



Clan Matheson Society

NEWSLETTER No. 56 Autumn 2001

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: Athol Donald Scott, E-mail : donaldscott@extra.co.nz
Internet Adviser: Miss Patricia Mathieson, E-mail : patricia@mathieson.co.uk
Editor (temp.): The Chief of the Clan

THE CHIEF'S MESSAGE

At the time of writing, the tragedy that befell the United States on September 11th must still be uppermost in peoples' minds. Coming so soon after the wonderful time so many of us shared on Prince Edward Island with our American kinsmen, that horrendous act on was an outrage the agony of which we all shared. It is hard to believe that in this Century anyone could act in such an evil manner. The courage of the people of New York and the Pentagon and in particular the rescue services are outstanding examples of bravery and the call of duty.

Another great sadness has been the resignation of Charles Mathieson Otsot, forced on him on account of illness. He has been outstandingly loyal and brave in carrying on his work as the Clan Genealogist until the last possible moment, helped by his wife Florence who has borne the terrible worry with fortitude. Charlie was appointed in 1998 and at once set about recording on computer the valuable work started by his predecessor Janet Matheson Dorm which meant giving up a number of his other important interests. Recovery has been slow, he and Florence have, I am sure, the best wishes of all Clan members who know him and have worked with him.

Plenty will be written about the Gathering in the various Branch reports but I would like to say a few words too. For those who managed to get to P.E.I. it was a most memorable and enjoyable occasion. Thanks alone hardly seem adequate to express the gratitude felt to Myron Matheson and Miles Matheson and their able team of helpers. Months of planning and attention to detail paid off. The family feeling among members and the friendliness of the Islanders will be with us for a long time. Mention must be made of Hal Mathieson too, his disk, if it was not a hit surely it should have been, there were no bounds to the extent of his enthusiasm and generosity. He and many others were particularly kind to Jean and myself. Thank you, P.E.I. Mathesons for a truly wonderful time on your lovely Island, it was so sad leaving. We were also generously entertained by Doug and Ena Matheson for a few days in Nova Scotia and so enjoyed being taken by Al & Beverly Matheson to re-visit Pictou to

meet many Mathesons there and to go on board the replica of the ship Hector and we were also grateful to them for coming to the airport to see us off. Another act of kindness was Myron driving us back to Halifax. We were so grateful.

There has been plenty of other Matheson activity elsewhere in the world as readers will note in later pages. I must congratulate Ron Matheson and May Matheson and their committee on reaching 100 members so soon after re-forming the Australian Branch and it seems they are likely to double that number in the next 12 months.

The late J. Stuart Matheson of Winnipeg, Manitoba bequeathed a gift of money in his Will, the income of which is to go in perpetuity to the Sir Torquhil Matheson Scholarship Fund at St. Ann's College, Cape Breton for the study of Gaelic. We are immensely grateful to his family for this generous gift.

Sadly Richard (Dick) Matheson died in the Spring. He was certainly the founder member of the Clan Society in England and probably the longest serving member of our Clan Society in the world. His good company at London dinners will be missed. Before he died he made a large donation to start off a Clan Matheson Trust which Joel Matheson, Q.C. has kindly agreed to form. The main purpose of the Trust will be, one day, to establish a Clan Matheson Centre in Lochalsh, Wester Ross, Scotland.

When this is read, Jean and I with our immediate family will have attended the Armistice Day Service at the Menin Gate at Ypres on 11th November. We intend laying a wreath of poppies in memory of the many Clan Members who gave their lives in the 1914-18 and 1939-45 wars.

Finally I am most grateful to the many who hold office in the Clan Society organisation. It has been a most successful year entirely due to the enthusiasm and many hours they devote to the Clan. Also I am most grateful to all those who have sent in photographs for this newsletter and to my family for their help sticking them together. We have to keep to 12 pages to avoid additional postage costs so I am sorry to anyone who sent in an article and there has not been room to print it this time.

Fergus Matheson of Matheson

GENEOLOGY CORNER

A very warm greeting to all members. As you will now know, Charlie Otsot, the Clan Genealogist has sadly been obliged to resign the position. Not wanting a possible halt to the good work he has put into compiling a Clan Database; for want of a Clan Genealogist, I offered my services to the Chief.

At the time of writing this message I have not been overly involved in genealogy work peculiar to that which Charlie had been doing but hope to be so in the very near future, especially with regard to the proposed Internet genealogy access. With this in mind, I would like to invite all members who have family trees and/or histories, no matter in what country they might reside, and no matter how small or big the tree's 'branches' are, to forward copies to me for recording in the Clan Matheson Database. A copy of such information will then be forwarded by me to the appropriate Branch Genealogist for storing. This action will ensure safe storage by having your family tree information in two very separate parts of the world as well as provide immediate access for research purposes.

My very best wishes to all for the coming new year.
Don Scott

Jan Myhrvold, a keen genealogist in Norway and of Matheson descent is interested in our genealogy and would be glad to correspond preferably by e-mail with anyone with a similar interest. He writes :- "According to Matheson family history, the first Matheson in Norway arrived in the 17th century. There are two versions, none of them are confirmed, as to how or why he came.

