



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

3rd Quarter, September, 2014

President’s Message:



Fellow Scots:

Welcome to the Clan Blair Society (CBS) newsletter for the 3rd quarter 2014. My thanks to our Newsletter Editor for the splendid preparation of this publication! We appreciate the reports you have sent for inclusion in this letter.

CBS membership continues to grow. Membership Chair Charlie Diman reports that total membership is now 242 which is 15% higher than last year (an additional 31 members). During the last 2 Colorado Celtic festivals, 8 Blair families have indicated interest in joining and they do so because of the enjoyment in meeting CBS members who are fun and excited and who share their heritage. The CBS DNA project is also of interest and we encourage members to participate. I welcome all new members and hope that you find this Quarterly publication of interest and excitement.

On Saturday September 27, the CBS board will host the 2nd Annual General Meeting (AGM) via Webinar program for members across the globe. This 2 hour program will feature an in depth presentation by John A. Blair; Blair DNA Administrator for the Blair Society for Genealogical Research (BSGR). This first-of-a-kind presentation will address many of the questions you have asked at festivals and other Blair gatherings. John has dedicated the past 10 years to the study of Blair

DNA lines in Scotland and Ireland. His presentation will be followed by the leading 2 candidate National Anthems for Scotland’s independence vote on Sept. 18. Then Coy Blair will present continuing discussion about Genealogical Research.

Should you have questions, please let us hear from you at president@clanblair.org.

In this quarterly newsletter, you will see reports on activities by several of our state Clans, reports on upcoming CBS activities, memorials to Clan members and other family activities.

It is a Great time to be a Scot!

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DNA Testing Project

In 2011, the CBS Board of Directors established a fund to support members of the Society in their pursuit of DNA testing. This fund helps pay a portion, between 30-50%, of the cost of 37 marker DNA tests performed by Family Tree DNA. The fund is administered by the CBS DNA Committee, consisting of the President, the Clan Genealogy Coordinator, and Webmaster with support from the DNA Project Coordinator.

Clan member requests for funding should include the ancestral research completed by the member as prescribed by the Family Tree DNA, the member’s intent to conduct the DNA test in a timely manner (30-45 calendar days) and a commitment to share the results with the DNA Committee for review and documentation by the Clan Genealogy Coordinator.

Please contact the CBS Genealogy Coordinator Coy Blair at CBSgenea@clanblair.org.

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Membership Report:

Membership Chair, Charles N. Diman

As of July 1, 2013 we had 211 members, Annual 151, Life 54, and Honorary 6.

As of Aug 23, 2014 we have 242 members, Annual 181, Life 55, and Honorary 6. We lost 5 of last year's members, 2 by death and 3 by non-renewal.

We gained 22 new members since July 1 last year.

We also had 14 old members return. Net gain: 31, almost 15%

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Blairsville Georgia Scottish Festival and Highland Games

(Submitted by Wyomia Blair and Dale Granger)

The Blairsville games were held on June 13, 14 and 15 at Meeks Park in Blairsville. On Friday, participants enjoyed a kilted golf tournament at a course outside town. The regular Games were on Friday and Saturday. We (Wyomia, Dot, and Dale) arrived on Friday afternoon. We went to the Park and picked up our game packet. Our tent this year was along the stream in the shade, as were all the tents, spread out about 100 yards. Again, this year there were had 35 Clans and Societies. It started raining while we were setting up, so we had to wait a while to finish.

On Friday night there was the Ceilidh—on—the—Square in downtown Blairsville from 6 to 9 pm. Music was by The Blarney Girls, Colin Grant—Adams, and a Piper walking around playing. Also, we enjoyed comedy and Scottish dancing. The restaurants in downtown were opened for dinner, so there were places to eat.

On Saturday morning we arrived about 7 am to finish setting up; the Gates opened at 8 am. Frank Blair from Rome, Georgia, spent the day with us as he usually does, helping us greet people and tell them about Clan Blair. We all had a good time. The kilted mile race was at 10. At 10:30, there was a Mini Cooper parade through the park. The athletic events were from 9 am until 12 on the main field.



