



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

Fourth Quarter – Dec. 2012

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE:

President’s Message

Fellow Clan Members – It is with sadness that we accept the resignation of long-time Clan Blair Society leader Helen Blair. She has served our Clan with pride and dedication and as made the difficult decision to step aside as a result of long-term illness which is taking significant time and effort to resolve. Her message is included in this newsletter.

The CBS bylaws direct that the Vice President will full-fill the remaining role of President and with Helen’s decision I will gladly step-in. As we end a successful 2012, and move toward a new year, the Board of Directors is solid and aligned in leading the Society forward.

A few highlights of the year include the fact that the Society grew in membership for the first time in several years. Many state organizations participated in Clan events at Celtic festivals and we held a very successful Annual General Meeting in Colorado. Our purpose, to connect members with each other and our Blair Heritage, has been successfully achieved and I look forward to growing our organization and delivering the purpose to our members in the coming year.

I invite you to enjoy your CBS membership. Please send us your ideas and family stories. We enjoy sharing your Clan activities and encourage you to expand awareness of our organization, and inviting others to join us.

I wish you a Merry Christmas and Wonderful New Year!

Best regards,

Jim Blair

President

PAST PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE.

HELEN BLAIR:



I have had to resign the Presidency due to overwhelming health issues that have severely limited the time I’ve been able to devote to CBS. This last year has been the most difficult for me but luckily our VP Jim Blair has stepped in numerous times to cover problems and issues that needed attention. We are very lucky he is a businessman who knows how to run a business, troubleshoot and delegate. I fully trust his ability to build up CBS.

CBS has been a passion of both myself & Bob since the 90’s. Really, I dragged Bob into it after we met over the CBS tent table at the Mesa AZ Games in 1997, when I was the new Commissioner for AZ. He couldn’t ‘get’ me without getting involved in CBS.

Between Bob & myself, we are from four different families of Blair going back to the early 1700’s, so we have considered every Blair our cousins. Over the years, we have met a lot of “cousins” that we hope will stay our life-long friends. We both have worked hard along with having a lot of fun promoting CBS. However, as Bob’s health declined, then mine, my ability to do anything for CBS has declined. CBS deserves so much more.

I’ve heard some wonder why a CBS presence at the different Games & festivals makes a difference? What I’ve found is that so many Blairs had only heard that their family was from Ireland, they didn’t even realize it all started in Scotland let alone know there was ever a Clan Blair. By being at the events, “cousins” are able to sit back and look through Blair genealogy books to search for ancestors, read about

Blair history, see what the different Blair tartans look like, see the different Blair badges & some of the different Blair crests. Doing this and more while visiting with possible relatives in the shade of a tent, listening to bagpipes, maybe sharing some water/snack/pop or a wee dram. This activity has led many Blairs to start researching their ancestry that helps preserve Blair history, one person at a time.

I'm going to use this time to ask you all to consider helping CBS in any capacity. We have elections coming up and other openings that need to be filled. At one time we had numerous Commissioners, not only in the US but in Canada & Scotland. Many of our Commissioners have had to resign due to illness and now many are getting up in age and have health problems, limiting what they can do. Some can continue if they have some help, others need people to take over for them. **For Clan Blair Society to continue we need volunteers.** The more people working, the less work needs to be done by each person. Please look at your schedules to see what time you can spare to help keep CBS alive.

You haven't seen the last of me! Andrew will continue manning the CBS tent at 5 of the Games & festivals in AZ. Bob & I will join him when we're able. I'll have a friend helping me with the CBS Store until I'm doing better. I look forward to the time that I can become active again in CBS. I've never met a better bunch of people.

Wishing everyone the very best.
Take care,
Helen

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

by Shawn Blair

Helen Blair has recently resigned as President after five years due to health issues. I believe Helen deserves to be acknowledged for many years of commitment to our society.

Shortly after Helen took office as president, her husband, Bob Blair, fell ill and has required immense time and energy for his care. Helen continued as president, even into a second term.

Helen and Bob met shortly after joining Clan Blair Society and became a couple and a team who have

benefited CBS greatly. Besides hosting the clan tent in the Arizona area for years, Helen took on being Membership Chair from ailing Harlan Ralston. With Bob's computer savvy, she built an accurate and efficient database that simplified a most challenging role in CBS.

