



Clan Matheson Society

NEWSLETTER No. 51 Autumn 1996

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 Dorm, 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

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

It seems only a short time ago that I was piecing together the 1995 Newsletter, yet it is time once again to keep in touch and circulate news to all members of the Clan Society scattered around the world. The many activities arranged overseas by Clans, not just ours, shows the interest for Scottish matters still held by the descendants of those Highlanders who left our shores many years ago. We are extremely fortunate in our Clan Society to have such enthusiastic organisers, prepared to give their time to run our affairs and arrange our meetings. In once again thanking them, I feel sure I am expressing the gratitude of all members. I also extend my thanks to those who have sent in Clan news and also to Mr William Ramsay of Kyle for his story of a Glenelg Funeral 180 years ago and Mr John Fayid, who lives in London, for the trouble he has taken to trace and produce a list of Chiefs of the Clan. My one regret has been that Mr and Mrs Donald Matheson Convenor and Hon. Secretary in Scotland resigned due to family commitments so shortly after taking over. Sadly there has been no activity to report from North of the Border but I hope a Committee can soon be re-established.

As more and more people acquire computers, so the interest in genealogy is spreading, records can be stored more easily and knowledge readily exchanged. I am so grateful to Dr. Mhairi L. Matheson of Falkirk for taking on the role of Branch Genealogist for the United Kingdom. As may be seen in the Branch notes which follow, we now have a Branch Genealogist in every member country. So that those interested can communicate and exchange information, their names are listed below. My apologies if some enthusiasts are omitted, a line to me will ensure their names are added to the list.

I have mentioned before the wish to establish a Clan Centre in Lochalsh. The idea of a room or two in Duncraig Castle has fallen through because the Regional Council has now let the building to a media organisation for the next 20 years or so. Possibly we should be looking for a more modest way of making a start. If anyone living in Lochalsh or nearby would come forward and offer help it would be a start.

As two of my grandsons, Andrew and Archie, sons of Alexander and Katharine are being taught to play the pipes by a retired Scots Guards Pipe Major, it crossed my mind there may be other sons or grandchildren in the Clan doing likewise and we should form a roll of Boy Pipers. If such is your good fortune, please write in to your Branch Secretaries giving details. In fact, will anyone who is an active Piper, please write in.

I am now giving advanced warning of the possibility, and it is only a possibility of a Clan Matheson Gathering in the United Kingdom **during the third week in July 1998**. The outline plan is to assemble in London on Monday 13th July, then move on to Lochalsh and finally be present at the Lochcarron Highland Games on Saturday 18th July. I hope to send out more specific details in April 1997 when I have had a chance to arrange a programme.

SCOTLAND

Dr. Mhairi L. Matheson, 44 Gatcows Road, Falkirk, Stirlingshire, FK1 5QT

Dr. Iain M. Matheson, 28 Harbour Street, Plockton, Kyle of Lochalsh, Ross-shire

ENGLAND

John Faid, 153 Shooters Hill Road, London, SE3 8KQ.

AUSTRALIA

Mrs Judy Tottle, 32 Raby Esplanade, Ormiston, 4160, Queensland.

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

CANADA

Glen Matheson, R.R. # 1, Debret, Nova Scotia, BOM 1G0.

NEW ZEALAND

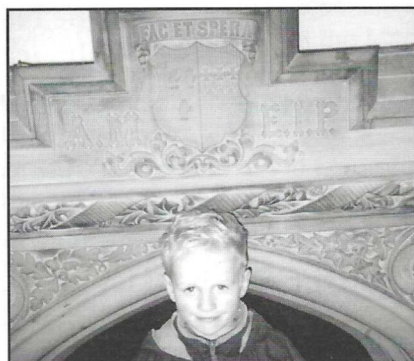
John & Monica Kidd, 12 Atkinson Avenue, Papatoetoe, Auckland.

Mrs Joy Manning, 3/15 Lombard Street, St. Helier's Bay, Auckland.

UNITED STATES

Mrs Matheson Dorm, 2406 Chase Lake Drive, Jonesboro, Georgia, 30236,

Charles Mathieson Otstot, 5124 North 33rd Street, Arlington, Virginia, 22207 - 1854



Martin Malone, aged 7, Gt.Gt.Gt. Gd.son of Sir
Alexander Matheson and Eleanor Irving Perciva I
Duncraig Castle 1996

(sgd.) Fergus Matheson of Matheson.

The National Trust for Scotland

BALMACARA ESTATE

The Trust's Balmacara Estate, 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.

Two Holiday Cottages are available, Ferry Cottage (all year) and Ardview (mid-March to end of October) and bookings open at our Edinburgh office on 1 November each year. Further details can be obtained from:

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

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.

The Ranger Service based at Kintail offers guided walks on the estate during the Summer season.

