

# BLAIR BRUIDHINN



Blair of Blair



Blair of Balthayock

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## CLAN BLAIR SOCIETY

Honorary Member Rt. Robin Blair – Former Lord Lyon King of Arms

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

Second Quarter 2022



Shawn Blair, President

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Spring! In the northeast U.S. it has finally warmed up and melted away the ice and snow. It always brightens our moods and gets us thinking of everything we want to squeeze into the coming months of warm weather. I hope you're all enjoying the warmer weather and getting excited about the season.

Warmer weather is bringing more Scottish activities. And, this year more of the Scottish festivals and events are returning after missing the last couple years. If you haven't looked around yet, be sure to check your areas for events that are being planned. There's really some excitement in the Scottish communities to get back out to favorite festivals and friends.

We have a number of members who have already raised their tents at revived festivals and they're making plans for more events this summer and fall.

If you have an interest in representing Clan Blair at an event, we can get you started with information and resources to host a Clan Blair tent. Contact our High Commissioner, Bill Blair, or myself and we'll help you prepare for a great experience.

We had a presentation in April by Bill Blair (OR) and Maggie Blair (SC) on hosting clan tents. This was the first periodic clan presentation of the year and we're planning for a few more as the year goes on. The board will be meeting in the coming weeks where we'll be discussing the next presentation event. We'll announce upcoming presentations through our email list between newsletters, so watch your email.

If you have news from local events, family events, or genealogy questions send them to Adoree at the [bruidhinn@clanblair.org](mailto:bruidhinn@clanblair.org). We'd also love to see your stories or articles if you can contribute to the newsletter.

Have a great spring and summer and be sure to get out to experience your Scottish heritage at events!

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## Colorado CBS Burns Supper 2022

By Jim Blair, V President



Ode to the Haggis with Torin Blair

After 2 years of delay, the Robert Burns Supper was held on May 7. About 55 guests attended at the home of Elisa and Torin Blair in Highlands Ranch, CO. Attendees included 25 Blairs and many friends. The May date was selected due to COVID issues in January, and then in spring-time around High School proms and other celebrations. Food included shredded pork and chicken, colcannon, scotch eggs, salads, breads and desserts. Refreshments included single malt, beer, wine and Blair Athol from Pitlochry. A great time was had by all.



Nick and Elisa providing Scotch oversight before Ode toast!



Parade of the Haggis to "Highland Cathedral"  
Pictures include guests, a Celtic band, parade of the Haggis, Ode to the Haggis, toasts to the lassies and ladies, births and anniversaries.



Lochlann Blair Shryack with his sparkle on!



Enjoying the Ode



The Sean Michael Patrick Thompson Band  
Performing

You may watch Torin Blair perform the Ode at <https://photos.app.goo.gl/9oVv47TL7eFYuCLN8>. It is also posted on the [clanblair.org](http://clanblair.org) website and Clan Blair Society Facebook page.

We plan to host the 2023 Burns Supper on January 28. All are welcome.

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### Clan Store –

**Extended Clothing Sale – 50% off!**

**Summer and Festival Season is coming.**

The Clan Store has a nice array of jewelry, genealogy books, stationary, CDs of Blair House, hats, official tartan and clothing for member purchase. We see purchases by members from other sources, but please keep in mind that the items are the official CBS originals offered at deep discounts.

The Store still has a nice array of clothing items that we would like to sell at further discounts. Adult larger sizes have been popular so that inventory is shrinking. 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 XL, 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 – Sale price \$9 plus shipping - Regular Member Price - \$18.

Size - Adult Medium

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

Size – Adult Small and Medium

Children's Size – Small, Medium, and Large

White Long-Sleeved Sweatshirts – Sale \$8.50 plus shipping - Regular \$19

Size – XL to 3XL

Multiple items can be ordered at once. I'll do my best to accommodate in a 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](mailto:vicepresident@clanblair.org).

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## The Extraordinary Life of William Campbell Blair



William Campbell Blair was well-known, well-loved, and well-lauded within Clan Blair Society as well as other groups. He wrote an autobiography for the benefit of his children and their children. We are lucky enough to have a copy of the book in the Blair library. From that, this sketch of his life is being shared.

Dr. William Campbell Blair was born on 13 April, 1925. He says that “I have been blessed with a full wonderful happy life,” and he further says he had “extremely loving, supportive, caring and generous parents who devoted themselves to their children.”



Bill age 2 before his first haircut

Bill had a younger sister, Jeanette and their maternal grandparents lived next door. Other relatives were close.

Berkeley was the city in which they grew up. They had a view across the bay to San Francisco. A playhouse was built out back by his father. He used half of that little house for his rocks and sticks, while Jeanette filled the other half with her dolls. There was a door between the halves.