A couple years after having built a smooth membership process, Helen passed the membership baton to husband Bob and took on another huge challenge. Our treasury was in desperate need of control and transparency, so Helen stepped in and took the reins. Starting with a single page of numbers and a check, Helen once again built a system that would simplify the task of the job. She built our books back into proper accounting and implemented our accounting system.

During this time, Helen and Bob hosted at least two AGMs, and continued to host the clan tent at numerous festivals. Then, while in the midst of all of this, Helen stepped up as Vice President. As VP, Helen assisted me, as president, with whatever she could. Helen then took office as Clan President, after the 2007 election.

After Helen took office, we faced the challenge of finding a new Clan Stores person. In light of the challenges of storing the store's goods in a member home, and maintaining inventory and records, Helen then took on running the Clan Store from her home. At one point, after Bob took ill, Helen was our President, Treasurer, Membership Chair, and Clan Store Chair. Fortunately, today, Ann Fredline and Charlie Diman have stepped up to become members of our committed membership team.

I could likely go on I more detail and find more that Helen, and Bob, have done for CBS since they joined us. At this point, I just want to acknowledge Helen and thank her for her commitment to Clan Blair Society and what we represent. I also want to acknowledge Bob for his commitment and efforts over the years. Helen and Bob have always worked as a team for Clan Blair Society.

Call for Members and Leaders

Fellow Clan Members – As we welcome 2013, our membership is now 235 families. We have grown by 20 members in 2012, suggesting that our goals of increasing knowledge and awareness of our Scottish

Heritage and connecting members with others of Scottish background is of increasing interest. Clan Blair Society is governed by a Board of Directors and Clan business is conducted through geographic state level organizations lead by State Commissioners. It is through this organization that local events are conducted, Celtic festivals are planned and attended and other Clan Blair Society activities are enjoyed.

These activities are only successful with membership and leadership. We have 20 active state Commissioners and certainly can expand our heritage mission with additional state leaders. Our Board leadership is also successful with a full membership team. In 2013, we will recruit a new Vice President and new High Commissioner who works with our state Commissioner team.

I invite you to consider a leadership role in your state organization that is devoted to growing membership and planning fun activities with fellow Blair family members. I also invite your interest in a Board level role. But, most important, I invite your interest and spirit in Clan Blair Society. We all enjoy a special bond through our Blair roots. Please let me know what questions and interest you may have.

Best regards,

Jim Blair , President

**Amendment to The Blairs of Balthayock
And Their Cadets 1150-1850 published by
Clan Blair Society 2001.**

In looking over the Blair book which we produced in 2001, I found that I had misread a document in the Abstracts which Noel Blair McCullough sent to me. In the Abstracts at the foot of page 153, Item 22 mentions Alexander de Oggostoun. I suggested that this was Alexander the son of John Ogston of the neighboring Craigs of Glenisla with a date of circa 1430. I apologize for this error as it should read :

“Charter by John de Kinross, to Alexander de Oggoluin and Dionisia, daughter of the said John de Kinross in free marriage of the lands of Balnachlunock and Haughnahanele. Undated. circa 1225. (Alexander was heir of Gilbert Ogilvy of that ilk, his father was probably William de Ogilvy.)”

Furthermore, this charter should have been placed immediately after Charter 1 on page 151.

The Gaelic “Balnachlunock” or “Balaucht Clunoe” in early documents has become Anglicized to Blacklunans. It lies in Glen Shee, a few miles north of Blairgowrie and at the foot of Mount Blair. The Barony of Blacklunans came into the hands of the Blair of Balthayock family, presumably on the marriage of Patrick Blair heir apparent of Balthayock (1410c-1448c) to Christian Ogilvy. The following paragraph expands on that and would insert into page 13 of the book.

“Patrick appeared described as a squire when witnessing with his father a charter on 4 May 1427 in favour of Sir Walter Ogilvy of Lintrathen.

