This family of Chisholms displays outstanding qualities of professionalism and public service. Henry Williams Chisholm, grandfather, Hugh Chisholm, father and Sir Henry Chisholm, Archibald and John, sons, all showed and proved the leadership, integrity and forthrightness which ran through their make-up.

Family tradition has it that the ancestry goes back to the fifth century when a Danish Chief and his followers invaded Scotland and settled in Inverness-shire; as yet the detailed links have not been ascertained and recorded. Tradition links this family of Chisholms with Oliver Cromwell who might have been Oliver Williams if his great great grandfather had not changed his name to Cromwell from Williams, a famous Tudor family, and for what reason is also not known, perhaps on religious grounds. Basically the Chisholm Clan was Roman Catholic, but there are now many protestant families and when and where the change took place are not specifically known, except in the case of this family which abides by the following tradition. That is to say, in 1714 probably to avoid the anticipated Jacobite rebellion, William's father left Strathglass for London, where Queen Anne, who was to die later in the year, appointed him to a minor post, with residence, at St. James's Palace. She is believed to have shared the Royal preference, with her successor Queen Victoria and Mary, for tall good-looking Highlanders. He stood six foot four and a half inches in kilt and hose and is believed to have changed his religion in order to keep his employment. In the course of time he was succeeded in his post and residence at St. James's Palace by his son William and the latter by his son George with the post and residence enlarging all the time. George died in 1811 from his exertions to stop a big fire at the Palace. In view of that bravery, his widow was then appointed to his post of Keeper of the Royal Appartments with residence and perquisites to match. She occupied that position until her death in 1872 by which time great trust was reposed in her at the Palace. She was well-known and respected by the older members of the Royal Family and especially by Queen Victoria. Respect for her extended also to King George IV who invited her to his Coronation Banquet where she sat next to the author, Sir Walter Scott. The 1821 banquet was the last at which Dymoke, the Royal Champion, rode his horse into Westminster Hall in full medieval armour and threw down his gauntlet as a challenge to all.

Henry Chisholm, at chart C/ Bel 1, page 1, became secretary and librarian to Lord Grenville, auditor of the Exchequer and later in 1806 Prime Minister, gave Henry a clerkship in the Exchequer, where he eventually became Senior Clerk in the Exchequer Bills Office and King's Agent for Sierra Leone and the Gold Coast, now Ghana.

Henry Williams Chisholm, also at chart C/Bel 1, page 01, became Warden of the Standards in the Board of Trade, now in 1991 the Ministry of Trade and Industry, the function of which is briefly described below, and worked closely with colleagues in other Standard Departments in Berlin, Madrid, Paris, Rome, St. Petersburg, Vienna, Washington as well as many British Colonial territories.

The British Board of Trade had the custody of the Imperial standards of weights and measures which historically had been in charge of the Chamberlains of the Exchequer. In 1826 the Standards Department was abolished but responsibility remained with an officer of the Exchequer, which office was in turn abolished in 1866 by the Weights, Measures and Coinage Act of 1866. This act created a Standards Board and yet another act of 1878 made the office a part of the Board of Trade and defined its functions. These included the custody of the Imperial Standards, periodic comparison with the Parliamentary copies of the standards, which were datum, measuring standards of all sorts, including gas meters, and more latterly, apparatus for determining the flash-point of petroleum products. No doubt this task influenced Henry Williams's grandson Archibald, of whom more in a following paragraph, into a career in Petroleum.

In 1904, after Henry Williams' death in 1901, a further act included the making of regulations for verification of the use of standards in the care of local authorities etc, stamping weighing machines, setting the tests to be applied, allowable limits of inaccuracy and safeguards against fraud. Tasks made all the easier thanks to Henry Williams' earlier conscientious work carried out with a mind dedicated to specific accuracy and meticulous detail.

It was Henry Williams who brought order to this complicated jungle of weights and standards, difficult enough on its own without the frequent changes imposed upon him by constant changes in his instructions. One hundred years before his time, he had sought to introduce the metric system of measurement. At the Exchequer he had become a recognised authority on public finance and published his "Great Account" in 1869 as a Parliamentary Return in three volumes. They dealt in fine detail with the history, unrecorded until then, of the public revenue and expenditure of Great Britain and Ireland since 1668 and furthermore with the origins of the "the whole British Fiscal System"; it took ten years of patient research and study to write and it became known as The Treasury Bible. His worth was recognised by the French Government by the presentation to him of a Sevres vase today in the possession of his great grandson Archibald at C/Bel 1 page 1.

