



Clan Matheson Society

NEWSLETTER NO 44 OCT. 1989

Deposited in the National Library of Scotland

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, 1989.

It hardly seems possible that another year has passed. I am always being told that "It's old age creeping on", but I don't believe it! We just seem to pack in more and more work, business or pleasure - call it what you will - and that makes time fly!

Certainly it seems only yesterday (25th June) that the New Zealand Mathesons had the exciting inauguration of the newest Branch of the Clan Society, and you can read elsewhere of its success.

Looking to the future, in 1991 there will be another International Clan Gathering in Ontario in early August. The dates and venue are not yet confirmed, but certainly within the first two weeks. Serena and I have accepted an invitation to Nova Scotia to dovetail in with the main event. The dates will be confirmed as soon as possible.

Genealogy is one of our more important activities and with the appointment of Canadian, American and New Zealand Branch genealogists, will those Branch genealogists please co-ordinate their findings with Janet Matheson Dorn who is the Clan Genealogist.

Watching on television from the peace of our kitchen at Standerwick, the path of destruction of Hurricane Hugo as it ploughed its way into South Carolina, we had an atlas open, conscious that our own cousins, the descendants of Great Uncle Donald, who landed at Charleston aged 15 in 1825, were being affected in some disastrous way. There was a feeling of "We're involved too". The same situation occurred 3 years ago when the fires swept Victoria and New South Wales. Two years ago when this country experienced that ghastly October hurricane, our kith and kin from overseas wrote expressing their concern. I have no doubt that Joel's family found the same solace when Tim was aboard Rowan Gorilla last December. And now, as we go to press, there is the Californian earthquake and our thoughts are with the many Mathesons, amongst all those others, who may have been affected. We are spread the world over: we support each other.

Best wishes for Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all wherever you may be from Serena, Nell, Bella and Will, and myself.

Torquhil Matheson of Matheson.

ROWAN GORILLA I.

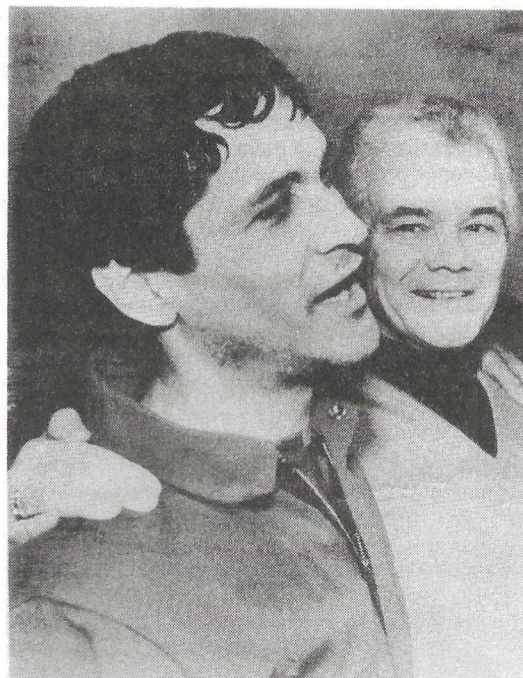
Late last fall (1988), Tim Matheson, son of Joel Matheson, Honorary Secretary for Canada, signed on as a crew member to help ferry the oil rig Rowan Gorilla I across the Atlantic Ocean to the North Sea Oil Fields. The Gorilla is one of the world's largest jack-up rigs.

Although Tim had never kept a diary during any of his previous times at sea, he decided to keep a journal during this trip because "the last time a Matheson took 45 days to cross the Atlantic Ocean was probably when my ancestors came over to this side". Tim noted that although they left in calm seas from Halifax Harbour, just six days later the Rowan Gorilla broke free from its tug and began to sink in stormy seas nearly 600 miles southeast of Halifax. He and his 26 fellow-crewmembers were forced to abandon the rig for an enclosed capsule in which they spent another 22 hours being buffeted by waves that sometimes reached 100 feet, before finally being rescued.

The rig left on Thursday, December 8th and all went well until Friday, December 9th when the storm commenced. By Saturday

the 10th, the wind had picked up to 30-40 knots and the waves started to get extremely high. The weather kept deteriorating over the next number of days and by Tuesday, December 13th the waves were nearly 50 feet and equipment started to break loose from the deck of the rig.

The water was pouring in through most of the hatches and into the interior of the rig. Several cracks appeared in the hull thereby causing great concern to all. By December 14th it became extremely dangerous for anyone to venture out on deck and the wind gusts increased to between 50 and 60 knots. By late afternoon, a tremendous amount of metal and gear had been damaged and the rig was pitching and rolling between 13 and 15 degrees. By Thursday, December 15th, it was estimated that the storm developed into a force 12 storm. This is considered to be a violent storm with the barometer bottoming out at an amazing 964. During this time, the tow line broke from the tug and the rig was floating free and the tossing became accelerated. Crew members were mustered and outfitted with survival suits. A portion of the deck was ripped off leaving a three foot diameter hole and sea water was flooding the rig's heating system. Water was pouring through the heater ducts into every room below decks. As Tim stated, "the only way to keep their minds off the danger was to keep fighting the water every way possible". At this time, Tim was below decks endeavouring to pump the water out of the lower decks. Being up to his chest in water at times made the task that much more insurmountable. "The phone/intercom system was out and everyone was looking pale and worried." The wind was howling viciously at about 75 miles per hour and the tow master aboard the rig, who had 35 years experience towing worldwide, said, "this is the worst I've seen". The crew was notified to get into their survival suits and Tim's diary shows that he "selected his clothing very carefully," emphasizing protection from the elements.



Tim and his father Joel.

At 12.20 pm on the 15th of December the word finally came to prepare to abandon the rig. "As the rig superintendent issued our last distress call, solemn moments passed. I looked at the towering waves and tried to prepare myself for what it would be like in the 19 ft capsule in 50- 60 foot waves." During the launch,

the capsule was smashed hard against the hull of the rig and there was great difficulty in breaking free. Eventually they did break free but were immediately hit by a 60 foot wave which broke over the capsule completely submerging it and buckling it in on one side. The Captain of the towing tug, Smit London, which was standing by, recorded the time in his log book, accompanied by the notation: "They're gone". Fortunately, a minute later the capsule resurfaced.

Because of the crowded conditions and the roller coaster ride, most of the rig crew became sick. Because the capsule engine burnt out 40 minutes after launch they were in a free float position. Tim describes this as being similar to an ocean roller coaster ride. The waves at this time were over 60 feet high and the winds over 60 miles per hour.

