



CLAN MATHESON SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER 2017



Important messages from the new Chief of the Clan Matheson - Lt. Col. Alexander Matheson of Matheson, Bt

FERGUS JOHN MATHESON – MEMORIAL SERVICE

My father's memorial service will be at 2.00pm on Monday 15 May 2017 in the Guards Chapel, Wellington Barracks, London SW1E 6HQ, followed by a get-together of everyone there. Please could you help me by getting the word out to your members in case any of them happen to be over here at the time.

EDINBURGH TATTOO 2017

'Our' performance is at 7.30pm on Saturday 19th August 2017

Now that Christmas and New Year are behind us, I would like to remind you all about getting tickets for the Tattoo. At the end of February, the 'clan' tickets will no longer be available; all remaining unsold will be put into the General Public pool and they are likely to be snapped up quickly. It may not be easy to get tickets after that. Please will you all forward this email liberally to anyone who might be interested, even if you do not wish to go yourself. Please don't just let this message sit in your inbox. **If you buy tickets, please will you inform David Mathieson, Secretary of the UK Branch** [<david.mathieson@clanmatheson.org>](mailto:david.mathieson@clanmatheson.org); we need to keep track of numbers attending so that our get-togethers in Edinburgh can be arranged, and so that the Tattoo organizers know what to expect.

This is just to remind you that the batch of tickets reserved for our clan will be put back into the pool for the general public on 1st March. The general public pool tickets are likely to be sold quickly. Please will you forward this news on to your members, saying that they should act quickly if they intend to come to the Tattoo, and remembering to ask them to keep David Mathieson (Secretary UK Branch) informed about who is attending.

Many thanks for your help.
Alexander

VERY IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM - Chief's Lieutenant Malcolm Matheson, III

Annual Dues for 2017 now due - \$ 20.00

Life Member Contribution - \$ 5.00

Make check payable to:

Clan Matheson Society
c/o Malcolm Matheson, III
P. O. Box 307
The Plains, VA 20198

"Greetings to all Clan members and good wishes for 2017. I hope the festive season was as enjoyable for many of you as experienced by my family. We were fortunate having 14 sitting down to lunch on Christmas Day, the largest get together of our family for many a year.



2017 is an important year for our Clan having been invited to take part in the Edinburgh Tattoo. I know the details have been sent to all branches and hope we will be able to welcome many of you for this great event.

I am aware of the difficulty some of the Clan Society branches are having finding replacements to fill vacancies when officers retire. Please will members with a few hours to spare consider lending a hand, their help would be invaluable and greatly assist the branch of the Society. I know the problem as it is just as difficult in the United Kingdom.

Best wishes and I hope to see some of you during the coming year.

Fergus Matheson of Matheson

FROM THE CHIEF'S SON ALEXANDER.

Our big event of the year is our participation on Saturday 19th August 2017 in the Edinburgh Tattoo, details of which will already have reached you via your Chief's Lieutenants, & more detail is to be found at <http://clanmatheson-uk.wixsite.com/clanmatheson-uk> noticeboard. If you would like to come to this spectacular and very enjoyable event, please contact David Mathieson, Secretary of the UK Branch david.matheson@clanmatheson.org. I hope to see you there. Best wishes to you all. Alexander"

Alexander also sent us a photograph of Clan Member Alexander (Sandy) Matheson.



The caption with the photograph reads;
"Sandy Matheson (right) was presented with the insignia of a Commander of the Royal Victorian Order for his services as Lord Lieutenant of the Western Isles at an investiture in the Palace of Holyroodhouse in Edinburgh on Tuesday 5th July 2016. He is seen here after the investiture with Alexander Matheson (left) son of the Chief, who was on duty at the ceremony as a Member of the Queen's Body Guard for Scotland, Royal Company of Archers

LIEUTENANCY SERVICE

I was appointed as a Deputy Lieutenant for the Western Isles in August 1993 by The Earl Granville M.C. at that time HM Lord-Lieutenant of this area. At this time I had been involved in some 25 years of elective and voluntary public service and as my warrant said, "your name having been presented to and not disapproved of by Her Majesty you are hereby required to execute the office of Deputy Lieutenant and in all things conform yourself to the duties thereof."

