



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 2024



Jim Blair, Clan Blair Society President

February 19, 2024

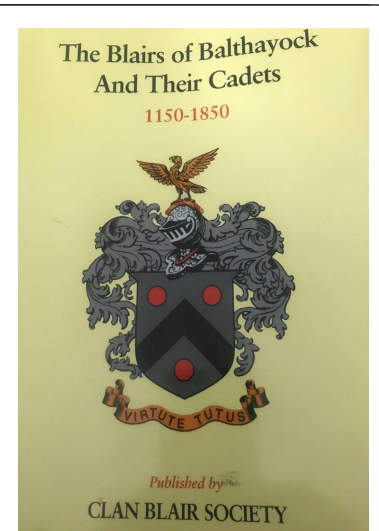
CBS President's Letter

Fellow Clan Blair Society members – Happy New Year and Hogmanay! Editor Adoree has produced another newsworthy Bruidhinn – Thank You!

First, let me express my appreciation to Shawn Blair, our immediate past President. Shawn has dedicated himself to CBS since joining in 1991. He has continuously served as the webmaster, data specialist, genealogist, state commissioner, vice-president, and president. Please take a moment to express appreciation for his work and leadership at: blair@blairme.net.

We start 2024 with a new slate of CBS board officers and a refreshed set of goals and creative ideas. The officers are listed on the officer and committee chair page, 20.

The CBS Store has come into an inventory of the book "the Blair's of Balthayock and Their Cadets", and they are available for purchase by Members. The price is \$33 plus \$10 shipping. If interested, please contact Jim Blair at the CBS Store email jeblair@msn.com



Here are the goals for this year:

- Grow our membership
- Create excitement for CBS activities
- Deploy our digital assets to expand communications
- Assure we are financially fit and develop a more efficient annual membership renewal system
- Recruit additional state commissioners

We intend to expand our reach through the Clan Blair Society Facebook page and a refreshed look at the clanblair.org website. Maggie Blair from North Carolina created an innovative post on the CBS Facebook page this last week and I encourage you to sign on and take a look. Whether you are a Facebook fan or not, you will benefit from the newsworthy items we will post. The

board members are reviewing the clanblair.org website to find opportunities to update and refresh. If you see something that could use an update, please email Leslie Blair Gallagher (vice president) with your thoughts – lvblairgallagher@gmail.com.

Please let me encourage you to check out Scottish festivities near you and 1) consider attending to enjoy the comradery with fellow Scots, 2) participate in St. Patrick’s Day events in March 3) checkout festivals and see if Blairs are represented. If not, consider volunteering to set up a booth, and 4) turn on your mental scanner of people in your orbit and invite new member prospects to take a look at CBS. If we interest a prospect, they can join via the clanblair.org website. Please enjoy this newsletter and have a wonderful Scottish day!

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LIBRARIAN REPORT – WINTER 2024

By Elena McCrary

“To many people, a family tree is a chart on a page, a symbol of family to be glanced at for a sense of belonging to the histories and memories of a particular group. Yet behind each name, when one studies it more closely, lie stories (Head, pgs.93- 94).”
From *The Rarest Bird in the World: The Search for the Nechisar Nightjar*

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Genealogic Mysteries – The Case of Duncan Blair (1761-1811)

Let me introduce our guest storyteller Raymond William Hildebrand and his wife

Carolyn from The Pine Tree State of Maine. “This has been a 50-year project for me!”

How this story developed

- Inquiry to Clan Blair Librarian via email →
- Response to member →
- Post query to the Blair Facebook Group →
- Email inquiry to Moultrie for help →
- Answers to Blair relative →

The story he shared was not only of historical importance (documented), but another genealogic gem. Some answers still need resolution, can any of you help?

Q: Can you tell the readers a bit about yourself?

My name is Raymond William Hildebrand, son of Dorothy E. Fox, daughter of Thomas Johnston Blair; son of John Wesley Blair, son of Duncan Blair (immigrant). I am a Capt. Ret. USAF. The G-G-grandson of Thomas Jefferson Blair who was born a subject of Queen Victoria in Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada. He emigrated to the US in 1863. His departure document misstated his birth date.

Q: Where were you born?

I was born in Milford, Connecticut. This is where Thomas Johnston Blair spent the last years of his life. We now live in Stockholm, Maine and have been in this area for 48 years.

Q: How did you begin your genealogy journey?

My mother’s brother Charles E. Fox was inspired to do a genealogical project for high school. I inherited this along with what he called our “rogues” gallery of family

portraits spanning eight generations. *The family chart was the wellspring that started it all.*

Q: Why did you initially reach out?

Duncan Blair came to Canada in 1787 and was primarily responsible for the founding of the Methodist church in Fredericton, as a missionary circuit rider. I am still devoid of Duncan's origins except for the fact that was noted as having come from "North Britain."

Would it be possible to connect me with anyone who has knowledge/resources that would cover Blairs in the New Brunswick area?



Free Meeting House

<https://tourismnewbrunswick.ca/listing/free-meeting-house-national-historic-site>

Q: Did the information Irene Godwin (Odom Library) help ID Duncan?

The info provided by Irene Godwin is spot-on accurate.

