



AN CIREAN
CEANN CINNISH

Clan Matheson Society

NEWSLETTER NO 40 SEP 1985

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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, September 1985

Serena and I were very sorry that we were unable to attend the International Clan Gathering in Glasgow earlier this year, especially as Edmond Matheson, who had very kindly made all the arrangements, was suddenly taken ill just before the event. Reports received indicate that the ever faithful "Geelong John" made an appearance, but few others.

The increasing frequency of these International Gatherings promoted by Tourist Boards causes me considerable worry, and I suspect a great many of you reading this will feel the same way. It's a matter of available time and money! To repeat what I said in Cape Breton in 1983, I consider that Clan Matheson

should hold Gatherings in our own time, when a host Country feels that it is ready to organise one. I would like your comments on this, please.

This year, both at Standerwick and at Duirinish, we have enjoyed meeting more of you than ever before, and a list appears elsewhere.

Membership is increasing slowly, but I would ask you all to do your utmost to persuade others to join; and also to send in any interesting information for the newsletter. Thank you for the excellent contributions in this one.

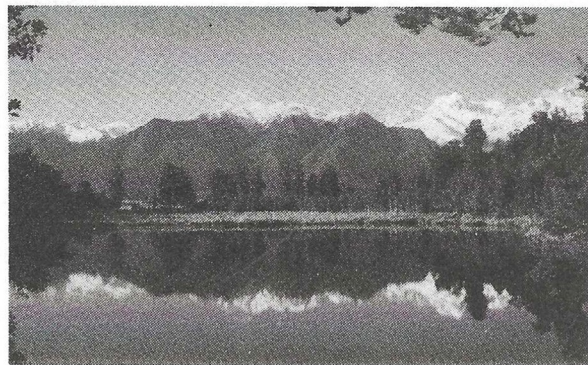
Best wishes to you all from my family for the festive season already looming on the horizon.

Torquhil Matheson of Matheson

LAKE MATHESON, Westland National Park New Zealand

Many of you may be unaware of the existence of this beautiful lake in the South Island of New Zealand. The view illustrated with Mount Cook and Mount Tasman reflected in the still, dark waters of the lake is one of the best known and most photographed in the Island. Jean Guyton of Colorado, on holiday there last Spring, wrote enthusiastically about it. Shortly after, John Kidd of Papatoetoe sent me the official booklet describing the flora and fauna to be found in abundance along the path around it's shores. The lake covers about 28 acres and its greatest depth is about 40 feet, with some of the world's largest fresh-water eels therein, weighing up to 46 pounds.

The reason the lake got it's name is this, to quote from the Westland National Park booklet. "During the early 1870s at the gold-mining settlement of Gillespie's Beach there was a combined butchery and store run by Murdoch Matheson and a partner named McLellan. They ran stock on the Cook River flats and no doubt when mustering did a lot of involuntary exploration of adjoining areas. McLellan Creek is crossed on the road to Gillespie's Beach and the lake is named after Matheson."



For the interest of stamp-collectors about eighteen months ago New Zealand issued a series of stamps with lake scenes and coastal views, of which the 45 cent stamp was of Lake Matheson.

A prize of one year's subscription to the Scots Magazine will be awarded to the Clan Matheson Society member who provides the correct identity of Murdoch Matheson. Mark your envelopes "Murdoch Competition" and send the answer to the Editor at the address on the last page by 1st December 1985. The first correct answer to be drawn out of a bonnet will be the winner.

A LETTER TO A BROTHER

The following letter has been sent for publication by Beverly, wife of Al Matheson of Lower Sackville, N.S. It was written by Alexander, a brother of Al's Great-grandfather Duncan, to another brother, Daniel, residing in Michigan. This letter, amongst others, was deposited in the Archives by Mr. Neil D. Matheson of St. Petersburg, Florida, to whom a letter was sent by Beverly, but which was returned undelivered.

Pictou County, River John, Feb. 3 [?] 1860

Dear Brother:

Our last weeks return has changed our fireside talk whereas it was our opinion and dread this last 8 years or more that we would never hear tell of you dead or alive but the noonday of a cloudy [morning] made its appearance with news that the lost was found which caused us joy unspeakable. We received your letter last week, being the first since ten or 11 years which was handed to us by Mr. John McLeod, West River, containing \$24. The same John McLeod was killed since at pulling down a barn & part of it fell on him which caused him [immediate] death. That was the last we heard tell of you till now and we are very happy to think you are well & hoping you are doing well. Many changes [has] taken place since you left that I can't make mention of here. The next year after you went away James begin to complain. I mean the next after hearing from you and he was for 2 years not as ruget [rugged?] as usual. It seised him at last so violent that he was not able to do anything for six months previous to his last. He died of a disease in the heart in Nov. 1852. He sufered much the last fortnight he lived. Several others has died since but none of our relatives except Donald McLeod's wife. Duncan is married to Catherine McKay, Donald's daughter. They have three boys and two girls. He has a farm at the Forks of Midle River. He is doing well. Jane is married to one Simon Fraser. He bought George Gun's farm and they live there. They have 2 boys and 2 girls. As for Alex Gordon's I am not ready to tell you how many of a family they have I did not count them this good spell. I think there is 9 or 10. There are twins among them. Catherine is living on her place and going pretty well. Her girls are grewed up and her boys are great help to her. Neil is stoping at home with Father & Mother and I have a roving comision, go and come when I like. We left New Lairg 2 years ago and moved to River John. Sold the old place to our neigh-

