



**Clan
Matheson
Society**

NEWSLETTER No. 60 February 2006

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Major Sir Fergus Matheson of Matheson,
Baronet of Lochalsh.

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THE CHIEF'S MESSAGE

Despite pleas for a relief editor, talented writers who I am sure are lurking somewhere are still too shy to come forward and help so once again I have been gathering in information from here and overseas. I am sorry this newsletter is late going out but it is not entirely my fault. The newsletter is made up of news and photographs sent in by branches of the Clan Society which to be helpful should be sent to the editor before the end of December. Please start collecting photographs and news for newsletter number 61 now!!

During the past year Alice Fairhurst (USA) has been appointed DNA Project Administrator for the Clan and has registered the Clan for DNA testing. She has also taken over as Genealogist for the United States, and has brought a stack of information about Mathesons not only in North America but also Scotland and elsewhere and in her spare time she has been indexing and in parts updating the 1900 Clan History. I, and I am sure many others, not only in the United States, will be most grateful to her for giving so much of her time by taking on this arduous work, a benefit to all members of the Clan. You can read her DNA report further on and I would like to stress that she is very keen that a Shiness/Sutherland Matheson of the male line will come forward to undergo the test thus following a test by a Lochalsh Matheson, at the time of writing still being processed. The test will be paid for by the Clan for the first established Shiness Matheson to get in touch with Alice.

I am often asked, particularly by e-mail, questions about the Clan such as origin, tartan, heraldry and other searching matters, possibly others are consulted too. To be sure that we all speak in the same voice, under the heading of "definitions" (see later on), I have listed answers to many of the questions often raised, in particular please note the widening of the rules for admission to the Clan Society.

The past year has seen plenty of activity in most branches which you can read about but nothing on an international scale. At the 2004 Council Meeting of Chief's Lieutenants in Plockton it was agreed that "there could be a Gathering every four years, with alternate gatherings being held in Scotland and that a volunteer host country was needed for an International Gathering in 2008". If any branch has plans for 2008, please will they say so. The year 2012 is provisionally earmarked for the next International Gathering in Scotland. Practice has proved that at least two years are needed to lay on an event of this kind.

Once again I thank the many Clan officials who give so much of their time to arrange meetings and communicate with their members. Some issue a local news sheet once or twice a year to keep in touch. Those of you not doing so and living in countries where there are Mathesons but

no sub-branch to administer them might like to consider doing the same, however small the news sheet. I am most grateful to Donald Scott, Clan Genealogist, for the enormous amount of work he does behind the scenes for the Clan helping members to trace their origin, often with great success. If you want to know more about your ancestors, do get in touch with him. His report follows.

On a different note. At the 2004 Skye Gathering in Portree, Isle of Skye, Matheson dress tartan was to the fore. 2 Alexanders and 2 Andrews plus wives took part in a thirtytwosome reel. Andrew Matheson of Brahan with son Alexander, and Alexander, son of the Chief, with son Andrew. The reel was completed without a mistake!

Best wishes to Clan Members wherever you are for 2006.

Fergus Matheson of Matheson

PLEASE VISIT THE CLAN WEB SITE <www.clanmatheson.org>

GENEALOGY CORNER

Isn't it strange how each passing year seems to pass quicker than that before it. Surely it has nothing to do with the ageing process! For myself, this past year has been quite busy with the usual entering of data from a variety of sources into my ever-growing Matheson database, and pleasant time assisting several members from the branches with a variety of queries about their ancestry. One, which is still in progress as I write, is discovering dates and places of the direct ancestors of an ex-England Matheson Branch member who has become a New Zealand Branch member. This member's grandfather (Matheson) was resident in the greater London area, but I have good reason to suspect that a reasonably large Sutherland family tree I have in my database might well belong to him. One more registration's details should confirm the suspicion as fact. If it is so, and I am sure it will be. I can then inform my 'client' which rows in the Dornoch Cathedral burial ground his ancestors rest. Now that is a satisfactory outcome, don't you think? Such good-news stories are quite common so, if you have a puzzling Matheson ancestor or two, contact me or your branch genealogist and perhaps you may be enabled to see where your departed ancestors are resting also.

I would like to record here my warm welcome to Alice Fairhurst, the new US Branch genealogist. That country holds a largely untapped source of many Matheson families whose ancestry is just waiting to be researched and recorded

My very best wishes to Clan members from all the branches for a happy and health filled 2006.