Duncan Blair

Born about 1761 in Scotland⁹

Son of [father unknown] and [mother unknown]

[sibling(s) unknown]

Husband of Mary Dickenson — married 30 Apr 1784 [location unknown]

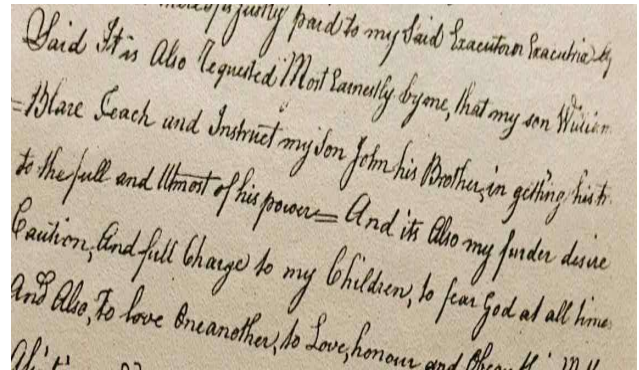
Father of John Wesley Blair

DESCENDANT

Died Jan 1811 at about age 50 in Fredericton, York, New Brunswick, Canada⁹

Q: Do you have a favorite document?

His will is my favorite at this point.



The writing and words of a man who spelled his name Blare was devoted, asking his "children to fear God..."

Q: What are some key documents you have?

For Duncan Blair, I have several property records, historic references, and narratives. As well as Thomas J. Blair emigration papers as he left New Brunswick to the U.S.A.

Q: Are there other questions you have?

Yes. Who might have been the individual as referenced in a 1795 land record in Fredericton whereby Duncan refers to "my brother" (unnamed). Given that he was very active in the Methodist church he may have been indicating a fellow church member,

However, this inclusion in the record seems rather personal in nature.

Q: Any other documents you have shared?

Yes. Who might have been the individual as referenced in a 1795 land record in Fredericton whereby Duncan refers to "my brother" (unnamed). Given that he was very active in the Methodist church he may have been indicating a fellow church member, *However*, this inclusion in the record seems rather personal in nature.

Q: Any other documents you have shared?

A cousin provided me an old 1812 letter that I donated a copy of to the University New Brunswick Archives. The 1812 letter was written by William Blair to his younger brother John Wesley Blair, probably responding to the wishes of their father Duncan Blair in his last will concerning the passing on of carpentry tools.

Q: What adventures did you take to find your relatives?

We have had *Ancestry.com World Program* for at least 25 years and almost all vacations were spent with my family, but doing cemetery visits and research in town halls, libraries, and churches.

Q: How do you celebrate family links?

I also have a cluster of other Scots: Hogg, Alexander, and Johnston families. Living just 3 hours travel time to the Fredericton, New Brunswick area so we annually enjoy the gathering of the Scottish festivals/games and bagpipes. And to reconnect with my Scottish roots.

Q: Who discovered an historical artifact?

My wife went to a tent that housed antique dealers at a local fair. She noticed a double

picture frame with a man and woman from the mid-1800's. Then, it dawned on her that we had the same photo of the woman hanging on our living room wall. It was my 3rd great grandmother, Jane Ann Adams. Right beside her was a photo we had never seen, and we did not have. My wife told the owner that the woman in the photo was my third great grandmother. My wife paid \$15. I would have paid 10 times that amount!

Q: Is there another relative of note?

In 1865 Thomas Johnston Blair visited his older brother in Washington D.C. In doing so, he witnessed the assassination of President Lincoln, as noted in his 1929 obituary.



This is Thomas Johnston Blair's 1866 wedding photo.

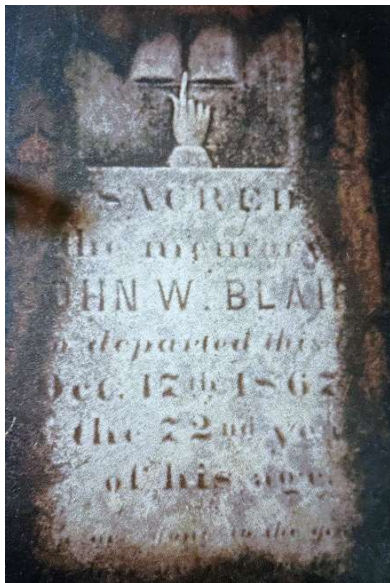
Ray was able to confirm my research.

I searched: *Heritage Quest*, a free public library service through Ancestry.

**Thomas
Johnston Blair**
April 5, 1842 -
September 24,
1929

Spouse	Caroline Amelia Embree
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Mother	Margaret Johnston
Father	John Wesley Blair
Born	Fredricton New Brunswick Canda
Died	Milford, New Haven, Connecticut, USA



John Westley Blair 1795 -1867

Photo of the Cemetery Stone of John Wesley Blair from the old cemetery in Fredericton. Unfortunately, the stone, over the past 45 years, has been vandalized, lastly irreparable, pieces missing!

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CALIFORNIA COMMISSIONER REPORT

Russ and Elena McCrary

The Rose Parade held in Pasadena California began 2024 in style. The theme: “Celebrating a World of Music: The Universal Language.”

