



Blair of Blair

# BLAIR BRUIDHINN

• Honorary Member Rt. Hon. Robin Blair — Lord Lyon King of Arms of Scotland •



Blair of Balthayock

“Blair Talk” for Clan Blair Society

[www.clanblair.org](http://www.clanblair.org)

First Quarter – February 2010

## Clan Blair Society AGM Greenville, South Carolina Friday and Saturday, May 28-29

We are celebrating the 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting of Clan Blair Society in South Carolina, the state where the majority of Scottish emigrants came into the US. The Hilton Greenville is the clan host hotel and Wyomia Blair and nephew Dale Granger will be our hosts. We have a block of rooms reserved for members at \$85 per night.

Please take advantage of the special rate before April 19. Do not wait to reserve your room as many clans will stay there and the large Freedom Weekend Aloft hot-air-balloon festival will be nearby. Hilton Greenville, 45 West Orchard Park Drive, Greenville, phone: 1-864-232-4747, [www.greenvillesc.hilton.com](http://www.greenvillesc.hilton.com).

The CBS Board meeting will be Friday 28, from 12 to 3 pm at the hotel; everyone is welcome.

The Great Scots Parade will start at 6 pm in downtown Greenville. The Ceilidh is from 7:15 until 10 in the amphitheater behind the Peace Center. The Ceilidh bands will be Albannach, Coyote Run, and Fiddlers 3, all for \$5 a person. The Greenville Games Clan reception will also be Friday night at the Hilton.

The Greenville Games will be at Furman University on Saturday, starting at 8 am, with opening ceremonies at 9 am and closing ceremonies at 5:30. Come socialize at the Clan Blair tent with snacks and drinks. The Annual General Meeting will be at 1:30 in the tent. Furman U. is at 3300 Poinsett Highway, Greenville.

Advanced discount tickets are \$15 for adults, \$7.50 for children 5-12 – available at [www.greenvillegames.org](http://www.greenvillegames.org). Admission at the gate will be \$20. The hotel van will shuttle Scots to Furman on Saturday from 6:30 am to 5:30 pm for \$5 per person per trip. Special guest for the Games will be HRH Prince Edward of Britain.

The AGM Banquet will be on Saturday night from 7 to 11 in the hotel banquet room. The buffet is \$35 per person. Reservations for the banquet are due by May 1. Make checks payable to Wyomia Blair, 102 Hawthorne Lane, Greenville, SC 29605, phone (864) 235-0834, e-mail [cissiblair@bellsouth.net](mailto:cissiblair@bellsouth.net). Reservations required.

**The Buffet Menu** will feature grilled Atlantic salmon with lemon-dill sauce. Sliced roast beef served with oven roasted red bliss potatoes and vegetables. Fresh garden salad, baked rolls, chocolate cake, coffee, tea and a cash bar from 7 to 10 pm.

7:00 to 7:45 Gathering of Clan Blair

7:45 Welcome and toast to members and guests

8:00 Dinner, then AGM overview report, entertainment and drawings for door prizes

## Tom Blair of Pennsylvania

Hello Clanmates, I am thinking of taking my family to Scotland, England and Wales this summer. I would love to visit Blair Castle. I wonder if any members could recommend a must-do day trip for a Blair who may never get back to his bonny homeland again. Tom and Phyllis Blair of Perkiomenville, Pennsylvania, [blair@enter.net](mailto:blair@enter.net)

## There are Three Main Blair Ancestral Sites, Blair House, Balthayock Castle and Ardblair.



Blair House at Dalry, Ayrshire was the seat of the Blair's of that Ilk for 800 years. Once called Blair castle, the house is the one of the oldest continuously inhabited baronial mansions in Scotland. In the early 13<sup>th</sup> century a Norman keep, moat and drawbridge were built. Above the drawbridge, carved on a stone arch, was the stag of the Blair crest. The vaulted ceiling, tower, guardroom, and large fireplace from the original castle remain to this day.