*Don Scott,
Clan Genealogist*

MATHESON DNA SURNAME PROJECT 2006

Sixty-four Highland clans are doing genealogical genetic testing, including Clan Matheson. Clans are using male Y-DNA (male) genetic testing to help define the branches of their clans. We can learn if the Isle of Skye and/or the Sutherland Mathesons are similar to the Lochalsh Mathesons descended from Murdoch Buidhe, plus there is a lot more we can learn about the clan structure and migration.

Y-DNA is passed from father to son so genetic genealogical links may be traced back in time. We now have 11 men who either have results or are in the process of testing. Two descendants of

Dugald an Oir, third son of Murchadh Buidhe of Lochalsh, tested R1a which was established on the steppes north of the Black and Caspian Seas and is associated with the domestication of the horse. R1a's moved westward to what is now Norway and then into Scotland. Two Isle of Skye Matheson descendants and a Matheson from Aberdeenshire tested R1b, a grouping which contains the Celts. Others are Mathesons from Argyllshire (I1a – developed in Scandinavia), and Fife (may be R1b or I). Thus, Mathesons as a whole come from more than one genetic line.

Females can also be tested. Female mtDNA comes directly down a female line, so is not useful for surname studies and is used mostly for population migration studies. One tester is descended from Mary Matheson b. 1837, Lochalsh. This female mtDNA belongs to haplogroup K which was first established in Italy.

The clan earns no money from this processing, nor does the project administrator benefit financially. Participation is strictly voluntary. The Web site for the program is <http://www.familytreedna.com>. Type Matheson in the box Search for Surname. Click on the button Search. On the new page, click on the blue underlined Matheson which mentions the clan. You'll be able to read about the project and see current results.

Any Matheson wishing to learn more about DNA testing can contact Alice Fairhurst, Matheson Surname DNA Project Administrator, at afairhurst@earthlink.net.

*Alice Fairhurst
Clan Matheson DNA Project Administrator*

ATTENTION!

**A Short History of the Mathesons and of Lochalsh, Also Kintail and the Macraes
NOW PUBLISHED**

**UK Sales only - £12 - Iain Matheson, 28 Harbour Street, Plockton, Ross-shire, IV52
8TN**

**Rest of the World Sales - £13 or equivalent on local currency from
www.caledoniamaps.co.uk**

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Once again it is my privilege to report on the activities of the England Branch of the Clan Matheson Society for the preceding twelve months since the last Newsletter was issued.

Our Branch has remained fairly static in numbers with some new members replacing those who have unfortunately died during the year. Our total stands at 88 at present, including those who only take our Newsletter. Members will be saddened to hear of the death of Mrs Constance Wellsted of Highbridge, Somerset who died in August. Our condolences go to her family and friends.

During the year your Committee has been examining ways in which to enlarge our Membership and to encourage members to give their views on what they would like the Branch to achieve in the future. A considerable amount of work has been put into updating and enlarging the website and it is hoped that as many of our Members who have access to it as possible will take the time to comment on the contents and hopefully learn much more about the Clan, its history and prospects for the next few years. In time a questionnaire will be published both on the web and by postal means to hear your comments and suggestions for the Branch. Your committee is conscious that due to geographical constraints it is not possible for Members to attend many of the meetings which are arranged and thus it is hoped to have social events in various parts of the country and not only within the London and South east area of England.

On this topic, a very pleasant outing to the London Wetlands Centre was held in September and a dozen or so enjoyed the experience of seeing a great number of birds within a stone's throw of Hammersmith Bridge. A photograph of the event is shown separately in this Newsletter. It may be possible to repeat this outing on a future occasion.

Business Meetings have been held for the Committee and the Annual General Meeting of the Branch was as usual held in May at the Royal Scottish Corporation in Covent Garden. Members should have received a copy of the Minutes of this Meeting but it is note-worthy to recall that after many years of service as Treasurer of the Branch, Leslie Matheson had retired. Alexander Matheson expressed his debt to Leslie for all his hard work and welcomed Malcolm Matheson as his replacement. We are happy to state that Leslie offered to stay on the Committee to assist in our forward planning.

On behalf of the whole committee I send you all our best wishes for 2006.

*Ron Lowry
Hon Secretary, England*

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This year has again been one of change and consolidation following the sad loss of May Matheson, our Secretary, just before last year's AGM. Fortunately, Margaret Fleming stepped into the breach at the time and was elected Secretary at last year's AGM. Having done an excellent job during the year both as Secretary and as Editor of the Newsletter, she decided to step down as Secretary, but will continue on the committee. We thank Margaret for all her work over the last 15 months.

