



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

4th Quarter, December, 2014

President’s Message:



Fellow Scots:

Merry Christmas, Happy Hogmanay and Happy New Year! It is a pleasure on behalf of Clan Blair Society to bring you Holiday greetings.

Your Clan Blair Society (CBS) has had a very successful 2014. Our membership tops 247, which is an increase of over 2013 reflecting that Blairs across the country are enjoying our activities, our festivals, faith, ceremonies and other events.

In this newsletter, you will find articles on Clan activities across the country, items of interest and news about fellow Blairs.

Blair Bruidhin Editor Adoree Blair has announced that newsletters for 2015 will be produced in February, May, August and November..

We appreciate your involvement, interest and contributions to CBS and we really enjoy your articles for this newsletter. Please continue to share news from your part of the country with the newsletter editor. Please let us know your thoughts.

May your holidays be joyous. Slainte’.

It’s a great day to be a Scot!

Jim Blair, President@clanblair.org

CBS AGM Recording Available & Your Opinions

The 2014 Clan Blair Society -Cyber- Annual General Meeting recording has finally been converted and posted to the Members Only site. If you did not make it to the AGM, or would like to watch it again, visit the Members Only site at <http://members.clanblair.net/cbsvideos-2014agm.html> to watch the recording. Remember, you will have to login with the username: ClanBlair and password: 900years to get access.

If you attended the AGM, or have watched the recording, or not. Please take our 2014 Clan Blair Society AGM Survey (provided by SurveyMonkey.com) at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/SWZKKCW>. We will keep the survey open through the end of January to give you all a chance to watch the AGM and give us your opinions.

We would appreciate your feedback on the topics and presentations that we put together for the membership. You can watch the recording first at the link above, then answer our survey.

2014 is ending quickly and the CBS Board is looking for suggestions of topics for our online presentations next year. Send yours to Jim or Shawn.

Yours Aye,
Shawn Blair, WebLaird

Colorado Report

Leslie Blair Gallagher, Colorado Commissioner

Since our significant activity in the 3rd quarter, our 4th quarter report is short. We are in the planning stages for activities for 2015, including our Burns Supper scheduled for Saturday, Feb 7.



Board Positions Available

The CBS Board continues to search for members to serve as librarian and High Commissioner. Position descriptions are available within an email to President@clanblair.org

Membership Chair, Charlie Diman, is also seeking assistance with mailing paper copies of the newsletter. Please contact membership@clanblair.org

New Idaho Commissioner

We are pleased to announce that Brian Fredline has assumed the position of Commissioner for the state of Idaho. He replaces long-term and devoted CBS leader Ann Fredline, who will continue in her role as CBS Treasurer. Please send your congratulations to Brian at bfredline@msn.com Welcome, Brian.

Recorded Broadcasts Available on Members-only website

Webmaster Shawn Blair recently completed “tweaking” the latest two video programs available on the Members-only website (<http://members.clanblair.net>).

Shawn added the recording for the 2014 AGM, and the presentation by John Blair of the Blair DNA Project. His good work resulted in making both of these videos viewable on mobile devices. Testing confirms access on tablet devices and smart phones. However, Shawn has not tested on Apple devices. Please let him know if you encounter trouble (weblaird@clanblair.org).

Cost of Newsletter Mailing

The quarterly Newsletter is provided to members 1) in digital form (via email and download from the <http://members.clanblair.net> website) and 2) for those who request in paper form. Charlie Diman manages this paper mailing process for the Clan and has advised the Board of Directors of increasing costs of printing and postage. Currently 77 Members are receiving paper copies at a cost of about \$9 each (printing and postage). In 2015 the Board must consider balancing these costs with revenue and will consider a \$10 surcharge for the

paper mailing process. If you are willing to receive the newsletter in digital form please notify Charlie at membership@clanblair.org.