Balthayock Castle in the parish of Kinnoul, Perthshire was the seat of the Blair of Balthayock family for over 500 years. The original castle on the site dated from the 13<sup>th</sup> century with a modern portion added in the 1500s. All that remains of the castle today are the thick-walled keep and parts of the foundations. The Blair of Balthayock male line ended in the early 1700's when John Blair of Balthayock died, leaving a daughter as sole heir of his estate. The keep is being cleaned up and restored.



Ardblair is a fortified home in Blairgowrie near Dundee. In 1399, the lands of Ardblair were granted by King David II to Thomas Blair of Balthayock - a property (and castle) the other side of Perth. Ardblair was a large estate back then, comprising one fifth of the parish of Blairgowrie. The Blairs were notorious back then as one of the most turbulent families in the land, and were usually at feud with most of their neighbours. *(See research below)*

## The True History of Ardblair, Jack Blair

*A response and correction to the simplified Internet description of the Ardblair history above.*

Ardblair is an ancient fortified house with a surrounding dry moat. It is close to Blairgowrie formerly known as Blair in Gowrie from which Stephen de Blair as owner took his name in the later years of the twelfth century. He gifted the adjacent land of Leducassie (now called Carsie)

to the Abbey of Coupar Angus about 1190-1200. These lands are all in Perthshire. King David II died in 1371 and King Robert II died in 1390 thus they were not party to the charter above mentioned. In fact, Robert III at Dunkeld confirmed the charter on 14 January 1401 on the resignation of Patrick Blair of Balthayock in favour of his son, Thomas Blair, granting him the lands of Ardler, Baldowrie and Balgillo in Forfarshire (Angus).

These lands of Ardler and Baldowrie remained in the family of Blair of Balthayock, indeed they were known as barons of Ardler and Baldowrie and Balthayock in Perthshire, and Cults in Fife were incorporated in that barony. From a very early time, they were also barons of Blacklunans in GlenShee / GlenIsla at the foot of Mount Blair, a few miles north of Blairgowrie. Therefore, Ardler must not be confused with Ardblair.

Ardblair on the other hand was in the barony of Muirton and thus the Blair of Ardblair was baron of Muirton. I believe that the family had held Ardblair from the time of Stephen de Blair and that Sir Robert Douglas in his early history of this family when he mentioned Thomas Blair of Moulin (circa 1345-1415c) misread the old document and should have named him Thomas Blair of Muirton. Thomas was a third son being a younger brother to the above Patrick Blair of Balthayock. The Blairs of Ardblair thus differentiate their arms from the senior family by displaying a mullet or star for the third son. The second of the three brothers in the 14<sup>th</sup> century was John Ardler or John de Ardler (1340c-1387c).

The confusion of Ardler and Ardblair is possibly due to the 19<sup>th</sup> century writer William Anderson author of *The Scottish Nation*. I guess that he attempted too much and did insufficient research. Unfortunately, his words have prevailed. It was Anderson too who came up with the myth that the Blairs in Perthshire were a most turbulent family. There is ample evidence that they were a much respected and leading family providing provosts, merchants and scholars in Perth and Dundee. Anderson's comments were based on one incident in each of the Balthayock and Ardblair families. In each case, the feuds were associated with bonds of allegiance to neighbouring families drawing them into bloody battles in the mid-16<sup>th</sup> century.

The above Thomas Blair of Balthayock (who had the grant in 1401) raised 29 archers and 20 men-at-arms and assisted the French defend Orleans in 1428 against the English siege. In 1429, they were relieved when his neighbour Patrick Ogilvy of Auchterhouse in command of the Scots Army in France turned up accompanied by Joan of Arc, the Maid of Orleans. This I would not consider as turbulent but rather patriotic.

Jack Blair, Bridge of Earn, Scotland

## **Caroline and Luke Borwick Blair House, Ayrshire, Scotland**

Good luck and Happy New Year to all of Clan Blair; we are sorry you are not coming out this year. Tom Blair and family, we hope to see you this summer. Historic Blair House offers the very best private hospitality at Scotland's oldest mansion home for groups over eight. Blair House is full service and fully catered and we ensure our guests have a memorable experience.

