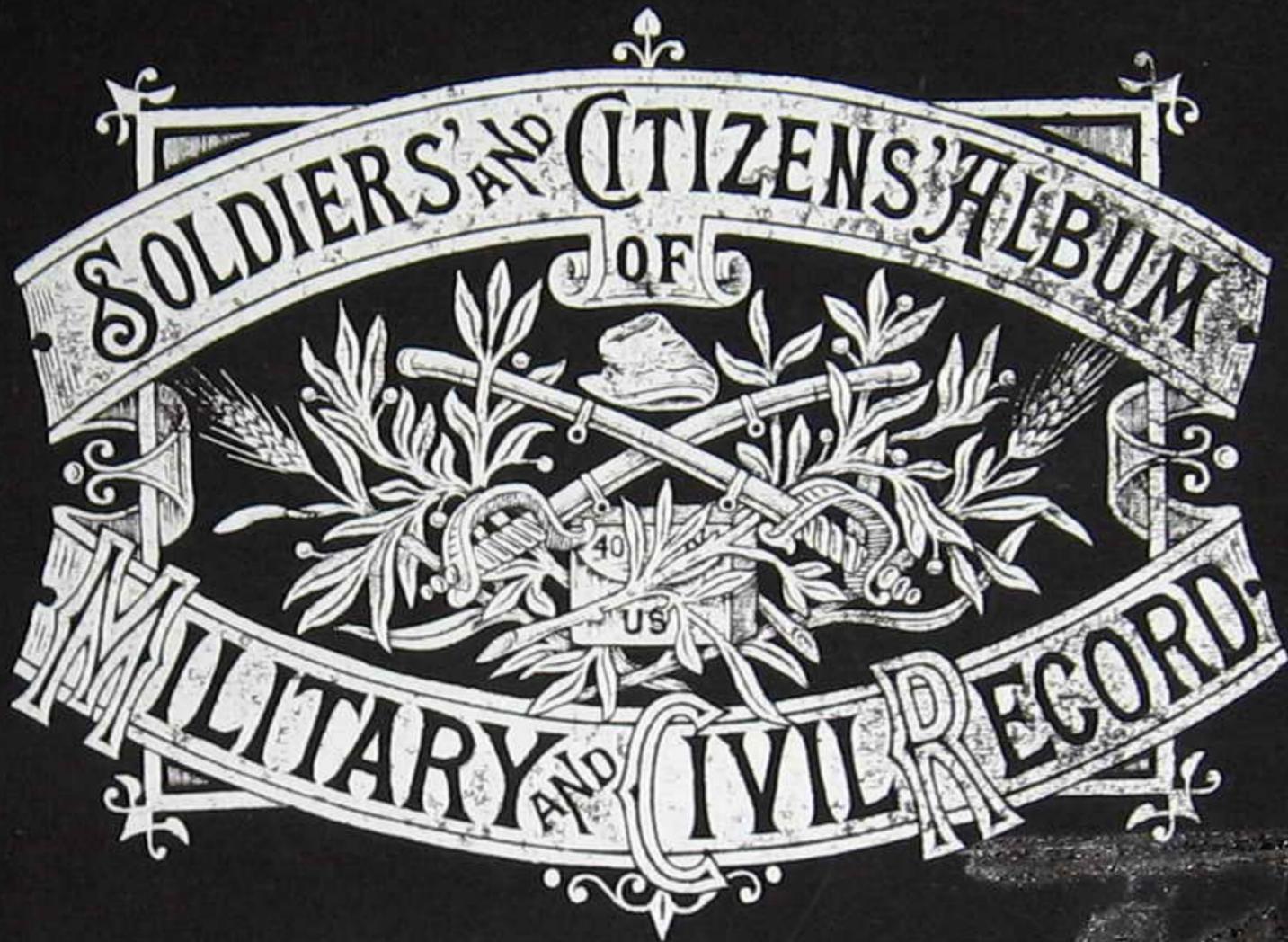


The following is the Military and Civil Record written by Samuel Russell Blair in the year 1907. The record includes information on his Civil War service and family history. It focuses heavily on the death of his wife and his heartfelt feelings about her loss. Samuel died soon after putting this record 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.



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. Morris Ills on the 28
day of April, 1864 for _____ years, and went to rendezvous
at Dixon Ills; I was mustered on the 16
day of June, 1864, at Camp Butler Ills
in Company I, 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
_____ 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
Laffett Ten Crossin creek Memphis
Caro 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:

I was on special service, as follows:

*Carried the Mail from
Grissom to Laffett*

I was sick with the following diseases:

*Diarrhoia 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. P. 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 Fry 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

foot was taken with diarrhoea & on reach-
ing 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 Ill, 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 Morris on 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 L.

and Genette 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 Raloo Co Austrin 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 G. born

Samuel P. born July. 7. 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 7 day of July, 1867
at Mount Casell to Carrie V. Fish,
daughter of William & Mary by Thare Union.
Her father was born on the 27 day of Oct, 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. Lorn Apr 14. 1839. at Md

John S. Lorn Aug 30. 1844. "

Mary W. Lorn Oct 7. 1848. "

Charles W. Lorn July 6 1858 Ill.



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 M. 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. R. Blair is a member of the M. E. church
and belongs to the following societies: M. E. S. School
M. E. M. S.

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

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

Emigrated to Ireland in 1710
had three sons Samuel Daniel and
Patric

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. Pen from there
to Crofford Co. Pen 1795 where he
lived til he died at the age of 82

His death occurred 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. S. Blair was born in Penn
Feb 13 1783 and was married to
Mercy Chitester Oct 24 1811
came to Ogle Co Ill 1837 and
settled in Maryland Town sh
where this 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 G. John F.
Nancy Jane Sally Silas J.
Blair was killed at the battle of Shiloh
Apr 7 1862 was Sarg of Co H 34 Reg of Ill. U. S.

