



AN CIREAN
CEANN CINNISH

Clan Matheson Society

Newsletter No 62 February 2008

Chief of the Clan:
Major Sir Fergus Matheson of Matheson,
Baronet of Lochalsh.

Convener:	Lieut-Colonel Alexander Matheson of Matheson, yr	
Treasurer:	William G. Craven	
Genealogist:	Athol Donald Scott,	e-mail : donaldscott@xtra.co.nz
DNA Project Administrator:	Alice Fairhurst	e-mail : mfairhurst@earthlink.net
Internet Adviser:	Miss Patricia Mathieson	e-mail : patricia.mathieson@clanmatheson.org
Editor:	The Chief of the Clan	e-mail : fergus.matheson@clanmatheson.org
Assistant Editor:	Mrs Margaret Williams	e-mail : margaret@croxton.f9.co.uk

THE CHIEF'S MESSAGE

After 15 years as your editor, I am glad to announce that Mrs Margaret Williams has kindly agreed to take over production of this annual newsletter and I wish her well. Margaret was for several years Honorary Secretary of the London Branch so is well versed in our ways. I am also most grateful to Will Craven, son in law of the last Chief for taking over as Clan Treasurer. He is already well acquainted with the Clan and has been a strong supporter for many years. Also, I wish to thank my grand-daughter Lucia Kendall who came to the rescue, providing technical support by which those photographs, not sent in on a CD as asked, have found their way to these pages.

Sadly, Don Scott our Clan Genealogist who kindly undertook to help out for a short time following the death of his predecessor Charles Matheson Otstot, has decided to retire next Spring. Fortunately he remained at his post for the next seven years during which he has been a source of help and encouragement to the many Clan members who have sought his advice. He will not entirely give up his interest in our Clan history as when called on he will continue to advise Mathesons living in New Zealand. I know I speak for many when I say how grateful we are for his contribution to our records. He has had a reputation for going to great lengths to help others and we wish him well. Another who gives so generously of her time to further Clan records is Mrs Alice Fairhurst. Throughout the year she has been adding to our Clan history from information gained from DNA. She and I are both grateful to Hugh Matheson, a known descendant of Colonel George Matheson of Shiness (c. 1626) for taking the DNA test and thus establishing the Shiness line to assist others to trace their background. Likewise Einar Matheson of Norway has established his Scottish descent thus providing a lead to many other Mathesons in Norway. We hope many more Mathesons will come forward to help by contacting Alice.

Members will have heard the sad news of the passing of the Very Reverend Dr James Matheson, a former Moderator of the Church of Scotland. An account of his life by his daughter follows.

Finally having in mind the need for more young members. I am passing on an apt remark made to me the other day. "The great joy in actively representing our Clan is reaching out to young Mathesons and introducing them to our Society. It's like fishing... you have to cast your line into the water so many times before you ever catch a fish. You never know when you'll catch one, but you DO know that you'll never catch one if your line's not in the water!" Please take note of those true words as we need many more members, young and old, to join the Clan Society. As a Highland Clan with a long history we have much to offer to our members. Best wishes for 2008.

Fergus Matheson of Matheson

2008 International Clan Matheson Gathering

Melbourne, Australia : 28 March to 3 April

Auckland and Queenstown : New Zealand 4 - 10 April

Wide publicity has been given to this spectacular event.

If you have not yet registered with the organisers you are urged to do so as soon as possible.

Australia www.mathesonclan.com.au<<http://www.mathesonclan.com.au/>>

New Zealand www.clanmatheson-nz.com<<http://www.clanmatheson-nz.com/>>

Interesting programmes await you in both countries with formal and informal events such as a Clan Parliament, genealogy forum, sumptuous Clan Dinners at special prices, coach excursions, sea trips and Church Services.

People come from all over the world to these International Gatherings and share their experiences wrestling with genealogy programs, finding relatives they didn't know they had as well as rejoicing in the common heritage we share as Mathesons. The website also has e-mail and addresses for contact.

GENEALOGY CORNER

By the beginning of April 2008 I shall have resigned as your Clan Matheson Genealogist. I took up the position in July 2002 when Charlie Otstot, the then incumbent, passed the baton on to me. It has been an interesting journey and I have met, mainly through email correspondence but some times by personal contact, many Matheson people. I have answered, or tried to answer, all queries over that period of time, and learned a lot myself in the process. The experience has been most enjoyable and rewarding.

I would encourage all Clan Matheson members to take an

interest in their family histories, do the necessary research and, most importantly, write it down in a coherent manner.

I personally think anyone who decides to compile their own family history (I prefer that term to "genealogy") should endeavour, as best they can, to make it a story worth reading, for there is a story there waiting to be revealed. Of that you can be certain. My best wishes go out to you all, and may 2008 be a kind and happy year for you.

Don Scott, Clan Genealogist

The Very Rev Dr James Gunn Matheson

by his daughter Lindsay Matheson

It is with sadness but also a deep sense of appreciation that we record the death of James Gunn Matheson in Edinburgh on 28th October 2007 at the age of 95. James Matheson was born in Halkirk, Caithness in 1912, the eldest son of ten children. He married Janet Clarkson, also a child of the manse, a very happy, complementary marriage which lasted 59 years. They had five children, Peter, Pat, Lindsay, Ellie and David, and there are nine grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

His father Norman was a minister, born on Skye, a son of the missionary at Glendale. A Gaelic speaker, a Free Presbyterian to begin with in Halkirk, he moved to The Free Church and was minister in Achiltibuie, and finally Beaulieu. James attended Edinburgh University where he gained Distinction in his MA, and played football and shinty for The Edinburgh University teams. He then went on to study for a BD for the Ministry at the Free Church College. His first parish was with the Free Church in Castletown, Caithness. After the War he joined the Church of Scotland.

The War was formative for his future ministry. Taken prisoner in the Western Desert, he spent over a year in a prison camp in northern Italy. He learnt the hard way that you could lose everything, yet preserve all that is important. He was one of the first to escape from the camp, and travelled by boat and foot by night down the coast, and met up with the Allies in southern Italy. He returned with an abiding hatred of war and a burning passion for social justice. The Iona Community, with its concerns to reach out beyond the conventional church life, and to weld together worship and daily life, inspired him. He exercised quite remarkable ministries of teaching, preaching, pastoral sensitivity and outreach, not least to young people, at Blackhall, Edinburgh, where Lindsay and Ellie were born and then in Dunedin, New Zealand in

1951. David was born there and the family lived almost ten happy years in NZ. Fifty years later, these ministries are still remembered, innumerable lives were transformed, horizons for thought and life extended.

In 1960 he was asked to return to Scotland to be Convenor of the Stewardship & Budget Committee which he understood not as an office-bound job, but travelled all round the country, meeting lay people especially, and giving them a quite new vision for the church's mission. At the age of 61 he moved to his final ministry at Portree, Isle of Skye, again a creative and innovative time. From Portree, he was called to be Moderator of the Church of Scotland in 1975 and they had a very busy year, travelling to Pakistan and New Zealand and all over Scotland itself. Another distinction was the award of a DD by University of Edinburgh.

The old family croft at Husabost, Totaig, Skye, had come into his hands in the early 60's. With his beloved wife Nettie he lived there for 18 years after retiring from Portree, creating a wonderful garden out of a wilderness.

He loved Skye, as he loved people, and in his robust, realistic, and profound faith loved God. Much of this love was expressed in singing and in poetry, which for him was so close to prayer and to the Bible with which he was so intimate.