As Warden of the Standards he was the British delegate to the International Metric Commission in Paris from 1870 to 1875 and took a leading part, as a member of its Scientific Committee, in preparing and constructing the newly adopted international standards. At the desire of the Government his retirement from office was postponed until the end of 1876 when he had been fifty-two years in the public service.

Henry Williams wrote his memoirs "Recollections of an Octogenarian Civil Servant" in the periodical "Temple Bar" in 1891. He was also much involved, by being brought in on the investigations in 1841, of a large fraud on the issue of Exchequer Bills by a senior clerk in that department. Recital of the events of this fraud is given at page 3 of these historical notes.
Church College Oxford and graduated with First Class Honours in Literae Luminiores. He then read for the Bar and was called at the Middle Temple in 1892; he also did occasional journalism and finally adopted that profession. Between 1892 and 1900 he had various journalistic assignments, joining The Times and then becoming co-editor of the Encyclopaedia Britannica with Sir Donald Wallace and A T Hadley, President of Yale University.

In 1892, he became its Editor-in-Chief for the 11th edition and throughout his editorship worked closely with W E Hooper, publisher of the Encyclopaedia. The relationship between these two men, based on mutual respect and confidence, with Hooper supplying the business ability and Chisholm supplying the scholarship, enabled the 11th edition to appear in 1910/11.

Hugh Chisholm rejoined The Times in 1913, firstly as a leader writer and later, as financial editor, which responsible position he occupied throughout the 1914/1918 war. In 1920 he resigned his position with The Times in order to re-assume the editorship of the Encyclopaedia and to organise the publication of the 12th edition.

Hugh had a gift for organisation combined with ability and a wide range of knowledge. His paramount gift was to visualise the right arrangement of detail, plan a subject for an article, at times better than the expert he had invited to write it, and finally to see it into the Encyclopaedia.

In politics, Hugh was a Tariff reformer with clear and definite views. In literature he was a voracious reader and his judgement was sound. In finance, he was courageous and quick to grasp the essential details even on the somewhat arcane workings of the money-market. Despite being fresh to the subject he wrote with lucidity and authority on the intricacies of that market. In patriotism, both public and private, he rendered valuable services to Britain in connection with the raising of War Loans. He died in 1924.

Hugh had three sons, Henry, Archibald and John, all educated at Westminster.

Henry, the eldest, by profession a Chartered Accountant, was knighted in 1971 for his public services, largely from 1950 on for creating and developing Corby, a new town. Henry was widely known and respected in financial and industrial circles for his many interests in several of Britain's companies and industries.

Hugh's second son Archibald was educated at Westminster and followed on to Christ Church, Oxford where he became MA. Following a short period as a journalist with The Wall Street Journal, he joined the Anglo-Persian Oil Company, now part of British Petroleum. He took this step on the suggestion of Archibald Graeme Bell who had joined that company in 1923 when he retired from the Colonial Service. Archibald was invited to join the oil company by Sir John Cadman, later Lord Cadman. Later, he edited The Financial Times in London. During his service in the army in the second World War he was twice mentioned in despatches and granted a CBE. He was also a Chevalier of the Legion d'Honneur.

Hugh's third and youngest son John was a solicitor and a gemmologist of high repute. He inherited many of his father's abilities such as his literary skill, the use of words and their precise meanings. He was educated at Westminster School then, following family tradition went to Oxford University and gained a MA degree. In 1932 he was admitted to the Law Society as a solicitor and joined the Equity and Law Life Assurance Society where he established and developed their legal department. He became a well known and respected figure in the Life Offices Association and the Life Assurance Legal Society of which he was, at one time, Chairman. He retired in 1974. In 1948 he took up gemmology as a hobby. He developed an intense interest in this scientific subject with its emphasis on observation and measurement which probably came to his through his grandfather Hugh Williams Chisholm. The Gemmological Association appointed him an Examiner in 1955, Editor of the Journal of Gemmology in 1973, and its vice-President in 1984. Perhaps the final indication of John's unusual versatility was the acquisition of a pilot's licence at the age of 66.
The Exchequer Bills Fraud

The year 1841 saw a great forgery of Exchequer Bills and rumors started to be circulated by word of mouth. Henry Williams Chisholm was in Edinburgh at the time when the crisis broke and immediately received a summons to return to the Exchequer Office in London.

