

The Clan Matheson Society



Newsletter 2010



Clan M Society of Nova Scotia AGM Glengarry



Isabel Matheson and Joel on her 104th birthday



Closing Dinner Nova Scotia Branch



Joel, Beverly & Al Matheson at Halifax Highland Games



Ed Graham's 80th birthday



Sam & Margaret Matheson, Lethbridge Alberta with their quilt



Gab and Donna with thank-you gifts



Lady Matheson, Merle & Ross listen to the piper, Melbourne



Robert Mathieson, Gordon Marshall and Lois Langford, Flagstaff Gardens, Melbourne

THE CHIEF'S MESSAGE

Anyone visiting Scotland this year may have been fortunate enough to visit the Coming Home Gathering in Holyrood Park, Edinburgh. It began with a Clan Convention in the new Scottish Parliament building, attended by Clan Chiefs. Then followed two days of meeting, piping and dancing by upwards of 50,000. Whisky firms were a draw, drams were exchanged and goodwill abounded. Despite the presence of a number of kilted warriors there were no reports of swords being drawn and old Clan feuds settled. For many the highlight was the march of the Clans, supported by several Pipe Bands, from the Palace of Holyrood, along the Royal Mile to the Castle. It seemed the whole population of Edinburgh turned out to watch and cheer us on.

Later, after a gap of a year or two I was glad to be back in Lochalsh for a brief visit and to call in at Ardross on the way, both being likely venues for a Gathering should we hold one in 2012, a date which is being considered. Whilst there, the sun shone, the lochs and hills looked wonderful and the midge count was nil.

During the year I was grateful to get news from several Clan members about various activities around the world. The Clan continues to prosper providing among other things opportunities of friendship. Thanks to all those of you who give so much of your time to make the events and meetings possible.

The Afgan war is no doubt in the minds of many as I think the Armed Forces of all our member countries are involved. I don't know of any Mathesons serving in Afganistan but if there are, please let me know.

I send best wishes for 2010, good health and prosperity to all members of our Clan

Fergus Matheson of Matheson

GENEALOGY CORNER

The International Gathering in Edinburgh was undoubtedly the high point of the year. The genealogy team benefited from the enthusiasm and imagination of Abigail Butler, and from the Clan Matheson Society's Australian branch who helped with displays and visitors queries. Visitors came to our tent from all the society regions as well as from Norway, where numerous Mathesons now live following a Matheson landing in the 17th century.

The most rewarding aspect here was the research prompted, and information gained, by visitors' queries, especially on Mathesons in parishes such as Kildonan, Rogart and Dornoch, outside the principal areas of interest in Lochalsh and Shinness.

A happy feature of the Gathering was sharing our Clan tent with Clan Macrae, historically near neighbours of the Mathesons of Lochalsh. Visitors showed great interest in the shared history of the two clans, which included the shared constablenesship of Eilean Donnan Castle. We can take pride in the historic courage and steadfastness of both clans. As followers and allies of the Mackenzies, Macraes and Mathesons fought together in the ill-fated Rising of 1719, which saw the destruction of Eilean Donnan Castle by naval cannon.

It is also timely to note that the early medieval origins of both Macraes and Mathesons are under close scrutiny as part of the burgeoning DNA study, as explained in Alice's article. The clan genealogist's role here as historian is in establishing or confirming the conventional paper and archaeological trail essential for putting any DNA findings into an historical context. Irish and Scottish historians have demolished much of the traditional historic framework from early genealogies, including the existence of the three Collas, a unified Dalriadan settlement in 500, and a continuous and successful Dalriadan monarchy. Nevertheless, in the well known Advocates Library MS of 1467, with pedigrees of many northern and western clans, we can follow a clear trail of Matheson chiefs from 1400 back to Gilleoin of the Aird, who flourished in the 12th century.

Tomb markings have demonstrated the historical existence of Cormac mac Airbertach, four generations above Gilleoin in the Matheson tree, as well as Cormac's ancestry of the Macmillans, Mackinnons and Macquarries. The territories of these clans were at the heart of the ancient lands of the house of Loairn, and were probably settled well before the Dalriadan landing in AD 500.



AN CIREAN
CEANN CINNISH

THE CLAN MATHESON SOCIETY

Chief of the Clan:

Major Sir Fergus Matheson of Matheson
Baronet of Lochalsh

Convenor:

Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Matheson
of Matheson yr

Treasurer:

Malcolm Matheson

Genealogist:

John Faid
johnlfaid@hotmail.co.uk

DNA Project Administrator:

Alice Fairhurst
alicefairhurst@gmail.com

Internet Advisor:

Stuart Matheson

Newsletter Editor:

Margaret Williams
margaret@croxton.f9.co.uk

Cover Photos

Sarah Matheson
with her Celtic Harp

The Clan Matheson march up the
Royal Mile Edinburgh

The Chief outside the Clan
tent at the Gathering

The Clan March
Salt Lake City Games

The names between Gilleoin and Cormac in the Matheson tree have however not seemed persuasive, and, as Gilleoin lived in the north, a link between Gilleoin and Cormac has seemed less likely. And the Aird and Moray was also an area that had seen Viking dominance over many years. DNA findings could yet spring a surprise.

