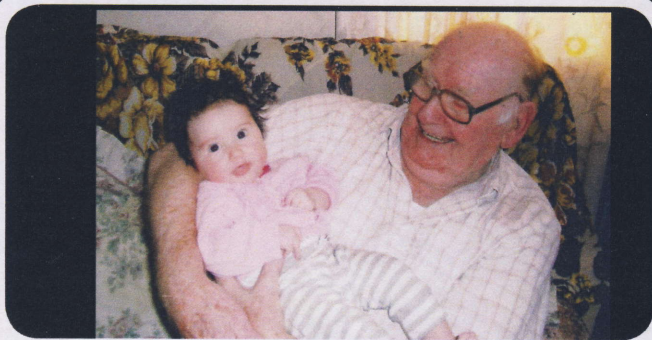




Newsletter 2011



The Clan Matheson Society



Chairman Donald with latest Great Grand Daughter Ella



Uilleann pipes accompanying the interior of the haggis



Doug & Ann Matheson with Kate Lowry



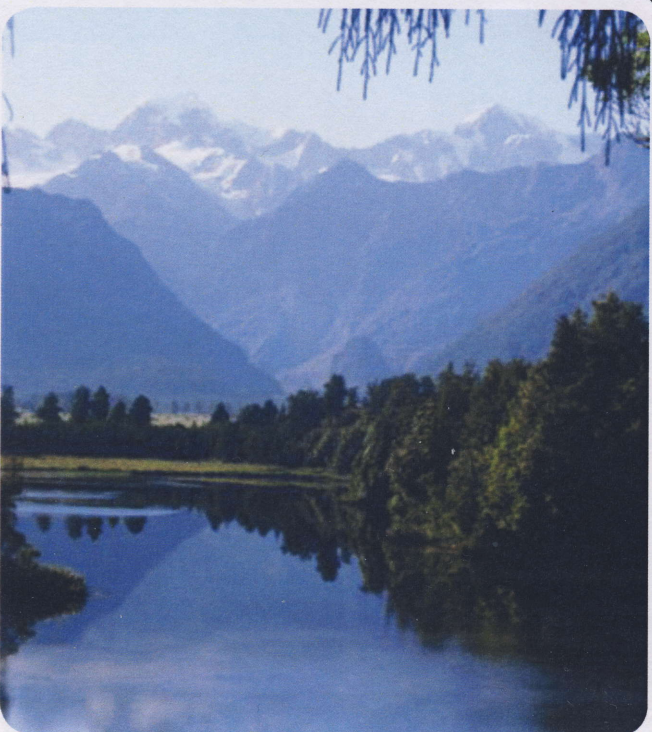
NZ Branch Committee members



Matheson Lunch party Howick (Doug's home)



Australian Picnic



Lake Matheson and Mt Cook



*Has anyone ever seen a Dress Matheson Tartan Tuxedo ??
Malcolm Matheson III*

THE CHIEF'S MESSAGE

In many walks of life, success is largely dependent on good communication.

Instant communication such as we know today was undreamt of by my predecessors but is something we already take for granted. I wonder if those who have yet to take advantage of a computer and all that it offers on a vast variety of subjects, have any idea how they are missing out. Although I did not manage to get to Scotland or elsewhere this year, except for a brief visit to Edinburgh, I was able to keep in touch with all branches.

Under the guidance of Margaret Williams, the Clan newsletter with its excellent photographs and news from around the world goes from strength to strength. Many thanks for all she is doing to keep us up to date.

Possibly before you read this, the Clan website will have re-appeared on the internet under a different format set up by a new web master. Our thanks go to Patricia Mathieson who launched the present site and Stuart Matheson who followed after her, for their contribution.

Graeme Matheson and Blair Matheson have recently been appointed Deputy Chief's Lieutenants in the ever growing New Zealand Branch.

I was pleased that during the year my son Alexander was invited to become a member of the Queen's Bodyguard for Scotland, The Royal Company of Archers. He was on parade for the Pope's visit to Scotland this summer.

Following the success of the Holyrood Park 2009 Gathering, it is rumoured there may be a repeat performance in 2014. If that should be so, an idea is that we hold a gathering of our own after the Edinburgh celebrations and do a repeat of 2004 which was something in Edinburgh, followed by visits to Ardross and Plockton. At present nothing is certain.

My thanks to all those of you who keep the wheels turning within the Clan Society. It is you who are responsible for our success.

A Happy Christmas and prosperous New Year to you all.

