



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 2021

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE:



Shawn Blair

Summer is rolling in soon as you read this issue of Blair Bruidhinn. There’s also good news that restrictions are lifting on gathering limitations due to the vaccination efforts. That’s given many highland festival organizations hope that their festivals could open and be successful in the coming months.

The past year has been quiet on the Scottish activities front, so I’m sure everyone is eager to see their friends and share the heritage again. I’ve slowly been seeing announcements for events that are rolling out their plans. The Maine Highland Scottish Festival announced a return to the

old location on the ocean. So, the excitement is growing.

Some of our clan commissioners are already making plans for events that are taking registrations for clan tents and vendors. We’re hoping the positive progress continues with vaccine results and safe opening of businesses and activities. Many people will just be returning to work after all this time, so I’m wishing all the best and a safe and quick recovery.

Adoree does a great job of putting together this newsletter for you and has been doing it for a long time. I hope you enjoy this latest issue. Please let Adoree know if you enjoy Blair Bruidhinn, and send news of your own family, activities, and research. She can always use articles and news from our members and it eases the task of building the newsletter each quarter.

Stay safe and healthy and be sure to visit the events in your area.

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My Clan Tent Experience

By Shawn Blair

With Scottish festivals and events beginning to open up again, I thought I'd relate how I got involved with the clan tent and my experiences over the years.

I joined Clan Blair Society in 1990. Within a few months, Norman Blair, who was the founder, called me. He asked if I'd be interested in helping out with the membership backups. Basically, I received backups from Harlan Ralston, who was the membership chair. Harlan kept everything in an old database program and sent me a disc every so often.

Early in 1992, Norman called again. This time he asked if I had thought about hosting a clan tent. I said I hadn't, so Norman proceeded to do what he was good at. Norman Blair was quite a persuasive fellow. So, I agreed to give it a try at a festival in Connecticut that was the following October. Norman promised to show up and help me out at the festival.

I didn't know anything about hosting a clan tent at that point. There was another festival in Connecticut in July, so I planned to attend and check the whole thing out. I attended the Roundhill Games in Norwalk, CT one very hot day in July. The event field was full,

and vendors and clans were scattered throughout the park where it was being held. I watched the events on the main field for a while then wandered around the rest of the festival. I spent several hours talking with people 'under the tents', learning about Scottish events and organizations. I met a lot of nice people who enjoyed sharing the heritage and fun of being Scottish.

I spent at least a couple hours at the MacIntosh tent. Al MacIntosh had been around a while. He introduced me to clan tents and the community. Al was also originally from Northern Maine, so we had a connection from the start. Al also introduced me to my first 'wee dram'! It was really enjoyable, and we were friends visiting each other at festivals for a lot of years after that.

I also joined the St. Andrew's Society of Connecticut that day. That festival introduced me to a warm community that shared a heritage, friendship, and fun.

October came around and I had collected a few things to set up a 'clan tent'. A basic 'fly' tarp, folding table, homemade easel for some displays, a few of my own genealogy books, a piece of tartan for the table, and a homemade flag (tartan on a stick ;-). Not much, but a start. Norman had said he would bring a few things as well.

Norman (from NJ) showed up shortly after things started with Don Blair (from

Philadelphia and the vice president at the time). After a warm greeting, he began unpacking his Oldsmobile. He had chairs, a couple of tables, a few boxes of books and leaflets, lots of tartan covering, 4 flags (I think), a banner, and either 6 or 9 kilts! Suddenly the tent was full! They stayed the day, experiencing the festival, talking with a lot of people, and having just a lot of fun. We found a kilt that could adjust to my waist and we all marched in the opening and closing ceremonies. Oh, and I think he had a bottle of whiskey or two.

That was a bit of a surprise. But, just like many of the people I had met in July, Norman enjoyed the whole experience of the festivals, sharing the clan tent, and talking with people about Blair and Scottish heritage. Of course, Norman took most of his tent back to New Jersey, but he did leave me with all sorts of printed handouts and membership applications.

I enjoyed the whole experience. It was great meeting so many people that shared an interest. I had started researching my genealogy in earnest early in 1992, so I had a lot to talk about on genealogy. I decided I'd continue to give the clan tent a shot the next year. I had also been attending the St. Andrew's Society events. Aside from an occasional meeting there was Pies and peas (October), St. Andrew's Dinner (November), the Burns Dinner (January) and many more.

Now, I didn't run out and buy the whole kilt ensemble, a big fancy tent, a bunch of tables, and all. I used my simple fly tarp, beach chairs, folding table, a couple pieces of tartan, a few books and handouts probably for a year or more before slowly getting upgrades. Even though there were many that had been doing the tents for a long time and had big setups, my meager tent was always welcome.

