



Blair of Blair

BLAIR BRUIDHINN

• Honorary Member Rt. Hon. Robin Blair — Former Lord Lyon King of Arms of Scotland •



Blair of Balthayock

“Blair Talk” for Clan Blair Society

www.clanblair.org

Third Quarter – August 2017



Please consider your personal involvement in your State Clan and/or the CBS leadership team. I encourage your idea sharing with High Commissioner Bill Blair at CBSclantent1@clanblair.org or me.

It is a Great Day to be a Scot - Sláinte!

Jim Blair

president@clanblair.org

+++++

Annual General Meeting

September 23, 2017

10 am MDT – via webinar

The Board is planning for the **AGM** on September 23, 2017 at 10 am MDT. In addition to the general business meeting we plan to offer either presentations on the Blair heritage from Laurence Blair Oliphant, Chieftain of the Blair of Ardblair in the parish of Blairgowrie, Scotland, or on Scottish Flags by Bill Blair, Oregon. The AGM will be held via webinar and last about an hour. We will announce more details via the CBs email system. If you have thoughts or suggestions please send to president@clanblair.org.

+++++

Website Development

Webmaster Shawn Blair and assistant Nick Shryack are working diligently to upgrade the CBS website. In addition to modernization and information update, the team is developing a digital Clan Store, including fresh pictures, pricing, ordering and fulfillment. Additionally, they are developing a digital Membership section and will include New Member applications, payment and a weblink for New Member Information. Longer term, we expect the Membership page to accept referrals, updates and the ability for members to print their annual membership cards. Feel free to click on the new

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE:

Fellow Scots:

Happy Fall! Our Clan Commissioners and members are enjoying summer time festivals and we look forward to their reports and pictures. I hope summer 2017 is great for you, your family and your Scottish network.

I am honored to announce the selection of the first William Campbell Blair Scholarship recipient. Congratulations to **Erin Nicole Blair** of Laguna Nigel, CA who is an accomplished Championship Scottish Dancer. Erin was selected from 4 nominees, including herself, Logan Blair (piper), William Diman (athlete) and Conor Blair Stephens (athlete).

Erin will receive a \$500 stipend in the name of Dr. Blair, an official certificate from CBS, recognition in this newsletter (article follows) and recognition during the Annual General Meeting. We are very proud of this award and the first recipient.

Response to our request in May for nominations was excellent. Please begin considering candidates for the William Campbell Blair Scholarship nominations which will be accepted in May 2018.

The Board is announcing the Annual General Meeting (AGM) scheduled for Saturday August 23 at 10 am MDT. The meeting will include CBS business and a presentation by either Laurence Blair Oliphant of Scotland or by Bill Blair of Oregon on Scottish Flags. Follow-up announcements will be made via the CBS email system.

member information package at:
<http://clanblair.net/cbsmembers/new-members>

A hearty thanks to Shawn and Nick for their work on this important initiative.

Jim Blair
president@clanblair.org

+++++

Announcement – Membership Fee Change

As part of the 2016 Annual Board Meeting a proposal was approved to begin charging a \$5 annual fee to members who continue to request a paper version of the Blair Bruidhinn. The fee is to help offset the cost of printing and mailing and will be assessed for the 2018 year. Please contact Charlie Diman with questions and your preference about receiving the newsletter in paper versus digital form (the digital form is in color).

+++++

Recorded Broadcasts Available on Members-only website

All webinar hosted presentations by the CBS Board are available for your viewing on the Members-only website (<http://members.clanblair.org>). Please let Shawn Blair know if you have questions or encounter and difficulty viewing these wonderful programs (weblaird@clanblair.org).

+++++

FROM LOUISIANA

L. Buddy Blair

Buddy Blair reports:

I was and am a member of the Louisiana Highlands Scottish Society in Northwest Louisiana for 12 years.

We gathered, had great fun, put on an annual Scottish Festival and had wonderful Burns Suppers. Four years ago, I was transferred 2 hours south to

Central Louisiana. After a few months, I befriended a fellow Kilter and slowly found more and more kilt owners hanging out at the local pub. About this time, I married my best friend and yes, had a Scottish Themed Wedding. Funny thing is my best man was in a McDonald Kilt and my wife's brother was in a Campbell Kilt...too funny.



