



Clan Matheson Society

NEWSLETTER No. 50 Autumn 1995

Chief of the Clan:

Major Sir Fergus Matheson of Matheson,
Baronet of Lochalsh.

Price to non-members £2.50 or local equivalent

Convenor:	Major General John Matheson O.B.E., T.D., F.R.C.S., F.R.C.P
Genealogist:	Mrs Janet Matheson Dorn, 2406 Chase Lake Drive, Jonesboro, Georgia, 30236, U.S.A.
Piper:	Duncan Matheson, Braehead, Gower Street, Brora, Sutherland, Scotland, KW9 6PU
Editor (Temporary):	The Chief of the Clan

THE CHIEF'S MESSAGE

This year, once again, we had the opportunity to visit Mathesons overseas. The occasion was the International Gathering of the Clans in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada which began in the last week in June. Anyone who has visited that country will appreciate what an exciting prospect that was for us. Bringing together Clansmen from far off places called for careful planning and efficient administration. Excellent

arrangements were made by Joel Matheson, Hon. Secretary, Canada, ably supported by his wife Ruth. Backed up by Glen Matheson, President of Mainland Nova Scotia Branch and Judge Lewis Matheson, President of Cape Breton Island Branch, together with their respective committees, the organisation was quite superb and every possible eventuality seemed to have been thought of in advance. When thanking them all for their hard work to make it such a success, I feel sure I speak for the many who attended. The same goes for all those whose individual acts of kindness which went to make it such a rare and memorable occasion. Memories of a

wonderful, happy time linger on and Jean and I hope that before long those who were so kind to us will visit these shores and we can attempt to return some of the generous hospitality we were so fortunate to experience.

For our Clan, the Gathering opened with a grand reception attended by Clansmen from all over Canada. Also the United Kingdom, New Zealand and the United States. A brilliantly arranged Tattoo followed at

which close on 50 Clans were represented and presided over by the H.E. the Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia, Mr. James Kinley. The massed Pipes and Drums of famous Regiments and other distinguished organisations were spectacular and could not fail to kindle a sense of pride, if it was not there already, in the Highland heritage shared by so many of us drawn together from so far and all present in that vast arena. Next day a Church Service and then Highland Games followed. Later the Clans scattered and Mathesons went off to Pictou via Truro, then Gairloch. Next came Cape Breton visiting Baddeck, Fort Louisberg, Grand River followed by a delicious lobster lunch at the home of George and Annie Matheson. Later we visited St Ann's for the Parliament and finally Little Narrows. For us it was an unforgettable experience and wonderful to meet so many friends old and new.

Whilst ever mindful of the wishes of those who have done so much to establish this Society and build it up as we know it today, the need for change should not be overlooked. Over the past year or two, growth in membership of overseas branches has increased to the point where now they are running their own affairs whilst still remaining an integral part of the Clan Society. Membership fees which formerly went to the Clan Fund are now retained by branches. To rectify this loss of income branches have agreed to pay an annual subsidy based on membership. Branches have also given their agreement to the revised Constitution and Rules of the Society, brought about by the changes mentioned above and others, details of which are included in this number. As it seems there are countless numbers of Mathesons in the world who are totally unaware of the existence of the Clan Society, many of whom would wish to join, it would be helpful if all members would try to increase our membership and so help to improve our financial position. A further step forward is the

wish to establish a Clan Centre in Lochalsh, Wester Ross where in time information and matters of general interest about our Clan, particularly historical, can be centralised. Achievement of this is probably some way off but moves in that direction are under way. Its success will very much depend on the willingness of Mathesons living in the locality having the time and inclination to help. Not least of the problems is the need to establish a Clan Centre capital

fund. Suggestions from members who are experts in these matters would be welcome.

Lastly, I thank the Officers of the Society at home and abroad who give so generously of their time and expertise to provide for their members. In particular, I thank all those who have recently resigned their appointments, for all they have done for the Clan, their long years of service and for the enthusiasm they have imparted. I am also grateful to those who have taken their places and am confident the same high ideals and spirit of service to others will be maintained.

Fergus Matheson of Matheson



Rand (Joel's father) : Al Beverly : Jean & Fergus : Ruth & Joel.

CONSTITUTION AND RULES

1. The name of the Society shall be "The Clan Matheson Society"

2. The object of the Society shall be to promote fellowship among its Members world wide and pride in their Scottish heritage and the name they bear.

3. It shall be composed of Members in the United Kingdom and overseas, formed into a series of Branches and Sub-Branches where a concentration of Members warrant it, also a Clan Council.

4. The Clan Council shall be the Executive body of the Society. It will meet whenever practical but contact will be mainly by post. It will advise the Chief on matters relating to the affairs of the Clan Society. It will consist of the Clan Convenor who will also act as Convenor of the Council, one representative from each overseas Branch who will be appointed by the Chief on the recommendation of that Branch and known as a "Chief's Lieutenant," an Hon. Secretary to record the Council's business and an Hon. Treasurer to maintain the Clan account. In addition, members may be co-opted by the Chief at his discretion.