Fergus Matheson of Matheson

GENEALOGY CORNER

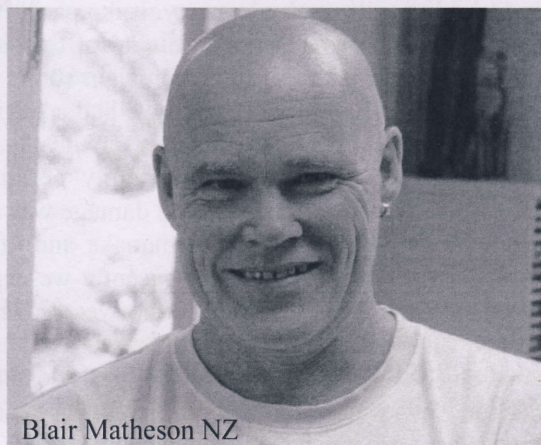
Court disputes or claims over succession to the chiefships of clans in the last century have often turned on Scottish feudal inheritance law. How refreshing it is to find a recent case turning on the ancient Gaelic customary law. In resolving a claim to the chiefship of MacDonnell of Keppoch in 2005 after many years of litigation the Court of Session, per Lord MacFadyen, confirmed that the "slionnadh" the traditional Gaelic patronymic genealogy, passed down from generation to generation through the clan seanachaidh, was valid to determine succession to chiefship.

The present Keppoch's collateral forebear, Donald, Lord of the Isles, was the chief actor in a drama whose 600th anniversary is planned to be commemorated this year, possibly under the aegis of the Inverness Highland games. The Battle of Harlaw was fought near Aberdeen on 24 July 1411 as part of Donald's effort to recover the Earldom of Ross, usurped by John Stewart, son of the Scottish Regent, Albany. Donald's huge force of northern and western Highlanders, probably including Mathesons, fought the forces of John, Earl of Mar, in one of the bloodiest Highland battles, ("The reid Harlaw"). Alas a draw resulted and Donald had to wait several years for justice. Any further information on the commemoration will be posted on the website

John Faid
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Clan Genealogist



Graeme
Matheson NZ



Blair Matheson NZ



AN CIREAN
CEANN CINNISH

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Cover Photos

Alexander, a member of the Royal
Company of Archers

Bob Matheson and Alice Fairhurst
at the Queen Mary Games,
California

Last year Canada brought us our
oldest member and this year our
youngest: Anna Matheson, with
brother James.

Co-founders of the NZ Clan
Matheson Society 21st anniversary
dinner

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Sitting here in New Zealand, often referred to as Aotearoa, 'The land of the Long White Cloud', on a lovely cloudless summer day, I feel, as most Kiwis do, how fortunate we are to be living in such a country. It is not all honey and roses, but on the whole when we read of the situation in other countries we have little to complain about. This year we have had a share of suffering: we had a terrific earthquake in Christchurch. Fortunately no deaths occurred but many were affected by uncertainty because of the numerous aftershocks and material damage was awesome. Insurance assessors rate the earthquake and aftershocks the fifth most costly ever. More recently we experienced a very serious mining disaster on the West Coast with the sad loss of 29 miners. Among the messages of sympathy we received were those from Sir Fergus, Alexander, Kate and Ron Lowry and Margaret Williams. These and many others were very much appreciated.

During the year, our 21st since inauguration, Clan membership numbers have fluctuated: losses through sickness, members sadly missed, but compensated by new members joining us. We have been urging the older Clan members, through various means, to encourage their young to join in their own right. Many of these have left home and have families of their own and lose touch as they miss our bi-monthly newsletter. The young have so many other things to do that every effort should be made to remind them of their Scottish roots. In their turn they need to encourage, develop and maintain the history of our Clan.

We had a celebration dinner to mark our 21st year anniversary. It was a lovely evening with about 20 of the original founder members present. The Balmoral School of Highland Dancing entertained us with a polished programme of Highland Dancing. Although we had intended to present Donald Scott with a certificate of Life Membership at the dinner, in recognition of his work as past world Clan Genealogist and now as Branch Genealogist, he could not attend. Some Clan members made the presentation to him at a luncheon. Don was delighted and expressed his hope that more members would contact him with their family history enquiries. He has an immense amount of information stored on his computer.

It is always an enjoyable evening whenever Scots folk gather. Through our Clan membership of the Scottish Clans Association we attend functions such as the Annual Dinner and Burns Night Celebrations at which the Haggis ceremony and tasting is always enjoyed. Our Clan is generally well represented at these occasions. They also include Kirkin o' the Tartan Church Parades and Tartan Days, occasions which usually include piping and a sing-along of Scottish melodies with banners flying all to keep alive our thoughts of Scotland.

