

# THE BLAIR FAMILY MAGAZINE



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## From the President's Desk

Dear Members:

Enclosed with this issue of the Blair Family Magazine is a registration form for our 28 June 1997 *Blair Families of Virginia Seminar* at the Ramada Hotel in Alexandria, Virginia: just in case you have misplaced the other two that were previously sent out. We realize that there are many reasons for not attending these annual meetings, including health, distance, finances and other obligations, but we feel that those who are able to attend these functions get so much more from their membership in the Blair Society. You are able to talk face to face with the experts and get to meet a lot of your Blair 'cousins.' Most of us Blairs are really nice folks. We move these meetings around to different parts of the country, so if you are unable to attend this years meeting, perhaps you can attend one in the near future.

Here are a few tips for those who are planning to attend this years Seminar. If you are flying in, please try to fly into Washington National airport and not Washington Dulles. Dulles is a very long drive from the hotel and, if you use a taxi, will pay quite a hefty fee. The Ramada hotel shuttle bus, 'Alexandria Express', offers free transportation to and from National airport and runs continuously from 6:00 A.M. to 10:00 P.M. If you are planning to stay at the Ramada hotel and you are a member of AAA, you can get a special rate of \$75.00 per night.

If you are planning to do some research at one or more of the many fine libraries in the area, we would suggest that you wait until after the Seminar. One of our topics will be on research in the Washington DC area, and we will also provide literature on these libraries for your convenience. As always, do your homework before you come; unfamiliar libraries can be intimidating. We will also have some literature available for sightseeing in Washington DC and in Virginia. If you are planning to visit Congress, the White House or any other government building, you can avoid long lines by writing your Senator or Congressman in advance.

Please register for the Seminar as soon as possible. Nancy Schaffer is sending a packet of information to all those who pre-register. Included in this packet is a menu selection form for our group dinner on Friday evening at Gadsby's Tavern. We will need these menu selections as soon as possible. If you have any specific area of interest that you would like more information about, please contact Nancy.

We do hope that you will join us for our *Blair Families of Virginia Seminar* on 28 June in Alexandria, VA. When you come, please bring something about your Blair ancestors to share with others. The more we help each other, the more we will all get from this Seminar. I hope to see you in Alexandria.

Sincerely,



Ed Blair, President

## Getting Ready for the Virginia Seminar

A little preliminary work and planning will allow you to get the most from your experience at the Blair Families of Virginia Seminar. Knowing what is there and where you'd like to search can make all the difference.

The first place to begin is at our very own web page, with links to card catalogs of many of Washington's best genealogical research facilities: **National Genealogy Society** (<http://www.genealogy.org/~ngs/>); **Library of Congress** (<http://lcweb.loc.gov/Z3950/gateway.html>); **National Archives & Records Administration** (<http://www.nara.gov/> or <gopher://gopher.nara.gov/>); **Library of Virginia**: (<http://leo.vsla.edu>). Also, check out Blair Leatherwood's suggestions in "BSGR On Line." If you don't have on-line capability on a computer of your own, check out the nearest larger library in your area – there may be computer accessibility there.

Helpful non-computer sources include the following **National Archives** publications: GIL #5 "Using Records in the National Archives for Genealogical Research"; GIL #7 "Military Records"; GIL #30 "Information About the National Archives for Prospective Researchers." All may be obtained free of charge by calling (800) 234-8861. And, check the source books in your local library.

Nancy Schaffer reports that the **D.A.R.** is not on line, but that their holdings have been microfilmed by the Mormons. You can preview the D.A.R. Library Card Catalog on microfilm rolls #0544054-0544064. (Nancy says that while it's 10 rolls and her local LDS is charging \$3.50 a roll now, it's worth previewing to save time at the library.) The lineage books are on 20 microfiche: #6051293

Nancy will be sending more helpful information to members as they register for the seminar.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Library of Virginia** has added the "Guide to Virginia County Court Records on Microfilm" (also known as "Reel 461") to the Digital Library site. This guide is a list of microfilmed city and county court records which are available for loan to researchers via interlibrary loan through local public libraries from the Library of Virginia. The local court records, which date from the period of county formation up to 1865, include deeds, wills and inventories, order and minute books, tax lists and many other records invaluable for genealogical and historical research. This index also lists the microfilmed county land tax records and the following Bureau of Vital Statistics records which are also available via interlibrary loan: Registers of Births, Deaths and Marriages, Birth Index, and Marriage Index-Husbands and Wives. [Note: the online version of this finding aid was digitized from microfilm.] The guide is available via the "Online Catalogs and Image Databases" section of the Library's web site. It is important to note that this is not a complete list of all the microfilmed records that may be borrowed from the Library of Virginia, nor does it represent more than a small portion of the microfilm collection available for use in the Library's Reading Room. [Elizabeth Roderick, Asst. Director, Library Development, Library of Va.]

*From the Members:*

**Re: Ellison Thomas Blair Article (BFM, Vol. XIV. No. 3 (1996) p. 53.)**

From Margaret Vance Webb, BSGR Mem. #015

*In viewing my vast Blair files, circumstantial evidence indicates Ellison Thomas Blair of the article in the Blair Family Magazine mentioned was the son of Thomas Blair and Hannah Stone. No explanation why he was listed as Ellison Thomas Blair II. The 1850 Murray Co., GA census should list his birth place.*

*All records in my files on Thomas Blair who married Hannah Stone are always as Thomas Blair. Ellison was never used as his first name.*

*In 1851, Thomas Blair filed a claim for bounty land from Murray Co., GA as a veteran of the War of 1812. In 1855, he filed the second claim for bounty land from Catoosa Co., GA. Found in bounty land papers from the Nat'l Archives, Thomas Blair explained in a letter of 1856 from Catoosa Co., the conflict of the signatures on his claims, stating his son assisted in filling out the claim. This son was not named. Murray, Catoosa and Whitfield counties in Georgia all border Tennessee on the north.*

*1830 Monroe Co., TN census: Thomas Blair, between ages 50-60. In household were: 1 male under 5; 1 male under 10; 2 males 10-15; 2 males 20-30. (Females in household omitted here.)*

