



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-September, 2023

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:



President's message:

I hope this newsletter finds you enjoying the last vestiges of summer. If you have a chance to catch an event this fall, be sure to try to partake in your heritage.

As a society, we have a lot of activities happening in the next few months to bring you up to speed on. The first is that it's election year. I want to thank Maggie Blair (SC) and Scott Blair (NC) for stepping up to serve on our nomination committee. Maggie and Scott have started the ballot creation process for the elections. Once the board has approved the ballot, we'll send a notice to the membership to vote online. Final results will be announced at the Annual General Meeting. The new officers will assume their roles after the AGM. The executive board will have their annual meeting September 16th. A date and time will be announced for the digital annual general meeting shortly after.

Elections always bring up the need for volunteers in the society. Our organization

operates as a result of the time volunteered by members in a large number of roles. I'd like to ask each of you if there is someplace where you could give some time throughout the year. You can volunteer by attending a festival to help a clan commissioner or hosting a tent at a festival nearby. You can also volunteer as a member of one of our committees to assist the chair with their roles. Often a member has some specialty that can be useful to the society. I first volunteered with Clan Blair Society when I received backup disks from the membership chair. But don't let that scare you away!

Aside from those contributions we have a need for a bit more involvement in other areas. We need volunteers with some experience to help with web management. We need help to maintain, update, and expand the web sites, social media, email, and mailing lists. Our membership chair, Russ, has been managing the membership for multiple years and is ready to pass it along to the next generation, so to speak. Adoree Blair, our editor, has been dedicated to producing our Blair Bruidhinn, four issues a year, for over a decade. That takes collecting article contributions, member reports, creating articles, and compiling the newsletter. Contributing articles and reports helps reduce her workload. I could go on as we have other roles that can use volunteers.

Often people are afraid that if they volunteer, it will take too much of their time. Please consider where you might enjoy contributing a small bit of time. Some of us tend to volunteer time, but

smaller time contributions are needed to function well.

I want to thank our clan commissioners, committee members and chairs, and officers for the time they have committed to the Clan Blair Society. We are in our 36th year since we were founded by a small group of charter members in late 1987. Having worked with most of them over those years I know they would all be appreciative and proud of those who have made those 36 years possible. They cared about the mission and made their own contributions along the way. As I step down as president and being part of the executive board since 1992, my hope is that Clan Blair Society continues it's mission long beyond my time.

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Announcing a 2024 Scotland Trip

I have been working with a travel company that has put together a plan for a trip to Scotland in August 2024. The dates of the trip are August 11th - 19th. The itinerary includes time in towns from the lowlands to the highlands, with tours of historic sites and events. Visits to ancient castles, distilleries, and scenic vistas are on the docket. Historic Blair related property visits are in the plan.

First class hotel reservations, deluxe motor coach, and driver and guide are all arranged for your comfort and enjoyment.

There is a trip flyer available with itinerary detail and other information you'll need. A deposit will be necessary to hold a spot. Clan Blair Society members, family, friends, and other Blair interested parties are welcome to join the trip. Capacity at this point is 18.

If you are interested, complete the form attached to the flyer to hold a spot. If you're interested

but not decided, let us know of your interest. Email scotland@clanblair.org with any questions.

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The Jacobite Movement and the Scots Covenanters Before the Battle of Culloden (from various sources including Wikipedia)*



The years leading up to Culloden and its tough loss for Scotland began about 200 years before the battle when King James I of England, Ireland and Scotland (Successor of Queen Elizabeth and son of Mary Queen of Scots), lost his throne and was exiled due to the 1688 “Glorious Revolution” that brought William and Mary to the English throne.



William and Mary

Of course, religion had a mix in the whole mess. Covenanters and Jacobites were two different groups. The Covenanters were a 17th-century Scottish religious and political movement that supported the Presbyterian Church of Scotland and the primacy of its leaders in political affairs. (The Covenanters' name is derived from covenant, a biblical term for a bond or agreement with God.) They felt that the King was on the throne by divine support and that he should stay on the throne. The origins of the movement lay in disputes with James VI and his son Charles I over church structure and doctrine. James I wanted to be tolerant of both Catholics and Presbyterianism, so began to push to have the rituals and policies of both religions be similar. This infuriated the Covenanters, who were the majority in Scotland.

Jacobites, on the other hand, were supporters of the exiled Stuart King James II of England, VII of Scotland and his descendants. While this was the most consistent difference, Jacobitism was a complex mix of ideas, many opposed by the Stuarts themselves; in Ireland, it meant tolerance for Catholicism, which James supported, but it also meant granting Irish autonomy and reversing the 17th-century land settlements, both of which he opposed. The Jacobite movement included the Scottish Highlanders who rose unsuccessfully in 1689; those who rose in Scotland and Northern England under the leadership of James Edward Stuart, the Old Pretender, in 1715; and those who followed his son, Charles Edward Stuart in an invasion of England that reached Derby in

1745-46. Seeking tolerance for different religions, James I began to standardize religious practices between the churches of the three countries, which caused a lot of tension in churches and citizens. Because James ruled without parliament, he was autocratic and his choices were 'law.' This caused grave hostility in all 3 countries by those who did not share Jacobite beliefs but were more sternly passionate about their individual religious practices. Many Scots felt very deeply that religion and government should be one and the same, and that there should be a parliament to counter the power of the king.