1. He came as a Sergeant in Colonel Sinclairs troops which were massacred in Norway in 1612 on their way to Sweden. He was one of the survivors and married a Norwegian girl.

2. He was a Scottish nobleman who joined the Danish Army in the year 1600.

As far as I know, nobody has found links between the Matheson Clan and my ancestors. One of the descendants, an Army Captain in the Danish / Norwegian Army, had a sword in his Coat of Arms. He can be contacted at

Fjellkroken 27, 2022 Gjerdrum, Norway. Tel: +47 63 99 00 58 e-mail jmyhrvol@online.no

FJM of M

NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

UNITED KINGDOM

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SCOTLAND

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E-mail: garymatheson@inverness75.freemove.co.uk

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.

We now have 51 members, 34 of whom are family memberships involving more than one person and 26 newsletter only members. In January we held our Annual Dinner in London. This was a good evening, much enjoyed by all who attended, in the company of the Chief and Jean. After dinner Andrew Matheson played a selection of tunes on his great-uncle Torquhil's (26th Chief) pipes.

An outing to the London Eye was organised in April by Jennie Matheson and enjoyed by some 25 members, some having come a considerable distance. We hope to stage this outing again as it was so popular and recommend it to any visitors visiting London as the views are spectacular.

In May the Annual General Meeting was held in the Court Room of the Royal Scottish Corporation in Covent Garden with wine and a delicious buffet beforehand. Shortly before this meeting we were

delighted that the Clan was represented by one of our members, John Mathieson, son of Alastair, at the Oscar ceremony in Hollywood. He was the director of photography for the film "Gladiator" and cut a fine figure in full highland evening dress in Matheson tartan.

Kate and Ron Lowry much enjoyed representing us at the Prince Edward Island Gathering, a perfect end to their trip to Canada. They have arranged for the dark green and blue version of the hunting tartan to be woven and are taking orders for it now. The cost will be about £15 per metre, 112 cms wide. Please contact them on 44(0)1376 561 662 or e-mail ron@rlowry.fsnet.co.uk

The Annual Dinner is again planned for January 2002 in London and details will be circulated to members shortly.

Margaret Williams.

AUSTRALIA

Chief's Lieutenant: Dr. Alistair Colin Matheson

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: maam@@netspace.net.au

Hon. Treasurer: Lois Langford 36 Valley Parade, Glen Iris, Victoria Fax (03) 98897624.

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

& Internet Adviser E-mail: colin@alphalink.com.au

Branch website <http://www.clanmathesonaustralia.orghttp>

Committee: Merle Matheson, Gwen Matheson-Smith, Daphne Eggleton, Alan Matheson, Rosemary Cox, Angie Lewis, Margaret Fleming, Lance Matheson, Ella Matheson, Len Langford, Glen Iris, Robert Mathieson, Brett Mathieson

This has been quite an eventful year for the Clan Matheson Society in Australia. The very distinguished Australian academic and educator, Sir Louis Matheson has been appointed to be our Patron. Sir Louis was the foundation Vice Chancellor (chief executive) of Monash University from 1961 until his retirement in 1976. Born in Huddersfield, Yorkshire, of Scottish parents, he was educated at Bootham School, York and Manchester University. After various academic appointments in England and Australia, he was appointed Beyer Professor of Engineering at the University of Manchester in 1951. When he was appointed to Monash University, the 100 hectare site was a bare field with a trotting track and a few scattered trees on the outskirts of Melbourne, Australia's second city. When he retired sixteen years later, Monash was a thriving University with over 30,000 students and a well deserved international reputation as a first-class research institution. Monash weathered the storm of student unrest with Sir Louis at the helm during the late 1960s and emerged with its reputation as a centre of learning enhanced. Sir Louis also played a leading part in higher education in Papua New Guinea where he served on the Interim Council of the University of Papua New Guinea and was Chancellor of the new University of Technology at Lae, Papua New Guinea from 1973 to 1975. Sir Louis served on a number of Victorian Government Enquiries and a Royal Commission where his experience and judgement as a distinguished engineer were in demand. He was also the first Chairman of the Australian Federal Government's Science and Technology Council. Sir Louis was awarded a number of honorary degrees, a CMG in 1972 and KBE in 1976 for his services to education and to Monash University. Following a

stroke in 1989, Sir Louis now lives quietly at home in Melbourne. It might also be of interest that Sir Louis' University, was named after Sir John Monash, the distinguished and successful Australian General who co-ordinated the initial allied breakthrough in France in 1918 at the Battle of Hamel and who was knighted by the King while still in France.

We also have pleasure in announcing that Sir Louis' son, Dr. Alastair Colin Matheson has been appointed Chief's Lieutenant for Australia. The mammoth task of a mail-out Australia wide is in progress inviting Mathesons and descendants of Mathesons to join our Branch. This, so far, has been met with quite a degree of success and Committee Members who have participated in this huge task must be congratulated. The issue of a proposed Queensland Sub Branch has arisen and is indicative of great enthusiasm in that State and will be discussed at the forthcoming AGM.

