



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

Fourth Quarter: 11-12, 2021



Shawn Blair, Clan Blair Society President

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings to all our members! It's hard to believe we're wrapping up another year. The past two years have presented challenges that pretty much all of us have never experienced before. So, I hope this newsletter finds you and your family healthy and doing well.

Adoree has put together another issue with more pages of news, stories, and history. Having put together the newsletter a few times in the way past, I can say it's a difficult job if you're doing it alone. I know she gets a few stories from folks each issue, but she can always use more from the membership. So, if you have family news, genealogy news or questions, or a story to tell please write it up and send it to Adoree. It's always better to have to leave a couple things out or push them to another issue than to work harder to come up with enough for an issue. After all, it is -our- newsletter, right?

For those that missed it, we had the 2021 Annual General Meeting only a few days ago. We had a

couple presentations for you and an update on the state of the society. Adoree shared her experience with her own genealogy research and talked about getting started with genealogy. I've enjoyed studying DNA for a while now, so I shared my views on the differences and how to use both DNA research and traditional genealogy research together. Hopefully, if you're just getting started with genealogy or have started to work with DNA research in your genealogy, you'll find one or both of these presentations interesting. The recording will be uploaded to the Members' Only site.

As the year wraps up and we begin a new one, we're not out of Scottish celebrations and activities. Don't consider the year done yet. November 30th is St. Andrew's Day (patron saint of Scotland), and there will be Scottish celebrations around Christmas, New Year's Eve (Hogmanay), and Robert Burn's birthday on January 25 (Burns' Night). If you haven't yet, consider making plans to celebrate with other Scots over the next few months.

2021 Annual Report

Here's a summary of the annual state of the clan from our annual meeting. The full reports will be available in the Members' Only site in December.

Membership

182 Annual Members

66 Lifetime members (14 new)

7 Honorary Members

255 Total Active Members

Treasury

Society financially In Good Health

Reported on various account balances

High Commissioner

Some games and events revived in 2021

Many state events are still limited due to covid restrictions

Vallie and Scott attended 2 festivals in the Southeast and the Colorado

Store

About \$896 in sales YTD 2021, mostly clan tartan cloth

Inventory remains satisfactory, 320 copies of Blairlin III.

Blairlin III still available to members for cost of shipping

William Campbell Blair Youth Award

No report for 2021, no applications submitted.

Applications for the award will be open again in 2022.

Library

CBS materials in Moultrie, GA have been relocated to their permanent site and the processes for member use are in place.

New digital book in CBS Members' site soon: Blair Blacksmiths in Angus, by Jack Blair of Scotland

Webmaster:

Facebook Group is active and serving 600 group members.

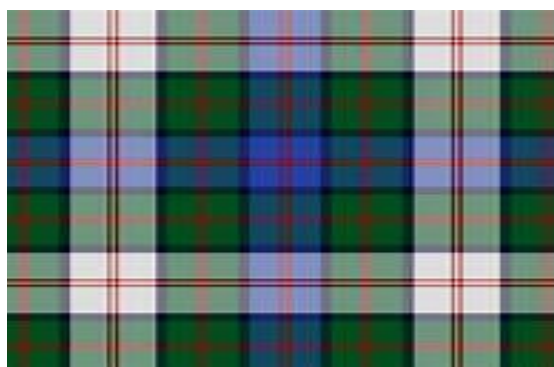
Clan Blair is gaining new membership from the group.

The Blair DNA Project:

The project was designed to help assist members in completing the Blair DNA 67 marker project.

No requests or inquiries have come during 2021 about this project.

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Blair Plaid, Dress

Vice President's Message

Clan Store – Christmas Clothing Sale – 50% off!



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 Christmas.

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. Multiple items can be ordered at once and we'll do our best to accommodate in single shipment boxes/envelopes. If shipping costs exceed payment, we will contact members directly to discuss.

Questions can be forwarded to vicepresident@clanblair.org.

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COLORADO REPORT



In September, the Colorado Blair contingent traveled to beautiful Estes Park for the Estes Park Festival, the Longs Peak Scottish Festival. The music, games, exhibits and food were there a'plenty and a great time was had by all. Not pictured: Leslie Blair Gallagher, who was manning the Blair tent during the parade. Pictured: left to right: front row: Atia Blair, Miren Blair, Cordylia Blair Shryack, Lochlann Shryack, Arabella Blair and her dad Torin Blair (kneeling and) holding the flag. 2nd row: Tiernan Blair Galligan and Dyani Blair Galligan, Erynn Blair Shryack and Quinlinn Blair. 3rd row: Nick Shryack, Kim Blair, Adoree Blair, Jim Blair and Elisa Blair with newborn Conor Blair in her baby frontpack!