Buddy Blair and his bride, Alison McCampbell Blair

As time passed the "Kilted Ones" decided "Hey, let's start a Mardi Gras walking Krewe." Until we realized the costs in Mardi Gras Krewes. Naturally, our monthly gatherings at the pub migrated to our current Central Louisiana Scottish Society called 'The Krewe of Sian Dubh.'



Left to Right: Buddy Blair (Clan Blair); Daniel Paul (Clan Donald); Liam Gordon, Ken Gordon and Stu Rigger – all House of Gordon

Like most groups, we started with a ball of fire and turned into a steady simmer. We have 36 members from all walks of life: Three physician's, two

military, one TSA senior agent, mechanics, and retirees. Our monthly meetings all finish up where it all began...the pub.

The pub owner has gotten involved and went so far as putting a photo, taken from the rear, of 14 guys leaning on the bar. Not one of us had on the same tartan.

We have a booth at most city festivals, and we present the colors for the annual Red Cross Bash. We have plans for a possible festival of our own, and with any luck, our own Burns Ball in 2018.

Tooting my own horn. All started and brought to you by a Clan Blair Society member.

Fraternally,

L. Buddy Blair

+++++

FROM UTAH

Whit Young, Commissioner

This was quite a year. We set up two tents at the Salt Lake Games. These were the first Scottish games at the newly refurbished fairgrounds.

Saturday was very well attended and we had many visitors drawn by our over 6 foot-long model of Stirling Bridge covered with English Knights charging to the Battle with Andrew Moray and William Wallace. The Blair tent has become known as a source of information, not only for the Blairs but of Scottish history also.

Our second Scottish Games occurred at Payson, Utah, which while not as large, had a good crowd and we again set up our Stirling Bridge with its lengthy line of charging English knights. Last year, we were awarded a plaque for the "Best Decorated Tent" during the closing ceremony.

People walking by our 2-tent booth were drawn to the model of the bridge at the Battle of Stirling Bridge with the miniatures of English knights crossing it to battle the Scots. I did a lot of teaching: the value of Clan Blair, family history, and the Battle of Stirling Bridge. At Payson, on Saturday, July 8, I talked nearly constantly from 9 am to 5 pm. We were really busy. Sunday, I was hoarse.



Stirling Bridge with charging English knights





Payson, UT games: L-R Dave Blair, Tom Blair and Whit Young with The Stirling Bridge

While we may have not gotten many new members, we are spreading the scope of Clan Blair.

+++++

FROM COSCA

John McInnis, Director of Membership of Cosca
(Council of Scottish Clans and Associations)

We at COSCA are eager to get our quarterly newsletter, *The Claymore*, widely accessible to your Membership. As your members, they have a link to COSCA through you. We believe the news, articles and good ideas in *The Claymore* would be of considerable interest and well worth sharing. Under the leadership of our editor, Bruce Whyte, we see an even better publication in our future...We are broadening our outreach and building a better

resource for you. [Watch for a link on the Clan Blair Website] membership@COSCA.org

+++++

HAIL TO THE CHIEF

From Barbara Pixley, Member #294

The Lyrics

(written by Albert Gamse; set to James Sanderson's music, but rarely sung.)

Hail to the Chief we have chosen for the nation,
 Hail to the Chief! We salute him, one and all.
 Hail to the Chief, as we pledge cooperation
 In proud fulfillment of a great, noble call.
 Yours is the aim to make this grand country grander,
 This you will do, that's our strong, firm belief.
 Hail to the one we selected as commander,
 Hail to the President! Hail to the Chief!

("Hail to the Chief," is typically preceded with a fanfare of four "ruffles and flourishes" and then the familiar march. In 1954 the Department of Defense established it as the official musical tribute to the U.S. President.)

Barbara relays: The 'Chief' in Hail to the Chief is Scottish hero Roderick Dhu. Barbara adds: "Figures, as Scots left their mark on [seemingly] everything else. Scots Wha Hae!"

So, who was Scottish hero Roderick Dhu? Read on:

+++++

Roderick Dhu

(From "Ask Smithsonian")

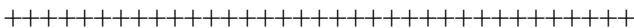
Roderick Dhu, or Black Roderick, and was a bloody-minded medieval Scottish outlaw. He became well-known through Sir Walter Scott's "The Lady of the Lake," an 1810 narrative poem. The poem was altered into a hit play, set in the

16th-century highlands. In one early scene, Roderick’s pike-wielding, tartan-clad clansmen serenade him with a lusty “Boat Song,” the source of our national tribute: “Hail to the Chief who in triumph advances! Honored and blessed be the ever-green Pine!”