bour Donald Sutherland for \$240. The payments he made were not of the greatest advantage although as good as he promised. We bought 200 acres here for \$120 [?] the whole neither house nor barn. On father's had [?] a good barn and the begining of a good house. Living in it not finished inside yet. One half of it belongs to me, the farm not the house, its not altogether new place but not much improvements. I think after everything is snuged up will be much better off here than in Larig. Severals from there are moving here. John Sutherland, Mason, moved to within 4 miles of us. We are 4 miles from the shore. We can see William Sutherlands in Carlton from our place. You [?] there distance of 6 miles from us. Father is failing very fast. 2 summers ago he had a violent spell of sickness, his complaint was gravale, then he improved in health very much since till this fall again he had a relapse of it which brought him down very much. He is again able to go about a little and getting pretty well of that sickness. Old age is shewing on Mother very much, is generally very healthy. I can state to you that we are all enjoying the blessing of health at present, colds excepted. William is married in Main[e], U.S. He is working now in Fredrickton [Fredericton] at the shoemaking. I wrote him a letter today. I took up your own old trade and works at it most of the time generally in a shop in Wallace. I think I will turn farming after this. I will particularly request you to write to me as soon as this would come to your hand and let me know what sort of times you expect to have there (first sumer) if there would be good times on there I would call to see you. You said when the road be finished to Halifax you would call to see us. It would afford us great pleasure. There is 60 miles of it finished from Halifax, their is a steam boat from Portland, Main to Windsor, Nova Scotia, then railroad to Truro which is only 26 miles from where we are which would give you a quick pasage. I will just state that this is fair farming country where we are. We all write, Father, Mother, Sisters and Brothers in sending your & your Better Half and Boys our compliments and good wishes. Forget not to write. I will write you the [particulars?] again.

[?] Direct River John
County Pictou, Nova Scotia

I am your brother,
Alex Matheson

This letter is copied from the original, with acknowledgement to the Public Archives of Nova Scotia.

"OUR UNCLE BYRON"

by a Nephew

The report on page 4 of Newsletter No.39 of the discovery of Uncle Byron's grave was an eerie experience for me and probably also for the other six of his nieces and nephews who are members of this Society. The outbreak of the Great War would have meant that his last visit to Scotland could not have been later than the summer of 1914, and while he might be but a dim memory to one or two of us, he is a legend to us all: a bachelor with no children of his own, the name Byron is now borne by a great nephew resident in Canada.

Byron Scott Matheson, as the Editor suggested, was indeed a tea planter and managed an estate at Rajghat in Sylhet for Messrs. James Finlay and Company Ltd. of Glasgow. He died aged 47 on 6th January, 1918; as a member of the Surma Valley Local Volunteers he

was given a military funeral followed by a large number of Indians among whom his popularity was great and was buried at the cemetery then named Deanston (not apparently, as now, Kajuricherra), clearly a nostalgic link with Perthshire for a probably predominantly Scottish element in the local British community – "sic transit gloria mundi". Byron's name is also commemorated on the family gravestone in Kinclaven churchyard near Meikleour.

Uncle Byron loved the life of India with an overriding passion for polo; of him a former assistant, the late W.S. Morrison, wrote:

"In this valley he was head and shoulders above every other man in any line you like. We all liked him as a man for his broadminded exemplary manner. He was a true sportsman and no one encouraged good healthy sport as he did. He will be much missed today at the local race meeting (Balivera Mela)."



"A family group at Meikleour, Perthshire, 1883.

George, Emma, Margaret, Grandpa Donald Matheson, Edmond, and sitting below him Jessie, Grandma Matheson, Charles (the baby), Donald of Gleneagles fame [v. NL No.28], Henry (in kilt), Elizabeth and Byron"

THE "FRASER PIPE BAND" OF REGINA 6 AUGUST 1985

by Bella Matheson of Matheson

Having spent the previous weekend the east side of Scotland, it was touch and go as to whether I would make it to Eilean Donan Castle before the Fraser Pipe Band* left it to continue on their travels without me. However, fortunately, they like myself were late, though I didn't discover this until I had spun into the car park on two wheels scattering the tourists, literally flinging myself out of the car under their bus in a rather dramatic fashion. So I had ample time to get sorted out, park the car properly and set up the camera whilst the band tuned their pipes; not a lengthy business over here I was informed by Danny Matheson, owing to our damp climate known in politer circles as "Scotch Mist". Apparently in Saskatchewan it can take anything up to forty minutes for this process and still the tone is not as good as over here. So at least there were twenty pipers well satisfied with the weather! For their parents, it was another wet and windy stop on their tour, but a good excuse to partake of Farquhar Matheson's "alcoholic refreshments", listen to his and Duncan Stalker Matheson's tales and folklore as well as chatting to the Chief.