Subsequently in August 1994, The Earl Granville's successor as Lord-Lieutenant, The Right Honourable, Viscount Dunrossil, and CMG appointed me as his Vice Lord-Lieutenant. Sadly in March 2000 Viscount Dunrossil died very suddenly and I took up his duties. On 13th December I received a letter from The Prime Minister, Tony Blair saying "It is my duty to recommend The Queen the name of a successor to Viscount Dunrossil. I am writing to ask if you will allow me to submit your name to Her Majesty for this appointment". I did accept, not without some trepidation, this invitation and on 4th January 2001 received a letter indicating that The Queen had approved my appointment.

Thus began fifteen very wonderful and fulfilling years in which with the support of my wife, Irene and our family along with the encouraging and loyal support of the Deputy Lieutenants and the immense help and wisdom of the Clerk to the Lieutenancy, Donald Martin. Happily after many years of public service Donald has succeeded me as Lord-Lieutenant.

Throughout these years I have had the immense privilege of many contacts with the Royal Family, including ten Royal visits in the Western Isles a part of Scotland very affectionately regarded by the Royal Family. There have also been other occasions at Buckingham Palace, St James' Palace Windsor Castle in London and The Palace of Holyrood House in Edinburgh where I have with awe and great admiration observed the Queen and the Royal Family going about the huge round of official and social duties with kindness, patience and consummate skill and diplomacy. I have also had the honour and humbling experience of attending State Ceremonies and sharing in the universal love and admiration of the public for our Queen.

On the home front these have been busy and enriching years performing the day to day duties some 35 to 40 each year as I have described in the note on Lieutenancy Duties. Perhaps the most important and emotional have included laying a wreath on behalf of The Queen and taking the salute at the Annual Remembrance Service at the Lewis War Memorial and since August 2014 participating in many events to commemorate the Centenary of The First World War. Indeed one of the most special of those was the commemoration of the Gallipoli campaign in which our local army unit, The Ross Mountain Battery, participated, along of course with the very brave and sacrificial service of the ANZAC forces.

My last and happiest experience was the occasion last June at The Palace of Holyrood House when Her Majesty invested me with the insignia of Commander of the Royal Victorian Order. A wonderful event enriched by the presence of Alexander Matheson of Matheson an old friend and helper who resplendent in his magnificent uniform as a member of the Queen's Body Guard for Scotland,

I queried Sandy why the Sandy? He replied, "The Scottish for Alexander or Alasdair another Scottish Gaelic for Alexander. My family called me Sander & finding that, my School friends made it Sandy I became the norm". Editor

ALEXANDER MATHESON (Sandy) (pharmacist) (From Wikipedia the free encyclopaedia)

Alexander Matheson CVO, OBE, DL, FRPharmS is a pharmacist, businessman, and local politician from Stornoway, now serving as Lord Lieutenant of the Western Isles. Matheson became the youngest Provost of Stornoway in 1971, serving until 1975. In 1973, he was appointed to the Western Isles health board, becoming its Chairman in 1993 until 2001. Matheson was elected to Comhairle nan Eilean Siar in 2001 and served until 2007. A member of the Harris Tweed Authority between 1995 and 2007, he was Chairman from 2001 to 2007. He served on Stornoway Trust estate for 40 years from 1967 until 2007 & was Chairman from 1971 to 1981. In 1972 he was appointed as an Honorary Sheriff at Stornoway Pier and Harbour Commission (now Stornoway Port Authority) between 1968 and 2009 and was Chairman from 1970 to 1972 and again from 1991 to 2001. He was President of the Islands Commission of The Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions of Europe between 1987 and 1991. Matheson is the Chairman of Roderick Smith Ltd, his family business. He was awarded the OBE in 1990. In 1993, he was made a Fellow of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain and a deputy lieutenant of the Western Isles. He became Vice Lord Lieutenant in 1994 and also served as Convenor for the Western Isles Council. He was appointed Lord Lieutenant in 2001. He was appointed Commander of the Royal Victorian Order (CVO) in the 2016 New Year Honours.

Sandy kindly sent the following information about Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant.

The Lord Lieutenant is Her Majesty's representative in the Lieutenancy area in which he resides. There are 32 Lieutenancy areas in Scotland and I until last November represented Her Majesty the Queen in the Western Isles Area of Scotland.

The prime role and duty of the Lieutenant is to uphold the dignity of the Crown.

He or she should follow the example of the Queen and other members of the Royal family by seeking to promote a good atmosphere and spirit of co-operation by the encouragement he gives to voluntary service and benevolent organisations and by the interest he takes in the business, industrial & social life of his Lieutenancy area & the voluntary activity in it.