We also offer bed and breakfast for small numbers in the Carriage House and a lovely self-catering cottage in the Stables. Any Clan Blair members who come on a bed and breakfast basis or to the cottage will get a detailed tour of the castle providing we have no other guests in residence. Please refer to our website [www.blairestate.com](http://www.blairestate.com).

Our daughter Ally is living in Flower Mound near Dallas with husband Luke. They have a garden design / lawn care business. Their website [www.stokeslawnandgarden.com](http://www.stokeslawnandgarden.com) has all their contact details and they would love to hear from any Clan Blair members. To Clan Blair members in New Zealand, our son Malcolm is playing in the England-New Zealand Polo Test match series in February. If you are down there, do say Hi to him and Alexandra!

### **Jill Solow, Charlotte, North Carolina**

I have always heard that the Blairs in my family were from Scotland. I researched the family and discovered that my great-grandfather and grandmother were born in Ireland. Could we still be a part of the Blairs that lives near Perth and the site of the Blair Castle? Jill Solow [HiJilly@att.net](mailto:HiJilly@att.net) Charlotte, NC

**Jill, good question;** it is only 19 miles between Scotland and Ireland. In the 1600s many Scots were sent or recruited to live in the Province of Ulster of Ireland and are called Ulster Scots. Scots-Irish is a traditional term for Ulster Scots who later emigrated to what is now the United States. Thus, many Scots in America have ancestors that came from Ireland. There are Blairs near Perth, but Blair Castle is not connected with Clan Blair and has always been part of Clan Murray.

### **Flowers of the Forest**

#### **BUD BARTLETT**

**Born, December 27, 1937**

**Died, February 8, 2010**

**Clan Blair Member for 13 years**

**Clan Blair Commissioner Southern California**

**Devoted husband to Vicky Bartlett**

**1625 Fletcher Ave South Pasadena, CA 91030**

## **Northern California Commissioner**

I hope many of you had an opportunity to attend a Scottish event over the holidays such as Hogmanay, celebrating Scottish New Years Eve and a Robert Burns Supper, celebrating the birth and life of Scotland's famous Bard, Robert Burns. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend the Sacramento Scottish Games and Festival to be held Sat-Sun, April 24-25 at the Yolo County Fairgrounds in Woodland, CA where we will have our Clan Blair Tent. There will also be a Scottish Ceilidh Sat evening, which is a family event with barbeque dinner following the Games. For information, see their webpage, [www.saccallie.org](http://www.saccallie.org). Bill Blair, Menlo Park, CA

### **Julia Rattray Carapanos Weds Steve Wyrick in Northern California**



Steve and I were married December 30. We had a civil ceremony on a lovely sunny day attended by my daughter Athena and son Alex and Steve's son Gavan. Steve and I have had a good year dancing at Scottish Gatherings despite many games closing this year. Let us hope that 2010 is an easier year for the U.S. as a whole.

Julia Rattray (Carapanos) Wyrick, Walnut Creek, CA [jrcarap@pacbell.net](mailto:jrcarap@pacbell.net)

**Laurence Blair Oliphant** is currently in Norway "Addressing a Haggis" on a Robert Burns Super circuit.

### **Frances Holt of Hacienda Heights, California**



I have a new granddaughter, Andrea Isabel Holt born on December 2, 2009. She has a brother, Patrick Holt who is four. I spent a lovely Christmas with them and they are very special as you can see.

## **Peggy Baker, Commissioner, KS and MO**

Helen, please send the Blair Bruidhinn newsletter to me via e-mail to help cut cost as postage fees mount.