What a picturesque setting. I'm sure a lot of you will have seen pictures of Eilean Donan, but to see it for yourself for the first time is an unforgettable experience.

Well, the Chief, various clansmen, and tourists alike, were duly piped up the causeway to the fairytale castle, led by Brenda Matheson, the Pipe Major, to be met by Johnnie MacRae, the owner, and his daughter Valerie, over from Inverness especially to greet the band and welcome them. Everyone was then given a comprehensive and very entertaining tour of the castle, temporarily closed to the public, and the Canadians swarmed all over the ramparts like ants, climbing up the battlements and exploring the depths of the dungeons. Suddenly the sun came out, and just as quickly cameras appeared to record for posterity that the sun does shine here occasionally!

By this stage everyone was decidedly peckish: I think the people of Dornie were somewhat daunted by the prospect of eighty starving Canadians in desperate need of sustenance descending upon them, but with a certain amount of organisation by Serena all were duly accommodated and replenished by the Dornie Hotel, the Clachan Bar, or where-ever.

Danny told me it would take up to an hour to collect everybody and get aboard the two buses again. He was right, but it gave us ample time for more chatter and swapping of pins; and the Chief and Serena were presented with some lovely gifts.

We then all continued on our way to Kyle of Lochalsh, via the scenic route, as directed by the Chief and Farquhar — each in a bus, supplying colourful tales of early Clan history. Even the coach-drivers enjoyed the spectacular single track road with hairpin bends up past Coillimore and Erbusaig to Kyle. Here we disembarked and went by foot onto the ferry "Over the Sea to Skye". Time briefly for more photographs, and then back to the boat. The midges were by then out in force, so everybody beat a hasty retreat amid emotional goodbyes and promises to meet again somewhere.

*so-called after a benefactrix of that name, whose tartan they wear. The Pipe Band, in Scotland for Junior Championships, was touring under the leadership of Bill and Wanda Matheson. [Editor]

CONGRATULATIONS

*To Clarence Matheson of Willow Lodge, Tatamagouche, N.S., on his 99th birthday last July. He was born at Balfron, near Tatamagouche, the son of Alexander and Christena (Ferguson) Matheson. The Matheson forebears emigrated from Lairg, Sutherland in 1803 to Millbrook, Pictou County, and later moved to Tatamagouche area. Except for a brief sojourn in California, Clarence lived most of his life on the family farm at Balfron. He has been an elder of the kirk for over 50 years, and is a loyal member of I.O.O.F. Lodge. His wife, Mary Sutherland, died in 1947. He is the father of Rev. Robert, Illinois, Mabel, Ontario, and Jim in Alberta.

*To Major Alexander and Katherine Matheson on the birth of their son and heir, Andrew, last March.

*To Norman Alexander and Mayme Matheson on their marriage a year ago in Old Kildonan Church near Winnipeg. We hope that Mayme, who recently has been very ill, is well on the road to recovery.

*To Rand H. Matheson on being appointed Hon. Sec. Emeritus for Canada.

MALCOLM MATHESON, STORNOWAY

Jean Fries, St. Louis, and Sandy Matheson, Stornoway, were very quick to identify Malcolm in reply to a request as to his identity in Newsletter No.39, p3. It transpires that Colonel Hugh Matheson is one of his grandchildren. The Rev. William Matheson has it all carefully recorded in his "Genealogies of the Mathesons" p.24, para 3a. William, Jean and Rand H. Matheson are all kinsmen. Sandy's connection is through his maternal great-great-grandfather, William Mackenzie (1789-1874), whose eldest daughter Mary (1819-1900) married Malcolm in 1840. One of their sons, another Malcolm, is the father of Colonel Hugh.

JOHN ALEXANDER MATHIESON
Twelfth Premier of Prince Edward Island
by Arthur Matheson, Summerside, P.E.I.

John Alexander Mathieson was born on May 19th, 1893, at Harrington in Queen's County, son of Ronald Mathieson of Argyleshire, Scotland. He was educated in local schools and then worked for two years as a clerk. He then entered Prince of Wales College in Charlottetown and on graduation entered the teaching profession. He taught in Island schools and in Manitoba for a total of six years. He studied law in Charlottetown and he was called to the Bar of Prince Edward Island in 1894.

Mathieson established a law practice in Georgetown and this led to an involvement in the political life of the community and the province. In 1900, he was elected to the provincial legislature as a Conservative and just three years later he was named leader of the party and leader of the Opposition. In the election of 1904 he contested the Georgetown seat in the House and won. He continued to represent that area until 1917. His platform of 1908 set out in detail the Island's claims against the Federal Government. In 1911, Premier H.J. Palmer's government was defeated and Mathieson was called upon to form the government, becoming the twelfth premier of Prince Edward Island since the Province entered Confederation. He served as Premier until his resignation in 1917.