At an Inquisition of Retour, in Forfar on 31 October 1438, for the service of David Rossy as heir to his grandfather, a Patrick Blair is given as one of the jurors. His position on the list suggests that he was not one of the senior lairds and thus may have been this son of Thomas. Given the location of the retour and also the lands associated with Christian, it seems probable that she was the daughter of Walter Ogilvy of Carcary and Lintrathen. It is also deduced that through this marriage the barony of Blacklunans transferred from Ogilvy of Lintrathen (later of Airlie) to Blair of Balthayock. Formerly Blacklunans had been owned first by the de Kinross family and then the Ogilvy family. About 1225 on the marriage of Dionisia, her father, John de Kinross granted to her spouse Alexander de Ogilvy the lands of Belauht Clunoe and Hauht Nahaele (Balclunoch and Auchnahall) and thus this charter came with Christian Ogilvy, presumably on her marriage about 1430, to be held in the Blair of Balthayock charter chest.”

Jack Blair; Perthshire, Scotland





Howard Blair and friend Kathleen O'Brien, Estes Park, Colorado Scottish Festival

AGM 2013

A Celtic Cyber-Convention

The CBS Board has decided to embrace the 21st century and deploy technology as a method to conduct the Annual General Meeting in 2013. With the realization that economics and family commitments make personal attendance by members at locations across the country a challenge, we have decided to hold next year's AGM event as a cyber-meeting. All the details need attention, but our thought is:

1. Hold the AGM via cyber-technology sometime after Labor Day 2013.
2. Invite all 200+ members to participate in a Webex or Go To Meeting webinar scheduled for 2-3 hours on a Saturday.
3. Develop an agenda that includes education about the Clan and our Scottish Heritage, discussion about genealogy exploration and the DNA project, the Annual Board meeting report on Clan business and reports from Clan members across the country.
4. Of course we will end the meeting with a toast and wee-dram – members will need to provide their own.

We have much work to do in designing an agenda that will attract members to participate for a few hours. The education sessions will be of interest to all family members and we hope you will plan to participate via technology in the AGM.

The Board is developing a survey tool to gather member's input regarding subject matter for the

Cyber-AGM – a first of its kind! We will be in touch with you in the first quarter 2013.

Jim Blair, President



Blairsville, GA Scottish Festival & Highland Games from Wyomia Blair

The Blairsville Games were held June 8th, 9th & 10th at Meeks Park in Blairsville. On Friday there was a Kilted golf tournament at a course outside town. The regular Games were on Fri. and Sat.

We (Wyomia, Dot, and Dale) arrived on Fri. afternoon. We picked up our games packet. Our tent this year was along the stream in the shade, as were all the tents. They were spread out about a 100 yards. Again, this year they had 40 Clans and Societies. We put up the frame for the flags and banner, and put up the flags. It was hot but there was a good breeze blowing.

On Fri. night they had the Ceilidh with beautiful pageantry, a wonderful meal, and great entertainment.

On Sat. morning we arrived about 7 am to finish setting up. . We were joined by member Frank Blair from Rome GA. He spent the day with us as he usually does. He is a very fine person and a good friend. He helped us greet people and tell them about Clan Blair. We all had a good time. The Kilted mile race was at 10. They had a Mini Cooper parade thru the park.

The Athletic events started at 9 am till 12 on the main field. Then they had the Opening Ceremony, Massed Bands, and Parade Of Tartans, with master of ceremonies Rory S. Howe. The Parade was led by the Scottish-American Military Society Color Guard, followed by the 6 Massed Bands. Then the Honored Clan, Clan MacFie with the Commander of Clan MacFie, Iain Morris MacFie and his wife Fiona, and the other Clans.

As this is a small field, Dale was able to walk with Frank to represent Clan Blair. After the Parade, the Athletic events continued on the main field until 4 pm. Also Falconry Demonstration. There was a Clan Tug of War contest. On other fields, there were Gordon Setters and Border Collie Demonstrations. There were Fiddle and Bagpipe workshops. Dancers were at the dance pavilion. At the entertainment tent, they had bands playing as well as individual performers, such as Bob Valentine, a Scottish Humorist. At the Children's Field there were various activities. There were the Massed Bands again at 4pm. The Games closed at 5 pm for the day.

We had several people that came by and said they we had a great tent with lots of information. Roger Blair from Tennessee came by and spent some time with us. He lived in Greenville, SC about three years ago, which was the last time we saw him. He is originally from Ont. Canada.

