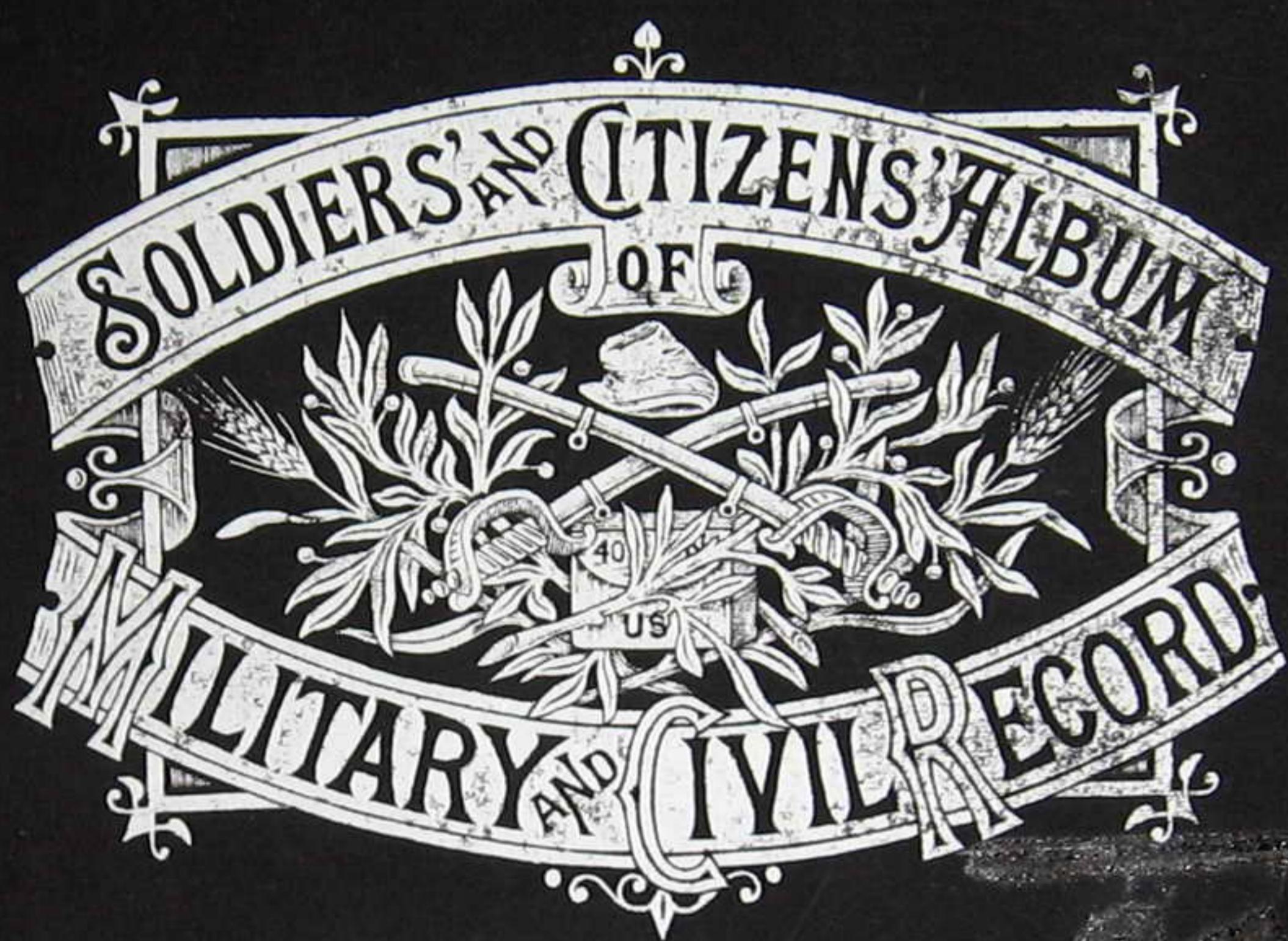


The following is the Military and Civil Record written by Samuel Russell Blair in the year 1907. The record includes information on his Civil War service and family history. It focuses heavily on the death of his wife and his heartfelt feelings about her loss. Samuel died soon after putting this record to paper. A transcript has been placed on each page. Just click on the yellow note  to open it; it will contain a typed transcript of the page you are on. In the transcript I have taken the liberty of correcting spelling errors and adding some punctuation to make it easier to read. I was unsure of some words so in the text only version these words are placed in red. I thank D. Cameron Findlay III for sharing this record with its glimpse into the life and mind of his Gr. Gr. Grandfather.

00001



SOLDIERS' AND CITIZENS'



— OF —

MILITARY AND CIVIL RECORD,

— INCLUDING A —

CHRONOLOGICAL AND STATISTICAL HISTORY

— OF THE —

CIVIL WAR.

—
CHICAGO:

GRAND ARMY PUBLISHING CO.

1891.

BIOGRAPHICAL.

MILITARY RECORD

♦ OF ♦

Samuel P. Blair

* * * * *

I enlisted at W^l Morris IIs on the 28
day of April, 1864 for years, and went to rendezvous
at Dipon IIs; I was mustered on the 16
day of June, 1864, at Camp Buller IIs
in Company J., Captain James H. Cartwright,
140 Regiment, Illinois Infantry Volunteers,
Colonel Whitney; Lieutenant Colonel Smith;
Major ; I was mustered as Private
and left the State for Memphis Ten on the 22 day
of June, 1864, and was first in camp at Memphis;

the regiment was assigned to the _____ Brigade, _____ Division and
the _____ Corps, Army of the _____; the _____
brigade being under the command of _____,
the division under the command of _____, the corps
under the command of _____ and the army under
the command of _____; during the course of my

service my regiment was transferred as follows: *From Memphis to*
Lafayette Tenn Crossim creek Memphis
Cairo Chicago Ill St Louis Mo

I participated in the following campaigns:

