

REPRINTS FROM THE BLAIR MAGAZINE

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WILL OF JAMES BLAIR
Chester County, South Carolina
Dated September 14, 1796

"In the name of God Amen. The fourteenth Day of September A.D. one thousand seven Hundred and Ninety Six, I JAMES BLAIR of the State of South Carolina, County of Chester Being through the mercy of God now weak of Body but of Perfect mind and memory, calling to mind the mortality of My Body and that it is appointed for all men once to die and after death to come to judgment - Do make, Constitute, appoint and Ordain this My Last Will and Testament in manner and Form following - That is to say principally first of all I leave my Soul to Almighty God my creator and to Jesus Christ my Redeemer and to the Holy Ghost my Sanctifier I Leave my Body to the Earth to be buried in decent Christian manner - and as Concerning Such Worldly Estate which it hath pleased God to Bless me with in this Life I leave Demise and Bequeath in the following manner and form following,

Imprimus, I Will that all my just and Lawful Debts be paid - I Leave and Bequeath to my beloved Wife Margaret the one half of all the Land I possess During her widowhood or to therein During life - And at her death the Land is to fall to Son James. That is to say the one half or if he chooses to take Twenty pounds from his Br. William he is to pay the 20 pounds to James or James to him....I Leave to my Son William - one cow and calf purchased last spring, I Leave to Dr. Martha one cow and calf called Silky Likewise two head of sheep. Likewise to Wm. I will that the plantation Implements be divided equally Between my wife and Son William. I Leave to my wife one Bay mare and saddle Likewise one bay mare and saddle formerly given to Daughter Martha - Likewise to Daughter Sarah one Dark Bay horse - Likewise to Son James one Bay horse. I will that Son-in-law R. Ryte may have five shillings worth of unwilled property - Likewise the remainder of the unwilled, I will that my wife may have the benefit thereof to the children is of age that is the Two youngest unless she see cause sooner to put the same to their use. I constitute my wife and son William my Lawfull Executors of this my last will and testament. In witness my hand and seal the day and year first above written. Signed and acknowledged in the presence of: William Wylie, Robert Fulberton, Thomas Adams"

JAMES BLAIR (X) His Mark.

"I hereby certify that the above is an exact copy of the Last Will and Testament of James Blair, Deceased, on file in Probate Court, Chester S.C. Recorded in Will Book E, pages 172-173. Original Will on file Apartment 3, Package No.50."

(Signed) J.H. Yarborough, (SEAL) Probate Judge, Chester County,

NOTE: The foregoing will appears to have been filed August 22, 1812

Mr. W.H. BLAIR of Janesville, Wisconsin, in sending us this will May 7, 1929, furnishes the following data:

"This JAMES BLAIR was the pioneer of that branch of the BLAIR family. He came to this country in 1779, landing at Charleston, S.C., and located in Chester County, where the records show he obtained 320 acres of land. His father's name was WILLIAM, who died in County Antrim, Ireland. JAMES BLAIR had several brothers, two of whom came to this country about the same time he did, and they landed at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. According to the tradition in the family their names were JOHN and THOMAS, and it is supposed that JOHN later went to Kentucky. It is also of family tradition that they all served in the American Army during the Revolution.

The records show that JAMES BLAIR'S 320 acres of land were on Fishing Creek in Chester County, S.C., and which land he willed to his sons WILLIAM and JAMES, and which land they on May 14, 1816(sic) - WILLIAM conveying his share to Thomas Collins and JAMES to Abraham Ferguson.

This Pioneer JAMES BLAIR married Margaret Junkin, and they had two sons and three daughters: - WILLIAM, who married Margaret Morton; JAMES, jr., who married Jane Neile of Lancaster; MARTHA, who married Alexander Morton; JANE married Richard Wyatt; and SARAH, who married Robert Carey."

It Is known that Pioneer JAMES BLAIR and his wife died and were buried in Chester Bounty, S.C.; but the location of their grave and the place of the cemetery is unknown to their descendants. Our correspondent seeks this information.

The family sold their holdings in 1816, and with many other families removed to Lincoln County, Tennessee, near Fayetteville. About 1825 WILLIAM BLAIR and family removed to a home near Springfield, Illinois, and some of them later near to Carter, Illinois and St. Louis.

JAMES BLAIR, son of the Pioneer JAMES BLAIR, removed in 1825 to Bloomington, Indiana, where JAMES NEIL BLAIR and WILLIAM WYLIE BLAIR, son of JOHN, who was the second son of JAMES BLAIR, now live. JAMES lives on a part of the farm which JAMES BLAIR and his wife Jane Neile purchased in 1825, with four of his children married and living within a block of his own home. More than half of his farm is now in the city and quite well built up. - W. H. BLAIR"