Blair Family Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress

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Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2014
Revised 2014 August

Contact information:
http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact

Additional search options available at:
http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms998026

LC Online Catalog record:
http://lccn.loc.gov/mm79012930

Prepared by Paul Ledvina and Margaret McAleer
Revised and expanded by Michael Spangler and Karen Linn Femia
Collection Summary
Title: Blair Family Papers
Span Dates: 1755-1968
Bulk Dates: (bulk 1829-1892)
ID No.: MSS12930
Creator: Blair family
Extent: 19,100 items ; 74 containers plus 2 oversize ; 29.9 linear feet ; 49 microfilm reels
Language: Collection material in English
Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
Summary: Prominent family in nineteenth century national politics. Correspondence, speeches and writings, legal files, financial records, historical research files, printed matter, and estate records documenting principally the careers of Francis Preston Blair, journalist and presidential advisor, Frank P. Blair, soldier and politician, and Montgomery Blair, lawyer and cabinet officer.

Selected Search Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

People
Andrew, John A. (John Albion), 1818-1867--Correspondence.
Barnard, J. G. (John Gross), 1815-1882--Correspondence.
Benton, Thomas Hart, 1782-1858--Correspondence.
Bernays, Charles S.--Correspondence.
Blair family--Correspondence.
Blair family--Homes and haunts--Maryland.
Blair family--Homes and haunts--Washington (D.C.)
Blair family.
Blair, Francis Preston, 1791-1876. Francis Preston Blair papers.
Blair, Frank P., Jr. (Francis Preston), 1821-1875. Frank P. Blair papers.
Blair, Gist, 1860-1940. Gist Blair papers.
Blair, Mary Elizabeth Woodbury--Correspondence.
Blair, Mary Elizabeth Woodbury--Estate.
Blair, Montgomery, 1813-1883--Estate.
Blair, Montgomery, 1813-1883. Montgomery Blair papers.
Blair, Woodbury. Woodbury Blair papers.
Bradford, Augustus W. (Augustus Williamson), 1806-1881--Correspondence.
Buchanan, James, 1791-1868--Correspondence.
Butler, Benjamin F. (Benjamin Franklin), 1818-1893--Correspondence.
Butler, William Orlando, 1791-1880--Correspondence.
Carroll, Charles, 1737-1832--Correspondence.
Cass, Lewis, 1782-1866--Correspondence.
Chaffee, Calvin Clifford, 1811-1896--Correspondence.
Clay, Henry, 1777-1852--Correspondence.
Cowles, Edwin, 1825-1890--Correspondence.
Crittenden, John J. (John Jordan), 1787-1863--Correspondence.
Curtis, George Ticknor, 1812-1894--Correspondence.
Davis, Jefferson, 1808-1889.
Davis, Varina, 1826-1906--Correspondence.
Dawes, Henry L. (Henry Laurens), 1816-1903--Correspondence.
Dix, John A. (John Adams), 1798-1879--Correspondence.
Donelson, Andrew Jackson, 1799-1871--Correspondence.
Douglas, Stephen A. (Stephen Arnold), 1813-1861--Correspondence.
Everett, Edward, 1794-1865--Correspondence.
Field, Roswell M. (Roswell Martin), 1807-1869--Correspondence.
Fox, Gustavus Vasa, 1821-1883--Correspondence.
Fox, Virginia L. Woodbury--Correspondence.
Frémont, Jessie Benton, 1824-1902--Correspondence.
Frémont, John Charles, 1813-1890--Correspondence.
Gratz family--Correspondence.
Greeley, Horace, 1811-1872--Correspondence.
Haywood, William H. (William Henry), 1801-1852--Correspondence.
Hicks, Thomas Holliday, 1798-1865--Correspondence.
Ingersoll, Charles Jared, 1782-1862--Correspondence.
Jackson, Andrew, 1767-1845--Correspondence.
Johnson, Reverdy, 1796-1876--Correspondence.
Kendall, Amos, 1789-1869--Correspondence.
Lee, Elizabeth Blair--Correspondence.
Lee, Samuel Phillips, 1812-1897--Correspondence.
Lewis, William Berkeley, 1784-1866--Correspondence.
Lincoln, Abraham, 1809-1865--Correspondence.
Livingston, Edward, 1764-1836--Correspondence.
Olin, Abram Baldwin, 1808-1879--Correspondence.
Parker, Theodore, 1810-1860--Correspondence.
Parton, James, 1822-1891--Correspondence.
Porter, Fitz-John, 1822-1901--Correspondence.
Pratt, Thomas George, 1804-1869--Correspondence.
Purnell, William Henry, 1826-1902--Correspondence.
Reid, Whitelaw, 1837-1912--Correspondence.
Richey, Minna Blair, 1850-1919--Correspondence.
Ritchie, Thomas, 1778-1854--Correspondence.
Sanford, John F. A., 1806 or 1807-1857--Trials, litigation, etc.
Scott, Dred, 1809-1858--Trials, litigation, etc.
Scott, Winfield, 1786-1866--Correspondence.
Sherman, William T. (William Tecumseh), 1820-1891--Correspondence.
Stevens, Samuel, 1778-1860. Samuel Stevens papers.
Stevenson, Andrew, 1784-1857--Correspondence.
Taney, Roger Brooke, 1777-1864--Correspondence.
Thomas, Philip F. (Philip Francis), 1810-1890--Correspondence.
Van Buren, John, 1810-1866--Correspondence.
Van Buren, Martin, 1782-1862--Correspondence.
Van Buren, Martin, 1782-1862.
Ward, Henry Dana, 1797-1884--Correspondence.
Welles, Gideon, 1802-1878--Correspondence.
Wells, R. W. (Robert William), 1795-1864--Correspondence.
Wright, Silas, 1795-1847--Correspondence.

