



Newsletter 2012



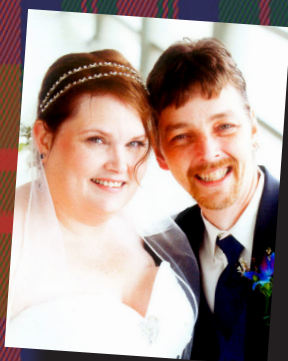
The Clan Matheson Society



Punting back to Cambridge



Nadya Mathison and Alice Fairhurst, St Andrews Dinner



Joanne Matheson and Geir-Atle Sovik Married 1st October 2001



Chuck, Shawn, Marc, McKay, Danielle, Christine and Marty Matheson



Fergus and Fiona approaching Cambridge



The younger Matheson family



Alexander, Ron and Jennie on the Cam



UK Branch AGM



Mr and Mrs. Malcolm Matheson IV, Mr. and Mrs. Matheson III, Virginia Scott at The Plains, Virginia

THE CHIEF'S MESSAGE

It is said time goes faster as the years go by which has certainly been the case for me this past year. It seems only yesterday your editor was asking me to write a few words for the last Clan newsletter so here we go again. Here in Britain we had a hard winter and the promise of a warm summer but somehow the latter never really happened, at any rate not in this bit of the United Kingdom. It remains to be seen what the weather prophets forecast for the next 12 months.

Of course it was a different story when the world was shocked to hear of the earthquake which struck at Christchurch in New Zealand. Our thoughts and prayers were for our fellow Clan members and we eagerly awaited news of them. Thank Goodness for e-mails which enabled us to make contact and to witness the terrible damage to that fine city. I speak for the Clan when I say how much we admire the wonderful spirit, determination and expertise of those involved in restoring the beauty of that lovely city.

Thanks to the skill of our webmaster Rod Urquhart, the Clan website was launched during the year. All branches have a home page which to achieve maximum benefit they are asked to update monthly to the webmaster <rod.urquhart@btinternet.com> showing forthcoming events and advertise the existence of the Clan Society. If you have not yet visited it please do so at www.clanmatheson.net <<http://www.clanmatheson.net>>

The United States branch plan to introduce Commissioners operating under Deputy Chief's Lieutenants. Their task will be to reach out to Mathesons in areas previously not canvassed. Other Clans have found the idea successful and benefitted. Other branches with vast areas to cover may like to give the idea some thought. Any enthusiastic member of any branch of the Clan Society can become a Commissioner but in the first instance should consult his / her Chief's Lieutenant.

2014 is earmarked as our next International Clan Gathering. I am still waiting for confirmation that the next world Gathering of the Clans will also be in 2014.

Thank you once again to all those who hold office and give so much of their time to ensure our Clan Society continues to prosper, for which we are all very grateful.

Fergus Matheson of Matheson

GENEALOGY CORNER

The Fatal Arrow: Whilst the Matheson lands of Lochalsh face the Isle of Skye and the open sea, their lands in the east are landlocked, lying deep within the heart of Sutherland. In a 17th century account these lands formed a 15 Scots (=17 English) mile long block of land and forest on both sides of Loch Shin, north west of present day Lairg. The core of these lands was Shinness, over 100 square miles of upland country, reaching north from Loch Shin to Loch Naver.

Shinness lay historically within the vast Bishopric of Caithness which covered the Scottish mainland north of the province of Ross. The bishops had helped the kings of Scots re-assert their rule over this area in the 12th and 13th centuries after centuries of Norse occupation. In the succeeding centuries unruly descendants of the Norse under the Earls of Caithness continued to occupy the eastern lands

of the Bishopric. To the west, in the province of Strathnaver, the Bishop of Caithness himself exercised secular lordship alongside the Chiefs of Clan Mackay, a Clan probably transported there from Moray in the 12th century by King William the Lion. Finally, in the south east, the Earls of Sutherland reinforced Scottish royal control in the "Sudrland" carved out of the Earldom of Caithness in 1201. Here in the west of Sutherland lay the lands of Shinness, forming a strategic barrier between Clan Mackay above Loch Naver to the north west and Clan Sutherland (or Murray) to the south east.

