



Clan Matheson Society

NEWSLETTER No. 55 Autumn 2000

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 Otsot, E-mail : cmotstot@juno.com
Internet Adviser: Miss Patricia Mathieson, E-mail : patricia@mathieson.co.uk
Piper: Duncan Matheson, Braehead, Gower Street, Brora, Sutherland, Scotland, KW9 6PU
Editor (temp.): The Chief of the Clan

THE CHIEF'S MESSAGE

The year 2000 has been one of activity for the Branches of the Clan Society as will be seen from the reports that follow. Once again our thanks are due to all the Officers of the various Branches for their enthusiasm and organising skills and for making the various functions possible. Thank you also, all those of you who have contributed to this newsletter one way or another. Enough photographs for two pages were sent in, rather than for four pages which I had hoped for. My apologies to anyone whose pictures have been omitted due to lack of space.

Two years ago Charles Mathieson Otsot, newly appointed Clan Genealogist, in addition to his work for the Clan in the United States, began the daunting task of coordinating the Clan Genealogy on computer with the long term aim of making the data available on the internet. He has been helped by Colin Lewis in Australia, Glen Matheson in Canada, Don Scott in New Zealand and John Faid in the United Kingdom. Their achievements so far can be read in Genealogy Corner which follows. Every week e-mail enquiries reach them and sometimes myself from Mathesons or those of Matheson descent around the world, asking help to trace their forebears. Charlie and his team have made enormous progress and I am sure I speak for the many families in or connected with our Clan when I record how immensely grateful we all are to them for their patience, their time and their computer skills which they have devoted to the Clan and of course are doing for the benefit of future generations. Over the years our Clan has been fortunate in having a number of distinguished members who not only have reached the top of their profession but in addition have given outstanding service to their country. Such a one is His Honour Justice John Matheson who on 18th November 2000 was awarded the Sir John A. MacDonald Award by the St. Andrew's Society of Ottawa. Sir John MacDonald was Canada's first Prime Minister. Among Judge John's many achievements in Government, on the Bench and as a Soldier, he is credited with obtaining approval of the design of the Canadian National Flag. On behalf of the Clan, I sent a message to be read out at the ceremony.

Australia and New Zealand publish their own newsletters from time to time. In one of the numbers a story by Robert Matheson of Tatura, Australia particularly appealed to me. He recounted how he started on his genealogy journey three years ago to try to fill the gaps left by his earlier relations. Driving into Mostyn, near Ararat, he found the Cemetery with some old headstones. "Suddenly we came across not only my grandfather's mother and father's grave site but also their mother and father's graves as well, preserved and readable" From these he learnt that his family originated from Portree, Isle of Skye. There must be many other similar stories, do please write them down for the benefit of others.

The unveiling of a memorial to the dozens of Matheson immigrants who made their homes in Nova Scotia and the launching of the replica ship Hector in Pictou harbour is well documented later in this newsletter. I feel many will wish to join with me in congratulating all those who had a hand in bringing about these two events. They certainly seem to have inherited the same determination for getting things done as did their brave forebears.

For the last two or three years I have been making slow progress in the use of existing printing technology. Nothing great in that many of you may think but although the technology is there, it is not easy to apply. The story of The Voyage of the Hector which appeared in the Pictou Chronicle Herald has been E-mailed from Canada direct to the printers, Jarrold Quickprint in Norwich by the courtesy of the author Monica Graham and the same for the copy of the oil painting by Dave MacIntosh. To both I am most grateful for their help and generosity.

The days hurry by and in no time at all Prince Edward Island will be beckoning. Jean and I are looking forward to the Gathering and the prospect of seeing many of you there. Hopefully this will reach members before 25th of December, a very happy Christmas and prosperous New Year from us both.

Fergus Matheson of Matheson

GENEOLOGY CORNER

Our Genealogy Team is Charles ("Charlie") Matheson Otstot, Clan Genealogist and US Regional Genealogist; Glen Matheson, Canadian Regional Genealogist; Don Scott, New Zealand Regional Genealogist; Colin Lewis, Australian Regional Genealogist; and John Faid, United Kingdom Regional Genealogist. These folks' addresses are shown on the Newsletter addresses page. The Regional Genealogists are there to help you work on your family history in their area of responsibility. As a whole, the team is compiling a Clan Matheson Genealogy Data Base. So far, this effort contains over 20,000 individual records developed from membership application chartings and from various family histories and genealogies. The Mackenzie and Macbain histories have been entered with all of the background information given for a

person included. The William Matheson histories are also entered with complete background text. The data base is generally heavily weighted toward US and NZ families, but we expect to add more Australian, Canadian and UK material this coming year. We will also be adding more material from the Parochial Records and Scottish census records. We are at a stage where we have a good basic data base and new material is finding a family home. If any of you have family genealogies / histories, please make copies available to your Regional Genealogist so that the material can be included in the Clan Data Base. Your Regional Genealogist can also use volunteers to help search primary records in local archive. If you have any questions you think the Genealogist team can answer, please ask.