During the year we were pleased to welcome Ron Lowry, Hon Secretary of the UK Branch, and his wife Kate to our shores. They returned via NZ after visiting relatives in Australia. Their visit started in the South Island at Lake Matheson and progressed North to Auckland. I think they saw more of our scenery than many Kiwis have. Several members joined them at a small luncheon at Lloyd Elsmore Park where we heard of their visit to, in their words, "this delightful country"

A highlight of the year has been the Chief's appointment of two Deputy Lieutenants in New Zealand: Graeme Matheson of Christchurch and Blair Matheson of Taupo. New Zealand is a long thin country and distance presents difficulties for gatherings. It is hoped the new deputies will encourage interest among Mathesons / Mathiesons in their areas and help existing Members recruiting new ones. We wish them every success. In our deep South many non member Matheson/Mathiesons reside.

We in New Zealand are blessed with a great Committee and thank them for their unstinting efforts to maintain the Branch and its Clan and family spirit. Thanks also to our Clan Piper Norman who entertains us with his pipes and always stirs the blood; to Clan Genealogist Don Scott for his willingness to answer questions Members and last but not least the editor of our bi monthly newsletter, which is often referred to as the glue that sticks us together. All these contribute to the success of our branch of the Clan. Long may it prosper!

Donald Matheson Chairman

CONGRATULATIONS IN NEW ZEALAND

Dr Trevor Matheson - on his appointment as NZ Ambassador to Italy.

Jean Marie & John Wilson - on their Golden Wedding Anniversary.

Robin and Graeme Matheson - on their Golden Wedding Anniversary

Elaine and Rae Rankin - on their 60th Wedding Anniversary.

Janet McGrath and Liam - on their recent Engagement.

Sarah and Hamish Matheson - on birth of their son Angus Alexander also to the proud Grandparents Graeme, newly appointed Dep Chief's Lieut and Ellen..

Adam Matheson and Louise - on the birth of their daughter Ella Jade. Adam is the son of Dianne & Ross Davey and grandson of Chairman Donald

Elaine Rankin - on attaining the age of 80 years.

Alex Harbour and Purnina Trasi - on their marriage in Goa. Alex is the son of Joan Harbour, Ailsa's sister. Several Mathesons ventured to India for the wedding.

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Each year in February the Australian Branch of the Clan Society holds a picnic in Melbourne, Victoria. The 2010 Annual Picnic was attended by a modest number of Clan Society members, but they enjoyed meeting up and

swapping family stories, and they particularly enjoyed hearing the vigorous piping provided by our Clan piper, Warren Matheson. We are always grateful to Warren, who generously travels from Bendigo in regional Victoria to Melbourne especially to pipe for this event each year.

Warren initiated another memorable event in 2010 due to his membership of the Fortuna Pipes and Drums in Bendigo. That group was to disband in 2010 and so Warren spent a long time organising a celebratory farewell party, to be held just outside Bendigo. A small group of Clan Society members accepted his party invitation, and travelled to Bendigo to celebrate Fortuna's time together as well as commiserating the end of its 'life'. Warren had previously sent to the Clan Society photos and news of his own 50th birthday party, so the promise of another 'Warren party' was a strong drawcard to help overcome the travel distances involved. Before the party started, a Committee meeting was held in Bendigo to get the serious business out of the way in order for the fun to begin. There was a good deal of very fine piping on both traditional pipes and uilleann pipes, and there was also a haggis, or at least the innards of one (the maker having had difficulty with the 'out-ards'), representing Scottish traditions. The haggis was piped into the gathering escorted by Vice-President of the Australian Branch, Rob Mathieson, holding sword aloft. Before being served, the haggis was suitably addressed in a fine rendition of Burns' poem. A little later our antipodean traditions were also represented by the piping in of a meat pie (similarly escorted by Rob, this time bearing a 'stubby' of VB lager) and addressed in an Aussie translation of Burns' poem. The Fortuna party fulfilled its promise and was very much enjoyed by all who attended. Although it is sad that the Fortuna Pipes and Drums are no more, we are very glad to hear that Warren has joined another band in Bendigo. You obviously can't keep a good Matheson piper down!

The Australian Branch's Annual General Meeting was held in the Celtic Club in Melbourne in December. We were all pleased to see Abigail Butler back from her visit to the UK. Roma Jorgenson was kind enough to provide materials there for members to see how to run the Family Tree computer software for their own family trees. I also gave a modified version of the DNA talk I had given at the International Clan Matheson Gathering in Melbourne in 2008. We enjoyed lunch and some friendly chat after the business of the meeting was done. All the 2009-2010 office-bearers were re-elected and although we were unable (again) to find anyone to be Secretary, Helen Mathieson volunteered (or perhaps was volunteered by her husband, Vice-President, Rob) and so we now have a full complement on the Committee:

We look forward to another year of keeping in touch and remembering our Scottish heritage together in 2011.