The Lord Lieutenant's role is essentially non-political and he should exercise diplomacy, tact and forbearance so as to avoid being involved in any controversy which might lead to his impartiality being questioned. He or she should stand aloof from politics in his area, not take part in, or hold office in any political party in his area.

HM The Queen and Her Government expect the following duties to be discharged by the Lord Lieutenant. To arrange visits by HM The Queen and members of the Royal Family and to meet, attend and escort Royal visitors on official visits to his Area. To represent The Queen including duties with Armed Forces and to present certain honours and awards and Medals, & assess nominations for honours both personal and for The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service and to encourage good nominations for both. To liaise with local units of the Royal Navy, Royal Marines, Army & Royal Air Force and associated Cadet Forces.

Lord Lieutenants (a woman who is appointed to the office is correctly addressed as Lord Lieutenant) are appointed by The Queen on the recommendation of the Prime Minister.

Lord Lieutenants retire at the age of 75 & the letters patent of appointment expire then.

From, RON LOWRY—UNITED KINGDOM BRANCH

May 1, on behalf of the officers and members of the United Kingdom Branch of the Clan Matheson Society send greetings to all worldwide members of the Clan through the good offices of Donald Matheson of New Zealand in his Annual Clan Newsletter.

During the year our Treasurer in conjunction with Alexander Matheson has been engrossed in updating our website and more recently in making preparations for the Clan involvement with the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo on August 19th 2017.

Members will recall the homecoming events of 2009 held in Edinburgh and should view and enjoy the 'time-lapse' video of that occasion through the website. The website also contains many excellent photographs of the gathering held in 2014 which will bring back happy memories of that summer.

We consider ourselves very fortunate in being invited to participate in the Tattoo and it is hoped that many more Clan members will be able to join us for that event.

In closing we wish all a happy and prosperous New Year.



The Royal Edinburgh Tattoo in al its glory



Clan Matheson Society AGM 2016 dinner

GENEALOGIST CORNER from John Faid.

We are familiar with the fact that the Highland Clans have both Gaelic and Viking roots. There were Gaels in Argyll before Fergus of Dariada arrived from Ireland in about 500 AD. After the raids and settlements of Norse and Danish Vikings from c 800 AD onwards the Gaelic predecessors of the Mathesons travelled north up the Great Glen and up the Highland west coast to what became the provinces of Moray and Ross, and in time many Viking settlers in the west intermarried with Gaels and became Gaelicised in speech and Customs, and many formed Clans in their own right.

There is much less awareness of our roots in the Picts, a people who clearly formed the mass of the mainland population north of the Firth of Forth, and on the Isles, whose battles with the Gaels and other peoples of present day Scotland are recorded in early chronicles up to the 9th century when they fade from history apparently absorbed by Kenneth McAlpin's kingdom as it expanded and consolidated into the kingdom of the Scots.

But in Ross, homeland of the Mathesons, there is evidence of a contrasting story of Pictish survival. First, by the time of the arrival of the Gaels of Loairn at the top of the Great Glen in the 9th and 10th century the peoples of the ancient kingdom of the northern Picts this area had probably already been conquered by the Norse Earls of Orkney. A lengthy- if not entirely continuous-Norse occupation of much of Ross-shire up to the 11th and 12th centuries is well attested in the names of Dingwall (Thingvollr or meeting place) Scatwell (Tax field) and the few other similar examples.

Secondly, there is evidence that these native peoples of Ross may have had a different relationship with the Norse than would be typical of peoples conquered by them elsewhere. Alexander Grant, the prominent historical scholar of Ross, has looked more closely at place name evidence that survived the Norse occupation, and has found a remarkable scarcity of Norse place names for smaller settlements and farmsteads; and the absence of the usual accompanying Norse pennylands and ouncelands.

Grant sees here a likely Norse reliance on an effective and pre-existing structure for governance, for example, for tax gathering, rather than on the more typical, imposed, Norse, organisation and a probable continuance of local farmers and land owners under Norse overlordship. If this is accurate, it looks probable that the Norse occupation helped to preserve here a remarkable very late flowering of the ancient monarchy of the northern Picts, of whose history so little has come down to us. And after the Norse withdrawal around the 11th century, it is these people who would have encountered the Gaelic predecessors of the Mathesons, and who would over time contribute to our Clan Matheson bloodline and following

History enables us to catch glimpses of the predecessors of these later Picts of Ross well before the first Viking raids and slaughter on the west coast, from 796 AD onwards. In 697 AD, during the high period of Celtic Christianity, and of missions to the western Highlands of St Maelrubha, St Donnan and others, the Synod Birr in Ireland in 697 saw notables from Scotland, Ireland and Pictland approve one of the most celebrated documents of early European history. This was the *Cain Adamnan of St Adamnan*, of the great Ul Neill Dynasty. Otherwise known as the Law of the Innocents, this was an extensive and carefully phrased tract framed to protect women, children and non combatants in war, prepared some 1100 years before the Red Cross with its similar goals was founded. Ross's own Bishop and Saint, Curatan (or Boniface in Latin) was one of the signatories and guarantors. Truly a high spot in western civilisation, albeit destined to be a doomed legacy a hundred years later.