Organizations
Blair House (Washington, D.C.)
Princeton University--Students.
Republican National Committee (U.S.)
Transylvania University--Students.
United States. Congress. Senate.
United States. Postmaster General.

**Subjects**
- American newspapers--Washington (D.C.)
- Land grants--West (U.S.)
- Land speculation--West (U.S.)
- Newspaper editors--Washington (D.C.)
- Practice of law--Missouri--Saint Louis.
- Practice of law--Washington (D.C.)
- Publishers and publishing--Washington (D.C.)
- Reconstruction (U.S. history, 1865-1877)
- Slavery--United States--Legal status of slaves in free states.
- Slavery--West (U.S.)

**Places**
- Maryland--Politics and government.
- Missouri--Politics and government--19th century.
- Richmond (Va.)--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.
- Saint Louis (Mo.)--Social life and customs.
- Southern States--Economic conditions--19th century.
- Southern States--History--1865-1877.
- Southern States--Social conditions--1865-1945.
- United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Peace.
- United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.
- United States--Politics and government--19th century.
- Virginia--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.
- Washington (D.C.)--Social life and customs.

**Titles**
- *Congressional Globe.*

**Administrative Information**

**Provenance**
The Blair Family Papers were given to the Library of Congress between 1903 and 2007 by various donors, including members of the Blair family, William E. Smith, the Breckinridge Long family, Patrick T. Lanigan, the Blair House in Washington, D.C., Jane Blair, and Louise Kirkland Condon. Additional papers were acquired by purchase. Material given by Richard C. Hollyday II was received in 2000.

**Processing History**
The Blair family papers were processed in 1963 and reprocessed in preparation for microfilming in 1987. Several revisions of the register from 1967 to 2014 reflect the incorporation of additions to the collection.

**Additional Guides**

**Transfers**
Items have been transferred from the Manuscript Division to other custodial divisions of the Library. Some prints and photographs have been transferred to the Prints and Photographs Division. Most maps and atlases have been transferred to the Geography and Map Division. Some newspapers have been transferred to the Serial and Government Publications Division. All transfers are identified in these divisions as part of the Blair family papers.
Related Material

Other collections in the Manuscript Division related directly to the Blair family include the Levi Woodbury family papers, the Asa Clapp Family Papers, the Samuel Phillips Lee Papers in the Naval Historical Foundation Collection, the Breckinridge Long Family Papers, and the Blair & Rives Records which relate to the publishing business partnership of Francis Preston Blair and John C. Rives.