The highlight of the year was the Clan Matheson Gathering on PEI. It was a wonderful experience for the Australian contingent who attended the Gathering. Some members took advantage of a world trip with stopovers in different countries. We had the pleasure of meeting Mathesons worldwide, putting faces to names and exchanging information. The Australian representative on behalf of the Australian Branch presented Sir Fergus with a gift in the form of an Emu Egg decorated with the Clan Logo on one side, a kangaroo with a joey in pouch on the other and an Aboriginal design decorated the sides.

On behalf of the Australian Branch I would like to extend our warm wishes to all Mathesons for a happy, prosperous and peaceful Xmas and 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

& Internet Adviser

The year 2001 has again been a most active one for our Branch and three Sub-Branches. In particular, it was highlighted by the spectacular Gathering held in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island. It was a major undertaking by our new Sub-Branch formed in 2000. Their hard work resulted in the best attended Gathering of Clan Matheson. Over 500 Mathesons participated in the three day event which included a Clan Parliament, parade, Church Service, genealogy

sessions and a number of social events. Our thanks go out to their President, Myron Matheson and his many helpers, too numerous to name. The warm Island hospitality extended to our Chief and Lady Matheson and all visitors was much appreciated. Those attending represented six Countries, seventeen of the U.S.States and nine of the Canadian Provinces. A tremendous opportunity to renew old friendships and develop new ones.

Our Mainland Sub-Branch also had a successful year under the guidance of Al Matheson, their President. Many of their members were at the Gathering and entertained Sir Fergus and Lady Matheson for three days during their time in Nova Scotia. Clan Matheson was well represented by their members at many Scottish events. These included Tartan Day at the Nova Scotia Legislature, House of Assembly, the Halifax and Antigonish Highland Games, the Piper's Picnic in Pictou County and the New Scotland plays at Pictou. Our Clan tent was set up with Clan members on hand to meet and greet all visitors. The contribution of these volunteers was much appreciated. Also an annual picnic was held at the summer home of Vaughan and Donna Matheson at Shortts Lake, N.S. Al Matheson again conducted a most successful auction of donated gifts that raised over Canadian \$300.00. The year closed with a meeting and social gathering at the summer home of Al and Beverly Matheson in Pictou County.

This year, the bursary for furtherance of the gaelic culture in N.S. was awarded to Alycia Putnam of Brookfield N.S. Alycia recently released her first C.D. entitled "In a Fiddlin' Mood". It features Scottish music and well demonstrates her wonderful

talents.

Our Cape Breton Sub-Branch has been actively seeking new members and maintaining its involvement in Scottish events. They again presented their prizes to the Gaelic College at St. Ann's, N.S., one for Gaelic studies and one for piping.

On a sadder note, one of our long time members, Butler Dougherty, Montreal, P.Q., passed away ten days before his 89th birthday. He and his wife Isobel Matheson who passed away in 1979 were active Clan Matheson, Canada members and did much to develop our Canadian Branch. He is survived by his children, Kevin, Margaret, Anne and Tim who has carried on his interest in our Branch and in Scottish culture. He is also survived by grandchildren Christopher, Heather, Thomas and Jeanne, and sister Alice. Our condolences go out to all his family members.

In closing, my thanks to all who have supported our activities in the past year. I look forward to 2002 and the possible development of two more Sub-Branches in Canada. It was most encouraging to meet members at the Gathering who were interested in setting up a Sub-Branch in their Province. A challenging goal for next year!

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	

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

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

Chairman:	Myron Matheson	General Delivery, Breadalbane, P.E.I. C0A 1E0 E-mail: mmatheson@pei.sympatico.ca
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

NEW ZEALAND

Chief's Lieutenant:	Douglas Matheson	33 Mellons Bay Road, Howick 1705, Auckland Tel: 09 5349 477 E-mail: djmaclan@lycosmail.com
Chairman:	Donald Matheson,	23 Sunnyhaven Avenue, Beachhaven, Auckland. Tel: 09 4839 147 Fax 09 4839142 e-mail: donald@5star.net.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
Internet Adviser	Wayne Matheson	P.O.Box 745 Invercargill E-mail: w.mtheson@clear.net.nz
Piper	Norman Matheson	
Committee	Lois Ahlquist, Anne Matheson, Keith Matheson, Joy Weeds, Fay Whittome, Elaine Rankin and Don Scott	

The year 2000 has been a happy one for the New Zealand Clan with good interest and support from a growing membership, even though many are separated by distance. The regular Clan newsletters have highlighted many Matheson/Mathieson interests of family histories and old photographs. Stories relating to present day activities for members and their families. Sporting and piping achievements of particular newsletter interest was a story of the Matheson Automobile Company of Massachusetts, USA. The centrefold page has often featured old family photographs and names of forebears, also stories



An evening at the Civic Centre



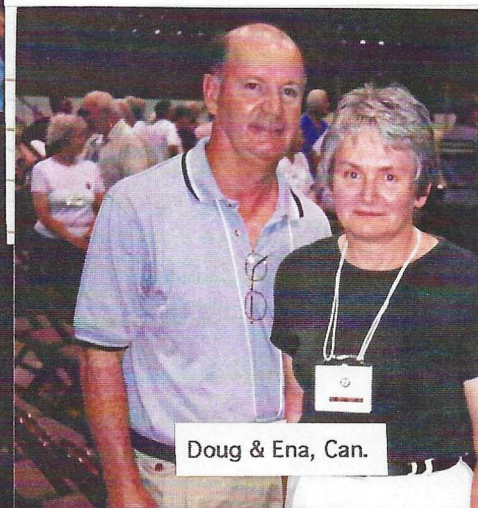
Andrew (centre) son of Alexander & Katharine Page to the Queen at the Garter Service, Windsor.