Arizona Report:

Helen L. Blair az_blair@cox.net
Arizona Commissioner

2014 was a busy year for us. Bob’s health had deteriorated rapidly at the end of last year but luckily has stabilized over the last six months. He is still not well enough to travel but luckily, my son Andrew Blair Cupp has been busy hosting the Clan Blair Society tent at several different games in Arizona. Andrew set up two tents at the Phoenix Games in March with help from friends. At the Prescott Games in May, he set up one tent & Allan Blair helped him hold down the fort. In July, he set up two tents at the Flagstaff Games with James & TJ Blair helping him both days. In September, he set up one tent at the Sedona Games. He is not very good at keeping a record of visitors so I do not know who has stopped by the tent. He remembers faces but not names so if you stop by, please sign in. I want to remind members that we always have our large array of Blair genealogy books & literature for visitors to browse through. We provide chairs, water & snacks along with Blair Athol Single Malt Scotch for ‘medicinal purposes only.’

The next event will be The Robert Burns Dinner January 24th, 2015, at the Phoenix Country Club. We will not be in attendance but it is usually a fun gathering. For information www.arizonascots.com

March 21st & 22nd 2015 will be the 51st Annual Arizona Scottish Gathering & Highland Games. The festivities start out Friday the 20 with a Pipe Jam & Glenmorangie Single Malt Scotch Tasting 7-9pm at the Westin Kirkland Resort & Spa in Scottsdale. The Games will be held both Saturday & Sunday at Steele Indian School Park, 300 E. Indian School, Phoenix, AZ. There will be more than 50 Clan tents, Highland dancing, Country dancing, a genealogy tent, large kids’ area, historical re-enactors, heavy athletics, entertainers performing on several stages throughout both days, Celtic groups & societies, vintage British cars, vendors, and food. On Saturday evening from 5-7 pm there will be a Ceilidh in the Ghille Dhu Pub. We will have two tents set up for these Games. For further information www.arizonascots.com



Wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas & a fantastic 2015- Helen & Bob Blair

CBS STORE

Helen Blair clanstore@clanblair.org

The Clan Blair Store is open. It is one of the benefits of membership. The merchandise we sell at cost to members which is significantly cheaper than retail. I send most items out through U.S. Post office flat rate boxes but I can overnight items if needed. Members just pay the actual shipping costs. We now accept credit cards, which is helpful with big orders. I have the pewter Blair themed jewelry (kilt pins, cap badges, tie/lapel pins, belt buckles, necklaces, cuff links, key fobs), metal Blair badge pins, Blair themed stationary, books (Blairline III, The Blair Surname, The Blairs of Balthayock and their Cadets), the professional DVD showing the ancient Blair of Blair beginning at the Blair Estate before it was sold. We have some tee shirts & sweatshirts in limited sizes. Of course, we have our tartans. We keep in stock the Ancient, Modern, Dress & modified Dress in a medium weight wool along with our cotton twill in the Ancient. Contact me if you are interested in ordering. I have pictures that can show details. – Helen Blair clanstore@clanblair.org, 480-807-4024, 7516 E. Hermosa Vista Dr. Mesa, AZ 85207. There are plenty of ways to place an order! (see page 9 for details)

Flowers of the Forest:

Michael Ladd Blair

Wisconsin CBS member #1026 David Blair & his family are grieving the death of his brother Michael Ladd Blair. Michael was born June 22, 1975 & died Nov.6, 2014. Our thoughts and prayers go out to David & his extended family.

Michael's obituary reads:

Michael Ladd Blair (1975 - 2014) Obituary Michael Ladd Blair, 39, of Altamont, died at 1:24 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 6, 2014, in Effingham.No visitation or services are planned at this time. Memorials: Donor's choice. Gieseeking Funeral Home in Altamont was in charge of arrangements. Online condolences may be shared at

www.gieseekingfh.com. Mr. Blair was born on June 23, 1975, in Effingham, the son of Dennis and Kathi Hatfill Blair.He is survived by his father, of Effingham; mother, Kathi Robertson of Altamont; and daughter, Naveah Blair of Altamont.

David Earl Lawrence

Longtime CBS Lifetime member #337- David Earl Lawrence of Center Ossipee, New Hampshire died Nov 25, 2014

He attended several Clan Blair AGM's around the country & a couple Clan Blair Scotland tours.

