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Clan Matheson Society

NEWSLETTER NO 36 FEB 1983

Deposited in the National Library of Scotland

Chief of the Clan:

Major Sir Torquhil Matheson of Matheson,
Baronet of Lochalsh.

Price £1.00 to non-members

THE CHIEF'S MESSAGE

Standerwick, Feb 1983

The Festive Season is well passed as I write these lines. All at Standerwick hope that you all had a very Happy Christmas and that the New Year will see an upturn in fortunes in all walks of life world-wide. Thank you for your cards and greetings and, in one case, a trans-Atlantic telephone call!

Our thoughts are beginning to centre on the Gathering in Cape Breton in August, and the proposed programme will be found in the Cape Breton report. At the Parliament, one of the main problems to be thrashed out is finance. The newsletter, which is our life line, becomes more expensive to produce with each edition, and postage is for ever increasing. Please give this matter great thought in the months ahead.

A MATHESON FIRST!

(from the *Dundee Telegraph*, 4 May 1900)

Record of a Telegraphist

The man who received the news of Ladysmith Relief



Mr John Matheson

Mr John Matheson has just received an important appointment at Alexandria under the Eastern Telegraph Company. A son of the late inspector of police, Fort William, Mr Matheson entered the local Post Office as a telegraph messenger, and by dint of assiduity and perseverance gradually worked himself up to a position of trust in the service. After spending about five years in the employment of the Post Office, the subject of our sketch contemplated joining one of the Cable Companies, and when doing duty in the Oban Post Office about eighteen months ago he was successful in obtaining an

appointment with the well-known Eastern Telegraph Company. Quitting the postal services, he was primarily stationed at Glasgow, from whence, after gaining a general knowledge of the routine work, he was transferred to the cable station at Penzance, and his present promotion is doubtless due to his strict attention to duty at that office. The work at this cable station during the past few months has been abnormally heavy in consequence of the pressure of official and press telegrams relative to the war. In common with his colleagues, Mr Matheson has shared the extra work, and he is at present earning a well-merited holiday prior to his departure for Egypt. Not yet 21 years of age, he has, no doubt, a brilliant career before him, and his many friends in Lochaber wish him all success in his calling. Mr Matheson expects to take up his duties in about a month hence. Mr Matheson, it is worthy of note, was the clerk in charge of the wires when the news was first flashed to England of the relief of both Ladysmith and Kimberley. He therefore enjoys the distinction of being the first person in the British Isles to know of these historical achievements.

This historic report has been contributed by Major General John Matheson, and it concerns his father who was born in Beaulieu in 1879, and who died in Edinburgh in 1951. Telegraphist John was also the father of Ethel Slayter who thoroughly entered into the spirit of the Duncraig Gathering, and who also represented her brother.

EXTRACTS FROM RENT ROLLS FOR THE ISLE OF LEWIS

(Mathesons only)

Part 1. 1823, which shows only the more substantial holdings

RENTAL OF

The Lands and Estate in the Island of Lewis belonging to the Honourable Mrs Stewart Mackenzie of Seaforth.

Exclusive of Road and Packet Money, Doctor's Salary, School Salary, Officer's Dues, and Peat Money, payable by the Tenants.

And also exclusive of the Net Proceeds of Kelp manufactured on the said Island, but without deducting from the Rents the sums allowed the Tenants for collecting the said Ware and making the Kelp.

Parishes of Stornoway, Lochs and Barvas – No Mathesons. Parish of Uig.

Carrishader. Angus Matheson. Rent £35-1-0. Annual Value £23-8-0. Title of Possession, Tacit Reallocation.

Pennydonald and Capsta. Donald Matheson. Rent £105-12-0. Annual Value £70-8-0. Title of Possession, Tacit Reallocation.

Carenish (*sic*). John Matheson. Rent £105-12-0. Annual Value £70-4-6. Title of Possession, Tacit Reallocation.

Note: their names were spelt 'Mathieson'.

Part 2. 1870-71 (*Sir James Matheson of the Lews, Proprietor*)

Parish of Barvas.

No	Situation	Proprietor	Tenant or Occupier	Yearly Rent or Value
18	Land, Brue	Sir James Matheson Bt.	Widow Anne Matheson	£4-18-0
54	Land, Lower Barvas	Sir James Matheson Bt.	Donald Matheson 'Peter'	£4-13-0
55	Land, Lower Barvas	Sir James Matheson Bt.	Widow Marion Matheson	£4-3-0
92	Land, Mid Borge	Sir James Matheson Bt.	Donald Matheson	£4-1-0
95	Land, Mid Borge	Sir James Matheson Bt.	John Matheson	£4-12-0

Parish of Lochs. Nil.

Parish of Stornoway.

460	Land, Upper Bayble	Sir James Matheson Bt.	Alexander and Catherine Matheson	£4-18-0
477	Land, Lower Bayble	Sir James Matheson Bt.	Angus Matheson	£4-12-0
702	Shop, South Beach Street	John Munro, joiner, 18 South Beach Street	Hugh Matheson, baker	£8- 0-0
1023	Houses, Keith Street	Mrs Matheson and Mrs Macleod, 43 Keith St.	Proprietrices and tenants	£5-10-0
1064	House, Bayhead	Mrs Murdo Matheson, 8 Bayhead	Proprietrix	£7- 0-0
1065	House, Bayhead	Mrs Murdo Matheson, 8 Bayhead	Proprietrix for two tenants under £4	£5- 0-0
1031	House, Keith Street	Malcolm Matheson, shoemaker, 42 Keith St.	Proprietor	£7- 0-0

Parish of Uig.

