



Newsletter 2013



The Clan Matheson Society



Don & Kathryn Matheson and family



Baillie Matheson 90th birthday



Diana Matheson in 2011



Trueman Matheson and Mairead, Catriona, Eilidh, Cairistiona, Laurindia



Joel Matheson and Judith Appleton



New Zealand Scottish Clans Dinner



Ivy Matheson, model

THE CHIEF'S MESSAGE

In his farewell address to the Anglican Synod, the Archbishop of Canterbury referred to his audience as Brotherhood and Sisters; I am glad he included the female element. As a military man, early on I learnt that behind many successful soldiers there was an inspiring wife. As a long time parent, and a husband of many years, I saw what an enormous amount wives contribute. It is a partnership that can work both ways. So it is with our Clan, the very name means family and at any function I attend there is always a strong element of husband and wife, brothers and sisters and so on. It is lovely that we all pull together.

We are fortunate that in every branch of the Clan Society so many young and old come forward to give of their time to help organize and attend the many functions on the calendar. Their reward is to witness the interests and experience the friendship that comes from their efforts and the pleasure of a job well done. Those of us who benefit are extremely grateful for all that is done on our behalf.

Undoubtedly my most enjoyable time this past year was a visit to Virginia, USA, staying with Malcolm III and Gail, meeting up with their family, many of whom live nearby, to attend the 59th Annual Virginia Scottish Games and Festival. It was a splendid occasion at which Mathesons appeared from many corners of America and just about every Clan you ever heard of was present. There were others too in various orders of dress ranging from early Britons to Red Indians. The opening ceremony was spectacular, close on one hundred pipers advanced in line towards the dais playing "Scotland the Brave". It was a great occasion.

That evening Malcolm and Gail in their generous way had arranged a large dinner of even more Mathesons and a piper. Like the games it was a memorable event. The following day a Kirkin of the Tartan service was held at the Grace Episcopal Church, Virginia conducted by the Priest in Charge The Rev D Mary Jayne Ledgerwood. I was sad not to move on to Halifax to meet Nova Scotian Mathesons as had been my original intention but time did not allow.

May I remind all members that the Clan website is there for all to read. Please will Branch Secretaries make a point of regularly contacting the Clan Webmaster and posting their events on it, in addition to their own websites for the benefit of visiting members from other countries.

Best wishes to all Clan members for 2013.

Fergus Matheson of Matheson

GENEALOGY CORNER

MATHESONS OF ASSYNT

Assynt is a district with strong Matheson associations that has been sadly overlooked in clan histories. Situated on the western Highland coast immediately north of Wester Ross, Assynt is a land of wild and imposing mountains, sea lochs and literally hundreds of freshwater lochs, a rugged terrain of hard won livelihoods in pastoral farming and fishing. In the late 19th century Matheson was still the most common surname, ahead even of Macleod, the ancient clan of Assynt. And today Mathesons are prominent in the management of the trust which now owns the 44,000 acre North Assynt estate.

The Matheson presence in Assynt is linked indirectly with a great event in the 17th century civil wars: the Covenanting Army's defeat of the royalist general, the great

Marquis of Montrose at the battle of Carbisdale in Ross-shire in 1650, and his subsequent execution. Montrose had been captured by an associate of Neil Macleod of Assynt, a committed Covenanter. After the Restoration, Macleod's implacable enemy, the Mackenzie Earl of Seaforth, used allegations of Macleod's personal involvement in these events to bolster his eventually successful efforts, by law and by force, to wrest the barony of Assynt from Macleod's control. Mathesons almost certainly arrived in Assynt as supporters of the Mackenzie conquerors, just as in the early 1600s they had accompanied the Seaforth Mackenzies in their takeover of Lewis, forfeited by Macleod of Assynt's kinsmen, the Macleods of Lewis.

But Seaforth Mackenzie's enjoyment of Assynt was short-lived and it was acquired by the Earl of Sutherland in



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THE CLAN MATHESON SOCIETY

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Cover Photos

Top left: Australian Picnic

Top right: The Chief at the
Virginia Games

Middle left: Donald Matheson with
son Stuart and grandsons Brock
and Alex

Middle right: Garaldine Weber with
the new Canadian banner

Bottom right: Alexander with his
group at Henley Royal Regatta,
Diamond Jubilee Barge in the
background

Bottom left: Five Generations of
Mathesons, Molly Staples 104th
Birthday - NZ

1758. In the 1790s Assynt was the setting for the introduction of sheep flocks by enterprising Sutherland tacksmen, the prelude to extensive clearances of tenants and subtenants in Assynt for sheep farms in the early 1800s. There is evidence that some Mathesons cleared from Assynt found a short-lived respite on the Kintail estate of the last Lord Seaforth, a man of traditional paternalist inclinations, prior to his death in 1815.