John Faid

johnlfaid@hotmail.co.uk
Clan Genealogist

NEW ZEALAND

Chief's Lieut	Douglas Matheson No 7 Centre Court Sunnyhills Manukau 2010 Auckland New Zealand Tel: 09 576 1183 Email: djmath@xtra.co.nz
Chairman	Donald Matheson 23 Sunnyhaven Ave Beachhaven Auckland 0626 Tel: 09 483 9147 Email: donaldrm@slingshot.co.nz
Secretary	Keith Matheson 1696 Ararimu Road RD3 Papakura Auckland Tel: 09 292 5896 Email : keith.shirley.matheson@xtra.co.nz
Treasurer	Graeme Matheson Sowerby Heights aparimu RD3 Papakura Tel: 09 292 5821 Email: grarobin@farmside.co.nz
Committee	Shirley Matheson, Anne Matheson, Lois Ahlquist, Chris Binns, Joan Harbour, Joy Weeds
Genealogist	Don Scott 11 Tiri Road Whangaparaoa Auckland Tel: 09 4241461 Email: donaldscott@xtra.co.nz
Piper	Norman Matheson Tel: 09 2669408
Editor:	Donald Matheson (see above)

Greetings from New Zealand. Our branch is in the middle of the 20th anniversary year of our formation. At July's Annual General Meeting we will be celebrating our 21st birthday. Make a note to be with us as we intend to make a day of it, and keep an eye open for details to follow in our newsletter. The year has passed quietly although sadly we have lost a few members through illness. Our thoughts also go out to the families and friends of those who have died. But we have gained new members and they are truly welcomed into the fold. Our numbers still fluctuate around 180-200 families and more when family members are taken into account. Our annual February Picnic was a washout through bad weather. The few who attended managed to enjoy some sunshine and time together at Long Bay Park. This year we hope the weather will be kinder for our picnic on Sunday 21 February. An enjoyable Clan Luncheon was held last November and 46 members attended the get together. Clan Members Melanie Hayr and Joan Harbour entertained us with a slide show of their visit to the July Gathering in Edinburgh and their later travels through Scotland. Also, as members of the Auckland Scottish Clans Association, several members attended activities such as the Burns Night Dinner and Tartan Day. During the year we received news from Alice Fairhurst, DNA coordinator that three of our committee members were related; Chairman Donald Matheson, Secretary Keith Matheson and Treasurer Graeme Matheson. We believe this unique coincidence is hard to beat. Several members have taken the DNA test and it is hoped that many more will do so.

We look forward to a visit from UK Secretary Ron and Kate Lowry in February. They are visiting down under and hope to meet up with a good few Mathesons. Ron and Kate have been out this way before and enjoyed a get together with members at Chief's Lieutenant Douglas and Anne Matheson's home. Our bi-monthly newsletter has now reached No 100; started by Ailsa Matheson and continued by Donald Matheson, it keeps members up to date with Clan events and news and has been described as the 'glue that keeps us together'. News items from members are always welcome. Keep them coming! Don Scott, Clan genealogist, continues his work for us and welcomes enquiries from members. He has a large Matheson data base and a call to him could prove very informative. Sadly Don's wife Rae passed away after a long illness last year and our sympathies go to him. Our thanks to Norman Matheson our Clan Piper for providing us with nostalgic memories and thoughts of Scotland. The skirl o' the pipes is always a great reminder of our roots.

Donald Matheson
Chairman

AUSTRALIA

President:	Colin Matheson E-mail: Colin.Matheson@csiro.au
Vice President:	Robert Mathieson
Secretary:	Avis Matheson
Treasurer:	Brett Mathieson
Genealogist:	Roma Jorgenson E-mail: rjorgenson@bigpond.com
Research Officer:	Dianne Matheson
Committee:	Robert Mathieson, Margaret Fleming, Chris Matheson, Mary Molan, Roma Jorgenson

During 2009 we had a number of challenges; we were unable to elect a Secretary at last year's AGM, and we had to find a new Editor for the Newsletter. After a couple of false starts, we were able to co-opt Avis Matheson from Beerwah in Queensland who agreed to be Secretary. She could not attend Committee meetings in person, as these are held in Victoria, and so we must thank both Mary Molan for taking notes at meetings as well as Avis.

We were also fortunate that Chris Mathieson has volunteered to become Editor of the Australian Newsletter and Australian members should have received his first edition. He will, I am sure, welcome stories about almost anything from members. In fact, the success of the Newsletter depends on us all – not just items from me, or him, but every one of us. Chris himself featured in a recent edition in a story written by his proud father, Rob, when he won a prize as the Nunawading (Melbourne) Toyota car salesman of the year and so he clearly has several talents.

At our picnic in February at Flagstaff Gardens, near the centre of Melbourne, we enjoyed some fine piping from our Clan Piper, Warren Matheson. There is a new merchandise page on our Australian website (www.mathesonclan.com.au) that lists all the latest gear with members' and non

members' prices. These were organised by Rob Mathieson and represent excellent and unique value with the Clan Crest proudly embroidered on the front of the clothing items. I bought a brass Clan Crest that now hangs proudly at the entrance of our house. Both brass and resin crests were organised through Bob Matheson, the Deputy Chief's Lieutenant for Western USA.

We also agreed Brett Mathieson's suggestion, that as a Clan Society we could list all Mathesons (and Mathiesons etc) from the lists of ship manifests that are available and attempt to trace for a generation or two what happened to the descendants of these pioneers. We could publicise these through the Newsletter for descendants to see if their ancestors fitted any of the pioneer listings. Eventually we will have a picture of how our clan found our way around the enormous country of Australia. It might be possible to link these up to Scotland. We have yet to work out the details, but I think it is a good idea.

Many thanks to our Vice-President, Rob, who attended the Ringwood Games (Victoria) in April on our behalf. These Gatherings are always great fun and we participate in as many as we can around Australia. The mini Clan Gathering in Brisbane (Queensland) planned for 12 September did not eventually take place for a variety of reasons. Nevertheless, I hope to attend future mini-Gatherings in Brisbane or wherever in Australia they may be held.

