



Clan Matheson Society

NEWSLETTER NO 35 JUNE 1982

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Chief of the Clan:

Major Sir Torquhil Matheson of Matheson,
Baronet of Lochalsh.

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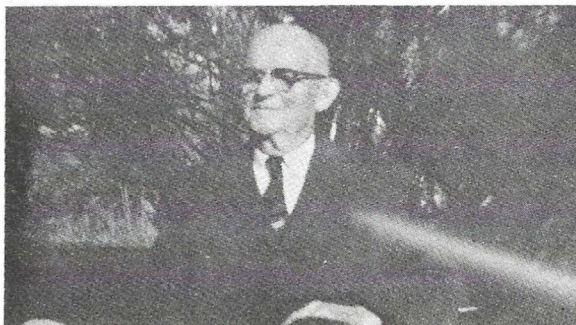
THE CHIEF'S MESSAGE

Standerwick, June, 1982

Welcome correspondence from all corners of the world continues to arrive, though regretfully there is sometimes a delay in reply. In New Zealand Ailsa Matheson, will be seen elsewhere, is proposing to send a fiery cross through both islands. We can well do with a number of Kiwi reinforcements!

Nell, our eldest daughter, will be conveying this *Newsletter* across the Atlantic on 24 June. She has been given the opportunity to train the Alberta Amateur Equestrian Team for the North American Young Riders 3 Day Event ... all very exciting! Her address for two months will be c/o 104 - 4808 Ross Street, Red Deer, T4N 1X5.

THE REV JAMES URE STEWART Seaforth, Ontario



Mr Stewart is an Honorary Member of the Clan Society, and on behalf of the Clan we offer him our sincere congratulations on his hundredth birthday on 18 June. He also celebrated the 75th anniversary of his ordination on 30 April. This is a magnificent double achievement and may well be unique. The Chief has already sent him a letter which should (D.V.) arrive before his birthday.

Ure is descended from John Matheson (1782-1859) and his wife Ann MacLeod (1791-1881), both born in the Parish of Dornoch, Sutherland, and who sailed to Canada in 1834 or 35 with six children. Four more were born in Canada. Their second child, William, had a daughter Anna who married James Stewart and Ure is their third child.

As for the *Newsletter*, it is one month later than intended. We are beginning to get a number of contributions which is Splendid, and we are very grateful to Edmond for answering the Otstot query on Sir Walter Scott's coachman.

Our vigilant sassenach vet, Michael Thorp, is responsible for spotting a letter in the *Dail Mail* which led to David Matheson's 'Desert Journey'.

A Matheson was involved in salvaging the gold ingots from the wreck of HMS *Edinburgh* last year. Could anyone in the Aberdeen area please run him to ground? His story, if forthcoming, would be of great interest.

Copy and illustrations for the next *Newsletter* should reach the Editor by 1 October 1982. Let us hope that the world will be a quieter place by then.

Torquhil Matheson of Matheson

Apart from a lifetime of pastoral service, he devoted himself to compiling the genealogy of all the descendants of John and Ann, and in addition to writing a very full account of the conditions they experienced crossing the Atlantic, he describes their early years in Upper Canada - education, religion and many other aspects.

The first edition of 1963 covered over 400 families and over 1,000 individuals: the second edition of 1970 increased the number to 521 families and 1,743 individuals, all descendants of John and Ann who were married in 1815!

Historians will read something into the combination of these two dates - 1815 and Ure's birthday, 18 June.

What a triumphant victory!

Many happy returns from Clan Matheson!

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A DESERT JOURNEY

The news of the Prime Minister's son Mark Thatcher being temporarily lost in the vast wastes of the Sahara desert was of more than usual interest to me, since I had only two weeks before, returned from an expedition to that very area, and indeed had spent two days in the remote town of Tamanrasset in the central Sahara.

Pursuing, and at last achieving, one of my long cherished wishes to see for myself the arid and dramatic country which is three times as big as Europe and could comfortably cover the whole of the United States and Mexico, but containing very few and very small settlements where there happens to be occasional water, I found myself en route to Tunis to join a small party of like-minded adventurers for the desert journey, travelling in two LWB Land Rovers, sleeping in tents and cooking our own food. 'Sometimes arduous and occasionally hazardous, but always exciting, and never dull' was the prospect promised by the organisers, and it turned out to be true in every respect.

