



# BLAIR BRUIDHINN



Blair of Blair

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

Blair of Balthayock

"Blair Talk" for Clan Blair Society

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

Second Quarter: May-June 2026



**CBS President Jim Blair**



**BLAIR DRESS PLAID**

Presidents Message: 5/26/26

Fellow Scots:

Happy Spring! This is the time of year we begin to celebrate great weather and Scottish activities. It's time for festivals and games to begin and I hope you have found time to connect with these activities in your part of the world. A number of our members have already enjoyed games from the east to the west coast, and more are scheduled in every state. Check out Scottish/Irish games on Facebook, Google, or your favorite AI application.

We welcome Cathy Davis from Linesville, Pennsylvania to our leadership team. Cathy is the new Membership Chair, succeeding Russell McCrary. Russ has served in this role for 11 years and his service has been amazing. We are in the process of the transition, and you will note Cathy's name on the mailing details in the newsletter. Many thanks to Russ and welcome Cathy.

With this publication of the Blair Bruidhinn, the email and mailing list of current paid memberships is being updated. Members who have renewed their annual dues are receiving the newsletter and with that, the password to access the members only portion of the [clanblair.org](http://clanblair.org)

website is now will be sent along with the link to the letter. Please begin use of this password for access to the members-only portion of the site.

A small team of members are updating the [www.clanblair.org](http://www.clanblair.org) website. Dyani Blair Galligan, Maggie Blair and Nick Shryack are doing the redesign and with able assistance from Shawn Blair the site is soon to be online. With this update, long time member and past leader of CBS Shawn Blair is retiring from his role as webmaster. He is succeeded by Maggie Blair from South Carolina.

Shawn Blair has been a member of CBS since the early 1990's and has served as Webmaster, Vice President, and President. He resides in Maine and has presented Clan Blair at numerous games/festivals in the Northeast. His knowledge of his own heritage and that of many others has always been unparalleled and the current website has been in his capable hands for 30+ years. I can't thank Shawn enough for his service to CBS, the website, and the leadership he has given us. Thank you!

Enjoy your Spring and Summer. It is a great time to be a Scot!

Slaint'e!

Jim Blair

President

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### **Colorado Report**

Leslie Blair Gallegher, VP and Commissioner

Elena McCrary and Leslie Blair Gallegher have tackled the task of matching some 600 users of the Clan Blair Facebook page with the membership roster. It is an arduous and time-consuming task and we hope to find new and renewal members, while promoting Clan Blair Society and expanding membership across the county and globe. Leslie reports that the Facebook Match Up Project is going slow, but progressing. To date 100 names have been searched and 5 actual CBS members have been confirmed.



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### **William Campbell Blair Youth Award - 2026**

This fall we will recognize an exceptional Blair youth who provides distinguished service to their communities, the Clan Blair Society, their scholastics, athletics, arts, theater, and other pursuits. CBS invites nominations from the membership of a deserving youth member who has achieved excellence in pursuits related to youth activities, including their Scottish/Irish heritage.

Recipients will receive recognition of \$500 which will be awarded at the fall Annual General Meeting (AGM). Nominations for youth members 18 years and younger can be made by friends and/or family.

The nomination application is included on the last pages of this newsletter. Nominations can be made by friends, family, or any member.

William Campbell Blair was a founding member of CBS and served as President and a State Commissioner in California for many years. He was a pediatrician and his love for children is represented by this award in his honor.

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## FROM SOUTH CAROLINA - Maggie Blair

Our Memorial Day Weekend games were a drencher! Unprecedented rain, nearly flooding levels, heavily impacted us. The parade and fly over were canceled, and turnout was diminished. However, the parade afterparty went on, as did the games themselves! The games & bagpipe competitors showed fortitude and loyalty as they completed each part of the competition. We had a wonderful time watching under the tent cover. I am attaching photos of our tent and of Drop O The Pure playing the "parade" afterparty at Fireforge, featuring Helen, my daughter standing on the bass. Also, we had the pleasure of meeting a highland cow for the first time.