Mary and I were privileged to be able to attend the Gathering of the Clans in Edinburgh at the end of July and met Margaret Fleming (from Melbourne) there, Ian Matheson and his family from Sydney (NSW), Steve Matheson and his family from Canberra (ACT) as well as Abigail Butler formerly from Melbourne. You will remember that Abigail was the organiser of our Melbourne International Clan Matheson Gathering last year. She moved to the UK shortly after our Gathering and has been busy with UK Clan doings. Abigail organised a very enjoyable Clan Matheson Dinner just before the Edinburgh Gathering, which was attended by the Chief, Sir Fergus, his son Alexander and his wife, Katharine as well as many other Mathesons.

The Edinburgh Gathering was memorable with an eclectic mixture of pipe bands, throwing the hammer, Loyal Men (actually wearing the Jacobite white cockade in their bonnets), whisky tasting, wild celtic drumming and piping, refined interviews with authors including Alexander McCall Smith, haggis pasties and spectacular views of Arthur's Seat and Holyrood Palace. One particularly moving event was the presentation of memorabilia by a Maori group to the Farquharson Clan Chief. The memorabilia belonged to a deceased Farquharson who had been married to a Maori in New Zealand and who had wanted to pass valuable items back to his Clan in Scotland. The contrast involving the two ancient but still living cultures from opposite ends of the earth was fascinating.

The highlight of the Gathering was the march by the Clans up the Royal Mile from Holyrood Palace to the Esplanade in front of Edinburgh Castle. We walked ('marched' would be too organised an activity for what we did) in separate Clan groups in alphabetical order preceded by a standard bearer with the Clan name and with pipe bands at inter-

vals in the procession. In our case, we had our Australian banner, familiar to many of you, with an Australian flag attached, as well as the Chief's banner borne proudly aloft. There was an enormous crowd lining the route with many well-lubricated individuals shouting their support for their favourite clan, including ours. In the Castle Esplanade we were treated to an especially-written performance called 'Aisling's Children' outlining Scottish history and the events surrounding the Scottish diaspora of which we in Australia are a part.

Recently we distributed the Clan Certificate to members. The final few will be available when they are printed. Many thanks to Brett Mathieson whose idea it was and who had much input, as well as Margaret Fleming whose excellent calligraphy added to it. We have had very favourable feedback from members and we hope to be able to offer the Certificate as a benefit for members on joining. A draft version of the Certificate is available for viewing on our website. It would be a simple matter to modify the Certificate to suit Branches in other countries – please contact us if interested. Enclosed with the Certificate was an application for the Family Tree DNA project.

Our Clan is very much a part of this project which has given several of us some surprises. My own Matheson lineage, which I had thought was probably Viking like the Chief's, since my earliest known ancestor came from the Isle of Skye, turned out to be Celtic Pict. This lineage came through Colonel George Matheson of the Shiness Mathesons who lived in the 17th century in the far north of Scotland. I have already offered elsewhere to fund three Y-chromosome DNA analyses for Australian Matheson families from Skye. Two other Australian Mathieson families from Skye have very interesting lineages; one is a Scot (i.e. ultimately from Ireland) and the other has MacDonald lineage. There must be implications for the nature of the whole Matheson Clan in these results.

It is probably true that many of us were not curious about our place in the world, where we came from and where our heritage until our children began to grow up and we looked differently on our own parents and grandparents. The Clan Society exists in Australia to provide some sort of framework for those of us with similar heritage so we can find out more about it. Keeping contact with each other is hard in a country as large as Australia so we plan to update ourselves with a new Facebook page as well as our website (www.mathesonclan.com.au). We value our contacts with Branches in other parts of the world and welcome copies of the Chief's Newsletter and the New Zealand Newsletter which help us stay in touch with friends and fellow clansfolk elsewhere.

At our Annual General Meeting in late November, we elected a new Committee – mostly the same as the old one with myself as President, Robert Mathieson as Vice-President, Brett Mathieson as Treasurer, Avis Matheson as Secretary, and Committee members Margaret Fleming, Roma Jorgenson (Genealogist), Chris Mathieson (Newsletter Editor) and Mary Molan.

*Colin Matheson
Chief's Lieutenant for Australia*

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
East Coast: 7312 Leesville Blvd
Springfield, Virginia 22151
Tel. (703) 256-4746
E-mail: pyrodingo@code-donkey.org
- Deputy Chief's Lt. Robert W. Matheson
West Coast: 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 Street
Covina, California 91723
Tel. (626) 331-4791
E-mail: mfairhurst @earthlink.net
- Piper: Lt. Col. Leslie P. Matheson USAF (ret.)
31 Emory Street
Mary Ester, FL 32569
Tel. (850) 243-2879
E-mail: matheson31@cox.net

West Coast Deputy Chief's Lieutenant Robert "Bob" Matheson and Branch Genealogist (and DNA Project Leader) Alice Fairhurst have once again outdone themselves and led the Clan Society to an outstanding active year - BRAVO! Their gigantic efforts are reported elsewhere in the newsletter.

East Coast Deputy Chief's Lieutenant John T. G. Aakesson kept the Clan Matheson tent open this past September for two days at Great Meadows in The Plains, VA - a completely new venue for these games. Because Great Meadows is in your Chief's Lieutenant's home town, he and his wife and son (Malcolm IV) were able to attend both days. The new venue proved very successful and we hope will be repeated next year.

The U.S. Branch welcomed 7 new members in 2009:

- Rebecca Lynn Venne Eschenburg (Washington, DC)
- Gerald David Jones (Auburn, NY)
- Douglas Leighton Matheson (Goleta, CA)
- Paul Michael Matheson (Myakka City, FL)
- David Fraser Mathieson (Griswold, CT)
- Roger Barry Mathison (Los Angeles, CA)
- John Mark Wenger Sweigart (Smithfield, UT)

Again this year I must report that our membership has slipped miserably on its due payments - only 116 paid (out of 250 plus). Fortunately 33 of those payers were "Life Members" who often contribute much more than the \$ 5.00 asked of them or even the \$ 15.00 annual dues asked of the annual members. Our special thanks to those who contributed in the \$ 100 range: Nell P. Wilkerson, Ruth Peebles, Charles T. Matheson, Colvin T. Matheson and Charles E. Matheson, Sr.

