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Clan Matheson Society

NEWSLETTER NO 38 FEB 1984

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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, February 1984

As usual, time overtakes us all, and we are well into 1984. Serena and I hope that you all had a very Happy Christmas and that the New Year will bring you happiness and success. These notes were drafted in my brother Fergie's home where we have just celebrated our mother's 94th birthday! We had a really noisy time!

Elsewhere in this Newsletter are two separate accounts of the Cape Breton Gathering, and a record of the proceedings of the Clan Parliament. All three are complementary. It is interesting to see how different events are highlighted in different people's minds.

At the Parliament, in the body of the House, there was a formidable array of talent amongst whom were three Queen's Counsels, one of them a Judge, and I wondered how we lesser mortals on the bench would fare. Then, momentarily, out of the corner of my eye I saw the shadow of Judge Lewis and I realised that we had an eloquent advocate on our side of the great divide. But who need have worried, for all business was conducted in a thoroughly amicable way, with only one aim in sight—that of improving the standing and influence of the Clan Society as a Family of all Nations.

The church at Little Narrows, on the water's edge and beside a ferry, in country closely associated with the earliest settlers of our clan, was an idyllic setting for a memorable service of rededication and 'Kirkin' of the Tartan'. Gordon's inspiring sermon rivetted our attention. And even in that intense atmosphere there was a lighter moment when the Nova Scotian Minister of Finance was the only one in his pew with any money in his sporran for the collection. Is it true that he hastily arranged some interest-free loans?!

I doubt that our war-cry 'Acha-da-thearnaidh' had been shouted so lustily by so many for several centuries,



Kelly's Lookout. Neil, Lewis, Murdock, Gus, Steven,
Chief, Peter

as on the grand march of the clans—the one occasion, through no fault of his own, that we were deprived of the services of our splendid piper, Steven Matheson, whose repertoire and fine fingering on his chanter delighted everyone at other times.

If there was a regretful note during the four days, it was that Jean Matheson Fries was appearing for the last time in her executive role for the United States. Great has been her contribution over the years. And, like those of us who are supported by splendid spouses, Jean has been magnificently backed up by Armand. 'Thank you, both' from all of us.

We were honoured to have Premier John MacLennan Buchanan attend so many of our functions, and join so enthusiastically. No doubt it was his eagle eye which spotted the stamina and energy of the Matheson Clan and prompted him to move his successful financier to the ministry of Mines and Energy shortly after the Gathering!

Cape Breton, landfall for so many Highlanders so many years ago and truly a home from home, has given us, once more, a memorable Gathering. Our gratitude is extended to Judge Lewis and all those, so many that it would be invidious to name all but the leader, who made it at all possible.

NOVA SCOTIA 1983

by Edmond Matheson, Carnoustie

At Halifax Airport on August 15th last an expectant body of respectable folk awaited the arrival of the Chief and Lady Matheson of Matheson, but as the afternoon merged into the long Sabbath evening the dread news spread that the Chief was delayed an hour, then for two hours, that the engines of his aircraft were defective, that the brakes had failed! Great was the relief when a roar overhead heralded the approach of his machine, six hours late, and shortly the skirl of the pipes announced the appearance of Torquhil and Serena in the arrival lounge to be welcomed by Rand Matheson, the Honorary Secretary of the Canadian branch, Joel Matheson Q.C., the Minister of Finance in the Nova Scotian Government and other prominent clansmen.

Greetings were exchanged, brief because the hour was advanced, then the Chief and Serena stepped into a waiting limousine with their Canadian friends and motored northwards through the night to a sanctuary in the Cape Breton Highlands for a period of relaxation after the rigours of the journey and to meet His Honour Judge Lewis Matheson, Q.C., and Gus Matheson, the Honorary Chairman and Chairman respectively of the impending Gathering.

At length, refreshed, the Chief's party driving southward on the morning of the 17th espied at about noon the clansfolk gathered on the cliff edge at Kelly's Mountain Lookout. Joy was unconfined as old friendships were renewed and a motorcade formed up with,



Little Narrows. David, Lyman, Rand, Gus, Joel, Steven

in the van, the Chief's limousine displaying his banner, followed by the U.K. party with the Union flag and the Canadian and U.S.A. branches and the Cape Breton Section with their respective banners, for the seventeen mile procession to Baddeck for lunch, registration and finally a ceilidh in the evening.

On the morning of the 18th the Clan motored over to the ferry at Little Narrows where it assembled with pipes and banners before entering the Presbyterian Church nearby for a most impressive and moving service conducted jointly by the Reverend Gordon and the Reverend Glen Matheson.

