



Clan Matheson Society

NEWSLETTER NO 42 DEC 1987

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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, November 1987

Photographs keep memories fresh, but this time my pocket tape recorder was put to good use so that the combination of both brings the events of the Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island Gatherings into sharp perspective. You will all be relieved to know that no indiscretions were recorded!

Firstly I must thank all of you on the Mainland, Cape Breton and P.E.I. for your wonderful hospitality and generosity; and for the organisation which made for success and enjoyment; and to those who took off large amounts of their precious time to show and drive us around. It was wonderful to see Roy and Jean from New Zealand, Loretta from Arizona, Jean Fries from Missouri and Lyman and Phyllis from Texas, to name those who probably travelled farthest.

Secondly I would like to thank those Honorary Secretaries who are retiring from office after four years at the post - Leslie for the U.S.A. and Rev Dan for Canada. There is an enormous amount of correspondence to attend to and other matters. Thank you for all your efforts.

Thirdly, I would like to thank their successors for unflinchingly accepting office - Lyman of Texas and Joel in Nova Scotia - and to wish them a pleasant term of office.

My fourth point is that I am delighted that a branch of the Society has been firmly established on the Mainland of Nova Scotia; and that the seeds have been sown for a branch in P.E.I. You will read in the Newsletter that New Zealand is also on the verge of starting a branch, and I hope by this time next year they will be firmly established.

One message that came loud and clear during August, was that each branch should appoint a genealogist to co-ordinate with Janet Matheson Dorn. We have had a number of successes in extending some of the Genealogies in the Clan History which mainly concerns Lochalsh families, but there has also been success with some of the Sutherland based families.

Elsewhere in the Newsletter are details of a small Gathering and Dinner we are holding in Dunkeld on 26/27 August 1988, at which I hope there will be a good attendance.

Serena and I send you our best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

Torquhil Matheson of Matheson.

CLAN MATHESON GATHERING, NOVA SCOTIA by Beverley Matheson, Hon. Sec. Clan Matheson Society, of Nova Scotia

With banners flying proudly in the summer breeze members of the Clan Matheson rallied to the call of the pipes and paraded with their Chief, Major Sir Torquhil Matheson of Matheson, Baronet of Lochalsh and with Lady Serena Matheson on to the field at the Pipers' Picnic at Earltown, Nova Scotia. It was the first day of August 1987 and after months of anticipation the two-week International Gathering of Clan Matheson was underway.

The Chief and Lady Serena were welcomed at the Matheson tent by Mr. A. Gordon Archibald, Chairman of the Scottish Societies Association of Nova Scotia and Chairman of the 1987 International Gathering of the Clans and Mr. A.W. "Sandy" Robertson, President of the Federation of Scottish Clans in

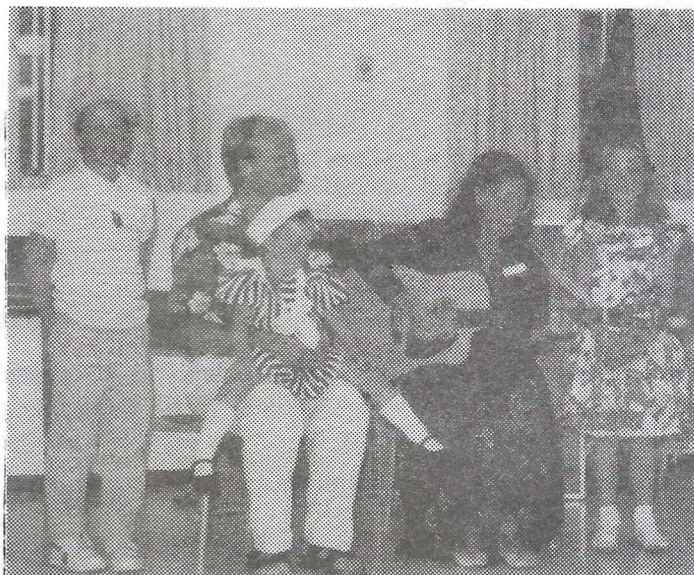
Nova Scotia. Even with the large number assembled a family atmosphere was evident as all ages enjoyed the entertainment and greeted "cousins" from near and far.



Pipers Picnic

Recognisable are: The Chief, Joel, Art, Rand, Phyllis, Loretta and Serena.

Following supper at the Pipers' Picnic the Clan moved from Colchester County to Pictou County for an evening ceilidh at the Scotsburn Fire Hall. Mr. Hank Dunnewold, Warden of Pictou County, welcomed the Clan to the area. Entertainment included highland dancing by Pearl Matheson of Westville and Toronto, piping by Steven Matheson of Lower Sackville and musical numbers by Ken and Alice Matheson and their young family of Indian Path, Lunenburg County. A Clan cake, baked by Loudelle Matheson, was cut by the Chief and Serena with our dancer's sword, concluding the evening with more socializing.



Scotsburn, N.S.

