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Clan Matheson Society

NEWSLETTER No. 47 Nov 1992
Deposited in the National Library of Scotland

Chief of the Clan :
Major Sir Torquhil Matheson of Matheson,
Baronet of Lochalsh, D.L.

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THE CHIEF'S MESSAGE.

Standerwick, October 1992

The first of all I would like to thank everyone who put in so much effort to make the Clan participation in the Montreal Gathering so enjoyable, through organisation or just turning up. Serena and I are particularly grateful to Phyllis Matheson of Vancouver, and her sister and brother-in-law, Sheila and Benny Parsons, for looking after us so well before and after the Gathering. Next year we are much looking forward to visiting New Zealand in August, even though it may be winter.

Mathesons have been busy in different corners of the world this last year, which is reflected in various articles in this newsletter. I am most grateful to those who have contributed.

In Newsletter 46 I sent out application forms to join the Society to all members on my mailing list, which was as shown in the address list which accom-

panied it. 'Thank you' to the few of you who did enrol some new members, but I must say that I was disappointed at the poor return. Please try to get more to join as every new member produces fresh genealogical information to the advantage of the Clan History.

UK members, especially, will be sad to read that Edmond Matheson, the Society Convenor, died earlier this year. So far I have not been able to find a replacement for him. I would be grateful for anyone reading this, who would be willing to take on the Convenership, to contact me as soon as possible. A volunteer is better than a pressed person! I am also anxious to reform the committee which has lapsed in recent years with a view to getting some activities going.

With best wishes for Christmas and 1993 from Standerwick,

Torquhil Matheson of Matheson

OPERATION HARMONY.

by Lt Angus George Matheson
(Sydney, Cape Breton).

3rd Battalion Royal Canadian Regiment.
(written 3 Aug 1992).

Since April 1992 N(ovember) Company of the 3rd Bn of the Royal Canadian Regiment has been deployed with U.N. Forces in former Yugoslavia on peace keeping operations. I command a mechanised infantry platoon of 40 men (all ranks).

Our arrival at our position at Sirac was greeted with shelling by artillery on the first night. It certainly set the tone and woke the troops up to the fact that they were in a war zone. Fortunately only two soldiers had very minor shrapnell wounds but two Croatian women in the town were killed in the attack.

The rural area in Sirac has an agricultural based economy. Small family farms strewn with chickens (running everywhere) form the base. There is little mechanisation and hay is still harvested with a sythe and piled in dome shaped stacks. Virtually every building shows scars from the war, such as a pattern of shrapnell spray from a mortar that exploded nearby, or bullet holes showing pock marks in the stucco of the brick houses. Many houses are just shells where the house has burned and the clay tile roof has

caved in leaving the charred remnants of the roof struts exposed. Our first two months consisted of vehicle patrols to establish an U.N. presence and gather information. We also established check points to monitor the flow of weapons



SIRAC

during the demilitarization process. All this work stopped quite suddenly when the Canadian Battalion received orders to deploy 300 km south to Sarajevo as quickly as possible to hold the airport and escort trucks carrying humanitarian aid from the air port to distribution centres scattered in and around Sarajevo.

N Coy got the task of escorting the convoys. Planes would arrive carrying pallets of food and medicine which were immediately loaded onto flatbed trucks. The armoured personnel carriers would then lead the trucks through the streets and past the numerous barricades differentiating the Serb and Muslim lines. The convoys were frequently shot at by snipers but fortunately there were no serious injuries. The worst injury was sustained by Corporal Reid of Newfoundland who had his foot blown off by an anti-tank mine.

What is perhaps most disturbing is experiencing the hatred and bigotry that is so deep rooted in these people. In Croatia, Serbian Eastern Orthodox churches and houses owned by Serbians who have left because of the war have been systematically blown up. In Sarajevo, civilians going about their daily routine are shot indiscriminately in the streets by both sides and left for dead. Bodies are routinely found in various stages of decomposition. This could be avoided to a certain extent if the civilians would pay more heed to the dangers of snipers. On several occasions, I witnessed people casually walking through known "kill zones" seemingly oblivious to the potential threat.

On average about 200 tons of food a day were delivered to the aid centres during the month of July. On 1 Aug N Coy departed Sarajevo to return to Croatia. We were not sorry to see the last of Bosnia and I dread to say the worst may be yet to come for that country.

Despite delivering aid to their people, the Muslim/Croats of Sarajevo resented our presence as they felt our real purpose should not be to feed starving civilians but to rid the city of the "evil Serbs". Yet most of the mortar/sniper attacks against U.N. forces originated, not with the Serbs, but with the Bosnian Territorial Forces (TDF). Using U.N. positions as a shield, the T.D.F. would fire on the Serbs from just outside our camp. This would inevitably draw fire on us which did add to the atmosphere. However there is nothing like a good shelling to bring up the morale of the troops. We were hoping to be let off the leash but neither side will hold ground long enough to become decisively engaged. They prefer to fight at a distance and lob the odd mortar indiscriminately into populated neighbourhoods. The random senseless brutality is unbelievable.

N Coy is now back in Croatia after being relieved by an Egyptian and an Ukrainian battalion. We are looking forward to a couple of weeks leave before resuming full control of the area round Parac and Daruvar. Our much looked forward to final departure date for early October now appears as the light at the end of the tunnel. If nothing else, things certainly haven't been boring.

Hope to see as many of you as possible at the next Gathering!

What Angus did not include in the above report was the fact that when Lord Carrington visited Sarajevo Angus had him in his armoured personnel carrier. He wrote in a letter "... I have indeed had the pleasure of making his acquaintance. My platoon was detailed to provide the close security and transport for him. Having picked him and his entourage up at the airport, the platoon sped through the streets of

Sarajevo with a 'clagage' of press vehicles following in hot pursuit. It was most amusing to see the snipers take a keen interest in the press people. Most of the rounds fired at the convoy hit their vehicles. Only a couple of rounds passed over the top of my truck the whole day. Nevertheless Lord C. was determined to poke his head out of the cargo hatch to see what what was going on at every opportunity. We weren't able to get a flack jacket on the old b.....r either!

This created some very serious concerns for me, but it certainly impressed the troops. They were even more impressed when I told them about his role in 'Market Garden'. (He, a Grenadier Guardsman, was in one of the first tanks to rush Nijmegen Bridge, the last on the road to Arnhem, mid-September 1944 - ED). He had to sit in a puddle, have his shiny loafers trodden on ... he obviously enjoyed the goings-on".



Lieutenant Angus George Matheson

AULD ALLIANCE GATHERING, MONTREAL.
by Torquhil Matheson.

Just how well the Gathering was attended, or just how successful the whole affair was, was hard to gauge due to the almost complete lack of coverage in the Montreal newspapers: and what little was written was hardly enthusiastic.

