



Blair of Blair

# Blair Braidbinn



Blair of Balthayock

"Blair Talk" for the Clan Blair Society

First Quarter 1999

WEB SITE: WWW.CLANBLAIR.ORG  
ROBERT I. BLAIR, WEBMASTER

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## Co-Editor's Catch-All



*Estella Clifford, Co-editor*  
*Elizabeth Morse, Co-editor*  
*Christine Sexton, Design Editor*

It's amazing how fast three months go by! And how much can change in that time. During the last edition I was packing, this time I'm (still) unpacking – and trying to find things. You never realize how much stuff has accumulated in your closets until you have to move it.

This quarter we have recipes from Elizabeth Morse's Canadian mother, as well as Elizabeth's profile on John Blair Pearce - victim of the avalanche disaster at Chilkoot Pass. Ann Groome's article on Blairs at Culloden took me back to the last Clan Blair trip to Scotland, when we stood on that high and windswept moor. It was an unexpectedly moving experi-

ence. If you haven't signed up yet, there is still time! Call Anna Blair to make your reservation for the upcoming clan trip to Scotland. I can't recommend it strongly enough. For me, it was the opportunity of a lifetime. And if I didn't have a new house to settle into, I'd sign up for this one! (The way it's going, I'll still be unpacking in August.)

Thanks to all of you who sent material – if you don't see it in this issue, it'll make the next one. Keep those cards, letters, and e-mails coming! And happy Spring!

Yours aye,



## From The President's Pen

*William C. Blair, MD*

I extend good wishes to each of you as we enter the new year. We experienced many accomplishments during 1998. These include:

A productive Annual General Meeting in Goshen CT.

Our CBS tent was placed in a number of Scottish Gatherings across the country, spreading the message of our Society, and of our rich Blair heritage. We are particularly grateful to our fine group of Commissioners whose significant contributions involving time, effort and personal expense so often go unrecognized. We owe them an enormous debt of gratitude. During the past year we added John Blair, son of our founder Norman, as Commissioner in Virginia, and brothers Kenneth and Scott Blair as Commissions in Colorado, replacing Beth Dietrich who now is Commissioner for the States of Washington and Oregon. We still need Commissions for additional areas such as Southern California, New York, Tennessee, Kentucky, Alabama, Michigan, and all across Canada. Anyone who may have interest in volunteering for one of these very rewarding and vital positions please contact me. Also, while visiting Games, please volunteer to assist our tent chairman. Your assistance will be greatly appreciated, and can be personally very rewarding. I personally find the opportunity of meeting other Blair family members, to be like a family reunion, and enjoy getting to know my extended family of "distant cousins".

In addition to revising our Bylaws, we formed two new Committees. An International Blair Muniments Committee chaired by Anne Groome including members in Australia and Scotland, to preserve, study, translate and copy extremely important historical and genealogical records of early days of our two early Scottish Blair lines, and a Public Relations Committee of David Lawrence of NH and Shawn Blair to correct the myth that the Blair Family is a sept of the Grahams of Menteith, and to help get Blair Family information into appropriate books, and Blair material available to vendors at the Scottish games.

We do have one area of concern. According to the Membership Status Report submitted by Preston Groome, significantly fewer new members joined CBS this year than in any previous year. We are not sure why, but must work to correct it. I would appreciate receiving any suggestions or recommendations you may have, or help you can give us in recruiting new members. Some good news by contrast, we had more members renew their dues in 1998 than in any former year, and we ended the year with a total active membership of 361, which is only slightly below that of last year.

We thank you for paying your 1999 dues promptly, thus avoiding the expense of repeated reminders. We are very grateful for the voluntary contributions a number of you have made in addition to your dues, and especially to those of you who have made very substantial contributions, particularly directed to the Blair Muniments Fund. We hope others will consider making substantial contributions, and/or bequests. I would like to remind you that voluntary contributions in excess of dues are income tax deductible if you itemize your deductions in as much as CBS is a non-profit organization with 501(c) (3) status from the IRS. Our Tax Number is 22-2860055.

