

THE BLAIR FAMILY MAGAZINE

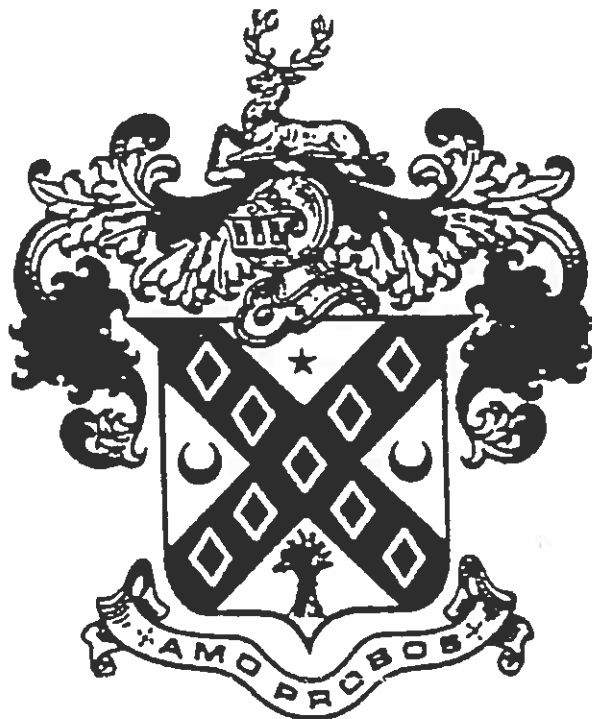


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From the President's Desk

Dear Members:

I hope all of you enjoyed your summer vacations. With fall here, hopefully we will be ready to get back to work.

A few changes have occurred within our organization recently. Sadly, we are losing Art and Gayle Webb. Gayle has been our Corresponding Secretary for two terms and has done a wonderful job. Her husband, Art, created our web pages. The Webbs have accepted a transfer to Heidelberg, Germany, and we will miss them terribly. All of us appreciate the dedication and many, many hours of hard work these two have given to BSGR. As they leave, Brenda and Edgar Weeks are stepping in to fill the vacant positions. Relatively new to the Society, the Weeks attended the convention in Fort Wayne last June with their two daughters. Despite full-time jobs and a young family, Brenda and Gar are willing to accept the responsibility of these demanding offices. We are all fortunate to have skilled members who are willing to donate time and energy to benefit us all.

Our new computer committee is getting off the ground this year under the leadership of Morgan Blair Rajcevich. As many of you know, Morgan is responsible for "Blair Final Resting Places." She and Gar Weeks will report to Vice President Raymond Stoudt. Morgan's move has left a vacant membership chair. We desperately need a replacement. If any of you "WebSurfers" have a few extra hours a week to check the Internet for prospective members, please let us know. Even if you are not willing to take the position formally, please watch for Blair researchers and tell them about our web page and the benefits of membership.

Next year's convention is being planned by Vice President Lethene Parks. Our members voted in June to hold the 1999 convention in Frankfort, Kentucky. Lethene will be working hard to make it a success. If anyone is able to chair the program committee, please contact Lethene. Her new e-mail address is ~~lethe@...~~. I know she will be happy to hear any ideas or suggestions you might have.

Edward P. Blair is compiling *Kentucky Blair Families* to be sold next year. If any of you have Kentucky connections and would be willing to help by sharing

your family information, please contact Ed. He will also need typists, proofreaders, and a volunteer to index the publication. Mark Davis, our publications chair, is still accepting material for *Blair Bible Records*, Volume II. If anyone has any material, now is the time to make sure it will be included in this publication.

Morgan Blair Rajcevich has taken on the job of retyping the old *Blair Magazine*. For those of us with poor eyesight, or poor copies of the magazine, this will be a most welcome addition to our research material. Jim Blair, Janet Kirkman, Lori Hutton, and John Patrick Blair are helping her with the typing. Hopefully, this project will be completed by early next year and copies will be available for sale.

I want to thank you all for your continued support. Your efforts allow the Blair Society to remain the wonderful organization it is today.

Nancy Knox Schaffer

BSGR On Line

by Blair Leatherwood

I hope you all had a wonderful summer (ours in Sacramento was "very" hot —our local utility company is very happy with our electricity usage!) and are looking forward to the fall and the holiday seasons.

I thought I'd take this time to clean out my desk and the hard drive. What I've got for you is just a grab bag of URLs (those fun little locators that take you to places you didn't know existed. Some of these sites have lots of information, some have only a little—but as they say, sometimes it only takes one piece of information to make everything else fall into place. I've checked all of these addresses. As of this writing (22 September), they are all valid.

>from Edna Clack (and the Blair-L mailing list):<http://members.aol.com/woodchippy/blair.htm>. This has information from Virginia and Tennessee on Blair and Rogers.

>from Sue Tillman (and the Blair-L mailing list):<http://www.familytreemaker.com/users/t/i/1/Susan-G-Tillman>. Information on Thomas Blair and the Blairs of Pennsylvania, Maryland, et al.

>from Norm Darwin (and the Blair-L mailing list): <http://www.sebas.vic.edu.au/staff/ndarwin/normmain.html>. Information on some early 19th century Australian Blairs.

>from Katherine Roberts (and the Blair-L mailing list): <http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/Valley/7308/>. Some Blairs related to the Roberts line who emigrated from Ireland to Massachusetts.

By the way, if you're not on the Blair-L mailing list, you should be. Go to rootsweb.com to find out more.

>from John A. Blair: <http://www.familytreemaker.com/users/b/1/a/John-A-Blair>. Lots of information here. Blairs of Virginia and New Hampshire.

[Http://people.ne.mediaone.net/jablair/OPRs.htm](http://people.ne.mediaone.net/jablair/OPRs.htm).

This is a download of Blairs from the LDS index of Old Parish Records of the Established Church of Scotland. John's done an incredible amount of work here and you owe it to yourself to check it out.

For those of you going to Kentucky in 1999, Nancy (our esteemed President) recommends you go to: <http://www.inlink.com/~nomi/vitalrec/ky.html>. to do some preliminary research into Kentucky records.

Finally, keep checking in with Rootsweb, the US GenWeb project, Ancestry.com, Cyndi's List and every place else we've mentioned in the past couple of years—you never know what might turn up.

Send questions or comments regarding use of on-line search, or information about your own electronic searching sources to Blair Leatherwood: Bl Leatherwood@ibm.net.

ABOUT THE SUMMER ISSUE:

Several members responded to our request for "Blair" disasters" with submissions telling about John Calhoun Blair's run-in with the Indian and subsequent scalping. As editor, I chose that of Margaret Vance Webb.

Mrs. Ruby Blair Orwig (Mem. #641L), who had researched this line extensively and contributed considerable material to Lucy Eckels Blair's *John Blair of Guilford Co., North Carolina* (1979), writes of a few inconsistencies in the article with the story as gathered by her. (Mrs. Orwig did not submit an article.) She states that the Nancy who nursed John back to health was a cousin: John did not marry his (Agnes) Nancy until later (about 1804); they had only two children, born in 1806 and 1809. We refer researchers of this line to Lucy's book for the story as handed down by John Calhoun's descendants, gathered by Ruby Orwig.

We remind readers that family oral history is a rich source of genealogical data but that details and language change with the story teller. Stories are wonderful to share, give the flavor of character and event, but need to be taken for what they are -- family folk lore. We can all read with amazement of John's strength and fortitude, relish in the fact that somewhere back in the mists of Scottish history we perhaps share the same blood, and enjoy the telling of the story.

Also in the same issue in "Story of Tragedy 93 Years Ago," page 31, submitted by Marjorie Barber Schuster, the name Annie Phoebe Laskey Blair should have been Annie Phoebe Cosbey Blair; Russell left besides his three sisters, a brother, Clifford Blair (not George). Marjorie's membership number should have been shown as #124, not 448.

Mary J. Powers, Editor

In Memory

William Riley Blair

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of William Riley Blair of Anchorage, Alaska, after a brief illness. Riley became ill on June 22 and passed away on June 27.

William Riley Blair was born in Killeen, Texas, September 15, 1935. He was the eighth child of Jesse Edwin and Mary Ethel Starnader Blair. His brother, Elmer Lewis Blair passed away February, 1998, and his sister, Elva Dean, in early June of this year. His mother-in-law died in May. The family suffered many losses this year.

Riley and Dorothy, his wife and best friend, shared forty-two wonderful years of marriage and had three children: Anita Dawn Blair, James Edwin Blair and Crystal Leigh. He was a devoted husband and father and his family always knew of his great love for them. He was intelligent, loving, caring, and completely trustworthy. If Riley gave you his word, you had his bond.

Riley was a BSGR member and had done family research for years. He loved family history and was eager to share whatever information he had with cousins. It was a real treat for him to find a new "cousin." His letters were always upbeat and he was always positive in his approach to life. He will be greatly missed by his family and many friends.

