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CEANN CINNISH

Clan Matheson Society

NEWSLETTER NO 39 NOV 1984

Deposited in the National Library of Scotland

Chief of the Clan:

Major Sir Torquhil Matheson of Matheson,
Baronet of Lochalsh

Price to non-members £1 or local equivalent

THE CHIEF'S MESSAGE

Standerwick, October 1984

As forecast in Newsletter 38, Rand Matheson has handed over to Dr Daniel Matheson of Ottawa. Rand took over office at a most difficult time in 1979, and since then has done wonders, in spite of his busy life in transportation and other matters. We must also remember that he, amongst others, was flying the Matheson banner in Canada decades before the clan society came into existence. 'The Better Half' is a vital ingredient to success and our gratitude is extended to Louise for her cheerful and willing assistance behind the scenes. Knowing them both well, I am sure that we will continue to get their energetic support.

I would also like to thank Ian Matheson, the retiring Hon. Treasurer, Canada, for all his efforts. Ian made contact with my parents in the war, when serving in the Canadian Forces in this country, and has corresponded for over forty years – including the occasional visit! Our good wishes go to him and his wife for their new home in Victoria, British Colombia.

The reason for the lateness of this Newsletter is due to the upheaval caused by the dispersal of our milking herd as a result of the new 'quota' system for production in the United Kingdom. The 'quota' allotted to us, based on our worst year for production (83/84), was so derisory that there was no alternative but sell up and start again in beef. The dispersal was a true 'Clearance' ... carefully bred and reared animals, all with their own genealogy and other attributes normally associated with the human race ... all gone, some to oblivion, some will lose their identity in non-pedigree herds, and some will retain their patronymic and carry on regardless. But all is not gloom for in their place is now an embryonic herd of an endangered species, the British White, which Serena and Nell have been gathering together.

The shops are beginning to warn us that there are only so many days to Christmas, so I finish by wishing you all a very Happy Christmas and New Year from all of us at Standerwick.

Torquhil Matheson of Matheson

LESLIE R. MATHESON'S REPLY TO NORMAN ALEXANDER MATHESON'S LETTER on page 6 of Newsletter No 38

Your recent letter which appeared in the Clan Matheson Newsletter, No 38, was of particular interest to me because we apparently share a

common ancestry. I am not quite sure how we are related because I cannot fit your John (Pagee) Matheson into my chart. There is one slight correction, however, regarding my genealogy which you presented. I am descended not from John (Bushy) Matheson as you stated but from Angus, his brother. The cousins you mentioned are still cousins but one more generation removed.

Angus was another popular name among the Mathesons of Kildonan, Sutherland. Of those who emigrated to the Red River Settlement, in addition to my great grandfather Angus, son of Alexander, there was Angus, a brother of Alexander and another Angus (Big Angus) Matheson who was apparently not closely related.

The three brothers, Angus, Alexander and John, also had a sister, Katherine who married Alexander Polson. I am not sure of the name of their father but I have reason to believe it was Hugh. They lived in a small village named Aultbreachacky. It was located several miles back along the banks of Allt Breach, a small stream that flows into the Kildonan River. The village no longer exists but I have been told that remnants of some foundations can still be found.

In Feb 1804, Alexander married Anne Matheson of Gartmore in the Kildonan Church. Gartmore which lies just to the south of Helmsdale at the time was part of Loth Parish but several years later it was annexed to Kildonan Parish. Church records of the births of their children listed them as being tenants at Balnavaliach (presently spelled Balvaliach).

In 1813 John joined the early pioneers who journeyed to Lord Selkirk's settlement at the Red River. He reportedly stayed only a few months before returning to Ontario. Angus was a Corporal in the Army garrisoned at Tain. He also acted as an agent for Lord Selkirk, arranging passage for additional families to emigrate to the Red River Settlement. He arranged for his brother Alexander and his family and his sister Katherine and her husband to join the party of 1815. In return for his services Angus was granted free passage to their new home and a free gift of 100 acres of land. Lord Selkirk also offered to help him seek employment as a clerk with the Hudsons Bay Company.