He greatly enjoyed involvement with Clan Matheson, once etching "fac et spera" into the mortar of a hand-made fireplace he had built in the croft house! He was privileged to conduct a number of services on behalf of the Clan and even officiated at the wedding of one of the previous Chief's daughters. His theme in church often returned to the importance of the family in a Christian home. "What after all is a Clan if not a family?" he would ask.

CLAN DNA NEWS AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2007

Over the past two years, a group of Matheson men have put their hand in their pockets, then swabbed their cheeks to participate in the Matheson DNA project. Thus far, the results show that the Clan, incorporating Highland and Western Isles branches, does not spring from one single progenitor, but is built up of several distinct bloodlines, with no doubt more to be found.

Purposes of the project: To establish the genetic signatures of the Mathesons, to use this knowledge to assist in genealogical research, to help Mathesons see how and where they are interconnected, and to help clarify the history of the Mathesons. The Y-DNA test only examines the Y chromosome which is handed down from father to son and is not subject to the normal blending process which takes place on conception. Thus, as a Matheson male you carry genetic information on your Y chromosome only from your male Matheson ancestors. The small amount of changes which do occur over time in this section of DNA is used to determine how various ancestral lines have diverged. With 37 male tests completed, we have been able to settle a long-standing argument about the origin of Clan Matheson. Is it Norwegian Viking or is it Celtic Pict? The answer is yes to both. Our chiefly line in Lochalsh, Ross-shire is Viking and our chieftain line of Shiness in Lairg, Sutherlandshire is Pict. Clans Donald and MacLeod also show this blending of two cultures. We've also been able to disprove that both clans Matheson and MacKenzie descend from Coinneach (Kenneth) MacMhathain who fought against the King of

Norway in 1263, since Matheson and MacKenzie Y-DNA results do not match.

One of the most exciting results was when a Matheson from Norway was able to match a Matheson from Scotland. The Norwegian line left Scotland in the 1600's. Both men descend from an influential Scottish figure whose DNA signature is so prevalent in Scotland that it is called Scotland I. Testers from the Isle of Lewis show the ancient Isles DNA signature. The database needs to be as wide as possible in order for valid conclusions to be drawn. You can help establish the bloodlines of the clan by enrolling in the project. In your ancestral past, the clan has succoured and protected you, now it is time for you to give something back. You can find out who your distant ancestors were, and who you are genetically related to within the clan. You can provide this information as a gift to your descendants.

Do you have Viking, Pictish, Scotland I, or Isles ancestry? Here's your opportunity to find out. Testing is not expensive relative to the nature of the scientific work involved. 37 marker tests cost \$189, and 67 marker tests cost \$269 (US dollars).

To inquire about DNA testing, email, write, or call Alice M. Fairhurst, afairhurst@earthlink.net, 313 E. Hurst St., Covina, CA 91723, (626) 331-4791. To see results of the tests, go to <http://www.ftdna.com/public/Matheson>

Alice Fairhurst

Clan Matheson DNA Project Administrator

THE CLAN MATHESON WEB SITE

I'm glad to say that most people now seem aware of the International Clan website. It has links to all the country branches and details of what's going on. It continues to receive more "hits" every week and we had a clamour of dismay when it was down for a couple of weeks this November. It just goes to show how much people rely on it. We are adding more to it all the time and I'm always delighted to hear from people with items for inclusion. Virtually every Clan officer listed on the website has his or her own clanmatheson.org email address. However, please can branch lieutenants let me know at any time if existing officers' contact details change or if they appoint any new officers? Otherwise, the details will continue to be wrong on the website, which isn't very helpful to anyone!

We are slowly working towards co-ordinating the websites of all the different national branches. As I said last year, this is extremely important because there are more and more

websites claiming to contain "authentic" Matheson details, whereas in fact they are inaccurate or downright fraudulent. Some sell what they say are "authorised" Matheson products but, in fact, they have never had the Chief's approval. The England branch already sits alongside the International site (<http://www.clanmatheson.org/englandbranch.htm>).

I'd really like to hear from branch web managers so that we can work together and make sure that we have all the same links, at least. I'm also really keen to put photos from all over the world on the site.

I'm always delighted to receive news and photos for the website – even if I can't always process them straight away. Keep them coming! Do send me any ideas and hints for improving the site, too.

Patricia Mathieson
Clan Internet Adviser

PLEASE VISIT THE CLAN WEB SITE <www.clanmatheson.net>

NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

UNITED KINGDOM

Genealogist:	John Faid, 153 Shooters Hill Road, London, SE3 8KQ	e-mail: johnlfaid@hotmail.co.uk
Internet Adviser:	Miss Jennie Matheson	e-mail : jenniem@globalnet.co.uk
Pipers:	Lt. Colonel Alexander Matheson of Matheson, yr. Andrew Matheson Edmund Kendall	

SCOTLAND

The restored Sir James Matheson Monument in Stornoway has become something of a draw for wedding parties as seen in the above photograph; forgive the Macleod/MacDonald kilts though !

On the subject of Sir James Matheson, First & Last Baronet of the Lews, an excellent leaflet has recently been produced by Dr Ali Whiteford which explains James' attempts at exploiting the vast peatlands of Lewis and it wasn't a wind farm !, no an oil refinery.

Sir James returned from the Far East in 1846, bought Lewis and apart from building a fine Castle and surrounds sought to produce saleable lighting paraffin oil from peat. This was sold in Glasgow under the brand name 'Lignole'. Refining also produced pitch which was suitable for roofing

and as a coal substitute and finally candle wax. It is said that the paraffin wax candles used in the House of Commons in the 1860's were produced from Hebridean Peat Tar.

Dr Whiteford summarises 'The Story of the Lewis Chemical Works remains an important episode in the history of Lewis: more a tale of toil and strife, of success and failure, of monies lost and made, of the adventure of enterprise, but above all, of Man's quest for something new to improve himself and society that seems to drive the exploitation of natural resources.'

Anybody wanting a copy of the leaflet e-mail: tony.robson@which.net

Tony Robson
Chairman Stornoway Amenity Trust

ENGLAND

Convenor:	Lt. Colonel Alexander Matheson of Matheson, yr.	e-mail: afmatheson@gmail.com
Hon. Secretary:	Ron Lowry, Brae Cottage, Colchester Road, Coggeshall, Essex, CO6 1RP	
	tel. 01376 561662	e-mail: ron@rlowry.fsnet.co.uk
Hon Treasurer:	Malcolm Matheson, Little Ronpsets, Tompsets Bank, Forest Row, Sussex, RH18 5LN.	
	tel. 01342 824183	e-mail: Malcolm@matheson-ward.co.uk
Committee Members:	John Faid, Alan Harpham, Hazel Matheson, Tony Matheson.	

The year has passed us by so quickly and again it has been a year of consolidation for the England Branch of the world-wide Clan. The Committee has met, courtesy of the Convenor, in his offices in St James' Palace for useful discussions on our future.

Our Annual General Meeting was held in the offices of Jardine Lloyd Thompson in the city and elsewhere in this Newsletter there appears a photograph of the event. At the AGM we said farewell to two stalwart members of the Committee, namely Jennie Matheson and Patricia Mathieson both of whom had served for over a decade on the Committee. The Convenor expressed his grateful thanks to them both for their efforts.

At the same meeting we were pleased to welcome as new Committee Members, Hazel Matheson, Tony Matheson and Alan Harpham.

