

THE BLAIR FAMILY MAGAZINE



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From the President's Desk

Dear Members:

Just in case you missed the first one, I am enclosing a Registration Form for our Annual Convention & Seminar on June 20-21 in Fort Wayne, Indiana, along with the agenda. The Allen County Public Library really is a wonderful place to do research. If you have been thinking about attending one of our Seminars, here is your opportunity. This Seminar offers a great library, a wonderful speaker and a chance to fellowship with your Blair 'cousins' in a friendly city. I hope to see you in Fort Wayne.

The Summer issue of the *Blair Family Magazine* will be devoted to disasters and catastrophes. If you have a Blair ancestor who was involved in a tragedy, why not write a short article and send it to Mary Powers for publication in this special issue. Mary would like to have the copy for this issue by June 1st, so don't delay. See page two for more details. This should be a really fun issue! If you have any ideas for other special issues, please send Mary a note. Also, be sure to tell her what a wonderful job she does as Editor. She really is excellent.

While on the subject of the *Blair Family Magazine*, I would like to address a concern that was brought to my attention recently. The complaint was that we devoted too much space to our Southern Blair families and not enough to the Northern Blairs. Our goal is to maintain a geographical balance in each issue, with articles from different sections of the United States and from other countries where Blairs have settled; however, we depend on our members to send in material for publication. It seems that our Southern members have been more active lately. We always welcome the submission of data and articles for publication in the *Blair Family Magazine*, so you Northerners get busy. We also would like material from Scotland, Northern Ireland, England, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and other countries where Blairs have settled. As always, we reserve the right to edit all material submitted for publication.

This will be my last letter 'From the President's Desk.' In June, Nancy Schaffer will begin her first term as President of the Blair Society. I know that Nancy will do a wonderful job as President, and I hope that all of you will get behind her and help the Blair Society become even better. I have really enjoyed being your President. Thank you so very much for all your help and for your dedication to the Blair Society.

Sincerely,

Ed Blair

Ed Blair

BSGR On Line

by Blair Leatherwood

If you've looked up queries from the BSGR website, you've probably noticed the banner for "Joe Blair's Guide to Blair Genealogy." If you're like me, you probably didn't think much more about it.

Big mistake, folks!

I just took a really good look at what Joe Blair's been doing with his own personal website. You owe it to yourself to spend some time there. It's at <http://pages.prodigy.com/JCBlair/blair.htm>. There's an excellent brief history of Blairs in general, the Scots-Ulster migration, Joe's family and research, and the usual (and in this case very comprehensive) list of links to other sites of interest. Joe's received several awards for his site and displays them proudly and justifiably. He's done an incredible amount of work and deserves our thanks, support, and multiple visitations (I'm sure he'd appreciate input as well).

On one of my other mailing lists, I got word that the General Register Office for Scotland will be going online with a searchable database! It will be up and running by the time you read this. It's at <http://www.anywhere.co.uk/news.htm> (at last report). If you've ever wanted to rummage around the auld Scots records, here's your chance.

Be warned, however—it won't be cheap. Access to the index itself will be 6 pounds sterling (this will give you 24 hours to search); an extract of a specific record will be 10 pounds sterling. There should be an extensive FAQ on site.

One of our very generous members, Kathleen Blair, has offered to host personal web pages for anyone who needs a host and doesn't have one (if you're on Prodigy like Joe Blair, you've got a host—you can have one on CompuServe, AOL, Geocities, or many others). This is a great offer, and would help us in concentrating some of these pages as well. Kathleen's site is <http://www.office-links.com/twigs>.

Finally, my personal web story for the month. I have been trying to confirm a relationship in my family for some time. I've sent e-mail and I've got queries all over the net for this family. While trying to follow another lead, I posted a message somewhere looking for an individual's date of death (at this late date, I don't even know where the message is). A few weeks ago, I got an

e-mail from someone who was talking to her internet instructor. The instructor told her of my message. She e-mailed me. Not only did she have the information I was fooling for, but her mother was the sister-in-law of the person I was looking for! By exchanging e-mail, I was able to confirm what I had long hoped for—my mother's biological father. Through other sources (one of which was written by my new contact), I had developed a genealogy for this long-missing branch, but I was lacking proof. Through this wonderful tool (my computer) I have now solved a long-standing mystery in my genealogy.

Now if someone could only help me with my Blair line!

Allen Library Research at the Ft. Wayne BSGR Convention in June

Marvin Kelley reminds members contemplating attending the Convention that Allen County Public Library's Periodical Source Index (PERSI) is available via Ancestry at: <http://www.ancestry.com/ancestry/search.asp>. He says, "It is not free, but with my subscription to the service I received a free CD worth more than the year's subscription."

PERSI indexes articles published in most genealogical and local periodicals written in English since 1800 — over one million articles in nearly four thousand separate titles, some with hundreds of issues, in 27 volumes. Articles are listed by locality, family/surname, and/or record type.

Using the PERSI before the Convention will allow you to go right to the articles you need to search - most of them available in the Allen library. A list of Resources of the Historical Genealogical Department of the Allen County Public Library may be accessed on http://www.acpl.lib.in.us/Genealogy/Department_Resources.html.

Know a Blair who was involved in a disaster or catastrophe? Caught by Nature or the foibles of fate? Involved in a tragedy? Send details to the editor, BFM, who is desirous of creating a "disastrous issue," (humor not excluded). Source and anything you know genealogically would also be appreciated.

In Memory

Geraldine "Gerry" Simpson Carlisle passed away on 28 November 1997 at the Northern Inyo Hospital in Bishop, California. She was born 15 December 1917 in Billings, Montana, to Luther George Simpson and Mary Martha Schmidt. She married Robert V. Carlisle on 31 October 1927, and together they owned and operated Carlisle Stationers for more than fifty years in Santa Monica, California. After retiring, they moved to Escondido, California, and they have resided in Bishop for the past three months. In October, Bob and Gerry celebrated their sixtieth wedding anniversary. Calling was at the Brune & Buck Mortuary Chapel in Bishop.



Bob & Gerry Carlisle

Besides her husband, Gerry is survived by her daughter and son-in-law Joyce and Max Hernandez of Bishop; grandchildren, Zoe and Bill Hyland of Bishop, Tessa and Dan Duckett of Reno, Nevada, and Tina Hernandez of Paris, France; four great-grandchildren, Walker and Braedon Hyland of Bishop, and Dallas and Danessa Duckett of Reno, Nevada.

Gerry was a Charter Member (#47) and Life Member of the Blair Society for Genealogical Research. She descends from William and Mary (Hannah) Blair. Gerry loved history and genealogy. Prior to her death, she was working on a history of the military unit her husband served in during World War II. She has been a pillar of the Blair Society for many years, and her dedication to Blair family genealogy has been an inspiration to us all.

Gerry was appointed Librarian/Historian of the Blair Society in 1984. She compiled, edited and published our first two books: *Blair Society for Genealogical Research Members Applications and Lineage Charts* in 1985, and *Genealogical File of Dr. Eleanor M. Hiestand-Moore* in 1990. She also edited the *CONTACT* newsletter, which we published in five issues in 1990, and started our first computer database of Blair ancestors. She was honored for her dedicated service to the Blair Society at our St. Louis Convention in 1985.

Gerry was a lovely person; quiet and unassuming, but with a brilliant mind. She will be greatly missed by all of us who knew and loved her.

Geraldine "Jerry" Pomeroy Wade of Mesa, Glendale and Phoenix, Arizona passed away on 14 February 1997 in Phoenix. She was born 27 December 1915 in Sawpit, Colorado to Rensler L. Pomeroy and Beulah May Imes. Her mother moved to Arizona with her family after her father died in 1916. Jerry attended elementary school in Glendale where she lived with her grandmother Permelia Blair Imes, her aunt, Laura B. Imes, and uncle, Isaac E. Imes. She attended Mesa Union High School, Arizona State University and the University of Arizona, where she majored in Dramatics. She married William Conrad Wade in March 1938.

Jerry was very active in civil affairs and served as an officer or board member of many organizations; she has received numerous honors for her volunteer and charitable works, been listed in *Who's Who of American Wo-*

men, and was once entertained at tea in the White House by First Ladies Mamie Eisenhower and Pat Nixon.