Charlie Otstot

NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

UNITED KINGDOM

Genealogist: John Faid, 153 Shooters Hill Road, London, SE3 8KQ

SCOTLAND

Hon. Secretary: Gary Matheson, Inshes, 19 Birchwood Terrace, Inverness, IV2 5DR

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We are glad to welcome Gary Matheson of Inverness as Hon. Secretary for Scotland and wish him well in his new appointment. During the year Dr Mhairi Matheson decided to retire as Genealogist for the United Kingdom and we are grateful to John Faid for taking over the appointment. John who is descended

from the Mathesons of Shiness is a keen genealogist and has already compiled a great deal of Matheson history.

Dr Mhairi will be remembered for the time spent assisting the late Dr. Farquhar Macrae in his Wester Ross medical practise covering a vast area.

ENGLAND

Convenor: Lt. Colonel Alexander Matheson yr. of Matheson

Hon. Secretary: Mrs. Margaret Williams, Croxton Old Rectory, St Neots, 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.

The year 2000 began with our Annual England Branch Dinner, held again at the Officers' Mess, Wellington Barracks in London, in January 2000. This was a memorable Millennium celebration evening, much enjoyed by all 29 who attended, in the company of the Chief and Jean. An excellent Piper completed the entertainment.

In May the Annual General Meeting was held in the Court Room of the Royal Scottish Corporation, in Covent Garden. The Royal Scottish Corporation is a charitable institution founded in 1610 for the benefit of indigent Scots in London - a central venue and no hidden message intended! This was a lively evening with lots of ideas floated and hopes of attracting younger Mathesons to our membership. It has also become clear that most members join with the

intention of tracing ancestors and family connections with the Highlands. Our genealogist, John Faid, is working with Charlie Ostot in the USA, to compile a useful and usable bank of information for our members.

The annual punting party, on the river in Oxford, went ahead but was, sadly, not as well supported as in previous years. However, a good time was had by all on a beautiful summer's day in August.

Our plans for next year include, we hope, a trip on the London Eye, followed by lunch at the Tate Modern. The annual dinner will be held on 29th January 2001 in London and members will be notified later. If you would like more information please get in touch with me.

Margaret Williams.

AUSTRALIA

Hon Patron: Sir Louis Matheson, K.B.E., C.M.G.
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: Lois Langford 36 Valley Parade, Glen Iris, Victoria Fax (03) 98897624.
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.
Len Langford, 36 Valley Parade, Glen Iris, Robert Mathieson, 5, Alexander Avenue, Tatura, Victoria, 3616.

The distances involved in travelling around Australia makes it rather difficult to keep in touch with kinsfolk in person, however, we try to meet up at various Highland Gatherings. Our main means of contact is through our newsletters. Our annual picnic/social gathering held on 27th February at Flagstaff Gardens was quite successful, but not as well attended as we had hoped. However, for those members who travelled some distance to be with us the day was picture perfect and very enjoyable. The Geelong Highland Games were held on the 19th March and the weather this year was exceptionally good. We were fortunate to have our own tent for the first time and this was a bonus. A few of our members again travelled some distance to attend and it was lovely to meet up with them and share their news. The Ringwood Highland Games were held on the 9th April and we couldn't have wished for a better day. It was wonderful to see the Highland Dancers competing, also Massed Pipe Bands and many other activities, such as Tossing the Caber, Haggis Throwing, only to mention a few.

The Kirkin' O' the Tartan Service is an annual event and was held this year on 2nd July at Scot's Church, Melbourne. At the conclusion of the Service the members who were present retired to the Assembly Hall, at the rear of the Church and joined the other Clans for a B.Y.O. lunch and a get-together. We were entertained by the Scottish Gaelic Choir. In the afternoon most of the gathering attended the

Multicultural Museum, situated in the Flinders Street / Southbank area where we were able to view the exhibitions and discover our multicultural history from the early 1880's to the present day. This particular building was the original Customs House for "The Village" and has been beautifully restored and partially modernised. This day was dedicated to the Scots and there was an extremely good attendance. There was plenty of entertainment including Scottish Music and Scottish Dancing and even a Celtic Rock Band called "Claymore" which was very lively indeed and different. We have never heard Scottish tunes played to rock and roll before, but it was very entertaining. It was a day to remember for all of us present. There was also a Family History Research Section open to all. The Daylesford Highland Games are to be held on Saturday, 2nd December and we hope to have a good attendance. As far as known to date there are eight members planning to attend the Clan Matheson Gathering on Prince Edward Island next July and are very much looking forward to meeting up with Mathesons worldwide. We now have a registered web site and the approved domain name is www.clanmathesonaustralia.org We also have a very attractive Clan Banner for ceremonial occasions.

"G'day from Australia" and we would like to wish Mathesons worldwide a very happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.

May Matheson

CANADA

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

The past year has been an especially active one for the Matheson Clan in Canada. The leading activity has been the organising and planning for the International Gathering being held in Prince Edward Island July 20, 21 and 22, 2001. As outlined in the P.E.I. Society report, they have been developing a major programme for the Gathering and the early response is encouraging. It is a beautiful island of great significance to Canada.

Also, our Mainland Branch, N.S. has been very active as they have outlined in their report. It was a thrilling

and moving occasion to see my 93 year old father, Rand and Al & Bev. Matheson's 5 year old granddaughter, Sarah, unveil the monument and plaque given by the Branch to commemorate the landing of the ship Hector in Pictou, N.S. and the Matheson's and other settlers aboard her. Also, in September many Mathesons participated in the 3 day launching event in Pictou. It was my honour to be Master of Ceremonies of the Wreath Laying commemorating the children who died during the crossing. Four children, all direct descendants of

Canada cont.