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## HIGHLAND CATTLE: SCOTTISH “COOS”

**[While working on genealogy, I frequently look for information in old books, on a site called [ForgottenBooks.com](http://ForgottenBooks.com). I have been amazed to run across a number of years of detailed data about Highland Cows in a whole lot of books! Even though others around the world have recently fallen in love with these adorable animals, they are a serious part of Scotland’s history! – Editor]**



## Origins

Highland cattle are one of the world's oldest registered cattle breeds, shaped by centuries of life in the rugged Scottish Highlands and Hebridean islands. Their ancestors were native Celtic cattle kept by Highland clans for meat, milk, hides, and economic trade.

## Early Types

- **Kyloe (Island Type):** Smaller, often black, raised on the Hebrides; named for the narrow sea channels (*kyles*) they swam across to reach mainland markets.
- **Mainland Highlander:** Larger, typically red or dun.

These two types eventually merged into the single modern Highland breed.

## Role in Scottish History

From the 1600s through the 1800s, Highland cattle were central to the Highland economy. Drovers walked thousands of animals south to markets in Crieff, Falkirk, and England. Their ability to thrive on sparse forage made them essential to remote communities.

## Breed Standardization

The **Highland Cattle Society** was founded in 1884, and the first **Herd Book** appeared in 1885, making Highland cattle one of the oldest formally recorded cattle breeds. The Herd Book continues to preserve pedigrees and breed characteristics.

## Distinctive Traits

- **Double Coat:** Long, coarse outer hair and soft insulating undercoat; ideal for cold, wet climates.
- **Horns:** Long, sweeping horns—upward in cows, more horizontal in bulls.
- **Hardiness:** Thrive on rough grazing and exposed landscapes.
- **Longevity:** Many cows calve well into their late teens.
- **Colors:** Red, yellow, dun, brindle, black, white, and silver.

## Global Spread

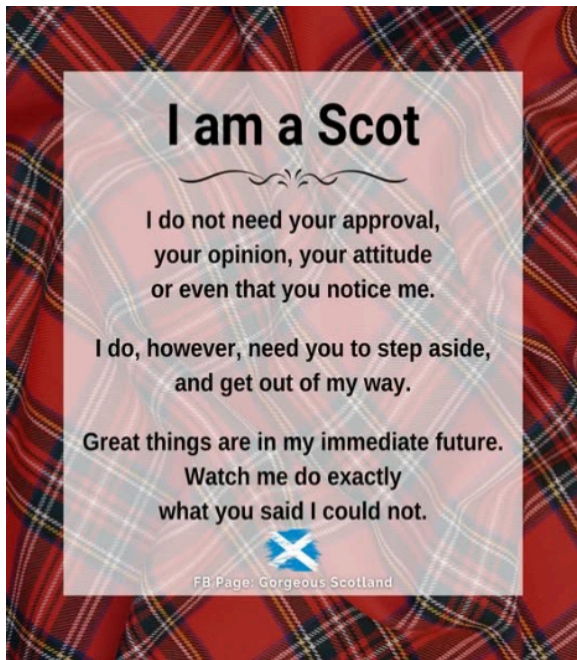
Highland cattle were exported to North America in the 1880s and now thrive worldwide, especially in colder climates. They are used for conservation grazing, small farms, and agritourism due to their gentle temperament and striking appearance.

## Modern Uses

Highland beef is lean, flavorful, and naturally lower in fat and cholesterol. The breed remains valued for sustainable land management, efficient use of marginal pasture and high-quality beef production



Above: Baby Highland “Coos”. A group of Highland cattle is called a fold, a term rooted in the stone enclosures that once sheltered them during harsh Highland nights.