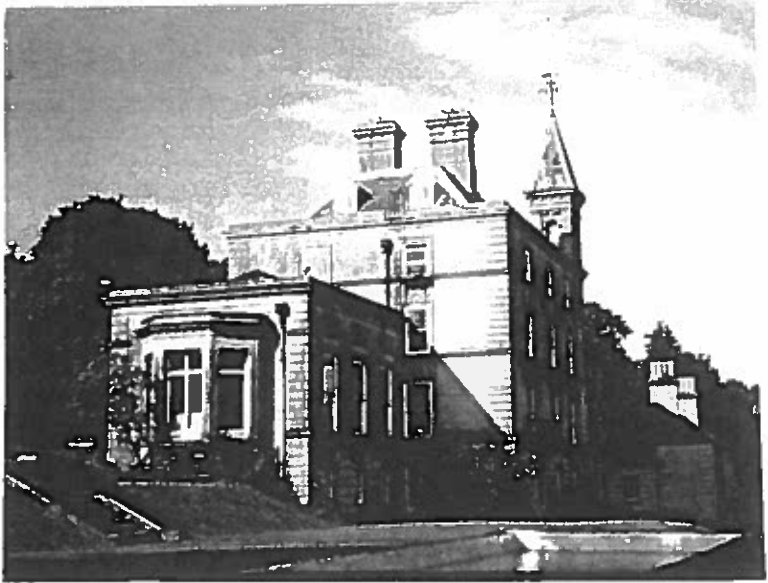
Jerry was preceded in death by her husband, William C. Wade. She is survived by five children, Suzanne Wade Stork, Barbara Jean Corsette, William Conrad Wade, Jr., Michael Stephen Wade and Mark Christopher Wade, all of whom live in Arizona and have been awarded degrees from Arizona universities. She is also survived by her nephew John Hinson Thomas, whom she helped raise, by eleven grandchildren and one great grandson. Internment was in Glendale Memorial Park.

Jerry was a Charter Member (#16) and Life Member of the Blair Society for Genealogical Research, and descends from William Blair and Mary Ann Barr. Jerry was a valued member of the Blair Society and we will miss her very much.

Redhall, A Magnet for Blairs in Ulster

by Don and Janet Dickason, BSGR Mem. #826

In September 1997 we traveled to Scotland and Ireland seeking our ancestral sites. Blair was one of our targets since Janet's GGGG-grandfather is James Blair, born 1735, who presumably came to South Carolina in 1772 in the ship *Lord Dunluce*. Though there are many "proofs" yet to go, we were interested in Scottish and Irish origins of Blairs who could be her ancestors. What we saw and learned on our trip should be interesting to other descendants. Stops in Scotland included Blair Atholl and the Blair Castle at Dalry (Ayrshire), and in Northern Ireland, Carrickfergus Castle and Redhall in Ballycarry. Redhall and Carrickfergus are about mid-way between Larne and Belfast. The main focus of this commentary will be on Redhall.



We have known the story that Brice Blair, his wife Esther Peden and their first born, Nancy, supposedly crossed from Scotland to Larne "in the bottom of a coal sloop" as they escaped religious persecution. Tradition reports that Brice, as a Covenanter, escaped for his life. We determined to follow his route as closely as possible so we took the ferry from Cairnryan in Scotland to Larne in Ulster, approximately thirty miles. It was a clear day and from Scotland we could see Ireland on the horizon. As we enjoyed our very comfortable one-hour high speed ferry ride we could only imagine the long, cold and uncomfortable voyage those early Blairs must have had about 1625.

Before following Brice Blair further on his path, we visited Carrickfergus Castle, the site of other Blair adventures, including jailing of Renegade Sam Blair. Carrickfergus is considered the finest and best preserved Norman castle in Ireland and is well worth a visit.

Arriving in Ireland, Brice Blair made his way to an influential kinsman, Lord Edmonstone, at Redhall, from whom he obtained four hundred acres of nearby land and there passed the remainder of his life.

Our expectations rose as the time for our visit to Redhall approached. Through an acquaintance we received an invitation to visit this private residence even though neither the house nor grounds are open to the public. Mr. and Mrs. John McClintock, the owners, graciously introduced us to the features and history of their home.

We learned that the earliest document relating to the house is a lease of May 1609 of the "Readhall" and other lands from the West Countryman John Dalway to a Scotsman, William Edmonstone. He is shown as "Edmonston Bar." on the map by Taylor and Skinner in 1777. Dalway, an Englishman, reportedly had arrived at Carrickfergus in 1573 and was married to Jane O'Neill, who was closely related to the leading O'Neills of the day. (There is a story that in 1614 Edmonstone mortgaged land he held in Ayrshire in order to double the size of Redhall.)

In 1784 the house and lands of Redhall were sold for 24,500 pounds to the Ker family. In 1869 Mr. Ker sold the property to Mr. John McAuley. In 1902 the estate passed to an English woolen merchant, W. J. Porritt. After his death in 1918 it was bought by George Reade, although he never lived on the property. Much of the land was sold off and the house remained empty until purchased by Vice-Admiral McClintock in 1927. During World War II it was requisitioned for military use. The current owner is the son of Vice-Admiral McClintock. The townland of Redhall was called "Irewe" before 1609 and seems to have been named for the house thereafter, not the other way around.

As we approached the house we realized that Redhall was not of singular design. It seemed to incorporate architectural features from many different eras. Broadly it could be described as a Victorian stucco house. In the

middle is a three-story main section with two single story wings, left and right. There is a portico that seems to have been added at a later date, and a variety of chimneys in unexpected places.

On entering we found ourselves in a rectangular front hallway and were confronted by two of Redhall's distinctive architectural elements. The first was a fireplace set in what is believed to be the outside wall of the original Tower House. The second feature is the ceiling treatment, in this case a set of four lovely sections of 1830's style plaster relief representing the Alchemist's four elements of earth, air, fire and water.

To the right the front hallway leads to the high ceilinged and bright drawing room, and to the left, a similarly proportioned room, the dining room. Both of these rooms were added in the 1790s. The dining room has various memorabilia and paintings relating to Vice Admiral McClintock and his service.

We then proceeded to the staircase. Its balustrade is oak and dates from the Jacobean (17th century) period. On it is a handsome ball-topped newel post clearly early 17th century. Oddly the levels and landings of the staircase did not fit in the window openings in the thick walls of its tower house. There is conjecture that it could have been fitted for an earlier 16th century tower.

Upstairs we viewed two of the bedrooms. In the Oak Room, which is actually paneled in pine, we found the next example of ceiling plasterwork. Here there are semicircular panels, probably representing Sir Archibald and Lady Edmonstone, tracing their descent from Adam and Eve. The inside of the door of this bedroom is a good example of "scrumbling," which showed the way the whole room would originally have been decorated. In the Grey Room there is more ceiling plasterwork, in this case depicting the master of the house and his interests, including a variety of different animals, most with hind legs incorrectly jointed. No one seems to know the reason for these misconceptions.

In these two sets of plasterwork the clothing portrayed would have been in fashion about 1730, but we were told that plasterwork in the 1730's was usually more sophisticated than that found here, thus another chronological puzzle.

The other rooms of the house, which we did not visit, were described as being "quite plain." We did observe some of the roof timbers of the high portion. These are oak and have been dendrochronologically dated to the 17th century.

Just as the recorded history of Blairs in Ballycarry, Carrickfergus and Larne is rich but imprecise, so is the history of Redhall. As we prowled about the house, learning of its ages and uses, we could imagine the lives of various Blairs as they frequented this house and settled in their own in nearby areas. Visiting Redhall and knowing that part of it is proved to have existed in the early 17th century when Esther and Brice Blair made their way from persecution in Scotland put a sure stamp of reality on our understanding and appreciation of their lives.

This report only scratches the surface of what we saw and learned on our month's journey as we searched for important elements of our families' histories. The results so far exceeded our expectations that we are already planning a second trip!

We are indebted to Mr. And Mrs. John McClintock for their hospitality. Note that there are variants in the spelling of the name, "Redhall," "Red Hall," and even "Read Hall." We have used "Redhall" since that is the primary usage style.

