



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 2014

Colorado CBS Report

1st Qtr. 2014

Kurt M. Blair Co-Commissioner

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE:



Fellow Scots:

Welcome to the Clan Blair Society (CBS) newsletter for the 1st quarter 2014. The New Year has started with a bang and I am delighted to report to you the progress to date.

First and perhaps most important is that CBS grew membership during the past year. Membership Chair Charlie Diman reports that 7 new members (net) have joined our ranks bringing total membership to 218. This great news and it is the result of State Clan members actively participating in local events and festivals. Your energy and enthusiasm means everything to CBS and Blair family members. Congratulations and thank you!

On Saturday February 15, the CBS board hosted the 2nd Webinar program for members across the globe. The one-hour program included the history of Robert Burns, the Old Style version of the Ode to the Haggis and the first half of the video production capturing the history of Blair House in Dalry, Scotland. Thank you to Shawn Blair, Torin Blair and Caroline Borwick for participating in this most excellent program.

The third Webinar will be held on May 20 (10 am MDT). Your Board Directors are interested in program information you would like presented. Please let us hear from you at president@clanblair.org.

In this quarterly newsletter, you will see reports on activities by several of our state Clans, reports on upcoming CBS activities, memorials to Clan members and other family activities.

I hope that you agree - it is a Great time to be a Scot!

We are off to an exciting start for 2014! I am certainly looking forward to the activities and fellowship in the coming year. I encourage everyone to actively become involved in the Colorado Clan Blair Society as the more people we gather together the more fun we have.

On snowy February 1st, we kicked off the New Year with a celebration of Robbie Burn’s Birthday and supper at the home of Jim and Adoree Blair. We had an outstanding turnout with 41 people in attendance and Torin Blair did a spectacular job of giving the “Ode to the Haggis”. Many new friendships were forged and some great food, Blair Athol and other single malts were shared. We also had a very nice demonstration of Celtic dancing to top the evening off. It was a night to remember.



Burns Supper 2/1/14

Front row, L-R: Arabella Blair, Tiernan Blair Galligan, Jenna Judd, Cordylia Blair Shryack, Scout Blair, Colton Judd, Saoirse Blair Galligan, Quinnlin Blair, Meaghn Judd, Torin Blair, Hannah Blair and Willa, Sher Zimmer

2nd row, L-R: Leslie Blair Balligher with Atia Blair, Mimi Allen, Nick Mustoe, Bonnie Blair Mustoe, Chelsea Blair with Melenie

3rd row, L-R: Anne Blair, Rebecca Sahr, Janet Perry McLaughlin, Katte Judd, Erynn Blair Shryackwith Lochlann, Sara Byes, Shayla Fischer, Jim Blair

4th row, L-R: Dyani Blair Galligan, Kurt blair, Dac Ray, Curtis Blair, Jeff Sahr, Carson Blair, Jonny Blair, Nick Shryack, Mark Reihm, Darla, Landfair, Tony Gladwell

Not in picture: Adoree Blair and Mike Galligan

We also recently ordered a case of Blair Athol straight from Scotland. I am looking forward to sharing a wee dram with the group. As an added incentive, introduce yourself at our upcoming events and see if you can figure out who holds the golden fluid. I'm sure they will share, as well.

Although I was sidelined by a nasty bug, we had a smaller than usual, but enthusiastic, turnout for the Denver St. Pattie's Day parade.



Denver St. Patrick's Day Parade

Front row, L-R: Saoirse Blair Galligan, Tiernan James Blair Galligan, Cordylia Blair Shryack, Dyani Blair Galligan.

Back, L-R: Sara Byes, Nick Shryack, Erynn Shryack with Lochlann, Mike Galligan and Jim Blair.

If you are interested in helping at some of the upcoming events in 2014, please reach out to me and let me know or if there are any activities that you would like to do. I am always open to ideas. I will be meeting with Jim Blair to plan out the coming year and will send out an e-mail within the next several weeks. Be on the lookout for it.