John Milton Blair

John Milton Blair, 67, of Fredericksburg, Virginia, died Saturday, 20 June 1998 in Mary Washington Hospital. He was born 12 October 1930 in Terre Haute, Indiana to John Oliver and Blossom Loughmiller Blair. Survivors include his wife, Nancy Brown Blair; one son, John T. Blair; three brothers, George Blair, Edward Blair (BSGR #231L) and David Blair (BSGR #300-1); two sisters, Violet Magoun and Grace Walker; three grandchildren; and three step-grandchildren. Burial was in Sunset Memorial Garden, Fredericksburg. John descends from Robert and Elizabeth Rainbow Blair.

Deanna Elaine Blair Reagin

Deanna Elaine Blair Reagin, 47, of Cory, Indiana, died Thursday, 9 July 1998 in Union Hospital, Terre Haute, Indiana. She was born 14 January 1951 in Brazil, Indiana to Edward Francis and Virginia Short Blair. She was a cafeteria worker for Clay City, Indiana High School and was a member of Zion Friendship Club in Cory, and Free Methodist Church in Terre Haute.

Survivors include her husband, Gerald Reagin; four children, Lisa Stanley, Joseph Killmon, Allan Reagin, and Elaine Reagin; father, Edward F. Blair (BSGR #231L); two sisters, Ann Taylor and Jeanne Bryant; brother, Edward P. Blair (BSGR #002P); and three grandchildren. Burial was in Oak Hill Cemetery near Riley, Indiana. Deanna descends from Robert and Elizabeth Rainbow Blair.

Betty Frances Blair Sills

Betty Frances Blair Sills, 70, of Berkley, Michigan, died Wednesday, 17 June 1998 in St. John's Oakland General Hospital, Madison Heights, Michigan. She was born 31 January 1928 in Indianapolis, Indiana to Luther Alburn and Elizabeth Nuetzman Blair. She was a member of Berkeley Community Church. Survivors include her husband, Millard Mack Sills, Jr.; sister, Violet Jean McKamey; brother, Donald Russell Blair; daughters, Lynn Leach and Linda Kay Redwood (BSGR #427-A); son, Millard Mack Sills, III; and two grandchildren. Burial was in Cloverdale Cemetery, Cloverdale, Indiana. Betty descends from Robert and Mary Bean Blair.

Samuel Blair Griffin, Jr.

Samuel Blair Griffin, Jr., 74, of Taylors, South Carolina, died Monday, 30 March 1998 in Greenville Memorial Medical Center. He was born in Anderson, South Carolina to Samuel Blair, Sr. and Lily Mae Banks Griffin. He was a graduate of Anderson College and the University of South Carolina. He retired as a Major from the U. S. Air Force Reserves after over 20 years of service and was employed with the South Carolina Employment Security Commission for 37 years, serving as the U. I. Area Director for a number of years. He was a member of John Knox Presbyterian Church and was active in many community organizations.

Blair was preceded in death by his wife, Betty Lou Browning Griffin. Survivors include two daughters, Janice G. Agazio and Nancy G. Bouchillon; a brother, Marion R. Griffin; and four grandchildren. Burial was in Arlington National Cemetery, Virginia.

Blair was a good and faithful member of the Blair Society and will be greatly missed. He descends from James P. and Letitia Guilah Blair. His daughter, Janice Agazio (BSGR #641A), Laurel, Maryland, has assumed his membership.

Quebec Index of Baptisms, Marriages and Burials of Protestants 1790-1875

- Agnes**, d/o Robert & Marion Blair - baptized 29 May 1843, St. Andrews Church
- Alexander**, s/o William & Mary Blair - baptized 14 May 1844, St. Andrews Church
- Alexander Blair** - married Mary Sloan 7 Sep 1865, St. Andrews Church
- Andrew**, s/o John & Kitty Blair - baptized 15 June 1813, Metropolitan Church
- Ann**, d/o William & Mary Blair - baptized 14 July 1841, St. Andrews Church
- Ann**, d/o John & Mary Blair - baptized 11 December 1842, Bourg Louis Wesleyan Church
- Anne**, d/o Thomas & Sarah Blair - baptized 19 May 1854, St. John's Church (Chalmes)
- Catherine Blair** - burial 20 Jan 1852, St. Andrews Church, w/o Thomas Blair, 58 years
- Catherine Blair** - burial 26 Jun 1852, St. Andrews Church (died on 25th)
- Cecilia**, d/o William & Jane Blair - baptized 26 May 1811, St. Andrews Church
- Charlotte Blair**, a black woman -baptized 25 Feb 1795, St. Andrews Church
- Charlotte Blair** - burial 20 May 1810, a Christian Negro woman, wife of Leeds Blair, at St. Andrews Church
- Daniel Blair** -burial, 26 July 1834, age 5, Metropolitan
- David**, s/o Robert & Marion Blair - baptized 30 Jul 1837, St. Andrews Church
- David Blair** - married Harriet Birch 1 Aug 1812, St. Andrews Church
- David Blair** - married Caroline Paulin[?] 4 Jul 1836, St. John's Church (Chalmes)
- Donald**, s/o Thomas & Catherine Blair - baptized 25 Apr 1829, St. Andrews Church
- Duncan Blair** - burial, 19 Nov 1825, age nearly 5, St. Andrews Church
- Dinah Blair** - burial, widow of Austin, 16 Feb 1832 at Metropolitan Church, age 96.
- Eliza**, d/o William & Maria Blair - baptized 12 Sep 1845, St. Andrews Church
- Francis Blair** - married Eliza Reid 18 Jul 1822, St. Andrews Church
- Hugh Purvis Blair** - married Christian Leddon 1 Nov 1870, Chalmes
- James**, s/o John & Mary Blair - baptized 11 Apr 1844, Bourg Louis Wesleyan Church
- James Blair** - burial, 13 Jun 1837 [or 1857], St. Andrews Church, seaman, age 39
- Jane**, d/o David & Caroline Blair - baptized 31 Jan 1843, Aubigny Church [Jervis]
- Jane Blair**, w/o Thomas Blair - burial 4 June 1824, Metropolitan Church, age 22
- Janet**, d/o Robert & Marian Blair - baptized 12 Aug 1845, St. Andrews Church
- John**, s/o John & Mary Blair - baptized 5 Aug 1849, Bourg Louis Wesleyan Church
- John Blair** - married Mary Gamble 6 Jul 1841, Bourg Louis Wesleyan Church
- John Blair** - burial 7 Feb 1833, Garrison Church, age 34
- John**, s/o Thomas & Katherine Blair - baptized 19 May 1823, St. Andrews Church
- John Blair** - burial 12 Dec 1827, St. Andrews Church, age 12 months
- John Blair** - burial 14 Mar 1824, St. Andrews Church, age 14 months
- Leeds Blair** - married Diana Moulton 26 Jan 1804, Metropolitan Church
- Leeds Blair [Negro]** - burial 4 Jun 1818, Metropolitan Church
- Mary Blair**, widow of John Murphy - burial 22 Aug 1870, St. Peters Chapel, age 72
- Mary Ann**, d/o Robert & Marion Blair - baptized 14 July 1841, St. Andrews Church
- Melinda**, d/o John Leslie & Catherine Blair - baptized 29 Oct 1842 at Wesleyan Methodist Church
- Nancy Blair** - burial 11 Sep 1823, St. Andrews Church, age 5 years
- Peter**, s/o John & Mary Blair - baptized 22 Oct 1845, Bourg Louis Wesleyan Church
- Rebecca**, d/o John & Catherine Blair - baptized 8 Jan 1832, Garrison Church
- Rebecca Blair**, d/o John & Catherine Blair - burial 13 Mar 1814, Metropolitan Church
- Rebecca Blair**, d/o John & Catherine Blair - burial 12 Sep 1832, Garrison Church
- Robert**, s/o David & Caroline Blair - baptized 14 Jun 1840, St. Andrews Church
- Robert Blair** - burial 16 Nov 1814, Metropolitan Church, soldier, Private, age 52.
- Robert Brown Blair** and Elizabeth M. Allan - married 31 Aug 1874, Scotland Church, Levis #2
- Robert**, s/o John & Mary Blair - baptized 29 Dec 1850, Bourg Louis Wesleyan Church
- Robert Crammond[?]**, s/o Robert & Marion Blair - baptized 21 Aug 1839, St. Andrews Church
- Robert Crammond Blair** - married Zoe Martha Harrower 29 Sep 1874, St. Andrews Church
- Sarah Blair**, w/o James Blair - burial 19 Feb 1849, Bourg Louis Wesleyan Church, age 76
- Sarah Blair** - burial 13 Apr 1875, Bourg Louis Wesleyan Church, age 75
- Sarah Jane**, d/o Richard & Elizabeth Blair - baptized 17 Apr 1870, Metropolitan Church
- Thomas**, s/o Thomas & Catherine Blair - baptized 25 Jul 1825, St. Andrews Church
- Thomas Blair** - married Sarah Hanney 3 Jun 1853, St. Andrews Church

John Blair of Huron County, Ontario, Canada

by Nancy Knox Schaffer, BSGR Mem. #495

John Blair was born in County Antrim, Ireland, about the year 1810. As a young man, he immigrated to Quebec, Canada, where he married Mary Gamble, the daughter of Peter Gamble, on 6 July 1841 at the Bourg Louis Wesleyan Church. Ann was the first child to arrive. She was followed by James, Peter, Sarah in 1847, John, and Robert. Records were found in the Bourg Louis Wesleyan Church for only five of the children: Ann, James, Peter, John and Robert.

