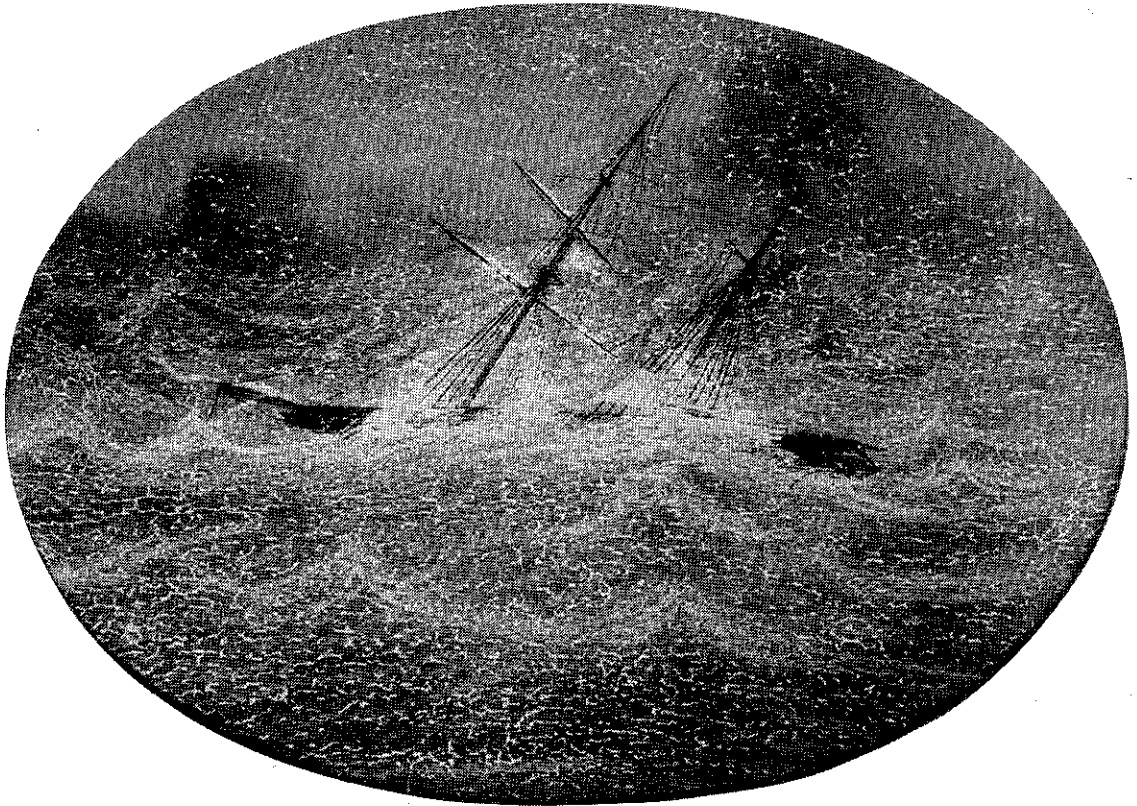


# *The Matheson Saga*



A FAMILY HISTORY OF  
FORESIGHT COURAGE AND ENDEAVOUR

BY  
Alice C McKenzie

# *The Matheson Saga*

A FAMILY HISTORY OF

FORESIGHT COURAGE AND ENDEAVOUR

*To John Matheson*

BY

Alice C McKenzie

*Dedication*  
*to my Grandparents*  
*Captain James and Christina*  
*Matheson*

## FOREWORD

The Matheson Saga is written to record what is known of the family history for the benefit of our future generations. I am grateful to all who have helped with material and photographs.

Special thanks to Marion Young for her tremendous work on the Family Tree, Margaret Trotter for her help in compiling the material into book form.

It has been claimed the name is English in form being applied to the lowland and English Mathewsons also Mathieson and Mathison derived from Matthew.

The Highland clan was called in Gaelic Mac-mathan or Mac-mhagan son of the bear (Mathghan a common name in old Gaelic times and equally a favourite with Norse as Bjorn or Bjorni). The Irish form is Macmahon.

"The Gaelic MS. of 1450 derives the Clan MacMathan, or Matheson, from the same source as the MacKenzies, and as the chief of the Matheson is reported in 1427 to have had 2000 men, the clan Matheson was then as powerful as the more famous MacKenzies.

The clan was divided into two branches, those of Lochalsh and those of Shiness in Sutherland. Of the former was John Dubh Matheson, who was Constable of Eilean Donan Castle (in Webster Ross) when Donald Gorm of Sleat attacked it in 1539. Donald Gorm was killed by an arrow of the defenders and John Dubh by an arrow of the besiegers. From John Dubh's son, Murchadh Buidhe, of Fernaig and Balmacarra, as descended the families of Bennetsfield, Iomaire and Glas-na-Muclach. The Mathesons of Sutherland were an offshoot from the Lochalsh family and are mentioned in the fifteenth century. They are represented by the Mathesons of Shiness, Achany and the Lews.

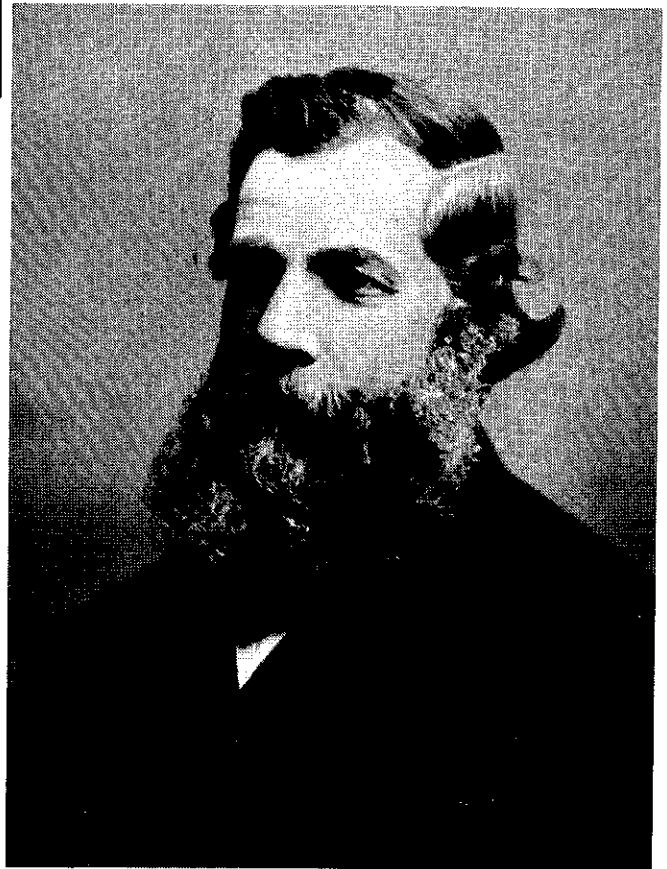
All the modern Matheson genealogies converge on Murdo or Murdoch of the Yellow Hair, grandson of John Dubh Matheson, Constable of Eilean Donan.

John Matheson of the Lochalsh family purchased Attadale in 1730. John, 4th of Attadale, married Margaret, daughter of Donald Matheson, of Shiness, and their son Alexander, born in 1805, was the first baronet of Lochalsh. Sir Alexander made a large fortune in the East, and on his return he purchased estates in Ross-shire extended to over 220,000 acres at a total cost of 773,020 pounds and spent 300,000 pounds in land improvement and building.

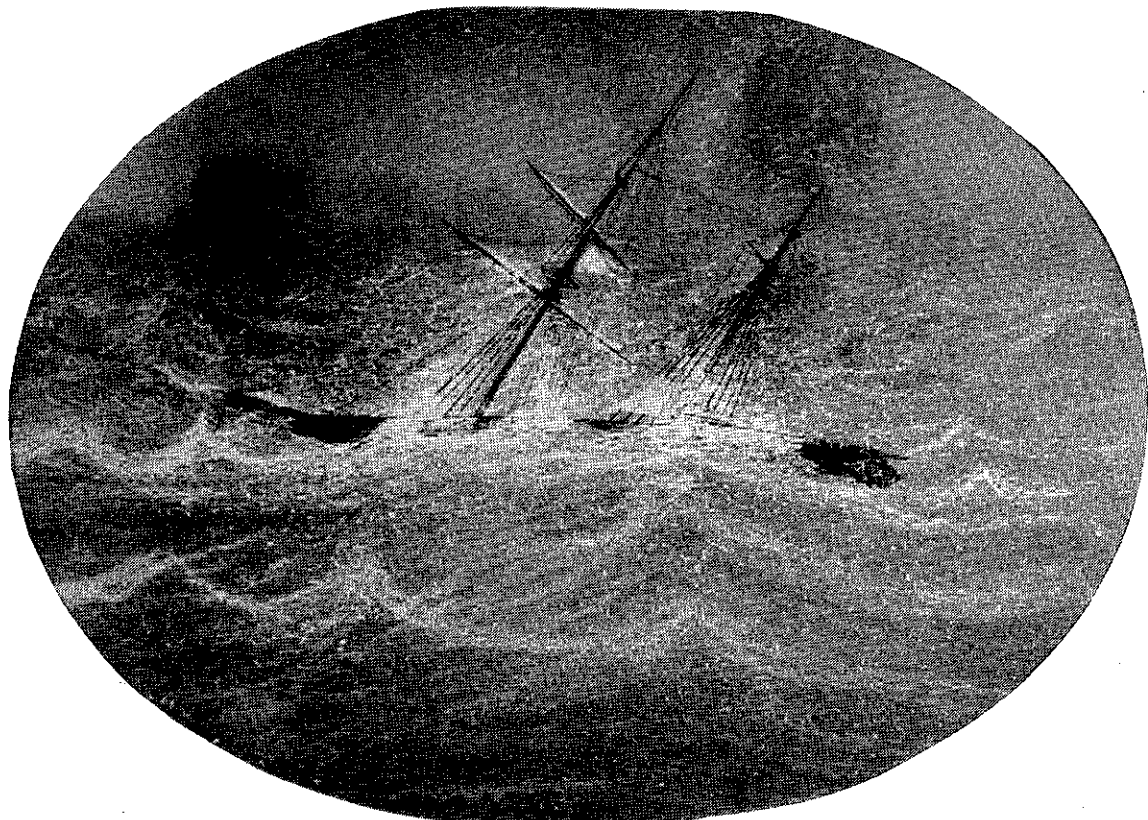
James Sutherland Matheson, of Shiness family, born in 1796, was one of the founders of the firm of Jardine, Matheson & Co., a company with ramifications throughout the East. He purchased the island of Lewis in 1844 and was created a Baronet in 1851 for his munificence to the people of Lewis during the famine of 1845-46.



Christina Matheson



Captain James Matheson



In the vortex of an Indian Ocean Hurricane at  $20^{\circ} 46'$  South,  $77^{\circ} 1'$  East on the 20th January 1850. A painting of *Yarra* painted for Captain Matheson.



John Matheson

CREST : A naked arm holding a drawn sabre, proper.

BADGE : Broom.

WAR CRY : Achadh da thearnaidh (Field of the Two Declivities). "

As so often happens when families leave their homeland for new lands, during the space of 100 years family connections are lost or they become too far removed, with the result that oncoming generations are left with only a hazy hearsay of the people from whom they are descended.

Special thanks to Wayne Matheson for all the extra material he supplied and for his many hours of work, typing and retyping at the computer.

I trust therefore that these records may be of some interest to members of future generations.

Alice C. McKenzie  
Alice C. McKenzie

7-7-90.

# INDEX

## PAGE

1	Dedication
2	Forward
4	Index
5	Photographs
7	Matheson Family Tree
9	Matheson - Early Generations
12	James Matheson
18	Kakanui 1867-1888
23	James and Christina - The Captain's later years
25	The Family of James and Christina
33	J.Matheson & Company Limited
36	Matheson Family Tree (continued)
38	Family of John and Margaret (Alexander) Matheson
38	James Weir and Thomas Alexander
39	George Thomson
41	Alice Christina
45	Matheson memories
46	Visit to my Brother's Graves
48	Family of George and Kathleen
48	Shirley Winifred
49	John Alexander Nicholson
51	Family of John and Audrey
51	Wayne John
53	Derek James
54	Family of Alice and William McKenzie
54	Isabella and James Campbell
56	Margaret and William Hegan
58	Blair and Isobel McKenzie
60	James and Lilian McKenzie
62	Inglis Family Tree
65	Christina Cora (Matheson) married William Inglis
65	William James
66	Meat Preserving Works - Woodlands
66	Roy Inglis
67	Family details
69	Brockett Family Tree
71	Mary (Matheson) and Henry Brockett
71	Family of William Henry
71	William Henry
73	Graeme Sherbourne
74	Nimmo Family Tree
77	Helena (Matheson) and William Nimmo
77	William Allan Stewart
78	Family of William and Mary
79	Family of John and Mary
80	Captain James Matheson Nimmo JP
81	Family of Captain Nimmo
84	Thoughts by Alice McKenzie
87	Appendix & Address list



## PHOTOGRAPHS

- A & B Captain James and Christina Matheson
- C Painting of 'Yarra' painted for Captain Matheson  
20th January 1850
- D John Matheson
- E Matheson Family 1920's  
Alice, George, Cora Inglis, Mother, George and John
- F Father, Mother and James
- G James George Alexander Matheson
- H Alice putting flowers on her brother's grave
- I Christina (Cora) Inglis
- J & K Matheson Woolscour
- L & M John Matheson & Matheson Family
- N Maurice Mona Alborough Cora Inglis Charles M Inglis
- O Four generations - George, Mother, Shirley and Heather McKenzie
- P Photo possibly taken on Charles Inglis wedding day  
Charles, Bill, Claude, Cora Roy, Harry, William, Eric, Jim
- Q William Inglis and Harry
- R Nimmo's Coal Mine at Ngapara
- S Aynsley Minnie, Graeme William Brockett 1944
- T The Nimmo Family 1917 or 1918  
William, Christina, Captain, Allan (in front), Helena.
- U Four generations - Rina Watson, Marian Barnes, Jean Barnes, Helena Nimmo
- V Margaret Jim Blair Isobel McKenzie
- W Alice Matheson

X

In 1967 before departure overseas - Alice and William McKenzie with Aunty Minnie, Family and Grandchildren

# THE MATHESON FAMILY

Donald Matheson m. Sophia Gall  
(Mathewson) 1756

Thomas baptised 9 May 1784	Christina b.24 Feb 1775	Alexander baptised 29 May 1780	James b.9 Oct 1773 Cowie 16 Sept 24 Sept 1796	Ogilvie baptised 1787
----------------------------------	-------------------------------	--------------------------------------	--	-----------------------------

James  
Baptised 14 July 1802

Thomas      Daughter ?  
b.8 Aug 1798  
d.June 1848 at Sea  
m.Jane Urquhart  
25 Feb 1819  
(daughter of John & Isabella  
Urquart)

John b. 2 March 1823 (twin of James) Jane b. 1847	James b. 2 March 1823 d. June 1898 m. Christina Weir (14/2/1850) b. 23 Sept 1830 d. 10 Aug 1911	Isabella b. 1824 d.12 Mar 1897	Thomas b. 1826 d. 10 Sept 1835
--	--	--------------------------------------	--------------------------------------

Continue 1

Continue 1

Isabella	James	John	Christina	George	Elisa	Mary	Helena
b. 1851	Burns	b.1858	(Cora)	b.1864	b.1866	b.1869	(Nellie)
d. 1855	b.1855	d.1941	b.1860	d.1926	d.1866	d.1956	b.1871
	d.1870		d.1950			m.Henry	m.William
	m.Margaret	m.William				Brockett	Nimmo
	Alexander	Inglis				Apr 18 1898	16 Feb
	20 Feb 1891	Dec 1879					1891

## MATHESON

Saga is an old Norse word which originally meant a story but it is now known as a story of heroism, endeavour and adventure at sea, so it befits the story of Captain James and Christina Matheson.

It is known our forefathers were a seafaring people for many generations living in Norway and that a branch of the family left their homeland to settle in Scotland. Eventually they settled in Aberdeen where our forefathers began a new life. The way would be difficult for there would be much to accept and overcome. Language would be a priority. Gaining confidence and friendships would be a vital part of living for we well know we are unable to live within ourselves.

Our father, John Matheson often reminded us that our people were of Norse descent originally coming from Norway to Scotland and this is easily confirmed for right through Scandinavia the name is comparatively common. It was said also that members of the family for some generations followed the sea and this could well be when records show the time between births of members of each family and the absence of death records of male members.

From the records of the old Barochial Register of Rathen, Scotland, the following entries are shown:-

### DONALD (MATHEWSON) MATHESON

Married Sophia Gall in 1756

#### Family

<u>Christain Name</u>	<u>Born</u>	<u>Died</u>
James	09 October 1773	
	Baptized Rathen 26 February 1775	
Christina	24 February 1775	
	Baptized Rathen 26 February 1775	
Alexander	Baptized Rathen 29 May 1780	
Thomas	Baptized Rathen 09 May 1784	
Ogilvie	Baptized Rathen 16 September 1787	

Rathen is located some three miles due south of Fraserburgh, Scotland.

## FAMILY OF DONALD AND SOPHIA

### JAMES MATHESON 1773 -

of Fraserburgh

Married Sarah Cowie on the 24 September 1796

He is understood to have been a master marina lost at sea but no verification of this has been possible to date.

#### Family

Christian Name (s)	Born	Died
<b>Thomas</b>	Tophead 08 August 1798	June 1848 (49 Yrs)
<b>James</b>	Baptized 14 July 1802	Unknown

It has yet to be confirmed but it may have been 'Torphins', not 'Tophead' that was the birth place of Thomas. This is some 20 miles due west of Aberdeen.

## FAMILY OF JAMES AND SARAH

### THOMAS MATHESON 1798 - 1848

Married Jane Urquhart on the 25 February 1819

Master marina lost at sea June 1848. Jane Urquhart a daughter of John Urquhart and Isabella Henry.

Records taken from the Shipping Register of Peterhead show that Thomas Matheson Shipmaster in Peterhead, Master of the ship 'ROBERT' schooner 69 tons, one deck, two masts, standing bow-sprit 62' 5" length, 16' beam, 9' 7" deep, Carvil built, square stem and male figurhead. Built Fraserburgh by John Webster. Registered 24 January, 1846. Owners - Alex Anderson and William Simpson. It is interesting here to note that James, son of Thomas, joined the 'ROBERT' as a Seaman, although he had served as Mate on two previous ships on the 25 February 1846 until 17 July 1847. No doubt he wished to gain experience under his Father. It was fortunate indeed for him, and us, that he left the ship when he did for had he stayed on he would have been lost with his Father.

The 'ROBERT' was lost off the coast of Sweden as reported by the ship 'MARY'.

#### Family

Christian Name(s)	Born	Died
<b>James</b>	Peterhead 2 March 1823	Ngapara (NZ) 6 June 1898 (76 years)
<b>John</b>	Peterhead 2 March 1823	(unknown)
<b>Isabella</b>	Peterhead in 1824	Peterhead 12 March 1897 (73 years)
<b>Thomas</b>	Peterhead in 1826	Peterhead 10 September 1835 (9 years)

Records point to the fact that there was a son John, a twin with James. By the census schedule of Peterhead dated 1841, the following entry appears -

*"Jane Matheson aged 40 years, seaman's wife.*

*John Matheson aged 20 years and Isabella aged 18 years".*

## **FAMILY OF THOMAS AND JANE**

### **THOMAS MATHESON 1826 - 1835**

Thomas was born at Peterhead in 1826 and died at Peterhead on the 10 September, 1835 at the age of 9 years.

The census section of the 1861 records indicate the following -

*"13 Marescal Street, Peterhead. Jane Matheson widow aged 63 years born stricken, Isabella her daughter aged 36 years born Peterhead, Jane her grand-daughter aged 14 years born Peterhead".*

### **ISABELLA MATHESON 1824 - 1897**

The only record of Isabella is that which is mentioned above, being referred to in the 1841 census at 18 years and again in 1861 at 36 years. She is known to have died at Peterhead on the 12th March 1897 in her 73 year.

### **JOHN MATHESON 1823 -**

Believed to be a twin of James, born on the 2nd March 1822. There is no knowledge of a marriage but it is believed that the young girl Jane at 14 years at the time of the 1861 census and the grand daughter of Jane, would be the daughter of John mentioned above and James Burns her grandson aged 6 years born Dundee was the son of Captain James Matheson and his wife Christina Weir who by this date were in New Zealand.

## JAMES MATHESON 1823 - 1898

Born at Peterhead, Scotland on the 2nd March 1823. After undergoing training for several years James sat the examination for his Masters certificate in Dundee. This was issued in Peterhead in 1854. Eight generations have emerged through this line and a series of careers developed. To my knowledge only one has followed the sea faring occupation. Captain Aynsley Brockett, son of Mary Brockett, daughter of Captain James Matheson. Having shown the place of James in the Matheson line I will begin to relate events passed on to me by my parents and relations, my brother George and his wife Kathleen who travelled to Scotland and delved into findings about this early family history and I have used their findings.

James married Christina Weir on the 14th January 1850 at Peterhead. Christina Weir was of 'Mill Floarth', Fraserburgh, Scotland. The Weirs were farmers and the farm and original home which still stands is known today by the same name.

After the birth of their first child, Isabella, James took his wife and daughter to his parents who refused to accept them. When the time came to leave their homeland they departed without the family blessing. We can only surmise James married beneath his family station, class distinction was rampant in those days. Over the years Christina would prove her worth in many ways. Communication with the families was lost through this break but we know some members of the Weir family lived in Sydney for many years.

In the old cemetery of Peterhead a head-stone shows the following inscription -

*"Erected by James Matheson, Shipmaster in Dundee in memory of his daughter Isabella who died on 20 April, 1855 aged 3 years and 8 months, also Thomas his Father, Master Mariner of the ship 'ROBERT' lost at sea June, 1848 aged 49 years, Jane Urquhart his Mother who died 2 April, 1862 aged 63 years. Isabella his sister who died at Peterhead 12 March, 1897 aged 73 Years".*

So in the year 1858 our Grandfather, Captain James Matheson and his wife Christina sailed his vessel from the shores of Peterhead to what could be termed the unknown.