We have produced four Newsletters this year, with articles full of interest and we have had excellent feedback. We ask members to continue to contribute to the Newsletter, particularly from places other than Victoria. Although articles for the Newsletter were put together by Margaret, Gordon Marshall did a wonderful job designing the shape of the Newsletter this year and I thank him for that. Gordon will continue to produce the Newsletter in 2006. We included the "SCOTS" magazine in with our April edition and this generated renewed interest among our members. 'SCOTS' is an excellent, Australian produced, glossy magazine all about Scotland, present and past.

One of our members has been honoured by the State of Tasmania for her work in and for the community. **Ailsa BOND, nee Matheson, AM**, was included on the Tasmanian Honour Roll of Women in 2005 for services to the community, especially through her work with the CWA – the Country Women's Association – a very necessary organisation that supports women and children throughout country Australia. (Please see the article about her in this newsletter) – another famous Matheson!

On a sadder note we report a loss of one of our stalwart members, **Gwen Matheson Smith**, our representative in Queensland. She passed away on 24th August 05, at the age of 85 years. She was a valuable member of the Clan Matheson and an avid genealogist. Her parents were Alexander and Mavis Matheson and her siblings are Adel, Alexander and Lewis Matheson. She married Trevor Sutton Smith in 1942 and had five children – Barbara, David, Robert, John and Julie. She had 14 grandchildren and one great grandchild. Gwen wrote to all the Mathesons in the Queensland phone book inviting them to join Clan Matheson Australia. One of my personal contacts with Gwen was when she organised a barbecue at her Queensland aged care facility in 2001 for Mary and myself to meet as many Queensland Mathesons as possible. At this barbecue, at least one previously unknown family connection was made; one of the reasons for having a Clan Society. She corresponded with many Mathesons around Australia. She was a passionate Queenslander and member of the Clan and we shall miss her.

We are still pursuing the Clan Membership Certificate. Our Vice President and I have been in contact with the UK branch and are currently modifying our design to meet their requirements. We have excellent scans of the dress and hunting tartans and a computer image of the Crest is in the making. We are working to ensure that the version of the Crest on the Certificate is authoritative and approved by the Chief.

During the year members attended Highland Gatherings in Victoria and New South Wales – namely – Geelong (Vic) by Lance and Ella Matheson and Margaret Fleming, Ringwood (Vic) by Robert and Bruce Mathieson and Margaret Fleming, Bundanoon (NSW) by Colin and Mary (myself and my partner) and Toukley (NSW) by my brother Roger Matheson and myself. Robert

Mathieson attended the Centenary Celebrations of the Victorian Scottish Union at Rushworth, Victoria. Margaret Fleming attended the Council of the Clans AGM (Vic) and their annual Dinner at Ringwood Victoria. Lois and Len Langford attended the 'Kirkin' of the Tartan' at Scots Church in Melbourne in July. There has been a revival of interest in all things Scottish in Australia due to State Governments awarding monetary grants through their Departments of Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs. These grants have been used to stage events and encourage cultural expression such as dinners, music groups and bands, highland gatherings and membership of Clan Societies.

Your Committee has been very busy again this year. Lois Langford has worked very hard as Treasurer, banking, producing reports and keeping track of memberships. Margaret has been busy as Secretary and Editor of the Newsletter and hosted the luncheon and AGM in November at her house. Thanks to Roma for hosting a committee meeting at her place during the year. Roma has been elected as Secretary for 2006, and Gordon Marshall will edit and produce the Newsletter for the next year. Craige Proctor has been entering all our genealogical data onto the computer this year and despite serious problems with his eyesight should have it all done by February 06. We are all grateful for those committed members who serve on the Committee and continue to support the Clan Society in this way.

*Colin Matheson
Chief's Lieutenant, Australia*

TASMANIAN HONOUR ROLL OF WOMEN 2005

BOND, AILSA GRAY, AM Awarded for services to the community. Born: 4 September 1923.

Ailsa Bond (nee Matheson) was born in Victoria and educated at the Wycheproof State School and the Presbyterian Ladies' College in Melbourne. She wanted to study medicine, but her father did not consider this a suitable career for a woman and gave her the option of dentistry or pharmacy. Ailsa graduated from Pharmacy College in 1944. She married in 1947 and had six children, two sons and four daughters.