During the War of 1812, America’s rematch with England, the play sounded just right to Americans. “Roderick Dhu is this Scottish chieftain who hates England,” explains Joseph Rezek, a scholar of British and American Romanticism at Boston University. Commanding his people against Scotland’s King James V, who was half English, Roderick was ruffian and ruler both, not unlike some of the first American presidents.



Depiction of frictional Roderick Dhu and a Fellow Clansman by Richard Westfall, 1810



NORTH CAROLINA REPORT

Charles Diman, Co- Commissioner

Introducing Scot and Vallie Blair, our new Co-Commissioners for North Carolina. Scott formerly represented the Clan Blair in the Heavyweight Wrestling competitions at Loch Norman.

This year, during the Latta Plantation Celtic Festival in March, he agreed to be Co-Commissioner of North Carolina with me. The timing was perfect as my wife and I became ill for the Loch Norman in April and Scot and Vallie successfully ran the tent alone. During the games, Scot won second place in the Battle Axe. Scott’s youngest son, Lochlan, won second in his age group in wrestling. They had a great time and are looking forward to many years of participation.

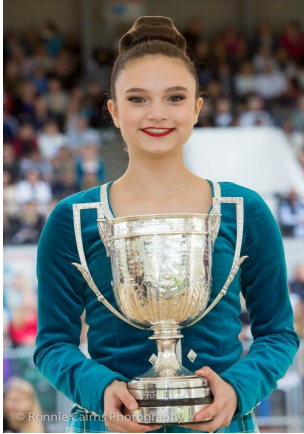
Here are some photos of those events:



Scott Blair and sons



**WILLIAM CAMPBELL BLAIR
SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT,
ERIN BLAIR FROM LAGUNA
NIGUEL, CALIFORNIA**



“She remains focused year after year and totally dedicated to always improving her craft. She is almost 16 now and could be distracted with other things in life but Highland remains her primary focus.”

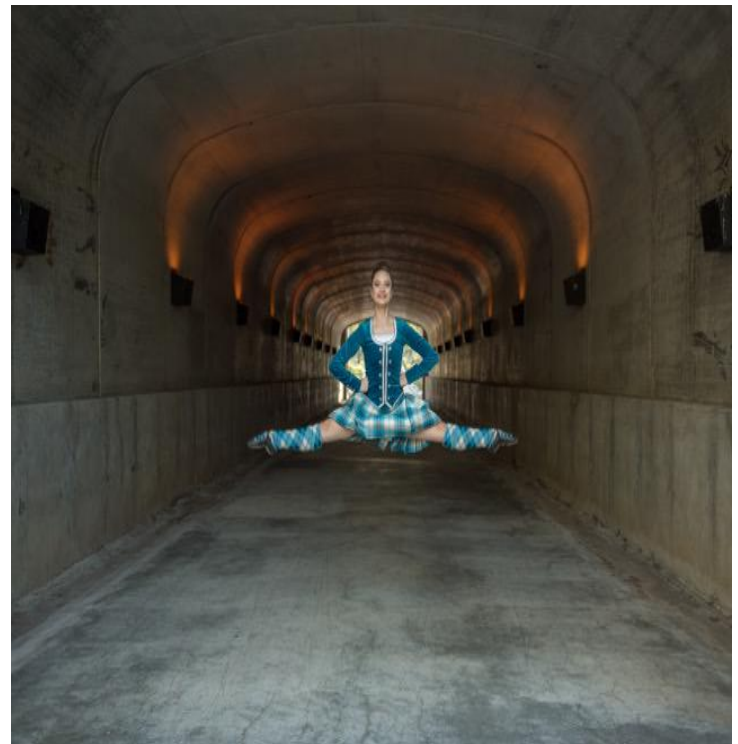
Erin says that when she starts to feel discouraged and thinks about stopping Highland dance, the thought of how she would miss it in her life gives her energy and the will to continue. Her mother Laura Blair sees her as very resilient. At home, Laura is involved with Erin’s dancing, and Erin’s brother plays bagpipes.