There are also substantial manuscript collections related to the Blair family at the Princeton University Library, Stanford University Library, and the Historical Society of Washington, D.C.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of members of the Blair family is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of the Blair family are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Microfilm

A microfilm edition of part of these papers is available on forty-nine reels. Consult reference staff in the Manuscript Division concerning availability for purchase or interlibrary loan. To promote preservation of the originals, researchers are required to consult the microfilm edition.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container or reel number, Blair Family Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Notes

Francis Preston Blair

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1791, Apr. 12</td>
<td>Born, Abingdon, Va.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1811</td>
<td>Graduated, Transylvania University, Lexington, Ky.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1812</td>
<td>Volunteer, War of 1812</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Married Eliza Violet Howard Gist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1817</td>
<td>Admitted to the Kentucky bar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1818-1825</td>
<td>Contributor, <em>Argus of Western America</em>, Frankfort, Ky.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1830-1845</td>
<td>Founder and editor, the <em>Washington Globe</em>, Washington, D.C.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Member, Andrew Jackson's &quot;Kitchen Cabinet&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1856</td>
<td>Changed support to the Republican party</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1860-1865</td>
<td>Supported and advised Abraham Lincoln</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1868</td>
<td>Returned to the Democratic party</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1876, Oct. 18   Died, Silver Spring, Md.

**Frank P. Blair**  
*Date*   *Event*  
1821, Feb. 19   Born, Lexington, Ky., son of Francis Preston Blair  
1841   Graduated, Princeton University, Princeton, N.J.  
1842-1843   Studied law, Transylvania University, Lexington, Ky.  
1843   Admitted to the Kentucky bar  
        Served in Mexican War  
1847   Married Apolline Alexander  
1852-1856   Member, Missouri House of Representatives  
1857-1864   Member, United States House of Representatives  
1861   Lieutenant colonel, United States Army  
1862   Major general, United States Army  
1868   Democratic party nominee for United States vice president  
1871-1873   Member, United States Senate  
1874   Appointed Missouri superintendent of life insurance  
1875, July 9   Died, St. Louis, Mo.

**Montgomery Blair**  
*Date*   *Event*  
1813, May 10   Born, Franklin County, Ky., son of Francis Preston Blair  
1835   Graduated, United States Military Academy, West Point, N.Y.  
        Lieutenant, United States Army, serving in Seminole Indian War  
1836   Studied law, Transylvania University, Lexington, Ky.  
        Married Caroline Buckner (died 1844)  
1837   Moved to St. Louis, Mo., admitted to the bar and practiced law  
1839-1841   Appointed United States district attorney for the State of Missouri  
1842-1843   Mayor, St. Louis, Mo.  
1843-1849   Judge, Court of Common Pleas, St. Louis, Mo.  
1844-1852   Delegate, Democratic National conventions
1846    Married Mary Elizabeth Woodbury
1853    Moved to Maryland
1855    Solicitor, United States Court of Claims
        Counsel for Dred Scott
1860    President, State Republican Convention, Baltimore, Md.
1861-1864 United States postmaster general
1876    Electoral Committee counsel for Samuel J. Tilden
1878    Member, Maryland House of Delegates
1882    Unsuccessful candidate for United States Congress
1883, July 27 Died, Silver Spring, Md.