In 1840 Angus, second son of Alexander, moved his family to Iowa in the United States. His descendants, of which I am one, can now be found scattered all over the US and at least one foreign country.

Following the Matheson Gathering at Plockton in 1981 I had the privilege with my family of visiting the Kildonan area. While there we were able to gain entry to the Kildonan Church which is still in use. The feeling of awe which I felt upon entering the Sanctuary was more than that experienced by just entering any House of Worship. The emotion which I felt as I stood where my great-great-grandfather had last stood 156 years before cannot be adequately described.

An interesting side light to the Kildonan episode: the early Red River Settlers were promised that they would have a minister of their own faith. Rev. Donald Sage, son of Rev. Alexander Sage, minister of the Kildonan Church, was designated to join the settlement as their minister. He requested a year's delay so he could improve his Gaelic. The Hudsons Bay Company who had granted Lord Selkirk the land for the settlement continued sending Anglican ministers, much to the displeasure of the settlers. For reasons unknown, Rev. Donald Sage never did make the journey. In later years that same Rev. Donald Sage¹ became a tutor for the Chief's grandfather.

¹This was, in fact, about the same time that he should have gone to the Red River Settlement. No mention is made of the Settlement in his memoirs 'Memorabilia Domestica', published by his son. Reading between the lines, at this time, he was a very 'green minister' and unsure of himself.

EARLY MATHESON SETTLERS IN NORTH AMERICA

Contributed by Charles Matheson Otsot

The Genealogical Publishing Company of Baltimore, Maryland has recently issued another book by David Dobson: 'Directory of Scottish Settlers in North America: 1625-1825. Volume I'. This listing is based on documents found in British archives and in miscellaneous published and manuscript sources. Some 6000 Scottish emigrants are included, and most arrived in the United States and Canada between 1773 and 1815. The author is presently compiling a second volume from entirely different sources. Volume I includes several Mathe(i)sons:

Alexander Matheson: Husbandsman. Scotland. Indentured servant. From London to Philadelphia May 1774 on the *Sully*.

Alexander Mathieson: Born Renton 1 October 1795, son of George Mathieson, copper plate printer, Campsie and Janet Ewing. Educated Glasgow University. Tutor in Scotland. To Montreal 1826. Married Catherine MacKenzie 30 July 1840. Minister in Montreal.

Charles Mathieson: From Loch Broom to Nova Scotia July 1773 on *Hector*. Settled in Pictou.

E. Mathieson: Edinburgh. From Greenock to New York April 1775 on *Lilly*, T. Cochrane (Master).

Hugh Matheson: Farmer, with his wife and three children, ages eight to two; and his sister Katherine Matheson, sixteen. Rumsdale, Kildonan, Sutherland to Wilmington, North Carolina April 1774 on *Bachelor* of Leith.

James Matheson: Labourer. Wife Jean McQuiston, 27; child: Margaret, 4. New Luce. From Stranraer to North Carolina 31 May 1775 on *Jackie*, J. Morris (Master).

Janet Mathison: Servant. Daughter of a tenant farmer, Ness. From Stornoway to Philadelphia May 1774 on *Friendship*.

Robert Mathieson: Labourer. Elgin. From Greenock to New York April 1775 on *Lilly*, T. Cochrane (Master).

William Matheson: With wife and son. From Loch Broom to Nova Scotia 1773 on *Hector*. Settled Londonderry and then Rogers Hill, Nova Scotia.

DINNER IN GLASGOW - 5th September 1984

Contributed by Edmond Matheson

The appearance of the Chief, suitably attired, and Lady Matheson of Matheson, the first arrivals, on the steps of the Arts Club in Bath Street caused consternation among the staff who had been expecting us two days later. However, it was soon established that it was the Club management and not we ourselves who had erred like lost sheep and great credit was due to the staff for the manner in which an excellent meal for twenty was produced, contributing to a thoroughly enjoyable evening enlivened by the Treasurer's inimitable recitations. John 'Dock' Mathieson, formerly violinist and film music director to Sir Michael Balcon, delighted us with music on a violin which he himself had made. Dick Matheson also contributed from his repertoire on the violin, whilst John Cant addressed a hastily summoned tinned haggis with his usual panache. As time was short it should be recorded that this impromptu ceilidh took place during and between the courses!



