



Clan Matheson Society

NEWSLETTER NO 43 OCT 1988

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Chief of the Clan:

Major Sir Torquhil Matheson of Matheson,
Baronet of Lochalsh, D.L.

Price to non-members £1 or local equivalent

THE CHIEF'S MESSAGE Standerwick, October 1988

Firstly, I must congratulate Norman and Betty for arranging such an enjoyable Gathering for all of us who attended at Dunkeld, and to thank all those who made it. Some of us had not met for some considerable time and it was lovely to meet again. Edmond has contributed an account in this Newsletter which recalls the happy atmosphere prevailing.

Untoward incidents frequently occur in the best organised events and I could hardly believe my eyes at the Games when the rope in the tug of war parted company on the command "Heave"! Repaired with a stout reef knot, we were provided with an "Encore"! Unbelievable... Glendale and Judique, what would you have done? (Two great teams in Cape Breton).

Later that night, in the early hours of Sunday morning, Serena and I left Norman's house to return Alexander and Katharine to their hotel. Returning to ours, we were locked out, unable to raise the management. Exploration of all doors and windows and clambering up fire escapes proved useless, so we were made welcome by Betty who kindly let us stay for the rest of the night.

The society branches in the U.S.A. and Canada seem to be thriving: but, alas, no further news of a branch forming in New Zealand.

I have been conscious for some time that there is no comprehensive world-wide directory of members. Now that Nell and I have both got word processors we hope to put that right in the ensuing months. Incidentally, our systems are Amstrad PPC 512 and PC 1640 (IBM compatible).

Elsewhere in the Newsletter is information about the Scottish International Gathering in Inverness 6-14 May 1989. The emphasis is on Scottish rather than Clan. Whether we have a clan tent operating will depend entirely on whether members in and around Inverness are able to run it for us.

Before ending I would like to pay tribute to Leslie Matheson of Ohio who has been Secretary of the U.S. Branch for the past four years. He is an enthusiastic genealogist and member of the Clan and has done us proud. Our gratitude goes to Wanda, his wife, too. Leslie has now handed over to Lyman Matheson of Texas.

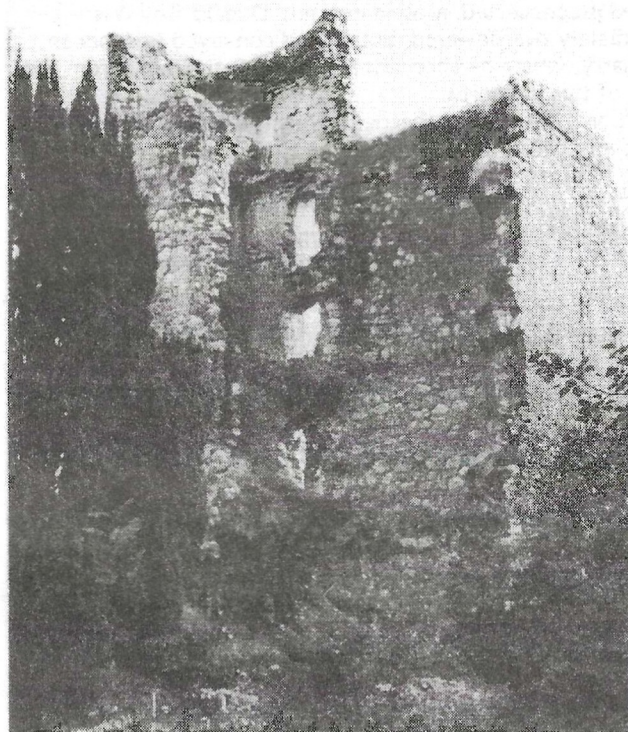
Very best wishes to all of you for Christmas and 1989 from Serena and myself.

Torquhil Matheson of Matheson.

INVERGARRY CASTLE A Matheson connection?

Recently Serena and I visited the ruins of Invergarry Castle which are situated on a crag high above the northern shore of Loch Oich, midway along its length. Sadly it is closely surrounded by tall trees and scrub which obscure its commanding position and it is not easy to take a photograph to do justice to it. The illustration below is taken from the north side with the loch immediately below, behind. The accompanying photo explains its ruined state which is creepy to say the least.

The interest in this castle to Clan Matheson lies in the assumption that it was here that our chief Dugald Roy in the latter part of the 16th Century was taken prisoner after his dispute with Glengarry at Loch Acha-na-hinich in Lochalsh. The story copied from the History of the Mathesons is as follows:-



"Dugald Roy still retained the patrimony of his grandfather Alastair, and Glengarry and he were in the habit of pasturing and taking their rents jointly, as these consisted merely of the produce of the country, and subject to a subsequent division by their several oversmen. On one occasion, unfortunately, there happened to be an old "cabag", or separate piece of butter, which Macdonald's man arrogantly insisted should become the property of his master, and Matheson's, as pertinaciously refusing, divided the subject of contention with his dirk or hanger; an action which, however just, on representation gave mortal offence to his irascible co-proprietor, who swore that MacMathon would not possess a similar opportunity by that time next year; and it appears he took an execrable mode of ensuring his own prediction.

The first step was to break off with Matheson and pick a quarrel with him; and aware that he was so notoriously prejudiced against the flesh of goats, that it would be a studied insult to present it to him, Macdonald ordered a lamb to be fed on goat's milk, and, under a show of hospitality, invited the other to dine with him at a castle he possessed, and the

ruins of which are still to be seen in Loch Acha-na-hinich. So unsuspectingly was Matheson thrown off his guard by the familiar courtesy of his host that, instead of his usual retinue of twelve and his Gillie Mor (for with such a guard men of his rank visited in those days), he was attended only by his Gillie Mor, or champion. The first dish set on the table was of the lamb fed as above, which he no sooner tasted than, imagining it kid, he rejected it; and being sarcastically asked by his entertainer "What objection had he to the dish?", he angrily replied, "You know I do not eat goat's flesh."

Glengarry as warmly asserted that Matheson had never ate of more genuine mutton, and he as pertinaciously insisted upon its being goat. From the dispute, as had been contemplated and preconceived, arose a quarrel; Dugald Roy was immediately overpowered, bound and conveyed prisoner to Invergarry, where he soon after died in confinement from the effect of this indignity.