On Saturday, Jim McAfee, the Chairman of the Organizing Committee who has always been a good friend, came by the tent and visited for a while. Also his Administrative Assistant Judy Senevey came by and visited with us. They are two of the finest people I have met. They always tell us it wouldn't be the same to have the Games without the Blairs being there. The Rev. Travis Blair Adams, Games Chaplain, came by and visited for a while. We talked about our Blair families. He is a good friend and a fine person. He always wears his Blair Tartan Kilt.

On Sunday we arrived at 7:30 and set back up.. At 9am we went to the Church service: "THE KIRKIN'O' THE TARTANS," with the Rev. Travis Blair Adams. Part of the service was done in the Old Braid Scots dialect. Dale carried in the Clan Blair Tartan Flag in the Parade of Tartans. At the "KIRKIN'O' THE TARTANS" he presented our

Tartan Flag as our Clan and Tartan were Blessed. After the service we went back to the tent and all the events and activities continued. There were the Bonniest and Boniest Knee, and the Women's Haggis Hurl contests. It was a good day until about 4:00 when a rain storm moved in, and we had to pack up in a hurry, as did most of the other Clans.



Blairsville Games, Blair Tent

Greater Greenville Scottish Games & Highland Festival, Memorial Day Weekend May 25th & 26th 2012

A Joint Military Salute To The American & Scottish Military



On Friday night the 25th the Great Scot Parade and the Ceilidh was held in downtown Greenville. In the

afternoon, we went to Furman Univ. and put up our flags and banner.

Friday night, the Clan Reception was held at the Greenville Hilton. Wyomia and Dale attended. There was plenty of good food and drinks. There was the presentation of the colors, then the presentation of the Haggis. The Honored Guest and Chief of the Games, His Grace The Duke of Hamilton and Brandon, Alexander Douglas Douglas-Hamilton, the 16th Duke of Hamilton, Chief of Clan Hamilton, gave a speech. Clan Hamilton Society was the Honored Clan of the Games. Also, there was a speech from Malcolm Ian Sinclair, The Earl of Caithness. He was Chief Emeritus of the Games. Everybody had a good time. The Distinguished Guests were The Right Honorable The Earl and Countess of Eglinton and Winton. The Earl is Chief of the Name and Arms of Montgomerie, and Lord Montgomerie the eldest son of the Earl and Countess of Eglinton and Winton. Present also was Mark J Harden of Cowdenknowes, Baron of Cowdenknowes, KCHT, KC, F.S.A. Scot, S.S.A. Romilly Squire of Rubislaw, O.St.J., G.O.S.E., K.V.V., D.A. F.S.A.Scot., S.H.A.

On Saturday we there were 44 Clans and Societies present this year. The Heavy Athletic events started on the main field at 8 am. The opening ceremonies were at 11:00, starting with The Duke of Hamilton and Brandon, followed by the distinguished guest and the 2d Div. Marine Corps Band, followed by members of the South Carolina Army National Guard's 228th TTSB and 151st ESB. And members of the 2 SCOTS Battalion of the Royal Highland Fusiliers, followed by the Parade of Tartans starting with the Color Guard, the Massed Bands, and the Clans. We had 13 Bands this year With some 300+ pipers and drummers.

There also was the Great Scot British Car Show. There was a EUSPBA Pipe & Drum Competition for Grade 3, 4 and 5. There was a Drum Major Competition, Border Collie Invitational, and Highland Dancing Competition, and the Heavy Athletic Competition. The entertainment tent had music going on all day.

There were demonstrations in Longbow, Axe Throwing, Scottish Country Dancing, Scottish Spinning and Weaving, Celtic Harpist Artistry,

Scottish Fiddling, Weaponry Re-enactment and the Wee Scotland area for children.

There was a living history encampment area with two Scottish military re-enactor units of the 1750s.

The closing ceremonies were at 4:30, followed by a Celtic Jam concert with Albannach, Coyote Run, and Cleghorn from 7 till 10 pm.

Your Aye's
Wyomia Blair and Dale Grainger



Greenville Games

Colorado Report Clan Blair Society

4th Quarter 2012

After a busy summer of two Scottish festivals and hosting the Clan Blair Society AGM, the fall of 2012 has been a bit more restful. The Colorado Clan members enjoyed dance performances from our all-star Celtic dancers Arabella Blair and Saoirse Blair Galligan.