1200	Land, Aird Uig	Sir James Matheson Bt.	John Matheson	£4-11-0
1223	Land, Kneep	Sir James Matheson Bt.	Donald Matheson	£4- 4-6
1230	Land, Kneep	Sir James Matheson Bt.	John Matheson.	£4- 9-6

Note: In addition to the Mathesons listed above, a considerable number must be hidden in the remark 'Proprietor, for "x" Tenants under £4' under the heading 'Tenant or Occupier' found frequently in the Roll

Barvas	549 tenants
Lochs	565 tenants
Stornoway	811 tenants
Uig	247 tenants

Part 3. Whitsunday 1880. (*Lady Matheson of the Lews, Proprietrix*)

Parish of Barvas.

18	Croft, Brue	Lady Matheson of the Lews	Widow Anne Matheson and Donald Finlayson	£4-18-0
54	Croft, Lower Barvas	Lady Matheson of the Lews	Donald Matheson 'Peter'	£4-13-0
55	Croft, Lower Barvas	Lady Matheson of the Lews	Widow Marion Matheson	£4- 3-0
100	Croft, Mid Borve	Lady Matheson of the Lews	Donald Matheson	£4- 3-0
103	Croft, Mid Borve	Lady Matheson of the Lews	John Matheson	£4-15-0

Parish of Lochs. Nil.

Parish of Stornoway.

66	Croft, Upper Bayble	Lady Matheson of the Lews	John Matheson	£4-18-0
83	Croft, Lower Babyle	Lady Matheson of the Lews	Widow Catherine Matheson	£4-12-0
191	Croft, Aird of Tong	Lady Matheson of the Lews	Widow Mary Matheson and Malcolm Macdonald	£4- 2-0
419	House, Newtown, Burgh of Stornoway	Heirs of John Munro per Malcolm Matheson, 28 Netwown	Malcolm Matheson, ropemaker	£4- 0-0
542	House and Shop Nos 12 and 14, Cromwell St.	Donald Munro, factor loco tutoris to James E. Reid	Hugh Matheson, baker	£29-0-0
626	Three Rooms, Bayhead Street	Miss Catherine Morison, merchant, North Beach	Murdo Matheson, joiner	£4- 0-0

Parish of Uig

42	Croft, Aird Uig	Lady Matheson of the Lews	Widow Catherine Matheson	£4-11-0
66	Croft, Kneep	Lady Matheson of the Lews	Donald Matheson	£4- 4-0
73	Croft, Kneep	Lady Matheson of the Lews	Angus Matheson and Angus Buchanan	£4- 9-6

Note: In addition to the Mathesons listed above, a considerable number must be hidden in the remark 'Proprietor, for "x" Tenants under £4' under the heading 'Tenant or Occupier' found frequently in the Roll.

Barvas	504 tenants
Lochs	606 tenants
Stornoway	813 tenants
Uig	259 tenants

DISTRIBUTION OF MATHESONS

by Charles Mathieson Otsot

Anciently, the Matheson homeland was the Lochalsh area, but where does the family live today in Scotland... as well as in the rest of the United Kingdom? One way to explore the question is to undertake a bit of research into telephone directories. If you are fortunate (as I am) to have a library nearby which collects telephone directories, you can launch right into such a search. I chose to make note of folks spelling the name Matheson, Mathieson, Mathison and Mathie, and also included several phonetic variations (Mathiason, Mathiesen, Mathisen, Mathissen and Mathies).

There are some limitations in telephone directory research: you miss all of the Matheson girls who have married and by convention use their husband's family name. Of course, you miss anyone not having a telephone (but, I did include in my

study folks from the Clan Directory who I did not find in the telephone directories). There is some duplication among directories, but I eliminated all of that with a computer comparison program. Detailed identification of a person is difficult as in most entries a person's given name is reduced to an initial. Even the Chief is plain 'Major Sir T' in his Somerset listing. There is also a chance of double counting where a family has a town address and a country place. For example, the Chief is listed both in Frome and in Duirinish. But, all in all, you can come up with a pretty good idea of numbers and where folks are located.

When it was all totalled up, there are listed at non-commercial telephone numbers: 1353 Mathiesons, 1197 Mathesons, 233 Mathies, 216 Mathisons, and 31 of the others.

Mathesons are found in every UK telephone directory district but two (Scarborough and Swansea). Two-thirds of the Mathesons are found in Scotland: and, of these, forty per cent are found in the Highlands. Another third of the Scotland Mathesons are in the Glasgow/Central-West Scotland area; twenty per cent are in Edinburgh and Eastern Scotland; five per cent are in the Northeast and about one per cent are in the Borders and Southwest Scotland.

Mathiesons are also widely dispersed and are missing only from the Derby, Mansfield, Newark and Swansea telephone directory districts. Two-thirds of the Mathiesons also live in Scotland, but only about three per cent of these are found in the Highlands. Mathiesons are concentrated in the Glasgow/Central-West Scotland area, where fifty-five per cent of the Scotland Mathiesons are found. Another twenty-six per cent of the Scotland Mathiesons are in Edinburgh and Eastern Scotland; thirteen per cent are in the Northeast and about two per cent are in the Borders and Southwest Scotland.

Mathisons are also widely scattered, but less than a quarter of them are found in Scotland. These are concentrated in the Glasgow and Edinburgh areas. In England, a quarter of the Mathisons are found in London and Birmingham.

As for the Mathies, two-thirds of these families are found in Scotland, all in the Glasgow and Edinburgh areas.