In the afternoon the Gaelic Mod opened at St Ann's and the Clan with its piper, Steven Matheson, at the head, marched into the arena behind the Chief—his banner carried by Peter Matheson of London, England, who led the members of the two North American branches and the Cape Breton section, all with their standard bearers. At the conclusion of a rumbustious musical entertainment with piping and dancing the Clan repaired to Baddeck for a Maragan supper in the Fire Hall.

On Friday morning, the 19th, members were free to explore the Bell Museum and the other delights of Baddeck and its neighbourhood. Special mention must be made of the visit which Lewis and Murdock led to the Nova Scotia village of Iona where the conditions under which the earlier settlers lived were demonstrated by a series of buildings, with rough hewn furniture to match, graduating from log cabins to tolerable two storey frame houses.

The Clan Parliament in the afternoon is reported elsewhere in this issue and was but a prelude to the Grand Matheson Banquet and Entertainment in the evening at which Murdock presided and at which we were privileged to welcome as our guests of honour Premier John Buchanan of Nova Scotia and Mr. Fisher Hudson, M.L.A., Minister for Tourism for Nova Scotia.

Sadly the last day of the Gathering dawned, but with energies apparently undiminished by the Bacchanalian revels of the previous evening, competitors lined up for the Matheson 10 km Fun Run to be started by the Premier. The name of the winner escapes the writer's memory, but Rand was prominent despite his years, and we eventually assembled for our prizes provided by Diane Clement by courtesy of Adidas, and presented by the Premier together with a certificate bearing his

signature in testimony of our having completed the course. Then it was back to St Ann's for the closing of the Mod: this time the Matheson Clan led the rest of the clans into the arena but there our glory faded when a Red Indian tribe called the Micmacs (or are they MacMics?) won the Tug o' War.

In the evening at Baddeck we saw the departure of the Chief and Serena towards the setting sun as they set forth into the west to meet other friends while we all went our several ways. What fun we had had and how much of it we owed to Lewis, Gus, Ella, Murdock, Rand and others who, by their patient organisation, contributed to such a memorable Gathering of the Clan! Especially we must thank the Chief and Serena for their presence and their unique gift of jollyng us along in fellowship by jest and example.

CAPE BRETON GATHERING 1983

by Jean Guyton, Colorado

Car after car pulled off at Kelly's Mountain, Cape Breton, Nova Scotia on that August 14th afternoon. The occupants were warmed by the sun sparkling on the waters below, by the sight of friendly faces and by the familiar sounds of the bagpipes as Clan Matheson opened its 1983 Gathering. Chief Torquhil and Lady Serena were surrounded by clan members many of whom they had not seen since the Plockton Gathering in 1981.

A motorcade of some 30 cars was formed to escort Torquhil and Serena to the beautiful town of Baddeck and the official beginning of the Gathering. British, Canadian and American flags as well as the clan flag fluttered out of the windows of various cars and puzzled bike riders finally guessed that the Scots were coming.

Following an afternoon of catching up with old friends and meeting new ones at the Inverary Inn in Baddeck, the Mathesons were treated to a Ceilidh at the Ice Rink arena. The talent ranged from singing, dancing, pipes and finally a milling frolic accompanied by Gaelic singing.

The next morning the Kirkin o' the Tartan took place in the lovely little church at Little Narrows. The service was dedicated to our mutual care of one another and our belief in God. A mod at the Gaelic college in St. Ann's was performed that afternoon. The accomplishments of the young people at the college included demonstrations of piping, singing and dancing. A maragan supper on Thursday evening was attended by several hundred, mostly Mathesons.

On Friday clan members entertained themselves by driving on the beautiful Cabot Trail road, visiting the Scottish village at Iona, viewing the historical Fortress of Louisburg or studying the fascinating displays at the Alexander Graham Bell museum. At the Clan Parliament in the afternoon, reports were read by representatives from the Canadian, American and British branches. The newsletter was discussed with an appeal from the editor for more reactions to the present contents of the letter as well as contributions by clan members. Dues were raised to keep up with expenses. There was unanimous, enthusiastic praise for the accomplishments of Jean Fries as outgoing American secretary of the clan and a welcome to Leslie Matheson who will take Jean's place. David Matheson from Toronto set, what we hope will be, a precedent of lauding the achievements of a particularly talented clan member, by praising Judge John Matheson of Canada,

for his sensitive decision concerning the problems of handicapped persons. (See Newsletter 36, Feb. 1983.)

The clan banquet on Friday night was a chance for the Mathesons to eat and socialize together and we were entertained by speeches as well as music.

