



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

Second Quarter – May 2017



Charlie Diman has announced that NC member Scot Blair will join his State Commissioner team supporting Charlie in the presentation of the CBS tent at Scottish gamest. Thanks and welcome Scot to this new role.

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE:

Fellow Scots:

Happy Spring! Our Clan Commissioners and members are enjoying spring time festivals and we look forward to their reports and pictures. I hope 2017 is off to a great start for you, your family and your Scottish network.

I am honored to announce that Bill Blair, Oregon Commissioner, has accepted the position of High Commissioner succeeding Curtis Blair who served for the past 2 years. Bill brings a wealth of knowledge about our Blair heritage and great energy to this new appointment. All state Commissioners should be hearing from Bill soon so that we can share great ideas and best practices across CBS. Bill can be reached at CBSclantent1@clanblair.org, clanblairoregon@comcast.net, or 1-503-608-7222. Welcome Bill!

As Bill Blair steps into the role of High Commissioner I extend my appreciation to Curtis Blair for his service to CBS. Curtis brought great insights to the High Commissioner role and helped move the Society forward in delivering excellent programs and support to members. Thank you Curtis!

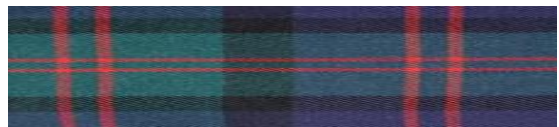
Whit Young, Utah Commissioner, and long-time member of CBS has accepted the role of Genealogy Director for the society. In the last newsletter I misstated Whit’s email address. He can be reached at CBScenea@clanblair.org, or clanblair@lionsshield.net, or 1-801-860-3322.

Elena McCrary, new CBS Librarian, presents a wonderful article about our Library. Please see her review of materials available for member use along with instructions on checking-out these resources from the Odom Library in Moultrie, GA. Elena can be reached at CBScLibrary@clanblair.org, iwrussmccrary@gmail.com or 1925-719-0324.

Please consider your personal involvement in your State Clan and/or the CBS leadership team. I encourage your idea sharing with High Commissioner Bill Blair at CBSclantent1@clanblair.org or me.

It is a Great Day to be a Scot - Sláinte!

Jim Blair
president@clanblair.org



LIBRARY REPORT

Elena Mc Crary, Clan Blair Librarian

A Library Mystery Solved



It all began with a call to the Ellen Payne Odom Genealogical Library in Moultrie, Georgia, my being connected to Irene Godwin and a question.

I was looking for a book that was listed in The Clan Blair Society library holdings, but it was noted as missing. So, I asked, "Did she know where this book might be?" After a follow-up email, I called the member to inform them they had a rather large fine to pay for overdue items, and we had a good laugh.

I explained I wanted to borrow the book and could they send it back? "Yes," was the reply and we shared a long conversation about how engrossing the Blair History can be. Not only for those of us just beginning, but for those who wish to find answers to share with their loved ones. The book made its way back to Moultrie, and will soon land on my doorstep in California. This item could be one step closer to answering who is the common Blair/McCrory ancestor my DNA-driven husband has been searching for.

In honor of my mother I quote the poet Robert Frost, "Two roads diverged in a wood, and I --- I took the one less traveled by, And that has made all the difference."

Yes, I could have gotten the book from another source, but it wouldn't have been nearly as fun. You see borrowing books in search of one's ancestors is a time-consuming adventure. One I hope all Blair members get a chance to explore—especially as we meet new Blair relatives at Scottish events in search of answers.

Wanted - Did you happen to borrow an item and need to return it? We are in search of, *Our Scott and Blair Kinfolk, comp.* right now. Coming soon, a replacement copy of *The History of the Blair, Banister, and Braxton Families Before and After the Revolution: With a Brief Sketch of Their Descendants.*

Books/maps/other resources - Are their Blair family members who wish to donate any items to the Genealogical library for other to use? We are happy to add them to the Clan Blair Collection. Need more information? Please contact Elena McCrory at CBSLibrary@clanblair.org my phone number is (925) 658-2731.

NEW YORK REPORT

Samson and Marilou Blair, New York Commissioners

Greetings from New York! Our year of festivals will begin on May 20, at the Fingers Lakes Celtic Festival. This festival is located in Farmington, which is very close to Lake Canandaigua, one of the state's famous finger lakes. We have been attending this festival for several years, now, and have been able to watch it grow in popularity. Since this is one of the earliest festivals of the season, many of the clans, pipe bands, and athletes in the region are anxious to attend. The festival keeps growing with each passing year, and may need to expand its grounds in order to accommodate the many people who participate and attend. Unfortunately, we will not be able to make it to the Allegany Celtic Festival in June. We have been regularly participating in this festival, but I have been invited to spend several months as a visiting professor at East China Normal University, in Shanghai (China). Sadly, Scottish festivals are impossible to locate in China! We have enjoyed this festival in previous years, and highly recommend it to those of you who may be in the vicinity.

