



# ***THE BLAIR FAMILY MAGAZINE***

**Volume XXVII, No.3, Fall 2009**

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Calling all Blair Genealogists!

## **Contents**

- From the President's Desk, p. 40**  
**Experiences of George W. and Rev. John C. Blair**  
**Missionaries in India, p. 41**  
**Biographies of Members of the First Blair Society (Concluded, p. 46**  
**Who are: George Blair, a Fakir;**  
**And, Blairs in Early Helena Montana Records, p. 54**  
**Charles Blair of the Blair Mfg. Co., Berlin, Connecticut, p. 55**  
**From Members' Mail:**  
**Newbury County, South Carolina Blairs, p. 56**  
**Blairs in Early Philadelphia, p. 57**  
**Index to Indian Wars Pension Files 1892-1926, p. 58**  
**Milestones: Bernard Louis Blair, p. 59**  
**No New BSGR Members, p. 59**  
**Annual Membership Renewal, p. 60**



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### MEMBERSHIP DUES

#### **Yearly membership:**

|                              |          |
|------------------------------|----------|
| Annual member                | \$ 18.00 |
| Contributing                 | \$ 30.00 |
| Family Membership (w/Annual) | \$ 5.00  |

#### **Lifetime Membership:**

|             |          |
|-------------|----------|
| Life Member | \$250.00 |
| Patron      | \$500.00 |

Members in Canada and Mexico should add an additional \$5.00 for postage; others outside the U.S. should include an extra \$10.00 for postage. They should also see BSGR Website for substantial savings using electronic transfer of fee and newsletter. Present life members who wish to become patrons need only pay the difference of \$250.00.

Annual dues are payable on January 1 of each year and are considered delinquent as of March 31. Checks should be made payable to "The Blair Society" and sent to the Treasurer at the address listed on this page. Anyone desiring a new membership card should make that request in writing, accompanied by a SASE, to the Corresponding Secretary. (For PayPal see BSGR website)

### PUBLICATION DATES:

January 21, April 21, July 21, and October 21  
Material should be addressed to the Editor. Deadline for material is six (6) weeks prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit material.

### CHANGE OF ADDRESS:

Members are urged to carefully examine their mailing labels and advise the Treasurer at the address listed on this page of any changes necessary to insure prompt delivery of the Blair Society mailings.

### QUERIES:

Priority will be given to provide space for one query per member per year. If space permits, a member will be allowed to submit more than one query per year. Non-members are charged \$6.50 per query. This fee provides a copy of the *Blair Family Magazine* in which the query appears. Send queries to the editor, mail or e-mail or see Blair Society website. Members should include their membership number and contact address with each query.

. . . to collect, preserve, and disseminate Blair history and genealogy . . .

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## From the President's Desk . . .

We hope that everyone is weathering the economic times well and that if you are not that you soon will be; in the meantime, we encourage you to use your forced spare time to work on your genealogy. Of course, it is never that simple, is it?

New memberships have slowed in the recent quarter. For this reason, we are encouraging everyone to please ask your interested relatives to join the BSGR. Also, please print out the BSGR flyers from the website and ask your local library to put out a stack. Every new member has new information to help us all find our missing Blairs!

**PAY PAL** As promised, Pay Pal is up and running, specifically the button linking to the Pay Pal screen to donate money to the Blair Society. The other buttons are soon to come. If you would like to pay for something that is not a donation using Pay Pal, e-mail Bryce Blair and let him know the purpose of your payment.

If you are unfamiliar with Pay Pal, it is an internet bank. It is not necessary for you to have a Pay Pal account. You can make a one-time payment using Pay Pal without having an account with Pay Pal. It is as easy as clicking on the button from the BSGR website to make a payment that is directed to BSGR. If you decide you want to have a Pay Pal account, you can keep a nominal amount in your Pay Pal account. Probably you only keep enough money in the account to make a specific purchase, while still maintaining a regular bank account somewhere else. The advantage of Pay Pal is that you have instant payment without giving out any account information to the person or organization you are paying, thus lessening the risk of fraud. Many online businesses such as Amazon and eBay take Pay Pal payments.

To put money in a Pay Pal account you give Pay Pal your check, credit card number, debit card number or a money order in the amount that you want to pay to a third party (in this case, BSGR), as if you were making a payment to Pay Pal. Pay Pal will then pay the third party (BSGR) for you. Pay Pal is considered safe.

The BSGR is now offering Pay Pal to allow our members who are U. S. citizens more flexibility when joining, renewing or purchasing books or other merchandise. It will also allow our members living outside of the U.S. to purchase books, renew membership, join or donate to the BSGR without having to change currency. Changing currency is inconvenient and can be costly.

Here are the instructions to use Pay Pal.

- (1) Go to [https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=s-xclick&hosted\\_button\\_id=7041596](https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=s-xclick&hosted_button_id=7041596), or click on the Pay Pal button on our web site.
- (2) Fill in the form.
- (3) Send an e-mail message to Bryce Blair letting him know what the Pay Pal payment is for.

By using Pay Pal you don't have to leave your home. Pay Pal will notify Bryce of the payment. We will renew your membership, send your new member info, or send your purchased books or merchandise.

Please consider publishing your Blair Family story. "Publish or Perish," as former BSGR president, Bryce Blair, has told us in the past. The best way to ensure that your family history makes it to another generation or two is to put what you know in writing and submit it to Mary Powers, BSGR editor, to be published in the *Blair Family Magazine*. I am looking forward to reading about your family!

Brenda Weeks, President

### **Calling all Blair Researchers!**

**We have placed in this issue articles that need lineage information, and in some instances, identification. Also, all of the biographies of members of the first Blair Society, in this and previous issues, need to be updated, or possibly corrected.**

**We are calling on members who descend (or not) from the members of the first Blair Society to bring Charlotte Stewart's information up to date. If you have family stories regarding any of these members, we'd like to have them, and definitely we would like the now 80-year-old lineages brought down to modern times (Charlotte will respect information about all living persons). If one of these members tweaks your interest, even if you aren't a descendant, consider doing a bit of searching anyway. Share also Blairs you would like to have identified and placed in proper lineage via queries.**

**The Winter Issue of BSGR will be devoted to updates, corrections, new-found genealogical data, and we would like to publish your contribution, whether a paragraph or several pages. Join the genealogical fun – let's all search together! Send to Mary Powers, editor of BFM at the address inside this issue's front cover or [mpowers18@verizon.net](mailto:mpowers18@verizon.net).**

## Experiences of George W. Blair and Rev. John C. Blair as Missionaries in India

Submitted by Rose B. Blair, BSGR Mem. #080-L, edited by Mary J. Powers, BSGR Mem. #0240

The following is taken from *Station and Camp Life in the Bheel Country, Jhulod, India*, by G. W. Blair "with thanks to his brother, Rev. J. C. Blair," published in Belfast, Ireland, 1906. This memoir tells of some of the experiences of these indomitable Irish Presbyterian missionaries. The Blair Society would very much like to place these men in their proper line in the family of Blair. **Should any of you have information about them, please send it to the editor** (address inside the front cover of this issue). The following is in the voices of the authors, quoted as written.

\*\*\*\*\*

The Bhils (or Bheels) are an ancient people, generally believed to be the descendants of the original inhabitants of India. In appearance they are "dark brown, medium in height, quite strongly built and not at all unprepossessing." . . .

Our Jungle Tribes' Mission was brought into being to take the 'Light of the Knowledge of the Glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ' to these, our fellow-members of the human race. In Whiteabbey Manse in 1887, a movement was started, the outcome of which was the formation of this Mission by the General Assembly of the Irish Presbyterian Church. Our first missionary, Mr. Mulligan, sailed in December, 1890, to be followed a year later by **Mr. Blair**; and these two men of God, in January, 1892, entered Bhil-land and began a work which God has owned and blessed. Mr. and Mrs. M'Neill followed in 1893 and joined forces with Messrs. Mulligan and Blair in the difficult work of pioneering.

The methods employed by our missionaries in the grand work of 'filling the land with the Name of Christ' are simple and similar to those employed by the Apostles of old—namely, 'visiting, preaching, teaching, praying, hut-meetings and open-air services.' Part of our Field, the population of which, roughly speaking, is one million, is divided up into portions naturally, each of which can be conveniently supervised by a missionary. The names of these divisions are: Dohan, Jhalod, Sunthampur, and Garbada, in each of which a good bungalow has been built as a residence for the missionary; each bungalow has out-stations where our Indian fellow-workers live.

. . . . .

**Second Missionary.** [In 1890] an application was received by the Home Committee from **Mr. George W. Blair, of Holywood, Co. Down**, who at that time

### Facts about the Jungle Tribes' Mission.

The Jungle Tribes' Mission was founded over thirty years ago to evangelise one million Bhils dwelling in the jungle of the Panch Mahals, India; and to enable laymen to go out as missionaries in connection with the Presbyterian Church in Ireland.

The benighted state of the Bhils conclusively proves the need of this Mission.

God is blessing the work.

The first Bhil convert was baptised on 20<sup>th</sup> March, 1898, after six years of patient work. In 1900 the number baptised was 24; in 1909, 271; in 1915, 447, and in 1920, 966.

The Communicants' roll is 155.

The givings of the Bhil Christian Church have reached the sum of close on 1,000 rupees, or roughly £70 yearly.

Twenty-one years ago there were four missionaries and three missionaries' wives. To-day there are five missionaries and one missionary's wife.

A medical missionary is urgently needed. Twelve men, women and children of our European staff have been lost by death.

A sum of £3,000 is needed yearly to carry on as at present.

But in order to overtake new work in view £1,000 more, yearly, would be needed.

Sums varying from £5 to £30, yearly, will support native workers, catechists, evangelists, Bible-women, teachers.

Please pray for the work of the J.T.M., and send contributions to the

FINANCIAL SECRETARY

or to Church House;

HON. SECRETARIES,

J. T. M. Office

Church House, Belfast,

From whom information regarding the work of the Mission may be obtained.

**Any who would wish to offer themselves for service in the field please write to the Hon. Secretaries.**

### Mission Stations and Missionaries.

Dohad, Panch Mahals, India

Mr. J. H. M'Neill and Mrs. M'Neill.

Mr. Alexander Breeze (studying language).

Jhalod, Panch Mahals, Indian – Mr. James Neill

Sunthampur, Kewa Kantha, Indian – In charge of Mr. James Neill.

Garbada – In charge of Mr. J. H. M'Neill.

Sailing for Home – Mr. David Lewis.

At Home on Furlough – Mr. Andrew Crockart

New Missionary Sailed 12<sup>th</sup> Nov., 1921 – Mr. William Robinson

Preparing for Field – Mr. Ernest Hanna.

was acting as district missionary in connection with Fisherwick Place church (Rev. Dr. Williamson's). Mr. Blair's offer was accepted, and the formal appointment was made by the Board of Missions at its meeting in Portrush in August, 1891. On the 9<sup>th</sup> November, a farewell meeting was held in Fisherwick Place Church, and on the 19<sup>th</sup> of the same month Mr. Blair sailed from London per P. & O. *ss. Malwa*, and landed in Bombay on the 14<sup>th</sup> December, 1891. Here the new missionary was met by his brother, the Rev. J. C. Blair, who had

traveled from Surat for this purpose. Mr. Blair joined Mr. Mulligan in Surat, where the latter had been awaiting his arrival with a view to setting out for the scene of their future labours.

**Departure for Dohad.** After a short delay preparations were completed, and on the evening of Monday, the 4<sup>th</sup> January, 1892, Messrs. Mulligan and Blair bade good-bye to the kind friends in Surat, and set their faces towards the Bheel country. Their destination was Dohad, in the Panch Mahals, where it had been decided to open the first station, and where a house had been secured some months previously, the Revs. J. Shillidy, J. F. Steel, and Mr. Mulligan having paid a visit to Dohad in the Monsoon for that purpose. On their way back the river Panam happened to be in flood, and our three friends had to sleep all night on the bank of the river waiting for the water to subside.