During his tenure as Premier, there was much pressure on the Federal Government on behalf of the Province to have Ottawa fulfill its promises of 1873. These Confederation agreements promised a better subsidy, more efficient communications and transportation, and representation. After considerable negotiation with Ottawa, the subsidy matter was solved for the time being in 1912 and Premier Mathieson continued pressure for the establishment of a ferry service to the Island to end the winter isolation and also to improve the railway system on Prince Edward Island. In 1915, plans for the present ferry system of ice-breaking ferries was announced and the first of these, the "SS Prince Edward Island" began operating from Borden, Prince Edward Island to Cape Tourmentine, New Brunswick, in 1917.

Also of prime importance was the problem of representation. Under the British North America Act, Prince Edward Island's representation in Ottawa dropped from six in 1873 to four, and the 1911 census showed that the Island could be reduced even further with fewer members in the House of Commons. Premier Mathieson fought this change and was instrumental in having the B.N.A. Act changed to provide for a minimum of four Federal members, the same as we have at the present time.



In 1917, Premier Mathieson resigned and was appointed Chief Justice of Prince Edward Island, a position he held until his resignation in March of 1943. In 1896 he married Dora Leard and had six children.

Following his death on January 7, 1947, a local Island newspaper, in pointing to the record of his term in office, called Mathieson "the maker of modern Prince Edward Island".

[footnote to photo]

Public Archives, P.E.I., Accession No. 3177, Item 7

EARLY MATHESON SETTLERS IN NORTH AMERICA

A further contribution from Charles Mathieson Otstot

The Genealogical Publishing Company of Baltimore, Maryland, has issued three additional volumes of David Dobson's "Directory of Scottish Settlers in North America, 1625-1825". [See Society Newsletter No.39] Volume II (1984) has some 4000 Scottish settlers whose records were found in previously published government serial publications, contemporary newspapers, periodicals, and family histories. Four Mathesons are included:

*Alexander Matheson and John Matheson, Kinved, Kildonan, Sutherlandshire. Emigrated to Canada from Scotland on "Prince of Wales" 1813. Landed at Churchill, on Hudson Bay, in August 1813. Settled at Red River in 1814. Moved to Holland River, Ontario, in September 1815.¹

*John Matheson: 22. Aultbreakachy, Sutherlandshire [?]. Emigrated to Canada from Scotland on "Prince of Wales" in 1813. Landed at Churchill, on Hudson Bay in August 1813. Settled at Red River in 1814. Moved to Holland River, Ontario in September 1815. [Source of these three records is: Public Archives of Canada; "The Romantic Settlement of Lord Selkirk's Colonies", Winnipeg, 1909.]

*Charles Matheson: With daughter [?] Ann, age between 2 and 8. Emigrated from Loch Broom, Ross-shire to Pictou, Nova Scotia on "Hector" in 1773. ["The Pictou Book", New Glasgoe, Nova Scotia, 1954] [This item is also included in Volume I]

Volume III (1984) includes 3000 more names found in various Scottish newspapers and magazines. Three Mathesons are in this volume:

*Alexander Gordon Matheson: youngest son of Colin Matheson Bennetsfield. Died in Berbice (British Guinea) on 13 October 1820. [Blackwood's Edinburgh Magazine, 8, 482]²

*John Matheson: Thornhill, Dumfries-shire. Student. Died in Manchester, South Carolina on 9 September 1822. [Scotsman 319.71]

*Roderick Matheson: Paymaster, late of the Glen-garry Light Infantry, married Mary Fraser Robertson, daughter of Captain Robertson, Inverness, in Montreal on 5 November 1823. [Fife Herald, Kinross, Strath-eam & Clackmannan Advertiser 132]³

Volume IV (1985) includes American entries found in the Decennial Indexes to "Service of Heirs", Scottish Record Office. Both heirs living in America and American residents leaving land in Scotland to someone are selected. However, no Math[ieson]s are included in this volume.

Another book listing Scottish settlers is "A Dictionary of Scottish Emigrants to the U.S.A.", compiled by Donald Whyte and published by the Magna Carta Book Company in Baltimore, Maryland in 1972. The names marked * in this listing are also included in the Dobson volumes, but the information given has variations. Whyte also includes a Matheson from the "Services to Heirs" index.

*Alexander Matheson, aged 27. To Philadelphia on "Sally", ex London. 31 May 1774. Husbandman. [New England Historical & Genealogical Register]

*Hugh Matheson, aged 32. From Rumsdale, Kildonan, Sutherlandshire. To Wilmington, North Carolina, on "Batchelor", ex Lerwick, 15 April 1774. Farmer. Wife and three children with him. [Treasury Records, Public Record Office, London] (Another book, "Emigrants from Scotland to America, 1774 - 1775" compiled by Viola Root Cameron from a "loose bundle of Treasury Papers in the Public Record Office, London" and published by the Genealogical Publishing Company of Baltimore, Maryland in 1980, gives a more full rendition of this record:

*Hugh Matheson, aged 32, married, hath three children from eight to two years old, also a sister Katherine Matheson, aged 16 who emigrate with him, was a farmer last in Rumsdale in the Parish of Kildonan, in the County of Sutherland, Leaves his Country and goes to Carolina because upon the rise of the price of Cattle since years ago the Rent of his Possession was raised from £2.16.0 to £5.10.0 But the price of Cattle has been of late so low, and that of Bread so high, that the Factor who was also a Drover would give no more than a Boll of Meal for a Cow, which was formerly worth from 50sh. to £3 and obliged the Tenants to give him their Cattle at his own price. That in these grassing Counties little Corn can be raised, and for some years past the little they had was in a great measure blighted and rendered useless by the frost which is common in the beginning of Autumn in the Inland parts of the Country. That in such Circumstances it seems impossible for Farmers to avoid ruin, And their distresses heightened by the Consumption of Corn in distilling in a grassing Country where little can be raised. That encouraged by his Friends already in America, he hath good hopes of bettering his Condition in that Country.)

