



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

1st Quarter, February, 2015

President’s Message:



As we look toward spring and all the festive fun it brings, please gather as local and state Clan groups and celebrate our fine Clan Blair Society heritage.

I look forward to your questions and ideas.

It is a Great Day to be a Scot!

Slaint’e,

Jim Blair

president@clanblair.org

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New High Commissioner

The CBS Board welcomes Curtis Blair of Co. Springs, Colorado as the new High Commissioner. Curtis has been a member of CBS for several years and has actively participated in all Colorado events and activities. He co-sponsored the Pikes Peak festival in 2014 and has continued his interest in all of the Societies’ activities.

The duties of the High Commissioner include coordinating among the CBS State Commissioners and identifying needs and sharing best practices. The High Commissioner gathers the best ideas evolving from our membership and facilitates sharing across the Society. Curtis has a wonderful personality that engages with others and he will bring great leadership to this position. Welcome to the CBS Board!

Our thanks and appreciation to Curtis and his wife Anne!

Congratulations and we look forward to your leadership.

Slaint’e

Jim Blair – CBS President

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Fellow Scots:

Winter is with us and many have endured more snow and ice than normal. The whole-nine-yards are coming in handy. Spring is coming and we all look forward to the warm weather to celebrate our Scottish heritage.

It is heartening to see growth in our membership (see report), and to welcome new leaders to the Commissioner Corps. Please join me congratulating new High Commissioner Curtis Blair from Colorado and new Oregon Commissioner Bill Blair from Beaverton, OR. These gentlemen bring high character to their new roles, and they know how to have a lot of fun.

The Board has reviewed the 2015 financial picture for CBS and has approved an annual operating budget. With the growth we are seeing, it appears that the budget for the year is adequate to fund operations. We will not be seeking any changes to the annual dues.

We do continue to seek a member to oversee the CBS library. This is an important position that oversees our library inventory and provides leadership to the processes for use of the materials.

New Oregon Commissioner

The CBS Board is delighted to announce the appointment of Bill Blair of Beaverton, Oregon as the state's new Commissioner. We welcome Bill who has toured Scotland any number of times and brings great enthusiasm and experience. His introductory message to fellow CBS Oregonians follows:

Subject: Greetings from Clan Blair Society!

Awright!

This is to introduce myself as the newly appointed Commissioner of the Clan Blair Society for Oregon. My job, primarily, is to:

- Be a local connection and conduit for information about your Clan Blair Society, especially its visible public presence in Oregon,
- Do all I can to assure that your membership in the Society is giving you the benefits and connection with your heritage that you expect, and
- Organize a presence for the Clan Blair Society at Scottish festivals, highland games, and other Scottish heritage events in Oregon – a presence that includes you and your family to the extent you are willing to participate.

First, let me ask that you confirm that you are still (or at least that you intend to be) a member of the Clan Blair Society. We are a volunteer-driven organization, and things can sometimes drop through the cracks, so help me keep us all current.

Exciting things are about to happen! We will have a Clan Blair booth at the **Oregon Scottish Heritage Festival** in Albany on April 11th. While this is not a traditional highland games, the Oregon Scottish Society, which sponsors the event, has arranged demonstrations of some of the “heavy” events, piping, traditional Scottish food (no Haggises will be sacrificed for this event), and Celtic entertainment. For more information on the event, follow this link. If you would like to help setting up or taking down our booth, or take a turn behind the table, please email me. The theme of the festival this year is “Sharing the Story.” Our plans for the Clan Blair booth are tentative, but we will most certainly have examples of the Blair tartans (did you know there are three?), displays giving a short history of the pivotal

battles in Scottish history with a brief explanation and pictures, even examples of weapons carried by the clansmen at Culloden,. We will also share information about historical Blairs and non-Blairs (did you know that former British Prime Minister Tony Blair is not, in fact, a Blair by birth?), information on the Blair DNA Project, information about Blair heraldry and tartan, and confirmation that Blair really is a clan recognized by Lord Lyon, King of Arms – the official and final authority on who is and isn't a clan in Scotland. There will even be a picture of Laurence Kington Blair-Oliphant, hereditary Blair of Ard-Blair and Oliphant of Gask. We'll also have a picture of the fearsome Ard-Blair Highlanders of which he is the honorary chieftain.

