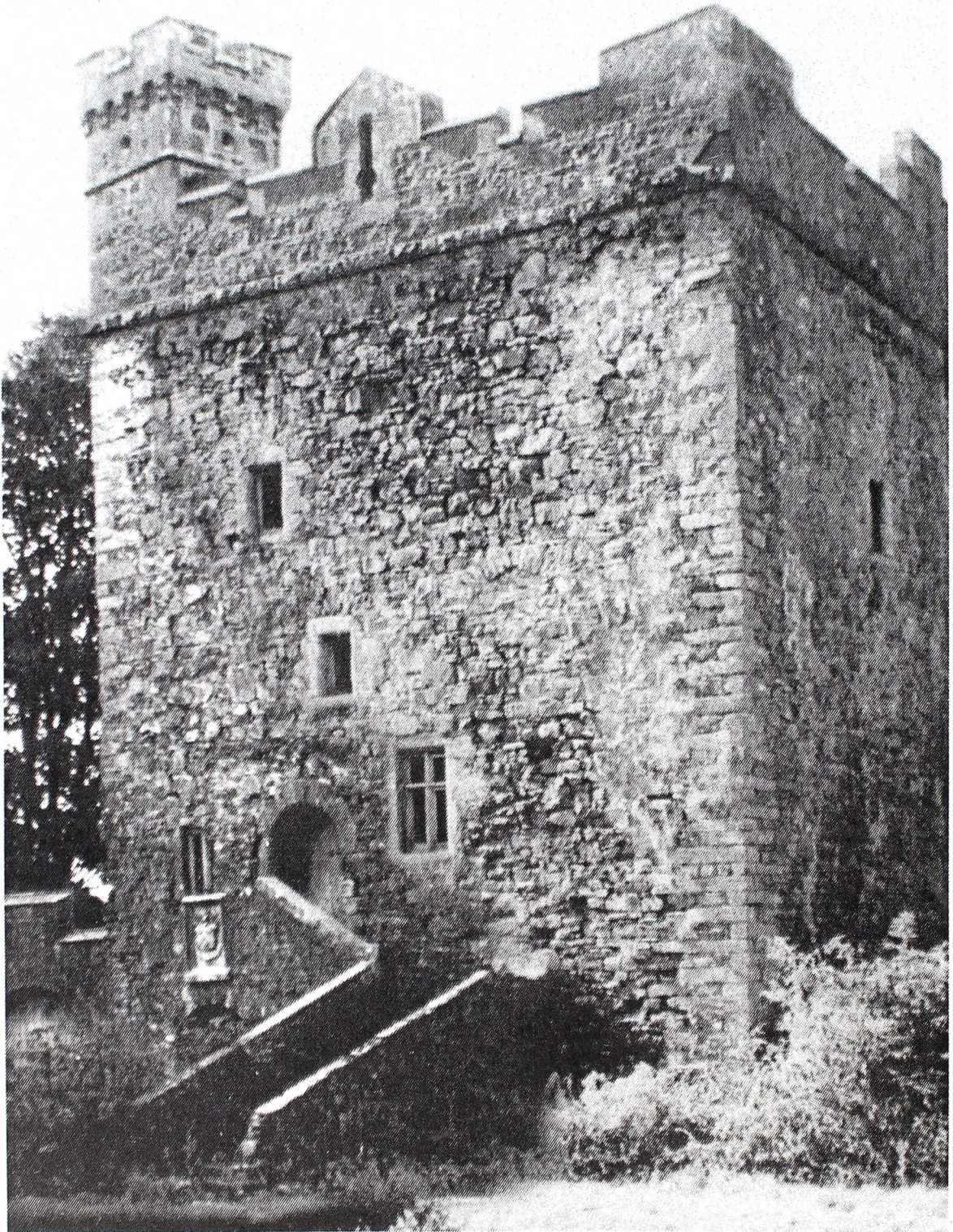


**The Blairs of Balthayock
And Their Cadets
1150-1850**



*Balthayock Castle ruins and present day "Keep"
The Keep is the only remains of the once massive castle left standing today.*

The Blairs of Balthayock And Their Cadets

1150-1850

IN TWO PARTS

By
Anne Groome
Jack Blair
Noel Blair McCullough

PART I

A GENEALOGY OF THE BLAIR OF BALTHAYOCK AND THEIR CADETS

By
Jack Blair

PART II

BARONAGES & ESTATES OF THE BLAIRS OF BALTHAYOCK AND THEIR CADETS
ABSTRACTS OF SOME OF THE ORIGINAL TITLES

Compiled by
Noel Blair McCullough

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The Coat of Arms of the Blair of Balthayock.
Arms: *Argent*, a chevron *sable*, between three roundles, *gules*.

Back Cover:

A painting of Balthayock Castle by Eleanor Gaynor (deceased), a cousin of Anne Groome and a descendant of David Scott Blair, done c. 1990, from a painting found in the New York Public Library.

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FOREWORD

This book has been prepared by members of the Clan Blair Society (CBS) for its members and others interested in this family, their baronages, estates and other matters relating to them, primarily in the Perthshire area of Scotland, particularly during the 1100-1850 time period. It is arranged in two parts. Part I covers the genealogy and related matters pertaining to the Blairs of Balthayock and their cadet branches and is authored by Jack Blair of Scotland. Part II is primarily a listing of abstracts of charters and other documents pertaining to the Balthayock Blairs. These charters were recently located in Canada in a charter chest which had been brought over by a Balthayock Blair descendant. The Charter Chest and its contents have now been donated by Mr. Robert Tower Fergusson, a descendant of the last of the Balthayock Blairs, to the Clan Blair Society for use by its members and for protection in its archives.

The book is an outgrowth of two appointments made by Norman Blair, founder and first President of CBS, shortly after it was organized in 1988. He asked me, Anne Groome, to (1) undertake research to determine if there was a living person eligible to become Chief of the Clan, and (2) identify and arrange for permission to visit ancient Blair castles and other places of interest to CBS members located in the Perthshire and the northeast area of Scotland during their forthcoming Scottish tour. My research of ancient Blair castles and other places of interest in this area of Scotland resulted from my interest in searching for the ancestors of my great grandfather, David Scott Blair, an 1840s immigrant from Scotland, the son of a Dundee haberdasher.

It will be of interest to note that Balthayock is located in the center of many places of interest to Blairs and to others as well. Many of these places were included on the CBS Scottish tour of 1990 and subsequent tours. In the Clan's first group tour to Balthayock, we were greeted by Major and Lady Walter who showed us through Westwood Cottage and over to the site and stone remains of the ancient Balthayock Blair Castle. (Picture is included elsewhere in this publication).

Another memorable site included on the first CBS Scottish tour was Ardblair Castle, where, as the bus was driven up to the castle, a reenactment of a fierce struggle was underway alongside the approach. In this surprise reenactment, observed by the tour members from the bus, the participants in the struggle were dressed in proper attire of ancient times, some wearing white cockade caps signifying membership in Prince Charlie's army. They were armed with weapons of the type used in such times. This reenactment had been arranged by Laurence Blair-Oliphant and his wife, Jennifer, the present owners and occupants of the castle. Laurence is a descendant of a cadet branch of the Blairs of Balthayock and is a CBS member.

With the assistance of the Scottish Records Office, the Lord Lyon's Court and Sir Crispin Agnew, Herald to the Lord Lyon's Court, it was determined that the Blairs of Ayrshire line died out with the death of Cecilia Blair in 1937. It was determined, also, that the Perthshire line had died out with

the death of Jemima Blair Johnson Fergusson in 1824 and that some of her descendants had moved to Canada. With the hope of locating some of these descendants my husband, Preston, and I began attending some of the Scottish Gatherings in Canada, in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Ontario. Later we agreed to assist the Canadian CBS Commissioner, Agnes Brooks, set up a Blair tent for a Scottish Gathering at Fergus, Ontario. At this gathering we met Ariel Dyer who was well acquainted with some of the descendants of Jemima Blair and had authored a book "The Laird of Woodhill" which is the story of the Fergusson's migration to Canada following the death of Jemima Blair and her mother, the disposal of the Balthayock properties and their success in the development of Canada. Ariel described some of the many Balthayock documents and royal seals contained in a Charter Chest which had been shown to her by Robert Tower Fergusson, a descendant of Jemima Blair, in connection with preparation for her book and in which she thought I would be interested.

It was agreed that Ariel would contact Mr. Fergusson and arrange for a meeting. In 1993 Preston and I traveled to Ontario where we met Ariel who accompanied us to meet Robert Tower Fergusson. Tower informed me that he was a descendant of the last Balthayock Blair, Jemima Blair Johnson who married Adam Fergusson. Their second son, Adam Johnson Fergusson, was born at Balthayock, Perthshire, Scotland in 1815. The Balthayock estate had been deeded to Sir Patrick de Blair in 1369 and was entailed to be owned by the Blair family alone. Jemima Blair Johnson was heiress apparent from her mother, Margaret Blair Johnson who lived until 1829, however, Jemima had died in 1824, five years earlier. Adam Fergusson, who had migrated to and established residence in Canada, then returned to Balthayock to be in charge of his mother-in-law's estate. Her will left the property to his and Jemima's sons. The eldest, Neil James had to change his name to Blair to inherit. When he died the second son, Adam Johnson Fergusson, inherited but had to add Blair to his name and was thereafter known as Adam Johnson Fergusson-Blair. After all Balthayock lands had been sold the Fergussons moved to Canada in 1833 where Adam became a highly respected citizen and was a very active member of the Canadian Legislature

While visiting Tower Fergusson, we were shown and given a copy of the abstract list from the Charter Chest. Later discussions with Tower Fergusson led to his agreement to permit the Clan Blair Society to copy the documents for present and future generation's research. Finally in 1999 I called Tower to arrange permission to bring in a professional photographer to copy the documents. Shortly thereafter I received a call from him in which he said, "Forget about bringing in the photographer, come on up and accept the metal Charter Chest and its remaining contents. I am donating them to the Clan Blair Society for their use and preservation in their archives."

As we were driving back to New Jersey with the Charter Chest and its contents, I turned to Preston and said, "Now that we have these documents, what are we going to do with them?" Soon after arriving home I telephoned my cousin, Noel Blair McCullough, whose great grandmother, Janet Blair, was a sister to my great grandfather, David Scott Blair and described my fantastic find. There the question was answered. Noel willingly agreed to type a transcription of the abstracts verbatim and compile them into proper order for publication.

Some of the documents and seals had been removed over the years. There are 93 documents remaining in the chest, some with seals still attached. It was the practice in those times to prepare two copies of such charters, one for the buyer and one for the seller. The chest contains some of each.

The abstracts have been arranged in true chronological order by Noel Blair McCullough in 2000 in collaboration with the Edit Committee and are published in Part II of this publication. Maps have been prepared by Jack Blair of Scotland and Willard McCullough to aid researchers in locating the properties mentioned, herein. Jack Blair has again been of tremendous help with place names in Scotland and is primarily responsible for the glossary located elsewhere in this publication. The abstract list numbers of those charters still remaining in the chest are identified by an asterisk (*) as well as being placed in a separate listing elsewhere in the publication.

Following the discovery of the Balthayock Blair Charter Chest in Canada, on a visit with Major Walter at Westwood Cottage, on another CBS Scottish tour, I acquainted him with my discovery in Canada. He showed me the Balthayock Charter Chest with its charters and seals. Discussion was had in regard to making copies of these muniments for inclusion, with the Canadian muniments, for preservation and possible use. Major Walter suggested that we combine both for future reference.

Unfortunately, at a time when the Walters were away on vacation, a fire at Westwood Cottage in 1998, starting in its thatched roof, completely destroyed the cottage, the Charter Chest and its contents. While this event was devastating it increased the interest in preserving the Canadian documents and such other records as existed of this ancient family history and, to a good extent, is responsible for this publication at this time.

My thanks to Jack Blair, Noel Blair McCullough, Willard McCullough, Robert Tower Fergusson Ariel Dyer for their excellent work, to our Clan Blair Society President, William C. Blair, for his encouragement and support and my dear husband, Preston, who has done a yeoman's job in preparing camera-ready copy for the printer. We hope that this combined effort will give those searching for their Blair roots in Perthshire, Angus and Forfar and northeastern Scotland a new research tool that will provide genealogical sources for years to come.

Anne Groome,
Morristown NJ USA
Fall, 2000

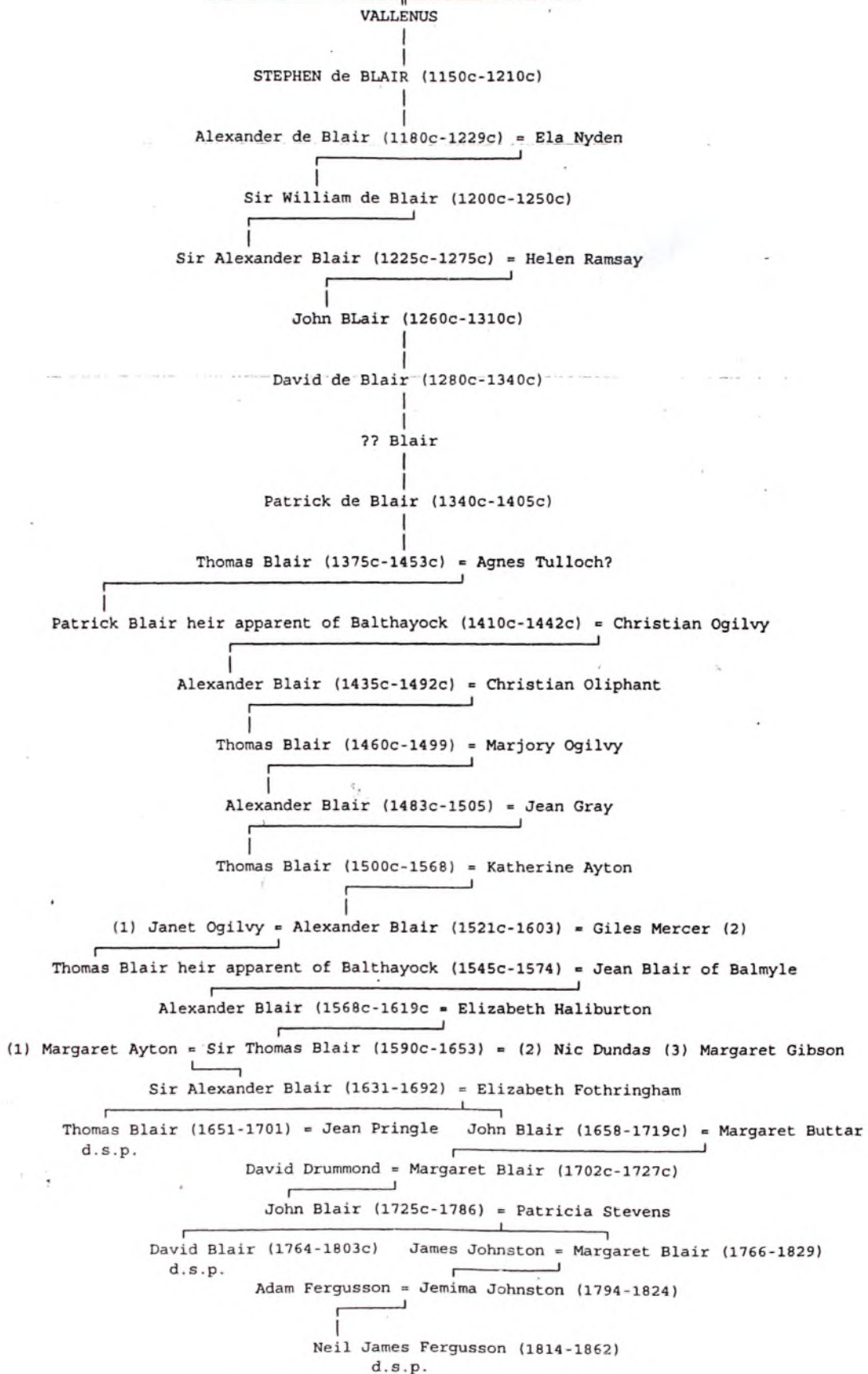
Arrangements have been made to store the Charter Chest and its contents with the New England Historic Genealogical Society, 101 Newbury St., Boston MA.. Persons desiring to view or obtain translations of the documents for their personal family research should contact the Library and proceed under their rules and regulations.

PART I

A GENEALOGY OF THE BLAIR OF BALTHAYOCK AND THEIR CADETS

by
Jack Blair

FAMILY TREE OF BLAIR OF BALTHAYOCK



d.s.p.=decissit sine prole (died without issue)
 Researched by Jack Blair - March 2000

PREFACE

It was during a visit to Balthayock in the company of the Clan Blair Society in August 1996 that Major David Walter showed to me some old Balthayock charters which had been handed down over the centuries as evidence of the Blair's lawful possessions. Sadly, a disastrous fire at Westwood destroyed the beautiful home of Major David and Lady Sarah in 1998 and among the many irreplaceable treasures and heirlooms lost were these ancient Balthayock charters. The Clan Blair tour of 1996 also included a visit to Ardblair Castle and there, the host, Laurence Blair Oliphant, indicated his intention to commemorate his family's 400 years of occupation there in the year 1999. Accordingly, the Clan Blair visit of 1999 was centered on this celebration. Laurence invited me to assist him in preparing a historical article for this event. This initiated a history of the Blairs of Ardblair and, inevitably, that led back to the senior family of Blair of Balthayock. The loss of the Balthayock charters seemed to remove that line of research but soon many other sources were tapped. Piece by piece they yielded up a history of the Blair families in Perthshire and Angus which was far more accurate than that produced in the late eighteenth century by Sir Robert Douglas in "The Baronage of Scotland". Later writers had borrowed from Douglas without attempting to confirm or build on his excellent groundwork. Inevitably, this had led to degeneration rather than improvement with serious misconceptions creeping in to the main aspects of the Blair history.

At the mid-stage of preparation, I learned of the good news of Tower Fergusson's generous gift to the Clan Blair Society and soon thereafter, the abstracts typed by Noel McCullough revealed to me a whole new wealth of source material. These confirmed much of my initial work, led to some modifications and provided much new detail on the Blair of Balthayock family.

It is intended that this work, while providing a detailed genealogy, will convey also some historical insights of the periods when the various players take stage. Hopefully too, it will dispel some frequently promoted myths that display the Blair family as having a turbulent and lawless history. In the 19th century William Anderson produced a flawed work that not only failed to add to the groundwork laid by Douglas but also introduced several major errors. Unfortunately, more recent writers have continued to follow his theme of the lawless Blairs. They would serve their readers better by observing other families in the same historical period before drawing such conclusions. A handful of incidents resulting in murder or assault over a century which saw the Reformation of the Church and a Civil War in Scotland can hardly imply that they and their neighbours were constantly feuding. Indeed, the perpetrators were taken to court and punished for their involvement.

The contribution of the Blair families in estate management, in the local government of Perth, Dundee and Angus, as merchants, as academics, physicians, and churchmen will contrast with the misconception portraying Balthayock as a defensive retreat telling a grim tale. Characters will be found who granted beneficiaries to the church, made pilgrimage to St. John of Amiens, assisted the young "Admirable Crichton", became a Provost of the University of Lascar in Geneva, who first identified many of the native flowers of Angus and Perthshire, who performed and recorded the first dissection of an elephant.

With only limited material surviving the span of years, it has not been possible always to tie in the various cadets with absolute certainty but the evidence gathered is identified in the footnotes and may provide a launching pad for others who may come upon other primary evidence.

I wish to acknowledge my gratitude to the archivists and librarians at A K Bell Library, Perth; Dundee University; Dundee City Archives; Central Library, Edinburgh; and the National Library of Scotland Map Library, Edinburgh and to the staff at the Archives of Scotland, Edinburgh. Thanks also go to the Tay Valley Family History Society, Dundee and the Scottish Genealogical Society, Edinburgh for access to primary and secondary source material.

I am grateful for the initial prompt from Laurence Blair Oliphant and the ongoing encouragement from the Clan Blair Society, and in particular to their president, Bill Blair, whose incentive was to broaden the study to assist those seeking roots in the branches of the Blair family. The extension reached only those cadets of Balthayock and it must fall to another author to pick up Bill's challenge to extend the history to Blair of that Ilk or the early Blair families in Ireland.

Without access to the Blair abstracts, my history would have lacked many of the characters and much of useful detail of the Blair of Balthayock lands. My especial thanks go to Anne Groome and Noel McCullough for so kindly posting reams of information to me. Some of this, not relevant to the Blair family, revealed long sought information on a branch of my Ogilvy forebears from a Fergusson letter of 1775 which detailed genealogy back to the early 17th century. That must wait for another book.

Finally, but by no means least, I wish to thank my dear wife, Norma, for her forbearance while I shuttered myself away, journeying through the past by delving through old records of long forgotten people, places and events.

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A GENEALOGY OF BLAIR OF BALTHAYOCK AND THEIR CADETS.

By Jack Blair

Blair of Balthayock**Arms:** *Argent, a chevron sable, between three roundles gules.*

The lands of Balthayock lie six kilometres due east of Perth. These were long associated with the ancient family of Blair. The name Blair appears about the 12th century both in the Southwest of Scotland and in East Scotland. Whether there was any link between the Blair of Blair in Ayrshire and those to the north east is not established and it may be that quite separate families adopted the name from like named places but in remote locations.

The place name Blair is well distributed and a cluster of them is found around Blairgowrie in Perthshire and another cluster near the Blair of Crambeth in the Dowhill / Lochore locality of Fife. Nothing in this research has established any link between the early Tayside family and the Ayr family who took their name from Blair in that shire.

This genealogy looks only to the Perthshire/ Fife/Angus group.

The family archives of Balthayock are dispersed and regrettably those retained there were lost in a fire in 1998. Sir Robert Douglas had access to the family archive and he fortunately recorded a brief genealogical history indicating where he had drawn from these charters.¹

The reader will find that within the following text, notice is paid to the charters where a Blair has been involved, even as a witness. One reason for this is that the ranking order can be significant as to how the witness stood among his peers. More importantly, in charters the witness frequently may be related to one of the parties.

Stephen de Blair (1150c - 1210c)

The earliest association of the surname Blair around Tayside is discovered in the records of the Cistercian Abbey of Coupar Angus. Interestingly later persons of the name Blair were to hold various offices of Coupar Abbey such as Abbot, Chamberlain and bailie up to the time of the Reformation in 1560.

During the reign of King William (1165 - 1214) and sometime before 1201, Stephen de Blair, son of Vallenus, granted to the monks of Coupar a charter of the lands of Lethcassy to which William added a royal charter of Confirmation.² The gift was made for the salvation of the souls of the Kings David, Malcolm and William and for Stephen's father, mother, sisters and all his kinsfolk.

It may be deduced that Stephen was the only son of Vallenus. Witnesses to this charter of the late 12th century included William Hay, John Hasting, Philip Melgum, Hugh Kaladon, Malcolm Kettins, Richard Clarell, Robert Barclay, Adam son of Paulinus, Walter Burnett, William Huuioth, Randolph Russ and others. The associations here are informative for the principal witness was William Hay of Errol another benefactor of Coupar Abbey. The senior Blair family was to hold Balthayock near Errol for many centuries. Malcolm of Kettins was clearly a local man, the lands of Kettins being only one mile south east of the abbey. The gift itself, though brief, indicates much on analysis. The lands of Lethcassy or Ledcassy were in the parish of Blairgowrie and were later mentioned with the Mill of Ledcassy. In the Coupar Angus Abbey rentals Ledcassy was grouped with Millhorn, Aberborthie

¹ Douglas, Sir Robert, *The Baronage of Scotland*, Edin. 1778 referred to as "Douglas" in text.

² Rental Book of the Cistercian Abbey of Coupar Angus, Vol. 1 Chr. 35

and Keithick. On Stobie's map of 1783, "Lead Carsie" is shown and the "Mill of Carsie" is located on the Lunan Burn east of Upper Gothens little more than three miles WNW of Coupar Angus. We therefore can identify Ledcassy as the present day Carsie.

Later Blair families were to hold lands in Kettins to the south of the Abbey and much of the land to the north between Coupar Angus and Blairgowrie. The gift was from Stephen's possessions and thus he probably assumed his designation of Blair from his holdings in Blair(gowrie) for his father has no surname. The gift was some time before 1 May 1201 for on that date a Papal Bull by Celestine II confirmed the possession and privileges of the monks of Coupar and made mention of the gift of William Hay and Stephen de Blair's gift of Ledcassy in the parish of Blairgowrie which with Persie was subject of an agreement between the church of Coupar and the church of Blair regarding teinds.³

Also of significance, about this time, was a charter made between 1190 and 1202 granting to the Abbey of Coupar the whole marsh in the territory of Blair in Gowrie from King William's lands.⁴ These were the lands of Muirton of Ardblair, on which more will be related later. The witnesses to the charter included MacBeth, judex of Gowrie, and John Hasting and William Hay, both of whom witnessed Stephen's grant.

Stephen de Blair was one of the witnesses to a charter of William Hay to Coupar Abbey not later than 1199. He also witnessed a charter by Donald bishop of Brechin granting a davoch of land to the Abbey of Aberbrothoc in the period 1204 to 1211.⁵ That tract of land was called Balgillo Grand and could have been in the parish of Tannadice between Forfar and Brechin but it is likewise feasible that it was part of Balgillo in Kettins given Stephen's association with Gowrie. Balgillo was long associated with the Blair family passing from the main branch to a cadet.

The locations of identified lands of Ledcassie are highly significant in this. Two miles to the north lies Ardblair, a mile to the west is Pittendrieck and just beyond that Lethendy all of which were long held by Blair families, as will unfold in this history. From an early time the lands of Blacklunans were in the possession of the senior Blair family. This barony lies twelve miles north of Blairgowrie at the foot of Mount Blair. It is not discovered when it came into the Blairs' hands.

Alexander de Blair (1180c - 1220c)

Alexander lived during the reign of William the Lion and Alexander II.

He married Ela, daughter of Hugh de Nyden of that ilk. Together they were granted a charter of the lands of Konakin in Fife, held of the bishop of St. Andrews.⁶ The charter is undated but from the witnesses, Malcolm seventh earl of Fife and his brothers, it can be placed between 1203 and 1230. By this marriage, Alexander also gained part of the lands of Nyden, which according to Douglas featured for many years in the family possessions. He was probably the same Alexander who witnessed a charter by Fergus earl of Buchan⁷ before 1214 and also a charter by Randulf de Strathphetham.⁸ Alexander Blair also witnessed the charter of Malcolm earl of Fife granting the church of Cleish to Dunfermlyne Abbey.⁹

Alexander may have been son to Stephen de Blair but proof is wanting. Significantly, Hugh de Nyden was also a witness to Coupar Angus Abbey charters. Alexander possibly died about 1220 and was succeeded by William, who is thought to be his son.

³ Charters of Coupar Angus Abbey, Chr 13

⁴ Registrare Regnum Scottorum Vol ii 420

⁵ Liber S Thome de Aberbrothoc Vol I Charter 74 bis, Bannatyne Club 1848

⁶ Balthayock Charters 1

⁷ Collections for a History of the shires of Aberdeen and Bannff Aberdeen 1843

⁸ Registrum Episcopatus Brechinensis Vol ii 3

⁹ Reg de Dunfermlyne Chrtr 145

Sir William de Blair (1200c - 1250c)

An early mention of William Blair is discovered in a Charter by Malcolm seventh earl of Fife with the consent of the Bishop and Chapter of Dunkeld granting the church of Redgorten to the Church of the Holy Trinity at Scone. William was one of the witnesses to this about May 1228. Others mentioned included Elias of Kinnimonth, John of Methil and Stephen of Melginch.¹⁰

The latter is of further interest for in later times Melginch, four and a half miles due north of Balthayock belonged to cadets of Blair of Balthayock. It could be hypothesised that even at this date the Blair estate in Gowrie embraced Melginch and that this Stephen may have been a brother of Sir William named after his grandfather.

William attained the office of Steward of Fife before 1236 and was knighted by Alexander II. Douglas noted many documents relating to Sir William in the family archives. Elsewhere, he is found as witness to charters.

William, designed Steward of Fife was witness at Dunfermline on 7 March 1235/6 to a charter of Constantine of Lochore on the lands of Kinglassie and Pitbrochin.¹¹ Another witness was John Hay who was a major landholder in the Carse of Gowrie around Balthayock. The Hays were also Stewards of Fife. No evidence has been found to link Sir William to the Hay family but it will be shown later that William Blair may have been a kinsman of Constantine of Lochore, perhaps by marriage to a daughter of Constantine. The records of Dunfermline Abbey show that Constantine had a brother Patrick and a son David at this time.

Another charter of this abbey on the lands of Inchtorphin was witnessed by Robert Hay, William Blair, John of Longforgan, Roger of Cluny and Mathew of Glasclune strongly indicating a Gowrie location for all.¹²

A charter of Scone Abbey during the reign of Alexander II (1214-1249) dated in Perth on 5 May 1240 mentions Walter Ruthven, Lord William Blair and Lord William Oliphant and another in the reign of Alexander III mentions knights Gilbert Hay, John and William Hay and William Blair.¹³ Also in the Charters of this area in the 13th century, an Adam Blair had a charter of the lands of Balbard and following this Sir Alexander Blair made these over to Duncan of Crambeth. Interestingly, just over three miles separate Lochore House and Crambeth Castle, later called Dubhhill and now spelt Dowhill. Furthermore, Blairadam and Blair Mill are found between these pointing to the need for further investigation to their origins. Most likely, they were part of the lands known as the Blair of Crambeth derived from the open woodland there. Adam Blair may have been a close kinsman of Sir William, particularly as his heir, Sir Alexander, also is recorded granting a charter of Balbard to Duncan of Crambeth. Inspection of a charter of Agnes Crambeth to her husband in 1354 mentions that she was daughter of the deceased Duncan of Crambeth and among her lands, mention is made of Balbard said to have been earlier held of the heirs of William de Monte Alto (Mowat).¹⁴ Sir William Mowat had been a contemporary of Stephen de Blair and likewise granted alms to Coupar Abbey. Nothing is discovered linking the Blair family to him but this statement of 1354 regarding Balbard and Mowat's heirs is intriguing.

¹⁰ Laing Charters, Chtrr 6

¹¹ Registrum de Dunfermelyn Bannatyne Club 1842

¹² idem Charter 332

¹³ Chtrrs 95 and 118, Liber Ecclesie de Scon, Bannatyne Club 1843

¹⁴ Regesta Regum Scottorum Vol vi Chtrr 132

Sir William had issue:

- 1) Alexander, his heir
- 2) Walter, who is mentioned in a charter of Friskin de Moravia.

Sir William appears to have died in the mid-thirteenth century.

Sir Alexander Blair (1225c - 1275c)

The first appearance of Alexander is about 1241 when he witnessed a charter by Christina Corbet and her husband in favour of the Priory of St. Andrews.¹⁵

Sir Alexander is mentioned in a charter of Malcolm, eighth earl of Fife which places him within the period around 1260.

He married Helen Ramsay, the sister of Sir William Ramsay of Dalhousie and by her had a son named John.

Sir Alexander granted a charter of the lands of Balbard to Duncan of Crambeth which was confirmed by Simon, abbot of Dunfermline in 1275.¹⁶ Although these lands were near Dunfermline, Simon also confirmed a charter of the lands of Bendochy in Gowrie which later Blair cadets were to hold. Sir Alexander died about 1275 leaving his young son John as heir. His wife survived him for many years and was among the Scottish nobility obliged to do homage to Edward I of England, probably for those lands held as her widow's terce.

Sir Alexander may have been the father of Margaret Blair, the wife of Adam the Blund. Margaret did homage to Edward I in 1306 for her lands in Angus and Stirling.

John Blair (1260c - 1310c)

John was born about 1260/70 and was still a minor when he inherited the family estate. Constantine of Lochore was appointed his tutor and during his minority, his mother Helen was assisted by her brother, William, in running the estate. That Constantine was tutor to John, suggests that the deceased Sir Alexander Blair may have been the son of a close kinswoman of Constantine of Lochore. The tutor of John may have been the grandson of the earlier mentioned Constantine of Lochore.

The family seat in Fife at this time has not been identified but it may have been at Cults southwest of Cupar.

John was alive during the period when Edward I invaded Scotland. His eldest son was David, his heir. He may also have been father to Mr John Blair who is reputed to have attended Dundee Grammar School with William Wallace and who later was called by the patriot in 1297 to be his chaplain and by this close association became the author of a biography on Wallace. Elsewhere, the chaplain has been named as Arnold Blair, a Benedictine monk from the Abbey of Dunfermline.¹⁷

David de Blair (1280c - 1340c)

In 1296, David was listed among the many Scottish barons and lairds who were forced to do homage to Edward I following his invasion of Scotland.¹⁸ It is feasible that this laird held Balthayock but evidence is wanting. The tower of Balthayock was erected on land belonging to the Knights Templar of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem. The early history of possession of Balthayock may have been

¹⁵ Liber Cartarum Prioratus Sancti Andree in Scotia Bannatyne Club 1841

¹⁶ The Annals of Dunfermline and Registrum de Dunfermelyn Chtr 315

¹⁷ Chal His Dunfermline, vol I

¹⁸ Bain Vol ii, p 204

held in the records of Torphichen Preceptory.

This laird of Balthayock is said to have had sons:

- 1) Patrick, his heir
- 2) John of Ardler who is described as brother of Patrick Blair in his charter of 1369. He probably gained Ardler through marriage about 1369. He died before 1388 leaving a daughter as explained later.
- 3) Thomas of Moulin, who is considered as the progenitor of the Blair of Ardblair, more of whom later. Thomas clearly, was the third son for the arms of the Blair of Ardblair are differentiated from the senior family by the addition of a mullet.

No relationship has been found to James Blair who in 1358 held the lands of "Maler" or in the following year the lands of Auchintevny¹⁹. The author has not identified the latter in Kinross, but Mailer, two miles south of Perth appears to have had little or no connection with the family of Blair of Balthayock. The early proprietor would be James Blair of Adamston who on 25 August 1363 exchanged his lands of East Mailer in Perthshire with Robert Erskine for his lands of Adamston in the barony of Kyle.²⁰ This James Blair was probably the son of Hugh Blair who about 1330 had charters of East Mailer and also of "Auchintelketye" in Kinross.²¹ It is intriguing that Robert Erskine during the 1350's had a charter of Adamston in Kyle and Cults in Fife which later were owned by the Blair of Adamston and Blair of Balthayock families. Douglas has no mention of a James Blair of Adamston nor of Hugh whom James followed but gives Sir John Blair of Adamston who was knighted in 1390 as the progenitor of that house. He gave Roger Blair of that ilk as sire of Sir John and certainly the Arms of Adamston are differenced from the Blair of that ilk, bearing no resemblance to Balthayock. This leaves us with the enigma that the Blair of Blair family in Hugh and James Blair held for a time lands in Perth and Kinross yet whose interests remained based the south west of Scotland.

According to Sir James Ramsay in his "Bamff Charters", when Nigel Ramsay gained ownership of Easter Maws in Blairgowrie about 1360, the deed was executed in Dundee in the presence of William Blair, alderman of Dundee.

The Exchequer Rolls mention that Gervase Blair was nominated a bailie of the burgh of Forfar at a meeting of 16 January 1367/8 at Perth. Again there is a lack of genealogical information but it illustrates the spread of the name and growing success of the family around this period.

David remains somewhat of an enigma. The Blair family appears to have been growing in influence in Angus and Perthshire in the early fourteenth century but there is a lack of detailed evidence even to the point whether it can be said that this was the only laird who died after John Blair and before 1369. The author suspects that there is a missing generation between David of 1296 and Patrick in 1369.

Patrick de Blair (1340c - 1405c)

Several charters in the family muniments show that Patrick held extensive properties. At Perth on 1 February 1369/70 Patrick de Blair received from Allan Lord Erskine of Inchmartine a charter of a 20-merk land and to pay to him and his heirs £12 from the lands of Quilts, now called Cults, in Fife.²² This was entailed to John of Ardler, brother to Patrick. It is of interest to note that Robert

¹⁹ Exchequer Rolls

²⁰ Regesta Regnum Scottorum Vol Vi Chtrr 300

²¹ R M S i App ii 880 and 1016

²² Balthayock Charters 5

Erskine had a charter of David II for the lands of Cults about 1358.²³ The 1370 charter to Patrick was confirmed a month later in Stirling. Later that year, at Perth on 20 October 1370, Sir Nicholas Erskine, laird of Kinnoul, granted to Patrick the lands of Balthayock in Perthshire.²⁴ This was done on the resignation of Patrick which indicates that he already owned these lands probably from his forebears. The precept for infefting Patrick in Balthayock was made by Nicholas Erskine in 1373.²⁵ The lands which comprised the later estate of the Blair of Balthayock had several feudal superiors. It is of interest here that the fortalice of Balthayock stood on ground which was held of the Knights of St. John of Jerusalem and was called the Temple Lands of Balthayock. The above mentioned Robert Erskine of that ilk was *custos* of the lands and rents of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem in Scotland and this may have some bearing on the above mentioned transactions where he seems to be acting as feudal superior. The Knights Templar held many parcels of land throughout Scotland. In the province of Gowrie they had besides others, lands at Balgillo and in Stormont they had lands at Lethendy and at Ardblair.²⁶ These also have long associations with Blair families but it is not established whether there is any common factor.

Robert, earl of Fife and Menteith, gave confirmation of the grant of Quilts in 1376 when Patrick is described as beloved cousin of the grantor. This suggests that there was a family link to the earls of Fife, perhaps not surprisingly given that his forebear, Sir William Blair had held the office of Steward of Fife. At this time Robert Stewart, third son of King Robert II, was earl of Menteith and Fife. This does not imply that there was a blood link to the Stewarts for Robert had been granted the title in 1371 and did not have a longstanding link to Fife. It may be that we should look elsewhere to find where Patrick's kinship to Robert Stewart arose. It may be that Patrick's mother was a Stewart but no record of that is found and a more likely link should be sought between Robert Stewart's wife and Patrick Blair. This leads us to the family of Graham of Menteith for Robert's wife was Margaret, daughter of Sir John Graham and Mary, Countess of Menteith.

There is a tradition, at least in more modern times, regarding the adoption of tartans to place the Blair under the Graham of Menteith, although the Blair tartan can also be found.

Where this link arose remains somewhat of a mystery but if a historical link to the Graham of Menteith were established it may go some way to explain the above. A more likely explanation of the "tartan myth" was that Graham of Menteith was a feudal superior of some Blair lands. For example, there is evidence that Mentieth was lord superior of Balgillo whereas there is no evidence to place Blair as a Sept of the Grahams.

Patrick was armour bearer to James, earl of Douglas. It is quite feasible that he fought alongside this earl in the period 1384 to 1388. The famous campaign of 1388, when the Scots invaded the north of England, led to the tilting bout near Newcastle when the earl carried off the spear and guerdon of Hotspur, Henry Percy, son of the earl of Northumberland. This incensed Henry Percy to raise forces to fight the Scots. The armies met at Otterburn on 5th August 1388. There, James Douglas pressed in ahead of his main force and was cut down and defended by a small band until the Scots advanced to them. At his request, they covered him with a cloak, raised his standard there and gave his cry, "A Douglas, a Douglas" and won the battle. Perhaps, Patrick Blair his armour bearer was there at the side of James Douglas at that chivalrous tilting bout and in the thick of battle at Otterburn.

In that same year of 1388, Patrick was granted a charter by King Robert II of the lands of Balgillo, near Kettins in Angus. Perhaps Patrick already held an interest in Balgillo from his forebears.

²³ R M S Vol i App ii 1288

²⁴ Balthayock Charters 7

²⁵ Balthayock Charters 8

²⁶ Scottish History Society, Fourth Series, The Knights of St John of Jerusalem in Scotland 1983

Certainly, it was little more than a year later that a dispute arose over these lands with his neighbour James Fotheringham. At a court held at Balgillo on Sunday 8 January 1389/90, Robert, earl of Fife and Menteith requested that Duncan Leighton, depute sheriff of Forfar elect an assize of inquest consisting of Andrew Dempster, William Maule and others to adjudicate in this matter.²⁷

It was probably his growing land acquisition in Angus which placed Patrick on a list of witness at Dundee on the Feast of the Beheading of St. John the Baptist [29 Aug] 1392, when Sir Thomas Hay of Lochorwort granted to Walter Murray of Drumsagard, for his homage and service, the lands of Glasswell and Torbirns.²⁸ Patrick here is placed immediately after William Fenton of that ilk at the end of the list of major local barons. Walter Murray already held Ardormie near Alyth which was just north of William Fenton's messuage of Baikie and of Patrick's lands of Balgillo.

Patrick also received a Charter of Resignation of William, son and heir of the deceased John de Menteith, of the lands of Balgillo at Dundee on 14 September 1393 presumably making him superior of all these lands to be held of the Crown.²⁹

Sixty years earlier, Malise of Menteith had received a charter from King Robert I about 1320 of a davoch of lands of Balgillo³⁰ which may have been the same davoch which Stephen de Blair had witnessed being made to the Abbey of Arbroath about 1204.

At the same period when Patrick received his charters of Cults and Balthayock in 1370, King David granted under the Great Seal to John Blair, the whole lands of Ardler and Baldowrie, in Angus, besides a burgess ticket of Inverkeithing in Fife. John's charter included an entail which confirmed his brother Patrick as heir to these lands in the event of John failing to produce a lawful heir. Interestingly, in the family archives is an Obligation made by James, earl of Douglas, to Patrick Blair his armour bearer, that he shall procure the marriage of the daughter of the deceased John Ardler and find her in a £20 land or to pay to her marriage the sum of 100 merks sterling.³¹ From this Obligation, we can deduce that John Blair of Ardler died in or before the years 1384-1388 leaving only a daughter to whom Patrick was Tutor and responsible for her marriage. In accordance with the entail Patrick gained his brother's lands, for his son in time held all the lands of Ardler and Baldowrie. The lands of Baldowrie had been acquired by Ingram Ardler from William Marshall in 1341.³² It is probable that John Blair had gained these lands through marriage about 1369 to an heiress of Ardler.

Patrick had issue:

- 1) Thomas his heir
- 2) Probably William, Abbot of Kinloss, in Moray although evidence is lacking.
William was originally a brother of the monastery of Coupar Angus and Doctor of Decretals. He became Abbot of Kinloss in 1401 and continued there till 1430 according to Ferrerius, the annalist of Kinross. He was translated to Coupar as abbot in 1430. William died 17 October 1445.

Patrick survived into the next century and in his advanced years resigned part of his estate to his son, Thomas. Patrick died before 1408.

27 Balthayock Charters 12

28 R M S Vol ii 729 registered in 1488

29 Balthayock Charters 13

30 RMS Vol i App ii 359 Balthayock Charters 7

31 Balthayock Charters 11

32 RMS Vol i App ii 785 and Regesta Regum Scottorum Chtr 35

Thomas Blair (1375c - 1453c)

As son and heir, Thomas succeeded on the resignation of his father Patrick Blair of Balthayock and was granted a charter of the lands of Ardler, Baldowrie and Balgillo from Robert III at Dunkeld on 14 January 1400/1.³³ The family charters show this to be in the tenth year of the King's reign. In the Register of the Great Seal this is listed in the period 1398-1400 and Baldowrie is shown as both "Baldownrie" and "Kylldowry". Unfortunately, despite the lands being described clearly as in Forfarshire, several historians in recent times have confused Ardler with Ardblair which is in Perthshire.

Ownership of land is always most difficult to determine along its landward boundaries. Landowners frequently disputed their marches or boundaries and the remedy in earlier times was to refer this to the local court of the feudal superior. He in turn would probably refer this to the County Sheriff to set up an assize of local lairds to adjudicate usually by making a perambulation of the marches after which the agreed details were recorded for evidence. Such was the case described above for Balgillo in Angus in 1390. A similar situation arose regarding the marches of Clie and Balthayock. In this event, Thomas Blair of Balthayock was at discord with the Abbot of Scone regarding the marches of Balthayock with Clie. Robert, duke of Albany made a precept to summon an assize to meet at Clie on the 6 March 1408/9 to resolve the issue.³⁴

On 29 June 1410, Thomas acquired the lands of Balconnally, Perthshire by a charter of resignation from Walter Haliburton of that ilk and William Erskine of Kinnoul. A precept appointed Thomas Brown of Whelplaw as bailie for the infestment.³⁵

A month later in Perth when John Mowat had a charter of lands in Caithness confirmed under the Great Seal, the minor witnesses, Robert Stewart of Lorne and a Thomas Blair were described as "scutifers". This indicating that they were "shield bears" or squires. Perhaps, Thomas had continued in the role of his father as armour bearer to one of the earls.

Thomas had a son or sons:

- 1) Patrick heir apparent who predeceased his father and more of whom later.
- 2) George. A George Blair of Balgillo is mentioned in the 1460's. He held a third portion of Balgillo but appears to have been closely related to the laird of Balthayock.³⁶ George was progenitor of a family of burgesses of Dundee. A later George, burges of Dundee is mentioned near the end of the Balthayock entail of 1542. For details of this cadet of Balthayock, see section on Blair Burgesses of Dundee.
- 3) Robert? A Robert de Blare is mentioned frequently as a burges bailie of Perth in the period around 1456 to 1485 but no indication of his relationship has been traced.

Thomas Blair was the receiver of the pension of Lady Agnes Tulloch from the customs of Dundee in the year 1414. No genealogical link has been identified but the possibility should not be overlooked that she was his wife. Particularly, as Thomas is recorded as one of the jurors on the Inquisition of Retour of Sir Walter Tulloch in the lands of Tulloch and Crachie on 8 October 1438.³⁷ Disputed possession of the lands of Balgillo came to a climax in 1429. At a justiciary court held in Dundee, evidence was taken from Henry of Hayston regarding a citation by John of Balbirnie upon the lands of Balgillo. On 15 March the court found against Thomas but two days latter, an Act of Parliament at Perth reversed the decision finding that the lands of Balgillo by a former assize were

³³ Balthayock Charters 14 and 15

³⁴ Balthayock Charters 16

³⁵ Balthayock Charters 18

³⁶ Balthayock Charters 25

³⁷ Liber Niger S Thome de Aberbrothoc Vol 2 Charter 83

determined to have belonged to Patrick Blair, father of the said Thomas.³⁸

Given the dearth of information around this period, it is worthy of note that at Perth on 20 July 1421, William Blair rendered to the Exchequer, the account of the bailies of Dundee for the year to Whitsunday 1421 and in 1435 the Dundee accounts were rendered at Stirling by Alexander Blair, one of the bailies of Dundee. These were possibly kinsmen of Thomas.

At Edinburgh on 21 July 1450, Laird Thomas Blair attested receipt of annuity of Sir William Lord Crichton, Captain of Edinburgh Castle.³⁹ The Crichtons were feudal superiors of Kinfauns and thus had a long relationship with the Blairs of Balthayock.

At the Abbey of Coupar Angus on 1 October 1451, Thomas was one of the witnesses to a charter citing the earlier gift of the lands of Bellaty and Freuchie in Glenisla to the Abbey by Alexander II, King of Scots.

Thomas died in the period between Whitsunday and Martinmas 1452 as in mid 1453, the lands of Cults were recorded in ward from his death in that term.⁴⁰

Patrick Blair heir apparent of Balthayock (1410c - 1448c)

Patrick married Christian Ogilvy and by her had sons:

- 1) Alexander, his heir and heir to his grandfather more of whom later.
- 2) Thomas described as brother german of Alexander Blair of Balthayock in a Procuratory by James Blair, burgess of Dundee calling for him to resign with others the lands of Balgillo and Baldowrie to Alexander, dated at Caithness 30 April 1469.⁴¹ He was probably witness with his brothers to a charter at Inchturre on 30 April 1489.
- 3) Patrick of Melginch. Patrick was admitted to Perth Guild on 12 August 1463 and as burgess of Perth was granted by David earl of Crawford, the lands of Melginch on 6 April 1467, although evidence of his relationship is lacking in these records. An entail of 1542 shows Blair of Melginch placed before Blair of Balgillo who are ahead of the Ardblair branch. (See Appendix i) Thus this placing of Patrick here is in keeping with the order. Patrick was progenitor of the Blair of Melginch cadet of Balthayock. He died in or before 1478. {See Blair of Melginch.}

At an Inquisition of Retour, on 30 October 1438, for the service of David Rossy as heir to his grandfather, a Patrick Blair is given as one of the jurors. His position on the list suggests that he was not one of the senior lairds and thus may have been this son of Thomas. Given the location of the retour and also the lands associated with Christian, it seems probable that she was the daughter of Walter Ogilvy of Carcary and Lintrathen.

It seems that Patrick died before 25 July 1442 (or 1452), on which date at Dundee, Alexander Ogston of that ilk and lord superior of the barony of Craig of Glenisla, granted Christian, Patrick's widow, ward of the lands of Balclunoch, Forfarshire.⁴² The charter extract refers to Thomas Blair as the deceased father of Patrick but some doubts arise over the earlier date as Thomas survived to 1452. Christian Ogilvy may have survived to 1486 in which year, on 12 May, Alexander Blair of Balthayock was infeft in the lands of Balclunoch as son and heir of the deceased Patrick Blair

³⁸ Balthayock Charters 20 and 21

³⁹ Exchequer Rolls Vol v

⁴⁰ Exchequer Rolls Vol v

⁴¹ Balthayock Charters 33

⁴² Balthayock Charters 24

following a precept by Margaret Ogilvy, Countess of Buchan.⁴³

Note that a Patrick Blair was procurator for Thomas Schelgrene on 23 March 1446 when an eighth part of the lands of Kinnell were resigned to Sir John Ogilvy of Lintrathen.⁴⁴ This could not be the above Patrick, if the earlier date of the Charter to his widow is correct.

Alexander Blair (1435c - 1492c)

It is recorded that the heir of Thomas, recovered from ward the lands of Cults by sasine shortly before Whitsunday 1454 on payment of £76 2s 4d to the Crown.⁴⁵ The total burden of his lands to the Exchequer was the considerable sum of £993.2s3d which presumably covered the relief from ward of all his lands held of the Crown. Although Balthayock is not mentioned, the Libri Responsionum records that in this same year of 1454, Alexander Blair had sasine of the lands of "Ardblair" and "Balduary" in the Sheriffdom of Forfar.⁴⁶

Clearly, these were the lands of Ardler and Baldowrie in that county and certainly not to be confused with Ardblair in Perthshire which was held by a cadet.

It was not until 12 May 1486 that Alexander was given precept for infeftment in the lands of Balclunoch. These lands were in the barony of the Craig of Glenisla. The Blair of Balthayock are said by MacFarlane to have long held the barony of Blacklunans.⁴⁷ Certainly Bleaton, Drumfork, Borland, Coldrach, Balclunoch and Achnahall appear in their charters. Significantly Mount Blair rises above Blacklunans.

Alexander is mentioned as a witness to a charter of Scone Abbey on 7 April 1454.

It was about this time that Alexander reached his majority and married. At Aberdalgie on 21 June 1455, Margaret Oliphant relict of Sir John Oliphant of Aberdalgie, Laurence Oliphant of Aberdalgie and Alexander Dundas of Fingask made a Bond of Relief to free William Lord Hay earl of Errol of the payment of £200 Scots for which William and Laurence were bound to William Murray of Tillybardine for the marriage of Alexander Blair of Balthayock.⁴⁸

The marriage of Alexander to Christian, daughter of the deceased Sir John Oliphant was to bring Alexander close to the local power base. At Perth in 1461, Laurence Lord Oliphant discharged a dispute with the Town of Perth in the presence of "wel-beloved friendis" Henry Wardlaw of Torie, Alexander Blair of Balthayock, James Hering, John Moncreiff and others.⁴⁹ On 31 May 1469, Alexander made a Bond of Manrent to Lawrence, Lord Oliphant for five years when he pledged his service to "my gude brother in law". Thereafter, Thomas Blair appears frequently as a witness to Oliphant charters. He was principal witness of several including Walter Murray's Bond of Manrent on 2 December 1478.

Alexander and Christian had sons:

- 1) Thomas his heir more of whom later
- 2) David described as son of Alexander Blair of Balthayock when admitted as a Guild Brother by Patrick Wells, the Dean of Guild of Perth, on 20 November 1489.⁵⁰ He was described as Dean of Guild when witness to a charter on five riggs of Rait in April 1491. His

43 Balthayock Charters 36

44 History of Carnegies, Earls of Southesk

45 Exchequer Rolls Vol v

46 Exchequer Rolls Vol vii

47 MacFarlane, Walter, Genealogical Collections 1750-1751

48 RH11/6/66

49 The Moncreiffs and the Moncreiffes

50 Perth Guildry Records

son, Alexander, was also a burges in Perth and was provost of Perth probably in 1513 and in 1531. Alexander was still alive in July 1528 when his son, Alexander Blair ygr. was admitted burges and guild brother in right of his living father. This Alexander is mentioned in the entail of 1542. He was a bailie of Perth from 1545 and appears in Guild records of 1562.

The lairds of Balthayock held clear legal title of the lands of Balgillo as agreed in Parliament. A George Blair is found to have a third part of Balgillo in 1460, perhaps as a parental gift. With the consent of Alexander, he sold this portion on 20 February 1460/1 at Dundee to Mr James Blair, burges of Dundee, who can be identified as second son of William Blair of Ardblair. William, the eldest son and heir of William Blair of Ardblair on 15 March 1463/4 resigned a third part of Balgillo to Alexander.⁵¹ In 1466, Alexander had sasine of the lands of Balgillo.

Alexander Blair of Balthayock was witness at Kettins on 13 June 1468 and at Stirling five months later on 7 November.

He was mentioned along with others of the witnesses as kinsman of Lord Oliphant in the latter's charter to his kinsman Thomas Guthrie on 12 October 1473. Laurence Lord Oliphant and Alexander Blair were also mentioned two months previously with regard to legal instruments.

A summons was brought on 17 March 1478 by John Drummond of Cargill against Lord Oliphant, Robert Crichton of Kinnoull, Alai Kinnaird of that Ilk, Robert Ross of Craigie, Alexander Blair of Balthayock, Andrew Charters of Cuthilgurdie and others for a wrongful inordination made by them.⁵²

An interesting Notarial Instrument dated 9 June 1483 records that at the Parish Church of Perth at the Altar of St. Monan, David Ogilvy of Inchmartin confirmed his readiness to perform his obligations to John Moncreiff of that Ilk regarding a contract. This was done in the presence of Laurence Lord Oliphant, Alexander Blair of Balthayock and others including Thomas Blair son and heir apparent of Alexander Blair.⁵³ This association of the Blairs with David Ogilvy of Inchmartin was probably as a result of or to result in a marriage contract between Thomas Blair and Marjory Ogilvy about this time.

At Balthayock on 3 February 1489, Alexander sold to David Blair of Bendochy his lands of Balgillo and it would seem that this was the founding of one of the major cadets of Balthayock,⁵⁴ more of whom later. Alexander had a third part of the lands of Westfield of Dundee which, although a small parcel, featured over many years in the history of Balthayock and cadets holdings.⁵⁵ Alexander was in Edinburgh on 20 June 1489 when with the Abbot of Scone and Constable of Dundee, he witnessed an Indenture whereby Janet Fenton resigned her quarter share of the barony of Baikie to John Lord Glamis.⁵⁶ At Inchmartin on 30 April 1489, Alexander was witness to a charter of David Ogilvy along with Thomas Blair and Patrick Blair. The relationship is not given but these appear to be his brothers in order of seniority.⁵⁷

By 3 April 1490, Alexander's eldest son is described as Thomas Blair of Goddens.⁵⁸

51 Balthayock Charters 28

52 Acta Dominorum Auditorum

53 Moncreiff F, The Moncreiffs and Moncreiffes

54 R.M.S. vol ii chrtr 1941

55 Acts of the Lords of Council in Civil Causes 1496-1501 p 22 and p 143

56 Glamis Charters Box5 item 117

57 RMS ii 1896

58 R.M.S. Vol ii chrtr 2031

An Instrument regarding the possession of a piece of land adjacent to Rait near Balthayock was witnessed by Alexander and the earlier mention burgess, David in April 1491. In the preliminaries to this, on 6th July 1490, Thomas Blair of Goddens, when signing, was described as son and heir apparent to Alexander Blair of Balthayock.⁵⁹

The seal of Alexander on a charter of 21 April 1491 shows his arms of a chevron between three roundles and in lower case Gothic letters "*S. alex blair*".⁶⁰

On 13 February 1491/2, Alexander on behalf of himself and his tenants brought an action against Alexander Inglis for wrongfully grazing his cattle on the lands of Cults.⁶¹ Alexander Blair probably died later that year of 1492. His widow, Christian Oliphant was conjunct fiar of the lands of Ardler and Baldowrie which she held after his decease up to the time of her death about 1515.⁶²

Thomas Blair (1460c - 1499)

An early reference to Thomas as son and heir apparent to Alexander Blair of Balthayock is discovered in a court action brought by him on 16 February 1483/4 against Andrew Spence for the payment of 800 merks due to him for the marriage of Andrew's daughter, Christian, to Alexander Justice the son and heir apparent of Alexander Justice.⁶³

This baron is first designed as Thomas Blair of Goddens. The place Goddens is shown by various spellings Goddins, Gothins etc and lies 2 miles north of Balthayock and is described in the family papers as being in the barony of Baltroddie (Pitroddie). Prior to this, half of Goddens was held by the family of Wardroper of the superiors, Lindsay earls of Crawford.⁶⁴ It is assumed that Thomas extended the estate northwards by purchasing Goddens from Alexander Wardroper son of Thomas Wardroper perhaps about 1480. On the death of his father, Thomas took the title of Balthayock. As such he is mentioned in an assize of Angus lairds appointed to settle a disputed claim over the moor of Balnamoon.⁶⁵ Thomas attended three meetings in this inquiry in late 1496.

Thomas was served heir to his father in 1493, Robert, Lord Crichton of Sanquhar, giving precept of Clare Constat for infefting him in the lands of Balthayock on 23 April.⁶⁶

Thomas married Marjory Ogilvy, presumably a daughter of Ogilvy of Inchmartin⁶⁷. They had sons:

- 1) Alexander, his heir.
- 2) John of Balmyle and Potento, near Coupar Angus. He married firstly Margaret Lindsay, sister of John, earl of Crawford and secondly, Margaret Elder. See under Blair of Balmyle.

A Decreet Arbitral was made on 15 July 1494 by Andrew, Abbot of Lindores following the adjudication of the disputed lands on the marches of Cults belonging to Thomas and those of Tarvit belonging to Alexander Inglis.⁶⁸ Thomas Blair was witness at Inchmartin on 23 October 1495 to a charter of David Ogilvy of Inchmartin.⁶⁹

⁵⁹ Liber Ecclesie de Scon Chrtr 226

⁶⁰ Macdonald, Wm., Scottish Armorial Seals, Edinburgh 1904

⁶¹ Acta Dominorum Auditorum

⁶² RSC Vol i 2858

⁶³ Acta Dominorum Auditorum

⁶⁴ Balthayock Charters 23 and 31

⁶⁵ Liber Niger de Aberbrothoc Vol 2, Chrtr 354

⁶⁶ Balthayock Charters 37

⁶⁷ Acts of Lords of Council in Civil Causes 1496-1501 p 481

⁶⁸ Balthayock Charters 39

⁶⁹ RMS ii 2280

When a Decreet Arbitral between Archibald, fifth earl of Angus and John, earl of Crawford on the lands of Crawford-Lindsay was settled at Edinburgh on 17 June 1496, Thomas Blair of Balthayock and Sir Adam Crichton of Ruthven were present.⁷⁰

Thomas had a share of the lands of "Baltrody", now known as Pitroddie, as mentioned in an action brought by Janet, Lady Lindsay against her son, John earl of Crawford on 20 March 1497/8.⁷¹ This came about through an obligation made by John Lindsay while still Master of Crawford on 17 September 1494. Therein he declared that so soon as his sister-in-law, Janet Gordon, would vacate her conjunct infeftment of the lands of Baltrody and mill there, he, within 40 days after his infeftment, would give sasine of the same to Thomas Blair.⁷² This was not to be, for Janet Gordon was to outlive them and still retained her liferent of Potento in 1519.⁷³

These several transactions which involved the earl of Crawford and Thomas were undoubtedly as a result of the marriage bond between the earl's sister and the brother of Thomas. The strength of this relationship is further demonstrated in a gift made at Edinburgh in 1496 by the earl John to Thomas Blair of the ward of the lands of Evelick in the barony of Baltroddie and also with the marriage of David Lindsay, son and heir of the deceased David Lindsay of Lechoquhy.⁷⁴

Before the days of banking, land was used as security on loans and an annual rent was paid against the loan for interest. The land could be released on payment of the original capital sum. Such transactions were carried out before witnesses often at the High Altar of a parish church.

On 13 May 1496 at Balthayock, William Chalmers of Drumlochy agreed to return the lands of "Collorauch in Angus" on the payment by Thomas of £46 Scots within the parish kirk of Blair.⁷⁵ In this Obligation of Reversion Thomas is designed "of Balthayock, laird of Balclunoch", presumably as the lands involved lay on the Balclunoch grounds. This recovery of Coldrach near Blaton, supports the observation made in 1750 by genealogist Walter MacFarlane regarding barony of Blacklunans being long held by Blair of Balthayock

The fortalice of Balthayock stood on a parcel of ground in feu of the Knight Templars of St. John of Jerusalem. An intriguing episode occurs which suggests that Thomas Blair may have had some association with this ancient order. On 9 July 1497, he was granted a licence to leave Scotland for a period up to two years in order to make a passage to St. John of Amiens in France. During his absence any legal matters outstanding against him were to be held in abeyance until his return to the realm.⁷⁶

It is not discovered whether this was a pilgrimage, perhaps for his health or whether he returned, for within the period of this licence, Thomas died. His death was shortly before Whitsunday 1499. The lands of Cults had been in ward for two years after this time when in 1501, David Beaton is recorded as managing the terce of these lands.⁷⁷ Marjory Ogilvy, the spouse of Thomas, survived him. The executors of his estate were William Chalmer of Drumlochy and James Ogilvy of Inchmartin.⁷⁸ The latter was probably a close kinsman of Marjory.

Alexander Blair (1483c - 1505)

Although, he inherited the estate in 1499, it was not until 1504 that Alexander Blair took sasine

⁷⁰ Douglas Charters No 144

⁷¹ Acts of the Lords of Council in Civil Causes 1496-1501 p 147

⁷² Balthayock Charters 40

⁷³ RMS Vol iii 180

⁷⁴ Balthayock Charters 42

⁷⁵ Balthayock Charters 41

⁷⁶ RSS Vol i 103

⁷⁷ Exchequer Rolls Vol xi

⁷⁸ Acts of the Lords of Council in Civil Causes 1496-1501 p 481 and p 487

of the lands of Cults⁷⁹. A Brieve of Chancery dated 14 March 1504/5 was addressed to the Sheriff of Forfar in favour of Alexander as heir to Thomas Blair of Balthayock, his father.⁸⁰ It may have been that David Beaton was his tutor during this period and that Alexander reached majority in 1504.

Alexander was also retoured heir in the lands of Balthayock on 1 April 1505 and in the lands of Cults three weeks later, on 23 April.⁸¹

Alexander brought an action against Thomas Balfour to remove him from his lands of Inchyra in November 1501.⁸² He had gift of the ward of the lands of Berclay before 1503 under the Privy Seal although it does not appear in the Register. This is recorded in a civil action brought by John Inglis the Marshall against John Lindsay who had wrongly cropped hay from these lands. Alexander was witness at Perth on 16 April 1504 when Gilbert Gray purchased the Pokemill.⁸³ This young laird did not survive long to enjoy his estate for he died in mid-1505 after 27 May and before 3 October.

The Exchequer Rolls record that in 1509, the heir of Alexander Blair of Balthayock, had an allowance out of the lands of Blatoun during the temporary ward covering the past year and five terms preceding. The description suggests that Alexander had recently died leaving a young heir and the indication is that the date of his decease was three and a half years earlier. It seems that he attained only 22 years of age for the accumulated evidence places his birth about the end of 1483 which is in the same decade that his father is first mentioned in records.

In 1510, Alexander's heir again received 8s for the allowance and his terce or third part of the multures of Baledgarno. This allowance was coming from the lands of Robert Boyd of Pitkindie in and around Abernyte, 8 miles north east of Balthayock. In the same account of these lands, Euphemia Merser occupied Waukmill and other lands as her widow's terce from her late husband, Sir James Scrymgeour of the Feuland of Abernyte⁸⁴. It is not clear whether any of these persons was related to Alexander Blair.

Alexander married Jane, daughter to Andrew, third Lord Gray by his wife Elizabeth Stewart. From their brief marriage, Alexander and Jean had issue:

- 1) Thomas, his heir apparent, possibly born about the year 1500.

During the minority of the next laird, there is a gap in the role of the Blairs of Balthayock from 1510 to 1520, no obvious mention being found of them even as witnesses.

Jane Gray was thereafter married to Thomas Fraser, Lord Lovat and thirdly to Sir David Lindsay of Edzell, earl of Crawford⁸⁵. This is confirmed in a tack taken on 1 December 1534 by Dame Jane Gray, Lady Lovat, with consent of David Lindsay of Edzell, her spouse granting the tack of her terce of the lands of Cults for an annual rent of 24 merks to her son, Thomas Blair of Balthayock.⁸⁶ It appears that Janet Gray died about 1549 for at Dundee on 11 February 1549/50, a royal gift was made to Thomas Blair of the ward of Kinnell then in the Queen's hands through the death of Dame Janet Gray, conjunct fiar of Kinnell. This also included the marriage of the son

79 Exchequer Rolls Vol xii

80 Balthayock Charters 45

81 Balthayock Charters 46 and 47

82 Acts of the Lords of Council in Civil Causes 1501-1503 p 80

83 RMS Vol ii 2949

84 Exchequer Rolls Vol xiii

85 Marchmont, The Scots Peerage, Edinburgh 1909

86 Balthayock Charters 83

the deceased Robert Fraser of Kinnell.⁸⁷

Thomas Blair (1500c - 1568)

As a child of about five years of age, Thomas became heir to the estate of Balthayock in 1505. Following the death of Alexander Blair of Balthayock, Andrew Ayton paid to the Lord High Treasurer the sum of £213.6s.8d to purchase the ward of the deceased's estate. He received a letter of 3 October 1505 gifting him ward of the land of Cults by reason of the death of Alexander Blair of Balthayock.⁸⁸ This gave Ayton and his wife, Isobel Kincragie, control over the neighbouring lands of Cults in Fife. It may have given the Aytons of that ilk influence over the young laird's future and in time his marriage.

Thomas was retoured heir to his father Alexander on 2 May 1509, and following on from this he was seised in the lands of Balthayock on 2 June 1509 as instructed on 6 May in a Letter of Attorney by King James IV to Patrick Gray and others.⁸⁹ Patrick Gray, uncle to Thomas, was probably his Tutor during the time of his ward.

The gift of ward of the lands of Ardler was granted on 23 August 1508 to Robert Gray, another uncle of the young laird, he being another son of Andrew Lord Gray.⁹⁰ At this time the aged Christian Oliphant would still retain her conjunct rights of Ardler.

Gilbert Gray of Buttergask was granted ward of the nonentry of the lands of Ardler and Baldowrie on 26 January 1516/7 after the decease of Christian Oliphant, widow of Alexander Blair (gt-grandparents of Thomas).⁹¹

A letter of Attorney of 27 December 1511 to James Kincragie, dean of Aberdeen granted him the gift of marriage of the young laird and in the event of his death without marriage, the dean would have the marriage of any other heir of the deceased Alexander Blair of Balthayock.⁹² The earlier mentioned Isobel Kincragie probably was close kinswoman of the dean, and on the death of her husband, Andrew Ayton, she and her son Robert were gifted ward of the lands of Cults on 9 July 1516. This Kincragie/Ayton connection probably led soon to the marriage of Thomas Blair to Katherine Ayton.

Thomas was retoured heir to his father in the lands of Goddens on 31 October 1524.⁹³ He was similarly retoured in Blatonhaugh on 4 May 1536 by the feudal superior, Janet Haliburton of Dirleton.⁹⁴

It was not until 17 September 1521 that Thomas Blair was able to recover the lands of Cults out of ward. On that date he was granted sasine of Cults having agreed to pay the Sheriff of Fife £660 for its relief based on an annual rate of £40, it having been in the King's hands for the space of sixteen years.⁹⁵ The most likely reason for the lands being relieved in 1521 was that Thomas had reached then his majority. This debt, or part of it was still due to the King many years later, for on 8 August 1542, the son of this laird had a letter gifting to him the relief owing on Ardler and Baldowrie

⁸⁷ Balthayock Charters 116

⁸⁸ RSS Vol i 1147

⁸⁹ Balthayock Charters 52,53 and 54

⁹⁰ RSS Vol i 1716

⁹¹ RSS Vol i 2858

⁹² RSS Vol i 2345

⁹³ Balthayock Charters 64

⁹⁴ Balthayock Charters 84

⁹⁵ Exchequer Rolls Vol xiv

through the death of Alexander Blair of Balthayock his father and Thomas, his grandfather.⁹⁶

Thomas Blair married Katherine Ayton who was presumably the daughter of the laird Andrew Ayton of that Ilk in Fife. (The birth brief of Alexander Blair of Paris drawn up in 1674, mentions a Mary Ayton daughter of the Laird of Ayton).

By Katherine, Thomas had three sons and four daughters:

- 1) Alexander his heir
- 2) William, named as second son in the entail of 1543 and described as brother german to Alexander in charters dated 5 April 1574 at Goddens and 24 January 1574/5 at the Church of Kinnoull and also another dated 15 February 1580/1. He subscribed to a bond of caution at Balthayock on 22 September 1598.⁹⁷ Later he is mentioned in the Fife sasines with his brother, Patrick.
- 3) Patrick named as the youngest in the same entail. His kinsman Patrick Blair of Balmyle contracted to marry Elizabeth Crichton daughter of John Crichton of Ruthven by his spouse Janet Fraser. The laird of Balmyle fell at the battle of Pinkie Cleuch 19 months later leaving Elizabeth a young widow. This Patrick married Elizabeth and both survived beyond 1600.⁹⁸ On 5 March 1585, they had a feu of a third part of the Kirkton of Liff from the Abbey of Scone when he was described as brother german to Alexander Blair of Balthayock.⁹⁹ Patrick and Elizabeth had a son and heir, Thomas, all being alive when they disposed of the lands of Kirkton of Liff on 15 August 1600 and apparently surviving in January 1602 when the charter was registered.¹⁰⁰ He is also mentioned later in the Fife Sasines.¹⁰¹
- 4) Catherine, who married Thomas Chalmers of Northleys, mention being made of their marriage contract in a charter signed at Kinnoull on 27 May 1549.¹⁰²
- 5) Isabel, who married John Lindsay of Evelick, a neighbouring laird, and had issue. Their premarital contract granting her a liferent out of the lands and Barony of Montago was signed at Balthayock on 12 February 1551/2.¹⁰³
- 6) Christian, who was contracted to marry Alexander Blair son and heir of William (sic) Blair of Balgray, their contract being dated 5 January 1552/3.¹⁰⁴ She married later to William Ramsay of Murray, before 19 Nov 1568 though the final payment of her tocher of 800 merks was not paid until 8 November 1572.¹⁰⁵
- 7) Eupham who married firstly to John Scott and after his death to James Monorgund of that Ilk before 10 November 1575.¹⁰⁶ Her testament was registered 8 July 1595.¹⁰⁷

Thomas may also have had two natural sons:

- 1) Thomas who is described as son of Thomas in a court case in April 1549 but was not mentioned in the entail of Balthayock in 1542.
- 2) John who was mentioned in an indictment for murder in 1562 after his brothers,

96 R S S Vol ii 4816

97 RPC Vol v

98 R M S Vol VI 1273

99 Liber Ecclesie de Scon, Bannatyne Club 1843

100 R M S Vol vi, 1273

101 Fife Sasines iv 5

102 R M S Vol iii, chrtr 323

103 Balthayock Charters 133

104 Balthayock Charters 135

105 Balthayock Charters 176 and 204

106 Balthayock Charters 226

107 Comm of Edinburgh

Williaw and Patrick.¹⁰⁸ As an illegitimate son, he was not mentioned in the entail of 1542, but his father made provision for him as a tenant nearby in Clie with a pension of 10 merks out of the mill lands of Cults.¹⁰⁹ John married during the 1560's, to Christian Spence, widow of Gilbert Hedderwick and by her had a son Thomas Blair. Christian died about 1582.¹¹⁰ John and his son, Thomas (born circa 1565), had a fourth part of the Mains of Clie plus 8 acres and the teind sheaves thereof held of the Abbey of Scone, their fee being dated 5 March 1585 on the resignation of John Hedderwick.¹¹¹ As a portioner of Clie, John and his wife had a charter of an acre of Clie on 12 July 1581.¹¹² John died about 1614.¹¹³ John's son, Thomas Blair, was heir and portioner of Clie. Thomas married Janet Adamson who died about 1613.¹¹⁴ Thomas gave a charter to his son and heir, Alexander, who married Isabel Brown, daughter of Henry Brown of Pannshill on or before 10 May 1614.¹¹⁵ On 19 July 1623, Thomas was described as "of Kinfauns" although the accuracy of this designation is doubtful.¹¹⁶ It was probably the son of Alexander and Isabel, John in Clie who died about 1687.¹¹⁷

On the death of his cousin, Alexander Blair of Balmyle, Thomas Blair of Balthayock was appointed Tutor to Balmyle's son and heir Patrick about 1533.¹¹⁸

Thomas appears as a witness to various charters made at Perth by local barons including Gilbert Gray of Buttergask on 27 March 1520/1 and John Crichton of Ruthven on 2 October 1527. With John Blair of Ardblair he was a member of the Inquest of Retour of Service of John, Lord Glamis as heir to his father John Lyon in the baronies of Longforgan and Inchtute on 8 October 1528.¹¹⁹

A dispute arose in 1523 with William Lindsay of Pyetstone who was using the lands of Barclarie in Fife without the agreement of Thomas. A five-year tack of these lands by William Lindsay was agreed on 29 May 1525 but this failed for on 15 April 1528 an Instrument of Ejectment warned William to remove himself and his goods from the lands of Barclarie. He failed to comply by 3rd June, so that the notary public and the witnesses accompanying him in the execution of the order, on arrival at Barclarie removed the goods of Lindsay and installed those of Thomas Blair.¹²⁰ This was not the end of disputes with his Lindsay neighbours in Fife and as late as 27 March 1550, Thomas issued a writ to the sisters, Elizabeth and Janet Lindsay and their subtenant to remove from the lands of Cults by Whitsunday.¹²¹

That Thomas fell foul of the early planning and building controls, is recorded in a Decreet dated 15 July 1532 by the Sheriff of Perth who found against him for constructing a mill below Balthayock and diverting the water away from the mill of Clie which belonged to the Commendator of Scone Abbey.¹²²

In 1538, when he sold his lands of Kirkton of Cults in Fife to Mr Henry White deacon of Brechin, the witnesses included Patrick Ogilvy of Inchmartin. This contract contained provision for the

108 Pitcairn, Criminal Trials Vol i Pt i p 424

109 Balthayock Charters 185

110 Comm of Edinburgh Test reg 6 Feb 1582/3

111 Liber Ecclesie S Trinitatis de Scon

112 Balthayock Charters 235,236

113 Comm of St Andrews Testament 9 Mar 1614

114 idem Testament 16 Aug 1613

115 Balthayock Charters 338

116 Balthayock Charters 372

117 Comm of St Andrews Testament 11 Oct 1687

118 Balthayock Charters 80

119 Glamis Writs

120 Balthayock Charters 63, 65, 67 and 71

121 Balthayock Charters 128

122 Balthayock Charters 77

redemption of the same lands.¹²³ In this same year, Thomas had legal issues over his pendicle of land called the west part of Turfhill in Goddens. He claimed in May that he had been wrongly charged for nonentry by the superior, David earl of Crawford as he had been granted by the Crown the gift following the death of the previous earl. Then in September he raised a summons against the Commendator of Scone for impeding him in his possession of Turfhill. The following year saw him summons Alexander Lindsay of Arnbathie for impeding him in the possession of Turfhill and Myremoss.¹²⁴

Thomas appears to have taken considerable measures to ensure that he was properly installed in all of his family properties. On 12 February 1539/40 at Edinburgh, Thomas resigned into the hands of Walter, Lord St. Johns Preceptor of Torphichen, Knight of the Order of Jerusalem, his Temple lands of Balthayock with the tower fortalice. He was then immediately granted by Walter a new charter of the same lands and on the following day was given a Precept of Sasine.¹²⁵ On his return he was seised in Balthayock on 18 February.¹²⁶ An official Transumpt was made by the vicar of Dunlop from the protocol books of Andrew Doit, Balthayock Notary on 21 April 1539.

