



BLAIR BRUIDHINN



Blair of Blair

• 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

First Quarter – February 2021

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE:



Greetings to all our members in this chilly month of our newest year! Cold has struck much of the country, and we're in our 11th month of quarantines and shutdowns and all manner of mayhem affecting our lives. Whew! That's a mouthful! I hope as you read this issue that you and your family are warm, safe, and healthy. I'm holding out hope that the rest of this year improves for everyone here in the U.S. and around the world. Hope that well before the year is out conditions improve where we can all begin to gather again as a family, celebrate each other and life, and celebrate our Scottish-ness. There are signs of positive thoughts as a few of the many Scottish Festivals and events begin planning to come back in later 2021. Let's hope that's possible. In the meantime, we'd love to see you, our members, and friends of CBS over the coming months. 2021 has been a slow planning

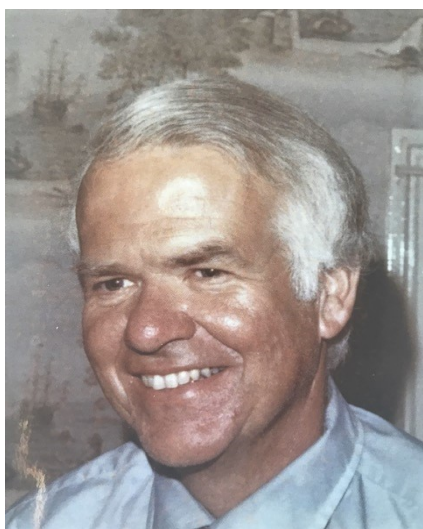
start but we'll soon be gathering the board members to plan online presentations of Scottish goodness in the near future. If you have a particular interest in genealogy, history, culture, food, or other activity let us know by sending us a note on what you'd like to see for presentations. In addition to presentations, we still want to extend an invitation to groups that would like to meet online for any particular Scottish topic. We have a zoom account to set you up with a video call if you wish to gather a group. Just let us know your interest by sending us a note on the web site contact form or reply to the newsletter email. Many of you are still spending more time at home and working on genealogy research or maybe just reading, I want to remind you that our Lending Library is available to you and we still have the Blair DNA Fund. There are many books available to borrow from the Lending Library. Contact Elena McCrary if you have questions. The Blair DNA Fund is available to any member that could use some assistance to get started with their Family Tree Y-DNA test and submission to the Blair DNA Project. Contact Jim Blair for more information on how you could receive some assistance on that. Watch your email for our presentation and other announcements. Check into the Members Only site for videos

and other news. Stay warm, Stay Safe, and Stay Healthy! We look forward to seeing you soon.

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WILLIAM CAMPBELL BLAIR YOUTH AWARD

2021



William Campbell Blair

Clan Blair Society is offering the 5th year of the WC Blair Youth Award. This is a recognition of an outstanding youth member of the Society who is nominated by their family or friends for their extraordinary contributions to Scottish heritage in the forms of music, dance, art, athletics, scholastics, theatre/performance, or support of CBS activities. The recipient receives recognition at the Annual General Meeting and a \$500 cash award.

William Campbell Blair was an early member of CBS and served as President and a State Commissioner in California for many years. He was a pediatrician and his love for children is represented by this award in his honor. Please nominate a young member of the CBS family.

The nomination materials are found later in this newsletter. Nominations must be received by June 30. Questions can be forwarded to Jim Blair at vicepres@clanblair.org.

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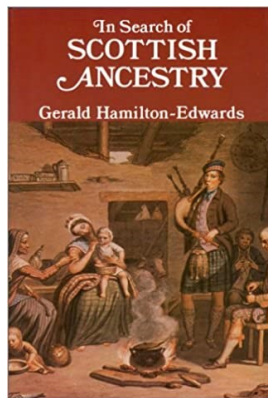
FROM THE DESK OF THE LIBRARIAN

Elena Mc Crary

First, a note from Moultrie, GA, and Irene at the Ellen Payne Odom Genealogy Library. Due to COVID, the library has been closed for research. However, if you are in need of material from the Blair Collection, do let her know and she will get it out to you.

During this time, I am confident that if we keep our minds busy, reading, researching, and communicating we will come out on the right side of it all with our minds and bodies fit.

Speaking about the Blair Collection. Not only have I set a personal goal to read 63 books this



year, I have added a twist by pulling books from our collection in Moultrie. Here is the first book I read. What I liked were the many clues the book gave in searching Scottish History. Chapter XV on

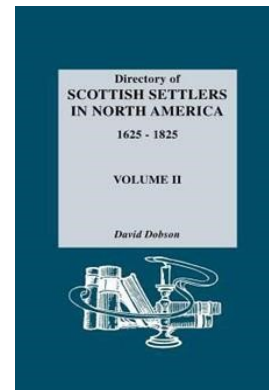
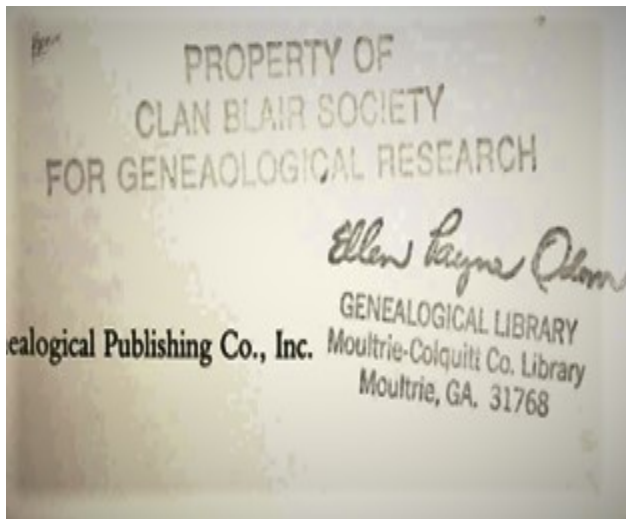
Migration and The Scotsman Abroad was of particular interest. If you had lost everything, what choices might you make? These are deeply personal stories of our families.

If you enjoy reading online, the following title (also in our collection) was digitized courtesy of Microsoft®. *The Baronage of Angus And*

Mearns 1886 by Peter, David MacGregor. The link is:

<https://electricScotland.com/history/forfar/baronageofangus.pdf>

As I was looking over the list of books in our collection I noticed that **volume II** of *Directory of Scottish Settlers* was not listed. So, here are some questions: Was it even in the original collection? Did someone happen to borrow it, and it was not recorded? This is a chance for members to look through their bookshelves, or stored Scottish titles and see if it might be there. There is a stamp inside (see image) indicating it is from the Clan Blair Collection and Ellen Payne. Maybe we never bought it, or it was a donation and volume II was missing? I love a good mystery.