Keen as we were to get to the desert, we could not leave green and fertile Tunis without seeing the ruins of magnificent Carthage and the world famous Bardo Museum, but without much delay we were away south-west through Tunisia, seeing the three mosques at the holy city of Moslem Kairouan and then past the huge and featureless Chott El Jerid saltflats, and after a night camped in a sheltered hollow with an artesian well, pressed on, through drier and more desolate country, to reach the border with Algeria. Many hours spent here at the whim of officialdom before we were through no-man's-land and into the immense and now independent Algeria. The French heritage still remains, in



Getting Unstuck!

that French was understood at every oasis, which made trying to understand the impossible Arabic lettering unnecessary.

After two days of travel, through only three small oases very like one another, we reached the junction with the main

road which is now 'fully sealed' all the way from Algiers to central Africa – over 2,000 miles. The road was completed in 1978 amid much hoo-hah, but has had almost no maintenance since, and although the traffic is only perhaps six vehicles a day, they are likely to be heavy articulated lorries, and the road is almost beyond use in many places and one has to take to the open desert and get back on the road when possible. Four wheel drive is essential, although when stuck in the sand it was often possible to get out if everybody pushed, rather than unship the sand ladders to let the vehicle climb out, so to speak.

At the unusually large oasis town of Gardhaia we had the luxury of a campsite, as opposed to just setting up tents away from the road in the centre of an unbroken 360 degree horizon of emptiness. The rubbish and the unspeakable state of the toilet block here made us long for the sterile emptiness! Gardhaia is known for its many repair workshops, for it is the only place where major mechanical work can be carried out, if you can get your stricken vehicle there at all, and it serves an area the size of Australia! Normally, however, if one's car or lorry suffers a major breakdown it is cheaper to abandon it. We saw very, very many wrecks like this. They never rust at all, for it can be over ten years between rainfalls.

Southwards now, the prospects becoming more stark and fascinating and the settlements further apart and the road narrower and incidents fewer, like another vehicle being seen, or a camel train coming out of nowhere (yes, the camel is still the dignified king of the desert. It seems to *know* that it can go weeks without water, and then can take on 40 gallons at one go).

El Golea and In Salah are the last places, separated by the flat and featureless 200-mile plateau of Tademaït, before the stretch of 450 miles without a building or any scrub or vegetation, before reaching the Hoggar mountains, right in the south of Algeria, a sudden group of splintered and barren black rocky peaks, up to 10,000 feet high. Here are to be seen prehistoric rock carvings



David W. Matheson
at In Salah

depicting gazelle and elephants, suggesting that at one time this immense barren waste must have had the water, which is all it needs to break into rich forest again.

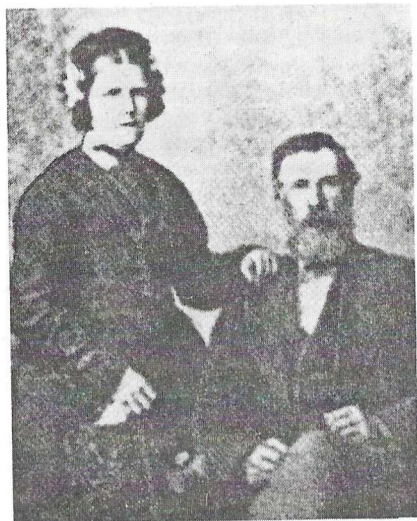
Tamanrasset is the only town in the Hoggar, and here I left my companions, who were continuing on to Accra in Ghana. I could only spare two weeks away at once, and although sorry to miss the rest of the trip I was able to spend two days in 'Tam' awaiting a flight home via Algiers. The aeroplane has made something of a nonsense of travel, for it is only by travelling on the ground that one can appreciate the numbing distances involved.

Sticking to the 'road' is reasonably safe, but when one looks to left or right and realises that the next track is possibly six or eight hundred miles beyond the horizon, one understands the concern for any traveller who does not turn up when expected. Whole parties, even of Algerians, perish from thirst, even today. The *Sahara Handbook* which I took with me, says about travel on the little-used 'pistes', 'Using these routes in the hot season is very hazardous. If your vehicle breaks down and cannot be repaired, it could be three months before the next vehicle finds your dehydrated bodies. Remember, you cannot carry enough water for survival if you attempt to 'walk out', therefore two vehicles are essential'. Chilling advice indeed! Mr Thatcher and his companions were wise enough to stay put, even in the cool season!

David W. Matheson, Lochmadden, Dumfriesshire

AROUND SCOTLAND

The following are reprinted from *The Scots Magazine* by kind permission of the Editor.



