



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](http://www.clanblair.org)

Second Quarter – May, 2012

## Presidents Message

Helen L. Blair, [president@clanblair.org](mailto:president@clanblair.org)

We are in full Game/festival season now. I hope that many of you will be able to take full advantage of the season to visit some of your local events, especially where a Blair tent will be set up. Support your local Commissioners. It is always nice to have visitors and help at the tents. If you notice that there isn't a Commissioner in your area, or a Games not covered by one, you might consider becoming a Blair Commissioner. CBS helps with some supplies to help you get started. Please think about it. It is fun and informative and will increase your circle of friends.

The Clan Blair Society Annual General Meeting is coming up August 3- 5th in conjunction with the Highland Ranch Games outside of Denver CO. Our VP & CO Commissioner, Jim Blair, is hosting. I hope that many of you will be able to attend. It is always nice to meet and visit with fellow "cousins." I am not sure if I will be able to attend due to Bob's health.

I am very thankful to Jack Blair of Scotland who was so proactive that he took digital photographs of many of the documents that were auctioned off with the sale of Blair House. Thank goodness for his foresight otherwise the documents could be lost forever from Blair eyes. He has sent the digital images to Shawn Blair, our webmaster, who will be posting them on our website. The auction house would not share with us who purchased items. If any of you had the ability to purchase any of the Blair house items, please let us know. We hope that many

of the items were purchased by Blairs who will treasure them for their historical significance to the clan.

Time is coming up for elections. Please consider running for office. We still have many board positions open. Our nominating committee would love to hear from you.

Have a wonderful summer and thank you for your continued support of Clan Blair Society

Take care- Helen

## Annual General Meeting

August 3-5

Highlands Ranch, Colorado

Calling all Clan Blair Society members! Please plan to join the Colorado contingent of the Clan Blair Society for the Annual General Meeting scheduled for Friday – Sunday August 3-5. We will celebrate our great Clan during the Colorado Scottish Festival and Rocky Mountain Highland Games in Highlands Ranch, Colorado. Details on the Games can be found at <http://www.scottishgames.org/>

This Scottish Festival is one of a kind! It is located in the heart of suburban Denver, convenient to all Rocky Mountain activities. We invite you to begin celebrating with the CBS-Colorado group on Friday night the 3rd with a family BBQ, and then join us for the Festival Grand Entry parade at 12 noon on Saturday. CBS will be one of the Honored Clans at this event. The general schedule of events is:

Site: [www.clanblair.org](http://www.clanblair.org)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/groups/ClanBlairSociety](https://www.facebook.com/groups/ClanBlairSociety)

Twitter: [www.twitter.com/#clanblairsoc](https://www.twitter.com/#clanblairsoc)

Forums: [forums.clanblair.org](http://forums.clanblair.org)

Gallery: [gallery.clanblair.org](http://gallery.clanblair.org)

Aug. 3 – Check-in and get settled in beautiful Denver, CO

Aug. 3 – 6 pm - Family BBQ (location to be announced)

Aug. 4 – 10 am – 12 noon – Join us at the CBS Tent for a wee-dram, coffee and sweets.

Aug. 4 – 12 noon – Grand Entry parade at Festival Grounds Location:

Highlands Heritage Park,  
9651 S. Quebec St.  
Highlands Ranch, Colorado  
(2 miles south of C-470)

Aug. 4 – 2 pm – Annual General Meeting

Aug. 4 – 6 pm – Dinner – Celtic Tavern – Littleton

Aug. 4 – 8 pm – Celtic Concert – Festival Grounds

Aug. 5 – 12 noon – Grand Entry parade at Festival Grounds

Aug. 5 – 1 pm – 5 pm – Enjoy the day!

Lodging Chair Erynn Blair Shryack has reserved a block of rooms just 5 miles from the Festival and with a shuttle bus to-from the Festival location (no need to find parking). The rooms are at the Marriott Courtyard Denver South/Park Meadows Mall, located at 8320 S Valley Hwy, Englewood, Colorado 80112 USA. The weblink is: <http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/deniv-courtyard-denver-south-park-meadows-mall/>

Hotel telephone number is 720-895-0300. Erynn's telephone number is 720-299-0595 or [erynnshryack@gmail.com](mailto:erynnshryack@gmail.com).

We look forward to seeing you in August. Please confirm your attendance with Jim Blair, Colorado Clan Blair Society, Co-Commissioner. Call Jim with confirmation and questions.

Tel. 303-795-9754

Email – [jeblair@msn.com](mailto:jeblair@msn.com)

Until we meet in August, 2012 – *Slainte*’

**Arizona Commissioners - Helen L. Blair & Andrew Blair Cupp**

[Az\\_blair@cox.net](mailto:Az_blair@cox.net)

March 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>, the 48th Annual Arizona Games were held in Phoenix. Andrew and I set up two tents that kept full most the time with friends and visitors. I had made three dozen Scotch Eggs and they disappeared quickly. I think everyone had a good time.

We were lucky to reconnect with Jane Blair Sheperd-Hall and her family from Phoenix, Charles Sloan of Phoenix and James & TJ Blair of Peoria. All had been former CBS members years ago. James rejoined on the spot. Members Kathy & Lee Knapp drove up from Yuma, combining the Games with coming to pick up an elderly pet to foster. Member Nancy Benson from PA was vacationing in AZ so we were able to meet her. Visitors Kathy Jankowski, Eldon & Judy Heydenreich, Linda Blair Masters, Dorothy J. Blair, Isaac Galindo, Thomas & Jaiden Pausano, Austin Bennett, Jessica Hunsanger with Odin, Freya, Melody, Fayth & Kiargan and Logan Blair all from Phoenix came. Rachel Evans and Richard Bassett came with their large extended families from San Tan Valley, Rachel Blair Fotheringham & family from Mesa, Jessica Heydenreich from Tolleson, Sherie Savage from Queen Creek, Randy & Cindy Lorenc from Gilbert and Don Cupp, Carolyn Humpries and Traci & Damion Cupp from Tempe all visited and partied at the tent. It was the first time we were able to use the dovetail flag that Skip Blair of OH sent. I had lined the back of it with Blair tartan so it could also be used in the Kirkin of the Tartans. This event was enhanced by all the help we had. I still managed to throw a rib out but at least the doctor was able to easily pop it back in place. I need to remember to sit back and let the ‘young-uns’ do the work.