Library news from across the pond:

I have been in touch with Scottish writer Maggie Craig, author of *Damn' Rebel Bitches: The Women of the '45*, plus a host of other wonderful titles. After Adoree featured the book in the last newsletter, I was lucky enough to find a copy stateside. To say I became absorbed is an understatement. I took to reading the book along with a notepad because I had an idea for featuring Jacobite women in our Blair tent (give them their due). So, it was a natural next step to contact the author and ask if she would like to share a few thoughts. I will be donating a copy of this book to the Blair collection so you too can read about the women, Jacobite History and decide for yourself. Maggie asked, and I shared with her, some pictures of our tent set-up at a couple of our last games, so that was quite fun.

The author's words: "A few thoughts: DRB [Damn Rebel Bitches] was my first published book, a labour of love. It came out in 1997 and it's never been out of print since. I'm fiercely proud of it. BAB came about because my son asked for a book about the men!

What I really wanted to do in DRB and BAB [Bare-Arsed Banditti] was to highlight as many of the so-called ordinary people as possible. They played an important part in these turbulent times, sometimes through choice and sometimes

because events overtook them. I felt like a detective when I was unearthing all their various stories, trying to find out as much as possible about them and connecting them to one another if I could. Sometimes there are loose ends, because their lives were not so well documented as what you might call the ‘star players’ in the Jacobite Risings, but I believe they’re absolutely worthy of being remembered.”

All the best,

Maggie

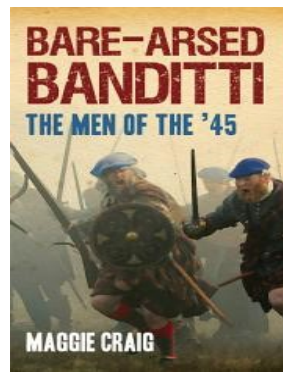
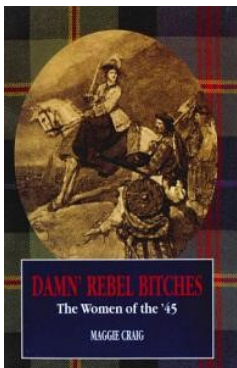
www.maggiecraig.co.uk

[@CraigMaggie](https://twitter.com/CraigMaggie)

Maggie hooked me up with this site because I was unable to find additional copies in the U.S. of her books. If you are looking for Scottish titles try, <https://www.bookdepository.com/>.

Coming soon to the Blair Collection; Damn Rebel Bitches: The Women of the 45

The book has been dispatched for processing into the Blair Collection in Moultrie. This is a must in your clan tent. It is not only informative, but an engrossing read. I often base a book on the footnotes, but to keep the story flowing, Maggie gave a fine bibliography at the end. You can tell how much time and energy went into the research. The companion title is *Bare-Arsed Banditti: The Men of the '45* in which I am currently immersed and using my iPad to discover more about the events mentioned. Thanks Maggie, I am truly inspired!



One thought that stayed on my mind and in my subconscious, was to know what happened to any Jacobite men or women who were spared death. I found this information from a preview of a Google book, *Directory of Scots Banished to the American Plantations, 1650-1775* by David Dobson (see Blairs noted below).

BLAIR ARCHIBALD
Prisoner banished to America
Transported on the Concord,
master James Butchart, From
Glasgow. Landed Charles
County, Maryland 24 May 1728
Sold there by David Cochrane
merchant in Maryland
(JC)

BLAIR JAMES
Jacobite captured at Preston
Transported from Liverpool
on the Scipio 30 March 1716
(SP/C)

BLAIR JOHN
Thief. Banished to Barbados.
Transported from Ayr 1653
(JC)

BLAIR THOMAS
Feuar in Gartmore. Jacobite.
Prisoner at Stirling and
Carlisle. Transported
21 March 1747
(P)

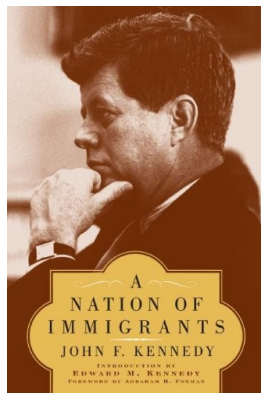
Another anecdote in Maggie Craig’s book is trying to understand why Scots who had been sent abroad felt no problem supporting King George III in the Revolutionary War. I found another free online book for your reading pleasure, *Scotland’s Mark on America* by George Fraser Black.

<https://www.gutenberg.org/files/15162/15162-h/15162-h.htm>

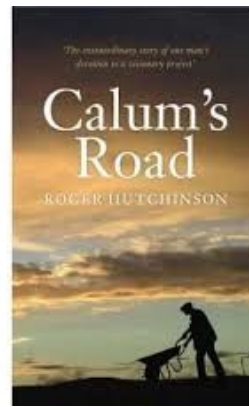
Then I asked Irene (librarian extraordinaire) if she could provide any additional information on the notations in parenthesis at the end of each

entry. This is what she provided. In answer to your question about the Blair's notations: (1) JC stands for (Records of the High Court of Justiciary); (2) SP-C - State Papers (Colonial; (3) P - of the '45, from *The Original Scots Colonists of Early America 1612-1783* (Dobson). This is another of the books in our collection with Irene in Moultrie.

Seems one must be a true history detective to learn not only the sources, but why each reference must be checked against another, which I did when I recently re-read, *A Nation of Immigrants* by John F. Kennedy. He indicated “that between a third and a half of the fighting men of the Revolutionary Army were of Scottish or Scotch-Irish descent.” (See cover below).



Actually, that is not the whole story which I have addressed above. So, check out this article for more information, and decide for yourself. <https://www.thenational.scot/news/14947786.scotland-back-in-the-day-loyalties-of-scots-were-divided-in-americas-revolution/>



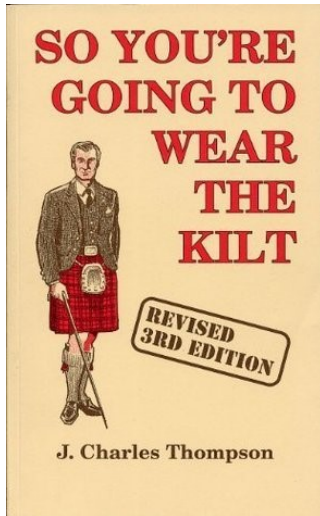
Calum's Road by Roger Hutchinson – Interview with Russ McCrary. This book was a gift. Russ says he has read it several times. It

was so moving, there are several YouTube videos about the story of “saving a community.” Here is just one.