Ailsa was the owner and operator of the Wycheproof Pharmacy for eight years. In 1956, Ailsa, her husband and young family moved to Launceston. In 1966, she became the first woman to own a pharmacy in Northern Tasmania when she established Bond's Pharmacy in Riverside.

Ailsa made a major contribution to her local community as a founding member of the Child Health Association Riverside, Riverside Preschool and Family Day Care Launceston. Ailsa was a member of the Women's Committee of the Launceston Football Club for a decade, including a period as President. Ailsa has been a member of the Country Women's Association (CWA) since 1948 and has served as an office holder in Wycheproof and Northern Tasmania. She was State President from 1987-89 and Australian President from 1991-94. She has represented Australia at eight World Conferences from 1990-99. She was the Convenor of the CWA Northern Baby Box Committee from 1990-2004, represented the CWA on Australians for Reconciliation from 1994-99 and the Tasmanian Rural Women's Advisory Group from 1997-99.

Ailsa has contributed her expertise in health and rural issues in a wide range of advisory forums including as Chairman (1989-92) of the Tasmanian Consumer Forum for the Aged (1989-93); a member of the National Council for the International Year of the Family; a founding member of the Friends of the National Rural Health Alliance; a member of the Older Australian Advisory Council; and as a member of the Tasmanian Women's Consultative Council.

In 1995, Ailsa was made a Member of the Order of Australia for her services to women, particularly through the CWA. Other awards have included Citizen of the Year West Tamar Council (1993), CWA Life Member (1998), and the community' at the 2001 World CWA

Conference in Canada. In 2005, she was presented with the Australia Day Volunteer Award by the West Tamar Council.

For more than 50 years, Ailsa has served on a multitude of committees and given freely of her time to assist her local community and rural women across Australia.

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As you can see from Al Matheson's report on the Mainland N.S. Branch's activities, we have had a busy year in this part of Canada. Every effort is being made to develop Branches in other parts of Canada, but without success to date. Perhaps with an increased emphasis on genealogy we can develop an increase in Clan interest. In this respect, I find the efforts of Alice Fairhurst, U.S.A. genealogist, to develop a D.N.A. base most interesting. Both Malcolm 111 and I have participated. It seems we could be 7th cousins I am waiting for the results of my test. How they can connect us to ancient ancestors is a big mystery to me, but they claim to be able to distinguish between Mathesons from different areas of Scotland. I must point out here that my reference to "ancient" ancestors did not include Malcolm, referred to previously!

Our Canada membership has remained steady, and we are maintaining a positive bank balance thanks to the great help we receive from our Mainland Branch and to the special donation of some of our members. For the year 2006 our objective has to be to increase membership. Al Matheson and I have discussed this, and we hope to develop a recruitment program. I hope that our next Canada report will show some positive results. That sort of blends into our Clan Motto: FAC ET SPERA. Like many of us involved in Clan activities, I am concerned about maintaining our younger membership. I would welcome any ideas on achieving our goal of increasing our numbers.

In closing, I wish you all the very best for 2006, and again, my thanks to Al Matheson and his crew for all their help.

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

MAINLAND NOVA SCOTIA

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Piper: Ms Kelly Putnam

Chaplain: The Reverend Doctor Glen Matheson

This Branch of the Clan had a busy and fun year once again, meeting old friends and making new ones. Our year began on a sad note with the loss of my brother Neil to cancer in March.

We started the year 2005 Clan activities with Beverly and me representing this Branch at a Tartan Day (6 April) Dinner hosted by the Clan Stuart. Our first gathering of the year was a meeting on 30 April, held at Carver's Coffeehouse and Studio in Pictou. Hosted by Keith and Anne owners

and operators of the coffeehouse. At this meeting it was decided to have our very successful cookbook "Cooking With Our Clan" reprinted and I am happy to announce that the cookbook is available to all at a price of \$8.00 Cdn. If mailed within Canada, it is \$11.00.

On July 9th the Clan Matheson tent was front and centre at the Halifax Highland Games. It was a beautiful day and we had seventy visitors from five different countries visit our tent. One of the visitors was a lovely young lass, an exchange student, Rachel Matheson from Aberdeen, Scotland. Rachel was so excited to see a Matheson tent and we had a lovely visit with her.