April 14<sup>th</sup> 2012 was the second Annual Rim Country Celtic Festival in Payson, Arizona. I got a very early morning call from the organizers saying that Hwy 87 was closed due to snow and ice so not to attempt the trip. Needless to say, we ended up not going. Later I talked with the organizers who said they looked into past years’ weather reports and the 2nd weekend has had " freak" snow storms the last few years so they will be looking for a different weekend for the future.

May 12th, 2012, was the eighth Annual Prescott Area Celtic Games in Prescott, Arizona. Andrew & I drove up and had a wonderful time. It was in 104 degrees in Mesa and 79 at Watson Lake outside Prescott (hands down, the better place to be.) I marched in the opening ceremony with the dovetail. With the winds, it almost carried me away a few times. The area was set up so we were able to view all the athletics and animal herding while listening to the bands and music in the background. We had a wonderful time. It was nice to see member Alvin Blair with his wife Cathy and son Ryan. This was my first time meeting them. Alvin had gotten a new tattoo on his arm that left Andrew taking inventory of any bare spaces he has left on his body for more adornment. (See picture and story below of Alvin's tattoo.)

Visitors to our tent were; Lana Blair Thurman and her husband of Prescott, Carol Roberti and her husband of West Linn, Oregon, Kyle Anderson of Prescott Valley and Melissa McCrorey and her husband of Prescott. All seemed interested in the displays at the tent and a few sat down with the genealogy books. The site was beautiful, the weather was perfect, and the company was enjoyable. Everyone had a good time.

July 20th -22nd, 2012 will be the 15th Annual Arizona Highland Celtic Festival at Foxglenn Park in Flagstaff, Arizona. This is a big event with lots to see and do. Flagstaff is very nice in the summer with usually high temperature of 80 with afternoon showers, the perfect get-away spot to avoid the valley heat. Friday night there will be a free concert in Heritage Square at 6pm. For those over 21, there will be a single malt whiskey tasting for a fee at Uptown Billiards. The Games will be Sat & Sun at Foxglenn Park, 4200 E. Butler Ave. The Wicked Tinkers, The Knockabouts and others (TBA) will perform. There will be a big Celtic kids' corner, workshops on music, whiskey tasting, a Celtic labyrinth, many displays to learn about Celtic plants, Celtic spirits, clans, and Celtic geology. There will be re-enactments performed and a new genealogy research tent will be available. There will be competitions in Highland Dance, Athletics, Bagpipe solo & bands plus a tug o'war. On Sunday, there will be a Celtic Mile fun run or walk exploring the urban

trail. Sat. night at the Weatherford Hotel there will be a single malt whiskey tasting at 7:30 for those over 21 and a Ceilidh at 8pm with a \$5 cover charge. Andrew will be going up Friday night. I will try to go up for a day trip on Sat only since Bob does not travel well now. For more info, please go to [www.nachs.org](http://www.nachs.org).

September 29th will be the fourth Annual Celtic Harvest Festival in Sedona, Arizona. They are moving the event to the Poco Diablo Resort. Andrew & I will go up for the day. For more info [www.celticharvestfestival.com](http://www.celticharvestfestival.com)

We hope to see our Blair cousins at some of the Arizona events. Helen & Andrew

### **Blair "Arms"**

CBS member #1069 Alvin Blair and his family were at the Prescott AZ Games 5/12/12. He had gotten a tattoo of the Blair of Blair crest on his arm. It looked fantastic! It got Andrew looking at bare spots on his body, figuring out a good spot for another tattoo.



Submitted by Helen Blair



Andrew Blair Cupp holding the dovetail flag sent by Skip Blair of Ohio

## **SOUTH CAROLINA NEWS**

Loch Norman – 2012

The 2012 Loch Norman Highland Games near Charlotte NC were a great success. On Saturday a dozen Blair families dropped by, many of them, who were not members, took membership applications. One existing member who spent some time with us Saturday was Harry Blair, former Commissioner for North Carolina. Though offered, he would not take the position back.

On Sunday, intermittent rain dampened the proceedings. However, in spite of this, my son, Andy Diman, our newest member, visited with his wife and family. Andy's son and daughter participated in the "Kilted Mile". William 7, finished 1<sup>st</sup> in the 6 – 8 group and 3<sup>rd</sup> overall in the 6 – 12 grouping (rain caused them to combine groups), and Betsy 5, finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in the under 6 category.

All in all the weekend was very enjoyable and we are looking forward to our next Games, "Grandfather Mountain Highland Games" in July.



Charles Diman, his son Andrew and daughter in law Laurie, with children William and Betsy at the South Carolina Loch Norman Games

## **Texas Clan Blair Activities**

Howdy from your Texas Commissioner!

On March 30, I once again had the privilege of attending Tartan Day at the Alamo ceremonies in San Antonio, Texas. This ceremony is held in conjunction with National Tartan Day and the San Antonio Highland Games to honor the defenders of the Alamo who were from Scotland and those of Scottish descent.

For the ceremony, there were the usual speeches followed by a wreath and bouquet lying at the door of the Alamo. I sponsored a wreath on behalf of the CBS to honor the two Blairs who fought and died at the Alamo, John and Samuel Blair. For those of us from Texas, and especially those whose ancestors fought in the Texas Revolution, the Alamo holds a

special place in our hearts, so I considered it a great honor to be able to lay the bouquet myself on behalf of Blairs and Blair descendants everywhere.

Saturday and Sunday was the San Antonio Highland Games. I had the Clan Blair tent there both days. The weather was nice and we had a good turnout. At the games, they have a program where kids get a sheet that they have to take to various clan tents where they are given a presentation on something to do with Scotland or Scottish history. I volunteered to present on a famous person of Scottish descent in Texas history.