Those present, in addition to the Chief and Serena, were Miss Marjorie Matheson, Mr and Mrs Angus Matheson, Edinburgh; Mr and Mrs Ian Matheson, Dornoch; Mr and Mrs John Mathieson, Charlbury; Mr and Mrs John Cant, Limelinks; Mr and Mrs Norman Matheson, Dunkeld; Mrs Mary Rae, Selkirk; Mr and Mrs Ian Fair, Glasgow; Ronald and son Peter Matheson, Beckenham; Richard Matheson, Twickenham; and Edmond Matheson, Carnoustie.

MALCOLM MATHESON, STORNOWAY

(Obit 1887)

The following notice from 'The Scottish Highlander' of Thursday 5 May 1887 has been sent by Colonel Hugh Matheson, Route 9, Box 835, Tucson, Arizona. Presumably he is the same Malcolm who appears on the 1870-71 Rent Roll, Holding No 1031. (v. NL 36, p. 2). Perhaps Sandy Matheson, Stornoway or William Matheson, Edinburgh could help to identify the father, and also their descendants, please?

SUDDEN DEATH OF A LAND LAW REFORMER AND RADICAL

Our Stornoway correspondent, writing on 27th April, says:—Mr. Malcolm Matheson, one of Stornoway's democratic working men, is no more. A deep gloom has been cast over the town by the sad news of the sudden death yesterday morning of this worthy patriot, who had attained the ripe old age of 73 years. Mr Matheson was the son of an old pensioner of the gallant 78th Regiment, who had seen active service oughout the Peninsular War and other famous fields of battle. His son, Malcolm, was born at Uig, Lewis, from where he was cruelly evicted when a boy to make room for sheep and deer. Later on he settled at Stornoway and occupied a small farm at Bayhead, from which he was also evicted over thirty years ago. He worked at his trade as a boot and shoe maker until a few years ago, when he was compelled by ill health to cease work and engage in a labour of love for his fellow-countrymen, who were boldly fighting against landlordism, which had so cruelly used him and his aged father in the past. Mr. Matheson was local agent for the Prudential Insurance Company, as well as steward and treasurer of the Incorporated Trades' Society of this town for forty years; hence his influence among tradesmen was great. But it was as a Land Law Reformer that Mr. Matheson distinguished himself most, for, during the last five years, he has been unceasing in his efforts to advance the crofters' cause, and was one of Dr. Macdonald's best supporters. His loss will be a severe blow to the cause which he loved so dearly, and fought for so nobly when the enemy was far more formidable than today. A staunch Free Churchman, Mr. Matheson took a warm interest in religious matters, his views being tolerant and charitable even to his enemies. He has left a widow and grown-up family to lament his loss, while the greatest sympathy is felt for them in the district. The funeral took place on Thursday at 2 p.m. Mr. Hugh Matheson, eldest son of the deceased, being chief mourner. Sandwick Cemetery was the place of interment, and, as was expected, a great gathering was present to show a last honour to the memory of one who was admired and respected by all who had the pleasure of knowing him during his useful career through the snows 73 winters. Thus has departed as true, as noble, and as genuine a Democrat and Christian as Stornoway ever produced, and whose memory will ever be fresh in the minds of his numerous friends throughout the length and breadth of the Lewis for many a year to come, and who acknowledged him as one of the pilgrim fathers of the land law reform movement throughout this Island.

JOHN MATHESON OF VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA

The following is produced, with acknowledgement, from Volume 5 of the Australian Dictionary of Biography, Melbourne University Press 1974, covering the section of the alphabet K-Q in the 1851-1890 period.