Dugald Roy was succeeded by his son Murdoch Matheson, commonly called Murchadh Buidhe (or Murdoch with the yellow hair) from whom all the Lochalsh genealogies in the History descend. The ruin in the loch is no more than a heap of stones, known as the "crannog".

Torquhil Matheson.

THE 1988 CLAN GATHERING AT DUNKELD

by Edmond Matheson, E.R.D.

On 26th August, 1988, sixty Mathesons gathered at Dunkeld in Perthshire. To this same town General Hugh MacKay of Scourie, a fugitive from his defeat by Dundee at Killiecrankie, had repaired on 21st August, 1689: he took command of the fiercely puritanical Cameronian Regiment placed at his disposal by King William and put to flight King James's more numerous highland host which had swept down from Killiecrankie in hot pursuit - but without Dundee. This decisive battle contributed to the maintenance of the Glorious Revolution and democracy in these islands.

It was appropriate that Sir Torquhil's first act on arrival at Dunkeld in 1988 was in the democratic tradition to convene the Matheson Parliament which had last assembled in Scotland in 1981, with two meetings since then in Canada. The proceedings of the Parliament are reported elsewhere in this issue.

The basis of protocol agreed, feasting commenced: Sir Torquhil paid tribute to the work of Treasurer Norman and Betty in the organisation of the Gathering which was already bidding fair to become a riotous event: the Convenor thanked the Chief and Serena and others for having travelled long distances to attend. He said that the clan was fortunate in having a Chief and his lady who so thoroughly entered into the fun of such functions as they were presently enjoying.



Elma and Ian the Targe

Formality disposed of, joy was unconfined, the ceilidh commenced. The company took to the floor for reels and more formal dances and we were charmed by piping, singing and recitations until half an hour after midnight when the band packed their instruments and silently stole away - but the fun continued for another two hours in the hotel and finally with Norman and Betty in their house until five o'clock in the morning.



Marjorie, Fiona, Serena Nan and General John and his sister Ethel



Jean, Torquhil, Geelong John, Andrew
with the Fiona with
Targe Lucia



Abigail and Ronald

On the following morning, Saturday, Dunkeld was explored, particularly the twelfth century cathedral, some of the damage thereto resulting from the battle mentioned above, and we crossed Telford's bridge over the turbulent Tay to view "Great Birnam Wood".

In the afternoon we visited the Dunkeld Highland Games at which Norman officiated as a steward. The setting was reminiscent of, but excelled, a scene from the film "Chariots of Fire".



Norman alias
"MacAlister"



Edmond

The Chief's brother, Fergus and his wife Jean with their son Alexander in the Coldstream Guards and his wife Katharine supported us. Their second daughter Fiona with husband Andrew Kendall were also present, together with their daughter, Lucia, aged 7 weeks who slept in her carrycot throughout. Surely Lucia must have been one of the youngest ever to have attended such an event! From Victoria in the Antipodes came Abigail Butler: and that most faithful of all clansmen, Geelong John. It was a pleasure to see Richard once again, the secretary who nurtured the Society during its first fourteen formative years. The Very Reverend Dr. James Matheson, a former Moderator of the Church of Scotland, was the senior of the largest family party which included brother Norman and a band of nieces and nephews.

A truly memorable gathering to rank with those organised by his sister Henrietta in Nairn, in the past! Congratulations Betty and Norman!

THE CLAN PARLIAMENT - 1988

By Edmond Matheson, E.R.D.

The Chief opened Parliament with fifty members present at Dunkeld at seven o'clock in the evening of 26th August: he stated that the existing headquarters officers had informed him that they were prepared to continue in office and they were duly re-elected. The Convenor then took the Speaker's chair and a summary of the proceedings is set forth below.

1. The proceedings of the 1987 Parliament in Nova Scotia, as reported in Newsletter No 42, and on the proposal of the Chief seconded by Lady Matheson of Matheson, (both of whom were present in 1987) were accepted as a true record.

2. The Convenor reported on the strength of the Society as at 30th April, 1987 made up as follows:

England	72
Scotland	50
Europe	5
Australia	45
New Zealand	17
South Africa	5
Total headquarters strength	194
United States of America	196
Canada	122
Grand Total	512

The Headquarters strength was less than that reported at the Parliament in Nova Scotia in 1987, the opportunity having been taken of deleting from the membership roll the names of members whose Newsletters had been returned by the Post Office marked "Gone Away". It was important that members who change their address should notify the Secretary.

3. Copies of the accounts for the years ended 30th June, 1987 and 1988, were distributed and after an explanation by the Treasurer were formally adopted.

4. No change in the rate of subscription was proposed.

5. Intimation was given of a Scottish International Gathering at Inverness from 6th to 14th May, 1989. Details of this would be given in the next Newsletter. (Since the meeting of Parliament a draft programme has been issued which is summarised in a separate article).

The Chief prorogued Parliament and the House rose at half past seven o'clock.

SCOTTISH INTERNATIONAL GATHERING AND WORLD CONGRESS OF SCOTS at INVERNESS - 6th to 14th MAY, 1989

As its name implies this is to be something more than the type of clan gathering to which we have been accustomed in the past. This gathering is designed to reflect all facets of Scottish history, culture and development and is intended to create new interest in tourism, industry, education and commerce.

A Clan Centre with clan booths, information and exhibitions will be located at the Ice Rink while seminars, films, etc. and cultural activities will be centred at the Eden Court Theatre. Throughout the period of the Gathering activities are being organised such as highland games, a clan march on Culloden Moor, theatrical and musical performances and highland balls. Additionally, unofficial functions will no doubt be held in various hotels.

No charge will be made for some of the special features, but in some cases such as concerts, and maybe some seminars, a charge may have to be made to cover the expenses of performers and lecturers.

It is intended that the clan booths should be manned from lunchtime on the Saturday, 6th May, until 5 pm and from 9 am until 5pm from Monday, 8th May, until Thursday, 11th May. A Matheson booth will be provided if local members of the Society will volunteer to be in attendance. If anyone would care to help would they please let the Chief know which days would suit them - this information is required by 31st January, 1989 so that application may be made for a booth. If enough Mathesons signify they will be attending, we will organise a dinner such as the very successful functions which were held in Edinburgh in 1977 and 1981.

