



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, March, 2023



Shawn Blair, Clan Blair Society President

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We're already a couple months into 2023 so I hope the New Year is finding you all well and anticipating an exciting year. Happy New Year!

Tartan Day - April 6th!

As some already experience signs of spring, others eagerly await green grass, flowers and pipe bands. Either way, we're only a few short weeks away from the U.S. and Canadian celebrations of Tartan Day, our national holiday to celebrate our Scottish heritage. Be sure to check your local area for any planned celebrations. If you have Scottish attire, wear it with pride!

Scottish Festivals

For our more northern members, the Scottish Festivals and Games are still a few months away. But many warmer climates are in the midst of their 2023 season. We have commissioners in North Carolina and

South Carolina preparing for events coming soon. Other commissioners already have their sites on the events they participate in their area. As we learn of where our commissioners will be hosting a tent, we'll update the clanblair.org events page with details. Be sure to check your own area and plan to attend.

highlandgamesandfestivals.com lists many events worldwide.

Clan Blair Society appears at festivals by the grace of enthusiastic and committed volunteer members. If you'd like to see the clan tent at a local festival and would like to make that happen, be sure to contact us and we'll guide you on how to make that happen. We can provide resources, advice, and a certain amount of financial assistance to our commissioners.

Our Volunteers

We're very grateful for our committed volunteer commissioners. Many have been hosting the clan tent at their festivals for years. They have a passion for the heritage

and sharing Clan Blair, Scottish Heritage and the camaraderie with those that attend. I made many friends over the years I hosted the tent and had a lot of fun. It is a bit of effort, but worth it.

Thank you, commissioners, for your passion and commitment.

What's in store for 2023

We've had a bit of a slow start this year, but the board will be meeting soon to plan the events for the year. We've been considering returning to a live Annual General Meeting so we'll be discussing that possibility. We'll look to have online presentations on topics of interest as we have in the past. We'll continue to publish the news and heritage packed Blair Bruidhinn newsletter, great thanks to Adoree Blair (CO).

Scotland

I have started conversations with a Scotland specialist and will be presenting to the board the potential of a return of the Clan Blair Society Scotland Trip. Our last clan organized trip was in 2006. Visits to Blair properties, traveling and meeting with our friends of Scotland, and seeing many of the Scottish sites was always the agenda. A tremendous and memorable time was had for anybody that joined us.

I've had numerous inquiries the last several months. We'll need interest and commitments (eventually) to fill the Scottish coach to make it happen. If you have an interest in joining a Clan Blair Society trip to Scotland, please let me know. There are

no details yet, but planning would be for 2024. The board will have to approve it and we'll need a volunteer to help organize it.

In the meantime, be sure to find a Scottish Festival or Game near you to experience the passion and enthusiasm. Let us know if you'd be interested in hosting a tent for your local event. Share Tartan Day with family and friends, wear your tartan with pride!

Slainte!

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An Englishman and a Scotsman go to a bakery. The Englishman steals three buns and puts them into his pockets and moves away.



He said to the Scotsman, "That took great skill and guile to steal those buns. The owner didn't even see me."

"That's just simple thievery," the Scotsman replied. "I'll show you how to do it the honest way and get the same results."

The Scotsman proceeded to call out the owner of the bakery and said, "Sir, I want to show you a magic trick." The owner was intrigued so he came over to see the magic trick.

The Scotsman asked him for a bun, and he proceeded to eat it. He asked two more times and after eating them again the owner said, "Okay my friend, where's the magic trick?" The Scotsman answered, "Look in the Englishman's pockets."

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COLORADO REPORT

**Leslie Blair Gallagher,
Commissioner**

A good-sized crowd gathered at the home of Dyani Blair Galligan for our celebration of Robert Burns on February 4.

Torin Blair led our parade of participants, marching through the house. He held aloft a plate bearing the haggis, and we marched to The Highland Cathedral.

After the march, we gathered around the kitchen and family rooms, listening to Torin Blair recite the "Ode to the Haggis." Jim Blair delivered the Toast to the Lassies, while Erynn Blair Shryack delivered the same to the Laddies. Tiernan Blair Galligan gave a rendition of a Celtic pre-dinner prayer.