Slainte'

Kurt M. Blair

Co-Commissioner Colorado Clan Blair Society

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Flowers of the Forest:

#54 John C. Vienna, VA. Survived by wife Judy. They were part of the founding membership of CBS.

Per Judy- There was no obituary for John because he did not want that nor any ceremony. His ashes will be scattered in the ocean probably next month.

He pursued his Scottish ancestry doggedly and his mother was a 1st generation Scot as well.(surname DOIG)

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Oregon's Bill Blair in Scotland



Photo of Bill Blair from Beaverton, Oregon, left, and Laurence Blair Oliphant at the Blairgowrie & Rattray Highland Games in Scotland, August and September, 2013. (Bill says: "Just in case you can't tell the difference, I'm the one with the haircut.")

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Battle of Bannockburn Diorama

Utah Commissioner Whit Young and his family have been invited to present the Battle of Bannockburn diorama at the Long’s Peak Scottish Festival this September in Estes Park, CO (Sept. 4-7). Whit has presented this wonderful portrayal of one of the most significant battles in previous years, but the 2014 rendition will be the best ever. Clan members are being recruited to support this event through participating as members of a military guard, time-period locals and presenters. If you are interested please contact Whit Young at clanblairg@lionshield.net.

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Multiple email addresses

The Board is listening! Many of you have notified us that multiple email addresses are used in your household. We now will list all email addresses of members living at the same address in the communications database. So, if couples have separate email addresses, please let the Membership Chair (membership@clanblair.org) and webmaster (Weblaird@clanblair.org) know so that all can receive communications and this newsletter.

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Blair House Video

Copies of the video of Blair House in Dalry, Scotland are available to CBS members. You can order a copy of the video (DVD) from the Clan Store. The price is \$20 plus shipping and handling (approximately \$8). Please contact Helen Blair at clanstore@clanblair.org.

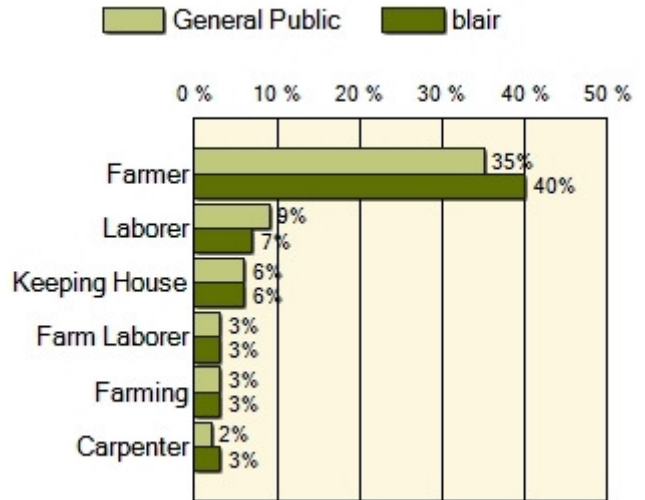
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SAVE THE DATE!

2014 Annual General Meeting (AGM)

The Board has decided to hold this year’s AGM via WebEx. The date for the 2nd Cyber-AGM is September 20 – 10 am MDT. More details will be announced.

What Were our Blair Ancestors Doing in America in 1880?



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A Visitation

(An April 21, 2010, posting by the caretakers of Blair House From “Living in a Scottish Castle...The Inside Story”)



Cecily Blair Bedroom

With its long history, Blair House naturally has a number of souls who have taken the opportunity over the ages to check up on the current occupants of their former home.

SASHES

(From Scottish Tartans Authority, <http://www.tartansauthority.com/>)

The legend of the 'White Lady' is frequently the source of questions from residents of Dalry as they walk around the grounds. We have discovered some wonderfully illustrated "Tales from an Old House." This story is far more contemporary and will intrigue many parishioners and our loyal walkers, for many will remember the redoubtable and sociable Miss Blair.