<https://youtu.be/Z1LxfNmBE3Y> Check out this article covered in [Undiscovered Scotland](#). Russ believes the road is a representation of the fighting Scottish spirit. For me, it says you too can make a difference—even when it is hard! <https://www.undiscoveredscotland.co.uk/raasay/calumsroad>

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One of the running debates we have with Lauren from The House of Boyd is clan dress. We decided to solve the issue by having in our tent (because we do get asked) *So You're Going to Wear the Kilt, Revided 3rd ed.* by J. Charles Thompson, F.S.T.S. On the backcover of the book is stated the following, “acknowledged as the foremost expert on tartans in North America” by the Scottish Tartans Society. It was my wearing of the sash that I wanted to get correct (see page 43). It is a very detailed book, with nice illustrations. The storied past on tartan dress is actually rather amusing. (As if the clan was trying to make the cover of Town & Country!.) What a wonderful roadmap he left us all.



JULY 17 & JULY 18,
2021

9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Monterey County Fair & Event Center
The Scottish Highland Gathering & Games
2021

Where: Pleasanton, CA

When: Saturday, September 4, 2021 - Sunday,
September 5, 2021

<https://thescottishgames.com/>

The Games Committee continues to monitor the situation with regard to safely hosting the Games in 2021. This notice will be updated as soon as any details can be confirmed.

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IMPORTANT!

Due to the Coronavirus Pandemic (COVID-19), the details of the events below are subject to change. We strongly recommended that you check with the organizers before making any travel arrangements.

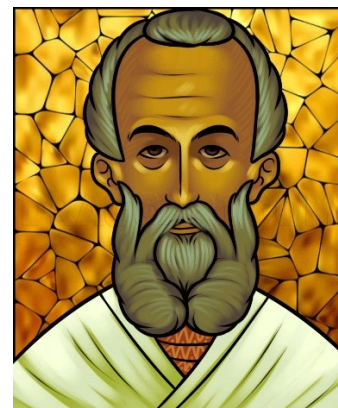
Saturday, April 10, 2021 - it is still on the calendar.



It is with great sadness that we need to postpone our terrific 2021 event. We'll need to wait until April 2022, but look forward to having one terrific time.

MONTEREY SCOTTISH GAMES &
CELTIC FESTIVAL
JOIN US FOR OUR 53RD
YEAR

**ST. PATRICK: A SON OF SCOTLAND
AND IRELAND TOO?**



- Although an Apostle of Ireland, St Patrick was actually born in Scotland, in the year 387.
- His parents Calpurnius and Conchessa were Romans, living in Britain.
- Aged about 14, St Patrick was captured by Irish pirates and taken to Ireland to work as a slave, where his job was to herd sheep.
- During his captivity he turned to God and wrote about saying hundreds of prayers a night.
- St Patrick escaped captivity when he was about 20 years old and headed for the coast, where sailors took him back to Britain.
- It was then that he began studying for priesthood and when he finally became a Bishop, was sent back to Ireland to take the Gospel.
- Over the next 40 years, St Patrick and his disciples converted thousands of people across the country to Christianity. Before that, Ireland was a land of Druids and pagans.
- During his missionary work, he set up monasteries, schools and churches across the country.
- St Patrick was said to be a gentle fellow, who feared nothing.
- He became revered as the patron saint of Ireland in the seventh century.
- Legend has it that St Patrick banished all the snakes in Ireland by chasing them into the sea after they attacked him. However, evidence suggests post-glacial Ireland never had snakes.
- St Patrick's day marks the day of his death, in Ireland on March 17, 461.

- He is believed to be buried at Down Cathedral in Downpatrick, County Down.

(From WalesOnline, 3-2-2015)

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CLAN MEMBERSHIP NEWS

We would like to acknowledge all our New Members who have joined since our last Newsletter was published, with a special thanks to Braxton for becoming a Lifetime Member.

NEW MEMBERS

LIFETIME MEMBER

#836 Braxton Millender from Florida

NEW MEMBERS

#1252 Charles and Barbara Blair from Oregon

#1253 Lance and Robyn Blair from Florida

#1254 Debra Miller from California

We would like to thank all our members for their continued support during this pandemic. With vaccines being administered across the country we pray that it is a cure for the body as well as the mind. We all look forward to rejoining our clan members at any and all HIGHLAND GAMES this year.

Renewals for 2021 are due and if your address or email needs to be updated please send your new contact information to:

Russell McCray, Membership Chair

clanmembership@clanblair.org

Have a safe 2021, and when looking up high remember;

A bheinn is aird a th'anns an tìr,

‘S ann oirr’ is tric’ a chithear an ceo.

The highest mountain in the land

Is oftenest covered with mist.

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A BIT OF CLAN BLAIR HISTORY

Submitted by The Editor, Adoree Blair

In February of 1988, Norman Blair of New Jersey applied to the IRS to get permission for Clan Blair to become a new organization called Clan Blair Society USA, as a non-profit or 501 (c) (3). The members who had formed together in November of 1987 submitted their by-laws and listed their dues from members, contributions from members and contributions from friends of the Clan as the source of income to the Clan. Norman Blair, the President, signed the application.

Norman Blair then wrote about the activities and operational information by writing, in part: “Clan Blair was officially recognized by the British Crown at some time prior to 1672...Clan Blair Society USA is to be its successor in the USA. Presently, 4 officers as listed below are involved in recruiting other officers and members. Looking ahead, we envision a nationwide organization...Our main benefits and services deal with educating the public in things Scottish...”

The officers listed were Norman Blair of New Jersey, Anne Groome of New Jersey, Richard Blair of Maryland, and Lawrence Blair of Florida. “...+8 more to be selected to fill the Governance Council to 12 people.”

At their first meeting in January of 1988, Clan Blair Society USA agreed on by-laws, set a membership application form, elected Norman

D Blair as President, Anne Groome as Vice President in charge of Genealogy, Lawrence D. Blair as Vice President in charge of the newsletter, and Richard Scott Blair as Member-at-Large. President Norman Blair appointed Richard S. Blair as Piper to Clan Blair, and E. Randall Bean as Chaplain to Clan Blair. They approved the Treasurer’s Report. The following members signed approval of the application to the IRS. The members present who signed were Norman D Blair, Christopher H Blair, Sarah Lise Blair, John N Blair, Judith M Blair, Larry Blair, E Randall Bean, Rebecca Bean, Anne Groome, Preston Groome, Susan G Blair, Robert Curie and Andrew Galbraith Emerson (?) (this signature is difficult to decipher).

The attachments to the application contain some interesting information. A 1987 Newsletter of Clan Blair Society (hereinafter, “CBS”) discloses earlier history of Clan Blair in the United States, dating back to 1925: “The original Blair Society was officially started with its first organizational meeting on 2-22-1925 in Erie, Pa. The first Blair Magazine as published in November 1925 and was continuously, semi-annually published through November 1931 (No. 13) – never to be published again...” There was included in the newsletter a great deal of Genealogy, and the organization in 1988 had a chair of Genealogical Research. Members of the Clan reached out through the newsletter in order to find help in their Genealogical Research.