5. A Parliament shall be convened by the Chief on occasions such as a Gathering when those present represent a broad cross section of Members from at least two Branches. Its purpose shall be for Members to exchange ideas, discuss matters and express views. The Convenor of the host Branch will act as Speaker and arrange for minutes recording views expressed to be taken and circulated to Members of the Council and Branch Secretaries.

6. (a) Branches shall be financially viable formations, only formed if sanctioned by the Chief. A Branch may be established in any Country in areas where numbers of Mathesons warrant it, provided allegiance to the Chief is maintained and the Constitution and Rules of the Clan Society are strictly observed.

(b) Each Branch will appoint a Convenor, Hon. Secretary, Hon. Treasurer and Committee to conduct the Branch affairs. An Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held at which all Officers will be subject to re-election. An account of all Branch meetings will be recorded in a Minute Book. Following every AGM, the Branch Secretary will forward the names of the elected Officers to the Chief, together with a copy of the Statement of Account, made up to 30th of June, audited by a competent person other than a Member of the Society and signed by the Branch Convenor.

(c) In distant areas, where numbers warrant, a Sub-Branch may be formed on the recommendation of the Branch Secretary, provided paras 6 (a) and (b) above are observed.

7. (a) Every Branch will elect its own Members and decide the rate of subscription according to its needs which will be approved at the AGM.

(b) Subject to the decisions of individual Branch Committees, Members will normally have the option of taking out life or annual membership. Family membership may be offered to include all children under the age of 18 years.

(c) Membership will be restricted to persons spelling their name Matheson or Mathieson or whose parents or one set of grandparents spelt their name similarly. Matheison, Mathison or Matthewson can be considered for membership provided the Highland origin of the applicants family can be established.

(d) Honorary Members may be admitted at the discretion of the Chief.

(e) The Chief or his Lieutenants may cancel the membership of any person whose conduct or activities are deemed unbecoming or detrimental to the interests of the Society.

8. (a) Annual subscriptions will become due on the first of January each year. Members joining after the 30th June in any year will not be liable for a further subscription until the end of the following year.

(b) Hon. Secretaries should try to maintain contact with a member whose subscription has lapsed but if in the Hon. Secretary's opinion failure to pay has gone beyond a reasonable time, that person will be deemed to have resigned from the Society. If he or she wishes to rejoin, application for membership will be made afresh.

9. Application for membership will be made on the Clan application form enclosing the appropriate subscription to:-

(a) The Hon. Secretary of the Branch in the Country where the applicant is resident.

(b) To the Hon. Treasurer of the Council if (or in his absence, the Chief) if the applicant resides in a Country where there is no established Branch.

10. Cheques should be drawn in favour of "The Clan Matheson Society" in the appropriate currency and in sterling when channelled through the Honorary Treasurer of the Council.

11. Every Branch should operate a current and deposit account with an eye to receive the highest interest rate and approved by the Committee. Money received should be banked within reasonable time.

12. Officers of the Society shall be indemnified for costs, charges and reasonable expenses, supported by documentation, which they incur, in relation to the affairs of the Society, except such costs, charges or expenses as are occasioned by their own neglect or default.

12. In the event of the Society as a whole or a Branch or Sub-Branch being wound up, such surplus funds as may be held shall be donated to another Branch of the Society, failing that to a charity decided upon by the Committee concerned.

FERGUS MATHESON of MATHESON
Chief of the Clan
JOHN MATHESON, Major General
Convenor of the Clan Society

The National Trust for Scotland

BALMACARA ESTATE

The Trust's Balmacara Estate, which was part of the Matheson's larger Lochalsh Estate in Wester Ross before 1919, is an ideal stopping point for members of The Clan Matheson Society visiting the West Highlands.

3 Holiday Cottages are available between mid-March to end October and bookings open at our Edinburgh office on 1st November each year. Further details can be obtained from:

Travel Trade
The National Trust for Scotland
5 Charlotte Square
Edinburgh
Scotland EH2 4DU

We recommend you try for Ferry Cottage on the shores of Loch Alsh.

You can also visit the Trust's Lochalsh Woodland Garden, a 13 acre garden being developed by the Trust on land formerly owned by the Innes Lillingstons. The Innes Lillingstons owned the Estate before the Mathesons.

If you want more information about the Estate, the Woodland Garden and the surrounding area to help plan your visit or learn more about the area once owned by the Mathesons, please contact:

The National Trust for Scotland
Lochalsh House
Balmacara
Kyle of Lochalsh
Ross-shire
Scotland IV40 8DN

and include a cheque or money order for £2.50 to cover the cost of our booklet and postage. We can also send you details of membership of the National Trust for Scotland.

 The National Trust for Scotland

NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

UNITED KINGDOM

SCOTLAND

Convenor: Donald Matheson
Hon Secretary: Mrs Donald Matheon

65 Drum Brae South,
EH 12 8PE
Tel: 0131 339 5248

Hon Treasurer: John A. Matheson

22 Dudley Terrace,
EH6 4QH
Tel: 0131 554 5036

A meeting was held at Prestonfield House, Edinburgh in May attended by a number of new members from which a Committee was formed and officers as listed above were elected to administer all Clan Society members living in Scotland. We hope to hold a number of meetings and get together in 1996 and be joined by Mathesons from other localities in Scotland.