Massed Bands, Blairsville Games

Then at 12 noon on the main field, we joined the Opening Ceremony, Massed Bands, and Parade of Tartans. The Masters of Ceremonies were the Rev. K Travis Blair Adams, Bob Valentine, and Mark Mote. The Parade was led by the Scottish—Military Society Color Guard followed by the five Massed Bands. Then came the Honored Clan, Clan Scott and the other Clans. As this is a small field, Dale was able to walk with Frank to represent Clan Blair. After the Parade, the Athletic events continued on the main field until 4 pm. There were Falconry Demonstrations, a Clan Tug of War contest, Gordon setters and Border Collie Demonstrations. There were fiddle and Bagpipe workshops, and dancers at the dancer pavilion. At the entertainment tent there were bands playing as well as individual performers, such as Colin Grant—Adams, The Blarney Girls, and the Raven & Red. The Children's Field was busy with various activities. The Massed Bands played again at 4 pm. The Games closed at 5 pm for the day. We had many people that come by and say that we had a great tent with lots of information. This year they had the biggest crowds we have seen yet on Saturday. Sunday being Father's Day, the crowds were not as big.

On Saturday, Jim McAfee, the Games Coordinator who has always been a good friend, came by the tent and visited for a while. He always tells us it would not be the same to have the Games without the Blairs being there. The Rev. Travis Blair

Adams, Games Chaplain, came by and visited for a while. We talked about our Blair families. He is a good friend and a fine person. He always wears his Blair tartan kilt.

On Sunday, we arrived at 7:30 and set back up. The Gates opened at 8. At 9 am we went to the Church Service with the Kirkin 'O' The Tartan, with the Rev. Travis Blair Adams. Part of the service was performed in the Old Braid Scots dialect. Dale carried in the Clan Blair tartan flag. At the Kirkin 'O' Tartans, he presented our tartan flag as our clan and tartan were blessed. After the service, we went back to the tent and all the events and activities continued, including the Bonniest and Boniest knee contest and the Women's Haggis Hurling Contest. We packed up early, as a storm was moving in.



Wyomia, Blair Tent



Blair Tent, Blairsville



Wyomia, Jim Mc Affee, and Wyomia's sister Dot Blair Linderman

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Lynne Gallaudet Dolan

Long Island New York Report

First, my apologies for not keeping information up for Long Island, NY. It has been a very hectic year for me and my family. Between cataract surgery, 2 week trip to Scotland and Ireland. (This was supposed to be for our 25th anniversary. We're married 31 years), my mother in law going into hospice and then passing away in May. Surgery for skin cancer, (which it was all removed) and of course the joys of my life, the grandkids. They have kept me laughing, crying and smiling through this whole year.

HOWEVER, I did have the pleasure of attending the 54th Long Island Scottish & Highland Games at Westbury Gardens, NY. These games are sponsored by the Clan MacDuff. I hosted the Clan Blair Tent there again. This year was, in my opinion, largest crowds ever.

It seems each year the games have increased and the Blairs have multiplied. More people have stopped at our Tent saying, my mother was a Blair, or my son in law is a Blair and so on. One gentleman, Simon, came over to the tent asking about the tartans and he said I'm pretty sure "my mum is a Blair". Well, he gave her a call and spoke for a minute and said yes she is and left his name for more information. Turns out he called her in Manchester, England.

This year, as last, more women are competing in the Games, such as the Caber Toss and stones throwing. Overheard one of the competing women saying that she was very excited to be there.

The Heritage Tent was in full swing with learning how to play bagpipes, speaking Gaelic and a demonstration of making a kilt. Story telling by Joe Keane. This year Sharon Barrett Wyllie shared her new book, "Scotland...through the Eyes of An American". I bought a copy and the pictures are beautiful with explanations for each picture.

And of course the New York Celtic Dancers. Others that were there Shot of Scotch dancers, singers Carl Peterson & MeadowGrass Ensemble. The Academy of Lion Rampart was there in full dress demonstrating Armed combat from the Middle-Ages - XVIII Century.

Overall it was a great day. Sunshine, good food, good entertainment and friendly people.