DO YOU HAVE ANCESTORS WHO YOU ARE SEARCHING FOR? WRITE TO ME AT THE BLAIR BRUIDHINN with details (NAME and other details if known, such as the place and year the person was born) to

the editor, adoree1@outlook.com and I will add your genealogical queries to the next newsletter. Put **GENEALOGY** in the Subject line of the email.

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CLAN STORE SALE!

Clan Store – Extended Clothing Sale – 50% off!

In response to the November 2020 announcement a number of orders have been received for clothing – thank you!

The Clan Store still has a nice array of clothing items that we would like to sell. Adult larger sizes have been popular so that inventory is shrinking. Adult sizes medium and small are abundant so we have plenty of supply for kids and smaller adults. As reported in the last newsletter, we plan to liquidate all shirts and find a different provider to fulfill clothing requests.

Now is a good time to stock up on tee-shirts and sweatshirts for summer.

So, the 50% reduction in all prices continues – see the Store website at <https://clanblair.net/cbsmembers/shop>. Shipping fees do apply and you can stock-up for this next year’s festivals.

The following are examples of shirts available with a best estimate of sizes, which are mostly XL, adult small/medium and children’s sizes. The logos are out of date, but all reflect the Clan Blair Society heritage and Scottish history.

White Polo – Regular Member Price - \$18 – Sale \$9 plus shipping.

Size - Adult Medium

White & Blue Short Sleeved T-shirt - Regular \$13 – Sale \$6.50 plus shipping

Size – Adult Small and Medium

Children’s Size – Small, Medium and Large

White Long-Sleeved Sweatshirts – Regular \$19 – Sale \$8.50 plus shipping

Size – XL to 3XL

Multiple items can be ordered at once. I’ll do my best to accommodate in single shipment boxes/envelopes. If shipping costs exceed payment I will contact members directly to discuss.

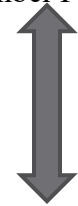
CBS members please go to <https://clanblair.net/cbsmembers/shop> to shop and order. Questions can be forwarded to viceprez@clanblair.org.





White & Blue Short Sleeved T-shirt - Regular
\$13 – Sale \$6.50 plus shipping
Size – Adult Small and Medium
Children’s Size – Small, Medium
and Large

White Polo – Regular Member Price - \$18 – Sale
\$9 plus shipping.
Size - Adult Medium



SALE!



A NEW WEE BLAIR!



White & Blue Long-Sleeved Mock Turtleneck –
Regular \$19 – Sale \$8.50 plus shipping

Size – XL to 3XL



Aspen Nyx Grandison

(The mom is Leslie Blair Gallagher’s daughter Erin)

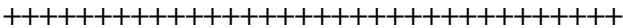
Aspen Nyx Grandison

Parents Erin Blair Gallagher (the Blair) and Guy Grandison

Lower Earley, Berkshire, UK

Born November 9, 2020 at 9:31 am GMT

Weight 10lbs. 7oz. (apparently, they don't do length in hospital in the UK, but was 21 inches when measured at home).



COLORADO COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Leslie Blair Gallagher

Burns Supper was pushed this year due to the pandemic. I had a solo supper.



Aspen's older sister Skye, dancing as Elsa!

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So far, Colorado Tartan Day and Elizabeth Celtic Festival have been postponed until 2022. I have not had word on the Saint Patrick's Day Parade, the Pikes Peak Celtic Festival or the Colorado Scottish Festival. Long's Peak Scots/Irish Festival is on the calendar, but won't know if it will actually be a go until closer to September.

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AN INTERVIEW WITH DR. NORMA JEAN BLAIR GILMORE

By the Editor, Adoree L. Blair

When I first contacted Norma Jean Blair Gilmore (CBS Member #28) by phone at her home in Hamilton, Montana, she was sorting through old papers. She was a great subject to interview, because the details about her life just flowed. She lives alone, close to two of her sons. She told me “I am so grateful for my blessings.” She recalled with a chuckle that her California son was recently at her home for the holidays, but he had to leave and go back to California because he said, “there is no snow in California.



Norma Blair was born in Michigan in a town called Mancelona. Her father, Glen Blair, was the youngest of 7 boys.

Dr. Gilmore says, “My Blair grandparents met after the Civil War. My grandfather had hurt his health in the war and didn’t always feel well. One of his thumbs and one of his fingers were shot off.” In Wisconsin, James Alexander Blair and Wilhelmina Kate met and got married. Later, they moved to Mio, Michigan and had some sons by that time. Ernest, the sixth son, died in Mio at age 3 and he was buried in the Mio Cemetery. Norma remembers that years later, when she was a child, two of her dad’s brothers came to visit them and were so excited because they’d been to Mio and had visited Ernest’s grave.

The couple moved to Ethridge, Tennessee, hoping to find good health. It was there that Dr. Blair Gilmore’s father, Glen, was born. “During the move, Grandma Blair was pregnant with my father, so Burt, the 3rd son, rode the train to help Grandma get to Ethridge. After Ethridge, they heard about how nice it was in Kalkaska, Michigan. That county is south of Mancelona. Grandpa Blair bought the farm in Kalkaska County – Rapid River Township – then he began to have his strokes. Later, when my other grandparents moved to Mancelona in Antrim County, my grandfather had a stroke and ended up dying in 1917. He is buried in the Fairview Cemetery in Mancelona.

My father was the youngest of seven boys. He stayed home to take care of his father when Grandpa Blair was sick. When Grandpa Blair

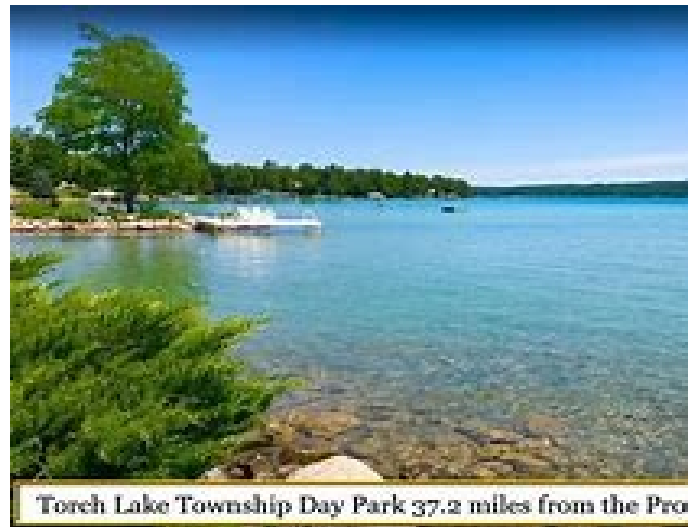
died, Grandma Blair sold the farm and moved to Mancelona. My father lived with his mother, and she died June of 1922. She is also buried in Fairview Cemetery in Mancelona

Grandma Wilhelmina Blair (Willy Kate) had been born in Ireland in County Kerry. She was about 8 years old when they moved to the US. Her father had been killed while building a tower in Ireland and somehow, it fell on him and killed him. Grandma Wilhelmina's mother then married a man named Eagar. They had two children, a girl and a boy. The girl was Emma and the boy was Roland Eagar. The potato famine was devastating Ireland then, and they heard about how beautifully potatoes grew in Wisconsin, so the whole family emigrated to America and Wisconsin. They came to Wisconsin through Bavaria, NY. At that time, the Irish who came to America during the Irish famine were known as the "potato-uns." When they went to Wisconsin to homestead, they landed near where the Blairs were homesteading. There, James Alexander came home from the Civil War and he and Willy Kate met in Wisconsin, then moved to Mio, Michigan and then to Ethridge, Tennessee. I'm not sure why they came back to Michigan, where my parents met.