As in previous years concern has been felt about the need to promote the Branch and to attract new members. The Committee therefore instituted, and Tony Matheson master-minded, a comprehensive mail-shot to the public in the south of England who bore the name Matheson or Mathieson, using data from the 2004 Census.

Nearly 250 letters were sent out and those who replied were listed and followed up. This resulted in seven new members joining the Branch and interest being expressed by another 14. Unfortunately the largest percentage of those contacted did not bother to reply. The Committee is considering another similar mail-shot covering another part of England.

During the year it has been agreed that a room in Duncraig Castle would be set aside to house Clan Matheson

artefacts and transfer there has already started. Other material concerning the Clan is known to be held in several locations and strong efforts are in hand to assemble them together into a central archive.

The Branch Website is a very good tool and Patricia Mathieson is to be congratulated on its appearance. It is hoped that as many as possible will consult it for information and enjoyment. As many Members are interested in genealogy it is hoped to enlarge the web to cater for their interests.

In the event it was not possible to hold any social events this year, but members will be encouraged to meet up in London for our Annual General Meeting in July, which will probably be a combined river trip and AGM. Late in the year we hope to hold the postponed visit to Stratford upon Avon and we are also considering a battlefield trip to northern France.

Of course the big event in 2008 is the International

Gathering in Australia and New Zealand. A small number of members are definitely going from the UK and they are assured of a tremendous reception from our Hosts down under. It is not too late to join them!!

Looking forward another year, we have learned that there is to be a meeting of all Clans in Edinburgh on July 25th and 26th 2009. This will be a big affair and we intend that Clan Matheson will be properly represented. Details are scarce at present but all Members will be given more information as time goes by.

Finally it is with sadness that we record the death of the Very Reverend Doctor James G Matheson, formerly Moderator of the Church of Scotland, who many will recall preached to us at our Gathering Church Service in 1998. He passed away in October aged 95. With greetings to you all and best wishes for 2008.

Ron Lowry.

Hon. Secretary, England Branch.

AUSTRALIA

Chief's Lieutenant & President: Dr. A. Colin Matheson
e-mail: Colin.Matheson@csiro.au
Vice President: Brett Mathieson

Hon. Secretary & Genealogist: Roma Jorgenson

Hon. Treasurer: Lois Langford

Research Officer: Dianne Matheson,
Committee: Dr Colin Matheson, Brett Mathieson,

20 Nymagee Place, Fisher, ACT 2611
Tel: (02) 6288 1001.
67 Thomas Street, Hampton, Victoria. 3188
e-mail: mitchellmeade@yahoo.com
GPO Box 2587W, Melbourne 3001 Victoria.
e-mail: rjorgenson@bigpond.com Tel: (03) 9614 1021

36 Valley Parade, Glen Iris, Victoria. 3146
Tel: 03 9889 6547 e-mail : goodsir.matheson@bigpond.com
P.O. Box 85, Trafalgar, Victoria. 3824 Tel: (03) 56 331976
Gordon Marshall, (newsletter)

We have had a very active and exciting time of it this year, gearing up to jointly host the International Clan Gathering with the New Zealand Branch next March/April. We set up a subcommittee to plan the Australian leg of the gathering and this has been led very ably by Abigail Butler. This small team has worked very hard to put together a very attractive program, based in Melbourne. The first day (Friday 28 March) is mainly a registration day for people to meet one another, as well as payment time for those who have not already done so. This is to be followed by an informal dinner. Saturday (29 March) we aim to spend mostly at the Melbourne Immigration Museum, an extremely interesting place in its own right, even if we weren't holding events there (www.museumvictoria.com.au). We shall hold the Clan Parliament there in the afternoon followed by a Clan dinner at the famous Kooyong Tennis Club (famous from when Australia used to win the Davis Cup all the time!). Sunday we join the Scots Church for their service and later go to the Ringwood Highland Games where we shall have a tent set up. Monday and Tuesday there are to be interesting tours, to Gulf Station (a working colonial-era property) and a river cruise dinner to follow, among others..... Abigail and her team have put together an excellent program – all that remains is for Clansfolk to come to Melbourne and enjoy it. I won't mention at all the methods employed by Abigail's team to gain for us the best prices for the various venues. Following the tours, the Gathering is to move to New Zealand where I'm sure similar methods have also been used.

Now is the time, possibly a bit late already, for us to make sure that all our members are aware of the gathering and will come if they can. We should also try to get non-members to come as well. Having seen what a lovely group of friendly people we are, they may decide to join us. We are keen that the venues should be the right size for the number of people attending and so it is important that we get our estimates of numbers attending right. So far we have only one American and no Canadians who have told us they plan to come to

Melbourne.

Gordon Marshall has been doing a great job of editing and producing the Newsletter, for which we are very grateful. The Newsletter is the main way we communicate with our members and it has been very successful this year. The late May Matheson who edited the Newsletter in former days used to say that getting stories was really difficult and I'm sure Gordon has had the same experience.

The Australian Committee has all been working very hard. We need to thank Lois Langford for keeping us solvent and for looking after the finances for the gathering. Roma Jorgenson has also done a great job of Secretary and has also taken on the work of genealogist. I think it is true that we need to make some decisions as a Clan about what information we can reveal about members and their family trees. The whole purpose of the genealogy is to make linkages and so we need to be able to share information among members in appropriate circumstances.

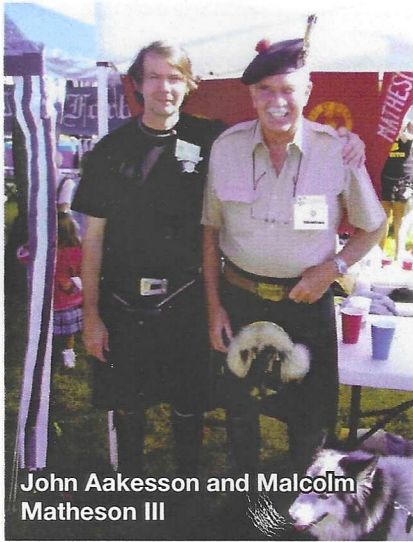
Robert Mathieson worked hard to produce some merchandise with the Clan Crest and this has been advertised in the Newsletter which can be seen on our website (www.mathesonclan.com.au). The merchandise has been very successful and some items will need to be re-ordered. I take this opportunity to thank other members of the outgoing Committee; Lance and Ella, Robert, Len Langford, Janet, Bruce and Marcia, Brett, and Margaret for their work during the year, particularly Lance and Ella who make the journey from Geelong even though Lance has not been well. Special thanks also to Margaret Fleming for her hospitality at the AGM on 25th November.

We owe a grateful vote of thanks to Abigail Butler and her team on the Gathering Subcommittee whose work on the 2008 Gathering has been wonderful. We are truly lucky to have someone of Abigail's ability to lead this activity. There is lots still to do!

