



Clan Matheson Society

NEWSLETTER No. 54

Autumn 1999

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, 5 Bridstow Place, London, W2 5AE
Genealogist: Charles Mathieson Otstot, Otstot, E-mail : cmotstot@juno.com
Piper: Duncan Matheson, Braehead, Gower Street, Brora, Sutherland, Scotland, KW9 6PU
Editor (temp.): The Chief of the Clan

The Chief's Message

The Clan Matheson Society continues to grow and I feel all members will wish to join with me in welcoming the newly formed Branch on Prince Edward Island, Canada. Although many of their number may have been members for some time, it is only very recently that Myron Matheson has formed this Branch. They are starting with a bang as you will read later on; they plan to host a large International Clan Gathering in 2001. The successes in all member Countries are entirely due to the Officers of the Society who so generously give their time and energy whether organising events from home, manning Clan stalls or just being present at Gatherings around the world. I for one am extremely grateful for all the help that is always so readily available and am most appreciative how efficiently all the Branches run. The Mathesons in Norway who we were so pleased to welcome in Lochalsh last year are still in touch and hope to establish their Branch before long.

Changes of office in the past 12 months have been Janet Matheson Dorm giving up as Clan Genealogist after so many years of outstanding service and doing a truly wonderful job for the Clan. She has handed on to Charles Mathieson Otstot who assisted by a team of genealogists, one in each member country, has taken on the daunting task of recording our genealogy on the internet. Doug Matheson while remaining as Chief's Lieutenant has given up as Chairman in New Zealand, an appointment he has held for several years, during which he has devoted much of his time in the service of the Clan. His place as Chairman is taken by Norman Matheson, well known for his skill as a Piper. To them and others who give so much of their time, on behalf of the Society, I thank them for their outstanding service to the Clan.

I would like to add a few words more to what was said last year at the Gathering about the Crest we wear as so often it is reproduced incorrectly on miniature whisky bottles, wooden plaques, post cards, book markers, key rings and so on. It is particularly disturbing that many overseas members unwittingly spend their money purchasing these objects unaware of the inaccuracy. For all members of the family or extended family called a Clan who profess allegiance to the Chief and wish to demonstrate their association with the Clan, it is correct and customary for them to wear their Chief's Crest encircled with a Strap and Buckle generally in a bonnet or in the case of a lady in the form of a brooch. The Strap and Buckle being the sign of a Clansman or Clanswoman, membership of the Clan being demonstrated by the Crest within. When reproducing the Crest, the detail should be precisely as recorded at the head of this newsletter, any variation is incorrect. Normally it is coloured silver though as in the case of writing paper this may not always be possible. Main points to watch out for are the number of points on the crown and its position which should be central. I write to suppliers whenever I come across incorrect reproductions and most are cooperative. My advice is, do not buy the goods if the detail is wrong. The modern Crest, that of the head of my family, was introduced when my brother became Chief replacing the old variation without the crown. Clansmen and Clanswomen owning the old pattern would be quite correct in continuing to wear them.

I am grateful to all those who helped me by contributing to this newsletter. I hope you like the page of colour and I apologise for having to omit some of the photographs I was sent, there simply was not enough room. Subject to the advice of Branch Secretaries next year we might have more than one page but it will mean reducing the written reports.

Best wishes to all members of the Clan and Clan Society from Jean, myself and our family for the coming century and in particular the year 2000.

Fergus Matheson of Matheson

GENEALOGY CORNER

Janet Matheson Dorn has retired as Clan Genealogist. Janet did so much to generate genealogical interest in the society and to help members focus their researches into their family histories. Well Done, Janet!!! You will be remembered and thank you ever so much.

Charles (Charlie) Mathieson Otstot has been appointed to replace Janet. He has been (and will continue to be) the United States Regional Genealogist. Over the years he has had numerous articles in this Newsletter. His initial charge is to create a computer based Clan Matheson Society Genealogy Data Base. This effort has begun. Most of the beginning work will relate to US families. He is using the five-generation charts contained in the US membership applications, card file material inherited from Janet, as well as other available family history information.

The Regional Genealogists for Canada, Glenn Matheson; New Zealand, Don Scott; Australia, Colin Lewis and the UK, Dr. Mhairi Matheson are developing information on their area's families to be data base. The genealogies presented in the History of the Mathesons by Alexander McKenzie & Alexander Macbain have been entered. In addition, using the Parochial Record transcriptions prepared by John and Monica Kidd; Don Scott and Charlie are preparing historical family record material that will be entered into the data base. This is a very long-term project but will eventually contain a wealth of family relationship information. If any of you have family genealogies / family histories, please make copies available to your Regional Genealogist so that the information can be included in the Clan Society Data Base.

The Genealogy Corner will be a regular column of the Newsletter. It will include an update on how the Data Base project is progressing, but will also feature information about Clan genealogy and history.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

UNITED KINGDOM

SCOTLAND

Genealogist: Dr. Mhairi Matheson: 9 Harris Road, Inverness, IV2 3LS

Those of you who heard about Finlay Matheson being involved in a terrible train accident last summer will be pleased to know that he has made a remarkable recovery and that the latest report to reach me is that he is out and about. Finlay is married to Fiona, a District Nurse, they live at Arinackaig, near Strathcarron, Wester Ross. Last summer he was returning to his Croft when his Land Rover collided with a train quite near his house. His car was dragged 20 foot along the track before crashing through a fence and coming to a halt. We admire his courage and wish him well.