William S Blair my Father
and the oldest son of the fourth
generation was born May 31.
1816 in Crofford Co Pen
came to Illinois in 1837 returned
to Pen in the fall of 1838 and
was married to Jennett Blair
Sep 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 livery
and hotel business he built the
Blair Hotel in 1851 called the
most of the lumber from Chicago
W. S. Blair died at Omaha Neb
July 7th 1890 in his 73rd year

Mrs Emmett Blair wife of William
S. Blair was born on the 27th
Sep 1818 in the Parish Kalou
Co Antrom Ireland and with
her Father's family came to
America in 1835; died in
Omaha Neb Dec 14, 1885;
aged 67 years 2 months 17 days
Emmett Blair was a daughter
of Patric Blair a cousin of

Samuel Blair the Father of
William S. Blair.

By the Union of W. S. Blair
and Emmett Blair 9 children
was born 4 died in childhood

4 Daughters and 1 son

Samuel R. Blair the son
who is the 5th Samuel of the
5 generations

I was married to Carrie V. Fish
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 laid her
to rest she was a true & faithful
helpmate a devoted mother
& one that could master any thing

in the way of work that she
 under the eye was never idle.
 Two blessed hands was ever
 busy making something
 to beautify her home or give
 some of her chosen friends
 something that she made
 her self & whom the angels
 the gift did not consider the amount
 of time & labor the artist expended
 but those blessed hands are at rest
 I can no more for some who
 has so carefully used their money
 God forgive them & tell me
 to is my prayer. Carried away
 every with an incurable disease
 for better than 3 years was twice
 given treatment Rockford hospital
 the last time came some con-

she was benefited but grew worse
had several strokes of paralysis &
on Sunday June the 9th 1907
rendered her helpless & unconscious
The W. R. C. gave us ^{great} assistance
in caring for her God bless them
all for their kindness. she quietly
went into her rest sleep Thursday
at 4:30^{PM} & was buried in a con-
crete vault in old cemetery had
L. A. R. Comrades for bears & the
Relief Core was in attendance
Comrade Dr. H. Wore & P. O. con-
ducted the service. God bless
all who gave us their help &
their kind sympathy in
this bereavement for no one
knows but those who ^{know} have
it what it is to lose ones com-
panion

I received letter kind invitation for
to Mr. Walter & Mary Mrs. George Cook
of Rockford Mrs. Green Wickles of
Dubuque Iowa Mrs. Thurman of
Portland Oregon

The W. M. Society of the M. E. Church
sent a ransom dress of flowers
The W. R. C. did the same

Mrs. Lillian Miller a ransom with
which ordered a pillow from Pole
with the word Mother on it
A cluster of carnations from
Chicago of many others contributed
flowers which was our ransom
conducted by Mrs. Mary McCoy
Mrs. Holly Clark Miss Emily
Smith & Mrs. Ed. W. Brady. We
had a picture made of the
flowers & basket. Mrs. Ger gave

my good friend Lull had a
Carrie's sister Harter was a
true neighbor & friend God bless
her.

Uncle Frank Blair has three sons
& two daughters with their family
attended the funeral.

Charles Fish the only surviving
member of the Fish with his
wife was at funeral & returned
with them to their home in
Chicago with them I spent
10 days there it was good help
for me & they did every thing
they could to make it pleas-
ant 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 self supporting girl on
 machine, her terms her first
 labors was in the old Sanstons
 dining room & kitchen where
 she received 35¢ for week for wash
 in dishes & water on table her
 next place was with Mrs Starch-
 man in her milliner shop then
 at Poloshe worked for Mrs Peters
 a number of seasons she
 worked a number of years
 in tailor shop for a Mr Farm-
 bay then a G. Allen Routsen
 and for Specker & 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
his 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 ache. 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
they would do no more for us 'gain
in this world and those closed eyes
will never look into mine I realize
that my companion here 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 too will
have to cross the dark river
and join our loved com-
panions on the other shore
may I and those who read lines
be ever ready and waiting
when the summons comes
is the prayer of my heart and
that I can truly forgive those
who shamefully wronged her

Conana June 15th. My Dear Brother

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 sympathy 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 know how hard and lonely it will be for you may 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 very things so comfortable
about you. I dread to think of your
giving it up or making a change
where one has had their one 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 helped to make
the home what it was to you
of course it will be very lonely but
it will be 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. I am yours' Sister Hattie

Cumberland Md

Mr S. R. Blair

Aug. 4. 1907

Dear Cousin

Mamma received

your letter a few weeks ago
telling her the sad news of
the death of her 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
became of you all. You certainly
have our hearts full
sympathy for we have felt

The sting of death our seniors this
 past time one year ago we
 parted my dear Father it was
 a hard blow and one we will
 never get over He died suddenly
 it is certainly hard to part
 with our loved ones but we
 have one comfort to know
 that we can meet them in
 Heaven and oh how sweet it
 will be to meet to part no
 more may God bless you
 and your family and com-
 fort you is our prayer

Your Cousin
 Ada E. Wells

78 North Center St
 Cumberland Ma

The above is a part of his letter copy
 by Rus

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
rejoiced she never would all
together regain her health
but hoped she would be spa-
red to her family longer I assure
you we all sympathize deeply
with you. You have indeed lost
a loving wife and you dear boy
a good mother our loss is her
gain & we may be comforted with
the thought that her 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, Georgie