One of the highlights of the Gathering was the ten kilometre road race on Saturday. Our run/walk/bike route took us along the shores of the lovely Bras d'Or Lake. The beauty of the sailboats and blooming flowers eased the pain of long-forgotten muscles. Young, handsome Canadian Andrew Matheson ran beside his countryman Robert Matheson and the tall red-headed American Sage Guyton. The ever-elegant Edmund Matheson from Scotland, kilted and eager, strolled the course with Loretta Matheson from America and Malcolm Matheson from Canada. In between were Rand, the grandfather of Andrew and his daughter Diane, and sons Joel and David, as well as many others of all ages and degrees of energy. Marion Green from Wisconsin and Armand Fries from Missouri, both aged 87, chose to drive along the route and cheer the participants at various points. Dianne and Chrissie Matheson biked the course—several times. Everyone was cheered over the finishing line by a welcoming crowd and a Matheson banner.

The final march at the closing of the International Gathering made us proud to be a family as our tall and impressive chief and his lady, Serena, led the Mathesons at the head of a parade of about 25 clans. The pipes filled the air with haunting and joyous sounds as we proudly displayed one of the largest groups of the many represented. We had travelled, all two to three hundred of us, from Canada, America, Great Britain and even Australia (yea, John!). Special thanks go to our Canadian hosts. We will meet again, we Mathesons, and until then we will not forget the Baddeck Gathering or each other.

THE CLAN PARLIAMENT 1983

by Edmond Matheson, Carnoustie

The Chief opened the 1983 session of the Matheson Parliament at the Gaelic College on the afternoon of 19th August with the Convener in the Speaker's chair.

1. It was agreed that the Minutes of the Proceedings of the Parliament held at Duncraig Castle in 1981 as recorded in Newsletter No. 34 constituted a true record.

2. The Constitution which had been drafted on the instructions of the previous Parliament was ratified and no alterations or additions would be considered until experience had been gained of it in operation, with one exception, that in para 23 the quorum for a Parliament should be not less than 30 persons, and NOT 50 as originally drafted.

3. In his capacity of Secretary and on behalf of the Treasurer, Norman Matheson, who had tendered an apology for his absence, the Speaker explained the position at Headquarters from which a total membership of 170 was administered, made up of 36 in Australia, 57 in Scotland, 60 in England, 1 in France, 2 in Norway, 12 in New Zealand, 1 in the Philippines and 1 in Spain. The cash held at Headquarters on 30th June in the form of a bank deposit and building society shared had amounted to £780.30, just about £100 less than at the same time last year: the decrease was accounted for by rising prices and the fact that the Newsletter was now being produced more frequently and to a higher standard than previously.

4. The Honorary Secretary for Canada, Mr Rand Matheson, reported an increase in membership in Canada of roughly 10% over the year to 111, which included 82 life members: he described the early days of the Society twenty-seven years ago and the great progress made since then under the present Chief. The year had been one of heavy expenditure connected with the Gathering with the result that the balance held in Canada as at 30th June was reduced to \$136.70 Can.

5. The Honorary Secretary for the United States of America, Mrs Jean Fries, reported a slight increase in the membership in the U.S.A. to 152. The bank balance at 1 July 1982 had been \$696.90. During the year ending 30 June 1983 receipts were \$993.50, and disbursements were \$769.91, leaving a balance of \$910.49.

Jean also informed the members that she had submitted her resignation as Honorary Secretary to the Chief: this she had done with great regret because she had very much enjoyed the work and the contacts it had made for her with other Mathesons throughout the U.S.A.

6. The Treasurer had reported that as far as Headquarters was concerned the income from subscriptions and building society interest was sufficient to sustain publication of the Newsletter on a yearly basis provided that the North American branches contributed their fair quota of the cost based on the relation of their individual memberships to the membership of the Society as a whole. The wish of the House however was for publication at more frequent intervals—preferably twice a year; if this were arranged it was clear that as far as Headquarters was concerned the Society's cash reserves would be exhausted within two to three years unless some means were found of increasing income and the position might be worse in the branches. The cost of postage of bulk supplies of Newsletters to North America for distribution by branches was mentioned as a serious drain on resources, and on Mr Rand Matheson's suggestion it was agreed to investigate the economics of printing overseas from a master copy produced in the U.K. (Since the meeting of Parliament the Chief has supplied figures which show that postage on a recent batch of Newsletters airmailed in bulk to the U.S.A. and Canada had only cost 12 and 14 dollars respectively: the total sum appears negligible and is most unlikely to exceed the cost of a separate printing. In this respect it must be borne in mind that a few



Armand and Jean Fries

hundred copies more or less printed at the same time has little effect on the overall printing cost which is mainly influenced by the labour in type-setting.)