Pipes On Parade: The Massed Pipes & Drums (Twentynine Palms, CA) was fantastic to watch. If you missed it, here is a link,

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kg6xCZoL2Aw>

Joining a Santa Fe bagpipe ensemble for a total of 100 performers from the U.S., Australia, Canada, Northern Ireland, and Scotland; it was truly awe inspired. It was also a competition over four days. Colleen Wilson, who is my favorite drum major, was part of this celebration. I just read that they have been invited to the *Estes Park Tattoo* on the heels of this success.

Happy Hogmanay!

“On the approach of twelve o’clock, a hot pint was prepared – that is, a kettle or flagon full of warm, spiced, and sweetened ale, with an infusion of spirits. When the clock had struck the knell of the departing year, each member of the family drank of this mixture with a general handshaking, and perhaps a dance round the table, with the addition of a song.”

<https://www.edinburghexpert.com/blog/how-hogmanay-became-the-new-christmas#>

Auld Lang Syne was written by Robert Burns in 1788. Look back and read the First Quarter – February 2009 edition of *Blair Bruidhinn* at the member site and the piece written by Jack Blair.

The beautiful *Auld Lang Syne* tartan was designed in 2002 to celebrate his birth!

https://www.scotlandshop.com/us?utm_campaign



Auld Lang Syne
Grey



Auld Lang Syne
Modern



Professor Gerard Carruthers explained why the Presbyterian-cradled Robert Burns wrote satires against the kirk.

After attending this online event Wednesday, January 24, 2024, 10:30 a.m., we would not say Burns wrote so much against the kirk, but for the people. This was the 18th century, after all.

What we learned:

- Professor Carruthers has edited a new book, *The Oxford Handbook of Robert Burns*.
- One entry is by **Professor Kirstie Blair**, Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities, University of Sterling.

- Burns wrote many religious pieces that are still being interpreted today.
- The 1711 Patronage Act was a major influence on his writing. It was not repealed until 1874.
- These satires were circulated originally as “underground” poems, for his friends, and lawyer.
- Burns did not like the public humiliation in churches. Especially when church elders were hypocrites. Example: *Holy Willie's Prayer* (1785).



- *Adam Armour's Prayer* (1786) is a double-standard view of how Burns saw women. Strange too is Jean Armour who bore children out of wedlock and who Burns would eventually marry.
- The Huntington Library (Southern CA) has a Burns piece the lecturer came to see for his research last year.
- *The Cotter's Saturday Night* (1786) could be Burns own reflection of toil, family, and Sunday day of rest (Godly).





Jean Armour and daughter

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Dublin, CA – St. Patrick’s Day, March 17, 2024; Saturday, March 16, 2024 – Firefighters Charity Pancake breakfast at Fire Station #16.7:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

The main festival looks to host one last time, the WelshBaker.com (877)935-7422

"<https://www.dublin.ca.gov/293/St-Patricks-Day-Celebration?referer=mailid:341&emailmkt=soteloelena421@gmail.com>"

Las Vegas Highland Games

<https://www.lasvegascelticsociety.org/> April 13-14, 2024 – Craig Ranch Park

Kern County Scottish Games and Gathering

<https://www.kernscot.org/highland-games> Date and place TBD. County fairgrounds

Great Basin Scottish Highland Games

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/great-basin-scottish-highland-games-tickets-717148609797>
May 4-5, 2024 - Gandolfo Arena Sparks, NV

Scottish Fest <https://www.scottishfest.com/copy-of-entertainment-music->

May 25-26, 2024 – Orange County Fair

SCOTLAND’S CASTLES
Aberdeenshire’s Drum Castle



Drum Castle Interior



Bedroom, Drum Castle



Drum Castle’s Very Own Bat Cave

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**THE JAMES HUNTER BLAIR FAMILY of WIGTONSHIRE AND
DUNSKEY**



Reproduced courtesy of the collection of Allan and Carol Murray on long term loan to the National Galleries of Scotland. Dunskey Estates shown in the background.



James Hunter Blair, First Baronet 1741-1787

(By Adoree Blair, adapted from several places including Electric Scotland, Geni and Ancestry Genealogy, Dunskey Estates online, [The Scottish Nation](#) and Wikipedia)

Sir James Hunter Blair was a Scottish banker, landowner and politician. Born John Hunter in [Ayr](#), Scotland, the son of a merchant, John Hunter of Mainholm and Millquarter.

In 1763, he accepted the job of partner in the banking company of Sir [William Forbes](#), and acquired the estate of Robertland. After his marrying Jean Blair, the daughter and heiress of John Blair of Dunskey in [Wigtownshire](#) in 1770, the family name became Hunter Blair when she inherited her father's estate in 1777.

He then became a member of parliament from 1780 to 1784. Later, he served as Lord Provost of Edinburgh from 1784 to 1786.

Hunter Blair was Member of Parliament for Edinburgh from 1780 to 1784 and Lord Provost of Edinburgh from 1784 to 1786. As Lord Provost, he lead various reforms. He oversaw rebuilding of the University and construction of South Bridge. From this, there are now Hunter Square and Blair street near South Bridge. This connection gives rise to the names

Hunter Square and Blair Street immediately west of South Bridge.