This year, for the first time, we will have a Clan Blair tent at the **Portland Highland Games**, July 18, 2015, at Mt. Hood Community College in Troutdale. The Portland Highland Games Association is still planning the details for this year's event, so check in from time to time at the PHGA website for the latest news. If you are willing to help with setup or takedown, or take a turn in the tent, please email me. Again, plans are tentative, but if you have attended the Portland Games in the past you know that the formal opening ceremony at noon involves a parade of clans. If you can attend, stop by the Clan Blair tent before noon and we'll get you to march behind the Clan Blair flag and banner. If you have a Blair kilt, by all means wear it! I expect that the tent will feature as much of the displays as drew attention and comment at the Scottish Heritage Festival in Albany, plus, perhaps, a demonstration of how to wear the great kilt and outfit as a Blair might have been seen fighting alongside Bonnie Prince Charlie at Prestonpans and Culloden. There will also be Blair stuff to purchase from the Clan Blair Society store, and some genealogy references you should find interesting. If you are a Freemason, be sure to drop by and see me. I was thrilled to visit the oldest surviving Masonic Lodge in the world in September, 2013, and that Lodge is located in Kilwinning, Ayrshire, one of the two wellsprings of the Blairs in Scotland.

There are several **other Scottish festivals and games** around Oregon coming up this summer. We are not yet registered for anything other than the Scottish Heritage Festival on April 11 and the Portland Highland Games on July 18. If there is an event near you that you would like to see include the Clan Blair Society, please let me know – with contact information for the sponsor if you can.

A gentle reminder that **Clan Blair Society dues**, for those who are not life members, were due on January 1, 2015. If you have not yet paid the \$20 annual dues for 2015, or if you wish to become a lifetime member

for \$250, click here for easy payment through PayPal.

Finally, if you do not wish to receive future emails from me on behalf of Clan Blair, please click here and I will remove your address from my mailing list. If, on the other hand, you have relatives who might be interested in either joining or just being notified of future events involving Clan Blair, please reply to this email with their contact information and I will put them on the list.

Yours, Aye!



Clan Blair Society

William Blair, Commissioner for Oregon
(503) 608-7222



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Survey about Cyber AGM

Webmaster Shawn Blair has sent a Survey Monkey to all members seeking feedback on the 2014 Cyber AGM. A few responses have been received and we would like to hear from you to better plan for future Cyber events. Blair's aren't bashful, so please send us your thoughts.

Yours Aye!

Shawn Blair

Weblaird@clanblair.org

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Quarterly Webcast

April 18, 2015

We are pleased to announce that the next CBS webcast is planned for Saturday April 18 at 12 pm Eastern time. The topics to be presented include:

- Genealogy Research at the next level – coordinated by Coy Blair
- Scottish Modern Attire for men – Shawn Blair
- Scottish Modern Attire for women – Leslie Blair-Gallagher

Please place this wonderful opportunity on your calendar and join us (9 am PST – 12 pm EST).

Should you have questions, please contact Jim Blair or Shawn Blair

President@clanblair.org or Weblaird@clanblair.org

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Southern California Commissioners' Report

Frances Holt, Vicky Bartlett, Bryan & Jamie Blair

In October, we hosted the Clan Blair tent at the Seaside Games in Ventura, California. The games were well attended and the weather was great.

We had two new, exciting features to our tent at this event. Bryan and Jamie had the new addition to their family with them. Seven-month-old Rosie Von Bristle Butt is a young micro piglet, who enjoyed greeting visitors as they stopped to see and greet her in our tent or when she was out walking. She found the first day very tiring, and napped quite a bit during the second day. She is a very sweet, charming piglet.



In addition, Bryan presented an interactive display of arms and armour commonly used by the Scottish border Reivers circa 1530. These included padded jack coats, burgonet helmets, swords, crossbows, and gauntlet. Also on display were books and a map of the borderlands along with the names of the clans. Our visitors enjoyed the opportunity to handle and try on many of the pieces, while Bryan and his friend Jai Bourgeois shared information and history about the items.



Our visitors included LeRoy & Pam Kehret of Cerritos, David Cook of Garden Grove, Lauren Mutter and Jai Bourgeois of Burbank, Steve DeMay of Ventura, and Carol King of Oxnard.

We look forward to seeing our Southern California members and friends at the Scottish Fest in Costa Mesa on May 23 & 24, 2015. See <http://www.scottishfest.com> for details.

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Colorado Report

Leslie Blair Gallagher – Commissioner

The Colorado contingent celebrated Robbie Burn’s birthday with a rousing supper on Feb. 7, and you will see details in this Newsletter. We enjoyed the company of 40 Colorado Blair’s and guests. The Ode to the Haggis was admirably recited by Torin Blair and we enjoyed Haggis appetizers, Blair Athol

single malt, shredded pork and many side dishes and trimmings.