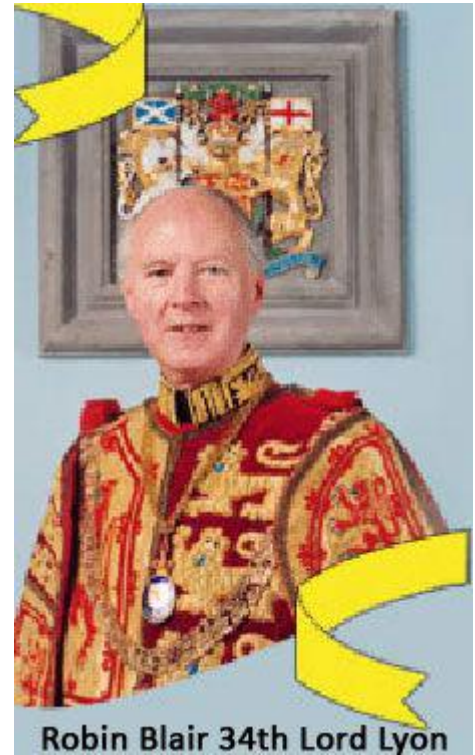
Erin’s list of awards earned in Highland Dance covers two pages, and is more than very impressive. There are many titles listed from Scotland, including “Champion of Champions” and champion titles she earned dancing in California, US Region and US National competitions as well as Canadian champion titles. Wow!

When this publication went to distribution, Erin was once again hard at work competing in Scotland. We look forward to hearing her reaction at receiving this award and also, hearing how she did in the Scotland competition.

For as long as Erin Blair can remember, she has danced. When she was 3, she began to study ballet, jazz, tap and other dances. When she was 8, she found Highland dance. She has since competed in Highland dance around the world. She was the first American to win 3 world titles.

On a typical day, 15-year-old Erin does schoolwork online, and dances, both ballet and Highland dancing. She has two Highland dance classes a week. Erin’s Highland Dance teacher, Linda Armstrong, who has taught Erin for 8 years, says





Robin Blair 34th Lord Lyon
Sincere apologies to Lord Lyon

2- The wonderful article from Northern California Commissioners and Clan Blair Librarian Elena and Russell Mc Crary: They were referred to as Elena and “Bob” McCrary in the May edition. His name is Russell. Also, the following photos were inadvertently left out of the edition:



+++++

EDITOR’S ‘OOPS’ CORNER

Our May 2016 issue of the Blair Bruidhann contained some mistakes that need to be corrected:

- 1- On page 6, the photo of the Rt. Hon. Robin Orr Blair /Lord Lyon, King of Arms of Scotland, was not a correct photo. Thanks to Web Laird and VP Shawn Blair, here is the correct photo:



Russell and Elena Mc Crary



Russell and Elena McCrary with the Mac Naughton Award; Most Honorable Clan – Fremont, California

In the last newsletter, I shared a story about lost treasures that returned home to the Odom Library. From that inquiry I received a wonderful call from member [Norma Jean Blair Gilmore in Montana](#). I love to talk, and Norma is a good listener. We shared stories of family when she offered to provide the collection a copy of the Blair history from her book *Our Scott and Blair Kinfolk*. While I had been hunting for a copy to purchase, none were to be had. I happily received the item, and had it bound for the Blair collection. You may now begin requesting it as [item #53](#). So, a huge round of applause to Norma for her generosity!

The table of contents will be particularly helpful if you are looking for a certain relative connection, and wish to have only this page or that page.