The Society extends its' sincerest condolences to the family of Brigadier General Bruce J. Matheson of Kailua, Hawaii who passed away January 29, 2009 at the age of 87. This was the only member death reported this past year which is indeed a miracle of sorts!

Congratulations to: Patrick and Kendra Cooke (Mr. and Mrs. J. Patrick Cooke, Jr.) on the birth of their second child, Donovan Thomas Cooke, born September 10, 2009. And to Patrick's mother, Torrey Matheson Cooke, on this birth of her sixth grandchild!

Because no other births or wondrous events have been reported to me (your Chief's Lt. USA) I must extend congratulations to my wife, Gail, and myself for having celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary on June 27, 2009.

*Malcolm Matheson III
Chief's Lieutenant USA*

WEST COAST USA

The west coast section of the USA Branch had a full year of activities that could rightly be described as both exciting and thrilling. Chief's Deputy Lieutenant Bob Matheson and USA Genealogist Alice Fairhurst logged over 5,900 miles to bring the Clan Society to Mathesons throughout the west coast and Rocky Mountain region.

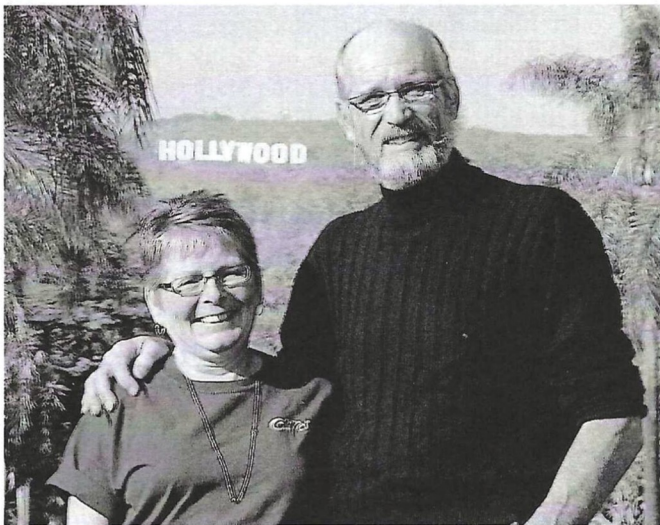
The 2009 season kicked off in mid-February with the Queen Mary Games (and Fly-In) in Long Beach, California. Anne and Keith Matheson of Nova Scotia flew out to meet Russell Matheson and his wife Barbara after Keith and Russ turned up as matches in their ancestral DNA tests. After comparing their family trees aboard the Queen Mary they were thrilled to identify their common ancestor! Anne and Keith enjoyed the respite from freezing Maritime temperatures to enjoy Hollywood sightseeing and visiting with Canadian friends. Larry Matheson flew in from Salt Lake City and was joined at the Games on Saturday with his son Mike who was attending a local school. Mike took a keen interest in the Heavy Athletics with an eye to competing in the future. In April, we participated for the first time in the Kern County Gathering and Games in Bakersfield. In May, it was back to the Costa Mesa Fairgrounds for the United Scottish Society's big Festival and Highland Games. Josh Mathieson continued his Heavy Athletics competition, moving up from Novice to Third Class and doing well in the caber toss. In June, Bob and Alice packed the Clan tent and headed to another first, the Utah Scottish Festival and Highland Games in Lehi, near Salt Lake City, where they teamed up with Shawn Matheson and endured three passing thunderstorms on the day of the Games. Shawn joined the Utah Scottish Society and will be representing Clan Matheson at all future Games in Utah and other Games in the Rocky Mountain region. In August Shawn, with the help of his cousins McKay and Marc Matheson, coordinated our participation in the first annual Cache Valley Games. The Cache Valley is where Scottish settlers first entered Utah in the mid-1800s. Back in California, it was off to the San Diego Scottish Highland Games and Gathering in Vista, California just two weeks after Utah. Josh Mathieson competed again and finished 7th overall. Then in July, Bob set out on this year's third "first time" and very distant Games, the Seattle Highland

Games in Enumclaw, Washington. The 2,500 mile round-trip cut through the scenic forests of Northern California, Oregon, and southern Washington. The season concluded, as always, with the popular Seaside Highland Games along the Pacific Ocean in Ventura, California. Another rising athlete in our Society, Will Mathews, competed for the first time at Seaside. Will came 3rd in the Open Stone and 7th overall in the Novice Class.

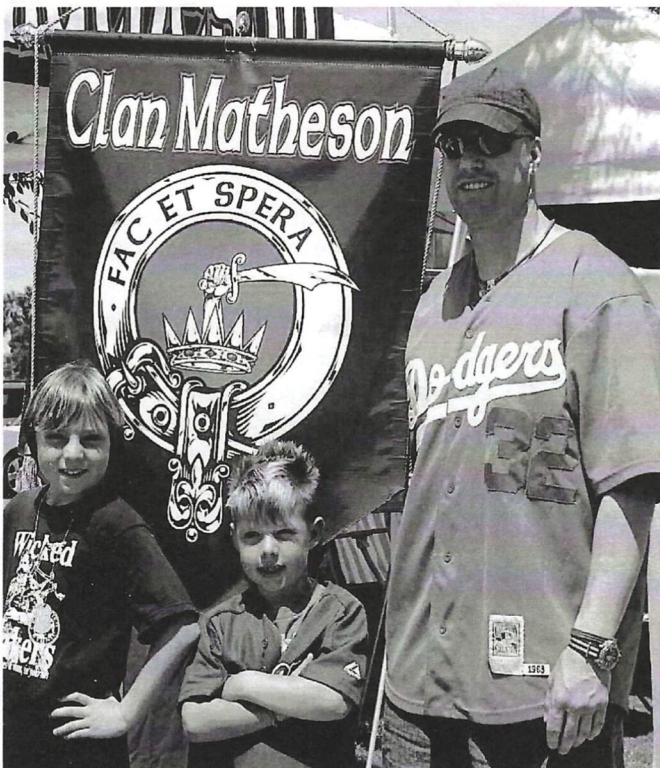
Bob and Alice are working with Ron Matheson to revamp the USA Branch website in Spring 2010, and they both remain active in other Scottish activities throughout the year. Alice is heavily involved in the Southern California Genealogical Society and Bob attends events on behalf of the Scottish-American Military Society, the British United Services Club, the St. Andrew Society of Southern California, and organizes well-attended kilted Pub Crawls in the Pasadena area.