Ken and Alice with their young family



Log Church, Loch Broom

Beverley, Torquhil, Glen, John J., Jeanne, Al, Roger, Loudelle, Dawn, Verna

The rustic pulpit of Loch Broom Log Church was adorned on both sides with wild flowers and the plain-hewn benches filled to capacity the following afternoon for the Kirkin' of the Tartan conducted jointly by the Rev. Donald Sutherland of Whycocomagh and River John and the Reverend Roy Matheson of New Zealand. Standard bearers were Rand Matheson of Montreal, David Matheson of Ottawa, Lewis Matheson of Sydney, Joel Matheson of Halifax and Lyman Matheson of Houston, Texas. The Reverend Donald Sutherland was preacher. Scripture readings were by the Chief and Roger Matheson of East River Saint Mary's and the singing was led by Ken and Alice Matheson.



Log Church, Loch Broom, N.S.
Revs. Donald Sutherland, Cape Breton
Roy Matheson, New Zealand

Following the church service a Clan Parliament convened at the Scotsburn IOOF Hall with the Chief presiding.

Reports of Clan activities locally, from the United Kingdom and the United States reflected the international tone of the gathering which was even more in evidence with the announcement of plans by New Zealand and Prince Edward Island to form Clan Societies.

The Clan adjourned to the Scotsburn Fire Hall to enjoy a buffet supper where clansmen and guests were welcomed by Glen Matheson, Chairman of the Clan Matheson Society of Nova Scotia. Presentations of local handcrafts were made to the Chief and Serena.

Monday morning the Chief and Serena were treated to a ride by horse and carriage, courtesy of Mr. George Coady of Westville, along a peaceful backwoods road to the New Lairg Pioneer Cemetery. With the sound of the pipes drifting over the glade, played by Clan Piper Steven Matheson, they were



New Lairg Cemetery

Serena, Chief & George Coady of Westville

greeted by descendants of the early Matheson settlers whose names are recorded on the headstones.

The remainder of the day Mr. and Mrs. Trueman Matheson of Westville acted as guides to our guests, and after an enjoyable lunch in their house, they pointed out places of interest in Pictou County. Stops included the town of Pictou and the Donald Gunn property in Scotsburn which had been one of the earliest Matheson homes.

Tuesday, August 4, the Matheson Gathering moved to Cape Breton and from there to Prince Edward Island.

A farewell reception was held on August 13 at the Citadel Inn, Halifax the evening prior to the Chief and Serena returning to their home in England. Hosted by the Honourable Joel Matheson, Q.C., who is the new Honorary Secretary of the Clan Society Canada, the Clan Matheson enjoyed a final opportunity to converse with old and new friends until the next gathering.

CLAN MATHESON PARLIAMENT - 2 AUGUST 1987

A Clan Parliament convened at the I.O.O.F. Hall, Scotsburn, Nova Scotia, August 2, 1987 commencing at 4.30 pm. The Parliament was chaired by the Chief with fifty-one clanspeople in attendance.

1. A welcome was extended by Glen Matheson, Chairman of the Clan Matheson Society of Nova Scotia, who introduced the presiding officers and presented a brief history of the Scotsburn area.
2. The meeting was then turned over to the Chief who called on the Reverend Roy Matheson of Hamilton, New Zealand to ask God's guidance over the meeting. The Lord's Prayer in unison followed.
3. Minutes of the previous Clan Parliament held in Cape Breton, August 19, 1983 were moved approved as published in Newsletter No.38 by David Matheson, Toronto. Seconded by Al Matheson, Sackville, NS. Carried.
4. Questions arising from minutes: Moved by Joel Matheson, Halifax, that there was nothing outstanding. Seconded by Rand Matheson, Montreal. Approved.
5. Reports: United Kingdom. On behalf of the UK Treasurer, the Chief presented a financial statement showing a balance of £904.74 on hand. He reported a total of 206 members with the following break-down: Australia 46, England 67, France 1, New Zealand 16, Norway 3, Scotland 67, South Africa 5, Spain 1. The Chief emphasised the importance of keeping in touch with widows of life members as each is automatically included by her husband's membership.

The Chief reported receiving letters from many people in various parts of the world. Lady Serena commented on the visit of the "Fraser Pipe Band" of Regina in 1985, as recorded in Newsletter No.40. A great welcome is assured to all visitors by the Chief and Lady Serena.

The Chief reported no social functions for the Clan in the United Kingdom recently. He said that there is a proposal to hold a dinner in Inverness or Dunkeld in 1988. He asked which would be the better month, August or September. It was the consensus that mid-August was best.

Canada: No Report.

United States: Apologies received from Leslie Matheson, Honorary Secretary U.S.A., that he is unable to attend the Gathering. An updated listing of USA members, including mention of original ancestors, has been prepared. Treasury has approximately \$2,370. Leslie wished to be recorded as resisting any increase in membership dues. The Chief accepted with regret Leslie's resignation as Honorary Secretary as of July 1, 1988 and expressed appreciation for a wonderful job on behalf of the USA members.



New Lairg Cemetery, N.S.
Ernest, father of Al, Bob and Douglas

Nova Scotia (Mainland): Glen Matheson reported an initial meeting held August 3, 1985 established enough interest existed to organize an active clan on mainland Nova Scotia. A very successful dinner was held in June 1986 with one hundred in attendance and another in May 1987 with thirty attending. Financially it is hoped to "break even" this year. The Chief commended the members for their efforts.