*Colin Matheson
Chief's Lieutenant Australia*

STOP PRESS: As far as we can tell, all Mathesons involved in the Brisbane floods are safe. I understand that Ian Matheson (Del Pugh's brother) was flooded out, but he is safe; still checking on Mathesons in other parts of Queensland and Victoria.

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2010 was again an active year for the Clan Society as reported by our West Coast Deputy Chief's Lt., Robert W. Matheson, elsewhere in this newsletter. He and Branch Genealogist, Alice Fairhurst, once again outdid themselves and travelled to many Scottish Festivals to represent the Clan Matheson. On the East Coast Deputy Chief's Lt. John Aakesson represented the Society at the Potomac Celtic Festival in Leesburg, VA and at the Virginia Scottish Games at Great Meadows in The Plains, Virginia at which he was ably assisted by his brother, Alex, and Alex's wife, Ashley. Also attending the games in The Plains were Malcolm and Gail Matheson, their son Malcolm IV and son Colvin, and Colvin's wife, Mary Ellen, with their children - twins Emma and Margot and son Lochlan.

One truly amazing "non-happening" this year was that nobody reported a member's death for our condolence column. This is extraordinary good news, but I find it somehow undercuts the characterization of Scottish Frugality as 2010 was the last year any of us could die and not be subject to inheritance tax!

Also on the "good news" side is that the U.S. Branch welcomed in 11 new members in 2010:

Donald Lee Matheson, II (Oklahoma City, OK)
Warren Matheson Gilbert (Mt. Vernon, WA)
John Alexander Gilbert (Seattle, WA)
Heather Ingreola Puebla (Adkins, TX)

Deanna Marie Matheson (Old Orchard Beach, ME)
Marlyn Ray Lewis (Portland, OR)
Henry Matheson Clay (New York, NY)
John Kendall Matthewson (Falls Church, VA)
Patrick James McCormick (Port Huenemen, CA)
Donald A. Fletcher (Garima, WA)
Chandler Massey (Burbank, CA)

And we had an improvement in our dues paying members. Approximately 50% paid dues or made contributions this past year. Again "Life Members" who made substantial contributions in excess of \$ 25.00 helped immensely. We especially appreciate and thank those of you who contributed in or above the \$100.00 range: Charles E. Matheson, Sr., (3 gifts!), Nell P. Wilkerson, Charles T. Matheson, Colvin T. Matheson, Lyman W. Matheson, Torrey Matheson Cooke and Ruth Peebles.

Congratulations To

Lida Matheson Stifel and her husband, Rick Stifel, on the birth of their 4th grandchild, Colleen Cassidy Stifel, born November 4, 2010. Colleen is the first child of Lida and Rick's son Richard P. Stifel, III and his wife, Shannon.

And to Lida and Rick's son, Christopher Adam Stifel on his marriage to Laura Davis on October 3, 2010.

Charles E. Matheson, Sr. on the birth of his 20th great-grandchild, John Michael Futrell born March 31, 2010.

New member Heather Ingreola Puebla, the granddaughter of Charles E. Matheson, Sr. on the birth of her twin boys who celebrated their first birthday last year. (these boys must be Charles's 18th and 19th great-grands!)

Bob and Arra Mae Mathieson on their highly successful M3 Ranch in Clyde, NC where they raise Scottish Highland Cattle. They show their "Hairy Beasties" at the Stone Mountain Highland Games in Atlanta, GA in October each year.

Mrs. Louise Matheson Bell of Seneca, SC on reaching the tender age of 91 in 2010 and who is still active in Historic Preservation in the Seneca area and who corresponds on a regular basis. Mrs. Bell has written four books and in 2008 received the prestigious Governor's Award presented annually by the South Carolina Archives and History, The Palmetto Trust and the South Carolina Governor's Office for Life Time contributions to Historic Preservation in the State of South Carolina. Outstanding!

Malcolm Matheson, III
Chief's Lieutenant USA



New member
Patrick James
McCormick
and his bride,
Michelle, on
their wedding in
October 2010.

USA BRANCH WEST COAST 2010 ACTIVITIES

It was another great season of Highland Games on the U.S. west coast. The Chief's Deputy Lieutenant Bob Matheson, and USA Genealogist Alice Fairhurst, were joined by Shawn Matheson and continued to extend the reach of the Clan. Shawn lives in the Salt Lake City area and is poised to bring the Clan Matheson tent to Scottish events into the Rocky Mountain region. Starting in Utah, Shawn plans eventually to also attend Games in Wyoming and Colorado.

