

A review of:

“The Bean’s Cove Blair Clan Genealogy”

by **Bryce D. Blair**

The author, a charter member of and officer in *The Blair Society for Genealogical Research*, has finished a book on his Blair Clan genealogy and history. This unique genealogy starts with the currently known progenitor of his line, Brice (I) Blair. This Brice was Scotch-Irish, born in Northern Ireland ca.1720 and farmed near Antietam, MD in 1765 and in the Bean’s Cove area of Southampton Twp., Bedford Co., PA from ca.1777 until his death in 1785. It follows his son, Brice (II) Blair, son of Susannah, (who raised his entire family on his father’s farm) down through ten generations of the author’s line. The book has thirteen chapters including one for each of Brice II’s eleven surviving children and their descendants. In keeping with the long standing traditions of *The Blair Society for Genealogical Research*, the book’s main purpose is to record, preserve and disseminate the known genealogical and historical data on this branch of the Family of Blair, which itself dates into eleventh century Scotland. The second purpose is to submit this data for review and comment by all interested and, finally, to encourage others of this expanded family to help fill in the “unknowns” and provide for its continuity.

BLAIR is, of course, the main surname theme of the book. However, very important, related surnames are: PATRICK, McCOY, WRIGHT, PERDEW, WIGFIELD, LAKIN, and GROWDEN.

Research on this Blair family was started by the author’s great-grandfather, Nathan Archibald Blair, about 125 years ago and much of the information he gathered was preserved in many old letters, notes and hand-drawn charts in the author’s possession. This original data has been verified or corrected where possible, significantly added to over the last twenty years and extensively footnoted. Of great importance is the discussion and analysis of the Family Tradition. The oral history of the family starts with the French and Indian War under George Washington and follows with some of the trials and tribulations of Brice (II) and his children and their migrations westward. But the discoveries have not stopped here. After this book went to press in Apr. 2000, the tombstone of ACaptain@ John S. Blair (1787 - 1855, see Chapter Three) has been found in Bedford Co, PA after being moved from under Lake Gordon when it was damned.

In the introduction, Bryce states that Nathan’s interests in his genealogy was as much inspired by the nation’s centennial anniversary of 1876 and a desire to connect with the more famous Blair lines of Silver Springs, MD (Fagg’s Manor line) and Williamsburg, VA as it was by an altruistic need to preserve as much of our Clan’s early history as possible. He succeeded in the latter but not in the former even though his daughter added the following to his obituary anyway: “He was born in Bedford Co., Pennsylvania, a descendant of pioneer settlers in Williamsburg, Virginia”.

The Closson Press, Appollo, PA, has printed 150 copies of this book (making it immediately a rare book), in both hardbound and softbound, with black print on gold covers. The book is 120 pages, on 60 pound, acid-free paper, in 8.5 x 11 inch format with a few pictures and charts. It includes a Table of Contents, Introduction, thirteen chapters, seven appendixes (Wills, Land Deeds, one pedigree chart, etc.) and a full name index. The book contains over 2200 connected names with dates, places and sources given where known.

These books are available for immediate mailing. The price is \$40.00 for the hardbound and \$30.00 for the softbound (this price includes \$5.00 for postage and handling in the USA and Canada, please add an additional \$4.00 for p/h elsewhere). Mailing will be by Priority Mail (USPS) envelope where possible. Current BSGR and CBS members will receive a \$5.00 per book discount by including their membership number with their order. Please fill out the order form below and send it, along with a check (payable to Bryce D. Blair), to Bryce D. Blair, BCBC Book, 726 Falling Oaks Dr., Medina, OH 44256-2778.

Please direct any questions to the above address or brydblair1@zoominternet.net (Subject: BCBC Book).

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