[The first full length history of the Mackenzies for over a hundred years, *May we be Britons: a History of the Mackenzies*, by A and K Mackenzie, was published last May. It can be bought through the "Shop" link on www.clan-mackenzie.org.uk/. The book draws on fresh evidence and new lines of enquiry in covering over 700 years of clan history, with a sharp eye on the wider political and cultural context in which Clan Mackenzies operated. The book includes useful genealogical tables, which, on the shared origins of the Mackenzies and Mathesons, broadly agree with findings of our recent Matheson historians. Andrew Mackenzie is an art historian and there is also fresh research on historically significant heraldry and seals, some of interest to the Mathesons.]

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In 2012 we decided that, in order to encourage greater participation, committee meetings would be open to all members. Discussion could involve anyone present although voting should only involve committee members. In general there is consensus on most matters. 2012 began with a successful Annual Clan Picnic at Flagstaff Gardens in February. We enjoyed catching up with each others' lives, and discussing Clan matters with some excellent piping by Warren Matheson. We reviewed our excellent merchandise (see www.mathesonclan.com.au), and whether it should be distributed outside Australia. Later in the year we shall investigate international money transfers and the work necessary for packaging items for overseas. Our merchandise has been an extremely successful venture (hats off to Rob Mathieson), but the additional work involved in overseas sales is daunting.

We had a successful Winter Lunch in May at the Bendigo Yacht Club located at Lake Eppalock, near Bendigo. We had Committee discussions, caught up with Lois and Len

Langford's recent travels, Warren provided excellent piping (as usual) and we enjoyed his brother Robert's inspiring tattoo!

The Clan Matheson Tent was one of 23 at the annual Ringwood Highland Games in Melbourne in April. Our merchandise was on display and attracted much envious admiration from members of other clans. Our banner was carried in the March of the Clans by Rob Mathieson.

Member Jeff Freeman was our representative at the Toukley Highland Games (about an hour north of Sydney on the coast of New South Wales) in August. He set up a Clan Matheson Tent, fielded enquiries and sold merchandise.

The Committee was re-elected at the AGM in November; Colin Matheson (President) Rob and Helen Mathieson (Vice-President/merchandise and Secretary respectively), Abigail Butler (Treasurer), Roma Jorgenson (Genealogist), Warren Matheson (Piper) and Margaret Fleming. We are looking for a genealogist to take the place of Roma who has worked diligently in the position for years.



We learnt of several events about 100 years ago affecting Matheson families here: Margaret Fleming's grandparents (John Charles, Charlie, Matheson and Margaret Victoria Muller) married on 17 September 1913. Margaret has written about them and also, in our Australian Newsletter, about her aunt Esther Aslin, who sadly passed away aged 97 in 2011, but who was born on the same day that Australia joined Britain as participants in the First World War. She

joined the Clan Society at its formation and remained interested in Clan affairs although she lived in Adelaide, away from most Clan events. On her 90th birthday she celebrated three times during a week that saw her travelling from Adelaide to Sydney, then Melbourne before returning to Adelaide.

Lady (Audrey) Matheson celebrated her 99th birthday on 19 December 2012. Audrey also had 3 birthday parties during that week but did not travel as widely as Esther. Audrey is well and now lives in supported accommodation near her flat in Melbourne.

One hundred years ago, in 1912, Kenneth Farquhar Matheson (Kenny) arrived with his wife Mabel at Binya near Griffith in New South Wales to take up a farm there. His granddaughter, Jan Evans, and her family all still live nearby. In September, descendants of Kenny and Eddie celebrated the 100th anniversary of the family's arrival.

There will be a gathering of the Australian and New Zealand Mathesons in Melbourne on 22- 24 March 2013. It has been referred to as a 'mini'-gathering, a "National" Gathering and 'gathering' and grew out of the 2008 International Gathering in Melbourne, Auckland and Queenstown. New Zealand and Australian Mathesons thought they would

like to meet more often in the 'Antipodes'. Abigail Butler undertook the organisation and it will be held in Eltham, a beautiful Melbourne suburb. Below is the interesting program she has put together:

- Friday 22nd Registration/Reception
- Saturday 23rd Coach Trip to visit the City of Melbourne/Southbank, or Ferry ride across Port Phillip Bay to Williamstown, evening Formal Dinner at the Eltham Gateway Hotel
- Sunday 24th Genealogy Forum, Lunch, Genealogy Forum continued, including afternoon tea

Some developments in the technology of DNA testing could make the Genealogy Forum particularly interesting. Please contact emla53@mcmedia.com.au or view our website (www.mathesonclan.com.au) for further details.

