



Blair of Blair

BLAIR BRUIDHINN

• Honorary Member Rt. Hon. Robin Blair — Former Lord Lyon King of Arms of Scotland •



Blair of Balthayock

“Blair Talk” for Clan Blair Society

www.clanblair.org

Fourth Quarter- November 2017



PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE NOVEMBER 2017

Fellow Scots:

Happy Holidays! Our Clan Commissioners and members have enjoyed enjoying fall events and festivals and a number of their reports and pictures are included in this newsletter. It appears that fall 2017 has been great for you, your family and your Scottish network.

I would like to express my gratitude to Charlie Diman who has served CBS as Membership Chair for the past 11 years. This is one of the most challenging leadership roles in the Society involving the maintenance of the membership data base, processing new member applications, providing new member information packets, mailing the Blair Bruidhinn quarterly and processing membership renewals each year. It is certainly a demanding role and Charlie has performed beyond belief. Our membership has grown steadily under his leadership. Charlie’s replacement is Russell Mc Crary of Northern California. Please join me in expressing our thanks for extraordinary service to the Society.

This newsletter also reports the passing of CBS founder and past President Dr. William C. Blair. Bill was an extraordinary Scotsman who never stopped seeking information about his Blair heritage. He was a leader among leaders forming the foundation of CBS, writing about his Blair history,

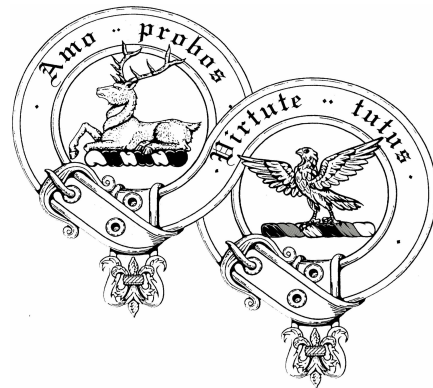
building a relationship with the owners of Blair House in Dalry, Scotland, recruiting members and the State Commissioners, preparing the Bylaws, and filing Society documents with the IRS. He also led CBS trips to Scotland. He has been a wonderful friend and I will miss his smile and good advice.

The year of 2017 has been one filled with Scottish activity and joy for all involved. As we enter the holiday season let us all reflect on the friendships we made this year and consider new horizons in 2018.

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

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

Jim Blair president@clanblair.org



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

September 23, 2017

The Board conducted the AGM on September 23, 2017 at 10 am MDT. In addition to the general business meeting Bill Blair Oregon made a wonderful presentation on the history of Scottish Flags. His presentation detailed not only the design of the flags, but also the origin and relationships to Scottish clans and the significant battles fought for freedom. The presentation is available for viewing on the Clan Blair.org website: <http://members.clanblair.org>.

The AGM also featured the details of the Annual Business Meeting held by the Board on 9/16/17.

A summary is that CBS is healthy with strong financials and growth (albeit slow growth). The level of activity by members is strong and we have a number of initiatives that will improve our digital services. Details of the busness meeting can be found on <http://members.clanblair.org>

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WEBSITE DEVELOPMENT

Webmaster Shawn Blair and assistant Nick Shryack are working diligently to upgrade the CBS website. In addition to modernization and information update, the team is developing a digital Clan Store, including fresh pictures, ordering information, pricing, and fulfillment. Additionally, they are developing a digital Membership section that will include New Member applications, payment and a weblink for New Member Information. Longer term, we expect the Membership page to accept referrals, updates and the ability for members to print their annual membership cards.

Please look for these new features in 1st Q 2018

A hearty thanks to Shawn and Nick for their work on this important initiative.

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ANNOUNCEMENT

Membership Fee Change

As part of the 2017 Annual Board Meeting a proposal was confirmed to begin charging an additional \$5 annual fee to members who continue to request a paper version of the Blair Bruidhinn. The fee is to help offset the cost of printing and mailing and will be assessed for the 2018 year. Please contact Russell McCrary with questions and your preference about receiving the newsletter in paper versus digital form (the digital form is in color). Russell's email is iwrussmccrary@gmail.com

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RECORDED BROADCASTS AVAILABLE ON MEMBERS-ONLY WEBSITE

All webinar hosted presentations by the CBS Board are available for your viewing on the Members-only website (<http://members.clanblair.org>). Please let Shawn Blair know if you have questions or encounter and difficulty viewing these wonderful programs (weblaird@clanblair.org).