Members in Scotland are still being administered by the Chief. A Convenor, Hon. Secretary, Hon. Treasurer are needed. If any member can spare the time and would be willing to help please will he / she get in touch with the Chief who will be most grateful for some help to arrange functions etc in different parts of Scotland.

Clan Macrae have invited Members of our Clan to participate in their August 2000 celebrations in Wester Ross, Scotland. Details appear at the back of this newsletter.

ENGLAND

Conveno: 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 363 313
Committee: Mrs Rosie Mayfield, Miss Jennie Matheson, Mrs Helen Walker, Miss Mary Mathieson.

Our year 1999 began with the Annual Dinner, held in January at the Army and Navy Club, St James's Square, London. We had an excellent turnout of members and guests and a very good evening was had by all. A Piper from the Scots Guards, arranged for our entertainment after dinner by the Convenor, was greatly appreciated. The Millennium Dinner will be held on Monday 31 January 2000. Any members interested should contact the Hon Secretary, Margaret Williams, for details.

Members travelled to Oxford for the Annual General Meeting in May. Again a good number found their way there from various corners of the country and a great deal of business was got through before the social part of the evening began.

On Sunday 15 August many old and young met on the riverside at Oxford for a punting picnic, of which some photographs appear elsewhere in this edition. Varying skill with the pole was shown, and all played rounders afterwards in a field full of thistles! Andrew Matheson piped "The Brown Haired Maiden" to aid the digestion after the picnic lunch.

Margaret Williams

Colonel Donald Matheson, late Royal Army Medical Corps

It was with great sadness that we learned in May of the death of Colonel Donald Matheson, father of Duncan and twins Rosie Mayfield and Jean Pike. He and his wife Eileen both chose the medical profession, Donald serving in the Royal Army Medical Corps and Eileen in Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service. They both served in the B.E.F. in 1939 and were evacuated from France at the time of Dunkirk. In his early days, Donald gained military experience on the North West Frontier of India later serving in North Africa, Italy, Germany, Northern Nigeria, Baghdad, Aden and Singapore. In 1970 he retired from the Army after 33 years outstanding service but continued as a Medical Officer in a Civil capacity. Head of the Donald MacAlaster Branch of the Clan he loved to return to Dornie in Wester Ross. He was an authority on Clan matters and it was a pleasure to hear him recall his early days in the Highlands and of exploits during his long military career. He was a distinguished Highland gentleman whose passing will leave a gap in the lives of many. We extend our deepest sympathy to his family.

F.J.M.

CANADA

Chief's Lieutenant : Joel R. Matheson, Q.C. 2 Lake Drive, Unit 406, Bedford, Nova Scotia, B4A 4HL.
Genealogist: Glen Matheson. E-mail: nstn3773@fox.nsta.ca

Clan Matheson in Canada is ending the 20th Century in a most positive way. During the past year we have added new members from various areas coast to coast. Also, we have established a new Branch in the Province of Prince Edward Island. There are many Mathesons on the Island and they have decided to launch the 21st Century with a Clan Matheson International Gathering in the year 2001. The plan is to hold the Gathering on July 20th, 21st, and 22nd. Sir Fergus and Lady Matheson have accepted the P.E.I. invitation to participate. As you can see from their separate message, plans are underway with many exciting events being programmed.

The Province of P.E.I. has a well established Tourist Information Bureau. The designated contact person will be able to provide those interested in attending with travel and accommodation sources on the Island. The efforts of the P.E.I. Branch in organising the Gathering will be fully supported by the Canada Society and the two Nova Scotia Branches. Also, we know we can count on the support of the other Chief's Lieutenants and Societies worldwide. Because of the large number of Mathesons in the Eastern Provinces of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and P.E.I., there are plans to issue a challenge as to which Province can have the most Mathesons in attendance. The proposed theme is "1001 Mathesons to meet in Year 2001"! I look forward to seeing you there. A great way to launch our Clan into the 21st Century.

My thanks go out to all Clan Members who were so supportive during the past year. In particular the valued contributors whose donations enable us to maintain Clan contact in Canada and worldwide. Also my special thanks to the Branches and their executive for the many hours they spend in ensuring our Clan is represented at the many Scottish functions and events throughout the year. Their support is key to the growth of our Clan Society membership and recognition. In closing, on behalf of Clan members in Canada, I extend best wishes to all Clan members worldwide for the New year and the New Century. Our challenge as a Clan is to ensure that our young people do not lose sight of the concept of the Clan and family as they face the many new challenges of the 21st Century.

Joel Matheson

MAINLAND NOVA SCOTIA

Chairman: Albert Matheson, 88 Beaumont Drive, Lower Sackville, NS, B4C 1V6
Hon. Secretary : Ena Matheson, PO Box 1017, Windsor, NS, B0N 2T0
Hon. Treasurer: Patricia Matheson, RR 1 Hopewell, NS, B0K 1C0
Piper: Ms Kelly Putnam
Chaplain: Doctor Glen Matheson

Over the past year we have held a general meeting, an executive meeting and our Annual General Meeting in August. Also a spring dinner in April and a brainstorming executive meeting in September. Besides our elected Officers, the Directors for a one year term are :- George Matheson, Gordon Matheson, Verna Matheson, Loudelle Matheson, Allister Matheson, Laurie Matheson, Vaughan Matheson, Trueman Matheson and Bob Matheson. Sadly after fourteen years Verna decided not to continue as treasurer. Thanks Verna for many years of diligent work. In the summer we were very active with the Clan tent and were present at the Metro Highland Games, the Antigonish Highland Games, the Hector Festival in Glasgow and the Piper's Picnic in Earltown. There was also a group at the mall in New Glasgow for Tartan Days. Our annual picnic and auction was held at Donna and Vaughan Matheson's cottage at Shortt's Lake, N.S. With a good turnout, fine weather and wonderful food, it was a fun occasion for all. Our Clan bursary for this past year went to Alycia Putnam to help with her expenses for studying fiddling and tap dancing at the College of St. Anne's in Cape Breton. The year 2000 we will be the fifteenth anniversary of the Mainland Nova Scotia Branch, Clan Matheson Society. To celebrate this special year we have decided on three possible functions. Plans are being made to have an Inter Clan Gathering / Church Service / Ceilidh in May, a large

birthday / anniversary party in August, possibly in conjunction with the Piper's Picnic and in September along with the Hector Launching, it is hoped to erect a commemorative plaque.