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

Mr Iain Turnbull
The National Trust for Scotland
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

A GLENELG FUNERAL IN 1814

by William Ramsay of Kyle, Ross-shire

Some time ago, I came across a story concerning John Matheson IVth of Attadale which may interest readers of the Clan Society Newsletter. The year is 1814 and the story begins with a seemingly uneventful journey from Lochalsh to attend a burial service at Glenelg for the mother of a near neighbour, Flora MacDonald. She was a daughter of Norman MacLeod of Drynoch, Skye but lived in Glenelg and had married Archibald MacDonald, IIIrd of Barrisdale, an estate on the peninsula of Knoydart on the shores of Loch Hourn. Her son, Coll MacDonald IVth of Barrisdale lived in Lochalsh at Auchtertyre and had invited the local "worthies", John Matheson among them, to accompany him to the burial of his mother in Kirkton, Glenelg.

In addition to the Minister, John Matheson of Attadale and Coll MacDonald, the boat party consisted of Archibald Macdonell yr of Barrisdale, George Jeffrey of New Kelso, Roderick MacLennan tacksman of Killilan, Kenneth Mackenzie merchant Kyleakin, John Macrae tacksman of Fernaig. Also on board were servants from Auchtertyre, Norman Finlayson, Peter Gillies, Donald Bethune and John Macdonald from Innes town. Meeting at Ardhill the home of the Reverend Dr. Downie, the Minister of Lochalsh, early on Tuesday 6th December 1814, the party set off by sea, crossing Loch Alsh, they arrived at Glenelg where they hauled the boat up the beach to await their return.

After the internment the funeral party adjourned to a house near the Church. Here they dined, sitting on until around 5 o'clock when darkness descended and the Lochalsh party made for their boat. Although hereditary differences existed between some Clans and some families, it may not be known they also existed between districts as was the case of a feud between Glenelg and Lochalsh. Funerals were looked on as a convenient opportunity to settle past differences but this occasion was unusual as Coll, IVth of Barrisdale living at Auchtertyre, Lochalsh also belonged to Glenelg by birth and property.

John Macmaster, a servant of MacDonald of Barrisdale, was asked by his master to return to Lochalsh with the boat to assist the men at the oars. It appeared he had already had words with Donald MacLennan of Glenelg for whilst heading for the boat MacLennan followed Macmaster and seizing hold of him and despite being threatened with a spell in Inverness jail, continued to give trouble and to abuse the party as they boarded their boat. This provoked Macmaster to jump ashore and drag MacLennan into the sea and duck him more than once. A number of Glenelg men hearing cries for help came to MacLennan's aid and armed with bludgeons set about anyone of the Lochalsh party within reach. Unfortunately the boat had a long rope and until the party on board managed to cut free, they continued to suffer abuse, blows from cudgels and considerable damage to themselves and from rocks and stones. Amazingly the boat, although badly damaged, was able to reach Lochalsh but those on board were in a sorry state as being unarmed themselves they were a sitting target for cudgels, stones and rocks. Although some were badly wounded, receiving gashes to the head and badly bruised, all survived.

THE CHIEFS OF THE CLAN MATHESON

by John Faid of Shooters Hill, London

1. The Chiefs of the Clan Matheson all stem from Mathghamhain or Mathghamna who in the early 13th century appears to have held land in the Lochalsh area within the Earldom of Ross, re-established in 1228 by his kinsman Ferquhard Macintagart. Mathghamhain's son Kenneth was the first of the Clan to appear in the historical record after he supported the then Earl of Ross in his campaign against the Norse settlers in the Hebrides during 1262-1263. Matheson Chiefs from Kenneth MacMathghamna to "Murdoch" are listed in the 15th century genealogies.

2. From the late Reverend William Matheson's researches it appears likely that the Clan Mackenzie descend from Kenneth MacMathghamna's grandson, Kenneth na-Sroine who died in 1331. Evidence that the Mackenzies were operating as a totally distinct Clan from the Mathesons only arises in the 15th century, but by 1427 the Chief of the Mathesons, "Macmakan" probably Alasdair MacMhurchaidh and the Mackenzie Chief, Kenneth MacMhurchaidh (a different Murchadh), each had 2,000 followers and were leading Chiefs in the West.

3. Mathesons, probably under the Chief, fought at Harlaw in 1411 in support of the claim of the Lord of the Isles and Chief of Clan Donald to the Earldom of Ross. They also supported the Lords of the Isles in their unsuccessful struggle for independence against the Kings of Scots, who were aided by their Mackenzie kinsfolk. As the fortunes of Clan Donald declined so the power and influence of the Mackenzies increased. Some of the Mathesons abandoned their traditional allegiance and allied with the Mackenzies.

4. From William Matheson's analysis, the split in allegiances was reflected in competition for leadership of the Clan between the two factions, although detailed particulars on the period remain elusive. It was as a loyal supporter of the Lord of the Isles and Earl of Ross that Alasdair MacMhurchaidh probably died at the battle of Cnoc nan Catach in 1438, whilst leading the Clan against a Mackay invasion of Ross-shire. But his son and successor as Chief, Iain Dubh the elder, seems to have been a supporter of the Mackenzies, at least in the latter part of his 50 - 60 years Chiefship.

5. After Iain Dubh's death the fortunes of the competitors for Chiefship appear to have switched back and forth. First, Iain's nephew Alasdair effectively asserted his claims to the Chiefship, as a supporter of Clan Donald, until his death in 1506. Iain Dubh the younger, Constable of Eilean Donan Castle, then re-asserted the claims of the pro-Mackenzie line until his death in 1539. Finally, although Iain was succeeded by his brother Dugald Roy, the latter was finally defeated by Murdoch Buidhe who restored the line of his grandfather Alasdair.