Alice, the one daughter of James Alexander and Wilhelmina Blair, married a doctor, Dr. Sandal. Dr. Sandal left Alice and their little girl after they moved to Mancelona so he could join the

Rough Riders and Teddy Roosevelt as their doctor. He kept writing and asking Aunt Daisy for money. Grandma told Daisy to stop sending money because he'd just want more. So, Daisy stopped sending money, and Dr. Sandal stayed in the military as a Rough Rider. When he died, he was buried in Arlington Cemetery.

Mother's father, Grandpa Tinker, died of pneumonia about 1919. My folks were married Aug 22, 1922. Grandma Tinker died in June of 1922 and my parents got married in August of 1922.



Mancelona, Michigan

"I was born in the house in Mancelona that Grandma Blair had lived in with my father. It was a nice big house. Mother and dad were 32 and 30 when they got married. My mother moved right into the house and she and my dad lived there. The house address was 109 Maple Street, Mancelona."

“My mother taught a year before she got pregnant with me. I was 3 in 1927. Mom had another baby that was stillborn, so I was an only child. My dad ran a coal business in a potato warehouse that was by the Mancelona railroad tracks. Then in 1933, there was a big ad in the Post Office about the CCC [Civilian Conservation Corps] and the government needed men to apply to become foremen in the CCC camps. My dad applied. My mother joked that Franklin Delano Roosevelt had a man in Chicago who was a potato warehouse man who was put in charge of the CCC hiring. And that when the man in Chicago read my dad’s application, he said, “HmMMM – he’s my competition in Mancelona and if I hire him, I won’t have a competitor!” My father was hired by the Forest Service. He would come home every other weekend. He’d be with the boys he supervised every other weekend. During summers, Mother and I would move down with him in a cabin on a lake. We went home in the winter to Mancelona.”



“The CCC boys loved my Dad because my dad was a Blair, and the Blairs were sort of like

counselors, so he was told all the boys’ secrets and troubles. The boys called him “Pappy” Blair. My dad came home one weekend and said to my mom, “I heard a new term. One boy came to me and said he was having a lot of trouble with his girlfriend. “I am worried she might not stay with me,” the boy told my father.” The boy then described his girlfriend as not cold or lukewarm –my love for my girlfriend is hot water!” Dad stayed in the CCC as foreman. When but when we moved to Cadillac, Michigan in 1940-1941, I had got very ill at Thanksgiving of 1940. The flu progressed to pneumonia and then Empyema. I was in bed for 10 months. The doctor told my parents that I might die. But he also told them about a new drug out from Germany or someplace in Europe. He said he didn’t know a lot about it, but he could try that if they agreed. They agreed. The first pill I took, I felt so much better, and I got well. The new ‘miracle’ drug was Sulfa!”

“My mother Olive was the country schoolteacher, which helped support the family. Grandpa Tinker used to get teased by family members because he would go out in the woods and take his gun and walk all over but never bring back something he shot. Grandma Tinker told him he “had just as well take his gun and walk around the barn.””



Dr. Gilmore’s father and mother, far right, and some of his brothers and their wives.

Dr. Blair Gilmore says that being a Blair was important to the extended family. Their lives were filled with Blair gatherings, whether for dinners, reunions, or other family times. They stayed very close to each other. Dr. Gilmore says, “My grandmother Wilhelmina Katherine Blair kept tabs on all of her seven boys and knew what was going on with each of them. She would take the Pennsylvania Railroad when she wanted to go somewhere. They’d call the railroad and the train would come and stop right in front of the farm. She’d get up with her valises and off she’d go to Chicago and there, change trains and go to the home of one of her sons.”

Dr. Blair Gilmore’s mother, Olive, graduated from the 8th grade “in a country school, working for her room and board in town.” Olive’s father was able to hook up the horse and wagon, and

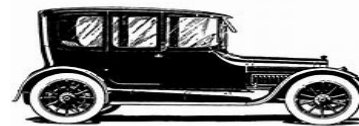
he picked her up each Friday and took her back to town each Sunday. She graduated from the 11th grade. After 11th grade, she would have had to go to school one more year to graduate from High School. However, the principal called her in and told her “You make straight A’s and are such a good student. Do you want to go to country Normal School now and then teach?” (A Country Normal school was the education required for teachers at that time, (who usually had also already graduated from High School)). Olive said yes and ended up teaching in country schools for years.



Glen and Olive Blair, Norma’s parents’ headstone

“When I was about 15 months old, my father got a job in Lansing, Michigan. My mother decided she would have to go to college to get a life certificate to teach. She went to Kalamazoo Michigan for 6 months to get her life certificate.

Dad took her there in his Model A car.”



“The registrar told my parents about a family who also had a baby girl. My mother and I ended up boarding with them. Dad came over from East Lansing every week to see us. Irene was the little girl, and we were friends all these years, until she recently passed away. Mother got her life certificate to teach. When she was 70 years old, she was still teaching in a suburb of Detroit! Cousins in that suburb talked mother into applying for a teaching job. She finally retired at age 72.”

Olive’s mother died in June of 1922. Glen and Olive got married in August of that year. Olive moved into the home Glen had purchased and shared with his mother before she died.

“In 1933, President (Franklin D) Roosevelt began the Christian Conservation Corps (CCC). There was a flyer sent out about applying if you wanted to be a foreman in in the CCC. A lot of the CCC boys had not finished school. The principal of our school boarded at our home and there was a teacher found for the boys to help them finish school. Norma’s father applied to the CCC.

Norma’s mother substituted teaching school. “My father worked at the CCC camps. I played with my friends and went to school.”

Norma’s father wanted to take a leave of absence, so they went to California for a year.

“On the way to California, we stopped in

Illinois to see my dad’s oldest brother and Mt. Carmel.” They ended up in Ontario, California.