The gathering then ate, visited, and enjoyed, from littlest to oldest – and it was a grand celebration of our Robert Burns!



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UPCOMING EVENTS

From Facebook, Clan Blair Society



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Waxahachie, Texas – Saturday, April 9 and
 Sunday April 9 at 9 a.m.

Tickets: **[Scarborough Renaissance Festival](https://www.interactiveticketing.com)**
[\(interactiveticketing.com\)](https://www.interactiveticketing.com)

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“Sherwood Forest Faire is a locally owned

<https://www.upstaterenaissancefaire.com/>.
 The Greer International Festival (typically
 April) is another fun event in town with
 Scottish representation.

I hope everyone is doing well and is excited
 for a year of fun events in 2023.

Maggie Blair

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SOUTH CAROLINA REPORT

Maggie Blair, Commissioner

We are gearing up for the annual Gallabrae
 Greenville Scottish Games:

<https://Gallabrae.com/>. Clan Blair will be
 represented at the games and in the parade.

Greenville has also started to cultivate a new
 renaissance festival. Clan Blair won't be
 specifically represented here, but there is a
 lot of Celtic inspiration:

<https://upstaterenaissancefaire.com/>. The
 Greer International Festival (typically April)
 is another fun event in town with Scottish
 representation.

I hope everyone is doing well and that you
 are all excited for a year of fun events in 2023.

Maggie Blair

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CALIFORNIA COMMISSIONER REPORT

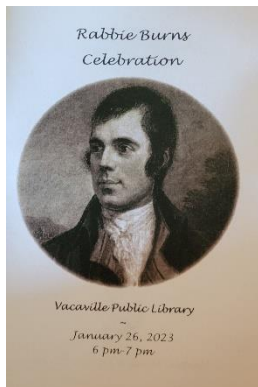
**Russ and Elena McCrary - Cuir fàilte air
 2023!**

We ended the year by filling bags with
 oranges and a box of Walkers shortbread
 cookies for our neighbors. We also included
 information on how the new year in
 Scotland will be celebrated from Dec. 31 –
 Jan. 2.



Fireworks over Edinburgh Castle – New Year's Eve 2023

<https://www.visitscotland.com/see-do/events/christmas-winter-festivals/hogmanay/>



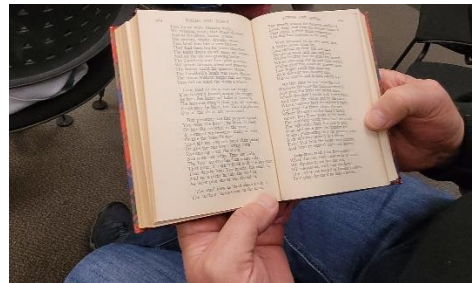
This year we celebrate the 264th birthday of Scotland's national poet – Robert "Rabbie" Burns. That is longer than we have been a country. We handed out flyers that Clan Scott had given

us at the Pleasanton games and have looked forward to this event held January 26, 2023, at Vacaville Town Library. Burns birthday is January 25th.

Kudos to Diane Spengel, Library Associate who had visited Scotland last year and took the initiative to bring us a Burns night supper. Complete with Haggis the "national dish of Scotland." I had never tried it, but what a wonderful treat. The guests who gathered also were given mashed potatoes, shortbread cookies and water. What a meal! Alas, no whiskey to toast.

Then the celebration began as Harper Sandra Fromm Burns entertained us with Rabbie Burns stories, history, and music.

We used our personal copy of the *Poetical Works* of Burns to feel the poet in each piece the performer shared with us. There was a Scottish lass in the audience, and she shared some other traditions too.



While I did not get all the Scottish Clans in attendance, we represented Clan Blair. Diane is from Clan Martin. The performer a Burns. Clan Scott and a MacKinnon were there too.

We finished the evening with Auld Lang Syne and felt the kinship that traditional food, music, and laughter brings to every Burns Supper near or far. For those who do not know. Burns did not write Auld Lang Syne but took a Scottish folktale and turned it into the poetry and music we now use each New Year's Eve. That was his gift. He rescued obscure Scottish tales and saved them to be loved "Evermair" (evermore).