7. To enable the Newsletter to be published at more frequent intervals it was agreed that all subscriptions should be increased by 50% with effect from the date of publication of Newsletter No. 38. It was further agreed that existing life members should be invited to 'top up' their subscriptions by means of a donation from time to time.

8. The Chief stated that a Gathering in Scotland on the lines of that at Duncraig Castle could only be contemplated every ten years or so and that the same might apply to Gatherings on a similar scale elsewhere. It was agreed that local gatherings or functions might be arranged as required and funded locally by the participants.

9. The Chief said that he had received Jean's resignation as Honorary Secretary in the U.S.A. with great regret and paid tribute to the unbounded enthusiasm and attention to detail which had characterised her work; we were fortunate in that Mr Leslie R. Matheson of Broadview Heights, Ohio, had kindly agreed to take over Jean's duties, and a motion was carried unanimously confirming his election. The other officers signified their willingness to continue in their present capacities and were unanimously re-elected.

10. A motion to downgrade Parliament to a *Parlement* as in pre-revolutionary France was not supported, whereupon the Chief prorogued Parliament, the House rising at four o'clock.

CLAN MATHESON SOCIETY CONSTITUTION AND RULES

Those attending the Parliament at the Cape Breton Gathering received a copy of the Constitution and Rules. Would any member requiring a copy please send an appropriately stamped and addressed envelope to the Editor, who will post one by return.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Leslie Matheson writes that he has now settled into his appointment as Hon Secretary and is amazed at the amount of correspondence involved. He finds one of the fascinating aspects of the job is the opportunity of bringing families together.



Lewis, Norman 'Winnipeg', Serena, 'Geelong' John, Murdock



Gaelic College, St Ann's. Diane, Iain Mor, Serena, Pam, Mary Katherine

Charlie Otstot of 5124 North 33rd Street, Arlington, Virginia, 22207, is making an inventory of the Parish Records of Old Kilpatrick Parish, Strathclyde, whence his Mathiesons came.

CANADA

Rand Hector Matheson, Hon Secretary Canada, has intimated that he wishes to retire from the hot seat in August 84. The Rev Dr C. Daniel Matheson, D.D. has very kindly accepted the responsibility. Dr Matheson lives in Ottawa and has recently retired as the Minister of Westburgh United Church. He will take up office with good wishes from us all.

Rand is hoping to attend the Grandfather Mountain Games, North Carolina during the second week of July 84 hopefully with some of his family. He will be liaising with Leslie Matheson over arrangements in due course.

CAPE BRETON

Twenty-six clansfolk attended the meeting at Little Narrows Presbyterian Church Hall on 7 September 1983. The main business centred on the recent Gathering. The financial outcome was reported to be satisfactory. Everyone agreed that the event was a huge success as regards the fellowship, friendliness and overall good time enjoyed by all over four days. Certain decisions were taken to improve future gatherings.

The executive, which had so successfully run affairs over the last four years, retired and the following were elected for the next term:

Hon Chairman	Judge Lewis Matheson
Chairman	Gus Matheson
Vice-Chairman	Murdock Matheson
Treasurer	George Matheson
Secretary	Jessie Ross
Assistant Secretary	Isobel MacFarlane
Historian	Arnold Matheson

A request was made that any pertinent information, clippings or pictures be sent to Arnold.

NEW ZEALAND

A keen reader of the Newsletter, Mrs Lorna Rodgers of 25 Elliot Crescent, Rotorua would be very pleased if any Mathesons visiting Rotorua would like to contact her. She is a cousin of the late Norman Matheson of Virginia Water, Surrey, and of Rod Matheson, 216/

3901, Carrigan Court, Burnaby, B.C. Their family roots were in Glenhinsdale, Isle of Skye. Another cousin, Ian Matheson of 199 College Street, Palmerston North, N.Z. compiled a most detailed history of this family which stretches across the world.

CORRESPONDENCE

★ Janet Dorn reports that she has found Johan Mathiesen, a baker and of Norwegian descent, in her home town of Eugene, Oregon. She is hoping that he will help her translate Einar of Oslo's Matheson History. Johan is hoping to expand his business sufficiently with the aid of his wife, Kay, that he can attend a PhD course in History at the University of Oregon.

★ Joan Matheson Bache of 16 Gothic Drive, Paradise, South Australia, 5075, a grand-daughter of the late George Matheson, born in Banff, had a very happy holiday in Scotland last year, and is anxious to learn more about the Clan. Perhaps Mary Salathiel and Gwen Smith would like to make contact? *337 3251*

★ Clan activity has been generated in California by Alice Fairhurst, of 313 E. Hurst Street Clovina, CA, with joint clan tents with Mackenzies and Macraes at her home, the Pacific Highland Games at Chino, and Las Vegas. Her letters are bursting with enthusiasm, and it is hoped that she will be able to enroll many new members to the Clan Society.