An assize on 5 May 1539 regarding William Moncreiff of that Ilk and part of the lands of Gorthy was headed by Thomas Blair and included John Moncur of Ballunie and John Blair of Melginch. Thomas took sasine of the lands of Ardler in 1540 and the following year, the lands of Baldowrie¹²⁷. These lands of Ardler, Baldowrie, in Angus, together with Cults in Fife and Goddens in Perth were incorporated and created as a free barony as granted under the Great Seal on 10 January 1542/43. At this time, an entail of considerable length was drawn up to identify the order of inheritance of this Barony of Ardler and proves very useful to the genealogist. (See Appendix i)

A further charter in this Register, records that Thomas was appointed bailie of the waters of Tay on 23 August 1553. This Office of Searcherie is a fine early example of conservation policy. It specified the keeping of the water of Tay between Meigdrum and the Heads of Scone from the killing of fry and smelts from the last day of February to the first of June yearly and to keep the water free from the killing of black fish in forbidden time. It was rewarded with all fees from the river fishing.¹²⁸

Janet Gray, the mother of Thomas, married secondly to Lord Lovat and after his death she married David Lindsay of Edzell. Thomas was witness at Dundee to a charter to David Lindsay and Janet, Lady Lovat on 27 November 1538 and to another on the lands of Edzell 19 March 1538/9.¹²⁹ A royal letter of 11 February 1549/50 gifted Thomas Blair the ward of the lands of Kinnell and the marriage of the young heir through the death of Robert Fraser of Kinnell and through the death of the late Dame Janet Gray, the mother of Thomas.¹³⁰

About this time, the family was prospering and Thomas was able to redeem several of his lands which previously had been wadset to raise capital. He redeemed his lands of Roughleys, Kirkton of Cults from John Balfour and Janet Smith on payment to them of 500 merks and the lands of Walton from John Fullarton for 150 merks in the early months of 1551.¹³¹ On 14 May 1551, his son Alexander Blair met with John Paterson, Snowdon Herald, and his spouse Agnes Ayton at St. Giles in Edinburgh and in the transaction there paid them £100 to recover the lands of Wester Cults.¹³² Agnes may have been close kinswoman to Katherine, Lady Balthayock.

¹²³ R M S and Balthayock Charters 89 and 91

¹²⁴ Balthayock Charters 87, 90 and 93

¹²⁵ Balthayock Charters 95 and 96

¹²⁶ Balthayock Charters 97

¹²⁷ Exchequer Rolls Vol xvii

¹²⁸ Balthayock Charters 137

¹²⁹ RMS Vol iii 1874 and 1951

¹³⁰ Balthayock Charters 116

¹³¹ Balthayock Charters 125 and 126

¹³² Balthayock Charters 129

The sixteenth century was one of considerable change in Scotland. The growing pressures for reform of the church led to the formation of new factions not always based on family bonds but still frequently so. The powerful neighbour, England, too posed a threat from time to time. After the English Church broke with Rome, the Scots in favour of Reformation were inclined to look to the "auld enemy" for assistance and thus created more tension and confusion of loyalties. Dundee with its strong trading links with Europe was a centre of interest in reformation during the first half of the sixteenth century. Indeed, it has been described as the Geneva of the North. Inevitably, the lairds of Angus played an important role in the progress of the Reformation in Scotland. Being an important laird in Gowrie between Perth and Dundee, led Thomas Blair of Balthayock into the politics of the time as the following demonstrates.

Landholders were bound by feudal law to provide men and arms for service to the king or lord superior. Various reasons could deter a laird from meeting such obligations and in 1540 Thomas Blair failed to supply his obligation to King James V in a Raid on Solway. Several other lairds in the Tay area refrained from attending this Raid as they were unsympathetic to Cardinal David Beaton's pro-French / anti-Reformation policy which instrumented this attack on England. This was deemed a treasonous act of omission but on 10 March 1539/40 Thomas was granted a remission for abiding from the Army at Solway.¹³³ A later engagement on Solway Moss on 24 November 1542, brought an end to the campaigns of King James V and a week after the birth of his daughter and heir, Mary, King James gave up the will to live and died at Falkland on 14 December 1542. This encouraged the English to press for a marriage between the young rulers of the two countries and led to the years of the Rough Wooing. During this period, Thomas and other local lairds were sent a letter on Christmas Eve 1544 to be at the Lord Governors in Edinburgh on St. John's Day.

In another letter he was instructed with other neighbours to "*pas to Dundee to remain ther upon the said shippis.*" Following the disastrous defeat of the Scots Army at Pinkie Cleuch on 10 September 1547, an English garrison occupied Broughty Castle covering the sea approach to Dundee. The town of Dundee thus suffered from raids by the English and there is little doubt that Thomas and his men were called on to offer some defence from time to time.

During the 1540's, the Friaries in Dundee were attacked and their icons destroyed by the local population who supported the views of Lutherans. Other disputes between reformers and conservatives probably heightened existing feelings of bad blood in the neighbourhood. It may have been one such dispute which set the Blairs against their neighbours, the Charteris or Charterhouse family whose interests were also in Kinfauns. This led to the killing of Henry Dempster, a chaplain, John Charteris, Alexander Charteris, John Gray, John PULLOW and two others.

Thomas Blair of Balthayock, his son Thomas, John Moncur of Balmyle and nine others were indicted for the slaughter of these men and were ordered to find surety.¹³⁴ On 14 May 1549, the Laird of Moncreiff whose lands lay on the south bank of the Tay opposite Balthayock, provided the surety.¹³⁵ That there may have been some religious overtones is supported in that Robert Osler, a vicar was named among the Blair party. Nevertheless, the indications are that the Blair party were retaliating in a blood feud on behalf of the Moncur of Balluny and the Moncreiffs, for Thomas Charteris of Kinfauns was summoned to appear on the same day for the murder of James Ross of Craigton, Gilbert Moncreiffe and Margaret Douglas, Lady Balluny. This involvement probably has its origins in a Bond of Maintenance entered into by John Ross of Craigie, William Moncreiffe of that Ilk and Thomas Blair of Balthayock made at Perth on 22 April 1544 binding themselves to take

¹³³ Pitcairn, Criminal Trials Vol i Pt i p 254 and RSS Vol ii 3445

¹³⁴ *idem* Vol i Pt i p 343

¹³⁵ Moncreiff, F., *The Moncreiffs and the Moncreiffes* p 78, Edinburgh 1929

part with each other in all their just and lawful acts.¹³⁶

Although prospering at this time, this placed Thomas out of royal favour. Failure to attend the Queen's Army also kept him in the category of rebel but on 20 July 1553 he received remission for the latter and also for his part in the killing of "Sir Alexander Dempster". This appears to be an error for the murdered chaplain was called Henry Dempster. The title Sir was a polite title to clerics and does not imply that he was a knight.

This local dispute with the Laird of Kinfauns did not end there however. On 2 May 1562, Thomas Blair of Balthayock, Alexander Blair apparent of Balthayock, William, Patrick and John Blair, sons of Thomas Blair, Thomas, son to Alexander and Alexander Blair tutor to Balmyle, along with forty six others, were obliged to find surety to appear for the "*crewell slaughter of umquhle Alexander Raa, burges of Perth and diverse utheris crymes contenit in the Letteris.*" Also called to appear at this same time were John Charteris of Kinfauns, David, his brother and many others to answer the charge that with 24 persons they had come upon the Laird of Balthayock giving him injurious words. Protesting at this John Charteris claimed that he was a Parish Clerk. The implications of these trials and the comments made, may suggest that the Charteris were a Reforming family and that the Blairs of Balthayock were conservatives.¹³⁷ This is not evident however. The laird of Balthayock took part in the Reformation Parliament of 1560, Thomas being listed between John Crichton of Ruthven and Ogilvy of Inchmartin. The laird of Balthayock also appeared among the King's Men during the Civil War following this period and therefore was among the reformation party at that time.

The records of these murders have drawn comment from various general writers of local histories who have extrapolated the deeds of these times to insinuate that the Blair families were among the most wild and lawless in the country. When viewed in the context of a country in the throes of Reformation and partial occupation by an enemy force it seems less awesome.

A year after the death of Alexander Rae, the "warring" neighbours Thomas Blair and John Charteris agreed to invite John, earl of Atholl and others to settle all the disputes and differences subsisting between them.¹³⁸

It is of interest that just before the Reformation, Thomas Blair made an appeal to the Pope which arose as follows: Thomas and his tenant, the earlier mentioned John Balfour of Roughleys, stood accused of casting turfs for fuel and building and reconstructing houses on the glebe of Robert Menzies, the vicar of Cults. At an ecclesiastical court, Mr William Cranston, Professor of Theology of St. Salvators College, St. Andrews found against them and sentenced them to excommunication. Thomas appealed to the Pope on 11 May and a Papal Communication dated 5 June at Rome agreed to relieve him from church censure by paying an annual rent of 8 merks for 25 years.¹³⁹

Alexander, the brother of the deceased Patrick Blair of Balmyle, was involved in 1554 in a barbarous attack in Blairgowrie which led to the murder of William Drummond of Leidcreiff and as a result, his goods were escheated and made over to Thomas Blair of Balthayock.¹⁴⁰ Eight years later, on 11 July 1562, a contract was drawn up between them whereby, Alexander was to receive a yearly pension of 4 chalders of victuals, £6 8s 0d Scots, 2 geese and 24 poultry out of the lands of Baldowrie. For his part, he was to surrender to Thomas all charters and letters of reversion made to the deceased laird of Balmyle on the lands of Potento and Balmyle.¹⁴¹

¹³⁶ Balthayock Charters 107

¹³⁷ Pitcairn, Criminal Trials Vol I Pt 1 p 424

¹³⁸ Balthayock Charters 163

¹³⁹ Balthayock Charters 144 and 145

¹⁴⁰ Balthayock Charters 141

¹⁴¹ Balthayock Charters 159

The earlier discord between Thomas Blair and his neighbour John Charteris was now behind them although at the end of July 1567, they appointed a new set of arbiters to settle their respective marches between Balthayock and Kinfauns. This was done amicably and a few days later on 4 August, Catherine, daughter to Alexander Blair the heir apparent of Balthayock, took sasine of a liferent out of the lands of Rybno, Gowkton and Tullybow in the barony of Kinfauns as her prenuptial contract with George Charteris, son and apparent heir of John Charteris of Kinfauns.¹⁴²

It has been described how land was used regularly for security on borrowing in the times before banking. Another function of banks is the safe keeping of documents. This too had its early equivalents. A neighbour, Thomas Chalmers, fiar of Seggieden, left in keeping with Thomas Blair a coffer containing writs concerning Seggieden and Strathy Chalmer. It was not until May 1601 that the son, Thomas Chalmers of Seggieden and grandson, Patrick, collected the coffer from the next laird of Balthayock.¹⁴³

Thomas died in early 1568. A Ratification of a contract dated 18 March 1568, shows that he was survived by Katherine Ayton and their three sons, Alexander, William and Patrick.¹⁴⁴

Alexander Blair (1521c - 1603)

Alexander may have been born about 1520 and is first mentioned as heir apparent of Balthayock when he had a precept of sasine by Gilbert Blair of Balmyle for infefting him in the east fourth part of the lands of Balmyle on 5 April 1542.¹⁴⁵ He is the first heir in the entail of 1543.

In early September 1547, war was imminent and a strong English invasion force under the Duke of Somerset approaching Edinburgh. Just before marching out to encounter them, on 8 September Patrick Blair of Balmyle drew up his will nominating his brother german, Alexander, to be Tutor Testamentor, and Thomas Blair of Balthayock and Alexander, his son, to be curators of his children during their minority.¹⁴⁶ Two days later, a day known as Black Saturday, on the Field of Pinkie Cleugh the entire chivalry of Scotland was destroyed and around 10,000 Scots either fell there or were massacred in the retreat which developed into a rout. Many Angus and Perthshire lairds perished that day, Patrick among them. For the same reasons as Patrick, Andrew Scott in Kirkton of Kinfauns had also nominated Thomas Blair of Balthayock and his son Alexander to be curators to his children and this sad duty was recorded on 30 September 1547.¹⁴⁷

As already mentioned, for his involvement in the murder of William Drummond of Leidcreif, the goods of Alexander, brother of Patrick Blair of Balmyle were escheated and he also forfeited his tutorship of the Balmyle children. This and his goods were transferred to the son of Balthayock. On 2 May 1554 Alexander Blair apparent heir of Balthayock paid £100 for the relief of the lands of Balmyle and Potento which had been in ward from Martinmas 1547.¹⁴⁸ A Letter of Tutory by Queen Mary on 7 May 1555 nominated Alexander as Tutor Dative to Janet or Jane Blair daughter and heir of the deceased Patrick Blair of Balmyle until she attained majority.¹⁴⁹ This in time was to lead to Jane's marriage to his eldest son.

Alexander was Chamberlain of Coupar Angus Abbey when, on 20 June 1559, he witnessed a charter of Donald, Abbot of Coupar, on the Mill of Ledcassy¹⁵⁰ (later known as Mill of Carsie). This is of

142 Balthayock Charters 168
 143 Balthayock Charters 303
 144 Balthayock Charters 178
 145 Balthayock Charters 105
 146 Balthayock Charters 114
 147 Balthayock Charters 115
 148 Exchequer Rolls Vol xviii
 149 Balthayock Charters 142
 150 Charters of Coupar Abbey

particular genealogical interest, as Ledcassy had been gifted to the abbey over three and a half centuries earlier by Stephen de Blair, the first of the Blair family.

Alexander Blair of Balthayock sat on the assize on 8 July 1564 for the trial of Andrew Ramsay, a burges of Perth who was accused with others of attacking and wounding a servant of the laird of Craigie on the South Inch in January 1562. Also on this assize were John Blair of Melginch and Alexander Blair of Friarton.¹⁵¹

Alexander was served heir to his father, Thomas, in the lands and barony of Balthayock in 1568. Depending on the feudal superior, this happened at various times. He was seised in Blatonhaugh upon a precept of William, Lord Ruthven proceeding on a Letter of Attorney by King James VI dated 20 March 1567/8. James, Lord St. John, Preceptor of Torphichen gave Precept of Clare Constat serving him heir in the Temple Lands of Balthayock. The Precept was granted at Holyrood House on 30 April 1568.¹⁵² For this he paid 20 shillings duty.¹⁵³ It was 11 November 1568 before he was seised in the lands of Balthayock following a Precept of Clare Constat by Edward, Lord Crichton of Sanquhar and Kinnoull.¹⁵⁴

On 1 May 1568, Alexander also was seized in his lands in Angus, Fife and Perthshire earlier incorporated into the barony of Ardler, for which he paid the Sheriff of Forfar £133.6s.8d.¹⁵⁵ Like his father before him, as newly installed laird of Balthayock, Alexander now went about redeeming some of his lands which had been wadset. Among those recovered were the lands of "Courach" (Coldrach) in the barony of Blacklunans, Lintrathen from William Chalmers of Drumloch, half the lands of Hilton and Fethons in Cults from David Baxter, burges of Cupar and Corlarach in Craig of Glenisla from Patrick Robertson of Balnakill and Grizell Rattray.¹⁵⁶ Alexander bought out for a capital sum of 200 merks the pension which his brother William Blair had from the lands of Balthayock.¹⁵⁷ He also capitalised the pensions of his half-brother, John, for 100 merks in 1570 and his sister german, Eupham, for 120 merks in 1575.¹⁵⁸

Other family transactions by Alexander show that he paid on 8 November 1572 the final sum of 300 merks of the 800 merks given to William Ramsay of Murray in payment of the tocher of his sister, Christian whose second marriage to William took place before November 1568 and probably during the life of their father. Alexander also provided pensions for his children granting his second son, John, liferent of the lands of Easter Cults and William, his fourth son, liferent of the shady half (north) of the lands of Walton in December 1572.¹⁵⁹

He is mentioned as Alexander Blair younger of Balthayock on 27 December 1567 when adjudicating in a dispute between his namesake of Friarton with his wife Janet Kincaigie. On 16 February 1568/9 Alexander was nominated to a committee for pursuing Lord Huntly¹⁶⁰. With Peter Hay of Megginch, he is at the end of the list which is headed by the earls of Atholl and Buchan and which included John lord Glamis and John lord Innermeath. All were strong supporters of the young King and newly Reformed Church and declared themselves faithful and obedient servants of our Sovereign Lord and that their lands and houses were in peril from the hostilities of George earl of Huntly and his accomplices who were noted Marianes in the Civil War of this period.

151 Pitcairn, Criminal Trials, Vol 1 Pt 1 p452

152 Balthayock Charters 173

153 Balthayock Charters 171

154 Balthayock Charters 170 and 175

155 Exchequer Rolls Vol xix

156 Balthayock Charters 179, 180 and 190

157 Balthayock Charters 181

158 Balthayock Charters 185 and 225

159 Balthayock Charters 205 and 206

160 R S C Vol i 598 and 645

There are two interesting charters in the Register of the Privy Seal. The first dated 1 August 1569 records the Royal gift of nonentry of the lands of Balthayock from the time of the decease of Edward, Lord Crichton of Sanquhar who was the lord superior of these lands. The second followed only five days later and was the gift to Alexander Blair of the relief of his own barony of Ardler and lands of Baldowrie, Cults and Goddens of which he already had sasine.¹⁶¹

Alexander's eldest son and heir, Thomas of Balmyle, died in early 1574. Alexander received the ward of his grandson, Alexander, who had become heir apparent of Balthayock. He paid the Lord High Treasurer £133.6s.8d for the composition of the gift.¹⁶² When Jane Blair, Lady Balmyle remarried in 1576, Alexander took on the burden of young Alexander, his oy (grandson) and apparent heir.

Douglas found in the family papers a letter dated 13 September 1579 from King James VI to Alexander in which he placed considerable confidence in his management of affairs in that neighbourhood. This came from a dispute between the Oliphants on one hand and the Murrays and Moncreiffe on the other. William Moncreiffe had obstructed the factors of John Oliphant from managing the estate in the parishes of Dunbarney, Kirk Pottie and Moncreiffe. The Lords ordained that the teinds of these parishes for that year be collected in a neutral place by Blair of Balthayock and Archibald Dundas of Fingask.¹⁶³

Alexander married Giles, also known as Edigia, widow of William Scrymgeour of Myres and daughter of Laurence Mercer of Meikleour.¹⁶⁴ Their marriage was contracted on 31 July 1573 when Giles was granted a liferent of the lands of Baldowrie and Ardler.

Their arms are depicted on a shield of an entrance gate at Balthayock Castle. The shield is divided per pale, dexter being the Blair Arms of a chevron between three roundles and sinister the arms of Laurence Mercer being on a fess between three crosses pattee in chief and a star in base, three annulets. The shield is surmounted by the date 1578, presumably being when building modifications were undertaken, and below are the initials AB and GM.

The marriage in 1573 was the second marriage for both partners. The name of an earlier wife of Alexander had not been noted elsewhere but from the earlier mentioned birth brief of 1674 the mother of Alexander's son is given as "Isabella Ogilvy lawful daughter of Sir John Ogilvy of Inchmartin and Anna Gray".¹⁶⁵ Isabella is described therein as a modest and noble woman. The birthbrief is somewhat inaccurate in the earlier generations and gives rise to dubiety regarding the names of her parents and even hers, as it is barely feasible that "Isabel" was daughter to William Ogilvy of Inchmartin and Janet Gray his spouse. During research for this book, it was deduced that she was Janet Ogilvy, daughter of Patrick Ogilvy of Inchmartin who with her father was granted the gift of non-entry of the lands of Ardler on 6 April 1536.¹⁶⁶ The lands are significant as Blair of Balthayock was baron of Ardler. No contract of marriage has been located but Alexander and Janet Ogilvy probably wed about 1545. At the final stage of compilation of this book, a copy of Charter 207 {see illustration} came to the author and provides confirmation that Janet Ogilvy was indeed the spouse of Alexander and that she had deceased by January 1572/3.

¹⁶¹ RSS Vol vi, 697 and 703 and Balthayock Charters 182 and 183

¹⁶² Balthayock Charters 211 and 212

¹⁶³ RPC Vol ii and Seath, J.; Dunbarney a Parish with a Past, 1991 p 20

¹⁶⁴ R M S Vol v chrtr 238 and PRS Vol vi, 2047

¹⁶⁵ R S S

¹⁶⁶ R S S Vol i i 1995

By his first marriage, Alexander Blair and Janet Ogilvy had six sons and probably two daughters:

- 1) Thomas described as son to Alexander Blair of Balthayock younger in the indictment of 1562, and later described as heir apparent of Balthayock. He was the father of the next baron. He predeceased his father. See below.
- 2) John described as second son of Alexander in charter of his father granting him a liferent of the lands of Easter Cults on 23 December 1572.¹⁶⁷ He was a merchant in Perth when admitted as a Guild Brother there on 21 April 1598 on payment of 40 shillings. He married Bessie Billie.¹⁶⁸ John was still in control of Easter Cults in 1603 when on 8 June, David Smith in Walton of Cults agreed to an obligation on the tacks of Easter Cults.¹⁶⁹ {See Blair of Pittendreich for further information on John and his sons.}
- 3) Andrew described as son of Alexander Blair of Balthayock when seised in the sunny half of Walton of Cults with his spouse, Janet Rollo on 3 March 1578. She was daughter of Andrew Rollo of Duncurb and Marion Rollo. Janet was also described as sister to George Rollo of Duncrub. Their contract of marriage was dated 26 December 1574 at which time she was the widow of John Stewart of Keillebrochin.¹⁷⁰ He was a portioner in Dundee in January 1580/1. When he resigned his infestment of Walton of Cults on 11 November 1614, he was described as Andrew Blair of Rossieochill.¹⁷¹ Andrew and George Hay of Ross resigned the lands of Nether Durdie, known as Durdie Inglis in 1621.¹⁷² Andrew's eldest son, Andrew Blair married Marion Douglas before 29 April 1607.¹⁷³
- 4) William who was described as fourth son when his father granted him a liferent of the shady half of Welton in Myres.¹⁷⁴ {See illustration}. He was granted the lands of Potento on 5 April 1574 and was witness to his grandnephew's charter in 1609.¹⁷⁵ He appears to have married and had issue, as he is described as William, elder in 1606.¹⁷⁶
- 5) Peter described as a merchant and son of Alexander Blair of Balthayock when admitted to Perth Guildry on payment of £24 to the dean of Guild on 1 June 1587.¹⁷⁷
- 6) Mr Alexander who after graduating M.A. St. Andrews in 1578, studied in France and settled in Berne.¹⁷⁸ Several families of Blair came of this union and settled in France, Switzerland and Southern Germany. "Letters Patent of the King of England attesting the antiquity of the Nobility of the Family of *BLAIR, BARONS OF BALTHAYOCK* in Scotland, and that those born in France are descended from them " dated 7 July 1674 were passed by Act of the Lords of the Privy Council and sealed in Edinburgh on 27 August 1674. The application was submitted by Alexander Blair of Paris who claimed that about 1585, his grandfather Alexander Blair had left Scotland and taken residence in Berne. His birth brief included therein needs careful interpretation. {See Blair Family in France.}
- 7) Katherine who was contracted to George, son and heir apparent of John

167 Balthayock Charters 204

168 Perth Guildry Book and Perth Deeds

169 Balthayock Charters 309

170 Balthayock Charters 219

171 Balthayock Charters 342

172 RMS Vol vi 196

173 Perth Sasines RS52 5 492

174 Balthayock Charters 207

175 R M S Vol vii 357

176 Perth Sasines RS52 5 56

177 Perth Guildry Records

178 Acta Facultatis Artium Universitatis Sanctiandree 1413-1588

Charteris of Kinfauns on 11 July 1567. Their prenuptial contract granted her a liferent of the lands of Rybno, Gowkton and Tulliebow in the Barony of Kinfauns.¹⁷⁹ Their marriage took place before 27 January 1583/4.¹⁸⁰

- 8) Christine who married James Scrymgeour of Myres, son of Alexander's second wife¹⁸¹. Alexander in a letter dated 22 August (1603) to his son in Lescar University mentions his grandson "young guidman of ye Myrris".¹⁸²

By Giles Mercer, Alexander had three sons who were born before February 1580/1.¹⁸³

- 1) Thomas, described in January 1580/1 as eldest lawful son by Giles Mercer in a charter granting him the town and lands of Kirkton of Cults. The entail of these lands names the other sons, Patrick and Laurence.¹⁸⁴ With his brothers Patrick and Laurence, he is mentioned in the Fife Sasines.¹⁸⁵
- 2) Patrick, who married Margaret Bonar, daughter of William Bonar of Rossie, in June 1609 when he resided in Goddens.¹⁸⁶ Patrick was later designed "of Kincarochie". His wife survived him.¹⁸⁷ They had a son, Major James Blair.¹⁸⁸
- 3) Laurence, third son by Giles. (Said erroneously by Douglas to be the heir apparent.) Progenitor of Blair of Over Durdie. He was for a brief period around 1606 designed Laurence Blair of Melginch. His spouse was Agnes Ayton and he had issue:
Major Patrick Blair sometime of Over Durdie, of Dunkenny and Eassie.
Laurence Blair of Over Durdie.
{See Blair of Over Durdie for further information on Laurence.}

At the Retour of Inquest for George Ramsay of Bamff as heir to his father, Alexander Blair was a member of the assize at Perth on 19 October 1580 which included Laurence Mercer of Meikleour and Sir George Haliburton of Pitcur.

The defeat of the Spanish Armada by the English navy in 1588 is a landmark event of this period. Intrigue before and after by the Spanish kept both England and Scotland on guard for plots. The Scottish Parliament appointed numerous commissioners who were charged with the execution of the laws against "Jesuits and Papists and other delinquents". For the shire of Perth, the four commissioners were John earl of Atholl, Sir William Murray of Tullibardine, Alexander Blair of Balthayock and Patrick Ogilvy of Inchmartin.

When the election of Commissioners of the Shires for the next parliament was being arranged by Act of Parliament on 14 May 1589, it was ordained that the proclamation would be made at the market cross of head burghs of all shires and that barons be appointed to undertake the election. Alexander was held in such high regard that he was appointed to oversee this for Perthshire.¹⁸⁹

A feud between the Lindsays and Ogilvys had troubled Angus during the 1580's and from time to time resulted in skirmishes and death. The alliances were drawn up mainly along the lines of the

179 Balthayock Charters 168

180 RSS Vol viii 1780

181 R M S Vol vi, 2025

182 Balthayock Charters 311

183 R M S Vol v 238

184 Balthayock Charters 234

185 Fife Sasines v 198

186 RMS and Fife Sasines v 198 and Perth Sasines RSS2 6 477

187 Deeds 1662, Mack 6 453

188 Deeds 1664, Mack 10 391

189 PRC Vol iv

Ogilvy lands of north-west Angus and their towns of Kirriemuir and Arbroath and the Lindsay lands of north-east Angus and their towns of Forfar and Brechin. John Ogilvy of Inverquhar at this time headed the Ogilvy cause and was supported by many of the liberal lairds of Angus and the Mearns. Interestingly, among his supporters were the Blair lairds of Balthayock and Balgillo who with the leader and his accomplices were cautioned by the Lords of Council on 27 March 1591 not to harm the community and inhabitants of Forfar.¹⁹⁰

The Gowrie Conspiracy shook Perth in August 1600. After the death of the Earl of Gowrie in this event, Alexander Blair of Balthayock was made Provost of Perth until Michaelmas. A letter from King James dated at Brechin on 28 September 1600 was read at the Michaelmas election advising that James was well pleased with the good service of the Provost, Bailies and Council of the burgh of Perth. The king expressed his hope for them to continue in office. Subsequently, on 4 October, Alexander Blair was elected Provost, Sheriff and Coroner. He remained in office till his death, Sir David Murray being elected the next Provost on 4 October 1603.¹⁹¹

Alexander died about September 1603 and was succeeded by his grandson named after him. Giles Merser survived her husband and married thirdly, before 1609, to Sir Thomas Stewart of Grandtully.¹⁹²

Thomas Blair of Balmyle, heir apparent of Balthayock (1545c -1574)

This eldest son of Alexander of Balthayock married Janet Blair daughter and heiress of Patrick Blair of Balmyle.

They had issue:

- 1) Alexander the heir of Balthayock
- 2) Thomas granted a liferent of the lands of Potento on 24 January 1574/5 in a charter registered under the Great Seal but deceased by 24 July 1576 when his grandfather agreed to discharge to his mother all the sums pertaining to him.

With his father and eight others, Thomas was implicated in the murder of seven persons in 1562 already described. In 1554, Janet, alias Jane Blair, while a child in the care of Thomas' father paid £100 to the Queen for relief of the lands of Balmyle¹⁹³.

Thomas was described as heir apparent of Balthayock on 30 August 1571 when his wife, Lady Balmyle, received a Precept for a charter of the lands of Nether Balmyle and Potento.¹⁹⁴ They took sasine of these lands three weeks later.¹⁹⁵

Thomas and Jane renewed at Goddens on 5 April 1574, the charter granted to her uncle by Thomas Blair of Balthayock honouring the same terms as given in 1562.

Thomas died between 5 April 1574 and 23 June 1574.¹⁹⁶ On that later date, Alexander Blair of Balthayock was granted by King James VI the gift of the ward and nonentry of the lands of Nether Balmyle and Potento then in the king's hands by reason of the decease of Thomas Blair of Balmyle together with the marriage of Alexander Blair, his son and apparent heir.¹⁹⁷

190 RPC Vol iv

191 Peacock; Perth Its Annals and Its Archives, p248 and p542

192 R M S Vol vii 106

193 Exchequer Rolls Vol xviii

194 RSS Vol vi 1251

195 Balthayock Charters 195

196 R M S Vol iii, chtrs 2635 and 2355

197 Balthayock Charters 211

Jane survived her husband and married before 24 July 1576 to William Blair younger apparent of Balgillo.¹⁹⁸

Alexander Blair (1568c- 1619c)

Alexander was the son of Thomas Blair heir apparent of Balthayock and Jean Blair, Lady Balmyle. A charter dated 24 January 1574/5 states that Alexander was the eldest son of the late Thomas and that he was heir to the name and Arms of Blair. By this charter he gained from his mother the rents of Nether Balmyle and Potento during her lifetime. Another dealing with this is found in the Register of the Privy Seal when on 31 January 1574/5, in a precept for a charter to Alexander, he is described as grandson of Alexander Blair of Balthayock.

Alexander was described as apparent of Balthayock when on 31 July 1598, with his kinsman William Blair of Balgillo, he was a member of the assize at the trial of Alexander Hay of Delgatie for adultery. He was summoned as, Alexander Blair younger of Balthayock, to be a witness at the trial of William Ruthven for treason in the Gowrie Conspiracy in October 1600.

In 1604, Alexander was retoured heir to Alexander, his grandfather, in the lands and barony of Balthayock.¹⁹⁹ At this time he was also retoured in the barony of Ardler in Angus.²⁰⁰ The Office of Bailyary of the Temple Lands of Balthayock was conferred upon him on 1 May 1604 by James Sandilands, Lord Torphichen.²⁰¹ It was not until 12 December 1615 and 20 December 1617 that Alexander was retoured respectively in the lands of Blatonhaugh as heir to his grandfather²⁰² and the lands of Over Kinfauns as heir to his great-grandfather Thomas Blair of Balthayock.²⁰³

Alexander married Elizabeth, daughter of Sir George Haliburton of Pitcur, their contract of marriage being dated September 1587.²⁰⁴ They had two sons and three daughters:

- 1) Thomas, his heir at one time designed of Idvie in Angus.
- 2) John who married Elizabeth Straton 26 May 1633 and who had issue: a daughter Elizabeth Blair married John Wood and also daughters called Agnes, Margaret, Grisel and Giles.²⁰⁵ John was described as brother german to the laird of Balthayock when he was witness to his sister's marriage in 1623.
- 3) Giles who married Alexander Carnegie of Balnamoon and had a son John Carnegie.
Their prenuptial contract in 1618 secured her in a liferent out of £10,000 lands in Angus for which Alexander Blair provided her tocher of 6000 merks.²⁰⁶ The contract was discharged by 26 November 1622.²⁰⁷
- 4) Elizabeth who married James Arbuthnot of Arrat, younger brother of Sir Robert Arbuthnott fiar of that ilk, and son of the deceased James Arbuthnott of Arrat. In their contract of marriage signed at Brechin on 13 November 1620, her brother Thomas bound himself to pay her tocher of 5,000 merks.²⁰⁸ She was infert with her husband in the lands of Arrat on 16 July 1626. They had three sons Robert, Thomas and James and two daughters Marjory and Elizabeth.

198 Balthayock Charters 228

199 Perth Retours no 120 and Balthayock Charters 320 and 321

200 Forfar Retours no 41

201 Balthayock Charters 317, 318 and 319

202 Balthayock Charters 344

203 Perth Retours no 252 and Balthayock Charters 346

204 Balthayock Charters 258

205 Forfar Sasines RS35 2 291 and 320

206 Balthayock Charters 349

207 Balthayock Charters 364

208 Balthayock Charters 352

- 5) Margaret, spouse to Thomas Blair of Tarsappie, their marriage being contracted in January 1623 when he was described as son of Tarsappie.²⁰⁹ Thomas was heir to his father in the lands of Easter Tarsappie about 1625. Thomas and Margaret had issue. Their son, William, baptised at Kinfauns 31 October 1626, was heir to Tarsappie but died without issue. William Blair of Kinfauns was gifted the escheat of his estate on 21 January 1659.²¹⁰ His brother german Alexander, was retoured heir of Tarsappie on 10 July 1661.

The previous laird of Balthayock had borrowed from his sons Alexander and Laurence and following his death they looked to their nephew for settlement. Alexander wrote from Lescar regarding 300 merks lent and offering to resign his liferent for a capital sum of £1000. This exchange, suggested on 3 June 1605, was not taken up for he raised the subject again in a letter from Berne on 28 June 1608.²¹¹ Laurence Blair of Melginch resigned his pension of the mill and lands of Cults and a wadset of 3,000 merks was discharged on 10 June 1606.²¹²

In a contract dated 17 November 1614 with his uncle, Andrew Blair of Rossieochill, Alexander recovered Andrew's pension out of the lands of Walton of Cults and agreed to secure a pension of 110 merks from other of his lands.²¹³

Alexander died about 1619, or early 1620 before 23 February, when the Sheriff of Forfar, John Ogilvy of Inverquharity had commission to serve Brieves from Chancery in favour of Thomas Blair of Balthayock as heir to Alexander Blair, Alexander Blair and Thomas Blair his father, great-grandfather and great-great grandfather respectively.²¹⁴

Alexander was survived by his wife Elizabeth Haliburton, who in accordance with her marriage contract, had a pension out of the Mains of Balthayock. On 30 June 1623, she renounced that to her son Thomas in exchange for the liferent of Goddens, Turfhill and Baldowrie.²¹⁵

Sir Thomas Blair (1590c - 1653)

Thomas was mentioned as apparent of Balthayock when he witnessed a charter of William Blair of Balgillo in February 1615.

He was served heir to his father on 9 May 1620 when he was retoured heir to his father in the lands of Goddens and in the barony of Ardler and a part of the barony of Ardblair²¹⁶. At this time he was also retoured heir to his gt-gt-grandfather Thomas Blair of Balthayock in the office of Custodian of the River Tay up to the Heids of Strathearn. He also had charters for the lands of Balthayock in 1621 and the Temple Lands there in 1622.²¹⁷

Thomas married firstly about 1623 or earlier, Margaret, eldest daughter of Andrew Ayton of that ilk, in Fife.²¹⁸

This marriage produced three sons and five daughters:

- 1) Alexander his heir born 1631.
- 2) Andrew baptised at Kinfauns 27 September 1632, later designed of Inchyra. He had charters of Inchyra registered under the Great Seal on 3 March 1662

209 RMS Vol viii 1681

210 GD16/42/401

211 Balthayock Charters 322, 327 and 331

212 Balthayock Charters 330

213 Balthayock Charters 342

214 Balthayock Charters 356 and Burgh Court Books of Dundee

215 Balthayock Charters 367

216 Forfar Retours no 127

217 Balthayock Charters 358 and 363

218 RMS Vol viii 586

and another a year later. Captain Andrew married Grisel Bower, daughter of the laird of Innerichty before 30 July 1647.²¹⁹ He was a prisoner of war in 1653.²²⁰ Andrew died in December 1699.

His Arms: *Argent a chevron crenelie sable betwixt three Torteaux.*

Motto : *Virtute Tutus.*

His eldest son and heir Alexander Blair of Inchturre had a large family but it failed in the male line and his estate was divided among four surviving daughters in 1748. For further details of this family see Arthur T. Mitchell's "Five Generations of the Family of Blair from the Counties of Perth and Forfar" published Exeter 1895.

- 3) Mr John of Balmyle. Baptised 27 Jan 1636. Was a notary public and with his wife, purchased the lands of Nether Balmyle in 1668. {See Blair of Balmyle.}

His Arms: Argent a chevron Sable betwixt three torteaux within a bordure of the second.

Motto: Facies Qualis Mens Talis

- 4) Elizabeth described as the eldest daughter, who married Sir Gilbert Ramsay of Bamff, Alyth. Their contract of marriage being signed at Balthayock on 21 November 1634.²²¹
- 5) Agnes who married Patrick Butter 20 Jan 1638 at Kinnoul and had son John (Dec 1648), and daughter Margaret (Feb 1650) in Blairgowrie. Patrick was the son of Archibald Butter and Lilius Inglis. He succeeded to Pitlochry Estate in 1684 and that same year purchased Killiemulin from his kinsman Thomas Butter.
- 6) Helen baptised at Kinfauns on 2 September 1628. She married John Graham of Balgowan on 27 April 1647.
- 7) Margaret, who married Alexander Haliburton of Fodrance on 4 August 1654. Later Alexander was designed of Ardler. They had issue. Margaret survived her husband.²²²
- 8) Jane, baptised at Kinfauns 2 September 1634, who married Thomas Graham on 21 May 1654. He was a son of George Graham, Viscount of Dundee and in 1663 they received a charter of the lands of Potento, the title of which Thomas Graham adopted.²²³ Jane also known as Jean survived her husband.²²⁴

The baptisms of these children show that Patrick Hay of Pitfour was normally the principal witness although for the eldest son, Mr Alexander Lindsay, Bishop of Dunkeld was placed ahead of Patrick Hay.

Secondly, Sir Thomas married Nicolas Dundas at Kinfauns on 4 June 1643. The witnesses to this marriage were John Dundas of Fingask and James Clephane of Carslogie. By a previous marriage Nicolas had a son, George Fairlie. This was to be a brief marriage for she died within a year, her testament dative and inventory of her goods held in common with Sir Thomas being dated 3 July 1644.²²⁵

Thirdly in 1644, Sir Thomas wed Margaret, daughter to Sir Alexander Gibson of Durie and relict of Thomas Fotheringham of Powrie and mother of Elizabeth Fotheringham who later married his son.

²¹⁹ Forfar Sasines RS34 5 259 and R M S Vol xi 217

²²⁰ Balthayock Charters 445

²²¹ R M S Vol ix 318 and Bamff Charters

²²² Forfar Sasines RS35 11 318

²²³ R M S Vol ix 1824

²²⁴ R M S vol ix 361

²²⁵ Reg of Deeds 1699. RD4/84 fo 1346

²²⁵ Balthayock Charters 419

Earlier Lady Margaret had a servant Susanna Gibson who may have been a close kinswoman. When Susanna died, her sister Betty Gibson wife of William Blair in Kilsyth was one of her heirs on 16 July 1642.²²⁶

Sir Thomas had a son and daughter presumably by this marriage:

- 1) Thomas, baptised 25 August 1645 at Kinfauns.
- 2) Cathren, baptised 18 June 1647 at Kinfauns.

A 20-year tack of the teind sheaves of the parsonage and vicarage of the lands of Balthayock was set on 21 May 1624 to Thomas at an annual rental of £11 payable to his feudal superior, William Lord Crichton of Sanquhar.²²⁷

A difference with his kinsman led Thomas to bring summons on 6 June 1629 against Sir John Blair of Balgillo for impeding him in possession of the lands of Balmyle and Potento, Muir of Whitehills and others.²²⁸ This probably arose from the death of Jean Blair of Balmyle who was mother to Sir John and grandmother to Thomas who had the senior claim to these lands. On 13 July 1631, Sir John sold the lands of Hallyards called Liberty Cruik to Thomas Blair of Balthayock.²²⁹

Thomas was knighted by Charles I, having paid to the clerk of His Majesty's Privy Council at Edinburgh on 7 August 1634, a sum of £40 for the honour of Knighthood.²³⁰ Designed as Sir Thomas Blair of Balthayock, he received a charter under the Great Seal on the lands of Gairdrum, Perthshire dated 13 March 1637.

Another charter dated 25 June 1642 confirms his title to the lands and barony of Ardler.²³¹

The lands of Goddens, the pendicle of Turfhill and manor and mill of Dundas were sold to the Bishop of Dunkeld on 3 May 1637.²³²

Civil War in England turned their Parliament against King Charles I and appeals came from both sides for Scots assistance. Eventually the Scots agreed to assist the Parliamentary cause and in January 1644 sent a Scots army of 20,000 men into England. In Ireland war broke out between the Irish on the one hand and the Scots planters and the older settlers both Scots and English on the other. This War of the Three Kingdoms was to prove expensive for Scotland for the English broke their promise to pay for the Scottish army even though their assistance was invaluable. It may also have proved expensive to Sir Thomas and his neighbour George Hay, Earl of Kinnoull. Papers in the family muniments record a list of disbursements to soldiers on behalf of the Earl in January 1644. Another is an intimation dated 9 May 1644 to Sir Thomas Blair in relation to the Committee of Estates and arms sent to England and Ireland.²³³ The earl was accused of treason and a detailed account of expenses and disbursements for 1644 connected with him is among the Balthayock papers.²³⁴ Sir Thomas Blair had a receipt for 1,000 merks to be delivered to the Earl of Kinnoull on his going to France. With the departure of the earl, Thomas appears to have managed the estates of Errol and Kinfauns, the rental books for 1643 and 1644 to 1646 being kept by him.²³⁵ Sir Thomas and Patrick Lord Deskfurd had stood cautioners for George Hay and now found themselves burdened by a great debt. By a Contract of Division the barony of Kinfauns was renewed to Sir Thomas on 17

226 Inquisitiones Generales no 2720

227 Balthayock Charters 374

228 Balthayock Charters 384

229 Balthayock Charters 394

230 Balthayock Charters 401

231 R M S Vol ix 1145

232 Balthayock Charters 406

233 Balthayock Charters 417 and 418

234 Balthayock Charters 420

235 Balthayock Charters 426 and 427

February 1647.²³⁶ The earls of Kinnoul were staunch Royalists. The third earl died in Orkney in September 1649 awaiting the arrival of the Marquis of Montrose and assistance from France. The fourth earl had accompanied Montrose on his travels in Europe trying to raise assistance for King Charles. That earl, George Hay, landed in Orkney with the Marquis of Montrose and was with him at his defeat at Corbiesdale in April 1650. George Hay perished in the mountains, a fugitive after the battle. The debt of Kinnoul was thus to continue.

In April 1652 a contract between the cautioners narrated the great burden on them due to the failure to dispose of Kinnoul's estate.²³⁷ Scotland was at that time an occupied country and with an English army demolishing Perth buildings, including the hospital, to make fortifications there would be little attraction to become a property owner in the locality. During the Commonwealth, Sir Thomas and Col. William Daniell were described as Sheriffs and Commissioners of Perth on 20 August 1652.²³⁸ That year, John Nairn purchased Seggieden from Sir Thomas for 44,000 merks so realising some of the capital.

The "Rentall Book of Perthshyre" for 1650 shows Thomas Blair was assessed at £500 for his lands of Balthayock in the parish of Kinnoul whereas for his two thirds of the Barony of Kinfauns his assessment was £2073. 6s. 8d

Lord Deskford disposed the lands of Kirkton of Errol to Sir Thomas by a contract dated 10 September 1652 and it appears he was still alive when it was registered three months later on 13 December. Sir Thomas died within the next five months. The list of his debts, resting at the time of his death, amounted to 384,752 merks and so were to burden the next laird.²³⁹ His testament dative was confirmed on 23 December 1658.²⁴⁰

Dame Margaret Gibson survived her husband and married thirdly to William, Master of Gray following their contract of 19 March 1654.²⁴¹

Sir Alexander Blair (1631 - 1692)

Alexander was baptised at Kinfauns on 19 May 1631. He married in October 1648, Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas Fotheringham of Powrie by his wife Margaret Gibson.

Dame Elizabeth Fotheringham, her sister Cecilia spouse to David Carmichael of Balmedie, and her sister, Jean Fotheringham, were retoured heir portioners of line of Alexander Fotheringham of Powrie, their brother german on 29 June 1655.²⁴²

As witnesses at his marriage were his kinsmen, Alexander Carnegie of Balnamoon and John Aiton of that Ilk.

Alexander was knighted in the period between his marriage and the birth of his first son.

Sir Alexander and Elizabeth had eight sons and three daughters:

- 1) Thomas his heir born in 1651.
- 2) John who also carried the title of Balthayock, born 1658.
- 3) Alexander baptised 19 Aug 1659.
- 4) David baptised 8 January 1664
- 5) Andrew baptised 21 Aug 1665, studied at University. Described as

²³⁶ R M S Vol ix 1824

²³⁷ Balthayock Charters 444

²³⁸ Bamff Charters No 250

²³⁹ Balthayock Charters 456

²⁴⁰ Balthayock Charters 480

²⁴¹ Balthayock Charters 458

²⁴² Inquisitiones Generales no 4032

- Dr. Andrew Blair brother german of Thomas and John in an Instrument of Protestation in 1701.
- 6) Laurence baptised 23 April 1670 died young.
 - 7) Laurence another of this name baptised 3 Oct 1672 may also have died young.
 - 8) Patrick baptised 23 November 1675.
 - 9) Elizabeth who married to James Carnegie of Woodgate. Described as oye (grandchild) of the Mistress of Gray and eldest lawful daughter of Sir Alexander and as future spouse to James, eldest son of Robert Carnegie of Woodgate in an assignation of 9 November 1676.²⁴³
 - 10) Anna baptised 30 October 1662. She married John Campbell, bailie of Ayr.²⁴⁴ She was godmother at the baptism in Dundee on 20 May 1692 to Anne, the daughter of John Blair of Balmyle and Grisell Mann.
 - 11) Margaret who in January 1685 married the reverend Mr Thomas Strachan following their contract of 31 December 1684.²⁴⁵ Proceeding from this, on 21 June 1686, Margaret had sasine in a liferent of the lands of Craigmakirrane of which her husband was portioner.²⁴⁶ Thomas was minister of St. Martins but was deprived by the Privy Council for failing to read the Proclamation of the Estates and not praying for William and Mary. They were later in Guthrie and finally moved to Edinburgh where Thomas died in 1722. They had issue.²⁴⁷

When his eldest son was baptised at Kinnoull in December 1651, Sir Alexander was designed apparent of Balthayock and the witnesses were Sir Patrick Hay of Pitfour and Thomas Blair of Tarsappie. After the death of his father, he was retoured heir to Sir Thomas on 29 April 1653.²⁴⁸ He took sasine of Ardler, Baldowrie, Balmyle and Potento and Cults that together had been erected into the Barony of Ardler. Following a Precept of Clare Constat of September 1658, he was seised in the Temple lands of Balthayock with the manor there a few months later.²⁴⁹

The inheritance brought with it a great burden that occupied the new laird. His brother, Captain Andrew Blair was then a prisoner of war and petitioned through the Commissioners of the Commonwealth for recovery of money lent to his father. Alexander requested on 15 April 1653 to be exempt for those debts incurred by his father due to the urgency of his affairs.²⁵⁰ Two months later at Whitsunday, the list of debts on the estate stood at £253,333. 6s. 8d. Alexander was able to raise capital from some of the excessive estate later that year on 24 November when William Blair in Balthayock was given a wadset of £3600 per annum out of the lands and barony of Kinfauns.²⁵¹ Sir Alexander's brother, Mr John Blair was a notary in Perth and he too provided capital to be granted on 7 December 1655 an annual income of £132 out of Potento and Balmyle.²⁵² Ten years later, John described as Commissary Clerk of Dunkeld discharged this loan and purchased outright the lands of Nether Balmyle.²⁵³

The pressures continued and on 17 January 1654, Sir Alexander Wedderburn of Blackness brought a summons for non-payment of 14,000 merks due by a bond of June 1646 made by the late Sir Patrick Ogilvy of Inchmartin and the late Sir Thomas Blair and others.²⁵⁴ The matter presumably

²⁴³ Dundee Register of Deeds No 450 : 3 Nov 1670 - 3 Apr 1677

²⁴⁴ Reg. of Deeds 1707 RD4/101 fo 480

²⁴⁵ OPR and Balthayock Charters 516

²⁴⁶ Perth Sasines 22 June 1686

²⁴⁷ Fasti Vol 4

²⁴⁸ Inquisitiones Generales no 3783

²⁴⁹ Balthayock Charters 477 and 478

²⁵⁰ Balthayock Charters 445

²⁵¹ Balthayock Charters 452

²⁵² Balthayock Charters 464

²⁵³ Balthayock Charters 491 and 492

²⁵⁴ Acts & Decrees of the Lords of Council and Session

was settled amicably for on 23 January 1658 when Alexander, the ninth son of Sir Alexander Wedderburn, was baptised, Sir Alexander Gibson of Durie and Sir Alexander Blair were witnesses. (At this time in Dundee it was customary for the main witnesses to share the same given name with the child).

Sir Alexander continued to raise capital by selling off part of the estate to relatives. His sister Jane had married in 1654 to Thomas Graham, a son of Graham of Claverhouse. In 1658, Thomas Graham was given by Sir Alexander the Inventory of the writs of the lands of Balmyle and Potento. Indubitably, these were the writs obtained by his great-great-great-grandfather, Thomas Blair in 1562 from the Tutor of Balmyle. This transaction is not specific but may have been for security on a loan to Sir Alexander and in time led to the sale of Potento to Thomas Graham.

Thomas, the eldest son of Sir Alexander was granted the lands of Hallyards called Liberty Crook on 13 July 1655.²⁵⁵

As part of the marriage settlement, Dame Elizabeth Fotheringham had been installed in a pension out of the lands of Balmyle and Potento. She also had a liferent from the barony of Erroll but in May 1658, Sir Alexander sold the Erroll lands to John, earl of Airlie and thus compensated his wife with a liferent of Balthayock.²⁵⁶

Mr William Rattray and Elspeth Drummond his wife were granted a pension of 240 merks uplifted annually from the lands of Balthayock by Sir Alexander in October 1660 with John Blair of Ardblair as cautioner.²⁵⁷

It can be assumed that during the early 1660's, Sir Alexander had a communication either directly from his namesake and distant kinsman in Paris or from the Lords of Council. This Alexander Blair of Paris had applied to the Lords for a knighthood and wished to establish as best as possible his ancestral tree for his Birth Brief in the application. The first reply from the Privy Council to Paris clearly accepted his claim to have come from an illustrious family and placed no obstacle to him. However, this Alexander Blair had become so enthralled by the subject of family history that as he was "greatly desirous to ascertain his predecessors at a more ancient period, he has implored our act of grace a second time, whereby the nobility of the family of Blair, of so great antiquity, may more clearly appear." This may well have involved Sir Alexander and a search of old documents in the charter chest. A declaration dated 1665 of the descent of Mr. Alexander Blair who settled in the principality of Berne came consequentially into Sir Alexander's possession. Unfortunately, the resulting Birth Brief is not accurate for the Blair of Balthayock in the "more ancient period" but with careful interpretation it does usefully fill some significant gaps.²⁵⁸

On 26 October 1670 in a Back Bond, Sir Alexander and his son Thomas obliged themselves to denude themselves of the lands of Over Durdie.²⁵⁹ These lands were in the possession of Laurence Blair and his wife Janet Turnbull as part of their marriage contract of 14 November 1659.²⁶⁰ An extract of the blazoning of the arms of Laurence Blair of Over Durdie under the signature of Sir Charles Erskine of Cambo, Lyon King of Arms, dated 16 September 1673 acknowledges the descent from Balthayock.²⁶¹ {See Blair of Over Durdie}

255 Balthayock Charters 459

256 Balthayock Charters 475 and 476

257 Perth Sasines 1 Dec 1660

258 R S C 27 Aug 1674

259 Balthayock Charters 498

260 Balthayock Charters 451, 482 and 483

261 Balthayock Charters 504

Sir Alexander and his eldest son, Thomas made an Obligation on 9 May 1678 to his wife, Dame Elizabeth Fotheringham, to provide her with a pension of 250 merks and 40 bolls of victual and certain poultry and also to grant to her the old laigh hall with two chambers on the turnpike on the north side of the close of Balthayock, the laigh house called the midhouse and others.²⁶²

It was not until 17 June 1680 that Sir Alexander was retoured heir to his father in the lands of Seggieden, Byn and Northleys. This was made necessary in order that he could infeft John Nairn of Seggieden in the lands of Byn.²⁶³

On 29 March 1687, Sir Alexander and John Blair of Pockmill were made burgesses of Arbroath.²⁶⁴ This John Blair was son of the deceased Thomas Blair of Pockmill and Agnes Mitchell. Sir Alexander died in 1692 and was succeeded by his eldest son.

Thomas Blair (1651 -1701)

Thomas was baptised at Kinfauns on 30 Dec 1651. He was retoured heir to his father, Sir Alexander, on 16 March 1693²⁶⁵ and was granted a Precept of Clare Constat by David Viscount Stormont for infefting him as heir to his father in the Temple Lands of Balthayock on 16 January 1694.²⁶⁶

He married Jean Pringle, relict of Buchannan of Lenie. Their contract of marriage dated 8 August 1683 provided to her a liferent of 500 merks furth of the lands of Balthayock.²⁶⁷

An Account Book of the Estate of Kinfauns has survived showing the rent charges and casualties payable to the estate from 1692 - 1699. There is little genealogical information in this but the names of tenants and servants and interesting aspects of running the estate can be gathered.²⁶⁸

Thomas was made a burges of Arbroath on 11 May 1698.²⁶⁹

The following is extracted from Domestic Annals of Scotland Vol.III, p.190

Throughout the year 1697, there were protracted legal proceedings before the Privy Council between Blair of Balthayock and Carnegie of Finhaven, in Forfarshire, in consequence of the latter having brought on a marriage between his daughter and a young minor, his pupil, Blair of Kinfauns, relative of Balthayock. The affair ended in condemnation of Finhaven and a fine of one hundred and fifty pounds to be paid to Balthayock for his expenses in the action. On the 20th September, 1703, by which time Balthayock was dead, Finhaven presented a petition to the Privy Council setting forth that he had not submitted to the sentence, but he placed the sum of the fine in consignment and thereupon was liberated. Balthayock had never called for the suspension; Her Majesty's late gracious indemnity had discharged the fine, "the cause of which", he alleged, "was natural and ordinary and the marriage every way suitable." There might be demur to the last particular, as young Kinfauns, when led into the marriage with Carnegie's daughter was only a boy. Nevertheless, the Council ordained the money to be rendered back to the petitioner.

Thomas died on 31 August 1701, his testaments being registered in the Commissariat of St. Andrews on 31 December 1701, 20 December 1703 and 31 May 1710. Thomas was survived by his wife but as they were without issue, he was succeeded by his brother, John.

John Blair (1658 - 1710c)

At the time of his brother's death, John had been "several years out of the Kingdom."

His younger brother, Dr Andrew Blair attended then to the legal matters of the estate on his behalf

262 Balthayock Charters 509

263 Balthayock Charters 511

264 Arbroath Court Book item 130

265 Inquisitiones generales no 7345

266 Balthayock Charters 521

267 Balthayock Charters 513 and 514

268 Dundee City Archive GD/Mns/1 3

269 Arbroath Court Book item 1050

and was disturbed to find that Jean Pringle, Lady Balthayock, who was described as being in the Laigh Chamber (Lower Room) at Balthayock, had taken away some of her deceased husband's possessions which had been listed in the Inventory. Dr Andrew raised an Instrument of Protestation for the recovery of these furnishings to the apparent heir.²⁷⁰

John was retoured heir to his brother in Balthayock and Over Durdie in October 1705.²⁷¹

At Errol Church on 22 September 1702, his banns were proclaimed in order for marriage to Margaret, daughter to Patrick Buttar of Gormack. They had only one daughter, Margaret who was heiress to the estate of Balthayock. Margaret Buttar had a liferent on the lands of Durdie and Balthayock granted on 10 September 1705.²⁷²

There were several debts which Thomas had contracted and these were carried over to John.

While his daughter was a child, John agreed with David Drummond, Advocate Treasurer of the Bank of Scotland on 23 July 1706, a contract of marriage between Margaret and Drummond's eldest son David²⁷³. This contract carried the above mentioned debts and was registered at Perth Sheriff Court on 2 January 1707.

John died before 1719 but the date is not discovered. He was survived by Margaret Butter and their daughter. They probably also had daughters Mary and Isobel, the latter who was married to the Rev. Thomas Beat at Kilspindie in 1759.²⁷⁴ Mary died about 1783 and Isabel was her heir.

Margaret Blair (1702c - 1727c)

On the death of her father, Margaret inherited the title of Balthayock as there was no longer a male entail on this estate. As she was still a child, her mother Margaret Buttar was appointed her sole Tutrix and Curatrix nominal. She was retoured heir general to her father 5 October 1723.²⁷⁵

On 11 August 1723, she married David Drummond²⁷⁶ and on 27 August at Edinburgh, the contract, made earlier by her deceased father when she was a child, was discharged between her mother and David Drummond, Treasurer of the Bank of Scotland. On marriage, David assumed the name and arms of Blair of Balthayock. They had a son John.

Margaret died while her son was still a child before mid-1727. David Drummond Blair died in 1728.

John Blair (1725c - 1786)

While still a child, John inherited the title of Balthayock being retoured heir to his mother on 6 July 1727.²⁷⁷

On 1 August 1762 in Edinburgh, John married Patricia, daughter of John Stevens, a banker in Edinburgh. Their contract of marriage dated 9 August 1762, provided for her a pension out of the lands of Over Durdie.²⁷⁸ They had two sons and nine daughters, several dying in childhood.

- 1) David, his heir apparent born 1764. He died without issue.
- 2) John, born 1774 died young without issue.
- 3) Christian the eldest child, born 1763 died young.
- 4) Margaret, born 1766, heir to her brother.
- 5) Janet, born 1769 died unmarried about 1840, her testament was dated 12 Jan

270 Dundee City Archive GD/Mns/1 4

271 Balthayock Charters 528

272 Balthayock Charters 527

273 Dundee City Archive GD/Mns/1 6

274 Services of Heirs in Scotland Vol ii

275 Balthayock Charters 530

276 Edinburgh OPR

277 Balthayock Charters 531 and Services of Heirs in Scotland Vol I

278 Balthayock Charters 540 and 541

1838.²⁷⁹

- 6) Christian, born 1770
- 7) Isabel, born 1772 made a Deed of Settlement dated 24 June 1845 leaving her estate to Neil Fergusson Blair of Balthayock.
- 8) Mary, born 1773 died unmarried on 8 October 1820 leaving her estate to her sisters Janet, Isabella and Susan.
- 9) Jean, born 1775.
- 10) Jacobina, born 1777
- 11) Susan, born 1782 and died unmarried about 1862.

In 1744 on 26 September, John was seised in certain annual rents of the land and mill of Inchyra and salmon fishing. He recovered the five-pound lands of Balthayock and the lands of Over Durdie with its teinds on 27 July 1752. Anna Blair, presumably his great aunt, disposed of her portion of the lands of Inchyra, its mill and salmon fishing on 14 May 1750.

John borrowed heavily, on 9 August 1775, the sum of £10,000 Sterling from Margaret Dundas the widow of Major General John Scott of Balcomie²⁸⁰. The bond dated 27 December 1776 records that surety was against the estate which then comprised the lands of Balthayock in the Barony of Kinnoul with the whole of the Temple Lands of Balthayock, the tower fortalice and manor house. Over Durdie in Kilspindie, all the barony of Glencarse, lands of the barony of Clien, Mains of Clien, Abbotscrofts of Clien, Gardner's Lands, the meadow park and woods of Clien, the bog called Hole of Clien, Panshill called Rollo's Lands and the banks and braes now joined to Pitlowie in the parish of Kinfauns. These latter lands of Clien, Panshill and Pitlowie appear to have been late acquisitions by John Blair in 1754. He appears to have sold Hole of Clien and Pitlowie to David Craigie in 1773.²⁸¹

Financial pressures increased and in 1786, under a Decree of Sale before the Court of Session he was obliged to resign Glencarse to Thomas Hunter.

John died about the end of 1786.²⁸²

David Blair (1764 - 1803c)

David was retoured heir to his father on 27 January 1789.²⁸³

On 28 August 1793 he was retoured heir to Isabel Blair, wife to Thomas Beat, minister.

David died about 1803 without issue and the title passed to his sister, Margaret.

Margaret Blair (1766 - 1829)

Margaret married Major James Johnston HEICS. She was already a widow when she inherited the title of Balthayock on 30 May 1804 as heir to her brother and was described as Margaret Johnston of Balthayock.²⁸⁴

Only one daughter was born to this marriage, she being a posthumous child as Major Johnston died about 1790. Their daughter was named Jemima Johnston, also known as Jemima Johnston Blair. Margaret survived her daughter and died 29 March 1829. A mural to her memory is in Kinfauns Church. The title passed from her to her grandson, Neil James Fergusson.

Jemima Johnston (1790 - 1824)

Jemima Johnston Blair married at Kinnoul on 26 November 1811, to Adam Fergusson of

²⁷⁹ Books of Council and Session

²⁸⁰ Dundee City Archive CD/Mns/1 7

²⁸¹ Melville, Lawrence, *The Fair Land of Gowrie, Wm Culross, Coupar Angus 1939*

²⁸² Comm of St Andrews, Testament 28 Feb 1787

²⁸³ Services of Heirs in Scotland Vol ii

²⁸⁴ Services of Heirs in Scotland Vol iii

Balmacruchie in the parish of Kirkmichael. They had one daughter and seven sons, the eldest of whom, Neil James Fergusson adopted the name Blair and took the title of Balthayock. The others were Margaret (1813 -1823), Adam (1815 - 1867), David (1817 - 1855), John (1819-1849), James (1820 - 1850), George (1822-1895) and Robert (1824 - 1883).

Jemima was also known as Jemima Blair Fergusson, and it was probably she who commenced and arranged an index of abstracts "of the titles of the estate of Balthayock from the year 1300 to the year 1700, the order of their respective dates - and of the various other properties which formerly belonged to the family of Blair of Balthayock but which have since been sold and conveyed out of the family. Signed J.B.F."

She predeceased her mother and was thus never laird of Balthayock. According to the retour of her eldest son and heir, Jemima died on 14 April 1824. She was buried in Greyfriars, Edinburgh. Adam Fergusson married secondly to Miss Jessie Tower in 1833. He visited Canada in 1831 and emigrated with the family to Upper Canada in 1833. Adam Fergusson, although a member of the Faculty of Advocates, did not practice his profession but instead was a very enthusiastic agriculturist. The Rev. Patrick Bell (1801-1869), son of a farmer in the Carse of Gowrie, accompanied them to Canada as tutor to the younger boys. Bell was influential in their education from 1833 to 1837, after which he returned to Scotland. It is worthy of note that not only did the Fergusson family contribute significantly to the development of Canada but so too did the earlier work of the Rev. Patrick Bell. While still at university, Bell had invented a reaping machine and subsequently four examples were exported to America and laid the basis for reapers to open the plains of North America. Adam Fergusson died in Canada on 30 September 1862.

Neil James Fergusson Blair (1814-1862)

Born in 1814 at Dalton House, Northumberland, the eldest son of Adam Fergusson and Jemima Johnston Blair, Neil James Fergusson, was served heir male of Taillie and Provision Special to his mother in the lands of Balthayock and part of Glencarse on 21 January 1846.²⁸⁵ As Neil Fergusson Blair he was shown as proprietor of Balthayock and Templelands in the Cess Roll of Perthshire in 1835. Neil married Barbara Edrington Douglas or Allen, daughter of Lieutenant-General Sir Neil Douglas, their contract of marriage dated 14 February 1855.²⁸⁶ Barbara was a widow from an unhappy marriage. Prior to her first marriage she had been engaged to Neil but they had parted after a difference between them.

He placed the estate of Balthayock under a bond for £2000 in favour of Captain Thomas Peter Mitchell dated 7 June 1856.²⁸⁷

Neil Fergusson Blair died without issue on 12 January 1862 at Inchmartin House and was succeeded by his brother Adam Johnston Fergusson.

Barbara Douglas survived him and married thirdly in 1865 to William Arbuthnott, fifth son of John, eighth Viscount of Arbuthnott. After two summers living in Norway, they parted. William returned to Scotland but Barbara remained there for the rest of her life, living in great style. She became known as "The Uncrowned Queen of Sunndalen."²⁸⁸

²⁸⁵ Services of Heirs in Scotland Vol iv

²⁸⁶ Books of Council and Session

²⁸⁷ Gen Reg of Sasines

²⁸⁸ Bing, Christy, *The Lairds of Arbuthnott*, Capability Publishing, Edzell 1993

Adam Johnston Fergusson Blair (1815 -1867)

Adam succeeded to his brother as heir of Entail of Balthayock and adopted the name Blair. Thereafter he was known as the Honourable Adam Johnston Fergusson Blair.

He had spent most of his adult life in Canada making a very significant contribution to its development and has been described as "A Builder of Canada". His life there and his involvement in Canadian politics were a far stronger pull than the old Scottish estate. With the consent of his brother George, Adam and their brother Robert returned to Scotland to arrange for the disposal of the Balthayock estate. While they were in Scotland attending to this business, their father Adam Fergusson died in Canada. Adam disposed of Balthayock in May 1863 and so brought to an end the bloodline link of Blair to this estate.²⁸⁹ The proceeds of the sale of Balthayock were divided among the four nearest heirs. Adam Johnston Fergusson Blair, George Douglas Fergusson, Robert Fergusson, and George's two sons, Adam David Fergusson and George Tower Fergusson.

Blair of Ardblair

Arms: A chevron between three roundles with a mullet in chief.

The arms are as Balthayock with the Mullet or star for difference, signifying a third son.

Ardblair lies a mile to the west of Blairgowrie, in the barony of Muirton. It is not established whether Steven de Blair owned these lands but his gift to Coupar Abbey lay south east of this. The Knights Templar were superiors of a parcel of land on Ardblair called Temple Loan, described as lying at the Myreside.²⁹⁰ It may be that these lands have been held by the Blair family from the time of Steven de Blair though documentary proof is wanting. Nevertheless, it has been noted earlier that James Blair, later of Adamston, held the lands of Marlee adjacent to Ardblair up to 1363 and that he may have heired his lands from Hew Blair who flourished about 1330. {See David de Blair in Blair of Balthayock}

Thomas Blair of Moulin (1345c - 1415c)

Thomas was the third son of David Blair and brother to Patrick Blair of Balthayock who lived in the second half of the fourteenth century. According to Douglas, Thomas acquired the lands of Moulin in Perthshire and was the first Blair to be designed by the title "of Ardblair".²⁹¹

Thomas had five sons:

- 1) William, his heir
- 2) Thomas named as heir to his brother, William, in an entail of 8 August 1423.²⁹²
- 3) John also named in entail.
- 4) Patrick also named in entail. It may be that Patrick held arms for one described as a Scutifier (shield bearer) appears in a charter of 17 April 1445.²⁹³ Patrick Blair made surety for fishing of Drummie and Cally let to Thomas Chalmer on Whitsunday 1446.²⁹⁴ A fourth part of Pitlochry was let to him on Whitsunday 1453.²⁹⁵
- 5) Alexander also named in entail.

On 22 July 1410, in Perth when John of the Highlands had a charter of lands in Caithness confirmed

²⁸⁹ Gen Reg. of Sasines

²⁹⁰ Scottish History Society, Fourth Series, The Knights of St John of Jerusalem in Scotland 1983

²⁹¹ This author has not seen these documents and ponders whether "Moulin" and "Muirton" have been confused

²⁹² Charter in Ardblair papers.

²⁹³ Rental Book of the Cistercian Abbey of Coupar Angus. Chr cxxxiii

²⁹⁴ idem Vol. 1 p. 125

²⁹⁵ idem Vol. 1 p. 129

under the Great Seal, the minor witnesses, Robert Stewart of Lorne and a Thomas Blair were described as "scutifers", this indicating that they were "shield bears" or squires. The description suits probably this Thomas more fittingly than his nephew who could have been designed "of Balthayock".

William Blair of Moulin and Ardblair (1370c - 1442c)

William succeeded his father in the lands of Moulin and is earliest identified by that title. He gained the barony of Muirton and the lands of Ardblair from Sir William Hay of Naughton in a charter dated 8 August 1423 and witnessed by Patrick Ogilvy, Sheriff of Angus, Walter Ogilvy of Lintrathen and Thomas Fotheringham of Powrie.

Drawn up with this charter was a male-entail which prescribed that in the event of William failing to have a son, his next brother Thomas or his heir-male would inherit the title, which failing, the same would apply to the younger brothers, John, Patrick and Alexander in turn.