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**Clan Blair Society**

**Troy Blair - Top contributor**

So my mom married into Blair, when my pops and moms had a divorce she kept the Blair name so my little brother and I didn't have a different last name. She thought that was tacky! Lol ! She passed a couple weeks ago on June 16th. So I just want this page to know my mom was a Blair through and through and it's a name forged in history and steel!

**Howard Blair- Top contributor**

**WE ARE PROUD SCOTS**

For the people of Scotland, being “one people” means more than just sharing the same rainy weather or beautiful hills.

It is about a deep sense of belonging and pride that stays with you, no matter where you go in the world. Whether it is through music, history, or helping a neighbor, that “spirit” is the kindness and strength found in every glen and city. It is a bond that makes Scotland home.



[What a beautiful mom you had!]

**Elena Sotelo-McCrary- Top contributor**



A new exhibit of Perth and Medieval living.

**Vennels: Perth's Little Streets**

explores the narrow streets known as vennels, closes, alleys, and lanes that have shaped Perth for centuries.



## Librarian Report by Elena McCrary

### Irene Godwin – A Genealogy Treasure

If you live in the state of Georgia and had the pleasure of using the *Scottish Collection* in what was first named the Ellen Payne Odom Genealogy Library (now referred to as the Odom Genealogy Library) in Moultrie, GA you would have worked closely with **Irene Godwin**. She has been a kind individual who collaborated closely with me as I borrowed books to review.



Due to changes at the library, she wanted to let us know that “I will be retiring on May 25 of this year. This is my official last day, but I plan to take some of my annual leave so May 9 will be my last working day. I have managed this library for 36 years and have had the privilege of working with and meeting wonderful people like yourself. I appreciate all you have done for me and the Odom Library. I am sad to go but the current situation requires it.”

You will notice under the blades is the Blair Ancient tartan which I provided because Irene asked.

### What you may not have known about Irene

She was there when this genealogy library was formed in 1990. All one needs to do is search “odom library irene godwin” <https://moultrieobserver.com/2008/09/06/library-honors-godwin/> to read all about her career. Here is a snippet, I encourage you to read the full article.

“Godwin was hired in 1990 to replace genealogist Bryan Mulcahy, who moved to a new location and library. She said she had been visiting the genealogy library since 1972 to research her personal family history.”

“The genealogy books were like old friends to me,” she said.

When Mulcahy was ready to relocate, he suggested Godwin apply for his position, and she did.”

What I know is that Irene has worked with at least two Library Directors and helped countless individuals searching for records.

The next chapter of her life will be again devoted to searching and recording her family history. As well as helping a friend or two with theirs. And, before you ask, I did pose the question of her coming on board with the Clan Blair Family as our Genealogist. Alas, she will be too busy. However, she knows the materials so well, she may be able to help with the odd question from

our members so if you need something, send it to me at [cbslibrary@clanblair.org](mailto:cbslibrary@clanblair.org) and I will contact Irene to see if it is feasible.

### Odom Genealogy After Irene

A few changes that have occurred in recent years. 1. The Moultrie library hired a new Director. I have been in touch with him as I read they had received a Carnegie grant and wondered what they might use it for. As of this writing I do not have any additional information. 2. A few years ago, the former Library Director Melody Jenkins contacted us as the library was looking to digitize many of its resources. This included the holdings in the *Scottish Collection*. I was one of only a few of the clans that responded. For our part Clan Blair has decided to keep our digitized books on the Clan Blair Member site only. For my part I have been going through our collection to find digitized copies already available. A word document with links to online resources for free will be coming soon.

As is customary in many communities there is a Library Board or in this case Trustees (Moultrie) and they have a meeting on May 11, 2026, so I hope to hear up to date news such as long-term goals. The new Manager for Genealogy is Allison Young. Here is her email address [ayoung@mccls.org](mailto:ayoung@mccls.org) and she can be reached at the same telephone number 229-985-6540.

Remember, to borrow materials send a check made out to MCCLS Library and mail it to 204 5<sup>th</sup> St, S. E. or P.O. Box 2828 Moultrie, GA 31768. It is \$6.00 per item for postage.