The first Matheson to be recorded in Sutherland, Alexander Man (probably MacMahan in Gaelic) would have lived in Dornoch, seat of the bishopric, rather than Shinness, but may well have been instrumental in the clan's settlement in Shinness. Alexander



AN CIREAN
CEANN CINNISH

THE CLAN MATHESON SOCIETY

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Cover Photos

Alexander on duty at the Royal wedding

Nadya and Roger Mathison (new Chief's Deputy Lieutenant West Coast US)
with Alice Fairhurst

Robert, Colin and Piper Warren,
dancing (?), Australia

Al and Beverley celebrate their
Golden Wedding Anniversary

Man was Archdeacon of Ross from 1376 until 1381 and Bishop of Caithness from 1381 until 1412. Undoubtedly a bearer of sword as well as crozier it would have been natural for him to call on his kin to reinforce secular authority in this troubled region.

At all events the earliest accounts in clan traditions of a Matheson in Shinness relate to one Evander Matheson (Iver or Iomhair MacMhathain) who flourished only 19 years after Bishop Alexander's death in 1431/33. Evander's Christian name suggests a link with the founding Matheson chief, Coinneach mac Mathghamhna, by tradition married to a daughter of Iomhair Crom, progenitor of Clan MacIver. It also reminds us that Iomhair ("Ivarr", a "yew warrior" or "archer") and Mathghamhain ("a bear", rare in Gaelic and quite possibly translated from the more common Norse "Bjorn") both speak of intermarriage between Celt and Norse in the preceding centuries.

Sadly, Evander has been remembered for his unfortunate involvement in the battle of Drum na Coup in 1431/1433, fought between the Mackays and the Murrays allies of the Sutherlands, and for the appalling consequences of his action there for the whole of Clan Matheson. When the Murrays started their muster for the battle, Evander had been unwilling to take any part in the affair. His unwillingness may have stemmed from his family being recent settlers in the Earldom, and his lack of personal engagement with local politics. Nevertheless, goaded by his wife, no doubt a Sutherland or Murray, he eventually set out for battle but arrived late at the battlefield, apparently without any of his following.

By a supreme irony his Christian name is an apt reminder of his deed. The battle between Mackays and Murrays, with Sutherland allies, was already over, but Evander fired an arrow which killed a man he took for a scavenger. He had unwittingly killed the aged chief, Angus Dubh Mackay. A righteous intent could not however correct the offence: Angus's family took the ensuing feud not only to Evander, killed by Angus's son, Iain Aberach, but also to the Lochalsh Mathesons. In the battle of Cnoc nan Cat-tach, probably in 1438, the Mackays killed the Matheson Chief, Alasdair mac Mhurchaidh, with four of his sons, and contributed to the eclipse of this leading clan for over two centuries.

A much later tradition derives the present line of Shinness from a 15th century Chief of Lochalsh, but we cannot rule out the possibility that Evander Matheson was their forbear. Moreover Evander himself is also likely to be the ancestor of historic Mathesons such as Alexander Matheson, a Bailie of the Earl of Sutherland in 1492, John Matheson, the Chancellor of Caithness in 1544 - 1554, and of many present day Mathesons of east Sutherland descent. Evander is a Christian name that has persisted until modern times amongst these Mathesons. May we not surmise that this reflects, not just family piety, but also unrecorded traditions showing Evander in a more kindly light than our tale of 1431/1433?

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This year, we decided to alter the way we held committee meetings so that the more general membership of the Society might attend and make their views known and we did have some very welcome non-committee members contributing during the year. Our first meeting was due to be the annual Clan Picnic in February, usually held in the Flagstaff Gardens, Melbourne. Unfortunately, it had to be cancelled at short notice because of imminent heavy rain. Although we contacted as many potential attendees as possible, there were two members who had left home early from the country centres of Ballarat and Bendigo who had started their journey. It is the first time I can remember cancelling the Picnic and we have made arrangements to ensure it does not happen again. We have had the picnic in difficult, windy temperatures of 42°C, but we enjoyed ourselves nevertheless!

Another meeting was held in conjunction with a lunch at the Radisson Hotel adjacent to Flagstaff Gardens in Melbourne. The Radisson was where we held our part of the successful International Clan Gathering in 2008. We all enjoyed the lunch and the productive meeting. We decided to conduct a questionnaire about what our members expected of the Clan Society: asking for ideas for future event and whether we should hold a joint Gathering with our NZ Clan friends. This questionnaire was set up by our indefatigable secretary, Helen Mathieson, and was included with a recent Newsletter. Our excellent merchandise (see our website, www.mathesonclan.com.au, for details) and the Clan Certificate have been recent initiatives.

In 2011, I was delighted that Abigail Butler generously volunteered to host the AGM at her lovely house in the hills above Ferntree Gully on a road reminiscent of those in the Scottish Highlands - one lane with passing places. We were treated at one stage to some piping from our trusty piper, Warren Matheson - so good that Rob and I felt the urge to do a little dancing (see photo!).