MATHESON, JOHN (1821-1882), businessman, was born at Lairg, Sutherlandshire, Scotland, son of William Matheson, crofter, and his wife, Anne. Two uncles who had been indigo planters in India and settled in Van Diemen's Land for health reasons invited John to visit them; in 1835 he went by fishing smack from Cromarty to London where he embarked for Tasmania. Until 1838 he worked in a merchant's office in Hobart Town. He then joined the Union Bank of Australia at its new Hobart branch as an accountant. One of the tellers he met was James Blackwood. In 1845 Matheson became the manager of the Geelong branch of the Union Bank and in 1851 was appointed to Melbourne.

Early in 1853 Matheson became first manager of the Bank of Victoria. As the new bank was the first with almost exclusively Victorian shareholders, he wrote to the government arguing that the existing banks in Melbourne were 'merely Branches of Banking Houses whose interests are not identical with those of the Colonists'. He asked for his bank to be given not only a share of government deposits but to be made the sole depository. The new bank wanted to manage the public debt and accept measures for the regulation of the issue of bank-notes 'under similar arrangements to those which characterize the relation between the Bank of England and the British Government'. Matheson did not achieve this high position for his bank but was soon made its first general manager. He held this position until his retirement in 1881, except when he visited England in 1859-61 to establish the bank's London office. In 1870-73 he had been a member of the royal commission inquiring into the state of the Victorian public service.

Matheson held several properties, the most prominent being Moranghurk at Lethbridge, between Geelong and Ballarat, which he acquired in stages after 1857; his descendants held the property until 1953. Matheson also held interests in Mount Napier near Hamilton, Maryvale near Casterton with his brother Robert, and Kilfera in the Riverina. At St Kilda he owned the stately home, St Leonards, which became a fashionable boarding house early in the twentieth century. A staunch Presbyterian, John was married to Flora Macdonald; they had four sons and four daughters. Two sons died young and the eldest son inherited Moranghurk. Matheson died in Melbourne on 10 July 1882, leaving an estate worth £250,000.

Self-educated, Matheson's success depended heavily on his skill in combining banking with squatting when these pursuits were probably the most profitable in Victoria. It was his good luck that he died before the bursting in 1891 of the boom, which had depended so heavily on lending of short-term local and foreign funds on long-term mortgage security. The bearers at his funeral included not only his children and Henry Miller, the biggest shareholder of the Bank of Victoria, but also James and Donald Munro who suffered heavily when the bubble burst.

H.M. Humphreys (ed), *Men of the time in Australia: Victorian series*, 1st ed (Melb, 1878); P. L. Brown (ed), *Clyde Company papers*, 2-7 (Lond, 1952-71); G. Blainey, *Gold and paper: a history of the National Bank of Australasia* (Melb, 1958); V&P (LC Vic), 1853-54, 3 (D12); *Argus*, 11 July 1882; *A'sian Insurance and Banking Record*, 10 Aug 1882; *Australasian*, 7 Oct 1882; *Pastoral Review*, 15 Oct 1909; information from N. M. Matheson, Toorak.

RAOUL F. MIDDELMANN

Additional notes by the Editor.

1. William Matheson married Ann Sutherland on 22 Dec 1820, in the parish of Lairg (Register of Marriages).

2. Children of the above identifiable in Birth and Christening Registers, all born in the parish of Lairg, are:

John	christened	17 Oct 1821
Mary	"	8 Aug 1823
Margaret	"	8 Aug 1823
George	"	5 June 1825
Janet	"	29 Oct 1827
Sarlot	"	1 Apr 1829
Janet	"	1 Apr 1829
Robert	"	21 Oct 1831
Elspet	"	5 Feb 1834

3. Census of 1851. All born in the parish of Lairg: Lairg Muir.

William Matheson	72	Tenant, Chelsea Penioner.*
Ann	60	Wife
Janet	21	Daughter, unmarried
Robert	19	Son, labourer, unmarried
Elspet	17	Daughter, unmarried
Catherine	80	Sister, unmarried
John McInnes	4	Grandson

*Surviving records of soldiers who served in the 72nd, 78th and 93rd Highlanders do not reveal him.