This World War II photograph of a Bailey bridge comes from Colonel Donald Matheson, late R.A.M.C., of Ewhurst Park near Basingstoke. The bridge was erected in 1944, probably between Arezzo and Florence by a Matheson serving in the Royal Engineers part of the 6th Armoured Brigade. Colonel Matheson was serving in 132 Field Ambulance at the time and later commanded 137 and 140 Field Ambulances. He was Mentioned in Despatches in the war and is a Commander of the Order of St John of Jerusalem.

ENGLAND

Convenor: Major Alexander Matheson yr of Matheson
Hon. Secretary: Mrs M. Williams, Croxton Old Rectory,
Eltisley, Cambs. PE19 4SU
Tel: 01480 880 344

Hon. Treasurer: Leslie. K. Matheson, 1 Cotswold Green,
Enfield, Middx. EM2 7HE
Tel: 0181 363 3132

We began our second year as a Branch of the Society by once again holding our Annual General Meeting in the City of London offices of Jardine Matheson & Co. to whom we are very grateful for this splendid venue and privilege and the wine and snacks which followed. Attendance was up which was encouraging and in particular we were glad to welcome Mrs Lorna Rodgers from Invercargill, New Zealand. A further meeting was held at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, in June where we had an enjoyable barbeque in the garden of our Convenor / Host after which he showed us the Indian Army Memorial Room in which are displayed water colours of Indian Soldiers and Marial Tribesmen painted (1931-35) by his grandmother, Lady Elizabeth Matheson, in Quetta, Baluchistan, then part of India. Following that we were shown the Grand Entrance, the Memorial Chapel and many other places of interest. Andrew Matheson of Cheadle, Stoke on Trent was to be congratulated for his enthusiasm and for travelling so far for his lunch. A further meeting was held later on in East Anglia at which a surprising number of Mathesons gathered for the first time. All vowed to return next year and bring along their relations.

AUSTRALIA

News comes from Mrs Judy Tottle, 32 Raby Esplanade,
Ormiston, 4160, Queensland.

and from Colin Lewis, 20 Crofton Court, Hoppers
Crossing, 3030, Victoria,

Judy Tottle and Colin Lewis who are cousins have been carrying on the good work started by Frank and Mona Matheson, trying to establish a Branch of the Clan Society. Last Christmas they delivered the Newsletter to most Mathesons living in Victoria and received a warm Highland welcome from the families they visited. In April, Colin and his wife visited South Australia and met more Clan members. A lot of information on early settlers has been gathered and duly recorded on a computer. Replies from 18 contributors in answer to the notice in last year's Newsletter have accounted for 2,000 entries on the computer. For the benefit of Mathesons worldwide who did not see that notice or did not reply, it is repeated here.



Lake House, Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst Summer 1995
Leslie (Treasurer) seated left: Alexander and family on right

LETTERBOX IN AUSTRALIA ATTENTION ALL MATHESONS WITH ANTIPODEAN LINKS

As genealogy is of particular interest to many of us, an Australian Register of Descendants has been established to facilitate the research of family historians tracing Mathesons / Mathiesons who settled in Australia.

The Register will record the data on computer and hopefully those interested will respond and submit their names and addresses and a genealogical outline of their Matheson research to date. Researches will then be put in touch with one another to establish contact and trace common links.

If you would like to participate, the registration form can be obtained from Judy Tottle or Colin Lewis at the addresses shown above and please enclose a small donation to cover postage and photocopying.

NEW ZEALAND

Chief's Lieutenant : Douglas Matheson,
33 Mellons Bay Road,
Howick 1705, Auckland.
Tel: 09 534 947

Hon Secretary : Mrs Ailsa Matheson,
138A Pembroke Street, Hamilton.
Tel: 07 834 0918

Piper: Norman Matheson

Genealogists : John & Monica Kidd

Greetings from New Zealand to Clan Matheson members in other countries. What a thrill it was for 7 of our number, Doug and Anne Matheson, Joan Matheson, Joy and Brian Manning and Diane and Murray Wilson to meet many Mathesons in Nova Scotia in July and once again, to be with Sir Fergus and Lady Matheson.

The New Zealand Branch is happy to report another active year. The Auckland Sub Branch had a very enjoyable Ceilidh in November 1994 centred round Scottish country dancing and a haggis ceremony. A February picnic in the gardens of a lovely farm homestead was a fun family day. At our Annual General Meeting in July, we welcomed home Doug and Anne Matheson who gave a great account of their time in Nova Scotia. Earlier they had visited the Chief's home in Norfolk. The Annual Meeting happily appointed Doug as New Zealand Branch Chairman and thanked Gordon for his contribution as Chairman for 6 years. The new Constitution for the Clan, proposed by the Chief was welcomed as being most appropriate to our circumstances.



