



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

Fourth Quarter – November-December 2023



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Greetings to our Clan Blair Society members! As we move closer to winter in the Northern Hemisphere, there are changes happening all around. Most of our Scottish Festivals for the year are over until next year. Though don't forget the Scottish upcoming celebrations: Andrew's Day, Hogmanay, and Robert Burn's Birthday. So, there's still celebrations to come.

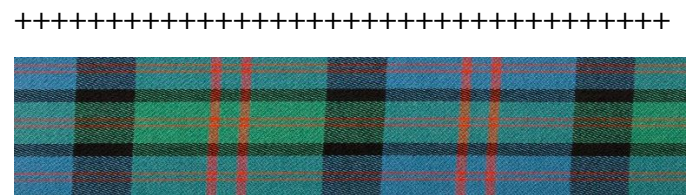
The society has a few changes as well. Our elections have completed so we'll have our new slate of officers assume the helm at our Annual General Meeting on November 18th. Our annual dues are due January 1st, so please use our membership page to renew as soon as possible to avoid expiring. <https://clanblair.org/renew>

I hope you've had a chance to visit events this past year. If not, look for events close by next year, it's worth the visit.

In the last newsletter, we announced a trip to Scotland in August 2024 with a link to a flyer. If you're interested at all and have any questions, there's a number on the flyer or send a message to me through our site contact page. If you have any feedback on the itinerary, please pass that along as well. <https://clanblair.org/2024trip>

This will be my last message for the newsletter as president of Clan Blair Society. It has been an honor to serve in a variety of capacities over the past 32 years in the society. First as Vice President of Computers for Norman Blair, numerous years as vice president, then president, and many, many festivals and events hosting the Clan Blair Society tent. I've enjoyed working with my friends and meeting so many Blairs. I often think of our members and friends gone by over the years and appreciate what they gave to the society and myself. My hope is that new members and "generations" come to feel what I and our predecessors have for Clan Blair Society and our heritage to step into our shoes. To continue on with the mission and passion for Blairs and family for another 36 years.

Thank you for sharing Clan Blair Society with me as members. Thank you to those that have been the volunteers to host the clan tents, publish the newsletter, keep the member and financial records and continue to guide the society with your time and passion. I would list those that I have worked with over the years, but there are so many and I would miss too many. I would thank Joe Blair's (ME) persistence in enrolling me in the early years, and Norman Blair's (NJ #1) persuasion to put up that first tent and join the leadership. It has had an impact on my life and I have enjoyed being part of the community.



# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, November 18th, 2023

A quick notice that this year's Annual General Meeting of Clan Blair Society will be held in a digital meeting (Zoom) at 12pm Saturday, November 18th. Mark your calendar to join us and look for an email notification with the call information a few days prior to the meeting.

We will present the annual report from the annual board meeting from September, will present the new officer slate and hand the meeting over to the incoming President. Then we have a couple presentations from a few of our members. We'll give you more details in the upcoming email. We schedule an hour for the call. Please plan to join us!

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## 2023 Election Results

2023 was an election year for Clan Blair Society. Our by-laws as a not for profit define that we should hold elections for officer positions and the nominating committee every three years. The positions are President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Then there are 3 positions on the nominating committee. The terms for all positions are for 3 years. There are certain restrictions on the president's position based on previously serving on the board and limited to two consecutive terms. There is no limitation to serve again at a later date.

Here is your newly selected slate of officers. We received 32 ballot submissions with the positions unanimous.

President, Jim Blair (CO)

Vice President, Leslie Blair Gallagher (CO)

Secretary, Maggie Blair (SC)

Treasurer, Vallie Blair (NC)

Nominating Committee #1, Scott Blair (NC)

There were 6 write in votes for nominating committee positions #2 and #3. The officers and board will review the write-ins and determine the members to fill those seats. We thank those that submitted write-ins.

The new slate of officers will be officially introduced at the Annual General Meeting on Saturday, November 18th. The current officers will then relinquish their positions to the new officer positions.

The current officers who have served from October 2019 through November 18, 2023 are as follows:

President, Shawn Blair (ME)

Vice President, Jim Blair (CO)

Secretary, Leslie Blair Gallagher (CO)

Treasurer, Vallie Blair (NC)

Nominating Committee:

Curtis Blair (CO)

Helen Blair (AZ)

Charles Diman (NC)

As a reminder, the chairs of our committees are appointed by the board as needed. Other Chairs are our Membership Chair, Russ McCrary; our Library Chair, Elena McCrary; Newsletter Chair/Editor, Adoree Blair.

