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Clan Matheson Society

NEWSLETTER No. 52

Autumn 1997

Chief of the Clan:

Major Sir Fergus Matheson of Matheson,
Baronet of Lochalsh.

Convenor: Major General John Matheson, O.B.E., T.D., F.R.C.S., F.R.C.P
Hon. Treasurer: Miss Mary Mathieson, Flat 7, Arundel Court, 43/47 Arundel Gardens, London, W11 2LP.
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 (temp): The Chief of the Clan

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

In the absence of an editor, once again I find myself piecing together a newsletter made up of stories and happenings of Mathesons worldwide. I am very glad to do this as a service to the Clan but do earnestly wish that just one of the many talented Clansmen I feel sure is lurking in the background in the United Kingdom would put his modesty aside and offer to take on the job.

The more Mathesons who join the Clan Society the better and over the years the number has been growing steadily. There are a number of books about Clans on sale, some of which mention the Clan, others inform us it disappeared long ago! I do not set myself up as a historian but as I understand it, Aalasdair MacMhurchaidh, Chief of the Clan and leader of 2,000 men, one of the strongest Clans in the Highlands, appeared before King James 1st at Inverness in 1428, to answer for actively supporting The Lord of the Isles, a political rival. As this conduct was not acceptable to the King, the Chief was under arrest for a period and this it seems was the start of the dispersal of the Clan. Some calculate there are now 10,000 of us in the world and in the past few years various experts have even suggested 30,000 or more. Whatever the figure is, we as the Clan Society are only in touch with a mere fraction of our fellow Clansmen around the world. Perhaps modern technology will enable us to reach out to the others.

Thanks to the untiring efforts of Mrs Judy Tottle, Colin Lewis, Ron & Merle Matheson, Mrs May Matheson and others a Branch has now sprung up in Australia. In view of the vast distances they have to compete with, this is a commendable effort and really splendid news and I look forward to being in touch with an increasing number of kinsmen. The Committees in Canada, New Zealand and the United States have also made great strides forward, as you will read in the following pages and I am most grateful to all of them for all they do to bring us together.

In October this year a Clan Matheson Web site was established on the World Wide Web. For those of you with computers and are registered on the internet, type in Clan Matheson or www.matheson.org and our site should come up on your screen. It shows the Coat of Arms of the Chief of the Clan, dress and hunting tartans in colour and the Officers of the Clan Society in the United Kingdom and Overseas, also a very brief history. It can be amended at any time. For those who might wish to get in touch, my E-Mail address is < mail@matheson.org >.

Last year's Newsletter mentioned the possibility of an International Gathering of the Clan. This has been confirmed and is to be held in Lochalsh, Wester Ross Wednesday 15th - Saturday 18th July 1998. On the Saturday we will be attending the Lochcarron Highland Games at Attadale, followed by a Clan Dinner at Strathcarron. England and overseas Branches have been sent details, any queries should be referred to Branch Hon. Secretaries. Details for Scotland, Europe and South Africa will go out with this Newsletter. Already very many overseas members have expressed an intention to be present and I hope the home team will be there to meet them with me!!

All members of the Clan Society who have met The Very Reverend James Matheson will be distressed to know that his wife died earlier this year and I feel will wish to join with me in expressing our very great sympathy. The Reverend James, a distinguished member of the Clan was a former Moderator of the Church of Scotland, he and his wife have lived for years at Husabost, Dunvegan, Isle of Skye.

During the year, among the Clan members who visited us was Myron Matheson of Prince Edward Island who motored all the way here with his daughter and son in law from Hertfordshire to have lunch with us. He told us of his plans for a family reunion and we shared his pleasure when he wrote to say how enjoyable his Gathering had been. His account follows in the Canadian section. We look forward to seeing many more in Lochalsh and send you best wishes for 1998.

sgd. Fergus Matheson of Matheson

THE MATHESONS OF ASSYNT

by Joy Manning of Auckland, New Zealand.

As a genealogist from a distant country, it has not been an easy task to discover who my Matheson ancestors were and how they came to be in New Zealand. It has certainly been an adventure and now I feel qualified to provide an overview for others who are currently working on or about to tread the same path. From time to time, the same question arises. "Am I looking for a needle in a haystack?"

My research led me back to Assynt and my 1860s Imperial Gazetteer said that Assynt is a large highland parish in the south-west of Sutherlandshire, Scotland, with the area estimated at 100,000 acres and circumference at 90 miles.

