



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

First Quarter March 2013

President’s Message



It is an honor to write this message. The Clan Blair Society is such a special experience for me and my family. We became interested in our Scottish heritage 14 years ago and have now visited the homeland on 3 occasions. I am proud to find my ancestry through DNA research dating to 1690 in Killellan, Renfrewshire, Scotland near Dalry.

My dear wife Adoree and 4 adult children Rob, Dyani, Torin and Erynn, 3 wonderful daughter and son’s in law and 14 grandchildren all enjoy our Scottish and Irish heritage. We celebrate the history, genealogy, events and ... family.

These are the reasons why I am proud to serve as President of the Clan Blair Society. I intend to provide focus, leadership, pride and Scottish enthusiasm. We are led by a dedicated board of directors and 18 state Commissioners. It is time to move the Clan Blair Society forward. Let’s go!

With this issue of the quarterly newsletter you will see reports on activities in many of our state Clans. You will read about the election of 2013 officers through your voted ballot, membership renewal and recruitment, the planned Cyber-AGM, the memorials of Clan members and other family activities. All in, you will read about family and fellow Clan members. I hope that you agree - it is a Great time to be a Scot!

Please let me hear from you - Jim Blair at president@clanblair.org.

AGM 2013

A Cyber-Convention

The CBS Board has decided to embrace the 21st century and deploy technology as a method to conduct the 2013 Annual General Meeting (AGM) scheduled for Saturday Sept. 14. This year’s AGM will be held utilizing web-event technology in a manner that will enable all members with an internet connection to participate.

Based upon results from a membership survey conducted via Survey Monkey, the majority of respondents (25% of the membership) supported the Cyber-AGM. You have told us that the following subjects are of interest for the first-ever cyber-meeting. All the details need attention, but our thoughts are:

1. Clan Blair History – stories about our past.
2. Scottish History – Utah Commissioner Witt Young will present “the Battle of Bannockburn” which includes a video diorama and discussion about this famous battle of 1314.
3. Presentation on formal and informal Scottish attire.
4. Report on the Clan Blair Society annual business meeting.

The cyber-meeting will be 2 hours in length with short breaks between sessions. The meeting will be recorded for member access after the formal sessions.

More information will be forthcoming in quarterly newsletters. Please forward questions to Jim Blair at president@clanblair.org.

Site: www.clanblair.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/ClanBlairSociety

Gallery: gallery.clanblair.org

Forums: forums.clanblair.org

Twitter: www.twitter.com/#clanblairsoc

Arizona Commissioner

Helen Blair & Andrew Blair Cupp
Az_blair@cox.net

September 29th, 2012 was the Sedona Celtic Harvest Festival. This was an absolutely beautiful location, on the golf greens in the center of the Poco Diablo Resort with beautiful views of the surrounding red rock mountains. I accompanied Andrew since we made it just a day trip. There were nice breezes and wonderful music all around. I actually napped on the grass in the shade of the tent. There were very few visitors to this event but this was the first time on this weekend and at this location.

November 2012 Bob and I had a wonderful visit at our home with NY Commissioners Sampson & Marilou Blair. We hadn't seen them since they had moved to NY but the years just melted away as we enjoyed catching up on their lives & that of their "little girls" that are now grown women. We really appreciate that they took the time to include us in their busy travel schedule. Our doors are always open for our "cousins".

2013 Arizona Clan Events:

March 16th, 2013 Is the 30th Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade & Faire in Phx.

March 17 or 18th, 2013 Is an Irish Genealogy Seminar from 9am-530pm a@ the Irish Cultural Center, 1106 N. Central, Phx. Application on www.azirish.org Lots of Blairs settled in Northern Ireland before crossing the pond.

March 23-24, 2013 The 49th Annual Arizona Scottish Gathering and Highland Games will be held at Steele Indian School Park. These are usually the largest Games in Arizona. We will have two tents and plenty of Scotch eggs and Blair Athol Single Malt Scotch to share. www.arizonascots.com

April 6th, 2013 National Tartan Day to correspond with the Declaration of Scottish Independence that was signed at Arbroath Abbey April 6th, 1320. This is the day to wear your Blair tartan with pride

Announcement

Michigan Commissioner Phil Hill and his wife Donna have had to step down from their position due to continued health problems that escalated. At this time they are being cared for by their daughter Julie Lynn Oring in Arizona.