<https://www.gutenberg.org/files/1279/1279-h/1279-h.htm>



**Harpist/Storyteller
Sandra Fromm Burns**



Diane Spengel sharing a laugh with guest performer. And table of delights for

audience (haggis), yum.



I learned a bit more about the piece Robert Burns wrote on the Blair named in this poem. As well as Robert Ferguson. In speaking with the performer/harpist she shared that Mr. Ferguson was a mentor to Robert Burns, so his criticism of the piece was justified.

Blair, Sir James Hunter (1741-87)

Born John Hunter, the son of an Ayr merchant, he became a banker in the banking company of Sir William Forbes, and acquired the estate of Robertland. On marrying the heiress of John Blair of Dunskey in 1770, he added Blair to his name. He was Member of Parliament for Edinburgh from 1780 to 1784 and the Lord Provost of the City in 1784. He was created a baronet in 1786. As Lord Provost, he carried through various reforms, including the beginning of work on rebuilding the University and the construction of the bridge over the Cowgate. The foundation stone of this bridge was laid by Lord Haddo, as Grand Master Mason of Scotland in 1785, after Parliament had passed an Act giving permission for the plans to be executed. Blair was knighted the following year.

Burns was cordially received by him when he arrived in Edinburgh. On Blair's death, the poet drafted a somewhat stilted elegy, beginning: 'The lamp of day, with ill-presaging glare', which extols rather laboriously Blair's public virtues. Burns called it 'just mediocre' but Ferguson describes it, justifiably as 'the disastrous Elegy on the Death of Sir James Hunter Blair'.

Blair was an enthusiastic Freemason. Hunter Square and Blair Street in Edinburgh are both named after him.

**** (Note, please see the Dunskey Castle History at the end of this newsletter including a painting of the James Hunter Blair family at Dunskey Estate.)**

<http://www.robertburns.org/encyclopedia/BlairSirJamesHunter1741-87.103.shtml>

Headed to Scotland? Maybe you will want to read-up on Burns

<https://burnsmuseum.wordpress.com/>

California 2023 events: do add them to your calendars. if you do attend, please write us at reclanblair.com and share your stories and pictures. Thank you.

- The 37th Annual Calaveras Celtic on the West Coast – March 10 – 12, 2023, 2465 Gun Club Road, Angels Camp, CA 95222 Calaveras County Fairgrounds
- Kern County Scottish Games and Gathering - April 22-23, 2023, Kern County Fairgrounds, 1142 South P St., Bakersfield, CA 93307
- The Sons & Daughters of Erin Northern Nevada Celtic Ceilidh. The event is free – May 20, 2023, 401-415 E Fourth Street, Reno, NV 89512
- Second annual Great Basin Scottish Highland Games – May 20 and 21, 2023, 2200 Loop Rd, Sparks, NV 89434.
- Scottish Highland Games of San Diego – June 24-25, 2023, Brengle Terrace Park 1200 Vale Terrace Drive, Vista, CA 92084
- Monterey Scottish Games and Celtic Festival, July 15 - 16, 2023 (tentative), Monterey County

Fairgrounds, 2004 Fairground Road, Monterey CA 93940

- Dixon Scottish Highland Games & Gathering is now set for July 29th at the Dixon Fairgrounds, 655 South First St., Dixon, CA 95620
- Pleasanton Scottish Games and Gathering – Sept. 2 - 3, 2023
- Fresno Scottish Gathering and Games – Saturday, September 16, 2023, Kearney Park 6725 W. Kearney Ave., Fresno, CA 93706
- Central Valley Highland Games & Celtic Festival – October 2023, Stanislaus County Fairgrounds 900 N Broadway, Turlock, CA 95380
- Seaside Highland Games – October 7-8, 2023 - Ventura County Fairgrounds <https://www.seasidehighlandgames.org/>

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Librarian Report – Winter 2023

Elena McCrary

With the Scottish pageantry with the passing Queen Elizabeth II, I was interested in learning more about the details of those attending to her. I was particularly enthralled the “Royal Company of Archers, the King's Bodyguard for Scotland - formed 1676; entered royal service 1822” of which Robin Blair is also a member

[https://www.wikiwand.com/en/Royal Company of Archers](https://www.wikiwand.com/en/Royal_Company_of_Archers)

The Heraldry Society of Scotland is delighted to announce the election of a new Fellow of the Society: Robin Blair CVO, WS, Lord Lyon from 2001-2008. Among other achievements as Lyon, Mr. Blair commissioned the digitization of the Public Register (which I think is quite a wonderful achievement)!