Bill and Jeanette, ages 6 and 4

Before he began schools, the family had a nice routine. They would take Sunday drives to special places, such as the San Francisco Zoo or Golden Gate Park. In Walnut Creek, he recalls his favorite ice cream dish, called a Chocolate Monday. It had a very thick chocolate sauce on vanilla ice cream. Several times a year, they would travel to Carmel or Yosemite. His father would make business trips as they traveled, and they'd spend a few days exploring the business destination.



At home, they always had a dog. One, name Carl, was a favorite and a German shepherd, and Moppet was another, a terrier. Moppet once won a first prize blue ribbon in the Berkeley Club Dog show.

When he began school, he was only 4 and a half years old. He went to Ms. Hewitt's School. He remembers many happy hours there, after which he began regular school at John Muir Elementary School, Willard Junior High, and Berkeley High School. Some of his school activities included playing the saxophone in the school band, being a patrol leader as a lieutenant, and, when he was a senior, receiving a bright yellow 1941 Plymouth convertible to drive. He and his friends had many adventures in that car. In High School, he was also a swimming team manager, and he graduated at age 17.

Bill writes about his memories of the anxiety at that time about a Japanese attack possibly happening. In the middle of his senior year, Dec. 7, 1944, Japan attacked the United States at Pearl Harbor. He recalls covering the house windows so no light could shine out at night and the gas and food rationing. Still, he recalls, there were very fun dances at Claremont Country Club. When he graduated, he received a very special note from his principal.

His grandmother, Nana, shared her two vacation homes with the families. One was at the Russian River and the other, at Diablo Country Club. They spent a month each summer in each of those homes. His father would drive out each weekend to be with them. He loved the beach at the Russian River, and enjoyed the kayak there that his father built for him in the basement of their home.



California Russian River

The other important part of his adolescent and teen days was his time in Boy Scouts. He excelled in some of the activities, mostly in swimming. He spent a lot of time with his Scout friends earning merit badges, camping and hiking. At age 14, he and his friends became Eagle Scouts together. Between Scouting and his family trips, Bill spent a lot of time ‘mountaineering.’ For 3 summers, he was the first aid person for Sierra Club High trips, taking care of sore feet, blisters, sunburn, etc. He loved the trips of about 100 people hiking and camping in the Sierras, of about two weeks each trip.



At age 17, Bill began college at the University of California in Berkeley. He finished his studies there in an accelerated program and graduated in 1946.

Bill had chosen the Navy as a military program so that he could enlist rather than be drafted, and so that he could serve on a boat rather than a muddy trench. Before he went into Navy duty, he was able to complete 3 semesters of pre-medical studies in the Navy’s college program. He was assigned back to UC Berkely for his Navy medical studies, then to UC Medical School in San Diego. From there the Navy sent him to the University of Alabama Medical School. Before he was accepted there, the doctor performing his medical exam noted that Bill was 6 feet, 7 inches! The doctor said Bill could not complete medical school at that height. The height limit was 6 feet, 4 inches. He then went to the medical corpsman who asked why he couldn’t stand up straight (he had scrunched down to be shorter) Bill exclaimed “Oh, I can’t be taller than 6’4”!” The Navy never again mentioned his height. In Tuscaloosa, Alabama, Bill worked hard to not be one of the 50% who failed medical school. He did well and transferred back to the U of California for his final 2 years. Here, he loved being with the patients and had great financial support from the GI Bill.

In order to be able to work in pediatrics, Bill had to transfer once again, to the University of California at San Francisco. It was here that he worked with some of the very sickest pediatric patients. He remembered the three

years as intense and very hard labor, but with marvelous teachers.



By the time Bill graduated as a pediatrician, the Korean War was underway, and he was assigned a place in the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey. He then moved to become the chief medical officer aboard the USS Menifee. It was here, he writes, that he realized why the Navy had a height limit of 6 feet, 4 inches. That was the height of the ships' ceilings! He quickly learned to duck his head. His worry about maybe having to perform surgery was heightened when, the surgical team having not arrived, he had to place the intestines back into a crushed soldier, then sew the soldier up, but Bill notes the soldier was 17 and did very well. The other stitching needs were from the soldiers fighting and lacerating each other during a night out on the town!

Eventually, the ship sailed to the Philippines, South Korea and back and forth to San Diego. Here, he received his final certification by the American Board of Pediatrics. In 1955, he was elected to be a Fellow in the American Academy of Pediatrics.

When his final tour on the Menifee was over, he was stationed in Japan. He sailed home and enjoyed an actual cruise doing so. He then went on a tour with S.T.O.P. of Great Britain, France, Holland, Belgium,

Switzerland, Austria and Italy. Back home, he opened a thriving Pediatric practice in Stockton, California, but transferred to Palo Alto when he was recruited by the medical officers there. He practiced pediatrics at the clinic for 50 years, until he was almost 80 years old. He also was a pediatrician in the Stanford Medical School from 1955 to 1990/. He served as the Chief of the Community Physicians at Stanford U Hospital also. He said "I truly enjoyed working with children and their families. There were "...many houses calls, and frequent telephone calls in the middle of the night." Being able to get to know and guide children and families through years, he says, was so rewarding, "I can't imagine anything I would have rather done."



