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THE  
BLAIR FAMILY  
OF  
NEW ENGLAND.

COMPILED FOR MR. WILLIAM BLAIR, CHICAGO,

BY

MISS EMILY WILDER LEAVITT.

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**ARMS OF BLAIRS OF AGHADOWEY, COUNTY ANTRIM,  
PROVINCE OF ULSTER.**

**BLAZON.**

**ARG., ON A SALTIRE BETWEEN TWO CRESCENTS  
IN THE FLANKS AND A GARB IN BASE SA., FIVE  
LOZENGES (OR MASCLES) VOIDED OF THE FIRST.**

## BLAIR ARMS.

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THE engraving of the Blair Arms is copied from one cut on a tomb stone in the church yard at Aghadowey which was erected in 1691, and many other stones in the same ground bear these arms, which are used at the present time by the Blairs of county Antrim. By a comparison with the arms engraved in "Scottish Heraldry" we learn that the shield is identical with that borne by the Blairs of Milgerholm, Ayreshire, Scotland, with a mullet for difference, showing this county Antrim line belonged to the third house. The motto, "Amo Probos," is that borne by Blair of that Ilk, and the crest is from that of Blair of Blair, with a difference in the posture of the stag; the Ayreshire crest being a stag lodged, while the Antrim crest is a stag statant.

The county Antrim family has a tradition that the arms were granted by King Malcolm, of Scotland, to one of the name who had been of signal bravery in a battle, in clearing the field of the enemy, the word Blair signifying a cleared field. The two charges, silver and sable, make a most brilliant escutcheon.





## PREFACE.

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### In Memoriam.

By the sudden decease of Mr. WILLIAM BLAIR, the completion of this work has been left to the loving thought of his widow and only surviving son.

It is now some twenty years since Mr. Blair began to note matters of interest in his family lines. As the facts accumulated led far afield, he entrusted the work to a searcher who began with the first generation next his own and carefully traced by indications leading from county records until individuals were connected and their places of residence assured. Then town after town was studied in person; church and town books were carefully read, and thereby the lines indisputably established. In this manner the search was made in a large number of New England places, and the history slowly gathered from original sources, disclosing the fact that members of the line were among the first to hew their courageous way through unbroken wildernesses.

In 1891, Mr. and Mrs. Blair visited Londonderry, where they met and interviewed old residents who were familiar with the entire history of that famous place, securing also some rare publications. After the discovery was made that the immigrant ancestor was one of the Ulster County men, Miss Mary Semple, of Mounthill, Larne, County Antrim, was asked to visit the towns in that picturesque region. Miss Semple went twice to Aghadowey, as well as to the near villages; queried of the Harbor Master of Larne and talked with the older villagers, whose

retentive memories were richly stored with histories of early families, their ancestors and later members, and soon her researches united the New England with the Ulster County lines.

Then a close study of the siege of Londonderry followed; every obtainable history was carefully read and the main facts for the following preamble were gathered from the diaries written by men intimately concerned in the fateful events.

Later still, as many of the living descendants as could be traced sent their family records, thus adding much valuable information.

As much of the history of the immigrants was connected with the Boston and New Hampshire lines, Mr. Blair decided to follow out enough of their record to assist in shaping the whole.

In loving memory of his mother, he desired to write out her two lines of ascent and to follow those with an equal report of his wife's ancestry, as being of equal interest with his own genealogy to his descendants.

Thanks are herein offered to all those who have so kindly and actively done all in their power to further the progress of the search and to bring it to full completion.

EMILY W. LEAVITT.

## THE BLAIRS OF ULSTER PROVINCE, IRELAND. EARLY HISTORY.

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THE name of Blair, which is of Celtic origin, signifying "a cleared field," is found at a very early period in Scotland, and those who bore it have taken an active part in the religious and civil movements of their times. In common with numbers of their countrymen, branches of this family were driven from their native land by a series of events, some of which are to be touched upon here.

Early in the 12th century, Henry II. began a course of oppressive measures for the reduction of his resentful Irish subjects, which were continued by his successors on the English throne until Queen Elizabeth, late in her reign, or about the year 1601, seeing the disastrous effect of this policy, strove to inaugurate more conciliatory laws. During these years large tracts of land escheated to the crown, and, to induce colonization, these lands were offered to loyal British subjects at exceedingly low rates. During this same period, England was struggling for supremacy in Scotland, and the story thereof is written in the battles of Stirling, Falkirk, Bannockburn and Flodden Field. The attempt to supplant the Presbyterian form of worship by that of the English Church further increased the miseries of the Scotch so they were thereby made much more willing to leave their dearly loved land for regions where larger freedom could be secured.

Soon after the accession of James, about 1603, a company was organized at London for the purpose of settling the northern province of Ireland. James divided some millions of acres of land into small holdings in 1612, and offered these to his British

subjects at such a low price that multitudes were induced to avail themselves of the opportunity. At this time, Sir William Brereton, who was visiting James Blair at Irvine, Scotland, wrote that more than two thousand persons had gone, or were going, from that region alone, and that crowds of discontented men were passing through the town at that very moment. A band of young men, of whom several bore the name of Blair, from Argyleshire, settled in Londonderry and in other parts of Ulster.

With the king's consent, the native Irish were driven from the hill tops and from the most fertile districts and their lands were made over to the aliens. These, by toil and labor, thrived and gradually added more land to their first holdings, and thereby gained possession of the greater part of the counties of Antrim, Down and Londonderry. The Romanists who had lingered about the region regarded them as invaders of their own inherent rights, heretic usurpers of their homes, and nourished a spirit of envy and religious hatred which grew and strengthened in silence for more than thirty years, until the time seemed ripe for action by taking advantage of the dissensions between the English sovereigns and their obstinate Gaelic subjects.

Opposing the efforts of James I., and later those of Charles I., to supplant their form of church government, the sturdy Scotch, uniting in a common cause, drew up a "Solemn League and Covenant" which embodied their determined resolve to maintain the Reformed religion as their national creed. From this time until about 1641, there were controversies, heated disputes, banding of men for warlike purposes and such hostilities that the Irish, eagerly watching the conflict, thought they would have England as an ally and resolved to expel or exterminate the heretics in their midst in this, to them, most auspicious time. Large numbers of the Irish soldiers, who had previously been disbanded by order of the king, held secret meetings, in which skil-

ful addresses by their priests inflamed their spirits. Supplies of men and money were sent from France. A plot was matured; the people of Dublin received warning of it in time to protect themselves; but the defenceless Protestants of other places were taken by utter surprise, October 3, 1641, and were slain until whole provinces were almost depopulated. This onslaught was speedily avenged by Charles I., and later on by Cromwell, who, as Lieutenant of Ireland, reduced the Celts by as cruel a slaughter as they had meted to the "foreigners."

Both Cromwell and Charles II. protected and encouraged the Scotch in their Irish settlements and furthered their attempts to regain their earlier prosperity. But when James II. came to the throne, in 1685, there was strong cause for renewed alarm. A zealous bigot, he forbade any religious meetings to be held in Scotland other than those prescribed by the English Church. The signers of the League, termed "Covenanters," became objects of special vengeance, and were laid under penalty of death if they did not abjure their oath. Resolute, steadfast, determined to hold firmly their creed, prohibited from public meetings, they gathered in secret places in the mountains, under cover of rocky fastnesses, to worship God in what was to them the only true form. Armed troopers were sent to hunt them from their hiding places; helpless men were seized at their work, tortured, and put to death for refusing to abjure. John Graham, of Claverhouse, leader of the King's party in Scotland, (celebrated in two of Scott's novels), animated and encouraged these cruelties by his ruthless spirit. The times were so terrible that the hunted people tore themselves from their loved mountains and, from 1684 to 1688, there was a continual exodus to Ireland.

At last, in 1688, James' English subjects themselves drove him into exile and invited his daughter, Mary, with her

husband, William Prince of Orange, to take the English throne. James fled to France and there planned to regain his kingdom. Encouraged by promises of aid from Louis XIV. and believing his Catholic adherents in Ireland would flock to his standard, he proposed to land at some southern port of that island, to march across it and to make an entrance into Scotland, where large bodies of his followers would be ready to meet him and join his march into England. In this project he was ably seconded by Richard Talbot, Earl of Tyrconnel, who had been appointed Lord Deputy to Ireland in his reign and who still held that office under William and Mary. Tyrconnel immediately ordered four regiments to be raised. The troops in Ulster were commanded by the Earl of Antrim, an eminent Catholic; the Protestant forces were commanded by Lord Montjoy and were stationed in and around Londonderry, in accord with the charter of that city, in which was the especial provision that no papist should dwell within its walls.

The city of Londonderry was built on the slope of a hill, on a peninsula formed by the river and Lough Foyle. The eminence was crowned by the Cathedral, on whose broad turrets cannon were placed for its defence. The city was nearly oval in shape, walled, with four gates. The common hall stood in the centre, in a square where four main streets converged and formed "the Diamond" which was so spacious that it afforded ample room for the manœuvres of some ten thousand men.

November 23, 1688, Tyrconnel, desirous of establishing his Catholic forces where they could be most effective for his purpose of furthering the progress of James through the country, ordered Lord Montjoy to move south with his Protestant bands, as far away as Dublin, and commanded the Earl of Antrim to take his place. As Antrim's regiments were not yet filled, he could not obey for about two weeks; this left a vacancy in governorship

and James Buchanan was appointed deputy mayor of Londonderry. The citizens were greatly exercised in regard to the matter of quartering Antrim's regiment upon them, both because it was Catholic and for the reason that numbers of its men, officers as well as soldiers, were descendants of those persons who, in 1641, had so ruthlessly butchered the Protestants. Their fears were still further increased by a warning letter, addressed to the gentry, which revealed a plot for the massacre of all of foreign birth on the ensuing ninth of December. This letter was dropped in a public square and was carried to Mr. George Phillips, a veteran soldier and a former governor of Londonderry, who quickly made its contents widely known.

The admission of Antrim's Catholic forces was by some considered tantamount to an espousal of the cause of James II., while closing the gates of a city totally unfitted for defence looked like madness. In the midst of the tumult, alarm and divided opinion, Antrim and his regiment appeared on the opposite bank of the Foyle. The officers crossed at once and demanded admission; a parley ensued; the troops, impatient at the delay, without waiting orders, rushed over the river and massed near the ferry gate. The cautious elders of the town hesitated; but "thirteen young prentice boys" boldly declared for shutting the gate, seized the keys, closed and locked the ferry gate. This decided the timorous and temporizing. All the other gates were immediately secured and the bridges were drawn up. The exasperated soldiery refused to fall back; shots flew, but, when James Morrison, one of the apprentices, called "Bring the great gun here," a panic ensued and the enemy fled tumultuously. David Carnes, of Knockermany, a gentleman of high standing, went to the town, commended the boys for their spirit and, four days after, left for London to lay the matter before their majesties and present the imperative need of immediate assistance.

In January, 1689, Tyrconnel, anxious to secure the town for James, changed his policy and ordered Lord Montjoy and Colonel Lundy to march their Protestant forces up from Dublin, which lay one hundred and fifty miles to the south-east. As Montjoy's religious principles were the same as their own and as he was well known and held in high esteem, the citizens had faith in him and agreed to admit Col. Lundy with two companies of the Protestant troops, provided the other four companies, which were mainly Catholics, should be quartered at some distance outside the walls. Colonel Lundy, secretly a follower of James, had taken command under William in order to be better able to serve James' schemes. His loyalty was suspected and William, forced to make use of him in the scarcity of available officers for Ireland, instructed the bearer of his commission not to deliver it until Lundy had taken solemn oath of allegiance in his presence. On the other hand, Montjoy was sincere and faithful. Immediately on his arrival he set about raising money among the wealthier classes for purchase of supplies, ordnance and ammunition, strengthening the defences and disciplining the troops. Horace Kennedy went to Scotland to implore the Council to send relief. James Hamilton came from England with supplies sent by their majesties, which were conveyed by two bodies of troops under Colonels Richards and Cunningham, who had discretionary orders in regard to their landing the men. These arrived April 15, 1689.

King James disembarked at Kinsale, a southern port of Ireland, March 12, 1689, and made a magnificent entry into Dublin at the head of a multitude of British and Irish nobility and about five thousand soldiery, with Marshal de Rosen as commander of the French forces. He was met by Tyrconnel with troops that swelled his numbers to some thirty thousand foot and eight thousand horse. As soon as Tyrconnel was



advised of the arrival of James, he displayed his true colors and sent Colonel Hamilton to reduce the Protestants of the north. Hamilton drove in post after post and, at Dromore, made such a bloody onslaught that ever after it was known as "the rout of Dromore." This slaughter caused the more timorous Protestants to flee across the Channel, but the bolder men, numbering about one thousand, gathered in and about Londonderry.

As the allied forces approached, Lundy made a feint of resistance, but abandoned one place after another until, at last, he drew all his soldiers into the city. Here, on the arrival of Colonels Richards and Cunningham, he summoned a council to meet him and so swayed them by representations of his weakness and inadequacy of means as to persuade the majority to draw up terms of surrender. The colonels deciding that it would be useless to land their troops, returned to their ships, stood out in the Lough and, in a few days, set sail for England. When the true state of the case was made known to their majesties an inquiry into this conduct led to a court-martial, with the result that the colonels were promptly cashiered.

The town clerk, James Morgridge, who had taken the minutes of this council, convened a number of the citizens the next morning and told them what had been done. Thereupon arose a great outcry and a tumult which led to bloodshed. While it was at its height, it was announced that the king was coming to receive the capitulation. At the same moment, a friendly force under Colonel Murray was discovered approaching from another direction. This latter body was refused admission by Lundy, but the crowds on the ramparts, stretching out their arms, begged Murray not to forsake them, while the loyal party threw wide the gates for his entrance. Once within, he ordered a proclamation to be made for all the faithful to repair to the Parade with a white handkerchief tied about the left arm as a

distinguishing badge. There he exhorted them to such purpose that it was decided to impeach and supplant Lundy. Murray was urged to take his place as governor, but he declined, alleging he was better fitted for offensive than defensive warfare, and named Major Henry Baker as most suitable for the post. The latter was immediately elected, and Rev. George Walker was appointed assistant. Rev. George Walker, rector of Donaghmore, a man advanced in years, seeing the danger of the times, had raised a regiment and at its head had marched into the city to give assistance. While this vigorous course was being pursued Lundy, finding public opinion growing hot against him, secreted himself and, under cover of the sheltering darkness of the night, stole out of the city, disguised as a pedlar with a pack upon his back.

As soon as his departure was known, the garrison was formed into regiments proportioned to the number of bastions. For the purpose of stimulating them and increasing their ardor, certain parts of the works were assigned to special troops who were held entirely responsible for them. Sorties were planned to fret and gall the besiegers and to tire them out; these being hazardous in the extreme, command of each was offered to volunteers, who called upon their friends to follow them. "April 21, our men sallied, both foot and horse, towards Pennyburn Hill; the horse was commanded by Colonel Murray, the foot by Captain Thomas Blair, Lieutenant David Blair and others. These people fought bravely, but were driven back by a superior force." "While a party of two hundred men under Lieutenant Colonel Blair was posted along the ditches, doing good execution on the camp, a great body of the enemy was coming down upon them whom our men could not see. Colonel Murray, riding along Bog street, galloped to the place, though he was fired upon incessantly, and warned them of their

danger, so they came off in safety. Our women did good service, carrying ammunition, bread and drink to our men and aiding to very good purpose at the Bog side by beating off with stones the grenadiers who came too near our lines."

By the middle of June, the besieged began to suffer for want of provisions and were reduced to the necessity of salting and eating the flesh of the horses which were killed in the skirmishes about the city. June 13 "hopes were raised at the sight of thirty sail in Lough Foyle. These were sent from England and brought, under the command of Major General Kirke, a re-inforcement of five thousand men, with provisions. The besieged fired guns to express their joy and made signs of distress, but Kirke, deterred by the batteries on each side of the river, sailed out of the harbor, to their intense dismay."

King James conducted the siege in person, at first, then returned to hold a parliament at Dublin. General Conrad de Rosen, a French commander of much military skill, but haughty and unscrupulous, appeared before the city, June 18, with a reinforcement of fifteen hundred men and was invested with the command of the besieging army. He expressed great contempt for the walls and swore that "his men should bring them to him, stone by stone." On the very day of his arrival the order was given within the walls that no one should speak of surrender on pain of death. Impatient at the protracted resistance, James ordered de Rosen to take measures to end the siege at once. Thereupon the general drew the lines closer and sent a despatch to the effect that, if the city were not surrendered before the evening of the next day, he would strip the Protestants of the country round about of their possessions and drive them, men, women and children, under the walls and there put them to death by the sword. His threat being received with contempt, the very next day an effort was made to carry it out.

Even his own officers revolted and the English general, Hamilton, who stood next de Rosen in rank, was so shocked at the sight of the miserable beings as they were driven through the Irish camp, that he gave provisions to them as they moved along, in defiance of orders. Hemmed in under the walls, suffering from famine and sickness, these brave people yet implored their friends in the city not to give way lest a worse fate befall them at the hands of such a merciless commander.

In retaliation, a gallows was built upon the ramparts and word sent to the effect that, if the people were not immediately released, all the prisoners then in the city would be hanged from that gallows. This menace, together with a letter from the king, in which he denounced de Rosen's course, and the general abhorrence of his act in his own army, caused the order to be revoked, but not before hundreds had perished from exposure and privation.

As the summer wore on, a great number of the besieged succumbed from the heat with its attendant diseases and the scarcity of food. Fifteen officers were buried in one day, one of these being Major Baker, who died on the thirtieth of June. The food was tallow, starch, salted hide and roots, while their drink was water mixed with anise seed. The supply of cannon balls was exhausted and pieces of brick cased in lead were used as substitutes.

A council of war was held July 24, and it was decided that five hundred men should sally out, at four o'clock the next morning, to drive in some cattle that were grazing near Pennyburn Hill. These men were divided into three detachments, of which the party at the Bishop's Gate was under Captains Blair and Dixon and Lieutenant Boyd. These fell upon the men in the trenches who, not expecting such energy in a starving people, at first fled before them, but immediately rallied and drove them back before they could accomplish their purpose.

July 30, Rev. George Walker, fearful lest the resolve not to surrender might give way under such tortures, preached at the Cathedral and endeavored, by helpful texts, to hold them firm in the faith that God would deliver them in their extremity. About an hour afterwards, three ships were seen coming up the river, according to the promise of Major General Kirke that, when they were at the worst, he would venture all things in their behalf. These were two merchantmen, the Phœnix and the Montjoy, laden with provisions, convoyed by the war frigate, the Dartmouth under Captain Browning. A boom had been drawn across the Foyle. The frigate struck this and broke it, but was thrown back by the shock and run aground, all the while being under the fire of the enemy from both shores. But, in firing a broadside, she righted and sailed on. Captain Browning of the Dartmouth, and Captain Douglass of the Phœnix, were both killed.

The wind failing, the anxious watchers actually howled in despair and rushed into the water; but oars were manned and the vessels were towed into port.

The Phœnix was loaded with six or eight hundred barrels of meal whilst the Montjoy brought beef, flour and biscuit from England. "This relief," says Walker, "arrived here to the inexpressible joy and transport of our distressed garrison, for we had only counted on two more days of life." In the course of the next night, the Irish army, under de Rosen, left the position it had held before Londonderry for one hundred and five days, after losing eight or nine hundred men and about one hundred of its best officers.\*

"To a citizen of Londonderry, the preservation of every circumstance relative to the transactions of 1688-89, is pecu-

\* This account was compiled from Richard's Diary of the Fleet, not used by Macaulay; Ash's Journal of the Siege, edition of 1792; Walker's Diary of the Siege, 1688-9. Londonderias, a poem relating the incidents and some of the prominent men of the siege, which was found in the house at Derry.

liarly dear. Remote and inconsequential as it may appear to a foreign observer, every inhabitant of Great Britain and Ireland will regard that siege as one of the eras of history. Had James made a rapid and easy conquest of Derry, the war would have had a different conclusion, and we of this day might have been lingering under a cruel and despotic government. The bold and successful defence made by our gallant ancestors checked the career and exhausted the strength of James's army and finally proved the principal cause in seating William firmly on the English throne."

(From the *Siege and History of Derry*, edited by John Keneton.)

## MIGRATION TO NEW ENGLAND.

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AMONG the places harried by the troopers of James II. was the beautiful village of Aghadowey, in County Antrim. It lies on the west side of the river Bann as it curves in its course from Lough Meagh to the Atlantic, near Lough Foyle and the Giant's Causeway, through one of the loveliest districts of the north of Ireland. In this section many families by the name of Blair had settled. On the opposite shore of the stream, which here is so narrow that a boat can cross it in a short five minutes' row, at a little town called "The Vow," there are, in this present year, five families by the name of Blair.

At Derry, in the Cathedral yard, there stands a stone which was erected to the memory of Thomas Blair, who died in 1696, at the age of forty years; next stands that of his widow, Mrs. Eliza Blair, who died July, 1754, aged ninety-six years. They belonged to the village of Glendarmot, which lies about two miles south of Derry, and were to have been buried among their own kinsfolk, but, as Thomas Blair was severely wounded at the siege of 1689 and died of his hurts, the people of Derry begged to have his ashes mingled with those of his murdered comrades. Alexander Blair, ancestor of this Thomas Blair, a native of Scotland, obtained a grant of land at Glendarmot, at a penny an acre, from King James, about the year 1610. A brother of Alexander came at the same time and settled at Aghadowey, six miles from Coleraine. The Glendarmot Blairs claim to have come from Ayrshire, Scotland, and to have been related to the Reverend Robert Blair, who came from Scotland at a much

later period and was settled as the pastor over churches in Irvine and Bangor, Ireland.

Miss Semple writes : " I have been in different counties of Ireland and Scotland celebrated in history and song, yet nowhere did I ever see scenery superior to that of Aghadowey ; my eyes never rested on a lovelier spot. The silvery waves of the pastoral Bann kiss the shore as it winds on its course towards its ocean home in the broad Atlantic. The country is well wooded and the high state of cultivation which pervades the entire locality strikes the traveler with admiration ; no matter how humble the home, there is always a wealth of flowers around the dwelling. The cotters plainly have a great love of fruit and flowers, and not a foot of the soil is left untilled.

"The village of Aghadowey whence the parish obtains its name, consists of a railway station, a post-office, a few shops, a public house, a deposit bank, a savings bank, three flax mills, a corn mill, an Episcopal church set in the midst of its ancient yard, in which the oldest stones are found, the houses of the villagers and the Presbyterian meeting-house, which stands about seven perches from the village. The meeting-house is still in splendid condition. It is built of black stones well cemented and is capable of seating some eight hundred people in both floor and gallery. There is a stained glass window on either side of the pulpit. Altogether, it is a stately and venerable pile."

"Among the Blairs was one James Blair who erected a stone in Aghadowey churchyard to the mem. of his wife, Rachel Boyd, who died March 10, 1700, aged six years. They had a son named Robert, who married Isabella Rankin, daughter of David Rankin, who came from Scotland in 1685 and died in Aghadowey in 1750, aged eighty-four years, as is cut on his tombstone. As far as I can make out, this Robert Blair who married Isabella Rankin and was the son of James Blair and



Rachel Boyd, was the ancestor of the New England Blairs." This James Blair and his brother Abraham owned a bleach green called Ballydwitt, within calling distance from the church at Aghadowey. It is now (1893) owned by a Mrs. Lochdale. There are two other bleach greens in Aghadowey all covered with linen webs.

"The whole region is quite level, with a gentle slope to the river, the only rising ground being the hills of Sleigh Gallon, several miles distant to the northwest. The southern end of the village joins Kilrea, and throughout its length can be traced houses built by its first Scotch settlers. These are in clusters and are termed 'Clackens,' Gaelic for village. The people are a strong-looking race, the men tall and well formed, the women rather above medium height. They are principally farmers, but many work on the bleach greens, while others spend their lives in weaving on looms which stand in their own houses. There is a weaver in almost every dwelling in County Derry, and at the time of the great migration spinning and weaving were the principal industries of this whole province.

The bleach green of Ballydwitt lies about a quarter of a mile from the bank of the river at the north end of the parish, very near the Kirk. The Blairs employed weavers to work at looms in their own houses and men to spread the brown webs on the smooth, rich, green grass; to watch them as they slowly whitened under the sun, while others prepared for exportation the beautiful linen which was not used for their own household."

At the opening of the fateful year of 1688, they were quietly pursuing their pastoral lives. Then Abraham Blair went to Derry, and while he was gallantly fighting there the King's soldiers were harrying his defenceless kindred, sacking and burning their houses, forcing many into the suffering crowds under the walls he was defending. His brother James's wife,

Rachel (Boyd) Blair, contrived to evade the hunters. With her little children she cowered in the sheltering furze. Her son, Robert, was then about five years of age, old enough to receive a vivid, lasting impression of the devastation and ruin of their cherished home. His mother was a descendant of Thomas Boyd who, in 1576, settled at Craig, a village lying between Ballymena and Kilrea. He could trace his ancestry back to that Lord Boyd, who was a guardian of James Stuart III. during his minority. In 1467, the eldest son of Lord Boyd was created Earl of Antrim and married the king's sister. Owing to enemies at Court, in 1469, they were convicted of treason and their estates were forfeited; they then were governing the lordships of Kilmarnock, Ayr, Bute Cowal, Renfrew, besides the castle of Rothsay. Lord Boyd fled to Oxfordshire, and his brother Alexander was executed on Castle Hill.

The grave stone erected to the memory of Mrs. Rachel (Boyd) Blair by her husband, James Blair, is still standing, and as it is alone, it strengthens the inference that her husband accompanied his brother, Abraham, and his own sons when they sailed away to New England. Mrs. Rachel (Boyd) Blair died May 10, 1700, aged fifty years.

When the siege ended, the Blairs returned to their own place, rebuilding the house, watching the weaving and caring for the great linen webs during the week, quietly walking with their children and grandchildren to the old Kirk so close to their home, on the Sabbath, where the Reverend James McGregor preached to them from the time of his first settlement in 1701 until the end of his services in 1718. But the peace of their earlier years had departed. Promises made by the crown were not kept, and the future was dark and threatening, holding no brightness for their sons and daughters who had married and had many small children dependent upon them. The brothers must

have been among those who first discussed the idea of leaving all the dangers that darkened around them, and settling in far away New England, and who shared in the hope that, in casting their lot with a people who had encountered hardship and trial to win religious freedom and a new country for themselves, they would be going to a kindly brotherhood.

At home, they were forced to endure many grievances. As "Dissenters" they were at liberty to follow their own form of worship, yet they were obliged to pay tithes to the Church of England. Their land was held by lease from the Crown and not in individual right; they were Protestants in the midst of a Roman Catholic population, in whose breasts smouldered the fires of revenge, which only lacked occasion to burst forth into bloody deeds. Onerous restrictions were laid on their manufactures. Urged by all these pressing embarrassments this people sought out more favoring conditions. Their attention was turned to New England by a young man named Robert Holmes, the son of a Presbyterian minister who had lived in the region. Encouraged by his account of the civil and religious liberty enjoyed in the American colonies, several clergymen, Rev. William Boyd, Rev. James McGregor, and Rev. William Cornwell, with their congregations, decided to migrate. Therefore, in the spring of 1718, Rev. William Boyd was sent with an address to Governor Shute of Massachusetts Bay, which was signed by over three hundred of the people, nine of whom were ministers, and all of whom, save thirteen only, wrote their own names. (This paper is preserved in the State House at Boston.)

The response of the Governor and his Council was so encouraging that they prepared to migrate. Rev. James McGregor assembled his flock in the fine old church which the Blairs had always attended and where they must have been present when Mr. McGregor preached the farewell sermon

from Exodus, 33d chapter, 15th verse, "If Thy presence go not with me carry us not up hence," and recounted the reasons for leaving their homes. They were to avoid oppression and cruel bondage, to escape persecution and designed ruin and to withdraw from the communion of idolatry, to have opportunity of worshipping God according to the dictates of conscience and the rules of His inspired word." (From Rambles through Europe, by Mr. L. A. Morrison, page 86.)

Five ships were chartered, and in these whole families embarked, including aged grandparents and helpless babes, the main port of departure being Londonderry, but the present harbor master of Larne thinks the ships touched at other ports on their way out and that one put in at Larne. These five ships anchored "at the little wharf at the foot of State (then King) street, Boston, New England, August 4, 1718." (From the first book of town records of Londonderry, New Hampshire.)

The descriptions and statements of Aghadowey are taken from a series of letters written by Miss Mary Semple of Monthill, Larne, County Antrim, Ulster Province, Ireland, who made a personal visit to the place and talked with the aged men, who recounted tales they had received from their grandsires.

Monthill (Ireland), 28th August, 1893.

Dear Mr. Blair:—

I was at a place called Craigs, seven miles beyond Ballymena and unexpectedly (received) information which may interest you. Robert Boyd, who lives at a place called Boydstown, in the parish of Craigs, gave me a history of his own family. You may imagine my surprise when he began to tell of the Boyds being married among the Blairs of Aghadowey. He said the founder of his, and many more families, was one Thomas Boyd, a native of Oxfordshire, who settled at Craigs in 1573. He married Elizabeth Douglas, a daughter of Scotch parents who had settled at Craigs also.

This Thomas received a grant of land, of which his descendants still hold a part. A son settled at Dungiven, County Derry, and was the grandfather of the Rachel Boyd who married James Blair, and own

father of the Rev. Mr. Boyd who went with the emigrants to New Hampshire.

I never met a more interesting old man than this Mr. Boyd. He took me around his farm, and nearly every field had a history. A small river runs near the house, which is called the Red Ford, so named because it was surcharged with blood the three days when Cromwell's army fought that of Philim Roe O'huill 'till that place where the Irish leader was killed.' A large cairn marks his grave. He also showed me the spot where a church (with) a grave yard once stood in which many Boyds were buried. As it stood far from the public road, it was gradually neglected and now is a fair meadow. There are apple trees in his garden which were planted by an ancestor named Montfield Lyle Boyd, some two hundred years ago; he was a soldier and fought under the Duke of Marlborough at Blenheim.

I was told that one of the ships that carried the first emigrants was called "The Eagle's Wing" and another "The Lady Sellerooke." There is an old song about the emigrants going away in the ship "Lady Sellerooke" that left fair Londonderry. Yours,

MARY SEMPLE.

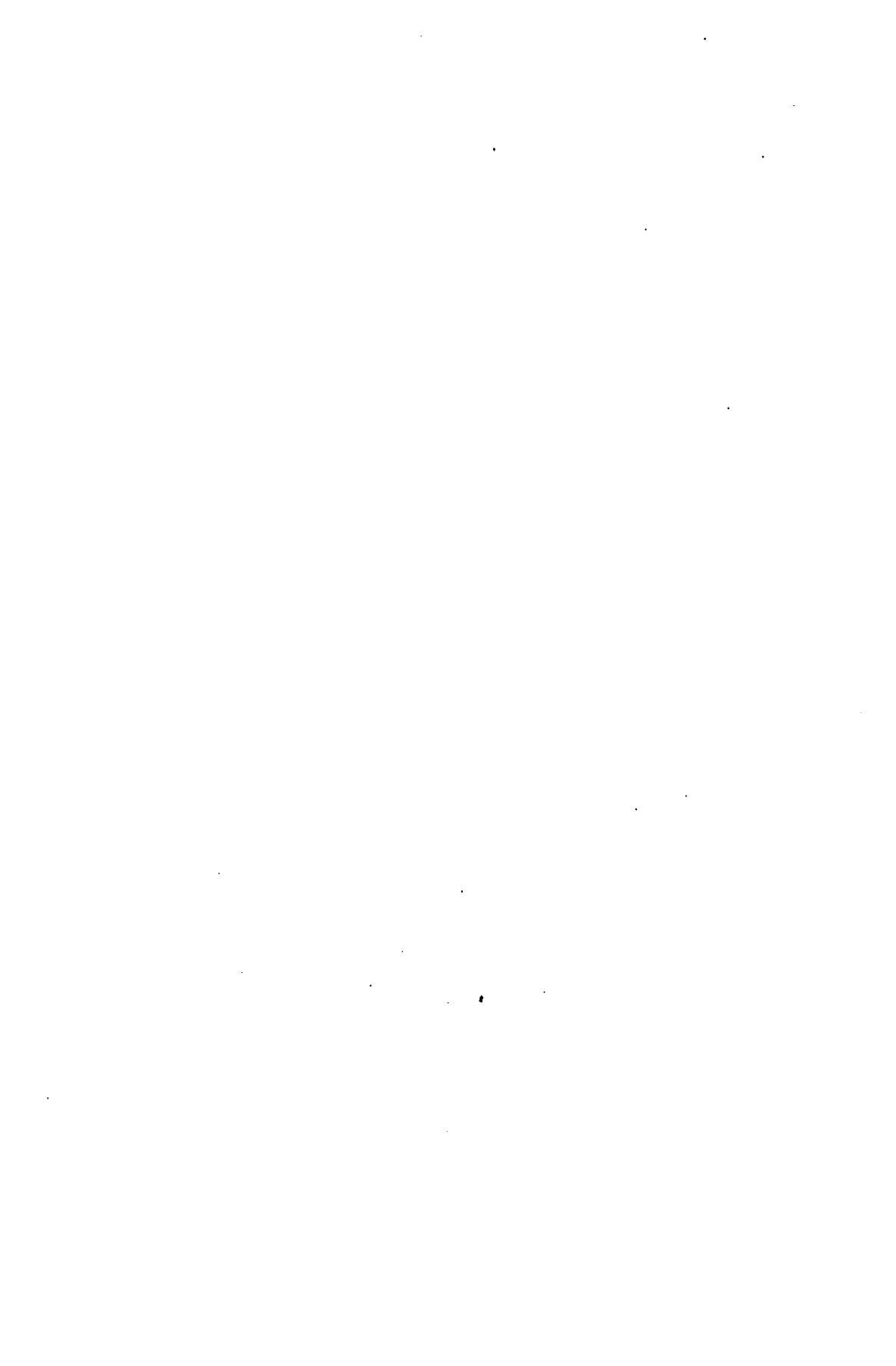
In a letter dated January 1, 1900, Miss Semple writes :

"Close beside the old church at Aghadowey is the house where the Rev. J. McGregor lived prior to his removal to America. The people here for the most part know their ancestry well. The traditions of each family were handed down from father to son since they came from Scotland. Before the Scotch settlers came, there were many Danes living on this coast; the Scotch married among them, therefore we all have Danish blood.

This county of Antrim has given four presidents to your great republic: Breckenridge(?), Jackson, Johnson and Garfield. Breckenridge's ancestors lived about a half a mile from here. I have a copy of the lease of land they had in 1700. Andrew Jackson's father was born about three miles from here. I have seen the house often. Then, the ancestors of General John Gordon, late governor of Georgia, lived here. His great, great grandfather lies in our churchyard; he died in 1710."



**THE FIRST OF THE NEW-ENGLAND FAMILY.**





## THE FIRST OF THE NEW ENGLAND FAMILY.

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1. ROBERT<sup>1</sup> BLAIR, apparently the elder of the two brothers whose history we have traced, was in Rutland, Worcester county, Mass., before 1720. He had two daughters, Mary and Elizabeth, baptized in the church of Sudbury, Mass., in 1724. He bought a farm in Worcester, county Worcester, Mass., in 1726, of which the original deed is carefully preserved among other family papers, and is as follows: "February 10, 1726, Joseph Hubbard, of Concord, Mass., sold to Robert<sup>1</sup> Blair, of Marlborough, Mass., for sixty pounds, a messuage or tenement in Worcester of sixty-two acres of land, which was a part of Joseph Marable's Second Division of the common lands in Worcester, on and adjoining a hill west of Prospect Meadow and east of Halfway river." All the boundary lines were run from one marked heap of stones to another. The adjoining lands were owned by James Morse, Andrew Gardner, Nathaniel Moore; while the common, or undivided lands, stretched far and wide beyond his holding. "The sills of his house were placed by compass, so that, when the sun turned on the west end they knew it was noon."