I then pored over countless films of original Census documents and searched books and received wonderful assistance along the way from our N.Z. Branch experts, John and Monica Kidd and so my hunt for Mathesons of Assynt progressed. Finally, I reached a point where I could go no further but of course it is still possible. I discovered that there were two valuable lists that form my "earliest in time" search nucleus. In 1746 a list of parishioners was compiled apparently as an assessment of the number of men capable of bearing arms. There were 66 men already listed as soldiers, and 2 of these were Mathesons, William at Stoer and John at Oldeny. There are 3 other named Mathesons on the list being Hugh at Auchmelvich, Alexander at Clachtoll and Angus at Stoer.

By November 1774 there were 35 Mathesons living in Assynt according to my calculation taken from the book "The Survey of Assynt" by John Home. This is what I found :- Malcolm Mathieson lived at Ardvare with his wife and 4 children. Hugh Matheson lived at Little Baddyardarroch with his wife, 2 children and 1 servant. At Clashmore there lived Angus Mathieson, wife and 3 children and at Culkein Achnacarnon I found an Angus Mathieson, wife and 4 children. At Nedd, a Donald Mathieson, wife, 1 child and 1 servant and also a Kenneth Matheson, his mother, a sister and 1 servant. At Store (sic) a William Mathieson lived with his wife and 6 children. This 35 only, Matheson/Mathiesons living in Assynt at that time is encouraging. However, further comprehensive lists of families do not exist until 1841 apart from the 1811 Census.

My curiosity then led me to make a study of the number of Mathesons in relation to the total population of Assynt at ten yearly intervals where possible. The 1774 figures have been taken from those found in the Survey of Assynt, and the remaining information has been taken from Census figures in books and on film.

1774	1801	1811	1821	1831	1841	1851	1861	1871	1881	1891
35		78			125	142	160	162	157	173
1718	2395	2479	2803	3161	3178	2989	3174	3006	2781	2551

1. The top line shows the year studied.
2. The second line is the number of Mathesons. *
3. The third line is the total population for the year.

* The second line of Mathesons includes the head of the household, all Matheson wives even though only a few were Mathesons before marriage and all Matheson children. It also includes anyone other than those categories where there may be a Matheson living with another family. Because of the way the information was structured for the year 1811, there could be the odd servant included in the number of Mathesons that year.

This study therefore is not accurate, it is purely intended as an exercise that could assist one in deciding how much further one should delve if you are back with your family history to the year 1800. It helps one to form a basis to work from and around.

Armed with a few good facts, it is highly likely that one can sift ones ancestors from the regular Census lists

beginning at 1841. Using the Parish Records and other lists it is often not difficult to trace back to the year 1800. If only a few people could add Matheson facts to the period between 1774 and the year 1800 it could add hope to the possibility of finding a little more about one's own ancestors and also the other few Matheson families that were actually living there.

The increase in the Matheson number from 35 in 1774 to 162 in 1871 which is virtually 100 years, is not such a dramatic change when you realise that you are usually dealing with families rather than single persons. Therefore, you would not be looking for a needle in a haystack".

References :-

The survey of Assynt, by John Home, edited by Professor R.J.Adam and published by the Scottish history Society 1957/58.

The Imperial Gazetteer of Scotland, Vol. 1, edited by the Rev. John Marius Wilson and published circa 1867.

The History of the Highland Clearances, by Alexander Mackenzie

Historic Assynt by Malcolm Bangor-Jones.

Population Lists of Assynt, 1638-1811, edited by Malcolm Bangor-Jones.

L.D.S. filmed copies of the Census documents.

Matheson data from various Census records with the assistance of John and Monica Kidd.

Permission to use Census information given by the Keeper of the Records, Scotland.

Grateful thanks to Malcolm Bangor-Jones, Scotland for his assistance.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

UNITED KINGDOM

SCOTLAND

Attadale

For those of you intending to be present at the Lochcarron Games, a word or two about Attadale may be of interest. The present day owners are Mr and Mrs Euan Macpherson. The organiser of the Games is Major Douglas Gunn, M.B.E., a retired Officer of the Royal Engineers and I believe responsible for the present day high standard the Games have achieved. We are not going as their guests but they know we are coming and we have been invited to take part in a ceremony with the Ullapool Pipe Band. They hope that as many as possible will wear kilts / tartan skirts.

Attadale was built by Donald Matheson in 1755. It remained in the family until sold by John Matheson, IVth of Attadale in 1825. The present day owners moved there some time after the last war. About 1815, the late Reverend Donald Sage was employed by the laird, John Matheson IVth of Attadale, to be tutor to his five sons. He described the place of Attadale as very romantic, but almost entirely inaccessible, except at low water by the sands to the east and by a break-neck, scrambling road over the edge of a precipice to the west. He also recounts his narrow escape from being swept away in a spate whilst attempting to ford the river (at Strathcarron) on horseback on his way back from Church in Jeantown (Lochcarron). Fortunately there is now a first class road running past Attadale and alongside is the railway served by it's own small station or halt.