The ships log made the following recording in early 1858:

*"for a voyage to Port Natal and thence as required to any other port or place in the Cape Colonies, North and South, Pacific Oceans, India and China Seas and Straits and the Australian Colonies as employment may be found".*



At the commencement of the voyage Christina was 28 years old and for her, being dependent on the vagaries of the wind, it was an uncertain venture for they would encounter the ferocity of the mighty seas, then for days no movement of the ship would be felt due to calm seas. Perhaps a time for relaxation and repair duties, but even that could become dull and uninteresting. What would be Christina's thoughts as she stepped aboard that tiny vessel which would be her home for months even years. Parting with parents, childhood associations and those near and dear to her, with no hope of reuniting would be a break. Perhaps the most distressing feature would be leaving their three year old son, James Burns, with his grandmother. Why would they do this? Christina's second child would be born on the vessel so that could have been the reason. Many years later on his journey to New Zealand, James Burns Matheson aboard the 'Maria' as the ship neared Auckland Islands fell ill and died at the age of 15. A tragic happening so near home.

The journey James and Christina would make was an uncertain venture. Perhaps a spirit of adventure could have prevailed and they were young. Most of all they had a deep faith in God believing he would guide and care for them during this long and arduous journey.

So the vessel sailed away and a new life for James and Christina began. Living in such confined quarters led Christina's active and creative mind to the study of navigation in which she became proficient and this would stand her in good stead in the future.

Eventually the Island of Maritius was reached and it was here the baby John, my father, was born on a ship's bunk without medical care or even a woman in attendance. Aunt Mary, my father's sister, told me this interesting item. As the ship left port all aboard were listed for their ration of water, a vital commodity but for the unborn baby no allowance was made. Therefore the parents must share their meagre portion with him. The lack of water would reduce nourishment the baby would derive from his mother and for the first six weeks of his life he survived on sugar cane without milk, considered so necessary for child development. This could shake the theories of child clinics of today for he lived for 83 years without hospitalization only suffering minor illnesses throughout his life and would lay the foundation for one of the largest industries of its kind in New Zealand.

At this time Captain Turpie was Harbour Master at Mauritius and he and Mrs Turpie became life long friends of the Matheson's. Later they retired to Oamaru and I well

remember visiting them with my Aunt and being enthralled with the house full of treasures and their lovely garden. Captain Turpie was a small but cheerful man wearing a smoking jacket and cap not seen in today's fashion. Mrs Turpie his partner wore a long black dress finished with a lace collar, her hair in a small bun at the nape of her neck. A delightful couple.

Three weeks after the birth of the baby, they set sail for Adelaide. The voyage was an eventful one, the Captain was stricken with malarial fever and the Mate met with an accident breaking a leg. Christina notwithstanding that she was nursing a three week old baby and caring for her sick husband and the Mate, rose to the occasion, taking command. Having to contend with the crew was no light task and they threatened mutiny, mainly because of food, for it was a very coarse diet. So with the Captain and the first mate indisposed and a women at the helm, grumblings among the crew began in earnest. To quell the discontent, Christina handed out a kind of dried plum, a special not on ration. The crew responded but only for a short time. They began murmuring again. With the plums gone and nothing to take its place, Christina had no alternative but to assert her command with meaningful words quelling the discontent. Such was her strength of character, for these men were a force to reckon with.

Adelaide, the next port of call was reached without incident in 1859. The cargo of sugar unloaded, the whole crew hearing of the gold rush, deserted the ship for the goldfields. With no prospect whatever in getting a crew the Captain made his way also to the gold fields, but his impression was not so favourable and he was soon back to his ship again. Many of the sailors too, found that gold was not there for the picking up and were glad to return. The harbours of Melbourne and Adelaide were full with ships which were laid up as they arrived, though the deserting crews. The lure of gold has ever fascinated man and it was not surprising after weeks at sea the men succumbed to the get rich quick adage which after all was only a myth as experience counts in all ventures.

Throughout these harrowing experiences, Christina found time to care for baby John who survived the upset.

The following description of the vicious storm the Yarra encountered during the return trip to Maritius, is from the papers of the late George Matheson, my brother.

"On 18 January 1860 the 'YARRA' was some five days out from Port Louis, Mauritius, the passage from Launceston Tasmania had been favourable with no fore-boding of the

harrowing experience which was to follow so soon afterwards. During the evening of the 18th an eerie calm with heavy oppressive atmosphere and a rapidly falling barometer warned the Captain of an impending storm. Everything was made snug, all sails were taken in with the exception of a small jury rig sufficient to give steerage way, all hatches were made doubly secure. All next day with the same overpowering conditions, there was nothing that could be done but await the storm hoping that some sudden freak of nature would bring about a diversion and so miss the ship. On the morning of the 20th the storm broke with all the fury of an Indian Ocean hurricane continuing unabated with increasing violence. The Helmsman, who had been lashed to the station of the wheel, was overwhelmed as the heavy seas broke over the ship. Threatening to swamp her and with the danger of being washed overboard, the crew were ordered below. The Captain himself taking over. He fought the storm to save the ship and the crew, but as no man could have survived under such conditions, as a last resort, the wheel was finally lashed and he made his way below. The wheel was in the open with little or no protection from the fierce and overwhelming elements. With the galley fire extinguished no food could be prepared and so "hard tack" (ships biscuits) and water was the only fare.

The ship was now in the vortex of the hurricane in latitude 20 degrees 46' south and longitude 77 degrees 1' east and for six days until the 26th January the storm showed no sign of abating. During this time, although safety lines had been rigged before the storm broke, it was impossible to make deck so all hands were kept below. With the howling of the gale in what was left of the rigging, the pitching and rolling of the ship, with the almost continuous darkness below, very little to eat and not knowing the instant the ship may founder, there was nothing they could do but to place themselves in the hands of the Almighty and hope for survival.

The misery and apprehension during those six days, confined as they were in a small ship of 120 tons was to be remembered all the days of their lives. It is nothing short of a miracle that the ship was not dis-masted for this would have been fatal, but she had indeed been well built of good English Oak.

The morning of the 27th showed signs of the weather improving with a rising barometer, the gale force was dropping and the mountainous seas showed signs of receding. With the crew on deck again after a long and miserable sojourn below, damaged gear was soon made good,

sufficient to allow the ship to get underway again to complete the voyage to Port Louis arriving on 31 January 1860.

After completing the discharge of the cargo and repairs and replacements were effected, with the vessel loaded again the ship cleared port on the 14 March 1860 for Melbourne". End of Quote

On his arrival, the Captain with this harrowing experience, the like of which he had not before experienced, engaged the services of an artist who has portrayed as described the ship as she must have appeared during the storm. Two pictures were drawn or painted although now 128 years old are in quite a good state of preservation.

What of baby John through all this turmoil ? His survival is a great credit to his mother. Again Christina was called on to prove her worth. James fell ill, this time with scarlet fever, a dreaded disease for it was highly infectious. Christina at the helm, brought the ship into port, no light achievement. This act was reported in the Melbourne News and the cutting was held by a member of the family for many years but unfortunately has since been lost. The ship and all aboard were in isolation. The only means of fumigation then known was the burning of sulphur on hot coals. Along with the crew Christina suffered the indignity of removing her flannel petticoats and other underwear and passed through the fumigation enclosure naked. Quite an imposition, when in those days the only part of a woman seen to the public, were the face and hands, even an ankle was daring. I remember my mother fumigating the sick room by that method after we had suffered measles and like ailments. The fumes permeated the whole house discouraging life of whatever lay in its track.

Time had come after the harrowing experiences they had endured to make their home in Melbourne where the fourth member of the family was born - Christina always known to us as Cora, who would grow to be a very beautiful girl and as it has been said, 'with the grace and elegance of a Duchess'.

By the shipping records the Captain continued trading between Australian ports until the 28 August 1861, when he sold his share in the 'YARRA' and purchased the schooner 'BROTHERS' of 32.14 tons, in which he brought his wife and two children, John and Christina (Cora) to Dunedin, arriving in December 1861.

Three years lapsed since leaving Scotland. Their arrival in Port Chalmers was an end of their long and arduous journey. To my knowledge Christina never ventured far again, especially on a sailing vessel. It was a time of thankfulness and praise to Almighty God for their safe but somewhat shaky journey to their destination and for the lives of their two children.

The gold rush in Otago was in full swing at this time and the story was told that the Captain loaded the schooner with gold-mining requisites, picks, shovels, and wheel-barrows etc which he sold on arrival, mooring the ship somewhere below where the exchange is now located. With the family settled at Port Chalmers, he and a Captain Thomson entered into a lightering business between Port Chalmers and Dunedin. The family lived aboard the 'Brothers' until a house was acquired at Port Chalmers.

The Captain acquired six vessels, and a trading service was instituted to the West Coast ports of Greymouth and Hokitika, but unfortunately bad luck dogged this venture when two vessels were lost with cargoes and the consequent loss of capital. Later the remaining ships were sold.

The family up to this time, 1868, lived at Port Chalmers where both George was born on 04 March 1864 and Elisa on the 20 April 1866, although she died some seven weeks later on the 11th May 1866.

The Captain was offered at position of Harbour Master at Kakanui situated at the mouth of the Kakanui River which was expected to become a port for North Otago and South Canterbury. Prospects looked good and he immediately set about construction of a store near the mouth of the river setting himself up as a general merchant dealing also in wood and coal.

This was a new venture for a seafaring man, but he seemed to have endless zeal to draw on in providing for his growing family despite disappointments and disasters.

## KAKANUI 1867 - 1888

By John Matheson (1858-1941)  
Written in August 1939 for the Oamaru Newspaper

Finally, when the business was established, the family was sent for, arriving in September of the same year by one of the famous Cobb & Co's coaches, arriving at Maheno, known then as the upper Kakanui. The journey from Port Chalmers occupied a full day. The only incident during the trip happened at the Horse Range, when all the men were asked to dismount from the coach and walk. Amid much chaffing from the men, the writer then a boy of ten years, took his place with the others, and tramped over with them. On arrival at the upper Kakanui (Maheno) the family was met by Mr Bromely, a well known farmer in the district, who took them down to the new home at the spit. The road at this time was nothing more than a rough track, the river being crossed where the bridge now stands.

To James and Christina was born a daughter, Mary, in the Kakanui home at the spit, in 1869. In 1870 Captain Matheson built the first house at Kakanui South and a flagstaff for signalling was also erected. This house was built throughout of Oregon pine and was still standing a few years ago (1939). The country in the immediate vicinity was covered with thick flax right to the water's edge, but later this was all cleared away. Before the house was completed, a great flood occurred, flooding the house and store at the spit, completely washing out to sea the big stacks of coal and timber in the yard. As the waters continued to rise and night was falling, the family and what valuables could be collected were hurriedly taken aboard the whaleboat by the Captain and a crew of Maori's. Despite the darkness and the swirling rush of the flood waters, the boat was taken against the current well up the north side, then with the current, to a landing well to the south. Although the new home was not yet finished, everyone was made comfortable until morning.

The first church at Kakanui was erected by the Methodists on the south side near where the present school now stands, but was later shifted to the north side, somewhere opposite the Athenaeum Hall. The Presbyterians were next in the field, and the church, as far as I am aware, is still standing. This church would be built about 1870, and was also used as a school. That was before the day of free education. The school at the time was, to a certain extent, private, and the fee was 12s 6d per quarter. The first teacher was Mr Blair who died not long after his



Matheson Family 1920s  
Alice, George, Cora Inglis, Mother, George and John



Father, Mother and James  
Plates E, F & G



James George Alexander Matheson



Alice putting flowers on her brother's grave



Christina (Cora) Inglis



appointment. As I happened to be one of the first pupils, the opening day remains fresh in my memory, for this incident was without doubt, a red-letter day in Kakanui. Mr McInnes who followed Mr Blair, was very popular, and was respected throughout the district as a thorough gentleman.

The tea meetings held in Mr Cruickshank's barn by the Presbyterian Church were events to be looked forward to. The people both young and old taking full advantage of the wonderful tea provided by the ladies of the parish. The Rev. John Riley, of Otepopo (Herbert) was the first Minister. He was a wonderful man and lived to a great age. He was followed by the Rev. Lindsay.

As the township grew, small businesses were opened on the north side, and the Royal Hotel was built and conducted by Mr Manning, followed by Mr Adams, who built another hotel. A butchery business was opened by Mr Alexander Thomson, and the grocery business was represented by two stores. The blacksmith was Mr McKenzie, who I think, was accidentally killed at an Oamaru Show meeting. Mr Wharton and Mr McKay were both shoemakers. The former also lost his life in an accident coming home from Oamaru. Mr Samuel Burns carried on a bakery business, and the drapery was represented by Messers Meikle.

For the convenience of social bodies, a hall was built on land belonging to the meat preserving works, and this building, later burnt down, stood where the Soldiers Memorial now stands. The opening night was celebrated with a concert dance, my father Captain Matheson, officiating as Chairman.

Perhaps at this stage a few notes on the social life of the township would be interesting. Mr J. Algie and my late brother Mr George Matheson, both being interested in amateur dramatic productions, a club was formed with a very enthusiastic membership, and from the staff of the Meat Preserving works some extraordinary talent was discovered. The services of the club were in very great demand, especially in the surrounding districts. Singing and dancing classes were well attended, and a skating rink in the hall was run by Mr Sydney Knight. So the people, both young and old, in the township and surrounding districts were well catered for.

Probably some of the older people will remember some of the well known farmers of Kakanui and the surrounding districts. On the north side were the Millwoods, Amos, Lockwoods, Gees and others, while on the south side were Mr Cruickshank, the Bromleys, Newlands, Patons, McLeods,

Mortons, Mitchells, Elders, Ferns, Shields, Millers, McKays and McKenzies. The last named family were very successful farmers, the eldest son, Mr A. McKenzie of Mains O'Blair, Southland, being well known in that province.

The fellmongery and wool-scouring works was built at the junction of the Kakanui and Waiareka rivers, on the south side. The general manager, Mr Moodie, at the same time supervised the building of similar works at Washdyke and Woodlands, in Southland. Mr D.McLennan was appointed manager, to be followed later by Mr W.J.Inglis. At the Kakanui works thousands of sheep were handled, the meat preserved, skins and by-products treated, and wool scoured. Over one hundred men were employed in the different departments.

At Kakanui the home was a rendezvous of many sea-faring men and many were the tales told at the fire-side, listening to with boyish interest and excitement by my brother (George) and me. To cope with Sunday visitors, pies, cakes and scones were baked in quantities and wood chopped for the fire in readiness for the influx. As no work was undertaken on Sunday all jobs were done on Saturday even to the shining of boots and the washing of dishes. One can imagine the pile of dishes waiting to be washed on Monday, but that was the custom, so it was strictly observed.

Dr Smith and Alexander Samill, the former ships' surgeon and the other a true sailor of the old school, were frequent visitors to our home. Dr Smith, a big man with a red beard, was a Quaker. These two personalities were of more than passing interest for they were members of a later expedition organized by Lady Franklin in search of her husband Sir John Franklin, the explorer, who with his ship and men were lost in an endeavour to find a passage through the North West of Canada to the Bearing Sea and the Pacific Ocean.

To James and Christina a daughter was born, Helena, always known as Nellie, at the Kakanui home in 1871.

*Manchester Unity Independent Order of Oddfellows.* As there was no Lodge in Kakanui at that time, the Captain missed very much the paternal and benevolent spirit fostered by the Manchester Unity and lost no time in endeavouring to establish a Lodge. In 1887, he had the honour of seeing his efforts rewarded when the Loyal Band of Friendship was opened. As a point of interest at the second meeting of the Lodge in 1872 an account was passed for 1/-, equal to 10 cents, to the Kakanui Harbour Board for the landing of the Dispensation Board, showing that it

was brought to Kakanui by sea. As industries ceased to function, population dwindled till the Lodge was forced to close. However it had served its purpose in the course of friendship. Captain James Matheson was a member of the Masonic Order gaining admission to the highest orders in that fraternity.

On October 26 1875, Captain Matheson was appointed harbour master and his duties included the piloting of ships round to Alldays Bay and boat harbour. It is somewhat puzzling that a letter received by Captain Matheson from the Customs Department (Marine Branch) in Wellington dated the 26th October 1875 appointing him as harbour master at Kakanui and revoking the warrant authorizing the Captain to hold office as deputy harbour master at the port of Alldays Bay. His salary for that year was 150 pounds. We are able to confirm that there definitely was an assistant at Alldays Bay although unnamed the salary appears in the estimates 1873/4. It is presumed when his position lapsed it was necessary to give Captain Matheson a new warrant. Because the provinces were abolished in 1876 he would have come under the direction of the Marine Department.

Unfortunately the halcyon days of 1877 were over. the Vogelite boom had ended and New Zealand had slipped into the long depression that it would not emerge from until the early 1890's. With the call for retrenchment dominant throughout the colony the Board had little chance of succeeding. Once again the Legislative Council threw out its bill. Kakanui Harbour was dead. Political changes played their role in the drama. The provinces had been abolished in 1876 and the central government in Wellington did not attach the same importance to Kakanui as did one based in Dunedin. The Harbour Board got no financial assistance and indeed things finally came to such a pass that it was unable to pay the unfortunate harbour master (Captain Matheson) his salary.

The Caledonian Sports in 1878 were an outstanding success, 6,000 attending, with competition in the various sports of quoits, tossing the caber, hammer throwing, wrestling, putting the shot, running, walking and jumping. All who took part were males. The music was supplied by the Society's band and over all flew the Lion Banner of Scotland.

With the building of the railway from Dunedin to Christchurch and the successful establishment of a harbour at Oamaru and the closing of the meat works, Kakanui began to lose the importance it had up to 1885.

Kakanui languishing after this succession of blows and reverted to the status of a small seaside town, a role that it plays to this day. The end to its maritime aspirations came in 1886 when the Kakanui harbour board, together with the Moeraki harbour board and a series of other small harbour boards spawned by the boom of the early 1870's, were abolished. In most cases the Marine Department took over responsibility for the remaining harbour facilities. Kakanui by now had none, and the Waitaki County Council took over the functions of the harbour board that had been without a harbour for several years.

Nothing remained but wreckage, and even these last vestiges were to come to an ignominious end. A portion of the southern wall inside the lagoon still remained and in 1891 this remnant was blown up in response to a ratepayers' petition complaining about the stench created by the stagnant river. The river returned to its original course and only a few short piles and masses of shattered concrete were left to bear witness to the vanished harbour.

Thus history records the fate of Kakanui harbour, a mere twelve years of service before being obliterated. Yet despite the eventual failure of the port it cannot be judged a total failure. Instead it must be seen as an example of one of the many minor 19th century ports from Kororareka to Riverton which sprang up like maritime mushrooms to serve the immediate needs of the settlements, rendering valuable service to the inhabitants of their hinterlands before vanishing when progress in transport and communications and new settlement patterns rendered them "surplus to requirements".

During the year 1888, accompanied by the late Mr H. Brockett, I left for Southland to commence business.

Very little now stands to remind us of the prosperous days of Kakanui, but in years to come, perhaps in some other way, a little of the departed glory will return.

Captain Matheson disposed of his business and resigned from the Harbour Board to take a similar position at Kaikoura, North Canterbury. We are not told of their exploits in Kaikoura. By now the sons & daughters of the family were married and had left home and visitors were few.

# JAMES AND CHRISTINA

## THE CAPTAIN'S LATER YEARS

By Alice McKenzie

In 1885 failing health forced the Captain to retire from Kaikoura and he left for Ngapara Oamaru where he ended his days in retirement.

The Captain set up a small saddlers shop, a far cry from his profession, but he had an eye for progress and he found there was an opening for that business. My cousin, Captain Nimmo, then a small boy, would frequent his grandfather's premises to watch him mending the pieces of saddlery brought to him. Never was he heard to utter anything stronger than "Good Goodness" although learning the tricks of the trade could have brought pressure on him.

With the Captain away most of the day we can't think of Christina basking in the sun in an easy chair. I am told that when she got wind of a sick person she would seize her black bag, jump on the old mare and ride away to help. Delivering babies was not beyond her capacity. My mother told me that when visitors left their home a chapter from the Bible would be read, sending them on their way with a feeling of security and love towards her.

The Captain's health was impaired by malaria which he contracted during his earlier days in tropical climates no doubt undermined his health, never the less his cheerful and kindly disposition and sterling character endeared him to the family and all his friends. He was a man of unfailing courage and integrity exemplified so often in men 'who go down to the sea in ships'. He died at Ngapara on the 6th June 1898, aged 75 years.

The Matheson cottage was moved over the road and added to the Nimmo homestead where Christina lived, cared for by the Nimmo family till her death at 4.30am on Thursday 10th August 1911, Ngapara, at age 85 years. She was a woman endowed with the attributes meeting each day with great courage and fortitude, being a true pioneer and as a young wife preferred to share with her husband the perils of the sea. The inconveniences and restricted living quarters of a small sailing ship, until a growing family made it necessary to make a home ashore. Up until the end of her days she retained a large circle of friends who paid tribute to her quiet and friendly personality. Her philosophy in life could be well marked by the old Scottish adage,

"It's no what we hae  
but what we dae wi  
what we hae' that coonts"

Of this family, Isabella died at Peterhead on the 20th April 1855, aged 4 years. James Burns at sea on the ship 'MARIA' off the Auckland Islands on the 2nd May 1870 aged 15 years, John who married Margaret Nicholson Alexander and was the founder of J.Matheson & Co. Ltd died at Invercargill on the 28th August 1941 aged 83 years. Christina who married William James Inglis died at Christchurch on the 22nd February 1950 aged 90 years. George who carried on a printers business died at Gore on the 26th May 1926 aged 62 years, Elisa at Port Chalmers 20th March 1866 aged 2 months, Mary who married Henry Brockett died at Wellington 20th March 1956 aged 87 years and Helen who married William Nimmo on the 2nd August 1958 aged 87 years.

The first member of the family was born in 1851 and the last died in 1958, 107 years later.

## FAMILY OF JAMES AND CHRISTINA

Master marina, James Matheson Born 2 March 1823, Died 6 June 1898 at Ngapara North Otago (76 years).

Married Christina Weir at Peterhead on the 14th January 1850.

Christina Weir Born 23 September 1830, Died 10 August 1911 at Ngapara North Otago (81 years). Married 14 January 1850.