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NEWS FROM:

[The American-Scottish Foundation®](#)

[The American-Scottish Foundation®](#) shares with you today news of an upcoming book, set to be published in January, 2022 on Scotland's leading family, The Hamilton's, shining the spotlight back to the 9th century, through to today.

With a foreword written by His Grace, the Duke of Hamilton, Robert Gary Dodd lays out all of Hamilton's earliest evidenced ancestors born in the 9th century, a Viking Earl and his descendent at the English Battle of Hastings in the 11th century, the Duke of Normandy's cousin, and the font of all British-born Hamilton's.

Author and historian, Dodd has conducted extensive research, and been given unfettered access to the family archives - carrying out extensive interviews with the Hamilton family members.

This book is the comprehensive history of the Hamilton family and the political, social, military, and business forces that acted upon them over 1142 years.

His Grace The Duke of Hamilton, is Patron of the American-Scottish Foundation, and great nephew of our founder, Lord Malcolm Douglas Hamilton.

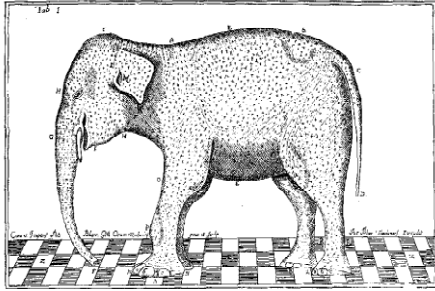
ASF will in the weeks ahead be sharing news and updates around the publication.

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ANOTHER IMPORTANT BOOK:

PATRICK BLAIR
SURGEON APOTHECARY, DUNDEE,
SCOTLAND

A MEMOIR
BY ALEX. P. STEVENSON 1907



with Editorial Notes by

Jack Blair 2007

(The last newsletter had an article about Dr. Blair, the first to dissect an elephant. I was so pleased to receive more information about this book about the doctor from our own Jack Blair, who is quite the expert on ‘things Blair.’ The following are his notes about the book and more information about the author of this book. Enjoy!)

This booklet comprises two papers on an eminent scientist of the late 17th and early 18th century. Patrick Blair practiced as a surgeon apothecary at a time when herbal remedies were the apothecary’s medicines and thus he demonstrated an expert knowledge of the plants growing in and around Strathmore. He contributed significantly to the recording and identification of these in this area. He created a botanical garden in Dundee, it being the third such in Britain.

His dissection of an elephant that died between Broughty Ferry and Dundee won him acclaim in scientific circles of his time. In the course of events, this was to save his life after being condemned as a Jacobite rebel of the 1715 Rising.

The first part is a reproduction of a paper presented in 1907 by A.P. Stevenson.

The second part comprises Editorial notes [as noted, by Jack Blair] to correctly identify the subject in the form of a family historian’s brief perspective of Patrick Blair written on the centenary of the first.

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A LETTER FROM

JACK BLAIR, SCOTLAND*

[*Photos of Perth added by Editor]

“Having been born and reared in Broughty Ferry, I have been familiar with the story of Dr. Patrick Blair and the elephant which died in the ditch at the roadside between Broughty and Dundee. I can confirm that there is no dubiety about his birthplace and origins as he was also the first botanist to categorise the flowers of Angus and Perthshire. Patrick Blair says in one of his botanical books “I have known the *Vicia dumetorum multiflora fiore albo* continue in the same spot, at Glesclune, in Perthshire, my brother's estate, a good many years. I found the *Artemisia fiore albo* at Lethindy, my Father's Estate, near to the former, had it cultivated in a Garden, and it never altered.”

Patrick Blair, born about 1672, was a younger son of Mr. George Blair of Lethendy. The genealogy of that family is recorded in Part 1 of “The Blairs of Balthayock And Their Cadets 1150-1850” (Published by Clan Blair Society 2001). He married Elspeth Whyte in April 1702. They had sons John and Harry and daughters Elizabeth and Isobel. When their son John

was baptised in Dundee on 4 June 1703, Patrick was described as a surgeon apothecary. The godfathers of this son were John Blair of Glasclune, Mr. John Blair minister of Kilspindie with his son Mr. John Blair doctor of medicine in Dundee and John Patullo of Kinnochtrie. These clearly confirm the origins of Dr Patrick Blair. John Blair of Glasclune was Dr. Patrick's elder surviving brother, and thus the most senior of that branch of the Blair family. Mr. John the minister was his first cousin, they both being grandsons of John Blair first laird of Pittendreich. The relationship of Mr. John the doctor is thus obvious but their common interest of practising medicine in Dundee clearly enhanced the bond. Indeed Dr Patrick had been witness to the baptism of Mr John's son, John in 1700. The fourth godfather was brother-in-law of Dr. Patrick, John Patullo, being the husband of Jean Blair. {See under Blair of Pittendreich}



In 1907, Alex Stevenson delivered a Memoir on Patrick Blair which I incorporated in a booklet with my Editorial Notes in 2007. I sent a copy to the Clan Blair Society's library. Cover piece attached.