Here is a free digital access to Dr. Black's book *The Surnames of Scotland: their origin, meaning, and history*.

<https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=mdp.39015011274175&view=1up&seq=17>

My mother was on the cutting edge of genealogy. She borrowed books, wrote letters, and used her memories to re-create her family history on 8" x 11" paper tacked to a wall. I can still see my ancestors. My mother was from the east coast - New Bedford, MA. A place of historical significance for African Americans too!



Nathan and Polly Johnson House at 21 Seventh St and adjoining Quaker meetinghouse (in yellow), New Bedford MA

This was the first home Douglass and Anna lived together, from the day they arrived here on September 17, 1838, until they moved into their own first home in 1839. It is the only New Bedford home of the Douglass's still standing."



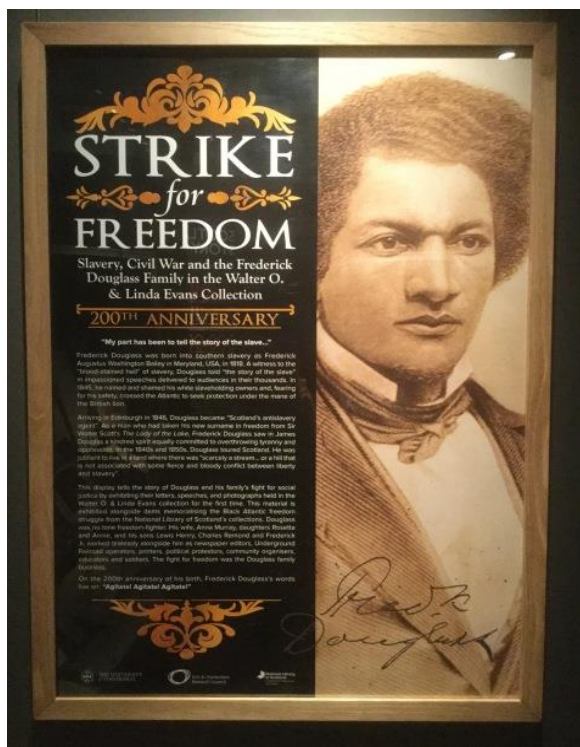
"To be perfectly accurate, it was the newly married Johnsons who arrived here since the former Frederick Bailey (Douglass) had renamed himself

Frederick Johnson. Johnson suggested the surname Douglass instead, after a hero in the Sir Walter Scott novel he was reading at the time, and Frederick accepted."

Posted on April 11, 2016, by [anymcools](#), accessed February 27, 2023.

<https://ordinaryphilosophy.com/2016/04/11/frederick-douglass-new-bedford-massachusetts-sites/>

<https://www.nls.uk/exhibitions/treasures/frederick-douglass/>



Strike for Freedom Frederick Douglass exhibit poster, National Library of Scotland, Edinburgh, 2018, featuring an [1853 engraved portrait by John Buttre](#) Posted on [November 23, 2018](#) by [amymcools](#), accessed February 27, 2023.

I signed up with [AmericanAncestors.org](#) and received a free link to a four-page document titled, *The Portable Genealogist*. Claire Vail, VP for Digital Strategy and Communications has given me permission to share page one. Sign up for the newsletter for the full document. Ask a question!

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THE PORTABLE GENEALOGIST

Organizing Your Research

By Rhonda R. McClure, Genealogist at NEHGS

Introduction

For many genealogists, "organization" can be a dirty word. The very thought of having to organize all that research—all those paper and computer files—makes them shudder. No matter how monumental the task may seem, a systematic method saves valuable time and creates more accurate work.

This Portable Genealogist will offer practical advice on how to organize your research and files, keep track of families, and create goals to guide future research. Even if you are a seasoned family historian, it's not too late to incorporate these practices into your work. The result will be a time-saving system that makes sharing information easier.