Let us all work together to make 1999 a banner year. Our Annual General Meeting for 1999 will be in Blairgowrie Scotland during our Scotland Trip. Our trip to Scotland is taking shape nicely. Anna Blair, our Trip Coordinator is doing an excellent job arranging it, and I anticipate that it will be a very special and memorable event. It presents an opportunity to visit Scotland, learn at first hand about your Blair family heritage, and at the same time have a great time. We still have room for more, and I hope you will give serious thought to joining with us. For further information, please contact the trip coordinator, Anna Blair at

[Redacted contact information]

In Kinship

*Bill Blair*



# COOKERY

*"Some hae meat and cannot eat,  
and some would eat that want it;  
but we hae meat, and we can eat,  
sae let the Lord be thankit."*

*-Robert Burns*

## Recipes from my Canadian Mother

*By Elizabeth Morse*

Smoked fish was a simple way of preserving foods (meats and fish.) in Scotland, Nova Scotia and the American colonies, and was a domestic art of the early settlers. Finnan Haddie was a favorite dish and was easy to prepare.

### Finnan Haddie

Take two finnan haddies (haddock) and divide into portions (4)

- 1 pint of milk
- 2 oz. melted butter
- 2 tablespoons of flour
- 2 teaspoons of dry mustard
- 5 oz. Heavy cream
- 1 bay leaf
- pepper as desired

This can be prepared in a skillet on top of stove or in a baking pan in the oven. Cover fish with milk and add bay leaf and pepper. Broil or bake at 350 degrees F for one half hour or until fish is done. Place on serving dish and keep warm.

Drain milk into a saucepan. Stir in melted butter, flour, and mustard. Cook two minutes, stirring continuously until it thickens. Stir in cream. Reheat and pour over finnan haddie.

Serve with boiled potatoes or mashed potatoes and a fresh green vegetable. Try it. It is delicious and different.

### Salmon Broiled on Grill

Cut two salmon fillets into four pieces or more as desired.

Marinate in butter or Canolla oil with basil, fresh or dried

dried parsley, pepper and salt and lemon juice.

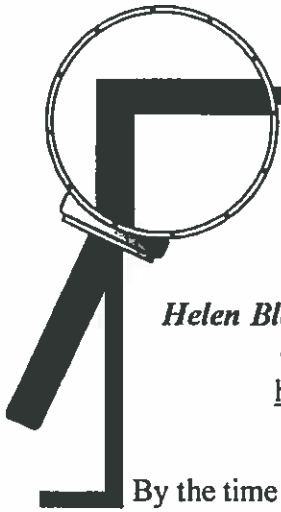
This can be grilled or fried in a skillet , cooked on top of the stove

or baked in the oven at 350 degrees F for 15 minutes

This can also be doused with sweet and sour sauce (12 oz. jar).

Salmon can be fresh or frozen, Alaskan or Scottish. Thaw before using.





# Take A Closer Look At Your State's Activities



## Arizona

*Helen Blair and Andrew Blair Cupp,  
Co-Commissioners  
[helenb@dancris.com](mailto:helenb@dancris.com)*

By the time this newsletter comes out we will have the 33rd Annual Scottish Gathering and Highland Games in Mesa Arizona on February 26th, 27th, and 28th. We always have a lot of fun visiting with our fellow Blairs and fellow Scots.

July 24th will be the 2nd Annual Arizona Highland Celtic Festival in Flagstaff, Arizona. It will be held in Wheeler Park. It will be nice to get out of the heat in the middle of summer. They will have Game demos, music, dancers, clans and vendors. I will be sending out flyers to the Arizona Blairs when more information becomes available. This will be a pleasant escape from the summer heat in the Valley. Hope to see you there.



## California

*William C. Blair, Commissioner  
[Bbblair13@aol.com](mailto:Bbblair13@aol.com)*

We had a marvelous time at the PLEASANTON CA. GAMES, Sept. 4-6. Max Blair of Pleasanton and C. Bill Blair and his wife Lois Ann were particularly helpful in spelling me in the tent. Our banquet Saturday evening in the Triple Crown Room of the Hilton Hotel was particularly memorable. It was complete with our piper Ralph Loomis, and Ralph and Pam Loomis's Country Dance Group, who demonstrated and taught us several dances. A great evening. We had 27 for dinner.

Members present included Bill and Lois Ann Blair; Bill, Francis and Camden Lloyd; Ralph, Pamela, and Stephanie Loomis; John, Charlene, Linda and Betty Stanberry; Morgan and Virginia White, and Betty and myself and my son Bob.

