

THE FAIRFIELD BLAIRS

The name Blair in Gaelic means a field or a cleared plain. In a study of Scotch and Irish history, the name Blair occurs often.

Thomas Blair (1762-1840), with his wife, Margaret Hussey (1764-1832), and their children, Margaret, Martha, Nancy, and William, came to the western section of Fairfield County in about 1800. Thomas was a man of considerable wealth and bought a plantation in the Dawkins community. His daughter, Eleanor, did not accompany this migration to South Carolina, but remained in Virginia with Mr. Sellers, her husband.

Daughter Margaret married James McCormick and moved with her husband to the West to make her home. Nancy married William McConnell, but died at the early age of thirty-five. After her death, sister Martha soon became William McConnell's second wife.

Margaret, wife of Thomas Blair, died on September 26, 1832, and was buried at Salem Presbyterian Church, in Salem community. Her husband was a charter member of this church and helped to establish it in 1812.

Rachel McGraw Blair (1779-1844), was Thomas Blair's second wife. Her will is on file in the Probate Judge's office in Winnsboro, South Carolina. A part of it is:

"I desire my executors to pay to my six brothers or their heirs, each \$5.00, namely, James, Peter, Timothy Simon, Charles and Abraham, and the balance of the estate I wish equally divided between my three brothers, namely, Enoch, Arthur, and Marshal McGraw, according to the number of their children, with this exception, I wish my brother, Marshal, to receive \$50.00, and my two nieces, namely, Mary and Harriet Rebeccah McGraw, \$25.00 each over and above their distributive shares for their services during my affliction. I request my two brothers, Marshal and Arthur McGraw, to act as my lawful executors given under my hand

and seal the 16th day of July, 1844."

WITNESSES:

William Blair

David Blair, Sr.

James Lyles"

William, Thomas and Margaret Blair's only son, was born on December 20, 1805, and died January 20, 1882. He lived a colorful, honorable, useful, and Christian life. William was one of the administrator's of his father's estate. A copy of a portion of this will as is on file in the Probate Judge's office in Winnsboro, South Carolina, is:

"Personal amounts of money received and paid by William Blair one of the administrators of the estate of Thomas Blair deceased:"

"To Mrs. Rachel Blair, who agrees to take an equal share with	
the children	\$2,311.05
To Eleanor Sellars	\$2,311.05
Margaret, Wife of James McCormick.	\$2,311.05
Martha, Wife of William McConnell.	\$2,311.05
The Children of Nancy McConnell.	\$2,311.05
William Blair\$2,311.05

EXECUTORS:

William Blair

William McConnell"

William Blair (1805-1882), was married three times and had twelve children. Five girls and seven boys. His first wife was Sarah McConnell (1807-1849), the daughter of Andrew McConnell. She and William had six children and lived in the old Mean's mansion--Fairview--which they owned. This plantation contained 400 acres, running from the Ashford-Ferry road to Broad River, and from the Jacob Canamore hill on the south to Rock Creek on the

north. Friendliness, love and hospitality always reigned in this house of generosity and greatness. The six children born to William and Sarah, were:

CHILD	BORN	DIED	MARRIAGE
Margaret	Nov. 2, 1834	Jan. 20, 1904	(1) William Aiken (2) Charles Blair
Mary	Sept. 8, 1836	Apr. 29, 1914	James Frazier
Thomas	Nov. 22, 1838	1909	(1) Jane McGill (2) Anna Leitner
William McConnell	Jan. 12, 1841	Dec. 4, 1888	Mamie Robinson
Andrew Franklin	Nov. 22, 1843	May 13, 1891	Sallie Willingham
Nancy Elizabeth	June 15, 1847	1919	Aleck B. Jennings

The three sons in this first marriage served in the Confederate War. Thomas and A. F. both enlisted February 6, 1862, at Camp Hampton. A. F. was a 2nd Lieutenant, Company G, 3rd Battalion South Carolina Infantry, and was wounded at Gettysburg. Thomas, private, was discharged on April 5, 1862, from Company G, 3rd Battalion South Carolina Infantry, because of a dislocated hip and right thigh. William McConnell enlisted August 30, 1861, age 20 years. He was a Sergeant, Company E, 15th Regiment South Carolina Infantry.

Mary Blair Frazier's (1836-1914) husband, James Frazier, died in 1857, shortly before their son, James Blair Frazier, was born. After her husband's death, Mary and her son made their home with her father, William Blair (1805-1882). Mary Blair Frazier died at the age of 78 -- April 29, 1914. Her son, James Blair Frazier, married Minnie Willingham, and continued to live at Fairview until his wife's illness and death made it necessary for him to live with his daughter, Marion Frazier Craig, Wadesboro, North Carolina.

Margaret Blair (1834-1904), the eldest daughter and child of William (1805-1882) and Sarah McConnell Blair (1807-1849), was born on November 2, 1834. It is to be observed that William's mother was named Margaret and that he also had a sister with this name. Margaret was married twice. Her first husband

was William Aiken whom she married on December 23, 1852. He was among the war casualties of the Confederate and died with a noble war record.