(** Note that many Scots who were Covenanters in certain areas had to flee Scotland to save their lives. One such couple was the young Bryce Blair and his wife Esther Peden Blair, (part of the Blair of Blair line in Ayrshire) along with their new baby Nancy, who fled to Antrim, Ireland and today have descendants in Ireland and America.)



Covenanters Fleeing Scotland

What Happened to the Jacobite Movement?

Within 60 years of the Glorious Revolution, a full five battle attempts to restore James I's descendants, via Charles Edward Stuart, (later known as Bonnie Prince Charlie or The Young Pretender), took place. The final battle, from which the Jacobite movement did not rise again, was Culloden.



Bonnie Prince Charlie, James Francis Edward Stuart



Flora McDonald

Flora MacDonald (Gaelic: *Fionnghal nic Dhòmhnail*, 1722 - 5 March 1790) was a member of Clan Macdonald best known for helping Charles Edward Stuart evade government troops after the Battle of Culloden in April 1746. Her family generally backed the government during the 1745 Rising and MacDonald later claimed to have assisted Charles out of sympathy for his situation.

Arrested and held in the Tower of London, she was released under a general amnesty in June 1747. She later married Allan MacDonald and the couple emigrated to North Carolina in 1773. Their support for the British government during the American War of Independence meant the loss of their American estates and they returned to Scotland, where she died in 1790.

Although there was a decline of Jacobitism after Culloden as a serious political force, there was a great deal of sentiment that continued for the movement. Many Jacobite songs were and are sung, especially in the Highlands. George III

even gave a pension to the last heir of Bonnie Prince Charlie, who was Henry Stuart, cardinal Duke of York.



The last "Pretender", son of Bonnie Prince Charlie

Henry Benedict Thomas Edward Maria Clement Francis Xavier Stuart, Cardinal Duke of York was the son of Bonnie Prince Charlie. Said to be timid and shy, he became a Roman Catholic cardinal, as well as the fourth and final Jacobite heir to publicly claim the thrones of Great Britain and Ireland. Unlike his father, James Francis Edward Stuart, and brother, Charles Edward Stuart, Henry made no effort to seize the thrones. After Charles's death in January 1788 the Papacy did not recognize Henry as the lawful ruler of Great Britain and Ireland, but referred to him as the Cardinal Duke of York.

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CLAN MEMBERSHIP NEWS

By Russell McCrary

We would like to acknowledge all our New Members who have joined this year and we hope to add to this list in the months ahead.

NEW MEMBERS

#1298 Teresa and Thomas Brock from Virginia

#1299 Fred and Catherine Blair from Kentucky

- #1301 David Steedman from Maine
- #1302 Earl and Ronda Vanover from Virginia
- #1303 Michael and Lisa Blair from Virginia
- #1304 Edward and Anne Blair from South Carolina
- #1305 April McCoid from Colorado
- #1306 Jannine Mohr from Colorado
- #1307 Dr. Johannes and Susanne Bleher from Germany
- #1308 Kristen Bartlett from Vermont

We are fortunate to have known a few of our clan members who were instrumental in the beginning of the Clan Blair Society. Starting in 1987 with member #1 Norman Blair we are with our latest member Kristen Bartlett on membership #1308. Norman and many clan members are no longer walking with us on Earth, but we can keep them dear to our hearts. In remembrance of those a favorite Gaelic proverb.

Sith do d’ anam, is Clach air do Charn.

Peace to your soul, and a stone on your cairn.

October is fast approaching, and renewals will be in the mail before you know it. Since the pandemic membership has dropped every year and this is due mainly to the many Highland Games that have disappeared from our calendars. In the end we hope all will renew their memberships and be of assistance to our commissioners when you find a Blair tent at your favorite Highland Games!

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OUR BLAIR FRIENDS ON CLAN BLAIR SOCIETY FACEBOOK!