Norman (Piper) : Anne & Doug : Ailsa & Gordon
(photo taken in New Zealand last year by Rita, Norman's wife.

Southland Sub Branch continues to flourish with Lorna Rodgers as the leader of an active committee. A picnic, also a bring and share dinner were 2 worthwhile gatherings. Lorna who had also visited the Chief at Hedenham, attended the A.G.M. in the City of London of the newly formed Branch in England. As the new Chairman, Doug Matheson, brings a distinguished Matheson heritage and business experience to the task. Born in Auckland, he is the son of Colin who founded the well known printing firm of Clark and Matheson. His grandfather, Norman McLeod Matheson, born in Assynt, was a teacher on Lewis before coming to settle in New Zealand. Great grandfather,

Angus Matheson, was a school master and catechist at Callenish on Lewis, whilst his father, also Angus, lived at Lochinver and was married to Isabella, a sister of the Rev. Norman McLeod, a leading pioneer settler of both Nova Scotia and Waipu, New Zealand. Before retirement, Doug had an accounting career with several Auckland manufacturing companies and also had a term in Iran with Anglo Iranian Oil. With wife Anne, who is of Orkney ancestry, he shares church and hobby interests such as weaving and hand-bell ringing. They have 4 children and 10 grandchildren.

A MINUTE OF APPRECIATION

" We record with grateful thanks the 6 years of work which Gordon has put into the New Zealand Branch of the Clan Matheson Society as its first chairman. Long before its formal establishment, he and his wife Ailsa, together with Joan and the late Roy Matheson, spent considerable time discussing, organising and arranging, so that we all could enjoy the benefits of what we have today. Gordon has been an excellent Chairman, with the interests of every Matheson at heart and he has been a good friend to everybody. He and Ailsa have travelled through New Zealand, made personal contacts, as well as written innumerable letters. This has created a rapport and Clan feeling which is so important for an organisation such as ours. The highly successful visit in 1994 of our Chief and Lady Matheson was largely due to the leadership and work of Gordon and Ailsa, and we thank them both for this. We are pleased Gordon is continuing as a member of the committee and Ailsa as Secretary"

Gordon is a second generation New Zealander. His father Donald was a marine engineer. Grandfather Donald, a seaman, came from Erbusaig in Lochalsh to Bluff, Southland. Donald Matheson of Erbusaig, in Dunedin, New Zealand, married Elizabeth McLennan from Plockton, Ross-shire. Gordon born in Dunedin is a retired land surveyor who has worked in several areas of the country. Ailsa is a daughter of Alexander Matheson, a mariner, who emigrated from Plockton. Gordon, a Justice of the Peace, has Church interests including organ playing whilst Ailsa has achieved much as a family historian. They have 2 sons and 5 grandchildren - all living in Hamilton.

ROUND ABOUT

Many members have contributed items for the 5 Newsletters produced this year. News has centred round family events, historical and personal interests. Distribution to about 160 households will be helped by a welcome 11% reduction in internal postage.

One of the many off-shoot bonuses of Matheson Clan involvement has been the re-linking of families...some of whom had lost contact... and some meeting for the first time. Such has been the happy result for members of the New Zealand Mathesons, Hunt, Sutherland families and Brisbane Judy Tottle (here for the Chief's 1994 visit). Recently Muriel Hunt had a holiday with Judy Tottle and at a very special afternoon met, for the first time, relation - Vicki Walker and her 84 year old father, Mr Walker. The forebears of these families had come from Skye and Catherine Matheson was the first white woman to live in the Darling Downs area. Mr Walker still farms on this family property.

Forty folk gathered at Ellerslie for a magical evening of Caledonian enjoyment. Piper Norman included 2 gigs in his opening selection. The annual report and balance sheet were quickly passed and Lois Ahlquist joined the committee. The dancing started with a friendship waltz, followed by Dashing White Sergeant. Margaret Matheson sang a delightful group of romantic songs. Tony Henderson well and truly addressed the haggis in stirring fashion. Supper and more dancing to help burn the calorie intake concluded a very happy family evening. We were very pleased to welcome Don Mathieson, Q.C. and wife Sally from Wellington, Murray and Sarah Mathieson of Auckland and Phyl Prescott from M.t. Maunganui.

Alex Matheson of Inglewood, recently retired from Police duties has joined a Rotary work party heading to Ba in North West Fiji. The project is building a village community hall. Hugh Matheson of Howick, (now in Australia) confessed to being a drummer in a 1947 photograph of the Hamilton Caledonian Pipe Band displayed in the band room in Hamilton.

Jim Mathieson wrote that he and his brother Bob recently visited Awenga, Chatham Island, where they located the lonely grave of their grandfather Robert Mathieson who died there in 1900 aged 29. As far as is known, Robert's son Robert George, was the only All Black footballer born on the island. Robert senior's widow, known as Granny Mathieson, supported her two small sons by being a nurse.

The opera "Marriage of Figaro" is under way in Wellington, conducted by John Matheson - originally from Dunedin and now of Brisbane. His daughter Eve stars as Zoe in "May to December" on television. Eve is currently playing "the Winslow Boy" in London's West End.