Approximately two hours after the crew abandoned the Rowan Gorilla, it capsized and sunk. Tim and the other members of the crew were in the sealed capsule for 22 hours before being finally rescued by two members of the tug boat who came over during a lull in the weather in a rubber Zodiac. In a number of trips they transferred the crew from the capsule to the tug boat. It took approximately 45 minutes for the crew of the Smit London to get all 27 of the survivors safely on board. Tim notes in his diary of this harrowing experience that on one of the walls of the tug boat was a plaque, which read, "while the captain controls the movement of this ship, Neptune controls the movement of the seas". "None of us that were on the rig and the capsule had any dispute with that observation", said Tim.

Tim arrived back in Halifax on December 18th. It was indeed the forerunner to a joyous family celebration at Christmas, especially when he met his nephew Timothy Ross Matheson, age 5 months, for the first time. Timothy Ross is his father Joel's first grandchild, and grandfather Rand's first great grandchild. Of interest is the fact that despite his brush with death on the Rowan Gorilla, Tim is back aboard an oil rig operating in the Gulf of Mexico.

THE SCOTTISH INTERNATIONAL GATHERING AT INVERNESS.

6th to 13th May, 1989.

by Edmond Matheson, E.R.D.

After the opening ceremony in the Eden Court Theatre, it was only a gentle stroll along the banks of the River Ness to the Scottish Centre and Exhibition at the Ice Centre where Duncan, and his wife Brenda, together with Roderick from Beaulieu and Richard, the former Secretary, were tastefully arranging the background to our booth and the table layout to give an effect second to none among the clans.

On the following day, Sunday, an Ecumenical service was held in Inverness Cathedral. It gave the impression that Jacobite sentiments predominated among the Clergy.

During the week we recruited two new members from Fearn and one each from Inverness, Dingwall and New Zealand, Malcolm John, and achieved a satisfactory sale of Matheson Tee Shirts and ties. From the commercial view point the exhibition was not a success. We Mathesons however enjoyed ourselves in a quiet way talking to the representatives of the other clans and the traders, from whom modest purchases were made, and Brenda attended cookery classes. From time to time we were soothed by the strains of Duncan's pipes as he paraded round the hall and thus the week passed pleasantly.



Duncan, Brenda and Edmond.

NEW ZEALAND.

It was in 1982 that the idea was conceived to create a Branch of the Clan in New Zealand. After a long period of careful planning the child was eventually born on Sunday, 25th June 1989 in St George's Church Hall at Takapuna!!

Organised by Roy and Joan and Gordon and Ailsa who had hoped that at least 30 would turn up, 120 answered the call, and a fine inauguration meeting ensued with Roy's nephew Norman supplying the appropriate music on his pipes.

The Branch is well founded with some 20 longtime members of the U.K. main stream. There is an enthusiastic committee including ace genealogists John and Monica Kidd.

Communications should be addressed to Ailsa: Mrs Gordon Matheson, Flat 1, 254 Lake Road, Takapuna, N.Z. The next branch occasion will be on 11th November, 1989 at Beachhaven Hall.

Finally, one must make mention of Roy and Joan, who in the hour of triumph, were both struck low by sickness which hindered their participation in the festivities. Worldwide, we wish them a speedy and total recovery.



Roy, Ailsa and Gordon at the inaugural meeting.

NOVA SCOTIA.

The Mathesons of Nova Scotia wound down their 1989 activities on August 27th with a picnic on the shores of Shortt's Lake. Our cordial hosts were Vaughan and Donna. Art ferried from Prince Edward Island to be with us, and Honorary Secretary Joel found a picnic a pleasant diversion to house painting. After everyone spent a leisurely afternoon enjoying good food and conversation, Al tried his hand at auctioneering. This meant a few chuckles and quite a few sales, adding to total gathered from the flea markets held during the year.

Our summer gatherings seemed to have started only a few weeks ago, but it had been exactly three months since our pot-luck supper at Bible Hill, May 27th. That evening we had greeted many friends for the first time since last August's picnic. Table displays had been set up by our Genealogist, Glen; by Dawn and Roger, with items from their Caribbean trip; by Margaret, showing pictures of her trip to Hong Kong. We enjoyed the music of Ossie and Lilian Beck, which led into a sing-song. A surprise treat came in the form of two solos by Sarah Matheson, a very talented young singer whom we hope will come again.

The Clan Matheson was very visible at five gatherings throughout the province during the summer. Our tent was heavily soaked during the rains at the Metropolitan Scottish Festival and Highland Games in Halifax; but sunny skies dominated during the Gathering of the Clans at Pugwash, the Antigonish Highland Games at Antigonish, the Festival of the Tartans at New Glasgow, and the Pipers' Picnic at Earltown. Our guest book recorded the many who visited our tent.

Earltown has been the location of our annual general meeting. As usual, our meeting was held the first Saturday in August and coincided with the Pipers' Picnic. The slate of officers is unchanged from last year, with Roger at the helm for the second year of his term. Following the business meeting, the Clan paraded on to the field at the Pipers' Picnic.

We are grateful to Glen for compiling "news" for the Clan to

mail to members from time to time, to to Baillie, whose video camera has recorded many unguarded moments.

With the conclusion of another Clan year, we remember many happy times; but we also remember the loss of our dear friends John J. Matheson and C. Trueman Matheson. They are missed.

The Executive will meet in the fall to outline plans for 1990. Then the Clan will go into hibernation until the spring thaw. But in the summer to come, when the pipes call and the clans erect their tents in the fields of New Scotland, the Mathesons will be there.

Beverly Matheson, Hon. Sec., 88 Beaumont Dr.,
Lower Sackville, NS B4C 1V6

CAPE BRETON.

Notes from Minutes:

20 Feb 89 at Baddeck. A letter, via Joel Matheson, from Jim MacAulay of the Gaelic College at St Anne's to establish a Bursary at the College for students training there was discussed. A decision to be taken at a later date.

A social evening and an auction by Al MacKinnon ensued.

24 Apr 89 at Little Narrows. Judge Lewis Matheson reported that Catherine (Matheson) Lewis, widow of the late William Lewis of Louisbourg, celebrated her 90th birthday with friends and family at the Cove Guest Home, Sydney, on 24 Mar 89. Mary Matheson, on behalf of the Clan, presented her with a single red rose.