In August, we will be getting back into the festival rotation, as we will be representing the clan at several

additional festivals. As usual, we will be at the Buffalo-Niagara Scottish Festival, which is held only a few miles from our home, in Amherst. Last year, this festival featured the Masters World Champion Scottish Games. In true Scottish fashion, the weather turned decidedly gray and rainy, and caused many in attendance to wonder whether they were in Edinburgh. We will also be representing the clan at the Jamestown Regional Celtic Festival, toward the end of August. This festival is located close to the Pennsylvania state line, on the shores of Lake Chautaugua. We greatly enjoy this festival, as the clan tents are always lined up with our backs to the lake (which makes trout fishing an additional activity for some of the clans!). As usual, our closing festival for the summer is again the Niagara Celtic Festival, which is held over the second weekend in September, in the lakefront town of Olcott. The town park in which the festival is held is located right on the shores of Lake Ontario, offering wonderful views of the city of Toronto. This festival always attracts tens of thousands, and attracts participants and visitors from both the U.S. and Canada. This coming year will represent our 15th year of affiliation with this festival, and we are delighted to have been a part of its history. In the event that you should be in the region, please feel free to contact us or, better yet, just drop by our tent at one of the festivals. Our warmest regards to everyone!...



The Clan Blair Buffalo, NY, Booth

It was a nice gift that Karen Hart, one of our outstanding Highlands athletes, sent to Jim and I when she wrote this article about the site of one of her competitions. Thanks from the Editor!

I attended the Buffalo Niagra Scottish Festival last weekend, where the Scottish Masters were holding their annual championship athletic competition. I was pleasantly surprised to see a Blair booth, staffed by very friendly members of the Clan who made me feel a little closer to home.



BUFFALO BLAIRS

From Karen Hart

MEMBER NOTICE:

Peggy Baker writes: I, Margaret (aka Peggy) have moved away from blizzards, snow drifts and tornadoes, to Concord, California. Son Peter and wife Joni live in El Cerrito and daughter Elizabeth and husband Mike have moved to Colorado Springs. I attended the 2016 Games at Pleasanton.



FLOWERS OF THE FOREST

FRANKLIN MAC ARTHUR, “MAC” BLAIR

#242, CBS Member Franklin Mac Arthur “Mac Blair, age 74, of Rome, Georgia, passed away on Wednesday, January 25, 2017, at his residence.

Mr. Blair was born in Rockmart, Georgia on June 10, 1942, son of the late Cecil Q Blair, Sr., and the late Bronnie Gertrude Jones Blair. He was also preceded in death by seven siblings, Mildred Coxwell, Christine Blair, Bill Blair, Cecil Blair, Jr., Robert Blair, Ray Blair and Pete Blair. Mr. Blair was a veteran of the US Navy, serving during the Vietnam War. He worked for a number of years in the textile industry. He was a member of NAPA and was a founder of the Running Water Pow Wow.

Survivors include his sister, Joan Blair Phillips, Rome, a special niece, Tammy Blair, Lindale; and several other nieces and nephews.

JOAN B. MARTIN

Joan B. Martin from Waldwick, N.J. (member 549) passed away on 05/07/17. She was 97. Born in Brooklyn, NY, she grew up in Ramsey, NJ and was a longtime resident of Waldwick. Joan was an Executive Secretary at Permutit in Paramus, NJ, and other fortune 500 companies before retiring. She was in the Women's Army Corps. during World War II, was a longtime member of the Twins Mothers' Club of Bergen County and held various positions within that organization. Her son Thomas Martin shared his best to our organization.

Northern California Commissioners Report May 21, 2017

Elena and Bob McCrary, No CA Commissioners

A wonderful beginning for the Clan Blair Society, and the Northern California Scottish Festival Season. Our first festival as commissioners unfolded on April 1, 2017 at the 20th Anniversary of Tartan Day Scottish Faire held at Ardenwood Farms in Fremont, California. With nervous excitement, we set-up the Blair tent for the first time. But, it all went well on this sunny day in California. We had hoped that Dr. Blair might make it. Well wishes were sent his way from the other clans and societies. After a day of meeting new friends and festival goers (with some showing interest in joining Clan Blair) we were surprised by being chosen as Most Honorable Clan by The East Bay Scottish Association. We served water & Scottish cookies to those who passed our tent, inviting them to explore a Scottish connection. Many a story was shared from locals who recently visited Scotland, they thought we were visitors from the mother country. It was most exciting!