It was as well that the Mathesons had decided to attend the last four days as we were able to do our own things and also to take part in what was on offer by the organisation. About

twenty-five to thirty Mathesons took part over all - the hard core, who registered, being twenty-four: - from U.S.A., Bob Matheson, Charlie and Flo Mathieson Otstot, John AAkesson, Lyman and Phyllis Matheson, Jean Matheson Fries, Loretta Matheson, David and Evelyn Mathewson, Jean Matheson Nappi, Janet Matheson Dorn and Peg and Peggy Ohlson: from Canada, Rand and Pati Matheson, Joel and Ruth Matheson, Judge John and his son Dr.Duncan Matheson, Phyllis Matheson and Butler Dougherty: from U.K., the Chief and Serena Matheson.



Phyllis Matheson, Vancouver: Jean Nappi: Pati and Rand: Joel and Ruth.

Friday morning started with a spirited Clan Parliament, an account of which appears elsewhere. That was followed by a Clan Luncheon Party in the Montreal Delta Hotel where we were all staying. In the afternoon a small party visited the McCord Museum where there was a reception and a display concerning the construction of the Victoria Railroad Bridge across the St. Lawrence River in 1860. Serena was the principal guest, being the great granddaughter of Sir Samuel Morton Peto, Bt, head of the engineering firm of Peto, Brassey and Betts, which built it. It was hailed as the eighth wonder of the world, for it was the key link in the Grand Trunk railway system, which gave Montreal year-round access to the ice-free harbour at Portland, Maine. It was a most attractive and informative exhibition.

In the evening we attended The Auld Alliance Tattoo, in the ice hockey stadium, which was a splendid affair. This was staged by The 78th Fraser Highlanders, The Black Watch (RHR) of Canada, Les Compagnies Franches de la Marine and the bands of the Royal Canadian Artillery and Air Command which involved vignettes of their history over three centuries; a cannon race based on the Royal Navy's famous competition at the Royal Tournament; Scottish and French Country Dances which were very colourful; and a finale of massed bands of one hundred pipers. All the performers only came together for rehearsals that day and the whole Tattoo

seemed to go without a hitch - no mean feat of organisation and attention to detail. To get so many pipe bands playing the tunes the same way took some forward planning. Readers may not realise that many pipe tunes are played in different settings by the different pipe bands. Before they get together they have to learn standard settings.

Saturday was given over to Highland Games on the Isle St. Helene. All the usual events for such games took place, including dancing and piping. An interesting sideline was a couple of pens of Highland Cattle; a very tame young bull, and a cow and calf. They were very popular! That evening there was a very good ceillidh in Fort Henry in the Island.

The Auld Alliance Festival Parade took place on Sunday morning which involved a two mile march through the City. The crafty father and son combination of Rand and Joel managed to have us infiltrated into the procession near the head of the column at the one mile mark. All we had to do was wait on the pavement (side walk!) until a marshal appeared. Rand spun a yarn about being late and we were put in a

convenient gap behind a pipe band and an army ambulance (knacker wagon for the lame?). So the Mathesons marched smartly on, about a dozen strong (including one octogenarian), with chiefly standard, tartan banner and a Canadian bald headed eagle's feathers! To everyone's delight, at the tail of the column marched the Highland Bull, who, every now and again, demanded a ride in his cattle float!



Rand, Florence, Pati, Susan, Loretta, Bob, Joel and The Chief

The march ended at Mary Queen of the World Cathedral where an ecumenical service took place with a crowded congregation, conducted by senior prelates and laymen of all denominations. It was a finely balanced service in which half of each hymn was sung in French, and the final Blessing was given in Gaelic.

What remained of the afternoon and evening was spent in seeking refreshments and saying 'Au Revoir' as clanspersons gradually drifted away to their planes or other forms of transport to their homes. All in all, we must be grateful to the Festival organisers for putting it on, and for giving us an opportunity to get together. Wonderful as it was to meet each other, some not seen for ten or eleven years, it was sad that not more could make the trip - possibly another casualty of the recession.

Finally, we must thank that well tried duo, Rand and Joel, on whose shoulders all the Clan arrangements fell; and some of them were difficult to arrange. 'Thank you', both of you, and 'thank you, too' to Butler Dougherty and those unknown people who also helped.

CLAN PARLIAMENT HELD AT THE DELTA HOTEL, MONTREAL.

The Clan Parliament sat at 10.00 a.m. on 21 Aug 1992 with Lyman Matheson, Hon Sec, U.S.A. in the Chair. There were twenty-three persons present.

The Proceedings started with Prayer led by Judge John Matheson, Rideau Ferry. The first item was raised by the Chief concerning the quorum necessary for a Parliament to take place. Copies of the Constitution of 1981 had been issued, in which, para 23 states that a quorum should be 50. This was amended to 30 in 1985. In order that the Parliament could take place he proposed that the quorum should be reduced to 20. This was passed nem. con.

Minutes of the Parliaments at Trenton, N.S. held on 2 Aug 87 and at Dunkeld on 26 Aug 88 were accepted, both reported in the relevant world-wide newsletters.

Reports regarding membership, activities and finances were given by:

Joel Matheson for Canada, Nova Scotia Cape Breton and Prince Edward Island.

Lyman Matheson for the United States.

The Chief for the United Kingdom, Europe and New Zealand.

Arising out of these reports, Judge John proposed that a moment of silent prayer be observed in memory of the late Edmond J.M. Matheson, E.R.D., the Clan Convenor. It was also resolved to send Arthur Matheson, Hon Sec Prince

Edward Island, a 'get-well' card as he has been seriously ill.

Newsletters. The Chief commented on the various branch newsletters, as well as his world-wide one. He requested information for his newsletter from all members. He commented that he was anxious that his newsletter which was his link to all Clan Society members, whether they be members of the world-wide Society or only of a local branch, should reach everyone. To cut the horrendous cost of postage across the world he proposed in future to print sufficient copies for his mailing list and send two copies to the Hon Secs of Canada, New Zealand and the United States for local reproduction and issue. He also said that he might have to ask branches for a small contribution to help defray the expenses of origination, etc.

General discussion followed and centred on the status of those clanspersons who were members of a local group within the Clan Society, but who were not members of the Clan Society. Rand Matheson, Montreal, and Judge John and others spoke eloquently to the matter. There were a number of motions and counter motions. The debate died for lack of seconders to any particular motion. It was summed up by the Chief that a person belongs to the Clan by means of his or her name or heritage, but belongs to the Clan Society by membership.



Florence; Phyllis (Vancouver); Jean Nappi; Joel; Rand; Serena; Loretta

Election of Officers. The Chief asked each of the Clan Officers to continue in his respective capacity, and each agreed to do so as follows:

International Convenor and Hon Sec U.K Vacant.
Chief to find a volunteer.

Hon Treasurer, U.K. Norman Matheson, Dunkeld, Perth.

Hon Sec Canada. Hon Joel Matheson, Q.C., Halifax, N.S.

Hon Sec U.S.A. Lyman Matheson, Houston, Texas.

Hon Clan Genealogist. Janet Matheson Dorn, Atlanta, Georgia.

Hon Editor Clan Newsletter. The Chief.

Clan Pipers. As appointed by the Chief.

"The History of the Mathesons 1900". The Chief gave a brief account on his progress in revision.