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NEW YORK NEWS Lynne Gallaudet Dolan Long Island NY Commissioner

Hello from Bellerose Manor, NY!

This year I attended the 57th Annual Long Island Scottish Festival and Highland Games here on Long Island NY. The Games were held on August 26th and the weather was cool, sunny and beautiful. At opening ceremonies when the National Anthem played everyone stopped and you could hear a pin drop. This has not happened in the past. I'm glad to see a lot of Americans are showing more patriotism. The day was filled with games and entertainment. They had a Cultural Tent again this year. I hope they keep this going each year because it is very interesting. There you could learn an introduction to the bagpipes, storytelling for the kids, a enjoy a kilt making demonstration. There was piping and

drumming all through the day. The entertainment was made up of different entertainers. They even added pony rides and a bouncy house. The games for children included the caber toss, races, tug-of-war, pony rides and face painting. Of course, there was the tossing of the caber and the tossing of the sheaf for the big strong guys and women.

More people stopped by the tent. There are not many Blairs on Long Island. Those who stopped included my cousins, and then there are those who stop by because their daughter-in-law or neighbors are Blairs. One gentleman from England (lives here now) stopped and called his mother (who is a Blair) to tell her about the Clan Blair tent. And of course, friends come by and say hello and sit a spell. It would have been a perfect day to have worn my Civil War tartan skirt!

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COLORADO REPORT

From Leslie Blair-Gallagher, CO Commissioner

CBS Colorado participated in the Long’s Peak Scottish Festival on Sept. 8-10, in Estes Park, Colorado. This is Colorado’s largest festival and attracts more than 20,000 participants. The weather was a pleasant fall weekend in high mountain country.

CBS members hosted a double-wide tent that included a full array of maps, pictures, Blair history, reference books for visitors, flags and armaments. Member Kipp Baker served an extraordinary buffet including pork, salmon, chicken and all the trimmings. Single malt flowed plentifully. Twenty CBS members supported the Clan tent and we had 40 visitors.

Fourteen CBS members represented the Society in the annual parade downtown Estes Park in front of 20,000 viewers. This was a great turnout for Colorado Clans.



Row 1 L-R – Tiernan Blair Galligan, Cordylia Blair Shryack, Saoirse Blair Galligan, friend, Atia Blair

Row 2 L-R – Quinnlin Blair, Arabella Blair, friend, Lochlann Blair Shryack, Erynn Blair Shryack, Dyani Blair Galligan

Row 2 L-R - Torin Blair, Elisa Campbell, Jim Blair Nick Shryack, Adoree Blair

Update information on the Colorado Scottish Festival & Rocky Mountain Highland Games:

www.scottishgames.org

For the past three years these games were held in Snowmass, Colorado.

The 2018 Games are returning to the metro Denver, Colorado area and will be held on 4 & 5 Aug 2018 in Edgewater, which is just west of downtown Denver. The Games are sponsored to you by the St. Andrew’s Society of Colorado <coloradoscots.com>

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Glasgow Spring Garden

CLAN BLAIR LIBRARY NEWS

Elena McCrary, Clan Blair Librarian

“A bheil seann leabhraichean agad?”
Do you have Old Books?

In my newsletter article entitled ‘The Value of Historical Documents,’ I referenced the book written by our friend and mentor William Campbell Blair. Now that he has moved on to the next phase of his life, I have been reflecting on the value of the information he provided both Russ and myself. Mostly, I have thought I did not ask him enough questions. But, then I thought again about the book he gave to Russ. It reminded me that he provided a roadmap for any of us searching--we need only that he provided a roadmap for any of us searching--we need only read. Since I had been asked for copies of his book (at cost), I am awaiting to hear news of the publisher. Winter lends itself to ruminating about family history, so search on.