Organization Basics

Even though specialized computer programs and online family trees help organize your findings and keep your research on track, you still need to understand the basics of research methodology and organization to ensure your research is as thorough, accurate, and efficient as possible. There is no one way to organize your research, but there are some governing principles:

- ✓ Use an organization system you can maintain
- ✓ Consistency is key
- ✓ Leave a paper trail

Choosing an organization system

Your organization should be both effective and efficient. An overly complicated procedure with color coding, unique document number assignment, alphabetizing, and topical cataloging may get in the way of your actual research. You want a system that's easy to implement and maintain and one that someone else can easily decipher.

Maintaining consistency

Be consistent about your organization system and in your method of reporting and note taking.

Some suggestions:

- Always list a woman by her maiden name.
- Use the date system DD-MMM-YYYY (day, first three letters of the month, and complete year).
- List place names in order from smallest to largest jurisdiction (town/parish, county/shire, state/province, country).
- For consistent documentation, keep a running list of sources with your abbreviations.

Leaving a paper trail

Computer filing is great, but who knows whether future family recordkeepers will be able to access your research? Build a contingency plan into your routine organization with paper filing. Your descendants will thank you!

RESEARCH

Organizing Your Research

TOPICS

- Organization basics
- Keeping track of families
- Research logs
- Preparing for future research
- Filing

NEHGS TIPS

Genealogical software can do a lot to help you conduct, organize, and share your research. If you're in the market for a new program, view a list of suggested software and consult a feature comparison chart at our online Learning Center at [AmericanAncestors.org](#).



Ellen Payne Odom Genealogical Library News – Moultrie, GA

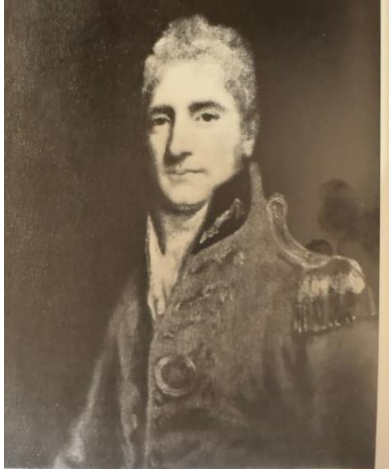
Elana McCrary

Or, "how small pieces of a story connect families." In this case, Russ McCrary, Membership Chair, and Melody S. Jenkins, Adult Services Librarian. It is quite possible they are cousins. Her maternal grandmother

is a McCrary. So, they shared a brief history, and we shared a photo of Lachlan Macquarie (who looks like our son). Lachlan served as 5th Governor of New South Wales from 1810 to 1821. His was the achievement of bringing order and why he is deemed the “Father of Australia.”



Chris McCrary (our son)



Lachlan Mc Crary

In the Spring of 2022, I reached out to Melody S Jenkins (former Library Director). In their capacity as Adults Services Librarian, she has the immense task of reaching out to over 130 Scottish organizations that have material housed at the EPOGL. Thirty have responded as they

were trying to get clans together as part of a reunion of sorts. As well as to launch a digital collection.

Why this need? The State of Georgia is consolidating the administration of websites at the state level. Simply put, it will cost less to monitor and update.

Genealogy Hours

Closed on Monday

Tues., Wed. Thurs 10am-6pm

Friday 10am-3pm

Saturday 10am-2pm

- Appointments are encouraged.
- No masks are required.
- You may still borrow Blair collection materials.

This is why they have asked if we can share our digitized items with them. They would still remain password protected (Members only perk), but it would allow for more promotion. All the items in our collection would remain intact and available.

Should you wish a copy of all the titles listed in our collection, please contact Elena McCrary, Clan Librarian by filling out the form located on the home page.