Brenda MacLennan, who had been selected by Cross-roads International to go to Swaziland as a teacher, gave a delightful presentation of slides and commentary in that country, about the size of Cape Breton.

19 Jul 89, Jessie Ross wrote to the Chief saying that a service would be held in the Ephraim Scott Presbyterian Church at South Haven on 6 Aug 89 to commemorate the first Clan Gathering Service held there ten years ago.

11 Sep 89 at South Haven. Chris Weeks retired as Hon Secretary and was sent a "thank you" card, also a "get well" one. Brenda Cochrane was appointed in her place.

The Executive was empowered to produce a suggestion for the Bursary to be discussed at the next meeting, on 16 Oct 89. On 27 Sep, at Glace Bay, the Executive proposal was "that we establish a Bursary Fund in the sum of \$1000 to be invested, and out of the income therefrom, the sum of \$100 be donated annually to the Gaelic College as a Bursary for a worthy student studying the Gaelic Language to be chosen by the Director of the College. The first said Bursary to be paid in 1990, in Memory of departed members of that year."

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

Seemingly a quiet year. Arthur (Art) has been very ill, but now, at the time of writing, seems well on the road to recovery and is once more in circulation having crossed the water to Nova Scotia.

Miles Matheson has sent notes which appear elsewhere. A Clan picnic for all members and their families and relations was held at the Strathgartney Park on 13 Aug 89.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Lyman Matheson, Hon. Secretary, U.S.A. is proposing to reorganise the American Branch into four regions based on the time zones with Clan representatives in each:- Eastern: John Aakesson, 7312 Leesville Blvd, Springfield, VA 22151

Central: Mrs Jean Matheson Fries, 11 West Geyer Lane, St Louis, MI 63131

Mountain: Mrs Loretta Matheson, 6065 E.Akron, Mesa, AR 85206

Pacific: Robert W. Matheson, 395 Mariposa, Apt E, Sierra Madre, CA 91024

Genealogist: Charles Mathieson Otstot, 5124 North 33rd St, Arlington, VA 22207

He will also co-ordinate with Janet Matheson Dorn.

Mac Matheson of 363 So. Alvaro, Mesa, Arizona 85206 from time to time issues "Matheson Times" which basically concerns the genealogy of Hugh Matheson and Catherine Monroe, both of the Parish of Lairg, Sutherland, who were born c. mid 1700's and their descendants, of whom he is one. He is trying to find the genealogical link, if there is one, to the family of Captain Donald Matheson of Shinness (1745 - 1810). Such a link would be pre-1745 but genealogical evidence at this date is hard to find.

CONGRATULATIONS.

* to Murdo and Mary Jane Matheson on the birth of their second child, Ian Alexander, on 14 December 1988.

* to Jeannette Vernon Matheson, daughter of Mr and Mrs Malcolm Matheson III of Washington D.C., on her engagement to Mr Craig Hollingsworth Lussi. They plan to be married in June.

* to Hugh and Ranji Matheson on the birth of their son Gregor on 24 August 1988.

* to William and Bella (Matheson of Matheson) Craven on the birth of their second daughter Emily Flora on 29 March 1989.

* to Matilda (Matheson) and Martin Thompson on the birth of their second daughter Siana Camilla Elizabeth on 16th May 1989.

* to Jeff Matheson of Murarrie, Queensland on being awarded the Australian Army Reserve Long Service Medal, and also gaining his Bachelor's Degree in Education.

* to Major Alexander and Katharine Matheson, Coldstream Guards, on the birth of a daughter Louisa Alexandra Matilda on 3rd Sep 1989.

* to Major Roderick and Janet Matheson, R.C.H.A., on the birth of a daughter Catriona Elizabeth on 15th Sep 1989.

* to Claude Matheson on being elected a Member of the Legislative Assembly representing Second Kings in the recent Prince Edward Island Provincial election. Claude and his wife Mona reside on the family farm at Forest Hill, settled in the mid-1800's by Claude's great-grandfather Norman Matheson, a native of the Isle of Skye. Claude is a brother of Miles Matheson, Morell, P.E.I.

* to Flora Matheson-England, daughter of Miles and Bertha Matheson, on completing her Bachelor of Arts Degree at the University of Toronto. She has been offered an open Fellowship by that University in the Department of Sociology covering Crime, Deviance and Socio-Legal studies.

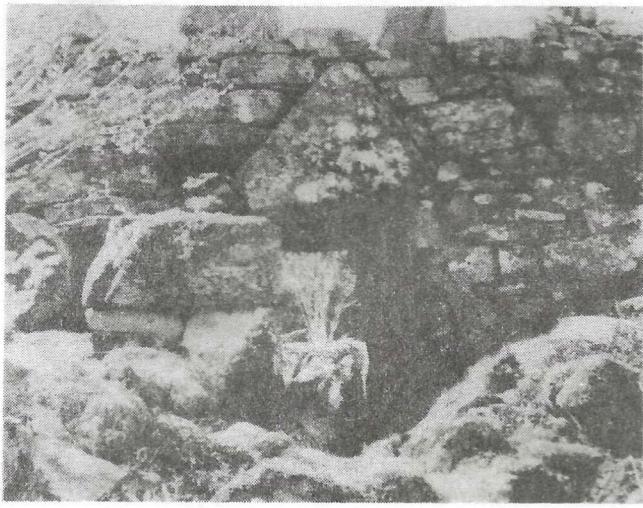
COINNEACH MAC MATHGHAMHNA

who conquered the Norseman in Skye
and built Eilean Donan Castle.

by Serena Matheson of Matheson,
for the next generation.

Coinneach must have been born about 1234, and he was the earliest of our ancestors that we know quite a lot about. Nowadays Coinneach is usually spelt Kenneth, which is easier, so that is what I shall call him. Kenneth's father and mother lived at Totaig, in a very well-built broch called Caistal Gnugaig, whose ruins are still standing. He was their only son. When Kenneth was born his mother must have been very ill, and everyone was at their wit's end to think how he was to get any milk, as feeding bottles had not yet been invented. At last someone had a brilliant idea, and they took the skull of a raven that had been killed, and gave Kenneth his first drink from that. Now this gave him an ability that all his life, he could understand the language of birds, as well as many of the foreign languages of men.

His father often used to ask him what the birds were saying. One day, in 1248, when he was about 14 or 15, two big black ravens were squawking away in the walls of the castle. "What are those birds talking about, son?", asked his father. "They are



A doorway in the ruined broch at Totaig (Caistal Gnugaig).

saying," replied Kenneth, "that one day you will wait upon me as my servant."