Arabella (9) performed in special Scottish Highland's celebrations in Denver and Brighton, CO. She continues to improve and won several more medals during these performances. Saoirse (7) performed in Irish dance competitions in Denver and Colorado Springs, winning several medals and moving up the competitive ladder.

We are proud of our dancers and now look forward to celebrating Robert Burns in January-February.

Jim Blair
Colorado Co-Commissioner

- Ventura – October 12 & 13, 2013
<http://www.seaside-games.com/>

Vicky Bartlett, Southern California Commissioner
vbartlett@telis.org

Southern California 2012 Commissioners Report

**Frances Holt, Vicky Bartlett, Bryan &
Jamie Blair**

Costa Mesa Games in May 2012 – The games were well attended and the weather was great.

We welcomed Members--Thomas Blair of Pahoia, Hawaii; James Blair of Cypress; Barbara Palmer & George Ranney of Newport Beach; and E. Bill Blair of Pasadena.

We were pleased to welcome New Members Shayne Blair of La Mirada and Jennifer & Jason Frank of San Juan Capistrano.

Visitors included—Jai Bourgeois of Burbank; Honey Suzanne Blair Lyons of Lake Forest; Gary Blair of Mission Viejo; Bailey Wallace of Westminster; Margo Georgann Steeneken of Lawndale; Nancy Mears of Inglewood; Connie & Dieter Brehm of La Verne; Jonathan Whitlock of Apple Valley; and Carol & James Blair of Fountain Valley.

It was a fun day. Our two deep tent set-up was next to the Athletic Events. The games committee and Jai Bourgeois assisted in our set up, and Jai also helped us get everything packed into our vans.

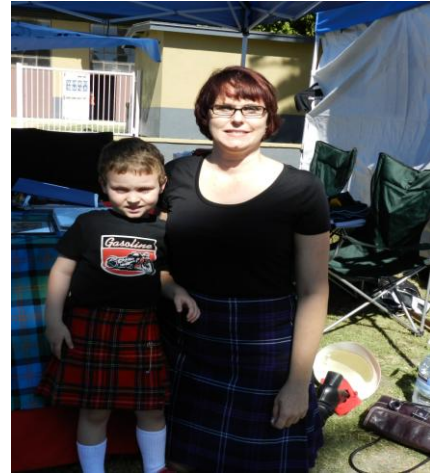
Seaside Games in October 2012 – As always, we really enjoyed our favorite games location: Ventura.

We were pleased to welcome New Members Maureen & Kieran Blair of Santa Paula.

We enjoyed the company of Member Christine Gilchrist on the second day, but otherwise our visitors were few in number-- Therese Blair of Las Vegas, Nevada. And Nick Lyons of Los Angeles.

Come join us in 2013 at these Southern California Highland Games:

- Costa Mesa – May 25 & 26, 2013
<http://www.unitedscottishsociety.com/games.htm>



Maureen and Kieran Blair at the California Games

DUES REMINDER

2013 Dues are due by January 1st 2013. Please take a minute to either write out a check or better yet, get on-line to renew, using PayPal. It's very quick and easy. Just go to www.clanblair.org and select, either CBS Join, or the Members Only site. The information needed to access the Members only site of our webpage is:

Username: *clanblair* (all lower case)

Password: *cbs1988*

Then go to membership renewal and click on which option you want.

If writing a check, make the checks out to: Clan Blair Society and mail to:

Membership Chair, 3413 Sunnybrook Drive,
Charlotte, NC 28210-4715

In Memory



Elizabeth Anne Carr Haring Blair of Alabama

Elizabeth Anne Carr Haring Blair, Anne Blair, age 95, of Mtn. Brook, passed peacefully Saturday, August 25, 2012 at home. Anne was born December 6, 1916, in Ann Arbor, Michigan to Carlyle R., and Bernice P. Carr. She graduated Scarborough High School, Tarrytown, New York; and attended Katharine Gibbs Fine Arts School 2 year secretarial program, New York City. Anne married Graham Haring, June 23, 1940, and was widowed with 2 young children in 1954, in Cleveland, Ohio. She relocated to Scottsdale, Arizona to be near her elderly parents, where she lived until marrying (the late) Harrison W. Blair on March 18, 1967, she then moved to Birmingham. Together they enjoyed volunteering with Alabama Symphony Orchestra, traveling the world; she also enjoyed working at the information booth of Birmingham Museum of Art. Mrs. Blair loved animals, enjoyed riding horses, and particularly her days spent at Patchwork Farms with her friends and her beloved horse Jester.

