



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

Second Quarter, May 2020

PRESIDENT SHAWN BLAIR



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FROM THE EDITOR

What a time we are living through. As this newsletter goes to distribution, I am aware that the other Blairs in our world have been companions in Stay at Home and Safer at Home. I hope that you have been staying safe and patient! The news is a bit sparse this newsletter due to the lack of Scots activity, as with all other American Scots families. Join me in looking forward to our ability to safely enjoy our Scots activity in a safe future time. Hopefully not too soon! Enjoy some of the history in this newsletter. Please DO nominate someone for the William Campbell Blair Award seen later in this newsletter. Nominate an outstanding family member or a youth you know who practices our Scottish traditions. Don't forget that this editor loves your family baby photos! We'll gladly publish those babies' faces in this newsletter.

FROM UTAH

Whit Young

There is nothing going on except with myself. If you are interested in that OK. I'm making a Table Runner using the Blair Modern Tartan. Since my dear wife is the sewer I have to wait for her to have time to spare. There are no Scottish Games scheduled nor State Programs so my continuance of my diorama of The Battle of Bannochburn will have to be cancelled all due to the Coronavirus sweeping Utah and the nation. So it sits in the basement awaiting 2021. (I hope).

The St. Patrick's Day Parade was cancelled. As well as everything else.

Whit Young, Utah Commissioner

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SEQUEL TO THE LAST NEWSLETTER STORY ABOUT AYRSHIRE

In the February, 2020 newsletter, we learned about the Little Tale of the Marauders of Kilmarnock (author, Anna Blair in Tales of Ayrshire). The article ended with "But there was another, sadder story of the Stuart Rising and its link with Kilmarnock. And that was the tale of The Turncoat Earl..."

The Turncoat Earl

William Boyd, the 4th Earl of Kilmarnock, had been a boy at his father's side in 1715 as they helped defend the crown for George I. Of the 3 sons of the 3rd Earl of Kilmarnock, William was the one of the three who, even though he'd been raised to be loyal to the crown, had chosen to side with the Jacobites. He was feted as the Jacobites took many battles, and felt that a bright future was ahead for him.

But then came Culloden. Thinking he was joining his Jacobite mates, he confusedly rode toward Hanoverians as the bloody battle wound down. He was captured and incarcerated in the Tower of London.

During the subsequent trials, William Boyd pled his life-long loyalty to the Hanoverian kings but that he'd changed his mind a year earlier. He said that he had not lobbied anyone else to change their loyalty. He said he'd had a change of heart during the conflict, and that he would spend his last hours praying for the House of Hanover.

However, he was sentenced to hanging, disemboweling and quartering, and, in the days between this sentence and death, he wrote to the King to plead for mercy. He pled that he had raised his sons to be loyal Hanoverians.

However, his pleadings did not work, and he was sentenced to death. Since the time of his death, there remained a mystery as to why William Boyd's loyalty had changed so abruptly.

The Earl's wife, Lady Anne Boyd, had been raised in the Episcopalian faith and her family had been strong Jacobites. Others thought that William Boyd, ever the opportunist, had judged he would have great support and wealth when the Jacobites won. Still other pointed out that

he was a weak man who owed gambling debts and, right before his transition of loyalty, his beautiful Dean Castle had been burnt to the ground. He needed funds from the Stuart victory to refurbish his family and home.

By the time the Earl died on the scaffold to a beheading (a changed sentence), he had written his sons to be loyal to the Hanoverians and take care of their mother.

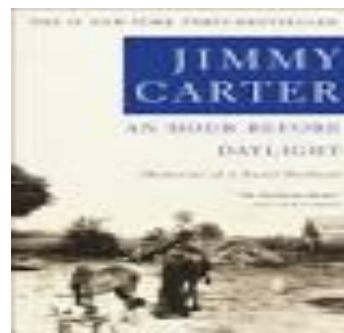
Lady Anne Boyd spent the rest of her life outdoors on the lane leading to the home, walking, crying and lamenting her losses. She died at only 38, a victim of heartbreak and bad health.

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BOOK RECOMMENDATION:

From Elena McCrary, Blair Librarian

I thought I might also recommend *An Hour*



Before Daylight: Memories of a Rural Boyhood by Jimmy Carter. I mention this because it is not only a wonderful read (especially since I grew-up a city girl). But, Carter also covers his extended family, and it made me want to encourage Blair kinfolk to write, or share their stories before we lose these awesome memories. He also narrates an edition available through audible.

