



The Clan Matheson Society

2015 Newsletter



The Group at the Lochcarron Games - July 2014



THE CHIEF'S MESSAGE

Fergus Matheson of Matheson

Looking back on the year, possibly my most enjoyable days in 2014 were those spent at the Gathering in Scotland.

All branches of the Clan Society and Norway were represented and I was grateful to those who came from the United Kingdom and afar for their support. As always, meeting old friends was enjoyable as was making new ones.

I hope our Clan Members enjoyed the Games at Attadale, visiting the Fort over that mountainous road, the garden at Ardross and the dinner in Inverness. I was sorry the service in the Lochalsh Parish Church did not go quite as planned. All Clan members, I feel sure, will be sad to hear that the Church at Kirkton has been closed and sold and no longer can we hold services there.

For some reason only half my message in last year's newsletter was printed. The missing lines dwelt on The Great War (1914-18) and requested branches to help me to record the names of all Mathesons who took part. I am grateful to those of you who have responded, please will others do likewise. The names I have been sent are being recorded on a spreadsheet which will be forwarded to branches in due course.

I also mentioned the need to expand our membership. More volunteers are needed to help administer the vast areas where large numbers of Mathesons are known to dwell. If it is the wish of members for the Clan Society to continue this needs to be attended to.

Once again, thank you to all those who give of their time and assist with the administration.

Best wishes for 2015. - **Fergus Matheson of Matheson**

GENEALOGY CORNER

The highlight of this year for the Clan Genealogist, as for so many other society members, was the 2014 Clan Matheson Gathering, set in striking and sublime Highland scenery. It was good to meet old friends from other society regions, and to get to know so many new members. Above all it was refreshing to encounter so much enthusiasm in discussions on the many strands of clan and family history, including recent developments on DNA studies. Many fresh ideas and lines of enquiry emerged to inspire the Clan Genealogist.

The society website makes clear that that individual members are encouraged to discuss the fruits of their family enquiries, including material gleaned from the web, with clan genealogists. Discussion at the Clan Parliament at Ardross highlighted the value of discussion groups on web sites such as www.ancestry.com in furthering and broadening knowledge of family links. We will examine what might be done to enable useful material or lines of enquiry from such discussion groups to be channelled to genealogists. A key concern for clan genealogists is the variable quality of the source material being fed into family trees posted on such websites. Members might want to note [ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk)'s own useful summary of points bearing on the quality of research: - http://www.ancestry.co.uk/cs/Satellite?childpagename=UKLearningCenter%2FLearning_C%2FPageDefault&pagename=LearningWrapper&cid=1265124426282

Websites which hold succinct reports of registration and census data, as well as old parish records and wills are, principally: www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk www.findmypast.co.uk www.ancestry.com, www.ancestry.co.uk and www.familysearch.com. Those coming afresh to family history may find it useful to start with www.family.com which is a free site.

Members are, as ever, encouraged to participate in the DNA project, women as well as men! The development of SNPs (Single Nucleotide Markers) introduces the potential for improved knowledge of deep ancestry. Testing options, and nomenclature, are not however straightforward. Those interested should contact the Clan Matheson DNA project <https://www.familytreedna.com/public/Matheson/>

John Faid - Clan Genealogist



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CEANN CINNISH

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WORLD WAR 1

Last year the chief wrote:

There must be many Matheson families which became involved and possibly lost friends or relatives. It is of interest to my family as my father and some Matheson first cousins took part throughout the war, some survived, others were less fortunate.

In particular I am thinking of the three sons of Sir Alexander Matheson, 3rd Baronet of Lochalsh (not to be confused with Sir Alexander, 1st Baronet). They were:-

Ian Kenneth born 1893, Capt. Seaforth Highlanders, died of wounds received in action 13 May 1917; Alexander Perceval born 1895, Lieut. Army Service Corps, & A/ Flight Commander, Royal Flying Corps, killed in action 13 July 1917;

Roderick Kyrle born 1897, 2nd Lieut Royal West Kent Regiment, died of wounds received in action 8 Sept 1916.