St. Patrick's Day Parade – 2013

The Clan Blair Society presented the colors and Scottish Spirit in the annual Denver St. Patrick's Day parade on March 16. This parade through downtown Denver is viewed by more than 300,000 and broadcast to a large television audience. Our Clan is the largest to gather for this "free" event. Our dancers perform and the wee-ones carry the banner. It's a Great Day to be a Scot!



Front Row L-R: Saoirse Blair Galligan, Megan Judd, Tiernan Blair-Galligan, Cordylia Blair Shryack, Celton Judd

Back Row L-R: Curtis Judd, Katte Judd, Nick Shryack, Jim Blair, Dyani Blair Galligan

Not Pictured: Adoree Blair, Mike Galligan, Steve, Angela and Brenna McGregor

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Colorado CBS Report

1st Qtr. 2013

Jim Blair Co-Commissioner

The Colorado contingent has continued a busy schedule. Following successful festival events in the fall of 2012, the Clan conducted its annual celebration of Sir Robert Burns.



SIR ROBERT BURNS

Twenty-five members gathered together on Feb. 16th to celebrate with Blair Athol single malt, haggis, the Ode to the Haggis by Torin Blair, shredded pork and beef, dancing and good times. This annual celebration is in its 3rd year and all attending enjoyed a splendid evening. The following Blair's attended the CBS Colorado Burns Supper 2013:



Front Row L-R: Saoirse Blair-Galligan, Mattie Blair-Lemon, Dyani Blair-Galligan, Tiernan Blair-Galligan, Torin Blair, Quinnlin Blair

Middle Row L-R: Anne Blair, Adoree Blair, Candace Blair Foyt, Bonnie Mustoe (Blair), Sher Zimmer (Blair), Doc Ray, Kurt Blair

Back Row L-R: Curtis Blair, Mike Galligan, Nick Shyrack, Cordylia Blair-Shryack, Mimi Allen, Ryan Blair, Kate Blair, Nick Mustoe, Leslie Blair-Gallagher, Jim Blair, David Foyt, Elizabeth Blair-Lemon.

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Not Pictured: Adoree Blair, Mike Galligan, Steve, Angela and Brenna McGregor

**WELCOME TO THE NEW WEE SCOTSMAN
IN COLORADO!**

Lochlann Vincent Blair Shryack, born 2-12-2013, in Blair plaid with sister Cordylia, age 3.



officially announcing the slate of nominees for this year's election.

Ballots will be available for members to vote online at our Members Only site. Each membership gets to vote once. Anybody that does not have an email address in our membership database will be sent a paper ballot. Our online voting has been very successful in the past two elections and makes it very easy and accessible to our members.

We will send an email announcement with all the details to all our membership with email addresses on file the first week of April. If you think we may not have a current email address for you, then please be sure to send an update to Charlie ASAP. Any members without an email address will be sent a paper ballot. The deadline for ballot submission will be April 30th.

Here is the 2013 Slate for the upcoming ballot:

President: Jim Blair, CO

Vice President: Shawn Blair, ME

Treasurer: Ann Fredline, ID

Secretary: Frances Holt, CA

Nominating Committee:

Chairman: currently no nomination

Member: Pat Risdon, MI

Member: currently no nomination

We are currently missing two member nominations for the nominating committee. These positions must be current members of the society and their job is to find qualified nominees for the next election. It is necessary to contact the membership and enroll viable candidates for the officer positions. If you are interested in serving in this role, please contact me.

For more information on the elections and positions within the society, visit the Members Only site at members.clanblair.net.