A journey by rail of 100 miles northward brought them to Anan (a large and prosperous station of the Irish Presbyterian Mission). Here a halt was made for a day or two, under the hospitable roof of the Rev. J. F. and Mrs. Steele...From Anan their route lay eastward for forty-nine miles by a branch line to Godhra, where the railway then ended. A distance of forty-four miles still lay between them and their destination, and the only means of conveyance was by bullock cart. After a few hours delay in Godhra, six carts, containing all their belongings, including furniture for their house, set out towards Dohad. As this means of locomotion was very slow (these bullock carts travel at the amazing rate of two miles an hour), it took fully a couple of days to traverse the forty-four miles through the jungle, and on the evening of the following Saturday the pioneers of this new Mission entered Dohad, and took up their abode in a native house in the *Tai Warda*, or Potters' quarter. Here they lived together for a couple of years.

Just a year after their arrival in Dohad the missionaries made their first itinerating tour through a good portion of the new field. This tour lasted two months, and in fifty towns and villages the message of salvation was proclaimed for the first time. The missionaries were everywhere well received, and a ready hearing was given to their message—a message new to all who heard it.

At the end of the second year, or in December, 1893, the Mission was reinforced by the arrival of Mr. and Mrs. M'Neill from Ardrossan. They were accompanied by Miss Sara Graham, of Derrycughan, who was married to Mr. Mulligan a few days after her arrival.

Mr. M'Neill had been very warmly recommended to the Home Committee by a number of Scotch ministers

and others who knew him. He had received two years medical training in the Foreign Mission Training School, Glasgow, and Mrs. M'Neill also had received a valuable medical training in the same city. Mr. and Mrs. M'Neill soon found ample scope for their medical talents. The question of house accommodation now pressed heavily on the Mission. Mr. Blair gave up his share of the house in the Dohad Bazaar to the newcomers, and he himself took to living in a tent. ...

After the arrival of Mr. M'Neill the Presbytery of Gujarat and Kathiawar recommended the opening of a new station. Jhalod, a town of 6,000 inhabitants, twenty miles north of Dohad, was selected as being the most suitable center, and Mr. G. W. Blair was appointed to commence the work there.

The matter of house accommodation in Dohad had been a difficult one, but in Jhalod the difficulty was very much greater, for at this station no house of any kind could be secured. For six or seven months, through the hot, as well as the cold season of the year, the Jhalod missionary was therefore obliged to follow the old patriarchal example of living in tents. But when the monsoon or rainy season was about to set in, tent life had to be abandoned, and a house taken where it could be found. One monsoon was spent in a small Government rest-house near Limbdi, seven miles from Jhalod; and the two following rainy seasons were, though the kindness of Mr. and Mrs. M'Neill, passed under their hospitable roof in Dohad. The Jhalod district had thus to be abandoned for four or five months of each year, and this very considerably interfered with the work. . . .

Mr. Mulligan took over charge of Jhalod on 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 1898, and shortly afterwards Mr. G. W. Blair sailed for home; but before leaving he had the great joy of witnessing the baptism of the first convert in connection with this Mission. This interesting event took place in Jhalod on Sabbath, the 20<sup>th</sup> March 1898, when a young Bheel named Narsingh Jagji was baptized by the Rev. J. C. Blair, of Broach. On the same day the sacrament of the Lord's Supper was celebrated for the first time in the native house in the Jhalod bazaar, four native brethren communicating.

At the end of 1899 Mr. Blair returned from furlough, bringing further reinforcements with him. One was his wife, who had been **Miss Wilson**, a zealous worker in connection with **Castlereagh** congregation; the other new missionary was Dr. Andrew M'Kaig, of Whiteabbey, a graduate of the Edinburgh University.

Mr. G. W. Blair had been reappointed to Jhalod on the death of Mr. Mulligan in August 1900. '...although



Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Blair

the Bible is paramount, orphanage is another branch of our work, on account of the legacy of 120 orphans left to us by the late famine. Our Orphanage Schools in Dohad and Jhalod are, in some respects, second to none in the district. Six years ago these children were running wild in the jungle, and in all probability would have grown up ignorant of the true God, and without any education whatever. Now, they all profess to know and love the Saviour. In both religious and secular subjects good progress has been made. A Jhalod orphan boy, named Gocul Suma, in 1904, took third place in all Gujarat, in the middle division of the all-India Sunday school examination in the International Course. In Jhalod Orphanage Schools there are six children studying in the sixth standard, eleven in the fifth standard, and twelve in the fourth standard. It is from these schools we hope to turn out the catechists, school teachers, and Bible-women needed for the further development of the work.'

### PERSONAL INCIDENTS

A few personal incidents which occurred during our preaching tours and at other times, may not be out of place.

The touring season usually begins in November, and ends in March. During these months the heat is moderate, the highest temperature ranging from 86° to 95° in the shade. The intense heat begins in March, and, until the monsoon bursts, increases in intensity, rendering tent life almost unendurable.

On one occasion, when on tour in the month of April, and the mercury stood daily at 110° in the tent, I tried to reduce the temperature by having old canvas bagging tied before the doors of the tent, which a Bheel

was employed to keep constantly wet. The result was a failure as regards an appreciable reduction in temperature, the mercury falling only a couple of degrees. This slight difference, however, was fully appreciated by the swarms of flies that inhabited the mango trees under which we were camped. They came down in thousands, and literally covered the canvas walls of the tent, until these became quite black. Preferring the two extra degrees of heat to the company of myriads of flies, I had the wet bagging removed, and called in the servants, when a wholesale slaughter of the flies took place. Thousands were killed, and thousands were expelled, but thousands still remained in the tent high up out of reach, and that night, when the lamps were lighted, down they came, and plagued me to such an extent that I was obliged to flee from the tent, and leave them in possession for the night. . . .

On another occasion a tour was being made in the month of October, but, as it was not judicious to live in tents during this month, on account of the malaria in the atmosphere, we were putting up in a small building, called a *chora*, in the village of Wastee, about midway between Jhalod and Dohad. This *chora* had two rooms, an inner and an outer, and my cook had arranged for my occupation of the inner room, the outer and larger of the two being reserved for cooking operations. The inner room measured fifteen feet by ten, and in it for a period of seven days I had to live, eat, sleep, write, read, etc. The appearance of the room itself was not very captivating. The walls were covered with the dirt of ages, while horrid crawling spiders peered at me from their dens in the crevices of the walls. The room had one window, such as we would expect to see in a prison, its only redeeming feature being that when open I obtained from it a lovely view of the country, as the *chora* was built on top of a little hill. Ventilation was effectively secured by the roof, the tiles in many places having fallen off, while the sun shone through at least a dozen apertures. Dogs occasionally looked in through the window in the hope of picking up some food. Jungle dogs, it may be mentioned, are very clever thieves, and have been known to open boxes during the night and abstract their contents, such as bread, meat, or *ghee* (clarified butter), always displaying a marked partiality for the two last-mentioned.

The filth of the floor of this *chora* was hidden from view by a piece of tent carpet, with some hay strewn underneath, while I had to carefully close my eyes to the state of the walls lest my appetite might have forsaken me. Besides myself, the other inhabitants of the small room were fleas, bugs, lizards, and scorpions. It happened on a certain night that I came very near being stung by a scorpion. On that night I awoke about twelve o'clock, and by the dim light of my lamp

observed a scorpion reposing quietly beside me on my camp bed. Up I sprang, quick as lightning, taking the bedclothes to the floor with me, and the scorpion as well, which, taking advantage of the confusion, made good its escape among the hay. Now, while I don't mind rats or mice very much (we disposed of twenty-three of the former one night in the first native house I occupied in Jhalod), I have a very decided objection to a close acquaintance with either scorpions or centipedes. Having been stung by a scorpion once, I dread a repetition of the agony as "a burnt child dreads the fire."

Again, near the close of the rainy season, it happened that I and my pony were making our way through a bit of dense jungle. Jungle paths are never the best, but, on the occasion referred to, this path, owing to the rain, was in a dreadful condition, and at every step the pony sank several inches in the soft mud. After ploughing through the mud for a considerable distance, we came at last to a part of the road which the pony deliberately refused to pass over. Scanning the roadway for some unnoticed obstacle, I could discover nothing amiss. True, at this point the road had all the appearance of a little sea of mud, but it *must* be hard below the surface, so I reasoned with myself without taking the trouble of dismounting to investigate. Thinking it was only stubbornness on the part of the pony, I urged him on by applying the whip. He reared, and tried to turn back as much as to say, "Saheb! Don't go farther." But as I wanted to get on, I again urged him forward. On he went with a wild, headlong leap, and suddenly I felt myself going down, down, down . . . . We had fallen into a mud hole! Up to within a few inches of the pony's back we sank, and then he began to flounder in such a way that he tossed me off, and I too found myself struggling in the mud. There was no one near to help, but, fortunately, we were not far from the edge of the hole, and after a few desperate efforts I was able to grasp the edge of the bank and pull myself to *terra firma*. It would be too ludicrous to describe my sorry appearance on emerging from the mud, but it was no laughing matter to feel oneself covered with mud as with a garment. Meanwhile, the pony had been struggling as for dear life, and after some time he also succeeded in making his way out. His mud bath had effectively quelled his fiery spirit, and he was now quiet as a lamb. We were a sorry couple, as we wended our way back, one of us at least sadder but wiser than when we set out. . . .

On one occasion very great difficulty was experienced by the missionary and his wife when traveling to the railway station of Limkheda, twenty-five miles distant from Jhalod. The adventures *en route* are well described by Mrs. Blair in a letter to a friend as

follows: --'We had a terrible journey to the railway station this time—the worst experience I have yet had. Mr. Blair bought a pony and *tonga*, or trap, some time ago, and the pony was described as being as quiet as a lamb. The road to Limkheda is a made one, and good all the way, so we decided to try it instead of the Dohad one, which is very bad. . . . It is twenty-five miles to Limkheda, so we decided to stop half-way in a little rest-house overnight, and go on early the following morning to the railway station. On a Monday morning about six o'clock we set out from this, and our pony went well for two miles, when he suddenly stopped, and seemed inclined to go no further. A good beating had the effect of making it go for another two miles, and then, before I could realize what had happened, the animal had backed the trap into a cactus hedge at the toll gate. I managed to get out, and was walking on ahead, carrying baby, until such time as the animal would again feel inclined to go on, when I heard a most awful crash, and felt afraid to look round, as I expected to see Mr. Blair half dead. Fortunately, however, it was only the front of the trap that had suffered. The 'lamb' had smashed it with his heels! After many adventures, and much laying on of the stick, we managed somehow to get the first half of the journey done. We stayed in the filthy little rest-house till the next morning, when we again set off early (about five o'clock), but the animal seemed more than ever determined not to budge. Though he can go splendidly when he takes the notion, he would do nothing but *walk* the last twelve miles, and even this he only did when one man was driving, a second dragging him with a rope in front, and three Bheels and poor Mr. B. pushing the *tonga* behind!! My poor husband had to walk about ten miles, for as soon as he attempted to get into the *tonga* the horse stood stock still and wouldn't move. Several times we were in imminent danger, as the horse backed into the jungle, and once he actually got a leg over one of the shafts. But God took care of us, and except for being very tired and weary, no harm came to any of us. We fared better coming back, as we had two trotting bullocks and an old native cart without springs, but this was preferable to a pony and *tonga*, such as we had going, though I can assure you we *were* jolted, and poor wee baby was ill for two or three days afterward.'

. . . . On the 29<sup>th</sup> December 1904, Mrs. Blair said goodbye to Jhalod and with her little baby girl, sailed from Bombay for home on 4<sup>th</sup> January 1905. After a second term of service, Mr. G. W. Blair bade farewell to Jhalod and to his work there. A farewell meeting was held in the Orphanage Hall on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 1906 when an address and gold watchguard were presented to the missionary in the name of the Jhalod church. Mr. Blair sailed for home per P & O *ss China* on the 17<sup>th</sup> February 1906.