He loved wearing his Blair tartan kilt and telling people about his ancestry. His mother was Agnes "Blair" Lawrence.

A big man with a big smile & a gentle nature. David was always eager to volunteer to help.

David was preceded by his parents and his wife, Elizabeth, who he continued to mourn since her death.

He is survived by his sister CBS#798 Barbara Burnett, a niece and nephew.

David Lawrence's Obituary reads:

David Earl Lawrence, 75 of Harmon Road, Freedom passed away. He was born in Lynn, Massachusetts to the late Melvin and Agnes (Blair) Lawrence. David graduated from the Lynn English High School in 1956, then went on to complete his Associates Degree at Boston University, graduating in 1958.

He belonged to the DeMolay, which is a group for young men between the ages of 12 to 21 and is a division of the Masons. He later became a Master Mason once he became of age.

When he was 28 years old he married the love of his life, the late Elizabeth (Kukoy). The two of them enjoyed R.V. camping. They traveled to many different destinations throughout the country. David had a passion for theater and Scottish dancing. He enjoyed river boat cruising. One of his favorite cruises was on the Delta Queen on the Mississippi River.

David worked various jobs during his life time. He often provided the sound systems for colleges and

theater groups.

He is survived by his loving family which includes his sister Barbara and her husband Howard Burnett of Peabody, MA, his niece Laura and her husband Kenneth Doty of York, ME, his nephew Brian and his wife Carla Burnett of Amesbury, MA. He is also survived by two great-nieces Alexa and Gianna Burnett of Amesbury, MA. He also leaves an extended family member Emma Ochinang.

There will be no services at this time. A graveside service will be announced in the spring.

If you wish to express condolences or leave a fond memory please go to www.lordfuneralhome.com

Young Blair Entrepreneur

(For those in or traveling to Portland, Oregon)

Head inside the local grocery store in Garden Home (Portland, OR) and now you will find a new taproom! In August, entrepreneur Allen Tyler (member 1118. His mother is Marybeth Blair Tyler) opened up Garden Home Growlers **inside** the grocery store. The taproom features 22 constantly rotating taps of beer, hard cider, root beer, and kombucha. Sit down and have a pint of beer before or after you do your grocery shopping, or fill a growler to take with you!

What is a growler? A growler is a container used to transport liquids.



It is commonly a 64oz reusable brown glass jug with a brewery or taproom logo printed on the side.

Fellow Clan Blair members will be happy to know that Scottish Ales are proving to be a popular style of beer for business patrons.

Stay up to date with what is new on tap by searching for Garden Home Growlers on Facebook.

An Outstanding Blair Life

Norma Jean Blair Gilmore, #28, was born in March of 1924, to Glen Brereton Blair and Olive Tinker Blair. They are of the Alexander/Elizabeth [Blair] Cochrane line. She is the only surviving grandchild of James Alexander and Williamina Brereton Blair, the other cousins (Willie, J.A., Glen and Olive buried in Fairview Cemetery #1 in Mancelona, Michigan.) Norma Jean grew up in Mancelona and moved in her teen years



(Norma Jean, 3rd from left)

to New Mexico, and where she experienced a bicycling trip probably pretty rare in those days. It lasted five days, and a story that Norma Jean wrote about this trip, with photos, was published online in a cycling magazine.

To see the full story, visit:

<http://www.adventurecycling.org/adventure-cyclist/online-features/the-cycling-eight/>

Norma Jean and her husband, Doug, received education degrees and raised four children, one of whom, Anne,



was severely disabled. Anne's disability drove Norma Jean toward special education. She had a distinguished career in Special Education, which continues to this day at age 90 and 1/2! When she wrote, in October, she was getting ready to work with two autistic students the following week! She had a long and distinguished career in Education. She taught students at the university level, and consulted with universities on Special Education. She wrote a book called Get Ready, Set, Go and Read.