*James Matheson, aged 38. From New Luce, Wigtonshire. To North Carolina on "Jackie", ex Stranraer, 31 May 1775. Labourer. Wife, Jean McQuiston, aged 27 with him and daughter Margaret, aged four. [Treasury Records, Public Record Office, London]

*Katherine Matheson, aged 16 (Sister of Hugh Matheson, above.

*William Matheson: Nephew of George Smith, planter in Georgia. To Georgia before 1850. Planter. [Services of Heirs, Decennial Indexes Vol 1-4, 1700-1859]

*Eustian [?] Mathieson, aged 17. From Edinburgh. To New York on "Lilly", ex Greenock, 14 April 1775. Indentured Servant. [Treasury Records, Public Record Office, London]

*Jannet Mathieson, aged 11. From Ness, Lewis, Ross & Cromarty. To Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on "Friendship", ex Stornoway, 2 May 1774. Servant. [Treasury Records, Public Record Office, London]

*Rachel Rebecca Mathieson: To Virginia 1814, later to North Carolina. Wife of David M. McInnes. Married at Edinburgh 12 November 1780. [Letter to Donald Whyte, 2 August 1971] ⁴

*Robert Mathieson, aged 23. From Elgin, Morayshire. To New York on "Lilly", ex Greenock, 14 April 1775. Indentured Servant. [Treasury Records, Public Record Office, London]

*Robert Mathison, ca.1820-12 August 1853. From Cockburnspath, Berwickshire. To U.S. and died there. Wife Jane, ca. 1819-22 October 1885, daughter of James Fairbairn and Jane Anderson. [Tombstone, Cockburnspath]

*Duncan Mathieson: Was first husband of Elizabeth MacKay. From Mowdail, Sutherlandshire. Probably to New York, and later to North Carolina. He died 1746. She remarried Dr. Archibald Campbell.

Editor's Notes.

1. Are these two connections of Leslie R. Matheson or Norman Alexander Matheson, Winnipeg?
2. v. "History of the Mathesons" MacKenzie and MacBain, 1900, pp46 et seq. Colin was Chief 1768-1825. Alexander had joined his elder brother Charles MacKenzie Matheson and his family in Berbice.
3. Ibid, pp94, 95. Progenitor of the Perth, Canada, branch.
4. Sic. Could this be 1791?

THIS IS MY UNCLE

by Arthur Matheson, P.E.I., a nephew

"Big Alex, as he was affectionately known to his friends and confidants, has left his imprint on the legal and political fields of Prince Edward Island."

Alexander W. Matheson became the 14th Liberal Premier of Prince Edward Island on May 25th, 1953. He was born on a farm in Bellevue (formerly Green Marsh), on June 11th, 1903. He was the eldest of a family of seven. He was the son of Archibald A.

Matheson and Margaret MacPherson, and a great-grandson of Archibald Matheson who emigrated from the Lochalsh area of Scotland in 1840.

He attended the local school and later Prince of Wales college. On graduation he taught school for a few years before beginning legal studies. He was admitted to the Bar in 1933. In 1940 he entered the political arena and was successful in a by-election in that same year. He served as Minister of Health and Welfare, and Attorney General, and was selected by the Liberal Party as its leader in 1953 and remained Premier until 1959, when he returned to the practice of law. His main aim was the provision of inexpensive electric power in Prince Edward Island. This rural electrification program was to become an unqualified success which he looked on as the chief accomplishment of his administration.

Alex was sworn in as a Judge of the County Court in 1967 and held this position until 1974 when he resigned due to illness. He was active in public life in many areas other than politics. He was very interested in sports and was a former director of the YMCA. He was a member of the Charlottetown Club, United Service Officers Club, Garrison Officer's Mess, Caledonia Club, and the Belvedere Golf and Winter Club. He had been associated with charitable service and recreational organizations, both military and civilian. During World War II he was a Major in the Artillery Reserve in Charlottetown. He was a long time member of Trinity United Church and was an elder and trustee for many years.

Many honours were bestowed upon Mr. Matheson. He received an honorary degree of Doctor of Laws at the University of New Brunswick and represented Prince Edward Island at the 10th Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Conference in Jamaica in 1964. He became Chairman of the P.E.I. Public Utilities Commission in 1967.

In 1937 he married Helen Farquharson. They had three sons and two daughters. At the present time his son Thomas shares a law practice with his wife Jacqueline in the firm of Matheson and Matheson.