Duncraig

Duncraig Castle, another former Matheson house which was built by Sir Alexander Matheson in about 1866 and sold in the 1920s has again been in the news. The most recent tenant terminated his agreement this summer, since when the Highland Regional Council has been debating its future. It is understood several interested parties, willing to observe the terms under which it was left to the Ross-shire County Council just after World War II by the late Sir Daniel and Lady Hamilton, have come forward with proposals for its future. The Hamilton's wishes were that the estate should be used to benefit young people belonging to the

Highlands and Islands or of Highland descent. The Council and all those interested in its future are aware of our Clan association with Duncraig and of our wish for a foothold there as a focal point for the Clan.



Duncraig Castle 1937

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 Miss Jennie Matheson
 Mrs Helen Walker Miss Mary Matheson

We started the year on the right foot when 25 members attended the Annual Dinner held in the Officers' Mess, Wellington Barracks, London on 23rd January. The evening was judged a great success and much enjoyed by all. The A.G.M. held in May also in London was also well attended and when the business of the evening was dealt with refreshments provided the opportunity for a social gathering.

In the summer we held a family d.i.y. picnic in Hampshire at the kind invitation of Colonel Richard & Mrs Rosie Mayfield. Rosie is the daughter of Colonel Donald Matheson, late R.A.M.C., one of the many Mathesons from Dornie in Lochalsh. In August a second outing was arranged, this time more adventurous, on the River Cam at Cambridge. We were glad to have our late Chief's son-in-law Will Craven with us and sorry that whilst punting, his sense of balance failed him and he had a swim. The rest of his family, meanwhile, were sunning themselves at Duirinish. Congratulations to Shirley Adams (Matheson) and family coming all the way from Leamington Spa, Warwickshire. Both events were enormous fun and we were grateful to those who made the arrangements and gave us two such enjoyable days. Slowly the numbers of those daring enough to find out what it is all about are increasing and we hope this process will continue to grow. More about punting follows.

Looking back on the events of Saturday 6th September last, it seems most of the world was watching the tragic Funeral procession of Diana, Princess of Wales. London was packed and the streets were lined with thousands upon thousands to witness this exceptionally sad event which had touched the hearts of millions all over the world. It may be of interest to know that the two principal Army Officers taking part were both Mathesons or of Matheson descent. The Bearer Party, found by the 1st Battalion Welsh Guards, at present serving in Germany, was commanded by Captain Richard Williams, M.C., son of Brigadier Peter and Mrs Margaret Williams who is the daughter of our Convenor, Major General John Matheson, late R.A.M.C. (also a Dornie Matheson). Richard was to be seen at the rear of the Gun Carriage on the left during the march from Kensington Palace and then marching behind the Coffin in the Abbey. Immediately behind the Gun Carriage came members of the Royal Family, and on their right, marched Lt. Colonel Alexander Matheson, son of the Chief and Jean. Alexander was in overall charge of the procession and the planning of it. One could not help noticing with some satisfaction that Big Ben struck the hour as the Coffin was carried through the Great West Door of Westminster Abbey and the Service promptly began. After such a long march to attention and in slow time, it was a remarkable feat of good timing and endurance on the part of the Guardsmen who had the honour to perform this exceptional duty which they carried out with such distinction and dignity.

Next Year's Events:-	Clan Dinner in London	Thursday 22nd January
	Annual General Meeting in London	Wednesday 20th May
	Punting on the River Cam at Cambridge	Sunday 15th August

Details of any other events will be circulated later. All members of the Clan Society are welcome to our meetings, particularly those from overseas, please get in touch.

CLANNING ABOUT IN THE RIVER

By Patricia Mathieson of Cambridge, England.

August 16th was one of the great days of the summer. All the previous week I was terribly worried that the weather would change - and what would I do with 26 Mathesons, not to speak of Mathiesons, in Cambridge in the pouring rain? But as it turned out, we couldn't have had a better day. By the time we started to congregate at 10 a.m., it was already swelteringly hot. My only mistake was not checking in advance to make sure that we could still park in Harvey Court, part of Gonville & Caius College, where I have been leaving my car ever since I held my first punting party in 1984. The consequence was that we were challenged by a bouncer, who has probably not

realised to this day that he managed to send 20 or so Mathesons into a complete spin simultaneously. I had gone on ahead to organise the punts, and had to run back to rescue my car in the nick of time before it was clamped. I caught up with the party outside Kings College and had to clamber on to one of the punts from the bank, much to the annoyance of another bouncer. From then on, things were much less eventful. We glided serenely among the Colleges, under the mathematical bridge, and past groups of students sunning themselves on the river bank. Just beyond Queen's College we had to heave the punts over the rollers that bypass the weir - but with plenty of hands, it wasn't a difficult job. Then on through the wooded fringes of Newnham and out into the open meadows. I have a special place where we always land our punts, a creek with an overhanging tree. We stopped there and spread out our picnics in the field that borders the river.