Hector passengers, placed wreaths at the St. Andrew Society of New Glasgow monument. In addition, municipal officials, clergy and local organisations participated. A parade of Clans, lead by a local pipe band marched from the Hector Quay to the monument. The official launching of the replica of the Hector took place shortly after. The Lt. Governor of Nova Scotia christened her Hector assisted by 4 local young people. The ship will be a permanent part of the Hector Heritage Centre and Quay in Pictou.

The past year has been one of growth in our membership both Nationally and in our Branches. Also, we are looking forward to the possible addition of a new Branch in New Brunswick. Sections of that Province have a number of Matheson families and many are working to ensure a good representation at the Gathering next year.

Again, I thank all those who have been so supportive of our

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:	The Reverend Doctor Glen Matheson	

Clan Members have been very active over the past year and accomplished a great deal on behalf of the Clan. On April 6th, 2000 (Tartan Day) our Clan Colours were exhibited along with other Clans at the New Glasgow, N.S. Mall. It was a most successful day and as a result, the Federation of Clans plan to expand the exhibition to Malls throughout Nova Scotia on Tartan Day.

On 28th May we held a Kirking of the Tartans church services at St. Columba United Church, Hopewell, NS. We invited members of the Murray, Sutherland and Donald Clans to join us. The Reverend Doctor Glen Matheson conducted the service and the Stellarton Male Chorus and Sarah Matheson lead us in song and music. After the service we were entertained by the Putnam family and Sarah Matheson. Following their performances a light lunch was served.

A special highlight was the unveiling on June 10th of a monument in Pictou, N.S. to honour and commemorate the early Matheson settlers of Nova Scotia. A large gathering of Mathesons were present to see the unveiling carried out by Rand Matheson, 93 years of age and Sarah Rose Matheson, 5 years of age. The project was greatly assisted by Verna Matheson, Gordon Matheson and Glen Matheson. We have received many compliments from other Clans and the Hector Heritage Centre and Foundation for our donation of the monument.

CAPE BRETON

President:	Mae Buchanan,	RR No 2, Baddeck, Nova Scotia, B0E 1B0
Hon. Secretary:	Jesse Ross,	Baddeck, Nova Scotia, B0E 1B0
Hon. Treasurer:	George Matheson,	60 Murphy Lane, Glace Bay, Nova Scotia, B1A 1X1

This has been a year of seeking new members and to spreading the word on Cape Breton Island about the Gathering in P.E.I. next year. We hope to have a good representation of Cape Breton Mathesons in P.E.I. Besides our regular meetings and functions we again presented our

Clan efforts. The Branch Presidents and executive have again made valued contributions to our Scottish presence in Canada and greatly aided me in my endeavours. In addition, many of our Clan members have made generous and regular contributions to our Society funds. This has helped greatly to expand our newsletter coverage and develop new Branches.

In closing, my best wishes to Clan members worldwide for a wonderful New Year and I look forward to seeing many of you in Prince Edward Island next July! Clan Gatherings develop new friendships, bond our Clan together and strengthen old friendships as we share the traditions of family.

Yours in the Clan,

Joel Matheson

On June 24th we hosted a successful pancake breakfast in New Glasgow as a fund raiser and during the summer our Clan tent was present at the Halifax and Antigonish Highland Games and the Pipers Picnic.

As usual, in August we had our annual Clan Picnic at Donna and Vaughan Matheson's cottage at Shortts Lake. Again a most successful fund raising auction and wonderful pot luck supper. It is amazing what those Mathesons will buy. In September, Mathesons and other Clans gathered in Pictou to watch the launching of the replica of the ship Hector. It was an historic occasion and our Clan tent was prominently displayed in front of the Heritage Centre and opposite our Clan monument. Mathesons arrived in Hector in 1773 and Mathesons participated in the building of the replica. The event over the 3 days combined a sense of celebration with a mood of remembrance. The events included a tattoo, wreath laying ceremony, parade of the Clans and general fellowship. Many thousands attended over the 3 days. A most fitting way to close out a summer of Scottish activities.

In every respect the year was a good one for our Branch of the Clan. We look forward to the year 2001, the International Gathering and the visit of our Chief and Lady Jean Matheson.

Al Matheson

prizes to the Gaelic College at St. Anne's, Cape Breton. One prize is for Gaelic studies in memory of deceased Clan members and one is for piping in memory of Sir Torquhil Matheson.

Mae Buchanan

The Voyage of the Hector

HOW THE SHIP'S SCOTTISH SETTLERS

CARVED LIVES FROM WILDERNESS IN 1773

by Monica Graham

If it hadn't been for the ship Hector settlers' miserable trans-Atlantic voyage, their first sight of Pictou Harbour 227 years ago might have sent them scurrying back to Scotland immediately.

The immigrants at least understood the devil they knew - the political upheaval and poverty that had forced them from the old land.