I was connected with the following raids or expeditions:

I fought in the following battles and skirmishes:

1. On the _____ day of _____, 186____, at _____

2. _____

22. _____
23. _____
24. _____
25. _____

I was promoted as follows: On the _____ day of _____, 186____, as

I was on detached service, as follows:

F

I was on special service, as follows:

*Carried the Mail from
Grissom to Laffett*

I was sick with the following diseases:

*Diarrhoea and
Neuralgia while coming up the
Miss to Caro & by rail to Chicago*

I was sick in hospital from the _____ day of _____, 186____,

and was afterwards transferred to hospitals at the following places on the following dates:

I received Oct 20 furloughs for 15 days which I passed at
My home in Mt Morris was treated by
Dr R. G. Stevens while at home

I veteranized, or re-enlisted, at _____, on _____,

the _____ day of _____, 186____, for _____ years.

I was taken prisoner at _____, on the _____ day

of _____, 186____, and taken to prison at _____,

where I remained until the _____ day of _____, 186____, and

was transferred successively as follows: _____

I made my escape on the _____ day of _____, 186____,

in the following manner: _____

I was recaptured and conveyed to prison, as follows:

I was paroled on the _____ day of _____, 186____, and exchanged
at _____, on the _____ day of _____,

186____, and rejoined my regiment at Camp Try Chicago,
on the 29 day of Oct, 1864,

I was mustered out of U. S. service on the 3 day of November 1864,
and went to Chicago, to be discharged from State service,
on the 4 day of November 1864. During my period of service

I estimate that I marched 1000 miles, and in the following States,
Illinois Ten Miss Ken Arkan

I arrived home on the 5 day of Nov, 1864. My health
was impaired in the following manner and from the following causes: While on

boat was taken with diarrhea & on reaching Chicago was taken with neuralgia

At the close of the war I was in the Army of the _____

was in the Grand Review at Washington on the _____ day of May, 1865.