For a full listing of committees and positions, please see the section on volunteers on the Members' Only page. The link and login are in your newsletter email. Some of our committee chairs have been keeping these areas working for a very long time. We are in need of some fresh folks that are willing to carry on our Scotland and Blair Heritage and History mission in these roles. Come join us!!!

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# TALKING FAMILY HISTORY WITH CLAN BLAIR PRESIDENT SHAWN BLAIR

By Elena McCrary, librarian



As more new people join Clan Blair looking for ancestors, I thought who better to ask than our President. He was kind enough to provide interesting stories & some genealogical nuggets.

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Question: How did your genealogical journey begin?

Shawn: I have done the Ancestry DNA and found many matches. This led me to tracking down both sides of my family. My goal now is to focus on the Blair lineage.

Question: What else can you share regarding DNA testing and family lore?

Shawn: <http://www.blairdna.com> I am in Group 1. What this means – directly related to Blair of Blair through a male line because it goes back to Scotland. It is the Y-DNA test. The Family Finder test (Family Tree DNA) is designed to trace your ancestral lines (5 generations and beyond) using your autosomal DNA. Plus, you can input all your data into other systems.

Shawn heard his first family tale as a youth (pre-teen), you could say this is how he got started. “My grandfather Pa Blair (Frank Sr.) told his kids he was born on board a ship on the way from Ireland. This could be true (his father was a Sea Captain), and no birth record has been found. He was a yarn spinner and told many stories, but I never knew him.

What is a story from your childhood your mother shared about Pa Blair?

Shawn: My mother told stories of the family and she relayed this one. When he visited, he prohibited anyone picking up their plate to lick melted ice cream—except himself.

Question: How old were you when he died?

Shawn: I was about 6 years old. I don’t remember anything about him. My father took my older brother to visit Pa Blair in Florida before he passed away in 1965.

Question: Why do you think it is important to share these stories?

Shawn: In short, I was always a history buff. We are Americans, but what are our identities? What are my ancestral roots? It gives depth to the struggles our ancestors faced in the past.

Question: Can you expand on your paternal lineage?

Shawn: That would be myself Shawn R. Blair; Frank L. Blair, Jr. (father); Frank L. Blair, Sr. (grandfather); Captain Fred L. Blair (great grandfather); Captain Benjamin C. Blair; James Blair III; James Blair, Jr.; James Blair.

Question: Can you share what you found out about your relatives and their progeny?

Shawn: James (1718 – 1820) and Jane Blair (nee Todd) arrived in Arrowsic, ME in 1738. Then headed to Woolwich, ME to settle. They had prolific descendants, and both lived to the age of 102. Many of the Blair descendants in Midcoast and Central Maine come directly from this lineage.

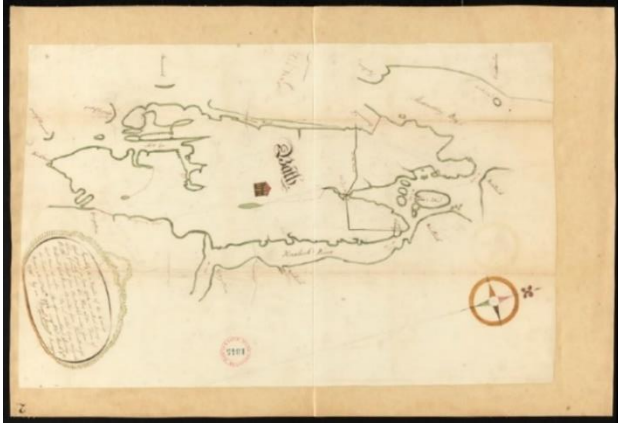
Question: Did you find graves of first James and Jane (nee Todd) Blair?

Shawn: No. A first cousin and I searched an area known to be Blair property on Cobbs Point and reported as being where they were buried but it was very overgrown, and we weren't successful. We each made separate attempts (with owner's permission) and couldn't find any sign of previous settlement or graveyard.

Now let's move on to documentation and some of the challenges you have faced.

I haven't been able to find any documentation of my grandfather being born at sea, nor records of his birth in Bath, Maine (where they settled). He was 3<sup>rd</sup> born and had two sisters.

*Plan of Bath, Me*, made by Dummer Sewall, dated March 7, 1795. Courtesy of <https://collections.leventhalmap.org/search/commonwealth:2227nh22>



It is possible he was born at sea as his father was a *ship's master* at that time. I've found news articles about him taking command of vessels as far back as 1874.

Want to know more? Check out the National Archives link below.