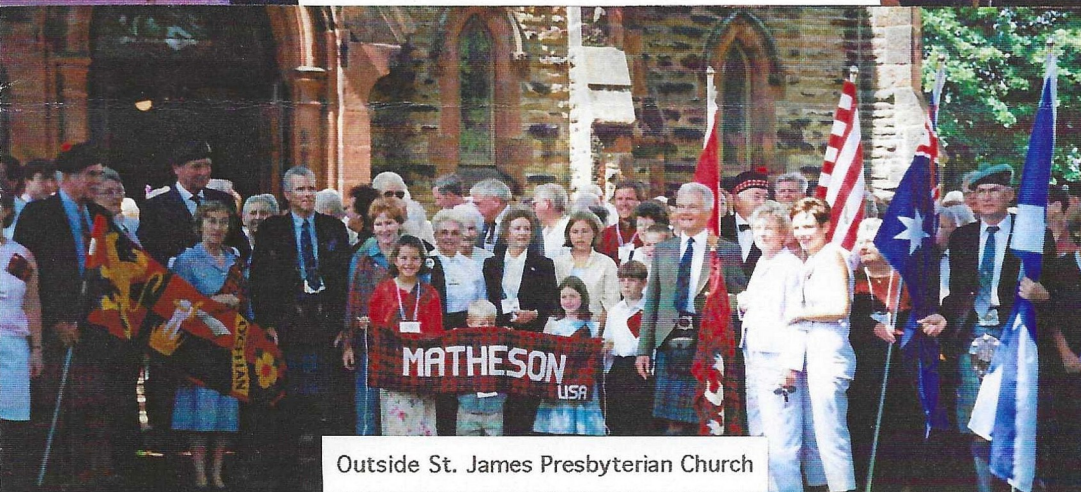
Australians Alan & May, Ella & Lance, Peter Skinner, Keir, Lois & Len Langford.



New Zealanders Graeme, Anne, Ellen, Doug & Blair with Jean & Fergus.



Doug & Ena, Can.



Outside St. James Presbyterian Church



John.

May.



An outing to the London Eye



Jean, Martha Macdonald, Myrion



MATHESON CLAN GATHERING FRI - SAT JULY 20 - 21
RAW WRESTLING JULY 23 730 PM
OLD HOME WEEK AUG 10 18

New Nealand group Blair, Anne, Ellen, Doug, Graeme



Gail, USA.



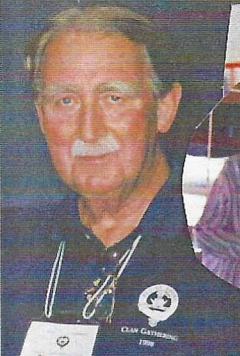
Jean and Hal



Hal, USA.



Graeme, NZ.



Judge John,



Myron



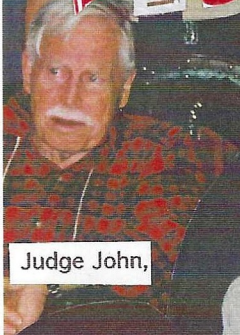
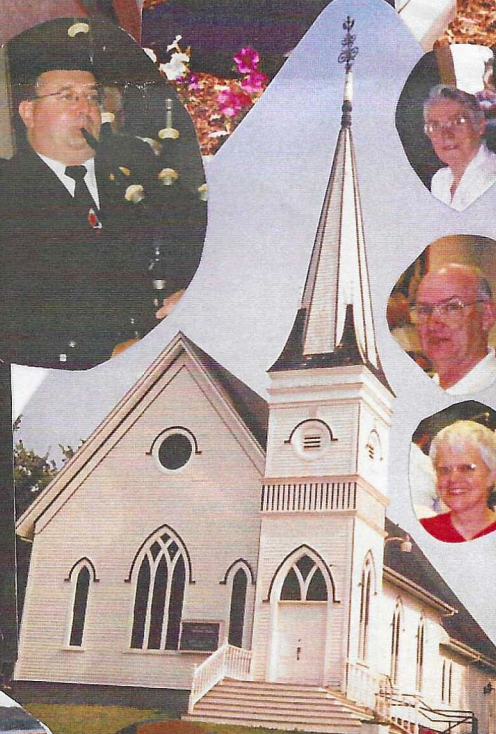
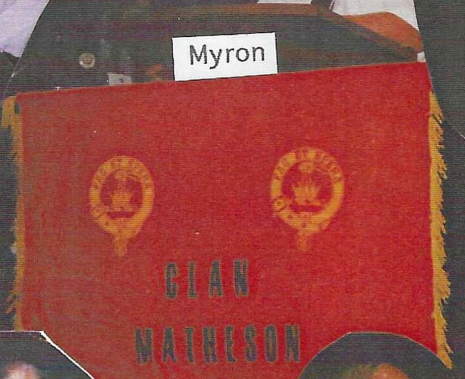
Diana with parents Joel & Ruth



Al & Beverley, Can



Ena



Al & Beverley, Can., Malcolm III, USA.