**Gist Blair**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1860, Sept. 10</td>
<td>Born, Washington, D.C., son of Montgomery Blair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1880</td>
<td>Graduated, Princeton University, Princeton, N.J.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1880s-1896</td>
<td>Practiced law, St. Louis, Mo.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1897</td>
<td>Moved to Washington, D.C.; practiced law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1912</td>
<td>Married Laura Lawson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1940, Dec. 16</td>
<td>Died, Washington, D.C.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Scope and Content Note**

The Blair Family Papers span the years 1755-1968, with the bulk of material dating from 1829 to 1892. The collection chronicles the activities of a politically prominent family that included Francis Preston Blair (1791-1876), journalist and advisor to presidents Andrew Jackson, Martin Van Buren, and Abraham Lincoln; Frank P. Blair (1821-1875), soldier, United States senator, and lawyer; and Montgomery Blair (1813-1883), lawyer, politician, and postmaster general under Abraham Lincoln. The collection is organized in ten series: Family Correspondence, Francis Preston Blair Papers, Frank P. Blair Papers, Gist Blair Papers, Montgomery Blair Papers, Woodbury Blair Papers, Other Family Papers, Miscellany, and Oversize. Additions, appended to the papers in 1997, and 2003, and 2014 are organized as a separate series.

The Family Correspondence series comprises letters written by family members to one another. The most prolific correspondent represented is Frank P. Blair. His many letters to his wife, father, and brother while serving as a Union Army officer during the Civil War describe the military campaigns in which he was involved. Montgomery Blair’s letters to his wife and various family members depict the political and social scene from the 1850s to the early 1870s in St. Louis, Missouri, and later in Washington, D.C.

The series also contains numerous letters to Gist Blair from his mother, Mary Elizabeth Woodbury Blair, from about 1875 until her death. Those from his sister, Minna Blair Richey, include information about private family matters and activities.
during the last decades of the nineteenth century. Letters written by Virginia Woodbury Fox and her husband, Gustavus Vasa Fox, in the late 1860s and early 1870s during their extensive travels in the southern states note the social and economic conditions in the postwar South. Blair family correspondents also include several sisters and aunts of Francis Preston Blair and other Blair relations, most notably the Gratz family of Philadelphia.

The papers of Francis Preston Blair span the period from 1829 to 1876. His general correspondence begins about the time he moved from Kentucky to Washington, D.C., at the request of Andrew Jackson's supporters to establish and edit the Washington Globe newspaper. Prominent correspondents include James Buchanan, William Orlando Butler, John J. Crittenden, Andrew Jackson Donelson, John Charles and Jesse Benton Frémont, Charles Jared Ingersoll, Amos Kendall, William Berkeley Lewis, James Parton, Thomas Ritchie, Andrew Stevenson, and Gideon Welles. A special correspondence subseries contains most of the letters written to Blair by his longtime friend, Martin Van Buren (1782-1862), from 1836 to 1861, though a few letters from Van Buren to Blair are also filed in the general correspondence subseries. Other letters sent and received by Blair or forwarded by him to his son, Montgomery Blair, are interfiled with the latter's general correspondence.

Francis P. Blair’s speeches and writings file contains rough drafts of exhortations to presidents, letters to newspaper editors, and political campaign speeches. Miscellaneous papers document secret meetings between Blair and Jefferson Davis in January 1865 in Richmond, Virginia. Included in this file are lists of points of negotiation and a memorandum of conversations which occurred during Blair’s attempts to negotiate an end to the Civil War. Another file contains working notes and drafts emanating from the meeting of the Republican Party National Executive Committee in Pittsburgh in 1856.

The papers of Frank P. Blair consist of a small body of correspondence (1853-1874) and a miscellany file. A few letters relate to his military activities during the Civil War. His political career is documented in several speeches, fragments of political lists, clippings, and a legal file concerning his contested congressional election in 1862. Blair’s correspondence forwarded to his brother, Montgomery Blair, for comment or action and has been retained as a part of Montgomery Blair’s papers.

The papers of Montgomery Blair span the years from 1842 to 1887 and relate chiefly to his professional career after his return from St. Louis to Washington, D.C., in 1853. Most of his cases pertained to land patents and grants in the western United States. Also included are three volumes containing lists of the names of postmasters and post office revenues for the state of Maryland from around 1861 to 1864. Financial papers record Montgomery and Mary Elizabeth Blair’s personal financial activities, especially from 1870 to 1873. Speeches and writings by Blair chiefly concern political and religious topics, as does a file of printed matter.