At the AGM, we elected Helen as Secretary, Rob as

Vice-President, Abigail as Treasurer, Roma Jorgenson as Genealogist and myself as President. Other committee members elected were Warren Matheson (our piper), Margaret Fleming, Brett Mathieson, Merle Matheson and Mary Molan. We were especially grateful to Brett Mathieson, our retiring Treasurer, for his sterling efforts over several years.

During the year our Newsletter Editor, Chris Mathieson, resigned due to the pressure of other work, but we were fortunate that Alison Matheson, who lives in Sydney, has volunteered to take on this task. She has now produced two great Newsletters, proving herself a worthy successor to Chris Mathieson and Gordon Marshall.

The year 2012 marks the tenth anniversary of the passing of two prominent Australian Mathesons who were important in the forming of the Clan Society in Australia. The Australian Branch was formed in 1997 by Ron Matheson, with help from May Matheson and Colin Lewis. Ron and Sir Louis Matheson, the first Patron of the Society, died within a day of each other in March 2002 and had their funerals on the same day.

Ron was an enthusiastic and loyal member of the Branch whose support and leadership is sadly missed. He was a much valued foundation President and co-founder of the Australian Branch of the Clan Matheson Society. He was born in 1927 in the Victorian country town of Stawell and went to school at Ballarat College. He joined the Australian Air Training Corps towards the end of the Second World War. His working life was spent in business in Melbourne, including a bank, an electrical store, a draper's (which he later took over) and a major department store. In 1977 he was made President of the Heidelberg (a major Melbourne suburb) Chamber of Commerce. Ron had a long and happy association with St Andrews Church at Reservoir (another Melbourne suburb) of which he was treasurer for many years. He was a warm and genial man with integrity, tact, compassion and humility and we miss him still. His widow, Merle, still comes to meetings and we all enjoy her company.

Sir Louis was born in Huddersfield, UK, in 1912 and spent some of his early years with relatives in Aberdeen. He was educated at York and Manchester. Upon graduating as an engineer, he worked in industry before joining academic life as a university lecturer, first at Manchester and then at Birmingham. He was a member of the Home Guard during the Second World War, earning a Military MBE for his services. After the War he came to a post at Melbourne University but returned to UK in 1951 to become Professor of Engineering at Manchester. In 1960 he left again to become foundation Vice Chancellor of Monash University in Melbourne retiring from that post in 1976. During his time at Monash, the University grew from an empty paddock into a thriving place with over 30,000 students and a well-deserved international reputation as a first-class research institution. He was awarded a CMG in 1972 and knighted (KBE) in 1976 for his services to education. Sir Louis also played a leading part in higher education in Papua New Guinea where he served on the Interim Council of the University of Papua New Guinea and was Chancellor of the University of Technology at Lae, Papua New Guinea from 1973 to 1975. Sir Louis served on a number of Victo-

rian Government enquiries and a Royal Commission where his experience and judgment as a distinguished engineer were in demand. He was also the first Chairman of the Australian Federal Government's Science and Technology Council. His widow, Lady (Audrey) Matheson celebrated her 98th birthday in December 2011.

Lady Matheson continues to take a keen interest in the Clan Society, attending functions where she can. Members will remember her opening of the Melbourne part of the 2008 International Clan Matheson Gathering in 2008.

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Chief's Lieutenant Australia

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Piper

Norman Matheson

Despite the small size of New Zealand and the population of less than 5,000 Mother Nature did not let us escape her wrath. We have had a mine disaster which sadly claimed the lives of 29 miners, a series of severe earthquakes and tremors in our second city Christchurch where many lives were lost and terrific damage caused in the City centre; the lovely Cathedral suffered terribly and will have to be rebuilt. We have had several of floods and fires. As I write, Nelson in the South Island is having the worst rainfall in 100 years causing the main access road to be closed. But it is not all doom and gloom. We have had one or two good sporting moments to cheer us up: winning the Rugby World

cup at home, the 'Breakers' New Zealand's basketball team now sitting on the top of the league of Australian teams, and our Black Caps Cricket team winning a test match in Australia for the first time in 23 years. Several teams and individuals have topped their events winning medals and making us all proud to be Kiwis.