The historical information in this commentary came from the owner and from publications of the Ulster Architectural Heritage Society.

New Jersey Marriage Records, 1665-1800, by William Nelson
(Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1967)

Marriages, 2nd River Reformed Church in Essex County, an offshoot of the Acquackanok (now Passaic), New Jersey Church [lists]

p. 620 Blair, Susannah and Alex Campbell. 1758 December 26

John Blairs: Early Settlers of Bourbon County, Kentucky

By Mary J. Powers, BSGR Mem. #230

Several John Blair families seem to have been in the Bourbon/Nicholas/Fleming County, Kentucky area at the beginning of settlement there. Three of these have been particularly confusing to researchers, who have, from early Blair Society times debated which John belonged to which family, which to which Revolutionary War service record, and if all were collaterally related. These are:

1. **John Blair**, said to have been born in Berkeley County, Virginia, who married **Susannah Ewing**, also of Virginia. This John Blair is extensively discussed in the following paper by Russ Emery.

2. **John Blair**, born 1756 in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, who is said to have come to present-day Fleming County prior to the 1784 migration of his parents, **Alexander and Elizabeth (Cochran) Blair**, and other family members to Cane Ridge, Bourbon County, Kentucky. John married **Eleanor Hamilton** there on 28 August, 1786.

3. **John Blair** on the Bedford Township, Bedford County, Pennsylvania tax lists for 1785, married **Jane Adams**, in Bedford County, and was in Kentucky prior to the 1810 census. His father was **William Blair**, born in Ireland, who married **Hester _____**, also born in Ireland.¹ William was a very early settler of Bedford County, and died there in 1788. His daughter married **John Owens Clark and Perrin**² in his history of Bourbon County connects this Blair/Clark line with **Thomas Blair** who came from Ireland in 1777, whose son **Alexander (1763-1847)** was the **Alexander of Blair's Mill**, Kentucky, a brother of **Mary (Blair) Clark**, "the line being collateral to that of the **Blair/Cochran** line in some unknown manner."³

The following attempts to set out the evidence that John/Hamilton is Alexander/Cochran's eldest son, and discusses his Revolutionary War service.

¹ *Blairs In and Through Ohio Prior to 1900*, compiled by Charlotte Blair Stewart. Blair Society for Genealogical Research, 1994, page 327.

² Perrin, Wm. Henry, editor, *History of Bourbon, Scott, Harrison and Bourbon Counties, Kentucky*. Chicago: 1882, pages 733-734.

³ See discussion in "How Many Thomases" in *Blair Family Magazine*, Vol. XI, No. 4, page 71.

Which Family?

In 1919-1921 Albert Blair⁴ of St. Louis, Missouri in researching his own John Blair ancestor visited and interviewed Miss Frances Blair, an octogenarian maiden lady living a few miles north of Ewing in Fleming County, Kentucky. She showed him the Bible which had belonged to her grandparents, stating that they were John Blair and Eleanor Hamilton, she "of the family of Col. William Hamilton of the Indian war on the Thames." She stated that the brothers of her grandfather were William, Thomas, Alexander and Benjamin; that her grandparents' children were Elizabeth, Isabella, William, Thomas, Sarah, Mary and John. She further stated that one of her grandfather's brothers had "gone to Barren County," and that two of her father's (Thomas Everett Blair's) cousins, "David and Alexander, came from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania about 1839 to see about some land they had a claim against." Frances said that both John and Eleanor were buried in Andrews Burying Grounds near Flemingsburg, Kentucky.

Albert writes, "it will be noted that the names of the brothers of her grandfather are the names of sons of Alexander and Elizabeth Cochran [sic]. Their son Thomas's Revolutionary War Pension file lists sons David and Alexander. Albert came to the conclusion that the grandfather of Frances who married Eleanor Hamilton was "the eldest son of Alexander and Elizabeth (Cochran) Blair."

File 106 (p. 349) of *Dr. Eleanor M. Hiestand-Moore's Genealogical File*⁵ is a letter from Morris William Blair, a member of the original Blair Society, to Mrs. Gertrude T. Blair of Carlisle, Kentucky, dated September, 1899. He writes, "My great, great grandfather came from County Armagh, Province of Ulster very early in the 18th century...My grandfather (William), son of Alexander, was born in 1760 in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. **His oldest brother was named John for his grandfather...John...seems to have come to Kentucky in advance of the others. My grandfather, William, came with his parents and younger brothers...about 1784.**"

⁴ Albert Blair, *My Blair Ancestors*. St. Louis, Missouri, 1926, Supplement.

⁵ Compiled by Gerry Carlisle and published by the Blair Society for Genealogical Research, 1990.

A Little Background

In 1773, a party of men from Pennsylvania arrived in Kentucky to survey lands in and around the area that became Nicholas County for land warrants for Colonial soldiers who had fought in the French and Indian War (1753-62). In the party were Maj. John Finley, Col. James Perry, James Hamilton, and John Archer among others⁶ They surveyed the land which included Blue Licks on 16th July 1773. On their return to Pittsburg, they drew lots and this tract fell to Finley, who after serving as Major of the 8th Pennsylvania Regular Continental Troops in the Revolutionary War, came out and settled on it. Finley had immigrated to the Carlisle, Cumberland County, Pennsylvania area early in his life, and became a renowned Indian trader and frontier explorer, one of the first to explore the lands that became Kentucky.

The First United States Census for Kentucky compiled from tax lists shows John Finley in Fayette County in 1785 and 1790 and both he and his son in Fleming County in 1800; James Hamilton in Nelson County in 1800 (and William Hamilton in Fayette County, 1790 and 1800); James Perry in Lincoln County in 1790 and Barren County in 1800; and Joshua Archer in Jefferson County in 1789. These early surveyors from Pennsylvania claimed the land they had mapped out for themselves and their men. At about the same time Kentucky was teeming with other surveyors, including Capt. John Smith with his master surveyor brother James, who was surveying land for warrants issued by the government for the veterans who served in the Canadian campaigns. Smith was in Kentucky by 1788.

Alexander Blair/Cochran shows up as owner of over 4000 acres about this time, his grandchildren being born at Blair's Station on Cane Ridge as early as 1789 (children of William and Eleanor (Evans) Blair, and Mary (Blair) and James Manara. In 1790, "Rev. Robert Finley came from Flemingsburg to Cane Ridge to baptize the children."⁷

The land at the time of settlement "was covered by an abundant, general, large, undergrowth of cane [which] gave the name to Cane Ridge, which is about a mile wide, lying between the waters of Stoner and Hinkston Creeks." Alexander is buried in the Old National Cemetery at the fork of Stoner and Hinkson Creeks.

⁶ Perrin, page 333.

⁷ Albert Blair, Supplement.

Collaborating Documentation. John is said to have been born 1754/6 in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. No record of his birth has been found. A record exists of his marriage in Bourbon County, Kentucky to Eleanor Hamilton, 17 August 1786, father William Hamilton.

The First Kentucky Census (taken from tax lists) shows Blairs in Bourbon County: Alexander (5/9/1789 and 3/1791 twice); John (3/1791 twice); William (3/1791; 6/ 1791). The Second Census 1800 shows three Alexanders from Bourbon, Montgomery and Nicholas counties (and Alexander/Cochran died in 1798-9); Johns in Fleming, Montgomery and Washington counties. In 1810, there were Johns in Clay, Jefferson, Lincoln, Fleming and Livingston counties and Alexanders in Nicholas, Barren and Adair counties. By 1820, there were John Blairs in Floyd, Fleming, Lincoln, Hopkins, Cumberland, Warren, and Harrison counties, one Alexander in Nicholas County.

Our John Blair seems to have come early to Kentucky, settled in Fleming (or what became Fleming), and stayed there until his death in 1830. Morris William Blair in the letter to Gertrude Blair also stated that John Blair, brother of his grandfather William had at the close of the Revolutionary War settled at Fort Pitt (Pittsburgh) and for a time assisted emigrants down the Ohio River to Limerock [now Maysville], Kentucky; that later he settled in Fleming County, Kentucky "prior to 1784, the year that Alexander/Cochran and family settled at Cane Ridge, Kentucky."