As I write, bushfires are again threatening some centres in this country. Smoke enveloping Canberra again brought memories of the fires that burnt nearly 500 homes but mercifully few died in Australia's capital city ten years ago; a reminder of the Black Saturday bushfires in 2009 that took over 170 lives just north of Melbourne. Scorching weather is anticipated, but we seem to be better-prepared.

Colin Matheson

***President and Chief's Lieutenant for Australia
(thanks to Alison Matheson, Editor of the Australian
Clan Newsletter, for some material)***

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Greetings from warm and sunny New Zealand! As I write Christmas is fast approaching. We are the first country to celebrate and though it is summer here, the spirit of Christmas is with us as it should be wherever folk are gathered. Many Kiwis take to the beaches and enjoy a barbecue in good weather. We do hope when you are reading this that your Christmas was great and that your memories of the joyful occasion are good.

2012 started with a bang for some Mathesons who attended the Scottish Clans Association Burns Night dinner. Several members recited Burns' poetry and Chairman Donald was invited to propose a toast to the lassies. He did so with a poem of his own which caused one lassie to stand and applaud for, in her words "the recognition of the role of women". The address to the haggis was as good as the taste.

Looking back to our February newsletter, several mentions were made of proposed Clan Gatherings. The most important being the Virginia Highland Games in August. We look forward to reading about that. Our own programme of gatherings started with a picnic in February, when about 50 turned up and a couple of new members joined us. Plans were laid for gatherings in Hamilton and Christchurch. These took place and were quite successful. We hope that gatherings in Queenstown in February 2013 and Wellington later will take place. Our branch annual picnic will be held in February and we are also preparing for a mini gathering in Melbourne, Australia, in March.

We watched the London Olympics on TV with great interest. Not only was it a great show, but our athletes performed well. (OK don't remind us of the defeat by England at their last encounter, but well done England).

Over the past year we have lost several good Clan Members and our thoughts are with their families as this time. Fortunately, we have gained some new young members. We continue to encourage members to enlist their young into our ranks. They are always welcome.

During the year Don Scott our long serving genealogist retired after many years of tremendous work for the branch and the Clan. We are fortunate to welcome Margaret Faed as our new genealogist. She is settling in nicely.

At our AGM last July our dedicated Committee was re-elected. We were all saddened by the sudden passing of Committee member and dear wife, Anne, of Chief's Lieutenant Douglas, much loved by all who knew her.

Andrew Matheson, son of our branch founder, the late Rev Roy Matheson, volunteered to resurrect our branch website. Andrew, who is a former New Zealand Ambassador to the Philippines, has worked hard to set up and develop the web site, www.clanmatheson.org.nz. Do visit it, it is well worth a look and full of information.

Of course, it has not all been good news. We are still suffering memories of the mine disaster on the west coast and the devastating earthquake in Christchurch. We had another earthquake in the middle of the North Island which fortunately did not cause any loss of life but was frightening to say the least. Severe flooding occurred in the Auckland area after a typhoon, and much damage was caused. Our hearts go out to those who have suffered and lost their homes.

In closing I must send a big thank you to Chief's Lieutenant Douglas and his deputies Graeme and Blair for their support; to our dedicated Branch Committee, Chris Binns, Joan Harbour, Lois Ahlquist, Robin Matheson, Shirley Matheson and Wayne; to Margaret Faed our genealogist; to Secretary Keith, Treasurer Graeme; to our web master Andrew, to Norman Matheson our piper and Donald our Newsletter Editor. Without their help it would not be possible to continue as a successful Clan Branch.

Donald Matheson - Chairman New Zealand Branch

CANADA AND NOVA SCOTIA

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Greetings to all the members of the Canada Branch. This again has been a busy year as the Chief's Lieutenant and President of the Nova Scotia Branch as well Treasurer of the Federation For Scottish Culture in Nova Scotia (www.Scotsns.ca) I have attended various functions over the year.

On behalf of the Clan members I pass on my condolences to the families of Murray Matheson, died 28.12.11 from Tatamagouche, NS, and Thomas Matheson, 29.9.12 from St. Andrews, Manitoba, both loyal members for many years who will be greatly missed. I also pass on my condolences to Doug Matheson of New Zealand who lost his wife Anne on 4 July 2012.