Cape Breton: Lewis Matheson reported the Clan has been in operation in Cape Breton since 1979. Approximately twenty-five attend the quarterly meetings. Membership is approximately sixty, with interest increased this summer. Finances stand at \$1,375. Lew thanked the Chief and Lady Serena on behalf of the Cape Breton members who have enjoyed their friendship and hospitality in the United Kingdom.

Southern California Section: No Report.

6. Questions arising from reports: Jean Matheson Fries, St. Louis, Missouri, inquired as to the total number of U.S.A. members. Approximately 200 are listed.

7. Newsletter: The cost of producing a newsletter continues to increase. As obituaries are a part of the Clan news the Chief requested a "pen picture" of the person be included so as not to have only statistics.

A copy of each issue is sent to the National Library in Scotland. As postage is very expensive the Chief asked if there is a way to have the newsletters delivered directly to the United States and Canada for mailing within the country. This is to be explored.

Questions on Newsletter: Lewis Matheson, Cape Breton, mentioned looking forward to the Newsletter's arrival because of it being a unique way of learning of the Clan.



Steven, Lower Sackville and Pearl Alice, Westville, N.S.

The Chief requested photos and articles for the Newsletter be sent as soon as possible.

8. Constitution: Clan Matheson Society Constitution and Rules, dated September 1981 were presented for review. Mention was made by the Chief to any changes to our Constitution and Rules, with special mention to paragraph 10. No amendments were suggested at this time.

9. Election of Officers: (As outlined in paragraph 12 of the Constitution).

Convenor and Honorary Secretary: Moved by David Matheson, Toronto, that Edmond Matheson, Carnoustie, be re-elected. Seconded by Lady Serena. Approved unanimously.

Honorary Treasurer: Norman Matheson, Dunkeld, offered himself for re-election. Seconded by Rand Matheson, Montreal. Approved unanimously.

Honorary Secretary for Canada: Moved by Roger Matheson, East River St. Mary's, NS, the Hon. Joel Matheson, Q.C., of Halifax be appointed Honorary Secretary for Canada. Seconded by Jean Matheson Fries, St. Louis. Unanimous.

Honorary Secretary for U.S.A.: Moved by Reverend Roy Matheson, Hamilton, New Zealand that upon completion of Leslie Matheson's term of office Lyman Matheson, Houston, Texas, follow as Honorary Secretary for U.S.A. Seconded by Roger Matheson, East River St. Mary's, N.S. Unanimous.

Clan Genealogist: Lewis Matheson, Cape Breton, moved the re-appointment of Janet Matheson Dorn, Georgia. Seconded by Loretta Matheson, Arizona. Unanimous.

Emeritus Officers: The Chief moved from the Chair, Jean Matheson Fries, Honorary Secretary Emeritus for the United States and Rand Matheson, Honorary Secretary Emeritus for Canada. Seconded by Arthur Matheson, P.E.I. Unanimous.

Honorary Editor: Joel Matheson, Halifax, moved the Chief, Honorary Editor of the Newsletter. Seconded by Rand Matheson. Unanimous.

Clan Pipers: The Chief proposed Duncan Matheson, Brora; Steven Matheson, Nova Scotia; Linda Matheson Munroe, Cape Breton; as Clan Pipers. Seconded by Joel Matheson, Halifax. Carried.

10. New Business: New Zealand branch: The Reverend Roy Matheson presented a proposed constitution outlining its' objects as permitted under New Zealand law. It is their purpose to be completely autonomous, to have Vice Presidents in various areas, to publish their own newsletter, have no life memberships, to be financially self-sufficient, any changes or alterations to the proposed constitution must be approved by the Chief. It is their wish to have the Chief as President and not have an Honorary Secretary for New Zealand. Final details to be worked out between Roy and the Chief.

PEI Branch: Arthur Matheson reported registration forms returned for Clan Gathering indicated approximately one hundred families expressed an interest in an active Clan. They are looking forward to the visit by the Chief and Lady Serena.

A motion was made by Jean Matheson Fries, Missouri, that each branch of the Clan appoint a clan genealogist to work with Janet Matheson Dorn. Seconded by Loretta Matheson, Arizona. Carried.

Rand Matheson, Montreal, brought forth a resolution that every effort be made to encourage new members and to keep the Newsletter going. Rand also expressed concern with the present Clan registration forms in particular the genealogy section. He requested that wording be definitely clear that genealogy is helpful but not compulsory.

In his closing comments the Chief thanked everyone for giving of their time in order to deal with necessary Clan business.

The Parliament adjourned at 6 pm with Reverend Roy Matheson pronouncing Benediction.