And, so my topic of rumination of late, has been archival material and their value. I can thank Laura Blair (Bill’s daughter-in-law) for this thinking because I had offered to look through the book collection Bill had. It turns out mold got to it first. So, as a reminder, check how your materials are stored. And, if a book has mold or mildew remove them from your collection immediately. If you search, “books with mold solutions,” you will come upon a number of articles. I encourage you to decide on a course of action for your collection. But, say you cannot save an out of print item, what to do? My tip of the month: searching free Digital Collections. The following link <http://digital.ncdcr.gov/cdm/home/family-records> is from the Family Records Collection, a project of the State Library and State Archives of North Carolina. I also invite you to check out the Ellen Payne Odom Genealogical Library and the attached brochure which not only gives the history, but the Scottish collection. <http://www.mccls.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/Genealogy-Brochure-may-2017-pdf.pdf>

Finally, a tip of the hat to the Society for the videos it has produced for its members. These valuable oral histories cannot be overstated. Watch them and remember, if you have any questions, please contact Elena McCrary at CBSLibrary@clanblair.org, or call me at (925) 833-9695.

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OREGON Bill Blair, Oregon Commissioner, High Commissioner

[Written on 9-17-17 during the Oregon wildfire crisis]

My son Andrew and I decided to pull the plug on the McKenzie Highland Games after one day. It promises to rain tomorrow, but today the air was still heavy with smoke from the many wildfires burning around Oregon. The event organizers are still struggling to find the right formula – this is the fourth McKenzie games, and they still have found it. Not many attendees, and the clans were relegated to a parking lot (paved) where we couldn’t stake our tents down. We had to use weights. As usual, however, I picked up plenty of ideas and contacts with other clans.

The shining highlight of the day today was meeting Bryan and Jamie Blair, former CBS Southern California Commissioners. They have moved to Oregon, and Jamie is willing to talk about becoming the Oregon Commissioner. And, she is a talented kiltmaker, having trained under a world class kiltmaker and teacher. Bryan, Jamie and I talked for probably an hour. He is still committed to CBS, but his job takes him away for extended periods. He is a Hollywood make-up artist, specializing in monster make-up for zombie and horror films. He was wearing a superb Blair tartan kilt that Jamie made for him. First-rate work! Bryan tells me he has several Clan Blair standards and banners left over from his days of active service to CBS, and has promised to send me pics for ideas. Between he two of them, we may find a source for productions for more CBS banners. Who knows?

Jamie asked a passerby to take a photo of the three of us at the CBS tent. It's already up on Bryan's Facebook account. Since I'm not a Facebook member, I had to copy the thumbnail from the public wall on his account.



L to R: Bill Blair, Jamie Blair and Bryan Blair

- April 6th is Tartan Day, normally recognized with events in Phoenix, Flagstaff and Tucson
- July 20-22 are the Flagstaff Games that are held at Fox Glen Park in Flagstaff
- September 14-16 is the new time frame for the Prescott Games at Watson Lake Park in Prescott, October- there is still a question whether Sedona will be able to resume their Games or not
- November 2-4 are the Tucson Games but I'm not sure if they will remain at the Rillito Racetrack

Wherever you are located, try to enjoy the Celtic events around you to celebrate your ancestral past.
Aye, Helen

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FLOWERS OF THE FOREST

William Campbell Blair

April 13, 1925 – September 21, 2017

William Campbell Blair, 92, of Menlo Park, California, passed away peacefully on Thursday, September 21, 2017 at his home after a valiant battle with cancer.



A celebration of life was held at 2 PM on Tuesday, October 10, 2017 at the Menlo Church in Menlo Park, CA. Funeral arrangements were handled by Spangler Mortuaries.

William was born in Berkeley, CA on Monday, April 13, 1925. He graduated from Berkeley High School and continued to receive a pre-med degree from University of California, Berkeley and a doctorate of medicine from University of California, San Francisco. William was

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ARIZONA COMMISSIONERS

Helen Blair

Starting in 2018 I am stepping down as Commissioner for Arizona. My son Andrew Blair Cupp said he would cover some of the Arizona Games. I've thoroughly enjoyed hosting CBS tents all over Arizona, New Mexico and even hosted a couple in Colorado and put on a couple big AGMs in Arizona. I have made life-long friendships along the way. I plan on being gone most of 2018 visiting family and friends while we are still alive and kicking. If an event occurs while I'm in town I will surely attend and lend Andrew a hand at the CBS tent. I hope other members will give him a hand when I'm not around.