I can also forward a copy of the booklet if the Library does not hold it.

In my research I gathered the following mainly from his letters held in the ^{University of} Dundee Archive; ref: MS67/1/11 ;

Patrick was born about or after 1672. He was clearly a brilliant student and as a very young man went to study abroad perhaps in 1689. He mentions a surgical case with which he was involved in Flanders in 1695-1697. By 1700 he was in Dundee as mentioned above. Several of his letters from Dundee show that he lived there up to 1710 and that he kept in touch with friends and family abroad. In a letter of 9 April 1708 he mentions that the bearer, James Lyon is going to a "cousin of mine in Jamaica." This cousin would be Alexander Blair (b.1676), son of Mr. John Blair minister of Kilspindie, who was a surgeon apothecary in Port Royal in Jamaica. On 23 February 1710 he wrote to his nephew "M Christy" who was abroad studying Pharmacy and Surgery. By 18 June 1711, he was in Coupar Angus when he described the case of a 13-year-old boy who had suffered severe pain, sickness and loss of mobility for 16 months and the several cures tried without success. On 28 April 1712, he recorded the success of cold bathing on this patient. The "use of cold water impetuously let down from the fall of a Mill upon his vertebrae " after three or four sessions "the weakness of his back & disability of his limbs is quite recovered."



It was probably in his youth and later while at Dundee and Coupar Angus, that Patrick did much of his fieldwork on the botany of Angus and Perthshire. He describes that he found "*vicia ...flore albo* at Glesclune, in Perthshire, my brother's estate" and "*Artemesia flore albo* at Lethindy, my Father's Estate."



Artesmesia fiore albo in bloom

Patrick seems to have travelled to London about 1713 and on his return, in Edinburgh on 1 February 1714, mentions that he had "been pushing for a Natural History Society in Scotland."

From Coupar Angus on 6 July 1713 he wrote about the spread of venereal disease that had afflicted the Highlands of Scotland following the (Government) soldiers being dispersed throughout the Highlands after the Battle of Killiecrankie (1689). It was another such Jacobite rising that was to

disturb his life in Coupar Angus. Of the 1715 Rising, he wrote, "it was my lot to live near to the place where it first broke out and where the nobility and gentry rising all at once, they would allow none to stay behind without their raising quartering upon and loading them with heavy severe taxes." They "obliged me to serve as Physician Surgeon in those regiments under the command of Lord Nairn." After his capture at Preston, he was imprisoned at Newgate, London. Several letters show he was there throughout 1716. On 5 July 1716 he was sentenced to death for Rebellion and wrote "There is at least a Human period put to my life which is to terminate on Friday next as warrant intimated to me this day unless the Providence of Almighty God and the good endeavours of such worthy friends as may prevent it." Reprieve came but he was still suffering in prison "fevered cold lying three abed" on 3 December 1716. He remained in London writing various scientific papers and was there in 1719 when an Appeal was heard in June. Thereafter he settled in Boston and continued to produce learned papers. He returned to London to add information to former papers and had been there for some time, having "quitted Boston" when his new volumes were advertised at one guinea in December 1727. While there in January 1728, Patrick appears to have suffered from a series of strokes and died later that month.

Yours sincerely,

Jack Blair, Perthshire, Scotland

LOUISIANA REPORT

L. Buddy Blair

Our Louisiana Commissioner has been very busy! He reports the following activity:



- Attended the Tartan Festival of N. Louisiana in Minden La.
- Attended the NW La Celtic Day in W. Monroe La.
- Attended the Mississippi Celtic games in Jackson Ms.

His future Plans:

- Attend the St. Andrews Ball and fundraiser. Hosted by the Scottish Society of Central Louisiana , "The Krewe of Sgian Dubh " in Alexandria Louisiana.
- Attend the Louisiana Highlands Burns Ball and Supper in Shreveport Louisiana.



- Participate/March in the Alexandria La Mardi Gras Parade.

Fraternally,
L. Buddy Blair PM

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Blair Modern Tartan

FLOWERS OF THE FOREST



22 Dec., 1911 – 2 Sept. 2020

Jenny Blair Oliphant



Lord Laurence and Jenny Blair Oliphant

Tributes have been paid to Jenny Blair Oliphant, who died last week [in 2020] after a long illness aged 72.

Originally from New Zealand, Jenny lived at Ardblair Castle on the outskirts of Blairgowrie for many years with her husband, Laurence Blair Oliphant of Ardblair and Gask, and their family.

She was born on November 16, 1947, in Stratford on the North Island, a second daughter for parents Leonard and Eileen Anscombe.

Len had been a pilot during the war and returned to his job as a stock agent, providing advice to and supporting farmers, once the fighting had ended.