This he did suffering all the discomforts of an urgent journey, and because all the inside seats of the stagecoach had already been allocated, he travelled that March morning coldly and uncomfortably as an outside passenger. At Newcastle-upon-Tyne he was able to travel onwards by the new method of travel, a train drawn by a steam engine. On arrival in London he learnt to his astonishment and dismay of the great forgery of Exchequer Bills by Beaumont Smith leading eventually to his confession of guilt and his arrest.

Beaumont Smith, a senior clerk of the Office, had a good salary, lived inexpensively and was a trusted member of that Office. He had a wife and sons, lived in the respectable suburb of New Cross in a house rented at a modest and supportable $60 a year. The family life was quiet, no dinner parties, no flamboyant company and only two female servants to minister to the family. His only extra expense was that he kept a phaeton drawn by a pair of cobs.

His wife, with an income of some $400 a year had died in 1837. Shortly afterwards, the widower gave up the house at New Cross and lodged for a time in Richmond. In 1841 he married again, the widow of Captain Reynolds an army officer with a son aged about twelve. This lady was a fine handsome woman, good figure, agreeable, intelligent and they settled in London in a house on Camden Road.

The morning after HWC's arrival from Edinburgh he was fully briefed on the problem which in these late 1980's and early 1990's has its financial fraud parallels today.

It is unnecessary in these notes, to recite the personal standing of, reputations, methods of working and Bill Broking of bygone days of entrepreneurs, stock jobbers and other financial institutions of those days, suffice it to say that as a financial class they were in high repute yet financially acute. Suffice it also to say that the pattern continues today in 1992, high interest, plausible marketing, lack of full information and so on.

Details of the fraud would cover many pages; when and how discovery of bad bills came about, duplicated numbers, where was there access to numbering processes and forged signatures and seals. The Bills were cleverly duplicated as to quality of paper, printing, signature and seal, scrolls of indentation by which bills are torn off their counterfoil and other meticulous detail. But it was the matching of bills with the counterfoils in the Exchequer Office which proved the fraud. Genuine Bills exactly matched the indentations of the counterfoils, those of the forged bills did not.

Beaumont Smith at first tried to blame the numbering on the forged bills. Exchequer custom was that small bills were numbered by one of the clerks, but that Bills of $1,000 and over were numbered by a senior clerk; examination showed that the numbering on the forged bills was in the handwriting of Beaumont Smith. He then confessed to copying meticulously the $1,000 bills including forging the signature of Lord Mounteagle and marketing them through an Italian Jew called Rapallo.

When the fraud became public knowledge, alarm was widespread. There were 30,000 Bills in issue to a total value of $30,000,000 and many were in circulation as deposit against loans. Depositors rushed to have their bills examined and it later transpired that only the $1,000 bills had been forged to an extent of $400,000 of the forged bills, $300,000 had been advanced by different people as security.

Naturally HWC's investigations were exhaustive and deep. Now he set about his task is not necessary information for historical notes such as these.

The conclusion of the case was that Rapallo turned Queen's evidence, Solari who had been Rapallo's partner had died and Madame Solari quickly turned twenty of the bills into money and absconded to St. Petersburg. On the basis of Rapallo's knowledge and probable later evidence, Beaumont Smith pleaded guilty, was convicted and sentenced to be transported for life to what was at that time known as Van Diemen's Land. While there he wrote a complete report on how he did it and this was taken into account by the Royal Commission which later sat to tighten up the financial fraud laws. After seven years he received a Royal Pardon on condition that he never returned to England.

The incident closes with the above paragraph, but HWC was a generous-minded humane man. He was sorry for Mrs. Smith and visited her in her deprived state of life. All of her husband's assets had been sequestrated by the Treasury so HWC assisted her in her petition for their return. Regrettfully this ended in failure; the Treasury view was that if Mrs. Smith, previously married to an army officer could produce evidence of her marriage, the assets would be returned to her. Was she married to Beaumont Smith or did they just live together while she continued to draw and enjoy the widow's pension which would cease on her remarriage.