On a happier note we have many congratulations: to Anna Matheson of Belle Cote, NS on becoming a great grandmother on May 8, to Brett and Danusia Gale of Edmonton on the birth of Matheson Darrian Gale; to Brian Matheson and Ashley Jessome of Brookfield NS on their marriage on 14 July (left, Brian is the son of Donna and Vaughan Matheson) also to Joel Matheson and Judith Appleton on their marriage on October 27; to Baillie Matheson of

Gairloch NS on his 90th birthday on 23 March and to Judge John Ross Matheson of Kingston, ON, on his 95th birthday on 14 November. News comes from Donald Matheson of Moncton that many Mathesons (daughters, sons, and grandchildren of Edith and John Ross Matheson of Kingston, Ontario) gathered in Stanhope, PEI on July 28th to celebrate the wedding of Eric Matheson (son of Kathryn and Donald Matheson of Moncton) and Eryn Creamer (daughter of Joanne and Leo Creamer of Charlottetown). The wedding ceremony and reception took place at the beautiful Stanhope Beach Resort. Eric is a full-time high school teacher in Moncton at Bernice MacNaughton High School. Eryn is the physiotherapist and clinic director for pt health in Amherst, NS. Finally, we send sporting congratulations to our Olympic heroine Diana Matheson

on scoring the winning goal in women's soccer which won the bronze medal for Canada.

Trueman Matheson of St. Andrews NS tells us that his family were on vacation in PEI this summer and took the opportunity to have their photo taken in their Sunday finest. Trueman is a Gaelic book publisher (trueman@gaelicbooks.com) and will be releasing his fourth book this year: English title "As it was in the Glen, the songs of Hugh F. MacKenzie". A CD of the songs, sung mostly by Rod C. MacNeil of Barra Glen will accompany the book. Other books published this year are Leabhar a' Speura, a Gaelic astronomy book; Gaelic Proverbs and Proverbial Saying; and The Celtic Lyre, a collection of 68 popular Gaelic songs.

Another Matheson we are proud of is Ivy Matheson, teen fashion model and daughter of Stephen Matheson and Diana Harrison. Ivy has appeared on the covers of several Asian fashion magazines: ELLE, GIRL and AVENUE L in Korea, FUDGE in Tokyo, also in China and other Asian countries. Ivy started modeling in 2008 aged 15. We wish Ivy continued success. Father Stephen is from Miramichi NB. (For more on Ivy's career Google Ivy Matheson Model).

As we have been using the Nova Scotia Branch Clan Banner at all Clan events I thought it was time that the Canada Branch had its own banner made. The banner is shown in the picture of Geraldine Weber of Winfield, BC who joined our Clan when visiting New Glasgow. Thanks for modeling our new banner Geraldine.

I am most grateful to those members who have sent me news. Please do take a few minutes and send your news along to me. It is your Newsletter and you can help make it interesting.

In the year ahead, with your help, we must continue to recruit new members and hopefully start new Provincial Branches. To this end please use the application form, from our web site clanmatheson.org.

I extend my best wishes for good health and happiness in 2013.

*Al Matheson
Chief's Lieutenant for Canada*

NOVA SCOTIA BRANCH

The wheels of this Branch are still turning but not at the old speed. I guess age is the big factor.

I should start at the end of November 2011 when I dusted off the kilt as Beverly and I attended the Celtic Christmas church service in Dartmouth. This is along the lines of the old Celtic traditions, with Gaelic spoken, old hymns sung, etc. It makes one realize how times have changed. It was very moving. 2012 started off on a sad note with the news of the death of one of our long time members, Murray Matheson, our condolences go out to Carrie, Glen and their families. Murray was a good friend of the Clan and will be greatly missed by all. On 21 January Beverly and I attended the Bobby Burns Dinner. This was an evening of readings, stories, singing, piping and of course Haggis. On 23 March we were off to Pictou to congratulate one of our founding members, and second world war veteran, Baillie Matheson

on his 90th birthday. Baillie captured the early days of our Clan on video and what a treasure that is. We are grateful to have those memories on film thanks to Baillie.

I attended the Tartan Day Celebrations at Nova Scotia House of Assembly. This event is always well attended by a number of Clans and the Proclamation is read by a member of the Legislator. We also attended the Tartan Day Dinner hosted by the Clan Stewart. Our spring meeting to plan our summer activities was held in May, when it was good to see our Clan friends after the winter break and get a new season underway. On 21 July we set up the Clan Tent in New Glasgow at the Festival Of The Tartans. We had visitors from various parts of Canada, USA, from South Africa, Scotland and the UK and picked up a new member, Geraldine Weber, from British Columbia, for the Canada Branch. The Branch held its annual picnic and auction on 11 August at Brookfield. As the gods were not with us that day with the rain pouring down we moved activities inside. The rain did not dampen our spirits, we still had good fun and a good meal, but attendance was down. In September we met at the home of Anne and Keith Matheson in Scotsburn, for our AGM. Again bad weather kept attendance down. But it was a good meeting. I was reelected President. The meeting was followed by a presentation anniversary cake, with our congratulations, to Donna and Gab Matheson on their 45th wedding anniversary. They had had a busy and exciting year as their son Brian married Ashley Jessome on July 14th, and on 24 November Donna's mother and our Den Mother Merle Nelson celebrated her 104th birthday. We send our congratulations to all these good folks and wish them good health and happiness.

