

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Great gratitude is expressed to the many relatives and friends whose contributions made this publication a reality. These contributors are too numerous to be listed here; but as one looks at the names included in Chapter III, they will be recognized.

There are a few people who must be given extraordinary credit.

First, my wife, Martha Wilson Blair, for her patience, understanding, and encouragement.

Others who gave considerable time to make this happen and to whom tribute

### THE BLAIR FAMILIES ORIGINATING IN IRELAND, SOUTH CAROLINA, GEORGIA, AND ALABAMA

BY

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Irma Blair Farred and her husband, Thomas, for constant encouragement.

Becky Peterson and Fula Milner for such patience and efficient typing.

The need is great to name many others but three more people must be mentioned for without their great effort and constant work the reunions would not have been held and hence this book would not be. They are the committee which did the planning: George Elston Blair, John Livingston, and Francis Herschel Burnett.

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## EARLY BLAIRS

The author spent much time in England, Scotland, and Ireland searching for records as well as visiting Blair Castle at Blair Atholl, Scotland, several times, Lake City, and studied in Ireland and Scotland with a researcher. The best single description of the earlier Blairs is given below.

### CHAPTER I

#### Scotch and Irish Blairs

"Of the Blair family of Blair in Argyshire, Scotland, the first on record was William de Blair in the year of 1206 during the reign of William the Lion.

There is also a family of Blairs of Balthock in Perthshire, Scotland at which time Alexander de Blair flourished during the reign of William the Lion and his son, Alexander the Second.

#### THOMAS BLAIR FAMILY IN IRELAND AND SOUTH CAROLINA IN 1767 SHOWING LIKELY ORIGIN IN SCOTLAND. THIS INCLUDES JAMES BLAIR, IMMIGRANT AND SON OF THOMAS BLAIR, ALONG WITH HIS CHILDREN

1729 — 1820

The Blairs in both Ireland and South Carolina were eminent men of high rank in their various professions.

"During the late 16th and early 17th centuries attempts were made by the English throne to supplant the Presbyterian form of worship with that of the Church of England, increasing the miseries of the Scotch so that many were induced to leave their dearly beloved land for regions where there was greater freedom to be had. In 1612 King James divided millions of acres in Northern Ireland into small holdings, at low prices, so that many Scots were thereby enabled to acquire some land.

"Many Blairs settled in Argyshire, Scotland and in Londonderry, Northern Ireland."

The English throne also wanted to counter the Catholic strength in Ireland by granting land there to Protestants in Northern Ireland.

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M. A. Miller, Blair Family, "The Blair County Historical Society, Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania," p. 15.

## EARLY BLAIRS

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### Scotch and Irish Blairs

"Of the Blair family of Blair in Ayrshire, Scotland, the first on record was William de Blair in the year of 1205 during the reign of William the Lion.

"There is also a family of Blairs of Balthyock in Perthshire, Scotland at which time Alexander de Blair flourished during the reign of William the Lion and his son, Alexander the Second.

"The study made by J. C. Blair of Huntingdon, Pennsylvania, or made at his direction, printed in 1894, outlines a considerable number of early Blairs in Scotland and Ireland. Apparently, the early Blairs both in Scotland and Ireland many years later migrated to Northern Ireland in the Province of Ulster, County Antrim, more particularly a point known as Aghadowey. The given names of the Blairs have a great significance. We find uniformity throughout with such names as Thomas, William, Robert, James, Alexander, Alexandria, John, and Bryce.

"The Blairs in both Scotland and Ireland were eminent men of high rank in their various professions.

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<sup>1</sup>M. A. Miller, Blair Family, "The Blair County Historical Society, Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania," p. 15.

"A very considerable amount of Blair information was collected. None of it shows the marriage of Thomas Blair and Margaret, nor the baptism of any of their children. The baptism of one Thomas, son of James Blair of Killwaughter, was found at Larne in 1729\*. This is the appropriate year for the birth of the Thomas sought, and if Thomas and Margaret's firstborn son was James, it may be assumed to be the name of Thomas' own father, since it was the almost inevitable custom to name the firstborn son after his paternal grandfather."<sup>2</sup> Presbyterian Registers of Larne in Antrim County, Ireland are shown below:

### Baptisms

1721 May 14 - Margaret, daughter of John Blair, Killwaughter  
 1722 January 28 - Mary, daughter of John Blair, Killwaughter  
 1724 April 29 - Janet, daughter of John Blair, Killwaughter  
 1724 June 28 - James, son of James Blair, Killwaughter  
 1725 May 13 - Robert, son of John Blair, Killwaughter  
 1725 May 7 - Margaret, daughter of James Blair, Killwaughter  
 1726 July 24 - Samuel, son of John Blair, Killwaughter (died at birth)  
 1727 June 4 - Samuel, son of John Blair, Killwaughter  
 \*1729 July 10 - Thomas, son of James Blair, Killwaughter  
 1732 March 19 - Mary, daughter of James Blair, Killwaughter  
 1729 August 17 - Martha, daughter of John Blair, Killwaughter  
 1734 February 19 - John, son of John Blair, Killwaughter  
 1735 February 2 - William, son of James Blair, Killwaughter  
 1754 April 14 - Mary, daughter of John Blair, Killwaughter  
 1725 November 18 - Jean, daughter of James Blair, Glen  
 1728 July 27 - James, son of James Blair, Glen  
 1729 January 18 - Samuel, son of James Blair, Glen  
 1736 ..... - son of John Blair, Glen  
 1738 February 26 - Jean, daughter of John Blair, Glen

### Marriages

1721 March 33 - Robert Quinn and Ann Blair  
 1741 December 31 - Andrew Gingles and Janet Blair  
 1746 August 21 - John Blair and ..... Agnew  
 1751 August 17 - David Blair and Agnis Service  
 1756 January 26 - John Blair and Margaret Neilson

It is also noted that the James according to the Family Bible named his firstborn son Thomas after his own father, Thomas Blair, who landed in Charleston in 1767. Further research is needed to establish this as our Thomas Blair. It is well to note on the map showing Antrim County that Larne and Kellswater (Killwaughter) are only about 20 miles NNE of Belfast. Also, we should read the information from the Scottish records which say that most of the Blairs migrated from

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<sup>2</sup>Information Obtained by Irish Researcher.

Scotland and settled in Antrim County, many of them in the vicinity of Aghadowey. Aghadowey is NW, about 25 miles of Kellswater where the Thomas Blair shown in the baptismal record was recorded. In checking the records on file for property sold in Ireland from 1740-1772, about 75 percent of the 30-odd sales by members of the Blair family were in this same vicinity which is located in Antrim County. It is very likely that some of our relatives were selling property in order to come to America during this period. Still more research needs to be done on this part of the study. Note Map #1 of N. Ireland marked for Kellswater, Larne, and Aghadowey on page 11.

Thomas Blair and his wife Margaret were 38 and 33 years old respectively, and their son James was 9 years old with a sister named Jane, 2 years old. Their son James appears to be the James Blair, the father of Robert Kirkpatrick Blair. Thomas Blair received a tract of land on December 22, 1767, containing 250 acres situated and lying on Rocky Creek in Craven County and bounded on all sides by vacant land — found on Page 240, Plat Book, Vol. 13 (see page 5). Thomas Blair, who was the father of this James Blair, received according to the records of the Minutes of the Council Journal on Page 343, Vol. 26, a royal grant from King George III of England on February 10, 1772, of 100 acres situated in Craven County, South Carolina, on both sides of the Branch of Pudding Swamp, which is a branch of the Black River. This land was bounded on all sides by vacant land. James Blair, according to Plat Book, Vol. 13, Page 238 received a tract of land of 230 acres in Craven County on the drafts of Fishing Creek (note only one Fishing Creek is shown on old and recent map of South Carolina) on the 16th day of February, 1773, which is adjacent to the grant to Thomas Blair on Rocky Creek made in 1767 and shown on map, page 12. The two creeks run roughly parallel an average of ten miles apart. Both are in the present Chester County, South Carolina. See pages 12 and 13.

Later when the four original counties making up all of the colony of South Carolina were divided into smaller counties, the Records of Wills 1789-1817 showed that Thomas Blair and his wife Margaret willed their property then in the newly organized county of Chester, South Carolina to the sons, James, John, Thomas, and to apparently a son-in-law, Alexander Walker, and to their daughters, Mary and Elizabeth. The will was probated September, 1796.