That was the start of my experiences hosting the clan tent and participating and attending Scottish events in New England. Whenever I attended a festival, it felt a bit like a family reunion of favorite cousins.

Going in big-time isn't necessary to experience the enjoyment of participating in Scottish events. It was 5 or 6 years before I bought my kilt. My tent grew but never got very fancy. I did add a lot of resources. Besides, it had to fit in my Mazda MX6!

If you have or haven't thought about hosting a clan tent at a nearby event that doesn't already have one, I can assure you it doesn't have to be an overwhelming commitment or forever. But I can promise that the enjoyment and friendships you can have is likely more than you would have thought.

With all the friends I've made through the clan tent and Scottish activities, the most rewarding has always been when someone walks up to the tent and walks away excited

because they learned something about their heritage that they never knew!

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CLAN STORE

Jim Blair

Extended Clothing Sale– 50% off!

In response to the November 2020 announcement a number of orders have been received for clothing – thank you!

The Clan Store still has a nice array of clothing items that we would like to sell. Adult sizes medium and small are abundant so we have plenty of supply for kids and smaller adults. As reported in the last newsletter, we plan to liquidate all shirts and find a different provider to fulfill clothing requests.

Now is a good time to stock up on tee-shirts and sweatshirts for summer.

So, the 50% reduction in all prices continues – see the Store website at

<https://clanblair.net/cbsmembers/shop>.

Shipping fees do apply and you can stock-up for this next year’s festivals.

The following are examples of shirts available with a best estimate of sizes, which are mostly adult small/medium and children’s sizes. The logos are out of date, but all reflect the Clan Blair Society heritage and Scottish history.

White Polo – Regular Member Price - \$18 – Sale \$9 plus shipping.

Size - Adult Medium

White & Blue Short Sleeved T-shirt - Regular \$13 – Sale \$6.50 plus shipping

Size – Adult Small and Medium

Children’s Size – Small, Medium and Large

Multiple items can be ordered at once. I’ll do my best to accommodate in single shipment boxes/envelopes. If shipping costs exceed payment I will contact members directly to discuss.

CBS members please go to

<https://clanblair.net/cbsmembers/shop> to

shop and order. Questions can be forwarded to vicepresident@clanblair.org.

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IMPORTANT UPDATE:

ENHANCEMENT OF

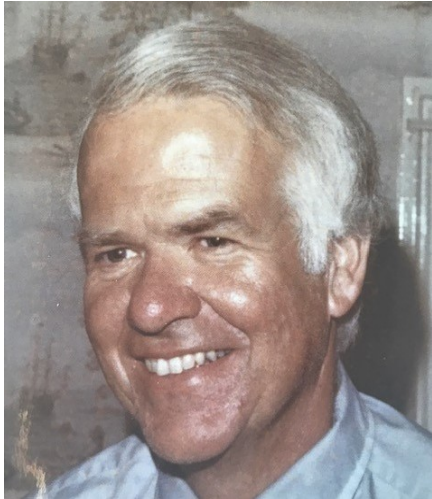
William Campbell Blair Youth

Award

2021

Clan Blair Society is expanding the activities eligible for the WC Blair Youth Award nomination. In the 5th year of the Award, the Board has opened nomination for any Youth activity in which a nominee demonstrates excellence. The original qualifications were limited to Scottish/Celtic activities. This now opens recognition of an outstanding youth member of the Society who is nominated by their family or friends for their extraordinary achievement in the forms of music, dance, art, athletics, scholastics, theatre/performance, or social impact to the community or CBS. The

recipient receives recognition at the Annual General Meeting and a \$500 cash award.



Dr. William Campbell Blair

Willian 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 July 31. Questions can be forwarded to Jim Blair at vicepresident@clanblair.org.

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SOUTH CAROLINA NEWS

Maggie Blair

While there were no official clan tents at this interim highland games in Woodruff, SC, many old friends were seen sporting their gear. Daughter Helen and I had a great time watching my husband play in Celtic band “Drop O the

Pure” at the official after party. Parents, in-laws, and more showed up for the festivities. We look forward to next year!

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CALIFORNIA COMMISSIONERS REPORT

Russ and Elena McCrary

May 2021

New Members

Even though we have not participated in any Scottish Games or in-person events that has not kept us from seeking out new members. We are pleased to introduce Debra Miller from American Canyon, CA. Elena met Debra while attending medical coding classes. And it was over a conversation of car show events where they became friends. I, in turn, shared Scottish History and my involvement, and Debra shared Duolingo, the language app. She wanted to learn Gaelic. She is an “Armstrong” on her mother’s side and a “Weir” on her father’s. She inherited a tie that had belonged to her father. I told her one day it would be grand to see her at a festival wearing it! She has a love of all things Scottish, so fáilte to Clan Blair Debra.