Looking back over the year several Mathesons attended the Scottish Clans Association Burns Night Dinner in January, Chairman Donald recited Robbie's "A man's a man for all that" and proposed the Toast to the immortal memory; the annual picnic held in February was enjoyed by all although numbers were down. In May a few Mathesons attended the Clan McDonald's Laird's dinner which proved to be a delightful evening with Haggis, ceremony and pipes galore. In June we joined with Clans all over the world celebrating Tartan Day and Kirkin 'o' the Tartan. July was AGM month and the Committee, except Joy Weeds, were re-elected. Joy after 17 years of loyal service had decided to retire. She was presented with a wee gift. In September members were invited to the Scottish Clans' Association Annual Dinner. Several Mathesons attended with 80 other Clans Members for an evening of good food, good entertainment and the pleasure of the company of Clans folk. Chairman Donald was invited to propose the Toast to Absent Friends. In October when the World Rugby Cup matches were in full swing many towns were invited to 'adopt' a team and give them a right good welcome. Auckland 'adopted' Scotland and a street parade was held in Remuera with Pipe Bands, Clan Banners and even a squad of well behaved Scottish Terriers, 20 white and 5 black. Sadly, although many Mathesons joined the parade, it did not lift the Scottish team to victory. In November we had a gathering in Hamilton of members from the Waikato area for a pot luck dinner followed by a very enjoyable afternoon where members related their own family history. Ailsa, who lives in Hamilton, was able to give us a good account of her most interesting history. Tea and buns followed before closing the gathering. Those who attended thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

We have been kept in touch with overseas news as well as local by the bi-monthly newsletters often described as the glue that sticks us together. Our thanks go to the Editor for providing them. Our thanks to Chief's Lieutenant Douglas and Deputies Graeme & Blair for their support during the year, also to our Clan Piper Norman Matheson, & Clan genealogist Don Scott.

I cannot close without proposing a vote of thanks to our strong Committee without whose willing help we could not be so successful.

Happy Christmas from Donald NZ

**Donald Matheson
Chairman**



NOVA SCOTIA

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This Branch of the Clan Matheson was not quite as active as usual as some of our regular events could not be held. Even our annual picnic and auction was cancelled when hurricane Irene decided to arrive.

2011 began with Beverly and me representing Clan Matheson at the Bobby Burns Dinner on 19 January, at the St. Johns United Church, Fall River. On 6 April we attended the Tartan Day Dinner and Auction, hosted by the Clan Stewart/Stuart. This event is a fund raiser for the Federation for Scottish Culture in Nova Scotia (FSCNS) of which I am Treasurer.

Our Branch held its spring meeting on 29 May to plan summer activities and the meeting was followed by socializing and food. On 25 June Ed, Dyan, Beverly and I went off to Annapolis Royal to take part in the FSCNS International Gathering of the Clans opening ceremonies and took part in the Kirking of The Tartans service at St. Luke's Church on the 26th. This was a wonderful weekend of both French and Scottish culture on display, and with the Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia in attendance. On 31 July our members met at Keith and Anne's home for a social day and, of course, the pot luck supper. After supper Keith and Anne took us on a tour of the Hector Quay Museum and the Ship Hector. The sun gods were with us that day as the weather was beautiful, and we thank Keith and Anne for their hospitality. You may have started an annual event!

We were disappointed that our annual picnic and auction had to be cancelled because of the hurricane. It is a wonderful event, enthusiastically anticipated. I think Donna might have put a curse on it as she and Gab have hosted our picnic for over 20 years but were unable to do so this year. Donna, we have decided to forgive you and look forward to next year and your speedy recovery.

The Branch held its Annual General Meeting and closing dinner on 18 September at Smitty's Restaurant, Truro.

Finally, on 5 November I represented our Clan at the Annual General Meeting of the FSCNS.

In the past year we were saddened by several deaths. Our condolences go to Beverly on the death of her sister Marjorie, to Ed and Dyan on the death of Ed's brother Ritchie, to Bertha who lost her brother this year, to the family of Olive Tingley of Halifax, (Olive had become a member of our Branch in the past year); long time member Ed Graham of Brookfield passed away on 5 July and we send our condolences to Edna and her family. Early in the year our past secretary and good friend Ena Matheson died. She was a wonderful person and attended many Clan events in Canada and the International Clan Matheson Gathering in Scotland. Many members attended her funeral on 19 February wearing our tartan. She is missed and our sympathy goes to Doug and the family on their loss. We have precious memories of them all.

On a happier note, our congratulations go to Laurie Matheson on receiving his 65 year pin as a member of the I.O.O.F. Beverly and I thank those who helped us celebrate our 50th wedding anniversary on 6 May, 2011

We send out our congratulations to Joanne Matheson (our daughter) and Geir-Atle Sovik on their marriage on 1 October 2011. We wish them a long and happy life together.