On his death in 1976 the Editorial of the local paper read as follows:

"Prince Edward Island yesterday lost one of its most illustrious sons. The death of former premier Alex W. Matheson brings to an end a long career of service to the people of this province.

Islanders will remember Mr. Matheson as a distinguished lawyer and jurist and as a tough but fair politician who fought hard for the things he believed in and for what he felt was in the best interests of the people of this province."

CRIOMAGAN

*During the past year Clan Society members have been on the move. Postcards have been received from David and Dianne Matheson, Toronto, in Hong King; Einar and Mette Matheson, Oslo, in Shanghai; Jean Guyton, Colorado, in New Zealand; Alexander and Katherine Matheson, Norfolk, G.B., in Vancouver; Fiona Matheson, Norfolk, G.B., in Pittsburgh.

*Visitors during August to Lochalsh have been — Kenneth and Kathleen Mathieson, Toronto; Miss Thornton Matheson, New York City; Mr. and Mrs. Donald Matheson, Abingdon; then three generations of Mathesons from Regina — Ruth, with son and daughter-in-law Bill and Wanda and their son and daughter Danny and Brenda, daughters Dr. Jean and Wilma, and cousin Donald and wife Bernice.

*Visitors to Standerwick — Elizabeth Aakesson, Bangkok, and sons Alexander and John Aakesson, Virginia; Angus George Matheson, Cape Breton; Ronald and Peter Matheson, Beckenham; Gwen Matheson Smith, Bribe Island, Queensland; Charles and Bonnie Matheson and their two youngest sons, The Plains, Virginia; Arthur and Shirley Stevens, South Island, New Zealand; Kenny and Mary Matheson, Little Narrows, C.B., daughter and son-in-law Kennena and Douglas MacFadyen and grandchildren Kenda and Todd.

*Those indigenous to Lochalsh who visited, were visited, or entertained, were Iain and Susannah Matheson and grandchildren, Rudha Mor; Kenny and Cathy Matheson, Kyle; Farquhar and Lucy Matheson, Kyle; Duncan and Mary Ann Matheson and grandson Scotty, Camusluinie; Jessie Matheson, Drumbuie; Ishbel and Christina Nicolson, Duirinish; Lexy MacKay, Plockton; the Macraes of Coilliemore.

*Dr. Doug and Diane (Matheson) Clements, Vancouver B.C., will accompany the Candian team to the Commonwealth Games in Edinburgh in 1986. They have frequently accompanied the team for international events, and did so for the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles.

*Norman Alexander Matheson writes from Winnipeg that a recent rainfall in 24 hours was 97.7mm, the heaviest for 100 years, when in 1884 it was 84.4mm. In 1852, during the floods, the Red River was nine miles wide where Kildonan Church now stands. Dr. John Black, the Minister of Kildonan visited his people by canoe to Bird's Hill, Stoney Mountain, and then across to what is now St. James's Cemetery. He held three services each Sunday and visited his people who were camped at those three places. Everywhere else was under water.

ALEXANDER MACLEAN MATHESON

contributed by Glen Matheson, Truro, N.S.
his great grand-nephew

During the late 1800s the Province of Nova Scotia had reached it's fullest potential. The best land had been settled, the necessary businesses were mature, fortunes had been made and lost. If a young man was to make his fortune, he had to forsake his roots and journey to the fabled "great wild west". Many went, some of whom became successful entrepreneurs in industry and agriculture. One such lad was Alexander Matheson of Kemptown.

The family search for prosperity was initiated several years before Alex was born. His father, Gilbert, left the east coast of Ross-shire to find employment in the Lowlands. He eventually came to a brief halt in Galashiels, a town evolving round the wool industry. In 1832 Gilbert became engrossed in the wave of emigration to Nova Scotia and found himself in the virgin forests of Upper Kemptown facing a life of hard toil. His eldest son of his second wife (Annie MacLean) was Alexander MacLean Matheson, who was born in 1845.

Being one of twelve children, Alex was introduced to hard work early in life to help the family survive on the upland farm. In 1867 he set off from Kemptown, never to return. His youngest brother, Robert, was only one year old. It is unlikely that they ever met again. His first stop was in Maine, where he acquired some experience in railroads. He next found his way to Illinois for a one year stint at farming before rejoining the railroad in Wells, Minnesota. Despite his youth, he was successful in establishing the first Masonic Lodge in that town. The railroad led him to St. Paul for a year. He then left the rails and turned his hand to the blacksmith trade in Georgetown, Colorado, as well as in Butte, Montana. While in Colorado he met and married Rachel Shaw of Pennsylvania.

From Montana the couple migrated by team and wagon to Owyhee, Oregon. In this valley he was content to farm for twenty years before yet another move to Ballard in 1892. In Ballard he changed careers once more to that of a millwright in a local shingle mill. The lumber industry was still in its prime so Alex joined two other enterprises to form the Eureka Shingle Mill Company, which he operated until 1903. Still not content, Alex moved to Hoquiam, Washington, to join his millionaire cousins, the Polson brothers, who left Nova Scotia in the 1870s and eventually founded the world's largest logging company. In partnership with the Polsons, Alex managed the Polson Shingle Company which he helped to organise. In 1913 the plant was converted to a sawmill which Alex also managed. In 1914 under his leadership and ex-

perience, the Grays Harbour Door Company was organised to manufacture building components.