### Family

<i>Christian Name(s)</i>	<i>Born</i>	<i>Died</i>
<b>Isabella</b>	Peterhead 17 August 1851	20 April 1855 (3) Peterhead
<b>James Burns</b>	Dundee 12 March 1855	2 May 1870 (15) Auckland Islands
<b>John</b>	Mauritius 21 November 1858	28 August 1941 Invercargill (83)
<b>Christina</b>	Melbourne 18 April 1860	22 February 1950 Christchurch (90)
<b>George</b>	Port Chalmers 4 Mar 1864	26 May 1926 Gore (62)
<b>Elisa</b>	Port Chalmers 20 Mar 1866	11 May 1866 (7 Wks) Port Chalmers
<b>Mary</b>	Kakanui 24 May 1869	20 March 1956 Wellington (87)
<b>Helen</b>	Kakanui 21 Sep 1871	2 August 1958 Oamaru ? (87)

### ISABELLA MATHESON 1851 - 1855

Born at Peterhead on the 17th August 1851 and died at the age of 3 years 8 months on the 20th April 1855

### JAMES BURNS 1855 - 1870

Born on the 12th March 1855, at Dundee. From 1858 he lived with his grandmother, Jane who lived at Peterhead. When the family settled into their more permanent residence at Kakanui, James was sent for. On the voyage from Scotland he died on the ship 'MARIA' off the Auckland Islands on 2 May 1870 at the age of 15 years. This was indeed a tragic happening, so near to New Zealand and his parents, brothers and sisters. As medical facilities in these sailing ship days were practically nil, the chance of survival in the event of sickness or accident was at times, depending on the seriousness of the case, extremely remote. One can imagine the feelings of a boy of this age with no parents at hand and probably very little sympathy from the ships officers and crew.

## JOHN MATHESON 1858-1941

John, the second son, born at Port Louis on the Island of Marituis aboard the schooner 'YARRA' on the 21st November 1858.

After arriving in Australia, John and his mother Christina, took up residence in Melbourne from 1858 until 1861. He moved with his family to Port Chalmers where he spent his boyhood days and later to Kakanui where he was a first day pupil of the school which was opened in 1870. His early education commenced at Port Chalmers for he was 10 years of age when the family left for Kakanui. The family lived here during his father's service as Harbour Master and although it was his wish to follow the sea having made some trips to the West Coast in one of his father's vessels, his mother evidently prevailed on him to take up a land calling. This he did, joining the staff of Messers Findlayson & Co, specializing in the Fellmongering and wool scouring trades. His ability and interest in his work was recognised by his principles for in 1887 when the first cargo of frozen mutton left this country by the ship 'DUNEDIN' Captain Whitson from Port Chalmers, he was sent by the Manager, to take delivery of and supervise the handling of the sheep skins.

He was encouraged by his brother-in-law, Mr W.J. Inglis, Manager of the Meat Preserving Works at Woodlands, Southland, to investigate the possibility of opening a works in Southland. John left his Kakanui home in 1888 for Woodlands, where he lived for a few years always with the idea of inaugurating a business of his own. It was in Woodlands he met and married Margaret Nicholson Alexander, daughter of the Rev. Thomas and Alice Alexander on the 20th February 1891. Two sons were born at Woodlands, James Weir and Thomas Alexander. A decision was made to open a wool scouring works on the banks of the Waihopai River, Kennington. The one important thing he lacked was finance and after much thought he approached his mother-in-law, behind closed doors I am told, for a loan of 200 pounds equal to \$400.00. After receiving favourable consent he went ahead to establish the works which would develop into a million dollar business in its time. It must have been a humbling experience asking his wife's mother for help, but in those times there were no money lending houses, it had to be within family or friends. No documents were issued either, a handshake was a bond and needed no other thing. He was joined in this venture by his brother in law, Henry Brockett, a trained wool man from England, who later resigned in favor of a position with the Ocean Beach Freezing Works.



A house was acquired and a new beginning was made in this village. Two more children were born, George Thomson and five years later, Alice Christina. Life moved along in a more or less leisurely way until the 1914-1918 war was declared. John and Margaret threw themselves into the war effort. James & Thomas (Alex) volunteered for active service and both sacrificed their lives on the battlefield.

As my father grew older, his hair slowly diminished until there were only a few strands left. My farmer husband, Bill, would trim his hair, but to his astonishment he found evidence of growth until most of his hair had grown again in a dark shade. This, we were told by Dr Bill Brockett, was considered a rarity by the medical fraternity.

One of the strange beliefs of sea faring people was made known to me some two hours or more before Father's death. As his three sisters were watching over him, his second sister asked me to bring the daily paper and note the time of the high tide. This I did and the time of 6.10 am was given, at once the three sisters said together, "this will be John's time", and it was to the minute. Call it what you like a sea-faring superstition or a premonition but they were quite sure that with the turn of the tide so would he pass. Mother kept her sorrow to herself as she did in 1917 when two of her sons were lost, but I knew it was outward show only, she was always a strong willed woman and she kept closely to Father during the whole of his business life. I am certain his success was due in no small measure to her help and encouragement.

Mother ten years younger than Father was born at Woodlands on 20 September 1868 the eldest daughter of the Rev Thos. Alexander one of the early Presbyterian Ministers of Southland and the first of the Longbush-Woodlands parish established 28 July 1964. Her grandparents James and Margaret Taylor arrived in Dunedin with their family in 1861. Mrs Taylor was a Nicholson, a family of some standing.

As the years moved on John Matheson's strength faded until he was unable to get up. The end being near his three sisters came to be with him and as he became weaker he was heard to say, "The Blue Peter is at the masthead and I'm putting out to sea". So ended the life of a pioneer in the wool trade. The year was 1941 at 6.10am 28th August 1941.

## CHRISTINA MATHESON 1860 - 1950

Born in Melbourne on the 18th April 1860, she was also known as Cora, why is not known. However, she married at 18 to William James Inglis, who at that time was an accountant at the Kakanui Meat Preserving Works, and was driven to the church in a carriage and pair. The school children were given a holiday that day to see the lovely bride and her handsome bridegroom. It was a big event in the district. Eight sons were born to this couple, seven surviving to manhood.

**Charles** married Ada Roxley

**William** unmarried

**Claude** married Queenie Stalker

**James** unmarried

**Roy** unmarried

**Eric** married Bessie Simpson

**Harry** married Ivy Cloughley

Her husband died in 1908 leaving Cora with all these sons to provide for. There was no Government financial aid in those times and it was a miracle how she coped. She was a remarkable woman. Her home thronged with goodwill and hospitality for her Sunday night teas were a feature. For many years she led a Church Bible Class and these young people usually joined the revelry on Sunday nights, but all were expected to attend the church service at 6.30 pm.

I am reminded of an incident at the service I attended with her. Their resident Minister, Rev. Simpson, was something of a character. Before the service began the custom was to sing hymns, he would join in and would greet people as he sang. To my amusement he roared, "Dare to be a Daniel, Mrs Inglis", as he heartily shook her hand. I was thankful she wasn't as fragile as she looked. He had a family of boys who sat in the front row in the gallery and he was not beyond stopping his sermon to reprimand his sons, who were not giving him their undivided attention.

Throughout her lifetime Cora had a prominent connection with the Presbyterian Church. She took a keen interest in all the activities of the church, particularly the youth movements and Sunday schools and Bible classes. Possessed of an exceptionally fine voice, she was prominently associated with Church Choirs and concerts. While at Croydon siding she organised and took part in many concerts, and she was a keen worker in anything for the advancement of the district. Cora also took an active part in several women's organisations. Her main interests, however, was centred in her home and family.

During the Gore flood in 1913, Cora's house, like many others, suffered damage. The water was some 3 feet up the wall. All this happened during the night, so little was removed. Most people had what was known then as a "drawing" room where teas were served to afternoon lady visitors, who would arrive in their best clothes complete with hats and gloves to partake of dainty cups of tea and cakes. In Cora's "drawing" room a table was set with the requirements for the teas in a corner behind the door. After the water had receded, people made their way to their homes. Many met a disastrous mess. In the Inglis home it was found that the tea table complete with its contents had floated out the door into the passage and down to a bookcase where it rested all ready to serve tea, not a thing touched or broken, while the piano lay on its face completely useless.

Two sons gave their lives in the 1914-1918 war. Roy, who left in the first expeditionary force, lost his life in the Gallipoli struggle and James, who was severely gassed in France, returned spending the rest of his life in Christchurch Sanatorium until his death.

Cora had a talent towards writing and wrote fine poems in memory of her sons and three friends entitled, Departure of N.Z. Expeditionary Force 1914.

Two verses from the four page pamphlet.

*"In nineteen hundred and fourteen  
A wondrous sight in the land was seen  
A cry came ringing through the night  
"To Arms, To Arms" ye men of might  
Your duty is the might to guard  
So gallant men, unsheath the sword*

*And see they came from East and West  
And North and South give of their best  
With one accord they all exclaim  
This tyrant must not shall not reign"*

She told me she remained writing through the night till dawn. She must complete it while the spirit was with her.

Cora remained in Gore until 1920 when she went to Christchurch to live. Later she was in Wellington and she spent two years in Australia. Finally she built a house at Kaiapoi, where at the age of ninety, this distinctive character's life was brought to a close at Christchurch on the 22 February 1950. She was interred at Gore.

## GEORGE MATHESON 1864-1926

The fifth child born on the 4th March 1864 at Port Chalmers. We know little of his early life. He entered a printing business at Gore later known as Matheson and Dewar. George had a fine baritone voice and as a child I remember him singing at our Kennington home, such songs as, "Mary"

*"Kind, kind and gentle is she,  
Kind is my Mary,  
the tender blossoms on the tree,  
cannot compare with Mary".*

Gilbert and Sullivans, "Take a pair of sparkling eyes", was another favourite. There were others but these two caught my imagination. He was a very welcome visitor at our home, especially at Christmas, when he would come by train from Gore laden with presents for us all. A croquet set for the boys, the largest size Christmas stocking for me and an exquisite piece of china for my mother. I still retain many of these gifts, a reminder of a dear Uncle. He never married. An engagement to my mother's youngest sister, Minnie, did not materialize. No one knew why, as we did not ask questions. However, during the latter part of her life she gave me the ring as given her by George. She was then over 90 years old.

I believe there was a time George considered becoming an actor and with his true voice and acting capacity, he could have been a success. The very sound or thought of it shocked the family so George had to be content with the printing career and local choirs. These times acting has become a noble profession, not so in past days as it was considered a second rate profession.

George made his mark in Gore, not only by his musical talent, but by his friendly disposition. He died on the 26 May 1926 in Gore at the age of 62, mourned by the township, for on the day of the funeral all shops closed their doors in respect for a friend they had lost. At the graveside the male choir he conducted, known as The Wanderers, sang, as the coffin was lowered, Tennyson's moving poem:

*"Crossing the Bar,  
Sunset and evening star,  
And one clear call for me,  
Any may there be no moaning at the Bar,  
When I put out to sea,  
But such a tide as moving seems asleep,  
too full for sound of foam  
When that which drew from out the boundless deep.  
Turns home again,*

Twilight and evening bell and after that the dark, And may  
 there be no sadness of farewell,  
 When I embark,  
 For tho' from far out our bourn of time and place,  
 The flood may bear me far,  
 I hope to see my pilot face to face,  
 When I have crossed the bar.

It was a moving moment for all, but a fitting tribute to a beloved friend. George has his name commemorated in the Matheson Memorial section at the Gore Public Library.

#### ELISA 1866 - 1866

Elisa Matheson died some seven weeks and 3 days later on the 12 May 1866 at Port Chalmers suffering from acute hydrocephalus. The Birth and death records held with the Dunedin City Registrar of Birth Deaths and Marriages and indicates that her birth was the 33rd registered in Port Chalmers in that year and her death was the 6th registered. The actual registration of her birth and death is held at the Port Chalmers Post Office situated at 41 George Street Port Chalmers.

The Borough Council records at 20 Beach street indicate that she was buried in an unmarked grave in the Old Port Chalmers graveyard off a path from Church Street. The grave is positioned inside the gate in the row immediately to the left. The Rev. Johnstone is on the end of that row beside a further unmarked grave beside which is William Goldies. Elisa's unmarked grave is beside that. Warrant number 22 indicates that the plot was owned by James Matheson and is located in row 1 lot 6. Note that the spelling of the name Matheson is incorrectly recorded as 'Mathieson'.

#### MARY MATHESON 1869 - 1956

Born at Kakanui on the 24th May 1869 the sixth child. A personality dear to us all, although with little of life's material side, was gifted with powerful and loving thoughts towards others. She married Henry Brockett, two sons being born to them, one dying in infancy. She was widowed at an early age and faced the world with her son Aynsley, who would follow the sea as a career. Times were difficult but she faced it with fortitude. Her only way was to undertake care of a family in need, who would give her a home. I am reminded of the Robson family, Mr Robson, Keith and Dorothy, how she loved and cared for this family and they in turn returned her gift of love.

She was an inveterate letter writer and could carry on writing even with a room full of people all talking at once. There were always letters to post for she remembered friends and relations birthdays. Sad to say her birthday, 24 May, would come and go without remembrances from many of us.

She daily lived her never failing maxim "It will pass" to the full. She lived for 87 years. Her death at Wellington on the 20 March 1956 brought to a close a life of endearing qualities.

#### HELENA MATHESON 1871 - 1958

Born at Kakanui on the 21st September 1871, Helena, Nellie as we knew her. The last child born to the Matheson's in 1871. As with the other children, her childhood stage is not recorded, so we move to her marriage to William Nimmo, a coal mine operator and owner at Ngapara. Two daughters, Christina (Rina) and Helena (Ella) and two sons, Captain and Allan completed the family. To use his own words, Captain claimed he was given the full handle, Captain James Matheson Nimmo. During the war years when he served overseas, he was obliged to drop the Captain, taking the name of Private James Nimmo. However on his return, he went back to his old name Captain, as we all knew him.

I remember Uncle William, as we called him, with a kindly thought. He had a black beard with smiling lips peeping out. I was rather afraid I might have to kiss him, but when he pressed a half crown (25 cents) into my hand as I was leaving by train with my Aunt having spent a holiday at Ngapara, I was moved to offer him a kiss of thanks. Never had I owned such wealth and it weighed heavily in my hand.

The feature of the Nimmo family, was the coal mine on their property and when it closed in 1971, had operated for 93 years, the oldest mine in New Zealand which had been continuously worked and one of the last mines to use a pit pony. It was owned and operated as a family business, the coal seam discovered in 1877 by a Scottish mining engineer, James Nimmo, who came to New Zealand when he was 52.

Auntie Nellie, as I knew her, reflected a genuine personality and I spent happy holidays in that home. She was noted for her spacious well tended garden, growing the old fashioned flowers so prized these days. She died at Oamaru on the 2 August 1958, bringing to a close that generation of the Matheson family.

## J MATHESON & COMPANY LTD

By Wayne J Matheson

In September 1888, Messers John Matheson and Henry Brockett formed a partnership and commenced business, trading as J.Matheson & Co., for the purpose of undertaking Fellmongering and Woolscouring activities. Business began in premises rented from the Woodlands Meat Processing Co. at Woodlands in about November of that year. The partnership lasted until the early 1890's when, as a result of difficult economic times, Henry Brockett withdrew from the partnership and commenced work at the Ocean Beach Freezing Co.

Business continued from the site in Woodlands until July, 1894, when all operations were shifted to the present site situated on the banks of the Waihopai river at Kennington. The eldest of John's sons, Thomas Matheson, was the first of the second generation to join the firm and commenced training in Woolscouring & Fellmongering under his father. James Matheson worked for Dalgety & Co to receive formal woolclassing training. Both young men entered the Army in 1916. Thomas was killed in action in Belgium in August, 1917, and James was killed two months later in the battle of Passchendale. As a result of this tragic loss of his brothers from the family, George Matheson immediately gave up his engineering training with Messers J.Johnston & Sons Ltd to join the firm. Also in 1917, by arrangement between the British and New Zealand Governments, the New Zealand wool clip was commandeered for the period until 1920. In doing so, industry rationalisation occurred and the company decided that this was the opportunity that would allow it to cease its Fellmongering activities.

On the 21st September, 1939, J.Matheson & Co. became a founder member of the New Zealand Wool Scourer's Association and George held a position on the Committee for a number of years. In December, 1949, the business was restructured to be incorporated into a limited liability company in the form of J.A.Matheson & Co Ltd. In August, 1950, during redevelopment work, a fire totally destroyed the premises and only the boiler house chimney and new greasy sorting floor remained. At this time George's only son, John Matheson, who was working for the accounting practice of Webb Stark & Co., immediately joined the firm. In November of the following year the company name was altered to the present J.Matheson & Company Ltd, which acknowledged the name of the founder.

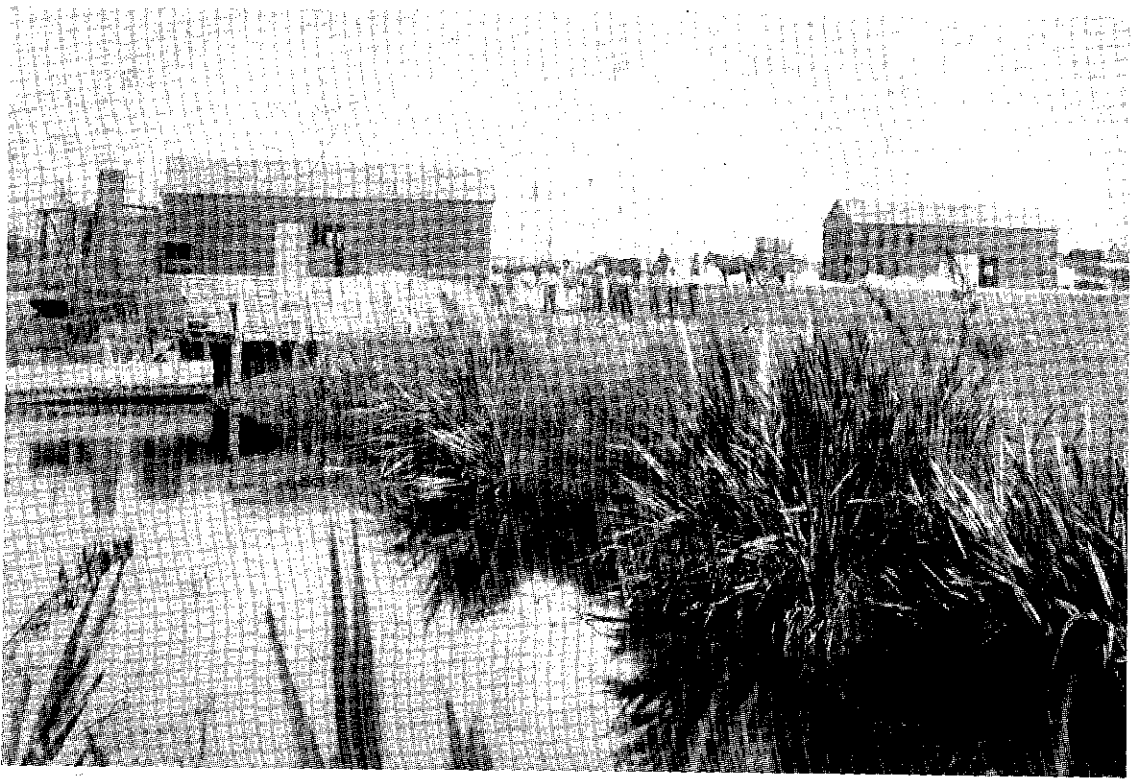
With business expanding and an acknowledged reputation in the industry, John was appointed as Government representative to the Directorship of the New Zealand Wool Board, a position held from 1972 until 1987. Other industry organisations he became involved with included a Directorship of the Wool Research Organisation of New Zealand. John also became an Executive member of the Wool Scourer's Association, following on from his father's involvement.

The Woolscouring activities continued to form the main business activity through until 1975 when diversification into Carding, Spinning, Carpet Yarn and Carpet Manufacture occurred. Matheson International Limited was formed with J.Matheson & Co maintaining a majority shareholding and Winston Carpet Manufacturing Pty Ltd of Australia. In November 1976, the company commenced a programme of divestment from direct involvement in all processing activities. This occurred when 80% of the J.Matheson & Co holding and 100% of Winstone Carpets holding in Matheson International was sold to UEB Industries Ltd. From this time Matheson International Ltd became a tenant in the Kennington industrial complex retained by J.Matheson & Co. Interest in the processing operation was retained through a shareholding in Matheson International and by John continuing to act as Chairman, until the final share transfer of the company's holding and the relinquishing of the Chairmanship to UEB Industries in 1980.

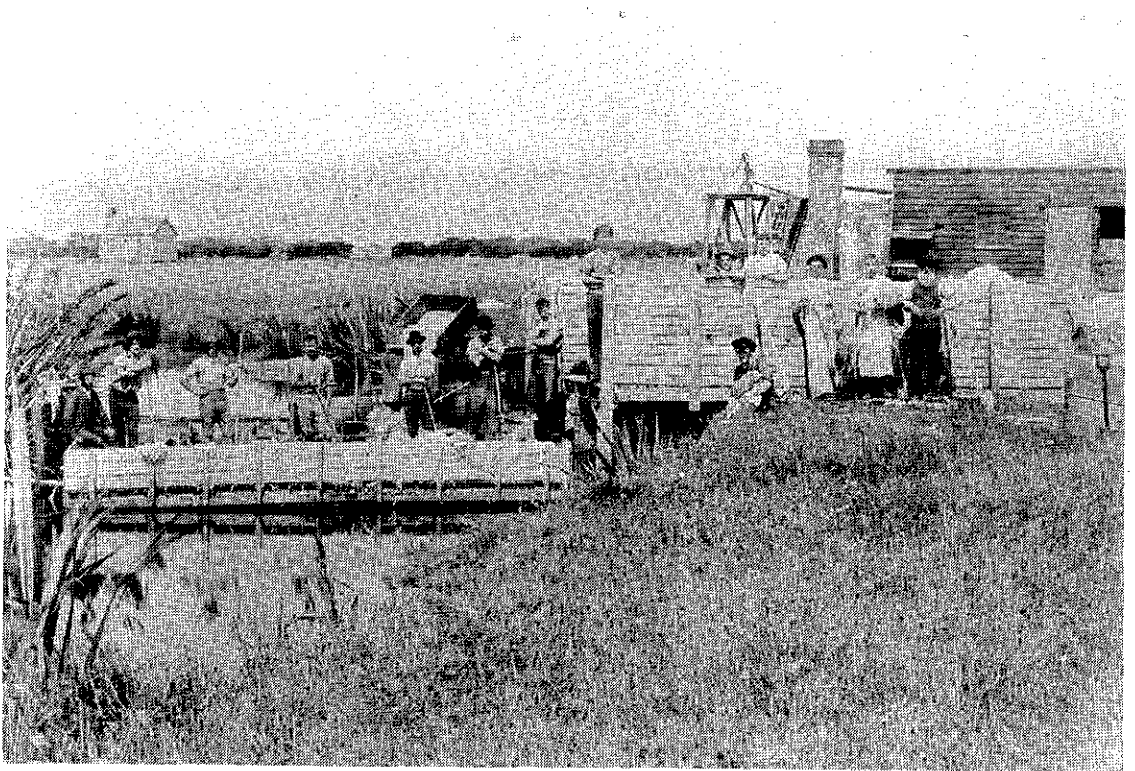
Woolscouring, Carding, Spinning, Yarn and Carpet manufacture activities continued until early 1980. The Kennington facility was to suffer two more major fires, each nine months apart, the first being on the 20th June, 1980, and the second on the 2nd April, 1981. The devastation as a result of these fires required almost total replacement of buildings and a relocation of the destroyed Carding, Spinning and Yarn manufacturing activities to another UEB plant. The resulting new complex continues to house Woolscouring and Carpet Silver activities.

