



Blair of Blair

Blair Braidbinn



Blair of Balthayock

"Blair Talk" for the Clan Blair Society

Fourth Quarter 1998

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

In This Issue

Co-editor's Catch-All 1

General

From The President's Pen 2
State Commissioners 3
Cookery 4
Clan Blair Trip-Scotland '99! .. 5

State Activities & Games

Take A Closer Look 6

Membership

Blair Talk-Items of Interest 8
Flowers of the Forest 8
New Committee 8
Pres. Appreciation Award 8
New CBS Store Items 8
New Arrivals 8
Scotland Trip, 1999 9
New Members 10
Directory Corrections 10
E-Mail Address Directory 11
CBS Address Database 12

Genealogy & History

Blair Legends And History ... 13
Andrew Carnegie 13
Harp in Scottish Music 14
Saint Columba 15
Call for Lineage Submissions.. 16
BLAIRLIN Lineage Form 17
Clan Blair Store 18
Queries and Answers 19

Co-Editor's Catch-All



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

Wow, time truly does fly. It's hard to believe that another fourth quarter and holiday season is already upon us. And the time has been a busy one for the Clan Blair Society. The Annual General Meeting took place at the beginning of October, and was quite productive, as our President, Dr. Bill Blair, describes in his letter.

Anna Blair has been busy co-ordinating the 1999 trip to Scotland, and has come up with an exciting and comprehensive itinerary. I strongly urge everyone who can make it to sign up for this trip. As someone who has participated in a trip planned by Anna, I can vouch for the variety, efficiency, completeness and comfort you will encounter on the trip. Anna can plan a trip for me any time!

Elizabeth Morse has provided us with a profile of the notable Scot, Andrew Carnegie, and provided some insight on the harp in Scottish music. Skip Hilty has whetted our appetites for the next installment on Saint Columba.

Please keep those submissions coming – both the regular contributors, and all the rest of the membership. I know there are many talented people out there – please share your talents! Send in those recipes, cartoons, questions, articles, queries! Use snail-mail or e-mail. This newsletter is a great way to communicate with your fellow members.

In the meantime, have a truly wonderful holiday season, and a happy and healthy New Year. Have a bite of Christmas cake and a sip of Glasgow punch! Slainte!

Yours aye,



From The President's Pen

William C. Blair, MD

Our Executive Board Meeting and Annual General Meeting were held October 2nd and 3rd, 1998, in connection with the Scottish Festival in Goshen, CT. Celebrating the 11th anniversary of our Clan Blair organi-

zation, these meetings were very successful and productive. We were quite fortunate in having a number of State Commissioners in attendance. These represented various parts of our country, including New England, Maine, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Florida, Arizona, New Mexico, and California.

We deeply appreciate the excellent planning arrangements made by Vice President Shawn Blair, our New England Commissioner, who was ably assisted by Past President Don Blair of Pennsylvania, and Commissioner Joe Blair of Maine. Their careful attention to many details made this a memorable occasion.

CBS was accorded the special privilege of being the Honored Clan for this Festival, resulting in special recognition for CBS. The "spot light" was truly on us at the formal dinner for all of the Clans Friday night, and again Saturday at the Festival.

In addition to hearing reports from officers and Committees, we installed our newly elected officers, (President, Bill Blair; Vice President, Shawn Blair; Secretary, Beth Dietrich; and Treasurer, Harlan Ralston; also our newly elected Nominating Committee of Bob Blair, Florida, E. Bill Blair of Pasadena, CA, and Ann Jones of MA). We also approved the budget for next year, and had productive discussions aimed at improving recruitment of new members and retention of members in an active status. These included suggestions to:

- increase support of and communication with the various Commissioners
- recruit additional Commissioners for areas not now covered by commissioners
- implement measures to increase our genealogical support for our members

This past year we warmly welcomed two new Commissioners for Colorado, brothers Kenneth and

Scott Roberts, to replace Beth Dietrich, who has moved to Seattle and is now serving as Commissioner for Washington and Oregon. We also welcome aboard John Blair of Bedford Virginia, son of our founder, Norman Blair, as Commissioner for Virginia, and accept with regret the resignation of Kevin Kuhens as Commissioner for Kentucky.