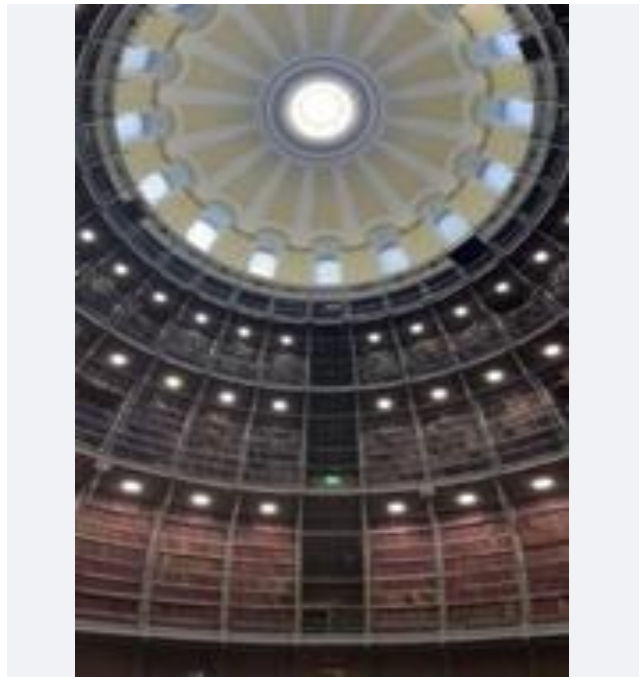
9-23-2023

Lori Leyba

I have a little exciting news. I met a new Blair descendant a couple of months ago and her branch inherited many documents and photos that include my Blair and Osborne families from East Tennessee. I am collaborating with her by scanning all of them so more people can enjoy them. Also she is a nun in an abbey just two hours north of me - how's that for convenience?

Elena Sotelo-McCrary

A slow Saturday read for you:

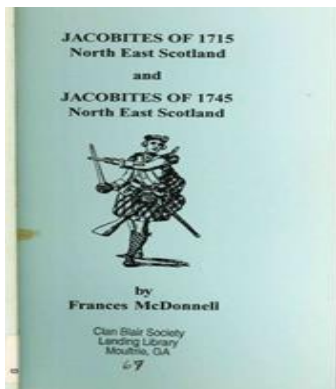


VITABREVIS.AMERICANANCESTORS.ORG

Tying Knots in the Loose Ends of Scotland

Hugh MacDiarmid, one of Scotland’s most successful modern-day poets, once described his home country as having “loose ends.” Scotland is, undeniably, a land steeped in legends,

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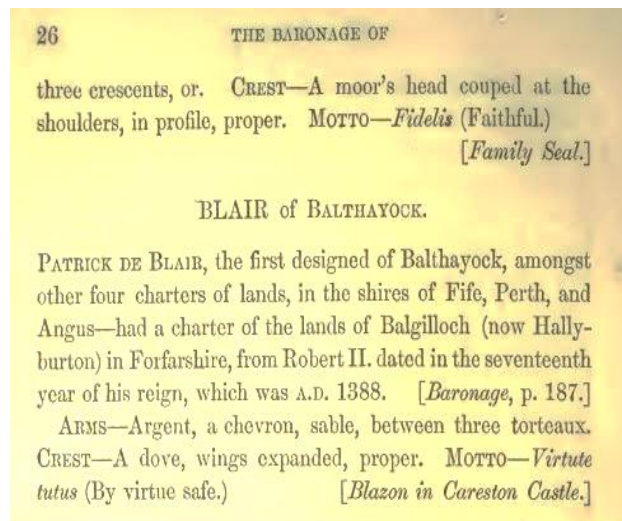


Something I had not considered until I read this book was the discrimination the Irish had both in Ireland and the American Colonies. It is remarkable the resilience of the Irish and their kin.

The maps and illustrations were drawn by Ethel Stanwood Bolton and really give the book something extra. The author also questions historical documents and the information contained which is key to discovery. I encourage you to read it free online. Or check it out from the Ellen Payne Odom Genealogical Library in Moultrie, GA.

https://www.google.com/books/edition/_/PSJCAAAAIAAJ?hl=en&gbpv=1

Another route I took in checking ancestors was from page 42 of the digital version, and page 26 from the book *The Baronage of Angus and Mearns, comprising the genealogy of three hundred and sixty families....* by Peter David MacGregor. I was interested in knowing why only Patrick de Blair was listed (1340 – 1405). See pages 9-11 of Jack Blair's digital book on the member site *The Blairs of Balthayock and Their Cadets* for more on this ancestor.



<https://electricScotland.com/history/forfar/baronageofangus.pdf>

Contacting Irene Godwin at the EPOGL she shared the Blair descendant mentioned in book #67 from our collection.

Jacobites of 1715 North East Scotland and Jacobites of 1745 North East Scotland by Frances McDonnell, p. 4.

married Peter Fairquharson of Inverey

Blair, Dr Robert, Physician to Lord Panmure

At the Battle of Sheriffmuir, escaped from Arbroath on the same vessel with Lord Panmure.

Blair, The Rev William, Church of Scotland Minister

Son of Rev Robert Blair, Minister of Alvah. Minister at Forglan in 1667, transferred to Fordyce in 1675. He married and had two sons and three daughters. He died in 1716.

I then went to check the information at the National Library of Scotland website listed below (145) p. 133.