It will be 2012 when you receive this newsletter. It is our hope that all Matheson's and their families had a wonderful Christmas and will enjoy good health and happiness in 2012.

Al Matheson
President, Clan Matheson Society of Nova Scotia

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The year 2011 has brought a change to the Canada Branch with the resignation of Joel as the Chief's Lieutenant and my appointment to that position. On behalf of the members I thank Joel for his many dedicated years of work on behalf of the Clan. I know I will be calling on him for advice to keep his Clan work going forward. It is an honor to be asked to take on this responsibility and with your help I hope to expand our membership and start up new Branches

This year has been a busy one for me personally, as the new Chief's Lieutenant and President of the Nova Scotia Branch as well as the treasurer of the Federation for Scottish Culture in Nova Scotia. I have attended various functions over the year.

We were saddened by the news of the death of Donald Hector Matheson of Belle Cote, NS. Donald was a loyal member of our Clan for many years. We send our condolences

to his wife Anna and son Ian and the rest of his family. We also send our condolences to Rev. Daniel Matheson of Ottawa, on the death of his wife Vera, and to Samuel Matheson and his family on the death of his father David Samuel Matheson of Calgary. These wonderful individuals will be greatly missed. On a happier note, the Branch sends congratulations to Frank and Madeline Matheson of London, ON, on their 70th wedding anniversary. They are the parents of Neil, Greg and Ross Matheson. My wife Beverly and I celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary on 6 May 2011. We are the proud parents of Joanne and Steven. Congratulations also to Sam Matheson of Liethbridge, Alberta on his 80 birthday.

In the year ahead we plan to continue our hunt, with your help, for new members and to start new Provincial Branches. To this end please use the application form found on our Clan Web Site, clanmatheson.org. For those who do not have access to the web there will be a membership application form included with this newsletter.

I extend my best wishes for good health and happiness in 2012.

Al Matheson
Chief's Lieutenant for Canada

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Greetings to all Members of the Clan from the UK Branch. We hope that you have enjoyed a blessed Christmas time with your family and friends and we all look forward to a happy and peaceful 2012. In the old days the Greeks always held a truce between the warring city-states during the Olympic period. If only our modern countries would follow their example.

For the UK Branch, 2011 has been a time of change and consolidation. At our last Annual General Meeting held in May, Alexander Matheson retired from his seventeen years as our Convenor, in order to take an even more active part in the running of the world-wide Clan Branches and help his father, our Chief, in these many tasks. He has been succeeded as Convenor by Tony Matheson.

Two other members of the UK Branch Committee have indicated their wish to retire, after the next AGM in May

2012: Malcolm Matheson, the Treasurer, and Ron Lowry, the Secretary.

The Committee is taking active steps to find replacements. On behalf of the Committee and all Branch members I would like to thank Alexander and his family for his hard work and guidance to us all.

The 2011 Annual General Meeting happily coincided with a rehearsal for the Trooping of the Colour held on Horseguards Parade in London. As Alexander was on duty on horseback, he was able to obtain tickets for Clan Members to see the whole spectacle: a really impressive show, with the Colour of the Scots Guards being trooped on that occasion. It was thoroughly enjoyed by all those Clan Members able to be present.

Patricia Mathieson was able to arrange another punting expedition on the river Cam in Cambridge. She lives close by. This year, to escape the hundreds of punts being driven by inexperienced far eastern members of the public, we headed away from Cambridge itself towards Grantchester. We had a large double punt which seated us all, and most members tried punting without falling in to the water. We moored near Grantchester and were joined by some walkers (Peter and Margaret Williams) and enjoyed a very pleasant picnic lunch together. We hope this event will be repeated in 2012 as it is popular with members and their dogs alike.

During the year our website has been transformed, thanks to Rod Urquhart our Webmaster. As a result we have been able to promote the Clan and gain some new members. The Committee is confident that the website will continue to enhance the Clan and, through its web pages, allow members to gain more information about us. There is an active merchandising page where Clan items can be purchased securely. The part of our organisation is being handled by Alan Harpham, a Committee member who would welcome more of your orders for some very attractive Clan Items, including bonnet badges and porcelain mugs.

Another facet of our activities is the amount of work carried out by our Genealogist, John Faid. He has built a fund of information over the years and always welcomes questions from Members about their ancestry. Of course this is very time consuming and he also would relish somebody to help him in this very interesting work. Among his plans is a scheme to transfer Clan Matheson archive material to the Highland Clan Centre in Inverness where it will be available to be viewed by members.