We are also pleased to introduce Susan Johnston from Pleasant Hill, CA. We first met during my term as a medical coding student. Sue was an instructor. Since then, we have shared walking; the love of nature; good coffee; capturing wildlife photos, and an interest in history. I shared some genealogical history on her surname. The she shared the relationship with the



Johnston House. It is on the National Registry of Historic Homes (from Library of Congress Photo archives), and is located in San Mateo, CA. I hope to visit in the near future.

<https://www.smccvb.com/listing/james-johnston-house/4687/>

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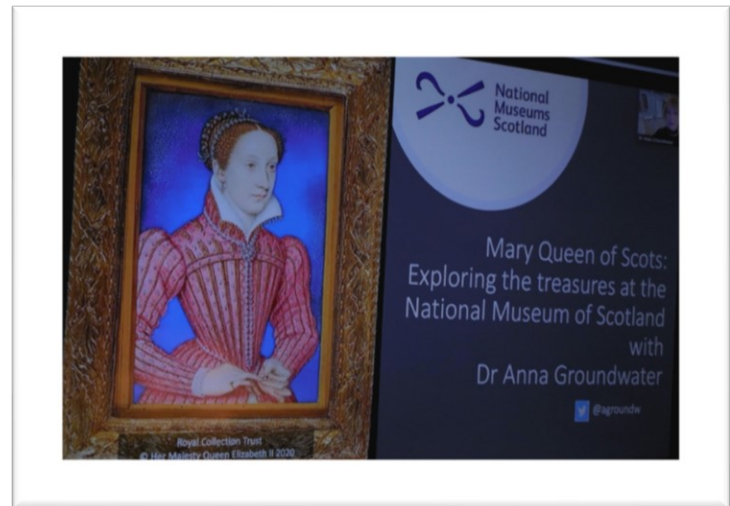


Celebrating Scottish Culture with Dr. Anna Groundwater, Principal Curator, Renaissance and Early Modern History.

The presentation of Mary Queen of Scots via Zoom was informative and provided more opportunities to learn about the woman who would be queen.

Dr. Allan Kennedy introduced the speaker who freely admitted she was used to giving the lecture in the Renaissance gallery.

Dr. Groundwater began the presentation by introducing her topic An evening with Mary Queen of Scots: Exploring the treasures at the National Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh. She spoke of the image of Mary which captured her youth and beauty—

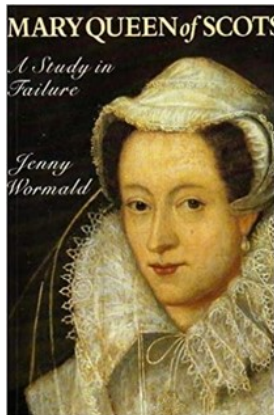


which incidentally is why Scotland embraced her. She was a “Stewart” after all.

Dr. Groundwater's lecture was centered not only on the artifacts

<https://www.nms.ac.uk/explore-our-collections/stories/scottish-history-and-archaeology/mary-queen-of-scots/>, but also the book *Mary Queen of Scots: A Study in Failure* by Jenny Wormald. I am currently reading this title myself, I loved the lecture so much. As I put the finishing touches to this, I was reminded that today, February 10th, is the anniversary of Lord Darnley's death—the event that led to Mary's demise some 478 years ago.

Who was Mary? For one, she was a pawn. The French wanting to seal their alliance with the Scots signed the Treaty of



Haddington in 1548 which agreed that Mary would be married to the Dauphin. Just before her

marriage, she changed the spelling of her Stewart name to Stuart (easier for the French to pronounce.)

At the age of 6, little Mary was sent to the French court. She could speak 3 languages: French, Scottish and Latin. So, did she know English? This is a fair question to ask since Mary was the closest blood relative to the English throne.