The Bible shown to Albert Blair has disappeared somewhere in the Kentucky Archives at Frankfurt. If it can be located, it would prove that John Blair who married Eleanor Hamilton is indeed the son of Alexander and Elizabeth (Cochran) Blair. If anyone has a copy of this Bible record, or any other information on this, please contact the author.

Chronology of the Early Kentucky Counties

Kentucky was originally a part of Fincastle County, Virginia. Later it became an individual county of Virginia. In November 1780 Kentucky County was divided into three counties, Fayette, Lincoln, and Jefferson, and later in that year Nelson County was created from Jefferson. Bourbon County, created in 1785 from Fayette was the fifth county in Kentucky, seven years before statehood, and extended to the Ohio River. The first division of Bourbon occurred in 1788 when Mason was set off; then in 1793 Harrison was created. Fleming was created from Mason County in 1799, and Nicholas took land from Bourbon and Mason also in 1799.

Family Connections.

The relationships between the Blairs who settled this area of Kentucky seem connected in complicated ways. For example, in 1786, John Blair, assumed to be the son of Alexander Cochran married Eleanor Hamilton, daughter of William Hamilton.⁸

A William Hamilton had lands adjoining those of the John Blairs on Taylor's Creek.⁹ William's son, Captain John Hamilton of Cynthiana, Kentucky, was born in York County, near Gettysburg, in 1766 and came to Kentucky in 1785. He married in 1795 in Kentucky, Rachel Cook, born Virginia in 1770, "the daughter of John and Peggy (Blair) Cook, both of Virginia birth."¹⁰ Peggy Blair was of the family of John and Sarah (Hibberd) Blair of Frederick Co., Virginia [from which Berkeley County, Virginia was taken]. When widowed, Sarah remarried and moved with her sons by John Blair, John, Joseph and Samuel to Washington County, Pennsylvania about 1787.¹¹ William Hamilton had emigrated several years prior to the Revolution settling "in a place now called Ginger Hill, in Washington County, Pennsylvania." Samuel and Joseph Blair moved to Harrison County, Kentucky about 1794.

John Blair who married Susannah Ewing is said to have been born in Berkeley County, Virginia; he probably married there as his first child was born there in 1778, and he may have lived in Washington County, Pennsylvania prior to going to Kentucky, as his early Kentucky neighbors were from Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania, from which Washington County was taken.

It seems obvious the families are connected, and that there is yet a great deal of intertwining history to be unraveled. Again, reader input is requested.

Revolutionary War Service.

When queried as to whether her grandfather had been a soldier, Frances Blair said, "I never heard that he had been." However, she had been born a year after John's death in 1830, and did not know him.

Descendants of this John Blair without proving identity, took his military service from the *Pennsylvania Archives* printed by the State of Pennsylvania as follows:

⁸ *Bourbon County, Kentucky Record of Marriages from 1775 to 1851.*

⁹ See page 11 this issue.

¹⁰ Perrin, page 657.

¹¹ See *Blair Family Magazine*, Vol. XII, Spring 1996, page 10.

6th PA Battalion, Col. William Irvine, Capt. Moses McClean's Company: Privates include John Blair.¹² And again, same company and officers, *List of men marching to Canada as of Friday 1, March 1776*: [includes] Pvt. John Blair.¹³ [Not to be confused with the John Blair in Capt. Hendrick's Company, also a prisoner in Canada a year earlier, in 1775, discussed in the following paper.] Took part in the Battle of "Three Rivers" in Canada, captured with others of his company, including Col. William Irvine, sent to Quebec and held a prisoner until March 1777, and was released by ex-change. In July he returned to Pennsylvania and re-en-listed in the 7th Pennsylvania Infantry, made 2nd Lt. in Capt. Parker's Company. He resigned in 1779. Wounded at the Battle of Three Rivers by a musket ball.¹⁴

The 6th Pennsylvania Battalion was dissolved after its Canadian campaign and survivors re-enlisted in the Pennsylvania 7th. Here is where the military record becomes confused. The Pennsylvania Archives gives us the following:

7th PA, Col. Wm. Irvine. Officers who have served with the Regiment since 1 January 1777 [includes] 2nd Lt. John Blair, promoted 20 Jan. 1777.¹⁵

7th PA, Col. Wm. Irvine, Capt. Samuel Hay, Ens. John Blair, rank as 2nd Lt. On 20 Jan. 1777.¹⁶

7th Batt. Col. William Irvine, Capt. Alexander Parker, on 2 Sept. 1779: 2nd Lt. John Blair.¹⁷

7th PA Officers: 2nd Lt. John Blair, resigned 1779.¹⁸

7th PA Continental Line: Officers: Lt. John Blair, March 1777; resigned 1779.¹⁹

I believe we have two (and possibly three) John Blairs here, one who was exchanged 1 March 1777 and is listed in the 7th Continental Line from March 1777 to resignation in 1779, in Capt. Parker's Company, and another who was promoted to 2nd Lt. (from Ensign) 20 January 1777, in Capt. Samuel Hay's Company, both companies under the 7th and Col. William Irvine.

¹² Pennsylvania Archives Ser. 5, Vol. II, page 214.

¹³ Pennsylvania Archives Ser. 5, Vol. II, page 216.

¹⁴ Account given by several descendants without quoting any sources.

¹⁵ Pennsylvania Archives Ser. 5, Vol. III, page 228.

¹⁶ Pennsylvania Archives Ser. 5, Vol. III, pages 219 and 229.

¹⁷ Pennsylvania Archives Ser. 5, Vol. III, page 232.

¹⁸ Pennsylvania Archives Ser. 5, Vol. III, page 208.

¹⁹ Pennsylvania Archives Ser. 2, Vol. X, page 620.

And, it could be that the John Blair of the 1776 Canadian campaign did not re-enter the military. He is supposed to have been "wounded by a musket ball in Canada." There is no mention of John/Hamilton taking part in the militia call-ups of 1785 although both his brother William and brother-in-law James Manara volunteered in the autumn of 1785, for service with Col. Logan's expedition against the Indians, "supposed to be near the head of the Mad River."²⁰ There was, of course, reason to stay near home, as Indians were seen in the Licking River area in Fleming County at this time.

Which John is the son of Alexander/Cochran (if either are)? There is no way to tell, except that Moses McClean, William Irvine, and Alexander Parker were not only Carlisle, Pennsylvania men, but connected by marriage to the Carlisle area Blairs.

Conclusion

This has been a complicated and confusing search which has shown only that **much more research on these early Blair families needs to be done**, especially establishing identities and connections between the various lines.

That John Blair who married Eleanor Hamilton is the son of Alexander and Elizabeth (Cochran) Blair can be taken as proven, if the Bible Alfred Blair saw can be located.

John's military record is not proven, except that he did take up land in Kentucky near the Findlay surveys at a

very early date. In the 8th Batt. of the Pennsylvania Militia are listed Alexander and his four sons, John Thomas, William, and Alexander, Jr. - militia lists do not prove service, only availability to serve. However, all early researchers state that Alexander served in both Indian war and Revolutionary forces, and his sons Thomas and William are listed in the National Archives as serving in the Revolution.

It could be that only by searching out (if possible) the military service of the earlier Blair men, most of whom from land warrants seem to have served in the Colonial forces, will we straighten out the military service of their sons.

Where were Alexander and Elizabeth (Cochran) Blair prior to the birth of their "first" son, John, in Lancaster County in 1754/56? When did they come to America?

Alexander Blair, born in 1715, would have been over 40 when his first son, John, was born. Could he have had an earlier family, lost in the Indian wars, or been in military service? The Lancaster area was crowded with refugees from the frontiers during the period of the French and Indian War (1752-1763). Alexander and Elizabeth were in Lancaster County in 1754/56 through 1767 per the birth places given in their sons' Rev. War records; in Cumberland County in 1776 at time of the militia lists; and after the war, in Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania; in 1784 they moved to Cane Ridge, Kentucky, John having preceded them.

All these questions remain to be answered. If any reader can throw light on the issues raised in this paper, please contact the reader or our genealogist, Charlotte Blair Stewart (addresses inside cover).