Official Logbooks (which should not be confused with narrative-account logs) were required for all foreign voyages mandated by legislation enacted in 1872. And were occasionally filed for coastal voyages when a birth or death occurred during the voyage. These logbooks were submitted to the newly created Office of Shipping Commissioners. <https://www.archives.gov/research/military/logbooks/merchant-vessels.html>

#### Shawn on researching Ship Records

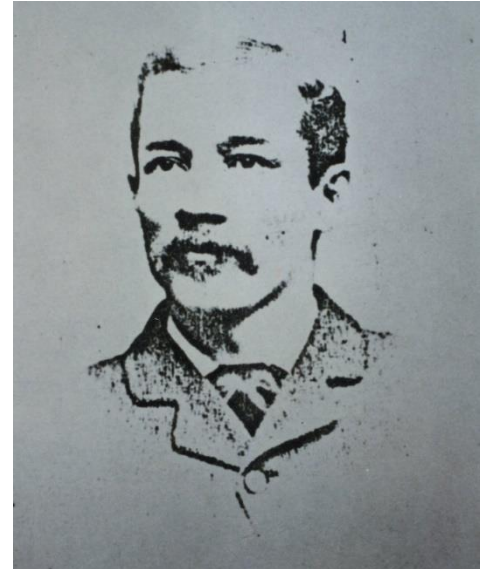
Aside from occasionally finding a particular ship manifest, the only records I could seem to find were in the **Maine Maritime Museum**.

<https://www.mainemaritimemuseum.org/collection/research/>

MMM has a lot of old ship records from shipping companies. It was here I found letters from Capt. Fred L. Blair and his ships, including several letters to the shipping company he worked for two years prior to his death. Other records were from his doctor who wrote when the captain was ill.

Fred Blair was born and raised in Bath, ME, and took up maritime at an early age. I imagine with his father as a *master mariner* and then a *master rigger* (sails and ropes rigging for cargo loads) he was well influenced.

Another brother (half) died later from a fall while at sea. All records I've seen mention trips along the Eastern coast, in the Gulf, and as far away as



Panama. I never saw any mention to/from Europe.

#### What Elena Found Online Archives

Series II. C. Sewall Captains and their families

Note: The letters and accounts contained in this section were written by captains and members of their families at times when the captains and their families were not at sea on a Sewall vessel.

#### Blair, Fred L 1881-1884 (Captain)

There are numerous captain accounts as well. One such captain who held accounts with the vessels of Arthur Sewall & Co. was Capt. Blair of the *Carrie S. Bailey* (Courtesy of *Sewall Family Papers 1761-1965* and Internet Archive). I was sad to read this schooner was lost at sea. It did list the cargo onboard at the time (timber if I remember) it went down.

Ship Island, Aug 28<sup>1866</sup>  
 Messrs Arthur Sewell & Co  
 Bath Me  
 Gentleman

There is nothing new we lay here and have got twenty lay days I tried to get off with fifteen but if I dont stay the way here I will have to lay twenty over there, I am trying to get a quarantine list to send you the doctor said he would give me one

Respectfully yours  
 F L Blair

**Letter from Fred L. Blair to Arthur Sewell & Co.**

U. S. Marine-Hospital Service,  
 Ship Island, Miss.  
 Aug. 23<sup>1866</sup>

A. Sewall & Co.,  
 Bath, Me.  
 Gentlemen:

I feel it to be my duty to inform you that Capt. F. L. Blair is not fit to go to sea in the *Se. Carrie S. Bailey*. He is very feeble from the effects of Phthisis Pulmonalis and Cholera fever. His spirits are bright and determination fixed but his days are about numbered. Capts. C. M. Farland & J. M. Hayes join in counseling me to write you this but I wish myself and them to be immemorial in the case.

Yours  
 R. J. Murray  
 Surgeon

**Surgeon's Report on Capt. Fred L. Blair**

“I could find little on Capt. Benjamin C. Blair (great-great-grandfather). I found a few notations on ships he commanded such as *The Dirigo* known as a bark at some point in the 1850's “*Dirigō*” which means “I lead,” was adopted as the Maine State Motto in 1820. (Wikipedia).

However, what I do know is that he was a *ship's master* then became a *master rigger*. I think there

are still remnants of the docks that were likely behind his home on the Kennebec River. When last I was there (around 2000) there were some old pilings still near the shore. I met the owner of the home at one point, and she gave me a tour. Benji then partnered with another man. They bought a large section of the area the house is on. His partner kept a piece, he kept a piece, and they sold the rest. That's now outer Washington in Bath.

I think he always used Benj (or Benjamin) C Blair because there was another Capt. Benjamin Blair out of Boothbay, Maine.”

