



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 Members www.clanblair.org Second Quarter, May, 2019

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE MAY 2019



February 2019 Bruidhinn and I look forward to celebrating the success at the Utah Games.

I have been invited to serve as Chieftain for the Utah Scottish Festival & Highland Games and Adoree and I are looking forward to a wonderful event with our Utah Blairs. The late summer newsletter will have pictures and stories.

Please be aware of several upcoming activities for CBS, including nominations for the William C. Blair Youth Award (due June 30), nominations for officers to serve the 2020-2023 term, and elections of officers scheduled for September.

Thank you for enjoying the Blair Bruidhinn. We look forward to your thoughts and feedback.

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

Jim Blair

president@clanblair.org

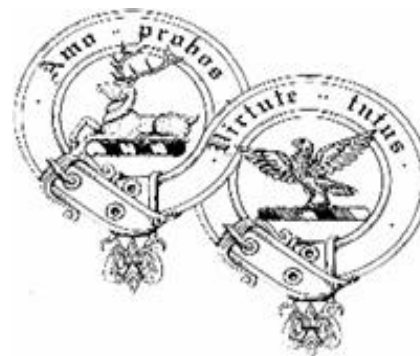
Fellow Scots

Spring is here and the snow is gone (except in the mountains) and festival time is upon us. A number of festivals are now complete, and Commissioners are preparing for action throughout the entire summer. I encourage every member to find the festivals in your area, attend and seek out the Clan Blair Society tent. Share your stories, ask questions, march in the parades and enjoy our Scottish heritage.

Welcome Scott Blair, the new Commissioner for North Carolina. Scott succeeds Charlie Diman who served as Commissioner for a number of years. Scott’s first report in included in this newsletter.

In this Blair Bruidhinn, you will find articles about Clan member activities and plans for the future. A highlight this summer is the Utah Scottish Festival & Highland Games in Salt Lake City where Commissioner Whit Young will display his model of Stirling Castle and the diorama of the Battle of Bannockburn. Whit’s model was highlighted in the

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FLOWERS OF THE FOREST



Brian A. Fredline, a former Clan Blair Idaho Commissioner, passed away from cancer at the age of 53, on March 24, 2019. Brian was very proud of his Scottish heritage and was often seen wearing one of his Scottish kilts. Brian graduated from Boise State University and was the first student to complete the BSU's City Planning Program. His ashes will be scattered at a later date in Michigan. He leaves behind his mother Ann Fredline, sister, wife, four daughters and a step-sister.

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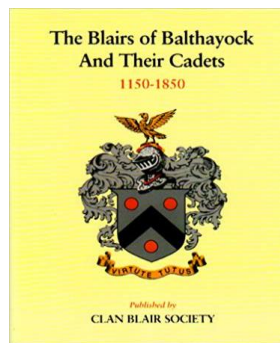
BLAIRS OF BALTHAYOCK by Jack Blair

The CBS store inventory of the paper print Blairs of Balthayock and Their Cadets – 1150-1850, authored by member Jack Blair from Perthshire, Scotland, is depleted. Rather than undertake a new printing of the book CBS is making it available digitally via our website www.members.clanblair.net. Jack Blair has continued his research regarding the book's materials and has produced several updates which are included in the new digital version.

The research also provides additional information on Stephen de Blair, where Jack's hypothesis suggests that he may have been a son of the earl of Waldeve. There is no doubting that his father (Vallenus = Waldeve) was a wealthy man as

Stephen was able to grant significant lands to Coupar Angus Abbey.