Our 1998 season of California Games ended with the Loch Prado Games October 17th -18th. This is in a great site next to a beautiful lake near Los Angeles. Had a great time visiting with E. Bill Blair and Jean Hurley on Saturday, and on Sunday with Ralph, Lorrie and Shannon Blair who were very helpful in the tent, and with Bud and Vickie Bartlett of Alhambra.



## Florida

*Robert E. Blair, Commissioner  
[albandreb@webtv.net](mailto:albandreb@webtv.net)*

We have been to two games this season the first being in Ocala FL in November. It was a beautiful day and a very nice horse show, plus the usual games and some interest in Clan Blair. The second games were in Orlando in January that also was a beautiful day, with some interest in Clan Blair. The next games are in Sarasota FL on the 6th of Feb. then after that it's Ft. Lauderdale FL on the 6th of March, the next games are in Dunedin FL (Floridas original games ) April 17th . We also attended Robert Burns Celebration, Jan.23rd with the Scottish Social Club of Hernando County. It was just great and so was the Haggis.  
Anna



## Georgia

*Willard R. Blair, Jr., Commissioner*

The Savannah Games will be held on Mother's Day weekend, May 8th. Wyomia Blair, Commissioner of South Carolina, will be there helping Willard with the CBS tent. Come join them.



## New Mexico

*Helen Blair and Andrew Blair Cupp,  
Co-Commissioners  
[helenb@dancris.com](mailto:helenb@dancris.com)*

### NEW DATE AND LOCATION

May 22nd will be the 12th Annual Rio Grande Valley Celtic Festival and Highland Games. These games have grown so much, they will be held at the University of New Mexico campus (near the football field). I will be sending out more information to the New Mexico Blairs as it becomes available to me. I hope we have a good turn-out at the tent this year. I will try to bring all the genealogy information I have to this event. I expect good music, good dancing, good food and excellent fellowship. Hope to see you all there.

## North Carolina

*Harry L. Blair, Commissioner*

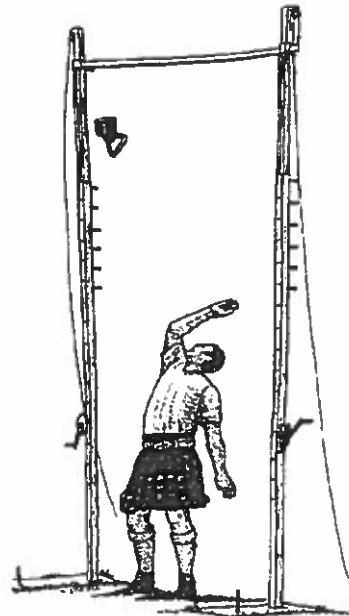
The Loch Norman Games are being held the weekend of April 16, 17 and 18 in Rural Hall, North Carolina near Charlotte. Wyomia Blair, Commissioner of South Carolina, will be there with Harry. Come join and fun. Be sure and visit the Clan Blair tent!



## South Carolina

*Wyomia Blair, Commissioner*

Wyomia is looking forward to the Charleston Games in September. Do you have some time to lend her a hand?







## Blair Legends And History

Elizabeth C. Morse  
Gambier, Ohio



### BLAIR NOTABLES: JOHN BLAIR PEARCE

#### Avalanche Disaster at Chilkoot Pass, 100 Anniversary, Yukon Territory, Klondike

John Blair Pearce was the grandson of the early Scotch settler, John Blair and his Canadian bride, Mary Baxter. They settled first at Norton, then later to Newtown, N.B. Canada. He was the son of Margaret Blair and Thomas Craft Pearce whose house still stands on Pierce Mill Road, Newtown, outside of Sussex, N. B.

John Blair Pearce married Cora Norton, of Norton. They went out west to Tacoma, Washington, where she stayed, while he scouted out the Yukon territory. He was working for the Chilkoot Transport or Tramway Co. as auditor. My mother, Emily Pearce taught school in Smith's Creek. She received a letter from Aunt Clara telling her that Uncle Blair (John Blair Pearce), her favorite uncle had died in an avalanche in Alaska at Chilkoot Pass Spring 1889. On that fateful day he had taken his partner's place to take supplies to the miners because his partner was sick. He stopped at the Sheep Camp and then moved on, but the Indian helpers refused to go up the trail because they said it was too dangerous with so much fresh snow in the mountains above the trail. There had been some snow slides in that area. However, when it seemed safe, the miners progressed on their way up the trail to go over Chilkoot Pass, near Dyea. It was a very steep incline, a difficult climb of about 3500 feet for any one, let alone men with heavy packs on their backs. Their packs weighed around 50 pounds for they carried enough food, equipment, tools, and clothing to last one year..., a total of 1200 pounds. This required a man to make at least 6 trips to the summit. From Dyea to the top of Chilkoot Pass summit was about four miles, taking a man about six hours of climbing each trip. 1500 steps had been chopped in the ice on the trail.