February 10, 1726, Robert<sup>1</sup> Blair, bought of John Hubbard, of Worcester, for ten pounds, three acres of meadow land in Worcester, called the Prospect Meadow land; some years later his farm is described "as lying on both sides of the road leading from Worcester meeting house to Tatneck Hill." A house is still standing on the original site of the homestead which was built around one of the first rooms and which is like the earliest house in all respects save the addition of an ell of two stories, which was put up to accommodate a growing family.

Robert<sup>1</sup> Blair appears to have immediately interested himself in public matters. In 1732, he was a surveyor of the highways;

in 1735, he was one of a committee to "seat the meeting house." In August, 1733, he, together with William Jennison, Deacon Nathaniel Moore, Lieutenant Thomas Stearns and James Hamilton, was appointed on a committee to settle and renew the boundaries between the north and south parts of Worcester. At a meeting held at the house of Captain David Heywood, innholder, on February 13, 1737-8, Benjamin Flagg, junior, Palmer Golding, Henry Lee, Gershom Rice, junior, and Robert Blair were elected to survey several pieces of common and undivided land in the south part of Worcester. In 1742, he was a juror. December 14, 1751, when Robert Blair was about sixty-eight years of age, an Indenture was drawn up in which he assigned to his youngest son, Joseph, "the whole of the farm of land on which the said Robert Blair now dwells, consisting of plow, mowing, wood and pasture lands, with the buildings, half of the dwelling house and half of the barn excepted; likewise his pair of oxen now in the possession of the said Joseph Blair." In consideration of this transfer, his son agreed to occupy and work the said farm by his own labor and charge during the lifetime of his parents "and to care for them in all ways." This appears to have marked the end of Robert Blair's active days, though he lived many years after this deed was drawn.

Robert' Blair married, probably in Aghadowey, Isabella, daughter of David Rankin, whose father went from Scotland, in 1685, to Aghadowey, where he died in 1750, aged 84 years. Robert Blair was buried in the ground which is now a part of Worcester Common. The inscription on his stone was :

"In Memory of Mr. Robert Blair who departed this life October ye 14, A.D. 1774, in the 91 year of his age.

How great, how firm, how sacred all appears,  
How worthy an immortal round of years;  
Yet all must drop as Autumn's ripened grain,  
And earth and firmament be sought in vain."

The inscription on Mrs. Blair's stone was :

"Here lyes interred the remains of Mrs. Robert Blair, who died February 10, 1765, aged 82 years.

*Memento Mori."*

They had children :

1. MATTHEW,<sup>2</sup> born about 1704-5.
2. DAVID, born 1708-9.
3. JOHN, born 1710.
4. SARAH.
5. DOLLY.
6. WILLIAM, born 1718.
7. JAMES.
8. ROBERT, born in Rutland, June 20, 1720.
9. ELIZABETH, born 1724.
10. MARY, born April 1, 1725.
11. JOSEPH, born 1727.

In the New England Historic Genealogical Register, for 1869, page 59, is the following: "Died at Worcester, Mass., February 2, 1775, Mr. Robert Blair, a native of Ireland, aged 91 years. He left six sons, four daughters, eighty-seven grand children, one hundred and six great-grand children, in all two hundred and nine living descendants." There is a discrepancy of day, month and year in the two accounts, but the number of descendants is correct, as all of the children have been traced save the daughter Dolly, or Dorothy. The above list of children gives *seven* sons and *four* daughters.



**THE SECOND GENERATION IN AMERICA.**



## THE SECOND GENERATION IN AMERICA.

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2. MATTHEW<sup>2</sup> BLAIR, son of Robert<sup>1</sup> and Isabella (Rankin) Blair, was probably born in Aghadowey, in 1704-5, judging by his age at the time of his death. His boyhood must have been passed with his father in attending to the weaving at the looms and on the beautiful bleach greens, since he registered as a "weaver" in his earliest land transactions here. He came with his parents and was with them when they settled in Worcester, but he soon left them and went to Hopkinton, Mass. This town was bought of the "Praying Indians" with money left to Harvard College by the Rev. Edward Hopkins, and the rental of its lands was one of the sources of income for the institution. Among the seven or eight Ulster men who were original members of the Hopkinton church, was Robert Hamilton, who, with his daughter Mary, was admitted to full communion in 1727. These first of the Scotch-Irish were soon joined by five others who were all Presbyterians. As the particular form of church government was not mentioned in the beginning, these persons assented to the covenant and partook of the communion; but when the officers of the church, on April 6, 1731, voted to comply with the church discipline agreed to by the Synod assembled at Cambridge, Mass., in 1649, as the rule of their discipline as far as they apprehended it to be agreeable to the word of God, this, deciding the church to be Congregational, gave much offence to the Presbyterians. At once ten of the families withdrew from the service. They were brought "under discipline" and several were excommunicated. Among these was Matthew Blair. These families instantly proceeded to form a Presbyterian society and to build a small church in the west part of the village, in 1754. But there was such a spirit of faction and discord rife in the town that they resolved to remove and found a new town for themselves.

In the southwestern part of Massachusetts, on a spur of the Green Mountains, fifteen hundred feet above sea level, the Great and General Court of Massachusetts Bay, in 1752, granted to certain proprietors of the common and undivided lands in Connecticut, as an equivalent for a tract taken from that State when the boundary line between the two States was fixed, a set number of acres. Mr. Jacob Layton held a grant of six miles square. This he sold to John Fay, Francis Brinley and Francis Wells, of Boston, who employed General Newbury, of Windsor, Conn., to survey it seven miles square. The proprietors petitioned for a grant of an additional mile square. As this was to be a frontier town and the General Court was desirous of occupying it as quickly as possible, in order to keep the Indians in check and thus render it a safeguard for the elder settlements, consent was given that the desired land should be theirs on condition that forty families should be settled directly. To secure these, the proprietors offered to give each one of the first families which would accept their terms, two sixty acre lots, one of which was to be on the intended main street of the place. The settlers drew for these lots and the northernmost fell to Isaac Gibbs. Between this and Montreal, Canada, the entire country was a trackless wilderness. One fort had been built at Williamstown and another at Crown Point, and these were only occupied in time of war by a few soldiers. The nearest settlement was at Westfield, ten miles distant to the eastward.

The progress of the pioneers in ascending the mountain, through Russell, was laborious and disheartening. They commenced its ascent at Sackett's Harbor, about seven miles from the present centre of Blandford. The rise began on the bank of the river and continued up a rocky ledge which, from its rude and formidable appearance they dubbed "The Devil's staircase." The teams could only make two miles this first day of travel through the unbroken woods; the second day they reached the top of Birch Hill, where they again encamped when night fell, amid all the terrors of the wilderness. On the third day they arrived at their future home. The road they cut began at Westfield river, in a narrow defile of the mountains, whence a sinuous track led up and through the dense forests for four miles, crossing



and re-crossing brooks which wound and twisted under, across and beside it, swelling in volume till they swept into the river, until it struck what is now the main street of Blandford. Here the plans were laid and building begun; then the road curved up the slope until the very top of the plateau was reached. They hewed and cut away the trees and made broad the space where, at the present day, a splendid region of hills, woods and fertile fields is spread before the charmed eyes.

A number of these men were from Glasgow, Scotland, and, on their proposing to give the name of that city to their new home, prominent members of their native place promised to donate a bell to the new church as soon as it was completed. But, since there had been some underhand proceedings in the survey, the privilege of naming the town was taken from them and William Shirley, a lately appointed governor of the Bay colony, who had arrived in the ship called "The Blandford," chose to give that name to the new settlement. The proprietors agreed to "set a frame for a new meeting house, to cover the outside, to put in glass windows and to give ten acres of land in the centre of the town for a public square."

The first town meeting was held on March 1, 1741, and the first entry was: "Voted: to allow ten shillings to buy a town book." March, 1745, it was "Voted: that Samuel Crook be sent to Mr. Harqueson, in Worcester, and by him be sent to Boston to see what help they will give to carry our charges here." May 13, 1742, at the meeting where David Boys (Boise) was moderator, it was "Voted: to pay Mr. John Caldwell fifteen shillings per Sunday, he to find himself." September 2, 1742, it was "Voted: That David Boys, Stuart Gibs and James Watson talk with the Gentlemen Proprietors to see what help they will give the town to maintain the gospel, without going to Court." This same year it was "Voted: that Amour Hamilton or James Caldwell, as they are going to Boston on their own business, shall go to Mr. Lee, merchant, to see if he can send us a minister for some time or, if he cannot supply us, they to go to the Rev. Mr. Moorhead. To pay four pounds a Sabbath for the minister's preaching, besides his board and the keeping his horse. To talk with Mr. Morton about his preaching

with us." Granted Matthew Blair four pounds, ten shillings for boarding Mr. Morton and keeping his horse. "That Matthew Blair be collector for this year of 1748, to bring in the rates of said town laid on the land by the Court, and that, when Matthew Blair goes to Boston, he take up a writing from the Gentlemen." December 9, 1748, Matthew Blair was the Moderator of the town meeting when it was "Voted: To give Mr. Morton a call: his salary to be paid partly in work and partly in money, according as the necessaries of life rise or fall." May 17, 1748, at the town meeting when David Boise was the Moderator, it was "Voted; To ordain Mr. Morton the last Wednesday of August; Mr. Balantine, Mr. McGregor, Mr. Dennison, Mr. Hopkins and Mr. Graham to be the ministers that ordain Mr. Morton. In case Mr. McGregor and Mr. Dennison cannot come then Mr. Moorhead and Mr. Davidson are to come in their places." "Voted: That Matthew Blair shall go to Springfield to get Mr. Withington to draw a petition to send to the General Court to get a tax laid on this land."

In 1750 the town agreed to pay Matthew Blair four pounds, old tenor, for two journeys to Springfield and eleven pounds, six shillings, for horse keeping and malt for the ordination. "Voted: That there shall be lists drawn and assessments of the Gentlemen Proprietors' land according to the tax formerly granted by the General Court for three years and to empower a man and send him down to manage the affair; that Matthew Blair be commissioned to go to Boston to manage the affair with the Gentlemen proprietors and Mr. McClanahan in behalf of the town."

March 30, 1748. Voted: "To free those that left the town in 1747 from paying the tax that was laid on said lands by the Court; reconsidered." "That the soldiers that are to come to this town shall keep the three forts that are in this town."

MATTHEW<sup>2</sup> BLAIR was a selectman in 1749, '50, '51, and in 1752; he was moderator of the town meetings in 1752, '58, '59, '68, '70; was assessor in 1742 and 1743; was surveyor of the highways in 1760. In addition to the business of his farm and attendance on all civic affairs, he owned and carried on a grist-mill; he was early elected an elder in the church. He

married, in Hopkinton, Mass., in 1727, Mary Hamilton, who died in Blandford, March 21, 1753; he married (2) February 21, 1754, Jane Alexander; he died September 28, 1770, aged 66 years.

His children by his first wife were :

1. ELIZABETH,<sup>s</sup> born in Hopkinton, Aug. 28, 1728.
2. ROBERT, born in Hopkinton, Dec. 1, 1730.
3. MATTHEW, born in Hopkinton, Aug. 4, 1733.
4. JACOB, born in Hopkinton, April 17, 1735.
5. ISAAC, born in Blandford.
6. MOSES.
7. ANNA.

Children by his second wife :

8. ADAM.
9. JAMES.

On the settlement of the boundary line between Massachusetts and Connecticut, a tract of land known as "the Equivalent land" was given to the former state as a recompense for the three towns which had been founded by her but which lay under the jurisdiction of Connecticut after the partition. A part of this, called "The Elbow Tract," lying on the banks of the Quabaug river, was a very fertile and promising region, and there, as early as 1731, Solomon Keyes, a Chelmsford man, had cleared a farm. June 12, 1740, a petition was sent to the Great and General Court by many of the inhabitants of the village, stating their lands lay at such an inconvenient distance from the first church that it was often impossible for them to attend the meetings, owing to the difficulty of facing the winter storms, breaking out the roads and many other obstructions, wherefore they had, for some time, gathered a congregation in their own part of the town and hired a minister to conduct their services; but, as they were also called upon to pay for the services in the old church and did not feel able to pay rates at two places, they prayed they might be "set off as a separate township." After much controversy, January 14, 1741, an act was passed "Anno Regni Regis Georgii Secundi decimo quinto. An act for erecting a parcel of lands belonging to the inhabitants of the wester-

ly part of Brookfield and Brimfield and the easterly part of Kingsfield (now Chester) into a separate town."

Among these petitioners were the brothers, DAVID<sup>s</sup> and JOHN<sup>s</sup> BLAIR, who with their brother-in-law, James Brown, had bought adjacent farms in that region. These were in the lower part of Kingsfield and were so valuable that, at one of the town meetings, the people of Palmer passed a vote that they should try to prevent the Blairs and Browns from having their lands cut from Palmer and taken into the town of Western. But the brothers succeeded in gaining their ends and were among the voters at the first town meeting of Western, as the new place was at first named.

The earliest thing considered was the site of a proposed meeting house, but almost two years waned before there was an agreement about this; then, on April 18, 1743, David<sup>s</sup> Blair was appointed one of a committee to order and manage the business of providing and preparing material for the structure and to set a price on the work, which was done by the day by the people themselves. In the town meeting of 1744, David Blair was appointed a surveyor of the highways and was annually elected to some town office thereafter. In 1760 he was elected ensign of the town militia.

DAVID<sup>s</sup> BLAIR married, before his arrival in Western, Mary ———; he died in Western, February 20, 1804, aged 96 years.

His children were:

1. ISABEL<sup>s</sup>, born April 26, 1731.
2. WILLIAM, born May 1, 1733.
3. JOHN, born March 26, 1735.
4. DOROTHY, born April 22, 1737; married October 1762, Malcolm Hendry, of Oakham, Mass.
5. ALEXANDER, born September 22, 1739.
6. ABSALOM, born November 9, 1741.
7. DANIEL, born April 11, 1745.
8. JAMES, born January 23, 1747.

The town which was at first named Western, in Worcester county, Mass., owing to the difficulty arising from its having

been before given to Weston, in Middlesex county, formerly a part of Watertown, voted to have the name changed to Warren. It lies on the hills which rise from the Quabaug river, and furnishes such facilities for manufacturing purposes that it has become the abode of a very successful and prosperous people. Its scenery is fine, and the heights which rise from the winding river are made beautiful by large estates in high cultivation.

According to the town book, JOHN<sup>2</sup> BLAIR, who was admitted an inhabitant November, 1753, registered himself as "JOHN<sup>2</sup> BLAIR from the north of Ireland." His brother David was admitted in 1752, one year earlier. In 1742, John Blair drew fifty acres of land in the first division of the "commons," on the right of William Scott. He was made freeman in 1735; was a soldier in Captain Thomas Buckminster's company at Fort Dummer, from August 6 to August 10, 1748. He married, in Brookfield, Mass., May 24, 1734, Mercy, daughter of Barzillai Howard (Hayward), who died in Western, October 5, 1769; he died there, May 10, 1796, in his 86th year.

They had children born in Western:

1. FRANCIS<sup>2</sup>, born September 23, 1737.
2. MOLLY, born February 2, 1740.
3. EZEKIEL, born April 1, 1742.
4. ROBERT, born August 18, 1744.
5. SARAH, born December 4, 1746.
6. TIMOTHY, born September 14, 1749.
7. SAMUEL, born August 24, 1752.

Associated with David and John Blair in all their movements, and holding an adjacent estate, was John Brown, whose son James married Elizabeth Blair. She was of this generation, but could not have been a daughter of Robert Blair, as his daughter of the same name married Oliver Watson, of Leicester, in which town her sister Mary and brother William also were married and settled for a time. The parents of this Elizabeth Blair have not been traced. It seems highly probable she was as near of kin as a cousin, since her husband was always in relationship with the Warren Blairs, and her eldest son married one of John Blair's daughters.

James and Elizabeth (Blair) Brown had children :

1. MATHEW BROWN, born October 17, 1742 ; published in marriage in Western, Mass., December 6, 1764, to Mary Blair, daughter of John and Mercy (Howard) Blair, who was born in Western.
2. DAVID BROWN, born April 11, 1744.
3. JAMES BROWN, born September 21, 1745.
4. WILLIAM BROWN, born April 12, 1747.

SARAH<sup>2</sup> BLAIR, daughter of Robert and Isabella (Rankin) Blair, was born 1715 or 1716. She married perhaps in Worcester, Mass., John Hamilton ; they went to Blandford with the first settlers. John Hamilton was town treasurer 1742-3, 1753, 1755, 1756 ; assessor 1752 ; moderator of the town meeting held 1758. She died in Blandford, September 11, 1802, in her 85th year.

They had children :

1. DOLLY<sup>8</sup> HAMILTON, born Aug. 15, 1740.
2. (Captain) DAVID HAMILTON, born July 1, 1742.
3. ISABEL HAMILTON, born May 20, 1746.
4. AGNES HAMILTON, born October 20, 1748.
5. SARAH HAMILTON, born September 12, 1752.
6. JOHN HAMILTON, born July 31, 1755 ; married Sarah Blair, who died May 12, 1781, aged 28 years.

WILLIAM<sup>2</sup> BLAIR, son of Robert and Isabella (Rankin) Blair, was born in Aghadowy about the year 1718. He began his active career by making extensive purchases of land, as early as 1744, at which date he gave his residence as in Worcester, Mass. In 1750, he was recorded in Leicester, Mass. His land transactions covered tracts in Western, Worcester and Blandford, Mass., and in Voluntown, Conn., in which latter place a large body of his fellow countrymen had settled.

He held the rank of captain in the force which was sent in 1745, for the capture of Louisburg. August 16, 1757, a detachment of men under Captain John Curtis, Colonel John Chandler's regiment, marched from Worcester on the late alarm for the release of Fort William Henry and went as far as Sheffield, Mass. ; he served also in this campaign.

Nova Scotia proved very attractive to the New England sol-

diers, and "in the fall of the year 1759, twenty men came up the Bay of Fundy, from New England, to Truro and Onslow, to begin preparations for a settlement. Most of these had been in Nova Scotia and assisted in subduing and driving out the old French settlers. One of these was William Blair." The ensuing fall all of the men returned to spend the winter in their New England homes, but were in Nova Scotia early the ensuing spring and began to clear land for their future homes. William Blair of Worcester, married in Leicester, Mass., February 21, 1744-5, Jane Barnes of Leicester; he died in Onslow, Nova Scotia, August 4, 1791.

They had children :

1. SUSAN<sup>s</sup>, born 1744-5.
2. SARAH, born 1746.
3. HANNAH, born 1747.
4. WILLIAM, born 1749.
5. DOROTHY, born 1753.
6. REBECCA, born 1757.
7. JOHN, born 1758.
8. JAMES, born 1766.
9. ELIZABETH, born 1768.

JAMES<sup>s</sup> BLAIR, son of Robert<sup>1</sup> and Isabella (Rankin) Blair, was a mill wright, and owned a large farm in Rutland, Mass. December 26, 1746, he bought of Mr. Jonas Clark of Boston, ninety acres in Rutland, lying on Turkey Hill Pond; in 1764 he received land in the cedar swamp. Mr. Reed, in the history of Rutland, writes: "Lieutenant James Blair was a useful and active citizen during and after the war." His name is on the town book as one of the alarm men in 1776. His wife's name has not appeared, but the town records seem to show that he had children :

1. ISABEL<sup>s</sup>, who married, June 23, 1768, Patrick Watson.
2. MARY, who married, November 2, 1789, Samuel McClanathan, of Palmer, Mass.
3. JOHN, who married (intention) December 23, 1780, Ann Bothwell.
4. HUGH, who married, November 7, 1772, Jane McClanathan, of Charlemont, Mass.

ROBERT<sup>2</sup> BLAIR, son of Robert and Isabella (Rankin) Blair, was born in Rutland, Mass. (as on his tombstone), June 10, 1720. He bought, on January 30, 1773-4, of Zachariah Harvey, a mansion house, barn, and eight acres of land in Worcester, Mass., which lay on the road which led from the meeting house, and was bounded on one side by Captain Moore's land. In 1744, he sold to this same Mr. Harvey, a meadow, which had been purchased of John Hubbard, in 1736-7, which was near the Prospect Hill meadow. October 11, 1746, Robert Blair, junior, and John Chandler, junior, for four hundred and twenty pounds, purchased of Joshua Childs, of Worcester, seventy three acres of land in Worcester, which adjoined Robert<sup>2</sup> Blair's own land. April 17, 1750, Robert<sup>2</sup> Blair bought of his brother, William<sup>2</sup> Blair, of Leicester, Mass., sixty acres of land in Blandford, Mass., in the second division of lots. November 14, 1753, Robert<sup>2</sup> Blair, junior, sold his house and grounds in Worcester to Joseph Smith, and on the same day, he sold to John Chandler, three parcels of land. This latter sale may have been made at the time he was changing his residence, as we find that Robert<sup>2</sup> Blair, junior, of Western, Mass., sold to Jacob<sup>3</sup> Blair, of Blandford, sixty acres of land in Blandford, "which he held by deed from William<sup>2</sup> Blair." This sale to his cousin Jacob was made in 1756.

November 28, 1753, Robert<sup>2</sup> Blair, junior, of Worcester, bought of John Foye, of Charlestown, Mass., for one hundred and sixty pounds, the farm which was formerly known as "The Gore," in Blandford, which contained five hundred acres of land. This lay in the most picturesque part of the town, partly on the mountain slope, partly in the river valley, beautifully diversified by its rugged, wooded hill-sides and the broad intervales running beside the winding waters of the bright river. Here he built his log house and began to clear the land. The whole region round about was a dense forest with just a footpath making a way through the woods to the nearest fort, which was some twenty miles distant. This isolation of his home gave rise to such apprehension for the safety of his wife and little ones from the frequent raids of the Indians who were "on the war path" at this time, killing the defenceless inhabitants of the solitary



farms and burning their houses, that he loaded his goods on his horses and returned to Worcester, where, and at Western, he remained for some years.

His name first occurs in Blandford at a town meeting held in 1762, when he was appointed "the first assessor." He was elected to this office again in 1763, when he was also one of the selectmen; in 1764, he was appointed one of a committee to go to the General Court in regard to the building of highways; in 1763 he was moderator of the town meetings, as well as in 1765, '68, '69, '70, '71, '72, '75, '77. He was prominent during the Revolutionary times; in 1775 and 1779 he was one of the Committee of Correspondence, Inspection and Safety; in 1787 he was elected representative to the General Court; in the same year, was appointed one of the deacons in the Congregational Church.

ROBERT<sup>s</sup> BLAIR married April 2, 1746, Hannah Thompson, who was "born in Ireland" (grave stone), 1721-2; she held a membership in the Church at Sudbury, Mass., some years after their removal to Blandford, and she may have been of near kin to that John Thompson of St. Michael, Dublin, Ireland, who also settled in New England. She died in Blandford, July 15, 1803; he died in Blandford, June 22, 1801. His will is probated at Northampton, Mass. It was drawn March 25, 1799. In it he gives his wife Hannah all stock, furniture, etc.; mentioned sons Robert, David, Asa, Rufus; daughter Dolly, wife of David Boise and his grandson Obadiah Boise who was to receive \$15 when he was 21 years old. The will was presented at Court, July 7, 1801.

They had children :

1. ROBERT<sup>s</sup> born in Worcester, April 3, 1747.
2. DAVID, born in Worcester, March 30, 1749.
3. HANNAH, born in Worcester, June 23, 1751, d. y.
4. DOROTHY, born in Worcester, December 9, 1752.
5. ASA, born in Western, March 13, 1756.
6. RUFUS, born in Western, February 24, 1758.
7. HANNAH, born in Western, 1760.

ELIZABETH<sup>s</sup> BLAIR, daughter of Robert and Isabella (Rankin) Blair, was born 1723 or 4; she married in Worcester, Decem-

ber 4, 1742, Oliver, son of Matthew and Mary (Orr) Watson, who was born on the voyage to New England, 1718; owned a large tract of land in that part of Leicester which was set off as Spencer; he was a member of the Committee of Correspondence, Inspection and Safety; representative July 4, 1777, 1779, 1780. He died in Spencer; she died October 31, 1779, aged 55 years; he married (2) November, 1782, Hannah Peters of Brookfield, Mass.

Children by Hannah, first wife :

1. OLIVER<sup>s</sup> WATSON, born in Spencer, November 18, 1743.
2. ROBERT WATSON, born in Spencer, May 28, 1746.
3. ELIZABETH WATSON, born in Spencer, January 1, 1748.
4. MARY WATSON, born in Spencer, April 30, 1752.
5. JAMES WATSON, born in Spencer, July 20, 1754.
6. ABIGAIL WATSON, born in Spencer, November 27, 1759.
7. MARTHA WATSON, born in Spencer, June 18, 1763.
8. DAVID WATSON, born in Spencer, May 17, 1776.

MARY<sup>s</sup> BLAIR, daughter of Robert<sup>1</sup> and Isabella (Rankin) Blair, was born April 1, 1725. She married in Worcester, January 12, 1744, John, son of Matthew and Mary (Orr) Watson and brother to her sister Elizabeth's husband, who was born November, 1716, probably in Ireland, and resided in Leicester, Mass.

They had children born in Leicester :

1. PATRICK<sup>s</sup> WATSON, born August 30, 1745, married Isabel Blair of Rutland.
2. JOHN WATSON, born April 9, 1747.
3. SAMUEL WATSON, born March 8, 1749.
4. WILLIAM WATSON, born January 1, 1750.
5. DOROTHY WATSON, born April 6, 1754.
6. SARAH WATSON, born February 16, 1757.
7. MOLLY WATSON, born February 19, 1759.
8. ELIZABETH WATSON, born May 20, 1760.
9. HANNAH WATSON, born October 5, 1764.
10. LYDIA WATSON, born April 7, 1766.

JOSEPH<sup>s</sup> BLAIR, the youngest son of Robert and Isabella (Rankin) Blair, was born in 1727, and was the one son who remained at home with his father. As a natural result, on

December 14, 1751, his father gave him a deed of the whole of the sixty acres of land which comprised the homestead lot at that period, with all the buildings standing thereon, excepting one half of the dwelling house, one half of the barn, both of which were reserved for the parents' occupancy. The bounds of the farmstead were with those of Andrew McFarland, Increase Moore, James Moore and Jacob Chamberlain. In the indenture, the land is described as "lying on both sides the road leading from Worcester Meeting house to Tatneck Hill." In return for this grant, Joseph<sup>2</sup> Blair agreed to "occupy and work the land at his own charge during the life-time of his parents, to give them one half of the produce thereof, and to provide sufficient firewood laid at the door, ready cut as the said Robert Blair shall stand in need." By this deed of gift, although it was made about twenty years before the death of the elder Robert<sup>1</sup>, we learn how the estate was assigned and why no will is to be found. By this arrangement, one then very common in New England, the son who remained at home received the assurance that his labors in the charge of the farm would be fittingly rewarded, and that he should possess the estate, ultimately.

As Joseph<sup>2</sup> Blair, remaining at home, must have heard the stirring recital, oft and oft repeated, of the stories of the famous siege, and the bravery and sufferings which his grandparents had manifested and endured in the cause of the king, and was thereby nurtured in the loyalty and faith in their sovereign which had led them to "endure all things" in behalf of the royal house, it naturally followed that he, in the discussions which were rife in his native town in regard to the rights and duties of either king or people, should, imbued as he was with hereditary attachment to the English crown, throw all his influence on the side of the king. He seems to have held a degree of local importance, and at the town meeting which met at Worcester town house, March 7, 1774, he was one of the twenty-seven freeholders who on the acceptance of the "Fourth Article," namely, "that the town should consider and act and vote as they think proper upon a request of twenty-seven of the Freeholders and other inhabitants of the said town relating to an act of Parliament giving privilege to the East India Company to

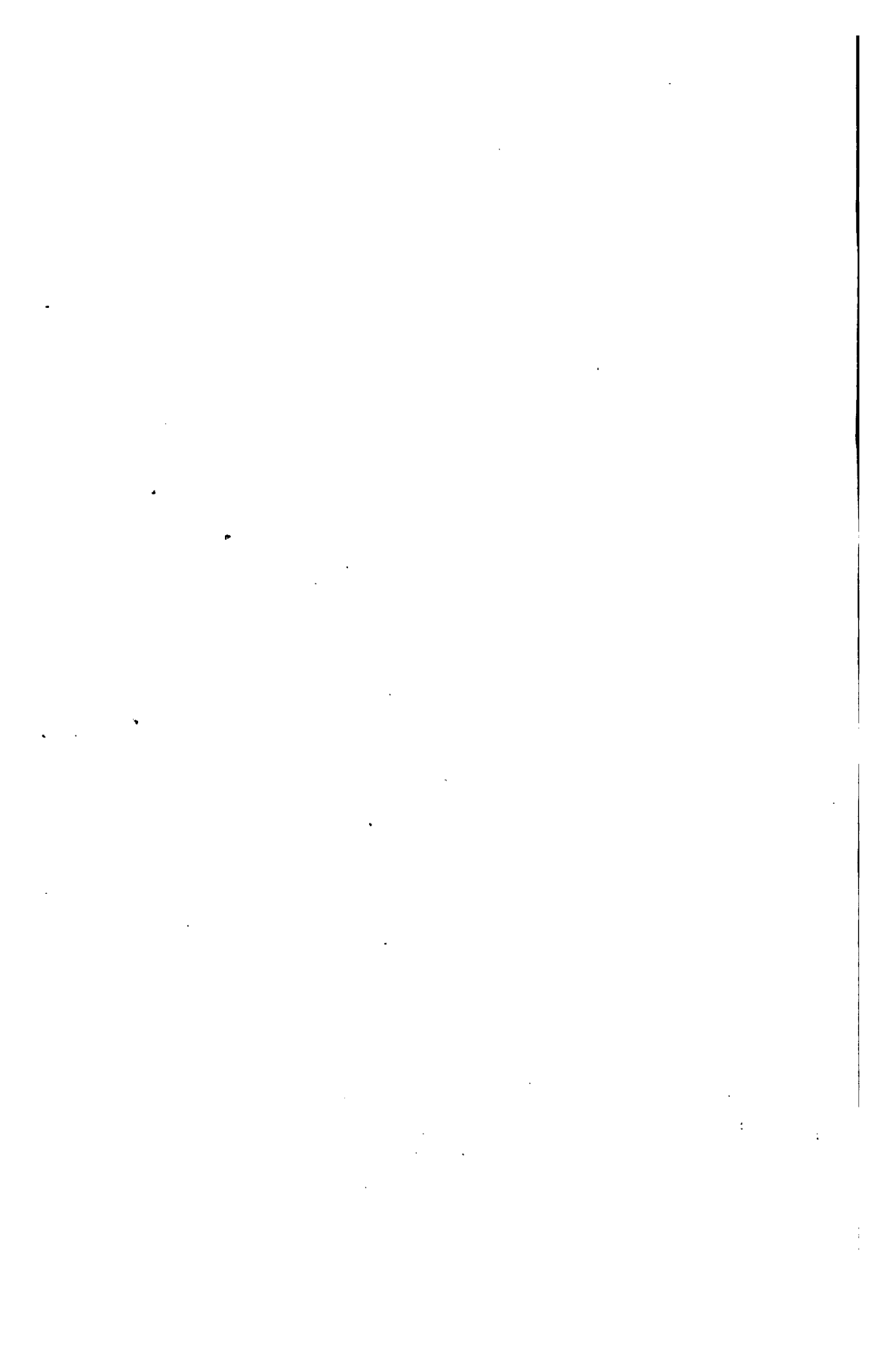
export teas to America subject to duty to raise revenue for his Majesty," etc., entered their dissent as follows: "We whose names are here under written, beg leave to enter our dissent and protest against the vote of the town of Worcester relating to the Fourth Article in the warrant for the town meeting, March, 1774, and do, accordingly sign this as a protest against the acceptance of the records of the committee thereon." Then there follows a long and emphatic series of their objections. At the town meeting held May 13, 1774, a protest offered by the loyalists was rejected, but was entered on the book by the town clerk, Clark Chandler, who was rather in sympathy with them. The patriotic party did not know of this at the time it was written, but when it was seen, a vote was passed to obliterate it; this was done by crossing the obnoxious words with heavy pen strokes, and that record with its scourge of black lines still stands. Prefaced by a short note, it was published in the Boston News-Letter of June 30, 1774, and in the Massachusetts Gazette of July following, appeared this communication:—"Messrs Printers:—If you please you may give the following Protestation, etc., of us, a few friends of truth, peace and order, a place in your paper; for it is believed that we and many others through the Province, have too long already held our peace. At a meeting of the inhabitants of Worcester, held on the 9th of June, A. D. 1774, pursuant to an application made to the selectmen by 33 voters and freeholders of the same town, dated the 20th day of May last, therein, amongst other things, declaring just apprehension of the fatal consequences that may follow and many riotous and seditious actions that have of late times been done and perpetrated in divers places within this Province, the vote and proceedings of which meeting are by us deemed irregular and arbitrary; wherefore, some of us who were petitioners for the said meeting and other inhabitants of the town, thereunto subscribing, thinking it our indispensable duty in these times of discord and confusion in too many of the towns within this Province to bear testimony in the most open and unreserved manner against all riotous, disorderly and seditious practices, must therefore now declare that it is with the deepest concern for the public peace and order that we now behold so many

whom we used to esteem sober and peaceable men, so far deceived, deluded and led astray by the artful, crafty and invidious practices of some evil minded and ill disposed persons, who, under the disguise of patriotism, and falsely styling themselves the friends of liberty, some of them neglecting their own proper business and occupation, in which they ought to be employed for the support of their families, spending their time in discouraging of matters they do not understand, relating and propagating falsehoods and calumnies of those men they look up to with envy, and on whose fall and ruin they wish to rise, intend to reduce all things to a state of tumult, discord and confusion," etc., etc.

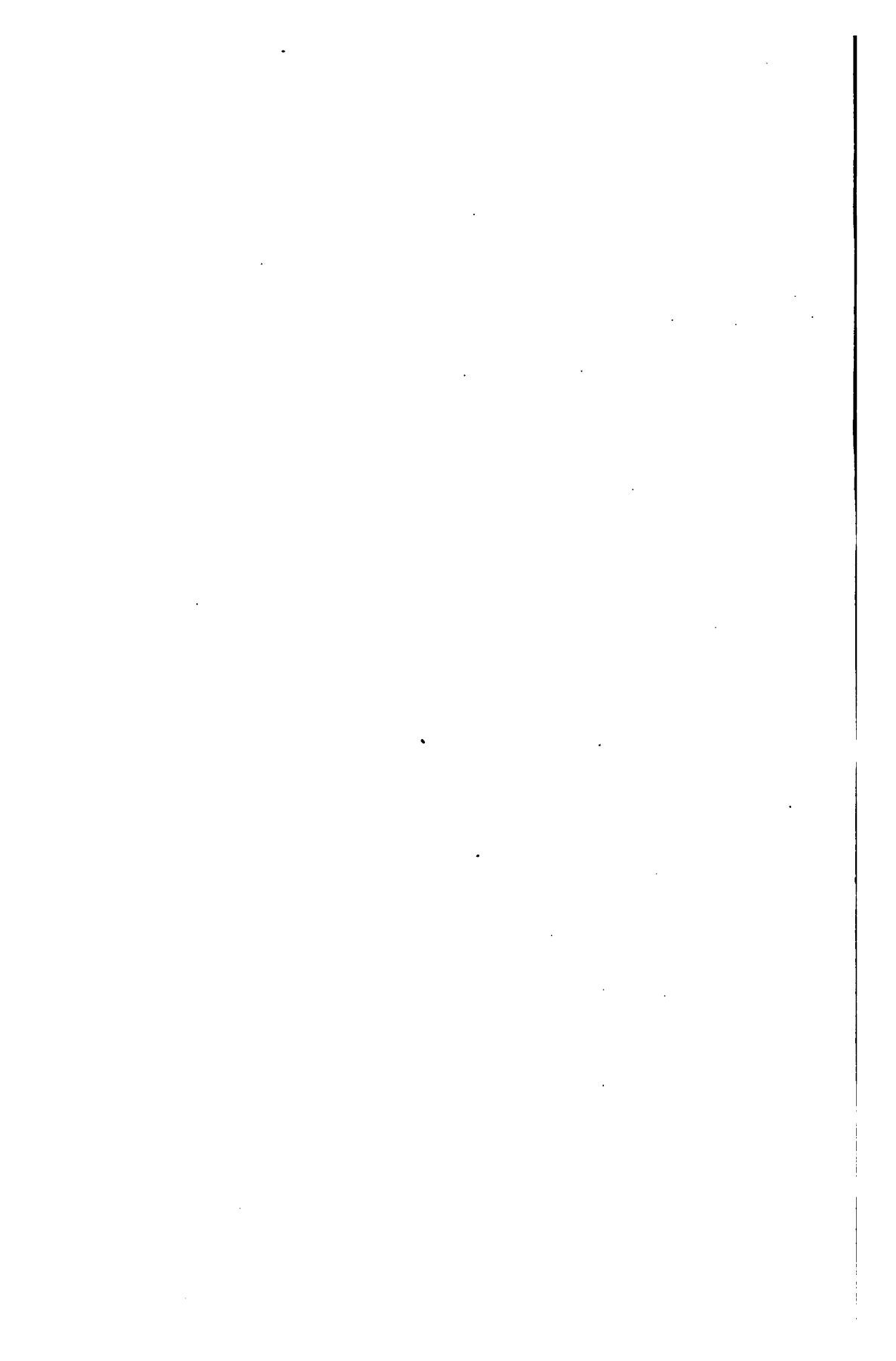
JOSEPH<sup>2</sup> BLAIR's name stood the eighth on this paper. The result of this open declaration was that the patriots placed these protestors under close surveillance, and gave them an opportunity to retract and become allies, if they would. Some of the loyalists did so, but Joseph Blair appears to have remained quietly at home, withdrawing from any farther participation in political matters. He married Mary ———, who died in Amherst, Mass., March, 1810, aged 79 years; he died in Worcester, February 8, 1804.