But an unfamiliar dark forest grew right to the shores of this new land, the reputed home of unfriendly natives and man-eating bears. The few Europeans already living here could not understand their Gaelic, and the settlers were sick, starving, and largely ignorant of pioneer skills.

Nevertheless, they persevered and became part of the backbone of Nova Scotia, their story now cherished by their descendants and the communities they established.

The town of Pictou holds an annual re-enactment of the Hector settlers' Sept. 15, 1773, arrival, culminating this year with this weekend's launch of a replica of the ship which brought them here.

Many visitors to the Sept 16 launch festivities can trace their family trees to one or more of the original ship's passengers. The actual number of passengers is in doubt, but it is generally accepted to be 189, including more than 70 children and 25 single men.

In 1773, governments did not require passenger lists, but in his old age William MacKenzie recalled their names from his memory of the trip. The 18-year-old younger son of Sir William MacKenzie of Ballone

on Loch Broom was one of the few aboard the Hector who could read and write. He had accepted the position of expedition schoolmaster, a job which promised a salary and a good piece of land. MacKenzie never worked as a schoolmaster, but settled later in an area west of Pictou, known today as Loch Broom.

Another, longer list was compiled by Squire William MacKay, from Beaulieu, who settled above the tidewaters of the East River, south of where New Glasgow and Stellarton stand today.

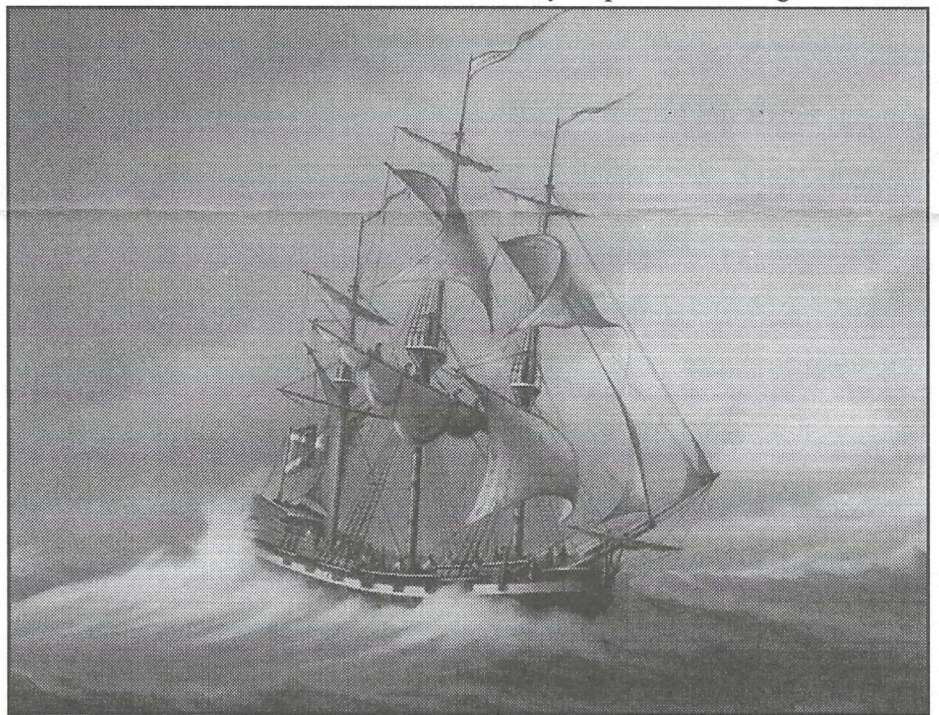
As well as MacKays and MacKenzies, there were Frasers, Munroes, MacLeods, Murrays, Rosses, Sutherlands, Chisholms, MacLellans, Mathesons, Camerons, and more, until it seems like every clan sent

a representative. Other families came from the Lowlands, carrying surnames like Symes, Scott, Main, and Innes.

They shipped out of Scotland after one of the worst winters and subsequent famines in memory. Overcrowded farmland, unbearably high rents, and outrageous lease conditions made them wish for property of their own. Some fled the law, others sought adventure.

Their generation had watched their fathers fight the Battle of Culloden in 1746, which saw the Stuart claim to the British throne defeated forever, and effectively ended the 700-year-old Scottish clan system. Wearing plaid was outlawed, as were bagpipes, being weapons of war. Times were changing, painfully.

Into this scene entered the land speculators from the Americas. Their descriptions of a vast empty country, awaiting anyone who could afford the meagre price of a ship's passage and a land grant, attracted fed-up Scots. They gave up their rented land, converted their belongings to cash, and walked to the nearest seaport, their possessions on their backs and their families in tow. It's uncertain how many ship loads of emigrants sailed



The Hector running before a storm
Original painting by Dave MacIntosh

Permission of Recreation, Tourism and Culture (Pictou N.S., Canada)

from Scotland for the New World, because many sailed from remote lochs with no one but family members to wave good-bye.

But the Hector's departure from Ullapool at Loch Broom, in the north-west corner of Scotland, is well-documented as part of that community's history as well as Pictou's. It's not every day so many people from one place sail away across the sea, never to return.