6. Under Murdoch Buidhe and his 17th century successors, the Clan, fuelled by a feud with the Glengarry Macdonells, developed firm ties with Mackenzies who secured Crown charters of Lochalsh in 1591 and 1607. From Murdoch Buidhe, Chief of Lochalsh, all the later lines of western Mathesons trace their descent: Fernaig, Bennetsfield, Balmacara, Attadale and therefore the present day Chief of the Mathesons and Baronet of Lochalsh.

7. Finally, from 1616, when John or Iain Mac Iain Mhic Dhomnall Ban was recognised as Chief, there has until recent years been a reasonably secure line of Chiefs or Chieftains of Matheson of Shinness in Sutherland or Siol Mhathan. According to the traditions of their kinsmen of Lochalsh, John 1st of Shinness was descended from Donald, younger son of Alasdair, Chief of Lochalsh who died in 1506. But there were also Mathesons well established in Sutherland before then who appear to be linked to the main line of Lochalsh: examples are Alasdair, bailie of the Earl of Sutherland in 1492 and John, Chancellor of Caithness 1544. Clan tradition has a thirteenth century Matheson younger son settling in Sutherland. It may be worth noting that the oldest graveyard of the Clan is said to be that in Strath Bran, over in Mid Ross and between the two main traditional Clan territories

The following table seeks to show the Chiefs of the most senior line of the Mathesons from Mathghamhain to the present Chief of the Mathesons.

Number of Chief	Name	Dates / floruits	Parentage or forebears
<u>LOCHALSH</u>			
I	Mathghamhain	fl 1225	son of Kenneth
II	Kenneth	d 1304	son of I
III	Murdoch	fl 1300s	son of II
IV	Duncan	ditto	son of III
V	Murdoch	ditto	son of IV
VI	Duncan	ditto	son of V
VII	Murdoch		son of VI
VIII	Alasdair (Roderick)	d 1438	son of VII (doubtful)
IX	Iain Dubh the elder	d 1490s	son of VIII
X	Alasdair Dugald	d 1506	grandson of VIII grandson
XI	Iain Dubh the younger	d 1539	son of IX *
XII	Dugald Roy		son of IX
XIII	Murdoch Buidhe	fl 1556	son of X
<u>FERNAIG</u>			
XIV	Roderick	fl 1600s	son of XIII
XV	Iain (John)	fl 1660s	son of XIV *
XVI	Iain Og	fl 1660s	son of XV
<u>BENNETSFIELD</u>			
XVII	Iain Mor	d 1715	son of XVI
XVIII	Alexander	1715 - 1754	son of XVII
XIX	John	1754 - 1768	son of XVIII
XX	Colin	1768 - 1825	son of XIX
XXI	John	1825 - 1843	son of XX
XXII	James Brook Young	1843 - 1886	son of XXI
XXIII	Eric Grant	1886 - 1899	son of XXII
XXIV	Heylin Fraser	1899 - 1945	son of XXIII
XXV	Bertram Heylin	1945 - 1975	son of XXIV
<u>LOCHALSH</u>			
XXVI	Torquhil Alexander	1975 - 1993	lineal descendant of XVI, (see note 2).
XXVII	Fergus John	1993	brother of XXVI

NOTE: 1. Chiefs marked * are additions to the traditional lists and were identified by the late Reverend William Matheson

2. Succeeded to the Chiefship as the Tanist, or nominated successor of Bertram Heylin, XXVth Chief.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

UNITED KINGDOM

The Reverend William Matheson, a former Reader in Celtic, University of Edinburgh was born on 25th August 1910 and died on the 30th November 1995. An obituary appeared in national newspapers at the time and mention must be made here of his distinguished historical contribution. He was reported as almost certainly the best traditional and scholarly genealogist of our times and was able to trace his family back to the eponymous Clan ancestor Mathghamhain or Mathghamna in Lochalsh. He was born in the township of Malacleit, Sollas, in the Isle of North Uist. His father, Malcolm Matheson (1854 - 1926), was a missionary in the United Free Church of Scotland and his mother was Mary Murray (1878 - 1948). Angus, his younger brother by two years became the first Professor of Celtic at the University of Glasgow. Early days spent among Crofters at home and in the long evenings ceilidhing and listening to tales at the fireside, stimulated an interest in Gaelic history and literature which later on led the two brothers to be considered two of the most notable Gaels of their time. He went to Broughmuir School in Edinburgh and then to Inverness Academy, followed by Edinburgh University where he graduated M.A. in 1933 with honours in history. In 1938 he entered New College, Edinburgh, where he read Hebrew and New Testament Greek, graduating in 1941 to become Minister at Muir of Ord. From 1945 - 1952 he ministered at Tobermory in Mull, then returned to Edinburgh University. He was made Reader in 1972 and retired in 1980. In 1993 appeared two cassettes of songs sung by himself called Gaelic Bards and Minstrels, edited by Morag MacLeod of the School of Scottish Studies.