The telephone directory listings also show what some of the Clan folk do. Professional notations (doctors, ministers, lawyers and the like) are included; some people include their trade or business as a part of their listing; and, of course, there are companies or firms with Matheson (et.al.) in their names. Thirty-seven doctors (including several dentists) are identified, and there are three veterinarians. Twenty-nine entries relate to various building activities (engineers, contractors, plumbers, joiners, decorators, surveyors, architects). Seven ministers are identified, five lawyers, five insurance brokers, and four accountants. There are ten butchers, four bakers, seven grocers, eight footfitters and shoe repairers, four furniture merchants, four printers and eleven general merchants. Other occupations include: banker, TV repair, hairdresser, taxi hire, auto mechanic (garage), tourist arrangements, cafe operator, tobacconist, bookmaking, importing and chartering. Ten folks identified themselves as farmers (includes a gamekeeper); and there are eleven entries including a military rank as a part of the listing.

I have plotted on a map the specific places clan folk live . . . and show by dots the number of Mathesons, Mathiesons, Mathisons and Mathies at a given location. The map doesn't reduce too well to newsletter size, but there will be copies available for Nova Scotia 1983.

Number of Listings in United Kingdom Telephone Directories

	Matheson	Mathieson	Mathison	Mathie	Other
Scotland	790	881	51	156	3
England	382	454	156	77	26
(London)	(80)	(90)	(19)	(10)	(11)
Wales	18	14	3	—	2
Ireland	7	4	6	—	—
(include Republic)					
	1197	1353	216	223	31

Number of Listings in Scotland Telephone Directories

	Matheson	Mathieson	Mathison	Mathie	Other
Highlands/ Islands	327	46	—	—	—
Glasgow	182	264	9	57	1
Clyde Valley/ Central Sc/ Argyll	80	217	6	57	2
Edinburgh	84	102	18	16	—
Eastern Sc/ Fife, Tayside	66	120	8	22	—
Dundee					
Aberdeen & NE Scotland	40	117	2	—	—
SW Scotland & Borders	11	15	8	4	—
	790	881	51	156	

THE GAELIC SOCIETY OF INVERNESS (Instituted 1871)

The Society welcomes new members. It meets once a month during the winter months, in Inverness, to hear papers read by members of the Society. The papers cover the whole gamut of Highland history and lore, and when published in a volume every two or three years the Transactions are a veritable mine of information. Particulars are available from Mr Hugh Barron, The Granary, Ness-side, Dores Road, Inverness, Scotland.

CLAN MATHESON SOCIETY BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30 JUNE 1982

1981 Assets	1982
317 Balance at Bank	£377.44
40 Block (Clan Crest) at cost	—
452 Deposit with Abbey National Building Society	489.54
8 Stock of Christmas Cards	4.75
	<u>871.73</u>
Represented by:	
880 Reserve Fund – Life	
Membership Subscriptions	
Total as at 30 June 1982	£880.00
Received during the year	£160.00
Transferred to Ordinary Fund	£160.00
Deficit as at 30 June 1981	£ 62.76
Surplus for year per	54.49
Balance Sheet	
Deficit as at 30 June 1982	8.27 £871.73

Income and Expenditure Account

14 Annual Members	
Subscriptions	£ 21.00
110 Life Members Subscriptions	160.00
69 Canadian Share of Newsletter	100.00
38 American Share of Newsletter	—
6 Donations	1.00
41 Building Society Interest	37.79
	<u>£319.79</u>

Less

Bank Service Charge	0.26
130 Printing cost of Newsletters	198.03
73 Postages	26.86
Loss on sale of Christmas Cards	0.15
Clan Crest (Written off)	40.00
	<u>£265.30</u>
Surplus for year	£ 54.49

AUSTRALIA

It is quite apparent that the State of Victoria is well populated with the sons of the Bear! Under the Genealogical Notes, readers will note the efforts of Betty Salathiel in recording all her kith and kin living in Victoria. Last October Donald MacRae Matheson and his wife Nell, from Melbourne, arrived in Lochalsh and were able to be given a quick trip through the district. Donald said that his forebear came from Dornie. A number of Mathesons emigrated from Dornie in the 1800s, but it was not possible to identify a link in the clan history book.

Ron and Merle Matheson, also of Melbourne, write that their younger daughter Kerry was married on 14 February 1982. Their elder daughter Ronda has been in Baltimore, USA, with her husband who is a member of the Australian Lacrosse team. They have two sons, Ross, twenty-four, and Geoffrey, seventeen.

CANADA

As will be seen elsewhere, we regret to report the death of Mrs Eleanor Matheson who was for many years the clan representative for the 'Clans and Scottish Societies of Canada'.

Plans are well in hand for the 1983 Gathering in Nova Scotia, and the outline programme appears in the Cape Breton notes. The Chief has already been hauled off his tractor to record a few words for a pre-gathering documentary on Atlantic Television.

Canadian membership of the Society remains steady, but it is hoped that there will be a significant increase this year. All are reminded that only fully paid-up members can vote at the Clan Parliament, although anyone can attend.

Reports are coming through from Nova Scotia that a section of the Canadian branch may soon be formed there.

CAPE BRETON

Regular meetings were held in mid July and at the end of September, a picnic took place at Whycocomagh on 31 July, and the ceilidh at Baddeck on 6 August was a success.

The tentative programme for the Cape Breton Gathering is:

- 15 Aug 83 Opening of Mod. Chief involved.
Maragan Supper, Baddeck Fire Hall. Music supplied.
- 17 Aug 83 Motorcade from Sydney Airport to Baddeck.
Reception at Inverary Inn, Baddeck.
Registration at Gaelic College, St Ann's.
Ceilidh at Baddeck Arena.
- 18 Aug 83 1030hrs Service at Little Narrows Presbyterian Church.
- 19 Aug 83 Entertain Chief. (Visiting and cruise suggested.)
PM. Parliament in Hall of Clans, Gaelic College.
Banquet in evening. (Limited number of tickets.)
- 20 Aug 83 10km race, from and to Baddeck.
Tug o' war.
Piping competition?