The family wishes to thank Jacqueline Cox and Eula Struggs for their extraordinary care, and trusted friendship. Mrs. Blair is survived by her daughters, Pamela (Robert) Arthur and Carrlyn Clay; 3 grandchildren: Wendy (Tom) Julian, Blaine (Nicolle) Pitkin, Justin Bates and the late Cody Bates who preceded her in death. She has 5 great-grandchildren, Zachary and Alexander Julian, Ronnie and Donnie Pitkin, and Jordan Bates also

Mel Robinson a dear and beloved friend to Anne and family.

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CHARLES DIMAN, MEMBERSHIP:

New Members – 4th Quarter 2012

1103 Raymond Wayne McCLELLAND
P.O. Box 254
Gate City VA 24251
276-386-7125 raymac425@yahoo.com

1104 Curtis BLAIR
1310 McArthur Ave.
Colorado Springs CO 80909
719-578-8095 Cublair145@gmail.com

1105 Kipp BAKER
PO Box 21
Estes Park CO 80517
970-586-0104

1106 Maureen Blair
429 Estriga Court
Santa Paula CA 93060
805-217-7972 mobilair217@aol.com



Scots have a reputation of being stingy – here is an illustration:

Angus called in to see his friend Donald to find he was stripping the wallpaper from the walls. Rather obviously, he remarked "You're decorating, I see." to which Donald replied "Naw. I'm moving house."

DNA SALE!!!

CBS Members!

This year, Family Tree DNA has begun their end of year sale early.

If you've ever wanted to participate in the Blair DNA Project, or upgrade your existing test, this is a great time!
See following page for details.

Hope everybody has a great holiday season!

Yours aye,
Shawn Blair, Weblaird
weblaird@clanblair.org

As we ended our 8th Annual Genetic Genealogy Conference, several conference participants asked us to start our year-end sale as soon as possible. In answer to those requests we decided to start it immediately:

New Kits	Current Price	SALE PRICE
Y-DNA 37	\$169	\$119
Y-DNA 67	\$268	\$199
mtDNAPlus	\$159	\$139
mtFullSequence (FMS)	\$299	\$199
SuperDNA (Y-DNA 67 and mtFullSequence)	\$548	\$398
Family Finder	\$289	\$199
Family Finder + mtDNAPlus	\$438	\$318
Family Finder + mtFullSequence	\$559	\$398
Family Finder + Y-DNA 37	\$438	\$318
Comprehensive (FF + FMS + Y-67)	\$837	\$597
Upgrades	Current Price	SALE PRICE
Y-Refine 12-25 Marker	\$59	\$35
Y-Refine 12-37 Marker	\$109	\$69
Y-Refine 12-67 Marker	\$199	\$148
Y-Refine 25-37 Marker	\$59	\$35
Y-Refine 25-67 Marker	\$159	\$114

Y-Refine 37-67 Marker	\$109	\$79
Y-Refine 37-111 Marker	\$220	\$188
Y-Refine 67-111 Marker	\$129	\$109
mtHVR1toMega	\$269	\$179
mtHVR2toMega	\$239	\$179
mtFullSequence Add-on	\$289	\$199

To order this special offer, log in to your personal page and click on the Order An Upgrade button in the upper right corner. A link to the login page is provided below. ALL ORDERS MUST BE PLACED AND PAID FOR BY **MONDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2012 11:59:00 PM CST** TO RECEIVE THE SALE PRICES.

As always, we appreciate your continued support.