ENGLAND

Convenor: Lt. Colonel 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

Committee: Mrs Rosie Mayfield
Mrs Helen Walker
Miss Jennie Matheson
Miss Mary Mathieson



Clan Dinner, London, January 1996

A dinner was held in the Army and Navy Club in London in January and in July we gathered for a picnic in Hyde Park. Both were well attended and much enjoyed. A further dinner will be held in the Officer's Mess, Wellington Barracks, London on Thursday 23rd January 1967. Members of the Society from abroad will be especially welcome.

AUSTRALIA

Chief's Representative: Mrs Judy Tottle, 32 Raby Esplanade, Ormiston, 4160, Queensland.
Colin Lewis, 20 Crofton Court, Hoppers Crossing, 3030, Victoria

Unfortunately, not for lack of trying, no progress, so far, has been made to form a branch of the Clan Society. This does seem a pity as there be so many Mathesons living in Australia with whom scores of other Mathesons around the world would dearly love to get in touch. Producing a Newsletter and mailing it is a costly business and an increase in demand for copies would reduce the burden on the other branches of the Clan Society who so nobly shoulder this responsibility. Judy Tottle and Colin Lewis have valiantly continued to keep the flag flying but badly need support and the financial backing of an Australian membership. Judy and Colin report that many of the Clan have shown an interest in their genealogy but no enthusiasm for getting together, so apparent in other quarters of the globe. The vast distances involved are well appreciated but it is strongly hoped headway can be made. The laws of Australia may make it difficult to operate a Society but surely it is not an insoluble problem. Come on Australia, "sign on" and play a part, we want you to join in the fun with us. Any enthusiast who would like to help please get in touch with Judy Tottle or Colin Lewis or write direct to the Chief of the Clan. Links with New Zealand are recorded elsewhere in this number by May and Alan Matheson of Morwell, Victoria, Australia who are keen to make contact with other Victorian Mathesons and form a sub-branch. Also Merle and Ron Matheson of Melbourne. Mary Webb of Balclutha, New Zealand recently visited her relations in Victoria. Her Grandfather Joseph Matheson with brothers Duncan and John, arrived in Melbourne in 1854.

CANADA

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

The past year has been one of general activity both on a National basis and in our local Branches. As the reports from our Nova Scotia Mainland Branch and our Cape Breton Branch show, their members have been active in Branch functions throughout the year. Also, our Branch Members have been active participants in many local Scottish gatherings and events. Many of our Nova Scotia members belong to provincial Scottish organizations, some serving on their Boards as officers.

In addition, throughout Canada, our Clan is represented by participating members at the many gatherings and games taking place in other Provinces. It is through this type of representation and presence that our Clan and its role in the development of Scottish culture will become known especially to prospective new members. To assist in developing our Clan awareness level, we joined with our U.S. Society in placing a joint ad in two leading Scottish publications. Hopefully, this will assist in adding new members to our Clan rosters.

Also, in response to the request from Sir Fergus, we have endeavoured to add new Branches in various parts of Canada. I am pleased to report that we have two Provinces in which a volunteer has come forward to develop a new Branch. In two other Provinces, I am waiting to hear from individuals who have expressed an interest to help as well. The addition of new Branches in Canada is an exciting proposition and will be the focus of our efforts in 1997. New Branches would indeed be a great boost to our Clan Society membership growth in Canada with the prospects of new families becoming members.

Another encouraging event was the tremendous response to my September letter of request to Society members for a financial contribution. With many life members and following our Clan Gathering expenditures of 1995, we began the year with depleted financial resources. In my letter, I requested donations to assist in meeting our operating expenses and the costs of our Newsletter distribution. In a short time, I received many contributions from across the country that more than met our requirements. We now have a good balance in our account that will see us in funds well into 1997. The response also included letters that deal with various aspects of Clan functions and personal interests. I now have a large number of letters to respond to that, in themselves, aid in maintaining contact between our Clan members. The whole process sent out a clear message: "Yes, our Clan is alive and active with many members strongly prepared to maintain our presence and help in our growth". This bodes well for 1997 and the years ahead. It is a positive note as we end 1996 and an encouraging one as we enter the New Year.

To close, I thank our Chief, Sir Fergus, for his many hours of devoted service to our Clan, ably assisted and supported by Lady Matheson. The regular contact, the helpful advice and the personal commitment to our Clan have greatly aided our growth efforts in Canada. I wish all Clan members "A Healthy and Happy 1997"

MAINLAND NOVA SCOTIA

Chairman	Albert Matheson, 88 Beaumont Drive, Lower Sackville. Nova Scotia. B4C 1V6
Hon Secretary :	Mrs Ena Matheson PO Box 1017, Windsor Nova Scotia. B0N 2T0
Hon. Treasurer:	Mrs Verna Matheson
Piper:	Ms Kelly Putnam
Chaplin:	Doctor Glen Matheson
Genealogist	Glen Matheson.



Mathesons (all) at the home of Verna, Stellarton, N.S.
following attendance at the Festival of the Tartans
Rear: Allister, Loudelle, Beverley, Al, George, Eileen.
Front: Bertha, Gordon.