In October 1852, the family removed to Grey Township, Huron County, Ontario. John was a farmer by trade and homesteaded his land, obtaining title from the crown in 1863.¹ It was here that the remaining children were born, William in 1853, Jane in 1855, and Mary on 10 March 1858.

John served as a member of a commission to investigate charges against the Canada Company² and was present at a town meeting in 1863 to determine the site of Duff's Presbyterian Church. "As an instance of enthusiasm, John Blair, who lived in the 18th concession [lots 4 and 5] of Grey said he would have the first stick on the ground."³

As John grew too old to continue farming his land, his son continued his efforts. Robert Blair is listed as the property owner in 1879.⁴ John died on 20 September 1884 and was buried in the Brussels United Cemetery in neighboring Morris Township. Mary lived until she was 93 years old. Her tombstone, next to John's, gives her death date as 6 May 1909. Their son James who died 23 June 1874 at age 30, and their daughter Mary who died 28 September 1875 at age 17 are buried with them.⁵

The oldest child, Ann Blair, married James Ritchie. Sarah married a Mr. Cameron. John Blair[Jr.] married Anne Giles on 30 May 1883 in Portage la Prairie, Manitoba. Robert Blair married Mary Hanna on 12 December 1888 in Morris Township, Huron County,

Ontario, the daughter of George Hanna. Robert died on 17 December 1931 in Medicine Hat, Alberta, Canada. William married Dinah Hall on 28 September 1880 in Grey Township, Huron County, Ontario. Dinah was the third daughter of Isaiah Hall, Esq. of Cranbrook.

The Mary Ann Blair who appears with this family as a two year old in the 1871 census⁶ is most likely a grandchild. Mary Gamble Blair was born in 1816, too old to give birth to a daughter in 1869. Mary Ann Blair may be the daughter of James, who died in 1874. The *Huron Expositor* of Seaforth, Ontario contains the following marriage announcement in its issue dated 1 February 1895: "Marriage: at the residence of her grandparents, Mary Blair of Cranbrook, formerly of Varna, on January 30 [1895] to Thomas Fallis of Grand Bend, by Rev. D. L. McRae."

This John Blair may be the son of Samuel and Esther Crawford Blair of County Antrim, Northern Ireland. The *Genealogical File of Dr. Eleanor M. Hiestand-Moore*⁷ contains a letter written by Dr. Andrew Blair in which he states John's youngest son was William Blair. By 1914, both John and his wife were dead, and his son, William, was married and may have been in the Toronto area. If anyone has any information on this family, please contact Nancy Schaffer, 20751 W. Chartwell Dr., Kildeer, IL 60047-8542 or e-mail: NKSchaffer@aol.com.

Descendants of John Blair

JOHN BLAIR was born 1807-1810 in Parish of Raloo, County Antrim, North Ireland, UK, and died 20 September 1884 in Grey Township, Huron County, Ontario, Canada; buried Brussels Cemetery in Morris Township. He married MARY GAMBLE 6 July 1841 in Bourg Louis Wesleyan Church, Quebec, Canada, daughter of Peter Gamble and Jane Pinkerton.

John Blair's will was dated 22 April 1884; executors: Thomas McFadzean, Matthew Morrison, to my son, Peter Blair, \$200, daughter Anne Ritchey, \$150, daughter Sarah Cameron \$150, son John Blair, \$50,

¹ Engle, Marilyn, *Grey Township and Its People*, page 352.

² Scott, James, *Settlement of Huron County*, page 127.

³ *Grey*, p. 347.

⁴ Ontario Genealogical Society, *The Illustrated Historical Atlas of Huron County, Ontario*, page xv.

⁵ *Huron Cemeteries*, Huron County Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society, page 63.

⁶ District #26, North Huron. Sub-district #3, page 4, dwelling #13.

⁷ Compiled by Gerry Carlisle for Blair Society for Genealogical Research, 1990, pages 313-314.

John Blair of Huron County, Ontario . . .

son. William Blair, \$50, daughter Jenny Blair, \$400, wife Mary, remainder of estate and my horse, Charley. Son Robert Blair to pay amounts.

Mary Gamble's Death Certificate registration #1909-05-014140 shows: Mary Blair died 6 May 1909 in Grey Township, age 93; widow, born Ireland, farmer's wife; father is Peter Gambel, born Ireland; mother, not recorded; informant, Peter Blair. Requested by Mary Clayton, 1905 Garfield Avenue, Ottawa, Ontario, K2C 0W6. Issued at Toronto: 5 January 1990.

Children of John Blair and Mary Gamble:

- (1) ANN BLAIR, born about November 1842, Quebec, Canada, christened 4 April, 1844 at Bourg Louis Wesleyan Church, Quebec; died 1928. Ann married James Ritchie; their children were: Mary, born c.1871; John, born c.1873; James, born c.1875; Jane, born c.1877; Thomas.
- (2) JAMES BLAIR, born about March 1844, Quebec, Canada, christened 4 April 1844 Bourg Louis Wesleyan Church; died 23 June 1874, Grey Township, Huron County, Ontario, Canada, buried Brussels Cemetery.
- (3) PETER BLAIR, born about October 1845, Quebec, Canada, christened 22 October 1845 at Bourg Louis Wesleyan Church.
- (4) SARAH BLAIR, born 1847, Quebec, Canada; married Cameron.
- (5) JOHN BLAIR, born about July 1849, Quebec, Canada, christened 5 August 1849 at Bourg Louis Wesleyan Church; died February 1914, Portage la Prairie, Manitoba, Canada. John married Anne Giles 30 May 1883 in Portage la Prairie, Manitoba; their children were: Albert, born 1884, died 1974; Arthur, born 1890; Mary Anne "Annie," born 4 June 1893, died 30 July 1936, Bounty, Saskatchewan, Canada; Jennie, born 1894, married William Case, they lived in MacGregor, Manitoba, Canada; John, born 15 June 1898, Portage la Prairie, Manitoba, died 9 June 1978, Claresholm, Alberta who married Ruby Jane McDonald and had: Donald, Roy, Robert James, born 10 March 1943, High River, Alberta, and Doreen; Eva, born 1899, married Stan Giles and lived MacGregor, Manitoba; Agnes Blair, born 1900, died about 1970, married Frank McKeen and had Gordon McKeen. John's son Robert James married Isabele Mewhort and had Selena Jane and Rebecca Jean.
- (6) ROBERT BLAIR, born about December 1850, Quebec, Canada, christened 29 December, 1850 at Bourg Louis Wesleyan Church; died 27 December 1931, Medicine Hat, Alberta, Canada. Robert married Mary Hanna 12 December 1888

in Morris Township, Huron County, Ontario, she the second daughter of George Hanna, of Morris. Their children were Margaret, married Thomas Boyle; Bertha, married Thomas Kirkconnel; Dawswa, married Joseph Stauble, Alaska, Saskatchewan, Canada; son Blair, born 8 May 1891 Grey Township, died 13 May 1891; son Blair, born 2 March 1894, died 12 March 1894; John George Melville, born 18 February 1890, died 11 July 1914, Brantford, Ontario, married Mary "Annie" Blair, his first cousin and had, Mary Jane, b. 28 May 1915, married Arnold Elliott on 18 March 1944; John Robert, born 11 February, 1917, died 27 March 1917; Beatrice Vera, born 12 December 1918; Dorothy Roberta, born 3 August 1920, married Franklin on 17 Jan, 1945; Melville Robert, born 14 June 1924, married Elizabeth Bellhouse on 23 September 1928 in Brantford, and Helen May Drummond Adams, 5 July 1958; Eliza, born 23 September 1928; Doris Isabelle, born 25 July 1931, m. Rector on 18 October 1953, Truro, Nova Scotia.

- (7) WILLIAM BLAIR, born about 1853; married Dinah Hall 28 September 1880, Grey Township, Huron County, Ontario. *Huron Expositor*, Seaforth, Ontario, 8 October 1880: "Marriage at the residence of John Blair, Esq., Grey TT, on 28th Ult., by Rev. A. McNaughton, Walton, Mr. Wm. Blair to Miss Dinah Hall, 3rd daughter of Isaiah Hall, Esq. of Cranbrook.
- (8) JANE "JENNIE" BLAIR, born about 1855.
- (9) MARY BLAIR, born 20 March 1858; died 28 September 1875, Grey Township, Huron County, Ontario, Canada, buried Brussels Cemetery.

* * * * *

Blair Women

Do you have a favorite story about a Blair woman? Had an ancestress renowned for her courage, ingenuity and industry? Know of a Blair lady with an unusual occupation or preoccupation? One who accomplished something unusual or special? Whose character warrants notice? Famous or infamous?

If so, send to the editor of *Blair Family Magazine*. We'd like to make up a special issue devoted to the female of the Blair species. Please give all the genealogical information you can, and quote sources. Thanks for your help!