As well as being active in Clan Blair, Norma Jean has been active in DAR as a descendent of Alexander Blair's son, William. She currently resides in Hamilton, Montana, near two of her sons, and obviously is in good health. It appears that a book could be written about her life, called Ready, Set, Change the World!, as that is what she has done and continues to do!

The John Knox House

(From the Scottish Storytelling Center)

John Knox House: Step inside History



'Beautiful historic medieval beauty' (TripAdvisor)

Walk in the footsteps of its famous inhabitants and hear the drama unfold in every room. Look out for the tricks and traps to fool intruders; hunt for the devil hiding in The Oak Room ceiling and try your hand at our portrait puzzles that have stumped many visitors in the past.

John Knox House dates back to 1470, making it the only original medieval building left surviving in Edinburgh. The house is associated with one of the most dramatic and turbulent times in Scottish History - The Scottish Reformation - which resulted in the outbreak of civil war and the abdication of Mary, Queen of Scots.

Although John Knox only stayed in this house for a short time before his death in 1572, it was his association with the house that saved it from demolition in the 1840s. During an excavation of the house time-capsules were found buried in the gable wall of the house to commemorate the moment the building was saved. One of these time

capsules is displayed in the window of our bookshop.

James Mosman - jeweller and goldsmith to Mary, Queen of Scots - lived in the house in the 1550s until his execution in 1573. He was extremely loyal to Queen Mary and was part of the 'Queen's Men' who seized Edinburgh Castle in an attempt to restore Mary to the throne after her forced abdication in favour of her protestant son James VI. Explore the house to find out the fate of James Mossman.

Utah Report

Whit Young, Utah Commissioner

Merry Christmas to All and a Very Happy New Year !!!!



The experience of three Scottish Games in Utah at the Salt Lake Games (held just south of the Capital City at Thanksgiving Point), then in July in Payson and then winding up at Estes Park, Colorado, in September, was probably the most successful exhibition we have accomplished. We had help from Blairs in Salt Lake (see above, marching in costumes to commemorate the 700th anniversary of the Battle of Bannockburn). Then at Estes Park we participated in the tattoo (once again in costume) and the Saturday morning parade. The Colorado Blairs most fortunately accompanied us. They are truly a great bunch and I had the privilege of walking nearly side by side with our President Jim Blair and his great wife Adoree. It was fun!



Our large miniature diorama of the Battle was shown to many newcomers and was accompanied by our 20-minute film. It rained during the tattoo but the bands, including the professionals from the UK and US marines and Williamsburg Fife and Drum Corps, played right through it to a large cheering crowd. It was the best year for the Utah Blairs.

Unfortunately, Tom Blair, my fine assistant, was unable to help, as his wife is very sick with cancer. His brother David was of immeasurable assistance here in Utah. We received much help from members of my family who marched in the parades, helped with the tents, decorations, clan marches and tattoos, etc. It was a successful bonding with the youngsters and grandchildren. I did have family members join at the Salt Lake Games. Some walked by and joined us in the parade of the clans. Overall, it was a great year. We all were very happy to make the acquaintance of the Colorado Blairs.



A Burns Supper Guide

from Burns Night: My Supper With Rabbie

*And there's a hand, my trusty fiere!
And gie's a hand o' thine!
And we'll tak' a right guid-willie waught,
For auld lang syne.*

The annual celebratory tribute to the life, works and spirit of the great Scottish poet, Robert Burns (1759-1796). Celebrated on, or about, the Bard's birthday, January 25th, Burns Suppers range from stentoriously formal gatherings of esthetes and scholars to uproariously informal rave-ups of drunkards and louts. Most Burns Suppers fall in the middle of this range, and adhere, more or less, to some sort of time honoured form which includes the eating of a traditional Scottish meal, the drinking of Scotch whisky, and the recitation of works by, about, and in the spirit of the Bard.

Every Burns Supper has its own special form and flavour, though there are probably more similarities than differences among these gastro-literary affairs. Individual tastes and talents will determine the character of your Burns Supper. Some celebrants may contribute the composition of original songs or poems; some may excel at giving toasts or reciting verse; while others may be captivating storytellers. A particular group of celebrants will, over time, develop a unique group character which will distinguish their Burns Supper celebration from every other...