Al Matheson

CAPE BRETON

President: Mae Buchanan, RR No 2, Baddeck, NS, B0E 1B0
Hon. Secretary: Brenda (Matheson) Cochrane, 60 Murphy Lane, Glace Bay, NS, B1A 1T0
Hon. Treasurer: George Matheson, 60 Murphy Lane, Glace Bay, N.S. B1A 1X1

The Cape Breton Branch celebrated their 20th Anniversary on 16th October in South Haven. This is the area where the Branch was first established during the 1979 International Gathering of the Clans. Former Chief, Sir Torquhil Matheson and Serena, Lady Matheson were present to share in the event. At that time, over 300 Mathesons attended the Clan Gathering dinner in nearby Baddeck. The 20th Anniversary function opened with the Annual Meeting and ended with a potluck dinner enjoyed by all. Amongst those attending were the Chief's Lieutenant, Joel Matheson and his wife Ruth. Joel brought greetings and congratulations from Sir Fergus Matheson and outlined the exciting news of the Gathering in the year 2001. President Mae Buchanan reported on the Branch activities throughout the year. Four prizes were presented to the Gaelic College at St Anne's C.B. by Mae Buchanan and Jessie Ross. Two were for Gaelic studies in memory of deceased members of the Clan and two in memory of Sir Torquhil. The meeting decided that the main project for the year 2000 would be the recruitment of new members for which a special committee was established.

In addition, Branch members held two potluck social dinners and were in attendance at various events.

Mae Buchanan

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

Chairman: Myron Matheson, General Delivery, Breadalbane, COA 1E0
Hon. Secretary: Gladys MacMillan, 48 Cedar Avenue, Charlottetown, PEI, C1A 6K4. Tel: (902) 894-5408
Hon Treasurer: Claude Matheson, R.R. No. 3 St. Peter's Bay, PEI, COA 2A0. Tel: (902) 964-2401
Chaplain: Rev. Gordon Matheson,
Piper: Rev. Mark Buel. (Appointed by the late Sir Torquhil Matheson during his visit to PEI)
Genealogist: Linda Harding, 264 Mount Edward Road, Charlottetown, PEI, C1A 5T7
Clan Gathering Contact: Miles Matheson, PO Box 124, Morell, PEI, COA 1S0

Great things come from small islands as evidenced by the contribution of people who trace their ancestry to the islands of the Hebrides. Prince Edward Island is indeed a small island that lies off the East Coast of Canada and shares the Gulf of St Lawrence with another Island - Cape Breton, that has a strong Scottish heritage. P.E.I. is known as the Birthplace of Confederation having hosted the first conference that led to the formation of Canada in 1867. It is appropriate Clan Matheson be represented on "the island" as Mathesons appear in P.E.I. history in the late 1700's with many family roots being established between 1800 and 1860. One of the aims of our newly formed Society is to develop a history of the Mathesons on P.E.I. and their many contributions to the Island life.

We are pleased to have a group now established to pursue the aims and objectives of the Society. One of the major undertakings we are embarking on is to host a world-wide Clan Gathering. Many people here have pleasant memories of previous visits by Clan Chief Sir Torquhil and his wife Serena, Lady Matheson. Accordingly, there is much interest in hosting the 2001 Clan Gathering and having Sir Fergus and Lady Matheson meet the many Mathesons in this part of the world and those who will be visiting with us. Our main activities over the next year will be to put in place the organisation to handle this event. We appreciate the offers of help we have received already from our Nova Scotia groups as well as from Malcolm Matheson III, Chief's Lieutenant in the U.S.A. We are having a fine time as we share our Island hospitality with Mathesons worldwide. Some of the events being considered for the Clan Gathering are:-

- 1, Presentation of Sir Fergus and Lady Matheson to the Governor and the Premier.
2. Presentation by the College of Piping and Performing Arts.
3. Clan Parliament and formal dinner.
4. Church Services.
5. Parade of the Clan at an appropriate event.
6. Clan Picnic - Historic site.
7. Clan Golf Game.
8. Tour of the famous Anne of Green Gables location.
9. Island tour, including crossing of Confederation Bridge - the longest in the world spanning ice flow water. We promise - no ice in July.
10. A chance to swim in the warm water of our sand beaches, enjoy our hospitality and make new Clan friends.

