

Hebridean connections

by Andrew Matheson



The Outer Hebrides are a chain of windswept islands off the northwest coast of the Scottish mainland. To this day they retain much of Highland culture, especially the Gaelic language, and are rich in traditional heritage and ancient history.



Scotland's Outer Hebrides (in blue), with their principal town Stornoway marked in red

Many Mathesons in New Zealand have ancestral inks to the Outer Hebrides (or Western Isles), and one website is of particular value to them.

[Hebridean Connections](#) collates and curates material about the genealogy, history, traditions, culture and archaeology of this island group.

You can search the records for individuals, including hundreds of Mathesons, and browse records by subject: residences, oral history, events, archaeological sites and much more. This is a rich treasure trove.



Did your ancestors live in the Outer Hebrides? This website might have information about them

If you're planning a visit to the UK you'll find a visit to the Outer Hebrides really rewarding regardless of whether you have family ties to the islands. The [Visit Outer Hebrides](#) and [Visit Scotland](#) websites have good material to help with your planning.

Visit Outer Hebrides has some great [videos](#) about "Scotland's Gaelic Islands". I was amazed to see a house once lived in by my great-great-great uncle Alexander McLeod (and one I've stayed in) featuring at 00:36 on the 'ancestry and kinship' video.