From 1976 the company has operated as an investment company, continuing in activities associated with leasing property and also involvement in sheep and deer farming activities. The eldest of John's two sons, Wayne Matheson, joined the company in 1983. This commenced the fourth generation of family involvement, after he had completed a Bachelor of Commerce degree and spent two years working for J.E. Watson & Co. (now Elders Pastoral). The company became involved in the development of special projects such as Game Foods New Zealand Limited (a Deer processing

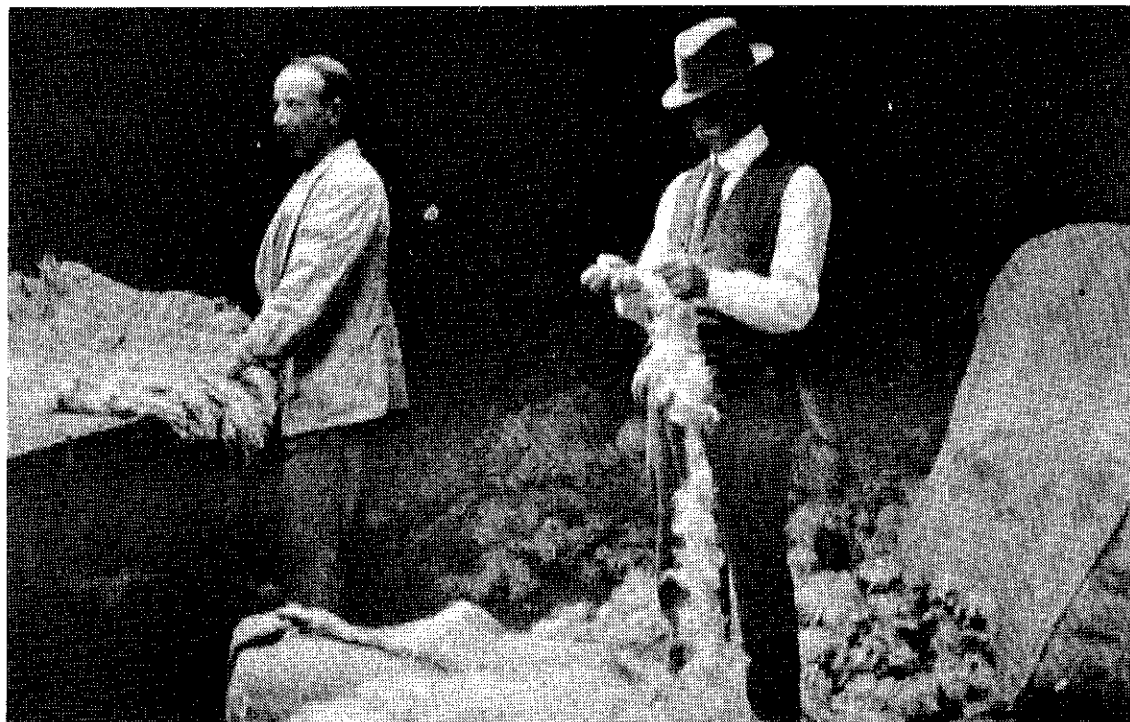




Scouring stage with John Matheson on far left, 1894



Early scouring activities on the Waihopai River, 1894



Henry Nicholson and John Matheson, wool sorting, early 1920s



Matheson Family

*Back row (left to right): Shirley, Derek, Pamala, Wayne, John, Jim*  
*Front row: Alice, Audrey, John (Jnr), Sonya, Edward, Kathleen*

facility) and Matheson Resources Ltd (an international investment company - currently involved in Australian property development. Derek Matheson completed his Bachelor of Commerce degree and qualified as an Associated Chartered Accountant. As yet he has not joined the company beyond his appointment as a Director and is currently the Financial controller for The Helicopter Line.

Potentially a fifth generation, John, Edward and James, the sons of Wayne and Derek, will hold the key to the company's future business activity. A family tradition was established when Captain James Matheson invested in part ownership of a sailing vessel which set sail from his home at Peterhead in Scotland in May, 1858, to transport cargo - "for a voyage to Port Natal and thence as required to any port or place in the Cape Colonies, North and South, Pacific Oceans, India and China Seas and Straits and the Australian Colonies as employment may be found". He settled his family in New Zealand and the Captain's son John developed a subsequent family business that is now directing its commitment to offshore opportunities, just as our forefather did in 1858.

# MATHESON FAMILY

## JOHN MATHESON m. MARGARET ALEXANDER

b. 1858 Nov 21

d. 1961 nov 24 (93)

d. 1941 Aug 28

James Weir

b. 1891

d. 1917

Thomas

Alexander

b. 1895

d. 1917

George Thompson

b. 1899

d. 1976

m. Kathleen Hisbet

Alice Christina

b. 1904

m. William

McKenzie 1926

(Continued)

Shirley

b. 1928

m. James McKenzie

John

b. 1899

m. Audrey Officer

Heather

b. 1953

m. Paul Rae

Elizabeth

b. 1960

m. Kevin O'Conner

Amy

b. 1979

Thomas

b. 1982

Samuel

b. 1986

Alexander

b. 1987

Karen

b. 1955

m. Allan Burton

Wayne

b. 1956

m. Sonya  
Darragh

Derek

b. 1958

m. Pamela  
Clark

Benjamin

b. 1984

William

b. 1988

John

b. 1982

Edward

b. 1984

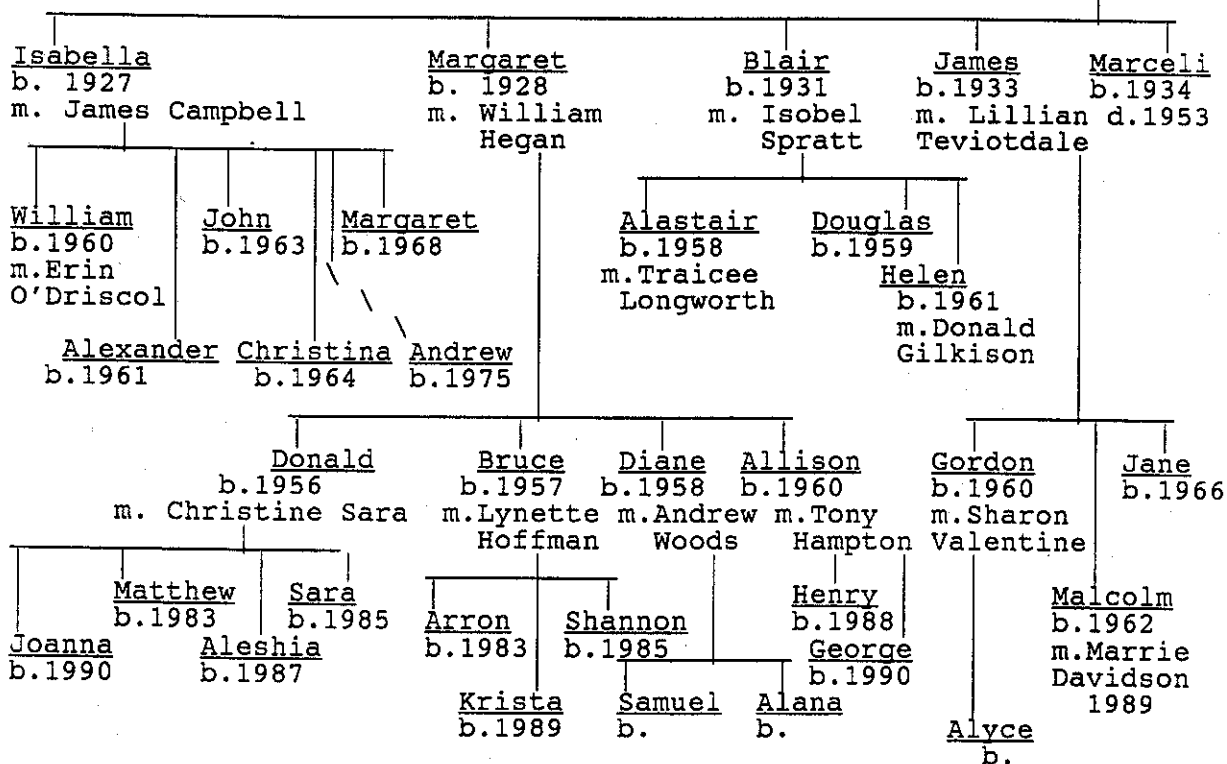
James

b. 1987

Ashleigh

b. 1989

Continue 1



## FAMILY OF JOHN & MARGARET MATHESON

The children born to John and Margaret included James Weir Matheson, Thomas Alexander Matheson, George Thomson Matheson and Alice Christina Matheson.

### Family

<u>Christian Name(s)</u>	<u>Born</u>	<u>Died</u>
James Weir	Woodlands 25 March 1892	Died Belgium 12 October 1917.
Thomas Alexander (Alex)	Kennington 23 December 1895,	Belgium 7 August 1917.
George Thomson	Kennington 10 March 1899	Invercargill Aug 5 1975 9am
Alice Christina	Kennington 13 March 1904.	

### JAMES WEIR MATHESON & THOMAS ALEXANDER (ALEX) MATHESON

James was born at Woodlands on the 25 March 1892. He worked for Messers Dalgety & Co to receive formal woolclassing training.

Thomas Alexander (Alex) was born at Kennington 23 December 1895. He joined his father and commenced training in Woolscouring & Fellmongering.

Both men entered the army in 1916. Thomas (Alex) joined the 19th Reinforcements and James almost a year later joined the 21st Reinforcements. Thomas (Alex) joined the NZ Rifle Brigade with his Uncle James Taylor Alexander, younger brother of Margaret. They both enlisted in the Mounted Rifles but were later transferred to the Rifle Brigade. This we think was at the express wish of our father and mother as they were not happy with three members of the family at the one time in the same unit. In the same year James enlisted in the same Brigade.

During the battle of Messines on the 7 June 1917 James Taylor Alexander was wounded and sent to hospital in England. After his convalescence he was passed for active service again and returned to France in 1918 serving until the war ended, returning to New Zealand in 1919 after some three and a half years service.

After passing through the battle of Messines of June 1917, Thomas (Alex) was killed in action on 7 August of that year at the age of 22 years followed by James Weir who lost his life during the battle of Passchendale on the 12 October, a little over two months later. Thomas's (Alex)

grave is located in a cemetery where some sixty soldiers are buried and overlooks Messines - Belgium. This cemetery is beautifully kept with gardens and lawns closely cut. Our family is very grateful indeed for the thoughtful care and time given by those who have taken on themselves the responsibility of caring for those graves. Although this is under the care of the Imperial War Graves Commission the people and school children have never forgotten those who laid down their lives during the conflict. A brick wall surrounded the cemetery which is situated in a farm and is known as Bethlehem Hill Farm Cemetery.

James Weir has no known grave, his name along with hundreds of others is recorded at the Tyne Cot Cemetery a few miles out of Ypres Belgium. The battle of Passchendaele regarded now as the worst episode of the 1914/18 war was fought in appalling conditions resulting in the loss of thousands of men many of whom were never found.

A newspaper clipping of the time records a rather unusual happening :

"A few days ago Miss A. Matheson, Kennington, received a letter from her brother, Private T.A. Matheson, 33rd Platoon, J Company, 19th Reinforcements, dated 22nd November 1916. The letter was forwarded by Mr F.G. Chester, of Chesterville, Ravensthorpe, West Australia. In a covering letter Mr Chester explained that he picked up a lemonade bottle containing Pville. Matheson's letter on the south coast of Australia, 130 miles east of Albany. The bottle was found on the 17th July 1917. In the letter Pvt Matheson explained that the transport carrying the 19th reinforcements was on 22nd November, 1916, steaming through the Australian Bight. He threw the bottle overboard to take its chance and asked the finder to forward it to Miss Matheson, Kennington. It is a coincidence that Mr Chester's letter, in which he expresses the hope that Pville. Matheson was well and would return safely, was written on the 6th August last. Pville. Matheson was killed in action in France on the following day, 7th August."

#### **GEORGE THOMSON MATHESON 1899 - 1975**

Born on the 10th March 1899 at Kennington, Southland. The birth was registered on the 15th April 1899 in the registry of the district of Invercargill. In 1917 following the tragic death of his two brothers, Thomas and

James, George immediately gave up his engineering training with Messers J. Johnston & Sons Ltd to join the family firm at Kennington.

The family Woollscouring and Fellmongering business which was established by John at Woodlands in September 1888, was by this time firmly established at Kennington after transferring to this new location in 1894. Also in 1917, by arrangement between the British and New Zealand Governments, the New Zealand wool clip was commandeered for the period until 1920. In doing so, industry rationalisation occurred and the company decided that this was the opportunity that would allow it to cease its Fellmongering activities.

On the 21st September, 1939, J. Matheson & Co became a founder member of the New Zealand Wool Scourer's Association and George held a position on the Committee for a number of years. In December 1949, the business was restructured to be incorporated into a limited liability company in the form of J.A. Matheson & Co Ltd. In August, 1950, during redevelopment work, a fire totally destroyed the premises and only the boiler house chimney and new greasy sorting floor remained.

On the 1st of September 1926 at the Presbyterian Manse 342 High street, Dunedin, George married Kathleen May Nisbet, second daughter of Thomas and Winifred Nisbet, born Invercargill on the 10th May 1901. The couple settled at Kennington and remained in the township until George became semi-retired, at which time they moved to Invercargill.

During the early years which took in the great depression and the second world war, our father was heavily involved in his business, having little time for community activities. He was however, an Elder in the Presbyterian Church and was involved in the Patriotic efforts during the War. At one stage he was in charge of the local unit of the Home Guard.

Our Mother (Kathleen) joined in the local women's groups, and was a charter member of the Women's Institute, holding various offices over the years. She was also very interested in the P.W.M.U. as it was then. She still retains membership in both organisations.

Two children were born of the marriage, Shirley Winifred in 1928, and John Alexander Nicholson in 1932. John and I have many happy memories of our up-bringing at Kennington,



we both attended the local primary school and after my two years at Southland Girls High School, we both went to Dunedin to Columba and John McGlashan Colleges in 1944.

Our long Christmas vacations from 1937 and through the War years were spent at our cottage at Oreti Beach. We will always remember the happy times we spent with our McKenzie cousins, whose parents owned a similar house next door. Our Grandparents spent many holidays there as well, in the early years, and we remember Grandmother, then well in her 70's going for a daily swim with us.

### **ALICE CHRISTINA (MATHESON) AND WILLIAM MCKENZIE**

By Isabel Campbell

The Matheson and McKenzie families were acquainted with each other from the early settlement days at Kakanui so it was with rejoicing that Alice Christina Matheson married William Donald McKenzie on the 8th December 1926.

The newly married couple commenced life in a new home at 43 Mitchell street Invercargill. In those days children were never mentioned so the home was built with the minimum of accommodation.

Within the next 8 years a front entrance was turned into a bunk room for Isabella Elder, born 21st October 1927 and Margaret Matheson born 25th October 1928 and a sunporch turned into a bunk room for Donald Blair born 17th March 1931 and James Alexander born 7th January 1933 and Helen Marcelli born 5th November 1934. Mother was given a section at Oreti Beach by her Father. Dad and Uncle Jim Alexander erected a crib from three huts brought from the King Solomon mines. For many years Christmas holidays were spent at Oreti Beach where the children revelled in the wonderful simplicity of sea, sand and nature, butterflies, lizards, grasshoppers and toheroas. Imagination played a big part in the erection of huts, concerts and games.

I recall one of the concerts I organised for brother Jimmy's birthday, coming out of our kitchen dressed up as a pirate and reciting 'The Pirate !' "...I am a pirate bold I am. Don't you know me by my swagger, bent tin sword and rusty dagger ?" That was as far as I got. I started again with no luck so had to take my sword and dagger back to the kitchen. The item was a success because I can still recall the smothered laughter of the adult audience. It

was easy to organise Margaret and Shirley into small plays, dances and songs but Blair Jimmy and John were another matter, requiring much more persuasion.

It was a marvellous association having Uncle George, Auntie Kath, Shirley and John Matheson in the crib next door.

Dad used to organise floundering expeditions. We were so cold at night all outfitted up in old clothing, soaking wet, but what marvellous feasts of flounder cooked by Dad wearing a bag apron the pan sizzling and sparking on the coal range. Goitre was a common ugly sight in those days. Dad had great faith in prevention by eating oysters. He bought oysters by the sack. We were lined up in a row. Dad opened the oysters, we ate one and went to the end of the row. Round and around we went until satisfied.

The ominous sounds of an approaching war began to disturb our peaceful lives. I can remember being so proud of my Father organising a campaign which raised funds to send to Britain for the purchase of a Spitfire to help the war effort.

Grandfather McKenzie died in December 1939 and Dad decided to give up his established sharebroking business and take his family to live at his former home farm.

How important I felt being asked my opinion 'would I like to live in the country?' Yes - yes - yes was all I could think - horses, cows, sheep, rabbits, trees, flowers and a home with an upstairs.

How green we town children were at the start. We all found our niche with the encouragement of our parents and relatives - those wonderful Tom McKenzie cousins and Graham, Ross and Jean next door. Concerts and dances in the Otahuti Hall, Rifle Club, Drama Club, Saturday tennis by the store, Soldiers leaving and returning became part of our social living.

We were all saddened by the death of our cheerful outgoing sister Marcelli in 1953.

Always the background of family stability and knowing somebody really cared.

In 1951 Isabel followed her Grandmother McKenzie and her Mother's interest and became Provincial Secretary of the W.D.F.F. for four years leaving to start nursing training at Kew Hospital. In 1956 Isabel was elected Dominion

President of the Student Nurses Association and in 1957 represented New Zealand at the International Congress of Nurses Quadrennial Conference in Rome (I.C.N. Congress).

#### OUR PARENTS WILLIAM AND ALICE MCKENZIE

Bill was a prime mover behind the reorganisation of Federated Farmers in Southland and the building of suitable rooms. He was also one of the prime movers in the building of the Alliance Freezing Works, and was on the directorate since 1948 and chairman from 1976 - 1979.

A member of the Waimatuku River Board for many years, Chairman of Southland Federated Farmers, Chairman of Otahuti National Party, A prime mover in turning the vacated Otahuti cheese factory into a garage. Donated land for the Otahuti Hall, a tennis court and a rabbit's home.

Bill had the ability to shrewdly outwit the oppositions efforts to squash the erection of the Alliance works. The opposition included the Freezing Industries Association, the Meat Board and reigning politicians of the day.

Alice was a Provincial President of the W.D.F.F., founder of the Otahuti branch W.D.F.F., President of the Isla Bank P.W.M.U & Fellowship, prime mover in the Isla Bank Church Jubilee, Alexander Centennial, McKenzie Reunions and at all times a strong and practical supporter of the church. Spinning and weaving were her hobbies.

I shall always be grateful to Mother for giving me an insight into the treasures of our Christian heritage at an early age. Church attendance and Sunday School in Invercargill and then Sunday School at Mains O' Blair during the war years when petrol was rationed and the transport was ponies, pony carts or walking.

The loss of Mother's brothers Jimmy and Alex in the first World War have deepened and enriched our values of life. Their sacrifice was not in vain.

In 1980 Bill was awarded an O.B.E. for his service to the farming industry in Southland. Mothers sense of humour, enthusiasm for life, empathy with people and intuition for encouraging at the right time has had a rich influence on many lives, especially those of her children and grand children.

As Dad remarked to me a few years ago as Mother briskly walked across a pedestrian crossing towards our car "there goes a remarkable woman". We thank our parents for that extra special care, guidance and the rich memories so freely given to us and our children.

Dad and Mother celebrated their golden wedding with a family gathering and years later their diamond wedding.

*'Family life is the most precious thing in the world.'*  
(Charles W. Eliot)

# MATHESON MEMORIES

By I. Campbell

My mother told me that when Auntie Cora (Matheson) Inglis husband died leaving her eight sons to rear, the youngest four, her Mother sent her a telegram with the simple message 'carry on' and 'that is what I did' Auntie Cora said.

In his remaining years Grandpa Matheson had one remaining eye tooth left in his mouth. When I asked him 'what have you got only one tooth for?' he replied 'to spear pickled onions !'. He used to recite a Chinese poem to us. This was so amazing to me I got him to spell it out as soon as I could print.

Chucka loo chi  
Chi choo chuckaloo  
Chicken in a runi  
Inky pinky nan  
Capa toa wonka  
Can ti key  
Onky ponky tuna  
Wink that stuna !

Grandpa used to wear a 'smoking jacket' and a tussore silk jacket in summer.

Grandma had a gentle reading voice so reassuring. Grace was always a solemn and comforting event before meals. Church was also another solemn regular and pleasant event. Grandma and Grandpa gave us our first Bibles and gave us 2/6 for memorising the twenty third Psalm.