This photo was taken at the April, 2017, Sacramento games

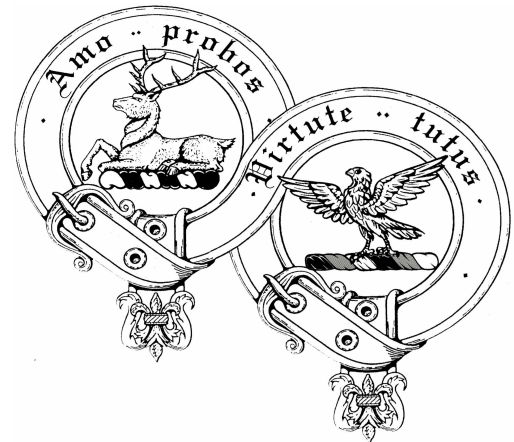
TABLE OF CONTENTS		page
SECTION I - BLAIR FAMILY		
Chapter I - Alexander Blair		1
II - William Blair		4
III - Mary Blair		12
IV - James Blair		14
V - Thomas Blair		15
VI - William Cochran Blair		24
VII - David Evans Blair		30
VIII - Samuel Blair		45
IX - Eleanor Blair		48
X - Alexander Blair		50
XI - Margaret Blair		58
XII - Harriet Blair		59
XIII - William H. Blair		63
XIV - Cyrus T. Blair		66
XV - Lydia Catherine Blair		77
XVI - Sarah Jane Blair		78
XVII - Eliza Blair		95
XVIII - Mary Adeline Blair		87
XIX - Anna Serepta Blair		93
XX - James Alexander Blair		99

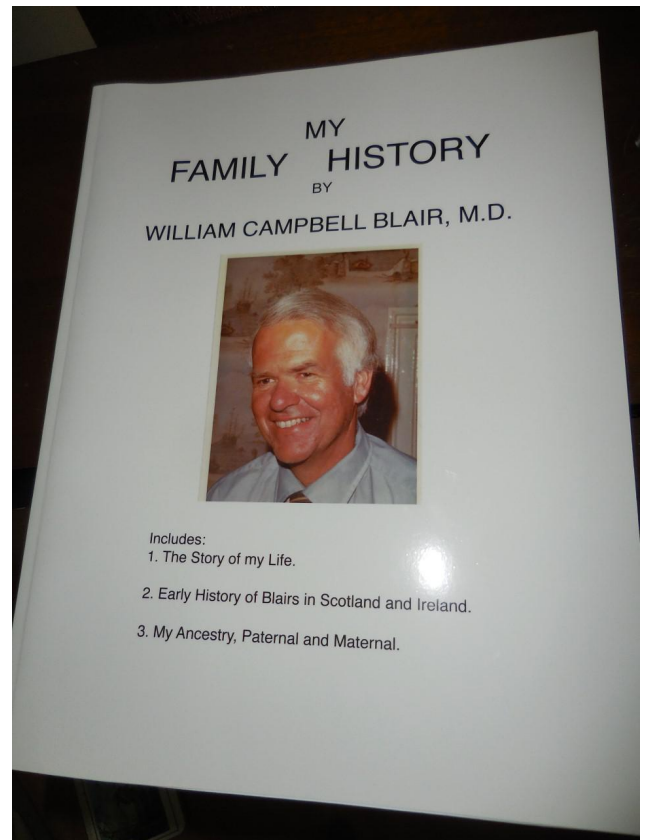
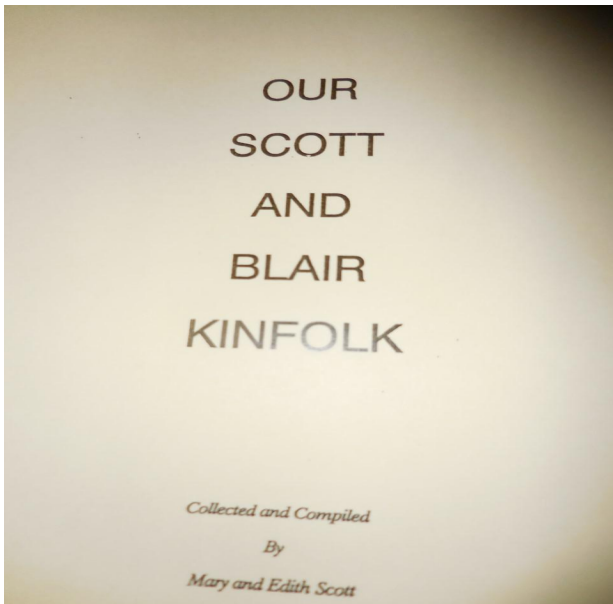
+++++

THE VALUE OF HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS

Elena McCrary, Clan Blair Librarian

Over the years as we meet new people and discover similar interests, I have found a passion for books and knowledge. How we pursue this goal is different for all, but what joins us is the desire to be helpful. This in a nutshell is what working in libraries is about. The Clan Blair Library collection is a new friend to me. Irene Godwin manages the Blair collection in Georgia, and together she shares information that is useful for our members, and me.