**Shawn on Research and DNA**

“My research and DNA has shown a very close connection to lines that settled in Ballydwitt, Ireland in the 1600's.

I have very close DNA to the Blairs that settled in Worcester, MA in 1718. These relatives also had close cousins that settled in Londonderry, NH. Family lore suggests James may have been a child that went back to No. Ireland with Lt. James Blair's sister. The birth of a child named James is mentioned, but nothing further in the family history. This James does often get confused with the son, “James” of Robert Blair of Worcester, MA. But that James is documented as living and having died in MA.

I haven't been able to find a Blair male descendant from the New Hampshire Londonderry Blairs to get a Y-DNA comparison. I watch for connections to Canada closely because a number of the New Hampshire Blairs settled in Nova Scotia after the military actions (Indian/Canada wars) in the 1750's. But, again, I haven't found anything that traces back to Londonderry, and there are not many who have submitted the Y-DNA.

**Shawn Learns His Ancestry is Scottish**

I learned I was Scottish when a bar patron named Anderson told me Blair was of *Scottish* origin one day. That may have created the curiosity to know

more early on. Neither of my parents knew anything, really, of their ancestry. As a youth I always had an interest in history.

Question: Does the bar play a part in the story?

Shawn: I worked as a bartender when I was going to school. I knew nothing of the *Blair* surname other than my grandfather's yarn of being *Irish* and being born at sea. The conversation with Mr. Anderson (a lunch regular (dry Rob Roy) was surprising and got me thinking a bit about my true ancestry. He was very clear *Blair is Scottish*. A casual conversation from behind the bar on a typical day left an impression.

Question: How did you begin this new chapter in genealogical research?

Shawn: First, a dear friend of mine (Scott) had been doing research to learn the truth about his grandfather's biological father. I accompanied him on one or two visits as he tracked down stones (circa 1600's or 1700's). That was my first experience walking in a cemetery for genealogical research. I've done many since. He was responsible for getting me started with my research. We met at university as martial arts students. We also found to have a few New England connections as distant cousins.

### Genealogical Research - Changes and Tips

The thing to remember is at that time (1992-ish) research was digging through genealogy and history books in libraries, tracking through cemeteries (and cemetery offices), spending days in courthouses searching deeds and wills, and hours in state archives and town halls. There were some bulletin boards online later, but that was a few years later, and mostly just sharing with other researchers. Aside from specific library resources and books, my **tip** to you would be the people that you talked with and sharing the enthusiasm of genealogy. The online research today misses a lot of that.

Question: Did your parents support your quest or supply vital photos, records, etc.?

Shawn: This is a bit funny. My father knew nothing more than the tale my grandfather told him and his siblings. He believed we were *Irish* (St. Patty's Day, corned beef, and cabbage, etc.) He didn't realize our roots through Northern Ireland, were *Scottish*, not Irish.

The other thing that interested me was my father's mother's (great-grandmother) side had an annual family reunion (Campbell). There were a few in the family that had been researching and published a Campbell family genealogy. Over the years, others collected changes and additions to add to the book. With 13 surviving children, Pa Blair (Frank Sr.) and Josie Campbell have had proliferous descendants which usually outnumbered the Campbell cousins. It was of more interest to me after I began my genealogy research.

### Ancestor at The Battle of Dunbar

The losing side (Scottish) who fought against the English suffered a death march, a culling (many captors were sold to the colonies and most of the others killed); a sea journey, then indenture at the Lynn Iron Works, Mass. These are known as the Scottish Prisoners of War (SPOW). Amazingly, I discovered an ancestor, Peter Grant, who was captured at the Battle of Dunbar and was transported to the Lynn Iron Works, and later settled in Berwick, Maine having many descendants though the state. My great-grandmother was a Grant. Mary Dyer Grant married Walter Campbell, father to Josie Mae Campbell, my father's mother.

Question: Did you face any obstacles researching your mother's lineage?

Shawn: I was incredibly lucky on my mother's lineage. I have many of her lines back into the 1600's and beyond. There are a few maternal lines I haven't fully researched yet. The only wall I've come across is her father's paternal line. Her grandfather was believed to have been adopted. So, the Johnson name isn't the blood line. There are numerous tales of possible locations he may have come from or middle names that could be the

original surname. I know of cousins that have gone to great extent seeking his true lineage (including joining an Odd Fellows Lodge) to no avail that I know of. I've never had a chance to share anything with him.

I asked my mother to write down everything she knew about her family. She listed some aunts and cousins (her side) and how they died. She couldn't tell me anything else. She did mention (after I had been researching for about a year) that I should talk with my aunt who mentioned a cousin that was researching her family.