But then the cry went up, "Where is Alexander?" Our Chief's son, family and dogs were missing - entangled, as we discovered, in the Cambridge traffic. But they were not far behind. Soon after they arrived, we were joined by Frances Ripper (Gt. Gt. Granddaughter of Sir Alexander Matheson of Ardrross and Lochalsh) and her husband, who had opted not to come on the boats but to walk to the picnic site from nearby Grantchester

In what seemed like the twinkling of an eye, it was time to go home again. After several "family" photographs and goodbyes all round, mingled with promises to meet at the Clan Matheson International Gathering in Lochalsh next year, we boarded our punts again and set off down the river. We exchanged greetings with several fishermen we met on the way, were "bombed" by a group of small boys who managed to soak several of us (we dried off pretty quickly), and glanced sympathetically at the guests at a smart wedding at the Garden House Hotel, who looked uncomfortably hot in their formal clothes. It was a marvellous day - warm and relaxing - and I hope even more people will come next year ... by which time, I promise I'll have sorted out the parking!

AUSTRALIA

President:	Ron Matheson 11 Kia Ora Road, Reservoir 3073, Victoria
Hon. Secretary:	Mrs May Matheson 38 Hourigan Road, Morwell 3840, Victoria. e-mail < matho@net-tech.com.au >
Hon. Treasurer:	Mrs Glenynce Hemiak
Genealogist:	Colin Lewis 20 Crofton Court, Hoppers Crossing 3030, Victoria

It gives us great pleasure to announce the birth of our newly established "Branch of the Clan Matheson Society in Australia Inc". We have 30 fully paid up members who are as keen as mustard to get things going. An inaugural meeting was held at Eastern Beach, Geelong, Victoria on 12th October 1997. Present were:- Ron & Merle Matheson, Colin and Angie Lewis, Ray & Isabelle Gventhe, Shirley Pearce, E. Salathiel, Fiona Silver, Margaret Dimitriou, Alan & May Matheson, Bill & Daphne Eggleton, Ina McGillivray, Murray & Betty Matheson, Ray & Rosemary Cox, Lance & Ella Matheson, Ross Matheson, Murdoch & Jean Matheson, Bessie Matheson, Ken & Marj Matheson, Glenynce Hemiak, Margaret Grant, Sally-Ann Matheson with apologies from Lorna Coles, Kathleen Matheson, Margaret Eddy, Pat Gillingham, Barbara Brassington, Don & Nell Matheson. Ron Matheson and Colin Lewis were thanked for their efforts in organising the first meeting. There was also a vote of thanks for the work on behalf of the Clan over recent years by Judy Tottle and Frank & Mona Matheson.

6.
CANADA

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

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 BON 2TO

Hon. Treasurer: Mrs Verna Matheson

Piper: Ms Kelly Putnam
Chaplin: Doctor Glen Matheson
Genealogist Glen Matheson. (e-mail <nstn3773@fox.nstn.ca >)

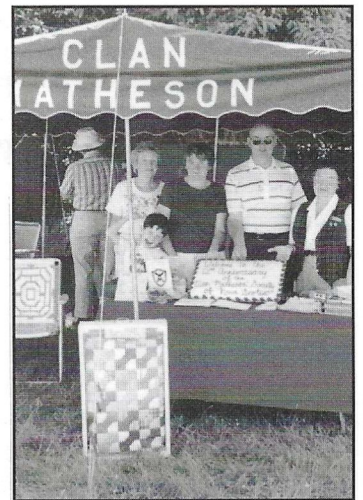
CAPE BRETON

Convenor : Judge Lewis Matheson
57 Tain Street, Sydney
Nova Scotia.
B1P 1Y5

Hon. Secretary: Mrs Brenda (Matheson) Cochrane
55 Birch Street,
Port Morien,
Nova Scotia BOA 1TO