It will be 2013 when you receive this Newsletter. It is our hope that all Mathesons and their families had a wonderful Christmas and may we all enjoy good health and happiness in 2013.

Al Matheson
President Clan Matheson Society of Nova Scotia

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The UK branch AGM was held on 26 May in a room of the CB2 Restaurant in Cambridge, and was followed by lunch. Attendance was good and included the Chief and his son,



Alexander, whose successor as Convenor, Tony Matheson, presided over the meeting. Tony spelt out his hopes for strengthening friendships and wider links between the Clan Matheson Society branch in the UK and Society branches overseas. He also stressed his aspiration that UK branch should base its activities not only in London and Cambridge but also in other regional locations. The Chief expressed his thanks for the work put in by Ron Lowry (Secretary, UK Branch) and Malcolm Matheson (Treasurer, UK Branch), both shortly to retire from office. He thanked Tony for taking over the Convenorship and went on to express his appreciation of the dedication of Society office holders throughout the world.

On Saturday 8 September, a party of 10 from the clan society enjoyed a splendid sunny day visiting no less than three country houses on the ancient Pierrepont family lands in Nottinghamshire, now associated with the Matheson of Shinness family. The day started with a visit to Holme Pierrepont Church and nearby Holme Pierrepont Hall. The Hall is a very beautiful Manor House built around 1500, lovingly restored over recent years by the family, and reckoned the oldest surviving brick built house in Nottinghamshire.

Forty minutes away at Thoresby, our host was Elizabeth Brackenbury's brother, Hugh Matheson, who joined us for lunch at Thoresby Courtyard cafe. We first saw Thoresby Hall, now a hotel, but occupied by the family until the 1980s. The Hall was built by the celebrated architect Salvin in 1850 and in the grandest style, with huge hall and sumptuous furnishings inside; and towers and pinnacles without. We then moved on to Hugh's present home, nearby Thoresby Park, where over many years Hugh and his wife, Ranji, have imaginatively re-built the 16th century Palazzo Caldogno, near Vicenza, northern Italy, designed by the great Italian architect, Andrea Palladio: a truly stunning achievement.

It was a great privilege to have David, Elizabeth and Hugh as our personal guides around their respective houses, to hear their engaging and informative accounts of their Pierrepont forbears over seven centuries, and to enjoy their kind hospitality afterwards.

In the absence of an official UK report I must thank Ron Lowry and John Faid for these contributions. Ed

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Piper

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

The highlight of my report for 2012 is our Chief's visit to the United States over Labor Day weekend, August 29 thru September 3. The Chief arrived on Friday afternoon and that evening Gail and I had a small informal dinner party for Sir Fergus including Deputy Chief's Lt West Coast, Roger Barry Mathison; Deputy Chief's Lt East Coast John T. G. Aakesson; my sisters, Emma (Pinkie) Roe, husband Sandy, and Torrey Cook; my brothers, Charles T, and Julie Matheson, and William John and Petie Matheson, and daughter Sarah; my sons: Malcolm IV, Colvin with Mary Ellen; my daughter Heather Matheson Ryus with daughters, Olivia, Cyrena, Lili and Gaylan; and grandson, Angus Matheson. We had an early evening so that the Chief could recover from his flight.

On Saturday, the opening day of the Virginia Scottish Games at Great Meadow in The Plains, VA, our Chief was the Honored Guest with the Chief of Clan Moffat; kilts were the dress for the day. Sir Fergus, Gail and I with a large following of Mathesons whose kids, carrying our clan Banners, led off the opening Parade after we had reviewed the pipe bands. The Games provided a full afternoon of sport, all things Celtic, shopping opportunities and a picnic lunch.



Our Clan tent, from sponsors of the Games the St. Andrews Society of Washington DC, was larger than usual as we were one of the honored Clans and it attracted more than Mathesons. Many more congregated for the Games: John Aakesson's brother Alex, wife Ashley and daughter helped with the tent as did others: Marion MacRae, Georgia, Duncan and Betsy Tebow. All the way from Texas came Charles E. Matheson Sr a past genealogist and Florence Otstot (Arlington, VA) widow of Clan Genealogist Charles M. Otstot. Frequent supporter Edward B Matheson and a large family contingent came in from Poquoson, VA; William L. Matheson Jr came in from Aiken, SC. Many of my brother Charles's children arrived for the games and Clan Dinner - Charles T. Matheson Jr and wife Andrea; Helen M. Hillard and husband David; Lilla M. Ohrstrom with husband Chris; J. Murdoch Matheson with wife Susan. Alexander M. Roe, Jr. from New York City with his wife, Natasha. My sister, Lida M. Stifel, and husband Rick showed up with some of their family - Sarah and Chris Jacobs, and Adam and Laura Stifel. Laurie M. Holton came in from Fort Meade, MD and Bonnie Matheson from Charlottesville, VA.