★ Those attending the Cape Breton Gathering will recall the smart, soldierly bearing of Norman of Winnipeg. He has written an excellent account of his family from their arrival in 1815 at the Red River Settlement as Selkirk Settlers to the present day, which appears in this Newsletter.

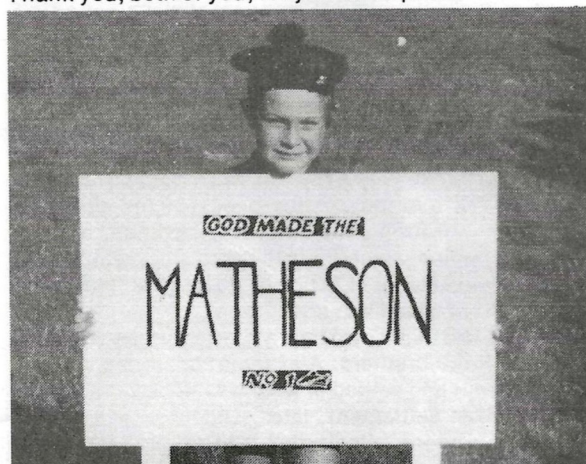
★ 'Geelong John' Matheson writes rapturously that he was in Rhode Island when Australia won the Americas Cup last summer.

GENEALOGY

A most interesting and detailed genealogy has been compiled by Graeme Matheson of 10 Buckham Street, Rangiora, N.Z. and his sister Mrs Neta Holme whose forebears were McMaths from Kintyre. All their great-great-grandfather Dugald McMath's nine children are recorded as Mathieson! When they emigrated to New Zealand in the mid-1800's, their children became Matheson. Apparently the saying was that 'Our eye was knocked out when we arrived in New Zealand!' Some say it could have been poor spelling . . . but perhaps it could have been that they had begun to meet Mathesons from Ross-shire and Sutherland? It is interesting to note that their grand-uncle Dugald George Mathieson held the land now known as Attadale up to 1892 when it passed to Dougald Matheson son of Murdo who emigrated from the Island of Rum c. 1874. (Vide NL 35 page 3). There are good maps, descriptions of the voyages out in the 'Helenslee', 'Vicksburg' and 'Canterbury', a bibliography, and endless family notes and a few photographs of the old folk. Charlie Ostot really should make contact with Graeme.

John and Monica Kidd of 12 Atkinson Avenue, Papa-toetoe, Auckland, N.Z. have compiled a list of Matheson marriages in the 19th century covering Shetland, Orkney, Caithness, Sutherland, Ross and Cromarty including the Isle of Lewis. It is a most valuable bit of research, and so far about twenty-five marriages have been identified in the 'History of the Mathesons' and

dated. The History is noteworthy for its lack of dates. Janet Dorn also has a copy of the list. John and Monica are now embarking on another useful clan research. Thank you, both of you, for your enterprise!



Aaron son of Arnold

CRIOMAGAN

★ Carolyn Matheson, Life Member, daughter of Mr and Mrs Leslie R. Matheson of Broadview Heights, Ohio graduated from High School in June 1983. She is enrolled at Ohio University to read Journalism/Public Relations. She was awarded two scholarships for academic excellence.

★ The Clan Matheson Society hopes to publish an International Matheson Cookbook. All members are invited to submit their favourite recipes. If possible, try to include a main dish, vegetable, salad, and dessert. Breads are also welcome. Please send your recipes within 90 days of receipt of this newsletter to Mrs L. R. Matheson, 3850 Laurel Glen Drive, Broadview Heights, Ohio 44147, USA.

★ Mrs C. Ruth Matheson of Regina, Saskatchewan, and her entire family of four children and one grand-daughter are all life members of the Clan Matheson Society.

★ Heartiest congratulations to Joel Matheson on his appointment as Minister of Mines and Energy in the Nova Scotian Government.

OBITUARY

Alex G. Mathieson, at New Castle, Pennsylvania on 22 August 84, aged 85. He was an uncle of Charles Mathieson Ostot, to whom goes our sympathy. Alex was the last of his line.

NOTICE

★ Information is requested on family of Ebenezer Mathieson and wife Euphemia Richards. Son, Robert Richards Mathieson, b. Jan. 14, 1857, Ficherow (?) 'near' Edinburgh. m. Mary Ann Shepherd Hay, Arbroath, Scotland, Jan. 26, 1881. Moved to Kearney, Nebraska, USA in 1884. Please reply to Mr. Donald Robert Mathieson, Rt 7, Box 109 Willis Rd, Caldwell, Idaho, 83605 USA. (Perhaps John Kidd could help to identify R.R.M.'s birthplace? — Editor.)