Texas Commissioner,

Burton Dworsky

### Clan Blair Society – Colorado

5/28/12

Clan Blair – Colorado presented Scottish heritage at the annual St. Patrick’s Day parade winding through downtown Denver on March 17. Twenty-five members of our Colorado CBS group joined 100,000 parade participants and revelers to celebrate the day and the best Celtic spirit of the spring. Participating

Clan Blair Society – Colorado members were from Ft. Collins, Aurora, Highlands Ranch, Centennial, Littleton and Denver. All came together for a we-dram and good times to present our clan colors. At mid-point of the parade, you will note our relaxed style, below:



Pictured L-R – Tim Sullivan, Brenna McGregor, Torin Blair, Nick Shryack, Quinnlin Blair, Carson Blair, Mike Galligan, Diane Blair, Carson Blair, Bruce Blair, Saoirse Blair Galligan and Ian Hawthorne.



Pictured above are:

Front – L-R – Katte Judd (dress), Curtis Judd, Adoree Blair (peeking around Curtis), Tim Sullivan, Dyani Blair Galligan, Tiernan Blair Galligan, Saoirse Blair Galligan, Torin Blair, Quinnlin Blair, Brenna McGregor, Erynn Blair Shryack, Colton Judd, Jim Blair

Back – L-R – Scott Strong, Jonnie Blair, Carson Blair, Ian Hawthorne, Diane Blair, Bruce Blair, Mike Galligan, Nick Shryack, Angela McGregor, Steve McGregor - Not Pictured: Quaintance Blair and Katte Judd

The Clan Blair – Colorado group now prepares for the 2012 AGM. The details are in separate story. Please see two of our family dancers, below:

## New York News



Arabella Blair and her teacher with her Overall Champion Plate, April 2012, Colorado Celtic Highland Dance Indoor Competition



Saoirse Blair Galligan, with medals from Feile Denver Irish Dance Feis, April 2012

Greetings from Buffalo! Although summer has not quite arrived here in western New York, our year of festivals is already underway. On April 14, we traveled to Rochester, where we participated in the annual Tartan Day celebration. Thanks to the unusually warm weather, the festival enjoyed a rather large crowd. Held inside the Rochester Armory, the Tartan Day festival seems to get larger each year. We had quite a few guests at our tent, including several Blairs, most of whom were pleasantly surprised to learn more about the clan.

Last year, we decided to try to expand our ‘coverage’ of festivals in this region. As such, we will be traveling to Farmington (New York) on May 19, where we will be representing the clan at the Finger Lakes Celtic Games and Festival. This is actually its inaugural year, but the organizers have been quite diligent in putting together a nice schedule of bands, athletes, dancers, vendors, and, of course, clans. We are very excited to be a part of the beginning of a very promising festival.

At the end of June, we will be traveling a bit further, as we will represent the clan at the Ithaca Scottish Games and Celtic festival. Ithaca is located at the far southern end of Cayuga Lake, which is the longest of the Finger Lakes (it is about 40 miles from end to end). The festival is held over two days, and includes a broad schedule of events.

Our travels will continue in August, as we again travel north of the border to the Fergus Scottish Festival. The Fergus festival is one of the largest Scottish festivals in Canada. Last year, we were genuinely surprised by the size of the festival, as it stretches over many, many acres (although, since it is in Canada that would be many, many ‘hectares’!). There were approximately 50 clans at the festival last year, and it featured a wide variety of competitions for athletes, dancers, artists, and even Scottish cooks! Admittedly, we are still nervous about crossing the border with a car full of swords and spears, but one look at our kilts and tartans leads the border guards to wave us on through.

The following weekend (August 18) will find us at the Amherst Museum’s Scottish Festival, which is

located just a few miles from our home. On August 25, we will turn our car southward again, as we will be heading again to the Jamestown Regional Celtic Festival. We thoroughly enjoy attending this festival, as it is held on the shores of Chautaugua Lake. During the festival, the pipe bands often have to compete with the steam whistle of the paddle-wheel ship, which traverses the lake!

On September 8, we will be heading down to Pennsylvania, where we will represent the clan at the Edinboro Scottish Festival. Interestingly, the festival is held on the grounds of Edinboro University, where they have an obvious appreciation for all things Scottish. Our year of festivals will conclude the following weekend, when we will again participate in the Niagara Celtic Festival. This festival is held in the beautiful town on Olcott, in a park that sits on the southern shore of Lake Ontario. On a clear day, you can actually look across the lake and see the downtown skyline of Toronto. This is always our favorite festival, as the leaves will already be turning, and the combination of bands, food, and perhaps a bit of Scottish ale makes it a very nice festival to attend.

So, if you happen to be in the vicinity of any of these festivals, please drop by and visit. Our warmest regards to everyone!

Sampson & Marilou Blair

New York Commissioners

## **Rescuing Blair House Antiques**

Submitted by Jack Blair, Australia

When my wife and I visited Blair House in 1990 and chatted with the late Veronica Borwick, the then occupier, we admired the imposing house with its stone entrance carvings, the size of the three wings and its spacious, natural setting, which, having survived for more than 800 years seemed an impregnable and permanent Blair monopoly. The numerous fleur-de-lis ornamentations reminded us of the 'founding' Blair, expatriate Frenchman, Jean Francois who, it is believed, became 'John Francis de Blair of the Barony of Blair'.

Thus, I was stunned and deeply disappointed when Helen Blair of the Clan Blair Society informed me first in late February that Blair House had been sold and later in early March that the contents of Blair House were to be auctioned on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of March. Blair House, having survived around 807 years, sets a Scottish record for a property occupied by descendants of the same name.

My reaction to the news was the hope of obtaining an item, any item from the auction – but how? I lived on the other side of the world and the auction was only days away. Then I learned that bids were also being taken via the internet, so I alerted my son Michael, a computer programming expert, who was my major assistant in negotiating the publishing of my book, "The Blair Surname", in 1999, and who is interested in Blair history and the family tree.