Beverly Matheson, Secretary

CAPE BRETON by the Loon

Informality was the hall mark of the Gathering in Cape Breton, but the six day visit did have its more formal moments. John and Verna Matheson, Stellarton, delivered the Chief and his lady safely to the door of the Bute-Arran Guest House at Baddeck, where they were met by George and Annie Matheson, Glace Bay, Jessie Ross and Isobel (Matheson) MacFarlane, mother of the proprietors Donny and Margot MacAulay, Margot being her daughter. A table spread with delicious lobster sandwiches and other delights was swiftly demolished, though fortunately there was something left for Judge Lewis. That evening there was a reception at the South Haven Hall where Lew gave out the detail for the ensuing days, whilst Billy the Fiddler supplied suitable music. Old friendships were renewed, but the Chief and Serena were sad to see that the ranks had been thinned - Neil had gone to a better world; Kenny "Warden" had just come out of hospital and was at home; A.J. and Norman were in hospital.

Wednesday broke with a cloudless sky and piloted by Arnold the first stop was at Sydney to pick up Dr. Robert Mathieson (an emigré from Oban!) and his wife Marion; then on to the Fortress of Louisberg, rebuilt to the state it was in c.1750, and garrisoned by university students in contemporary French Army uniforms, and likewise for the civil population. They were fortunate to spend the day with Mr. Kenneth Donovan, the Curator, so they saw the best of everything under ideal conditions. Their progress was punctuated with endless "photo-calls" for the kilted Chief and Robert by visitors tired of snapping Frenchmen!

That evening Lewis and Kay entertained the Chief, Serena and Arnold to a sumptuous dinner party with their family in their home. But the night was yet young . . . the "house party" moved to another part of Sydney, to George Angus' home where the pipe band of the Nova Scotia Highlanders was playing outside, in the street. Another great gathering of the Clan continued into the small hours, the tolerant neighbours enjoying it all from the touch line. Interspersed were selections of music on the fiddle by Brenda Stubbart and classical singing by a beautiful young lady whose name the Loon has failed to remember. His head is bowed in shame. It was a night to remember, vividly, in more ways than one revelation!

The mist that normally envelops Louisberg has now clouded the memory of the Loon in that he is unable to remember whether Thursday was Friday - or vice versa. Suffice to say that on one day Donnie Matheson drove a coach load of clanspersons to visit the enormous power station at Wreck Cove. They descended into the bowels of the mountain, into a vast Cathedral and witnessed a scene rather like one sees in "Dr. Who", but without the attendant risks of ray-guns and the like. It was a jolly party, motoring over the summit of Victoria County, the animated conversation punctuated with the girlish giggles of Jessie Ross who was sitting too near to those enormous brothers Ian Mhor and Gus. A camp fire at



Kenny "Warden", Mary, Serena
Cape Breton

midday . . . and on returning to Baddeck, an enormous lobster supper with near fifty Mathesons, all waited on by one cheerful and very long-suffering lady. "Concorde", launched by the two "little boys" in the corner, drifted nonchalantly to and fro without disaster!

The following day Arnold and Laddie and son Aaron, Serena and the Chief went visiting. A call on Kenny "Warden" and Mary at their farm produced an invitation to a "strupach" - some "strupach"! A full blown lunch of delicious home-made produce - such is Highland hospitality wherever you may be. Having driven through lovely scenery, they day concluded with a supper in the Baddeck Fire Hall, after which we were entertained by the internationally famous MacDonald family fiddle group "Scumalash", and our own Billy the Fiddler.

Murdock was the pilot on Saturday which included visits to the Hospital to see A.J.; the Alderwood Rest Home to have tea with Norman; and visits to the Alexander Graham Bell Museum and the Silver Dart. The day terminated with the closing ceremonies of the Gaelic Mod at St. Anne's. Attended by the Lieutenant Governor and the Premier, it was a brilliant affair. In fairness to the English, they were hammered too hard in some aspects of Highland History as portrayed in the text of the pageant.



Laddie, Aaron, Arnold
Cape Breton

The highlight of a rain-swept Sunday was the service at the Bethel United Church at Marion Bridge which was held in memory of Neil and at which a Reading Stand was dedicated to his memory. The Clan, led by George Angus with his pipes, walked to the church, which was filled. At the appropriate moment the dedication took place and Lew gave a short address of well chosen words. The service was a fitting tribute to a great man.

The evening concluded with supper in the hall over the road, and the singing of "Song for the Mira" with great enthusiasm. This was also the concluding episode of the visit of the Chief and Serena, who were wafted away by Allister and his daughter Florence to the ferry at Pictou early the next morning.

P.E.I.'s FIRST CLAN GATHERING

by Art Matheson, Chairman Gathering Committee

On August 10 after the ferry being stuck on the mud off the Wood Islands pier, Ruby and I proceeded to Pictou where we met the Chief and Lady Serena. After a few words of greeting we boarded the same ferry to Wood Islands, where we were met by a piper and some very enthusiastic Mathesons. We then drove to historic Belfast Presbyterian Church, which was built by the Selkirk Settlers, where we were greeted by about one hundred plus Mathesons for a short reception. Then followed a tour of Orwell Corner Historic Village where we had tea, scones etc. all made on the premises.