Colin Matheson

Chief's Lieutenant, Australia

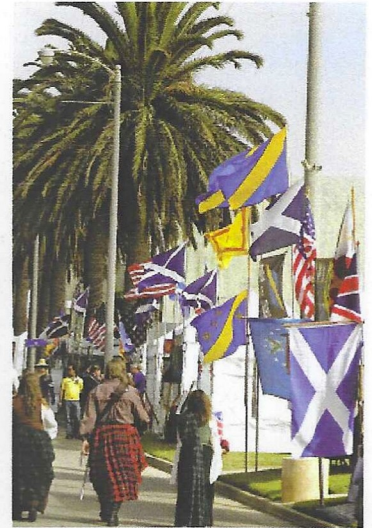
UNITED STATES



John Aakesson and Malcolm Matheson III



Malcolm Matheson IV and Highland bull "Forester"



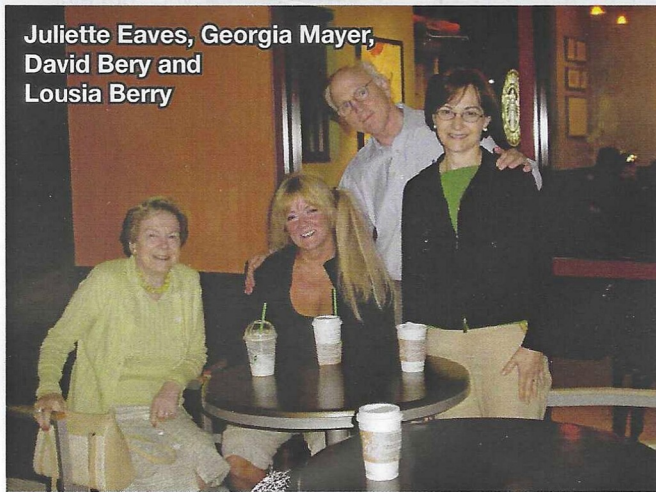
Seaside Games



Alice & Gordon



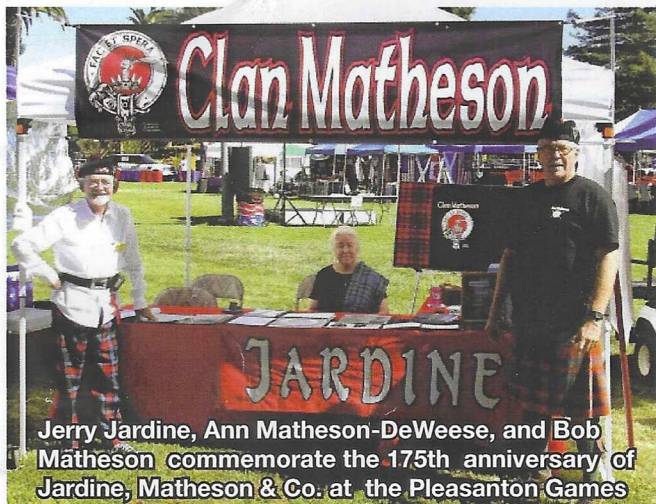
Steve Matheson, latest recruit for USA branch



Juliette Eaves, Georgia Mayer, David Bery and Lousia Berry



Alice Fairhurst and Bob Matheson unveil Clan Matheson banner at the Pomona Games

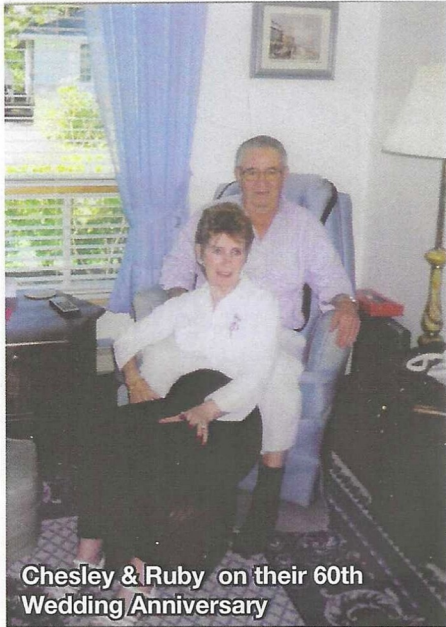


Jerry Jardine, Ann Matheson-DeWeese, and Bob Matheson commemorate the 175th anniversary of Jardine, Matheson & Co. at the Pleasanton Games



Garrick Matheson holding the Clan Matheson banner at the Seaside Games, his wife Christine, son Alec and daughter Maegan look on