**DATA ON CHILDREN OF THOMAS BLAIR AND HANNAH STONE FROM MY FILES:**

- I. John Blair (need data)
- II. Ezekiel Stone Blair. Born 15 Nov 1807 TN, settled in Blairtown, Cherokee Co., AL. (ancestor of Marvin Kelley, BSGR Mem. 359)
- III. Joseph W. Blair. Born 1808 TN, mar. Salina Humphreys. Lived in Whitfield Co., GA. (ancestor of Linda Murphy, BSGR Mem. 723)
- IV. William Blair. Born 14 Nov 1814 TN, died Bradley Co., TN (ancestor of John N. Wrinkle, Birmingham, AL)
- V. Jane Blair. Mar. Jno. M. Hendrix
- VI. Mary Ann Blair. Born 1814 TN, mar. Rev. James Matthews.
- VII. E. L.(F.) Blair (Ellison Thomas Blair). Born 5 Aug 1817 (re. Article). Some accounts list this son as "E.L." or "E." In viewing will of Thomas Blair, the initials are "E.T." as used for this son.
- VIII. James Anderson Blair. Born 1819 TN, died Ozark Co., MO., mar. Celia Ann Cook in 1840 at Monroe Co., TN. (Named youngest son, Ellison Blair.) (ancestor of Mary O. Davis of Springfield, MO.)
- IX. Rev. Samuel Jefferson Blair. Born 9 June 1823 in Monroe Co., TN near Madisonville, TN. Died near Chattanooga. (Wrote letter in 1890 to niece Catherine Hackney (dau. of James Jefferson Blair) naming his children and some data on some of his siblings.)
- X. Sarah Catherine Blair. Born ca. 1820/23 TN., mar. John Lane.

\* \* \* \* \*

From Marvin H. Kelley, BSGR Mem. #359

*In regards to Ms. Webb's letter, [although] I have not seen all of it, the ten children of Thomas Blair that you list are the same as my research indicates (see my article in Proceedings of Tennessee Blair Seminar, June 1993, top of page 32); also Charlie Blair covers this very well in his book, Early Blair Families of East Tennessee: An Overview, pages 37-40.*

*Something I've found since both the above were published is that Sarah Catherine was mar. first to \_\_\_\_\_ Anderson, then to John Lane. Her dau. Augusta first mar. \_\_\_\_\_ Parker, who died at age 26, leaving no heirs; then she mar. Judge Hoyle—not Judge Hoyt—as Charlie has it. The second marriage produced one son: John, and three daughters (I do not have names). This information was given me by one of Sarah's descendants who lives in Birmingham and to whom I've talked by phone. As far as I know, it is family tradition.*

# **BSGR On Line** -

**By Blair Leatherwood**

I hope all of you who've had the chance have been exploring the web on your own—I know I'm finding new things every day. This issue's offerings are a grab bag of things I've found or been told about; if you've come up with something new or interesting, please let me know (I'm [bleatherwood@ibm.net](mailto:bleatherwood@ibm.net) now, but you can still get me at the old address for a little while—and I promise not to "move" again!).

First and foremost—if you haven't checked out the US GenWeb Project yet, do it! The main page is <http://www.usgenweb.com>. It's getting bigger every day.

There's also a wonderful site which is essentially a compilation of thousands of genealogical sites. It's called Cyndi's List of Genealogical Sites on the Internet. You can find it at <http://www.oz.net/~cyndihow/sites.htm>. You can also reach it through most of the other genealogical sites as most of them are linked to it. If you're looking to see what's out there, this is a great place to go.

One Blair-related site which has been set up recently is a Blair Cemetery page organized by our very own: Morgan Rajcevich. It's just what it sounds like—a compilation of Blair Cemetery information. It's at <http://www.clinton.net/~daver/grave.htm> [and through our BSGR web page]. Any submissions you may have for this site will be most welcome.

One more web site, then we'll be on to something else. For those of you planning to attend the seminar in Alexandria, you may wish to do some planning by checking out the Library of Virginia's card catalog at <http://leo/vsla.edu>. You can also probably do some advance work through the various county pages on the GenWeb. One of the frequent difficulties that people have had in the past with the seminars has been the lack of knowledge of the resources available prior to the visit. This would appear to be one of the problems that the use of the internet can help resolve.

Finally, there's another feature available to you through the internet which doesn't involve browsers or URLs or multimedia. It's called LISTSERVE and it's really group e-mail. You subscribe to this mailing list (that's all it is) and you treat it just like e-mail. Once you're on the list, you post any message you may have and it's sent out to the entire group. All messages sent to the list server (gee, you think that's where the name came from?) are sent out to all the subscribers. Needless to say, this system is not for private correspondence.

To join the service, all you have to do is send an e-mail to this address: [MAISER@rmgate.pop.indiana.edu](mailto:MAISER@rmgate.pop.indiana.edu). No subject head is required. The only text which should be in your message is: SUB BLAIR. Don't put anything else in there. It's read by the server itself, and it gets confused by salutations and other politenesses. You should get an immediate response confirming your subscription to the group and should start receiving mail soon.

That's it for this time around. Please get in touch with me (you've got the address) if you've got any questions, ideas or just want to chat. Hope you all have a great time in Virginia!

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F.Y.I.: the address for the Blair Society Homepage is: <http://members.aol.com/bsgr96/welcome.htm> and you'll find it connects you to a world of genealogical sites.

## A. Raymond Blair Featured in Genealogical Article\*

Raymond Blair, founder of the present Blair Society for Genealogical Research, was featured in a 10 October 1996 article on genealogy in the "Lifetime" section of the Louisville, KY Courier-Journal newspaper. There is a full page color photo of Raymond on the cover and another photo of him on page 12, where the article appears. The article, "Searching for Your Roots," by Elizabeth Vega, reads in part as follows:

My great-great-grandfather, Henry Brown Blair, raised a family of three boys and one girl right here in Kentucky," A. Raymond Blair said as he leaned back in his chair. He took a deep breath to let the introduction of his once-upon-a-time story take effect, then continued to weave his genealogical tale in the soothing, even tone of a seasoned storyteller. Blair said that one day Henry Blair vanished from Edmonson County. His wife was distraught. The whole town organized a search party, which included dragging the river. But Henry Blair was not dead. He had run off with the family's young housekeeper—a fact that was revealed five years later when Henry sheepishly returned to Edmonson County to make amends. "His children would have none of it," Blair said. "They ran him out of town, and he was never heard from again." Never, that is, until a curious great-great grandson started researching his family tree 100 years later. A. Raymond Blair was baffled. What happened to his great-great-grandfather? Where did he go? So he put ads in newspapers all over the country "to see if anybody knew anything about this old character." Late one night, he received a phone call from Oregon. The caller also was researching her genealogy and had encountered a mystery concerning her great-great-grandfather. "We realized we were searching for the same man," said Blair, who is 86. "All this time they didn't know where he had come from, and I didn't know where he went."