4. Census of 1861:

Lairg Muir.	Ann Matheson	70	Widow, crofter.
	Elspet	27	

5. Marriages:

Margaret Matheson married Malcolm McInnes at Lairg 9 Jan 1846, and must be parents of John McInnes above.

Elspeth Matheson married George McLeod at Lairg on 9 Apr 1861.

6. Burials in the burial ground at Lairg:

William and Ann are under one stone:

"William Matheson of Lairg Muir died 1859 aged 80. His wife Ann Sutherland died 1864 aged 74."

Adjacent to her parents:

"Elspeth Matheson wife of George McLeod died 1913 aged 74, and her sister Katherine died 1912 aged 51." (for sister read daughter?—Editor)

John, the main subject of these notes, was survived by his eldest son and four daughters ... who were they, and are their descendants alive today? Can any Australian Mathesons follow this up and let me know, please? Is N. M. Matheson, Toorak still alive?

Finally, these additional notes would not have been possible without all the records sent to me by John and Monica Kidd of New Zealand, and the observance of my daughter Nell when visiting Lairg.

INTERNATIONAL CLAN GATHERING 1985

This Gathering is due to take place in Scotland, based on Glasgow, where the clan will be represented at the 'Clan Club Centre' during the week 28 May to 1 June. If sufficient members signify to Edmond Matheson by 1 Feb 1985 that they intend to be present a Dinner will be arranged for 29 May.

The Chief and Serena will be at Duirinish from 30 July to 11 August 1985 when they will be delighted to meet members. Advance warning from those intending to be there would be much appreciated, so that a picnic, dinner or other festivity can be arranged.

CONGRATULATIONS

*To Murdoch Neil Matheson and Mary Jane Cook on their marriage on 8 Oct 1983 in Ottawa. Both are graduates of Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario.



Mary and Murdoch

*To Miss Margaret Matheson, who was responsible for the television documentary on the Kennedy family, on becoming a member of the Board of Governors of the British Film Institute.

*To Judge John Matheson on receiving the degree of Doctor of Laws, honoris causa, at Queen's University, Kingston of which he is a graduate, on 25 May 1984.

*To Captain and Mrs Leslie Matheson, USAF in Germany, on the birth of their daughter Elanor Devorah on 13 August 1984.

*To Rand Hector Matheson who was given a testimonial dinner by the Atlantic Provinces Transportation Commission in Halifax on 1 June 1984. He was also presented with a beautiful chime clock in recognition of fifty years' service. Both sons, Joel and David, were there to support him.

CRÍOMAGAN

*The grave of Byron Scott Matheson of Meikleour, Perthshire has been found in the Kajuricherra Cemetery in the Balisera Valley between the Chittagong Hill Tracts and the borders of Assam in Bangladesh. He was probably a tea planter. The cemetery was in use approximately 1890 to 1920. Can anyone identify him?

*Captain Leslie Matheson, US Air Force, was stationed in the United Kingdom recently for two weeks, and lost no time in locating his clansmen. On one

occasion he got caught up in a festivity commemorating the Crimean War (1854-56)!

*Mr John Hughes Sr of Foremost Films Inc, PO Box 163, Swampscott, Mass., 01907 USA, and formerly Stoker 1st Class, D/KX 104961 in the Royal Navy, wishes to contact any former shipmates serving in HMS Londonderry from 1940 until she was damaged by a German torpedo in 1943. He is writing his memoirs and would appreciate any information.

*The Scottish History Society, which celebrates its centenary in 1986, is the leading publisher of source material relating to Scottish History. Its publications number over 150 volumes, which cover all periods of the country's history from the twelfth to the nineteenth centuries, and a wide range of topics in social, economic, political, constitutional and religious history.

Membership of the Society is open to all at an annual subscription of £12. Members receive a copy of each of the Society's publications issued while they are members (usually one volume per year). They also, by their membership, support one of the most important long term projects in Scottish historical scholarship. Further details of membership (and of the many past volumes still in print) are available from The Hon. Secretary, Scottish History Society, Department of History, University of Aberdeen, Old Aberdeen AB9 2UB.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The past year has been a busy and interesting one. In August 1983, 31 members from the US and their families attended the Clan Matheson Gathering in Nova Scotia. This provided a wonderful opportunity to make new friends and renew old acquaintances.