“We had a trailer house in California. (She explains that there were few motels then). I had gotten sick from the flu going around and got pneumonia. The doctor diagnosed that I had Empyema. [also now called **purulent pleuritis.**] The doctor said that I would probably die. I had been in bed for 10 months. The doctor said that there was a ‘brand new drug’ that might help but he didn’t know a lot about it.” Norma’s parents insisted they try it, and the doctor prescribed it and got the pills. Dr. Gilmore said that after she took the very first pill, she quickly began to get better. The new drug was Sulfa!”

“That year, 1941, we had a 1941 maroon colored Ford. We’d walk into church after Dad drove us to the church. One day, he picked us up and his hands were clenched. Mom got in the middle and I got into the side of the front seat. My dad’s hands were just clenched so hard. He said, “The Japs just bombed Pearl Harbor.” I had no idea what they were talking about. At home that night, we listened to the radio and my father kept his pants on all the time so he could run out to look at planes going overhead. Then he’d say “They’re ours. We are safe.”

“On Monday, our history teacher hooked a little plastic radio to the screen on the window. We listened to congress declare war!!! Our teacher

said, “don’t forget this, ever.” There was a Japanese girl in my class who was a 3rd generation American. She said, “Why would they do this to us?”

“On Tuesday, we went to Phoenix. I hated leaving because I loved the school in California. But my parents picked me up at 1 on Tuesday, and we headed out. We didn’t care much for Phoenix, so we went further east. Mother said, “Shall we go to El Paso or Albuquerque?” We got to a sign that said ‘Albuquerque,’ so we turned and went up to Albuquerque. My father had to let the forest service know where he was. When he did, they said he was going to work in the regional office in Albuquerque.

We didn’t have many Anglos in Albuquerque. Many Anglos suffered TB after WWI and were told by doctors to go to Albuquerque so the weather could heal them. My aunt had TB and was so far along she died there. “

” I met Douglas Gilmore in High School, and eventually married him. He lived with his paternal grandparents because both of his parents had died. His father had been a mailman and got septicemia from a blister and it had killed him.”

“Then I went off to college, while Douglas had to go back to California to help relatives with their farm. Later, when I was in California for a few months, Douglas bought a little car and came down to see me in Claremont, California.

What happened is that other guys from Albuquerque came on the weekends to see me also. Douglas was on the Army Air Corp base. He had been assigned to go to Japan. But he had some infection and had to go to the hospital in Salt Lake City. By the time he was released, his unit was gone. So, the Army discharged him since it was December of 1945. Douglas then hitchhiked back to Michigan. He had no idea how cold Michigan was, so had no clothing suitable for snow. [What a cold trip!] We got married 28 Dec. in Mancelona Methodist Church.”



Mancelona Methodist Church

When my father retired from the Forest Service at age 65, my parents went back to Mancelona. They were very happy, there. They moved back into their house that had been rented when they were gone. My father died there. And then my mother lived several years more. My maternal grandparents and other family members lived and died in Mancelona, Michigan. There are many Blair graves there.”



A planter built by Burt for the family cemetery plot in Fairview Cemetery in Mancelona

“Uncle Burt may have been Albert but they called him Burt. Their oldest son George wanted to go to college and become a forester. So, when George wanted to go to Michigan State, his parents sold their farm and bought a house near the college. George went on to become the chief forester for the state for many years.”

“After returning to Mancelona, my father had coffee with Mancelona friends each week at a local restaurant. The group decided they wanted to build an airport. They bought some acres for the airfield. Then, they worked to make that airfield happen. Just this year, they paved that airport! My dad had been so excited about that airport. He would like to see it now that it is paved!”

Norma and Douglas stayed at Red Feather Lakes in Colorado on the lookout for forest fires

in '48 and '49. Later, Douglas was an employee of a store, learning how to be a manager. “I urged him to go to college and use his GI bill. He went to Michigan State and got his bachelor’s degree in Forestry. We were in Flagstaff when he said he did not want to be a forester, he wanted to be an educator. He said Forestry was too political.”

“We ended up in Flagstaff where I taught in a logging camp because I got called to come teach. It was an isolated place 46 miles outside of Flagstaff. The superintendent said to me, “if you will go out for the last two months of school 4 days a week” he’d make sure I got paid well. They gave me extra money. He said “you are going to have to spank. He said the other teachers couldn’t spank but I needed to so that I could keep the kids out of the woods and in the school. He said, “You have 3 boys, you know how to spank.” One kid did something that he wasn’t supposed to do. When we came in after recess, I took him to the hallway and had him face the wall. I used a yardstick and gave him one swat on the rump. He never misbehaved the rest of the time I was there.”

“While I was teaching, Douglas decided he wanted to be a teacher, so we stayed in Flagstaff one more year and he got his education degree. I had both Jim and Anne there. The doctor who delivered those two children came from Louisiana. The forceps the doctor used with Anne’s delivery destroyed her. She had

numerous disabilities. She could stand up in her playpen at first, but then her spine began to deteriorate and curve. She passed away.

Douglas had a terrible time about the baby's death. He passed away and was buried next to our daughter in the Corvallis Cemetery. I will be buried on the other side. Our hands will be together, around her."



Dr. Gilmore says, "I learned a lot about handicaps from caring for my daughter."

"Douglas ended up becoming a college professor and so we moved around a lot. When we were in Central Michigan, I was an adjunct professor and wrote about the research we were doing there. My husband and I both taught in Michigan. We wanted to buy a house and I taught one year to save money to buy a house. He taught in Traverse City." While in Michigan during her marriage, Dr. Gilmore attended college earned a master's degree in Education. Then, after losing her daughter, she wanted to take courses about learning disabilities. She earned her certification in that field. The graduate Dean called her and asked her to consider getting a PhD. He said that, with her education, she only needed to take 3 more courses to earn that degree. She did so, received

her PhD, and became Dr. Gilmore. She became an adjunct professor at Central Michigan University where she taught and conducted research. She retired, she jokes, about 8 times during her long career!

She left Michigan when her children were all grown and moved again to Colorado. She contacted a Colorado friend, Dr. Fred Baribeau, about teaching work. Floyd told Norma when she first arrived in Boulder that she was needed as a teaching director of special Education in Alamosa. She says, "I didn't want to go to Alamosa, so I didn't call anyone in Alamosa. However, I called a contact in Leadville, and they asked me to come teach there. I was there for about a year and $\frac{3}{4}$."

Dr. Blair Gilmore had helped many students and became known for her expertise. She was asked once by a superintendent to come observe a boy in elementary school. The teacher was puzzled about why the boy would periodically reach down and poke the floor. "I thought he might have petit mal seizures. He was tested for them and sure enough, the child had petit mal seizures. Many, many years later, I was teaching at Western in Gunnison. I was talking to a class about the boy's behavior, and all of a sudden one student yells out, "You're the one!" He went on to explain that he and that child's older brother were his friends growing up. He heard the story about the diagnosis and said that the family kept saying they didn't remember the

name of ‘that lady who diagnosed him,’ but they were sure grateful because they got treatment for the boy. He said he would never have known who ‘that lady who diagnosed him’ was unless he’d heard this story in class!”