They had children :

1. CHARLES<sup>2</sup>, born April 3, 1752.
2. ISABEL, born December 27, 1754.
3. ROBERT, born March 26, 1756.
4. INCREASE, born May 24, 1758.
5. JARVES, born May 24, 1758.
6. MARY, born September 6, 1760.
7. SARAH, born July 20, 1762.
8. DOROTHY, born May 12 (March 13), 1765.
9. ELIZABETH, born July 1, 1767.
10. HANNAH, born July 10, 1769.
11. JOSEPH, born March 21, 1774.
12. CHARLES, born September 1, 1776.



THE THIRD GENERATION IN AMERICA.





## THE THIRD GENERATION IN AMERICA.

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SAMUEL<sup>3</sup> BLAIR, son of John<sup>2</sup> (*Robert*<sup>1</sup>) and Mercy (Howard) Blair, was born in Western, Mass., August 24, 1743. Like the other townsmen he was a determined adherent of the patriotic party and probably was present at the town meeting 17th of January, 1774, when it was

“Resolved; that the inhabitants of Western, taking into consideration the plan or project of introducing tea into the Colonies by virtue of a late act of parliament to be disposed of by Commissioners appointed by the East India Company, subject to the payment of a duty in America and other acts of the like nature, are of opinion that they are a very great infringement on their rights and privileges and threaten them with bondage and slavery. Therefore, Resolved

First, that the disposal of their property is an inherent right of freemen and cannot be taken from them without their consent, therefore Resolved, that the duty imposed by parliament on tea landed in America is a tax on the Americans without their consent, therefore unjust and unrighteous. Third, Resolved, that it is their opinion that the said parliament have as just a right to tax their houses, lands, etc., as to impose a duty on tea payable in America, and if the duty on tea and other things of the same nature be quietly submitted to, we have no reason to expect but that in a short time our houses and lands, etc., will be taxed, which will reduce us in the greatest degree to bondage and slavery; Fourth, Resolved, that it is the duty of every American resolutely to oppose said plan and every other artifice of the like nature. Fifth, Resolved, that we will not, knowingly, encourage or promote the consumption of any such tea whatever, subject to a duty in America but all persons who shall be concerned in the use of the same shall be viewed by us as enemies to their

country and treated as such. Sixth, Resolved, Loyalty and true allegiance to his Majesty, King George the Third, we heartily and sincerely profess and will yield a cheerful and ready obedience to all just laws and a hearty friendship to our mother country, we wish may continue till time shall be no more, but our just rights and privileges, for which our fathers endured the greatest hardships and many of them sacrificed their lives, we cannot give up and submit to be Bondsmen and Slaves; but are determined to defend with the greatest vigor and resolution which is, as we apprehend, almost the universal sentiment of every freeman in America."

These spirited resolves were followed by as spirited actions. On the Lexington Alarm, Samuel Blair enlisted in the company which was raised at Western, under Captain Reuben Reed and which went, on April 20, 1775, as a company of Minute Men, to Roxbury, in the regiment of which Jonathan Warner was Colonel. In 1782, when he was recorded as a church warden, he was styled "Lieutenant Blair." From this time he always held some town office; was selectman, moderator, town treasurer and representative.

SAMUEL<sup>2</sup> BLAIR married, June 9, 1775, Anna Brown, of Western.

They had children:

1. EUDOTIA<sup>4</sup>, born March 16, 1777.
2. BROWN, born July 16, 1779.
3. ABBA, born July 9, 1781.
4. JOHN, born December 15, 1784.
5. SAMUEL, born April 17, 1787, died August 12, 1794.
6. THOMAS, born May 2, 1790.
7. SOPHIA, born August 22, 1792.
8. ALVAH, born August 22, 1794.
9. ABNER, born June 2, 1797.

ABSALOM<sup>3</sup> BLAIR, son of David<sup>2</sup> (*Robert*<sup>1</sup>) and Mercy (Howard) Blair, was born in Western, Mass., November 9, 1741. Soon after attaining his majority, he went to Blandford, Mass., whence, with his cousins Robert and David Blair, he settled, first, in Murraysfield, now Chester, Mass., where in 1763 he drew

Lot No. 72, while Robert Blair drew Lot No. 70; in 1768 there were in Chester, Absalom, Robert and David Blair and James Brown. Absalom was taxed on an estate of £42. In 1770, he bought a farm on the banks of Green River, in Williamstown, which consisted of two fifty-acre lots, with two or three lots of meadow land, and was a "broad and fertile farm which went by the name of Blair's for more than a century." Green River was bridged, to reach the house, which stood on meadow lot No. 62, on the north side of the road where there is now an orchard, while a new and better house was built on higher ground on the south side of the road opposite the old one. "Absalom Blair seems to have possessed the main characteristics of the Scotch-Irish people in New England, namely, they were rather rough in speech and manner, wilful, if not imperious, in temper, industrious and frugal, taking easily to our non-monarchical forms of government and lurching heavily against all classes especially privileged by law; as compared with the descendants of the Pilgrims and the Puritans, not peculiarly religious but peculiarly attached to their old Presbyterian forms. As a rule, too, they had large families and were apt to live until they were very old." (History of Williamstown, Mass., by Prof. Perry.)

On the outbreak of the Revolution, he, with a great many of the other Blairs, joined the colonists, and he enlisted as lieutenant in the Company under Captain Israel Marvin, in Colonel Benjamin Simond's regiment, October, 1780.

ABSALOM<sup>2</sup> BLAIR and his wife, Martha, were both from Western; she was a sister of the Williamstown Youngs and was born October 28, 1742; died in Williamstown, January 21, 1829; he died in Williamstown, April 20, 1811.

They had children:

1. WILLIAM<sup>4</sup>, born October 2, 1765.
2. YOUNG, born May 1, 1767.
3. ANNA, born January 2, 1768. †
4. GRACE, born December 25, 1770.
5. ABBIE, born December 25, 1771.
6. ISABEL, born in Williamstown, February 28, 1774.
7. SALLY, born in Williamstown, January 26, 1776.

8. PATTY, born in Williamstown, December 9, 1777.
9. DOLLY, born in Williamstown, December, 4, 1779.
10. CHLOE, born in Williamstown, January 10, 1781.  
(The last births from town clerk of Williamstown.)

WILLIAM<sup>3</sup> BLAIR, son of David<sup>2</sup> (*Robert*<sup>1</sup>) and Mercy (Howard) Blair, was born in Western, now Warren, Mass., May 1, 1733; he married in Warren, Agnes, daughter of James Marr, a descendant of the Scotch family of Marr, of Warren; she died December 7, 1825; he died December 1, 1827.

They had children:

1. JAMES<sup>4</sup>, born June 1, 1755; died in West Bloomfield, N. J.
2. JOEL, born May 31, 1757; died in Bridgewater, N. J.
3. DANIEL, born May 20, 1762; died in Warren, Mass.
4. WILLIAM, born March 13, 1766; died in Madison, N. J.
5. DAVID, born October 20, 1769; died in Madison, N. J.
6. ANNIS, born September 29, 1771; died in Lebanon, N. J.
7. EZEKIEL, born April 15, 1773.

ELIZABETH<sup>3</sup> BLAIR, daughter of Matthew<sup>2</sup> (*Robert*<sup>1</sup>) and Mary (Hamilton) Blair, was born in Hopkinton, Mass., August 28, 1728. She was married in Blandford, by the Rev. James Morton, December 28, 1749, to William Mitchell, who was born 1701-2; died December 10, 1796, in his 95th year (grave-stone); she died July 5, 1758, aged 30 years; on the grave stone is cut:

"His wife Elizabeth died July 5, 1758, aged 30 years and her 2 Infants at her feet."

"A husband's pried and children to,  
Lies in this dust, and so must you."

ROBERT<sup>3</sup> BLAIR, son of Matthew<sup>2</sup> (*Robert*<sup>1</sup>) and Mary (Hamilton) Blair, was born in Hopkinton, Mass., December 1, 1730. January 25, 1762, Robert Blair of Westfield, Mass., yeoman, sold to Isaac Blair, 80 acres of land in Blandford, bounded by Jacob Blair's land. July 25, 1764, he again sold land in Blandford. In 1765 he drew lot No. 70 in Murraysfield, near Chester; February 15, 1771, Robert Blair, carpenter and yeoman, of Williamstown, Mass., acknowledged the receipt

of his legacy from his brother, Matthew<sup>3</sup> Blair, executor of the will of his father, Matthew<sup>2</sup> Blair of Blandford. June 20, 1804, his brother Matthew<sup>3</sup> made his will, in Blandford, and mentioned his nephew, Matthew,<sup>4</sup> son of his brother, Robert<sup>2</sup> Blair; Cornelia Ann<sup>3</sup> Brooks, adopted daughter of his brother Robert, Submit Knox,<sup>3</sup> daughter of his brother Robert, and her six children, all under twenty-one years of age.

The name of his wife and the date of his death not found.

The children were :

1. MATTHEW,<sup>4</sup>
2. SUBMIT, born November 11, 1762; married March 31, 1783, David Knox.
3. MARY, born April 1, 1767.
4. MARTHA, born April 30, 1771.
5. ANN AMELIA, born May 17, 1774; published Jan. 3, 1796, to Roger Brooks of Whitestown, N. Y.

MATTHEW<sup>3</sup> BLAIR, son of Matthew<sup>2</sup> (*Robert<sup>1</sup>*) and Mary (Hamilton) Blair, was born in Hopkinton, Mass., August 4, 1733; died in Blandford, Mass., December 17, 1806, aged 75 years; "never married" (grave stone). His will was made in Blandford, June 20, 1804. In it he mentioned his nephew, Matthew Blair, son of his brother, Robert<sup>2</sup> Blair, senior; Cornelia Ann Brooks, the adopted daughter of his brother, Robert<sup>2</sup> Blair; his niece, Submit Knox, a daughter of his brother Robert,<sup>2</sup> and her six children, all minors; Moses Mitchell, the eldest son of his sister Elizabeth,<sup>3</sup> wife of William Mitchell of Blandford; the children of his brother Isaac<sup>3</sup> Blair of Blandford, nine in number; the children of his brother Jacob<sup>3</sup> Blair, six, all told; Adam<sup>3</sup> and Thankful Blair, his brother and his wife, with their three sons. This will was probated, December 30, 1806.

JACOB<sup>3</sup> BLAIR, son of Matthew<sup>2</sup> (*Robert<sup>1</sup>*) and Mary (Hamilton) Blair, was born in Hopkinton, Mass., April 13, 1735; he married, evidently in New Hampshire, before 1763, Martha Gilmore, who was "born in Derry, New Hampshire, November 1, 1734; died in Blandford, July 5, 1805" (grave stone). He died in Blandford, November 18, 1815, in his 81st year.

## They had children :

1. REUBEN,<sup>4</sup> born February 12, 1763.
2. JOHN, born September 18, 1765.
3. ELIZABETH, born March 21, 1768.
4. JAMES, born June 4, 1772.
5. JACOB, born June 6, 1774.
6. MARTHA, twin with Jacob, born June 6, 1774; died July 3, 1787, in her 14th year.
7. NATHAN, born August 20, 1776.

ISAAC<sup>3</sup> BLAIR, son of Matthew<sup>2</sup> (*Robert*<sup>1</sup>) and Mary (Hamilton) Blair, was born in Blandford, but date not on record; he was mentioned in his brother Matthew Blair's will, as having nine children in 1806. His own will was drawn February 3, 1801; probated in March 30, the same year. May 3, 1811, the widow Bathsheba Blair was dismissed from the Blandford church, "she expecting to remove to the western country."

ISAAC<sup>3</sup> BLAIR was published in marriage, February 15, 1770, to Bathsheba Frost; he died in Blandford, March 31, 1801, aged 60 years (grave stone).

Children mentioned in his will :

ENOCH.<sup>4</sup>  
 ELLJAH.  
 MATTHEW 3d.  
 ELL.  
 ELAM.  
 MOLLY SIMONS.  
 ISAAC.  
 BALEUN.  
 JULEY.

Anna, daughter of Isaac and Bathsheba Blair, died April 4, 1786, in her 3d year (grave stone).

ADAM<sup>3</sup> BLAIR, son of Mather<sup>2</sup> (*Robert*<sup>1</sup>) and Jane (Alexander) Blair, was born in Blandford, Mass., 1757. He married (1), published October 1780, Martha Thrall, of Windsor, Conn., daughter of ——— Thrall, who was born December 1, 1755; died in Blandford, October 26, 1781; he married (2) in Blandford, published December 28, 1784, Thankful Black,

who was born 1756 ; died in Blandford, October 24, 1830, aged 74 years ; he died in Blandford, April 22, 1840, aged 83 years.

They had children :

1. ADAM,<sup>4</sup> born 1788 ; died August 9, 1864, aged 76.
2. LINUS, born December 12, 1789 ; died August 12, 1853.
3. THRALL, published January 30, 1820, to Mary C. Robinson of Granville, Mass.
5. CHARLOTTE, died November 8, 1846 ; married September 8, 1807, Henry Knox.
6. CREUSA, born 1792 ; died May 3, 1816, aged 24 years.
7. PATTY, married August 2, 1820, David S. Shepard.

WILLIAM<sup>3</sup> BLAIR, son of William<sup>2</sup> (*Robert*<sup>1</sup>) and Jane (Barnes) Blair, was born 1749-50, before his father removed to Nova Scotia. He owned and managed a farm in Onslow, Nova Scotia, where he married, November 26, 1772, Mary, daughter of James and Jenet (Montgomery) Downing, who was born in New England and died in Onslow, November 1, 1817 ; he died March 1848 ; their farm was on the banks of the North River.

They had children born in Onslow :

1. JANE,<sup>4</sup> born March 30, 1773.
2. ROBERT, born November 1, 1774.
3. JOHN, born February 3, 1778.
4. WILLIAM, born August 1, 1779.
5. CATHERINE, born April 22, 1782.
6. DANIEL, born October 20, 1785.
7. ALEXANDER, born March 17, 1787.
8. EPHRAIM, born February 17, 1789.
9. JAMES, born May 28, 1792.
10. OLIVER, born October 7, 1794.

ROBERT<sup>3</sup> BLAIR, son of Robert<sup>2</sup> (*Robert*<sup>1</sup>) and Hannah (Thompson) Blair, was born in Worcester, Mass., April 3, 1747. He married in Western, Mass., published August 2, 1770, Hannah Howard, of Western, who was born February 3, 1752 ; died in Blandford, August 1, 1820 ; he died in Blandford, September 3, 1800.

They had children :

1. ROBERT,<sup>4</sup> born March 20, 1772.

2. HANNAH, born November 21, 1773.
3. JONAS, born March 5, 1776; d. unm.
4. DEBORAH, born January 19, 1778.
5. SALLY, born April 21, 1780.
6. RACHEL, born December 14, 1783.
7. SHERMAN, born September 30, 1785.
8. JULIA, born December 9, 1789; died unmarried at New Haven, Connecticut.

DAVID<sup>2</sup> BLAIR, son of Robert<sup>2</sup> (*Robert*<sup>1</sup>) and Hannah (Thompson) Blair, was born in Worcester, Mass., March 30, 1749. September 12, 1767, David<sup>2</sup> Blair, of Murraysfield, bought of Nathan Rose, for £10, Lot 112, of 100 acres of land. This town is now Becket, and there David<sup>2</sup> Blair tilled his farm and worked at his trade as cooper, training his sons in both pursuits. At last he sold the farm and cooper's shop to his son, Luther,<sup>4</sup> and removed to Chenango County, New York State, where he died. He published his marriage intention December 20, 1771, in Blandford, to Miriam, daughter of John and Anna (Crooks) Boise.

They had children :

1. THOMPSON,<sup>4</sup> born January 4, 1773.
2. LUTHER, born in Becket, May 6, 1777.
3. ROBERT.
4. CALVIN, born in Becket, June 11, 1779.
5. DAVID.
6. HAMAL.
7. THEODOSIA.
8. ERSKINE.

DOLLY<sup>2</sup> BLAIR, daughter of Robert<sup>2</sup> (*Robert*<sup>1</sup>) and Hannah (Thompson) Blair, was born in Worcester, Mass., December 9, 1752. She married in Blandford, December 1, 1772, David, son of William and Mary (Hamilton) Boise, who was born in Blandford, January 15, 1750; died in Blandford, February 6, 1839; she died in Blandford, September 13, 1808.

They had children :

1. WILLIAM<sup>4</sup> BOISE, born July 24, 1773.
2. GARDNER BOISE, born May 2, 1775.
3. RUFUS BOISE, born October 17, 1777.



4. DOLLY BOISE, born January 30, 1780.
5. DAVID BOISE, born August 17, 1781.
6. JOSEPH BOISE, born October 2, 1783.
7. LEMUEL BOISE, born February 15, 1786.
8. CYNTHIA BOISE, born August 11, 1788.
9. ORPHA BOISE, born September 24, 1790.
10. ARTEMUS BOISE, born September 8, 1792.
11. JUSTUS BOISE, born March 21, 1795.

CAPTAIN ASA<sup>3</sup> BLAIR, son of Robert<sup>2</sup> (*Robert*<sup>1</sup>) and Hannah (Thompson) Blair, was born in Western, Mass., March 13, 1755. He was captain in the militia, moderator of the town meeting of Blandford 1802. He married in Blandford, February 1, 1781, Mehitable Carnahan, who was born 1760; died August 7, 1849; he died July 5, 1831, aged 76 years.

They had children :

1. WILLIAM,<sup>4</sup> born November 24, 1781.
2. ASA, born May 12, 1784.
3. POLLY, born May 8, 1786.
4. RUSSELL, born November 30, 1788.
5. ELECTA, born May 9, 1792.
6. JOSEPH, born April 21, 1795.
7. CHARLES, born June 19, 1799.
8. BETSEY, born January 12, 1804.

RUFUS<sup>3</sup> BLAIR, son of Robert<sup>2</sup> (*Robert*<sup>1</sup>) and Hannah (Thompson) Blair, was born in Western, Mass., February 24, 1758. By his father's will he was appointed to administer the estate and to receive \$30, with another portion after his mother's decease. At one time Robert, the father, had conveyed to his son his house, barn and land, some 200 acres, in Blandford, on the condition that Rufus should assume all charge of his parents, but on June 4, 1795, the father declared he had absolved his son from this obligation.

In 1792 Rufus sold 100 acres of land to David Boise. In 1793 he sold 40 acres to John Hamilton; 1794 he sold to Samuel Porter a part of Lot No. 48; in 1798 he sold 30 acres. June 24, 1801, the widow received her dower right. July 1, 1803, a committee stated that they had divided Rufus Blair's

estate in this wise :—1st, to Samuel, the eldest son, 16 acres, 35 rods of land with the whole of the dwelling house standing thereon with the exception of the part set off to the widow, the whole appraised at \$440.50, from which sum he was to pay to his brother, Phineas, \$130.50. 2d, set off to Phineas, the second child, 11 acres, 100 rods of land, appraised at \$126.17, and another piece appraised at \$53.33. To Dolly, the third child, 26 acres, amounting to \$310. To Rufus, the fourth child, 10½ acres, with the barn and shop standing thereon, appraised at \$310. To Sylvester, the fifth child, 33 acres, valued at \$310. To Increase, the fifth son and seventh child, 39½ acres, worth \$310.

RUFUS<sup>3</sup> BLAIR married in Blandford, December 26, 1780, Dolly, daughter of Samuel and Elizabeth (Crooks) Boise, who was born in Blandford, September 18, 1758. Her father's will was probated October 2, 1804; in it he made a bequest to his grandson, Samuel Blair. Rufus Blair died in Blandford, October 7, 1800, in his 43d year (gravestone).

They had children :

1. SAMUEL,<sup>4</sup> born September 11, 1781.
2. PHINEAS, born December 26, 1783.
3. DOLLY, born March 13, 1787.
4. RUFUS, born May 17, 1790.
5. SYLVESTER, born December 30, 1796.
6. WEALTHY, born April 8; died April 21, 1799.
7. INCREASE, born February 24, 1805; drowned in 1821 while crossing the Hudson river at the town of Hudson, New York.

HANNAH<sup>3</sup> BLAIR, daughter of Robert<sup>2</sup> (*Robert*<sup>1</sup>) and Hannah (Thompson) Blair, was born in Western, Mass., 1760. She married in Blandford, May 20, 1779, Samuel Boise 3d (town record), son of Samuel and Elizabeth (Crook) Boise, who was born in Blandford, August 4, 1756; they removed to Homer, Cortland County, New York, where she died June 12, 1781; he married (2), August 8, 1782, Anna Dick.

The only child by Hannah Blair was

OBADIAH BOISE, who was mentioned in his grandfather Robert Blair's will.

INCREASE<sup>3</sup> BLAIR, son of Joseph<sup>2</sup> (*Robert*<sup>1</sup>) and Mary Blair, was born in Worcester, May 24, 1757. He remained at home, and on April 20, 1783, a deed was drawn which recorded a promise from the said Increase<sup>3</sup> to take the management of the farm in his own hands. "To improve the said premises, to render to the said Joseph<sup>2</sup> Blair one half of the products at the time of the ingathering of the Indian corn, that to be husked and put into the garret of the dwelling house or into the corn barn built for the purpose; to have the rye and grain threshed and stored; the cider to be made and put into the cellar; with a sufficient quantity of firewood cut and ready for the fire and be laid at the door of the dwelling for two fires and to keep all the buildings in good repair; while his parents were to retain the use of half of the buildings during their natural lives." This kindly arrangement was frustrated by the early death of the son. Increase<sup>3</sup> Blair married, in 1787, Huldah, daughter of Robert Campbell, of Voluntown, Conn., who was born in 1760, died July 9, 1798, aged 38 years; he died November 11, 1797, aged 40 years. Of the Campbells, it is said that "Robert Campbell, born in Argyleshire, Scotland, in 1675, was of a family which removed to Ireland. With his wife Janet, he came to New England and, in 1719, settled in Voluntown, Conn., with other Scotch families, and formed the first Presbyterian church. Robert Campbell died February 14, 1752, aged 52 years. May 8, 1789, Huldah Blair, of Worcester, widow, sold to Robert Blair, her late husband's brother, of Worcester, gentleman, the estate of which her late husband, Increase Blair, died seized, it being the same which Joseph Blair, on April 20, 1785, conveyed to Increase. I, the said Huldah Blair, being entitled to the use and improvement of one third of the estate conveyed during my natural life."

INCREASE<sup>3</sup> and HULDAH BLAIR had children :

1. MARY.<sup>4</sup>
2. ALEXANDER.

In the Worcester Common burying ground there was a tombstone on which was this inscription :

"Sacred to the memory of Increase<sup>3</sup> Blair, who deceased November 11, 1797, aged 40 years. Of Huldah Blair who deceased July 9,

1798, aged 38 years. And to two of their children, viz., Mary, who died April 11, 1794, aged 11 months, and Alexander, who died March 5, 1796, aged 5 years.

This monumental memorial of this group of victims to mortality demands the passer's tearful remembrance.

Parents and Babes together lie  
Till Jesus call them from the sky" (gravestone).

ROBERT<sup>3</sup> BLAIR, son of Joseph<sup>2</sup> (*Robert*<sup>1</sup>) and Mary Blair, was born in Worcester, Mass., March 26, 1746. His father, as a loyalist, desired to keep him from being drafted into the Colonial army, at the beginning of the Revolution, and therefore sent him to his relatives west of the Connecticut river. At the time of the landing of the French allies, under Count Rochambeau, at Newport, R. I., Robert Blair went to Newport and offered his services and to furnish his own team. He accompanied them on their march to the Hudson river, taking charge of the baggage of one of the French colonels. He marched with them through New Jersey to Yorktown, Va., where Cornwallis was lying, and for fourteen days he watched the bombardment, but was taken ill, and thus prevented from witnessing the surrender. On the cessation of hostilities he returned to Massachusetts and retired to the farm in Rutland, Mass. It was a very remote place, reached only by a lane, far distant from the main traveled road. Here, sequestered from his military associates, he remained until the year 1798, when the death of his brother necessitated his return to assume the management of the old homestead. While living in Rutland he received a captain's commission from Governor Samuel Adams.

ROBERT<sup>3</sup> BLAIR married, in Worcester, December 11, 1783, Betsey, daughter of Nathan Harrington of Holden, Mass., who was born February 6, 1785, died September 20, 1837; he died in Worcester, June 11, 1857.

They had children born in Rutland:

1. CHARLES,<sup>4</sup> born March 8, 1785.
2. GEORGE, born November 29, 1786.
3. SALLY, born April 19, 1789.
4. BETSEY, born February 13, 1791; d. unm.
5. HANNAH, born February 10, 1793.

6. DOLLY, born January 30, 1795.
7. HORACE, born April 22, 1798.
8. MARIA, born in Worcester, January 1, 1802.

MARY<sup>3</sup> BLAIR, daughter of Joseph<sup>2</sup> (*Robert*<sup>1</sup>) and Mary Blair, was born September 6, 1760. She married, April 11, 1780, Captain Simeon Duncan, junior, who was born in Worcester, October 23, 1755. He served as private in Captain William Gates' company, September 1776; he enlisted as a bombardier in Colonel Craft's Artillery in 1777; he marched to Hadley, Mass., on the Alarm in Bennington, Vermont; was with Captain David Chadwick's company August 28, 1777. He died February 23, 1836; she died May 26, 1813.

They had children :

1. CHARLES.<sup>4</sup>
2. MARY, born in 1782.
3. SIMEON, born in 1785.
4. SALLY, born in 1788.
5. NANCY, born in 1791.
6. JASON, born in 1793.
7. JOSEPH BLAIR, born 1797; removed to Grafton, Mass.
8. ELIZA, born September 27, 1800.
9. CLARISSA, born 1802; d. y.
10. WILLIAM, born in 1805; d. y.

JOSEPH<sup>3</sup> BLAIR, son of Joseph<sup>2</sup> (*Robert*<sup>1</sup>) and Mary Blair, was born in Worcester, Mass., March 21, 1774. He married (1) November 30, 1797, Mercy Dickinson, who died in Amherst, Mass., December 14, 1828; he married (2) Mrs. Clarissa, widow of Nahum Aldrich, of Amherst, who died in Halifax, Vermont, November 23, 1871, aged 93 years; he died at Shutesbury, Mass., September 9, 1857, aged 83 years.

They had children :

1. MARY ANN,<sup>4</sup> born in 1798; died in 1799.
2. MOSES DICKINSON, born February 28, 1800.
3. BETSEY, born January 13, 1802.
4. JOSEPH, born October 26, 1806.
5. MARY ANN, born March 22, 1809.
6. CHARLES, born January 16, 1812.
7. FRANCIS, born March 16, 1815.

ELIZABETH<sup>3</sup> BLAIR, daughter of Joseph<sup>2</sup> (*Robert*<sup>1</sup>) and Mary Blair, was born July 11, 1767. She married, August 28, 1788, Asa, son of Reuben and Lucretia (Hubbard) Hamilton, who was born in Western, Mass., November 28, 1764; she died July 17, 1834.

They had children :

1. SEWELL<sup>4</sup> HAMILTON, born March 1, 1789.
2. CHARLES AUGUSTUS HAMILTON, born May 1, 1805.

# THE FOURTH GENERATION IN AMERICA.





## THE FOURTH GENERATION IN AMERICA.

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WILLIAM<sup>4</sup> BLAIR, son of Absalom<sup>4</sup> (*David<sup>3</sup>, Robert<sup>1</sup>*) and Martha (Young) Blair, was born in Williamstown, October 2, 1765. He always remained at Blair's farm, where his mother and his wife divided the household duties. He married July 17, 1792, when he was twenty-five years old and she but eighteen, Sally Train of Williamstown, a daughter of Thomas and Rachel (Simonds) Train, and a grand-daughter of Colonel Benjamin Simonds; her mother was the first white child born in Williamstown. Mrs. Sally (Train) Blair died in Williamstown, June 26, 1864, in her 92d year.

They had children :

1. WILLIAM<sup>5</sup>, born April 23, 1793; remained on homestead.
2. ALICE, born September 17, 1796; married Hiram Bacon.
3. ABSALOM, born October 6, 1798.
4. BERNARD, born May 24, 1801.
5. SARAH MARIA, born November 12, 1803.
6. EDWIN HUGH, born June 20, 1806.
7. GEORGE TRAIN, born April 2, 1809.
8. HENRY JAMES, born May 30, 1812.
9. HARRIET SKINNER, born May 6, 1818; died same year.
10. AUSTIN KING, born April 24, 1820.

ALVAH<sup>4</sup> BLAIR, son of Samuel<sup>3</sup> (*John<sup>2</sup>, Robert<sup>1</sup>*) and Anna (Brown) Blair, was born in Warren, Mass., April, 1794; married in 1821, Laura Chapin of Chicopee, Mass.; he died in Warren, September, 1870.

They had children :

1. SAMUEL EDWARD<sup>5</sup>, born October 30, 1822.
2. THOMAS HENRY, born June 10, 1827.
3. LAURA CHAPIN, born December 7, 1829.

OLIVER<sup>4</sup> BLAIR, son of William<sup>3</sup> (*William<sup>2</sup>, Robert<sup>1</sup>*) and Mary (Downing) Blair, was born in Onslow, N. S., October 7, 1794; married, December 20, 1817, Mary, eldest daughter of John and Mary (Cock) Smith, who died July, 1869; he died in Onslow, November 23, 1871.

They had children :

1. EBENEZER SMITH<sup>5</sup>, born December 15, 1820.
2. MARY ANN SMITH, born October 28, 1823.
3. JOHN SMITH, born February, 1826.
4. JANE SMITH, born September 20, 1829.
5. OLIVER, born May, 1832.
6. CLARLES WILLIAM, born January 12, 1835.

EZEKIEL<sup>4</sup> BLAIR, son of William<sup>3</sup> (*David<sup>2</sup>, Robert<sup>1</sup>*) and Agnes (Marr) Blair, was born in Warren, Mass., April 15, 1773; he married in Becket, Mass., February 15, 1797, Mary, daughter of Ebenezer and Mary Adams; he died in Warren, May 17, 1844.

They had children :

1. BARNABAS<sup>5</sup>, born December 28, 1797; died July 7, 1881, in Enfield, Mass.
2. ORPHA, born October 6, 1799; died June 6, 1863, in Palmer, Mass.
3. AMBROSE, born December 8, 1802; died May 21, 1887, in Ware, Mass.
4. FLAVIA, born August 23, 1804; died November 30, 1881, in Warren, Mass.
5. LYMAN, born January 1, 1809; died July 12, 1888, in Paterson, N. J.
6. ROYAL E., born January 4, 1820.

REUBEN<sup>4</sup> BLAIR, son of Jacob<sup>3</sup> (*Matthew<sup>2</sup>, Robert<sup>1</sup>*) and Martha (Silmon) Blair, was born in Blandford, Mass., February 12, 1763; he married in Blandford (1) 1791-2, Tryphena Moses, daughter of Timothy Moses of Simsbury, Ct., who was born 1769, died in Blandford, December 15, 1806; he married (2) in Blandford, Hannah Noble, daughter of John Noble, who was born in Blandford, May 1, 1778, died in Blandford, September 8, 1863, in her 85th year; he died in Blandford, July 16, 1856, aged 93 years, 5 months, 4 days.

## Children by Tryphena (Moses) Blair :

1. OREN<sup>5</sup>, born March 1, 1793.
2. POLLY, born September 14, 1796.
3. HERMAN, born May 2, 1799.
4. HARVEY, born December 25, 1801; died July 5, 1803.
5. SAMUEL OREN, born July 22, 1804.
6. BETSEY, born November, 28, 1806.

## Children by Hannah (Noble) Blair :

7. TRUMAN, born December 20, 1808.
8. MARTHA, born September 18, 1812.
9. JULIA.
10. MARIA, born October 29, 1815.
11. VINCENT, born March 4, 1818; was drowned April 21, 1838, while crossing Little Platte River, Missouri.

LINUS<sup>4</sup> BLAIR, son of Adam<sup>3</sup> (*Matthew<sup>2</sup>, Robert<sup>1</sup>*) and Jane (Alexander) Blair, was born in Blandford, December 12, 1789; married Polly, daughter of Ephraim and Nancy Gibbs, who was born in Blandford, January 1, 1787, died November 26, 1835; he died August 12, 1853.

They had children :

1. CREUSA E<sup>5</sup>, born September 4, 1817; married March, 1841, Carlos W. Hoisington; she died November 7, 1841.
2. FRANKLIN O., born November 30, 1822; married August 7, 1853, Electa A. Adams.
3. NANCY A., born March 9, 1824; married as his second wife, April 13, 1842, Carlos W. Hoisington.
4. MARY T., born March 20, 1827; married November 28, 1855, Martin R. Bates, of West Granville, Mass.

JAMES<sup>4</sup> BLAIR, son of Jacob<sup>3</sup> (*Matthew<sup>2</sup>, Robert<sup>1</sup>*) and Martha (Gilmore) Blair, was born in Blandford, June 4, 1772. He moved to Cleveland, Ohio, "some fifty years ago," thence further west. He was published in marriage in Blandford, May, 1799, to Mercy Howard (perhaps of Warren, Mass.), a daughter of George Howard, who held the rank of captain in a Massachusetts regiment in the Revolution and died in service.

They had children :

1. MARTHA<sup>5</sup>, born about 1799-1800.

2. SALLY, born June 11, 1802.
3. MARIA, who died September 8, 1807, aged 4 years (grave stone).  
(James and Mercy Blair had Patty, Sally, Maria baptized in the Congregational church in Blandford, July 27, 1806.)
4. DIANTHA, baptized July 19, 1807.
5. MERCY ANN, baptized June, 1812.
6. A child (TRYPHENA?), baptized August, 1813.
7. JAMES FRANKLIN, baptized July 28, 1816.

DEBORAH<sup>4</sup> BLAIR, daughter of Robert<sup>3</sup> (*Robert<sup>2</sup>, Robert<sup>1</sup>*) and Hannah (Howard) Blair, was born in Blandford, Mass., January 19, 1778; she published her marriage intention, March, 1808 to Benedict Bowditch, of Farmington, Connecticut. The widow Deborah Bowditch had her children baptized in Blandford, September 17, 1805.