The family lived in Kaponga, a small town in the southern part of the Taranaki region of New Zealand, an agricultural area, and Jenny and her elder sister Susan went to

primary school there before attending secondary school in Hamilton.

From a young age, Jenny was always active and adventurous, climbing trees and swimming in the local rivers.

She was also extremely gifted musically and she played in and won many competitions, particularly on the piano.

A natural teacher, Jenny went to college in Palmerston North to pursue her dream to qualify in that profession.

Her first job upon graduating was as a teacher at a secondary school in Waitara, where she was so young that some of the older pupils at the school were of a similar age to her.

Jenny and Susan both visited England in the late 1960s, staying initially with family friends in Somerset. Thereafter she moved to London where she taught at Hill House International Junior School in Knightsbridge, once famously attended by Prince Charles.

It was during her time in London that Jenny met her future husband, Laurence, who was working in the city at the time.

They met through mutual friends and married on August 11, 1973, in St Catharine's Church on George Street in Blairgowrie.

The couple recently celebrated their 47th wedding anniversary.

After a visit to New Zealand, the young couple settled in Ardblair.

Following the birth of their children, Charlie, Amelia and Philippa, Jenny focused her efforts on raising the three young children and helping Laurence with various aspects of running the farm and the castle. She also set up a nursery school at the castle.



As the children grew older, Jenny returned to teaching, taking up a post at Craigclowan School on the outskirts of Perth where she worked until her retirement.

She was fond of dogs and had several, including bullmastiffs which she bred.

Jenny was also a firm supporter of the Blairgowrie and Rattray Highland Games, taking part in the opening parade with her husband – who has been chieftain of the Games for some 20 years or so.



Ardblair Castle, where the Blair Oliphants live

She was diagnosed with the rare degenerative condition Progressive Supranuclear Palsy six years ago and died in the early hours of September 2.

She leaves her husband, Laurence, three children, Charlie, Amelia and Philippa, six grandchildren, Matilda, Laurence, Wyomia, Heidi, Diana and Nairne, and her sister Susan.

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Ancient Blair Tartan



Sherry "Sher" Zimmer

October 17, 1945 ~ October 19, 2021 (age 76)



Sherry “Sher” Zimmer, died at St. Joseph’s Hospital in Denver Colorado on October 19, 2021, two days after her 76th birthday and after a fierce struggle with complications from pneumonia, and weakened heart and lungs.

On October 17, 1946, Sher was born Cheryl Mary Raymond, at home in a small fishing village in Gloucester Massachusetts. In 1949, she was adopted by a loving couple – Jack and Florence Klemmer – and spent her early years in Marblehead MA, only a few miles from her birthplace.

Sher’s childhood developed in her a strong work ethic and ambition to succeed. In 1968, she graduated from the University of Massachusetts with a degree in Psychology. She built and operated two clothing stores in New Hampshire. The stores, named Mr. Slacks, reflected the east coast’s conservative 60’s culture; However, Sher was not satisfied - she transformed them into stores that sold progressive, hip and stylish clothing to a younger demographic – and renamed them to Players. The stores’ popularity earned Sher and her husband Barry the money to diversify; In the 70’s they purchased cattle and real estate; In

1979 they built a restaurant-bar-discotheque on the Pearl Street Mall in Boulder and named it “Le Parachute & The Monkey Bar”

In the 1980’s Sher escaped the chaos of restaurant ownership and opened two art/jewelry/clothing stores called Taos Designs with her close friend Audrey in Taos, New Mexico. Later, Sher moved to Denver and opened a clothing store called Country Traveler.

In the mid 1990’s, Sher became a real estate agent, and it was a passion she held until her retirement in 2018. She loved working with people to help them find and purchase homes in the Denver area. In 2006 she was inducted into the RE/MAX Hall of Fame.

Sher’s love for work was only surpassed by her love of family. She loved her adopted brothers Bruce and Rich. In 2011, her family grew when she discovered her biological siblings in Gloucester. Her two new brothers and sister welcomed Sher with open arms and it brought Sher a joy that she had not felt before.

Sher was the consummate adventurer. She loved sports, even from a young age; she loved the beach, to swim and to eat fried clams; she skydived twice; she traveled to Europe and Asia. She held a love for dogs, with special affection for Border Collies, which she raised for decades.

She lived a full life and is survived by her son Jason, her grandchildren Bridget, Jacob, and Isaac; her brothers Bruce, Rich, Paul, Joey, David; her sister Mary Ann. She joins her beloved daughter Shaina who passed in 2018.

Services were held at 10am MST on November 20, 2021, at the chapel at Horan & McConaty, 1091 S Colorado Blvd, Denver, CO 80246.

Sher cherished the gift of her transplanted kidney. She asked that memorial contributions be given to the National Kidney Foundation (<http://kidney.org>) in her memory.