Don't forget Tartan Day parade in NYC April 11, 2015

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Colorado Report

Leslie Blair Gallagher, Colorado Commissioner

We participated in the Colorado Scottish Festival and Rocky Mountain Highland Games in August. We had many visitors over the two days and I, personally, am grateful for Jim Blair's TALL son-in-laws, Nick Shyrack and Mike Galligan who helped with set-up and tear-down of our 10 x 20 foot set-up for the festival.

We have gained 3 new members since my last report. Stuart and Jennifer Blair and Karen Hart.

Our next event was the Long's Peak Scot-Irish Festival in Estes Park, CO. It was a three day festival. Our Utah Commissioner, Whit Young, brought the Bannockburn diorama (this year being the 700th anniversary of the battle) that the CBS supports financially. It was a great success as you see in another article in this newsletter.



CBS Members who were in the Estes Park Parade

Longs Peak Festival

Clan Blair Society/Bannockburn Picture, 2014

Front L-R: Erynn Blair Shryack & Lochlann Blair Shryack, Saoirse Blair Galligan, Atia Blair, Tiernan Blair Galligan, Cordylia Blair Shryack, Arabella Blair, Quinnlin Blair

2nd Row L-R: Adoree Blair, Whitney Blair Young, Allison Young, James Young, Laura Young, Nick Lawyer, Melissa Alston, Meg Lawyer, Dyani Blair Galligan

3rd Row L-R: Jim Blair, Nick Shryack, Torin Blair, Mike Lawyer, Devon Parkinson, Brigham Lawyer, Mike Lawyer, Steve Alston, Mike Galligan

(Not pictured) Rosemary Young, Becky Lawyer, Dave Young, Dan Young, Anna Young, , Emily Parkinson, Becka Young, Britney Young, Graham Scott Lawyer (baby).

BANNOCKBURN AT LONG'S PEAK

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Battle of Bannockburn Diorama – Whit Young and family

Utah Commissioner Whit Young and 20 members of his family presented the Battle of Bannockburn diorama at the Long's Peak Scottish Festival September 5-7 in Estes Park, CO. Whit presented this wonderful portrayal of this most significant battle in commemoration of the 700th anniversary. You will see pictures of Whit Young, his family and Colorado CBS members in the following pages. My personal thanks to Whit for his commitment to sharing Scottish heritage and the Blair family. Please send Whit a note of appreciation at clanblairg@lionshield.net.

Editor's Note: It was very special to have Whit Young and his large family join us in the parade, clan presentations and at our Blair tent. Whit's grandchildren were enthusiastic supporters and beautifully dressed in period Scottish costume. The large Bannockburn tent was central on the grounds of the Fest, and drew a crowd with each presentation. Whit had a hallway leading to the presentation where he displayed history relating to Bannockburn and its times. People stood on chairs and craned necks to see the interesting presentation. We all felt great pride to be connected to this professional display through our Blair clan.





Blairs on Parade for Bannockburn, Longs Peak Festival, Whit Young following Dyani Blair Galligan, in front of Bannockburn Banner



Bannockburn Tents at Estes Park Longs Peak Festival

This is a picture of the Bannockburn "tent city." It was 78 feet by 20 feet, quite a large footprint of 7 tents. It was a real chore to set up and take down.



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**CBS – North Carolina Annual Report
(Charles N Diman Commissioner)**



WEE ONES' CORNER - BLAIR BABIES!



Grandfather Mountain Highland Games, North Carolina

Clan Blair Society (Charlie Diman) Center front row



On parade at the Grandfather Mountain Games
(Stephens and Diman families)

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Christopher Wallace Pixley

I [Barbara Pixley] have attached a photo of the newest 'twig' on the family tree. Christopher Wallace Pixley-grandson of Barbara Blair Pixley (Member #294) He is the son of Randolph Blair Pixley who pipes with the North Atlanta Pipe Band in Georgia (they took first place in their division at the Stone Mountain Scottish Games). Christopher is the nephew of award winning-highland dancer Christy Blair Pixley Few and cousin of 5 year-old-Kaia Blair Few who is also winning awards in Highland dancing...the tradition continues.



Sutton Blair Strong, daughter of Geoff Strong and Maily Blair Strong, Portland, Oregon. First great-grandchild of Jim and Adoree Blair. Born August 7, 2014.