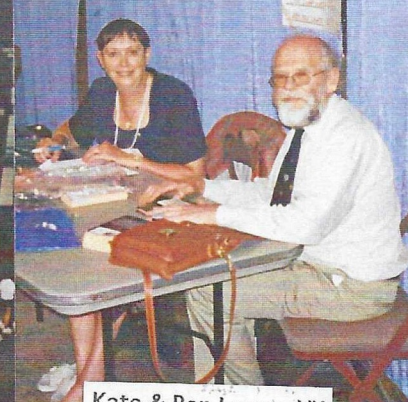
Gail, Pinkie Roe, Phyllis & Lyman, USA.



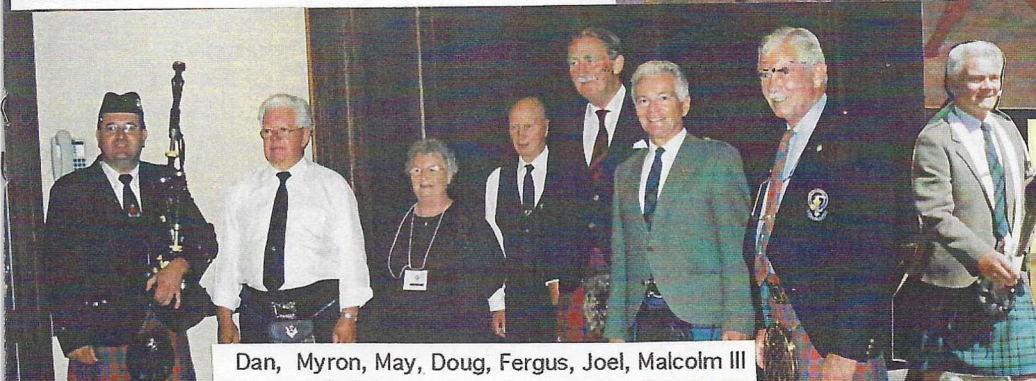
The Hector



Australians Lois & Len Langford, May & Alan Matheson.



Kate & Ron Lowry, UK.



Dan, Myron, May, Doug, Fergus, Joel, Malcolm III



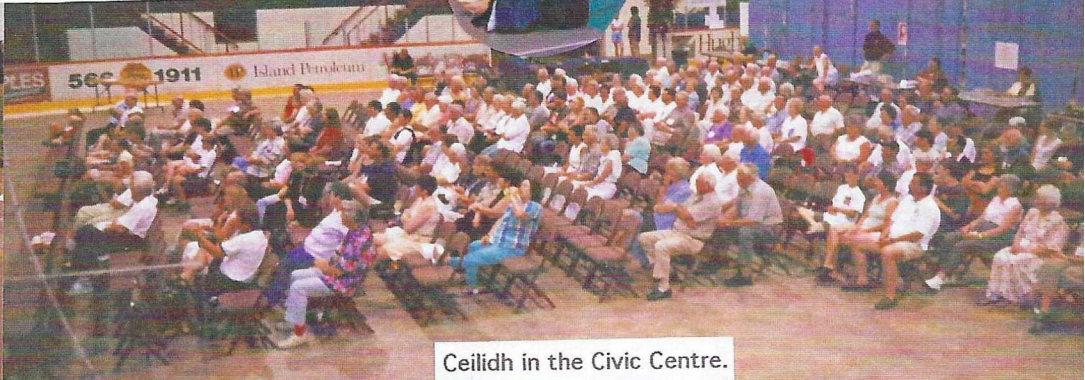
Jean and Ruth



Marching from St. James's Presbyterian Church to lunch.



Hal and Fergus



Ceilidh in the Civic Centre.

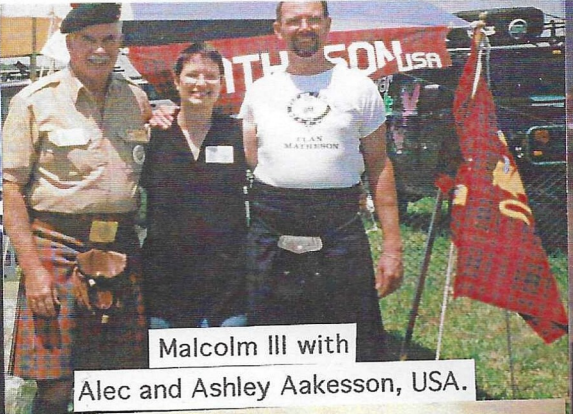


Australian Group Len & Lois Langford, Alan & May, Keir, Peter Skinner, Lance & Ella.