The digital versions of the original book, and the now the additional 26 pages are found on the CBS website at www.members.clanblair.net



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TREASURER NEEDED

After 8 years of dedicated service as the CBS Treasurer, Ann Fredline has announced her plan to step down. Ann has done an exceptional job for the Society and I ask all members to send her thoughts of appreciation for the diligence and work she has provided. She can be contacted at treasurer@clanblair.org. During the next few months we are seeking a member who can step into Ann's shoes. Please let me know if you are interested in serving on the CBS Board and managing the finances of the Society and the Clan Store (two separate accounts). I can be reached at president@clanblair.org

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WILLIAM CAMPBELL BLAIR YOUTH AWARD

Clan Blair Society launches the 3rd year of the WC Blair Youth Award in 2019. This is a recognition of an outstanding youth member of the Society who is nominated by their family or friends for

extraordinary contributions to Scottish heritage in the forms of music, dance, art, athletics, scholastics, theatre/performance or support of CBS activities. The recipient receives recognition at the AGM and a \$500 award.

The nomination materials are found later in this newsletter. Nominations must be received by June 30. Please consider nominating an outstanding youth member this year. Questions can be forwarded to Jim Blair at president@clanblair.org



Orders from the Clan Store have increased significantly since the introduction of the new www.clanblair.org website. A number of Blair House DVDs, shirts, note pads and pieces jewelry have been ordered and fulfilled using the site. The process seems to be working quite well. Many thanks to Nick Shryack and Shawn Blair for the website design and ordering/fulfillment process. CBS members please go to <https://clanblair.net/cbsmembers/shop> to shop and order. Questions can be forwarded to president@clanblair.org.

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ELECTIONS

In the fall 2019 the Society will select a new slate of officers. Nominations will be considered by a nominating committee chaired by Curtis Blair of Colorado Springs. Their recommendations will be presented to the CBS board for placement onto a ballot in late summer. The elected officers will be announced at the Annual General Meeting (AGM). Positions to be filled are:

- President
- Vice-President
- Treasurer
- Secretary

Each officer is elected for a 3-year term.

Recommendations/nominations can be sent to Curtis at nominations@clanblair.org

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CLAN STORE

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QUESTIONS FOR THE HISTORIAN

From Leslie Blair-Gallagher:

How did the Blairs end up being a sept of the O'Carrolls in Ireland? The O'Carrolls raised Clan Cian and their literature has Blair listed under the Dal Raida branch of Clan Cian. How, when, why?

Please feel free to chime in with answers or thoughts about these questions. Send all to adoree1@outlook.com and put Blair Newsletter in the subject line, or send to Bruidhinn@clanblair.org

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ANYONE FOR ATTENDING THE LIVELY SCOTTS BLUFF GAMES?

From Leslie Blair Gallagher



The weekend after the Pike's Peak Celtic Festival is the newer, now going on year 3, Celtic Gathering in Scottsbluff, NE. The event is being held June 28-30.

Would love to see Clan Blair represented at this lively event. Are there any Blairs in Western NE or Southeastern WY who would be interested in manning a clan booth? I would be glad to help get someone started.

www.scottsbluffcelticgathering.org or
<https://www.facebook.com/ScottsBluffCelticGathering/>

PLEASE LET LESLIE KNOW IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO and ARE ABLE TO ATTEND THESE GAMES (OR MAYBE NEXT YEAR?) AT:

lvblairgallagher@hotmail.com

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NORTH CAROLINA
Commissioner Scott Blair



Hello from North Carolina! We started the year off on St. Patrick's Day weekend with a growing event at a local historic farm, outside of Charlotte, called Latta Plantation Celtic festival. Latta is a working farm from the 1700's and they have had this event for several years now. They have music, food, arts and crafts, and several reenactment groups. A few clans are represented there. It's a growing event and I have met several Blairs there that were not aware of CBS.

Next was Loch Norman Highland Games during the weekend of April 12th and 13. This year we were met with some bad weather. Saturday we were not able to enter the grounds until noon, so the day was cut short. Sunday was the same with strong winds and threats of tornadoes.