When he married Jane Blair of Dunksey in 1770, he added the name Hunter so that his father-in-law's Hunter name could live on. After 1777, when his wife succeeded her brother to Dunskey estates, Hunter assumed and added the name of Blair to his own. He and Jane had 14 children: 10 boys and 4 girls. Dunskey Estate is currently used as a wedding and film venue.

In 1794, The Edinburgh Magazine wrote: "The improvements which he introduced on the estate of Dunskey were of the most extensive and judicious kind. He nearly rebuilt the town of Portpatrick; he repaired and greatly improved the harbour; established packet boats of a larger size on the much frequented passage to Donaghadee in Ireland; and, lastly, while the farmers in that part of Scotland were not very well acquainted with the most approved modes of farming, he set before them a successful example of the best modes of agriculture the greatest service, perhaps, which can be performed by a private man to his country."

Hunter Blair was a founding member of The Royal Society in Edinburgh. He lived on George Street in Edinburgh, in a new Georgian townhouse. His country house was Dunskey House in Ayrshire.

He was named a baronet of Dunskey in the county of Wigtown in 1786. Hunter Blair cordially received Robert Burns when the poet first arrived in Edinburgh. On his death, Burns drafted an elegy, beginning: "The lamp of day, with ill-presaging glare", which laboriously proclaims Blair's public virtues. Burns called it "just mediocre", but Ferguson describes it as "the disastrous Elegy on the Death of Sir James Hunter Blair".

Hunter Blair was an enthusiastic Freemason. He died in [Harrogate](#) in [England](#), but he is buried in [Greyfriars Kirkyard](#) in Edinburgh, seen below.

FLOWERS OF THE FOREST



The grave of James Hunter Blair, Greyfriars Kirkyard, Edinburgh

His widow, Lady Hunter Blair, lived at 34 Queen Street in Edinburgh which he had purchased as a new house shortly before death. She was owner of large tracts of land to the north which later became Queen Street Gardens. Four of their sons died shortly after birth. Their remaining children were John Hunter Blair, 2nd Baronet, 1772-1800; David Hunter Blair, 3rd Baronet, 1779-1857; Thomas Hunter Blair 1782-1849; Robert Hunter Blair, Forbes Hunter Blair, James Hunter Blair, Anne Hunter Blair (m William Mure and D 1854); Clementina Hunter Blair, Jane Hunter Blair and Jemima Hunter Blair.

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Margery Blair McNary

Margery Blair McNary, member # 1,054, passed away February 22, 2023 in Seaside, Oregon. Born on July 24, 1943 in Lakeview, Oregon she gained degrees in education and counseling and then taught and counseled high school and community college students throughout her career. In her seventies she contracted dementia which eventually took her life. She passed away peacefully in the arms of her beloved husband of 48 years, Les McNary.

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Eileen Donan Castle, Scotland

YOU CAN STAY AT DUNSKEY ESTATE! (in a room in the castle or in a lodging house)

From their website: [About Us - Dunskey Estate](#)



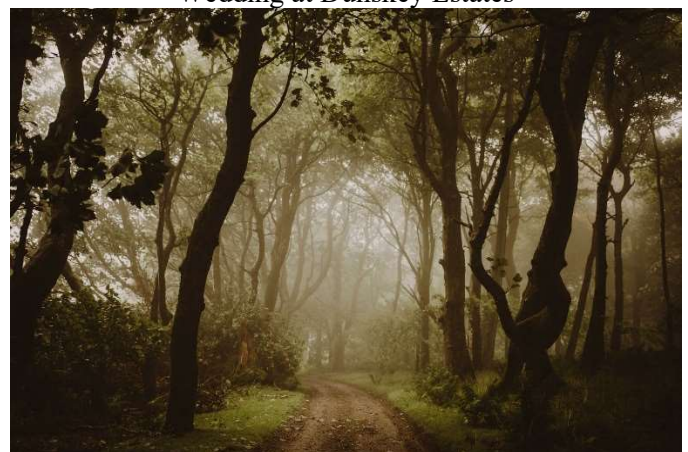
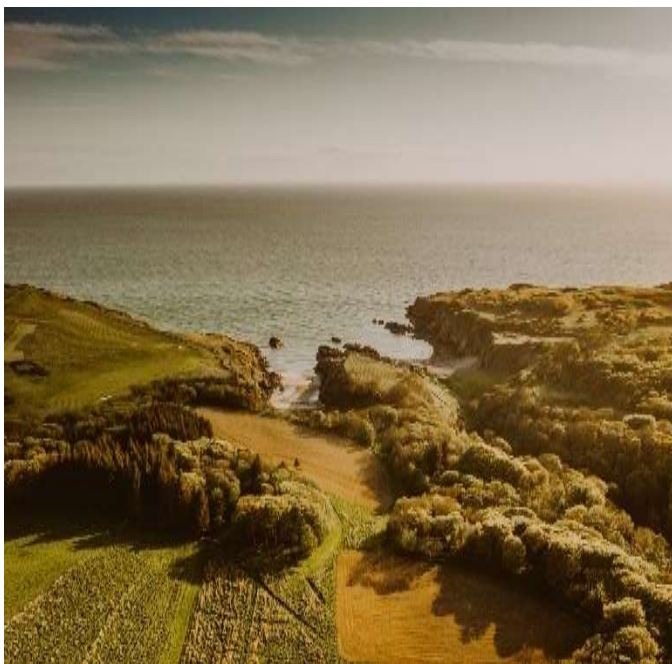
One of the many available lodgings to rent at Dunskey Estates

In 1668, The Reverend James Blair, acquired Dunskey Estate (then known as Portree Estate) for his family. He was the new minister for Portpatrick at Dunskey Estate. Dunskey House is open today for travelers who stay at Dunskey, and for weddings and other events.