Kenneth's father was furious. He gave the boy a good thrashing and locked him up in a little prison cell inside the walls of the castle. But Kenneth knew every inch of that broch, and he had friends, anyway, among the servants. So, next morning, when the big stone was rolled back from the door, he was able to dash through, run up the steep burn behind, and disappear into the hills.

When he thought he was safe, Kenneth sat down behind a rock and thought and thought. I expect that he was really a bit frightened and lonely, and rather wished that he had not run away. But he was proud, too, and decided that he was jolly well not going to go back and say he was sorry, when he had only told the truth. So he got up and walked on, right over Mam Ratagan, where the road goes now, and on over the pass into Glen Affric, until he eventually reached Inverness.

Inverness was bubbling with excitement. A very grand French nobleman called Hugh de Chatillon, Count de St. Pol, had ordered a ship to be built to carry soldiers to the Holy Land for a Crusade, and it was very nearly ready. Now, the Count had connections with Clann Ghille Annrais, who some people say, are related to the Mathesons. So Kenneth went straight up to him and asked to be allowed to come with him on the ship. Count de St. Pol agreed to take Kenneth, and off they all went.

Kenneth grew up fast, and made his mark at once, as he could understand everything people said in any language.

Unfortunately the Count died the following year (1249), but Kenneth stayed until the Crusade ended in 1250. He saw a lot of fighting and learnt to be a great commander of men. He was noticed by King Louis IX who asked Kenneth to come back to France with him. The King was forming the Scotsmen in his entourage into a personal body-guard which came to be called the Scots Archer Guard of France.

When Kenneth was in France with King Louis he was sent for one day, as the King was getting fed up with the endless chirping of birds about his palace. This was no problem to Kenneth, and he got rid of them easily. King Louis was so grateful that he gave him a fully manned ship as a present.

So Kenneth set off again. He sailed all about the known world, and with his great gift for languages, made himself a huge fortune.

After several more years, Kenneth became homesick for Lochalsh and decided to go home to see how his father was. He sailed his magnificent ship up the Sound of Sleat and through the narrow waters of Kylerhea, turned right when he came to Lochalsh, and dropped anchor off Totaig. Caistal Gnugaig looked just the same, and he could see his father looking out at the strange ship.

Kenneth put on his grandest clothes (which were probably much grander than anything else that had ever been seen in Lochalsh) and had himself rowed ashore. His father was very impressed with this magnificent stranger, and invited him up to the broch for lunch. He had ordered the very best food that was available to be prepared. When it was ready and they were all

sitting down, the old man bowed down and offered the dish to Kenneth.

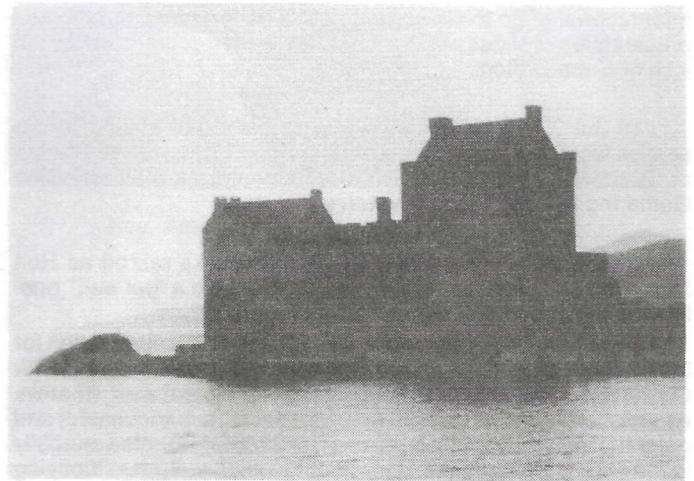
Kenneth just burst out laughing. "Oh father! Don't you recognise me? Look, here is my birthmark! How right those old ravens were when they foretold this day. I was only speaking the truth when I told you what they said."

Of course his father had to laugh too. They had a lovely ceillidh, and stayed up nearly all the night telling stories and hearing all the news.

While Kenneth was staying with his father, he heard a lot of complaints about the Vikings in Skye. There had been a Princess that had ruled there, who had been very fair with the local people, though she had ordered a long chain to be made and stretched between Castle Moil, where she lived, and Kyle of Lochalsh. Unless she was paid a toll nobody was allowed to pass through! But she had died by the time Kenneth came home, and her successors were very cruel. So Kenneth decided that he would stop trading, and use his experience as a soldier to get rid of the Norsemen from Skye.

This was not nearly as easy as he had hoped. He fought them for many years, and there were many battles, and a lot of cruelty on both sides. One of the Vikings who was there wrote an account of these wars called the Hakonar Saga, so we know a lot about it. In the end Kenneth was successful and managed to make the enemy go away from Skye. After another big battle further south they all decided to go home.

King Alexander III was ruling Scotland then, and he was very pleased indeed with Kenneth. It seemed to the King that Kenneth would be the ideal person to keep order in that part of Scotland, and he told him to build a modern castle to defend it. Kenneth decided that the tiny Island of Eilean Donan would be the ideal place, and that is where he built the first Eilean Donan Castle.



Eilean Donan as it is today.

Kenneth had married a daughter of Iomhar Crom MacIver from Glassery in Argyll. She had brought several men of her clan in her retinue, and many of their descendants are still living in Ross-shire. When the Castle was finished they moved in and Kenneth lived there until he died in 1304. He was considered to be such an important person that his body was taken all the way to Iona to be buried alongside the Kings of Scotland and Chiefs of the most important clans. His gravestone could still be identified and was quite readable at the end of the 1600s.

Note

The seannachies told the old stories to successive generations of the Clan. Sometimes they varied in the telling, and by the time they were written down, there were many versions. I have strung together some of the tales about Coinneach to make this story, so that the Matheson children of today might be able to enjoy it. As far as possible I have included dates and facts where they are known.

Coinneach Mac Mathghamhna was an ancestor common to both Matheson and MacKenzies, and nearly all the information for this story can be found in the Reverend William Matheson's "Traditions of the MacKenzies".

OBITUARIES.