During the Gathering action was initiated to transfer the duties of Secretary from Mrs Jean Fries to Mr Leslie Matheson. Jean and Armand have continued to provide support and advice. Many of the contacts which Jean had established have resulted in new members joining the Clan Society. During the past year 25 new members have been added. Unfortunately 23 names have been removed from the membership list, one through death and the remainder because of non-payment of annual dues. At the present time there are 91 Annual Members and 97 Life Members, making a total of 188.

As a result of our current dues structure and the generous donations by some members, the finances have shown movement in an encouraging direction. At the beginning of July 1983 the balance was \$910.49. With an income of \$1046.34 and expenses of \$917.28 the current balance at the end of June 1984 is \$1039.55. A complete financial statement has been filed with the treasurer of the Clan Matheson Society.

Several members of the Clan Matheson in Southern California, under the direction and encouragement of Alice Fairhurst, met together to organize the Southern California Section. They have adopted By-Laws, elected officers and established local dues. A more detailed report of their activities follows this one.

Also several other members have participated in events such as Highland Games, Kirkin' of the Tartans and other Scottish cultural activities in their areas. This investment of time and their own finances in these activities helps to promote interest in Scottish culture and Matheson heritage in particular. Especially appreciated are those who have sponsored tents at the Highland Games. Others are encouraged to enjoy these events in the coming year.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

CLAN MATHESON SOCIETY - US Branch July 1, 1983 to June 30, 1984

Interim Period - July 1, 1983 to Sept 9, 1983

Jean M. Fries, Secretary

Bal on Hand - July 1, 1984	\$910.49
Deposits	<u>160.00</u>
	1070.49
Expenses	<u>299.55</u>
Bal transferred to L. Matheson Sept 9, 1983	\$770.94

Period - Aug 1983 to June 30, 1984

Leslie R. Matheson, Secretary

Beginning Balance	\$770.94
Receipts:	
Dues Received	768.00
Misc. Gifts and Donations	42.50
Interest on Deposits	38.34
Refund for Books	<u>37.50</u>
Total Receipts	<u>886.34</u>
	1657.28

Disbursements:	
Postage	127.77
Printing and Reproduction	56.94
Stationery and supplies	9.85
Clan Matheson Society	
Newsletter No 37	149.52
Newsletter No 38	109.68
Council of Scottish Clans Assoc.	15.00
The Highland (1" ad.)	60.00
The Scottish Merchant (1" ad.)	16.00
Genealogical Publications (Books)	39.00
Misc. Expenses	28.61
Jean M. Fries	
Janet Dorn	<u>5.36</u>
Total Disbursements	<u>617.73</u>
BALANCE June 30, 1984	<u>\$1039.55</u>
Bank Balance - June 30, 1984	1037.39
Petty Cash on Hand	<u>2.16</u>
BALANCE	<u>\$1039.55</u>

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

A section of the Clan Society has now been formed under the leadership of Mrs Alice Fairhurst of 313 E. Hurst Street, Covina, California, 91723. There is tremendous enthusiasm with plenty of social events, inter-clan meetings with MacRaes and Mackenzies; also clan representation at Highland Games and Gatherings at Las Vegas, Costa Mesa, Chino and San Diego. Alice is a cousin of Farquhar Matheson of Kyle of Lochalsh, who with his wife, Lucy, gives so much pleasure and help to clanmen and clanswomen visiting Lochalsh. Anyone visiting Southern California is asked to telephone (213) 926-5451 where they can be given details of forthcoming events.

CANADA

By the time these notes reach readers, Dr Daniel Matheson, D.D., will have taken over as Hon. Secretary, and be well established in the chair. Our good wishes go out to him for a happy tenure of office.