This was Allison's response to my email introducing myself. "So lovely to hear from you and Clan Blair Society! Yes, I am so excited to be here on staff. Mrs. Irene is retiring this month, and we will all miss her and her expertise.

I have come on staff in the capacity as Local History & Research Library Manager and will be caring for the collections here at Odom. Hopefully, we will get some more help hired down the road, so you may hear from more support staff in the months ahead.

As far as I know, nothing is changing regarding housing Clan records or collections here, and I have regrouped with Kevin (our Director) to check. We still intend to house different Clan collections here if they wish it."

For those who do not know the story, or the impact a life can make on a community, The October 2007 issue of the Georgia Public Library Service newsletter highlighted the Ellen Payne Odom Genealogical Library as one of the three libraries in Georgia that reign as "the Georgia public library system's genealogical crown jewels."

The Odom Library was made possible by a request from Ellen Ashby Payne Odom. Mrs. Odom was a Trustee of the Moultrie- Colquitt County Library and interested in genealogy. She was an accomplished musician as well as an active leader in the Georgia 4-H program.

At her death, it was revealed that she had bequeathed the proceeds of the sale of her land and home to the library for the purpose of building a genealogy library in Moultrie.

Mrs. Odom's bequest of \$1 million was received, the south wing of the Moultrie-Colquitt County Library, which became the Odom Library, was built to house several collections.

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### Blair Women in History



One of the more interesting titles in the Blair Collection is the *Genealogical File of Dr. Eleanor M. Heirtland-Moore*. Since she was not only significant for her genealogy (her mother was Ann Eliza Blair Gill), but also because she was a physician earning a medical degree in 1890 when women were not doctors. Leave it to those progressives in Pennsylvania where she was born. Or maybe because her father was a lawyer. She coined the suffrage slogan "Ballots for Both to win a slogan contest." Read more about this interesting woman of Blair lineage at [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eleanor\\_Hiestand\\_Moore](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eleanor_Hiestand_Moore)

This is how wonderful Irene has been to me. One of my last requests was to see if there was another picture of this Blair in the files. She looked but did not find another. I have since learned that it was her (Dr. Eleanor's) genealogical papers that formed the *original* Blair Society for Genealogical Research in Erie, Pennsylvania in 1925.

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### **Scottish Humor**

Chic Murray (1919–1985) was a beloved Scottish comedian and actor, famous for his deadpan delivery, surreal humor, and trademark tartan tam o'shanter cap (or 'bunnet'). [1, 2, 3]

He began his career in a famous double act with his wife Maidie Dickson. When the twosome ended, he built a legendary solo career and became a major influence on later generations of comedians, including Sir Billy Connolly. Here are some of his jokes:

My father was a simple man; my mother was a simple woman; you see the result standing in front of you, a simpleton.

It's a small world, but I wouldn't want to have to paint it.

After I told my wife that black underwear turned me on, she didn't wash my Y-fronts for a month.

She had been married so often she bought a drip-dry wedding dress.



We were so poor; the ultimate luxury in our house at the time was ashtrays without advertisements.

The police stopped me when I was out in my car. They told me it was a spot check. I admitted to two pimples and a boil.

I met this cowboy with a brown paper hat, paper waistcoat and paper trousers. He was wanted for rustling.

I rang the bell of this small bed-and breakfast place, whereupon a lady appeared at an outside window. "What do you want?", she asked. "I want to stay here", I replied. "Well, stay there then", she said and closed the window.

I dreamt I was forced to eat 25lb of marshmallows. When I woke up, my pillow was gone.

I was walking home drunk from the pub one night, half pint whiskey in my jacket pocket and fish supper in my hands. It was a cold night. Bitter. And as I hunched against that cold bitter wind... I slipped ... nearly lost my fish supper but fell hard on my side. As I lay there... stunned... I felt something wet trickle down my leg and I thought..."Hope that's blood."