Even further/

Even further back Grant has pointed to possible archaeological evidence of Roman fort work on the boundaries of Ross, much further north than was previously thought to be the case, close to the area where the Greek geographer Ptolemy placed a Pictish tribe, the Decantae, one of predecessor tribes of the Caledonians. If this is confirmed it would make it quite likely that Ross-shire or its borderlands rather than Aberdeenshire was the site of the great historic battle of Mons Graupius that was fought in 83 AD between the legions of Agricola and the Caledonians, predecessors of the Picts, no doubt included the local tribe of the Decantae. In his narrative of the battle the Roman historian Tacitus includes the celebrated denunciation of the Roman ending. "They made a desert and called it peace" Words said to have been uttered by Calgacus, the swordsman and a leader of the Caledonians. Can we hope that his blood yet flows in Mathesons veins?

John Faid Clan Genealogist

Random photos to fill up a space which had been reserved in hope of an item from Norway



From L to R, Sir Fergus with Son Alexander Happy photo, happy family. In middle Malcolm's twin daughters, Heather (left) Jeanette (right) with his niece Lila & her daughter Georgina in middle. Photo on right is of happy Highland dancers at the Highland games.



Photo on left is Clan members Shirley & Keith Matheson meet up with Keith's cousin (by DNA) Roddy in Eire Roddy is Chairman Donald's brother. Photo in Middle is of Clan members Ginette Cameron & Caryn & Grant Gribble with friends visiting India before going onto Safari in Tanzania and Switzerland. The photo on right is of Clan members Graeme and Shirley on banner duty in Christchurch

FROM COLIN MATHESON

CHIEF'S LIEUTENANT AUSTRALIA

At our November 2015 Annual General Meeting Colin Matheson relinquished the position of President, having been elected each year since 2003. Brad Matheson was elected to the position and was re-elected at the AGM in November 2016. It is always a challenge to find members in small societies such as the Clan Society in Australia willing to step up and serve on the Committee and we are fortunate that Brad has agreed to accept the role. Brad has been very active getting the Society's Facebook page up and running and we are pleased that it has quite a number of followers from around the world. We are grateful to Helen Mathieson for maintaining the Facebook page for the past year. Brad has also sent out email updates at intervals throughout the year.

Ali Matheson has been Editor of the Australian Branch Newsletters for several years, but has a new job (in addition to two children) and will relinquish the Position after the next issue: we thank Ali for her efforts. Our Facebook page, website and quarterly newsletters have become popular and effective in communicating with our membership and the broader community. It has proven the adage that the world has indeed become a global village.

During 2016 we attended a number of Highland Gatherings around the country, including the National Celtic Festival and Scots Day out in Bendigo in January. These were followed by Gatherings at Ringwood, Geelong and Daylesford in Victoria. With the help of Jeff Freeman, the Clan also had a presence of Gatherings on the Central Coast of NSW. Our newly elected events coordinator Carol Abuid, has been very active in coordinating efforts for attendance at these events, helping to achieve our aim to increase the Clan's visibility and interaction with the broader Australian/Scottish community. We always have Clan merchandise available for purchase at Highland Gatherings thanks to Rob and Helen Mathieson.

We had 4 get-togethers in Melbourne during 2016, a February picnic at Flagstaff Gardens (see photo) a 'May Muster' lunch together in August and the AGM in November. At the May Muster we presented Margaret Fleming with a certificate of appreciation for her work in writing 'History of Clan Matheson in Australia 1997 – 2015'.

We are in 2017 exploiting a range of initiatives to raise revenue beyond the normal merchandise and membership fee fundraising and offering other services to our membership.

Colin Matheson,

Chief's Lieutenant for Australia.



Sisters Noeline Jones (Treasurer) and Carol Abuid (Events Coordinator) at the February picnic at the Flagstaff Gardens.