40 members of the Clan gathered for a picnic lunch at the Falls Road Farm of Neil and Margaret Matheson. The lawns and gardens were a picture and there was plenty of shade under the trees where all could meet and greet each other. What a lovely afternoon we all had, the setting, weather and company were all ideal. Margaret and Neal were great hosts and Margaret is to be congratulated on her beautiful garden. David Matheson played accoridian music which everyone enjoyed.

We would like to welcome any visitors to New Zealand, so please make contact so that you can be put in touch with Clan members in areas you may be visiting.

CONGRATULATIONS

To Barbara (nee Matheson) and Sandy Richardson of Wellington, on the birth of their baby daughter Holly and to grandparents Dulcie and Alan Matheson of Waitara.

Also to Harry Duncan Thomas Matheson, born in Tokyo. Proud grandparents Graeme and Maureen Matheson of Rangiora are off to visit their new grandson.

MACKINNONN HATHWAY

Estate and Land Agents

Seawinds, Church Road, Kyle of Lochalsh, Ross-shire IV40 8DD UK
Tel: 01599 534567 Fax: 01599 534864

**GREETINGS TO ALL CLAN MATHESON
SOCIETY MEMBERS AND FRIENDS**

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MINUTES OF THE CLAN PARLIAMENT ST. ANN'S, NOVA SCOTIA 8th JULY 1995

The Parliament attended by 41 Clan members was opened with welcoming remarks by Joel Matheson, Honorary Secretary, Canada who acted as Chairman. The Chief gave the opening prayer.

A moment of silence was held in honour of our past Clan Chief, Sir Torquhil and all other Clan members who passed away since our last Parliament.

The Chairman expressed his thanks to Glen Matheson and the Mainland Branch and to Judge Lewis Matheson and the Cape Breton Branch, for their excellent support in the development of the Clan Gathering events.

It was moved by Jean Fries (U.S.A.), seconded by Charles Ostott (U.S.A.), that the Minutes of the August 1992 Parliament held in Montreal be approved as circulated. Passed unanimously.

The Chairman then introduced the Chief and Lady Matheson to the assembly. Recognition was given as well to the presence of Lyman Matheson, past Honorary Secretary U.S.A., Malcolm Matheson III, present Honorary Secretary U.S.A., Doug Matheson, incoming Chairman, New Zealand, Judge Lewis Matheson, President Cape Breton Branch and Albert Matheson, Vice President Mainland N.S. Branch.

A message sent from Clan Matheson to H.M. The Queen on the occasion of the Gathering was read by the Chairman together with Her response.

The Chairman then called on the Chief to address the meeting. He outlined the proposed new Clan Constitution circulated to all Branch Honorary Secretaries in advance and requested that it should be accepted subject to any modifications necessary to suit the laws of individual Branches in member countries. He stressed the need for Branches to have the necessary funds to operate properly and to this end the need to increase our membership. Also to review the dues structure and consider doing away with life membership the dues of which are quickly used up in postage and Newsletter distribution costs. He suggested if every member could recruit one new member in the coming 12 months our financial position would greatly improve and urged Honorary Secretaries to embark on a programme of expansion. To this end, the establishment of new Branches in various areas of each member Country would greatly expand our Clan structure. The increased number of Branches would be in line with the plan to appoint a Chief's Lieutenant in each overseas Country where the membership warranted it. He also outlined his wish to establish a Clan Centre in Lochalsh, N.W. Scotland and would keep Honorary Secretaries advised as to progress. The Chief ended his remarks by stating his optimism for the future of our Clan Society, his commitment to his task and the challenges that lie ahead. He also thanked all those who worked to put the gathering together, those who attended with special recognition for those who had travelled many miles to be present.

The concept of the new Constitution was then approved by all present. Also on a motion by Lyman Matheson (U.S.A.) seconded by Albert Matheson (Canada), the concept of a Clan Matheson Centre was unanimously endorsed.

The Chairman then called on all Hon Secretaries to report.

CANADA Joel Matheson reported that there were approximately 150 paid up members representing family connections of over 400 members. In addition, there were a number of members of the Nova Scotia branches that were not members of the Clan Society. He agreed with the Chief's proposal that more Branches might be established in Canada and Membership substantially increased. A financial statement to May 31 1995 was tabled. Balance on hand \$1,032.92

UNITED STATES Lyman Matheson reported their membership was 184 families and they had a balance of \$2,795.99 in funds. Twenty two members from the U.S. attended the gathering.

NEW ZEALAND Doug Matheson reported and brought greetings from New Zealand Mathesons. There were 7 Clan members from New Zealand attending the Gathering. They have 200 members and despatch 4 Newsletters per year. Their 1994 highlight was the visit of the Chief and Lady Matheson.

NOVA SCOTIA MAINLAND Albert Matheson reported and brought greetings to the Parliament. They have 35 signed up families who meet regularly. In addition they participate in many Clan events throughout the year where the Matheson tent and tartan are prominently displayed. Also, they hold regular Clan social functions including picnics and pot luck suppers and Society meetings. Their new Clan Matheson Cookbook has been a big success and has been a good fund raiser.