The Chairman requested that the Chief give an account of the duties of Her Majesty's Body Guard of the Honourable Corps of Gentlemen at Arms of which both he and his brother Fergus are members, which he did briefly in the short time available.

The Parliament closed with Prayer offered by Judge John, after sitting for two hours and fifteen minutes.

HISTORY OF THE MATHESONS 1900.

by Torquhil Matheson.

Over the years many people have asked for the History to be reprinted. The answer lies in that there are so many errors and omissions that there is no point in doing so; and, of course, it is 92 years out of date. In saying that, I imply no criticism of Alexander Mackenzie, the original author of the 1882 edition, nor Alexander Macbain who extended the genealogies and made copious amendments in the 1900 edition. I think that it is amazing how much truth they did manage to get together in those far off days. Today, with all the access we have to public records, family papers, computers, xerox and better communications generally, we are able to rectify some of their unwitting errors.

For the past three years I have been putting HOM 1900 on my computer and amending the genealogy with data from public records sent me by John and Monica Kidd in New Zealand, with data sent me by many other people, dipping into books on Highland history, memoirs, etc. It is surprising what one can find. The difficulty is to blend a second revision into HOM 1900 without causing confusion. One of my biggest problems is how to incorporate the scholarly works of the Reverend William Matheson as written in his two papers to the Gaelic Society of Inverness, namely "Traditions of the Mathesons" in which he gives a reasoned and revised account of the early history of the Clan; and in "Genealogies of the Mathesons" in which he develops the genealogy of his own branch, that of Dugald Mac Ian Og. Now follow comments on what I have achieved so far, following the sequence in HOM 1900.

The old Chiefly Family of Bennetsfield became extinct

with the death of Colonel Bertram Matheson in 1975. This branch genealogy is now as up to date as can be, and several confusing genealogical passages have been rectified.

The Branch of Attadale and Lochalsh, which is my own branch, to which, by tanistry, Colonel Bertram willed the Chiefship on his death. This is up to date, due to my father's efforts and latterly from papers recently located belonging to my grandfather. His younger brother, Donald, emigrated to Charleston, South Carolina in 1826 aged 15, so he and his descendants will appear under the sub-branch of **Marlboro County, South Carolina**, to differentiate them from other Mathesons in that area.

The Duncan Mac Ian Og Branch has been considerably enlarged, and new sub-branches will have to be identified. One sub-branch seems to be centred on Prince Edward Island from detailed information given me by the Reverend Gael Matheson of P.E.I. Another centres on Wycheproof, Victoria, Australia from genealogy sent by Betty (Matheson) Salathiel, who has chronicled in great detail the descent from her forebear Farquhar who emigrated from Craig, Lochalsh c.1850.

The Dugald Mac Ian Og Branch, which has a brief reference in HOM 1900, has been developed by the Reverend William, already mentioned, with relatives in Canada (Rand Hector Matheson's family) and in the United States (Lyman Matheson in Texas and his sister Jean Fries in St Louis).

The John of Achtaytoralan Branch has been updated mainly from gravestones at Kirkton as I have no contact with anyone who might be the Representer of this family.

The Perth, Canada Branch was started by Senator Roderick Matheson who emigrated in the early 1800s. He had two wives, the first dying as a result of giving birth to twins. He had a family by each wife, and as a result of assistance by Judge John Matheson, Rideau Ferry, both families are now up to date.

The Donald Mac Alaster Branch is represented by Colonel Donald Matheson, from whom I have had much assistance in sorting out some genealogy in the 1880s and 90s. This genealogy will shortly be up to date.

Donald of Balmacarra Branch creates a problem in that HOM 1900 stated that Kenneth More (eldest son of Donald of Balmacarra) had only one son Farquhar Roy (1772-1846). The Reverend William in his searches found another son Donald (1767-1850) recorded in the Records of the Synod of Glenelg. Janet Matheson Dorn can trace her descent backwards to this Donald.

Elsewhere in this family Mrs Lexy (Matheson) Mackay has helped to correct and bring up to date her descent from her great grandfather Alexander, Am Fidhleir Dall, the Blind Fiddler.

The Family of Dugald Og has spread across the seas. In the case of Murdoch who was killed in an encounter with the revenue men at Scalpa Bay, Lochalsh in 1815, he married twice and had two families which both emigrated to Cape Breton after his death. This will entail more research from Billy the Fiddler at Little Narrows in Cape Breton of one family, and Neil Franklyn Matheson of Stratford in Ontario, of the other.

The Family of Iomaire is reasonably well documented to the present day and in due course I will ask for verification. My father was in correspondence with a Mrs Patrick Grant of Banavie, Fort William in the 1950s, who was related to John Matheson (b. 21 Dec 1879), the XIIth in descent from Murchadh Buidhe, but nothing heard since. John had four or five sons. I would be grateful for a contact.

The Family of Glas na Muclach had some confused details of the family centred round Steinscholl, Isle of Skye. This has been resolved with the help of Dr. Alasdair Maclean, Aird Bhearnisdale, a descendant. The family of Murdo of Plockton, who married the daughter of the Blind Fiddler mentioned above is well up to date through the help given by his descendant Ailsa Matheson of Hamilton, New Zealand.

Finally, the last section of HOM 1900 is allotted to the Mathesons of Shiness, Sutherland, which is now completely up to date due to my cousins' assistance.

I am very conscious of the many Mathesons who are unable to find a connection into the Clan History, and I can only persuade them to go on searching for the vital clues. This particularly applies to Sutherland Mathesons who often write that they are "connected to the Shiness Family". Post-1745 that family genealogy is pretty watertight, and a connection is unlikely to be found. But pre-1745 there are some gaps in the genealogy and it is in this area where more information is needed. There is a mass of Sutherland Matheson genealogical trees that have been put together by various people, but, unlike the Lochalsh Mathesons, there is no main trunk or stem from which the branches can shoot.

In Norway there is a vast family of Mathesons all descended from Major Jacob (?Fredrik) Matheson (c.1639-1724) who was commandant of Kongsvinger Fortress. There must be some connection with Sutherland Mathesons, bearing in mind that Colonel George Matheson of Shiness served in the Mackay Regiment in Scandanavia in the wars of Gustavus Adolphus. Einar Chr. Matheson has produced a detailed genealogy from surviving family papers, most of

which were destroyed during the German invasion of 1940.

Finally I would be grateful if anyone could send me or Janet Matheson Dorn any more information in the form of "Trees" or "Charts", but please could they be clear and well laid out. I would also like some anecdotes to humanise the individuals as I do not want the new History to be just a Stud Book!

A MATHESON GATHERING IN NORWAY.

by Serena Matheson.

In the middle of June we paid an exciting visit to Norway. Kirsten and Torkel Opsahl and some other descendants of their side of the Norwegian Matheson family (descendants of Major Jacob Matheson) were giving a luncheon party at their farm at Dalen, near the south-eastern border with Sweden, to which we were invited. Unfortunately the visit had to be squeezed in between a rehearsal at Windsor Castle on the Friday morning and the Garter Ceremony there on Monday.