Glen and Genevieve Mathieson with their family, - Elizabeth, Charlotte & Baby James at the 'May Muster'

DEPUTY CHIEF'S LIEUTENANT FOR THE WEST COAST USA

The year 2016 witnessed a significant growth in western Clan Membership and again we extend our thanks to the new recruits from Utah and Colorado for the infusion of new Highland blood. However our joy at welcoming these fresh members has been tempered by the sad news that Chief's Lieutenant Malcolm Matheson 111's wife Gail passed away in December. The West Coast members who came in contact with Gael all agree she was one special lady who bore her illness with courage and dignity. We send our condolences to Malcolm and his family with their loss. In honour of Gael the West Coast members sent a monetary donation in her name. Those contributing to the donation included William Mathis of Colorado Springs, newly appointed Commissioner for Colorado, Roland Matheson, Commissioner for Arizona, his son Michael, like his father a resident of Phoenix; and Roger Mathison Deputy Chief's Lieutenant for Clan Matheson Society West USA,. Thank you all for your sympathy for Malcolm. We also lament the loss of two long time Clan members: a cousin of Malcolm, David I Green of Janesville, Wisconsin, and Dr Ian M Bullard from Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania. We send our sympathy to members of these two families as we do to the family of Roland Matteson, whose mother Eileen Marie Rhodes Matheson, born in Detroit Michigan in 1924 and died in January 2016 in Scottsdale, Arizona at the age of 92. Eileen May outlived her husband by eight years. His name was Roland Mark but everyone knew him as 'Matty'.

At the risk of sounding monotonous, we are listing the new Clan members by name and their states of residence. Of pre-eminence in the group of 2016 inductees is Clan Commissioner William AQ Mathis of Colorado, He has performed yeoman's work on behalf of Clan Matheson in the year prior to his appointment as Commissioner. Similarly, the contributions of Roland and Barbara Matteson and their son Michael (Mike) to Clan Matheson affairs in terms of time devoted to and money invested in the Clan are much appreciated. Last year Roland and Mike set up the tent at the Phoenix Games in April and later in the year Roland joined Roger in Flagstaff, Arizona, for the Northern Arizona Highland Games. Even though a mere four new paid up members joined the Clan in Phoenix- Mr and Mrs Taylor Price, Gary Willard Weyandt, Mrs. Melissa McBurney and Mrs Kelsie Clark-and one new recruit in Flagstaff, Benjamin Newman, word is out that Clan Matheson is serious its mission to enlighten potential Matheson Clansmen and Clanswomen that their rich and ancient ancestral heritage is important and worth celebrating.

New Members joining the Society in 2016 include Scot Michael Mathieson from Main: Richard Mathieson from Nevada who committed to attending the Las Vegas Games this year (don't forget Richard as I'll be expecting you!); and Dr Terri-Lyn Norburg of Bloomingdale, Georgia who sought out an official of the Clan after numerous attempts to obtain a Clan Application Form online failed. It turns out that her ancestors have a strong connection to Liverpool, England, where her great-great grandfather John Mathieson married a Scottish lassie, Georgina Paterson of Caithness in 1891. It is evident that Teri has done extensive research and it would be rewarding for me, a Liverpoolian, to learn more about her ancestors if my planned trip to the Stone Mountain Games in Georgia in 2017 materialises. The Utah Mathesons at both Highland Games venues in the state. Lehi (in 2017 it moved to the Salt Lake County Fairgrounds) and Payson, showed their support. by dropping into the Matheson tent and paying their dues. New member R, Curtis Reese volunteered to drive a golf cart at the Lehi Games. Since the Payton Games is better patronised, his was where most of the new Mathesons signed up; they included Mr & Mrs Matheson, Stephen Foulger, Keith Ward Knell, Katie Matheson and Mr & Mrs David Matheson. At the Lehi Games Roger visited the Society of Armigers tent and got acquainted with the Lord Lyon, Dr Morrow, of the Court of Lord Lyon located in Edinburgh, Scotland.

Pikes Peak/

Pikes Peak Highland games proved to be a bumper harvest for the Clan. William Mathis hosted Roger in his Colorado Springs home. Within two minutes of the official opening of the Games, William had recruited two new members, Jennifer L Martin and Fiona Jensen. By the end of the second day four new Mathesons had joined our ancient Clan: Mollie Matheson Gargala, Derek Matheson, Kirsten Matheson and Rodger Mathews. The Long's Peak games held at Estes Park were not as fruitful in terms of Clan recruitment as Peak's Park but never the less a brace of Mathesons was recruited: they are Anne Matheson Orsi and Vicki & Michael Massie van Portfliet. Both Colorado venues are on the docket for Matheson representation in 2017 as is a return visit to the Middle Tennessee Highland Games in Nashville.