As we say in the library—problem solved. It also opened a new chapter, because members may be willing to donate their items to the library, and again the collection scored a bounty upon our visit to see Dr. William Campbell Blair in Menlo Park, CA. He graciously donated a copy of his family book to the Blair Collection in Georgia. Glancing through it, for all the inquiries we have received on, “how to” for genealogy buffs, his book is not to be missed. It will be **book #79** in the collection. Thank you, Bill. Your detective work is a daily inspiration.

Do you have a question about our collection, or the library in general? Please contact Elena McCrary at CBSLibrary@clanblair.org my phone number is (925) 833-9695.

+++++

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA COMMISSIONERS REPORT

Elena & Russell McCrary
August 24, 2017



The weekend of August 5 & 6 The Clan Blair tent was up and running at the 50th Monterey Scottish Games & Celtic Festival. The Monterey County Fairgrounds is a perfect location to enjoy a weekend with all who stopped by the Clan Blair tent. We met festival goers from Czechoslovakia, Scotland, Canada, and many from America who were out with their families enjoying their summer vacations. We learned the Navy hosts its own Burns Supper from the many military families that joined us for stamps; cookies; water and stories. If ever in Monterey, stop at Hula’s for dinner you will enjoy

yourselves, but show up early or you will be waiting in line.

Our next games will be Labor Day weekend, September 2nd and 3rd at the Scottish Highland Games & Gathering, Alameda County Fair Grounds in Pleasanton, CA. One of the largest games in the country, with over 100 clans in attendance, with many venues for all to choose from. Last year The Clan Blair Society was awarded Best Clan tent with Dr. Bill Blair receiving the award for his dedication and his never-ending support for Clan Blair Society and all things Scottish. CBS will be first in line during the clan parade so please come join us as we celebrate CBS and Bill Blair on either day.

Elena and I have just had a wonderful visit with Bill and he can use your well wishes and prayers. He will not be able to attend the Pleasanton games and will miss seeing clan members and friends. Russ took his laptop and shared pictures from our events this year. His seal of approval means everything to us. His smile said it all.

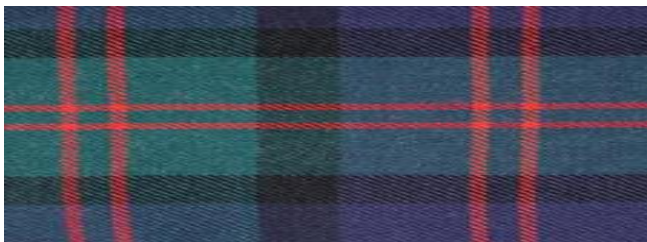
Scottish Highland Gathering & Games
Pleasanton, CA
September 2 & 3, 2017
<http://www.thescottishgames.com/>

+++++

SOUTH CAROLINA REPORT

Dale Grainger and Wyomia and Maggie Blair

Hey, Y'all! We had a great time at Gallabrae the past weekend. Here are some photos of the event, including Wyomia Blair with Senator Lindsey Graham.





+++++

COLORADO REPORT

Leslie Blair Gallagher

Pike's Peak Celtic Festival held in Colorado Springs, CO, in June

This is a small festival as it is only 5 years old. It is well attended by the community and we had quite a few Blairs come to visit in our booth. The photo is of me with Jacquie Holland of the band Allannach (who hails from Ayrshire). Group photo is Allan Blair (Flagstaff, AZ), Erin Curran (Denver, CO), Janet Perry McLaughlin (Colorado Springs, CO. (It turns out she has Blair in her lines!)) Leslie Blair Gallagher, (Colorado Springs, CO), and Jen Fox, (Denver, CO).



[We were able to talk Leslie into writing a baby report on little granddaughter Skye, who lives in England.]:

“Skye Autumn Gallagher Grandison, parents are Erin Blair Gallagher Grandison and Guy Grandison born October 2016, first grandchild of Leslie Blair Gallagher. I was able to visit her in England over Christmas 2016 and she is a delight to my heart. I will, again, get to keep Christmas with her this year.”