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**Northern California Commissioners
Report
Russ and Elena McCrary**

The Woodland Games would have just wrapped up for us, but alas, no games any time soon. All of the events we had signed up for, or were going to attend, are now cancelled. Reno would have been in May, and we really enjoyed those festivities, but we are in COVID 19 lockdown through May 31, 2020. Our county does not want us travelling more than 5 miles anywhere, and to stay home if possible. With the limitations, where does that leave us? The Monterey Scottish Games & Celtic Festival held each August have been cancelled. Pleasanton is in Alameda County, but not until Labor Day—too soon to tell. The Dixon Scottish Highland Games & Gathering *may* be held, again. The gathering is held in late September, so time is on their side. What we are doing is keeping our reservation for the Seaside Highland Games in Ventura, CA—we will not feel defeated, but look forward to this mid-October gathering. Take a minute to view a champion Blair (Hello Erin and mom Laura).

<https://www.seasidehighland.games.org/get-involved>

So how have we passed the time? Writing letters, sending cards, being online, and finding interesting Scottish programming (travelogues). The latest was “Edie,” about a woman wishing to climb a mountain in the Scottish Highlands. We have been reading and musing on Burns poetry from a 1940’s copy of his poetical works we picked up at an antique store in Clovis some time back. Another program we found was A Classic Tour of Scotland in an Airstream. You can watch it on YouTube, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UHDQ33xjVdo> or via the television through Prime.



Russ Mc Crary and his tartan mask

Russ has been enjoying spending time on genealogy, and I have been researching Scottish surnames for friends, and learning about how the Scottish helped settle the west. The Scottish were everywhere, helping and sacrificing as the west was opened.

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OREGON – HIGH COMMISSIONER

Bill Blair

High Commissioner Bill Blair reports that he has been very busy with community and county needs regarding COVID-19 as well as sorting out which Oregon Games will happen this season. Some of this sounds very familiar to the rest of you too.

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**WILLIAM CAMPBELL BLAIR YOUTH
AWARD**

2020

Clan Blair Society is offering the 4th year of the WC Blair Youth Award. This is a recognition of an outstanding youth member of the Society who is nominated by their family or friends for their 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 Annual General Meeting and a \$500 cash award.

William Campbell Blair was a founding member of CBS and served as President and a State Commissioner in California for many years. He was a pediatrician and his love for children is represented by this award in his honor. Please nominate a young member of the CBS family.

The nomination materials are found later in this newsletter. Nominations must be received by June 30. Questions can be forwarded to Jim Blair at vicepres@clanblair.org.

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CLAN STORE

Jim Blair

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 of 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 pr@clanblair.org.

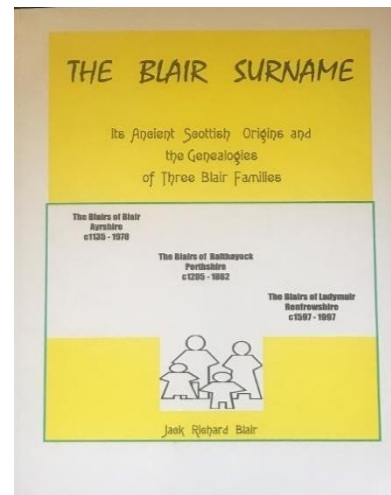
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THE BLAIR SURNAME

Jim Blair

THE BLAIR SURNAME book was authored by Jack Richard Blair from Sydney, Australia. The book was published in 1999, and it is a narrative on the Blair surname, "Its ancient Scottish Origins and the Genealogies of Three Blair Families", beginning with the homesteading of what is now Blair House in Ayrshire in 1135. The three Blair families are The Blairs of Ayrshire, The Blairs of Balthayock and The Blairs of Ladymuir; all descendent to a Norman Jean Francois who homesteaded the land and then took the name Blair when King William of the Scots granted him a Barony in the 12th Century.