Bill and his wife and two sons traveled every three months through the years and every 7 years, they traveled for six months together, mostly in the family car. These sabbatical leaves were good travel adventures for the family but provided laudable sabbatical training for Dr. William.



In 1959, Bill had met Sherry Racine, and they dated and eventually married in 1960. Their sons, Robert and Scott, arrived in 1960 (9.5 months after the marriage!) and 1963. Bill wrote that the family had a wonderful life together, but that after Sherry completed her own studies and got a job teaching PE in another area, she announced she was leaving the family.

It was 3 or 4 years after the divorce that Bill met widow Elizabeth (Betty) Ann McCready, whose family had been good friends with Bill's family through the years. Betty kept phoning Bill following their meeting, and he relates "Fortunately, the final time she was going to phone me, I was there to answer."



Dr. Bill and Betty's Wedding

They went dancing and renewed their old friendship, marrying on April 2, 1983. He says they had many interests in common, including traveling, family life, gardening and "our Scottish heritage." Betty died in 2008, and Bill missed her terribly, he wrote.

He was considering moving to a retirement village when his son Scott and wife and daughter moved in with him, filling the home with joy.

Bill listed his US and world-wide trips with family, which were many and varied, and all very enjoyed.

While his busy life was ongoing, and during a trip to Scotland, he went into a store and bought a kilt. The kilt led to Bill joining the St. Andrews Society of San Francisco. This Society helps Scots in need and provides scholarships. He was pleasantly surprised to see how much he enjoyed this non-medical activity. He served 11 years on the Society's Board of Directors. In 1998, he served as the past president of that Society in Scotland, where he presented a collar of thistles to the Lord Lyon King of Arms, Sir Malcolm Innes of Edingight. The Lord Lyon Court were wearing their tabards and carrying batons, and Bill said that he and Betty "thoroughly enjoyed this. "He gave a speech which was well received.



Dr. Bill presenting collar to The Lord Lyon King of Arms

In 1989, he joined the Clan Blair Society. He has enjoyed learning about his heritage and meeting other Scots very much. He served as Clan Blair Society's president from 1996-2002, and followed this with 11 years of service on its Board of Directors. He then went on to serve for more than 25 years as Commissioner of Northern California at various Scottish games and

Festivals in California., Arizona, Colorado and Hawaii.

Bill matriculated his own Scottish Blair arms in which he added grizzly bear at its base and turned the head of the stag to look behind him. His motto changed from the usual “We Love the Virtuous” to “I Love the Virtuous.” He has left these special things to family. He met with the Lord Lyon Robin Blair in his home in California in later years.

In addition to his Blair activities, after his retirement and Betty’s death, Bill served on the Kiwanis Club of Menlo Park and took part in its charitable acts, most often “Feeding the Needy”. He was President of the Retired Doctors of the Palo Alto clinic, He wrote, ‘I am continuing work on my genealogy and family history, also taking courses sponsored by the Stanford Singles, I attend several Bible Study Groups, I still attend Pediatric Grand Rounds at Sandford’s Lucile Packard Children’s Hospital, and once a week, have lunch with some of my Phi Kap Brothers, Class of 1946.

The Second part of Dr. William Blair’s My Family History contains a wonderful wealth of history of his ancestry as well as a great deal of information for other searchers who wonder about how the Blairs got from Scotland to Ireland.

Dr. Blair died on September 21, 2017, in Palo Alto, California, and is interred at Alta Mesa Memorial Park in Palo Alto.



Left to right: Family members present include: Brown Family (Nathan, Holly, Hanna, and Bradley); Kral Family (Carol, Ed, and Dylan); John Carlyle; Barb Brandes; Deauville Family (Mary, Lindsey, Robert, Michael and Katie); Bill, Jennifer, Bob and Scott Blair; and Christine and Eric Addicot.

Dr. Blair was widely known in the Clan Blair Society and very admired and cared about. This editor recalls when Dr. Blair came to our Colorado home for a General Clan Meeting one year and added so much history and energy to our group. William C Blair was a very warm personality – which is not surprising, considering his love of children. It was a very sad time for many of the Blairs when he died. He was one of those special people that we know who just HAS to live forever, we think, shocked when he did not. We are lucky to have his own Story to remember him by. Our library in Odom carries Dr. Blair’s book, titled “My Family History” by William Campbell Blair, M.D. Also, remember that Dr. Bill Blair is

remembered with his own scholarship for youth, advertised in the Blair Bruidhinn newsletter. Nominate someone this year in Dr. Bill's honor!

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**LAST CALL!**

**William Campbell Blair Youth Award for 2022**

Clan Blair Society is offering the 6th 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. Nominations and questions can be forwarded to Jim Blair at [vicepresident@clanblair.org](mailto:vicepresident@clanblair.org).