William had sasine of the lands of "Wethirrishalch" or Weddershaugh on 20 December 1424.²⁹⁶

When David, Master of Crawford made a wadset of the lands of Camuston, Monikie to Thomas Maule on 26 November 1426, the Notarial Instrument was made at the Friars' Church in Dundee in the presence of John Affleck of that ilk, William Blair laird of Ardblair and Alexander Ogilvy son of John Ogilvy sheriff depute of Angus.²⁹⁷

As William Blair of Ardblair, he is mentioned as patron of the chaplainry of St. Salvator in the parish church of Dundee on 12 December 1428.²⁹⁸ This close association with Dundee suggests that it was he who rendered the account of the bailies of Dundee to the Exchequer on Whitsunday 1421.

A document of 29 April 1432 needs interpretation. This Service of Heirs, recorded the retour of William Stirling in the lands of Redgorten. The assize for this inquest included Thomas Charters, John Hering, Patrick Rattray, Findlay Buttar, Thomas Monorgan and Donald Blair. The latter may have been a close kinsman of William Blair.

William probably died about 1442.

William Blair (1390c - 1456c)

In the Libri Responsionum it is recorded that William Blair took sasine of the lands of Muirton in 1443.²⁹⁹

William had issue:

- 1) William, his heir
- 2) James, who according to Douglas later was heir to the title.
- 3) Patrick, who on graduating from university was termed Mr Patrick. He was Canon of Dunkeld and at Dundee on 5 March 1473, with the consent of his brother William Blair of Ardblair, granted six acres of Westfield of Dundee to George Blair, his nephew.³⁰⁰ This is a particularly significant record regardless of the small parcel of land involved and will be used later. Mr Patrick Blair was rector of Dundee Grammar School when he witnessed a grant to the Parish church of Dundee on 3 February 1489/90.³⁰¹
- 4) Walter, who witnessed his brother german's charter at Dundee on 5 March 1473. He was still alive on 15 March 1501 when John Stewart and his tutor, Andrew lord Gray brought an action against him claiming that he had

²⁹⁶ Fraser, Sir William, The Douglas Book, Edin. 1885 vol.iii.64

²⁹⁷ Registrum de Panmure Vol.ii. p.192

²⁹⁸ The Douglas Book vol.iii.67

²⁹⁹ Exchequer Rolls Vol.v

³⁰⁰ R.M.S. Vol.v. 1064

³⁰¹ R.M.S. Vol.ii.1935

- wrongfully uplifted the annual rents of Peattie for the previous 28 years.³⁰²
- 5) David . The proof of this is wanting but later the hypothesis is developed that David of Bendochy was the fifth son to this laird. See under Blair of Balgillo.

On 17 April 1445, William Blair of Ardblair was member of an assize in a dispute between Donald of Malles and William Blair the abbot of Coupar.³⁰³ Many of the contemporary local lairds appear in the notarial instrument recording the resolution of a dispute between Donald Malles of that Ilk and William Blair, abbot, and the convent of Coupar regarding a portion of land called Donaldshaugh by the River Ericht near Wester Drimmie. The abbot may have been a kinsman of the laird of Ardblair.

When a dispute arose between the Abbot of Coupar and Thomas Stewart of Grandtully over the marches of Murthly and Kintully, Malcolm Moncreiff, on 10 July 1449, instigated an assize which included Patrick Ogilvy and William Blair of Ardblair.³⁰⁴

A settlement between the Abbot and convent of Coupar Angus Abbey and David Cumming of Couttie for the division of lands adjacent to the Loch of Blair on 7 April 1454 was witnessed by William Blair of Ardblair, Thomas Chalmer of Drumlochy, Patrick Rattray of Portdovan, Donald Malles of that ilk, David Blair an armiger and many others.³⁰⁵

Information is scanty but it appears that William died about 1456.

William Blair (1415c - 1491c)

William succeeded his father as laird of Ardblair as is recorded when he was retoured heir to his father, the late William Blair of Ardblair in the lands of Weddershaugh on 21 April 1457.³⁰⁶

Legal disputes were normally settled by arbitration at local courts or assizes formed by the peers of the parties involved. When David Cumming of Couttie had a dispute with Thomas of Strathearn regarding annual rent, the arbitrators who met on 30 April 1472 at Banchory, near Coupar Angus, included Alexander Blair of Balthayock, William Blair of Ardblair, David Fotheringham of Ballunie and David Blair of Bendochy.³⁰⁷

It has not been discovered whether formal bonds were made by the Blairs of Ardblair with neighbouring families but such were common and allegiance can be detected in the groupings of these lairds in business transactions. For example, on 1 July 1472 when Patrick Buttar and his grandson, Henry, made a transaction of their lands of Gormack, Tullyneddie and Balhied, the witnesses to the charter were Silvester Rattray of that Ilk, William Blair of Ardblair, John Chalmer and Thomas Chalmer. Some of those families have been mentioned already in association with the father of William.

Bonds were frequently made by marriage and indeed, Patrick Buttar's wife was Egidia Chalmer. The marriage contract of their son, Robert Buttar, was witnessed at Gormack on 20 April 1486, by Silvester Rattray, William Blair in Ardblair and Patrick Rattray.³⁰⁸

The Blair family appear to have gained land in the Mearns (Kincardineshire) at some earlier period, for by a contract of wadset made at Dundee on 15 March 1468/9, William annualised to James

³⁰² Acts of Lords of Council in Civil Causes p481

³⁰³ Charters of the Abbey of Coupar Angus Chr cxxxiv

³⁰⁴ The Moncreiffs and the Moncreiffes

³⁰⁵ Liber Ecclesie S Trinitatus de Scon Chrtr 216

³⁰⁶ The Douglas Book Vol iii 91

³⁰⁷ Ramsay, Sir James, Bamff Charters, Oxford 1915 Chrtr 11

³⁰⁸ RMS .ii 1681

Scrymgeour, Constable of Dundee, his lands in the barony of Hilton for an annual payment of 4 merks, redeemable on his payment of 40 merks. These lands lay just north east of Marykirk.

The latest notice found of William Blair is the 1486 appearance as witness. He appears to have died shortly thereafter and, according to Douglas, without issue.

James Blair (1420c - 1475c) and his son George Blair (1450c - 1506c)

According to Douglas, the next laird was James, brother to William Blair of Ardblair.

In the writs of the Gray family, he found a charter of Patrick, Master of Gray, granting the third part of the lands of Westfield of Dundee to James Blair on 27 April 1461. The division of this land gave rise to several legal disputes over the years. On 10 May 1471 an action was raised by William Cant against James Blair claiming that he wrongfully occupied two acres of the land of Westfield.³⁰⁹

At this time there was a George Blair of Balgillo who was a close kinsman of Alexander Blair of Balthayock. With the permission of the latter, on 20 February 1460/1, George sold to James Blair, burgess of Dundee, a third part of the lands of Balgillo near Kettins.³¹⁰ Clearly, James was a very successful merchant at this time and was Provost of Dundee in 1462. His seal appears on a charter of 11 October 1462 and from the blazoning described it appears to have been that of Balthayock.³¹¹ Some difference must have applied and this needs further inspection.

The lands of Balgillo which James Blair held included a third part of the mill there and half the lands of Baldowrie. He retained these for only a few years and in April 1469 made a procuratory to David Blair of Bendochy, Thomas Blair the brother of Balthayock and Thomas Fotheringham of Ballunie to resign the property to Alexander Blair of Balthayock.³¹²

James Blair of Ardblair is mentioned by Douglas as an arbiter in a submission in 1490 between the abbots of Coupar and Scone concerning the marches between Carsie and the Moor of Blair. The other arbiters included Blair of Balthayock and Blair of Bendochy. Serious doubt must be cast on this claim as there is no evidence of James being laird. Indeed, the evidence points to James being a burgess of Dundee and that he died prior to 10 June 1478, at which time Laurence Lord Oliphant and Walter Ogilvy of Oures pursued an action against George Blair regarding the 10 merks lands of Auchtertyre resigned by the late James to George his son. It was claimed that George had withheld 8 merks, being two years mails of these lands, and that George had been wrongfully infeft by Walter Ogilvy of Oures in the west part of Kettins called Pitendownie.³¹³

It is of much interest that the Libri Responsionum records that George Blair took sasine of the lands of Westfield of Dundee and Balgillo³¹⁴ in 1473. This seems to be the same transaction already mentioned when Mr Patrick Blair granted George six acres of Westfield of Dundee in April of that year. By the time the charter of 1473 was registered under the Great Seal, the parties had all deceased, namely Mr Patrick, William, James and George Blairs. The charter states that George Blair was nephew of Mr Patrick who was brother german to William Blair of Ardblair. It goes on to identify the six acres of land being gifted to George by describing them as adjacent to George's existing lands of Westfield which earlier his father James had obtained from "the Lord Gray". This is in accord with the charter of 1461 in the Gray family muniments.

³⁰⁹ Acta Dominorum Auditorum

³¹⁰ Balthayock Charters 25, 26 and 27

³¹¹ Macdonald Wm; Scottish Armorial Seals, Edin 1904

³¹² Balthayock Charters 33

³¹³ Acta Dominorum Auditorum

³¹⁴ Exchequer Rolls Vol ix

Presumably it was the same George Blair who is recorded as having sasine of Muirton in 1492. Furthermore, at the same time John Blair took sasine of the lands of Balmaleddie, Balmanno and Hilton.³¹⁵ It has been shown that the Blair of Ardblair family held lands in the barony of Hilton, Kincadineshire prior to 1469.

The hypotheses, which this produces, are manifold but it seems feasible that George Blair was the nephew to the late William Blair of Ardblair and definitely grandson of the earlier William of Ardblair. The Exchequer Rolls point to George having sasine of Ardblair and the barony of Muirton in 1492 and at this time the Kincardine estate at Hilton was bestowed on John Blair, whom elsewhere is identified as his son and heir.

The baron of Muirton, George Blair of Ardblair probably died about 1506.

John Blair (1488c - 1537c)

John Blair, born about 1488 or later, took sasine of the lands of Muirton in 1508.³¹⁶ Presumably he had a precept of Clare Constat confirming his hereditary right for the accounts of Dunkeld Cathedral record that 9d was paid in the period 19 February 1507 - 29 December 1508 to the Granitor in Lothian for the brieve of John Blair. It is known that he was son of George, for on 8 April 1507, John Crichton of Blackburn was granted the gift of the marriage of John Blair, the son and heir of the umquhile George Blair of Ardblair.³¹⁷ The Rental Book of Dunkeld accounts for payment on 31 December 1509 to John Blair of Ardblair for the expenses of the bishop and his retainers in Dunkeld. Designated as John Blair of Muirton, he is recorded as making payments to the Avenar of Dunkeld, the Granitor of Cluny, the Granitor of Perth in the period between 20 November 1508 and 4 January 1512.³¹⁸

In an exchange of land between John Cargill of Kinloch and John Dulie of Easter Essendy, witnesses to the contract of excambion on 4 March 1513/4 included John, earl of Atholl, John Stewart of Arntully and John Blair of Ardblair.³¹⁹

A submission made by Neiss Ramsay in a dispute with Donald Fortay was made on 7 December 1516 at the high alter of the parish church of Blairgowrie in the presence of John Chalmer of Drumloch, John Blair of Ardblair, David Butter and the brothers of Neiss.

John married Elizabeth, daughter of Silvester Rattray of Craighall. He had not reached majority when the marriage was made for John Crichton of Blackburn was assigned the marriage of John Blair, receiving for this a part payment of £6.13s.4d in the period 4 June 1506 - 23 January 1508.³²⁰

John and Elizabeth had issue:

- 1) John, the heir more of whom later.
- 2) Marian who married John Smith of Polack and by him had a son John.³²¹

By 12 June 1518, Elizabeth Rattray was already his spouse when they purchased the lands of

³¹⁵ Exchequer Rolls Vol x

³¹⁶ Exchequer Rolls Vol xii

³¹⁷ RSS Vol i 1459

³¹⁸ Rentale Dunkeldense

³¹⁹ Lindsay of Dowhill Muniments GD 254 229

³²⁰ Rentale Dunkeldense

³²¹ Douglas, Baronage p 542 ii

Essendy and Aikenhead from Patrick Hay of Essendy.³²²

John disposed of at least some of his possessions in Kincardineshire, for on 20 May 1518 a precept was recorded upon a Charter of Alienation made by John Blair of Ardblair to Mr. Thomas Erskine and his wife, Elizabeth Scrymgeour of the lands of Balmaleddie, Balmanno and Hilton of Smidyhill.³²³

With Thomas Blair of Balthayock, he was a member of the Inquest of Retour of Service of John, Lord Glamis as heir to his father John Lyon in the baronies of Longforgan and Inchtute on 8 October 1528 and with his neighbour, Patrick Buttar of Gormack, John Blair was member of an assize on 11 January 1529/30.³²⁴

Later that year on 19 November 1530, John and his spouse, Elizabeth Rattray had their charter of the major portion of the lands of Wester Kinloch registered under the Great Seal at Perth³²⁵. Just over three years later, when Janet Gordon, Lady Lindsay, redeemed her part of the lands of Wester Kinloch from John Cargill of Kinloch, witnesses of the transaction at the high alter of St. John's at Perth included Mr Laurence Oliphant, vicar of Fowlis, James Scrymgeour in Fordie and John Blair of Ardblair.³²⁶ It may be significant that James Scrymgeour in Fordie and his wife Margaret Scrymgeour held an interest in the neighbouring lands of Easter Kinloch.³²⁷ John, the eldest son of John Blair of Ardblair married a Janet Scrymgeour.

Along with Alexander Gilmoleoch, John Blair made a contract with John Cargill of Kinloch on 9 March 1533/4.³²⁸

This laird of Ardblair probably died in 1537.

John Blair (1515c - 1564)

A payment of £15 made to the Sheriff of Perth for the relief of all and whole the lands and barony of Muirton and Ardblair recorded at Edinburgh on 8 October 1537 as due to the king for the sasine given to John Blair of Ardblair.³²⁹

As previously mentioned Thomas Blair of Balthayock and John Blair of Ardblair were members of an assize on 31 January 1537/8 regarding the lands of Hilton of Mailer.

John Blair made a bequethment to the chapel of St. Peter the Apostle in the Cathedral of Dunkeld on 2 April 1539.³³⁰

Given the style of the towerhouse and its courtyard of Ardblair Castle, it is probable that this laird was the builder of it.

It seems that John married Janet Scrymgeour about this time for on 11 March 1540/1 they were granted a precept of joint infeftment in the lands of Muirton, Ardblair and Myreside.³³¹ Janet was

322 RSS Vol i 3000

323 RSS Vol i 2993

324 R M S Vol iii, 941

325 R M S Vol iii, 975

326 GD 254 236

327 GD 254 235

328 Calander of Deeds in Acta Dom Con 1532-1539 Vol iv 48

329 Exchequer Rolls Vol xvii

330 R M S Vol iii 1136

331 R S S Vol ii 3901

probably the daughter of James Scrymgeour of Fordie by his spouse Margaret, daughter of John Scrymgeour heir apparent of Fordell.

Thomas Wallace, rector of Unthank, chamberlain and granator of Scone Abbey, was given a Procuratory note by John Blair on 17 March 1552/3 to pay £76.16s into the Books of Council.³³²

John and his wife, Janet Scrymgeour had issue:

- 1) Andrew, his heir
- 2) Thomas who is frequently mentioned as son of John and later as brother of Andrew³³³ in period 1554 to 1577.³³⁴ He was a household man of John Buttar of Gormack.
- 3) Alexander who was described as brother german of Andrew Blair of Ardblair on 7 November 1581, when witnessing a Renunciation by Robert Eason in favour of James Lindsay of Dowhill.³³⁵ Alexander was a burges of Perth. He died about 1605.³³⁶
- 4) Elizabeth (Bessie) may have been a daughter but proof is wanting. Bessie married James Small of the Kirkland of Kettins and had by him sons Andrew and James before 1558.³³⁷ They were still alive in March 1590 when Donald Cargill acting as notary assisted Bessie in signing a contract.³³⁸ It is equally feasible that Bessie may have been daughter to William Blair of Balgillo.

The close association between the houses of Gormack and Ardblair has already been noted in the proceedings of earlier generations. A more dramatic situation arose in the life of this laird. The initial cause is not determined but John Buttar, the laird of Gormack, harboured a great hatred of George Drummond of Leidcreeff who had a fine town house in Blairgowrie. John Buttar laid a plot and on Sunday 3 June 1554, many of his associates gathered at his mansion to dine with him. These included his neighbours William Chalmer of Drumlochy, John Blair of Ardblair, Andrew and Thomas his sons, William Chalmer of Cloquhat, David Blair of Knockmaheir, John and Patrick his sons and Alexander Blair who was half-brother to John Buttar. Their kinsmen and household men accompanied these lairds. They were also supported by many tenants so that a band of 80 fully armed men with guns and bows was assembled. Meanwhile, after leaving his Place of Blair, George Drummond and his kinsmen and friends were playing a game of bowls in the Marketgait beside the parish church of Blair unaware that spies were reporting on them. About 2 p.m. a band of 66 men left Gormack's mansion and fell on the Drummonds beside the church where they slew George Drummond, his son William and others in his company.

As a consequence of their foul deeds, the perpetrators were summoned to appear for trial before the Queen and her Privy Council on 13 June 1554.

The recalcitrant lairds of Gormack, Drumlochy and Ardblair and their colleagues offered the following:

- to go on the four principal pilgrimages of Scotland
- to do suffrage for the souls of the dead at the Parish Kirk
- to donate to the kin, wife and children 1000 merks and other measures as the kinsfolk may

³³² Acts and Decrees Vol vii 35

³³³ Liang Charters 763.

³³⁴ R M S Vol iv, 2728

³³⁵ Scottish Archives GD 254/238 Lindsay of Dowhill Muniments

³³⁶ Comm of Edinburgh Test reg 24 May 1606

³³⁷ RPC Vol v 12 Sep 1593

³³⁸ Writs Preserved at Yester House No 876; Scottish Record Society

think fit.

This brought the response that the repentance measures needed no answer but that the offer of 1000 merks was derisory under the circumstances.³³⁹

Following the trial, the Privy Council ordered that the goods of William Chalmer of Drumlochy, John Blair of Ardblair and Alexander Blair, brother to John Butter to be confiscated and gifted to Sir Hew Kennedy of Gevanmans and Harry Drummond of Richmond. Likewise the goods of the persons in Drumlochy, Gormack and Mawes, David Blair in Aikenhead and Patrick Blair in Ardblair were confiscated for their involvement in this murder.³⁴⁰

A Bond of Manrent to Lord Drummond was offered and made by William Chalmer of Drumlochy. The ultimate price was paid by two of the lesser actors, for Patrick Blair, a tenant in Ardblair and Robert Smyth, a tenant in Drumlochy, were committed of the slaughter of George Drummond and his son William. They were beheaded in December 1555.

John Blair of Ardblair was still under censure at this time. For failing to find surety for his part in the murder, a letter of instruction on 24 January 1555/6 ordered the escheat of his £5 lands of Muirton and Ardblair, mill, multures etc. to be gifted to John Blair, son and heir apparent to William Blair of Balgillo.³⁴¹

This was the period leading up to the Reformation Parliament of 1560 but due to the Buttar / Drummond incident the laird of Ardblair was probably in no position to influence decisions. John Blair next appears as a witness to a charter dated 26 August 1559 on the lands of Welton of Creuchies in the parish of Alyth granted to Thomas Ogilvy.³⁴²

John died in early 1564 and was survived by Janet Scrymgeour and their sons. A liferent out of the estate was reserved for Janet, who deceased prior to October 1590.³⁴³

Andrew Blair (1545c- 1596c)

The Sheriff of Perth received a payment of £15 for relief of the barony of Muirton and the lands of Ardblair with the mill, pendicles, outsets, tenements and freeholds and for the sasine of these given to Andrew Blair subject to the reservation of Janet Scrymgeour's liferent as lady of Ardblair and conjunct fiar³⁴⁴. This was recorded on 13 May 1564.

The major part of the estate was covered by this, but on 25 October 1568, Andrew was retoured heir of John Blair of Ardblair, his grandfather, in the lands of Wester Essendy and Aikenhead.³⁴⁵ He paid £20 to the Sheriff of Perth for the relief of these lands. Not every landowner found the need to be formally retoured in all or part of his lands. This record suggests that Andrew's father had never taken sasine of this portion of land on the south side of his Ardblair estate.

Andrew married Margaret Buttar, a daughter of the neighbouring laird, Patrick Buttar of Gormack. They had issue:

- 1) Patrick, the heir
- 2) George who was mentioned with several others, including John Blair in Banchory, in a court case at Perth on 4 August 1604 in a dispute with Margaret Watson, relict of David Soutar in Banchory and John Soutar, portioner there and James Soutar his

339 Pitcairn, Criminal Trials Vol i Pt 1 p 371

340 R S S Vol iv 2786/7

341 R S S Vol iv 3127

342 Bamff Charters, Chtr 59

343 R M S Vol v 1815

344 Exchequer Rolls Vol xix

345 Perth Retours No 24

- brother.³⁴⁶ George was witness to his brother german's charter on 10 May 1611 at the church of Kinloch³⁴⁷ and to his nephew's marriage contract in October 1620.
- 3) Margaret who married Donald Cargill, vicar of Rattray by whom she had children, John of Hatton, Janet who married John Blair of Pittendreich, Grissel who married George Drummond and Laurence who married Marjory Blair, his cousin.
 - 4) Jean who was spouse to Robert Ireland, brother to John Ireland of Parkhead She was described in 1605 as sister of Patrick Blair of Ardblair.³⁴⁸

In 1565, the marches of the lands belonging to Andrew Blair and those of his neighbour, John Lindsay of Kinloch were in dispute. A decree arbitral recorded the agreed settlement on 16 July.³⁴⁹ A noteworthy appointment came to Andrew from another neighbour the following year. On 22 May 1566, a Letter of Attorney named Andrew Blair of Ardblair to act on behalf of James Crichton, eldest son of Mr Robert Crichton of Eliock, advocate.³⁵⁰ This young son of the Scottish Lord Advocate, born nearby at Cluny was about six years old at this time. However within nine years he was to graduate from St Andrews University and thereafter astound the Continental centres of learning by his language and debating abilities and others by his swordmanship.³⁵¹ This James is more famously known as "the Admirable" Crichton.

The close links with Coupar Angus Abbey continued even after the Reformation and Andrew can be found as witness to Charters of Mr Leonard Leslie the Commendator of Coupar around the year 1571.³⁵²

As an indicator of the times, it is noted that in February 1573/4, a messenger brought from Edinburgh a letter charging various gentlemen, including Blair of Ardblair to appear before the Privy Council to answer charges about eating meat and slaying flesh. The charge was posted in public at the market cross in Perth.³⁵³

In 1584, Andrew stood cautioner for the appearance before the Lords of Council of his neighbour, George Hering of Wester Glasclune.³⁵⁴ He also stood caution the end of the following year for John Cumming of Couttie and several Moncurs.

Andrew and his wife, Margaret Butter were alive on 14 October 1590 when they were party to the pre-nuptial contract for the marriage of their son, Patrick.³⁵⁵ But Andrew was dead by 27 June 1596 when this contract was discharged.³⁵⁶ Among the witnesses was Robert Blair, burgess of Dundee. Andrew's testament was registered by the Commissariot of Edinburgh on 9 December 1598. Margaret Butter had a liferent reserved out of the lands of Wester Essendy and Aikenhead.

Patrick Blair (1570c - 1625c)

Patrick was heir to his father in the title of Ardblair sometime before June 1596.

Patrick married firstly Isobel Ramsay, daughter of George Ramsay of Bamff and they had issue:

- 1) James, his heir

346 RSC

347 R M S Vol vii 1336

348 Perth Sasines RS52 4 190

349 The Records of Invercauld

350 GD16/41/29

351 Urquhart, Sir Thomas, *The Discoverye of a Most Exquisite Jewel*, 1652

352 Laing Charters, Chtrr 863

353 Accounts of the Lord High Treasurer Vol xii

354 RSC Vol ii 6 May 1584

355 R M S Vol v 1815

356 Bamff Charters, Chtrr 122

- 2) Andrew described as brother to James in February 1627.³⁵⁷
- 3) William described as son of Patrick Blair of Ardblair in Forfar Sasines.³⁵⁸
He probably had a university education as he is titled Mr. William in February 1627.
- 4) Patrick who was designed of Knockinchard. He married and had issue.
- 5) Marjory who married Laurence Cargill of Nether Colquhatt.³⁵⁹ They had two sons and three daughters. The eldest son, Donald Cargill was a famous Covenanter who was beheaded on the scaffold for his faith in Edinburgh on 26 July 1681.³⁶⁰
- 6) Johanna, born 1593, married Mr Thomas Lundie (1574-1630), minister of Alyth.³⁶¹ They had four daughters and two sons. She died 26 May 1636 and was buried in Alyth Churchyard.
- 7) Agnes, confirmation wanting, but transactions in 1657, 1663 and 1665 support this hypothesis. She was wife to Patrick Buttar of Gormack.

Patrick was witness to charters by his wife's father in 1598 and to her brother on 31 December 1608.³⁶² In May 1611, Patrick and Isabel were jointly infeft in the shady (northern) half of the lands of Wester Kinloch. By the time this charter was registered in November 1615, Isabel Ramsay had deceased.³⁶³

Patrick married secondly, Grisel Blair, daughter to Sir William Blair of Balgillo after 17 October 1620.³⁶⁴ Their prenuptial contract was dated 25 August 1620.

By Grisel, Patrick had a son and daughter,

- 1) John who was progenitor of a cadet of Ardblair. Designed from about 1645 to 1675 John Blair of Balleid³⁶⁵, he married Jean Blair, daughter of John Blair of Pittendreich in 1650. John sold Balleid and gained Wester Gormack of which he was subsequently designed. They had sons, James Blair of Wester Gormack, John Blair of Polcalk and Mr Gilbert. James died about 1721.³⁶⁶ John younger married Grissel Drumond. Mr Gilbert Blair, who married Jean Lawson, sister of John Lawson the minister of Alyth, was minister of Blair and also designed "of Balgersho, chamberlain to the Master of Balmerino". {See also under James Blair (1656-1724) of Ardblair.} When Gilbert died without issue, his brother John Blair of Polcalk was served his heir on 5 March 1709.³⁶⁷
- 2) Eupham described as sister of James Blair of Ardblair on 12 November 1667.³⁶⁸ About 1630 she married Laurence Stewart in Nether Fornocht brother german of James Stewart of Rosyth.³⁶⁹ Their only child was Isobel. After his death Eupham married before 18 May 1634 to Patrick Ireland of Parkhead.³⁷⁰ They had daughters Margaret, Jean and Isobell.³⁷¹ Patrick died about 1656. Thirdly, she married John Wilson of Lochend of Blair before 2 March 1659. They were both alive in November 1678 but Eupham died before Martinmas 1681.³⁷²

357 R S C 8 Feb 1627

358 Rentall of Perthshyre 1650, Forfar Sasines RS 34 2 290

359 RMS volvii 324

360 Howie, John, The Scots Worthies, Oliphant Edin

361 Fasti Vo v p249

362 Bamff Charters, Chrtr 124 and 139

363 R M S Vol vii 1336

364 R M S Vol viii 952

365 Forfar Sasines RS34 2 292

366 Comm of Dunblane test reg 25 Feb 1722

367 Services of Heirs in Scotland Vol iii

368 Acts & Decrees, Mack

369 Perthshire Sasines 15 Jul 1633

370 Acts & Decrees, Dal, 22 Feb 1665

371 Perthshire Decrees 2 Mar 1659

372 Reg of Acts & Decrees (Mack) 2 Jun 1688

The late 16th century was a violent period with many blood feuds causing distress to families. The wives, bairns and sisters of Robert and John Glennys took action on 14 December 1598 before the Lords of Council against Patrick Blair. They accused Patrick of violently taking and detaining as prisoner, John Glenny and the slaughter of Robert Glenny. Alexander Blair of Balgray stood surety of £1000 for Laurence Mercer of Adie to appear as witness in this case. Patrick stood 300 merks for John Wilson in Carsie to the same effect.³⁷³

An Act of the Scottish Parliament in 1609 established the Justices of Peace. Patrick Butter of Gormack was appointed J.P. and from June 1612 to December 1613 caused consternation in the Privy Council by his quarrel with Patrick Blair of Ardblair and escalated this by summoning Ardblair for contempt of the Justice Court and for carrying firearms. Patrick Blair countered by pointing out that Butter was doing the same thing, although in the end the Council upheld the J.P.

It was not until 30 June 1621, that Patrick was retoured as heir to Andrew, his father in the lands of Dulater in the Forest of Clunie.

On 4 August 1604 Patrick Blair had to find surety of 2000 merks from Lawrence Nairne of Tullifergus not to harm Margaret Watson relict of David Soutar in Banchory, John Soutar portioner there and his brother James Soutar. In turn for the same reason, Patrick stood surety of 400 merks each for Laurence Nairn of Tullifergus, William Martin at the wood of Gormack, James Nicoll in Whiteloch, George Drummond servitor to the laird of Gormack, Thomas Wart at the Mill of Gormack, William Ritchie in Mause. He also stood surety for 1000 merks for John Blair elder in Banchory.³⁷⁴

In January 1612, Blair of Ardblair and Patrick Blair in Scroggiehill accompanied by others, came to Perth armed for a mischievous errand. At night, when Patrick Drummond, son of Charles Drummond of Leitchhill was returning to his lodging in Perth from his father's house there, the armed band pursued and severely wounded him while causing a great disturbance in the town.³⁷⁵ This was not the only illegal night raid of which Patrick Blair of Ardblair was accused. He appeared in Court on 20 March 1617 accused with Patrick Blair of Lochtonhill, his brother George, John Blair, notar public and Walter Crockett, messenger to answer a charge brought by John Wishart of Fettercairn. Wishart claimed that he had been detained at his own house by them at night and then taken captive to a private house in Brechin the following morning. A protestation was raised against Wishart by John Blair, the notar public (see Blair of Pittendreich).³⁷⁶

While the latter incident may have been an illegal detention, on 9 March 1620, Patrick Blair of Ardblair with others, including the provost and bailies of Perth were given jurisdiction to apprehend William Stewart elder and younger for the abduction of Elizabeth Henderson from her mother's house in Perth on 28 February.³⁷⁷

Patrick may have taken part in other arrests and trials, for he was a Justice of the Peace and was re-appointed in August 1623 to this office for Perthshire and the Stewartries of Strathearn and Menteith.³⁷⁸

373 RPC Vol v

374 RSC

375 RSC Vol ivx

376 RSC Vol xi

377 RSC Vol xii

378 RSC Vol xiii

Patrick died about 1625.

His widow, Grisel Blair thereafter married Patrick Falconer of Newton ³⁷⁹.

James Blair (1595 - 1660c)

James was heir to his father and was granted a charter under the Great Seal of the lands and barony of Ardblair, Cotton of Ardblair and Essendy in the year 1626.

James married first Magdalene Blair, daughter of Sir John Blair of Balgillo, their pre-nuptial contract being dated 25 August 1620.³⁸⁰

Later James married her sister, Eupham, widow of John Wilson in Lochend³⁸¹ and also a daughter of Sir John Blair of Balgillo by his wife Margaret Haliburton.

James and Eupham had issue:

- 1) John, his heir
- 2) Thomas, born about 1636, he matriculated as a student at University of
St. Andrews on 31 January 1653 and graduated MA 28 July 1656. Passed trials before the Presbytery of Meigle and was admitted minister of Blairgowrie 23 March 1664. He was presented to Bendochy by James VII on 4 May 1688. He died before 11 Sep 1692.³⁸² Thomas married Helen Malcolm, who appears to have been daughter of one of the Malcolm ministers at Bennathie or Airlie. She survived him. They had issue: William, Margaret, Isobel and Helen.³⁸³ William followed his father into the ministry and is recorded as a bursar of the Presbytery in 1697. He probably married a sister of William Rattray, Clerk of Coupar about 1710.
- 3) David, a Royalist who defended the Bass Rock in the Firth of Forth when it was the last remaining post being held for James VII of Scotland, II of Britain. He emigrated to France to serve King James and died there. He was described as brother-german to the laird of Ardblair on 11 February 1680 when he was witness at Blair to a bond by James Spence, portioner of Middle Mawes.³⁸⁴
- 4) Isabel who married John Robertson of Bandirran in October 1650 at Blairgowrie and had issue.³⁸⁵ Mr John Robertson was son of Patrick Robertson, notary, in Littleton of Rattray. He was minister at Airlie but deserted his charge in 1662. Isabel survived him.³⁸⁶ Their son James succeeded to the title of Bandirran.³⁸⁷
- 5) ? married Andrew Gray of Drumelzie.
- 6) Jean married Alexander Nairn of Tullifergus at Blairgowrie on 19 March 1649. Alexander Nairn of Tullifergus with his son, James, granted a bond of 250 merks in favour of Mr William Malcolm, minister at Kinloch in 1678 and this was assigned to James Blair of Ardblair the following year.³⁸⁸ Jean survived her husband.³⁸⁹
- 7) Catherine who married Robert Pattullo of Kinnochtrie in May 1658 at Blairgowrie.³⁹⁰ When she had sasine of the cornmill of Kinnochtrie on 29 June 1657, her

379 Forfar Sasines RS 34 2 290

380 R M S Vol viii 952

381 Forfar Sasines RS35 7 528

382 Comm of Dunkeld Testament 1692

383 Fasti Ecclesiae Scoticanæ Vol 5 p 253

384 Reg Of Deeds of Perthshire Sheriff Court 29 Mar 1684

385 Blairgowrie OPR and Forfar Sasines RS35 4 442

386 Reg of Deeds 1700, RD4/87 fo 522

387 Deeds 1686; Mack LIX 490

388 Reg of Acts & Decrees (Mack) 14 Nov 1684)

389 Deeds 1690; Mack LXVI 1007

390 Kettins OPR 26 Apr 1657 Banns first called

brother, Mr Thomas was her attorney.³⁹¹ They lived in Kinnochtrie where several children were born to them. By 29 May 1663 when their son Robert was baptised at Kettins, Robert Pattullo was designed of Mylnholl, (Scone) but in 1670 he was still in Kinnochtrie when their son George was baptised. Catherine died about 1673.³⁹²

The cause of his quarrel with James and John Wilson is not determined but the serious nature shows the violence of the times. James Blair of Ardblair with a small band of armed men comprising mainly his brothers and kinsmen descended on the house of Thomas Wilson at Balburdoch (Balvidoch?) and forced entry looking there for his brother John Wilson. Failing to find him there, the Blairs lay in wait at the Bridge of Essendy and when John Wilson appeared with his brothers William and Thomas, they pursued them to Andrew Crocket's house nearby. Having convinced the Wilsons that they meant no harm they lured them out and grabbed John, stripping him and trusting him up before severely beating him. James Blair finally stunned him with a blow from his sword guard. Thereafter William and Thomas Wilson were set upon and injured, Thomas suffering severe injury to head and limbs. Called before the Lords of Council to answer charges against them, James and his brothers appeared on 8 February 1627. James was found guilty, fined 100 merks and ordered to pay 250 merks to Thomas and 50 merks each to John and William Wilsons. The sentence included imprisonment in the Tolbooth of Edinburgh until the fine and compensation was paid. A not proven verdict was returned on the others.³⁹³

During the Commonwealth period under Cromwell, a "Roll of the Rent of the Sheriffdome of Perth made by the Commissioners under the Act of the Estates of Parliament held in Edinburgh August 1649", led to the Commissioners meeting weekly from August 1649 till 15 January 1650. On production of the report, J. Blair of Ardblair was one of the four subscribing the document. For his lands of Ardblair in the parish of Blairgowrie James was assessed at £241.13s.4d In the parish of Lethendy, Blackloch was £65 and in Cluny, for Wester Lednathie and Burnside, James was assessed at £200. Also in Cluny, for his wadset of Dullator the cess of the laird of Ardblair was £20. Toward the end of his life, on 29 October 1659, James Blair with his eldest son, John, made a contract to pay to Alexander Nairne, fiar of Tullifergus a pension of £116 Scots uplifted from the lands of Ardblair and Gormack.³⁹⁴

James died about 1660 as his lands had been in the Crowns hands for two years when on 12 August 1662 his son was served his heir and retoured.³⁹⁵

John Blair (1630c - 1683c)

John was retoured on 30 April 1662 as heir to his father James Blair of Ardblair in the lands of Ardblair, Crosston of Ardblair and Wester Essendy, the lands of Muirton with multures, Myreside of Ardblair, Aikenhead all in the barony of Muirton, and the shady half of Wester Kinloch with the liberty of fishing in the three lochs within Kinloch.³⁹⁶

Proceeding on a Precept of Clare Constat signed at Edinburgh on 2 March 1664, John was installed in the kirklands of Kirkhill of Meigle on 3 June 1664 as heir to his deceased father.³⁹⁷

John Blair of Ardblair married Isabel, daughter of Commissary James Stewart of Ladywell in January 1655. John was termed Fiar of Ardblair at this time. Isabel's first husband, John Stewart of Forgoth had deceased in January 1650.³⁹⁸

³⁹¹ Perthshire Sasines 15 Jul 1657

³⁹² Comm of St Andrews Test 4 Sep 1673

³⁹³ R S C 8 Feb 1627

³⁹⁴ Perthshire Sasines 8 Nov 1660

³⁹⁵ Perthshire Sasines Vol 1 fol 418

³⁹⁶ Perth Retours No 696

³⁹⁷ Perthshire Sasines reg 28 June 1664

³⁹⁸ Acts & Decrees, Dal 7 Feb 1663 and Perthshire Hornings, xxii 70

They had issue:

- 1) James born in June 1656, his heir
- 2) Isabel born in 1659
- 3) Katharine, died unmarried
- 4) Elizabeth, the youngest daughter who married Thomas Ireland of Parkhead and had issue. Their contract of marriage was dated 3 Aug 1696.³⁹⁹

By a charter of 2 February 1663, John was granted the lands of Gormack, Woodsyde and Torrens in the barony of Gormack and Wester Kinnaird in Atholl on the resignation of Patrick Butter of Gormack. Patrick Butter's wife was Agnes Blair. The Cargill and Lundie parties in this and other transactions suggest that she was a daughter of James Blair of Ardblair.

Along with Mr Thomas Lundie, minister of Rattray, and Mr David Cargill, John Blair granted at the Kirkton of Rattray on June 1665 a discharge of 7314 merks 10s 8d being the remainder of a sum of 14,000 merks from the sale of the lands of Parkhead and Leycocks to David Ireland of Parkhead.⁴⁰⁰ The original sale had been made by Mr Thomas Lundie, David Cargill and James Blair of Ardblair, this laird's father, in a contract dated 14 February 1657.

Church discipline was strict at this time with a requirement of public repentance in presence of the congregation "on cutty stool" (a short stool) or at a pillar in full view of the assembly. In 1674, the laird of Ardblair found himself under discipline and was called by the Kirk Session of Blairgowrie to make public profession of his penitence for his sin. John indicated that he was "willing to satisfie, if not ordained to goe to the place or pillar of publik repentance." On 23 June his brother, Mr Thomas Blair, minister of Bendochy was given the unenviable task of citing him to appear at the next meeting of Presbytery. The laird disregarded the summons and two other private citations. He continued to stall over the next year claiming illness so that on 13 July 1675, Mr Thomas Blair reported to Presbytery that he had not summoned him fearing that a public appearance would drive him from the Church. The Presbytery showed patience but continued to call for his appearance and the matter was referred to the Archbishop and Synod of St. Andrews for their advice, this being during the Episcopal period of the Church of Scotland. The proceedings were held in abeyance during the winter of 1675-76 due to the laird's health. Throughout 1676, Mr Thomas reported back that Ardblair had declared his willingness to conform but that he was still delaying. Eventually after years of procrastination, the Laird submitted and on 23 March 1677, his brother was able to advise Presbytery that Ardblair "hes satisfied".⁴⁰¹

John Blair of Ardblair was a Captain in the Perthshire Militia between 1670 and 1684. He was commissioned on 3 September 1668.⁴⁰²

John Blair and his son James were mentioned in 1682 in a settlement on disputed marches between Wester Kinloch and Ardblair.⁴⁰³

It has not been determined when John Blair died but it was in the period 1682 - 1684.

James Blair (1656 - 1724)

James, born in 1656, joined his father in contracts from 1674 and on reaching full age was described as fiar of Ardblair on 13 February 1677. This indicates that by then he had taken on the responsibility

³⁹⁹ Anderson, Joseph, *The Oliphants in Scotland*, Edin 1879 Chtrr 225

⁴⁰⁰ Reg of Deeds Perth Sheriff Court

⁴⁰¹ Fasti of Presbytery of Cowpar-Angus

⁴⁰² Military History of Perthshire 1660 - 1902

⁴⁰³ Perth Sheriff Court Book Vol 14 fol 133

for running the estate and was thus party with his father to the major transactions.⁴⁰⁴

He is mentioned as James Blair of Ardblair on 14 November 1684.⁴⁰⁵

James married Margaret, the only daughter and heiress of Patrick Blair of Little Blair. {See Blair of Pittendreich}

Their contract of marriage was signed on 15 September 1674. In terms of the precept James was infeft in the lands and barony of Ardblair and Margaret in a liferent out of the Mains of Gormack.⁴⁰⁶ They had a large number of children but only two sons survived him.

- 1) James his heir
- 2) Gilbert described as brother german to James on 20 May 1732.⁴⁰⁷
- 3) William described as son of Ardblair when he took part in a demonstration at the kirk of Blair on Sunday 15 May 1698.

Through his wife's inheritance, James added significantly to the estate. This was not without an initial problem for on 3 February 1676 James petitioned for the delivery of the charter chest of the deceased Patrick Blair of Little Blair that at that time was in the hands of William Young.⁴⁰⁸ This laird played an active part in the life of the county. He was a Justice of the Peace and one of the Commissioners of Supply and thereby was involved in the local administration of law and order and of the roads and bridges in the county of Perth. As captain of the militia he also had a role in local defence.

During his lifetime, James saw many significant changes. He was born during the Commonwealth period when an army of occupation was based in the local towns. Dundee which had been a major trading port was reduced to ruins although law and order throughout the land were more strictly enforced and obeyed than ever before. Then followed the Restoration of the Monarchy, when Charles II returned to Britain but disregarded his promises previously made in signing the Covenant in Scotland. On the death of Charles in 1685, his Catholic brother, James VII followed. When a son was born in 1688 to James and his queen, Mary, a Catholic succession was implied and thus the Whig government invited the King's son-in-law, William of Orange to rule the United Kingdom. This gave rise to Jacobite Risings in support of the deposed James VII and his son in 1689 and 1715. In 1707, the Scottish Government was dissolved and control passed to the Westminster parliament in London. This resulted in the proscription of trade with Scotland's traditional Continental partners and it took many years before benefit came from new markets opened in the English colonies. The Stuart line extinguished and was succeeded by the Hanovarian monarchy.

Church and State played equal roles at this time. During the life of James Blair, the Church of Scotland moved from a strict Covenanting period into an Episcopalian frame under Charles. Then it came under the Protestant influence of William of Orange. Patronage in the placing of ministers was abolished only to have it reimposed later by a remote London government under George I. Changes were not instantaneous and many rural churches clung to their minister's form of worship. Thus James Blair and his kinsmen were to be involved in argument, dispute, protest and some even in rebellion when they adhered to the old order.

Such was a situation that arose in the kirk at Blair in May 1698. Mr Archibald Deans had been

404 Perthshire Sasines 2 Nov 1674 and Reg. Of Deeds of Perthshire Sheriff Court, 18 Sep 1677

405 Reg. Of Acts & Deceets, Mack

406 Perthshire Sasines reg 2 Nov 1674

407 Perth Sasines Vol 20 fol 437

408 RSC Vol iv Third Series

delegated by the General Assembly of Dundee to preach on three Sundays in Blairgowrie and on the first, 8 May 1698, to declare the church vacant through the deprivation of Mr Gilbert Blair. He duly went to Blairgowrie but found the doors closed against him. The beadle refused to give him the keys and approaches to John Drummond of Newton and Patrick Johnston of Gormack brought rebuffs that they were well enough supplied and that there was no need for ministers such as Deans. Deans then preached in the kirkyard while Mr Alexander Mackenzie, the deprived minister of Newtyle, preached within. Stone throwing from the mob troubled Deans throughout his sermon. Undeterred, Deans came back on the 15th to discharge his commission but was met by a mob some of whom were armed and who had guarded the church overnight. Whenever Deans attempted to approach the church the mob pelted him with stones, divots and rotten eggs and hurled abusive language at him. He then approached the heritors present in the kirkyard, James Blair of Ardblair, John Drummond of Newton, Patrick Johnston of Gormack, Mr Gilbert Robertson of Drumloch, James Coupar of Lochblair and Paul Farquharson of Rochallie with whom was Mr Henry Fife, pretended minister at Ruthven. Deans read the Act of Privy Council to them but they did not comply with his request for the keys and stood impassively by while the crowd hustled Deans. They then left him and entered the kirk and listened to a sermon from Mr Fife who had been forbidden to preach there by the Presbytery. Deans then preached in the kirkyard but was mocked by William Blair, son of Ardblair and John the son of Drummond of Newton. Rotten eggs were thrown at those who listened to Deans and stones were flung at him by several of the Blair citizens. The third Sunday was again riotous and James Mitchell, a servant of Ardblair, was named as one of those beating Deans and his assistants with cudgels.⁴⁰⁹

James Blair of Ardblair is mentioned on 14 March 1700 as a consenting party to a disposition.⁴¹⁰ He died in 1724 in his 68th year.

James Blair (1685c - 1770c)

Younger sons of lairds at this time were usually educated and financed to become a merchant, writer (i.e solicitor or lawyer) or to purchase a commission as an officer in the Army. As James was not the eldest son, he was educated and financed to become a merchant. In this he was successful and became a director of the Bank of Scotland in Edinburgh.

On the death of his father, as his elder brother had died without issue, he inherited the title and was served heir to his father on 3 July 1739.⁴¹¹ James moved to Ardblair where he made great improvements and extended the estate.

He married Christian Forrester, daughter to Mr William Forrester, Writer to the Signet by his wife Rachel who was daughter to David Balfour of Forrest, a Lord of Session.

James and Christian had issue:

- 1) Margaret, known as Peggie, was born in 1721. She married lieutenant colonel William Fullerton of that ilk at Ardblair on 5 November 1765. Margaret was heir to her father. She married secondly James Carnegie of Boysack. Margaret died without issue in 1802 and was succeeded by her niece.
- 2) Rachel, born 1725, married Dr Joseph Robertson at Ardblair on 29 November 1767. Their only child, Christina was heir to her aunt.

James Blair of Ardblair is named in a claim dated 9 November 1749 for repetition of the augmented stipend of Aikenhead paid to the minister of Cluny. In July 1751, he took evidence in Edinburgh.

During the lairdship of James Blair, Agricultural Improvement made remarkable progress and changed the countryside and welfare of the people of Strathmore more significantly than at any earlier period. He clearly encouraged the introduction of modern techniques for when this laird of Ardblair set a tack of Whiteloch farm to his tenant James Baxter, the lease on 12 November 1756 allowed the privilege of digging and carrying off marle from Fingask Loch for fertilising his fields. Interestingly, his daughter and heir, Mistress Margaret F. Blair granted similar privileges to Thomas Baxter when he leased Whiteloch farm on 11 March 1779.⁴¹²

James died about 1770 when the male line of the Blairs of Ardblair failed.⁴¹³

Later Lairds of Ardblair

Margaret Blair, wife to William Fullerton, succeeded her father to the title of Ardblair about 1770 but she died without issue on 4 November 1802.⁴¹⁴ The title passed to her niece, Christina Robertson, the only child of Rachel Blair. Christina Robertson married in 1795 to Lawrence Oliphant of Gask. Their son, James Blair Oliphant followed in the title of Ardblair in 1829. He died without issue and was succeeded in 1849 by his sister, Miss Rachel Blair Oliphant. She was described as Rachel Oliphant, Coombank near Bristol when served heir to her mother on 5 April 1849.⁴¹⁵ On her death in 1864, she was succeeded by her nephew, Thomas L.K. Blair-Oliphant.

Blair of Bendochy

*The arms of Blair of Balgillo : A chevron between three roundles (represented by annulets) with a star in chief.*⁴¹⁶

These arms are as Blair of Ardblair with annulets for difference. The Annulet normally signifies a fifth son.

There is sufficient evidence to say unequivocally that the progenitor of the house of Balgillo lived there in the second half of the fifteenth century and all evidence points to David Blair of Bendochy father of William Blair, the first designed of Balgillo.

The lands of Bendochy, also known anciently as Fordowy, lie just over a mile north west of Coupar Angus Abbey on the road to Blairgowrie. Although close to the muirlands and Ledcarsie lands gifted to Coupar Abbey by King William and his subject Stephen Blair these lands belonged to Dunkeld Cathedral and came under the jurisdiction of the Abbey of Dunfermline. Bendochy is mentioned in early charters of Dunfermline Abbey. The lands of Fordowy including Bendochy, Couttie and Keithick were granted by Dunkeld Cathedral to Dunfermline Abbey in honour of the saintly Queen Margaret of Scotland as confirmed in a papal bull dated at Sens 27 July 1164. An even earlier charter of Dunfermline confirms the gift of the Church of Bendochy.⁴¹⁷

David Blair of Bendochy (1425c - 1495c)

The arms of Blair of Balgillo suggest that they derive from the house of Ardblair by a fifth son. Full evidence is wanting but the progenitor would be David Blair who appears in a Charter dated 20 September 1463 by Richard, Abbot of Dunfermline, granting to David Blair a tack of the lands of Fordowy (or Fordochy) and the superiority of Keithick which Walter Ogilvy of Oures resigned.⁴¹⁸ As mentioned under Ardblair, James Blair, son of William Blair of Ardblair also had dealings with Walter Ogilvy of Oures. That James Blair described as burgess of Dundee, for a period during the

412 Sheriff Court Books Perth reg 1781

413 Edinburgh Commissariat Testament registered 16 Apr 1771

414 Services of Heirs in Scotland Vol iii

415 Services of Heirs in Scotland Vol iv

416 Macdonald Wm ; Scottish Armorial Seals , Edin 1904

417 Reg de Dunfermylne Chtrr 128

418 Dunfermline Charters 470

1460's held a third part of Balgillo and in 1469 on resigning it to the laird of Balthayock, he nominated David Blair of Bendochy and others to hand over the property. This accumulated evidence points to David being the fifth son of William Blair laird of Ardblair in the period 1430 - 1456. Given his placing in this family, David was possibly born about 1430. Some caution is needed in promoting this claim when considering the order of the entail of Balthayock of 1542. Therein Ardblair is placed after Balgillo but before Bendochy. That would support the hypotheses of David as progenitor of the Bendochy branch coming from the house of Ardblair but does not explain why Balgillo is placed closer to the Blair line of Balthayock.

David Blair, armiger who, with William Blair of Ardblair, witnessed an instrument of David Cumming of Couttie as recorded in a charter of Scone Abbey dated 7 April 1454 appears to be the earliest record which could be attributed of him with reasonable confidence although he may be the witness on a charter of 12 June 1451. His association with David Cumming continued.

Arbitration over annual rent payable by David Cumming of Couttie to Thomas of Strathearn was judged at Banchory adjacent to Bendochy on 30 April 1472 by Alexander Blair of Balthayock, David Fotheringham of Ballunie, David Blair of Bendochy and William Blair of Ardblair.⁴¹⁹ Later that year, when David Blair in Kercow discharged an annual rent to David Cumming in Couttie, the contract was made at Bendochy before David Blair of Bendochy and another of his neighbours, William Rogerson who dwelt in Coupar Grange.⁴²⁰ The aforementioned David Fotheringham of Ballunie was ordered by the Lord Auditors to pay £62 to David Blair under two letters of Obligation when he failed to produce evidence at a court case on 30 July 1473.⁴²¹

David Blair of Bendochy had further dealings with Walter Ogilvy of Oures when on 4 November 1475 at the Monastery of Coupar Angus he made a contract to purchase from Walter, the lands of Easter Auchluchrie which are in the parish of Tannadice.⁴²² The principal witness was Alexander Fenton of Ogil who was a laird in that parish and a distant relation of Walter Ogilvy's wife, Margaret Fenton. David Fenton (probably the brother of William Fenton of Cukiscarden) and George Crichton who also attended may have been neighbours of David. The strong Fenton representation suggests a marriage bond here, evidence of which will be shown later.

It is known that David's wife was named Janet.

David and Janet had issue although the order of birth is not known:

- 1) William latterly described of Balgillo, appears to have been his son more of whom later.
- 2) John described as son of David Blair of Fordowy.⁴²³
- 3) George described as son to David Blair of Bendochy.⁴²⁴

At Whitsunday 1468, the Abbey of Coupar set a five-year tack of Coupar Grange. William Roger was one of the ten tenants named. The lease with conditions regarding tree planting, drainage and digging fuel was given to them by the cellarers, David Blair and William Stabil. The cellarer by this time was a lay official of significant rank who regulated the domestic and business affairs of the Abbey. It was probably equivalent to the office of Chamberlain in some other abbeys.

This is further demonstrated in a later tack of Coupar Grange of 1473, again to ten tenants. The let is subject to detailed obligations regarding working the land, building houses, conserving woods, draining and reclamation of land with the "*consale of the abbot and convent and Davy Blare...*"

419 Bamff Charters Chrtr 11

420 Bamff Charters Chrtr 12

421 Acta Dominorum Auditorum

422 R M S ii 1230

423 Charters of Coupar Angus Abbey Chrtr CXXXIX

424 R M S ii 1898

David Blair's role as Cellarer would have involved him in considerable travel on business to the Coupar Abbey lands that were widely dispersed in Perthshire and Angus. With this experience and being a major tenant himself of another remote abbey probably gained him respect and duties from Dunfermline Abbey also. When the cemetery at the parish church of Bendochy was found to be in need of enlargement, David Ruch, a monk at the Abbey of Dunfermline and David Blair were appointed commissioners to arrange for the transfer of ground on the south side of the cemetery from land belonging to the monastery. This was granted on 26 September 1477 by Henry, Abbot of Dunfermline who addressed David Blair as "*our lovit familiar*".⁴²⁵

It was possibly through his business contact with Dunfermline Abbey that David knew the king's porter. When in June 1474, William Clark, king's porter, and Agnes his wife had the tack of the teinds of the Kirk of Fossoway, they found an honourable squire to stand surety for the contract. The squire was David Blair of Bendochy.⁴²⁶

Robert Fullarton of Dundee and Thomas Thornton of that Ilk were ordered on 13 October 1479 to free David Blair of Bendochy of the sum of £50 being the remainder of a larger sum which David was bound to pay to Andrew Barrie, burges of Dundee. It is not clear whether they had stood surety for David in an earlier contract. Two years later on 20 March 1481/2, Duncan Campbell and Margaret Drummond, his spouse, accused Laurence Merser and David Blair of withholding the mails of the third part of Powmill, and the third part of the 4 merks lands of Tullybaccart. David failed to appear in court to answer the claim and was ordered to surrender the Tullybaccart lands to Duncan.⁴²⁷ For some time in 1481, George Blair dwelling in Balgillo, persistently refused to honour his Obligation to pay to David Blair of Bendochy an outstanding sum of 60 merks. On 21 March 1481/2 the Lord Auditors decreed that George should pay 66 merks to David.

David Blair of Bendochy and his spouse purchased the lands of Balgillo from Alexander Blair of Balthayock by a contract made at Balthayock on 3 February 1489/90. Witnesses included Thomas Blair in Melginch, Master James Rattray and Master John Kynmonth. It is of interest that also in 1490, William Blair had sasine of Balgillo and Westfield of Dundee. From this we might assume that shortly after purchasing Balgillo, David made it over to his eldest son. Some caution however is necessary, as both Balgillo and Westfield were divided into portions and ownership was shared with the Balthayock Blair's. The William Blair in this instance may have been son to George Blair of Balgillo already mentioned under Balthayock in the period around 1460. William, a burges of Dundee certainly held part of Balgillo and a third portion of Westfield of Dundee. {See Blair Burgesses of Dundee}

At Dunfermline, four months later on 20 June 1490, Adam, Abbot of Dunfermline set a tack of 19 years term of the lands of Bendochy to David Blair who inhabited it and to George Blair his son and to David who was George's son.⁴²⁸

David died within the next few years and certainly before mid-1496.⁴²⁹ His grandson, John Blair of Balgillo was heir to most of his estate.

George Blair of Bendochy and of Peattie (1460c - 1507c)

Half of the east lands of Kettins were sold by James, earl of Buchan, lord of Auchterhouse to George Blair on 28 September 1489. These lands, which may have been Peattie, were held jointly by George

425 Register of Cupar Abbey Vol i 263

426 Register of Cupar Abbey Vol i 277

427 Acta Dominorum Auditorum

428 Registrum de Dunfermelyn Chrtr 489

429 Acts of the Lords of Council in Civil Causes 1496-1501 p 28

Blair and his wife, Isabel Haliburton.⁴³⁰ Isabel, also called Elizabeth as was common in the 16th century, may have been a daughter of Halyburton of Gask and Pitcur, the major landowner in Kettins.

George and Isabel (Elizabeth) had sons:

- 1) David.
- 2) Mr. George

George took the title of Bendochy on the death of his father, perhaps about 1495 but his nephew John Blair was described as heir to David of Bendochy.

Following the death of William Haliburton, George purchased the marriage of the heir who was still a minor for the sum of £100 Scots.⁴³¹ This transaction presumably was for his wife's nephew who was still in ward due to his age. In this record, George is designed "of Peattie" which was in the Haliburton lands. The following year he is designed of Bendochy when he settled an account with Andrew Ayton and the relief of Langtoun.

On Passion Eve, 22 March 1504/5, after a successful hunt, George Blair of Bendochy sent a present of a roe deer and wild fowl to the King.⁴³²

George died within the next three years. His widow, Isabel (Elizabeth) Haliburton retained the east half of the lands of Kettins. She lived for many years and was still alive in June 1532 when she renounced the east half of Kettins to Mr. David Pitcairn, archdeacon of Brechin on 8 June 1532 but she had deceased by 1551.⁴³³

David Blair of Bendochy (1485c - 1537c)

David was heir to his father George, and described as David Blair of Bendochy when he had a charter for half the lands of Peattie in 1508.⁴³⁴ In the same year on 8 June, John Haliburton of Gask granted a charter to David Blair of Bendochy of the lands of the Mains of Kinrossie. The seal on this document is missing.⁴³⁵

David married Marjory Dury who was probably a daughter of George Dury of that Ilk in Fife.⁴³⁶ Little is recorded of them. They do not appear to have had surviving issue but an old charter of early 16th century mentions John Haliburton of Gask selling to George Blair son of David Blair in Bendochy one quarter part of the Mains of Gask occupied by John Thomas and David Mitchell.⁴³⁷ It is assumed that this George predeceased his father without issue.

Master George Blair of Bendochy and of Peattie (1492c - 1555c)

Mr George Blair is described as heir of the late David Blair of Peattie in a letter of Attorney to Alexander Ogilvy dated at Edinburgh on 20th May 1539.

Master George Blair of Bendochy was heir to half the lands of Peattie, and was gifted the non-entry of these on 6 January 1538/9 presumably due to the death of his feudal superior. He is mentioned in the Balthayock entail of 1542 after John Blair of Ardblair and before George Blair, burghess of Dundee.

430 R M S ii 1898

431 Accounts of the Lord High Treasurer Vol ii

432 Accounts of the Lord High Treasurer Vol iii

433 Calander of Deeds in Acta Dom Con 1532-1559 Vol I 18 and Acts & Decrets vi 160

434 R M S

435 GD121/2/3 bundle 4 Writs of Ogilvy of Balfour in Fotheringham of Powrie Muniments

436 Registrum de Dunfermelyn

437 GD121/2/3 bundle 1

He probably graduated Master of Arts from St. Andrews University, for a George Blair was nominated for determination there in 1510 and nominated for licence in 1512.⁴³⁸ He was described as in Bendochy and son of Elizabeth Haliburton in June 1532 when acting as cautioner on her resignation of half the lands of Kettins.

George Blair in Peattie was the principal witness of the Precept of Sasine dated 3 March 1539/40 for the infeftment of James Ogilvy of Cookston and his spouse Marjory Dury in the lands of Balfour in the nearby parish of Kingoldrum in Angus. Three years later there was further contractual business with this family.⁴³⁹ On the resignation of the lands of Bennathie by George Blair of Peattie on 1 July 1543, George Dury, Commendator of Dunfermline, granted these to John Ogilvy, heir apparent of Balfour whose mother Marjory Dury was sister to the Commendator. The Commendator was probably a nephew of Marjory, the sister-in-law of George Blair. This transfer was thus between two local lairds whose kinswomen were named Marjory Dury, the younger likely named after her aunt. Shortly after this, George Blair sold half the lands of Peattie to the foresaid John Ogilvy and his young wife, Margaret Haliburton,⁴⁴⁰ daughter of the laird of Pitcur. It seems that the Ogilvy of Balfour and Blair of Bendochy males were taking wives from the same families.

About this time the Blair ownership of Bendochy and Peattie extinguished although Mr George Blair continued to live there engaged as a notary public.⁴⁴¹ Mr George Blair in Bendochy about 1545 was fined for the non-entry of Thomas Stewart in Durdie.⁴⁴² It is known that Master George built a substantial three-storey house on the ground he rented at Bendochy. For some unfortunate reason it was destroyed by Lord Ogilvy of Airlie and his associates in August 1546. Thereafter George sued James Lord Ogilvy for casting down "ane stane hous of thre hous heycht togidder with ane hall and chalmer, keiching, baikhous, brewhous, stabillis, barnis, victall hous built and occupied by the complainer."⁴⁴³

The transfer of George Blair's land to his Ogilvy kinsfolk seems to have continued. John Ogilvy died soon after taking Bennathie and Peattie but his younger brother, Mr James Ogilvy of Balfour inherited these lands.⁴⁴⁴

About 1550, Robert Dury of that ilk with the consent of George, Commendator of the Abbey of Dunfermline disposed of the lands of Peattie in the parish of Kettins to Master James Ogilvy.⁴⁴⁵ Peattie was to feature for many years in the holdings of the Ogilvys of Balfour. Ownership of part of the goods in the transfer may have been confused, for on 20 January 1551/2, Mr John Ogilvy of Balfour and Marjory Dury, his mother, on the one part raised a decret Arbitral (anent a spulzie) with Mr George Blair, son of the umqhile Isobel Haliburton on the other.⁴⁴⁶

Blair of Balgillo

The lands of Balgillo lie at the western end of Angus, the shire of Forfar, and are shown on early maps set between the village of Kettins and the farm of Leys.⁴⁴⁷ Hallyburton House now occupies the site.

William Blair of Balgillo (1450c - 1493c)

The arms of Balgillo are those of Ardblair with the three roundles shown as annulets for difference

438 Acta Facultatis Artium Universitatis Sancti Andree Ed. Dunlop, Annie, Oliver & Boyde 1964

439 GD121 /2/1

440 R. M. S. Vol v 1047

441 Bamff Charters Chr 50 and Laing Charters Chr 483

442 R. S. S. 2580 15 Mar 1554

443 Acts of the Lords of Council in Public Affairs (1501-1554)

444 Registrum de Dumfermelyn Chtr 553

445 SRO GD121/2/Box 3 Bundle 4 part2 of 2

446 Calendar of Deeds in Arts & Decrees 1542-64 Vol vi 160

447 Timothy Pont Map of Strathmore c 1585

and indicating the armiger was a fifth son. As shown previously, David Blair of Bendochy was the progenitor fitting these arms and it was he who first purchased part of the lands of Balgillo from the Balthayock estate.

Evidence of William is very sparse, but what there is, points to William being a son of David Blair of Bendochy. (An alternative hypothesis is that John Blair, the son of David Blair of Bendochy was the father of the next laird.)

The office of "lord cellarer" of Coupar Angus Abbey in 1492 was held by William Blair.⁴⁴⁸ Given that for the period 1468 - 1477, David Blair of Bendochy occupied this office, it seems likely that this was his son. The hereditary nature of the secular offices of the abbeys is to be anticipated by this stage of the Church in Scotland. In this case, it continued with later Blairs of Balgillo being bailie-deputes of the abbey carrying out a similar function to Chamberlain or factor for the estates.

Furthermore, two years earlier in 1490, David had purchased Balgillo and may have resigned it to his heir so that William may have had the title of Balgillo. If this hypothesis is correct then he was not to enjoy it for long.

A document in the Fotheringham of Powrie papers is endorsed 9 October 1593 but the palaeography within strongly suggests that 1493 would be more appropriate.⁴⁴⁹ It makes mention of Duncan Fenton⁴⁵⁰ and also an Elizabeth Fenton spouse to the umquhile William Blair of Balgillo.

It may be deduced from the above, that William Blair married Elizabeth, a daughter of William Fenton of Cukiscarden, a neighbouring laird in the barony of Craigisla. This family was a surviving cadet of Fenton of Baikie who had been major landowners in this area from 1270 - 1437.

It is hypothesised that William Blair and Elizabeth Fenton had a son John who was their heir.

The evidence points to William dying before David Blair of Bendochy sometime in the early 1490's in or very shortly before 1493. David's grandson, John, was retoured at the end of 1494.

John Blair of Balgillo (1470c- 1513)

John Blair took sasine of the lands of Balgillo and its multures in 1501.⁴⁵¹

John was heir to his grandfather, David, and earlier to his father from whom he inherited the lands of West Ballunie near Kettins and Balgillo. Andrew Lord Gray and James Ouchterlony of that ilk are mentioned with respect to an Inquest of Retour of John Blair which was referred on 10 December 1494 to the next head court of Forfar.⁴⁵² He is mentioned as a witness at the kirk of Bendochy on 16 December 1497.⁴⁵³

In a legal instrument of 3 February 1502/3, John Ferny as attorney for John Blair of Balgillo showed that John's predecessors had been superiors of the lands of Fordowy for 36 years and that he had no intention of changing this.⁴⁵⁴ A detailed local diary / history recorded about 1500, mentions that the lands of Fordowy belonged to Dunfermline Abbey and that a quarter was the property of John Blair of Balgillo who held these of the abbot and convent.⁴⁵⁵ This alone is a strong indicator that he was heir of David Blair of Bendochy and with the other evidence proves that his grandfather was also known as David Blair of Fordowy. John resigned the lands of Fordowy in the regality of

448 Register of Cupar Abbey Vol i p xl

449 GD 121/2 Box 3

450 Duncan Fenton of Cookston flourished in 1490's and early 1500's

451 Exchequer Rolls Vol xi

452 Acta Dominorum Auditorum

453 RH1/6/150

454 Acts of the Lords of Council in Civil Affairs

455 Rentale Dunkeldense

Dunfermline in a charter at Coupar Angus Abbey on 7 April 1506.⁴⁵⁶

Two charters and two Precepts of Sasine by John, Master of Crawford, to his cousin Thomas Maule of Panmure on the lands of Camuston and lands of Carlungie were made at the Abbey of Coupar Angus on 13 August 1494 and the witnesses included William Symons, vicar of Bendochy, John Blair, Duncan Stirling and Thomas Fotheringham who were all termed armigers.⁴⁵⁷ Clearly, this was John Blair the grandson of the laird of Bendochy before he took title of Balgillo.

William Tyrie sued John Blair on 1 July 1496 for withholding the annual rent of eleven head of nolt (black cattle) owing to him for the use of the lands of Keillor.

On 3 April 1498, John Blair described as the grandson (nevo) and heir to the late David Blair of Bendochy brought an action against John Rattray of Kinballoch for a payment of 400 merks made by David to James Moncur of Ballunie. On the same date he also raised an action against an assize of thirteen Angus lairds and the Sheriff Clerk of Forfar for an erroneous retour and showed evidence that David Blair had held lawfully the lands of Wester Ballunie for 20 years before his death⁴⁵⁸. This matter was raised again in 1503 when John Moncur brought an action against John Rattray and John Blair who is described again as grandson and heir of David Blair and it was agreed that on receipt of payment John Blair should hand over the lands of Wester Ballunie to John Moncur. The interesting feature is that this was only five days later than a case against David Coupar when John was designed of Balgillo. The difference in descriptions does not cause serious conflict however, as the pertinent feature in the Ballunie case was the prior role of David Blair and hence his heirs rights. Nor do the locations give rise to doubt as Ballunie lies in Kettins just north of Balgillo with Keillor just to the east of that.

On 3 February 1502/3, John brought an action against David Coupar, burghess of Dunfermline.⁴⁵⁹

He was a member of the assize at Forfar on 20 April 1504 for the Inquest of Retour of Andrew Craig as heir to his father Walter in the one third of the lands of Baldovie.⁴⁶⁰

In December 1512, he purchased the third part of the lands of Balgillo from William Blair, burghess of Dundee.⁴⁶¹ For the registration of this charter, he paid the sum of £7.6s .8d to the Lord High Treasurer.⁴⁶²

At the end of that year, on 28 December 1512, John was principal witness at Dundee when Andrew Bonar leased the lands of Innerduffat to John Balfour.

Many of the Angus lairds fell with their king on the Field of Flodden on 9 September 1513. John Blair of Balgillo was among these "Flowers of the Forest". His widow was among many others who found caution after the disaster.⁴⁶³

William Blair (1492c - 1576)

William Blair took sasine of Balgillo on 12 November 1513 for which he paid £12 to the Sheriff of Forfar for non-entry from the time of Martinmas last. The following year he attended an inquest at Forfar on the assize for the retour of Alexander Lindsay as heir to his father, Richard Lindsay. He

456 RMS Vol ii 2955

457 Registrum de Panmure Vol ii p 257-260

458 Acts of the Lords of Council in Civil Causes 1496-150 p168 and p 204

459 Acts of the Lords of Council in Civil Causes 1501-1503

460 Laing Charters Chtr 247

461 RMS Vol ii 3798

462 Accounts of Treasurer of Scotland Vol iv

463 Acta Dominorum Concilii

appears in a retour of Robert Maule of Panmure at Forfar on 7 May 1519, and various charters under the Great Seal from 1522 to 1532.

William had issue:

- 1) John his heir
- 2) Andrew mentioned with his father and elder brother in a tack of half of Blackstone from the Abbey of Coupar Angus in 1541.
- 3) Marjory who married William Roger in Coupar Grange circa 1540. The Abbot and convent of Coupar Abbey set a tack to them jointly with their son and daughter for a twelfth part of Coupar Grange on 1 May 1542.⁴⁶⁴ William was nominated bailie-depute of the monastery by 1544. He died at Coupar Grange in June 1562 and was survived by his wife, Marjory, and their son William.⁴⁶⁵

William Blair was fined on 29 November 1531 for failing to attend as member of an assize for the trial of Janet, Lady Glamis. He was not alone, for this and later assizes were boycotted by many of the neighbouring lairds who must have been appalled at the King's charges against and despicable treatment of Lady Glamis.

When John Wishart of Logie sold to John Bell and Marion Blair the lands of Lockartston, Drumshade and Haughriggs adjacent to Auchendorie, near Kirriemuir, the witnesses at Kinnaneil included first William Blair of Balgillo, Andrew Ramsay and Henry Fotheringham. The principal witness implies that Marion Blair may have been a close kinswoman to William, probably his sister.⁴⁶⁶

At Coupar Abbey on 1 October 1539 William Blair and John his son and heir apparent joined a list of major Ogilvy lairds who witnessed the charter of the lands of Campsie and Craigloch to James, Master of Ogilvy and his wife.⁴⁶⁷

A nineteen year tack of half of Blackstone for his care of the marches and his investment there was set in 1541 to William and his sons John and Andrew. The Rental Book of Coupar Abbey in 1542 shows Blackstone rented to the laird of Balgillo.⁴⁶⁸

He held court as bailie-depute of Coupar on 19 April 1542 and on 26 November 1554.⁴⁶⁹ William was probably instrumental in William Roger being nominated as a bailie-depute of Coupar Abbey by 23 April 1544, although the latter's family had long been associated with the abbey as tenants from 1454.

At Edinburgh on 2 December 1554, a Commission of Justiciary was made to James Lord Ogilvy, principal bailie of the Monastery of Coupar, Mr David Campbell, William Blair of Balgillo, James Hering of Glasclune, Mr James Haliburton, tutor of Pitcur and Thomas Kennedy. This appointed these local gentlemen to oversee justice in the lands of the monastery with regard to theft, oppression, destruction of the greenwood, poaching of deer etc.⁴⁷⁰

On 10 February 1558/9 Donald the Commendator of Coupar Angus Abbey granted to William in a charter, half the lands of Blackstone in the parish of Airlie.⁴⁷¹

⁴⁶⁴ Rogers Rev C, Register of Cupar Abbey, Grampian Club 1880 (Tack 13)

⁴⁶⁵ Comm of Edinburgh Testament

⁴⁶⁶ R M S Vol iii 1117

⁴⁶⁷ R M S Vol iii 2091

⁴⁶⁸ Rogers, R, Rental Book of Cupar-Angus Grampian Club 1880

⁴⁶⁹ Frag Scoto-Monastica p xxviii and p xxxi / Charters of Coupar Angus Abbey

⁴⁷⁰ Exchequer Rolls Vol xviii p 577

⁴⁷¹ R M S Vol v 2247

William witnessed various charters of Donald, abbot of Coupar Abbey, the latest being dated 3 May 1561.⁴⁷²

He appears to have survived beyond 1573 when his son John is described as apparent of Balgillo. Evidence points to William's death being about mid 1576.