My daughter Elizabeth and son-in-law Mike are moving to Portland, Oregon. I sent a very heavy old toolbox with them to deliver to my son Peter in San Francisco that he inherited from our family. It belonged to his great-great-grandfather George Washington Blair and his name is engraved on a brass plate that looks like an ox shoe. George rose to foreman of a textile mill in Peterborough, New Hampshire, and his only surviving son, Ned Goodhue Blair used it after George's death. My dad also used the heritage toolbox. Peggy Baker, Baldwin City, KS

## **Barbara Blair, Waukegan, Illinois**

### **A Legacy of Commissioner Lawrence Blair**

My late husband, Lawrence Blair, was CBS Midwest Commissioner. I would like to sell his collection of 300 Scotch miniature bottles along with Scotch related artwork and the shelving that holds the collection. Larry bought 90% of the collection while we were in Scotland. The bottles all have Scotch, but some of the whisky has evaporated. Scots call that "the Angel's Share." UPS will ship liquor and the buyer would have to pay for shipping. I have an inventory list for an interested buyer. Yours aye, Barbara Blair, Waukegan, IL, tighnablair@att.net

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## **Meet the New CBS Genealogist, Coy Blair**



I currently live at 401 Northrop Place, Grovetown, Georgia 30813. My permanent address is 1011 16th Street, Auburn, Nebraska 68305. My wife Bessie and I are currently serving a two-year service mission for the Mormon Church that ends this October. I am retired from the US Navy and from the Nebraska Public Power District. I am familiar with genealogy research and managed a LDS Family History Center. I completed the 37-marker DNA search and found my roots in the Blair of Blair family line. My Blairs came to Baltimore from Scotland, but my research is stuck at the Atlantic. My home phone is 706-910-0788, cell 402-274-9635 coy.blair@gmail.com (NE) coyblair@charter.net (GA)

## **New Commissioner Whit Young of Utah**

I am looking for large, high-quality pictures of castles, manor houses or buildings relating to Clan Blair in Scotland. I need high-definition digital or film pictures that I can enlarge for our booth in Utah to publicize Clan Blair. Aye, Whit Young at Box200@lionsshield.net

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## **Colorado Clan Report, Jim Blair**

The Clan celebrated our second Robert Burns Supper January 30 on Jackass Hill in Littleton, CO. Twenty-six Colorado members participated in the festivities and the "Address to a Haggis" presented by Torin Blair. The Clan enjoyed the hospitality of Jim and Adoree Blair, good stories and new acquaintances. New Clan members are Ryan and Kate Blair of Englewood, CO and Jonny and Chelsea Blair of Ft. Collins, CO.



Front row: Quinnlin Blair, Jim Blair, Celton Judd, Atia Blair, Torin Blair, Arabella Blair, Megan Judd, Jenna Judd, Saoirse Blair Galligan, Dyani Blair Galligan, Tiernan Blair Galligan. Middle row; Erin Gallagher, Adoree Blair, Chelsea Blair, Leslie Blair Gallagher, Kate Blair, Erynn Blair Shryack, Cordylia Blair Shryack (being held). Back row; Steve Shryack, Beth Shryack, Mike Galligan, Jonny Blair, Katte Judd, Curtis Judd, Ryan Blair, Nick Shryack, Quaintance Blair (hidden)

The Clan looks forward to the annual Saint Patrick's Day parade on March 13. We expect more than 30 members to participate and present the Clan banner to thousands of Coloradans. This year two of our little Blairs will be dancing with their dance troops. Saoirse Blair Galligan and Arabella Blair are now learning Gaelic steps.

We will participate in three Scottish games this summer. The Clan is growing and we look forward to more participation by members throughout the year.

Our newest Colorado Clan Blair Society member Cordylia Blair Shryack arrived December 10, 2009, weighing 6 lbs. 9 oz. and measuring 19 ¼ inches long. She is the daughter to be of Erynn Blair Shryack and Nick Shryack. Grammy Adoree Blair presented a small tartan in the hospital and she wore it home and to the Burns Supper. She is growing and expressing herself quite well.



### **Lynne Dolan, Long Island Commissioner**

On January 24, I attended my first Robert Burns Supper in honor of the bard's birthday. My husband Jay and I were the guest of Clan MacDuff here on Long Island, NY – we have a Clan Blair tent at their Scottish Games. Men in kilts and women in clan skirts and sashes greeted us at Brown's Tavern in Lake Grove. I wanted to wear my Civil War Clan Blair skirt, but there was not enough room for my big skirt hoops. It was a small pub, but very nice.