A brochure describing the Gathering with a draft programme will be supplied to members on application to the Secretary at Carnoustie. Later editions of the brochure as the programme becomes finalised will be supplied without further application.

OBITUARIES

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

- * Mr Norman Henry Bursill on 5 December 1987, the husband of Mrs Virginia (Douglas-Matheson) Bursill, at Sherfield English, near Romsey, Hants.
- * Mrs Isabel Joan (Matheson) Bonner on 5 November 1987 at Port Hawkesbury, Nova Scotia, mother of Mrs Kathie Bonner-Harris of Labrador City, Newfoundland. Isabel was a keen participator in clan events. She is survived by two daughters, one son and two granddaughters. Kathie was married in the Log Church at Lochbroom, where we had that memorable service last summer, on 16 October 1982.
- * Mr Ian Matheson on 24 June 1988 at Montreal, the husband of Mrs Phyllis Matheson. An Appreciation appears elsewhere in this Newsletter.
- * Mr Farquhar Matheson on 1 February 1988, aged 76, at Kyle of Lochalsh, the husband of Mrs Lucy (Cameron) Matheson. An Appreciation appears in this Newsletter.

FARQUHAR MATHESON

Kyle of Lochalsh

Many members of the Clan all over the world will have heard already of the death of Fachie which happened on 1st February 1988. For the past ten years he had been "our man in Lochalsh", where Mathesons and their connections from at home and abroad could be sure of a true Highland welcome from Lucy and himself in their home.

Being a true clansman and man of Lochalsh he was full of the history and anecdotes of the district, and he was able to bring alive the history of the countryside for those whom he accompanied during their visits. Fachie was an extrovert, bubbling over with an infectious enthusiasm, and he also had a great sense of the occasion, providing music and a dram at the drop of a bonnet!



Born in Glasgow seventy-six years ago, he was brought up in Erbusaig where he attended the village school, and as he grew older, helped with teaching the younger ones. His life's work centred on the croft and the Kyle railway station, and at MacBrayne's depot there. His wartime service as a Sergeant in the Royal Engineers took him to Gibraltar and North Africa and he had a fund of amusing stories to support it, especially of meeting Gaelic speakers in out of the way places!

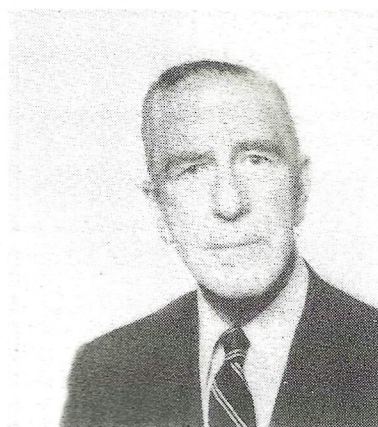
Lochalsh now seems an emptier place without him, and I and the whole Clan will always be eternally thankful for his whole hearted, enthusiastic and cheerful efforts on our behalf.

He was a devoted family man, and our thoughts and sympathy go out to Lucy, his wife, and his daughters Linda (Mrs Stuart, Forbes) and Christina, and his sister Nan (Mrs Boyle, Kyle).

Torquhil Matheson.

IAN MATHESON

Ian Matheson, who died in Montreal in June of this year, was the son of Arthur John Matheson and Madeline Letitia Cartwright and was born in Kingston, Ontario, 28 August 1910. He attended McGill University, graduating in 1932 with a Bachelor of Commerce Degree. All his working life was spent with the Dominion Securities Corp, except in the war, when he joined the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada. He rose to the rank of Major, serving in the United Kingdom and North West Europe. After V-E Day he volunteered for service in the Pacific and trained in the United States until V-J Day. He was then involved in the repatriation of Canadian prisoners of war from Hong Kong, after which he returned to Europe to help pay billeting bills etc to our Allies.



On arrival in the United Kingdom in 1940 he wrote to my father in Lochalsh, but never managed to get there on leave. Suffice to say, the correspondence continued mainly at Christmas for over forty-five years. It still continues with the next generation! It was not until about 1984 that Phyllis and Ian were to meet my mother for the only time at her home in England, when, with my brother Fergus present, to quote Phyllis, "they had a hilarious luncheon party"!

Ian was a valued member of the Clan Society in Canada where he was Honorary Treasurer until moving from Montreal to Victoria B.C. He married Phyllis Elder in 1947 and their family consists of John (1949), Deborah (1953) and Neil (1957).

Torquhil Matheson

CONGRATULATIONS

- * to Bruce Matheson and Silvi Dauphenais on the birth of their son, Ocel Dauphenais-Matheson on 24 May 1988 at Montreal.
- * to Heather Gail Matheson, daughter of Mr and Mrs Malcolm Matheson III of Washington D.C., on her engagement to Mr Scott DeForest Shiland. Their wedding is planned to take place in The Plains, Virginia in October 1988.
- * to Flora Matheson and Christopher English on their recent marriage at Charlottetown. Flora is the daughter of Miles and Bertha Matheson of Morell, Prince Edward Island.
- * to Neil and Alison Matheson on the birth of their son Ian Steel Matheson in Montreal. Young Ian is the first grandchild of the late Ian and of Mrs Phyllis Matheson, lately of Montreal and now of Victoria B.C.
- * to Kenneth and Mary Matheson, Little Narrows, Cape Breton Island, on the occasion of their Golden Wedding last summer.
- * to Dr Iain and Susan Matheson lately of Rudha Mor, Plockton, Wester Ross and now at 4 Lowther Road, Millom, Cumbria, on celebrating their Golden Wedding.

* to Steven Matheson and Judith Conrod on their marriage at Knox United Church, Lower Sackville, Nova Scotia on 20 August 1988. Steven, Clan Piper for Nova Scotia, is the son of Al and Beverly Matheson.

* to Fiona (Matheson) and Andrew Kendall of 49 Lansdowne Gdns, London SW8 2EL on the birth of their first child, Lucia Amelia Fiona, on 7 July 1988.

MORE EARLY MATHESON SETTLERS IN NORTH AMERICA

Contributed by Charles Mathieson Otsot

The Genealogical Publishing Company of Baltimore, Maryland has issued two more volumes of David Dobson's "Directory of Scottish Settlers in North America, 1625-1825". (See Newsletters Nos. 39 and 40 for earlier items).