Our annual general meeting was held on August 6th in the Community Church in Earltown. After the meeting we went to our Clan tent at the Pipers Picnic. This year the weather was perfect and over 1000 people were in attendance. A super day! Our Branch's bursary for the furtherance of the Gaelic culture in Nova Scotia was awarded to Janelle Putnam for the year 2005. The Clan was represented at a Kirkin' O' The Tartan in New Glasgow in August and in Truro in September.

August 28 found us once again at Vaughn and Donna's cottage at Shortt's Lake for our annual family picnic and auction. This was a fun day with forty-two attending, it was so nice to have many young people present. Many laughs were had and lots of treasures auctioned off. The day was topped off with a pot luck dinner. Our thanks to Donna and Vaughn for having us back again, as this event is the highlight of our Clan year.

We ended the year with a meeting and pot luck dinner on October 15th at the "Bears Den", Al and Beverly's cottage in Glengarry. We planned our program of events for 2006 at this meeting also took on a project to have a memorial book to include those member who passed away since we formed as a Branch in 1983. It is our hope to have a picture and a write up on these past members as a memorial.

Some of our members or their family members have made the newspaper for their accomplishments one being Trueman Matheson, a Gaelic book publisher. The following is an excerpt from the local newspaper: "It's one of the most extensive collections of Gaelic songs ever compiled. The Highland Village will officially launch the second printing of An Oranaiche/The Gael Songster. The songbook is a value reference for many Celtic researchers on both sides of the Atlantic. Archibald Sinclair first published it in Scotland in 1879. The second edition, published by Trueman Matheson, an Antigonish bookseller, will include a CD of Gaelic airs sung by local singers in the traditional manner without musical accompaniment." Anyone interested can obtain further information by contacting Trueman via e-mail trueman@gaelicbooks.com .

The other member of note is Keith Matheson, there was an extensive write up in the local paper for his craft of wood carving and the work he did on the replica of the Ship Hector. Keith has taken on another labour of love, the bagpipes, and is doing very well. He is a member of the newly formed "Na Gaisgich Pipes and Drums" band and enjoying travelling with the band to different events.

The winner of the raffle of the quilt made and donated by Carrie and Murray Matheson was Julia Matheson, Miramichi, New Brunswick . We thank Carrie and Murray for their support of our clan raffle. I also thank everyone who bought tickets in support of the Nova Scotia Branch of the Clan.

Our sincere appreciation to all members who gave faithfully of their time and talents, thus making our Clan activities a success.

As the year 2005 comes to a close, it is our hope that all Matheson's and their families around the world had a very good Christmas and may you have a healthy and happy 2006

*Al Matheson
President
Mainland Nova Scotia*

CAPE BRETON

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Joy Weeds Fay Whittlome, Elaine Rankin.

The New Zealand Branch of the Clan Matheson commenced the 2005 year with a first ever country family picnic on 27th February. We were very grateful to area hosts, Dawn and David Connor of Pukerau, Jeanette Morrison of New Plymouth, Lynn and Bruce Newton of Wellington and Ailsa Wilton of Christchurch.

Clan members from the appropriate areas gathered at homes and reports indicated really happy gatherings.

Matheson Bay at Leigh was the main venue for northern members. The weather was brilliantly fine and a large crowd gathered. Our thanks to Val and Henry Stern for their help. Happy times were spent meeting and greeting family and friends known before, and some for the first time. Sincere thanks to all New Zealand Clan members who participated on the day. It was a great success.

Over the remainder of the year when it is not possible to gather. Newsletters have been the medium for keeping members in contact with each other. We have continued to feature not only current items of interest but also stories of Matheson/Mathieson Pioneers of 19th century New Zealand days. An off shoot from some of these stories is that present day Clan members have recognised past family names and linked up with others with whom contact had been lost. Some good reunion stories have resulted.

Family research is of vital interest to many members and we were delighted to receive from Graeme Matheson of Rangiora a copy of his family history "Matheson of Kintyre" The history contains copies of old letters, photographs and stories of relatives and family tree information.

Graeme has produced this excellent book in conjunction with his sister Neta Home of Queensland. The first pioneers to the country of this Matheson family were Dugald (born 1838) and brother Duncan (born 1841). They arrived in Port Chalmers in 1863 and settled in the Canterbury area.

The New Zealand branch of the Clan has been well served by Chief's Lieutenant Douglas Matheson, Chairman Donald Matheson and Committee members, Lois Ahlquist, Anne Matheson, Douglas Matheson, Gordon Matheson, Keith Matheson, Elaine Rankin, Joy Weeds, and Fay Whittome with Ailsa Matheson as Secretary and Newsletter Editor.