If you were offered free accommodation and no charge for taxi service to ferry you around an historic city, would you take it? Well I did when my elder brother, Ian Mathison, offered to put me up in his mini-mansion in Murfreesboro, Tennessee only 30 miles or so from the site of the 2016 Middle Tennessee Highland Games in Nashville. The Highland heavy events were of special interest to him having been no mean athlete himself growing up as a youth in Liverpool. His prowess on the piano is not to be sniffed at either for as I was leaving the rear door of his house, suitcase in hand for the trip to the airport, I overheard those unmistakeable and haunting strains of John Winston Lennon's *Imagine* played on Ian's piano.

And finally on to what used to be the last Highland Games of the season for Clan Matheson West but is no longer with games in locales such as Moab, Tucson and many other places across the country. Tent traffic at the Seaside Highland Games in Ventura, California in October had been slow the entire first day when, out of the blue, the "Mexican Mathesons" descended on the Matheson canopy and exuberantly introduced themselves. I was even more delighted than they were as I had long hoped for other ethnicities to join the Clan, and here they were, all the way from Sunnyvale in California's Silicon Valley to boot, a distance of about 300 miles. Frances Matheson Renteria, her sister Diana Matheson Satele who lives next door and the sister's children were warmly welcomed by Roger and paid their Clan dues. Since it was around 6.00pm when the families arrived, we all agreed that it would be a good idea to go to the local Sizzler restaurant for dinner. Diana (or was it Frances?) insisted on footing the bill! It turns out that the sisters are descended from Scottish born Dr James Matheson, their great grandparent, a physician who married a Mexican woman, Frances Venezuela in Mexico. This union produced five children (4 girls & a boy) and one of the girls, Frances, married a certain Arcadio Renteria. Diana Satele and her sister Frances and I agreed to meet again at the Pleasanton Highland Games later this year to discuss further revelations and clarifications from their family research.

On the whole it has been a productive year for Clan Matheson West. A reminder that each clansman/clanswoman should pay the annual Dues as soon as possible through submission of a cheque in the amount of \$20 to the Chief's Lieutenant, Malcolm Matheson 111, The Tannery, P.O. Box 307, The Plains, VA 20198.

Left Is Malcolm and his late wife Gail, centre from L to R is John Aakesson, Jeanette Lussi & Heather Ryus (Malcolm's twin daughters) Georgina & Lilla Ohrstrom & Alex & Ashley Aakesson R is Roger & Nigel the Parrot



FROM AL MATHESON, CHIEF'S LIEUTENANT IN CANADA

Greetings to all Clan Matheson members, I do not have much to report as I and this Branch of the Clan were not very active mainly due to my health not improving as I had hoped, instead took a turn for the worst. I am now working on getting a replacement for myself in hopes that the Branch can become more active. I have only received one news item."There was a reunion held in Calgary in July 2016 for the descendants and relations of Alvah and Fleta Matheson. There were 50 people who attended. Having no more news I am adding excerpts from an old newspaper from the 1940's. I believe as there is no date marked.

FAMOUS U.S. POLICE OFFICER DIES

San Francisco City Treasurer Duncan Matheson, famous Pictou County Nova Scotia born detective dies (date unknown). For twenty eight years previous to joining the Administrative staff of the city he was Captain of Police Inspectors and was known as the most outstanding police officers in the United States.

The late Duncan Matheson is survived by his widow Cristobel Douglas Matheson, a son Douglas of the Matson Navigation Co. & daughter Helen. If Duncan had lived one half hour longer he would have been eighty years old.

One of the nation's most brilliant police officers, Matheson was a "cop" twenty four hours a day while on the force his grieving friends recalled. "A policeman who should have been a clergyman" his city treasurer's office associates described. He was so kind and so interested in other people's welfare. When he was police captain of the harbour detail" a fellow never to worry about money for breakfast" waterfront workers added.

Matheson never accepted the pension cheques sent to him regularly after his retirement as captain of detectives. He first endorsed the cheques over to the city general fund then later tore them up.

In 1933, the late Fremont Oldes wrote in the Call-Bulletin "Matheson was not only honest, but he was fearless; and not only fearless but he believed in justice.