NOTE: Thomas Blair who landed at Charleston December 22, 1767, would

South Carolina

This tract is a part of the

John Young by Act of 1733 and the

22<sup>nd</sup> day of Dec<sup>r</sup> 1733 & have

as shown was shown out under No. 239

of the 13<sup>th</sup> of the 13<sup>th</sup> of the 13<sup>th</sup>

of South Carolina containing two hundred

of fifty acres of land situated by the

on Roanoke Creek in Orange County

bounded on all sides with water

land & had such shape from the north

represents Virginia by me this 25<sup>th</sup> day of Jan<sup>r</sup> 1700

J. B. W. 1700

John Gaston Esq.

John Gaston Esq. 20<sup>th</sup> of Jan<sup>r</sup> 1700

505. E. 500

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Reference - S. C. Archives

Colonial Papers  
Vol. 13, p. 240

Description

Plat for Thomas Blait

Jan. 25, 1768

Order

No.

2445

(1) Thomas Blair - b. about 1729 near Millwaughter and Larna, Ireland.  
m. Margaret \_\_\_\_\_

**THOMAS BLAIR'S WILL**

Children:

Page 121, Vol. I, Section A, Record of Wills 1789-1817, Chester County, South Carolina.

(Paraphrased) . . . . . He gave all his worldly possessions to wife Margaret, then equally to two sons, Thomas and William

Secondly, son James (note our James)

Thirdly, son John

Fourthly, Alexander Walker (presumed to be son-in-law)

Fifthly, son Thomas

Sixthly, daughter Mary

Seventhly, daughter Elizabeth

James and William — Executors

Signed with Thomas Blair's mark

September 14, 1795

Probated September 1796

NOTE: Thomas Blair who landed at Charleston December 22, 1767, would be 67 years old at the signing of this will while James would be 37 years old. There is no record of what happened to Jane. Of course, she could have died at an early age. It is important to realize that according to the Bible record James named his first daughter Jane.



## DESCENDANTS OF THOMAS BLAIR

- (1) Thomas Blair - b. about 1729 near Killwaughter and Larne, Ireland.  
m. Margaret \_\_\_\_\_.

### Children:

- (2) James - b. about 1758 near Killwaughter and Larne.  
m. Jean \_\_\_\_\_.
- (3) Jane - b. about 1765 near Killwaughter and Larne.

There are no Bible records to support the birth of other children before or after the arrival of Thomas Blair and Margaret on December 22, 1767, at Charlestown, South Carolina, but it would seem logical that there were other children of this union. His will lists others as heirs.

According to the will of Thomas Blair recorded on page 6, the following persons were listed:

- (4) William
- (5) Thomas
- (6) John
- (7) Alexander Walker, son-in-law (could be Jane's husband)
- (8) Thomas
- (9) Mary
- (10) Elizabeth
- (11) James (seems to be a grandson)

## THE FAMILY OF JAMES BLAIR

First, it should be said that the lines of identification for family ancestors become very dim when the records are being studied 200 or more years ago. The following items of family records have been gleaned from South Carolina Department of Archives and the South Carolina records at the University of South Carolina recorded in the book, Protestant Immigrants of South Carolina 1763-1773, by Revill, and quoting from the Minutes of the Council Journal, Vol. 33, pp. 89-92, for a meeting held December 22, 1767.

"The clerk reported to the Board that in pursuance of His Excellency the Governor's directions he had been on board the ship Earl of Donegal, Duncan Ferguson, Master, and had sworn the Irish passengers arrived in her to their being Protestants and having come over on the encouragement and bounty given by the Act of the General Assembly passed the 25th day of July 1761 agreeable to a list he had delivered in at the Board Petitions praying to be allowed the said Bounty from the undermentioned persons were then presented and read. Only a partial list shown below:

"Thomas Kirkpatrick	48 age)	
Jane Kirkpatrick	50 age)	Family
Robert Kirkpatrick	20 age)	
Thomas Blair	38 age)	
Margaret Blair	33 age)	Family
James Blair	9 age)	
Jane Blair	2 age)"	

From University of South Carolina Manuscript Room; Belfast Newspapers B 1729-1776, B 2592:

"For Charleston, South Carolina — The Ship Earl of Donegall, Duncan Ferguson, Master, Burthen full 350 tons, will clear to sail against 20th September next: Those that incline to embrace this opportunity are requested immediately to apply to Campbell and Donaldson, John Gregg and John Ewing, either of whom will agree with them on reasonable terms. As this Ship is well calculated for the accommodation of passengers, and remarkably well found a prime Sculer, and the owners being determined to take every method in their power to render the passage comfortable, those that go in her may promise themselves an agreeable passage." Belfast 17th Aug. 1767, from BNL, Aug. 14, 1767 (Number 3129) Repeated for Aug. 18, 21, 25, 28; Sept. 1, 4, 8, 22, 25, 28.