Murdo and Christina Matheson
who left Rum in 1875

Part 1

... The story of the fight with overcrowding ended when MacLean of Coll assisted the entire population of Rum to emigrate to Canada at their own request, it is said. They were immediately replaced by 8,000 sheep. The island was then found to be undermanned, and a dozen families from Skye were introduced. Maybe the pathetic tombstone in the Kilmory Churchyard erected by Murdo Matheson, commemorates the family of one of these incomers. It tells of five of his children dead in two days of diphtheria in 1873.'

Tom Weir, September 1970

Part 2

Tom Weir tells me of a cheering sequel to a sad tale he told in this magazine in September 1970. He had been visiting Kilmory Churchyard, Rum, and had described the tombstone amongst the ruins, telling how five children of Murdo Matheson had died of diphtheria in two days of September 1873.

Now Miss Helen Matheson, from Otago, New Zealand, has written him, filling in the subsequent life story of that same Murdo Matheson, who was her great-grandfather. Following the diphtheria epidemic, Murdo and his wife, Christina, sailed with their five remaining children to try to build a new life. One child died shortly after arrival in Otago, in 1875. In March 1876, Murdo obtained a job as a shepherd on Coppesbrook Station, at a wage of £65 a year, among 80,000 merino sheep.

Murdo was sent to a hirsel known as Bald Hill, and twenty years later the owner of this section was Murdo's son, Dougald, and the farm had been renamed Attadale. The name was chosen after Attadale, on Loch Carron, the seat of Clan Matheson. Dougald married in 1897 and had three sons and a daughter. One of these is the father of Miss Helen Matheson, and she has been to the Island of Rum. What were her reactions? She writes:

"I shall never forget that day, August 24, 1966. It was a perfect summer's day. It seemed an achievement to find the gravestone. But sad to think that one part of the family is buried on the Island of Rum and the remainder in the little country churchyard of Middlemarch, in Central Otago, New Zealand.

It was interesting to note that the countryside where they chose to live was similar to Rum. Outcrops of volcanic rock, mountains, peat bogs and tussock grass."

The sheep farm is still in the family, and Miss Helen Matheson's brother, Hugh, lives in the family home with his wife and young son. So it looks as if the Clan will carry on for some generations to come in that part of New Zealand. Miss Matheson's mother is also of Scottish descent, Helen Forrest Walker by maiden name. Her father came from Lesmahago in 1908, setting up a blacksmithing business in the small village of Outram, Otago. In fact, Miss Matheson's letter comes from "The Smithy"

By a Special Correspondent, November 1971

Note: 'Attadale ... the seat of Clan Matheson', is not technically correct. Attadale was owned by Alexander MacKenzie, eighth of *Davochmaluag*, until he sold it to my great, great, great grandfather John Matheson of Fernaig in Lochalsh in 1730. His son Donald built the mansion-house. Attadale was then sold c1825 by my great grandfather John, and repurchased in 1861 by my grandfather Sir Alexander. It was once again sold early this century by my uncle Sir Kenneth. Chief.

PETER MATHESON
Coachman to Sir Walter Scott, Bart.

I first became aware of Peter Matheson on 3 August 1963, on observing a reproduction in *The Glasgow Herald* of a painting of him being exhibited in the National Portrait Gallery and immediately rushed through to Edinburgh to have a look at it. The painting was entitled 'Peter Matheson (1768-1852), coachman to Sir Walter Scott, with Donald'. Donald was a pony.

Being in Edinburgh for a retired railwaymen's coffee morning earlier in the week, I proceeded to the Gallery in the hope of obtaining a postcard reproduction of the painting but was informed that there was none such in the Gallery and when the Keeper was contacted, it transpired that when the painting was exhibited it was on loan from Abbotsford. At the Keeper's suggestion I have made a formal application for a copy of the painting and requested permission for its reproduction in the *Newsletter*.

In Hesketh Pearson's *Walter Scott* we read - 'Scott learnt a lot from his shepherd, Tom Purdie, a tough, shrewd, humorous fellow who had been brought before the Sheriff on a charge of poaching. Tom's sad tale about his wife and family needing food moved Scott, while the sly addition that work was scarce but grouse plentiful amused him, with the result that Tom got off and was given work by the Shirra. It is no exaggeration to say that Scott became fonder of Tom Purdie than anyone else on earth. The companionship of the expocher was always relief after mixing with peers, and their intimacy provided Scott with many of those characteristic quirks with which he endowed the independent and outspoken servants who appear in his novels. The two sometimes disagreed over how things should be done; but whenever the Shirra showed by his manner that he insisted on having his own way, Purdie would retire from the contest, returning after an interval consistent with his dignity to say that he had given the matter his careful consideration and approved his master's decision. In course of time Tom rose to become Scott's forester, gamekeeper, librarian, and pretty well everything except cellarer, his love of whisky making him an uncertain guardian of barrels and bottles.