Hon. Treasurer: George Matheson
21 Murphy Street,
Nova Scotia. B1A 1X1

During the past year we have been actively pursuing the establishment of new Branches. I am pleased to report that we have appointed organisers in three Provinces and the outlook is very promising, particularly in the Provinces of New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island. Hopefully, 1998 will see the new Branches in operation. In the meantime our two Branches in Nova Scotia have again been most active. The Mainland Branch celebrated its 12th anniversary at the Piper's Picnic, Earltown, N.S. in August. All visitors to our Clan tent received a piece of celebration cake. They held two executive meetings, sponsored a princess in the Festival of the Tartans (Ms. Dawn Matheson), set up information tables at numerous gatherings, and the Clan Tent was prominent at Highland Gatherings and Games in Halifax, New Glasgow, Antigonish, and the Piper's Picnic. Also for the first time, they helped staff the Tent of the Clans at the Multicultural Festival. The year was capped off with their annual picnic and auction at Donna and Vaughan Matheson's cottage at Shortt's Lake, N.S. A combination of beautiful weather, wonderful food, spirited auction and great fellowship made this year's function a tremendous success. *In the picture are:- Ruth, wife of Joel Matheson, Chief's Lieutenant; Alex, son of Glen Matheson, Branch Genealogist; Ena Matheson, Hon. Secretary; Al Matheson, President; Verna Matheson, Hon. Treasurer*



In addition our Cape Breton Branch continued to make the Clan's presence well known at various Gatherings and Festivals on Cape Breton Island. They held four meetings in 1997 and raised money for the scholarship fund through the sale of a wall clock donated by a Clan member, Walter Wynn. It should be in use for a long time as the winner, Nicholas Reid MacDonald was all of two month's old ! A special highlight of the year's activities was the attendance of 15 members on Clan Day, August 8th, at St. Ann's Cape Breton, N.S. It is a major Highland Gathering and this year's featured The Honorable Judge John R. Matheson of Rideau Ferry, Ontario as guest speaker. Judge Matheson is credited with obtaining a consensus on Canada's Maple Leaf flag and winning national approval and acceptance. The members participated in the Parade of Clans which was followed by the Official Ceremonies. During the ceremonies, the Cape Breton Society Scholarships for St. Ann's Gaelic College were presented. The Gaelic Language Scholarship was presented by Clan member D.J.MacDonald. He spoke both in Gaelic and English. The Piping Scholarship, in memory of Sir Torquhil Matheson of Matheson, was presented by Mae (Matheson) Buchanan. The ceremonies were followed by the Kirking of the Tartan. The Branch looks forward to 1998 and is hopeful that some members will be able to attend the Gathering in Scotland.

On a sadder note, Arthur Matheson, of Summerside, P.E.I. passed away at age 63. He was very active in Clan activities and played a leadership role in various Clan functions. His capable support and congenial manner will be greatly missed. He is survived by Uncles and Ernest, and several cousins including Gladys MacMillan.

Clan Society members across Canada have been notified of our Gathering in Scotland in July, 1998. We have received a number of positive responses from various parts of the Country. All are looking forward to meeting Mathesons from other parts of the world. Many will use the opportunity to indulge their genealogy curiosity. This great Gathering event, coupled with our plans for new Branches should make 1998 a year of challenge and opportunity for our Clan Society. I am looking forward to meeting again with the many U.K. Clan friends we have known over the years. In closing, I again thank Sir Fergus and Lady Jean Matheson for their wonderful support and encouragement, it is much appreciated by all. Their messages to our Societies are well received at all our local gatherings. To all, a Happy and Healthy 1998.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

Myron Matheson of Box 2806, Cornwall, Prince Edward Island, COA 1HO., visited the United Kingdom earlier this year. On returning home, he was host to a family reunion at his home. Here are extracts from his account of the meeting. "Our Matheson family reunion was a rousing success attended by 475. They came from all Provinces in Canada and from several States in America and from as far away as Florida, Louisiana and California. It was simply amazing to see different branches of the family finding so many relatives they did not know even existed. The weekend started with events at the site of the original homestead on P.E.I.. Part of the house is the original structure built in 1871. Donald and Margaret lived in a log cabin for the first 13 years after their arrival in Canada. When they were able to buy the land in 1870, they built the first home. The land is still occupied by a descendant. The high point of the weekend was a Church Service on Sunday morning. A retired minister, the Reverend Donald Nicholson - aged 90 years - sang the 103rd psalm in Gaelic. There were a few wet eyes as a Piper followed this with a rendition of Amazing Grace. The Church shown in the picture is the Hartsville Presbyterian Church which was the one they attended. We hope we will be getting a Clan meeting organised this fall. Some people from P.E.I. are thinking about attending the July Gathering in Lochalsh. I took a number of slides of the country around beautiful Plockton and am showing them to all and sundry. Hopefully some will feel the urge to see it first hand".