(Editor's note: Let us know about your new wee Blair babies with a photo and a short note.)

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Letter from Jack Blair with Great History!

Hello again Adoree,

Among other famous Blair folk to be considered are Mr. Robert Blair a leading Scottish minister who almost emigrated to America in 1636 but was blown back! Another was Dr Patrick Blair an eminent botanist and physician who was caught up in the Jacobean Rising of 1715. See attached items.

Best wishes,

Jack Blair (read on)

Robert Blair, Minister at St. Andrews

Robert Blair, born 1593 at Irvine, sixth and youngest child of John Blair of Windyedge, brother of Blair of that Ilk. His mother was Beatrix Muir who was left a widow while the children were young. (She lived to 100 years, much of them a widow).

Robert entered College of Glasgow about 1608. About age 20, he finished a course of philosophy under the discipline of his brother Mr. William Blair who afterwards was minister of Dumbarton. In time, he took the place of his brother as regent in the College of Glasgow. In 1616, he entered trials for the ministry. He grew weary of teaching philosophy and resolved to leave Glasgow. He was offered various charges in Scotland but had an invitation to Bangor in County Down in Ireland. On arrival there, the old Dean was dying and after preaching a few times there, he was asked to be ordained. He had a dislike of Episcopacy but the Bishop so admired him that he offered to join with the brethren as a Presbyter in ordaining him about 1623. Robert had a great influence on the ministry of counties Down and Antrim. Turning to the index of Midlothian Old Parish registers we find:

Beatrix daughter. to Robert Hamilton bap. 7 Dec. 1606, in Edinburgh, Midlothian.

I assume that he returned to Edinburgh and married Beatrix Hamilton, the eighteen year old daughter of Robert Hamilton in Edinburgh. Their marriage was recorded in Canongate, Edinburgh on 26 July 1625.

He took her with him to Bangor where they had family. In 1631, he and John Livingstone were suspended from their offices by Ecklim, Bishop of Down and in May 1632, were deposed. Robert journeyed to the Court of King Charles but had a long wait in London before being granted an audience to air his grievances. While in England, he had a premonition of his wife's death from Ezekiel xxvi, 16 although on return home she was in good health. Yet a little later, this came as foreseen. That suggests that Beatrix Hamilton died about 1632 before her father, and hence her son James would be heir to his grandfather Robert Hamilton.

His appeal to King Charles gave only a short respite and again he was deposed in Nov., 1635.

During 1635, he preached from his own house and other houses very much in the Scottish Covenanting style. He began to think of marriage with Catherine Montgomery, daughter to Hugh Montgomery, formerly of Busby in Ayrshire then residing in Ireland. For this, he came over to Scotland with his own and his wife's friends and upon return to Ireland, they were married in May 1636.

With the rest of the ejected ministers, they resolved to emigrate to America. They built a ship of 115 tons called "Eaglewings" and set sail from Carrickfergus for New England. Some 300 leagues out they encountered a hurricane which drove them back to Carrickfergus. They decided the Lord had business there for them. But after a few months they learned they were to be apprehended so Robert crossed to Scotland in 1637. He was employed around Edinburgh and Irvine that summer but embarked with Colonel Hepburn's Regiment who, were enlisted in the service of France (Scotland's ally).

The Highlanders were such a wild lot that he decided against being their chaplain and was put ashore quickly. He was minister in Ayr in 1638 and for the next year. The General Assembly instructed him to move to St Andrews in 1639. There was a rebellion in Ireland, which murdered or drove out many of the Protestant ministers. A plea to the General assembly for assistance in supplying ministers was made in 1642. Robert Blair was among the first to respond. He returned to Scotland and St Andrews about 1643. He was minister to the