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

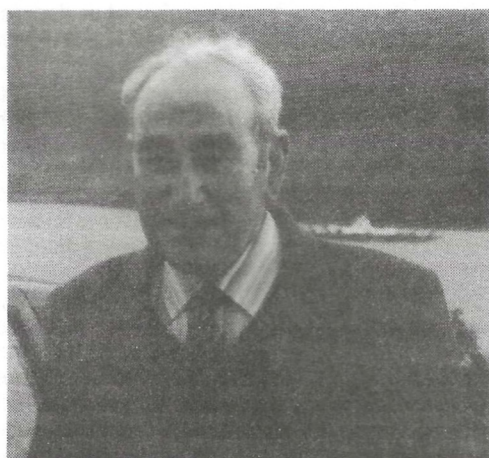
* Mr Roderick I. Matheson on 1 Jul 1988, son of Mrs Marjorie Matheson of Stoneleigh, Newlands, Glasgow.

* Mrs Olive Matheson on 18 September 1988, the wife of Richard (Dick) Matheson the Clan Society's first and long serving Secretary. He writes that it was entirely due to her noticing the Matheson kilt of a piper (John Matheson) at the Clapham Common Highland Games in 1961 that the Society came into existence. Olive will be remembered by all of us with gratitude. They were married for 42 years.



* Mr Quintin Matheson on 10 November 1988 aged 44, the husband of Mrs Matheson of Sutton, Surrey. Quentin, the son of Mr and Mrs Iain Matheson of Balvraid, Dornoch, Sutherland, was a wine consultant, and had learned about viniculture in South Africa. His sister, Mrs Eileen Morag Pidwell, lives in Transvaal.

* Mr Kenneth Matheson (Kenny Bell) on 15 November 1988 aged 86, the husband of Mrs Cathie Matheson, Lochalsh Road, Kyle of Lochalsh, to whom he was married for 45 years. Born in Glasgow, Kenny went to live in Ardelve. In the early years of the war, he worked for the Royal Navy in Kyle. He later became the general maintenance man at the Lochalsh Hotel which was then the Naval HQ. After the war he stayed on there until retiring in 1973. Over the years he and Cathie entertained hundreds of visitors at their home in Kyle, amongst whom were many Mathesons from overseas whose visits to the district were enhanced by being able to stay under the welcoming roof of a true Highlander. He is survived by his wife and their daughter Mrs Janette Baillie of Watford.



* Mr John Matheson on Christmas Day 1988, the husband of Mrs Verna Matheson, at Stellarton, N.S. where he was born and lived all his life. He worked for the C.N.R. for 38 years in which he was involved with transportation and communication. He had many interests, being an Elder in the Church, a repairer of radio and TV and in helping Boy Scouts. Since the resurgence of Clan Matheson in the Maritimes he and Verna have been ardent supporters. John and Verna had been married for 43 years.

* Mr A.J. Morrison on 28 January 1989 aged 83. "AJ" was the husband of Jessie Matheson of North River Bridge, Cape Breton. Their visit and stay in Duirinish, Lochalsh three or four years ago with their daughters is still well remembered, especially Jessie's fluency in the Gaelic. "AJ" operated Morrison's General Store for more than 50 years, and was very active in local affairs.

* Mr Norman A. Matheson of Winnipeg on 31 Jan 1989 aged 75, the husband of Mayme Matheson. Norman was a direct descendant of John Matheson of Kildonan, Sutherland, an original Selkirk Settler of 1815 and was the last of his line. His family story was fully recorded in Newsletter No 38, to which his kinsman Leslie Matheson of Broadview Heights, Ohio, added some more information in No 39. Norman attended the Cape Breton Gatherings of 1979 and 1985 when he was conspicuous by his enthusiasm and energy. In fact he was thus all his life, and at his demise he was Grand Master of the Provincial Grand Black Chapter of Manitoba among many other activities. He served in the R.C.A.F. in the war, from which through some clerical error, he contended that he had never been discharged.

* Mr C. Trueman Matheson of Westville, Nova Scotia on 20 Jun 1989 aged 75, the husband of Mrs Kezia Matheson, and father of Pearl Alice, Tupper and Sam. Trueman spent a lifetime in the lumbering business started by his grandfather in 1870. Earlier this year the Canadian Geographic Magazine published an article on his museum at Londonderry recalling the past glories of the now defunct iron and steel industry of that township. Trueman was a devoted family man, a great host and an enthusiastic supporter of the Nova Scotian Mathesons

NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD.

* On 29 Jan 1989 the Very Reverend Dr James Matheson appeared on the Television programme "Highway" with Sir Harry Secombe which was filmed on the Island of Skye. James explained that the sanctity of the Sabbath was of great importance to the Islanders; and he also explained the work of the Precentor in churches without an organ. We then saw a Free Church congregation singing in Gaelic under the leadership of a Precentor.

There were some fine shots of Dunvegan Castle in which John Macleod of Macleod showed Sir Harry the Macleod treasures: Rory Mor's Drinking Horn, the Fairy Flag, the Speckled Pipes and a Cup which also belonged to Rory Mor who flourished when Queen Elizabeth the First was Queen of England. Other shots were of the Portree High School Choir singing a Gaelic song, three girls playing the Clarsach, a Cuillin Hills guide at Sligachan, and a home for incapacitated people. Ian MacFadyen of Kyle of Lochalsh played a few haunting bars of a Pibroch which was sadly cut short. We visited Flora MacDonald's grave at Kilmuir and heard a potted version of her bringing The Prince to Skye from South Uist in a hazardous crossing by boat.

Sir Harry concluded with the hymn "The day thou gavest, Lord, is ended", very appropriately timed for the shadows were lengthening as we gazed over the Sound of Sleat towards Glenelg.

For half an hour it was as if we were in our rightful home. What a bump when it was all over!!

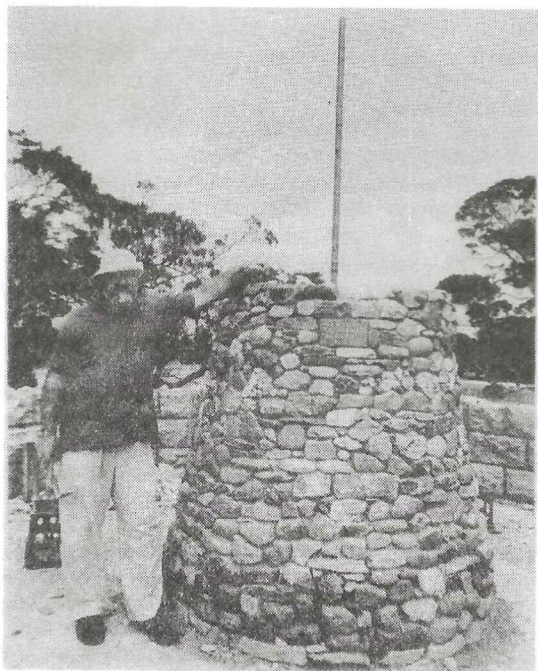
* Rolf Hofseth of Oslo, and uncle of Einar Matheson, sent the following, translated from the Oslo newspaper "Aftengposten" of 13 April 1989:

"AUDIENCE. The King will today 11.00 hours receive in Solemn Audience the Co-operative Republic of Guyanas new minister to the Court of Norway, Ambassador James Henry Edward Matheson."