We flew to Oslo on the Friday evening where we were met, and whisked to Rolf and Margaret Hofseth's beautiful home. There was a delicious dinner, and their son Rolf and daughter Marie Fangel and Eigil and Karine were there. Next morning, Einar and Mette Matheson came round to breakfast. It was lovely to see them again. We then drove out to Dalen where there were about 150 Matheson descendants of all ages gathered for a wonderful out-door lunch and a superb party. Everyone was so welcoming and they all spoke English to us, even the children. Everyone looked



and played and joked exactly like Mathesons the world over! It all ended in a series of tugs-of-war between branches of the family. The ambience had a Highland setting, complete with the most vicious midges!

We stayed with Kirsten and Torkel that night. Their house must be elastic to have accommodated so many people. We were all superbly fed on elk steaks, and were so comfortable. Next morning Marie's son Simen drove us to the airport, where we sadly said 'good bye' to Norway.

A TRIP TO SCOTLAND.

by Andrew Bruce Matheson, Toronto.

From Standerwick (July 92) we made all the right train connections to Glasgow (no mean feat, if you recall my record on British Rail and that of my grandfather, Rand in 1981). We quickly passed on to Oban, which we used as a base to get to Iona. The clouds parted briefly while we explored this famous religious island. But we had too little time to absorb its ambience.

After two train connections, then a ferry ride, then a bus ride, then another ferry ride, then another train ride (I'm getting better at this stuff, see!) we made it to Morag MacKenzie's beautiful and quiet B&B in Duirinish. On our first night at Morag's we walked up to the ruins of the Matheson stronghold (Seann-chreag) near the Field of Two Declivities. This is a magical place for me, as I'm sure it is for many Mathesons. It seems to me that there are more trees than when we climbed up at the 1981 Gathering, but I did have my first dram of Scotch then, at the age of 13, so maybe my memory plays tricks. The trees around the loch (Achaid-na-h-inich) remind me of many places in Canada - did Scottish-Canadian explorers, like Sir Alexander MacKenzie, see the resemblance? I do not know the history of the stronghold and the stones do not suggest much, but this left more to my imagination, strengthening a sense of mystery that rises in me when I think of my ancestors long dead but alive in my mind. I prefer the tranquility of this place, where contemplation is possible, to the commercialised renovations of old family haunts which one finds elsewhere in the Highlands.

We rented bikes from Kyle of Lochalsh to visit Eilean Donan Castle, Duncraig Castle and the ancient hills surrounding. Rain coats were de rigueur, as always, but nothing fell from the sky, except low-flying warplanes. Coming home we saw a submarine west off Duirinish, or was it Nessie's ocean-going sister?

We were sad to leave our friendly and helpful hosts, Morag, Mary and, last but not least, Margaret-Ann, who has the reddest hair and biggest smile I've seen on a wee lass. Unfortunately we could not change our flight back to Toronto to give us enough time to see Skye, Lewis and the Orkneys. We had just a night and a day left, which were spent in the chic city of Edinburgh. This visit to Scotland was planned as a bonus at the end of a trip to Turkey. Next time Scotland will get the time it deserves. I set a goal for my father and I: we will not return to Scotland unless we have a sailboat to sail along its beautiful shores. Given my father's love of sailboats and Scotland, I expect to be back soon!

AUSTRALIA.

A newspaper snip, with acknowledgement to an unknown newspaper.

"DON CUTS UP ROUGH ON RAVENS' CRAVING"

"Don Matheson is ravin' mad because cunning birds are stealing his new golf balls at his driving range. Since opening the range in the Sydney beach suburb of Cronulla three weeks ago, Don has watched the ravens fly in and take more than 2000 golf balls worth about \$2000. The feathered fiends, often thirty at a time, are pinching 111 balls a day - 4.5 balls per hour.

'I think at first they thought the balls were eggs because they used to take them away and try to crack them open' said Don.

He's tried two artificial hawks and a three-speaker sonar which is supposed to simulate a bird in distress. After getting advice from Taronga Zoo and a trapper, Don has decided the best way to get rid of the ravens is to trap a few in hope of scaring off the others. An ornithologist from Sydney's Australian Museum, Dr Walter Bowles, said the ravens were probably taking the balls to amuse themselves. 'They have a play behaviour which doesn't serve any purpose', he said.

'But Dr Bowles warned getting rid of the ravens for good was near impossible, although moving their nests might do the trick'.

"How about sending them to the Tower of London?" suggests Abigail Butler.

CAPE BRETON.

Hon Sec: Brenda Matheson Cochrane,
56 Birch Street, Port Merien, N.S. B0A 1T0.

Various activities since last summer have included a church service on 6 Oct 91 at Little Narrows; a pot-luck supper and Christmas Party at South Haven in December; in March 92 a gift of a Plaque with a Prayer (a suitable greeting with an engraved plate) was sent to Mrs Christine Matheson on the occasion of her 100th birthday. We received a 'thank-you' and we were told that it was hanging on the wall of her bedroom.

In June we had a lobster supper at Little Narrows, which was attended by fifty-four. Meetings also took place at South Haven in July, at Grand River in September, and in October one is due in Glace Bay.

We are sad to report the deaths of Mrs Esther N. Matheson of Sydney in April 1992. Also of Mrs Sadie Matheson of Donkin on 1 Jan 92, two days before her 99th birthday. Sadie was George Matheson's aunt, and she was the senior Matheson present at the Lobster supper held at George's summer cottage in Mira last August 1991 which was attended by Serena and the Chief.

NOVA SCOTIA MAINLAND.

Hon Sec: Mrs Ena Matheson,
PO Box 24, Falmouth, N.S. BOP 1LD.

At Eastertime more than fifty Mathesons and Mackays gathered at Knox United Church, Brookfield. Piper Kelly Putnam welcomed the guests, and after prayers of thanksgiving and blessing by the Reverend Larry Harrison, a bounteous pot-luck supper was enjoyed. Alice Matheson, Lunenberg, organised a group in Scottish Country Dancing with spirited music provided by Ozzie and Lillian Beck on fiddle and piano. Glen Matheson, Debert, entertained everyone with tales and traditions of the two clans from Sutherland. Donna Matheson and Glen were thanked for organising the Gathering.

The A.G.M. took place on 1 Aug 92 at Knox Presbyterian Church, Earltown, presided over by Al Matheson. The routine matters were dealt with, and in one hour and ten minutes the meeting was concluded. Sadly, Glen has not been able to issue a newsletter from his cluttered desk in Debert, but hopes to resume output this fall.

The annual pot-luck supper and auction was due to be held at Vaughan's and Donna's cottage at Shortt's Lake on 30 Aug 92.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

Hon. Sec. Arthur Matheson,
131 Norwood Road, Charlottetown, C1A 8P6.

REUNION: DESCENDANTS OF ARCHIBALD MATHESON, JULY 1992.

A reunion of the descendants of Archibald Matheson and his wife, Lois Nelson, was held in July. Archibald was born on P.E.I. on 27 Jul 1851 and was the son of Lauchlan Matheson who had emigrated to P.E.I. from the Isle of Skye in the mid 1800s. More than forty descendants of Archibald travelled great distances from across Canada and the United States to attend the reunion.