Dr. Blair Gilmore: “I will tell you that when I worked, I always got paid exactly what they paid a man. When I was earning my second doctorate, I’d go home weekends to Leadville, and go back to Greely to school over the week. So back and forth from Leadville to Greely and back each weekend. We kept my PhD quiet. When I was asked if I wanted to get a doctorate in Education, I first demurred, saying I was too old.” She recalls now, at almost 97, that she was in her 40’s at the time! However, she applied and she went on to earn that EdD with an emphasis on Special Education and Administration.

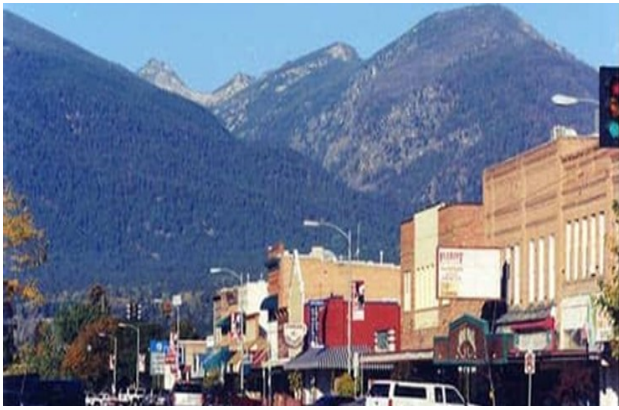
Dr. Blair Gilmore taught and was an administrator in many places. She also returned to Boulder to be a Special Education Consultant. During her years teaching in Fort Morgan, she had 12 schools to visit each day! She taught in Nebraska then she went to Gunnison to teach at Western State College. She enjoyed teaching at Western a lot.

She returned to teach and be an administrator 3 times in Fort Morgan, then went back to Michigan. Often when she moved, she considered herself retired, but she kept getting called to help.



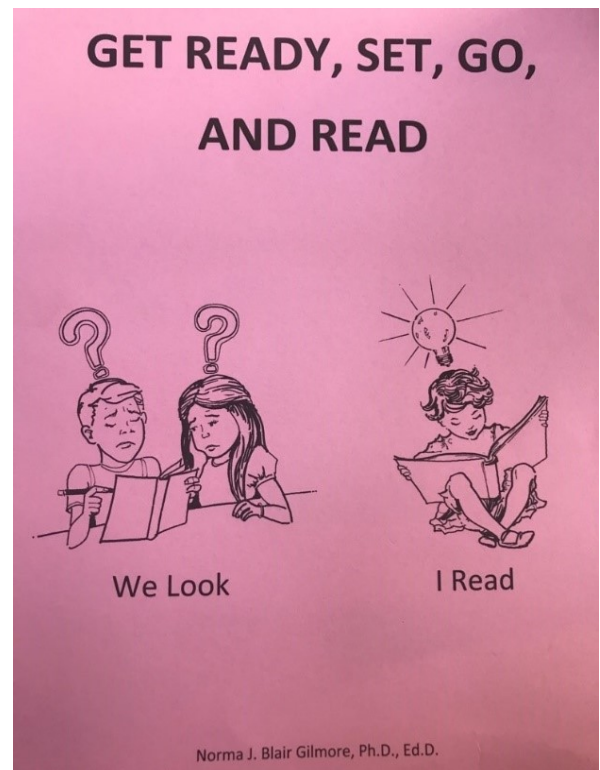
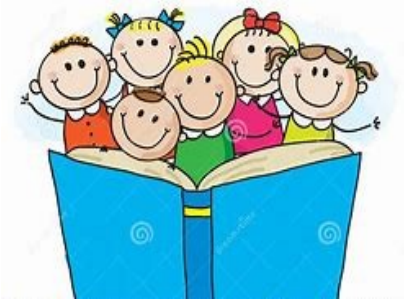
Another part of her career became a book she wrote, continuing to help many youngsters who are having reading troubles. She had noticed some children struggling more than others to read. When she was studying for her advanced degrees, she found information on visual-motor exercises and development and how this method helped children. She also consulted and learned at Purdue University with a Dr. Kephart, who developed a visual motor program for just such students. He used the exercises in his clinic at the university.

Norma wrote a book about the visual-motor methods. About 15 years ago, she was again cautioned by a doctor to move to a lower altitude. Her son called her that night and said “You are coming here, to Montana. We will take care of you.” She did so. There she remains, always busy with something, but she didn’t really retire – again!



The Downtown area of Hamilton, Montana

Norma says that in Montana, she got bored. She took her book to the Superintendent of the Victor, Montana, schools and met with him. The Superintendent was excited about the program to help the students. Remembering the great success, she had with students struggling to read during her career, she says, “I had some teachers I worked with at the University. There were some children they had in their classes who couldn’t read well. I started that program and it’s still going well, helping many children. It’s been ongoing for about 15 years. And, Dr. Gilmore says, “The rest is history!”



Norma was kind enough to share a copy of the book with this editor. It is titled Get Ready, Set, Go, and Read (by Norma J Blair Gilmore, Ph.D., Ed. D). It is a detailed compendium of how to track reading difficulties, and what steps to take to help children succeed. The book then leads teachers through detailed schedules to complete the program with the children. Particularly enticing are the photos children drew before entering the program, and photos re-drawn by the time the same child has completed the program. The differences are striking! Of note, the timeframe from the first picture to the second is shorter than one would think, (months, not years!) given how much improvement is shown.

Dr. Blair Gilmore recalled one boy who was struggling particularly hard with reading, and

