



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 – December 2013

CBS President’s Message



Fellow Scots – Seasons Greetings! The year of 2013 has been an exciting experience and I have thoroughly enjoyed bringing leadership to the Clan Blair Society. The Board of Directors has worked hard to deliver quality programs and service to our more than 200 members, and I thank each director for their commitment to our organization.

A highlight for 2013 was the first Annual General Meeting (AGM) via the internet. On September 21, thirty or more families joined on a WebEx conference to share stories about Blair ancestors, Scottish Attire, Genealogy and DNA and review the business affairs of CBS. The Cyber-AGM was recorded and is available to members on the Member section of the www.clanblair.org website.

The event was so successful, and the feedback positive, that the Board has decided to host WebEx events on a more regular basis (quarterly) during 2014. Please plan to join the next CBS event scheduled for Saturday February 15 at 10 am MST. The program is planned for 1 hour, and will include the Gaelic version of the Ode to the Haggis (along with English translation), the history of Robert Burns and a video presentation of the Blair House in Dalry, Scotland. Should you have ideas about a future subject for discussions please contact me at president@clanblair.org.

In this quarterly newsletter, you will see reports on activities in several our state Clans, an update on membership renewal and recruitment, memorials of Clan members and other family activities.

I hope that you agree - it is a Great time to be a Scot!

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Colorado CBS Report

4th Qtr. 2013

Kurt M. Blair Co-Commissioner

My first year as the Co-Commissioner for the Colorado Clan Blair Society has been very exciting and I am looking forward to the coming year and its activities. As we close 2013, I reflect back on some of the great things that we have done and cannot wait to do them again. One thing that I am always open to are ideas for activities that will allow us to get together and share some fellowship, please let me know if there are things that you would like to do.

The Colorado Clan Blair Society was well represented at the Long’s Peak Scottish-Irish Festival in Estes Park in August. We participated in the parade and in the gathering of the Clans. Although the stay of Dac and I was cut short due to a kidney stone, I had a great time meeting many of our clan members who were in attendance and certainly sharing some Blair Athol. I look forward to doing this again next year.

The Clan recently toured the Stranahan’s Colorado Whisky Distillery in Denver, CO. We had a great time. In addition to Dac and me, our good friends, Bob and Jeanne Akerley, Curtis and Anne Blair and their friends, Kim Blair and Jennifer and her friend

from Fort Collins, joined us. Following the tour, we enjoyed lunch at Pint's Pub in Denver, which has hundreds of single malt Scotches from all over, including our own Blair Athol.



Blairs enjoying The Stranahan's Distillery Tour

As we head into the holidays, I am certainly looking forward to activities in the New Year. Jim Blair and I have already been talking about setting a date for the Burns Supper, which is February 1, 2014. Enjoy a safe holiday season and have a Happy New Year.

Slainte'

Kurt M. Blair

Co-Commissioner Colorado Clan Blair Society

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**Arizona Commissioner
Helen Blair az_blair@cox.net**

July 19-21st, 2013, was the 16th Annual Arizona Celtic Highland Festival in Flagstaff. Bob & I drove up to represent Clan Blair Society. We were expecting terrible weather & packed accordingly. Black skies & heavy rain were all we saw as we drove there to set up Friday but as soon as we got to the site, the rain stopped. It rained off & on all weekend but we stayed dry while we were at the field. Member Allan Blair of Flagstaff came Saturday morning to help us and we appreciated his enthusiasm. Member Alvin Blair of Flagstaff came with pictures of his big Blair family reunion. We did

not have many visitors, but the weather reports & ominous sky may have scared many people away. Visitors to our tent included Members- Allan Blair of Flagstaff, Alvin Blair of Prescott, Jane Shepard-Hall & hubby from Phoenix along with visitors- Blair Johnson, Bobbie Ursin, David Blair, Gordon Haxel all from Flagstaff, Blair Mitchel of Phoenix and Patti Gordon, and William Ashley of Mesa. We enjoyed hearing the pipes and our tent was celebrated too! We won BEST CLAN TENT! We received a certificate plus a \$50 bill. Woo-hoo! The weather was so nice and cool. The coolness was so different from the heat down in the valley I did not want to leave. We were the last clan to leave the field Sunday evening. The rain started once we got in the car to head home to the hot humid valley. It was a great weekend.