Anne, Art and Gladys at Standerwick

Off we go to Charlottetown to take our honoured guests to their "pad", and after a quick change we took a tour of Cavendish and the North Shore area; then to a Lobster Supper in New Glasgow where about seventy five more clans-people attended to eat, and to hear their Chief say a few words. Back to Charlottetown for a service at Zion Presbyterian Church which was largely attended, and which was conducted by the Revs Gordon, Gael and Jim Matheson.

Music was provided by the church organist Royston Mugford, Sue, Janie and Duncan Matheson and Mark Buell, with an all-Matheson choir. This service was followed by a reception in the Church Hall with about three hundred and fifty people attending.

August 11, we called on Mayor Jack Ready and visited the Women's Institute Building, and saw some cattle judged at the Provincial Exhibition.

Later that afternoon we called on Their Honours, The Lieutenant Governor of Prince Edward Island, Lloyd MacPhail and Mrs. MacPhail. Their Honours hosted a Garden Party, but due to the rainy weather they opened their gracious residence for the three hundred and twenty five Mathesons who attended, a gesture highly appreciated by everyone.

That evening there was a pot-luck supper where many more clansmen met their Chief and his lady. The excellent entertainment was provided by Mathesons or descendants. A birthday cake was presented to Sir Torquhil and was cut by him assisted by Naomi Bree, who was also celebrating her birthday.

The Chief addressed the Gathering, explaining the meaning of the Clan; how he became Chief; his and Serena's "Canadian Connections"; and his hopes that a P.E.I. branch of the Clan Society would now become a reality, after such a fine Gathering. He also named Jamie Matheson as the Clan's provincial piper.

On Wednesday we met with Premier Joe Ghiz, and then travelled to Summerside to meet Mayor Basil Stewart. After an excellent lunch we went to the ferry where Glen and Jeanne Matheson from Glenholme took over our guests and conveyed them back to Nova Scotia..

I would like to thank Ruby, Florence and Miles Matheson and Naomi Bree, our committee; also Ann Matheson, Gladys Mac Millian and Barney Bree who worked so hard to make our Gathering a huge success. Of course, I cannot forget our guests Sir Torquhil and Lady Serena whom everyone enjoyed meeting and hoped that they would come back soon.



The Chief with:

Right: Roddy Pratt, descendant of Matheson, Member of Legislative Assembly of PEI and Minister of Fisheries in former Government. Beside Roddy and Chief is Roddy's wife, Mary (Matheson) Pratt; on Left: Barbara Jean Pratt, daughter of Roddy and Mary. Between Barbara Jean and Chief is Barbara Pratt, Sister of Roddy.

August 11, 1987 Ch'Town, P.E.I.

CONGRATULATIONS

- * To Major Alexander and Katharine Matheson, Coldstream Guards, on the birth of their second son, Archibald James Torquhil on 13 March 1987.
- * To Katharine Matheson (q.v. above) on becoming the Ladies Tennis Champion 1987 at the Staff College, Camberley, UK.
- * To Gordon Neil and Mary Anne Birke Matheson on the birth of their son Alexander Reid on 23 May 1987, and grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Roy C. Matheson of Southport, Prince Edward Island.
- * To Ruari and Rachael Matheson, Cean-an-Oib, Plockton, on the birth of their son Arran Finlay on 29 March 1987, and grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Alister Matheson, Achmore, Loch-alsh.
- * To Major Fergus Matheson on being appointed an Officer of the Most Venerable Order of St. John of Jerusalem.
- * To Neil Franklynn and Judy Matheson on the birth of their daughter Flora Lynn of Stratford, Ontario on 1 April, 1987.
- * To Captain Roderick and Janet Matheson, R.C.H.A., Manitoba on the birth of their second child, Margaret Emily on 14 October 1987.
- * To Donald and Kathy Matheson, Dartmouth N.S. on the birth of their third child, Colin Alexander on 9 November 1987.
- * To Bella (Matheson) and Will Craven, Nostell Priory, Wakefield, Yorks. on the birth of their daughter, Frances Elizabeth on 15 November 1987.
- * To James Matheson and Alice MacKichan on their marriage on 22 August 1987 at Port Hawkesbury, N.S. James is the son of the Rev. and Mrs. Parker Matheson, and nephew of the late Mr. Lawrence (Tom) Matheson (q.v. Obituaries).



* To Diana Ruth Matheson on her marriage to Douglas Randall Stofel of Nashville, Tennessee on 10 January 1987, in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Diana is the daughter of the Hon. Joel and Ruth Matheson, and grand-daughter of Rand Hector Matheson, Montreal.

* To Lilla Youngblood Matheson on her marriage to Christopher Finley Ohrstrom on 26 September 1987. Lilla is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Tompkins Matheson of The Plains, Virginia. Lilla wore her grand-mother's wedding dress.



Mr. & Mrs. Charles Matheson
and Lilla and Christopher Ohrstrom

OBITUARIES

We regret to record the following deaths and wish to express our sincere sympathy to their relatives:-

● Mr. George Leslie Matheson on 27 November 1986, and his wife Mrs. Evelyn Rowan Matheson on 1 January 1987, both at Wick, Caithness. George was an optician and a Life Member of the Society. He occasionally published booklets of amusing verse, one of which was entitled "Tam O'Tannach" q.v. Newsletter No.30.