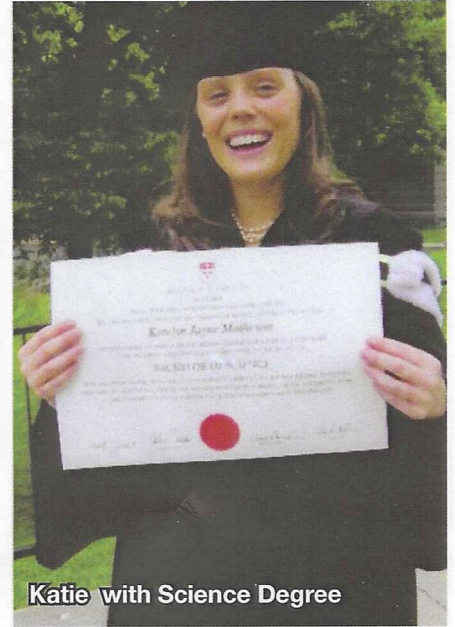
CANADA



Chesley & Ruby on their 60th
Wedding Anniversary



Jamie Connors, nine months old



Katie with Science Degree



Raffle winners Al Matheson and Janet Jardine



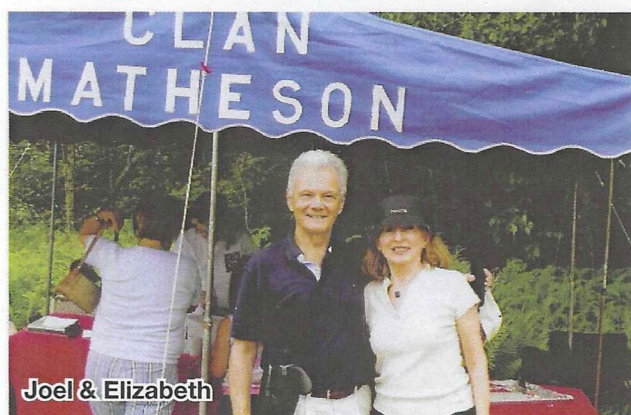
Mainland Branch Closing Dinner



Mainland Branch family picnic 26/08/2007



Mainland Branch Spring
Meeting



Joel & Elizabeth



Anne & Keith

CANADA

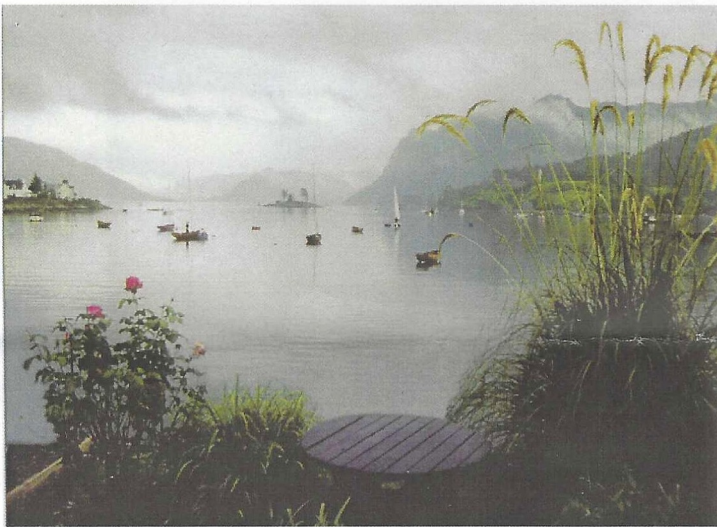


The Pipers Picnic Gathering, Earlstown



Debby, Betty, Donald, Anna and Ian on Donald & Anna's 50th wedding anniversary

UNITED KINGDOM



Loch Carron with Duncraig Castle just visible in the trees

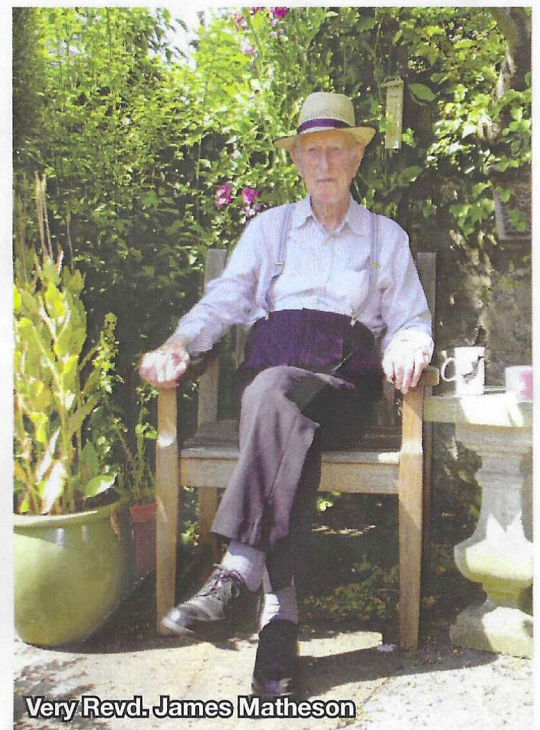
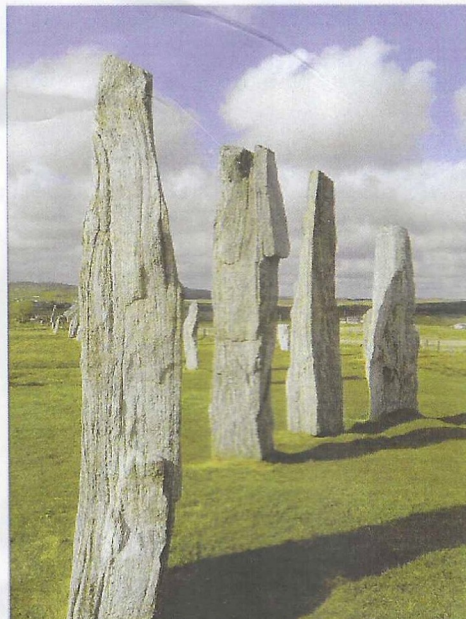


The memorial to Sir James Matheson, Stornoway, now used for weddings



Fiona Kendall leading Edmund on Rosir, Cottenham Point to Point 2007

Callanish Standing Stones, Isle of Lewis



Very Revd. James Matheson

UNITED KINGDOM



AGM, London 2007

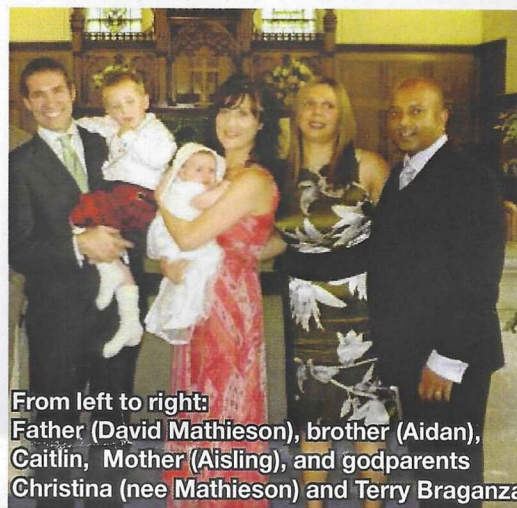
L to R Back: Malcolm, Ron Lowry, Tony, Hazel, Katie van der Werff, Fergus, Claudia vdW, John Faid
Middle : Margaret Williams, Patricia, Kate Lowry, Jennie
Front: Christine, Alexander



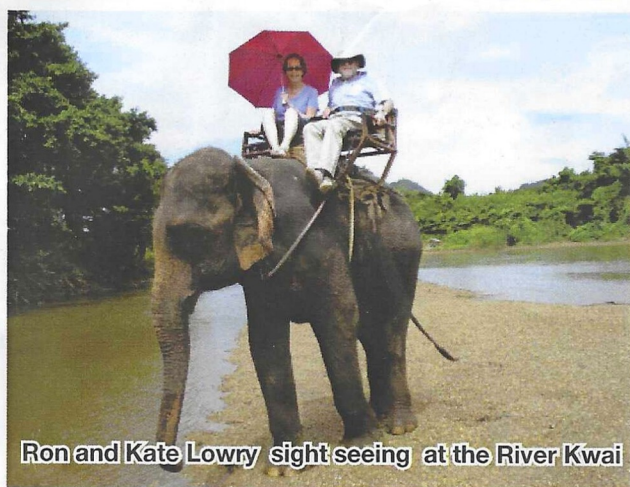
Skye Gathering, 2007: Alexander, Katharine, Archie, Louisa, Andrew



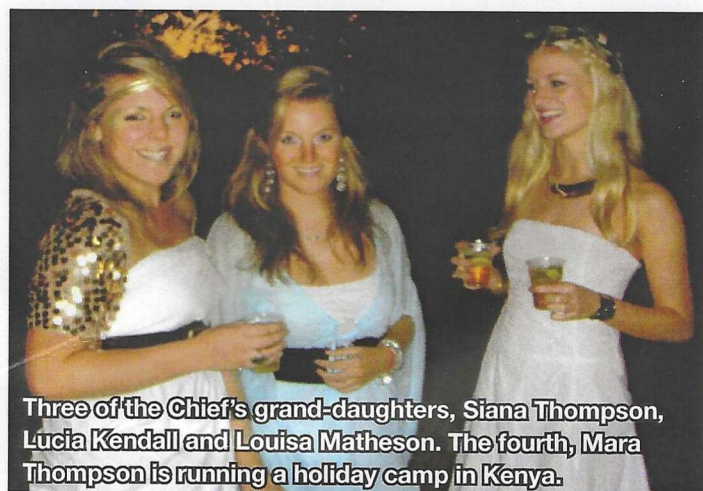
Kate Lowry at a tiger sanctuary, Thailand



From left to right:
Father (David Mathieson), brother (Aidan), Caitlin, Mother (Aisling), and godparents Christina (nee Mathieson) and Terry Braganza

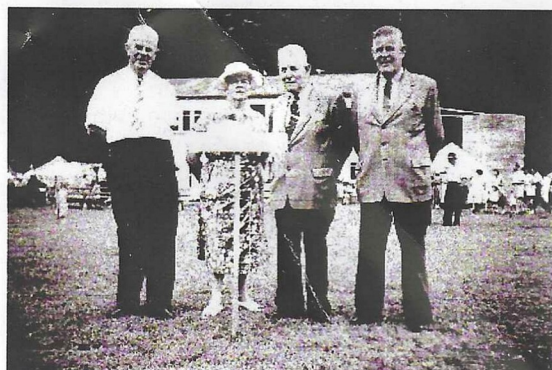


Ron and Kate Lowry sight seeing at the River Kwai

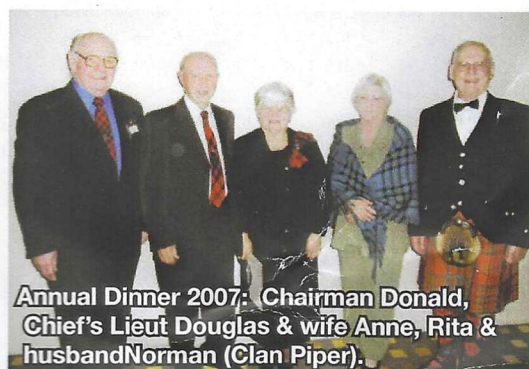


Three of the Chief's grand-daughters, Siana Thompson, Lucia Kendall and Louisa Matheson. The fourth, Mara Thompson is running a holiday camp in Kenya.