Volume V (1985) has persons found in various Clan histories, other family compilations, miscellaneous magazine articles, as well as from various archives. The "History of Mathesons", Stirling, 1900 (HOM) and the Public Archives on Ontraio (PAO) yielded twelve Math(i)esons:

1. Alexander Matheson: Fourth son of Colin Matheson of Bennetsfield and Grace Grant, who were married in 1784. Merchant in Berbice. Died 1819. (HOM) (Also listed in Volume III).
2. Alexander Mathieson: Born in Scotland. Military settler. Received a land grant in Bathurst, Upper Canada on 23 July 1816. (PAO: MS-154)
3. Charles Mackenzie Matheson: Third son of Colin Matheson of Bennetsfield and Grace Grant, who were married in 1784. Merchant in Berbice. Married Margaret Fraser. Father of Colin (who died in America), Simon, Rev. Charles, John, Donald, Anthony and Maria. (HOM).
4. Farquhar Matheson: Second son of John Matheson of Duirinish and Mary MacKenzie. Emigrated from Scotland with his family to America in 1774. (HOM).
5. Farquhar Matheson: Son of John Matheson and Flora MacRae, Inverness. Emigrated from Scotland to Canada before 1812. Killed at Fort Wellington, Upper Canada on 7 November 1813. (HOM).
6. Farquhar Matheson: Yeoman. Emigrated from Scotland to Canada. Received a land grant in Eldon, Newcastle, Upper Canada on 8 March 1826. (PAO)
7. John Matheson: Son of Murdoch Matheson who died in 1815. Emigrated from Scotland to Cape Breton Island in 1820. (HOM).
8. John Matheson: Son of Donald Matheson, 1744-1845, miller at Fernaig. Parish school master of Lochalsh, Inverness-shire from 1820 to 1830. Emigrated from Scotland to Cape Breton Island (HOM).
9. Murdoch Matheson: Son of Roderick Matheson, farmer at Lochcarron, Ross & Cromarty and Margaret McRae. Educated at King's College, Aberdeen. Emigrated from Scotland to America during 1809. Died at Lexington 1817. (HOM).
10. Roderick Matheson: Born c1792, son of John Matheson and Flora McRae, Inverness. Emigrated from Scotland to Canada pre 1812. Paymaster of the Glengarry Fencibles from 1812 to 1816. Military settler. Received land grants in Upper Canada in July 1816. Settled in Perth, Lanark. Married (1) Mary Fraser Robertson on 5 November 1823 - died 1825; and (2) Annabella Russell on 11 August 1830. Father of John, Roderick, William, Charles, Arthur and Allan. Died 1873. (HOM) (PAO) (Also listed in Volume III).
11. Roderick Mathieson: Son of Murdoch Mathieson, who died 1815. Emigrated from Scotland to Cape Breton Island 1820. (HOM).
12. William Mathieson: Born in Scotland. Former sergeant in the Canadian Fencibles. Military settler. Received a land grant in Drummond, Upper Canada 10 October 1816. (PAO).

Volume VI (1986) covers names found in the records of the Register of Deeds, Edinburgh; and includes reference to one Matheson:

13. David Matheson: Discharged by John Alexander, writer to the Signet, factor for David Matheson, merchant in New York, of debt due by John Hepburn Belches of Invermay and Sir John Wishart Belches, baronet. Subscribed in Edinburgh on 26 November 1792. Witnesses Alexander Gibson Hunter, apprentice, and James Borthwick. (RD 2.260. 214).

Notes on the above by the Editor from The History of the Mathesons, Stirling 1900. (HOM)

- 1 and 3. Both appear on page 49. Their father, Colin, was Chief. When the direct line of Chiefs from their elder brothers failed on the death of Eric Grant Matheson in 1899, the succession passed colaterally to the son of the Reverend Charles Matheson and grandson of Charles Mackenzie Matheson, Heylin Fraser Matheson, and to his son the late Colonel Bertram Matheson of Matheson, M.C.
4. Page 88. Second son of John Og Matheson of Duirinish.
- 5 and 10. Pages 94-96. Brothers. Roderick, the younger brother survived to become the progenitor of the Perth, Canada Branch of the Clan which survives to this day, and also was a Senator of the Dominion of Canada. See p.6.
6. No trace in HOM.
- 7 and 11. Page 108. Brothers. John was eldest and Roderick the third son of Murdoch, killed in an encounter with the Revenue men in Scalpa Bay, Loch Alsh, in 1815, v. the accounts on page 2 of Newsletter No. 41.
8. Page 108. Donald the Miller was the elder brother of Murdoch, above. There is still a Tigh na Muileann beside the burn in Fernaig, though only for residence. Judging by the "footings" it is built on the old site.
9. Page 119. Murdoch's father, Roderick, is none other than Ruairaidh 'n Iomaire (Rorie of Immer) who wrote the Immer Mss of Matheson Genealogy.
- 2, 6, 12 and 13. No trace in HOM.



Tigh na Muileann at Fernaig
(The Miller's House)

Donald the Miller lived here. He died in 1845, aged 101, at Avernish on the northern shore of Loch Alsh.

SENATOR RODERICK MATHESON, of Perth, Ontario

Notes gleaned from the Champlain Society, Toronto, concerning the Canadian War of 1812, Volume 2. Amongst the killed and wounded after the Battle of Sackett's Harbour 29 May 1813, is:-

Ensgn. Mathieson Glengarys. Slightly wounded.

And in Volume 3, Part 2:-

(Archives, C. 797. p.254).

From Matheson at Three Rivers to Freer at Quebec

Three Rivers 8th March 1814

Sir/

I enclose you a letter from the superintendents of accmpts, notifying that all pay for soldiers whilst prisoners of War, should, in all cases, be issued through the Agents of the Regiment in England:-

I beg leave to state that there are several Non-Commissioned Officers and Soldiers of the Glengarry Light Infantry Regiment who have Effectuated their escape from American prisons and joined the Regiment, totally in want of all necessities.

I have to request you will inform me if I am authorised to draw their back pay, for the period they have been prisoner's of War:-

I am Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant

RODK MATHESON

Lieut & Pay Mr Gleny Lt Infy.