"The owners of the Ship Earl of Donegall, have the pleasure of informing all concerned that they received letters by last post, advising her safe arrival at Charleston in South Carolina, after a very agreeable passage of eight weeks. She sailed from this Port the 7th of October, with upwards of 300 passengers, who arrived all healthy and well." Belfast, Feb. 1, 1768, from BNL Feb. 2, 1768, (Number 3178) Repeated for Feb. 5.

In summary, there is little doubt that this James Blair is our ancestor. One of the identifying points would be that the James Blair who came over on the Earl of Donegal Ship in 1767 with his parents at the age of 9 would have been 26 years old when Jane Blair, listed in the Blair Family Bible, was born on February 21, 1784. See copy of page of Blair Family Bible showing James Blair Family, page 15. The census record shows in the first census taken in the U. S. in 1790 a James Blair, whose ages of the children fit those ages recorded in the Blair Family Bible in our possession, head of a family and living in Lancaster vicinity, South Carolina, which adjoins Chester County. Lancaster County was not formed until 1798. In the 1800 census there was a James Blair, spelled Blare, living in Chester County, South Carolina, who had children of the ages shown in the Blair Family Bible (see page 15). Again, this supports the identification of this James Blair as being the father of Robert Kirkpatrick Blair. The same James Blair apparently continued to live in Chester County, South Carolina for some time and was shown there in the Federal Census of 1810. In the Federal Census of 1820 the Blairs who were our ancestors left South Carolina for Georgia. It is not verified whether the James Blair who came with his parents to Charleston in 1767 died in South Carolina prior to the time several of his sons left. It is very likely that he did die about that time because James Blair's orphans received land grants in the lottery in Georgia with his other sons.

#### DESCENDANTS OF JAMES BLAIR

- (2) James Blair - b. 1758 apparently in County Antrim near Kill-waughter and Larne. (The Blair Family Bible fails to list his wife's name or other data about her. The land records in South Carolina indicate she was named Jean.) d. \_\_\_\_\_, Chester County, South Carolina(?).

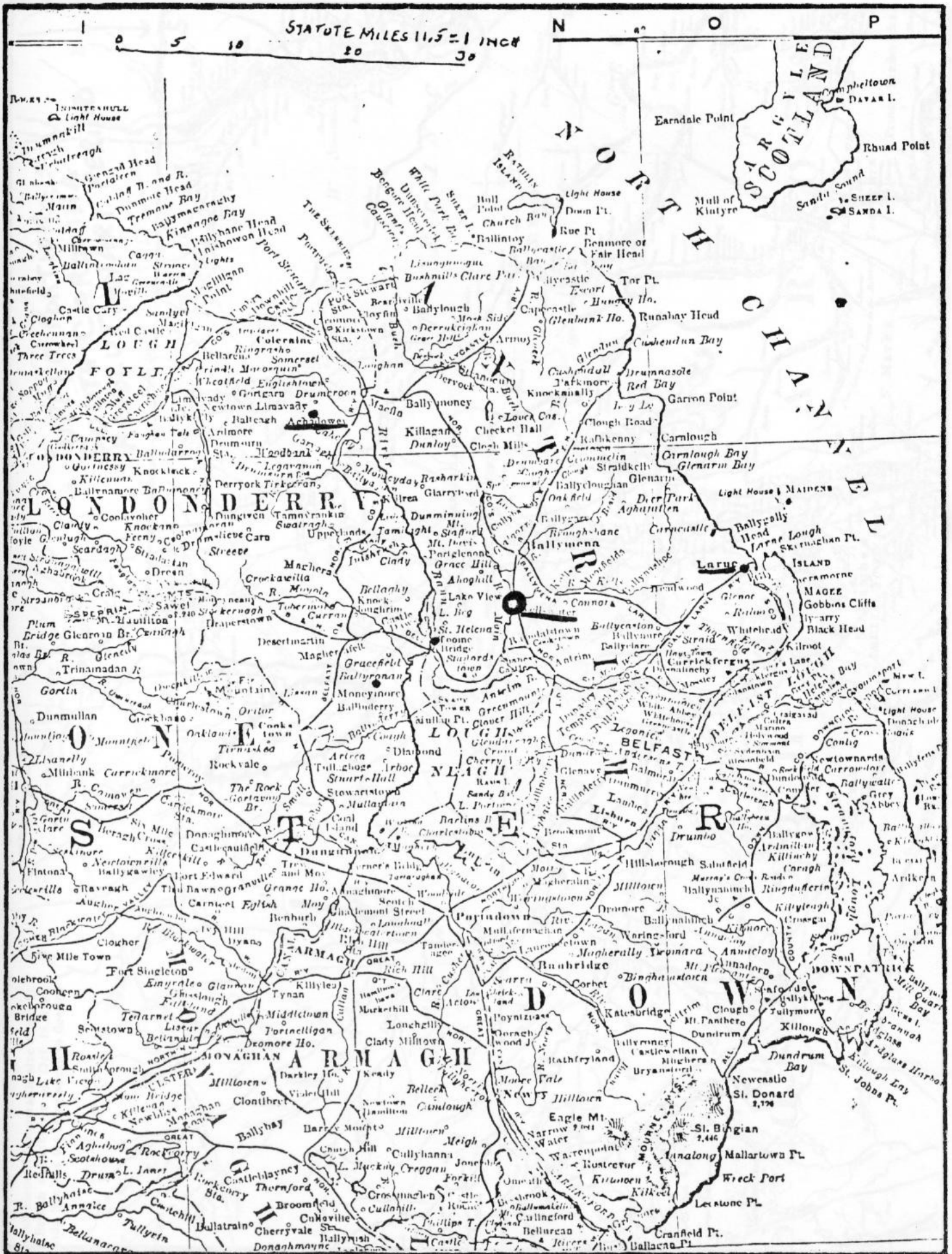
This James Blair came at the age of nine on December 22, 1867, from Ireland to Charleston, S. C. with sister Jane, age two, and father Thomas Blair, age 38, and mother Margaret, age 33.