However, Saturday afternoon was beautiful and a great time was had by all. My youngest, Lochlan, is following in my footsteps and has taken up Highland wrestling. He took 2nd place this year. My oldest, Tristan, is currently on the path to pipe and drum corps. I compete in ax throwing but due to the weather, no event was held. I want to give a huge thanks to Charlie Diman for passing the commissioner torch to me and showing me the

ropes. I could not have asked for a better mentor but boy are those some big shoes to fill. Charlie has stepped down as NC commissioner but will be at all the events as I could not do this without him and his wonderful wife Betty. Next for us is a road trip to GA in October for the Stone Mountain Highland Games outside of Atlanta. This event is Oct 18-20. Please, if you are interested, we will have a tent. Come and join us!

Following: Photos of Scott and his family and Charlie Diman at clan events.



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NORTHERN CALIFORNIA COMMISSIONERS REPORT

Russ and Elena McCrary

With good intentions the Burns Supper was on Elena's birthday list, alas it was not to be. However, we began our year off strongly at the *Woodland Celtic Games & Festival* April 27 & 28, 2019, held at the Yolo County Fairgrounds. We set-up on Friday and provided nàbaidh assistance as is the games custom. What set this 2-day event apart from years past were the new activities that "featured the Irish, Welsh and Cornish cultures." It was indeed a splendid 2-day event hosting 60 Clan tents. We were lucky enough be neighbors with Clan Douglas on our right and Clan Hunter on our left. We especially enjoyed Hunter as we profile Hunter-Blair homes on a Scottish map in our tent. Meeting Morgan and allowing her to visit other clan tents, as we took turns doing is what we enjoy best.



Morgan – Clan Hunter

We participated in the Clan march midday on Saturday, waving to all the Blair members in the audience who were definitely having a good time. There was plenty of history being played out in the Glen, along with new vendors in multiple locations. Classes were offered each day for those who wanted to learn more about the Gaelic language: Vikings; Burns, etc. Along with Highland and Irish dancing, Birds of Prey demonstrations, music by The Ploughboys, and Athletics, these two-days were moments of magic and kin.



Visitors searching for their Scottish and Irish Families

On Sunday we attended the Kirk O' the Tartan officiated by Stan Anderson of Clan Anderson. Afterward we headed back to, "Man the tent" and as I was signing up new members Clan Hay stopped by to let us know we were a close second for best Clan tent. Alas, we served no whiskey, just gave out a lot of answers on Scottish and Irish heritage. However, we were thrilled for the new No. CA Commissions of MacFarlane International who won.



Mini Scottish Highland Cattle



New Genealogy Y-DNA poster added to our tent. Created by Russ

Which brings me to our new members. Please welcome Steven and Keri Smith of South Lake Tahoe (formerly Woodland residents). They were volunteers, saw us marching in the Clan parade, and came to say “Hello” on Sunday. Steven’s mother was a “Blair” and they have interest in Games/festivals. Keri brings graphic artistry to the fold, so we are super excited. Speaking of excitement, I was so involved in welcoming them I forgot to take their picture, but look forward to sharing it in the next newsletter.

Next up for us we are travelling to Reno, NV for the Northern Nevada Celtic Celebration Saturday, May 18, 2019 <https://www.renoceltic.org/>. According to the map, we have a wonderful view of the athletic events. With it raining for the next 3 days locally, we expect snow at least over Donner Pass. However, Russ (being all handy) has our tents covered if needed by packing visqueen.

Samhradh gu samhradh spòrsail (Spring into a fun summer).

Upcoming statewide games to place on the calendar in case you are travelling:

San Diego Scottish Highland Games & Gathering of the Clans, June 22-23, 2019
<https://sdhighlandgames.org/>

The Monterey Scottish Games & Celtic Festival, August 3-4, 2019
<http://www.montereyscotgames.com/>

Pleasanton Scottish Highland Gathering and Games, August 31-Sept. 1, 2019
<http://www.thescottishgames.com/>

Fresno Scottish Gathering and Games, Saturday, September 21, 2019
<http://www.fresnoscottishsociety.org/games.html>