Our next event is marching in the March 14 St. Patrick’s Day parade in downtown Denver. We invite members to participate and enjoy a great time.

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History – Robert Burns

(Watch the next newsletter for more on Burns’ wife, Jean Armour)

Typically, The Burns Supper is a celebration held in January by most participants. Celebration is about a little bit of whiskey drinking, a little bit of haggis and lots of camaraderie.

Robert Burns had a very short life but only became famous upon his death. Born 1-25 1759 in Galway, Scotland, his birthplace is now a historic museum. He was a farmer and he was raised to work in the fields most of his life. He farmed, then purchased his own farm. He was also known as Robbie Burns. He died young, age 37.

He was educated by tutors in Galway, so he got a good education. He lived outside urban areas and spent most of his time reading and writing. He purchased his own farm further south in Scotland. Later on, worked as a bookkeeper to escape the hard labor of the farm, until he published his first work, then looked to publish a 2nd.

Robbie Burns favored women and liked the whiskey as well. His reputation was large. He fathered 12 children. In 1786, he published his first edition of poetry called “*POEMS*”, written in the Scottish dialect. This book sold out within a month. He married Jean Armour in 1788. They had nine children – four were two sets of twins. The last child was actually born on the day of his funeral.



Death Room of Robert Burns



Robert Burns Mausoleum at St. Michael's churchyard in Dumfries.

The Scottish bard was a poet and songwriter. He wrote his first songs at the age of 15. He published his first in "*Once I Loved a Bonnie Lass*. in his early 20's. His writing often spoke to the plight of the poor. He was sympathetic to the French Revolution and the Independence movement in America. When people read his works today, many can identify with his conflicts. Burns' worldly prospects were perhaps better than they had ever been; but he had become soured. He had alienated many of his best friends by too freely expressing sympathy with the French Revolution and the then unpopular advocates of reform at home. His political views also came to the notice of his employers and in an attempt to prove his loyalty to the Crown, Burns joined the Royal Dumfries Volunteers in March 1795. As his health began to give way, he began to age prematurely and fell into fits of despondency. The habits of intemperance (alleged mainly by temperance activist James Currie) are said to have aggravated his long-standing possible rheumatic heart condition. His death followed a dental extraction in winter 1795.

On the morning of 21 July 1796, Burns died in Dumfries, at the age of 37. The funeral took place on Monday 25 July 1796, the day that his son Maxwell was born. He was at first buried in the far corner of St. Michael's Churchyard in Dumfries; under a simple slab by Jean Armour. Some who felt the slab was insulting to Burns' memory, erected the Burns Mausoleum, in September 1817. The body of

Burns' widow Jean Armour, was buried with his in 1834.

Burns' widow took steps to secure Burns' personal property, partly by liquidating two promissory notes amounting to fifteen pounds sterling (about 1,100 pounds at 2009 prices.) The family went to the Court of Session in 1798 with a plan to support his surviving children by publishing a four-volume edition of his complete works and a biography written by Dr. James Currie. Subscriptions were raised to meet the initial cost of publication, which was in the hands of Thomas Cadell and William Davies in London and William Creech, bookseller in Edinburgh

Burns was posthumously given the freedom of the Burgh of Dumfries on 4 June 1787, 9 years after his death, and was also made an Honorary Burgess of Dumfries.

Through his twelve children, Burns has over 600 living descendants as of 2012.

He wrote over 600 works of poetry and songs. Robert Burns.org has a complete list of his works. Scotland.org/arts has a section where people actually read his works. Much of Burns' work being in Scot, there are translations out there in English. His most well-known works: "*Old Lang Syne, To a Louse, My Love is like a Red, Red Rose, Eulogy on the Death of Sir King Humphrey Blair*"



Robert Burns Writing "The Cotter's Cottage"



The thatched home where Robert Burns was born



Statue of Robert Burns, Glasgow, Scotland



The Farm of Robert Burns



The Home in Which Robert Burns died

Robert Burns' Poem "On Politics"

Written in 1793

[Note from the article that he did not follow his own advice!]

“In Politics if thou would’st mix,
And mean they fortunes be;
Bear this in mind, - be deaf and blind,
Let great folk hear and see.”

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COLORADO BURNS SUPPER

by Adoree Blair, Editor

The Colorado Blairs and comrades joined each other at the home of Jim and Adoree Blair on February 7, 2015, for haggis, roast beef and roast pork, and many side dishes and desserts, to celebrate the annual Burns Supper.

