



BLAIR BRUIDHINN



Blair of Blair

• 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 2018

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

August 2018



Fellow Scots –

It is summertime - and Scottish events are all around us. Our Clan Commissioners have hosted Clan tents at more than 20 festivals all over the country. It is a great time to be a Blair and a Scot!

You will see reports from Commissioners about CBS participation in local festivals and we thank those who took a little time to send reports and pictures. We can always include more.

CBS has transitioned the Clan Store from the management of Helen Blair to a small group of us located in Denver. The new store website is functional and includes luscious pictures of all the merchandise we offer, along with member-only pricing. We are working out the final details of the packaging and mailing fees associated with purchases. Ultimately, members can shop, order and receive merchandises with payments being made via PayPal or credit card.

Visit the new website at <https://clanblair.netcbsmembers/shop/store>

Also, we have featured several merchandise items in this newsletter with a special offer. We are overstocked on some books and other items which can be purchased at 50% off the normal member pricing. Visit the website or contact me directly.

The Board has scheduled the Annual Business Meeting for Saturday, September 29. All committees and officers will report activities for the past 12 months and actions regarding expenditures and finances will be undertaken. The results of this meeting will be reported to the membership during the Annual General Meeting (AGM) which is scheduled for Saturday, October 27 – conducted by web cast (ZOOM).

We are pleased to announce that two nominations for the William C. Blair Youth Award were received and are under consideration by the selection committee. Results will be announced at the AGM.

It's a Great Day to be a Scot – Sla'inte!

Jim Blair

jeblair@clanblair.org

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SCOTTISH TIES IN NORTH AMERICA

From: How the Scots invented the Modern World by Arthur Herman

By the time of the American Revolution, all three branches of the Scottish ethnic and cultural family were represented in America: The Highlanders, the Lowlanders and the Ulster Scots. The Ulster Scots were the first arrivals and were sought out for helping fight the Indians. By the time of the Revolution, 100,000 Scots were present as indentured servants at their first arrival. The book says that colonists learned, fairly quickly, that Ulster Scots were not obedient people, so their indentured status did not last long.

The Highlanders were last. It was difficult for those who settled in the Carolinas because the Scots' Gaelic language isolated them. They also had difficult times adjusting to the climate as opposed to the Scotland climate, which was dryer and often, hotter.

The Ulster Scots were often called "Scotch Irish" by other Americans. The Ulster Scots struggled both in Ireland and in America to retain their Scottish heritage. The religious conflicts in Ireland had only strengthened the Ulster Scots' strong Presbyterian religion, which was carried to America.

John Dickinson, a merchant in Philadelphia, described these Scotsman from Ireland upon their arrival thus: "Tall and lean, with weather-beaten faces and wooden shoes 'shod like a horse's feet with iron." Quaker Philadelphia was shocked by the women's attire: short, tight-waisted skirts and dresses, showing their bare legs underneath.

Most of these Ulster Scots ended up traveling west and populating the far reaches of their new homeland. Hard workers, they helped cut and hew the far reaches of this country. Their strong willingness to fight and die for land laid the foundation for western expansion.

These Scottish immigrants were the original architects of the log cabin. In fact, the word *cabine* means a rude enclosure built of stone and dirt in Scotland, and sod and mud in Ireland.

Herman notes that the Ulster Scot language was reflective of their original Scotland Lowland or Irish dialect. For instance, "whar" for "where", "nekkid" for "naked", and "sparkin'" instead of "courtin." Some of their language is still considered crude in the present day, and place names were appointed by the Ulster Scots that would make some people blush today. (page, 234, 2nd paragraph.) They were known for hard work and then bouts of boisterous leisure and heavy drinking. They were called by the terms "cracker" (from "craik" which meant braggart), or "rednecks" which, locally, meant "Presbyterian."

Famous Ulster Scots immigrants: U.S. presidents Andrew Jackson and James Polk, the 12th president of the U.S., was another.

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

October 27, 2018

Please join together for the Cyber AGM scheduled for October 27, 2018. This is Saturday at 10 am MDT. The Cyber AGM will be hosted via ZOOM and all members with a computer, internet connection or telephone can participate. The meeting is 1 hour in length and will include presentations about Clan Blair and Scottish history and a report on the operating and financial results from 2017/18. Webmaster Shawn Blair will send further details as the date approaches.

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Cottage in Scotland

COMMANDER SHIRT



We have located a provider for a Commander Shirt shown above. The shirt is a cotton poly blend with pockets and apelets and with the new CBS logo embroidered. The shirts are available in Red and Royal Blue and will cost \$40, plus shipping. I would like to build an order from members who are interested. If you would like one of these please let me know at president@clanblair.org. I would appreciate your interest by September 30. Please include your color preference and size. Sizes are Small, Medium, Large and Extra-Large.