1. JONAS BLAIR<sup>5</sup> BOWDITCH.
2. MARY HOWARD BOWDITCH.
3. JULIA HAVENS BOWDITCH.

August 1, 1815, Mrs. Deborah Bowditch married in Blandford, Benjamin Eastman of Chester, Mass.

THOMPSON<sup>4</sup> BLAIR, son of David<sup>3</sup> (*Robert<sup>2</sup>, Robert<sup>1</sup>*) and Miriam (Boise) Blair, was born in Becket, Berkshire County, Mass., January 4, 1773. May 4, 1815, he bought eight hundred acres of land in Lorain County, Ohio, of the Connecticut Land Company, in the Western Reserve, whither he removed his family. "Here he built a church and labored zealously to convert the pioneers and their children to christianity; at the same time, he founded the first school in the locality and was ever encouraging young men to study," aiding them pecuniarily when in need. He was wealthy, influential, and held up as an example. He married, in Groton, Conn., June 6, 1794, Esther, daughter of Obadiah Perkins; he died January 4, 1848.

They had children:

1. SUSAN E.<sup>5</sup> born May 5, 1796; married December 4, 1820, Stephen Johnson; died May 8, 1864.
2. SOPHRONIA P., born August 5, 1797; married June 28, 1821, Elijah Sanderson; died October 24, 1862.

3. EMBLEM, born May 18, 1798; married April 14, 1828, Benjamin Bailey; died May 18, 1878.
4. POLLY M., born July 5, 1800; married May 18, 1822, Elanson Williams; died April 7, 1874.
5. HENRY T., born October 12, 1801; married May 9, 1826, Elizabeth Corwin; died February 4, 1869.
6. EUNICE W., born October 12, 1802; married June 28, 1824, Collin Hemingway; died March 5, 1876.
7. MARIA V., born November 2, 1803; died January 12, 1839.
8. ROBERT NELSON, born January 6, 1805; married August 1, 1837, Emon Mallison; died May 4, 1873.
9. Tullia A., born May 27, 1806; married June 30, 1829, Edward Durand.
10. ALBERTINA, born September 16, 1808; married November 8, 1827, Norman Messenger; died December 19, 1867.

LUTHER<sup>4</sup> BLAIB, son of David<sup>3</sup> (*Robert,<sup>2</sup> Robert<sup>1</sup>*) and Miriam (Boise) Blair, was born in Becket, Berkshire county, Mass., May 6, 1777. He bought the farm when his father removed to New York state. He married, at Groton, Conn., September 2, 1799, Emblem Perkins, a daughter of Obadiah Perkins, who was born July 17, 1778, died November 1, 1852; he died December 20, 1851.

Obadiah Perkins, the father of Emblem (Perkins) Blair, was born in New London, Conn., December 4, 1740; he was a lieutenant in the Revolutionary army under Colonel Ledyard at Fort Griswold, September 6, 1781. Lieut. Perkins resided about a half a mile from the fort when Colonel Ledyard was in command at New London. The first days of September there were many alarms at New London; on the night of the 5th, Colonel Ledyard went to inspect Fort Trumbull, leaving Lieut. Perkins in command at Fort Griswold. On the morning of the 7th, the alarm was given "the British are coming." The British were led by Colonel Eyre, who sent a flag, with demand for surrender; this was met by defiance and the fort was immediately attacked; after a desperate struggle, the British entered; the men were largely Hessians. In the attack Colonel Eyre fell and the command of his men devolved on Major Bromfield. In the meantime, Colonel Ledyard had arrived in

season to take part in the battle; on the surrender, when Colonel Ledyard tendered his sword, saying "I was commander of this fort, but you are now," Bromfield grasped it and plunged it into Ledyard's body. Lieutenant Perkins sprung forward to avenge him, was himself struck down. His father was slain, three of his brothers and himself were seriously wounded. A bloody butchery followed and bodies were heaped about the outside of the fort. Lieutenant Perkins's wife had from the first busied herself in tearing linen and scraping lint which she sent to the fort; these were appropriated by the British for their own soldiers. Before dawn, the ensuing morning, Mrs. Perkins began the search for her husband and found him buried under piles of groaning men, still alive. She ordered him to be carried to their home and carefully nursed. He survived his hurts and lived until December 4, 1812, when he died in Groton, Conn.

LUTHER<sup>4</sup> and EMBLEM (Perkins) BLAIR had children born in Becket, Mass. :

1. MARIETTA,<sup>5</sup> born March 16, 1800.
2. CAROLINE, born May 28, 1802.
3. MARTIN LUTHER, born February 11, 1804.
4. ALONZO, born March 13, 1805.
5. RALPH ERSKINE, born March 31, 1808.
6. CALEB PERKINS, born April 5, 1810.
7. DAVID B., born June 9, 1812.
8. HARMONY, born June 25, 1814.
9. AMANDA, born July 22, 1816.
10. MARY PERKINS, born August 3, 1818; died December 9, 1894.
11. WILLIAM H., born September 26, 1820.

CALVIN<sup>4</sup> BLAIR, son of David<sup>3</sup> (*Robert, \* Robert*) and Hannah (Thompson) Blair, was born in Becket, Mass., June 11, 1779; June 6, 1802, he married Fanny Tyrell.

They had children :

1. THEODOTIA,<sup>5</sup> born June 13, 1804; married May 15, 1822, Daniel Stocking; died April 2, 1847.
2. JOHN, born April 4, 1806; married May 4, 1828, Anna Roberts; died May 31, 1895.

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3. DAVID L., born September 24, 1807; married June 4, 1830, Margaret Rockefeller; died December 1, 1861.
4. CHARITY, born July 15, 1809; died May 8, 1827.
5. SIDNEY A., born October 2, 1812; died May 10, 1855.
6. ADELINE T., born July 19, 1814; died October 14, 1816.
7. LAVINIA, born October 1, 1816; married May 2, 1838, Sherman Russell; died November 14, 1864.
8. CALISTA, born September 6, 1826; married August 4, 1844, Walter Serbey.

SHERMAN<sup>4</sup> BLAIR, son of Robert<sup>3</sup> (*Robert*,<sup>2</sup> *Robert*<sup>1</sup>) and Hannah (Howard) Blair, was born in Blandford, September 30, 1785. He early removed to New Haven, Conn., where he started a store for selling furniture, and also began to act as funeral undertaker. His business prospered and became very lucrative at the time when he associated his sons, Robert<sup>5</sup> and John<sup>5</sup> with the concern. Being of an inventive mind, he made and patented the spiral or hour glass spring which "to this day is the principal spring used in the furniture trade."

SHERMAN<sup>4</sup> BLAIR married in West Haven, Conn., October, 1809, Grace Burke, who was born in New Haven, July 24, 1788, died there May 5, 1874; he died there June 7, 1854.

They had children :

1. ROBERT,<sup>5</sup> born October 16, 1813.
2. GRACE, born December 28, 1815.
3. MARY, born May 31, 1817; died in 1818.
4. ELIZABETH, born January 30, 1823.
5. JOHN M., born March 4, 1825.
6. FRANK, born December 30, 1826; died January 10, 1860.
7. GEORGE HOWARD, born February 3, 1829.
8. EDWIN SHERMAN, born January 23, 1831; died August 4, 1836.
9. JAMES BODWELL, born April 4, 1834.

WILLIAM<sup>4</sup> BLAIR, son of Captain Asa<sup>3</sup> (*Robert*,<sup>2</sup> *Robert*<sup>1</sup>) and Mehitable (Carnahan) Blair, was born in Blandford, November 24, 1782. He was graduated from Yale, studied law and settled in practice in Westfield, Mass. He was a man of good mental ability, became prominent in his profession and young men were always desirous to study in his office.

He married in Ellington, Conn., 1814, or 1815, Emily Welles, a daughter of Colonel Isaac and Annie (Ellsworth) Welles, who was born in Ellington, and died in Westfield, June, 1818; he died in Westfield, about 1852.

They had children :

1. HELEN ELLSWORTH,<sup>5</sup> born April, 1818.
2. WILLIAM, who changed his name to Welles Ellsworth Blair, born July 1, 1819.

REV. ASA<sup>4</sup> BLAIR, junior, son of Captain Asa<sup>3</sup> (*Robert,<sup>2</sup> Robert<sup>1</sup>*) and Mehitable (Carnahan) Blair, was born in Blandford, Mass., May 12, 1788; was graduated at Yale, 1810. He was the third ordained minister settled over the First Church of Christ in Kent, Litchfield county, Conn. But failing health forced him to give up his pastorate and remove to Georgetown, S. C. January 28, 1823, Rev. Dr. Raymond read a letter from Mr. Waldron of South Carolina to the Kent church, dated January 14, 1823, announcing the death during the previous week, of Rev. Asa Blair, at that place. Tuesday, February 4, 1823, "a large assembly crowded into the sanctuary where Mr. Blair had lately given his last address—and taken his leave. The pulpit was dressed in mourning; melancholy and grief were on every countenance; Rev. Mr. Boardman of New Preston offered prayer, Rev. Mr. Perry of Sharon gave the sermon" in commemoration of the decease of Rev. Asa Blair.

Rev. Asa Blair married, in Kent, Myra, daughter of Rev. Dr. Raymond.

They had one child :

JOHN RAYMOND,<sup>5</sup> born in Kent, about 1815.

ELECTA<sup>4</sup> BLAIR, daughter of Captain Asa<sup>3</sup> (*Robert,<sup>2</sup> Robert<sup>1</sup>*) and Mehitable (Carnahan) Blair, was born in Blandford, May 9, 1792. She married in Blandford, 18—, Loring, son of John and Sarah (Gibbs) Watson, who was born in Blandford, June 15, 1788, died there December 3, 1826.

They had children :

1. DOLLY ANN<sup>5</sup> WATSON, born May 19, 1814.
2. MYRA RAYMOND WATSON, born April 7, 1816.



3. LORING F. WATSON, born February 11, 1818.
4. ELECTA BLAIR WATSON, born November 28, 1819.
5. EMILY WELLS WATSON, born October 5, 1822.
6. JANE C. WATSON, born December 19, 1824.

HANNAH<sup>4</sup> BLAIR, daughter of Robert<sup>3</sup> (*Robert<sup>2</sup>, Robert<sup>1</sup>*) and Hannah (Thompson) Blair, was born in Blandford, November 21, 1773. She married in Blandford, March 1, 1796, Samuel, son of Robert and Catherine (Shaw) Hunter, who was born in Palmer, Mass., June 7, 1770; died in Otis, Mass., June 7, 1843; she died June 12, 1846.

They had children :

1. ROBERT<sup>6</sup> HUNTER, born in Blandford, October 16, 1796.
2. ALMIRA HUNTER, born in Blandford, March 7, 1798.
3. ORPHA HUNTER, born in Blandford, November 26, 1799.
4. CATHERINE HUNTER, born in Blandford, November 28, 1801.
5. MARCIA HUNTER, born in Blandford, January 5, 1804.
6. ELVIRA HUNTER, born in Otis, December 23, 1805; married O. Gleason; their son C. S. Gleason resides in Seattle, Wash.
7. SAMUEL HUNTER, born in Otis, January 9, 1809.
8. HANNAH HUNTER, born in Otis, May 8, 1811.
9. JOHN HUNTER, born in Otis, July 14, 1813.
10. MARY HUNTER, born in Otis, March 22, 1817.

SAMUEL<sup>4</sup> BLAIR, son of Rufus<sup>3</sup> (*Robert<sup>2</sup>, Robert<sup>1</sup>*) and Dolly (Boise) Blair, was born in Blandford, September 11, 1781. After his father's decease, as the eldest child, he assumed the charge of the estate, he, himself, then only nineteen years of age, and managed farm affairs for several years. Then removed to Blandford Street, where he kept the store until 1811, when he migrated to Columbus, Chenango County, New York. Two or three years later he spent a few years in Homer, Cortland County, but finally settled in the adjoining town of Cortland.

The town of Homer was started in 1789 by Amos Todd and Joseph Beebe, who came up from New Haven, Conn., and was organized March 5, 1794. "The territory has a broken and diversified surface, with rugged hills and fertile valleys and flats of rich alluvial soil lying on the East and West rivers. Homer is beautifully located on the west side of the Tioughnioga river,

and is regarded as one of the handsomest villages in the State. The valley of the Tioughnioga is unrivalled in wild and picturesque scenery." (History of Cortland County, N. Y., page 147).

During the latter part of his life he assisted his son Samuel in the care of his farm, which lay about two miles west of the town.

SAMUEL<sup>4</sup> BLAIR married in Blandford, November 28, 1804, Hannah, daughter of Jonathan and Dolly (Stow) Frary, who was born in Blandford, March 6, 1783; died in Cortland, May 11, 1860, aged 77 years. The following notice appeared at the time: "For thirty years and upward a resident of this place, the deceased had by her quiet, Christian life endeared herself to a large circle of family friends and neighbors. Long years, and many of them, of suffering ripened her faith, moulded and perfected her character. Though led by the way of suffering to the grave, yet she went in that peace which is of Christ, desiring to go home and be at rest." (Local paper.)

SAMUEL<sup>4</sup> BLAIR died in Cortland, May 21, 1862, aged 80 years, 8 months.

They had children:

1. CAROLINE,<sup>5</sup> born in Blandford, January 29, 1806.
2. JUSTUS PHINEAS, born in Blandford, March 31, 1808; died in Rochester, N. Y., 1827, aged 19 years.
3. CHAUNCEY BUCKLEY, born in Blandford, June 18, 1810.
4. SAMUEL, born in Columbus, N. Y., May 22, 1812.
5. LYMAN, born in Port Watson, N. Y., November 20, 1815.
6. WILLIAM, born in Cortland, N. Y., May 20, 1818.
7. ANNA ELIZA, born in Cortland, N. Y., November 28, 1820.

PHINEAS<sup>4</sup> BLAIR, son of Rufus<sup>3</sup> (*Robert,<sup>2</sup> Robert<sup>1</sup>*) and Dolly (Boise) Blair, was born in Blandford, December 28, 1783. He studied law and began its practice at Belchertown, Mass., where, on October 28, 1811, "Phineas Blair, attorney, was the highest bidder for land lying near the South Parish Meeting-house in Greenwich, three acres, with a dwelling house and out-buildings together with another lot of four acres." (Worcester County, Mass., Deeds, vol. 32, p. 338).

He afterwards removed to Boston, where he was engaged in many real estate transactions, and where he died, unmarried, June 8, 1848, aged 65 years.

DOLLY<sup>4</sup> BLAIR, daughter of Rufus<sup>3</sup> (*Robert,<sup>2</sup> Robert<sup>1</sup>*) and Dolly (Boise) Blair, was born in Blandford, March 13, 1787. She was married January 25, 1810, in Blandford, to Ashel Lyman, son of Timothy and Dorothy (Kinney) Lyman, who was born in Chester, April 2, 1785. He was a merchant, resided in Worthington, Mass.; Milford, N. Y., and removed to Brookfield, Chenango County, N. Y., about 1811, thence to Cortlandville in 1814, where he died February 19, 1847, aged 62 years; she died there August 8, 1856, aged 69 years (grave-stone).

They had children :

1. ASHEL PHELPS LYMAN.
2. DOLLY LYMAN.
3. GEORGE NELSON LYMAN.
4. FRANKLIN LYMAN.
5. HENRY LYMAN.

The Lymans are a family of early English origin, whose first proven ancestor was Thomas Lyman of Navistoke, co. Essex, England, in the time of Henry VII. He married Elizabeth, grand-daughter of Sir William and Joanna (de Umfreville) Lambert. The line then runs down through Thomas, Henry, John of High Ongar, Henry of Navistoke, who was buried there April 15, 1587, Henry to Richard Lyman who was baptized October 30, 1580, at High Ongar. He married Sarah, daughter of Roger Osborne, of Halstead, co. Kent. With five children, they set sail from Bristol and arrived at Boston, Mass., November 4, 1631. They were first in Charlestown, Mass., then in Roxbury, Mass., where they were members of the First Church. With Rev. Thomas Hooker and his little company, they toiled through the wilderness to Hartford, Conn., of which Richard Lyman became one of the first planters and proprietors, and where he was buried in August, 1640. "He was a man of considerable estate, keeping two servants." His will was the first recorded in Hartford County Probate.

From him the line runs from his son, Lieutenant John Lyman, who was baptized at High Ongar, September, 1623; married Dorcas Plumb of Branford, Conn., and settled at Northampton,

Mass. ; his son, Moses Lyman, born February 22, 1662, and his wife, Ann ; through his son, Captain Moses Lyman, who was born in Northampton, February 27, 1689, married, December 13, 1712, Mindwell Sheldon ; his son, Deacon Elias Lyman, born September 30, 1715, who was a member, from Northampton, of the Provincial Congress at Concord, Mass., October 11, 1768, of the Congress held at Cambridge, Mass., 1775, "a man of weight and dignity." He married Ann Phelps of Southampton, Mass., where he died February 18, 1802 ; his eldest son, Stephen Lyman, was born in Northampton, September 8, 1742. With his brother, Timothy Lyman, he, with a woodsman's outfit, axe on shoulder, hewed a way through the virgin forests from Southampton for seventeen miles up the mountain side, and along the river banks to the site of what is now Chester, Mass. The brothers each received a grant of land on condition that each should, within three years from June, 1762, have built a dwelling-house 24 feet by 18 feet, have seven acres of land well cleared and part of it laid down to English grass, have actually settled a family and there continued for the space of six years, and to have settled a protestant minister within eight years.

Timothy, his brother, was born in Northampton, December 31, 1744. He occupied the farm which he had won from the primitive wilderness at Chester until the day of his death, October 12, 1815. He married in the adjoining town of Worthington, Mass., Dorothy, daughter of Colonel Kinney who had come from Preston, Conn., and built a log house in the place. It was a circumscribed dwelling, which the children made beautiful by lining the hewn logs of the common sitting room with strips of silvery birch bark, and covering a tall screen with these shining pieces, thus converting the rooms into veritable sylvan bowers. Timothy Lyman was "a man of rare ability, quick discernment, sound judgement; very ready in repartee and capable of keen irony." (Lyman Genealogy, page 340.)

Their son, Ashel Lyman, was born in Chester, Mass., married Dolly Blair, while her brother, Sylvester Blair, married another member of this distinguished family.

RUFUS<sup>4</sup> BLAIR, son of Rufus<sup>3</sup> (*Robert<sup>2</sup> Robert<sup>1</sup>*) and Dolly (Boise) Blair, was born in Blandford, Mass., May 7, 1790. He owned and managed a farm in the town, was a justice of the peace many years. He married in Blandford, September 5, 1820, Sally Hamilton, who was born in Blandford, March 6, 1794; died in Springfield, Mass., May 23, 1874; he died in Blandford, April 14, 1844.

They had children :

1. CATHERINE L.,<sup>5</sup> born August 4, 1821; married in Blandford, November 23, 1843, Thomas S. Chaffee.
2. MELISSA H., born April 3, 1823; married in Blandford May 7, 1847, Theodore A. Wilson.
3. INCREASE, born June 3, 1825.
4. EDWIN PHINEAS, born December 23, 1828; d. unm.
5. PATRICK HENRY, born September 11, 1830.

SYLVESTER<sup>4</sup> BLAIR, son of Rufus<sup>3</sup> (*Robert<sup>2</sup> Robert<sup>1</sup>*) and Dolly (Boise) Blair, was born in Blandford, November 30, 1796. He removed to Chenango County, New York, about 1811. While residing in Cortland, in 1814, he engaged in mercantile pursuits, and was in partnership with his brother-in-law Ashel Lyman; after many years, the concern was dissolved, and Sylvester Blair built a store near this on Main Street. After a while he erected a building for the manufacture of pottery on a piece of land lying west of the village, the clay for which was brought from the pits at Amboy, New Jersey, through the Erie Canal to Syracuse, and dragged thence over the hills to Cortland. He continued in active business until his decease.

SYLVESTER<sup>4</sup> BLAIR married, February 24, 1823, Nancy Lyman, daughter of Noah and Lucy (Bishop) Lyman, who was born in Berkshire, New York, January 23, 1802; died in Columbus, Pennsylvania, May 22, 1878; he died suddenly in New York City, October 7, 1836.

They had children :

1. DEWITT CLINTON<sup>5</sup>, born March 15, 1824.
2. FRANCES AMELIA, born February 23, 1826.
3. DENNIS T., born May 10, 1828; died July 20, 1829.

4. SYLVESTER D., born May 23, 1830; died 1834.
5. GEORGE, born July 9, 1832.
6. HENRY B., born July 20, 1834.

CHARLES<sup>4</sup> BLAIR, son of Robert<sup>3</sup> (*Joseph<sup>2</sup>, Robert<sup>1</sup>*) and Betsey (Harrington) Blair, was born March 8, 1785. He remained on the old homestead in Worcester until his death. He married, April 12, 1827, Elizabeth McFarland and died March 9, 1859, without leaving children.

GEORGE<sup>4</sup> BLAIR, son of Robert<sup>3</sup> (*Joseph<sup>2</sup>, Robert<sup>1</sup>*) and Betsey (Harrington) Blair, was born in Rutland, Mass., November 29, 1796. He removed to Worcester with his parents in 1798 and remained there until 1809, when he went to Caroline, Tompkins County, N. Y., and settled in what was then a wilderness. He was accompanied by Mr. Sabin Mann, who had married Miss Rhoda Blackman. In the war of 1812, Mr. Mann was killed, and May 7, 1817, George Blair married his widow. George Blair died in Speedwell, N. Y., December 20, 1869, aged 82 years.

They had children :

1. AUSTIN<sup>5</sup>, born February 8, 1818.
2. SARAH, born March 10, 1821.
3. ROBERT, born April 2, 1825.
4. WILLIAM HENRY, born January 22, 1831.

SARAH<sup>4</sup> BLAIR, daughter of Robert<sup>3</sup> (*Joseph<sup>2</sup>, Robert<sup>1</sup>*) Blair, was born in Rutland, Mass., April 19, 1789; she married, in Worcester, September 9, 1829, Nathan Rogers, who was born  
died ; she died in Holden,  
Mass., April 28, 1861.

DOLLY<sup>4</sup> BLAIR, daughter of Robert<sup>3</sup> (*Joseph<sup>2</sup>, Robert<sup>1</sup>*) Blair, and Betsey (Harrington) Blair, was born in Rutland, Mass., January 30, 1795; she married, August, 1828, Rev. George Nichols, who died in Springfield, Mass., February 12, 1841,

aged 47 years; she married (2), in Springfield, in 1843, Rev. Isaac Knapp, of Westfield, Mass; died in Worcester, March 1, 1864.

HORACE<sup>4</sup> BLAIR, son of Robert<sup>3</sup> (*Joseph<sup>2</sup>, Robert<sup>1</sup>*) and Betsey (Harrington) Blair, was born in Rutland, Mass., April 22, 1798. On arriving at age, he went to Rome, N. Y., where he had relatives, and opened a store; after a few months, in the fall of 1821, he went to Savannah, Georgia, and engaged in a commission business, in which he was quite successful. About six years later he removed to Macon, Ga., where he took the position of cashier in the Bank of Macon. Shortly after, he went to Washington, Tazewell County, Ill. He married in Savannah, May 3, 1827, Mrs. Rebecca L. Wiseman, a widow of Mr. William Wiseman, who died September 9, 1841, aged 42 years; he died in Washington, Ill., March 9, 1838.

They had children :

1. ROBERT HORACE<sup>5</sup>, born in Savannah, April 10, 1828.
2. EMMA REBECCA, born in Washington, Ill., June 3, 1836; married Amos Hall, of Sandisfield, Mass.; they reside in St. Paul, Minn.

MARIA<sup>4</sup> BLAIR, daughter of Robert<sup>3</sup> (*Joseph<sup>2</sup>, Robert<sup>1</sup>*) and Betsey (Harrington) Blair, was born in Worcester, Mass., January 1, 1802; she married, May 21, 1827, Cyrus Stockwell, of Worcester, who was born in 1797, died October 13, 1845, aged 48 years.

They had children :

1. JAMES C.<sup>5</sup> STOCKWELL, born September 5, 1828.
2. CHARLES BLAIR STOCKWELL, born April 24, 1832.
3. MARIA B. STOCKWELL, born January 9, 1840.
4. HENRIETTA STOCKWELL, born August 1, 1844.

CHARLES<sup>4</sup> BLAIR, son of Joseph<sup>3</sup>, junior (*Joseph<sup>2</sup>, Robert<sup>1</sup>*) and Mercy (Dickinson) Blair, was born in Amherst, Mass., January 16, 1812; he married May 2, 1833, Eunice, daughter of Asahel and Lucinda (Adams) Blodgett, of Amherst, Mass.

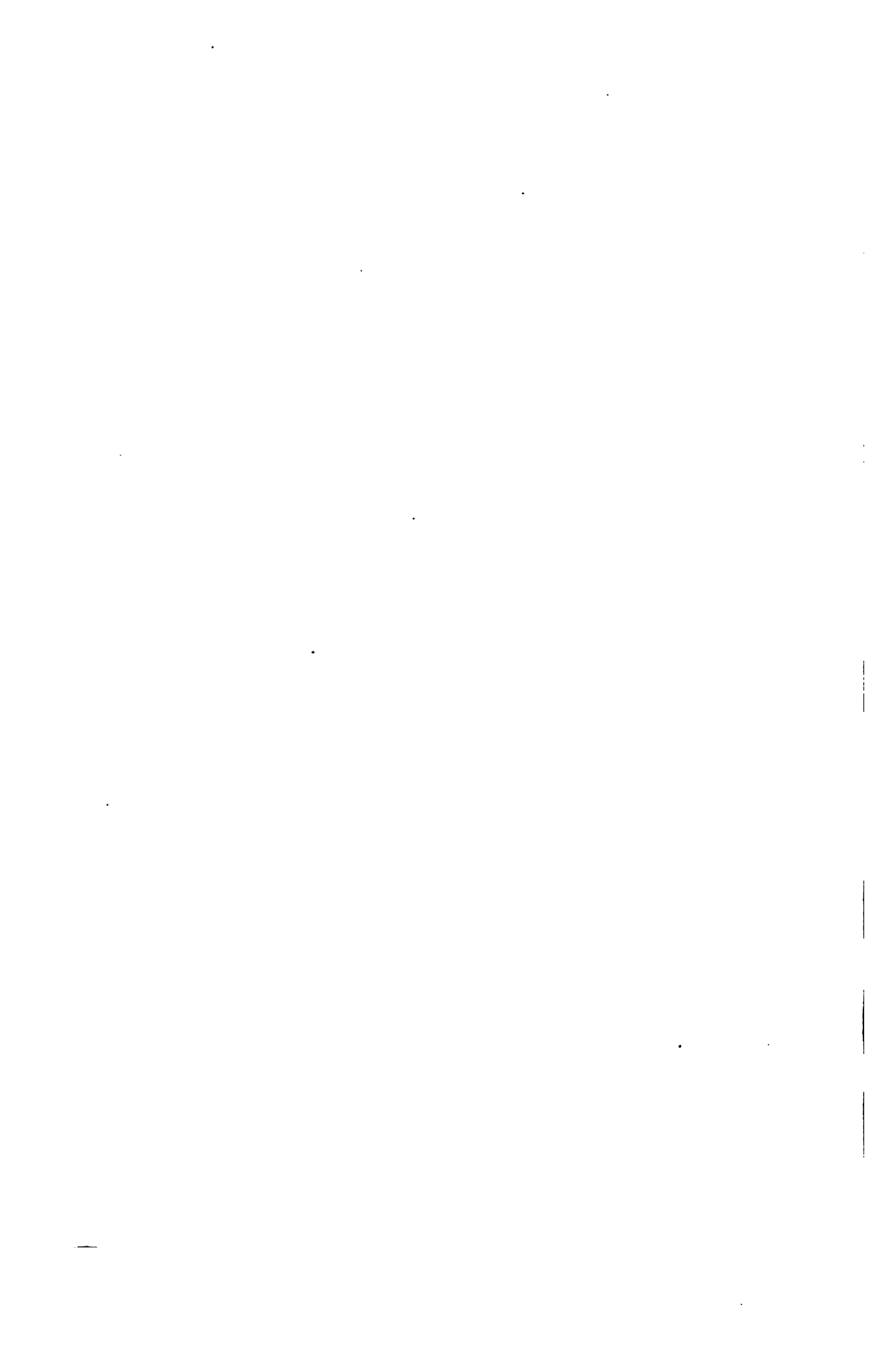
Charles Blair removed to Collinsville, Conn, where he amassed a fortune and died.

They had children born in Collinsville :

1. CHARLES HAMILTON<sup>s</sup>, born July 16, 1834.
2. BURTON DICKINSON, born July 19, 1836; died in Amherst, February 28, 1838.
3. HORATIO PORTER, born October 28, 1839.
4. FRANCIS MORRISON, born January 4, 1842.
5. HENRY P.
6. GEORGE P., born 1845.
7. MARY AMELIA, born March 16, 1847.



THE FIFTH GENERATION IN AMERICA.



## THE FIFTH GENERATION IN AMERICA.

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ALICE<sup>5</sup> BLAIR, daughter of William<sup>4</sup> (*Absalom*,<sup>3</sup> *David*,<sup>2</sup> *Robert*<sup>1</sup>) and Sally (Train) Blair, was born in Williamstown, September 17, 1796. "She is still remembered by one old lady in Williamstown as a beautiful young lady, a graceful rider. She married Hiram Bacon, and they removed with their family to Indiana in 1822." (Professor Perry, History of Williamstown.)

BERNARD<sup>5</sup> BLAIR, son of William<sup>4</sup> (*Absalom*,<sup>3</sup> *David*,<sup>2</sup> *Robert*<sup>1</sup>) and Sally (Train) Blair, was born in Williamstown, May 24, 1801. He went to Salem, New York, directly after he was graduated Williams College in 1825 and entered the law office of Russell and Allen. "He was elected a member of the Twenty-Seventh Congress from that district and usefully served his generation as president of a local bank, a railroad, and in all other relations of life." (Prof. Perry.) He was "a trustee of Washington Academy and the First Presbyterian Church of Salem, N. Y., received the degree of A.M. from Middlebury, Vt., College and from Williams College." (History of Salem, N. Y.) He married in Lansingburgh, N. Y., Charlotte, daughter of Brommi C. Lansing.

GEORGE TRAIN<sup>5</sup> BLAIR, son of William<sup>4</sup> (*Absalom*,<sup>3</sup> *David*,<sup>2</sup> *Robert*<sup>1</sup>) and Sally (Train) Blair, was born in Williamstown, April 2, 1809. He was graduated from Williams College in 1833, "taking his residence in Troy, New York State, immediately on his graduation; studied law; held the office of city clerk for several years; was chosen surrogate, and held the office for ten years; was appointed Post Master of Troy in 1861, and, in 1865, Pay-master in the United States Army.

He came to Williamstown on business in 1867, was suddenly taken ill and died, aged fifty-seven years." (Prof. Perry.)

SAMUEL EDWARD<sup>5</sup> BLAIR, son of Alvah<sup>4</sup> (*Samuel,<sup>3</sup> John,<sup>2</sup> Robert<sup>1</sup>*) and Laura (Chapin) Blair, was born in Warren, Mass., October 30, 1822. He served as town clerk and treasurer for his native town from 1855 to 1891; was town assessor for more than twenty years; was sent to the legislature in 1856 and 1858; was treasurer of the Warren Savings Bank eight years, "and held many other offices of trust, all of which he fulfilled satisfactorily." A stroke of paralysis just as he was entering his office door forced him to retire from active life, and he died, unmarried, May 22, 1895.

JOHN SMITH<sup>5</sup> BLAIR, son of Oliver<sup>4</sup> (*William,<sup>3</sup> William,<sup>2</sup> Robert<sup>1</sup>*) and Mary (Smith) Blair, was born in Truro, Nova Scotia, February 1826. An active merchant, he migrated to Boston, Mass., where he accumulated a large fortune. He married (1) in Truro, Louisa, daughter of John and Elizabeth (McNutt) Blair, who was born in Truro, February 1, 1834, died in Boston, August 21, 1853, in her twentieth year; JOHN SMITH<sup>5</sup> BLAIR married (2) in Boston, Elizabeth Kendrick. He died in Boston.

TRUMAN<sup>5</sup> BLAIR, son of Reuben<sup>4</sup> (*Jacob,<sup>3</sup> Mathew,<sup>2</sup> Robert<sup>1</sup>*) and Hannah (Noble) Blair, was born in Blandford, December 20, 1808. He married, October 14, 1835, Esther Merrill Chambers, daughter of Joseph and Chloe (Merrill) Chambers, who was born in Harpersfield, N. Y., July 3, 1813; he died in Blandford, May 11, 1883, aged 74 years; she died in Blandford, November 16, 1893, aged 80 years.

They had children :

1. CORNELIA MARIA,<sup>6</sup> born July 27, 1836; married July 7, 1858, Elisha Warren Shepard.
2. JOSEPH HARVEY, born February 23, 1838; married October 18, 1875, Mrs. Mary E. Smith; is a practising physician in Omaha, Nebraska.
3. MARY SOPHIA, born November 20, 1839; unm.

4. WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON, born January 9, 1842 ; married (1) December 20, 1871, Henrietta Reed, who died December 1872 ; he married (2) Elizabeth Gorham, of Springfield, Mass., where he was city marshal for three years, and deputy sheriff for thirteen years. After the decease of his father he returned to take the homestead in Blandford. He had : 1, Elizabeth Gorham,<sup>7</sup> born 1876 ; 2, Henrietta Chambers, born 1879 ; 3, Jennie Foster, born 1885.

SAMUEL OREN<sup>5</sup> BLAIR, son of Reuben<sup>4</sup> (*Jacob,<sup>3</sup> Mathew,<sup>2</sup> Robert<sup>1</sup>*) and Tryphena (Moses) Blair, was born in Blandford, Mass., July 22, 1804. He published his marriage intention in Blandford, November 21, 1830, to Olive E. Osborn, who was born 1801 ; died in Blandford, May 14, 1883, aged 82 years. He died in Blandford, December 30, 1880, aged 76 years.

They had children :

1. CAROLINE.<sup>6</sup>
2. JUDSON.
3. EDMUND.
4. HENRIETTA.
5. LESTER.
6. SIDNEY.

JULIA<sup>5</sup> BLAIR, daughter of Reuben<sup>4</sup> (*Jacob,<sup>3</sup> Mathew,<sup>2</sup> Robert<sup>1</sup>*) and Hannah (Noble) Blair, was born in Blandford, January 26, 1811. She married, January 23, 1834, Eli Osborn, in Blandford.

They had children :

1. DWIGHT<sup>6</sup> OSBORN.
2. EDSON OSBORN.
3. VINCENT OSBORN.
4. AMELIA OSBORN.
5. HELEN OSBORN.
6. LUCIA OSBORN.

MARTHA<sup>5</sup> BLAIR, daughter of Reuben<sup>4</sup> (*Jacob,<sup>3</sup> Mathew,<sup>2</sup> Robert<sup>1</sup>*) and Hannah (Noble) Blair, was born in Blandford, September 18, 1812. She married, September 21, 1835, Jesse Crane, who died January 2, 1854, in Joliet, Illinois ; she married (2) John Ward, who died in Channahon, Illinois ; she

married (3) William McKee and removed to Clinton, Missouri, where she died February 29, 1880.