Below are some soldiers' stories

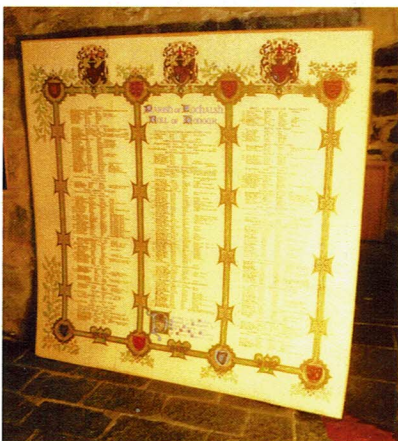
The Thomas Matheson family of Embro, Ontario, Canada

Thomas Matheson was born in Inchomney in the parish of Rogart, Sutherlandshire, Scotland on July 20, 1851. On May 14, 1884, he married Christina Morrison of Aberdeenshire; they had two children, Charles Alexander and Jennie, before immigrating to Canada in 1887.

In their new country they had five more children: Isobel, Catherine, Alexander, Robert, and James.

Back in Scotland, Thomas was a stone mason; however, upon arriving in Canada, he and Christina rented various farms before buying their own farm north of Embro in 1902. Thomas died here in 1920.

The ownership of this farm passed to his sons-100 acres to Charles and 100 acres to Alexander. Charles had also been born in Inchomney in the parish of Rogart on July 6, 1885. On June 20, 1920, he married Helen Manson. "Charlie" as he was known, was president of the Zorra Caledonian Society in 1950, and he never missed a Zorra Highland Games as long as he lived. He sold the farm to his son George. Charlie died in 1975, and both he and Helen are buried in the North Embro Cemetery. His children are/ were: George, Christine (Piett), Jean (Blair), and Donna (Johnson/Rowe). In 2012 this farm left the Matheson family, the family next door having bought the land. The farmhouse is now rented out.



Kirkton War memorial now at Eilean Donnan

Alex was known as "Thresher Alex" because for many years he travelled from farm to farm at harvest time with his threshing equipment. As hard as that work might have been, it was child's play compared to many of Alex's days in the First World War. He enlisted (likely underage) in Guelph and became a gunner with the Canadian

Expeditionary Force's 55* Battery. On the way to Europe he was seasick.

Alex didn't talk much about the war, but he did say the attacks usually started in the middle of the night and were so intense and bright that it felt like daytime. He said at Christmas there was a ceasefire for the Germans and the British, but after Christmas was over, they were all back in the trenches again.

In his farming days after the war, Alex strongly disliked ants because they reminded him of the head lice that were rampant among the soldiers, as well as living with the rats in the trenches. Mostly, he said, the soldiers ate rabbit stew, made of rabbits from Australia.

His last active service was in Russia, where he saw the bodies of Russian citizens were piled like frozen cordwood. He learned a couple of Russian words, for which the Russian translation is "Holiday today, soldier?"

From the Canadian Legion in Embro, Alex received a pin for 50 years of membership.

He continued to help his sons on their farms until his death in 1974. His children are: Melvin, Douglas, Thomas, Connie, Glen and James. This farm is still in the Matheson family. The present owners are Thomas' family and Glen's family. Many of the decedents of Thomas and Christina still live in and around the Embro area.

Herman Oswald Matheson Miner from Cape Breton



Herman Oswald Matheson was a Cape Breton coal miner who joined the 40th Battalion in Glace Bay on March 31 1915 aged 22.

He was described as nice looking, six feet tall with blue eyes and blond hair.

Matheson was married with three children. He began his training in Nova Scotia and was transferred to the 25th (Nova Scotia Rifles) Battalion

His unit left Halifax in May 1915 and was in France in September that year with the Second Division. On October 9 he was wounded near Kemmel while waiting to enter the trenches, when a grenade was thrown toward him by a disorientated Canadian soldier. He received a chest wound and recovered in England.

In May 1916 Matheson rejoined the 25th Battalion at the front in France and was again wounded, this time in both legs, in October 1916 during the battle of the Somme. He then spent 1917 recovering at hospitals in England and Scotland, but returned to the battlefield with the 25th Battalion in May 1918. He was wounded twice more, in August and October, during Canada's Hundred Days. In the fight for the Canal de l'Escaut, en route to Cambrai, he received shrapnel wounds to his left arm and thigh. His days at the front were over.

This time recovery was lengthy and he was sent home to Canada in July 1918. His final discharge was at Halifax on July 17. His discharge documents state that he was unable to return to his former trade as his left arm was too weak.

His name is carved on the Veterans' Wall of Remembrance, a monument to Canadian Heroes, in Sackville, at Oakridge Memorial Gardens. An article about him was recently sent to the Nova Scotia Chronicle and Herald by his grandson Herman Long and his great-great granddaughter Rachel Long.