Alvin Blair, Allan Blair and Bob Blair, Flagstaff Arizona Celtic Highland Festival

September 21st, 2013 was the fifth Celtic Harvest Festival in Sedona. Bob & I hosted the tent. Poco Diablo Resort's golf course was the festival site. It was a beautiful location surrounded by the red rocks and green grounds. Our tent was a short walk from our hotel room, making it easy for Bob to rest during the day. It was a beautiful location, wonderful music, dancing, bagpipes & many vendors. The only things missing were clans & Blair visitors. Family friend Jessica Hunsaker & company stopped by and most visitors to the event stopped by asking general questions but not particularly interested in Blair history. Oh well, it was a nice little festival. Next year they will be moving it to a larger venue near the casino outside of Sedona since parking issues may have scared many clans & visitors away.



Bob Blair in the Blair tent, Sedona Celtic Harvest Festival



Helen Blair, parade, Sedona Celtic Harvest Festival

January 20th, 2014 there will be a Robbie Burns Night/Ian McNessie night at the Celtic Crossing Pub in Prescott, AZ

January 25th 2014 there will be a Burns Supper at the Westin Resort in Scottsdale, AZ for tickets www.arizonascots.com

March 22nd & 23rd, 2014 will be the 50th Annual Arizona Scottish Games & Highland Festival. It is going to be held again at Indian Steele Park, Phoenix, AZ. One difference this year is the hours, Saturday 9am-7pm, Sunday 9am-4pm. This is a big event & we will be ready for lots of visitors. I usually cook & bring quite a bit of goodies for this event since our tent is usually full most the time. It may be the Scotch but I think it is for good food and good company. For more information about this event check out www.arizonascots.com



Bob & I have won our 5th Best Clan Tent Award. This one was from this last Flagstaff Games. I have always enjoyed displaying information about the ancient family of Blair & try to have a welcoming tent for all. If any members would like to represent Clan Blair Society at a local event, contact a Board member. CBS helps their Commissioners with information & helps defray some costs so please consider sharing information about the ancient family of Blair.

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Save the Date!

February 15, 2014

10 am. MST

Quarterly WebEx Presentation

All Members Welcome

Please join us via WebEx on Saturday February 15 for the next discussion about Clan Blair Society and Scottish history. Members will receive a special invitation from CBS Webmaster Shawn Blair to connect from your computer, or telephone, for this event. It is scheduled to for 1 hour and will provide information as follows:

Robert Burns history

Ode to the Haggis (Gaelic and English versions)

Video presentation of the Blair House in Dalry, Scotland

We plan to host WebEx discussion sessions on a quarterly basis. Please let Jim Blair know about subjects you would like included. Write president@clanblair.org.

A REPORT FROM CHINA!

Dr. Sampson Lee Blair

(Please note that this report was inadvertently left out of the last newsletter. It is an exciting report – the editor greatly regrets this omission.)

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UTAH COMMISSIONER REPORT

Whit Young

Dear Clan Blair fellow members:

I sincerely hope that you enjoyed the internet broadcast to all of us of the General Meeting. Hopefully, my DVD and added comments were of help to you adding information to your own knowledge of Scottish history. As you probably are aware, this coming year is the 700th anniversary of the Battle of Bannockburn and certainly it follows that there will be a well-earned celebration of King Robert the Bruce.

When I was in my adolescence, I remember reading of King Robert the Bruce in my stories of Scottish Heroes. He has been among mine for many a year.

If you are interested, I have a website showing the Battle in a miniature presentation, which we have shown to many a crowd for 4 or 5 years at the Estes Park Games in Colorado. It has been well received. At the end of the presentation there are books I have on sale that go into more detail. I have come to that era of life that I want to get out of the business. I would like to have this as my last year. You can see the diorama at www.lionshield.us

The Battle of Bannockburn is Scotland's most famous battle and the victor, Robert the Bruce, its most famous and successful King. Should you have any questions or more information on the books please email me at clanblair@lionshield.net.