Margaret and William Aiken had five children:

Frank - Born Nov. 21, 1853 Died Feb. 2, 1902

William Thomas -- Birth and death dates unknown but died in Texas
and reared a large family

Sallie -- Birth unknown and died young.

Lizzie -- Born Nov. 23, 1859 Died Jan. 23, 1915

Maggie -- Age 57 Died Jan. 23, 1919

Margaret's second husband was Charles Burley Blair. She died Jan. 16, 1904 and Charles B. Blair--Born April 6, 1840; Died July 19, 1910. He had the same surname but not a relative of Margaret's. Five daughters were born to this second marriage:

Laura A. -- Born October 4, 1867 Died January 24, 1893

Married William J. Broom who died _____

Four children were born to this union

Charles Blair Broom, wife--Sara Klugh, Sons--Alston Blair and J. D.

Garriss William, wife--Minnie Coward, Son--William; Daughters--

Katherine (Mrs. A. J. Oswald) and Kate Magarete, husband--

R. J. McCormack (deceased), Sons--Rupert James and Claud L.

Laurence, Born--January 24, 1893 Died--May 31, 1893

Hattie McConnell -- Born Died

Married Edward J. Lever who died _____

Two children born to this union.

E. J., Jr., wife--Kitty Mae Beckham , Daughters--Kitty J. (Mrs. Thomas

Taylor), Harriett and Nancy, Sons--Eddie, Jimmie, Franklin
and Thomas

Sadie Margaret, husband--J. C. Crapps, Daughter--Hazel (Mrs. James Price),

Son--Chevis

Lula Amanda--Born October 10, 1872 Died March 19, 1926

Married William E. DeHihns -- Five children to this union.

Lee Angus, wife--Loree Jones, Son--Lee A., Jr.; Daughter--Darcus

(Mrs. Wayne Warner)

Charles George, wife--Thera Mae Moak, Daughter--Bettie Jane (Mrs. Leonard
Bond)

William Edward, Jr., Deceased, Daughter--Doris

Lula Mae (Mrs. Irvin Eleazer), Son--Irvin, Jr., Daughter--Joyce

Margie, Husband--Hugh Wise, Son--Jimmy

Nannie Lena -- Born April 17, 1876 Died August 25, 1943

Married William R. Aiken who died April 2, 1936. Three children.

Hugh Blair -- Born October 14, 1897 Died August 19, 1957

Charles (Arlie) William, Born July 12, 1899 Died April 28, 1950

Lena May, Born April 7, 1912 Died

Cora Helen -- Born Died

Married Robert Frank Andrews who died August 15, 1943. Six children.

Charles Aiken, Wife, Sallie Wilson, Children -- C. A., Jr., Helen and
Donald

George Franklin, Wife, Nell Amaker, Children -- Frankie and Jean

Robert Colvin, Wife--Ruth Stevens, Children -- Dottie (Mrs. George Craig),
and Bobby (R. C., Jr.)

William McConnell (Mack), Wife--Madlyn Beckham, Children -- Becky, Judy
and Shelia

Clyde Blair, Wife--Harriett Foster, Daughter -- Pamela

Margaret Elizabeth, Husband -- J. Reggie Lever, Daughter -- Clarice

Sarah McConnell Blair died at the age of 42 - Octofer 6, 1849. William
was shortly married again to Elizabeth McGill, who was 30 years old. She was
born on Octofer 31, 1819, near Monticello, and was the daughter of Andrew and

Nancy McGill. John Davis, the first child, was born on December 31, 1850. Three years later, Sarah Jane, was born on July 10, 1853. When Sarah Jane was 6 years old, her mother died. Elizabeth McGill Blair, second wife of William Blair, died December 16, 1859, at the age of 40 years. The births, deaths, marriages in this family, were:

CHILD	BORN	DIED	MARRIAGE
John Davis	Dec. 31, 1850	Dec. 18, 1928	(1) Minnie Scott (2) Hannie Long
Sarah Jane	July 10, 1853	May, 1924	James McGill

Although William Blair (1805-1882) had lost two wives and had eight children, he was able to successfully woo his sister-in-law, Nancy Jane McGill, the youngest sister of his former wife, Elizabeth. He and Nancy Jane had four children. These children were:

CHILD	BORN	DIED	MARRIAGE
Robert Butler	Feb. 24, 1866	Jan. 1, 1870	Died at 4 yrs. from a fall on a wagon of hay.
James Edward	Dec. 12, 1867	Aug., 1899	Hannie Long
Lawrence McGill	Jan. 14, 1870	Aug. 31, 1949	Elizabeth Mae Jones
Hattie Elanor	Feb. 1, 1871	April, 1943	C. L. Smith

On January 20, 1882, William Blair died at the age of 77 years and was buried in Salem Cemetery where his father, mother, and two wives had been buried. Nancy Jane survived her husband by three years, dying on June 27, 1885, at the age of 55 years and was buried in Salem Cemetery.

James Edward, Lawrence McGill, and Hattie Elanor were respectively 18, 15, and 14 years of age when their mother, Nancy Jane (1830-1885), died. Their older sister, ^{hubb} Mary Blair Frazier, with her son, Jimmie, were living in the old home--Fairview--and they lovingly and graciously took these three young people under their guidance and care.