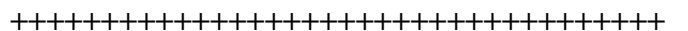
Some photos of Dunskey today:



Wedding at Dunskey Estates



In 2017, for the first time in the estate’s history, the owners opened their doors to guests in the hopes that they too would experience the splendor found at Dunskey.



AN INTERVIEW WITH HELEN BLAIR



[Note from Editor: When Jim and I began our membership in Clan Blair, there was a couple in Flagstaff, Arizona, who led the clan and kept everything going – at least, it sure seemed like they were the glue! Bob and Helen Blair were not only experts on Blairs and clans, they were a handsome-looking couple. See for yourself, above!!]:

Helen says she knew nothing about Scottish clans until after she met Dr. Bill Blair in Menlo Park, California. She recalls that Dr. Bill and his wife Betty came to Arizona to convince her to become Commissioner of Arizona but she didn't really know much of anything about CBS or clan activities. She decided to go to the New Mexico Scottish festival to learn how different clans worked their tents, and somehow, when she returned she found herself Commissioner of both Arizona and New Mexico! She recalls that Bob showed up at the first CBS tent she ran in Mesa, Arizona and he

kept returning to the tent that day. "After that, we became a couple."

She says "My father was the Blair. My father's family came from 3 different families of Blair. Bob's family came from a different family of Blair. All 4 families of Blair were traced back to the Northern Ireland area on the mid to early 1700s until were ran out of records. We didn't have a common ancestor. All three of my branches came in through Pennsylvania and New York, stayed there and in Rhode Island. Bob's ancestors came in through PA and traveled down the Cumberland Gap and settled in North Carolina. Helen then goes on to explain that in Oklahoma, there are rolls that name the Cherokee Native Americans there. The rolls are called the Dawes rolls. She says, "There are Blairs in the Dawes rolls and a there is a town called Blair, Oklahoma."

I met Bob – we dated for two years and then we got married and when we got married, he started getting really active in Clan Blair. He's the one that started making the Clan Blair signs. He made them all colors – special for AGM and he also made them for other clans. He only charged for what it cost them. I think it was 25\$ - otherwise, it would have been 250 dollars or more. He donated a lot of his expertise.

Bob worked day shift and I worked night shift and he'd call every day at 5 a.m. when I was finishing up at work, he was getting ready to go to work. [Helen is an RN and she worked 12-hour shifts. She sometimes had to work through entire weekends. She says this is how Dr. Bill was able to convince her to volunteer, because she was 'pseudo awake!']

Helen talks about old friends and the process of paperwork for the clan. She remembered that when Dr. Bill (William Campbell Blair) would give her Clan Blair paperwork, she'd take it to work and copy it there. She says, "At this time, there were charges for long distance phone calls, few people had computers, the internet was pricey, and handwritten notes were sent to board members all over the country: Later, when Shawn Blair and husband Bob put together an easy computer program, Helen

was able to then do data entry, and it became a lot easier!

Helen says Shawn Blair had already joined when she and Bob became active. She talks about what a good friend Dr. Bill (William Campbell Blair) was to them. He advised them on many clan needs. Wyomia (“Cissi”) Blair was also a dear friend, as was Cissi’s nephew, Dale Grainger. Helen says, “Wyomia never married but she lived with her sisters and a nephew. When Wyomia had a stroke, Dale was a great help. Charlie Diman also began to help with Clan Blair duties about that time.” He took over as South Carolina Commissioner and I took over the store as Cissi’s health declined. Charlie Diman then took over Membership along with North Carolina Commissioner, and Ann Fredline took over Treasury from me since I had it all on my shoulders after Bob had a massive stroke. [When I took over the newsletter, I’d faithfully hear from Wyomia every time I’d call for news about what Clan Blair was doing in North Carolina, and when it became difficult for Wyomia to write the news, Dale sent news.] Helen also says, “Wyomia also kept the Clan Blair store. When she started having more and more difficulty, I took over the store. I began all sorts of new practices and I enjoyed running the store.”