It was suggested that tickets for the banquet be available on registration. Registration fee will be \$5 single; \$10 family.

Further information from Mrs Ella Matheson, Hon Sec, PO Box 62, Marion Bridge, N.S. BOA IPO.

INFORMATION WANTED

Can anyone please provide information about Augustus Matheson, born 1893; died 5 May 1918 aged 75 in St John, N.B. His wife, Mary MacLeod died 1930. They presumably

came from Marble Mountain, spoke fluent Gaelic, had one son, Harvey, (whose children were born in C.B. in 1905 and 1908) and three girls. Harvey died in 1945. He had a cousin Johnnie Dan Gillis, a bus driver who lived in Sydney, and could have descendants living in Sydney today. Information, please, to Hon Sec, PO Box 62, Marion Bridge, N.S. BOA IPO.

NEW ZEALAND

No news, yet, as to the progress in establishing a branch of the Society in New Zealand. Nevertheless, John and Monica Kidd write that they are continuing the good work in contacting clansmen and clanswomen; and have a thriving correspondence with Janet Dorn. They seem to have had an idyllic holiday in Samoa. John obviously made a big hit with the famous hotelier, Aggie Grey, judging by the favours she bestowed upon him!

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



Madge & Arthur J. Matheson holding banner with symbol at Rocky Mountain Games

Jean Guyton very kindly organised the clan tent at the Rocky Mountain Gathering at Golden, Colorado. Arthur Matheson has been giving considerable financial support to various clan events, and we are very grateful to him. Mrs Jane Stratling visited Scotland last summer and met Farquhar Matheson in Kyle, whom, she says, is a relative. Her cousin, Mrs David Fairhurst, and herself are descended from Dugald Matheson and his wife Isabella Mackenzie, who died of small-pox mid Atlantic. Dugald came from ? Baldeau in Lochalsh, and Isabella from Ardelve. A great character, 'Rattlesnake' Riley Matheson formerly of Texas, has turned up in Paraguay, where he is running a 10,000 acre cattle and lumber operation. He is the father of society member Mrs Maudie Gregory of Redding, California. Membership continues on the increase, and existing members are beginning to get their own relations to join. There is every sign that there will be a good attendance in Cape Breton this coming August. Do not forget to make early reservations.

CLAN MATHESON SOCIETY USA ACCOUNT AS OF 30 JUNE 1982

Bank Balance as of 1 July 1981 \$627.14

Receipts

Dues Receipts:

Annual Members	\$359.00
Life Members	200.00

Miscellaneous Receipts:

Donations, purchases of Clan map-pamphlet, Canadian Branch portion of cost of box ad in *The Highlander*

124.19	
683.19	683.19
	\$1310.33

Disbursements

Disbursements 7/1/81 thru 6/30/82	\$623.43
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BALANCE AS OF 30/6/82 \$686.90

DETAILS RE DISBURSEMENTS

1 July 1981 thru 30 June 1982

Council of Scottish Clans Association	\$15.00
Clan Matheson Society (printing of Newsletter)	77.00
Jean Fries (Clan expenses 2/18/81 thru 6/20/81)	99.57
Clan Matheson Gathering Acct. (for maps-pamphlets)	40.00
Houston Highland Games Association	25.00
Arlene Szopinski (making Clan flag)	35.00
L. W. Matheson (purchase of tent)	25.00
Janet Dorn:	26.49

Folders	\$13.05
Xerox	5.99
Postage	7.45
	26.49

Jean Fries:	248.37
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Expenses 6/21/81 thru 5/24/82:	
Postage	\$80.05
Box ad in <i>The Highlander</i>	60.00
Council of Scottish Clans Association	15.00
Printing applications & receipts	37.28
Envelopes	23.43
Xeroxing	19.86
Telephone	12.75
	248.37

Mrs Leslie R. Matheson (purchase of book, <i>The Matheson Clan</i>)	32.00
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Total Disbursements \$623.43

LLOYD NECK

by Jean Guyton about her Grandmother's home

Lloyd Neck was once called 'Caumsett' by the Indian tribe which was also known by that name. Caumsett means 'horse neck' and the area so named included 3,000 acres which were traded in 1654 to three white men for three coats, three shirts, two knives, three hatchets, three hoes, six knives, two pair each of stockings and shoes and some wampum. Originally an island, early in its settled history a dirt path was built to connect Lloyd Neck to the mainland.

During the years of 1776-1783 the town of Huntington was one of the major British supply depots. Fort Franklin, sometimes called West Fort, the first building on the land now occupied by Fort Hill, was built at this time, to defend the harbours of Huntington and Oyster Bay. Fort Franklin was also used to house the American Tory refugees for attacks against the rebel positions on the Connecticut shores. At one time there were 800 loyalists stationed at the Neck. In 1781 George Washington ordered the American and French troops to attack the fort. The attack was unsuccessful and was one of the many retaliatory battles which prolonged the war. On 12 July 1981 the 200th anniversary of this only recognized Revolutionary War battle fought within the present region of Huntington, was re-enacted near the site of the original skirmish.

The earthworks, which were originally storage areas and are now grass-covered embankments bordering the present day courtyard, are the oldest existing segment of the area's history. These date back to about 1778. In the alcove at the edge of the courtyard there is a headstone imbedded in the stucco masonry. The inscription is difficult to decipher but reads something like, 'In memory of Saml Wightman, seargeant major in the L.N.E. Regiment, who departed this life ... 1781'. The L.N.E. Regiment probably refers to the Loyalist New England Regiment of which the Lloyd Neck garrison was largely composed. Fort Franklin was named for William, the only son of Benjamin Franklin, who was then governor of New Jersey and sympathetic to the Tories. The fort was under the command of Benjamin Thompson later called Count Rumford. Count Rumford was a physicist who was famous for his invention of a smokeless fireplace and an economical cook-stove. His portrait hangs in the dining hall at Fort Hall.