Robert W Matheson

Deputy Chief's Lieutenant West Coast United States



Anne and Keith Matheson



Liam and Jack with dad Justin Matheson

CANADA

Chief's Lieutenant: Joel Matheson, Q.C.
406 – 2 Lake Drive,
Bedford, N.S., B4A 4H7
E-mail: jrmatheson@accesswave.ca

Genealogist and
Internet Adviser: Glen Matheson
Debert, RR#1, N.S., B0M 1G0
E-mail: g.matheson@explornet.com

Thanks to the efforts of Al Matheson, President of the Mainland Nova Scotia Branch, and his loyal and active members, 2009 saw the Matheson Clan well represented in many parts of our Province. As his report demonstrates, their involvement included everything from pot luck suppers to Highland Gatherings. It is obvious from the turnout of Clans and their tents at the many Gatherings, that the Scottish spirit is alive and well in Nova Scotia. Having attended a number of Mainland Branch functions I can attest to the fine cooking of their members.

We end the year with our Canada memberships remaining stable with new members providing an offset to those departing. Also, thanks to fee payments, donations, and contributions from the Mainland Branch, we are in a sound financial position. We are appreciative of the special support from the Mainland Branch. In my report to members accompanying the Newsletter I will again request all members to do some membership recruiting for us. Also, we will be offering financial assistance to areas endeavoring to establish a Branch such as in Nova Scotia.

I join with Al in extending congratulations to Ed Graham on his 80th birthday, Bertha Matheson on her special birthday. On August 26th, Elizabeth and I visited Isabel Matheson on her 104th birthday at the senior's home in Riverton, N.S. As it also was our wedding anniversary it was a special time for all of us. I suggested to Isabel that we should say she could well be the oldest Matheson in the world! Do we have any challengers?

Congratulations to Brian and Jacqueline Matheson, Miramichi, N.B. on the birth of their daughter. In Toronto, David and Dianne Matheson, my brother and sister-in-law, celebrated the arrival of 2 grandchildren. Matthew David Luke Beauroy was born 5 July 2009 to Christine Matheson and David Beauroy, and William Donald Matheson was born 28 October to Jennifer and Andrew Matheson.

It is with regret I report the deaths of Sue Matheson, widow of John Norman Matheson of Sarnia, Ontario on 27 October 2008 and Honorable Justice Douglas R Matheson of Edmonton, Alberta on 15 June 2009.

There is to be an International Gathering of the Clans in Nova Scotia in 2011. Plans should be coming to us soon, and we intend to have our own Matheson Gathering in conjunction with the coming together of the Clans worldwide. As soon as we have more information we will be in contact with all of you through your Societies. As it stands now, we are looking to hold our Clan Gathering near the end of June and early July. In closing, I extend to all of you my best wishes for health, peace and prosperity in 2010.

Joel Matheson QC
Chief's Lieutenant for Canada

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
- Secretary: Dyan Matheson 9797 Highway 204
South Victoria, Nova Scotia B0M 1P0
E-mail: dyan_ed@yahoo.com
- Treasurer: Patricia Matheson
985 E. Matheson Road, Glengarry,
Nova Scotia B0K 1C0
- Piper: Ms. Kelly Putnam
- Chaplain: The Reverend Doctor Glen Matheson

This Branch of the Clan Matheson again had a successful year of meeting friends from other Clans and making new ones.

We started the year on 25 January by attending the Robbie Burns Day celebrations in the form of a pot luck meal and entertainment put on by the Federation of Scottish Clans in Nova Scotia (FSCNS). This was held at the Acadia Hall in Sackville, Nova Scotia. It was a most enjoyable event. On 1 February Beverly and I were in Brookfield along with other Clan members to celebrate one of our members, Ed Graham, 80th birthday. A great party Ed.

On 6 April Beverly and I represented our Clan at the Tartan Day celebrations, with haggis and other goodies, at Province House in Halifax. This event gets larger every year. On 9 May we gathered in Brookfield for our spring planning meeting, with 14 members in attendance. Our Branch's bursary was awarded to Sarah Rose Matheson for future lessons on the Celtic Harp. In June Beverly and I were very proud to attend our granddaughter, Kathleen Matheson's graduation from high school, with honours in the International Baccalaureate program. Katie is now attending Dalhousie University in Halifax. Katie also graduated from the Air Cadet Corp as a Flight Sergeant. Well done Katie and best wishes for the future.

On 11 July we had our Clan Tent at the Halifax Highland and Scottish Games, held this year in Dartmouth. It was a beautiful day and location. We had ninety one people visit our tent from, Norway, Scotland, Maine, North Carolina, Arkansas, New Jersey, Florida, Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia, and from various parts of Nova Scotia.