<https://digital.nls.uk/histories-of-scottish-families/archive/95154786>

Harry Maule's services, when he asks " Would not one believe that Mr Harry Maule had broke a wing of the Duke of Argyle's army in the action ? " But it cannot be believed a Maule would remain inactive on such a day. It is beyond dispute, however, that his- brother, the Earl, fought bravely, but eventually he was severely wounded and taken prisoner. Harry no sooner heard of this than, taking with him Dr Blair (a Coupar-Angus man) and accompanied by two or three of his men, he went in search of his brother. He found him at a cottar house guarded by six dragoons, who, on hearing the clatter of the hoofs of the horses of the rescue party and taking them for a large body of Jacobite cavalry, made off, leaving their prisoner in the hands of his friends. Harry had difficulty in persuading the Earl to accompany them, so severely did he feel his wounds, and though repeatedly urged, refused to do so on the score of inability to take the road. On the assurance of the doctor that his wounds would be no worse of the journey he consented. Mounted on a horse, on which he was supported by two of Harry's men who

Another piece in researching is finding nuggets like this. From the same book by Frances McDonnell.

Burnes, Robert, grandfather of Robert Burns

The family originally was called Burnes; it was only because it was pronounced in Ayrshire as if written "Burns" that the Poet and his brother, about 1786, consulted together and agreed to drop Burnes and assume Burns.

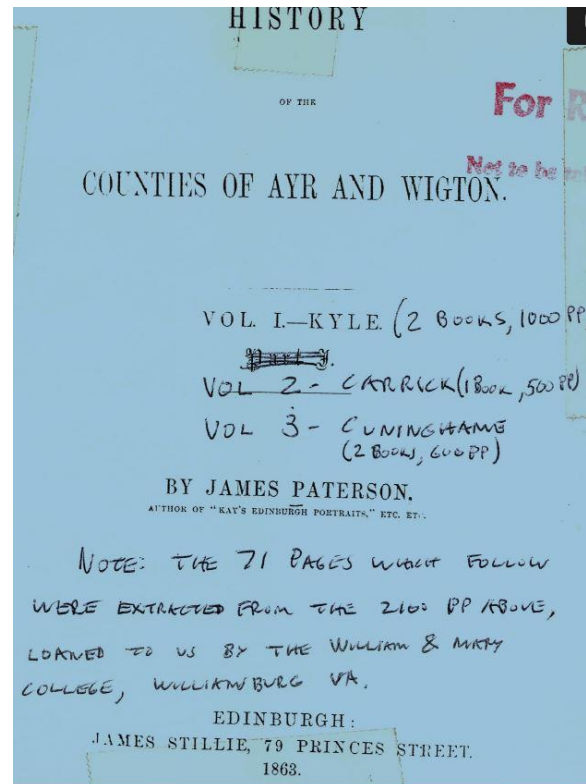
The Battle of Sherramuir was a 1789 composition written by Robert Burns.

Type: Song

Tune: The Cameronian Rant

As a follow-up to the "Blair connection in Wigton I mentioned the May/June 2023 newsletter. I borrowed from EPOGL, *History of the Counties of Ayr and Wigton* by James Paterson. What a marvelous read. I need to point out that the book of information available for

you to borrow is a compilation of "Blair" history in those regions.



This compilation is marvelous because, "people just do not talk like that anymore" as stated by historian character in the movie National Treasure.

It took me longer to read because the older Scots tongue was used which I found fascinating. Here is a sample: "*I, Alexr, Kennedy of Bargany, and fermorer of the half parsonage of, the Kirk of Maybole, grantis me to haf ressauit be the handis of James Blair of Mydilauchindrane, full contentation and payment of xiiij bollis of meile for teindis...* (Paterson, 409-410)" If you wish to read more see page 358, Vol. II.

https://www.google.com/books/edition/History_of_the_Counties_of_Ayr/OvEHAAAAQAAJ?hl=en&gbpv=1

The source of the information was noted next to the name “Jacob Schaw de Salquy.”

*Instrument of Sasine in Auchindrane charter chest. I was curious and wondered what this was. The National Records of Scotland helped me there.

“An instrument of sasine (pronounced 'say-zin') is a legal document that records the transfer of ownership (usually a sale or an inheritance) of a piece of land or of a building.” It was the next paragraph that I found even more interesting.

“How many people had sasines?”

Very few. This record is essentially about the 'haves' of Scottish society rather than the 'have nots'. Until the 20th century, when owner-occupation became more common, only a tiny proportion of Scots owned the house they lived in or the land that they farmed. Most rented their property and will not appear in registers of sasines.”

<https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/research/research-guides/research-guides-a-z/sasines#>

Fun Facts!

These rare books are in five volumes. But, due to their historical importance, some have been digitized. The Genealogical Center in the Allen County Public Library has a set. If you are near Ft. Wayne, Indiana, stop in and say hello. Here is their site <https://acpl.lib.in.us/genealogy>

The College of William and Mary was kind enough to loan our collection information on the Blairs. Which is why I have included some background information of Blair associations.



John Blair, Jr.