Diane and Doug Clement had a very busy and exciting time looking after the Canadian athletics team at the Olympic Games at Los Angeles. She is also struggling to produce her second cookery book by Christmas.

Roderick and Janet Matheson, on leave from 1st Regiment, Royal Canadian Horse Artillery in Germany, spent a week's leave in Scotland, including two days at Duirinish exploring the clan territory.

CLAN MATHESON SOCIETY CANADA BRANCH

Bank balance 30 June 1983	\$136.70
Bank balance 15 June 1984	75.66
Decrease in bank balance	61.04
Membership deposits	\$502.50
Donations (cash)	125.00
Amt. Expenditures over receipts	61.04
	\$688.54

Disbursements July 1/83 to

June 15/84:

Newsletter No 37	\$112.87
Newsletter No 38	93.60
CASSOC membership	40.00
Bank charges	25.50
Postage: newsletters, circulars re: membership, etc.	177.43
Long distance calls - mostly stemming from Gathering affairs	168.32
Duplicating and photostating	58.61
Miscellaneous (parking)	2.25
Stationery (part)	9.96
	\$688.54

CAPE BRETON

The branch continues to meet regularly under the leadership of Gus Matheson. In the Spring, Gus crossed the water and stayed in the Chief's cottage in Duirinish, so too did 'AJ' and Jessie Morrison and their two daughters. All were tracing ancestors between Lochalsh and Lewis. George Angus, son of Judge Lewis, also visited the Chief in the South. Haste ye back, and others, too!

NEW ZEALAND

It was a great pleasure to meet the Rev Roy Matheson and his wife, Joan, during their visit to the United Kingdom, and to discuss proposals for the organisation of a New Zealand branch of the Clan Society. During their tour they visited Jean and Armond Fries and Leslie and Wanda Matheson in USA, and the Cape Breton Mathesons; also they visited Stornoway and Lochalsh to find their old family homesteads. Their address is 10 Vine Street, Hamilton, New Zealand. Apparently there are over one thousand Mathesons on the electoral roll! 'Good luck' to Roy and Joan in their endeavour.

Hugh McGregor Matheson of Pakuranga has joined the Society. This is of great interest as he is a great grandson of Captain Angus Matheson who built and sailed the 'Spray' from Nova Scotia to New Zealand in 1852. Landfall was at Waipu, on the east coast about 60 miles north of Auckland. When Angus was two years old, he left Kyle of Lochalsh with his parents for Nova Scotia with the Rev Norman MacLeod in July 1817. Chapter Seven of 'Lion of Scotland' (Hodder and Stoughton, London, 1952) by Neil Robinson contains much early history of Hugh's family in New Zealand. Presumably he is one of the grandchildren who used to be rowed across the bay to school by his grandfather Duncan! Hugh has established another important link in the Clan history.

PROPOSED DIRECTORY FOR AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

Those attending the Clan Gathering at Duncraig Castle in 1981 were issued with a directory of members in all parts of the globe. A general issue of the directory was not made because it was felt that it might get into the wrong hands resulting in members being circulated by commercial organisations advertising books, tartans, etc. of doubtful authenticity.

The suggestion has however been made that a directory covering Australia and New Zealand only would not take up too much space in the Newsletter and would be appreciated in those countries. The Editor would like local residents' views on the matter particularly any objections.

ARMOURER TO THE CLAN

Mrs Margaret J. Young (née Mathieson) of 18 Holmwood Avenue, Shenfield, Essex, writes:

"Our ancestor was armourer to the Clan Matheson in the Black Isle, and fought with the Jacobite army. He was wounded at the battle of Falkirk (17 Jan 1746), and was able to make his way back to Larbert, where the blacksmith hid him at the back of the smithy. When better, he tried to return north, but could not get through Stirling which was held by the English troops. He then returned to Larbert and settled there.

Our name was spelt 'Matheson' until about 1800, when an 'i' was inserted."

Mrs Young's brother Ian, and his grandson Paul have also joined the Society.

(The then chiefly family were living at Bennetsfield on the Black Isle at the time of the '45, and the chief, John, was present at the Battle of Culloden.—Editor.)