Sir John Blair (1520c - 1594c)

Mentioned as son of William in 1539, John appears as apparent of Balgillo at the Retour of Inquest at Forfar on 6 October 1548 when Mr James Ogilvy was served heir to his father James Ogilvy of Balfour.⁴⁷³ He was gifted the escheat of the Meikle Mill of Brechin when John Waterston was punished for wounding John Currer. Another letter on 24 January 1555/6 gifted him the escheat of the lands of Muirton and Ardblair with its multures when John Blair of Ardblair failed to find surety for the murder of George Drummond of Ledcreiff.⁴⁷⁴

John is described as apparent of Balgillo when, on 4 October 1568, he was admitted a Brother of the Guild of Dundee.⁴⁷⁵ He was similarly designed on the 29 February 1569/70, when he directed a precept of sasine to Robert Ayson.⁴⁷⁶

During his father's life, with Dundas of Kingask, John Blair apparent of Balgillo and Graham of Fintry and the bailies of Dundee were appointed a Commission of Justiciary in April 1573. This instructed them to capture and make trial of Andrew Boyd for arson of Melginch and burning the granary there.⁴⁷⁷

Sasine of the whole lands of Balgillo was granted to John on 18 October 1576 on payment of £24 due to the king for relief.⁴⁷⁸

John had a Precept of Clare Constat from Leonard, Commendator of Coupar confirming him as heir to his father, William, in half the lands of Blackstone.⁴⁷⁹

Sir John had issue :

- 1) William
- 2) Archibald who witnessed a family charter in 1607 and who died in 1617.⁴⁸⁰
- 3) Peter who appears to have had considerable means as in July 1608 David Maule, Commissary of St. Andrews, granted a bond in 500 merks to him.⁴⁸¹ Peter witnessed his brother German's charter in February 1615. He was appointed Curator to Patrick Blair the son of the deceased Alexander Blair of Denhead about 1617. He was alive in 1624 but deceased by 1643.⁴⁸²

During his latter years, threats of Papist Plots troubled Protestant Scotland. Sir John Blair and other local lairds were ordered to subscribe not to harm Barbara Scott, widow of Sir David Graham of Fintry due to her association with one such plot termed the "Spanish Banks."

Along with George Small of Fodrance, John stood caution of £500 for Bessie Blair, relict of James Small of Kettins and 500 merks for her son James Small not to harm Andrew Small in the kirkton

472 Charters of Coupar Angus Abbey Chr ccxlv

473 Laing Charters Chrtr 545

474 R S S Vol iv 499 and 3127

475 Dundee Lockit Book

476 R M S Vol v 2248

477 Exchequer Rolls Vol xx p 440

478 Exchequer Rolls Vol xx p 507

479 R M S Vol vi 1056

480 Comm of St Andrews Testament 4 Jun 1617

481 Register of Deeds

482 R M S Vol ix 1295

of Kettins who was also her son. Although no relationship is quoted it is possible that Bessie was sister to John.

The testament of John Blair was recorded by the Edinburgh Commissariat on 20 Dec 1597 but he died between September 1593 and September 1594 when his son, William was designed of Balgillo.⁴⁸³

Sir William Blair (1550c - 1621c)

William was described as apparent of Balgillo from 1573.⁴⁸⁴

He was heir to his father, Sir John.⁴⁸⁵ William was retoured his heir in the lands of Balgillo and half of Blackstone, Wester Keillor and Balkeerie. He was also retoured in half the lands of Blackstone in a charter registered under the Great Seal on 12 July 1600.

William married Jane Blair, Lady Balmyle shortly before 24 July 1576. She was the daughter and heiress of Patrick Blair of Balmyle who died at the Battle of Pinkie Cleugh in 1547 and widow of Thomas Blair heir apparent of Balthayock who died in 1574. Jane had a liferent of the teinds of Nether Balmyle.⁴⁸⁶

William and Jane had issue:

- 1) John his heir
- 2) Patrick described as son of William Blair of Balgillo in 1602.⁴⁸⁷ Either Patrick or Alexander was probably father to Mr William Blair born in 1598 whose monumental inscription in Newtyle Kirkyard records that he died on 16 November 1656 aged 58. His wife Euphan, daughter of James Patullo in Coupar, survived him and had a gravestone erected showing the Blair and Patullo arms.⁴⁸⁸ They had a daughter born about 1648. Mr William's testament shows that he lived in Kirkton of Newtyle.
- 3) Alexander described as brother of John in December 1599 when ordered into ward in Blackness Castle with his elder brothers. About 1600, he married Grisel Hutton, neice of John Blair of Melginch and was portioner of Balbrogie.⁴⁸⁹ He was probably later designed "of Wester Denhead". See under Blair of Denhead.
- 4) James Blair D.D. who was promoted from Second Mastership in New College of St. Andrews and ordained 21 September 1620. He married Catherine, daughter of Andrew Wood of Greenside, their contract of marriage being dated 11 Oct 1611.⁴⁹⁰
- 5) Jean who married Alexander Gardyne fiar of Borrowfield, their contract of marriage dated 30 March 1605 at Montrose and his wife by 21 May 1613.⁴⁹¹
- 6) Katherine married David Guthrie of Kincaldrum, their contract of marriage being drawn up on 30 June 1607 although their marriage may have been later.⁴⁹²
- 7) Grisel who married firstly Patrick Blair of Ardblair and secondly Patrick Falconer of Newton whom she survived.⁴⁹³

In June 1601, William and his wife acquired the lands of Nether Criggie and Mains of Criggie in the parish of St. Cyrus, Kincardineshire.⁴⁹⁴ In 1615, they sold the lands of Muirhead, Mill of

483 RPC Vol v

484 R M S Vol v 2174

485 Forfar Retours RS33 8 235

486 R M S Vol viii 586 and Balthayock Charters 113

487 Kincardineshire Sasines i 77, 142 and ii 58

488 Davidson, F; Inventory of 17th Century Tombstones in Angus*

489 Perth Sasines RS52 1 27 and RS52 5 549

490 Fasti Ecclesiae Scoticae Vol 5 p 355

491 R M S Vol vii 1167

492 R M S Vol vi, 1935

493 Forfar Sasines RS 34 2 290 and Deeds 1661, Mack 2 373

494 R M S Vol 1164

Criggie and others there to Sir Robert Graham of Morphie⁴⁹⁵. Witnesses to this charter included Thomas Blair apparent of Balthayock, Alexander Blair in Denhead and Peter Blair, brother to William.

His estate was widespread for on 2 June 1612 William set a tack to Mr James Fotheringham of the teinds of the half lands of Glenboye.⁴⁹⁶

William also held lands of David Lindsay of Edzell at the south half of Waterston near Careston.⁴⁹⁷

The arms of William show a chevron between three annulets with a mullet in chief.

William was an ally of the Ogilvys in their dispute with the Lindsays and was among those cautioned in 1591 not to harm the inhabitants of Forfar.⁴⁹⁸

He appeared as William Blair of Balgillo on an assize on 3 August 1598 for the trial of Alexander Hay of Dalgetie.⁴⁹⁹

At the trial of Findlay Fernie and Robert Innes for forgery and falsifying a charter, a member of assize is recorded as John Blair of Balgillo. This seems erroneous as the date was 15 February 1600 and the party involved must have been this laird or his son John who was then apparent of Balgillo.

In a contract of 27 June 1613, James Lord Ogilvy granted William a nineteen-year tack of the teinds of Garlawbank under a reversion of 1000 merks to be paid by William as grassum. There was a clause requiring William to pay the tax on the teinds.⁵⁰⁰

Sir William died about 1621. Jean Blair survived her husband being mentioned as his relict in November 1627 when she made a contract with John Blair of Pittendreich for the marriage of his son and heir apparent to Jean Blair the daughter of the deceased Alexander Blair of Denhead.⁵⁰¹ Elsewhere it has been wrongly reported that this younger Jean was daughter to Sir John Blair of Balgillo.

Sir John Blair (1578c -1635c)

John was knighted about 1620. As Sir John he was retoured heir to his father on 11 May 1622.⁵⁰²

Sir John married a daughter of Haliburton of Pitcur. A 16th/17th century gravestone at Nevay has "Margaretton " and the Blair arms dexter with Halyburton arms sinister and initials JB over MH which may be their memorial. However, In "Five Generations of the Family of Blair" the author, A.T. Mitchell quotes Helen as his wife. They had issue:

- 1) William his heir born about 1600.
- 2) George described as son of Sir John Blair of Balgillo and brother of Sir William. He appears in several transactions about the mid-17th century.⁵⁰³

495 R M S Vol vii 1205

496 Scrymgeour Wedderburn papers

497 R M S Vol vii 579

498 RPC Vol iv

499 Pitcairn, Criminal Trials Vol 2

500 GD16/48/64

501 Laing Charters Chtr 2009

502 Retours General No 1025

503 Forfar Sasines RS34 2 229 to 324

- 3) James who witnessed a charter to his father at Coupar Abbey on 28 August 1624. He was among the mercenaries recruited in 1626 by Alexander Erskine of Dun to fight in Europe for Christian IV of Denmark.⁵⁰⁴
- 4) ? a daughter who married John Scrymgeour of Kirkton.
- 5) Magdalene who married James Blair of Ardblair, their prenuptial contract dated 17 October 1620.⁵⁰⁵
- 6) Susanna who married James Hamilton of Kirkton of Arbroath.⁵⁰⁶
- 7) Eupham, who first married John Wilson in Lochend and after his death was second wife to James Blair of Ardblair.

When aged about 21, John accompanied by his younger brothers Patrick and Alexander, and aided by James Blair in the Grange of Balbrogie and Leonard Blair of Balgersho, armed themselves with hagbuts and pistols and led others on to the lands of Fodrance. This first occurred on 3 November 1599 and was repeated on the following two days. There they exchanged shots with George Small of Fodrance and his brothers, Thomas and James. As a result of these armed affrays, the Blairs and Smalls appeared in December 1599 before the Lords of the Privy Council. The Blairs were committed to ward in the Castle of Blackness on the south bank of the Firth of Forth while the Smalls were ordered to remain in Edinburgh Castle until freed by the king.

The lands of Camno, Whitehills, Greenmyres, Pilmore and Balmacron near Meigle were purchased by Sir John from John Scrymgeour of Dudhope in March 1624. He later made these over to his son, William. A charter given at Coupar Abbey on 28 August 1624 records that James Crichton of Ruthven sold lands in the barony of Reddie to Sir John Blair of Balgillo⁵⁰⁷. This transaction probably included half the lands of Blackstone there. The contract was made on 27 March 1624 for the payment of 11,500 merks by Sir John.⁵⁰⁸ He took sasine of this on 8 February 1632.

Sir John wished to lead a model life. He and Alexander Erskine of Dun considering that excess "*of drinking is prohibit bothe by the Law of God and Man, and that they were willing to give guid example to utheris be their lyff and conversacioun to abstain from the like abuse.*" They therefore signed a "Temperance Bond" at Dundee on 5 July 1627 wherby before witnesses, they bound themselves to drink nothing except in their own dwellings until 1st May 1628 under the penalty of 500 merks Scots for the first failure and break of this and 100 merks for every succeeding one.

With Thomas Blair of Balthayock, Sir John was a member of the Inquest of Retour of Patrick Oliphant as heir to his grandfather on 7 May 1633.⁵⁰⁹

John added to the estate with the purchase of the lands of Lour and Muirton from Alexander Guthrie of Kincaldrum by a contract made at Dundee on 29 November 1633.⁵¹⁰

John died about 1635.

Sir William Blair (1600c - 1653c)

William was retoured heir to his father Sir John Blair on 3 May 1642⁵¹¹ and in the lands of barony of Kingoldrum and the lands and barony of Reddie on 21 May 1642.⁵¹² He was knighted prior to this and is described as Sir William Blair of Balgillo knight on 14 January 1638.⁵¹³

504 Jacob, Violet, *The Lairds of Dun*, J Murray, London 1931

505 R M S Vol viii 952

506 Forfar Sasines RS34 ii 229 to 426

507 R M S viii 954

508 Calendar of Strathmore Writs 1308-1770 Chr 208

509 Anderson, *The Oliphants in Scotland* Chrtr 196

510 R M S Vol ix 323

511 Forfar Retours

512 Calendar of Strathmore Writs 1308-1770 Chr 221

513 Monifieth Old Parish Register

He was the principal of the trustees appointed in 1645 along with James Durham of Pitkerro and James Durham of Ardownie to manage the mortification by Lady Grange for poor scholars in Monifieth.⁵¹⁴ Jean Ochterlony, Lady Grange, her husband William Durham of Grange and Elizabeth Durham, Lady Balbegno, their daughter had deposited 2500 merks with William Durham, fiar of Grange for the maintenance of the poor and to assist education in the parish of Monifieth. Presumably, Lady Grange was his mother-in-law for William Blair married Jean Durham on 30 April 1622 at Monifieth.⁵¹⁵

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Sir William and Jean had sons:

- 1) John baptised 13 April 1623 at Monifieth. He was probably Sir John Blair of Camno who on 14 January 1638 was witness to the baptism of Patrick Blair at Monifieth. He died young without issue. His death was presumably before 1650 for Sir William is named as proprietor of Camno in the Cess of that year.
- 2) William his heir born about 1625 more of whom later.
- 3) Thomas described as brother of William Blair of Balgillo.⁵¹⁶ Thomas married Margaret Blair at Kettins 29 April 1655. They had a large family whose baptisms are recorded in the Kettins Old Parish Register. They lived in Balgillo but from 1671 Thomas was desiged of Muirfolds. Their son William, born at Balgillo in 1656, was the last Episcopal Minister at Lethendy. As Mr William schoolmaster in Monifieth and son of Thomas Blair in Balgillo, he was appointed bursar of the Presbytery of Perth at New College for four years from Martinmas 1679.⁵¹⁷
- 4) Alexander described as son of Sir William Blair in a Heritable Bond registered 6 November 1673 wherein Jean Durham is named as relict of Sir William.⁵¹⁸
- 5) Captain James Blair who was living in 1654.⁵¹⁹
- 6) Patrick was baptised at Monifieth on 14 January 1638. As Captain Patrick Blair at Mons, Flanders on 24 October 1682 was granted a bond by Alexander Whitehead, indweller in the Ford of Pitcur, Kettins. Captain Patrick then assigned it on 7 January 1683 at Mons to his nephew Mr William Blair. The latter donated the bond of 100 merks to the minister at Kettins for the support of the poor on 7 November 1685.⁵²⁰

William was designed as "apparand of Balgillo" on his marriage to Jean Durham in 1622 and similarly when their son John was baptised there on 13 April 1623. The witnesses to the baptism were William Durham elder of Grange and William Durham younger, presumably the grandfather and uncle respectively of the child. The marriage linked the Blairs to one of the old landowning families of Angus. A Sir William Durham received from King Robert I in 1322 a charter of the Grange of Monifieth. When Patrick Blair was baptised in Monifieth in 1638, Sir John Durham of Balmachaner was a witness.

Sir William was probably one of the executors of David Tyrie of Nevay's estate, for after Tyrie's death about 1651, Christine Tyrie the only living daughter of the deceased David pursued an action against Alexander Tyrie, John Stewart of Clunie and Sir William.⁵²¹

Besides his lands in Angus, Sir William held lands in Perthshire. In the 1650 "Rentall of Perthshyre"

514 R M S Vol ix 1631

515 Monifieth Old Parish Register

516 Forfar Sasines RS35 7 298

517 Mitchell, A T, Five Generations of the Family of Blair, Pollard, Exeter, 1895

518 Deeds 1673, Dur 34 375

519 Mitchell, A T, Five Generations of the Family of Blair, Pollard, Exeter, 1895

520 Acts & Decrees, Dal, 3 Jul 1687

521 Airlie Muniments GD16/41/318

he was assessed £600 for Camno with its pendicles, and £526.13s.4d for Kirkhill and Balmachroine in the parish of Meigle.

Sir William died about 1653 and was survived by his spouse, Jean Durham.⁵²²

Sir William Blair (1625c - 1678c)

William was retoured heir to his father Sir William on 10 February 1654 in his lands in the barony of Reddie. He took sasine of this on 26 April 1654.⁵²³ Prior to this, he married Margaret Gray, fourth daughter of Andrew seventh Lord Gray.⁵²⁴ Margaret was baptised 29 October 1628.

They had issue:

- 1) William whose mother is given as Margaret Gray,⁵²⁵ was born about 1658
He was the heir to his father.
- 2) Archibald who was born at Kettins in 1661 and died of fever aged 20.
- 3) John who was baptised at Kettins 15 July 1669 but died young.
- 4) Margaret described as daughter of William Blair of Balgillo in 1700 along
with her sisters Elizabeth and Isobel.⁵²⁶ She married John Beaton, apothecary in Cupar.⁵²⁷
- 5) Jean who was baptised at Kettins 27 September 1650. She died of fever in
1681.
- 6) Elizabeth born at Kettins in 1662. She married Patrick Murray of Pitlochrie.⁵²⁸
- 7) Catherine born at Kettins in 1664.
- 8) Isobel born at Kettins in 1665.

Sir William received the lands of Camno, Pilmore and Balmacron from his father in a charter dated 30 June 1647. These lands were acquired by Henry Smith of Glasswell in 1662.⁵²⁹

Mr David Nevay, sheriff of Forfar and his wife Margaret Hay purchased a liferent out of the lands of Reddie from William by an Instrument of Resignation dated 2 March 1656.⁵³⁰

He made a contract with Lilius Monteith and her husband on 6 April 1657.⁵³¹

The lands of Ley of Balgillo and Doocotton were appraised from William Blair on 15 July 1658 to settle a case brought against him and William, Master of Gray, by John Reid of Knapp and others.⁵³² Financial pressures were building up on the estate. On 24 February 1664, at the instigation of Mr John Rattray, minister of Alyth a Letter of Inhibition was issued against John Gardyne of Lawton and William Blair of Balgillo for payment of a heritable bond for 5000 merks.⁵³³ The bond had been made with the earl of Airlie, when he was James Lord Ogilvy on 29 May 1630. Such bonds were used as security on large transactions and so could be assigned from one person to another over the years. The laird of Balgillo subsequently wrote from Perth on 19 January 1666 to Lord Ogilvy relating to the bond assigned by him to David Hering.⁵³⁴

William was Retoured in lands of Lour, Muirton, Denhead, Greenmyre and Easter and Wester Meathie on 4 April 1665 as heir to his father Sir William⁵³⁵ and on the same date he was retoured

522 Deeds 1663; Mack 8 274

523 Calendar of Strathmore Writs 1308-1770 Chr 237

524 Gray Inventory 565

525 Forfar Sasines RS35 7 268 and 298

526 Reg of Deeds 1700; RD4/86 fo 530

527 Deeds 1694; Dal LXXVII ii 41

528 Reg of Deeds 1700; RD4/86 fo 532

529 RMS Vol xi 213

530 Calendar of Strathmore Writs 1308- 1770, Chr 279

531 R M S Vol x 597

532 R M S Vol x 672

533 GD16/41/427

534 GD16/41/445

535 Forfar Retours No 413

heir masculine to his grandfather, John Blair of Balgillo.⁵³⁶

By the following year, William had sold the above lands of Lour, Muirton etc.⁵³⁷

William at some stage is said to have secured a bond for the meagre sum of 434 merks on a part of his estate. This was a commonplace method of raising cash at this time but, in this case, was reputed to have dire consequences in due course.

There is evidence that during William's lairdship, the estate was in decline, for as noted above during the 1650's and 1660's, control of Reddie passed from him and he disposed of Ley of Balgillo, and his lands in Lour and Meathie. This may have been the result of opposition to the forces of Oliver Cromwell for Mr Thomas Blair, son of James Blair of Ardblair was gifted by the Protector, the escheat of the goods and lands belonging to William Blair of Balgillo at the time of his denunciation on 23 October and 22 November 1656.⁵³⁸

The Rev. Robert Edward writing on his description of the county of Angus in 1678, mentions Blair of Balgillo as one of forty barons of Angus. His contemporary, John Auchterlonie of the Guynd wrote a fuller account of county in 1684 on a parish basis. In his description of Kettins, Auchterlonie gives Halyburton as the laird of Pitcur stating that "Most part of the parish belongs properlie to him, and the restmost of them his vassals, or otherways depends upon him."

No mention whatsoever is made of the house of Balgillo.

William died in or before 1678 and was survived by his wife Margaret Gray, and William his heir. The family suffered greatly from an epidemic fever in 1681. Margaret Gray, her daughter, Jean and her sons William and Archibald all died in this outbreak of fever.

William Blair (1658c - 1681)

William was the last Blair laird of Balgillo. He was infeft in the lands of Balgillo in 1680 but died the following year without lawful issue but he had two illegitimate children as follows:

- 1) By Isabel Rattray he had a daughter Anna who was baptised at Kettins on 9 April 1678
- 2) By Elizabeth Clark a posthumous son William who was baptised at Kettins on 29 October 1681.

An insight to the role of church discipline in the late Episcopalian period in 17th century Scotland is found in the Kirk Session records of Kettins. On 31 March 1678 Margaret Haliburton and Isabel Rattray were summoned to appear before the Kirk Session, which they did the following Sunday. On their next appearance before the Session on 14 April, Margaret confessed that she was guilty of fornication with James Haliburton the laird of Fodrance and was strongly rebuked by the minister and ordered to reappear the next week. Likewise, Isabel Rattray appeared and confessed her fornication with William Blair of Balgillo. She received a similar rebuke and was ordered to appear again. Neither of the lairds presented themselves the following two Sundays to answer the call to them. However on the 28th April it was reported that the laird of Balgillo was not well. The next day, Monday 29th, James Haliburton confessed to the Session and professed his repentance when he was admonished. While the women had complied with the orders of Session, the men had shown great reluctance in facing the Session. Yet it was the unfortunate Margaret Haliburton who then had to appear on 6 different Sundays between then and late October 1678. On each occasion she had to appear in the public place in church to repent her sin before she was received back fully. Meanwhile over these months, the minister spoke to William Blair of Balgillo requesting his appearance before Session to make a confession but could not at all persuade him. By 2 December, he finally had Balgillo's agreement to appear privately at the manse before two or three of the Session. Thus on 8

536 Inquisitiones Generales No 4886

537 R. M. S. Vol xi 883

538 Reg. Of Decrees of Perthshire Sheriff Court 19 Feb 1662

December 1678, William Blair of Balgillo in minister's house, before the minister, the Session Clerk, David Ramsay, Patrick Smith and Andrew Blair at last confessed his fornication with Isabel Rattray and promised to satisfy the discipline of the church. On 22 December Isabel and William were called to appear in the public place the following Sunday. By 5 January 1679, Isabel had appeared for the fourth time but there is no mention of the laird of Balgillo having been able to muster enough courage. The humiliating experience brought about by the birth of his daughter failed to still the passions of the laird. Nevertheless, he was to escape the discipline that would have followed inevitably on the birth of his son by Elizabeth Clark, for Death claimed him before that event.

Along with his mother, sister and brother who died in the same epidemic, William Blair of Balgillo was buried in Kettins. His brothers had predeceased him. It is alleged that the lands of Balgillo were seized at that time by Haliburton of Pitcur in satisfaction of the earlier mentioned bond for 434 merks taken out by William's father.

The Claim of Blair of Balgillo

On the death of the last laird in 1681, the ancient title of Blair of Balgillo would have passed to his nearest heir apparent as he died without lawful issue. His brother Archibald however perished in the same epidemic of fever. William's uncle Thomas Blair of Muirfaulds lived in Balgillo and was witness to a document in 1680. Thomas and his wife, Margaret Blair had married in 1655 and between then and 1677 had children William, Jean, Janet, Alexander and John. The line therefore could have continued in name and arms, even if not in possession of the lands, of Balgillo.

As it was, Haliburton of Pitcur took possession of Balgillo and in time built there a mansion house, naming it Hallyburton House, and thus extinguishing the name from its ancient site.

It was not until 28 October 1805 that Anna Blair was served heir to her gt-gt-granduncle, William Blair last infekt of Balgillo, by a Jury at Edinburgh.⁵³⁹

Anna was the only child of William Blair and Christian Blair in Blairgowrie. She was served heir to her mother on 29 January 1808. Her maternal grandparents were Alexander Blair and Mary Blair also in Blairgowrie. In turn, Alexander Blair was the son of Rev. William Blair the last Episcopal Minister of Lethendy already described in this section as the son born in Kettins in 1656 to Thomas Blair and Margaret Blair.

Anna Blair married Alexander Berry in 1793. She died without issue but having assigned her claim to the Balgillo Estate to Captain Thomas Blair of Walton Grove, Surrey.

The Lord Lyon granted Arms on 17 October 1815 to Thomas Blair of Walton Grove with descent from Blair of Balgillo and Balthayock. Unfortunately, the proofs of descent were not preserved and it was not until 1895 that Arthur Tompson Mitchell collected and arranged his paper "Five Generations of the Family of Blair from the Counties of Perth and Forfar".

For a detailed family tree of descendants of Peter Blair of Founart, Perthshire, the grandfather of Thomas Blair of Walton Grove, the "Five Generations" is excellent. The author openly drew on Douglas's "Baronage" for his other family trees and was conscious that there were weaknesses therein.

Blair of Balmyle

The lands of Balmyle and Potento lie to the north west of Meigle at the eastern border of Perthshire. The Lindsay earls of Crawford were major landowners in Angus and Fife and formerly held much

of the land immediately north of Meigle.

A contract was made at Balthayock on 17 September 1494 between John Lindsay, Master of Crawford and Thomas Blair of Balthayock regarding the transfer of Baltroddie to Thomas. It appears that it was about this time that a marriage bond was formed between these two houses.

John Blair of Balmyle (1485c - 1520c)

John, a younger son of Thomas Blair of Balthayock married firstly Margaret Lindsay, daughter of David fifth earl of Crawford and Euphemia, Lady Bothwell. Margaret was sister of the above mentioned John Lindsay who in 1495 succeeded his father as sixth earl of Crawford.⁵⁴⁰

John Blair and Margaret had sons:

- 1) Alexander the heir more of whom later.
- 2) Gilbert ? who with his wife, Elizabeth Wedderburn, had the east quarter of the lands of Balmyle from 1529 to 1542. He was in Innerqueich when on 23 April 1575, he ratified that he had disposed of his portion of Balmyle to Alexander Blair of Balthayock.⁵⁴¹

David, earl of Crawford sold on 25 February 1513/4 to John Blair and his son, Alexander Blair the lands of Balmyle and Potento and also the lands of Camno and Mains of Meigle in warrandice under reversion upon payment by the earl of 1400 merks. John and Alexander were subsequently seised on 10 June 1519.⁵⁴²

Margaret Lindsay was probably dead by 1514 and certainly so before 2 February 1517/8.

John married secondly, Margaret Elder who survived him. John died about 1520.

Alexander Blair (1505c - 1532c)

Alexander was seised in the lands of Balmyle and Potento on 5 October 1520 in a ceremony conducted by his neighbour, Walter Tyrie of Drumkilbo, acting as bailie appointed by David, earl of Crawford.⁵⁴³ As a consequence of Alexander having paid great sums of money to David Lindsay, on 4 May 1528, this earl of Crawford resigned his right of reversion made in the contract of 1518.⁵⁴⁴ At Dundee on 19 March 1528/9, Alexander granted a charter of the fourth part of Balmyle to Gilbert Blair and Elizabeth Wedderburn his spouse. This gave Gilbert and his wife temporary possession as the charter was covered by a Letter of Regression by King James V of 26 March 1529 to Alexander to allow him to redeem this portion in the future.⁵⁴⁵

It is not discovered to whom Alexander Blair of Balmyle married but she may have been Janet Blair, who may have been a daughter of John Blair of Melginch based on the following evidence. On 13 August 1547, Janet Blair, Lady Balmyle was assigned by John Blair of Melginch parts of the lands of Balmyle.⁵⁴⁶ This John Blair was son and heir of the deceased John Blair of Melginch who on 2 July 1532 at Edinburgh was granted a gift by King James V of the mails and duties of the two parts of the lands of Balmyle which were in the King's hands due to nonentry since the decease of John, Earl of Crawford and until the lawful heir came of age.⁵⁴⁷ After his death, Alexander's wife married Buttar, the laird of Gormack and her son by him, John Buttar was heir to that title.

By his wife Alexander had two or perhaps three sons:

- 1) Patrick his heir born about 1525.

⁵⁴⁰ Lives of the Lindsays

⁵⁴¹ Balthayock Charters 223

⁵⁴² RMS Vol iii 180, Acts & Decrees Vol viii 357, Balthayock Charters 55,56 and 60

⁵⁴³ Balthayock Charters 61 and 62

⁵⁴⁴ Balthayock Charters 68 and 70

⁵⁴⁵ Balthayock Charters 72 and 74 and also RSS Vols 4124 and Vol ii 1

⁵⁴⁶ Balthayock Charters 113

⁵⁴⁷ Balthayock Charters 76

- 2) Andrew? described as brother german to Patrick in the Balthayock entail of 1542. This may be one and the same as Alexander immediately following as there appears to have been only two sons.⁵⁴⁸
- 3) Alexander described as brother german when appointed Tutor Testamentor to Patrick's children in 1547. Under the leadership of his half brother, John Buttar the laird of Gormack, Alexander joined with the laird of Ardblair and the laird of Drumlochry when they attacked and murdered George Drummond of Leidcreiff (as described under Ardblair). For his part in the murder, Alexander was put to the horn and forfeited the gift of Tutor of Balmyle.⁵⁴⁹

Alexander Blair of Balmyle died about 1532. On 2 July 1532, the gift of the mails of the lands of Balmyle was granted to John Blair of Melginch by reason of nonentry. Shortly thereafter he was granted the duties of the lands due to the death of the feudal lord, John earl of Crawford. That he qualified for the gift would be due to the death of Alexander Blair of Balmyle and the receipt of the other would follow under the circumstances.⁵⁵⁰

Patrick Blair (1525c - 1547)

Patrick was still a pupil when his father died and thus Thomas Blair of Balthayock was appointed his Tutor. Patrick was retoured heir to his father Alexander Blair of Balmyle on 29 March 1533 and was seised in the lands of Balmyle and Potento a month later on 29 April.⁵⁵¹

Patrick also appeared before his grandfather's widow, Margaret Elder and requested her to infest him in the third part of the lands of Balmyle according to a decret by the Lords of Council. She protested that she had her own interest in this, presumably as her widow's terce but through his Tutor he protested and took Instruments.⁵⁵²

With the consent of his Tutor, Patrick renewed the charter to Gilbert Blair and Elizabeth Wedderburn on 25 July 1533. The east fourth part of Balmyle that Gilbert held was later transferred on 5 April 1542 by him to Alexander the son of Thomas Blair of Balthayock who took sasine on 24 May 1542.⁵⁵³

Blair of Balthayock as Tutor would have had initial control over Patrick's marriage. However, on 31 July 1538 the gift of his marriage was obtained by Mr John Gardin, Parson of Tyre. The contract stated that in the event of Patrick dying unmarried, the gift extended to the marriage of the other heir of the late Alexander.⁵⁵⁴

On 9 February 1545/6, Patrick granted a liferent of three quarters of Potento to Elizabeth Crichton, daughter of the neighbouring laird of Ruthven, John Crichton and his wife Janet Fraser.⁵⁵⁵ The grant was made to Elizabeth in the days of her virginity, implying that this was a prenuptial contract. It is assumed that the marriage took place and that Patrick Blair and Elizabeth Crichton had issue: Jane or Janet who was heir to the title. She was probably named in the Scottish tradition after her Omaternal grandmother, Janet Fraser a daughter of Lord Lovat. She married firstly, Thomas Blair heir apparent of Balthayock and secondly, Sir William Blair heir to Sir John Blair of Balgillo.

548 RSS Vol ii 2665

549 Balthayock Charters 141

550 RSS Vol ii 1319 and 1332

551 Balthayock Charters 78 and 79 and Acts & Decreets Vol viii 357

552 Balthayock Charters 80

553 Balthayock Charters 103 to 106

554 RSS Vol ii 2665

555 RMS Vol iii 3203

Patrick Blair of Balmyle promised on 29 June 1547 to pay to William Coult, burges of Dundee an annual payment of 6 bolls of bear (barley) out of the lands of Potento.⁵⁵⁶

Later that year a major English force invaded Scotland to prevent the young Queen Mary being wed to a French alliance. The young laird of Balmyle responded to the call to arms and realising the hazard ahead, made his testament on 8 September 1547 naming his brother german, Alexander, as Tutor to his children during their minority.⁵⁵⁷ It seems that two days later, Patrick perished on the field of Pinkie Cleugh along with numerous other lairds and their supporters.

The young widow, Elizabeth Crichton, later married Patrick, the third son of Thomas Blair of Balthayock and had famliy by him. They both survived into the 17th century. (See under Blair of Balthayock).

Janet or Jane Blair (1546 - 1630c)

In accordance with her father's testament, Alexander Blair the brother of the deceased Patrick, was appointed tutor to the children. However, Alexander was among those outlawed in September 1554 for the murder of George Drummond of Leidcreif and thus arrangements were made to appoint another Tutor.⁵⁵⁸

A Letter of Tutory by Queen Mary on 7 May 1555 appointed Alexander Blair, son and apparent heir of Thomas Blair of Balthayock to be Jane's Tutor Dative until she attained full age.⁵⁵⁹

It was possibly about 1562, that Jane married Thomas Blair, son of her Tutor Dative, and grandson of Balthayock. In that year, Thomas Blair of Balthayock made a contract with Alexander Blair, Jane's uncle, to deliver up the charters of Balmyle to Balthayock. Jane's husband, was thus described as Thomas Blair of Balmyle. They had issue as described earlier under Balthayock. This union united the lands of Balmyle with the Balthayock estate and thus the later lairds of Balmyle are found under Balthayock from the time of Thomas Blair of Balmyle, heir apparent to Alexander Blair of Balthayock. After the death of Thomas, about 1574, Jane married William Blair son of Sir John Blair of Balgillo and had issue by him. See under Blair of Balgillo. Jane Lady Balmyle, survived her second husband and was still alive in 1627.

Alexander Blair of Balthayock (1568c -1619c)

As described above, the Balthayock family held Nether Balmyle and Potento.

Thomas Blair of Balthayock (1590c-1653)

Thomas was retoured heir to his father in the lands of Nether Balmyle and Potento on 21 March 1629.⁵⁶⁰

Mr John Blair of Balmyle (1636 - 1699c)

Mr John Blair born in 1636 to Thomas Blair of Balthayock by his spouse Margaret Ayton, was the next laird to use the title of Balmyle. With his wife, John was granted a charter on the lands of Nether Balmyle dated 16 July 1668. He gained a Masters degree at University as he is described as Mr John Blair in 1664 and earlier.⁵⁶¹ He was a notary public in Perth when seised on 7 December 1655 in a pension of £132 annually out of the lands of Potento and Balmyle.⁵⁶² John was Commissary Clerk of Dunkeld and also a merchant burges of Dundee. His spouse appears to have

⁵⁵⁶ Balthayock Charters 111 and 112

⁵⁵⁷ Balthayock Charters 114

⁵⁵⁸ Balthayock Charters 141

⁵⁵⁹ Balthayock Charters 142

⁵⁶⁰ Perth Retours 491

⁵⁶¹ R. M. S. Vol xi 783

⁵⁶² Balthayock Charters 464

been Elizabeth Forrester.⁵⁶³ Mr John Blair died about 1699.⁵⁶⁴

His Arms: Argent a cheveron Sable betwixt three torteaux within a bordure of the second.
Motto: Facies Qualis Mens Talis

John Blair (1671 - 1732)

The next laird of Balmyle was a doctor of medicine in Dundee. He was the eldest son of Mr John Blair, minister of Kilspindie (see under Blair of Lethendy). Dr John was born at Kilspindie in 1671, studied medicine and became one of the most eminent physicians of his time. Dr John acquired the estate of Balmyle before 30 May 1692. He married, on 27 April 1691 at Dundee, to Grisell Mann, daughter of James Mann, merchant and bailie of Dundee, their contract of marriage being dated 13 March 1691.⁵⁶⁵ Her mother was Grisell Davidson, daughter to Robert Davidson of Balgay.

John and Grisell had issue:

Two sons named John, the first of whom died as a child and the second born in 1700, the heir apparent, became a physician but died young without issue.

A son James who also died young without issue, probably shortly after his father as he appears to have had sasine of Balmyle in 1732.

Their youngest son Alexander born in 1703 was the sole survivor and heir.

They had daughters, Anne born in 1692, Grisell in 1696 and Janet in 1713 and possibly a daughter Helen who married Alexander Mackenzie of Inchculter.

The Dundee Old Parish Register of the baptisms of the children contains a wealth of family information. When their first son John was baptised on 3 April 1694, the godfathers were Mr John Blair, minister at Kilspindie and John Mann, brother of Grisell. Their daughter Grisell had as godmothers her grandmother, Grisell Davidson and Grisell Gordon, daughter to the laird of Letteruns. At the baptism of the second son named John, Mr John Blair minister of Kilspindie, grandfather was again principal godfather. The others were Mr John Brown the provost of Dundee, John Mann uncle, James Mann grandfather and Mr John Drummond minister. Patrick Blair, Apothecary was witness.

Dr John Blair was described a doctor of medicine in 1702 and 1703 in the Dundee Old Parish Register.

Dr John died in 1732 and was succeeded in time by his youngest son although it may be that briefly his son James Blair was laird of Balmyle.⁵⁶⁶

Alexander Blair (1703 - 1780c)

Alexander was born in Dundee on 19 January 1703 and on the following day was baptised. His godfathers were Alexander Blair Surgeon Apothecary in Port Royal, Jamaica, Alexander Blair the provost of Dundee who was a merchant burgess there and his grandfather, James Mann who also was a merchant burgess of Dundee. After a University education Alexander was a merchant in Dunkirk and later practised law as a Writer in Edinburgh. He was served heir to his father, Dr John Blair of Balmyle on 1 July 1737.⁵⁶⁷

Alexander married Margaret, a daughter of Alexander Colville of Kincardine.
They had issue:

⁵⁶³ Reg of Deeds 1699, RD3/91 fo 608

⁵⁶⁴ Comm of Brechin 24 May 1699

⁵⁶⁵ Perthshire Sasines 2 Apr 1691

⁵⁶⁶ Comm of Brechin test reg 8 Jun 1733

⁵⁶⁷ Services of Heirs in Scotland Vol i

- 1) Alexander
- 2) Helen Blair.

Blair of Pittendreich and Lethendy

The lands of Pittendreich lay in the barony of Glasclune and are found in the parish of Lethendy just to the south of Ardblair and the barony of Muirton which as earlier described were long associated with the Blair's of Ardblair. Previous histories have been very inaccurate with regard to the relationships of the lairds of Pittendreich, Lethendy and Glasclune. The following attempts to unravel the confusing interlace which arose through purchases from kinsfolk and failure in the direct line of inheritance.

Blair of Pittendreich was a cadet of Balthayock. The progenitor was John Blair, son of John Blair of Wester Banchory the second son of the first marriage of Alexander Blair, laird of Balthayock from 1568 -1603.

John Blair (1551c - 1608c) in Wester Banchory

John, the second son of Alexander Blair of Balthayock by his first wife, was granted by a charter of his father, a liferent of the lands of Easter Cults on 23 December 1572.⁵⁶⁸ John married Bessie Billie and they lived in Perth where he was a merchant, being admitted as a Guild Brother there on 21 April 1598 on payment of 40 shillings.⁵⁶⁹ John was still in control of Easter Cults in 1603 when on 6 June, David Smith in Walton of Cults agreed to an obligation on the tacks of Easter Cults.⁵⁷⁰

John was designed "of Wester Banchrie" in August 1605.⁵⁷¹ He is given variously as in Wester Banchory or Meikle Banchory from 1604 up to 1607.

John had sons:

- 1) John who became the first laird of Pittendreich; more of whom later.
- 2) Patrick who married a daughter of Andrew Wilson in Balleid. His father-in-law, and brother-in-law William Wilson accompanied by Patrick were armed with pistols and hagbuts when they went to the house of John Spalding in Wester Tullylundie (Tullyneddie) on 8 April 1610. There they assaulted Spalding's wife, Janet Clark, and manservant, William Spalding knocking them both stunned to the ground. Four days later, they returned while the Spaldings were ploughing and this time Patrick Blair presented a hagbut to the ploughman's breast and then with a drawn sword wounded both of them. Subsequently they were tried before the Privy Council on 24 May. The Wilsons were admonished but Patrick Blair was found guilty of discharging the firearms and was ordered to imprisonment in the tolbooth of Edinburgh.⁵⁷² The process of law was remarkably swift in these days and by 24 August 1610, Patrick, described as son of the late John Blair in Wester Banchory, was granted a remission for the duration of his life in a Royal letter.⁵⁷³ He was ordered to stand trial before the Lords of Council on 3 January 1611 and made a bond of £500 on 31 January 1611 not to carry hagbuts or pistols thereafter.⁵⁷⁴ The notary public at the signing of this bond at Kirkton of Rattray was John Blair, who although no

⁵⁶⁸ Balthayock Charters 204

⁵⁶⁹ Perth Guildry Records, Perth Deeds B59/8/9 54F and B59/8/10 7B, Perth Sasines RS52 4 156

⁵⁷⁰ Balthayock Charters 307

⁵⁷¹ Perth SasinesRS52 4 103 4 July & 31 Aug 1605

⁵⁷² RSS 24 May 1610

⁵⁷³ RMS vol vi 368

⁵⁷⁴ RSC Vol ix

relationship is quoted was Patrick's elder brother.

- 3) William described as son of John Blair in Meikle Banchory in 1605 and Wester Banchory in 1607.⁵⁷⁵

A dispute between neighbours at Banchory involved John Blair and his son John on the one part and John Soutar, who was a portioner of Banchory and John Ireland of Parkhead. Family bonds extended this to others in both camps. At a court of the Privy Council at Perth on 4 August 1604, the Blair party which was headed by Ardblair, included Andrew Blair of Gairdrum and Thomas Blair in Kinclaven and many other neighbours. They were ordered to find surety not to cause harm to Margaret Watson, the widow of David Soutar in Banchory, the above John Soutar or James his brother. Four days later, John Ireland of Parkhead stood surety of 1000 merks for John Soutar not to harm John Blair elder in Banchory or his son, John.

John died about 1608 and was described as in Meikle Banchory in his testament registered by the Commissariat of Edinburgh on 4 November 1608.

John Blair (1580c - 1645c) of Ledcassie, first laird of Pittendreich

John was born about 1580. He had a wadset of the lands of Ledcassie, those same lands which first showed the association of the name Blair in Perthshire, as described under Stephen de Blair.

As John Blair of Ledcassie, he married in early 1606 to Janet Cargill, a daughter of Mr Donald Cargill, vicar of Rattray and Margaret Blair, his spouse.⁵⁷⁶ {See Blair of Ardblair}.

By Janet he had six sons and three daughters:

- 1) John, his heir baptised at Rattray on 7 December 1606. More of whom later.
- 2) Laurence who was described as second son of John in his brother's marriage contract in 1627. He was baptised at Rattray in 1610. He died without issue.
- 3) Mr Donald, baptised at Rattray in 1612, he graduated MA St. Andrews University in 1632. Presented by Charles I on 31 March 1636 to Lundie & Fowlis. In 1649, he was deposed by the Commission of Assembly as a supporter of the Royal Cause and for favouring the expedition of 1648. He married Katherine Ogilvy who survived him. They had family: Patrick; Anne who married Thomas Wilson his successor at Lundie & Fowlis; and several others. Three sons, James, James and Colin died as children by 1651. Their son Thomas was baptised in Dundee on 2 October 1656. The Privy Council granted Mr Donald on 1 August 1661 a payment of £15 on account of his great misery, infirmity and many children whom he had nothing to support. He was later admitted to Lethendy & Kinloch in February 1665 but died in 1667. His gravestone in Lundie Churchyard has the arms of Blair and Ogilvy in pale flanked by the initials DB and KO.⁵⁷⁷ His son, Donald, had a bond registered on 15 July 1667.⁵⁷⁸
- 4) Mr George, designed of Pittendreich was the progenitor of the Blairs of Glasclune. More of whom later.
- 5) Patrick, designed of Little-Blair. Born about 1615, he trained as a notary under his father and qualified in 1633. He held a commission of lieutenant colonel in the Royalist army during the Civil War and bought Little-Blair in

⁵⁷⁵ Perth Sasines RS52 4 103 and RS52 6 5

⁵⁷⁶ Perth Sasines 10 Mar 1606; Laing Charters

⁵⁷⁷ Fasti Ecclesiae Scotianae Vol 4 167 and Vol 5 355

⁵⁷⁸ Deeds 1667, Dur 15 302

1651. He was appointed Sheriff of Orkney after the Restoration. Patrick married Barbara Graham, Lady Halcro. Patrick died in 1672.⁵⁷⁹ His daughter and heiress, Margaret married James Blair of Ardblair.
- 6) James of Glasclune. He married Isobel Tyrie only daughter of Sir ThomA Tyrie of Drumkilbo. Their prenuptial contract was dated 8 December 1654 when they were infeft in Over Balcarnie and other lands in the barony of Glasclune.⁵⁸⁰ They jointly had a sasine of the lands of Glasclune dated 8 September 1670. They appear to have had a son, for on 14 July 1687 Thomas Wilson pursued through court for recovery of debt from David Blair, fiar of Glasclune.⁵⁸¹ Thomas Wilson, who was the son-in-law of Mr Donald Blair, above mentioned brother to James, had been granted on 7 December 1663 a bond for 3000 merks by James Blair of Glasclune with George Blair of Pittendreich and Thomas Blair of Lethendy, as cautioners.⁵⁸² James appears to have sold Glasclune to his nephew, George son of Mr. George. James died in 1688.⁵⁸³ Isobel Tyrie survived him and was one of the subscribers to the disastrous Darien Scheme.
 - 7) Margaret baptised at Rattray 12 June 1608, she married Mr John Strachen minister of Lethendy.
 - 8) Jean who married firstly to Major William Scrymgeour of Fardle,⁵⁸⁴ who died without issue and secondly in 1650 married to John Blair of Balleid by whom she had issue. Her husband, John, eldest son James Blair and she are mentioned in a contract of 1673 along with John Blair of Ardblair and Thomas Blair of Pittendreich.⁵⁸⁵ {See Blair of Ardblair}

John appears frequently as a notary public in several charters registered under the Great Seal in the period 1600 to 1620. He lived in the Kirkton of Rattray in the early 1600's.⁵⁸⁶ Initially, he held the lands of Ledcassie by wadset but a few months after his marriage to Janet, these lands were redeemed by Patrick Blair of Ardblair in July 1606.⁵⁸⁷ He probably lived in the Hatton of Rattray in 1610 and 1611. John purchased the lands of Pittendreich in early 1614.⁵⁸⁸ As John Blair of Pittendreich he received a charter of the lands of Aird, Little Fardle and other properties in the barony of Fardle from James Scrymgeour younger of Fardle on 14 July 1619.⁵⁸⁹

On the marriage of his eldest son in 1627, John made over the whole lands of Pittendreich to him, reserving a liferent to himself and his spouse Janet Cargill.

John Blair of Pittendreich and Mr Donald and George his sons witnessed at Pittendreich and Welton on 8 and 30 May 1634 a charter of sale by James Saunders, portioner of Welton of Blair. He added to the estate on 22 May 1638 when, with his eldest son and heir apparent, John, he purchased from Thomas Tyrie of Drumkilbo and Margaret Ogilvy his spouse, the Mains of Lethendy and also the Mains of Glasclune, Easter and Wester Glasclune.⁵⁹⁰ In this contract, he retained liferent for himself, no mention being made of his spouse.

John Blair elder of Pittendreich was still alive on 14 July 1643 when with his son John, he signed a charter at Pittendreich with the consent of Mr James Rattray sometime of Logie.⁵⁹¹

He continued his profession of notary public at his home of Pittendreich until his death in 1645.

579 RSC Vol iv Third Series

580 Airlie Muniments GD16 1 24 188

581 Acts & Decrets, Durie 25 Feb 1688

582 Reg. of Perthshire Hornings, 25 Mar 1673

583 Comm. of Edinburgh test. reg. 10 Jul 1693

584 Deeds 1664, Mack 10 455

585 Reg. of Inhibitions for Perthshire 9 Jul 1675

586 R M S vi 1273 and vii 2056 and Perth Sasines RS52 6 560 dated 1 Aug 1608

587 Perth Sasines, 9 Jul 1606

588 PRP, Feb 1614

589 R M S vii 2065

590 RMS Vol ix 820

591 RMS Vol ix 1376

Janet Cargill survived him and was still alive in 1650 when the "Rentall Book of Perthshyre" states that £182 cess for Pittendreich belonged to the mother of John Blair of Lethendy. She must have been about 85 years of age about 1670 and died shortly afterwards as she had deceased by 25 June 1672.⁵⁹²

John Blair of Lethendy (1606 - 1661c)

John was described as eldest son and heir apparent when in November 1627 his marriage contract was made with Jean Blair who was described as the lawful daughter of the late Alexander Blair of Denhead.⁵⁹³ There is confusion in previous histories but they had sons:

- 1) Thomas the heir
- 2) James who served with the Scots Brigade in Holland. He was godfather at Dundee on 19 January 1702 to his grand-nephew, James Blair the son Dr John Blair. At Balthayock on 7 December 1691 he made his testament as Captain James Blair of Colonel George Lauder's Regiment. He died about 1705.⁵⁹⁴
- 3) Mr John. He matriculated at the University of St. Andrews as a student on 31 January 1653 and graduated MA 28 July 1656. He was admitted to Caputh in 1663 and translated to Kilspindie 1667. The Synod deposed him for contumacy on 8 April 1691. He died after 25 May 1707. Mr John married in March 1668, Helen, eldest daughter of Henry Drummond of the family of Colquhalzie and had issue Dr. John MD (b.1671), who practised medicine in Dundee {see under Blair of Balmyle}; Thomas (b.1672); Alexander (b.1676) a surgeon apothecary in Port Royal in Jamaica when named godfather in Dundee on 20 January 1703 to Alexander, the son of aforementioned Dr John Blair; William (b.1678); James who was godfather to his eldest brother's son on 19 January 1702 at Dundee. He was a seaman who died about 1705 on board HMS *Oxford*;⁵⁹⁵ Helen (b.1669); and Margaret (b.1680) who died before 17 October 1704.⁵⁹⁶ In his somewhat confused genealogy of Blair of Pittendreich in the Baronage of Scotland, Douglas mentioned an Alexander Blair who became a surgeon and settled in Jamaica where he made a considerable fortune. The above evidence found in the Dundee Old Parish Register of Baptisms supports the case that Alexander born in 1676 was the same. Mr John was still described as minister of Kilspindie in 1703.
- 4) Patrick described as brother of Thomas Blair of Lethendy and Pittendreich when witness to a sasine dated 2 April 1664. He was similarly described when witnessing the transfer of the lands of Middle Gormack in Caputh from John Blair of West Gormack to William Lindsay on 31 May 1670. He was an active Jacobite. As a Captain in the Earl of Dunmore's Regiment of Dragoons, he fought under Graham of Claverhouse, Viscount Dundee at Killiecrankie. ⁵⁹⁷ Captain Patrick probably died within a few years of that engagement.

⁵⁹² Deeds, Mack, 34 123 3 June 1670, RSS vi 5 256

⁵⁹³ Laing Charters Chrtr 2009

⁵⁹⁴ Comm of Edinburgh Test Reg 26 Feb 1706

⁵⁹⁵ Comm of Edinburgh Test Reg 1 Mar 1706

⁵⁹⁶ Fasti Ecclesiae Scoticae Vol 4 p 214, Kilspindie OPR

⁵⁹⁷ Comm of Edinburgh test reg 29 Dec 1693

In 1650 the lands of Pittendreich in the parish of Lethendy, were assessed at £800 against John Blair of Lethendy and his mother. On 22 August 1657, John Blair of Lethendy gave a charter of the lands of Boiggs and other in favour of James Blair of Glasclune and Isobel Tyrie his wife.⁵⁹⁸ John died about 1661 when he was described as "John Blair of Lethendy designed of Pittendreich." Jean Blair survived her husband.⁵⁹⁹

Thomas Blair of Lethendy and Pittendreich (1630c - 1690c)

Thomas Blair was retoured heir to his father on 30 August 1661 to the lands of Lethendy with Garnersland and the pendicle of Glasclune.⁶⁰⁰

It appears that Thomas sold Lethendy to Mr George Blair his uncle soon after. Although Mr George Blair was then rightly designed of Pittendreich, the heirs of the elder line continued to assume the title as can be found in Douglas's "Baronage".

Thomas was described "of Pittendreich" in the will of David Young, minister of Dunkeld on 17 December 1686.⁶⁰¹

Thomas Blair married Janet Auchinleck, eldest daughter of Sir George Auchinleck younger of Balmanno, their contract of marriage being 31 Jul 1662.

By Janet, Thomas had one surviving child:

- 1) Jane who from 1688 had a pension of 300 merks from her parents marriage contract.⁶⁰² It is believed that Jean married Mr William Blair born in 1656 to Thomas Blair in Kettins, brother to the last laird of Balgillo. Mr William was minister at Lethendy and their son Alexan-der born at the manse there, died aged 63 in Blairgowrie. (See "Five Generations of the Family of Blair")

Thomas may have had a second wife, for he had two other daughters:

- 1) Helen, described as daughter of Thomas Blair of Pittendreich. She married John Tyrie of Busbie.⁶⁰³
- 2) Christian, mentioned with her sister Helen above and described as lawful daughter of deceased Thomas Blair of Pittendreich, had her testament registered by the Commissariat of Edinburgh on 27 Oct 1779.

Thomas was designed of Lethendy when he was commissioned a Lieutenant in the Perthshire Militia on 3 September 1668. He served in that rank from 1673 to 1679 designed "of Pittendreich."⁶⁰⁴ Several transactions were made with his brother Mr John. At Perth on 26 July 1682 in the presence of James Blair of Lethendy and Mr David Young, minister there, Thomas Blair of Pittendreich signed a bond for £545 in favour of Mr John Blair, minister of Kilspindie and his wife. James Blair of Lethendy joined with Thomas on 19 March 1685 in making a further bond to Mr John Blair in a pension out of the lands of Pittendreich.⁶⁰⁵

Blair of Glasclune

The Blair association with the lands and castle of Glasclune came at a relatively late date. In earlier times, the families of Hering of Glasclune and Chalmer of Drumlochy were lairds of this

⁵⁹⁸ Perthshire Sasines 22 Dec 1657

⁵⁹⁹ Deeds 1673 Dur 33 700

⁶⁰⁰ Perth Retours no 680

⁶⁰¹ Comm of Dunkeld 13 Mar 1688

⁶⁰² Reg Of Deeds of Perthshire Sheriff Court, 24 Sep 1688

⁶⁰³ Reg of Deeds 1707 RD4/100 fo 695

⁶⁰⁴ Military History of Perthshire 1660-1902

⁶⁰⁵ Reg Of Deeds of Perthshire Sheriff Court, 4 Jul 1693

area just north west of Blairgowrie.

The first Blair laird of Glasclune appears to be James Blair son of John Blair of Pittendreich and brother german of Mr George Blair of Pittendreich. He is designed "of Glasclune" on 23 February 1666.⁶⁰⁶ James and his spouse Isobel Tyrie took sasine of the lands on 8 September 1670 proceeding on a Crown Charter.⁶⁰⁷ It is believed that they had issue but that Glasclune was purchased from them by their nephew, George Blair.

Mr George Blair of Lethendy (1615c - 1682c)

His Arms: Argent on a chevron Sable betwixt three torteaux a martlet of the first becked and membered gules.

Motto: Nec Temere Nec Timide

George was a younger son of John Blair of Pittendreich.

Mr Donald, George and Patrick sons of John Blair of Pittendreich were witnesses to the sale of a portion of Middle Mawes on 30 August 1632.⁶⁰⁸ George appears to have had a University education and gained a Masters degree after 1632. He became a successful merchant in Dundee and having earned considerable profits, he purchased Garrock by which he was first designed and then the estate of Lethendy, Perthshire. By the early 1660's he was described "of Pittendreich." For some years he was chamberlain or factor to the Earl of Queensberry.

George married Eupham, a daughter of Dr Blair of the family of Balgillo by his spouse, a daughter of John Scrymgeour of Kirkton.

George and Eupham, or Effie as she was known, had four sons and two daughters:

- 1) James his heir in the title of Lethendy
- 2) George baptised at Dundee on 5 October 1668. This George was a successful business-man and appears to have purchased Glasclune from his uncle. He died without issue about 1697.
- 3) John baptised at Dundee on 1 February 1670. He was heir to his brother.
- 4) Patrick, possibly born about 1672, was an eminent physician trained in Flanders, practising initially in Dundee and Coupar Angus and later at Boston, in England. His wife was Elspeth Whyte whom he married in April 1702. They had two sons, John and Harry and two daughters Isabel and Elizabeth. John died young. Patrick was an reluctant Jacobite surgeon in the 1715 Rising. On his capture, his estate was forfeited. At this, Elspeth Whyte submitted a claim for herself and children, Harry, Isobel and Elizabeth for 13000 merks which she had brought in her marriage contract. Dr Patrick died in January 1728 and was survived by his daughters who were both alive in July 1738. His daughter Isabel Blair died in March 1745.⁶⁰⁹ See also An Eminent Physician and Botanist: Dr Patrick Blair 1672c -1728.
- 5) Margaret who married to the Reverend Mr Henry Chrystie minister of Kinross where he was presented in 1679. Ten years later he was deprived for his Jacobite views, as he neither read the proclamation of the Estates nor prayed for William and Mary, but for the restoration of James VII and "confusion to his enemies". They had a son who lived sometime with his uncle Dr Patrick Blair in Dundee and who about 1709 went abroad to study

⁶⁰⁶ Bamff Charters No 276

⁶⁰⁷ Perth Sasines Vol 4 fol 414 registered 24 Oct 1670

⁶⁰⁸ Perth Sasines 3 Oct 1632

⁶⁰⁹ Comm of St Andrews Test 31 Jan 1750

uncle Dr Patrick Blair in Dundee and who about 1709 went abroad to study Pharmacy and Surgery.⁶¹⁰

- 6) Jean baptised at Dundee on 26 July 1667. She married John Patullo of Kinochtrie, her second cousin. The marriage appears to have been agreed while she was still a child, the bond being registered in 1676.⁶¹¹

Mr George Blair of Pittendreich was admitted a guild brother of Dundee on 29 May 1668.⁶¹² On 5 April 1678, Mr George made a bond in favour of David Tyrie of Colluthie to provide a pension of 108 merks uplifted annually from the lands of Lethendy.⁶¹³

Master George Blair died about 1682. His last will was made on 6 March 1682 and the testament was registered in the Commissariat of Dunkeld on 17 February 1683. Eupham Blair survived her husband and was alive in December 1686 when she was described as Lady Lethendy in the will of David Young, minister of Dunkeld.⁶¹⁴

James Blair of Lethendy and Glasclune (1650c - 1701c)

James was retoured in the lands of Lethendy on 4 May 1686 as heir to his father.

On 9 January 1698, he was served heir conquest of his closest brother, George the second born son of Master George Blair of Lethendy.

James married Marjory, a daughter of Mr Nathan Fife, advocate, Sheriff of Perth and they had only one daughter:

- 1) Marjory who married Hector Mackenzie, brother of George Mackenzie of Inchculter.

When James Blair of Lethendy granted a charter of confirmation in favour of Mr Thomas Crichton in the lands of Tomhorne and others within the barony of Glasclune on 3 April 1685, his mother Eupham was a witness.⁶¹⁵

As the estate of Glasclune was a male entail, on the death of James about 1701, it was inherited by his brother John.⁶¹⁶

John Blair (1655c - 1742c)

John Blair of Glasclune was retoured heir to his brother, James, on 16 May 1702.

He married Agnes, a daughter of Mr Thomas Fotheringham of Ballenden. John had issue:

- 1) Thomas, his heir
- 2) Eupham described as eldest daughter in her testament which was registered on 20 April 1760 in the Commissariat of Dunkeld.
- 3) Margaret who married Mr Henry Christie, minister of Kinross.
- 4) Agnes who married Captain Robert Patullo of Kinnochtrie

At Dundee on 4 June 1703, John was the principal godfather of John Blair, the first son of his brother Mr Patrick Blair surgeon apothecary in Dundee.

⁶¹⁰ Dundee University Archive, MS67/1/11 Patrick Blair's letter to nephew 23 Feb 1710

⁶¹¹ Deeds 1676

⁶¹² Dundee Lockit Book

⁶¹³ Perth Sasines 11 Mar 1679

⁶¹⁴ Comm of Dunkeld 13 Mar 1688

⁶¹⁵ Perthshire Sasines 25 May 1685

⁶¹⁶ Commissariat of Dunkeld Testament registered 22 Mar 1701

The first Jacobite Rising had already taken place some 12 years before John assumed the lairdship and in a similar space of time the 1715 Rising followed in favour of the restoration of the Stuart Dynasty. It was soon crushed and many of its supporters were to pay dearly for it. John was a Major in Nairne's Battalion at Preston when taken prisoner.⁶¹⁷ In 1716, he was convicted of treason and his lands were forfeited and seized by the Crown.

In 1724, John McKewan purchased Glasclune from the State and later that same year sold it on to Alexander Christie. After a short tenure, Alexander sold Glasclune to Thomas Blair, the eldest son of John Blair and thus the lands were restored to the family in 1728.

Thomas was seised in the lands of Glasclune in November 1728 but the charter contained many provisions in favour of his father and mother.⁶¹⁸ John Blair continued to be described as "of Glasclune". He acted as arbiter on 20 May 1732 in a dispute over the draining of Rae Loch.⁶¹⁹ When the Presbytery visited the Parish of Kinloch on 24 January 1738, the meeting in the manse was attended by the heritors who included John Blair of Glasclune and his son.

John Blair died about 1742.⁶²⁰ His widow, Agnes Fotheringham was still alive in 1776.

Thomas Blair (1700c - 1760c)

Thomas was a successful merchant in Dundee and was able to recover the estate for his family in 1728. He inherited the estate of Glasclune on the death of his father about 1740.

He married Isabel, a daughter of George Dempster of Dunnichen.

They had a son:

- 1) George, his heir

On the death in England of his uncle, Dr Patrick Blair in January 1728, Thomas was appointed the sole executor dative.

Thomas was a strong sympathiser of the Jacobites. He played a very active role in raising men for the 1745 Campaign and was a Lieutenant Colonel of the 1st Battalion of Lord Ogilvy's Regiment in that army. He took part in the invasion of England and was on the field at the Battles of Falkirk and Culloden. During the retreat in February 1746, at Blair Atholl the Fiery Cross was sent round but very few recruits answered the call. Thomas Blair as Lieutenant Colonel of the Atholl Brigade then took punitive action yet could only force out 200 recruits for the Prince by cruelly burning houses.⁶²¹ After the defeat in April 1746, the Regiment marched south and was disbanded at Clova. There, Lord Ogilvy with a few companions, including Thomas, lurked for a time while a vessel was secretly hired at Dundee. They made their escape by boat from Broughty and sailed to Norway where the authorities seized and imprisoned them in Bergen, probably at English instigation. They were soon released and made for France where Thomas Blair was granted £1000 by the King to assist his relocation there. He remained active in the Jacobite Party in France for many years and settled as a merchant in Dunkirk. He died about 1771.⁶²²

Isabel Dempster survived her husband. She died on 13 December 1772.⁶²³

617 A Military History of Perthshire, Chronicles of Atholl and Tullibardine

618 Perth Sasines Vol 20 fol 130

619 Perth Sasines Vol 20 fol 437

620 Commissariat of Dunkeld testament registered 14 Oct 1742

621 Military History of Perthshire 1660 - 1902

622 Comm of Edinburgh test reg 15 Nov 1771

623 Scots Magazine: December 1772

George Blair of Adamston

George Blair of Adamston inherited the estate of Glasclune. He was served heir to his father Thomas Blair of Glasclune on 16 January 1788.⁶²⁴

Blair of Denhead

Denhead lies just to the north of Coupar Angus and Ardler and on the south of the River Isla. The lands of Ardler were anciently a major holding of Blair of Balthayock but the proximity to Balmyle and Balgillo suggests that the lands may have come under one of those cadets. The family owned Wester Denhead by which title they were more properly designed.

Alexander Blair of Denhead (1580c - 1617c)

Alexander of Denhead appears to have been closely related to William Blair of Balgillo and also to his wife, Jean Blair the relict of Alexander Blair of Balmyle, heir apparent of Balthayock. Most probably he was one of their younger sons, Alexander described as brother of John in December 1599 when ordered into ward in Blackness Castle with his elder brothers. About 1600, he married Grisel Hutton, neice of John Blair of Melginch and was portioner of Balbrogie.⁶²⁵ It was probably the same Alexander who later was designed "of Wester Denhead". Alexander was witness in 1615, when William Blair of Balgillo sold the lands of Muirhead, Mill of Criggie and others there to Sir Robert Graham of Morpie.⁶²⁶

Alexander had a son and daughter:

- 1) Patrick his heir apparent
- 2) Jean who married John the son and heir of John Blair of Pittendreich in 1627.⁶²⁷

Alexander died in the period 1615 - 1617 leaving young family.⁶²⁸

Patrick Blair (1606c - 1660c)

As Patrick Blair the son and heir was still a minor at the time of the deceased of his father, Alexander of Wester Denhead, Peter Blair brother to William Blair of Balgillo was appointed his curator.⁶²⁹ Patrick was served heir general to his father on 10 February 1627.⁶³⁰ He was assessed at £235 for his lands of Wester Denhead in the parish of Coupar in the 1650 "Rentall of Perthshyre". Patrick married Elizabeth or Elspeth Guthrie and had issue.⁶³¹

Henry Blair of Newtonhill and Wester Denhead (1640c -)

Henry or Harry was the son and heir of Patrick Blair.⁶³² Henry was described "of Wester Denhead" by 1661⁶³³ and also designed of Newtonhill when, on 4 November 1687, he was served heir to his grandfather Alexander Blair of Wester Denhead.⁶³⁴ Henry married Agnes Campbell and was described "of Wester Denhead" when their son Patrick was baptised at Kettins on 10 July 1675. He may be the same as Henry described as "nephew of Sir John Blair of Balgillo" in a

624 Services of Heirs in Scotland Vol ii

625 Perth Sasines RS52 I 27 and RS52 5 549

626 R M S Vol vii 1205

627 Laing Charters Chtrr 2009

628 Comm of St Andrews Test 27 Aug 1617

629 RMS Vol ix 1295

630 Inquisitiones Generales No 1320

631 Deeds 1663, Mack 8 729 and 1668 Dal 22 98

632 Deeds 1663

633 Deeds 1661, Dur 3 87

634 Perth Retours 966

deed registered 16 July 1668.⁶³⁵ Based on the evidence put forward here, the relationship would have been grand-nephew.

Blair of Over Durdie

Arms : Argent a chevron invected sable betwixt three torteaux.

Motto: Virtute Tutus

The arms and motto show a close affinity to the house of Balthayock. The lands of Over Durdie lie to the east of Balthayock in the parish of Kilspindie.

Laurence Blair of Melginch and of Over Durdie (1580c - 1645c)

The progenitor was Laurence Blair youngest son of Alexander Blair of Balthayock and Giles Mercer, born about 1580. Laurence purchased the lands of Bauchlandlatch, commonly known as Overton of Friarton etc. in a charter dated at Friarton 31 December 1598.⁶³⁶ Briefly was known as Laurence Blair of Melginch, having purchased the lands in 1607 from John Mercer of Melginch.⁶³⁷ He disposed of Melginch to the Duke of Perth in 1608.⁶³⁸ He renounced his wadset of the mill and lands of Cults on 10 June 1606.⁶³⁹

Laurence married Agnes Ayton.⁶⁴⁰ He had sons:

- 1) Major Patrick Blair sometime of Over Durdie and of Dunkenny and Essie
- 2) Laurence Blair of Over Durdie

Laurence survived his wife who died about 1618.⁶⁴¹ He was witness to his grandnephew's charter at Balthayock on 29 November 1632.⁶⁴² Laurence possibly lived in Durdie about this time,⁶⁴³ and was designed "of Over Durdie" when he gave sasine to Thomas Blair of Tarsappie and his spouse Margaret Blair.⁶⁴⁴ She was niece to Laurence. He was living in Perth in 1643 when he was given a nine year tack of Cults on 29 May and later on 16 December at the time of his son's marriage contract. This is the latest mention of Laurence and it is assumed he died in the mid- 1640's.⁶⁴⁵

Major Patrick Blair of Dunkenny (1610c - 1677)

Major Patrick Blair made a contract of marriage with Agnes Bruce, daughter of Sir Robert Bruce of Clackmannan on 16 December 1643.⁶⁴⁶

In April 1657, Patrick Blair of Dunkenny agreed a contract of wadset whereby for a sum of money lent to him by Andrew Ayton of Kinglessie, an advocate, he agreed to pay 300 merks annually secured upon the lands of Kirkton of Essie.⁶⁴⁷ Later that year on 14 June, Patrick set a tack to lease the lands of Over Durdie and its teinds to John Mercer.⁶⁴⁸

For the trial of James Marshall at Glamis for murder of Alexander Steven in Forfar, a commission of justiciary was given to Patrick on 6 September 1661.⁶⁴⁹

635 Deeds 1668, Mack 22 80

636 R M S Vol vi, 1126

637 Fife & Kinross Sasines

638 RMS Vol vii 32

639 Balthayock Charters 330

640 R M S Vol vii 32

641 Comm of St Andrews, Testament 1 May 1618

642 R M S Vol ix 664

643 Kinfauns OPR, 31 Oct 1626

644 RMS Vol vi 1681

645 Balthayock Charters 414

646 Balthayock Charters 415

647 Balthayock Charters 469 and 470

648 Balthayock Charters 473

649 RSC Vol I Third Series

In October 1670, Sir Alexander Blair of Balthayock and his son Thomas made a back bond obliging them to denude themselves of the lands of Over Durdie. The following year, on 20 November 1671, Patrick entered into a contract with his nephew, James Blair, of an annual rent of the lands of Essie. It seems that he had other business contracts with kinsmen for on 19 November 1677, an assignation was made in favour of John Arbuthnot of Fiddes and Helen Bruce his spouse who was daughter of Major George Bruce, brother to Patrick's wife. Patrick died without issue about the end of 1677, his heir being his brother, Laurence.⁶⁵⁰

Laurence Blair of Over Durdie. (1615c - 1690c)

Laurence, the brother german and heir of Major Patrick Blair, was designed of Over Durdie by 15 November 1653 when he made a prenuptial contract with his future wife, Janet Turnbull to provide her with a pension of 350 merks furth of the lands of Over Durdie. Janet was probably only entering her teens at the time. They married at Kilspindie on 6 November 1659 and in accordance with their contract of marriage drawn up the following week on 14 November, Janet was infeft in the lands of Over Durdie.⁶⁵¹

They had issue:

- 1) Thomas described as eldest son of Laurence on 30 April 1679 when with his father and Sir Alexander Blair of Balthayock a bond of provision was granted to Janet Turnbull.⁶⁵²
- 2) James described as nephew to Major Patrick when he had an annual rent out of Essie.
- 3) Helen described as lawful daughter to the deceased Laurence in her testament registered on 8 September 1694.

Laurence was retoured heir to his brother german Major Patrick Blair of Essie on 5 June 1678.⁶⁵³ The lands of Over Durdie were recovered by the house of Balthayock when Thomas Blair of Balthayock took sasine of Over Durdie on 1 May 1694 following upon a precept dated 4 February 1688.

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Blair of Melginch

The lands of Melginch lie four and a half miles due north of Balthayock and to the east of the parish Kirk of St. Martins which was properly called the Kirk of Melginch in former times.⁶⁵⁴

Patrick Blair of Melginch (1435c - 1484c)

Patrick was admitted to Perth Guild on 12 August 1463 by payment of five merks and as burges of Perth was granted by David earl of Crawford, the lands of Melginch on 6 April 1467. Although evidence of his relationship is lacking in these records, it appears that Patrick was a younger son of Patrick Blair heir apparent of Balthayock by his spouse Christian Ogilvy. An entail of 1542 shows Blair of Melginch placed before Blair of Balgillo who are ahead of the Ardblair branch. Thus this placing of Patrick here is in keeping with the order. Patrick died in or before 1478.