**EXTRACTS FROM A LETTER WRITTEN BY
NORMAN ALEXANDER MATHESON TO
THE CHIEF, NOVEMBER 1983**

'No doubt you must think I have forgotten my promise to write to you about some information concerning my family of the Mathesons of the Parish of Kildonan, now part of the City of Winnipeg, Manitoba, in Canada, but I wish to assure you such is not the case.

The delay in writing was caused in large part by my making sure that what I say will be reasonably correct. Much of my information has been handed down by word of mouth from generation to generation, and, as you can imagine, sometimes the true story would contain a certain amount of fiction or guesswork. However, I digress from what I was about to say.

I am the last of my own family of Mathesons, a branch of one of three brothers, Alexander, John and Angus, who came out and settled in what was to become known as Red River Settlement, later Kildonan, and finally Winnipeg, under a colonization plan set up by Thomas Douglas, 5th Earl of Selkirk.

After many years of struggle and untold hardships in strange country caused in the main by the North West Fur Trading Co., although the Hudson's Bay Co. were not all that much in favour of a settlement in the midst of the Fur Trade either, during which on two occasions the settlers were forced to leave their new homes, some of whom moved to Ontario, their homes were burned and crops destroyed and the settlement wiped out. After the massacre of Seven Oaks and a visit of Lord Selkirk in 1817, the settlement was finally established. My great-grandfather, John, nicknamed 'Pagee' Matheson, farmed on Lot 88 on the East side of the river and was one of thirteen families who did not go East with the North West Fur Co., when they destroyed the settlement in 1817 before the arrival of Lord Selkirk.

My grandfather, William, sold the river lot in 1877 and homesteaded a half section East of Winnipeg about twelve miles from Kildonan and my father, also called William, second name Robert, was carried by his elder sister who was six years older than Dad, and they walked the twelve miles to their new home near a town now called Oakbank, Manitoba.

My father returned to Winnipeg in 1910, and I was born in the North end of Winnipeg in March of 1914.

Regarding the name Matheson, there is a tradition that our name should be Gordon rather than Matheson and some years ago my father's older brother Alexander McBeth told me that many years ago in Scotland a man named John Gordon married a Matheson girl and changed his name to Matheson in order that their children would receive back from the British Government land that the family had forfeited for some long-lost reason, but only if their name was Matheson.

In 1945 I had a leave in Edinburgh and I had occasion to go to Registry House to get a birth certificate for my sister-in-law, so while there I decided to find out about this marriage.

I found out that indeed a marriage had taken place at Achany, Sutherland, by those same people I mention, but whether or not there is any connection with my ancestors I do not know as the exact spot in Kildonan, Sutherland my people came from is not known. The last known member of our family, William Matheson by name, had a croft near the church in Kildonan, but its exact location is unknown now. The marriage occurred in either 1782 or 1785.

My mother was a Morrison, whose ancestors came to Canada in 1776 from the Island of Lewis. They settled in Lochiel District in Glengarry County, Ontario. My grandfather Morrison came to Manitoba in 1880, and settled about one hundred miles West of Winnipeg. He farmed there until 1890 and then moved back to Oakbank. Dad and mother were married at Oakbank in 1910, moved to Winnipeg and I showed up in March of 1914. Mother's brothers all played the violin and her sisters were singers as were my father's brothers and sisters, and I inherited the doubtful ability to do a little of both.

In earlier times the Mathesons of Kildonan tended to become school teachers, the church, and farming, and were fairly successful. World War 1, however, forced many of them into bankruptcy, and we have been forced to follow other ways of making a living than the professions.

I am descended from John 'Pagee' Matheson, nicknames being used to distinguish men of the same christian name from each other.

Leslie Matheson, Honorary Secretary for the U.S.A., is a descendant of John 'Bushy' Matheson. These nicknames persisted for some time but the practice has now died out. We ran out of John Mathesons.

The late Archbishop, Samuel Pritchard Matheson¹, of Rupert's Land, and Primate Bishop of the Anglican Church in Canada, was a younger son of John Matheson, Selkirk settler. His father and mother both died shortly after Samuel was born and his mother's people, who were Pritchards, brought up Samuel in the Anglican faith and his older brother, Alexander 'Bushy', was brought up by his grandfather Matheson. The Archbishop was the only one of the Mathesons to become an Anglican and, according to the old folk, the only one who went wrong. However, he became very well known for his work in the church and was highly respected by all who knew him. He was the first Matheson to return to Kildonan, Sutherlandshire, since our people left Scotland, when he paid a visit there in 1911, after attending a Lambeth Conference in London at that time.