Our thanks to Norman Matheson, our Clan Piper, whose beautiful renditions always evoke pleasant thoughts of Scotland.

Genealogy, Don Scott the New Zealand and world-wide Genealogist is a gem ! We are so lucky to have the willing services of not only such a competent researcher, but a person who devotes hours assisting Mathesons and Mathiesons trace their family connections. Thank you Don, very sincerely.

Throughout all our Clan involvement here we are always conscious of the warm interest of our Chief, Sir Fergus Matheson of Matheson. Thanks to him for all the support and encouragement he provides.

We record with regret the passing of loyal members – Chris and Malcolm Murray of Wanaka, Noel Neeley and Ken Sutherland of Auckland.

*Ailsa Matheson ,
Hon Secretary, New Zealand*

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The outstanding event for the U.S. Branch of the Clan Society this past year (2005) was the appointment of our new Branch Genealogist, Alice Matheson Fairhurst. We are now blessed with a truly talented genealogist who has done an incredible amount of research over the years and is quite adept in aiding those who need help in tracing their roots. Alice, remarkably on her own, has been trying to edit and correct the 2nd edition of the History of the Mathesons, and also has been spearheading the DNA testing program for the Clan Matheson in the U.S., Canada and the U.K.

Alice is now heading up a group to determine the feasibility of creating a third edition of the History of the Matheson. Contributing their expertise are, John Faid (UK); and Marleen Van Horne; with maps by Howard Mathieson. It is hoped the proposed book will include work done in the 1960's and 1970's by William Matheson through the Gaelic Society of Inverness and give updated information on the Chiefly line and Shiness line. The book will be indexed and footnoted. It is estimated that the completion of the work will take two years. If you have updates for the book, please send them to Alice Fairhurst: afairhurst@earthlink.net or 313 E. Hurst St., Covina, CA 91723, USA. An interesting research endeavor of Alice's recently showed that Chief's Lt. (Canada) Joel Matheson and Chief's Lt. Malcolm Matheson III (USA) were 7th cousins and that both were 11th cousins to our Chief Fergus.

Alice sent the following news items in this past year:-

“Clan members Gordon Matheson of Lakewood and Alice Fairhurst of Covina have just completed a 290 page genealogy book entitled **Descendents of Catherine Smith by #1 Paul Kennedy and #2 Adam Matheson** which will be placed in the Family History Centre in Salt Lake City, Utah, USA and at the Wellington County Museum and Archives in Fergus, Ontario, Canada. The book includes known Scottish ancestors of Catherine Smith, Paul Kennedy, Adam Matheson and John M. McGill as well as all known descendants, approximately 1100 people. Maps showing migrations from Scotland to Canada are included. Research on Gordon's Matheson line was first begun by Gordon's father, Harry Matheson in the 1940's. Gordon, who is 81, says he has finally completed his father's legacy.

We recently discovered that the late Scott M. Matheson (1929-1990) Governor of Utah belongs to the Shiness branch of the Mathesons. Twice elected governor of that state, he was active in the National Governors' Conference, served on the federal government's Intergovernmental Task Force on Water Policy, and was chair of both the Four Corners Regional Commission and the Western Governors' Policy Office. He and his wife Norma had four children. Members of this branch sponsor the Matheson clan tent at the Cedar City Games in Utah. Another member was Mac Matheson of Meza, Arizona who wrote the Matheson Times.”

As in each of the past 10 years that I have been the Chief's representative in the U.S. the Society owes our loyal member, John Aakesson, a heart felt thanks for once again keeping the Matheson tent open at the Virginia Scottish Games held at Episcopal High School in Alexandria, VA this past summer.

The response to our dues solicitation again has not been overwhelming. As in 2004 less than half the members paid their dues (112 out of 250) and this makes the circulation of the newsletter dependant on those 39 old "Life Members" who always come through – especially those 16 who donated \$ 25 to \$ 100 and who are especially owed our gratitude: Thomas K. Anderson, Valencia L. Barree, Russell Matheson Fox, Jr., David L. Green, Jean P. Guyton, Robert K. Matheson, Brig. Gen. Bruce Matheson, Charles E. Matheson, Sr., Don P. Matheson, Edward B. Matheson, Jr., Garrick D. Matheson, Dr. John D. Matheson, Lyman W. Matheson, Robert W. Matheson, John A. Matheson, and Nell P. Wilkerson.