John Mathieson, UK, at the Hollywood Oscar ceremony



Malcolm III with Alec and Ashley Aakesson, USA.



Jean & Fergus



Trotting Races, Charlottetown.



Leslie, USA



Beverly, Can.



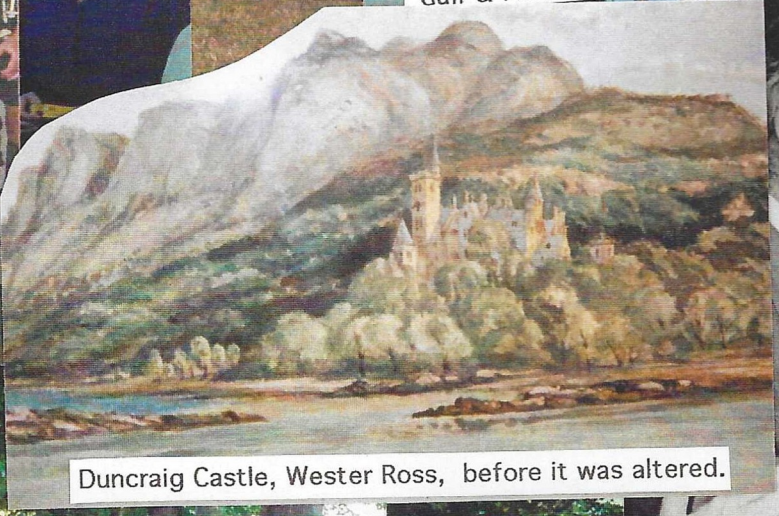
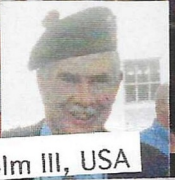
Ardross Castle, Easter Ross, c1880



Dan, Can.



Gail & Malcolm III, USA



Duncraig Castle, Wester Ross, before it was altered.



Miles Matheson, P.E.I., saw action at the Battle of the Scheldt, WW2, receiving an award from the Belgian Ambassador.

The Nova Scotia Sub-Branch annual picnic at Shortt's Lake

relating to the histories of related branches. The bonus has often been the solving of family genealogy puzzles. That leads on to mention of our Clan Genealogist, Don Scott, who has worked prodigiously inputting on to his computer family trees and Associated information. When approached with the situation regarding the Clan vacancy for a world wide genealogist, Don most willingly offered his services and the Chief accepted. Don is an ideal person for the job. At the June Annual General Meeting, Donald Matheson was appointed new Chairman for the New Zealand branch. Donald was born in Germany and his ancestors hailed from Dingwall and Alness areas. He attended Queen Victoria Military School in Dunblane was Base drummer in the pipe band and senior boy when he left for an electronics apprenticeship with the R.A.F. Donald served twelve years in the R.A.F then in 1958 emigrated to New Zealand and served a similar time with the R.N.Z.A.F. In his chairmanship Donald has the wholehearted support of his five children and their children. Interests include Sports electronic timing especially show jumping, Rugby, Clan Matheson history and genealogy and latterly , internet.

In May 2001 a New Zealand party of seventy including many Crete veterans went to the 60th Remembrance Services on the Island of Crete where so

many New Zealand soldiers fought, were wounded or killed or were taken prisoner of war at the time of the German airborne invasion. A Matheson Tartan-edged message, in remembrance of the late Kenneth John Matheson, fellow Matheson/Mathiesons and all KIWI Soldiers was laid on the Memorial at Souda Bay.

We were delighted to have five New Zealand Clan members at the Prince Edward Island gathering, Douglas and Anne Matheson of Howick, Blair Matheson from Taupo and Graeme and Ellen Matheson from Christchurch. All voted the the Clan time together a real highlight and special mention was made of the "family" feeling which pervaded the most successful gathering.

As always we are most appreciative of the support and guidance of our Chief, Sir Fergus Matheson. Although distant by miles, yet we feel close Clan links through his many contacts with us. In all these activities, he is ably assisted by Lady Matheson. Thanks to you both. Congratulations that we know of follow but, to all our members, good wishes whether your name appears or not.

Ailsa Matheson

UNITED STATES

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E-mail: cmotstot@juno.com

Internet Adviser: J. Kurt Matheson

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Piper: Farquhar James Matheson 3941 Lomi Lomi Drive, Holiday, Florida 34691

Lt. Col. Leslie P. Matheson USAF(ret) 1 Caswell Circle, Mary Ester, FL. 32569

The shock and horror of the terrorist attacks September 11th this year on the twin towers of the World Trade Center in New York City and on the Pentagon just outside of Washington, DC with the concomitant threat of some future attack on the United States of America is, of course, at the forefront of all of our thoughts these days. The repercussions will be far reaching not just only in the airline and travel industries which suffered the immediate drastic economic consequences. Our freedom of movement and our basic constitutional guarantees will unfortunately have to be curtailed to some extent in order to combat further terrorist proliferation rampage.