NEW ZEALAND

Chief's Lieutenant and Chairman :	Douglas Matheson.
Hon. Secretary :	33 Mellons Bay Road, Howick 1705, Auckland. Tel: 09 534 9477
Treasurer:	Mrs Ailsa Matheson. 138 a Pembroke Street, Hamilton. Tel: & Fax : 07 8340 918
Genealogist :	Gordon Matheson
Piper:	Don Scott. 11 Tiri Road, Wangaparaoa, Tel & Fax : 09 424 1461
Genealogists:	Norman Matheson.
Chaplain:	John & Monica Kidd.
Committee:	The Revd. Stuart McKenzie.
	Anne Matheson, Donald Matheson.
	Norman & Rita Matheson.
	Lois Ahlquist, Val Stern, Joy Weeds.

We have enjoyed regular communication with Sir Fergus in a year when a special birthday came his way. Several members on overseas travel have been fortunate in visiting him and Lady Matheson - Graeme and Ellen Matheson of Christchurch, Alex and Raewyn Matheson of Inglewood in Norfolk and Joan Harbour (Matheson) plus her daughters Joanna and Catherine whilst on a visit to the Isle of Skye. A special highlight for all of them to treasure. Some 33 New Zealand members have expressed interest and are planning on attending the July 1998 Clan Gathering at Lochalsh. It is thrilling to know such a good number are anticipating this unique event.

Jim and Pat Mathieson of Chicopee, Mass USA have recently visited New Zealand for the 2nd time. They were very appreciative of the chance to meet some of our members. They expressed thanks to all who made the

tour so enjoyable - Graeme Mathieson of Te Anau; Jim and Peg Mathieson of Wanaka; Louise Jelley of Queenstown; Don and Sally Mathieson of Wellington. In Hamilton, Jim and Pat stayed with Gordon and Ailsa and also met Joan, Russell, Len, David and Mairie (all Matheson), Leonie (Mathieson) and Stan Getty. Doug and Anne were Auckland hosts. Jim supplied details of the Matheson Motor Car Co. of Holyoke, Mass. Charles H. Greuter invented the Matheson which on 14th September 1904 was the subject of the very first motor mishap in the city. The car stalled at an intersection after the machine fell on its right side into a washout on the road. A policeman assisted the inventor by pushing the vehicle to his shop. A piece of timber was used to lever the undamaged car back onto the road. The Company is listed in the 1904 and 1905 city directory and moved in 1906 to Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. The Singer Sewing Machine Co. of New York took over the agency but the Company failed in 1907. The Matheson truck which was featured in a New Zealand Clan Newsletter, running a service from Hamilton to Auckland, possibly had its origins in the USA.

Very successful functions have been held throughout the country. In November 1996, a social evening was held in New Plymouth at the home of Pauline Roberts and about 20 Taranaki members attended. It was a chance to meet the Chief's Lieutenant Doug and his wife Anne; also Secretary Ailsa and Treasurer Gordon. Another very enjoyable Northland Gathering was held in June at the home of Joan and Ken McInnes of Ruakaka. Auckland events have included a beach picnic in February, Kirkin' O' the Tartan and A.G.M in August, then in October an afternoon at Manurewa Gardens. All very happy occasions and well attended. An October evening for Wellington members was held at the home of Sally and Don Mathieson with some new folk attending to meet with Doug and Anne. Membership growth throughout the country is steady and finances well maintained.



Joy Weeds and Douglas Matheson, Chief's Lieutenant with his wife Anne

Ian and Julie Mathieson of Wairuna near Clinton have been trialling a fence line shelter for newborn lambs and have launched the product on the national market. "Saving 2 million of the 4 million lambs lost every year through lack of shelter and wintry conditions has great economic benefits for the whole country. If a farmer carried out a stock shelter plan, he could go to bed at night knowing no matter how bad the weather was during the night, his lambs were protected" said Ian. (Editors note: When Ian has made his million, please remember the free advertising given in the Clan Newsletter. If he is looking for an agent in the U.K., he will know where to find one.)

We record with grateful thanks the wonderful contribution which Monica and John Kidd have made over the years as our Branch Genealogists. An uncountable number of long hours, in research and recording, have resulted in family and ancestry records which are second to none in New Zealand Clans. We greatly appreciate all this work and know that many future generations will have cause to be thankful these two dedicated people have done so much to record our ancestry. We wish them both good health and many years of happy life together and thank them for all they have done. In their place we welcome Don Scott as Branch Genealogist who has for some time been assisting John and Monica by recording family details on his computer.

Thank you John and Monica Kidd.



John and Monica Kidd

UNITED STATES

Chief's Lieutenant : Malcolm Matheson III.