Skye Autumn Gallagher Grandison

+++++

Clan Blair Society Executive Board Chairs of Standing Committees

August 2017

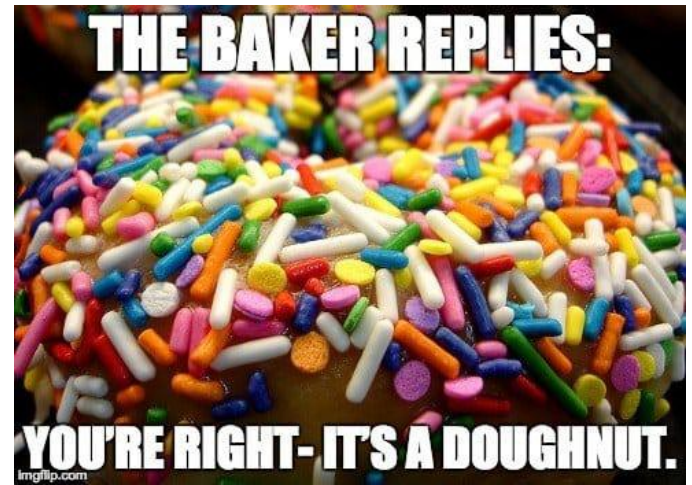
<p>Jim Blair – <u>President</u> 7200 So. Prince St. Littleton, CO 80120 303 795-9754 President@clanblair.org</p> <p>Shawn Blair - <u>Vice President</u> 682 County Rd Acton, ME 04001 207 619-0494</p> <p>Frances Holt - <u>Secretary</u> 15928 Lonecrest Drive Hacienda Heights, CA 91745 626 330-1034 Secretary@clanblair.org</p> <p>Ann Fredline - <u>Treasurer</u> 801 Red Road McMinnville, TN 37110 208 344-0286 Treasurer@clanblair.org</p> <p>Bill Blair - <u>High Commissioner</u> 8549 SW 147th Ter. #103 Beaverton, OR 97007 503-449-0129 clanblairoregon@comcast.net</p> <p>Shawn Blair = Webmaster Weblaird@clanblair.org Address – see above</p> <p>Charlie Diman – <u>Membership</u> 3413 Sunnybrook Drive Charlotte, NC 28210-4715 980-254-2743 Clanmembership@clanblair.org NC Commissioner email: cdiman@carolina.rr.com</p>	<p>Adoree Blair – <u>Blair Bruidhinn</u> 7200 S Prince Street Littleton, CO 80120 303 798-3881 Bruidhinn@clanblair.org</p> <p>Helen Blair – <u>Clan Store</u> 515 E. Carefree Highway #952 Phoenix, AZ 85085 480 529-0607 azclanblair@gmail.com</p> <p>Leslie Blair Gallagher - <u>Public Relations</u> 5532 Mansfield Ct. Colorado Springs, CO 80918 720 201-3128 Publicrelations@clanblair.org</p> <p>Elena McCrary - <u>Librarian</u> 29 Haven Place San Ramon, CA 94583 925-719-0324 CBSlibrary@clanblair.org</p> <p>Whit Young - <u>Blair Genealogy - Blairlin</u> 460 S. Moss Hill Dr. Bountiful, UT 84010 801-860-3322 CBSgenea@clanblair.org</p> <p>Nominating Committee: Curtis Blair, Chair - CO Helen Blair – AZ Charles Diman - NC Nominations@clanblair.org</p> <p>Clan Blair Scotland Trip Dick Holt 322 Aoloo Street PH3 Kailua, HI 96734 808 263-5856 ScotlandTrip@clanblair.org</p>
---	--

SCOTTISH JOKES! MIND (AND USE) THE ACCENT!

IF THERE ARE 10 COWS IN A FIELD,
WHICH ONE IS CLOSEST TO SAUDI
ARABIA?



A SHORT-SIGHTED SCOTSMAN
GOES INTO A BAKERY, POINTS TO
THE COUNTER AND ASKS, "IS THAT
A DOUGHNUT, OR A MERINGUE?"



AFTER A COUPLE ANNOUNCED
THEIR ENGAGEMENT, THE
GROOM-TO-BE TELLS HIS PAL HE
WILL, OBVIOUSLY, BE WEARING A
KILT TO HIS WEDDING.



Golf is an exercise in
Scottish pointlessness
for people who are no
longer able to throw
telephone poles at
each other.



CLAN BLAIR SOCIETY

Charles Diman
3413 Sunnybrook Drive
Charlotte, North Carolina 28210-4715



Address Service Requested

First Class Mail