Included among Montgomery Blair’s correspondence are letters received and rough drafts of letters written by Francis Preston Blair and Frank P. Blair. His father and brother often sought his advice and frequently forwarded letters received by them. Prominent correspondents besides those already mentioned include John A. Andrew, Thomas Hart Benton (1782-1858), Charles S. Bernays, Benjamin F. Butler (1818-1893), Lewis Cass, Edwin Cowles, George Ticknor Curtis, Varina Davis, Henry L. Dawes, Edward Everett, Horace Greeley, Andrew Jackson, Reverdy Johnson, Abraham Lincoln, Theodore Parker, Fitz-John Porter, Whitelaw Reid, and Henry Dana Ward.

The papers of Gist Blair (1860-1940), lawyer and businessman, span the period from 1830 to 1968. A journal (1887-1888), general correspondence (1876-1925), and financial papers (1889-1917) chiefly concern his law practice and land speculation prior to his return to Washington, D.C., from St. Louis in 1897. Material related to his years at Princeton University is also included.

A significant portion of Gist Blair’s papers consists of historical research files. Blair assumed the role of family historian and was instrumental in placing in the Library of Congress Manuscript Division the Andrew Jackson Papers, the Levi Woodbury family papers, the Asa Clapp family papers, and the Blair family papers. The files contain indexes, lists, and other material related to the history and ownership of the Jackson Papers. Also included are typewritten transcripts of correspondence between Andrew Jackson and Francis Preston Blair written from 1830 and 1845. Gist Blair was also involved in the preparation of William E. Smith’s history of the Blair family and retained Smith’s files of interviews, genealogical data, and related correspondence before and after the publication in 1933 of his The Francis Preston Blair Family in Politics.
The papers of Woodbury Blair (1852-1933), lawyer and businessman, span the period from 1866 to 1892 and chiefly concern the settlement of the estate of Montgomery and Mary Elizabeth Woodbury Blair. There are a few additional financial papers, a legal file, and a school catalog.

The series designated as Other Family Papers pertains to individuals related to the Blair family, most of whom are represented by a small number of items. There is, however, a substantial amount of general correspondence received by Elizabeth Blair Lee, as well as general correspondence of her husband, Samuel Phillips Lee. A diary (1840-1843) written by Levi Woodbury, some of the letters he received, law lecture notes, and miscellaneous notes and memoranda are also located in this series.

The Miscellany series contains genealogical material and files relating to the Silver Spring and Falkland estates in Montgomery County, Maryland, and to the Blair House across from the White House on Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, D.C.

Addition I of the Additions series includes drafts of writings by Francis Preston Blair. The first, probably dated 1832, criticized New York editors James Watson Webb and Mordecai M. Noah for deserting Andrew Jackson. The second was written as a newspaper column or a speech probably during the summer of 1860. The addition also contains a ledger maintained between 1851 and 1855 by Charles Q. Clapp, a merchant in Portland, Maine, and a journal kept by Gustavus Vasa Fox between 1851 and 1855 when, on leave from the navy, he served as an officer on various transatlantic steamships.

Addition II comprises chiefly correspondence received by Francis Preston Blair and Montgomery Blair. Letters to Francis Preston Blair include political discussions at the state and national levels from the 1820s to the 1850s. Letters from Henry Clay concerning national and presidential politics focus on the disputed election of 1824 and Clay’s defense against allegations that he was party to a “corrupt bargain” that resulted in the selection by the House of Representatives of John Quincy Adams as president over Andrew Jackson. Drafts of a few Blair’s responses are also included. Other significant correspondents with Francis Preston Blair include Thomas Hart Benton (1782-1858), John A. Dix (1798-1879), William H. Haywood (1801-1852), Amos Kendall, John Van Buren, Martin Van Buren (1782-1862), and Silas Wright.