Sincerely, Whit Young

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Greetings from China! Now I am still in Shanghai, where I have been teaching at Shanghai International Studies University. Earlier this year, I was selected as part of a group of American professors, all from different academic disciplines, to teach a series of summer courses here in China. Needless to say, it has been quite an adventure, particularly in terms of adapting to the rather unique culture here. The difference in norms is substantial, and the cuisine absolutely requires a strong stomach and an open mind. In all honesty, though, my feelings about eating fried donkey are probably the same way that most Chinese people would feel about eating haggis! To each their own, I suppose...

As you might imagine, there is a dreadful lack of Scots in this country. That's not to say that there aren't a few here. Indeed, I was pleasantly surprised to locate the Shanghai Scots Sports Club, which has been around, in various forms, since 1868. Back in the 1800s, the UK, along with France and several other countries, had considerable business ties with China, and most of these were based here in Shanghai. As more Scots settled here, because of their business affairs, they decided to create an athletic club, featuring sports such as golf, cricket, rugby, and soccer. It seems to be an active group, as they held a Burns Supper earlier this year, and regularly get together for sports (and perhaps a bit of exercise involving lifting large containers of ale!). You can find some more information about the Shanghai Scots Sports Club here - <http://www.pitchero.com/clubs/shanghaiscottishsportsclub/>

Prior to coming to China, we opened our year of festivals with the Finger Lakes Celtic Festival, held in Farmington, New York, on May 18. Fortunately, the weather was much more accommodating this year, and the festival attracted substantially more people. The festival featured a nice variety of pipe bands, athletic games, and Scottish dancers. Given the size of the crowd, along with the large number of vendors who attended, it is clear that this festival is gaining in popularity, and will continue to grow over the coming years.

On August 24, we will be heading back to the Jamestown Regional Celtic Festival, which is held in the town of Mayfield,, New York, on the shores of Lake Chautauqua. This festival had to move to a larger location a few years,

ago, as the festival simply outgrew its original spot in the town of Jamestown. It also attracts a large contingent of pipe bands, with several coming in from our neighboring states of Pennsylvania and Ohio.

In September, we will travel north, to the edge of Lake Ontario, to participate in the Niagara Celtic Festival. Located in the lakeshore town of Olcott, this festival also continues to grow larger each year. The festival is held in the town park, overlooking the lake, and on a clear day, you can actually look across the lake and see the CN Tower in downtown Toronto. There is a beautiful canopy of very large elm and oak trees over the entire park, which gives the festival a unique flavor. We spend the entire weekend at the Olcott festival, as they have Scottish bands, which play well into the wee hours of the night for the entertainment of the clans.

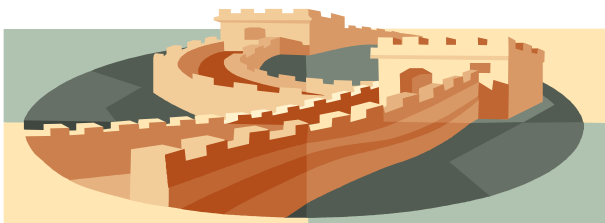
In the event that you are in New York later this summer, please be sure to drop by our tent. Until then, we extend our very warmest regards to everyone!

Sampson & Marilou Blair
New York Commissioners



Dr. Sampson Blair and Marilou, Great Wall of China

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Bob Blair Collection; Exciting WWII Footage on Display

Bob Blair, Father of CBS Member Bob Blair of Virginia, was one of the few cinematographers able to film the Normandy Invasion. The University of South Carolina released the following news story:

“At the beginning of World War II, Bob Blair was working as a freelance newsreel cameraman out of the Cleveland, Ohio, area. For the first two years of the war, he filmed the stories essential to coverage of the Home Front. In the fall of 1943, the New York office of Fox Movietone News approached him with the opportunity to become a full-time staff newsreel cameraman, a highly sought-after job. All he needed to do was take on one special assignment for them first: film the invasion of France.