The present Mansion House of Fernaig, Lochalsh.
(From Tigh na Muileann)

Fernaig was essentially the seat of the Matheson Chiefs until 1687, when the then Chief, John Mor Matheson established himself on the Black Isle and became "of Bennetsfield", his estate. Colonel Bertram was the last of the Bennetsfield line.

Farquhar Matheson (obit 1725, and buried in Lochalsh Churchyard), a cousin of John Mor and progenitor of the present Chief, succeeded him as tacksman of Fernaig. Farquhar's great, great grandson, John IV of Attadale, relinquished the tack in 1810.

John's son Alexander (later 1st Baronet of Lochalsh) purchased Fernaig with Lochalsh in 1851 but never resided there. Sir Kenneth, 2nd Baronet, sold Fernaig c.1916, at the same time as Duncraig.

GENEALOGY NOTES

Glen Matheson, Nova Scotia, writes:-

At our Annual Meeting in September 1987, we acted on the advice of our Chief and recognized the position of Clan Genealogist for Mainland Nova Scotia, to which I have been appointed. At this point we have identified several branches that settled in Northern Nova Scotia.

1. Descendants of William Matheson and Mary MacKenzie of Sutherlandshire, emigrated 1773 and settled at Scotsburn. Descendants at Durham, Hardwood Hill and Pictou.
2. Descendants of Angus and Walter Matheson of Lairg, Scotland and Millbrook, Pictou County, emigrated 1803. Descendants settled at West River Station, Brookfield, Tatamagouche area.
3. Descendants of Robert Matheson of Lairg, settled near Union Centre. Descendants appear to have moved to U.S.A.
4. Descendants of Neil Matheson and Catherine Alexander of Lairg, emigrated to New Lairg. Descendants settled in Glengarry.
5. Descendants of Duncan Matheson, son of Neil, emigrated from Lairg and settled near Wilken's Grant.
6. Descendants of Finley and Donald Matheson, Lairg, who settled near New Lairg. Descendants settled at West River Station, Gairloch and Four Mile Brook.
7. Descendants of Gilbert Matheson of Golspie, Scotland, emigrated 1832 to Upper Kemptown. Descendants near Tatamagouche and various locations in Western Canada and U.S.A.
8. Descendants of George Matheson of Rogart, Scotland, emigrated 1818 to Earlton. Descendants at Tatamagouche, Truro, etc.
9. Descendants of unknown emigrant to Rawdon area of Hants County. Descendants now around Fall River, Newport, etc.
10. Descendants of Donald Matheson and Anne Hepburn, MacLellans Mountain.

It is interesting to note that a large number of Scots emigrated to Southern Ontario at the same time as our ancestors. Tradition has it that some near relatives settled around Woodstock and Embro. Hopefully with time we will make the connection.

We have the beginnings of a good genealogy on each of these families. If you recognise one of them as your own, please send an outline of the descendants to me at the address below:

Glen Matheson
RR No.1
Debert, Nova Scotia,
BOM 1G0



Loch Shin, Lairg

EARLY DAYS OF THE CLAN MATHESON SOCIETY by Ronald Matheson, L.V.O., R.D.

Comparing present membership of the Society with its membership in the 1960s one realises that not only has the Society grown but also that many members now will have little knowledge of what it was like in its early days. Inevitably, I am afraid, these notes will mostly be the writer's personal memories and impressions and I hope that others who were also members then will, through the pages of the Newsletter, supplement and perhaps correct my own recollections. I must in any case end with my own retirement as Convener in 1974 and leave to my successors in office to bring up to date the history of the Society.

In 1961, following a chance meeting between Richard Matheson (of whom more later) and Piper John Matheson on Clapham Common where the latter was judging a piping contest, Richard discussed the possibility of forming a Clan Matheson Society with the late Robert Matheson, Landlord of the Admiral Nelson in Gravesend by the River Thames, and a Meeting was arranged to take place at the Admiral Nelson to which Mathesons known to be living in the London area were invited. So the Society was launched, Murdoch and Allan Matheson being elected Secretary and Treasurer respectively. My wife and I had journeyed to Gravesend for the meeting but unfortunately I had difficulty in finding the Lord Nelson and we arrived only after the proceedings had ended.

Iain Matheson, a Surgeon Consultant at one of the London Hospitals, was elected Chairman and regular meetings began to be held at the Royal Scottish Corporation's Headquarters in London. Murdoch emigrated to Australia in 1962 and Allan left at about the same time. Richard then became Secretary and I became Treasurer with Rosemary Cornish (nee Matheson) and John Matheson (the Piper) as the first elected committee members.

I remember that the committee then began to meet in a public house near Victoria Station but later at Iain's home in Dulwich.

On the death of Heylin Fraser Matheson, c. 1945, the chiefship was allowed to lapse but was revived in 1961 in favour of Colonel Bertram Heylin Matheson, originally of the Seaforth Highlanders but later of the 54th Sikhs, Punjab Frontier Force. Being a bachelor with no heirs, Bertram nominated General Sir Torquhil Matheson, 5th Baronet of Lochalsh, K.C.B., C.M.G., and his heirs to be his successors.

Our Chairman, Iain, wrote to Bertram asking for his support. In a very friendly reply Bertram assured us of his good wishes but did not feel that he could associate himself in an official capacity with the Society since his rank and style as Chief of the Clan had not then been confirmed by Lord Lyon King of Arms. Happily this took place shortly afterwards.

Happily too, Iain was very interested in genealogy and on completion of a questionnaire by new members was able to assist them in tracing their ancestry. In fact, under Iain, this became the principal activity of the Society with the co-operation of the Reverend William Matheson, the historian, in Edinburgh.

Richard, our Secretary, formerly a Sergeant in the Black Watch, during the whole of the period covered by these notes, deserves much credit for keeping the Society alive in a social sense. He kept in touch with other clan Societies, their ceilidhs, and activities generally and always seemed able to attend those in the London area when he would represent the Clan and its Society. By 1967 our membership had increased to 34 life members and 58 annual members.

In 1967, Iain retired from his London hospital appointment and returned to his home in Plockton, Wester Ross. I became Chairman and Colin Matheson became Treasurer and it is to Colin that we owe our series of Christmas cards and the first professional printing of the Newsletter.