Family Tree DNA

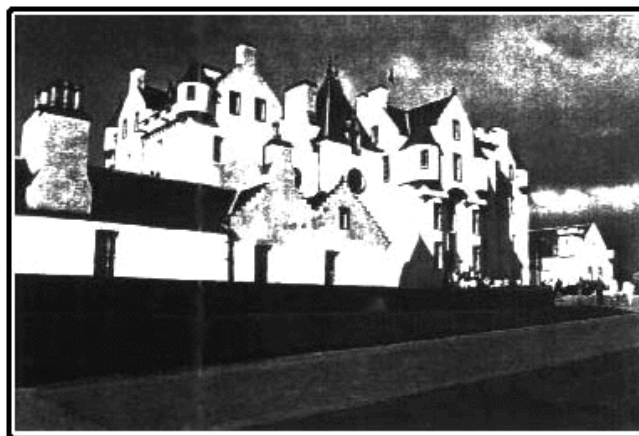
www.familytreedna.com

"History Unearthed Daily"

IMPORTANT PLACES NAMED BLAIR IN SCOTLAND:

Ardblair Castle - Located one mile West of Blairgowrie, Perthshire. The estate was originally granted to Thomas Blair, a son of Balthayock Blairs, by King David II in 1399. The earliest part of the castle is a tall fortalice, grafted onto the foundations of an earlier tower or keep, said to date from 1688. Through marriage, the property passed into the hands of the Oliphants of Gask in 1791. It is currently owned by Laurence and Jennifer Blair Oliphant. The castle is filled with Jacobite relics.

Blair Castle - Located at Blair-Atholl, Perthshire, between Perth and Inverness. Built in the 13th century and restored in the late 18th century, it is the ancestral home of Lord Murray, Duke of Atholl. The castle is apparently named for its location, for no Blair has ever lived there. Situated on 135,000 acres and containing an exceptional collection of antiques, Blair Castle is the premier tourist attraction in Perthshire.



Blairadam – A village in Fifeshire, was originally named Maryburgh, but renamed after the family of famous Scottish architects and interior designers, most famous of which was Robert Adam (1728-1792), a designer of furniture, whose father was born in this village.

Blairadam Forest - An area ten kilometers North of Dunfermline, Fifeshire, Blairadam means ‘level clearing (blar) of Adam (surname).’

Blair-Atholl – A parish in Perthshire, located twenty miles North of Dunkeld. It is the site of Blair Castle, seat of the Duke of Atholl, the only citizen in Britain with the right to maintain a private army, the Atholl Highlanders.

Blairburn – A village in the parish of Culross, Perthshire.

Blairdaff – Is in the Chapel of Garioch parish, Aberdeen, and is located 5 miles Northwest of Inverury.

Blair-Drummond – Is located in Perthshire, 6 kilometers Northwest of Stirling and 48 kilometers Southwest of Perth. Drummond means ‘at the ridge,’ thus Blair-Drummond is a ‘level clearing (blar) at the ridge.’ Lord Drummond was created the Earl of Perth in 1605 by King James IV. Drummond Castle is located at Concraig.

Blair-Gowrie – A burgh and parish in Perthshire, located 16 miles by rail North Northeast of Perth, and 58 miles North of Edinburgh. It was erected into a burgh of Barony by charter from King Charles I, dated 9 July 1634, in favor of George Drummond, then proprietor of the estate. The ruins of Glasclune Castle, former home of a cadet branch of the Balthayock Blairs, is located in the hamlet of Kinloch, just 3 miles Northwest of Blair-Gowrie.

Blair Hall – Is located 10 miles West Northwest of Dunfermline in Fifeshire.

Blairingone – Is located in the parish of Fossoway & Tulliebole in Perthshire, 10 miles West of Kinross.

Blair-Logie – A small village in Perthshire, located 3 miles Northeast of Sterling in the fertile Forth valley. This is a favorite resort area because of its climate.

Blairmore – A hamlet in Kenmore parish, Perthshire.

Blairs College – Is a Catholic school located near Aberdeen. Held most of the post-reformation Roman Catholic records in Scotland until 1958, when the collection was transferred to Columbia House in Edinburgh.