We accessed information about the 955 Lots to be auctioned, set ourselves a budget and selected a number of interesting items we hoped to bid for. Unfortunately, the 10.00 am starting time of the auction in Scotland is 9.00 pm in Sydney. However, after Michael established computer contact with the Lyon and Turnbull auction in Edinburgh we both watched the auction together. Although we were 25 km's apart in suburbia, we had telephone contact and chatted while the auctioneer described each Lot and recorded successful bids. We were dismayed when we saw bids go well above the reserve prices and thought we would miss out.

Although dismayed, we persevered, watching until sleep compelled us to quit at 3.00 am!. We happily went to bed because during those 6 hours we had successfully managed to bid for two antiques each. Although Michael had 'blown his budget', he was satisfied with his successes and did not watch the second auction.

I was still within my budget so watched again the next night. By then I was so wound up I was carried away, despite my son-in-law Charles' warning (an auctioneer in Sydney) that it is easy to 'experience a high' at an auction in the effort to obtain some particularly desired purchase. I am afraid I did just that as the time crept to midnight and was moving closer to the end. I successfully bid for two more antiques while my budget flew out the window.

However, my son and I considered our efforts were well worthwhile for the antiques we acquired.

Then the nightmare began. Through e-mails, we engaged the packaging company in Edinburgh recommended by the auctioneer. Their first quote assumed that Sydney was in the United Kingdom until I convinced them that Sydney had moved to Australia long ago. Although this company implied it was an international courier, they dispatched our antiques to FedEx, international couriers in Edinburgh, for transport to Australia. Four days later, the cartons arrived in Sydney and were to be delivered to our door by 5.00 pm the day before Good Friday.

We eagerly awaited but there was no delivery. Since one artifact was made of mahogany, FedEx confirmed that it had to be quarantine inspected, so we patiently waited, expecting delivery a day or two after Easter. Then Customs butted in, claiming duty was payable and that insufficient documentation had been received to verify our items as genuine antiques.

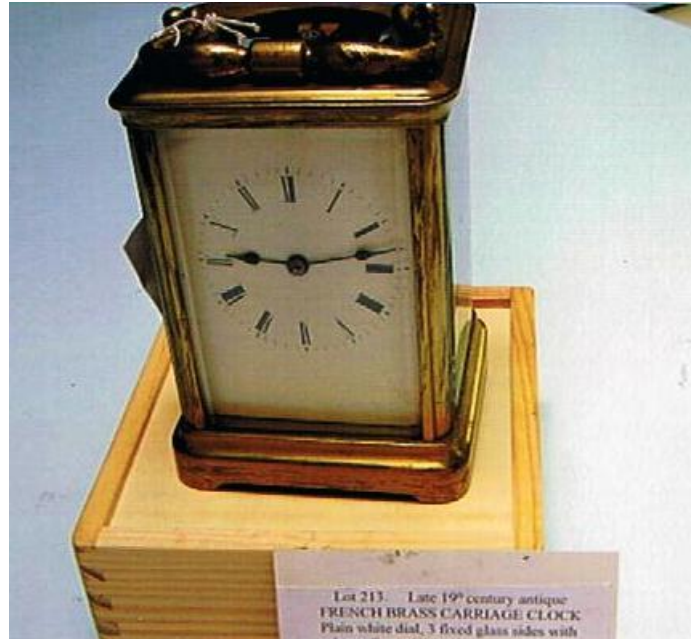
Since FedEx are well-experienced couriers, they should have ensured relevant documents were dispatched from Scotland with the cartons. After 13 irritating telephone conversations with a variety of FedEx officers, none of whom seemed to know what was happening, they warned that goods were stored for only 5 days, after which they would be returned overseas to the sender. It seemed unbelievable.

My wife and I experienced anger and anxiety simultaneously while Customs imposed duty, then removed it and re-imposed it again with a different amount.

After receiving an e-mail from Lyon and Turnbull, I finally convinced Customs that our 6 artifacts were all 19<sup>th</sup> century items over 100 years in age, which defined them as antiques and qualified them to be duty-free!. Our precious cargo was finally delivered safely to the door, 11 days later, intact and in excellent condition. Although packaging, dispatch, transport and delivery cost us 57% more than the bidding costs, the real value of our Blair antiques is measured not in monetary terms, but rather in that they will remain in Blair hands and pass down through the family.

The antiques are described, together with photos, below:

My acquisitions:



Late 19<sup>th</sup> century antique. FRENCH BRASS CARRIAGE CLOCK, plain white dial, heavy square brass frame, 3 fixed glass sides with hinged rear glass door.



Late 19<sup>th</sup> century antique. Set of 3 GRADUATED COPPER FOOD WARMERS. Rectangular form, standing on wooden button feet; together with two CIRCULAR COPPER DISHES and a RECTANGULAR COPPER PLATE 36.5 cm long.



Late 19<sup>th</sup> century antique, circa 1880. SILVER PLATED SPIRIT KETTLE WITH STAND of canted rectangular form, all raised on reeded legs and scroll feet with an EPBM (Electro plated nickel silver). WATER POT (spirit cup and wick).

Michael Blair's acquisitions:



19<sup>th</sup> century antiques, circa. 1810. REGENCY ENGRAVED CUT GLASS DECANTER inscribed with a thistle; a view of Blair House; 'The Blair' sailing ship and a stag above 'William Blair Esq., of Blair', (Provenance: Colonel William Blair, 24<sup>th</sup> Laird, 1767-1841), together with a matching GLASS BISCUIT CADDY, similarly engraved, metal mounted with metal hinged lid.



19<sup>th</sup> century antique, dated 1840-1880. Group of 6 SILVER PLATED CHAMBER STICK HOLDERS, all with detachable SNUFFERS, gadron borders, 5 engraved "Blair."



Late 19<sup>th</sup> century antique. VICTORIAN BRASS BOUND MAHOGANY BOX, with brass lock and hinges and lid plaque engraved 'M. Blair'.