²⁰ Hiestand-Moore File, page 71.

Children of John and Eleanor (Hamilton) Blair:

Elizabeth Blair, born 26 September 1787(6), married Elizaville, Fleming County, Kentucky to Daniel Scott.

Isabelle Blair, born 11 January 1790, Elizaville, Kentucky, married Fleming County to William Hurd (or Hood).

William Hamilton Blair, Born 12 January 1793 in Bourbon County, Kentucky, married (1) Elizabeth LaForge;

(2) Phoebe (Atkins) Davis (a widow), in Fleming County, Kentucky.

Thomas Everett Blair, born 16 March 1795, Elizaville, Kentucky, married (1) Jane Patten; (2) Sarah _____.

Sarah Blair, born 10 September 1798, Elizaville, Kentucky, married John Patten. Died 1889.

Mary Blair, born 7 February 1800, Elizaville. Not married.

John Blair, born 1802 Elizaville, married Isabelle McCune.

Other children of John and Eleanor not mentioned by Alfred Blair in his recital of John Blair's bible, but attributed to this couple by Thelma Lang, are **David, Benjamin and Alexander**. John's brother Thomas had children with these names. Another evidence that the Bible must be located.

John and Suzannah (Ewing) Blair Family - Pioneers All

By Russell F. Emery, BSGR Mem. #423

"I remember hearing my uncle Harvey Blair tell of the journey which he made with his father and mother in moving from Kentucky to the Chillicothe [Ohio] country. There were no roads. They traveled by horseback and their household goods and supplies were carried on pack animals. The father carried the baby (Samuel) and Harvey rode behind his mother on the same horse. He said he often looked back to see if there were any signs of Indians following them."¹ The father was William Montgomery Blair and the mother was Martha (Quiett) Blair. They were my great-great-grandparents and William Montgomery was the son of John and Susannah Ewing Blair.

For years, questions have been raised as to the identity of John and Susannah Blair and who the parents of John Blair were. Documentation contributing to the confusion about John Blair who married Susannah Ewing can be found in Albert Blair's book. Here he doubts others' assessment of who the father of John Blair was.² In Volume 1, May 1931 of *The Blair Magazine*, it states that John's parents were Alexander Blair and Elizabeth Cochran. This refers to John Blair, the father of William Montgomery Blair. There are similar discussions in the *Genealogical File of Dr. Eleanor M. Hiestand-Moore Blair*, compiled by Gerry Carlisle. Also, in *Blairlin II*, page 78, it states that John Blair who married Susannah Ewing was born to Alexander Blair and Elizabeth Cochran.

Much of the information about the parents of John Blair who married Susannah Ewing points to Alexander Blair and Elizabeth Cochran. I believe I can shed new light on this subject. While doing so, I hope to tell a little of my pioneer Blair ancestors.

John Blair and the Revolutionary War.

The year was 1775 in Cumberland County, Pennsylvania. "Early in the year 1775... it was proposed in our neighborhood to raise a volunteer company of Riflemen....our company was organized, the command whereof was given to Capt. Wm. Hendricks' of Cumberland Co., Pennsylvania. [John Blair is listed as a

private]³ ...We assembled at Carlisle [Pennsylvania]...On the 13th of July [1775] we began our march from Carlisle, all in good health and spirits...."⁴ "Each man of the three companies bore a rifle-barreled gun, tomahawk, or small axe, and a long knife, usually called a 'scalping knife,'...His under-dress, by no means in a military style, was covered by a deep ash colored hunting-shirt, leggins, and moccasins, ..." ⁵ After a twenty-six day march and about 432 miles, they arrived at Boston, Massachusetts. At this point they became part of a larger army and started for Quebec, Canada on the 11th of September, still in their summer clothing. On January 1, 1776, General Montgomery was killed [at Quebec] and upwards of 400 officers and men killed or taken [prisoner].⁶ After spending the winter and summer as a prisoner of war at Quebec, John Blair and Thomas Gibson escaped from a British prisoner ship off of New York, between September 11, 1776 and September 22, 1776.⁷ The ship that John Blair escaped from may have been the Old Jersey as a John Blair is listed as one of 8,000 men who, at one time, were prisoners on that ship.⁸

John Blair and Family on the Move.

After John Blair's escape from the British we find listed in the rent roll of Berkeley County, Virginia [West Virginia], "John Blair, 444 acres." Also in Berkeley County is "Blair, William, a private in Captain Stephenson's company, and perhaps a son of a John Blair, who had a farm in Berkeley at the time of the Revolution."⁹ Was this John the father of William and the John Blair who married Susannah Ewing? John and Susannah's first child was born on the 25th of May 1778 in Berkeley County, Virginia.¹⁰ John Blair must have been so impressed with his commanding general at the battle of Quebec that he named his first son after General Montgomery. In Albert Blair's book he recalls

³ Kenneth Roberts, "Compiled and Annotated," *March to Quebec*, Journals of Members of Arnold's Expedition (Garden City, New York: Doubleday, Doran & Co., Inc., 1942), page 31.

⁴ *Ibid.*, George Morison's Journal, page 506.

⁵ *Ibid.*, Joseph Henry's Journal, page 301.

⁶ *Ibid.*, Caleb Haskell's Diary, page 486.

⁷ *Ibid.*, Joseph Henry's Journal, pages 424-425.

⁸ Danske Dandridge, *American Prisoners of the Revolution* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1967), page 452.

⁹ Danske Dandridge, *Historic Shepherdstown* (Charlottesville, Virginia: The Michie Co., Printers, 1910), pages 63, 302-303.

¹⁰ Albert Blair, *My Blair Ancestry and Kindred* (St. Louis, Missouri, 1926), page 4.

¹ Albert Blair, *My Blair Ancestry and Kindred* (St. Louis, Missouri, 1926), page 12.

² *Ibid.*, page 39.

a conversation he had with his Uncle Montgomery Blair: "Your name is Montgomery, your father's name was William Montgomery and there is a Montgomery Blair, a distinguished lawyer of Baltimore, who was Postmaster General in President Lincoln's cabinet. Where did the name Montgomery come from?" His reply was substantially as follows: "I do not know where they got it, but I know where we got it. My grandfather was John Blair, a soldier in the American Revolution. He took part in the expedition to Quebec which was commanded by General Richard Montgomery."¹¹

Next we find John Blair in Bourbon County, Kentucky [now Nicholas County] as early as 1788 and probably before. "...James Stephenson, came from Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania, to Paris, Kentucky, in 1788, where he remained a short time, and then came to what is now Carlisle Precinct, and settled...four miles from Carlisle, between the two branches of Somers Creek....At the time of his settlement here, his only neighbors were John Blair, on Taylor's Creek, at the mouth of the Concord Spring branch...."¹² In the Bourbon County Court records are two John Blair's who had land on Taylor's Creek.

How can we distinguish between these two John Blair's with land on Taylor's Creek? There was a John Blair who bought land on Taylor's Creek from Michael Cassidy on the 18th of July 1797. According to the deed both Cassidy and Blair were from Mason County [now Fleming County, Kentucky].¹³ On the 15 of November 1796 we this John Blair selling land on Taylor's Creek to John Erwin of Bourbon County. This deed states that the land was bounded as follows: "...corner to William Hamilton, ...and Iron wood corner to John Blair, [the other John Blair] ...thence south ..." and was signed by John Blair and the mark of Elemer [Eleanor] Blair and attested by Alexander Hamilton, Jas. Blair and Samuel Hamilton.¹⁴ Another document that refers to the same land sale recorded in Bourbon County Court states: "and for the county of Fleming...John Blair and Elenor his wife ...bargain and sale ...15th of November 1796 ...has sold and conveyed ...seventy-five acres of land ...being in the County of Bourbon ...said Elenor can not conveniently travel to our County Court of Bourbon to make acknowledgment of the said conveyance."¹⁵

¹¹ *Ibid.*, page 5.

¹² William Henry Perrin, *History of Bourbon, Scott, Harrison and Nicholas Counties, Kentucky* (Cincinnati, Ohio: Art Guild Reprints, Inc., 1882), p. 351.