Beneath the boughs of every family tree are stories like Blair's, waiting to be discovered. With each name that is written on a family chart, there also is a chance that a tragedy, love story, or time-tempered scandal will unfold. It is these stories, genealogists say, that are the proverbial carrot for thousands of individuals who sift through dusty documents looking for tidbits of information they can link to their family. However, there is a downside to all this research: "Genealogy can be addicting," Blair said. The reason is simple. With every mystery that is solved, inevitably hundreds of questions follow close behind. Blair speaks from experience. He is still looking for more information about his great-great-grandfather,



whose disappearance started Blair's genealogical "addiction" 35 years ago. Blair is not alone. In the past 20 years, the hobby of genealogy has experienced increased popularity, perhaps in large part because of the publication of Alex Haley's "Roots" in 1976 and broadcast of the miniseries the following year. In addition, the general aging of the population has fueled that interest—for age often brings with it a curiosity of ancestry—and the explosion in technology has made searches easier worldwide. Whatever the reasons, genealogy now is tied with stamp and coin collection as the country's No. 1 hobby...

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\*Submitted by BSGR Mem. 002, Edward P. Blair.

## BLAIRS IN THE LEGAL SYSTEM

(Submitted by Terrence Blair, BSGR Mem. #405)

Blairs in the Legal system I: Names found in the Lexis™ database prior to 1900. Lexis is a legal data-base which records cases sent to Courts of Appeal. Most reports in the time period covered here were from State Supreme Courts.

Name	Comment	Citation
M.	San Francisco Co.	76 CAL 134; 18 P.153 (1880)
Alice J. v. Walter B.	Divorce, San Francisco	122 CAL 57; 54 P.369 (1898)
	San Juan Co., Silverton	8 COL 397; 8 P. 56889 (1885)
Thomas	San Juan Co.	11 COL 64; 16 P.717 (1887)
William T.	(lawyer) Cook Co.	134 ILL 78; 24 N.E. 969 (1890)
William	City of Chicago	149 ILL 310; 36 N.E. 829 (1894)
W.C.	Jefferson Co.	151 ILL 41; 37 N.E. 683 (1894)
Chauncey J.	Cook Co.	159 ILL 350; 42 N.E. 895(1896)
Chalmers	Cook Co., Note 1	162 ILL 362; 44 N.E. 720 (1896)
H.H.	Marengo City Marshal, McHenry Co.	181 ILL 460; 54 N.E. 1024 (1899)
Thomas	Suffolk Co.	174 MASS 132; 54 N.E. 502 (1899)
Charles C.	Syracuse	105 NY 636; 11 N.E. 947 (1887)
James H.		105 NY 669; 13 N.E. 929 (1887)
Thomas S.	Founder Blair Iron & Steel Co.	109 NY 600; 27 N.E. 228 (1888)
Alfred A.	N.Y. City and Co.	141 NY 53; 35 N.E. 941 (1894)
Mitchell S.	(R.R. Receiver)	145 NY 607; 39 N.E. 962 (1895)
Lewis R.	In re Blair's Will	152 NY 645; 46 N.E. 1145 (1897)
Benjamin	Bd. Elections of Brooklyn	154 NY 734; 49 N.E. 1102 (1897)
Robert	Trusteeship	158 NY 676; 52 N.E. 1123 (1899)
Robert	Geauga Co., Note 2	6 OH 448 (1834)
James	Miami Canal Debt	18 OH 532 (1849)
D.	Philadelphia Co. estate	108 PA 278 (1885)
James E.	McKeen Co., Bradford Twp.	113 PA 83; 4 A. 218 (1886)
A. H.	Cumberland Co., Note 3	126 PA 426; 17 A. 663 (1889)
John I.	Northampton Co.	133 PA 550; 19 A. 559 (1890)
William		176 PA 34; 34 A. 925 (1896)
Gen. Willaim & Frank P. Note 4		178 PA 582; 36 A. 179 (1897)
Willaim	Center Co.	193 PA 397; 44 A. 1102 (1899)
M.L.	Navarro, Note 5	75 TEX 210; 122 S.W. 983 (1889)
George W.	Grayson	82 TEX 686; 18 S.W. 159 (1892)
Samuel	King Co.	18 WASH 339; 51 P. 477 (1897)
H.C.	Spokane Co.	19 WASH 127; 52 P. k1011 (1898)

Note 1. Chalmers is the heir of James G. Blair of Athens, Ohio d. 1878.

Note 2. Robert belongs to the New England Blairs. See:

Note 3. A. Holmes Blair d. Jan. 1876 intestate; survivors: widow and 3 children, Mary J. Blair, Andrew H. Blair, Minnie Blair?

Note 4. Frank P. is the son of William H., who died intestate 1888.

Note 5. M.L. is the wife of W. S. Blair.

**ROBERT J. BLAIR, HIS DIARY, 1835-1852**  
(Reprinted from *The Genealogical Magazine of New Jersey*<sup>1</sup>)

The Reverend Robert J. Blair, a Reformed Dutch minister, was born at Blenheim, New York, 7 May 1796 and died at Pluckemin, Somerset County, on 19 January 1858, the son of John Blair and Mary Lane. He never married. His diary is item 79 in Donald A. Sinclair's *A Guide to Manuscript Diaries and Journals in the Special Collections Department, Rutgers University* (1980). Although Blair's title page would indicate that he started the record in June 1835 the first entry extant is 26 December 1835; the last date entered is July 1857. The portion of the book of genealogical interest occupies only a dozen pages. Many more pages are devoted to a self-examination of his spiritual condition and to recording what Blair had received in cash and kind, giving the names of clergymen, church groups, and individuals who contributed cash, board, lodging, passage money, and clothing during his ministry, traveling and retirement. . . . Pages are not numbered. Numbers assigned here are for the convenience of anyone wishing to put these extracts in context. . . . Blair's maternal ancestry may be found in SCHQ 2:282 and there is an historical note concerning him of page 289 of Abraham Messler's *Forty Years at Raritan—Eight Memorial Sermons* (1873).