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NORTHERN CALIFORNIA COMMISSIONERS REPORT

Elena and Russ McCrary, No California Commissioners

There is nothing so keen as a new adventure, and that is exactly what we enjoyed in Plymouth, CA the weekend of June 9 & 10, 2018. It was our first-time hosting Blair tents at the 3rd Annual Scottish Festival, aka: The Mother Lode Games & Gathering held at the Amador County Fairgrounds.

This venue transports one to a simpler time with the preserved village that points to its gold rush history. It was spacious without being too taxing. And, as the weekend was hot, being housed in a covered area was quite pleasant. It allowed our tents to be open for an afternoon breeze which was most welcome. Add to that,

we enjoyed a concrete floor while others had just dirt. It helped keep our tent cleaner.

As I greeted guests talking tartans, history, or offering a Walker cookie, Russ engrossed our visitors with DNA information. Our Scottish Surname and DNA map was another big draw for all who visited the clan tents. Clan Blair always gets a thank you from the other clans who bring their guests to look up their lineage. We are always surprised with new questions.

Our next-door neighbors were The Lockhart's (Holly Lamb & family) who were hosting their first tent and wished to know more. Across the way were the Crawfords who had a most wonderful set-up and who were great to visit with. We even sampled a local pint from the Amador Brewing Co.

Here's a "shout out" to new member and San Francisco Caledonian Club member Scott Grindy.

Next up is Labor Day weekend (September 1-2) in Pleasanton, CA. The 153rd Annual Scottish Gathering and Games. Clan Blair will be setting up tents, and we hope to see our new members visit our new location in the walnut grove. Let's pray the temperature is not 114°.

We hope all Clan Blair members had a safe summer and enjoy an autumn with one last game.



Visitors to the Blair Tent who were excited to see their Scottish roots

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Ye Ken Gaelic?

From Scottish Miscellany by Jonathon Green

There are actually six modern Celtic languages, and Gaelic, along with Irish and Manx, are the three Gaelic languages, while the English Celtic languages are Welsh, Breton and Cornish.

The Gaels came to Scotland in 5 AD. So, Gael is actually an Irish dialect that has been in use for 15,000 years!

There are variations in pronunciation in different parts of Scotland, as is common in other languages. One hears Gaelic in use on the islands surrounding Scotland for the most part. Of the five million people in Scotland, only about 1.5% speak Gaelic.

Some Scottish newspapers carry articles written in Gaelic. Some Gaelic words have been assimilated into English, such as “glen”, “bog” and “sporrán.”

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UTAH REPORT

Submitted by Whit Young,
Utah Commissioner

Attendance at the Salt Lake Festival was good and we had fairly good attendance at the booth. We also marched with the Clans, carrying our flags. I had a chance to meet the new President of the Utah Scottish Association. Her name is Mary Pat Gilmore. She also attended the Games at San Diego and signed up some new members for the California Blairs.

We followed up with our annual booth at Payson. They had a great attendance and we signed up two new members.

I have been spending a lot of time preparing a display for our booth in Salt Lake next year. It should look great. I have been thinking it would be good to move our booth to another spot (although it was fairly shady where we were) but I would like us closer or across from the vendors. Best Wishes to you all -

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COLORADO REPORT 3RD QUARTER 2018

Leslie Blair Gallagher, Colorado Commissioner

Activities:

Thus far this summer we attended Pike’s Peak Celtic Festival in Colorado Springs, CO. We also attended the Denver Metro Scottish Festival in Edgewater, which was a festival that had recently returned to the Denver area from a move into the mountain region. In September, we will be at the Long’s Peak Scottish Irish Festival in Estes Park, which will end out our festival season.

Four generations of the Blair Clan in Co Springs, CO



L to R: Shorty Autret Allen, Merlin Blair Allen, Leslie Blair Gallagher, Sage Alexander Allen, Edgar Allan Blair, Skye Autumn Grandison, Erin Gallagher Grandison, Eva Leilani Allen

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CLAN BLAIR SOCIETY STORE

CBS members are encouraged to consider purchasing merchandise from the CBS Clan Store. The Store is now available “On Line” and purchases can be made via PayPal or Credit Card. The Store can be accessed via the store website at:

<https://clanblair.net/cbsmembers/shop>

Some examples of merchandise include the following. These 3 items are on special NOW!

Please contact Jim Blair at president@clanblair.org with questions.

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COLORADO SCOTTISH FESTIVAL

Clan Blair Society returned to the Colorado Scottish Festival in June after a 3-year hiatus when the festival was moved to Western Colorado. This event returned to a beautiful park in the town of Edgewater and we enjoyed a great weekend. Pictured are: Erynn, Lochlann and Cordylia Blair Shryack, Nick Shryack and Jim Blair.