Most of the letters received by Montgomery Blair in Addition II depict national, state, and party politics as well as military affairs chiefly during the Civil War. Maryland politics and patronage dominate the correspondence which includes letters from four governors, officers of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Co., and residents throughout the state. Topics include requests from unionists for protection against southern sympathizers and concern over the potential effect of emancipation and compensation. Also among the correspondence is a file pertaining to Scott v. Sandford, the United States Supreme Court case in which Montgomery Blair served as counsel for Dred Scott. Included are letters discussing legal issues and strategies from Roswell M. Field and Robert W. Wells, Scott’s previous attorney and the United States district judge, respectively, in the lower court hearing in Missouri. The file also contains a draft of a brief by Blair and letters from Calvin Clifford Chaffee regarding Scott’s manumission. Military patronage is also reflected in the letters, and several correspondents recount battlefield actions. Montgomery Blair’s correspondents include John G. Barnard, Augustus W. Bradford, Benjamin F. Butler (1818-1893), Stephen Arnold Douglas, John Charles Frémont, Thomas Holliday Hicks, Thomas George Pratt, William Henry Purnell, William T. Sherman, and Philip F. Thomas. Addition II also contains a small group of family correspondence and miscellaneous letters by James Buchanan, Charles Carroll (1737-1832), Edward Livingston (1764-1836), Winfield Scott, and Roger Brooke Taney and financial records of Maryland governor Samuel Stevens (1778-1860).

Addition III includes the student notebook, dated 1811 and undated, of Francis Preston Blair, who graduated from Transylvania University in 1811. Also in the addition are appraisals of the Maryland and Washington, D.C., Blair property, correspondence written by Francis Preston Blair, Frank P. Blair, Abram Baldwin Olin, and Minna Blair Richey, and printed matter. A newspaper with an 1868 transcription of a speech by Montgomery Blair is in Oversize.

**Organization of the Papers**

The collection is arranged in ten series:

- **Family Correspondence, 1831-1924**
- **Francis Preston Blair Papers, 1829-1876**
- **Frank P. Blair Papers, 1839-1884**
- **Gist Blair Papers, 1830-1968**
• Montgomery Blair Papers, 1842-1887
• Woodbury Blair Papers, 1866-1892
• Other Family Papers, circa 1755-1921
• Miscellany, 1793-1906
• Additions, 1811-1936
• Oversize, 1854-1882
Description of Series

**Container**

**Series**

**BOX 1-13**

**REEL 1-9**

**Family Correspondence, 1831-1924**

Letters sent and received by family members.
Arranged alphabetically by author and chronologically therein.

**BOX 14-18**

**REEL 9-12**

**Francis Preston Blair Papers, 1829-1876**

**BOX 14-16**

**REEL 9-11**

**General Correspondence, 1829-1873**

Letters sent and received.
Arranged chronologically.

**BOX 17**

**REEL 11**

**Special Correspondence, 1836-1861**

Letters from Martin Van Buren to Francis Preston Blair.
Arranged chronologically.
Also available on microfilm (shelf no. 17,631).

**BOX 17-18**

**REEL 11-12**

**Speeches and Writings File, 1863-1870**

Printed copies, rough drafts, notes, and memoranda.
Arranged chronologically.

**BOX 18**

**REEL 11-12**

**Miscellany, 1831-1876**

Correspondence, circular letters, deeds, notes, memoranda, bills and receipts, printed matter, and newspaper clippings.
Arranged alphabetically by subject and chronologically therein.

**BOX 18-20**

**REEL 12-13**

**Frank P. Blair Papers, 1839-1884**

**BOX 18-19**

**REEL 12**

**General Correspondence, 1853-1884**

Letters sent and received.
Arranged chronologically.

**BOX 19-20**

**REEL 12-13**

**Miscellany, 1839-1884**

Financial and legal papers, speeches and writings, military papers, political files, printed matter, notes, and memoranda.
Arranged alphabetically by subject or type of material and chronologically therein.