Blair House, Dalry, Scotland

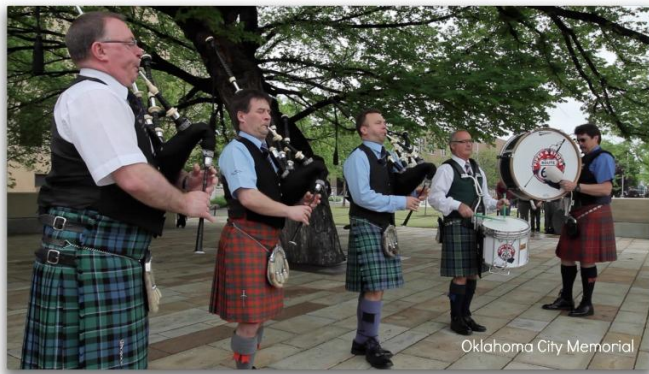
We would appreciate any information about the 'Blair sailing ship' (engraved on the Decanter and Biscuit Caddy,) if anyone has details as it was not revealed in my earlier research. We hope no other successful overseas bidders had such a similar, frustrating fight with bureaucracy as we had.

Jack, Nanette and Michael Blair

Sydney, Australia.

### From John Mc Donald Productions

As you may already know, I decided to join the *Pipes & Sticks on Route 66 Band* in Chicago and film their 18-day adventure on the Mother Road in April. Editing will begin as soon as additional funds are raised. I feel confident that the final product will be a real treat!



Pipes and Sticks Band on their Route 66 Tour, "Pipes and Sticks on Route 66."

For more photos of the band on their tour, go to [www.pipesandsticks66.com](http://www.pipesandsticks66.com)



### From the Council Of Scottish Clans & Associations Newsletter, The Claymore

#### **“Meet the Scottish North American Counsellor: Scotland's Man in America”**

Have you ever wondered who the Scottish government's go-to man in America is? If you have not, you should. Senior British civil servant Robin Naysmith has occupied that role since November 2007.

Were Scotland an independent nation, Robin Naysmith would be something like Scotland's Ambassador to the United States and Canada. In Scotland's role as part of the United Kingdom, Robin carries the formal title of Scottish Government Counsellor in North America - a very impressive title indeed. He also happens to be a very nice guy, he tells a fine joke and is popular on the American games circuit.



Tres Amigos (L to R): British Ambassador Peter Westmacott, Congressman Mike McIntyre (D-North Carolina) and Scottish North American Government Counsellor Robin Naysmith at the National Capital Tartan Day Reception in Washington DC. This was the first face-to-face meeting of Westmacott and Naysmith. Photo: Judith Clark

Even more impressive than the title is the fact that the Scottish government maintains only three foreign offices worldwide - Washington DC, Beijing and

Brussels (EU). Clearly, North America figures highly in today's Scottish affairs.

Based out of the British Embassy in Washington DC, Robin's role is to provide a North American hub for the Scottish Government that ensures that when people in America and Canada engage with the Scottish Government they see Scotland and not a collection of different agencies.

The Scottish North American Government Counsellor has the overall responsibility for delivering the Scottish Government's strategic objectives in the US and Canada. Robin's duties include managing diplomatic relationships and coordinating the work of Scottish Development International (SDI), VisitScotland and other Scottish Government agencies operating in North America.

North America continues to be one of Scotland's most important export markets and the Scottish Government is determined to strengthen economic, educational and cultural relations and ensure that Scotland's interests are represented as effectively as possible.

Keep an eye peeled for Robin at this season's Scottish games and festivals and if he is coming to a game near you, go and visit with him. As the representative of the Scottish Government in America, he is a highly sought after speaker and honored guest. You will enjoy a chat with Robin Naysmith if you find the chance.

### **Dr. Donald Ferguson Blair, Sr.**



#449 Dr. Donald Ferguson Blair, Reported by Bonnie Blair Peterson, daughter

The Valdosta Daily Times

VALDOSTA — Dr. Donald Ferguson Blair Sr., captain, retired USN, 86, of Valdosta, died Monday, June 13, 2011, at South Georgia Medical Center. He was born on Oct. 27, 1924, in Palo Alto, Calif., to the late John Edward and Lorraine Ferguson Blair. Dr. Blair was a member of the First Presbyterian Church. He graduated from the Columbia University, College of Physicians and Surgeons in 1948. Dr. Blair was attending the Brown University in Providence, RI when World War II began and had to leave the University to join the U.S. Army and was later awarded his diploma in 1945 from the university. He married Ruth (“Ricky”) Ulrich who was a student nurse at Presbyterian Hospital who was also in the 1948 class.

His first rotation as an intern at Bassett Hospital in Cooperstown, N.Y., was in obstetrics and he was officially OB-GYN after that. When asked why he chose the field, he said it was because it usually had a happy conclusion. Before he stopped counting, he had delivered 1,778 babies. He joined the Navy when doctors were drafted for the Korean War and after completing his residency in the Navy, he opened a private practice in Auburn, N.Y., for a few years. He returned to active duty in the Navy in 1959, and retired in 1983, as captain, Medical Corps, USN. During his career, he was chief of the Outpatient Department at Jacksonville Naval Hospital, served as a Medical Advisor on behalf of the U.S. Naval Advisory Group to the Republic of Korea Navy and completed his career in Arlington, Va., as the Chief of the Office for Physical Evaluations for BUMED (Navy Bureau of Medicine and Surgery). He retired from the Navy and lived in Oak Bluffs on Martha’s Vineyard Island, where he had spent most of his summers, until moving to join his family in Valdosta.

Survivors include his wife, Ruth (Ricky) Ulrich Blair of Valdosta; five children and their spouses, Janet Ruth and Daniel Atlan of Nancy, France, Bonnie and Jim Peterson of Valdosta, Liz Chapin and Bill Reeves of Valdosta, Donald Ferguson, Jr. and Susan Blair of Warner Robins, Rebecca Susan Blair of Nokomis, Fla.; nine grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

His brother, Malcolm John Blair, preceded him in death.