We had Dewar's Scotch at our place settings and then the Haggis arrived with a skirling bagpiper in tow. In proudly marched the "Great chieftain o' the puddin'-race!" – through the bar, the dining room and placed steaming in front of us for the "Address to a Haggis." This was my first taste of haggis and do not know if it was the best or not, so I will postpone judgment until I have tasted more. Mr. Brown recited three of Robert Burns works and altogether a lovely traditional Scottish dinner and ceremony with our new friends of Clan MacDuff.

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### **Burton Dworsky, Commissioner of Texas**

Howdy all y'all from Texas, and a hearty welcome to our new CBS Commissioners. Last November we attended the Salado Gathering of the Clans and had a great time spreading the word about the history of Clan Blair.

For 2010, we have plans to attend the San Antonio Games, March 27-28, the Houston Games, May 15-16 and the Salado Gathering of the Clans, November 13-14. If you are near, please drop by and see us. In addition, I will be sponsoring a banquet on behalf of CBS for Tartan Day Ceremonies at the Alamo, March 29. There are two Blairs that fought and died at the Alamo – Captain Samuel C. Blair and John Blair, both from Tennessee.

### **President's Report, Helen Blair**

I hope that 2010 finds our members healthy and those with problems on the mend. I want to thank all those who have included Bob and me in your thoughts and prayers. We truly appreciate your support. Bob will never be what he was, but he is still a wonderful person, just with mobility and communication disabilities. I also want to thank Allen, Bill, Torin and Shawn for getting the newsletter out while I wrestled with Bob's membership database.

We need to find a member with computer knowledge to manage our membership. I can transfer the membership database along with a simplified way to maintain it.

This is our election year and we are seeking nominees for president, vice-pres, treasurer and secretary. You will receive a ballot by mail or email April 1. We need you to cast your ballot by April 15. We will be announcing the results May 29 at the AGM. Our nominating committee is working to fill the offices, so please contact one of them.

Thank you to Whit Young, for agreeing to be Co-commissioner for Utah and to Peggy Baker for coming aboard as Commissioner of Kansas and Missouri. If the name is familiar, Peggy has been hosting the Kansas Games for several years now, taking the position over from her sister Elizabeth Naime, who was commissioner longer than I have been a member.

Thanks to Coy Blair of Georgia for volunteering to be our genealogist and to work on our DNA fund and the Blairlin genealogy database. Leslie Blair Gallagher of Colorado volunteered to serve as our Public Relations officer and we look forward to Leslie's publicity. Phil Blair Hill of Michigan will be calling to assist CBS Commissioners as our new High Commissioner. Welcome to you all.

I have purchased several Blair genealogical books that I will be making available to active commissioners to use. The books will remain property of CBS and must be returned when commissioners cease being active.

Dues were due January 1 – please continue to support your clan with your membership. Dick Holt is getting the Scotland Trip set up for 2011; it sounds like a great trip so sign up soon. Write to Dick at Navyholt@aol.com.

Our 2010 Annual General Meeting will be this May 28-29 in Greenville, SC. Please join us to meet, reflect on the past year, plan for the next and enjoy a bonny banquet. Wyomia Blair and her nephew Dale Granger have a great program of events in store for us.

Our new Librarian Jennifer Blair has a large number of Blair books and articles that are long overdue. A one-month grace period is sufficient time. Please return your Blair library books, so we do not have to resort to accessing late fees.

April 6 is Tartan Day in remembrance of the signing of the Scottish Declaration of Independence at Arbroath Abbey in 1320. Show your pride and wear your Tartan. Clan Blair Tartan can be purchase for as low as \$15/yard from our Clan Blair Store.

#### **Membership Report, Helen Blair**

I am still filling in for husband Bob and hanging on by my fingertips. It is time to renew your dues, only \$20 a year. This will be the last newsletter sent out to non-renewals and webmaster Shawn Blair will be changing the password to access the Members section of the website.

When you renew your membership, please send updates and whether you want to receive the newsletter in color by email. Send checks made out to Clan Blair Society, mail to Helen Blair, 7516 E. Hermosa Vista Drive, Mesa, AZ 85207 or go Clanblair.org and use PayPal.