● Mr. Donald John Matheson, on 5 April 1987 at Inverness, husband of Mrs. Elizabeth Riach Matheson, and brother of Duncan Matheson of Camusluinie, Kintail.

● Mr. Colin St Clair Matheson, on 19 April 1987, at Maryborough, Queensland. Colin was the father of Jeff Matheson of Murarie, Queensland, who, with his wife Gail, visited the UK in 1979.

● Mrs. Gertrude Augusta (Matheson) Badenoch, on 16 August 1986 at North Berwick, the wife of Dr. Alfred Badenoch, whom she married in 1972. Her father was Dr. A.A. Matheson, a well known G.P. in Edinburgh, and a grandson of Roderick of Iomaire (Immer) Branch of the Clan. An outstanding artist, particularly of animals; her drawings are amongst the illustrations of "The Story of Edinburgh Zoo". A well known tennis and badminton player, she represented Scotland in the latter game.

● Mr. Clarence H. Matheson of Tatamagouche, Nova Scotia on 22 August 1986 aged 100 years, which birthday he had celebrated on 21 July previous. He is survived by his sons, Rev Robert, Chicago; James, Alberta, and daughter Mabel, Ontario. A farmer all his life and a church elder for over 50 years. An account of his life appeared of page 4 of Newsletter No. 40, which commemorated his 99th birthday.

● Mr. Kenneth Salathiel of Belmont, Victoria on 5 July, 1987, aged 78 years, the husband of Betty (Matheson) Salathiel of the Duncan MacIain Og Branch. He was well known throughout Australia for his skills in breeding Merino sheep, short horn cattle and trotting horses, from which he had retired some eleven years ago. Ken's grandfather was born in Monmouthshire in 1829, married in Glasgow and came to Victoria with his Aberdonian wife, Margaret Campbell, and two children in 1859.

● Mr. Lawrence Eldred (Tom) Matheson of Brookfield, Nova Scotia, aged 81, on 18 September 1987. He is survived by his wife, the former Florence Carter; daughters Edna Graham, Verna Locke, Wilma Hanford, Letha Mowatt; sons John, Hugh, Vaughan, Winston, Gordon, Kenneth; sisters Ola Taylor, Jean Trenholm, and brother Rev. Parker Matheson, 32 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren. He bravely attended our Gathering at Scotsburn on 2 August 1987. Tom's forebears came from Sutherland.

● Mr. Donald Matheson, of Duncraig; Portree, Isle of Skye, on 17 July 1987. He was the well known farmer in Greshornish where he bred excellent stock for his butcher's business in Portree. A life member of the Clan Society, he is survived by his sister Miss Christina Matheson.

● Mr. Roy Matheson, aged 63, September 1987, at Halifax, N.S. A veteran of the Second World War, he served in the Halifax Rifles and later in the Fifth Armoured Brigade in Italy, where he was wounded. He is survived by his wife Catherine, a son James, and daughter Mrs. Heather Anne Wheten, and two grandchildren.

THE IOMAIRE MANUSCRIPT

* Dr. Alister F. Matheson of Richmond, North Yorkshire, writes to say that he has placed the Iomaire Manuscript on permanent loan with the National Library of Scotland, George IV Bridge, Edinburgh. This was written by his great, great, great grandfather, Roderick of Iomaire in 1824.

It is the earliest of the modern writings on Clan Matheson history and genealogy that is still available. As such it has served as a key reference in the later histories and accounts of the family such as The History of the Mathesons - 2nd edition 1900 - by Dr Alexander MacBain - and the Rev. William Matheson's paper on the Traditions of the Mathesons - Gaelic Society of Inverness volume XLII 1956.

The site of the farm at Iomaire on the southern shores of Loch Carron is now but "a rickle of stanes" and the modern Ordnance Survey maps no longer show its position midway between Stromeferry and Attadale. Its position is now tightly enclosed between the loch and the Kyle of Lochalsh railway line.

Interestingly, the decision to place this document in the

National Library was sparked by a letter from himself to the Rev. William Matheson, the Clan historian and genealogist, which ultimately led to yet another Matheson from our clan, Dr. Anne Matheson of the Library, suggesting the transfer. She was born and bred in Lochalsh, the clan's ancient territory, and the place where the Iomaire MS was written.

Editorial Notes: 1. Dr. Anne's mother, Mrs. Katie Matheson and sister Christine keep the Post Office Stores in Dornie, where all Mathesons can be sure of a warm welcome.