HORATIO P. BLAIR

(Published by the *South Bend Tribune*, South Bend, Indiana, 1901)

Submitted by Irvin L. Morse, BSGR Mem. #130

Mr. Horatio P. Blair, who may justly be termed one of the fathers of the present low pressure steam heating system and the utilization of exhaust steam, has been engaged in business in South Bend since 1894. He was born at Collinsville, Hartford County, Connecticut, October 28, 1839, and was the son of Charles and Eunice (Blodgett) Blair. He attended the public schools there and assisted his father in his shop and at the forge. In 1854 his father made the pikes for the famous John Brown, of Osawatimie, and which he designed for use in his historical raid, and young Horatio assisted in drawing these pikes under the trip hammer. At the age of eighteen he started in life for himself as a clerk in a store at Muscatine, Iowa, but in the same year returned home and engaged as a clerk in the hardware business in Hartford. In 1860 he started in the steam heating business in Hartford and remained there for twelve years, and studied at night to perfect himself in his profession. He then went to Boston and was engineer for Walker, Pratt & Co. for eight years, passing through the great fire of that city. In 1880 he was connected in a similar capacity with E. H. Cook & Co., and worked at Rochester and Elmira, New York, until 1886, when Mr. Cook died, and he came to Chicago, and took charge of the branch there. He was also engineer for Edward P. Bates of Syracuse, New York, and in 1894 he came to South Bend where he has since been engaged in business. Mr. Blair was engaged in building the large works of the Danvers, Massachusetts Insane Asylum, the new Penitentiary at Concord, Massachusetts, also the heating and plumbing of the State Capitol at Hartford, Connecticut. He also worked in the same line on the magnificent Capitol building at Albany, New York, the Ogdensburg and Mattewan Insane Asylums, and was the engineer for the Board of Trade building in Chicago, and the new House of Parliament in Toronto, Canada. Later he was the engineer for the great Cupple's warehouses in St. Louis, the largest plant of its kind in the world, and for a number of important buildings and plants extending from Prince Edward Island to the Pacific Coast, and in all has been successful.

In South Bend, Mr. Blair has put in the heating plants of the Oliver Opera House, the magnificent new Oliver Hotel, and has thoroughly remodeled the heating system at the works of the Studebaker Bros. Mfg. Co., St. Mary's Academy, and supplied the plumbing and steam heating for the new Court House.



Prior to coming here he was also engineer for the mammoth Gilbert Car Works at Troy, New York. Mr. Blair is a thorough engineer and is one of the pioneers of the present systems of steam and hot water heating, and he has trained some of the most successful men in this line in the east. Not until he came to South Bend was Mr. Blair engaged in the plumbing and gas fitting business, but finding it a necessity, he added it as a branch of his former line, and has furnished some of the finest residences here. Mr. Blair is associated in business with David Westbury who for years acted as his able superintendent. Mr. Blair is a gentleman who has won the esteem of the entire community. In early years he was active in politics and was the originator of the famous "Lincoln Wide Awakes," and president of the first meeting of the original "38," the first uniformed body that ever took part in a political parade. He was married to Miss Elizabeth Powers, of Hartford, Connecticut and resides at Mishawaka.

South Bend Tribune, 14 May 1904. David A. Westbury received a message today announcing the death of his former partner, Horatio P. Blair, at his former home in Collinsville, Connecticut. Mr. Blair passed away Thursday morning from a complication of diseases and was in his 65th year. He is survived by his wife and two children, Mr. Frederick Blair, of Hartford, and Mrs. William Hill, of Collinsville.

Records of Blairs from the County Offices at Wampsville, New York

From the Blair Folder, Blandford, Massachusetts Historical Society

All the records in the first group are taken from the books of wills on file [in Wampsville], as copied by Prof. H. A. White, August, 1933.

Book H, page 349. March 4, 1863. **Susan Blair**, widow, and **Susan E. Close(?)** both of Lebanon appear for proof of will of **Horace H. Blair**, late of Lebanon, Madison County, New York. **J. L. Blair** was one witness.

Book L, p. 449. **John D. Blair**. Will dated October 17, 1861. June 13, 1868 **John L. Blair**, executor. **Augusta D. Blair** of Sheldon, Wyoming County and **John L. Blair**, sons, and **Mary Ann Billings**, Lebanon, daughter; **Sarah E. Close** and **Susan Blair** of Lebanon daughters-in-law,- heirs and next of kin. Will proved Nov. 9, 1868. **John D. Blair** was 78 years old.

Book N, p. 475. Will of **Seth Blair**. Date, July 9, 1870. **Nathan D. Brownell**, executor. Will proved March 11, 1872. All property left to his sister, **Janette Blair**.

Book Q, p. 118. **Harvey Blair** of Madison. Dated Dec. 26, 1875; will proved March 28, 1874. **Thomas W. Taylor**, executor. Heirs.- **Adolphus Blair** of Onondaga Valley, New York, **Sophia Burnham**, Madison, New York, **Janette Blair** of Madison, **Samuel N. Taylor**, Willoughby, Ohio, **Thomas M. Taylor**, Madison, **Harvey I. Taylor**, Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, and **Mary Pollock**, Delaware, Ohio, and **Fanny Bell**, Nesnah, Wisconsin. **Thomas W. Taylor** mentioned as a nephew "son of my sister, **Polly Taylor**, **Sophia B. Burnham** and **Janette Blair**, sisters.

Book Q, p. 661. **Jasper Blair** of Lenox. Dated, Jan. 28, 1875; will proved Feb. 14, 1876. **Thankful S. Blair**, executor. Heirs—**Thankful S. Blair**, widow, **Amanda Robinson**, Hamilton, **Julia Mason**, Utica, **Sarah Northrup**, Utica, **Milton White**, Utica, **John White**, Pompay (grandfather of Prof. H. A. White), **Jeremiah Blair**, Nelson, **Alvin Blair**, Cazenovia, **Philo E. Blair**, Cazenovia, **William R. Blair**, Syracuse, **Orra Cooper**, Centerville, **Jane Chaffee**, Middlesex, **H. Clark Blair**, Aurora, Ohio; Children of **Bohan Blair**, deceased, and **Isaac Blair**, deceased, whose names and places of residence after diligent inquiry cannot be ascertained. Legacy also to **Lydia Ann Ostrander** "daughter of my wife, **Thankful S. Blair**," and her son, **Joseph A.**

Ostrander. Wife **Thankful S. Blair** and **Harvey J. Ostrander**, son-in-law, executors.

Book 31, page 359. Will of **Philo E. Blair** of Cazenovia. Date Nov. 8, 1882; will proved Dec. 10, 1887. Executors, **Eliza A. Blair**, **Edwin A. Blair** and **L. Perry Blair**, both of Cazenovia, sons, and **Eliza Jane Blair** of Cazenovia, **Celestia Ann Corwin**, Syracuse, and **Florence Aurelia Smith**, Syracuse, daughters.

The records given below were copied in August, 1934, by Prof. H. A. White. These records from Wisconsin may relate to Blairs of central New York.

Census of 1850. Wyocena, Columbia County, Wisconsin, page 154. **William Blair**, 31, born in New York; **Jane Blair**, 30, born in New York, **James E. Blair**, 9, born in Wisconsin, **Arthur E. Blair**, 7, and **Charles**, 2, both born in Wisconsin.

Census of 1860. Wyocena, Columbia County, Wisconsin, page 154. **Linus Blair**, age 68, born in Massachusetts, **Nancy Blair**, 56, born in Massachusetts, and **Henry H. Blair**, 22, born in Massachusetts. According to the inscriptions on the gravestones in the Wyocena cemetery, **Linus Blair**, died Dec. 7, 1862, age 70 yrs. and **Nancy Blair** died Nov. 30, 1864, age 61. Headstone mentions that she was the wife of **Linus Blair**. There is one small, unscribed headstone on grave next to that of **Linus Blair**,-one would guess that of a child.

The graves of the **Linus Blairs** are not far from those of **Harvey White** and his wife who once lived at **Smithfield** [now **Munnsville**], New York. He was related to the **Blairs** of Madison County. It is, therefore, conjectured that these **Blairs** of Wyocena came there with the **Whites** (and possibly others) from Madison County, New York.

The records given below were copied from an old Blair Bible in possession of **Raymond L. Blair**, Blandford, Massachusetts on Aug. 1933 by Prof. H. A. White of Lincoln, Nebraska.

Matthew Blair, d. Sept. 22, 1770, age 66.

Adam Blair, son of Deacon **Matthew Blair**, d. April 22, 1840, age 35.

Martha Blair, first wife of **Adam Blair**, d. Oct. 20, 1741, age 26.

Thankful Blair, second wife of **Adam Blair**, d. Oct. 24, 1830, age 74.

Charlotte Knox, daughter of A. and T. Blair, d. Nov. 4, 1846, age 63.

Charlotte Knox, daughter of A. and T. Blair, d. Nov. 4, 1846, age 63.

Linus Blair, son of A. and T. Blair, d. Aug. 12, 1853, age 63.

Polly, wife of Linus Blair, d. Nov. 26, 1835, aged 48.

Henry Knox, husband of Charlotte Blair, died July 16, 1853, age 67.

Mary, first wife of James Blair, died December 13, 1843, age 27.

Adam Blair, son of A. and T. Blair, died August 4, 1864, age 77.

Clarissa, wife of Adam Blair, died August 29, 1866, age 77.

"**William and David Blair**, early settlers at Solsville, New York," 1860.

