

## President's Report

1.)The past 5 years that I have served as the President of the Blaisdell Family National Association have been very educational and even more interesting. I have come in contact with many cousins and friends of Blaisdells that I normally would never have had the opportunity to meet. I am grateful beyond words to each of the officers for their hard work and the countless hours that they have devoted to our Association.

Inquiries about the Blaisdell family ties, however the name is spelled, are constantly directed to our Genealogist and Vital Statistics Editor when a cousin wants to find more information on their heritage. There are over 70,000 names in the family files and new members are always happy when they can learn of their descent.

2.)The officers have pulled together and accomplished much over the last five years. I am pleased to announce some of these projects and accomplishments:

- a. Our membership has grown steadily to 521 household and libraries as of December 2009. This is the highest in the BFNA's history.
- b. We pursued IRS 501c3 charitable non-profit status, starting in March 2007. After many hours of research and writing, the application was mailed to the IRS in July 2007. The IRS responded in November 2007 by asking five questions:
  - 1.) Is your organization formed to locate, acquire, restore and preserve all available genealogical records of your family?
  - 2.) Is the primary purpose to compile genealogical data on your members and those related by marriage?
  - 3.) Are the 6,200 surnames and 27,500 families related to our family?
  - 4.) What is the fee for the non-members requesting genealogical information?
  - 5.) Does your organization provide instruction in genealogical research techniques?

After answering all these questions in the affirmative and explaining that there was a slightly higher fee to non-members than members in the fourth (d.) question, the IRS determined that we did not qualify for 501c3 status, because we were not serving the general public and were primarily serving the genealogical needs of our own family.

We appealed this ruling by submitting an amended return the end of April 2008 (within the 90 day time limit the IRS allowed). Your officers waited patiently for their reply. We had added a high school graduating senior scholarship program, open to both family and non-family members. We also amended our charge to non-members for genealogical data to be the same as for members.

Sadly, though we had a signed return receipt from an IRS representative in their mailroom, our IRS agent claimed he never received the amended return. We re-sent the information, and we were again denied. Our case was then sent to their national archive office in the Cincinnati, OH, area. Your Executive Committee was saddened to see this two-year effort end this way, but at the same time we are glad that we can pursue our family association's mission without being entangled with the IRS.

There were definitely benefits from working through the IRS 501c3 process. It made the Executive Committee look at some tasks and responsibilities of the officers and how the Association operates. We adopted a Conflict of Interest Policy for the Officers of the BFNA, updated our By-Laws, and took ownership of the literary rights to the *Blaisdell Papers* and the Association's genealogical data base as intellectual properties.

All statements of revenues and expenses for the past four years as well as a balance sheet were all comprised to meet the requirements for the application. All of this information was helpful and was instrumental to show that the Association is a private operating foundation.

Our goal of a national library and museum to house all of our valuable papers and historical keepsakes can now be pursued without an IRS tax-deductible contribute

- c. The BFNA website, [www.blaisdell.org](http://www.blaisdell.org) has been revamped by Denny Bennett. Denny has upgraded the quality of the website and posts new listings promptly. He was also responsible for introducing us to our current printer of the *Blaisdell Papers*. Profile Digital Printers in West Carrollton, Ohio has been able to cut our printing costs in half and mail each issue first class from their facility.
- d. All of the back issues of the *Blaisdell Papers* are now housed in one location in waterproof storage containers. Many of these issues have been sent from deceased members and their families and the historical value of our family can be found in each issue.

3.)The Blaisdell Family National Association is able to be prompt and helpful to our family members, because of the enthusiastic commitment of your national officers to the purposes of the Association and because of the technological advances, such as the computer, digital printing, email and decreased telephone rates. Your new set of officers for the 2010-2015 term of office have a good base from which to strengthen our family association even more.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jody Blasdel, President, 2005-2010

[Presented at the Blaisdell Family National Association's 16th Quinquennial business meeting Saturday, June 19, 2010, Holiday Inn, Mt. Vernon, IL.]