Thomas Blair (1460c - 1495c)

Thomas Blair of Melginch was admitted burges and to the Guild gratis on 6 February 1483/4. The free entry implies that he was son of the former burges laird of Melginch and the name

⁶⁵⁰ Perth Retours

⁶⁵¹ Kilspindie OPR and Balthayock Charters 482 and 483

⁶⁵² Register of Deeds of Perthshire Sheriff Court, 23 Jul 1688

⁶⁵³ Inquisitiones Generales no 6080

⁶⁵⁴ RSS Vol vi 700

would be in keeping as a gt-grandson of Thomas Blair of Balthayock. He is described as "in Melginch" in a charter to Thomas Maule of Panmure in August 1478.⁶⁵⁵

When David Blair of Bendochy and his spouse purchased the lands of Balgillo from Alexander Blair of Balthayock by a contract made at Balthayock on 3 February 1489/90, Thomas Blair in Melginch, was one of the witnesses.

Patrick Blair (1485c - 1515)

The Patrick Blair of Melginch who died on 6 January 1514/15 leaving a widow and children was probably grandson of the above Patrick and son of Thomas.⁶⁵⁶

It appears that his children may have included:

- 1) John his heir
- 2) Janet? It is not discovered to whom Alexander Blair of Balmyle married but she may have been Janet Blair, who may have been a daughter of Patrick Blair of Melginch based on the following evidence: On 13 August 1547, Janet Blair, Lady Balmyle was assigned by John Blair of Melginch parts of the lands of Balmyle.⁶⁵⁷ This John Blair was son and heir of the deceased John Blair of Melginch who on 2 July 1532 at Edinburgh was granted a gift by King James V of the mails and duties of the two parts of the lands of Balmyle which were in the King's hands due to nonentry since the decease of John, Earl of Crawford and until the lawful heir came of age.⁶⁵⁸

John Blair (1510c - 1545c)

Patrick's heir was still a child in 1515. He was John Blair of Melginch who received a gift of non-entries of his superior from King James V in 1532.

John married and had issue:

- 1) John his heir
- 2) Daughter who married ? Huton and who had a daughter Grisel spouse to Alexander Blair, son of William Blair of Balgillo.⁶⁵⁹

An assize on 5 May 1539 regarding William Moncreiff of that Ilk and part of the lands of Gorthy was headed by Thomas Blair and included John Moncur of Ballnay and John Blair of Melginch. He died before 1547 when his son John was his heir. See above under his father.

John Blair (1530c - 1600c)

This laird appears to be the son of John Blair mentioned in the 1542 entail of Balthayock. (See Appendix I) He was laird by 13 August 1547 as explained above.

This John Blair appears to have had issue:

- 1) John his heir
- 2) Janet who was contracted on 13 December 1589 to marry John Ireland, nephew of John Ireland of Parkhead and his spouse Margaret Blair.⁶⁶⁰ John Ireland senior and Margaret Blair had a feu charter of Parkhead on 19 December 1584 but he had deceased by 1589.⁶⁶¹ Margaret Blair died about 1599.

An assize sat on 8 July 1564 for the trial of Andrew Ramsay, a burges of Perth who was accused with others of attacking and wounding a servant of the laird of Craigie on the South Inch in January 1562. Alexander Blair of Balthayock headed this assize which included as members John Blair of

655 R M S Vol ii, chtr 2207

656 Rentale Dunkeldense

657 Balthayock Charters 113

658 Balthayock Charters 76

659 Perth Sasines RS52 I 16

660 RMS Vol v 1272

661 RSS Vol viii 2694 and Liber Ecclesie S Trinitatis de Scon

Melginch and Alexander Blair of Friarton.⁶⁶²

John Blair of Melginch is mentioned in a contract of 11 January 1594/5 along with Thomas Halyburton in Gairdrum and Patrick Whytsand alias Laird.⁶⁶³

It appears that John sold Melginch for in the early 1600's John Mercer was designed of Melginch.

In turn Mercer sold Melginch to Laurence Blair and Agnes Ayton in 1607. Laurence disposed of these lands within a year. {See Blair of Over Durdie}

By 1650, the lands of Melginch and Balgray were in the hands of John Mercer of Melginch.

Blair of Balgray

The lands of Balgray lie just north of Balbeggie and were disjoined and far from their parish church of Kinnoull yet only a short distance to St. Martins. In old writings the name appears in versions of Bagraw and Bagra.

The origins of the Blair families of Balgray, Friarton and Gairdrum are not yet fully determined. In the 1542 Entail of Balthayock, Blair of Balgray was penult, between Blair of Auchterlyth and Blair in Peattie. The Balthayock entail implies that Balgray was the senior branch of this group. There was a close family link between the Balgray and Friarton Blair families as the Friarton entail of 1566 indicates. (See Appendix ii). Their lands placed them as subjects of the Monastery of Scone but the association appears to have been even stronger for the family considered themselves to be "Blairs of the Monastery of Scone" and some held the office of chamberlain there. Located as they are between Balthayock and Ardblair it was inevitable that their transactions would be with both families.

James Blair of Balgray (1450c - 1510c)

James Blair of "Bagraw" and his spouse, Margaret, gave sasine on 28 July 1504 of the lands of Meadowlands of Ardblair (or Ardler?) to their son David following on from a letter of Bailiary by James. James died before 1516. It is hypothesised that James may have been a younger son of Patrick Blair apparent of Balthayock and Christian Ogilvy.

David Blair (1480c - 1545c)

Little is known of David Blair but he is the penultimate named in the Balthayock entail of 1542 showing that he was live at 10 June 1542 and that his relationship to the family of Blair of Balthayock came from a distant time. He probably had sons:

- 1) Alexander his heir.
- 2) James described as brother german of Alexander Blair of Balgray in 1568. He was similarly described in an entail of the Blairs of Friarton when he was placed ahead of his elder brother Alexander.⁶⁶⁴ As James travelled abroad, he may have been a merchant.

When Michael Tullos gave sasine on 4 January 1515/6 to William Bonar son of the late John Bonnar of Rossy in parts of the lands of Cairnbadie, Perthshire and lands of Newton and Balgersho, Forfarshire (sic), the principal witness was David Blair of "Bagraw".⁶⁶⁵ There were to be close links between the Bonar lairds of Balgersho and Blair lairds of Balgray for many years following. David died in the mid-1540's.

⁶⁶² Pitcairn, Criminal Trials, Vol 1 Pt 1 p452

⁶⁶³ Perth Deeds B59/8/6

⁶⁶⁴ RMS Vol v 763

⁶⁶⁵ Calendar of Charters RH6 837

Alexander Blair (1510c - 1577c)

Alexander married Isabel Merser, daughter of Laurence Mercer of Meikleour, and in right of his wife was admitted burghess of Perth on 27 July 1547 on payment of 40s.

They had sons :

- 1) Alexander his heir
- 2) William (Dutch William), described as younger son of deceased Alexander Blair of Balgray when admitted burghess of Perth on 6 September 1596.⁶⁶⁶ He probably married Margaret Anderson who died about 1606. On 20 September 1598, his brother stood caution of 1000 merks for him not to harm Silvester Chapman in Kinclaven.⁶⁶⁷ His brother, Alexander of Balgray represented him in March 1610 when William brought an action against William Gray of Bandirran for failing to honour a contract to infest him in the lands of North Bandirran. As a merchant burghess, he probably traded regularly with Holland for he was known in Perth as "Dutch William." In June 1611, William Blair of Tarsappie encountered Dutch William at the old city gate known as the South Inch Port. There a noisy affray commenced between them and continued into town. This attracted a number of Perth inhabitants who came bearing arms to interpose. Among them, a baker boy who held some grudge against Dutch William took the opportunity to wound him. Subsequently, the provost and bailies arrested William of Tarsappie and locked him in the tolbooth, although it was known that the baker boy had caused the injury. Tarsappie raised a complaint for wrongful detention by the town officials. However, on 2 July 1611, David Sibbald, one of the burghesses of Perth appeared before the Lords of Council, who on hearing the evidence, exonerated the provost and bailies. William Blair of Tarsappie was ordered to Edinburgh Castle to await trial for his part in hurting Dutch William, burghess Sibbald being instructed to convey him there. For his involvement, on 19th July, the laird of Tarsappie was placed on bail of 2000 merks.

A contract of marriage dated 5 January 1552 in the Balthayock muniments records that Christian Blair daughter of Thomas Blair of Balthayock was to marry Alexander Blair, son of William Blair of Balgray. The names and circumstances do not align with this research but are noted here for further investigation. It may be that it was a unfulfilled contract made when the parties were infants. An interesting assembly took place in the kirkyard of Bennathie in September 1566, when Alexander Blair of Balgray appeared before Sir George Haliburton of Pitcur and his friends to confess that he had no title either by writ or promise of Sir George to the teind sheaves of the parish of Melginch called St. Martins Kirk. Sir George then set the tack of these to Thomas Maule of Panmure, Andrew Mercer apparent of Meikleour, John Blair apparent of Balgillo and Alexander Blair of Friarton. The witnesses there included John Cargill, James Small in Kettins, his son Andrew Small and Andrew Blair of Balgersho.⁶⁶⁸ These Smalls were Blair kinsmen. (See Blair of Balgillo).

Along with his neighbour, Alexander Blair of Friarton, Alexander made a contract with his brother, James. Due to failure to honour this, a number of sheep were confiscated from him by the Crown and gifted to his brother on 3 March 1567/8.⁶⁶⁹ Alexander had a nineteen-year tack or lease of the teinds of the kirk of St Martins which was properly known at that time as the Kirk of Melginch. His

⁶⁶⁶ Perth Guildry Record Book
⁶⁶⁷ RPC Vol v

⁶⁶⁸ Calendar of Charters RH6 2058

⁶⁶⁹ RSS Vol vi 187

financial problems continued from the above case with his brother, for some eighteen months later on 2 August 1569 at Perth, he was put to the horn and the tack was confiscated and gifted to Adam, Bishop of Orkney.⁶⁷⁰ Perhaps, his brother was a merchant for on 13 June 1575, Alexander gave surety for his brother while abroad.⁶⁷¹ Alexander died about 1577.⁶⁷²

Alexander Blair (1550c - 1615c)

It was not until 6 September 1596 that Alexander as son and heir of the deceased Alexander Blair of Balgray was admitted burghess of Perth as entered in the Guildry records.

Alexander married and had a son:

- 1) Alexander his heir

There was a close affinity between this laird and his neighbour Bonar of Balgersho.

When Alexander Bonar of Balgersho placed £500 in caution on 6 February 1588/9, William Bonar of Rossie, Alexander Blair of Balgray and several other Bonars were held not to harm Dame Dorothy Stewart, Countess of Gowrie, or her tenants and servants. A month later, the same placed 500 merks in caution for Alexander Blair that he and John Berry in Rait would not harm John Christie in Abernyte. This was followed on 27 May when Alexander placed 1000 merks in caution that Robert Crichton of Innernytie would not harm Margaret Craig spouse of the late Donald Bryson sometime of the Mill of Innernytie.⁶⁷³

A local dispute arose in 1590 about a mile north of Old Scone in a place called Scones Lethendy. Thomas Grant, living there, was a rather disreputable character described by the minister as an insolent blasphemous man who did not attend church but worked on the Sabbath. Thomas so upset his neighbours that Edward Abercromby, Silvester Chapman, William Sydie, Patrick Blair, David and Robert his brothers all at Scones Lethendy and Alexander Blair at Innerbuist chased Thomas and his sons, Andrew aged 12 and William aged 7 to the fear of their lives. The above named neighbours were cautioned on 4 November 1590 not to cause any harm to Thomas and surety of 300 merks each was put up by Alexander Blair of Balgray and John Crichton of Invernnytie. A year later, at Stobhall on 4 December 1591 each of the parties were ordered to make a bond of 500 merks to maintain the peace.⁶⁷⁴ There may be some close kinship between the various Blair families mentioned. Alexander Blair at Innerbuist may have been a son or grandson of Helen Scott who had a fee of an eighteenth part of Innerbuist from Scone Abbey on 16 March 1585/6 by which time her husband Andrew Blair and their son William were both deceased.⁶⁷⁵

The two main cautioners for the 1590 incident were to become involved in a more serious affray themselves. His motives are not clear, but on 19 September 1599, Alexander Blair of Balgray assailed John Crichton of Invernnytie on the highway and fired hagbuts and pistols at him. For this he stood trial on 29 December 1599.⁶⁷⁶

A dispute also arose between the Blairs and the above mentioned Silvester Chapman who in 1598 lived in Kinclaven. The Privy Council on 20 and 22 September ordered a whole list of Blairs to find caution not to harm Silvester Chapman. The main providers of surety for this were Alexander Blair of Balgray and William Blair of Balgillo. Besides these, those cautioned included Alexander Blair of Balthayock, his grandson Alexander and brother Laurence in the Balgillo party. Under Balgray

670 RSS Vol vi 700

671 RSC Vol ii

672 Comm of Edinburgh Test reg 6 Feb 1577/8

673 RSC

674 RSC Vol iv

675 Liber Ecclesie S Trinitatis de Scon

676 Pitcairn, Criminal Trials Vol ii

came his brother William, Leonard Blair of Balgersho, Alexander Blair fiar of Friarton, Patrick Blair portioner of Lethendy and David Blair portioner of Innerbuist.

Alexander was chancellor of two assizes in 1607 and was witness to a charter at Kinclaven Castle that same year.⁶⁷⁷

At Dundee on 11 July 1609, with the consent of James Bonar of Rossie, Alexander Blair and his son and heir apparent, Alexander, sold to James Blair, burgess of Perth, the north half of Ballathie and the nearby Starry Wood in Kinclaven.⁶⁷⁸ The lairds of Balthayock and Ardblair witnessed this contract as did the heir apparent of Balgillo, showing the close affinity of these old families.

In March 1610, Alexander represented his brother, William who pursued a charge against William Gray of Bandirran. Alexander also appeared as a defender that month in a case brought by Gilbert Robertson of Newbigging who claimed that Alexander had failed to pay a court order of £160 plus £50 expenses from two months before. Also that year and in January 1611, Alexander and his son, together with Andrew Blair of Gairdrum, stood surety for Alexander Blair in Nether Collace who was put on trial for false accusation of Harry Freeland. {See under Blair of Gairdrum.} As this involved a massive bond of £10,000 surety it would appear that Andrew Blair of Gairdrum and Alexander Blair in Nether Collace were close kinsmen of Balgray.

Alexander Blair (1585c - 1630c)

Little has been traced of this son of Alexander of Balgray. As mentioned previously, by 1650, the lands of Balgray were owned by John Merser of Melginch.

Blair of Friarton

The lands of Friarton are just to the west of the parish church of St. Martins but were in the parish of Scone.

Andrew Blair (1500c - 1557c)

According to Douglas, Andrew Blair married Agnes a daughter of William Smith of Braco and that they had a son William who in 1557 named his brother uterine, Patrick Smith of Braco his sole Curator. It would appear that both Andrew and Agnes had been previously married, William being her third son. Presumably by his earlier marriage Andrew's eldest surviving son was Alexander.

Alexander Blair (1520c - 1583c)

Alexander Blair married Janet Kincaigie, widow of David Lindsay, probably about 1540 and they had sons:

- 1) Andrew his heir
- 2) George described as brother german of Andrew in the entail of Friarton dated 1 November 1566. {See Appendix ii}

Janet came with children by her first husband. Their marriage fell short of domestic bliss. A messenger came from Edinburgh on 10 September 1567 carrying a summons for Alexander Blair of Friarton and others to appear before the Privy Council.⁶⁷⁹ On 28 December 1567, Alexander Blair of Balthayock and George Drummond of Blair stood surety of 500 merks that Alexander Blair of Friarton in future would do nothing to harm his spouse Janet Kincaigie and that he would take her back to their house and treat her as an honest man does his wife. He was also to pay her £16 compensation to provide for the bairns by her first husband.⁶⁸⁰

677 RMS Vol vi 2044 and 2087
678 RMS Vol vii 357

679 Accounts of Lord High Treasurer of Scotland 1571-1574
680 RSC Vol i

In 1564, Alexander was a member of an assize with Alexander Blair of Balthayock and John Blair of Melginch. He was admitted freely as a burges of Dundee 27 November 1565.⁶⁸¹

Alexander Blair was chamberlain to the Abbey of Scone and appears frequently in this office in charters through the 1560's up to 1574 but by the following year had lost this office probably through mismanagement. Alexander Erskine of Gogar raised an action against him for non-payment of money from the Abbey due at Martinmas 1574 to the ministry and provost of Dundee and for non-payment to the canons of the abbey for several years past. Alexander Blair was found guilty and his confiscated goods were gifted on 26 August 1575 to Edward Young, servitor of William lord Ruthven.⁶⁸²

On Christmas Day 1581, Alexander was gifted the goods of Elizabeth Kinnair at the Mill of Newtyle when she failed to move from the £5 toft of Hatton of Newtyle.⁶⁸³

Andrew Blair (1545c - 1601c)

Andrew married Helen Snell and they had sons:

- 1) Alexander his heir
- 2) William described as younger son in the Guildry Record Book when he WAS admitted burges of Perth on 6 September 1596.

Andrew had a precept of a charter on 30 Nov 1584.⁶⁸⁴

On the last day of 1600 at Holyrood, confirmation was made of a charter of Andrew Blair of Friarton and Alexander, his eldest son and heir with the consent of their wives, for the sale of the lands of Bauchlandlatch otherwise known as Overton of Friarton and the lands called Wardley to Laurence Blair son of Alexander Blair of Balthayock and Egidia Merser.⁶⁸⁵
Andrew died about 1601.

Alexander Blair (1575c - 1620c)

Alexander married Christine Cairncross. He was described as Fiar of Friarton on 20 September 1598 when cautioned of 1000 merks with others not to harm Silvester Chapman in Kinclaven. By March 1601 he was described as "of Friarton."

Thomas Allarton of Lochton complained to the Lords of Council that Alexander Blair of Friarton, Patrick Blair in Friarton, David Blair in Scone, Alexander Blair of Balgray, Patrick Blair in Lethendy and John and Gilbert Young there had long oppressed him. In particular he claimed that the lairds of Balgray and Friarton had attacked him on 7 September 1599 while in his own harvest field. He had fled for safety but they returned at night armed with spears, halberds and swords and let out his sheep on his corn. He claimed that on the following Sunday they drove all the animals over from Lethendy on to his crops and destroyed 50 threaves of oats and 40 of bear.

In November they waylaid his son, Robert Allarton and wounded him in the head with a whinger (short sword). Thereafter they continued to harass the Allarton family. Both parties appeared before the Lords of Council on 5 March 1601 when many witnessed were called. The pursuer failed to prove his allegations and the Blair defenders were acquitted. In the early 1600's, this Alexander disposed of the property and was described as "sometime Fiar of Friarton" on 22 Nov 1605.⁶⁸⁶

681 Dundee City Archives. The Lockit Book of Dundee

682 RSS Vol vii 272

683 RSS Vol viii, 607

684 RSS viii 2610 and RMS v 763

685 RMS Vol vi 1126

686 Perth Sasines RS52 4 289

Thereafter Alexander and his wife Christian Cairncross were tenants in Lethendie.⁶⁸⁷

Blair of Gairdrum

It is not discovered to which family the lairds of Gairdrum form a cadet. The lands of Friarton and Gairdrum are within the parish of Scone but are remote from the parish church there. These lands, formerly described as in the Stewartry of Huntingtower, are very close to the parish church of St. Martins.

George Blair of Gairdrum (1520c - 1578c)

An early laird of Gairdrum was George Blair who married Janet Anderson.

They had issue:

- 1) Alexander who was heir to Gairdrum
- 2) Andrew who was portioner of two parts of Lethendy and also of the lands of Gairdrum. He married Eupham Ogilvy shortly after 21 April 1586.⁶⁸⁸ Andrew appears to have died before mid 1604. They had a son: Patrick who was heir to his father and to his uncle. Patrick was cautioned on 20 September 1598 not to harm Silvester Chapman. This Patrick, portioner of Lethendy, married Katherine Abercrombie⁶⁸⁹ before July 1606 and had a son Peter, who is the last named in the entail of Mr James Blair of Newbigging dated 1658. {See Appendix iii}

George Blair described as "in Gairdrum" had the gift of the escheat of Robert Wallace in Balcraig on 7 February 1554/5.⁶⁹⁰ He acquired from Andrew Moncur of Balmaw, half of the half lands of Balmaw that William Laing occupied.⁶⁹¹

Janet died in or before 1577 and George appears to have died sometime later.⁶⁹²

Alexander Blair (1545c - 1591c)

Alexander appears to have been the heir of George. He was laird by 21 June 1579 when he made a contract with his brother, Andrew Blair, portioner of Lethendy, to infest Andrew and his spouse, Eupham Ogilvy in the lands of Gairdrum and the fifth parts of the lands of Lethendy.⁶⁹³ Alexander married twice. His second wife was Margaret Ferguson and by her had issue:

- 1) Andrew the eldest and his heir
- 2) Peter described as brother german of Andrew Blair of Gairdrum on 29 July 1618 when charged with the murdered of David Toshock younger of Monyvaird within Perth on 23 June 1618.⁶⁹⁴

Alexander died about 1591.⁶⁹⁵ Due to the above contract, Patrick, portioner of Lethendy and son of Andrew, was named the heir masculine by provision of tailie to the late Alexander in the lands of Gairdrum in a Retour dated 9 August 1604. {It is not discovered if there is a link from the Blair/Ogilvy families here to an earlier Patrick Blair in Lethendy spouse of Janet William(son) who after his death married Thomas Ogilvy in Lethendy sometime before 1561. By 15 March 1581 Janet had died leaving a tenement in Perth called St.Katherine'sland to an Alter in Scone Abbey. }

687 Perth Sasaines RS52 5 72

688 Liber Ecc de Scon, Fues of Scone lxxxiv

689 Perth Sasaines RS52 3 339 and RS52 5 102

690 RPS Vol iv 2918

691 RMS Vol vi 267

692 Comm of Edinburgh Test reg 27 Jun 1577 and 17 Mar 1586/7

693 Balthayock Charters 232

694 Pitcairn, Criminal Trials Vol iii

695 Comm of Edinburgh Test reg 10 Apr 1591

Andrew Blair (1575c - 1635c)

This lawful son of Alexander was granted a charter made at Perth on 10 May 1605 by his cousin Patrick (portioner of Lethendy) of the lands of Gairdrum to be holden of the superiors of Patrick. Andrew was required on 4 August 1604 to find 400 merks surety for good behaviour in a dispute between John Blair in Wester Banchory and John Soutar portioner of Banchory.⁶⁹⁶

Many years later, Patrick with the consent of Andrew wadset the lands of Gairdrum to Thomas Blair of Balthayock in a charter signed at Balthayock in 1632.⁶⁹⁷

Andrew was probably a close kinsman of Alexander Blair in Nether Collace who found himself in deep trouble regarding claims he made about the Gowrie Conspiracy Trial of 1600. King James VI had ridden into Perth unannounced in August 1600 and called at The Earl of Gowrie's house there. It was claimed that there the earl and his Ruthven family attempted regicide and in Gowrie House the unarmed earl was slain by some of the king's party. The Trial in 1600 led to several executions and to the surname Ruthven being proscribed. Thus, Ruthvenfield Castle became known as Huntingtower and a branch of the family Ruthven of Freeland adopted the alias of Freeland. The aforementioned Alexander Blair in 1609 informed Lord Scone that he had heard Harry Ruthven alias Freeland, then a man of 60 years who had been present at Gowrie House during the fateful incident, make treasonable comments about the king and the trial saying "the Erle of Gowry was saiklesly put downe; and the King and all that was thair that day was traiteuris to the Erle of Goury." This led to the arrest of Harry Freeland but he countered that it was a false accusation. Thus both were put into the tolbooth at Edinburgh awaiting trial. Alexander Blair of Balgray and Andrew Blair of Gairdrum acted as cautioners for Alexander so gaining his temporary release in September 1610 and standing surety for his later appearance in court. On 21 January 1611, they made a bond of £10,000 to ensure that Alexander Blair in Nether Collace would enter trial. The general result of the trial was that Blair was discredited and deemed to have invented his accusation from spite. Nevertheless, given that the Crown was massively in debt to the Ruthven family and the evidence of many historical investigations into the Gowrie Conspiracy Trial, it is clear that many, if not Harry Freeland, believed that the fine young Earl of Gowrie was entrapped and murdered that August day in 1600.⁶⁹⁸

Blair of Ballathie

The lands of Ballathie lie on the north bank of the River Tay just below the confluence of the River Isla in the barony and parish of Kinclaven. At one time these lands were owned by Alexander Blair of Balgray.

James Blair of Ballathie (1560c - 1617c)

At Dundee on 11 July 1609, with the consent of James Bonar of Rossie, Alexander Blair of Balgray and his son and heir apparent, Alexander, sold to James Blair, burgess of Perth, the north half of Ballathie and the nearby Starry Wood in Kinclaven.⁶⁹⁹ James, a merchant in Perth, then was designed of Ballathie. Soon afterwards, he bestowed a liferent out of the estate in favour of his wife Janet Watson on 13 September 1609. James performed the role of bailie in the conjunct infeftment of Alexander Ireland and Janet Murray upon the lands of Meiklelour in November 1615. James died before 26 February 1618 at which time his wife, Janet Watson, was still alive.⁷⁰⁰

He was succeeded by his son.

⁶⁹⁶ RSS 4 Aug 1604

⁶⁹⁷ RMS Vol ix 664 and Balthayock Charters 395

⁶⁹⁸ Lang, A. James VI and the Gowrie Mystery, Longmans 1902. Tranter, N., Past Master, 1960

⁶⁹⁹ RMS Vol vii 357

⁷⁰⁰ RMS Vol vii 1782

John Blair (1590c - 1646c)

John was retoured heir to his father James Blair in the shady part of Ballathie and the Starry Wood on 18 March 1619.⁷⁰¹ He was mentioned as proprietor of Ballathie in the Retour of Lord Kinclaven on 27 October 1627. John died about 1646.

James Blair (1610c -1670c)

James was retoured on 16 July 1646 as heir to his father John Blair in the lands of Ballathie with the salmon fishing in the Tay.⁷⁰² In 1650 he was assessed for Ballathie and the fishing at £213.6s.8d.

Eupham Hay was described as the relict of James Blair of Ballathie in a Bond registered in 1675.⁷⁰³

They had issue:

- 1) James who was heir to the title of Ballathie.
- 2) George mentioned as son of James Blair of Ballathie in a bond registered 7 November 1673 wherein Eupham Hay is described as relict of James Blair.⁷⁰⁴ George is also mentioned in a Discharge registered 12 April 1680 and is assumed to be son of this laird.⁷⁰⁵
- 3) Eupham also mentioned in the Discharge of 1680.

James died about 1670. Eupham Hay survived her husband and was described as mother of James Blair of Ballathie in 1672.⁷⁰⁶

James Blair (1640c -1690c)

James Blair succeeded to the title of Ballathie before October 1672.

Eupham Turnbull was given as the spouse of James in a Disposition registered in 1682.⁷⁰⁷

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Blair Burgesses in Dundee

The Blair family of burgesses of Dundee was closely related to the Blair of Balthayock and appear in the 1542 entail of Balthayock. (See Appendix I) They owned a portion of the lands of Westfield of Dundee which lay between the old town and Blackness and reached down to the riverside.

George Blair (1425c - 1484c)

George was possibly a younger son of Thomas Blair of Balthayock and brother to Patrick Blair the heir apparent of Balthayock. He is mentioned in the Balthayock Muniments as George Blair of Balgillo in the 1460's. He held a third portion of Balgillo but appears to have been closely related to the laird of Balthayock and also a kinsman of Blair of Ardblair.⁷⁰⁸ He married Janet Abercrombie and had issue. George probably died in 1484. Janet Abercrombie survived him and had as her widow's terce, a liferent of the six acres of Westfield of Dundee. She married secondly to Thomas

701 Perth Retours No 266

702 Perth Retours No 553

703 Deeds 1675; Dal 39 497

704 Deeds 1673; Dur 34 201

705 Deeds 1680 Dal 51 498

706 Deeds 1772; Dur 32 96

707 Deeds 1682 Dal 57 500

708 Balthayock Charters 26

Drummond before 1498 when with her husband, she raised an action against James Rollock, Alexander Ogilvy and David Fotheringham for occupying Westfield for the past 14 years without a lease from her. It was claimed that James and Alexander had a tack from Alexander Blair of Balthayock and proof was demanded. David was ordered to desist from his occupation of Westfield.⁷⁰⁹

William Blair, burgess of Dundee (1460c - 1513)

George may have been the father of William Blair, burgess of Dundee who owned a third part of Westfield of Dundee and had sasine of Balgillo in 1490. This William had a son George and daughter Janet Blair.⁷¹⁰

At Dundee on 30 December 1512, William sold his portion of the lands of Balgillo to John Blair of Balgillo.⁷¹¹

William died towards the end of 1513, possibly at the Battle of Flodden.

George Blair, burgess of Dundee (1490c - 1545)

George, the son of William Blair, was also a burgess of Dundee and is mentioned near the end of the Balthayock entail of 1542. He had a son John, his heir.

The lands of Westfield of Dundee were in the king's hands for one term from Martinmas 1513. For relief of the lands of Westfield of Dundee, George Blair paid £5 for non-entry and £10 for relief to the Sheriff of Forfar when he was granted sasine on 29 May 1514. He was admitted a burgess of Dundee as heir to his father William Blair on 15 January 1527.⁷¹²

George, described as son and heir of the late William Blair, burgess of Dundee, for the love of his sister, Janet Blair, granted her a liferent of the third part of Westfield of Dundee.⁷¹³

George died in late 1545.

John Blair (1520c - 1580c)

The third part of the lands of Westfield of Dundee had been in ward for seven and a half years when on 18 May 1553, it was recorded that £100 had been paid for non-entry of the heir and £13.6s.8d paid to the queen for the sasine given to John Blair. It may be that sometime following this, John agreed to dispoise his lands to the Gray family, for Patrick, Master of Gray, raised an action against John Blair son and heir of the late, George Blair, burgess of Dundee. This resulted, on 4 January 1566/7, in the confiscation of John's goods for non-renouncing of the third part of Westfield. Certainly by 1590, the land formerly owned by George Blair was in the hands of Thomas Mann.⁷¹⁴

An Eminent Physician and Botanist

Dr Patrick Blair (1672c - 1728)

A colourful character among the Blair families deserves a special mention here. He was a younger son of Mr George Blair of Lethendy already described. 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.⁷¹⁵ 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

⁷⁰⁹ Acts of Lords of Council in Civil Cases

⁷¹⁰ RMS Vol iii 946

⁷¹¹ RMS Vol ii 3798

⁷¹² Dundee City Archives, The Lockit Book

⁷¹³ RMS Vol iii 946

⁷¹⁴ RSS

⁷¹⁵ Dundee OPR

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}

The following is extracted from an old report.

"Angus is fortunate to have had such a distinguished scientist as Patrick Blair (c.1666-1728) 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".⁷¹⁶ Most but not all of this report is accurate.

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

Patrick was born about of 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 "flore albo at Glasclune" 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 which 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.⁷¹⁷

Copperplate engravings of the elephant dissected were produced by Patrick Blair for his paper and a reproduction and other facts about this outstanding doctor can be found in Alan P Stevenson's "Patrick Blair a Memoir", 11 Apr 1907.

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Blair Family in France

Mr Alexander Blair (1563c - 1620c)

His Arms: *Argent a chevron waved sable betwixt three Torteaux.*

Alexander was a younger son of Alexander Blair of Balthayock by his first wife, Janey Ogilvy. Born in the early to mid-1560's, he attended St.Leonards College of the University of St.Andrews where he was nominated for the baccalaureate in 1578 and awarded his Masters degree the following year. Like many other laird's sons he furthered his education on the Continent of Europe. Mr Alexander first studied at Poitiers in France. He wrote from there to his father on 15 July 1581 mentioning his studies and family matters.⁷¹⁸ Being an academic, he transferred to the College of Orthais in Berne, Switzerland.

Alexander Blair of Balthayock wrote to his son at the College of Orthais on 20 September 1591 regarding his marriage.⁷¹⁹ It was probably about this time that Mr Alexander married. They continued to live in Switzerland and had family but only one of the sons has been identified positively:

- 1) Arman. Born about 1600 or a little later, he attended school in Cupar, Fife around 1614.⁷²⁰ At that time, Mr Robert Williamson was schoolmaster of the Burgh School where the Latin grammar of Mr John Vaus was taught.⁷²¹
- 2) Alexander probably the eldest son. According to a modern manuscript note in the Court of the Lord Lyon, Alexander was the name of the son who

⁷¹⁷ University of Dundee Archive, MS67/1/11

⁷¹⁸ Balthayock Charters 238

⁷¹⁹ Balthayock Charters 264

⁷²⁰ Balthayock Charters 343

⁷²¹ Boyd, Margt W W . Over 600 years of Schooling in the Royal & Ancient Burgh of Cupar-Fife

married Marie de Reims.

In 1598, Mr Alexander was considering returning home from Lescar when he wrote to his father, chiefly about money matters.⁷²² It may have been at this time or in 1603 that his father borrowed 300 merks from him. It seems that in 1603, the Laird of Balthayock was having problems with Lord Crichton of Sanquhar regarding the teinds of Kinnoul as he remarked in his letter to Alexander on 22 August. He also made mention of the "young guidman of ye Myrris" who was Balthayock's grandson. This letter also gave information on Mr Peter Young of Easter Seaton who was Preceptor to the King. Mr Peter was an academic from Dundee and had been pedagogue to the young King James. This would be of particular interest to Mr Alexander for by then he was Provost of the University of Lescar at Berne.

Some months after the death of his father, Mr Alexander wrote from Lescar on 8 August 1604 to his nephew, Alexander the new laird of Balthayock. He raised the issue of repayment of the loan of 300 merks made to his father and also to his liferent of the lands of Barclarie.⁷²³ He followed this up on 3 June 1605 when he offered to resign the liferent for £1000. In another letter from Lescar on 28 June 1608 he again raised this matter.⁷²⁴ Alexander was at Orthais when he wrote to Balthayock on 20 March 1614. He made mention of their kinsman, the son of Scrymgeour, the laird of Myres and he also commented on his own son Arman who was then at school in Cupar, Fife.⁷²⁵

Mr Alexander Blair who settled in Berne was progenitor of several families of Blair in France, Switzerland and Southern Germany. "Letters Patent of the King of England attesting the antiquity of the Nobility of the Family of *BLAIR, BARONS OF BALTHAYOCK* in Scotland, and that those born in France are descended from them " dated 7 July 1674 were passed by Act of the Lords of the Privy Council and sealed in Edinburgh on 27 August 1674.

It can be deduced that a son of Mr Alexander, possibly named Alexander was born in Berne in the late 16th century and married Marie de Reims. He settled in Paris and there they had a son Alexander. An unconfirmed manuscript at the Lyon Court, Edinburgh also indicates that it was the son of this Alexander and Marie who married Madeline Putaut and who submitted the abovementioned Letters Patent on 7 July 1674. The application for knighthood claimed that about 1585, his grandfather Alexander Blair had left Scotland and taken residence in Berne. His birth brief included therein needs careful interpretation and is erroneous in earlier generations. It seems that initially he may have corresponded with his kinsman, the laird of Balthayock for the family muniments have a "Declaration of the descent of Mr Alexander Blair who settled in the principality of Bearne" dated 1665.

It is clear from the Privy Council records that although there was no hesitation on the part of the authorities from validating his claim of descent from Balthayock, Alexander Blair in Paris was most anxious to have the birth brief attest the earlier generations regarding the lineage of his ancestors and implored the Council to more clearly define his ancestors for the records. This was duly attempted and the resultant birth brief was incorporated in the Letters Patent of 1674. Unfortunately the lineage quoted is very inaccurate, misnaming them all from the grandfather of Mr Alexander Blair back and designing them as knights, though none were such. The family names of the spouses of the Balthayock lairds were recalled somewhat better.

Regrettably, little weight can be given to this official birth brief.

⁷²² Balthayock Charters 290

⁷²³ Balthayock Charters 322

⁷²⁴ Balthayock Charters 327 and 331

⁷²⁵ Balthayock Charters 343

Appendices

Appendix i

Outline of Charter to Thomas Blair of Balthayock and Entail dated 10 June 1542 at Perth.

For his good service to the King, Thomas Blair of Balthayock resigned the lands of Ardler and Baldowrie in Forfarshire, Cults in Fife and Goddens and pendicles in Baltrody (Pitroddie) in Perthshire. The King returned them to be held as the free barony of Ardler, the tower and fortalice of Ardler, and the principal messuage there to be held by Thomas and on his death by Alexander his eldest son and heir apparent and his heirs masculine whom failing William Blair, second son and his heirs, whom failing Patrick Blair the youngest and his heirs, whom failing Patrick Blair of Balmyle and his heirs, whom failing Andrew Blair brother german of said Patrick and his heirs, whom failing Alexander Blair burgess of Perth and his heirs, whom failing John Blair of Melginch and his heirs, whom failing William Blair of Balgillo and his heirs, whom failing John Blair of Ardblair and his heirs, whom failing Master George Blair of Bendochy and his heirs, whom failing George Blair burgess of Dundee and his heirs, whom failing Gilbert Blair in Auchteralyth and his heirs, whom failing David Blair of Balgray and his heirs, whom failing George Blair in Peattie and his heirs.

Appendix ii

Outline of Charter to Andrew Blair of Friarton and Entail dated 1 November 1566 at Abbey of Scone.

In 1584, the King confirmed the charter of the late Patrick, Bishop of Moray, Commendator of Scone granted to Alexander Blair in Friarton who for £200 sold to Andrew Blair, his son, the lands of Friarton (which Alexander and Janet Kincragy, his spouse, hold in liferent) to be held by Alexander and his heirs; whom failing George Blair his brother german; whom failing James Blair, brother german of Alexander Blair of Balgray whom failing, Alexander Blair of Balgray or other of arms and the race of Blair. Witnessed at Monastery of Scone 1 Nov 1566.

Appendix iii

Outline of Charter of Mr James Blair of Newbigging and Entail dated 16 July 1658

Charter of toft and lands called Waterbutts, Carsegrange by Mr James Blair of Newbigging and the heirs to his body whom failing to John Blair his brother german, whom failing Thomas Blair, son of late James Blair sometime in Kirkland by Cecilia Blair sister to Mr James, whom failing William Blair son of the late Peter Blair, brother german of the late Andrew Blair of Epidrum whom failing Alexander Blair of Alberie, brother german of William Blair of Tarsappie whom failing, Peter Blair son of the late Patrick Blair in Lethendy. Life rent of Waterbutts to be reserved to Agnes Ogilvie, wife of Mr James Blair. Registered under the Great Seal 1666.

(Author's note: Agnes or Nan Ogilvie was widow of Andrew Gibb younger in Ballenden when she married Mr James Blair. Mr James Blair had a daughter Katherine who married Peter Hay of Leys about 1670.)



“ARDBLAIR”



RUINS OF “GLASCLUNE”

Some Notes on the Customary use of Coats of Arms

by
The Book Committee

If one refers to Douglas' Baronages of Scotland, it will be noticed that the singular is always applied to all the families he lists so the proper terminology is Blair rather than Blairs of Balthayock. The reason is that, at any one time, there is only one Blair of Balthayock, the laird himself

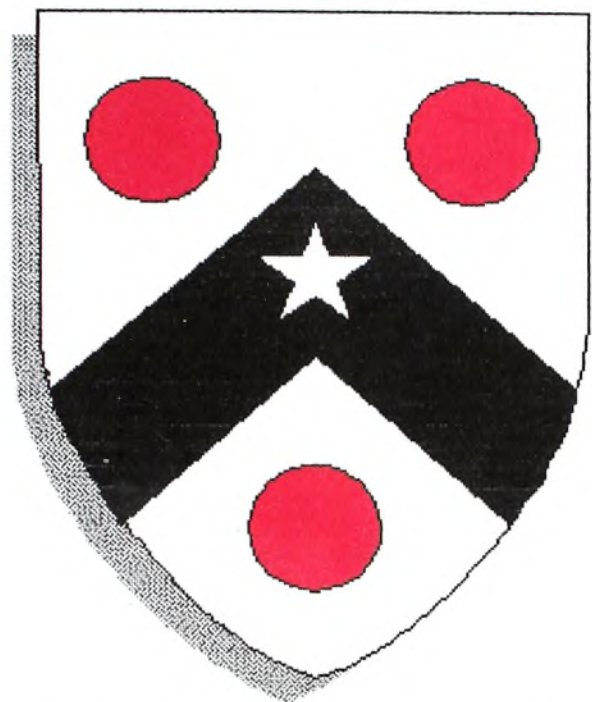
Often the heir apparent may be called the young laird, or the young Balthayock. The younger sons are not designated "of Balthayock" unless one has to replace the oldest son. Therefore the family is best described as the Blair of Balthayock family.

It is fine to depict the arms of the Blair of Balthayock in this book as it is a history of that family. However, only the head of the family has the right to display these arms on a letterhead, seal, flag, shop front, etc. None of his siblings has that right, although a daughter may carry this with her to be used dividing arms into quarters with her husband's arms. It follows that the cadets of Balthayock can base their arms on the chief's but they must be different. Thus Blair of Ardblair has the mullet or star to show the third son, Balgillo uses these arms to show that he is a cadet of that cadet branch, his arms being differentiated by the roundels being annulets. Other cadets arms are described in the text showing that even the son of a laird must make his arms different from his father's unless the son is the heir.

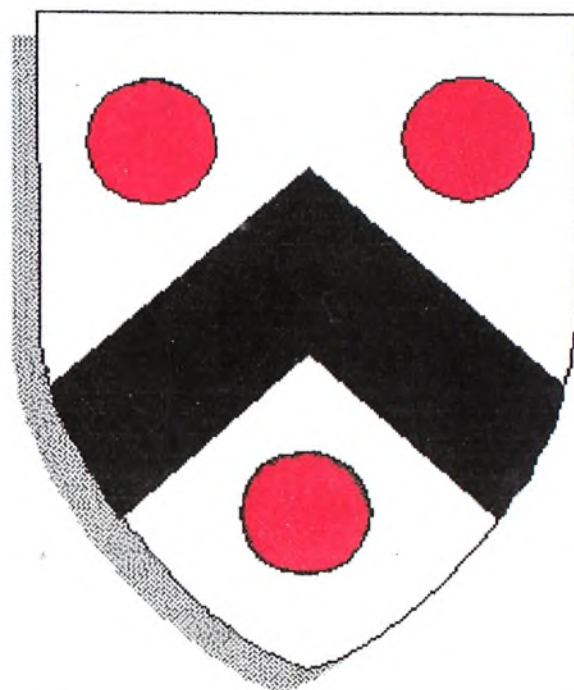
As customs differ from country to country it seems wise to include the varying usage of a family crest on a persons hat, cap or other garment in the United States and the Scottish Highlands. In the Highlands the crest can be used as a cap badge and is frequently used on caps and clothing. Originally, a Highland Clan chief and his supporters, from family to staff members, including workers and soldiers wore cap badges to show relationship in the family case and to show allegiance in the case of all others closely associated with the Clan. The custom may or may not be observed at this time in Scotland. Those who want precise knowledge of the protocol in Scotland are advised to consult the Lord Lyon.

Meanwhile no particular pattern of protocol is followed in the United States. Usage is more a matter of choice.

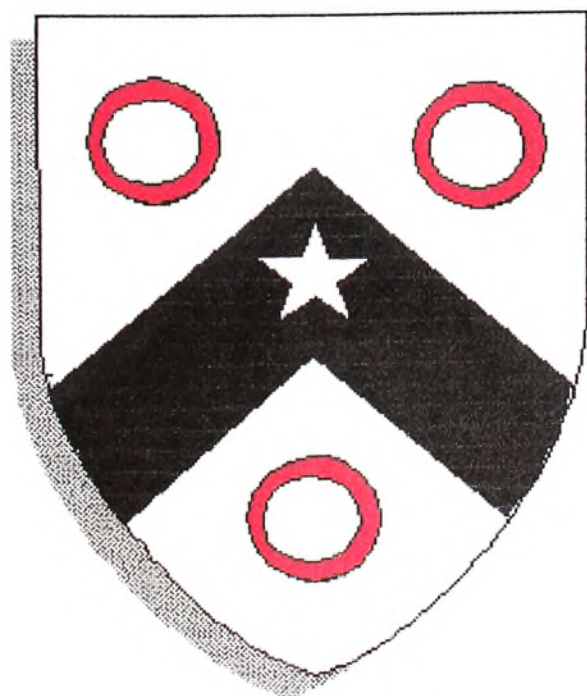
BLAIR OF ARDBLAIR ARMS



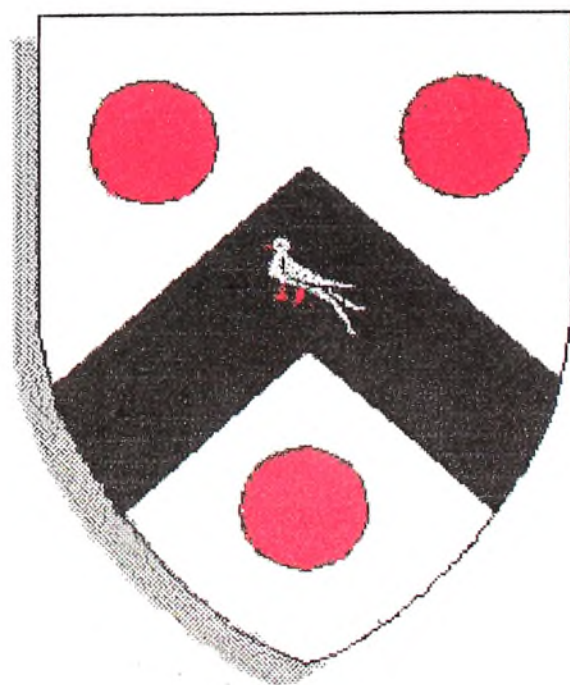
BLAIR OF BALTHAYOCK ARMS



BLAIR OF BALGILLO ARMS



BLAIR OF LETHENDY ARMS





Blair of Balthayock
Crest

GLOSSARY

- Alienate Sell; Convey or transfer to another, as title or property
- Annalize Alienate
- Annulet A little ring; A small molding or ridge forming a ring
- Assignation Assigning of rights; Transfer of a title or interest by writing; The written instrument by which such transfer is effected
- Assize Assembly of Jurors; A decree or enactment made by an assembly; A judicial inquest; The verdict rendered by the jury
- Bailiary The actions of a bailie
- Bailie Person acting for grantor of sasine; An officer in abbey, barony or burgh; The person to whom goods are delivered for a specific purpose
- Bairn Child
- Bewest West of
- Big Build
- Blank Discharge/Summons
. Documents to be filled in at time of signing
- Blench Duty Feudal tenure on the basis of payment of a merely nominal yearly duty
- Boll Measure of capacity of grain usually equivalent to six imperial bushels
- Bond, Band Written agreement to repay money or to provide service; A writing under seal by which a person binds himself to pay a certain sum on or before an appointed day
- Brae A hillside, slope or bank as of a river valley
- Breive Letter of Chancery authorising an inquest in a particular matter
- Brewstead Brewhouse

- Burgess Freeman of a burgh/a citizen; member of a privileged class in a town or burgh; person elected to represent a borough, corporate town or university in Parliament
- Burn A brook or rivulet
- Candlemas Quarter day 2 February; The religious feast celebrated on February 2d commemorating the Purification of the Virgin Mary, so called because candles for the altar or other sacred uses are blessed on that day
- Casting Divots, Peats, Turfs
. Digging out fuel
- Cautioner One providing surety
- Cess A land tax
- Chalder of Victual Dry measure of 16 bolls (grain crops)
- Chancery Court recording all royal charters of novodamus, patents of dignities, gifts of offices, remissions, legitimatizations, commissions and other writs appointed to pass the Great Seal and Quarto Seal
- Charter Deed granted by superior; A written instrument executed in due form as a deed or a grant or guarantee of rights, franchises or privileges from the sovereign power of a state or country.
- Clare Constat, Precept of
. Document recognising the claim of an heir to inherit and be infeft or vested
- Cleve of Land portion of land
- Closs (Close) A passage or court-yard at a farm
- Coffer A casket, chest or trunk, especially one for valuables; Treasure or funds
- Commendator A titular abbot.
- Compear, Compeir, Compeer
. To present oneself in court
- Composition Settlement of a debt

- Conjunct Fee Joint holding by husband and wife
- Croft A small agricultural holding worked by a tenant
- Cum Turre/Terre. With with tower, land and fortalice Fortalicio
- Curator Guardian of an estate of a minor; a guardian appointed for minors or others past the age of puberty (generally 14 for males and 12 for Females)
- Custos Custodian
- Davoch, Davoch A measure of land area (variable by locality)
- Decreet Decision of judgement; decree
- Decreet Arbitral Decision of assize on arbitration
- Depone To give evidence; To assert under oath, to testify
- Dispone Convey land; to dispose; To arrange
- Disposition Deed by which property is conveyed to another
- Distrain Seizure and detention of another's goods as security to obtain satisfaction of a claim
- Divot A thin oblong turf
- Dyke,Dike Wall; Fail dike = a wall of turf
- Escheat Forfeiture of property; The reversion of lands to the lord of the fee upon the failure of heirs capable of inheriting under the original grant; Reversion of land to the crown by failure of persons legally entitled to hold the same
- Exepede Expedite
- Factory Deed empowering one to act on behalf of another; The making of a factor.

Fee	Full right of heritable property; In feudal law any feudal benefice or estate in land held of a feudal lord; At the common law an estate of inheritance in land, being either a fee simple, a fee without limitation to any class of heirs or restrictions upon alienation, or a fee tail, an estate of inheritance limited to heirs; The territory held in fee; Ownership
Fermes	Rent
Feu	Feudal holding; A fee or feudal benefice; A tenure where the vassal, in place of military services, makes a return in grain or in money; A grant of land to be so held, hence, inaccurately, a perpetual lease for a fixed rent; Land held under one of these tenures,
Feuar	Holder of fee; One who holds a feu; Normally applied to heir apparent of a laird after the laird has resigned his lands to him while reserving his own liferent
Firlot	Old Scottish dry measure, 1/4 of a boll
Five Pound Land 20 Pound Land	Method of identifying land by its taxable evaluation
Fleshboard	Butcher block
Flesher	Butcher
Fortalice	Fortified tower house
Furth	Forth; beyond
German	Full brother or sister; Of the same parentage
Glebe	Land allocated to the minister of the parish; the land belonging or yielding revenue to a parish church or ecclesiastical benefice (rectory, vicarage or perpetual curacy)
Grassum	Payment in addition to rent or periodic payment
Guid-Brother	Brother-in-law
Guidman	Laird
Guidsire	Grandfather

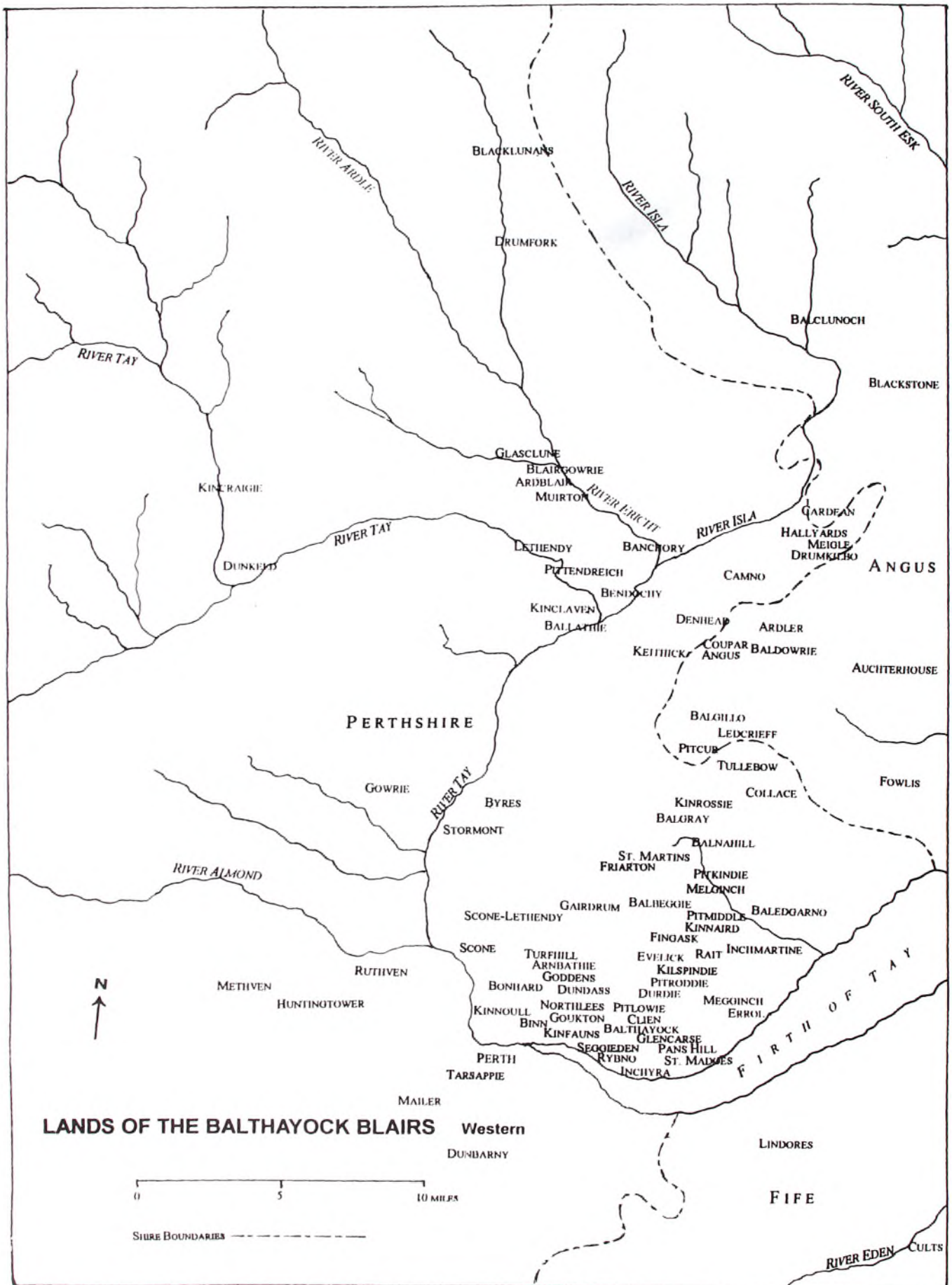
- Half Land Land could be divided into shares: $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{1}{2}$ of $\frac{1}{4}$, etc. Owners of these were called portioners
- Horn, Put to the Public announcement of a court order preceded by blowing a horn to draw attention, usually made at the market cross
- Horning An order to a debtor to pay
- Infest To put a person in heritable possession of land and/or buildings; To vest a person with a right in (Vest = to confer or grant)
- Instrument Legal document given on completion of a legal act (such as sasine); A writing, as a deed or writ
- Insight Plenishing . . . Furniture of a house; the implements on a farm
- Intromit To have dealings; to interfere with the efforts of another. Admit
- Justiciary The chief political and judicial officer of the Norman and later kings until the 13th century; Criminal court
- Justiciary Court The criminal court of Scotland
- Kirk Church
- Knights Templar A religious and military order established at Jerusalem about 1118 A.D. for the protection of Pilgrims and of the Holy Sepulcher. Knights Templar were so named because for a time they occupied quarters next to the building known as Solomon's Temple
- Laigh Hall The low hall of the manor house, to distinguish it from the hall in the tower house
- Lammas Quarter day 1 August or the time of year about that day
- Letter of Loosing Letter deeding property or giving money
- Liferent Benefits of property held during remainder of lifetime only
- Mail Rent
- Mains, Mayns The home farm of an estate

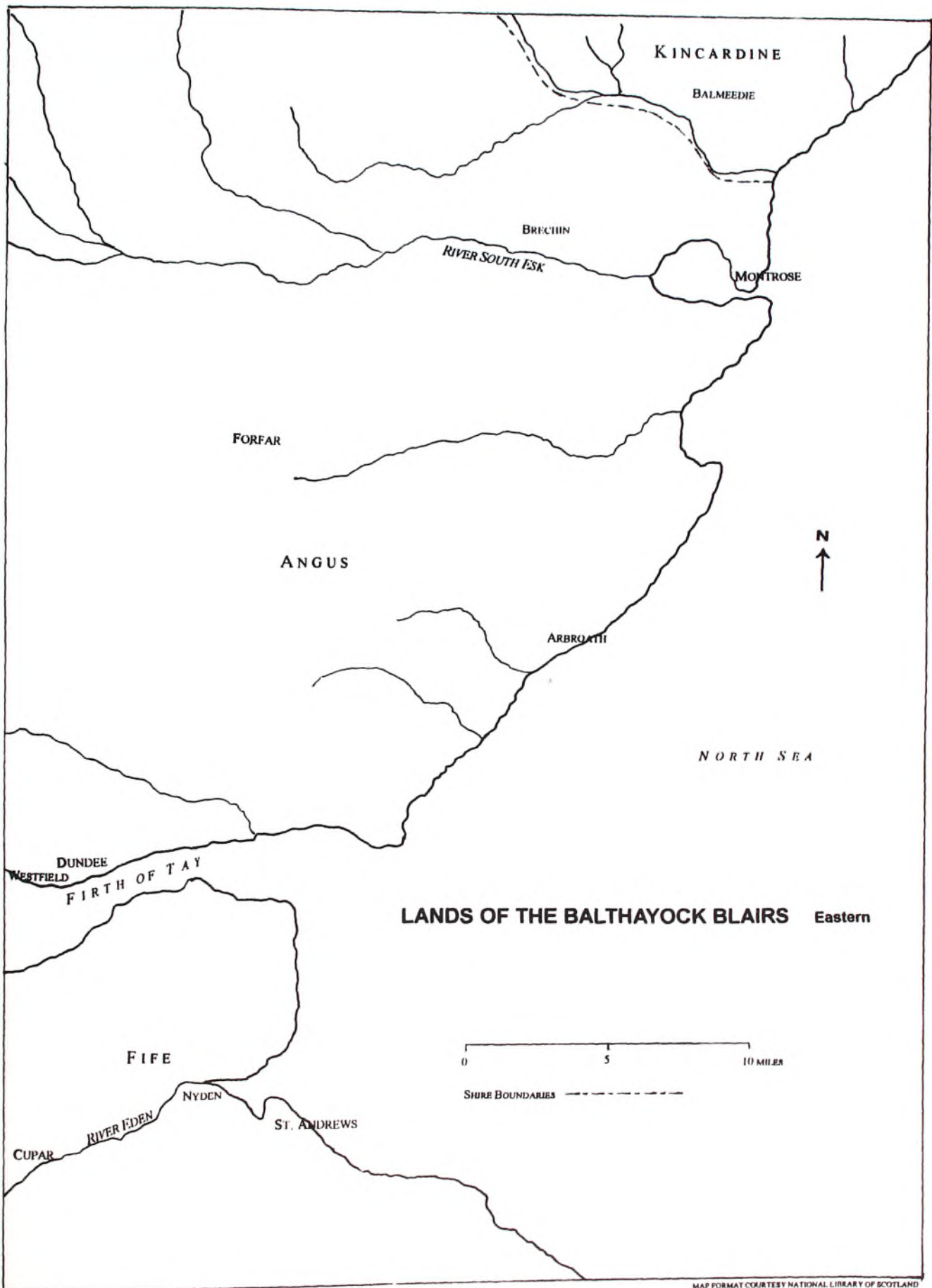
Marches	Boundaries between estates; frontier border-lands between England and Scotland
Marian	Supporter of Mary, Queen of Scots, the deposed Catholic queen, 1542-87
Marle	A calcareous sediment used as fertilizer usually recovered from drained lochs
Martinmas	Term day 11 November; The time fixed for the payment of rents or interest; A quarter day; The feast of St. Martin
Merk	Old silver Scots coin worth 13s.4d.
Mullet in Chief	Rowel of a spur in the chief upper part of a shield.
Multure	The portion of grain given to the miller for grinding; A toll for the grinding of grain at a mill
Myre, Mire.	Moss, wet spongy earth; peat bog
Nepos	Latin for grandson
Nevoy	Scots for grandson
Non-entry	A vassal's heir's failure to renew investiture; a payment due to the superior on such failure
Nowt	Black cattle; Neat cattle; An ox
Oy, Oye, Oe, Oo	A grandchild
Perambulation	Survey; walking inspection of land usually around the boundaries
Poinding	Seizure of debtor's goods; Impounding; See distraining
Precept of	See Clare Constat, precept of Clare Constat
Portioner	Owner of a part of an estate or piece of land
Pro Perpetuo	For or in perpetuity
Pupil	Girl up to 12, boy up to 14

- Quarter Day A day regarded as beginning a quarter of the year when quarterly payments, as rent, come due
- Regress Right of power of re-entry
- Relict Widow
- Resignation Vassal gives up estate to superior; to resign control of an estate or of an office
- Retour Extract from Chancery of service of an heir to his/her ancestor
- Reversion Obligation given by creditor under which the debtor may redeem property; The returning of an estate to a grantor or his heirs, by operation of law after the grant has terminated
- Rig, Rigg Space between furrows in a plowed field; a ridge
- Right of Right to recover lands on repayment of loan Reversion
- Roup Auction
- Sasine, Seisin Act of giving legal possession of land; Infetment (Vesting); Possession of land or Seisin chattels; Possession of a freehold estate in land by one having title thereto
- Sequestration Removal of property from the person in possession of it especially pending some further proceeding affecting it; the act of rendering bankrupt
- Skaithless Harmless; doing no damage
- Spuilzie Plunder
- Superior One who makes a grant of land to another who is then his vassal and pays feu-duty to him; higher in rank
- Tack Lease
- Tack of teind The lease of a tithe portion of grain from land.
- Tailzie Entail
- Teind A tithe

- Teind sheaves A tithe portion of a bundle of grain or straw
- Temple lands Lands which Knights Templar protected/owned as superiors
- Term Date when rent is payable; the time fixed for the payment of rents or interest, a quarter day; the whole period for which an estate is granted, also the estate; a space of time granted to a debtor for discharging his obligation
- Testament/ Testamentar
 A will by which a person determines the disposition of his property after his death
- Testament dative A will given in by trustees for the deceased
- Tocher Dowry; marriage portion
- Toft A homestead
- Toun Farm town, settlement
- Transumpt A copy of a legal document
- Tutor Guardian of the estate of a pupil
- Tutor dative Tutor appointed by trustees for the deceased
- Tutor testamentar Tutor nominated by a person to care for his children after his death
- Umquhile Deceased, the late
- Uterine Of same mother, half brother or sister; born of the same mother but a different father
- Vassal One who has placed himself under the protection of another as his lord and has vowed homage and fealty; later a feudal tenant; a feudatory
- Victual Food for human beings, especially when prepared for eating; provisions; viands, grain
- Wadset Contractual pledge of lands but subject to reversion; to mortgage or pledge

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- Ward Guardianship, custody; control of the lands of minor; a minor under a guardian
- Warrantice Guarantee of the right conveyed
- Whitsunday Term Day, 15 May; The seventh Sunday, and fiftieth day, after Easter, observed as a festival in commemoration of the descent of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost; Pentecost
- Writs and evidents . . Any of various clear instruments in epistolary form issued under seal in the king's name; hence, in general, an order or mandatory process under seal, issued in the name of the sovereign or in the name of a court or judicial officer, commanding the performance or nonperformance of some act





PLACE NAMES

Note: Angus is the current and ancient name for Forfarshire. * = no longer exists.

<u>ORIGINAL NAME(S)</u>	<u>CURRENT NAME</u>	<u>PARISH</u>	<u>(Co.)SHIRE</u>
Abbotscroft, Abbots Croft	Abbotscroft	Kinfauns	Perth
Aberbrothock	Arbroath	Arbroath	Angus
Aberdeen	Aberdeen	Aberdeen	Aberdeen
Anders Sanc.	St. Andrews	St. Andrews	Fife
Arbothy, Arnbathie	?Ardinbothy?	Kilspindie	Perth
Ardblair, Barony	Ardblair	Blairgowrie	Perth
Ardlair, Ardler Ardeler, Ardlere	Ardler	Kettins	Angus
Arnbathie, Andinbothy	Arnbathie	Kilspindie	Perth
Atholl, Athole	Atholl	Atholl	Perth
Auchnahall, Achna- hall, Auchnahanel, Haughhanale	Auchnahall	Lintrathen	Angus
Auchterhouse	Auchterhouse	Auchterhouse	Angus
Ayr	Ayr	Ayr	Ayr
Bagraw, Bagra	Balgray	Scone	Perth
Balbeggie, Balbegies	Balbeggie	St. Martins	Perth
Balbirnie	Balbirnie	Ruthven	Angus
Balcanquhl	Balcanquhal	Glenfarg	Perth
Balclunoch, Balchin- och, Ballnaclunoch, Balclunes, Balna- clunock, Balcluno	Balclunoch*	Glenisla/ Lintrathen	Angus
Baldowrie, Baldour- ies, Baldourie, Baldowry	Baldowrie	Kettins	Angus
Baledgarno, Balled- garno, Balgernoch, Balligernoch	Baledgarno	Inchture	Perth
Balentard, Ballentard	Bonhard	Scone	Perth
Balgillo, Balgilloch, Balgillochy, Bal- gilach, Balgillo- quhy, Balquhilly	Balgillo	Kettins	Angus
Balleuny, Ballunie	Ballunie	Kettins	Angus
Balmonth	Balmonth	Ceres?	Fife
Balmyle, Nether Balmyle, Balmile	Balmyle	Meigle	Perth
Balnahaguls, Balna- hagells, Balnaha- gils	?	Scone	Perth

<u>ORIGINAL NAME(S)</u>	<u>CURRENT NAME</u>	<u>PARISH</u>	<u>(Co.)SHIRE</u>
Balnahill, Balna- keill Balthayock, Bothyok, Mains of Balthay- ock, Temple Lands	Balnakeill* Balthayock	Lintrathen Kinnoull	Angus Perth
Balrodie, Baltrody, Baltroddy, Balrodie	Pitroddie	Kilspindie	Perth
Balvaird	Balvaird	Abernethy	Perth
Barclarie, Barclary, Barclay	Barclairie		Fife
Beatonally, Blatoun Haugh, Bleaton Hall Blatoun Alyth, Bla- toun Hall	Bleaton	Glenshee, Strathardle	Perth
Bendochy	Bendochy	Bendochy	Perth
Berne, Bearne	Berne		Switzerland
Blacklunans	Blacklunans	Glenshee	Perth
Bogie, Bogy	Bogie	Carse of Gowrie	
Bonhard, Balentard	Bonhard	Scone	Angus
Bonhill			
Borland	Borland	Glenshee	Perth
Bowden, Barony	Bowden		Ross
Braco, Barony	Braco	Muthill	Perth
Brechin	Brechin	Brechin	Angus
Bruston	Bruston		
Buchan	Buchan		
Byn	Binn	Kinfauns	Perth
Byres	Byres	Haddington	EastLothian
Caithnes	Caithness		Caithness
Calder	Calder		WestLothian
Cambuspuile	Cambuspuile*	Kinfauns	Perth
Cannay	Camno	Meigle	Perth
Cardein	Cardean	Airlie	Angus
Chapelton	Chapelton		
Charteris, Charter- house	Charteris* (A family name)		
Clathladrow, Clathladryn Clachladrone, Clachladryn	Near Bridge of Earn	Strathearn	Perth
Claverhouse	Claverhouse	Dundee	Angus

<u>ORIGINAL NAME(S)</u>	<u>CURRENT NAME</u>	<u>PARISH</u>	<u>(Co.)SHIRE</u>
Clien, Clene, Cleiene, Orchard of Clene, Orchard of Mains of Clene, Marches of Clene, Fortalice of Clene, Hole of Clene	Clien	Kinfauns	Perth
Collorauch, Colla- rauch, Corlarach Couchelie, Cuchelie, Courach	Coldrach	Blacklunans (Was Lintrathen)	Angus
Coupar Angus	Coupar Angus	Coupar	Perth
Craigtoun	Craigtoun*	Kinfauns	Perth
Craigtoun			
Crawford	Crawford		Lanark
Cruick Liberty Cruik, Cruikhills	Cruick*	Kinfauns Meigle	Perth Perth
Culquhailzie	Colquhalzie	Muthill	Perth
Cults, Cult, Quilts, Qwylt, Kirkton of Cults, Easter & Wester Cults, Wel- toun of Cults, Waltoun of Cults, Kirk of Quilts, Dyke of Quilts, Westertown of Quilts, Lordship of Quilt	Cults		Fife
Cupar	Cupar	Cupar	Fife
Dalkeith, Dalkieth	Dalkeith		Midlothian
Denhead	Denhead	Coupar Angus	Perth
Dirleton, Derleton	Dirleton		East Lothian
Dilely			
Dovecothaugh	Dovecothaugh	Kinnoull	Perth
Drumfork, Drumforks	Drumfork	Glenshee	Perth
Drumkilbo	Drumkilbo	Meigle	Perth
Drumloch			
Dudhope	Dudhope	Dundee	Angus
Dulkaben		Lintrathen	Angus
Dumbarny, Dunbarney	Dunbarney	Dunbarney	Perth
Dun, Dunkenny	Dunkenny	Eassie	Angus
Duncrub	Duncrub		Perth

<u>ORIGINAL NAME(S)</u>	<u>CURRENT NAME</u>	<u>PARISH</u>	<u>(Co.)SHIRE</u>
Dundass, Mill of	Dundass	Kilspindie	Perth
Dundee	Dundee	Dundee	Angus
Dunkeld	Dunkeld	Dunkeld	Perth
Durdie, Over Durdie	Durdie	Kilspindie	Perth
Eassie, Deralands of			
Eassie	Eassie	Eassie	
Essie, Kirkton of Kirkton of Eassie			
Edinburgh	Edinburgh		Midlothian
Edzell	Edzell	Edzell	Angus
Errol, Erroll	Errol	Errol	Perth
Evelick	Evelick	Kilspindie	Perth
Falkland	Falkland	Falkland	Fife
Fengask, Over & Nether Fingask	Fingask*	Kilspindie	Perth
Fethes, Fethons, Fisches	Cults	Cults	Fife
Finforth, Nether Finforth	Finforth		
Forfar	Forfar	Forfar	Angus
Fowlis	Fowlis	Fowlis Easter	Angus
Gairdrum	Gairdrum	Scone/St. Martins	Perth
Girvan	Girvan		Ayrshire
Gallowflats, Gallowflat	Gallowflat	St. Madoes	Perth
Glasclune	Glasclune	Blairgowrie	Perth
Glashlie			
Glencarse	Glencarse	Kinfauns	Perth
Goddens, Gothenes, Gothins, Godinnes, Gettens, Goudies	Goddens	Kilspindie	Perth
Golspietower			
Gospertie			
Goukton, Goukton	Goukton	Kinfauns	Perth
Gowrie	Gowrie	Gowrie	Perth
Grandtully (see Tullebow)	Grandtully	Dull/Little Duncold	Perth
Hallyards	Hallyards	Meigle	Perth
Haltoun, Easter Haltoun Wester Haltoun		Kinnoull	Perth
Halyburton, Haliburton House	Hallyburton	Kettins	Angus
Haughnahanele	Auchnahall*	Lintrathen	Angus

ORIGINAL NAME(S)	CURRENT NAME	/Glenisla PARISH	(Co.)SHIRE
Hiltoun, Hilton	Hilton		
Hopetoun	Hopetoun		
Huntingtower	Huntingtower	Perth	Perth
Incartoun			France
Inchmartine, Inchmartin	Inchmartine	Abernyte	Perth
Inchyra	Inchyra	St. Madoes	Perth
Innerqueick, Inverquiech	Inverquiech	Alyth	Perth
Innerquharrity, Inverquharity	Inverquharity	Kirriemuir	Angus
Keillebrochin			
Keithick, Keithoch Waulkmill, Keith- och Waulk Mill	Keithick	Coupar Angus	Perth
Kettins, Barony	Kettins	Kettins	Perth
Kilspindie	Kilspindie	Kilspindie	Perth
Kincraigy			
Kinfauns, Kirk of	Kinfauns	Kinfauns	Perth
Kinfauns, Over Kin- fauns, Kirkstyle of Kinfauns			
Kinglessie	Fife		
Kinkie, Battle of Battle of Pink- ie or Pinkie Cleugh	Inveresk	East Lothian	
Kinnaird	Kinnaird	Kinnaird	Perth
Kinnell	Kinnell	Kinnell	Angus
Kinnoull, Kinnoull	Kinnoull	Kinnoull	Perth
Kinross, Kinrossie	Kinross	Kinross	Kinross
Knappoch			
Konaken, Konakin	Konaken*		Fife
Lathones, Lathons	Lathens*	Kilspindie	Perth
Laytcrief	Ledcrieff	Kettins	Angus
Lechoquhy, Leteuyrky	Lechoquhy		
Leighton, Lychtoun, Lichton	Leighton	Brechin	Angus
Lennox, Earldom of	Lennox		Dunbarton Switzerland
Lescar			
Lethindy, Lethendy	Lethendy	Lethendy	Perth
Lindores, Lindores Abbey	Lindores	Newport-on-Tay	Fife
Lintrathen	Lintrathen	Lintrathen. Glenisla	Angus
Loushills, Marches of		Kilspindie	Perth

<u>ORIGINAL NAME(S)</u>	<u>CURRENT NAME</u>	<u>PARISH</u>	<u>(Co.)SHIRE</u>
Mailer, Meutler	Mailer	Aberdalgie	Perth
Megginch	Megginch	Errol	Perth
Meigdrum	Mugdrum	St. Madoes	Perth
Meigle, Barony & Mains of Meigle	Meigle	Meigle	Perth
Melginch	Melginch	Scone/St.Martins	Perth
Melgund, Melgome	Melgund	Aberlemno	Angus
Menteith, Earldom	Menteith	Betw. Teith & Forth	
Methven	Methven	Methven	Perth
Montago, Barony	Montague	Kilspindie	Perth
Montrose	Montrose	Montrose	Angus
Muirybutts	Muirybutts (Near Murie)	Kilspindie	Perth
Murray, Moray Earldom & Diocese	Moray		Moray
Murye	Murie	St. Madoes	Perth
Muthill, Muthil	Muthill	Muthill	Perth
Myre	Myres	Auchtermuchty	Fife
Myre of Turfhill	Myre of Turfhill	Kilspindie	Perth
Newhall			
Newton - there are 16 Newton sites in Tayside			
Northleys, NorSeys	Northlees*	Kinfauns	Perth
Nydie, Nyden	Nyden	St. Andrews	Fife
Otterburn	Otterburn	Northumberland	England
Pans Hill, Panshill, Pannishill, Pawns- hill, Pannshills	Pans Hill	Kinfauns	Perth
Pelfindy, Petsynie	Pitkindie?	Abernyte	Perth
Perth	Perth	Perth	Perth
Petmiddle	Pitmiddle	Kinnaird	Perth
Piotston	Pyetstone	Ceres	Fife
Piotstoun			
Pyetstone			Pitcartheugh
Pitcartheugh	Kinfauns	Perth	
Pitcur	Pitcur	Kettins	Angus
Pitlowie Bank, Pit- lowie, Pitloury, Over Pitlowie, Over Pitlowrie	Pitlowie	Kilspindie	Perth
Pitroddie see Baltrodie			

<u>ORIGINAL NAME(S)</u>	<u>CURRENT NAME</u>	<u>PARISH</u>	<u>(Co.)SHIRE</u>
Pittendreich	Pittendreich	Lethendy	Perth
Pokemill, Pockmill	Pokemill	Scone	Perth
Potento, Bawtento	Potento	Meigle	Perth
Quhelplaw, Whelplaw Qwylt, Quilt, Quilts	Cults	Cults	Fife
Rait	Rait	Kilspindie	Perth
Riccarton	Riccarton	Currie	Midlothian
Ross, County	Ross		Ross
Rossieschell, Rossie Ochill	Rossie Ochill	Foteviot	Perth
Roughleys, Roughlees, Rouchlees	Roughlets	Cults	Fife
Ruthven, Barony of Rybno	Ruthven Rybno	Nr. Perth Kinfauns	Perth Perth
St. Andrews	St. Andrews	St. Andrews	Fife
St. Madoes	St. Madoes	St. Madoes	Perth
St. Martins, St. Martine	St. Martins	St. Martins	Perth
Sanquhar	Sanquhar	Seat of the Crichtons	Dumfries
Scone, Scoon, Scoone, Scoonie	Scone	Scone	Perth
Seggieden, Seggiden, Little Seggieden	Seggieden	Kinfauns	Perth
Stormonth	Stormont	Region north of Gowrie	Perth
Strathardle	Strathardle	Valley north of Blairgowrie	Perth
Strathearn, Stewartry & Regality	Strathearn	Region west of Perth	Perth
Strathy Chalmer (Belonged to Chalmers family)			
Strutherland	Struthers	Ceres	
Struyn, Struan	Struan	Blair Atholl	Perth
Tarsappie	Tarsappie	Perth	Fife
Tarvit	Tarvit	Ceres	Fife
Tawside	Teasses	Ceres	Fife
Tay	Tay	Major river of	Perthshire
Tengask, Over & Neth- er Fingask	Fingask	Kilspindie	Perth
Torphichen, Torpichen	Torpichen	Nr. Linlithgow	Perth
Tullebow	Tullebow*	Kinfauns	Perth
Turfhill (in Goddenes)	Turfhill	Kilspindie	Perth

<u>ORIGINAL NAME(S)</u>	<u>CURRENT NAME</u>	<u>PARISH</u>	<u>(Co.)SHIRE</u>
Walltoun, Waltoun, Welton, Weltoun, Welltown	Welton	Cults	Fife
Westfield	Westfield*	Dundee	Angus
Whelplaw			
Whitefield	Whitefield*	Scone	Perth
Woodbank			
Wormestone		Ceres?	Fife

PART II

**BARONAGES & ESTATES OF THE BLAIRS OF BALTHAYOCK
AND THEIR CADETS**

**ABSTRACTS OF
SOME OF THE ORIGINAL TITLES**

**Compiled by
Noel Blair McCullough**

PREFACE

In 1993 Anne and Preston Groome traveled to Ontario, Canada, to meet Robert Tower Fergusson, descendant of the last Balthayock Blair, Jemima Blair Johnson, who married Adam Fergusson. Their second son, Adam Johnson Fergusson, was born at Balthayock, Perthshire, Scotland in 1815. The Balthayock Estate had been deeded to Sir Patrick de Blair in 1369 and was entailed to be owned by the Blair family alone. Jemima Blair Johnson was heiress apparent from her mother, Margaret Blair Drummond Johnson, and died prematurely. Adam Fergusson then moved to Balthayock to be in charge for his mother-in-law. Margaret Johnson lived until 1829. Her will left the property to Jemima's sons - the eldest, Neil James, had to change his name to Blair and when he died in 1868 (or maybe 1863, see financial document on inheritance of Blair spinsters), the second son, Adam Johnson Fergusson, inherited but had to add Blair to his name and was thereafter known as Adam Johnson Fergusson Blair. After all Balthayock lands had been sold, the Fergussons moved to Canada in 1833 where Adam became "a builder of Canada."