The ageing Dutch brig, said to have once been a smuggling ship, was hired by the Philadelphia



IN RECOGNITION OF
THE MATHESON FAMILIES
THAT EMIGRATED FROM SCOTLAND



COMMENCING WITH THOSE WHO ARRIVED
ON THE "HECTOR" IN 1773 FROM SUTHERLANDSHIRE
AND SETTLED IN NORTHERN NOVA SCOTIA
THUS ESTABLISHING
CLAN MATHESON
IN THIS PROVINCE

DEDICATED BY THE
CLAN MATHESON SOCIETY OF NOVA SCOTIA
10 JUNE, 2000

1. Mel & Bev Matheson, Ontario and Glen & Sharon Matheson, Ontario (brothers) with Jean & Fergus and their Grandson Edmund Kendall at Hedenham, Norfolk. 2. The launching of the Hector, picture by courtesy of Monica Graham. 3. Mainland N.S. Annual Picnic. 4. Al & Ena Matheson, Chairman and Secretary, Mainland Nova Scotia. 5. George & Eileen Matheson N.S. on their Golden Wedding Anniversary. 6. Mathesons - George, Joel with banner and Sarah Rose 5 years of age with her Grandfather Al and Rand, 93 years of age, unveiling the Memorial. 7. Mathesons - Al and Sarah Rose in front, others left to right Verna, Bertha, Eileen, Gordon, George, Myron, Bailey, Alister, Glen, Loudelle, Nancy, Beverly, Joel, Doug, Ena, Miles and Rand.



1. Australian Committee Members : (front) Lance Matheson, Rosemary Cox, Angie Lewis, Merle Matheson, Glenlynce Hemiak, (behind) Ella Matheson, Ray Cox, Ross Matheson, Colin Lewis. 2. Colvin & Mary Ellen Matheson on their wedding day, with The Rev. D. Hearn, USA. 3. Jennifer & Henry Koch with their newly adopted daughter Jane Elizabeth, USA. 4. Norman & Sally Matheson, Wanaka, N.Z.. 5. Jeannette Matheson Lussi & husband Craig, Kensington, MD. 6. Janet Matheson Odom at the Triad Highland Games. 7. Malcolm Matheson, UK. 8. Mr & Mrs Malcolm Matheson Jnr., Virginia, on their 65th Wedding Anniversary. 9. Charles & Bonnie Matheson, Virginia, coaching in Windsor Great Park. 10. 12 year old Mikaela daughter of Valencia Matheson Barree.

11. New Zealand Committee Members: Mathesons - Shirley, Keith, Norman, Donald, Joy Weeds, Douglas Matheson.

Hector cont.

Company to drop emigrants at the company's Pictou land grant on its way to Boston.

Painted like a gunship to discourage pirates, the ship was a month behind schedule when she arrived at Ullapool, and didn't leave port until July 8 or 10th.

Just before sailing, piper John MacKay was found not to have enough money for the three-pound, five shilling fare but the other passengers agreed to share their food with him and Captain John Speirs allowed him aboard. MacKay's character plays a large part in the annual re-enactments at Pictou, piping from the bow of a replica of the Hector's longboat.

At first the weather was fine, and passengers took turns cooking over fires set in sandboxes on the decks. Food for the voyage was rationed: a daily pint of water, and three pounds of salt beef, four pounds of bread, and four pounds of oatmeal a week. It seemed plentiful, so passengers felt free to throw mouldy oatcakes in the scuppers.

Below decks, passengers were stuffed into a hold lit only by daylight from the open hatch and smelly fish-oil lamps. Their bunks were pine boards tiered less than a metre apart, with privacy afforded by strategically-hung blankets. Lying there, they could pick slivers of rotting wood from the ship's sides. The hold, about twice as long and the same width as an average modern bungalow, smelled of tar, earlier cargoes, and, as the journey progressed, vomit and urine.

During the voyage dysentery and smallpox struck the already-seasick passengers. One by one, 18 of them died and were buried at sea, most of them children.

When the ship arrived off Newfoundland in August, passengers were told they would reach Pictou in two weeks at the most.

But a storm drove them back towards Scotland so far that it took two weeks to make up the distance. When the storm was over, little food was left, and vinegar had to be added to the barrels of green scummy water to make it drinkable.

Luckily, passenger Hugh MacLeod, accustomed to poverty, had gathered the mouldy oatcakes discarded early in the journey and now shared them around.

At last, the ship passed the sand bar at the entrance to Pictou Harbour, and the settlers got their first look at their new home. Aside from a few small cabins built by earlier Scots and Irish settlers who had arrived from Pennsylvania aboard the Betsey, there was no sign of habitation. Instead of the expected cleared farmland with temporary accommodation, unbroken forest lay before them.

No one had told the Hector settlers that the advertised good land on the harbour was really a swampy tract along the estuaries of the East, West and Middle rivers. The best property towards the harbour mouth was already claimed by a rival land company.

It was too late in the season to plant crops, although if the Hector had been on schedule, there would have

been time to plant and harvest potatoes. Arable land had been surveyed for them, but to the dismayed and frightened Scots it was as accessible as the moon.

For the first winter, many stayed at the harbour, where they largely depended on the goodwill of the Betsey settlers. In some cases that led to friction, while in other cases, desperation led to desperate measures.

One group, including Roderick "Rory" MacKay, the blacksmith who escaped jail to bring his wife, children, elder brother, and the prison key to Nova Scotia with him, tied up the Philadelphia Company agents and took food from the store. The highlanders kept careful account, intending to pay later when they had funds.