GENEALOGY: With BLAIRLIN now officially part of CBS (it was formerly an independent entity), this valuable Blair genealogical database will permanently be the cornerstone of our genealogical activity. I'm delighted to report that Preston Groome, its founder and editor, has brought it up to date and is preparing to publish BLAIRLIN IV, probably next year. If you have not submitted your Blair lineage, or brought yours up to date, please do so as quickly as possible to be sure it is included. Our web page, www.clanblair.org, provides another vital genealogical, historical and recruiting resource for CBS, as does our extensive Blair lending library collection in the Odom Library in Moultrie, GA.

It appears unlikely as of this writing that Anne Groom will be able to continue her editorship of our Newsletter Queries and Answers Column because of health problems, but fortunately she will continue to chair our International Blair Muniments Committee. We thank her for her many contributions to our Society since its founding, hope and pray that she will be feeling better soon, and expect she will continue to contribute her very important and useful genealogical articles for us in our Newsletter.

C. William Blair, CBS 428, has volunteered to edit the Queries and Answers Column beginning with the Feb. Newsletter. Please send your Queries to him at 6281 Blauer Lane, San Jose, CA 95135 or e-mail: Blairhrt@juno.com.

WE URGENTLY SEEK A SOCIETY GENEALOGIST to coordinate our genealogical resources and provide individual guidance to our members. **IF INTERESTED, PLEASE CONTACT ME FOR FURTHER DETAILS.**

SCOTLAND in 1999: Our next AGM will be in Blairgowrie, Scotland in association with the Blair Games on Sunday Sept. 5, during the Clan Blair trip, which extends from August 26 through September 8, 1999.

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

By Estella Clifford

Quite some time ago, I happened upon my first Scottish cookbook. I concluded that my Scottish forbears must have had remarkable constitutions, because every recipe I looked up seemed to include a ½ pound of lard, somewhere in the ingredients! I'm not going to inflict any of those on you this quarter, but if no one sends in some recipes soon . . .

But seriously, the holiday season is fast approaching, so I looked for something both seasonal and Scottish, and came up with the following recipes for Macduff Christmas Cake and Glasgow punch. I'll warn you ahead of time – these have not yet been tested in the Clifford test kitchen; if you try them, please let me know how they turn out!

Macduff Christmas Cake

- 1 lb. Currants
- 1 lb. Sultanas (yellow raisins, I believe)
- 4 oz. Glace cherries
- 4 oz. Mixed peel
- 8 oz. Ground almonds
- 8 oz. Butter
- 8 oz. Soft brown sugar
- 5 eggs
- 3 dessert spoons sherry
- 1 tablespoon treacle (available at specialty food shops)
- 10 oz. Plain flour
- 1 teaspoon mixed spice
- ½ teaspoon ground cinnamon
- ½ teaspoon ground ginger
- ¼ teaspoon ground cloves
- ¼ teaspoon ground mace
- ¼ teaspoon ground nutmeg

Cream the butter and sugar. Add the eggs whole, one at a time, and beat in the treacle. Add the flour sieved with the spices, then the dried fruits, cherries, peel and ground almonds. Lastly, pour in the sherry. Cook in a pre-heated oven (350°F) for 30 minutes, then reduce the heat to 325°F and bake for about another 2 ½ hours. Line cake tin with double greaseproof paper.

Glasgow Punch

- ½ pint rum or brandy (1/4 L)
- 1 orange
- 1 lemon
- 1 ½ pints water (3/4 L)
- 6 oz. Castor sugar (200 g)

Remove the zest from the orange and lemon and add to the rum or brandy. Cover and leave for 24 hours.

Put water into a pan and add sugar, bring to a boil and reduce by half, boiling rapidly. Leave the syrup to cool, then add the juice of the orange and lemon. Strain the rum or brandy into this and bottle. Drink hot, diluted with a little water.



Take A Closer Look At Your State's Activities



Arizona

*Helen Blair and Andrew Blair Cupp,
Co-Commissioners
helen@dancris.com*

July 25th was the 1st Annual Highland Celtic Festival in Flagstaff, Arizona. We weren't able to attend, but heard there was a good turnout and it will make a nice summer event in the future.