* * * * *

Research on My New Jersey Blair/Wilson Roots

by Rose A. Culver Vosler, BSGR Mem. #687

The research of my Blair roots from my great, great grandmother, Mary Blair Wilson, 1791-1872, led me to Sussex County (later Warren County) in northern New Jersey where my 4th great grandparents, John and Mary Hazlett Blair lived.

My research included New Jersey; Chester County, Pennsylvania (where the brothers, Reverends John and Samuel Blair settled); Luzern County, Pennsylvania (home of my great great grandparents); Scranton in Lackawanna County, Pennsylvania (where Mary's brother James went as did Mary Blair Wilson in her late years).

I have received information on the Blair and Hazlett families from the historical societies of these places, the state of Maryland, from the Vail genealogy, partial Shippen genealogy, Presbyterian Historical Society in Philadelphia, from BSGR and from George King Nichols, another Wilson/Blair descendant

I have looked into the Presbyterian clergymen, brothers John and Samuel Blair, because there keeps popping up the statement that these two brothers are cousins of the New Jersey brothers, also named John and Samuel Blair. The repetition of family first names makes it very difficult to sort out who is who. What seems to be accurate, but not documented, is that brothers Rev. John and Samuel came to America from Ulster, Ireland. There is continual reference to their being cousins to the New Jersey brothers, John and Samuel, as well as the statement that the father of the clergy Blairs was William Blair.

It is documented¹ the elder Rev. Samuel Blair married Frances VanHook and their son, the younger Rev. Samuel Blair married Susannah Shippen, daughter of the eminent Philadelphia physician, Dr. William Shippen. I

¹ *Pennsylvania Archives*, 2nd Ser., Vol. IX, p. 184.

mention this because there is often the statement that Samuel Blair of New Jersey married Susannah Shippen.

I have seen both Perthshire and Ayrshire, Scotland given as the birthplace of the Blairs of northern New Jersey. I incline to the Shire of Perth.

From the Warren County, New Jersey D.A.R. Library: The Blair family of northern New Jersey had its ancestral home for many centuries in the northern part of Perthshire, Scotland. The Revs. John and Samuel Blair are mentioned and said to have come from Ulster, Ireland. [Maybe their roots were in Perth and that would explain the possibility of their being cousins to the New Jersey Blairs.]

Two cousins of the above mentioned clergymen, the sons of Samuel Blair, also named John and Samuel Blair, also emigrated to America between 1730 and 1740, and settled in what was then Greenwich Township, Sussex, County, New Jersey. Samuel married a daughter of Dr. Shippen of Philadelphia and settled on property belonging to his wife at Scotts Mountain. [It is known brother John Blair lived at Scotts Mountain but I've found no trace of brother Samuel.]

From Blair data received from Dr. William H. Vail, 29 March, 1940, from W.B.A.[?], this from Warren County:

The Northern part of Shire of Perth, along the banks of the Garry, one of the branches of the Tay, is Blair-Athole—home for many centuries of the ancestors of that branch of the Blair family from which the Blair family of New Jersey sprang. [There is again mention of the clergy Blair brothers]. Above mentioned brothers [Revs.] were cousins of two brothers bearing the same names. John and Samuel Blair emigrated to America, 1730-1740. A Mr. John Blair, among other children had a son Samuel Blair. This Samuel Blair had two sons, John and Samuel Blair.... [Again, says brother Samuel married daughter of Dr. Shippen.]

From *History of Fayette and Green Counties, Pennsylvania*: The New Jersey family springs from the noted Blair family of Blair-Athol, Perthshire, Scotland... Another Samuel Blair was sent by a Philadelphia firm to Oxford Furnace, Warren County, New Jersey to be in charge of the iron industry there. From them sprang John Insley Blair, wealthy iron manufacturer and founder of Blairstown, New Jersey. [Could this be the lost brother of John Blair in New Jersey? Did Samuel, perhaps go to Pennsylvania rather than stay in New Jersey? That this Samuel was sent to Oxford Furnace, as Vail said in his genealogy of the brother of John, could indicate this Samuel was John's brother. Was the Shippen family involved in the Iron industry? They were physicians, but very wealthy. Perhaps their wealth was accumulated in areas other than medicine.]

The *History* goes on to say that William, son of above Samuel, married Sarah Mason and lived in Knowlton Township, Warren County, New Jersey, and was in the Revolutionary War. His son, John Blair (1808-1843) was the founder of the Blair family in Green County, Pennsylvania; he married Margaret Orndoff.

John Blair, son of Samuel, son of John, born 1718, Perthshire, Scotland, to America 1730-40. John settled near Scott's Mountain, Warren County, New Jersey. He married about 1763, Mary Hazlett, daughter of Robert and Elizabeth Parke Hazlett. Mary was born 30 September 1734, died 18 January, 1819. John died on 20 May 1798. Both are buried in Hazen Cemetery in New Jersey. [For anyone who has recorded John Blair's wife as Mary Kline as stated in *History of Warren and Sussex* by Snell, this is incorrect. Proof that John married Mary Hazlett who was never a Kline or widow of a Kline, appears in the Records in the Bible of Robert Hazlett, where daughter Mary's birth and death are the same as those given for the so-called Mary Kline. The will of Robert Hazlett mentions his grandson, Robert Blair, son of John and daughter Mary Blair.

Children of John and Mary Hazlett Blair:

1. **John Blair**, 25 April 1764-12 October 1827, Warren County, New Jersey, married Hannah _____.
2. **Robert Blair**, 1765-1802, Warren County, married 11 November 1783 Elizabeth Willson.
3. **James Blair**, 5 August 1769-5 August 1818, Warren County, married 26 June 1796 Rachel Insley.
4. **Samuel Blair**, 1770-1805, Warren County, married 1803 Maria Shippen.
5. **William Blair**, 12 May 1773(2)-March 1852, married 31 January 1811 Rachel Brands.

Robert and Elizabeth Willson Blair had the following children:

1. **John Blair, Jr.**, 1784-1833, Warren County, New Jersey, married Rebecca Garrison.
2. **Peter Blair**, 24 September 1786-26 March 1864, married 5 August 1812 Mary Shannon.
3. **Mary Blair**, ca.1791, Warren County-30 September 1872, Liberty Center, Ohio, married ca.1809 John Wilson, ca.1791/2 Warren County-14 August 1840, Luzern County, Pennsylvania.
4. **James Blair**, 1 December 1792, Warren County-27 September 1867, Sycamore Township, Wyandot County, Ohio, married 1st Mary Liday, 2nd Sarah Linaberry.
5. **Sarah Blair** - no trace.

Every once in a while you get hit with the fact that you can't always take as gospel what someone else has recorded in a family history. The descendants of John and Mary Blair Wilson held Wilson reunions from 1912-1962. In 1914 they purchased a book to record the history of the family and appointed historians. When I began my research on the Wilson family, I got lucky and found the book with one of my cousins.

The book contained a great deal of information. However, it held some errors, also. The front cover page is a picture of Mary Blair Wilson. Nothing on John Wilson. The second page contained this information: "Robert Blair and wife Betsy were native Jerseymen. A son named Robert married one Betsy [Elizabeth] Glassner. Four children were born to them as follows, James, Peter, Mary and Daniel." The marriage record found by George King Nichols² is between Robert and Elizabeth Willson. The children are incorrect as there is no Daniel, and no mention of John, Sarah, or Robert, and there were too many Robert and Elizabeths.

John and Mary Blair Wilson removed to Kingston Township, Luzern County, Pennsylvania in 1818/19. John Wilson lived in Greenwich Township, Warren County, New Jersey when he bought land and married there in 1809. John and Mary Blair Wilson had the following children:

1. **Elizabeth Wilson**, 1810-1895
2. **Sarah/Sally Wilson**, 1812-1821
3. **Ann Wilson**, 1814-1855
4. **Catherine Wilson**, 1816-1853
5. **Mary Jane Wilson**, 1818-1898
6. **Peter Wilson**, 1820-1881
7. **Sarah Maria Wilson**, 1823-1901
8. **Robert Blair Wilson**, 1825-1908

² *Marriages of Justices of Peace, Sussex County... 1775-1783*, p.28, from docket of Daniel Predmure, 11 November 1783.

9. Robert Blair Wilson, 1825-1908
10. Rebecca Wilson, 1826-1909
11. John Blair Wilson, 1828-1902
12. Margaret Wilson, 1831-1854
13. Andrew Wilson, 1837, died in infancy
14. Serina Wilson, 1839-1849

John Wilson died 14 July, 1840, Dallas Township, Luzern County, Pennsylvania and is said to be buried at Forty Fort Cemetery, Luzern County (burial site not found). Mary Blair Wilson died 30 September 1872 in Ohio, and is buried at Liberty Center, Ohio

In the 1840 Dallas Township Tax List is: Mary Wilson, widow, heirs of John Wilson, William Wilson[?] and Peter Wilson [Mary's son and my great grandfather].

In 1850, Dallas Township, we find: William Wilson, wife Mary and David Wilson. We don't know if this is our Mary Blair Wilson. This Mary is several years older than William Wilson, and right age for Mary Blair Wilson.