NEW ZEALAND



The 1959 reunion of the four children of Captain Duncan and Cordelia Matheson at Whangateau. They are Ian, Belle, Keith and Donald



Annual Dinner 2007: Chairman Donald, Chief's Lieut Douglas & wife Anne, Rita & husband Norman (Clan Piper).

CANADA

Chief's Lieutenant : Joel R. Matheson, Q.C. Unit 406-2 Lake Drive, Bedford, Nova Scotia, B4A 4H7.
e-mail: jmatheson@accesswave.ca
Deputy Chief's Lieutenant : Albert Matheson 88 Beaumont Drive, Lower Sackville, Nova Scotia, B4C 1V6
e-mail: al@familymatheson.com
Genealogist and Internet Adviser Glen Matheson. RR #1 Debert, N.S., B0M 1G0
e-mail: g.matheson@xplornet.com

I am pleased to report that Sir Fergus has agreed to my request that Al Matheson, President of the Mainland N.S. Branch, be appointed to the position of Deputy Chief's Lieutenant. Al has demonstrated excellent leadership in the running of the Mainland Branch, and involving it in many Branch functions and Scottish events throughout N.S. In addition, he has been of great support and assistance to me in carrying out my responsibilities. The Branch, as well, has provided our Canada Society with much needed financial donations. Al, in his new duties will be responsible for working with our other Branches in Cape Breton and P.E.I. to expand their membership and activities. To this end, we will be working together in 2008 to reach our objectives. It is our hope to have a combined Gathering of the 3 Branches at a central location. Hopefully it could be held later in 2008.

As you can see from the Mainland report, we had an active year in 2007. In addition, I was privileged to represent our Clan in some of the Provincial International Gathering of the Clans

events. These included the Lieutenant Governor's reception for Clan Chief's and representatives of Clans, the Mayor of Halifax's reception, and the Clan night at the International Tattoo. Some members who attended our Matheson Gathering here a few years ago may recall attending the Tattoo on Clan night that year. We had the largest turnout of any Clan! It is regarded as one of the largest Tattoo events in the world. Also, in March, Elizabeth and I had the privilege to visit with Gail and Malcolm Matheson III, Chief's Lieutenant, U.S.A., at their home in The Plaines, Virginia. Besides enjoying their wonderful Southern hospitality, it gave Malcolm and me the opportunity to exchange information on our respective Clan activities and explore new ideas of development. In closing, I extend to all of you my best wishes for health and happiness in 2008. Also to all in Australia and New Zealand, my best wishes for a wonderful Gathering.

Joel Matheson, Q.C.
Chief's Lieutenant, Canada

MAINLAND NOVA SCOTIA

President: Albert Matheson 88 Beaumont Drive, Lower Sackville, Nova Scotia, B4C 1V6
e-mail: al@familymatheson.com
Vice President: Glen Matheson RR#1 Debert, Nova Scotia, B0M 1G0
Internet Adviser & Genealogist e-mail: g.Matheson@xplornet.com
Hon. Secretary: Dyan Matheson RR#2 Oxford, Nova Scotia, B0M 1P0
e-mail: dyan_ed@yahoo.com
Hon. Treasurer: Patricia Matheson RR#1 Hopewell, Nova Scotia, B0K 1C0
Piper: Ms Kelly Putnam
Chaplain: The Reverend Doctor Glen Matheson

This Branch of the Clan had a very successful year, achieving many things as well as having fun and meeting old friends and making new ones. We started the years activities with a meeting in May at Ed and Edna (Matheson) Graham's house, with eighteen in attendance. The purpose of this gathering was to determine our summer schedule. As always, the meeting was followed with a delicious meal.

Our Clan was saddened with the death of three of its members, Royal and Robert Matheson and Verna Locke. Our sympathy and prayers go out to their families. We will miss them.

Beverly and I attended a Celtic Church Service at the Port Wallace United Church on 8 July. The service was the Ancient form of Celtic Christian Worship. All the readings and singing were first in Gaelic and then in English. A very moving worship service.

On August 4th we met in Earltown for our Annual General Meeting with thirteen in attendance. After the meeting we were off to the Clan tent at the Pipers Picnic. The weather was perfect and about 500 people attended, with a number of these visiting our Clan tent.

On August 18th I was off to New Glasgow and The Festival Of The Tartans, only to arrive at Tartan Field to pouring rain, which lasted all day. A very disappointing day for all concerned.

August 26th found us once again at Vaughn (Gab) and Donna's cottage at Shortt's Lake for our family picnic and auction. This is always a fun event. Our auction this year was of a different format, we only auctioned off fresh fruit and vegetables, home made jams, jellies, pickles and baked goods. This went over very well as we felt we have recycled our second-hand treasures often enough, so lets try something different. After the auction everyone took part in games followed with a potluck meal. Many thanks to Donna

and Gab for having us again. This was the twenty-first year of holding our family picnic at their cottage.

On the 29 of September Bertha, Eileen, Beverly and I (all Matheson's) attended the Federation of Scottish Clans in Nova Scotia, Highland Ball in Truro. Great music with all us amateurs up doing the Scottish Dances. A sight to behold! The evening was topped of with a wonderful meal, including haggis.

We held our closing gathering on 27th October at Hurricane Heidi's Cafe in Brookfield, where we enjoyed a delicious roast pork dinner. As this was the same day as our drawing of our raffle for the Quilt, we drew the winning ticket at the dinner. The lady who made the quilt, Carrie Matheson, drew the ticket and the winner of the quilt was Janet Jardine, from Lower Sackville. Beverly and I delivered the quilt that evening to a very surprised and happy lady. I once again want to thank Carrie Matheson for the donation of the beautiful quilt. I thank all those across the country who supported this venture. To those of us who came second, I am happy to announce that Carrie has donated another Quilt for our 2008 raffle.

A few more of our members have had their DNA checked through the DNA project, with pleasing results. We have linked up with many families and I would encourage all Matheson families to get involved with this project.

My sincere appreciation to all members who gave faithfully of their time and talents, thus making our Clan activities a success.

As the year 2007 comes to a close and as it will be 2008 when you receive this newsletter, it is this Branches hope that all Matheson's and their families had a wonderful Christmas and may you have good health and happiness in 2008.

Al Matheson
President, Nova Scotia

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

Chairman: Myron Matheson,

Vice Chairman: The Reverend Gordon Matheson,

Hon. Secretary: Gladys MacMillan,

Hon Treasurer: J. Claude Matheson,

Genealogist: Linda Harding,

General Delivery, Breadalbane, P.E.I., C0A 1E0

e-mail mmatheson@pei.sympatico.ca

PO Box 103, Charlottetown, P.E.I., C1A 7K2

48 Cedar Avenue, Charlottetown, PEI, C1A 6K4.

R.R. No. 3, St. Peter's Bay, PEI, C0A 2A0.

264 Mount Edward Road, Charlottetown, PEI, C1A 5T7

ONTARIO

In charge

Donald Matheson

drmatheson@webdesign-nb.com

NEW ZEALAND

Chief's Lieutenant: Douglas Matheson.