Yours aye,

Shawn Blair, Nominating Chair



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**Reminder About Dues:
From Charles Diman**

2013 Dues are due by January 1st 2013. Please take a minute to either write out a check or better yet, get on-line to renew, using PayPal. It's very quick and easy. Just go to www.clanblair.org and select, either CBS Join, or the Members Only site. The information needed to access the Members only site of our webpage is:

Username clanblair (all lowercase)

Password cbs1988

Then go to membership renewal and click on which option you want.

If writing a check, make the checks out to: Clan Blair Society and mail to:

Membership Chair, 3413 Sunnybrook Drive,
Charlotte, NC 28210-4715

Clan Blair Society Elections

According to the society's by-laws, we are required to hold elections every 3 years and the membership gets to vote on the next slate of elected officers for Clan Blair Society. 2013 is our next election year and as the Nominating Committee chair I'm

Immediate Release:

(For Those who Wish to Learn and Preserve our Ancient Gaelic Language)

Interested in Scottish Gaelic, the ancient and revered tongue of Scotland that's still spoken today? Please join us for the 15th Annual Grandfather Mountain Gaelic Language and Song Week, July 7-12, 2013, at Lees-McRae College, Banner Elk, NC.

An Comunn Gàidhealach Ameireaganach (The American Scottish Gaelic Society, ACGA) brings you three distinguished Gaelic Instructors for a week of educational and fun-filled classes. This year's instructors:

James Graham is from Lochinver in the far Northwest corner of Sutherland. In 2004, James won the BBC Scotland Young Traditional Musician of the Year Award – the first male and first Gaelic singer to do so. In 2007, James won the gold medal in Gaelic singing at the Royal National Mòd in Lochaber. James is a talented singer as well as an accomplished piper and he has released two acclaimed solo albums. Here's a sample: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nm-UhubHMZw> James works with many artists in the Gaelic music scene, including Mary Anne Kennedy, Fiona Mackenzie, Brian Ó hEadhra, and Rachel Walker.

Kirsteen MacDonald is an award-winning singer and is a well-known BBC Gaelic television broadcaster. She has worked on the children's show *Dè a-nis?* and is now BBC's first ever Gaelic weather reporter. Kirsteen also presents the weekly news review programme, *Seachd Là*. In addition to teaching language and song, Kirsteen will also be covering the week's activities and the Highland Games for the BBC.

Here's a sample of Kirsteen's music: http://www.musicinScotland.com/acatalog/MP3_Kirsteen_MacDonald_CDs.html.

North Carolina's own Dr. Jamie MacDonald will be teaching the beginners' classes this year. Jamie holds a Ph.D. in Scottish Studies from the University of Edinburgh and a DipHE in Gaelic and Related Studies from Sabhal Mòr Ostaig in the Isle of Skye. Jamie has taught Gaelic language and song in the

U.S. and Scotland, and was Professor of Celtic Studies at St. Francis Xavier University in Canada.

Gaelic song and language classes will range from absolute beginners to advanced, so everyone can join in the fun. Every afternoon there will be additional activities, such as special topic workshops and hikes along the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountain Trails.

For those who choose to stay on for the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games the following weekend, there will be plenty of Gaelic heard at the Gaelic Tent, including the Gaelic sing-alongs. The 17th Annual North Carolina Provincial Gaelic Mòd will be held Saturday afternoon. The Mod is a Gaelic song competition that is open for anyone who wishes to take part.

More detailed information, including cost and registration form, will be available soon at <http://www.acgamerica.org/events/grandfather-mountain/>.

To find out more about the Gaelic Week, you can contact Dr. Jamie MacDonald at 902-386-2072 or John Grimaldi at 917-756-3643. You may also contact us by email at gaelteach@gmail.com or iainmartainn@aol.com

Please join us!
A' cumail na Gàidhlig Beò – Keeping Gaelic Alive!

In Memory of...

Flowers of the Forest:

Sad news was received from Sandy Blair about her husband, Tom:

Tom passed away July 11, 2012. Please discontinue his membership.

Tom fought a 2 1/2 year battle with leukemia. If you want, you may include his passing in your newsletter.