Included in the festivities was attendance at the July 26th 11 a.m. service at Dundas Baptist Church conducted by the Reverend Kelly Holt. The church holds a special place in the hearts of the descendants as it was built by Archibald.

On the evening of the 27th, the descendants gathered at "The Inn of the Bay of Good Fortune" for an old fashioned supper. Guest of Honour was Miles Matheson whose great grandfather, Norman Matheson, was an uncle of Archibald. Miles brought greetings from the descendants of Norman and paid tribute to the contribution that Mathesons have made to the public and political life of the Province of Prince Edward Island.

One of the actresses in the "Anne of Green Gables" in Charlottetown this year is Gail Matheson from Vancouver, British Colombia, whose father had moved from P.E.I. to B.C.

NEW ZEALAND.

Hon Sec: Mrs Gordon (Ailsa) Matheson,
138A Pembroke Street, Hamilton.

The Annual Meeting of the New Zealand Branch of the Clan was held in Auckland on 27 Jun 92. In a happy family atmosphere, about sixty local members gathered for dinner - we are getting to know each other well and have much to share in common roots and heritage. Tokens of the growing strength of this three year old group are the number of individuals and family belonging (116), the healthy finances (NZ \$ 1,500), quarterly newsletter, well supported gatherings and a new group meeting in Invercargill at the southern end of the country.

During the year a dinner was held with emphasis on the Waipu Settlement which came via Nova Scotia; a picnic was enjoyed at the Botanical Gardens and the Annual Meeting led into an evening of Scottish Country Dancing with music from our own piper, Norman Matheson and David Matheson, accordion. This is generous support and participation from all members. Bill Matheson and Bob Astill left the Committee, but remaining are Donald, Lewis, Norma, Rita, Ailsa and Gordon Matheson. New members are Doug, Anne, and Pam Matheson and Joy Weeds.

Individual highlights have been Doug and Anne Matheson's visit to Nova Scotia in August 91; Joan Matheson's visit to Cardiff, Wales, based on her son Andrew, over the New Year; and our indefatigable genealogists Monica and John Kidd's visit to Scotland. All spent a few nights at the Chief's home in Somerset.

A highlight for the coming year, 1993, which all New Zealand members of the Clan are eagerly anticipating, is the first visit of the Chief and Serena planned for August. This will set the seal on the enterprise which founded the New Zealand Branch of the Clan Society.

Our newsletter has featured the history of Matheson place names - Matheson Bay, Lake Matheson, Matheson's Corner and several Matheson Roads. Our guests will see many of these places, and many Kiwis of Matheson descent will take the opportunity to warmly and proudly host them, and strengthen the ties linking us together.

UNITED STATES.

Hon Sec: Lyman W. Matheson,
12126 Rhett Drive, Houston, Texas, 77024.

Phyllis and I were again in charge of the 1992 Robert Burns Supper of the Houston Heather and Thistle Society. Attendance was again more than 650 kilted Scots. This Supper, held on 25th January annually, follows the traditional format. You have to be an enthusiast to eat the Haggis, which is made of minced sheep's heart, lungs and liver mixed in oatmeal, onions and black pepper. It's boiled in a sheep's stomach. The best comes last, coffee and Scotch Whisky, with toasts and recitations about Burns's life, works, ideas and philosophy.

The next U.S. Branch Newsletter should be forthcoming early next year, when I retire from business. I would like to remind all U.S. Branch members who pay annual dues that they are based on 1st January. In 1992, sixteen annual members were struck off for failing to pay up, which is in accordance with the Clan Society Constitution.

I would like to suggest to all members that the way to enjoy your Clan association to the utmost is to contact any Matheson in your local area, whether they are Clan Society members or not, and find the unexpected joy of fellowship and mutual pride of having the name of Matheson.

Members attending the Montreal Gathering came from the following States: Arizona, California, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Missouri, Texas and Virginia. Total attendance was not as large as was expected by those who had put so much effort into the planning.

WESTERN ZONE

Hon Sec: Robert W. Matheson,
395 Mariposa, #E, Sierra Madre, CA 91024.

EASTERN ZONE.

Hon Sec: John Aakesson,
7312 Leesville Blvd, Springfield, VA 22151.

CENTRAL ZONE.

Hon Sec: Mrs Jean Matheson Fries,
11 West Guyer Lane, St. Louis, MO, 63131.

How wonderful it would have been if each of our Clan members world-wide could have attended our Gathering in Montreal. How very proud we were of our Clanspeople when they marched by in the parade with Torquhil leading with his erect military bearing. It was a very impressive sight! You can believe that those of us waiting to come by clapped, cheered and whistled - we made all the noise we were capable of! I understand that Torquhil gave his friend, Lord Elgin, a "right smart" salute as our Clan passed the reviewing stand.

Immediately following the parade, a bilingual ecumenical church service, which included a "Kirkning O' the Tartans", was held with all the Clans and Societies participating. What interested me was the fact that it was held in the Cathedral of Mary Queen of the World. That brought back a long-held childhood memory!



West and East at Montreal
Bob Matheson and John Aakesson

When I was nine years old, our family was returning one summer from a vacation on Cape Breton Island, and had a stop-over between trains in Montreal. Our Mother took Lyman and me for a walk which happened to pass the Cathedral. The Cathedral has life-size statues of the twelve apostles with Christ in the centre standing in a row at the roofline across the front of the church. There they stand, with the blue sky behind them, looking down on us mortals on the street below. That sight left an indelible memory with a little ten-year old! Sad to say, Lyman, Phyllis and I missed the service at the Cathedral as we had to leave for the airport immediately after the parade.

Do plan to attend the next Gathering! We saw many old friends in Montreal and made some new ones, all Mathesons. My husband used to say "I have never met a Matheson I didn't like" and to that I say "Amen"!

AN ACCOUNT OF JUDGING THE COACHING MARATHON AT THE ROYAL WINDSOR HORSE SHOW, 17 MAY 1992.

by Charles T. Matheson, The Plains, Virginia, U.S.A.

One of the opening events of the Royal Windsor Horse Show is the judged Coaching Marathon, held in the main ring and on a course through Windsor Park.

This event traditionally has two judges, one English and one from abroad. I had the honor of being asked as the foreign judge, while Mr James Corbett was the Englishman. Corbett drove for many years with the renowned road coachman, Sandy Watney, and now resides in the Isle of Mull. Unlike coaching classes held at Devon or Toronto, where specific point requirements can be assigned, the Marathon is judged as a comprehensive test of driving skill, suitability of horses, pace, appointments and overall presentation.

The vehicles are divided into three classes; Road Coach, Park Drag and Regimental Coach, with ribbons awarded to five places. At the end of the placement the first two finishers of each division are asked to test in the ring where a champion and a reserve champion of the class are awarded.

This day there were two Road Coaches (making the selection difficult), thirteen Park Drags and one Regimental Coach (making that selection easy). Each of the Queen's Household Cavalry Regiments (The Life Guards, and The Blues and Royals) is entitled to enter a coach; this year, The Blues and Royals. The Queen's new Crown Equerry,

The teams were led out of the main ring by the redoubtable John Parker driving the Norwich Union Royal Mail Coach to his highly schooled team of Lippanzer/Oldenbergs crosses. I had driven this team myself, so I enjoyed seeing them from the ground. Parker was not in competition and the order after him was drawn.