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**Peter and Margaret Williams
celebrated their
Golden Wedding in October**

NEW ZEALAND

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New Zealand known as the 'Land of the long white cloud' because of its appearance as you approach it from the air: North Island and South Island, about the size of the UK, with a population of less than 5 million. It is also a great sporting country: the "All Blacks" Rugby team, the Rowing and Yachting teams, famous individuals like Shot put champion Valerie Adams, cricketer Brendon McCullum, and mountaineer Sir Edmund Hillary. A wonderful country and by chance, the

country whose Clan Matheson branch is second only to the USA in numbers. We celebrated our 25th Anniversary in 2014 and at a special luncheon to celebrate we had two of the founder members, Ailsa & Jean, ex Chairman now Chief's Lieutenant Douglas, Chairman and newsletter Editor Donald; who incidentally is the only surviving committee member of the original committee formed in 1989. 45 members attended the lunch, entertained by an accomplished duo of father & daughter accordionists. Piper Norman piped some good Scottish airs. Chief's Lieutenant Douglas proposed a toast to the Chief, ex secretary Ailsa, a founder member, spoke on the birth and history of our branch. Chairman Donald recalled his trip to Scotland and the Gathering and Secretary Keith proposed a toast to absent friends.

Our Clan year commenced with several members attending the Scottish Clans Association Burns Night supper. A splendid evening was enjoyed by all with plenty of Burn's poems recited. In February we held our annual picnic when many who attended showed their skills at the Petanque competition. The weather was kind enabling all to enjoy an afternoon with friends. We are arranging the 2015 picnic for Sunday 18th of February when we hope to get members living outside of Auckland to join in by having a picnic or small gathering in their area. We have called for volunteers organisers and hope for replies for what we would like to call "Mathesons Picnic Day Out"

A few NZ members attended the International Gathering in Scotland in July. One highlight was the Highland Games at Attadale where we enjoyed an afternoon of fun & games. Attadale features largely in our Matheson history, so much so that we were invited to march as a Clan led by the local pipe band, cheered on by many onlookers. Some Clan members entered the 3 mile hill race and finished in great style. One of our NZ members, Stuart, entered the knock down competition where had 6 tennis balls had to knock down as many objects on a table as possible. The record of 41 points had stood since 2009 and Stuart broke it by one point and was awarded a large bottle of whisky for his effort. The

final grand formal dinner at Inverness was a delight for all: a good meal, lots of entertainment and a wonderful opportunity to join old and new friends and gather some wonderful memories.

Our AGM was held in July and though down in numbers, those attending were able to enjoy a Haggis Ceremony performed by our Piper Norman. All existing Committee members agreed to continue on the committee. Later in the year some members had a pleasant evening at the Scottish Clans Association Annual Dinner. As the year progressed we have been updating our membership roll, noting the loss in numbers mainly through illness and making determined efforts to recruit new members in an attempt to ensure the continuance of our Society branch. We all need to do our bit in recruitment and support or else risk the slow but inevitable loss of a very special Society. As an aside we saw a lovely mural depicting the first landing of Mathesons in Matheson Bay. Also we report the granting of a Green Flag to Lake Matheson in the South Island, a symbol of tourism excellence.

In closing our thanks go out to our Branch officers for their service and loyalty during the past year. We wish all Clan Members a very happy & prosperous New Year.

Donald Matheson

Chairman New Zealand Branch

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No report has been received from Australia this year but the new Australian Branch website is up and running. Have a look at:
www.clanmatheson.com.au