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**Northern California Commissioners' Report**

**by Russ and Elena McCrary**

**FLOWERS OF THE FOREST**

Marvin "Bud" August 16, November 7, was a beloved 63 years. Pacheco, CA. father, and



Blair, 1934 – 2019. He husband of Resident of He was a grandfather.

He was fond of the phrase, "Get her done." A lifetime member of Steamfitter's Local 342. His last words: "My life was good, and I got her done."

David Blair (1986-2022), son of Jeffrey & Patricia of Martinez, CA. A graduate of Alhambra HS Class of 2015, he excelled as a drummer in the marching band. He loved being the Master Councilor for his local DeMolay chapter. He was a wonderful grandson to Marvin, and Joyce He was a mere 26 years of age, and yet he braved the good fight to stay alive!

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**[ONGOING NORTHERN CALIFORNIA REPORT]**

There had been hope that Ardenwood would again host Tartan Day this year. Alas, it happened not.

- However, when one door closes another opened and I received a bounty of information from our member Jessica Blair Johnson on the

36<sup>th</sup> Annual Calaveras Celtic Faire.  
Held at the Calaveras County  
Fairgrounds – March 11-13, 2022

Member outreach is probably the best way to engage others. And, in this respect with Jessica living a mere 3 miles from the event what better way to grow our Blair volunteers. We figure she can get some deep interaction at the Pleasanton Games, then co-host at her local event next year. A bit more about Jessica. She works for the Calaveras Visitors Bureau <https://www.gocalaveras.com>, and along with her husband Douglas are members. She shared that the local paper covered the event, so I got in touch. The *Calaveras Enterprise* editor gave me permission after submitting a written request. So, a big thank you to Dakota Morlan whose story and pictures made the event come to life. She might not have enjoyed the whiskey, but she looked terrific in her bonnie outfit!

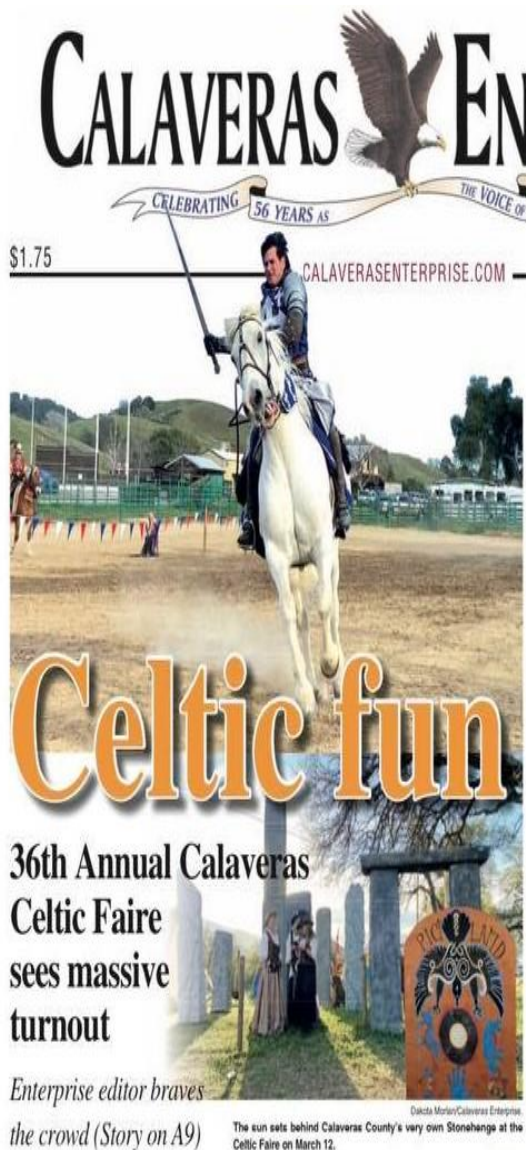


Jessica Blair Johnson



Dakota Morlan/Calaveras Enterprise  
**The Native American Young Spirit Eagles dance for Mary, Queen of Scots.**





22.

(Used with permission of Dakota Morlan, Editor calaverasenterprise.com, March 17, 2022. [dakota@calaverasenterprise.com](mailto:dakota@calaverasenterprise.com), accessed May 3, 2022.)

I was also interested in the organizer's viewpoint. So, again with Jessica's help she

provided the contact information for Patrick Michael Karnahan. He was very gracious in our telephone interview and provided the pictures to use with his permission.

Q: Do you have an official title?

A: As the Creator/Owner of "Celtic Faire" at Calaveras I now have 36 years of running a successful event.



Mary, Queen of Scots with Patrick Michael Karnahan

Q: What does it take to host a fun event?

A: 1. A lot of team support 2. Volunteers 3. Dedicated staff 4. Setting up 5. Logistics 6. Marketing.