*A brief sketch of the Principal Events in the life of R. J. Blair with dates in Chronological order. Done, June 30th & onward 1835 at Saint Thomas, West Indies. Page 2, a title page.*

*Robert Blair, Esq'r. Judge of the Common Pleas, High Sheriff of Somerset County, & Member of the Legislature of N. Jersey. Died at his Residence in Bedminster, Feby 8th 1800, in the 52nd year of his age.*

*Eleanor Blair, his consort, Daughter of Guisbert Sutphen Esq'r, Died on or about Nov 17th 1827.*

*John Blair Esq'r, son of R. & E., was born Jan'y 8th (I think) 1772.*

*Cornelius Lane, farmer & Elder in the R.D. Church in Bedminster, Died somewhere about 1790 at his farm near Klines' Mills. Page 3*

*Eleanor Compton, Consort of Cornelius Lane Died in June 1800.*

*Mary, daughter of the above was born about Dec. 14, 1763.*

*John Blair & Mary Lane were married in Sept. 1792 (I think.)*

*Robert J. Blair, their son was Born May 7, 1796, at Blenheim, in the County of Schoharie, New York.*

*Cornelius L. Blair, their son Born August 27th 1799, at Bedminster.*

*In April 1794 John & Mary Blair removed to Blenheim then a wilderness, where they built their own Log Cabin and cleared a small plot of ground. In Feby 1799 they returned to Bedminster. In the Spring of 1801 They commenced farming and storekeeping at the larger Cross Roads, where they continued till 1824. Page 4.*

*Robert J. Blair was sent to school in the Spring 1803 to Wm. Perrine. Afterward to J. Barkley and James Fennell....In April 1814 Began to teach a common school. In Feby 1815, Began study of languages in an Academy just opened at the lesser cross Roads (Somerset County, N. Jersey). Apl 27, 1819, Left home. [Here an account of travels about eastern United States.] Dec 2<sup>nd</sup> Arrived home. Page 5.*

*July or August 1820, My Cousins Cornelius Eleanor and Martin (children of Job Lane) died within a few days of each other of dysentery. Pages 6 and 7.*

*April 1821. My father's property all sold publicly to satisfy the demands of creditors.*

*Nov 26, 1821 My Brother left home for a trip to the Western country intending to return to us in two years, but we never saw him any more.*

*Sept 24[?] 1823 Was licensed to preach.*

*March [1825] Commenced preaching at Readington. Page 7*

*April [1825] My parents living...in Bedminster.*

*Nov 1st [1825] Accepted a call from the churches of Princeton and Guilderland.*

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<sup>1</sup> Volume 59, Number 1 January 1984.



May 1826 Removed my parents to the place of my residence. [Vicinity of Princeton?] Page 8.

[Account of travels in northeastern and southern United States.] Pages 9 and 10.

Informed of the death of my dear mother who departed April 5th 1833 between 4 & 5 O'Clock P.M. September 29th 1833 Cornelius L. Blair died at his residence near Lafayette, Tippecanoe county, Indiana leaving a wife and two daughters.

Nov. 5, 1833 sailed from New York to the Island of St. Thomas . . . and in May 1837

Returned by way of St. Croix to New York. Upon my arrival word was received of the death of my father at Bedminster May 31<sup>st</sup> [1837]. [Account of further travels.] Page 11.

In October 1846 I came to Pluckemin and here have I continued up to June 7<sup>th</sup> 1852, no longer able or desirous, to wander. Page 12.

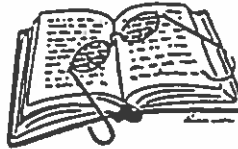
July 13<sup>th</sup>, 1852 In answer to an application to my cousins Barkley of N. York for aid to erect a head stone to my father's memory, James Barkley this day handed me \$20. From Robert \$10, John \$5.

In April 1856 I received a letter from John W. Blair of Crawfordsville, Indiana, a son on my uncle Robt. Blair giving me the following dates of death in their family viz.

Robert Blair, his father, at Aurora, Illinois Sept 21<sup>st</sup> 1849, aged 72 years.

Rachel W. Blair, wife of the above at Miami, Ohio, June 23<sup>rd</sup> 1828 aged 48 years and 9 months.

Peter, son of the above on the Miami Feby 5<sup>th</sup> 1838, aged 30 years. Page 84.



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## Announcement:

Scots-Irish in the Carolinas - Belfast, Northern Ireland journalist and author Billy Kennedy is now working on his third book on the movement of the quarter million Scots-Irish people to the American frontier in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. His two books *The Scots-Irish in the Hills of Tennessee*, published in 1995, and *The Scots-Irish in the Shenandoah Valley*, published in 1996, have been best sellers in both Britain and the U.S. To complete the trilogy, Kennedy is now concentrating on the hardy resolute Scots-Irish who settled in both North and South Carolina. Kennedy has already been to South and North Carolina for his initial research and he plans to return in March 1997 to complete his work. He is appealing to families in North and South Carolina with direct links to the early Scots-Irish settlers to contact him at his home in Northern Ireland, either in correspondence or by telephone. He is keen to trace the genealogy of as many families as possible and would appreciate if specific information could be sent directly to him.

Billy Kennedy is the assistant editor of the *Ulster/Belfast Newsletter*, Northern Ireland's leading morning newspaper, founded in 1737 and the oldest existing newspaper in the English speaking world. He can be contacted at 49 Knockview Dr., Tandragee, Craigavon, County Armagh, Northern Ireland BT62 2BH; phone from the U.S., including the international code is: 001-44-1762-840769.

*The Scots-Irish in the Hills of Tennessee* and *The Scots-Irish in the Shenandoah Valley* are priced at \$14.99 [softback] and \$24.99 [hardback]. Published by Causeway Press/Ambassador Productions, they are distributed in the U.S. by Emerald House, 1 Chick Springs Road, Greenville, SC 29609 (864) 235-2434; FAX (864) 235-2491.

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## JAMES BLAIR, 1796-1852 of QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA

From Mem. #718, Patricia (Blair) Taber

John Blair (b.?) m. Agnes Moffat ( b. 1764) >>  
James Blair (b.1796) m. Mary Young (b. 1795) >>  
Alexander Blair (b.1828) m. Barbara Thomson  
(b.1829) >>  
Maxwell Blair (b.1862) m. Erna Slack (b.1871) >>  
Laurence Brooke Blair (b. 1906) m. Ethel  
Werner (b. 1905) >>  
Patricia Elizabeth (Blair) Taber (b. 1926)

Mrs. Taber writes\* [edited]:

*I have a lot of information from my late aunt Erna Blair who in 1935 had the family research-ed back to Queen Mary – she told me 3 brothers John, Alexander and James Blair (did not give dates) had left from Scotland – one to America, one to Australia and one died in Scotland.*

*I've searched and from a cousin, Elsie (nee Blair) Tarnworth, NSW Australia, learned her ancestors [were in] Roxburghshire. Her husband, Maurice Hutton, a researcher, found a John Blair and 2 sons had died at Roxburghshire of a dreadful disease, his wife remarried and came out to Australia and settled in Bendemere NSW; my ancestors came to Port Macquarie—James, Mary and children. They were listed on the Bounty Entitlement Certificate for the Hero:*

James Blair of Collinton Edinburgh s/o John (a labourer) and Agnes - nee Moffatt, of same place; aged 43, Presbyterian, gardener, reads, writes. Mary, of same place, d/o Peter Young and Ellen Guthrie (or Gultri); aged 42, Presbyterian, reads. Alexander 11; James 8; Alice 18; Susan 16; Mary 14; Ellen 6.