In 1860, Dallas Township, William Wilson, wife Mary, Elizabeth Martin, 7 years old, no David. This, I am certain is our Mary. Elizabeth Martin was Mary's granddaughter, raised by Mary. Mary's daughter, Catherine Wilson Martin died at the birth of her twelfth child, Elizabeth, in 1853. [Are this William and David Wilson perhaps brothers?]

In 1870, Wyandot County, Ohio, Eli Spade, Elizabeth [w], Mary Wilson, widow. I wondered why Mary went to Ohio, but learned her brother, James Blair removed there after the death of his second wife. Eli Spade, husband of Elizabeth Martin was born in Ohio, so apparently Elizabeth married Eli Spade there and Mary stayed with her. Although Mary's burial site has not been found, both Eli and Elizabeth are buried in Old Young Cemetery, Liberty Center, Henry County, Ohio so perhaps Mary is there.

Who is Rachel Blair?

This drawing was found in a New England antique shop by non-member Henry Lachance of Medford, Massachusetts. On the back of it is written, "Drawn in crayon in 1864 by Rachel Blair while attending school at Blairstown, New Jersey." Mr. Lachance contacted both Charlotte Blair Stewart and Rose Vosler, searching for Rachel's identity. By searching the 1850 Census they have come up with two likely possibilities who could have been a school girl in 1864 of sufficient wealth to attend the Blair Academy in Blairstown.

(1) Rachel Blair, age 1, who lived in Warren, New Jersey, the daughter of John H. and Mary Angle Blair. Her father listed a worth of \$6,300 on the census, which is really a very high net worth for the time. This Rachel married in 1874 to Aaron Blair Kelsey, who was related to her. He was president of the Belvidere National Bank in New Jersey and died 25 October 1913, age 66. The death date and place for Rachel is unknown.

(2) Rachel Blair, age 3, was the daughter of Robert and Mary Dennis Blair, also of Warren County, New Jersey. Her father showed a worth of \$7,000, again high for the time. She married a Nathan Armstrong Green in 1869. Rachel was born in 1846 and died 1909 and is buried at Old Oxford, New Jersey. She had a son named Inslee Blair Green who studied at Blair Academy and became an M.D., practicing medicine at Seattle, Washington. She also had a daughter named Alice Blair Green who studied at Blair Academy, who married a Fishbaugh and died 1945.

If anyone knows anything about this artistic Rachel, please contact the magazine or Charlotte B. Stewart.



Autobiography of Doctor Hannibal J. Blair

June 8, 1934, Vancouver, Washington
Submitted by Edward L. Fitzgibbon, BSGR Mem. #496

[Although we printed Dr. Hannibal's autobiography in full in Fall 1993 (Vol. XI, No. 3, pages 2-4), and a Pedigree in Spring 1994 (Vol. XII, No. 1, pages 8-9), we are reprinting a portion of it to include valuable genealogical notes by Edward Fitzgibbon, whose wife is a descendant of Hannibal. Mr. Fitzgibbon writes, "He was a wonderful, loving man, devoted to his wife, Lucy [who had died just 39 days prior to the writing of his story]." We refer readers to the above issues for the full autobiography.]

Some time before my wife¹ passed away, she suggested that I write a short sketch of my life. In response to that suggestion, now that she is gone, I am telling this simple tale.

My great grandfather *Andrew Blair*² migrated before the war of the revolution from Virginia to North Carolina, where he married and reared a family. He served in the patriot army. From North Carolina he migrated to Tennessee, thence to Missouri, and finally to Illinois. He died at Beardstown at the age of one hundred seven years.

My grandfather, *Alexander Blair*³ was born in North Carolina before the Revolutionary War. He moved to Tennessee with his father, and there married a Miss Brown.⁴ To this union were born: *Jackson*,⁵ *George W.*,⁶

Hiram,⁷ *Andrew*,⁸ *Hillary*,⁹ *Charles*,¹⁰ and *Alexander, Jr.*¹¹ Besides these boys there were three girls: *Mary*,¹² *Jane*,¹³ and *Elizabeth*.¹⁴ Grandfather served in Jackson's army in the Creek Indian War, was at the battle of Talidiga, and also the battle of Horseshoe Bend, where the power of the Creek nation was broken. He served again under Jackson in the War of 1812 and was in the New Orleans campaign. In 1835 he moved with his family to Missouri. He bought land from the government at \$1.25 per acre and became a stock raiser and farmer. He died about 1875 at the age of one hundred. His sons always called him "the Old Man," or "Pete," and he often referred to himself as "Pete" when he was a bit excited.

My father, *George W. Blair*, was born in Grundy County, Tennessee 6 April 1817. He came to Missouri with his father when he was eighteen years of age. On March 4, 1838, he married my mother, *Sally Rook*,¹⁵ at the home of *Thomas Gillihan*,¹⁶ my wife's grandfather. To

⁷ Hiram F. Blair, born 2 May 1819, Tennessee, died 5 September 1905, Missouri. Married 1st 5 June 1842, Dirilda Huff. Married 2nd 2 March 1853, Elizabeth Ann Hancock.

⁸ Andrew Blair, born 11 May 1821, Tennessee, died 12 December 1888, Polk County, Missouri. Married 1840 Temperance "Tempy" _____. Buried in Shady Grove Cemetery, Aldrich, Missouri.

⁹ Hillary Blair, born 3 October 1823, Tennessee, died 12 December 1888, Polk County, Missouri. Buried Shady Grove Cemetery, Aldrich, Missouri. Married 25 March 1847, Polk County, Armanda Huff.

¹⁰ Charles Marion Blair, born 11 May 1827, Tennessee, died 17 July 1887. Married 1st 12 September 1844, Polk County, Nancy Simmons. Married 2nd 25 February 1849, Elizabeth Clementine Burros.

¹¹ Richard Alexander Blair, known as "Alexander, Jr.," born 8 August 1829, Jackson County, Tennessee, died 26 September 1912, Polk County, Missouri. Buried in Pleasant Ridge Cemetery, Aldrich, Missouri. Married 1st, 1854, Dade County, Tennessee, Mahalia _____. Married 2nd 21 January 1869, Mary Huff.

¹² Mary Ann "Polly" Blair, born 1831, Jackson County, Tennessee. Married 4 March 1847 Polk County, Missouri, Hezekiah Rook.

¹³ Sarah Jane Blair, born 1839, Polk County, Missouri, died January 1861, Dade County, Missouri. Married 30 August 1855, Polk County, Josiah Beason.

¹⁴ Elizabeth Blair, born about 1834, Jackson County, Tennessee. Married 27 February 1849, Jackson Township, Polk County, Missouri, William J. Rowan.

¹⁵ Sarah "Wee Sally" Rook, born 24 January 1818, Granger County, Tennessee, died 12 January 1898, Missouri, daughter of Hezekiah Rook, Jr. and Susanna "Lucy" Watson.

¹⁶ Thomas Gillihan. Married Lucy _____. Lucy Alice Gillihan's parents were Gideon Brown and Mary Jane (Henslee) Gillihan. Her mother's parents were John and Mitilda (Kemp) Henslee.

¹ Lucy Alice GILLIHAN, born 20 Apr 1863, Mercer County, Missouri, died 26 May 1934, Vancouver, Clark County, Washington. Buried in Park Hill Cemetery, Vancouver, Washington.

² Andrew Blair, born about 1760, died about 1867, Beardstown, Cass County, Illinois. Unable to find any record of Andrew's having lived in Beardstown nor any record of burial in any of the several cemeteries in the area. Children: Alexander; George Washington, wife Sally Rook; Charles, wife Sarah; Nancy, husband Bates; Esther "Fannie", husband, John Miller; Polly, husband Barks; Matilda, husband Kirkpatrick; Angeline, husband Reed.

³ Alexander "Pete" Blair, born about 1784, North Carolina, probably Rowan County, died 1 August 1874, Polk County, Missouri. Buried Brown Cemetery, Aldrich, Polk County. His bounty land claims for services during the War of 1812 were in Jackson Township, Polk County, Missouri.

⁴ Married about 1812, Tennessee. Rebecca Brown, born about 1790, died 1839, Polk County, Missouri. Buried in Brown Cemetery, Aldrich, Married 2nd, 17 Mar 1840, Nancy Huff.

⁵ Jackson Blair, born 1814 Tennessee, died August 1874. Married 1st Rebecca _____. 2nd 17 March 1859, Mary Garner.

⁶ George Washington Blair, born 6 April 1817, Warren County, Tennessee, died 10 February 1879, Polk County, Missouri. Buried Brown Cemetery, Aldrich, Missouri.

them were born ten children: *Pinkney*,¹⁷ *Jasper Marion*,¹⁸ *Isom*,¹⁹ *Frame Wesley*,²⁰ *Ruphina*,²¹ *Burrilla*²² (we called her "Keat"), *Noah*,²³ *Lauretta*,²⁴ *Hannibal*,²⁵ and *Permillia*.²⁶ Noah died at three, Keat at fourteen, Permillia at four and Isom at twenty. The others grew to maturity and married. I was born September 19, 1855 in Polk County, Missouri in a log house eighteen feet square, without a window.²⁷ A window was put in when I was ten years old. There I lived and grew to manhood. If anyone thinks that life in the little log house was hard and poor, he has another think coming. We had the best beds in the world, and good clothing of the same material as Jefferson's inaugural suit. We were not considered "quality," but of the sturdy middle class. Clean, honest and upright in all things. I never wore ragged, dirty or torn clothes.

