

Grandfather Blaine's Band

by Melville Blaine Walker
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A family member has possession of a carte de visite of an interesting assortment of men and four teenagers. It is a badly faded photo of a Brass Band with nine brass horns and two drums.

Vol. 19 No. 1 - March 2006 issue of Fairfield Genealogical Society Newsletter features one part of W.W. Dixon's "History of Fairfield" series. Initially published in The Fairfield News and Herald, March 14, 1935, it reads, "Mr. W. W. Dixon Continues History of Concord Church..." in which he highlights the Blain family, writes of the brass band, and lists eight of the members by name. "*The members of his band were Dr. Sam Miller, David Miller, Jno. R. Craig, cornetists(sic), Yougue Brice, bass horn, John A. Stewart, W. W. Dixon, tenors, E. L. Brice, bass drum, R J. Macorell, kettle drum.*" If you add James McQuiston Blaine, his sons, John Melville Blaine, and Walter Andrew Blaine, it brings the total to eleven as in the photo.





The band was led by my great-grandfather, and included his two sons:

1. James McQuiston Blaine (1842-1913)
2. John Melville Blaine (1875-1933) my grandfather, and his brother,
3. Walter Andrew Blaine (1878-1936).

It appears that John and Walter are teenagers, so I date the photo to the early 1890's.

THE PRINTED LABEL on the reverse reads: *W.H. Morrow Photographer.*

My internet searches have not located this photographer.

HANDWRITTEN NOTES on the reverse add:

MBB – initials upper left corner – Margaret (Blaine) Bell (1882-1972) – daughter of Jas M. Blaine

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1. *W. A. Jas. M. Blaine J.M.*
2. *Melville Blaine*
3. *Walter A. Blaine*

DESCRIPTION

The paper photo is 6 & 3/16" x 3 & 5/8".

Applied to a cardboard backing that is 6 & 5/16" x 4 & 3/16".

The cardboard backing has rounded corners and a scalloped edge.

QUERY #1 – Can any reader identify any of the men or teens shown in the carte de visite?

QUERY #2 – If another copy of this carte de visite exists, I would be very interested in discussing the purchase.