He was named the 1st Grand Master of Freemasons in Virginia under the newly organized Grand Lodge of Virginia in 1778.

The Virginia Legislature recognized his accomplishments as a jurist by appointing him successor to Thomas Jefferson on a committee formed to revise Virginia’s laws. Blair was nominated by President George Washington to the United States Supreme Court on September 24, 1789, and confirmed by the US Senate on September 26, 1789. He resigned six years later.

<https://fieldblairlodge349.org/gmjohnblair/>

A member of one of Virginia’s most prominent landed families, Blair was elected in 1766 to represent William and Mary College in the Virginia House of Burgesses.

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**INTERVIEWS WITH OUR
WILLIAM CAMPBELL BLAIR
SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS!**

Saoirse Alys Blair Galligan, Winner, 2003



Saoirse (pronounced ‘Sare-shuh’) Alys (pronounced as ‘Alice’ (Celtic spelling)) Blair Galligan is 18 years old and a graduate Honors Student of Heritage High School in Littleton, Colorado. She is currently a freshman at the University of Northern Colorado majoring in Theater and Music, along with a minor in Environmental Science. When not in college, she lives at home in Littleton with her mom, Dyani, and brother, Tiernan, who is 15.

Q: What did you think when you won a scholarship for college?

A: I felt honored that I could represent my family in such a great way.

Q: Why do you feel you won this?

A: Probably the outstanding things that I do that gave me the honor. I have helped run the Clan Blair tent since I was little. Irish Dance for seven years also. And I put in other things like my grades and all the other dances I’ve learned plus my acting and singing.

Q: What was fun about running the tent?

A: Well, it was such fun when I was little because I loved talking to everyone who came around. I liked that I got to show off my family and hang around with them every day. And I loved the shortbread we had in the tent.

Q: Growing up, what were some favorites at the festival?

A: My favorite things at all the festivals were just walking around the festival. I always think about how Scots Fests all smell the same way. I liked dressing up in the traditional garb and helping run the tent. I loved stamping the books of the kids who came around, and when I was real young, I loved the stamping contests. The things that I think are the most fun to see are the music tents (all of the music is so unique from other tents there, and the musicians are so talented.) I always loved going to the highland games.

Q: You recently began college at UNC and are now a ‘UNC Bear’” Looking back, what would you say are priorities to do well in High School?

A: For High School, follow your heart and don’t be afraid to put yourself out there – try new things. And be nice to everybody.

Q: What about when you go to college?

A: When you go to college, I'd say the most important thing is to do what you want to do and not what other people want you to do. One of my friends came into school as a biology major to become an Art major because her dad wanted her to study biology. Others are in the majors their parents chose, too. The friend who wanted to be in Art is such an incredible artist. She finally decided she had to change her major to Art even though it wasn't what her dad wanted, and she is much happier now. College is about finding out who you are – if you are not going to do what you want to do, it's probably not going to work.

In the future, I would plan on staying connected with Clan Blair. I certainly want to attend the festivals and work in the tent, and then help however I am needed alongside my family.



William (Billy) Pierce Diman, 2018 Winner



William (Billy) Pierce Diman

William (Billy) Diman is 18 years old and recently graduated with honors from Providence Day School. He has just begun his freshman year at Duke University, and sounds excited that he was accepted as well as having the opportunity to learn there. He is pursuing a double major, in both electrical engineering and computer engineering, and also in computer science.

William has a father, Andy, who is in sales and a mother, Laurie, who works as an auditor for Wells Fargo. His sister, Betsy, will be a Junior in High School this year.

William spent his childhood going to the festivals with his grandfather, Charlie Diman. He is grateful to his grandfather for these experiences. The place they frequented most was The Grandfather Mountain Games in North Carolina.

There, he participated in races, and won the Kilted Mile in first place in 2011, then won second place in 2012. He also participated in Scottish wrestling, winning first place in 2013 and second place in 2014. In addition, he wrestled for Middle School and was named one of the top wrestlers there. When he was younger, from age 4, he loved playing soccer, and was a League Champion for the last 5 years by age 12. In addition, William was a 'straight A' student at Providence Day School and Beverly Woods Elementary School.

Advice to thrive in High School? High School can be cut-throat. Don't push yourself too hard. You need to branch out and find things that interest you because what makes a really good college application is finding out the things you love to do and writing that down. Mine was mountain biking; I organized an event for children. I found a sponsor to partner with on this venture: Hendrik Motors. We collected the bikes at school. Hendrik drove over 70 bikes and massive pounds of gear to Re-Cyclery, a non-profit. Re-Cyclery's goal was to repair the broken ones and sell them back to the community at a reduced price. They also gave bikes to kids who couldn't afford them. The caveat was that the kids had to take a class on bike safety. When they completed the class, they got a bike and helmet. Another thing I worked on is electronics.

For college, I think it's important to figure out what you want to do. Some students hate college and yet college is supposed to be this time of understanding yourself. It's not bad to do what your parents want you to do, but you are an adult now and learning what you want is very important in finding what you should do in life.