2018 Arizona events

- January 27 Robert Burns Supper in Tucson
- February 3rd Robert Burns Dinner in Chandler
- March 3rd-4th is the Phoenix Games, held at Indian Steele Park in Phoenix,
- March 17th is St. Patrick's Day and usually there are parades and events around that time

married to Sharon Racine on January 30, 1960; they were married 17 years. He was married to Elizabeth Ready on April 2, 1983; they were married for 26 years.



William served in the United States Navy as a medical officer during World War II and in the Korean Conflict. He worked as a pediatrician for Palo Alto Medical Foundation for 50 years. He enjoyed traveling, backpacking and hiking in the Sierras, sailing and taking walks. He was also actively involved in the Menlo Church, Saint Andrews Society of San Francisco, Clan Blair Society, Boy Scouts of America and the Kiwanis Club.

William is survived by his first wife, Sherry Blair, sons Robert (Josh), Scott (Laura), granddaughters Holly Brown (Nathan), Jennifer, and great grandchildren Bradley Brown and Hannah Brown. William is preceded in death by his wife Elizabeth Blair, his sister Jeanette Doyle, and parents Rochelle and Eleanor Blair. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be given to Lucille Packard Children's Hospital or to the charity of your choice. The family of William Blair wishes to thank Mission Hospice for their loving care and the Menlo Church.

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A Tribute to Dr. William Campbell Blair

Russell and Elena McCrary

In memory of our friend and clansman Dr. William Campbell Blair. Although we have only known Bill a few short years we were graciously allowed to be a part of Bill and his family's lives. We will forever remember his magnificent smile, the twinkle in his eyes, and his true kindness he shared with all.

The amazing story of Bill's 92 years here on earth where so many lives have been touched by this true gentle giant have been captured in a book written by Bill himself.

If you read Bill's book which chronicles his life, you will come to know the incredible story of a man who is the definition of someone from the greatest generation. Bill was a veteran in the Navy, and after 50 years as a pediatrician, he has touched many lives both young and old and brought comfort to all he had in his caring hands.



His many friends in the Scottish Clans who marched with him and pitched their Clan tents next to his--some for over 25 years, have spoken so kindly of Bill, Elena and I have just begun to learn the love and respect that others had for Bill.

As President of Clan Blair during the early years, Bill was a driving force and recruited many state commissioners while setting up tents throughout the country and many of those he recruited are involved with the Clan Blair Society to this day.

On my last visits to Bill I would read a poem or prayer I had copied out of a Celtic prayer book. The poem by Ken Lydon is the essence of Bill and how he will always be remembered for his towering presence of body and spirit.

Rest well friend ~ Russell and Elena

FOLLOW THE EXAMPLE OF GOOD MEN OF OLD

"Where young and old with gladness dance with Me I'll give My house of hospitality. Don't store false

treasure. Follow their example, these good men of old; And buy My field – with moth-strewn gold. True men and women who responded: These were empty vessels, filled with treasure Hidden deep within them by My hand.

Freely you have received, So freely you must give your plans to Me, Right from the start; then you will truly live.

Good men of old learned not to say, ‘I’m sorry I believe.’ I look not for wary, reluctant Followers on the fringe. Instead I shall allow, in full community, My waymarks to proclaim My truth, My name; Empty vessels standing low awaiting The ebb or flow, from My deciding, guiding hand, Of waters hidden deep within the land.

‘Son, they have little wine at this feast.’ And at her request the jars are filled, Even the best. The water now offered is made choicest wine. And the Father surely smiles.

Oh, to respond, empty vessels, As good men of times past, And carry this vintage refreshment To those coming last!” - Ken Lydon

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MOAB CELTIC FESTIVAL REPORT

November 3-5, 2017

by Charles Patrick “Pat” Gilmore

These games were my second exposure to Scottish festivals. Friends of mine from Sacramento, CA have been active in Clan Colquhoun (“Ca-hoon”) for years and have been trying to get me involved and active with them, but although I became a member of Clan Morrison (Gilmore is a sept) about ten years ago, I was never interested in becoming involved in clan activities. The Salt Lake Games in June turned me around. My friends represented Clan Colquhoun at these games, and since they were staying with me for the weekend, I naturally went with them to the games and experienced the excitement of these clan get-togethers. Clan Morrison wasn’t represented in Salt Lake City or I would have gladly renewed my membership in my clan, but Clan Blair was! Since I am connected to Clan Blair through my fourth great grandmother,

Elizabeth Blair Gilmore, a direct descendant of Jean Francois, the original “Blar of Blar” in Dalry, Ayrshire, I was happy to join the Clan Blair Society and become an active member.