## Biographies of Members of the First Blair Society (Concluded)

Compiled by Charlotte Blair Stewart, BSGR Mem. #0022, BSGR Genealogist

**Mem # 71. Lottie Blair Martin** of Macomb, Illinois (24 June 1878 Mt. Zion, KY – ). Deputy Circuit Clerk McDonough Co., Illinois. She was the daughter of Robert Blair and Eddie Kendrix of Hancock Co., Illinois. She was married on 18 June 1913 to William Blair Martin. The following appeared in the Champaign Co., Gen. Soc. quarterly, Urbana, Ohio in Summer 1994 concerning her great grandmother. She only knew that her great grandfather was named Robert Blair and his father was born in Scotland.

### DEATH OF A PIONEER MOTHER:

Mrs. Mary Thomas, widow of Col. John Thomas, died at her residence in Salem Twp., on the 29th of Jan. 1884. Born in Washington Co., PA 26 Jan 1800, she survived her 84th birthday but 2 days. Her parents, Jacob & Martha Johnson came to this county in 1804, settling first on Kings Creek near where the Ludlow Road crossed the north branch, and the next year they removed to the lands bought of the Indians at Mingo Village, where Mr. Alfred Johnson now lives. Her father's family were among the early settlers of the county, and she being the oldest of the children, was familiar with all the trials, pleasures and diversified incidents of pioneer life; she remembered well the terror created among the settlers when Hulls Army was surrendered to the British, and the fear that the infant settlements would be overrun by the murderous savages on the heels of the event. The family on occasions like this sought safety at the block house, at Taylor's Mill, where Kingston now stands, while the riflemen went out to guard the outpost on the frontier.

In early life, the deceased was married to ROBERT BLAIR and with him shortly after removed to the new settlements on White River, in the State of Indiana. Here settlers were few, and Indians were plenty, who were then beginning to move farther west. They were friendly but in some of their drunken frolics they made threats that greatly disturbed the peace of the whites. This was about 1820, and 10 years later her husband died and with 2 children, she returned to her father's home. She was subsequently married to John Thomas, also a pioneer, and came to the farm where she spent the remainder of her life...a period of more than half a century, surviving her late husband upward of 30 years.

By her first husband, she reared 2 sons who have for many years been prominent residents of Hancock Co., IL; she also leaves 2 sons of the last husband, I.B. and F. M. Thomas, with whom her home was to the close of her days. She was a sister to Hiram, Nelson and Alfred Johnson, prominent citizens of Wayne Twp in this county. The funeral services conducted by Rev. L.I. Drake of West Liberty, and the remains were interred in the family burying grounds nearby her late home.

**Mem #72. Inez Goad Harrison** of Sidon, MS (13 May 1893 Bibby, MS – 1957 MS) She married 4 Jan. 1920 to Abner Childress Harrison. She died in 1957 and is buried in the Odd Fellows Cemetery in Starkville, MS. She was the dau. of James Allen Goad

and Jimmie Lee Blair of TN. She descended from James and Elizabeth "Betty" Fitzgerald Blair of North Carolina.

**Mem. #73. Mary E. Blair Pope** of Missouri (c1865 Holt Co., MO - ) Her data is missing in the original applications. She was the wife of Harry Pope and the daughter of Uriah and Eveline Mackey Blair. She was born about 1865 in Holt Co., MO and descended from John and Susannah Ewing Blair.

**Mem #74. Sara Blair Case** of Wichita, Kansas (5 May 1862 Huntingdon Co., PA – before 1930 Wichita, KS) She married Howard E. Case on 2 Feb 1888. He was an 1884 graduate of Cornell University and President of the Cornell Alumni Association of Wichita, Kansas at one time. He was a retail and wholesale lumber dealer in Wichita. In 1930, he gave \$100,000 to the Presbyterian Church in Wichita toward construction of the Sara Blair Case Memorial and Educational Building and Chapel. It was built in 1935 and still stands in Wichita, Kansas. She was the daughter of Alexander and Margaret Alexander Blair of Huntingdon Co., Pennsylvania, and a descendant of Alexander and Rachel Carson Blair. She had four children as of 1928.

**Mem #75. Frederick Howes Blair** of Pasadena, California (5 Dec 1887 Duval Co., FL – 21 Jan 1953 Los Angeles Co., CA), Methodist Minister, He descended from James and Jane Todd Blair of Lincoln Co., Maine.

*Who Was Who in America.* A component of "Who's Who in American History." Volume 3, 1951-1960. Chicago: Marquis Who's Who, 1966.

Blair, Frederic Howes, Clergyman, b. Jacksonville, Fla., Dec. 5, 1887, son of Lemuel P. and Alice S. Howes Blair; B.A., U. Minn, 1911; S.T.B., Boston U. School Theology., 1916; D.D., U. So. Cal., 1940; married Josephine Dayton, Dec. 29, 1913 (Died Dec. 8, 1940); m. 2nd Helen C. Salzer, May 15, 1943; Children –Bonney Richardson, David Dayton, Frederic Draper; Sec. YMCA, U. Denver 1911-12; U. Minn 1912-13; ordained minister Meth. Ch. 1916; missionary Japan 1916-19; supr. religious and welfare work Goodwill Industries, So. So. 1919-24; Exec. dir. 1924-50; exec. v. p. Goodwill Industries Am. Inc, 1945 - : Counsellor, 1950; Western Rep., 1951; Home: 752 S. Hudson Ave., Pasadena 5, Cal.: Office 342 San Fernando Road, Los Angeles 31. Died Jan. 21 1953.

**Mem #76. Myrtle Blair Motley** of Chatham, Virginia (31 Oct 1876 Pittsylvania Co., VA - Sept 25, 1957) She married Thomas Fitzgerald Motley 14 Dec 1897. She was the daughter of Luther Rice and Macy H. Aaron



Blair and descended from the William and Sarah Sutter Blair of Pennsylvania and Pittsylvania Co., Virginia. Her birth, marriage and death were recorded in the Luther Rice Blair family Bible. Her husband's died at Barrister Mills, near Danville, N.C. in 1929 and a notice in the November 1929 issue of the *Blair Magazine* says that he was one of the most wealthy land owners in the County and adds "that he was not really able to state how much land he did own." He was survived by his wife and six children who are named in the article.

**Mem #77. Willabelle Royce Ewing** of Jasper, via Monte Vista, Colorado (17 Apr 1878 Pueblo Co., CO - 16 May 1935 Del Norte, Rio Grande Co., CO.) She married 12 Aug 1903 Charles Roberts Ewing. She was the daughter of Amos T. and Sarah Jane Blair Royce and descended from William Blair of Centre Co., Pennsylvania, who fought with Admiral Perry at the Battle of Lake Erie in the War of 1812

**Mem # 78. Woodbury Blair** of Washington, D. C. (1 Sept 1852 St. Louis, MO- 14 Oct 1933 Washington DC) He descended from Rev. John Blair and Elizabeth Durburrow Blair of the Fagg's Manor, Pennsylvania line. He was an attorney and Counsellor at Law. He was the son of Montgomery and Mary Elizabeth (Woodbury) Blair, was born in St. Louis, Missouri, on September 1, 1852, and died on October 14, 1933. He graduated Phillips Exeter Academy, and Harvard University, 1874, and its law school, 1876. He practiced law in his father's office in Washington, D.C.; was counsel for Citizens' National Bank of Washington; trust officer and vice-president of National Savings and Trust Company; director in Columbia Title Insurance Company, Washington Railway and Electric Company, Potomac Electric Company, and Norfolk and Washington Steamboat Company; and, president of the Metropolitan Club. He was also president of the Central dispensary and emergency hospital of Washington, which he developed from a small building to an institution of nearly a block, with 280 beds, 300 employees, modern nurses' home, new interns' home, x-ray laboratory, and out-patient and emergency departments. He was married to Emily N. Wallach on 6 July 1907.

"Prominent personages of the nation's capital : a work for newspaper and library reference", Washington, D.C., Washington Times Co., 1925

"Woodbury Blair, lawyer, descendant of one of American's early colonial families, is one of Washington's most public-spirited citizens. He is actively connected with the legal, financial, philanthropic and club life of the city. Mr. Blair is First vice-president of the National Savings and Trust Company as well as director, and also holds a directorship in

the Columbia Title Insurance Company, Washington Railway and Electric Company and Potomac Electric Power Company. As president of Emergency Hospital he has used his influence toward keeping that institution up to the highest standards of efficiency. His clubs are the Metropolitan, of which he is president' Country Club and the Chevy Chase Club; the Alibi Club and the University Club of New York; Newport Reading Room. He belongs also to the District Bar Association, the Sons of the Revolution and the Columbia Historical Society. Woodbury Blair is a Harvard graduate and is married, his wife being Mrs. Emily N. Wallach Blair." His papers are held by the Library of Congress in Washington D.C.

There is said to be more data on him in:

*Encyclopedia of American Biography*. New Series. Volume 3. New York and West Palm Beach, FL: The American Historical Society, 1935. Biography contains portrait.

*The National Cyclopaedia of American Biography*. Volume 25. New York: James T. White & Co., 1936. Reprint. Volumes 1-50. Ann Arbor, Mich.: University Microfilms, 1967-1971.

**Mem #79. Leena Custis Watkins Hall** of Washington D.C. (14 Oct 1867 Richmond, VA - Sept 25, 1957 Indiana Co., PA) She was the daughter of Joel and Eliza Blair Watkins. She married #1. Edward Payson Hall. She had two children by him: Custis Lee Hall an orthopedic Surgeon in Washington D.C. and Elise Hall who m. Clement Haynesworth of Greenville, S.C. She married second to James Sutton Blair (mem #35). She died 13 April 1948 Indiana Co., Pennsylvania. She descended from the Rev. John Blair of Fagg's Manor Pennsylvania by way of the Blairs of Richmond, Virginia.

**Mem #80. Ulah Walton Covington** of Brookline, Massachusetts (4 June 1884 Davidson Co., TN -19 May 1948) She was born in Nashville, Tennessee, the daughter of William Alexander and Sarah E. Blair Covington. She descended from the Blairs of Guilford Co., North Carolina by way of Samuel Blair and Elizabeth King of Nashville, Davidson Co., Tennessee.

**Mem #81. Annie Blair Titman Cummins** of Belvidere, New Jersey (13 May 1867 Bridgeville, NJ - 21 Mar 1952 Warren Co., NJ) She descended from Samuel Blair of Warren Co, New Jersey. Her obituary appeared in the New York Times 23 March 1952.

"Belvidere, New Jersey - March 22, 1952. Mrs. Annie Blair Titman Cummins, founder of the Gen. William Maxwell Chapter, DAR and the Order of the Eastern Star Chapter in Warren Co., died yesterday at her home here. She was 84 years old. Mrs. Cummins was the widow of Dr. G. Wyckoff, former Belvidere physician."

*The History of Warren Co., New Jersey*, page 277 has extensive data on her husband (see Mem # 85 below). It says of her: "Mrs. Cummins is very active in church

work. She has been secretary and treasurer of the County Sunday School Association for seven years. She is a skillful performer on the piano and pipe organ, both of which are at her disposal in the stone residence on the Park, in Belvidere. For seven years she has given her services as organist in the Methodist Episcopal Church on the Jardine organ that she was largely instrumental in procuring." It adds that she took a course in music at the Centenary Collegiate Institute at Hackensack, New Jersey and was a member of the National Association of Organists. Much on her ancestors is also included in this source. She also wrote a book called *Cummins-Titman and Allied Families*. It was published in 1946.

She married 14 June 1890 Dr. George Wyckoff Cummins. She was the daughter of William Blair and Margaret E. Roseberry Titman and descended from the Blairs of Warren Co., New Jersey and was a cousin to John Insley Blair.