I made the call. My aunt referred me to my cousin Eleanor Samuelson. She was in her 80's and had been researching for over 40 years at that time (circa '93). We were on the phone for an hour as she related our family generations back to early settlers in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Maine in the 1600's. One was George Cleeve (Portland, ME), 1620, and many others. That led me to an organization of descendants of the first settlers of Portland, Maine. I was lucky on my mother's side because I met many others with the same lineage that had been doing research for years. My grandmother was born on an island in Casco Bay (Portland) that is a small community. My ancestors owned and lived on that island. The Pioneer Families Association and George Cleeve Association that I joined were a sizeable community of knowledgeable researchers. Cousins aplenty!

Question: Would you share your family's *Mayflower* connection?

Shawn: I also got lucky with that family line. My mother's grandmother was connected to a Sherman that traced back to 5 or more Mayflower passengers. Once a researcher makes a connection to a Mayflower passenger, there's a ton of published works on them. It was my cousin Eleanor who shared that information as I scratched out a notebook page filled with the Mayflower ancestors. I was blown away.

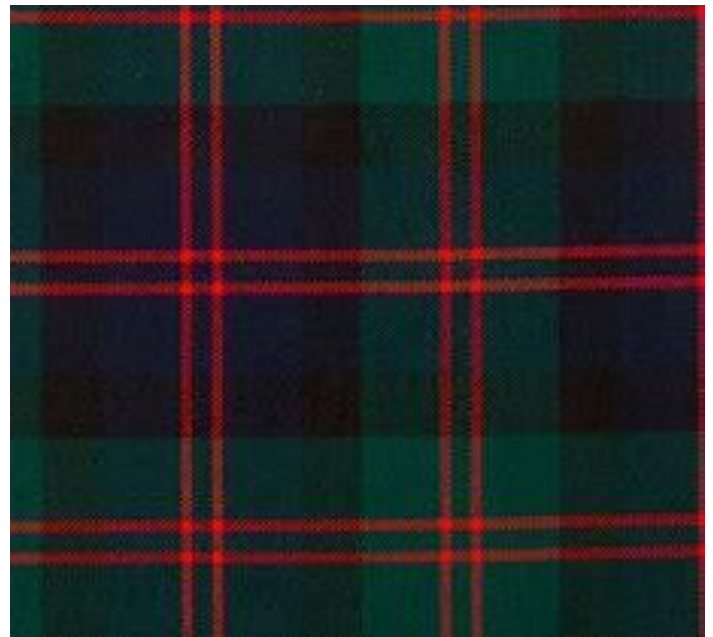
"One of my most exciting visits was to a second-generation Mayflower descendant's stone that was 17th or early 18<sup>th</sup> century (Blair Bruidhinn, Feb. 2022, p. 2)." The graveyard I visited that had early descendants of Mayflower was Marshfield, MA. I was looking for, and found, stones from Shermans from the 1600's in a churchyard.

I found the *Mayflower* connections interesting and enjoyed all the readily available information. I think I've always been more interested in the paths of their descendants or a few that had more interesting history. I did a bunch of research on Isaac Allerton in Connecticut (he was asked to leave Plymouth because of his merchant habits).

Question: At the time you discovered the *Mayflower* connection did you join the society?

Shawn: I haven't joined the Mayflower society. The work to prove is tedious and it didn't appeal to me necessarily.

If I were to work to join an organization, I think it would be the *Sons of the American Revolution* through my 4<sup>th</sup> great-grandfather James Blair, Jr. He served 3 years in the Continental Army. I also have a few other ancestors that served in the revolution.





Revolutionary War – Blair, Mass. Militia

Question: Did you ever learn of any property that may have belonged to an ancestor??

Shawn: Yes, the property in Woolwich. I had made an offer on it, but the owner changed her mind.

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of finding a replacement, I do not know whom to contact, and I must leave that search to you. Once you find someone, we will happily share some of our clan materials with them and can provide them with guidance about the role.

Again, this is a difficult decision, and one to which we have given substantial consideration. I regret that we cannot be of further service to the clan, and I do hope that you understand our rationale for this difficult choice. It has been an honor to have served as the New York commissioners for 21 years, and we stand ready to assist whoever takes on this role.

Sincerely, Sampson

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### CALIFORNIA COMMISSIONER REPORT

Russ and Elena McCrary

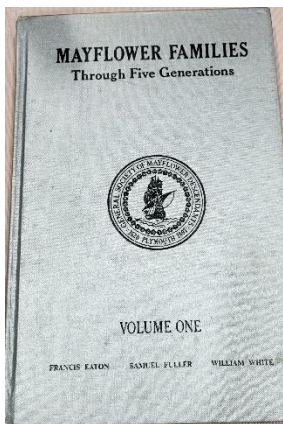
Fall 2023

Hello all. We had hoped to be writing about the wonderful time we had at the Nevada Day Parade. Alas, busy fine-tuning interview with our President. Check out the Blair Facebook page, as I shared Willie’s post. Here is one of the pictures. A Blair member is from Reno, NV.