[Editor's notes: Sher often came to our home for the Burns Suppers, and she attended Scots Festivals. We recall a time in 2011 when she was visiting the Blair tent and looking at the Blairlin III book. All of a sudden, she gave a triumphant squeal! She had found her ancestry in that book! From there, she connected to biological relatives. What fun to be part of her adventure. She will be missed.]

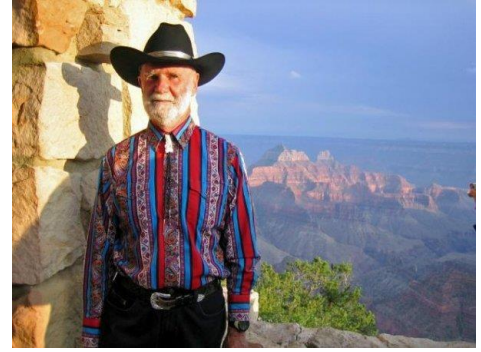
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Dr. Allan Blair, Jr.

June-26-1931 -

November 21, 2021



In May's newsletter, we introduced readers to Dr. Allan Blair. He and his daughter Leslie Blair Gallagher, are Blairs known to many of us, and cared about very much. Leslie lost her father on November 21.

Leslie wrote a lovely short tribute on Facebook: *"I lost my Da today. He died peacefully at home this morning surrounded by his loved ones."*

He was 90 years old and ready.

Thank you in advance for your thoughts.

Peace be unto you all."



Allan Blair in The Blair House in Scotland
Allan Blair was born in St. Louis, Missouri . to Edgar Allan Blair Sr. and Virginia Helen Smith. He was predeceased by his parents as well as his daughter, Diana Blair Allen.

He is survived by his daughter, Leslie Blair Gallagher, and grandchildren, Merlin, Etienne and Leilani Allen and Erin Gallagher Grandison (Guy). He is also survived by great-grandchildren, Sage and Shorey Allen, and Skye and Aspen Grandison.

download and can then be saved on your phone or refer to the full list below.

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LIBRARY NEWS

Elena McCrary

The *CBS materials* located in the updated Ellen Payne Odom Genealogy Branch Library within the Moultrie-Colquitt County Library Main Branch is located at 204 5th St., SE, Moultrie, GA. The space and collections have been relocated to their permanent site. Irene Godwin encourages researchers to return. However, with limited space, you need to be sure to contact Irene and make an appointment.

There is also *The Ellen Payne Odom Genealogy Library Collection* (which is different from the Blair collection), but these reference materials may **only** be used in that space.

Hours of Operation

8:30 AM – 5:30 PM ♦ Monday – Saturday

Closed Sunday

Phone 229 985-6540 (request the genealogy library)

Librarians:

Irene Godwin Email igodwin@mccls.org

The full list below can be scanned with your smartphone using the QR Code. It will



THE ELLEN PAYNE ODOM GENEALOGY LIBRARY COLLECTION

The Emmett Lucas Collection

encompasses the eastern seaboard of the United States and the migration routes west. Information is available on: ME, NH, MA, RI, CT, NY, PA, NJ, DE, MD, WV, VA, NC, SC, GA, FL, AL, MS, LA, TX, OK, AR, TN, KY, OH, MO, NM, NE, KS, UT, and CA. There is a special emphasis on the Southeastern States.

The Odom Library contains over 3,000 Family Histories, as well as Minutes from various churches and associations.

AMERICAN WARS

- Index to War of 1812, Pension File
- Index to Mexican War, Pension File
- Genealogical Abstracts of Revolutionary War Pension Files
- Pension rolls of 1835

- Battles and Leaders of the Civil War
- “Confederate Veterans” magazine, plus 2 indices
- “War of the Rebellion” official records of North and South
- Index to the Georgia Confederate Veterans Pension File

NATIVE AMERICANS

- “Cherokee by Blood”
- “History of the Cherokee Indians”
- “Dictionary of Indian Tribes of North America”
- Application for Enrollment of Choctaw Newborn Act of 1905
- Application for Enrollment of Creek Newborn Act of 1905
- Starr Roll 1894
- The Complete Seminole

PUBLIC ORGANIZATIONS

- United Daughters of the Confederacy magazines, history, lineage books, Georgia Division UDC, “Roster of Confederate Graves,” 8 vols.; “Membership Roster,” 13 vols.; and “Crosses and Medals,” 4 vols.
- Daughters of the American Revolution lineage books (partial) and magazines
- Colonial Dames NSCD Register of Ancestors
- Jamestown Society Roster, Society Sons and Daughters of the Pilgrims (partial)

JEWISH GENEALOGY

- “The First American Jewish Families” by Rabbi Malcolm Stern
- “Americans of Jewish Descent” by Rabbi Malcolm Stern

NEWSLETTER COLLECTION

- Newsletters and publications from genealogical and historical societies, surname societies from all over the United States.
- Newsletters and publications from Scottish Clans and organizations in the United States and Scotland

Our Collection also includes many court records, county histories, land lottery records, estate and will records, tax records, marriage records, and information on Barbados and Bermuda. We are the repository for the collection of family histories and personal papers. The “Family File” contains thousands of personal genealogies and information brought to the Odom Library by researchers (yours are welcome too!)