Three years ago, we hosted a wonderful wedding at Blair. The colorful dresses and costumes were spectacular as the bride and groom celebrated a full Hindu ceremony. Glorious red and gold saris, white and gold braid for the groom and even a special participatory red thumbprint on my forehead made Friday a wonderful spectacle.

The beautiful Christian service in the Drawing Room on Saturday was crowned by the bride arriving in a wonderful cream silk dress with a dark red over a jacket cut like a hunting habit, complete with dark red silk top hat and veil and spectacular knee-high cream calf Jimmy Chou boots.

A lovely wedding followed with jubilant celebrations, and the bride and groom eventually retired to the splendor of the Cecily Blair Bedroom with its magnificent 19th century four-poster bed. This elegant room was the day nursery when Ms. Blair was a child and, later in her life when she moved into the East Wing, it became her bedroom.

On Sunday morning I joined the bridal party for brunch. The bride took me aside and said, "It was really strange – someone came into my room last night." I asked what had happened. "She opened my hat box and then looked at my boots." "Was she happy?" "Oh yes, she was lovely, I woke up my husband and said, "someone s looking at my hat and my boots!" "What happened next?" "She gave a big smile and left."

Miss Blair had come to enjoy the wonderful clothes and happy occasion and be part of the joy her beloved Blair House is so good at delivery. Those who knew her would not be at all surprised!

The method of wearing sashes or light scarves had customary significance even two centuries ago, and although the wearing of sashes in any particular manner is of no legal significance whatsoever nowadays, ladies may feel more comfortable knowing that tradition is being observed!

All the following suggestions are based on a study of old portraits, prints and traditional practice and were approved by the then Lord Lyon King of Arms. The terms and criteria used are rather quaint and reflect a lifestyle that has all but disappeared even from the Scottish social scene.



Left ~ Clanswoman

The sash is worn over the right shoulder across the breast and is secured by a pin or small brooch on the shoulder.





Right ~ Chieftainess

The wife of a clan chief or the wife of a Colonel of a Scottish Regiment would wear a slightly wider sash over the left shoulder and secured with a brooch on the left shoulder.



Left ~ Ladies married out of

their clan but who wish to use their original clan tartan. This sash is usually longer than the Style 1. version and is worn over the right shoulder secured with a pin and fastened with a large bow on the left hip.



Above:. Often worn by Scottish country dancers or where the lady wishes to keep the front of her dress clear of the sash - as when wearing the ribbons or decorations of any chivalric order. This style is very similar to a man's belted plaid and is really a small arisaid. It's

buttoned on at the back of the waist or held by a small belt and is secured at the right shoulder by a pin or small brooch so that the ends fall backwards from the right shoulder and swings at the back of the right arm.

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The Sad, Glad Tale of Sir Arthur's Page

(From "Tales of Ayrshire"¹ by Anna Blair)

The old ballad that recites this story does not tell us what he crime was that outlawed Sir Arther Nemo, laird of Cuninghame keep, but the tale begins on the morning when he stood on the seashore ready to take the rowing boat that would bear him out to the small ship lying at anchor in the bay, fitted and ready for his exile. His only companion was a page, pale, raven-haired and delicate, lately come to his castle and swearing to go faithfully with him into the wilderness, however far, and for nevermind how long. Sir Arthur had tried to dissuade him all the way from his castle.

"God home, bonnie lad," urged the laird, "for your mother will be looking for you, and you've a good life ahead of you here in Scotland. There's no call for you to sail away, for you've folk at home that want you. I have none to week for me and my going saddens no one."

"The more you need a boy to bear you company," replied the page, in the half-husky voice of near manhood."

"You must not come with me for you scarce know me, your time with me has been so short. But go instead and bear a letter for me to the love that loves me no more, the Lady Annie at Dunsallie Keep and take with it this jewel and the twist of my hair that's inside it, for a keepsake."

"There are five bonnie daughters at Dunsallie, my lord. How shall I ken your love, the Lady Annie?"