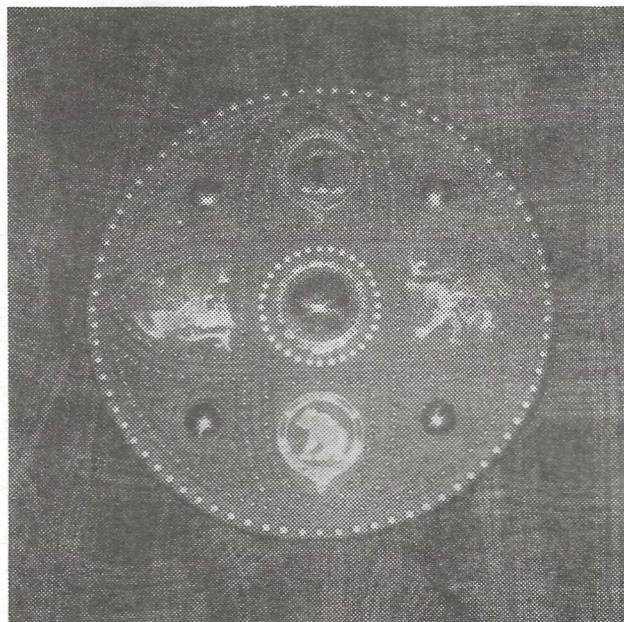
2. Iomaire (Immer) is in fact in the Parish of Lochcarron, right on the boundary with the parish of Lochalsh.

CLAN MATHESON TARGE

A project very close to the heart of Iain Matheson of Balvraid, Dornoch, Sutherland has come to fruition. For several years he has been exploring whether there was ever an acknowledged pattern for a Matheson targe, as there seems to be for some other clans, but without success.

Last Spring Iain and the Chief, with the assistance of Hugh Ferguson of the Highland Armouries in Dornoch, devised a reasonable pattern, embellished with suitable devices, a photograph of which illustrates the end product. Iain has very kindly presented a targe of this design to the Chief, to hold on behalf of the Clan.

We are all very grateful to him for his generous and superb gift. It is a very solid item of armament.



NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

* Mr. James K. Matheson, 51 Coventry Lane, Avon, CT 06001, USA, appreciated the assistance given him by Farquhar Matheson, Kyle of Lochalsh, during his visit to Lochalsh last June. He is of Nova Scotian stock and would appreciate any contacts to help him with his genealogy.

* Whilst on the subject of assistance in Lochalsh for visitors, the Chief was approached by at least two people in Nova Scotia who said how much they had enjoyed the help of Duncan "Stalker" Matheson, Camusluinie in Kintail whilst visiting the area. The name of Miss Johan MacInnes in Duirinish was also mentioned in this respect!

* Mrs. Marjorie (Matheson) Marriott, 5 Cranleigh Grove, Mount Waverley 3149, Victoria, some time ago sent an interesting newspaper cutting about Burke's and Will's epic journey across Australia from Victoria to the Gulf of Carpentaria in 1861, the 125th anniversary of which was celebrated in 1986. The accompanying map in the newspaper was economical in putting in place names, but from the narrative it appears there is a Cattle Station, Cowan Downs, 160 kilometres to the North East of Normanton, (Gulf end) where there is a stone marking the grave of "Donald Matheson, 22, a native of Scotland who drowned there in 1869". Can anyone throw any light on Donald?

* Merle and Ron Matheson, 11 Kai Ora Road, Reservoir, Victoria 3073 have forwarded the interesting letter reproduced below which was in reply to their son, Ross, who discovered a Presbyterian Church at Matheson in the Glen Innes area of New South Wales:-

"Matheson is an area 20 km west of Glen Innes, beside Waterloo Station. I don't think it is signposted now since the Post Office was closed about five years ago. The only building left is the Uniting Church which is used regularly and was built in the early 1920's.

"The area was originally called Waterloo and a school opened there in 1881 called the Clearbank School. We know it was still operating in 1896 but how long after is not known.

"A School of Arts was built across the road in 1888, but this was eventually moved to Swan Vale where it still stands.

"In 1887 the Post Office was established and went into the school building, which remained as the Post Office until 1982, when the building was sold for removal.

"When the Post Office was established it was given the name Matheson after the local Member of the Legislative Assembly, Charles McLeod Matheson who was the local member from 1887 till 1889.

"He afterwards went to Kalgoorlie where he died on 1 December 1895 by falling over the balcony of one of the hotels.

"I hope the above information is of assistance to you."

A.J. Ritchie, Tourist Promotions Officer
Glen Innes District

Who was Charles McLeod Matheson? It would be very interesting to know.

* Jeff and Gail Matheson, Murarrie, Queensland, write that their sons are now 7 and 5 years old and very busy at school. Jeff is working hard to gain his Bachelor of Education Degree, whilst Gail works round the clock looking after all three!

* Mrs. Joan Matheson Bache from Paradise, South Australia writes that she and her husband had a very enjoyable and historically satisfying visit to Lochalsh in the late summer of 1986. Farquhar Matheson of Kyle of Lochalsh "really made the words I had read come alive"!

* Margaret Dougherty, Toronto, has now started a new career as a writer/researcher for the Minister of Financial Institutions of the Ontario Government. Her father, Butler, celebrated his 75th birthday in September. Brother Tim is still soldiering in Germany; Kevin is toiling as a business journalist specialising in energy issues; whilst her sister Anne and husband John are raising their two children in Ottawa.

* John and Monica (Matheson) Kidd, Papatoetoe, New Zealand, are still hard at work with their research in Scottish parish records, the product of which has been extremely useful in verifying dates of births, christenings and marriages in the 19th Century. On a number of occasions recently, marriage dates have been confirmed and, children not known to have existed have been identified, thus completing families. Copies of their researches are also held by Janet Matheson Dorn and the Chief whose addresses are on the last page of this Newsletter.