SALLY<sup>1</sup> BLAIR, daughter of James<sup>4</sup> (*Jacob, *Matthew, *Robert*<sup>1</sup>) and Mercy (Howard) Blair, was born in Blandford, June 11, 1802. She married April 4, 1826, Jairus C. Fairchild, who was born December 27, 1801. They resided first in Mantua, Portage county, Ohio, finally in Madison, Wis. He was the first treasurer of the state of Wisconsin; held the office of mayor at Madison from 1856 to 1857. He died in Madison, July 18, 1862; she died in that city October 21, 1866.**

They had children:

1. SARAH<sup>2</sup> FAIRCHILD, born April 25, 1827; married Obadiah M. Conover, of Madison.
2. JAMES BLAIR FAIRCHILD, born 1828.
3. CASSIUS FAIRCHILD, born at Franklin Mills, (now Earlsville,) Ohio. He was deputy treasurer of Wisconsin in 1848, 1849, 1850; a member of the state legislature from 1861 to 1865; an officer in the state troops in the Civil war, which he left with the brevet of brigadier general; he was United States marshal, from 1866 until his decease in Milwaukee. A few days before he died he married Mary Haney, October, 1868, and died October 24, 1868.
4. LUCIUS FAIRCHILD, born December 27, 1831. He served in the Civil war from 1861 to 1863, when he attained the grade of brigadier general; was secretary of state for Wisconsin from 1863 to 1865; elected governor of Wisconsin, 1866, and was the only governor elected to three terms; was consul to Liverpool, Paris, and United States minister at Spain till December, 1881.
5. CHARLES S. FAIRCHILD.

CAROLINE<sup>1</sup> BLAIR, daughter of Samuel<sup>4</sup> (*Rufus, *Robert, *Robert*<sup>1</sup>) and Hannah (Frary) Blair, was born in Blandford, June 29, 1806. She married in Cortland, N. Y., December 24, 1829, Parker Crosby, son of Elisha and Sarah Crosby, who was born in Cortland, September 3, 1803. After their marriage they resided a number of years in Cortland, spent some five years in California, resided in Cedar Falls, Iowa, for a period, when he died July 16, 1863, aged 59 years, 10 months,**

18 days; she died at the residence of her daughter, Mrs. John C. Neely, on Greenwood Avenue, Chicago, November 15, 1896, aged 90 years, 9 months, 17 days.

They had children:

1. EDWIN PHINEAS<sup>6</sup> CROSBY, born December 1, 1831; died January 2, 1894, aged 62 years.
2. LYMAN BLAIR CROSBY, born September 11, 1835.
3. MARY ELIZA CROSBY, born July 28, 1841.

CHAUNCEY BUCKLEY<sup>5</sup> BLAIR, son of Samuel<sup>4</sup> (*Rufus*,<sup>3</sup> *Robert*,<sup>2</sup> *Robert*<sup>1</sup>) and Hannah (Frary) Blair, was born in Blandford, Mass., June 18, 1810. "In the spring of 1835 he came west, going into land speculation in Wisconsin, Indiana, and Michigan. He was remarkably successful in his ventures, and in 1837 entered mercantile business in Indiana, his brother Lyman being associated with him. The firm name was C. B. & L. Blair, and at one time they owned the largest warehouse in Indiana. It was the only one that could receive and forward produce. They also built the first bridge pier on the east side of Lake Michigan, and were among the pioneer shippers of grain to the East. Chauncey B. Blair secured a charter and built a plank road thirty miles long for the purpose of making transportation inland from the lake easier. Notes were issued on the stock of the plank road corporation and a banking business was started. He was made president of this banking company and so first entered upon the business to which he practically devoted the remainder of his life. The notes issued by this company, known as the Union Plank Road Company, were accepted by all the state banks in the northwest and were all finally redeemed in gold. Some of them were held in the south at the time of the commencement of the war of the Rebellion, but were promptly honored when presented at the close of the war.

"He next became interested in the State Bank of Indiana, and, when it was re-chartered, under the name of the Bank of the State of Indiana, he secured a controlling interest in its La Porte branch, later becoming its president.

"In 1861, he came to Chicago and acquired an interest in a

private bank, which he held until 1865. He then organized the Merchants National Bank of Chicago, which began to do business at No. 36 South Clark street with a paid up capital of \$450,000. The officers were: president, Chauncey B. Blair; cashier, Henry B. Symond; directors, C. B. Blair, Daniel A. Jones, John B. Turner and William Blair. At its last statement prior to the fire, its capital was \$650,000, surplus \$300,000, deposits \$1,149,756. Officers: president, C. B. Blair; vice-president, J. K. Botsford; cashier, John DeKoven; assistant cashier, John C. Neeley; directors, C. B. Blair, William Blair, D. A. Jones, C. J. Blair and J. K. Botsford.

"Mr. Blair had been president of it continuously since that time and had made an enviable record as a financier, sometimes pursuing a policy against the judgment of all his friends. At the time of the great fire of 1871, he insisted upon an immediate and full payment to all the depositors of this bank, although nearly every other financier in Chicago advised against such a course. His decision was greeted with admiration in all parts of the country, and his action resulted in establishing on a firm basis the credit of Chicago, at that time greatly impaired.

"When, by reason of the inability of the city to collect the taxes of 1871, 1872, 1873 and 1874, and on account of the fire losses and subsequent stagnation of business and other complications, the credit of Chicago became materially impaired, Mr. Blair was one of the few to come to the rescue of the city and by his faith in the city and his advances may be said to have saved Chicago's credit.

"During the panic of 1873, when the banks of Boston, New York and other large cities had suspended payments and most of the Chicago banks favored the same course, proposing to issue clearing house certificates, he made a firm stand at a clearing house meeting and announced that he proposed to pay all demands. His arguments convinced the other bankers that it was the proper course to pursue and, as a result, they passed through the panic without serious harm and Chicago's credit was placed on a firmer basis than ever.

"During the earlier years of his life, he went a little into railroad building, being one of the incorporators of the Northern



Indiana Railroad Company, which was the first road to impair the usefulness of his Plank Road. The Northern Indiana was afterwards consolidated with the Michigan Southern."—(*From the Chicago Tribune*, January 30, 1891.)

"In 1860, Mr. Blair removed to Chicago and engaged in business as a private banker. In 1865 he founded the Merchants' National Bank and from that day to this was its president. Six years later the great fire swept over the city and left behind a financial wreckage so great that its computation was almost impossible. Throughout the country great financial institutions were forced to the wall. In Chicago, scarcely a bank could hold up its head. Ruin was everywhere, and as the demand for money increased with the sufferings still other banks joined the great majority of insolvents.

"Immediately after the ashes were cooled, a meeting of the bankers was held at which it was decided to pay 15 cents on the dollar. Next day the Chicago Clearing House Association held a meeting and its decision was announced—Mr. Blair was present. After the announcement, he rose and said: 'Gentlemen, this action was taken without my knowledge or consent or that of the directors of the Merchants' National Bank. I repudiate the agreement. As soon as I can find a place to set up my desk and give room to a safe, the Merchants' National Bank will be open for business, either to pay all obligations in full or to receive deposits!'

"A great shout went up at this manly declaration, and this, perhaps more than any other incident, served to nerve the despondent citizens to begin life anew and with increased vigor.

"In 1873; when the bankers in every city and hamlet in America were falling down, the bankers of Chicago held another meeting at which it was proposed to issue clearing-house certificates, after the method of the New York bankers. Mr. Blair vigorously opposed this idea and finally declared that if such a course were pursued he would withdraw from the Clearing House Association. The bankers decided to be governed by Mr. Blair's advice. During the dark days, Mr. Blair saved Chicago's credit. S. H. McCrea was city treasurer, and he

found he would be obliged to default in payment of the city's interest. Mr. McCrea finally went to Mr. Blair, who, influenced by pure public spirit, agreed to take all coupons and wait for his money until it could be paid. This undoubtedly saved Chicago's credit and possibly from worse still—repudiation.”—(*Chicago Times*, January 30, 1891.)

“The banking life of Mr. Blair commenced in the historical depression of 1857, and his experience in those troublous days in an adjoining State served to lay broad and deep the foundations for a safe and prosperous career based upon the use of honest money for a circulating medium and the present fulfilment of obligations at any personal sacrifice. He stood alone and yet a leader in the advocacy of sound business principles while the new prairie towns were filled with wildcat banks and deluded political financiers. When the city was well nigh destroyed by fire, his was the first announcement of a bank re-opened for business on the old-time basis, one hundred cents to the dollar of deposits. He prevented the issue of Clearing House certificates by threatening to withdraw from the association.

“Mr. Blair was a man of the old style. Wholly unassuming, positive in his convictions, ready to give his last dollar to meet a bit of paper or an obligation in which his honor was involved in the faintest degree; his whole business career was one of protest against the rapid methods adopted by men of fewer years and less honor. The writer recalls a remark made to him by the deceased in 1877. ‘Don't try to argue with me about silver. It will never do for a medium of exchange beyond the fractional part of a dollar.’” (*The Chicago Post*, January 30, 1891.)

Under the heading of “One Model Citizen,” the *Chicago Times* of January 31, 1891, reports “The Eventful Career of a Man who had the Welfare of Chicago at heart.”

“Passing away at the ripe age of eighty-one years, the career of Chauncey B. Blair, so long identified with the largest financial interest of the city, becomes in its personal phases one of great interest to the citizens of Chicago.”

“Always a busy man, and altogether a business man, Mr.

Blair had in his long life neither the time nor the inclination for else than the advancement of constantly increasing commercial interests. He threw his whole energies into his work. He cared neither for amusements, which generally seemed to him frivolous, nor for vacations, which were esteemed a waste of time. In his banking life he was daily, throughout the year, at his desk early in the morning and the last to leave at night. He was eminently conservative in all his ideas and most closely allied with the customs of the more rigid past. He often referred to the time when he had to work sixteen hours out of the twenty-four and deprecated many of the innovations of later days, which seemed to him a relaxing of those stern convictions of old.

"Upon entering his career as a banker he denied himself all interest in outside speculations and operations which he had so thriftily and laboriously utilized to acquire the fortune which he had made in trade. He believed that a banker was a public trustee. Consequently, with rigid ideas of liberal honesty and integrity in that trust, he maintained that he had no right to implicate others' interests, which would necessarily follow his participation in outside speculation. With a fortune privately made in land deals he accordingly refused to operate in real estate; he confined his business to legitimate banking.

"Unostentatious generosity to the deserving was a characteristic of Mr. Blair. It had always been his custom to care for the sick among the employes of his large bank, aiding the families in their illnesses and helping to bury their dead. At Christmas they were all remembered with gifts of money, which were distributed according to the needs, rather than with regard to position or the salary earned.

"In personal habits and demeanor, Mr. Blair was plain and old-fashioned. He generally voted the republican ticket, but did not mingle in politics. He was not a church member, while a regular attendant at Trinity Episcopal Church. He died in the peace and quiet of his home, as he had lived. In more than a half century of unremitting energy, with the record of never having had a mortgage recorded against him nor a piece of paper protested, he has left a reputation for shrewdness and absolute diligence and integrity in a rigid business life."

"The residence of the late Chauncey B. Blair, No. 1611 Michigan Avenue, was crowded with those who had come to attend the funeral yesterday afternoon. So many of the friends of the deceased banker were there that the upper part of the house was opened to the throng, while a line of men reaching from the curb to the door stood with uncovered heads, listening to the opening chant, 'Rest ye Weary Ones,' given by the choir of Trinity Chapel. In the parlor where the coffin lay were seated men whose clothing showed they were ordinary workmen. They had evidently been among the many to whom Mr. Blair had shown kindness in life. Their sorrow was touching. No demonstration was made beyond the fact that they wept, an evidence of feeling men rarely show.

"The Right Reverend Bishop Cheney of the Reformed Episcopal Church conducted the services. After the first chant he read the chapter of St. Paul's Epistle to the Corinthians that is embodied in the burial service of nearly all churches. Then the choir sang, 'Jesus, Lover of My Soul.' Bishop Cheney offered prayer, and in the absence of an address touched upon the merits of the deceased, asking that others would 'Go and do likewise.' 'Abide with Me' was sung by a quartet from Trinity Church; after the reading of a psalm by the Bishop, Cardinal Newman's hymn, 'Lead Kindly Light,' was sung." (*Chicago Tribune*, February 2, 1891.)

CHAUNCEY BUCKLEY BLAIR married in Michigan City, Ind., June 11, 1844, Caroline Olivia De Groff, daughter of Amos and Harriet (Sleight) De Groff, who was born in Poughkeepsie, N. Y., August 7, 1822, died in Chicago, December 5, 1867; he died in Chicago, January 30, 1891.

They had children:

1. CHAUNCEY JUSTIS,<sup>6</sup> born in Michigan City, April 6, 1845.
2. HARRIET OLIVIA, born in Michigan City, January 30, 1847.
3. GEORGE GRIFFIN, born in Michigan City, March 15, 1849; died June 9, 1870.
4. WILLIAM STIMSON, born in Michigan City, December 20, 1850; died March 5, 1874.
5. HENRY AUGUSTUS, born in Michigan City, July 6, 1852.
6. WATSON FRANKLIN, born in Michigan City, January 29, 1854.

"LYMAN<sup>6</sup> BLAIR was born at Cortland, N. Y., Nov. 9, 1815. Twenty-one years ago he came to Chicago from Michigan City, Ind. At Michigan City he was in the grain and warehouse business and amassed a considerable fortune. He removed to Chicago and went into the flour and grocery business at first. It was war times and people with money doubled it fast. . . . Six years ago he dropped business and went abroad. For two years he travelled and rested, and even when he returned he took a long rest. . . . The deceased, besides being a large stockholder in the Merchants' National Bank, was largely interested in the North Chicago Street Railway, the South Chicago Street Railway, the Chamber of Commerce, the Traders' Insurance Co., the Chicago Gas Co., and a dozen other local corporations.—(*Chicago Times*, Sept. 26, 1883.)

"The death of Mr. Blair caused a general expression of sorrow on 'Change and in banking and business circles, where he was universally esteemed for sterling integrity and business capacity and his cheerful and agreeable manners."—(*Chicago Tribune*.)

"Mr. Blair was president of the Chamber of Commerce and a heavy stockholder in the Merchants' National Bank, of which his brother, Chauncey Blair, is president. . . . His estate is believed to be worth over a million dollars. He leaves a large family who hold high social rank."—(*New York World*.)

"At the Board of Trade the death of Mr. Blair caused a good deal of excitement. The effect of the news on 'Change was to cause a lively break in the provision markets. Grain was not affected by the report, as the call on most of the cereals had passed.—(*New York Sun*.)

"With sorrowful hearts and tender hands, the friends of the late Lyman Blair laid away his last remains yesterday afternoon. Bishop Cheney read a lesson from the twentieth chapter of I. Corinthians, and then in substance spoke as follows, in the most impressive manner: 'There are some men who die as the acorn falls from the oak at night, and are soon forgotten by even their own household. There are others who

die as the oak itself—with its broad and friendly branches as a protection, and to which other lives cling for health. Such a life was this one of whose memory we now speak. I come not here to pronounce eulogies improper, but rather do I come to bear consolation to this stricken family. Cromwell said: 'Paint me as I am, leaving out no wrinkle or scar.' Just what this man's life has been we all know. This large gathering of friends testifies to the memory of the one taken away. In the man whom we now honor was the peculiar characteristic that but few of us possess. He had great executive power, and knew well how to exercise that power for great good to his fellow-men. It cannot be said of him that widows and orphans ever mourned by any dishonorable action on his part. He had a tender heart, a gentle character, and all the other attributes that make his memory so dear.

"In all the vicissitudes of life he has tempered the sorrows and made his home a happy one. He brought gladness and cheerfulness wherever he went. God does not always lead in the light; oftentimes he leads us in the darkness and we are constrained to ask assistance, never forgetting the invitation, 'Grasp my hand.'"—(*Chicago Inter-Ocean.*)

"The Tolleston Club, yesterday, passed the following resolutions: 'Resolved, that by the death of Mr. Blair, the club has lost from its membership a most estimable gentleman, and one whose kindly spirit and simple courtesy had especially endeared him to his associates. Combining in a rare degree the quiet dignity of age with the cheerfulness and zest of youth, he attracted not only the respectful deference but the warm affection of his friends. . . .'"

"The Chamber of Commerce passed resolutions in view of the recent death of its late president, Lyman Blair. He is pronounced 'one who at all times was sincere in his profession, loyal to his friends and carefully considerate of the rights and feelings of all, and in whom were happily united those qualities of head and heart which gave to him in a large degree the ardor of youth with the dignity of age.'"—(*Chicago Evening Journal.*)

LYMAN BLAIR,<sup>5</sup> son of Samuel<sup>4</sup> (*Rufus,<sup>3</sup> Robert,<sup>2</sup> Robert<sup>1</sup>*) and Hannah (Frery) Blair, was born in Port Watson, Cortland county, N. Y., November 9, 1815. He went to Michigan City, Ind., May, 1836; established himself in Chicago, September, 1863, where he died suddenly September 25, 1883, aged 68 years.

LYMAN<sup>5</sup> BLAIR married, March 25, 1851, Mary Francis De Groff, daughter of Amos T. and Harriet (Sleight) De Groff, who was born in Poughkeepsie, N. Y., June 19, 1827.

They had children :

1. EMMA JOSEPHINE,<sup>6</sup> born in Michigan City, May 27, 1852.
2. CAROLINE FRANCES, born in Michigan City, January 31, 1854; died December 26, 1873.
3. MARY HANNAH, born in Michigan City, March 4, 1856.
4. ANNA ELIZA, born in Michigan City, April 19, 1858; died in New York City, N. Y., August 28, 1880.
5. LYMAN, born in Chicago, April 28, 1864.

WILLIAM<sup>5</sup> BLAIR, son of Samuel<sup>4</sup> (*Rufus,<sup>3</sup> Robert,<sup>2</sup> Robert<sup>1</sup>*) and Hannah (Frery) Blair, was born in Homer, Cortland county, N. Y., May 2, 1818. The following selections from public prints give a picture of his life :

"William Blair died suddenly yesterday morning at his residence, 230 Michigan Avenue (Chicago), of pneumonia. He was one of the oldest residents and most successful business men of the city, and at one time head of the largest wholesale hardware house in Chicago. His death was unexpected, although he had been ill some time, and came as a sad surprise to his friends and former business associates. The funeral will take place at the residence, to-morrow, at 2 P. M., and will be conducted by the Rev. Simon J. McPherson of the Second Presbyterian Church.

"Mr. Blair had nearly reached his eighty-first anniversary. He could look back to a uniformly successful business career of more than forty-five years in Chicago, when he retired in 1887, contented with his share of the world's goods and seeking to pass the remainder of his life in quiet enjoyment. At the time of his retirement, the firm of William Blair & Co. was said to be the oldest business house in the city.

"Few men have been more closely identified with the growth and prosperity of Chicago than Mr. Blair. He started in business at Dearborn and South Water streets in August, 1842, with a modest stock of hardware which represented the first store of the kind in the city. His business career began, however, at Cortland, N. Y., in 1832, when he was but fourteen years old. Four years later, his employer, Oren North, decided to open a branch store at Joliet, Ill., and he was sent there to manage the business. The venture was successful until the collapse of the land boom in 1837 and with it a financial crash that disturbed the whole country. Mr. Blair was so well prepared to meet it, however, that he was able to purchase the stock of his employer and continued the business profitably for five more years. Then he transferred his business to Chicago and soon afterward was joined by his brother, Chauncey B. Blair, then living in Michigan City, Ind.

"With an increased capital, the firm enlarged its wholesale department. The selling of iron was made a special feature and a large warehouse was opened at 95 Lake street. In 1846, Mr. Blair bought his brother's interest and took his brother-in-law, William E. Stimson, as a partner, the firm name changing to Blair & Stimson. Mr. Stimson had to retire on account of poor health in a short time and Mr. Blair managed the business alone until 1853, when C. B. Nelson was admitted to partnership. The business then became exclusively wholesale. It occupied a large building at 176 Lake Street, which Mr. Blair erected. O. W. Belden was admitted in 1856, and in 1865 a larger building was put up by the firm at 179-181 Randolph Street, to accommodate the growing business. This remained the headquarters of the firm until the big fire of 1871. Before the ruins had ceased smoking, the firm was installed at 30-32 South Canal street.

"Less than a year after the fire, Mr. Blair had re-built a five story structure at 172-174-176 Lake street and, shortly after, erected a larger and a finer building on the old site in Randolph street. At this time, the firm name of William Blair & Co. represented the most profitable hardware trade in the west. Mr. Blair was one of the first men in the trade to realize that



a change was to come to the west in the methods of selling the product of hardware and cutlery factories, by concentration in jobbing firms in the larger cities in the interior. Acting upon this, he made contracts with leading English firms, which resulted very profitably.

"When he retired, in 1886, his successors were Horton, Gilmore, McWilliams & Co., a firm composed largely of the remaining partners organized as a stock company. Among business men he was pre-eminently distinguished for exactness, carefulness and conscientiousness. He always endeavored to be just, and his character for probity, business honesty and thorough integrity was without a blemish. In his private life, he was known for his modest and retiring nature. . . . .

"The Blair residence on Michigan avenue is one of the oldest in the city. It was built by Mr. Blair in 1855 and has been the home of the family from that time. He was fond of travel and made several extensive tours in Europe. He was active in many financial and philanthropic enterprises while continuing to direct his business. For years he was trustee of the Lake Forest University. He was one of the managers of the Presbyterian Hospital, the Protestant Orphan Asylum, the Home for the Friendless, and a prominent supporter of the Chicago Historical Society. He was also a member of the Union League Club. He was connected with the Merchants' National Bank as a director from the date of its organization in 1865, and, when the Atlantic and Pacific Telegraph Company of New York was organized, he was a director. He served as a director of the Chicago Gas Light and Coke Company for several years after it was formed. Previous to 1855, he was an attendant at Trinity Episcopal Church, but in 1859 he joined the Second Presbyterian Church and became a valuable supporter of all its institutions."—[*From the Chicago Times-Herald*, May 11, 1899.]

"From his Scotch ancestors Mr. Blair had inherited a remarkably hardy constitution and ideas of business integrity which were shared by both of his brothers. It was the boast of the three men, after they had built up large business interests, that

no man ever had suffered through their prosperity. The names of the three brothers were always synonymous with conservative business management and the strictest honesty."—[*Chicago Tribune.*]

"Among business men Mr. Blair was known as very conservative and as a man of the most sterling character. . . . He was benevolent according to his means, and from the time he came to Chicago he was a subscriber to almost every deserving charity."—[*Chicago Evening Post.*]

"Mr. Blair was possessed of many sterling qualities. He was generous and public-spirited, and was ever ready to advance the city's interests."—[*Chicago Record.*]

"William Blair was buried yesterday at Graceland Cemetery. Funeral services were held in the afternoon at the family residence, 230 Michigan avenue. Rev. Simon J. McPherson, pastor of the Second Presbyterian Church, made an address: 'In these days of rushing city life, modern improvements, speculations and ostentation, the value of a modest and retiring life like that of Mr. Blair is conspicuous. By reason of his modesty many were not fully aware of the godliness and innate refinement of his life. . . . He has been the benefactor of many; an honor to this city; and his finished career, a joy to all of us, will remain as a great, sweet legacy.' Dr. McPherson spoke of Mr. Blair's many charities which invariably were unostentatious. Rev. James G. K. McClure, president of the Lake Forest University, offered a short prayer and then made a few remarks, paying a personal tribute to Mr. Blair. 'It was not many years ago,' he said, 'that I would have been reluctant to confess that I loved any man, but in my acquaintance with Mr. Blair I learned to love and venerate him deeply. In times of trial he answered my appeals in an unexpected and unostentatious manner that went straight to my heart.' The quartet of the Second Presbyterian Church sang 'Lead Kindly Light' and several other pieces. Among those who sent floral designs to testify their esteem were C. H. McCormick, Mrs. George H. Pullman, Mrs. C. B. Farwell, Mrs. Henry Eames and Mrs. Henry W. King. The pall bearers were Mr. Blair's nine

nephews, Chauncey J. Blair, Watson F. Blair, Henry A. Blair, John Neely, Chauncey Keep, Cyrus Adams, John F. Holland, E. G. Shumway and Page Ballard."—[*From the Chicago Tribune.*]

Notices more or less extended appeared in some twenty or thirty other newspapers in New York, Cincinnati, St. Louis, St. Paul and other cities.

WILLIAM<sup>5</sup> BLAIR married in Lyme, Huron county, Ohio, June 21, 1854, Sarah Maria Seymour, daughter of John and Sarah Atherton (Thacher) Seymour, who was born in Ridgefield, Ohio, July 3, 1832. He died in Chicago, May 10, 1899.

They had children :

1. WILLIAM<sup>6</sup> SEYMOUR, born in Chicago, May 8, 1856; died December 19, 1861.
2. EDWARD TYLER, born in Chicago, November 23, 1857.

ANN ELIZA<sup>5</sup> BLAIR, daughter of Samuel<sup>4</sup> (*Rufus,<sup>3</sup> *Robert,<sup>2</sup> *Robert*<sup>1</sup>) and Hannah (Frery) Blair, was born in Cortland, N. Y., November 28, 1820. She married (1) in Cortland, October 15, 1846, William Enos Stimson, son of Orin Stimson, who was born in Cortland, March 4, 1824, died in Michigan City, December 23, 1850; she married (2) in Cortland, November 6, 1856, Eleazer W. Densmore, son of Rev. George Densmore, who was born in Paris, Onondaga county, N. Y., June 11, 1820, died in Chicago, November 5, 1888.**

William Enos and Ann Eliza<sup>5</sup> (Blair) Stimson had :

ORIN BLAIR<sup>6</sup> STIMSON, born October 25, 1847; died January 1, 1849.

Eleazer W. and Ann Eliza<sup>5</sup> (Blair, Stimson) Densmore had :

CAROLINE BLAIR<sup>6</sup> DENSMORE, born July 15, 1861; married in Chicago, December 27, 1894, John Francis Holland, a lawyer of Chicago, who came from Milton, Mass., was graduated at Harvard.

DE WITT CLINTON<sup>5</sup> BLAIR, son of Sylvester<sup>4</sup> (*Rufus,<sup>3</sup> *Robert,<sup>2</sup> *Robert*<sup>1</sup>) and Nancy (Lyman) Blair, was born in Cortland, March 15, 1822. He was a merchant; removed in**

1838 to Atlanta, Pennsylvania, thence, in 1841, to Columbus, Pennsylvania, where he amassed a fortune and gave up active pursuits several years before his decease.

DE WITT CLINTON<sup>5</sup> BLAIR married in Columbus, December 28, 1847, Evalina A. Walton, daughter of Daniel and Roxalina Walton, who was born in Columbus, April 6, 1828; he died February 27, 1893.

They had one child:

EDITH ALLIM,<sup>6</sup> born February 15, 1851; married E. S. Royce and removed to Westfield, New York.

GEORGE<sup>5</sup> BLAIR, son of Sylvester<sup>4</sup> (*Rufus,*<sup>3</sup> *Robert,*<sup>2</sup> *Robert*<sup>1</sup>) and Nancy (Lyman) Blair. We quote from the *Daily Flyer*, a newspaper issued in Corry, Pennsylvania, of March 14, 1899: "George Blair died at noon at his home on Pleasant Street. He was one of the best known business men of this section. His business career here and at Columbus extends over a period of more than forty years. His integrity and very pleasing personality through so long a period of active life made for him a very large circle of friends, who will grieve to learn of his death. He was the youngest of three brothers. After his father's death his mother married John Judson, when the family came west and settled at Columbus. Mr. Judson sometime served as one of the judges of Warren County.

"About 1850, with his oldest brother, De Witt Clinton Blair, he opened a general store in Columbus, and for more than thirty years did a large general business there. After they dissolved partnership George Blair engaged in the drug business for several years. Then he sold out and went to Tennessee in a land enterprise with Mr. Horn. About fifteen years ago he returned and soon removed with his family to Corry and engaged in the drug business on First Avenue; later, he bought the Parlor Drug Store of Shannon & Hill and, for a time, conducted the two stores, his son John becoming a partner; but the business finally concentrated at the Parlor Store. About four years ago, they sold out to S. H. Hill. He was a good citizen, who took an active interest in public affairs; an upright, honorable man and an interesting, companionable associate."

GEORGE<sup>5</sup> BLAIR married in Columbus, Pennsylvania, February 5, 1855, Emily Calista Farnham, a daughter of John and Irene (Francis) Farnham, who was born in Columbus, July 18, 1831; he died in Corry, March 14, 1899.

They had:

1. CARRIE R.,<sup>6</sup> who was born March 25, 1856; married (1) October 20, 1875, at Columbus, Merritt Pardee, who died January 31, 1886; she married (2) at Corry, June 6, 1889, Frank Williams; she had children: 1, Paul B.<sup>7</sup> Pardee, born October 4, 1876; 2, Virginia Pardee, born July 8, 1881; 3, Lucile Williams, born May 20, 1880; 4, Louise Williams, born January 17, 1892.
2. JOHN SYLVESTER, born January 8, 1858, who resides in Corry. He married, October 13, 1880, Mary Yates.

They had children:

1. *Molly G.*,<sup>7</sup> born September 24, 1881.
2. *George Yates*, born January 6, 1885.
3. *John Sylvester, junior*, born August 6, 1891.

HENRY B.<sup>5</sup> BLAIR, son of Sylvester<sup>4</sup> (*Rufus*,<sup>3</sup> *Robert*,<sup>2</sup> *Robert*<sup>1</sup>) and Nancy (Lyman) Blair, was born in Cortland, New York, July 20, 1834. He practised dentistry; removed to Athens, Pennsylvania, in 1838, thence to Columbus in 1841; in 1884 went to Corry. He married, March 20, 1869, Mrs. S. D. Burroughs, widow of Dr. F. R. Burroughs, and daughter of Van Julius and Matilda Merriam, who was born in Columbus, March 2, 1835.

They had:

NELLIE,<sup>6</sup> born November 24, 1872; died December 28, 1893.

ROBERT<sup>5</sup> BLAIR, son of Sherman<sup>4</sup> (*Robert*,<sup>3</sup> *Robert*,<sup>2</sup> *Robert*<sup>1</sup>) and Grace (Burke) Blair, was born in New Haven, Conn., October 16, 1813. He was soon associated with his father's concern, and the firm became Blair, Bodwell and Bowditch. He is described by one of his friends as "a man of singularly lovable character, with a fineness and delicacy of feeling seldom to be found; gentle, genial and courteous, a perfect gentleman of the old school. He carried his immaculate conception of

right and justice into his business, and his dealings were characterized by the strictest integrity and honor." He married, in New Haven, October 15, 1846, Mary E. Burwell, daughter of Benedict Burwell, born in Milford, Ct., July 15, 1823. He died in New Haven in 1892.

They had children :

1. MARY J.,<sup>6</sup> born July 22, 1847 ; died February 4, 1878.
2. EDDIE S., born September 29, 1850 ; died December 18, 1855.
3. CARRIE ROBERTS, born October 28, 1852 ; died April 30, 1856.
4. ROBERT E., born September 29, 1865 ; died October 25, 1872.

JOHN M.<sup>5</sup> BLAIR, son of Sherman<sup>4</sup> (*Robert,<sup>3</sup> Robert,<sup>2</sup> Robert<sup>1</sup>*) and Grace (Burke) Blair, was born in New Haven, March 4, 1825. He, too, was associated with his father's business, and has carried it on for a long period of years. He married in New York City, January 3, 1860, Delia, daughter of Robert K. Beach, a native of New Haven. He died childless.

GEORGE HOWARD<sup>5</sup> BLAIR, son of Sherman<sup>4</sup> (*Robert,<sup>3</sup> Robert,<sup>2</sup> Robert<sup>1</sup>*) and Grace (Burke) Blair, was born in New Haven, February 3, 1829. He married, June 6, 1860, Lucie J. Benedict, who died December 4, 1889 ; he died April 10, 1886.

They had :

KATHERINE HOWARD,<sup>6</sup> born in New Haven, September 26, 1864.

JAMES BODWELL<sup>5</sup> BLAIR, son of Sherman<sup>4</sup> (*Robert,<sup>3</sup> Robert,<sup>2</sup> Robert<sup>1</sup>*) and Grace (Burke) Blair, was born in New Haven, April 4, 1834. He enlisted in the 27th regiment, one of the three months' regiments raised in Connecticut during the Civil war ; was wounded at the battle of Fredericksburg, contracted malarial fever in the Virginia swamps, which so undermined his strength that he died after a long, lingering illness, September 5, 1882. He married, November 13, 1881, Mrs. Antoinette Sperry ; no children born to them.

HELEN ELLSWORTH<sup>5</sup> BLAIR, daughter of William<sup>4</sup> (*Asa,<sup>3</sup> Robert,<sup>2</sup> Robert<sup>1</sup>*) and Emily (Welles) Blair, was born in Westfield, Mass., 1817 ; married 1838 Major William Warren

Chapman, who was born in Springfield, Mass., 1814, died in Fort Munroe, October 1859; she died 1881, Columbia, S. C. Major Chapman was graduated at West Point, 1837.

They had children :

1. WILLIAM BLAIR<sup>6</sup> CHAPMAN, born in Buffalo, N. Y., 1840; married Jesse Rankin from Glasgow, Scotland, and had: 1, Jesse Blair<sup>7</sup> Chapman, born in Corpus Christi, Texas; 2, Helen Preston Chapman, born in Corpus Christi, Texas; 3, William Warren Chapman, born in Corpus Christi.
2. HELEN BLAIR CHAPMAN, born at Fort Brown, Texas, 1842; married, 1878, Ellery Metcalf Brayton, born Augusta, Georgia, 1844; they had children: 1, Marion Paine<sup>7</sup> Brayton, born 1879; 2, Helen Isabell Brayton, born 1881.

WELLES ELLSWORTH<sup>5</sup> BLAIR, son of William<sup>4</sup> (*Captain Asa*,<sup>3</sup> *Robert*<sup>2</sup>, *Robert*<sup>1</sup>) and Emily (Welles) Blair, was born in Westfield, Mass., July 1, 1819. He was a lawyer and farmer; after 1849 removed to Menasha, Wisconsin. He married in Bangor, Maine, October 30, 1849, Lucy Bartlett, daughter of Thomas and Lucy French (Cummings) Bartlett, who was born "near Oldtown, Maine," April 19, 1822, who resided with her son in Neenah, Wis.; he died in Menasha, August 6, 1886.

They had children :

1. EMMA HELEN,<sup>6</sup> born in Menasha, September 12, 1851, and is a librarian and editor in the State Historical Society at Madison, Wisconsin; graduate of Ripon College 1874; post graduate of University of Wisconsin 1894.
2. THOMAS BARTLETT, born in Menasha, November 3, 1853; unm.

JOHN RAYMOND<sup>5</sup> BLAIR, son of Rev. Asa<sup>4</sup> (*Captain Asa*,<sup>3</sup> *Robert*,<sup>2</sup> *Robert*<sup>1</sup>) and Myra (Raymond) Blair, was born in Kent, Conn., 1815. He was a farmer and teacher. He married in Kent, 1841-2, Lucinda Lee, of Kent; he died March 1879, aged 64 years.

They had children :

1. JOHN ASA,<sup>6</sup> born July 1843.
2. MYRA A., born March 5, 1846.

MARIETTA<sup>5</sup> BLAIR, daughter of Luther<sup>4</sup> (*David,<sup>3</sup> Robert,<sup>2</sup> Robert<sup>1</sup>*) and Emblem (Perkins) Blair, was born in Becket, May 16, 1800. While physically frail, she possessed more than ordinary mental ability. Of a beautiful Christian character, her father found in her more than a daughter—a wise counsellor at all times. For some years she taught in the district school and, later, in New York. She married, January 6, 1831, Jonathan Ames, who was born in Becket, May 24, 1805. She died January 1835.

They had children :

1. EMBLEM<sup>6</sup> AMES, born in Becket, August 5, 1832.
2. MARIETTA AMES, born in Becket, September 19, 1835.

MARTIN LUTHER<sup>5</sup> BLAIR, son of Luther<sup>4</sup> (*David,<sup>3</sup> Robert,<sup>2</sup> Robert<sup>1</sup>*) and Emblem (Perkins) Blair, was born February 11, 1804, in Becket, Mass. He married, July 29, 1826, Lucy Smith, who was born in Bradford, Mass., July 3, 1806. As her parents died when she was but three years old, she was taken by a family by the name of Alma ; she died September 23, 1851 ; he died October 9, 1884.