¹ Tales of Ayrshire, Collected and Retold by Anna Blair; 1983, Sheperd-Walwyn Publishers, Ltd., London.

“Oh you’ll ken her lad, for she’s the fairest and the most graceful with the brightest eyes, her hair is the colour of pale gold and her cheeks are like wild roses when she is happy, and fine with marble when she is wae.”

“Master, you must love her true, sighed the romantic youth.

“If I were not out of favour with the King and at the horn for my foolish wilful ways she would be the wife of my heart and the lady of my hall. Now there’s nothing for me but the sea and maybe a far country or a home on that fine ship. So I take your kindness, coming to give me good-bye. You’re a good lad that might have been my squire. Fare you well, then, Robin Goodheart,” and Sir Arthur turned and looked sadly towards the horizon.

The page doffed his feather cap and with it came the table of raven ringlets so that now a halo of gold was round his head instead. Then he undid his Lincoln green doublet and the white muslin of a lady’s dress fell out and the page’s figure stood there slim and lovely like a lily of the valley blade.

“Have you another message I can take to your lady, Master?” ‘he’ asked gently.

Sir Arthur turned slowly at the sound of the softened voice and looked long and wonderingly at his lady, Annie, before he caught her round her slender waist.

“You’ve slept on the Big Hall floor this last sennight when I thought you bedded softy at Dunsallie and you’ve been at my side when I thought your back was turned on me.”

“Aye so,” she said happily and kissed him.

“I love you, Annie, but I cannot make an outlaw’s bride of a gentle-reared daughter of Dunsallie.”

“I’ve not left comfort and kith to be sent back to them now, milord.”

“But I have nothing, save my boat.” She held out a hand bedecked now with gold and jeweled rings in every finger. “I’ve enough here to buy a fleet of boats, if we will. You’re at the horn here now, but the King is old and there will be a new one soon. Even so the world is

wide and there’s green lands there for Sir Arthur’s bride. So had me into the oar boat, my lord, and row me out to your sail.’

And the sun went down as the gloaming came and, though the Laird of Dunsallie was sad at the loss of his daughter, Sir Arthur and his bride stood on the “Fair Winds” deck with their faces towards the west.



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The History of the (American) Blair House, Washington, D.C.

(The President’s Guest House)

The main house was built in 1824 of buff-colored limestone and is a late example of the Federal Style. The house was built as a private home for Joseph Lovell, eighth Surgeon General of the United States Army. In 1836 it was acquired by Francis Preston Blair, a newspaper publisher and influential advisor to President Andrew Jackson. It would remain in his family for the following century.

In 1859, Blair built a house for his daughter and son-in-law, Elizabeth Blair Lee and Captain Samuel Phillips Lee, at 1653 Pennsylvania Avenue, next door to Blair House at 1651 Pennsylvania Avenue. Captain Lee (later an admiral) was a grandson of Richard Henry Lee and third cousin of Robert E. Lee. The houses have since been combined, and the complex is sometimes referred to as the **Blair-Lee House**, though Blair House is the official name today.

In 1942 the house was purchased by the U.S. government and has since been the official residence for guests of the U.S. president. Blair House is primarily

used to house foreign heads of state visiting the president (when foreign leaders stay there, the house flies their flag), but it has also been used for domestic guests. Several presidents-elect of the United States and their families have spent the last few nights before their initial inauguration as guests in the house.^[4] During much of the presidency of Harry Truman, it served as the residence of the president of the United States, while the interior of the White House, which had been found to have serious structural faults, was completely gutted and rebuilt.^[1] The east and west wings of the White House, constructed in 1942 and 1902, respectively, remained in operation while the main structure was rebuilt; President Truman commuted between Blair House and the West Wing each day. On November 1, 1950, Puerto Rican nationalists Griselio Torresola and Oscar Collazo attempted to assassinate President Truman in Blair House. The assassination was foiled, in part by White House Policeman Leslie Coffelt, who killed Torresola, but was mortally wounded by him. A plaque at Blair House commemorates Coffelt's heroism and sacrifice.