¹³ Bourbon County, Kentucky Record of Deeds, Vol. C, page 705.

¹⁴ *Ibid.*, Deed Book D, pages 22, 23.

¹⁵ *Ibid.*, Deed Book D, pages 433, 434.

Apparently this John Blair and his wife Eleanor never lived on Taylor's Creek. They bought the land in July 1796 and sold it in November of 1796. And, Eleanor for whatever reason could not go to Bourbon County to acknowledge the sale.

Now for the other John Blair who owned land on Taylor's Creek. In the Bourbon County, Kentucky tax records the following can be found: In the tax records for 1787 is a John Blair, one male age 21 and above. This must be the John Blair mentioned in the *History of Bourbon County* and living on Taylor's Creek. Taxes for the years 1788 through 1797 all show a John Blair in the County of Bourbon on Taylor's Creek entered or surveyed in the name of Cassidy. Some of these list John Blair a. Esqr. Published tax records simply list names as John Blair.¹⁶ It appears that John Blair and Susannah Ewing were living on Taylor's Creek and paying taxes on land owned by Cassidy. Why? In the June, 1797 Court Records of Bourbon County can be found an interesting land transaction from Michael Cassidy to John Blair, Jr. It states in part, "To all people ...I Michael Cassidy of the County of Mason and Commonwealth of Kentucky, farmer, for and in consideration of the love good will and affection which I have and do bear unto John Blair jr. of the County of Bourbon and said state [Kentucky]...do freely give and grant unto the said John Blair jr. ...one hundred acres of land where his father John Blair lives on Taylors creek which was surveyed for the said John Blair jr. four years ago [1793], ...I Michael Cassidy hath given to the said John Blair near ten years ago [1787]..."¹⁷ This document was signed by Michael Cassidy the 13th day of June 1797. Note the years 1787, 1793, 1797 approximate the taxes for the same years.

I believe that this John Blair jr. is the same John Blair who married Susannah Ewing. And, I believe that his father's name was John. Yes, John and Susannah did have a son named John. He was born about 1783 and could not be the John Jr. discussed in the above land transaction as one can see by the dates.

Why did Michael Cassidy give land to John Blair Jr.? In a letter that I wrote to Mr. Samuel M. Cassidy, I asked why his ancestor Michael Cassidy would give 100 acres of land to someone other than family? His response to me, 2 August 1991, was as follows: "Found your letter of May 17 [1991] very interesting but I'm a

¹⁶ T.L.C. Genealogy, *Bourbon County, Kentucky Taxpayers 1787-1799* (Miami Beach, Florida, P.O. Box 403369) Pages 2, 6, 13, 21, 30, 52, 70, 114, and 137.

¹⁷ Bourbon County, Kentucky Records of Deeds, Vol. D, pages 196, 197.

little pokey in answering - blame it on my age, almost 90. As to Michael Cassidy's real estate transaction with John Blair, Jr., I think it likely best explained on pages 70 and 71 of 'Cassidy Family' wherein he [Cassidy] was an agent employed by Martinsburg [Berkeley County] friends (then in Virginia) to explore and take up land for them...." Looking back through the book *Michael Cassidy, Frontiersman* I found the following dealing with this subject: "Persons with military or treasury warrants, or with a desire to purchase from others, solicited Cassidy's [and others] help in locating good land...Armed with their warrants or power-of-attorney, Cassidy picked out land, entered the claims with the land commission, then had surveys made and saw to it that the grants were made.....A number of his clients were from Virginia, particularly Berkeley County...One particularly interesting payment to Cassidy, found in the Bourbon County courthouse, was a gift of 2500 acres on Taylor's Creek in present Nicholas County.¹⁸

John Blair must have been a surveyor as Albert Blair states in his book. I suggest that Michael Cassidy gave land to John Blair Jr. for services to him, and most likely for surveying services. Probably both were in Berkeley County, Virginia at the time when Cassidy was looking for help with the surveying of the Kentucky lands.

Next we find John Blair and Charles Ewing [suspect that this is Susannah's brother] away from home about the time John and Susannah's last child, Michael Blair, was born. Listed in the Kentucky Gazette for January 11, 1794 was: "A list of letters left at the post office in Danville: [for] ...John Blair or Charles Ewing."¹⁹ Danville is about 60-70 miles southwest of Taylor's Creek. Could this have been a letter telling John that it is time to come home? This same year the 16th of December 1794, John and Susannah Blair sell a parcel of land to Charles Ewing on the waters of the Somerset adjoining the lands of Michael Cassidy.²⁰

By now the John Blair family had grown to six sons and one daughter: William Montgomery, James, John, Samuel, George, Mary Susannah and Michael. James, Samuel, Mary Susannah and Michael all married McNutts. George married Sarah Lockhart and John's

¹⁸ Samuel M. Cassidy, *Michael Cassidy, Frontiersman* (Lexington, Kentucky: Cave Spring Farm, October, 1979), page 18.

¹⁹ Karen Mauer Green, *The Kentucky Gazette, 1787-1800* (Baltimore: Genealogical and Historical Abstracts, Gateway Press, Inc., 1983), page 87.

²⁰ *Bourbon County Court Record of Deeds* (Deed Book C), pages 184, 185.

spouse is in question. Living near to the Blairs on Taylor's Creek were the James Quiett family whose daughter Martha married William Montgomery Blair. They were married on the 7th day of March 1797 in Bourbon County, Kentucky by the Reverend Richard Thomas.²¹

It seems the family was about to make another move. The year was 1798. Charles Ewing and his wife Barbara sold the land that they bought from John and Susannah Blair. The deed in part reads: "This indenture made the 19th of March 1798...all that tract of Parcel of Land, lying and being in the County of Bourbon and the waters of Summersit [Somerset], Beginning at Blairs South Corner...."²² The waters of the Somerset and Taylor's creek are close enough so that the Blair's land and the Ewing land could touch at this point.

To this date I have not found the sale of the land that was given to John Blair Jr. by Cassidy. I have combed the Bourbon and Nicholas County records for this sale. As fate would have it, on my last day while searching the Bourbon/Nicholas County records I found some notes about Blairs at the Nicholas County Historical society. At the top of the first page was, "Delinquent tax list - John Blair - 1806 Ohio." Possibly, John Blair moved on to Ohio without his family in order to settle in before returning for his family. In any event, he just seemed to abandon this land.

In August 1797, Lucas Sullivant laid out the town of Franklinton (now the City of Columbus, Ohio). To promote the settlement of his new town, Sullivant "offered to donate the lots on a certain street to such persons as would become actual residents. The very first family settlement in Franklinton was made by Joseph Dixon during the autumn of 1797. Several additional arrivals took place during the ensuing winter and spring. First among these early comers were...John Blair...."²³ This may or may not be the John Blair who married Susannah Ewing. However, in his will he lists "all town lots."

We do know that John and Susannah were in Franklinton, Ross County, Ohio by indentures found in the court records. On 2 March 1801 we find John Blair buying lot 200 from Lucas Sullivant for thirty-three dollars and one third of a dollar. Looks like John Blair had tired of "city life" and was on the move again. On

²¹ *Bourbon County, Kentucky marriage records*, Vol. 1, page 29.

²² *Bourbon County, Kentucky Record of Deeds, Deed Book C*, pages 184, 185.

²³ *History of Franklin and Pickaway Counties, Ohio* (William Bros., 1880, page 40).

20 February 1802 John and Susannah Blair sold 150 acres on the waters of the Little Miami for one hundred dollars. And, 19 March 1802, John and Susannah Blair sold lot 200, "where the said John Blair now lives..." for the sum of one hundred and thirty dollars. But before moving on, we find in the *History of Franklin and Pickaway Counties*, that John Blair was foreman of the first court held in that county.²⁴

Madison County, Ohio. The Blair's in their quest for new places and land are found in Deer Creek Township, Madison County, Ohio in 1806. "John Adair settled on Deer Creek, ...in 1806. About the same year came William Blair and John Blair and settled on Glade Run, They were leading active men of that day. John Blair was the first Clerk of the Township after its organization, and held other offices; and it is believed if he had lived he would have represented this district in the Legislature. ...William was a son of John Blair and was a preacher in the New-Light Church. The same year "...Charles Ewing settled on the Stutson land."²⁵ According to this *History*, there are Blair and McNutt boys on both sides of court proceedings. George Blair was charged for assault and battery. He pleaded guilty and was fined one dollar and costs. At the next court, one of the McNutt boys was fined six dollars and costs for assault and battery on James Blair, and the next year [1811] in the case of the State vs. Samuel Blair, John McNutt and Samuel McNutt were fined \$25, \$15, and \$6 respectively, "for a riot or conspiracy" against Elias Langham, and bound to keep the peace for one year. During these same years they served as jurors.