As for hobbies: "I do really like computers and video games. I have built computers for me and for friends, which was fun. I plan on using my computer here at Duke a lot. Right now, it's still more a time of meeting everyone and falling into a rhythm.

What do you like best about being Scottish? I went to Scotland over the summer, and it was cool to see. I liked seeing the scenery and the stores of Scottish goods. I loved seeing the castles and feeling I have a connection to them. "I will tell you: my favorite meal in the world is steak and ale pie! I had that for 20 meals in a row!"

What do you see yourself doing in the future to help Clan Blair grow and thrive? Well, I always looked up to my grandad and I thought it was really cool that he did this. I do want to give back to the community that gave to me in the future. It certainly will be monetarily – when I find myself in a position to do so financially and timewise. Grandad means a lot to me. I would love to go to the Highland Games in the future and take my kids there also, like Grandad did for me.

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Recipe for Steak and Ale Pie



The Ultimate Steak & Ale Pie

- Author: Rachel Phipps
- Prep Time: 35 minutes
- Cooling Time: 25 minutes
- Cook Time: 3 hours 15 minutes
- Total Time: 3 hours 30 minutes
- Yield: Serves 4-6
- Category: Dinner
- Cuisine: Scottish

Description

This is the Ultimate Steak & Ale Pie recipe, with a mustard flavoured shortcrust pastry crust and a rich beef, mushroom and ale filling. You'll also get a jug of gravy to serve with this classic British pie, too!

Ingredients

FOR THE PIE FILLING

- light oil
- 400–500g (14-18 oz) diced beef
- freshly ground sea salt & black pepper
- 1 brown onion
- 2 carrots
- 50g (2 oz) smoked bacon lardons
- 1 bay leaf
- 2 sprigs fresh thyme
- 1 1/2 tbsp plain (all purpose) flour
- 1/2 tbsp tomato puree
- 200ml (1 scant cup) ale (see note)
- 1/2 tsp malt vinegar
- 300ml (1 1/4 cup) beef stock made with 1 stock cube
- 1/2 tsp miso paste

- 120g (4 1/4 oz) chestnut button mushrooms

FOR THE SHORTCRUST PASTRY

- 470g (1 lb) plain (all purpose) flour, plus extra for dusting
- 1 tsp dried mustard powder (optional)
- 100g (3 1/2 oz) unsalted butter, fridge cold, plus a little extra for greasing
- 100g (3 1/2 oz) lard, fridge cold
- freshly ground sea salt
- 5 tbsp ice water
- 1 egg yolk
- flaky sea salt

Instructions

1. Pre-heat the oven to 140 degrees (280 Fahrenheit).
2. Heat 1/2 tbsp of oil in a large, lidded casserole dish set over a high heat. Season the beef well and brown all over, working in two batches, making sure not to burn the brown patches that will be forming on the bottom of the pan. Set aside.
3. Meanwhile, peel and roughly chop the onion and the carrots. Add them to the pan along with the lardons, bay leaf, thyme, and another few grinds of salt. Turn the heat down the medium and cook until the onions are just soft and starting to turn golden.
4. Stir in the flour until no white patches remain, followed by the tomato puree. Cook until the paste has turned a dark, brick red.
5. Add the ale and allow it to bubble away, thickening in the pan and using the wooden spoon to scrape all the browned bits off the bottom of the dish. Add the malt vinegar.
6. Make up the beef stock and whisk in the miso paste. Stir into the pot along with the cooked beef and the beef resting

juices and bring everything to the boil. Clap on the lid and transfer to the oven to cook for 2 hours until the meat is tender.