Collectively, we attended eight Games in California, Arizona, and Utah. The season kicked off in mid-February with the Queen Mary Games in Long Beach, California. Shawn Matheson and his father Wes travelled from Utah to carry our banner in the Parade of Clans during Opening Ceremonies, which cousin Mike Matheson had done the year before. Clan athletes Josh Mathieson and Will Mathews returned to compete in the Heavy Athletes.

The Phoenix Games in Arizona moved to a new location this year, both a blessing and a curse. The new location offered a lot more room, but was in a flood control basin. Setting up Friday and participating Saturday went very well. Roland Matteson and his family arrived, as did Kay Matheson, Susan Muir (nee Matheson), and Bruce McBurney. After midnight a thunderstorm flooded the venue and Sunday's event was cancelled. We mopped up and went home early.

In May, on Memorial Day weekend, we went to the Costa Mesa Fairgrounds, Southern California for the United Scottish Society's big "Scotsfest" Festival and Games. We welcomed new member Patrick McCormick, the great-great grandson of Susan Maud Matheson. Patrick, a U.S. Navy Submarine Sonar Technician qualified in Submarine Warfare, maintains highly sensitive and classified sonar hardware. Mike Matheson was competing in the athletic competition. Highlight of the weekend was an all-Clans tribute to the U.S. military services, and a 21-Cabre Toss by the Games' athletes!

The Utah Highland Games at Thanksgiving Point in Lehi, just outside Salt Lake City, where held in June. This was Shawn Matheson's second year of participating in these Games, and everyone had a great time. Christine Matheson, Shawn's sister and a huge fan of The Wicked Tinkers, was thrilled to meet up with "The Boys" after their concert. The Tinkers, one of the most popular "Celtic Tribal" groups performing at major Games on the west coast, are good friends of Clan Matheson and frequently stop by our tent to visit.

At the end of June we returned to the San Diego Games in Vista, California. We were joined by stalwarts Don and Carol Matheson, Sally and Brett Mathison. Also stopping by was Duane Matthews, Robert McMath, and the Justin Mathieson family. Brett Mathison continued his winning ways by coming in second in the Grade 2 Soloist Snare competition!

In July, Shawn set up at the Payson, Utah Games, located in a community settled by pioneering Scots. The Games are free and hosted by the town of Payson. Shawn coordinated with Chad Jardine, Clan Jardine's Rocky Mountain Commissioner to pair up our efforts. Our two clans marched side-by-side in all the clan parades. In commenting about this meeting, Lady Jardine wrote in the Jardine Newsletter of the famed Jardine-Matheson corporation and joked of "...their new joint venture in Utah."

In August Shawn set up again at the Cache Valley Celtic Highland Games with the help of his cousin, Marc Matheson. The first wave of Scottish immigrants to Utah settled in the Cache Valley.

The season ended at the highly popular Seaside Games along the Pacific Ocean in Ventura, California, where we were joined by Patrick McCormick and his wife Michelle, Sage Guyton, Sally Mathison and son Brett, and Games athlete Will Matthews and his wife Mariah. Travelling from Burbank to find our tent and join our Society was our newest member, Chandler Massey. He is always smiling, but the unassuming 22 year old university student studying International Business is an actor on a popular afternoon TV soap opera in the US

Bob Matheson
Deputy Chief's Lieutenant



Top: John Ashley and Alex Aakesson Malcolm III, Emma, Colvin and Malolm IV

Above: Dr. G W Matheson with Kyle, Mark, Dale and Gregor

Left: Mike Matheson in full swing

CANADA

**Chief's Lieutenant
Joel Matheson Q.C.**

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Although 2010 was not as busy as last year, we did maintain active participation at many Scottish events, especially here in Nova Scotia. Our Nova Scotia Branch, as usual, did a wonderful job in representing Clan Matheson not only in its own Province, but also in New Brunswick. Al and Beverly Matheson attended a Highland Games event in Fredericton N.B. and had many visitors at our tent.

The past year saw a slight drop in Canada Society membership, but we have received a number of enquiries in the latter part of the year. Needless to say, we are actively pursuing them. I believe the changes to the Clan Society membership rules will be of great assistance in recruiting new members. These rule changes will be sent to all our present members along with our Newsletter. Our financial position remains steady thanks to the payment of dues, plus the much appreciated donations of some members. It would be remiss of me not to mention the excellent support our Canada Society receives from our Mainland Branch.