While visiting Tower Fergusson, the Groomes were given a copy of the abstract list. The abstracts were arranged and entered with notes on the lands they mentioned in an "index" dated 12 June 1833 and signed J.B.F. Jack Blair of Scotland, our estimable, very accurate Balthayock researcher reminded us that Jemima Blair Fergusson died 14 April 1824. So a question remains as to the identity of the person who first made the abstract list and signed: J.B.F. The document does appear to have been handwritten by more than one person. Therefore, it is probable that Jemima Blair Fergusson took part in some of the listing. This is all the more feasible as there are two occasions when the transcriber used earlier numbers over instead of continuing consecutively.

Shortly after the Groomes returned home they allowed Anne's cousin, Noel Blair McCullough, to type a transcription of the index verbatim for the use of anyone who needed it. And then, in 1999, Tower Fergusson volunteered to give the metal charter chest housing the remaining muniments brought from Scotland to the Groomes for the archives of Clan Blair Society. Many of the muniments had been removed over the years. The 93 documents that remained in the chest, some with seals, are indicated in the following list by an asterisk (*) after the abstract number as well as being placed in a separate list located after the main text.

The abstracts have been arranged in true chronological order and are numbered consecutively in the main abstract listing by Noel Blair McCullough in 2000 in collaboration with Anne and Preston Groome and are accompanied by maps by Jack Blair and Willard McCullough. Jack Blair of Scotland has again been of tremendous help with place names and is primarily responsible for the glossary located between Part I, Genealogy, and Part II, the Abstracts.

PERSONS MENTIONED IN ABSTRACTS

Abernethy	
Lord	3, 4
Aitoun	
Katherine	178
Alison	
Margaret	150, 255
Anderson	
Edmond	196
Edmund	165
Gilbert	196, 293
Henry	383
John	151, 155, 164, 165, 287, 293-295
Patrick	411
Arbuthnot	
John	502, 507
Ardlere	
John	11
Arrat	
James	494, 495
Arrot	
James	488
Auchterhouse	
Lord	86
Ayton	
Andrew	470, 501
Sir Andrew	501
Aytoun	
Agnes	129
Andrew	466, 469
Baird	
David	309
Balfour	
John	120-122, 124, 125, 144, 233
Baxter	
David	108, 117-119, 188, 201, 202
John	28, 29, 32, 49
Black	
Adam	216
Robert	216
Blackwood	
Adam	197, 198, 218, 226
Bessie	365, 366

Robert	226, 227, 366
Blair	
Agnes	433
Alexander	25, 27-29, 32, 33, 36-38, 43-47, 49-52, 54, 55, 58, 60, 61, 66, 68, 70, 72-74, 78, 82, 84, 103-106, 114, 120, 124, 129, 131, 133, 135, 140-142, 147, 159, 160, 162, 167, 168, 170-175, 177-185, 188-191, 199-205, 207-209, 211, 212, 214, 215, 219, 223-225, 228-234, 238, 241, 243, 244, 258, 260, 263-265, 287-290, 295, 300, 303, 307, 311, 317-322, 325, 327-332, 337-339, 342-344, 346, 347, 349-351, 353, 357, 358, 360, 363, 364, 367, 372, 373, 386, 395, 407, 444, 445, 447, 449, 450, 452, 457, 459-464, 467, 475-479, 484, 491, 492, 498, 502, 503, 506, 509-511, 516, 519-521, 544
Andrew	219, 231, 232, 234, 325, 326, 342, 395, 445
Anna	505, 533
Arman	343
Christian	135, 176, 203
Col. Laurence	437
David	33, 43, 65
Elizabeth	350, 352, 502, 506
Eupham	225
Gilbert	72, 74, 81, 103-105, 223
Giles	349, 364
Isabella	42, 133, 134, 537, 542
James	25-27, 33, 43, 499
Jane	139, 142
Janet	113, 140, 209, 222
Jean	194, 195, 221, 224
John	55, 58, 61, 68, 70, 75, 76, 80, 113, 141, 185, 186, 192, 204, 209, 220, 235-237, 244, 254, 309, 384, 392-394, 464, 491, 492, 527, 528, 531-540
Laurence	234, 329, 330, 414, 415, 437, 451, 504
Major Patrick	412, 415
Margaret	516, 527, 530
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**SAMPLE OF
ORIGINAL ABSTRACT**

The facing page displays a copy of one of the documents (117) which are shown in abstract form on the following pages. It has been translated by Jack Blair and is shown below. It will be noted that the charter actually contains some genealogical information not shown in the abstract.

The Abstract:117. Charter by Thomas Blair of Balthayock to David Baxter, burgess of Cupar, and Isobel Jamieson, his spouse, of the half of the lands of Welltoun, halflands of Hiltoun and half lands of Fethes in the Barony of Quilts and county of Fife. Perth, 23 Feb 1549

The Translation:

“In the name of God, Amen: Be it known that this public instrument..one thousand five hundred and forty nine years....fifth day..James Fullerton bailie in this part for an honorable man Thomas Blair of Balthayock personally for service to infest said Thomas in the lands called le Hilton, le Walton and Fethes lying wit hin the county of Fife and his barony of Quilts ..having and holding in his hands the earlier precept in favor of said Thomas.

“Sold to my esteemed David Baxter, burgess of Cupar and Isabella Jamison his wife and their heirs to be held in feu ferme the lands of Walton, Hilton and Fethes with all.”

(There is considerable repetition, as expected, and about the middle of the sheet it says:)

“At Perth 22 February 1549 this witnessed by of (*) Alexander Blair my son and heir apparent, Alexr Jamison, Thomas Caw, John Lindsay, Patrick Guedn?)Thomas Mows notary Public.

*= *At this point a cut appears in the document through which, it appears, a seal was formerly attached.*

(It shows that the actual charter sometimes contains more information about the family than is given in the abstract. Here, Alexander, the son of Thomas, is mentioned in the charter but is not mentioned in the abstract.)

The documents will be stored at The New England Historic Genealogical Society's Library, 101 Newbury St., Boston, MA. Arrangements can be made for viewing and translation of a specific document for the personal use of and at the expense of the person making the request under the rules and regulations of the Library.

Comparison of Abstract and contents of Charter 207 shown on facing page

The abstract 207 says: Seisin in favour of William Blair in the lands of Weltoun proceeding upon charter by Alexander Blair of Balthayock to the said William Blair, his fourth son, of the shadow half of said lands of Weltoun in the Barony of Ardblair in liferent and in full satisfaction of his bairns part of gear, 5 January 1572

Charter 207: Partial translation and comments:

The document opens:

"In the name of God amen. By this present public instrument be it evidently clear that in the year of the Incarnation of the Lord one thousand five hundred and seventy two in the true month of January the fifth day and in the sixth year of the reign of James sixth by the Grace of God King of Scots in the presence of me notary public and witnesses undermentioned."

From the third line it gives the detail of the sasine which records that Alexander Blair of Balthayock had appointed a prudent man as his representative. For the love he bore his fourth born son, William Blair, and taking account of his privileges and portion of goods and in payment of the money and goods due him by the death of his (Alexander's) wife, Janet Ogilvy, he was granting in favour of William, his son, a liferent of the shady half of the lands of Weltoun and its pertinents lying in the barony of Ardlair within the Sheriffdom of Fife, to be held of Alexander and his heirs forthwith by William in liferent. The Rendered Service was valued at £20 per annum.

Alexander placed the power of attorney in William Blair his brother german to infest with the ceremony of earth and stone, William Blair his son in the said lands of Weltoun and its pertinents. This was acted out in the year, month, day and reign as above, there being present there, John Blair, Andro Blair sons of said Alexander, George Law, Alexander Jameson and James Hay all his witnesses called and likewise asked as above.

The closing paragraph states that Malcolm Bowar, clerk of St Andrews created notary public according to Act of Parliament, was present while these things were being acted and said and that he saw the written evidence and heard what was said by the witnesses and that he made a note of them and completed this public instrument and signed it with his notary sign (shown at bottom l.h.s.) *"in faithful testimony of all the forewritten being asked and required."*

ABSTRACTS OF THE TITLES OF THE ESTATE OF BALTHAYOCK
1300-1700

in the order of their respective dates, and of various other properties which formerly belonged to the family of Blair of Balthayock but which have since been sold and conveyed out of the family. Also see preceding glossary located between Part I and Part II for definitions.

Please note: from 1300-1599 the year began on March 25th which makes an unusual chronological order. Documents contained in the chest donated to CBS are indicated by an asterisk () after the document index number.*

***1220-1366: Konakin; Balnachlunock, Haughnahanele; Quilt;
2 Gothenes.***

1. Charter by Hugo de Nyden to Alexander de Blair and Ela, daughter of the said Hugo de Nyden, of the half land of Konakin. To be holden of the said Hugo and his heirs for payment of 5 sh. at the feasts of Lent and St. Martins. Undated, c1220
2. Charter by Duncan, Earl of Fife, to Sir Robert de Erskine, Knight for homage and Service - of the land of Quilt in the county of Fife (Before 1360)
3. Charter by Margaret, Countess of Angus, confirming charter by Alexander, Lord of Abernethy, to John, called Rossell, and the heirs of his body, of the lands of Gothenes (charter of Lord Abernethy not dated). Confirmation dated Dundee, 25th April 1366
4. Notarial copy of Charter by Margaret Stewart, Countess of Angus confirming charter by Alexander, Lord Abernethy, to John de Rossell of the lands of Gothenes without date. Confirmation by the Countess dated 26 Apr 1366. (copy dated 25 June 1430)

***1369-1388: 2 Qwylt in Fife; 2 Balthayock, Kinnoul; Qwylt;
Balgillochy; Marriage obligation: 2d Earl of Douglas killed at
Otterburn in 1388.***

- 5* Charter by Allan de Erskine, Lord of Inchmartine, to Patrick de Blair and the heirs of his body, whom, falling to John de Ardeler, brother of the said Patrick, of a 20 merk land, and to pay to them and their heirs 12 pounds sterling from the lands of Qwylt in the county of Fife, Perth 1 Feb 1369

- 6* Confirmation of the above charter by Robert de Erskine, Lord of the same. Stirling, 6 March 1369
7. Charter by Nicholaus de Erskine, Knight, Lord of Kinnoul, to Patrick de Blair, of the lands of "Bothyok" in the barony of Kinnoul and county of Perth on the resignation of the said Patrick Blair. Perth, 20 Oct 1370
8. Precept by the above Nicholaus for investing the said Patrick Blair in the above lands. Perth, 1373
- 9* Charter by Robert, Earl of Fife & Menteith, to Patrick de Blair of the land of Qwyll lying in the county of Fife. Perth, 1376
- 10* Charter by King Robert II to Patrick de Blair of the superiority of the lands of Balgillochy lying in the county of Forfar - Dated at Scoon 13th July 1387
11. Obligation of James, second Earl of Douglas killed at Otterburn in 1388, to Patrick Blair, his armour bearer, that he shall procure the marriage of the daughter of the deceased John Ardlere, and find her in a 20 pound land or to pay to her on her marriage 100 merks sterling.

1389-1421: Precept for electing an inquest at Court of... Balgilach; Lands of Balgillo, Forfar; 2 Ardlair, Baldowry, ...Balgilloch; Precept to summon inquest at Clene in Glencarse; Lands of Beatonally in Balgernoch, Perth; Balquhilly.

- 12* Precept addressed to Duncan de Lychtoun, Sheriff, Depute of the Sheriffdom of Forfar, that in a court at Balgilach upon Sunday the 8th of Janny 1389, before Robert, Earl of Fife and Menteith, he elect an inquest consisting of Andrew Dempster, William de Maule and others to decide upon the debates between Patrick de Blair and James de Fotheringham as to the lands of Balgilach 1389
13. Resignation by William de Menteith, son and heir of the deceased John de Menteith, in the hand of Patrick de Blair of Balthayock, of the lands of Balgillo in the barony of Kettins and sheriffdom of Forfar. Dundee, 14 Sept 1393
14. Charter by King Robert III to Thomas de Blair, son and heir of Patrick de Blair of Balthayock, of the lands of Ardlair, Baldowry and Balgilloch in the county of Forfar on the resignation of the said Patrick Blair. Dunkeld, 14 Jan 1400

15. Precept of seisin following on the above charter, dated 14th Jan 1400. (Appears in Appendix of Register of the Great Seal in that period and the Latin date is simply one thousand four hundred)
- 16* Precept of Robert, Duke of Albany, etc. to summon an Inquest upon 6 March 1408 at Clene in the county of Gowry to decide the discords between Alexander, Abbot of Scoon and Thomas De Blair of Balthayock as to the marches of the lands of Clene and Balthayock. Clene, 6 March 1408
17. Procuratory by Andrew Lockhart of Beatonally to Archibald Stewart and others to resign in the hands of Walter de Haliburton and William de Erskine, the lands of Beatonally in the barony of Balgernoche and County of Perth. St. Andrews, 13 June 1410
18. Precept by Walter de Haliburton and William de Erskine, Lord of Kinnoull, addressed to Thomas Brown of Quhelplaw for infesting Thomas Blair of Balthayock in the lands of Balquhilly in the County of Perth. Balligernach 29 June 1410
19. Letter by Thomas Charteris, Laird of Cangour (Kinnoull?), by which he determines the marches between the east part of the lands of Kinfauns and the lands of Clene, and as to the myre of Clene. Dated 10 May 1421. (Transcript dated 27 Nov 1464)

1429-1462: Declaration by Henry of Hayston on Justiciary trial of Thomas de Blair, 1429; Act of Parliament reversing Decree in said trial; Lands of Godinnes; Balchinoch & Achnahall Forfar; Balgillo, Baldouries & Ardbhair Ardlair; 2 Balgillo, Forfar.

20. Declaration by Henry of Hayston that he was present and taken to be witness with John of Balbirnie upon a citation given by the said John upon the lands of Balgillo on account of Tomas de Blair in a Justiciary Court held at Dundee, 10 March 1429/30
- 21* Act of Parliament of Scotland in favor of Thomas de Blair reversing the decree given in a Court of Justiciary held at Dundee upon the 15th of March 1429/30, (two days previously) and finding that the lands of Balgillo by a former assize were determined to have belonged to Patrick Blair, father of the said Thomas de Blair. Perth, 17 March 1429
22. Charter by John de Kinross, son of _____ de Kinross, to Alexander de Oggostoun and Dionisia, daughter of the said John de Kinross in free marriage of the land of Balnachlunock and the Haughnahanele. Undated, c1430. (Alexander was the son of John Ogston of that ilk and of Craigs of Glenisla)

23. Charter by David Lindsay, Earl of Crawford to Thomas Wardroper of the half of the lands of Godinnes with that piece of land called Muirybutts lying in the barony of Baltrodie & County of Perth, and mentioning the boundaries, 11 April 1440.

(David Lindsay succeeded as 3rd Earl 1438. Died of wounds received 13 Jan 1445 at the Battle of Arbroath, between the Lindsays and the Ogilvies. Father of Earl Beardie or "The Tiger" - Lives of the Lindsays)

24. Charter by Alexander de Ogston to Christian de Ogilvy, relict of Patrick de Blair, son of the deceased Thomas de Blair of Balthayock, of the ward of the lands of Balchinoch and Achnahall in the barony of Craig of Glenislee and Sheriffdom of Forfar. Dundee, 25 July 1442. (Probably 1452)
25. Obligation by Alexander Blair of Balthayock, bearing that George Blair of Balgillo, with consent of said Alexander Blair, sold to James Blair, burgess of Dundee, a third part of the lands of Balgillo, therefore obliging himself in warrandice for the same over the lands of Baldourie and Ardlair, 20 Feb 1460
26. Precept by George Blair of Balgillochy for infefting James Blair Burgess of Perth, his cousin, in the third part of the lands of of Balgillochy in the county of Forfar. Dundee, 16 Dec 1462
27. Charter by Alexander Blair of Balthayock confirming charter by George Blair of Balgillo to James Blair, Burgess of Dundee, of the third part of the lands of Balgillo in the county of Forfar. Dundee, 16 Dec 1462. (Confirmation same date)

1463-1470: Balgilloquhy, Forfar; Lands of Kinfauns & Clene; Lands of Clene; Instrument as to Service and Duties by John Baxter, Burgess of Coupar, 1465; Lands of Knappoch, Strathearn; Lands of Gothins; Westertown of Quilts; Balgillo and Baldowry, Forfar; Perambulation of the Lands of Cleine, Arnbathie, Ballentard, Balnahagils and Pockmill, 1470.

28. Resignation by William Blair of Ardblair in the hands of Alexander Blair of Balthayock of the third part of the lands of Balgilloquhy in the county of Forfar, pro perpetuo 15 March 1463
- 29* Instrument respecting certain farms (fermes) and duties due, by John Baxter, burgess of Cupar, to Alexander Blair of Balthayock 15 July 1465.

30. Charter by Morice de Drummond of Culquhailzie to Sir Andrew de Drummond, vicar of Muthil, his brother, of the land called Knappoch in the regality Stirling, 9 Oct 1465
31. Precept by David, Earl of Crawford, for infefting Alexander Wardroper as heir to Thomas Wardroper, his father, in the lands of Gothins in the barony of Baltroddie, Stirling, 23 Oct 1466

(Fifth Earl succeeded his father, "Earl Beardie" or "the Tiger" 1454. Created Duke of Montrose by King James III, d.1495. Lives of the Lindsays)

32. Letter of Reversion by John Baxter, Burgess of Cupar, and others to Alexander Blair of Balthayock, for redemption of the lands of the Westertown of Quilts in the Earldom of Fife upon payment of 40 merks, 2/3 money of Scotland. Kirk of Quilt, 2 Oct 1467
33. Procuratory by James Blair, burgess of Dundee, to David Blair of Bendochy, Thos Blair, brother german of Alexander Blair of Balthayock, and Thos Fotheringham of Balleuny to resign in the hands of the said Alexander Blair, the lands of Balgillo with the 3rd part of the mill of the same, and half lands of Baldowry in the County of Forfar. Caithnes, 30 April 1469
- 34* Perambulations of the lands of Cleine, Arnbathie and Ballentard on the one part and the lands of Balnahagils on the other part, by William Scott of Balwery and others - also containing Perambulation of the lands of Pockmill and Balnahagells - both dated 1470

1473-1496: Lands of Blatoun Haugh, Balledgarno; Balclunoch, Forfar; 2 Lands of Balthayock; Settlement of marches twixt Quilts and Tarvit; Lands of Balrody & Balthayock; Lands of Collorauch, Forfar; Lands of Evelick, Perth.

35. Procuratory by George, Laird of Halyburton and Baron of Balledgarno, to Laurence Lord Oliphant and others, to resign in the hands of King James III the lands of Blatoun Haugh in the barony of Balledgarno and Sheriffdom of Perth, 28 June 1473
36. Precept by Margaret Ogilvy, Countess of Buchan, for infefting Alexander Blair of Balthayock, son and heir of the deceased Patrick Blair, in the lands of Balclunoch in the Sheriffdom of Forfar. Auchterhouse, 12 May 1486
37. Precept of Clare Constat by Robert Lord Crichton of Sanquhar for infefting Thos Blair as heir to Alexander Blair of Balthayock, his father, with the lands of Balthayock lying in the barony of Kinnoull. Kinnoull, 23 April 1493

38. Seisin in favour of Thomas Blair, now of Balthayock, as heir to Alexander Blair of Balthayock, his father, in the lands of Balthayock contained in the foregoing precept and proceeding thereon. 23 April 1493
- 39* Decreet Arbitral by Andrew, Abbot of Lindores, and others in the debates between Thomas Blair of Balthayock and Alexander Inglis of Tarvit, as to the march between the lands of Quilts and the lands of Tarvit, 15 July 1494
40. Obligation by John Lindsay, Master of Crawford, that so soon as his sister-in-law, Janet Gordon, shall vacate or resign her conjunct infeftment of the lands of Baltrody and mill thereof, he shall, within 40 days after he is infeft himself therein, give seisin of said lands to Thomas Blair of Balthayock and his heirs, etc. Balthayock, 17 Sept 1494

(The above seems only a copy as it is neither signed nor sealed, as it implies to have been). (John Lindsay succeeded his father, the fifth Earl [and Duke of Montrose] in 1495 as 6th Earl of Crawford not assuming the title of Duke of Montrose, was proceeded against in 1513 on charge of slaughter in 1489 of his elder brother Alexander Lord Lindsay. Was killed at Flodden shortly after in 1513 without surviving sons, succeeded in the Earldom by Sir Alexander Lindsay of Auchtermenzie as 7th earl. His sister, Margaret, married John Blair of Balmyle. Lives of the Lindsays).

41. Obligation of Reversion by William Chalmers of Drumlochy to Thomas Blair of Balthayock, Laird of Balclunoch, for redemption of the lands of Collorauch in the county of Forfar, from the said William Chalmers on payment of 46 pounds money of Scotland within the parish kirk of Blair. Balthayock, 13 May 1496
42. Gift by John, Earl of Crawford, to Thomas Blair of Balthayock of the ward of the lands of Evelick in the barony of Baltroddie and county of Perth together with the marriage of David Lindsay, son and heir of the deceased David Lindsay of Lechoquhy. Edinburgh, 1496

(John, 6th Earl of Crawford. The Lindsays of Evelick descended from William Lindsay of Lekoquhy, 3rd son of David, 3d Earl of Crawford. John Lindsay of Evelick married Isabella Blair in 1551, daughter of Thomas Blair of Balthayock. The direct line of Evelick became extinct in the person of Sir Charles Lindsay, Bart, of the Royal Navy, drowned in the West Indies 6 March 1766, unmarried. Lives of the Lindsays)

1504-1505: Meadowlands of Ardlair; Lands of Barclary, Fife; Brieve & Retour of Service, Alexander Blair to Thos Blair, 1504, Balthayock; Lands & Barony of Quilts; Balclunes and Drumfork, Forfar.

43. Seisin in favor of David Blair, son of James Blair of Bagraw, and Margaret, his spouse, in the lands of Meadowlands of Ardlair proceeding on letter of Bailiary by the said James Blair. 28 July 1504
- 44* Act of the Lords of Council continuing the Process between Alexander Blair of Balthayock and Patrick, Lord Lindsay of the Byres, as to their respective rights to the lands of Barclary in the Sheriffdom of Fife to 6th Aug then next, 22 Feb 1504
- (Patrick, 4th Lord Lindsay of the Byres, succeeded his brother John 1497, was father of Sir John Lindsay who, dying before his father, the latter was succeeded by John, 5th Lord, son of Sir John, which Lord John was father of Patrick, 6th Lord famous in the history of Queen Mary. Lives of the Lindsays The Abbot).*
45. Brieve of Chancery addressed to the Sheriff of Forfar in favor of Alexander Blair as heir to Thomas Blair of Balthayock, his father, 14 March 1504
46. Retour of the Service of the said Alexander Blair as heir above-mentioned in the lands of Balthayock and lands of Goddens (?) lying in the baronies of Kinnoul and Baltroddy respectively and county of Perth, 1 April 1505
47. Seisin in favor of the said Alexander Blair as heir foresaid in the lands and barony of Quilts and county of Fife, proceeding upon Precept from Chancery dated 1505. Seisin dated 23 April 1505
48. Retour of the Service of Alexander Ogilvy as heir to David Ogilvy, his grandfather, in the lands of Balclunes & Drumfork in the county of Forfar, 2 May 1505

1505-1509: Lands of Wester Quilts, Fife; Lands of Roughleys, Quilts; Lands of Goudies; Barony of Kinnoul; Lands of Balthayock.

49. Assignation by Alexander Blair of Balthayock, to Walter Grundison of Glashlie, of his right of redemption from John Baxter, burgess of Cupar, of the lands of Wester Quilts in the county of Fife. Cupar, 27 May 1505
50. Seisin in favor of the above Walter Grundison, in the lands of Roughleys in the Lordship of Quilts and county of Fife, proceeding upon Precept by the above-mentioned Alexander Blair, 20 May 1505. (Seisin dated 28 May 1505)
51. Deliverance by Sir William Ruthven of that Ilk, Knight Sheriff of Perth, and of Sir John Rait of that Ilk, Knight, and others, persons of inquest, as to the avail of the ward lands

pertaining to Thomas Blair, son and heir of the deceased Alexander Blair of Balthayock, and in terms of Precept from the King, finding the lands of Goudies to be worth 4 chalders of victual, the mill thereof worth 6 merks, etc., 2 May 1508

52. Charter of Robert, Lord Crichton of Sanquhar and baron of the barony of Kinnoul to Thomas Blair, son of the deceased Alexander Blair of Balthayock in the barony of Kinnoul, fallen in his hands by the decease of Thomas Blair of Balthayock his grandfather. Edinburgh, 2 May 1509
53. Precept of Seisin following on the above Charter. Edinburgh, 2 May 1509
54. Seisin in favor of Thomas Blair of Balthayock as heir to Alexander Blair of Balthayock, his father, in the lands of Balthayock - proceeds upon Letter of Attorney by King James IV to Patrick Gray and others, 6 May 1509.(Seisin dated 2 June 1509)

2 charters; Lands of Blatoun in Strathardle, Perth; 3 Balmyle & Potento; Balmyle; Potento.

55. Charter by David, Earl of Crawford of the Mains of Meigle to John Blair and Alexander Blair, his son, 25 Feb 1518
56. Charter by King James V confirming the above charter. Edinburgh, 1 April 1518

Abstracter's Note: The above confirmation could not possibly be dated in April 1518, as the charter confirmed is dated in February that year. Now February was near the end of the year, and April within a few days of the beginning, therefore it must be a mistake, it should have been 1519. (J.B.F.?)

57. Seisin in favor of Thomas Wardroper, son of Andrew Wardroper, in the lands of Blatoun in Strathardle and county of Perth, given by the bailie of Thomas Blair of Balthayock, 18 May 1518
58. Charter by David, Earl of Crawford to John Blair and Alexander Blair, his son, also son and heir of the deceased Margaret Lindsay, spouse of the said John Blair, who was sister of the deceased John, Earl of Crawford, in liferent and fee respectively of the lands of Cannay and Mains of Meigle in warrandice of the lands of Balmyle and Potento all in the county of Perth. Edinburgh, 25 Feb 1518

(David, 8th Earl of Crawford succeeded his father Alexander, 7th Earl, 1517 and was implicated with Earl John in the slaughter of Alexander, Lord (Master of) Lindsay, (being then Sir David Lindsay) was father of "the writer" or "Evil Master" of 1542 when the Earldom passed to the Edzell branch, the Master's line being disinherited, but from which they afterwards were reinstated for a time. Lives of the Lindsays).

59. Precept of Seisin following on the above. Edinburgh, 25 Feb 1518
60. Seisin in favor of John and Alexander Blair following on the above charter and Precepts, 10 June 1519.
- 61* Seisin in favor of the above Alexander Blair of Balthayock, son of the deceased Margaret Lindsay and her husband John Blair of Balthayock, in the lands of Balmyle in the barony of Meigle and county of Perth. Seisin given by Walter Tyrie of Drumkilbo, bailie, in virtue of Precept by David, Earl of Crawford, 5 October 1520 (*Jack Blair is sure this Alexander and his father John Blair were of Balmyle not Balthayock*)
62. Seisin as above in the lands of Potento. Seisin given also as above mentioned, 5 Oct 1520

1523-1528: Lands of Barclay; Lands of Gettens; Barclarie; Quilts; Barclay/Barclarie; 3 Balmyle & Potento, Cannay (Camnay?), Mains of Meigle.

63. Instrument taken by Thomas Blair of Balthayock inhibiting William Lindsay of Piotston from intromitting with the lands of Barclay pertaining to said Thomas Blair, 13 May 1523

(William Lindsay of Pyetstone and Wormestone, second son of Patrick, Fourth Lord Lindsay of the Byres. Lives of the Lindsays).

64. Retour of the Special Service of Thomas Blair of Balthayock as heir to Alexander Blair of Balthayock, his father, in the lands of Gettens in the barony of Baltroddie and county of Perth, 31 Oct 1524
65. Tack by David Blair of Balthayock to William Lindsay of Piotsoun of the lands of Barclarie for the term of 5 years, 29 May 1525 (*Jack Blair says the name David is dubious*)
66. Seisin in favor of Thomas Blair of Balthayock as heir to Alexander Blair, above mentioned, his father, in the lands of Quilts in the county of Fife. Proceeds on Precept from Chancery, 16 Sept 1527. (Seisin dated 20 Sept 1527)

67. Instruments of Ejectment taken by a notary and witnesses at the house of Barclay (Barclarie) warning William Lindsay to remove himself and goods from the lands of Barclay (Barclarie), 15 Apr 1528
- 68* Discharge by David, Eighth Earl of Crawford, bearing that he had sold to the deceased John Blair and Alexander Blair, his son, the lands of Balmyle and Potento, as also the lands of Cannay (Camnay?) and Mains of Meigle in warrandice under reversion upon payment by the Earl of the sum of 1400 merks, therefore in consequence of having had paid to him great sums of money by the said Alexander Blair, he renounces his right of reversion over the said lands and disposes to him the same irredeemably. Edinburgh, May 1528
69. Instrument taken upon the foregoing discharge, 4 May 1528
70. Instrument taken by David, 8th Earl of Crawford, upon the foregoing discharge and relative instrument, authorising the Letter of Reversion therein mentioned to be cancelled from the Protocol books, 4 May 1528

1528-1532: 2 Balmyle & Potento; Barclary; 3 Balmyle; Lands of Keithoch Waulkmill & Newton, Forfar; Lands of Balmyle.

71. Instrument taken by a notary and witnesses that he had proceeded to the place of Barclary and dispossessed the goods therein and put in the goods of Thomas Blair of Balthayock, etc. 3 June 1528
- 72* Charter by Alexander Blair of Balmyle to Gilbert Blair and Elizabeth Wedderburn, his spouse, of the fourth part of the lands of Balmyle in the county of Perth. Dundee, 19 March 1528
73. Precept by King James V directed to the Archbishop of Glasgow, Chancellor of Scotland, to expedite confirmation of the foregoing charter by Alexander Blair of Balmyle, 23 March 1528
74. Letter of Regress by King James V to Alexander Blair of Balmyle to receive him again in the fourth part of the above lands of Balmyle on redemption thereof from the said Gilbert Blair and spouse. Edinburgh, 26 March 1529
75. Seisin in favor of Sir John Blair of Balgillo, Knight, in the town and lands of Keithoch Waulk Mill thereof and lands of Newton, piece of land called the Dovecothaugh in the county of Forfar proceeding upon contract between him and Patrick Blair of Keithoch and Margaret Drummond, his spouse, dated ?
Seisin dated 22 June 1532

- 76* Gift by King James V to John Blair of Melginch of the mails, farms and duties of the two part of the lands of Balmyle in the Barony of Meigle and shire of Perth then in the King's hands by reason of nonentry since the decease of John, Earl of Crawford, and that until the lawful heir thereto come of age. Edinburgh, 2 July 1532

1532-1536: Mill of Clene; 2 Balmyle & Potento; 3 Balmyle; Quilts' Fife; 2 Lands of Blatounhall.

77. Decreet by the Sheriff of Perth against Thomas Blair of Balthayock, for having erected a mill under the place of Balthayock and for drawing away the water from the mill of Clene, pertaining to the Commendator and Convent of Scoon for the use of his said mill at Balthayock, 15 July 1532
78. Seisin in favor of Patrick Blair as heir to Alexander Blair of Balmyle, his father, in the lands of Balmyle and Potento in the County of Perth, proceeding upon Precept from Chancery, 29 March 1532. (Seisin dated 29 April 1533)
79. Instrument of seisin following on the above Precept, 29 April 1533
80. Instrument bearing that Patrick Blair of Balmyle with consent of Thomas Blair of Balthayock, his Tutor, compeared in presence of Margt Elder, relict of John Blair of Balmyle, his grandfather, and asked her to infest him in the third part of the lands of Balmyle in terms of Decreet and Sentence of the King and Lords of Council, on which she pleaded her own prior infestment in said lands whereupon the said Patrick Blair protested and took Instruments, 30 April 1533
81. Charter by Patrick Blair of Balmyle with consent of Thomas Blair of Balthayock, his Tutor, to Gilbert Blair and Elizabeth Wedderburn, his spouse, of the lands of Balmyle lying in the county of Perth. Balthayock, 25 July 1533
82. Precept by King James V for infesting Patrick Blair as heir to Alexander Blair of Balmyle, his father, 29 Mar 1533
- 83* Tack by Dame Jane Gray, Lady Lovat, with consent of David Lindsay of Edzell, her spouse, during her lifetime, to her son Thomas Blair of Balthayock, of her terce of the lands and mills of Quilts in the county of Fife, "with full power of bailyery" for yearly payment of 24 merks, money of Scotland, etc. Dundee, 1 Dec 1534
84. Precept of Clare Constat by Janet Haliburton, the eldest of the three sisters and heirs of the Laird of Derleton, with consent of William, Lord Ruthven, her spouse, for infesting Thomas Blair as heir to the deceased Alexander Blair of Balthayock, his father, in the lands of Blatounhall in the barony of Balledgarno and County of Perth. Ruthven, 4 May

1536 Seisin in favor of Thomas Blair in the above lands and proceeding upon the foregoing Receipt, 9 May 1536

85. Seisin in favor of Thomas Blair in the above lands and proceeding upon the foregoing Receipt, 9 May 1536.

1537-1538: Deralands of Essie, Forfar; Turfhill, in the lands of Gothins; Lands of Blattoun Alyth; Kirktown of Quilt; Lands of Turfhill; Kirktown of Quilt.

86. Bond of warrandice by John, Earl of Buchan, Lord Auchterhouse and Baron Essie, to David Guthrie of Essie, bearing that he had sold to the said David Guthrie the lands of Deralands of Essie in the barony of the same and county of Forfar, therefore warranting them free from all tacks, Teinds, etc. Edinburgh, 16 Nov 1537

- 87* Summons at the instance of Thomas Blair of Balthayock against David, 8th Earl of Crawford, for having raised process of nonentry against the said Thomas Blair, upon the pendicle of land called the west part of Turfhill in the lands of Gothins in the barony of Baltroddie and County and Sheriffdom of Perth, therefore charging the Earl to compear, etc. Edinburgh, 9 May 1538

88. Instrument of Ejectment taken by the officer of Thomas Blair of Balthayock, and witness upon the lands of Blattoun Alyth of the goods upon the same belonging to John Reid alias Baron Reid of Straloch and placing the goods of the said Thomas Blair thereon, 12 June 1538

89. Contract between Thomas Blair of Balthayock and Mr. Henry White, Dean of Brechin, bearing that the said Thomas Blair had disposed to the said Mr. Henry White, the lands of Kirktown of Quilts. Therefore he obliges himself to procure a charter from the King of the said lands to said Mr. Henry White and containing provisions for redemption of the same from him. Perth, 12 Aug 1538

90. Summons at the instance of Thomas Blair of Balthayock against the Commendator & Convent of Scoon for impeding him in his possession of the lands of Turfhill, 3 Sept 1538

- 91* Letter of regress by King James V to Thomas Blair of Balthayock to receive him again in the above lands of Kirktown of Quilt upon redemption of the same from Mr. Henry White, Dean of Brechin, and others therein mentioned. Edinburgh, 10 Sept 1538

1539-1539: Balthayock; Lands of Turfhill & Myre; 4 Temple Lands of Balthayock; 2 Commonty of Barclary.

92. Official Transumpt by John Spence, vicar of the church of Dunlop from the protocol books of Andrew Doit, Balthayock Notary, of Seisin in favor of Thomas Blair of Balthayock as heir, etc. St. Andrews, 21 April 1539
93. Summons at the instance of Thomas Blair of Balthayock against Alexander Lindsay 5th Lord of Arbothy for impeding him in the possession of his lands of Turf hills and Myre (moss) there of and for casting of peats therein. Therefore charging the said Alexander Lindsay to compear, etc. Edinburgh, 29 July 1539
- (Alexander Lindsay succeeded his grandfather 1526; was father of Patrick, 6th Lord, famous in history of Queen Mary. The Lindsays of Ardinbathy, Perthshire descended from the Lindsays of Evelick or rather Patrick Lindsay of Evelick sold that estate to his younger brother Alexander Bishop of Dunkeld and took the title of [Laird of] Ardinbathy about 1600. Lives of the Lindsays).*
94. Instrument of Resignation of Thomas Blair of Balthayock in the hands of Walter, Lord St. Johns, Preceptor of Torpichen, Knight of the order of Balthayock/Jerusalem, of the Temple lands of Balthayock "cum turre fortalicio". 12 Feb 1539 ("*Order of Balthayock*" is dubious here)
95. Charter by Walter, Lord St. Johns, Preceptor of Torpichen to Thomas Blair of Balthayock of the temple lands of Balthayock granted on the foregoing Resignation. Edinburgh, 12 Feb 1539
96. Precept of seisin by Walter, Lord St. John, Preceptor of Torpichen for infefting Thomas Blair of Balthayock in the Temple lands and others mentioned in the foregoing charter. 13 February 1539
97. Seisin in favor of Thomas Blair of Balthayock in the above mentioned temple lands of Balthayock - proceeding upon Precept of Seisin by Walter, Lord St. John, 13 Feb 1539. (Seisin dated 18 Feb 1539)
98. Renunciation by John, Lord Lindsay of the Byres, in favor of Thomas Blair of Balthayock, of his right in the property and commonty of the lands of Barclary bewest the burn that runs between the place and Mains of Struther and the lands of Barclary, and defining the marches thereof. Struther, 7 April 1540
(John, 5th Lord Lindsay, succeeded his grandfather in 1526 and was father of Patrick, 6th Lord, famous in history of Queen Mary).
- 99* Instrument bearing that John, Lord Lindsay of the Byres, delivered the letter of Renunciation to Thomas Blair of Balthayock in favour of the latter of the right of the former in the property and commonty of the lands of Barclary bewest the burn that runs between the place and mains of Strutherland and the lands of Barclary and defining the marches thereof 1540

- 100* Sasine Thomas Blair of the Lands of Barclary from John Lord Lindsay of the Byres 1540

1540-1542: Turfhillis and Myre; Lands and Barony of Dudhope and Quilts, Forfar; 4 Balmyle.

- 101* Summons at the instance of Thomas Blair of Balthayock against Alexander Lindsay, burgess of Perth, for impeding him in his possession of the lands of Turfhillis and casting peats on the north half of the Myre thereof, therefore charging the said Alexander Lindsay to compear, etc. Edinburgh, 10 Sept 1540
102. Charter of Novodamus by King James V to James Scrymgeour, Constable of Dundee, & the series of heirs therein mentioned of the lands and barony of Dudhope and others, including the lands of Quilts, in the counties of Forfar, Fife, Perth, Aberdeen, etc., and of new erecting the said lands into a barony to be called the Barony of Dudhope etc. Falkland, 2 March 1541
103. Charter by Gilbert Blair of Balmyle to Alexander Blair, of the east fourth part of the lands of Balmyle in the county of Perth. To be holden of the King. Perth, 5 April 1542
104. Charter by Gilbert Blair of Balmyle to the above Alexander Blair of said lands. To be holden of himself, the said Gilbert Blair. Perth 5 April 1542
105. Precept of Seisin by the said Gilbert Blair for infefting the said Alexander Blair in the above lands. Perth, 5 April 1542
- 106* Instrument of Seisin in favor of the said Alexander Blair therein designed son and apparent heir of Thomas Blair of Balthayock, in the above lands, proceeding on the above mentioned Precept of Sasine, 24 May 1542

1544-1547: Mutual bond of maintenance, Ross, Moncrieff, Blair, 1544; Lands of Wester Cults; Office of Herdship and Lands of Pannishill; 4 Lands of Tulchaneerbe; Lands of Potento.

107. Bond of Maintenance entered into by John Ross of Craigie, William Moncrieff of that Ilk and Thomas Blair of Balthayock, binding themselves to take part with each other in all their just and lawful acts. Perth, 22 April 1544
108. Procuratory by Thomas Blair of Balthayock to John Fullarton, to give intimation to David Baxter, Burgess of Cupar, and Elizabeth Jamieson, his spouse, to compear in the parish kirk of Cupar to receive 141 merks for redemption from them of the lands of Wester Cults. Balthayock, 27 Feb 1545

109. Tack by Patrick, Bishop of Murray, Commendator of Scoon, & convent thereof, to John Brown and Christian Brown, his spouse, of the Office of Herdship and lands of Pannishill together with the Teinds of the same for the space of 19 years. Scoon, 6 Apr 1546
110. Bond of Warrantice by Mr. William Cardney of Tulchane-erbe, to Catharine Toshack, daughter of David Toshack of Monivaird, bearing that he had infeft her in liferent in the 4 of land of Tulchane-erbe in the Stewartry of Strathearn, therefore warranting said lands free from all wards, reliefs, etc. Tulchaneerbe, 26 Feb 1546.
111. Obligation in form of instrument by Patrick Blair of Balmyle to William Coult, burges of Dundee, obliging himself to grant a charter and infeftment to him of an annualrent 6 bolls bear, furth of the lands of Bawtento (Potento) in the Barony of Meigle redeemable the said lands on payment of 50 merks, 29 June 1547

1547-1549: Lands of Potento; Balmyle; Nomination of Tutory & Curatory by Patrick Blair, 1547; Nomination of Curatory by Andrew Scott, Kinfauns 1547; Gift Queen Mary to Blair of Balthayock of the Ward of the Barony of Kinnoul.

112. Precept of Seisin of the said William Coult, in the before mentioned annual rents. Potento, 29 June 1547
- 113* Assignation by John Blair of Melginch, son and heir of the deceased John Blair of Melginch, in favor of Janet Blair, Lady Balmyle of gift by King James V to the said deceased John Blair of parts of the lands of Balmyle therein mentioned, 13 Aug 1547
114. Nomination by Patrick Blair of Balmyle, by reason of the danger of a war between the Scotch and the English, of Alexander Blair, his brother german, to be Tutor Testamentor, and Thomas Blair of Balthayock and Alexander Blair, his son and apparent heir, to be curators for his children during their minority, with power to them, etc., 8 Sept 1547
(*There was a Battle of Pinkie 10 Sept 1547*).
- 115* Nomination by Andrew Scott in Kirktoon of Kinfauns, for the reasons above mentioned, of the said Thomas and Alexander Blairs to be curators to his children and intromitters with his goods, etc., 30 Sept 1547
116. Gift by Queen Mary to Thomas Blair of Balthayock of the ward of the Barony of Kinnoul, then in the Queen's hands through the decease of Dame Janet Gray, conjunct fiar thereof together with the marriage of _____ Fraser, son and heir of the deceased Robert Fraser of Kinnoull (Kinnell?). Dundee, 11 Feb 1549

1549-1550: 3 Lands of Welltoun, Hilltoun, Fethes, Fife; 2 Roughlees in the Barony of Quilts.

117. Charter by Thomas Blair of Balthayock to David Baxter, burghess of Cupar, and Isobel Jamieson, his spouse, of the half of the lands of Welltoun, halflands of Hiltoun and half lands of Fethes in the Barony of Quilts and county of Fife. Perth, 23 Feb 1549
- 118* Seisin in favor of the said David Baxter and spouse in the lands abovementioned proceeding upon Precept of Seisin by Thomas Blair of Balthayock, 23 Feb 1549. (Seisin dated 5 Mar 1549)
119. Letter of Reversion by David Baxter, burghess of Cupar, and Isobel Jameson, his spouse, to Thomas Blair of Balthayock, for redemption from them of the lands of Welltoun and others contained in the above charter, on payment of 300 merks. Cupar, 12 March 1549
120. Letter of Reversion by John Balfour to Alexander Blair of Balthayock, son and heir of Thomas Blair, for the sum of 500 merks on the redemption of the lands of Roughlees in the barony of Cults, 19 May 1550
121. Letter of Reversion by John Balfour and Janet Smith, his spouse, to Thomas Blair of Balthayock for redemption from them of the lands of Roughlees in the barony of Cults and county of Fife, on payment to them of the sum of 500 merks, Perth, December 1550

(Note: there is a discharge on the back of the above by John Balfour, son of the above).

1550-1550: Lands of Roughlees; Gift by Queen Mary of the Ward and Nonentry of Balthayock; 2 Lands of Roughlees, Cult; Lands of Kirkton of Quilt; 2 Welltoun; Lands & Barony of Cults.

122. Letter of regress by Queen Mary in favor of Thomas Blair of Balthayock to receive him in his lands of Roughlees wadset by him to John Balfour and Janet Smith, his spouse, on their being redeemed. Edinburgh, 2 Jan 1550
123. Gift by Queen Mary to Thomas Blair of Balthayock of the ward and nonentry of such parts of the lands of Balthayock lying in the barony of Kinnoull, as are holden of William, Lord Crichton of Sanquhar, then in the Queen's hands through his decease. Edinburgh, 3 Feb 1550

124. Instrument bearing that Alexander Blair, son and apparent heir of Thomas Blair of Balthayock, compeared in the personal presence of Janet Smith, spouse of John Balfour in Scoonie, and showed to her a letter of Reversion for redemption from her and her said husband, of the lands of Roughlees asking her if the seal appended thereto was her proper seal, etc. when she declared it was her proper seal, 18 March 1550
125. Letter of Reversion by John Balfour in Scoonie and Janet Smith, his spouse, to Thomas Blair of Balthayock for redemption of the lands of Kirkton of Quilts, March 1550
126. Procuratory by Thomas Blair of Balthayock to John Fullarton and others for redemption from David Schethy of the half of the lands of Welltoun in the county of Fife on payment of 120 merks. Balthayock, 25 March 1550
127. Instrument of Intention taken upon the foregoing Procuratory 27 March 1550
128. Precept by Thomas Blair of Balthayock, for intimating to Elizabeth and Janet Lindsay, sisters and Murray, their subtenant to flitt and remove from the lands and barony of Cults at the term of Whitsunday then next. Balthayock, 27 March 1550

1551-1551: Lands of Wester Cults; Lands of Clachladrone; Teinds of Balbeggie; Gift by Queen Mary for protecting Water of Tay between Meigdrum and Scoone, 1551; 2 Part of the lands and Barony of Montago.

129. Instrument bearing that Alexander Blair, procurator for Thomas Blair of Balthayock, compeared within the church of St. Giles in Edinburgh for redemption from John Petterson or Snawdon (Herald) and Agnes Aytoun, his spouse, of the lands of Wester Cults in the county of Fife on payment of 100 pounds, wadset by the said Thomas Blair, 14 May 1551
130. Notarial Transumpt of Precept from Chancery for infefting Andrew Cardney as heir to William Cardney, his father, in the lands of Clachladrone in the Stewartry of Strathearn which precept is partly engressed in another precept by David, Lord Drummond to the effect foresaid, 15 May 1551 (Transumpt dated 28 Mar 1616)
- 131* Instrument of Appeal to the Pope by Alexander Blair, son and apparent heir of Thomas Blair of Balthayock and assignee of Patrick Ogilvy of Inchmartine to a Tack of the Teind sheaves of Balbegies granted by Mr. John Leslie, Rector of the parish kirk of Kinnoul, as aggrieved by a Sentence of the Archbishop of St. Andrews and his officials, & to be relieved from process of excommunication, 6 Sept 1551

132. Gift by Queen Mary (Protector anon) to Neil Laing, her servitor of the Office of Searcherie and keeping of the water of Tay between Meigdrum and the heads of Scoon from the slaughter of fry and smelts from the last day of February to the first of June yearly, and to keep the water free from the slaughter of black fish in forbidden time with all fees and profits, etc. Edinburgh, 30 Jan 1551
133. Precept by John Lindsay of Evelick with consent of Alexander Blair, burgess of Perth, his curator, to Alexander Blair, apparent of Balthayock, to give liferent Seisin to Isabella Blair, future spouse of the said John Lindsay, and daughter of Thomas Blair then of Balthayock, of parts of the lands and Barony of Montago in the Barony of Baltroddy and county of Perth. Balthayock, 12 Feb 1551

(Evelick descended from William Lindsay of Lekoquhy, 3rd son of David, 3rd Earl of Crawford)

134. Seisin in favor of Isabella Blair, future spouse of John Lindsay of Evelick, in parts of the lands and Barony of Montago, in the Barony of Baltroddie and County of Perth proceeding on the foregoing Precept of Seisin, 15 Feb 1551

1552-1553: Contract of marriage between Alexander Blair and Christian Blair; Remission by Queen Mary to Thomas Blair et al; 3 Charters by Queen Mary for keeping water of Tay and boats betwixt Meigdrum & Scone.

135. Contract of marriage between Alexander Blair, son and heir of William Blair of Balgray and Christian Blair, daughter of Thomas Blair of Balthayock, 5 Jan 1552
136. Remission by Queen Mary to Thomas Blair of Balthayock and others for absenting themselves from the Queen's Army and for their art and part in the slaughter of Sir Alexander Dempster. Perth, 20 July 1553
(Note: the famous Mary, who was only 11 years old in 1553.)
[N.F.B. Neil Fergusson Blair?].
137. Charter by Queen Mary to Thomas Blair of Balthayock, of searching and keeping of the water of Tay and boats thereon between Meigdrum and the heads of Scoon and keeping the water, as mentioned, in gift of the same entered foregoing page hereof. Edinburgh, 23 Aug 1553
138. Precept by Queen Mary for infesting Thomas Blair of Balthayock in the office above mentioned. Edinburgh, 23 Aug 1553

- 139* The above Titles recorded, upon the judicial proceedings raised by David, Earl of Crawford, against Jane Blair, daughter of Patrick Blair of Balmyle, for the production thereof. Edinburgh, 1 or 5 Dec 1553

(Note: It would appear that the original charter by the Earl dated 25 February 1518 had not been produced, but only the Royal confirmation of it).

1554-1559: Lands of Barclary; Gift of the Escheat of Alexander Blair; Letter of Tutory to Janet Blair of Balmyle; Tack of part of the Lands of Clene; Thomas Blair's appeal to the Pope for the vicar's Dyke & glebe of Quilts & relief from excommunication; Commission of Relief from church censure by the Pope in favour of Thomas Blair.

140. Summons at the instance of Thomas Blair of Balthayock against Millar, Tenant to John, 5th Lord Lindsay, of the Byres, for impeding him in the possession of the lands of Barclary by diverting the water therefrom to the mill of Struyn, therefore charging the said Millar to compear, etc. Edinburgh, 17 July 1554
141. Assignation of Instrument by Hugh Kennettye of Girvan, Mains Knight, & Harry Drummond of Riccarton, to Thomas Blair of Balthayock, of their gift of the escheat of Alexander Blair, tutor of John Blair of Balmyle, fallen in the Queen's hands by reason of the slaughter of George Drummond of Laytcreif & William Drummond, his son. 7 Sept 1554
142. Letter of Tutory by Queen Mary nominating Alexander Blair, son and apparent heir of Thomas Blair of Balthayock, to be Tutor dative to Janet or Jane Blair, daughter and heir of the deceased Patrick Blair of Balmyle, while her complete age. Edinburgh, 7 May 1555
143. Assignation in form of Instrument by John Brown in Clene in favor of John Brown in Panshill, his wife and children, of a Tack for the space of 19 years granted by Patrick, Bishop of Murray, of 4 acres of land within the lands of Clene, 18 March 1556

(Note: There are two intimations on the back of the above, as having been made in the presence of the Prior and chapter of Scoon. Dated 24 or 29 Mar 1557 and 17 May 1557).

144. Instrument of appeal to the Pope by Thomas Blair of Balthayock and John Balfour of Roughleys in the parish of Quilts, from a sentence of Mr. William Cranstoun, Professor of Theology, St. Salvatore College, St. Andrews, as to casting of fuel upon the lands adjacent to the vicar's Dyke of Quilts for bigging and reforming of his foresaid croft and houses upon the said vicar's glebe, and to be relieved from excommunication, etc. Dated 11 May & pub. 3 June 1559

145. Commission by the Pope to relieve the above Thomas Blair from church censure. etc. incurred in the questions between him and Robert Menzies, chaplain before the official of St. Andrews as to the buying of a certain annualrent of 8 merks for 25 years. Rome, June 5 _____

(In 1559 Pius IV [de Medici] became Pope succeeding Paul IV [Caressa], who became Pope in 1555. Pius V followed Pius IV in 1566).

1561: 4 Mains of Clene, Cum Decimus, etc.; 5 Lands of Clene.

146. Charter by Patrick, Bishop of Murray, Commendator of Scoon, to Gilbert Hedderwick and Christian Spence, his spouse, of the fourth part of the Mains of Clene with 8 acres of land adjoining thereto "cum decimis garbalibus ejusdem" lying in the lordship and regality of Scoon, "Quequidem decimo garbales antedict (or antediet) non solebant a prescriptis terris dividi nec separari sed cum eisdem omni tempore locariet assedari consuevert." The Precept was directed to Alexander Blair of Friartoun [Chamberlain of Scoon]. Scoon, 4 Oct 1561
- 147* Seisin in favor of the above Gilbert Hedderwick and Christian Spence, his spouse, in the above mentioned lands. Seisin given by Alexander Blair, Chamberlain of Scoon, 13 Oct 1561
148. Charter by Patrick, Bishop of Murray, to Agnes Hunter and James Sharp, her son, of the eighth part of the lands of the Mains of Clene with 6 acres adjoining "cum decimis garbalibus ejusdem" lying in the Lordship and regality of Scoon, "Quo quidem decimo antedict non solebant prescriptis terris dividi nec separari sed cum," etc. Scoon, 14 Oct 1561
149. Charter by Patrick, Bishop of Murray to Andrew Sym, of the 8th part of the lands of Clene with 9 acres of said lands and the half of the Abbots croft lying in the lordship and regality of Scoon "cum decimis garbalibus," etc., as in the two former charters. Scoon, 14 Oct 1561
150. Seisin in favor of Robert Elder and Margaret Alison, his spouse of the eighth part of the lands of the Mains of Clene, "cum decimis" etc. proceeding upon Precept by Patrick, Bishop of Murray, 14 Oct 1561. (Seisin dated 25 Nov 1561)
- 151* Charter by Patrick, Bishop of Murray to John Anderson and Isobel Scott, his spouse, of 2 acres of the lands of Clene in the Lordship and regality of Scoon lying as above "cum decimis garbalibus" etc. Scoon, 24 Oct 1561

- 152* Charter by King James VI verbatim ratifying charter by Patrick Bishop of Murray, to Janet Sharp and John Wood, her son, of one & a half acres of the lands of Clene and Teinds thereof, dated 24 Oct 1561. Confirmation dated Holyroodhouse, 15 Mar 1585
153. Seisin in favor of Agnes Hunter and James Sharp, her son in the lands therein mentioned, 25 November 1561
154. Seisin in favor of Andrew Sym, in the eighth part of the lands of Clene, proceeding upon Precept of Seisin contained in Charter. 25 November 1561
155. Seisin in favor of John Anderson and Isabella Scott his spouse indwellers of the lands of Clene, 8 Feb 1561

1562: Part of the lands of Clene; 2 Lands of Panshill; Contracts on lands of Baldowry, Balmyle and Potento; Part of the lands of Balgillochy.

156. Charter by Patrick, Bishop of Murray, to John Brown and Christian Brown, his spouse, of four acres of the lands of Clene, "cum dec imis garbalibus earundem que; quidem decimo garbales a presates quatuor acris terrarum non solebant dividi sui separari sedum usdem quatuor acris omni tempore locari et assedari confueverunt," 9 April 1562
157. Seisin in favor of John Brown and Christian Brown, his spouse in the lands of Panshill proceeding upon precept by Patrick, Bishop of Murray, 9 April 1562. (Seisin dated 18 April 1562) 1562.
158. Tack by Patrick, Bishop of Murray, to the above mentioned John Brown of Pawnsbill and spouse of the teind sheaves of the lands of Pannshills in the Regality of Scoon, for the term of 19 years for payment yearly of 5 bolls bear and 6 bolls meal, 19 April 1562
- 159* Contract between Thomas Blair of Balthayock and Alexander Blair sometime Tutor of Balmyle, by which the said Thomas Blair obliges himself to infest the said Alexander Blair in liferent in a yearly pension of four chalders victual, 6 pounds 8 shillings, money of Scotland, 2 geese and 24 poultry, forth of the lands of Baldowry, etc. and on the other hand, the said Alexander Blair obliges himself to deliver up all charters, letters of reversions, made to the deceased Thomas Blair of Balmyle upon the lands of Balmyle and Potento at Balthayock, 11 July 1562

1562-1567: Part of the lands of Clene; Extract of contract between Thomas & Alexander Blair; Lands of Clene; Settlement of the Marches betwixt Blair of Balthayock and Charteris of Kinfauns; 2 Parts of the lands & Mains of Clene; Lands of Panshill; Settlements of Marches Blair of Balthayock & Charteris of Kinfauns.

160. Seisin in favor of John Hedderwick as heir to Gilbert Hedderwick his father, in the quarter part of the lands of the Mains of Clene, and others, proceeding on Precept of Clare Constat by Patrick, Bishop of Murray, dated 13 Jan 1562 (Seisin dated 29 Jan 1564).
- 161* Seisin given by John Wood to Janet Bowden, his spouse, of one and a half acres of the lands of Clene, 8 Feb 1562
162. Extract of contract between Thomas Blair of Balthayock and Alexander Blair, sometime Tutor of Balmyle, in terms therein mentioned. Edinburgh, 4 March 1562.
163. Submission by Thomas Blair of Balthayock and John Charteris of Kinfauns, on the one and other parts, to John, Earl of Athol, and others to settle all disputes and differences then subsisting between them. Balthayock and Petsyndie, 23 Aug 1563
164. Precept of Clare Constat by Patrick, Bishop Murray for infefting John Anderson as heir to John Anderson in Clene, his brother, in 2 acres of the lands of Clene and Teinds, Scoon 7 Feb 1563
165. Seisin in favor of Edmund Anderson, as heir to John Anderson in Clene, his brother, in two acres of the lands of Clene proceeding on Precept of Clare Constat, 10 Feb 1563
166. Charter by John Brown of Pannshill to Henry Brown, his son, of the lands of Panshill in the regality of Scoon and county of Perth, 12 Oct 1566
167. Minute by the arbiters appointed between Thomas Blair of Balthayock and Alexander Blair, his son, and John Charteris of Kinfauns for settling their respective marches and containing the depositions of witnesses, 31 July 1567.

1567-1568: Rybno, Gouktown & Tullebow in Kinfauns; Lands of Drumforks, etc.; 4 Lands of Balthayock; Lands of Blatounhaugh; 2 Balthayock; Lands of Balmonth, Fife; Balthayock.

168. Seisin in favor of Catharine Blair, daughter of Alexander Blair apparent of Balthayock, and future spouse of George Charteris, son and apparent heir of John Charteris of Kinfauns, in liferent, in the lands of Rybno, Gouktown and Tullebow in the barony of Kinfauns, in implement of a marriage contract entered into between said parties, 4 Aug 1567
169. Retour of the Special Service of Gilbert Ogilvy as heir to Alexander Ogilvy of that Ilk, his father, in the lands of (Balclunes) and Drumforks, 10 Jan 1567
[The transcriber wrote, "Note. The above scarcely legible," referring to the place name in parentheses. Jack Blair has made an educated guess as to the name A.D. 2000.]
170. Precept by Edward, Lord Crichton, of Sanquhar for infefting Alexander Blair as heir to Alexander Blair of Balthayock, his father (*I think the writer meant Thomas Blair, NIM 4/1993*), in the lands of Balthayock 1568.

Note: the above seems never to have been completed as it is not signed. (Maybe it wasn't signed because of the mistake in using the name Alexander twice. NIM 4/1993).
171. Discharge by James, Lord St. John of Torpichen, Knight, to Alexander Blair, now of Balthayock of the sum of 20 shillings as the duties of the Temple lands of Balthayock. Torphichen, 2 May 1568
172. Precept of Clare Constat by James, Lord St. John (Preceptor) of Torpichen, Knight, for infefting Alexander Blair as heir to Thomas Blair of Balthayock, his father, in the Temple lands of Balthayock with the manor place, etc. Holyrood House, 30 April 1568
- 173* Seisin proceeding upon precept of Clare Constat by James Lord St John (Preceptor) of Torpichen Knight for infefting Alexander Blair as heir to Thomas Blair of Balthayock his father in the Temple Lands of Balthayock with the manor place, etc., Holyrood House 30 April 1568 (Holyrood House, 11 May 1568)
174. Seisin in favor of Alexander Blair as heir to Thomas Blair of Balthayock, his father, in the lands of Blatounhaugh proceeding upon Precept by William, Lord Ruthven, dated 20 March 1567 and Letters of Attorney by King James VI, dated 25 March 1568. Seisin dated 11 May 1568
175. Seisin in favor of Alexander Blair as heir to Thomas Blair of Balthayock, his father, in the lands of Balthayock proceeding upon precept of Clare Constat by Edward, Lord Crichton of Sanquhar and Kinnoull, 11 Nov 1568

- 176* Contract between Robert Ramsay, feuar of Balmonth, with consent etc. and William Ramsay of Murye for himself and Christian Blair, his spouse, on the one and other parts by which the said Robert Ramsay obliges himself in consideration of 1000 merks, to infest the said William Ramsay, in the half of the lands of Balmonth in the county of Fife, under reversion, and the said William Ramsay on the other hand obliges himself to grant tack of the said lands to the said Robert so long as he, the said William Ramsay, possesses the lands of Little Balcurry in the Barony of Durie. Tawside, 19 Nov 1568
177. Retour of the Special Service of Alexander Blair as heir to Thomas Blair of Balthayock, his father, in the lands of Balthayock in the barony of Kinnoul and county of Perth. Perth, 31 Mar 1568

1568-1569: Ratification of contract, Blairs of Balthayock; Lands of Blacklunans, Forfar; Waltoun & Hiltoun, Cults; Lands of Collarauch; 2 Lands of Balthayock.

178. Ratification by Katherine Aitoun, relict of Thomas Blair of Balthayock, and William and Patrick Blair, their sons, of a contract between the said Thomas Blair and Alexander Blair, now of Balthayock, his son and apparent heir, 18 Mar 1568.
179. Intimation on behalf of Alexander Blair of Balthayock to William Chalmers of Drumlochy, to receive the sum of 16 pounds, money of Scotland for redemption from him of the lands of Courach in the Barony of Blacklunans and County of Forfar, 16 Apr 1569
180. Renunciation and discharge by William Chalmers of Drumlochy to Alexander Blair of Balthayock, [nephew], heir and successor of Thomas Blair of Balthayock of the sum of 46 pounds for redemption of the lands of Collarauch (Courach?) 23 May 1569
(Note: Alexander Blair is designed in the above, nephew of Thomas Blair, which is a mistake. Epos [Latin] & nevoy [Scots] = nephew written by the original transcriber. Jack Blair writes "nepos [Latin] or nevoy [Scots] means grandson)"
181. Letter of Reversion by William Blair, son of the deceased Thomas Blair of Balthayock, to Alexander Blair, now of Balthayock, his brother, for redemption from him of an annualrent of 12 bolls victual payable furth of the lands of Balthayock upon payment to him, the said William Blair, of the sum of 200 merks in the Kirk of Kinnoull. Perth, 28 May 1569
182. Gift by King James VI to Alexander Blair of Balthayock of the ward and nonentries of the lands of Balthayock, then in the king's hands by reason of the decease of Edward, Lord Crichton of Sanquhar. Perth, 1 Aug 1569

1569: Lands and Barony of Ardlair; Settlement of Marches betwixt lands of Cults & Tarvit, Fife; Mill lands and Mill of Cults; 2 Part of the lands of Clene; Lands of Cults.

183. Gift by King James VI to Alexander Blair of Balthayock of the Relief of the lands and Barony of Ardlair containing, as therein mentioned. St. Andrews, 6 Aug 1569
184. Agreement between Alexander Blair of Balthayock and Alexander Inglis of Tarvit as to the settling of the marches on their respective lands of Cults and lands of Tarvit, and describing said marches, 20 Jan 1569
- 185* Renunciation and discharges by John Blair in Clene, son natural of the deceased Thomas Blair of Balthayock, to Alexander Blair of Balthayock; of the mill lands and mill of Cults, and of the sum of 100 merks in lieu of his liferent of 10 merks yearly from said lands 1 Feb 1569
186. Charter by John Hedderwick, son and heir of the deceased Gilbert Hedderwick, with consent of Christian Spence, his mother, relict of the said Gilbert, to John Blair, indweller in Clene, now her spouse, and Thomas Blair, their eldest son, for their respective interests in parts of the lands of Clene. Perth, 2 Feb 1569
187. Procuratory by the above John Hedderwick, for resigning in the hand of Patrick, Bishop of Murray, the fourth part of the Mains of Clene, with 8 acres of land pertaining thereto. In favor and for new infeftment to be granted in terms of the foregoing charter. Perth, 2 Feb 1569

1570: 2 Lands of Waltoun, Hiltoun, Fisches of Cults; 2 lands of Corlarach, Forfar; 2 Mains of Clene.

188. Intimation on behalf of Alexander Blair of Balthayock to David Baxter, burges of Cupar, to receive the sum of 300 merks for redemption from him of the half lands of Waltoun, half lands of Hiltoun and half lands of the "Fisches" lying in the Barony of Cults and county of Fife wadset as therein mentioned, 16 March 1569.
Note: the last mentioned lands are called Fethons(?) in the Intimation dated 1 April 1570.
189. Intimation on behalf of Alexander Blair of Balthayock to David Baxter, burges of Cupar, to receive the sum of 300 merks, for redemption from him of the land of Waltoun and others mentioned above, 1 April 1570

190. Obligation of Alexander Blair of Balthayock, to confirm a charter granted by Patrick Robertson of Balnahill and spouse, to Alexander Robertson of Dulkaben, their son, of the town and lands of Corlarach in the Barony of Craigs and county of Forfar, 11 May 1570
191. Letter of Reversion by Patrick Robertson of Balnahill and Grizell Rattray, his spouse, to Alexander Blair of Balthayock, for redemption from them of the lands of Corlarach in the Barony of Craigs upon payment of the sum of 350 merks. Corlarach, 12 May 1570
- 192* Charter of Resignation by Patrick, Bishop of Murray, commendator of Scoon, to John Blair, indweller in Clene, and Thomas Blair, his son, of the fourth part of the lands of the Mains of Clene and 8 acres pertaining thereto "unacum decimis garbalibus ejusdem" proceeding on their resignation. Spynie & Scoon, 27 July and 1 Aug 1570
193. Seisin following upon the above charter, 22 Aug 1570

1571-1572: 2 Nether Balmyle and Potento; 3 Mains of Clene; 2 Lands of Corlarach; 2 Lands of Weltoun, Cults.