**Mem #81½. Martha Irene Blair** of Bristol, Tennessee (7 April 1849 Washington Co., TN - ) She married 15 December 1875 in Jonesboro Tennessee John E. Naff. She descended from John "The Pioneer" Blair. She lived in Bristol, Tennessee in 1927. [I have no idea why they gave her a ½ number. Then it says "not member yet."]

**Mem #82. Capt. James Blythe Anderson** of Lexington, Kentucky (25 Dec 1868 Madison Co., KY – 1945 Fayette Co., KY) He descended from Capt. William and Catherine Blair Anderson of Augusta Co., Virginia. He was an author, poet and farmer.

*History of Kentucky, In Five Volumes*, by William Elsey Connelley and E. M. Coulter Ph. D., the American Historical Society, 1922, Vol, VI, p. 206

"Capt. James Blythe Anderson, proprietor of "Glengarry," one of the historic country homes of Fayette County, three miles north of Lexington on Newtown Pike, is a member of one of the most distinguished of Southern families and has for many years collected and preserved in his library at Glengarry many documents and papers bearing on Kentucky history in general. His ancestors came to Kentucky when it was part of Virginia, and few names have been more conspicuously identified with the life and affairs of the state than that of Anderson...(much Anderson genealogy and history here)....

Capt. James Blythe Anderson spent the first twelve years of his life at his mother's old home, Blythewood, but since the age of fourteen has lived at Glengarry. He was educated in the old brick school in Madison County, also a school at Taylor's Cross Roads, Fayette County, the private school at Lexington kept by Mrs. Sally Short Higgins, and attended another school conducted by James Lane Allen on the site of the present Christian Church, corner of Walnut and Short Streets in Lexington. He was also a pupil under J. Lewis Logan. In 1886 Captain Anderson entered the State College and in 1892 began the study of law at the University of Virginia. He never carried his studies far enough to secure

admission to the bar. Beginning in 1894, he was for four years engaged in breeding and racing of thoroughbreds. Captain Anderson went out to Utah in 1904 and carried his prospecting over a wide extent of Western country, at first prospecting for oil and gas and in 1906 for gold. As a gold prospector he carried his work into Death Valley, and he discovered the first gold in the Jarbridge country of Nevada.

Captain Anderson was not willing to let his fifty years stand in the way of military duty when America entered the war with Germany. He joined the Officers Training Camp at Fort Benjamin Harrison at Indianapolis, and was commissioned a captain of cavalry in the National Army in August 1918. He was assigned to duty with the 51<sup>st</sup> Company, 13<sup>th</sup> battalion, Depot Brigade in the 84<sup>th</sup> Division, and subsequently became captain of the 106<sup>th</sup> Company, 27<sup>th</sup> Battalion in the same Brigade at Camp Zachary Taylor. He resigned, was rejected for service in the Canadian Army, underwent a surgical operation at St. Joseph's Hospital at Lexington, KY and then enlisted in the regular army at Fort Thomas, in August, 1918, and remained there on duty until honorably discharged January 22, 1919.

Many of Captain Anderson's interests are literary, and he is author of one published book, *The Nameless Hero*, and of a number of poems, stories, reviews and songs.

June 16, 1898 he married Miss Alice Sims. (her ancestry and data on their children here)...Capt. James Blythe Anderson is a member of the Authors' league of America, and belongs to the Order of Cincinnati, the Society of the War of 1812 and the American Legion."

His papers are held in the Special Collections, University of Kentucky Libraries, Lexington, Kentucky.

**Mem# 83. Edwin Vance Tadlock** of Winchester, Kentucky (2 Jan 1878 Carter Co., KY – 12 Feb 1941 Sarasota, FL) He was a Graduate of Central University, Kentucky and Louisville, Kentucky Seminary. He was a Presbyterian minister. He was the son of member #30. He married 3 November 1909 Anna Mary Bartholomew. He descended from John "the Pioneer" Blair through both his mother's and his father's family lines. He had no children.

**Mem # 84. Richard White Blair** of Dallas, Texas (13 June 1872 Pittsylvania Co., KY – 5 Nov 1952 Dallas Co., TX) He was a wholesale Grain Merchant. In 1928 he founded the Blair-Jones Paint Co., in Dallas, Texas. He married on 5 June 1907 to Maggie Penn Dillard. His son Richard White Blair, Jr. became President of the company in 1939. Richard, Sr. was the son of Joseph Dickinson and Ellen White Blair and descended from William Blair and Sarah Sutter of Pennsylvania and Pittsylvania Co., Virginia.

**Mem #85. George Wyckoff Cummins** of Belvidere, New Jersey (2 June 1865 Warren Co., NJ – 17 Apr 1942 Warren Co., NJ) He was a physician and surgeon. He was the husband of member #81. He joined the society in his own right, but submitted his wife's

ancestry and/or he paid her dues and was given another number? He indicated that they had no children as of 1929. They had no children.

*History of Warren Co., New Jersey*, page 276.

“George Wyckoff Cummins, PH. D., M.D. is a representative of a family that can be traced back in European history to the middle ages. (Ancient history of family and his genealogy here)...George Wyckoff Cummins was born March 2, 1865, entered the Centenary Collegiate Institute at Hackettstown, N.J., in 1879, and, graduating in 1881, entered the Sheffield Scientific School of Yale College, at which he received the degree of Ph. B. in 1884. He remained four years as a post graduate student and instructor in physiological chemistry and mathematics, receiving the degree of Ph.D. from Yale University in 1889. He continued his studies at the College of Physicians and Surgeons in New York (the medical department of Columbia University) which gave him the degree of M.D. in 1890. On June 14, 1890, he married Annie Blair Titman, daughter of William Blair Titman, of Bridgeville, N.J. (data on her above under her own listing)...In collaboration with Professor R. H. Chittenden, of Yale University, Dr. Cummins has done a great deal of original work in physiological chemistry, most of which is published in the *Transactions of the Connecticut Academy*. He is also the author of “The Annealing of Copper”, “Four Thousand Year Calendar,” and many articles of genealogical, historical and scientific subjects.

Dr. Cummins has made two trips abroad, partly educational and partly in the interest of some important inventions of his in improved methods of annealing iron and copper wire. His method of annealing copper in an atmosphere of steam is the accepted method throughout the world today, and offered the first practical proof that steam can be superheated to a white heat with perfect safety, provided it is done at atmospheric pressure.

In 1891, Dr. Cummins entered upon the practice of medicine at Belvidere New Jersey, where he has resided ever since. In 1897, he was the active spirit in the formation of the West Jersey Toll Line Company, which has control of the telephone system of Warren County.

In addition to his private practice, he has served as physician to the town of Belvidere and county of Warren, secretary of the board of health, and medical inspector of Belvidere’s public schools. He has been a member of the board of education for eighteen years, and has done much to bring the schools to their present high standard. He is also examiner for several life insurance companies and several lodges. He is a past master of Warren Lodge, No. 13, Free and Accepted Masons, and was the first commander of Belvidere Tent, No. 30, Knights of the Maccabees.

**Mem # 86. Lt. Col. Henry Theodore Blair** of New York, New York (24 Mar 1887 Wilkes Co., NC – 5 Mar 1967 New York City, NY)  
*The New York Times*, 7 Mar 1967

“Henry T. Blair, a retired economist, stockbroker and business executive who was known widely here, died Sunday night in the Veterans Administration Hospital. He was 79 years old and had lived at the New Weston Hotel.

Mr. Blair, a veteran of both World Wars, served as a captain in the 11<sup>th</sup> Air Force Command in Alaska in World War II. In 1947, he headed the New York and New Jersey appeal of American Relief for Poland.

Mr. Blair who had been a director of the St. Louis-San Francisco Railway, had also been associated with the textile export trade here and with wood-working plants in his native North Carolina.”

*The New York Times*, 10 Mar 1967

“Blair- the Saint Nicholas Society of New York records with profound regret the death of Henry T. Blair, a member of the Society. Edward R. Finch, JR., Pres. and DeWitt Lounsbury, Secy.”

“Blair-The Society of Colonial Wars announces with deep regret the death on March 5, 1967, of Henry Theodore Blair, a member of the Society. Col. S. Victor Constant, Governor”

He listed his occupation as “Securities” when he joined the society. He was born in North Wilkesboro, Wilkes Co., North Carolina. He enlisted in the U. S. Army in 1917 as a private and held various ranks until leaving the army in 1919 as a Major. He then enlisted in the Army Reserve and left as a Lt. Col. in the Army Reserve. He was single in 1929. He was the son of Elijah Steele and Sarah Corina Finley Blair and descended from Colbert and Sarah Morgan Blair.

**Mem #87. Mary Ellen Reed** of Erie, Pennsylvania. (7 Aug 1873 Erie Co., PA- 22 Mar 1940 Erie Co., PA.) She was the daughter of John Grubb Reed and Candace Eliza Blair and descended from William and Mary Hannah of York Co., Pennsylvania. [her application is missing from the files]

**Mem #88. Pearl Blair Whitt** of Winchester, Kentucky (9 Feb 1888 Morgan Co., KY - ) She was the daughter of Dr. Aaron Likens Blair and Melinda Robinson. She married 24 June 1906 Addison T. Whitt. She may have been a widow in 1929, as she does not list her spouse on her application. She descended from Jesse and Rebecca Ellington Blair.

**Mem #89. Ed Blair** of Spring Hill, Kansas (1 Jan 1863 Bourbon Co., KS – 1950 Multnomah Co., OR) He was a merchant and poet. His picture is in the original lineage book, page 509 and some of his poetry is on-line. He was the son of James and Mary Snoots Blair of Guernsey Co., Ohio and descended from John and Margaret Blair who came from Ireland and settled in Guernsey Co., Ohio. He married Lulu A. Hiatt on 2 September 1885.

“*Kin-in-Linn*”, Kansas Linn County Genealogical Society, Pleasanton KS, Vol. 13, #4 [There was no date on this obituary.]

Ed Blair Died in Portland, Oregon

Was Former Manager of Cadmus Grange Store

Widely known as Merchandiser, Poet and Writer; Service and Burial at Spring Hill.

Among the most noteworthy figures of Linn County was Ed Blair, formerly of Cadmus, who was born in Bourbon County in 1863 and was just buried at Spring Hill.

In Linn county as manager of the Grange Store at Cadmus, Ed Blair became widely known for his success in merchandising and advertising. His advertisements were unique, largely being written in verse and probably more thoroughly read than any other advertisements published in the county.

Blair's success in the Grange Store at Cadmus (rated the oldest successful co-operative store in the nation in continuous service) led to his successive employment in other Granges – at Olathe and Spring Hill, where he made his home until after the death of his wife. Except for interruptions while he managed the Grange Store in Olathe, he headed the Spring Hill store for 25 years, or until his retirement at the age of 65 years. Upon the urging of his many friends, Mr. Blair published a collection of his rhymes in book form – two such volumes having appeared. At least one of these – "Random Rhymes" is among the books of poetry in the Mary Somerville library here. It contains 213 poems, many of such merit as to have been widely praised and reproduced. The books were printed in Spring Hill before Mr. Blair's removal to the home in Portland, Oregon, where he died."

**Mem #not issued. David Alexander Blair** of Houston, Mississippi (21Apr 1851 Pickens Co., AL – 1929) Justice of the Peace. This man is a bit of a mystery. His son James T. Blair wrote to the Society on 8 Nov 1929 from Houston, Mississippi to say that he appreciated the letter of sympathy the society had sent concerning his father's death. The notes say that his father was a subscriber to the magazine and had died this year. However, I don't find that his father was a member. David Alexander Blair was born in 1841 and died in 1929 (apparently). He married Belle Gilliam and descended from James and Isabelle Blair of Fairfield Co., South Carolina and Chickasaw, Mississippi.

**Mem # 90. Eva Lena Blair** of Minneapolis, Minnesota (23 Jan 1886 Moultrie Co., IL – ) She was on the faculty of the University of Minnesota. She was an extension employee and lectured at various places in Minnesota and Illinois. She was born in Sullivan, Illinois the daughter of John George and Ainanda Ellen \_\_\_ Blair. Her father was born in Wertumburg, Germany.