*The last known address of James's parents was Redford Colinton (Mid Lothian) 5 miles from Edinburgh. James Jr. was baptized in St. John's Episcopal Chapel, Edinburgh by Rev. E. B. Ramsay, 6 Mar 1831.*

*James Sr. was a learned horticulturist and took a job managing large gardens in Port Macquarie. He was drowned in 1852 in a flooded creek at Koolabong, Port Macquarie.*

*\*Queensland, Australia, 12<sup>th</sup> July 1996*

\* \* \* \* \*

Mrs. Taber also sent an obituary (newspaper and date not given) of James, Jr., which reads in part:

*"The late Mr. James Blair, whose death occurred at his residence, The Glebe, Port Macquarie, on the 12<sup>th</sup> [in 1922] was born on 3 Feb. 1831, at Congleton[Colinton] Mains, then a rural centre five miles from Edinburgh....His father managed an estate there for a Dr. Hunter. James [Jr.] was baptised in St. John's Episcopal Chapel, Edinburgh, by Rev. E. B. Ramsay on 6 Mar 1831. The chief reason that actuated his parents in coming to Australia was his mother's intense desire to meet her favorite brother from whom she had long been separated. This brother, Capt. Thomas Young, commanded a vessel trading between San Francisco and Sydney. ... They landed in Sydney [to find] Capt. Young's ship had sailed for 'Frisco before their arrival ...he never returned to Sydney, and Mrs. Blair never heard what was the ultimate fate of her sailor brother.... James Sr. then accepted an engagement as manager of Settlement Farm, Port Macquarie, for Capt. Steele, and hither with his parents in the year 1839 came the subject of our notice....*

*" In 1854 [James Jr.] married Elizabeth, daughter of Mr. Jeremiah Warlters, a pioneer settler of the district. They had a family of 11 children, two of whom died in infancy, and another (Mrs. E. A. Sawtell) several years ago. The survivors are James Blair (Port Macquarie), Alexander and William H. (Glen Ewan), Thomas Y. (Port Macquarie), Robert (Mackaville), Herbert H. (Sydney), Mrs. W. D. Nunn (Port Macquarie), and Mrs. F. G. Martin (Dungog). He also leaves 28 grandchildren and 18 great grandchildren."*

*Mrs. Taber's address is 12 The Grange, Nerang Gardens 4211, Queensland, Australia.*

## McHenry County, Illinois Obituaries (Submitted by Nancy K. Schaffer, BSGR Mem. #493)

These obituaries are in a scrap book in the McHenry Co. Historical Society and the newspapers are obviously local, but no date of issue or newspaper name is on any of them.

NELSON THEODORE BLAIR, a Los Angeles pioneer died in Chicago, having come to Chicago in 1872, after a journey across the plains. He married in 1874 and leaves a widow and four children: P. A. Blair and P.L. Blair of the Blair Detective Agency, Mrs. E.D. Todd and C.D. Blair. [Apr 8, 1908] Brothers were H.H. Blair of Marengo, IL who worked to promote the interests of Yosemite Mineral Springs Co. in which he was a large shareholder. Survived by one sister and two more brothers, Mrs. Thomas Wilson and G.E. Blair of Los Angeles, and C.E. Blair of Dayton, NY. Mentions a son Philip who traveled from his home in California. Graceland crematory, Chicago.

MRS. NELLIE M. BLAIR died Feb 6, 1928, born in Seneca Township, Mar 6, 1882. She married Herbert H. Blair, who preceded her in death on Jun 18, 1922. No children. She was the dau. of David T. Blair and Almira Banner Blair, both of Dayton, NY. She had been a resident of Marengo, IL for 50 years. Leaves a sister Miss Anna Blair who lived with her. Funeral from the home, Feb 8, and burial in the Marengo City Cemetery.

ELLEN DAVIS BLAIR, born 7 Mar 1856 in West Pultney, VT and died at the home of her son in Los Angeles, CA, aged 83 years and 8 days. [1929] She married N.T. Blair in Porterville, CA in 1874 and moved to Los Angeles in 1877. Mr. Blair died in 1908. The couple had four children, Philip Blair, Mrs. Marian G. Todd of Vancouver, BC, Paul L. Blair and Cassius D. Blair of Los Angeles. A brother, Charles Davis resides in Marengo, IL. Mrs. Blair came to Marengo in 1861, and made it her home for 12 years. [Wife of Nelson Theodore Blair.]

DANIEL BLAIR, died Wednesday Feb 10, 1886 at his residence from a stroke. He was born Nov 25, 1804 in Warren, MA and married Thedocia Judd in 1825. First 7 years of married life was spent in Hartford, CT, settled in McHenry Co. in 1839 and made his home in Woodstock, IL. Buried Oakland Cemetery with Masonic Honors.

MRS. THEDOCIA JUDD BLAIR died Sat., Mar 28, 1891, relict of the late Daniel Blair, aged 86 years, 1 month and 3 days. She was a sister of the late Alvin Judd and born in Chester, MA 25 Feb 1805; married Daniel, 29 Jun 1828. Moved to IL in 1839, settling in the locality of Woodstock, IL.

MISS ANNA BLAIR passed away Monday at the home of her cousin, Mrs. George Standish, due to a weak heart and the flu. She was born 15 Aug 1852 in Seneca Township, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. David Blair. She resided in this community all her life. Survived by five cousins: Fred Bigalow of Sharon, WI; Mrs. Stella Stocking of TX; Mrs. Frank Henn of Park Ridge, IL and Mrs. George Standish and Fred Hance of this city. [Issue dated 20 Mar 1936.]