The show grounds lie below Windsor Castle in part of the Home Park along the River Thames, so that the Castle forms the backdrop for the show. This year the weather was absolutely clear and warm, lending an unusual degree of comfort and beauty to the pageantry. In this setting the teams drove out of the main ring up the hill through the town and out into the Great Park, where the judges asked them to stop on the Long Walk for an appointments inspection. This was also an opportunity to give a good assessment to the horse teams, harness and general turnout. All the coaches are fully loaded with passengers and grooms (up to fourteen), so that they must all look quite tidy as the Judges pass on that entourage as well. Sometimes you think that you are judging ladies hats instead of horses!

This process should set the first three or four, the second four and then the rest. Subsequently the teams drive off as the judges position themselves ahead, in this case at the Copper Horse at the head of the Long Walk. Here you can see the teams working at a pace uphill and making a turn; and then, on the return, manipulating a turn and long downhill, hopefully at a slow trot. A fully loaded coach at 4500 pounds making a downhill turn with the leaders out of draft held back by two wheelers in a trot is a fair test to reinsmanship, and several places were rearranged after that section.



Charles Matheson (Right) Judging.

Lieutenant Colonel Seymour Gilbert-Denham, also drove a Drag from the Royal Mews to a team of grey Warmbloods, his first coaching class, where he finished fifth.

The final Marathon judging point came at a sharp but level right turn and through the (narrow) gates into the Home Farm. This should have been done at a working trot without slackening pace and at the end of about seven miles. The

teams were begining to sort themselves out. The horses were then stopped in the Park before crossing the main road to enter the show grounds. Here, tea and champagne were passed round as the horses' condition was checked.

Towards the end of the Marathon the teams began falling into place themselves, a natural result of a lengthy test for both the horses and the whip. The teams were then driven back in the Main Ring to parade and drive in both directions. Backing up is a test not normally asked for in this class unless the decision is in doubt. Corbett and I laid more emphasis on the horses' ability than on appointments. Although we both had backgrounds in Road Coaches, we ended up picking the Park Drags as the overall winners with Paul Nicholson's team of old style Gelderlanders edging out Peter Mundt with his Dutch Warmbloods for the Red Ribbon (red ribbon is first place in England).

Eighty-five year old George Mossman won the Road Coach Division, also with Warmbloods, and was an inspiration to all around. His Guard also won the Coach Horn Competition.

Of the Americans, Tucker Johnson came in a remarkable third place with the Johnson's family team of mixed grey Warmbloods driven to his Holland and Holland Park Drag. This was Johnson's first Coaching Marathon at Windsor, and although his turnout (with lamps on and shutters down) was technically outside the rules, my co-judge fairly insisted on placing him third for quality and composure of horses and driver. His team is made up of the same horses that Sem Groenwald later placed third in the combined driving event later in the same week. And Johnson went on to place sixth in the pairs competition. Tucker kindly let me drive this team recently and I can attest to their versatility and ability.

There were two other teams for combined driving entered in the Marathon. Fred Pendlebay was driving part bred Cleveland Bays, and George Bowman Jr. his team of Warmbloods. Both teams had leaders coupled in the combined driving method which is a major turnout fault in coaching classes.

The other American team that was there, but did not compete on account of quarantine problems, was John Seabrook's new Kladruber horses and the Nimrod Coach. This entry would have made the judging more difficult for the American judge, and I deny charges of collusion with the Department of Agriculture!

At the end of the judging, my co-judge insisted on placing the entire entry. I was happy to place five, and could not bring myself to placing anyone last in an event that, after all, requires extraordinary effort and attention to detail. This was the only difference we judges had, and was resolved by way of one of the lower placed teams breaking a main bar and not finding his place in line.

OBITUARIES.

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

* John Adam Mathieson, of Brentwood, Essex on 3 Jul 91, and his sister, (Ian A. Mathieson on the 1991 list).

* Mrs Margaret Young, of Shenfield, Essex on 8 Mar 91, and their cousin,

* John Godfrey Mathieson, of Barnes, London on 3 Jul 91, brother of Mrs Alison M. Kydd. (John G. Matheson, on the 1991 list).

* Mrs Ann E. Matheson of O'Leary, P.E.I., on 5 Dec 91.

* Mrs Florence Isabel (Macrae) Matheson of West Royalty, P.E.I., widow of Hon. J. Philip Matheson. She was involved locally, nationally and internationally with the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada. In 1973 she was named as an Officer of the Order of Canada, and was decorated by the Queen. She was also awarded the Queen's Silver Jubilee Medal for continued service to her community.

* Mrs Eileen Matheson, of Dedham, Essex, on 18 Jan 92, wife of Colonel Donald Matheson, representer of the Donald MacAlaster Branch. They were married for fifty-two years. She is also survived by their son Duncan, and daughters Rosemary Mayfield and Jean Pike.

* Edmond James Moncrief Matheson, E.R.D., of Carnoustie, on 22 Jan 92 two days after his 80th birthday. Edmond was the elder brother of Ronald who died in 1991. He was an early member of the Society, and succeeded his brother as Convenor in September 1974, an office he held with dedication, common sense and good humour to his dying day. His trips abroad to international clan gatherings made him well known, and this was supplemented with a wide ranging correspondence with members. By profession he was a railway engineer of great distinction, not only in the United Kingdom, but also abroad. He will be remembered with gratitude, not only by the Clan Society, but by the Clan as a whole. Major General John Matheson, Edinburgh, represented the Society at the funeral.

* Murdo Matheson, M.A., Daviot, Livera St, Evanton, Ross-shire on 27 Jan 92. Murdo was a native of Lochalsh and married Elizabeth Mackay of Avernish (who survives him) in 1938. He was a fluent Gaelic speaker, presiding over and singing in many ceillidhs during his life. For eighteen years he was a much loved Headmaster at Munlochry on the Black Isle, who always strove to achieve the best for his pupils. He took a leading part in the community and in the Church. He is also survived by his son Finlay and family at Arinackaig, Strathcarron, Wester Ross, and two married daughters living near their mother.

* Iain William Matheson, F.R.C.S., Lowther Street, Millom, Cumbria; formerly of Rudha More, Plockton, on 12 May 1992, in his 86th year. Iain was a member of the Donald of Balmacarra Branch of the Clan: a keen and knowledgeable collector of genealogies, and a founder member of the Clan Society in the 1960s of which he was Convener until he retired in 1968. Without his foresight we would not have become a world-wide society, so we will always remember him with gratitude. As a boy he had a scholarship to Westminster School. Afterwards he studied at Barts, gaining his F.R.C.S. He then worked at Camberwell Hospital as senior surgeon until he retired to Rudha More. For the last sixteen years of his life he was the victim of an awful paralysis, which he gallantly partially conquered, but he suffered almost total blindness. He is survived by his wife Helen whom he had married in 1938, sons Iain, Farquhar and daughter Alison.