PLEASE MAKE YOUR PLANS NOW AND RESERVE EARLY

Myron Matheson

NEW ZEALAND

Chief's Lieutenant:	Douglas Matheson.	33 Mellons Bay Road, Howick 1705, Auckland. Tel: 09 534 9477: E-mail: djmaclan@lycosmail.com
Chairman:	Norman Matheson,	10 Knox Road, Manurewa, Auckland. Tel: 09 266 9408: E-mail: normang.matheson@voyager.co.nz
Hon. Secretary	Mrs Ailsa Matheson	138a Pembroke St, Hamilton. Tel: & Fax: 07 8340 918
Hon. Treasurer	Gordon Matheson	138a Pembroke St, Hamilton.
Genealogist	Don Scott,	11 Tiri Road, Whangaparaoa, Auckland, Tel: & Fax: 09 424 1461: E-mail: donaldscott@extra.co.nz
Piper	Norman Matheson	
Chaplain	Rev. Stuart Mckenzie	
Committee	Lois Ahlquist, Anne Matheson, Donald Matheson, Douglas Matheson, Keith Matheson, Rita Matheson, Joy Weeds and Fay Whittome	

Change of Chairman: Douglas Matheson who was for 4 years Chairman of the New Zealand Branch, handed over at the Annual general Meeting to Norman Matheson, Clan Piper. During Doug's time, he and Anne have travelled widely throughout New Zealand and overseas, meeting with members. Doug headed the thirty strong representation to the 1998 Lochalsh Gathering and has visited Canadian and Nova Scotia Gatherings. Besides chairing the regular Auckland functions he met with members in Wellington, New Plymouth, Hamilton and Northland. The Annual Meeting thanked him and Anne for their enthusiasm and leadership.

Norman has been Clan Piper and committee man since the 1989 founding of the Branch. He and Rita have also met with members throughout the country and attended Lochalsh. They are keen Scottish Country dancers and Norman has been associated with the combined Scottish Council in Auckland.

10th Anniversary:

June 1999 was memorable as we celebrated the 10th anniversary of the founding in 1989 of the New Zealand Branch, Clan Matheson Society. About 60 members from as wide an area as Whangarei and Wellsford in the North to Whakatane, Tauranga and Hamilton in the South gathered at Manurewa Gardens. Chairman Douglas Matheson and Secretary Ailsa Matheson were piped in by Clan Piper Norman Matheson. Greetings were acknowledged from the Chief, Sir Fergus Matheson and Lady Matheson, also Serena, Lady Matheson. Mr and Mrs MacDonald represented the Clan Donald. After entertainment, a photographic potted slide history was presented by Gordon and Ailsa - many happy memories of events over the 10 years. The anniversary cake was cut then all who were present at the June 1989 Gathering at St. George's Church, Takapuna lined up for a photograph. All the happy festivities were followed by afternoon tea and folk lingered for long after, mixing and chatting.

Membership:

Numbers are at a good level but we are always on the look out for more. Sadly two of our original committee members passed away this year, Brian Astill and Pamela Matheson. We acknowledge with sincere thanks their Clan involvement.

Meetings:

A happy February picnic was held at the farm of Keith and Shirley Matheson, Paparimu. June was the 10th anniversary Gathering and the August Annual General Meeting was held at Ferndale Lodge.

Newsletters:

Newsletters have been the link to keep the widely scattered New Zealand membership in contact. We have run a series of articles on early New Zealand Matheson/Mathieson families including Murdo Matheson from Muir of Ord and his wife Ann (McDonald) who farmed in the South Island; the story of Norman Matheson (school teacher) and his wife (Ann McDonald) and their family of 10 children including Colin and Hector, founders of the printing firm Clark and Matheson. Donald Lachlan Matheson and his Southland grocery business where other family relations were also involved. Then in August the continuing saga of the Glenhinnisdale (Skye) Matheson family and their farming activities in Queenstown and later the Manawatu. As well we have featured the Middlemarch Mathesons and the long association that family has had with the Strath Taieri Pipe Band. A Matheson chair at the Otago Settlers Museum resulted in a most interesting story following much research by various members.

Scottish Week in Dunedin:

The November 1998 Scottish Week in Dunedin included something for everyone and Clan Matheson was well represented at the Clans' march to the Octagon for the official opening by the Lord Provost of Edinburgh and the Mayor of Dunedin. An afternoon gathering of Clan Matheson at the motel of Norman and Rita proved very enjoyable. Pipe music by Invercargill Clan Piper Edward Matheson was enjoyed by all.

In Christchurch in October prior to the Kirk o' the Tartan and service at St Andrew's Church, Graeme and Ellen hosted Mathesons to lunch.

Genealogy

Don Scott is an enthusiast and it would be fair to say, with his computer work and the original work of Monica and John Kidd, Mathesons in New Zealand have records of which they can be very proud.

In the year 2000 and the days ahead, we are keen to promote web site research, youth exchange and in 2003 the Waipu Settlement celebrations. We thank Sir Fergus for his leadership and warm interest in all our Gatherings and his special remembrances to members.

Norman Matheson

AUSTRALIA

President:	Ron Matheson,	11 Kia Ora Road, Reservoir 3073, Victoria
Vice President:	Ray Cox	34, Holly Avenue, Dandenong.
Hon. Secretary:	May Matheson,	38 Hourigan Road, Morwell 3840, Victoria. e-mail matho@net-tech.com.au
Hon. Treasurer:	Glennyce Hemiak	34, Maplewood Close, Melton South
Genealogist:	Colin Lewis	20 Crofton Court, Hoppers Crossing 3030, Victoria
Committee:	Merle Matheson,	Dr. Colin Matheson, Gwen Matheson-Smith,
	Daphne Eggleton,	Alan Matheson, Rosemary Cox,
	Angie Lewis,	Margaret Fleming Lance Matheson,
	Ella Matheson.	