**The Small Room:** "I wouldn't say my room in the boarding house was small, but I switched the light off and I was in bed before it was dark!"

**The Butcher:** "I said to the butcher, 'Have ye got a sheep's heid?' 'Naw,' he replied, 'It's just the way I part my hair.'"

I had a tragic childhood. My parents never understood me. They were Japanese.

I won't say I was a slow developer, but our teacher was quite pleased to have someone her own age in the class to talk to.

If it weren't for marriage, husbands and wives would have to fight with strangers.

## NORTH CAROLINA REPORT

### Scott and Vallie Blair

Hello From North Carolina! We attended the 32nd Loch Norman Highland games. We were lucky to have wonderful weather for the weekend. Lochlan, Tristan, and I competed in the axe throwing competition. Tristan won the men's taking first place. Lochlan took second in the kids competition and I took 3rd in the men's competition. Lochlan also wrestled on Saturday and won 3rd place. He held his own against a bigger and older kid. On Saturday Harry Blair and his family joined us to watch his step son Karl Fetter compete in bagpiping competition. Karl won Piper Of The Day which is a big honor. Sunday was a little chilly so we are bundled up for N.C. A stone was placed on site in remembrance of Charlie Diman who passed last year. We marched in the parade of tartans and visited with long time friends for the rest of the day. I was talking to Karl about us attending Grandfather Mountain Highland games next year. So look for CBS there in 2027!



Lochlan, Tristan and I showing off our winnings.



Flowers of the Forrest where a stone was placed for Charlie Diman



Scott Blair, Tristan and Lochlan



Karl Fetter after winning Piper Of

# CLAN BLAIR SOCIETY

## William Campbell Blair Youth Award Nomination Form 6-2026

Clan Blair Society (CBS) has introduced the William Campbell Blair Youth Award to be granted annually to a deserving youth member who has achieved excellence in pursuits related to youth activities, including their Scottish/Irish heritage. The annual award is \$500 and will be granted annually at the fall Annual General Meeting (AGM). Nominations for youth members 18 years old and younger can be made by friends and/or family (members) utilizing this nomination form found on the [www.clanblair.org](http://www.clanblair.org) website.

Please complete the following information and submit your nomination no later than July 31.

Name of Youth: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_  
(18 years old or younger)

Name of Nominating CBS Member: \_\_\_\_\_  
Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominee Contact Information:

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominating Member Contact:

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Category of Outstanding Performance/Success:

\_\_\_\_\_

The Arts; Academics; Athletics; Clan Blair Society Support; Other

Provide a detailed description of the nominee's activities that achievements for which the nomination is being made:

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Please provide additional pages of text, pictures, news articles, etc. that support the nomination. Materials should be scanned and submitted via [www.clanblair.org](http://www.clanblair.org) or emailed to [president@clanblair.org](mailto:president@clanblair.org).

## William Campbell Blair

### Youth Award

6-2026

Clan Blair Society (CBS) has introduced the William Campbell Blair Youth Scholarship to be awarded annually to a deserving youth member who has achieved excellence in pursuits related to youth activities, including their Scottish/Irish heritage. The annual scholarship is \$500 and will be awarded annually at the fall Annual General Meeting (AGM).

Nominations for youth members 18 years and younger can be made by friends and/or family (members) utilizing the nomination form found on the [www.clanblair.org](http://www.clanblair.org) website.