* Roger and Dawn Matheson of East River St. Mary's, Nova Scotia, are volunteer consultants with the Canadian Executive Service Organisation which sends men and women to assist businesses in Third World countries and amongst Canada's native people. Last June they returned from Jamaica after a three month tour of duty. They have now set out to Bangkok, Thailand to assist in another business project. They much enjoy their assignments which allows them to penetrate the touristic veneer, and to find out what really makes the indigenous population tick - their housing, education, wages - in fact every facet of their lives.

Roger and Dawn also take an active part in the Clan activities in Nova Scotia, producing some really excellent "silk screen" crested souvenirs.

* Norman Matheson of 1298 Erin Street, Winnipeg was very sad to miss the Nova Scotia Gatherings, but his wife Mayme has been seriously ill. He has been very busy travelling to Chapters of the British America Convention. On 2, 3 and 4

NEWS, INFORMATION, PHOTOGRAPHS FOR
NEXT NEWSLETTER TO EDITOR AS SOON AS
POSSIBLE.

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.

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.

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.

HOW TO JOIN THE SOCIETY

Membership of the Society is restricted to persons spelling their name Matheson or Mathieson or whose parents or one of grandparents spelled their name similarly. Persons who spell their name Mathieson, Mathison or Mathewson 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.

OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY

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Clan Genealogist, Mrs. Janet Matheson Dorn, 701 Morrow
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USA.

(Members are invited to send their family histories to Janet with any queries they may have).

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Clan Pipers: Duncan Matheson, Broira and Mrs. Linda
Matheson Munroe, Cape Breton, Steven Matheson,
Nova Scotia, Jaimie Matheson, Prince Edward Island

October 1987 The Lord Selkirk Association of Rupert's Land celebrated their 175th anniversary of the arrival of the first contingent of Selkirk Settlers to the Red River in 1812. Norman is descended from Alexander Matheson who arrived with his family in Red River in 1815, from Corriag, Strath of Kildonan, Sutherland. The congregation of Kildonan Presbyterian Church are building a new church. The old church, built in 1854 is showing signs of old age, and will become an Historic Site eventually, and Nesbet Hall, the first school in the area, is to be moved to the new church and will become part of the new complex.

All readers of this Newsletter will unite in wishing Mayme a quick and successful recovery.

* "Geelong" John has retired from the Australian Army after 20 years service. He is a Vietnam veteran. He is now living in the old family house at Highton.

CRIMAGAN

* 1626 Private James Watson Matheson was killed in action on 31 October/1 November 1914 in the epic fight put up by the London Scottish on those days in Wyschaete-Messines line, near Ypres. He has no known grave, but his name is commemorated on the Menin Gate, one of approximately 55,000 men of the British Empire Forces who were lost without trace, in defence of the Ypres salient in the Great War. Whose son was he, or relation? Please inform the Editor.

* The Ross-shire Journal has for decades run a column "44 Years Ago". In the issue of 16 October 1987, there was the following entry from the Journal of 15 October 1943:-

"The Rev. N. Matheson, Free Church Manse, Beaully, has been informed that his eldest son, the Rev. James G. Matheson, Chaplain to the Forces, who was a prisoner in Italian hands, has escaped and rejoined the British Forces" - none other than the Very Reverend James Matheson of Husabost, Glendale, Isle of Skye, formerly Moderator of the Church of Scotland, 1975/6.

* The Chief has been appointed a Deputy Lieutenant of the County of Somerset.

CLAN GATHERING AT DUNKELD 1988

Arrangements are being made for a Clan Dinner, followed by a ceilidh at the Royal Hotel, Dunkeld, Perthshire on Friday 26th August 1988. The cost is expected to be in the order of £10. The Hotel estimates that charges for bed and breakfast in 1988 will be about £15 single and £25 double. There are other hotels in Dunkeld:-

Dunkeld House Hotel
Atholl Arms Hotel
Birnham Hotel
Merryburn Hotel
Taybank Hotel;

and numerous bed and breakfast houses, and caravan parks, lists of which can be obtained from the Scottish Tourist Board. Clanspersons are requested to make their own arrangements for accommodation.

Dunkeld is accessible by rail or road, and is on the River Tay, in country which Sir Walter Scott described as the "fairest portion of the Northern Kingdom". Birnham Wood, immortalised in "Macbeth", is close by; fifteen miles to the north is Killiecrankie, where Bonnie Dundee was slain in his hour of victory on 27 July 1689. Other attractions at Dunkeld that weekend are the Highland Games on the afternoon of 27 August, and the theatre at Pitlochry in the evening.

Norman Matheson, Hon. Treasurer to the Clan Society has kindly consented to be co-ordinator for the dinner. Would members wishing to attend the dinner please inform Norman of numbers accompanied by the appropriate cheque by 25 July 1988. Money cannot be refunded for cancellations received after 22 August 1988.

Norman's address is: 15 Atholl Gardens, Dunkeld, Perthshire PH8 0AY