The Sacramento Valley Scottish Games and Festival on April 29-30 were the next games we attended. Two tents for this festival and we were assigned a great location. One of the biggest festivals in California with over 40 clans in attendance. It was two days of nonstop bagpipes playing in the background, manning the clan tent and meeting many Clan Blair members for the first time. We had a wonderful time meeting festival goers with a Blair surname or a Blair relative in their past. We hope some will join the Clan Blair Society and many showed great interest and passed along their contact information. We are so fortunate to follow in the footsteps of Dr. William Campbell Blair as Northern California Commissioners. Meeting all his friends from many clans those two days we understood his years of dedication to Clan Blair. Our first clan parade as Clan Anderson and the House of Boyd made us most welcome. A Boyd member stated, “She has been behind Dr. Blair and

Clan Blair for 22 years and no more needs to be said.” Dr. Blair was missed. On Sunday, a special tribute to Dr. Blair, as his name was announced as Clan Blair was introduced during the parade.

Northern California Highland Games on calendar to host a Clan Blair tent are below. A Call to Arms for all Clan Blair members to mark their calendars for Labor Day weekend. Clan Blair was named best clan tent at the 2016 Pleasanton games so come and join us this year in honor of Dr. Blair. Clan Blair leads the clans into the arena, and we wish to make a strong showing. We will also be in Monterey in August—so do drop by our tent.

The Monterey Scottish Games & Celtic Festival
August 5 & 6, 2017
<http://www.montereyscotgames.com/>

Scottish Highland Gathering & Games Pleasanton,
CA September 2 & 3, 2017
<http://www.thescottishgames.com/>

Annual General Meeting

September 2017

The Board is planning for the AGM in late September. In addition to the general business meeting we plan to offer presentations on the Blair heritage from Laurence Blair Oliphant, Chieftain of the Blair of Ardblair in the parish of Blairgowrie, Scotland. The AGM will be held via webinar and last about an hour. We will announce more details in the next letter and email. If you have thoughts or suggestions please send to president@clanblair.org.

As part of the 2016 Annual Board Meeting a proposal was approved to begin charging a \$5 annual fee to members who continue to request a paper version of the Blair Bruidhinn. The fee is to help offset the cost of printing and mailing and will be assessed for the 2017 year. Please contact Charlie Diman with questions and your preference about receiving the newsletter in paper versus digital form (the digital form is in color).

Recorded Broadcasts Available on Members-only website

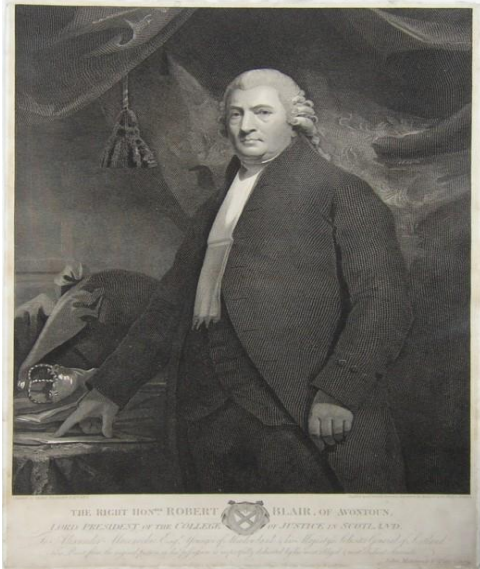
All webinar hosted presentations by the CBS Board are available for your viewing on the Members-only website (<http://members.clanblair.org>).

Please let Shawn Blair know if you have questions or encounter and difficulty viewing these wonderful programs (weblaird@clanblair.org).