The Matheson Clan Gathering - 2014



The Group at the Lochcarron Games - July 2014



The Group at Ardross Castle



Some IIS Mathesons at The Clachan Inn



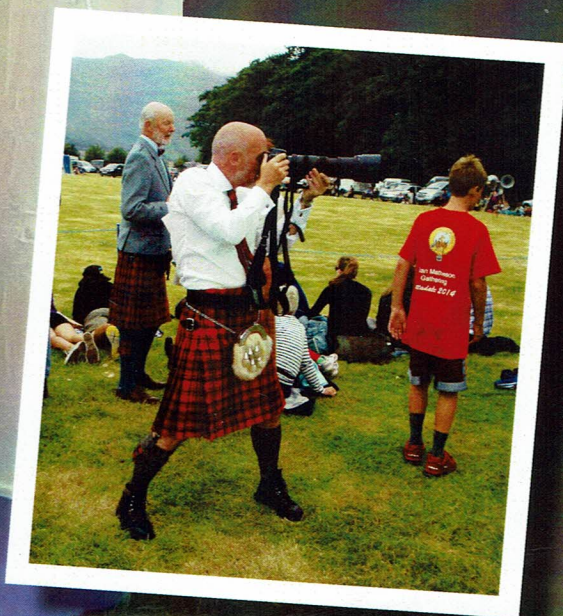
Registration at Dornie



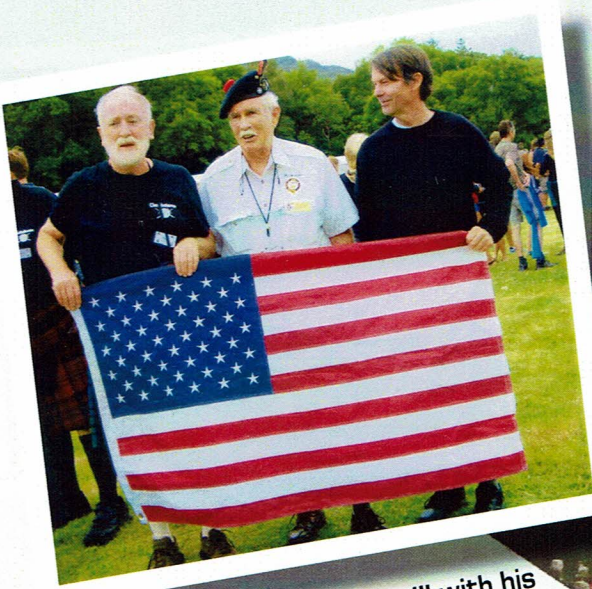
John Faid, Roger and Colin at Dornie



David with Margaret Fleming and Janet Blainey (AUS)



John Mathieson photographer par excellence



Malcolm Matheson III with his
2 Deputy Lieutenants



Donald with son Stuart (NZ) and Malcolm III



The Clan March



Fergus and Mette on the walk
to the Fort



The Chief and Alexander watch the Hill Race



Alexander, Colin and Mary Matheson (Aus) on the
walk to the Fort



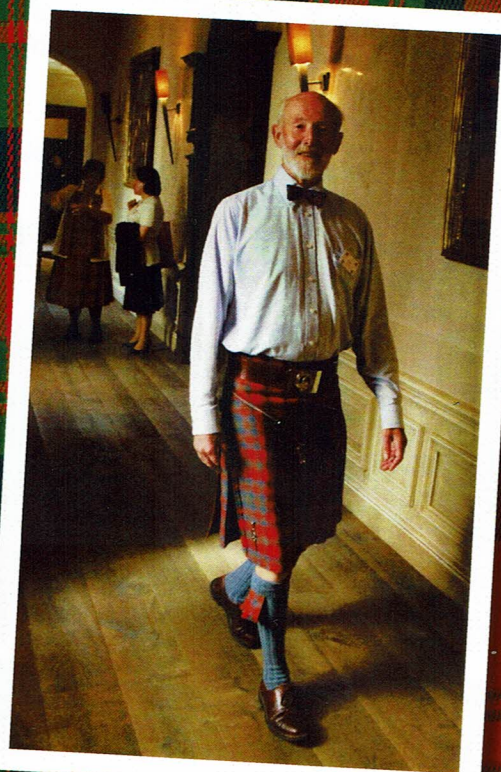
Gathering hike to Fort



Alexander explaining the Battle of Glen Shiel



Alexander, Eleanor, The Chief, Bella and Andrew (Alexander's son) at Ardross Castle



Einaar looks as if he owns the place



Einaar and Mette (Norway) with their family



The Dinner

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This year, 2014, Clan Society activities centered around the hugely successful Clan Gathering held in Scotland in July thanks to the efforts of our Chief Sir Fergus and his son Alexander helped by family and Clan members.

The Gathering was the catalyst for a wonderful trip to Scotland which my wife, Gail, travel consultant extraordinaire, organized for the two of us and for our children and their spouses and grandchildren (7 of our 12).

Gail and I arrived in Inverness on 8 July and travelled with friends all over the Northwestern Highlands and the Western Islands before ending up in Dornie where we had rented the "Red House".

There we met our immediate family: daughter Heather with husband Denny and 4 daughters; and son Colvin with wife Mary Ellen with their son and twin daughters and son Lochlan. This made us thirteen at the Red House, fortunately only one away from the local pub, owned by our landlord and his neighbor and in which I felt I had become partner after feeding 13 of us plus friends for a week.