I was unable to attend the Payson Games in August but fully planned to attend the Moab Festival in November. Unfortunately, the Utah Clan Blair Commissioner, Whit Young, was unable to attend the Moab Games, so I volunteered to take his place as the representative of Clan Blair in Moab.

My Sacramento friends also attended the Moab Festival, not as official representatives but as my guests. It was they who gave me much-needed expertise in how to set up a tent and arrange the tables, as well as interact with visitors. It was also a great excuse to see them again, old friends from my US Air Force days 46 years ago!

All four of us; my wife Joye, they and I, squeezed into my fully-loaded Explorer on Thursday, November 2, and headed for Moab. We drove to and scouted the venue, the Old Spanish Arena, as soon as we got there, and then checked into our hotel. The organizers of Scots on the Rocks Moab, the name of the games, did a fantastic job of arranging discounted hotel rooms for us and we stayed at Quality Suites, a VERY nice hotel, for nearly a 50% savings. We were very pleased with our accommodations.

We set up our tent and tables early on Friday afternoon, November 3, and settled in for the day. At 5:00 p.m. we picked up our clan package, went to dinner and returned for the Tattoo at 7:00 p.m. The actual program wasn’t very well organized; there was much too much dead time between acts and the audience became restless. We and many others left early because we became tired of acts setting up tuning up on stage when they could have done that before back stage and sped things up in the process.

Things went well on Saturday, November 4, until the wind began to blow about 10:00 a.m. We had sustained winds of 25-30 mph which constantly changed direction, and it soon became apparent that we couldn’t display anything on our tables because we were spending all our time trying to prevent our

tents from blowing away! Many tents merely collapsed and were destroyed. Some clans purchased new tents to replace their ruined ones only to experience the new tents being destroyed as soon as they were erected! The coup de grace was a sudden gust of wind, estimated to be 70+ mph, that picked up a couple of tents around 3:00 p.m. and blew them onto the parade ground. One tent landed, broken, in front of our tent and nearly took our tent with it until other clan representatives could collapse it! After the horrors we experienced on Saturday, many clans vowed not to return on Sunday, since high winds were in the forecast that day, too. Many who had “wind-proof” tents, constructed after many windy experiences in the past, did not show up the next morning, either; Moab’s winds were just too much for them!

Sunday’s winds were not nearly as high as Saturday’s, but it was still windy. We could not display our clan tartans or other relics during the day and pulled them from boxes under the tables, where we kept them safe from the winds, only when people asked to see them. After the closing ceremonies at 2:00 p.m., everyone started to take down their tents and most were gone by the time we left, ourselves, at 3:00 p.m. We were facing a four-hour drive back to Salt Lake City and my friends had an early-morning flight to catch back to Sacramento the next morning.

The opening ceremonies at noon on Friday were anti-climactic in that the two bands present, the Utah Pipe Band and the Garden Valley Pipe Band, following the clans, who split to clear the center of the parade field for the bands and a couple from two different clans who were being married at the ceremonies, didn’t play long enough. The wedding ceremony took so long, the sound system was not working, and the crowd was so small, that many observers wandered off before the finale, when the bands formed and marched back down the field. More and longer piping would have been better.

Likewise, the closing ceremonies at 2:00 p.m. could have been better organized with more piping. The lack of piping (due to the lack of bands?) all weekend was a problem that could have been rectified by more participation, or perhaps by more

selections played by the bands present. It was way too quiet most of the time we were there.

The bright side of the games was Drum Major Craig Stevens, an internationally recognized and awarded drum major who spent a lot of time at our Clan Blair tent in Moab. My friends had met him at the Moab Games last year and I had met him in Salt Lake City in June. He remembered me and we spent a lot of time telling stories!