**Mem #91. William Allison Blair** of Victoria, Australia (24 Nov 1863 Victoria, Australia – ) He was a station Agent in St. Kilda, Victoria, Australia. He was born in Fitzroy, Australia and apparently supplied a great deal of research to the society as it says "elected Life member number 91 in consideration of the gift of

accumulated research to the Society, February 27, 1930. He also supplied some data on his children. He was married to Minnie Waters Peck. He was the son of William and Isabella Ewart Blair and descended from John and Jane McAllen of Scotland.

**Mem #92. Edna Watkins Jewell** of Cleveland, Ohio (24 Aug 1873 Warren Co., IN - ) She was the daughter of Enoch Straun and Elizabeth Jane McCoy Watkins and descended from Brice Blair who died in Bedford Co., Pennsylvania in 1785. In a letter, she said she and her husband Frank M. Jewell lived in Boston, Massachusetts, Galveston, Texas, San Antonio, Texas in 1917, Chicago in 1920-22 and Cleveland, Ohio by 1931. She said her husband worked as a Special Agent for the U. S. Treasury Dept. Her husband may have died on 20 Sep 1935 in Cuyahoga Co, Ohio.

**Mem # 93. Mary Florence Hale Naftzger** of Sioux City, Iowa (22 Oct 1881 Black Hills, SD - 19 Jan 1970 Ventura Co., CA) She was the daughter of John Dickinson and Anna Elizabeth Kost Hale and descended from the Blairs of Grayson and Carroll Co., Virginia and was related to Mem. #17. Mrs. Naftzger is a graduate of St. Francis Academy, (1901). Her husband Dr. James Blane Naftzger was an Eye, Ear and Nose Physician in Sioux Falls South Dakota and later in Hollywood, California. They married 28 Sept 1907.

**Mem #94. Linnie J. Blair** of Blair's Mills, Pennsylvania (9 Sept 1866 Huntingdon Co., PA – 1944 Huntingdon Co., PA) Her full name was Mary Jane Alinda Holmes Blair. She was the daughter of John H. and Mary McConnell Blair of Blair's Mills, Huntingdon Co., and descended from Alexander and Rachel Carson Blair. She never married.

**Mem #95. James Elsrode Blair** of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania (7 Jan 1891 Allegheny Co., PA –) Treasurer, Industrial Engineering Co. He was the son of Edward Newton Brice and Harriet Lucille Lawton Blair and descended from Brice Blair who died in York Co., Pennsylvania in 1785.

#### **Applicants who were never given a number:**

No-number **Albert M. Blair** of Tuscarawas Co., Ohio (18 Oct 1870 Tuscarawas Co., OH -15 Mar 1947 Tuscarawas Co., OH) He married Frances Elizabeth Murphy. They are buried in Hartwood Cemetery. Washington Twp, Tuscarawas Co, Ohio. He was the son of Jesse Blair and Lucinda Honnold. Jesse farmed the old family homestead in Washington Twp until he died. He was also, for a time, a Township Trustee of Washington Twp, Tuscarawas. Co, Ohio. Albert

descended from Brice Blair who died in 1785 in Bedford Co., Pennsylvania.

**Edith Morgan Priest** of Washington, D.C. (12 Oct 1873 Washington, DC – 10 June 1967 Washington, D.C.) Her death was noted in the *Washington Post* of 10 June 1967. "Edith Morgan Priest, on Saturday June 10, 1967, wife of the late Edgar Priest; daughter of the late Mary Price Morgan and Richard Willoughby Morgan; Aunt of Richard W. Burbanks, Leesburg, Virginia. Services and entombment were private at the Washington National Cathedral."

She was married on 6 Feb 1909 to Edgar Priest. The reason she was buried in the National Cathedral is that her husband was the organist and choirmaster there until his death in 1935. His death was noted in both the *Washington Post* and the *New York Times*.

She descended from Andrew Blair of Blair's Valley Maryland. She listed Andrew's wife as Elizabeth Davie, rather than Davis, but did not give a source for that data.

**Violet Blair Robertson** of Phoenix, Arizona (6 Aug 1885 McLennan Co., TX – ) She was the daughter of Thomas Alexander and Elizabeth Darrow Blair and married 14 June 1911 to Sterling C. Robertson, the fourth. She claimed descent from Alexander Blair of Augusta Co., Virginia, but her research has been questioned by current descendants of that line. She definitely descended from William Blair and his wife Mary Allen of Greenbriar and Amherst Co., Virginia.

**James Fred Henry** of Indianola, Iowa (27 June 1870 Warren Co., IA - ) He married Lulu May Lacey on 20 Jan 1904. He did not know his ancestry except that his father J. A. Henry who married Carrie McGranahan and her grandmother was named Jane Blair and her mother was a McMaster. He is a descendant of my ancestor Hugh Blair who came to Crawford Co., Pennsylvania from Donegore, Ireland in 1803 and I have his lineage should anyone be interested.

**John Leo Blair** of Warren, Pennsylvania (24 June 1888 Warren Co., PA – 12 Mar 1962 FL) He married Maude Hall on 2 June 1914. He was the son of John Edwin and Margaret Gleason Blair. They came to Pennsylvania from Toronto, Canada and his grandfather John Blair immigrated to Canada from Co. Cork, Ireland. He founded the Blair Processing Co. in Warren, Pennsylvania.

*Warren Times Mirror*, 13 Mar 1962 p. 1 col. 3 and 4  
John L. Blair, son of the late John and Margaret Gleason Blair. Grad. from Warren High School at age 15, attended University of Pennsylvania Law School. Grad. 1911.

1911-1914 practiced law with the late Judge William E. Rice. In 1936 and 1942, in Washington, served as special assistant to the Secretary of the Treasury. Member of St. Joseph's church, personal friend of Cardinal Spellman. In 1954, created Knight of St. Gregory by Pope Pius XII. Founder of New process Co., mail order and direct shop firm which he headed. Founded in 1910. Said to have given employment to more people than any other industry in Warren Co. Member of Conewango Club; Conewango Valley Country Club; director of Warren National Bank; Knights of Columbus. In Fla. member of Gulf Stream Golf Club and Delray Beach Bath and Tennis club. Married in 1914 to Maude Hall, whose paternal grandparents had been among the early settlers of Warren Co. Survived by wife and 2 children: Mrs. John Blair Carter of Warren and John L. Blair, Jr. Vice President of New Process Co. 5 Grandchildren: John L. Blair III; Wendy Blair; Louis Blair Carter; Anthony Carter and Mrs. John Davison. 1 grandchild, Alan Blair. Sisters and brothers, all of Warren: Harold W. Blair, Lester A. Blair, Mrs. Inez B. Knabenshue and Miss Mildred Blair.

#### BLAIR PROCESSING COMPANY:

The History of the Company does not shed much light on the Blair family that founded Blair Processing. What little it contains about the family is extracted here. The History of the company is in the BSGR archives.

This booklet was written in 1985 to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the company. There is a picture of John L. Blair, President in 1985 sitting in front of a picture of the founder of the company, John L. Blair, Sr. Company founded in 1910 by John L. Blair Sr, who died 12 March 1962, age 73, in Florida. His two brothers were also important members of the firm: Harold W. Blair (retired May 1960 as President and General Manager, died 1971) & Lester Blair (joined the firm in 1920, Vice President and Advertising Manager until his death in June 1962).

John L. Blair, Sr, was nearing the end of his studies as a Law student at the University of Pennsylvania (Philadelphia) when he was offered a job selling black raincoats by a factory recently inherited by one of his classmates. This led to the founding of the company...John L. Blair's birthday was reason to celebrate each year after 1945 and they had picnics on June 24th.

**Inez C. Franklin** of Kansas City, Missouri (20 July 1885 DeKalb Co., MO – Jan 1975 ) She was single in 1926. She was the daughter of John B. Franklin and Susie R. Harris. She descended from Hugh and Mary Dawson Blair by way of two lines of her family.

**Alta Walker** of Macomb, Illinois (24 Aug 1881 McDonough Co., IL – May 1971 Fulton Co., IL) She was single in 1926. She descended from the Rev. Samuel Blair of Fagg's Manor, Pennsylvania by way of

his daughter Mary who married the Rev. David Rice and went to Green Co., Kentucky The following was in the History of McDonough Co., Illinois concerning her father:

“Her father Theophilus G. Walker, a prominent citizen of this county, is a son of Allen H. Walker, a native of Adair county, Kentucky. The latter came to McDonough county in 1835, and lived for one year, upon Cyrus Walker's farm. In the spring of 1836 he settled on the farm, where his son now resides, on section 35, Scotland township. He died here August 30, 1858. He was an earnest Christian, and one of the original members of Camp creek Presbyterian church. Theophilus G. Walker was the ninth, of a family of ten children, and was born on the farm which is now his home, May 5, 1843. He was educated in the district school, and at Abingdon college; where he attended for a time. On completing his education he engaged in farming, which occupation he has always followed. He owns 247 acres of well improved land, and is a thorough going and successful farmer. He served as county supervisor in 1882, and has held other offices of trust in the township. He was married, December 11, 1873, to Emma C. Thomson, a daughter of Rev. P. W. Thomson, of this county. They have three children—Wallace A., Bertha and Alta. Mr. and Mrs. Walker are members of Camp creek Presbyterian church.

**Ruth Blair** of Atlanta, Georgia (17 Mar 1889 Douglas Co., GA - 24 Jul 1974) Ruth was elected the State Historian for the State of Georgia in 1925. She was also President of the Atlanta Historical Society. She never married. She is buried at Rose Hill Cemetery in Lot #18, Cobb Co., Georgia.

*Atlanta and Environs, A Chronicle of Its People and Events, Family and Personal History*, Vol. III, Lewis Historical Publishing Company, Inc, New York.

Ruth Blair- Executive secretary of the Atlanta Historical Society, Miss Ruth Blair has been identified throughout her career with the historical and legal records of her state. In this connection she has compiled and published a number of reference works, has traveled extensively and has become widely recognized in learned societies. She has held her present post with the Atlanta group since 1937.

A native of Douglas County, Georgia, Miss Blair was born March 17, 1889, daughter of Columbus and Nancy Ann (Mozley) Winn-Blair. She is a descendant of the Mozleys, the Lears, and the Majors of Virginia; of the Bankstons of Maryland and North Carolina; the Blairs and Hendersons of North Carolina; and the Stocktons of South Carolina. Her father, who was born November 29, 1839 in Jackson County Georgia, died May 7, 1901. He was a soldier in the Confederate States Army, serving as third lieutenant of the Fourth Company of the Campbell County militia from November 9, 1861 until 1865. Miss Blair's mother, who was born on August 11, 1851, died January 9, 1920.

Beginning her education in Austell, Georgia, Miss Ruth Blair graduated from high school there and entered Cox College, which she attended during 1905-1906. She also studied under private tutors. Her connection with the state

government began on February 7, 1916, when she became assistant legislative reference librarian of the Georgia State Library. In September 1918, she was appointed legislative reference librarian of the same institution and served as such until January 1, 1920. On January 1, 1921, she entered the Georgia Department of Archives and History as secretary and on January 1, 1925, succeeded to the office of director of the department and state historian by election of members of the State Historical Commission.

In this capacity she served until January 1, 1937, when she became executive secretary of the Atlanta Historical Society, this job having been created for her. Her familiarity with the history of the state is exhaustive and her qualifications for her state and society offices are well known. As director and state historian, Miss Blair built the collection of manuscript records in the department from a few thousand to several hundred thousand items. She compiled and published the 1925-1927, 1929 and 1931 editions of George's Official Register. She also compiled and published the *Georgia Women of 1926*; edited *Some Early Tax Digests of Georgia* (1926); and published *Revolutionary Soldiers' Receipts for Georgia Bounty Grants* (1928).