OBITUARY

We regret to record the deaths which have occurred since the last newsletter, and wish to express our sincere sympathy to their relatives.

*Miss Mairi Matheson, Dornie, Wester Ross on 26 July 1984. She was the daughter of the late Mr and Mrs Farquhar Matheson who were for many years inn keepers in Dornie. She was a trained teacher in Art, and taught in a number of schools throughout Scotland. Latterly she taught at Plockton High School. Her kindness and thoughtfulness will be very much missed.

*Miss Elspeth Sutherland Matheson, M.A. on 7 February 1984, aged 93 years, of Elie, Fife. She was a very early member of the Clan Society.

*Mrs Margaret Matheson, Balmacara on 5 September 1984, widow of the late John (Jack) Matheson, q.v. page 8, NL 34.

*Mr Tom Matheson, C.B.E. died in Arbroath aged 85 in September 1984. Born in Thurso, he served in the Cameron Highlanders in the Great War and was wounded in the German Spring Offensive of 1918. He worked for the Inland Revenue in Dunfermline and Arbroath, and later in a private firm. He was national chairman of the Royal British Legion (Scotland) from 1958 to 1962, and a member of council at the time of his death. He is survived by his only son, Ian, who lives in Georgia, USA.

*Mr Robert Hier Matheson, of Bellevue, Washington died on 24 February 1984, aged 72. He was an uncle of Mrs Ruth Renner of Woodland, Washington, who, with her husband, attended the Cape Breton Gathering.

*Mrs Mary Matheson, 32 St Clair Street, Aberdeen, in November 1982. She was the sister-in-law of Miss Christine Matheson, Nairn.

CLAN MATHESON SOCIETY UK - BALANCE SHEET as at 30 June 1984

Assets

290 Balance at Bank			£236.01
489 Deposit with Abbey National Building Society			489.54
4 Stock of Christmas Cards			<u>3.75</u>
			729.30

Represented by:

880 Reserve Fund - Life Members Subscriptions 880
Total as at 30 June 1983

Received during the year	£165		
Transferred to ordinary A/C	165		
Deficit as at 30 June 1983	£95.95		
Deficit for year per Balance Sheet	<u>54.75</u>	<u>150.70</u>	<u>729.30</u>

Income and Expenditure Account

10 Annual Members Subscriptions	£ 17.50		
90 Life Members Subscriptions	165.00		
126 Canadian Share of Newsletters 37 & 38	114.53		
247 US Share of Newsletters 37 & 38	182.08		
7 Donations	5.00		
52 Building Society Interest (½ year)	<u>16.50</u>		500.61
Less:			
Cost of Printing Newsletters	£483.10		
Postage and Stationery	65.64		
Bank Service Charges	<u>6.62</u>		<u>555.36</u>
Deficit for year			<u>54.75</u>

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), Rev. Dr. Daniel Matheson,
D.D., Apt. 1, 346 Tweedsmuir Avenue, Ottawa K1Z
5N4, Canada.
Hon. Secretary (USA), Leslie Matheson, 3850 Laurel
Glen Drive, Broadview Heights, Ohio 44147.
Clan Genealogist, Mrs Janet Matheson Dorn, 6700
Tara Blvd, Apt B-1, Jonesboro, Georgia 30236, USA.
(Members are invited to send their family histories to
Janet with any queries they may have.)
Hon. Secretary Emeritus, Mrs Jean Matheson Fries, 11
West Guyer Lane, St Louis, Missouri, 63131.
Editor, the Chief, Standerwick Court, Frome, Somerset
BA11 2PP.
Clan Pipers, Duncan Matheson, Brora and Mrs Linda
Matheson Munroe, Cape Breton, Steven Matheson,
Nova Scotia.

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 £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.

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 \$7.50 for annual membership and \$75 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.

Note: A number of UK-based members are still paying the old annual subscription of 50p. Please bring yours up to date **NOW**.

PRINTED PAPER RATE

News, information, photographs for next newsletter to Editor by 1st February 1985.

TO