I joined G. A. R. Post Oregon, No. 116
at Oregon Ilo, on the 8 day of July, 1889,

and was elected to the following offices, on the following dates:

Was Honorable Discharged from Post
No 116 On the 22 day of June 1891
& became a Charter Member of the

I also belong to the following military organizations, which I joined on the following dates, and at the following places, and in which I have held the following offices:

J. W Smith Post No 720. organized
at Mt Morrison, 4th day Aug. 1891.



CIVIL RECORD

I was born on the 1 day of July 1845

at Maryland Township county of Ogle

State of Illinois and am the son of William S.

and Jenette Blair; my father was born on the 31

day of May 1816, at Crawford Co Pa

and was of _____ nationality; my mother

was born on the 27 day of Sept 1818

at Paloo Co Antrim and was of Ireland

nationality; their marriage took place on the 27 day of Sept. 1838

and they had 9 children born on the following dates and named as follows:-

Mercy A. born June 11. 1840.

Mattie J. born

Samuel P. born July 1. 1845.

Mary H. born Nov. 28. 1848

Following are the dates and places of the respective deaths of my father and mother:-

Mother at Omaha Neb. Dec 14. 1885.

Father at Omaha Neb July. 7. 1890.

Following are the dates of the disease of my brothers and sisters: _____

I lived with my parents until _____ and received
a _____ education, fitting for my business in life as follows:

■

I commenced my business in _____ in 18_____
and afterwards removed as follows: _____

I was married on the 1 day of July, 1867,
at Mount Carroll to Carroll P. Fish,
daughter of William & Mary by Planc Union.
Her father was born on the 27 day of Och, 1813,

and he was of _____ nationality; her mother was

born on the 27 day of Feb, 1823 and was
of nationality; she was born on the 15 day
of Oct, 1841, and had 3 brothers and 2 sisters
born in the following order and on the following dates:

Emely E. born Apr 14. 1839. at Md
John S. born Aug 30. 1844. "
Mary W. born Oct 7. 1848. "
Charles W. born July 6 1858 Ibs.

F

Her parents were married on the _____ day of _____, 18____,
and her father died on the _____ day of _____, 18____; her
mother died on the _____ day of _____, 18____,

respectively at _____

To me and my wife the following children have been born on the following dates and at

the following places:

Willie W. Blair born Aug 3. 1868.
at Mt Morris Ogle Co Illinois



Following is the record of the decease of my children:—

I belong to the Methodist Episcopal church. My wife,
Mrs. S. P. Blair is a member of the M. E. church
and belongs to the following societies: M. E. So Schoole
M. E. Wile So

(The following blank space is left for additional matter regarding family history.)

Samuel Blair The Great Grand Father
of my Father W. S. Blair was born
in Scotland about 1695

Emigrated to Ireland in 1710
had three sons Samuel Damland
Patrick

Samuel Blair The Grand Father
of my Father W. S. Blair was born
in Ireland 1738 and Emigrated
to U. S. of America 1760 settled in
Northumberland Co. Pa from there
to Crawford Co. Pa 1795 where he
lived til he died at the age of 82

his death occur'd Aug 7th 1820 was in
the war of 1776 and fought for Inde-
pendence had 2 sons and 4 daughters
Samuel and John

Samuel Blair the Father of my
Father W. L. Blair was born in Pen-
Feb 13 1783 and was married to
Mercy Chitester Oct 24 1811
came to Ogle Co Ill 1837 and
settled in Maryland town sk
where his son John F still
resides. was in the war of 1812
was Capt of Co H under Col Con-
rad Perry had 7 children
4 sons 3 daughters William
Samuel W. Silas F. John F.
Nancy Jane Sally Silas J.
Blair was killed at the battle of Shiloh
Apr 7 1862 was Capt of Co H 34 Regt of Ill U.S.