194. Seisin in favor of Jean Blair and Thomas Blair, apparent of Balthayock, her husband, in the lands of Nether Balmyle and Potento in the barony of Meigle and county of Perth proceeding upon Precept contained in charter by King James VI, 30 Aug 1571
- 195* Instrument of Seisine. In favours of Jean Blair and Thomas Blair, apparent Blair of Balthayock, her husband and longest liver of them two, etc., of the Lands of Balmyle and Potento upon a Charter from R James 6th, 21 Sept 1571
- 196* Seisin in favor of Gilbert Anderson as heir to Edmond Anderson in Inchmichael, his father, in two acres of the lands of Clene in the lordship and regality of Scoon - on Precept of Clare Constat by Patrick, Bishop of Murray. Dated at Spynie and Scoon, 29 Sept & 20 Oct 1571. (Seisin dated 27 Dec 1570)
197. Charter by James Sharp to Adam Blackwood, burgess of Perth, of an annual rent of 10 pounds payable furth of the eighth part of the Mains of Clene and others. Clene, 2 Nov 1571
198. Seisin in favor of the above Adam Blackwood and following on Precept contained in said charter, 2 November 1571

199. Intimation, on behalf of Alexander Blair of Balthayock, to Patrick Robertson of Balnakeill, Grizell Rattray, his spouse, and Alexander Robertson of Dulkaben, their son, to receive 350 merks for redemption from them of the lands of Corlarach. 12 April 1572
200. Renunciation & discharge in favor of Alexander Blair of Balthayock following on the foregoing intimation, 24 May 1572
201. Procuratory by Alexander Blair of Balthayock to give intimation to David Baxter, Burgess of Perth, for redemption from him of the lands of Walltoun in the lordship of Cults, 18 Oct 1572
202. Renunciation and discharge by David Baxter, Burgess of Perth, to Alexander Blair of Balthayock of the half lands of Weltoun and of 120 merks for redemption of the same, 6 Nov 1572

1572-1573: Discharge of Christian Blair's Tocher, 1572; Lands of Easter Cults; 3 Shadow half of the lands of Welltoun; Mutual discharge Alexander Blair and Alison Lindsay, occupiers of the lands of Barclarie.

203. Discharge by William Ramsay of Murray to Alexander Blair of Balthayock, of the sum of 300 Merks, being the balance of 800 merks in complete payment of the tocher of Christian Blair, his sister, spouse of the said William Ramsay and that in implement of their marriage contract, 8 Nov 1572
204. Charter by Alexander Blair of Balthayock to John Blair, his second son, in liferent and in full satisfaction of his bairns part of gear, of the lands of Easter Cults, in the barony of Ardlair. Myres, 23 Dec 1572
205. Charter by the above Alexander Blair to William Blair, his 4th son, in terms above mentioned, of the shadow half of the lands of Weltoun lying as said in Myres, 23 Dec 1572
206. Seisin in favor of William Blair in the lands of Weltoun mentioned in the foregoing charter and proceeding on precept therein contained, 5 Jan 1572
- 207* Seisin in favour of William Blair in the lands of Weltoun proceeding upon charter by Alexander Blair of Balthayock to the said William Blair, his fourth son, of the shadow half of said lands of Weltoun in the Barony of Ardlair in liferent and in full satisfaction of his bairns part of gear, 5 January 1572

- 208* Discharge between Alexander Blair of Balthayock, proprietor, and Alison Lindsay, occupier, of the lands of Barclarie, of all action, claims, duties and sums of money, due and resting by either of them to the other. Kirk of Cult, 23 March 1573

1574: Lands of Potento; Lands of Clene & Teinds; Gift of Ward & Nonentry in Balmyle & Potento; Discharge for composition in Balmyle & Potento; Unknown contents July 1574; 2 Borland in Blacklunans; 3 lands of Clene; Lands of Weltoun of Cults; Letter of Attorney John Blair to act for Alexander; 2 Lands of Nether Balmyle and Potento.

- 209* Charter by Thomas Blair apparent of Balthayock and Janet Blair, his spouse, to Alexander Blair, formerly Tutor of Balmyle, in liferent as an annual rent and pension of four chalders of victual and 6 pounds 8 shillings money of Scotland, payable furth of the lands of Potento and that in terms of a contract between him and the deceased Thomas Blair of Balthayock. Gothins, 5 April 1574
210. Charter by James Sharp to Isobel Sym, his spouse, in liferent of the eighth parts of the lands of Clene & Teinds in the lordship and regality of Scoon. Perth, 4 June 1574
211. Gift by King James VI to Alexander Blair of Balthayock, of the ward and nonentry of the lands of Nether Balmyle & Potento then in the king's hands by reason of the decease of Thomas Blair of Balmyle together with the marriage of Alexander Blair, his son and apparent heir. Couchelie, 23 June 1574
- 212* Discharge by William Lord Ruthven Treasurer to King James VI to Alexander Blair of Balthayock of the sum of 133 pounds 6 shillings 8 pence for the Composition of Gift by the King to the said Blair of the ward and nonentry of the lands of Nether Balmyle and Potento then in the King's hands by reason of the decease of Thomas Blair of Balmyle together with the marriage of Alexander Blair, his son and apparent heir as in #211. Cuchelie, 23 June 1574. (Edinburgh 15 November 1574)
- 213* 3 1/2" tall x 4 7/8" wide paper with seal attached signed Sro Blair, written in Latin for the most part, unfolded. July 1574 (Added entry March 2000)
214. Resignation ad Remanentiam by Walter Rattray in the hands of Alexander Blair of Balthayock of the two parts of the town & lands of Borland being the shadow half thereof in the barony of Blacklunans, 30 July 1574

215. Discharge by William, Lord Ruthven, treasurer to our Sovereign Lord, to Alexander Blair of Balthayock of the sum of 133 pounds 6.8 for the composition of the foregoing gift. Edinburgh, 15 Nov 1574
216. Charter by James Sharp to Adam Black, Burgess of Perth, and Robert Black, his son, in liferent and fee respectively of an annual rent of 9 merks, payable furth of the eighth part of the lands of Clene, and 6 acres of land belonging thereto, under reversion for payment of 80 merks. Perth, 1 Dec 1574
217. Seisin in favor of Adam and Robert Black in the lands contained in the foregoing charter and given by Propriis manibus the said James Sharp, 1 Dec 1574
- 218* Seisin in favor of Adam Blackwood Burgess of Perth and Robert Blackwood his son under charter to them in liferent and fee respectively of nine merks payable furth of the eighth part of the lands of Clene and six acres of land belonging thereto under reversion for payment of eighty merks, Perth, 1 Dec 1574
- 219* Charter by Alexander Blair of Balthayock to Andrew Blair, his son, and Janet Rollock, his spouse, sister of George Rollo (Rillock) of Duncrub and relict of John Stewart of Keillebrochin, of the sunny half of the lands of Weltoun of Cults in the county of Fife, and that in implement of a contract of marriage entered into by said persons, dated 26 Dec 1574. (Myres, 3 March 1578)
220. Letter of attorney by King James VI nominating John Blair to be attorney for Alexander in all his actions and causes moved or to be moved by him. Edinburgh, 8 Jan 1574
- 221* Ratification by Jean Blair, Lady Balmyle, relict of Thomas Blair, son and apparent heir of Thomas (Alexander?) Blair of Balthayock, of a resignation made by her in the lifetime of her said husband with his consent in the hands of Matthew, Earl of Lennox, as in the King's hands, of the lands of Nether Balmyle and Potento, for new infeftment to be granted therein to themselves and their heirs male bearing the name and arms of Blair, etc. Kirk of Kinfauns, 21 Jan 1574
- 222* Extract of the foregoing ratification by Janet Blair, Lady Balmyle. Edinburgh, 2 Feb 1574

1575: Lands of Balmyle; Nether Balmyle & Potento; Mains of Balthayock.

223. Ratification by Gilbert Blair in Innerqueick to Alexander Blair of Balthayock bearing that he had disposed to the said Alexander Blair the quarter of the lands of Balmyle lying to the east in the County of Perth, therefore obliging himself to ratify and confirm the charter of said lands (see 5 Apr 1542) and confirmation of the same under the Great Seal dated 30 August 1571. Ratification dated 23 April 1575
224. Judicial ratification by Jean Blair, relict of Thomas Blair eldest son and apparent heir of Alexander Blair of Balthayock, of a charter made by her in favor of Alexander Blair, her son, procreated between her and her said husband of the lands of Nether Balmyle and Potento in the barony of Meigle, dated 24 Jan 1574, as also a charter by her and her said husband to Alexander Blair in Brustoun, of an annual rent of 4 chalders victual payable from said lands. Perth 21 May 1575
225. Letter of reversion by Eupham Blair, relict of John Scott, at the Kirk of Kinfauns and now spouse of James Monorgund of that ilk to Alexander Blair of Balthayock, her brother german, for redemption from her on payment of 120 merks, of the Mains of Balthayock, and annual rent of 8 pounds payable to her therefrom. Perth, 10 Nov 1575

1576: 2 Part of the lands of Clene; Contract relative to discharge of debts and granting Tack of the Tiend Sheaves of the lands of Balmyle.

226. Charter by James Sharp to Adam Blackwood, burgess of Perth, and Robert Blackwood, his son in liferent and fee respectively, of an annual rent of 10 merks payable furth of the eighth part of the lands of Clene and 6 acres of land belonging thereto. Clene, 7 June 1576
227. Seisin in favor of Adam and Robert Blackwood in the foresaid annual rent, payable as said is and proceeding on the foregoing charter, 7 June 1576
- 228* Contract between Alexander Blair of Balthayock on the one part, and "Jahane"(Jean) Blair, Lady Balmyle, relict of Thomas Blair, son and apparent heir of the said Alexander Blair, and William Blair, younger apparent of Balgillo, now her husband, for his interest, on the other part, by which the said Alexander Blair of Balthayock for himself and as taking burden on him for Alexander Blair, his oo (grandson) and apparent heir, and son of the said Jean and Thomas Blair, obliges himself to discharge them of all sums of money pertaining to the deceased Thomas Blair, second and youngest son of the said Jean and Thomas Blair as also to grant them a Tack of the Teind Sheaves of the land of Nether Balmyle they paying therefore 36 bolls victual yearly, etc. Gothins, 24 July 1576.
Note: the above contract alludes to the teinds of Potento and contains some other particulars respecting them. Gothins, 24 July 1576

Note: the above contract alludes to the teinds of Potento and contains some other particulars respecting them. Gothins, 24 July 1576

1577-1579: 2 Part of the lands of Borland; Lands of Weltoun of Cults; Lands of Gairdrum and part of Lethindy

229. Resignation ad Remanentiam by William Spalding in Borland in the hands of Alexander Blair of Balthayock "secundam solarem tertiam partem" of the lands of Borland in the barony of Blacklunans, 30 July 1577
230. Renunciation by Isobel Rattray, spouse, in favor of Alexander Blair of Balthayock of her liferent right of infeftment in the two parts of the lands of Borland, 5 Aug 1577
- 231* Seisin in favor of Andrew Blair, son of Alexander Blair of Balthayock, and Janet Rolloch (Rollo, Rillock), his spouse, sister of George Rolloch of Duncrub, in virtue of Letters of Attorney by King James VI addressed to John Thomson in Welltoun, Cults dated 12 Jan 1578, in the sunny half of the lands of Welltoun of Cults proceeding upon Precept by the said Alexander Blair. Myres, 3 Mar 1578. (Seisin dated Myres, 3 Mar 1578)
232. Contract between Alexander Blair of Gairdrum and Andrew Blair, Portioner of Lethindy, by which the said Alexander Blair obliges himself to infeft the said Andrew Blair and Eupham Ogilvy, his spouse, in the lands of Gairdrum, and fifth parts of the lands of Lethindy. Kirk of Kinnoul, 21 June 1579

1580-1582: Kirktoun of Cults & Rouchlees; Town & lands of Kirktown of Quilts; 2 Lands of Clene; Letter from Alexander Blair in France; 3 Lands of Clene.

233. Annunciation and discharge by John Balfour, son and heir of John Balfour in Sewny, in favor of Alexander Blair of Balthayock of the lands of Kirktoun of Cults and Rouchlees, and of 261 (and 1/2?) pounds and 500 merks respectively for which the same had been wadset by Thomas Blair, formerly of Balthayock, 19 May 1580
234. Charter by Alexander Blair of Balthayock to Thomas Blair, his eldest lawful son, procreated between him and Giles Mercer, now his spouse, whom failing to Patrick & Laurence Blair, also his sons, of the town & land of Kirktoun of Quilts in the Lordship of Quilts. Balthayock, 29 January 1580

235. Obligation by James Powrie, maltman, Burgess of Perth, to grant charter and infestment in favor of John Blair, Portioner in Clene, and Christian Spence, his spouse, of the lands mentioned in the following charter. Perth, 12 July 1581
236. Charter by James Powrie, maltman, Burgess of Perth, to John Blair, Portioner of Clene, and Christian Spence, his spouse, of one acre of the lands of Clene with the teinds thereof. Perth, 12 July 1581
- 237* Seisin in favor of John Blair, Portioner of Clene, and Christian Spence, his spouse, in one acre of the lands of Clene contained in the above charter and obligation and proceeding under charter by James Powrie, maltman, Burgess of Perth to them, with Teinds thereon, 12 July 1581, 26 Sept 1581
- 238* Letter by Mr. Alexander Blair to the Laird Alexander of Balthayock his father relating to his studies and other indifferent family matters. Poitiers, France, 15 July 1581
239. Charter by Robert Elder, Portioner of Clene, to John Elder, his son, of the eighth part of the Mains of Clene and 5 acres of land belonging thereto, and Teinds. Clene, 22 July 1582
240. Letter of reversion by Charles Merser, burgess of Perth, to James Sharp, portioner of Clene, for redemption of the before mentioned lands on payment of 200 merks. Clene, 11 Nov 1582

1583-1585: Part of the lands of Clene; Note of the Teinds of Inchyra, 1584; Loosing arrestment, Alexander Blair against officers of regality of Scoon relative to peats, fuel and divots upon the common bank of Balthayock, 1585; Town & lands of Easter Quilts; 3 Lands of Clene and Teinds.

241. Charter by James Sharp, Portioner of Clene, and Isobel Syme, his spouse, to Charles Merser, shoemaker, burgess of Perth of annual rent of 7 bolls and 2 firlots victual payable furth of the eighth part of the Mains of Clene and 6 acres belonging thereto. Perth & Clene, 9 & 10 Nov 1583
242. Note of the amount of the Teinds of Inchyra for the year 1584
243. Letters of Loosing Arrestment at the instance of Alexander Blair of Balthayock against the officers of the regality of Scoon, of certain peats fuel and divot upon the lands called the Common Bank upon the lands of Balthayock. Dated and signeted

244. Charter by Alexander Blair of Balthayock to John Blair, his second son, in liferent of the town and lands of Easter Quilts in the barony of Ardlair. Balthayock, 31 Aug 1585
245. Contract of Wadset between Richard Ross, burgess of Perth, & Isobel Kay, his spouse, on the one part and John Gardner at the Orchard of Clene, Janet Brown, his spouse, and David Gardner, their son, on the other part by which in consideration of 200 merks, the last mentioned parties oblige themselves to infest the said Richard Ross and others in 2 cleves of the land of Clene with the Teinds, redeemable on payment of the before mentioned sum. Orchard of Clene, 11 Oct 1585
246. Charter by John Gardner at Orchard, with consent of his spouse, to Richard Ross, burgess of Perth, his spouse and son, of the lands and others mentioned in the foregoing contract of Wadset, and granted in implement thereof. Orchard of Clene, 11 Oct 1585
247. Seisin in favor of the above mentioned Richard Ross, his spouse and son in the lands contained in the foregoing charter and proceeding thereon, 11 Oct 1585

1585: 4 Lands of Over Pitlowie; Lands of Pawnshill and Clene; 3 Part of the Mains of Clene.

248. Charter by William Hunter of Over Pitlowie with consent of Elizabeth Spence, his spouse, to James Hunter, their son and apparent heir, and Margaret Moir, his future spouse, in implement of their contract of marriage of the lands of Over Pitlowie in the regality of Scoon and county of Perth, to be holden of the commendator and convent of Scoon. Over Pitlowie, 26 Jan 1585
249. Seisin in favor of James Hunter and his future spouse in the lands contained in the foregoing charter and holden as said is, 26 Jan 1585
250. Charter by William Hunter above mentioned to his son and his future spouse, of the lands contained in the above charter, to be holden of himself, the said William Hunter. Over Pitlowie, 26 Jan 1585
- 251* Seisin in favor of James Hunter, son and apparent heir of William Hunter of Over Pitlowie with consent of Elizabeth Spence his spouse, and Margaret Moir, future spouse of the said James Hunter, in implement of their contract of marriage under charter from the said William Hunter with consent as aforesaid of the lands of Over Pitlowie in the Regality of Scoon and County of Perth to be holden in the above mentioned lands and holden in the immediately preceding charter, 26 Jan 1585

- 252* Charter by King James VI verbatim ratifying charter of feufarm by Patrick, Bishop of Murray, to John Brown of Pawnshill and Christian Brown, his spouse, of the lands of Pawnshill in the lordship and regality of Scoon, dated 9 April 1562, and charter of feufarm by the Bishop to the said John Brown and spouse of 4 acres of the lands of Clene and teinds of same, dated 9 April 1562 Confirmation dated Holyroodhouse, 1 Mar 1585
253. Charter by King James VI verbatim ratifying charter by Patrick, Bishop of Murray, to Andrew Sym and Janet Brown, his spouse, of the eighth part of the Mains of Clene, 9 acres belonging thereto, and half of the Abbotscroft and Teinds. Dated Scoon 14 Oct 1561. Confirmation dated 5 Mar 1585.
254. Charter by King James VI verbatim ratifying charter by Patrick, Bishop of Murray, to John Blair in Clene of parts of the Mains of Clene & Teinds. Dated 1 Aug 1570. Confirmation dated 5 Mar 1585.
255. Charter by King James VI verbatim ratifying Charter of feufarm by Patrick, Bishop of Murray, to Robert Elder and Margaret Alison, his spouse, of the eighth part of the Mains of Clene, dated 14 Oct 1561. Confirmation dated Holyroodhouse, 15 Mar 1585.

1586-1589: 2 Lands of Clene & Teinds; Contract of marriage between Alexr Blair of Balthayock & Elizabeth Halyburton of Pitcur; Marches of Arbothie, Gothens & Loushills, Megginch; Privilege by Blair to Kincairny of casting divots on Whitefield, Pockmill; 2 part of the lands of Clene.

256. Charter by David Viscount Stormonth, verbatim ratifying charter by John White in Clene to Henry Brown of Pawnshill of 1 1/2 acres of the lands of Clene with the teinds thereof, 4 & 5 Mar 1586 (Confirmation dated Scoon 5 June 1622)
257. Seisin in favor of Henry Brown in Pawnshill in one and a half acres of the lands of Clene on precept by John White, workman in Clene, and Andrew White, his son, 13 June 1587 (Seisin dated 22 May 1588)
258. Contract of marriage between Alexander Blair apparent of Balthayock and Elizabeth Halyburton, daughter of Sir George Halyburton of Pitcur, Sept 1587
259. Letter by P.Hay of Megginch to as to the Marches of the lands of Arbothie, Gothens and Loushills. Megginch, 30 Mar 1587.

260. License as to casting divots upon the piece of ground called the Whitefield bearing the said license to have been granted by Alexander Blair of Balthayock to Alexander Kincairgy of Pockmill. Pockmill, 24 Aug 1588

Note: the above license, if such it is, is unintelligible.

- 261* Seisin in favor of John Elder, son of John (Robert?) Elder, Portioner of Clene, of the eighth part of the lands of Clene with 5 acres belonging thereto and Teinds, proceeding upon Precept contained in contract entered into between him and his said father, 22 July 1589
262. Seisin in favor of Katharine Ross, daughter & heir of the deceased Richard Ross, burgess of Perth, in an annual rent of 7 bolls victual payable furth of 2 acres of the lands of Clene on precept of Clare constat by John Gardner at the Orchard of Clene. Perth, 8 Oct 1589. (Seisin dated said 8 Oct 1589)

1589-1594: Part of the lands of Clene; Marriage of Alexander Blair in France; Description of Marches Clene & Pitlowie.

- 263* Seisin in favor of David Bow, Burgess in the before mentioned annual rent, given propriis manibus, by Katharine Ross, his spouse, daughter and heir of the deceased Richard Ross, Burgess of Perth, in the rent of seven bolls victual payable furth of two acres of the lands of Clene on Precept of Clare Constat by John Gardner at the Orchard of Clene, 8 Oct 1589
- 264* Letter from Alexander Blair of Balthayock to Alexander Blair his son then at the college of Orthais in Berne chiefly relating to the marriage of the latter Balthayock. Balthayock, 20 Sept 1591
265. Letters of Horning at the instance of James Hunter of Over Pitlowie, against the Heritors of Clene upon a Decreet Arbitral dated 29 May 1582, by Alexander Blair of Balthayock and others, upon the marches of the lands of Clene and Pitlowie and describing the same. Edinburgh, 26 July 1594

1594-1596: 3 lands of Clene; 2 Lands of Pawnshill; 2 Part of Mains of Clene & Teinds; Part of the Mains of Clene with Cornmill & Teinds.

266. Charter by Katharine Ross, relict of David Bow, Burgess of Perth, with consent of Alexander Moncrieff, senior, burgess of Perth, now her husband, to Alexander Moncrieff, son of Andrew Moncrieff Baker, burgess of Perth, of an annual rent of 7 bolls victual payable furth of the lands of Clene. Perth, 28 Oct 1594
267. Seisin in favor of Alexander Moncrieff, junior, son of Andrew Moncrieff Baker, burgess of Perth, and Janet Bow, his spouse, daughter of David Bow, Burgess of Perth, in an annualrent of 7 bolls victual payable furth of the lands of Clene, proceeding upon marriage contract between the said parties, 5 Nov 1594.
268. Seisin in favor of the said Alexander Moncrieff and spouse in the annual rent mentioned in the foregoing charter and proceeding thereon, 5 Nov 1594
269. Precept of Clare Constat by James Wemyss of Bogy and others, Commissioners of John, Earl of Gowrie, for infetung Henry Brown as heir to John Brown of Pawnshill, his father, in the lands of Pawnshill in the Earldom & regality of Gowrie, Edinburgh, 3 June 1595
270. Seisin in favor of Henry Brown in Panshill as heir to John Brown of Pawnshill, his father, in the lands of Pawnshill in the Earldom and regality of Gowrie on precept of Clare Constat by James Wemyss of Bogie and others, Commissioners of John, Earl of Gowrie. Edinburgh, 3 June 1595 (Seisin dated 16 May 1598)
271. Precept of Clare Constat by the above Commissioners for infetung Andrew Sym as heir to Andrew Sym, his father, in the eighth part of the Mains of Clene with 9 acres belonging thereto and Teinds. Edinburgh, 3 June 1595
272. Seisin in favor of Andrew Sym as heir to Andrew Sym, his father in the 8th part of the Mains of Clene with 9 acres belonging thereto and half of the Abbots Croft & Teinds, proceeding upon precept of Clare Constat by James Wemyss of Bogy and others, Commissioners of John, Earl of Gowrie. Edinburgh, 3 June 1595
(*Seisin dated 31 March 1597*)
273. Seisin in favor of John Elder as heir to Robert Elder, his father, in the eighth part of the Mains of Clene with 5 acres belonging thereto and Teinds, proceeding upon Precept of Clare Constat by the foresaid Commissioners, 3 June 1595
(Seisin dated 20 Jan 1595)

274. Contract of sale between Adam Hepburn, elder & younger of Bonhill and Thomas Brown in Clene, Margaret Lindsay, his spouse, and William Brown, their son, on the one and other parts, by which the said Adam Hepburn obliges himself to dispoise to the said Thomas Brown and others, the 18th parts of the Mains of Clene, 2 acres in the lofts thereof, half of the Abbots croft and corn mill of Clene and 11 acres of the mill and teinds. Kirk of Kinnoul, 15 May

(year obscured because original copy had page turned over at top. It should be somewhere between 1595 and 1596. As #276 is in 1596, that'd be my bet, NM). Given to University of Toronto 17 Nov 1910.

1596: 3 Mains of Clene; 3 Pitlowie Bank & Lathones; Mains of Clene and Teinds; 3 Pitlowie Bank, Lathones & Mains of Clene & Teinds.

275. Charter by Adam Hepburn elder & younger of Bonhard (in the foregoing contract: Bonhill) to the beforementioned Thomas Brown & others of the eighth part of the Mains of Clene and others contained in the foresaid contract of sale and granted in implement thereof to be holden of the superiors of the said Adam Hepburn. Kirk of Kinnoul, 15 May 1596
276. Charter of the said Adam Hepburn, elder and younger, in favor as above mentioned, of the said lands and others, holden of themselves, the said Adam & Adam Hepburn. Kirk of Kinnoul, 15 May 1596
- 277* Seisin in favor of Thomas Brown in Clene, Margaret Lindsay, his spouse, and William Brown, their son, in the eighth part of the Mains of Clene and others proceeding upon precept contained in the foregoing charter, 21 May 1596
278. Charter by John Sharp in Clene, son and apparent heir of the deceased James Sharp with consent therein mentioned, to James Hunter of Over Pitlowie, in implement of a contract of sale, of the eighth part of the shades of land called Pitlowie Bank and Lathones with the Teinds in the lordship and regality of Scoon, to be holden of the superiors of the said John Sharp. Clene, 19 Oct 1596
279. Charter by King James VI verbatim ratifying charter by John Sharp in Clene, to James Hunter of Over Pitlowie of the 2 shades of land called Pitlowie Bank & Lathones with the teinds thereof in the lordship and regality of Scoon, 19 Oct 1596
280. Charter by John Sharp in Clene to James Hunter of Over Pitlowie in the lands and others mentioned in the foregoing charter to be holden of himself, the said John Sharp. Clene, 19 Oct 1596

281. Charter by the said John Sharp with consent as said to the said James Hunter of Over Pitlowie of the 8th part of the Mains of Clene and Teinds (excepting the two shades called Pitlowie Bank and Lathones) to be holden of the superiors of the said John Sharp. Clene, 19 Oct 1596
282. Charter by the said John Sharp to the said James Hunter, of an annualrent of 2 bolls barley payable furth of the 8th part of the Mains of Clene and teinds, excepting 2 acres of the before mentioned shades of lands, 19 Oct 1596
(Confirmation dated Holyrood House, 1 May 1601)
283. Charter by King James VI verbatim ratifying charter by John Sharp in Clene, to James Hunter of Over Pitlowie of the 2 shades of land called Pitlowie Bank & Lathones with the teinds thereof in the lordship and regality of Scoon, 19 Oct 1596, as also charter by the said John Sharp to the said James Hunter, of an annual rent of 2 bolls barley payable furth of the 8th part of the Mains of Clene & teinds, excepting 2 acres of the before mentioned shades of lands, 19 Oct 1596
(Confirmation dated Holyrood House, 1 May 1601)
284. Charter by John Sharp in Clene to the said James Hunter, of the foresaid lands and others - holden of himself. Clene, 19 Oct 1596
285. Seisin in favor of James Hunter of Over Pitlowie in the 8th part of the Mains of Clene & Teinds and others mentioned in the 2 immediately preceding charters and proceeding thereon, 19 October 1596

1596: Mains of Clene and Teinds. 2 Lands of Clene

286. Charter by James Wemyss and others, Commissioners of John, Earl of Gowrie, confirming charter by Adam Hepburn of Bonhard and Adam Hepburn, his son, with consent therein mentioned to Thomas Brown, Margaret Lindsay, his spouse, and William Brown, their son, of the 8th part of the Mains of Clene and others, 15 May 1596 *(Confirmation dated Ruthven, 9 April 1597)*
287. Charter of James Wemyss of Bogy and others, Commissioners above mentioned, verbatim ratifying charter by John Anderson or Brown in Petmiddle with consent of Patrick Ogilvy of Inchmartin and others, his interdictors, to Alexander Blair, apparent of Balthayock, in implement of a contract of sale entered into between them, of 2 acres of (the lands of) Clene with the Teinds, 1596
(The charter confirmed is blank as to the day and month but is in the 1597 bundle. And the confirmation is not dated. Therefore it seems never to have been completed. But, from the following entry it seemed proper to place it immediately preceding it).

288. Seisin in favor of Alexander Blair apparent of Balthayock of 2 acres of the lands of Clene "unacum decimis garbalibus dict.duarum acrarum que nunquam a trunco separari solebant," and that, in implement of the contract mentioned in the foregoing charter, given proprius manibus, 2 June 1596

1597-1598: Half Mill & Mill Lands of Dundass; Alexander Blair letter from France to his father; 2 Cottage land in Dalkeith.

289. Seisin in favor of John Swan, carpenter, burgess of Dundee, as heir to John Swan, burgess of Dundee, his father, in the half of the mill and mill lands of Dundass proceeding upon precept of Clare Constat by James Wemyss of Bogie and others, Commissioners of John, Earl of Gowrie. Perth, 7 Nov 1597

(Seisin dated 30 Sept 1597. Note: it will be observed that the seisin is dated prior to the precept, which is a mistake. There is, however, an erasure where the date of the seisin is written, so that it may have been altered afterwards for some purpose or other. Given to University of Toronto 17 Nov 1910).

- 290* Letter from Alexander Blair to the Laird of Balthayock, his father, chiefly as to money matters, and alluding to his probable return home.
Lescar, France, 12 Jan 1597
291. Charter by James Innes in Dalkeith, to David Brown, son of William Brown there, of a cottage land in Dalkeith. Dalkeith, 15 April 1598
292. Seisin in favor of the above David Brown in a cottage land in Dalkeith proceeding on the foregoing charter, 15 April 1598

1598-1599: 4 Part of the lands of Clene; 3 Part of Mains of Clene and teinds.

293. Precept of Clare Constat by the commissioners of John, Earl of Gowrie for infefting John Anderson as heir to Gilbert Anderson "avi fratris filii," in 2 acres of the lands of Clene. Scoon 11 Jan 1598 (Note "grandfather's brother's son")
294. Seisin in favor of the above mentioned John Anderson as heir aforesaid in 2 acres of the lands of Clene contained in the foregoing precept and proceeding thereon, 22 Feb 1598

295. Charter by the above mentioned John Anderson in Pitmiddle with consent of Patrick Ogilvy of Inchmartine and others, his inter-dictors, to Alexander Blair, apparent of Balthayock, of 2 acres of the lands of Clene, with the teinds in the lordship and Regality of Scoon. Clene, 22 Feb 1598
296. Charter of David, Lord Scoon, verbatim ratifying charter by John Sharp, Sr. in favor of David Jackson, maltman, burgess, of the fourth part of the Mains of Clene with 6 acres belonging thereto 29 May 1599. Confirmation, Perth 11 Sept 1614 or 15)
297. Charter by Thomas Brown in the Hole of Clene, William Brown, his son, and Margaret Lindsay, his spouse, to William Ogilvy of Balgay, of the 8th part of the Mains of Clene with 2 acres in the lofts thereof, half of the Abbots croft, cornmill and ? acres of the mill lands of Clene, and teinds, to be holden of the said Thomas Brown. Clene, 17 July 1599
298. Charter by the said Thomas Brown and others to the said William Ogilvy, of the lands above mentioned, to be holden of himself. Clene, 7 July 1599
- 299* Seisin in favor of William Ogilvy of Balgay, in the 8th part of the Mains of Clene and others contained in the 2 foregoing charters, and proceeding thereon, 17 July 1599

1600-1601: Tack of the teind sheaves of the parish of Kinnoul to Alexander Blair for 3 years, 1600; Mains of Clene & Teinds; Fortalice of Clene.

300. Tack by Mr. Andrew Rhind, Parson of Kinnoul and others, Commissioners of the General Assembly, to Alexander Blair of Balthayock of the Teinds sheaves of the Parish of Kinnoul for the space of 3 years then next, for payment yearly of 600 pounds, at the terms of Candlemas & Lammas. Falkland, 9 Aug 1600 (*Note: the above Tack signed by the king and the other Commissioners*).
301. Seisin in favor of Helen Mercer, daughter of Charles Mercer, burgess of Perth, in an annual rent of 7 bolls victual payable furth of the 8th part of the Mains of Clene & Teinds, in the lordship and regality formerly of Scoon, but now of Gowrie, proceeding upon precept contained in charter by her said father, 20 Aug 1600 (Seisin dated 21 Aug 1600)
302. Seisin in favor of James Haliburton of Pitcur as heir to James Haliburton, Provost of Dundee, his brother in the fortalice or mansion of Clene with the garden acres thereof and others proceeding upon precept from Chancery. Edinburgh, 6 April 1601 (Seisin dated 18 April 1601)

***1601: Lands of Seggieden & Strathy Chalmer. Lands of Pitlowy; 2
Lands of Kirktoun-Essie, Forfar.***

303. Discharge by Thomas Chalmers of Seggieden and Patrick Chalmers, fiar thereof his son, bearing that the deceased Thomas Chalmers, fiar of Seggieden, father of the said Thomas Chalmers, had left in keeping with the deceased Thomas Blair of Balthayock a coffer with certain writs and evidents therein concerning the lands of Seggieden & Strathy Chalmer, and having received back the same from Alexander Blair now of Balthayock, therefore discharging the said Alexander Blair thereupon. Seggieden, 14 May 1601
304. Discharge by Sir David Murray of Gelspie, Knight Comptroller of Scotland, to James Hunter of Pitloury of the sum of 10 pounds as the composition of the lands of Pitlowy formerly holden of the deceased John, Earl of Gowrie, then lying in the regality of Scoon, but now in the Lordship of Huntingtower, appointed by act of Parliament to be paid by the vassals of the said "sometime Erl" to the King for each 40 shillings land of said regality. Perth 1601
- 305* Precept of Clare Constat by James Halyburton of Essie in favor of Thomas Smith in Cardein as heir to Margaret Smith, daughter of the deceased Patrick Smith in Kinross, his aunt, in an annual rent of 17 (47?) pounds 6. 8., and annual rent of 20 pounds payable furth of the lands of Kirktoun-Essie in the county of Forfar. Essie, 12 Aug 1601
- 306* Seisin in favor of Thomas Smith in Cardein in the lands and annual rent mentioned in the foregoing precept and proceeding thereon, 31 Aug 1601

***1603: 2 Lands of Newton of Balcanquhl and Hole of Clene;
Shadow half of the lands of Easter Cults; Mains of Clene; Letter
Alexander Blair to his son in France mentioning his grandson;
Mains of Clene & Teinds;***

307. Charter by King James VI to Andrew Murray of Balvaird upon the narration therein contained respecting the lands called the parks near the burgh of Edinburgh formerly pertaining to the deceased Andrew Murray of Avergask, Knight, grandfather of the said Andrew Murray, of the lands of Newtown of Balcanquhl and lands called the Hole of Clene. Holyrood House, 20 Jan 1603
308. Precept by King James VI for infefting Andrew Murray of Balvaird in the lands of Newtown of Balcanquhl and others mentioned in the foregoing charter. Holyrood House, 20 Jan 1603

309. Obligation by David Smith in Waltoun of Cults and Christian Thomson, his spouse, to John Blair, son of Alexander Balthayock, to relieve and keep him skaithless at the hands of David Baird and Betsy Smith, his spouse, of all Tacks and others set by the said John Blair to the said David Baird of the shadow half of the lands of Easter Cults, etc. Perth, 8 June 1603
310. Charter by David Jackson, Burgess of Perth, and James Jackson, his eldest son, to David Jackson, Jr., miller in Perth, of the fourth part of the Mains of Clene with 6 acres belonging thereto and teinds, 18 Aug 1603. (Confirmation, Perth 11 Sept 1614 or 1615)
- 311* Letter by Alexander Blair of Balthayock to Mr. Alexander Blair Provost of the University of Lescar his son relating to the "Young guidman of Le Myrns" grandson of the former mentioning Mr. Peter Young of Easter Seaton Preceptor to the King...Also mentioning him having had trouble with Lord Sanquhar as to the teinds of Kinnoul. Balthayock, 22 August [1603]
312. Procuratory by Andrew Sym, portioner of Clene, with consent of Isobel Charteris, his spouse, for resigning in the lands of the king, the 8th part of the Mains of Clene, 9 acres of land pertaining thereto with the half of the Abbots Croft and teind sheaves. In favor of Sir David Murray of Gospertie, Knight. Perth & Clene, 26 Oct 1603

1604: Part of the Mains of Clene & Teinds; 2 Lands of Clene and others; Lands of Kirktoun-Essie.

313. Charter by John Elder, portioner of Clene, in favor of Catharine Syme, future spouse of Robert Elder, son and heir of the said John Elder in liferent, and the said Robert Elder and their heirs in fee, of the 8th part of the Mains of Clene, 5 acres belonging thereto, and teinds. To be holden of the Superiors of the said John Elder. Clene, 3 Feb 1604
314. Charter by the above mentioned Robert Elder in favor as said is of parts of the lands of Clene and others. To be holden of himself, the said John Elder. Clene, 3 Feb 1604
315. Seisin in favor of the above mentioned Robert Elder and Catharine Syme, his future spouse, in parts of the lands of Clene as contained in the beforesaid charters and proceeding thereon, 3 Feb 1604
316. Precept of Clare Constat by James Haliburton of Kirktoun-essie for infefting William Smith as heir to Thomas Smith in Carden, his father, in an annual rent of 101 merks payable furth of the lands of Kirktoun-essie. Kirktoun of Essie, 7 Mar 1604

1604: 3 Temple lands of Balthayock & office of Bailyary; 2 Lands of Balthayock; Temple lands of Balthayock & office of Bailyary; Letter Alxndr Blair to Alxndr Blair refers to the lands of Barclarie; Hole of Clene; Lands of Newtoun of Balcanquhl & Hole of Clene.

317. Charter of James Sandilands of Calder, Lord Torphichen, with consent of James Tenant of Limehouse and Robert Williamson of Murdiestoun to Alexander Blair of Balthayock, of the Temple lands of Balthayock with the manor place thereof, and conferring upon him the office of Bailyary of said lands with all privileges and immunities belonging thereto. Edinburgh, 1 May 1604
318. Letter of Bailyary by James Sandilands of Calder, Lord Torphichen, to Alexander Blair of Balthayock, of the office of Bailyary of the Temple lands of Balthayock. Edinburgh, 1 May 1604
319. Seisin in favor of Alexander Blair of Balthayock in the Temple lands of Balthayock with the manor place thereof, together with the office of Bailyary of said lands, proceeding upon precept of seisin contained in charter by James Sandilands of Calder, Lord Torphichen, 1 May 1604. (Seisin dated 25 June 1604)
320. Precept of Clare Constat by David Crichtoun of Lugton, Baron of the barony of Kinnoul, for infefting Alexander Blair, now of Balthayock, as heir to Alexander Blair of Balthayock, his grandfather, in the lands of Balthayock in the barony of Kinnoul. Edinburgh, 3 May 1604
321. Seisin in favor of Alexander Blair, now of Balthayock, as heir to Alexander Blair of Balthayock, his grandfather, in the lands of Balthayock as contained in the foregoing precept and proceeding thereon, 28 May 1604
- 322* Letter by Alexander Blair to Alexander Blair of Balthayock alluding to the death of his father, also his written(?) seisin in the lands of Barclarie in liferent, and requesting repayment of the sum of 300 merks, formerly lent to his said deceased father with the interest thereof, etc. Lescar, Berne, Switzerland, 8 Aug 1604 (*Note: address torn off*)
323. Procuratory by Andrew Murray of Balvaird for resigning in the hands of the King, of the lands of the Hole of Clene, in the lordship and stewardry of Huntingtower, in favor and for new infeftment of the same to be granted to Sir David Murray of Golspietower, _____ 1604 (See #308)

324. Seisin in favor of Andrew Murray of Balvaird in the lands of Newtown of Balcanquhl and lands called the Hole of Clene, proceeding upon precept by King James VI, 20 Jan 1605 (Seisin dated 3 Oct 1604)

1605: 2 Lands of Gairdrum; Letter of Alexander Blair as to sale of his liferent right in Lands of Barclarie; Tack of Tiends of the lands and Mains of Balthayock to Alexander Blair for 19 years, 1605

325. Charter by Patrick Blair, son of the deceased Andrew Blair, portioner of Lethindy and "brother son" (paternal nephew) and heir of Taillie and provision of Alexander Blair of Gairdrum, to Andrew Blair, lawful son of the said Alexander Blair, and the other heirs therein mentioned, of the lands of Gairdrum in the Stewartry of Huntingtower. To be holden of the superiors of the said Patrick Blair. Perth, 10 May 1605
326. Charter by Patrick Blair, son of Andrew Blair, Portioner of Lethindy, etc. to Andrew Blair, of the lands of Gairdrum lying as mentioned in the foregoing charter. To be holden of himself, the said Patrick Blair. Perth, 10 May 1605
- 327* Letter by Alexander Blair to Alexander Blair of Balthayock, his nephew, relative to the 300 merks mentioned in letter No.322 foregoing page, also as to his liferent seisin also therein mentioned, offering to resign his right thereto for 1,000 pounds, etc. Lescar, Berne, Switzerland 3 June 1605
328. Tack by Andrew Logan of Coitfield, Tackman of the teinds of the parish of Kinnoul, with consent of David Crichton of Lugton, to Alexander Blair of Balthayock of the teind sheaves and other teinds both parsonage and vicarage, of the lands and Mains of Balthayock, for the space of 19 years for payment yearly of 11 pounds, money of this realm. Edinburgh, 9 March 1605

1606: Tack Alexander Blair to James Jackson of Gardener; Renunciation and discharge by Laurence Blair of Melginch

329. Notarial copy of Tack by Alexander Blair of Balthayock to James Jackson in Gallowflatts, of the Gardener land of Balthayock lying under the Orchards thereof with the pasturage of 40 sheep and cattle with the teind sheaves thereof (under exceptions) for the space of 5 years, he paying therefore yearly certain grain and meal therein mentioned. Balthayock, 22 Apr 1606

330. Renunciation and discharge by Laurence Blair of Melginch to Alexander Blair of Balthayock, of the lands of Cults and mill thereof, and of 3,000 merks for which the same had been wadset, 10 June 1606

1608-1613: Letter of Alexander Blair; Tack Alexander Blair to James Jackson of Wester & Easter Haltoun & teinds of Balthayock; Restoration by the Earl of Morton of the Flesh Market of Dalkeith; Lands of Clene; Renunciation & discharge by Walter Tyrie: Lands of Kirktoun of Essie; Hole of Clene; Lawborrows, Alexander Blair against Lord Scoon & others, 1613.

- 331* Letter by Alexander Blair to Alexander Blair of Balthayock relating to the matters mentioned in letter of 3 June 1605. Lescar in "Bearne," 28 June 1608
332. Tack by Alexander Blair of Balthayock and Elizabeth Haliburton, his spouse, to James Jackson at the Craigend of Balthayock, of the half of a piece of land called the Wester Haltoun of Balthayock and half of the Easter Haltoun, and teinds thereof for the space of five years, for payment of certain meal and other duties. Balthayock, 1 May 1609
333. Extract by one of the Bailies of Dalkieth, of contract entered into between William, Earl of Morton, and the Fleshers of Dalkieth bearing that the Earl had resolved to restore the Flesh market there which was to be held at the Easter Kirkstyle of Dalkieth, and the said Fleshers oblige themselves to pay for the use of each flesh board to the Earl as therein mentioned, 7 July 1610. (Extract dated 13 Oct 1615)
334. Precept of Clare Constat by David, Lord Scoon, for investing John Wood as heir to John Wood, in 1 1/2 acres of the lands of Clene 23 Oct 1610
335. Renunciation and discharge by Mr. Alexander Tyrie in favor of James Haliburton in Kirktoun of Essie of the lands of Kirktoun of Essie in the barony of Lentrathen, County of Forfar and of (100 or 700) merks for which the same were redeemable. Kirktoun of Essie, 26 Oct 1611
336. Ratification by Thomas Brown in Hole of Clene of the resignation made by him in favor of Lord Scoon, of the lands of the Hole of Clene, and acres of land thereof and granting power to him to recover the writs and evidents of said lands. Falkland, 11 Aug 1612 (Note: the above is partly decayed and not easily read).

337. Letters of Lawborrows at the instance of Alexander Blair of Balthayock against David, Lord Scoon, Henry Brown of Panshill and James Hunter of Pitlowie, for troubling him in the peaceable possession of his lands and heritages. Edinburgh, 26 Oct 1613

1614: 2 Part of the lands of Clene & teinds; 2 lands of Kirkton of Essie; Lands of Waltoun of Cults; Private letter Alexander Blair to Alexander Blair,

338. Charter by Thomas Blair, Portioner of Clene, to Alexander Blair, his son and apparent heir, and Isabella Brown, his future spouse daughter of Henry Brown of Pannshill, of 9 acres of the lands of Clene with the teinds thereof in implement of their marriage contract and seisin given to them thereupon. Raitt, 10 May 1614
339. Seisin in favor of Alexander Blair and Isabella Brown, his spouse, in the lands mentioned in foregoing charter and proceed thereon, 10 May 1614
340. Renunciation and discharge by David Brown, Minister at Glamis, and Euphame Ramsay, his spouse, in favor of James Haliburton, merchant, burgess of Edinburgh, present proprietor of an annual rent of 64 pounds payable furth of the Kirkton of Essie and the sum of £640.6s.8d (I think. NM) for which the said lands were redeemable in the barony of Lintathen. Dundee, 1 July 1614
341. Renunciation of Mr. Andrew Haliburton, brother german of James Haliburton of Essie, to the above mentioned James Haliburton of the foresaid lands of Kirkton of Essie and of 1000 merks for which the same were redeemable. Dundee, 4 July 1614
- 342* Contract between Alexander Blair of Balthayock and Andrew Blair of Rossieochell, his uncle, narrating charter by Alexander Blair, formerly of Balthayock, his grandfather, to the said Andrew Blair, his son, by which the said Andrew Blair obliges himself to renounce, in favor of the said Alexander Blair, his infetment following upon said charter, of the lands of Waltoun of Cults for which cause the said Alexander Blair obliges himself to infet the said Andrew Blair in an annual rent of 110 merks payable furth of lands to be afterwards agreed upon between them Perth, 17 Nov 1614
- 343* Letter by Alexander Blair to Alexander Blair of Balthayock regarding their mutual affairs and mentioning the son of the laird of Myres, and Arman Blair, son of the first mentioned Alexander Blair, then at the schools in Cupar, Fife, etc. Orthais, 20 Mar 1614

1615-1617: Lands of Blatounhaugh; Lands of Clathladron; Lands of Over Kinfauns.

344. Precept by Thomas, Viscount Fenton, Lord Dirleton(?) for infefting Alexander Blair of Balthayock, as heir to Alexander Blair, formerly of Balthayock, his grandfather, in the lands of Blatounhaugh. London, 12 Dec 1615
345. Seisin in favor of Robert Carden, now of Clathladron as heir to Andrew Carden of Clathladron, his grandfather, in the lands of Clathladrone proceeding upon precept from Chancery. Dated Edinburgh, 16 April 1616 (Seisin dated 29 April 1616)
346. Retour of the special Service of Alexander Blair of Balthayock as heir to Thomas Blair of Balthayock, his great-grandfather, in the lands of Over Kinfauns in the parish of Kinfauns. Perth, 20 Dec 1617

1618: Obligation by Sir Alexander Blair of Balthayock; Lands of Over Kinfauns; Contract by which Alexander Carnegie agrees to certain marriage securities (lands to be acquired in Forfarshire) with Mr. Alexander Blair, 1618.

347. *(This is crossed out but seems important to keep for information. NM 2000)*
Obligation by Sir Alexander Blair of Balthayock and Thomas Blair, his eldest son, to infeft Dame Elizabeth Fotheringham, his spouse, in liferent in an annual rent of 250 merks and 40 bolls victual and certain poultry yearly payable furth of _____ also to grant to her the occupation of the old laigh hall with the two chambers on the turnpike on the north side of the closs of Balthayock, the laigh house called the midhouse and others. Balthayock, (9 or 7) May 1618
348. Seisin in favor of Alexander Balthayock as heir to his great-grandfather in the lands of Over Kinfauns above mentioned, proceeding upon precept from Chancery. Edinburgh, 1 May 1618 (Seisin dated 22 May 1618)
349. Contract entered into between Alexander Carnegie, brother of David, Lord Carnegie of Kinnaird, and others in contemplation of the intended marriage between him and Giles Blair, daughter of Alexander Blair of Balthayock, by which the said Alexander Carnegie and others oblige themselves to lay out 10,000 pounds upon lands in the County of Forfar in which the said Giles Blair (is) to be secured in liferent, and on the other hand the said Alexander Blair obliges himself to make payment of 6000 merks in name of tocher with his said daughter-----1618
(Note: the above contract seems never to have been completed as it is signed only by the Carnegies).

1619-1620: 2 Part of the Mains of Clene & Teinds; Contract of marriage between James Arbuthnot & Elizabeth Blair; Commissions for services of Thomas Blair to his father, great-grandfather and great-great-grandfather, 1620; 2 Lands of Over Kinfauns; John Ogilvy serving the Brieves from Chancery.

350. Charter by Thomas Blair, Portioner of Clene, and Alexander Blair, his son, to George Scott in Kirkcoun of Kinfauns, of the 4th part of the Mains of Clene and teinds and 9 acres belonging thereto, to be holden of David, Lord Scoon Superior. Clene, 26 May 1619
351. Charter by Thomas Blair, Portioner of Clene and Alexander Blair, his son, to the above George Scott of the said lands to be holden of them himself, the said Thomas and Alexander Blair. Clene, 26 May 1619
- 352* Contract of marriage between James Arbuthnot, brother german to Sir Robert Arbuthnot, fiar of that Ilk, Knight, and Elizabeth Blair, sister german of Thomas Blair of Balthayock, by which the said Thomas Blair obliges himself to pay the sum of 5,000 merks in name of tocher with his said sister, etc. Brechin, 13 Nov 1620
353. Commission to Ogilvy of Innerquharrity, Sheriff of Forfar, and his Depute for serving Brieves from Chancery in favor of Thomas Blair of Balthayock, as heir to Alexander Blair of Balthayock, Alexander Blair thereof and Thomas Blair of Balthayock, his father, great-grandfather and great-great-grandfather respectively. Edinburgh, 23 Feb 1620
(Note: The above is erroneously titled on the back "Precept from Chancery for Infesting, etc)."
354. Ratification by Thomas Blair of Balthayock bearing that his predecessors had been infest in virtue of an apprising in the lands of Over Kinfauns, and that Sir Harry Lindsay of Carreston had disposed the whole Barony of Kinfauns, of which the foresaid lands formed part, to Adam Rae of Pelfuidy (Pelfindy, Pitkindie) therefore, and in consideration of a certain sum of money paid to him on behalf of Ann, Elspeth and Helen Rae, daughters and heirs of the said Adam Rae, he, the said Thomas Blair, ratified the said Disposition and dispones to them the said lands of Over Kinfauns, etc. Edinburgh, 8 Mar 1620
355. Receipt by Mr. Alexander Morisone, Advocate on behalf of Ann, Elspeth and Helen Rae, daughters of Adam Rae of Pitsuidie (?), to Thomas Blair of Balthayock for certain writs therein mentioned relating to the lands of Over Kinfauns. Edinburgh, 8 Mar 1620

356. Extract from the Burgh Court Books of Dundee of act by John Ogilvy of Innerquharrity, Sheriff of Forfar, by which he judicially accepted the commission for serving the Brieves from Chancery as mentioned therein and in said Commission. Dundee, 25 Mar 1620

1621: Lands of Dumbarney & Clathdryn; Precept infesting Thomas Blair as heir to Alexander Blair of Balthayock; Lands & Mains of Balthayock.

357. Seisin in favor of Agnes Kinnaird, future spouse of Robert Cairdneyn of Clachladryn, in the fourth part of the lands of Dumbarney and lands of Clathladryn proceeding upon precept by the said Robert Cairdneyn, dated 15 May 1621 (Seisin dated 18 June 1621)
358. Precept of Clare Constat by William Lord Crichton of Sanquhar for infesting Thomas Blair of Balthayock as heir to Alexander Blair of Balthayock, his father, in the lands of Balthayock in the barony of Kinnoul. Edinburgh, 31 July 1621
359. Discharge by William Lord Crichton of Sanquhar to Thomas Blair of Balthayock of the sum of 154 pounds for the bygone teind duties parsonage and vicarage of the lands and Mains of Balthayock, 31 July 1621

1622: Lands of Balthayock; 2 Lands of Pawnshill, Clene; Tack & Teind sheaves of Pawnshill, Clene by Viscount Stormont; Temple lands of Balthayock & office of Bailiary; Discharge Alexander Carnegie to Thomas Blair of Miss Blair's Tocher, 1622.

360. Seisin in favor of Thomas Blair of Balthayock as heir to Alexander Blair of Balthayock, his father, in the lands of Balthayock proceeding on the foregoing precept, 26 April 1622
361. Charter by David Viscount Stormonth to Henry Brown of Pawnshill of the lands of Pawnshill with the wood, woodbank and myre of Clene. Scoon, 5 June 1622
362. Tack by David Viscount Stormonth to Henry Brown of Pawnshill of the Teind sheaves of the lands mentioned in the foregoing charter for the term of fifteen years and that, in consideration of a certain sum of money then paid to him. Scoon, 5 June 1622

363. Precept of Clare Constat by David Viscount Scoon for infesting Thomas Blair of Balthayock as heir to Alexander Blair of Balthayock, his father, in the Temple lands of Balthayock with the tower and fortalice, etc. and office of Bailiary of said lands, 25 June 1622
364. Extract discharge by Alexander Carnegie, brother german of David Lord Carnegie of Kinnaird, to Thomas Blair of Balthayock of the sum of 3700 pounds in complete payment of the sum of 6000 merks, being the sum payable by the deceased Alexander Blair of Balthayock in terms of the marriage contract entered into between the said Alexander Carnegie and Giles Blair, daughter of the said Alexander Blair. Extract dated 26 Nov 1622 (*Note: the date of the discharge is not given*).

1623: Temple lands of Balthayock; Renunciation of several annualrents and the eighth part of the Mains of Clene by Bessie Blackwood; Renunciation of Liferent right in Mains of Balthayock by Elizabeth Haliburton Blair and the security in lieu in the lands of Gothens, Turfhill & Baldowrie; 2 Mains of Clene.

365. Seisin in favor of Thomas Blair of Balthayock as heir to his father in the Temple lands of Balthayock and office of Bailiary thereof as contained in precept of Clare Constat and proceeding thereon, 20 Feb 1623
- 366* Renunciation and discharge by Bessie Blackwood, daughter of Robert Blackwood, burgess of Perth, in favor of David Viscount Stormonth now proprietor of three several annualrents of 10 pounds, 9 merks and 10 merks, together with the eighth part of the Mains of Clene and 6 acres belonging thereto, and that in consideration of 330 merks for which said lands had been wadset by James Sharp, feuar thereof, 21 Feb 1623
367. Contract between Thomas Blair of Balthayock and Elizabeth Haliburton, his mother, relict of the deceased Alexander Blair of Balthayock, by which she obliges herself to renounce her liferent infestment over the Mains of Balthayock, and on the other hand and in consideration thereof, the said Thomas Blair obliges himself to infest her in the lands of Gothens, Turfhill and Baldowrie in lieu of her foresaid liferent lands provided by her contract of marriage, etc. Balthayock, 30 June 1623
368. Charter by Thomas Blair in Clene to David Viscount Stormonth of the fourth part of the Mains of Clene with the teinds thereof to be holden of the superiors of the said Thomas Blair. Scoon, 10 July 1623

369. Charter by the above Thomas Blair to David Viscount Stormonth of the above lands to be holden of himself. Scoon, 10 July 1623.

***1623: 4 Mains of Clene; Temple lands & bailiary of Balthayock;
Part of the Mains of Clene.***

- 370* Charter by David Jackson, Burgess of Perth, to David Viscount Stormonth of the fourth part of the Mains of Clene and 6 acres of said lands with the teinds thereof to be holden of the super-superiors of the said David Jackson. Scoon, 10(19) July 1623.
- 371* Charter by the above David Jackson to David Viscount Stormonth of the above lands to be holden of himself. Scoon, 19 July 1623.

***1624: Tack of teinds: Viscount Ayr to Thomas Blair of Balthayock;
Discharge by William Cristal Skinner, Perth, to Thomas Blair of
Balthayock; Ratification between Earl of Errol & George Hay,
Patronage of Church of Errol; Renunciation by Viscount
Stormonth in favor of George Hay.***

- 372 Disposition by Thomas Blair of Kinfauns to David Viscount Stormonth of parts of the Mains of Clene and others with consent of, Alexander Blair, his son, and Isobel Brown, spouse, 19 July 1623
373. Seisin in favor of David Viscount Stormonth in the fourth part of the Mains of Clene & teinds on precept contained in Ch. sale by Thomas Blair in Clene with consent of Alexander Blair, his father, & Isobel Brown, spouse, 19 July 1623 (Seisin dated 11 July 1627).
374. Tack by William Viscount Ayr, Lord Crichton of Sanquhar, to Thomas Blair of Balthayock of the teinds sheaves and other teinds both parsonage and vicarage of the lands of Balthayock for the space of 20 years, he paying therefore to the 11 pounds yearly. Edinburgh, 21 May 1624
375. Discharge by William Cristal Skinner, burgess of Perth to Thomas Blair of Balthayock of the sum of 44 pounds due by him to Thomas and William Davies, sons of the deceased William Davies at Balthayock as the rests of their patrimony, and of all his intromissions through the decease of the said Wm Davie. Perth, 31 Aug 1624

376. Ratification by Sir George Hay of Invernettie, Knight, son of the deceased Sir George Hay of Kinfauns, Knight, of a contract entered into between Francis Earl of Errol and the now deceased Sir Peter Hay, also son and heir of the said Sir George Hay, relative to the patronage of the church of Errol and teinds thereof in which the said Sir Peter Hay bound his heirs to confirm said contracts on attaining their complete age there confirming the same, as heir to his said brother. Holyroodhouse, 20 Jan 1624
377. Renunciation by David Viscount Stormonth, in favor of Sir George Hay of Kinfauns, Knight (Lord Chancellor of Scotland?), bearing that the said Sir George Hay was infest in the lands of Craigtoun with the brewstead and brewlands thereof, and fishings of said lands called Pitcartheugh, Cambuspuile and Cruick and all other fishings between the wood dyke of Kinnoul and the marches of the lands of Little Seggieden with a part of the Myre of Clene. Also the teind of said fishings, as also of the lands of Seggieden, Kirkstyle of Kinfauns, Byn, North Leys and miln and mill lands thereof, in the lordship of Scoon, on the resignation of the Viscount, and holden of the king for payment of 20 pounds as a part of the blench duty of 1,000 pounds for the lordship of Scoon. Therefore, and in consideration of certain sums of money, the Viscount relieves the said Sir George Hay of said blench duty of 20 pounds in time coming and renounces his claim thereto. Scoon, 14 Feb 1624
(Note: The above mentions a chalder of victual payable by Sir George out of the teinds of the Kirk of Kinfauns to Mr. Pat. Galloway, minister of Edinburgh during his lifetime. Produced before Lords of Council at Edinburgh 16 May 1631).

1625: 3 Part of the Mains of and lands of Clene and teinds; Lands of Pawnshill, Parts of Woodbank and Myres of Clene; Manse and glebe of Kinfauns.

378. Contract of sale by John Elder in Clene with consent of Robert Elder, his son, by which they oblige themselves to dispone in favor of David Viscount Stormonth, the eighth part of the Mains of Clene with 5 acres belonging thereto, and teinds, and containing Procuratory of resignation for resigning in the Viscount's hands as superior of said lands. Clene, 15 May 1625
379. Charter by the said John and Robert Elder, with consent, in favor of David Viscount Stormonth, of parts of the lands of Clene, as contained in the foregoing contract, holden blench of the said John and Robert Elder. Clene, 25 May 1625
380. Seisin in favor of the Viscount Stormonth in the eighth parts of the Mains of Clene & others & teinds on precept in charter of sale by John Elder in Clene, 25 May 1625 (Seisin dated 11 May 1627)

381. Charter by King Charles I ratifying charter by David Viscount Stormonth to the deceased Henry Brown of Pawnshill and John Brown, his son, in liferent and fee of the lands of Panshill and parts of Woodbank and Myre of Clene and teinds, 5 June 1625 (*Confirmation dated 21 June 1625*)
382. Inquest for allotting the manse and glebe of the parish of Kinfauns by David Williamson, Minister of Kilspindie and others, 11 March 1625

1629: Renunciation by Henry Anderson, 1629; Lands of Balmyle & Potento; Town & lands of Newhall; 2 Lands & Mains of Balthayock; 3 Lands of Over Pitlowie.

383. Judicial renunciation by Henry Anderson, Flesher, Dalkeith in favor of Thomas Lowrie there of his, the said Henry Anderson's, right to the killing & selling of flesh in the burgh of Dalkieith, which he had in virtue of a gift by William, Earl of Morton, dated 21 Sept (1609?). Renunciation, Dalkeith, 4 May 1629
384. Summons Thomas Blair of Balthayock against Sir John Blair of Balgillo, Knight, for impeding him in possession of the lands of Balmyle, Potento, Muir of Whitehills et al. Edinburgh, 6 June 1629
385. Seisin in favor of Andrew Kerr of Lawfield and Isobel Home his spouse, in the town and lands of Newhall with the mill & manor place in the barony of Bowden, County of Ross, on precept in Ch. sale by George Kerr of Newhall. Edinburgh, 9 July 1629 (Seisin dated 28 Aug 1629)
386. Renunciation and discharge by Eliz Nicolson in favor of Thomas Blair of Balthayock, of the lands and Mains of Balthayock and of 1,000 merks for which the same had been wadset to the Minister of Meigle by Alexander Blair of Balthayock in March 1607. Aberbrothock, 10 Oct 1629
387. Judicial Ratification by the above Eliz Nicolson of the above rent and discharge before the bailies of Aberbrothock. Aberbrothock, 10 Oct. 1629
388. Contract of marriage between Wm Hunter of Over Pitlowie and Janet Leslie, daughter of James Leslie in Hilchome, with consent of John Earl of Rothes, by which the said Wm Hunter obliges himself to invest her in liferent in parts of the lands of Over Pitlowie. Newburgh, 25 Nov 1629
- 389* Charter by Wm Hunter of Over Pitlowie to Janet Leslie, his future spouse in liferent in the shadow half of the lands of Over Pitlowie in the regality of Scoon. Newburgh, 25 Nov 1629

390. Seisin in favor of the said Janet Leslie in liferent in the above mentioned lands, 24 Dec 1629

1631-1633: Teinds of Kirk of Kinfauns; Summons of debt Bisset vs Blair; Teind sheaves of Baldowrie; Lands of Hallyards called Liberty Cruik; Lands of Gairdrum; Contract of Wadset. Lord Kinnoul & Janet Pennycuick; Registered Bond of Provision.

391. Abstract number #377 mentions at end a chalder of victual payable by Sir George Hay out of the teinds of the Kirk of Kinfauns to Mr. Pat. Galloway, minister of Edinburgh during his lifetime. Produced before Lords of Council at Edinburgh, 16 May 1631
392. Summons Thos Bisset, burgess of Perth, against Sir John Blair of Balgillo, and Thos Blair of Balthayock, his cautioner for payment of the sums therein mentioned. Edinburgh, 6 June 1631
393. Discharge by Thomas Small to Thomas Blair of Balthayock of 100 Scots pounds for the third part of the teind sheaves of Baldowrie (paid through?) John Blair in Ardlair, 4 July 1631
394. Contract of sale between Thomas Blair of Balthayock and Sir John Blair of Balgillo, by which the latter disposes to the said Thomas Blair heritably and irredeemably the lands of Hallyards called Liberty Cruik. Kirkhill, 13 July 1631
395. Contract of wadset between Andrew Blair, son and heir of the deceased Alexander Blair of Gairdrum, and Thomas Blair of Balthayock by which, in consideration of 500 merks, the said Andrew Blair obliges himself to infest the said Thomas Blair in an annualrent [that] corresponds furth of the lands of Gairdrum, etc., 2 June 1632
396. Contract of wadset between George, Earl of Kinnoul and Janet Pennycuick, relict of Chas Rollock, Merchant Perth, of an annual rent furth of the lands pertaining to him, 26 Jul, 3 Aug 1633
397. Registered bond of Provision by William Earl of Errol, in behalf of Dame Anna Lyon, his spouse, and the children of their marriage. Slains, 4 Nov 1633. (Extract dated 31 Oct 1636).

1634: Teind sheaves of Parish of Errol; Assignment of personal bond, Wm Dick to Earl of Kinnoul; Decreet of teinds of various lands belonging to Thomas Blair of Balthayock; Discharge of sum paid by Sir Thomas Blair for the honor of Knighthood; Teinds & mill lands of Inchyra; Barony of Errol.

398. Inventory of the writs respecting the teind sheaves of the Parish of Errol, not dated but subsequent to 1633
399. First assignation by William Dick of Braid, Merchant Edinburgh, in favor of George Earl of Kinnoul and others of their respective shares of the sum of 10,000 pounds in personal bond by them to Mr. Patrick Nisbet, Advocate, 24 June 1634
400. 2d Decreet by the Commissioner of Parliament in the supplication of Mr. David Williamson, Minister of Kilspindie and Rait as to the teinds of Kilspindie and Rait (and) as to the teinds of Arnbothie, Nether Finforth and Rait, Over Durdie, Gothins, Cruickhills, pertaining to Thomas Blair of Balthayock, Over Fingask, Nether Fingask & other lands. Edinburgh, 7 July 1634
401. Discharge by Mr. Gilbert Primrose, clerk of His Majesty's Privy Council to Sir Thomas Blair of Balthayock for the sum of 40 pounds as the modified allowance for the honour of Knighthood. Edinburgh, 7 Aug 1634
402. Seisin in favor of Alexander Bishop of Dunkeld and spouse with the teinds of Inchyra and mill lands thereof and lands of Dilely on Ch. sale by William Earl of Errol. Dated 20 Nov 1634 (Seisin dated 3 Dec 1634.)

Note: A Lindsay of Evelick was Parson of St. Madoes deposed by General Assembly in 1638 for "malignancy," abjured Episcopacy in 1639 and was reinstated in St. Madoes Statistical account of Perthshire, "Dunkeld".

403. Inventory of writs relating to wadsets and teinds, etc. of the Barony of Erroll, without date but probably about this period

1636-1642: Assignment of personal debt Henry Maule to Sir Thomas Blair; Bond of Provision, Earl of Errol to his spouse; Discharge by Thomas Blair of Tarsappie; 2 Lands of Gothins, Turfhill, Mill of Dundass; 3 Lands of Pitlowie & Over Pitlowie; Lands of Chapelton.

404. Assigination by Henry Maule of Melgome to Sir Thomas Blair of Balthayock of the sum of 500 merks in personal bond by William Blair, son of George Blair of Denhead, 1 July 1636
405. Discharge by Thomas Blair of Tarsappie for the canes of Hilton-Meuller, 2 Feb 1636
406. Contract of sale between Alexander, Bishop of Dunkeld, and Sir Thomas Blair of Balthayock, by which the latter obliges himself to dispone to the Bishop the lands of Gothins and pendicle called Turfhill with the manor place and the Mill of Dundass. St Madoes, 3 May 1637
407. Discharge by the Bishop to Sir Thomas Blair of Balthayock for the writs and evidents of the foresaid lands, therein specified. St. Madoes, 31 Aug 1637

From the abstract index: There [were] a great number of papers all subsequent to the year 1640, such as personal bonds, in which Sir Alexander Blair of Balthayock and his son were either cautioners or principals connected with the estate of Errol settling discharges for annual rent, ministers' stipends, schoolmasters' salaries, and tradesmens' accounts and receiving letters from different individuals. (Some of these seem to be listed. NM 2000)

408. Instrument of possession of the lands of Pitlowie, 6 Jan 1640
409. Ratification by Janet Leslie of the disposition of her liferent right to the shadow half of the lands of Over Pitlowie 14 Jan 1640
410. Registered contract between Robert Gray in Lochtoun and Janet Leslie, his spouse, as to the shadow half of the lands of Pitlowie in which she had been infest in liferent by Wm Hunter of Pitlowie, her former husband. Dated 4 Feb, 1640.
(Extract dated 20 May 1643)
411. Seisin in favor of Sir Thomas Blair of Balthayock in an annual rent of 80 pounds, payable furth of the lands of Chapelton an obligation by Patrick Anderson of Chapelton, 25 Feb 1640

1643-1644: Bond of relief Ogilvie to Blair; Bond by Earl of Kinnoul to James Fowler; Town and lands of Cults; Contract of marriage betwixt Major Patrick Blair and Agnes Bruce; Rentals of Errol & Kinfauns; 2 Miscellaneous to army matters.

- 412* Bond of relief by Ogilvie of Inchmartine to Sir Thomas Blair of Balthayock as his cautioner in personal bond to Stewart of Grandtully, 14 Nov 1642

413. Bond by George Earl of Kinnoull for repayment of 5,000 merks borrowed by him from Mr. James Fowler, Minister of Kinfauns, 23 May 1643
414. Tack by Sir Thomas Blair of Balthayock to Laurence Blair of the town & lands of Cults for the space of 9 years, 29 May 1643
415. Contract of marriage between Major Patrick Blair, son of Laurence Blair in Perth and Agnes Bruce, daughter of Sir Robert Bruce of Clackmannan, and narrating the various sums due to the said Patrick Blair by the bonds therein mentioned, 16 Dec 1643
416. Rental of the Baronies of Errol & Kinfauns for the year 1643
Note: the above is signed by the Laird of Balthayock and others.
417. Intimation to Sir Thomas Blair of Balthayock in relation to the committee of estates and arms sent to England and Ireland, 9 May 1644
- 418* Paper: seemingly a list of disbursements to soldiers on behalf of the Earl of Kinnoull, Jan 1644

1644-1646: Inventory of the effects of the deceased Dame Nicolas Dundas; 2 George, Earl of Kinnoull; Lands of Barclarie; Sir Wm Butter & securities; Earl of Kinnoull going to France; Sir Wm Butter & securities; 1 account book supposed to be rentals of the barony of Balthayock; 1 account book supposed to be rentals of the baronies of Errol & Kinfauns.

- 419* Testament dative and inventory of the goods in common between the deceased Dame Nicolas Dundas and Sir Thomas Blair of Balthayock, her husband, given up by him as having power from George Fairlie, her son and executor dative. 3 July 1644
420. Summons for production of the writs belonging to George Earl of Kinnoull accused of treason. Edinburgh, 8 Oct 1644
421. Also account of expenses & disbursements connected with the Earl of Kinnoull, 1 (Note: This account contains 25 leaves and has not been examined, as occupying too much time).
422. Contract of sale between John Lindsay, 17th Earl of Crawford, 10th Lord & 1st Earl Lindsay of the Byres, 1597-1678 approx. ("Lives of the Lindsays") and Sir Thomas Blair of Balthayock by which, for the sum of 6,000 merks, the latter dispone to the Earl the lands of Barclarie in the barony of Cults, 1645

423. Assigation by William Butter of Pitcullane in favor of Ogilvy of Inchmartin and Sir Thomas Blair of Balthayock of a variety of securities granted by the Earl of Errol, 3 May 1645
424. Receipt to Sir Thomas Blair of Balthayock of the sum of 1,000 merks to be delivered to the Earl of Kinnoul on his going to France, 15 May 1645
425. Discharge by the above William Butter to the Earl of Errol of the various debts therein mentioned, 28 Mar 1645
426. Compt book containing as follows near the end: "crop 1645 & 1646 - Laird of Balthayock restis of money conforme to his compt croppes 1645 & 1646 the sowme of 167 pounds 17s 10d."
427. "Compt of the Restis of the barony of Errol cropt 1644 years" etc. Dated 21 Aug 1646.

Note: From the names of the parties it is clear that both belong to the above mentioned baronies. There is frequent mention of arrears of teinds in the entries, but in this last there is no notice of Balthayock.