That evening the Clan Matheson Dinner was attended by some 64 at Middleburg Tennis Club (Middleburg VA). We were piped in by Piper Gustav Persons of the St. Andrew Society of Washington DC's Pipe Band.

On Sunday morning we attended a "Kirkin 'O the Tartan" service at Grace Episcopal Church in the Plains. The new minister Rev. Dr. Mary Jayne Ledgerwood readily agreed to my suggestion of this special service, though she had never done one before. The Clan was led into the Church by The Chief and Piper Tim Kirkpatrick. The blessing of the Tartans was performed by the Chief, myself and other Mathesons, after which we were piped out and round the Church by Tim. After brunch with Lilla and Chris Ohrstrom we returned to the Plains and a final afternoon in our Clan tent.

On Monday evening the Chief flew back to London and on to Inverness for a Clan function on the Isle of Skye - a four day turn around! There is no doubt in my mind why our Chief is The Chief. What a constitution, well done Fergus! We cannot thank you enough for your wonderful visit to the U.S.

It is with regret that I report the deaths of several long time Clan members:

William Otis MacMahon on March 13 2011, James Earl Matheson on February 1 2012, Lt. Col. Jean Matheson Shaffer on February 25 2012.

We send our sincerest condolences to their families and to member Malcolm B. Mathieson, Sr. on the passing of his wife, Margaret Meadows Mathieson on July 19 2011; to member Rev. James W. Mathieson on the passing of his mother Ruth in November of 2011 just shy of her 100th Birthday; to Mac C. Matheson on the passing of his wife, Ouida May Matheson on April 18 2012; and to Doug Matheson, Chief's Lt. New Zealand, on the passing of his wife Anne.

Once again this year the number of dues paying members did not reach 50% of the total on our rolls! This is very discouraging. We also had a decrease in the number of Life Members who have religiously made donations in the

\$100 range: Ruth Peebles, Edward B. Matheson, Ian M. Ballard, Thomas K. Andison, Lyman W. Matheson, John D. Matheson, Colvin T. Matheson, Charles E. Matheson, Sr. and Robert K. Mathieson, and we cannot thank you enough for your support.

Our enrolment of new members was down to 3 in 2012, from 11 in 2010 and 9 in 2011: Robert Matheson Fox, III (Perrysburg, OH), Amy Matheson Foley (Scottsdale, AZ), James A. Crosby (Tuscon, AZ). Welcome to the Clan Matheson Society.

Congratulations to: Torrey Stifel Kist and Bryan Kist on the birth of twins December 31 2012 - Elliot and Isaly - and to Torrey's parents, Lida and Rick Stifel, grand-kids number 5 and 6!

Malcolm Matheson, III
Chief's Lieutenant United States

WESTERN UNITED STATES

The year 2012 was transitional for Clan Matheson West with the appointment of Roger Mathison, a descendant of the Mathesons of Balmacara (a village just east of Lochalsh in Wester Ross), as Deputy Chief's Lieutenant. Our erstwhile lieutenant, Bob Matheson, and Alice Fairhurst the Clan Genealogist, have performed yeomen's work in ensuring exposure of the Matheson clan at the numerous Scottish games in the West. We cannot adequately express our gratitude to these two stalwarts of Clan Matheson West.

As usual, the Scottish Games season began with Scotsfest at the Queen Mary in Long Beach, California, the nineteenth such festival. The Matheson tent is always a special attraction for visitors to the games with its prominent sign offering assistance to those interested in determining their genealogy through DNA testing.

As usual the Clan has continued to maintain close ties with the activities of the Los Angeles branch of the St. Andrews Society. Alice, a life member, together with Roger Mathison and his wife Nadya attended the Burns Supper in January, and in November the St. Andrews Day Celebration; Roger had the honor of carrying the quach in the address to the haggis.

In March, Alice and Roger drove through the desert to pitch the Matheson tent at the Arizona Scottish Gathering and Highland Games in Phoenix. Tent traffic was light for the first day and a half but the second day was quite a contrast with four individuals submitting applications for Clan membership and a handful purchasing tee shirts. Ann Foley, the daughter of an existing Clan member, submitted her application just as the last box was being loaded on the car for the return trip to Los Angeles! On learning that it is the intention of Clan Matheson West to include Arizona in its itinerary of Scottish gatherings, Ann agreed to host Alice and Roger in her home for the Arizona Scottish Gathering in 2013.