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Dixon Scottish Highland Games & Gathering, Saturday, September 28, 2019
http://www.scotsindixon.org/scottish_games.html

New Escalon Highland Games, October 12-13, 2019
<https://www.facebook.com/EscalonScots/>

Central Valley Highland Games & Celtic Festival (Modesto), October 19, 2019
<http://www.standrewsmodesto.org/>

The Motherlode Highland Games, June 13-14, 2020

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OUR HISTORY

From “The History of the Celtic People” by Henri Hubert

According to some very early writings by scholars in Greece, the Greek people were aware that Celts had arrived on the coasts of the western seas before 600 B.C. and on the Atlantic seaboard of Spain before 500 B.C. They knew that some had reached Britain and Brittan and occupied the whole Gallic coast there by 800 B.C. Celts first came into contact with Mediterranean mariners on the Atlantic.

Interestingly, the mariners who came into contact with Celts on the coasts knew a lot and wrote a lot about the Celtic civilization, and began to bring their stories into Greek legend. However, the Celts behind the mountains were mysterious and remote, if known at all. Meanwhile, the whole interior of the Celtic region and the movements of the Celts remained unknown also to Romans until Caesar conquered Gaul.

However, in the Mediterranean region, the Celts developed rapidly from 400 B.C. Alexander, in 885 B.C., met the Celts and received them amicably. When Alexander invited them to a feast, he asked them what they feared most in the world, and was told “that the sky would fall on our heads.”

Sometime after 810 B.,C., there was a great Celtic invasion lead by a chief named Molistomos. When the Antariatae were defeated, Celt presence and invastion was described as “like the breaking of a dike.”The Celts did not stop until they reached Asia Minor, where they founded Galatia near the Black Sea. For 300 years, they were at the height of their power.



Caesar was said to have been very impressed with these ancient Celtic wagons used in war.



Dennis and Emberleigh, Bonnie Blair Mustoe’s grandchildren in Colorado



Miren Arya Blair in Colorado, Jim and Adoree Blair’s granddaughter

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Please send us photos of your cute kids and new babies born into Blair families (their last name can be different than Blair.) For this month, we will repeat about babies already published. Send us some new ones!



Skye Grandison, Leslie Blair Gallagher’s granddaughter in England.

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CLAN BLAIR SOCIETY



Blair of Blair

Blair of Balthayock

William Campbell Blair

Youth Award Nomination Form

3/1/18

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: _____ 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:

Please provide additional pages of text, pictures, news articles, etc. that support the nomination. Materials should be scanned and submitted via the www.clanblair.org website or emailed to president@clanblair.org.

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 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 & Chairs of Standing Committees, 5-2019

Jim Blair – President
8861 Eagles Nest Lane
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President@clanblair.org

Shawn Blair - Vice President
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Frances Holt - Secretary
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Ann Fredline - Treasurer
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Clantent1@clanblair.org

Shawn Blair - Webmaster
Weblaird@clanblair.org
Address – see above

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Adoree Blair – Blair Bruidhinn
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Bruidhinn@clanblair.org

Jim Blair – Clan Store
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Leslie Blair Gallagher - Public
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Colorado Springs, CO 80918
720 201-3128
Publicrelations@clanblair.org

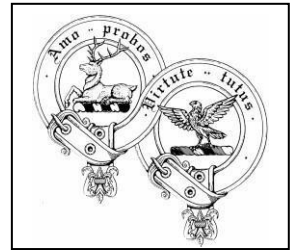
Elena McCrary - Librarian
29 Haven Place
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925-719-0324
CBSlibrary@clanblair.org

Whit Young - Blair Genealogy -
460 S. Moss Hill Dr.
Bountiful, UT 84010
801-860-3322
CBSgenea@clanblair.org

Nominating Committee:
Curtis Blair, Chair - CO
Helen Blair – AZ
Charles Diman - NC
Nominations@clanblair.org

Clan Blair Scotland Trip
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