Chairman: Donald Matheson

Hon. Secretary: Mrs Ailsa Matheson

Hon. Treasurer : Gordon Matheson

Genealogist : Don Scott,

Internet Adviser : Wayne Matheson :

Piper : Norman Matheson

Committee :

33 Mellons Bay Road, Howick 1705, Auckland.

Tel: 09 534 9477: e-mail: [<djmath@xtra.co.nz>](mailto:djmath@xtra.co.nz)

23 Sunnyhaven Avenue, Beachhaven, 0626 Auckland.

Tel: 09 483 9147 e-mail: donaldm@slingshot.co.nz

H. Ross Village, T/H 158-30 Ruakura Road, Hamilton, 3216

Tel: 07 854 9566 : Fax: 07 854 9567

H. Ross Village, T/H 158-30 Ruakura Road, Hamilton, 3216

Tel: 07 854 9566 : Fax 07 854 9567

11 Tiri Road, Whangaparoa, Auckland,

Tel: & Fax: 09 424 1461: e-mail: donaldscott@xtra.co.nz

P.O.Box 1398, Queenstown : e-mail : w.matheson@clear.net.nz

10 Knox Road, Manurewa, Auckland.

Lois Ahlquist, Anne Matheson, Keith Matheson, Shirley Matheson,
Elaine Rankin, Joy Weeds, Fay Whittlome.

As always there is pleasure in writing of our New Zealand Clan year. The 200 families who belong are very supportive, especially with items for the bi-monthly Newsletters. Such a wide diversity of articles and photographs arrive from all over the country which makes for being Editor a pleasant task.

Behind the scenes, keeping track of the myriad Matheson/Mathieson families is Clan Genealogist Don Scott. he records all the family details and as well is actively involved in giving world wide help to those researching their ancestors. In return Don looks forward to receiving from you details of your family events so as to keep his records up to date. Very sincere thanks Don.

On 31st March it was a day of celebration and remembrance for over 100 Mathesons in the Paparimu District as they gathered in the local hall. All gave thanks and lovingly remembered their pioneer forebears.

One hundred and fifty years previously, in 1855, James and his sister Isabella left their Black Island home and family, for Australia. Three years later, James and Isabella's widowed father John plus his other two daughters Lillias and Annie, sailed for New Zealand. Joined by James and Isabella they all settled in the Clevedon district.

The family had published the "Paparimu Matheson Family Tree" and this story, with text and photographs of the pioneering forebears John, James, Isabella, Lillias and Annie was warmly read.

In September, 5 Mathesons attended the second all Clans Annual Dinner in Auckland. It was a very good evening and we were all entertained by the Royal New Zealand Navy Pipe band in splendid regalia. Norman Matheson, our Piper, was invited to respond to a toast, his subject being, "A Toast to the Country of our Development". This covered a great deal of the history of early Scots migration to New Zealand and the development of this country through their involvement. By coincidence the evening was the 150th anniversary of the founding great Matheson Jardine Company.

The Committee organising the 2008 Clan Matheson Gathering is working very hard on all facets involved in such an occasion. Over 600 letters and programmers have been sent out to Mathesons and Mathiesons listed in the New Zealand telephone directories. The response has been good but there is still time to get an application in to us to attend. Details may be obtained from any one of the New Zealand Clan Officers or from our recently set up website. www.clanmatheson-nz.com [<http://www.clanmatheson-nz.com>](http://www.clanmatheson-nz.com) this site is well worth a visit. More on this elsewhere in the Newsletter but sufficient to say Douglas Matheson and those working alongside him are excited at the thought of world wide Matheson's and Mathiesons being together in Australia and New Zealand.

The new Matheson Seat at Matheson Bay, Northland, was set in place during the year, also the commemorative plaque. Both are fitting and lasting memorials to the arrival 150 years ago of the Ship 'SPRAY', sailed by Captains Duncan and Angus Matheson from Nova Scotia. Visitors embarking on the visit to Waipu during the 2008 Gathering will see the Matheson Seat when visiting Matheson Bay.

Over the year we have warmly welcomed new members, many of whom have already made valued Clan contributions.

Newsletter reference to the wall plaque in the Matheson Knox Church, Dunedin named for the Very Reverend J G Matheson in affectionate remembrance of his ministry there 1961 - 1960. He was later Moderator of the Church of Scotland. We note with regret his passing on 28th October 2007 aged 95. The funeral took place in Portree, Isle of Skye.

Sincere thanks to Chief's Lieutenant Douglas Matheson, Chairman Donald Matheson, the Committee and all members who have so ably supported the New Zealand Clan in 2007.

**Ailsa Matheson,
Hon. Secretary, New Zealand**

UNITED STATES

Chief's Lieutenant: Malcolm Matheson III, The Tannery, P.O. Box 307, The Plains, Virginia, 20198
tel: (540) 687-6836 e-mail: clanmathsn@aol.com
Deputy Chief's Lt.: John T. G. Aakesson 7312 Leesville Blvd, Springfield, Virginia 22151
tel: (703) 256-4746 e-mail: [<pyrodingo@code-donkey.org>](mailto:pyrodingo@code-donkey.org)
Deputy Chief's Lt.: Robert W. Matheson 2030 Liliano Drive, Sierra Madre, California 91024
Tel. (626) 355-5505 Cell: (626) 221-7317
e-mail: Clan_Matheson@yahoo.com
Genealogist: Alice M. Fairhurst 313 E. Hurst St., Covina, California 91723
tel:(626) 331-479 e-mail: mfairhurst@earthlink.net
Internet Adviser: J. Kurt Matheson 220 Hadley Commons, Dr., Maulden, SC 29662
tel: (864) 288-5762 e-mail: kurtm2362@aol.com
Piper: Lt. Col. Leslie P. Matheson USAF (ret) 1 Caswell Circle, Mary Ester, FL. 32569

It was a fairly quiet year except for activity on West Coast by Deputy Chief's Lt. Robert Matheson and Branch Genealogist Alice Fairhurst. They attended six events in California and one in Arizona. John Aakesson Deputy Chief's Lt. (East Coast) had a very successful outing at Virginia Scottish Games at Sky Meadow Blue Ridge Mountains. These events are detailed in John's reports below.

The U. S. Branch welcomed 13 new members this year: Suzanne L. Halterman (Los Angeles, CA) , Lisa Halterman Le Compte (Fountain Valley, CA), John W. Matthews, III (Omaha, NE), Meredith Matheson Green O'Donnell (Houston, TX), William George Matheson, Jr. (Tollhouse, CA), Suzanne Handall (Fremont, CA), Donald Cameron Matheson (San Marcos, CA), Sally Michelle Mathison (Long Beach, CA), Duane Matthews (Capistrano Beach, CA), Robert E. Friend (Portsmouth, VA), Jr., Keith A. Mathison (Lake Mary, FL),

EAST COAST

We attended two festivals this year. The Virginia Scottish Games took place in Delaplane, Virginia and the Alexandria Scottish Heritage Fair at Fort Ward in Alexandria, Virginia. We passed on the Celtic Festival in Leesburg, Virginia and the Stone Mountain Games due to difficulties in co-ordinating with the organizers.