Most of the Hector settlers hiked over Mount Thom to winter in Truro, and even Halifax. Some later returned to the Pictou area to take up their land grants, but others found greener pastures elsewhere. Some, like Robert Innis, settled in other parts of Nova Scotia, only to have their descendants return to Pictou County 200 years later. Mary Beth Sutherland, the great-great-great-great granddaughter of Innis and his wife Janet Munro, also a Hector passenger, lives in Pictou County and participates in the annual Hector re-enactments.

Those who stayed learned wilderness survival the hard way. They sometimes used their new snowshoeing skills, taught them by the Mi'kmaq, to hike the 70 kilometres to Truro for temporary work or to trade possessions for staples.

By spring, when mosquitoes turned out to be a worse menace than man-eating bears and it was time to tap maple trees, the settlers began to spread into the surrounding valleys.

It was not the end of hard times, but life did get a little easier. They founded villages, sometimes naming them after the homeland they would never see again. Their names are still found on mailboxes, in telephone books, and on grave markers in those areas.

The Hector settlers' willingness to face the hardship in a new land meant a better life for their descendants, said Mary Beth Sutherland. The Hector replica reminds everyone of the sacrifices made by the pioneers, she added.

"I hope the Hector will help the young to appreciate the people who've gone before them," Ms. Sutherland said. "We can't live in the past, but we can learn from it, and maybe take inspiration from it."

Article first published in the Chronicle-Herald newspaper, Halifax, Nova Scotia

Canada cont.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

Chairman:	Myron Matheson,	General Delivery, Breadalbane, P.E.I., C0A 1E0
Vice Chairman:	The Reverend Gordon Matheson,	PO Box 103, Charlottetown, P.E.I., C1A 7K2
Hon. Secretary:	Gladys MacMillan,	48 Cedar Avenue, Charlottetown, PEI, C1A 6K4.
Hon Treasurer:	J. Claude Matheson,	R.R. No. 3 St. Peter's Bay, PEI, C0A 2A0.
Genealogist:	Linda Harding,	264 Mount Edward Road, Charlottetown, PEI, C1A 5T7.

Branch activities during the past year have revolved around making arrangements for the International Gathering that we are hosting July 20 - 22, 2001. We have been reserving facilities and planning events to accommodate 1000 plus people. This will be the largest event of its kind ever staged in this part of the world. The early response received is most encouraging and speaks well of the prevailing interest. At least six countries will be represented. We in P.E.I. and the Maritimes are anxious to entertain all who come. All major events will take place in Charlottetown.

P.E.I. is the birth place of Confederation for Canada and has many miles of warm beaches as well as entertainment features for all family members. Also, there are many Matheson families and descendants on the Island. We are looking forward to hosting the many Mathesons who will visit us and to introducing Major Sir Fergus Matheson of Matheson, Bt. and Lady Jean Matheson to Prince Edward Island. Please get your reservations in early. Our Gathering contact person is Miles Matheson, PO Box 124, Morell, P.E.I., C0A 1S0, Canada.

Myron Matheson

NEW ZEALAND

Chief's Lieutenant:	Douglas Matheson.	33 Mellons Bay Road, Howick 1705, Auckland.
		Tel: 09 534 9477: E-mail: djmaelan@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: 07 8340 918 : Fax: 07 8340 913
Hon. Treasurer	Gordon Matheson	138a Pembroke St, Hamilton.
Genealogist	Don Scott,	11 Tiri Road, Whangaparaoa, Auckland,
		Tel: & Fax: 09 424 1461: E-mail: donaldscott@xtra.co.nz
Piper	Norman Matheson	
Chaplain	Rev. Stuart Mckenzie	
Committee	Lois Ahlquist, Anne Matheson, Donald Matheson, Douglas Matheson, Keith Matheson,	
	Rita Matheson, Joy Weeds, Fay Whittome, Elaine Rankin and Don Scott	

On Sunday 18th June 2000, some 30 Clan members joined with Papakura East Presbyterian Church congregation for morning service. Chairman Norman Matheson piped in the Clan flag, Joy Weeds presented the tartan cloth and Chief's Lieutenant Doug Matheson read the lesson. Reverends G. New and J. Belchin made the Kirkin o' the Tartan service very appropriate with particular reference to the Highland Clearances. A shared Clan lunch followed in the Church Hall and later the Annual General Meeting was held. Former genealogists John and Monica Kidd were remembered by being made honorary members. New to the committee are Elaine Rankin and Don Scott. Authority to purchase a fax machine was given. Gaelic singer Peter Stewart thoroughly fascinated those present with a talk on Gaelic songs generously illustrated with examples of music for all occasions.

In October about 30 Clan members met at Waipu for a Pot Luck lunch. Chairman Norman welcomed everyone and made mention of the Clan Gathering on Prince Edward Island in 2001. Genealogist Don Scott spoke about his continuing Matheson / Mathieson research project. At Waipu is the historic House of Memories and the home of historian Betty Powell who came to speak at the Gathering. She answered many questions and spoke in depth of resources available for research, in particular for the Nova Scotia migration under The Reverend Norman McLeod. Members then visited the Museum which houses many photographic and other records relating to the Matheson families associated with that area and including Matheson Bay.