There were more clan participants this year than last, 46 or 47 as opposed to 35 last year (don’t quote me on numbers). The numbers are up, but so were the complaints. I hope future games won’t experience the weather problems we had this year.

Other than the wind fiascos we faced on Saturday and Sunday and the poorly-run Tattoo on Friday night, was the Moab Festival worth it? Yes, I believe it was a success! We met new friends and future contacts (who doesn’t make new friends when you’re fighting for survival in 70 mph winds?) and above all, I believe everyone, tent-less or not, enjoyed themselves. We met a lot of people and signed up a delightful family from Montrose, CO who were excited to become members and took an application form home with them. The vendors’ wares were top notch (just ask me how much jewelry my wife bought!), the food was great and the overall attitude was one of fun and laughter, even with tents blowing in the wind. I’m ready to go again, wind or no wind.



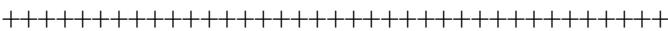


Craig Stevens, Rick Robinson, Bobby Mars, Joye & Pat Gilmore. I had many people tell me I had the best looking “uniform” while wearing my USAF shirt! [Whit Young]



Because Clan Blair was awarded best clan tent last year with Dr. Bill Blair receiving the award, we were first in line for the clan march. The Gathering of the Clans route was different than in the past and with the hot weather all were fine with marching through the parade grounds, past the Grandstands (and Honorary Guest Graham McTavish), and ending up back at our tents. Mr. McTavish even joined us for the Kirkin’ o’ the Tartan Sunday morning where Elena’s father was remembered. We will remember that we survived and learned new ways to cool our tent, and mingle with other clans.

Our first year of hosting Clan Blair tents came to an end with our participation at the 3rd Annual Big Trees Scottish Gathering & Highland Games on October 7, 2017. This one-day celebration of everything Celtic was held at Roaring Camp Railroad in Felton, CA. Russ picked a lovely spot where we could see the athletics, as well as greet our visitors. Most had no idea about their heritage, but they enjoyed learning about Scottish history.



NORTHERN CALIFORNIA COMMISSIONERS REPORT

Elena & Russell McCrary

Our biggest event of the year happened on Labor Day weekend September 2-3, 2017 at the Scottish Highland Games & Gathering held at the Alameda County Fair Grounds in Pleasanton, CA. Usually, this festival is one of the largest in the country hosting more than 100 clans with a two-day attendance of more than forty thousand festival goers in a normal year. Well, this year’s gathering turned out quite different, with attendance quite low. With the extremely hot weather both days, (114 on Saturday and 100 on Sunday) let us say it was a challenge for all to stay hydrated. The hearty souls who did come out to enjoy the festivities were greeted with ice cold water and shade inside the Clan Blair tents. We had some wonderful conversations with Clan Blair members and first-time visitors who we encouraged to join the society. We hope some will. We have follow-ups to do.





Northern California Tent at the Pleasanton Games

Elena and I wish everyone a Happy Holiday Season and a safe and prosperous New Year

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FOLLOW UP WITH OUR DANCE CHAMPION AND AWARD WINNER, ERIN BLAIR OF CALIFORNIA



While the last newsletter was being prepared, Erin Blair and her family were in Scotland, dancing at the World competition. This editor was not able to interview Erin at that time. However, Erin's mother followed up with an email to the Editor, sharing

grand news about Erin's new accomplishments, as follows:

“As you are already aware, Erin claimed her fourth consecutive World Championship title in Scotland at the end of August. She won five additional championships in Scotland in the weeks leading up to Worlds. On the days in between competitions, we try to do as much sight-seeing as we can. This year we visited Melrose Abbey, Thirlestane Castle, Hopetoun House, Dunfermline Abbey and Palace, Castle Campbell, and Saint Andrews.

Erin is lucky in that she doesn't get nervous when she performs, but she does admit that she gets nervous backstage while waiting for the results. As soon as the winner of the final dance was announced, all of the dancers knew that Erin was again World Champion. She said she felt incredibly happy and relieved at that moment...and maybe a little weak in the knees! Defending your title is more difficult than winning for the first time! The dancers in Erin's age group are very supportive of one another, and she has been fortunate to form many friendships that will last beyond her competitive career.