Throughout his life he was an active Presbyterian, an earnest Republican, and an ardent promoter of the Masonic Lodge. "At all points in his career he had been actuated by a laudable ambition, and his activity and even-paced energy have carried him steadily forward."

[Based on an article in "Washington, West of the Cascades"]

OBITUARIES

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

*Neil Matheson, husband of Ella Matheson, Marion Bridge, Cape Breton, on 10th October 1984.

*John L. Harvey, M.C., husband of Eleanor (Matheson) Harvey, Claygate, Surrey, on 22nd February 1985.

*James M. Matheson, V.R.D., O. St. J., husband of Marjorie Graham Todd of Glasgow on 20th February 1985.

*Miss Anne Matheson Henderson, Winnipeg, Manitoba, in April 1985. Anne was one of the oldest descendants of the Red River Mathesons. She had been Archivist of the Lord Selkirk Association of St. Rupert's Land and had written a number of books on the Red River Settlement.

*Mrs. Norma M. McCracken, Methuen, Mass., on 27th May 1985, a cousin of Jean Fries.

*Miss Althea Norma Matheson, Eastbourne, on 11th July 1985. She was the last surviving Matheson of Bennettsfield, the youngest sister of Colonel Bertram Matheson of Matheson who died in 1975.

*Mrs. Edna M. Skinner, of Idaho Falls, Idaho, during the past year.

*James Goodsir Matheson, Fort Melbourne, Victoria, on 30th June 1984 and his wife, Martha Matheson, on 9th October 1984. They were the parents of Mrs. Lois Langford of Glen Iris, Victoria.

UNITED STATES

The past year has been a relatively uneventful one. The major activity during the year has been recruiting new members. The Southern California Section has been particularly active in this regard. Membership in the US Branch now includes 104 Annual Members and 101 Life Members for a total of 205.

Response for requests for dues has been very good and the financial situation looks sound. We have been able to invest a total of \$1250.00 in Certificates of

Deposit. The interest from these will help cover the expenses of mailings to the Life Members without depending entirely on income from annual dues. A complete financial statement is attached.

Many thanks to all the members who attended Highland Games and other activities such as Kirkin' of the Tartans in their areas. Particularly appreciated are those who displayed the Matheson Banner.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA SECTION CLAN MATHESON SOCIETY, 1984-1985

The Southern California Section participated at a number of Highland Games in the region during the past year. Notable among them were at San Diego, Aug. 18-19; Chino, Oct. 26-27, and Costa Mesa, May 25-26. Clan Matheson and Clan MacKenzie combine their matching tents to form one large and impressive display. The tents were designed and built by Don Matheson of Cerritos, CA.

The Section assisted in sponsoring the organization of a California Chapter of Clan Scott. This adds one more organization to a growing list of Scottish Societies active in Southern California.

The Section set up its tent at Cedar City, Utah, home of ex-governor Scott Matheson. The Highland Heritage Festival held July 13, 1985, was the first Highland Games at Cedar City. The display tent made a big hit and the Section was invited to bring its tent to Salt Lake City next June to be a featured Clan.

Gwen Matheson Smith, Bribie Island, Australia, visited Dave and cousin Alice Fairhurst for two weeks in March and April. She enjoyed a busy time traveling throughout Southern California and was entertained at these meetings with Clan Members.

Alice Fairhurst's name has been active on the Scottish scene. In addition to several articles which have appeared in local publications, Alice had an article "Clan Participation, Highland Games" printed in the March/April 1985 issue of The Highlander.

Office Holders are —

Chairman: John Matheson

Hon. Treasurer: Norah Matheson

both: 1368 Camelot Dr. Corona, CA 90701

Vice Chairman: Donald Matheson

Hon. Secretary: Carol Matheson

both: 16935 Parkville Ave., Cerritos, CA 90701

Editor & Local Genealogist: Alice Fairhurst, 313, E. Hurst St., Covina, CA 91723

MAINLAND NOVA SCOTIA

On 3rd August several Sons of the Bear descended on the quiet Highland community of Earltown to organise a section of the Clan Matheson. Approximately thirty of our name met at the Presbyterian Church for registration and a meeting. A letter of greeting from the Chief was read out, and the Rev. Dr. Daniel brought greetings in his capacity as Hon. Sec. for Canada. He also entertained the assembly with stories pertaining to his Sutherland ancestry. Also present were a contingent from Cape Breton including Gus



Steve, in full dress of 78th Highlanders c. 1869
The Citadel, Halifax

and Lew, who shared their "secrets for a successful gathering".