It has been another excellent year of Clan activities that keep strengthening the bonds of friendship that have grown over the years. Through our regular meetings, pot luck suppers and attending at various Scottish events throughout Nova Scotia, we have been kept busy in Clan affairs. It has been the valued assistance of many Clan volunteers that has enabled us to make our presence known.

This year we joined with many other Clans to participate in two Kirkings of the Tartan, Truro and New Glasgow. Also, representatives of Clan Matheson attended Ceilidhs held by Clan Mackay and Clan Cameron, always fun events. This summer our Clan tent was again prominently displayed at the Halifax Metro Games and the Antigonish Games, both popular events and well attended. Other activities included the provision of an information table in a local shopping mall on Tartan days, attendance at the Clan Ross Gathering and the Opening of the Avenue of the Clans in Pictou, N.S.

Pictou is the site of the landing of the ship Hector in 1773 which left Loch Broom in July that year with 179 men, women and children, arriving in September after a voyage of much hardship. The Mathesons on board settled in Nova Scotia. The Ship Hector Foundation is commemorating this historic event by building a replica at the Hector Quay, Pictou which is open to the public. They have also developed the Avenue of Clans which passes the quay and has signs bearing the Clan crest and motto. On 15th September last, Al Matheson, our President attended a special function thanking the Clans for their support.

Again this year we held our Annual General Meeting in conjunction with the Pipers' Picnic on 3rd August at Earltown. It was well attended and amongst our general business agenda, Glen Matheson reported that we had moved into the 21st century by going on to internet. Regular executive meetings were held at Verna Matheson's in April and at Al Matheson's in October, both well attended and followed by a pot luck supper. We again held our Clan Picnic and Auction at Vaughan and Donna Matheson's cottage at Shortt's Lake. The fund raising auction with Al Matheson doing the honours was a financial success and he convinced all that Matheson junk does have some value. The weather was perfect and those attending showed they are not only good cooks but also enjoy their food. The Clan Matheson Cook Book has been a great fund raiser so the Executive have ordered a third printing. A special event of the year was the marriage of Doug and Janet Matheson of Falmouth, N.S., son of Doug and Eva. We look forward to 1997 and the opportunity to share again with our Clan friends the enjoyment of participating in Clan activities.

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



The Avenue of Clans, Pictou, N.S.

The Cape Breton Branch has 58 members. Meetings are held approximately every two to three months. The last gathering was held in July at George & Annie Matheson's summer home in Mira Gut. An enjoyable summer afternoon was had by all.

One of our members, Martin Matheson, his wife and son are members of St. George's Church, Sydney. The Church was built in 1785 by the Royal Engineers as the Garrison Church. Cape Breton was a separate Colony of the Crown from 1785 to 1820 and then became part of the Colony of Nova Scotia. The first priest to serve at St. George's was the Reverend Benjamin Lovell, the Garrison Chaplain but not Rector. It is interesting to note that even today records of births, deaths and marriages are displayed along the back wall of the Church. Martin is an active lay reader, assisting the Clergy and officiating at Services whenever the Clergy are away. In the summer of 1987 the Clan held a special Sunday Service in the Church to honour of the visit of the late Major Sir Torquhil Matheson, our Clan Chief at the time and Serena, Lady Matheson. The readings, prayers and hymns were all chosen to reflect the need of the Clan in today's society. Two special prayers were offered during the Service, one written by Sir Torquhil and one by Martin Matheson.

Sir Torquhil's read:- O Lord God in whose scriptures we have been taught of the sanctity of family life, help us to develop the ideals of duty, fellowship and friendship within the Clan or Family of Matheson; that we may support each other in the many facets of our lives: and that we may ever be mindful of Thee, serving Thee and other people in the world, to the Honour and Glory of Thy Holy Name, through Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen.

Martin's read:- O God, the father of Our Lord Jesus Christ, of whom the whole family in Heaven and Earth is named; we humbly beseech Thee with thy favour to behold the Chiefs of all the various Clans on this Earth, more especially Clan Matheson, that they may be guided and governed by Thy Good Spirit. Enrich the families with Thy Heavenly Grace, prosper them all with happiness and bring to Thine Everlasting Kingdom, through Jesus Christ, Our Lord. Amen.

These prayers always bring to mind fond memories of past Gatherings and the bonds of family that developed through our Clan associations. As we move to a new Century, it is the fervent hope of our Members, many of them Seniors, that our younger family members will carry forward the spirit of our Clan. Our goal must be to encourage their participation in Clan events and continue to nurture their understanding of the Clan family, worldwide.

NEW ZEALAND

Chief's Lieutenant: Douglas Matheson.
and Branch Chairman: 33 Mellons Bay Road,
Howick 1705, Auckland.

Hon Secretary : Mrs Ailsa Matheson.
Treasurer: Gordon Matheson
18 a Pembroke Street,
Hamilton. 2001.
Tel: 07 8340 918

Piper: Norman Matheson.
Genealogists: John & Monica Kidd.
Chaplain: The Revd. Stuart McKenzie.