I take this opportunity to thank all of our many friends worldwide who have expressed their horror in these despicable events and who have sent their well wishes for all of us here in the U.S.A. As Chief's Lt. Doug Matheson of New Zealand and his wife, Anne, so aptly put it in an e-mail to Gail and myself just after the occurrence: "We are staggered at the extent of the terrorist attack in New York and other places. Our sympathy and condolences from all Clan members in New Zealand to you, your family, Mathesons in the USA, and your great country all over. We think of you all, and pray God will comfort, and be near in these terrible days".

Now to Clan events. By far the most noteworthy

of the past year was the Clan Gathering held in Prince Edward Island, Canada this past July 20/22. The City of Charlottetown was the site for all of our functions except for the golf tournament held at Green Gables Golf Club some 30 miles away. The weather all three days could not have been better and even walking around the town in kilts was delightful. The first night - Friday, July 20th, the P.E.I. Clan put on a show which featured local talent and various society branches made presentations to the Chief and Lady Jean who were delighted with the U.S. Branch's gift of two silver julep cups with the Chief's Crest engraved on them and the "Clan Matheson Society/USA" engraved on the bottom. The second night - Saturday, July 21, after a day on the golf course or a bus tour of the island, we were fed a Bar-B-Que dinner followed by another show put on by the College of Piping and Performing Arts from P.E.I. On Sunday - July 22, after a wonderful Church Service at St. James Presbyterian Church presided over by the Rev. Dr. Gordon Matheson and a march from "the Kirk" through Charlottetown to a hotel close to the City Harbour we finished the Gathering off with a big Sunday dinner followed by a Clan Parliament. There the business portion of the Gathering was conducted successfully. Upon a round of applause for Myron Matheson (head of the P.E.I. Branch) and his committee (which included our own Hal

Mathieson) for sponsoring such a wonderful event the Parliament and Gathering was adjourned.

There were approximately 80 family members from the U.S. Branch out of a total of about 400 registered participants which made the Gathering the largest held to date. It was indeed gratifying to get this U.S. turn out and I particularly appreciated the support of my brother William John Matheson (who came with his wife, Petie, and daughter Sarah); my sisters, "Pinkie" Matheson Roe (who came with son, Alex) and Lida Matheson Stifel (who came with her husband Rick); and my son Colvin T. Matheson (who came with his bride of just over a year, Mary Ellen). In attendance from various corners of the U.S. who are also quite active members and correspondents in our Society and who deserve a note of thanks for all their efforts, were: Past Chief's Representative Lyman W. Matheson and wife, Phyllis, from Houston, TX whom I believe have never missed a Clan Gathering. Charles E. Matheson, Sr. with wife, Dorothy, from Elgin, Texas who presented the U.S. Society with a very important genealogical work which is now out of print; Robert W. "Bob" Matheson from Sierra Madre, CA who in one of his many e-mails this year wrote that he heard that a British stand-up comic had described the Scottish language as being "half English, and half alcohol"! Who would believe that?? Leslie P. Matheson, USAF (ret.) from Mary Esther, FL who again brought his bagpipes and played several times during the Gathering and with two other pipers led the parade through Charlottetown on the final day of the Gathering. Carolyn Matheson Loeffler from Gales Ferry, CT who came with her 18 month old daughter Lauren (who was the youngest attendant at the Gathering) Carolyn is Leslie Matheson's sister, Leslie and Carolyn's father, Leslie R. Matheson, age 73, who was the Chief's Representative to the U.S. Society from August 1984 to July 1988 sadly passed away just four days after the Gathering on July 26, 2001. (His wife passed away September 2000) This was not a very welcoming home coming for them and the Society extends its sincerest condolences to Carolyn and Leslie and other family members.

The Society's sincerest condolences are also extended to the family of Matheson "Matt" F. Green, age 76 of Janesville, WI who died suddenly on March 1, 2001. Although I never knew "Matt" he was my third cousin and I would like to extend condolences especially to his brother, David L. Green; his sister, Barbara G. Richards; and his two daughters, Barbara Roberts and Meredith O'Donnell, all of whom are Society members.

Once again, Alec Aakesson and his wife Ashley held fort at the Potomac Celtic Festival at Morven Park in Leesburg, VA and at the Virginia Scottish Games at Episcopal High School, Alexandria, VA. John Aakesson returned from England to help Alec keep our tent open at the Virginia Scottish Games but unfortunately this year our Clan Genealogist, Charles M. Otstot and his wife Florence were unable to give their usual assistance as Charlie was hospitalized during much of the summer. Charlie Otstot has for many years been a regular at the Virginia Scottish Games and was sorely missed. Even more important to the

Clan is that his illness has forced him to resign as Clan Genealogist and the Chief has appointed Don Scott of New Zealand to replace him. It is impossible to express our gratitude to Charlie for a tremendous job well done, he will be greatly missed. This leaves us with a gaping hole in our ability to service members in their genealogical searches as Charlie has also been our Branch Genealogist. Charlie and I are actively looking for someone with expertise in not only genealogical searches but also in the field of computers to help us fill this gap. Please contact one of us if you are that person.