One of the highlights of the Spring was the visit of Rolf to Standerwick for Sunday luncheon, in the company of his son Rolf and daughters Marie and Kirsten. It was the occasion of Rolf's 80th birthday, and his offspring gave him a birthday present of a weekend in London with themselves!

* The Chief has been elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Scotland.

* On St Andrew's Day 1988, the cairn which was built at Sydney, New South Wales, by Duncan "Stalker" Matheson, of Camus Luinnidh, Wester Ross, was dedicated with great ceremony as Scotland's bicentennial gift to Australia. It was no mean task as 1760 stones, one from each parish in Scotland, of varying hues and sizes, were used and the cairn rose to twelve feet, topped with a Celtic Cross hewn from slate from the Island of Ulva, the birthplace of Lachlan Macquarrie (1762-1864), a distinguished Governor of New South Wales who became known as the Father of Australia.



Duncan with the cairn half-built.

The task took Duncan nineteen working days in great heat. The site overlooks the narrow entrance to Sydney Harbour where Captain Arthur Philip landed in 1788. A video cassette in Duncan's possession vividly records the dedication ceremony.

SCOTLAND IN SIX DAYS.

by Ronald Matheson, L.V.O., R.D.

This is simply a personal account of a Saga Coach Tour in May 1989. Of course there is much of Scotland that time did not allow us to visit.

Those of us from the South had made our own ways to Glasgow Central Station, where we were met by the Tour Manager and conducted to the Hospitality Inn Hotel.

The next morning we were joined by a very helpful lady Guide and taken first to Glasgow Cathedral which contains the tomb of St Mungo, the patron Saint of Glasgow, and very impressive the Cathedral was, without being overwhelming as cathedrals sometimes tend to be. I mentioned to the Tour Manager that St Mungo was also the name of one of the celebrated North British Railway "Atlantic" steam locomotives but this did not seem to impress him, yet much of Scotland's romantic history is recorded in the names of the steam locomotives of that Railway and with their passing seemed to pass Scotland's industrial might.

We were next taken to the Burrell Collection in Pollock Park in a building designed and built specially to house the Collection. This was quite magnificent and beautifully arranged. Although the lifetime collection of one man only, there is something for everybody and even the glass of the windows is so clear that all the colours from outside have a clarity which I felt has to be seen to be appreciated.

After an hour or two we were asked where we would like to go. I chose the new Scottish Transport Museum in or near Kelvingrove, to which the Guide kindly took me in her car. Although primarily a museum of railway interest, it is excellently arranged and, standing on a reproduction of an island platform with a carriage from the Royal Train on one side and a more elderly carriage and locomotive on the other, one can almost imagine that one is on the West Highland Railway.

From there it is a short walk to the Glasgow Art Gallery which, as well as numerous paintings, contains a comprehensive collection of scale models of ships built on the Clyde over several centuries and a Hall devoted to medieval arms and armour. But the only visible reminder, outside, of Clydebank's past wealth is a large tower crane. Everything else seems to have disappeared. But by now I was thankful to catch a bus back to Sauchiehall Street and our Hotel, so did not attempt to explore further.

Next day the tour proper commenced and while, so far, I may seem to have dwelt nostalgically on Scotland's industrial past, I can now say that Scotland from Glasgow northwards seems to me to have changed very little since I last saw it, were it not for the new arterial roads which seem to shorten all journeys, but even these seem to blend in quite well with the countryside.

Our route took us through Glasgow's West End, past Helensburgh and on to the Loch Lomond Road. At Loch Lomondhead we stopped for a few minutes to admire the scenery and inhale some fresh air.

After a coffee break in Crianlarich our next stop was the National Trust Centre in Glencoe. Glencoe is impressive by any standards with its snowcapped mountains. Certainly not the place that one would choose in which to be massacred. Fort William for lunch was rather disappointing. It seemed to have sprawled rather untidily since I was last there about twenty years ago and the new architecture does not seem to fit in very well with the character of old Fort William with Ben Nevis looming over it.

The afternoon's drive took us to Invergarry, through Fort Augustus and up Loch Ness. Loch Ness is very beautiful and looks very deep - also very cold. The Tour Manager assured us that he had reason to believe in the existence of the monster but unfortunately we didn't see it.

Passing through Inverness we arrived in Nairn where we were to stay for three nights at the Royal Marine Hotel. Nairn itself is a pleasant, if unremarkable, small Scottish coastal town.

The next day we were taken to Grantown-on-Spey for lunch and then to Dufftown for a guided tour of the Glenfiddich Distillery. The Guides were young ladies of the air-hostess type, not monks, although the atmosphere was suitably devotional. Our Guide certainly knew her stuff and at the end of our visit we were given quite large drams of this famous whisky, which may have softened us up for the inevitable display of 'goodies' for sale.

The following day, a Sunday, was scheduled for Inverness but we were told that Inverness shuts down completely on a Sunday so it was declared a 'free' day. Six of us decided to visit Cawdor Castle which is still inhabited by the Earls of Cawdor and has the pleasant atmosphere of being lived in.

Our next destination was Edinburgh, stopping first at Culloden Moor with its National Trust Centre, pictures of wild Highlanders and so on. But Bonnie Prince Charlie was not a wholly admirable character and the uprising in 1745 was a futile and tragic incident. So I was not sorry to leave and we made our way through the Pass of Killiecrankie to Pitlochry for lunch, with just time for a walk down to the Salmon Leaping although I didn't see any thus engaged - probably the wrong season.

We stopped for tea at the Caithness Glassworks outside Perth where we were able to watch all the processes and very fascinating it was. All too soon we crossed over the Forth Bridge and were in Edinburgh. Next morning the coach took us to Waverley Station where we dispersed. Since I had cousins in Edinburgh, I decided to stay for another night but the morning was free, which I spent, first, having a coffee in Jenner's in Princes Street, hoping to recapture the atmosphere of my boyhood and then revisiting the National Art Gallery, where I was pleased to see again the portrait of the Hon Mrs Graham, a Society beauty of her day, by Sir Joshua Reynolds. Reynolds is reputed to have painted her portrait six times so he must have liked her too.