¹⁷ Pinkney Blair, born 8 November 1838, near Orleans, Polk County, Missouri, died 16 November 1929, Vancouver, Clark County, Washington. Married 1st 21 August 1856, Polk County, Missouri, Melissa Lunsford; 2nd, 19 November 1876, Nancy Ellen Lunsford.

¹⁸ Jasper Marion Blair, born 2 January 1841 near Orleans, Missouri, died 28 February 1930, Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon. Married 29 November 1864, Dade County, Sarah Pope Pyland.

¹⁹ Isom Blair, born 6 November 1841, Polk County, Missouri, died 17 October 1861, Polk County. Buried Brown Cemetery, Aldrich.

²⁰ Frame Wesley Blair, born 24 July 1843, Dade County, Missouri, died 17 October 1861, Missouri. Buried Brown Cemetery, Aldrich. Married 1st 1867, Dade County, Louise Ann Pyland. Married 2nd 17 September 1883, Mary E. Nerton.

²¹ Ruphina Blair, born 20 January 1846, Stockton, Missouri, died 16 June 1920, Vancouver, Clark County, Washington. Buried Old City Cemetery, Vancouver. Married 28 January 1866, Polk County, Missouri, Dr. Jackson Davis.

²² Burrilla "Keat" Blair, born 13 December 1847, Polk County, Missouri, died 17 September 1852. Buried Brown Cemetery, Aldrich.

²³ Noah, born 26 January 1850, Missouri, died 27 September 1852. Buried Brown Cemetery, Aldrich.

²⁴ Loreta Blair, born 1852, Missouri, died 1917. Married 26 April 1868, Polk County, Missouri, J. D. Cook.

²⁵ Hannibal J. Blair, M.D., born 19 September 1855, Polk County, Missouri, died 10 June 1942, Elma, Washington. Buried Park Hill Cemetery, Vancouver. Married 30 May 1882 Vancouver, Lucy Alice Gillihan.

²⁶ Permillia, born 17 March 1858, Polk County, Missouri, died 2 March 1863. Buried Brown Cemetery, Aldrich, Missouri.

²⁷ The typical house of that time consisted of one room. It was built of logs, and had a puncheon floor. To provide light a log was left out of one side of the house. Nails were not to be had, and for a roof, clapboards were fastened overhead by weight poles. The chimney was made of sticks and clay. The fireplace took up a good part of one side of the house. The door***[was made of two puncheons stood on end and fastened together by wooden hinges in such a way that it creaked hideously when opened]. The bed was made by fastening a post in the floor and running poles from this post into holes bored into the logs of the wall on the two cornering sides of the house. Chairs were made of hickory bark, and the few other necessary articles required to furnish a home were equally crude." *History of Grundy County, Missouri*. Ford 1908

When I was small, I stammered. I can just catch the memory of it. My brother *Jasper* cured me in this way. He had me learn and repeat two sayings or "rigamaroles." First, "seven olifustus; six hippicriple custards; five bayball, scuball nags; four squeaking, wild geese; three plump partridges; two ducks and a fat hen." Second, "three long, slim, slick Sycamore Saplings." I can remember going around repeating them almost by the hour, but I cannot remember when I learned them.

I went to school in 1861, before I was six years old. I had been reading then for more than one year, so I took McGuffey's Second reader and Webster's blue-backed spelling book. I went three months when I came home one day ill with Malarial Fever. That was about September 1, and I had ague until the following March. There was no quinine then.

In the Spring of 1863, my brothers being in the Union army, my father presented me with a hoe suited to my age and size and said, "Son, can you cut stalks?" I said, "I can." The next morning we went into the stalk field and I cut one row of stalks while Father cut two. The next day he went away and I cut alone from that time on, until I finished the field. After that, I did my share of the farm work until I was twenty years old.

I attended the district public schools three or four months each year and three or four month terms of private schools. I read every book I could get hold of, and wished for more. Mother put me to reading the Bible when I was five years old and I read it all many times (except the chronological tablets). I memorized thousands of verses in the New Testament. To my reading of the Bible, I attribute my liking of history.

In May 1877, I came to Fern Prairie, Washington Territory, with my parents. I did not want to come and told Father I would not return to Missouri, if we came. In August, he decided to go back, and he and Mother went back to the old home in Missouri, and I never saw him again.

When we came to the Territory, Frame was making cord wood in a place called Collins' Landing on the Columbia River, two miles east of Wind Mountain. He came down to see us when we arrived, staying a week. At his suggestion, I decided to go to Collins' and try my hand at wood making. Frame went back by steamer, but having no money, I packed my earthly effects, shouldered the bundle, and in company with my cousins *Joe*²⁸ and *Luther*²⁹ Blair, struck out on the ninety mile

²⁸ Joseph Blair, born 20 August 1852, Polk County, Missouri, died 27 January 1940, Polk County. Buried Shady Grove Cemetery.

hike, which I covered in four days. After I arrived at Collins' I went to hauling cord wood, which occupation I followed for three weeks, having delivered at the flume in that time about one hundred fifty cords of wood. This wood was flumed one and one-half miles to a floating wharf on the river where it was taken for fuel by the O.S.N. Company steam boats running between the upper Cascades and the Dalles.

Frame had a cabin up in the woods about two miles where he batched and made wood. When I quit hauling I went up and threw in with him. I got blankets and tools from the company, and went to making wood on my own hook at \$1.25 per cord. I worked at making and cording wood until the twentieth day of September, except one week in which time we hiked to Fern Prairie and back to tell Father and Mother goodbye.

Some time in June my nephew *Asa Blair*³⁰ came up and worked for Frame the balance of the season. When my wood was received by the company agent, I had made one hundred twenty-nine cords. During the entire three and one-half months we had not even seen as much as a penny in money. We drew our food supplies from the company store and it was charged. My wood received, I was ready to start for Fern Prairie. Frame and Asa came with me.

At Bonneville we had two cousins, *Mar*³¹ and *Joe Blair*, who had been making wood there. They were ready to come down the river, so at Bonneville we built a raft thirty feet long and twelve feet wide. On this we piled our dunnage, stepped aboard and floated down to Parker's Landing where the town of Washougal now stands. The trip occupied eighty hours and was quite an adventure. After a day's rest I went to Portland and cashed my order on the O.S.N. Company. I had about \$145 net for my four months' work. This was my earnings in Washington. After purchasing some clothing, I loaned the balance at 10% and started out to earn more.

Aldrich, Missouri. Married Rachel A. _____. Son of Andrew and Temperance Blair.

²⁹ Luther Blair, born 31 May 1850, Polk County, Missouri. Married 17 February 1871, Polk County, Catherine "Kate" Dotson. Son of Hillary and Annanda (Huff) Blair.

³⁰ Asa Alonzo Blair, born 19 July 1859, Cedar County, Missouri, died 25 April 1921, Vancouver, buried Park Hill Cemetery, Vancouver. Married 29 March 1881, Fern Prairie, Washington, Elda Ellen Welch. Son of Pinkney and Melissa (Lunsford) Blair.

³¹ Mattison Blair, born 28 September 1855, Polk County, Missouri, died 10 February 1934, Clark County, Washington, buried Fishers Cemetery, Clark County. Married 31 December 1879, Cedar County, Missouri, Lucinda Abigail Fleener. Son of Hillary and Annanda (Huff) Blair.



Hannibal Blair

For some four years I worked at various kinds of labor. I taught four four-month terms of school, but the best wages I could command were \$1.50 per day and my board. In the meantime, I was thinking of a calling for lifework. I had most of my life felt that I would like to be a doctor, but I wondered if my head was properly made for such a noble profession. Finally, I concluded I would try it. After reading and studying eighteen months I matriculated at the Medical Department of the Willamette University. I soon found that while I might not be a top-notch, I could trot along with the best present, and passed my finals at a little better than 93% average. I had a diploma, a wife and a baby, but no money or practice.

[Here the autobiography goes on to discuss Dr. Hannibal's medical career, his experience in the Washington State Legislature, as mayor and then director of the School Board in Elma, Washington.]

Curiously, perhaps due to grief over the recent death of his wife, Hannibal omitted any reference to his two sons: *John Ray Blair*³² and *Dr. Harry Clyde Blair*.³³

³² Born 22 March 1883, Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon, died 23 April 1950, Ocosta, Washington. Married Leah Waiti Mapes.

³³ Born 4 April 1891, Elma, Harbor County, Washington, died 24 December 1975, Beaverton, Washington County, Oregon (ashes distributed at sea). Married 1 January 1927, Portland, Oregon, Verna Katharine Barker.

About the Washington Blairs

Reprinted from *Trail Breakers*, Volume 25, No. 3, 1988-89, Clark County Genealogical Society, Vancouver, Washington

From the *Vancouver Columbian*, August 3, 1921:

On Friday, August 5, four generations of the Blair family comprising some 150 people will meet for their family annual picnic at the Camas baseball park, according to Attorney J. O. Blair.