With a little bit of planning anyone (well, almost anyone) can enjoy a Burns Night celebration. All that's needed is a place to gather (gracious host), plenty of haggis and neeps to go around (splendid chef), a master of ceremonies (foolhardy chai rman), friendly celebrants (you and your *drouthy* cronies), and good Scotch drink to keep you warm (BYOB). With these ingredients, at least a few celebrants will be able to make prattling fools of themselves, trying to do justice to the words and spirit of Robert Burns. And if everyone brings along a wee dram and a bit of poetry, prose or song then each, in turn, may become an object of mirth and amusement to the gathered throng. Be prepared to enjoy yourself beyond all expectation. With good cheer and gay company we all may, in short, be able to ring in the Bard's birthday!

I've found that most people, although they may be unaware of it, love to attend Burns Suppers. They may feel a little intimidated at the idea of attending a participatory event, but are attracted by the idea of a ribald literary soiree. These people are often wonderfully appreciative guests and end up having a great time. And therein lies a dilemma for all Burns Supper organizers: Motivating guests to be *active participants*, rather than *passive appreciators*. Everyone should feel comfortable taking part with verse, anecdote or song, but they may need a little help and encouragement. It helps if you know your guests and can match them with a suitable reading. Better still, you may be able to gently motivate them, in advance, by including an informal listing of sources along with your charming (I'm sure) Burns Supper invitation. Hopefully that, along with the good vibes and good whisky, will be all the encouragement anyone will need to lower their inhibitions to a level that Burns, himself, would appreciate.



Portrait of Robert Burns

Robert Burns was a Scottish poet and lyricist. He is widely regarded as the national poet of Scotland and is celebrated worldwide.

Born: January 25, 1759, Alloway, United Kingdom

Buried: St. Michael's Churchyard, Dumfries, Scotland

Songs: Lassie Wi' the Lintwhite Locks

Children: Robert, James, Elizabeth, Maxwell, William and Jean



Clan Blair Society Store Form 4/15/2014
WWW.CLANBLAIR.ORG

7516 E. Hermosa Vista Dr
Mesa, Arizona 85207-1110

Email
clanstore@clanblair.org

ITEMS	Member	Non-Member	Quantity	Spec.	TOTAL U.S \$\$
Blairfin III - soft cover book	\$18.00	\$25.00			
The Blair Surname- soft cover book	\$33.00	\$40.00			
The Blairs of Balthayock and Their Cadets 1150-1850- soft cover book	\$33.00	\$40.00			
Clan Blair of Blair Crested Cap Badge from Art Pewter	\$18.00	\$33.00			
Clan Blair of Blair Crested Kilt Pin from Art Pewter	\$18.00	\$33.00			
Clan Blair of Blair Crested Necklace/Pendant with chain from Art Pewter	\$22.00	\$40.00			
Clan Blair of Blair Crested Key Fob from Art Pewter	\$18.00	\$32.00			
Clan Blair of Blair Crested Lapel Pin from Art Pewter	\$18.00	\$26.00			
Clan Blair of Blair Crested Cuff Links from Art Pewter	\$25.00	\$40.00			
Clan Blair of Blair Crested Belt Buckle from Art Pewter	\$45.00	\$65.00			
Metal lapel pin -specify(Blair Crest- Celtic knot-Scotty dog-Thistle-US/Scottflag)	\$5.00	\$7.00			
Short Sleeved, T-shirt with <i>single Blair of Blair Crest</i> —or— <i>Double Crest</i> .----- WHITE or BLUE Specify- S- M- L- XL- 2XL- 3XL limited quantities	\$13.00	\$20.00			
Long Sleeved- Mock Turtleneck with large Blair of Blair Crest----- WHITE or BLUE Specify-S- M- L- XL- 2XL- 3XL limited quantities	\$19.00	\$24.00			
Long Sleeved, T-shirts with Double Crest .----- WHITE or BLUE Specify-S- M-L- XL- 2XL- 3XL limited quantities	\$19.00	\$24.00			
White Polo with embroidered Blair of Blair badge - Medium only	\$18.00	\$20.00			
Stationary--8pk notes & envelopes with Blair tartan ----- (Specify- Westie- Dancer- Piper- Heather- Thistle- CBS) all with Blair tartan	\$8.00	\$15.00			
TARTAN-Ancient Blair WOOL 13oz med weight 56 in wide	\$60.00	\$95.00			
TARTAN- Modern Blair WOOL- 13oz. med weight 56 in wide	\$60.00	\$95.00			
TARTAN- Dress Blair WOOL- 13oz. med weight 56 in wide. The official Blair Dress tartan, based on the Modern tartan with white stripes	\$60.00	\$95.00			
TARTAN- Ancient Blair COTTON TWILL, 58in wide	\$20.00	\$35.00			
Duck billed white Caps with Blair of Blair Coat of Arms- embroidered, limited amt.	\$12.00	\$18.00			
We have some left over wool Tartan in the Ancient and a Dress Blair based on the Ancient tartan with white stripes - limited amount- call/email to verify	\$48.00	\$85.00			
DVD of Blair House near Dalry , Scotland before the estate & contents were sold	\$20	\$20			
Contact me for the amount of postage needed for total order.				S/H	
We accept PayPal, money orders or checks made out to Clan Blair Store				TOTAL	