His cousin, Alexander Matheson, by the suggestions and inspiration of the late Rev. Dr. Black, became the first Presbyterian Minister from the congregation of Kildonan, and served more than fifty years as school teacher, missionary, and minister in the Presbyterian Church. He founded several church congregations in Manitoba. He died in 1911 and is buried in Kildonan church cemetery where so many of our people rest. John 'Pagee' was one of the first elders in Kildonan Church, and my uncle, Alexander McBeth, was also an elder in St. John's Presbyterian Church. We had all taken a prominent part in the Presbyterian Church, and Kildonan Church elected me an elder some three years ago. Well, I am the last and it is probably just as well. Mathesons have played their part well since coming to this country and now our time has passed.

There are still distant relatives living at Stonewall, Manitoba, Leslie's cousins, and others scattered all over Canada. As I said before, our people had a very bad habit of wandering around and in many cases have lost contact over the years.

I am enclosing a complimentary copy of Miss Anne Matheson Henderson's book,² just recently printed, called 'Kildonan on the Red' together with a small booklet about Kildonan Church, and a copy of a registration of proof I am a descendant of a Selkirk settler.

These registrations were issued in 1962, the 150th

Anniversary of the arrival of the first settlers to Red River, by the Lord Selkirk Association of Rupert's Land, an Association composed of the descendants of the original settlers. There are about 250 families we have a record of and we have an annual meeting (Parliament, if you wish) in April each spring and a re-union in October each fall. I have been honored on two separate occasions by being elected President and was Secretary for a few years in the early 1970's.

These mementos I enclose are for your personal interest, and I hope you will find them interesting.

Miss Henderson will be 87 next month and, unfortunately, is not very well. I believe she mentioned speaking to you on the phone when you visited Winnipeg a few years ago . . .

I received a letter from Mr Rand Matheson enclosing some newsletters he thought I had not received. I passed them on to the Mathesons at Stonewall, and hope to get some action from that family. I also wrote Rand and thanked him for his assistance and help at Baddeck, and I intend to go to the next Clan Gathering no matter where it is held.'

Very sincerely,

Norman A. Matheson

1. NL 33.

2. Anne Matheson Henderson, of Winnipeg, also descended from original Selkirk settlers, An authority, historian and authoress of many books and articles dealing with the settlers, Manitoba and the Red River Valley.

WEDDING

H.M. the Queen Mother attended the marriage of Captain Alexander Matheson, Coldstream Guards, to Miss Katherine Oswald at the Guards Chapel, Wellington Barracks on 9 November 83. H.M. the Queen was present at the reception at St James's Palace. Alexander is the son of Fergus and nephew of the Chief. Katherine's father manages the Queen's Stud at Sandringham and her mother is a Lady in Waiting to the Queen Mother.



Alexander and Katherine

93rd (SUTHERLAND) HIGHLANDERS

The following is a list of Mathesons who served during the period 1760 to 1872 and whose service papers have survived in the P.R.O., London. The custom of giving soldiers regimental numbers only started c. 1829.

Private Hugh Matheson. Born Dingwall, Ross, 1784. Enlisted Dublin 22 Apr 1805 aged 21. Height 5ft 6in. Occupation, Tailor. Discharged health impaired 9 Jul 1825 in Barbados and landed at Chatham 9 Sep 1825, aged 42. Home-Dingwall, Ross.

1270 Private Murdoch Matheson. Born Barvas, Isle of Lewis 1818. Enlisted Stornoway 16 Jul 1839 aged 21. Served 7 years 350 days of which 5 years 11 months in North America. Height 5ft 7in. Discharged with chronic asthma for which he has been repeatedly in hospital for the last two years, attributable to climate and partly aggravated by intemperance. Unfit for further service.

653 Private Murdoch Matheson. Born Lochalsh 1813. Attested at Inverness 21 Dec 1831, aged 18. Served 7 years in North America. Discharged 14 Aug 1845 through general health impaired by ague, and somewhat emaciated by rheumatism and dysentery. Service allowed 13 years and 299 days. Character, Excellent.

Private Robert Matheson. Born Rogart, Dornoch 1781. Enlisted 12 Jun 1799 and served for 16 years 201 days. Received a gunshot wound right foot before New Orleans 8 Jan 1815. Discharged at Limerick as a result of wound 30 Dec 1815, aged 36. Recommended for a pension by the Commanding Officer.