They were known as the Golden Stairs. The men climbed up using a rope balustrade with resting places for their packs along the path. After a rest stop it was hard to get back into the line due to the heavy line of traffic on the trail. The book "The Klondike" gives us details of the traffic. Some 2,000 men went over the pass to the Yukon that winter. On this day an avalanche swept down suddenly on the trail, burying it in many feet of snow. Some 60 miners died in this disaster. Some suffocated as they stood upright in the snow, unable to help themselves. Some were rescued and lived to tell the horrific tale and were found only by the tell-tale hole their breathing made in the snow above them. A few survived, but the news traveled and discouraged many from attempting the search for gold. This slowed the rush for gold for a time that spring in the Klondike. That winter some seventy feet of snow fell in the mountains. A single storm would deposit six feet of snow in a night.

The family in New Brunswick knew little of the tragedy except for Aunt Cora's letter. His belongings were shipped to his widow, Cora Norton Pearce in Tacoma by the Canadian Park Service which shared with the U.S. Park Service the responsibility of notification and return of personal effects. I have yet to find information about the Chilkoot Tramway Co., a Tacoma Company. The US border where duty was collected was at the top of the Chilkoot Pass between U.S. and Canada. There was burial on the Slide Cemetery. A Dyea newspaper listed the victims. John Blair Pearce was listed as J.B. Pierce (Chilkoot Tramway Co. Tacoma, Washington).

In honor of the 100th anniversary of the Slide disaster at Chilkoot Pass, the Canadian Park Service published a book "The Klondike" by Pierre Burton. The Anchorage Library in South Anchorage has a

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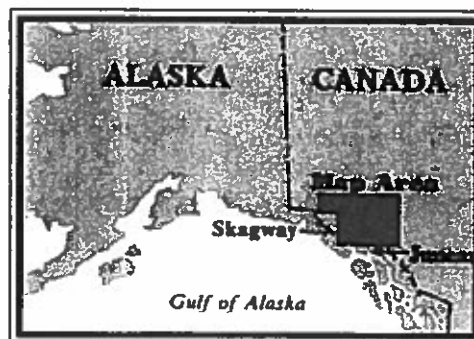
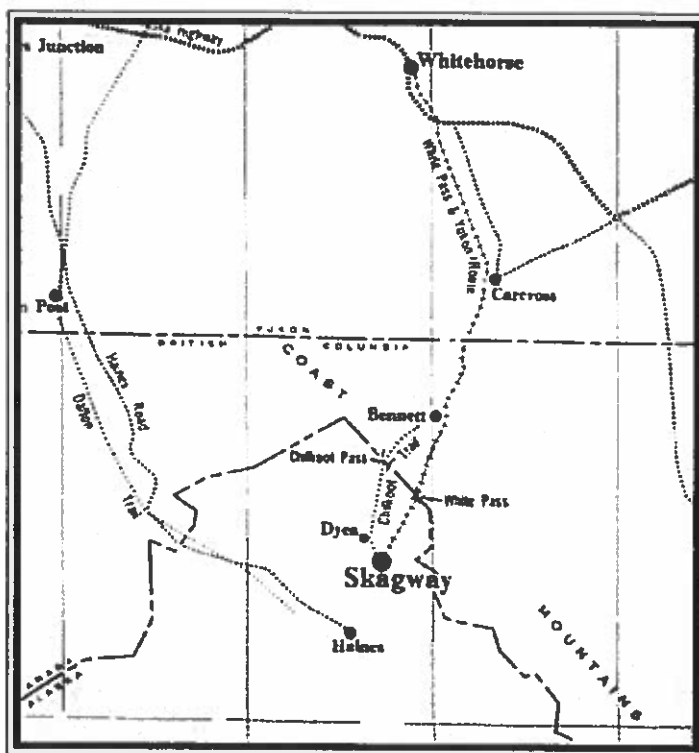
beautiful Alaska Room with references, research, newspapers, and books with helpful reference librarians. The Juneau and the Fairbanks libraries are also helpful. In Juneau there is a "Pioneer Book" in which he is listed.