A baseball game between the married and single men will be one of the main events, but several other activities have been planned by the program committee.

The Blairs crossed the plains from Missouri in the early 70's, coming to San Francisco by rail and from there up the coast by steamer to Clarke County where they settled in the vicinity of Camas, Fern Prairie and Mill Plain.

Three brothers remain of the original settlers. They are Pinkney Blair, age 84, of Camas, president of the family association, Jasper Blair, age 82, and H. B. Blair, 80, of Tacoma. In Vancouver the family is represented by Charles W. Davis, Dr. J. B. Blair, W. Arthur Blair and J. O. Blair.

There are six branches of families in Clark County and each branch has its separate historian. Attorney Blair's mother's family, the Gillihans, were also among the early settlers and they will hold their annual picnic Saturday, August 7, at Camas.

[The latest annual reunion of the Blair/Gillihan families was held at Lewisville, Washington in June 1998!]

* * * * *

Excerpted from *Portland Oregon, Its History and Builders*, Vol. II, by Joseph Gaston.

Frame W. Blair settled in Clark County [Washington] and was identified with the farming and dairying part of agriculture. He was born in Dade County, Missouri in 1843, continuing his residency in that state until thirty years of age. He was educated in the public schools. By Central Pacific railroad he made his way to San Francisco and thence came to Clark County by steamboat. He purchased a farm of one hundred and sixty acres at Fern Prairie on which he lived for ten years, improving it to a fine cultivation. At the end of ten years he sold and removed to Fourth Plain and later moved to a dairy ranch two miles below Vancouver and resided

there for twenty years, later buying land at Mill Plain and extending the acreage where he built a nice home.

In 1867 Mr. Blair married and by his first wife had two children, Edgar H., of Marysville, Washington, with an occupation as a druggist, and Lucy A., wife of Alfred Hathaway, of Washougal, Washington. In 1882 Mr. Blair married Mary E. Calder of Clark County, a daughter of Thomas Nerton [and Elizabeth L. Larkin], who crossed the plains in 1852, and settled at St. Helens, Oregon Territory.

Mr. and Mrs. Blair have had six children: Dola Ruth, the wife of Claude Carpenter of Vancouver, Sadie Lucretia, at home; Lottie May, the wife of James Carpenter of Vancouver; Lulu Blanch, Sydney Kyle, and Chester Clyde, all at home. By a former marriage, Mrs. Blair had one son, William Calder, of Vancouver.

Mr. Blair belongs to the Ancient Order of United Workmen, his membership being in the local lodge at Vancouver. In politics he is a stalwart republican. He has an interesting military chapter beginning with his enlistment in Dade County, Missouri, in the Sixth Volunteer Cavalry in 1862. At the close of the war he was mustered out at Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and after coming to the northwest, became a charter member of Ellsworth Post, GAR at Vancouver.

College Corner, Ohio Gravesites

Submitted by Irvin Morse, BSGR Mem. #130

Recently I visited a cemetery in College Corner, Ohio/Indiana (the post office is in Ohio, the cemetery in Indiana). I found two Blair stones.

James Blair, 1845-1927. Also on the stone, as I read it: 50th O. Co. K. 4th Reg. USA.

The second stone said: **John Blair**, died May 20, 1962, 55 years.

I have photos of the two stones. If these connect with anyone, I will be happy to send them the pictures. (Irvin Morse, 212 Virginia St., Mishawaka, IN 46544)

Regarding Two James Blairs in North Carolina

Submitted by Janet B. Kirkman, BSGR Mem. #508

Wills:

JAMES BLAIR of Rowan County, North Carolina, written 10 December 1800. Family members named are:

- m. 1) ---?----
- 1. Thomas McCartney's wife
- 2. Nathaniel Scuder's wife*
- m. 2) Hannah ----
- 1. James
- 2. Smith (under 21)
- 3. Andrew (under 21)
- 4. Rachel (m. William Carson)
- 5. Mary
- 6. Fanny

*This was Agnus Blair. See below, *Marriages of Rowan County, North Carolina*.

The second will is for **JAMES BLAIR** of Mecklinburg County, North Carolina, written 11 February 1838. Family members named are:

- m. Elizabeth ----
- 1. Febey (Phebey)
- 2. Patsey
- 3. Polly
- 4. Carline
- 5. Isabella
- 6. Samuel
- 7. William
- 8. James
- 9. Allison
- 10. Joseph
- 11. Land

Rowan County North Carolina Will Abstracts, Vol. II 1805-1850, abstracted and compiled by Jo White Linn, c.1971.

H:292 **Smith Blair**, August 26, 1823. Prb. Nov. 1824. Brother: **Andrew Blair**...land purchased of Henry Sossman...children of my brother **James Blair**.

Marriages of Rowan County, North Carolina 1753-1808, compiled by Brent H. Holcomb, c.1986, Genealogical Publishing Company.

Blair, James and ----; Hy Giles, bondsman; Matt Troy, Wit.

Billing, David and Anne Blair 4 May 1802; Hudson Hughes, bondsman; A. L. Osborn, D.C., Wit.

Scudder, Nathaniel, and Agnus Blair, 1 November 1788; Andr. Smith, bondsman; Wm. Alexander, Wit.

Upton, James and Nancy Holmes, 17 September 1802; **Jas. Blair**, bondsman; J. McEwin, Wit.

Carson, Wm. Stewart and Rachel Blair, 12 January 1792; Jno. Braly Junr., bondsman; Chs. Caldwell, Wit.

Leeper, James and Mary Blar, 4 November 1766; **Hugh Blayer, Thomas Blear**, bondsmen.

Johnson, William and Fany Blear, 10 December 1783; Hugh Andrews, bondsman; Moses Wylie, Wit.

McClure, Andrew and Mary Wilson, 13 June 1769; **Thos Blear**, John Mcadow, bondsman; Charles Mc-Analy, Wit.

Rowan County North Carolina Vacant Land Entries 1778-1789, abstracted by Robert A. Enochs, 1988.

#131 **James Blair** 400 A. between lines of Thomas McCartney, Mr. Rounsevall, Wm. Frohock, Thomas Smith and Mr. Genes. A claim sett up by Josiah Rounsevall.

#1804 **Arthur ONeal and James Blair** 640 A. on waters of Reedy Creek adj. Lonard Bumgardner and Hugh Cunningham, and Minas Griggs, including (two?) Improvements. Made to William Cunningham. (10:86) [This was dated November 28, 1778.]

BSGR Ongoing Records Collection

Members are reminded to contribute to the ongoing mission of the Blair Society to collect all Blair information possible. Send updates of your own research to the Database Chair, Charlotte Blair Stewart (she may catch an error and save you taking the wrong path).

Also send any cemetery records you find to Morgan Blair Rajcevic (at Davers@clinton.net) or address inside front cover; Blair obituaries to Lois Strang (6614 Ivy Hill Drive, McLean, VA 22101-5206; e-mail BarbStrang@aol.com); Copies of Blair photographs to Raymond Stoudt (address inside front cover); Bible records to Mark A. Davis (53275 Placid Drive, South Bend, IN 46637-3541; e-mail: MarkAtCoke@aol.com). Mark needs these right away, as he's finishing up Volume II.

Blairs in Early South Carolina Newspapers

Submitted by Nancy K. Schaffer, BSGR Mem. #495

SOUTH CAROLINA GAZETTE

Issue dated 8/8/1748 and 8/15/1748

South Carolina: whereas David Blair of the said Province, hath exhibited his Petition of the Justices of the Court of Common Pleas, setting forth, that he is in the custody of the Provost-Marshal of this Province, upon two several executions, at the Suit of Capt. John Watson and Rice Price, in consequence of judgement pronounced against him by Two Justices and Three Freeholders, pursuant to an Act of the General Assembly, in such Case lately made and provided for Debts to them justly due, and than he is ready and willing to make surrender, upon Oath, to any One or more of his Creditors, in Trust for the Rest, all and singular his Estate, both real and personal, a List or Schedule of his Estate being annexed to his said petition, and prays to be admitted to the Benefit of the Acts of the General Assembly in such Case made and provided. It is therefore Ordered, and the said John Watson and Rice Price, and all others to whom the said David Blair is in any wise indebted, are hereby summoned, and have Notice to appear at the usual Place of Judicature in Charles-Town, at the Meeting

and the Court of Common Pleas which shall happen next after Thirty Days from the Publication hereof, to show Cause, if any they have, why the said David Blair should not be entitled to the Benefits of the said Acts, upon his complying with the Terms therein prescribed. August 15, 1748. James Wedderburn, Ct. C.P.

July 25, 1743

From Virginia we hear, that on the 28th of April last died there, in the 88th year of his age, the Hon. And Reverend Mr. James Blair, Commissary of that Colony; President of the College of William & Mary, Rector of Bruton Parish, and one of His Magesty's Honourable Council in Virginia; and some Time President of that Colony.

November 7, 14, and 21, 1748

Imported in the Ship Edward Augustus, John Aldersis, Master, from London, variety of . . . and India Goods, proper for the Season, to be sold exceedingly cheap for ready money or a short Credit, at the House lately possessed by Mrs. Main and Blair in Board-Street . . .