I join with Al Matheson in extending our deepest sympathy and our condolences to those who suffered the loss of loved ones during the past year. Also, I extend to all my best wishes for health and happiness in 2011. Our plans for the year ahead are to continue our hunt for new Branches, and to work on increasing membership. To this end we will be including membership application forms with the Newsletter, and calling on our members to do some recruiting.

Joel Matheson QC
Chief's Lieutenant for Canada



Afghanistan news received from Terry and Dawn Matheson in Ontario.

"We noticed the Chief's concern for members of the Armed Forces serving in Afghanistan in the Newsletter 2010.

He did not know of any Mathesons involved in that conflict. Attached is a picture of our son, Colonel Mark Matheson, wearing the

ribbon for his General Campaign Star (ISAF Bar) which he received for service in Kabul, Afghanistan. He was there from October 2007 to July 2008 serving as Director of Staff for the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF). Since his return he has been in Winnipeg, Manitoba at 1 Canadian Air Division Headquarters. In July 2010 he will be moving to Ottawa as Deputy Chief of Staff Support, Canada Command"

Deaths

Howard William Matheson, 23 December 2009, Calgary, Alberta

Isabel Catherine Matheson, 19 June 2010, Hopewell N.S. in 104th year

Sophia Matheson, 8 October 2010, Dartmouth N.S.

Sadly we recently heard, from Al Matheson, of the death of Ena Matheson. Our sympathies go out to Doug.

Anniversary: Ed. and Edna Graham, 11 April 2010, 60th anniversary, Brookfield, N.S.

Birth

Anna Karolina Matheson, born 8 July, 2009, daughter of Samuel and Agnieszka Matheson, Winnipeg, Man.

NOVA SCOTIA

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Piper

Kelly Putnam

This Branch of the Clan Matheson was not quite as active as in past years, but still managed to attend many events. It was good to see old friends and make some new ones.

We started the Clan activities by attending the Tartan Day celebrations held at Province House in Halifax. This event was well attended with the Speaker of The House reading the Tartan Day Proclamation. This was followed with music and Highland Dancing and of course a great lunch. That evening Beverly and I attended the Tartan Day Dinner hosted by the Clan Stewart. An auction was held following the dinner in support of the Federation of Scottish Clan in Nova Scotia, International Gathering Committee.

On April 11 Beverly and I (along with other Clan members) had the pleasure of attending Ed. and Edna Graham's 60th wedding anniversary in Brookfield. Our congratulations and best wishes go to them.

On May 15th we held our first Clan meeting of the year, with 16 members in attendance, in order to plan our summer schedule. As always, following the meeting we enjoyed a pot luck meal. July 22 saw Beverly and I pack up the Clan tent, etc. and venture 500km. west to the New Brunswick Highland Games in Fredericton. These games are held on the beautiful grounds (11 acres) of Old Government House. This was the first time we ventured out of Nova Scotia with the Clan tent and we picked the right Games. This turned out to be the best we have ever attended. On Friday evening the Lieutenant Governor, The Honorable Graydon Nicholas, hosted a reception in Old Government House in honor of the 29th New Brunswick Highland Games. This was a gala affair with nearly all in Highland dress. After the reception we were treated to a concert on the grounds. The entertainment consisted of native drummers and singers (Muskrat Singers), Pipe and Drum Bands, dancers and fiddlers. A very enjoyable evening. Saturday we were off to our Clan Tent which was set up on the beautiful grounds, with the other events taking place all around us. Our new friend Jim Matheson from New York and Florida and I, carried the Clan Banner in the Parade of Clans. We had many people visit our tent, of which four were Matheson families who joined our Clan Canada Branch, we are pleased to have then with us.

The help and support supplied by the organizing committee was second to none, our thanks go out to them.

August 8th found us at Donna and Gab's cottage at Shortt's Lake for our annual picnic and auction. As always, this was a fun day ending as always with our famous pot luck supper, thanks again to Donna and Gab. We held our annual general meeting and closing dinner on the 18th of September at Smitty's Restaurant in Truro, with 18 members attending.

We thank Edna (Matheson) Graham for presenting our Tartan at the Kirking "O" The Tartan service on 26 September, in Truro.

On 2 October Beverly, Eileen and myself attended the Federation Of Scottish Clans in Nova Scotia dinner and dance held in Truro. This was a great evening of good music and food, including haggis. The guest speaker was the Commanding Officer of the 1st Battalion Nova Scotia Highlanders (N). A very enjoyable evening.

As a Clan, our hearts went out to the victims of the Haiti earthquake. As a Branch of the Clan along with Canada Branch we sent a contribution to the Red Cross for Haiti Relief.