Piper Norman Matheson and accordionist David Matheson

Greetings to all form Clan Members "Down-Under". New Zealand Mathesons have enjoyed another year of participation in branch activities and sharing common interests. Membership numbers continue to grow and the support in subscriptions and newsletter contributions is very encouraging for the committee. Douglas Matheson has completed his first year as Chairman and reports willing acceptance of his wish for greater contact between sub-branches, also hosting of overseas visitors. He and Anne are to visit a Gathering in New Plymouth for Taranaki members. Visits to other southern areas are possible.

A very pleasant afternoon was spent when Waikato and Bay of Plenty members gathered in Hamilton. Doug and Anne spoke of their 1995 travels to the United Kingdom and Nova Scotia. Piper Norman and accordionist David teamed up to play music - their efforts were repeated at the October Ceilidh in Auckland. In November (96), a Matheson Clan tent was arranged for the Auckland Highland Games.

A lively group in Southland met for a March picnic and an evening Gathering at Riverton when Ailsa spoke by telephone with many of those present. The evening honoured host Ian Mathieson's special birthday and bade farewell to Lorna and Blair Rodgers who are retiring to Paraparaumu on the Kapiti Coast. During their Gatherings, Southlanders have taken the opportunity to communicate with Sir Fergus by exchanging fax messages.

The Southland Piper, Edward Matheson, aged 12, was photographed piping members of the visiting Scottish Rugby Team into his intermediate school. Appropriately played "Scotland the Brave". "I wish I could play the bagpipes like that" said team member Graham Ellis. With the team was Dr. Iain Mathieson-Todd who went to Riverton. Ruth and Ian Mathieson (no relation) took him to the cemetery to view the graves of Iain's kinsman Peter Mathieson.

Constable Fiona Paiere, daughter of Iain and Ruth, has become the country's first female sole charge police officer. She is stationed at the East Coast settlement of Tokomaru Bay. Their son, Constable George Mathieson transferred from Hamilton to the neighbouring town of Ruatoria where sister Fiona was previously stationed. Auckland members held a well attended family beach picnic in February and a repeat is planned for 1997. A service for "KirKin' the Tartan was held in July when our Chaplain, The Reverend Stuart McKenzie preached on the values of family ties. Gordon Matheson read the lessons. A lunch was followed by our Annual General Meeting when it was decided to purchase computer software, enabling Don Scott to record some of the very extensive genealogy details of New Zealand Matheson / Mathieson families compiled by Monica and John Kidd. Monica has already displayed an 18 foot (5.3 metre) long wall chart of family trees and has another length to add! Their research is invaluable and with it being recorded on computer will soon be available in a readily accessible form for members seeking to complete their family genealogy.

Overseas visitors Jim and Pat Mathieson of Chicopee, Massachusetts, U.S.A., are touring New Zealand later in the year and are keen to meet Clan Members and in particular, exchange pipe music with our Piper Norman Matheson. Jim writes of a Mathieson brand of truck which was earlier manufactured in the United States and is seeking more information. Jim and Pat plan stopovers with some of the Clan in California.

It has been great having 2 visits from May and Alan Matheson of Morwell, Victoria, Australia. They are keen to make contact with other Victorian Mathesons and form a sub-branch. Merle and Ron Matheson of Melbourne also paid a New Zealand visit. Mary Webb of Balclutha has visited her relations in the Victoria area so there is plenty of support from this side of the Tasman Sea for any group in Australia. Mary's Grandfather Joseph Matheson with brothers Duncan and John, arrived in Melbourne in 1854.

Ellen and Graeme from Christchurch have returned from a very enjoyable trip to the United Kingdom where they visited the Chief and Lady Matheson and also stayed in the Duirinish cottage of Lady Serena.

Sally, wife of Donald Mathieson, Q.C., of Karori, Wellington, New Zealand, has recently published "Bill Gentry's War 1939-1945" being a compilation of letters written by her father to her mother through World War II. These letters which make compelling reading, surfaced after 50 years sitting in a cupboard. Bill Gentry who had been on a pre-war course in England was the first New Zealander at Maadi Camp in Egypt, taking part in the

Greek, Crete and North African Camoaigns. and rising to the rank of Brigadier. After the war he rejoined his family in New Zealand and continued his army career. He was knighted and became Chief of Staff of the New Zealand Forces.

NOTICE An ANZAC DAY Service is to be held in St Nicholas Church, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk, England on 27th April 1997. All those attending the Service are invited to Coffee with the Leader of Great Yarmouth District Council at 11 am followed by a visit to a replica of Captain Cook's Barque The Endeavour and then lunch at a nearby hotel. A New Zealander is asked to volunteer to carry a Banner. Enquiries to Mrs Edward Trafford, Broad House, Wroxham, Norfolk, England.

UNITED STATES

Chief's Lieutenant: Malcolm Matheson III.
The Tannery,
PO Box 307,
The Plains,
Virginia, 20198 - 0307.

Genealogist: Charles Mathieson Otsot,
5124 North 33rd Street,
Arlington,
Virginia, 22207 - 1854.



Malcolm III and wife, Gail,(sitting) surrounded by brothers John and Alexander Aakesson (cousins of the Chief) manning the Clan Matheson tent at the Virginia Scottish Games in Alexandria, Va . 27 July 1996.