Using the Red House as our base our little group made many side trips: Skye, Plockton, Lochcarron to see my triple great grandfather's grave in the Old Cemetery and shopping at Locharron Weavers, Torridon, Duncraig Castle, Eilean Donan Castle, and of course the Clachan Pub on a daily basis. Our landlords set up a tent in the garden in front of our house where we threw an afternoon party for the extended family. These included two of my sisters: Torrey Cooke and Lida Stifel and my brother John Matheson, all of whom brought spouses, children and grandchildren. Also attending were nephew Murdoch Matheson, his wife and children; two cousins: Anna Ligouri Matheson and her son, Hardy and wife Regina; Barbara Ann Fulton with husband Dr. Richard Fulton III. We were between 33-35 and the Clachan Pub for dinner on July 18.

The chief told me that out of a total of 91 registrants 49 were from the U.S. which gave us by far the largest contingent. Besides my family group Deputy Chief's Lieutenants John Aakesson and Roger Mathison had rounded up a goodly number who attended the Lochcarron Games at Attadale near Strathcarron.

There were all sorts of races, weight and dancing events but the main event was the Hill race which was a difficult distance uphill some 5K, entered by some 20 Mathesons in a total of 70 runners. My granddaughter, Cyrena [23] was the first Matheson female to finish and my youngest grandson, Lochlan [9], was the first young kid to finish. After a full day, typically Scottish with light rain, we returned to a fine final supper at the Clachan Pub. Gail and I then moved up to Inverness to the Culloden House hotel and toured the Inverness area including Culloden Battlefield.

On the final day of the Gathering we, my brother and his wife and daughter, drove to Ardross Castle for photographs, lunch and a Clan Parliament before returning for the final Clan Dinner. The entire day was hosted by Chief Fergus and son Alexander, whose joie de vivre made this Gathering another grand success! Over Labor Day Weekend John

Aakesson, his brother, wife Ashley and daughter with friends set up the Clan Matheson tent at the Virginia Scottish Games at Great Meadow in The Plains, Virginia. Also on hand were Ed and Cindy Matheson and my sons Malcolm IV and Colvin, Colvin's family plus Gail and I.

John Aakesson wrote: "On St Andrews Day our tartan was blessed at Saint Andrew and St. Margaret Church in Alexandria, Virginia. On the 6 December the Clan again was present at the Christmas Walk in Old Town Alexandria. Elizabeth, Ashley and Alec, Georgia Marion and I marched in the parade. They went back to march with Acadia Farms co-operative, an organization which helps bring fresh vegetables to the needy. In 2015 we plan to attend the Southern Maryland games where the clan has not been represented for a few years. We are always looking for clan's folk who wish to hold down a spot at other games. We have a tent and will travel if there is interest".

Roger Mathison reports the passing of Gordon Mathieson of Lakewood, CA on the 27 September 2014 aged 91. We send our sincerest condolences to his family.

We also send condolences to member Finley B. Matheson and his family on the death of his father, Finley L. Matheson, in September of 2013 at the age of 97! I only hope that Matheson longevity gene has been passed down as Finley L. was my first cousin once removed.

With the interest in the Gathering, and the pleadings in last year's Newsletter I am happy to report that slightly more than 50% of our membership paid their dues this past year and some made up their arrears. Along with the list of members who donated in the generous range of \$100 and over our bank account is flush! Thanks you all and keep those dues payments coming in for 2015.

Our membership enrollment stayed even with last year with 8 new members for 2014:

Gary Russell Matheson Garside (CA)
Alan John Mathieson Hunt (CA)
Dawn Matheson Jones (CA)
Eric Morgan Matheson (SC)
Ian William Mathison (TN)

Lisa Ann Mathison (IL)
Michael Stokes (AZ)
Benjamin Hardy Wronske (CA)

A hearty welcome to the Clan Matheson Society! And a Very Healthy, Happy and Prosperous New Year to all for 2015!

Malcolm Matheson III Chief's Lieutenant USA

A footnote, too late for Malcolm's report:

With regret we record the passing of Lyman Matheson at the age of 96 on Sunday, October 19, 2014. He is survived by his loving son John Matheson and daughter-in-law, Karen Matheson, of Sugar Land, Texas and his granddaughter Alexis R. Matheson, Dallas, to whom we offer our sympathies.