They had children :

1. LUTHER A.,<sup>6</sup> born December 10, 1826.
2. GEORGE W., born May 31, 1828.
3. LUCY ANN, born January 5, 1830.
4. WINTHROP E., born December 1, 1831.
5. SARAH A., born August 17, 1833, in Amherst, O.
6. FRANKLIN H., born March 16, 1835, at Rochester, Lorain Co., O.
7. ELLEN A., born July 13, 1836.
8. LUKE P., born March 22, 1838.
9. CHARLES A., born January 6, 1840, in Rochester, Ohio ; died in the army.
10. EMILY A., born May 6, 1843.
11. MARY A., born June 20, 1845.
12. JOHN L., born August 30, 1847.
13. MARGARET L., born August 7, 1850.

RALPH ERSKINE<sup>5</sup> BLAIR, son of Luther<sup>4</sup> (*David,<sup>3</sup> Robert,<sup>2</sup> Robert<sup>1</sup>*) and Emblem (Perkins) Blair, was born March 31, 1808. Soon after his marriage he removed to Newark, Ohio,



where he engaged in teaching. Failing health caused him to remove to Orwell, Ohio, where he died. He married in Worthington, Mass., May 14, 1837, Sophronia Smith, who was born in Peru, Mass., November 23, 1808, died August 7, 1883; he died November 1851.

They had children :

1. JOHN WILSON,<sup>6</sup> born in Parkman, Ohio, March 18, 1839.
2. MARY LOUISE, born in Newark, Ohio, September 30, 1842.

CALEB PERKINS<sup>6</sup> BLAIR, son of Luther<sup>4</sup> (*David*,<sup>3</sup> *Robert*,<sup>2</sup> *Robert*<sup>1</sup>) and Emblem (Perkins) Blair, was born in Becket, Mass., April 5, 1810. He married in Becket, April 23, 1832, Lucretia, daughter of Levi and Lucretia Knox, who was born in Blandford, August 25, 1814. They removed to Ohio.

They had children :

1. HARRIET NEWELL,<sup>6</sup> born February 11, 1833.
2. LUTHER LEVI, born in Chester, Mass., July 4, 1834.
3. GEORGE ADELBERT, born in Chester, January 11, 1840.
4. HENRY PERKINS, born in Rochester, Ohio, April 30, 1850.

HARMONY<sup>6</sup> BLAIR, daughter of Luther<sup>4</sup> (*David*,<sup>3</sup> *Robert*,<sup>2</sup> *Robert*<sup>1</sup>) and Emblem (Perkins) Blair, was born in Becket, June 25, 1814. She was associated with her sisters, Mrs. Mary B. Bell and Mrs. Amanda Clarke, in the crusade work in Ohio in 1873 and 1874, and was also closely identified with Mrs. Hannah B. Lewis and Mrs. Hannah Tracy Cutler in their noble work. She married in Rochester, Lorain County, Ohio, Samuel Wildman Rowland, who was born in South East, Putman County, N. Y., June 25, 1814.

They had children :

1. MARY A.<sup>6</sup> ROWLAND, born in Clarksfield, O., July 22, 1835.
2. WILLIAM H. ROWLAND, born in Rochester, O., April 8, 1837.
3. CAROLINE A. ROWLAND, born in Rochester, O., November 29, 1841.
4. EDMOND H. ROWLAND, born in Rochester, O., April 19, 1843.
5. EVELINE A. ROWLAND, born in Rochester, O., January 29, 1847.
6. THADDEUS H. ROWLAND, born in Rochester, O., October 20, 1853.

AMANDA<sup>5</sup> BLAIR, daughter of Luther<sup>4</sup> (*David, <sup>3</sup> *Robert, <sup>2</sup> *Robert*<sup>1</sup>) and Emblem (Perkins) Blair, was born in Becket, Mass., July 22, 1816. She spent the most of her married life in Mount Vernon, Ohio, where she was ever active in the church and the reforms of the day, giving her special attention to the temperance cause. She was one of the charter members of the Daughters of Temperance; later charter member of the Second Lodge of Independent Order of Good Templars in Ohio. Still later, she filled the office of State Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Ohio for two years. She was also one of the officers of the R. Q. G. L. While attending one of the annual meetings of the R. W. G. L. in Hamilton, Canada, in 1858, she was called to take the place of the presiding officer in his absence, a position not often given to women at that time. She was also deeply interested in the Grand Crusade work which sprung up in 1873, and has ever been a leading worker in the Women's Christian Temperance Union, an outcome of the Crusade work. She married in Rochester, Ohio, July 20, 1836, Thadeus L. Clark, who was born in Redding, Steuben County, N. Y., June 11, 1811.**

They had children :

1. THADEUS EUGENE<sup>6</sup> CLARK, born in Mount Vernon, Ohio, June 23, 1837.
2. A SON, born in Mount Vernon, September 27, 1839; died same day.
3. JEROME CLARK, born in Mount Vernon, December 21, 1840; died February 6, 1841.
4. ALONZO CLARK, born in Mount Vernon, December 27, 1841; died June 27, 1842.
5. JOHN CLARK, born in Mount Vernon, May 19, 1844.

MARY PERKINS<sup>5</sup> BLAIR, daughter of Luther<sup>4</sup> (*David, <sup>3</sup> *Robert, <sup>2</sup> *Robert*<sup>1</sup>) and Emblem (Perkins) Blair, was born in Becket, August 3, 1818. She became an earnest worker in the early Crusade movement, 1873; for many years was a prominent laborer in the prohibition campaign in Kansas, as the organizer and president of the Women's Temperance Union in Topeka. For many years she was the matron and solicitor for**

the Kansas City Home for Friendless Women and Children, which was in Scarmouth, and did much towards aiding the sufferers during the grasshopper rage in Kansas. She resided quite a long while in Wellington after her second marriage, on a farm in the north-west part of the town which was known as the dépôt of the Underground Railway, by which fugitive slaves made their way to Canada. She wrote for a suffrage paper called "The Lily," which was issued forty years ago. Amongst her printed writings was a book called "Ten Months at the South, or My Uncle's Family." During the late years of her long, busy career, she devoted herself to painting, receiving pupils when she was well advanced in life. She ever took an ardent interest in tracing and recording her genealogical relations and left a valuable collection of family matters which her devoted daughter, Mrs. Jennie J. Goodwin, took infinite pains to complete. Mrs. Smith "was a woman of great mental capacity and wonderful ability, an artist of great merit as well as an authoress. Her constant aim in life was to gladden some poor heart either by a cheering word or by act of kindness."

MARY PERKINS<sup>b</sup> BLAIR married (1) in Rochester, Ohio, John Johnston Bell, who was born in Newbury, Vermont, June 19, 1808, a son of William Bell and grandson of Colonel Robert Johnston of Newbury. He died May, 1841; she married (2) at Oberlin, Ohio, July 1, 1847, Daniel, son of Joel and Nancy Smith, who was born in Sandisfield, Mass., February 27, 1799; she died December 9, 1894.

Children of Mary P. and John J. Bell:

1. GEORGE WASHINGTON<sup>b</sup> BELL, born in Ashland, Ohio, June 19, 1839.
2. JENNIE JOHNSTON BELL, born in Rochester, Ohio, Dec. 19, 1841.

Children of Mary P. Bell and Daniel Smith:

3. MARY M.<sup>b</sup> SMITH, born in Wellington, Ohio, October 5, 1849.
4. AMANDA SMITH, born in Wellington, March 4, 1854.

WILLIAM HENRY<sup>b</sup> BLAIR, son of Luther<sup>a</sup> (*David,<sup>b</sup> Robert,<sup>c</sup> Robert<sup>d</sup>*) and Emblem (Perkins) Blair, was born in Becket, September 26, 1820. He enlisted in the 3d Company of

Militia, and was mustered into service in Columbus, Ohio, November 1862. He joined his regiment at Nashville, Tennessee. He was taken prisoner at the battle of Stony River on the last of December that same year, and held there twenty-eight days. Thence he was sent to the Parole Camp at Camp Chase, four miles from Columbus, Ohio, where he remained until he was exchanged and sent to his regiment at Woodville, Alabama; from there he marched to the battle at Lookout Mountain; thence to Knoxville, Tennessee, to receive Burnside; from there they marched to Sellico Plains, on to the Blue Ridge and down to North Carolina. They were sent back to Columbus, where they recruited the troops and fought their way into Atlanta, Georgia. Thirty-five miles below that city he had a sunstroke, and was carried to the hospital, whence he was discharged in 1865.

He married in Rochester, Ohio, April 15, 1840, Lucina, daughter of Samuel and Zelpha (Smith) Mann, who was born in Penfield, New Jersey, October 15, 1824.

They had children born in Rochester, Ohio :

1. ADLAI<sup>d</sup>, born May 7, 1841.
2. UDORA, born January 25, 1844.
3. ARVILLA, born October 26, 1848; died February 27, 1864.
4. WILLIAM, born May 19, 1854.
5. ASHLEY, born May 27, 1860; died March 9, 1864.

HANNAH<sup>b</sup> BLAIR, daughter of Robert<sup>a</sup> (*Joseph,<sup>c</sup> Joseph,<sup>d</sup> Robert<sup>e</sup>*) and Betsey (Harrington) Blair, was born February 19, 1793. She married, October 31, 1832, Thomas Chamberlain, of Worcester, Mass. "General Thomas Chamberlain was, for many years, selectman; was the first president of the Common Council when Worcester became a city; was seventeen years Crier of the Courts of the County. He died in Worcester, September 5, 1855."

They had children :

1. DORA CHAMBERLAIN<sup>f</sup>, born February 10, 1834.
2. THOMAS CHAMBERLAIN, born June 4, 1835.
3. ROBERT HORACE CHAMBERLAIN, born June 16, 1839.

ROBERT HORACE<sup>5</sup> BLAIR, son of Horace<sup>4</sup> (*Robert,<sup>3</sup> Joseph,<sup>2</sup> Robert<sup>1</sup>*) and Rebecca (Wiseman) Blair, was born in Savannah, Ga., April 10, 1828. He was about four years old when his father removed to Macon, Ga. In the spring of 1833 his father travelled by stage to the town of Nilse, Mich., thence to Washington, Ill., where his father opened a store for the sale of general merchandise. After the death of his father, in 1838, Robert Horace, with his mother and little sister, who was but two years old, started for New England. He went to the homestead and lived there with his uncle, Charles Blair, who bequeathed the place to him. This he managed until 1863, when he migrated to Minnesota; thence to Saint Paul, from there to Keokuk, Iowa, where he engaged in the photographer's business. Indifferent health caused his removal to Delaware, where he tried to carry on a peach farm. As his family did not receive benefit from this change, he returned to Worcester, where he now resides.

Of all the living descendants, he remained nearest the homestead and thereby inherited many of the family papers, and has kindly allowed their use in the compilation of this work, while he has taken an active, unwearied interest in procuring all possible information towards a fuller record of his ancestors. Our thanks are due to him for his ever prompt response to all calls made on him and for the pains he has taken to verify all points.

ROBERT HORACE<sup>5</sup> BLAIR married, November 30, 1854, Lucy Mehitable Lyon, who was born in Needham, Mass., October 31, 1832, died January 31, 1885.

They had children :

1. CHARLES LYON,<sup>6</sup> born March 3, 1856.
2. GEORGE HENRY, born January 31, 1858; died November 22, 1875.
3. EMMA ELIZABETH, born April 16, 1861.
4. JOSHUA BROWN, born June 26, 1869; married June 15, 1899, Jennie Maud, daughter of Neil and Isabelle (McCull) Macquarrie, who was born 1872 in Port Hastings, Nova Scotia.

AUSTIN<sup>5</sup> BLAIR, son of George<sup>4</sup> (*Robert,<sup>3</sup> Joseph<sup>2</sup> Robert<sup>1</sup>*) and Rhoda (Blackman-Mann) Blair, was born in Caroline,

New York, February 8, 1818. He was graduated by Union College, Schenectady, New York. "His father felled the first tree, built the first log cabin and burned the first log heap in Tompkins County, where he settled in 1809 and lived for sixty years in the same spot until he died at the age of 84. He possessed a good early education, improved it by constant reading, and his naturally strong mental powers remained with him until his death. Conscientious, sagacious and upright, he had the fullest confidence of his neighbors; benevolent and religious, he was one of the first to advocate the abolition of slavery and thanked God he lived to see it accomplished.

Mr. Blair's mother, whose maiden name was Rhoda Blackman, was a worthy companion for so good a man. Her death was universally regretted. The two sleep together in the soil of the old homestead.

AUSTIN<sup>1</sup> BLAIR inherited the energy and force of character of his parents. He labored upon a hard and perhaps unfruitful soil in a rigorous climate. He received a thorough primary education and started the study of Latin at the age of sixteen; he was studious and, of necessity, economical. He prepared for college at Cazenovia Seminary and entered Hamilton College, but in his junior year, attracted by the great reputation of President Nott, he changed to Union College (Schenectady), from which he was graduated. While there, he joined in a revolt against secret societies. He was admitted to practice in the Court of Common Pleas of Tioga County, N. Y., in 1841, and in the same year, removed to Jackson, Michigan (then Jacksonburg). He was a Whig and advocated the claims of Henry Clay. He was elected a member of the lower house of the state legislature in 1845 and in 1847 was a member of the Judiciary Committee and rendered efficient service in the revision of the general statutes, also made an earnest report in favor of abolishing the color distinction in the elective franchise, the same ground that he ever since held. This displeased a large section of the Whig party and caused his defeat at the next election. In 1846 he found himself opposed by a strong element of his party on the issue then made, but in less than ten

years the growth of the anti-slavery sentiment overwhelmed that party. In the Whig National Convention of 1848, all resolutions of an anti-slavery character were tabled. Mr. Clay, the favorite of the northern wing, was defeated and General Zachary Taylor was nominated. This severed the last ligament that held Mr. Blair to his party. He joined the Free-Soil movement and was a member of the Buffalo Convention and of the Committee of that body which nominated Van Buren and Adams. In 1854, both the Whig and Free-Soil parties in Michigan were merged in the Republican party, which was formed "under the Oaks" at Jackson on the 6th of July. Most of Mr. Blair's old associates had advanced to his position. He was a member of the Committee on Platform, of which the late Senator Howard was chairman. Mr. Blair was elected Prosecuting Attorney for Jackson County in 1852, and in 1854 was chosen to the State Senate. He held the position of parliamentary leader of his party in the Senate. He was a member of the Republican National Convention that in 1860 nominated Mr. Lincoln for President, though as chairman of the delegation and as representing the sentiments of his party in Michigan, he strove earnestly for the nomination of Wm. H. Seward. He was nominated and elected Governor of Michigan in 1860 and re-elected in 1862. His term embraced the four years, commencing January 1st, 1861, almost the entire period of the war. He won the popular sobriquet of "the War Governor." His official acts are public history. His confidence in the success of the Union cause and his earnestness and zeal are indicated by his messages to the Legislature and in various orders issued from the office of the Adjutant General of the State. Some of the results of his labors were shown in the 90,000 men furnished by Michigan to the Union armies. Governor Blair's attention to politics always made serious inroads upon his private business. His political campaigns were expensive, and made by personal canvas, speaking night and day. His duties as Governor occupied his entire time, while his salary was really nominal. He retired from office fairly impoverished, very weary and, to a great extent, unfitted for legal work. In 1867 he was elected to Congress from the 3d Michigan District, was

re-elected in 1869 and 1871. He was earnest in support of the measures of his party during his congressional terms and a member of important committees. His growing dissatisfaction with the Grant administration culminated in an open rupture by his moving in the House an investigation of the Navy department in connection with the payment by Secretary Robeson of the Secor claim. In 1872 he came out openly against the administration and actively supported Horace Greely. Since the close of his congressional term, March 4th, 1873, he has devoted himself to his profession, taking but little part in politics. In all his dealings with his clients he was scrupulously honest and would undertake a case for a poor man as soon as he would for a rich one. He never pushed for his pay and many clients, it is said, have taken advantage of that fact not to pay him at all. Austin Blair was a man of uncompromising honesty. During the war he was frequently approached by agents of railroads who made tempting offers of reward, providing Michigan troops were sent over their respective roads, etc. He would not travel over such roads in his journeys to and from the front which were frequently made during the entire war.

As an orator and statesman, Governor Blair stood in the front rank. His eloquent expressions and convincing arguments electrified audiences throughout the Northern States. In the spring election of 1885, Mr. Blair was chosen Prosecuting Attorney for Jackson County for the second time, standing as a candidate after much persuasion. He was elected by a tremendous majority, carrying nearly every township in the county. He was elected Regent of the University in 1881. The religion of the Governor centered in the Golden Rule. When in health, he attended the Unitarian church and frequently delivered addresses from the pulpit in the absence of the minister. Governor Blair's age was seventy-six years, fifty-three of which were passed in Jackson.

He was married in Seneca County, N. Y., in February, 1849 to Sarah L. Ford, who survives him.

He leaves, beside the widow, four sons, George H., Charles A., Frederick J. and Austin, Jr., a sister, Mrs. Sarah (Blair) Lyman, widow of Daniel Lyman, who resides with her daugh-



ter (Mrs. T. J. Camp) on a farm just west of Jackson, and two brothers, William H. and Robert Blair, residing at Fremont and Omalia, Nebraska, respectively.

The funeral will be held from the late home at three o'clock. The services will be simple, in keeping with the ideas of the Governor, who deprecated pomp and display. The family received many telegrams of condolence from Governor Rich, Gen. Russell A. Alger, Ex. U. S. Senator T. W. Ferry and many others of prominence throughout the country. A meeting of the Citizens was called this morning by Mayor Brooks to take action on account of the death of Ex. Governor Blair. Gen. W. H. Withington suggested a public meeting be held, also that a Committee on Reception be designated.

*From the Jackson Daily Citizen.*

AUSTIN BLAIR<sup>5</sup> married (1) February 18, 1841, Persis Lyman, who died January 29, 1843; he married (2) May 25, 1846, Elizabeth Pratt, who died April 28, 1847; he married (3) February 16, 1849, the widow Sarah Louise (Horton) Ford, who died July 3, 1897; he died August 6, 1894.

By his first wife :

1. GERTRUDE,<sup>6</sup> born February 17, 1842; died September 12, 1842.

By his second wife :

2. JAMES HUNTER, born and died in 1847.

By his third wife :

3. GEORGE HENRY, born April 10, 1850.
4. NELLY, born October 10, 1851; died August 14, 1852.
5. CHARLES AUSTIN, born April 10, 1854.
6. FREDERICK J., born December 15, 1860.
7. AUSTIN TRUE, born January 27, 1864.



**THE SIXTH GENERATION IN AMERICA.**



## THE SIXTH GENERATION IN AMERICA.

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GEORGE ADELBERT<sup>6</sup> BLAIR, son of Caleb Perkins<sup>5</sup> (*Luther,<sup>4</sup> David,<sup>3</sup> Robert,<sup>2</sup> Robert<sup>1</sup>*) and Lucretia (Knox) Blair, was born in Becket, Mass., January 11, 1840. He was a lad of twelve years of age when the family removed to Ohio, and fifteen when they settled in Wisconsin, in 1855. In 1865, he went to Waterville, Wis., and, with his father and brother Luther Levi, engaged in the grist mill business with L. Z. Rogers and Asa Waitt, and this led to an investment in and management of a fine lumber yard. He was elected sheriff of La Sueur County in 1880 and served two years. In politics he was a republican and stood at the front in the councils of his party, serving on many important committees. Governor Nelson appointed him on the State Board of Equalization for this Judicial District, which position he held two years. On his retirement from the office of sheriff, he, with his son, entered the hardware business. "When but twenty-five years of age, he joined the Sakatah Lodge No. 32, A. F. and A. M., also the Waseca Lodge No. 41, K. of P., and Waterville Lodge No. 180, I. O. O. F. He was also a member of the State Veteran Masonic Lodge Encampment and the Rebecka Lodge. In all of these he took an active interest and served as Master of the Masonic Lodge, Chancellor Commander of the Knights of Pythias and Secretary of the Odd Fellows."

He married in Lowell, Mass., Miss Lydia Rounds, and died in Waterville.

They had children :

HERBERT E,<sup>7</sup>

Daughter, married J. E. Williams.

MYRA A.<sup>6</sup> BLAIR, daughter of John<sup>5</sup> Raymond (*Rev. Asa,<sup>4</sup> Capt. Asa,<sup>3</sup> Robert,<sup>2</sup> Robert<sup>1</sup>*) and Myra (Raymond) Blair, was born in Kent, Conn., March 5, 1847. She married in New York City, October 22, 1874, Rev. Emerson Jessup. They resided in New Haven, Conn.

They had children :

1. EDWARD EMERSON<sup>7</sup> JESSUP, born October 29, 1876.
2. ELEANOR RAYMOND JESSUP, born May 23, 1878.
3. ALEXANDER JESSUP, born October 22, 1880.
4. HAROLD BLAIR JESSUP, born February 18, 1882.
5. MYRA A. JESSUP, born October 2, 1884.

THADEUS EUGENE<sup>6</sup> CLARK, son of Thadeus L. Clark and Amanda<sup>4</sup> (Blair) Clark, was born in Mount Vernon, Ohio, June 23, 1837. He began his medical studies at the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, then went to Ohio to complete his course, and received his diploma from the Cleveland Homeopathic Medical College. He was practising medicine at Middletown, Ohio, when the Civil war began and he entered the naval service, becoming first assistant surgeon on the gunboat *Naiad*, of the Mississippi squadron. Later he was transferred to the gunboat *Estrella* of the Gulf squadron, and was honorably discharged at the close of the war, but with shattered health.

DR. THADEUS EUGENE<sup>6</sup> CLARKE married ———. He died at Mount Vernon, Ohio, March 17, 1898.

They had children :

- MARY,<sup>7</sup> married ——— Peterman.  
 JESSIE.  
 THAD.  
 FRANK.

EDWIN PHINEAS<sup>6</sup> CROSBY, son of Caroline<sup>5</sup> (*Samuel,<sup>4</sup> Rufus,<sup>3</sup> Robert,<sup>2</sup> Robert<sup>1</sup>*) Blair and Parker Crosby, was born in Cortland, N. Y., December 1, 1831. At Cedar Falls, Iowa, August 8, 1863, he enlisted in Company B, 31st Regiment of Iowa Infantry Volunteers of seven months' men, under Capt. Robert Speer. The regiment was sent in transports from Davenport down the river to Memphis and Arkansas, and later

joined the command of Gen. Grant in the expedition against Vicksburg. Before the surrender of Vicksburg, he, with his regiment, took part in the battle of Fort Hindman (or Arkansas Post) where 5,500 rebels were taken prisoners and sent to Camp Douglas, in Chicago. The battle was fought January 9 or 10, 1863. Although on the sick list, he was with his regiment at the capture of Vicksburg, July 4, 1863. He received his certificate of discharge on the 15th of July, 1863. He was never married, and died January 2, 1894.

LYMAN BLAIR<sup>s</sup> CROSBY, son of Caroline<sup>s</sup> Blair (*Samuel<sup>s</sup>, Rufus<sup>s</sup>, Robert<sup>s</sup>, Robert<sup>s</sup>*) and Parker Crosby, was born September 11, 1835. At the outbreak of the Civil War, he enlisted in the 87th Indiana Regiment and was in General Rosecrans' Army of the Cumberland. He was severely wounded at the battle of Chickamauga, which disabled him from further service. He had received a commission as captain.

MARY ELIZA<sup>s</sup> CROSBY, daughter of Caroline<sup>s</sup> Blair (*Samuel<sup>s</sup>, Rufus<sup>s</sup>, Robert<sup>s</sup>, Robert<sup>s</sup>*) and Parker Crosby, was born July 28, 1841. She married, in Chicago, May 11, 1871, John Chamberlain Neely, son of Alexander and Jane (Chamberlain) Neely, who was born in Belvidere, Ill., August 28, 1840.

"John Chamberlain Neely entered as private in Battery I, 1st Illinois Volunteers, Light Infantry, February 1, 1862; was promoted to Quarter-Master Sergeant; was commissioned Junior 2d Lieutenant, to date February 10, 1862; as Senior 2d Lieutenant, May 5, 1862; Senior 1st Lieutenant, June 16, 1863; as Captain, February 10, 1864. This Battery was organized at Camp Douglas, Illinois, and mustered into the United States service February 10, 1862; moved to Benton Barracks, Missouri, March 1, 1862; thence to Pittsburgh Landing, Tennessee, April 1; assigned to Sherman's 5th Division, army of the Tennessee, Battle of Shiloh, April 6 and 7, 1862. He was detached from the Battery and assigned to duty as Acting Ordnance officer of the 5th Division of the Army of the Tennessee, on the staff of General W. T. Sherman, from May 2 to December 24, 1862, and on the same staff to July, 1864.

He was in the advance on, and at the siege of Corinth, Mississippi, from April 26 to May 30, 1862. Marched to Memphis, Tennessee, June 1, when they organized and he was placed in charge of a general depot of ordnance supplies for the army and Department of Tennessee. This extensive repair shop and storehouse was the only supply and repair station between St. Louis and New Orleans.

He participated in Grant's central Mississippi campaign of November and December, 1862; in the operations at Young's Point, Louisiana, and at Milliken's Bend for the reduction of Vicksburg, and in the flank movement of General Grant to the rear of Vicksburg, Big Black River, May 17, 1863; at siege of, assaults and surrender of Vicksburg, from May 18 to July 4, 1863. During the siege he held headquarters on a steamboat on the Yazoo River, supplying from that point a greater part of the ammunition used by Grant's army. Ordered to Memphis July 28, and in charge of a depot at that point till July, 1864. Rejoined Battery I at Nashville. Assigned to duty as Inspector of Reserve Artillery, Army of the Tennessee, Military Division of the Mississippi from October 4, 1864, to February, 1865. In the battle of Nashville, December 15, 16, 1864. In command of a park of forty Batteries, Light Artillery. Rejoined Battery at Eastport, Miss. Attached to Hatch's 5th Division, Wilson's Cavalry Corps, Military Division of the Mississippi, till July, 1865. On duty at Eastport, and Iuka, Mississippi, till July. Mustered out at Chicago, July 26, 1865, and honorably discharged from service."

John Chamberlain Neeley and wife Mary Eliza<sup>c</sup> Crosby had children :

1. JOHN CROSBY<sup>7</sup> NEELY, born in Chicago, May 26, 1872.
2. CARRIE BLAIR NEELY, born in Chicago, January 24, 1876; a member of the Society of the Daughters of the Revolution.

CHAUNCEY JUSTUS<sup>c</sup> BLAIR, son of Chauncey<sup>s</sup> Buckley (*Samuel<sup>s</sup>, Rufus<sup>s</sup>, Robert<sup>s</sup>, Robert<sup>1</sup>*) and Caroline O. (De Groff) Blair, was born in Michigan City, April 6, 1845. After courses of study at the Normal Department of Wabash College, Racine College Scientific Department, he became



clerk in a bank. In 1866 went into partnership of the firm of Culbertson, Blair & Co., which was dissolved 1876. Became Vice-President of the Merchants National Bank of Chicago January 14, 1879, President March 2, 1891. With his sister, Mrs. Harriet (Blair) Borland, and his brother, Henry A. Blair, he donated to Trinity Church in Chicago a Parish House as a loving memorial of their deceased father.

Chauncey Justus<sup>6</sup> Blair married in Chicago, October 26, 1882, Mary Anne Italia Mitchell, who was born in Alton, Illinois, December 18, 1855, a daughter of William Hamilton and Mary Anne (Kelly-Small) Mitchell, who was of Scotch ancestry. The Mitchell family have been prominent for many years in banking and railroad management, in Chicago and in the State.

CHAUNCEY JUSTUS<sup>6</sup> and Mary A. I. (Mitchell) Blair had :

1. ITALIA MITCHELL,<sup>7</sup> born October 27, 1883.
2. CHAUNCEY BUCKLEY, born August 18, 1886.
3. MILDRED MITCHELL, born June 20, 1889.
4. WILLIAM MITCHELL, born March 13, 1893.

HARRIET OLIVIA<sup>6</sup> BLAIR, daughter of Chauncey Buckley<sup>6</sup> (*Samuel<sup>4</sup>, Rufus<sup>3</sup>, Robert<sup>2</sup>, Robert<sup>1</sup>*) and Caroline Olivia (De Groff) Blair, was born in Chicago, January 30, 1847. She married in Chicago, August 28, 1877, John Jay Borland, son of John and Katherine (Tupper) Borland, who was born in Evans, New York, October 31, 1837.

John Jay Borland was also a lineal descendant from one of the sterling Scotch families that had first sent its scion into Ulster County, thence to New Hampshire, there to join the multitude which moved along through northern New York into the thriving towns of the West—while by his mother's side of the house he was of the lineage of the Tupper of Barnstable County, Mass., one of the oldest families of the State, and of Governor Thomas Mayhew, who with his sons gave life-long service to governing the Island of Martha's Vineyard, theirs by right of purchase, and to humanizing and christianizing the Indians. He was, also, akin to the Green family, of Revolutionary fame.

He volunteered in the 27th Wisconsin Infantry, Company A. He was promoted from the ranks on the battle field for bravery and was commissioned 2d Lieutenant. November 21, 1865, he received the grade of 1st Lieutenant. His regiment was sent to Vicksburg, June 4, 1863, where they remained until after the capitulation. Thence, they marched to Helena, Arkansas. August 13 they were transferred to General Frederick Steele's command, Third Brigade, under Colonel Engleman, of the 43d Illinois Third Division, Brigadier General Frederick Salomon, Seventh Army Corps, and assisted in the capture of Little Rock. March 23, 1864, General Steele coöperated with General Banks in the celebrated Red River expedition. They held at bay the whole force under Kirby Smith, 20,000 strong, at Jenkins' Ferry, Arkansas, April 30, 1864. Here John Jay Borland was severely wounded, and left for thirty-six hours on the battle field under a heavy rainfall. For some time it was feared his wounds would prove fatal, but his fine constitution and indomitable will triumphed. While still an invalid, he was promoted to a captaincy, but before he was strong enough to take his command, the final surrender closed the war.

He returned to Chicago and gave his attention to the lumber trade, bought lands in Michigan; was a member and treasurer of the Ford River Company; for many years vice-president and treasurer of the Lumberman's Exchange, which, after his decease, adopted the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That, identified as was Mr. Borland for nearly a quarter of a century with the lumber trade of Chicago and the Northwest, his life was a bright example of business integrity and uprightness, which could not fail to impress itself and exert an influence for good upon all his business associates; elevating the standard of morality governing commercial transactions, leading all who were brought into contact with him to form a higher estimate of the obligations resting upon business men in their intercourse with each other and no less in their social relations.

We point with pride and satisfaction to the life of our late associate as an example of patriotism, in his devotion to his country through a term of service spent in her defence and of uprightness in his dealings with his fellow men, worthy of the deepest study and emulation of all men, especially of those younger in commercial life, who could adopt

no more worthy standard as the aim of their business career than is afforded by the life and example of John J. Borland as an honest, courageous, self-reliant and judicious man."

JOHN JAY BORLAND married (2) Harriet Olivia Blair, and had children :

1. CHAUNCEY BLAIR<sup>7</sup> BORLAND, born in Chicago, November 26, 1878.
2. BRUCE BORLAND, born in Evanston, July 31, 1880.

HENRY AUGUSTUS<sup>6</sup> BLAIR, son of Chauncey Buckley<sup>5</sup> (*Samuel*,<sup>4</sup> *Rufus*,<sup>3</sup> *Robert*,<sup>2</sup> *Robert*<sup>1</sup>) and Caroline Olivia (De Groff) Blair, was born in Michigan City, Ind., July 6, 1852; was employed in the Merchants National Bank, in Chicago, from 1871 to 1881. He married in Chicago, February 19, 1878, Grace Elizabeth, daughter of John Irving and Margaret (Wilkins) Pearce, who was born in Chicago, November 28, 1852. On account of his health, he went to Wyoming in 1881, where he purchased a cattle ranche, and remained there until 1891, when he returned to the bank and became its vice-president.

They had children :

1. NATALIE,<sup>7</sup> born in Chicago, July 28, 1883.
2. ANITA CAROLYN, born in Chicago, April 5, 1891.

WATSON FRANKLIN<sup>6</sup> BLAIR, son of Chauncey Buckley<sup>5</sup> (*Samuel*,<sup>4</sup> *Rufus*,<sup>3</sup> *Robert*,<sup>2</sup> *Robert*<sup>1</sup>) and Caroline Olivia (De Groff) Blair, was born in Michigan City, January 29, 1854. He married in Chicago, November 15, 1883, Alice Rose Keep, daughter of William and Francis S. (Rhodes) Keep, who was born in Lockport, N. Y., October 1, 1859. They have spent much time in Europe. He is one of the directors of the Merchants' National Bank.

The Keep line runs back to Chauncey Keep of Monson, Mass., 1784, who married Prudence Wolcott, of Windsor, Conn., and thus makes a maternal descent from Governor Roger Wolcott, of Windsor.

Watson F. and Alice R. (Keep) Blair had children, born in Chicago :

1. BEATRICE,<sup>7</sup> born September 9, 1884; died February 22, 1888.
2. ALICE ROSE, born in Kenwood, July 11, 1886; died February 29, 1888.
3. WATSON KEEP, born June 6, 1889.
4. WOLCOTT, born in Newport, R. I., October 6, 1893.

EMMA JOSEPHINE<sup>6</sup> BLAIR, daughter of Lyman<sup>5</sup> (*Samuel,<sup>4</sup> Rufus,<sup>3</sup> Robert,<sup>2</sup> Robert<sup>1</sup>*) and Mary (De Groff) Blair, was born in Michigan City, May 27, 1852. She married in Chicago, September 26, 1878, Cyrus Hall Adams, a son of Hugh and Amanda (McCormick) Adams,\* who was born in Rockbridge County, Virginia, February 21, 1849.

They had :

CYRUS HALL<sup>7</sup> ADAMS, junior, born in Chicago, July 30, 1881.

MARY HANNAH<sup>6</sup> BLAIR, daughter of Lyman<sup>5</sup> (*Samuel,<sup>4</sup> Rufus,<sup>3</sup> Robert,<sup>2</sup> Robert<sup>1</sup>*) and Mary F. (De Groff) Blair, was born in Michigan City, March 4, 1856. She married in Chicago, January 19, 1888, Chauncey Keep, a son of Henry and Phebe (McClure) Keep, who was born in Whitewater, Walworth County, Wis.

Henry Keep, his father, was born in Homer, N. Y., in 1820, and "was a lineal descendant of Roger Wolcott, one of the colonial Governors of Connecticut. He attended the local district school and Cortland Academy, took the sophomore year at Hamilton College, then entered Union College and was graduated in 1839. He studied law in a private office in James-town, was admitted to the bar and practised for a short time in Fredonia. In 1845, Mr. Keep moved to Whitewater, Wis., and embarked in a general mercantile business with Mr. Philander Peck, as Peck and Keep. In 1846, he was joined by his brother, Albert Keep, who is now the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Northwestern Railway Company. In 1851, the firm removed to Chicago and engaged in the wholesale dry goods business under the firm name of Peck, Keep & Co., which they sold in 1857 and from that time Mr. Keep and his brother

\* A daughter of Robert McCormick of Rockbridge County, Virginia. (McCormick Genealogy, page 132.)

formed a real estate firm . . . Henry Keep married in 1845 Miss Phebe McClure, who died last November, only a year after the aged couple had celebrated their golden wedding. He died May 5, 1897.—[*Chicago Tribune*. "His father, Chauncey Keep, was prominent as a member of the New York state legislature for a number of years, and was a well-to-do land owner.—[*Chicago Evening Post*, May 4, 1897.]

Chauncey and Mary H. (Blair) Keep had children :

1. MARGARET<sup>7</sup> KEEP, born October 28, 1888.
2. HENRY BLAIR KEEP, born September 25, 1891.
3. KATHARINE FRANCES KEEP, born July 19, 1894.

LYMAN<sup>6</sup> BLAIR, son of Lyman<sup>5</sup> (*Samuel*,<sup>4</sup> *Rufus*,<sup>3</sup> *Robert*,<sup>2</sup> *Robert*<sup>1</sup>) and Mary (De Groff) Blair, was born in Chicago, April 28, 1864. After spending four years in the bank of which his uncle Chauncey Buckley<sup>5</sup> Blair was president, he took a clerkship in the firm of Watson, Little & Co., in Chicago, where he remained until March, 1889, when he started an independent business in the firm name of Lyman Blair & Co., which continued until May, 1891, when he went to Greenville, Me., and became vice president and treasurer of a manufacturing concern.