The Tannery, PO Box 307, The Plains, Virginia, 20198-0307. E-mail < clanmathsn@aol.com >

Genealogist: Charles Mathieson Otstot,
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Another year has just flown by and during that time I have corresponded with over 100 (approximately half) of our Clan Society membership on all manner of subjects not the least of which was our upcoming Clan Gathering in July of 1998. I have also talked to many members by phone. And those of you who have computers will be happy to learn that through the subtle pushing of our Chief, Sir Fergus and many of my family (including Grandchildren) I have just gone on-line with my office computer and can send and receive e-mail. A new age has dawned! You can now reach me over the Internet by sending your messages to clanmathsn@aol.com I shall endeavour to reply.

Mary Wescott Padden (Mrs. John R.) of Takoma, Wa. and Jean M. Matheson of Elkhorn, WI were frequent correspondents both by phone and letter. Mrs Padden sent a manila envelope full of genealogical information (for which I am very grateful) including correspondence with Jean Matheson's mother. Both of them share a common set of Great-Great Grandparents who just happen to be my triple Great Grandparents. It was fascinating and actually led to the recruitment of Jean's first cousin, James Cobb Matheson, of Alexandria, Va. (by boyhood hometown) who I never met but who had known my Grandfather (Malcolm, Sr.) and cousin Finley from Miami.

New Member, Pat Matheson Buller Pearson, contributed a wonderful Clan history and guide book which incorporated photos of her recent trip through the Lochalsh area and the Isle of Lewis. Pat had it printed, the photos colour copied, and bound. A very special, time consuming effort which I greatly appreciate. It shall accompany me to the Clan Gathering in July.

As far as activities this past year the Aakesson brothers, John and Alexander, were the only members requesting the "kit" to hold open a Clan Matheson tent at any of the many Highland Games taking place in the U.S. They held forth at the Celtic Festival at Oatland's Leesburg, Va. in June; the Virginia Scottish Games in Alexandria, Va. in July; the Scottish Heritage Fair at Historic Fort Ward, Va. in August; and checked out the Frederick Maryland Games in September.

*In the picture are:-John Aakesson,
Lisa Branch, Charles, Branch Genealogist &
Florence Otstot, Jim & Erda Matheson,
Angus Matheson (Grandson of Gail & Malcolm),
Alexander Aakesson, Gail & Malcolm Matheson, III
Chief's Lieutenant; Ann Preston, daughter of
Jim & Erda; at Virginia Scottish Games.*



Also present at the Virginia Highland Games were Christine Matheson Daher and husband George (with some wonderful embroidered crest Tee shirts for sale); Angus Dugald Matheson; and casts of thousands. The only other request for use of the games "kit" came from "Pinkie" Matheson Roe who borrowed our Clan Crest Leather Shield to use in an arrangement she did for the famous Philadelphia Flower Show on March 7, 1997. Her class was aptly titled - "From These Roots" - and embedded in the centre root was the Matheson Crest Shield. Pinkie won the Red Ribbon! A hearty well done - she deserves the Blue!

The numerous communiqués from the Chief this year and his superb efforts in arranging the Clan Gathering for July have been most helpful in maintaining a high degree of interest and participation in the Society. And working closely with my counterpart in Canada, Joel R. Matheson, has helped our Society immensely - especially in containing costs as we share expenses for advertising, printing and recruitment where practicable. Besides our thanks to these two notables and all you faithful members who have paid your dues, a special note of thanks goes to those Life members who have made Voluntary Contributions. Thomas K. Andison, Mrs Robert D Barree, Torrey M. Cooke, Jean M. Friess, Jean P. Guyton, Carolyn M. Loeffler, Col. Bruce J. Matheson, Don P. Matheson, Leslie R. Matheson, Phyllis & Lyman W. Matheson, Malcolm W. Matheson, Robert W. Matheson, Elmer C. Matheson, Raymond Mattheson, Charles M. Otstot, David M. Warm and Nell P. Wilkerson.

A big welcome to our new members who have joined the Clan Society since 1 January 1997.

Dales W. Matheson, Portland, OR.
Colleen Mari Matheson, Northfield Fall, Vt.
James Cobb Matheson, Alexandria, VA
Robert T. Nave, Johnson City, TN
J.Kurt Matheson, Greenville, SC
B. Renee Mathieson McCurdy, Abilene, TX

Pat Matheson Buller Pearson, Seattle, WA
Dorothy Nellie Wood Kiegel, Banfield, IL
Mary Jo Kinghorn, Victoria, TX
Irving D. Strong, Sacramento, CA
Gary A. Mathison, Groveton, TX
Michael S. Matheson, Milford, MI

MEMBERS OF THE CLAN SOCIETY LIVING IN OTHER COUNTRIES ARE

MALTA

The Rev Canon Ronald S. Matheson has recently moved from Malta and is with his sister Mrs Bohn, 1013 Buchanan Street, Fairfield, CA94533 - 4656, California, U.S.A.