**BOX 21-28**

**REEL 13-21**

**Gist Blair Papers, 1830-1968**
Journal, 1887-1888

General Correspondence, 1876-1925
Letters sent and received with miscellaneous attachments and enclosures.
Arranged chronologically.

Financial Papers, 1889-1917
Account books, checkbooks, and business records.
Grouped by type of material and arranged chronologically therein.

Historical Research File, 1923-1968
Correspondence, transcripts of letters and interviews, and indexes pertaining to William E. Smith's history of the Francis Preston Blair family and the papers of Andrew Jackson.
Arranged alphabetically by subject.

Miscellany, 1844-1928
Invitations, programs, legal papers, newspaper clippings, notes, memoranda, memorabilia, school papers, and writings by others.
Organized by type of material.

Montgomery Blair Papers, 1842-1887

General Correspondence, 1847-1883
Letters sent and received with miscellaneous attachments and enclosures.
Arranged chronologically.

Legal Files, 1842-1882
Correspondence, notes, memoranda, briefs, opinions, deeds, indentures, depositions, powers of attorney, court dockets, and research material.
Arranged alphabetically by name of client.

Financial Papers, 1842-1887
Account books, bank books, bills and receipts, checkbooks, and cancelled checks comprising the financial papers of Montgomery Blair and Mary Elizabeth Woodbury Blair.
Arranged by person and by type of material therein.
Bankbooks available on microfilm, Reel 39.

Printed Matter, 1842-1882
Circular letters, a journal, and newspaper clippings.
Arranged alphabetically by type of material and chronologically therein.

BOX 60-61  
REEL 42-44

Miscellany, 1849-1882

Address and memoranda notebooks, speeches and writings, business cards, certificates, memorials, United States postmaster lists, notes, and memoranda.

Arranged alphabetically by type of material.

BOX 62-63  
Not filmed

Woodbury Blair Papers, 1866-1892

Financial papers, chiefly concerning the estates of Montgomery and Mary Elizabeth Woodbury Blair, a legal file, and a school catalog.

BOX 64-67  
REEL 44-46

Other Family Papers, circa 1755-1921

Papers of other individuals related to the Blair family, most of whom are represented by a small number of manuscripts. These papers include a diary, correspondence, notebooks, scrapbooks, and financial and legal papers.

Grouped by name of family member and then organized by type of material and chronologically therein.

BOX 68  
REEL 46-47

Miscellany, 1793-1906

Correspondence, genealogical material, wills and testaments, obituaries, printed matter, material related to the Blair family estates, and notebook. Printed matter available only on microfilm (shelf no.4,991).

BOX 69-73  
Not filmed

Additions, 1811-1936

BOX 69-70  
Addition I, 1822-1936

Correspondence, journals, drafts of writings, account ledger, and scrapbooks.

Arranged alphabetically by name of author or creator.

BOX 71-73  
Addition II, 1811-1876

Correspondence received, writings, financial records, testimony, reports, a certificate, and maps.

Arranged alphabetically by name of person or organization, type of material, or topic and chronologically thereunder.

BOX 74  
Addition III, 1796-1910

Arranged alphabetically by type of material or topic and chronologically thereunder.

BOX OV 1-OV2  
Oversize, 1854-1882

Plats, surveys, newspapers, maps, and a certificate.

Arranged and described according to the series, containers, and folders from which the items were removed.

BOX OV 2  
Addition III
### Container List

Available on microfilm. Shelf no. 19,713

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Contents</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BOX 1-13</td>
<td><strong>Family Correspondence, 1831-1924</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REEL 1-9</td>
<td>Letters sent and received by family members. Arranged alphabetically by author and chronologically therein.</td>
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<td>Miscellany, 1831-1876</td>
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Blair Family Papers
REEL 11-12
Correspondence, circular letters, deeds, notes, memoranda, bills and receipts, printed matter, and newspaper clippings. Arranged alphabetically by subject and chronologically therein.