CAPE BRETON Judge Lewis Matheson opened his report by welcoming all to Cape Breton. Their Branch meets 4 times a year and combine their meetings with a social function. They have 50 members and usually 25 or more attend each function. They raise funds through raffles and ceilidhs. In 1989 they established a Clan Matheson award at the Gaelic College, St. Ann's, Cape Breton. In 1994, in honour of Sir Torquhil Matheson of Matheson, a further award was established for the outstanding piper at the College. Judge Lewis then handed Mr MacPhee, President of the College, the 1995 awards for later presentation.

NEW BUSINESS

Doug Matheson (New Zealand) brought up the problem of Clan operating expenses and expressed concern about the ability of the Clan Council to operate without receiving outside financial support. Upon motion by Lyman Matheson (U.S.A.) and seconded by Judge Lewis Matheson (Cape Breton), it was unanimously agreed that \$1.00 or equivalent in other currency per member of the Clan Society shall be forwarded annually by Branch Treasurers to the Clan Treasurer in the United Kingdom. This figure to be reviewed annually.

Charles Ostott (U.S.A.) provided the Chief with a substantive genealogy review he made respecting Mathesons who emigrated to the U.S.A. He suggested that a fund raising concept may be the purchasing of a piece of land in Scotland by Clan members. A discussion followed but no vote was taken.

A vote of thanks, to former Clan Piper Steven Matheson was moved by the Chairman and was unanimously endorsed. He had to resign after 12 years of service to the Clan due to personal commitments. In his place Ms Kelly Matheson had been appointed.

A vote of thanks was extended to Mr MacPhee for the wonderful support of the Gaelic College and co-operation in our Clan functions. Mr MacPhee responded by making a special presentation to the Chief and Lady Matheson to commemorate their visit to the College. The Parliament concluded with a prayer by the Chairman and a suggestion that when we hold our next International Gathering we should allow for two years advance planning.

Please note the sets of names under the two photographs on the Nova Scotia / New Zealand pages should be switched. I apologise for the error.

CANADA

Chief's Lieutenant : Joel R. Matheson, Q.C.
30 Robert Allen Drive, Halifax,
Nova Scotia, Canada B3M 3G8

The 1995, Nova Scotia International Gathering of the Clans, our Clan participation and the first visit of our Chief and Lady Matheson of Matheson made the past year a memorable one for our Clan Society.

From their arrival on 26th June until their departure on July 9th, we participated in a multitude of social, highland and general Clan activities. Our official Gathering commenced in Halifax with a Clan reception, followed by attendance at the International Tattoo which formally opened the International Gathering. It was indeed a proud moment as over 160 of us entered the packed forum led by our Chief and Lady Matheson. Being seated in one area, it made a wonderful sight to see us all rise together and accept the applause of the audience when our Clan was introduced. It was especially exciting when we were acknowledged as having the largest attendance at the Tattoo. When you consider there were approximately 30 Clans participating in a major way during the three week Gathering period, it was indeed a special time for us.

As hosts, our Clan Matheson, Canada, Society and our two Nova Scotia Branches were pleased to welcome Mathesons from New Zealand (7), the U.S.A. (23) and Canadians from coast to coast. The programme included Church services, parades, dinners, ceilidhs, tours, piping, highland dancing, games and Clan Socials. The endurance and active participation by Sir Fergus and Lady Matheson in all events was greatly admired. They were continually on the move, participating and playing lead roles in all the functions. Our enthusiasm in showing them our hospitality and appreciation for their sharing the gathering with us was only surpassed by their ability to keep up to the challenge. The hundreds of Mathesons they met all enjoyed their warmth and their keen interest in our Clan activities. It is hoped that our demands on their time does not blunt their decision to return.

One of our major events was the Clan Parliament held at our Gaelic Culture Centre in St Ann's, Cape Breton, N.S. in the Hall of the Clans. The Parliament opened with a moment of silence in remembrance of Sir Torquhil and other Clans persons who passed away since the last Gathering. It was a particularly moving time for many of us who first met Sir Torquhil and Serena, Lady Matheson in 1979 when we held our first Clan Parliament in Canada at the very site of this year's Gathering. It brought back many fond memories of wonderful times shared with Torquhil and Serena.

Many issues were reviewed including our new Constitution which was endorsed. A highlight of the Parliament was the address by Sir Fergus. He outlined plans for the Clan under a new constitution and challenged the Branches to double their membership and increase the number of Branches. His hope to establish a Clan Centre in Lochalsh was met with great enthusiasm by all gathered. He announced special appointments including that of Ms Kelly Putnam as Clan Piper for Nova Scotia. Reports were presented by Canada, the two Nova Scotia Branches, New Zealand and U.S.A.



Charles Jnr & Mia (USA) : Charles & Bonnie (USA) : Malcolm III (USA)
Ruth (NS) : Fergus & Jean : Joel (NS) hidden : Glen (NS)



Glen, First President and Verna First Treasurer Nova Scotia Branch.