Tom's brother-in-law, Peter Mathieson, became another indispensable part of Scott's Household. While at Lasswade, Charlotte had set her heart on a phaeton, which was duly obtained for her, and was the first wheeled carriage to penetrate Liddesdale. But Scott's handling of the vehicle had been far too erratic for his wife's nerves and, after being driven for five years at the peril of her life, she persuaded him to buy a more solid conveyance and to engage a steady coachman. Peter Mathieson got the job and it was just as well he did because Scott's recklessness was a matter of comment among both friends and servants.'

The only mention of Peter in my edition of *Scott's Journal* is

on 15 July, 1826, which reads - 'In the evening we drove to Huntly Burn and took tea there. Returning home we escaped considerable danger. The iron screw bolts of the driving seat suddenly giving way, the servants were very nearly precipitated upon the backs of the horses. Had it been downhill instead of bang on the level, the horses must have taken fright, and the consequences might have been fatal. Indeed, they had almost taken fright as it was, had not Peter Mathieson, who in Mr Fag's phrase, I take to be, the discreetest of whips, kept his presence of mind, when losing his equilibrium, so that he managed to keep the horses in hand until we all got out. I must say it is not the first imminent danger in which I have seen Peter (my Automedan for twenty-five years) behave with the utmost firmness.'

In a footnote to the above the editor of the *Journal* adds: 'In 1827 Scott was one day heard saying, as he saw Peter guiding the plough on the haugh - "Egad, auld Pepe's whistling at his darg; if things get round with me, easy will be his cushion!" Old Peter, who had been in five and twenty years a dignified coachman, was then ploughman-in-ordinary, only putting his horses to the carriage on high and rare occasions.'

In the title of the painting Peter's surname is spelled Matheson, while both Pearson and Scott spell it Mathieson. Scott's writing is very difficult to decipher and it seems possible that the usual vulgar error has been perpetrated automatically.

Edmond Matheson

Note: Readers will remember that Charles and Flo Otstot found Peter's grave at Melrose Abbey, where his name is spelt Matheson. *Vide* NL 34, page 7. Editor

CANON FREDERICK WILLIAM MATHESON
A Former Warden of Trinity College, Glenalmond

Canon F. W. Matheson was a pupil at Glenalmond from 1894 to 1902, being Captain of the School in his last year. He went to Keble College, Oxford with a Stevenson Scholarship and graduated in Theology in 1906. He then spent a year at Cuddesdon Theological College and was ordained in 1907. Returning to Keble as a lecturer in 1908, he was appointed a tutor in 1909 and Dean of the College in 1914. In 1921 he was appointed a Canon Residentiary at Carlisle, and 1923 Warden of Glenalmond.

In 1902 he enlisted in the O.U.R.V.C. and retired from the O.T.C. as a Lieutenant-Colonel in 1921. For his war service he was Mentioned in Despatches, awarded the M.B.E. and the British War Medal. He also was awarded the Territorial Decoration.

As Warden he had had no experience as an assistant master and never claimed to be a great scholar. His were years of great expansion. New buildings and playing fields were made and numbers rose from 144 in 1923 to over 200.

'Every department of College life was highly organised and everyone concerned in the running of the school was kept busy. One of the aims of the new regime was to ensure that the boys should be fully occupied all the time and there should never be any doubt as to what was the next item on the programme.'

When I attended Glenalmond during the years 1963-67, there were several masters whose careers had begun in his day. 'You did not argue with Freddie Matheson' was a frequent comment.

A modernised curriculum, house system and prefects were amongst his legacies. In his day the annual festivity, Commemoration Day, reached its grandest.

In 1938 Canon Matheson was appointed Dean of Carlisle, where he died on 1 July 1942 after a short illness. He is buried in the College cemetery at Glenalmond.

John A. Roll Pickering, of the Highland Society of London

THE WRECK OF THE 'LORD MOLYNEUX' OF LIVERPOOL

'Farquhar Buidhe, who was one of the Mathesons of Plockton, and brother of Sandy Matheson the blind fiddler there, was the owner and master of the trawler *Lord Molyneux*, a smack he had bought at Liverpool. He used to come to Glen Dubh for the herring fishery. It was two or three years before the wreck of the *Helen Marianne* of Campbelton that Farquhar set sail for home one Sabbath night. Before daylight he was lost upon a rock at the end of the island of Oldany. These two ships were both lost from Sabbath-breaking.'