Malcolm Matheson and his wife, Jennifer, replaced John and Rosemary as elected members of the Committee. Jennifer was very enthusiastic and prolific with suggestions for the Society and especially the encouragement of the younger generation. Shortly afterwards, Malcolm relieved Colin as Honorary Treasurer but fortunately Colin was able to stay on the Committee as Membership Secretary and to continue his work in connection with the Newsletter of which he became

Editor with Dugald Matheson for a time as Assistant Secretary. About this time too we produced our first Directory of Members which was distributed to all the members.

One of my early actions was to change the title of Chairman to Convener which I thought had a more Scottish usage and was also a title used by Lord Lyon when writing about Clan Societies in his book on clans and their histories.

It was as Chairman or Convener that I got to know Bertram our Chief. Bertram kindly introduced me as a member of his club in London where he and I used to meet and discuss amongst other matters the affairs of the Society. I held some rather heretical opinions to which he always listened patiently and sympathetically and usually convinced me of my errors. He admirably filled the role of father figure to which his age entitled him and always attended our Annual Dinners as well as a very successful Garden Party given by the late Norman Matheson and his wife at their home in Virginia Water. I have very happy recollections of knowing him, and the Clan was very lucky in Bertram as Chief until his death in 1975, and now in Sir Torquhil, eldest son of the General who died in 1963.

We also acquired two honorary members, the Duchess of Richmond and Gordon, a cousin of Bertram's and Ginger Rogers, a McMath, the actress and dancing partner of Fred Astaire. I had hoped to invite Ginger to at least the closing stages of one of our dinners when the date coincided with one of her rare appearances on the London stage and had planned to call on her in her dressing room after the performance to try to persuade her to come back to our restaurant with me, but when the time came, I doubted if she could accept at such short notice or rather non-existent notice and the dinner might in any case by then be coming to an end and so I didn't try.

Our dinners had become an annual event, arranged by Richard and were held at one or other of the smaller London restaurants. We could scarcely expect members not within easy travelling distance of London to attend but some did and they were almost invariably attended by the Chief, Torquhil and Serena. On one occasion we were honoured by the presence of Lady Elizabeth Matheson, the General's widow and Torquhil's and Fergus's mother. I should also mention that in 1969 we held a reunion dinner at the Epicure Restaurant in Edinburgh which unfortunately I was not able to attend, but heard afterwards that it had been very successful.

Occasionally, there was a suggestion that we should try to accumulate a fund for the assistance of any member who might fall on hard times, but this was not proceeded with for various reasons, but principally because we were too small to accumulate a reserve fund which would be large enough to be useful.

We also participated in an annual ceilidh held jointly by the Clan Macpherson, Clan Gunn and Clan Matheson Societies at St Columba's Church Hall, Pont Street in London but sadly the Clan Macpherson Society, which had been the moving spirit gave up a few years ago and the event has not been continued. I should also mention, that the late Captain Alick Matheson, R.N. kindly issued a standing invitation to any members who might be visiting the district to call on him at his home in Brahan Castle, Ross-shire and those who did were made very welcome.

It is difficult to remember all the changes in Officers but I do remember that my daughter Margaret for a time carried out the duties of Treasurer.

It will be seen that the Society, all the officers of which lived in or fairly close to London, inevitably became a London Society and although our indefatigable North American Representative, Isabel Matheson Dougherty, used quite often to come to London with her husband, she was the exception and contact with those living far from London, and especially with the always enthusiastic overseas members, could usually only be maintained by personal letter and the Newsletter.

As a result of the dinner at the Epicure Restaurant in Edinburgh we tried to form an Edinburgh Branch of the Society. There was much initial encouraging interest shown by Mathesons in Edinburgh and even the nomination of an Edinburgh Secretary but the idea didn't get off the ground and had to be dropped. A social movement like a Clan Society branch needs a local committee as well as a Secretary to

bring it to life and keep it alive. It is not really possible or even desirable for a "Head Office" to supply and put into practice the necessary initiatives and ideas. We in London used sometimes to feel that it was not always easy to generate enthusiasm amongst the United Kingdom Mathesons whose interest was not always as evident as it was overseas, and I remember devoting a Newsletter to an attempted analysis of the problem. Unfortunately I do not have a copy now but I think that the conclusion I arrived at was that success depends on the active goodwill of individual members which they could best demonstrate by offering a welcome to other Mathesons visiting their localities.

I have often felt that as a Clan Society our base should be in Scotland and in 1974 we held a week-end in Aviemore. I see from a photograph that 28 members were present including the Chief, Torquhil and Serena. The highlight of the proceedings was a very enjoyable dinner and dance. It was at Aviemore that I announced my belief that the Society's base should be in Scotland and that my brother Edmond of Carnoustie had kindly offered to take over from me as Convenor. That this was the right decision is evidenced by the increased membership and establishment of autonomous branches in the United States and Canada. Long live Clan Matheson and the Clan Matheson Society.

PIPERS AND SURGEONS

* Pipe Major Dugald Matheson. Since Newsletter No 41 was published Regimental Headquarters of The Queen's Own Highlanders (Seaforth and Camerons) have supplied the following information:-

Dugald was Pipe Major of the 2nd Battalion Cameron Highlanders from 1908 until 1916 when he was severely wounded in Salonica. On recovery he was Pipe Major of the 3rd Battalion from 1918 until he took his discharge in 1920. Although the Headquarters hold no list of tunes composed by him, there is a Slow Air "The South Uist Emigrants" in the Regimental Collection, annotated as being arranged by him."



Pipe Major Dugald and his wife, Elizabeth McRae, flanked by son Dugald and his wife, who are the parents of Ian Matheson, Balmoral, New Zealand.

* There is a book, probably in the archives of the Black Watch Museum, titled, "The Record of Services of the Sergeants, 42nd Royal Highland Regiment." The period covers from 24 August 1826 until 29 April 1873. There were three N.C.O. co-authors, and one of them was William Matheson, the only member of the Clan to appear in the book. His record of service is given below, but the Editor is unable to identify him in the Parish Registers of Births and Marriages in Scotland in his possession.

3409 William Matheson.

Enlisted 21 August 1854. Promoted Corporal 30 December 1862, and Lance Sergeant same date. Officiating Schoolmaster Sergeant 15 September 1862 to 4 February 1863. Sergeant 6 September 1864. Assistant Instructor of Musketry 14 November 1865, Color Sergeant 29 June 1866. Died at Huntly, 13 October 1878, of "Consumption". Married at Huntley 13 May 1868. He had the Indian Mutiny Medal with the clasp for Lucknow. (Note. This clasp was for the capture of Lucknow City in 1858, and is separate from the epic Defence of the Residency and the two Reliefs of the Residency which events took place in 1857).