The Society welcomed in only 3 new members this year: Robert Matheson Norris (Santa Barbara, CA); Douglas Scott Matheson (Reading, MA) and Suzanne Matheson Burnham (North Ogden, Utah).

The Society extends its' sincerest condolences to: Charles E. Matheson, Sr. on the loss of his twin brother, Robert Ernest Matheson, Sr. and to Robert's family.

The Society also extends its' sincerest condolences to Torrey Matheson Cooke and her family on the loss of her husband, John Patrick Cooke, who died December 26, 2005 after a brief battle with liver cancer.

*Malcolm Matheson, III
Chief's Lieutenant, United States*

Mrs. Louise Matheson Bell (86) of Seneca, SC, USA reports:

*I'm publishing my seventh book this spring, a 300+ page 9" x 12" hard cover, 600 photographs, **Seneca, Visions of Yesterday.***

There is a lot of excitement about this. Late last year I received my twentyfifth award for leadership, achievement, contributions to the South Carolina Republican Women's' Caucus, South Carolina Legislature.

Just had a section of Highway 76 named the "Matheson Memorial Highway in honor of my Grandfather 1862-1941...and the Matheson family. Life is fun.

DEFINITIONS

NAME

MacMaken, MacMakan or MacMhatain and probably other spellings, all of similar sounding, are thought to be some of the names attributed to the Highlanders who gave their allegiance to the MacMathan Chief in and around Lochalsh, Wester Ross in the early days of the Clan. In the course of time the names gave way to the anglicised version of Matheson which we know today. Due to difficulties of translating and spelling by Gaelic speakers when keeping their records, other similar sounding variations crept in, of which the most usual are Mathieson, Mathison, Matheison or Mathewson and there may be others. All these variations are acceptable for membership of the Clan Society provided the applicant is able to show his or her Highland origin.

CLAN

The Clan is composed of descendants of Highlanders who bear the name of Matheson or an accepted variation of that name, as defined in "NAME" above.

CLAN SOCIETY

Membership of the Clan Society is made up of those who qualify under "NAME" above. Other applicants may be considered for membership if they can convince the Chief or his Lieutenants of their enthusiasm for the Clan and are prepared to give their allegiance to the Chief.

SEPTS

Listed Matheson Septs are MacMath, MacPhun and Mathie. Individuals bearing these names, who are prepared to give their allegiance to the Chief, may join the Clan Society and may wear the Matheson tartan and the Chief's crest badge.

COAT OF ARMS

The Clan Chief has a personal Coat of Arms, the crest of which may be worn by all members of the Clan and Clan Society if surrounded by a strap and buckle.

TARTAN

The Dress Tartan is scarlet with dark green and dark blue lines. The Hunting Tartan is dark blue with dark green lines. Some may prefer to wear other shades of red and blue but just for the record, scarlet and dark blue are displayed as the correct background colours of our tartan in the book by Frank Adam FRGS, FSA. (Scot) "*The Clans, Septs and Regiments of the Scottish Highlands*" and in "*The History of the Mathesons*" by Mackenzie & Macbain. These are the colours displayed on the official Clan website.

THE WEARING OF TARTAN

No one should wear a tartan to which he or she is not entitled by name or descent. A member of the Clan (see CLAN above) may wear Matheson tartan; exceptions should be approved by the Chief. If you are eligible to wear two different Clan tartans and you feel you owe allegiance to both, you should feel free to wear either.

DNA

The current DNA project may reveal people with a genetic link to Mathesons. Persons who can prove by DNA that their forebears were Highlanders and bore the name of Matheson or one of the accepted variations of that name, are eligible to join the Clan Society. Under the same qualification, if they change their name to Matheson or to one of the accepted variations of that name, they may consider themselves to be members of the Clan.

CONGRATULATIONS TO

UNITED KINGDOM

- John Mathieson for his continuing success as Director of Photography for the film about the Crusades "The Kingdom of Heaven" following on from his triumph in "Gladiator"

- Ruth and Alistair Laird for the birth of their son Sebastian, a grandson for Kate and Ron Lowry. (and a possible future Australian member).
- Lieut. Colonel Alexander Matheson on his appointment as Secretary, Central Chancery of the Orders of Knighthood, St. James's Palace, London.
- *Andrew Matheson of Brahan (Ross-shire) and his wife Judith whose eldest son Captain Alexander Matheson, Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, as Second in Command of a Squadron of Challenger II tanks, took a leading part in the capture of Basra, and with his whole Regiment returned safely to Scotland at the end of their tour.

