

CAROLINE CHISHOLM IN KIAMA

Dear Joe,

Following our conversation about Caroline Chisholm, I reviewed my research to find that the Sydney morning Herald reported:

THE NEW SQUATTERS. Twenty-three families, who are booked to be located on land near Wollongong on clearing leases, left Sydney by the steamer last night, accompanied by Mrs Chisholm, through whose exertions this arrangement has been made.

SMH 7 Dec1843.

Shellharbour was the first destination to which she took a large number of families to settle in an undeveloped locality with a view to clearing the land and establishing a small rural community.

Her letter to the Chronicle 13 Dec 1843, claims:

I have settled all the families much to my satisfaction and theirs. They must, with common prudence, do well. I could settle 300 families during the next three months, but except that I meet with some aid, I cannot go on. You will be amused to hear that I had to lead

the surveying party! I think I can locate 150 families in the Wollongong area. Mr Henry Osborne and Mr Jenkins have offered me land, and 40 families can be located at Shell Harbour in addition to those already there. (Hoban, M. *Fifty one pieces of wedding cake: A biography of Caroline Chisholm*. Lowden, Kilmore, Vic., 1973, p.123)

So I think this provides enough concrete evidence to support the assumption that Chisholm did indeed accompany the group to Shellharbour & stayed long enough to see them settled to some degree. From what I have read, she was a very active participant in her settlement schemes to the extent that I wondered who cared for her young family during her frequent absences from home.

Perhaps one day I'll locate her personal records - I guess this will involve a trip to England! I'm sure information about the Shellharbour settlement could then be unearthed.

Regards, **Neroli Blakeman.**