Sandy Blair
1520 Shield Street
Laramie, WY 82072

From Shawn Blair:

I just received some sad news today. Longtime member, Bryce Blair of Ohio passed away on January 9 after a battle with cancer. His wife, Ellie, sent me an email today to let me know.

Bryce had always been a "champion" for Clan Blair Society in the Blair Society for Genealogical Research. Bryce was president of BSGR several times and always worked to find a way for CBS and BSGR to work together. When Skip and Ken Hilty were doing the games in Ohio, Bryce was usually in attendance. He got his whole family involved in the Scottish festival and heritage.

I got to know Bryce and spend some time with him while I was president of CBS, and as a member of BSGR. I always enjoyed the time we got to talk and share our common heritage. Bryce will be greatly missed as a champion for Blair and Scots heritage.



BLAIR BRYCE DIXON BLAIR, age 74, of Medina, passed away Wednesday, January 9, 2013. He was born December 9, 1938 in Honolulu, HI to the late Warren and Jean (Dixon) Blair. Bryce attended West Point United States Military Academy, he attained a Bachelor's Degree in Chemical Engineering from Drexel University, and he later earned an MBA from Xavier University. Bryce spent his career in specialty chemical technical sales with Rohm & Haas. He greatly enjoyed camping with his wife Eleanor, wood working, motorcycle racing and genealogy. He was the president of Blair Society for Genealogical Research and published "Beans Cove Blair Clan", a book on genealogy. Bryce was the beloved husband of Eleanor (nee Slim), to whom he was married 52 years; loving father of Bryce (Cherie) Blair Jr., Barbara J. Blair and Susan E. (Craig) Harfield; dear grandfather of Bryce C. and Eryn B. Blair. He was

preceded in death by his brother, Warren S. Blair Jr. Services will be held Saturday, January 12, 11:30 a.m. at the WAITE & SON FUNERAL HOME, MEDINA CHAPEL, 765 N. COURT ST., WITH AN HOUR OF VISITATION LEADING UP TO THE SERVICE. Memorial contributions may be made to Hospice of Medina County, 5075 Windfall Road, Medina, OH 44256. Online condolences may be left at www.waitefuneralhome.com

Scott William Wolf Roberts



Long time Colorado Clan Blair member Scott Roberts passed away September 28, 2012. Scott, whose mother was a Blair, served with his father Ken Roberts who for many years was the Colorado Commissioner. Scott was a young 48 years old and always full of life, loving outdoor adventure and usually seeking to share a wee-dram.

Scott operated his own business Compliance Consulting Group and was active in the Shrine Temple and a 32nd Degree Mason. He studied in England during his undergraduate endeavors.

Scott's sweetheart-fiancé Suzie Clark-Roberts continues involvement in CBS and we sincerely appreciate her presence at Clan events

From Janet Blair:

I've just renewed our membership #121 online. And sadly, I want to give you the information that my husband, Robert Alan Blair, passed away on Nov. 24, 2012 at our local

hospital in Napa, CA of an ischemic stroke. He was always so proud of his Scottish Blair heritage and I know that our children and grandchildren will carry it on.

Sincerely,
Janet Blair

IN IOWA

Iowa CBS member Jim Blair's mother died unexpectedly in December. We offer prayers and condolences for the family.

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Scottish Myths and Legends

Scotland has a rich Celtic History going back over 2,000 years, at a time when superstition was rife and where unusual events were "explained" by stories and inventions which were then passed on by word of mouth. It is therefore not surprising that Scotland has an extensive heritage of myths and legends.

The Encyclopaedia of the Celts contains quotations from many of the historic and legendary events and people.

Spirits and Goblins

Encyclopedia Mythica is a huge Web site covering many of the myths and legends around the world. With a bit of digging, the specifically Scottish elements within the Folklore section can be uncovered :

- Black Donald - the devil - who cannot disguise his cloven feet.
- Boobrie - water-bird of the Scottish Highlands.
- Brownie - good-natured, invisible brown elves or household goblins. The younger version of the "Girl Guides" in Britain at least, are called "Brownies" for that very reason!