FAMOUS BLAIRS

Prominent Blairs in Scottish history include: John Blair, chaplain to Sir William Wallace; Robert Blair (1699-1746), a poet best known for the epic poem "The Grave"; his son The Rt. Hon. Robert Blair of Avantoun (1741-1811) Solicitor General for Scotland under George III, and Lord President of the Court of Session, (equivalent to Chief Justice of the US Supreme Court);

ANNOUNCEMENT – MEMBERSHIP FEE CHANGE



Rt, Hon. Robert Blair of Avontoun

Dr. Patrick Blair, botanist and surgeon; Robert Blair, inventor of the aplanatic telescope;



Aplanatic Telescope Invented by Robert Blair

Eric Blair, a writer best known by his pen name



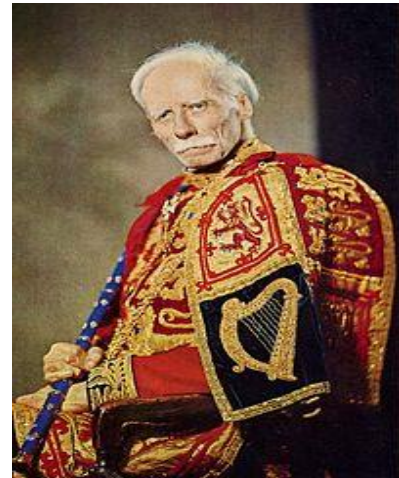
George Orwell, (pen name of famous writer Eric Blair)

The Rt. Hon. Tony Charles Lynton Blair (born in 1953 in Edinburgh, educated in Fettes College, read law at Oxford Univ, Prime Minister of Great Britain since 1997 to 2007)



Tony Blair, Prime Minister, Great Britain

and the Rt. Hon. Robin Orr Blair LVO, WS, appointed Lord Lyon, King of Arms of Scotland by the Queen in 2001.



Rt. Hon. Robin Orr Blair L VO, WS, Lord Lyon, King of Arms of Scotland

Blair is also a prominent surname in Ireland. These Blairs are primarily descended from Scots who settled in Northern Ireland in earlier centuries. Many moved on to the U.S. and the British Commonwealth, where they are found today, and were known as Scotch-Irish.

WILLIAM CAMPBELL BLAIR YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

Nominations due by May 31, 2017

The invitation for your nominations of youth members (members of families) was sent in the previous newsletter and again on May 16. The award recognizes member youth who have excelled in Scottish related activities during the past year (12 month year of 2016 or 12 month blend of '16-'17). Nominations must be received by May 31. Please send them to president@clanblair.org. Paper nominations should be mailed to:

7200 So. Prince St. Littleton, CO 80120

This award is in honor of Dr. Bill Blair who was one of the founders of our organization and has served as president and long-time Northern California Commissioner. Upon his recent retirement, the Board dedicated an annual scholarship in his name (see details in a separate article). Congratulations Bill and thank you for your years of service to CBS and Blair's everywhere.

The first Blair in America is thought to be Commissary James Blair, born in Edinburgh, educated in the Univ. of Edinburgh, who arrived in Williamsburg, VA in 1685. He founded the second oldest college in America (William & Mary College), and served as president for 40 years and was acting Governor of the Colony of Virginia (1740-41), while The Rev. John Blair, of Fagg's Manor, helped found Princeton Univ. Other prominent Blairs in American history include John Blair (nephew of James above), President of the VA Council and his son, John Blair, signer of the U.S. Constitution and Supreme Court Justice (appointed by Pres. Washington); Francis Preston Blair, newspaper editor and confidante of several U.S. Presidents; Francis Preston Blair, Jr., Civil War General, U.S. Senator, and candidate for VP in 1868; Montgomery Blair, Postmaster General under Pres. Lincoln; two state Governors, Austin Blair & James T. Blair, and a wife of a state Governor; numerous U.S. Congressman and Senators; John Insley Blair, a railroad magnate and philanthropist; Andrew Blair, Canadian Statesman, and Bonnie Blair of Champaign IL, Olympic Gold Medal winner for speed skating.



Very Wee Scottish Laddie in a Very Wee Kilt





CLAN BLAIR SOCIETY



Blair of Blair

Blair of Balthayock

William Campbell Blair Youth Scholarship Nomination Form 3/1/17

Clan Blair Society (CBS) has introduced the William Campbell Blair Youth Scholarship to be awarded annually to a deserving youth member who has achieved excellence in pursuits related to their Scottish/Irish heritage. The annual scholarship is \$500 and will be awarded 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 1.

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: _____

The Arts; Academics; Athletics; Clan Blair Society Support; Other

Provide a detailed description of the nominee's activities that achievements for which the nomination is being made:

WILLIAM CAMPBELL BLAIR YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP

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. Scholarship 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 1.
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 president@clanblair.org, or 1-303-795-9754

Clan Blair Society Executive Board

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May 2017

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1-801-860-3322

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Helen Blair, CO
Charles Diman, NC
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ScotlandTrip@clanblair.org

CBS State Commissioners see:
www.clanblair.org/commissioners
(For Members)

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