Her most outstanding work in the Atlanta Historical Society has been the building of a pictorial collection of some 18,000 photographs and prints, largely of the Atlanta area. This collection, the need for which had been impressed on her by the frequent calls for illustrative materials, has recently been pronounced the finest of its kind in the United States and it has cost the Society practically nothing.

As a part of her planning for the celebration of the centennial of the laying out and naming of Marthasville, first name of Atlanta, Miss Blair planned a set of twelve after-dinner coffee cups and saucers and a matching after-dinner coffee service of three pieces. This china was made by Josiah Wedgwood and Sons, Ltd., of Etruria, England, in the famous Wedgwood Queensware and in five colors. Each piece is individual in that it depicts a different person or building associated with the history of the city. Dogwood blossoms, the official flower of Atlanta, and the city's present and earlier seal, add to the historical interest. The set, though approved by the Atlanta Historical Society was the person project, financial and otherwise of Miss Blair.

Another contribution of service, not routine, was her editing of the Atlanta Historical Bulletins, 24, 27, 28, and 29, during the incapacity of the editor.

Miss Blair has traveled extensively. Three months of 1928 she spent in Great Britain, while visiting Ireland, Wales, Scotland and England. While there she arranged for special research on the early Georgia history, at her own expense, the work being done in the British Museum and the British Public Record Office. At other times she has been in Canada, Cuba, Bermuda, Mexico and several of the Central American countries. In May, 1933, she was appointed to the committee of twenty-one members, selected from the country-at-large, to organize the American Legal History Society. She accepted, and attended meetings in Washington D. C. and New York, New York, and contributed greatly to the program. She was the only woman member of this committee of which Professor H. Beale of Harvard University was chairman. Ruth Blair was named to membership on the committee of ten, also chosen from all parts of the United States, to plan for the organization of the Society of

American Archivists. This was in March, 1936, and she was one of the only two women on the committee. Markedly active in the meeting at Providence, Rhode Island at which the society was launched and where its first annual meeting was held. Miss Blair was elected one of the five councilors of the new body for a term of four years. The board of councilors is the equivalent of the executive committee of the Society of American Archivists. In 1935, she was given the Master of Public Service degree by Oglethorpe University. Other distinguished persons having honor conferred upon them at that time were Amelia Earhart, Florence Sabin and Martha Berry, C. Mildred Thompson, Caroline O'Day and Annie Jump Cannon. In addition to continuing a executive secretary of the Atlanta Historical Society, Miss Blair is a curator of the Georgia Historical Society.

**Myrta J. Foster Bosley** of Tonica, Illinois (26 Sept 1863 Tonica, IL - 26 Nov 1946) She was born in Tonica Illinois the daughter of Thomas C. Foster and Elizabeth Blair. She was descended from John and Sarah Evans Blair of Westmoreland Co., Pennsylvania, but her application contained very little data and some of it was incorrect.

**Lucile Osborn Rust** of Leavenworth, Kansas (13 Feb 1890 Atchison Co., MO -27 Oct 1976) She married Milbern J. Rust on 22 Dec 1907. Her husband died in the flu epidemic of 1918-1919. A great believer in education she temporarily entrusted her children to relatives and went back to school to prepare for a career in teaching that culminated with her appointment as a professor of home economics at Kansas State University and publication of a textbook that was used nationwide. The correspondence and other papers of Lucile (Osborn) Rust (1890-1976), a professor of home economics at Kansas State University, document her work as a field consultant for the U.S. occupation authorities in Germany, 1949; her lecture tour as a Fulbright Scholar in Australia and New Zealand, 1952; and her involvement in Kansas women's civic groups. These papers along with her genealogical research on the Blair, Burgess, Osborn and Palmer Families are held in the Driggs-Rust family. Papers, 1851-1976, 1906-1976: A Finding Aid Arthur and Elizabeth Schlesinger Library on the History of Women in America Radcliffe College - now part of Harvard University. She was the daughter of Mr. Osborn and Lina Palmer and descended from Alexander and Susannah Ewing Blair.

**Cordelia June Blair Diven** of Blairsville, Pennsylvania (19 Nov 1862 Armstrong co., PA - 15 Sept 1937 Blairsville, Indiana Co., PA) She married James Diven on 1 January 1895. She taught school after the death of her husband in 1906. She died of a fractured skull. She was the daughter of James Wilson and Harriet Martin

Blair of Westmoreland Co., Pennsylvania and descended from the James Blair and Margaret Wilson of Lancaster Co., Pennsylvania.

**Paul Loughridge Blair** of Los Angeles, California (19 Feb 1879 Los Angeles Co., CA - ) He was a private detective and listed only the name of his father and mother on his application. The following is the obituary of his father. This family descends from Robert and Isabelle Rankin Blair of the New England Blairs.

"Pioneer of Los Angeles". printed in *Blair Family Magazine*, Spring 1997, page 11.

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 [April 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.

**Belle Matthews Graham** of Anniston, Alabama (20 Dec 1876 Hamilton Co., TN - ) She says she was born in Georgetown, Tennessee to G. A. Matthews and Martha Hillery. She then listed his parents as James Matthews and Nancy Blair without places or dates. Data submitted to the current society says George Matthews was the son of James Matthews and Mary Ann Blair. Mary Ann was the daughter of Thomas and Hannah Stone Blair of Monroe Co., Tennessee.

**Frances Blair Williams** of North Chattanooga, Tennessee (8 Oct 1898 Hamilton Co., TN - ) She was the daughter of Frank Walker and Lena Allison Blair and the wife of Dr. D. N. Williams. She also descended from Thomas and Hannah Stone of Georgetown, Tennessee.

**David Ellmore Blair** of Jefferson City, Missouri (16 Aug 1874 Salina Co., KS - 1954) He was a Judge of Missouri Supreme Court and descendant of Alexander and Elizabeth Cochran Blair of Pennsylvania and Kentucky.

The National Cyclopaedia of American Biography. Volume 33. New York: James T. White & Co., Vol. E.

Blair, David Ellmore, judge, was born at Salina, Kans., Aug. 16, 1874, son of Edgar Wilson and Emma Ann (McClure) Blair and descended from Scotch ancestors who came from the North of Ireland to Pennsylvania. The first of these of record is Alexander Blair, from whom the line continues through his son William (Who migrated to Iowa), Thomas, and Newton and his wife Emily Houston, who were the grandparents of David E. Blair. Both Alexander and William

Blair were Pennsylvania soldiers in the Revolutionary war. Edgar Wilson Blair was county attorney of Saline county, Kans., in 1889-90. David E. Blair was graduated A. B. at Kansas Wesleyan University in 1896 and LL. B. at the law school of the University of Kansas in 1899. He taught school in 1897-98 and in 1988 was admitted to the Missouri Bar, beginning practice at Joplin, Mo., with Galen & A. E. Spencer. in 1900 he formed a partnership with Pere D. Decker (Afterward a member of congress). in 1903-04 he was assistant prosecuting attorney for Jasper county, Mo., and from 1908 to 1917 was circuit judge of that county. During 1917-20 he was a member of the Missouri public services commission. In 1921 he became judge of the Missouri Supreme court for the term expiring in 1930 and was elected chief justice in 1925, serving the usual term of seventeen months. He retired from the supreme court, Dec. 31, 1930, and engaged in the practice of law in St. Louis until 1934, when he returned to Joplin, where he is an assistant attorney for the Missouri Pacific Railroad. He is a member of the American, Missouri State and Jasper County bar associations and a Scottish Rite Mason. In politics he is a Republican. He was married at Joplin, May 1, 1902, to Mary Eleanor, daughter of Daniel W. Henley, a contractor and builder, of that city, and has three children: Herbert Henley; Mabel Emma, wife of George Gans; and Eleanor Blair

**Lucy J. Pittenger** of Long Beach, California (6 Mar 1856 Lee Co., IL – 14 April 1944 Los Angeles, CA). She listed her occupation on her chart in 1942 as “86 years old”. She married Ebenezer M. Pittenger on 4 Apr 1870 in Lee Co. Illinois. She was the daughter of Robert and Lucy Dunton Blair and descended from Robert and Eleanor Sutphin of Bedminster, Somerset Co., N.J. Ebenezer Pittenger was born 24 March 1840 and died 17 Feb 1917 in Long Beach, California. He was a farmer when they lived in Illinois.

*The Portrait and Biographical Record of Lee Co., Illinois* has a biography of her husband. It has a little bit of data on Lucy:

“Our Subject was again married, April 4, 1870, Miss Lucy Blair becoming his wife. They have five children living: Lewis, Albert, Reuben, Morrie and Levi. Death has crossed their threshold and removed their eldest Wesley, who died in 1890, aged twenty years, and their youngest, Winfield, who died in 1890 at the age of two years.

Mrs. Pettenger(sic), is a native of this county, born at Malagin’s Grove, and a daughter of Robert Blair, a pioneer of this part of Illinois. (her ancestry here back to Somerset Co., N.J). Mrs. Pettenger’s father was twelve years old when his parents moved to Ohio, and he there grew to manhood, and became a miller. He went from Ohio to Indiana, and was married at Ft. Wayne to Lucy Dunton, a native of Jefferson County, NY, In 1843 the Blairs came to Illinois, and after living at Galesburg two years came to Lee County in 1845, and was the second family to settle at Twin Grove, where the father entered a tract of Government land upon which he built a log house for shelter.”

\* \* \*

## DO YOU KNOW WHO THESE BLAIRS ARE?

### George Blair – A Fakir

Sent by Irvin Morse, Mem. #0130

[Unnamed newspaper article dated c.1899] “George Blair, the alleged Cuban Volunteer who was here and at Elkhart and other points last week, and always managed to “faint” from sickness and exhaustion (?) where it would be most likely to attract sympathy, was in Indianapolis before he came here and gathered in the shekels and sympathy at a great rate. This is how he struck them:

“A work out volunteer soldier fell asleep on the doorsteps of Gov. Mount’s residence in Indianapolis. His sobs attracted the family and he was given food and money to assist him to Chicago, which he said was his home. He was on his way back from Cuba. Saturday Gov. Mount received a letter from Geo. Blair, Chicago, thanking the governor for his kindness, announcing his safe arrival home.

\* \* \*

### Blairs in Early Helena, Montana Records

Submitted by Lethene Parks, BSGR Mem. #0490

St. Peters Protestant Episcopal Church, 511 N. Park Ave., Helena, Montana, *Church Parish Register, 1869-ca.1884*, pages 218-219:

#### Burials

Thursday, December 4 [1884]

#14 – **Samuel H. Blair**, age 29

Residence: Helena

Date of death: December 2

Cause of Death: Typhoid Fever

Place of Burial: Helena Cemetery

Clergyman: Frederick T. Webb.

*Montana State Archives*, Montana State Historical Society, Helena, Montana:

From SC 1887 – Benton Avenue Cemetery, Register/Record of Burials from 1879-188-: Dec. 4, 1880 – **J. W. Blair** purchased a lot in Division B.

From SC 1012 – Benton Avenue Cemetery Association Records, 1909-1922: **Samuel Blair**, buried in Lot 5, Block 3, Div. B.



## Charles Blair of the Blair Manufacturing Co., Berlin, Connecticut

Compiled by Mary J. Powers, BSGR Mem. #0240 from material sent by Joseph Lloyd Roberts

In Catharine M. North's, *History of Berlin, Connecticut*<sup>1</sup> is a chapter devoted to "Belcher Brook and its Industries.—The History of Risley's Mill.—James Lamb's Stove Factory.—The Blair Factory."

"In 1850 Charles Blair came to Berlin, from Collinsville and established a business for the manufacture of steel rakes, plantation hoes, axes, chisels and carpenters' draw shaves. His name, which has been used by anticipation, was at that time first given to this north pond and factory on Belcher Brook. The property was deeded on October 14, 1850, by Elishama Brandegee, to a joint stock company, incorporated under the name of the Blair Manufacturing Company. The capital stock, mostly subscribed by the business men of Berlin, was \$20,000, which seemed unlimited in those days. \$15.625 were paid in. ... Norman Porter was the President of the company, Timothy Boardman, secretary ... [and Charles Blair one of the subscribers]. ...