Mary Stuart, Queen of Scots, circa 1558

With the death of her French husband, she was suddenly an outcast. Now what? Mary de Guise dies in 1560, enter Mary ,

Queen of Scots who left Calais for Scotland on August 14th, 1561. Was it all she imagined? “At the age of eighteen, she was confronted with ruling a country that was poor, factious (wants to break away), religiously divided, and with a neighbor in [English Queen] Elizabeth “who entertained the deepest suspicion.” [That Mary wanted the English throne, ruled by Queen Elizabeth] At least Mary's home in Edinburgh was a comfort. It was Holyrood Palace, which had been rebuilt by her father, James V. And, until 1565, all seemed to be



Going well. Why does Jenny Wormald blame her for failure? Chief among the criticism was Mary's desire to marry soon after she was widowed, Along with her "infatuation" with her cousin, Henry Stewart, Earl of Darnley. Unfortunately, her fatal mistake was to marry him. Then, while indicating "she had no intention of interfering with Scotland's official Protestantism (while confidentially telling the pope the contrary), she aroused Protestant suspicions." This is hardly fair when she allowed the Protestant Lords to dictate how the country would be run. As a reluctant ruler, Mary, while a devout Catholic "did not defend Catholicism" (Wormald). However, "discovery in 1586 of a plot to assassinate Elizabeth and spark a Catholic uprising sealed Mary's fate." 8 February, year of Christ 1587, in the 46th year of her age, she was beheaded.



Mary was first buried in Peterborough Cathedral with great solemnity by Elizabeth's orders, but James I ordered that her remains be brought to Westminster

Abbey in 1612. His Royal Warrant was dated 28th September 1612 and the re-burial took place on 11th October.

There was a lively Q&A session that followed. Dr. Groundwater was asked her opinion of the film, shown here. She indicated it was, "wonderfully dramatic, and entertaining."

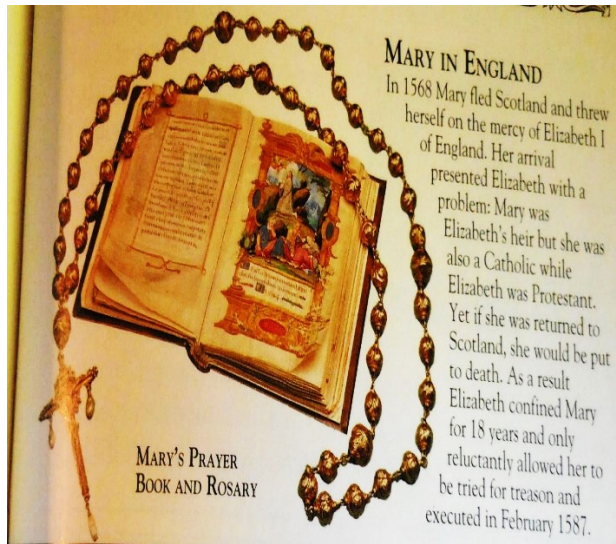


Would Mary have met the same tragic end had she not married Darnley? There is a possibility, but then we would not have James VI Scotland (James I England). He united the countries.

Someone asked for a bit more information on the Seton necklace. It was given to a friend and in 1620 split into 2 pieces. You can see it online in the museum. I rummaged through our collection of books and found this in *The Kings & Queens of England & Scotland*. An example of the many jewels Mary owned was this gold rosary which is

now housed in Arundel Castle.

<https://www.arundelcastle.org/castle-history/>



Someone asked about the black pearls that Queen Elizabeth I ended up with, and if they survived. To her knowledge it is unknown. However, I researched the question and found their history. They originally came from the jewelry of Catherine de Medici as part of her dowry. Upon Mary's marriage to the Dauphin (1558) "Catherine gave Mary a precious gift of at least one of the ropes of her own pearls. Queen Elizabeth I was known to adore pearls. [After] Mary was beheaded, "Queen Elizabeth I is reputed to have kept her promise to wear these pearls in tribute to her beloved cousin, Mary, Queen of Scots, for the rest of her life." Mary is wearing them in the portrait in slide 1 above.

Finally, Dr. Groundwater was asked which books were best to study Mary's life. She recommended: Guy, John A. *My Heart Is My Own: The Life of Mary Queen of Scots*.

London: Fourth Estate, 2004. Also published as John Guy, *Queen of Scots: The True Life of Mary Stuart* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2004). Retha Warnicke M. *Mary Queen of Scots*. Abingdon, UK: Routledge, 2006.

The event concluded with an invitation—which I extend to you to check out the 11:43 minute tour by Dr. Groundwater covering "Living in Renaissance Scotland: the highs and lows" is worth the watch.

<https://vimeo.com/438851353>

As I was searching for the portrait of Mary in her later years that was mentioned I found it located in the Blairs Museum.

<https://www.blairsmuseum.com/Collection/paintings.htm>

This is from their webpage, "For 157 years, Blairs College was home to a magnificent



collection of paintings, church textiles, sacred silver and Jacobite memorabilia belonging to the Scottish Roman Catholic Church.” We are everywhere!