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What else have we been doing?

When Russ and I (author, Elena) hosted a Clan Blair tent, I met a couple of the women in charge of this table at the Ventura Games. I had not seen this organization represented before and was curious to learn what it was all about.



For those interested, look what was just released. The 2023 *Mayflower*

*Descendant* which is published twice per year, in winter and summer (every-name index).

<https://www.americanancestors.org/>

*Mayflower Descendant* has long been a highly regarded source of scholarship relating to *Mayflower* families and related genealogies, their origins in England, and their lives and places of residence in America, from the earliest settlements to their migrations north and westward.

#### The Importance of Property Preservation

Sometimes property, while not seen as significant or historic in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, has a story to tell of its own.

Elena has been busy as a volunteer with **NAMI** (National Alliance on Mental Illness) & named:

**Our Monthly Star  
Receptionist Volunteer,  
Elena Sotelo-McCrary**



NAMI Contra Costa 3rd Annual Suicide Prevention Awareness Event Saturday, September 23, 2023. Releasing dove in remembrance of loved one lost to suicide.

“If you swing by our Concord office on Tuesdays or Thursdays, you have surely been warmly greeted by our star volunteer receptionist, Elena Sotelo-McCrary. She has become an asset to our team. Her volunteer duties span from answering and directing the Warm line calls, library maintenance, to proofreading the newsletter and renewing memberships. Through her follow-up calls, her assistance to the staff is helpful. Her bubbly personality keeps us engaged as she catches us up on her weekend bird watching and other fun activities every week.” (NAMI Newsletter Editor)

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### **Fleet Week Comes to San Francisco**

Russ and I had been on the Sausalito side of the Golden Gate bridge enjoying early morning birding on Hawk Hill. We were joined shortly by the Golden Gate Raptor Observatory volunteers. So, we headed down to our car, pulled out chairs and watched the ships leave the bay, then sail back into great fanfare. It was just on Friday, October 6, 2023. Particularly since Russ’s dad served in the Navy. And, what a gorgeous day for the celebration!



### **The Navy Ship John P. Murtha**

A side story is that while Russ and I were in San Diego (Russ was doing Safety Training) I went to the port. I was particularly interested in seeing the U.S.S. Midway. Docked not too far away was this vessel. An amphibious transport dock, also called a landing platform dock (LPD)—Wikipedia.

We could see the Navy personnel aboard, what a site! The other vessels in the parade, “**USS Paul Hamilton (DDG-60)** is an Arleigh Burke-class destroyer in the United States Navy currently in service. The ship is named *after Paul Hamilton*, the third United States Secretary of the Navy.”

Here is the cool piece and tie-in to Shawn Blairs family history It was built by “Bath Iron Works. A major United States shipyard located on the Kennebec River in Bath, Maine, founded in 1884 as Bath Iron Works, Limited (Wikipedia).”



Other ships included the **Coast Guard Cutter Waesche** (WMSL-751) and **USCGC Benjamin Bottoms** (WPC-1132), as well as the Presidential yacht the **Potomac**.

## FAMOUS BLAIRS



It was not until I picked up the newspaper that I figured out where I had seen that last ship—in news footage. “*Potomac* is now preserved in Oakland, California, as a National Historic Landmark and the only presidential yacht open to the public.

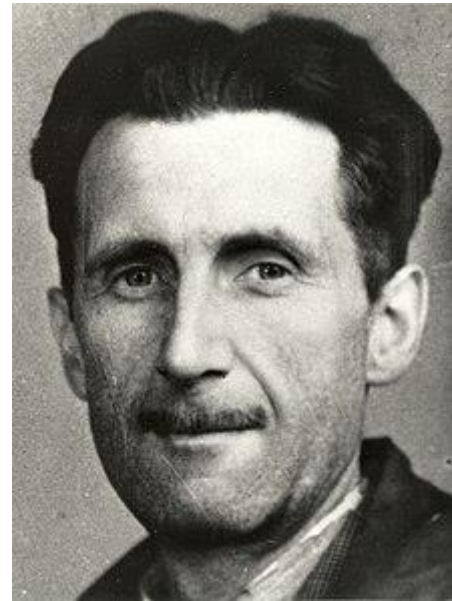


The Floating White House was originally commissioned as the USCG Cutter *Electra* in 1934. In 1936, it was renamed the *USS Potomac* and served as Franklin Delano Roosevelt's Presidential Yacht until his death in 1945.