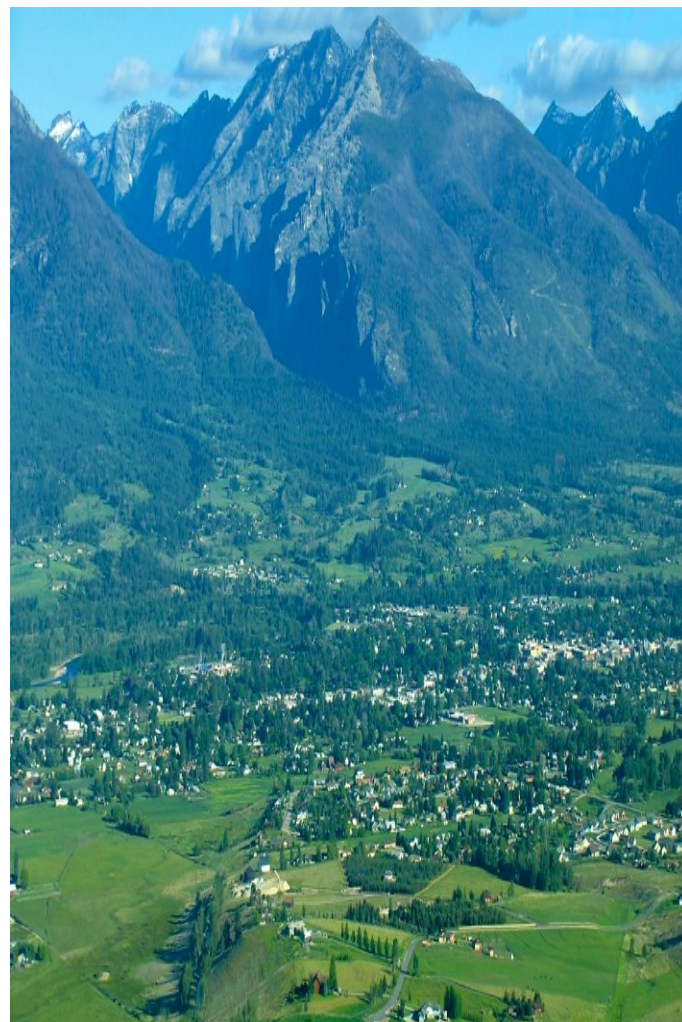
how, after two years in the program and using massage techniques on his face, he was thrilled to bounce into the classroom and tell them that :“My eyes are working now!” I don’t get my letters wrong anymore.” He was so excited; he was reading!

Dr. Gilmore says that she and two others were her best friends growing up. She says they all have kept in touch all through the years.

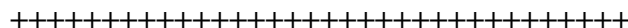
“Bernice is still alive. Mavis just died and had two cousins called me in November to tell me about it. Bernice is in a wheelchair near Flint, Michigan where she lives in a home where she gets some assistance.”

Dr. Norma Blair Gilmore will be 97 on March 16, 2021. She walks every day for one mile, depending on the weather outside.

This editor marvels at Dr. Blair Gilmore’s energy, bravery, diligence and sense of duty to children, all during many of the years when women were “supposed to” stay home and bake cookies! It is great to have a pioneering and published Double Doctor in our midst! Thanks for sharing your story (so far), Dr. Blair Gilmore!



Hamilton, Montana



Glenn Gilmore, Son of Dr. Blair Gilmore



It is not surprising that there is another family member of Norma Blair Gilmore who is famous for his work in Corvallis, Montana. A front-page article in the local paper writes about Glenn Gilmore as being “Known from coast to coast and abroad for creating doors, screens, banisters and handrails. Each piece has details and textures inspired by nature and is made with quality materials – including bronze, monel (a metal of mostly nickel and copper, with small amounts of iron, manganese, carbon and silicon copper and steel.)

Norma Blair Gilmore says, “Glenn is the one that took after the Blairs. He looks like them and he acts like them.”

His work has been featured in many publications. He was one of only 300 nominated for a prestigious national award in 2012: United Artists Fellowship.



Glenn Gilmore, creation in process (from newspaper Ravalli Republic, 1-24, 2021) Mr. Gilmore credits his parents for his “educational, inquisitive childhood.” His work began with making horseshoes with an anvil and hammer along with coal forges. He went from horseshoes to ornamental forge work. He studied at the International Teaching Center for Metal Design in Germany, and also spent a few years as a glassblower. Gilmore carries on the family love of teaching, having taught enjoyed very much teaching at different craft schools around the country.

He has been mostly doing commission work and has been working in this art for 42 years. He continues to enjoy hearing from homeowners who have commissioned him about how his pieces, be they handrails or fireplace screens, have made their home more beautiful.

Glenn Gilmore’s website and work can be found at gilmoremetal.com. I looked; His creations are amazing!



Out of kilter



William Wallace over-applies the talcum powder before battle





CLAN BLAIR SOCIETY

William Campbell Blair

Youth Award Nomination Form

2/24/20

Clan Blair Society (CBS) has introduced the William Campbell Blair Youth Award to be granted annually to a deserving youth member who has achieved excellence in pursuits related to their Scottish/Irish heritage. The annual award is \$500 and will be granted annually at the fall Annual General Meeting (AGM). Nominations for youth members 18 years old and younger can be made by friends and/or family (members) utilizing this nomination form found on the www.clanblair.org website.

Please complete the following information and submit your nomination no later than June 30.

Name of Youth: _____ Date of Birth: _____ (18 years old or younger)

Name of Nominating CBS Member: _____ Relationship: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Nominee Contact Information: Email: _____ Telephone: _____

Nominating Member Contact: Email: _____ Telephone: _____

Category of Outstanding Performance/Success: _____

The Arts; Academics; Athletics; Clan Blair Society Support; Other

Provide a detailed description of the nominee's activities that achievements for which the nomination is being made:

Please provide additional pages of text, pictures, news articles, etc. that support the nomination. Materials should be scanned and submitted via the www.clanblair.org website or emailed to vicepres@clanblair.org.

William Campbell Blair Youth Award

Outline of Award Expectations

The following outlines the expectations of award nominees:

1. Nominations may be generated by members/families/friends
2. Nominees are age 18 and younger
3. Recognition is focused toward Scottish/Celtic activities
4. Award recognition may be for Outstanding Performance/Success in:
 - a. The Arts, including:
 - i. Artistic – painting, drawing, sculpting, characterization
 - ii. Music – piping, drumming, stringed instruments, piano, vocal
 - iii. Dance – Scottish/Irish
 - iv. Theater – performance – Scottish/Irish
 - b. Academics:
 - i. Excellence in the study of Scottish/Irish history
 - ii. Writing related to Scottish/Irish history, or stories
 - iii. Formal recognition of achievement by local educators or foundations
 - iv. Excellence in the study of Gaelic languages
 - c. Athletics - Scottish/Irish related:
 - i. Football (soccer)
 - ii. Rugby
 - iii. Wrestling (North Carolina, etc.)
 - iv. Scottish Games (where offered for youth)
 - d. Clan Blair Society support:
 - i. Active support of local CBS activities
 - ii. Tent/festival support
 - iii. Promotion of CBS – recruitment, fund raising, etc.
5. Nominations are invited in the February newsletter for submission by June 1.
6. A selection committee will evaluate and recommend award recipient candidates to the BOD for final selection
7. Recognition includes the \$500 cash award, a certificate of excellence and news coverage in the Blair Bruidhinn (and other Celtic publications associated with CBS)

Questions may be sent to Jim Blair at vicepres@clanblair.org, or 1-303-795-9754

**Clan Blair Society Executive Board & Chairs of Standing Committees,
2-2021**

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Helen Blair – AZ
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Address Service Requested

First Class Mail