Q: The *Calaveras Enterprise* cover shot included a knight. Are you the only games to include jousting?

A: This being a Celtic celebration, it was important to have some contact sport for the audience. He believes they are the only games in CA, but he thought the Estes Park games in CO might still hold them.

## Crowd Favorite - Knights Jousting

(Picture used with the permission of Patrick Michael Karnahan, "Celtic Faire" at Calaveras, March 11-13, 2022, accessed May 4, 2022.



Q: How many volunteers/staff are needed?

A: This year due to, "record attendance" it was all hands-on deck! The bulk of people arrived between 12:30-1:30 PM on Saturday. All the parking allotted was filled. Trying to move to an overflow lot was a challenge.

Q: Do you have any tips for people visiting for the first time?

A: Yes. Come early. Gates open at 10:00 AM. And, come on Sunday as it is always less crowded.

Q: What was your biggest worry?

A: The massive crowds (which were *not* anticipated), and some vendors running out of food. Also, the long lines. I did not want attendees to be turned off with, "waiting in

line." On a positive note, this is a "family event" which brings me great joy. I think the effects of cabin fever probably contributed to the best attendance ever.

Q: This area seems tight knit, does that help it be successful?

A: With Scottish festivals & games being cancelled in the Sacramento Valley it was important to provide a celebration people would want to attend. Having the support of these organizations also brings the Scottish history [motherlodecelticfaire.com](http://motherlodecelticfaire.com), [calaverascelticfaire.com](http://calaverascelticfaire.com), [sonoracelticfaire.com](http://sonoracelticfaire.com).

Q: Who gets credit for this event?

A: The city of Angles Camp who supported the change <https://www.frogstown.org/> and the locals. The event used to be in Sonora, CA.

Q: I loved the coverage by the local paper, what about you?

A: Good because it was mostly positive. *The Union Democrat* (local Mother Lode community paper), and *Calaveras Enterprise*. Both papers provided nice photo spreads.

Q: When do you begin planning for 2023?

A: Now! Next year's event will be **March 10-12, 2023**. I have already begun lining up bands. Mostly, the predictable items.



**Wicked Tinkers** performing. Picture used with the permission of Patrick Michael Karnahan, "Celtic Faire" at Calaveras, March 11-13, 2022, accessed May 5, 2022. **Living History** assemble for group photo.



The one thing most communities could celebrate in person was St. Patrick's Day. Dublin, CA was quite "green" for their annual celebration. "The 38th St. Patrick's Day Festival took place on Saturday and Sunday, March 12-13, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., at the Dublin Civic Center.

Before heading to the parade or festival one can support the Alameda County Firefighters Local 55 at their fundraising pancake breakfast. Sadly, I was raising money for another cause so missed it. At just \$5.00 who could pass up **green pancakes** for charity?

The fun part of this city celebration is that it is not confined to the festival. The parade began at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday March 12, 2022. It was hosted by the Dublin Lions Club (group I donate old glasses to for re-use). There is always a standing room only crowds which makes its way along Dublin Blvd (heart of the city), and Amador Plaza

Rd and ending near the Dublin Senior Center.