October 25th was the Kirkin' of the Tartan in Sun City West.

November 7th was the 12th Annual Tucson Celtic Festival and Scottish Highland Games. It was held again at the Greenfields Country Day School from 9am to 5pm. Friday November 6th there was a BBQ, followed by a Torchlight Ceremony/Raising of the Clans, with an 8 pm concert by Men of Worth. These games are really growing. On November 7th, at approximately 6 pm, we hoped to get together with other Blairs for a Blair dinner.

November 21st was the Tartan Ball in Phoenix.

November 22nd was the St. Andrew's Dinner in Prescott.

January 23rd is the Robert Burns dinner in Phoenix.

February 26th, 27th and 28th will be the 33rd Annual Scottish Gathering and Highland Games!!

NOTE the DATE CHANGE!!!

The 33rd Annual Scottish Gathering and Highland Games will be held February 26th, 27th, and 28th at Mesa Community College. There will be concerts on Friday and Saturday nights, with the games on Saturday and Sunday. The Blair dinner will be held either Saturday or Sunday, depending on convenience of area Blairs. We got rained out last year, and just a few die hards showed up. Hopefully we'll have better weather this time around, with El Nino gone!

Any questions, just call, write or e-mail me for further information.

California

*William C. Blair, Commissioner
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.



Blair Talk

Items of interest about our kith and kin



We learned **Marvin C. Blair** died of natural causes on **August 11th, 1998**, in Fremont, CA at the age of 85 years. He was preceded in death by his wife of 50 years, **Glenda Blair**, who passed away in **July, 1997**. We extend our deepest sympathy to his daughter, **Rebecca**

Heggum of Fremont, CA, and his son, **Lawrence Blair** (CBS 7) of Chicago, IL.

Helen Blair advised us that **James L. Blair, Sr.**, the father of our webmaster, **Robert I. Blair**, passed away on **September 5th, 1998**, in Corydon, Indiana. He was 81 years old and had been very healthy until the last six months of his life. He was a devoted husband, father, church member, and Mason. There was a big turn out at his funeral; in addition to family, friends, and Masons, there were also owners of area businesses he frequented, and people he met while making his daily visits to feed his wife at the nursing home. He touched many lives, and will be sadly missed. (Bob has entered some old family pictures on the website, including one of his dad as a youngster.)



NEW COMMITTEE

A new CBS committee is being organized by Vice President **Shawn Blair**, assisted by **David Lawrence** of New Hampshire, who volunteered to help while at the AGM. They will attempt to tackle and correct such misconceptions as the long-established myth that the Blairs are a sept of Clan Graham, request that authors of books on Scottish Clans and Families include **BLAIR** information, and attempt to get vendors at the Games to carry more Blair related items, etc.



PRESIDENT'S APPRECIATION AWARD

President **Bill Blair** honored **Mildred Jean "Skip" Hilty** at the recent AGM in Connecticut by awarding her a Certificate of Appreciation in recognition of her 5 years of devoted service to the Clan Blair Society as Editor of our Newsletter. As a result of her dedication and conscientious effort, our Newsletter achieved award-winning status for excellence, and has been an extremely important part of our society. Many thanks, Skip. We deeply appreciate the many things you have done for our Clan Blair Society.

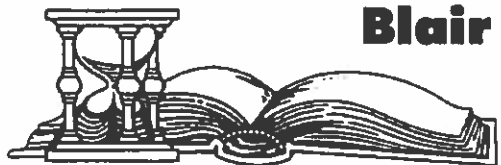
NEW CBS STORE ITEMS

Our Storekeeper, **Wyomia Blair**, advises us that the Ancient Blair **COTTON** twill is beautiful, quite thick, cooler, and inexpensive, and urges you to consider it for **KILTS**, skirts, scarfs, tablecloths, curtains, etc. **Shawn Blair** is arranging graphics to include interlocking Blair of Blair, and Blair of Balthayock Crest Badges for items such as T-shirts, as well as Balthayock Cap Badges, and we expect to have these available in the months ahead.