During the century long period following the American Revolution there is little information on what happened at Fort Franklin. John Lloyd, whose family had owned Lloyd Neck since 1676, moved into what today is called the Manor House rebuilt in 1767 and one of the oldest manor houses in the state of New York. The Lloyd family was divided in their loyalty toward the American revolutionists and their land was taken and given back according to the victors of the moment and to the family's varying financial position. The Lloyd estate was nearly self-supporting and was actively farmed with the aid of negro slaves. Wheat, corn and grain were abundant in

the fields. Pork, beef and bacon were pickled on the estate and the surplus sold. Sea trout and bass were caught in the streams and deer hunted in the forests.

By far the most plentiful growth on Lloyd Neck were the trees. The Neck has always been admired for its lovely forests and when the British Army occupied New York City, they depended on these trees for their fuel supply. Some historians believe the location of Fort Franklin was crucial not as much for its commanding view of the sound as for the protection of this wood supply from raids by the patriots. The oak, chestnut and hickory trees are beautiful today and some of the English oaks predate the Revolution. The weeping beach trees include one which is the sixth largest on Long Island.

In 1852 Henry Lloyd IV built a steamboat dock on the present day causeway which became a regular stopping place for the steamers of New York. In 1868 the Long Island Railroad opened a Huntington branch but up to that time the dock provided freight and passenger services. The dock area later became a recreational spot called 'Columbia Grove' and at its height was used for weekend excursions by the wealthy of New York.

In 1871 the property around Fort Franklin was bought by the St Xavier College to use as a summer retreat. The little well east of the house was dug at this time. It is 110 feet deep and was the water supply for the occupants of the college.

In 1878 the Fort Franklin site was bought by Anne Coleman Alden who intended to build a summer home there. She hired a well-known architect, Charles F. McKim, of the firm McKim, Mead and White, who designed the core of the present day Fort Hill house at a cost of \$50,000.00. It was built of wood and was very large, including several towers and a partially shingled exterior. Ann Alden was the granddaughter of Judge Coleman who was very active in politics and also a wealthy business man. At the time when Mrs Alden lived on the Neck her family enjoyed hunting deer, quail and wild duck. They went horseback riding as there were many miles of beautiful and enticing trails through the thick woods. They enjoyed rowing and sailing as well as fishing and crabbing. For a short time after Mrs Alden moved into the Manor House, her daughter and son-in-law, Dr and Mrs Richard Derby, lived in Fort Hill but the house was deeded in trust to her grandchildren after she died. In 1900 the estate was put up for sale and the 316 acres were bought for \$80,000.00 by William John Matheson.

Mr Matheson was a self-made man in the true American tradition. Born of a Scottish immigrant father and American mother he was partially educated in a school in St Andrews, Scotland. At the age of fourteen he was matriculated in a senior chemistry course at the University of St Andrews, but was recalled to the United States when his family were no longer able to afford his tuition. He was forced to go to work and earned the lowly sum of \$2.00 a week. Many times he had neither carfare to reach his job nor food to eat through the

long working hours. Matheson worked at several jobs establishing a remarkable reputation for one so young. He eventually became the United States agent of a German chemical concern. Experience perfected his knowledge and he eventually was able to achieve an important role in the application of synthetic colours in textile manufacturing in the United States. This process was first discovered by the Germans but after the outbreak of World War I Matheson broke all his German connections and founded his own company. His company, along with several other small companies, merged into the Allied Chemical and Dye Corporation.

A man of varied interests, Mr Matheson was long associated with the Cold Spring Harbor Biological Laboratory and served as both the president and chairman of the board. He was determined to eliminate the mosquitoes on the north shore of Long Island and his research on that subject led to the formation of the Matheson Commission which originally worked on the problem of encephalitis.

When Matheson bought Fort Hill he was certainly influenced by his memories of Scotland when he started to renovate it. He had the wooden building bricked and added the east wing as well as reinforcements to the concrete parapet and beautifications which gave it the air of a Scottish castle. The architects William Boring and Edward Tilton designed the changes in the house and Frank Olmstead helped Matheson lay out the lovely grounds and gardens which included many bushes and trees that are still found in the gardens of Scotland today.

In 1905 a memorable wedding was celebrated at Fort Hill. Mr Matheson's beautiful daughter Anna was married to Mr Willis Delano Wood. The wedding breakfast was served on the lawn and the ceremony was performed in the East Hall. Yellow and white roses, orchids, chrysanthemums and cosmos banked the walls both inside and out. Music for the wedding was performed by the boys' choir of Grace Church Manhattan and the choir was grouped on the circular stairway of the east room. Over five hundred people attended and many of the guests rode on special trains from New York and were met by a steamer at the Oyster Bay station and carried across the sound to the private dock at Fort Hill. The dock was decorated with flags and was the centre of attention, after the elaborate wedding, when the bride and groom sailed away on the Matheson steam yacht, the *Lavrock*.

Anna Matheson Wood was shielded from all hardships and the unhappiness experienced by her father. She and her two brothers Malcolm and Hugh were educated in the best private schools and had every material possession imaginable. Nan's life was filled with happy house-parties, trips to American resorts and European cruises. In the winter her father spent much of his time at his home on Key Biscayne in Florida. After she married, Nan and her family lived in the Manor House and also in an apartment in New York. In 1930, after her father's death, she moved into Fort Hill. Although her father protected

her as best he could, the example of his courage and faith in his life was to become a far more meaningful legacy in the life of his daughter. Nan was to live through the painful and never discussed separation of her parents. Her only son contracted ostiomyelitis at an early age and suffered terrible pain and poor health during some of his childhood. He died in 1956, at a fairly young age, the same year that Nan's beloved husband Willis died. Her youngest daughter, at the age of twelve, contracted polio while the family was on vacation in Canada, and died within twenty-four hours. Her last surviving daughter died several months before she did. Throughout her almost ninety-nine years her faith never wavered and her strength was an example to all.