On a personal note, which makes the avalanche story vivid in our family, there is a ring made from a gold nugget found in the gold fields of the Yukon belonging to John Blair Pearce. This ring was made by a Chinaman, who felt obligated to Blair Pearce for some kindness. In gratitude he hammered out of a nugget a wide band of yellow gold band and then mounted on it the initials, "J.B.P." in white gold. This open band would fit any size finger. This was a token of the obligation, respect, and affection which he felt for Blair Pearce. Aunt Cora gave the ring to Margaret Pearce Cosman of Rockford, Washington for her son, Blair Pearce Cosman. He passed it to me, Elizabeth Coates Morse with the request to pass it along to my son, John Blair Morse, who has placed it in a safety deposit box in Ft. Collins, Co. He regards this ring as a family trust for his son is Benjamin August Blair Morse (b. May 31, 1988).

The family in New Brunswick had little news except the letter telling of the Chilkoot Pass Avalanche and the death of John Blair Pearce. Years later in 1993, when I visited New Brunswick, the only indication of the disaster was the inscription on the red Canadian granite Pearce tomb stone in the Gosline Cemetery in Newtown, N.B. Canada - "J.B. Pearce, U.S.A., 1898." His belongings were returned to Clara Pearce in Tacoma. I have sent copies of the Dyea newspaper clippings to The Archives in Fredericton, N.B. I have yet to find information about the Chilkoot Tramway Company of Tacoma or his will, both of which may be in Tacoma. The Dyea Newspaper listed "J.B. Pearce, Chilkoot Tramway Co." among the victims. A book "The Klondike, The Last Great Gold Rush, 1895-1899" by the Pierre Burton, Director of the Canadian Park Service, has been published for the 100 Anniversary of the Yukon Tragedy.

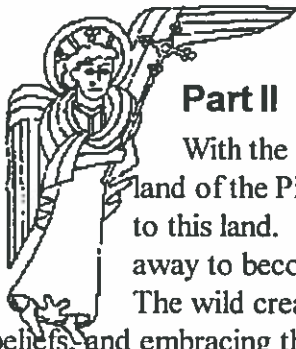
Cora Pearce, widow of John Blair Pearce, never remarried. She returned to the east and lived out her life in Bangor, Maine, and died in the 1940s. In 1905 she gave her family Bible to Emily Letitia Pearce when she married Ora Beverly Coates in Newtown, New Brunswick, Canada. The Bible is one of our family treasures, highlighting an age of family adventure and tragedy and glamorizing the name of Blair for all of the younger generations of Blair descendants in our family.

The Pearce family has always insisted that the name is spelled Pearce, however, in the 1820 will of Henry Pierce in Norton, it is spelled Pierce.



# Saint Columba

By Skip Hilty



## Part II

With the ministry on Iona now well established, Columba's monks ventured out from the isle to the land of the Picts. The monastery's fame grew, drawing more monks to the work of bringing Christianity to this land. In just a few short years men converged from Ireland, Britain, and countries even farther away to become monks and serve as missionaries. Columba's heart's desire was coming to fruition. The wild creatures of Pictland were discarding the shackles of the druids and losing the fearful, pagan beliefs, and embracing the loving, kindly doctrine of Christianity.

The bond grew closer between these two cousins, the King and the man of God. Conall was deeply interested in this ministry, and requested that monks be sent out into the world to preach. Seeking advice and comfort from each other, and relying on each other's judgment, Columba, Abbot of Iona, appeared often in the Conall's court. As his cousin's advisor, Columba had much influence on the decisions made by the King.

Columba had been on Iona for ten years when grief struck him; his beloved Conall died in the 15<sup>th</sup> year of his reign. Columba had the added burden of choosing a new king. Two Dalriaddan nobles, Eoghan and Aidan, one in Ireland and one in Scotland, were equal rivals for the throne. Columba considered the two men thoroughly, observing their personalities, reactions to situations, and capabilities in matters of state. Finally, the two contended over one serious situation. Eoghan rejected the idea of warfare and wanted the countries involved to find a diplomatic solution; Aidan demanded a battle. Columba saw Aidan as impulsive and hot-headed and the decision was made: Eoghan would rule as king.