As years pass many touch our lives and we loose friends and relatives, I regret to report the death of such people: Isabel Matheson of Hopewell, died 19 June in her 104th year, Douglas Matheson of Glengarry died 10 July, Grace Leeuw of Calgary and Pictou on 18 August, Sophia Matheson of Dartmouth on 8 October. To all their families we send our condolences and remember fondly their time with us.

In closing it will be 2011 when you receive this newsletter. It is our hope that all Matheson's and their families had a wonderful Christmas and that you have good health and happiness in 2011.

Al Matheson
President, Clan Matheson Society of Nova Scotia

UNITED KINGDOM BRANCH REPORT

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In the first few months of the year the UK was severely affected by the very snowy weather and so the first significant event for our Branch was initiated by our Chief in order to try enrol more members from the East Anglia region of the country, following his initial success in London some years ago.

Despite sending out a considerable number of invitations the response was inconclusive. The arrangement was to hold a picnic at the home of Fiona and Andrew Kendall near Beccles in Suffolk. As the weather was very kind for May and the swimming pool inviting, quite a few of the younger clan members were tempted in. Photographs are attached. All those who attended had a most enjoyable time in beautiful surroundings. Again thanks to our hosts for their picnic and generous hospitality.

The Annual General Meeting of the Branch was held again in the offices of our Convenor, Alexander, in St. James's Palace but with a quite small number present. On this occasion the AGM was held in the afternoon as Alexander had spent the morning on horseback in preparation for the Queen's Birthday Parade due the shortly afterwards. More of this anon.

The AGM considered many topics in particular in connection with raising the profile of the Clan and Branch within the United Kingdom by using internet networks like "Facebook" and "Linked-In", which had particular relevance to the younger generations. The importance of having an accurate and up-to-date website was paramount in our plans to grow the Branch. To this end it was decided to hire a professional to carry out a re-vamp of the website which, it is hoped, will be completed early in 2011.

John Faid, our Genealogist, explained his activities over the previous year and advised that the Edinburgh Gathering in 2009 had been a very positive boost to knowledge of the Shinness Mathesons. It was now possible for female members of the Clan to have DNA testing and he hoped that many would take part in this very important activity to gain further insight into the Clan's genealogy. The transfer of our Archive material into the Inverness Archive Centre would continue.

Preliminary discussions also took place about the date for the next Clan Gathering to be held in Scotland. Possibilities were either to hold one in 2012, around the time of the London Olympics, or in conjunction with another "Homecoming" event being planned in Edinburgh in 2014. The Committee is considering both these possibilities and members will be advised in due time of its decision.

AGM 2011: the date was fixed for Saturday May 28th, which coincides with the rehearsal date for the Queen's Birthday Parade. Alexander has been able to secure the promise of 40 free tickets for this rehearsal morning with the AGM again in the afternoon. Two tickets would be offered to members who attend the AGM and would be reserved on application to the Secretary when the AGM calling notices are sent out in February. Overseas members who might be in London at that time are also encouraged to apply for them.

Members will have received recently a letter from the Secretary explaining that the Branch subscriptions which have remained static for about 20 years are due to rise next April 1st. It is hoped that Members will appreciate the need for this increase.

Finally, on a personal note, Kate and I enjoyed a very interesting tour around New Zealand last January/February, meeting and being entertained by old Matheson friends and visiting historical sites associated with Clan members; a really fantastic trip as a curtain raiser to our Golden Wedding celebrations.

Your news and views of the branch are always welcomed and we would be grateful for any items, photos or information which will be of interest to our Members.

So I conclude with greetings to you all and very best wishes for 2011

Ron Lowry

Hon. Secretary UK Branch

UK Items of News

We were delighted to hear of Rosie (nee Mathieson) Mayfield's remarriage. Rosie was widowed some years ago and has recently married Sir Lachlan MacLean.

Sadly, Mrs Colvin, mother of Katie van der Werff, died at Amesbury Abbey, Wiltshire, on 25th Sept 2010. Bridget Colvin was the daughter of Lionel Trower and Ethel Matheson (1888-1968). Her mother inherited the Achany Estate in Sutherland from her brother, Major James Sutherland Matheson (1880-1933) and sold it in 1949. James was the senior representative of the Mathesons of Shiness in Sutherland.

Bridget's grandfather, Lieutenant Colonel Duncan Matheson of Achany and the Lews (1850-1930), sold the Lewis Estate in 1918. The direct male line of the Mathesons of Shiness continues with Andrew Matheson of Braham, Ross-shire, and Hugh Matheson of Thoresby, Nottinghamshire, grandsons of Duncan, and cousins of Bridget.

Some History:

A distinguished Californian Matheson:

Duncan Matheson, born in Pictou County, graduated from Pictou Academy in 1880, moved to Los Angeles in 1881 and married a gal from River John, NS, in Los Angeles in 1896.