Impressed by her father's enormous generosity 'Aunt Nan', as she was affectionately called by all who knew her, never tired of giving herself and her possessions to others. She gave time and money to endless projects which made the world a better place for others less fortunate. She was an active member of the YWCA, Planned Parenthood and the Garden Club. She helped to raise money for many organisations which allowed city children to go to camp or to a swimming club or just a day in the country. During World War II she wrote letters of encouragement and love to American and English soldiers who were lonely for home, entertaining them if they were stationed near Fort Hill. She was ecumenical in her church loyalty supporting any church in need and attending services close to her various residences. She donated the Manor House to the Society for the Preservation of Long Island Antiquities and the land called Matheson Meadows in memory of her father to Nature Conservancy.

Aunt Nan was an accomplished sailor and won trophies for her sailing victories even after failing eye-sight prevented her from seeing the winds in the sails. Dressed in red from the drooping canvas hat on her head to the worn tennis shoes on her feet she was recognized and respected and loved by all those who raced with and against her. Her boat was familiar to those who knew her red-striped spinnaker as it caught the wind on the sound on Sunday afternoon. Her fleet parties were legendary and the party-goers were treated to delicious food and lively dancing on the terrace to the music of Lester Lanin's band.

Nan didn't believe in worrying too much about the problems of the world. She helped where she could and prayed for the rest. She loved the world of politics and was so loyal to the Republican party that she wasn't even aware that she had the option to vote for a Democrat. Her spirit rang with laughter through the rooms of Fort Hill and it was always a haven from the real world outside.

An old house stays alive partly from the sounds of its history that seem to live in the walls and echo outward as the years pass. Fort Hill has always been a place where those sounds included music. Standing in the front room one can almost hear the notes of 'Yankee Doodle' played on the fife by

the English garrison camped on the lovely meadows overlooking the bay below. Then perhaps the English heritage of the Lloyd family influenced the music on the Neck and even the slaves in the fields with their chants from Africa. In 1871 the sacred music of the church replaced the military atmosphere which had been so much a part of Fort Franklin. Then Anne Alden with her formal training in voice and piano filled the house with her music. She loved the opera which she attended in her fancy coachman-driven carriage to Huntington where she boarded the train to New York. And, if one listens hard, it is possible to hear the bagpipes played by the visiting members of Mr Matheson's family as they added to the already Scottish feeling at Fort Hill. At that time a cousin of Mr Matheson lived in the East Wing. She was a concert pianist whose career was cut short by an illness and eventually crippling arthritis. Nan played the piano too and she loved to sing. She played everything from hymns to an Irish jig while the upstairs maid danced on the landing. Nan's daughter Jean must have practiced on one of the several pianos. Jean loved music and interrupted her college education to study piano full time.

Fort Hill is a house that has absorbed the activities around it and has settled down to enjoy its place in history. It is appropriate that this history will continue to be important to Fort Hill. We only can hope that whoever is part of the future of this lovely house will keep alive the memories that have made the atmosphere at Fort Hill so meaningful to so many people.

BOOK REVIEWS

Chef on the Run by Diane Clements. ISBN 0 88894 368 7, published by Sunflower Publications Ltd, 1426 West 26th Avenue, Vancouver, B.C.

Rand's daughter, Diane, has produced a really excellent cookery book. In this over accelerated age, it isn't only world-class athletes that are short of time to produce original and mouth-watering meals for their families! Everyone will be thrilled with this book. Its contents must fully come up to even Matheson expectations from the pen of this very talented Matheson. The convenient size, and the way it is put together on a ring binder for easy use are exactly right.

I hope all who buy it will get as much fun and use out of it as the reviewer! S.M.F.M.

Sinews of the Heart by John Ross Matheson. ISBN 0 889999 177 4 published by Lancelot Press, Hantsport, Nova Scotia.

I am not sure if Judge John's recently published book of poems is generally available, but for anyone who appreciates good modern poetry it is well worth hunting for. John has a real gift for creating an image with words; sensitive and often very beautiful. His verses cover a wide range of subjects, and give some insight into his deep feelings for his Country, his Family and of his belief in God. A book to be treasured.

S.M.F.M.

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 £2 to each order for postage and packing. Apply to Serena at Standerwick Court.

There are still a number of souvenir programmes left over, 50p each inc postage. Also car stickers, 50p.