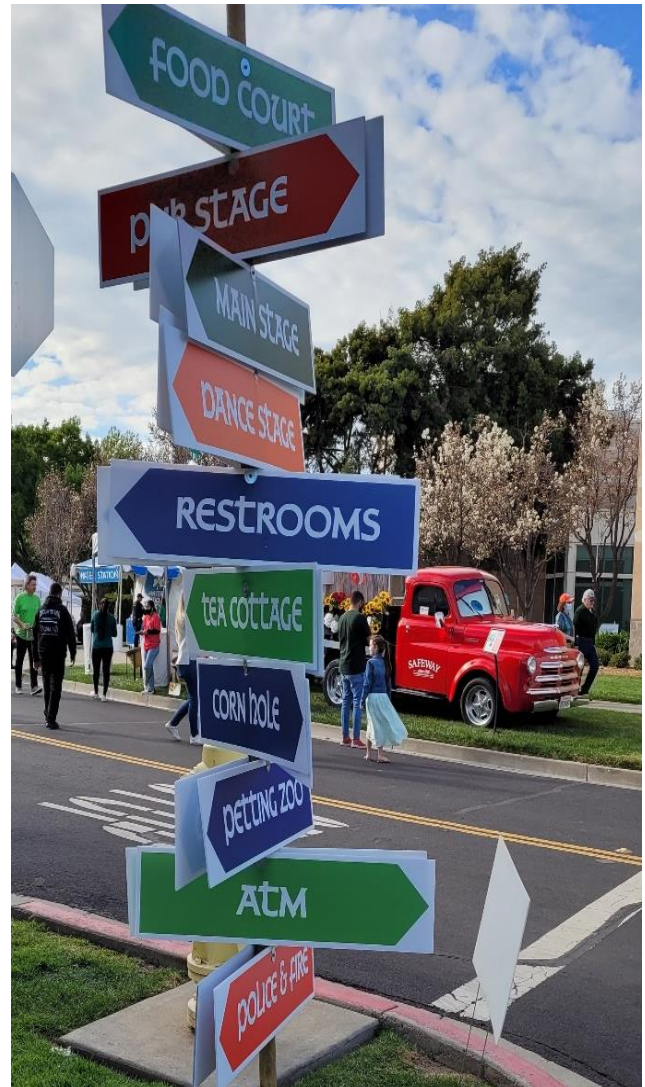


Heading down Amador Plaza Rd. —(Photo used with permission of the City of Dublin, CA [Shelby.Perry@dublin.ca.gov](mailto:Shelby.Perry@dublin.ca.gov), accessed May 5, 2022.)

Dublin City Hall and the Main Library provided ample space for the crowds (I had only seen crowds this size pre-pandemic) from young to old. It was a true showcase of why this city is so vibrant. All the local businesses had booths. There was terrific piping, fiddling, and dancing, and food, of course!

As you enter the festival you are greeted with huge banners, and in case you need a visual cue, here it is. I stopped by the Safeway truck, and they gave me a coupon for \$5.00 off my next order. What a wonderful marketing tool. So, thanks. As I was enjoying some music, I was able to spy the t-shirt of one of the fiddlers (I knew he looked familiar). A few years back we participated in The Big Trees Highland

Games. Sadly, those games could not compete with the railroad that is a big hit, nor the recent fires.



Sunday morning, March 13, 2022, provides a sporting event with the Shamrock 5K Fun Run and Walk. After eating all the goodies from the food vendors this is a perfect way to burn the calories.



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## UPCOMING CALIFORNIA EVENTS:

### Add these to your calendars!

. Did you attend or represent Clan Blair? If you attend an event, or participate in athletic competitions; drumming, piping, please send pictures to us at [reclanblair@gmail.com](mailto:reclanblair@gmail.com) We would love to write about your Scottish adventures.

- 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Northern Nevada Celtic Celebration, Reno, NV – May 21, 2022

(Free). The location has changed <https://www.renoceltic.org/>

The Northern Nevada Celtic Celebration and others are co-sponsoring a free Ceilidh and Concert featuring local favorites The Blarney Band and The Fire: Scottish Band on Saturday, May 21st in the 400 block of East Fourth Street near the corner of Valley Road in what is known as the “Downtown Reno Brewery District.”

- ScottishFest – Memorial Weekend – May 28-29, 2022 - Orange County Fairgrounds, Costa Mesa, CA <https://www.scottishfest.com/>
- 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Great Basin Scottish Highland Games – **June 4, 2022**, 2200 Loop Rd, Sparks, NV 89434 (Gandolfo Arena). Sponsored by Northern Nevada Throwing Company.
- 46<sup>th</sup> Annual San Diego Scottish Highland Games, Vista, CA – June 25-26, 2022, Brengle Terrace Park <https://sdhighlandgames.org/>
- 53<sup>rd</sup> Annual Monterey Scottish Games & Celtic Festival – July 16-17, 2022, <https://www.seemonterey.com/events/sporting/scottish-games/>
- **We are confirmed!** 156<sup>th</sup> Scottish Highland Gathering and Games, Pleasanton, CA - Labor Day Weekend - September 3-4, 2022, <https://thescottishgames.com/>
- **Hotel is booked:** Seaside Highland Games – October 7-9, 2022 - Ventura County Fairgrounds <https://www.seasidehighlandgames.org/>
- All Hallows Eve – October 28 & 29, 2022 – Calaveras County Fairgrounds, Angeles Camp, CA. This will be a celebration of the Celtic tradition of end of harvest, beginning of winter (November 1). Saturday night will be a burning man. Come in costume.

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## FLOWERS OF THE FOREST



**Wyomia “Cissi” Blair**

**South Carolina**



**Wyomia Blair**

**December 2, 1930 - February 16, 2022**

Wyomia Blair, 91, of Greenville, died Wednesday, February 16, 2022.

Born in Greenville, SC, she was the daughter of the late William and Bessie Davis Blair.

Wyomia was a 1949 graduate of Parker High School and an avid Clemson Tigers Fan. An accomplished woman, she served as a Chief Operator at Southern Bell Telephone, an Administrative Assistant for

BB&T, State Commissioner of the Clan Blair Society, President of the Telephone Pioneers, and at the Ladies Auxiliary VFW Post 9273.

Wyomia was a faithful member of Emmanuel Baptist Church.

She is survived by nephews Dale and Charles Granger, James Linderman, and Dean Blair; and niece Diane Blair.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by brothers Ansel, John, Cordis, and James Blair; and sisters Dorothy Linderman and Alice Granger.

The Visitation was held Tuesday, February 22, 2022 from 10:30 a.m. until 11:45 a.m. at Thomas McAfee Funeral Homes, Downtown, followed by the Funeral Service at 12:00 p.m.