NEW ARRIVALS - TEXAS

Robert M. and Wanda Blair of Frisco, Texas, are the proud new grandparents of **Hanna Love Moore**, born to their daughter, **Jackie Blair Moore**.



Blair Legends And History

Elizabeth C. Morse
Howard, Ohio

SCOTTISH NOTABLES: Andrew Carnegie

Andrew Carnegie began life as the son of a weaver in Dunfermline, Scotland. Dunfermline was the capital of Scotland in the old days of the country's independence. Andrew always asked questions. His teacher had told him that if he wanted to learn, he could answer his own questions by reading books. He devoured all his teacher's books, and then all of his father's books, particularly Robert Burns' poems and those of the Kings of Scotland. Andrew also had an ability with figures that was useful to his father, and also showed him the value of keeping accurate books.

Misery and poverty, brought about by the new loom machines, caused his father to leave Scotland and come to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in 1848, but Andrew never forgot Dunfermline or the poor but kind folk he knew, and the teacher who had encouraged him to question.

In America, Andrew's mother made shoes, but his father found no market for his linen weaving. His father later found a job in a cotton mill and, by luck, Andrew became a bobbin boy with the pay of \$1.20 a week, for twelve-hour days and a six-day week. Out of his pay, his mother took fifty cents, saving it in a sock to pay for the debt of the ocean passage that had brought them to America.

Andrew soon advanced to a \$2.00-a-week job, stocking a furnace, and dyeing wool. He then graduated to writing letters and doing books. He became a telegraph boy, delivering messages, and he learned the streets of Pittsburgh and saved more money. He did not have time for school, but he found a way to continue his education by watching the theater performances as he delivered messages to the actors. He learned the plays of Shakespeare by ear before he ever read them in a book, just as he had learned the poems of Robert Burns.

Then he heard about James Anderson, who had 400 books and was glad to lend them to working boys.

Colonel Anderson's books were given to the town of Allegheny, which then supplied him with a building and a strict librarian. This librarian told Andrew that they only lent books to boys who worked and that running messages was not work! In answer, he wrote his first letter to the *The Pittsburgh Dispatch*, saying that "the library, meaning to do good, has recently been greatly circumscribed by the new directors, who refuse to allow any

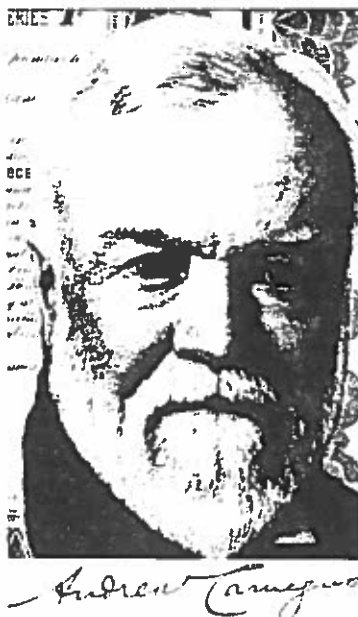
boy who is not learning a trade and bound for a stated time, to become a member. I think the new directors have misunderstood the generous donor's Intentions." He signed his letter "A working boy, though not bound".

To Andrew's delight, his letter was printed in the newspaper and, in response, the library explained that it could lend books only to apprentices and others who could subscribe for two dollars a year for the privilege. A second letter again urged the library managers that they certainly misunderstood the generous donor's intentions and, again, he signed it "A working boy" and dropped it in the box of the newspaper office. The next day, the newspaper carried a notice. "A working

boy will confer with us by appearing at our offices and he would then find that the rules are changed".

Andrew first attempted to make more of the telegraph business by becoming an operator, and received a wage of four dollars a week. Our messenger in the new Republic had become a representative of the new era as a pioneer of liberty and reform. He worked his way up in the telegraph office and then met Thomas A. Scott, design manager for the Pennsylvania Railroad. Andrew started working there at thirty-five dollars a month.