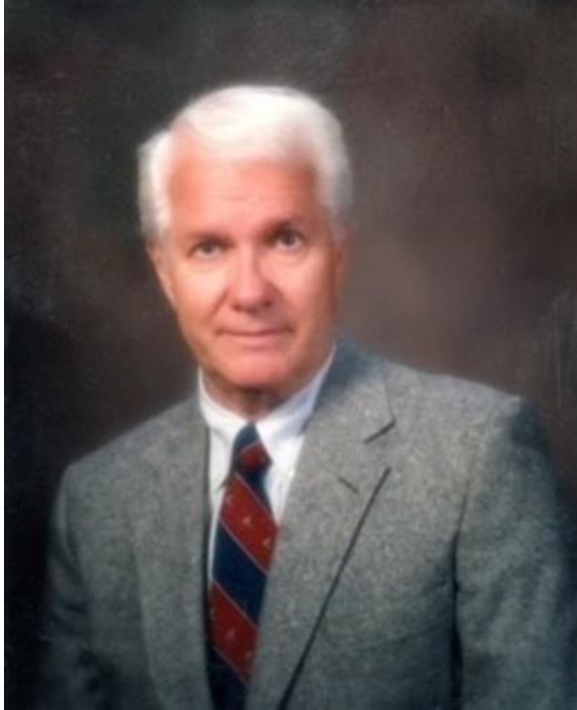
<https://clanblair.org/cbs-library>

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FLOWERS OF THE FIELD

WHITNEY(WHIT) BLAIR YOUNG, 1934-2022



Bountiful, Utah: Whitney Blair Young, age 88, died November 15, 2022. He was born March 17, 1934 in Salt Lake City Utah to Orson Whitney and Lucille (Blair) Young. He had three siblings, one of whom, Carolyn (Kent) Larsen, predeceased him. Steve (Vicky) Young and Doug (Bonnie) Young are still living.

Whit attended Ogden High School, graduating in 1952. He served a mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in the Northwestern States Mission. He then attended Weber College and the University of Utah, then concluded his medical degree at Kansas University Medical Center in 1963. While at the University of Utah, he met Rosemary Isom, and they were married on December 3, 1960 in the Salt Lake Temple. They were blessed with three children: Rebecca Rosse Young

(Michael) Lawyer, David Snow (Christine) Young, and Daniel Isom (Margaret) Young.

Whit was accepted into the Air Force to do his internship at Travis Air Force Base Hospital in California. He and Rosemary also lived in Texas, Maine, Kansas and Missouri. From August 1971 to May 1972, Whit pursued a master's degree in Public Health at Johns Hopkins, taking his family to Baltimore during that school year. After receiving his master's degree, Whit worked for the Utah Department of Public Health. After a few years he returned to ophthalmology, sharing an office with Dr. John Nicolls in Bountiful, where he remained until retiring.

Whit and Rosemary served a mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in the Illinois, Peoria, Mission from November 2002-May 224, during which time they were greatly missed by their children and grandchildren.

Whit enjoyed traveling and was able to visit Canada, Mexico, Italy, Germany, England, Scotland, Hong Kong, Hawaii, Turkey, Scandinavia, Greece, Israel, Egypt, Thailand and more. Whit will be remembered mostly for his passion for history, and his knowledge was vast. He also loved painting military figures, mostly from the Napoleonic period, and had a collection which numbered in the thousands. He also enjoyed community theater, participating in "Promised Valley", "The King and I", "Life with Father", "110 in the Shade" and in college days, "Seven Keys to the Bald Pate" to name a few. He also loved music and literature, and was very active in his ward, the gospel of Jesus Christ and his family.

Whit is survived by his three children, 14 grandchildren: Nicholas Blair (Britney) Lawyer (Jaron) Peck, Elisabeth Ann Lawyer, Brigham Scott Lawyer, Margaret

Valerie Lawyer, Laura Rose Young (Michael Bluth, Rachel Christine Young, Rebekah Anne Young (Tyler) Richter, Allison Colleen Young, Emily Roses Young (Devin) Parkinson, Anna Lin Young, William Barnes (Mariah) Young, Abigail Mae Young (Liam) West, James Durtshi Young, 11 great grandchildren, Graham Scott Lawyer, Ross Michael Lawyer, Georgia Rose Lawyer, Samantha Rose Parkinson, Owen William Young, Rosemary Allison Young, John Joshua Peck, Elaine Rose Bluth and Larsen Blair Richter, and by his two siblings, many nieces and nephews.