A few years after moving to Houston the family moved to the Memorial area where he still resided until his death.

He was an officer bombardier/navigator in World War II, completing 35 missions and achieving eight battle stars for the Army Air Force. Most recently he was invited on a flight to Washington, D.C. honoring World War II veterans. For many years he served as Head of the Clan Matheson Society for North America.

United States West Coast

The high point for Clan Matheson West USA was the attendance of Clan Matheson members from the United States in Scotland for the Gathering 2014.

After eight months of planning a party of six met in mid-July at Waverly Station in Edinburgh. They were five Mathesons and a friend: Ian Mathison, my brother, of Murfreesboro, Tennessee, Lisa Ann, Ian's daughter, from Chicago, Roland Matteson from Phoenix, Arizona; and John Aakesson, Deputy Chief's Lieutenant East Coast USA with his friend Georgia, both from Virginia.

We tried to accommodate all desires to visit towns and historic sites in the time allotted. This mostly worked out well. We visited Culross, on the north bank of the Firth of Forth in west Fife, and the royal burgh of St. Andrews on the North Sea coast in east Fife. All of us found these of so much interest

that we were at least two hours late by the end of dinner in St. Andrews. It should not have been a surprise that on returning to our rental van we found a parking ticket, fine sixty pounds! We had earlier agreed that any costs would be borne by those in the vehicle at the time of any incident,

We planned to arrive at our destination in the Highlands, Tingle Creek Inn in Erbusaig, no later than 8.00pm, but it was evident after the visit to Culross that we would be late. Roland apparently had a plan to hobnob with every resident in the town, and he might have achieved this had we not enticed him back to the van with the promise of ice cream.

I began to believe our van was jinxed when a red light started flashing on the dash board. The rental agent advised us to telephone a mechanic. Late in the evening he arrived but could only remove our van to the nearest Volkswagen specialist in Fort William, 25 miles away; a garage directly below Ben Nevis, the tallest mountain in the United Kingdom. Within half an hour the problem was solved.

Things happened in threes with our rented Sharan. We had arranged to visit Matheson Clan member Dr. Ian Matheson in Plockton (Am Ploc). On a narrow country lane our van swerved off the road and our wheels dropped a foot onto the edge of a muddy ditch, leaving us perched at a precarious angle. Again we summoned a tow truck to pull us out. Although in the remote area the mobile telephone signal is unreliable, a passing Highland lassie, on this old cattle drovers' road, offered help. She drove Roger to Kyle of Lochalsh then drove to Plockton to leave a message telling the doctor of the Mathisons' late arrival. We arrived in time for dinner and invited Dr. Ian and Laura to join us. Both Ians had a lot to talk about as they studied in London at the same time.

We appreciated the planning of the Gathering from the informal welcome at Dornie Village Hall to the final formal dinner at the New Drumossie Hotel in Inverness. The trek up the mountain to a site used as an assembly point by the Mathesons above Loch Achaidh na h-Inich, Carn

na Sean Chreag, was a proud and emotional moment as we stood on the rough, boulder strewn terrain in honor of and respect for our Matheson ancestors.

The pathetic response to the parliament held at Ardross Castle, Invernessshire, would appear to be a harbinger of difficulties ahead for the Clan. If the home country can muster only one or two clansmen every five years to a Homecoming, then we need to examine what we are doing wrong or what we are not doing to attract sufficient interest. It is fine and dandy to fire off e-mails, dispatch newsletters, and send out flyers, but without the personal touch of an intimate telephone call from time to time to maintain interest in the Clan, I believe we are flogging a dead horse. Inevitable "shrinkage" will occur due to old age and illness, but there are far too many Clan members who have drifted away perhaps concluding that Clan Matheson West USA is irrelevant in their lives.

One Clan Matheson Society West USA member who found the organization of great relevance in his long life was J Gordon Matheson of Lakewood, California, who passed away on September 27th, 2014 aged 91. We send our condolences to his family especially his two sons, John of Lakewood and Tim of Long Beach, California, his sister Ruth of Edmonton and brother, Alan of Winnipeg. Gordon wrote five family genealogy books in honor of his ancestors and was especially active in Clan Matheson West USA, attending many of the Southern California highland games. He was the first to participate in the Clan Matheson DNA Project. At a celebration of his life in October three Mathesons, attired in Matheson tartan, joined the congregation to honor Gordon.