Helen says, “It used to be, every year, we’d all get together for the AGMs (annual general meetings). We all traveled to Scotland together and when we’d go to AGMs, we made a whole week of it. We had lots of people come to Arizona for the AGMs and they’d stay at our home. One person, David Lawrence of New Hampshire, had an RV and stayed parked in our driveway for several winters.. Shawn stayed with us there at least twice a year when he came out for conferences. Phil Hill, Commissioner of Michigan, would come out and stay with us. When his children were looking for a new home, they came out and stayed also. One

member from Colorado stayed with us for the AGM. We had [Clan Blair] people from all over the US come out and stay with us – we just made friends at the AGMs and we would see people then every year. We’d all spend like a week together during the AGMs. People would plan on a week to gather and after the games we’d do other activities, eat out, etc. Some would be tourists and then we’d all meet for meals after their Arizona adventures. We became a group of very good friends. It was such fun.



Every year, Bob would recite the Ode to the Haggis at our Robert Burns Supper. Bob had a great Scottish accent. But for me, it was when he used his thick Southern Kentucky drawl accent that I’d laugh and laugh. He put it on real thickly just to get me going. He had such a great drawl. He knew I got a big kick out of the other accent. He really got into the groove.

Bob got most of the clan paperwork computerized. When I first got active, we used to write everything out by hand. He got so much computerized. He was a computer engineer, retired from Intel and GE.

Helen remembered, “Preston Groom started the Blairlinn and published it. His wife was Anne. She was the Blair and he knew computers. When I joined, he was the only one who had anything computerized and that was for the Blairlinn. It was an obscure DOS computer he used. I think Shawn Blair is still working to convert that data. Preston did type out a membership list. But all our work was still done in the old style, hand-written. Shawn Blair knows the most about computers, and started the website the CBS website and helped Preston. Once Preston started to retire, he turned things Bairlinn over to Shawn. Bob took over the Membership database. Then Bob turned things over

to Shawn, who collected a lot of Blair memorabilia. I know that when Bob got the membership access and database, and we had someone who had the treasury and old books, and we collated them together. When Bob retired, Shawn took over. The vital part of all the Blair collections is definitely Shawn's work.

While Bob was seriously ill, Helen bravely marched on alone with help from her son Andy. She still led Clan Blair, but in 2013, Bob's health further deteriorated along with her. She resigned all her active positions in CBS except the Blair Store. Bob died in 2015 and she began to work at retirement, selling her home and buying an RV, which she drove all over the country visiting relatives. She and Andy eventually decided to move back where there are more relatives: Oklahoma. She loves this part of the country (at the base of the Ozarks) and the opportunity to be around family. She said, "Andy picked out this property and I bought it – he picked out everything – he teaches me things and he will have to deal with it. He is building everything up from raw land and doing it all. I couldn't have made the move or be living here without him."

"It's so pretty here. I look out the window and so enjoy this landscape. I thought I would handle the cold here, but so far so good. We do get some cold days. The wet cold is different than the dry cold. There is not much snow here. We had our pipes frozen, not expecting the cold we got. Andy has since made sure they were better insulated." Helen says on their property, they see deer, wild turkeys, raccoons, coyotes, armadillos and of course, squirrels. "A cousin's son got a deer in our front yard."

Helen described one difference: "Our well in Phoenix was down over 640 feet. The neighbor's 400 foot well went dry. Here, we can hit water at 35 feet. We are a mile from the Illinois River. Having all the seasons is wonderful. We have 40 acres, 2/3's of it wooded, a large pasture and a seasonal stream along one side. What is the nicest is I have family here. My fear was everyone was dying off and I'd be next and then Andy would be alone.

I get my Cherokee roots from my mother's side of Stewards, Reeds and McDaniels who married into the tribe but there are a lot of Blairs here who are Cherokee Native Americans. They do a weekly show. One of the Blairs is an actor on the PBS show, Wesley Studi. PBS had a show where they found his Blair Cherokee ancestors. He is an ancestor through the 1903 Dawes rolls. If you are able to prove you are a Cherokee Indian here, (you have ancestors through the rolls) you can be a full member of the Cherokee tribe here regardless of your percentage of native blood. There are great educational and health benefits for your family.

I asked Helen, is there anything I didn't ask you that the Blairs should know? She replied: "That you can make life-long friends in the community and in the group by participating. You don't have to spend a lot of time. If you can be a commissioner, even two days a year could suffice. A lot of people are afraid to take on positions. But if you get even a bit of help, it's very do-able If you are a state commissioner, you are really only responsible for one game a year where you might be busy two days. Just get some helpers (friends or family). If everyone does a little bit, it helps. If you don't want to be commissioner, just help the commissioner by being in the tent or setting up the tent. It is great fun for the family. You get to take the time to dress up if you want to, which makes it even more fun.

Everyone I met at Clan Blair events were good people. I don't know if it was the Scottish descent, but good people were there, and we had a lot of fun. Bob knew so many people in different clans. One of our good friends flew in from San Diego and brought things for our tables. It started to rain, and Bob had an extra tent in the truck, so he helped the man set it up to use. They became life-long friends. Bob started making signs for other clans and for vendors too. He enjoyed helping the other clans with set up and take down of their tents. Clans worked together to help each other. It was really a special time for us.

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Blair and Scotland History Video Library

The clanblair.org website hosts a wide array of video presentations that highlight CBS involvement with our homeland since 1991. The “members” page of the site includes a video section where members can view presentations from Scottish members and US members who have delved into history, battles, genealogy, and tours. With our busy lives, it may be easy to overlook these tidbits and the following are recommended for your viewing. Please feel free to share these with family and friends – and prospective new members. Note: please cut and paste these URLs into your computer browser.