Earl of Crawford's Regiment but when the army was routed at Marston Moor in England in July 1644, Mr. Robert returned to St. Andrews. He was greatly involved with the Covenant and in meetings with King Charles in 1646 when he was Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. The history here is very complex with Scotland forcing through their desire for Presbyterianism and signing the Covenant and sending troops to aid the English in their battle against Charles and the Loyalists. Failure to pay the agreed terms to Scotland led to a war against Cromwell and the English Commonwealth (there being no monarch in the Commonwealth). Robert Blair represented the Church of Scotland in meetings with Cromwell but had little belief in him, considering Cromwell to be "an egregious dissembler, and a great liar." King Charles II was restored in 1660 and Episcopacy returned to be inflicted on the Church of Scotland by him. Bishop Sharp had him warded for his adherence to Presbyterianism, banning him from St Andrews and the West where Covenanting was most active. He thus retired to Kirkcaldy in Fife and there taught his youngest son the Greek language and logic. Robert and his wife Catherine are mentioned in a number of the Fife Sasines along with their sons, David and Hugh and daughter Katherine.

Afterwards he moved in Feb 1666 to Meikle Couston in the parish of Aberdour, Fife. He died there on 27th Aug 1666. He was survived by his second wife and some children. His son David was one of these.

Robert was buried at Aberdour, Fife and the monumental inscription reads:

"Hic reconditae jacent mortuae
 Exuviae D.Roberti Blair, S.S.
 Evangelii apud Andrapolin
 Proedicatoris fidelissimi. Obiit
 Augusti 27, 1666. AEtatis suae 72."

The Family of Dr Robert Blair:

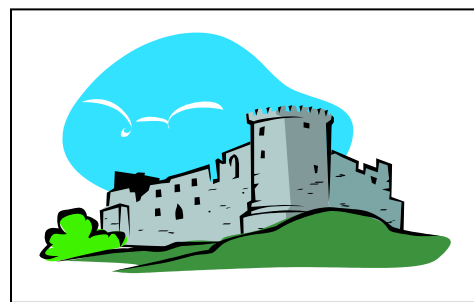
By his first wife Robert had issue, some or all born in Ireland between 1626 and 1632 where Robert was then a minister]

- 1.Elizabeth
2. James, who was heir to his grandfather, Robert Hamilton.
3. Marion, died in infancy
4. Jean who married Mr. William Rowe, minister at Ceres, Scotland
5. Robert

By his second wife Katherine Montgomery, Robert had issue:

- 6.William born 1636 (died infancy-no Bapt. Rec. found to date)
- 7.David born 10 April 1639 (no Bapt record found to date), marr. 10 Feb1697 to Euphemia Nesbit. He was Minister and Chaplain to the king. They had 5 sons and 1 daughter. David is mentioned in the Fife Sasines.¹
- 8.Samuel bapt. 20 June 1640
- 9.John bapt. 19 June 1642
- 10.Andrew bapt. 29 July 1644
- 11.Archibald bapt. 16 Apr 1646
12. Hugh or Hew bapt. 5 Feb 1652. He is mentioned in the Fife Sasines.²
13. Catharine bapt. 27 Apr 1654. Married 4 Feb 1697 to George Campbell, Minister at Dumfries, Scotland. She is mentioned in the Fife Sasines.³
14. Montgomery born 16 Apr 1648 at St. Andrews, but he is not amongst the Bapt. Records.

{There are also frequent references to this family in Deeds which may prove fruitful to any research.}



¹ Fife Sasines xxii.185, 190, 192, 204, and 205.

² Fife Sasines xxiii.183

³ Fife Sasines xx.276, 491; xxiii.185

An Eminent Physician and Botanist

Dr Patrick Blair (1672c - 1728)

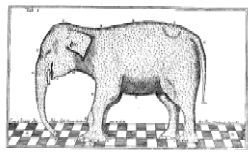
By Jack Blair

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."⁴

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.⁵ 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 practicing 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}

The following is extracted from an old report.

"Angus is had such scientist (c.1666-



fortunate to have a distinguished as Patrick Blair 1728) to contribute to the

recording of its flora. Blair was probably born in either Dundee or Perthshire (where his father had

estates). His main interest was medicine (in which he trained in the Low Counties), but at that time medicine was intimately connected with botany. Blair had settled in Dundee by 1701 as a surgeon-apothecary and it was near here, in 1706, that he made the first ever dissection of an elephant.