Recorded in the Madison County Court hearings of 30 July 1810 is John Blair's will in its entirety, because it was the first will recorded in that county. "[The Court's] first act was accepting and ordering to be recorded the will of John Blair (deceased),..."²⁶ His will was dated 21 July 1810, therefore John probably died sometime between these dates. He asked that all his lawful debts be paid, and gives to each of his children two dollars in cash and requests that they buy a Bible. He gives his wife everything that remains: "Bequeath to my loving Wife Susannah all that tract or parcel of land which I obtained from James McNutt deceased for services done to said McNutt...." Here again we see the suggestion that John Blair was a surveyor. Listed in his inventory is surveying equipment: "1 Compass and chair ---\$5." An interesting item that can be found at

²⁴ (William Bros., 1880), page 40.

²⁵ *History of Madison County, Ohio* (W. H. Beers & Co., 1883), page 109.

²⁶ *Ibid.*, page 388.

the Ohio Historical Society Archives is a survey map drawn on a deer skin.²⁷ This has on it the land that John Blair talks about in his will, later sold by his administrators, his "loving Sons Samuel Blair and Samuel McNutt" and his wife Susannah.

Orange County, Indiana. The Blairs had that itch to move again. On 11 March 1815 Susannah Blair, along with her son Samuel and son-in-law Samuel McNutt sold the land talked about in John's will which was part of four Military Warrants issued to James McNutt. This transaction was witnessed by son Michael.²⁸ They move to Orange County, Indiana, as documented in the *History of Orange County*, and the marriage records of John and Susannah's son Michael Blair to Jane McNutt on 29 July 1816.²⁹ Also, the move to Indiana shows up in an indenture from Madison County, Ohio dated 15 July 1817 that dealt with the heirs of James McNutt listing them as "Joseph McNutt, John McNutt, Samuel McNutt and Mary [Blair] McNutt his wife, Samuel Blair and Frances [McNutt] Blair, his wife, Eweing McNutt, Michael Blair, Jane Blair his wife late Jane McNutt [all] of Orange County and State of Indiana..." witnessed by William M. Blair.

Parke and Fountain Counties, Indiana. The Blairs continued to move. In the *Parke County, Indiana Old Land Entree Book* can be found land entrees for John Blair, Michael Blair, Samuel Blair, and Ewing McNutt in August 1817, and Susannah Blair in February 1818. Their lands touched each other or were very close. Samuel McNutt was in the area but his land entrees are for 1828 and 1830 and may indicate that he tired of moving, as some of the Blairs and McNutts moved on. William M. Blair and Martha were close by in Fountain County but they were on the move again as they sold their land on 8 February 1828. Susannah Ewing Blair died in Indiana, sometime between August 1818 when she made her land transaction and before February 1827 when her son James sold that land. In this transaction is the following: "Know Ye, that Aquilla Puntenny assignee of James Blair devisee of Susannah Blair Dec'd. having deposited..."³⁰

Pike County, Illinois. Moving to Illinois the Blairs were still breaking new ground, this time in Barry Township, Pike County, Illinois. "Not a a tree had

²⁷ Listed in the Archives as "manuscript on skin, 0145-F."

²⁸ *Madison County, Ohio Records of Deeds, Deed Book 3C*, pages 233-236.

²⁹ Myrtle Maris Mavity, *Genealogical Records of Orange Co., Indiana Lost River Chapter, DAR*, 1943), page 2.

³⁰ *Park County, Indiana Record of Deeds, Deed Book 44*, pages 195-196.

been felled by a white man, nor a furrow turned. Wild game abounded. The rude wigwam of the Indian alone indicated habitation. But this condition of affairs was not permitted to continue. Other pilgrims appeared. Among the first were Rev. Wm. Blair and his sons John N. [Newton], Harry, Samuel, Montgomery and William Blair."³¹ In the *History of Pike County* other accounts of Blair activity can be found, such as: "The first person visited by the cold hand of death in this township was Mrs. Amanda Davis, who died in 1831, a daughter of Rev. Wm. Blair. [She is buried in a single grave on a hill not far from Kinderhook, Pike County, Illinois.] The first birth was a daughter of Samuel and Lucy Blair, the first couple married in the township." When Barry was incorporated as a town in 1856, the Trustees were sworn in by Justice M. [Montgomery] Blair. And, when Barry tried to become the county seat, the bill was introduced by William Blair. "In 1842 or 1844 a proposition was made to divide the county, making our city the capital of the west half of the county. At that time Hon. William Blair was a member of the House of Representatives and he introduced the bill."³² Rev. William Blair [father of Hon. William Blair] preached the first sermon in his own log house on section 30 in 1829. He also taught the first school in a log building on section 30 in 1830.³³

The William Montgomery Blair family finally settled in Illinois – well, sort of. John Newton Blair had married Lovica Billings and he died in July 1849 in the Carson Valley, Nevada area. James Quiet Blair died young, possibly in Ohio, Harvey Blair married Susannah McNutt in 1826. Samuel Blair married Lucy Ann Brewster 7 May 1829 and she died 8 February 1848 and he on 9 April 1884, both in Barry, Illinois. Montgomery Blair married first, Anna Jackson 18 May 1835 and second, Marry Ann Gilham, and third, Nancy Jennings. He died 5 April 1884 in Barry. Amanda Blair married Robert Davis, she died 27 March 1831, and he died on the way to fight in the Mexican War. William Blair married Mary Greathouse 1 May 1835, and died in Springfield, Illinois while at the House of Representatives. He also took part in the Black Hawk War of 1831-1832.³⁴ George Blair married Catherine Hughes, he died 22 November 1865 at Mount City, Missouri.

³¹ W. W. Watson, "History of Barry," taken from *The Barry Adage*, October 1, 1903, Vol. XXXII and XXXIII, page 2.

³² *Ibid.*, page 18.

³³ *Ibid.*, page 9.

³⁴ Isaac H. Elhott, *Illinois Soldiers in the Black Hawk War, 1831-1832 and in the Mexican War, 1846-1848* Springfield, Illinois: H. W. Rokker, State Printer and Binder, 1882, page 94.

William Montgomery Blair and Martha Quiet are buried in the Blair Cemetery that was part of the Blair farm. It is located, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of section 31 in Barry Township, Barry, Illinois, in a grove of trees and has been abandoned since 1879.³⁵ The fence that once kept live stock out of the cemetery has been trampled and the area is used by them on hot summer days to bed down. Most of the headstones have been destroyed. William Montgomery died 27 March 1845 and Martha Quiet on 11 June 1842. A "new stone" for them was placed by Albert Blair some years ago and has held up well. Other Blairs buried here are Lucy Ann, d. 8 February 1848 38 yrs. 4 mo. 15 da. Wife of S.; Harvey d. 5 December 1879, 76 yrs. 5 mo. 28 da.; Susan d. 13 June 1875, 65 yrs. 3 mo., wife of H.; John d. 20 March 1848, 4 yrs. 22 da. Son of H. & S.; Martha d. 17 September 1879, 27 yrs. 5 mo. 27. Da., wife of M.D.; Clarence d. 16 July 1879, 1 yr. 9 mo. 29 da., son of M. & M. and Thomas H. d. 9 July 1879, 39 yrs. 11 mo. 9 da.

William Montgomery Blair married a second time four months after Martha died. His second wife shows up in the Pike County Probate records. A copy of the probate records from one of his descendants shows a Jenet Blair relinquishing her "right to administer on the ___? Estate of My Late Husband Wm. M. Blair to his son Montgomery Blair." Their marriage is recorded in the Pike County Illinois Marriage Book I as William M. Blair to Genetta Morey on 14 August 1842.