Our Annual General Meeting was held on 25 July, at our cottage (Bears Den) in Glengarry with twenty three members in attendance. Before the meeting we caught up on the latest gossip and enjoyed a pot luck lunch. One thing we perfected over the years was how to eat well, sometimes too well. On 26 August I visited Isabel Matheson at the senior's home in Riverton. She was celebrating her 104th birthday. What a pleasure to see Isabel again. She is such a bright, pleasant lady and we wish her good health and happiness in the future.

Our Branch held our closing dinner at the Best Western Glengarry in Truro on 20 September, with fifteen members in attendance. As stated, we have this eating thing down to a science. At the dinner we had the drawing for our quilt raffle and the lucky winner was Marg Matheson in Leith-bridge Alberta. At least Marg, and I assume Sam, will be warm this winter. Again we thank Carrie who made the quilt and donated it for our raffle, and to all who supported the raffle. Also at the dinner Donna and Gab Matheson were presented with a gift in appreciating for hosting our Clan Picnic and Auction for the past 21 years.

Beverly and I, along with our granddaughter Sarah Rose Matheson, attended the FSCNS dinner and dance on 3 October held at the Best Western Glengarry in Truro. This was a wonderful evening with Celtic music and Scottish country dancing and of course good food which included haggis, after it was piped in and formally addressed. That was a big hit with our granddaughter. On October 7, it was on with the kilt again (it's a wonder it still fits) and off to the Fultz House Museum Heritage Dinner and Ceilidh.

We congratulate Bertha who celebrated a special birthday on 27 November and we wish her many more. Our congratulations to Brian and Jacqueline Matheson, Miramichi, N.B. on the birth of their daughter Emma Katherine, born 10 September 2009, granddaughter of Bertha Matheson, Truro.

I thank those who have had their DNA tested. From the results of this testing I have, and am sure others have added much more information to our family trees. I encourage those who have not had their DNA tested to consider doing so.

It will be 2010 when you receive this newsletter. It is our hope that all Mathesons and their families had a wonderful Christmas and that you have good health and happiness in 2010.

Al Matheson

President Clan Matheson Society of Nova Scotia

DNA PROJECT REPORT FOR 2009

More than 100 Mathesons have now been tested, with 93 tests being returned and 84 male surname results being reported. We also have 18 results for female lines, some of which come from females who have the Matheson surname in their background and some from our Matheson males that want to test their mother's line.

Our biggest surprise this year was in proving the Matheson tradition that we did have descent from Gilleon na h'Aird of the House of Lorn who lived about 950. In the MS of 1467 Mathesons were mentioned as one of the ten clans claiming descent from the Cinel (Clan) Lorn through Cormac mac Aibertach. The Irish Dal Riata King Erc (d. c. 474) had three sons, Fergus Mor, Angus, and Loarn, who established the kingdom of Dalriada in Scotland. Five Mathesons fit into the Dalriada DNA pattern.

Previously we had proved that Clan Matheson was BOTH Viking and Celtic, with the chiefly line coming from Murchadh Buidhe, chief in the 1500's in Lochalsh, Ross-Shire being R1a Viking and the chieftain line coming from Col. George Matheson of Shiness, Sutherlandshire being R1b Celtic. Fifteen of the 84 males descend from Murchadh

Buidhe and fourteen from Colonel George. That leaves fifty-five men coming from other patriarchs.

We have identified 12 different groups so far. Among them is a very old I-Isles group from Slumbay. There are R1b Celtic lines on the Isle of Lewis, on Benbecula, in Golspie, in Dornoch, and an Irish R1b Celtic line from Ui Neill clan on the Isle of Skye. The Benbecula line created the Matheson Motor Car, manufactured from 1903 to 1912. (<http://www.clanmathesonusa.org/MathesonAutomobile.html>). Three of our New Zealand leaders founded a new Celtic group that is located near the Black Isle and are working to determine their common ancestor.

The DNA project has helped people connect across continents with genetic cousins and encouraged a sense of kinship within the clan. We now know that our clan is composed of multiple patriarchs who rallied around a leader and took on the clan name. No matter what our DNA, we are still all of Clan Matheson. Results of the study can be seen at <http://www.familytreedna.com/public/MathesonTests> can be ordered at <https://www.familytreedna.com/group-join.aspx?Group=Matheson> Males need to order Y-DNA37 or Y-DNA67 tests so we can know which branch they belong to. Females can order either mtDNA or mtDNAPlus. Testing is easy with cheek swabs.

*For more information,
contact DNA Project Administrator
Alice M. Fairhurst, alicefairhurst@gmail.com*

UNITED KINGDOM

- Convenor: Lt.Colonel Alexander Matheson
of Matheson yr.
Email: afmatheson@gmail.com
- Hon Secretary: Ron Lowry, Brae Cottage,
Colchester Road, Coggeshall,
Essex, CO6 1RP. Tel. 01376 561662.
Email: ronlowry@sky.com
- Hon Treasurer: Malcolm Matheson,
Little Tompsets, Tompsets Bank,
Forest Row, Sussex, RH18 5LN.
Tel 01342 824183
Email: Malcolm@matheson-ward.co.uk
- Genealogist: John Faid.
Email: johnlfaid@hotmail.co.uk
- Committee: Alan Harpham, Hazel Matheson,
Tony Matheson, Stuart Matheson.

Our year commenced with a memorial service for Jean Matheson of Matheson when a very great number assembled in Norwich to give thanks for her life and work: a truly inspiring occasion for all who attended.

The year was dominated by preparations for the Edinburgh Homecoming Gathering held in Holyrood Park in July, when Mathesons from all over the world joined in the festivities. We joined with Clan Macrae and shared a tent with them. We were able to display much historical information and John Faid and Abigail Butler were kept busy with ancestral and genealogical questions over the weekend. Alan and Di Harpham had a fine array of Matheson merchandise for sale. There was a full programme of highland games

and many displays of Scottish history, art and culture, including a non-stop musical experience. Probably the highlight of the weekend was the March up to the Castle along the Royal Mile. All the Clans marched and the streets were lined with literally thousands of folk waving and cheering us as we marched behind our Chief. What an occasion to remember!!