With reference sources giving no credence to fable, it is written that on that same night, as he was at his table setting down records of the day, an angel appeared to the abbot, holding a book of shining crystal. The angel opened the book to a page on which it was written the name AIDAN as king. Columba was baffled at the words. The angel disappeared. Columba fell asleep.

Twice more this happened. During the third episode, Columba argued vehemently with the angel, not giving in on his decision for Eoghan. Instantly a blinding light flamed from both the angel's wings and the crystal book. The angel struck Columba on his side so violently that the abbot fell back, senseless, on his bed.

In the morning, Columba felt a searing pain when he awoke. Looking to see what was wrong, Columba saw the mark of the angel's fingers. When he realized this had been no figment of his imagination, he understood the reason for the three persistent visits. Aidan's decisions were not the result of impulsiveness or hot-headedness. They were the marks of strength and courage. Columba knew what he was meant to do. That day he sent for Aidan, consecrating him and ordaining him successor to King Conall.

Columba proclaimed the will of God, and for the rest of his life on earth bore the mark of the angel's fingers on his side.

**Please fill out and return with any *ITEMS OF INTEREST* to editor by April 15, 1999 for the Second Quarter newsletter. Please print. Attach additional pages if necessary.**

**EVENT (check one) Wedding \_\_\_\_\_ Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Death \_\_\_\_\_**

**Other \_\_\_\_\_** Mail or e-mail to Estella, 704 Jackson Ave, Ardsley, PA 19038-2605 or [estella.clifford@bailey.com](mailto:estella.clifford@bailey.com)

**Reported by: \_\_\_\_\_ Membership # of person(s) involved: \_\_\_\_\_**

**Address: \_\_\_\_\_**

**Name of Clan relative(s) or newborn involved:**

**Other information: Parents, grandparents, children, survivors, new spouse's name, date of birth, other data of interest**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



# IN SEARCH OF ORIGINS OF THE BLAIR SURNAME

*William Campbell Blair, MD*

Whether there was a single or multiple origin of the surname of Blair in Scotland has long been a matter of discussion by genealogists and historians, and information available to us today does not allow a definitive answer. The Gaelic "Blar" being a territorial name for a field suggests multiple origins for the name are very possible.

The question that I would particularly like to address is whether the two ancient well documented Blair families, dating from the 12th and early 13th centuries, the Blairs of Blair from the ancient Feudal Barony of Blair in Northern Ayrshire, and the Blairs of Balthayock from Perthshire may have had a common ancestor, both descending from the Barony of Blair. It has long been considered that these two families originated separately particularly in as much as their Arms show no similarities to one another, (see diagrams of the 2 Blair Arms in the Blair Bruidhinn (Ref. 1)). However the opposite opinion, namely that these two families may have had a common origin is suggested by William Anderson in the Scottish Nation in 1872, (Ref. 2).

The earliest recorded reference to the Scottish surname of Blair is found in the descendants of the ancient Feudal Barony of Blair which is located in the Parish of Dalry in northern Ayrshire, the location which was to become for nearly 800 years the seat of the Blairs of that Ilk, and where Blair House is located today. According to Pont, who described the District of Cuninghame, (Ref. 3), the Barony of Blair was granted in about the year 1150 by the King of Scots, (either King David I (1124-1153), or King William the Lion (1165-1214)) to a Norman knight by the name of Jean Francois, (Anglicized to John Francis). In proof of the information that the ancient owners of the Barony of Blair were surnamed Francis rather than Blair. Pont in Ref. 3 refers to records of the foundation of the Monastery of Kilwinning, records which were undoubtedly in existence when Pont wrote his book, but regrettably these valuable muniments are no longer available today. The exact point in time when the

surname of the proprietors of the Barony of Blair assumed the surname of Blair is not precisely known, but it appears that for some time Blair was used in addition to Francis. For example, John Francis's son was William Francis de Blair, (of the Barony of Blair). In the following generation, his son was named William de Blair, (it is not known if the name Francis was also used by him). This William de Blair was mentioned as a witness to a Royal contract of agreement in the charter chest of the burgh of Irvine, between Ralph de Eglinton and the village of Irvine dated 1205, (Ref. 2). Pont also indicates that as late as circa 1400 a charter listed in an inventory of the Blair family writs is granted by Hugh Francis Blare of Blare (the 8th Laird of Blair of that Ilk) to James Francis Blare, his son, of the lands of Jamestown.