### McHenry County Marriages:

Mrs. Almira Blair to William W. Blair, 21 Nov 1868, cert. #3737, Vol. A, p. 94.  
Edward D. Blair to Julia Southworth, 31 Aug 1874, cert. #4804, Vol. B, p. 1.  
Herbert H. Blair to Nellie M. Blair, 10 Jan 1882, cert. #5883, Vol. 1, p. 52.  
Joseph H. Blair to Mrs. Mary E. Smith, 15 Oct 1875, cert. #4824, Vol. B, p. 1.

### Ulster Historical Foundation Move

The Ulster Historical Foundation pages moved to a new URL - [www.uhf.org.uk](http://www.uhf.org.uk) - on the first of March. The new site includes forms which you can fill in and submit with your credit card numbers on line, in a secure environment. We will also put up a full list of the Foundation's publications and a vast selection of books stocked by our shop. Again, you will be able to order these books on line. There are plans to include a new database of searches the Foundation has completed over the years, and a "what's new" section on the site for frequent visitors to view which will include press releases from the Foundation.

From: Richard Tobin UHF Sales

# HISTORY OF JOHN FRANCIS BLAIR AND FAMILY

(Submitted by Julian F. "Rusty" Williams, BSGR Mem.#748)

This document was handwritten sometime between 1941 and 1945 by Henry A. Williams, great-great grandson of John F. Blair. All four of his grandparents (as well as a number of great-uncles and aunts) had made the trip from near Danville and Chatham, VA to Grayson Co., TX in 1859, and most were still living during Henry A. Williams' adulthood. It was transcribed to typewriter in 1963 by Mrs. G. C. Neaves of Norman, OK.

The families involved are BLAIR, WILLIAMS, KEEN and TURNER. Many of the Blairs later moved elsewhere in Texas. Some of the Williams' stayed in Grayson Co., some moved to Tishomingo, OK, and some to Colman Co., TX. The Turner family stayed, in the main, in Grayson and neighboring Fannin Counties. For questions or to provide additional annotation, e-mail me at [EBFMktg@aol.com](mailto:EBFMktg@aol.com). Rusty Williams

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## BLAIR DATA

Our direct line came over in 1765 or near that time.<sup>1</sup> Our immigrant ancestor, William Blair [ca. 1750-1789], mar. Sarah Suter [1760-1809], dau. of George Suter of York, Yorke Co., PA. William Blair was very patriotic and saw much service in the Revolution. He came to the United States with two brothers, one of whom, James Blair, settled in Charlotte, North Carolina, Nothing is known, so far, of the other one.

## HISTORY OF JOHN F. BLAIR AND FAMILY

John Francis Blair<sup>2</sup> was a large land and slave owner in Pittsylvania Co., VA. He lived on a large tobacco farm, raised nothing but tobacco and cured and manufactured it on the place, with the aid of his numerous slaves. His old home and a lot of the negro cabins with their old pot-racks still in place, are still standing.

In 1859, as a number of his friends had come to Texas and landed in Grayson<sup>3</sup> County and with the Civil War at hand, John F. Blair and family decided to come also—expecting to buy large plantations and "grow up with the country." So, on Nov. 15, 1859, the journey was begun in wagons. Uncle George<sup>4</sup> said, "We left Virginia in wagons, and they were covered all right, but were drawn by mules and horses instead of oxen, and to that extent our coming may have been irregular. We came over a good road as far as Knoxville, TN, where we boarded a steamboat for Gaines' Landing, ARK. Disembarking at Gaines' Landing,<sup>5</sup> we again took the road, or rather resumed our wagons, for there were no roads, and headed for Texas. We arrived in Grayson Co., Jan. 15, 1860. We were seventy days making the journey....From Gaines' Landing we drove across Arkansas and crossed Red River at Texarkana." With John F. came his 8 sons<sup>6</sup> and 2 daughters<sup>7</sup>—there were 33 or 34 in the family then, including sons-in-law, daughters-in-law and chil-

dren, among them 4 babies, Tom, son of Keen<sup>8</sup> and Lucy Blair, Peter, son of Charles and Pat Blair, Nanny,<sup>9</sup> daughter of Peter and Emaline Turner, and Will Henry,<sup>10</sup> son of Eliza Ann and W.D. (Billy) Williams. There were also ten Negroes, 8 of John F. Blair's and 2 of Peter Turner's, son-in-law of John F. Blair.

The party camped near Bonham,<sup>11</sup> Dec. 31, 1859, when a big norther and snow-storm struck them. John F., who had a carriage and driver, drove on to Rev. S. J. Spotts' home near Bells, Grayson Co. The rest of the bunch drove on in the wagons to Old Warren where they spent the night in Col. Bradford's home. Peter Turner and family went to the home of the Pritchetts, whom they had known in Virginia.

Two other Virginia families came with the Blairs—those of Ben Williams (brother of Billy),<sup>12</sup> and Capt. Brooks—there were 17 in these two families. All told, there were about 60 people in the Blair caravan. There were 43 of the Blair family in their caravan of five wagons—Charles Blair had 1 horse; Billy Williams had 1 horse; Peter Turner had 2 mules and 1 horse; and John F. Blair had 4 mules and 2 horses.

John F. Blair traded a Negro girl, 16 or 17 years old, for a section of land, and bought a section that adjoined it. This made 1280 acres,<sup>13</sup> which he intended making into a plantation with quarters for his slaves. He died before he completed his home, having been there less than a year—he died of Typhoid and is buried on this farm. His son, John Henry, died the same day of the same malady and they were buried at the same time. At this time Keen Blair was hovering near death's door of Typhoid, and when friends went for burial outfits for the other two, they brought clothes for him too, thinking that he would be gone when they returned, but Keen recovered.

One Negro boy about 15 or 16 years old was sold at a sale—all the other slaves were freed, except one woman, Suse, who died and was buried at one corner of the Blair burial plot. John F. Blair's Negroes were named Pete and his wife Lucy, Cornelius, Suse, Letcha, Henry, Lunn, and Jim. Pete who was John F.'s carriage driver, was a free Negro and a cripple; his wife Lucy was a slave and the cook in the Blair family. Pete and Lucy were the oldest of the bunch.<sup>14</sup>

Christian (Kittie) Blair died in August, 1861 of congestion. W. D. (Billie) Williams died in 1861 and his baby died soon after in 1861. Eliza Ann Williams, broken in mind and body, following so much grief and shock, died in 1862. They are all buried in the family plot on the Blair farm. Charles, George,<sup>15</sup> Tom, and Wesley Blair served in the Civil War. Tom was killed in Altoona, GA.