It had been decided earlier to hold the Annual General Meeting of the Clan on the Sunday so this was duly held and the Minutes circulated afterwards. One benefit was that several overseas members were able to contribute to our discussions.

During the year the committee has made significant progress with regard to the maintenance of the Clan Archives. The establishment of a Highland Archive and Registration Centre in Inverness in October now means that it will be possible for valuable Clan material to be stored and, in time, made available to visitors. Thanks are due to Abigail and John for actioning this on our behalf.

After many years of hard work on the website Patricia Mathieson has relinquished the task of superintending it and has passed the baton on to a new colleague, Stuart Matheson. Our Convenor has added his personal thanks to Patsy for her long service on our behalf. We look forward to Stuart's input into what is a very important part of our Clan information system. We trust also that the website will be a driving force in our recruitment to the Clan. On a personal note, Kate and I are very much looking forward to a long visit to Australia and New Zealand where, of course, Lake Matheson is a "must-see". We hope to meet up with and renew friendships with Clan members in both countries. So I conclude with greetings to all and very best wishes for 2010

*Ron Lowry
Hon Secretary England Branch*



Sir Torquhil's daughter Bella and her daughters

"Son of the Sword."

OUR FICTIONALIZED HIGHLAND ANCESTORS

J. Ardian Lee is the pen name of Julianne Lee, author of a series of books that chronicles the fictional adventures of a young American of Highland ancestry as he experiences the non-fictional events of Scottish history. The first book, "Son of the Sword," begins at a Scottish Festival where the lead character is magically thrown back into time and lands on his back in the Highlands during the time of the Clans. The young man is Dylan Robert Matheson, and this fascinating four book series is told from the perspective of Clan Matheson. USA Branch west coast Chief's Deputy Lieutenant, Robert Matheson, (B) recently interview Julianne Lee hear how she came about to write a story about our Clan.

B: The fictional adventures of Dylan Matheson follow a non-fictional timeline across an incredible part of the history of what is now Scotland. Why Scottish history and not Irish or Norwegian?

J: Because I'm neither Irish nor Norwegian, I guess. My grandmother was a Ross, and my mother was a Noble. My maiden name is Bedford, which is English but it is why I was raised with a British cultural identity. When I began writing historical and time-travel stories, I became fascinated with Scottish culture and the Scots Gaelic language. I realized there was a profound difference between Highland and Lowland, and I did a lot of reading to sort out for myself the differences, and the historical reasons for them.

B: How did you gain your knowledge about Highland life and the living conditions in the days of the Clans?

J: I read a lot. For a while, it seemed that everything I read led me to areas of inquiry. I studied Scots Gaelic during one of my trips to Scotland. I bought CDs of traditional music. I read Irish mythology to understand the origins of the culture. I've been to Scotland three times, and have seen the inside of a black house and a prehistoric tower, and I've wandered through a stone circle. I've seen a faerie knoll. I walked the battlefields of Culloden and Sheriffmuir (though it's no longer a field, but a forest). I had a friend teach me how to use a drop spindle. Another friend, who has done it, described to me what it's like to fire a front-loading gun.

B: Your geographic references and descriptions of the Highlands are delightfully vivid. Did you travel the Lòchalsh area to research that area which was home to our Chiefly line?

J: Indeed I did. At least, near to it. My first trip to Scotland I walked around Edinburgh for a few days, then drove up to Glenfinnan and Fort William for a couple of weeks. Since Glen Ciorram is a fictional glen I imagined somewhere vaguely to the west of Glen Affric, and the branch of Mathesons in my story are also fictional, I didn't go looking

for specific locations or people. My interest was in getting a feel for the western Highlands in general. On a later trip I was tickled to learn of the legend that Eilean Donan may have been built by Mathesons. Had I known that when I began the series, I would have made something of it.

B: When it comes to Highland Clans storytelling, most authors write about larger, well-known Clans. What was it about Clan Matheson that you found to be different or unique?

J: The trouble with the larger clans is that there's too much known of their history, and it tends to have been written by them. I didn't want to be a slave to a well-documented history. One thing I learned in my reading about the Mathesons is that the political leanings of a given clan can be more fluid and flexible than I'd imagined. Early on I had to decide which branch of the clan to follow, since some Mathesons had gone north at some point. I kept my Mathesons in the Western Highlands, and I kept them a smaller, less powerful branch even than the non-fictional ones who lived there. I wanted to explore their culture more than their politics.

B: Did you know someone that inspired the Dylan Matheson character, or other characters in the series?

J: Dylan is not based on a single person. He's just an ordinary guy in search of himself. He comes from an abused background, can't respect his alcoholic father and doesn't know what that makes him his father's son, but nevertheless finds his identity among the people who are his distant ancestors.

B: When did you start going to Highland Games?