Roger expects the results of his DNA test soon. Stay tuned!

We approach 2015 with a glimmer of optimism for the sustainability of the Clan despite the lack of enthusiasm of some members to become more involved. Clan Matheson West USA hope to be represented at all the 2015 southern Californian Scottish Games - Vista in San Diego County,

Costa Mesa in Orange County, Long Beach in Los Angeles County and Seaside in Ventura County –as well as the Caledonian in Phoenix, Arizona. These venues all displayed a Matheson tent in 2014. It is my intention to visit fellow clansmen in Enumclaw, Washington State, Las Vegas, Nevada, and Pleasanton in the Bay area of Northern California.

To all members of Clan Matheson Society West, both paid up and delinquent, Nollaig Chridheil agus Bliadna mhath ur (Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year). Send in your dues to Malcolm. It's only \$20.

**Roger Mathison - Chief's Deputy
Lieutenant United States West Coast**

CANADA AND NOVA SCOTIA

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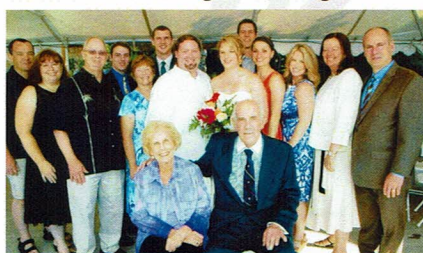
**Nova Scotia Branch
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Greetings to all Clan Matheson's members. Again this year as the Chief's Lieutenant, President of the Nova Scotia Branch and also Treasurer of the Federation For Scottish Culture in Nova Scotia (www.scotsns.ca) I have combined the Canada and Nova Scotia Branches for this report. As such I have attended various functions over the year on behalf of the Clan.

It was with sadness I received the news of the death of the Very Reverend Archpriest Daniel Matheson on July 5, 2014, in his 99th year. Rev. Dan was our Clan Chief's representative here in Canada in the 1980's. He was a wonderful man and will be greatly missed. Rev. Dan was of the Hopewell Matheson's line. We extend our sympathy to his family. Our sympathy also goes to Ed and Dyan Matheson on the death of their son John, on March 19, 2014. John's family lives in Dartmouth.



On a happier note we congratulate Kathleen Matheson (my granddaughter) on her graduation from Dalhousie University with a Bachelor of Science (Recreation) and Bachelor of Management degrees.



Our congratulations also go to Jennifer Brose Matheson on her marriage to Jimi Bursaw on July 9, 2014. The wedding took place at the Irwin Inn on Stoney Lake near Peterborough, Ontario. Jenny and Jimi live and work in Brisbane, Australia. The bride's parents are Kathy and Don Matheson of Moncton.



Congratulations to Merle Nelson who just celebrated her 106 birthday. Merle was interviewed this summer by the Director of Nursing of Dalhousie University as Merle graduated in nursing in 1930 at New Waterford N.S. hospital. Merle still has all her class notes as well as her valedictory speech! All notes were taped and are now in the Dalhousie archives. Merle is Donna Matheson's mother.

Congratulations to Mairead Matheson (Trueman's daughter) on being accepted into Na Gaisgich Oga (The

Young Heroes) program at the Gaelic College. This means seven months of immersion in the Gaelic language and culture. Only 10 students from age 10-15 are chosen.



Congratulations to Keith Matheson in showing of his talent in wood carving to Prince Charles on his recent visit to Nova Scotia.

On behalf of the Clan members I thank Carolyn Matheson, husband Andre and sister Cindy Roy for representing our Branch at the International Gathering of Clan Matheson this past summer.

Over the past year I had the pleasure of representing our Clan at various events the first being the Robert Burns Dinner sponsored by the Federation for Scottish Culture in Nova Scotia (FSCNS). This was a marvelous event with piping, singing and fiddling, a toast to Burns and the Lassies was given followed with a great meal including haggis. I had the honor of carrying the haggis as it was piped into the room as well as proposing the toast to the Lassies. I represented our Clan at the FSCNS spring and fall annual general meetings. I attended the Tartan Day celebrations held at Government House in Halifax as guest of the Lt. Governor and Mrs. Grant, and the second annual Celtic Festival in Halifax in September. This is an indoor festival and dear to us of Scottish descent as it is all free! (You can take the Scot out of Scotland, but you can't take Scotland out of the Scot! Ed)

The Nova Scotia Branch held its spring meeting in June and its annual picnic and auction in August, as always a great success. Those attending ranged in age from 4 years to 105 years. We closed our year with our annual general meeting in September at the Saltscapes Restaurant in Truro. I did not stand for President of the NS Branch as after twenty some years I felt we needed new ideas. It was a pleasure

to have represented the Branch and thank everyone for their past support. I also thank all those who supported our raffle, the winners of the dolls were, Judy Vautour, Miramichi, NB and Bertha Matheson, Morell, PEI, the painting winner was Lori Recockie, Ontario.