7. Wipe the mushrooms clean and quarter them. Heat a splash of oil in another saucepan set over a high heat and sauté the mushrooms with a generous amount of salt and pepper until cooked through and slightly browned. Set aside.
8. To make the pastry, combine the flour, mustard powder, and both the unsalted butter and the lard – cut into small cubes – and a generous few grinds of salt in the bowl of a large food processor. Blitz into even crumbs.
9. Leaving the food processor running, gradually add the water, a tablespoon at a time until the pastry comes together into a ball. If your food processor is as bad as mine, it will just stop spinning and you'll need to turn the mixture out and bring it together into a ball by hand, but most of the work will still have been done for you.
10. Gently knead the pastry into a smooth ball (but try not to overwork it as this will make the pastry tough!) and press it down into an oval. Wrap in kitchen wrap and chill for at least an hour.
11. Remove the bay leaf and the thyme sprigs from the pie filling and stir in the mushrooms. Using a ladle, a slotted spoon and a fair bit of patience (I promise you it will be worth it!) remove approximately half the cooking liquid from the beef and set aside so you have a nice thick, rich pie filling. Season to taste and allow to cool a little.
12. Pre-heat the oven to 200 degrees (390 fahrenheit). To assemble the pie, generously grease the pie dish with butter. Flour a clean surface and unwrap the pastry, cutting it into two slightly uneven halves.
13. Using a floured rolling pin, roll out the larger of these two halves so that it is just larger than the pie tin. To get an even circle, turn the pastry as you work, carefully pressing together any cracks that form.
14. Carefully slide the rolling pin under the pastry sheet, and use it to lift it onto the tin. Gently push the pastry down into the grooves and, raising the pastry up to head height with one end, use a sharp knife to slice the pastry away from the sides of the pie tin angling the blade away from the pie with the other. Fill the base with the cooled pie filling.
15. Repeat the process with the other piece of pastry to make a lid. Beat the egg yolk together with a splash of cold water and brush the edge of the pastry case with it before lifting on the lid. Gently press down on the edges to seal them before cutting the edges off the pastry case using the same raising and slicing method.
16. Create 'V' with your two four fingers and use it to drag a pastry scallop around the edge using your thumb as the guide in the middle, before brushing the top of the pie with more egg yolk wash. If you wish to use any pastry scraps to decorate the pie, now is the time to shape them, place them, and brush them again with egg wash. Cut a small incision in the middle of the pie to allow steam to escape.
17. Bake the pie for 20 minutes before removing from the oven, brushing with the remaining egg wash and sprinkling with a little flaky sea salt. Return to the oven for a further 20 minutes until burnished and golden.
18. Meanwhile, heat the remaining pie gravy in a small saucepan, adding water until it has reached the desired consistency.
19. Leave the pie for 5 minutes to rest before slicing, serving the gravy in a small warmed jug.

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Man lost in Edinburgh says to a policeman, "Excuse me is there a B&Q in Leith?"

Policeman replies, "No sir, but there are two Ds and two Es in Dundee."

He decided to call his Scottish father-in-law the "Exorcist" because every time he came to visit he made the spirits disappear.

Why do pipers walk while they play?

To get away from the noise.

To get the link to the Scottish Trip sign-up page, (BELOW) please enter the following link in your browser:

<https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fclanblair.net%2Fnewsletter%2FBlair%20Clan%20Flyer.pdf&data=05%7C01%7C%7C2b4725a84b3a4fbdfabf08dba8107782%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638288560904271902%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljoilMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQljoilV2luMzliLCJBTil6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=iJOC6kZlaAQe3zT3cBZdx15spdAvG%2Ft21RSk5Cip8A%3D&reserved=0>



HELLO FROM LONG ISLAND NEW YORK

Lynne Gallaudet Dolan, Long Island NY
Commissioner

It has been a very busy year for me. I was elected the National President to the Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War 1861-865 August 3, 2022. My national convention was in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma July 18-23, 2023. I have had the honors of placing wreaths at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. for Abraham Lincoln's birthday. I also got interviewed and was on TV at this event. I had the honor of placing a wreath at Lincoln's Tomb in Illinois in April. The biggest honor was placing a wreath in the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington Cemetery in Washington, D.C. on Memorial Day weekend. I also placed a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Civil War Soldiers the same weekend. The last was my convention. During my travels I did talk about being Scot/Irish and that I did belong to the Clan Blair. The ones that were Scots knew about the Clans and we talked for a while about it. I told them that I had my Civil War skirt made in my Clan tartan and I march in the Remembrance Day Parade in it at Gettysburg, PA.

August 26th I attended the 61st Annual Long Island Scottish Festival and Highland Games at Westbury Gardens, NY. It was so good to see friends I had made over the years. Our Tent was next to the Clan McClaren. We have been friends with them for a few years and we caught up on things. We haven't seen each other in 3 years due to COVID (nasty word) so we had a lot to catch up on.

The day started out a little cooler and cloudy, then the rains came and it rained for about an hour and a half but then cleared up

and to turned out to be a beautiful day. I spoke to some that had Blair in their family. I was shocked because the only Blairs that ever came were my cousins. So, I talked to a gentleman about Clan Blair and he told me his mother is a Blair. That she had come over early 1900s. He took my card so hopefully I'll hear back from him or his mother.

Our tent was again situated in a good spot to watch the games. They had games for the kids plus a tug-o-war. Not as many vendors as in the past but it could have been the weather, who knows.

In the Cultural Tent you could learn about the Stars and Constellations of Scotland, What and When is Tartan Day, Kirking of the Tartans, (blessing of the kilt) we had to bring our own kilts and of course, Scottish History.

The Pipe Bands were Amityville Legion Pipe Band, Northport Pipe Band Clan Gordon Highlanders Pipe Band and the Inis Fada Pipe Band.

Of course, there was singing and dancing from the Scottish Violin and Fiddle. One of the bands that played were Albannach. I bought 2 of their CDs. They were really good. I think those CDs are now in my son, John's, car. Bangers and Mash and the Shot O Scotch Dancers. Also, a Scottish Dog Parade. What beautiful dogs. The Antique Car Parade. They also had the Birds of Prey. I love to see these birds, especially this one little owl. He is so cute.