In the event HWC took part in the Royal Commission into the manner in which future Exchequer Bills would be made and issued.------
THE BELL FAMILY

It is said that a Charter was granted by Archibald Earl of Douglas to William Bell of the lands at Kirkconnel in Annandale which was ratified by a Charter under the seal of James I in 1424. William built a fort on this estate which was called Bell Tower and the principal gate to it had above it an escutcheon of three bells at the top of which, for a crest, there was a hand holding a dirk. Arising out of this Charter, the Bells always stood firm to the Douglas House with whom they were allied in blood, and as vassals of that House generally accompanied any of the family on their frequent expeditions and invasions into England.

Thomas Bell in the reign of James II was firmly loyal to James Earl of Douglas when, in 1451, he went to England to seek support for a Scottish rebellion. As a result the family forfeited the lands at Kirkconnel but managed to retain a house at Blackethouse whence came the name designating them the Bells of Blackethouse.

In the reign of Charles I John Bell was a loyal subject and being Governor of Carlisle refused to yield the city for several days. In the end the Tower of Blackethouse was burnt down and its many papers and muniments were lost. Later another William Bell disposed of the Blackethouse property, moved to a house near Kelso and gave it the Blackethouse name.

Sir John Bell of Hamilton in the reign of James II of England and VII of Scotland executed his office of Provost of Glasgow with great reputation and moderation.

Through generations of bishops, ministers and other clergymen, migrations by Hugh Bell, who was born in Dublin, to London, Dundee and elsewhere, the descent reaches 1822 with the birth in London of George William Bell. It was he who wrote the booklet from which most of the above descent is recited. G W Bell was also recorder of events, current to him, which might be of interest to Bell posterity. Scrutiny of those events is fascinating; the London boys chimney-sweeps' carnival; Sunday parties for socialites; card parties for the ladies; even lawyers consultations. Steam power had arrived; 1826 saw the Slave Trade to be an act of Piracy meriting capital punishment later reduced to transportation for life; benefit of clergy was abolished in 1827; debtors were still imprisoned; prison reform was on the way; education was on the increase, painting, English pronunciation, all such matters are in G W B's booklet.

As Victoria took over from William IV, G W B's father was senior partner of Bell Brothers, a merchanting firm in London. He had taken over from his father when he was in partnership with a Mr. Higginson. The firm was then known as Bell and Higginson.

There was a family connection with Ireland, which at that time, as now, was in a very disturbed state. One of the fomentors of trouble, O'Quigley, said to be a Jesuit priest, passed through London in possession of treasonable letters to the Irish rebels. On his passage, he called on Hugh Bell, G W B's grandfather who had been born in Dublin. The Bow Street Runners were on the alert and arrested O'Quigley when he tried to decamp to France. He was tried in Maidstone, condemned and executed. Because O'Quigley had dined with Hugh Bell, he too came under suspicion and was escorted by an officer of the Secretary of State, the Duke of Portland for questioning. After a short interrogation, he was free to go. Next came an article in a London Newspaper, The Morning Post, seeming to accuse Hugh Bell of treason and stating that he had been in custody on a charge of High Treason. Bell took action for libel, which he won and was granted £500 damages.

Anecdotal ramblings based on G W B's booklet could go on for several more pages, we can identify Hugh Bell on chart C/Bel 2 at page 2. Hugh's grandson G W B is included in the ancestry of the entry "11 Other Children".

The Bell family comprised a number of successful industrial branches, among them Sir Lowthian Bell founder of a great iron industry at Cleveland in Yorkshire and Sir Hugh Bell. Their achievements during their lifetimes and their posterity lies in family trees other than a Chisholm series.
with acquiring at least a knowledge of social interchange in those languages, some years later found her in Jerusalem struggling with Arabic.

Gertrude enjoyed her years in the warm shelter of British Legations, later to be promoted to Embassies, where, to the ladies of diplomats, life seems to have been one long picnic. Most of all she enjoyed the frequent and sometimes dangerous sorties to places in the Middle East little experienced by or known to Western Travellers. In this area she spent many years travelling, exploring and then writing books about her ventures. Between 1909 and 1914 her extensive and knowledgeable travels in what is now Iraq and Saudi Arabia were of great service to Great Britain in the first World War.

After service in France with the British Red Cross she went in 1915 to Cairo to join the British HQ there. In 1916 at the request of the Viceroy, she moved to India to establish the Arab Bureau there. 1919 saw her back in London after attending the Paris Conference where with Prince Feisal, T E Lawrence and others she pleaded the Arab cause. Thereafter she returned to Iraq to stand at Feisal's side, at that time promoted to king.