#### **Treasury Report, Helen Blair**

Our Treasury is healthy, with our checking account, CD and Store income doing well. Our only major expense has been buying genealogy books for our commissioners.

#### **Store Report, Helen Blair**

We have some very nice pewter jewelry from ArtPewter. Our members get a very good discount, much better than you can find anywhere online. Az\_blair@cox.net

#### **Arizona Commissioner Helen Blair Co-commissioner Andrew Blair Cupp**

February 27-28 will be the 46<sup>th</sup> Annual Arizona Scottish Gathering and Highland Games. The biggest games in Arizona are now at Steele Indian School Park, 300 E. Indian School Rd, Phoenix – a new, bigger and more convenient location. See [www.arizonascots.com](http://www.arizonascots.com). Andrew will set up two tents and Bob and I will be there both days. I ordered some Blair Athol Scotch, and yes, I am resorting to bribery to get clan members to visit us.

March 28 will be the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Verde Valley Games. No location or website yet, but handled by David McNabb, phone him at 928-771-1218.

May 15 is the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Prescott Highland Games held at Watson Lake Park just a wee bit outside of Prescott; see [www.prescottareacelticsociety.com](http://www.prescottareacelticsociety.com) or 928-772-3161.

#### **Both Utah Commissioners have new email addresses:**

Whit Young email is [webaccount@lionshield.net](mailto:webaccount@lionshield.net)  
Scott Schmidt email is [scotishblair@gmail.com](mailto:scotishblair@gmail.com), w one “t”

**New phone** #242 Franklin Blair, Rome, GA 706-509-8119

**New email and phone** #982 Philip Blair of Greer, SC  
[wayneblair@aol.com](mailto:wayneblair@aol.com) 864-877-5291

## **New CBS Members – Welcome**

#1033 **Maureen T. Blair**, 605 Center Lane, Santa Paula, CA 93060, 805-525-6812, [FinCool1@aol.com](mailto:FinCool1@aol.com)

#1034 **Dianne Woodcroft & John Arambula**, P.O. Box 4947 Crestline, CA 92325, 909-338-7959, [IBladyscot1@aol.com](mailto:IBladyscot1@aol.com)

#1036 **Sheryl Scott Cobb & Stephen E. Cobb**, 15347 W. Fairmount Ave, Goodyear, AZ 85395. 632-535-5505, [S.cobb2@cox.net](mailto:S.cobb2@cox.net)

**New Life Member** #1035 **Robert A. & Olive Blair**, 5392 Saddlebag Lake Rd, Lake Wales, FL 33898 863-696-1046

#### **New Home Addresses**

#1026 David & Anne Blair 15417 67th St, Kenosha, WI 53142

#301 Diane & Allan Bird 11 Dassance Dr., Foxboro, MA 02035

#992 Ross Blair 7 Silverlace Circle, Arden, NC 28704

#107 Janet Brown 2316 W. Castleman St. Longview, WA 98632

#544 Elizabeth Blair Naime 29125 SW Meek Loop #226, Wilsonville, OR 97070

#999 Rebecca Blair 6013 Rock Cliff Lane Apt 0, Alexandria, VA 22315

#817 Harry Whitford Jr. 7600 NW 5th Place #107, Margate, FL 33063

#38 Scott Blair 401 Olive St, Menlo Park, CA 94025

**Zip code correction** #993 Kinzi Blair San Jose CA 95117

**New email** #294 Barbara Pixley, [troypix@msn.com](mailto:troypix@msn.com)

#602 Jane Blair Petersen, [jane.petersen@comcast.net](mailto:jane.petersen@comcast.net)

#973 Jean Harris, [jean.harrisfnp@gmail.com](mailto:jean.harrisfnp@gmail.com)

***Blair Bruidhinn*** ~ The Clan Blair Society newsletter is published four times a year and mailed on 15 February, May, August and November. Please send your submissions for publication two weeks before the fifteenth of each month to the editor. Scottish events, family history, genealogy queries and travel adventures are all welcome.