William S Blair my Father
and the oldest son of the forth
generation was born May 31.
1816. in Crawford Co. Pa
came to Illinois in 1837. returned
to Pa in the fall of 1838 and
was married to Jennett Blair
Sept 27th 1838. came back to
Illinois in the spring of
1839. his wife came with him
they erected a log cabin near his
Fathers commencing the occupation
a Farmer which was very laborious
in those times as they had
very few conveniences and had
to haul all their produce to
Chicago requiring 6 to 10 days
to make the trip. at his first
coming to Ogle Co in 1837 there

was but one log cabin with
in 3 miles of Mt Morris in 1847
moved to Mt Morris where he
engaged in store keeping living
and hotel business he built the

Blair Hotel in 1851 handled the
most of the lumber from Chicago
W.S. Blair died at Omaha Neb

July 7th 1890 in his 73 year
Mrs Emmett Blair wife of William
S. Blair was born on the 27th
Sept 1818 in the Parish Kalo
Co Antrim Ireland and with
her Father's family came to
America in 1835 died in
Omaha Neb Dec 14, 1885
aged 67 years 2 month 17 days

Emmett Blair was a daughter
of Patrick Blair a cousin of

Samuel Blair the Father of
William S. Blair.
By the Union of W. S. Blair
and Jemmett Blair 9 children
was born & died inched how
4 Daughters and 5 sons
Samuel R. Blair the writer
who is the 5th Samuel of the
5 generation

I was married to Carrie V. Fiske
July 1. 1867. and by our union
one son was born
Willie W. Blair born Aug 3
1868.

After a wedded life of
nearly 40 years we lost her
last she was a true & faithful
help mate a devoted mother
one that could assist in anything

in the way of work. & it is she
indeed. for I ^{say} she was never idle.
Two bleed hands was ever
busier making something
to beautify her home or giving
some of her chosen friends
something that she made
herself & without time or care.
The gift did not consider the am
of time & labor the artist spent
but those blessed no one are afraid
I can do no more for some who
has so careful used in my
good fortune them & here we
to is my prayer. Carre had been very
weak with an uncurable disease
for better than 3 years. was twice
given treatment Rockford hospital
the last time came home con-

Sularieon benefited but grew worse
had several strokes of paralysis &
on Sunday June the 9th ¹⁹⁰⁷ round one
removed her helpless & unconscious
The W.P.C. gave us great assistance
in caring for her God bless them
all for their kindness. she quietly
went into her last sleep Thursday
at 4.30^{P.M.} & was buried in a con-
crete vault in old cemetery had
G.A.R. Comrades for bears & the
Relief Corp was in attendance.
Commod Draf H. Wore of Polson con-
ducted the service. God bless
all who gave us their help &
their kind sympathy in
this bereavement for none
now but those who ^{most} know
it what it is to lose ones com-
panion

I received letter kind invitation for
Mr & Mrs Walter & Mary Mrs George Cook
& Rockford Mrs Green Hechler &
Dubulkeen Goua Mrs Sherman of
Portland Oregon

The White Society of the W.E. Church
sent a ransom note of flowers
The W.R.C did the same
Mrs Lillie Miller a ransom note
which ordered a pillow from Pole
with the word Mother on it
A cluster of carnations from
Chicago & many others contributed
flowers which was over taken
earlier by Mrs Mary McCoy
Mrs Hollay Clark Miss Emily
Smith & Mrs Ed McConney We
had a picture made of the
flowers & casket. This Peter gave

... a good & kind soul I have
known since miss Hart's was a
true neighbor & friend God bless
her.

Unc Frank Blair her true son
& two daughters with their family
attended the funeral.

Charles Fish the one surviving
member of the Fish with his
wife was at funeral I returned
with them to their home in
Chicago with them I spent
10 days there it was good work
for me & they did every thing
they could to make it plea-
sant for me while I was there.