Grandma had a stand up card on her book case at Princess Street which read:-

"Do not look for flaws as you go through life  
even when you find them  
'Tis wise and kind  
to be somewhat blind  
and look for the virtue  
behind them"

There was a quarter hour chiming clock in the hall opposite the telephone. The clock in the dining room which sounded on the hour was always run 10 minutes fast. During the War on the wireless Big Ben commenced the news. The chimes are a prayer and we had to remain very quiet and still until the last chime.

I can recall being in the two roomed office at 'the works' there was a tall desk with a high stool in one room and a small grate with a fire in the other bare wood on the office floor and also seeing wool spread out on wire netting in a shed.

Margaret and I had some lovely holidays with Aunty Kath and Uncle George at Kennington. Aunty Kath brought us Kewpi Dolls and had a bag of dress material scraps for dressing these dolls.

## **A VISIT TO MY BROTHERS' GRAVES IN BELGIUM - 1967**

By Alice McKenzie

During an overseas trip Bill and I visited the graves of my brothers in Ypres. We went by aeroplane from London to Brussels and made preparations to travel to Ypres by train. We found it a harrowing journey feeling very much foreigners in a foreign county. After a few escapades we finally reached Ypres where we met an understanding taxi driver who could speak English and who knew where to take us. Our first visit was to Bethlehem Cemetery where my brother Alex (Thomas Alexander) is buried. These soldiers were interned where the battle took place and we found cattle grazing over the farm fence. At the gate there was a small cupboard where records were kept. I read in this far off place my brothers "Thomas Alexander Matheson age 22 son of John and Margaret Matheson Kennington" was buried. It was very sad, almost beyond comprehension. The taxi driver pointed out the beautiful New Zealand memorial to soldiers who gave their lives for the cause. We lunched at the hotel and the manager gave us information regarding the town. Ypres was completely raised during 1914 and has been completely rebuilt as near as possible to the original plan.

We wandered through the town and into a church, built by England to commemorate their soldiers. All furnishings were in memory of a soldier. I remember a stained glass window in memory of an English soldier age 22 an only child. I felt we were on hallowed ground. We moved on to the Tyne Cott Cemetery where my brother James Weir was lost at Passchendale, where there were no burials, those who fell are remembered by a white cross with the inscription "Known only to God". We wandered onto the huge memorial arch to all Canadian and English soldiers who gave their lives and where traffic roars its way through night and day. We were told every night at 8pm the traffic stops while the 'Last Post' is sounded, we in this country

only hear that sound on ANZAC day, once a year. We sat in a park for awhile where young children were playing. I said a silent prayer that these children would not be called to face war and all its ravages.

We were ready to return after this memorable day so we boarded a train, not thinking there were several train stations in Brussels. We did leave the train at one stop but got on again and thankful we were, for we were on the train to take us to the station we left, so we were soon back to our hotel.

My brother, George, and his son John, and my two grandsons Gordon and Malcolm have visited Ypres Memorials.

*"I leave a message to this clan to guard and cherish the freedom granted to you at such tremendous cost."*

## FAMILY OF GEORGE & KATHLEEN

The children born to George and Kathleen were

**Shirley Winifried** born Invercargill 30 July 1928

**John Alexander Nicholson** born Invercargill 6 November 1932

### SHIRLEY WINIFRIED (MATHESON) McKENZIE 1928 -

Born in Invercargill on the 30 July 1928. On leaving Columba College in 1946 I worked for the accounting firm of Orr, McLean and Fougere and in 1950 married James Alexander McKenzie, who is no relation to the William McKenzie my Aunty Alice married 25 years previously. We settled in Invercargill.

James, or Jim, was the only son of Alexander and Agnes McKenzie, and was born at Ohai where his father was involved in coalmining, owning the Wairaki underground mine. Latterly Jim joined his father in opencast mining until mines were nationalised, in 1956. Jim and I shifted to Makarewa that year and started a poultry business, hatching chickens, producing eggs and processing dressed poultry. We have three daughters, Heather born 1953, Karen 1955 and Elizabeth 1960. In 1970 we moved back to Invercargill and started in the retail business, forming two shops in Dee Street, McKenzie Menswear and Jeans 'N' Tops.

Our interests over the years have been many and varied. Jim was District Governor for the Rotary District 998 in 1982-83 and this proved to be a most rewarding experience, for us both in New Zealand and overseas. We sold two shops and retired in 1983, buying 10 acres on the outskirts of Invercargill, where we have a small thoroughbred racing establishment.

## FAMILY OF SHIRLEY (MATHESON) AND JIM McKENZIE

**Heather** born Invercargill 1953

**Karen** born Invercargill 1955

**Elizabeth** born Invercargill 1960



The three girls were educated at Makarewa Primary School and Southland Girls High School, and Elizabeth - better known as Liz, spent three years at Columba College before leaving for a year on the Rotary Youth Exchange programme to Utah U.S.A.

#### **HEATHER**

Our girls and their husbands all graduated at Otago University. Heather has a B.Sc degree and Dip Sc in Bio Chemistry and worked in the Nutrition Department of the Medical School for three years. In 1975 she married Paul Rea, an Invercargill boy, who worked for Mobil Oil in Dunedin. In 1978 Paul was promoted to head office in Wellington. They have two of a family, Amy born in 1979 and Thomas in 1982. Heather took up the position of supervisor for a computer company, latterly, until the family left for a posting to New York with Mobil in June 1988.

#### **KAREN**

Karen gained a Commerce degree and worked for a number of years for the Trade and Industry Department in Wellington, where she met Allan Burton who had a position with the N.Z. Dairy Board. They were married in 1980 and later posted to London with the Board for three years. Allan was born in Dunedin and later lived in Oamaru. Benjamin was born in London in 1984 and William in Wellington in 1988.

#### **ELIZABETH**

Liz has a B.Ed degree, and a B.A. in music and taught at Belmont, Cashmere Av and Eastern Hutt schools in the Wellington area. In 1983 she married Kevin O'Conner, a school teacher, who has since changed to a career in banking with Westpac, Wellington. They have two sons, Samuel born 1986 and Alexander 1987.

#### **JOHN ALEXANDER NICHOLSON MATHESON 1932 -**

By Wayne Matheson

Born in Invercargill on the 6th November 1932, educated at Kennington Public school and John McGlashan College, Dunedin, in his secondary years. From school John commenced training at the Accounting practice of Webb Stark & Co in Invercargill. While on leave from his commercial training to undertaking his Military training, in 1950, fire broke out at the Kennington Woolscour, during redevelopment work. John was granted immediate leave from his Military training to assist, in his fathers absence initially, with reconstruction of the business.

On the 23rd November 1954 John married Audrey Elizabeth Officer, eldest daughter of Adela and Stanley Officer, of Invercargill. They settled at Kennington. John and Audrey had two sons, Wayne John born 02 July 1956 and Derek James born 05 September 1958.

Audrey enjoyed spending considerable time with her gardening activities and was involved also in Ladies golfing. Audrey's interests extended to the involvement with the inaugural committee of the Invercargill Coffee Club, acting as treasurer.

When the Boys left home for Dunedin it was an ideal opportunity for her to open a Women's fashion boutique 'Matheson House' which she operated from 1972 thru until November 1984.

With business expanding and an acknowledged reputation in the industry, John was appointed as Government representative to the director on the New Zealand Wool Board, a position held from 1972 until 1987.

Other industry organisations he became involved with included a Directorship of the Wool Research Organisation of New Zealand. John also became an Executive member of the New Zealand Wool Scourer's Association, following on from his fathers involvement.

## FAMILY OF JOHN & AUDREY

The family of John and Audrey were

**Wayne John** born Invercargill 02 July 1956

**Derek James** born Invercargill 05 September 1958

### WAYNE JOHN MATHESON

Wayne commenced his primary school education at Kennington School and towards the end of his primary education relocated to the Hawthorndale Primary School in Invercargill. After intermediate school education at Lithgow Intermediate he left his Kennington home to become a boarder at John McGlashan College in Dunedin. Wayne took up interests in outdoor pursuits including tramping, rock climbing and abseiling. Particular interest was developed with involvement with the John McGlashan College Pipe Band, as a guard drummer. This interest continued while at Otago University as a member of the Pipes & Drums of the University of Otago.

Wayne continued his tertiary education in Dunedin and attained a Bachelor of Commerce degree, specializing in International Marketing. In December 1980, Wayne took up employment with J.E. Watson & Co, a large Southland based stock & station firm, in the capacity of Management Accountant and latterly Data processing Manager.

Wayne joined the family firm of J Matheson & Co Ltd in January 1983, undertaking a study tour in Sydney for three months. The major concentration of the company at that time was investment and Wayne was to be responsible for researching and coordinating 'special projects'. Game Foods New Zealand Limited, a Deer slaughter and Game processing facility, was the first such project. More recently Matheson Resources Limited was established as the families international business vehicle with initial concentration on commercial property development and commercial investments in Australia.

Wayne married on 31 January 1981 to Sonya Irene Darragh of Invercargill, only daughter of Arnold and Pearl Darragh, at the

Kennington Presbyterian Church. They also made Kennington their home on the adjacent farm. They have two sons,

**John Nikolas Darragh** born Invercargill 4th February 1982.

**Edward James Duncan** born Invercargill 19th April 1984.

In 1976 Wayne's sporting interests turned to the very competitive Motor Rallying circuit and during his six years involvement in the sport he participated in three international events, staged in New Zealand and numerous national and club events. Often Father and Derek would be called in to assist with the management of the service crewing.

Wayne's interest in international business lead to a long involvement with the Export Institute of New Zealand. From the practical application of skills attained during the establishment of Game Foods New Zealand Limited he took a particular interest in the development of the Institute. He held numerous positions including Southland Branch President for a two year term and is currently one of the three New Zealand National Vice Presidents.

Other particular interests included in scuba diving and significant enjoyment was derived from diving on the Great Barrier Reef out from Port Douglas in Far North Queensland.

In January 1986 Wayne commenced training for his private pilots licence and since that time has derived considerable enjoyment from both club and national sport aviation competitions. With particular interest in navigation and instrument flying he participated in the 1989 Royal New Zealand Aero Clubs' national championships in Wanganui achieving a second in the senior navigation and third in the instrument competition.

**John Nikolas Darragh** Born in Invercargill on the 4th February 1982, and lived at the family home on Rimu Road at Kennington. John began his education when he attended the Glengarry Kindergarten in 1985 and on the 4th February 1987 began school at Hawthorndale Primary School. At the start of the new school year in 1989 John moved to Rimu Primary school at Rimu. John's interests include Snow Skiing which he began when he was 18 months old in the Winter of 1983. John also enjoys swimming and all the normal play activities of a child his age.

**Edward James Duncan** Born in Invercargill on the 19th April 1984, and lived at the family home on Rimu Road at Kennington. Edward followed John to attended the Glengarry Kindergarten in 1987 and on the 19th April 1989 began school by attending the Rimu Primary school at Rimu. Edward's interests include Snow Skiing which he began when he was 2 years old in the Winter of 1986. Edward also enjoys swimming and all the normal play activities of a child his age.

## **DEREK JAMES MATHESON**

Derek commenced his primary school education at Kennington School and towards the end of his primary education relocated to the Hawthorndale Primary School in Invercargill. After intermediate school education at Lithgow Intermediate he left his Kennington home to become a boarder at John McGlashan College in Dunedin. Derek learned the Bagpipes prior to attending College and he also joined the John McGlashan College Pipe Band. Derek's involvement in piping continued while at University as a member of the Pipes & Drums of the University of Otago.

Derek continued his tertiary education in Dunedin and attained a Bachelor of Commerce degree in Accountancy. Derek continued to qualify as an Associated Chartered Accountant and worked in the Dunedin accounting practice of Ernst & Whinney. After three years Derek moved to the accounting practice of W.R. Jackson & Co, another Dunedin firm, and was later to become the Financial Controller for the Helicopter Line at their Dunedin head office.

Derek Married Pamela Fay Clark of Dunedin on the 30 November 1985, second eldest of three daughters of Patricia and Keith Clark. Derek and Pamala live in Dunedin. They have a son and a daughter.

**James Darren** born on the 22nd August 1987.

**Ashleigh Marie** born on the 29th October 1989.

## FAMILY OF ALICE & WILLIAM McKENZIE

**ISABEL (McKENZIE) AND JAMES CAMPBELL**  
By Isabel Campbell

July 28th 1959 Isabel married James Andrew Campbell of Woodlands.  
The family following included:

### Family

Christian Name(s)	Born
<b>William James</b>	26th May 1960.
<b>Alexander McKenzie</b>	22nd September 1961
<b>John Matheson</b>	11th July 1963
<b>Christina Marcelli</b>	12th October 1964
<b>Isabella Margaret</b>	10th July 1968
<b>Andrew Nicholson</b>	2nd August 1975

Isabel and Jim lived in Pareora West Timaru, for 2 years and then at the Takitimu farm Settlement, Southland. There Jim convened the first meeting of the Northern Southland Farm Forestry Association. Jim managed a farm for 3 years at Rimu Southland. He drew a civilian land settlement ballot for a station at Hangaroa Gisborne in 1967. Jim has taken a very keen and practical interest in forestry and land preservation. Towards that end an impressive tree planting programme was undertaken on Awapapa and all native bush preserved through the Queen Elizabeth Trust. Isabel has run a rural Sunday school all the years they have been there. She has been active in the Women's section of the National Party and the Gisborne Women's Rest Rooms. Awapapa Station, Gisborne, has provided a haven for a growing family. Jim and Isabel retired to Pleasant Point Timaru in 1989.

### **WILLIAM**

Bill married Erin O'Driscoll 18th October 1985  
**Isaac Joseph** born 27th July 1988.

Bill qualified as an electronic technician while working at Devonport Naval base then worked for Petrocorp at New Plymouth until 1987 when he moved to Omarama to take up a position at Twizel. Bill attended Outward Bound and took a leading part in Youth Church activities.



Maurice, Mona Alborough, Cora Inglis and Charles M. Inglis



Four generations—George, Mother, Shirley and Heather McKenzie



Photo possibly taken on Charles Inglis wedding day  
Charles, Bill, Claude, Cora Roy, Harry, William, Eric, Jim



William Inglis and Harry



**ALEXANDER**

Alex qualified for a Diploma of Agriculture at Lincoln College and has since worked on farms in Southland and managed a station up the Waingake Valley Gisborne. Alex worked for 18 months on Awapapa before purchasing the station in 1989.

**JOHN**

John spent several years in Commerce studies and is at present working in Brisbane Australia and remains very active in Christian work. Originally encouraged by his Grandfather and supported by his father, John established a very successful Beekeeping business on their home farm while still at school.

**CHRISTINA**

Christina attended an outward bound course while at school, registered as a nurse in Napier. In 1985 has worked for a year in Christchurch Hospital and attended an operation Raleigh Course in Fiordland. She spent 7 months on an American relations yacht from NZ to Papua New Guinea, 8 months in Wellington Hospital and is at present sailing from Bali Indonesia in a Jukung in an international expedition to Darwin Australia, a distance of 1400 miles in a craft which was designed 7000 years ago.

Christina was called after her Grandmother, Christina Matheson of sailing renown.

**ISABELLA MARGARET**

Along with her brothers and sisters attended for 22 years, the one teacher Hangaroa Primary School on a corner of the home property, then boarded at the Gisborne High School hostel for secondary education. Her most loved hobby during those years was horse riding in which she excelled. Margaret is at present training as a nurse at Napier.

**ANDREW**

Brought to an end 22 years of Awapapa Campbell's attendance at the Hangaroa Primary School. He has followed in his families great interests in nature, geology and reading. All his life he has worked diligently towards amassing a collection of model aeroplanes and aircraft books as he plans to be a pilot. Andrew is at present boarding at the Gisborne secondary school hostel.

## MARGARET (McKENZIE) AND WILLIAM HEGAN

By Margaret Hegan

Margaret married William Andrew Hegan.

### Family

Christian Name(s)	Born
William Donald	13 February 1956
Bruce	
Diane	
Alison	

I was educated at middle school and then at the Otahuti school. We had shifted to 'Mains O' Blair' by this time. It was such a thrill to get a pony to ride to school, especially after getting a new bridle, saddle, and cover from my Matheson grandparents. After two years at Southland Girls High School I caught scarlet fever and spent nine months in Queen Victoria Hospital. I then finished my schooling at the correspondence school.

In spite of the war we had many good holidays at Oreti Beach with parents, Grandparents and cousins. Those who couldn't ride travelled in the pony cart and we went on many picnics. As teenagers we were allowed to go into Invercargill at night from Oreti Beach for entertainment at the Civic, in the pony cart. The boys found a suitable place to house Percy and the cart. We travelled without lights.

I recollect my grandmother sitting at the edge of the sea splashing water over herself while the rest of us enjoyed a swim in the deep. Our surf boards were bundles of claddies and these really collected the big waves.

As teenagers Dad and Mother took us for holidays to Milford in a truck which was known as 'Blue Bird'. We stopped and camped where it suited us. There could be up to ten teenagers. Mother always coped with the meals. Dad seemed to be last in the district to get a tractor so I can remember him working with draught horses. The lambing was done with the help of a pony and cart. Mother had a very busy life especially when harvest time came round, shearing or when the chaff cutter came in. There were so many men to get meals for. For pocket money we stripped dogs tail with the stripper drawn by Kate the draught horse and we also cut cocksfoot which was played by Uncle Jim Alexander and Dad. Although Marcelli was much younger she was a bright spark and was always there and tried so hard to keep up with the older members of the family. We

all have great memories of Marcelli. She had a great sense of humour. I will always remember and appreciate what our parents did for us.

Bill and I were married in 1955 and farmed a property at Spar Bush. We had four children, Donald, Bruce, Diane and Allison. Both boys wanted to farm so we shifted to a 1150 acre farm at Five Rivers. Eight years later Donald realised he wanted to go to the Church Ministry so the farm was sold and Bruce and Lynette shifted to Grove Bush and Bill Diane and Allison and I shifted to Timaru.

After five years of drought we shifted back to Otahuti where we now farm.

#### **WILLIAM DONALD**

William Donald was born 13th February 1956. Donald attended Waianiwa School and then Central Southland College. He was very good at jumping and running and horse riding and in general enjoyed life. After farming for seven years he attended Bible College for three years before entering University. He spent one year at Lumsden working in the Parish there. It has been extremely hard studying after so many years farming. Donald has a Diploma in Theology, a Diploma in Ministry, a Bachelor of Arts and a Bachelor of Divinity.

Donald and Christine Sara were married in Adelaide and now live in Dunedin. They have three children:

**William Matthew** born 13th October 1983

**Sara Joy** born 14th October 1985

**Aleshia Laurene** born 25th October 1987.

**Joanna Margaret Courtney** born 21st January 1990

#### **BRUCE**

Bruce attended Waianiwa school and then Central Southland College. He was very good at running, jumping and horse riding. Bruce's sense of humour won him prizes for speeches and debating. When the Five Rivers farm was sold Bruce and Lynette shifted to Grove Bush where they Deer fenced the farm and Deer farmed on a share farming scheme. After seven years they shifted to a 970 acre farm at Dacre and farmed deer sheep and goats.

They have three children:

**Aaron William** born 17th February 1983

**Shanon Bruce** born 23rd February 1985

**Krista** born in 7th May 1989

#### **DIANE**

Diane attended Waianiwa School, Lumsden and Central Southland College. Diane was very interested in pantomime, Net Ball and later squash. Diane nursed for three years at

Kew Hospital before working at Margaret Wilson Home in Timaru. After two years she travelled overseas. Diane married Andrew Woods and farmed at Claremont. They have two children:

**Samuel William Andrew** born 01 November 1984

**Alana Jane** born 17 November 1986.

#### **ALLISON**

Allison attended Waianiwa School, Five Rivers School and James Hargest High School. Her sporting interests were Net Ball, Baseball and later coached younger players. For two years Allison worked at the Lumsden exchange and then in the office of Wrightson NMA. Allison shifted to Timaru with her parents and worked for Wrightson Dalgety and was later promoted to the Gore branch. Allison married Tony Hampton who was a stock & station agent in Heriot. Tony has been promoted to the Culverdon area. They have one child:

**Henry Rodger Hampton** born 04 February 1988.

**George William** born 17th January 1990.

#### **BLAIR AND ISOBEL MCKENZIE**

By Blair McKenzie

Blair married Isobel Spratt in 1957 and lived at Otahuti on "Mains O' Blair" in partnership with his father.

After a lengthy partnership with my father I settled in to run "Mains O' Blair" with my family on our own account. During the years that we farmed we added onto the farm, and built a new homestead. Over the years we were there farming changed considerably and in 1988 we decided that as none of the family wanted to pursue farming, the farm was sold.

Over the years that my family occupied 'Mains O' Blair I was very grateful and appreciative for the support and help of Isobel, who always provided us with a good loving home life and for the help our children gave on the farm.

Blair held two Directorships on the boards of two of Southland very strong and long established companies. The Southland Co-operative Phosphate Company and Southland Farmers (Alliance). Blair also had interests in the local Lions Club and Waimatuku Pipe Band.

Their family included:

**Alastair Blair** born April 1958

**Douglas Malcome** born June 1959

**Helen Isobel** born November 1961.

The primary education for the three children was at Isla Bank school. In 1972 Alastair went to John McGlashan college in Dunedin, followed by Dougals.

#### **ALASTAIR**

In 1974 Alastair obtained school certificate in six subjects. In the following year university Entrance was accredited. In 1976 Alastair went to Japan as a Lions Exchange Student. He had already obtained his University Entrance in Japanese. After five years of very active involvement at secondary school he attended Lincoln College for two years. After working for eighteen months at home he then ventured into the Hotel Industry starting off as a trainee manager and working his way up to assistant manager of the Kelvin Hotel. During his nine years with the Invercargill Licencing Trust, he had many varied positions, some which would be best unmentioned.

In February 1982 he married Traicee Longworth and they both set up home in Invercargill. After a brief spell as a joinery managers from 1984 until 1988 he then formed a company and bought a sports goods business called Bert Walker Sports and appears to be thriving in this environment.

#### **DOUGLAS**

In 1975 Douglas obtained five subjects in school certificate and university entrance the next year. After four active years at secondary school he started employment with the "family bank" the National Bank, Crescent branch, Invercargill which had been the bank and branch of four generations of McKenzie.

During the 13 years that Douglas has so far spent at the bank he has held many positions in various parts of the country and is currently a bank manager in Newmarket Auckland. At this stage he is still single.