* Pipe Major Alexander Matheson. (Extract from "The Piper in Peace and War"). A Golspie man who at the age of seventeen accompanied the Duke of Sutherland as a piper on a yachting voyage round the world. Played before the King of Siam and the Sultan of Johore. In 1889 was appointed Pipe Major, 1st Battalion Royal Scots. Served in the South African War and after that was Pipe Major to the 3rd Battalion. Retired to pension in 1912. Winner of many prizes.

* From the Roll of the Indian Medical Service, 1615 to 1930, by Lieut. Colonel D.G. Crawford, Bengal Medical Service. 1930:-

** William Matheson, Assistant Surgeon Bengal 11 August 1769. Died 6 June 1774 at Kushalganj, Lucknow. (In one reference his name is spelled Matthewson).

** Gilbert Mathison, Bombay. Appointed Surgeon Tellicherry 1744. Appointed Surgeon, Surat 31 March 1744. Surgeon, Bombay 1745. Died Bombay 17 December 1757.

** John Mathison, Madras. Born 27 December 1812. M.D. Edinburgh, 1834. Assistant Surgeon 9 February 1836. Surgeon 1852. Died 26 September 1852 at Vaniambadi, Vellore.

FINLAY J MATHESON

Finlay is the son of Mr and Mrs Murdo Matheson of Evanton, Ross-shire, but he lives on his croft at Arinackaig, Strathcarron, Wester Ross. Last December he completed a magnificent sponsored walk of some 50-60 miles by mountain paths and tracks through the glens from Achintee, Strathcarron to the Cromarty Firth at Dingwall in some pretty vile weather. He spent one night on the way at Bridgend in Strathcarron.

As a result of his efforts the Highland Hospice Appeal benefitted by the sum of £845.10 from two hundred and fifty sponsors.

AN CARRANACH

The following notice may be of interest to members who have West Coast connections. It is a good, interesting, locally produced magazine.

The An Carranach Society was formed about four years ago with a view to stimulating the social, recreative and leisure pursuits of the people in the parish of Lochcarron; Carranach being the Gaelic name for a native of the parish. The society started a newspaper which has now grown into a monthly twenty page A4 magazine covering a multitude of subjects along the original theme, and now including historical matters, current affairs and old and modern photographs. There is also a correspondence column in which a regular feature is a report from a Carranach nursing in Saudi Arabia. The cost is 25p a month, postage extra.

The address of the Editor is:-

Mr Angus Mackenzie
8 Sage Terrace, Lochcarron, Strathcarron,
Ross-shire.

CANADIAN BRANCHES

News from Cape Breton indicates that they have had a busy summer. Jessie Ross has now relinquished secretaryship and from this side of the pond I hope that she will realise just how much her work has been appreciated. Chris Weeks, RR2, Sydney, N.S. B1P 6G4, has volunteered to take her place. Gus the Mountie, I gather has left for Ontario to help look after his ageing mother. They have our best wishes.

In Nova Scotia, the branch continues to make ground after all the efforts put into 1987. Among many activities there was a very successful picnic on 28 August hosted by Vaughan and Donna Matheson at their cottage at Shotts Lake, near Brockfield. Everyone was pleased to see Ella from Marion Bridge, C.B., and Art from Summerside, P.E.I., who is recovering from his recent illness. A cake was provided by Loudelle for the five August birthdays, which included Al's father Ernest who was 88 on that very day. Other news received is that Trueman is making improvement after his illness, and that his daughter, Pearl Alice, has returned home from Toronto. The list of office holders is a formidable array of Mathesons, the President being Roger Matheson, East River St Marys, and the Secretary, the indefatigable Beverly Matheson, 88 Beaumont Drive, Lower Sackville, N.S., B4C 1V6.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

* Mr Duncan "Stalker" Matheson of Camus Luinie, Wester Ross, at the time of writing is in Sydney, New South Wales, supervising the construction of a memorial cairn in a newly created park. The stones have been collected from parishes all over Scotland, and shipped to Australia. The cairn will be twelve feet high when finished and will be topped by a celtic cross hewn from a slate from the tiny Island of Ulva, off Mull, the birthplace of Lachlan Macquarrie (1762-1864), a distinguished Governor of New South Wales who became known as the Father of Australia.

During the past few months Duncan has rethatched a cottage in Rhu, the only one in Plockton, and it has been much admired and photographed by visitors.

* The following extract from "Memories of the Golden Road, a History of the Presbyterian Church in Central Otago" by Alexander Don, has been sent by John Kidd, Papatoetoe N.Z.:-

"The story of the Matheson family should cover many pages, for the strain has been kept true to type through successive generations. We begin on the romantic Isle of Skye, where the Free Kirk members were denied the right to purchase a site for a church. It was on 18 May 1843, in the shadow of Castle Rock, Edinburgh, that the famous scene was enacted in the Scottish Assembly, when, under Dr Chalmers, Scotland's greatest leader since the days on Knox, 474 men renounced all claims to the benefices they held, thus voluntarily surrendering an income amounting to over £100,000 annually. In the half century following the Disruption, by a magnificent effort on the part of the people of Scotland, over £23 millions were raised for the support of ministers, professors, and teachers, and for the construction of numerous buildings. This great national movement affected materially the fortunes of the Otago Settlement, for large numbers of these people, both ministers and laymen, found a new home in this Province. It seems strange to reflect that when the members of the First Church, Dunedin, were well established in the new land many of their kinsfolk were still worshipping in the fields or in the open hillsides at Home.

Mr Matheson having died in 1862, his widow sailed two years later for New Zealand. A pious woman and a loyal Presbyterian, she had been one of the first collectors for the Sustentation Fund in Skye. She was an interesting figure in the early days at Miller's Flat, where she resided from 1864

till her death at the age of eighty-five in 1879, her greatest delight being in the reading of her Gaelic Bible. She was accompanied from Home by her sons Murdoch and Malcolm, the former's wife and three children, and by Mary McDonald, sister of Murdoch's wife.