In conclusion, Dr. Groundwater indicated this is the image that most people represent when you mention Mary Queen of Scots. Yet, as has been shown she was so much more than this. Yes, she was devout in her faith, but she was a woman of the Renaissance!

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BLAIRS IN THE NEWS

By Russ and Elena Mc Crary



Professor John Blair

Update: John Blair did not win, but how exciting to have been considered.

John retired as Professor of Medieval History and Archaeology at the University of Oxford in October. After graduating from Brasenose College, Oxford, in 1976, he spent five years as a research student and Junior Research Fellow there, before being appointed to a Tutorial Fellowship at the Queen’s College in 1981. Following election to an Emeritus Fellowship, he has maintained a long-standing involvement in practical archaeology, and in building and landscape conservation. John has worked and published extensively on medieval social, economic, and cultural history; on material culture and technology; on

buildings and domestic environments; and on popular belief and religion. He has wide-ranging practical experience in field archaeology, excavation, and the recording of buildings, and appeared several times on *Time Team*, as well as making a Channel 4 documentary on medieval beliefs in vampires.

He is one of the nominees for the 13th annual *Current Archaeology* Awards, which celebrate the projects and publications that made the pages of the magazine over the past 12 months, and the people judged to have made outstanding contributions to archaeology. The winners of the *Current Archaeology* Awards will then be announced on 26 February as part of our virtual *Current Archaeology Live! 2021*.

The awards celebrate the projects and publications that made the pages of the magazine over the past 12 months, and the people judged to have made outstanding contributions to archaeology.

These awards are voted for entirely by the public – there are no panels of judges – so once voting opens, we encourage you to get involved and choose the project, publications, and people you would like to have win!

I was rooting around the History Scotland site when I saw an article on the Picts. I scrolled down to the bottom of the page where there was a quick link as the find was, “up for a major award.” When I clicked on the voting page

<https://www.archaeology.co.uk/vote> I

noticed that Professor John Blair was nominated. I had to know more. The bio is what is included here. His father, Claude Blair, was a scholar of some renown, as the foremost authority on historic European metalwork, especially arms and armour. What a family! <https://www.nosas.co.uk/>

Regarding his Documentary mentioned previously, I found this link which allows you to preview the episode. Ah, vampires.

<https://www.pbs.org/video/secrets-dead-john-blair-discusses-life-and-miracles-saint-modwenna/>

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MORE BURNS SUPPERS!

Elena Mc Crary

<https://youtu.be/7NhOIUc0vBQ> - **Worlds Biggest Burns** by SBH Scotland January 25, 2021

I think it is nice to have a variety of Burns events. Whether one is participating or viewing, at least you can feel as if you are there. Enjoy! To give you a little history to go with our celebratory dish I found this article for you at

<https://www.curiouscuisiniere.com/cottage-pie/>

IS SHEPHERD’S PIE IRISH OR SCOTTISH?

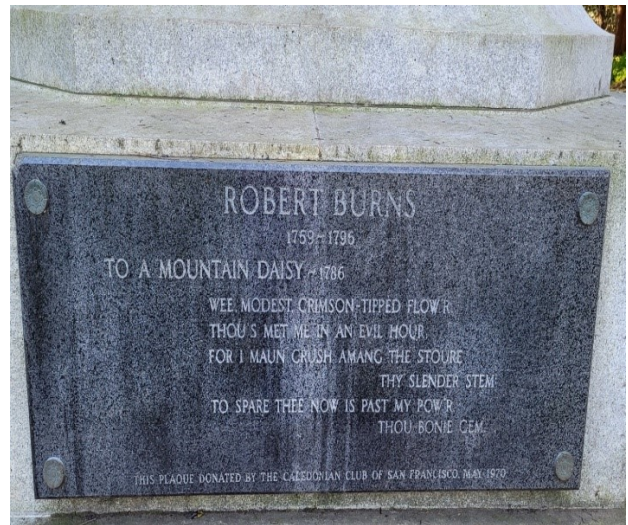
In the States, we tend to think about shepherd’s pie (or, rather, cottage pie) around St. Patrick’s Day. So, if you ask nearly anyone what country shepherd’s pie comes from, you’re bound to get the answer,

“Ireland.” I personalize my pie with Kerrygold® shredded savory cheddar.



However, cottage pie probably originated in Scotland, in the North of the UK. Meat pies were common in this region, and were topped with pastry crust before the 1700s when potatoes were introduced as a crop. Once the potato crust came into play, cottage pie as we know it today came into being.

Russ and I headed to San Francisco to find the man, the statue, and the poetry in Golden Gate Park (celebrating 150 years).