The late Duncan Matheson whose Scots ancestry was reflected in his tall, lean and sawboned frame, and his hard headed, businesslike attitude towards work. Was a scion of one of the oldest5 Scottish families who could trace their ancestry back to the Vikings. His cousin Sir James Matheson of Lairg Scotland came over to Lairg, Nova Scotia to visit in 1819.

Note, Duncan's (1862-1942) great grandmother Jane and my great great grandmother Catherine were sisters and were Matheson as well.

I extend my best wishes to all members & may you have good health and happiness in 2017

Al Matheson Chief's Lieutenant, Canada.

CHIEF'S LIEUTENANT NEW ZEALAND

We send greetings from our members to our Chief, Sir Fergus Matheson, and all members of the various Clan Matheson Society Branches.

We welcome new members, Alan Matheson of Christchurch, Shirley Lawson of Hamilton and Melvyn Matheson of Kamo.

We send our condolences to Eileen Rankin and family on the passing of loved husband and father, Rae Rankin who was an active member of our Clan They had recently celebrated their 65th wedding Anniversary, Elaine had been a committee member for some years. We also send our sympathy to Malcolm and family in the USA as they mourn the loss of loved Gael, a great supporter of the Clan there and overseas.

Clan member Trevor is the New Zealand Ambassador to Indonesia, resident in Jakarta. He recently launched the East Indonesia Innovated Farming Systems and capability for the agribusiness activity, and handed over US\$4.5 million to support this for the next 4 years.

Chief's Lieutenant Douglas Matheson was honoured by the Australia and New Zealand Accountants on attaining 70 years membership of the Society.

Chairman Donald' was thrilled to learn of the success of his grandson Nat who on 31 December was confirmed the world record holder for spear fishing a Kingfish weighing in at 50.6k. Nat already holds the world record for spear fishing a 15.2k Snapper

.Our Clan has had several activities last year. Sadly the Clan picnic had to be cancelled because of inclement weather, At the Hororata Highland Games near Christchurch, several Clan members were among the 9000 who attended Among them were Deputy Chief's Lieutenant Graeme Matheson and Ellen McRae, Alison Matheson, Roger Matheson Jill and Barrie Abernathy. The Clan Banner was paraded in Christchurch .Graeme is also the President of the Scottish Society and he carried their banner while Ellen carried ours, for their Kirkin 'o the Tartan service and at the Hororata Games. It was reported that 450 bottles of the local Hororata whisky was sold during the games. Our Annual General Meeting was well attended and the existing committee re-elected.

At Matheson Bay, Northland the historic land originally settled by Angus Matheson in the 1800s was sold, However a portion of this by another Matheson descendant, so all is not lost

Andrew Matheson our genealogist and webmaster has continued to research "Matheson" place names in NZ... Matheson Crescent in Albert town, Wanaka Mathieson Ave, Khandallah Wellington both named after land owners.

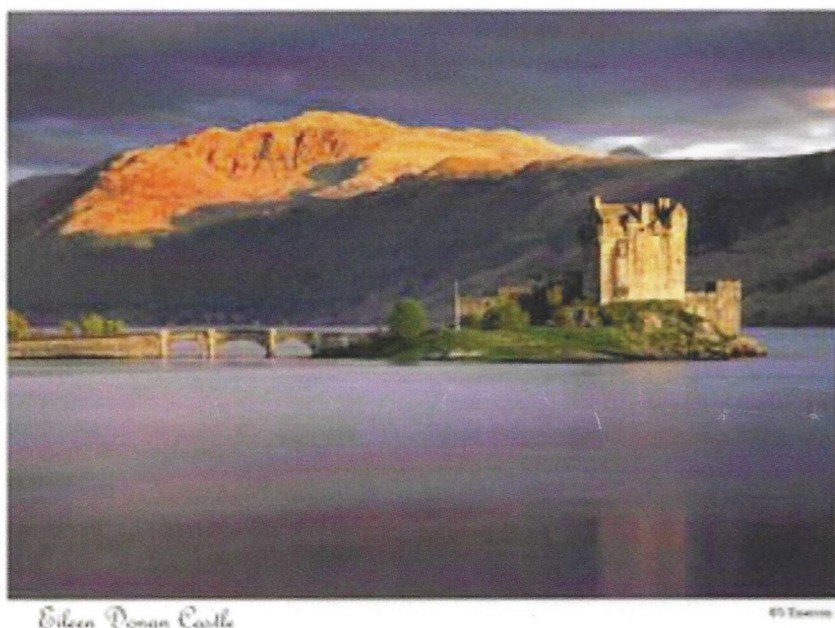
Our grateful thanks go to Chairman Donald and the committee for their work, the bi-monthly newsletters are a good means of keeping in touch between members all over the country.