Torin Blair led the parade of the Haggis around the home, to the tune of “Highland Cathedrals”, while the crowd marched after him. Then, Torin performed the Ode to the Haggis, complete with accent and many chuckles and huzzahs from the audience:



Torin Blair, Ode to the Haggis



Front Row L-R: Saoirse Blair Galligan, Atia Blair, Cordylia Blair Shryack, Luke Ramsey, Jack Ramsey, Tiernan Blair Galligan, Erynn Blair Shryack, Lochlann Blair Shryack, Quinnlin Blair, Arabella Blair

2nd Row L-R: Sara Buys, Adoree Blair, Bonnie Mustoe, Dyani Blair Galligan, Sher Zimmer, Anne Blair,

3rd Row L-R: Leslie Blair Gallagher, Leigh Ramsey, Kelsey Currence, Kim Blair, Heather McLean Paris, Torin Blair, Jason Zimmer, Janet McLaughlin, Jim Blair, Curtis Blair


4th Row L-R: Michael Dunbar, Bruce deMichaels, Jim Ramsey, Kate Blair, Ryan Blair, Mike Galligan, Nick Shryack, Alex Blair, Bill Clanahan, Mary Clanahan

Not pictured: Kart Hart (photographer)

With Blair Scotch in hand, all present toasted all else present, Robert Burns, and our much-missed comrade, Curtis Judd. There followed more drinking, eating and camaraderie:



Erynn Blair Shryack, Leigh [Blair] Ramsey, Dyani Blair Galligan

Saoirse Blair Galligan performed some fine Irish Dancing for the crowd: 



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Membership Report

Charlie Diman – Membership Chair

We continue to grow! As of January 31, total paid memberships are 127, up from 119 this time last year. New members have joined from Australia and Virginia and we welcome them to Clan Blair Society.

Sixty three (63) members have not yet renewed their membership and we encourage all who have not paid 2015 dues to do so immediately either by PayPal, credit card or check.

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.org>).

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).

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Sandy was drinking at a pub all night. When he got up to leave, he fell flat on his face. He tried to stand again, but to no avail, falling flat on his face. He decided to crawl outside and get some fresh air to see whether that would sober him up. Once outside, he stood up and, sure enough, fell flat on his face. So, being a practical Scot, he crawled all the way home.

When he got to the door, he stood up yet again, but fell flat on his face. He crawled through the door into his bedroom. When he reached his bed, he tried once more to stand upright. This time he managed to pull himself to his feet but fell into bed. He was sound asleep as soon as his head hit the pillow.

He woke the next morning to his wife shaking him and shouting, "So, ye've been oot drinkin' as usual!" "Why would ye say that?" he complained innocently.

"Because the pub called an' ye left yer wheelchair there again!"

A Fun Photo Sent by Past-President Helen Blair

(The label says “BLAIR’s Sampson Liniment”)



A CHALLENGE TO ALL YE WHO KNIT! ↓



AULD SCOTTISH WORDS

Argie-Bargie ~ a dispute or quarrel. To argie means to argue.

Auld Claes an Parritch ~ after a holiday we return to old cloths and porridge.

Beukin' ~ asking for her hand.

Biggin Building.

Birl ~ spin or whirl around as in Scottish country dancing.

Braw ~ something good, a braw day is a great weather day.

Braw ~ something good, a braw day is a great weather day.

Bumbee tartan ~ a fabric woven to look like a tartan, but isn't, a bumbee is a bumblebee. Tartans designed with a complete lack of taste, no sense of history, and incorrect weaving patterns which should have no place in tartan history.

Burning the Water ~ when salmon lighting was a legal fishing technique, a heather torch was held above the water's surface to attract the salmon to the surface.

Cantle ~ the metalwork clasp on a dress sporran.

Ceilidh ~ ('kel or Kay'-lay) dance, social gathering. A Scottish Gaelic word for “visit”, as these began as informal gatherings in individual's homes.

Ceud mile failte, cuad mile failte ~ a hundred, thousand welcomes.

Chaipel ~ a wedding chapel.

Chantie ~ chamber pot, used in Bridal hazing.

Clan ~ actually derives from the Gaelic clann, meaning 'children' or 'stock'. In Scotland, it's

Cockernonie ~ gathering of a woman's hair into a snood.

Come ben the hoose ~ come in the house, welcome.



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

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February 2015

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

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