First verse of “To a Mountain Daisy” by Robert Burns:

*Wee, modest crimson-tipped flow'r,
Thou's met me in an evil hour;
For I maun crush amang the stoure
Thy slender stem:
To spare thee now is past my pow'r,
Thou bonie gem...*

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In the November 2020 newsletter I encouraged you to find Robert Burns statues and read poetry. That is exactly what Russ and I did for my January birthday. I had already shared the front, so I thought it only fitting to show Burns presiding over his own field in his tribute *To a Mouse*.

The poem to, right, is at the base of his statue. The Caledonian Club of San Francisco donated the plaque with the 1786 poem, *To a Mountain Daisy*. The bronze plaque by sculptor Earl Cummings featuring the first verse of Burns' poem 'To a Mountain Daisy' with a low relief of Burns leaning on his plough behind his team of horses and holding in his hand the broken flower has never been seen since. Hippies were blamed for the heist (online historical article).

The History Scotland live event via Zoom was held January 28, 2021, 11:00am Pacific Time. Let's suffice to say, Russ was engaged, while I did record part of the lecture. Quite honestly I found it boring. *Except*, for the interactive map that showed how global Burns suppers have become. Along with the various takes on the community hosting of suppers, as well as the variety of food and takes on incorporating haggis in different dishes. This is a work in progress at the University of Glasgow, but it is worth a look, so do check it out.

<https://burnsc21.glasgow.ac.uk/supper-map/>

As for me, I wanted a real taste of the poet: his words, what's with the haggis, and supporting a good cause. For if you do not

know Rabbie Burns, he entered Edinburgh in 1786 a poor man yet he left as the national poet. In listening to this 1-hour plus event and the words written by Burns, I too am struck by the fact that he indeed did so much to promote the Scots language. Each piece that is recited is like a very rich meal. And, while he did not write Auld Lang Syne, he captured this folktale of olde for generations. He may have chased the lassies, but he could put pen to paper. So raise your glass to a man of many words who conquered the globe!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7NhOIUc0vBQ&feature=youtu.be>

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It is with great sadness that we need to postpone our terrific 2021 event. **We'll need to wait until April 2022**, but look forward to having one terrific time then.

MONTEREY SCOTTISH GAMES & CELTIC FESTIVAL

Due to continued safety concerns and state and county guidelines, we have decided to cancel the Monterey Scottish Games & Celtic Festival on July 17-18, 2021. We are looking forward to next year and have an exciting Festival being planned so mark your calendars for July 16-17, 2022. Please stay tuned and take care everyone!

<https://montereycelticfest.com/>

The Scottish Highland Gathering & Games 2021

Where: Pleasanton, CA

When: Saturday, September 4, 2021 - Sunday, September 5, 2021

<https://thescottishgames.com/>

Thanks for your interest in our Games, and please stay safe!

COVID-19 Update - April 27, 2021

Due to the ongoing pandemic situation here in California, **the 155th Games Committee are currently unable to confirm if the Scottish Highland Gathering and Games can take place on Labor Day Weekend 2021.**

However, the Games Committee and the Alameda County Fairgrounds are closely monitoring the situation with a view to safely hosting a Games event in compliance with California State and Alameda County Public Health Department directives. This notice will be updated as soon as any new information becomes available.

Russ and Elena Mc Crary, Northern California Commissioners

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MEET RICK VEAKS!

(Submitted by Editor Adoree Blair)

Rick Veaks caught this editor's eye when noticing his skill making sporrans and then posting his work online at the Clan Blair Facebook site. The work was and is impressive, and it was fascinating watching new designs emerge.



Rick explains that he was out of work for three years with a serious back injury. During that time, he noticed the cost of sporrans and began to muse about whether he could make them too. Seeing how expensive they were to buy, he decided to try. He says, "I started out doing one – it took me 3 or 4 days to do because I wanted to make sure it was perfect. Then 2 or 3 softer ones a day. They are all hand-stitched. I can make 2 a day if I have to. The first one I made was completely covered with Raccoon. I began

making some soft leather bags then began to work with some thicker leather and started making sporrans out of them and haven't stopped. I've sold quite a few. Right now, I am making some custom ones. I've made a Firefighters one and a US Marine one. I even made a custom Deadpool for someone."





He began to make more, and was able to purchase further supplies so that he is now working with hard leather and other materials, including tartan cloth, animal fur and the like.

Rick has taken some orders and sold some of the sporrans, which builds the treasury for more new materials. When asked if he'd like to expand to having someone work with him and then for him, building his own business he says, "That would be the dream!..."