In the photos below on the left is Nat with that Kingfish, the centre shows Clan members Graeme and Rodger while the photo on the right is of all the banners on parade at the Hororata Games



MATHESON: ORIGINS OF THE CLAN (From Scotweb)

The name Matheson has been attributed to the Gaelic words MicMhathghamhuin which means Son of the bear or Son of the heroes. Traditionally the Clan Matheson descends from a twelfth century man called Gilleoin, who is thought to have been from the ancient royal house of Lorne. According to tradition the Clan Matheson were among the followers of the King in his two wars with the Picts, whom he finally overthrew at the great battle of Cambuskienneth near Stirling in 838. The Clan Matheson settled around the area of Lochalsh, Lochcarron and Kintail and gave their allegiance to the Clan MacDonald and the Lord of the Isles



Eilean Donan Castle

© 1999

EILEAN DONAN CASTLE

Eilean Donan Castle was bombarded and destroyed in 1719 by the English fleet of the time of the battle of Glenshiel in 1719. When Sir Alexander Matheson bought the land in 1851 the ruin must have been included. It was later sold by his eldest son Sir Kenneth Matheson, 2nd Baronet to Major John Macrae-Gilstrap, who restored the castle to its present state.

Hard to believe but the stark ruins of the once proud Castle were to remain neglected for 200 years until the restoration by a MacRae of the twentieth century, Lt Col John MacRae-Gilstrap rebuilt the Castle with the aid of Farquhar MacRae, who had seen a vision of the ruined stronghold restored to its former glory. The dream became a reality for, in the twenty years between 1912 and 1932 and at a cost of a quarter of a million pounds, the castle was rebuilt. Every detail of the restored structure was faithful to its the original which was revealed to Farquhar MacRae in his dream, and later confirmed by old plans of Eilean Donan preserved in Edinburgh Castle. Described today as Scotland's most romantic it attracts many tourist visitors all the year round.

FROM JOHN AAKESSON

DEPUTY CHIEF'S LIEUTENANT FOR THE EAST COAST USA

We started the year with a Burns Night celebration followed by a visit in April to the Southern Maryland Games. Next on our agenda was the Clans annual presence, over Labor Day, at the Virginia Scottish games. Chief Lieutenant Malcolm Matheson III's twin daughters Heather and Jeannette and son Malcolm IV with his young lab pup came and helped man the clan tent with Alexander, Ashley and Elizabeth Aakesson along with Marion MacRae, Georgia Lawson, and John Aakesson

We had a great two day event with a tent space that viewed the Athletic Field. The weather was hot and muggy but many more people attended this year's games than have in many years. With Saint Andrews Day, 30 November came the blessing of our Tartan at St Andrew and St Margret's Anglican Church in Alexandria Virginia followed that Saturday by the Annual Scottish Christmas walk in Old Town Alexandria, Virginia. Alec, Ashley, Elizabeth and John Aakesson took part in the Parade.



Ashley, Elizabeth, Alec Aakesson, Malcolm Matheson IV and pup.

Marion MacRae,
Malcolm Matheson III,
Georgia Lawson,
Alec Aakesson,
John Aakesson,
Asley and Elizabeth
Aakesson.





Fergus John Matheson

With great sadness I must report that on January 28, 2017 I received the following e-mail from Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Matheson of Matheson, YR, LVO (afmatheson@gmail.com):

"I'm sorry to have to tell you that rather unexpectedly my father Fergus, 7th Baronet of Lochalsh and 27th Chief of the Clan, died on Friday night (27th January 2017), aged 89 and about 3 weeks short of his 90th birthday. He had been in the hospital since last Sunday and had been in terrific spirits, saying to us all that he was definitely coming out on Monday and was ready to carry on as before. As far as I know so far, he died quite quickly and painlessly shortly after an evening visit by hospital staff.

At present it looks likely that we will hold a small private family funeral, and then a service to celebrate his life in about 4 months time. I shall keep you posted about the date and place of this service of celebration."

Our sincerest condolences are extended to Sir Fergus's family on his passing. His energetic leadership of the Clan Matheson for so many years will be missed greatly.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Malcolm Matheson III".

Malcolm Matheson III