The unfortunate subject had been toured around Europe, but collapsed a mile from Dundee. A ditch was dug to try and raise the beast, but this filled with rain and she succumbed. Blair took advantage of this and communicated a minutely detailed paper (with four copper-plate engravings) on its anatomy to the Royal Society of London in 1710. In 1712 he was elected a fellow of the same society.

His affairs took a bad turn in 1715 when he espoused the Jacobite cause (in his capacity as surgeon). He was taken prisoner at Preston and thence to Newgate, where he was sentenced to death. However, through the influence of Sir Hans Sloane and James Pettiver, with whom he had previously met and corresponded, he was pardoned and released. He remained in London and it was here that he published his botanical works. The most important of these was *Botanical Essays* of 1720 in which he propagates the sexual nature of plants. It is his other works that are relevant to the present work. *Miscellaneous Observations in the Practise of Physick, Anatomy and Surgery, with New and Curious Remarks in Botany (1718)* comprises a series of letters written during the previous years. The first is dedicated to Sir Isaac Newton.

The account continues to list those plants that Patrick Blair recorded in Perthshire and Angus. His botanical texts contain "fascinating digressions such as recipes for oatcakes and different sorts of bread".⁶

Most but not all of this old report is accurate.

The following, gathered mainly from his letters, is added to expand or amend the detail:

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

⁴ Blair, Jack. Published by Clan Blair Society 2001

Library of Congress Control Number 00-092595

⁵ Dundee OPR

⁶ Stevenson A.P., (1908) Patrick Blair Surgeon Apothecary, Dundee. Trans.Proc.of Bot.Soc. Edinburgh., p23,pp258-276

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."

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 endeavors 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.⁷

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A Scots boy came home from school and told his mother he had been given a part in the school play. "Wonderful," says the mother, "What part is it?" The boy says "I play the part of the Scottish husband!" The mother scowls and says: "Go back and tell your teacher you want a speaking part."

A student at an English university, by name of Donald MacDonald from the Isle of Skye, who was living in the hall of residence in his first year there. After he had been there for a month, his mother came to visit, no doubt carrying reinforcements of oatmeal. "And how do you find the English students, Donald?" she asked. "Mother," he replied, "they're such terrible noisy people! The one on that side keeps banging his head against the wall, and won't stop. The one on the other side screams and screams and screams away into the night!" "Oh, Donald! How ever do you manage to put up with these awful noisy English neighbours?" "Mother, I do nothing, I just ignore them! I just stay here quietly playing my bagpipes!"



A Mystery Kilt Pin Story from Charlie Diman

2014 Grandfather Mountain Highland Games

During the games, a woman attending the Leslie AGM for the first time, came to our tent and told us the following story:

Four years ago, she had attended the Cedar Rapids Celtic Festival. As she walked around the grounds, she found a kilt pin lying on the ground. She tried to return it, but she could not because she didn't recognize the motto as being from a clan she knew. She resolved to find the clan and return it.

After some major research, she still was unable to trace it. Attending the GMH Games for the first time, she brought the pin along. She decided to go from tent to tent reading each Motto until she found the right one. When she actually found us, she couldn't believe it. She was so pleased to be able to return it to the Clan.

Now the challenge was to find out who could have lost a Kilt pin in Cedar Rapids Iowa four years ago message. When he called back and told me it wasn't his, I wasn't sure where to go next.

I went through our inactive members list, and found Randi Blair in Cedar Rapids. I called and left a message. She returned the call the next day and, lo and behold, it was her Kilt pin. I sent it back to her, showing us again that miracles do happen.

Charlie Diman

(Editor's note: And the PS to this story is that Randi Blair became an active member again! Good job, Membership Chair!)