The book is no longer published in paper form and Jack has authorized CBS to provide it to members via the clanblair.org website -- <https://clanblair.org/members/>



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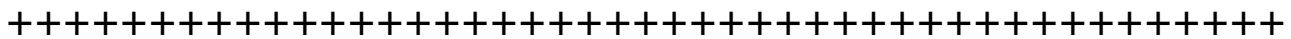
FACES FROM SCOTLAND'S PAST



(© Courtesy City of Edinburgh Council)

EDINBURGH, SCOTLAND—Forensic artists from the University of Dundee have rebuilt the faces of several of the nearly 400 men, women, and children whose remains were discovered in a medieval cemetery five years ago. “We have had a forensic pathology report done on all of the remains and that is allowing us to gain information about the population,” city archaeologist John Lawson told [The Edinburgh Evening News](#). Most of those buried in South Leith Parish church’s graveyard probably died of infectious diseases,

and a small number of the women died in childbirth. Chemical analysis of a sample of the bones suggests that 80 percent of the dead had grown up in the Leith or Edinburgh area, eating a diet made up of predominately meat and dairy products with some marine fish. “It would have been a difficult life and it would have been hard for these folk because it was only a small hamlet,” added Jim Tweedie of Leith History Society.



Left to right: Reconstruction of a warrior, a townsman, a young girl, an ancient Druid who was living a very long life for the time, and left, a woman of older age. All buried in ancient Scotland.



Blair of Blair

CLAN BLAIR SOCIETY



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 viceprez@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 vicepres@clanblair.org or 1-303-795-9754



SCOTSMAN ON AN AIRPLANE

Jock was out working the field when a barnstormer landed.

“I’ll give you an airplane ride for £5,” said the pilot. “Sorry, cannae afford it,” replied Jock.

“Tell you what,” said the pilot, “I’ll give you and your wife a free ride if you promise not to yell. Otherwise it’ll be £10.”

So up they went, and the pilot rolled, looped, stalled and did all he could to scare Jock. Nothing worked and the defeated pilot finally landed the plane. Turning around to the rear seat he said, “Gotta hand it to you. For country folk you sure are brave!”

“Aye,” said Jock “But ye nearly had me there when the wife fell oot!”

SKYE, SCOTLAND (The Isle of Skye)



Portree, Skye's capital

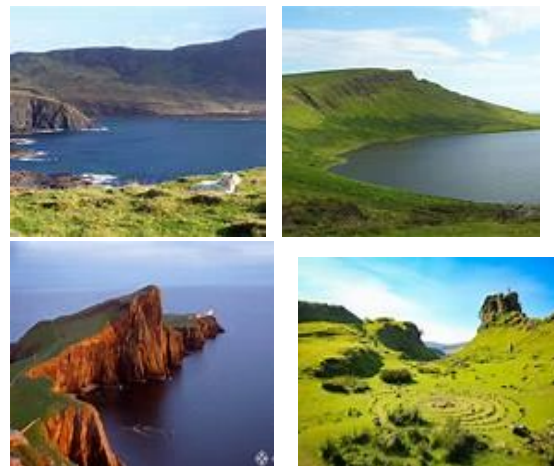
The Isle of Skye, commonly known as Skye, is the largest and northernmost of the major islands in the Inner Hebrides of Scotland. The island's peninsulas radiate from a mountainous center, the rocky slopes of which provide some of the most dramatic mountain scenery in the country.

The island has been occupied since the Mesolithic period, and its history includes a time of Norse rule and a long period of domination by Clan MacLeod and Clan Donald. The 18th century Jacobite risings led to the breaking up of the clan system and subsequent Clearances that replaced entire communities with sheep farms, some of which also involved forced emigrations to distant lands. Resident numbers declined from over 20,000 in the early 19th century to just under 9,000 by the closing decade of the 20th century. Skye's population increased by 4 per cent between 1991 and 2001. About a third of the residents were Gaelic speakers in 2001, and although their numbers are in decline, this aspect of island culture remains important.

The main industries are tourism, agriculture, fishing and forestry. The island's largest settlement is Portree, which is also its capital, known for its picturesque harbour. The town's population is 4,571.

There are links to various nearby islands by ferry and, since 1995, to the mainland by a road bridge. The climate is mild, wet and windy. The abundant wildlife includes the golden eagle, red deer and Atlantic salmon. The local flora are dominated by heather moor, and there are nationally important invertebrate populations on the surrounding sea bed. Skye has provided the locations for various novels and feature films and is celebrated in poetry and song.

Images of Skye:



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5-2020**

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Helen Blair – AZ
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First Class Mail