Carrie born Oct. 15. 1841 in
Washington Co Md and came to
Illinois in the year 1856 she

Became a well educated girl on
leaving his terms her first
labors was in the old Sandtons
dining room & kitchen where
she earned 35^s pr week for wash
and dishes & a dinner table her
next place was with Mrs Stark-
man in her milliner shop then
at Poloske worked for Mrs Attems
a number of seasons she
worked so number of years
in tailor shop for a Mr Farm-
ley then A G Attems Routsen
and for Shucker & Clevidence
at the last named firm her
labors in that line ended &
she became my wife and
she was so well fitted to take
up the duties as faithful helpmate

but death has come and snatched
her my faithful companion for
nearly 40 years and my sky
is hung with a black and clouded
curtain my vision overcast with
gloom and sorrow and every
sound that strikes my ^{ear} has in
it a cadence of despair without
the presence of that one who has
gone before the world seems
empty and cheerless to me and
in my heart there is a dreary
dismal aching. The only conso-
lation is that it is sweet to believe
that she is at peace and is now
in that land where the weary are
at rest and as I bent over her
open coffin for the last time
and looked at those folded

hands those blessed hands I know
The wondrous more for us gain
in this world and those closed eyes
will never look into myn I sulige
That my comanion is with
her was forever at an end and
her poor worn frame will never
more be racked with agonies of
pain and her suffering is at
an end but it will only be a
little while until we to will
have to cross the dark river
and join our loved com-
panions on the other shore
may I and those who read these
be ever ready and waiting
when the summons comes
is the prize of my hart and
that I can truly forgive those
who shamefuley wronged her

Concord June 15th. My Dear Brothers
It is half past two and I have
just received your telegram.
I am very sorry for you in this
great affliction. I know something
of what it means and I can only
assure you of my love and sympa-
thy each one has to bear this
sorrow alone yet it helps a little
sometimes to know that our
friends are thinking of us and
remembering our sorrow.
I hope she quietly went to sleep
but I sorrow now hard and lonely
it will be for you man God
bless you and help you to
bear your sorrow. I have
thought so much about you
and wondered what you will

conclude to do you have such a dear
little home every thing so comfortable
about you I used to think of you
giving it up or making a change.
where one has had there own quiet
home all to them selves as you
and Carrie had so long it means
much to go into a home with
some one else I believe you
will be better contented in your
own little home with all the
sweet associations. than to break
up and scatter the dear things
that you have used and enjoyed
and that has failed to make
the home what it was to you
of course it will be very lonely but
it will lonely where ever you go
lonely for the dear one who

cannot return to you and only
time can ease "loneliness. Think
it over well before you make a
change. Yours truly Sister Anna

Cumberland Md

Ms S. R. Blair Aug. 4. 1907

Dear Cousin

Maine received
your letter a few weeks ago
telling her the sad news of
the death of his Cousin. She
certainly was surprised to hear
of his death as she had not
heard from him for some time
she didn't know what had
become of you all, you certain-
ly have our hearts felt
sympathy for we have felt

The stroke of death our severs this
past June one year ago we
barred my dear Father it was
a hard blow and one we will
never get over He died suddenly
Tis certainly hard to part
with our loved ones but we
have one comfort to know
that we can meet them in
Heaven and tis now sweet it
will be to meet to part no
more once God bless you
and your Family and com-
fort you is our prayer.

Your Cousin

Ada E. Wells

78 North Center St
Concordance Me

This is a part of his letter copy
by Rev

Rockford, June 16.

Mr S.R. Blair 1907

Dear Friend

I was surprised
to receive your telegram of Corrie's
death. When I saw her last I
releged she never would all
log other regain her health
but hoped she would be spa-
ried to her family longer. I assure
you we all sympathize deeply
with you. You have indeed lost
a loving wife and your dear boy
a good mother our loss is her
gain & we may be comforted with
the thought that his suffering
is ended she was always good &
a true friend & I feel she is safe
at home It is a blessed privilege to
be prepared for this change, George