Murdoch Matheson settled on a farm at Miller's Flat, where he took a leading part in Church activities, especially those connected with the welcome to the Rev Donald Ross. Later he and his family removed to Palmerston North, where he was an elder of St Andrew's from 1881 until his death in January 1900. His son John was connected with the Church as elder and Sunday School teacher in Marlon, New Plymouth, Dannevirke, and St James's, Auckland, and when he died in 1933, his teaching service had covered forty years. All the other members of Murdoch Matheson's family have always taken an active interest in the work of the Presbyterian Church, a grandson, the Rev J.W. McKenzie, being the present minister of Epsom, Auckland.

Malcolm Matheson joined the others in 1868, taught in the Sunday School at Miller's Flat with Mrs John Crawford, and served as an elder for a number of years until he removed to Mokoreta, Southland, where he was a member of Session and also taught in Sunday School till failing eyesight compelled him to give up the work. He died in 1913 in Dunedin, where his sons Peter and Malcolm, were elders in Chalmers Church, now disbanded.

The fact that two members of the Matheson family were already in the colonies no doubt induced the rest to turn their steps towards Otago in 1864. Roderick and Dugald landed in Victoria, were present at the famous Eureka Stockade, came to Fox's in 1862, and eventually settled down to pastoral farming, being the first to graze sheep on the Coronet Peak Station. Roderick then farmed at Arthur's Point, and was connected with the early history of the Church at Miller's Flat, being elected the first secretary on 5 March 1870. He, too, became an office-bearer in Palmerston North in 1881, his death taking place in 1907. The family have been outstanding in their service. Alex, an elder at Johannesburg, died at sea in 1930, followed a year later by John, who had been an elder at Palmerston North and New Plymouth. Three others are at present in office as members of Session - Ronald at Ngaruahia, Peter at Hamilton and William at Palmerston North.

Dugald Matheson, who remained a bachelor, was a consistent supporter of the Miller's Flat Church, and after settling in Palmerston North, was also elected an elder. He died in 1909. Altogether, the record of the family is outstanding from the number who have taken a prominent part in the life of the Church wherever their lot has been cast.

Duncan Matheson, who was born in Skye in 1826, came to Victoria after service his apprenticeship to the building trade, and then joined the rush to Tuapeka in 1861, and to Fox's in 1862. When the Presbyterian Church was established in the later sixties, he gave his services freely in connection with Sunday School and with the singing. Owing to opposition, instrumental music was not introduced for many years, but at last an organ was procured, Mr James Boyne consenting to act as organist. Then Mr and Mrs Duncan Matheson led the service of praise, the former conducting, and the latter playing. Mr Matheson died in 1899, and his widow twelve years later.

In October 1931, Mr J.H. Matheson retired from the teaching profession after 45 years service, six of which he had spent at Balclutha, eighteen at Strath Taieri, and the rest at Kaikorai, Dunedin. For practically the whole of the period spent in Middlemarch he acted as choirmaster, while Mrs Matheson was organist - a very fine record."

John Kidd goes on to write:-

"Many members of this family settled in the North Island, mostly in the Palmerston North area. One descendant, James Roderick Matheson (Rod) won some renown when he took his bagpipes with him in World War II. When the first echelon from New Zealand arrived in Egypt, they were given an official welcome by Anthony Eden, with Rod also playing a "Welcome" on his pipes. Rod carried his pipes with him wherever he went, playing for the pleasure of his fellow soldiers. When badly wounded he became parted from his beloved pipes.

However his mates managed to trace him to where he lay in hospital and returned them to him. Rod recovered from his wounds and returned to New Zealand to live to a ripe old age. His pipes had also been played in the Crimean War, but not, as far as is known, by a Matheson.

Ian Matheson is at present archivist for the Palmerston North City Council. Other close relatives live in Auckland district."

* Catherine (Matheson) Cluley, Thornhill, Ontario, sent an interesting newspaper cutting concerning Dr Elizabeth Matheson who 'after seven years as a missionary at Onion Lake, Saskatchewan, returned to her studies in Toronto to graduate in 1898, and became the first woman missionary doctor in Saskatchewan - another of the unsung heroines in Canada's history'."



Dr. Elizabeth Matheson

OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY

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.

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.

NEWS INFORMATION, PHOTOGRAPHS FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER TO EDITOR BY 20 SEPTEMBER 1989

Convener and Hon. Secretary, Edmond J.M. Matheson,
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Clan Genealogist, Mrs. Janet Matheson Dorn, 701 Morrow
Industrial Blvd, Apt 10B, Jonesboro, Georgia 30236,
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

* Mrs Barbara Spiers, formerly of Bendigo, now of Maiden Gulley, Victoria, writes that her first grandson, now three years old, is named Lachlan Blair Matheson Spiers "to perpetuate the name".

* Janet Matheson Dorn recently visited the closing ceremonies of the Stone Mountain Games, Georgia, with her youngest daughter Jennifer. This involved a Tattoo in which the Pipes and Drums of the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards took part. Their highlight was being introduced to Chief "Dode" McIntosh, aged 95, Chief of the Creek Indians. He is helping to promote a book about his famous ancestor "Chief William McIntosh, Man of Two Worlds". Indian and Scottish bloodlines began to mingle soon after Scottish immigrants began to arrive in Georgia in the mid-18th-century when the Highlanders started to marry Creek women. The Chief lives in Oklahoma.

* Members of the Society should begin to follow the progress, in the world of tennis, of Ross Matheson of Newton Mearns, Glasgow. He has recently left Millfield, the school in Somerset which has produced many outstanding young sportsmen among whom is Duncan Goodhew the Olympic swimmer. Ross's father, Harry, is also an outstanding player, and they sometimes partner each other in important tournaments.

* For two weeks last March, Crissie, daughter of David and Dianne Matheson of Toronto, accompanied the Havergal College of Toronto Choir on a tour in England. They sang at Evensong at Carlisle, Gloucester and St Alban's Cathedrals, and at York Minster; at concerts at Rickmansworth Masonic School for Girls, St Martin-in-the Fields, London, an Old Girls Reunion at Canada House: and at Sedburgh School in the north of England. There was also a concert at All Saints Church, Barwick-in-Elmet, Yorkshire. Her brother, Andrew, is presently attending McGill University, Montreal.