The camera Blair used to capture those events, along with his correspondence, photos and artifacts from that time are part of a recent gift to Moving Image Research Collections (MIRC).

“The Bob Blair Collection comes to us from his son, Bob Blair Jr., who found his father’s newsreel film on MIRC’s World War II site and wrote to tell us about his father,” said Greg Wilsbacher, MIRC’s Movietone News Curator. “We sent him a DVD of his father’s work, including film of the surrender of Cherbourg on June 26, 1944.

Bob Blair was one of only five civilian newsreel cameramen sent to France. He was thousands of miles away from his New York base. Unlike Navy and Army Signal Corps cameramen, he had to arrange for his own accommodations, pay his own way, and maintain his own equipment. The Blair items demonstrate both the difficulty of war and the difficulty of filming in war:

The Blair Collection includes:

- Camera used to film the Normandy invasion – a 35mm Bell and Howell Eyemo
- Standard camera equipment
- Portable lights
- Some still photos, many that focus on TV news
- Oral history by Blair, including a text transcription, from early 1980’s
- NBC license plates from Blair’s car

- MP40 German light machine gun, no longer operational, that Blair retrieved after being caught in a firefight in 1944
- Documentation, like a visa, noncombatant papers, London hotel bills
- Portraits of Blair in uniform

All of the items help MIRC in trying to grow and establish a better understanding of the cameramen who filmed the news,' Wilsbacher said. 'We hope to build the supplemental materials of the lives of these talented and courageous men.'

The Blair collection is soon to be digitized and available online. *(CBS Editor's note: I went to U. of SC.> about> libraries & collections>Moving Image Research Collections and watched some of the videos. It was fascinating and I urge readers to do the same!)*



31. **Mannie**
Pronounced: man-nee
Meaning: Little man
From "50 Weird Scottish Words" sent in by Tom Blair

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CBS BLAST FROM THE PAST!

Submission, Shawn Blair



Clan Blair Presidents #1 and #2!

On Display
"From Omaha to St. Lo: Bob Blair, Movietone and the Battle of Normandy"
Featuring the Bob Blair Collection
Hollings Library, Brittain Gallery
Through October 31

From the University of South Carolina's newspaper, "Reflections"

Shawn writes: "I have been scanning old 35mm prints into my computer and have a few from the earlier days of CBS. This is one of Norman Blair and Don Blair in October 1992 at the Goshen Festival in Goshen, CT. They came up to help me setup and run my very first clan tent. Norman and Don were CBS Presidents #1 & #2."

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Flowers of the Forest

Member #960- Phil Blair Hill, Michigan CBS Commissioner died July 31, 2013 in Phoenix, AZ. He was the first CBS Commissioner of Michigan. After becoming Commissioner, he hosted a CBS Annual General Meeting and banquet in Lavonia, Michigan. He had two beautifully embroidered flags/banners made & donated them after that AGM to be used at all future CBS AGM's. They traveled to both sides of the USA for several AGM's until the last few years when they were held in Colorado.

Phil was a very devoted caretaker of his wife Donna. In addition to his wife, he is survived by his sisters Pat Risdon (Clyde) of MI, Carolyn Krone(Geoffrey) of MI and daughter Julie Lynn Oring(Rob) of AZ. All have been members of CBS.

He will always be remembers for his quick smile, twinkle in his eye & quick wit. He loved people and enjoyed sharing his knowledge & experiences with everyone. All who had the pleasure of knowing him will miss him.

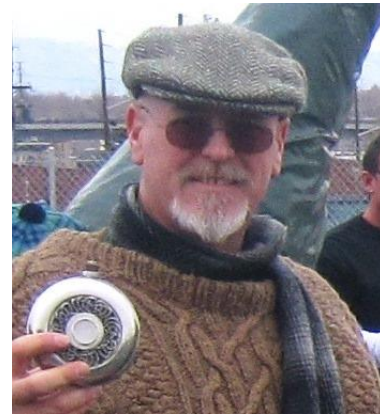
AZ member Jane Shepard-Hall lost her father this past year. She wrapped his urn in the Blair tartan for a very special memorial service.