The following outlines the expectations of award nominees:

1. Nominations may be generated by members/families/friends
2. Nominees are aged 18 and younger
3. Special consideration will be made if the area of achievement is focused toward Scottish/Celtic activities
4. Scholarship recognition may be for Outstanding Performance/Success in:
  - a. The Arts, including:
    - i. Artistic – painting, drawing, sculpting, characterization
    - ii. Music – piping, drumming, stringed instruments, piano, vocal, etc.
    - iii. Dance
    - iv. Theater – performance
  - v. Other
  - b. Academics:
    - i. Excellence in the study of Scottish/Irish history
    - ii. Writing related to Scottish/Irish history, or stories
    - iii. Excellence in the study of Gaelic languages
    - iv. Formal recognition of achievement by local educators or foundations

**c. Athletics:**

- i. Football (soccer)
- ii. Rugby
- iii. Wrestling
- iv. Scottish Games (where offered for youth)
- v. Other

**d. Social Impact**

- i. Youth organizations
- ii. Outdoor venturing groups
- iii. Volunteerism
- iv. Other

**e. Clan Blair Society support:**

- i. Active support of local CBS activities
- ii. Tent/festival support
- iii. Promotion of CBS – recruitment, fund raising, etc.

Nominations are invited in the February newsletter for submission in July (7/31)

A selection committee will evaluate and recommend award recipient candidates to the BOD for final selection.

Recognition includes the \$500 cash award, a certificate of excellence and news coverage in the Blair Bruidhinn (and other Celtic publications associated with CBS)

**Questions may be sent to Jim Blair at [president@clanblair.org](mailto:president@clanblair.org), or 1-303-886-8450**



**CLAN BLAIR EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS AND CHAIRS OF STANDING  
COMMITTEES: May-June, 2026**

Jim Blair - President  
8861 Eagles Nest Lane,  
Highlands Ranch, CO 80126  
[President@clanblair.org](mailto:President@clanblair.org)

Leslie Blair Gallagher – Vice  
President  
5102 Galley Road, Lot 302A  
Colorado Springs, CO 80915  
720 201 3128  
[lvblairgallagher@gmail.com](mailto:lvblairgallagher@gmail.com)

Maggie Blair – Webmaster  
& Secretary  
8 Seaward Ct.  
Greer, SC 29650  
Cell –803 292 7915  
[margareteblair@gmail.com](mailto:margareteblair@gmail.com)

Vallie Blair - Treasurer  
2801 Colony Woods Rd.  
Gastonia, NC 28054  
704-996-0734  
[Treasurer@clanblair.org](mailto:Treasurer@clanblair.org)

Scott Blair - High  
Commissioner  
2801 Colony Woods Rd.  
Gastonia, NC 28054  
704 943 6232  
[Clantent1@clanblair.org](mailto:Clantent1@clanblair.org)

Nick Shryack -Web Admin  
8870 Goosander Lane  
Littleton, Colorado 80126  
207/619 0494  
[Nick Shryack@gmail.com](mailto:Nick Shryack@gmail.com)

Cathy Davis, Membership  
7022 Gehrton Road  
Linesville, PA 16424  
814-573-1329  
[Cathydavis@zoominternet.net](mailto:Cathydavis@zoominternet.net)

Adoree Blair – Blair Bruidhinn  
8861 Eagles Nest Lane  
Highlands Ranch, CO 80126  
303 798-3881  
[Bruidhinn@clanblair.org](mailto:Bruidhinn@clanblair.org)

Jim Blair – Clan Store  
8861 Eagles Nest Lane  
Highlands Ranch, CO 80126  
303 795 9754  
[Clanstore@clanblair.org](mailto:Clanstore@clanblair.org)

Elena McCrary - Librarian  
29 Haven Place  
San Ramon, CA 94583  
925-719-0324  
[CBSlibrary@clanblair.org](mailto:CBSlibrary@clanblair.org)

Vacant - Blair Genealogy -  
[CBSgenea@clanblair.org](mailto:CBSgenea@clanblair.org)

Nominating Committee:  
Curtis Blair, Chair - CO  
Helen Blair – AZ  
Elana McCrary - CA  
[Nominations@clanblair.org](mailto:Nominations@clanblair.org)

**First Class Mail**

**Cathy Davis**

**7022 Gehrton Road**

**Linesville, PA 16424**

**Address Service Requested**