AUSTRALIA

- Lois and Len Langford becoming grandparents for the first time with the birth of a grandson, Toby James MacGregor Langford on 17th May, 2005.
- Elizabeth Helen Matheson married David McKenzie at the Canberra Ski Club Lodge at Guthega in the Snowy Mountains in southern New South Wales on 29th October, 2005. Elizabeth is the daughter of our Chief's Lieutenant Dr. Colin Matheson.
- Anne Salathiel married David Mazza at the Mazza Vineyard near Donneybrook in Western Australia, on 26th November, 2005. Anne is the granddaughter of M. Elsbeth (Betty) Salathiel (nee Matheson).
- Mrs Ailsa Bond AM (nee Matheson) for being accepted on to the Tasmanian Honour Roll for Women for a life time of services to the community. (See article in this newsletter).
- Matheson sisters, Esther A. Aslin celebrated her 91st birthday in August, 2005 and Florence E. Fleming celebrated her 89th birthday in June, 2005. Both were born in Melbourne during the First World War.

CANADA

- Miles Matheson, World War 11 veteran who was the guest speaker at the annual Inter-faith church service held at the St. Peters Bay, P.E.I., Wild Blueberry Festival and Homecoming, August 7, 2005. Miles spoke in honour of the YEAR OF THE VETERAN.
- Brian and Jacqueline (Petrie) Matheson, on their marriage 19 August 2005. Brian is the son of Bertha Matheson and the late Gordon Matheson of Poplar Hill, N.S.
- Frank and Peggy (Matheson) Caldwell, on their marriage 29 October, 2005. Peggy is the daughter of Bob and Pat Matheson of Glengarry, N.S.
- Justin Matheson on his graduation from high school and winner of five awards. Justin is the son of Margie Matheson
- Peggy (Matheson) Caldwell, daughter of Bob and Pat Matheson on her marriage to Frank Caldwell on 29 October 2005.
- Brian and Jacqueline (Petrie) Matheson on their marriage on 19 August 2005. Brian is the son of Bertha Matheson and the late Gordon Matheson. We wish these couples a long and happy life together.
- Justin Matheson, son of Margie and the late Neil Matheson of Hopewell, N.S., who is attending the Community College in Halifax, on his high school graduation and the winner of five awards; The Thenco Fund Bursary; The Neil Matheson Memorial Award; The Silver Light Rebekah Lodge Bursary; The Modern Barber Bursary and The Nova Scotia Community College Entrance Award, and we wish him success.

NEW ZEALAND

- Alexander Matheson (son of Donald and Joan of Hamilton) who is currently National Dressage Champion at Open Medium Level. Alexander also won the NZ Championship at Open Medium in Christchurch. His wife Sarah Jane won the Medium Horse of the Year event.
- Sarah Matheson of Dunedin, off to perform at the Edinburgh Military Tattoo.
- Holly Mathieson (Daughter of Stewart and the late Anna Matheson of Dunedin) whose career in orchestral conducting has led to performances in Melbourne, Texas, Los Angeles and Brazil.

U.S.A.

- Mr. and Mrs. Malcolm Matheson, Jr. on reaching the venerable age of 92 and celebrating their 70th wedding anniversary this past fall of 2005!
- Colvin T. and Mary Ellen Matheson on the birth of their son, Colvin Lochlan Matheson on January 27, 2005.
- Lida Matheson and Richard P. Stifel, Jr. on the birth of their first grandchild, Lucy Tompkins Jacobs, May 20, 2005. Lucy is the new daughter of Lida and Rick's daughter Sassie and her husband Chris Jacobs.

PRINTED PAPER RATE

IF UNDELIVERED

PLEASE RETURN TO THE APPROPRIATE ADDRESS BELOW

Scotland The Old Rectory, Hedenham, Norfolk, NR35 2LD

England Brae Cottage, Colchester Road, Coggeshall, Essex, CO6 1RP.

Australia. GPO Box 2587W, Melbourne 3001 Victoria.

Canada. 88 Beaumont Drive, Lower Sackville, Nova Scotia, B4C 1V6

New Zealand. H. Ross Village, T/H 158-30 Ruakura Road, Hamilton

U.S.A. The Tannery, PO Box 307, The Plains, Virginia, 20198