I am so grateful to those members who have sent me news items and pictures. I thank Allison Wilks for the article on Embro, Ontario Matheson's. Also to Judy Chamberlain for this tid bit: Judy's husband is a stamp collector and gets notice of new stamps from the Royal Mail in Edinburgh. On September 19 a new set of stamps was issued saluting the heritage of the United Kingdom's trading fleet over the last two centuries. One of the stamps portrayed the Cargo Liner Clan Matheson 1919. I am sure there are many items of interest out there that our members would love to hear about, so keep them coming.

In the year ahead, with your help we must continue to recruit new members to this end please use the application form on our web site clanmatheson.org.

I extend my best wishes for good health and happiness to all Clan members and their families in 2015.

Al Matheson
Chief's Lieutenant, Canada



Second World War veteran, Miles Matheson, received the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee medal in recognition of his many years of voluntary service. The medal was presented under the auspices of the Prince Edward Island Command of the Royal Canadian Legion. Miles was a great contributor to the Clan for years and is now in a nursing home.



Buried in Halifax this casualty is listed as Able Seaman David Matheson, age 30, of Southampton. I wonder if any member knows of him?

A Canadian View of the Gathering

Have you ever wondered why a clan would leave their homeland and embark on an old cargo boat to go to a foreign, unsettled harsh land while their souls were full of hope and trust for a new promised land? Well, an International Clan Matheson Gathering was held in Inverness this year and it seemed like an ideal opportunity to explore and learn specifically about our clan and to visit some of their lands where they lived, toiled, and fought.

My husband Andre, my sister Cindy and I flew to Glasgow on July 17th. where they were preparing for the Commonwealth Games. We drove up the side of Loch Lomond reminding us of a song our grandfather sang to us 'On The Bonnie, Bonnie Banks of Loch Lomond'. Then we traveled east to Perth, north to Pitlochry and on to Inverness. We met other Clan Matheson members at Ardross Castle for lunch. This castle was originally held by the Clan Munro but later passed to the Mathesons. It is now owned by a Greek Shipping magnate and the castle and its grounds are in pristine shape. It was a beautiful summer day for our visit and we were all able to sit outside for lunch.

That evening, we joined Mathesons from Scotland, England, Norway, United States, Australia, and New Zealand at the Drumossie Hotel, Inverness for dinner. My family and I were the representatives from Canada. Our Chief Fergus felt that this gathering of peoples from near and far not only illustrated one's love for the Highlands of Scotland but also the bond that exists between us. We had the opportunity and with great honour to speak in depth to both our Chief and to our genealogist, John Faid.

We departed the next day for the north coast of Scotland to Thurso. We were in awe of the beautiful rolling hills speckled with sheep or covered by the thick gorse or heather. We then made our way to the west coast and Loch Shin where our Mathesons settled after splitting from the original Clan in Kyle of Lochalsh. From there, we traveled to Ullapool where the Ship Hector left Loch Broom for New Scotland so many years ago. It was indeed a pilgrimage that touched our souls for we tried to imagine the courage, the strength, and the fortitude that it took for these folks, many with young children, to make the trek from Loch Shin to Ullapool in time to board the Ship Hector in 1773 aboard for Pictou, Nova Scotia.

After the Battle of Culloden, life became very difficult for all Highland Scots. Individual Mathesons took part in the Stuart uprising of 1745 but the Clan did not really come as a whole to support Bonnie Prince Charlie. It was too fragmented and it had no effective leadership. The English were in want of prestigious farmlands and if you could see the Valley of Shin, you would certainly understand this.

We learned, imagined and met friendly Clan members as well as the endearing people of Scotland. They were going through some uncertain times during our visit as the Scottish Referendum was looming. It was never talked about even when we asked.

The strength and tenacity of the Mathesons enabled them with much sadness and yet hope to leave their homeland to forge a new life throughout the colonial world as represented at this Clan Gathering in Inverness.

Carolyn Matheson - Canada