Many Members will remember taking part in the "Homecoming" in Edinburgh in 2009. A similar gathering will be held in Stirling in 2014, to coincide with Bannockburn Anniversary celebrations. Clan Matheson will certainly be represented and we plan to hold our own Gathering at the time. This may be similar to the past event where members visit several sites, finishing in Plockton/Kyle of Lochalsh. Incidentally, those interested in booking accommodation in Plockton, may like to know about the recommended B&B in a revamped Duncraig Castle.

Finally, may I, in my last Newsletter, wish all Clan Members success in what they do and a very happy and productive Membership of their Branch..

Ron Lowry
UK Branch Secretary



Malcolm Matheson III, Gail, The Chief, Alexander, Fiona Kendall and "Corgi" Andrew Kendall

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Piper

Lt. Col. Leslie P. Matheson USAF (ret.)

As I report on this year's (2011) activities in the United States I cannot help but feel that Chief Sir Fergus's acceptance of our invitation to come to the U.S. in 2012 outweighs all of our other efforts. We are especially honored as his very tight schedule only allows for a quick visit to the East Coast over Labor Day Weekend, September 1 & 2, which

coincides with the Virginia Scottish Games in the Plains, VA. We hope to use the Games as the center point of the Chief's visit along with a dinner in his honour. A complete schedule of activities will be forthcoming as soon as final arrangements have been made. This is the Chief's first visit since November 2001, 10 years, so let's turn out for a grand welcome.

Also noteworthy is an important change in leadership. The sudden resignation of Deputy Chief's Lt. - West, Robert W. Matheson left me without any help and leadership for almost half of the U.S. Thanks to our Branch Genealogist Alice M. Fairhurst's extensive knowledge and expertise in the affairs of the West Coast she quickly identified and recruited two capable and willing individuals to take over.

The Chief concurred with Alice's (and my) choices and duly appointed Roger Barry Mathison of Los Angeles, CA as the new Deputy Chief's Lt. - West Coast, and Shawn W. Matheson of South Jordan, Utah as Commissioner for the "Intermountain West" region. Shawn will report to Roger and I feel quite confident that these two capable men will do a more than credible job in their new positions.

The Society thanks you both for filling these positions and thank you Alice for bringing them forward. As most of you know, Alice wears several hats in the Society and will report on them in her own column. She not only is our Genealogist but is head of this Clan's and other's DNA projects.

In early April my wife, Gail, and I were delighted to have as our guest (in The Plains,) the Chief's daughter, Fiona Kendall, and her husband Andrew "Corgi" Kendall along with their daughter Lucia, who had been working in Lexington, KY for several months. We had a wonderful visit with them over a couple of days and shared a delicious tailgate picnic (prepared by Gail) with them at the Orange County Hounds Point-to-Point Races on April 3 before they left for Lexington with Lucia.

On June 1 Gail and I were in London getting ready to go on a cruise to the Baltic and the Chief and his family, including the Kendalls and son Alexander, reciprocated by taking us on a special tour of the Changing of the Horse Guards, the new Horse Guards Museum, plus the Stable and Barracks, all directed by the Lt. Colonel in charge. Then Sir Fergus treated us all to lunch at the Army-Navy Club before departing for a two hour train ride back to his home in Norfolk.

Labor Day week-end our Deputy Chief's Lt. - East John Aakesson held the Clan Matheson tent open once again at the Virginia Scottish Games. He was ably assisted by his brother Alex, Alex's wife Ashley, and Marion MacRae, all of whom were duly imposed upon by Gail and myself, our Son Malcolm IV with his new bride Shoshana, and Ed Matheson from Poquoson, VA.

Once again the number of dues paying members has only reached about 50% of the total on our rolls and once again the same group of 10-12 Life Members made contributions in the \$ 100 range. Even with the generosity of these members (you know who you are) we cannot hope to grow or even survive on our meager intake. Therefore, after great sole-searching and discussion with our East and West Coast representatives, and, indeed, with other Societies, we reluctantly have had to "bite-the-bullet" and raise the annual membership dues to \$ 20.00 (still lower than most other Clans). Your leadership sincerely hopes that this will

not cause any of your all's Scottish blood to rebel and forsake the Society!

We were fortunate to enroll nine new members as of this writing (with three others approved but unpaid).