We saw Ashley, Alec and Myred in Atlanta Georgia as they came down from Chattanooga, Tennessee. We returned to Virginia from Georgia by way of Spartanburg, South Carolina where we saw my cousins Juliet Eves with Louisa and

WEST COAST

We were off to a great start in 2007, our first year of participating in a number of Scottish Highland Games and Festivals in California and Arizona. In May, the clan tent made its debut at the United Scottish Society's Pomona Highland Games. Joined by Clan Genetic Genealogist Alice Fairhurst and Gordon Matheson, we greeted Mathesons visiting from as far away as Nova Scotia as well as local Clan Society member Sage Guyton. In June, Alice and Gordon participated in the Vista Highland Games in the San Diego area, ably assisted by Don and Carol Matheson, and Sally and Bret Mathison. In August, we were one of the first Clans to participate in the Kern County Celtic Society's William Wallace Day in Bakersfield. This Celtic music festival was well attended by younger fans of the various celtic rock bands. In September, we were at the "grand daddy" of West Coast Games, the 142nd Annual Scottish Highland Games of the Caledonian Club of San Francisco. We commemorated the past by combining our tent with Clan Jardine on the 175th anniversary of Jardine, Matheson & Co. Yes, Jardine-

Laurence Clifford Vance (Tucson, AZ), and Joshua Mathieson (Phoenix, AZ).

Our sincerest condolences are extended to the families of - Col. Raymond T. Matheson (Colorado Springs, CO), John E. Matheson (Corona, CA), Mary W. Padden (Seattle, WA), Elizabeth Megaw (Alhambra, CA) and Donald Gordon Matheson (Glendora, CA).

The Society extends its congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Christopher Jacobs on the birth of son Christopher Tate Jacobs, Jr. (Bethesda, MD); to Mr. and Mrs. Kurt Matheson (Wake Forest, NC) on the birth of son Ryan Alexander Matheson; and to Robert Matheson (Sierra Madre, CA) on his retirement from the U.S. Department of Defense.

Malcolm Matheson, III
Chief's Lieutenant, United States

Louisa's husband David Berry. I hadn't seen the family since TC Duncan Eaves passing in the 1980's. David and I made a plan to attend Grandfather Games in North Carolina. We have Mathesons on Grandfather Mountain and have been invited to attend with them in recent years. It was my wish to walk in the Alexandria Christmas Parade as a Matheson but I came down with the flu and was not able to attend.

John T. G. Aakesson
Deputy Chief's Lieutenant

Matheson were back together again!! This unique pairing was enjoyed by all and made possible by assistance from Ann Matheson-Deweese and Jerry Jardine. In October, we enjoyed a great turnout of local Mathesons at the Seaside Highland Games in Ventura. Garrick Matheson and his family, Greg Matheson and his cousin Russell Matheson, all came by. Greg gained national notoriety as the DNA expert that testified at the O.J. Simpson trial. In November, Alice and Gordon headed to Arizona for the Tucson Games where they were assisted by Mac C. Matheson and others. The year ended with Alice joining me at Aliso Viejo in Orange County for the Orange Celtic Christmas Festival and Games. Some expenses incurred were offset with the sale of very popular Clan Matheson T-shirts and tote bags. Anyone interested in those items may contact me at:
clan_matheson@yahoo.com.

Robert W. Matheson
Deputy Chief's Lieutenant

CONGRATULATIONS TO

UNITED KINGDOM

- * Margaret Ann MacKenzie and Michael Matheson who were married at Eilean Donnan Castle on 31 March 2006. Margaret Ann is the daughter of Ian and Morag (Matheson) MacKenzie of Duirinish, and great grand-daughter of Donald Matheson of Duirinish.
- * Leah, daughter of Malcolm and Hazel Matheson who graduated from Leeds University in Business and Management.
- * Lynn Mathieson, one of our new members, on being awarded the M.B.E.

CANADA

- * Chesley and Ruby Matheson of Bridgewater, NS, who celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on 24 October 2007.
- * Vaughan (Gab) and Donna Matheson of Brookfield, NS, who celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary on 9 September 2007.
- * Doug and Ena Matheson of Falmouth, NS, who celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary on 1 October 2007.
- * Darren and Kristina (Matheson) Connors on the adoption of their daughter Jaimee, grand daughter of Doug and Ena Matheson.
- * Katie Matheson on receiving her Science Degree in Biology, from McGill University. Katie is the daughter of Alice and the late Ken Matheson.

NEW ZEALAND

- * Joy and Arthur Weeds of Howick on the occasion of their 60th wedding anniversary.
- * Julia Matheson, on becoming an Otago University Rhodes Scholar and planning on a D Phil in Surgery in 2008. (John Matheson, Dunedin Orthopedic surgeon, Julia's father was also a Rhodes Scholar).
- * Alex Matheson of Inglewood on his appointment as Deputy Mayor of New Plymouth District Council.
- * Logan Matheson, son of Roger and Bronwyn of Henderson on graduating from Christchurch Polytechnic Institute of Technology.
- * Dr Trevor Matheson on his appointment as New Zealand's Ambassador to Saudi Arabia, based in Riyadh, and non resident Ambassador to the Gulf Co-operation Council States of the United Arab Emirates of Oman, Bahrain, Qatar and Kuwait.
- * Logan Bruce Matheson of Whangarei on graduating from the Police College in August 2007 and marrying Larissa Benjamin in St Andrews Church also in August 2007.
His Grandmother, Clan Member Lily Matheson was married * in the same church in 1939.

U.S.A.

- * Mr. and Mrs. Christopher Jacobs on the birth of son Christopher Tate Jacobs, Jr. (Bethesda, MD).
- * Mr. and Mrs. Kurt Matheson (Wake Forest, NC) on the birth of son Ryan Alexander Matheson.
- * Robert Matheson (Sierra Madre, CA) on his retirement from the U.S. Department of Defence.
- * Mrs. Lida Matheson Stifel and her husband, Rick Stifel, on the birth of their 2nd grandchild.

2009 INTERNATIONAL GATHERING OF THE CLANS

HOLYROOD PARK, EDINBURGH 25TH & 26TH JULY 2009

A CELEBRATION OF THE CONTRIBUTION MADE BY THE CLANS TO THE CULTURE AND HISTORY OF SCOTLAND

The Scottish Executive has chosen 2009 as the Year of the Homecoming. This initiative is directed worldwide at all those with an affinity to Scotland. There can be no greater affinity than that of the Clan member, and a major International Clan Gathering is being planned to support this exciting initiative.

The Gathering will take the form of a major Highland Games, but with the addition of a special Clan Ceremony, designed by the producers of the Edinburgh Tattoo. This will be held on the magnificent Castle Esplanade and will commemorate the contribution made by the Clans to the culture and history of Scotland.

The Gathering is being hosted by the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs, and it is hoped that all Clan associations will attend.

This year will be dedicated to planning and creating awareness for the event, and more importantly, developing special Gathering tour packages, which will be made available in 2008.

The Gathering 2009 Ltd has opened offices in Edinburgh, and is in the early stages of planning and designing the event. A dedicated website will be operating by the end of May, but initial contact can be made by email to:

Lucy-Rose@thegathering2009.com.

***Lord Sempill
Director of the Gathering 2009***

IF UNDELIVERED PLEASE RETURN TO THE APPROPRIATE ADDRESS BELOW

Scotland	The Old Rectory, Hedenham, Norfolk, NR35 2LD
England	Brae Cottage, Colchester Road, Coggeshall, Essex, CO6 1RP
Australia.	GPO Box 2587W, Melbourne 3001 Victoria.
Canada.	88 Beaumont Drive, Lower Sackville, Nova Scotia, B4C 1V6
New Zealand.	H. Ross Village, T/H 158-30 Ruakura Road, Hamilton
U.S.A.	The Tannery, PO Box 307, The Plains, Virginia, 20198