It was just a good time all around. It was great to make this my ending of a great year that I already had. Now back to reality. My husband Jay will have his second knee replacement on September 1st.

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The Clan Blair Society

August 11th - 19th, 2024



Tour Includes:

- Nine (9) nights of first class and superior first-class hotels
- Full Scottish breakfast daily, except day of arrival
- Seven (7) dinners and one (1) lunch
- Full sightseeing by deluxe touring motor coach
- Professional driver/guide to escort you
- Panoramic city tours of Edinburgh, Inverness, Portree and Glasgow.
- Scenic drives of The Highlands, The Isle of Skye and more.
- Visits to: Edinburgh Castle, Stirling Castle, Balthayock, Blair Atholl Distillery, Blair Castle, Ardblair, Eilean Donan Castle, Dunvegan Castle, Talisker Distillery, Glencoe Visitor Centre, Portpatrick, Dunskey Castle ruins, Kennedy Gardens, and a Loch Ness Cruise.
- Option to add the Edinburgh Military Tattoo!
- Porterage of one (1) suitcase per person.
- Tips and taxes in Scotland. **Gratuities to the driver are not included.**

Hotels:

EDINBURGH

Brooks Hotel

PITLOCHRY:

Pitlochry Hydro Hotel

INVERNESS

Craigmonie Hotel

HIGHLANDS:

Beny Wyvis Hotel

GLASGOW:

Mercure Glasgow City

Tour Itinerary:

Day 1 Sunday : Arrive Edinburgh, Scotland

Morning arrival at Edinburgh Airport where you will meet your transfer. Transfer to your hotel to drop off bags. Check-in is usually around 3PM. Today is a free to explore Edinburgh. Blair Clan Society 3 course dinner tonight as a group at a local restaurant. Overnight Edinburgh.

Day 2 Monday : Enjoy Edinburgh

After breakfast, you will enjoy a half-day local guide escorting your group around Edinburgh. Most of the structures in the Old Town have remained in their original form over the years. Charming medieval relics are plenty in this section of the city. Admission to Edinburgh Castle is included. This afternoon, a tour of the Blair St. Undergrounds Vaults is included. This evening, enjoy a 2 course dinner at a local restaurant. Military Tattoo tickets are available for add on for this evening. Overnight Edinburgh.

Day 3 Tuesday : Edinburgh-Stirling-Pitlochry

This morning, we bid farewell to Edinburgh and head to the medieval town of Stirling — sitting on a craggy volcanic rock. Enjoy a visit to Stirling Castle and some free time. Continue to visit Balthayock for a tour of the historic area. Balthayock was the seat of The Blair of Balthayock family for over 500 years. Then on to Blair Atholl for the Allt Dour Tour and tasting. Dinner and overnight in Pitlochry.

Day 4 Wednesday : The Highlands and Loch Ness

Today we take a guided visit to Blair Castle and Gardens. Continue north for lunch at leisure at Loch Ness Clansman Café, before we board a mini-cruise of Loch Ness. We continue to Inverness and this afternoon is free to explore town and get dinner on your own.

Day 5 Thursday : The Highlands

After breakfast we will visit Ardblair. We will enjoy a drive through this area and view the Ardblair Castle. Time permitting, tour of Ardblair Farm. Continue on to one of the most unspoiled areas of Scotland. The drive brings us to Shieldaig, Applecross, Plockton, and Bealach na Ba View Point. Continue for a visit to Eilean Donan Castle before returning to Strathpeffer for overnight.

Day 6 Friday: Isle of Skye

Spend the day exploring The Isle of Skye. The Isle offers some of Scotland's most spectacular scenery. The soaring peaks of the Cuillin Hills, the dramatic geology of the Old Man of Storr and The Quiraing, an extraordinary assembly of pinnacles, rock towers and secret places. Visit stately Dunvegan Castle and the extensive gardens. Continue to Talisker for a Distillery Tour. Return to Strathpeffer.

Day 7 Saturday : Glencoe and Loch Lomond

Head south today through the stunning mountainous region of Glencoe. Glencoe is also the site of one of the most famous massacres in Scottish History. While in Glencoe, visit The Glencoe Visitor's Centre. Continue for some free time in Loch Lomond. We overnight in Glasgow tonight with dinner at the hotel.

Day 8 Sunday: The Blair Sites of Portpatrick and Ayrshire

After breakfast, you will head south to the Ayrshire region. The Blairs from this region fought alongside Robert the Bruce and William Wallace in the 11th century. We will visit the Dunskey Estate or Blair Estate. Continue for a visit to Castle Kennedy Gardens. Return to Glasgow for our last night together. Farewell dinner at a local restaurant.

Day 9 Monday: Depart Glasgow

Transfer to Glasgow Airport for your flight back to the USA.



Pricing: **\$3611.00 USD** per person
sharing double/twin

Limited single rooms available—please contact
Alissa for pricing



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