"Mr. Blair, who, with his estimable family, had lived in the Dr. Gridley house, returned to Collinsville, where for many years he filled the position of superintendent of the extensive factories of the Collins Axe Company... Mr. Bulkeley has one of the Blair plantation hoes now, in his barn. It is too broad for New England soil. Besides the tools mentioned, pickaxes were made at Blair's, and pikes for John Brown, whose 'soul goes marching on.'

"... The Blair factory burned one evening in the fall of 1885, "and not a cent of insurance. The premium was high, and when the policy expired, he declined to renew. He said he had paid out money all his life for insurance, and had never received anything in return, and he would take his changes on the factory."

... "The only [other] incident reported from Blair's was the bursting of a grindstone five feet in diameter, which flew through the side of the factory and out into the lot a hundred feet away. No loss of life."

**Charles Blair** was born 16 January 1842 in Amherst, Massachusetts, and died 18 March 1893 in Connecticut.<sup>2</sup> He was the son of **Joseph Blair, Jr.** (1774 Worcester - 1857 Shutesbury, Massachusetts) and Mercy Dickinson; the grandson of **Joseph Blair** (c.1727-1804 Worcester) and Mary Duncan; great grandson of **Robert Blair** (c.1683 Aghadowey,

Londonderry, Ireland - 1774 Worcester, Massachusetts) and Isabella Rankin.

Charles married 2 May 1833, Eunice Blodgett, the daughter of Ashahel Blodgett of Amherst, Massachusetts and Lucinda Adams. They were the parents of seven children: (1) **Charles Hamilton Blair**, born Collinsville, Connecticut 16 July 1834, who married Anna Bull. (2) **Thomas Porter Blair**, 1836-1838). (3) **Horatio Porter Blair**, born 28 October 1839, died 5 May 1904, in Collinsville, who married in 1862, Elizabeth Powers of Hartford, Connecticut. Horatio's obituary stated that he "may justly be termed one of the fathers of the present low pressure steam heating system and the utilization of exhaust steam." He installed the heating and plumbing systems at the State Capitol in Hartford, Connecticut and Albany, New York, among many other buildings across the country. (4) **Francis Morrison Blair**, (1842 Collinsville - 1921 Canton Cemetery Record). (5) **Mary Amelia Blair** (1847-1853 *Hartford Times* death notice). (6) **Harriet Lucinda Blair** (1851 - 1930 Canton Cemetery Record). She married John B. Flint, a dentist. (7) **George Peters Blair** (born c. 1854).<sup>3</sup>

Other literature confirms that he both designed and made the pikes at the Blair Manufacturing Company, for the famous abolitionist, John Brown of Osawatimie, for use in his historic raid at Harper's Ferry.<sup>4</sup>

"It is impossible to find dates for all the industries which were carried on at Blair's, by help of the water power from Belcher's brook. After the Bulkeleys sold the Risley mill to Lyman Wilcox, they ground their tinnars' tools and made rotary shears for cutting metal in circles at Blair's factory."

**We would like to hear from any descendants of the children of Charles Blair and Eunice Blodgett Blair, especially any male surnamed Blair who would like to take part in the Blair DNA Project (see [www.BlairSociety.org/DNA Project](http://www.BlairSociety.org/DNA%20Project)). Editor.**

<sup>1</sup> New Haven, The Tuttle, Morehouse & Taylor Co., 1916, chapt. XII, page 238ff.

<sup>2</sup> Canton, Connecticut Cemetery Records, in *Barbour Collection Indexes*.

<sup>3</sup> Powers, Mary J., *The Blair Family of New England Revisited*, Blandford, Massachusetts, 2008, pages 441ff.

<sup>4</sup> Obituary for son, Horatio Porter Blair published in the *South Bend Tribune, South Bend, Indiana*, 14 May 1901, in Powers, as cited, page 443.

## From Members' Mail . . .

### Newberry County, South Carolina Blairs

From Bill Blair, Mem. #0773

I would dearly love to know where all the info on the Newberry County, South Carolina Blairs is coming from. My father and I have been researching this line for about 40 years now.

I am descended from **William "the Weaver" Blair** who died in about 1814 in Newberry. His wife's name was Jane. He purchased land from Patrick Carmichael. This is the only documented info I know on him. It is supposed, but not proven that he was born in Ireland and came on a ship to Charleston somewhere near 1785.

William's son was named David. His wife's name was Catherine. He died in about 1820 in Newberry, South Carolina. Most of this information is from his estate records in Newberry. I have found no other information on him and know of no one who has.

According to an old family history, William had two sons, **John J. Blair, Sr.** (born 1800, Newberry, South Carolina, died 1881 Pike County, Alabama), and **William Blair** (born 1805 Newberry, South Carolina, died 1886, Barbour County, Alabama). The history came from William's granddaughter. There have been rumors circulating that David had a daughter named Jane, but I have found no documentation to back up this theory.

The **James Blair** in Newberry, South Carolina was born about 1744 and died 13 July 1816. He is buried in King's Creek ARP Church Cemetery in Newberry. His wife's name was Jane Streight Blair. They had the following children: Mary, Martha, Margaret, William, James, George, and John J. Blair.

There was a James Blair who was on a ship's list arriving in Charleston in 1772, but I know of no documentation showing that this was the Newberry James Blair. Some descendants believe that the Newberry James Blair was the son of William Blair. Some descendants believe that he was the brother of William Blair. There is no documentation to prove or disprove either of these theories.

I saw a posting that said that Jane and James married in about 1780. I would love to know where this came from since there were no marriage records kept in South Carolina before about 1910. Also I have not found any church records before this same data. The

only records kept in South Carolina before this time (at least in Newberry) were pretty much just land and estate records.

I know that some suppositions and theories can be made when doing research, but it causes enormous problems when theories are posted as fact.

**George Blair** had a daughter named **Sarah Anne Jane Blair**. I have photos of George and Sarah. I also have a photo of George's plantation home. Part of the original structure is still standing and the current owners are working to restore it.

The Fairfield County Blairs and the Newberry Blairs are related, but we do not know the link yet. We have proven the relation through the Blair DNA project.

Please, please, if you have documentation on any of these items listed as fact, please let me know. If they are just theories, please make sure you state that in the postings. One of my relatives, now deceased, theorized on some information once that has since been disproved. The problem is that the incorrect information is still readily available to anyone with a computer modem. I wonder how many researchers have spent a ton of money and time going down the wrong path.

All of the information and photos I mentioned here are in a book that my father and I have just published. This is not a solicitation - I am happy to share the information I have - but if anyone is researching this line and would like a book, please e-mail me at [the.blairs@hotmail.com](mailto:the.blairs@hotmail.com) and I will gladly give you the link to where you can order it.

*Amo Probos!* Bill Blair, Deland Florida

\* \* \*

**See the Online Store on the BSGR Website:  
[www.BlairSociety.org](http://www.BlairSociety.org)  
for Blair publications and merchandise  
or  
use the order form enclosed with this issue.**

**Consider giving a BSGR membership for  
Christmas!**

**Buy BSGR and support your Blair Society!**

## Blairs in Early Philadelphia

From Charlotte Blair Stewart, BSGR Mem. #0022

I would appreciate anyone who knows anything about these Blair to get in touch with me at [char@Sewart.net](mailto:char@Sewart.net).

*Life in Early Philadelphia, Documents from the Revolutionary and Early National Periods*, edited by Billy G. Smith. University Park, Pennsylvania: The Pennsylvania State University Press, 1995, page 51. The Almshouse Daily Occurrence Docket, June 20, 1880 – January 17, 1801:

14 November 1800. “Admitted, **Daniel Blair**, an old Irish-man, upwards of eighty years old, he landed in this City fifty seven or eight years ago, and is listed as a Soldier in the King’s service; was in Braddock’s Army when they were defeated. He has been now about two years in this City, has a Complication of disorders such as the Gravel, Phthisick\* and Rheumatism; thus being helpless and poor withal is sent here...debit city.” [\*Phthisick was any type of debilitating affliction according to a footnote on this page.]

*Marriages and Deaths from the Philadelphia Papers 1791-1799*. Vol. XLII, pub. Philadelphia, 1899.

*Dunlap’s Daily American Advertiser*, 12 Nov. 1792  
“Isaac **Roberdeau** married to **Susan Shippen Blair** on 7 Nov. 1792.” [This notice also appeared in the *Aurora General Convention* on 5 Aug. 1799.]

*Claypool’s American Daily Advertiser*, 5 Aug. 1799  
“John **Steel** married **Elizabeth Blair** on 1 Aug. 1799.” [This notice also appeared in the *Aurora General Convention* on 5 Aug. 1799.]

*Marriage & Death Notices in Philadelphia Papers 1800-1810*, no pub. or date.

*Poulson’s American Daily Advertiser*, 15 Jan. 1801  
“Stephen **Burrows** married **Elizabeth Blair**, daughter of the ‘late’ **Rev. John Blair** on 8 Jan. 1801.”

*Poulson’s American Daily Advertiser*, 12 Mar. 1801  
“Died- **Rev. Hugh Blair** died 27 Dec. 1800.”

*Poulson’s American Daily Advertiser*, 16 Mar. 1804  
“Died – **Abby Phillips Blair**, dau. of **Dr. Sam’l Blair** died 13 Mar. 1804.”

*Poulson’s American Daily Advertiser*, 10 Oct. 1804  
“Died – **Major Alexander Blair** died 9<sup>th</sup> mos. 15 day, 1804.”

*Marriage & Death Notices in Philadelphia papers 1811-1825*, no pub. or date.

*Poulson’s American Daily Advertiser*, 19 Aug. 1812  
“**William Blair** died 17 Aug. 1812}

[This MAY be William Lawrence Blair, son of Rev. Samuel and Frances Van Hook Blair?]

*Poulson’s American Daily Advertiser*, 23 Oct. 1813  
“Mrs. **Hester Blair**, wife of **Samuel Blair, Jr.**, died 19 Oct. 1813.”

*Poulson’s American Daily Advertiser*, 28 Apr. 1815  
“**Robert Blair** died 26 Apr. 1815.”

*Poulson’s American Daily Advertiser*, 16 July 1816  
“Charles **Pierce** married **Frances V. Blair**, dau. of **Rev. Dr. Blair** on 4 July 1816.”

*Poulson’s American Daily Advertiser*, 25 Sept. 1818  
“**Rev. Samuel Blair, D.D.**, died 24 Sept. 1818.”

*Poulson’s American Daily Advertiser*, 26 July 1821 and 10 Aug. 1821. “**Abby P. Blair**, dau. of **Samuel Blair**, died 24 July 1821.”

*Poulson’s American Daily Advertiser*, 13 Oct. 1821  
“Mrs. **Susan Blair**, relict of **Rev. Dr. Samuel Blair** died 12 Oct. 1821.” *Poulson’s American Daily Advertiser*, 20 Oct. 1821 – same notice as on the 13<sup>th</sup>, but adds that she was “the daughter of **Dr. William Shippen** and Relict of **Dr. Samuel Blair**.”

*Poulson’s American Daily Advertiser*, 6 Sept. 1823  
“Mrs. **Susan Sanderson** died 4 Sept. 1823, sister of the late **Rev. Dr. Blair**.”

*Poulson’s American Daily Advertiser*, 18 Nov. 1823  
“**William Blair** died 17 November 1823.”

*Poulson’s American Daily Advertiser*, 15 Dec. 1823  
“**Samuel Blair** died 14 Dec. 1823.”

*Poulson’s American Daily Advertiser*, 29 June 1824  
“Mrs. **Sarah Blair** died 28 June 1824, widow of **William Blair**.”