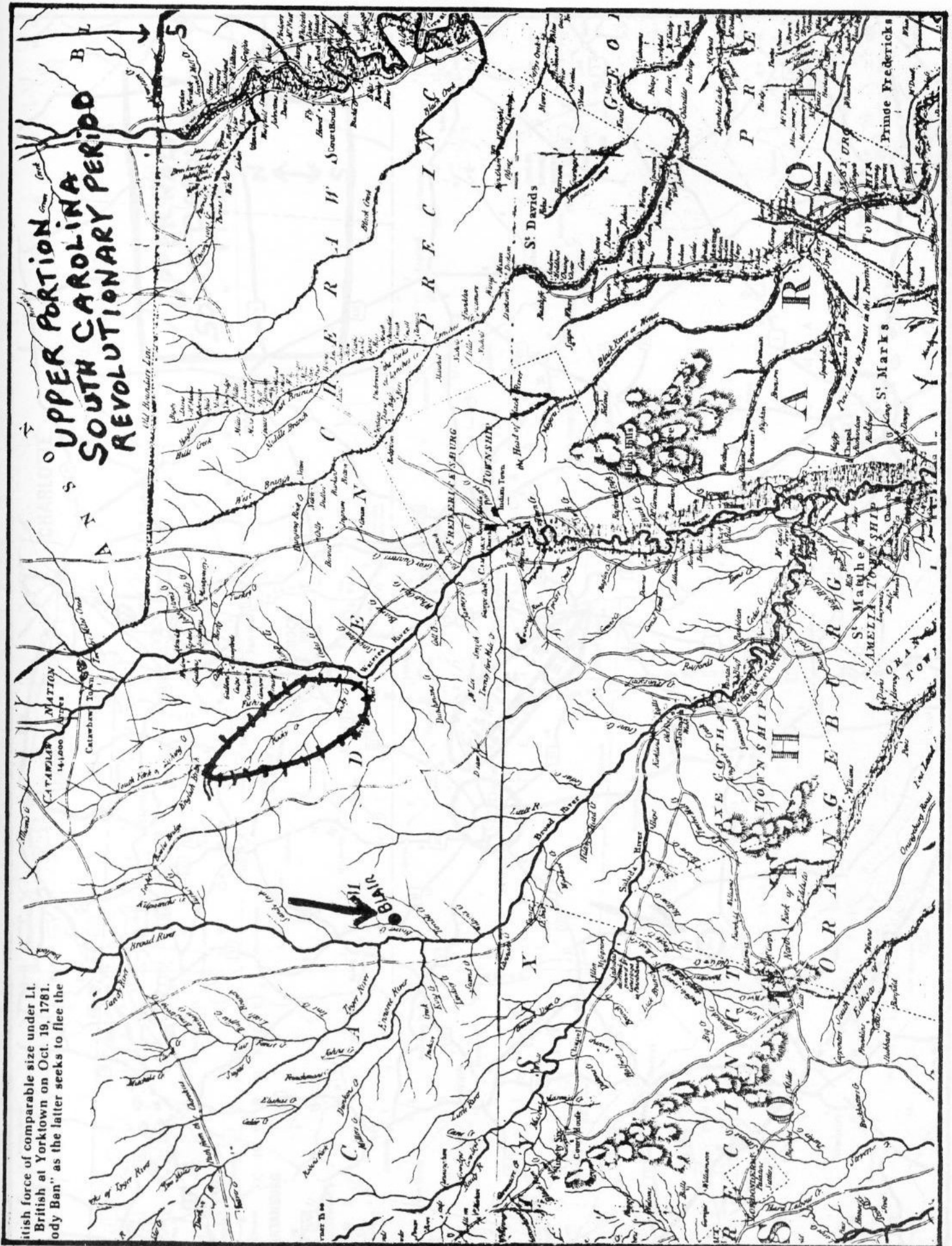
#### Children:

- (12) Jane - b. 21 Feb. 1784, Chester Co., S. C. d. ?  
 (13) Thomas - b. 21 Jan. 1786, Chester Co., S. C. d. ?  
 (14) George - b. 21 March 1788, Chester Co., S. C. d. ?  
 (15) Margaret C. - b. 9 June 1790, Chester Co., S. C. d. ?  
 (16) Richard - b. 5 Jan. 1793, Chester Co., S. C. d. ?  
 (17) James - b. 3 Feb. 1796, Chester Co., S. C. d. ? (in Alabama). m. Elizabeth (See Chapter II, page 24).  
 (Came to Alabama - record in Talladega County Census 1860.)

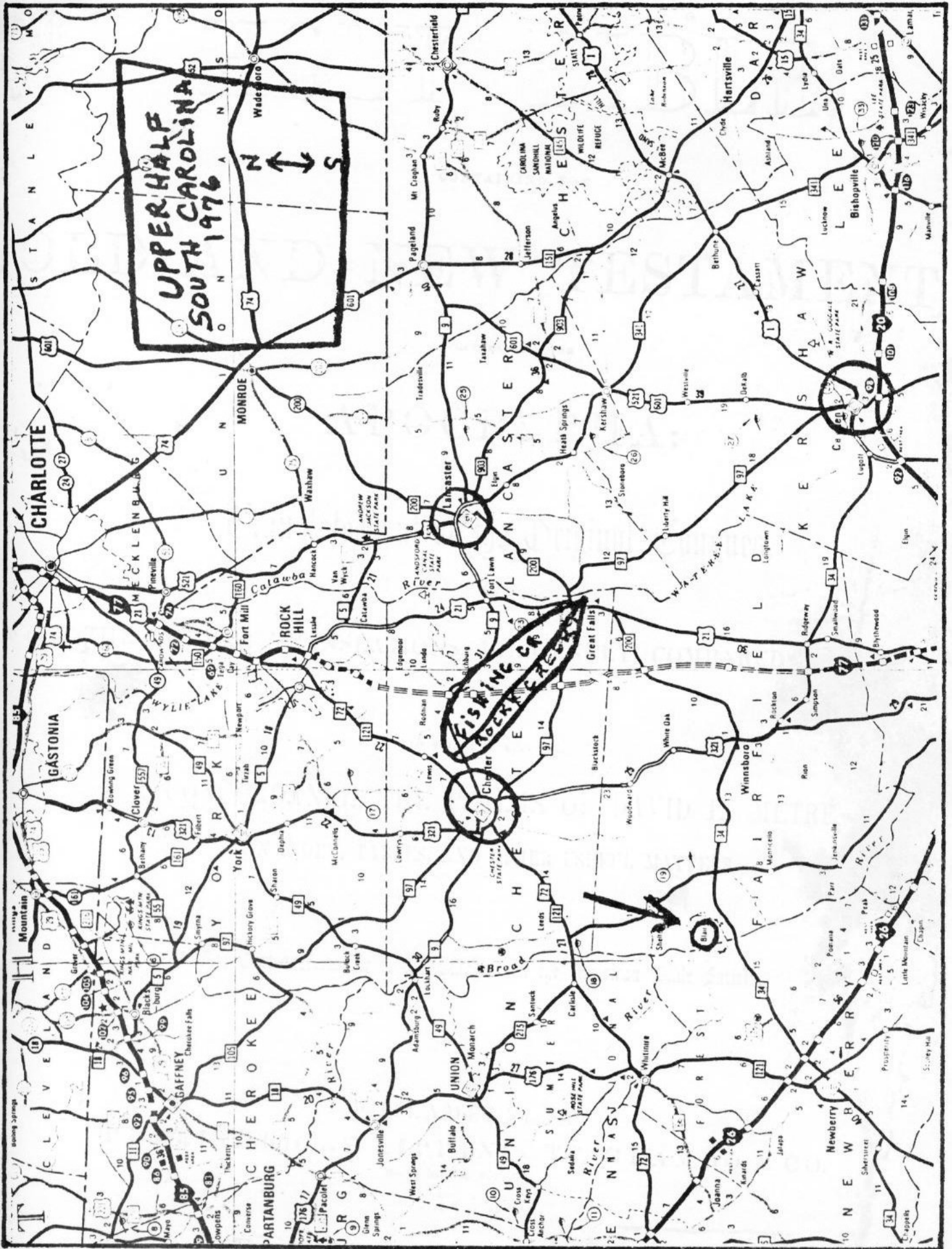
- (18) Polly - b. 13 Sept. 1800, Chester Co., S. C. d. ?
- (19) William I. - b. 22 March 1802, Chester Co., S. C. d. ?
- (20) John D. - b. 30 Dec. 1804, Chester Co., S. C. d. ?
- (21) Robert Kirkpatrick - b. 4 Nov. 1805, Chester Co., S. C.  
d. 20 Sept. 1879, near Goodwater, Alabama.
- (22) Agnes - b. 10 Dec. 1807, Chester Co., S. C. d. ?
- (23) Little Berry - b. 1 Dec. 1809, Chester Co., S. C. d. ?  
(in Alabama). (Came to Alabama but remained unmarried.)
- (24) Samuel M. C. - b. 14 Sept. 1811, Chester Co., S. C. d. ?
- (25) Arthur E. - b. 1 Jan. 1813, Chester Co., S. C. d. ?
- (26) Betsy - b. 19 July 1816, Chester Co., S. C. d. ?

NOTE: See title page and first page of Blair Bible family record on pages 14 and 15.





British force of comparable size under Lt. British at Yorktown on Oct. 19, 1781. "ody Ban" as the latter seeks to flee the