To the end her mind remained active, for example she was an anti-suffragist supporter, believing that Pankhurst militancy would wreck what most professional women had won.

She returned to Iraq in 1926 and contracted pneumonia which proved fatal.

Florence (1851-1930) was not only Gertrude's step-mother but also her firm friend. She was born in Paris, the daughter of Sir Joseph Oliffe an Irishman and a physician of great ability. Her early life was led in an atmosphere influenced by the second Empire, the personnel of the British Embassy and other distinguished British people living in Paris at that time or passing through Paris on their way to other European lands. Not much older than Gertrude, the two formed a deep friendship which had a great influence on the latter's outlook on life.

Margaret (1900-1970) daughter of Archibald Graeme Bell, by her marriage into the Knox Wight family, leads into the history of a reasonably prosperous Colonial territory between the wars where her father-in-law Arthur, and her husband Gerald whom she loyally supported and encouraged, played an outstanding part in Trinidad and its development. The part she played is shown clearly in the next chapter of these historical notes.
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Notes 01/1 2 3 and 4  This ancestor, as yet unidentified, is recorded as having walked to London to find work. He was appointed to a post at St James's Palace. George was married with one daughter; when he died his widow was appointed to his post at the Palace and remarried in 1823. Henry worked as a bookseller near St James's Palace and reorganised the library of Sir William Young at his seat in Buckinghamshire. Whilst so doing he was appointed Lieutenant in the Bucks Yeomanry for service during the Napoleonic Wars. Helen shared a house with Edith on chart C/Bel 2 page 02. She was an invalid, largely confined to a wheel-chair. She was a very fine artist in water colours.
THE CHISHOLM AND BELL FAMILIES
The Bell Family

William Bell = Anne MacQuoid
the Distiller
b 1682

Alexander = Margaret MacCullough
the Distiller
b 1715

Robert Bell = Jeanette
of Dundee
b 1750
d 1815

Hugh Bell of London = Bertha Bell of Dundee
b 1760
d 1834

William = Elizabeth Kinnear
b 1786 1819
d 1873

John = Robert
b 1799
d 1888

George Wm = Jessie Hawes
b 1820 1860
d 1900

Anna Louise Bell = Henry William Chisholm
b 1824
d 1900

Valentine Graeme Bell = Rebecca Filson
b 1839 1864 1839
d 1908 1947

11 Other Children

Elizabeth = Peter Vollmer
b 1921

Katharine = Wm Marcus Graham
b 1924 1948 1918

Arthur Hugh Knox = Patricia Sellier
b 1928 1951 1930 1939 1959

Ann = Wace

Diana
b 1944

Cynthia
b 1947

Gerald Christopher
b 1949

Stephen Nicholas
b 1951

Notes: 02/1 London Official Assignee.
2 Robert was a London merchant
3 Surnames through the female line included Wight, Vollmer, Graham, Wace and others.
THE WILLIAMS FAMILY

Solomon Williams = Dorothy Owen
  b 1677  1698  b 1682
  d 1748  d 1757

  William = Margaret Venables
  b 1705
  d

  __________________________________________________________

  William = Mary Jones of Berran  2 dtrs
  b 1744
  d 1779

  ______________|_______|_______
  |                  |                  |

  William  Mary  Owen = Henry Chisholm

  to Chart C/Bel 1
  at page 01
This sheet is supplementary to the C/Bel series of charts and seeks further info on that family.

1. The master chart for the Bell family is chart C/Bel 2 at page 02.

2. It is believed that two of the early Bells were distillers. Is it they who formulated the fine taste of the present Bell's whisky? When did they sell out their interest in Bell's Whisky?

3. Despite the respectability of the Kinnear family, it may not be right to bring that family into these historical notes; the connection with the bankers is too remote.

4. Archie's letter to me of March 23, 1987 deals fairly fully with the connection with St. James's Palace and quotes the name George. Is there a family tree anywhere which gives the link between Archibald and George?

5. The Bell Historical Notes are very sparse and need adding to; where can more info be obtained?

6. After you have had a sight of this and filled in as much info as you can I will make touch again with Rory. It is he, I believe who has the details of the Williams ancestry.

7. Last week I went to London where the Guildhall Library was most helpful. Three telephone calls and most of a day there confirmed all the info given to me by you, Archibald, Rory and the Clan Chisholm Society files.