Rick explains: “I got fascinated by all of the Scottish history and dress when I was about 12. I bought a kilt and started going to Highland Events. My wife and I got DNA tests. I have gone back in our genealogy to the 1500’s. My Scottish family was from Ayrshire. I got connected to Clan Blair and found some Blairs on Facebook, and they started filling me in. I found all kinds of family I didn’t know I had!”

Rick explains that his genealogy work helps him understand he’s connected not only to the Blairs, but also to the Hendersons, Andersons, Watsons, Mac Gregors, and Mac Kentys, plus more. He also explains his genealogy revealed that he has more Scandanavian in him and his wife, Mandy, has a lot of Irish in her. The whole family is active in Scottish events and dresses up in their kilts to go to festivals and the Kirkin’ O’ the Tartan each year.

Rick and his family live in Missouri, in the Pacific Missouri portion of the state. He has four children and one grandchild. His daughter Emma is 15 and his son Vincent is 11. Rick’s stepson Steven is 25, and the oldest daughter Cassie is almost 22. Steven has a son named Ryker, who is 5.

Rick now works in a factory that makes gifts for children who attend day care, such as pillows, tents, etc.

Rick and his family have greatly missed the Scottish events that usually happen. He said both Tartan Day in April and the Chesterfield events in September have been canceled due to COVID. The family also participates in

the Renaissance Fair when it comes to Missouri.

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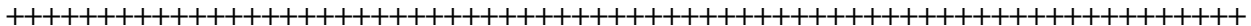
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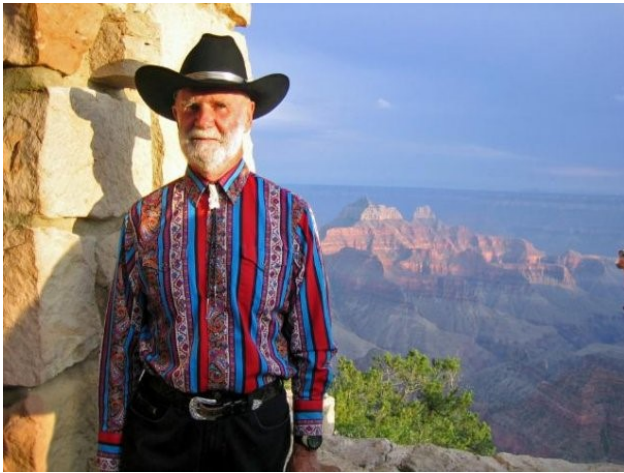
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MEET DR. ALAN BLAIR

(Submitted by Editor Adoree Blair)



Dr. Alan Blair

Dr. Alan Blair grew up in a household where his father was Scotch-Irish. He says his father was not interested in their history, so most of his awareness of Scottish-Irish heritage came as an adult. When he learned more about it, that knowledge came from Leslie Blair-Gallagher, his daughter and the Colorado Commissioner.

As a child, Alan Blair grew up with one sister who was 3 years older. When he got married, he was blessed with two daughters, Leslie and also, Diana. While Leslie introduced our heritage to her father, Diana was not involved in it, and she died, unfortunately, in her early forties. Diana had two sons and a daughter who now lives with Leslie. Leslie's daughter, Erin Blair Grandison, lives in England with her husband and two daughters.

Dr. Blair obtained his degree – a PhD in Chemistry, after he was married. He says it didn't leave a lot of time for family life. He went on to own a chemical consulting business.

About ten years ago, Leslie introduced her father to the Blair heritage.

When he was in his 30's, he was a bicycling enthusiast. He and a friend, Bob Mc Nair, were co-founders of the New Jersey Wheelmen when it was revived in 1965.



Dr. Blair and his Penny-farthing Bicycle, with Leslie Blair Gallagher



Dr Blair in the Flagstaff 2014 4th of July Parade

Dr. Blair explains that “I had a friend who was legally blind and could ride a bike but not drive a car. He had Scottish dances at his house every Saturday. He was also a collector of antique machinery. We Co-founded the Wheelmen, and I led the club many times in the Philadelphia

Mummers Parade and the New York Macy's Thanksgiving parade."

Has he been to Scotland? Yes: "I visited the Blair Estate in Dalry, Ayrshire, Scotland about 15 years ago. I did not like the Great House. "The building I liked was the Norman Keep which was said to have been built in 1120. It is a 20 X 40 stone building with a fireplace taking up most of the 20-foot wall. The fief given to the first Blair of my line by William the Conqueror as a reward for participating in the Norman Conquest." The new owner of this fief became the first Baron of Blair in this line after taking the Scottish name of Blair. (William de Blair.)