Lyman (USA)
The retiring Hon Secretary U.S.A

MAINLAND NOVA SCOTIA

Chairman: Albert Matheson,
88 Beaumont Drive, Lower Sackville,
Nova Scotia. B4C 1V6
Hon Secretary: Mrs Ena Matheson
P.O. Box 1017, Windsor, Nova Scotia.
BON 2T0
Hon Treasurer: Mrs Verna Matheson
Piper: Ms Kelly Putnam
Chaplain: Doctor Glen Matheson
Genealogist: Glen Matheson

The Nova Scotia Mathesons began their year planning with the Canadian Secretary for an International Gathering. It was a pleasure to meet our Chief and Lady Matheson, and humbling to have so many of our kin "come from away" to gather in New Scotland. We hope each one returned home with happy memories.

In celebration of Tartan Day, April 6th, our members joined other clans in setting up individual displays at the Highland Mall in New Glasgow. During the summer our tent was visible at the Antigonish Highland Games, Earltown Pipers' Picnic and, as part of our international gathering, the Halifax Metro Games and Scottish Festival.

Sir Fergus and Lady Matheson were our guests during the "Pictou County" part of their agenda. During their two-day visit a kirking was held at St Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Gairloch, led by our Clan Chaplain, Doctor Glen Matheson; a visit to Pictou's historic waterfront was enjoyed, a Clan dinner was held, and various points of interest visited before moving on to Cape Breton.

Note must be made of our "Blue Book," "selected notes on the Clan's history and migration to the Maritime Provinces" written by our Genealogist and Past-Chairman Glen Matheson. We are grateful to Glen for compiling The Matheson Clan in Eastern Canada, thus making some of his knowledge readily available.

Our cookbook was a great success with most of the 500 copies of Cooking With Our Clan selling quickly.

We celebrated our tenth anniversary at the Pipers' Picnic, having first gathered at Earltown August 3, 1985. Everyone who visited the Matheson tent was treated to a piece of cake, which proved to be a very popular attraction!

Following our Annual General Meeting of August 5, 1995, our new "Captain" is Al Matheson, "Scribe" is Ena Matheson, and Verna Matheson consented to continue looking after our purse

Our summer schedule came to an end with our annual family pot-luck supper August 27 on the shores of Shortt's Lake, thanks to Vaughan and Donna Matheson. Al Matheson kept the jokes and money flowing as auctioneer

We are delighted to report the addition of two little Matheson lassies; Sarah Rose, daughter of Steven and Judy, arrived April 6. Cairistiona Mairi, daughter of Trueman and Laurinda, arrived June 18. Both were born in Halifax.

We lost special members of the clan during the year: Isabel Matheson, Bible Hill, a founding member of the Pipers' Picnic and a dear friend who will be missed by the Clan. Isabel and her husband Laurie attended a Clan executive meeting less than a week before her death.

Florence Matheson, widow of Tom and mother of our "Brookfield" Matheson was a special lady to her many friends and family.

Also our sympathies to Roger and Dawn Matheson on the death of Roger's mother, Mary, widow of Kenneth Matheson, Springhill, Nova Scotia.

The annual bursary for 1994-95 was again presented to the Gaelic Society of Nova Scotia for the third consecutive year. Our bursaries have been used in their children's programs.

CONGRATULATIONS To Beverley Matheson of Lower Sackville who was recently honoured by the Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia in recognition of her volunteer service to the Heart and Stroke Foundation.

CAPE BRETON

Convenor: Judge Lewis Matheson
57 Tain Street, Sydney, Nova Scotia.
B1P 1Y5
Hon Secretary: Mrs Brenda (Matheson) Cochrane
56 Birch Street, Port Morien,
Nova Scotia. B0A 1T0
Hon Treasurer: George Matheson,
21 Murphy Street, Nova Scotia,
B1A 1X1



Doug (NS) : Murray Wilson (NZ) : Jean UK : Diane Wilson (NZ) : Joy & Brian (hidden) : Manning (NZ) : Anne (NZ)

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Chief's Lieutenant: Malcolm Matheson III,
P.O.Box 307, The Plains,
Virginia 22171, U.S.A.

Genealogist: Charles Mathieson Otstot,
5124 North 33rd Street, Arlington,
Virginia, 22207, U.S.A.

This report from the U.S.A. Branch of the Clan Society is being written by the newly named Chief's Lieutenant (under new constitution) Malcolm Matheson, III, who took over from our very able Lyman W Matheson with Chief Fergus's appointment at the Nova Scotia International Gathering of the Clans on July 1, 1995.

I know all of the Clan Matheson Society membership here in the U.S. will join me in expressing our sincerest gratitude to Lyman for his many years of faithful service and for a job superbly done. With his organised and impeccable records and my secretary's computer and assistance I believe I might have an even chance of keeping up my predecessor's fine example.