#### **HELEN**

Helen's secondary education was at Southland Girls High School where she obtained school certificate in 1977. She then left school and worked at Broad Smalls in the fine china department. After eighteen months there she then went to work in the office of Wrightson NMA where she met a young stock agent called Donald Gilkison, whom she married after a lengthy courtship. For five years they lived in Otautau where she worked in Wesley's Jewellery shop. In 1989 Donald and Helen bought a farm at Hokonui where they now both live.

## **JAMES (JIM) AND LILIAN MCKENZIE**

Jim married Lilian Teviotdale. They settled on a small farm at Heddon Bush. 14 miles from "Mains O'Blair".

Shortly after this Jim decided they needed more land as they now had two sons. Finding the perfect farm to raise a family they shifted to 'Blinkbonnie' in Dipton, in May 1964. A property of 670 acres and carrying mainly sheep. Jim could see potential in forestry and soon commenced planting trees and eventually completed the planting of 100 acres of Radiata and Douglas Fir trees, as well as miles of shelter and amenity plantings of many species of trees.

The family of Jim and Lilian included:

**James Gordon** born 6th February 1960.

**Malcome John** born 7th July 1962

**Jane Kathryn** born 12 March 1966

On the 12th March 1966 their daughter Jane Kathryn was born. Most of Jim and Lilian's interests revolved round their family. Gordon became involved in market gardening, early potatoes for Christmas his speciality. Malcolm's interest was in poultry and he began raising turkeys and at one stage he had 800, many of which were processed on the farm for the Christmas market. Jane's interest was in sewing and raising chickens.

### **GORDON**

Gordon attended Central Southland College and attained school certificate in 1975. He was then successful in getting an apprenticeship as a trainee Chef with the Kelvin Hotel in Invercargill in 1977. In the year 1981 Gordon travelled overseas to gain further experience and while he was away worked several places including the Gleneagles Hotel in Scotland. Soon after his return he was appointed Head chef of the Kelvin Hotel. Gordon married Sharon Valentine in 1983. In May 1987 they moved to Surfers Paradise, Australia where Gordon took up a position at the brand new Sheraton Mirage Hotel as Chef Tournant. He then became Banquet Chef and in November 1988 was promoted to Sous Chef. Their daughter Alyce Sara was born on the 30th January 1988.

### **MALCOLM**

Malcolm attended Central Southland College and attained school certificate in 1978. University entrance in 1979 and A bursary in 1980 when he was proxime accessit. He then attended Otago University between 1981 and 1985. During his vacation he took up shearing sheep and subsequently shored over 30,000 sheep to put himself

through university. He graduated in 1985 with an LLB and B.Comm. He was admitted to the Bar in 1985 and took up a position with a law firm in Invercargill where he is at present. He married Marrie Davidson from Queenstown on the 17th December 1988.

#### **JANE**

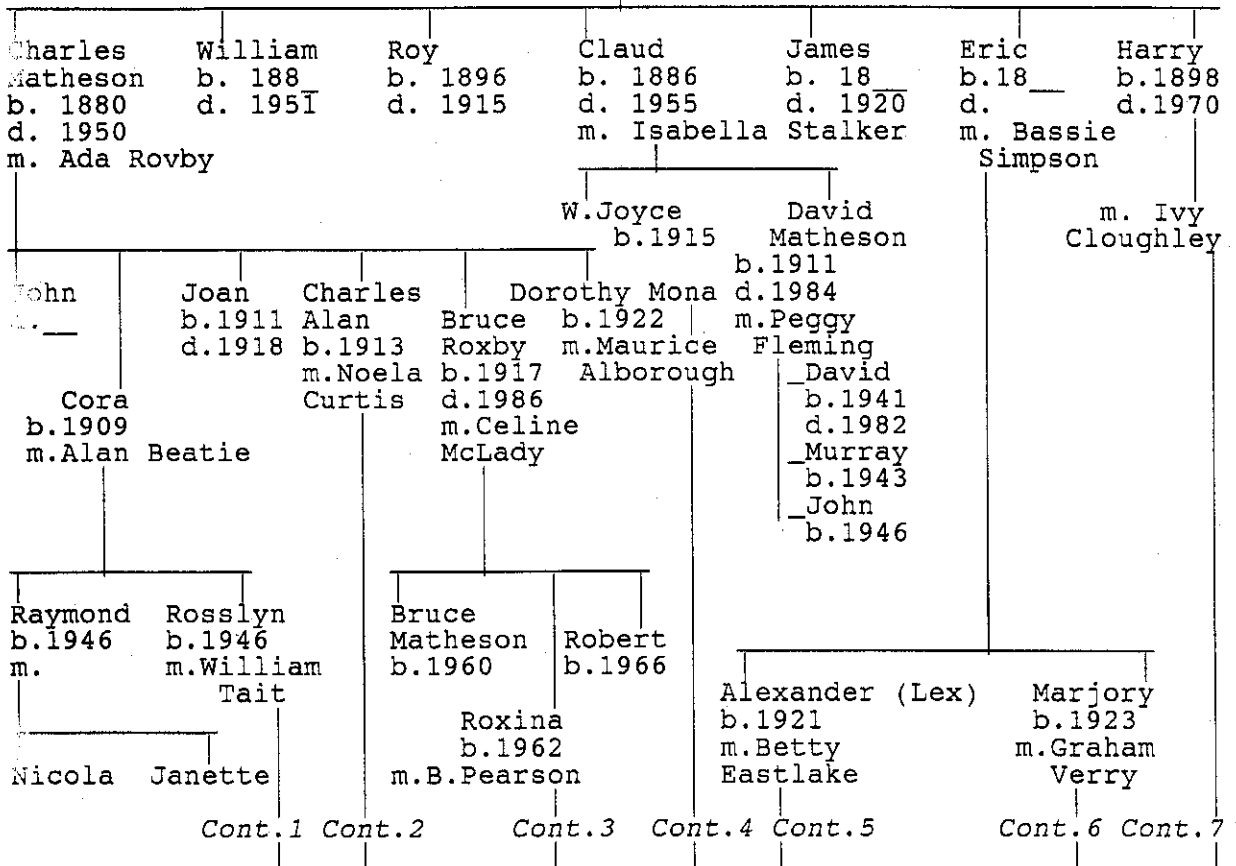
Jane attended Central Southland College from 1979 to 1983 and attained school certificate in 1981. University entrance in 1982 and B Bursary in 1983. She also was awarded a typing TCB, A & B. She then attended Southland Community College graduating as a Comprehensive Nurse in 1986. She then spent a year with the Dunedin Hospital Board and is now working in the Southland Hospital in Invercargill.

The family had musical interests and formed a band with accordion, two saxophones, guitar and banjo, and sometimes double bass (tea chest and broom handle) and played for local entertainment and family get-to-gathers.

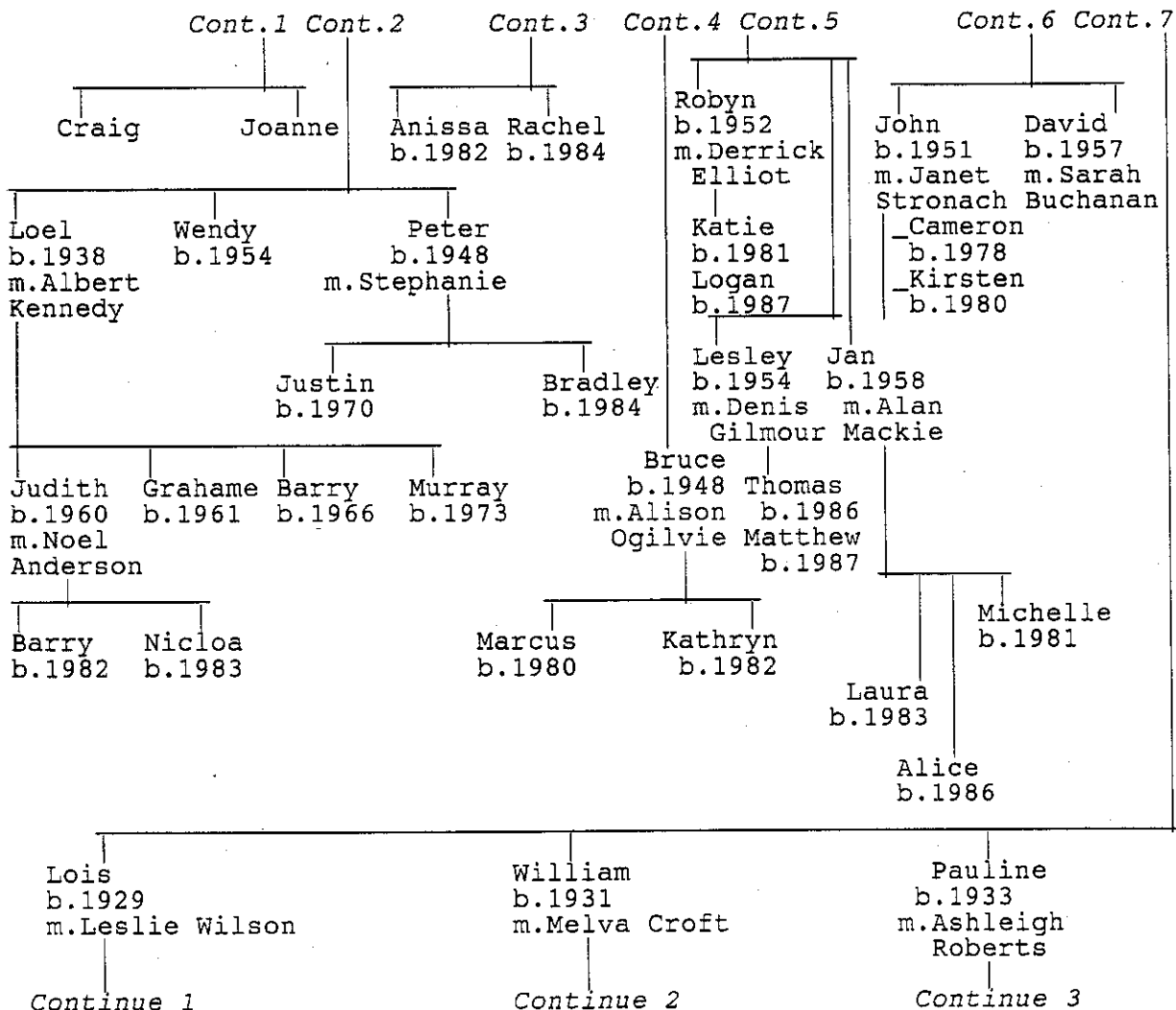
In 1987 the 'Blinkbonnie' farm won the Northern Southland Farm Forestry trophy for the best tree plantation farm.

# INGLIS FAMILY

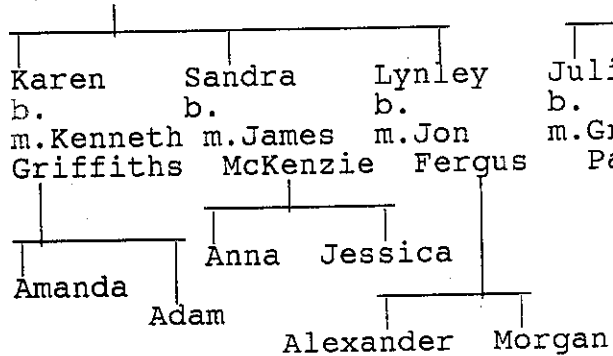
Christina (Cora) Matheson m. William Inglis



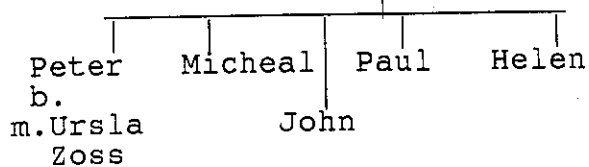
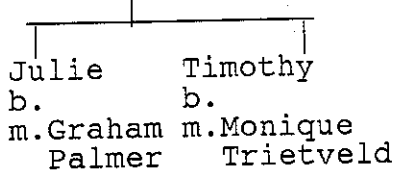




Continue 1



Continue 2



Continue 3

WILLIAM JAMES INGLIS  
OBITUARY  
GORE STANDARD  
Thursday, October 1906

"At age 57 years. Wide regret will be expressed at the news of the death of Mr Wm J Inglis, which sad event occurred at his residence, Gore, on Wednesday morning after a painful illness. The deceased had been laid aside for the past four months with an acute internal malady, and, in spite of unremitting attention and medical skill, he gradually became worse, and, as stated, succumbed on Wednesday morning. Mr Inglis, through a Scotsman by parentage, was born in the north of Ireland (at Omagh), in the year 1849, during a visit of his parents there. The subject of this notice came to the colony when a comparatively young man, in the early seventies, primarily in search of health. Like many others, the colony impressed him so favourably that he resolved to stay here, and he entered the service of the N.Z. Meat preserving Co., at Kakanui, in 1876. Later he was transferred to the Washdyke works, where he filled the position of accountant, but subsequently was appointed manager at Kakanui. The works were then a big concern, employing over 100 hands, and Mr Inglis remained in charge until 1882, when he was appointed to a similar position in the Woodlands works, owned by the same company. When the company retired from business in New Zealand, and disposed of the Woodlands branch to Mr W.E. Tait, Mr Inglis retained the management. About 16 years ago, some time after the Croydon Meat Preserving Works opened, Mr Inglis accepted the management, the Croydon brand of meat, while the works were under his charge, occupying the leading position in preserved meats in the Home market.

About six year ago, when Mr R.F. Wallis purchased the works, Mr Inglis entered his employ, and some time after assumed the accountancy of Mr Wallis's Gore business. During the last few months, failing health compelled him to relinquish active work, and four months ago, as stated, he had to take to what has proved his deathbed. His sickness was borne with much patience and fortitude, rarely a sign of physical suffering escaping him. This trait was typical of his character in life. Patient with and considerate for the many who worked under him, gentle in his home life, indulgent to his family and kind to his friends, his death will be regretted by all who had the privilege of knowing him. The blank in the home will indeed be keenly realised.

The deceased married, in 1879, a daughter of the late Capt. Matheson, of Kakanui, and the widow and seven sons (the majority grown up) survive to mourn his passing. The funeral will take place to-morrow (Friday), the cortege leaving his late residence, Rose Street, at 3.30pm for the Gore cemetery.

It is worth noting that the late Mr W.J. Inglis, whose death is recorded in another column, was the first person in the colony to undertake the preservation of rabbit carcasses for export purposes. This was at Woodlands, long before it was thought that the ubiquitous bunny could be turned to profitable account. Mr Inglis, after lengthy experimenting, produced an article which speedily became a much sought luxury at Home, besides which the treatment did more to reduce the pest than any other methods that had previously been devised."

## **THE MEAT PRESERVING WORKS WOODLANDS**

By Mrs M. Trotter

The establishment of the meat preserving works in 1870 contributed to the prosperity of Southland. Surplus stock disposal was a problem to farmers, so the canning of meat was a great help.

In 1871, 8,000 sheep were killed by the Glasgow Meat preserving company at their three works, Woodlands, Kakanui and Washdyke.

Market demand varied over the years at Woodlands. By 1900 the output was 10,000 cases of canned rabbit meat, 4000 cases of mutton and 20,000 carcasses of frozen rabbit.

In 1888 J.Matheson, a partner, had the contract for scouring and pressing the wool on the premises. Increased business lead to a shift to Kennington in 1894.

After various changes of ownership the works were brought by the Southland Frozen Meat Company in 1932, but they did not commence operations. The Waitane Sawmilling company brought the site in 1951 and operated for some years. Now the Presbyterian Church is on the site of the Meat Works

## **ROY A INGLIS**

"Kura Awa" Gore High School 1916

After months of suspense Mrs C Inglis, of Gore, has received word that her son, Private Roy Inglis, was killed in action on May 2, 1915, at Pope's Post, on the Gallipoli Peninsula.

The deceased soldier was educated at the Gore High School and at District High School before establishment of the High School proper.

After leaving school he joined the staff of the "Gore Standard" newspaper. When that firm went out of business, he was employed for some time by Mr T.J. Quin, chemist. Finding, however, that indoor work interfered with his health, he decided to go farming, and was engaged in farming pursuits when the war broke out.

He enlisted among the first from the district, and left Gore on August 12, 1914, with the first draft of men from the Main Expeditionary Force. He had the honour of participating in the historic first landing on the Gallipoli Peninsula on April 25, and was killed in action a week later.

He was a fine type of young colonial, clean living and patriotic; one of those, like Blair Cullen and scores of others who have fallen, whom the Empire can ill spare. While deploring the early death of such, we honour our brave dead and extend deepest sympathy towards their bereaved friends and relations.

## **FAMILY DETAILS**

By W.J. Inglis

March 1988

Details of information in respect of my parents and my own family are as follows:-

My parents are both deceased.

My Father - Harry Alexander Inglis was born 23 November 1897, died on the 10th January 1970 and my Mother, Joy Margaret Inglis (nee Cloughley) was born 26 May 1898 and died on the 30th July 1985.

I have two sisters - Mrs Lois Margaret Wilson, 30 Williams Street Kaiapoi. Mrs Pauline Roberts 76B Paynters Avenue New Plymouth.

My Full name is William James Inglis born 05 April 1931, a retired Bank Manager.

My Wife's name is Melva Tannahill Inglis, we have two married children.

Our daughter - Juliet Mary Palmer, married to Graham Anthony Palmer, 27 Sheridan Tce, Johnsonville, Wellington 4.

Our son - Timothy William Inglis married Monique Maria Inglis, 20 Cherrywood Place, Redwood, Christchurch 5.

**MARY MATHESON m. HENRY BROCKETT**

b.1869

d.1956

Son died in Infancy

Aynsley

b.1896

d.1961

m.Minnie Sherborne

William Henry (Bill)

b.1922

m.Mary-Ellen Kilroy

Graeme Sherborne

b.1929

m.Avril Bredin

David

b.1948

m.Nancy  
Hoffman

Reginald

b.1951

m.Robyn  
Gow

Robert

Matheson

b. 1953

m.Janice  
Mackay

E. Clare

b.1959

Katrina Wendy

b.1981 b.1983

Heather

b.1981

Brian

b.1984

Robert

b.1979

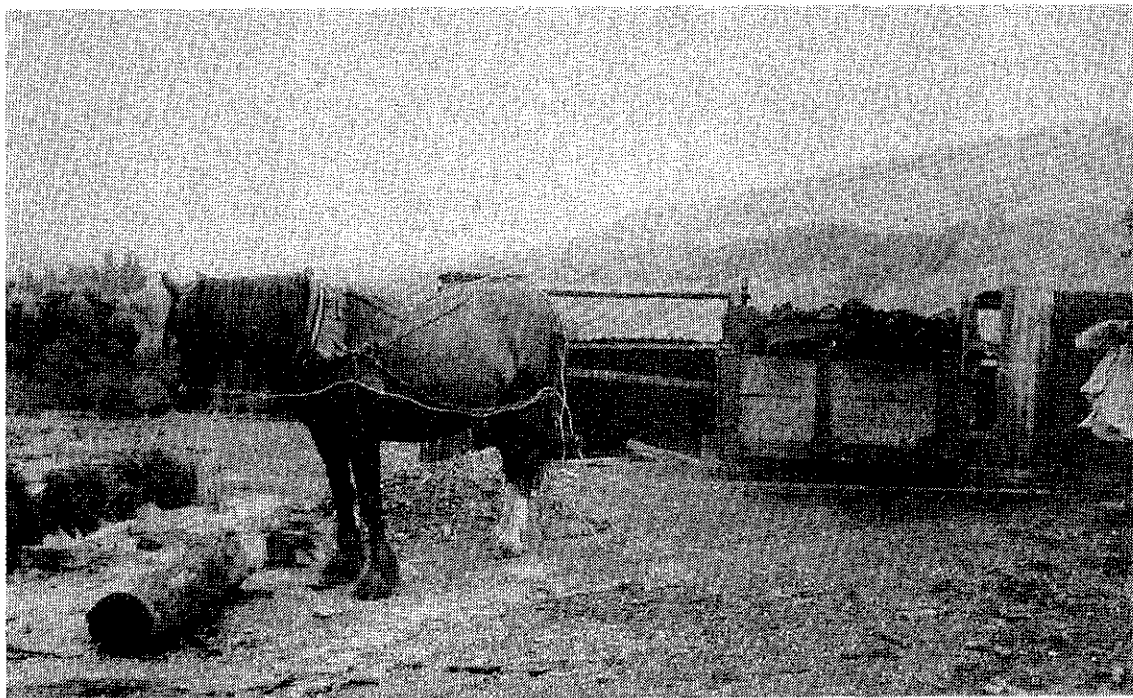
Sarah

b.1980

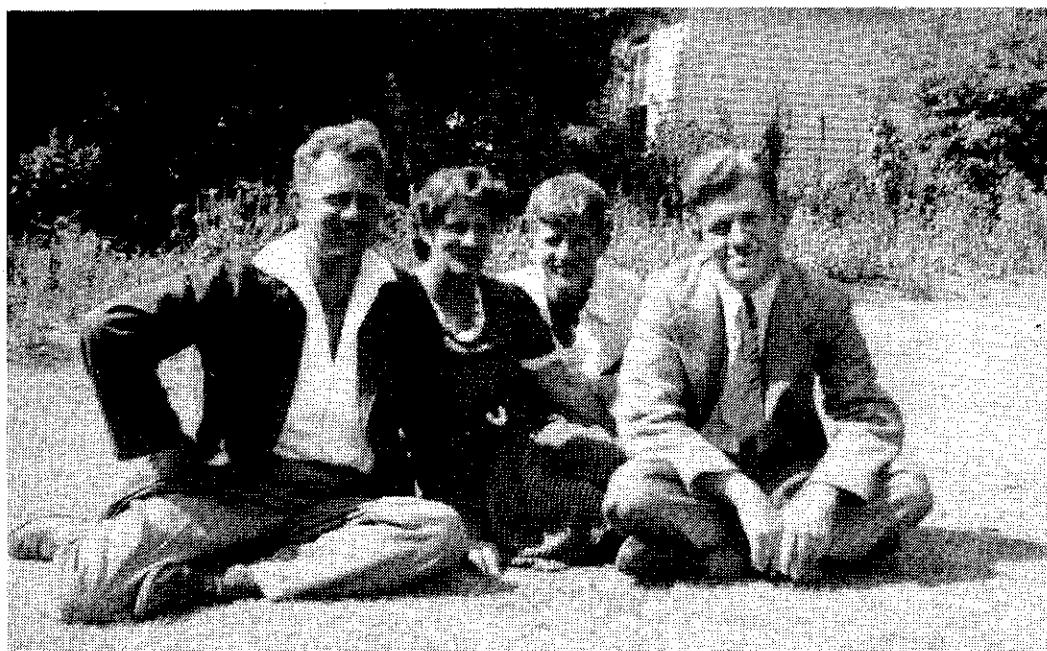
Cont.1

<u>Michelle</u> b.1955 m.Stewart McConnell	<u>Denise</u> b.1956 m.Albert Hutterd	<u>Rosalie</u> b.1958 m.David Goode	<u>Robin</u> b.1961 m.Jennifer Butterfield	<u>Kevin</u> b.1965 m.Gail Ebert
<u>Jean</u> b.1983	<u>Kerryn</u> b.1985	<u>Julia</u> b.1988	<u>Stephanie</u> b.1987	
<u>Robert</u> b.1981	<u>Rebekah</u> b.1983	<u>Kate</u> b.1986	<u>Louise</u> b.1988	