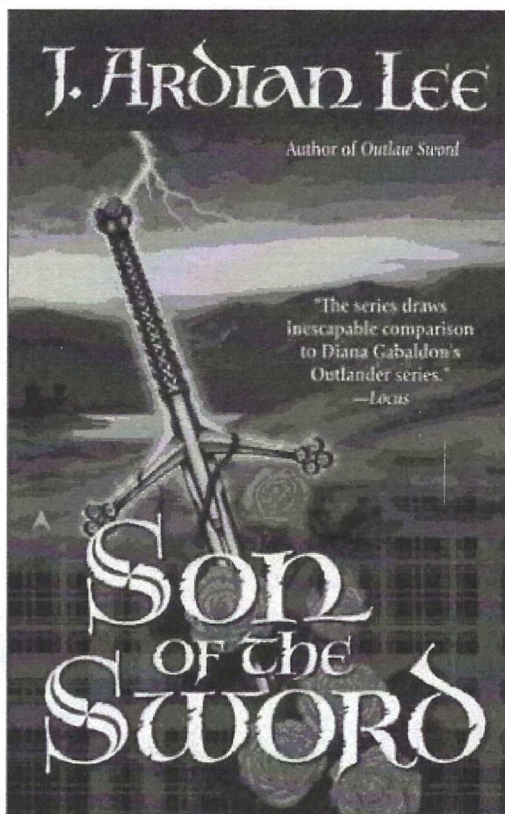
J: It was 1999, in Murfreesboro, Tennessee. The scenes in the beginning of "Son of the Sword" are based on that first festival. Thanks to you, I now have a wonderful Clan Matheson T-shirt to wear to the Games, it's a thing of beauty!

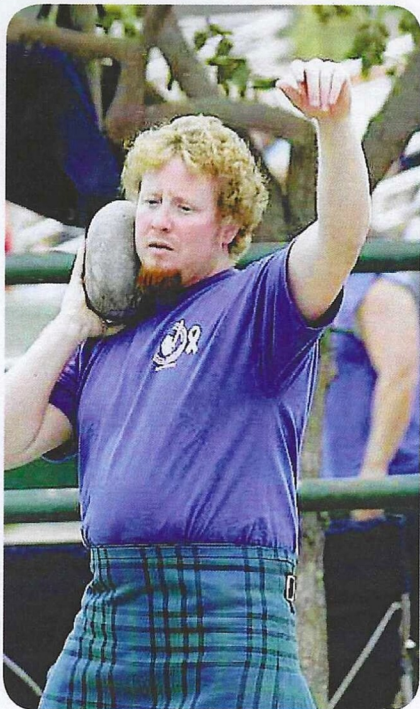
B: As you wrote the first book, "Son of the Sword," were you already planning to carry the storyline across three additional books?

J: When I was first constructing the outline, before the book sold to Berkley Publishing, I could see that it was going to be a very long story. I asked my editor which I should do: one long book or several short ones. She suggested a series. Dylan's story spanned the two risings in 1715 and 1719, but there was a gap of a generation before the '45. I wanted to include it because the story of the Stuart line concludes with Prince Charles, so Dylan's story became a trilogy and his son brought the saga to a close by accepting his father's legacy.

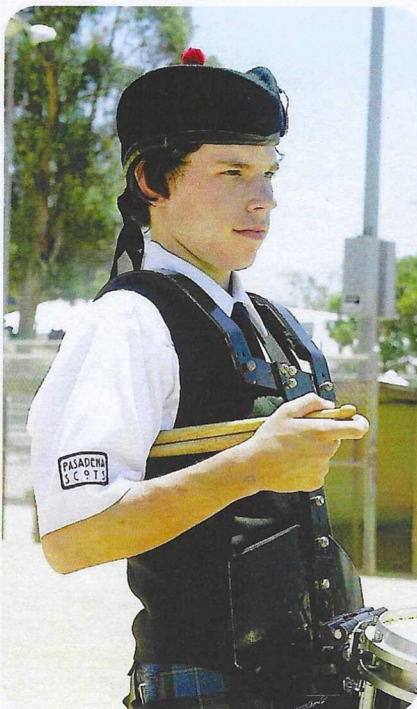
B: What span of time did all four books take, from inception to publication?

J: About five years. The first book was sold from an outline in early 1999, about six months after I began work on it, and the fourth book, "Sword of the White Rose" was published in 2004.





*Will Mathews
Seaside Highland Games*



*Brett Mathison,
Pasadena Drummer*



*John Aakesson, Malcolm IV
and Malcolm III*



Bob Matheson with Clan members prepares to carry the banner



Greg Matheson and Alice Fairhurst



50th Anniversary, Gail and Malcolm III and their family



Gail, Colin and Mistie Matheson, in Enumclaw



Looking towards Clan Village Edinburgh



The Utah Matheson Reunion



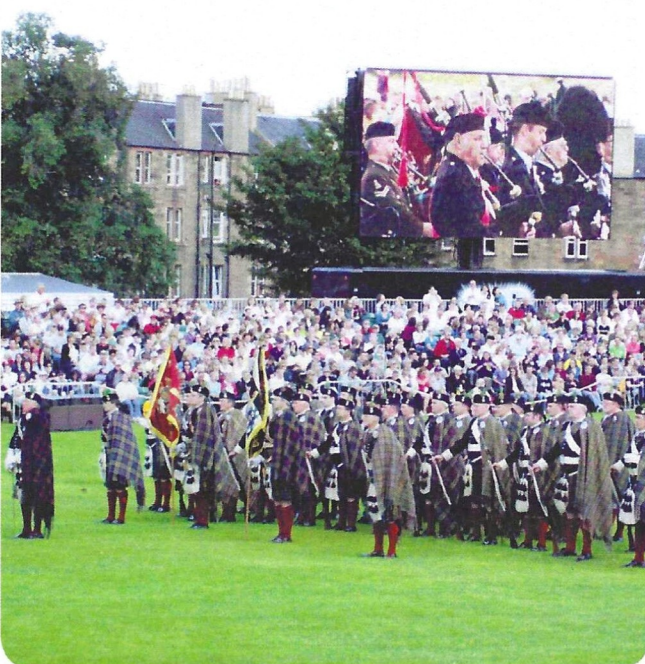
Pre-Gathering Dinner Group



Harpham Family and Joan Harbour



The Chief with his grandchildren and Alexander



The Arena at the Gathering



Start of the March up the Royal Mile