The following accepted appointments —

Chairman: Glen Matheson, Truro, N.S.
Vice Chairman: Roger Matheson, East River, St. Mary's
Hon. Treasurer: Mrs. John (Verna) Matheson, Stellarton
Hon. Secretary: Mrs. Al (Beverly) Matheson, Sackville

The business of membership fees and planning for an autumn Banquet/Ceilidh was referred to the executive. It was agreed that a "pot luck" supper in the Truro area would be most appropriate. Given the fantastic weather the meeting adjourned to the near-by Matheson farm, where the annual Earltown Pipers' Picnic was in progress.

This event, hosted by Laurie and Isabel Matheson, consists of an informal concert and a bean and salad supper. The proceeds are used to maintain the local cemeteries.

At the edge of a "Field of two descents" a hospitality tent was provided to serve as a rallying point. Also present were our Sutherlandshire neighbours, the Baillies, MacKays, Sutherlands and Murrays. Fortunately the Sutherlands have forgotten their disastrous defeat in battle against us in Glen Uddalan in Lochalsh in the early 15th Century. There peace prevailed throughout the day. Some twenty more Mathesons emerged from the crowded field to sign up. Our piper, Steven Matheson, was engaged in competition elsewhere that afternoon, but was able to arrive before the festivities were over.

After a relaxing afternoon and a satisfying supper, the Clans dispersed over the hills to their respective homes. Leaving the farm we noticed a "piper on the hillside, at the closing of the day". It was Steven, of course, hard at it as usual.

CAPE BRETON

Since the last Newsletter the Cape Breton Mathesons have been much saddened by the death of Neil Matheson last October. He was a cheerful and enthusiastic person who did so much to make the two Cape Breton Gatherings such a success.

The "Pot-luck Supper" at South Haven in February was a huge success, and other regular meetings have been held. Mrs. Billy Matheson has forwarded to the Chief a mass of genealogical details of the descendants of certain Mathesons who appear in the "History of the Mathesons" (Mackenzie & MacBean) as having emigrated to Cape Breton in the early 19th Century. [Editorial Note: These will be published in due course.]

CLAN MATHESON SOCIETY U.K.
Balance Sheet as at 30 June 1985

ASSETS			
Balance at Bank		£ 301.33	
Deposit with Abbey National Building Society		489.54	
Stock of Christmas Cards		3.75	
		<u>794.62</u>	
Represented by:			
Reserve Fund — Life Members Subscriptions			
Total as at 30th June 1984	880.00		
Received during the year	45.00		
Transferred to Ordinary A/C	45.00		
Deficit as at 30th June 1984	150.70		
Surplus for year per Balance Sheet	65.32		
Deficit as at 30th June 1985	85.38	<u>£ 794.62</u>	
Income & Expenditure Account			
Annual Members Subscriptions	23.50		
Life Members Subscriptions	45.00		
US Share of NL 39	90.03		
Canadian Share of NL 39	47.40		
Donations	33.00		
Building Society Interest	31.74		
Surplus from Glasgow Dinner	24.50	295.17	
Less			
Cost of Printing Newsletters	166.00		
Postages & Stationery	60.37		
Bank Service Charges	3.48	229.85	
Surplus for year		£ 65.32	

FINANCIAL STATEMENT
CLAN MATHESON SOCIETY — US BRANCH
July 1st, 1984 to June 30, 1985

Beginning Balance July 1st, 1984		\$ 1039.55
Receipts:		
Dues Received	1035.00	
Misc. Gifts & Donations	10.00	
Interest on Deposits	121.43	
Total Receipts	1166.43	
	2205.98	
Disbursements:		
Postage	111.43	
Printing & Reproduction	23.66	
Stationery & supplies	9.06	
Clan Matheson Society Newsletter 39	103.33	
Council of Scottish Clans Assoc.	20.00	
The Highlander (1" Ad)	60.00	
Janet Dorn (Misc. Expenses)	20.00	
Total Disbursements	357.48	
BALANCE June 30th 1985		\$ 1848.50
Bank Balance June 30th 1985	511.88	
Certificates of Deposit		
Third Federal Savings	560.42	
Park View Federal Savings	776.14	
Petty Cash on Hand	.06	
BALANCE		\$ 1848.50

TRADE ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Kenny and Cathy Matheson, 13 Lochalsh Rd., Kyle of Lochalsh, Ross-shire (Kyle 4297), have an excellent bed and breakfast service, and always give an especially warm welcome to members of the Clan.

*John Aakesson, 7312 Leesville Blvd., Springfield VA 22151 (tel;703-2564746), has a method of embroidering the Clan crest on textiles. He can supply embroidered sportswear, sweaters and jackets.

*We have had a new batch of sweatshirts and T-shirts printed with the Clan crest. There are a few left, various sizes and colours. The sweatshirts cost £8.50, plus p&p overseas, £5.28 air, £2.77 sea; within G.B., 98p. T-shirts cost £4.50 plus p&p overseas £3.73 air, £2.02 sea; within G.B., 66p. Apply to Serena at Standerwick.

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*.

News, information, photographs for next newsletter to Editor by 1st February 1986.

PRINTED PAPER RATE

TO

IF UNDELIVERED, PLEASE RETURN TO NEAREST OFFICER OF SOCIETY