Note: This story is one of many told by James Mackenzie (born 1808) of Kirkton, Gairloch, Co. Ross, and can be found of Page 214 in *Gairloch and a Guide to Loch Maree* by J.H. Dixon, F.S.A. Scot, 1886 and reprinted by the Ross and Cromarty Heritage Society 1974.

The Matheson Clan History dates Farquhar Buidhe's drowning as 1832. He belonged to the Family of Donald of Balmacara. Editor.

AUSTRALIA

We regret to record the death of Mrs Violet Matheson, née Stone, aged 60 years. She was the mother of 'Geelong John', that enthusiastic Australian soldier who is a great attender at our gatherings worldwide. Born in Downham Market, Norfolk, she served in the A.T.S. during the war in France and Germany, and finally Italy, where she met John's father serving in the Royal Australian Airforce, and married in Florence. She had four war medals to her credit. They had four boys and five girls, and fifteen grandchildren. Mr Matheson pre-deceased his wife in 1971. To John, his brothers and sisters and their children we extend our deepest sympathy.

Gwen Smith of Bridie Island writes that her youngest daughter Julie has just completed her final State Nursing

Exams and that all her five children are now settled in their careers. Gwen continues enthusiastically in her pursuit of ancestors and other Mathesons!

'Geelong John' has served fifteen years in the Australian Army and has signed on to complete twenty years. He has also sent a booklet on 'Some Geelong Scots'. The first Scottish Society, 'Commun Na Feinne' was formed in 1857, and the first Highland Gathering took place on 1st January 1857, and in 1858 the Government gave them five acres for a Gathering and another five for a Public Park. The objects of the Society were the cultivation and preservation of: 1. The Gaelic Language and 'Highland Nationality, 2. Morality and Philanthropy, 3. Archaeology.

However in the 1930s, interest waned and the Society closed. Nevertheless there is an annual Highland Gathering in the Park, now within the Newtown City Boundary. Two Mathesons appear amongst the organisers.

The Scottish Australian Heritage Council COMHAIRLE OIGHREACHD ALBANNACH

Last September I received a letter from the Council requesting a Message to be read to Mathesons who might attend the Scottish Week in Sydney – the last week in November 1981. I sent the Hon Secretary a Message and other information and pamphlets, also the addresses of all Mathesons in the Antipodes. I wonder if any of you were contacted. I certainly had no acknowledgement – not even a 'dicky-bird' – and have no idea how many, if any, Mathesons attended.

1988 is Australia's Bicentennial and apparently it is hoped that the Scottish Community in Australia will be holding a Worldwide Gathering of the Clans in Sydney. Six years' notice is not often given!

Chief

CANADA

Membership of the Canadian Branch has shown a slight increase in the past few months. Unfortunately some of the annual members have been unable to renew their dues.

Rand Matheson, Hon Secretary for Canada, visited the Cape Breton Mathesons in March and told them about the Duncraig Gathering. He also congratulated them on their active and progressive organisation.

The 1983 International Clan Gathering is taking place in Nova Scotia, and the final ceremonies are due to take place at St Ann's. It is hoped to have details of Clan participation in the next *Newsletter*.

In 1985 it is reported that the great Mod of An Comunn Gaidhealach will be held in Cape Breton, possibly based on the Celtic College, probably 10-19 October. We hope that Air Canada will lower their sights on this occasion!

Nell's flag (*Newsletter* 34, p.7) has now travelled over 10,000 miles since it left Standervick in August 1981. It has been displayed in St Louis, Missouri, Toronto and Cape Breton.

Rand Matheson

CAPE BRETON

The Competition for the song referred to in the last report was won by Mrs Jessie Morrison and is printed below. Her prize of \$25 was augmented with a Life Membership of the Clan Society by Rand Matheson.

We Are The Mathesons (Tune: Westering Home)

On the sixth day of August, in seventy-nine,
Sir Torquhil arrived with his lady so fine.
We had a great ceilidh and that was the sign
To lift high the banner of Matheson.

Chorus:

For we are the *Mathesons*, good clansmen are we;
Our forefathers came from the old countrie,
On Cape Breton Island we are happy and free –
We'll Do and we'll Hope for ever.