This was just the beginning. Scott opened up a new world to the Dunfermline lad by offering him the opportunity to buy ten shares of stock in the Adams Express. Andrew and his mother borrowed from their funds,

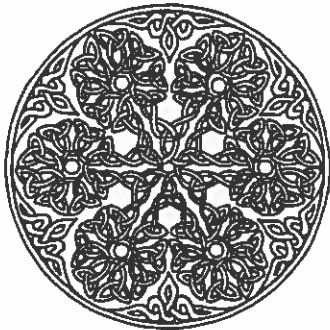


deciding that the fund for business could become a fund for security. His first dividend was \$10.00; this and the other dividends he put back into the bank. He later bought one-eighth of a share in the sleeping car company called the Pullman Car Company, and this became the foundation of his future fortune. As he advanced in business, he helped family and Scottish friends in Allegheny. He never forgot Scotland.

One successful investment led to another, and in 1898 he had control of the great Carnegie Steel Company, which he sold to the United States Steel Corporation for nearly fifty million dollars.

The remarkable life of Andrew Carnegie, the Steel King, is a journey from a poverty-stricken childhood to his remarkably successful later years, in which he gave away, to a worthy cause, most of the great fortune he had accumulated. Sixty-six years old at this time, Carnegie later said "A man who dies rich, dies disgraced". Now that he was free of business obligations, he set about to give away a major part of his wealth to aid the poor and to worthy causes: libraries all over the U.S.A. and in Scotland, Carnegie Hall in New York City, Carnegie Institute in Pittsburgh, and St. Machas Cathedral in Aberdeen, which celebrated religion and literature in its stained-glass windows. He never forgot the poverty and misery of his youth in Scotland and felt that the way out of poverty was through education and knowledge.

Eli Root said "Andrew Carnegie belongs to the great race of nation-builders who made the development of America the wonder of the world through its libraries, cultural, and educational opportunities."



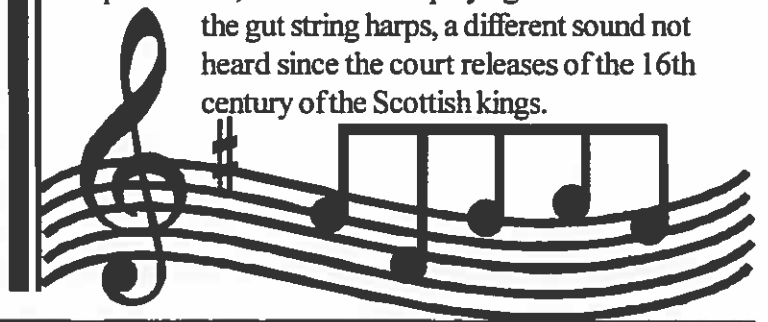
The Harp in Scottish Music

The most recognizable instrument of Celtic Scotland is the highland bagpipe, with its plaid bellows, its pipes, and its sound like war cries. Yet it is the harp which most readily comes to mind as the most representative instrument, from the point of view of Scottish gaeldom. Both instruments are honored in the nation's musical heritage, though interestingly, the harp is not always recognized. Harps are not an instrument associated with the more spectacular aspects of Scottish history, which do not place the harp in sharp focus.

The harp is much older than the bagpipe. It was played by the Picts, who possibly played the triangular-shaped instrument we know today, and adapted it by adding the pillar. The pipes date back to only 1400 AD, some 900 years after the harp. That troubadours and minstrels used the harp is well known through Scottish epics. (The Battle of Harlow in 1411 and Red Hector of the Battles are among the oldest epic songs.) Every chief had his harper, composing songs for him, praising his achievements, and commemorating events in which the chief was the hero. Later, the chieftains kept their harpers to provide entertainment in their courts.

There are two harps with different functions, sounds, and structures. The oldest harp in Scotland is strung with gut (or today, with nylon), and is from the East and the lowlands, and is called properly the *Scottish harp*. It is played with the fingertips and has a sound that is both light and airy as well as deep and mellow. The second harp is the *Clarsack of the Gaels*. It was made of brass and even silver strings. It is played with the fingernails, producing sounds that ring brightly, like bells. These harps were often adorned with great quantities of gems and silver.

Today, high tech has taken off in a new direction in the form of the electronic harp, cultivated by this modern world of music. A new recording release, "Allison's Harper's Land," combines the playing of the brass and the gut string harps, a different sound not heard since the court releases of the 16th century of the Scottish kings.