The family would like to acknowledge the tremendous support from extended family, the Bountiful Oak Hills Ward, the Country Park 10th Branch, Harmony Hospice and Pheasant Run Assisted Living. We are indebted to you for your loving service.

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Editor's Note: Jim and I enjoyed a lot of nice time with Whit Blair Young and his extended family. They came to Colorado to march in the Long's Peak Festival parade in Estes Park. The grandchildren were in full costume of old-time leaders and Kings and Queens of Scotland. They came to Colorado that year and other years also to display Whit's fascinating rendition of the Battle of Bannockburn, which people would line up to see. Whit was very creative and artistic.

The thing I recall most about him was his kindness. He was always anxious to know about people he met, he was excited to show his Scots heritage and Scots Bannockburn display in the tent. But most of all, he spoke tenderly and proudly of his grandchildren and their children who surrounded him when they saw him. Whit's passing is a great loss to our Blair Clan.

ANOTHER OUTSTANDING BLAIR

**Right Honorable Lord Blair of Boughton,
Member of the House of Lords, Lord
Temporal**



Blair was employed by London Police in 1974 and served 10 years there. He later became the Chief Constable of Thames Valley Police, handling the protests over the construction of the Newbury bypass. Later, he became Chief Constable of the Surrey Police, then was appointed deputy, then Chief Commissioner in 2005. While in this office, there was a mistaken shooting of an innocent man. The following controversy about this case was noted. He stepped down from this position in 2008, after disagreements with Boris Johnson, then mayor of London.

After serving as a policeman in many capacities for his lifetime, Blair was appointed as a Crossbench Life Peer in July 2010.* This is a member of Parliament who sits in between the parties and votes with either party, a well-respected and honored seat.



William Campbell Blair

Youth Award Nomination Form 2023

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:

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 30.
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

DUNSKY CASTLE AND JOHN BLAIR OF DUNSKY



Modern Day Dunskey Estate

On 19 October 1667 there was a marriage contract between John Blair, (son of the minister of Portpatrick, Wigtownshire, Scotland) and Jean Agnew, daughter of Patrick Agnew, Laird of Sheuchan. A witness was George Stewart who had married Elizabeth, daughter of James Blair of Dunskey Castle. Three other witnesses were James & Hew Blair, brothers of above John Blair, and Patrick Kennedy, Provost of [Stranraer](#). Agnes Blair's (née Agnew) sister m. Alexander Adair, son of Robert Adair whose father, William Adair had previously owned Dunskey Castle. John Blair had acted as agent for Viscount Montgomery of Airds who had owned Dunskey Castle. The Viscount was in financial difficulties due to the upkeep of his troops, and had borrowed largely from his agent. John Blair then bought the property and lived there with his family until the Hunter Blair family moved to Portpatrick, where John Blair was the minister to the town. Their new home was known as Dunskey Estate, and is still open and renting rooms and space to others.



Dunskey Castle Today - .5 miles south of Portpatrick, considered an important archaeological site as well as of historical significance.

Dunskey Estate, then The Portree Estate, was acquired by John Blair in 1648, who was the newly appointed minister for the town of Portpatrick.

1770 Jean Blair of Dunskey married James Hunter. James assumes the Blair surname. James begins to rebuild and refurbish the estate, virtually rebuilding the estate and the harbor.

By 1814, a map shows numerous gardens and drives around the home. In 1864, the first telegraph was installed in two buildings built on the grounds for telegraphing. In the 1890's, McKenzie and Moncur glass houses were installed. In 1900, Charles Lindsay Orr Ewing and Lady Augusta Boyle his wife. Mrs. Ewing was a niece of one of the Hunter Blair family. Below, James Hunter Blair and family on walk at Dunskey Estate (shown in the background.)



**CLAN BLAIR EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS AND CHAIRS OF STANDING
COMMITTEES, 3-2023**

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President@clanblair.org

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Beaverton, OR 97007
503-449-0129
Clantent1@clanblair.org

Shawn Blair - Webmaster
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Address – see above

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Jim Blair – Clan Store
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Elena McCrary - Librarian
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925-719-0324
CBSlibrary@clanblair.org

Vacant - Blair Genealogy -
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