8. I have left the right-hand side of this sheet for your comments, please write as much as you can.

Wilfrid Medlam Charts
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-----------------------------------------------
Through the marriage of Margaret, daughter of Archibald Graeme Bell on chart C/Bel 2 at page 02, with Gerald Robert Wight, later Sir Gerald, the Bell family was united with the Wight family.

Family tradition has it that the Wights were descended from John Knox, through a daughter who married Gerald's great grand father Robert Knox Wight. The latter claimed that he could prove a connection with Lord Ranfurly. but his son, Gerald's great uncle, was completely disinterested in this claim. So much so that the great uncle left all those family papers, not to Gerald or other members of the family, but no-one knows where.

The family tradition mentioned in the paragraph above is fortified by a few known and provable facts. A Robert Wight married a Miss Knox and although no dates for either of them have been ascertained, they must have been born in the early years of the XIX cty; this is probably whence the Ranfurly connection sprang. In the early 1840's Gerald's great grandfather Robert Knox Wight, the eldest of the family, was probably born a year or two before a younger brother whose birth is clearly known as 1850. Therefore the date of the marriage can be estimated between 1846 and 1848, and the birth of the eldest son c 1848 or 1849. He had an even younger brother, Dr Alexander Wight, whose descendants, all born in Trinidad, live in that territory today. Robert had another brother, John, who, after gaining a scholarship at Cambridge, became a judge in India and finally retired to Exmouth.

Family tradition also has it that Robert was a bad hat, certainly he is reputed to have had a terrible temper, beaten his wife and finally had to leave Trinidad. Only after a decent interval had passed was he able to return.

About this period John Knox Wight (a lawyer) approached Arthur Wight with a request for £5,000 to prove the Ranfurly succession. Arthur told him that he would gladly pay £5,000 not to prove that he was Ranfurly as he did not want a broken down castle to have to repair and look after. John had no children and whatever money, jewelry and silver he had was left to Gerald to give to his daughters; neither gained much from this bequest.

Gerald's father, Arthur Henry Wight, was born in France in 1869 and died in Trinidad in 1945. It is not known what his parents were doing in France at that time. At 14 he went to work in a hardware store in Trinidad and then after a few years he joined George R Alston in his general merchandising business. At that time he had his mother, four younger brothers and sisters as well as himself to support. Arthur contributed a very great deal to the success which came to Alstons in later years. He continued with Alstons until January 1, 1945. Having been round the office to wash the staff a happy new year, he closed the office at lunch time, went home, had a heart attack and died early in the morning of the January 3rd. His personality was outstanding, somewhat eccentric, with a fund of stories. He was generous to a fault with a dozen or so godchildren, never forgot their birthdays and personally bought and wrapped their presents. Arthur was fussy about his food and insisted on seven vegetables twice, every day. When in England he ate York Ham as his main diet and always travelled with a bottle of hot sauce to cover what he termed the tastelessness of English cooking.

He had an amazing memory and could recite Latin and Greek by the page and long quotations from Shakespeare too. It says much for the Queen's Royal College in Port-of-Spain that having left at the age of 14 he had such a wide knowledge of the classics and mathematics, and took such a keen interest in history and politics. He must have been very well taught. Arthur was a member of the Legislative Council for many years and had numerous directorships in Trinidad.

Gerald was born in Port-of-Spain in 1898, educated at an Alston Grange Preparatory School and went on to Charterhouse. There he was a good scholar and musician, he played both the piano and the organ. In 1916 he joined the Royal Flying Corps and later the Royal Air Force, seeing service in Palestine and on occasions flew T E Lawrence to his destinations. After demobilisation in 1919 he returned to Trinidad where in 1920 he married Margaret (at chart C/Bel 2 page 03). Gerald lived a full life with great interest in the people of Trinidad whom he served for a number of years as a member of the Legislative Council. To enumerate all his business interests and directorships over his active life in Trinidad would be a nearly impossible task. Notwithstanding a breakdown of his first marriage and the entering into his second marriage, he never seemed to be a happy man whereas Arthur, his father, always seemed to be so. In the immediate difficult post second war years in Trinidad, he pioneered a plan of industrialisation, development by founding new industries and leading Trinidad out of reliance on agricultural exports, and one or two well-known products like the world-famous Angostura bitters, of which company he had followed his father as chairman. The Carib brewery was known generally as Gerald Wight's Brewery and was a tremendous success from the day it started selling its well produced lager. His personality was one all of its own. Kind and gracious to young children although he could be sharp and severe if there was wrong-doing, equally so if his children contradicted him. He was human enough to be fond of flattery and at times inaccurate in judging a character. Nevertheless Gerald has his place among the famous of Trinidad. He died in England in 1962.
Family tradition has it that this family of Chisholms has links back to Oliver Cromwell who might have been Oliver Williams if his great great grandfather had not changed his name to Cromwell from Williams, with ancestry back to a Tudor family, for what reason is not now known.