CBS Member Curtis Lee Judd, Age 52, passed away on the 8th of November, 2013 in the company of his wife and children. He had been fighting Gastric Cancer for several months.

He was born May 2, 1961 in Boulder, CO to Mother Violet E. Smithburg and Father, William R. Judd.

Curtis is survived by his loving wife, Katherine (Katte); his daughters, Jennifer, and Meaghan; and son, Celton. He also leaves behind a sister, Brenda Higgins (John) of Genoa, CO, many dear friends including Leslie Blair Gallagher of Colorado Springs, CO, Erin (Gallagher) and Guy Grandison of Reading, England.

He was the embodiment of a "Man of Worth" and a true friend to all. His strength, wisdom and inquiring mind will be greatly missed by all who knew him.



Curtis Lee Judd



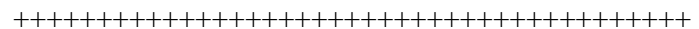
**Blairs at the Alamo
From Charlie Diman**

There were Blairs fighting at the Battle of the Alamo, (February 2, 1836 through March 6, 1836) discovered by Charlie Diman:

John Blair, Private, from Tennessee, killed in battle, born in 1803, and

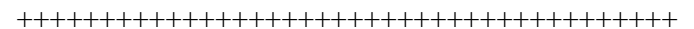
Samuel Blair, Captain, Assistant to Ordinance Chief, Ordinance Department, born in 1807.

Apparently, they were not brothers, but both were from Tennessee.



CLAN BLAIR STORE
Submitted by Helen Blair

Clan Blair Society Store is open for business. Prices have not changed for several years but will be going up soon as prices have gone up to replace stock items. I'll be putting together a new order sheet with the new changes for the next newsletter so take advantage of the existing prices until then. clanstore@clanblair.org or call 480-807-4024 or write me @ Helen Blair, 7516 E. Hermosa Vista Drive, Mesa, AZ 85207-1110.



Membership Dues Reminder

Clan Blair Society

On April 1st, the password will be changed and made available only to 2014 active members.

As always, \$20 dues are due January 1st.

This year we will be changing the Members Area password around January 1.

The password will be sent to only 2013 members & 2014 renewals.

Use either PayPal, on the Clan Blair website, or mail your dues to the Membership Chair (address below)

Charlie

Charles N. Diman
NC Commissioner & Membership Chair
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980-254-2743

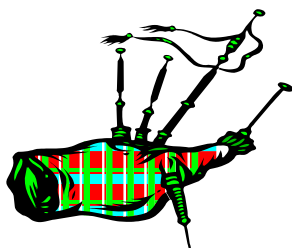
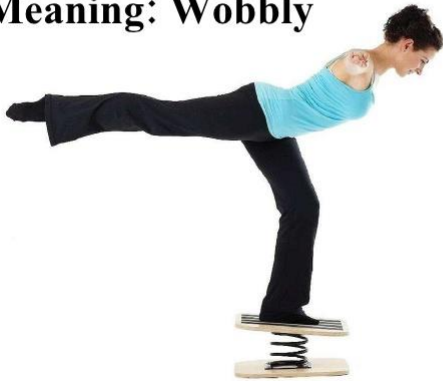
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More "50 Weird Scottish Words" by Nichola Swankie

40. Schoogle

Pronounced: Shoe-gull

Meaning: Wobbly



41. Shuftey

Pronounced: Shuff-tee

Meaning: To have a wee peek



47. Tattyboggler

Pronounced: Tat-ee-bog-ler

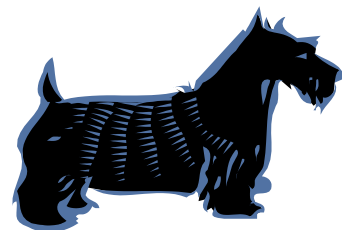
Meaning: Scarecrow

50. Wheesht

Pronounced:

Whee-sht

Meaning: Be quiet



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December 2013

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