Blair History with Jack Blair, Scotland – interview by Erynn Blair Shryack

https://members.clanblair.net/cbsvideos-2016_1stqtr.html

Blair DNA Project with John A. Blair -

<https://members.clanblair.net/cbsvideos-BlairDNAProject.html>

Victoria BC Games 2018 with Bill Blair -

https://members.clanblair.net/cbsvideos-2018_1stqtr.html

Blair House Tour with Dyani Blair Galligan 2018 -

<https://members.clanblair.net/cbsvideos-2018agm.html>

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WILLIAM CAMPBELL BLAIR YOUTH AWARD - 2024

Clan Blair Society announces the invitation to member nominations for the 2024 WC Blair Youth Award. The Award recognizes youth who demonstrate excellence in their lives and activities. This opens recognition of an outstanding youth member of the Society who is nominated by their

family or friends for their extraordinary achievement in the forms of music, dance, art, athletics, scholastics, theatre/performance, or social impact to the community or CBS. The recipient receives recognition at the Annual General Meeting and a \$500 cash award.

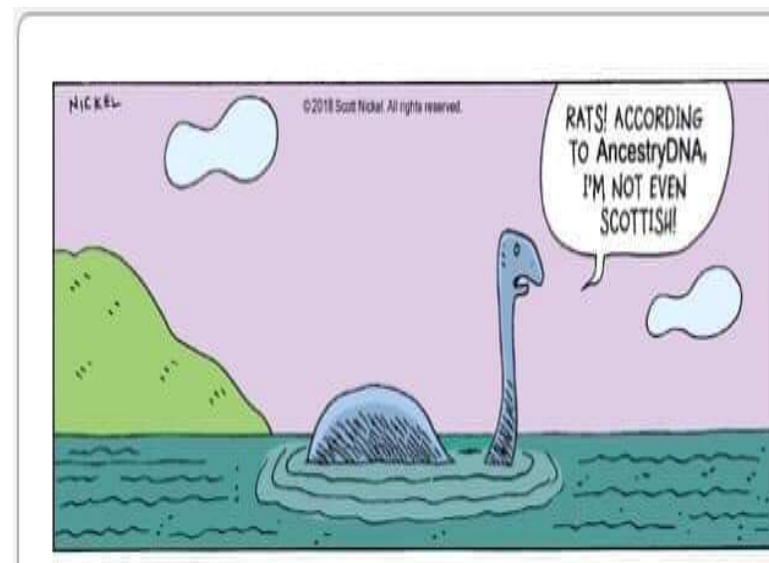
William Campbell Blair was a founding member of CBS and served as President and a State Commissioner in California for many years. He was a pediatrician and his love for children is represented by this award in his honor. Please nominate a young member of the CBS family.

The nomination materials are found on the clanblair.org website and the nomination form will be included in the May newsletter. Nominations must be received by July 31, so please begin thinking about prospective nominees. Questions can be forwarded to Jim Blair at president@clanblair.org

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FROM CLAN BLAIR SOCIETY on FACEBOOK

From Barbara Pixley



FROM [HOWARD BLAIR](#)

Top Contributor



FRIDAY, JUNE 21 AT 4:45 PM

OHIO SCOTTISH GAMES AND CELTIC FESTIVAL

MIDDLEBURG HEIGHTS, OHIO

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A Dundee woman in hospital giving birth, "Well done, it's a boy, what are you going to call him?" the midwife asks. The woman replies "Nathan" the midwife says, "aw come on, you have to call him something."



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COLORADO REPORT

Leslie Blair-Gallagher

Colorado CBS has been busy through the holiday season. Members have been involved with theater productions including "A Christmas Carol", Hogmanay, and our annual Robert Burns Supper held on January 27. At Burns night we hosted 50 members and friends at the home of Dyani Blair Galligan (picture), who all contributed to a wonderful potluck complete with Blair Athol single

malt and a wide array of other beverages. A delicious slow roasted pork butt was prepared by member Curtis Blair.

The Ode to the Haggis was presented by Torin Blair, after he paraded the haggis around the house, with guests following him to The Highland Cathedral music. Blessings followed by toasts to the lassies and ladies brought all visitors into the spirit of Rabbie. A wonderful time was had by all. We encourage all members to consider an event like this one. We get feedback all year about this event.



We now look forward to spring through fall festivals in Colorado Springs, Elizabeth, Sedalia, and Estes Park.

Festival Dates Upcoming:

Tartan Day

13-14 April

Pikes Peak Celtic Festival

22-23 June

Elizabeth Celtic Festival

20-21 July

Colorado Scottish Festival

3-4 August

Long's Peak Scottish Festival

6-8 September

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RANDOM (Interesting!) FIND ONLINE

By an anonymous poster

I'm not sure how much rigamarole the Blair family had to go through 76 [82 now] years ago, in 1942, to get "Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year" family-photo postcards in the middle of World War II, but this card is evidence that it could be done. And the eight family members pictured took a great photo.