We have pipers and fiddlers and dancers galore,
A Scroll and a Crest, now, you can't ask for more;
Judge Lewis to lead us and he knows the score,
We're Second to None in our ain land.

Like all good songs, we have already seen an alternative to the second verse, viz.:

We have pipers and fiddlers and dancers galore,
A Scroll and a Crest, with a flag to the fore,
Whenever we gather like clansmen of yore,
We hold high the banner of Matheson! Editor

Regular meetings continue to be well attended. At Christmas the following poetic Season's Greetings was received from Serena:

To the Matheson Clan of Cape Breton
The Chief and his wife do extend
Good Wishes, love and affection
To all who their meetings attend
We thought of you often,
We missed you so much
At Plockton, last August
When none of you came!
But the pound had gone higher
And the Post strike the same,
So we all understood
That you would if you could
And we drank to your health just the same.

Now Christmas is near
And we wish we were there
Whycocomagh, River Denys or Tatamagouch;
Sydney Mines, New Glasgow or Baddeck.
Little Narrows still calls us,
Marion Bridge we still think of;
Port Hawkesbury, Glace Bay and South Haven,
All names to remember
With love and affection –
We wish all who live there
A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Members from the various geographical areas of Cape Breton will be appointed to research the history of the Matheson families in their areas. Information concerning the Matheson families who travelled to New Zealand from St Ann's with Rev Norman MacLeod will also be of great interest. The information gained could be published in booklet form in time for the 1983 Gathering in Cape Breton.

Condensed from Minutes of Meetings.

NEW ZEALAND

Ailsa Matheson, wife of Gordon, and the Rev Roy Matheson are combining to establish the Society in New Zealand, which is thrilling news.

Ailsa is of the Family of *Glas-Na-Muclach* in Strathascaig in Lochalsh and a niece of the late Seocan, Katie, Murdo and David who lived in Plockton. History relates that her forebear *Murdoch* recovered Seaforth's sword from the sea off Plockton and was rewarded by him with the lands of *Glas-Na-Muclach*.

Gordon's family came from Fernaig, nearby. Roy is descended from Nova Scotian and Waipu Mathesons.

Those of you who read this, please give them every assistance and spread the news. Ailsa's address is:

PO Box 136, TE AROHA, New Zealand.

and Roy's:

10 Vine Street, HAMILTON, New Zealand.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Jean Guyton reports that there are a great many Mathesons in Wisconsin and that most of them are descended from five Matheson brothers who came from Lochcarron in 1841. She visited the home of Helen Matheson Rupp – also present were the widows of three Matheson cousins – one of these ladies was the mother of Ken Matheson of Milwaukee. She also visited Elkhorn, Wisconsin, to see the Matheson Memorial Library, which her great-grandfather William John Matheson, donated and which is built on the site of his birthplace. Mrs Elfrieda Matheson of Elkhorn was able to provide Jean with some additional genealogy.

Edward B. Matheson, Poquoson, Virginia, will represent our Clan again this year at the Scottish Walk, held in connection with the 11th Annual Conference on Scottish Studies at Old Dominion University, Norfolk, Virginia.

Mrs James Gudger, Davidson, North Carolina, in referring to our tartan material, said that her grandmother Matheson never referred to 'yards' of fabric – always to 'ells' – and that she was so accustomed to ells that she was unable to convert to yards.

We have sadly heard of the death of Mrs Caroline Matheson on 13 August 1980. She was the wife of Roderick J. Matheson of Columbus, Ohio, to whom we send our sympathy.

Mrs Juanita Matheson Ferrey, Harbor City, California, is a writer of fiction and non-fiction, as well as writing for television.

Arthur J. Matheson of Englewood, Colorado, sent a very generous cheque to sponsor the Clan Matheson tent at the Houston Highland Games for which we are extremely grateful.

Dr R. Gordon Matheson, President Emeritus of Paducah Junior College, Kentucky, writes that the wife of a cousin of Governor Scott Matheson was honoured in 1980 'in appreciation of her dedication and untold hours in the research, preparation and writing of *The Matheson Clan*. It narrates the genealogy of the Mathesons descended from Alexander and Catharine Ross McAndrew Matheson of Sutherland, Scotland, from 1670 to 1974.