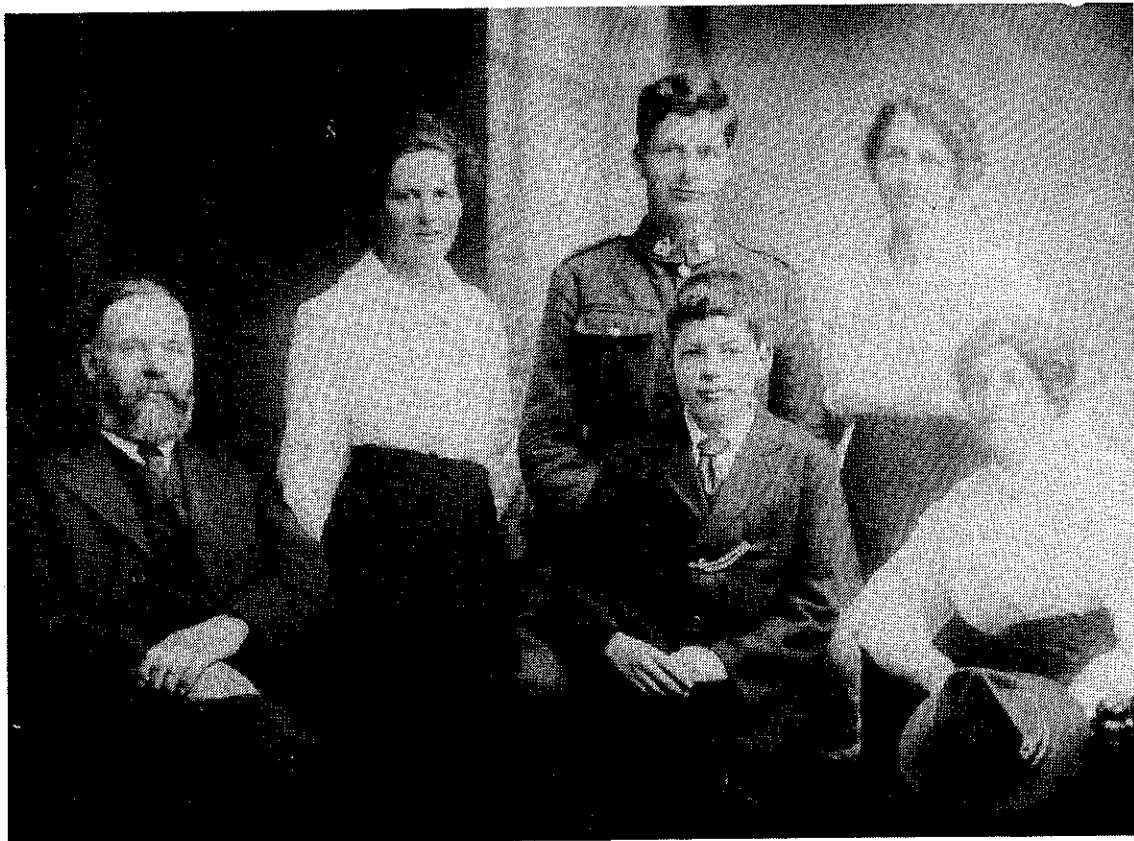




Nimmo's Coal Mine at Ngapara



Aynsley, Minnie, Graeme and William Brockett 1944



The Nimmo Family 1917 or 1918  
William, Christina, Captain, Allan (in front), Helena and Helen



Four generations—Rina Watson, Marian Barnes, Jean  
Barnes, Helena Nimmo

## **WILLIAM HENRY BROCKETT FAMILY**

**William Henry** - son of Aynsley and Minnie Brockett, born Auckland 02 February 1922. Married Mary-Ellen Kilroy, Dunedin 23 January 1946.

Children -

**David William** Born 18 March 1948 Christchurch, married Nancy Alison Hoffman, Christchurch, 24 March 1979.

Children - **Katrina Clare** born Christchurch 09 February 1981.

- **Wendy Alison** born Christchurch 17 November 1983

**Reginald Aynsley** born 26 March 1951 Christchurch, married Robyn Moana Gow, Blackmount, 16 April 1977.

Children - **Robert William** born Oamaru 04 June 1979

- **Sarah Mary** born Dunedin 31 October 1980

**Robert Matheson** born Christchurch 23 October 1953, married Janice Margaret McKay, Balclutha.

Children - **Heather Violet** born Balclutha 14 November 1981

- **Brian Gavin** born Balclutha 07 January 1984.

**Evelyn Clare** born Christchurch 16 January 1959.

## **WILLIAM HENRY BROCKETT**

Born Auckland 1922, Educated in Auckland and Christchurch attending Canterbury University and the University of Otago Medical school 1939-44, graduating M.B. CHB. 1945.

Hospital appointments at Christchurch Hospital and Timaru Hospital from 1945-46. Engaged in general practice in Christchurch from the end of 1946 until 1987. Did postgraduate work in England 1955-57. Obtained Diploma of child health, London 1956. Elected to Fellowship of the Royal College of General Practitioners 1966 elected a foundation fellow of the Royal New Zealand College of General Practitioners. Since retirement from general practice has worked as part time medical officer for the Accident Compensation Corporation.

During practising life was President of the Canterbury Division of the British Medical Association, also Chairman of the Canterbury Faculty of the College of General Practitioners and secretary of the N.Z. branch of the Royal College of General Practitioners.

Interest over the years include yachting, cricket, golf and gardening.

#### **DAVID WILLIAM BROCKETT**

Born Christchurch 18 March 1948 attended St Andrews College, Christchurch and played the Tenor drum in the College Pipe Band. Engaged in commercial stationery and ran his own business for several years. Presently is a charge orderly at Christchurch Hospital.

#### **REGINALD AYNLEY BROCKETT**

Born Christchurch 26 March 1951 attended St Andrews College where he won the intermediate and senior swimming championships and captained the first soccer eleven. He was also a member of the yachting team and the winning life - saving team. After leaving school he worked on farms in Canterbury and on the Hakataramea Station in the Hakataramea valley for some years. He now has his own small unit in Geraldine. Over the past few years he has taken an active part in J.C's and debating.

#### **ROBERT MATHESON BROCKETT**

Born Christchurch 23 October 1953 he attended St Andrews College and was prominent in swimming and life-saving. He attended and graduated from the Telford Farm Training School and worked on farms in South Otago. He returned to Telford on the staff and was assistant Dairy Manager, with a considerable interest in pigs. He subsequently joined Rosebank Davies Ltd in Balclutha and is now foreman of the concrete division. His main interest has been surf lifesaving. He passed his lifesaving exams in Christchurch and later became a surf instructor. This was followed by his appointment as an examiner for the Royal Lifesaving Society. He has been a judge at both Otago and National Championships for some years and in 1988 was chosen as a judge for both the Australian and World Surf lifesaving championships, held in Australia in March. Both Matheson and his wife Janice received service awards from the Otago Association in 1988 for their service to the movement.

#### **EVELYN CLARE**

Born Christchurch 16 January 1959, Clare attended Rangiora School in Christchurch, where she was a school prefect and also school pianist. From an early age she also played the flute and is an accomplished flutist. She trained as a Kindergarten teacher at the Christchurch Teachers College and taught in Christchurch and also in Southland, where she was attached to the first mobile Kindergarten unit. Following a year overseas, where she worked in England and Wales, she worked for the Catholic Youth team and was pianist for the musical "Godspell" which toured the South Island. More recently she has been

secretary - receptionist at the Campbell Counselling Centre in Christchurch and has been taking counselling courses. In 1986 she attended a course in Melbourne and was later immobilised for a year with a knee injury. Always a keen Church goer, she is an elder of the Presbyterian Church.

## **GRAEME SHERBOURNE BROCKETT FAMILY**

Graeme Sherbourne Brockett born 1929, Married Avril Bredin 27 December 1952.

### **MICHELLE AVRIL (BROCKETT) McCONNELL**

Born 4 February 1955. PhD in Microbiology, Married Stewart Lachlan McConnell, Master at Otago Boys' High School. Two children, Sean Lachlan McConnell, born 1983 and Kerryn Michelle McConnell born 1985. Presently living at 133 Lynn Street, Dunedin.

### **DENISE MARY (BROCKETT) HUTTERD**

Born 21 July 1956. Was a school teacher, married Albert Jan Hutterd, Engineer, and now managing an Engineering firm in Nelson. Four children, Robert Graeme Hutterd, born 1981. Rebekah Anne Hutterd, born 1983. Kate Mary Hutterd born 1986. Louise Jan Hutterd born 1988. Present address 49 Queens Road, Nelson.

### **ROSALIE ANN (BROCKETT) GOODE**

Born 26 July 1958. Registered nurse, married David Thomas Goode, Chartered Accountant. One child Julia Rosalie Goode born 1988. Present address 237 Matson's Ave, Christchurch.

### **ROBIN GRAEME AYNSLEY BROCKETT**

Born 26 September 1961. Degree in Viticulture, vineyard manager, Drysdale, Victoria. Married Jennifer Eva Butterfield. One child, Stephanie Jennifer Jeanne born 1987. Present address 22 Kimberley Ave, Drysdale, Victoria 3222, Australia.

### **KEVIN PETER DERRY BROCKETT, NCO**

Born 5 March 1965. Regular Army (E.M.E), Married Gail Margaret Ebert. Present address 36 Office Rd, Christchurch.

# NIMMO FAMILY

## HELENA MATHESON m. WILLIAM NIMMO

b. 1871  
d. 1958

Christina Marion (Rina)  
b. 1891  
d. 1953  
m. John Watson

Elizabeth Helen  
b. 1920  
m. Leonard Casey

Jean Margaret  
b. 1921  
m. Wallace Barnes

Margaret  
b. 1955  
m. Ian Rae

John  
b. 1957  
d. 1957

Maureen  
b. 1959

Melissa  
b. 1974

Anita  
b. 1976

Rebecca  
b. 1980

Alice  
b. 1942  
m. Ronald Wilson

Helen  
b. 1943  
m. William Ross

David  
b. 194  
d. 198

John

Mary Helena Ella  
b. 1892  
d. 1986  
m. William Denholm

Captain James Matheson William  
b. 1897 Allan Stewart  
d. 1979 b. 1906  
m. Elisa Scoon)

Marian  
b. 1930  
m. Robin King

Alison  
b. 1932  
m. Robert Budgett

m. Mary Chalmers

Christopher  
b. 1966

David  
b. 1968

Fiona  
b. 1970

Neil  
b. 1934  
m. Ann Fewster

William  
b. 1934  
Matheson

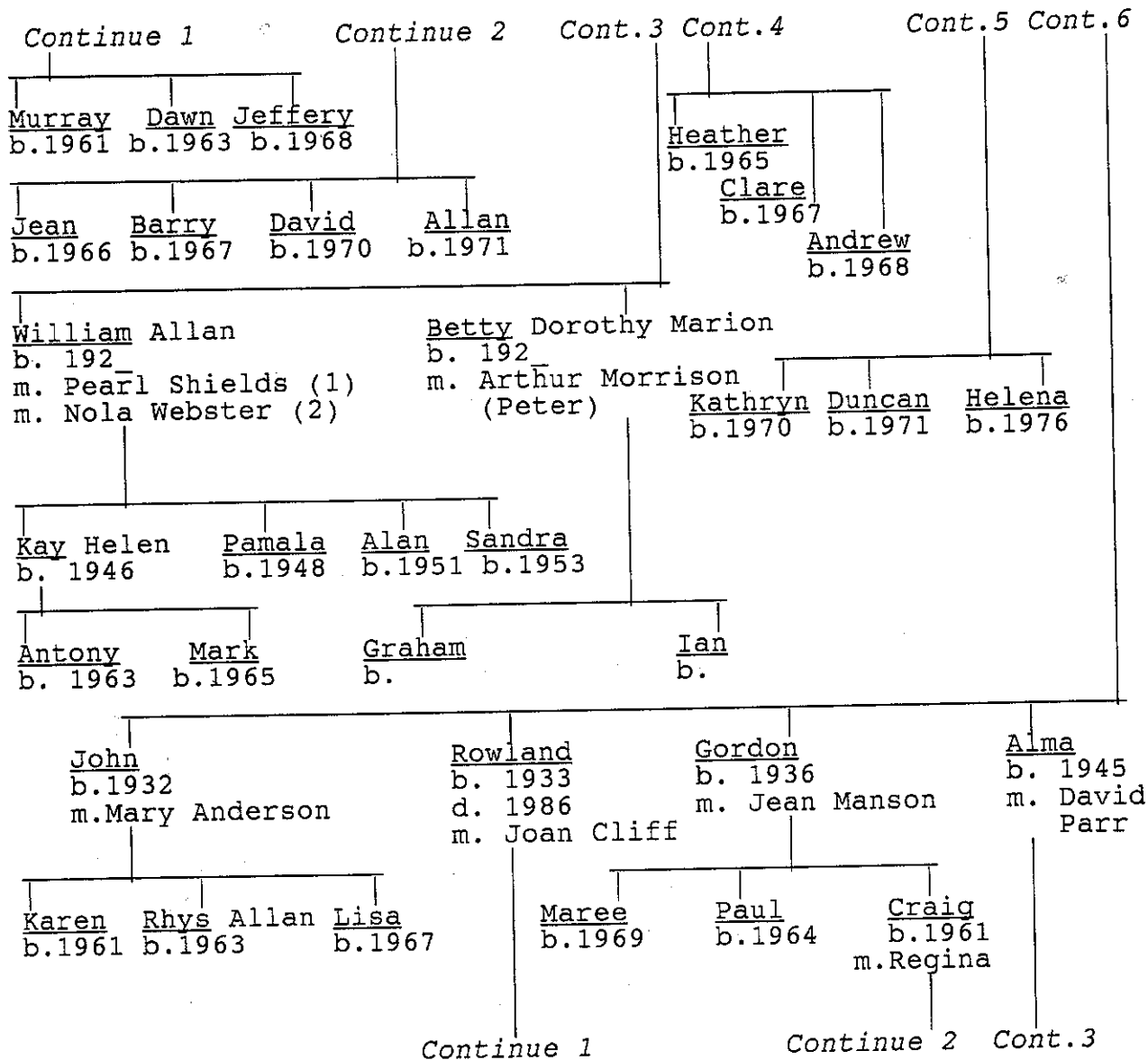
James  
b. 1944  
Matheson  
m. Joy Monteath

Continue 1

Continue 2

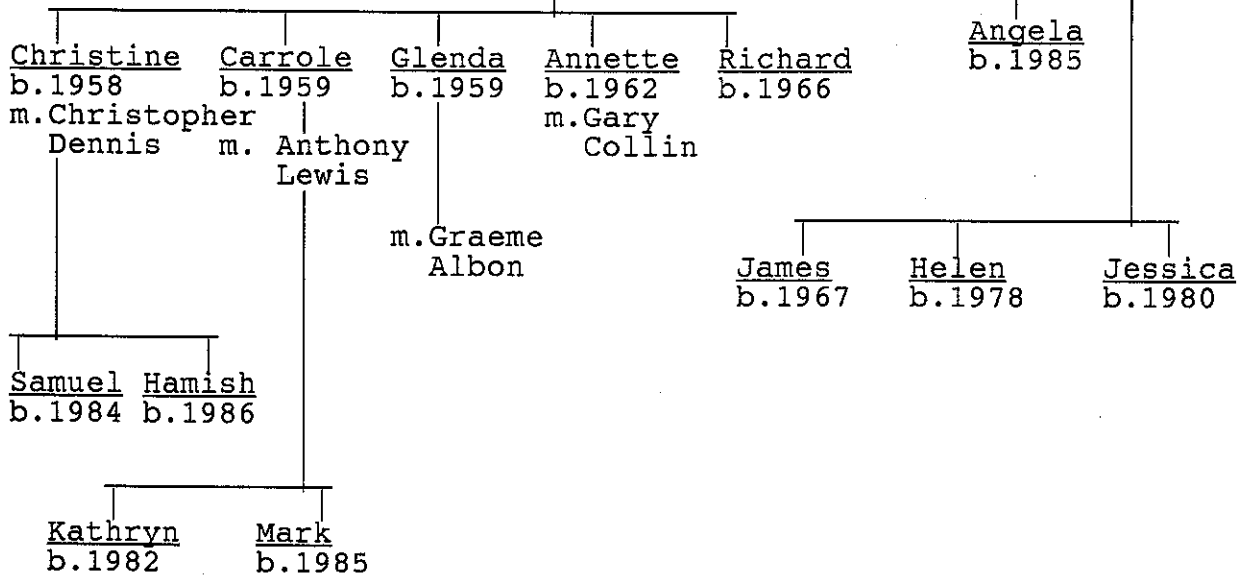
Cont.3 Cont.4

Cont.5 Cont.6



## Continue 1

## Continue 2    Cont.3





## WILLIAM ALLAN STEWART NIMMO

By Allan Nimmo  
Youngest son of William and Helen Nimmo  
of Ngapara, North Otago

Known as Allan, he followed his fathers' footsteps and entered the coalmining industry. After gaining experience on the West Coast coalfields he returned to Ngapara, qualified as mine manager, and succeeded his father as manager of the Ngapara mine. He met his future wife Mary Chambers of Dunedin when she was posted as infant mistress at Ngapara Primary School.

In 1942 Allan and his family moved to Coalgate, Canterbury where he took up an appointment as manager of Klondyke Collieries Limited. He held this position for some sixteen years. During his stewardship the Colliery was completely modernised and achieved wide recognition as a "model" coalmine. He left Klondyke in the late 1950's to purchase the Avenue Colliery and establish Nimmo Collieries of Coalgate. This family company carried on coalmining operations in the Malvern Hills for almost 30 years. The mine is still owned but is not producing coal at present.

Allan is widely known and highly respected in the Coal Industry. He has also played a major role in community affairs. He has always been to the forefront of any new venture or development in the Coalgate district, and has received special recognition for his work for the Order of St John over many years. Old habits are hard to break and although he is over 80 now Allan still spends time prospecting round the coalfield several days a week, often leaving home at 6 - 6.30am! He has always believed that the bulk of a days work had to be done before lunch - presumably so he could get in a second days work in the afternoon!

A really keen gardener, he still has a large area under "cultivation" and their gardens are always a picture.

Allan and Mary have now been married for 57 years and still live at Coalgate.

DETAILS OF THE FAMILY OF

**WILLIAM ALLAN STEWART NIMMO**  
**AND**  
**MARY JESSIE HELEN NIMMO (NEE CHAMBERS)**

**JOHN ALLAN NIMMO**

Of Wellington. Lincoln College graduate in Valuation and Farm Management. Spent 25 years with the Wrightson Group and became General Manager and Director of many group companies. Joined Equiticorp in 1985 as Senior Executive with special responsibilities in the rural sector of the company's activities. A very good rugby player and keen cricketer in his time, John still maintains an active interest in sport. He married Mary Anderson of Hastings in 1960, two daughters live in Auckland and a Son in Christchurch, all single.

**ROWLAND DAVID NIMMO (Rowley)**

Late of Coalgate, Canterbury. Served his apprenticeship in the building trade with P Graham & Sons in Christchurch. In the late 1950's joined his father at Coalgate in the Avenue Mine and later qualified as Deputy manager. A keen amateur geologist Rowley developed an outstanding knowledge of the minerals and coalfields in the Malvern Hills. He succeeded his father and managed the Family mines (Nimmo Collieries Limited, Coalgate) for many years until his untimely death in September 1986. He had the family history of coal mining in his blood and was highly respected in the Mining Industry. Rowley was a community leader and made a major contribution to improve the social and sporting fabric of the Coalgate district. He married Joan Oliffe of Christchurch. Four married daughters live in Waiouru, Christchurch, Coalgate and Sheffield and a married son lives at Whitecliffs.

**GORDON STEWART NIMMO**

Served his apprenticeship as a motor mechanic and qualified A Grade. In the late 1950's he also joined his father and brother Rowley in the Avenue Mine where he spent several years and qualified as undervuewer. In the mid 1960's he returned to the motor business, joining Motor Specialities in Palmerston North. Gordon transferred to Auckland some years later eventually leaving Motor Specialities to establish his own business. He is currently a founding shareholder and Managing Director of Waterford Industries, Auckland which make hand crafted painting equipment and trades in other products. Married

Jean Manson of Darfield. One son married and an unmarried son and daughter. All three children live in Queensland, Australia.

**ALMA MARY PARR (NIMMO)**

Qualified BA at Canterbury University and commenced a career as a secondary school teacher. Married David Parr in 1968 and moved to Wellington. After some years her husband transferred from the Reserve Bank of NZ to the Bank of New South Wales (now Westpac). They were posted to Sydney, Australia for a short period in 1979 then in 1983 they took up a three year appointment with Westpac in London. The family returned to Wellington in 1986 and currently resides at Eastborne. Her husband is now a Chief Manager with the Rural Banking and Finance Corporation. Alma has a keen interest in Floral Art, and has established her own part time business. She has always been a good singer and still participates in choral group activities. They have one son in his seventh form year and two younger daughters at primary school.