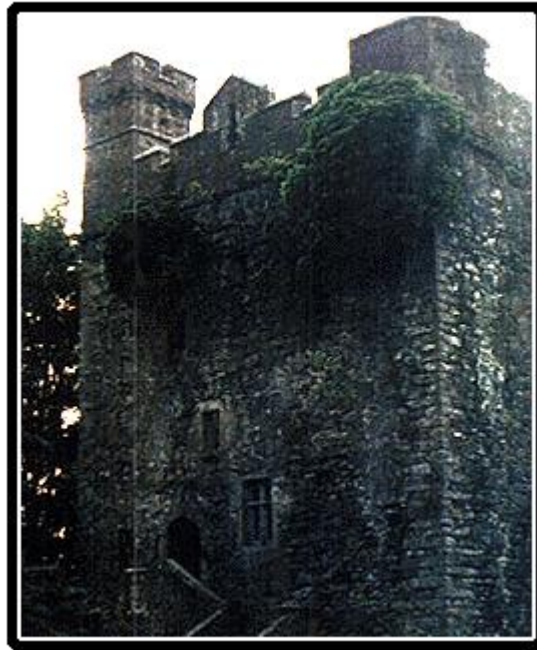
Blairquhan – Pronounced Blair-wan, this story-book castle is located 10 miles South Southeast of Ayr, near Straiton in Ayrshire. Four families have lived at Blairquhan. The McWhirters built the first tower house about 1346. The Kennedy’s then inherited the estate through marriage and built the remainder of the old castle about 1573. In the early 17th century the Whitefords took over, but in 1798, suffering the effects of a bank crash, they sold Blairquhan to Sir David Hunter-



Blair, second son of James Hunter, who married, in 1770, Jean Blair, the daughter and heiress of John Blair of Dunskey in Wigtonshire. When Jean Blair inherited her father’s estate in 1777, the family added Blair to their name. In 1820, David Hunter-Blair commissioned Scottish architect William Burn to design a new house on Blairquhan. The old castle, having become ruinous, was torn down to make room for the new; however, some of the decorative mouldings and sculpted stones from the old castle were incorporated into the kitchen courtyard of the new house. The new Tudor style mansion was completed in 1824, and contains many antiques and an important collection of paintings by Scottish artists. Perhaps the best achievement of Blairquhan is

the 3 mile approach to the castle along the river Girvan and the beautiful walled gardens. Sir Hunter-Blair, 7th Baronet, is the current owner. Blairquhan is open to visitors by appointment only.

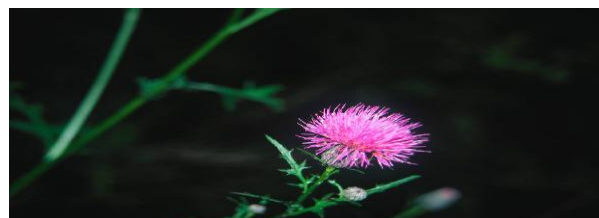
Blair of Balthayock Castle - Is located in the Parish of Kinnoul, Perthshire, about 4 miles East of Perth on the North side of Tay River. Balthayock Castle dates back to the 15th Century, or perhaps



earlier, and is now in ruins.

All that remains is a massive square tower, or keep, with 5 foot thick walls, and part foundation. Balthayock Castle was the chief seat of the Perthshire Blairs for nearly 500 years. This Blair family and its Cadet branches once held lands that stretched over an area reaching from the Castle North to Blairgowrie, then over to the North Sea and down to Dundee and the river Tay. The progenitor of the Perthshire Blairs was Alexander de Blair, who married Ela, daughter of Hugo de Neyden of that Ilk, and received a charter of lands in Fifeshire before 1229. His descendant, Patrick de Blair, became the first Baron of Balthayock when he received a charter for the lands from Nicholas de Erskine, Lord of the Kinnoul, in 1370. The original blood line of this family ran out in the 18th Century, when John Blair of Balthayock died leaving only a daughter, Margaret, as sole heiress to the estate. In 1728, Margaret married David Drummond, who assumed the name and Arms of Blair of Balthayock. His descendant, Jemima Johnston-Blair, married Adam Fergusson. Their eldest son, Neil Fergusson-Blair, adopted the name and Arms of Blair of Balthayock in order to inherit the estate. He died in 1862, and the second son, Adam Johnston Fergusson-Blair, who had immigrated to Canada, sold the Balthayock estate.

And, of course, BLAIR HOUSE, which was excised this time due to space constraints.



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