90 year old Piper Rod Matheson of Palmerston North, recently corresponded with Stewart Matheson of Home of Compassion, Island Bay. Stewart recalled that early Mathesons appear in books in Bunnythorpe library and a Matheson is named on the War Memorial at the main entrance to Bunnythorpe Reserve. Ancestors lived in Palmerston and journeyed to and fro over difficult roads a century ago. Rod Matheson with his pipes was among those of the New Zealand Division to arrive in Egypt in 1940 to be welcomed by the Pipe Band of the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders.

In a letter from Ian Mathieson of Riverton, he described how he and his wife Ruth have been converting the former laundry of St Colombus Convent into a home for their family. They came across wine bottled by C.H.Drysdale & Co. Ltd. of Newmarket, Auckland. The former laundry also includes a large garden so they live in hopes of finding a cache of gold coins. In a later letter he related how he had recently read in a book, Dick Travis V.C., about Peter Matheson of Orepuki and Bluey Matheson of Mossburn. Both Mathesons served with the New Zealand Forces in Gallipoli during the 1914 / 18 war and were among the first to try out the new Mills Hand grenade.

Stamp collectors may be interested to know that among a recent issue of New Zealand Stamps of scenic scenes, Lake Matheson was portrayed on a 45 cent stamp and is now being issued as a 40 cent stamp.

Ailsa Matheson

UNITED STATES

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Piper: Farquhar James Matheson

3941 Lomi Lomi Drive, Holiday, Florida 34691

The year 2000 has come and gone! Are you ready for the real start of the millennium? Your Society is gearing up for a wonderful year and we are looking for a huge membership turn-out at the Gathering in Prince Edward Island on July 20, 21 & 22, 2001.

Active in Clan events this year were brothers John and Alexander Aakesson who kept our Clan Tent open once again at the Potomac Celtic Festival in Leesburg, VA and at the Virginia Scottish Games in Alexandria, VA (both in July). Many thanks to John and Alec for their consistent effort in promoting the Clan. John is going back to England for two years and we sincerely hope that Alex and his bride, Ashley, will keep up the tradition. And Janet Matheson Odom was brave enough to keep the Clan Tent for the first time at the Triad Highland Games in Archdale, NC (on August 18 & 19). Janet kept our colors flying under trying circumstances as she produced her second daughter - Kendall Rose - less than a month later on September 15th. Congratulations and our utmost thanks to Janet!

Clan and U. S. Branch Genealogist, Charlie Otstot and his wife Florence also helped hold down the fort at the Virginia Scottish Games and the Society greatly appreciates their loyalty at that event. Charlie has taken on the gigantic task of recording the Clan's genealogical data for access on the internet and our Society certainly owes him a debt of gratitude for all of his work.

Also in the Genealogical corner, Ethel Burtwistle Armbruster (Malcolm Matheson, III's 3rd cousin once removed) after years of research produced an awesome genealogical record of family relatives - over 1000 pages of data. The work is truly amazing and anyone fortunate enough to see it will agree that Ethel deserves a great deal of praise for her Herculean effort. From the west coast Bob (Robert W.) Matheson of Sierra Madre (Los Angeles area), California appeared worldwide on the British Forces

Broadcasting Service (BFBS) throughout the month of September. BFBS is a service operated for the British military that provides radio and television programming by satellite to their soldiers, sailors, and airmen stationed overseas. "Forces TV", as the BFBS television services is known, celebrated its 25th anniversary in September. Bob is Director of Programming of AFRTS, (the Armed Forces Radio and Television Service), the American equivalent of BFBS. He was invited by fellow Scot Steve Mylles, Controller of BFBS Television in Buckinghamshire, to appear in an anniversary greeting on behalf of AFRTS. In the thirty seconds of fame, taped in the AFRTS Broadcast Center at March Air Reserve Base in California, Bob appears behind a waist-high control console in front of a wall of TV monitors. As he concludes his remarks, he moves out from behind the console so the viewers see he's wearing his kilt. The greeting ends with the logos of the two military broadcasting organizations animated to a military band with bagpipes over a Matheson tartan background.

The Clan Society extends its' sincerest condolences to the families of the members who departed this Life since our last newsletter:

Arthur James Matheson (Englewood, CO) died Aug. 7, 1999
Brenda C. Ellis (Kennesaw, GA) who lost her fight with cancer Aug. 29, 2000

Ruth Matheson Renner (Vancouver, WA) who passed away Feb. 6, 2000

Elfrieda Matheson (Elkhorn, WI) who passed away Nov. 3, 1999 at the age of 91

Wanda Roberts Matheson (Broadview Heights, Ohio) who died September 19, 2000. She was the wife of Leslie R. Matheson, Honorary Secretary of the U.S.. Branch of the Clan Matheson Society 1984-1988.