Blair House is now a complex of four connected townhouses, including the original Blair House. During the 1980s, Blair House underwent significant restorations, with a new wing added on the north. An adjacent townhouse, Trowbridge House, is being renovated to serve as an official guest residence for former U.S. presidents while in the capital. The combined square footage of the four adjacent townhouses exceeds 70,000 square feet (6,500 m²), making it larger than the White House (with approximately 55,000 square feet). With 119 rooms, the Blair House includes: several conference rooms and sitting rooms, 9 staff bedrooms, 4 dining rooms, 14 guest bedrooms, 35 bathrooms, kitchens, laundry and dry cleaning facilities, an exercise room, a hair salon and a flower shop.



The Blair House in Washington, D.C.

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MEMBERSHIP REMINDER!

Membership Dues Reminder.

On April 1st the Members Area password will be changed again and made available only to 2014 active members. Dues, as always, are only \$20.00.

Use either PayPal, on our website, or mail your dues to the Membership Chair (address below) – Charles Diman

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A Scotsman took a girl for a romantic ride in his taxi...She was so beautiful he could hardly keep his eye on the meter

A 12th-century sixpence was recently uncovered at an archaeological dig in Aberdeen. Gathered around it were four skeletons on their hands and knees.



Your Name and Mine

Blair is an English-language name of Scottish Gaelic origin. The surname is derived from any of the numerous places in Scotland named *Blair*. These place names are derived from the Scottish Gaelic *blàr*, meaning "plain" and "field". The given name *Blair* is derived from the surname. Blair is generally a masculine name in Scotland, although it is more popular in North America, where it is also a feminine name. A variant spelling of the given name is *Blaire*.^[1]

SOME FAMOUS BLAIRS:

- Anthony Blair (criminal) (1849-1879), American hanged for murder
- B. Brian Blair (born 1957), American professional wrestler and local politician
- Bill Blair (disambiguation)
- Bonnie Blair (born 1964), American Olympic gold medalist in speed skating
- Danny Blair, Scottish footballer
- DeJuan Blair (born 1989), American basketball player
- Dennis C. Blair, United States Director of National Intelligence
- Eric Blair, an author better known by his pen name *George Orwell*
- Francis Preston Blair (1791-1876), Influential 19th Century American Journalist and Politician
- Francis Preston Blair, Jr. (1821-1875), 19th-century American politician and American Civil War General
- Harold Blair, Australian tenor and Aboriginal activist
- Henry W. Blair (1834–1920), United States Representative and Senator from New Hampshire
- Hugh Blair (1718–1800), Scottish author
- Hugh Blair (composer) (1864–1932), English musician, composer and organist
- Hugh E. Blair (1909–1967), linguist and co-developer of Interlingua
- Iain Blair (1942–2011), Scottish journalist, actor and author
- James Blair (clergyman), Scottish clergyman and founder of the College of William and Mary
- Jayson Blair, former *New York Times* reporter
- Jimmy Blair (1888–1964), former Scottish international footballer
- Jimmy Blair (footballer born 1918) (1918–1983), Scottish professional footballer
- John Blair, 18th-century American politician and one of the first Associate Justices of the U.S. Supreme Court
- John Insley Blair, railroad tycoon
- John Leo Blair, businessman, founder of Blair Corporation
- Linda Blair (born 1959), American actress
- Matty Blair (born 1990), English footballer
- Mike Blair (born 1981), Scotland rugby union international
- Montgomery Blair, American politician and lawyer
- Patricia Blair (1933–2013), A
- Paul Blair (baseball) (born 1944), American baseball player
- G. W. Scott Blair (1902–1987) Theologist
- Tony Blair (born 1953), the former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom

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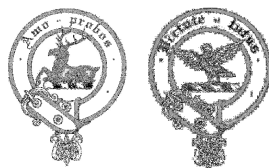
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