Postage is calculated individually depending upon how fast you need the items.

Most items are shipped in flat rate boxes through US Post Office but I try to find the best deal through USPS.com
Contact Helen Blair—480-807-4024, clanstore@clanblair.org, 7516 E. Hermosa Vista Dr. Mesa, AZ 85207-1110

Clan Blair Society Executive Board

Chairs of Standing Committees

December 2014

Jim Blair - President

7200 S Prince Street
Littleton, CO 80120
303 795-9754
President@clanblair.org

Shawn Blair - Vice President

682 County Rd
Acton, ME 04001
207 619-0494

Frances Holt - Secretary

15928 Lonecrest Drive
Hacienda Heights, CA 91745
626 330-1034
Secretary@clanblair.org

Ann Fredline - Treasurer

12001 W. Armga Drive
Boise, Idaho 83709
208 344-0286
Treasurer@clanblair.org

High Commissioner

Vacant

Shawn Blair - Webmaster

Address – see above
Weblaird@clanblair.org

Charles Diman - Membership

3413 Sunnybrook Drive
Charlotte, NC 28210-4715
980-254-2743
Clanmembership@clanblair.org
NC Commissioner email:
cndiman@carolina.rr.com

Helen Blair - Clan Blair Store

7516 E. Hermosa Vista Dr.
Mesa, AZ 85207-1110
480 807-4024
Clanstore@clanblair.org

Adoree Blair - Newsletter Editor

7200 S Prince Street
Littleton, CO 80120
303 798-3881
Bruidhinn@clanblair.org

Leslie Blair Gallagher - Public Relations

5532 Mansfield Ct.
Colorado Springs, CO 80918
720 201-3128
Publicrelations@clanblair.org

Clan Blair Library

Vacant
CBSlibrary@clanblair.org

Coy Blair - Blair Genealogy, Blairlin

1011 16th St.
Auburn, NE 68305
402 274 - 9846
CBsgenea@clanblair.org

Nominating Committee:

Pat Risdon, Laingsburg, MI
Kurt Blair, CO - Chair
Leslie Blair Gallagher, CO
Nominations@clanblair.org

Clan Blair Scotland Trip

Dick Holt
322 Aoloa Street PH3
Kailua, HI 96734
808 263-5856
ScotlandTrip@clanblair.org

State CBS Commissioner's List: See
www.clanblair.org/commissioners
(For Members)

CLAN BLAIR SOCIETY

Charles Diman, Membership
3413 Sunnybrook Drive
Charlotte, NC 28210-4715



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