Friends are encouraged to leave condolence messages for the family by clicking on the button labeled “Leave a Message, Share A Memory” on the main obituary page.

Shawn Blair remembers:

Wyomia took on the clan store from Don Blair. Don was the one who started stocking tartan and creating t-shirts, hats, pins, etc... I don't think Wyomia was ever secretary, but she was the SC commissioner for a very long time...

She may have been at the North Carolina Norman Lake AGM in 2001. I took over from Bill in 2000 and Harry Blair "organized" the Norman Lake AGM. Almost got Dr. Bill to abandon any further travel for AGMs.

So Wyomia had the clan store until Helen Blair took over. [Store is now run by Jim Blair]. Maggie Blair finally took over the SC commissioner position from Dale several years ago.

Wyomia was definitely a significant contributor to the society for many of the earlier years. She was always a pleasure to talk with and work with.

BTW, I saw a post from Don Blair's daughter last fall that he had his 92nd(?) birthday. I've been trying to make contact for a few years now but never get any response. Just that he's doing well.

Helen Blair wrote Shawn Blair: Dale just called me. Wyomia "Cissi" died this last week.

She was #12 in CBS roles and was very active in the group until her health became an issue.

Shawn- I know she was SC commissioner for a number of years and ran the store. I don't know if she started it or not. I do remember after one of her strokes, she was telling me about finding weavers in NC to weave the ancient tartan in cotton & making deals for the shirts and pins. Shawn, I don't know if she was the first to run the store or the first to be commissioner of SC?? I don't know if she held any other positions or not since she was well established as Store Manager & SC Commissioner by the time I joined. Seems to me she said Norman talked her into participating. She seemed to know Norman quite well...

I know she attended many of the AGM's that were held in the East & had gone on at least 1 Scotland trip...She & her nephew Dale put on a nice AGM in SC around 2010. I flew out & they were very kind to me. They drove me to & from the airport & took me around sightseeing in their community and countryside the week I was there.

She was sweet, kind and would do anything to help someone. She oozed Southern Charm but also had a wicked sense of humor & a delightful giggle...

Close friends & family called her Cissi.

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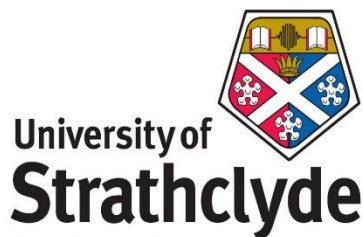
## **BLAIR HOUSE: WHAT IS HAPPENING NOW:**



This Spring, Blair House was purchased by The Hunter Foundation (THF). The Foundation's Mission Statement is: "The Hunter Foundation (THF) is a proactive venture philanthropy that seeks to invest in determining model solutions, in partnership with others, to troubling systemic issues relation to poverty reduction and educational enablement. However, it is our strong belief that these geographical factors can be overcome to afford every child an equal opportunity to succeed regardless of

location; Kilgali, Rwanda or Kilmarnock, Scotland. “ [This Editor says: What a good feeling, knowing that a home of our own heritage is being used for positive purposes!]

Working with several partners, Blair House is being utilized for training and meetings regarding the work of the foundation. Some of these partners are:



The THF advertises many activities and experiences for visitors, including Whiskey Tastings, nearby golf courses, yoga classes on grounds, and even mini Highland Games. In addition, the Wee Cumbrae Challenge can be enjoyed and is described thus:



*The Blair “Wee Cumbrae” challenge is where guests test their wilderness and survival skills on a nearby private island, all under the guidance of an expert instructor.”*

The description of Blair House is beautifully written and says, “...

*It would be hard to find a more historic location for our philanthropy – the history at Blair Castle in Ayrshire stretches back over 900 years, our walls, it is said, constructed by Norman Invaders; it is a breath-taking home.*

**OUR HERITAGE IS UNQUESTIONABLE**

*In 1165, King William I of Scotland conferred the Barony of Blair upon Jean Francois. His son, William, then changed the family name to Blair, Bryce de Blair fought with William Wallace and Robert the Bruce, and his descendant, Sir David de Blair, was knighted by Robert the Bruce at Bannockburn in 1314. Wow!*

*Thankfully however whilst Blair Castle is all history on the outside, surrounded by 220 acres of ancient woodland, parkland and private gardens, inside the castle delivers on all our philanthropic needs; a truly wonderful location.*

[This editor says: Things are certainly moving along at Blair Castle. This editor found that one can request to stay at the House itself! Please see the accommodation information at the website below.