NETHERLANDS

Mr. Huibert C. Matthijse, Reitgansstraat 2, Ermelo, 3853AK
Mr. J.J. Matthijse, Lavrillardlaan 11, 2082HE, Santpoort-Zuid
Mrs J.F. vanRuth-vanHemert, Pieter Lastmankade 36, 1075 KL, Amsterdam

NORWAY

Mrs Margaret Hosfeth, Jarlsborgvien 8, Oslo 3
Mr & Mrs Einar Chr. Matheson, Huk Aveny 29, Oslo. Einar and Mette hope to be present at the Lochalsh Gathering, with their son following his graduation at Edinburgh University next summer. He is reading economics and politics.

SOUTH AFRICA

R. Matheson, PO Box 769, Randburg 2125
Eric R. Matheson, PO BOX 21063, Port Shepstone 4240, Natal.
John A. Matheson, 44 Waverleydale Road, Pietermaritzburg, Natal 3201
Mrs Roy Matheson, 143 Francois Road, Durban, Natal 4001
Mrs E.M.T. Pidwell, 3 Geeltrak Road, Glen Marias, Ext 1, Transvaal 1619

CONGRATULATIONS TO

CANADA

- * The Honorable Douglas R. Matheson, Q.C., who retired from the Alberta Court of Queen's Bench at the end of 1996 after distinguished service. This was followed by his appointment by the City of Edmonton to mediate a dispute between union and Management in the City's Emergency Response Department. He served in the Royal Canadian Air Force in W.W.1 as a Spitfire pilot, was shot down and spent a year in Stalagluft III, then became a senior partner in Matheson & Co., Lawyers in Edmonton. He is still flying a Beechcraft Bonanza.
- * Stillman James Matheson, Director of Music at Edmonton's Robertson-Wesley United Church, Alberta, for having successfully defended his doctoral dissertation on "Image, Ethnicity, and the Organ Works of Camille Saint-Saens". he is due to be awarded a Degree of Doctor of Music at the University of Alberta's spring convocation. Stillman was born in N.B., son of Leonard and Shirley Matheson.
- * 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 on celebrating her 101st birthday.
- * Noel and Rona Neeley of Papatoetoe on celebrating their Golden Wedding Anniversary.
- * Joy and Arthur Weeds of Howick also on celebrating their Golden Wedding Anniversary.
- * Alex Matheson of Inglewood for serving on the committee of the New Plymouth Searchlight Tattoo.11.
- * Constable Fiona Paiere (daughter of Ian and Ruth Mathieson of Riverton for being appointed the first woman sole charge Police Officer at Tokomaru Bay.10
- * Gavin Matheson and Katie Chittenden on their marriage at Matheson Bay. Gavin is the son of Ewan and Noeline Matheson and they were attended by his brothers Scott and Neil.

UNITED STATES

* Carolyn Kay Matheson and Richard Alan Loeffler on their marriage on 21st December 1996. Carolyn is the daughter Mr & Mrs Leslie R. Matheson (Leslie is a past Hon. Secretary of the Clan Society).

* Don P. Matheson, on the birth of a new Grandson, Alexander Donald Matheson, born 29th July 1996.

* Mr and Mrs Alexander M. Roe (Pinkie Matheson Roe) on the birth of their new Grandson, Malcolm Lewis Purinton on 9th October 1997.

MAIL ORDER AVAILABLE FOR MEMBERS OF THE CLAN MATHESON SOCIETY

SWEAT-SHIRTS, with long raglan sleeves and a round neck.

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7/8	30"	Large 47"	ordering.
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12/14	34"	XX Large 55"	

To Order, please enter your name and address on the form below and send it to Mrs Kate Lowry, Brae Cottage, Colchester Road, Coggeshall, Essex, CO6 1RP, England, **enclosing a cheque made payable to the Clan Matheson Gathering a/c**. All shirts ordered will be available for collection at the Lochalsh Clan Gathering in July **OR** if you wish, your order can be dispatched to your home, please add £5 per shirt to cover postage and packing.

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THE CLAN MATHESON SOCIETY

U.K.	The Old Rectory, Hedenham, Norfolk, NR35 2LD
Australia.	38 Hourigan Road, Morwell 3840, Victoria
Canada.	30 Robert Allen Drive, Halifax, Nova Scotia B3M 3G8
New Zealand.	138 a Pembroke Street, Hamilton
U.S.A.	The Tannery, PO Box 307, The Plains, Virginia, 20198-0307

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