations form is included for your convenience in remitting your 1990 dues.

**CLAN CHISHOLM SOCIETY IN AMERICA**

**Dues and Donations**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

Please allocate my check or money order among the following activities and special interest categories below:

- Membership: CCSA (\$8.00 member/\$3.50 junior member) \_\_\_\_\_
- Donations: Clerical Fund (\$1.00 per family address) \_\_\_\_\_
- Editor's Fund (\$1.00 per family address) \_\_\_\_\_
- Council of Scottish Clans (\$1.00 per address) \_\_\_\_\_
- Alliance of Border Scots (\$1.00 per address) \_\_\_\_\_
- Scottish Games at \_\_\_\_\_
- Scottish Games in general \_\_\_\_\_
- Parent Society: Erskine Castle Project \_\_\_\_\_
- Parent Society: History Project \_\_\_\_\_
- Undesignated - over and above dues \_\_\_\_\_
- Memorials: In honor of \_\_\_\_\_
- Total: \_\_\_\_\_

Ideas, Suggestions and Comments:

Please remit to: James E. Gillenwater  
Secretary/Treasurer  
CLAN CHISHOLM SOCIETY IN AMERICA  
103 East Main Street  
Glasgow, KY 42141-2835

Please drop us a line if you will be attending a family reunion or a gathering in 1990. Our thanks to those of you who contributed to this issue. You've made it easier for me to publish this newsletter.

In kinship,

*Val*

Mrs. Val Chisholm Perry  
Editor





Clan Chisholm Society  
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**Address Correction  
and Forwarding Requested**



**FIRST CLASS**

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Eastchester, NY 10707



# CHISHOLM

*This month Roddy Martine and Emilio Coia meet and portray  
The Chisholm, An Siosalach, 32nd Chief of Clan Chisholm.*



**MOTTO:**  
*I tame the wild.*

“There’s an old Highland saying that there are only three people entitled to use the definite article — The Pope, The Devil and The Chisholm,” quips Alastair Chisholm, in Inverness to attend the International Gathering and World Congress of Scots which took place in May.

“We haven’t as yet got a home in the Highlands, but we hope to put that right soon,” he says. “All we *do* own is one acre of land with a ruined cottage on it, which isn’t much use, but we might restore it or build on the land if we can’t find anything else suitable.”

The Chisholms were originally the de Chesholms, and their seat was near Hawick in Roxburghshire. In the fourteenth century, Alexander de Chesholm, son of Sir Robert De Chisholme, Constable of Urquhart Castle beside Loch Ness, married Margaret, Lady of Erchless, daughter and heiress of Wyland of the Aird.

Their son, Thomas de Chisholm, was born in 1403, and succeeded to his maternal grandfather’s lands in Morayshire. He is ancestor of the Chisholms of Comar and Strathglass, who were later called the Chisholms of Chisholm. Branches of the Highland clan are of Kinneries and Lierty, of Knockfin and Muckerach.

From the Borders family came the Chisholms of Stirches and the Chisholms of Cromlix in Perthshire, three of whom became successive Bishops of Dunblane.

The Chisholms supported Prince Charles Edward Stuart, and many died at the Battle of Culloden Moor in 1746 although two of The Chisholm’s sons fought alongside the government. Three of the seven men of Glenmoriston, who sheltered with the Prince in a cave at Corriedoe while the Redcoat troops searched for the Pretender, were Chisholms.

“During the Sutherland clearances most of the Chisholms scattered, mainly to Canada,” explains The Chisholm. “The Chief at that time was James Sutherland Chisholm of Erchless, who belonged to another branch of my family. His line, in fact, died out, and my own descent comes

from Mary Chisholm of Comar in Cannich, Strathglass. She did a lot of good work in opposing the Clearances,” he continues. “At the age of seventeen she rushed into a meeting and stopped her father from signing an eviction document.

“Nowadays, of course, Erchless no longer belongs to us, but quite often people confront me about the Clearances, and I’m able to tell them quite honestly that my side of the family had nothing to do with them.” In fact, Mary was something of a Highland heroine.

“She married James Gooden of London, and thus the family name became Gooden-Chisholm. Then, in the 1930s, Sir Thomas Innes of Learney, who was Lord Lyon King of Arms, suggested to my aunt that, as we were the senior line, my grandfather drop the Gooden name and matriculate arms. I inherited the chiefship from him in 1942.”

## West Indies

The Chisholm family had gone to the West Indies shortly after the First World War, and Alastair Chisholm was born in Trinidad in 1920. He went to live with his aunt in Sussex when he was three years old, then moved to live at Cantra, near Inverness, from where he attended the Abbey School at Fort Augustus. Later the family moved to live on Jersey, and Alastair was sent to Ampleforth School.

School came to an end in 1939, and Alastair joined the Seaforth’s at Fort George, then was sent for officer training.

He joined the 9th Battalion at Wick who were supplying officers for the Indian Army. He was enlisted, and spent most of the war in the Indian Army Service Corps, who were trained up near Bengal and sent to Northern India, now Pakistan, with Punjabi/Muslim troops.

“I was then posted to Assam among the tea gardens,” he recalls. “I took a convoy of replacement vehicles into Burma, which was then being re-conquered. Then the atom bomb was dropped and it was all over.”

Alastair re-joined the Seaforth’s, and for a time served in occupied Germany before being demobbed. He returned to Suffolk, where he bought a farm and met his wife, Rosemary. They have one son — Hamish — and four daughters — Susan, Theresa, Claire and Lucy. They now have six grandchildren.

The Clan Chisholm Society was formed in 1951, and despite recent bad health, The Chisholm has been actively involved in building up membership throughout the world. The Society President is Duncan Chisholm, based in Inverness, and there is a modest UK membership with separate American and Canadian branches.

The Chisholm opened the Tattoo in Toronto in 1973; he was at the opening of Scotland House in New York in 1976, and attended the International Gatherings in Nova Scotia in 1979 and 1987. He has also attended the Highland Games in Kentucky as a guest of clan member James Gillenwater.

Today he and his wife live at Mildenhall, near Bury St Edmunds in Suffolk.

“Right under the flightline!” observes Rosemary Chisholm. “One reason for us moving to Scotland is that people will visit us rather than us having to visit *them*,” she adds.

Inverness is obviously a much-loved second home for them, but The Chisholm is disappointed at the press reaction to the International Gathering there this year.

“The newspapers say it’s a flop, but I haven’t seen it as a flop,” he insists.

“The number of visitors from overseas is disappointing, but that doesn’t mean that there hasn’t been plenty of interest. Everybody has worked very hard towards making it a success, and I’d like to see Inverness as the permanent home of the International Gathering — from the clans’ and the Highland point of view, it is entirely appropriate.”





KOIA