Back in Los Angeles, we prepared for the United Scottish Society Highland Games taking place in May in Costa Mesa, California, followed by the San Diego Scottish Highland Games in June. Richard Fairhurst, Alice's son, and his wife Lisa with children Alex, David, and Elizabeth, were delightful hosts in their Oceanside home for Alice and Roger during the two day games in Vista. Together

with Richard and his family, Don and Carol Matheson of San Marcos, California. They spent a few blissful hours in the Matheson tent bringing everybody up-to date on family news, while listening to the sweet refrains of Celtic flute music being performed by Susan Craig Winsberg's ensemble Blackwaterside.

Roger Mathison
Deputy Chief's Lieutenant West Coast US

INTERNATIONAL GATHERING OF CLAN MATHESON 2014 AND OTHER EVENTS

To All Chief's Lieutenants

Homecoming 2014

The earlier mentioned World Wide Gathering of the Clans due to take place in Stirling, Scotland 2014 was to have been on the same scale as that held in Edinburgh 2010, but has been cancelled by Stirling Council due to the difficulty of securing a large enough site.

The celebrations for the 700th anniversary of the Battle of Bannockburn will go ahead in the last weekend in June 2014. Hopefully Clans will come together for a re-enactment organised by the National Trust for Scotland. A clan village will be set up and the town will be bright with tartan as Scotland marks the anniversary of the battle and remembers the fallen.

At present no arrangements have been made for a Clan Matheson presence. Individuals should make their own arrangements, and details should be available under Battle of Bannockburn on the internet. If large numbers warrant it we can think again. Please will Chief's Lieutenants kindly send me names and email addresses of any interested members.

International Gathering of Clan Matheson

The gathering is planned to take place in Ross-shire during the week of 14 July 2014 similar to the 2004 gathering. The outline plan is to assemble in the Invergordon / Ardross area on 15 July 2014 to attend various functions, mainly at Ardross Castle.

On 16/17 July move to Lochalsh on the West Coast for further events finishing with the Lochcarron Highland Games < lochcarrongames.org.uk > to be held on the Attadale Estate on Saturday 19 July 2014.

The possibility of a dinner is also being considered to bring together the large number of Mathesons living in the vicinity of Inverness who might not otherwise be able to attend the gathering; Inverness being a preferable alternative to Edinburgh or Glasgow.

As soon as is reasonably possible, please will Chief's Lieutenants give me some idea of:-

- Numbers of members interested in the Bannockburn celebrations.
- Numbers (names if possible) likely to attend the Matheson gathering in Ross-shire.
- Any suggestions they wish to make.

*All communications only by internet please.
Please watch clanmatheson.org for updates*

Fergus Matheson of Matheson

ROGART MOUNTAIN, NOVA SCOTIA

Rogart is an inland parish in the southeast corner of the County of Sutherland and covers an expanse of undulating hills between Straths Fleet and Brora. As far back as the 12th century it was principally the home of a senior line of Murrys who shared a common ancestor with the Earls of Sutherland. Later it became home to Sutherlands and MacKays. Fourth in numbers were the Mathesons, believed to have been settled there on church lands in the 14th century by a Matheson Bishop of Caithness and Sutherland. From 1773, and continuing to the mid 1800's, hundreds of people left the parish to settle in Northern Nova Scotia, Southern Ontario, Australia, New Zealand and beyond.

In 1773 one of the passengers on the "Hector" out of Lochbroom was a William Matheson of Rogart. He eventually settled near the present village of Scotsburn in Nova Scotia. Scores of settlers followed in his footsteps over the next sixty years and spread throughout Western Pictou County and into nearby Colchester. In 1813 two former Rogart residents entered the hill country north of Truro and founded a community named New Portugal, later changed to Earltown. They were followed by more than fifty families most of which emigrated from Rogart and Clyne in Sutherland.

Many communities in the British colonies were named for places in Scotland, often by settlers in recognition of their former homes. In Canada names like New Glasgow, Aberdeen, Inverness, Glencoe, New Lairg, Dornoch, Kildonan, Gairloch abound. However research indicated that Rogart did not have a single remembrance - at least in North America.

Overlooking the community of Earltown is a brooding, three summit hill, (mountain by Nova Scotia standards – a wee hill by Scottish standards), which has never had a name. In conjunction with the opening of a 6.2 kilometer hiking trail traversing the base and summits of the hill, the local community agreed to designate the hill and its surroundings as Rogart Mountain, a lasting memorial to settlers from that parish.

The aptly named Rogart Mountain Trail, or Slighe Beinn Na Raogardach in Gaelic, goes through or near the ruins of five vacant farms which had Rogart associations. One was settled by a Murray who was an accomplished bonesetter dealing with fractures and back pain. Another property was once a blacksmith's shop before the family moved on to Manitoba. A marginal hillside farm was once the home of a veteran by the name of Sutherland who fought in the Peninsular War in Portugal and Spain.