(Please note: this story was inadvertently left out of a previous newsletter, so is late in publication)

### **CBS Online Updates**

From Shawn Blair, Web Laird

It has been a while since I began the update process for our primary website, clanblair.org. I usually get to focus some time on it, then am pulled away to other demands in my work and life. At this point, the core of the website is on a development site where I continue to play with particular setups for look and feel. The configuration is current, though I will continue to tweak it. The biggest job left is moving and updating the content from the current site to the new one. There is not a lot of content on the old site, but most of it is older and demands updating. I will continue to work on moving and updating the content and hope to have the new site live at least before our next AGM.

Just to give our members a sense of what is happening, I am building the new site based on a widely popular product called Word Press. Word Press has been rapidly becoming the choice of web site construction the past few years. More sites, by percentage, are built based on this program than almost any other tool on the web today. It is also free and maintained by the technology community. This means that it will be around for a very long time and will continue to grow and improve. This will be a strong base for our future web presence.

Some of the improvements you will see on the site will include online forms for joining and renewing your membership, the ability to pay online through PayPal as part of the process, and possibly even an online store. It will be easier to post updates and announcements on the site, without having to know programming. The nature of WordPress will also allow me to add sections on the site that will display the activity from our Facebook and Twitter accounts. Once the main site is complete, I will begin working on major updates for the Members Only site.

Keep an eye on the site for our new presence, but also be sure to follow us on our Facebook group and Twitter (see the links in the newsletter and on the web site).

### **Another quick blurb: Historic Document Photos Coming**

You may have read our endeavor to acquire some of the historic documents from the auction of the Blair House. Unfortunately, we just did not have the resources to bring any to CBS. In the process, our friend and member Jack Blair, of Bridge of Earns, Scotland, was able to go see the items that were up for auction. Jack managed to take photographs of a few notable documents that were under auction. Most of these documents are from as far back as the 1600s.

Recently, Jack sent a collection of these digital photographs to me. They are all high resolution and very interesting. In order to share these with the members of Clan Blair Society, I will be setting up a few pages in the Members Only site to display the photos. Once I have that setup, I will send out an announcement to the society email list.

Thank you, Jack for your efforts relating to the auction and sending the photos that I am sure will be enjoyed by many.

Aye,

Shawn, Weblaird

### **Note: Members Only Site Password Change**

Each year, we change the access to the Members Only site to ensure that only paid members can get into it. We give our membership several months from the renewal date of Jan 1 to catch up. Therefore, it is about that time again. Within the next 4-6 weeks, I will be updating the email lists from our membership database and will change the username/password to get into the site. Once I've done that, I will send a message to all members with a registered email address to advice of the change. Please note that the update will not be

announced in the newsletter and only by email, so please be sure that you are receiving our messages.

Aye,

Shawn, Weblaird

### **Needs Help with Genealogy Links**

My name is Samuel Kenneth Blair. I live in Melbourne Australia. I want to find some information about my ancestry in Scotland, and about family heirlooms. I have a variety of clues, and would like to be able to trace back as far as I can. I would also be interested to learn how the current Blairs the world over are linked by ancestry.

My name is Samuel Kenneth Blair, Born on 4 July 1981, at Mercy Hospital in Melbourne Victoria, Australia. (Only child) My father's name is Kenneth John Blair, born 13 July 1952, in Mildura, Victoria, Australia. (Younger brother of Robert). My uncle's name is Robert Blair Blair, born in 1949, in Mildura, Victoria Australia (he has two daughters, Tessa and Eliza, and is married to Sue Blair)

My Grandfather's name was also Kenneth Blair, (DOB roughly 1917-1918.) He died in 1988. He grew up in Black Rock Melbourne and served in WW2 fighting in Greece and Crete. He was captured by the Germans and was a POW. He was quite a literate man. He moved to the countryside (Mildura) to open a citrus farm after returning from the war. He married Daphne Joan Blair (maiden name unknown at this stage). Both are buried in Mildura. He had an older brother Robert (Bob) Blair, who attended Haileberry College. He moved to Ballarat and bought a farm. He married Olive Blair (maiden name unknown). He named the road leading to his farm Blair Road, which still exists today, long after his death. I visited him at his farm when I was very young. In classic Scottish style, he had the mounted shotguns on his wall, which left quite an impression. It was the first time I was shown our family's heirlooms, which are passed to the oldest son, each generation. They have since been passed to my uncle, and will come to me next. The heirlooms include an old dirk (with what appears to be a knife and old-looking fork for eating with

attached to the side), as well as a snuffbox and an old piece of tartan. I have no idea how many generations this has been passed down.

A daughter, Leslie Blair, shared some information with me before she died, age unknown. Leslie told me that she believes our line of Blairs stemmed from Jedburgh in Scotland. She told me that either her grandfather or great-grandfather's name was Dr. Selby Blair. He was a surgeon. His son was also Selby Blair. I am not sure if that son Selby is my grandfather's father, or if there is another link in the chain. I am also aware that one of these Selbys married a Mrs. Mackay or McKay, as a letter opener of silver and ivory was bequeathed to me from Leslie, which has the letter M engraved in the silver. My father remembers that his grandfather had an English accent rather than a Scottish accent. I think that it was my great-grandfather who migrated from Britain (I will need to clarify the name, but he had four children: Robert, Ken Leslie, and another son who died in Australia in his teens

I would sincerely appreciate any assistance in helping me locate my family's origins. I attended Scotch College in Melbourne, which sparked my passion for Scottish history. It is a very old school for Australia, established in 1851 by James Forbes. I obtained an undergraduate degree in history, literature and Asia Pacific Region. I am currently pursuing a Law Masters at Monash University in Victoria.

I eagerly await contact, Kindest Regards,  
Samuel Blair at  
[notification+aqabnnn@facebookmail.com](mailto:notification+aqabnnn@facebookmail.com)

### **Member News**

#255 Phil G. Blair, formerly of Prescott AZ but now living in CA has been quite ill with effects of disseminating valley fever, blood clots in his lungs and advanced age. He is under hospice care at his son's home. He had always been very active in CBS attending many AGM's, Games & festivals and

CBS Scotland tour, he is now bed-bound. Prayers for Phil and his family would be appreciated as they go through this difficult time.