1996 has gone by quickly and Clan activities in the United States, though few and far between, still managed to keep me quite busy communicating with many members, my Canadian counterpart - Joel R. Matheson, and Douglas Matheson in New Zealand and Janet Matheson Dorm and the Chief, Sir Fergus.

Last December Don P. Matheson of Ocean Ridge, FL., wrote with coverage and pictures of the 2nd Annual St. Andrew's Society Scottish Festival in Boca Raton, FL. which he kindly checked out before deciding whether or not to participate.

In January I heard from Thelma Matheson Ryan (Beverly, MA) seeking genealogical information and Ruth Matheson Renner (Vancouver, WA.) who was about to celebrate her 54th Wedding Anniversary with husband Bob. (Ruth has been in touch three times this year!). February brought a very kind note of welcome from Russell I. Matheson (Albert Lea, MN.) as well as one from Hugh Malcolm Matheson (Tucson, AZ). Leslie R. Matheson (Broadview Heights, OH, a past Honorary Secretary, wrote that last summer ('95) he had attended the 50th Anniversary of his High School graduation in North Dakota with a side trip to Winnipeg to visit the location to which his triple Great Grandmother had emigrated in 1815. He also enclosed a "Voluntary Contribution" from him and his daughter, Carolyn Matheson who I received a letter from this past October along with an e - mail enquiry she had picked up on the Internet. My son Colvin had received the same inquiry and with a little effort I was able to contact the inquirer.

In March I received a note from my Grandfather's sister's Granddaughter (3rd Cousin), Katharine M. Preston, Lincoln Centre, MA.) who was planning a trip to Scotland with her son Malcolm. In a subsequent phone conversation she gave me a run down on her trip to the "Misty Isle", rain every day but fabulous fun especially in Skye!

I received an interesting packet of information from Farquhar James Matheson (Holiday, FL) in August with many clippings from various past publications which revealed a whole family of pipers. Not only did James' father, Donald MacLeod Matheson play the pipes but so do his son James, Jr. and daughter, Linda. There was included a picture of James and his son and daughter all playing for Lyman W. Matheson, our past Chief's Rep. back in 1975 at the Grandfather Mountain Games in North Carolina.

In the same vein Gordon Matheson (Lakewood, CA) wrote me this past September saying that he was now retired from a construction business and has actively picked up his bagpipes after he spent most of his life in various levels of learning. This sort of information is very important to the Clan Society. Our Chief is most interested in having a Clan Piper designated to each Branch and a list of all pipers in the Society, especially those 16 / 18 years and younger.

Also in September Louise Matheson Bell (Senca, SC) wrote "I've just co-chaired publication of The Heritage of Oconee 1868 - 1994, Vol. 1 which was printed in 1994. In it is much about the Mathesons in Oconee County, SC. ..." I've just served on the Board of Directors for erection of a 2 Million Dollar Arts Centre at Erskine College - The Bowie Arts Centre" If any members would like to know more about either of these worthy projects I will do my best to put you in touch with Louise.

Joel R. Matheson dropped me a note this past September informing me that Dr. Jean M. Matheson of Dallas, TX had passed away. We have had no address for her since 1990 and it is a great sorrow to have her name resurface under these circumstances. The Society's deepest sympathies are extended to her family.

On November 13th I had occasion to get together with Robert W. Matheson of Sierra Madre, CA. Bob was Lyman Matheson's west coast deputy and was in the Washington, DC area on business (he also managed to fit in a visit with brothers John and Alexander Aakesson). He has graciously offered to give me a hand with our west coast contingency though his time must surely be at a premium! Bob who is with the Defence Department, has recently been promoted from Chief of Television Division to Director of Programming for the Armed Forces Radio and Television Service which is responsible for Defence Department activity of providing American Radio and Television programming to U.S. Service personnel and their families stationed in 154 countries around the world. I know the membership joins me in extending to Bob our congratulations and our best wishes for a huge success in his new and demanding position.

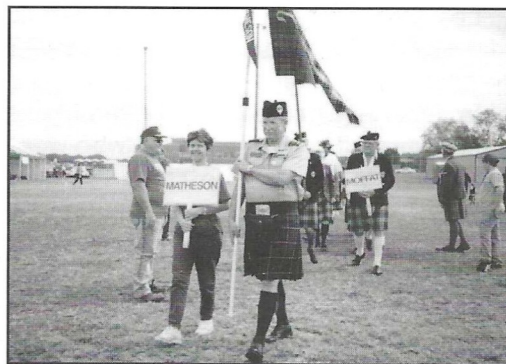
This past July was, as last year, very active for not only myself but also the Lyman Mathesons. Lyman reports that he and his wife Phyllis were in Russia, Finland, Estonia, Sweden, Gotland and Denmark by cruise ship. Gail and I were also on a cruise but only for 11 days in Alaska, a fabulous trip but as in Scotland, an abundance of rain. A week after our return, the Virginia Scottish Games were held again in Alexandria, VA. and our Society tent was ably manned once more by John T. Aakesson and his brother Alexander with assistance on Sunday from Charles Mathieson Otstot and his wife Florence. On the weekend of October 4, 5 & 6 the first annual "Heart of Tennessee Scottish Celebration" was held at the Middle Tennessee State University Campus in Murfreesboro, TN. A new member, George N. Sumpter and his wife Gayla travelled from their home in Henryville, IN. to represent the Society and manned our tent at this new event. They report it as a great success and will do the same again next year. Our utmost thanks to all those volunteers and representatives who keep the Clan Society's name front and centre.