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Veteran’s Day is November 11<sup>th</sup> each year. I have had the pleasure of many conversations with Vietnam Veterans aboard the *USS Midway* on a trip in September 2023. And, through NAMI supported the Delta Veterans Group through Stand Down on the Delta serving homeless veterans.



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**Eric Arthur Blair (George Orwell)**

Eric Arthur Blair (25 June 1903 – 21 January 1950), better known by his pen name George Orwell, was an English novelist, essayist, journalist, and critic. “His work is characterized by lucid prose, social criticism, opposition to totalitarianism, and support of democratic socialism.” (Wikipedia)

Many of you have read and been influenced by his book *Animal Farm* (1945) and another, *Nineteen Eighty-Four* (1949). His non-fiction works were *The Road to Wigan Pier* (1937), documenting his experience of working-class life in the industrial north of England, and *Homage to Catalonia* (1938), which was an account of his experiences soldiering for the Republican faction of the Spanish Civil War (1936–1939), among others. His non-fiction books were and are critically respected as his essays on politics, literature, language and culture.

He was born in India. Blair’s education began when he was one year old, in England. As an adult, he became an Imperial policeman in Burma, before returning to Suffolk, England. It was in Suffolk that he began his writing career as George Orwell. One of his favorite locations, the river Orwell, was what he took the name from. He made a living from

occasional pieces of journalism, and also worked as a teacher or bookseller while living in London.

He was wounded fighting in the Spanish Civil War. He recuperated in England. During the Second World War he worked as a journalist for the BBC. The 1945 publication of *Animal Farm* led to fame during his lifetime. During the final years of his life he worked on *Nineteen Eighty-Four*, and moved between Jura in Scotland and London. It was published in June 1949, less than a year before his death.

Orwell's work is still influential in popular culture and in political arenas. "Orwellian" is often used as to describe totalitarian and authoritarian political or social interaction. He brought our language new ways of expression, such as "Big Brother", "Newspeak", "doublethink", and "thoughtcrime".

In 2008, *The Times* ranked George Orwell second among "The 50 greatest British writers since 1945."

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## COLORADO REPORT

Editor, Adoree Blair

In September, we attended the Pike's Peak Festival in Estes Park, Colorado. Estes is always a great visit, and the festival always happens the weekend after Labor Day weekend. It's gorgeous there with craggy peaks and lots of forest, while deer, elk and moose show up frequently in the yards of the houses we rent.

We marched in the parade and watched jousting, while attending numerous musical shows. Love that Scottish music!

Many bands attend the daily march for the official opening of the Festival. We enjoy carrying our Scottish tartan flag and banner, shouting "De Blar!" when our turn comes to be introduced to the crowd watching. This year, on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day, the St. Andrews Society drew the clans all together with our flags to perform in a Kirking O the Tartan, An impressive ceremony that drew tears from some.

The usual Scottish games intrigued us and drew gasps, especially as the biggest cabers were tossed – always amazing!!!



Left to right: Leslie Blair Gallagher, Dyani Blair Galligan with Miren Arya Blair, Saoirse Blair Galligan, Kip Baker, Torin Blair holding Conor Blair, Adoree Blair, Jim Blair and Tiernan Blair Galligan. Not pictured: Erynn Blair Shryack, Nick Shryack, Cordylia Blair Shryack and Lochlann Blair Shryack.



While at the tent, newlyweds Ansel Barnes and Elizabeth Henrichon stopped by. It was lovely to meet them. Ansel sang to us in Gaelic and is studying Gaelic. Ansel is a Blair by Genealogy. Welcome to these new members!

Our Robert Burns Supper will be held January 28<sup>th</sup> in Littleton. Join us!!!! It's always such a good time.

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# ANOTHER FAMOUS BLAIR FROM DOWN UNDER!