BlairLin III – Blair Family Trees (\$9 plus \$7 shipping) Regular price \$18 + shipping)



Clan Blair Long-Sleeved T-Shirt. \$10 plus \$7 shipping (Regular price \$19 + shipping)



CBS Golf Shirt; medium only \$9 plus shipping ular price \$19 + shipping (Regular price \$18 + shipping)



Also pictured are Dyani, Tiernan and Saoirse Blair Galligan and Jim Blair. Not pictured is Leslie Blair Gallagher and Adoree Blair.

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RECORDED BROADCASTS AVAILABLE ON MEMBERS-ONLY WEBSITE

Including the March 2018 CBS webinar, all webinar 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 any difficulty viewing these wonderful programs (weblaird@clanblair.org).

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SCOTTISH TRADITIONS: LAMMAS

DAY - From 'History Scotland'(3-7-2013)

Lammas Day, traditionally the first of August, celebrates the first harvest of the year. The feast has been celebrated in Scotland from at least medieval times and was known as the 'Gule of August'.





In the weeks before harvest, communities were at their highest risk of starving, as stocks from the previous harvest dwindled close to being exhausted. Lammas Day meant that the hope was a return to plenty and a celebration of the new harvest. In the Every-Day Book (published in 1838), author William Hone described celebrations held by Edinburgh farmers which included the building of towers, with communities competing to knock down each other's towers. This was a boisterous and often dangerous contest, at which participants were occasionally killed and often injured.



Author Margaret Bennett described the most ancient Lammas ritual in Scotland as the Burryman ritual, held in South Queensferry. In this, the Burryman walks the marches of the town, crowned with roses with a staff in each hand and a Scottish flag around his middle. He is accompanied by 'two officials, led by a bell-ringer and chanting children who collect money (for luck).'

Lammas fairs

St Andrews and Inverkeithing are the only two remaining places that celebrate a Lammas Fair. The Lammas fairs now include market stalls, food and

drinks. This is tamer than in bygone days, when a Lammas fair would have been very lively, with the hiring and firing of servants, the collecting of rental payments and the sale of livestock.

One of the biggest Lammas fairs was at Kirkwall in Orkney – famed for the Telltown marriages which took place at this fair. Here, a couple could enter into a temporary union at Lammas and could live together for a year and a day before either entering into a permanent union or separating – this was known as handfasting. A shorter commitment was entered into with the practice of 'Lammas brothers and sisters' who were joined together in a sexual partnership for the eleven-day duration of the Lammas fair.

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FIRST FEMALE SKIPPER OF WORLD'S LAST FERRY OF ITS KIND (BBC News)



Isabelle Law has qualified as the first female captain of the MV Glenachulish, which is almost 50 years old and serves the oldest crossing to Skye from the mainland.

She said: "It is quite unique for a woman to be a skipper, so hopefully it will encourage other people to follow their dreams."



The MV Glenachulish



LAUGHTER, THE SAME IN ALL LANGUAGES

A Scottish newspaper ad: "Lost a £5 note. Sentimental value."

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Have you heard about the lecherous Scotsman who lured a girl up to his attic to see his etchings? .... He sold her four of them.

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Jock was out working the field when a barnstormer landed.

"I'll give you an airplane ride for £5," said the pilot.

"Sorry, cannae afford it," replied Jock.

"Tell you what," said the pilot, "I'll give you and your wife a free ride if you promise not to yell. Otherwise it'll be £10."

So up they went and the pilot rolled, looped, stalled and did all he could to scare Jock. Nothing worked and the defeated pilot finally landed the plane. Turning around to the rear seat he said, "Gotta hand it to you. For country folk you sure are brave!"

"Aye," said Jock "But ye nearly had me there when the wife fell out!"

Dougal was a typical Scot. His wife Janet had just died and he wanted to place the least expensive death notice. He went to the newspaper office and wrote on the lodgement form, "Janet died."

The clerk explained that there was a minimum charge and he could have five words. Dougal added three more words: "Janet died, Toyota for sale."

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"Oh no, I've got my bagpipes in the oven!"

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At an auction in Glasgow a wealthy American announced that he had lost his wallet containing £10,000 and would give a reward of £100 to the person who found it.

From the back of the hall a Scottish voice shouted, "I'll give £150!"

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Sign at a Scottish golf course:  
'Members will refrain from picking up lost balls until they have stopped rolling.'

# Clan Blair Society

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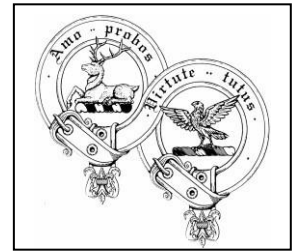
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