A Social Gathering was held at Flagstaff Gardens, Melbourne at the beginning of the year. The weather was pleasant and a picnic was enjoyed by many of our members. Geelong Highland Games were held on 21st March and the Ringwood Highland Games on the 28th March. Both events were attended by a few of our members but the weather was very wet and both days rather disappointing. The Scottish Highland Dancing and other events had to be held in various halls due to the inclement weather. Some of our members attended the Kirkin' o' the Tartan at Scots Church, Melbourne on the 4th July this year. This ceremony is said to have taken place in Scotland in the 18th century, in protest against the then British Parliament's ban on the wearing of Highland dress. The bringing of the tartan to the Church on a specific Sunday each year was seen as a request for God's blessing on the Clans, and all that they represented. The service itself was very moving and Clans gathered afterwards for lunch in the Church Hall and were entertained by the Scottish Gaelic Choir. The day was enjoyed by all who attended.

Alan and May Matheson from Victoria were over in Britain for the occasion of a relatives Ruby Wedding and while there visited Sir Fergus and Lady Matheson who made them very welcome. They were chauffeured around and shown some of the Norfolk countryside and enjoyed the hospitality and friendship for a few days.

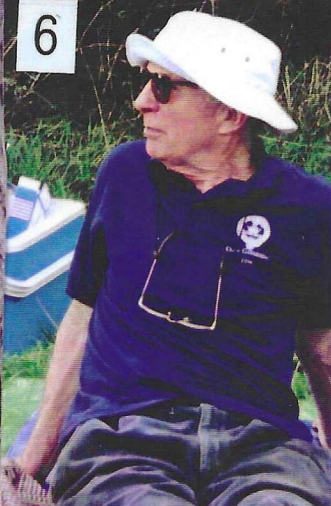
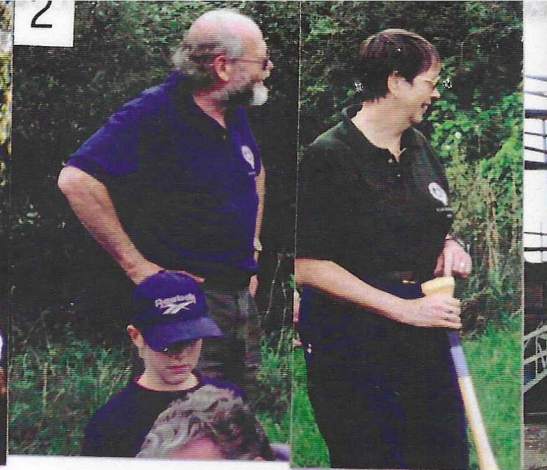
Our Annual General Meeting took place on 31st October. We have been encouraged by the interest of Dr. Colin Matheson who travelled a great distance to attend our last Committee Meeting. Gwen Matheson-Smith from Brisbane and Daphne Eggleton from Sydney also attended some of the events. Gwen has taken on the task of Branch Representative for Queensland and Daphne is doing likewise in New South Wales. Both are very enthusiastic and keen to encourage Mathesons in their area to join the Branch. We have now become affiliated with the Victorian Scottish Union and have joined the Council of Clans. The Daylesford Highland Games are to be held over a two day period 4th and 5th December. It is expected to be a very large gathering and hopefully well attended by Mathesons from all over Australia.

The Mathesons from down under send all their good wishes for a very happy and prosperous New Year to Mathesons all over the world.

May Matheson

MATHESON TARTAN RUG

The crochet pattern for the Matheson Tartan Rug has attracted quite a lot of attention and can still be obtained by contacting May Matheson who will be delighted to send a copy to anyone wishing to make one. Please apply to her at 38 Hourigan Road, Morwell 3840, Victoria; e-mail matho@net-tech.com.au



TO THE MEMORY OF
THE REVEREND NORMAN MACLEOD
BORN HERE ON 29TH SEPTEMBER 1780
DIED WAIPU NEW ZEALAND
ON 14TH MARCH 1866
LEADER, MINISTER AND TEACHER
HE LED HIS PEOPLE
OVER 14,000 MILES OF OCEAN TO
NOVA SCOTIA, AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND
"LEAN IAD E GU IOMALL NA TALMHAINN"
THEY FOLLOWED HIM
TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH.
ERECTED 2ND AUGUST 1994





1 Alan, Ron, May Matheson, Daphne & Bill Eggleton, Gwen Matheson-Smith Colin & Angie Lewis, Australia; 2 Ron & Kate Lowry, UK; 3 The Hector, CB; 4 Harold Alex, USA; Chief; Joel Can; Myron, PEI; Malcolm III, USA; 5 Gail & Malcolm III, USA; 6 Alistair Mathieson, UK; 7 Farquhar Matheson, Clan Piper, USA; 8 Doug Matheson, Monica & John Kidd, Ailsa Matheson, NZ; 9 Punting Party, UK; 10 Norman Matheson, NZ; 11 Andrew Matheson, UK; 12 Archie, Katharine, & Louisa Matheson, UK; 13 A "Well Gathering, Pictou, NS; 14 Punting at Oxford, UK; 15 The Chief with Mathesons from Norway, Strartcarron, UK, 1998; 16 10th Anniversary, Norman on left, Doug in front of him, NZ; 17 Ashley & Alex Aakesson, John Aakesson, Charles Mathieson Otstot, USA; 18 Cape Breton 20th Anniversary, Mae Buchanan, Jessie Ross, George & Annie Matheson, Isabel MacFarlane, Joel Matheson, Donnie & Nita Matheson, Billy & Nona Wynn, D.J. MacDonald, Jon MacLeod, Harriet Morrison Catherine