*Marriage & Death Notices in Philadelphia Papers, 12826-1830*, Vol. 79, pub. Phila., 1903

*Poulson’s American Daily Advertiser*, 6 Dec. 1828  
“Married **Rev. T. J. A. Mines to Susan S. Blair**, dau. of **Samuel Blair**, Esq., of Germantown on th 21<sup>st</sup> inst. In this city by **Rev. Dr. Skinner**.”

*Poulson’s American Daily Advertiser*, 23 Oct. 1830  
“Died – **William Blair** in Washington City on the 18<sup>th</sup> inst.”

*Marriage & Death Notices in Philadelphia Papers*  
1831-1833, Vol. 177, pub. Phila. 1907

*Poulson's American Daily Advertiser*, Friday 21 Oct.  
1831 – “Died at Lyons, New York, on the 27<sup>th</sup> ult. **Eli Blair**, aged 40 and **Abbey**, his wife, age 36 years” (See Advertisers).

*Poulson's American Daily Advertiser*, 9 Dec. 1831  
“Died – Wednesday, **Miss Elizabeth Blair**, dau. of late **Captain William Blair**. Funeral from the late residence 150 S. Front Street.”

*Poulson's American Daily Advertiser*, 22 Nov. 1833  
“Died in the city yesterday, Miss **Mary E. Roberdeau**, eldest dau. of **Col. Roberdeau** of Washington, D.C. and granddaughter of the late **Rev. Dr. Blair** of Germantown.”

*Marriage & Death Notices in Philadelphia Papers*  
1834-1837

*Poulson's American Daily Advertiser*, 30 Sept. 1835  
“Died on the 28<sup>th</sup> inst. Mrs. **Hannah Blair** in the 71<sup>st</sup> year of her age. Funeral from her late residence, Pine Street near 8<sup>th</sup>.”

\* \* \*

## Index to Indian Wars Pension Files 1892-1926 Volume I: A – K

(transcribed by Virgil D. White, Waynesboro, Tenn.:  
The National Historical Publishing Company, 1987)  
Submitted by Charlotte Blair Stewart, Mem. #0022

**Blair, Colbert Powell**, SC-952 OR 19 Nov. 1892, Black Hawk War srv  
**Blair, Ellison T.**, wid. Louisa J., WC-4533 AR 22 Sep. 1893, Cherokee War  
**Blair, George F.**, wid. Mary J., SC-2673 MI 27 May 1893, WC-6171 MI 9 May 1903  
**Blair, George Peter (alias Peter Blair)** wid. Annie M., WA-1582322 Wash, DC 28 May 1927, srv. 1874-84, died 9 Apr 1927 at Wash D.C.  
**Blair, George W.**, SC-13606 WA 26 May 1924, enl 1864, died 17 Feb. 1928  
**Blair, George W.**, SA-1580799 WA 6 May 1927, srv 1883-8  
**Blair, Green Washington**, wid. Sarah J., SA-9080 TX 15 Sep 1908, WC-112097 TX 30 Apr 1917, srv 1858 & 1960, died 26 Jan 1917 at Joshua TX  
**Blair, Henry**, SA-1244 FL 1 Sep 1892, srv 1836 in FL War, died 1892?  
**Blair, J. J.**, srv 1879 in TX Frontier, See unidentified Evidence Files.  
**Blair, James C.**, wid. Anna Mary, SC-6656 PA 13

Mar 1917, WC-8785 PA 6 May 1918, srv 1874-9, died 25 Apr 1918 at Pittsburgh, PA

**Blair, James J.**, wid Margaret B., WC-4162 Ind Terr 2 July 1894, srv 1839 in Black Hawk War

**Blair, Jesse**, wid. Mary Amanda, SA-9464 3 June 1912, WC-8922 CA 26 Sep 1916, srv 1860, died 25 Dec. 1915 at Roseville, CA

**Blair, Jesse M.**, SC-1868 GA 17 Aug 1892, Cherokee War srv

**Blair, Joel D.**, wid Emily E., WC-7598 TX 23 Jul 1908

**Blair, John (alias John Blair Akins)** wid Mary A., WA-857 IA 9 Sep 1892, FL War srv

**Blair, John A.**, SC-7786 MI 7 Jun 1917, srv 1876-81

**Blair, John H.**, wid. Adella C., SC-6344 WA 26 Aug 1902, WC-7689 TX 19 Apr 1909

**Blair, John J.**, wid Carrie D., SA-1603466 TX 23 Jan 1928, WA-1732750 TX 8 Apr 1933, srv 1879, died 1 Apr 1933 at Wharton TX

**Blair, Johnson K.**, wid Susan, WC-2608 TN 13 Oct 1892, Cherokee War srv

**Blair, Oscar A.**, S-0#1618751 KN 6 Jul 1928, srv 1886-96

**Blair, Peter (alias George Peter Blair)** wid Annie M., WA-1582322 Wash DC 28 May 1927, srv 1874-84, died 9 Apr 1927 at Wash DC

**Blair, Samuel A.**, wid Mary E., WC-8425 OK 30 Mar 1917, srv 1868-9, died 29 Jul 1914 near Guthrie OK

**Blair, Stanny A.**, SA-1644643 CA 11 Jun 1929, srv 1882-7

**Blair, William**, SA-20281 AZ 10 Jan 1925, enl 1886

**Blair, William**, SA-13357 OR 26 May 1924, enl 1864

**Blair, William H.**, wid Elizabeth, WC-810 TN 13 Oct 1892, Cherokee War

**Please share any military records you can dig up on these men, and any lineage information by sending it for publication in the *Blair Family Magazine*. The information you find may lead to connections with others researching the same lines, the finding of a family Bible and other records, and perhaps, many new “cousins.”**

### *Gene Blair's, Blair Family History*

This publication contains Gene Blair's life-long research on the James Blair and Mary Colbert line. It is available on CD from the BSGR, for \$25.00 plus \$3.00 S&H. For those of you with roots in this family and those researching in the Carolinas, it is an excellent source. Order from the BSGR Treasurer.

# MILESTONES . . .

## Condolences:

### Bernard Louis Blair

*Bay City Times*, Bay City, Michigan, Wednesday, 6 August 2008

BLAIR, BERNARD LOUIS – 87, of Bay City, Michigan, died on Tuesday, 15 August 2008 in Sheffield Place Senior Community, Bay City. He was born on 3 January 1921, the son of the late Samuel Orr and Louise Melinda (Lutz) Blair in Peoria, Illinois. During WWII, he served in the U.S. Army, rising to the rank of Master Sergeant. A graduate of the University of Michigan, and a certified public accountant, he moved to Mansfield, Ohio in 1950 and served as controller for Barnes Manufacturing until 1956 when he joined Ingersoll-Humphreys Division of Borg-Warner Corp. At Borg-Warner, he became Vice President of the Plumbing Products Division and then Chairman of the Board of Fibermold Corp., a subsidiary. On 15 November 1965, Mr. Blair was named Vice President and Director of Corporate Planning for Wickes Corp. in Saginaw, Michigan. He retired in 1986 from the Flintkote Corp. as Vice President and Chief Financial Officer and lived with his wife in North Carolina for twenty years. While in Mansfield, he served as associate chairman of the 1965 United Appeal Campaign; president of the Rotary Club, the Junior Chamber of Commerce and the Junior Achievement of North Central Ohio; Vice President of the Manufacturers' Council; a member of the board of Junior Achievement; president of the Jaycee Heart Fund, president of the University of Michigan Alumni Club; and a member of the Richland Trust Co. advisory board. He also served as treasurer of Habitat for Humanity and was a member and treasurer of the various Episcopal Churches in the many communities in which he resided. On 16 February 1946 he married Joan M. Loffi. He is survived by two daughters, Susan and husband James Hoyle of Bay City, and Kathleen and husband Paul Spreadbury of Pensacola, Florida; four grandchildren: Sarah (Mike) Scott, Amy (Ben) Denay, Brad (Lisa) Shaw, Amanda Spreadbury; two gr-grandchildren, Andrew Bradley Denay and Blair A. Scott; his sister in law, Frances Blair of Rancho Mirage, California; and many nephews and nieces. He was preceded in death by two brothers, Kenneth (Mary) Blair and WWII Ace Samuel Blair. A memorial service was held at Trinity Episcopal Church, Bay City, of which he was a member, with Rev. Michael Herman officiating. Cremation was chosen and inurnment took place in the church columbarium, the W. A. Trahan

Funeral Home, Bay City, handling arrangements.

Bernard was the uncle of BSGR member #801-L, James B. Blair.

\* \* \*

### **No New Members of the BSGR!**

There were no new members of the BSGR during this quarter of 2009. In looking back to the demise of the first Blair Society, the last issue of their quarterly newsletter appeared in 1931, at approximately the same stage in their Depression as where we are in our current Recession.

In that issue appeared the statement: *“The business depression of the country has affected the prosperity of our society, in common with many other institutions and societies. However, we are hopeful that our country will soon become prosperous and active, and that our members and the society as a body, will soon feel the pulse of returning commercial and fraternal life and circulation. The reduced form of our official organ this fall bears evidence that our directors believe in meeting the emergency in a practical manner. A number of good and useful articles are waiting publication when we can afford to print the usual number of pages.”* In that same issue is a lament at the non-response for material to be submitted to the newsletter - *“no one has responded to our call. . .”*

Thanks to the good offices of our officers, past and present, the finances of the current Blair Society are in much better shape, and at present there is no financial reason for not printing the full 20 pages of our quarterly newsletter.

The lament for inactivity of members, however, is much the same. Throughout the last issues of that long defunct newsletter, the secretary called repeatedly for submissions, asking that each member scan records and news items for Blair information. As editor, I sympathize with her. We're getting very few submissions. In this issue, I have provided members with many puzzles that need to be solved by a little research and ask that we do not go the way of our failed predecessor. An active membership will keep the Society healthy. Let's hear from you!

A renewing membership is also a necessity. This brings new data into the Society, and keeps us solvent. We encourage all members to actively recruit new members to BSGR, and to renew annual memberships. (And anyone who would like to serve as membership coordinator, please contact any of the officers, especially Brenda Weeks, our President.)

Let's learn from the past, and keep our Society alive!

### **Membership Renewal – Dues Reminder**

Once again the year has sped by and it is again time to remind you that your 2010 annual membership dues are payable 1 January 2010. We know you'll not want to miss a single issue of the newsletter. Renewal will also allow you access to the Members Only section of the BSGR website. **(Check the address on this newsletter label to see if you've already paid.** If it reads A-10, thank you, and you will not have to pay until next year.) For all others, a renewal form is enclosed in this issue for your convenience.

The current BSGR (and the *Blair Family Magazine*) is in its twenty-seventh year, a monumental achievement among surname societies. It is the support of all our members that keeps our Society active and growing at a time when many such societies are failing. Your membership supports the numerous offerings of the Society and has made it one of the best in family history societies. The **Website** under the guidance of Webmaster John A. Blair gets ever better, and now offers members e-mail access; our **Database** under BSGR genealogist Charlotte Blair Stewart is constantly added to and is one of the most complete and valuable resources for Blair researchers; **BSGR Publications** are sought by researchers from all over the globe and include the wonderful resource on our BSGR website, *Blair Obituaries*, which is still growing, and, of course, our *Blair Family Magazine*. **We can all be proud to be members of the Blair Society!! Renew today and keep us growing. Thank you.**

### **Available from the Blair Society for the Holidays**

Please take a minute to look over the enclosed flyer of BSGR publications and attractive Blair merchandise, lapel pins, tote bags and Blair Coat of Arms prints). You might also like to fund a Gift Membership for a year for a Blair you'd like to interest in family history (fill out the application form on the Blair website: [www.blairsociety.org](http://www.blairsociety.org)), or order one of **BSGR's** publications for a library or genealogical society in your locale. **Order early for pre-Christmas delivery. Buy BSGR and support your Society.**

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James D. Blair, Corresponding Secretary  
Blair Society for Genealogical Research  
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