**Editor Allen Rountree at [Alpha-7@att.net](mailto:Alpha-7@att.net)**

## Seth Millington Blair of Utah Soldier, Pioneer, Mediator, Attorney General



My great, great grandfather on my mother's side, Seth M. Blair, was born March 14, 1819 in Ralls Co. Missouri. He was the son of James Blair and Catherine C. Jordan. The Blairs came from central Massachusetts where they had settled in the 1700s.

James Blair and his family moved to Dyer Co. Tennessee. Seth played along the banks of the Mississippi River where he learned to be a woodsman. At age 17 in 1836, Seth decided to join the Army of the Texas Republic under Sam Houston and fight for Texas independence. After the war, Seth returned to Texas with his father to scout out a home site. Seth then returned to Tennessee to marry Cornelia Jane Espy and they all moved by flatboat to San Felipe de Austin to homestead.

Seth then joined the Texas Rangers, from which he received 320 acres to add to the 640 acres the family received for being new Texans. Under the influence of Sam Houston, Seth studied law and then participated in the U.S.-Mexican war of 1846-48. At that time, he also became well acquainted with its commanding general, Albert Johnston. Blair, Houston and Johnston would all become involved in the future of a new state, Utah.

Seth's family prospered in Texas for 12 years and in 1849, he was baptized into the Mormon Church. The family prepared to join the newly established church headquarters in Salt Lake City. They sold his law practice and property, and with a group of other converts, they joined the Mormon Trail at Kanessville, Iowa. The family remained in Kanessville for a time where Seth became prosecuting attorney for Pottawattamie County, Iowa.

In 1850, the Blairs traveled to the Salt Lake Valley. Seth collaborated with Thomas Williams in a freight business, and they brought with them badly needed items for the settlers. Seth set up a storefront and began his law practice and a merchant business. President Millard Fillmore

(probably through Houston's lobbying) chose Blair as the Utah Territory U.S. Attorney in 1851. Despite Governor and Church President Brigham Young's antipathy to lawyers, Seth proved to be a trusted advisor and fence-mender with the federal officials, who were often incompetent clerks, palmed off on the hated Mormons.

In 1851, Cornelia died in childbirth and Seth was grief stricken for months. He received an important Church position that helped him to recover, and later he converted his home into the first hotel in Utah. About 1855, Seth served in a church mission to Texas, but on the way back cholera struck, killing 30 of the 89 converts. Seth became so ill that he was rushed ahead to Utah for medical help.

After his recovery, he married my great, great grandmother Sarah Jane Foster. Seth became one of the directors of the Deseret Agriculture and Manufacturing Society in 1856, and went to find a suitable wagon route to Carson City. That November he helped in a rescue mission of handcart pioneers caught in an early-winter blizzard in Wyoming.

Seth received a mail contract from St. Joseph, Missouri to SLC in December 1856, but lost it when Johnston's Army marched west to suppress the supposed rebellion of the Mormons. Seth was a frequent companion to Brigham Young and others in visits to settlements and Indian chiefs. As a major in the territorial militia, Seth fortified and defended Echo Canyon in the Utah War.

In 1859, Seth became editor of the "The Mountaineer" dedicated to combat the untruths circulating about the Mormons. In 1861, Seth became involved again as a peace negotiator when Cheyenne and Shoshones became frustrated and attacked settlers in Cache Co. Seth and others successfully concluded the fight by urging the policy of Brigham Young, "Feed them, don't fight them." Seth was active in the Utah Territorial Legislature in 1862, and became Attorney General and Associate Justice.

Urged by Brigham Young, Seth moved in 1864 to southern Utah to develop an industry to make castor oil from castor beans. Iron ore was discovered while he was there, and Seth formed the Union Iron Works to mine and manufacture needed items.

After a lingering illness of nearly six months, Seth died in Logan, Utah on March 17, 1875. The Deseret News reported that he died of rheumatism, and that "he was a wreck of his former self." He was survived by three wives and 13 of 27 children. His daughter Ellen wrote that she would always mourn the loss of the most affectionate, kind and devoted father.

This vibrant man withered away, but he is an example to others as a spirit of daring enterprise. He was a man who saw what needed to be done and did it. ~ Whit Young

# Clan Blair Society Executive Board

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