The Ellen Payne Odom Genealogy Library Collection (May 23, 2017)

THE GEORGIA COLLECTION

- Colonial Records of Georgia by Chandler
- Revolutionary Records of Georgia by Chandler
- Index to Georgia Land Lotteries

- Men of Mark in Georgia by A. B. Caldwell
- Roster of the Confederate Soldiers of Georgia by Lillian Henderson

VETERANS HISTORY PROJECT

- This project is to honor all our military personnel, past and present, in war and peace time.
- Photo and Military Records (discharges, diaries, citations, awards, etc.) will be greatly appreciated as well as information about family (parents, spouse, children, grandparents, etc.)
- All information and pictures will become part of the permanent records housed in the Odom Library. This is an ongoing, volunteer project and is an important part of our heritage. ☐ Donations and/or memorial gifts are appreciated.

THE SCOTTISH COLLECTIONS

- Contains papers books, genealogies and information from the 120 Scottish Clans and family organizations that currently call the Odom Library “home.” There are many rare books such as the “Scottish Peerage” in an original edition, Gaelic Bibles, “The Highland Papers” and much more
- The Indices to the Old Parish Records in Scotland (we have about half of these records)
- Doomsday Books, 37 vols. with indices

- Burkes Peerage and Baronage
- Burkes Landed Gentry
- The Scottish Nation, 3 vols.
- Directory of Scottish Settlers, 6 vols.
- Kilchurn Heritage
- Abstracts of Lord McDonald Papers (the only set in an American Library)

Microfilm--records include the *Moultrie Observer* daily newspaper 1905-1998. *Weekly Moultrie Observer 1894-1988.*

Frank Leslie's “Illustrated Newspaper” 1855 -1900. “Augusta Chronicle” 1786-1813 with index; Butler Georgia Herald,

Omega Georgia News, Adel News.

Recently added are early editions of newspapers for Banks, Berrien, Brooks, Calhoun, Clay, Cook, Dooly, Dougherty, Early, Irwin, Jefferson, Miller, Mitchell, Pulaski, Randolph, Richmond, Taylor, Thomas, Tift, and Worth counties in Georgia. The following census records are available: Alabama 1850-1860; North Carolina 1800-1840; South Carolina 1800-1860; Florida partial 1850-1860-1870; Virginia 1810-1830; Georgia 1820-1910 complete with the Census Index for 1820-1870 and partial 1920.

Maps at the Odom Library--Georgia maps 1773-1970; Colquitt County maps; North and South Carolina maps; County

Maps of Georgia; Indian Trails; Migration Route Maps; War of the Rebellion Maps (to accompany the War of the

Rebellion book set); Civil War Maps and Scottish maps. We also have Miscellaneous Family Charts

Equipment at the Odom Library--The library has available a copier, microfilm readers, a microfilm reader/copier, microfiche readers, and computers for researchers. Wireless Internet access is available.

Our collection grows and changes each day. Please call or write for more information. Due to the genealogical interest in our Library materials and shortage of staff, we no longer are able to handle the tremendous number of requests for family research information. Specific request regarding items in our collection and/or copies of specific pages will be honored.

The Ellen Payne Odom Genealogy Library Collection (May 23, 2017)

I also want to share that I was contacted by the Allen County Public Library Genealogy Center in Ft. Wayne, Indiana. A member or family was kind enough to donate their copies of the Clan Blair Newsletters which was really appreciated. They have decided to join as members. So, thank you to the family who donated these and opened another door.

With regards to donating any genealogical materials it is a very personal decision. Some libraries need materials to build their collections, others are specific about what they wish to add. Begin the conversation by

deciding how it might serve the larger community. Do you have books you would like to donate to members? Or, would you like them to be available to the Blair community?

It is with great pleasure that Jack Blair, residing in Perthshire, Scotland. has given the society the opportunity to have both a digital copy, as well as a printed copy of *Blair Blacksmiths of Angus* which is a fascinating read. So, thanks Jack for providing another tool for our community to use.

For those who have not checked in on the Clan Blair website lately, you will see that there are electronic books to use.

If you have any questions regarding research, I do check the Facebook page, and am regularly in touch with Irene in Moultrie. If you need some research from the books at Moultrie, contact Irene as she may find information in the other collections to help. Please be sure to mention you are a Clan Blair Member. Need additional support? Drop me a line at cbslibrary@clanblair.org

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CA Commissioner Report – Russ and Elena McCrary

While we have not been able to attend events this past year, one area we expanded our learning is in nature and birding. It all began in the spring with a small pine tree sapling and a yellow bird. I was unsure of what it was, so I joined Nor Cal Birding a group on Facebook, and someone identified it as a Lesser Goldfinch. However, it was the raptors that had us looking to the sky each day and venturing near and far to find them.



