

The Churchyard at Kirkton of Lochalsh

The principal source of information on Clan Matheson history is "The History of the Mathesons" by Alex Mackenzie and Alex Macbain, published by Mackay of Stirling in 1900. This was still obtainable at Soutar's Bookshop in Dingwall in 1945 but is, unfortunately, out of print.

At the Clan Society Dinner on 18th October it was apparent that there is great interest in the history of the clan and where members fit into the historical structure. I know that overseas Mathesons are also keen to trace their ancestry.

The Clan Historians are William Matheson of Edinburgh and Iain Matheson of Plockton.

I have always been very interested in the clan history and hope that one day the "History of the Mathesons" can be brought up to date and reprinted, but, before this can be possible, a great deal of information will be required which can only be supplied by members of the clan.

During last August I re-visited the churchyard at Kirkton of Lochalsh and I made the notes which follow from a few of the Matheson gravestones that I saw. The references are to pages of the "History of the Mathesons".

Duncan Mac Ian og Branch

1. Page 84. The following are all commemorated on one headstone:

- a.1. John, "the Wright", a boatbuilder and one time tenant of Achnadarrach, "died 14th May, 1860, aged 86 years".
- b.5. Kenneth, tenant of Duirinish (5th son of John the Wright), "died at Duirinish 18th February, 1896, and Annabella his wife aged 85" (no date given).
- b.5. (1) Duncan, 2nd son of Kenneth, and late of Hudson Bay Company's Service, "died in Inverness, 28th January, 1924".

2. Page 90.

- b.4. Dr. Farquhar Matheson, M.D., J.P. He has an obelisk memorial. "Born at Dornie 5th May, 1840, died in London 23rd August, 1905."

3. Page 91. VII John, also called John Og.

The headstone reads:-

"A man of great kindness of heart and much renowned for his hospitality, who departed this life on the 28th day of December, 1810, aged 90 years. Also his spouse Magaret MacRae."

Family of Dugald Og.

4. Page 109, line 10.

Donald, lately steamboat agent at Balmacara (grandson of a.2. Donald).

"Died 22nd October, 1868, also his wife Janet died 5th January, 1896."

Family of Iomaire

5. Page 119.

- 5.a.2. Alexander, 26 years Minister of Glenshiel. Obelisk. "Born at Achmore 16th February, 1832. Died in Glenshiel 13th January, 1890."

I would be interested to know the lineage of (1) Lauchlan Matheson, born 1823 and who died at Conchra 10th August, 1899. (2) Hector Matheson, died Plockton 1872.

I hope that from time to time I shall be able to add a few notes to the Newsletter from more information that I have been able to get together and that other members will also contribute, telling the Secretary all they can about their families and antecedents with, where possible, dates and places of birth. This will help the Clan Historians and we of the present day will be able to see in the Newsletter progress as it takes place. If members will co-operate I am sure that it can be done.

MAJOR SIR TORQUHIL MATHESON, Baronet