<sup>1</sup> Editor's note: past BFM Member Chas. Mitchell said from Monemore, Co. Derry, IRE, but gave no source.]

<sup>2</sup> the grandson (by James Blair) of William Blair and Sarah Suter.

<sup>3</sup> Members of the PRITCHETT and SPOTTS families, among others, had emigrated in 1857. The family of William WITCHER (1808-1864), a cousin of "Kitty" Keen Blair, migrated to Grayson

Co. during the same period. Some of the Witchers are buried on the old Blair property.

<sup>4</sup> Refers to George Whitfield Blair, son of John Francis Blair.

<sup>5</sup> Located in southeast Arkansas, near Lake City, on the Mississippi River.

<sup>6</sup> Sons were: James Keen, Charles William, John Henry, Thomas Wellington, George Whitfield, Wesley Witcher, Elisha Edgar and Francis Dickenson.

<sup>7</sup> Daughters were Eliza Ann and Emmaline Franklin.

<sup>8</sup> James Keen Blair was called "Keen."

<sup>9</sup> This is probably "Nan," an aunt of Henry A. Williams who died in 1861.

<sup>10</sup> William Henry Williams was not yet three years old when the group arrived in Texas.

<sup>11</sup> Fannin County, TX.

<sup>12</sup> Benjamin Franklin Williams' son eventually mar. the dau. of Peter and Emmaline Turner.

<sup>13</sup> This property is approximately four miles north of Bells in Grayson County.

<sup>14</sup> Eliza was not yet 34 years old. She was the mother of seven living children.

<sup>15</sup> George, about 30 years old at the time of the trip, eventually settled in Bonham. He died in Dallas after the turn of the century.

## THE BLAIR FAMILIES OF JOHNSON & LETCHER COUNTIES, KY

[Reprinted from *The Journal of the Magoffin County Historical Society*, Vol. 16, No. 2 Summer 1994, with the kind permission of the author, Martha Heinemann.]

This information may be very important to members of the BARNETT, BLAIR, BRIEN, CHILDERS, FITZPATRICK, GRAVES, and KEATON families of Floyd, Johnson, and Letcher Counties, KY. One of my Day cousins sent me material abstracted from Russell Co., VA court orders which may connect members of the families listed above to Joseph Blair who died in Russell Co. in 1795, leaving a widow named Lucy. She mar. Abraham Childers by 1798. In 1810 the Childers family was in Floyd Co., KY where Abraham d. ca. 1814. Lucy served as one of the administrators of his estate, and in 1818 she mar. William Keeton. In 1820 William and Lucy Keeton gave permission for Sally Childers to marry Harry Graves. William Fitzpatrick, who co-signed the bond, had mar. Patsy Blair in 1813.

In 1815 John Blair mar. Polly Barnett. The 1830 census of Floyd Co. lists a John Blair b. 1790/1800 and family, including a female b. 1796. Also listed were George Blair (b. 1798 in TN, per 1850 census), and Noble Blair (b. 1780 in VA). Kentucky land records show that Lucy Keeton obtained two warrants for land in Lawrence Co. in 1822 and that John Blair obtained land there in 1823.

**Other pertinent facts are these:**

- (1) Joseph Blair and Charles Blair (later of Letcher Co., KY) appeared on Russell Co., VA tax lists in the 1790s.
- (2) Joseph Blair, Sr., Joseph Blair, Jr., and Charles Blair owned land in Sullivan Co., TN in 1789.
- (3) Noble Blair and Charles Blair were on Knox Co., KY tax lists 1816/19.

Blair family outlines which appear in Kozee's *Early Families of Eastern and Southeastern Kentucky* and in Hall's *Johnson County, Kentucky* say that George and Noble Blair were brothers, but the names of their parents are not mentioned. A link of George Blair to Lee Co., VA, where Charles Blair resided 1799-1809 is indicated.

**Details of Noble Blair's family are few:**

- I. NOBLE BLAIR b.1780 VA (lived in VA; Knox, Floyd, Johnson Co., KY) m. Abigail --?-- b. 1780 VA.  
Three known children:
  - I-A. JOHN BLAIR b.1817 KY m. 20 Jan. 1829 Floyd Co., KY Susannah Conley b. 1818, dau. of Thomas Conley and Susan Joines.
  - I-B. MARGARET BLAIR b.1819 m. 14 Mar. 1839 Floyd Co., KY John Conley b.1808 Wilkes Co., NC, son of Thomas Conley and Susan Joines.
  - I-C. JAMES HAYDEN BLAIR b.1830 m. 24 Jan. 1850 Johnson Co., KY to Mary Horne.

**George Blair's family:**

- II. GEORGE BLAIR b.1789 TN m. Mary Fairchild b. 2789 NC. Their children:
  - II-A. LEVI BLAIR b.1812 m. 4 Jun 2831 Floyd Co., KY to Rachel Cantrill.
  - II-B. REBECCA BLAIR b.1815 m. 24 Feb. 1813 Floyd Co., KY to Henry Conley, b.1810 Letcher Co., KY, son of Thomas Conley and Susan Joines.
  - II-C. WILLIAM BLAIR b.1815 m. 26 Mar. 1835 Floyd Co., KY to Sarah Spradlin.
  - II-D. NOBLE BLAIR b. 1817 KY m. 20 Jul. 1840 Floyd Co., KY to Talitha Stambaugh.
  - II-E. GEO. WASHINGTON "WATT" BLAIR b. 1820 m. 8 Nov. 1840 Floyd Co., KY to Matilda Spradlin.
  - II-F. BRITTAIN BLAIR b.1822 m. 26 Aug. 1841 Floyd Co., KY to Malinda Spradlin.
  - II-G. CLARINDA BLAIR b.1827 m. 4 Apr. 1852 Johnson Co., KY to John W. Stambaugh.
  - II-H. JAMES BLAIR B. 1827 M. 26 Jul 1847 Johnson Co., KY to Nancy Roberson.
  - II-I. MARY BLAIR
  - II-J. JOHN 'GOODWORD' BLAIR b. 1831 m. July 1855 Eveline Conley.
  - II-K. ASA BLAIR b.1834 KY m. Mahala Spradlin.