GENEALOGY

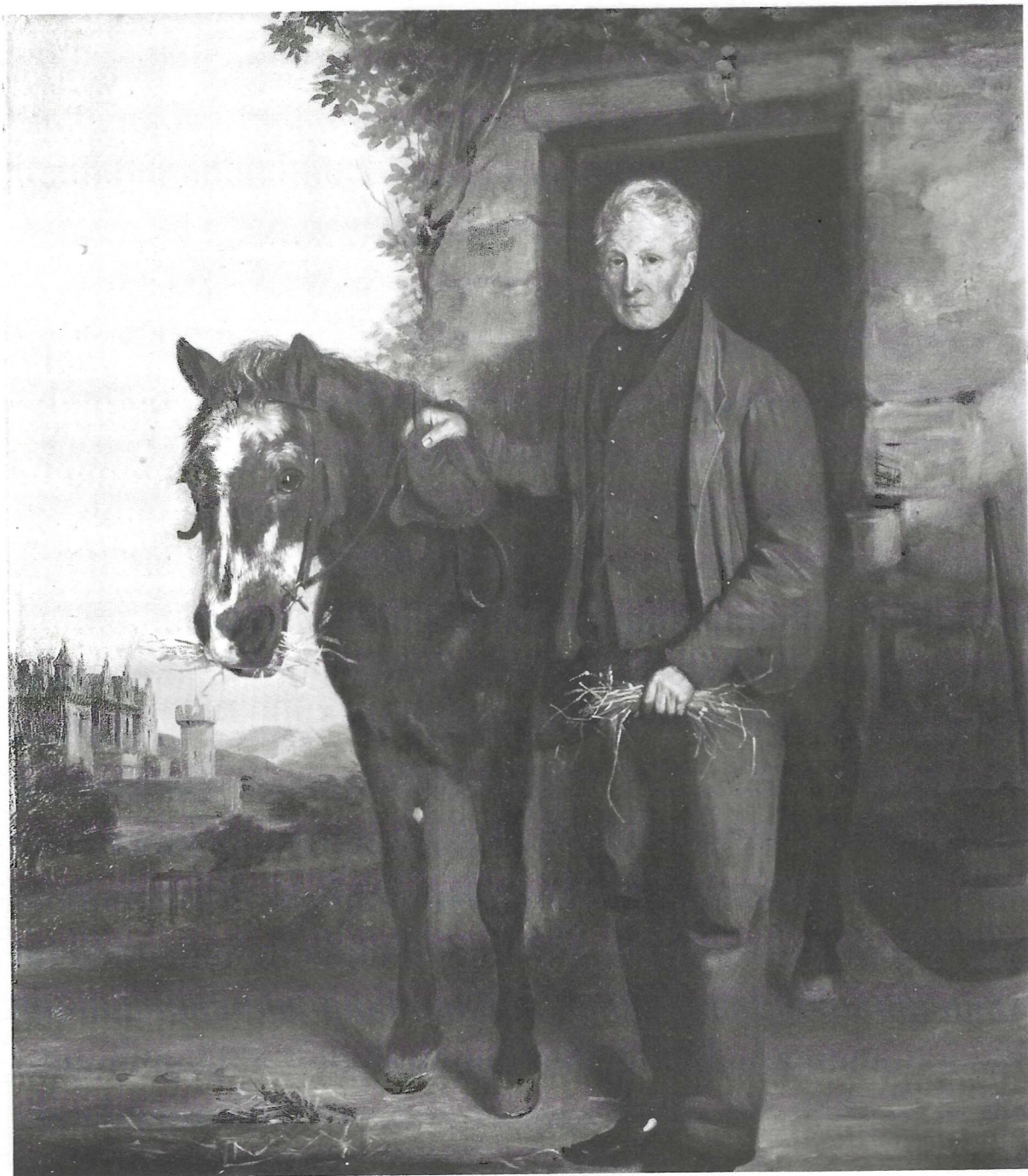
An outstanding contribution to clan genealogy has been made by Betty Salathiel, cousin of Geelong John, who has recorded all the descendants of her great-great-grandfather Farquhar Matheson who emigrated from Craig, near Plockton, to Victoria, S. Australia, in 1853 in the *New Zealander*. Farquhar appears on page 86 in the *History of the Mathesons* beside the symbol 'a2', in the family of Duncan Mac Ian Og. It is full of biographical notes and photographs of individuals and family groups and is a model of what modern genealogy should be.

From the other side of the Pacific, from Janet Dorn, comes news of another genealogy, *The Matheson Clan* by Mrs Leslie Matheson of Chicago, which concerns Mathesons of Zorra, Ontario and Altase and Creich in Sutherland. Although unseen by the writer, it contains a wealth of information and weighs nearly twelve pounds!

Leslie Matheson of Broadview Heights, Ohio, has had an interesting correspondence with Mrs Ruth Matheson Buck, Regina, concerning his forebears going from Kildonan to the Red River Settlement in 1815. Mrs Buck has given all her research papers to the Saskatchewan Archives.

Those at Duncraig will remember Einar and Mette Matheson from Oslo. He has now produced his genealogy from his forefather Jacob (Frederik?) Matheson, c1639-17 July 1724, who was Commandant of the fortress of Kongsvinger in 1713. One immediately wonders if there could be a relationship with Colonel George Matheson of Shiness, who, in 1626, accompanied Sir Donald Mackay of Farr, afterwards Lord Reay, to the wars of Gustavus Adolphus, King of Sweden? Certainly the portrait illustrated of Jacob's son, Colonel Jacob (1683-1749) has similar facial features to Captain Donald Matheson of Shiness (1745-1810). The genealogy is contained in two volumes with family portraits, biographical notes, pedigrees and other interesting records of family gatherings including Duncraig. An interesting revelation is the number of Einar's cousins to be found in the United States. There is one snag to this excellent addition to Matheson Clan history... it is 99% in Norwegian. Nevertheless it is reasonably easy for the reader to follow!

Finally, do not be taken in by the *Matheson Family Heritage Book* on offer in the States through a certain business. No more need be said.



Peter Matheson coachman to Sir Walter Scott, with Donald.
From the picture at Abbotsford.

NATIONAL MOD IN PORTREE, 1982

The Matheson Clan was well represented at Mod Eilean A Cheo, 9 to 15 October. Particular congratulations on their successes are due to Kenneth Matheson, Broughty Ferry, and to Constance Matheson, Kyle of Lochalsh, her brother Ronnie Macrae, and above all to her nephew Arthur Cormack, who was equal second Gold Medalist at the early age of seventeen.

Among competitors in the junior events were Karen Matheson of Taynuilt, Iona Matheson of Oban, Sara Matheson of Portree and Mary Matheson of Golspie.