[Home - Blair Castle & Estate \(blairestate.co.uk\)](http://blairestate.co.uk)

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**SOME OTHER BLAIR CASTLES IN SCOTLAND**

**THE BALTHAYOCK CASTLE:  
PERTH, SCOTLAND**

**(From Wikipedia)**



Photo from [Wikimedia Commons](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Balthayock_Castle.jpg)

Balthayock Castle is a medieval tower built in late 14th century. It is said to have been owned by [the] family of Blair since the time of William I (1165-1214). It was very ruinous prior to 1870. James Maclaren saved the tower by building the present battlements, modern roof, caphouse, forestair to the entrance and also altered the interior. It was inhabited until the middle of the last century. It is now unoccupied but is in good condition.

In September 1594 James VI raised a force against the northern earls and met them at the battle of Glenlivet. When he was at Perth, Euphemia Douglas, the wife of the Master of Glamis wrote to Alexander Blair, laird of Balthayock asking him to come with

Glamis Castle with his followers, armed and ready to follow the king to the north. In 1599 the young laird of Balthayock and Lawrence Blair with William Row, kirk minister at Kinnoull, were captured at Kinross by the Lord Sanquhar and imprisoned for two weeks.



James VI of Scotland

The walls of castle are almost 10 ft thick and are made of sandstone and whin rubble. On the castle's east side an armorial panel displaying the date 1370 is present on the side of the stone stair. Another armorial with the initials AB (Blair) GM dated 1578 is located at the castle's southeast corner over an archway. Tusking in the building indicates the presence of a barmkin (tower house). The main block of the castle consists of three storeys, an attic and a wing of two storeys; the first floor of the wing is divided into a chamber and hall. It was remodeled in 1870 with the addition of a forestair, crenallated parapet and cap-house. It is now

uninhabited but it is in considerably good condition.

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## BLAIRQUHAN

(Partially from Wikipedia)



Images of Blairquhan House/ Castle, Ayshire, Scotland

Blairquhan, pronounced “Blair-Whahn” in Scots, is a Regency era castle near Maybole in South Ayrshire, Scotland. It was the historic home of the Hunter-Blair Baronets

and remained in the family's possession until 2012, when it was sold to a Chinese company.

Blairquhan is protected as a Category A [listed building](#), and the grounds are included in the [Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes in Scotland](#), the national listing of significant gardens. Four different families have lived at Blairquhan or on its lands. The [McWhirters](#) built the first tower house about 1346. The [Kennedys](#) then inherited the estate through marriage and built the remainder of the old castle about 1573. In the early 17th century the [Whitefords](#) took over, but in 1798, suffering the effects of a bank crash, they sold Blairquhan to [Sir David Hunter Blair, 3rd Baronet](#), the second son of [Sir James Hunter Blair, 1st Baronet](#) who had married Jean Blair, the daughter and heiress of John Blair of [Dunskey](#) in [Wigtownshire](#) in 1770. When Jean Blair inherited made some of his money in Jamaica and was joint owner of Roselle Estate.

In 1820, Sir David commissioned Scottish architect [William Burn](#) to design a new house on Blairquhan. The old castle, which had become ruinous due to previous fires and neglect, was torn down for a new the [Tudor-style](#) castle, which nevertheless incorporated some of the decorative mouldings and sculpted stones from the old castle into the kitchen courtyard of the new house.<sup>[3]</sup> The new mansion was completed in 1824, and contains many antiques and an important collection of paintings by Scottish artists. In late 2012, [Sir Patrick David Hunter-Blair, 9th Baronet](#), sold Blairquhan to [Ganten](#) Scotland, a subsidiary of a Chinese company which bottles mineral water for distribution around the world.<sup>[2]</sup>

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*"You'll be in charge of the music down here."*



*"Maybe you'd better stay out of 'Silent Night' altogether, Ian."*



Blair of Blair

# CLAN BLAIR SOCIETY



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](http://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:

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Please provide additional pages of text, pictures, news articles, etc. that support the nomination. Materials should be scanned and submitted via [www.clanblair.org](http://www.clanblair.org) or emailed to [vicepresident@clanblair.org](mailto:vicepresident@clanblair.org).

# William Campbell Blair

Youth Award

5/20//2022

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 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 and younger can be made by friends and/or family (members) utilizing the nomination form found on the [www.clanblair.org](http://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.

4. 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](mailto:vicepresident@clanblair.org), or 1-303-795-9754

## Clan Blair Society Executive Board & Chairs of Standing Committees, 2Q 2022

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207 619-0494

[President@clanblair.org](mailto:President@clanblair.org)

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[Vice-Prez@clanblair.org](mailto:Vice-Prez@clanblair.org)

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Bill Blair - High

Commissioner

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Russell McCrary – Membership

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Adoree Blair – Blair Bruidhinn

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Jim Blair – Clan Store

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Elena McCrary - Librarian

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Vacant - Blair Genealogy -

[CBSgenea@clanblair.org](mailto:CBSgenea@clanblair.org)

Nominating Committee:

Curtis Blair, Chair - CO

Helen Blair – AZ

Charles Diman - NC

[Nominations@clanblair.org](mailto:Nominations@clanblair.org)

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