Conclusions

I think it's safe to conclude that this John Blair family was a hardy group with true pioneering spirit. The march by John Blair and others to do battle at Quebec, Canada in the winter of 1775/76 should have been enough travel and excitement for anyone for a lifetime. But, as we have seen, they kept moving to new frontiers. I might add at this point that on the land that the Blairs and Ewings had in Deer Creek Township, Madison County, Ohio log houses of logs hewn square are still standing. With every move the Blairs made they had to build a new log house, clear fields and plant crops, make their clothing and raise their children. And, while doing all this they had the threat of hostilities with the Indians.

The evidence in John Blair's will and the dates of Court Records of Madison County, Ohio should prove his death to be after 21 July 1810, the date the will was signed, and before the court hearings of 30 July 1810.

³⁵ *Cemetery records of Pike County, Illinois II, Vol. IV*, Pike County Historical Society, 1979, page 43.

Place of death is Madison County, Ohio and his original will is filed in the Madison County Probate Court.

As for the name of the father of the John Blair who married Susannah Ewing, one can conclude by reviewing the land records for the two John Blairs with land on Taylor's Creek, Bourbon County, Kentucky that: (1) There was a John Blair whose wife was Eleanor and owned land on Taylor's Creek for a total of four months who lived in Mason/Fleming County, Kentucky. His parcel of land was 75 acres. This John Blair, I believe is the one who married Eleanor Hamilton and is the son of Alexander and Elizabeth Cochran Blair.

(2) The other John Blair with land on Taylor's Creek must have lived there as we see by the sale of land to Charles Ewing by John and Susannah Blair, and the marriage of their son, William Montgomery Blair to Martha Quiet who lived nearby on Taylor's Creek. The land that Michael Cassidy gave to John Blair Jr. was a 100-acre parcel, not 75 acres as the other John Blair had. The 100-acre parcel given to John Blair Jr. by Michael Cassidy in his Deed or Indenture states,

"where his father John Blair lives." Therefore, we can assume that if the parents of the John Blair whose wife was Eleanor Hamilton's were Alexander Blair and Elizabeth Cochran, then the father of John Blair who married Susannah Ewing must be John.

Some questions remaining to be answered are: Where was John Blair, the husband of Susannah Ewing born? His mother's name? Where in Madison County, Ohio is John Blair buried? (Probably in one of the abandoned cemeteries in Deer Creek Township?)

Where in Indiana is Susannah buried and where is her will recorded. Was Charles Ewing her brother? If so, then her father was Samuel Ewing and she most likely was born in Ireland as was Charles Ewing.

This Blair family has given me a great ride during my searches over the last seven years. History has come alive as I have not only read some of their history, I have seen the country where my ancestors lived and made their homes, visited some of their resting places and met many nice people in the process. I fully expect to continue as long as there are unanswered questions.

Ellen Blair Davis - Celebrates 103 Years!

Submitted by Mem.#066, Mrs. Bean F. Blair

On 8 April, 1895, a daughter was born to William Alvis Blair and Fannie Mayfield in Williamson County, Texas. On 8 April 1998, this daughter celebrates her 103rd birthday in Round Rock, Texas.

Ellen who has lived in or near Round Rock for all her life is descended from Andrew and Jane Dickey Blair, who came to the area before the Civil War. Ellen's father, William Alvis Blair, born 22 December 1862 was the son of William Allen Blair, born 12 January 1829 in Tennessee and Jane Ellen Barker, born 20 October 1856 in Gibson County, Tennessee, daughter of John and Mary Barker. William Allen was the son of Ephraim Blair, born 5 January 1803 in Logan County, Kentucky, and Polly Caroline Miller, born 10 November 1807 in Tennessee, daughter of George and Mary Ann Miller. Ephraim was the son of Andrew Blair, born 24 April 1774 in Guilford County, North Carolina, and Jane Dickey. He was the son of John and Jean Blair of Guilford, North Carolina, John born about 1742, possibly in Northern Ireland.



At age 15 Ellen "ran off" with the fellow she had been "walking out with" for "three long years." Lonnie Davis was only 18, but the marriage was celebrated sixty-six years, until his death. The couple farmed together, and had five children: Irene, married Elmer Israel; Louise; a son; Faye, married W. H. Sefton; and Eugene. "I'm not sorry," Ellen said in an interview on her 100th birthday. "We had a wonderful time." Besides the five children their descendants include thirteen grandchildren, thirty great grandchildren, and 27 ("at last count") great, great grandchildren.

Members who wish to celebrate her life with Ellen may send notes or cards to her at: 15911 FM 913 Rd., North, Manor, Texas 78653. Her long life of hard work and dedication to family can be an inspiration to all of us.

Blair Academy

The One Hundred Fiftieth Year

1848 - 1998

The Blair Academy is celebrating its one hundred fiftieth anniversary in 1998. The private, independent, co-educational secondary boarding/day school was founded in 1848 by John Insley Blair and a group of local merchants and Presbyterian clergy, on land donated by Mr. Blair.

Blair Academy is located in Blirstown, Warren County, in the Northwest corner of New Jersey. The beautiful campus, set among 315 acres of rolling hills, majestic trees and grand old buildings was recently named a National Historic Landmark. It enjoys the best of both worlds, the peace and tranquillity of a rural campus located 10 minutes from the historic Appalachian Trail, yet only a 75 minute drive from New York City.

Blair Academy currently has an enrollment of about 400 students in grades 9-12 and the post-graduate year, and a faculty of 71 involved men and women. The school seeks students of diverse talents and backgrounds. In the 1997-98 school year, the enrollment included students from 30 states and 16 countries. The academic program, with its demanding and diverse curriculum and high caliber faculty, is designed to engage students actively in their own education, to foster logical thinking, to teach clear and persuasive writing and to develop strong analytical skills. Blair Academy graduates attend some of the finest colleges in the country. Blair offers its students a full experience in preparing them for college and life beyond the classroom. Its many extra-curricular activities include sports, music, theater and the 'Society of Skeptics.' The renowned wrestling program has been National Prep Champions.

For more information about Blair Academy, or to make a donation to the Sesquicentennial Endowment Campaign:

Postal Address:

Blair Academy
P.O. Box 600
Blirstown, NJ 07825-0600

Telephone:

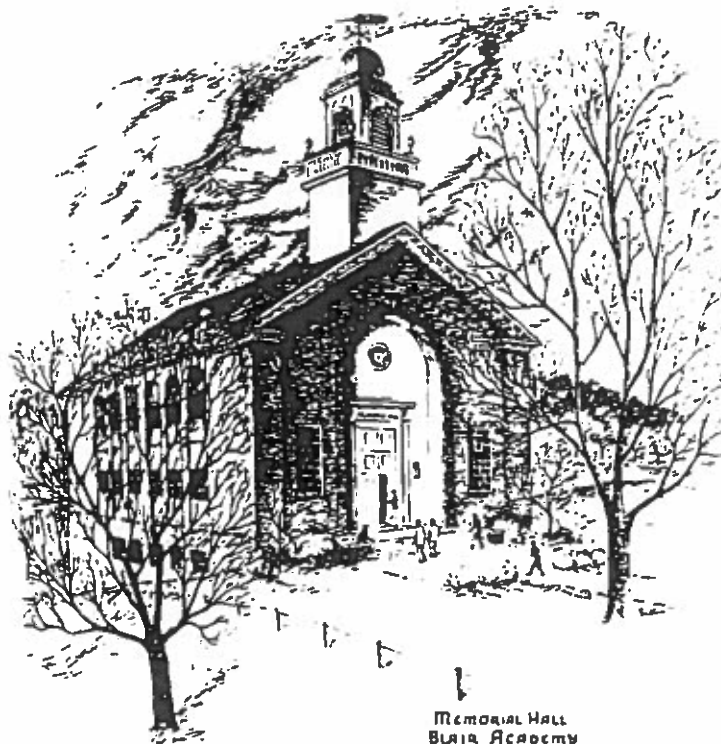
(908) 362-6121

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MEMORIAL HALL
BLAIR ACADEMY