One property has a Matheson connection: Jane Matheson, was born on the heights of Leatty in a remote part of Rogart. As a young girl of ten in 1818, she was a witness to the forced eviction of her parents from their croft. All the homes in Leatty were put to fire that night by the landlord. With no other viable options, the family migrated to Pictou and found their way to Earltown. Jane married another Rogart native, William MacDonald. Near the ruins of their home is a small waterfall on a brook now known as Leatty.

The surrounding community flourished with agriculture and resource based industries during the 19th century. Its village served a population of 2,500 souls, most of whom had roots in Southeast Sutherland. By the early 1900's, the

rocky soil was becoming depleted. Inexpensive land beckoned the younger people to settle on the Canadian prairies and in northwest America. The hard earned farms of the settlers gradually became vacant and returned to forest. The same is true of many remote Highland communities throughout northern Nova Scotia.

The trail contains many interpretive signs explaining the social and natural history of the area. It has become a popular destination for hiking enthusiasts who also enjoy the stories along the way.

Glen Matheson

HOW UNIQUE IS MATHESON DNA?

Most clansmen start by testing their Y-DNA at 37 or 67 STR markers. By comparing the scores under these markers administrators can arrange people into similar DNA groups. At Family Tree DNA, testers in the same groups can see each other's email addresses and explore their common genealogy. With this type of testing we can identify key lines in each clan. Scotland has fewer surnames than other areas in the UK so men of differing DNA groups would gather to defend a particular territory and assume the surname of the chief. This means that men with the same surname may not be descended from a common ancestor. You can look at the chart below to see that the Matheson surname appears in many different groups.

A number of men in clans have done SNP testing as well as the common STR marker testing. By looking at a SNP chart, we can see if Mathesons are scattered among different DNA groups and their relative relation to other nearby clans within the last few thousand years. The more indents to the right, the closer in time the SNP (change in the DNA) occurred.

The majority of men in Europe and in the clans I work with are in haplogroup R, which became a branch of mankind approximately 19,900-34,300 years ago. Two major subclades developed: R1a, a group established in Ukraine or Russia 10,000-15,000 years ago, and R1b, established at the same time in Europe. See: *Deep Ancestry inside the Genographic Project* by Spencer Wells.

Most Scottish clans are heavily populated with R1b males. The Matheson and MacDonald chiefly lines are unusual in that they come from R1a. It is thought that their lines traveled from Russia/Ukraine to Norway, then to Scotland. The chart shows that the Matheson chiefly line along with some MacKenzies and Rosses are an older line than the MacDonald chiefs.

In *The Scots: A Genetic Journey* Alistair Moffat and James F Wilson show locations of four large populations of Scotland and all appear in the clans under discussion.

R1a-M417 Vikings appears in the Matheson and MacDonald chiefs.

R1b-M405/S21/U106 is represented by the Dunbar chiefs and some Mathesons.

R1b-M222 of the NW Irish clan of Niall of the 9 Hostages appears in McGrath/MacRae, Matheson and MacKenzie.

R1b-L21/M529/S145 Str 47, note that the most frequent grouping of clan surnames occur downstream of L21 which is highly prevalent in all of the UK. Str47 is now identified as L1335 (called the Scots Modal or Dalriada group), which appears in the chiefly line of MacRaes, in MacDonald, MacPherson, and MacGregor and is expected to appear in Campbell, Buchanan and in lesser quantities in Matheson and MacKenzie. The L1335 snp has been discovered within the last few weeks. Many other Scottish groups are expected to appear somewhere close by L1335 including the group described as the Picts.

MacPherson, MacDonald, MacGregor, Matheson, MacKenzie, Campbell, Buchanan (Note: Subclade names change as new snps are discovered. Since the first draft of this article, the subclade names for L226/S168 McCraw, and L643 Shiness Mathesons, MacKenzies were moved down one position due to an insert. Testers are encouraged to use the snp name which doesn't change).

The different names identify an identical SNP. The largest group of men in these clans all fit under L21 which we know is found west of the Rhine.

For those Matheson, Mathieson, Mathison males who have not done DNA testing, please order Y-DNA37 or Y-DNA67 at <http://www.familytreedna.com/group-join.aspx?Group=Matheson>

If you have done DNA testing with FamilyTreeDNA, look at the results page to see if your snp has been identified. Those with haplogroup names in green have done snp testing. <http://www.familytreedna.com/public/Matheson/default.aspx?section=ycolorized>

Please contact me if you need more information [and to read the full text of Alice's fascinating article] go to alicefairhurst@gmail.com

Alice M. Fairhurst

DNA administrator for MacKenzie, MacRae, Matheson





Australian AGM - Group



UK - Holme Pierrepont



Janet Bowen, Lord Lieut of
Rosshire and Andrew Matheson



Lady (Audrey) Matheson and Colin on her 99th birthday



Robert Matheson and Tattoo



100 Pipers - Virginia