The following weekend she competed at the 152nd San Francisco Caledonian Club Highland Games in Pleasanton, California. She won all of her events there. Aside from success on the dance platform, she was also awarded the Chieftan's trophy, and is the only person ever to be so honored a second time! As he announced her selection, Chief McKinven said that “Erin embodies the spirit of these games.”

She also had the pleasure of meeting Elena McCrary [No California Co-Commissioner and Clan Blair Librarian] who presented Erin with a certificate signed by Dr Blair.

Erin is thrilled to be the first to be selected for the William Campbell Blair Scholarship. The funds will go toward her

continued training in Highland Dance, particularly as she prepares to take her Highland Dance teaching certification exam at the end of this month.”

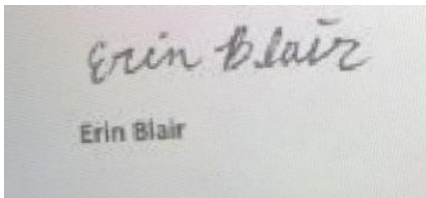
[What amazing accomplishments, I am sure we all agree! Erin’s thank you to us follows. - Editor –]

Erin Blair Writes:

September 12, 2017

Dear Mr. Blair and the Clan Blair Society,

“I am truly honored to have been selected as the recipient of the Inaugural William Campbell Blair Youth Scholarship. Highland Dance is such an important part of my life, and the pursuit of excellence in this discipline has been a labor of love. Because of dance, I have been fortunate to travel all over the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom over the past 8 years. I look forward to continuing my competitive success for as long as possible, as well as beginning my teaching career so that I can contribute back to the community that has had such a positive influence in my life. Thank you again for the scholarship.”



CLAN BLAIR STORE

Helen Blair

I am resigning as the CBS Store chair beginning in May 2017. I am working with the Board to transition the Store to a new person. While I made the final move out of my Mesa Arizona home, all the Store merchandise was put into storage along with all my household contents.

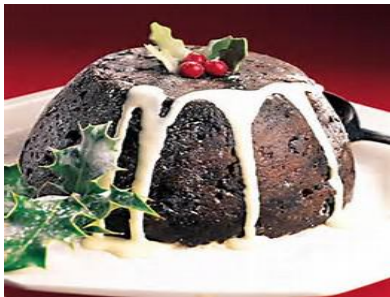
At the moment I am living in a small room at my son’s trailer. Due to how tightly packed everything is and no place yet to sort or relocate items, the Store is basically non-functional at this time. By the first of the year I hope to be moved into a 5th wheel and be on the road by mid-March. While the Board searches for a successor to run the store, please contact me with questions and orders at azclanblair@gmail.com.

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SCOTTISH CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS:

Christmas was not traditionally celebrated in Scotland because it was banned for nearly 400 years until the 1950's. **Hogmanay** was the real traditional celebration, which celebrates the new year.

January 1st and 2nd are both holidays. In the weeks leading up to Hogmanay, Scottish people traditionally cleaned their homes thoroughly, paid of their debts, and planned their Hogmanay celebration.

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One of the main features of Hogmanay is the famous and traditional Scottish Food. Some examples of celebratory foods for Hogmanay:



*casseroled venison and rabbit,
with shallots in a rich red wine sauce
topped with puff pastry*

*Pescetarian en Croute
fillet of salmon*

*topped with a Hollandaise Sauce
tucked up in a shortcrust pastry*

Vegetarian Crusty

*Spinach & Ricotta in an herb pastry tart
accompanied by homemade salsa*

Hogmanay Dinner

Starter

Melon and Prawn Salad

Spicy Root Vegetable Soup

Goats cheese roast pepper and tomato tart

Hogmanay Pie

*Prepare to ceilidh with the homemade pie of your
choice*

*served with a selection of freshly steamed
vegetables*

Gamekeeper's Supper

Dessert

Traditional Homemade Cloutie Dumplin' & Custard

Caramelised Pears & Ice Cream

Crannachan Meringue



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11-2017

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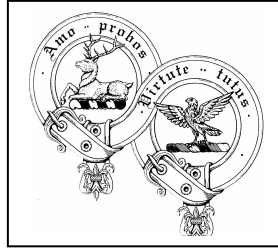
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