Eric Colin Burney (Fayetteville, NC)

David Martin Grimsrud (Littlerock, CA)

David Matheson Halperin (San Francisco, CA)

Susan E. Kranz (Anoka, MN)

John Massie (North Hollywood, CA)

Jentrie Loye Matheson (Cedar City, UT)

Katherine Olivia Matheson (Port Jervis, NY)

Philip Crawford Nash (Monterey, CA)

Miraleah Price (Santa Paula, CA)

We welcome you all to the Clan Matheson Society.

Malcolm Matheson, III
Chief's Lieutenant United States

CLAN NEWS WESTERN USA

As usual, Clan Matheson pitched their tent at a number of Scottish games in 2011: In California our tent was at the Queen Mary Scottish Festival in Long Beach, United Scottish Society's Scots Fest '11 in Costa Mesa, San Diego Scottish Highland Games in Vista, Seaside Scottish Games in Ventura. In Utah the tent was at Utah Scottish Festival and Highland Games in Lehi. In Virginia the tent was at the Virginia Scottish Games in The Plains. We would encourage Clan members who are interested in setting up tents at their USA local games to contact either Malcolm Matheson III, clanmathsn@aol.com, or Roger Barry Mathison, roger.mathison@clanmatheson.org

Roger Barry Mathison has been appointed to replace Robert William Matheson as Deputy Chief's Lieutenant-West Coast US. Roger writes: "I was born in England, but really my heart's in the Highlands of Scotland, hence my commitment to Clan Matheson. My parents were both Liverpudlians, my father a descendant of Dugald Matheson of Balmacara, Lochalsh, who left impoverished Ross-shire with his wife Margaret McRae in the early nineteenth century to make his fortune in the boom-town port of Liverpool, stopping over in Lezayre County, Ramsey, Isle of Man. I was born in the coal mining and agricultural center of Wigan, Lancashire, out of necessity really as the bombs were raining down in Liverpool during the blitzkrieg of 1940-1941. Well, I survived and spent the nineteen years following on Merseyside, attending high school at Quarry Bank High School at the same time as the famous founder of the Beatles, John Lennon.

My mother was, like my father, of Celtic stock, the progeny of an Amlwch, Anglesey (Wales) family and Norman-French Lancastrian farmers in Wroughtington Bar (near Leyland, Lancashire, England).

I relish this opportunity to represent Clan Matheson in the Western United States and thank both Deputy Chief Malcolm Matheson III and Clan Chief Sir Fergus Matheson of Matheson, Bt. for appointing me. I have done significant research on my paternal and maternal family histories over the past five years, but there are always those lacunae which inexorably urge me on to fully understand my ancestors' reasons for their peregrinations. I look forward to meeting

many of you in 2012 at the numerous Highland Games venues not only in California but in the Intermountain states as well as communicating with you by e-mail or telephone.

Slainte, sonas agus beairteas"

Since the USA is such a large territory, it was decided that regional officers were needed. Shawn Wesley Matheson who has been leading the clan's efforts in Utah has been appointed Regional Commissioner – Intermountain West. Roger is searching for a clan member to become Regional Commissioner – Southwest as we have a number of members in Arizona and a few in New Mexico. Also there are a large number of Mathesons in Washington (large Scottish games at Enemclaw), so we could easily have a Regional Commissioner – Pacific Northwest.

Welcome to all the new Mathesons, Mathiesons, Mathisons, etc. born this year. Especially Israel Jacob Mathieson who arrived on October 3, 2011, weighing 2 lb 9 oz. He's a scrapper like his proud papa Joshua, one of our Scottish athletes. Mom Kimberly was glad to get him home after he spent 58 days in the hospital.

Roger Mathison
Deputy Chief's Lieutenant – West Coast US

CLAN DNA NEWS DECEMBER 2011

Presently 122 Matheson/Mathieson/Mathison men from Australia, Canada, England, Germany, Ireland, New Zealand, Norway, Scotland, and the USA have results from their Y-DNA testing that traces their male line back in time. This is almost double the number of male testers from 2008.

We've also have had 31 people test their mtDNA which traces their female line. Ten people have also done the Family Finder test which traces all lines.

Our three largest identified groups are:

- the 16 men whose ancestry goes back to Viking family of Murchadh Buidhe Matheson who was chief of the clan in Lochalsh, Ross-shire in the 1500's.
- the 14 men whose ancestry goes back to the Celtic family of Col George Matheson, who was chieftain of the Shiness branch in Sutherlandshire in the 1600's.
- the 9 men whose ancestry goes back to the Celtic line of either Donald Ban Matheson b. 1740 or Hector Matheson b. c. 1750 on the Isle of Lewis.