- Cloutie - another Scottish name for the Devil. The name comes from clout, meaning one division of a cleft hoof.
- Fachan - one leg, one arm and one eye.
- Fionn - Scottish/Pictish magician, warrior and poet.
- Ghillie Dhu - a solitary Scottish elf.
- Kelpie - a water devil.
- Lothian - Lothian traditionally takes its name from King Lot and father of Mordred.
- Monster of Loch Ness - mythical? Surely not.... First seen by St Columba in 565 a.d.
- Red Cap - lives on the Scottish Border in ancient ruins of castles.
- Scotia - a goddess but frequently portrayed as an old hag!
- Selkie - a marine creature in the shape of a seal.
- Shellycoat - a Scottish bogeyman who haunts the rivers and streams. He is covered with shells, which rattle when he moves.
- Sidhe the Gaelic name for fairies in both Ireland and the Highlands of Scotland.

Saints Preserve Us!

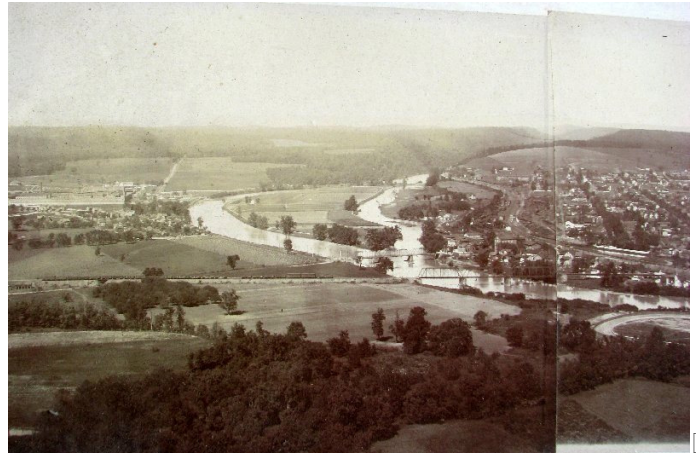
Legend tells us that a Scottish queen was given a ring by her husband. But she gave it to a handsome soldier and the king found out. He came across the soldier asleep by a river bank, took the ring, threw it in the water and challenged his wife to produce the ring. St Mungo, who was to become the patron saint of Glasgow, miraculously returned the ring by catching the right salmon and finding it in its stomach. The arms of the City of Glasgow now include a salmon with a ring in its mouth.

Foretelling the Future

There is a long tradition of claims to be able to foretell the future and having the ability to have Second Sight. The most famous of these, was Coinneach Odhar, better known as the Brahan Seer,

some of whose visions for the future are said to have come to pass. He foretold the site of the Battle of Culloden, the construction of the Caledonian Canal and the doom of the Mackenzies of Seaforth while the "black rain" on Aberdeen is said by some to be the coming of the oil industry. But his fame rests on a best-selling book by Alexander Mackenzie published in 1877 and there is little historical evidence for the seer or his prophecies!

Thomas of Ercildoune lived in the Scottish Borders 700 years ago. He lived near the Eildon Hills - where Michael Scot the Wizard instructed three imps to split the single hill into three (it is actually one hill with three peaks). Thomas is supposed to have met the Fairy Queen in the Eildon Hills and she made him to go to Fairyland for three years. On his return he had the gift of poetry and prophecy and usually made his prophecies in rhymes, similar to the more well-known Nostradamus. He thus became more popularly known as Thomas the Rhymer. He is credited with predicting the Union of the Crowns which came to pass in 1603



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How many Scotsmen does it take to change a light bulb? Och! It's no that dark!

From Richard Olivier; Help Identify the Mystery Photos: →

Please help me in identifying a photograph I have from around 1900. It is of a small city and prominent in it is a company named W.C. Blair Manufacturing & Stationary(ers). I bought the picture at a shop in the Denver, CO area but got no background on it. Hopefully someone in your organization could identify it for me. An assistance you can extend will be much appreciated. Rick Olivier, Denver, CO
sirricko@clear.net

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March 2013

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