The International Gathering of the Clans and our own Clan Gathering which took place in Nova Scotia from July 1 through July 9, 1995, was undoubtedly the highlight of the summer if not the year. My brother, Charles T Matheson and his wife, Bonnie; their son, Charles, Jr., along with his wife, Mia; my wife, Gail, and myself all ventured forth for our first visit to Nova Scotia. We were warmly welcomed by Lyman and Phyllis Matheson and Lyman's sister, Jean M. Fries; Clan Genealogist, Janet M. Dorn, with daughter Jennifer, and her cousins Bill Matheson with wife Margie, and Don Matheson with wife, Carol, all from the U.S. Chief Fergus and Lady Matheson were of course on hand, and since we were fortunately all staying the same hotel, lobby caucuses were held quite frequently.

The first night, Hon Secretary of Canada, Joel R. Matheson and his wife, Ruth, hosted a very fine reception with approximately 150 Clan Society members in attendance with the Chief and Lady Matheson providing considerable photo opportunities and a welcoming address for the membership. After the reception our Clan went enmass, lead by the Chief, to the opening night Tattoo which was an incredible spectacle with more bands and pipers from around the globe than I had ever seen or believed could be assembled under one roof. Our Clan, being represented by the most members, and being headed by the Chief himself, was called upon to stand and accept accolades of the many Scots and other dignitaries present.

We travelled from Halifax to Pictou and then to Baddeck on Cape Breton, attending dinners, meetings, and two Kirkin' of the Tartans (one in Halifax and one in Gairloch) and on the final day, July 8, the Clan parliament was held in the Hall of Clans, St Ann's, Cape Breton. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend but was ably represented by Lyman Matheson, Jean Fries and Charles M Otstot, our Branch Genealogist, who attended with his wife, Florence.

July was an active month for us Scots from Virginia. Just two weeks after returning from the Nova Scotia Gathering, The Virginia Scottish Games were held at Episcopal High School in Alexandria, Va. and our Clan had its' tent set up and ably manned by Charles and Florence Otstot. Without these ever gracious volunteers our presents as a viable Clan organisation could never be realised and we owe them our utmost thanks.

Chief Fergus has expressed his wish that the various branches of the Society divide into sub-branches by area, or locality as enclaves dictate in an effort to increase our membership on the assumption that a branch in a more homogenous area with its own revenue by collecting its own dues from its increased

membership. This sub-branch would then report to one "Chief's Lieutenant" in the U.S. who will in turn co-ordinate with the Clan Council (which resides in the United Kingdom). Along these lines I would like anyone interested in organising a semi-autonomous branch in their locality to get in touch with me as soon as possible to work out the feasibility and logistics. I am also looking for a Clan Society member who will take on Newsletter Publications.

At the Clan Parliament this summer it was also voted to donate \$1.00 per year per member to the Clan Council to offset their expenses. In order to help finance these efforts the Chief has suggested (as may be reported in the minutes of the Clan Parliament) that the Society do away with Life Memberships and increase the annual membership dues from the \$7.50 which they have been for the past few years. In conjunction with our Canadian counterpart it has been decided that as of the end of this year (1995) we shall no longer offer Life Memberships, our annual dues shall increase to \$12.50 per year for 1996 and thereafter and we shall earnestly solicit our Life Members to make a voluntary \$5.00 per year donation to help cover the obligatory costs incurred by the Council, our mailings and other Clan Society efforts.

Since July 1 the society has increased its membership by 17.

Julie Matheson Arnold (VA)	William J. Matheson (VA)
Stephen Matthew Brown (WA)	Kimberly Matheson McAuliff (MI)
Torrey Matheson Cooke	Heather Matheson Shiland (M A)
Emma Matheson Roe (PA)	Barbara A. Worley (W A)
Bruce Carr Matheson (FL)	Lida Matheson Stifel (M D)
Colvin Torrey Matheson (VA)	George Nathan Sunpter (I N)
Richard A. Matheson (VT)	Nancy Matheson VerMeulen (M I)
Jeannette Matheson Lussi (M D)	

We welcome those new members and ask them and all other members to please try and recruit at least one new member. If that could be done, we would double our membership which now stands at 199.

Finally, will all of you U.S. Branch Members who have not already done so, please send in your 1995 dues of \$ 7.50. And all members, your 1996 dues are now due. Annual Member \$ 12.50: Voluntary contribution for life members \$ 5.00. Checks to be made payable to the CLAN MATHESON SOCIETY AND SENT TO MALCOLM MATHESON III AT THE ABOVE ADDRESS



Carol wife of Don : Margie & Bill : Janet Matheson Dorm & Jennifer : Don.
(all of USA)

IF UNDELIVERED PLEASE RETURN TO ANY OF THE ADDRESSES BELOW

Clan Matheson Society:

UK	The Old Rectory, Hedenham, Norfolk, NR35 2LD
Australia	32 Raby Esplanade, Ormiston, Queensland, 4160
Canada	30 Robert Allen Drive, Halifax, Nova Scotia B3M 3G8
New Zealand	138A Pembroke Street, Hamilton
USA	PO Box 307, The Plains, Virginia, 22171, USA.

PRINTED PAPER RATE