Red-shouldered Hawk – Shadow Cliffs Regional Park ©Russ & Elena McCrary

Being confined we sought out nature because there is a lot of it, and The East Bay Regional Parks District (EBRPD) where we have spotted and photographed many species in an expansive park system. “On October 24, 2021, the Park District was awarded the **Global Citizen Award** by the **United Nations Association USA, East Bay and Silicon Valley Chapters** at the virtual 76th UN Day celebration.”

Which made me wonder about Scotland and how the county was faring. What I saw in books was the majestic beauty of the highlands. Yet what I have read recently is how Scotland is not thriving. So, how did Scotland go from being voted “The Most Beautiful Country” to having like-minded people coming together to save flora and fauna?

- “Birds of prey like hen harriers are persecuted” © scotlandbigpicture.com



Harrier

Hen

IMAGE © LAURIE CAMPBELL

© 2021 Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust
Charity registered in England and Wales, 1112023,
in Scotland SC038868

Learn more about the organizations such as **The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)** is a registered charity: England and Wales no. 207076, Scotland no. SC037654



White-tailed Kite

Image ©Russ and Elena McCrary

Taken November 11, 2021, in Galt, CA Cosumnes River Preserve

This medium-sized raptor is part of the Hen Harrier family in Scotland.

Since we have seen our share of raptors while birding this year, we began to think what else we enjoyed at the Scottish Games—besides hosting a clan tent.

Which brings us to the art of Falconry.

Its rich history takes you all over the world. One place you can enjoy the timeline of this sport is best explored through this website

<https://www.falconry.org/>. I contacted the organization, asking permission to utilize ,which they authorized. Their organization is based out of Boise, Idaho and the exhibits can be enjoyed virtually.

However, for this article I wanted to explore Scottish Falconry. I first searched some book titles from the local library. Yours may have titles too. But, because I was focusing on the Scottish aspect, I contact Irene at the Ellen Payne Genealogy library. She provided me with a chapter on Scottish sports including Falconry by Sir H. Maxwell from *Scottish History & Life* by James Paton, published in 1902.

“Falconry is considered one of the oldest sports in Scotland.”

<https://countrysportscotland.com/other-field-sports/falconry/>

“References to the royal hawks appear among the very earliest entries of the Scottish Exchequer Rolls as has been preserved.” The rolls are an accounting of a royal household and thus the royal finances. There are records of the Scottish Exchequer dating from 1326 to 1708. The accounts were the responsibility of the [Comptroller of Scotland](#).

“Hunting itself was a highly important social function of kingship.” *Mary Queen of Scots* by Jenny Wormald. In other words, the sport of kings and queens.

In the year 1328, Robert the Bruce’s manor home at Cardross included a falcon aviary with a hunting park. “Robert the Bruce, having secured the full independence of his country, should settle at Cardross as a country gentleman and among other improvements make provision for the repair and roofing of the falcon-house there, and the making of a hedge round the said house.” (*Scottish History and Life* page 224).

Another book with extensive information is an Arizona State University Publication *Raptor and Rapture: King James IV of Scotland with a Peregrine Falcon*” by A. Greer (2016).



His famous picture holding a falcon is part of The National Gallery of Scotland.

It is interesting to note that while Mary was Queen, (1566) she was criticized for her lack of attention to state matters choosing to go hunting. While imprisoned her time outside was restricted, so Mary Queen of Scots, like many women of the time created embroidery that symbolized her love of the sport and helped pass the time. “Even the correspondence of the time referenced falconry and the means of obtaining the excellent falcons of Scotland.” Example: “I can sende ye nether marlyon (Merlin) nor tassel (male Peregrine) of a goshawk yet that can kyll a partridge...” (Ibid, p. 224).

Panel from the Oxburgh Hangings, Mary Queen of Scots and Elizabeth Talbot, Countess of Shrewsbury, 1570 – 85, England. Museum no. T.33AA-1955. © Victoria and Albert Museum, London <https://www.vam.ac.uk/articles/prison-embroideries-mary-queen-of-scots>

I believe the picture of James VI, below says it all. I purchased this copy to use in our newsletter.



Let us not forget Charles II the King of Scotland (1649-1651), and his love of the sport. “Just before his father’s death, Charles Beauclerk was granted the offices of Master of the King’s Hawks and Grand Falconer of England which also bought him an additional income of £1,500 per year. They were issued by Charles II as a nod to his mother’s love of hawking.”(<https://www.wrongsidetheblanket.com/> by Samantha Holder.)