Malcolm Matheson III

On a happier note let us welcome into the Clan Society all those new members who have joined since October 1999:

Paula Corbin (Greenbury, KY)

Corinne Hawke Gustafson (Pittsburgh, PA)

Robert Bruce Johnson (Summit, NJ)

Barbara Limeberry (Gosport, IN)

Hugh Matheson, Jr. (Vero Beach, FL)

James Erle Matheson (Norridge, IL)

Malcolm Hector Matheson (Paramus, NJ)

Robert Lyon Mathieson (Charlotte, NC)

Patricia Keutmann Ranagan (San Francisco, CA)

David Henry Souza (Gloucester, MA)

Russell Alexander Dorr, Jr. (Casco, ME)

Laurie Matheson Holtan (Carrollton, TX)

William Russ Kidd (Newport News, VA)

Gordon Keith Matheson (Evansville, IN)

Ian Thomas Matheson (San Diego, CA)

John Murdoch Buchanan Matheson (Free Union, VA)

Richard Coughlin Mathieson (Ft. Richardson, AK)

James Dean Maxwell (Salt Lake City, UT)

Clarence Gerald Smith (Cedar Rapids, IA)

Mary-Ann Vanderloo (Brighton, MI)

The Society extends a note of gratitude to:-

Charles E. Matheson, Sr., of Elgin, Texas who recruited and paid dues for five of his immediate family and relatives over the past two years.

Approximately 40 Life Members (too numerous to list) who paid in your assessments for the year 2000 - MANY THANKS. It goes a long way in defraying the cost of this newsletter.

Ruth Peebles, Thomas K. Andison, Jean P. Guyton, Charles T. Matheson, Lyman W. Matheson, Don P. Matheson, and John W. Matheson are extended a special thanks for their most generous donations.

CONGRATULATIONS TO...

UNITED KINGDOM

* Richard and Sarah Williams on the birth of their daughter Agnès on 17 September 2000, another great-granddaughter for Major-General John Matheson, Convenor of the Clan Society.

AUSTRALIA

* Gwen Matheson-Smith, celebrated her 80th birthday on 5th April.

* Our Vice President Ray Cox and his wife Rosemary

NEW ZEALAND

* Edward, son of Wayne and Sonja Matheson, 2nd in the B Grade of the Otago Centre Piping & Dancing Competition, March 2000.

* Andrew son of Joan and the late Roy Matheson of Hamilton, won a distinction at Victoria University, Wellington and was awarded the Prime Minister's Prize in Public Policy Studies

* Kirsten, daughter of Andrew Matheson and granddaughter of Joan and the late Roy Matheson of Hamilton, graduated

UNITED STATES

* George and Eileen Matheson on the occasion of their Golden Wedding

* Murdoch and Susie Matheson on the birth of their daughter Helen Latimer on 7th May 2000, Mr. and Mrs. Charles T. Matheson's 9th Grandchild and Mr. and Mrs. Malcolm Matheson, Jr.'s 24th Great Grandchild.

* Jennifer Ballard Koch and her husband Henry T. Koch on the adoption of their new daughter, Jane Elizabeth.

* Carolyn Matheson Loeffler and her husband Rick Loeffler on the birth of their daughter, Lauren Mary, on 28th January 2000, Grandchild of Leslie R. Matheson, Clan Matheson Society Hon. Secretary from August 1984 to July 1988.

* Janet Matheson Odom and her husband James H. Odom on the birth of their second daughter, Kendall Rose, on September 15, 2000.

* Colvin T. Matheson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Malcolm Matheson, III and his new bride Mary Ellen Chandler who were married May 13, 2000 at Woodlawn, Mt. Vernon,

* Andrew, elder son of Alexander & Katharine Matheson who came second in his school piping competition. Also on his appointment as Page of Honour to Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother.

are first time grandparents. Their daughter-in-law Donna gave birth to a son, Lachlan Andrew Cox who weighed in at 6lbs. 5 ozs and has light brown wavy hair.

Bachelor of Human Biology at Auckland University.

* Rod Matheson of Palmerston North on receiving a 50 year badge from his Lodge.

* To Stewart A. Matheson of Island Bay, a past member of Hinemoa Lodge No. 122 on receiving a 70 year Service Bar

* To 12 year old Emma Matheson of Dunedin Columba College, daughter of John and Patricia Matheson. Emma was the youngest of seven female Knox Church Organ Scholars to take part in a Renaissance Recital late last year.

Virginia. The wedding reception was nearly washed away in the wake of a huge storm with winds up to 80 MPH.

* Traies Haydon Roe (daughter of Pinkie Matheson Roe and Alexander M. Roe) and her new husband Eric Johannessen who were married June 16, 2000 in Newport Beach, California.

* Mikaela Barree, 12, daughter of Valencia Matheson Barree who has been a highland dancer for 5 years and who was named "Most Promising Colorado Premier Dancer" for the last two years at the Longs Peak Highland Games in Estes Park, Colorado.

* Jeannette Matheson Lussi and her husband Craig H. Lussi for successfully competing in and finishing the "Isuzu Ironman USA" in Lake Placid, NY on July 29, 2000. The Ironman is a triathlon race which covers 140 plus miles (2 1/2 mile swim, 112 miles by bicycle, and a full marathon run of 26.6 miles)!!

Mr. and Mrs. Malcolm Matheson, Jr. on celebrating their 65th Wedding Anniversary on 17th September 2000.

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.

DATES FOR DIARIES

2001

29th January, England Branch dinner in London.

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, C0A 1S0 or Myron Matheson <mmatheson@pei.sympatico.ca>

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