UNITED STATES

Chief's Lieutenant: Malcolm Matheson III, The Tannery, PO Box 307, The Plains, Virginia, 20198
E-mail : Home : Mmatheson3@aol.com
Office : clanmathsn@aol.com
Genealogist: Charles Mathieson Otstot, 51224 North 33rd Street, Arlington, Virginia, 22207-1854.
E-mail : cmotstot@juno.com
Piper: Farquhar James Matheson 3941 Lomi Lomi Drive, Holiday, Florida 34691

This year - 1999 - has passed by much too quickly, but as far as Clan activities went this has been a fairly slow year especially compared to 1998 with the Clan Gathering in Scotland. Of particular note, however, was the retirement of Janet Matheson Dorn as Clan Genealogist and Chief Fergus's appointment of our own U.S. Branch Genealogist, Charles Matheson Otstot, as her replacement. Janet served for many years as the Clan Genealogist and her dedicated services are greatly appreciated. We all owe her a great deal of thanks. Charlie Otstot has jumped into his new role with both feet and at the Chief's direction is trying to get the genealogical data on-line! We all wish him the best!

Also in the "new appointments" category is our long time member, Farquhar James Matheson, who I have this year designated as our U.S. Branch Clan Society Piper. As you may recall from the 1996 Newsletter Jim's father, Donald MacLeod Matheson, was born in Scotland and was a Piper as are two of Jim's children. Indeed - a whole family of Pipers. Jim lives in Holiday, Florida and assures me that he is available for any events requiring a Piper's services.

The correspondence file this year has burgeoned! The internet has definitely increased our popularity. Last year about a third of those making inquiries or just chatting came from e-mail. This year, I suspect, it is nearly a half! I hear often from Robert W. (Bob) Matheson (Sierra Madre, CA) and a great deal from my cousins Jean Guyton (Lakewood, CO) and Ethel Armbruster (Temsecula, CA) on genealogical matters. Even with the internet it is hard to resist personal telephone calls and not only have I called many members this past year but frequently I receive most welcome personal calls from some of you. Please keep up the correspondence. It is the only way I have of getting newsworthy information. If you want a birth, wedding, death or an award or honour published in the newsletter you should let me know!

The only request we had for the "kit" for holding a Clan Matheson booth open at the various Scottish/Celtic Festivals around the U.S. this year came from our ever faithful John T. G. Aakesson and his brother Alexander S. Aakesson. John and Alec kept a tent open at:

- 1) The Potomac Celtic Festival in Leesburg, VA (12 & 13 of July)
- 2) The Virginia Scottish Games in Alexandria, VA (24 & 25 of July)
- 3) The Alexandria Scottish Heritage Fair in Alexandria, VA (2nd of July)

This was no small fete in the heat this summer and we owe them a great deal of thanks for so religiously promoting our Clan. Some of our membership expressed some concern about our absence at the Grandfather Mountain Games in North Carolina. We will try to remedy this next year. Our volunteers for this past year had to drop out at the last minute.

New Members since October 1998:

Paula Kay Matheson (Missoula, MT)
Brian Alan Matheson (Watertown, NY)
Stuart K. Matheson (Phoenix, AZ)
Harold Alex Mathieson (Wilmington, NC)
David K. Mathieson (Jacksonville, FL)
John Donald Matheson, Jr. (Tyndall AFB, FL)
Charles McLean Matheson (Marietta, GA)
Cindy J. Young (Acton, MA)
Berry Benson Matheson (Maratinez, GA)
Adriana, Gabriela, and Carolina from (Montevideo, Uruguay)

Ricky Allen Matheson (Midland, TX)
Virginia Matheson Smith (Lawrenceville, GA)
Gayle Matheson (Phoenix, AZ)
Ernest M. Matheson (Gastonia, NC)
Kenneth A. Matheson (San Jose, CA)
Sheila E. Matheson (Boone, NC)
Linda Page Hannah (Albuquerque, NM)
Janet Matheson Odom (High Point, NC)
John R. Cory, Sr. (Darlington, MD)
Francisco Matheson Sarasqueta and Daughters:

A hardy welcome to all those new members and especially to Francisco Matheson Sarasqueta and his three daughters - our first South American members and frequent e-mail correspondents.

The Society is also quite grateful for the wonderful response from our LIFE MEMBERS who contributed so generously to the "Life Member Assessment" this past year. Again, many thanks to:-

Thomas K. Andison,	Lilla Y. M. Ohrstrom,	Carolyn M. Loeffler,	Margaret M. Randolph,
Ruth Peebles,	Don P. Matheson,	Nell P. Wilkerson,	David L. Green,
Harold M. Matheson,	Arthur J. Matheson,	Edith E. Matheson,	Lyman W. Matheson,

Torrey M. Cooke,	Jean P. Guyton,	W. Otis MacMahon, III,	Alice M. Fairhurst,
Robert C. Matheson,	Page M. Niles,	Alexander D. Matheson,	Malcolm W. Matheson,
Matheson F. Green,	James T. Mathieson,	Robert K. Matheison,	Elemer C. Mathews,
Charles T. Matheson,	Robert W. Matheson,	Charles Matheson, Sr.,	Edwin J. Matheson,
Brenda T. Paradise,	John W. Matheson,	Richard L. Matheson,	Ian Matheson Ballard,
E. Jean Mathison,	John D. Matheson,	Juliet C. Eaves,	John W. Matheson,
David H. M. Matheson,	Nancy M. VerMeulen,	Barbara G. Richards,	Matthew T. Guilford,
Barbara G. O'Connell,	Emma T. Matheson,	Leslie, R. Matheson,	William L. Matheson,
Roderick J. Matheson,	Rod L. Matheson.		