He went to work for the Southern Pacific Railroad in 1887 but left in 1900 to begin a remarkable career with the San Francisco Police Department (including the 1906 San Francisco earthquake). He later served as Treasurer of the City of San Francisco.

CLAN MATHESON DNA PROJECT UPDATE

We now have 123 testers, with 93 male surname Y-DNA results being reported. We also have 23 mtDNA results for female lines, some of which come from Matheson-related females and some from our Matheson males that want to test their mother's line. Five of our testers have tried out the new autosomal Family Finder test which tests all lines from all grandparents. This new test costs U.S. \$289. With this test, females who do not carry Y-DNA will have a higher probability of learning which Matheson line they come from.

Previously we had proved that Clan Matheson was BOTH Viking and Celtic, with 15 men being R1a-Viking from the chiefly line of Murchadh Buidhe of Lochalsh, Ross-shire, and 14 men being R1b-Celtic from the chieftain line of Col. George Matheson of Shiness, Sutherlandshire. We've found two different R1b-Celtic lines on the Isle of Lewis, the largest consisting of eight men.

We have identified 18 different groups of two or more men with the majority being R1b-Celtic. So we are primarily a Celtic clan, but like Clan Donald, our chiefly line is Viking. A recent paper claimed that the progenitor of the chiefly line was still on the Russian plains 3,500 years ago, but another source believes our chiefly line got to Norway before Clan Donald arrived 4,500 years ago. This is still being investigated.

The Mathesons from Little Scatwell keep hoping that we'll find a tester in Australia or New Zealand. Their line went west to New York to work on the estate of Franklin D. Roosevelt while other brothers headed east. We've learned that this group has a "Borders" DNA signature. So our various Mathesons were adventurous and moved about quite a bit!

The DNA project has helped people connect across continents with genetic cousins and encouraged a sense of kinship within the clan. Cousins Russ Matheson in California and Keith Matheson in Nova Scotia, Canada, are proof of that. When their DNA results matched, Russ and Keith met in person for the first time at the Queen Mary Games in California. Armed with copies of their family tree, they quickly identified their common Matheson ancestor.

Information about the project is available at <http://www.familytreedna.com/public/Matheson>. Tests can be ordered at <https://www.familytreedna.com/group-join.aspx?Group=Matheson>.

Males with the Matheson (or various spelling) surname need to order Y-DNA37 or Y-DNA67 tests so we can determine which branch they belong to. Males (of any surname) and females can order the Family Finder test to check out all ancestors or the mtDNA test which follows the mother's straight female line. Testing is easy with cheek swabs. For more information, contact DNA Project Administrator Alice M. Fairhurst, alicefairhurst@gmail.com

Alice Fairhurst - Project Administrator



Shawn at Cache Valley Games, Utah



Al & Beverley Matheson at NB Highland Games



The Parade of Clans at Queen Mary



Al, Beverley & Rev Ivan Gregan at Lieut Gov's Reception



Nova Scotia Branch's picnic at Shortt's Lake



Jim & Al Matheson with the Clan Banner at the NB Games



Matheson & Cravens swimming and sunbathing



Members of UK Branch at the clan picnic in May



The Lowry's Golden Wedding Anniversary



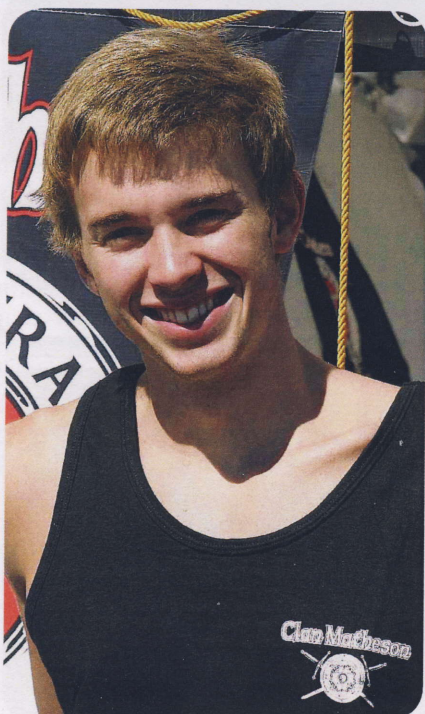
Before and After the Storm in Phoenix Arizona



Roland M, David, Roland D, Jessica and Alisha Matteson at the Phoenix Games



Christine Matheson and The Tinkers at Salt Lake City



Chandler Massey at Ventura



Brett and Sally Mathison at San Diego



Sage Guyton at Ventura