It is interesting that members from all three of these groups migrated to Nova Scotia, while the members who came into the Southern USA are mainly from the first group. When we get enough testers from Australia and New Zealand, we'll report the patterns from that migration.

Our clan was formed by an amalgam of Celts led by a Viking chief and was spread throughout the Highlands. For those curious about the Matheson early history, you may enjoy looking at the charts at <http://www.clanmathesonusa.org/MathesonCharts.html>

Males, are you curious to see if you have Viking, or Celtic ancestry? Would you like to find some unknown cousins? DNA testing is simple and easy—just cheek swabs. The prices are now less than they were in early 2008. Y-DNA37

marker tests cost \$149, and Y-DNA67 marker tests cost \$238 (US dollars). Please DO NOT order 12 or 25 marker tests because you'll match too many other surnames. Females can test mtDNA for \$99 or mtDNA Plus for \$149 to follow their straight maternal line migration path over the eons.

To inquire about DNA testing, email, write, or call Alice M. Fairhurst, alicefairhurst@gmail.com, 313 E. Hurst St., Covina, CA 91723, (626) 331-4791. To order a DNA kit, go to <http://www.familytreedna.com/group-join.aspx?Group=Matheson> To see results of the test results, go to <http://www.familytreedna.com/public/Matheson/>

Alice M. Fairhurst
Clan Matheson DNA Project Administrator



THE QUEEN'S BODY GUARD FOR SCOTLAND

THE ROYAL COMPANY OF ARCHERS

The Queen's Body Guard for Scotland, The Royal Company of Archers pictured above, is the Sovereign's personal Bodyguard in Scotland. Founded in 1676, it received its first Royal charter in 1704, and in 1822 it was recognised as the Monarch's Scottish Bodyguard. It was originally formed as an Archery Club and the longbow is still the Royal Company's principal weapon.

Shooting remains an important and integral activity with twenty-two major prizes shot for annually, including The Queen's Prize which Her Majesty graciously presents to the winner before the Holyrood Garden Party.

The Royal Company has four hundred active members and a non-active retired list. The duties carried out by the Royal Company centre on the annual Royal Visit to Scotland – the Royal Garden Party at Holyrood Palace and such recurring events as the Installation of new Knights of the Thistle and Investitures. The Royal Company has paraded on more occasions for The Queen than for any other Sovereign: these occasions have included major State events such as the Coronation, State Visits, Silver Jubilee Celebrations, Return of the Stone of Destiny, Opening of the Scottish Parliament, Opening of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, and most recently the visit of the Pope in September 2010 (I am just out of the picture on the right).b&w photograph

Alexander Matheson



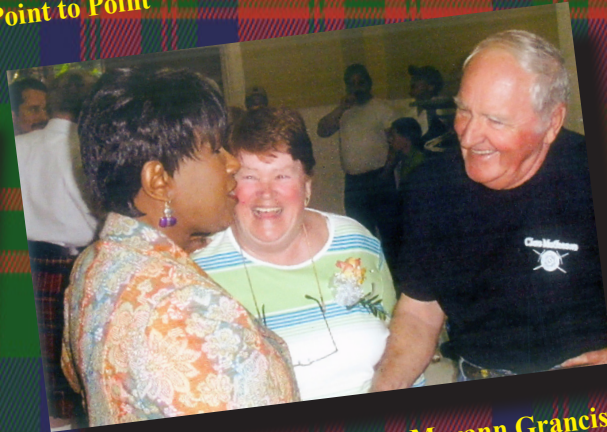
Gail Matheson, "Corgi" Kendall, Lucia Kendall and Fiona Kendall at Orange County Hounds Point to Point



Farnk and Madeline Matheson (seated) on their 70th Wedding Anniversary



Tony Matheson the new UK Convenor



Nova Scotia Lt. Governor, Mayann Grancis greeting Ed. and Dyan Matheson



Sam Matheson on his 80th Birthday



Nova Scotia Branch at Scotsburn



Clan gathering Hamilton NZ



Ed and Gail Matheson, Alex and Ashley and John Aakesson



South American Matheson



Chuck, Shawn, Marc, McKay, Danielle, Christine and Marty Matheson



Graeme Matheson NZ with the Chief



Israel Jacob Mathieson



Clan Gathering Hamilton NZ



John Massie, Highland Games Judge



Alexander at the Royal Wedding



UK Matheson Punting Picnic



Alexander at the Trooping of the Colour



Alice Fairhurst and Sharon Ferguson