#284 Margaret "Peggy" Baker, formerly of KS and put in many hours of work as Commissioner of KS & MO is now settled in CA. She has written us that she had a stroke September 8 2011, and has no memory until October. She has been working hard in rehab and has been learning how to walk, talk and write again. She is now living in California to continue therapy and to be close to Family. Her new address is Peggy Baker, 1325 Sherwood Drive, Concord, CA 94521

Peggy attended the McPherson Games in KS and had one potential new member but she will not be able to follow up since she moved to CA. She hopes we can find a replacement Commissioner for KS & MO. We wish her all the best as she works hard to rewire her brain.

#1078 Nancy Blair Benson was spending the winter in AZ and went up to CO for a quick ski trip, unfortunately she was hit by a wayward skier and ended up breaking her pelvis and more. She and John managed to eventually get back to AZ to pack up to head back home to PA. She is hoping she will be recovered enough to go on a long anticipated trip to Scotland this summer, luckily she bought trip insurance if she isn't healed up in time. We wish her all the best in her recovery and hope she is able to go on her trip.

We were notified that CBS#154-Muriel Irene Blair Haase passed away last August. She had been a member since the beginning of Clan Blair Society. We want to thank her daughter Marla Kyle for letting us know. Muriel Irene Haase was born on December 13, 1917 to Iva Sarah Young and Charles Edgar Blair in Harrisburg, Colorado. She passed away peacefully on August 7, 2011 surrounded by her daughters. Muriel was a Colorado native. She and her husband owned and operated H & H Printing Company from 1947 to 1987. Muriel was a Girl Scout Leader and was an active 4-H Leader for 23 years. She was an excellent seamstress, loved quilting and needlework and made drapes for numerous years for many businesses,

family members and friends. Muriel is survived by her four daughters, Phyllis Townsend of Avondale, AZ; Barbara (Keith) Moore of Windsor, CO; Marla Kyle of Colorado Springs, CO; and Nancy (Jim) Novotny of Littleton, CO; 12 grandchildren; 18 great grandchildren and eight great-great grandchildren. She is also survived by two sisters Alta (Elvin) Cotton of Washougal, WA and Marilyn (Roy) Paxson of Tulsa, OK, and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins. Muriel was preceded in death by her husband, Willard August Haase, her parents Sarah Young Blair and Charles Blair; Sister Dorothy Hoover, and brothers Clifford and Jack Blair. The Service is being held on August 11, 2011, which would have been Muriel and Willard's 71st Wedding Anniversary, as well as, Willard's birthday.

## **New Members for 2012**

### **Life Time Membership**

#957 TAYLOR, Dr. Charles & Takaho Saito  
3009 Normand Dr., College Station, TX 77845  
979-693-6321, chuckt@tamu.edu

### **Yearly Memberships**

#1096 BLAIR, Karen Elaine & Robert Allyn BRAND  
411 Arbor Way, State College, PA 16803  
814-237-7033, keb166@psu.edu

#1079 WHITING, Cindy & Bill  
5139 n. Buckboard Pl., Boise, ID 83713  
208-323-9791, 1tutumom@gmail.com  
#1080 BAIER, Jennifer & Pat  
607 South 96<sup>th</sup>, Avoca, NE 68307  
402-275-3788

#1081 BLAIR, Jeff & Sarah  
1069 North Nob Hill Ave., American Fork, UT 84003  
801-763-0221, jeffreyblair@gmail.com

#1082 BLAIR, Bill  
604 Church St. #B, Vidalia GA 30474  
912-538-1586

#1083 JOHNSON, Rebecca & Rick  
124 Country Lake Rd., Senoia, GA 30276  
770-599-3249

#1084 POOLE, Cathy & Aaron  
3186B Pike Plaza, Lemoore, CA 93245

#1085 POTTER Karena & Jon  
622 Sumac Ave., Provo, UT 84604  
801-278-3628, potterkarena@gmail.com

#1086 MORGAN, Brittany & Mike  
6030 W. Port Lane #101, Boise, ID 83703  
801-850-8265

#1087 FEHLER, Phillip & Xiaodi  
710 Dewitt St., Jacksonville, NC 28540  
910-381-1341 fehlers02@earthlink.net

#1088 BLAIR Laurence & Irene  
27 Tabard Road, Glasgow, SCOTLAND G13 3XE, UK  
011-44-141-954-2632, laurieblair@hotmail.com

#1089 KING, Matthew Ryan  
9532 Grove Side Lane #1213, Charlotte, NC 28262  
585-880-2273, mking73@uncc.edu

#1090 CRUITT, Jackson  
124 Ballyhoo Drive, Lewisville, NC 27023  
336-414-9035, stancruitt@aol.com

#1091 JUDD, Katherine & Curtis  
2145 S. Nucala Way, Aurora CO 80013  
303-993-8010, kattedjudd@comcast.net

#1092 BLAIR-STAHN, Nathaniel Deveroux  
524 Boylston Ave. E. #404, Seattle, WA 98102  
206-229-8517, nathaniel.blair.stahn@gmail.com

#1093 BLAIR-STAHN, Chai Grahame  
1711 East-West Rd. #546, Honolulu, HI 96848  
520-481-1638, chai.blairstahn@gmail.com

#1094 BLAIR-STAHN, Zia Kanani  
10274 N. Fox Hunt Ln., Tucson, AZ 85737  
roars\_cor\_lions@yahoo.com

#1095 JIMENEZ-DOWNES, Emilia  
2382 Wabash Circle, Sparks, NV 89434  
775-225-8961, emilia021230@aol.com