**The names of other Blairs appear in early records but their connection to these men is not known:**

JAMES BLAIR b. 1765/84 in 1810 Floyd Co., KY census  
ELIZABETH BLAIR m. 1819 Floyd Co., KY to Joseph Brien  
JOHN BLAIR m. 1823 Pike Co., KY to Polly Baisden  
NANCY BLAIR m. 1826 Floyd Co., KY to Elias Barnett  
JOSEPH BLAIR M. 1828 Pike Co., KY to Gerusha Collins

**Author's note:** Some of us, who are descendants of Charles Blair of Letcher Co., KY, have searched for some time for descendants of Joseph Blair. We welcome the opportunity to exchange information with those who are tracing the families named here. Martha Heinemann, 705 N. Belvedere, Memphis, TN 38107.

# ABSTRACTS FROM THE PENNSYLVANIA GAZETTE, 1732-1755

By Kenneth Scott and Janet R. Clarke\*

(Submitted by Doris T. Osten, BSGR Mem.#384)

- December 19, 1732 *Brigantine Prosperity*. Captain Blair master, having lost both anchors, put out to sea.
- September 14, 1736 Lately arrived in Philadelphia, the ship *Two Sisters*, James Marshall, Commander, the ship *William & Mary*, William Blair, master, and the snow *Jane*, John Andrews, master, with 130 passengers and servants from Ireland.
- February 22, 1737 Garland, William, Irish servant—runaway from Thomas Blair of Bucks County, near Derham Iron works.
- December 21, 1738 House of Burgesses of Virginia, elects a speaker on Wednesday last; Mr. Harrison moved that Mr. Robertson take the chair and his motion was supported by Mr. Mascoe, Mr. McCarty and Mr. Blair; Mr. Robinson was chosen speaker. Williamsburg item of November 3.
- November 8, 1739 Whitefield, Rev.—landed last week from London at Lewestown in Suffolk County; various goods contributed by charitable people England are to be sold in Philadelphia at Mr. Whitefield's house in 2<sup>nd</sup> Street in which Capt. Blair lately dwelt. [Note from DTO- My husband and I recently went to 2<sup>nd</sup> Street in Philadelphia. This address is very near Elfreth's Alley, a historical street, which to 1995 has been continuously occupied by local residents.]
- January 15, 1739 O'Donally, James, servant, age 18 or 19—runaway from William Blair of Middletown, Chester County.
- June 12, 1740 At the Presbyterian Synod, which began 28 May, sermons were presented on Society Hill by Rev. Messers. Tennents, Davenport, Rowland and Blair.
- October 16, 1740 Tennent, Charles—considers Mr. Whitefield to be sound in faith as does the Rev. Mr. Blair.
- October 30, 1740 Steel, Alexander, Irish servant—runaway from James Agner, who offers a reward if servant is brought to him at Thomas Robinson's in Front Street or to Capt. Blair in 2<sup>nd</sup> Street.
- December 4, 1740 Handlin, Valentine, servant, age c. 30—runaway from on board, the *Diana*, of Dublin, Richard McCarty, master; reward for his capture will be paid by William Blair.
- June 11, 1741 Blair, Hon. President—21 May received a letter from Gov. Johnston of North Carolina concerning Spanish privateers on that coast.
- November 19, 1741 Sloop *Paisly*, Capt. William Houston, commander, lately arrived from North Britain and Ireland, now at Mr. McCall's wharf in Philadelphia will sail for Belfast; for freight or passage agree with William Blair or the master.
- April 9, 1741 *The Querists* by Sameul Blair—has been printed and is sold by B. Franklin.
- February 24, 1742 Blair, William, designing 1 March for Great Briatin and Ireland—persons owing him money are to make payment to his wife, Mary Blair, in Philadelphia.

- September 16, 1742 Doud, Richard, Irish servant, age c. 20—runaway from Samuel Blair of Bethlehem to township, Hunterdon County, West Jersey; it is suspected he has got an indenture belonging to one John Bath, who served his time in Lancaster County.
- February 10, 1743 Dickson, James, of Township of Little Britain, Lancaster County—offers reward for intelligence about his three-year-old daughter Margaret, missing since last 26 December; news of her should be given to her father or to the Rev. Samuel Blair in Forks Manor, Chester County, or to George Gibson in Lancaster town.
- May 12, 1743 Blair, Rev. James, Commissary of Virginia, President of the College of William and Mary, Rector of Bruton Parish, sometimes President of Virginia—died Monday last in his 88<sup>th</sup> year--Williamsburg item of 22 April.
- May 3, 1744 Blair & McIlwane, at their store in Water Street, Philadelphia (where Stedman & Robertson formerly kept)—sell cloth, thread, oil, Bibles and cutlery.
- July 11, 1745 and August 1, 1745 Partnership between Blair and McIlwane in Philadelphia—has expired.
- May 1, 1746 Ship *William and Mary* of Philadelphia, Capt. William Blair, bound for Ireland—has put into Fial.
- June 5, 1746 The *William and Mary*, William Blair, master, of Philadelphia has arrived at Belfast.
- September 18, 1746 Arrived at New Castle in Delaware are the ship *William and Mary*, Capt. William Blair, from Belfast and Larne.
- September 25, 1746 Capt. Blair informs at Philadelphia that about a fortnight ago he spoke with a French prize snow going to New York, taken by the *Triton* privateer, of New York.
- March 24, 1747 Capt. Wood on Thursday last brought to Philadelphia the people of the ship, *William and Mary*, Capt. Cowen of Philadelphia, which sank; Capt. Wood reached them just in time to save them.
- August 13, 1747 The trustees of the College in New Jersey have chosen among others Samuel Blair as a further trustee. Jonathan Dickinson has been chosen president [Princeton University].

[Abstracts from 1748-1755 to be printed in a future issue.]

\*Reprinted with permission of publisher, Genealogical Pub. Co., Baltimore.

**HELP! HELP!** Looking for a computer genius who would be able to give us some information on CD's. We would like to put the issues of the *Blair Family Magazine* on disk, but if we do, we want to be able to solve the following problems. First, the type is too small for those of us with old eyes; Second, produce quality copies, not copies of copies of copies. Third, and VERY important, besides a table of contents for each issue, we want a search capability included in the disk. For example, I would like to search all the back issues for a John Blair. How can I do this all at once for all issues together, using the disk? Perhaps some kind soul out there might be able to provide some answers. If so, would he/she please contact Nancy Schaffer, e-mail: nkschaffer@aol.com. Also would like to hear from our members who have used CD programs or info from them. What do they feel would best benefit our needs and choices? What do they like/don't like about the CD's they used? This might turn into a group project – if anyone would like to volunteer, let me know.