Those who attended the Ceilidh at the Duncraig Gathering last year will remember Mrs (Matheson) Madden and the Strath Gaelic Choir, and will be delighted to know that they were the winners of the Lorne Shield, and also of the Dalriada Cup for Gaelic. Jean Matheson and her sister Ina MacKay were singing in the choir. Many congratulations to them – they richly deserved recognition.

Plockton Gaelic Choir also did very well indeed in coming third in their section, especially as they are comparative newcomers to competitions.

CONGRATULATIONS



★ To Lt Roderick Matheson, 1st Regiment, Royal Canadian Horse Artillery, on his marriage to Miss Janet Biewald at Perth, Ontario.

★ To Lady Elizabeth Matheson, mother of Torquhil and Fergus, on the occasion of her 93rd birthday on 4 February 1983.

★ To Matilda (Matheson) and Martin Thompson on the birth of their son Charles, in Kenya, on 23 October 1981. Charles is a great grandson of Lady Elizabeth.

★ To Miss Kerry Matheson on her marriage to Mr Laurie Fry on 14 February 1982, Olinda, Victoria.

★ Miss Mary E. Macrae, daughter of Drs Farquhar and Mary Macrae of Coilliemore, on graduating as a Bachelor of Law at Aberdeen University, and on her 21st birthday recently celebrated.

CRIOMAGAN

★ Farquhar and Lucy Matheson, 3 Hamilton Place, Kyle, have helped and entertained a number of clansmen from home and abroad by putting a notice of their address on the notice board at the Skye ferry pier. Farquhar has a fund of information on clan and local history and is only too pleased to help anyone. During last summer, he found a German Matheson from Hamburg in Kyle, who was quite unaware of the Scottish connection.

★ The Chief and Serena were guests of honour at the Clan Macpherson annual dinner in London in November. Ronald Matheson also attended which was a very pleasant surprise. After the dinner the carpet was rolled back and some very energetic highland dancing took place, well into the small hours!

★ Alister Matheson of Richmond, Yorks, forwarded a note from his parish magazine which pointed out that last May was the centenary of the composition of the hymn 'O Love, that wilt not let me go' by the blind Rev George Matheson. This hymn has now become an integral part of our Clan Gathering Service.

★ Butler Dougherty has sent a photocopy of the Proclamation for uniting the Provinces of Canada, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick into one Dominion of Canada, signed at Windsor Castle by Queen Victoria on 22 May 1867. One of the Senators appointed for the Province of Ontario was Roderick Matheson of Perth, Ontario, where his house is now a museum. It was in this house that the Matheson reception took place in August 1979.

★ The Rev James Ure Stewart, who was one hundred last June has expressed his thanks for the greetings expressed in the last Clan Newsletter. He received over 400 messages which he answered personally.

★ Judge John Ross Matheson of Perth, Ontario, has again been influencing the history of our age! This time, with a carefully considered, compassionate judgement declaring a cerebral palsy victim capable of living on his own, and managing his own affairs. As so many legal decisions the world over are influenced by precedents, there will be many disabled folk who will live to be grateful that the case was brought before such a wise and sympathetic judge, who was able to weigh the evidence against his own experience.

★ Last November, Comhairle nan Eilean, under the leadership of the Convener, Sandy Matheson of Stornoway, staged an exhibition in London of produce of the Western Isles which ranged from smoked salmon and other fishy delicacies to tweeds and knitwear. One business is producing superb cassettes of Highland music, pipe music and traditional songs; another, jewellery; and yet another, perfume. Sadly, but understandably, there were no products of the 'brochan' to sample! It was a splendid exhibition and anyone interested in supporting these Island ventures should contact the Publicity Officer of Comhairle nan Eilean in Stornoway.

OBITUARIES

We regret to report the following deaths, and wish to express our sincere sympathy to their relatives.

★ Professor Arthur Matheson, December 1981, aged 62, in Dundee. He was a former Master of Queen's College, Dundee. He was educated at Daniel Stewart College, at Balliol, Oxford and at Edinburgh University. He graduated with a First in Classics in 1940, and LL.B with Distinction in 1944; and was admitted to the Faculty of Advocates.

In 1949 he became Professor of Scots Law at University College, Dundee and was appointed a Queen's Counsel. He was Dean of Faculty of Law at Queen's College on two occasions, and was appointed Master in 1966. From 1968 to 1972 Professor Matheson was Chancellor of the Diocese of Aberdeen and Orkney.

★ Mrs Eleanor June Matheson, widow of the late Donald Matheson, of Scarborough, Ontario, on 27 September 1982. She is survived by four sons and ten grandchildren.

★ Mr Donald Matheson, Kyle of Lochalsh, November 1982, aged 70 years. Born at Ardnaff, he lived at a variety of places in Lochalsh during his life. At one time he worked for British Rail, but the greater part of his life was spent working with the Forestry. He is survived by his wife and his sister, Mrs Murchison, Dornie.

★ Mr Duncan Matheson, Upper Ardelve, December 1982 aged 87 years. Born at Avernish, Duncan gave a lifetime's service to MacBrayne's as a purser on the boats, and for forty years as Steamer Agent at Mallaig. A widower, he resided with his sister Mary.

★ Mrs Elizabeth (Mackenzie) Matheson, wife of Donald Matheson of Bank Cottage, Balmacara, on 30 December 1982. Mrs Matheson lived in Balmacara all her life and for many years was in the service of the late Dr Duncan Macrae of Coilliemore, just up the hill. She was a much loved wife, mother and grandmother. Donald was one of the Gathering Committee in 1981.

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 until August 1983.

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.

ADDRESS

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 Matheison, 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.