**ADAM BLAIR, Rugby, New Zealand**



Date of Birth: March 20, 1986

Birthplace: Whangarei, New Zealand

Junior Club: Northland Carvers

Position: Prop

Height: 1.88m

Weight: 109kg

Rep Honours: 51 Tests for Kiwis (2006-2019), Four Nations (2009, 2010, 2011, 2014, 2016), Rugby League World Cup (2008, 2017), Tri Nations (2006)

NRL Debut: Melbourne v Wests Tigers, Leichhardt Oval, April 2, 2006 (Round 4)

Vodafone Warriors Debut: v South Sydney, Optus Stadium, Perth, March 10, 2018 (Round 1)

Vodafone Warriors No: 223

NRL Career: 330 appearances (2006-2020):

Melbourne: 121 appearances (2006-2011)

Wests Tigers: 71 appearances (2012-2014)

Brisbane: 74 appearances (2015-2017)

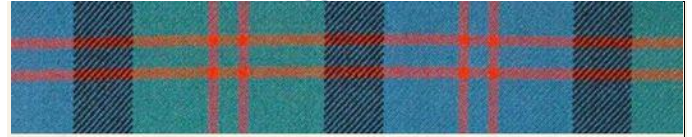
Vodafone Warriors: 64 appearances  
(2018-2020)

NRL Points: 56 (14 tries)

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**Clan Blair Society on Facebook**

**Maggie Blair**



**Clan Blair Society**

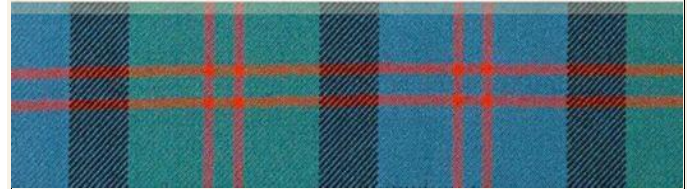
2024 Dues Reminder

Members-check your mail

for more information.

Payment is due on the First of January

Not a Member? Learn more and join at  
<https://clanblair.org/about/membership>



**Barbara Pixley** ·

Happy Celtic New...the blessings of Samhain

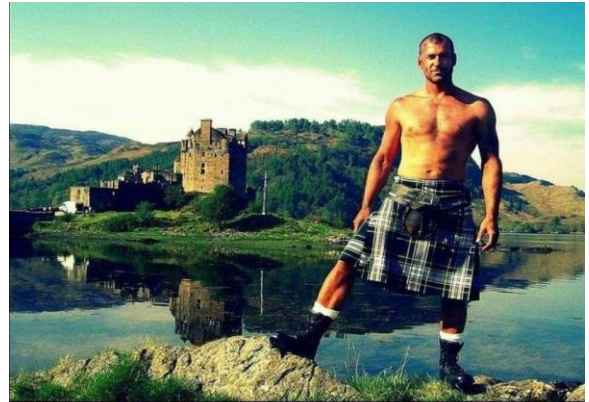


# HOW DID HALLOWEEN BEGIN?

- There are many variations on the history of Halloween, but it's generally believed that Halloween dates as far back as 700 B.C. to the Celts (pronounced "KELTS"), a rural society in northern England, Ireland and Scotland.
- On November 1, the first day of their new year, the Celts celebrated a festival called Samhain (pronounced "sow-in").



# WEE BIT O SCOTTISH HUMOR



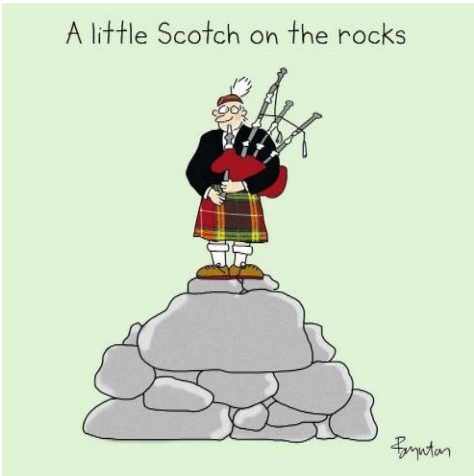
Legend has it that if you stare at this photo for long enough a castle will begin to appear in the background

From The Denver Post, November 5, 2023

## SAMHAIN Prayer

DEAREST ANCESTORS, ON THIS BLESSED NIGHT I OFFER A CANDLE IN YOUR HONOR. SPIRITS OF MY FAMILY, I CALL TO YOU, WITH YOUR BLOOD IN MY HEART & MEMORIES IN MY SOUL. THIS IS THE NIGHT WHEN THE GATEWAY BETWEEN OUR WORLD & YOURS IS AT IT'S THINNEST. I THANK YOU FOR THE CONTINUED GUIDANCE, PROTECTION & WISDOM YOUR SPIRIT HAS GIVEN ME THIS YEAR.





# SOME OF SCOTLAND'S 100+ ISLANDS - (From Musement)



Isle of Harris in the Outer Hebrides



Isle of Skye



One of the Isles of Rum. Castle from the 1800's built by textile king John Ballough

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# CLAN BLAIR EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS AND CHAIRS OF COMMITTEES

November, 2023

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**Address Service Requested**  
**First Class Mail**