While there is mention of a decline in the sport after the great rebellion (Jacobite uprising 1745), keep in mind this is the sport of kings which only ceased in Scotland. The titles of King’s Hawks and Grand Falconer of England are still held by the Duke of St Albans today.

If you want to do your own web search, try using “Scottish hunting with falcons or hawks” and numerous sites come up. The sport today covers basics for the beginner all the way to a master’s class. And, just as in the olde days, it is a worldwide sport again. Check out <https://westcoast-falconry.com/> which I saw at the Woodland Games.

What was really fascinating about this Bird of Prey demonstration is that the trainer has 20 years of falconry experience. The bird she chose to use decided he wanted to fly away for a while. Even with her using her whistle, arm raised, he did not return for at least 15 minutes. “Take your pleasure, gentle hawkers many will watch with admiration the flight of your favourites.” Herbert Maxwell (SL&H, p. 226). What he is talking about is the time and patience it takes to devote yourself to this sport in the modern era.

Upcoming California events we hope to participate in or host a clan tent. Please share your events (singing; athletic; dancing; fiddling, etc.) too. Add these to your calendars.

- Candlelight Christmas Walk, Mother Lode Scots (Amory Hall Volcano, CA) – December 4, 2021
- Nevada Society of Scottish Clans 40th Annual Robert Burns Celebration – Grand Sierra Hotel, Reno, NV (4:00-10:00 pm) - January 22, 2022
- Burns Night Celebration Scotland – Tuesday, January 25, 2022
- Order a supper - <https://www.scottishgourmetusa.com/product/burns-supper-box-2022>
- Celtic Heritage Celebration, Calaveras County Fairgrounds – March 11-13, 2022
- 38th Annual St. Patrick’s Day Celebration, Dublin, CA – March 12-13, 2022
- Tartan Day, Ardenwood Historic Park – April 9, 2022
- 16th Annual Las Vegas Highland Games, Floyd Lamb Park – April 9-10, 2022
- 25th Annual Kern County Scottish Games and Gathering, Bakersfield – TBD
- Woodland Celtic Games & Festival, Yolo County Fairgrounds – April 23-24, 2022
- 29th Annual Northern Nevada Celtic Celebration, Reno, NV – May 21, 2022
- Grandfather Mountain Highland Games, No. Carolina – July 7-10, 2022
- 53rd Annual Monterey Scottish Games & Celtic Festival – July 16-17, 2022



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FROM FACEBOOK, CLAN BLAIR SOCIETY

Scott Blair (No Carolina Commissioner) and his family at the Stone Mountain Scottish Games



Next year will be the 50th Annual Stone Mountain Games! Scott is hoping for a good turnout of Blairs. So, if you are able to go, plan to attend!

DNA FUNDS FOR QUALIFYING CLAN BLAIR MEMBERS!!!!

A reminder to you that there are funds for the 67-marker DNA test through Family Tree and the Blair DNA project. If you qualify, the Blairs need your DNA and you get tested with a reduction in fees supported by Clan Blair Society.

You will also be participating in a project that will hopefully help solve questions about descendants – who may be you!

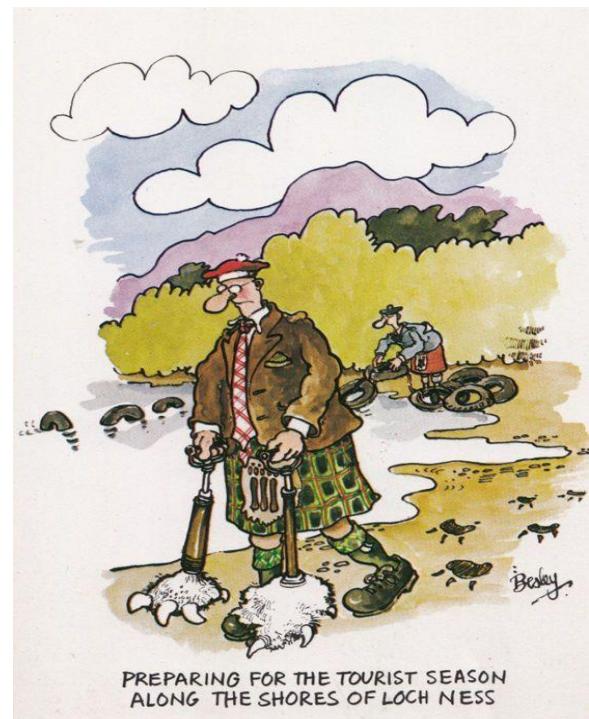
Please see clanblair.org/members for further details.

Contact Jim Blair, VP, CBS with questions. 303 795 9754 or vice-prez@clanblair.org.

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Robert Lewis Stevenson: “The mark of a Scot of all classes [is that] he...remembers and cherishes the memory of his forbears, good or bad; and there burns alive in him a sense of identity with the dead even to the twentieth generation.”



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