A CALL FOR BLAIRLIN LINEAGE SUBMISSIONS

*Preston E. Groome, Compiler
Convent Station, New Jersey*

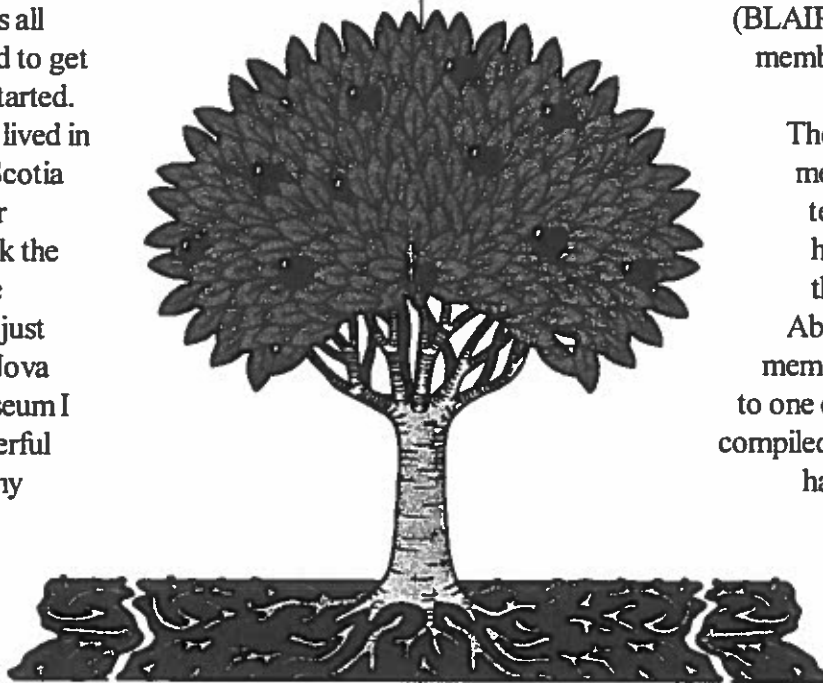
We need more lineage submissions for the publication of BLAIRLIN IV, now being planned for publication in late 1999 or early 2000. Many members have not yet submitted their lineages for inclusion. We need your lineage to help other possible relatives of yours, and we are confident you will want your lineage published for posterity.

One of your fellow-members, Mrs. Nancy Bauer, CBS Member 649, was invited to participate soon after joining, as all members are, but she had to get her genealogy research started. She knew her family had lived in the Truro area of Nova Scotia for some years, so on her summer vacation she took the opportunity of visiting the area. She writes: "I have just returned from a visit to Nova Scotia. At the Truro Museum I came across some wonderful genealogical records of my BLAIR Family connection." She asked that the information be included in our next publication and proceeded to list her BLAIR lineage, generation by generation, back for ten generations from which I extracted a profile for the BLAIRLIN database.

Her lineage was matched as the 18th CBS member to be connected to BLAIRTREE.002, which shows graphically some of the ancestors and descendants of ROBERT BLAIR, b. 1683 in Agahadowey, Ireland; m. ISABELLA RANKIN. This TREE is one of our largest and now has a total of 35 members connected to it: 18 CBS, 12 BSGR and 5 old BSGR (active 1925-1931).

This shows clearly the value of expending a bit of research following the sound principles of working back from one's parents and grandparents, generation by generation, searching libraries, historical societies, churches, museums, etc., and census records in the area in which they are known to have lived.

In the same mail was another submission containing a dual BLAIR lineage going back ten generations and connecting to another TREE (BLAIRTREE.074), with six members connected.



The lineages of some 900 members have been submitted. We need another hundred to round out to a thousand participants. About half of the participating members have been connected to one of the 118 TREES now compiled. Many of these TREES have a dozen or more members connected. About a third of the registered members, however, have not yet submitted their lineage. We do not

want anyone to miss out, and urge all who have not yet done so to get their lineage submitted as soon as possible so it will be included in BLAIRLIN IV when published. There is a good probability that your lineage will be connected to one of the existing TREES, or match another member and help form a new TREE. And you may strike it as lucky as Nancy Bauer did. A BLAIR Ancestral Lineage Form is included in this newsletter, for your submission or update.