Two US members neither of whom, I believe, is acquainted with the other, whose ancestor settled in New Brunswick: Harold M. Matheson of Malibu, California, and Bob Matheson of Redwood City, California. Both are descended from Alexander Matheson, born around 1801, and his wife Joanna Ross. Both Bob and Harold have each submitted a tremendous amount of genealogical information. Perhaps there are other members with New Brunswick connections to whom this could be helpful – check with Janet Dorn! Harold and his wife own and operate a mail order business called To-Sew, Inc. Bob is a television photographer and director. Harold attended our Clan Gathering in Nova Scotia in 1979 and on his return trip, he visited an uncle in Edmundston, New Brunswick where he gathered a vast amount of family history extending back to his great-grandfather who was one of the original settlers of the Kincardine Colony in New Brunswick. Bob attended the Gathering in Plockton – since that time Bob's cousin, Robert C. Matheson of Mt Prospect, Illinois, has joined.

Some US members haven't sent in their 1982 *Dues* yet. Mailing individual reminders is an added expense to our budget, a circumstance almost everyone can relate to these days. Several members have been very generous, sending additional money with their dues to help with postage – we are very grateful to them!

Mrs Flora Cummings has been a great recruiter for Clan Matheson memberships – she sent names of relatives to be contacted and several have joined. Mrs Mabel Marr has enrolled several members of her family. Mrs Elfrieda Matheson of Elkhorn, Wisconsin, gave memberships to each of her three children and Mrs Marian Green of Whitewater, Wisconsin, presented Life Memberships to each of her three children. A membership makes a very nice and a very unusual gift for birthday, Christmas, anniversary, etc., as several of our members have discovered.

The following are 'lost'. Does anyone know their new addresses, former addresses are given?

● Miss Frances M. Eaves, 8 Collier Road, Atlanta, Georgia 30309. ● Mr Neil MacLennan, 67 Maynard St., Roslindale,

Mass. 02131. ● Mr Paul T. Matheson, 5765 S.W. 46 Terrace, Miami, Florida 33155. ● Miss Joyce L. Matthews, PO Box 21588, Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia 30322. ● Miss Janice Lee Matthews, 670–24 Abbley Way, Stone Mountain, Georgia 30083. ● Mrs Ann M. Santulli, 202–R Brattle Street, Cambridge, Mass. 02138. ● Mr David M. Warm, 2815 Lake Drive, S.E., Grand Rapids, Michigan 49506.

We are very eager to receive some advertisements for the *Newsletter* to help defray the printing costs which, like all things, keep increasing. If you can help, contact the Secretary for your area or the Editor of the *Newsletter*, Standerwick Court, Frome, Somerset BA11 2PP, UK. Jean Fries

GENEALOGY

Genealogist Janet Dorn writes that she has dispatched *five pounds* of genealogies by sea! Janet is indefatigable in her quest which now reaches out as far as Norway since Einar attended the Duncraig Gathering. She has found some more Norwegian Mathesons in Oregon who are helping to translate Einar's work into English.

Faraway in New Zealand, John Kidd and his Matheson wife Monica have been hard at work extracting Mathesons from Scottish Baptismal and Marriage records of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries and copies are held by Janet and myself, to which anyone can refer. Their's is a very valuable enterprise.

Members have responded well in sending in their genealogy, and as a result many more relationships have been established. Please keep up the good work.

Although not Genealogy, Charles Mathieson Otstot has produced a mammoth work – all Math(i)esons in the United Kingdom telephone directories are now on a computer and he hopes to tackle New Zealand, and later, Australia and Canada.

Chief

TRADITIONAL SITES OF MATHESON HISTORY IN LOCHALSH

This is the title of a booklet specially produced for those attending the Gathering based on the *History of the Mathesons* by MacKenzie and MacBain, long since out of print.

In it are recorded the Gaelic placenames mentioned in the *History* with map references and a brief sketch of events which occurred at each location. There are five photographs.

The booklet is accompanied by an Ordnance Survey map in black and white (scale 1:50,000) specially prepared for the Clan Society. The cost is £1 for both, plus 20p postage for those in the UK, from the Chief.

For those in Canada and the United States, Rand and Jean have ample supplies. For Australia and New Zealand Mrs Gwen Smith, Jarrah Cottage, 71 Sylvan Beach Esp, Bellara, Bribie Island, Queensland has a stock. Please apply to them for price and postage equivalents.

All proceeds go to the Clan Matheson Gathering Account in the UK.

NEW BOOKS

Two new books with a Matheson interest have come to our notice. The first, *Hill Walks in South-West Ross* by Dr Iain Matheson of Rudha Mor, Plockton, Ross-shire, is an excellent booklet which would be of great interest to anyone planning a visit to Lochalsh. It can be obtained direct from him, price £1.25 & postage (about 50p overseas).