Next morning it was all over and I caught the train back home to London but it had been a memorable if short holiday and I had enjoyed almost every minute of it.

**A LIST OF MATHESONS TAKEN FROM
"A DICTIONARY OF SCOTTISH EMIGRANTS TO CANADA
BEFORE CONFEDERATION" BY DONALD WHITE,
F.R.G., F.S.G.**

Contributed by Glen Matheson, Debert, Nova Scotia.

ALEXANDER from Kildonan, Sutherland to Fort Churchill Hudson Bay on "Prince of Wales" ex Stromness 28 June 1813; thence to Red River, pioneer settler.

ALEXANDER from Lochalsh, Wester Ross to Eldon Township, Victoria Co, Ontario, probably pre-1840. Married Miss McKenzie. Children, Catherine; Margaret; Kenneth; William; Murdoch; Donald (died young).

ALEXANDER born c.1780, from Kildonan, Sutherland to York Factory, Hudson Bay; arrived 26 Aug 1815 thence to Red River. Overseer of passengers & pioneer settler. Wife aged 38 with him and children, Hugh, 10; Angus 6; Catherine 2; John 1.

ANGUS born c.1785, from Kildonan, Sutherland to York Factory, Hudson Bay; arrived 26 Aug 1815; thence to Red River, a pioneer settler.

ANGUS born c. 1815, probably from Isle of Lewis; to St Anne, Victoria Co, Nova Scotia pre-1840; moved in 1857 to Omaha or Leigh, North Island, New Zealand. Shipbuilder, son Duncan, a sea captain.

ANN from Gairloch, Wester Ross; in Nova Scotia c. 1839, married John McKenzie.

ANN From Isle of Skye; to Canada 1841, settled probably Prince Edward Island; wife of Donald Bruce; children, John; Margaret; Flora; Angus; John; Malcolm married Barbara Fraser.

ANNE c.1790; probably from Rogart, Sutherland to Nova Scotia & settled Earltown, Colchester Co.

CHARLES from Lochbroom, Wester Ross to Pictou, Nova Scotia on the "Hector" ex-Lochbroom; arrived 17 Sep 1773; settled probably Pictou Co.

CHRISTIAN born 1795, from Kildonan, Sutherland; probably related to one of the Angus's above; to York Factory, Hudson Bay; arrived 26 Aug 1815; thence to Red River.

CHRISTIAN c.1779 to 18 Apr 1844; from Shinness, Lairg, Sutherland to Pictou Co 1819.

CHRISTINA c.1795 to 25 Dec 1882; from Rogart, Sutherland to Pictou, Nova Scotia 1822; settled Truro, Colchester Co; wife of John William Murray (1784-1842) from Rogart & son of John Murray & Annie Sutherland; to Pictou and settled Truro; farmer. Children, Nancy 1822-93; Christian 1827-1917; William 1829-86; John 1829-88; Alexander 1830-1916; Robert 1832-1910; Katherine.

CHRISTY c.1787 to 11 Nov 1854; from Sutherland to Pictou Co. Nova Scotia possibly 1819; settled near Lansdowne; wife of Donald McLeod; emigrated together.

DAVID 1800 to 5 Jul 1848; from Ross & Cromarty to Melbourne, Richmond Co, Quebec; discharged soldier 79th Regiment.

DONALD from Plockton, Wester Ross to St Peter's Richmond Co, Nova Scotia pre-1800; son John.

DONALD from North Uist to East Williams Township, Middlesex Co, Ontario; 1849.

DONALD from Isle of Lewis to Quebec, ex Stornoway arrived 4 Aug 1851; settled H... Township, Bruce Co, Ontario 1857; head of family.

DOUGALD from Lochalsh, Wester Ross, to Inverness Co, Nova Scotia probably 1830; settled near River Denys; farmer married Katherine McIntosh, Malagawatch; daughter Catherine 1832-77.

DUNCAN c.1797 to 30 Apr 1879; from Sutherland to Pictou Co, Nova Scotia 1818; settled Wilkins Grant or Lansdowne; married Jane Matheson (q.v. below); children, Catherine 1823; Anne 1828; William 1830-90; Neil 1831; Duncan 1844.

DUNCAN from Plockton, Wester Ross to Esprit, Richmond Co, Nova Scotia 1820, married Jessie McLennan, son Alexander b.1846, postmaster Sydney.

HARRIET 1815 to 25 Jan 1906; probably from Isle of Skye daughter of John Matheson, Captain; to Charlottetown Prince Edward Island 1828; married as his second wife, Malcolm Gillis, 1805 to 30 Oct 1884, from Isle of Skye or Raasay, (brother to John Gillis); he went to Charlottetown pre-1840 and settled Hartsville, Queen's Co, farmer; children, John 1840-1925; John Og 1847-85; Mary Ann ob. 1906; Alexander 1852; Dr. Angus 1855 & resided Salem, Oregon; Ronald resided Moncton, New Brunswick; Christian 1858; Roderick resided Hammondville New Brunswick. Malcolm's first wife was Catherine McEwen, who died in Scotland; children, Jessie 1829-99; Margaret, 1832, unmarried; Malcolm.

ISABEL born c.1803, from Lauderdale, Berwick to Dummer Township, Peterborough Co, Ontario 1832; wife of George Inglis (b. 6 Jun 1804) probably from Stow, Midlothian, 1832; children, Margaret 23 Aug 1832; Robert 9 Jul 1836; Helen 2 Jun 1841; Agnes 19 Oct 1842; George 28 Feb 1846; Daniel 28 May 1849.

ISABELLA (Mrs) probably from Lairg, Sutherland to New Lairg, Pictou Co. in 1802; widow with children, John; Donald; Finlay; and four daughters.

ISABELLA born c.1765, from Kildonan, Sutherland; wife of George McKay (b c.1765, from Kildonan); to York Factory, Hudson Bay, arrived 26 Aug 1815; thence to Red River, pioneer settler; children, Roderick; Robert 16 years; Robert 11 years. c.1798 to 20 Jan 1874; from Sutherland to Pictou, Nova Scotia, 1818; married Duncan Matheson, q.v. above.