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FLOWERS OF THE FIELD

Ronald "Gene" Blair

1932 – 2014



Blair, Ronald "Gene" SAN DIEGO -- Ronald "Gene" Blair, passed away peacefully July 3, 2014, at the age of eighty-one. Survived by his beloved wife of fifty years, his two children and four grandchildren. Born in National City, CA, to Ron and "Dessie" Blair on September 10, 1932. Gene grew up in Point Loma and later graduated from SDSU in 1955. He served honorably in the **U.S. Navy** for four years as a cryptographer. Married to Joyce "Penny" Blair since April, 1964, they raised their children Denise and Mark in the San Diego-Clairemont area where he was employed by Convair, NCR, and later co-owned an electronics distributor business - MOCK III Sales for over 20 years. Gene will always be remembered as a devoted husband and father who involved himself in various charitable organizations, such as the Wine and Roses/ San Diego Wine Guild, Salvation Army, several culinary cooking classes, and teaching English to foreign students. Gene will be greatly missed by all who loved and knew him. In honor of Gene Blair, any donations can be sent to the San Diego Humane Society, 5500 Gaines St., San Diego, CA 92110

(From Helen Blair, Past President, CBS): Gene Blair of San Diego, Ca & his wife Penny had gone on at least one CBS Scotland tour.

I was trying to remember who was on the bus with us.

His real name was Ronald & his wife is Joyce but they went by the names Gene & Penny.

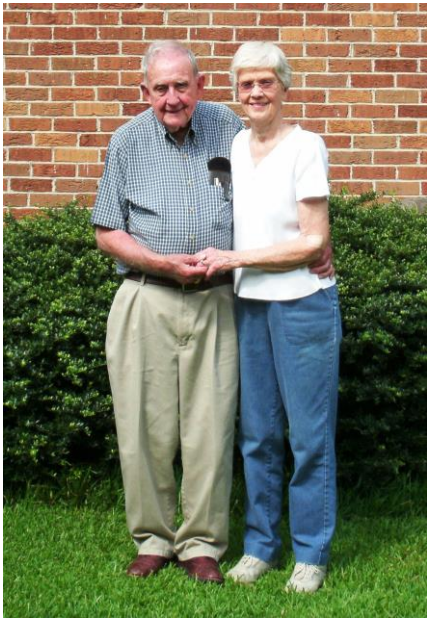
I remember joking that they were part of the witness protection program.

He was good at the one-liners & joking around like all the other Blair men.

Ansel E. Blair

1920-2014

(Submitted by Wyomia Blair)



Ansel Blair and his wife Helen, on his 90th birthday.

I am sad to inform you of the death of my uncle Ansel E. Blair member #114. Born June 29 1920, he passed away from complications of Alzheimer's disease. I know he was on the 25-year member list in the newsletter. It showed his address as Greenville NC, but it should have been Greenville SC. He is my older brother And was my last surviving brother.



Needed - New Librarian



We have accepted the retirement of CBS Librarian Jennifer Blair. After a number years of great service Jen's travel and other personal demands have resulted in her decision to hand off this important responsibility. The CBS Board is seeking candidates to oversee the Society's literary assets housed in the Odom Library in Moultrie, GA. The CBS library includes 20 books, videos and other reference items for use by members.

The duties include: 1) maintaining a relationship with the Odom Librarian, 2) overseeing book/video check-out and return, and 3) conducting an annual inventory of the materials. This responsibility can be performed long distance and does not require being located near Moultrie, GA.

Please contact Jim Blair at president@clanblair.org if you might be interested in this important position.

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About the History of Scottish fights for Independence from the BBC:

By Andrew Black Political reporter, BBC Scotland

Thanks to the 1995 Hollywood blockbuster Braveheart, many people are familiar with the Scottish wars of independence, fought between the late 13th and early 14th centuries.

A series of events saw England's King Edward overpower the Scottish kingdom in 1296, before Robert the Bruce inflicted some serious payback in the battle of Bannockburn in 1314 - an event that has just reached its 700th anniversary.

7 THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT THE SCOTTISH INDEPENDENCE VOTE

(NBC News and BBC News)



(Movie depiction of) The Battle of Culloden, 1746

Other key moments through the ages included Bonnie Prince Charlie's ill-fated invasion of England in 1745, culminating in defeat at Culloden the following year.

Despite various challenges, Scotland is generally regarded to have asserted its independence from about 843, until the official unification with England took place in 1707.

At the time, the view was that Scotland was desperate for cash, but opponents of the move were outraged by claims that the Scots who put their names to the Act of Union were bribed. The episode moved Scotland's Bard, Robert Burns, to write: "We are bought and sold for English gold. Such a parcel of rogues in a nation."