***1646-1647: 4 Lands of Pitlowie; Lands of Clathladrow, Strathearn;
Lands of Pitlowie & Lathons; Inventory of bonds over parts of
Baronies of Errol, Kinnoul & Kinfauns.***

428. Tack by Margaret Moir to Patrick Duff in Arnbothie of the lands of Pitlowie, 15 Apr 1646
429. Assigation of a former tack of the foresaid lands granted to the said Patrick Duff, 22 Oct 1646
430. Disposition by Margaret Moir to David Hunter, her grandson, of the sunny half of the lands of Pitlowie, 22 Oct 1646
431. Assigation in favor of David Hunter of Pitlowie of a disposition of a shadow half of the lands of Pitlowie, 9 Nov 1646
432. Inventory of bonds, etc. mentioned in contract between Sir Patrick Ogilvie of Inchmartin, Sir Thos Blair of Balthayock and others and sums of money contained therein secured over parts of the baronies of Errol, Kinnoul, Kinfauns, etc., 11 Feb 1647

433. Charter by Robert Cairnie of Fulchan to Patrick Cairnie, his son, and Agnes Blair, his spouse, of the lands of Clathladrow in the Stewartry of Strathearn, 26 May 1647
434. Obligation by David Hunter of Pitlowie in terms of contract of sale by him of the lands of Pitlowie & Lathons in favor of David Lord Balvaire, 27 Nov 1647

1648(?)-1650: *Lands of Clathladrow; Rental book of Kinfauns; Decreet of sheriff against Blair; Summons of disjunction of Balthayock & Inchyra Parish of Kinnoul; List of bonds due by Sir Thos Blair et al; 3 five pound lands of Balthayock & teinds; Obligation by Sir Thos Blair, Estate of Kinnoul. Nos. 436 & 437 partially obliterated. Entries are reconstructed as well as possible. (NM 2000 A.D.)*

435. "Compt of ye duties rested on the estate of Kinfauns" etc. for the year 1647 (?)
436. Seisin in favor of Patrick Blair, Lord of Deskfurd and Agnes Bruce, his spouse, in the lands of Clathladrow and others, foregoing charter, 2 June (1648?) (Note by Jack Blair: "Lord of Deskfurd" sees an erroneous designation)
437. Decreet of the Sheriff of Perth against Sir Thomas Blair of Balthayock and others principal and cautioners for payment of 8,000 merks in bond by them to Col. Laurence Blair, 20 Nov 1648
438. Summons at the instance of Sir Thomas Blair of Balthayock to have the Barony of Balthayock and lands of Inchyra disjoined from the parish of Kinnoul and united with the Parish of Kinfauns, etc., 20 Jan 1648
439. List of sums in bonds, in which Sir Thomas Blair of Balthayock and others were parties, 1649
440. Disposition of James Crichton, brother german and assignee of William Earl of Dumfries, to Sir Thomas Blair of Balthayock of the 5 pound land of Balthayock & teinds, 3 Jan 1650
441. Resignation by the said James Crichton in the hands of the Barons of Exchequer, of the 5 pound land of Balthayock upon the foregoing disposition and in favor as said is, 7 Feb 1650
442. Seisin in favor of Sir Thomas Blair for the foregoing, 7 Feb 1650

443. Obligation by Sir Thomas Blair of Balthayock and others as to the division among them of the Estate of Kinnoul and the sums of money payable by them therefore respectively, 1650

1652-1653: Contract on obligations by Sir Thomas Blair et al for George, Earl of Kinnoul; Petition by Sir Alexander Blair of Balthayock to be exempt from answering to his brother, Andrew, for debts incurred by their father; Memorandum in terms of the two foregoing memoranda; Retour of Service, Sir Alexander Blair heir to his father; List of debts resting by the Laird of Balthayock to Whitsunday 1653; Lands of Ardlair: Baldowrie, Balmyle, Potento, Cults; Blank summons to Alexander Blair as to bonds.

444. Contract between Patrick Lord Deskfurd, Sir Thomas Blair of Balthayock and others as cautioners for George Earl of Kinnoul narrating their having incurred great burdens therethrough as they could not get his estate disposed of for their relief, etc. 10 April 1652
- 445* Petition by Sir Alexander Blair of Balthayock to the Commissioners of the Commonwealth to be exempted from appearing to answer at the instance of Andrew Blair, his brother, now prisoner of war, for sums alleged due to him, and that by reason of his father's death and the urgency of his affairs, 15 April 1653
446. Memorandum in terms of the two foregoing memoranda, 27 April 1653
447. Retour of the General Service of Sir Alexander Blair of Balthayock as heir to Sir Thos Blair of Balthayock, his father, 29 April 1653
448. List of debts as above up to Whitsunday 1653 - 253,333 pounds 6s 8d.
449. Seisin in favor of Sir Alexander Blair of Balthayock as heir to Sir Thomas Blair of Balthayock, his father, in the barony of Ardlair, Baldowrie, Balmyle & Potento, lands of Cults, all now erected in the Barony of Ardlair, proceeding upon precept from Chancery, 14 May 1653. (Seisin dated 21 May 1658).
450. Blank summons at the instance of Sir Alexander Blair of Balthayock as to certain bonds entered into by his father and others, 20 Oct 1653

1653-1654: Lands of Over Durdie; Lands and Barony of Kinfauns; Rental of Errol; 2 Memoranda; List of Balthayock debts; Lands of Seggieden; Contract of marriage betwixt William Master of Gray & Lady Balthayock.

451. Charter of Laurence Blair of Over Durdie to Janet Turnbull, his future spouse, of an annual rent of 350 merks furth of the lands of Over Durdie, 15 Nov 1653
452. Seisin in favor of William Blair in Balthayock in an annual rent of 3600 pounds Scots payable furth of the lands and barony of Kinfauns, on Precept by Sir Alexander Blair of Balthayock, 24 Nov 1653
453. Rental of the lands of Errol pertaining to the Laird of Balthayock, 1653
454. Memorandum for the Laird of Balthayock as to the making up of his titles, as heir to his father, 3 Feb 1653
455. Memorandum as above, 4 Feb 1653
456. List of debts resting by the Laird of Balthayock amounting to 384,752 merks, 11 Mar 1653
457. Back bond by John Nairn in Seggieden in favor of Sir Alexander Blair of Balthayock for redemption from him, so soon as he shall obtain Declarator against the heirs of the Earl of Kinnoul of the lands of Seggieden disposed by him to said John Nairn, 14 March 1654
458. Contract of marriage between William Master of Gray and Dame Margaret Gibson, Lady Balthayock, by which he obliges himself to infest his said future spouse in the lands of Fowlis, etc., 19 March 1654

1655-1656: 2 Lands of Nether Balmyle, Potento & Hallyards; 4 Lands of Balmyle & Potento; Retour Service of Sir Alexander Erskine; Kirktown of Essie, Barony of Lintrathen.

459. Disposition by Sir Alexander Blair of Balthayock to Thomas Blair, his eldest son, of the lands of Nether Balmyle, Potento and part of the lands of Hallyards called Liberty Crook, 13 July 1655
460. Blank charter by Sir Alexander Blair of Balthayock in favor of of the lands and others mentioned in the foregoing disposition, 13 July 1655

461. Blank discharge by the above Sir Alexander Blair to..... of all payment of the sum of contained in contract No. payable for the lands of Balmyle and Potento, 13 July 1655
462. Blank charter by Sir Alexander Blair of Balthayock in favor of in the lands of Balmyle & Potento in terms of the foregoing writs, 13 July 1655
463. Charter by the said Sir Alexander Blair of Balthayock to Thomas Blair, his eldest son, of the lands of Balmyle & Potento mentioned in the foregoing writs, 13 July 1655
464. Seisin in favor of Mr. John Blair, notary in Perth, in an annual rent of 132 pounds furth of the lands of Potento and Balmyle, on Precept by Sir Alexander Blair of Balthayock, 7 Dec 1655
465. Retour General Service of Sir Alexander Erskine of Dun as heir to Sir John Erskine of Dun, his father. Montrose, 4 Jan 1655
466. Ratification by James Earl of Airlie of the aftermentioned contract between Patrick Blair of Dunkenny and Andrew Aytoun, 17 Nov 1656.

1657: Lands of Balmyle, Potento & Balthayock; Lands of manor place of Errol; 2 Lands of Kirktown of Essie; Lands of Panshill; Memorandum to Earl of Airlie re Lands of manor place of Errol; Lands of Over Durdie & teinds.

467. Charter by Sir Alexander Blair of Balthayock to Dame Elizabeth Fotheringham, his spouse, in implement of their marriage contract, of the lands of Balmyle & Potento; and lands of Balthayock in warrandice, not dated nor signed but marked on the back 1657
468. Minute of agreement between the Earl of Ethie (Airlie) & Sir Thomas Blair of Balthayock as to the sale by the latter to the Earl of the manor place of Errol and grounds adjoining, and detailing the conditions of said sale, 8 Jan 1657.
469. Seisin in favor of Andrew Aytoun of Kinglessie, advocate in the annual rent of 330 merks payable furth of the lands of Kirktown of Essie, in the Barony of Lintrathen on precept contained in contract between him and Patrick Blair of Dunkenny, 16 April 1657.
470. Contract of wadset between Patrick Blair of Dunkenny & Andrew Ayton of Kinglessie advocate upon the lands of Kirktown of Essie, 17 April 1657

- 471.. Bond by Henry Brown of Panshill and spouse in favor of James Kilgour, burgess of Perth, for payment of an annual rent of 24 furth of the lands of Panshill, 12 May 1657
- 472.. Memorandum for the Earl of Ethie (Airlie) as to titles in relation to entry #468, 16 May 1657
473. Extract tack by Patrick Blair of Dunkenny to John Mercer of the lands of Over Durdie & teinds, 14 June 1657. (Extract dated 11 Aug 1657)

1658-1659: Lands of Balmyle, Potento & Balthayock; 2 ands of Erroll & Balthayock; Temple lands of Balthayock & office of Bailyary; Lands of Balmyle & Potento; Thomas Blair of Balthayock testament & inventory of goods; Lands of Panshill; 2 Lawrence Blair contract of marriage & lands of Over Durdie; Temple lands & manor place of Balthayock.

474. Information for the Laird of Balthayock, as to making up his titles, etc., 17 April 1658.
475. Charter by Sir Alexander Blair of Balthayock to Dame Elizabeth Fotheringham, his spouse, bearing she having been infefted in the lands & barony of Erroll, in liferent, and that he had sold the said lands to John Earl of Essie (James Earl of Airlie), therefore disposing to her the lands of Balthayock in lieu of the foresaid lands, 13 May 1658
476. Seisin given propriis manibus by Sir Alexander Blair of Balthayock to Dame Elizabeth Fotheringham, his spouse, of the lands of Balthayock in terms of the foregoing charter, 14 May 1658
477. Precept of Clare Constat by David Lord Balvaird for infefting Sir Alexander Blair of Balthayock as heir to Sir Thomas Blair of Balthayock, his father, in the Temple lands of Balthayock together with the office of bailyary of said lands, 2 Sept 1658
478. Seisin in favor of Sir Alexander Blair of Balthayock as heir to Sir Thomas Blair of Balthayock, his father, in the Temple lands of Balthayock with the manor place on precept of Clare Constat by David Lord Balvaird, dated Perth, 2 Sept 1658. (Seisin dated 7 Jan 1659)
479. Inventory of the writs and evidents of the lands of Balmyle & Potento given up by Sir Alexander Blair of Balthayock to Thomas Graham, son of Grame of Claverhouse, 5 Nov 1658

480. Testament dative and inventory of the goods, etc. which pertained to the deceased Thomas Blair of Balthayock and confirmation of the same, 23 Dec 1658
481. Seisin in favor of James Kilgour in an annual rent of 24 pounds furth of the lands of Panshill on precept by Henry Brown of Panshill, 31 May 1659
- 482* Contract of marriage between Lawrence Blair of Over Durdie and Janet Turnbull by which the said Lawrence Blair obliges himself to infest her in the lands of Over Durdie, 14 Nov 1659
- 483.. Seisin in favor of the said Janet Turnbull in the above mentioned lands, Nov 1659

1661-1665: Conveyance Sir Alexander to his spouse if she survives him; 4 Lands of Panshill; Teinds of Inchdarnie; Rental of Kinnaird; 2 Lands of Balmyle & Potento.

484. Disposition by Sir Alexander Blair of Balthayock to Dame Elizabeth Fotheringham, his spouse, in the event of her surviving him, of all his insight plenishing, houses, yards, orchards, etc. pertaining to him, 4 Oct 1661
485. Charter of apprising by King Charles II to Wm Crie, Deacon of the Tailors in Perth, of the lands of Panshill, 19 Jan 1663
486. Precept following on the above charter for infesting the said William Crie, 10 Jan & 19 Feb 1663
487. Seisin in favor of Willm Crie, Deacon of the Tailors in Perth, in the lands of Panshill on the foregoing precept, April 1663
488. Disposition by James Arrot in Innerqueich to David Viscount Stormonth of the lands of Panshill, apprised by said James Arrot from Henry Brown of Panshill, 22 Nov 166_. *Marked on the back 1664*
489. Submission as to the teinds of Inchdarnie, 1664
490. Rental of the Barony of Kinnaird 1662-3 & 4
491. Disposition by Sir Alexander Blair of Balthayock to John Blair, his brother german, of the lands of Nether Balmyle. 1664

492. Discharge by John Blair, Commissary clerk of Dunkeld, to Sir Alexander Blair of Balthayock of an annual rent furth of the lands of Balmyle & Potento, 1 April 1665

1665-1672: 3 Lands of Panshill; 2 Lands of Panshill, Parts of Woodbank & Muir of Clene; Lands of Over Durdie; Lands of Essie; Feu & Teind duties of Barony of Craigton; Lands of Kirkton of Essie.

493. Charter of apprising by King Charles II to James Arret of Innerqueich of the lands of Panshill, 11 Aug 1665
494. Precept following upon the foregoing charter for investing the said James Arrat in the lands of Panshill, 11 Aug 1665
495. Seisin in favor of James Arrat in the lands of Panshill following upon the foregoing precept, 9 Oct 1665
496. Charter by Henry Brown of Panshill to David Viscount Stormonth of the lands of Panshill and parts of the lands of Woodbank and Muir of Clene to be holden of the King and his successors, 20 May 1668
497. Charter as above to be holden of the said Henry Brown, 20 May 1668
- 498* Back bond by Sir Alexander Blair of Balthayock and Thomas Blair, his eldest son, obliging themselves to denude themselves of the lands of Over Durdie for the causes therein mentioned, 26 Oct 1670
499. Contract of annual rent in favor of James Blair in the lands of Essie entered into between him and Patrick Blair of Dunkenny, his uncle, 20 Nov 1671
500. Information (opinion) for David Viscount Stormonth respecting the superiority feu & teind duties of the barony of Craigton, 19 July 1672
501. Assignment by Sir Andrew Ayton of Kinglassie of an annual rent secured over the lands of Kirkton of Essie, 13 Sept 1672

1673-1678: Laird of Kinfauns vs. Viscount Stormonth; 2 Arms of Blair of Balthayock; Baronies of Craigton & Kinfauns & Kirkton & Teinds; Contract of marriage between James Carnegy & Elizabeth Blair; Assignment in favor of John Arbuthnot & Helen Bruce, Kirkton of Essie; Lands of the Barony of Braco; Obligation of annualrent, etc. to Dame Elizabeth Blair; Assignment of movables by Sir Alexander Blair to his son Thomas.

- 502* Information (opinion) for the Laird of Kinfauns contra the Tutor of Stormonth 1673 0 (and ditto Viscount Stormonth contra Blair of Kinfauns 19 July 1672).
- 503* Extract of the blazoning of the arms of Sir Alexander Blair of Balthayock, Knight under the subscription of Sir Charles Erskine of Cambo, Lyon King of Arms. Edinburgh, 16 Sept 1673
- 504* Extract of the blazoning of arms of Laurence Blair of Over Durdie descended of Balthayock under the subscription of Sir Charles Erskine of Cambo, Lyon King of Arms, 16 Sept 1673
505. Resignation by William Blair of Kinfauns in the hands of the Barons of Exchequer of the Barony of Kinfauns & Kirkton thereof, Barony of Craigtoun & others, with the teinds and lands therein mentioned in warrandice for new infeftment to be given to Anna Blair, his daughter, and Alexander Carnegie, her husband, son of David Earl of Northesk, 7 Feb 1673
506. Contract of marriage between James Carnegie, son of Robert Carnegie of Newgate, and Elizabeth Blair, daughter of Sir Alexander Blair of Balthayock, Oct 1676
507. Assigment in favor of John Arbuthnot of Fiddes and Helen Bruce, his spouse, daughter of Major George Bruce, son of Sir Robert Bruce, of Clackmannan of 5,000 merks secured over the Kirkton of Essie, 19 Nov 1677
508. Seisin in favor of Dame Mary Cowan, relict of Sir William Graham of Braco, and Sir James Graham, her son, in the lands and Barony of Braco, on disposition by Patrick Smith of Methven, 20 Dec 1677 (*Seisin dated 16 & 17 Nov 1680*).
509. 1st obligation by Sir Alexander Blair of Balthayock and Thomas Blair, his son, in favor of Dame Elizabeth Fotheringham, his spouse, to infeft her in an annual rent of certain money & victual and parts of the house of Balthayock during her life, 9 May 1678
510. 2d Assigment to moveables by Sir Alexander Blair of Balthayock (and Lady Balthayock) to Thos Blair, his eldest son and apparent heir, 13 May, 1678

1680-1684: Lands of Seggieden, Byn & Northleys; Lands & Barony of Braco; 2 Contract of marriage Thos. Blair & Dame Jean Pringle; Lands of Kirkton of Essie; Contract of marriage betw. Margt Blair & Mr. Strachan, Minister of St. Martin; Lands of Kirkton of Essie.

- 511* Procuratory for infefting Sir Alexander Blair of Balthayock as heir to Sir Thomas Blair of Balthayock, his father, in the lands of Seggieden, Byn & Northleys, in order that he may infest John Nairn of Seggieden in said lands of Byn, 17 June 1680
512. Charter by James Marquis of Montrose confirming disposition by John Hope of Hopetoun in favor of Patrick Smith of Methven of the Barony of Braco & others, 14 Feb 1680 (*3d Marquis ob. 1684, grandson of the great Marquis*)
513. Contract of marriage between Thomas Blair, fiar of Balthayock, and Dame Jean Pringle, Lady Buchanan, by which he obliges him- himself to infest her in liferent in an annual rent of 500 merks furth of the lands of Balthayock, etc. *The above neither dated nor signed.*
514. Notarial copy, contract of marriage as above, 8 Aug 1683
515. Renunciation by Sylvester Lammie, Minister at Eassie, to the above Thomas Blair, of said lands of Kirkton of Eassie, 3 Dec 1684
- 516* Contract of marriage between Mr. Thomas Strachan, Minister of St. Martin, and Margaret Blair, daughter of Sir Alexander Blair of Balthayock with consent therein mentioned, etc. 23, 24 & 31 Dec 1684
517. Tack by Thomas Blair Feur of Balthayock to James Watson of the half of the lands of Kirkton of Eassie, 20 & 26 March 1684

1688-1694: Lands of Over Durdie; Discharge Blench duty to Lord Stormonth; Retour of Service, Thomas Blair to his father; 2 Temple lands of Balthayock & Bailiary; 2 5 pound land of Balthayock.

518. Seisin in favor of Thomas Blair of Balthayock in the lands of Over Durdie lying in the Parish of Kilspindie proceeding upon Charter by King James VII, dated 4 Feb 1688 (Seisin dated 1 May 1694)
- 519* Discharge by Sir William Blair of Kinfauns to Sir Alexander Blair of Balthayock, etc. of his proportion of the blench duty due to the Lord Stormonth, 30 Jan 1689
520. Retour of the General Service of Thomas Blair of Balthayock as heir to Sir Alexander Blair of Balthayock, his father, 6 Mar 1693

521. Precept of Clare Constat by David Viscount Stormonth for infefting Thomas Blair of Balthayock as heir to Sir Alexander Blair of Balthayock, his father, in the Temple Lands of Balthayock with the manor place and office of Bailiary of said lands, 16 Jan 1694
522. Seisin in favor of Thomas Blair of Balthayock as heir to his father in the Temple lands of Balthayock, proceeding upon the foregoing precept, 5 Feb 1694
523. Charter by King William & Queen Mary to Thomas Blair of Balthayock of the 5 pound land of Balthayock. Edinburgh, 9 Mar 1694
524. Seisin in favor of Thomas Blair of Balthayock in the 5 pound land of Balthayock proceeding upon charter of confirmation by King William & Queen Mary, dated 9 Mar 1694

***1695-1696: Lands of Balthayock called Over & Nether Craigend;
Lands of Over Durdie.***

525. Tack by Thomas Blair of Balthayock to Thomas Mackie in Craigend of part of the lands of Balthayock called Over and Nether Craigend, 27 March 1695
526. Memorandum for the Laird of Balthayock as to the teinds of the lands of Over Durdie, June 1696

***1705-1752: Lands of Durdie & Balthayock; 2 lands of Balthayock;
Retour of service Margaret Blair; Retour of service John Blair; 2
Lands of Inchyra; 2 Precept of Clare Constat by Viscount Stormont
in favor of John Blair/ Temple Lands of Balthayock & Bailiary;
Temple Lands of Balthayock; 5 pound lands of Balthayock &
Lands of Over Durdie & Teinds.***

527. Liferent sasine in favor of Margaret Butter, Lady Balthayock, over lands of Durdie and Balthayock. 10 Sept 1705
528. Precept from Chancery for infefting John Blair of Balthayock as heir to his brother Thomas in said lands, 31 Oct 1705
529. Sasine on said precept in said lands, 5 Nov 1705
530. General Retour Margaret Blair to her father, 5 Oct 1723

531. General Retour, John Blair to his mother, 6 July 1727
532. Instrument of Sasine of certain annual rents in favor of John Blair of Balthayock furth of the Town and Lands of Inchyra Miln and salmon fishing, 26 Sept 1744
533. Disposition of Anna Blair to John Blair of her proportion of the lands of Inchyra, Miln of Inchyra and salmon fishing, etc. 14 May 1750 (Registered 4 Aug 1783)
534. Precept of Clare Constat granted by David Scott of Scotstairt, Commissioner for David, Viscount of Stormont, etc., in favor of the said John Blair of "All and Hail the Temple lands of Balthayock, with the tower, fortalice, manor place, houses, biggings and yards of the same and their pertinents, lying within the barony of Kinnoul and Sheriffdom of Perth, as also of all and hail the office of Bailiary of the foresaid Temple lands, with the pertinents and Regality of Torpichen in that part," 30 Dec 1751
535. Instrument of sasine following thereon in favor of the said John Blair dated the 22nd and registered in the particular register of sasines at Perth, 27 May 1752
536. Instrument of resignation of the five pound lands of Balthayock, Lands of Over Durdie and Teinds thereof, in favor of John Blair of Balthayock, 27 July 1752

1752-1799: Charter under the Great Seal in favor of John Blair; Instrument in favor of John Blair; Temple & other lands of Balthayock & Over Durdie; Marriage John Blair & Patie Stephen; Liferent Patie Blair; Retour of Isabella Blair; Land tax redemption; Letter.

537. Charter of resignation under the Great Seal in favor of John Blair of Balthayock of "All and whole five pound land of Balthayock with the pertinents which were parts and pendicles of the Barony of Kinnoul, lying within the parish thereof and Sheriffdom of Perth; as also of all and whole the lands of Over Durdie and pertinents with the teinds thereof, lying within the parish of Kilspindie, Lordship of Scone and shire foresaid," but with and under the express provisions and conditions therein mentioned, 27 July 1752 (Sealed 27 Aug 1752)
538. Instrument of sasine following thereon in favor of the said John Blair dated the 29th and registered in the particular register of sasines at Perth, 30 Sept 1752
539. Disposition and settlement John Blair in favor of himself and others of the lands of Balthayock, Over Durdie, Temple Lands of Balthayock and other lands therein mentioned, 4 Mar 1760

540. Contract of marriage betwixt John Blair and Miss Patie Stephen. 9 August 1762
541. Liferent sasine in her favor of an annuity furth of Over Durdie and Balthayock.
11 Sept 1762
542. Special Retour of Mrs. Isabella Blair of her proportion of lands of Inchyra, etc. 1772
543. Certificate of the contract for the redemption of the land tax. 26 Jan 1799

There are a great number of papers all subsequent to the year 1640, such as personal bonds, in which Sir Alexander Blair of Balthayock and his son were either cautioners or principals connected with the estate of Errol settling discharges for annual rent, ministers' stipends, schoolmasters' salaries, tradesmens' accounts, receiving some letters from different individuals and other miscellaneous papers which have not been inventoried nor arranged, but are put up in bundles, replaced in the Charter Chest and marked accordingly. (Not in chest 10/1999)

APPENDIX-A

**CHRONOLOGICAL LIST OF ABSTRACTS OF BLAIR MUNIMENTS
REMAINING IN THE BLAIR CHARTER CHEST**

Gift from Robert Tower Fergusson of Ontario, Canada to The Blair Muniments Committee of the Clan Blair Society for conservation and research purposes. For information as to the location of the following muniments, contact the librarian of the Clan Blair Society.

Most of the muniments in the chest are duplicates of those in the preceding list and are correspondingly numbered. Blair of France abstracts are listed separately.

*Transcribed by Noel Blair McCullough
September 2000*

- 5-6. Confirmation by Robert de Erskine Lord of Inchmartine of charter by Allan de Erskine Lord of the same to Patrick de Blair and the heirs of his body whom failing to John de Ardeler brother of the said Patrick of a 20 merk land and to pay to them and their heirs 12 pounds sterling from the lands of Qwylt in the county of Fife. Perth 1 Feb 1369 (Stirling, 6 March 1369)
9. Charter by Robert Earl of Fife and Menteith to Patrick de Blair to the land of Qwylt in the County of Fife, Perth 1376
10. Charter by King Robert II to Patrick de Blair of the superiority of the lands of Balgillochy in the County of Forfar. Scoon, 13 July 1387
12. Precept addressed to Duncan de Lychtoun Sheriff Depute of the Sherifffdom of Forfar that in a court at Balgilach upon Sunday the 8th of January 1389 before Earl of Fife and Menteith he elect an Inquest consisting of Andrew Dempster, William de Maule and others to decide upon the debates between Patrick de Blair and James de Fothringham as to the lands of Balgilach, 1389
16. Precept by Robert Duke of Albany etc. to summon an Inquest upon 6 March 1408 at Clene in the County of Gowry to decide the discords between Alexander Abbot of Scone and Thomas De Blair of Balthayock as to the marches of the lands of Clene and Balthayock. Clene, 6 Mar 1408

21. Act of the Parliament of Scotland in favour of Thomas de Blair the decret given in a Court of Justiciary held at Dundee 15 March 1429 (two days previously) and finding that the lands of Balgillo by a former assize were determined to have belonged to Patrick Blair father of the said Thomas de Blair, 1429 A duplicate has the great seal. Act of Scotland's Parliament in favour of Thomas de Blair reversing the decret given in a court of Justiciary at Dundee 15 Mar 1424 2 days prior and finding the lands of Balgillo by a former assize belonged to Patrick Blair father of the said Thomas de Blair.
29. Instrument respecting certain farms and duties due by John Baxter burgess of Cupar to Alexander Blair of Balthayock 15 July 1465
34. Copy of Perambulation of the lands of Clene, Arnbathie and Ballintard on the one part and the lands of Balnahagils on the other part by William Scott of Balwery and others also containing Perambulation of the lands of Pockmill and Balnaha-gils 1470
39. Decreet arbitral by Andrew Abbot of Lindres and others in the debates between Thomas Blair of Balthayock and Alexander Inglis of Tarvit as to the marches between the lands of Quilts and of Tarvit, 15 July 1494
44. Act of the Lords of Council continuing the process between Alexander Blair of Balthayock and Patrick Lord Lindsay of the Byres as to their respective rights to the lands of Barclary in the Sheriffdom of Fife to 6th August then next, 22 Feb 1504
61. Seisin in favour of Alexander Blair of Balthayock son of the deceased Margaret Lindsay and her husband John Blair of Balthayock in the lands of Potento given by Walter Tyrie of Drumkilbo bailie in virtue of Precept by David Earl of Crawford, 5 Oct 15-20 (*Jack Blair is sure John Blair was of Balmyle not Balthayock*)
68. Discharge of David Earl of Crawford bearing that he had sold to the deceased John Blair and Alexander Blair his son the lands of Balmyle and Potento as also the lands of Cannay and mains of Meigle in warrandice under reversion on pay-ment by the Earl of the sum of 1400 merks therefore in consequence of having been paid great sums of money by the said Alexander Blair he renounces his right of reversion over the said lands and disposes to the said Alexander Blair the same irredeemably, Edinburgh, May 1528
72. Charter by Alexander Blair of Balmyle to Gilbert Blair and Elizabeth Wedderburn his spouse of Balmyle in the County of Perth. Dundee, 19 Mar 1528

76. Notarial copy of gift of King James V to John Blair of Melgund of the mails farms and duties of the two part of the lands of Balmyle in the Barony of Meigle and shire of Perth then in the King's hands by reason of nonentry since the decease of John Earl of Crawford and that until the lawful heir come of age. Edinburgh, 2 July 1532
83. Tack by Dame Jane Gray Lady Lovat(?) with consent of David Lindsay of Edzell her spouse during her lifetime to her son Thomas Blair of Balthayock of her terce of the lands and mills of Quilt in the County of Fife with full power of bailyary for yearly payment of twenty four merks of money of Scotland etc. Dundee, 1 Dec 1534
87. Summons at the instance of Thomas Blair of Balthayock against David Earl of Crawford for having raised process of nonentry against the said Thomas Blair upon the pendicle of land called the west part of Turfhill in the lands of Gothins in the Barony of Baltroddie and Sherifffdom of Perth therefore charging the Earl to compear etc. Edinburgh, 9 May 1538
91. Letter of regress by King James V to Thomas Blair of Balthayock to receive him again in the lands of Kirktoon of Quilts upon redemption of the same from Mr. Henry White Dean of Brechin and others therein mentioned, 10 Sept 1538
99. Instrument bearing that John Lord Lindsay of the Byres delivered to Thomas Blair of Balthayock the letter of Renunciation on favour of the latter of the right of the former in the property and commonty of the lands of Barclary Bewest the burn that runs between the place and mains of Strutherland and the lands of Barclary and defining the marches thereof, 1540
100. Sasine Thomas Blair of the Lands of Barclary from John Lord Lindsay of the Byres, 1540
101. Summons at the instance of Thomas Blair of Balthayock against Alexander of Lindsay burgess of Perth for impeding him in his possession in the lands of Turfhill and casting peats on the north half of the Myre thereof therefore charging the said Alexander Lindsay to compear etc. Edinburgh, 10 Sept 1540
106. Instrument of sasin in favour of Alexander Blair son and apparent heir of Thomas Blair of Balthayock in the east fourth part of the lands of Balmyle in the County of Perth proceeding upon Precept and Charter from Gilbert Blair of Balmyle, 24 May 1542

113. Assigination of John Blair of Melginch son and heir of the deceased John Blair of Melginch in favour of Janet Blair Lady Balmyle of Gift by King James V to the said deceased of parts of the lands of Balmyle therein mentioned, 13 Aug 1547
115. Nomination by Andrew Scott in Kirktoon of Kinfauns by reason of the danger of a war between the Scotch and the English ("antiquus regni inimicos") of Thomas Blair of Balthayock and Alexander Blair his son and apparent heir to be curators for his children during their minority and intromitters with his goods etc., 30 Sept 1547
118. Sasine in favor of David Baxter Burgess of Cupar and Isobel Jamieson his spouse proceeding on Precept by Thomas Blair of Balthayock of half of lands of Welltoun and of Fethes in the Barony of Quilts and County of Fife, 23 Feb 1549 (Seisin 5 Mar 1549)
131. Instrument of appeal to the Pope by Alexander Blair son and apparent heir of Thomas Blair of Balthayock and assignee of Patrick Ogilvie of Inchmartine to a Tack of the Teind sheaves of Balbegies granted by Mr. John Leslie Rector of the parish kirk of Kinnoul as aggrieved by a sentence of the Archbishop of St. Andrews and his officials and to be relieved from process of excommunication, 6 Sept 1551
139. The above titles recorded upon the judicial proceedings raised by David Earl of Crawford against Jane Blair daughter of Patrick Blair of Balmyle for the production thereof. Edinburgh, 1 or 5 Dec 1553
147. Seisin given by Alexander Blair Chamberlain of Scoon to Gilbert Hedderwick and Christian Spence his spouse in parts of the Mains of Clene and proceeding in Precept by Patrick Bishop of Murray, 4 Oct 1561 (13 October 1569)
151. Charter by Patrick Bishop of Murray to John Anderson and Isobel Scott his spouse of two acres of the lands of Clene in the Lordship and regality of Scoon "cum decimis garbalibus etc." Scoon, 24 Oct 1561
152. Charter by King James VI verbatim ratifying charter by Patrick Bishop of Murray to Janet Sharp and John Wood her son of one and a half acres of the lands of Clene and teinds thereof, 24 Oct 1561 (Holyrood House, 15 Mar 1585)

Charter Kinfauns to John Wood of and Mr 15 March 1585
39C

Large seal attached, half of it is gone probably represents coat of arms and personal sign. Can't find in main abstracts list. NM 2000)

159. Record of Contract between Thomas Blair of Balthayock and Alexander Blair sometime Tutor of Balmyle by which the said Thomas Blair obliges himself to infest the said Alexander Blair in life rent in a yearly pension of four chalders of victual 6.8.0 money of Scotland and two geese and twenty four poultry furth of the lands of Maldewry and on the other hand the said Alexander Blair obliges himself to deliver up all charters letters of reversions made to the deceased Thomas Blair of Balmyle upon the lands of Balmyle and Potento. Balthayock, 11 July 1562
(Edinburgh, March 1562 on back)
161. Seisin given by John Wood to Janet Bowden his spouse of one and a half acres of the lands of Clene, 8 February 1562
173. Seisin proceeding upon precept of Clare Constat by James Lord St John (Preceptor) of Torpichen Knight for infesting Alexander Blair as heir to Thomas Blair of Balthayock his Father in the Temple lands of Balthayock with the manor place etc. Holyroodhouse, 30 April 1568 (11 May 1568)
176. Contract between Robert Ramsay Fiar of Balmonth with consent and William Ramsay of Murye for himself and Christian Blair his spouse on the one and other parts by which the said Robert obliges himself in consideration of one thousand merks to infest the said William Ramsay in the half of the lands of Balmonth in the County of Fife under reversionsion and the said William Ramsay on the other hand obliges himself to grant tack of the said lands to the said Robert so long as the said William Ramsay possesses the lands of little Balcurry, Barony of Durie. Tawside, 19 Nov 1568
185. Renunciation and discharge by John Blair in Clene natural son of the deceased Thomas Blair of Balthayock of the Mill lands and Mill of Cults and of the sum of one hundred merks in lieu of his liferent of ten merks yearly from said lands, 1 Feb 1569
192. Charter of Resignation by Patrick Bishop of Murray Commendator of Scoon to John Blair indweller in Clene and Thomas Blair his son of the Fourth Part of the lands of Mains of Clene and 8 acres pertaining thereto "unacum decimis garbalibis equsdem" proceeding on their resignation. Spynie & Scoon, 27 July/1 Aug 1570
195. Instrument of Seisine in favours of Jean Blair & Thomas Blair apparent heir of Balthayok her husband & longest liver of them two etc. of the Lands of Balmyle & Potento upon a Charter from R James VI, 21 Sept 1571

196. Seisin in favour of Gilbert Anderson as heir to Edmund Anderson in Inchmichael his Father in two acres of the lands of Clene in the Lordship and regality of Scoon on precept of Clare Constat by Patrick Bishop of Murray dated at Spynie & Scoon, 29 Sept & 20 Oct 1571 (27 December 1570)
207. Seisin in favour of William Blair in the lands of Weltoun proceeding upon charter by Alexander Blair of Balthayock to the said William Blair his fourth son of the shadow half of said lands of Weltoun in the Barony of Ardlair in liferent and in full satisfaction of his bairns part of gear, 5 Jan 1572
208. Discharge between Alexander Blair of Balthayock and Alison Lindsay occupier of the lands of Barclarie of all action claims duties and sums of money due and resting by either of them to the other. Kirk of Cults, 23 March 1573
209. Charter by Thomas Blair apparent of Balthayock and Janet Blair his spouse to Alexander Blair formerly Tutor of Balmyle in liferent rent and pension of four chalders of victual and six pounds eight shillings money of Scotland payable furth of the lands of Potento and that in terms of a contract between him and the deceased Thomas Blair of Balthayock. Gothins, 5 April 1574
212. Discharge by William Lord Ruthven Treasurer to King James VI to Alexander Blair of Balthayock of the sum of 133.6.8 for the Composition of Gift by the King to the said Blair of the ward and nonentry of the lands of Nether Balmyle and Potento then in the King's hands by reason of the decease of Thomas Blair of Balmyle together with the marriage of Alexander Blair his son and apparent heir. Cuchelie, 23 June 1574 (Edinburgh, 15 November 1574)
213. 3 1/2" tall x 4 7/8" wide paper with seal attached dated July 1574 on reverse and signed Sro Blair written in Latin for the most part. unfolded. July 1574
218. Seisin in favour of Adam Blackwood Burgess of Perth and Robert Blackwood his son under charter to them in liferent and fee respectively of rent of nine merks payable furth of the eighth part of the lands of Clene and six acres of land belonging thereto under reversion for payment of eighty merks. Perth, 1 December 1574
Seisin rouven? propriis manibus, Perth, 1 December 1574
219. Charter by Alexander Blair of Balthayock to Andrew Blair his son and Janet Rollock (Rollo) his spouse sister of George Rollo (Rillock) of Duncrub and relict of John Stewart of Keillebrochin of the sunny half of the lands of Weltoun of Cults in the County of Fife in implement of Contract of marriage entered into by them, 26 Dec 1574 (Myres, 3 March 1578)

221. Extract of Ratification by Jean Blair Lady Balmyle relict 22. of Thomas Blair son and apparent heir of Alexander or Thomas (the abstract writer wasn't sure which) Blair of Balthayock of a resignation made by her in the lifetime of her said husband with his consent in the hands of Mathew Earl of Lennox as in the King's hands of the lands of Nether Balmyle and Potento for new infeftment to be granted thereof to themselves and their heirs male bearing the name and arms of Blair etc. Kirk of Kinfauns, 21 Jan 1574
228. Contract between Alexander Blair of Balthayock on the one part and "Jahane" (Jean) Blair Lady Balmyle relict of Thomas Blair son and apparent heir of the said Alexander Blair and William Blair younger apparent of Balgillo now her husband for his interest on the other part by which the said Alexander Blair of Balthayock for himself and as taking burden on him for Alexander Blair his (grandson) and apparent heir and son of the said Jean and Thomas Blair obliges himself to discharge them of all sums of money pertaining to the deceased Thomas Blair second and youngest son of the said Jean and Thomas Blair etc. as also to grant them a Tack of the Teind sheaves of the lands of Nether Balmyle they paying therefor 36 bolls victual yearly etc. The above alludes to the Teinds of Potento and contains particulars as to them. Gothins, 24 July 1576
231. Seisin in favour of Andrew Blair son of Alexander Blair of Balthayock and Janet Rollock (Rollo) his spouse sister of George Rollock (Rollo) of Duncrub on virtue of letters of Attorney by King James VI addressed to John Thomson in Welltown Cults dated 12 January 1578 in the sunny half of the lands of Welltown of Cults proceeding upon Precept by the said Alexander Blair. Myres, 3 March 1578
237. Seisin in favour of John Blair Portioner of Clene and Christian Spence his spouse in the lands of Clene (one acre of=) proceeding under charter by James Powrie maltman Burgess of Perth to them with teinds, dated Perth, 12 July 1581 - 26 Sept 1581. Perth, 12 July 1581
251. Seisin in favour of James Hunter son and apparent heir of William Hunter of Over Pitlowrie with consent of Elizabeth Spence his spouse and Margaret Moir future spouse of the said James Hunter in implement of their contract of marriage under charter from the said William Hunter with consent as aforesaid of the lands of Over Pitlowrie in the Regality of Scoon and County of Perth to be holden of (Supposed to be License as to casting divots upon the Whitefield granted by Alexander Blair of Balthayock to Alexander Kincairy of Pockmill. Pockmill, 24 August 1585)
(Over Pitlowrie, 26 Jan 1585)

252. Charter of King James IV verbatim ratifying charter of feufarm by Patrick Bishop of Murray to John Brown of Pawnshill and Christian Brown his spouse of the land of Pawnshill in the Lordship and regality of Scoon dated 9th April 1562 and ditto from ditto to ditto of 4 acres of the lands of Clene and teinds of same, 9 April 1562 (Holyrood House, 1 March 1585). Seal removed before Anne Groome received this copy Sept, 1999
261. Seisin in favour of John Elder son of Robert Elder Portioner of Clene of the eighth part of the lands of Clene with 5 acres belonging thereto and teinds - proceeding upon precept contained in contract entered into between him and his said Father, 22 July 1589
263. Seisin in favour of David Bow (Berogiven?) "propriis manibus" by Katharine Ross his spouse daughter and heir of the deceased Richard Ross Burgess of Perth in rent of seven bolls victual payable furth of two acres of the lands of Clene on Precept of Clare constat" by John Gardner at the Orchard of Clene, 8 Oct 1589
277. Seisin [in] favour of Thomas Brown and Margaret Lyndsay his spouse and William Brown their son in the eighth part of the Mains of Clene proceeding upon Precept contained in charter to them of 15 May 1596 from Adam Hepburn elder and younger of Bonhard, 21 May 1596
299. Seisin in favour of William Ogilvy of Balgay in the eighth part of the Mains of Clene and others contained in Charters both of 17 July 1599 from Thomas Brown and Margaret Lyndsay his wife to said Ogilvy, 17 July 1599
305. Seisin in favour of Thomas Smith in Cardein proceeding on precept of Clare constat
306. by James Halyburton of Essie in his favour as heir to Margaret Smith in Kinross in rent of 17.6.8 and ditto of 20 payable furth of the lands of Kirktown of Essie in the County of Forfar. Essie 12 & 31 Aug 1601
342. Contract between Alexander Blair of Balthayock and Andrew Blair of Rossieochell his uncle narrating Charter by Alexander Blair formerly of Balthayock his grandfather to the said Andrew Blair his son by which the said Andrew Blair obliges himself to the said Alexander Blair his inestment following upon said charter of the lands of Waltown of Cults for which cause the said Alexander Blair obliges himself to infest the said Andrew Blair in rent of 110 merks payable furth of lands to be afterwards agreed upon between them. Perth, 17 Nov 1614

352. Contract of marriage between James Arbuthnot brother german to Sir Robert Arbuthnot fiar of that ilk Knight and Elizabeth Blair sister german of Thomas Blair of Balthayock by which the said Thomas Blair obliged himself to pay the sum of 5000 merks in name of tocher with his said sister, etc. Brechin, 13 Nov 1620
366. Renunciation and Discharge by Bessie Blackwood daughter of Robert Blackwood Burgess of Perth in favour of David Viscount Stormonth now proprietor of three several annual rents of 10.9 merks and 10 merks together with the eighth part of the Mains of Clene and six acres belonging thereto and that in consideration of 330 merks for which the said lands had been wadset by James Sharp feuar thereof, 21 February 1623
- 370- Charter by David Jackson burgess of Perth to David Viscount
371. Stormonth of the fourth part of the Mains of Clenes and six acres of said lands with the teinds thereof to be holden of himself. Scoon, 19 July 1623
389. Charter by William Hunter of Over Pitlowie to Janet Leslie his future spouse in life rent in the shadow half of the lands of Over Pitlowie in the Regality of Scoon. Newburgh, 25 Nov 1629
412. Bond of Relief by Ogilvie of Inchmartine to Sir Thomas Blair of Balthayock as his Cautioner in personal Bond to Stewart of Grandtully, 14 November 1642
418. Paper seemingly a list of disbursements to soldiers of the Earl of Kinnoul. January 1644
419. Testament Dative and inventory of the goods in common between the deceased Dame Nicolas Dundas and Sir Thomas Blair of Balthayock her husband given up by him as having power from George her son and Executor Dative, 3 July 1644
445. Petition by Sir Alexander Blair of Balthayock to the Commissioners of the Commonwealth to be exempted from attending to answer at the instance of his brother Andrew Blair a prisoner of war for sums alleged due to him in prison and that by reason of his father's death and urgency of his affairs, 15 April 1653

January 1655 Uncopiable muniment Indecipherable to this transcriber except for the word "Balthayock" and the date 13 July 1655. See nos. 458-460.

1657 2 indecipherable documents

482. Contract of marriage between Lawrence Blair of Over Durdie and Janet Turnbull by which the said Lawrence Blair obliges himself to infeft her in the lands of Over Durdie. Blair witnesses --yomlsee eeAmes, Thomas ----- Patrick Murray, [14 Nov] 1659
- King Charles 6 Janry 1668 Lawbonrougd Blair -oyl Horbos and try--
498. Back bond by Sir Alexander Blair of Balthayock and Thomas Blair his eldest son obliging themselves to denude themselves of the lands of Over Durdie, 26 October 1670
502. Information (opinion) for the Laird of Kinfauns contra the Tutor of Stormonth 1673 and ditto Viscount Stormonth contra Blair of Kinfauns, 19 July 1672
503. Extract of the Blazonry of the arms of Sir Alexander Blair of Balthayock Knight under the subscription of Sir Charles Erskine of Cambo Lyon Kings Arms, Edinburgh, 16 September 1673
504. Extract of the Blazonry of the arms of Laurence Blair of Over Durdie descended of Balthayock under the subscription of Sir Charles Erskine of Cambo Lyon King of Arms, 16 September 1673
511. Procuratory for infefting Sir Alexander Blair of Balthayock as heir to Sir Thomas Blair of Balthayock his father in the lands of Seggieden Byn and Northleys in order that he may invest John Nairn of Seggieden in said lands of Byn, 17 June 1680
516. Contract of marriage between Mr. Thomas Strachan Minister of St Martin and Margaret Blair daughter of Sir Alexander Blair of Balthayock with consent therein mentioned, etc. 23,24 & 31 Dec 1684
519. Discharge by Sir William Blair of Kinfauns to Sir Alexander Blair of Balthayock and Thomas Blair his son of proportion of the blench duty due to Lord Stormonth, 30 January 1689

APPENDIX-B

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES ON FORMER BALTHAYOCK ESTATES

And a Note by James Drummond

Balgillo

A Justiciary Court was held at Dundee 10 March 1429 as to a dispute about the Estate of Balgillo between John of Balbirnie and Thomas de Blair, #20.

An act of Parliament 17 Mar 1429 (only two days delay) reverses decret of said Court and finds that the Estate of Balgillo belonged to Patrick Blair, father of said Thomas de Blair, by a former assize, #21.

Clene

An inquest was held at Clene, County of Gowrie in 1408 to settle the marches between Alexander, Abbot of Scoon and Thomas de Blair of Balthayock, #16.

Drummond

Mr. James Drummond on the 17th May 1620 writes from Blair Drummond to Mr. David Drummond Treasurer of the Bank [of Scotland] Edinburgh, "I'm heartily glad the Bank holds out so well. Ther's great pains taken in the Country to raise evill reports upon it. I had occasion to find so in a pretty numerous company the other day. Yet I did not find any willing to part with your notes at the least discount." MSS in possession of Mr. Fergusson Blair of Balthayock. [Chalmers, W. p.445 note}

Inchmartin

Allan de Erskine was mentioned as Lord of Inchmartin in 1369.

Kinfauns

Throughout this year (1697) there were protracted legal proceedings before the Privy Council between Blair of Balthayock in Perthshire and Carnegie of Finhaven in Forfarshire in consequence of the latter having brought on a marriage between his daughter and a young minor, his pupil Blair of Kinfauns, the relative of Balthayock. The affair ended in a condemnation of Finhaven and a fine of one hundred and fifty pounds to be paid to Balthayock for his expenses in the action. On the 20th September 1703, by which time Balthayock was dead, Finhaven presented a petition to the Privy Council setting forth that he had not submitted to the sentence but placed the sum of the fine in consignment and thereupon was liberated. Balthayock had never called for the suspension. Her Majesty's late gracious indemnity had discharged the fine the cause of which, he alleged, was natural and ordinary and the marriage everyway suitable. There might be demur to the last particular as young Kinfauns, when led into the marriage with Carnegie's daughter, was only a boy. Nevertheless the Council now ordained the money to be rendered back to the petitioner. 1 Privy Council Record." Chalmers Domestic Annals of Scotland. Vol. III. p.190.

Notes: Kinfauns in 1567 seems to have been the property of the Charteris family. Catharine, daughter of Alexander Blair of Balthayock infeft in Rybno, Gouktoun, etc. In 1620 part must have belonged to Thomas Blair of Balthayock for he disposes of it to the daughter of Adam Rae of Pitfindy. Part also must have belonged to Sir Henry Lindsay of Carriston as the same deed bears that he, Lindsay, had disposed the whole barony of Kinfauns to Adam Rae. In 1624 it became the property of Sir George Hay, Knight, of Invernettie. In 1673 it belonged to William Blair. In 1689 it belonged to a Sir William Blair.

Kinnoull

Nicholas de Erkine, Knight, was Lord of Kinnoull in 1370, #7. At the death of Dame Janet Gray in 1549, Queen Mary gave the ward of the Barony of Kinnoull to Thomas Blair of Balthayock, #116.

Jack Blair's note: "Queen Mary did not give ward of Kinnoull to Thomas Blair. The Abstract is erroneous. Janet Gray, the mother of Thomas was Lady Kinnell through her second spouse, Lord Fraser of Lovat. He was Baron of Kinnell in Angus. Hence Thomas had ward of Kinnell."

Over Pitlowie

William Hunter of Over Pitlowie was mentioned, 1585.

Pawnshill

John Brown of Pawnshill holding the Lands of Pawnshill and 4 acres of the Lands of Clene and teinds by charter of King James VI was mentioned.

Quilts

In 1534 Dame Jane Gray, Lady Lovat, with consent of David Lindsay of Edzell, her spouse, made over her terce of the Lands of Quilts to her son Thomas Blair of Balthayock.

Seggieden

In 1601 Seggieden seems to have been the property of Thomas Chalmers who probably sold it to Sir Alexander Blair. It was sold in 1654 by Sir Alexander Blair of Balthayock to a Mr. John Nairn. In 1601 it seems to have been the property of Thomas Chalmers, who probably sold it to Sir Alexander Blair

Jack Blair's note: "The text is mainly erroneous Chalmers did not sell Seggieden in 1601 but recovered the family coffer from Blair. Later George Hay acquired it and when he forfeit his estate, his cautioners were encumbered with its large debt. See Jack's history. Sir Alexander sold it to reduce the debt. That is all covered in the history."

APPENDIX-C

ESTATES FORMERLY POSSESSED BY THE BALTHAYOCK BLAIRS

FROM PAPERS ACCOMPANYING THE INDEX

Achnahall 1442
Ardblair 1440
Arnbathy Teinds
Edzell
Balclunock 1486
Baldowry 1400
Balgillo 1393
Balgilloch 1442
Balmyle 1520
Balthayock
(Bothayock) 1370
Baltrody 1492
Barclary 1523
Barclarry 1540
Blatoun 1518
Blatounhaugh 1615
Blatownhall 1536
Borland 1577
Byres Teinds
Cannay 1528
Chappleton 1640
(Clappletown) Teinds
Clene 1623
Colbranch
Collaruch
Cruickhills 1634 Teinds
Cults (Qwylte) 1376
Errol 1657 Teinds
Evelick 1496
Fingask Teinds
Gairdrum, 4th part 1632
Glencarse
Goddens (Gettins) 1524
Inchmartin
Inchyra 1648 Teinds

Keiltock 1500
Kilspindie Teinds
Kinfauns 1617
Kinnoull 1509
Kirktown of Essie 1684
Konakin
Liberty-cruick/Lands
of Hallyards 1631
Mains of Meigle 1528
Megginch
Melginch
Montago 1551
Newton 1532
Northleys 1680 Teinds
Overdurdie 1694 Teinds
Pans Hills (Pawnshill)
Pitlowie (Over
Pitlowrie)
Potento 1520
Rait Teinds
Roughlees 1550
Scoon
Seggieden Teinds
Waulkmill
Weltoun
White Hills 1629

APPENDIX-D

BLAIR FAMILY MARRIAGES MENTIONED IN THE ABSTRACTS

1. Charter by Hugo de Nyden to Alexander de Blair and Ela, daughter of the said Hugo de Nyden, of the half land of Konakin...c1220
11. An obligation by James Earl of Douglas to Patrick Blair, his armor-bearer, that he will obtain for him in marriage the daughter of the deceased John Ardlere 1376-1388
24. Christian de Ogilvy mentioned as relict of Patrick de Blair, son of Thomas de Blair of Balthayock 1442
40. Margaret Lindsay married John Blair of Balmyle c1513. She had died by 1518 and left a son, Alexander Blair
72. Gilbert Blair and spouse, Elizabeth Wedderburn, were given part of Balmyle by Alexander Blair of Balmyle and Balthayock 19 March 1528
75. Patrick Blair of Keithoch and Margaret Drummond, his spouse, mentioned 22 June 1532
80. Margaret Elder mentioned as relict of John Blair of Balmyle, grandfather to Patrick Blair of Balmyle 30 April 1533
83. Dame Jane Gray, Lady Lovat, wife of David Lindsay of Edzell had been married to a Blair as her son, Thomas Blair, is mentioned 1 Dec 1534
113. Assignation by John Blair of Melginch, son and heir of the deceased John Blair of Melginch, in favor of Janet Blair, Lady Balmyle 13 Aug 1547
116. Gift by Queen Mary to Thomas Blair of Balthayock of the ward of the Barony of Kinnoul, then in the Queen's hands through the decease of Dame Janet Gray, conjunct fiar thereof...11 Feb 1549
- 133- Isabella Blair, daughter of Thomas Blair of Balthayock, was the future spouse of John Lindsay 12 & 15 Feb 1551
135. Contract of marriage between Alexander Blair, son and heir of William Blair of Balgray, and Christian Blair, daughter of Thomas Blair of Balthayock 5 Jan 1552

168. Catherine Blair, daughter of Alexander Blair, apparent of Balthayock, was the future spouse of George Charteris, heir of John Charteris of Kinfauns 4 Aug 1567
176. Christian Blair was the spouse of William Ramsay of Murye 19 Nov 1568
178. Katherine Aitoun, relict of Thomas Blair of Balthayock, and William and Patrick Blair, their sons, are mentioned 18 Mar 1658
186. Christian Spence, relict of Gilbert Hedderwick, now wife of John Blair, indweller in Clene. Her sons are John Hedderwick and Thomas Blair 2 Feb 1569 See #235
194. Jean Blair, wife of Thomas Blair apparent of Balthayock 30 Aug 1571
195. Thomas Blair is the "longest liver" of his union with Jean Blair 21 Sept 1571
203. Christian Blair, sister of Alexander Blair of Balthayock, is mentioned as the wife of William Ramsay of Murray 8 Nov 1572
211. Thomas Blair of Balmyle has died. Alexander Blair, his son and apparent heir has married 23 June 1574
219. Charter by Alexander Blair of Balthayock to Andrew Blair, his son, who married Janet Rollock of Duncrub, relict of John Stewart of Keillebrochin 26 Dec 1574
221. Jean Blair, Lady Balmyle is mentioned as relict of Thomas Blair, eldest son and apparent heir of Alexander Blair of Balthayock. They had a son, Alexander. See #224. 21 Jan 1574
225. Eupham Blair, sister of Alexander Blair of Balthayock, relict of John Scott was mentioned as the spouse of James Monorgund 10 Nov 1575
228. Jean Blair, Lady Balmyle, relict of Thomas Blair, and William Blair, younger brother of Thomas, are now married 24 July 1576
230. Isobel Rattray was the wife of Alexander Blair of Balthayock at this time 5 Aug 1577
232. Eupham Ogilvy was the spouse of Andrew Blair of Lethindy at this time 21 June 1579
234. Alexander Blair of Balthayock and Giles Mercer were spouses at this time 29 Jan 1580

258. Contract of marriage between Alexander Blair apparent of Balthayock and Elizabeth Halyburton of Pitcur Sept 1587
264. Alexander Blair in Berne, Switzerland married before 20 Sept 1591
338. Charter by Thomas Blair, Portioner of Clene, to Alexander Blair, his son and apparent heir, and Isabella Brown, his future spouse, daughter of Henry Brown of Pannshill...in implement of their marriage contract 10 May 1614
347. The spouse of Thomas Blair, eldest son of Alexander of Balthayock, was Dame Elizabeth Fotheringham May 1618
349. Giles Blair, daughter of Alexander Blair of Balthayock, and Alexander Carnegie, brother of David, Lord Carnegie of Kinnaird intended to marry 1618
352. Contract of marriage between James Arbuthnot, brother German to Sir Robert Arbuthnot, fiar of that Ilk, Knight, and Elizabeth Blair, sister german of Thomas Blair of Balthayock 13 Nov 1620
372. Disposition of Thomas Blair of Kinfauns...with consent of Alexander Blair, his father, and Isobel Brown, spouse 19 July 1623
415. Contract of marriage between Major Patrick Blair, son of Laurence Blair in Perth, and Agnes Bruce, daughter of Sir Robert Bruce of Clackmannan 16 Dec 1643
419. The deceased Dame Nicolas Dundas, her husband, Sir Thomas Blair of Balthayock, and her son, George Fairlie, were mentioned 3 July 1644
433. Patrick Cairnie son of Robert Cairnie of Fulchan, and Agnes Blair, his spouse, were mentioned 26 May 1647
451. The future spouse of Laurence Blair of Over Durdie was Janet Turnbull 15 Nov 1653
458. Contract of marriage between William Master of Gray and Dame Margaret Gibson, Lady Balthayock 19 March 1654
475. Sir Alexander Blair of Balthayock disposed the lands of Balthayock to his spouse, Dame Elizabeth Fotheringham 13 May 1658

482. Contract of marriage between Laurence Blair of Over Durdie and Janet Turnbull 14 Nov 1659
505. Resignation by William Blair of Kinfauns to be given to Anna Blair, his daughter, and Alexander Carnegie, her husband, son of David Earl of Northesk 7 Feb 1673
506. Contract of marriage between James Carnegie, son of Robert Carnegie of Newgate, and Elizabeth Blair, daughter of Sir Alexander Blair of Balthayock Oct 1676
- 513- Contract of marriage between Thomas Blair of Balthayock and Dame Jean Pringle, Lady Buchanan 8 Aug 1683
516. Contract of marriage between Thomas Strachan, Minister of St. Martin and Margaret Blair, daughter of Sir Alexander Blair of Balthayock 23, 24 & 31 Dec 1684
527. Margaret Butter mentioned as Lady Balthayock (wife of Alexander Blair of Balthayock?) 10 Sep 1705
540. Contract of marriage betwixt John Blair and Miss Patie Stephen 9 Aug 1762

APPENDIX-E

BLAIR OF FRANCE

No date on original

(Rough translation from the French, 1993. NIM)

From the number of French families descended from the Archers, to whom Louis XI gave letters of citizenship, more has been heard, perhaps, of their descent from the original Scottish house of Blair, settled for a long time in Bearn. It's believed the Blairs came to our country before the 17th century, a representative moving to France the summer (of the civil wars?) according to the letters patent of Charles II, King of England, dated 7 July 1674, confirmed and ratified by decision of the council of Louis 16th, 18 May 1700. Alexander Blair III was the first who left Scotland and established himself in Bearn about 1590. This house, which is shown in the Baronage of Douglas (1) and whose alliances are considerable (2) appears to have no more than a single representative in our country who lives in Nantes.

(Then follows a description of the coat of arms and motto.)

A portate sable in a gold fasces with triplicate roundels, two in chief and one in point, and an ecu silver passing over the fasces charged with a chevron waved sable between triplicate roundels, two in chief and one in point. Motto: Virtute tutus (By virtue safe).

(1) Vol.1, p.193, col.2. Blair of Pittendreich.

(2) in 1742 there was an alliance with the Lestrangle house through the marriage of Suzanne Philotee de Blair and Joseph Marquis de Lestrangle, Captain of a regiment of Bourbon militia.

BLAIR OF FRANCE ABSTRACTS in the Charter Chest, also mentioned in the Blair of Balthayock Index of Abstracts (2000 NM)

238. Letter by Mr. Alexander Blair to the Laird, Alexander Blair of Balthayock, his father, relating to his studies and other indifferent matters as to the family. Poitiers, France, 15 July 1581
264. Letter from Alexander Blair of Balthayock to Alexander Blair, his son chiefly relating to the marriage of the latter then residing at the College of Orthais in Berne, [Switzerland] Balthayock, 20 Sept 1591
290. Letter from Alexander Blair to the Laird of Balthayock, his father, chiefly as to money matters, and alluding to his probable return home. Lescar, [Geneva, Switzerland] 12 Jan 1597

311. Letter by Alexander Blair of Balthayock to Mr. Alexander Blair Provost of the University of Lescar, his son, relating to the "young guidman of Le Myrns," grandson of the former, mentioning Mr. Peter Young of Easter Seaton, Preceptor to the King, also mentioning him having had trouble with Lord Sanquhar as to the Teinds of Kinnoul. Balthayock, 22 Aug [1603]. The letter is not dated but has been marked on the back "probably at the time 1603."
At this juncture, Alexander Blair, grandson of the former Laird Alexander Blair and nephew of Alexander Blair of France became the Laird of Balthayock. See #317-321 in main abstracts. NM 2000
322. Letter by Alexander Blair to Alexander Blair of Balthayock alluding to the death of his father, also his written seisin in te lands of Barclarie in liferent, and requesting repayment of the sum of 300 merks, formerly lent to his said deceased father with the interest thereof, etc. Lescar, [Geneva, Switzerland] 8 Aug 1604
327. Letter by Alexander Blair to Alexander Blair of Balthayock, his nephew, relative to the 300 merks mentioned in [previous] formal letter, also as to his liferent seisin therein mentioned, offering to resign his right thereto for 1,000, etc. Lescar, [Geneva, Switzerland] 3 June 1605
331. Letter by Alexander Blair to Alexander Blair of Balthayock relating to the matters mentioned in letter of 3 June 1605. Lescar in "Bearne," 28 June 1608.
343. Letter by Alexander Blair to Alexander Blair of Balthayock regarding their mutual affairs and mentioning the son of the Laird of Myres and Arman Blair, son of the writer, the first mentioned Alexander Blair, then at the school in Cupar, Fife, etc. Orthais, 20 Mar 1614

The Following Received from Robert Tower Fergusson September, 1999
These are not mentioned in the longer list of abstracts

1. Copy Certificate by Sir Alexander Blair of Balthayock, and others of the Family of Blair for a birthbrief in favour of Alexander Blair who went to Berne in France in 1584...Balthayock birth brief "Blair" of France - Charles II - 1674. 24 June 1674
2. Translation of Birth Brief by Charles II attesting that Alexander Blair of Paris was descended from the Blairs of Balthayock, 7 July 1674 (1856)
3. Illustrissimo Domino. Domino De Blair. Baronj De Balthayock. In Scotia. 1686
4. Letter in French from Jo Blair. After his signature is a notation in different handwriting signed A. Metz. It says in French, "To Mr. Blair, president of Parliament." 1698?

APPENDIX-F

BLAIR INVENTORY OF COINS
with notations

These notations are included with the Blair Abstract Index, not in the Charter Chest. There's no date on this page. Can we assume it was done at the time of the inventory in the 1830-1850 area? I have no idea what the notations mean. Noel McCullough 2000

COIN	NUMBER	NOTATION
1. Crispina	1	
2. Sabina (or Nero 68)	1	Wife of Adrian
3. Antoninus Aug(ustus?)	1	16+ (xed out)
4. Dimitian, Domitian?	1	96
5. Commodus	1	162
6. Son of M Antoninus	1	162
7. " " " "	1	162
8. Germanicus	1	37
9. Augustus, 2d Emp of Rome	1	11
10. Trajan+	1	
11. L. Verus	1	
12. Marcus Aurelius*	1	275
13. Marcus Antoninus	1	150, 61, 30
14. Lucilla (Lucullus?)	1	
15. Marcus Aurelius*	1	
16. Vitellius (?)	1	69

17. Nerva	1	100
18. Hadrian	2	
19. Vesparian	1	59(?)
20. Trajan+	2	58(?)
21. Antoninus Pius	2	109(?)

APPENDIX-G

**MEMORANDA AS TO BALTHAYOCK BONDS IN BLAIR ABSTRACT INDEX
Granted to Misses Janet, Isabella, Mary and Susan Blair**

1809-1863

Sum in Bond by Mrs. Margaret Johnston Blair to the Said Misses Blair, dated 13th November 1809	+ £4,000
Sum in Bond by the said Mrs. Margaret Johnston Blair to the Said Misses Blair, dated 13th November 1809	+ £2,800
Sum in Additional Bond by the said Mrs. Margaret John- ston Blair to the said Misses Blair, 7 Jany 1814	+ £4,047
Less sum discharged by the said Misses Blair on 5 June 1817	- £914.01.3
Leaves _____	= + £3,132.18.9
 + £4,000 & £2,800	 = £9,932.18.9

Miss Mary Blair died 8 Oct 1820 and her fourth of the above sum of £9,932.18.9 or £2,483.4.8 was carried by her Will to her Sisters and is given up in the Inventory of her personal Estate. Thereafter on 23 February 1824, the three surviving Sisters discharged the £4,047 bond farther to the extent of £1,266.18.30.

The sums in the three Bonds then stood as follows:

Sum in first Bond dated 13 November 1809	+ £4,000
Sum in 2nd Bond dated 13 November 1809	+ £2,800
Sum in additional Bond as above	+ £3,132.18.9
Less discharged as above 23 Feby 1816	- £1,266.18.03
	= £8,666.18.06

Of this sum, the three surviving Sisters, as Executrices of Miss Mary, had right to her share which was £2,166.10.1 1/2, and each of Miss Janet, Isabella and Susan had right to one third of the balance in their own right viz. £2,166.10.1 1/2 from Miss Mary Blair's share however, which was above stated £2,166.10.1; there falls to be deducted amount of Legacies still unpaid, and which amount was to be life-rented by the surviving Sisters - £1,452.10.1

Leaving for division among the three Sisters in terms of the will	£714.10.1
--	-----------

Mr. Neil Fergusson Blair acquired right to the Entailers debt to the amount of £4,809.0.4 in the following manner: Miss Janet Blair by her will dated 12 January 1838, left her whole means and Estate to her sister Isabella who survived her, Miss Isabella Blair by Deed of Settlement dated 24 June 1845 and recorded (Books of C. & S. [C.H.?] 1st June 1849 appointed Mr. Blair her sole Executor and left him her whole means and estate.

Mr. Blair thus acquired Miss Janet Blair's share of Bonds as above	£2,166.10.1
Miss Isabella's share as above	£2,166.10.1
Miss Janet & Isabella's share of	£ 714.0.1 1/2
being balance of Miss Mary Blair's share as	
above, being two thirds thereof	£476.10.1
	£4,809.10.4

and made up a little to the same before the Commissary of Perthshire by Confirmation dated 21st July, 1849 as Executor of Miss Isabella Blair.

Mr. Blair assigned his share of these bonds, in Security of certain advances made to him over Balthayock, by Bond Disposition and Assignment in Security in favor of the Trustees of James Gray Esquire [in the amount of] £4,800 dated 10th and recorded 15th May 1850.

The Trustees of James Gray assigned this Bond in favor of Mrs. Grace Gillespie or Stainton to the extent of £2,800 by Assignment dated 15th and recorded (G.K.) 21st May 1850, which was assigned by Mrs. Stainton in favor of Miss Josephine Stainton by Translation dated 17th May 1856, & recorded (G.R. of Sasines) 23rd Novemr 1857.

Miss Josephine Stainton assigned her share of the said three Bonds to which she had thus right to Mr. Adam Johnston Fergusson Blair by assignation dated 4th & 8th May 1863. Mr. A.J.F. Blair had previously succeeded to his brother as heir of Entail and the Bonds accordingly became by this mean extinguished in his person to their extent of £2,800

And the Trustees of James Gray assigned to him the remaining 2,000 which remained in their hands by assignation dated 12th May 1863 and which was also discharged £2,000

The balance of the amount of Entailers debt to which Mr. Neil J.F. Blair acquired right being £9.0.4 was discharged by the receipt of Mrs. Blair his Executrix nominate on 29th November 1862

	£9.10.40
	£4,809.10.4

Miss Susan Blair left a Trust disposition and Settlement by which her whole means and estate were conveyed to Trustees.

Her share amounted as above to £2,166.10.1

and for this sum Miss Susan Blair's Trustees have granted an assignation to Mr. N.J.F. Blair, dated 12th & 13th May 1863.

The remainder of this debt is made up of the amount due to the Legatees under Miss Mary

Blair's will which was as before stated life- rented by her surviving sisters being	£1,452.10.1
	£8,428.10.5
And there remains a balance of	£238.10.1/2
Making up the Total debt of	£8,666.10.6

The above balance of £238.10.1/2 is Miss Susan Blair's proportion of the balance of £74.0.1 1/2 of Miss Mary Blair's share before brought out. It appeared on investigation that for the last 30 years interest had never been paid on this sum to Miss Susan Blair in the Settlement of accounts betwixt her & her Sister, and it is assumed that the principal sum had been paid or otherwise compensated to her.

APPENDIX-H

INVENTORY OF TITLES OF DISCHARGED DEBTS

affecting the fee of the Estate of Balthayock
delivered by Messrs. Tods Murray and Jamieson W.S.
to Samuel Howard Esquire of Balthayock
on his obligation for redelivery

1. Copy Contract of Marriage betwixt Neil James Fergusson Blair Esquire of Balthayock and Mrs. Fergusson Blair (therein named Mrs. Barbara Ebington Douglas or Allen) dated 14th and recorded in the Books of Council and Sessions 16th February 1855.
2. Mrs. Blair's Annuity. Instrument of Sasine following thereon in favor of the said Mrs. Fergusson Blair - dated and recorded in the General Register of Sasines at Edinburgh 9th April 1855.
3. Discharge by the said Mrs. Fergusson Blair in favor of the Honorable Adam Johnston Fergusson Blair of Balthayock of the Annuity contained in Contract of Marriage No. 1 hereof dated 11th and recorded in the General Register of Sasines 15th May 1863.
4. Bond of £2,000 in favor of Captain Mitchell. Bond and Disposition in Security for £2,000 over the said Estate of Balthayock by the said Neil James Fergusson Blair in favor of Captain Thomas Peter Mitchell dated 7th and recorded in the General Register of Sasines 23rd June 1856.
5. Decree in Petition and Application of the said Neil James Fergusson Blair for authority to charge with debt, etc. dated 19th June 1856.
6. Discharge by the said Captain Mitchell in favor of the said Adam Johnston Fergusson Blair, of Bond and Disposition in Security No. 4 hereof, dated 12th and recorded in the General Register of Sasines 15th May 1863.
7. Bond of £3,150 in favor of Mr. G. A. Jamieson by being sum payable to Mr. G. D. Fergusson's eldest son. Bond and Disposition in Security of £3,150 over the said Estate of Balthayock by the said Adam Johnston Fergusson Blair in favor of George Auldjo Jamieson Esquire, Accountant in Edinburgh as Trustee for Adam David Fergusson eldest son of George Douglas Fergusson Esquire, residing in Canada dated 10th and recorded in the General Register of Sasines 12th November 1862.

8. Discharge by the said George Auldjo Jamieson in favor of the said A. J. F. Blair, of Bond and Disposition in Security No. 7 hereof - dated 12th and recorded in the General Register of Sasines 15th May 1862.
9. Bond and Disposition in Security of 1,000 over the said Estate of Balthayock by the said A. J. F. Blair in favor of Charles Pearson, Accountant in Edinburgh as Trustee for George Tower Fergusson, Second son of the Said George Douglas Fergusson, dated 10th and recorded in the General Register of Sasines 12th November 1862.
10. Discharge by the said Charles Pearson as Trustee foresaid of Bond and Disposition in Security No. 9 hereof, dated 13th, and recorded in the General Register of Sasines 15th May 1863.

Perth 10th July 1863. Received from Messrs. Tods Murray and Jamieson W. S. the whole of the Titles in the above Inventory, but I oblige myself to make the same forthcoming to the said Adam Johnston Fergus- son Blair or to his Agents at anytime when required.

(Signed) George Condie

Agent for Samuel Howard Esquire
of Balthayock

SOME MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

In addition to the abstract of the titles of the estate of Balthayock, there was once a 72 item, 17 1/2 page inventory of old title deeds, etc. of the estate of Balthayock which were handed to a purchaser possibly in the mid 1800's. The "Inventory of Titles of Dis- charged Debts Affecting the Fee(?) of the Estate of Balthayock" was delivered by Messrs Tods, Murray and W.S. Jamieson. to Samuel Howard Esquire of Balthayock on his "Obligation for Redelivery," according to the original abstract writer(s). All the items are listed in the present directory.

Noel McCullough October 2000

The finish of the inventory reads as follows:

Modern Titles and Writings

- 1 Charter of resignation under the Great Seal in favor of John Blair of Balthayock of "All and whole the five pound land of Balthayock with the pertinents which were parts and pendicles of he Barony of Kinnoul, lying within the parish thereof and Sheriffdom of Perth; as also of all and whole the lands of Over Durdie and pertinents with the teinds thereof, lying within the parish of Kilspindie, Lordship of Scone and shire foresaid," but with and under the express provisions and conditions therein mentioned. 27 July 1752 (Sealed 27 August 1752. Listed missing)
2. Instrument of sasine following thereon in favor of the said John Blair dated the 29th and registered in the particular register of sasines at Perth 30 Sept 1752. Listed missing.
- 3 Precept of Clare Constat granted by David Scott of Scotstairt, Commissioner for David, Viscount of Stormont, etc., in favor of the said John Blair of "All and Hail the Temple lands of Balthayock, with the tower, fortalice, manor place, houses, biggings and yards of the same and their pertinents, lying within the barony of Kinnoul and Sheriffdom of Perth, as also of all and hail the office of Bailiary of the foresaid Temple lands, with the pertinents and Regality of Torpichen in that part.30 December 1751
4. Instrument of sasine following thereon in favor of the said John Blair dated the 22nd and registered in the particular register of sasines at Perth, 27 May 1752

Received from Messrs Tods, Murray & W.S. Jamieson, the titles contained in this inventory with the exception of Nos.1 and 2 which are marked awanting. Edinburgh, 15 May 1863

Signed,

Samuel Howard