The other, is *The Glayva Clans Cook Book*, published by MacDonald, Edinburgh (Edgefield Road, Loanhead, Midlothian, EH20 9SY), price £8.95. It is a collection of recipes sent in direct from each Clan Chief (including Matheson) and has really original and delicious ideas.

CRIOMAGAN

★ John Cant, Limekilns, Fife, attended an International St Andrew's Day Dinner at St Andrew's on behalf of the Clan Society on 30 November 1981.

The Hon Allen MacEachan, deputy Prime Minister of Canada was present and he gave great prominence to his visit to our Clan Gathering in Nova Scotia in 1979. Happy memories! – and 'Thank you', John.

★ Dick Matheson, for many years Hon Secretary of the Society, has written his memoirs. At present they are typed on small sheets of paper, but the content is most interesting, especially, his experiences in the British Army in India and Egypt. There is a touch of Kipling about them. Hopefully they will be made available for all to read.

★ Judge Lewis Matheson, Cape Breton, who earlier this year underwent surgery, is now reported to be convalescing. We wish him a speedy return to full health.

CONGRATULATIONS

★ To Miss Anne Matheson on receiving the O.B.E. in the New Year's Honours 'For Services to Journalism'

★ To Mr Sandy Matheson, formerly Provost of Stornoway, on becoming Convener of Comhairle Nan Eilean. His father was a member of Stornoway Town Council from 1950–57.

★ To Charles and Florence Otstot on becoming grandparents. Their son and daughter-in-law Sandy and Sherrie Otstot had a son, Adam Christopher Otstot on 24 April 1982.

★ To Mrs Diane Clement of Richmond, B.C., and daughter of Rand H. Matheson on being awarded a Lifestyle Award Certificate of Merit. Diane and her husband Doug are former Olympic Athletes. Diane also runs a School of Gourmet Cooking, and will shortly publish a cookery book, *The Chef on the Run!*

★ To Robin Brackenbury, husband of Elizabeth Matheson Brackenbury, on his appointment as High Sheriff of Nottinghamshire. If he should lose control in Sherwood Forest the Clan would be delighted to have a foray on fresh ground and help him restore order!

SASHES, TIES, ETC

There are some ties in dress and hunting tartan at £3 each: also fine wool sashes in dress, dark green and 'ancient' green at £9 each. Please add 50p to each order if required to be sent by air; otherwise postage and packing included. Apply to Serena at Standerwick Court.

There are still a number of souvenir programmes left over, 25p each, postage free. Also car stickers, 50p. T-shirts and sweat shirts made for the Gathering are all finished.

OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY

Convener and Hon Secretary, Edmond J. M. Matheson, 1 Braehead Drive, Carnoustie DD7 7SX.

Hon Treasurer, Norman S. Matheson, 15 Atholl Gardens, Dunkeld PH8 0AY.

Hon Secretary (Canada), Rand H. Matheson, 200 Elgar Park, Apt 306, Nun's Island, Montreal, Quebec H3E 1C8.

Hon Secretary (USA), Mrs Jean Matheson Fries, 11 West Guyer Lane, St Louis, Missouri, 63131.

Clan Genealogist, Mrs Janet Matheson Dorn, 515 Empress Avenue, Eugene, Oregon, 97405. (Members are invited to send their family histories to Janet with any queries they may have.)

Editor, The Chief, Standerwick Court, Frome, Somerset BA11 2PP.

Clan Pipers, Duncan Matheson, Brora and Mrs Linda Matheson Munroe, Cape Breton.

HOW TO JOIN THE SOCIETY

Membership of the Society is restricted to persons spelling their name Matheson or Mathieson or whose parents or one set of grandparents spelled their name similarly. Persons who spell their name Matheson, Mathison or Matthewson will be considered for membership if they can establish the Highland origin of their family.

For members living in the UK or overseas (excluding North America) the annual subscription is £1 or £10 for life membership: applications for membership should be sent to the Hon Treasurer at Dunkeld with the appropriate sterling cheque. Annual members are requested to amend their banker's order from the old rate of 50p to £1 forthwith.

Applications for membership from persons living in Canada or the USA should be made to the Hon Secretary in the country in which they live. The subscription rates are \$5 for annual membership and \$50 for life membership in both currencies concerned.

Annual subscriptions will become due on the first of January each year but members joining after 30 June in any year will not become liable for a further subscription until the end of the following year.

Any person whose annual subscription is eighteen months in arrears will be deemed to have resigned from the Society. If he or she wishes to rejoin application for membership will have to be made afresh.