# HOLY BIBLE,

CONTAINING THE

## OLD AND NEW TESTAMENT

TOGETHER WITH THE

### APOCRYPHA:

Translated out of the Original Languages,

AND

WITH THE FORMER TRANSLATIONS DILIGENTLY COMPARED

TO WHICH IS APPENDED

A CONCORDANCE, THE PSALMS OF DAVID IN METRE,

AN INDEX, TABLES, AND OTHER USEFUL MATTERS.

The Text conformable to the Standard of the American Bible Society.

PHILADELPHIA:

PUBLISHED BY LIPPINCOTT, GRAMBO & CO.

NO. 14 NORTH SECOND ST.

1856.



Family of  
father of Robert

Births.

James Blair  
K Blair

Jane Blair was born  
February 21<sup>st</sup> 1784

Agnes Blair was  
born December 10<sup>th</sup> 1807

Thomas Blair was born  
January 21<sup>st</sup> 1786

Little Berry Blair was  
born December 1809

George Blair was born  
March 21<sup>st</sup> 1788

Samuel M. Blair was  
born September 14<sup>th</sup> 1811

Margaret Blair  
June 9<sup>th</sup> 1790

Arthur E. Blair was  
born January 1<sup>st</sup> 1813

Richard Blair was  
born January 5<sup>th</sup> 1798

Betsy Blair was born  
July 19<sup>th</sup> 1814

James Blair was born  
February 3<sup>rd</sup> 1796

Polly Blair was born  
September 13<sup>th</sup> 1800

William D. Blair was  
born March 22<sup>nd</sup> 1802

John D. Blair was born  
December 30<sup>th</sup> 1804

Robert K. Blair was born  
November 4<sup>th</sup> 1805