Dr Blair with daughter, grandson, granddaughters and great grandchildren a few years back

Dr. Alan Blair's Family History:

My Blair ancestors were the lairds of the Blair barony in Dalry, Ayshire, Scotland. I was talking to a Scottish woman and pronounced Dalry as Dalree. She looked confused, so I spelled the name for her. She responded, "That

is pronounced Dalrye. (DAL-RYE)" Dalry is in the Scottish Lowlands, about 30 miles south of Glasgow. My Scotch Irish ancestor was obviously a younger son, and under the system of primogeniture, did not inherit any of his family property. When the English parliament passed the Plantation of Ulster act in 1610, he moved to Ulster, Ireland, where he was given a fief. He brought farmers from his family estate with him. By 1700, there were at least 300,000 Scots in Ulster. In the late 18th century, the English parliament passed the "Test Act" which required that all civil servants and religious leaders conform to the Church of England. The Scots had been converted to Protestantism by John Knox in the 16 century, so the pastors did not accept the Test Act, and led their flocks to the New World, where the Church of England had very little power. My ancestor, who was born in Aghadowey, county Derry, in about 1702, moved to the New World in about 1725, homesteaded along the Shenandoah River, sold his homestead to a later arrival, and bought a farm in Guilford CO, NC in 1741. His son joined the party that settled Nashville, TN in 1790.

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CLAN BLAIR SOCIETY



Blair of Blair

Blair of Balthayock

William Campbell Blair Youth Award Nomination Form

5/20/2021

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 youth activities, including 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 July 31.

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 www.clanblair.org or emailed to vicepresident@clanblair.org.

William Campbell Blair

Youth Award

5/20//2021

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 youth activities, including 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 and younger can be made by friends and/or family members (members) utilizing the nomination form found on the www.clanblair.org website.

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. Special consideration will be made if the area of achievement 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, etc.
 - iii. Dance
 - iv. Theater – performance
 - v. Other
 - b. Academics:
 - i. Excellence in the study of Scottish/Irish history
 - ii. Writing related to Scottish/Irish history, or stories
 - iii. Excellence in the study of Gaelic languages
 - iv. Formal recognition of achievement by local educators or foundations
 - c. Athletics:
 - i. Football (soccer)
 - ii. Rugby
 - iii. Wrestling
 - iv. Scottish Games (where offered for youth)
 - v. Other
 - d. Social Impact
 - i. Youth organizations
 - ii. Outdoor adventuring groups
 - iii. Volunteerism
 - iv. Other
 - e. Clan Blair Society support:
 - i. Active support of local CBS activities
 - ii. Tent/festival support
 - iii. Promotion of CBS – recruitment, fund raising, etc. Nominations are invited in the February newsletter for submission in June (6/30)
5. A selection committee will evaluate and recommend award recipient candidates to the BOD for final selection.
6. 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 vicepresident@clanblair.org, or 1-303-795-9754

Clan Blair Society Executive Board & Chairs of Standing Committees, 2-2021

Shawn Blair - President
682 County Rd
Acton, ME 04001
207 619-0494
President@clanblair.org

Jim Blair – Vice-President
8861 Eagles Nest Lane
Highlands Ranch, CO 80126
303 795-9754
Vice-Prez@clanblair.org

Leslie Blair Gallagher - Secretary
5532 Mansfield Ct.
Colorado Springs, CO 80918
720 201-3128
Secretary@clanblair.org

Vallie Blair - Treasurer
2801 Colony Woods Rd.
Gastonia, NC 28054
704-996-0734
Treasurer@clanblair.org

Bill Blair - High
Commissioner
8549 SW 147th Ter. #103
Beaverton, OR 97007
503-449-0129
Clantent1@clanblair.org

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

Russell McCrary – Membership
29 Haven Place
San Ramon, CA 94583
925-719-0324
clanmembership@clanblair.org

Adoree Blair – Blair Bruidhinn
8861 Eagles Nest Lane
Highlands Ranch, CO 80126
303 798-3881
Bruidhinn@clanblair.org

Jim Blair – Clan Store
8861 Eagles Nest Lane
Highlands Ranch, CO 80126
303 795 9754
Clanstore@clanblair.org

Elena McCrary - Librarian
29 Haven Place
San Ramon, CA 94583
925-719-0324
CBSlibrary@clanblair.org

Vacant - Blair Genealogy -
CBSgenea@clanblair.org

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

Clan Blair Society
Russell McCrary
29 Haven Place
San Ramon, CA 94583

Address Service Requested

First Class Mail