Evidence offered by Anderson (Ref. 2) supporting his suggestion that the two families descended from a common ancestor at the Barony of Blair included:

1. The progenitor of the Blair of Balthayock Family was Alexander de Blair, who lived during the reign of King William the Lion of Scots. Comparison of dates suggests he could have been a younger son of William Francis de Blair, of the Barony of Blair, (and a younger brother of William de Blair)
2. The de Blair in Alexander's name is consistent with but not proof of his Barony of Blair origin.
3. The fact that the Arms of the two families show no similarity is explained as follows: Alexander de Blair married Ela, heiress of Hugh de Nyden of that Ilk, and it is believed that the Blair of Balthayock Arms are the Nyden Arms, which Alexander assumed as a consequence of his marriage. It was a common practice at that time for Arms to go with the land, and with this marriage he acquired a large amount of land.
4. Further, Alexander de Blair named his son William de Blair, suggesting he may have been named for his grandfather William de Blair of the Barony of Blair. Alexander de Blair's son Sir William de Blair (of Balthayock) was knighted by King Alexander II of

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# BLAIRS at CULLODEN

by Anne Groome

Have those of you who have stood on Drummosie Moor and tried to imagine what went on there in April of 1745 wondered were Blairs there and if so where they were and what side were they fighting on? Many Blairs may have been hedging their bets by paying lip service to the House of Hanover and others were actively supporting the House of Stuart. Many Blairs were of the lowlands but there was the ancient Blair family of Balthayock and its cadet branches in the highlands. It's known that much of the support for Bonnie Prince Charles came from the northeast of Scotland. Certainly Perthshire, stretching across to the highlands with its great landowners who were Episcopalians and Catholics was an area that would support the cause.

Frances McDonnell has two small books on the "Jacobites of Perthshire 1745" and "Jacobites of 1715 North East Scotland, compared with the Jacobites of 1745 North East Scotland", published by Clearfield Press. If interested you can borrow these from the CBS Blair Family Genealogical Lending Library at the Odom Library in Moultrie GA. If you are working on BLAIR related families this is a source.

According to the books much of the support from Perthshire was centered in two regiments, Murrays of Atholl and the Duke of Perth. The majority of the men from Perth who took part in the 1745 uprising were part of these two regiments.

The records show a Thomas Blair, Lieutenant Colonel of Glasclune, 4th Battalion Atholl Brigade was taken prisoner at Bergen, Norway, but escaped.

This is interesting because Glasclune, its castle and lands was a cadet branch of the Balthayock Blairs. Those of you who were on the Clan's last trip to Scotland will remember we visited Glasclune which is a ruin but intriguing. Glasclune is located north of Perth near Blairgowrie and Ardblair. The other Blair listed is George Blair from Alyth of the Perthshire Horse (Strathallen's Regiment).

Our Clan visit included Ard-Blair, the home of Laurence Blair-Oliphant. There we viewed items once owned by the Bonnie Prince. Its here that you

are very aware of the feeling of empathy for the cause. It is interesting to note that Laurence Oliphant, elder, of Gask, the ancestor of the present day Blair-Oliphant had estates confiscated because of his support for the prince. His son the younger Laurence was a volunteer in the Perthshire Horse.

Ms McDonnell has documented her references from the Public Records Office in London and the Scottish Records Office in Edinburgh. Her references are from Muster Roll lists, "Prisoners of the 45" and a list of "Persons Concerned in the Rebellion 1745-46"

From a genealogical point of view there are some names with physical descriptions, occupations and in some cases names of wives and children .

One does get the feeling that these books only scratch the surface of the names of the men who served the cause. Considering the time-frame and the conditions written records were scarce.

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## In Search of Origins

*Continued from page 16*

Scots, and became steward (governor) of Fife. He is mentioned in charters dated 1235 and 1242.

Although the evidence is circumstantial and not definitive, I find it quite suggestive that the two early Blair families had a common ancestor. It is hoped that with study and perusal of the Muniments of these two families now being planned by our International Blair Muniments Committee with Anne Groome as Chairperson, that we will more fully understand the origins of our Blair family.

### *References:*

1. *Blair Bruidhinn, First Quarter 1997, P. 22-23; Second Quarter 1997, P. 22; and Second Quarter 1998, P. 5.*
2. *The Scottish Nation, by William Anderson, Vol. 1, 1872.*
3. *Cuninghame, Topographized by Timothy Pont, 1604-1608 Published by John Tweed, Glasgow*