**FAMILY OF JOHN ALLAN NIMMO  
AND  
MARY JUDITH NIMMO (NEE ANDERSON)**

**KAREN MARY NIMMO**

Born in 1961, single and living in Auckland. A very good sportswoman, she has graduated in Physical education at Otago University, then began a career in journalism. She travelled abroad for two and a half years and worked for the NZ Press Association on Fleet Street for much of this time. Interesting assignments included reporting on Wimbledon, Ascot, Badminton Horse Trials, the World Netball Championships, Sevens Rugby at Cardiff Arms Park and the 1986 Edinburgh Commonwealth Games. She returned to New Zealand in 1987 and is now a freelance journalist/writer.

**RHYS ALLAN NIMMO**

Born in 1963, single and living in Tokoroa. Attended Victoria University then joined RNZAF at Wigram attaining the rank of Flying Officer. Represented the NZ Air Force at rugby and cricket and represented NZ Services at cricket for 3 years including a tour to Australia in 1987. In April 1988 he joined the Broadcasting profession and completed his initial training at Christchurch polytechnic. He has now taken a position with radio Forestland at Tokoroa as a commercial copy writer and programmer.

## **LISA CATHERINE NIMMO**

Born in 1967, single and living in Auckland. She completed the NZ Certificate in Hotel reception at the Central Institute of Technology, Upper Hutt then began a career in the Hotel Industry, first working in Wellington at the Quality Inn and then at Auckland at the Hotel Sheraton. She travelled to the UK, Europe and subsequently changed her career path to the secretarial/business area. She is currently Personal Secretary to a Senior Executive in Digital Equipment Corporation in Auckland.

## **CAPTAIN JAMES MATHESON NIMMO J.P.**

By Marian Young

Born on the 22nd September 1897; died on the 5 August 1979. Son of Helen Matheson and William Nimmo. As has been mentioned elsewhere, he was named after his Grandfather. At times the Christian name of Captain was an embarrassment to him and during World War I he dropped the name temporarily and served as Private J.M. Nimmo.

Captain was born at Ngapara and educated at the Ngapara school and Waitaki Boys' High School. After leaving school he worked for the Ngapara store before going overseas to France in 1918 with the First NZEF. In the 1920's he was involved in dairy farming on mine land but after the death of his father he took over the management of the Ngapara mine in 1941. In 1971 the mine had to be closed down because it was no longer economic with decreased demand for domestic coal. The mine had been in operation by the Nimmo family for 93 years, had produced over 200,000 tons of coal, and was believed to be the oldest mine in New Zealand continuously worked and the last to use a pit pony. It was always a matter of regret for Captain that the mine had to be closed and that he was forced to retire even though he was 74 years old when that happened.

He was pleased when New Zealand Cement Holdings bought the land in 1976 and always hoped that coal would be mined in the Ngapara district again one day.

Captain was well known in the district for his community work. He was Chairman of the school committee and the second grandmaster of the Manchester Unity Lodge. For many years he was Chairman of the Ngapara Cemetery trust and was connected with the Windsor water scheme. One of the important contributions to the district was made about

1942. When the local hall was burnt down it was too expensive to hire an architect to design a new hall, so this task was done by Captain and his wife.

During World War II Captain tried to enrol for active service again but was turned down because of lung scarring caused by gas during service in 1918. He had to be content with Home Guard duties and he was Second Lieutenant of the Ngapara platoon. He was involved in the Patriotic Committee.

Captain married Elsie Scoon who was teaching at Ngapara on July 4, 1928, and they had two daughters and three sons, one of whom died in infancy. Elsie predeceased Captain and died on 10 June 1976.

## **FAMILY OF CAPTAIN NIMMO**

### **MARIAN MARGARET YOUNG (NEE NIMMO)**

Born 4 February 1930. Educated at Ngapara School, Waitaki Girls' High School, Otago University and Dunedin Teachers' Training College. Graduated with an M.A. in History, with a thesis written on the History of Coal Mining in Otago, 1844-1908. Taught at Mosgiel, Waimate, Tauranga and in London before going to Cashmere High School in 1961. Became head of the history department and then Senior Mistress in 1970, a position held for eighteen years until retirement at the end of 1987. Married Robin Young on 9 January 1971.

Marian was for 25 years a member of the Christchurch Harmonic Society choir and had the good fortune to be in the choir which represented NZ at the Commonwealth Arts Festival in 1965, with concerts in London, Cardiff, Glasgow and Boston.

### **ALISON HELEN BUDGETT (NEE NIMMO)**

Born on 7 January 1932. Educated at the same institutions as her sister. Became a primary school teacher with a special interest in new entrants. Taught in Alexandra for seven years and for shorter periods at Windsor (near Ngapara), London, Tauranga and Whangarei. Married Robert Budgett on the 11 January 1965 and they have two sons and a daughter.

In recent years Alison has become involved with the Lifeline counselling service and she is currently Director of Lifeline in Whangarei where she has lived since her marriage.

### **NEIL MCKENZIE NIMMO**

Born on the 12 August 1934. His twin brother, William Matheson, died ten days later. Educated at Ngapara school, Waitaki Boys' High School and Canterbury University where he graduated B.Sc, B.E.(Chemical). In 1961 he went to Britain where he has been based ever since. Neil has been involved in chemical engineering projects worldwide. In the 1960's he developed a special expertise in methanol plants. Later as Technical Development Director of Davy McKee he came involved in negotiations for the methanol and later the synfuel plants in Taranaki and was a consultant to the N.Z. government for these sometimes controversial projects. He is currently general manager of Balfour Beatty Engineering and based in Sidcup, Kent. One of the projects he is involved with at present is the channel tunnel from England to France.

One of Neil's more interesting experiences was being invited with his wife to dinner at 10 Downing Street on the 19 May 1982. Among Mrs Thatcher's other guests were the Duke and Duchess of Kent, several British Cabinet Ministers, Mr and Mrs Muldoon, and Mr and Mrs Park, the latter better known as Kiri Te Kanawa!

Neil was elected as a Fellow of the Institute of Chemical Engineers in 1968 and has served on branch committees. He has always been a keen sportsman, was a University Blue in tennis and badminton, and is now a dedicated golfer. He was married in England on the 12th of October 1963 and has two daughters and one son.

### **JAMES MATHESON NIMMO**

Born on the 3 September 1944. Educated at the same places as Neil with a degree in civil engineering from Canterbury University. After experience with other firms, including work in Timaru and Melbourne as well as Christchurch, he established his own engineering firm, Nimmo Consulting, in Christchurch. Jim has designed many buildings, perhaps the most notable being a seven story building using a special method of steel prefabrication on which he was asked to deliver a paper at the Pacific Structural Conference in 1986. Jim has been area representative for Canterbury - Westland on the association of Consulting Engineers and in 1987 was a visiting lecturer on steel structures at Canterbury University. For eight years he was on the school committee of the Cashmere Primary School, including a period as Chairman.

Jim has always been especially interested in flying. He holds a private pilot's licence and is a joint owner of a Piper Cherokee which he uses for his business.

On the 30 January 1969 he married Joy Monteath in Oamaru and they have two daughters and one son.

## THOUGHTS BY ALICE McKENZIE

The story is now told and there must be many more interesting items unknown to us, but the all important thing is to record what we know.

We pay tribute to our grandparents, James and Christina Matheson, for their courage and fortitude in meeting all circumstances as they came and lifting themselves above all adversity. Almighty God was their strength always. There is only one person with us today who knew the grandparents, my cousin - Allan Nimmo. Grannie Matheson after her momentous voyage to New Zealand, never travelled far from home.

When I was but four years old, Grannie Matheson sent me a  
 little cardboard star. with these words -  
 Obey my                      On the other side her words  
 voice                      "From Grannie to Alice  
 Jer 7.23                      Christmas 1908

How it remained with me for 78 years is nothing short of a miracle. Now although shabby, its message rings loud and clear.

During an overseas visit to Scotland, my brother George called on a Weir descendant who claimed Dr George Matheson the blind writer of two well known hymns 'O Love that will not let me go' and 'Make me captive Lord' was a connection of the Matheson family. We would like to think this was so for he had a remarkable talent. My grandson, Donald Hegan during his studies wrote a paper on Dr Matheson's hymn 'O Love that will not let me go'. When he was eight years old he began to lose his sight and within 17 years he became completely blind. He had a brilliant career as a student despite his handicap. His arresting and original preaching earned for him the highest esteem along with his writing aids to the study of German theology and 'can the old faith live with the new'. As well he produced a long series of devotional writings. Born in 1842 died in 1907.

A look into early times at the Kennington Fellmongery : My Father worked in the wool scouring trade and in 1894 bought a property on the Waihopai River, Kennington, where he set up a wool scouring business. The wool was scoured in two set-in tubs at ground level, then transferred to a spinning machine, much on the same principle as todays household washing machine. Being partly dry it was then ready to be laid on wool sheets to dry in the sun and breeze. Should the weather be indifferent it was spread in a large three storied shed completely covered with wire netting to allow the wool to dry. The plant was run on



steam and a Mr Harry King, who according to the story, had an engineers 'ticket' manned the boilers. He was a big man with a cheerful face and would allow me to blow the whistle if I happened to be around at night time, which wasn't often, but it did give me a sense of importance. I recall my Mother going to the works to do a days sewing - mending sheets, what a day. It began with the arrival of Prince, the draft horse, dragging the dray which was mostly used to cart baled wool to the railway station for Bluff and then to be shipped to London. I was very much to the fore, full of excitement urging Mother to hurry along. At last we were away, sewing machine, our lunch and ourselves aboard. The lunch was clod lamb and mint sauce new potatoes and green peas from Dad's garden. It was only a short distance but Prince didn't know of the word speed. At last we were there and Mother ready for work and for me play running round making myself known to the staff. A fire was lit in the office and vegetables set to cook. Never was there such a delicious lunch and to top it off a glass of Mothers Boston Cream. This event remains very clear in my mind.

The years sped by and in 1914 war was declared. My two brothers volunteered to join the forces. There were a number of Kennington boys who did likewise. As their training at Trentham finished they returned home for two weeks before going overseas. We were set to have a gay time, for by then we had acquired a car, an enormous Buick, but it didn't work that way for the future was so uncertain. A farewell concert and presentation was arranged in the local hall, but it was a sad affair. Within a few days it was time to leave for the 6am train. The morning was dark and cold, the soldiers meet in the drill hall where they were led to the station by the Garrison Band. I pay tribute to this band who turned out in all weather to honour our soldiers. I noticed my brothers sweetheart crying, the uncertainty she would never see her soldier was to prove very real. So the whistle blew and the train slowly moved off carrying a large number of fine young men many who did not return.

My Mother did yeoman work during the war years. She baked numerous fruitcakes in cut down kerosene tins. A young man Lyall living next door who was in the plumbing business soldered the tins down to send overseas. She organised a knitting group who made balaclavers, scarfs, socks and such like. Besides this she wrote endless letters to Kennington boys in the forces. Then came the dreaded telegram that my brother Alex age 22 was killed in action. Only 2 months later came through that my brother James age 25 was lost during the battle of Passchendale where thousands of New Zealander's gave their lives in this

misplaced manoeuvre. Many years later I visited their resting place and was moved at the caring of the cemetery in Ypres.

Life moved on and in a few years moved to Invercargill where in 1926 I married William Donald McKenzie. Five children were born to us. In 1941 we took over "Mains O' Blair", the McKenzie family home and farm. To our grief in 1954 our youngest daughter Helen Marcell died at the age of 18. We give thanks for the bright and loving personality which surrounded her and would have greatly appreciated a more prolonged life with us.

The years at "Mains O' Blair" were happy and full of events. Our four children were married from the old home, known so well throughout Southland. In no time we were grandparents to 16 children and enjoyed their attractive childish ways to the full. Now several have married and we are blessed to have 10 great grand children, so for us the cycle ends. We trust God will be gracious to them to become upright and worthy citizens of this world we live in.

For present and future generations, let us give thanks and praise to Almighty God for our ancestors who braved the elements and accepted the dangers that we as a future generation may lead a better life.

#### A BLESSING FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

Go on your way in peace

be of good courage

hold fast to that which is good

render to no man evil for evil

strengthen the faint hearted,

support the weak

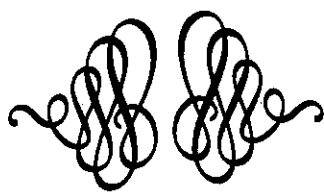
help and cheer the sick,

honour all men

love and serve the Lord

may the blessing of God be upon you and remain with you forever.

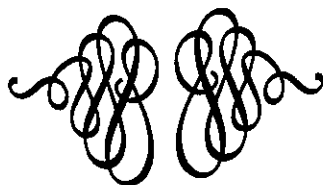
(Gloucester Cathedral - Benediction)



Margaret, Jim, Blair and Isobel McKenzie



Alice Matheson





In 1967 before departure overseas  
Alice and William McKenzie with Aunty Minnie, Family and Grandchildren

## APPENDIX

From the New York Public Library publication 'The Surnames of Scotland' there in is set out some early origins of the clan.

"MATHESON, Mathieson, Mathison, 'son of MATTHEW,' q.v. Robert filius Mathei witnessed a charter by Walter filius Alani, a.1177 (RMP., p. 49). John Mathyson and Michael Mathowson were outlawed as guilty of the slaughter of Walter de Ogilvy, sheriff of Angus, in 1392 (APS., I, p.579), and Andrew Mathysoun was forestaller in Aberdeen in 1402 (CRA., p.384). William Mathison, witness in Aberdeen, 1446 (REA., I, p.245). James Methosoun was sub-prior of Tungland, 1566 (Laing, 801). The Green family and its branches from A.D. 861 to A.D. 1904, New York, 1905, traces (p.266) the Mathesons to the Maeataea, an ancient tribe inhabiting the country between the Firths of Forth and Tay in the second century! Mathesone 1633, Mathoson 1474, Mathouson 1444."

"MATHESON, Mathowson. II.

(1) The Mathesons of the North are known in Gaelic as M'Mhathain, collectively as Mathanach. In the genealogical ms of 1467 the name is spelled Mac Matgamna, the full form of which is Mac Mhathghamhuin, 'son of the bear' (The Scottish bear is mentioned by Martial, epig., VII, 3,4). The earliest record of the name is in 1264, in which year Kermac Macmaghan in Inverness received twenty cows of the fine of the Earl of Ross for services rendered (ER., I, p.19). In the Norse Saga he is called Kjarmak son of Makamal = Cormac Macmathan. The Siol Mhathain, a sept of Matheson, in an old Gaelic song appears as Siol Mhothan, and in Sir Robert Gordon's History of the earldom of Sutherland as Seil-Wohan or Seil-Wogan. Matheson has been adopted as the English form of the name simply on account of the similarity of the sound.

(2) Matheson, Matthewson, Mathieson, meaning 'son of MATTHEW', q.v., is rendered in Gaelic by M'Mhatha, now Macmath or Macma, once more or less common in Perthshire, Kintyre, Ayrshire, Galloway and Dumfriesshire. Some Macmaths have Englished their name Matheson. George Mathesone was tenant in the town of Midlyme, 1567 (Kelso, p.521). The names of John Mathonson, burgess of Aberdeen, 1444 (NSCM., I, p.8), and David Mathonson, common councillor there, 1475 (Guildry, p.189), are probably for Mathouson with u misread as n. Sir John Matthyson was rector of Blair, 1546 (Rollok, 14)

MATHEWSON, 'Son of Matthew', q.v.

MATTHEWS. 'Son of Matthew', q.v.

MATTHEWSON, 'Son of Matthew', q.v. "

### **ELEAN DONNAN CASTLE**

by William Matheson

It could be said that Eilean Donnan Castle and the Clan Matheson are about the same age. Expert opinion has it that the castle (blown up in 1719 and restored in 1932) was built in the thirteenth century, while Coinneach son of Mathan, identified as founder of the Matheson and McKenzie clans, appears on record in 1264. It has been alleged that he it was who had the commission to build the castle, of which he may have become custodian as deputy for the Earl of Ross.

Another Coinneach or Kenneth, presumably a descendant was keeper of Eilean Donnan two generations later. Unfortunately for him, he was on the losing side in the national struggle between the Comyns and the Balliols on the part and the Bruce on the other. The day of reckoning came in 1331, when the castle was besieged and taken. Many of the garrison were executed, and Thomas Randolph, nephew of King Robert Bruce and Guardian of Scotland, arrived on the scene to see their heads displayed on its walls. Kenneth himself, after a long imprisonment, suffered the same fate at Inverness in 1346.

For some time the fortunes of Kenneth's descendants were at a low ebb, but the tide turned for them with the death of David II, last of the royal Bruces, in 1371. Thereafter they steadily made good their losses, and eventually, led by the house of Seaforth, they achieved territorial power to rival that of their early masters, the Earls of Ross. But that is another story; suffice it here to say that their success was founded upon opposition to the Macdonald Lords of the Isles and support for the Crown. And it was apparently in this political context that the Matheson's broke away to form a separate clan from the MacKenzies, pursuing the opposite policy of adherence to the MacDonalds.

# FAMILY ADDRESSES

Mrs Mona	Albrough	1/9 Melvern Avenue	Atauhai Drive	NELSON
Mrs Cora	Beattie	1/21 Farnley Place	Parklands 1	CHRISTCHURCH
Dr Bill	Brockett	28 Wairarapa Tec	Fendalton	CHRISTCHURCH
Mrs Avril	Brockett	18 Richards Avenue		CHRISTCHURCH
Mr David	Brockett	28 Walrarapa Tec		CHRISTCHURCH
Mr Reginald	Brockett	28 Walrarapa Tec		CHRISTCHURCH
Mr Robert	Brockett	16 View Street		BALCLUTHA
Miss Clare	Brockett	3/78 Holly Rd		CHRISTCHURCH
Mr Robin	Brockett	22 Kimberley Ave	Drysdale VIC	AUSTRALIA 32
Mr Kevin	Brockett	36 Office Road		CHRISTCHURCH
Mrs Alison	Budgett	C/- M.Young	6 Hanrahan St	CHRISTCHURCH
Mrs Karen	Burton	68 Tototra Cres	Woburn	LOWER HUTT
Mrs Isabel	Campbell	36 Halstead St	Pleasant Point	STH CANTERBU
Mr William	Campbell		P.O.Box 130	OMARAMA
Mr Alexander	Campbell	Awapapa Station	Private Bag	GISBORNE
Mr John	Campbell	101 Sheehy St	Rockhampton	AUSTRALIA 47
Miss Christina	Campbell	C/- 36 Halstead St	Pleasant Point	STH CANTERBU
Miss Margaret	Campbell	Awapapa Station	Private Bag	GISBORNE
Mr Andrew	Campbell	36 Halstead Street	Pleasant Point	STH CANTERBU
Mrs Helen	Gilkison	Hokonui	No 2 RD	WINTON
Mrs Rosalie	Goode	237 Matson Avenue		CHRISTCHURCH
Mrs Allison	Hampton		P.O. Box 15	CULVERDON
Mr Donald	Hegan	73 Hood Street	Kaikorai	DUNEDIN
Mr Bruce	Hegan	C/- M.Hegan	Otahuti No 4	RINVERCARGILL
Mrs Margaret	Hegan	RD 4	Otahuti	INVERCARGILL
Mrs Denise	Hutterd	49 Queens Road		NELSON
Mr Peter	Inglis	168 Lamond Street		INVERCARGILL
Mr Lex	Inglis	73 Catherine Street		INVERCARGILL
Mr Bill	Inglis	130 Otaki Street		KAIAPOI
Miss Joyce	Inglis	30 Sargeant Street		WANGANUI
Mr Timothy	Inglis	20 Cherrywood Place	Redwood	CHRISTCHURCH
Mrs Loel	Kennedy	30 Osborne Street		RIVERTON
Mr John	Matheson	Kennington	P.O. Box 745	INVERCARGILL
Mr Wayne	Matheson	Kennington	P.O. Box 745	INVERCARGILL
Mr Derek	Matheson	5 Glenfinnan	Andersons Bay	DUNEDIN
Mrs Kathleen	Matheson	81 Gladstone Tec		INVERCARGILL
Mrs Michelle	McConnell	133 Lynn Street		DUNEDIN
Mrs Alice	Mckenzie	143 Lewis Street		INVERCARGILL
Mrs Shirley	McKenzie	P.O. Box 131		INVERCARGILL
Mr Blair	McKenzie	Frankton Road	P.O. Box 507	QUEENSTOWN
Mr Jim	McKenzie	Blinkbonnie	RD	DIPTON
Mr Alaistair	McKenzie	69 Ruru Av	Otatara	INVERCARGILL
Mr Douglas	McKenzie	105 Maungarei Rd	Remuera	AUCKLAND
Mr Gordon	McKenzie	3E Huntington Apartme	10 Marine Para	AUSTRALIA 42
Mr Malcolm	McKenzie	C/- Blinkbonnie	RD	DIPTON
Miss Jane	McKenzie	Blinkbonnie	RD	DIPTON
Mr Allan	Nimmo	P.O. Box 28	Coalgate	CHRISTCHURCH
Mr John	Nimmo	C/- M.Young	6 Hanrahan St	CHRISTCHURCH
Mr Gordon	Nimmo	2/39 Luton Ave	Pakuranga	AUCKLAND
Mr Neil	Nimmo	C/- M.Young	6 Hanrahan St	CHRISTCHURCH

# FAMILY ADDRESSES

Mr James Nimmo	21 Westenra Tec	Cashmere	CHRISTCHURCH
Mrs Elizabeth O'Conner	19 Wilford St	Woburn	LOWER HUTT
Mrs Juliet Palmer	27 Sheridan Tec	Johnsonville	WELLINGTON 4
Mrs Alma Parr	C/- M.Young	6 Hanrahan St	CHRISTCHURCH
Mrs Heather Rae	82 King Cres		LOWER HUTT
Mrs Pauline Roberts	76B Paynters Avenue		NEW PLYMOUTH
Mrs Marjory Verry	100 Eban Avenue	Northcote	AUCKLAND
Mrs Lois Wilson	30 Williams Street		KAIAPOI
Mrs Diane Woods	Amuri Downs	RD 4 Claremont	TIMARU
Mrs Marian Young	6 Hanrahand Street		CHRISTCHURCH



CRAIG PRINTING CO. LTD, INVERCARGILL

60871