SOME OF THE MANY SCOTTISH EVENTS TO BE HELD IN U.S.A. IN 1997

10 May	The Houston Scottish Highland Games, Bellaire, TX.
13 - 15 June	The Celtic Festival - Oatlands, Leesburg, VA.
July	Grandfather Mountain Highland Games, Linville, NC.
July	Virginia Scottish Games, Alexandria, VA.
3-5 October	Middle Tennessee State University Campus in Murfreesboro.

NEW MEMBERS SINCE 1 JANUARY 1996

Deborah Lynn Brown of Glendale, AZ.
 Charles M. Bull, Boise of Idaho.
 Daniel Dodson Matheson Kesler of Chambersburg, PA.
 John Michael Matheson of Portage, MI
 Mark A. Matheson of Portland, OR.
 Patricia M. Miller of Montpelier, VT.
 Angus Todd Musselman of Tacoma, WA
 and 14 relations of Malcolm Matheson III, all from the Miami, FL area
 Bruce Carr Matheson & his sister Mary Megis Matheson
 Finley L. Matheson and his 3 sons
 1. Finley B. Matheson and his 3 sons Brooks, Austin & Jordan
 2. J. Henry Matheson and son Hank and daughter Harper.
 3. Michael M. Matheson.
 Robert Hardy Matheson and sons Dillon & Meritt.



George N. Sumpter and wife, Gayla, representing Clan Matheson at the Heart of Tennessee Scottish in Murfreesboro, TN. 6th October 1996.

We welcome all these new members and ask them to please communicate any newsworthy items and to recruit other qualified members. We are also grateful for receiving voluntary contributions from Life Members: Thomas K. Andison, Ruth peebles, Elmer C. Mathews, Leslie R. Matheson, Carolyn Matheson, Richard L. Matheson, Col. Bruce Matheson, John E. Matheson and Thelma M. Ryan. Their extra support is greatly appreciated and our thanks go to each one of them.

CONGRATULATIONS TO

UNITED KINGDOM

Alexander Matheson yr of Matheson on being promoted to Lieutenant Colonel. Also, after completing a successful tour as Adjutant of the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, being appointed Brigade Major of the Household Division.

Helen (N.Z.) and Stephen Walker on the birth of a daughter, Alice in June.

Charlotte and James Bamforth on the birth of a son, Patrick in June.

Richard Williams and Sarah Morris on their marriage on 19th October.

CANADA

Vaughan and Donna Matheson on the birth of a granddaughter.

Ena and Doug Matheson on the their 30th wedding anniversary and the marriage of their son Doug to Janet Sandford

NEW ZEALAND

Elsie Cresswell (nee Matheson), Christchurch on her 100th birthday.

Joyce Lindsay on her 80th Birthday.

Marcia and Mat McEwan on their Golden Wedding anniversary. They appreciated a message from the Chief.

Andrew Matheson of Te Kauwhata for stroking the rowing VIII in the world championships at Lucerne. Sadly they failed to qualify for the Atlanta Olympics.

Alex Matheson of Inglewood for being elected to the New Plymouth District Council after retirement from the Police.

Paul Matheson for being elected to the Nelson Council.

Margarita Dean, daughter of Margaret Vahua Matheson, Rotorua, for competing in the New Zealand Women's Hockey Team.

Ken Sutherland and Effie Matheson, Rotorua on celebrating their 60th Wedding Anniversary.

UNITED STATES

Robert W. Matheson of Sierra Madre, CA., on being promoted from Chief of Television Division to Director of Programming for the Armed Forces Radio and Television Service.

Bob and Ruth Matheson Renner (Vancouver, WA.) on celebrating their 54th Wedding Anniversary.

Charles and Mia Matheson for the birth of their daughter, Kathryn. (Gd. daughter to Charlie & Bonnie).

Craig and Jeannette Matheson Lussi on the birth of a son Morgan Matheson, (Gd. son to Malcolm III & Gail).

Julie Matheson Arnold on the birth of her grandson, Benjamin Russell Willauer.

Gordon Matheson (Lakewood, CA) for taking up his Pipes again after a life time in business.

John Aakesson for being commissioned to do 3 wood cut engravings for the White House.

SCOTLAND v NEW ZEALAND RUGBY MATCH



Boy Piper Edward Matheson, son of Wayne & Sonja Matheson, Invercargill, welcoming the Scottish Rugby Team, with "Scotland the Brave", into Rosedale Intermediate School's welcome assembly on the day prior to the match between Scotland and Southland, New Zealand.

Score: Scotland 31 Southland 21

**IF UNDELIVERED
PLEASE RETURN TO ANY OF THE ADDRESSES BELOW :-**

THE CLAN MATHESON SOCIETY

U.K.	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
U.S.A.	The Tannery, PO Box 307, The Plains, Virginia, 20198-0307

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