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Scottish referendum: Why people voted 'Yes' or 'No'

(By Alistair Smout and Guy Faulconbridge, BBC)

More than three and a half million Scots voted in Thursday's referendum. The turnout was the highest for any UK election since 1951.

The vote against independence was larger in the more rural parts of Scotland, and among older voters.

For cities that voted "Yes", such as Glasgow and Dundee, the dream that had seemed so close has evaporated.

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1- An independent Scotland would have its own defense force and would likely remain an American ally, but any weakening of Britain's defense capability would be a worry for the Pentagon.

2- Without Scotland's phalanx of left-leaning Labour lawmakers, Westminster would likely be dominated by David Cameron's Conservative Party, which favors a referendum on British withdrawal from the E.U.

3 - The 'No' campaign said independent Scotland would be weaker on the world stage and would have to raise taxes to pay for the replication of institutions and services currently shared with England, such as defense forces and state pensions.

4 - The BBC notes that the U.K. is one of only three countries that do not have a written constitution (the other two being Israel and New Zealand). The Scottish government wanted to assert sovereignty with a constitutional document and had already proposed a draft for public consultation.

5- Scottish independence advocates say oil reserves off the country's northern coast could help bankroll an independent Scotland.

6- One of the central issues surrounding the Scottish bid for independence was the question of whether an independent Scotland would retain the Sterling Pound.

7- The "Union Jack" flag was born out of the union of the Scottish and English monarchies in the 17th centuries, and was updated when Ireland united with Great Britain in 1801. But with the possibility of Scotland's independence from the U.K., the future of the flag would be in jeopardy since it consists of overlays of the English, Scottish, and Irish designs.



ONE LAST LOOK AT FUN PHOTOS FROM SCOTLAND -----





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Contact Helen Blair—480-807-4024, clanstore@clanblair.org, 7516 E. Hermosa Vista Dr. Mesa, AZ 85207-1110

Clan Blair Society Executive Board

Chairs of Standing Committees

September 2014

Jim Blair - President

7200 S Prince Street

Littleton, CO 80120

303 795-9754

President@clanblair.org

Shawn Blair - Vice President

682 County Rd

Acton, ME 04001

207 619-0494

Frances Holt - Secretary

15928 Loncrest Drive

Hacienda Heights, CA 91745

626 330-1034

Secretary@clanblair.org

Ann Fredline - Treasurer

12001 W. Armga Drive

Boise, Idaho 83709

208 344-0286

Treasurer@clanblair.org

High Commissioner

Vacant

Shawn Blair - Webmaster

Address – see above

Weblaird@clanblair.org

Charles Diman - Membership

3413 Sunnybrook Drive

Charlotte, NC 28210-4715

980-254-2743

Clanmembership@clanblair.org

NC Commissioner email:

cndiman@carolina.rr.com

Helen Blair - Clan Blair Store

7516 E. Hermosa Vista Dr.

Mesa, AZ 85207-1110

480 807-4024

Clanstore@clanblair.org

Adoree Blair - Newsletter Editor

7200 S Prince Street

Littleton, CO 80120

303 798-3881

Bruidhinn@clanblair.org

Leslie Blair Gallagher - Public Relations

5532 Mansfield Ct.

Colorado Springs, CO 80918

720 201-3128

Publicrelations@clanblair.org

Clan Blair Library

Vacant

CBSlibrary@clanblair.org

Coy Blair - Blair Genealogy, Blairlin

1011 16th St.

Auburn, NE 68305

402 274 - 9846

CBSgenea@clanblair.org

Nominating Committee:

Pat Risdon, Laingsburg, MI

Kurt Blair, CO - Chair

Leslie Blair Gallagher, CO

Nominations@clanblair.org

Clan Blair Scotland Trip

Dick Holt

322 Aoloa Street PH3

Kailua, HI 96734

808 263-5856

ScotlandTrip@clanblair.org

State CBS Commissioner's List: See

www.clanblair.org/commissioners

(For Members)

CLAN BLAIR SOCIETY

Charles Diman, Membership
3413 Sunnybrook Drive
Charlotte, NC 28210-4715



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