The Clan Society heartily welcomes all those new members who have joined since October 2000. Sandra Ellis Fondren (Kennesaw, GA); Patrick Sean Matheson (Raleigh, NC); Joan Matheson Shaffer (Raleigh, NC); John Patrick Cooke, Jr. (Union City, NJ); Rachel Cooke Mills (Freeport, ME); Emily Cooke Nolan (Shepherdsville, KY); Mary Margaret McKerlich Cross (Carlisle, WY); Catherine Ellen Forbes Jones (Haslett, MI); Mabel Louise Loftus Burke (Georgetown, CT); James Russell Matheson (Jefferson, MA); Diane Marie Melvin (Boynton Beach, FL).
God Bless America.



Army Master Sergeant Brian A. Matheson of 4th Infantry Division, Fort Hood, Texas is the son of Charles E. Matheson, Sr. of Matheson Road, Elgin.

Each year with this newsletter a flyer goes out to the U.S. Branch members reminding the annual members to pay their dues and assessing the Life Members for a token \$ 5.00 to help defray the cost of mailing out the newsletter and any other correspondence over the year. The return from the "Life Members" has again been most gratifying. Thirty-four sent in contributions and ten of those made substantial donations. The Society wishes to thank all of them and especially Charles T. Matheson, Ruth Peebles, Don P. Matheson, Jean P. Guyton, Helen M. Hillard, Thomas K. Andison, Robert K. Matheison, John W. Matheson, Sheryl Williams and Lyman W. Matheson.

That is the "good news" the bad news is that our active membership list has fallen to 249 members (after 16 were dropped for non-payment of dues for 3 years or longer) and out of those 249 active members 38 as of September 21, 2001 still are not current. Please keep up with your DUES!

Malcolm Matheson, 111

CONGRATULATIONS TO...

UNITED KINGDOM

* Siana, daughter of Matilda and Martin Thompson (Chief's grand-daughter), awarded a Gold Medal for

AUSTRALIA

* Birthday good wishes to Sir Louis Matheson who will celebrate his 90th birthday on 11th February, 2002.

* Margaret Fleming, one of our members, who flew home

NEW ZEALAND

* Ian, son of Rod & Marjorie Matheson of Palmerston North, awarded the Queen's Service Medal in recognition of the important work he has carried out as an archivist for 30 years in preserving the nation's heritage.

* Anne (Matheson) & Jonathan Jonas on the birth of their daughter Molly Anne

* Shirley (Matheson) & Jim McKenzie on celebrating their Golden Wedding, December 2000.

* Wayne Matheson of Queenstown for his flying successes and as a member of the N.Z. 6 man wings team, winning the Forced Landing Competition in Taree, N.S.W., Australia.

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

UNITED STATES

* Mrs. Louise Matheson Bell of Seneca, SC for being named a "Fellow" of the National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors, her 22nd award for outstanding contributions to a multitude of institutions and organizations.

* Richard C. and Shawntelle Mathieson on the birth of their daughter, Ashlynn Marie, July 26, 2001.

* Gary Allen and Darleen Mathison on the birth of their son, Joshua Austin, 13 May 2000.

* Eric & Traies Johannessen on the birth of their son Nicholas Alexander on 10 September 2001 and to his grandparents Pinkie (Matheson) & Sandy Roe and to Malcolm & Mrs Matheson on their 25th grand-child.

* Ethel and John Armbruster on celebrating their 50th Wedding Anniversary.

winning the under 13 Great Britain National Discus Throwing Competition.

from the United Arab Emirates for the birth of her first grandchild a son born on 18th August 2001 to Natalie and Cam Walker.

excelling in a web site competition and at soccer.

* Elaine & Ray Rankin of Auckland, * Chris and Malcolm Murray of Wanaka, * Shirley and Jim McKenzie of Paraparaumu, * Douglas and Anne Matheson of Howick on celebrating their Golden Weddings.

* John and Monica Kidd of Papatoetoe on celebrating their Silver Wedding.

* Rod (the Piper) Matheson of Palmerston North and John Kidd of Papatoetoe for celebrating their 90th birthdays.

* Julia Matheson of Dunedin for winning a German Government Scholarship.

* Doctor Kathryn Sutherland for Graduating Ph. D from Massey University.

* Leigh Mathieson of Gibbston was involved in a London Wine Award.

* Lt. Col. Leslie P. Matheson on his appointment as a Piper to the U.S.A. Branch Clan Society.

* Lida Matheson Stifel on her hugely successful career as an artist. Her paintings are widely known in the Washington, DC to Vero Beach, FL area in the US.

* Heather Matheson, daughter of Gail and Malcolm Matheson, III, on her marriage to Michael Denslow Ryus.

* John Patrick Cooke, Jr. on his recent engagement to Kendra C. Ryan.

* J. Murdoch & Susie Matheson on the birth of their second child, Murdoch Jr., October 7 2001. John is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles T. Matheson. Murdoch Jr. is Charles & Bonnie Matheson's 10th grandchild and Mr. & Mrs. Malcolm Matheson, Jr's 26th great-grandchild!

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 Mathewsons 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

2002 January, England Sub-Branch dinner in London.

2004 Possibly a Gathering in Scotland

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