* Miss Isabella Mathieson, St Anne's Convent, Mussleburgh, on 7 July 1992.

* Elizabeth, Duchess of Richmond and Gordon, on 23 Jul 1992. She was the widow of the 9th Duke who died 2 Nov 1989 (NL 46); and a cousin of the late Colonel Bertram Matheson of Matheson, M.C.

"ROCKETS - ON TIME, ON TARGET".

BATUS '92.

by Major Roderick Matheson, R.C.A.

In last year's Newsletter No. 46 I wrote about, as a Canadian, having the honour of commanding one of the Royal Artillery's famous and historic batteries - O Battery, The Rocket Troop. This is our 188th year and unfortunately our last stand as a Field Artillery Battery. In order to pay tribute to the thousands that have served The Rocket Troop, I believed we had to finish our field service with a bang. We wanted to go to the British Army Training Unit in Suffield (BATUS), Canada. for three weeks of live fire training.

BATUS is considered to be perhaps the best live firing range in the world, with the vast training areas and terrific live firing opportunities. It is where the British Army trained for and learned the lessons they applied during the Gulf War. At BATUS, a Battlegroup (which is a 1100 man organisation made up of armour, artillery, infantry, engineers, signalmen, etc) exercises for eighteen straight days on eastern Alberta's barren prairie. The aim is to finish the workout more efficient and better co-ordinated in our efforts than when we started - a better fighting unit!

O Battery originally was to support the 1st Battalion Coldstream Guards Battlegroup but, with only weeks to go prior to the deployment, this was changed; the battlegroup would now be the 1st Battalion, The Queen's Own Highlanders (Seaforth and Camerons). This turn of events caused Sir Torquhil some disappointment due to his ubiquitous pride in his Guards, my serving them would have seemed rather appropriate. Nevertheless, the Chief did find some solace in the fact that a Matheson was going to be alongside his ancestral comrades - the Jocks - and Highland Jocks at that!

On the whole, the exercise went pretty well, however there were times when we all felt frustrated and frankly a bit silly as pressure and inexperience caused foolish mistakes. We found that it is not easy to co-ordinate several activities at once while completing certain operations for the first time together as a Battlegroup. We often got 80% of the task correct but it was the 20% we got wrong that we remembered. As the Battery Commander I was to advise, help plan and co-ordinate the Mortar and Artillery fire for the Commanding Officer (CO), Lieutenant Colonel Graham Lamb, O.B.E. This was a unique opportunity for me to be a part of the most senior advisors and planners and I learned an awful lot from our Gulf War CO.

It was great fun supporting the Jocks. They were full of fight and spirit and most friendly when it was clear that you were on their side. I got the impression that there few other soldiers one would prefer to support. Our Battery had a



B.S.M. Mullin (left) & Major Rod Matheson

complete workout and many things were tried for the first time. The experience made me realise just how valuable training is; without it we could not possibly execute operations such as the Gulf War, Peacekeeping Missions, Aid to the Civil Power or Emergency Relief Missions.

As I think back to events I consider how I may have changed or improved things - in my quest to do things perfectly. However, the most important statement of the

exercise for O Battery was made by Lieutenant Colonel Lamb when he said he had "never seen Mortars and Artillery so well co-ordinated, timely and as accurate". O Battery finished its year as it had hoped and indeed expected - On time, On Target!

CRIOMAGEN.

* Major Leslie P. Matheson, son of Leslie and Wanda Matheson, Broadview Heights, Ohio, served two tours of duty in the Gulf Region. He first went to the Gulf in September 1990 for approx. one month as part of the staff planning the air lift of troops and supplies to the region. He went a second time on 3 Feb 91, after his Reserve Squadron had been activated. He served as ECM Officer on board an AC-130 gunship and saw action on his birthday, 26 Feb. In August 1991 he was selected to attend a ten month course at the AF Command and Staff School at Maxwell AF Base, Maxwell, Alabama. Leslie, with his father and mother, attended the Duncraig Gathering in 1981.

* Members will recall the article in Newsletter No. 45 by Charles Mathieson Otstot about Lieutenant Colonel Roderick Matheson who died of wounds on 2 Oct 1862, fighting for the Union. He has now produced a well laid out book of Roderick's wartime letters to his wife, Netty. On one page is a Xerox of the hand written letter; opposite is a typed copy of that page. Charlie hopes that the Healdsburg Museum and Historical Society may be able to publish his work. The letters make interesting reading, and portray, amongst other things, how Roderick was torn between duty to Country, and a desire to be home as a husband and father.

* The Lord Selkirk Association of Ruperts Land has recently published a book with the genealogies of the forty-five families who helped to establish the Red River Settlement at what became Winnipeg, Manitoba. Mathesons played a significant part in that settlement. Leslie Matheson has sent the Editor a copy of this very useful reference book.

* Another book which has recently come the Editor's way is "Through the Kenora Gateway". It was produced in 1982 by the Kenora Centennial Committee. Kenora is to the east of Winnipeg, just beyond the Manitoba boundary, and situated on the trans Canada highway. Although one of the main streets is "Matheson Street" there is no mention of a Matheson in the text. Can any reader please let the Editor have any information on this?

* Carolyn Matheson, daughter of Leslie and Wanda, now works for a Law firm specialising in the Business Section. She is also much involved in "The Daughters of the American Revolution" and is chairman of the Junior Club of the Ohio D.A.R.

DUGALD ROY by Serena Matheson (for the younger generation).

There is a tradition that Mathesons never eat goat meat. I don't know how it all started, but it was a very long time ago, and this is the sad story of the trouble that it caused poor Dugald Roy.

Dugald Roy was born when his father, John Dhu, was Constable of Eilean Donan Castle. There had been a cattle raid led by the great Donald Gruamach MacDonald of Sleat. They were driven off, but not before the raiders had killed a lot of people in Lochalsh, including Sir Dugald Mackenzie, the Priest of Kintail. After a time John married his widow and they called their eldest son Dugald after him. He probably had red hair because he was always called Dugald Roy.

Donald Gruamach returned some years later (in 1539) to attack Eilean Donan Castle itself, because he had been told that it wasn't very strongly guarded. He came with seven or eight big boats called birlinns. The sentries saw them coming up the loch, and were suspicious enough to send for everyone to come to defend the castle. Unfortunately it took a long time for the message to get to them as the people were away to the hill with the cattle, and the MacDonalds had landed before they arrived.

Eilean Donan was a strong castle and it had an iron gate which the MacDonalds could not break down. The garrison threw stones, and anything else they could get hold of, on to the attackers' heads so that they had to stand quite far back to shoot their arrows at the defenders. Even so, tragically, one of these arrows hit John Dhu, the Constable, and he was killed. But the Mathesons would not give in, and still Donald Gruamach couldn't capture the castle. He took the birlinns over to the Point of Aird, where he thought he would land. The reinforcements had arrived by now, and he was met with a shower of arrows. One of them hit him in the foot. This hurt him so much that, even though he knew that it was a barbed arrow, he insisted on pulling it out. He should have known better! The arrow had pierced an artery, and no-one could stop it bleeding, and Donald Gruamach bled to death on Aird Point, opposite Eilean Donan Castle.