And a special note of thanks to:-

Thomas K. Andison, Lilla Y. M. Ohrstrom, Don P. Matheson, E. Jean Mathison, Emma T. Matheson, William L. Matheson, Rod L. Matheson for their special generosity; and to David H. M. Matheson of Concord, MA for his extra special donation. David's father is the Very Rev. James Matheson from the Isle of Skye who conducted the service at Lochlash Parish Church, Kirkton for our Clan Gathering during the summer of 1998. I'm sure some of you met him there.

It is with great sadness and regret that I note the death of Jean Matheson Fries. Her brother and only surviving family member, Lyman W. Matheson, reports that Jean passed away September 28, 1999 after a two year bout with multiple myeloma. She was 87 at the time of her death. Many of our members will remember Jean and her efforts to organise the Clan Matheson Society in the early days. She headed up the Society as Honorary Secretary/Chief's Representative in the United States from March 1979 until August 1984. She was a great supporter through the years and a tireless correspondent. Jean was at the Clan Gathering in Nova Scotia in 1995 but at the last minute had to cancel out on our Scottish Gathering in 1998. She will be greatly missed and our sincerest condolences are extended to Lyman and his wife, Phyllis.

Keep your calendars open for the Clan Matheson Gathering now being scheduled for Prince Edward Island, Canada the 3rd week in July 2001! Fifty seven U.S. Branch members attended the 1998 Clan Gathering in Scotland. We want to surpass that turnout!!!

Malcolm Matheson, III

NORWAY

Mrs Ellen Matheson Hallen, who with her family attended the Lochalsh Gathering still hopes to form a Branch of the Clan Society. Her plans to do so this year were interrupted by business visits to Japan and other Far Eastern countries with her husband Odd. Their home is at Frits Kjaersvei 2, 0383 Oslo. Their daughter Kristine is a third year student at Heriot-Watt School in Edinburgh and their son is at present doing military service.

KIA-ORA FROM NEW ZEALAND

Anyone motoring in Lochalsh last year and tried in vain to give Joan Harbour a lift will not be surprised to read that this year she returned to do another excursion on foot, this time with her son Alex. This is her story:- Scotland this year was a dream. Every corner we turned was yet another picture post card. From Durness, South to Kyle of Lochalsh, the scenery is magnificent and we were seeing it at its best. Exciting for me was arriving at Clachtoll on the Assynt peninsula and there seeing the memorial to the Reverend Norman MacLeod beautifully located on a small rise by the sea. From the Pass of the Cattle on the Applecross hills the view was amazing and I looked at Lochcarron with memories galore of my Uncles Murdo and Seochan fishing around the Crowlin Islands in their fishing smack the "Clan Matheson". I conquered more islands this trip. Raasay off the coast of Skye was at its summer best and I walked the coast line. Staffa was exciting and as I clamboured around the rocks to Fingal's Cave I was humming Mendelssohn's overture. From Ullapool I explored the Summer Isles. This summer it was like cruising in the tropics.

Next year I plan to visit St. Kilda as to me it is a magical island. I've made application to be part of a work party living on the island for two weeks which should be most interesting. In 1994 I walked Wainwrights coast to coast, a distance of 191 miles which was a great adventure. It is usual to walk West to East setting off from St. Bees on the Cumbrian coast to Robin Hood Bay. This year I planned to repeat the walk. However after eight days of rain and horrific conditions in the Lake District the walk was abandoned. At Grisedale Tarn near Helvellyn we were unable to distinguish the path from the creeks. To compensate we walked 20 miles of the Cleveland Bay to Scarborough and suffered with sun burn; you can't win! It certainly is a country of contrasts and I dearly love every visit I make to the "Old Country".

THE MATHESON VINEYARD : NEW ZEALAND

About six years ago Mark and Jane Robertson, 5th generation New Zealanders, planted a 45 acre vineyard on the East Coast of the North Island in a region called Hawkes Bay. Jane had worked in the wine industry for a number of years and Mark had gained his experience at Matua. When it came to selecting a name for their vineyard and label they decided it should reflect their pioneering heritage. The matter was quickly resolved when after some research they came across the name of one of Jane's forebears Donald Lachlan Matheson who went to New Zealand via Australia on the vessel Marco Polo and was among the earliest settlers in Southland.

Two years ago their vineyard was bought by Matua Valley, New Zealand's 5th largest winery. They retained a share interest and Mark continues as wine maker and is now a director so the name Matheson should continue to be associated with the industry.

CONGRATULATIONS TO

UNITED STATES

* Timothy Alexander and Julia Matheson Purinton on the birth of their daughter Maud Marion on Sept. 2, 1999 (Alexander M. and Pinkie Matheson Roe's fourth Grandchild and Mr. and Mrs. Malcolm Matheson, Jr.'s, 23rd Great-Grandchild)

* Christopher T. and Rachel Cooke Mills on the birth of their son Colby Thomas born Oct. 31 1999 (John P. and

*Torrey Matheson Cooke's Third Grandchild and Mr and Mrs. Malcolm Matheson, Jr.'s 24th Great-Grandchild)

* Alexander Sven Aakesson and Ashley Ann Aakesson (nee Newland) on their wedding which took place in Wapakoneta, Ohio October 10, 1998 (a very belated congratulations and best wishes!)

* Alex Roe - Director, Actor, Writer - (son of member Emma "Pinkie" Matheson Roe and Alexander M. Roe) who directed a production of Chekhov's "The Cherry Orchard" in a small theatre on Upper West Side in New York City this past January. For this production he and his troop were invited to represent the U.S. in November 1999 at the International Festival of Russian Theatre in Paris, France.