2645 Private Robert Matheson. Born Dumbarton.

Attested at Glasgow 9 Sep 1851 aged 22 years 2 months. Discharged in 1852 after 254 days service as he was unable to wear the uniform of his regiment due to hernia.

Private Robert Matheson. Born Golspie, Sutherland 1781. Enlisted Glasgow 15 May 1805 aged 24. Served 18 years 171 days. Discharged at Fermoy, Ireland, 7 Nov 1823, being worn out, totally unfit for further service. Is deserving of the favourable consideration of the Board. Black hair, brown eyes, height 5ft 6in.

2635 Private Donald Mathieson (sic). (He is incorrectly named David on page 5, NL 33 but correctly spelled Matheson. —Ed.). Born Stenscholl, Skye. Enlisted Glasgow 1851. Discharged 27 Jul 1869 after 17 years and 9 months service. Served in the Crimea 2 years and in the East Indies for 9 years and 7 months. Entitled to the Crimean Medal with clasps Alma, Balaklava, Sebastopol: Turkish Crimean Medal: Indian Mutiny Medal with clasps Relief of Lucknow (Residency), (Capture of) Lucknow (City). He was discharged for a lumbar abscess from constitutional causes not aggravated by vice, aged 38. Height 5ft 7½in, brown hair and hazel eyes. Intended place of residence, Stenhall (sic) near Portree, Isle of Skye.

The following appear in the 93rd's Rolls, but have no records:

Crimea:	Private Findlay Matheson Private Donald Matheson Private John Matheson, died 31 Dec (no year)
Indian Mutiny:	2684 Private Roderick Matheson Private Donald Matheson

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HOW TO JOIN THE SOCIETY

For members living in the UK or overseas (excluding North America) the annual subscription is £2 or £15 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 £1 to £2 forthwith.

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Annual subscriptions will become due on the first of January each year.

WARNING ORDER

It is proposed to have a clan dinner at the Arts Club, Glasgow sometime in September 84. Members in the United Kingdom will be informed of details by separate letter in due course. Will any overseas members who might be able to attend please write direct to Edmond Matheson whose address is at the top of this page.

THE CLEARANCES

Donald MacLeod dedicated the Canadian Edition of his 'Gloomy Memories' (dated 20 Feb. 1857) as follows: 'To Donald Matheson Esq. M.P.P., for North Oxford, Canada West, and William Manson Esq, Captain of the Highland Guards, New York, Scottish Highlanders, and their descendants in the Canadas, and in the United States of America'.

The book is his account of the Clearances, and was written as an answer to Harriet Beecher Stowe's 'Sunny Memories'. Can any reader supply information about Donald Matheson, M.P.P.? Please reply to Serena Matheson, c/o the Editor.

LESS DISTINGUISHED FOREBEARS

Contributed by Charles Mathieson Otstot

A 'Directory of Scots Banished to the American Plantations: 1650-1775' compiled by David Dobson from various Scottish record sources and published by the Genealogical Publishing Company of Baltimore, Maryland in 1983, includes several Mathiesons:

Glashan Matthieson: Thief. Prisoner in Edinburgh Tolbooth. Servant to James Riddell, merchant in Leith. Transported to the plantations by William Johnston, merchant in Edinburgh 2 August 1680. (Edinburgh Tolbooth Records)

John Matthieson: Closeburn. Covenanter. Prisoner in Canongate Tolbooth. Banished to Carolina 19 June 1684. Transported from Leith by Robert Mallock, merchant in Edinburgh. (Records of the Privy Council of Scotland)

Kenneth Mathieson: 26. Servant to his brother Finlay. Strathpeffer, Ross. Jacobite in Cromarty's regiment. Prisoner at Inverness and Tilbury. Transported from London to Jamaica or Barbados by Samuel Smith 31 March 1747. (Prisoner of '45' & B. Ransom McBride, 'Lists of Scottish Rebel Prisoners, 1746')

Walter Mathieson: Servant to Isaac Grant W.S. House-breaker. Banished to America for seven years, 21 January 1772. Transported from Port Glasgow on the *Matty*, master Robert Peacock. Landed at Port Oxford, Maryland 16 May 1772. (Records of the High Court of Justice)

*Kenneth could have been taken prisoner at Culloden.
—Ed.

and finally, contributed by the Editor . . .

John Matthieson alias Maxwell: Executed for a forgery on the Bank of England, on Wednesday the 28th of July 1779. He was born in Gretna Green. A pamphlet containing a circumstantial account of his trial at the Old Bailey on Thursday 20 June 1779 with other details was published by J. Blew, 28 Pater-noster Row, and the Newscarrriers in Town and Country 'at his request, in order to prevent any spurious Publications of a similar Nature'.