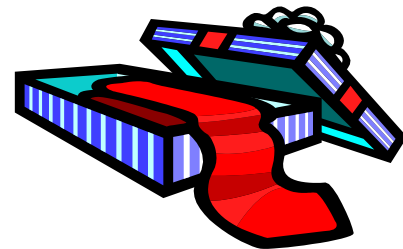
#1097 SAVAGE, Sherri & Ronald  
1731 E. Melanie St., Queen Creek, AZ 85140  
602-315-7415, ssavage@sixlion.com

#1100 DIMAN, Andrew William & Laurie MacMillan  
4201 Asherton Dr., Charlotte, NC 28226  
704-543-7375, adiman@carolina.rr.com

## **CBS STORE**

Helen L Blair [clanstore@clanblair.org](mailto:clanstore@clanblair.org) or  
480-807-4024

There have been some postage increases this year so I have made a new form to show the changes. I also had to restock some supplies that were at a higher cost so some of the prices reflect that increase. Our CBS members still get the best price around, it's a bonus of membership to get the price at cost while non-members are charged retail prices. I will work with any member on the best way to get items to them, some need rush delivery, others are able to take part in the online shipping discounts I'm able to find. All our merchandise is of good quality and our tartans beautiful. Some of our Commissioners stock our merchandise at their CBS tent so you can buy items without paying postage, another plus to check out. Consider the CBS Store the next time you need to find a gift for family or yourself.





Clan Blair Society Store

WWW.CLANBLAIR.ORG

7516 E. Hermosa Vista Dr  
Mesa, Arizona 85207-1110  
Phone: 480-807-4024  
Order form revised 04-1-12

Email  
clanstore@clanblair.org  
C/O Helen L. Blair

ITEMS	Member	Non-Member	Quantity	Spec.	TOTAL U.S.
Blairlin III - soft cover book	\$15.00	\$25.00			
The Blair Surname- soft cover book	\$30.00	\$40.00			
The Blairs of Balthayock and Their Cadets 1150-1850- soft cover book	\$30.00	\$40.00			
The Family of James Blair and Nancy Day- soft cover book	\$30.00	\$40.00			
Clan Blair of Blair Crested Cap Badge from Art Pewter	\$15.00	\$30.00			
Clan Blair of Blair Crested Kilt Pin from Art Pewter	\$15.00	\$30.00			
Clan Blair of Blair Crested Necklace/Pendant with chain from Art Pewter	\$18.00	\$30.00			
Clan Blair of Blair Crested Key Fob from Art Pewter	\$15.00	\$25.00			
Clan Blair of Blair Crested Lapel Pin from Art Pewter	\$15.00	\$25.00			
Clan Blair of Blair Crested Cuff Links from Art Pewter	\$20.00	\$35.00			
Clan Blair of Blair Crested Belt Buckle from Art Pewter	\$40.00	\$65.00			
Metal lapel pin -specify( Blair Crest- Celtic knot-Scotty dog-Thistle-US/Scotflag)	\$5.00	\$7.00			
Short Sleeved, T-shirt with single Blair of Blair Crest -or- Double crest WHITE or BLUE Specify- S- M- L- XL- 2XL- 3XL limited quantities	\$13.00	\$20.00			
Long Sleeved- Mock Turtleneck with large Blair of Blair Crest- WHITE or BLUE Specify-S- M- L- XL- 2XL- 3XL limited quantities	\$19.00	\$24.00			
Long Sleeved, T-shirts with Double Crest WHITE or BLUE Specify-S- M-L- XL- 2XL- 3XL limited quantities	\$19.00	\$24.00			
White Polo with embroidered Blair of Blair badge - Medium only	\$18.00	\$20.00			
Stationary-8pk notes & envelopes with Blair tartan ( Specify- Westie- Dancer- Piper- Heather- Thistle- CBS) all with Blair tartan	\$8.00	\$15.00			
TARTAN-Ancient Blair WOOL 13oz med.weight 56 in wide	\$58.00	\$85.00			
TARTAN- Modern Blair WOOL-13oz. med.weight 56 in wide	\$58.00	\$85.00			
TARTAN- Dress Blair WOOL-13oz. med.weight 56 in wide The official Blair Dress tartan, based on the Modern tartan with white stripes	\$58.00	\$85.00			
TARTAN- Ancient Blair COTTON TWILL, 58in wide	\$15.00	\$28.00			
Duck billed white Caps with Blair of Blair Coat of Arms- embroidered, limited amt.	\$12.00	\$18.00			
we have some left over wool Tartan in the Ancient and a Dress Blair based on the Ancient tartan with white stripes- limited amount- call/email to verify	\$45.00	\$85.00			
				S/H	
				TOTAL	

Shipping & Handling charge is according to how much is bought. Everything will be sent in a Flat Rate Container.  
The envelopes are 12.5 x9.5 (\$4.95) Box 8.5x5.5x1.5 (\$5.35) a 11 x 8.5 x5.5 (\$11.35) a 12 x 12 x 5.5 (\$15.45)  
\*\*postage rates as of 04-1-2012 \*\*

Talk to Helen Blair about availability of items before you send your checks or M.O.

Helen Blair 480-807-4024 or email clanstore@clanblair.org or snail mail  
Clan Blair Store , 7516 E. Hermosa Vista Dr. Mesa, Arizona 85207-1110

Makes checks out to: Clan Blair Store not Helen Blair

## Chairs of Standing Committees

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7516 E. Hermosa Vista Dr.  
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president@clanblair.org

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Hacienda Heights, CA 91745  
626 330-1034  
secretary@clanblair.org

Treasurer Ann Fredline  
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cbslibrary@clanblair.org

Blair Genealogy, Blairlin  
Coy Blair  
cbsgenea@clanblair.org  
query@clanblair.org

Webmaster – Shawn Blair  
weblaird@clanblair.org

Nominating Committee  
John Blair, Bedford, VA  
Pat Risdon, Laingsburg, MI  
Shawn Blair, ME  
nominations@clanblair.org

# CLAN BLAIR SOCIETY

Charles Diman, Membership  
3413 Sunnybrook Drive  
Charlotte, NC 28210-4715



Address Service Requested

First Class Mail