LYMAN<sup>6</sup> BLAIR married in Chicago, July 19, 1886, Cornelia Seymour Macfarlane, a daughter of Victor Wells and Zannina Seymour (Nelson) Macfarlane, who was born in Peekskill, N. Y., April 13, 1866. Their earliest known ancestor, Duncan Macfarlane, was born in Paisley, Scotland, and married Mary Anne Whyte, who was born in Crieff, Scotland. They migrated to America and settled in New York state, their son, Victor Welles Macfarlane, being born in Yonkers-on-the-Hudson, while his wife Zannina Seymour Nelson was born in Peekskill, N. Y.

EDWARD TYLER<sup>6</sup> BLAIR, son of William<sup>5</sup> (*Samuel*,<sup>4</sup> *Rufus*,<sup>3</sup> *Robert*,<sup>2</sup> *Robert*<sup>1</sup>) and Sarah M. (Seymour) Blair, was born in Chicago, November 23, 1857. Was graduated from Yale College, 1879, and was, soon after, associated with his father in the wholesale hardware firm of William Blair and Company in Chicago until 1888, when the father retired from active busi-

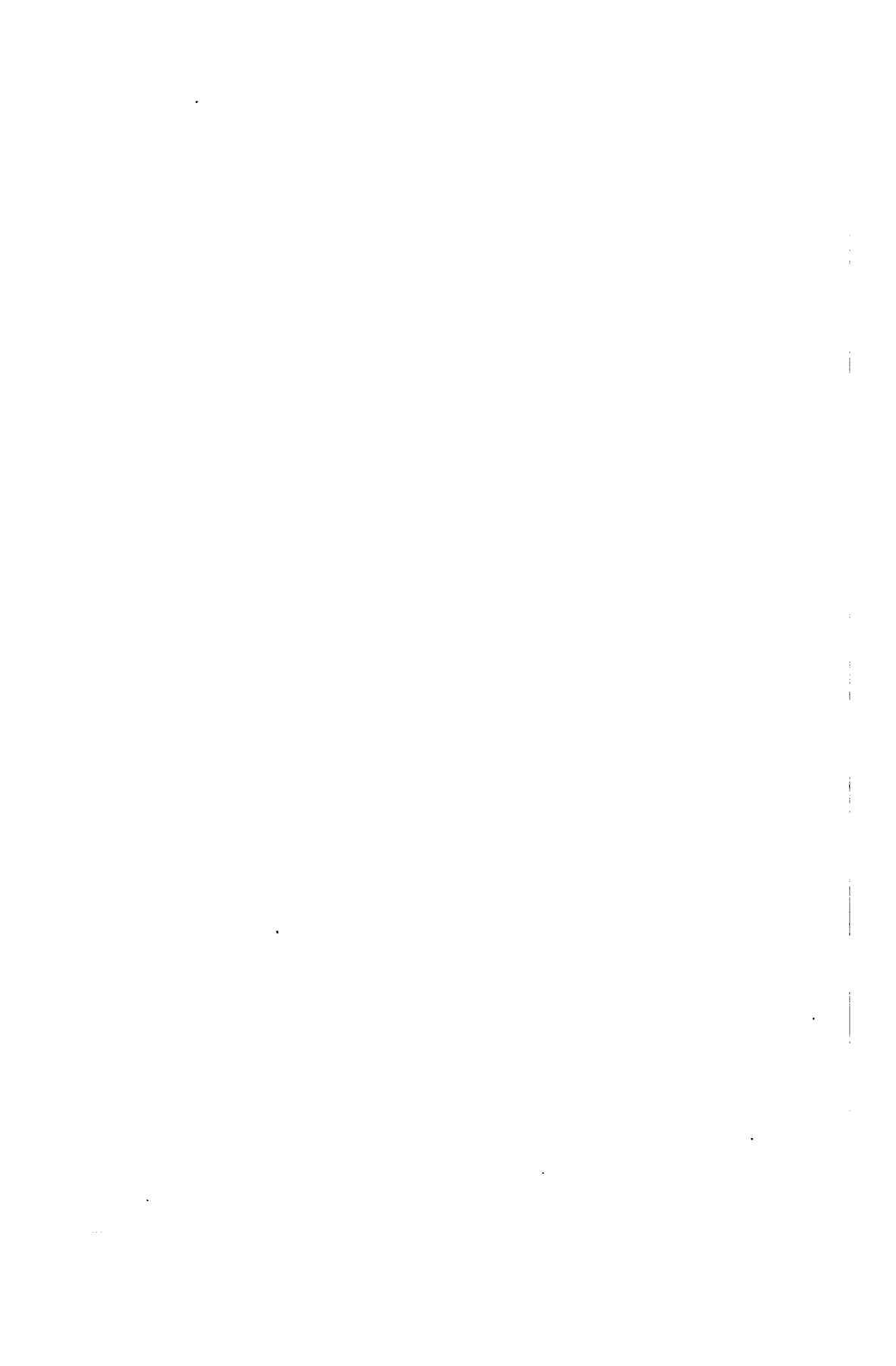
ness. Since that time, the son has spent much of his leisure in Europe, residing in Pau, France, in the winters of 1889 and 1891, with his family. There he became interested in the study of the life and times of King Henry IV., and this resulted in his writing a history entitled "Henry of Navarre and the Religious Wars of France," which was published by Lippincott, in 1898. Later he wrote a short "History of the Chicago Club" by request of the committee.

EDWARD TYLER<sup>e</sup> BLAIR married, May 29, 1882, Anna Reubenia McCormick, a daughter of William Sanderson and Mary Ann (Grigsby) McCormick, who was born in Hickory Hill, Virginia, May 22, 1860. The McCormicks were connected with stirring events in Ulster County, Ireland. "One of the signers of the humble address of the Governor, officers, clergy and other gentlemen in the city and garrison of Londonderry" to William and Mary on July 29, 1689, shortly after the siege, was James McCormick, the progenitor of the American family. "Among the children in the direct line of descent was Thomas, who came and settled in Pennsylvania in 1735. One of his six children was a son Robert, born in 1738, in Lancaster County; he married Martha Sanderson and removed to Virginia about the year 1779. His son Robert, born June 8, 1780, on Walnut Grove Farm, Rockbridge County, Virginia, had marked talents. There appears strong evidence that he had invented a machine reaper as early as 1809, another in 1816, and in 1825. In 1808, he married Mary Ann Hall, a daughter of Patrick Hall. Their oldest son, Cyrus Hall McCormick, went to Chicago and started the earliest reaper factory of that part of the country in 1846, associating with him his brothers William and Leander. Cyrus Hall McCormick founded and endowed the McCormick Presbyterian Theological Seminary in Chicago and after his decease the trustees named it as his memorial. William Sanderson McCormick, his younger brother, who was born in Rockbridge County, Virginia, November 2, 1815, married in June, 1846, Mary Ann Grigsby, a daughter of Captain Reuben Grigsby, one of the prominent men of Virginia, who resided on his handsome estate called Hickory Hill which lay between Lexington and the Natural Bridge. In 1850, William

assumed the management of the reaper concerns and much of its great and continued success was owing to his skill, energy and executive ability." (McCormick Genealogy.)

Edward Tyler<sup>6</sup> and Anna Reubenia (McCormick) Blair had children :

1. EDITH,<sup>7</sup> born May 5, 1883.
2. WILLIAM McCORMICK, born May 2, 1884.
3. LUCY McCORMICK, born February 14, 1886.
4. EDWARD SEYMOUR, born May 1, 1889.





CAPT. WILLIAM BLAIR, OF BOSTON, MASS.



## CAPTAIN WILLIAM BLAIR.

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Early in the year 1700, Capt. William Blair was living in the northerly part of the city of Boston, Mass. December 14, 1706, William Blair, mariner, bought of John Jepson, house-carpenter, for one hundred pounds, his messuage "lying and scituate near Mill Bridge Street, so called." May 25, 1711, he bought, or hired, in company with Robert Calef, John Barton and the widow Margery Simpkins "all that wharf and ground on the easterly side of Anne street, near the draw bridge, with all and singular the houses, tenements, warehouses, edifices and buildings" for 99 years. August 18, 1713, William Blair, "for divers good causes and conditions him thereunto moving, especially for the natural affection which he hath and beareth to his son William Blair, an infant, and for setting the messuage in and by the limits herein expressed," etc., "which shall stand for the use of the said William Blair, his son," etc. In 1717 there was an indenture between William Blair and Daniel Goffe, of Boston, when he bought the messuage on Anne street "now in occupation of Edward Masters, shopkeeper, and George Pemberton, surgeon." In 1726, he paid eleven hundred pounds to Mrs. Abiel and Henry Brightman for "all our messuage, or tenement, in which we now live, with the slaughter house adjoining and other edifices at the southerly end of Boston, on the street leading to Roxbury, bounded on one side by Bishop's lane by Dr. Cutler's house and land on another." In 1727, "Samuel Storke, of London, sold to William Blair ground, warehouses, wharf premises near the great dock called Bendall's Dock, with full liberty to build a crane over John Woodmansey's wharf; William Blair to pay yearly for rent one pepper corn on the Feast of St. John the Baptist."

In 1728, he bought of John Barton and Edward Gray, rope makers, their rope walk, commonly called Harrison's rope walk, and the Bark, Beach and the Flatts abutting, together with one

other piece of land "commonly called the Hole." In 1732, Jaheel Brenton, as executor of the will of Jaheel Brenton, of Newport, sold William Blair his dwelling house in Boston, standing on Marlborough Street, butted by Rawson's Lane and Governor's Alley, which was then occupied in common by William Blair and James Townsend. In 1733 he bought an estate on Common Street. In 1734 another on Union Street. In 1728, Capt. William Blair "had the liberty of a toome in the South (now the Granary) Burying ground."

He soon gave up his seafaring life and became a prosperous and wealthy merchant, owning a large shop on Marlborough Street. The inventory, taken after his death, covers seven folio pages and shows that he held five large estates, a shop, two carriages, negroes, and that he dealt in rare and costly goods, such as velvets, satins, jewels, laces, swords, and the like. In his will, which was drawn June 30, 1735, his relations are clearly shown and are of value in tracing the family. It commences with "I give and bequeath to my well beloved wife, Mary, the use and improvement of all of my estate" etc., "she paying to my cousin William Blair, son to John Blair of Londonderry, N. H., who was son to my uncle David Blair in Ireland, the sum of eighty pounds per annum. I give and bequeath to my four cousins, John Blair, James Blair, Elizabeth Blair and Rachel Blair fifty pounds apiece. To Mr. John Phillips son of my wife, my lot of land in Rutland which I bought of Jonathan Sewell. To William Blair Townsend, son of James Townsend who married one of my wife's daughters, my other lot of land in Rutland. To the minister or pastor that may be living of the church or congregation meeting in Brattle's Close in Boston, whereunto I belong, twenty pounds apiece. To the poor of the church forty pounds." The remainder of his great possessions was divided between the children of his wife, John Phillips, Mary, late wife of John Clark, Elizabeth, wife of Charles Chauncey and Abigail, wife of John Erving.

Captain William Blair married first, December 10, 1705, Ann Clark, and their son William was born July, 1712. The date of death is not found. He married second, October 29, 1718, Mrs. Mary, widow of Capt. John Phillips of Boston.

WILLIAM BLAIR, OF FRAMINGHAM AND  
SHREWSBURY, MASS.



## WILLIAM BLAIR, OF FRAMINGHAM AND SHREWSBURY, MASS.

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Among the immigrants of 1718, was William Blair, an elder brother of Robert Blair of Worcester. September 29, 1719, William Blair of Marlborough, Mass., sold for sixty pounds, rights in a new township lying between Westborough and Worcester, Mass. This was his first known deed; in it, as ever after, he styles himself as a trader. On March 16, 1723, he bought a fifty acre lot in Framingham, Mass., a dwelling house and barn. There he opened a store and became an active and successful trader, making a specialty of buying and selling lands. March 15, 1728, he bought a lot in Rutland, Mass. He had some commercial transactions with Capt. William Blair, the prosperous Boston merchant; owned an estate in Shrewsbury, Mass.; and was plainly on the high road to good fortune when his early death closed his career.

He married, probably in Aghadowey, Mary Gray, a sister of William Gray, of Worcester, Mass.; he died in Framingham and was buried there August 23, 1724; she married second, January 31, 1726-7, Matthew Barber of Western, now Warren, Mass. January 15, 1724, the administration of the estate of William Blair of Framingham was granted to his widow, Mrs. Mary Blair, she, with her brother, William Gray of Worcester, giving eight hundred pounds bonds, John and Robert Gray standing as sureties, the whole value of the estate being nine hundred and sixteen pounds. The account of Mary, sometime wife of William Blair, late deceased, of Framingham, now the wife of Matthew Barber of Shrewsbury, was rendered, Matthew Barber having purchased the estate in Shrewsbury and taken the children there.

*William Blair's estate, distributed April 19, 1738-9.*

To Mrs. Mary Blair, her thirds £205. 7. 4.

To oldest son, William, 34 acres on the northerly part of the homestead to the value of £309. 10.

To the second son, John, 59 acres, to the value of £88. 10.

To the third son, Robert, 44 acres, to the value of £12. 14.

William to pay to Robert, £35. 13. 8.

John to pay to Robert 20. 00. 11.

William to pay to Samuel £68. 9. 1.

William to pay to Elizabeth £68. 9. 1.

James Boyd was attorney for Elizabeth Blair.

June 11, 1739. William Blair and William Wilt of Marlborough gave £300. to settle William Blair's estate.

William and Mary (Gray) Blair had children :

1. WILLIAM.

2. JOHN, born about 1717-18.

3. ROBERT.

4. ELIZABETH, married Mr. Paterson, went to Londonderry, N. H.

5. MARY, probably died before her father.

6. SAMUEL, born in Framingham, November 20, 1724.

(Perhaps Elizabeth and Mary were the oldest born.)

WILLIAM BLAIR, son of William and Mary (Gray) Blair, was the eldest of the three sons. In 1733 he was appointed guardian to his brothers. He owned land in Shrewsbury, Worcester, Marlborough and Pelham. In his latter years he became of unsound mind and on May 26, 1758, Robert Barber of Worcester was made guardian. April, 1746, one-half of William Blair's estate was sold to pay his debts; in 1747 he petitioned for leave to lay out the balance in a farm, as William Blair's family lived in Pelham; there was a farm of eighty acres which William Blair's widow desired to purchase; April 8, 1756, John Savage and John Blair thought the farm could be bought for £600.

William Blair married Mary Alexander, a sister of John Alexander, of Pelham, Mass.

William' and Mary (Alexander) Blair had :

1. Daughter, born in Shrewsbury, March 10, 1743.

2. Son, born in Shrewsbury, June 19, 1745.



## 3. Daughter, born in Shrewsbury, February 22, 17(47?)

(Records of the town were torn in part.)

WILLIAM, a minor in June 14, 1763, when he chose David Huston, of Pelham, his guardian.

JOHN BLAIR, son of William and Mary (Gray) Blair, was born about 1717-18. March 29, 1748, he bought of William Gray, husbandman, of Pelham, Mass., thirty acres of land in Pelham, which town had been principally settled by men from the North of Ireland; Matthew Gray sent to Ireland for a minister to come among them, in 1741. This brought over the Rev. Mr. Abercrombie, who was their first ordained pastor. John Blair removed from Pelham to Peterborough, New Hampshire, where he died, March 9, 1780, aged 63 years. He married (1) Nancy Brown, of Groton, Mass.; he married (2) Elizabeth Freeman.

They had children :

1. MARY, born March 4, 1749; married Randall McAllister.
2. WILLIAM, born May 20, 1750; served in the Revolution; married December 2, 1787, Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas Little.
3. JOHN, removed to New York.
4. NANCY, married ——— Willard; lived in Westminster, Vt.
5. MARGARET, married ——— Mixer; lived in Brattleboro, Vt.
6. SAMUEL.
7. GEORGE.
8. ANNA.

ROBERT BLAIR, son of William and Mary (Gray) Blair, in 1724 chose his uncle, Mr. Robert Blair, of Worcester, as his guardian. Soon after this, he must have gone to Worcester and lived with his uncle, who taught him the weaver's trade. Several deeds are signed by him as Robert Blair, the 3d, weaver. June 28, 1748, Robert Blair, 3d, weaver, sold to Luke Brown land in Shrewsbury, Mass., which was part of the estate of his deceased father, William Blair of Framingham and Shrewsbury. About this time, Samuel Blair "now a soldier in a regiment under Sir William Shirley at Cape Breton, gave a power of attorney to his brother, Robert Blair, in the settlement of the estate of their deceased father, William Blair."

Received this 7th day of November, 1747, of Mr. Robert Barber, Guardian to Wm. Blair, a person non compos, fifty pound, seven shillings, old tenor, as I am attorney to my brother Samuel Blair, now at Cape Breton, which sum with what said Samuel himself received of said William as in full for said Samuel's part of our late father William Blair's estate, viz.: two-thirds parts thereof and ingage to defend s'd Barber and the estate of the said William from any further demands from said Samuel on *acompt* of said two-thirds of our said late father's estate as witness my hand and seal the day abovesaid.

In pr.        John Chandler,        }        ROBERT BLAIR.    (seal.)  
                   James Dorman.        }

Worcester, ss., November 7, 1747. Robert Blair, the above, acknowledged this instrument to be his free act and deed in his capacity aforesaid, *aforesaid*.

Before me,

John Chandler, Just. Peace.

Worcester, November 7, 1747. For the preventing all dispute and that justice may be done, I hereby acknowledge my brother William Blair formally paid me my full part and portion of our late father Wm. Blair's estate, vid, of two-thirds part thereof as witness my hand and seal ye day above said, I having formerly given a Discharge which is *in J Lard*.

Test        John Chandler,        }        ROBERT BLAIR.    (seal)  
                   James Dorman.        }

Worcester, ss., *Novmbr* 7, 1747. Robert Blair, the third, acknowledged the above-written to be his free act and deed.

Before me,

John Chandler, Just. Peace.

November 9, 1747.

Received and accordingly Entrd and Examined Pr.

J. Chandler, Regr.

ROBERT BLAIR 3d, will was as follows :

In the name of God, Amen, the Sixteenth of March, 1744, I Robert Blair of Billerica, in the County of Middlesex and province of y<sup>e</sup> Massachusetts bay in New England, yeoman, be'ng under very weak and Low Circumstances of body but of perfect mind and memory, Thanks be given unto God. Therefore calling unto Mind the Mortality of my body and knowing that it is appointed for all men once to die, Make and ordain this my last will and Testament, That is to say, Principally, and first of all, I give and recomend my Soul into the hands of God that gave it; and my Body I recommend to the Earth, to be Buried in decent Christian Burial, at the Discretion of my Executrix, Nothing Doubting but at y<sup>e</sup> general Resurrection I shall Receive the Same again by ye Almighty Power of God. And as touching Such Worldly Es-

tate wherewith it has pleased God to bless me in this life, I give and dispose of the Same in the following manner and form. Imprimis I give and bequeath to Margaret, my dearly beloved wife, all, and Singular my Household Goods, Bills, Bonds, Notes, debts, dues or Demands whatever, and all moveable effects, to her proper use, benefit and behoof, during her life, and to be disposed of at her decease According to her will and pleasure. And likewise I Constitute her (my wife as above) to be my Sole Executrix of this my last will and Testament. And I do hereby utterly disallow, revoke, and disanull all and every other former Testaments, wills, legacies, and Bequests, and this and no other to be my last will and testament, in witness thereof I have hereunto set my hand and Seal this day and year Above written :

His  
ROBERT X BLAIR.  
Mark.

Signed, Sealed, etc.  
William McDowell,  
Helender McDowell,  
Alexander McDowell.

Sworn, April 28, 1746.

Inventory taken in Billerica, March 4, 1745.  
Amount of personal property, £473 17s. 6d.

Mrs. Margaret Blair's will was dated at Billerica, May 16, 1749, entered June 12, 1749. In it she mentions her sister's daughter, Margaret Picque, gives her all the household furniture; nephew, Robert Miller, now living in Londonderry, N. H., gives him a gun and money if he live to attain the age of 21 years; in case he die before that, her estate to be divided between Captain James Gilmore, of Windham, N. H., Margaret Picque and George Bourne, of Billerica, and William King, who now lives with her.

Her inventory was taken June 16, 1745, amount £434 18s.

SAMUEL BLAIR, son of William and Mary (Gray) Blair, the youngest of the family, was born in Framingham, November 20, 1724. April 16, 1747 "Samuel Blair, formerly of Shrewsbury, now a soldier at Cape Breton, in a regiment commanded by Sir William Shirley, appoints his brother, Robert Blair of Worcester, weaver, his attorney to receive all sums of

money due to him in the hands of our brother William Blair. Sworn before William Solomon, Judge Advocate of Louisburg." (Worcester Co., Mass., Deeds, vol. 23, p. 175.) February 23, 1749, Samuel Blair of Brookfield, Mass., laborer, deeds to Robert Barber of Worcester, clothier, rights in his mother's portion of land in Shrewsbury, late widow of William Blair. (Ibid, vol. 28, p. 384.) No other record has been found.

THE BLAIRS OF NEW HAMPSHIRE.



## THE BLAIRS OF NEW HAMPSHIRE.

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In the "Records of the Town of Nutfield," volume 1, page 1, is written: "From the first planting of it, August 11, 1719, Mr. James MacGregore, minister, James Nickeles, Alexander MacGregore, Alexander Nickeles, James Blair, Alexander Walker and divers others, having arrived at Boston, August 4, 1718, from Ireland, presented a petition to the General Court of Massachusetts Bay, met at Boston in the month of October, 1718, for a tract of land for a township in some of the unimproved lands, and the Court having readily granted this, James McKeen, James Gregg, James Morrison, John Morrison, Allen Morrison, Thomas Steel and divers others, people of Ireland, came up from Casco Bay to Haverhill in order to settle at Nutfield about the beginning of April, 1719." They changed the name to Londonderry very soon after the settlement.

ABRAHAM BLAIR.—"In Aghadowey, Ulster Province, Ireland, the bleach green known as having been owned by two brothers, James and Abraham Blair, when the great migration to New England was proposed." (Letter from Miss Mary Semple.) Abraham had fought so bravely in the siege of 1688-9 that the king granted him freedom from taxation in all the king's provinces. It is almost certain that Abraham was of the company that arrived in Boston, August 4, 1718. Lincoln, in his History of Worcester, Mass., states that "Abraham Blair, ancestor of some of our present townsmen, distinguished himself at the siege of Londonderry, Ireland, 1689. . . . He, with William Caldwell and a few others, were made free of taxation throughout the British provinces." (Page 49.)

In this account, the error lies in calling him an ancestor of the Worcester Blairs, as he was an uncle only, of the first Robert Blair. His name was on the church record of Worces-

ter, but he evidently did not remain there long, as on June 2, 1722, "Jonathan Taylor, of Boxford, Mass, gave a quit claim to Abraham Blayer, last of Ireland, but now of Nutfield, N. H.," of all the rights of land which the said Jonathan Taylor had laid out to him in Nutfield, it being the northernmost half of said lot, bounded by Mr. McKeen's land, half of Archibald Stark's lot, which Stark bought of said Taylor, by Alexander Nickel's lot and by the common land.

July 19, 1723, there was laid out to Archibald Stark and Abraham Blair one acre of meadow in the upper part of Leverett's meadow, in Londonderry, by George Clark's line; also a piece of meadow by Robert Morrison's meadow, June 18, 1723. There was laid out to Abraham Blair an acre of meadow by Beaver Brook, bounded by land of James McGlackan and John Bars.

Although the historical student of Londonderry, Mr. Robert Mack, stated positively that there was nothing on the Town books to show Abraham Blair's long residence in the place, yet the above deeds from Rockingham County, New Hampshire, books and the following will, which was taken from Rockingham Probate, together with the fact that the farm which Archibald Stark, father of the renowned General John Stark, and Abraham Blair owned in common was known as "the exempt farm," prove conclusively that Abraham Blair not only lived but died there.

*The Will of Abraham Blair.*

In the Name of God. Amen, The first Day of May 1733 I Abraham Blair of Londonderry, within his Maj<sup>ty</sup>s Province of New Hamps<sup>r</sup> in New England, Husbandman, being very Sick and weak in body thanks Knowing unto God Therefore Calling unto mind the mortality of my body and knowing that it is appointed for all men once to Dye do make and ordain this my last will and Testament. That is to say principally and first of all I give and recomend my soul unto the hands of god that gave it and my body I Recommend to y<sup>e</sup> Earth to be Buried in decent Christian burial at y<sup>e</sup> Discretion of my Excr— nothing Doubting But at ye Gen<sup>l</sup> Resurrection I shall receive the Same again by y<sup>e</sup> mighty power of god and as touching Such worldly Estate wherewith it hath pleased god to Bless me in this Life I Give, Demize and Dispose of the Same in ye following manner and form :



Imprimis I Give and bequeath to my son-in-law Will.<sup>m</sup> Tompson after all Debts and funeral Charges is paid Sixteen pounds in Bills of Credit and to his wife my Daughter Hannah Tompson out of S<sup>d</sup> mony as much as will buy her a good Compleat Rideing Hood and triming for it and a lutestring Hood out of my Estate and my Chist also to be given to my Daughter Hannah. Item.

Item and I Give and bequeath to my Daughter Sarah Blair out of my Estate Fifteen Pounds in Bills of Credit and my large Bible and a Pot and pot hooks and Tramill.

Item and I give to my Daugher Lydia Blair in Bills of Credit twelve pounds out of my Estate. Item and I give to my Daughter Jenat Blair in Bills of Credit ten pounds out of my Estate. Item and I Give to my Daughter Mary Blair twenty Shill<sup>s</sup> in Bills of Credit out of my Estate. Item and I Give to my wife five Shill<sup>s</sup> if Requiered Beside what She has already got. Item and I Give to my two Grand Children in Ireland, that is to say my Son David Blair's two children ten pounds in bills of Credit out of my Estate (viz.) Hannah and Elizabeth Blair. Item and I Give to my Cusin Sam<sup>l</sup> Murdoth's two twins Thom<sup>s</sup> and Lydia twenty Shill<sup>s</sup> out of my Estate.

Item and I allow my Cloths to be Sould and y<sup>e</sup> prise to them be laid out for Clothing of my Grandsons David and Jeames Tompson—and I likewise Constitute make and ordain my Daughter Sarah Blair to be my Sole Executrix of this my last will and Testament and do hereby utterly Disallow, revoke, Disanull all and every other Testaments, wills, Legacies and Bequests and Exac<sup>rs</sup> by me by any ways before named willed and Bequeathed, Ratifying and Comfirming this and no other to be my last will and Testament. I witness whereof I have Hear unto Set my hand and Seal the Day and Year above Writen.

His  
ABRAHAM X BLAIR. (Seal.)  
Mark.

Signed, Sealed, Published, pronounced and Declared by me the Said Abraham Blair as his Last will and Testament in the Presence of us the Subscribers:

Patrick Taggart,  
Robert Moreson, June.  
John Mackmurphy.

A true copy, Attest: Andrew J. Brown, *Register*.

Abraham Blair had children:

1. DAVID, who remained in Ireland, and had daughters *Hannah*, and *Elizabeth*.

2. HANNAH, married in Londonderry, N. H., February 21, 1722, by Rev. James MacGregor, William Thomson, and had: (1) *David Thomson*, (2) *James Thomson*, (3) *Sarah Thomson*, (4) *Hannah Thomson*, (5) *Ann Thomson*. William Thomson's will was drawn September 1, 1745; in it he mentions, besides his own children, his grandson, John Kennedy.
3. SARAH BLAIR.
4. LYDIA BLAIR.
5. JENET BLAIR.
6. MARY BLAIR.

ALEXANDER BLAIR. The inventory of Alexander Blair was taken May 11, 1768, by James MacGregor and Daniel MacNeal and a return made of 1500 acres of land in New Hampshire granted to him as an officer in the King's service. The administration of his estate was given to his widow, Catherine Blair, at Derryfield, May 2, 1768. (Rockingham Co., N. H., Probate, vol. 19, fo. 146.)

The name of Alexander was kept through several generations of James Blair's family, and it seems probable there was a close relationship between these three men.

By the terms of Capt. William Blair's will we learn that John, James, Elizabeth and Rachel (Love) Blair, who arrived in Boston, August 17, 1718, just two months before the second marriage of Captain Blair, were children of his uncle David Blair of Ireland.

August 22, 1718, John and James Blair, Elizabeth and Rachel (Love, probable wife of Robert Love of Boston) were then tarrying in Boston. The ensuing spring, the brothers joined the colony in Nutfield, now Londonderry, N. H. In 1734, John Blair, his wife Jean giving her dower right, sold his rights in Canada Division of Londonderry, N. H., February 8, 1747-8, William Blair, arrived at the lawful age, released his father, John Blair, from his guardianship and his father delivered to him his legacy of £2000 which had been bequeathed by "my cozen Captain William Blair, of Boston." John Blair's will was drawn in Londonderry, N. H., April 13, 1753; probated October 30, 1754. In it he mentions his wife Jean, gave her his estate in Londonderry and in Litchfield, N. H.

To his son, William, land by the Meeting House in Londonderry where he now lives; to his son David his own dwelling after his mother's decease; to his daughters, Ann and Elizabeth, the farm in Litchfield after their mother's decease; to his grandson, William Blair, his fourth division of common rights in Londonderry, N. H. He appointed Robert Boyse and James Blair his executors. His will was presented at Court, October 30, 1754.

February 8, 1758, Doctor John Cummings with his wife Ann, Jean Blair and Elizabeth Blair, all of Londonderry, sell one hundred and twenty-five acres of land in Litchfield, N. H.

JOHN BLAIR and wife Jean had children in Londonderry :

1. WILLIAM, born September 26, 1726.
2. ANN, born January 15, 1727-8; married Dr. John Cummings.
3. ELIZABETH, born September 7, 1731.
4. Son, born March 15, 1734-5.
5. DAVID, born December 18, 1737.
6. MARGARET, born December, 1738.
7. ROBERT, born February 17, 1741; probably the Robert who joined the British army before 1775.

JAMES BLAIR, brother of John Blair, was of such fine physique and herculean proportions that the Indians revered him as a god, and dared not shoot at him when, in one of their raids on the little settlement, he disdained the shelter of the garrison house whither the other settlers had fled, and remained outside. June 5, 1732, with his wife Isabella, he sold twelve acres of meadow land. In 1731, he with his brother John was one of a committee to see if a call should be sent to the Presbytery of Ireland for a minister to be settled in Londonderry, N. H., which resulted in Robert Boys being sent to Ireland and returning with Rev. Thomas Thomson as their pastor.

In 1746, James Blair, gentleman, bought land of John and Jean Shields. In 1745, he was styled lieutenant. His will was drawn October 24, 1745; probated February 26, 1745, at Londonderry. In it he mentions his two daughters, Rebecca McGlackson, and Margaret Ord. His inventory was taken December 18, 1745.

James and Isabella had children :

1. JAMES.
2. DAVID, born in Londonderry, April 23, 1729.
3. ALEXANDER, born in Londonderry, February 21, 1731.
4. REBECCA.
5. MARGARET.

WILLIAM BLAIR, eldest son of John and Jean Blair, was born in Londonderry, N. H., September 26, 1726, and evidently was named for his father's cousin, Capt. William Blair, then of the merchant's service, in Boston. On attaining majority, he assumed command of the legacy of £2000 which Captain Blair had bequeathed him. In 1762, he bought of James Blair a lot of land adjoining his own homestead, by the first meeting house; eleven days after, April 19, 1762, he sold this to John Stark of Derryfield, and his wife Elizabeth signed the deed. June 3, 1763, he, then of Londonderry, sold sixty acres of land in the English Range, butted by Capt. James Blair's land, to Samuel Livermore, and also one hundred acres on Shield's upper pond. Later he bought a lot in Holderness, N. H., where he resided. "Although the Blairs were of the Church of Scotland, William Blair was a member of the Church of England and on his removal to Holderness, lots of land were reserved for the maintenance of the English Church and two Episcopal churches were built.

When the Revolutionary war broke out, William Blair, then an old man, was a devoted loyalist—and party feeling ran so strongly against him that he, with one or two of his elder sons, found it needful to flee for safety to the British Provinces, where he died; some of his descendants are still there."—(Miss Mary Blair of Boston.)

William Blair married (date unrecorded) Elizabeth, daughter of John and Jean (Rankin) Crombie, who was born in Londonderry, N. H., March 28, 1728.

They had children :

1. JOHN, married Jenet McClurg; removed to New Boston, N. H.
2. DAVID, married Ann Stanton.
3. SAMUEL LIVERMORE, married Ann Cox (or Sarah? Page 154).

4. WILLIAM.
5. ELIZABETH, married and lived in Canada.
6. LUCY, married and lived in Canada.
7. FRANCES.
8. JEAN, married Jacob Shepard of Holderness.

DAVID BLAIR (John), born December 18, 1737, made his will, February 16, 1759. In it he bequeaths to his brother William Blair and his children William, Jane, Frances; to his sister Ann Comings, and to his sister Elizabeth Blair. The will was probated Sept. 20, 1760.

ALEXANDER BLAIR, son of Captain James and Isabella Blair, was born in Londonderry, February 11, 1730-1. He married Catherine, who was his administratrix, May 2, 1768. May 11, 1768, his inventory was taken by James McGregor and Daniel McNeal; among other effects were fifteen hundred acres of land in New Hampshire which were granted to him as an officer in the King's service. January 30, 1777, James Moore of Londonderry was appointed guardian to

DAVID BLAIR,  
ROBERT BLAIR,  
ALEXANDER BLAIR,  
JAMES BLAIR,

all children of Alexander Blair, late deceased, of Londonderry.

October 29, 1787, David Blair, saddler, sold one thousand acres of land which had been granted Alexander Blair by Gov. John Wentworth, said land lying in Conway, N. H.

February 20, 1792, Alexander Blair, yeoman, sold to David Blair, saddler, land in the English Range which had belonged to their deceased grandfather Capt. James Blair. Robert Blair sold one-sixth part of land formerly possessed by James Blair, gentleman.

In 1784, interest in the estate of Capt. James Blair was held by James, Robert, David and Alexander Blair.

SAMUEL LIVERMORE BLAIR, son of William and Elizabeth (Crombie) Blair. In 1792, Samuel Livermore Blair of New

Holderness, sold land to David Blair of Londonderry, one hundred and thirty-four acres, March 22, April 12, 1785, Samuel Livermore sold land he bought of William Blair of Londonderry, June 3, 1765, to Samuel Livermore Blair, of New Holderness. His farm was in Holderness, but the mills which he also possessed were in that part of Holderness which now is called Ashland; probably the same as New Holderness.

He married in Holderness, December 31, 1792, Sarah Cox (or Ann? Page 152), who died in Plymouth, N. H., 1845.

They had one child:

WALTER BLAIR, born October, 1796; died June 6, 1849.

FRANCES BLAIR, daughter of William and Elizabeth (Crombie) Blair, was born in Londonderry, N. H. February 16, 1759, her uncle, David Blair, who was unmarried, in his will of that date bequeathed to the children of his brother William, namely, William junior, Jane and Frances.

Her father and one of his brothers became bitter foes, owing to their adhering, the one to the British, the other to the American side at the outbreak of the Revolution, and all communication between their families was forbidden. Since Fanny was devotedly attached to one of her cousins, they saw there was no other way out of this difficulty but a clandestine marriage, which took place and, soon after, the young husband enlisted "and was lost in the army." These circumstances conspired to prevent the given name of her husband from being found. She told the story to one of her daughters "in her old age" but time has lost the record. For many years Mrs. Blair resided in the family of Hon. Samuel Livermore, on the Livermore estate in Holderness, N. H. "She left a sweet and sacred memory and was buried, with her only child, Peter Blair, in Campton, N. H., on the old Blair Homestead."