John Dhu's son, Dugald Roy, was still a boy when his father died. Before he grew up the Mackenzies of Kintail had managed to get control over a large part of Lochalsh, and the MacDonalds of Glengarry a lot more. He was left with the right to the rents of only about one third of Lochalsh, and the Matheson and MacDonald ground officers were in the habit of collecting them together and dividing them up. In those days there was very little money about and the rents were paid in kind - a day's labour, cheese, butter and so on. When they were dividing it up one year, there was a cabog of butter over. The MacDonald man wanted to take it all, but the Matheson ground officer cut it

clean in half with his big knife.

When Glengarry heard about this, he was furious and swore to be revenged on Dugald Roy. He knew that Mathesons never eat goat, and that gave him an idea. Next Spring he had a lamb taken from its mother and fed entirely on goat's milk. When it was fattened and ready to be eaten, he invited Dugald Roy to a banquet in his castle on the cranog in Loch Acha-na-hinich. In those days a Highland Chief never went anywhere without a retinue of about twelve men and his Gillie Mor or Champion. But, because Dugald thought that he was visiting a friend, he only took his Gillie Mor with him.

The meal was served up and the lamb was set before them on the table among other dishes. Dugald tasted it, and it tasted of goat, so he pushed it to the side of his wooden plate.

"Why are you not eating your lamb?" asked Glengarry.

"You know very well that I do not eat goat's flesh".

"That is as true mutton as ever you tasted".

"No - let me tell you, that beast never tasted sheep's milk in all its life" said Dugald.

The argument got fiercer and fiercer, and neither man would give in. At last it came to blows as Glengarry had always meant it to. With only his Gillie Mor, Dugald Roy hadn't a chance, and he was tied up with ropes and dragged off as a prisoner to Invergarry Castle. There, he was so badly treated, and made so unhappy, that he died.

Dugald Roy left a son who was always called Murdo Buie because he had fair hair. He was so angry at what had happened to his father that he went straight to see Mackenzie of Kintail to ask for his help to punish Glengarry. In exchange, he promised to give Mackenzie all the rest of his lands except the tacks of Balmacara and Fernaig. Of course Mackenzie accepted at once. But he never fulfilled his side of the bargain.

This has been a sad story. I will try to tell you a happier one next year!

(A short note on Invergarry Castle, with picture, appeared in NL 43. ED).

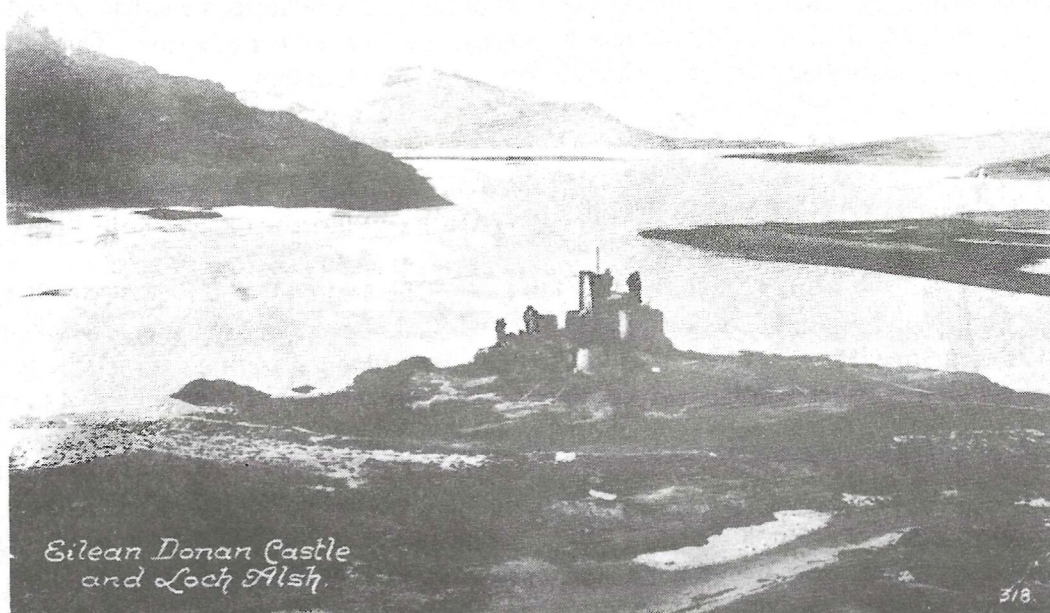
CONGRATULATIONS TO:

* Major and Mrs Roderick Matheson on the birth of their son, Harold Ewan, on 7 Dec 91 at Iserlohn British Military Hospital, Germany.

* Shirley Mae Matheson and D.Shane MacClure, both of Souris, P.E.I., on their marriage at York United Church on 26 Mar 1992. Shirley, a registered nurse, and Shane, a High School Teacher, enjoyed a six week honeymoon in Britain in April and May. They rented a car and motored in England, Wales and Scotland. Of special interest were the Western Highlands where their ancestors lived before immigrating to Canada.



* Russel and Elinor Matheson of Charlottetown, P.E.I., on the occasion of their 55th wedding anniversary on 18 June 1992.



Eilean Conan as ruined in 1719.
Aird Point middle distance, right.



* Mrs Christine Elizabeth Matheson Sutherland of Truro, Nova Scotia, on her 100th birthday 28 Mar 1992. Our good friend, the Reverend Donald Sutherland of Whycogomagh, alerted us so that Clan representatives from Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, Australia, New Zealand, United States and the United Kingdom were able to send greetings and presents, amongst which was an original Aboriginal painting from Australia. The Chief received a charming letter of thanks from her daughter, Mrs Ruth Chisholm.

CLAN MATHESON SOCIETY. (U.K.) Balance Sheet as at 30 June 1992.

Assets.

Balance at bank.	£427.18	
Deposit at Abbey National Bldg Soc.	703.17	£1130.35

Represented by:

Reserve Fund Life Members Subscriptions

Total as at 30 June 1992	£800.00	
Received during year	£120.00	
Transfer to Ord A/C	120.00	
Surplus as at 30 June 1991	£ 63.63	
Surplus as at 30 June 1992	186.72	
Surplus per Balance Sheet	250.35	1130.35

Income and Expenditure Account.

Annual Members Subscriptions	£ 26.00	
Life Members Subscriptions	120.00	
U.S.Share of Newsletter	70.05	
Canadian Share of Newsletter	75.50	
N.Z. Share of Newsletter & Post	28.56	
Donations	4.40	
Building Society Interest	37.11	£361.72

Less:		
Cost of Printing Newsletter	175.00	175.00
Surplus for year to 30 June 1992		186.72

Norman S.Matheson,
Hon Treasurer.

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 their grandparents spelled their name similarly. Persons who spell their name Matheison, Mathison or Matthewson will be considered for membership if they can establish the Highland origin of their family.

For members living in the UK or overseas (excluding North America 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 the 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
1 SEPTEMBER 1993.

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

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