All I know about the Blairs is that this card was postmarked on December 22, 1942, in Jackson, Michigan, and mailed across town to Mary and Elton Heglund.



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One of Us Long Ago: Ava of Scotland

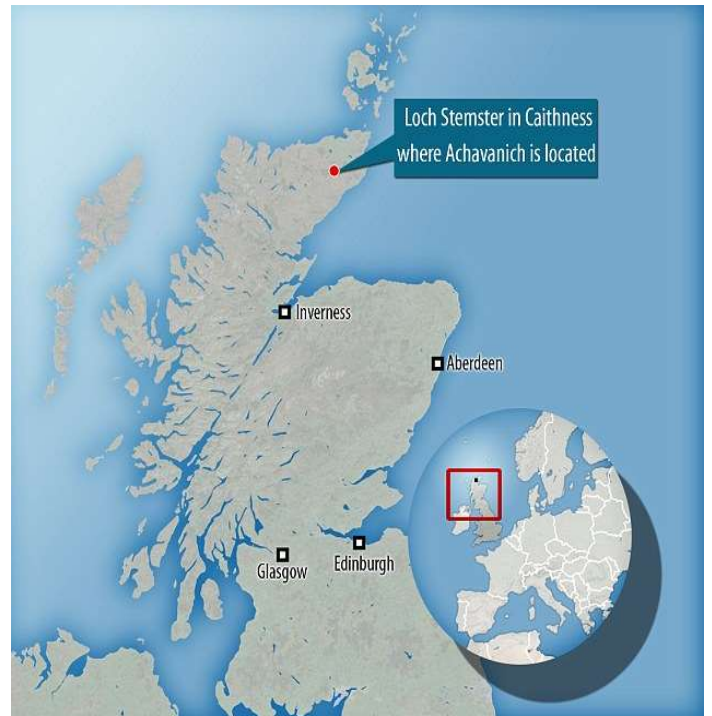
(From various articles on this archaeological find, with Archeologist Maya Hoole, and The Society for Antiquities in Scotland, along with Harvard Medical School, artist Hew Morrison, and Phoebe Weston, Journalist)



Meet Ava, age 18 to 22, who was buried 4,250 years ago in Caithness, Scotland. After the discovery of her bones in 1987, where she was laid to rest within a pit grave that was actually carved into the rock, tests showed that she was descended from European people who had come to the UK from the southern European area. Testing even showed that Ava was lactose intolerant!



Caithness, Scotland today



Caithness

Ava's bones were measured, especially the skull and teeth, to be compared to a database showing what her face looked like. From there, scientists re-created her visage.



At first, it was thought that Ava looked like the picture in the first paragraph, as that coloring would be expected of people 4,250 years ago in Scotland. However, research later showed that Ava probably looked more like the picture below.



So, Ava actually looked more like current southern Europeans rather than the ancient people in Scotland before her. It is believed she was part of tribes known as The Beaker People, who may have built Stonehenge or parts of it. They came into the UK at about 2200 BC. (Their name came from the patterned earthenware drinking cups they made and used.)



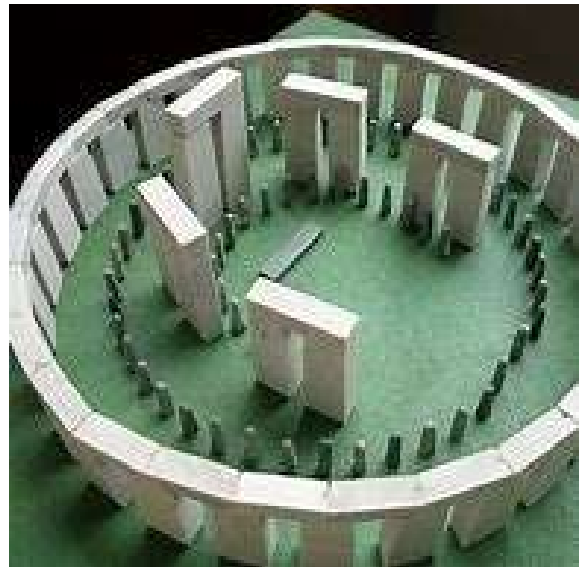
Some beakers from the era of Beaker People

Other discoveries about Ava says that she was a healthy young woman who probably worked with physical labor. The way she was buried says that she had extra effort creating her grave, which asks the question about how dear she was to the people around her.

Traces of St. John's Wort and other herbal medicines were found in her grave. That may mean she was injured and treated for the injury before she died.

Harvard Medical School and the National History Museum helped research Ava's life.

The Beaker people had short, round skulls. Ava's skull appeared uneven, as if it had been wrapped. It is thought that the Beaker people brought to Scotland metal and the wheel. The Beaker people did, however, create two concentric but incomplete circles at Stonehenge's center.



A modern re-creation of the Stonehenge of thousands of years ago.

The Beaker people, who used bows, were war-like. They were skilled craftsmen and farmed cattle. Their wide-ranging search for copper and gold helped the spread of bronze metallurgy in Europe. It is hypothesized that the Beaker people came to the UK from Spain originally, traveled around searching for metals, and eventually ended up in West England where they may have been responsible for much of Stonehenge.

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