PETER BLAIR, son of Mrs. Frances Blair, was born in Holderness, N. H., December 12, 1778. He married, February 21, 1805, Hannah, daughter of Dudley and Rebecca (Pingree) Palmer, who was born October 1, 1779; another record gives the date of Hannah Palmer's birth as October 9, 1785; while

Peter's birth was 1788. She died in Campton, N. H., March 22, 1827, aged 44 years, 9 months and 21 days, which still farther complicated the data. He died April, 1840-1.

They had children born in Campton :

1. WILLIAM H., born December 1, 1805.
2. MARY LITTLE, born April 26, 1808.
3. JOSEPH COLMAN, born December 17, 1809.
4. WALTER, born October 5, 1811; died young.
5. WALTER, born November 5, 1814.
6. HEPSEBETH PALMER, born May 13, 1817.
7. NATHAN HARRIS, born July 4, 1819.
8. FRANCES G., born September 25, 1821.
9. HANNAH, born August 5, 1823.
10. LYDIA, born May 5, 1825.

(Town Records of Campton.)

WALTER BLAIR, son of Samuel Livermore and Sarah (Cox) Blair, was born in Holderness, N. H., October, 1796. He was a man of marked mathematical ability; served as State senator for several terms, was a member of the Democratic national convention and Judge of Probate for Plymouth county.

He married (1) October 8, 1820, Mary, daughter of Robert and Hannah (Stanton) Cox, of Holderness, who died in 1833 or 1834; he married (2) November, 1, 1835, Elizabeth Farnum, who was born in Pembroke, N. H., 1809; he died June 6, 1849.

Children by Mary (Cox) Blair :

1. WALTER LIVERMORE, born June 9, 1822; died September 4, 1825.
2. MARY E., born January 15, 1824, a brilliant scholar, writer of much ability and a most successful teacher of a popular private school in Boston for a long series of years.
3. LOUISA C., born June 20, 1826; married Isaac L. Adams, of Campton, N. H.
4. WALTER R., born December 27, 1830; died September 24, 1831.
5. HANNAH ELLEN, born March 6, 1833.

Children by Elizabeth (Farnum) Blair :

6. SARAH ELIZA, born March 23, 1837; married Moses C. Dole, of Campton.

7. FRANCES MARIA, born April 25, 1839; married January 26, 1864, H. B. Mitchell; died December 16, 1896.
8. PAMELIA MERRILL, born January 24, 1841; married January 14, 1866, Dr. E. Mellen Wright, of Chattanooga, Tenn.
9. WALTER, born March, 1843, deceased.
10. FLORA ADELAIDE, born September 9, 1846; married Charles E. Peabody, of Chattanooga, Tenn.
11. ARTHUR WALTER, born May 22, 1848; married July 25, 1877, Ellen E. Chamberlain, of St. Johnsbury, Vt., a physician; resides in Dorchester district, Boston.

WILLIAM HENRY BLAIR, son of Peter and Hannah (Palmer) Blair, was born in Campton, N. H., December 1, 1805. He married in Campton, February 18, 1830, Lois Baker, daughter of Captain Moses and ——— Baker of Candia, N. H., who was born June 20, 1806, died December 6, 1836. William H. Blair was injured by the fall of the frame of a building and died a few weeks later. "By his untimely death four small children, one of whom was born in the month of May following, were left with scanty means of support, and it was found necessary to separate the family, the mother dying in 1846." (Miss Mary E. Blair.)

They had children :

1. HANNAH P., born 1830; died 1843.
2. MOSES BAKER, born 1832; died 1857.
3. HENRY WILLIAM, born in Campton, December 6, 1834.
4. LOIS ESTHER, born May, 1836.

HENRY WILLIAM BLAIR, son of William Henry and Lois (Baker) Blair, was born in Campton, N. H., December 1, 1805. When he was eight years old Mr. and Mrs. Richard Bartlett, "a childless couple, who were connected with the Blairs by marriage," adopted Henry, and he remained with them until he was seventeen years of age, working on the farm, attending the village school, teaching, canvassing and using other means to enable him to attend Holmes Academy in Plymouth, going thence to the Methodist Conference Seminary in Northfield, now Tilton, N. H.; but poor health prevented his attaining his cherished project of winning a college course.



May, 1856, he began the study of law with Mr. William Leverett of Plymouth, was admitted to the bar in 1859 and associated with Mr. Leverett in his practice.

On the outbreak of the Civil War, although he was far from strong, he made three attempts to enlist, and was finally chosen captain of the Fifteenth New Hampshire Regiment. He was a member of Banks's expedition at the siege of Port Hudson and was there severely wounded twice, being shot the first time in the arm, May 27, but returned to duty and led the attacking columns on the left, June 14, when he was injured the second time in the same arm and also in the side, at which time he was carrying his arm in a sling. This so prostrated him that it was six years before he recovered from the effects; he had before been promoted as lieutenant-colonel. He was able to take some practice and was sent to the legislature in 1866, '67, '68. In 1875 "the condition of affairs was very threatening throughout the State, from a Republican standpoint." Mr. Blair was nominated for the third congressional district and was elected despite the fact that the Democrats had carried that district the last two elections. He had impoverished himself to carry this, and the result had great weight, as this gave New Hampshire to the rising tide of Republicanism which the next year (in one of the most exciting presidential struggles in the history of the State) took Mr. Hayes into the White House. "In Congress he was one of a committee on the Pacific railroads, where he leaped into prominence by two speeches, one on money, which reached a circulation of half a million copies and constituted the Republican text book of this subject in the campaign which followed in 1875, when the green-back craze was at its height. No more easily understood and practical defence of sound money has ever been written than these two speeches, and they did as much as anything to save the country from an era of fiat money and wildcat banking." (An Open Letter, in the *Saturday Telegram*, October 6.)

He was elected to the Senate in 1879, re-elected in June, 1885, holding the office less than two terms, as the Democratic party and a part of the Republican were unwilling to elect a senator, and he was therefore unable to qualify in March as

would otherwise have been the case. As a member of the committee on agriculture, he obtained a permanent endowment for the agricultural colleges of all the United States. He worked indefatigably for the pension cases, forwarded the Act of June 30, 1890, which provided for every soldier or his family, a service pension for all needy persons. He also prepared the reports on the veto of Cleveland of deserving pensioners, which largely contributed to Cleveland's defeat in 1888. He was chairman of the committee on Labor, and his "famous investigation of 1883 elicited from senator Beck, of Kentucky, of the opposition, this statement: That this important and useful matter had been more developed by it, for the use of the country, than any other investigation ever undertaken by order of Congress. As a result of his efforts, the Department of Labor was created. The laboring man never had a more sincere friend and devoted than Henry W. Blair." (Ibid.) As a member of the Senate Committee on interstates commerce, he worked against a monopoly of the three great trans-continental lines. Mr. Addison P. Foster thus writes: "Hon. Henry W. Blair, formerly senator from New Hampshire, has also his specialty. He is interested in great moral and patriotic reforms of the day. In this he stands as a consistent Christian should—Mr. Blair in the halls of Congress has universally stood for great fundamental principles of patriotism and reform. He has been the champion of the public schools, has urged universal education, has introduced a naturalization bill and a Sunday rest bill, and has defended temperance legislation. In the midst of his labors Mr. Blair was defeated for re-election by a sudden and generally unexpected complication in political affairs with which he was wholly unconnected, except as being made the victim of them, and had to retire in 1891. He has been blamed for not accepting the district judgeship that was then offered him, but his reasons for that step were as many as has been everything else that he has done. When urged by President Harrison to accept the place he, realizing his pecuniary embarrassments, made this characteristic reply: Our hope of justice depends upon the independence and incorruptibility of the judiciary. The Constitution requires that the judges be chosen from men as able and impar-

tial as the lot of humanity will admit. While a judge may not be wealthy, he should be independent, for otherwise his own creditors may be a party before him against some poor and humble citizen whose right even the best judge might guard less sacredly because of the secret power of the wealthy suitor over the court." (Ibid.) His appointment as minister to the court of China and his rejection because of his resisting the admitting Chinese labor is well known.

He married, December 20, 1859, Eliza, daughter of Rev. Henry Nelson, of Groton.

They had one child :

HENRY PATTERSON, born December 8, 1867.



MRS. SAMUEL BLAIR'S DESCENT.



## MRS. SAMUEL BLAIR'S DESCENT.

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### THE FRARY LINE.

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1. John Frary m. Prudence ———.
2. Eleazer Frary m. Mary Graves.
3. Samuel Frary m. Sarah ———.
4. Joseph Frary m. Hannah White.
5. Jonathan Frary m. Dorothy Stow.
6. Hannah Frary m. Samuel Blair.

JOHN FRARY, with his wife Prudence, came in 1638, and settled in Dedham, Mass. He was one of the signers of the "Petition" for ratifying the grant of a plantation at Contentment, now Dedham, Mass., and to the Covenant then drawn up on the 10th day, the 7th month, 1636. His lot of land was confirmed to him "the 20th of ye Last month, 1637." He was made freeman in 1638; was a cordwainer; removed to Medfield, Mass., with twelve other original proprietors, where he died July, 1675, "at a great age." His widow, Prudence, died in Boston at her son Theophilus Frary's house, February 24, 1690.—(Boston Town Records, page 193.)

John and Prudence Frary had children :

1. THEOPHILUS.
2. JOHN.
3. SAMSON.
4. ELEAZER.
5. SAMUEL.
6. ISAAC.

ELEAZER FRARY, son of John and Prudence Frary, removed to Hatfield, Mass., where he married, January 28, 1665, Mary,

daughter of Isaac and Mary (Church) Graves, who was born in Hadley, Mass., July 5, 1647.

They had children born in Hadley :

1. ELIEZER, born July 7, 1669.
2. SAMUEL, born April 15, 1674.
3. PRUDENCE, born May 7, 1677.
4. ELIEZER, born May 12, 1680.
5. HANNAH, born March 23, 1683.
6. ISAAC, born March 2, 1686.
7. JONATHAN, born November 13, 1689.

SAMUEL FRARY, son of Eleazer and Mary (Church) Frary, was born in Hatfield, Mass., April 15, 1674. He married in Sarah, daughter of

who was born in \_\_\_\_\_, and died in Middletown, Conn., March 1, 1733. He died in Middletown, April 1, 1762, in his 89th year.

They had children :

- JOSEPH.
- SAMUEL.
- SARAH.

JOSEPH FRARY, son of Samuel and Sarah ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) Frary, was born in Hatfield, Mass., \_\_\_\_\_, 1696. He married, in Middletown, Conn., January 1, 1728, Hannah, daughter of Jacob and Deborah (Shepard) White, who was born in Middletown, March 28, 1699, and died in \_\_\_\_\_ He died in Middletown, May 13, 1767, in his 77th year.

They had children :

1. SAMUEL, born December 5, 1729; died October 23, 1741.
2. JOSEPH, born April 4, 1732.
3. ELEAZER, born July 26, 1734.
4. JONATHAN, born January 26, 1735-6.
5. HANNAH, born January 9, 1738.
6. SAMUEL, born August 8, 1742.
7. SARAH, born August 12, 1744.

JONATHAN FRARY, son of Joseph and Hannah (White) Frary, was born in Middletown, Conn., January 26, 1735-6.



He married in Middletown, May 26, 1765, Dorothy, daughter of Joseph and Sarah (Buckley) Stow, who was born in Middletown, July 2, 1742, and died in Columbus, N. Y.,  
 , 1831. He died in Columbus, June 10, 1809; his gravestone is in Blandford, Mass., whither he removed before 1781.

They had children :

1. LYDIA, baptized in Middletown, July 2, 1766; married Medad Noble, of Blandford, and had children.
2. DOLLY, baptized in Middletown, May 8, 1768; married William Griffin, of Columbus, N. Y.
3. PHINEAS, baptized in Middletown; died in the West Indies, in his 23d year (gravestone in Blandford, Mass.,) July 27, 1793.
4. REUBEN, baptized in Middletown, January 19, 1772; married and removed to Lowville, N. Y.
5. REBECCA, baptized in Middletown, July 10, 1774; married Heman Leonard of Blandford.
6. JONATHAN, born in Blandford, 1781.
7. HANNAH, born in Blandford, March 6, 1783; married in Blandford, November 18, 1804, Samuel Blair; removed to Columbus, Chenango County, N. Y., about 1812, and to Cortland, N. Y., about two years after, where she died May 11, 1860, aged 77 years.

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#### THE STOW LINE.

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1. John Stow m. Elizabeth Bigge.
2. Thomas Stow m. Mary Gregg.
3. Thomas Stow m. Bethiah Stocking.
4. Joseph Stow m. Sarah Bulkeley.
5. Dorothy Stow m. Jonathan Frary.
6. Hannah Frary m. Samuel Blair.

JOHN STOW came from Hawkehurst, County of Kent, England, embarked on the Ship Elizabeth, April 9, 1635, aged 40 years, with his mother-in-law, the widow Rachel Bigge, and

his wife, Elizabeth. Her family were seated in Kent before the Norman Conquest and had become wealthy and influential.

Rev. John Eliot, in his record of the First Church in Roxbury, Mass., wrote: "John Stow he arrived in N. E. the 17<sup>th</sup> of the 3<sup>d</sup> month año 1634, he brought his wife and six children, Thomas, Elizabeth, John, Nathaniel, Samuel, Thankful.

Elizabeth Stow the wife of John Stow, she was a very godly matron, a blessing not only to her family but to all the church and when she had lead a christian conversation a few years among us, she dyed and left a good savor behind her."

They had children :

1. THOMAS, born about 1617.
2. ELIZABETH, born about 1619; married in Roxbury at the same time with her brother Thomas, December 4, 1639, Henry Archer, and went to Salem, Mass.
3. JOHN, born about 1621, is supposed to have died unmarried before 1653.
4. NATHANIEL, born about 1623.
5. SAMUEL, born about 1624.
6. THANKFUL, born about 1626.

THOMAS STOW, son of John and Elizabeth (Bigg) Stow, married, probably in Roxbury, as he is noted as marrying on the same day as his sister Elizabeth, December 4, 1639, Mary Grigg. He soon went to Concord, Mass., where he was made freeman, 1648. With his brother Nathaniel, he owned six hundred acres of land in Concord, between Fairhaven Pond and Sudbury line; in 1660, Thomas sold his right to Thomas Gobbel and David Dean, he having previously removed to Connecticut. With his wife Mary, he was admitted to the First Church of Christ in Middletown, Conn. February 15, 1670, he received a grant of land from the town on condition that he or his should build on it an inhabitable house within two years; if not, the land was to revert to the town. March 20, 1670, his name was on the list of Middletown proprietors. Mrs. Mary Stow died in Middletown, August 21, 1680. He died March, 1684.

They had children :

1. JOHN, born February 3, 1641.
2. SAMUEL, born 1644.
3. THANKFUL, born in Concord, June 9, 1646.

THOMAS STOW, son of Thomas and Mary (Griggs) Stow, was born about 1651. He married in Middletown, Conn., October 16, 1675, Bethia, daughter of Samuel and Bethia Hopkins, who was born 1657-8, and died in Middletown, November 6, 1732, aged 75 years. He died in Middletown, March 19, 1729-30, in his 79th year.

They had children :

1. BETHIA, born April 6; died August, 1678.
2. SAMUEL, born October, 1682.
3. BETHIA, born February 22, 1684.
4. MARY, born August, 1688.
5. THOMAS, born May 7, 1691.
6. HANNAH, born February 11, 1695.
7. JOSEPH, born August 5, 1703.

JOSEPH STOW, son of Thomas and Bethia (Stocking) Stow, was born in Middletown, Conn., August 5, 1703. He married in Middletown, March 14, 1734, Sarah Bulkely, daughter of , who was born 1706, and died April 6, 1785, aged 79 years. He died November 6, 1776.

They had children :

1. REBECCA, born January 21, 1735.
2. SARAH, born August 10, 1737.
3. JOSEPH, born February 26, 1740; died October 21, 1741.
4. DOROTHY, born July 9, 1742; married May 26, 1765, Jonathan Frary.



MRS. WILLIAM BLAIR'S DESCENT.



## MRS. WILLIAM BLAIR'S DESCENT.

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### THE THACHER LINE.

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1. Rev. Peter Thacher      Queen Camel, England.
2. Rev. Peter Thacher    m. Anne (supposed Allwood), of  
   Salisbury, England.
3. Rev. Thomas Thacher m. (1) Elizabeth Partridge.  
   (2) Mrs. Margaret (Webb)  
   Sheafe, Boston.
4. Rev. Peter Thacher    m. (1) Theodora Oxenbridge,  
   (2) Mrs. Susannah Bailey,  
   (3) Mrs. Elizabeth Gee,  
   Milton, Mass.
5. Rev. Peter Thacher    m. Mary Prince, Middleboro', Mass.
6. Rev. Peter Thacher    m. Bethiah Carpenter,  
   Attleboro', Mass.
7. Deacon Moses Thacher m. (1) Sarah Read, Harford, Pa.  
   (2) Mrs. Mary (Tiffany) Read.
8. Sarah Atherton Thacher m. John Seymour, Lyme, Ohio.
9. Sarah M. Seymour      m. William Blair.

Rev. PETER THACHER was instituted vicar of the parish of Queen Camel, England, in 1574, and continued in that office until his death, in 1624, a period of fifty years. There are strong reasons to believe that he was the father of Rev. Peter Thacher (1) of Milton Clevedon and (2) of Salisbury, England.

REV. PETER THACHER was a native of Somersetshire, England; he was matriculated by Queen's College, Oxford, May 6,

1603, at the age of 15 years; took the degree of A.B. at Corpus Christi College, in 1608; was made A.M. in 1611; was installed a vicar of Milton Clevedon, Somersetshire, in 1616, of which Rev. Thomas Lambert was the incumbent, and rector of St. Edmund's Church, Salisbury, Wiltshire, in 1622, where he continued till his death, February 19, 1640.

His remains were deposited under an altar tomb which still stands on the north side of the church yard of St. Edmunds, Salisbury, Eng., and bears this inscription: "Here lyeth the bodye of Mr. Peter Thacher, who was a laborious minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ in ye Parish of St. Edmunds for ye space of XIX yeares. He departed this lyfe the Lord's Day, at three of the clock, ye XI of Feb. 1640. Let no man move his bones."

His eldest son, THOMAS, was born May 1, 1620, at Milton Clevedon. He early became a convert to Puritan principles and preferred to take his part with those of that party who had crossed the Atlantic to found their faith in a region where they would be unmolested than to attend one of the English universities, as his father desired. Thomas embarked with his uncle Anthony Thacher for New England, where he arrived June 4, 1635. He completed his theological course under the Rev. Charles Chauncy of Scituate, who after became the second president of Harvard College. His first pastorate was at Weymouth, Mass., where he was ordained January 2, 1645. "In his ministerial labors he was most faithful and affectionate; among his excellencies was a peculiar spirit of prayer, and he was remarkable for the copious, fluent and fervid manner of performing the sacred exercise." He was ordained at Weymouth, January, 1645; there he remained until 1664, when he removed to Boston; he practised medicine in Boston until his ordination, February 16, 1670, in the old South Church, as the first pastor of that historic Church; he continued as its pastor until his death. President Stiles calls him "the best Arabic scholar known in the country," and says he published a Hebrew lexicon. As a physican, he was the earliest in that profession at Weymouth; his medical treatise, styled "A brief Guide to the



Common People in the Small Pox and Measles" was the first of its kind printed in Massachusetts.

Rev. Thomas Thacher married first, May 11, 1643, Eliza, the daughter of Rev. Ralph Partridge of Duxbury, Mass., who died at Weymouth, June 2, 1664; he married second, 1665, the widow of Jacob Sheaf, Margaret, daughter of Henry Webb. He died in Boston, October 15, 1687.

The youngest son of Rev. Thomas and Eliza (Partridge) Thacher, Rev. PETER THACHER, was born in Salem, Mass., July 18, 1651; he was graduated from Harvard in 1671; in 1676 he went to London and remained a year; from the seal which his father used in sealing his letters to his son during this period the coat-of-arms was taken which is now held by the descendants. In 1681 Peter Thacher was ordained over the church at Milton, Mass. He had been living in Barnstable, Mass., and on the day of his departure for his new home, he was escorted by a cavalcade of fifty-seven horsemen as far as Sandwich, Mass. He spent the rest of his life in Milton, where he labored faithfully and zealously among his devoted people. The diary which he kept during this time throws a strong light on the habits, duties and people of his parish. He married first, November 21, 1677, Theodora, daughter of Rev. John Oxenbridge, of Boston, who died November, 1697; he married second, Susannah, widow of Rev. John Bailey; he married third, Elizabeth, widow of Rev. Jonathan Gee. His first wife, Theodora Oxenbridge, received a large estate from her parents which her husband managed; his will, sealed with the family Coat of Arms, now in Suffolk Registry, Boston, was dated February 12, 1721; the larger part of his estate was bequeathed to his eldest son, Oxenbridge Thacher; one item of this will was "eight brick houses in London, with room for a ninth." He devised two negro boys, Sambo and Jemmy, valued at £120.0.0, and three negro girls, valued at £55.0.0 (pounds sterling); his negro body servant, he bequeathed to his son Peter "because I think he will be kind to him." His watch, which has been transmitted to the lineal descendants, is now in the rooms of the Bostonian Society, at the Old State House.

REV. PETER THACHER, 2d son of Rev. Peter Thacher of Milton, born Oct. 6, 1688; graduated by Harvard in 1706; ordained at Middleboro' 1709; married Mary, daughter of Samuel Prince of Sandwich. He died April 22, 1744, having sustained a successful pastorate of thirty-five years.

REV. PETER THACHER, son of Rev. Peter Thacher of Middleboro', born in Milton Jan. 25, 1716; graduated by Harvard, 1737; was settled over the parish at Attleborough, Mass., Nov. 30, 1748, where he lived and labored for forty-three years; "a most worthy and useful minister." A volume of the sermons which he preached during these years was published. He married in Attleborough, November 31, 1749, Bethiah, daughter of Deacon Obadiah and Bethiah (Lyon) Carpenter. He died September 13, 1785, in the seventieth year of his age and the forty-third of his ministry, leaving a large family. Nancy Thacher, daughter of Rev. Peter and Bethiah (Carpenter) Thacher, married Capt. John Tyler. They were the grandparents of Prof. William Seymour Tyler of Amherst College, Massachusetts.

MOSES THACHER, son of Rev. Peter Thacher of Attleborough, was born in Attleborough, August 15, 1766, and became one of the deacons of the church. He was one of the "Nine Partners" who bought a large tract of territory in Pennsylvania where they founded the town of Harford; these nine men were all of the strictest type of the early New England Puritans and exercised their faith with "the exact scrupulosity which has been some what condemned by the later and laxer generations." He married in Attleborough, April 1, 1793, Sarah, daughter of Ichabod and Elizabeth (Robinson) Read, who was born April 13, 1768, in Attleborough, and died April 20, 1828; he married second, September 21, 1829, widow Mary (Tiffany) Read, of Attleborough, who died September 4, 1865, aged 86 years. He died at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Sarah Atherton Seymour, in Lyme, Huron County, Ohio, October 17, 1845.

SARAH ATHERTON THACHER, daughter of Dea. Moses Thacher, was born in Attleborough, Mass., October 30, 1797. She married, in Harford, Penn., January 5, 1820, John Seymour. "She was a woman of great personal beauty and a fine character." They resided awhile in Gibson, Penn.; thence removed to North Munroeville, Huron County, Ohio, in 1825; in 1833 they went to Lyme, in the same county where she died May 5, 1881.

Their daughter, SARAH MARIA SEYMOUR, married William Blair, and resides in Chicago, Ill.

They had children :

1. WILLIAM SEYMOUR, born May 8, 1856; died December 19, 1861.
2. EDWARD TYLER, born Nov. 23, 1857; married May 29, 1882, Ruby McCormick.

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#### THE SEYMOUR LINE.

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1. Richard Seymour m. Mercy ———.
2. Captain Richard Seymour m. Hannah Woodruff.
3. Jonathan Seymour m. Eunice Hollister.
4. Eliakim Seymour m. Susanna (Judd) Seymour, widow of Samuel Seymour.
5. Jonathan Seymour m. Abigail Hart.
6. John Seymour m. Sarah Atherton Thacher.
7. Sarah M. Seymour m. William Blair.

"RICHARD SEYMOUR, Bury Pomery, Heyton Hamel, County Devon, his book. Hartfordye Collony of Connecticut in New England. Annoyre Domini, 1640." This inscription is written on the fly-leaf of a Bible owned by Charles J. Seymour, Esq., of Newport, R. I., which he holds by direct descent from this immigrant ancestor, Richard, of Hartford. On the same page is the coat-of-arms, drawn in ink, which was conferred on Edward Seymour, brother of Jane, wife of Henry VIII., and

mother of Edward VI. Edward and Jane were children of John Seymour, who died seven months after his daughter became queen. The dukedom of Somerset was first created in 1546, and conferred upon Edward by Henry VIII., with the privilege of quartering the royal arms of England with his own. Before this, the Seymour arms were simply conjoined wings. The original name, St. Maur, was corrupted to Seymour about the year 1300. The motto was "Foy pour Devoir."

Richard Seymour, the immigrant, came from Bury Pomeroy, Devonshire, to Hartford, Conn., before 1639. In 1650, he removed to Norwalk, Conn., where he died in 1655; his widow married second, John Steele, of Farmington, Conn., and her three youngest sons went with her to her new home.

Richard and Mercy Seymour had children :

THOMAS.  
JOHN.  
RICHARD.  
ZACHARY.

CAPTAIN RICHARD SEYMOUR, son of Richard and Mercy Seymour, was made freeman of Farmington, Conn., in 1669; was townsman in 1682. In 1686, he removed to Kensington, Conn. Was one of the leaders in the Great Swamp settlement of Kensington, and was captain of the Seymour fort, which was built for the protection of the first settlers. Some time before 1679, he married Hannah, daughter of Matthew Woodruff of Farmington, who died September 16, 1728. He was killed by the fall of a tree, in 1710.

They had children :

1. SAMUEL, who married, May 10, 1706, Hannah, daughter of Thomas North. He died in 1749.
2. HANNAH, who married first, November 29, 1692; Joseph Pomeroy of Suffield, Conn., who died in 1712. She married second, October 23, 1713, Josiah Hale.
3. MERCY, baptized January 14, 1682-3; married, February, 1711, George Hubbard of Kensington; she died February 8, 1731.
4. EBENEZER, baptized February 1, 1684; married, December 27, 1709, Abigail, daughter of Capt. Stephen Hollister of Wethersfield, Conn.
5. JONATHAN, baptized, April 17, 1687.

**JONATHAN SEYMOUR**, son of Captain Richard and Hannah (Woodruff) Seymour, was baptized April 17, 1687. He resided in Kensington, Conn., where he married, December 23, 1714, Eunice, daughter of Capt. Stephen Hollister of Wethersfield, Conn. He died in 1725; she married second, January 13, 1726, in Wallingford, Conn., William Chidister (or Chit-tister).

Jonathan and Eunice (Hollister) Seymour had children :

1. **EUNICE**, born January 1, 1715; married Joseph King of Suffield.
2. **JERUSHA**, born August 23, 1717; married November 13, 1739, James Newell of Farmington, Conn.; she died February 10, 1741.
3. **MARTHA**, born in 1720; married December 22, 1742, Capt. Solomon Cowles of Farmington; she died February 6, 1812.
4. **LOIS**, born in 1723; married Thomas Huxley of Suffield, Conn.
5. **ELIAKIM**, born in 1725.

**ELIAKIM SEYMOUR**, son of Jonathan and Eunice (Hollister) Seymour, was born in Kensington, Conn., 1725. He married Susanna, daughter of Deacon Anthony Judd, and widow of his cousin, Samuel Seymour. By her first marriage, she had a daughter, who married Elijah Hooker. Eliakim Seymour died in Kensington in 1767.

They had children :

1. **JERUSHA**, who married James Merrill of Farmington, later of Castleton, Vt., had seven sons.
2. **POLLY**, married Daniel Green of Granville, N. Y., later of Hartwick, N. Y.
3. **JONATHAN**, born August 17, 1759.
4. **SAMUEL**, who married Polly Comstock.

**JONATHAN SEYMOUR**, son of Eliakim and Susanna (Judd) Seymour, was born in Kensington, Conn., August 27, 1759. He early enlisted in the Revolutionary war, was in the battle of Saratoga when he was but eighteen years old; aided in carrying Benedict Arnold from the field where he was wounded; was with the reserves which arrived at Yorktown, just after the surrender by Cornwallis. May 17, 1793, Samuel Huntington, Captain General and Commander-in-Chief of the Connecticut

forces, appointed Jonathan Seymour, Ensign of the Third Company of Militia, in the Fifteenth Regiment; later he received a commission as lieutenant from Governor Huntington. His last years were passed in Otsego County, N. Y.

He married in Kensington, February 15, 1787, Abigail, daughter of Thomas and Mehitable Hart, who was born October 27, 1761, and died January 2, 1833. He died July 26, 1819. Both were buried in Otsego.

Abigail Hart was fifth in descent from Anthony Hawkins, a patentee of the charter of Connecticut, and his wife, who was a daughter of Governor Wells.

They had children :

1. NABBY, born January 31, 1788; died August 23, 1844.
2. RUTH (Rutha), born August 28, 1789; died March 6, 1875.
3. JOHN, born July 27, 1791; died March 27, 1881.
4. NANCY, born April 24, 1794; died October 11, 1831.
5. GEORGE, born June 20, 1796; died June 16, 1825.
6. HART, born June 18, 1798; died August 18, 1868.
7. MEHITABLE, born July 22, 1800; died April 17, 1854.
8. ALONZO, born January 19, 1805; died March 11, 1861.

JOHN SEYMOUR, son of Jonathan and Abigail (Hart) Seymour, was born in Kensington, July 27, 1791, and went with his parents to Ostego the same year. He began to study for an entrance on a college course, when the death of his father made it needful to begin a business career at once. He entered a drug store as a clerk, and while there read the whole course of studies exacted from medical students desirous of taking a doctor's degree. Thence he removed to Harford, Penn., in 1818, where he was a partner in and manager of a cotton factory. In 1825, he settled in Lyme, Huron County, Ohio. He was clerk of the Presbyterian Church in Lyme for more than fifty years, and for more than twenty-five years clerk of Lyme Township, being all the while actively engaged in mercantile pursuits.

He married in Harford, Penn., January 5, 1820, Sarah Atherton Thacher, a daughter of Deacon Moses Thacher of Attleborough, who was born October 30, 1797. He died March 27, 1881.

They had children :

1. ELIZA, born in Gibson, Penn., October 1, 1820.
2. WILLIAM HENRY, born in Gibson, July 18, 1822.
3. GEORGE W., born in Gibson, August 15, 1824.
4. JOHN A., born in Ridgefield, now North Monroeville, Ohio, June 21, 1827.
5. SARAH MARIA, born in Ridgefield, now North Monroeville, Ohio, July 3, 1832.
6. ELLEN, born in Lyme, Ohio, August 20, 1840.

SARAH MARIA SEYMOUR, daughter of John and Sarah Ather-ton (Thacher) Seymour, was born in Ridgefield, Ohio, July 3, 1832. Married in Lyme, Huron County, Ohio, June 21, 1854, William Blair of Chicago, Ill.

They had children :

1. WILLIAM SEYMOUR, born in Chicago, Ill., May 8, 1856; died in Chicago, December 19, 1861.
2. EDWARD TYLER, born in Chicago, November 23, 1857.





## ADDENDA.

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Page 99 :—

SAMUEL<sup>5</sup> BLAIR, son of Samuel<sup>4</sup> (*Rufus*,<sup>3</sup> *Robert*,<sup>2</sup> *Robert*<sup>1</sup>) and Hannah (Frary) Blair, was born in Columbus, N. Y., May 22, 1812. He married, September 11, 1849, Lavinia Wilson. He died in Cortland, N. Y., December 21, 1879.

Lavinia (Wilson) Blair died in Cortland, June, 1889.

No children.

Page 103 :—

CATHERINE<sup>5</sup> L. BLAIR, daughter of Rufus<sup>4</sup> (*Rufus*,<sup>3</sup> *Robert*,<sup>2</sup> *Robert*<sup>1</sup>) and Sally (Hamilton) Blair, born August 4, 1821; married in Blandford, November 23, 1843, Thomas S. Chaffee.

They had children :

1. SHERMAN B.,<sup>6</sup> born September 2, 1844; died February 19, 1892.
2. THEODORE W., born January 23, 1847.
3. EDWARD C., born July 21, 1850; died September 11, 1852.
4. FRED K., born May 9, 1855.

MELISSA<sup>5</sup> H. BLAIR, daughter of Rufus<sup>4</sup> (*Rufus*,<sup>3</sup> *Robert*,<sup>2</sup> *Robert*<sup>1</sup>) and Sally (Hamilton) Blair, born April 3, 1823; married in Blandford, May 7, 1847, (1) Theodore A. Wilson.

They had children :

1. KATE,<sup>6</sup> who married — Chamberlain.
2. MELISSA.
3. FRANK.

MELISSA<sup>5</sup> H. (BLAIR) WILSON married (2) George Burnham.

## Page 103. ELEAZER W. DENSMORE.

"Another of the early settlers of Chicago has passed away. Eleazer Woodworth Densmore, whose name was familiar in the early business circles of the city, died at his residence, 2328 Indiana Avenue, Monday morning, the fifth inst. Mr. Densmore was born in Oneida County, N. Y. in June, 1820. His father, the Rev. George W. Densmore, was an honored minister in the Methodist Church. He removed with his family to Cortland, N. Y., and here young Densmore spent his earlier years. He had all the advantages the place afforded in his early education, and improved his mind greatly by judicious reading in after years.

He came to Chicago in 1835, and entered the employ as clerk, of his uncle, the late Congressman James H. Woodworth. In 1847, he engaged in the wholesale grocery trade with Franklin D. Gray, under the name of Gray and Densmore, and later, Gray, Densmore and Phelps, continuing in this firm until 1858, when he left it to engage in a commission business upon the Board of Trade. He was for eleven years one of the Board of Directors of that body, and a member of important committees. His good judgment, courtesy and fairness were generally recognized by his brother members on the Board.

He was a member of the Second Presbyterian Church, and his kindness and sympathy for those in sickness and the suffering were well known to his numerous circle of friends. He leaves a widow and one child, a daughter, Caroline Blair Densmore, surviving him."—[*From Chicago Tribune, Nov. 6, 1888.*]

## Page 127:—

GRACE ELIZABETH PEARCE (wife of Henry A. Blair) is the daughter of Margaret E. Wilkins and John Irving Pearce, both born in the State of New York. Is a direct descendant of Richard Pearce, who settled in Boston, Mass., in 1630. He came there from England in the ship "Lion," owned and commanded by his brother, Captain William Pearce.

The family were actively interested in the early history of this country, taking part in the French and Indian Wars, War of Revolution, and War of 1812.

Page 131 :—

The children of John Francis and Caroline<sup>e</sup> Blair (Densmore) Holland are :

1. JOHN FRANCIS,<sup>7</sup> born Sept. 11, 1895.
2. ANNA BLAIR, born Jan. 28, 1897.

Page 167 :—

HANNAH FRARY, daughter of Jonathan and Dorothy (Stow) Frary, born in Blandford, Mass., March 6, 1783; married Nov. 18, 1804, Samuel Blair. Removed to Cortland, N. Y., about 1814, where she died May 16, 1860, aged 77 years.

Their children were :

1. CAROLINE.
2. JUSTUS PHINEAS.
3. CHAUNCEY BUCKLEY.
4. SAMUEL.
5. LYMAN.
6. WILLIAM.
7. ANN ELIZA.

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#### ERRATA.

Page 70. Eighth line from foot of page, for "Martha (Silmon) Blair," read "Martha (Gilmore) Blair."

Page 167. Seventh line from top of page, for "Bethia, daughter of Samuel and Bethia Hopkins," read "Bethia, daughter of Samuel and Bethia (Hopkins) Stocking."



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