JANE born c.1770; from Sutherland; son of William Matheson (q.v. below) to Pictou, Nova Scotia on the "Hector" ex-Lochbroom; arrived 17 Sep 1773; settled Londonderry, Colchester Co, later Rogers Hill, Pictou Co.

JOHN from Assynt or Eddrachillis, Sutherland to Boston, Mississippi on the "Fortitude", arrived 16 Aug 1803; settled Scotch Ridge, Charlotte Co, New Brunswick 1804; formerly of the Reay Fencible Regiment; son, Robert.

JOHN from Kildonan, Sutherland to Fort Churchill, Hudson Bay on the "Prince of Wales" ex-Stromness 28 Jun 1813; went to York Factory April 1814; thence to Red River; pioneer settler.

JOHN born c.1792, from Aultbrekachy, Kildonan, Sutherland to Fort Churchill, Hudson Bay on the "Prince of Wales" ex-Stromness 26 Jun 1813; went to York Factory April 1814; thence to Red River; probably left settlement 1815.

JOHN born c.1793, from Kildonan, Sutherland to York Factory, Hudson Bay; arrived 26 Aug 1815, thence to Red River.

JOHN born 1790; from Sutherland to Montreal, Quebec c.1820, later to Tiverton, Bruce Co, Ontario; carpenter. Wife, Barbara, had a son, Hugh.

JOHN from Ross & Cromarty to Shelburne, Shelburne Co, Nova Scotia pre 16 Jul 1827, when he married Mary Barber from Ireland.

JOHN possibly from Argyll to Metcalfe Township, Middlesex Co. Ontario, 1831.

JOHN from Eddrachallis? Sutherland on the "Ellen" ex-Loch Laxford to Pictou, Nova Scotia, 22 Jun 1848; wife Johan, children William; John; John; Patrick; Kenneth; Elspet; Robert.

JOHN 1802-65; from Isle of Skye to Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island; probably on the "Mary Kennedy", arrived 1 Jun 1829; settled in Uigg, Queen's Co; married Isabella Nicholson; son, Roderick.

DONALD

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 and New Zealand), 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 New Zealand, 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.

OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY

Convener and Hon Secretary, Edmond J.M. Matheson,
1 Braehead Drive, Carnoustie DD7 7SX

Hon. Treasurer, Norman S. Matheson, 15 Atholl Gardens,
Dunkeld PH8 0AY

Hon. Secretary (Canada) The Hon. Joel Matheson, Q.C.,
PO Box 2086, Station M, Halifax, N.S. B3J 3B7.

Hon. Secretary (USA) Lyman W. Matheson,
12126 Rhett Drive, Houston, Texas 77024

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).

Hon. Secretaries Emeriti, Mrs. Jean Matheson Fries,
11 West Guyer Lane, St. Louis, Missouri, 63131;

Rand H. Matheson, 200 Elgar Park, Suite 306, Nun's Island,
Montreal, PG H3E 1C8.

Leslie Matheson, 3850 Laurel Glen Drive,
Broadview Heights, Ohio 44147.

Editor: The Chief, Standewick Court, Frome, Somerset
BA11 2PP

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

KATE

from Ross & Cromarty to Cape Breton, Nova Scotia possibly pre-1820; wife of Duncan McLennan (probably of Kintail) to Cape Breton possibly pre-1820; settled River Denys, son, Hugh.

MARGARET

from Lochalsh, Wester Ross to Victoria Co, Nova Scotia probably pre-1840; settled Middle River; married Lachlan MacDonald (b 1815, Isle of Skye) son of John MacDonald & Janet McLeod, to Cape Breton, 1827.

NEIL

c.1790 to 10 May 1866; from Lairg, Sutherland to Pictou Co, Nova Scotia; wife Catherine c.1797 to 27 Aug 1866.

RODERICK

to Ontario pre-1810; served in Glengarry Light Infantry during war of 1812; settled in Perth, Lanark Co; banker & politician; married 1823 Mary Robertson, Brockville.

SARAH

1828 to 22 Nov 1902; probably from Isle of Lewis; to Victoria Co, Nova Scotia; wife of Alexander Morrison (c.1830-1916) from Isle of Harris; possibly son of Peter Morrison & Annie to Inverness Co, Nova Scotia; died Wreck Cove.

"Widow"

born c.1755; from Kildonan, Sutherland to York Factory, Hudson Bay; arrived 26 Aug 1815; thence to Red River; children with her, Helen 21 years; John 18 years; school teacher.

WILLIAM

from Sutherland to Pictou, Nova Scotia on the "Hector" ex-Lochbroom, arrived 17 Sep 1773; settled Londonderry, Colchester Co; later Pictou Co; children, John (separate entry, q.v. above); William.

WILLIAM

from Sutherland to Pictou Co, Nova Scotia; settled near Lansdowne; wife, Christy c.1765 to 16 Dec 1843.

ALEXANDER
MATHIESON

born 1 Oct 1795 to 14 Feb 1870; from Renton, Dumbartonshire, son of George Mathieson copperplate printer & Janet Ewing; Minister of the Gospel; matric Glasgow University 1810 & graduated M.A. 1815; to Montreal, Quebec 1826; Minister at St. Andrew's Church Glasgow 1837.

JOHN
MATHISON

from Sutherland to Ontario 1835; settled West Zorro, Oxford Co; farmer; married 1839 Jean Middleton; son, John Hugh.

MARY
MATHISON

possibly from Edinburgh to Canada pre-1851; married a Johnston.

Editor's Notes:

1. Notes on early Matheson settlers in North America have appeared in Newsletters 39, 40 & 43. Some of the names in the current article have been mentioned before, but the majority are new.

2. Senator Roderick appears frequently and is well recorded in the History of the Mathesons, although new items come to light from time to time.

3. The Rev. Alexander Mathieson has Appendix G to himself in HOM, where his name is spelt "Matheson". His life is well recorded in Church Records in Canada. I wonder whether the reference to St Andrew's Church, Glasgow should really be that in Montreal?

4. The Clan Genealogists and I would be glad to receive any "feed-back" from members who can identify any of the people mentioned in these articles. Is Leslie Matheson, Broadview Heights, Ohio able to identify which of the Kildonan (Sutherland) Alexanders and Johns mentioned above are the brothers of the Kildonan Angus? I believe Leslie to be the descendant of Angus; the late Norman A. Matheson (v. Obituaries) was descended from Angus's brother John, one of the above. Also is either of the two Johns from Eddrachillis the forebear of Robert W. Matheson of Sierra Madre, CA.?