UNITED KINGDOM

*Annabel MacLean of North Strome, Wester Ross, formerly of Shildaig who celebrated her 100th birthday last year.

* Andrew Matheson, elder son of Alexander and Katharine Matheson on becoming a member of his School Pipe Band.

NEW ZEALAND

*The Society in New Zealand for celebrating their 10th Anniversary in June 1999 at Manurewa Gardens.

* Edward Matheson, son of Wayne and Sonja Matheson on being appointed Pipe Major of his School Pipe Band

CANADA

*Cape Breton Branch for celebrating their 20th Anniversary on 16th October in South Haven, Cape Breton.

* Trueman and Laurinda Matheson for a daughter, Mairead.

* Steven and Judy Matheson for a son, Paxton.

* Douglas and Janet Matheson for a son, Colby

NORWAY

*Odd and Ellen on celebrating their Silver Wedding last August.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE CLAN SOCIETY

Membership is restricted to persons spelling their name Matheson, Mathieson or whose parents or one of their grandparents spelled their name similarly. Matheisons, Mathisons or Matthewsons will be considered for membership if they can establish the Highland origin of their family.

The late Reverend William Matheson of the Department of Celtic Studies, Edinburgh University dealt with this subject, the gist of which was:- Membership of a Clan is determined by ancestry and not by name. In our case the members are those whose ancestors had the surname MacMathain, before the Anglicised version came in the seventeenth century in an increasingly English-speaking environment. A reasonably reliable test is a geographical one. If one's ancestors came from anywhere North of the Caledonian Canal and one bears the surname Matheson, spelt thus or similarly, it is very probable that those ancestors (in the male line) belonged to the Clan; always allowing for the fact that keepers of records, for example Ministers compiling their registers of baptisms and marriages, made mistakes especially in attempting to translate from Gaelic to English.

PAST MEMORIES

Those of you who in the days of steam had the good luck to travel on the 7.30 pm train from Euston Station (London) to Inverness, the following lament may bring back memories:-

Stranger with the pile of luggage proudly labelled for Portree, how I wish this night of August, I were you and you were me!

Think of all that lies before you when the train goes sliding forth and the lines athwart the sunset lead you swiftly to the North!

Think of breakfast at Kingussie, think of high Drumochter Pass, think of Highland breezes singing through the bracken and the grass,

Scabious blue and yellow daisy, tender fern beside the train, rowdy Tummel, brawling, seen and lost and glimpsed again!

You will pass my golden roadway of the days of long ago; will you realise the magic of the names I used to know: Clachnaharry, Achnasheellach, Achnasheen, and Duirinish? Every moor alive with coveys, every pool aboil with fish?

Ev'ry well-remembered vista more exciting mile by mile till the wheeling gulls are screaming round the engine at the Kyle.

Think of cloud on Beinn na Caillach, jagged Cuchullins soaring high, scent of peat and all the glamour of the misty Isle of Skye!

Rods and guncase in the carriage, wise retriever in the van; go and good luck travel with you! I Wish I'd half your luck my man!

AN EXTRACT FROM "THE ISLAND OF RUM : NATURE'S ISLAND"

by Magnus Magguson

..... The Kilmory shepherd, Murdo Matheson, was to quit the island under tragic circumstances. In April 1871 his seven month old son died. Two years later, within three September days, diphtheria claimed five more of his children. With their six surviving children, Murdo and Christina Matheson emigrated to New Zealand where they found employment until their sons were able to set up on their own. Their eldest, Dougal, spent the winter exploring South Island, where he found and named Lake Matheson.

DATES FOR DIARIES

2000

31st January England Branch Dinner in London.

Fifteenth Anniversary of the formation of the Mainland Branch, Nova Scotia. To be celebrated in May, August or September, details still to be decided

Clan Macrae have invited Members of our Clan to participate in their celebrations of the year 2000 in Scotland. To date the programme is :-

Wednesday	16th August	7.00 pm	Informal Welcome and Reception in the Coffee Shop at Eilean Donan Castle
Thursday	17th August		Tours to Glen Shiel Battle Site and Clachan Duich
		5.30 pm	Tour of Eilean Donan Castle
		7.00 pm	Ceilidh in Dornie Hall
Friday	18th August		Tours to Isle of Skye and Plockton
Saturday	19th August		A parade and Shinty Match on the field outside the Loch Duich Hotel
			Tug of War - Mathesons v Macraes (depending on numbers)
			Pipe Band : Highland Dancing display : Craft Stalls : Teas.

Members overseas or living in England wishing to attend please notify your Hon. Secretaries who are asked to send consolidated lists to the Chief. Members in Scotland wishing to take part, please notify the Chief direct. Please arrange your own accommodation. Hon Secretaries will be advised if and when more details become available.

2001

20th, 21st, 22nd July International Gathering of Clan Matheson on Prince Edward Island, Canada. Special contact for the purpose of handling requests for information concerning the Gathering is Miles Matheson, PO Box 124, Morell, PEI, COA 1S0

MAIL ORDER AVAILABLE FOR MEMBERS OF THE CLAN MATHESON SOCIETY

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

POLO SHIRTS, with short sleeves and traditional 3 buttoned placket and collar.

Available in Navy Blue : Bottle Green : Red : Royal Blue : Heather Grey
with the crest of the Clan Society in White on the darker colours and
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	12/14 34"	XX Large 55"	the time of ordering

To order, please enter your name, address and telephone number 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 Society, adding £2 per shirt to cover postage and packing. OR Please contact the Lowrys on 01376-561662 to discuss colour and sizes.

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New Zealand.	138a Pembroke Street, Hamilton
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