Aware that the political tide had turned against him, Oliver Cromwell created 12 new baronetcies shortly before his death in 1658 in the hope of winning support from the landed gentry. Only two of these baronetcies survive today. Cromwell’s choice of beneficiary was a shrewd one. One Williams family had been amongst the most influential in North Wales since the time of Llewelyn the Great in the 13th century. Moreover it had displayed a sensible pragmatism during the Civil War and its aftermath. Despite losing the title on the Restoration in 1660 of Charles II, it was recreated within 12 months and in recent history the family has been unequivocally royalist.

Although much research has been done to establish a connection between Solomon Williams at chart C/Bel 3 at page 03, no precise link between him, based on known facts given in the following paragraphs has been established. The conclusion must be drawn that the tradition has not yet been proved to exist.

When a youth, Henry Chisholm at chart C/Bel 1 page 01 was employed in a bookshop in the neighbourhood of St James’s Palace owned by a Mr. Knight who had a son, Francis who became a lifelong friend of Henry. In the course of time, as part of his employment he was sent to arrange the library of Sir William Young Bt at his country seat Hartwell in Buckinghamshire. He did so well that he was offered employment by Sir William as his secretary and librarian.

At this time, Great Britain was at war with Napoleon’s France. Following the rupture in 1803 of the Peace of Amiens, fear of invasion of this country increased and Yeomanry regiments were raised as a line of defence. As an influential person in Buckinghamshire and a member of Parliament, Sir William was appointed Lt.Col to raise The First Regiment of Bucks Yeomanry Cavalry; Henry, always useful as an organiser, was appointed Lieutenant. The second Bucks Yeomanry was raised by the Marquis (later Duke) of Buckingham who appointed his brother Lord Grenville to a commission in that regiment.

A sister of the Marquis was married to Sir Watkin Williams Wynn of Wynnstay in north Wales; this was a large estate in Denbyshire near Ruthin and included a property known as Plas y Ward. It included a substantial farm in the ownership of a Mr. Williams who had recently sold it to Sir Watkin who appointed Mr. Williams as his agent. Mr Williams had several sons and daughters, the fourth daughter Gwen was taken by Lady Williams to Wynnstay and brought up with her own daughters as her companion. Thus she frequently visited Lady Williams on her visits to her brothers at Stowe and Dropmore, the latter being the seat of Lord Grenville. In those days travelling by coach was a hazardous adventure and on one occasion the coach was stopped by a highwayman and the travellers robbed of all their valuables.

Sir William had substantial interests in the West Indies, in 1803 he became financially embarrassed and mortgaged his north Wales estates. Mr Williams was given notice and was next recommended by Lord Grenville, who held the sinecure office of Auditor of the Exchequer, for a clerkship in his office.

On visits to Dropmore, Henry had become acquainted with Lady Wynn’s companion Gwen Williams and in due course married her in 1803 as recorded in the parish records of Plas y Ward.

In 1806 Lord Grenville became Prime Minister and continued to employ Henry as his confidential personal secretary. As such Henry wrote the King’s speech for the opening of Parliament. Henry was also given one or two sinecure appointments such as King’s Agent of Sierra Leone which enabled him to draw money from the Treasury and pay the outgoings of the Colony with bills at thirty days sight. As these disbursements amounted to some £30,000 each year he was able to accumulate a tidy sum in interest on the deposited money prior to his having to honour the bills. This was an acknowledged perk of government service in those days and was in no way frowned upon as dishonourable.

Enough has been written in the paragraphs above to doubt the accuracy of the Cromwell Williams Chisholm connection until further proof of the family tradition manifests itself. Meanwhile, for Chisholm family chart purposes, the matter is left here as being one for later doubt and consideration."

Wilfrid Medlam Charts