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Blair & Rives business matters, 1844-1860

REEL 11-12
Davis, Jefferson, meeting with Francis Preston Blair, 1865
Legal papers, bills, and receipts, 1845-1876
Printed matter, clippings, circular letter, and name cards, 1831-1862
Republican Party National Executive Committee, meeting, Pittsburgh, Pa., 1856

BOX 18-20
Frank P. Blair Papers, 1839-1884

REEL 12-13
BOX 18-19
General Correspondence, 1853-1884
Letters sent and received. Arranged chronologically.

REEL 12
BOX 18
Mar. 1853-Feb. 1863
(4 folders)

REEL 11-12
BOX 19
Mar. 1863-Feb. 1874, undated
(5 folders)

REEL 12-13
BOX 19-20
Miscellany, 1839-1884
Financial and legal papers, speeches and writings, military papers, political files, printed matter, notes, and memoranda. Arranged alphabetically by subject or type of material and chronologically therein.

REEL 12-13
BOX 19
Financial papers, 1839-1884
(3 folders)

REEL 12-13
BOX 20
Knox v. Blair, re contested election, 1862
Military papers, field reports, and memoranda, 1861-1866
Politics, lists, memoranda, and clippings
Printed matter, 1854-1884
Speeches and writings
By Francis Preston Blair, 1858-1872
By others

REEL 13-21
BOX 21-28
Gist Blair Papers, 1830-1968

Blair Family Papers
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<td>Financial Papers, 1889-1917</td>
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<td>Account books, checkbooks, and business records. Grouped by type of material and arranged chronologically therein.</td>
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<td>Mortgage lists, 1890</td>
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<td>Historical Research File, 1923-1968</td>
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## Montgomery Blair Papers, 1842-1887

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<td>Legal Files, 1842-1882 Correspondence, notes, memoranda, briefs, opinions, deeds, indentures, depositions, powers of attorney, court dockets, and research material. Arranged alphabetically by name of client.</td>
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<td>Alexander v. Rodriguez, 1870-1871</td>
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<td>Blair (F. P., Jr.) v. Thompson, 1866-1869</td>
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BOX 44
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Lee, Arthur, 1875-1882
(2 folders)

BOX 45
REEL 33-34
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Blair Family Papers

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<td>Milpitas Rancho, 1868-1875 (3 folders)</td>
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<td>BOX 47</td>
<td><em>Morehouse v. Phelps</em>, 1858-1859</td>
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<td>REEL 35-36</td>
<td>Musick, David R., 1842</td>
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<td><em>Northern Bank of Kentucky v. Squires</em>, 1856-1857</td>
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<td>Pagosa Springs, 1882</td>
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<td>Porter, Fitz-John, 1862-1879 (2 folders)</td>
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<td>Prietosy Najalayegua Rancho, 1874-1875</td>
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<td>Pueblo of San Jose, 1880-1882</td>
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<td>Rogers, William E., 1869-1870</td>
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<td>Rogers, William H., 1877-1881</td>
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<td>BOX 48</td>
<td>St. Louis, Mo.</td>
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<td>REEL 36</td>
<td>City government, 1857-1875</td>
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<td>Benton Place real estate, 1869-1870</td>
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<td>Page Ave., property, 1865-1872</td>
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<td>San Sal Redondo Rancho, 1869-1871</td>
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<td><em>Sanger v. Newhall</em>, 1875</td>
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<td>Scharit, Augustus W., 1854-1858</td>
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<td></td>
<td><em>Scott v. Sandford</em>, 1856</td>
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<td><em>Snyder v. Sickles</em>, 1878-1879</td>
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<td>BOX 49</td>
<td>Sobrante de San Jacinto, 1867-1882</td>
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<td>REEL 36-37</td>
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<td><em>Tayloe v. United States</em>, 1858</td>
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<td>Tighe, Jane A., Edwin Tanner estate, 1867-1882</td>
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<td><em>Vigel v. Naylor</em>, 1858-1859</td>
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<td>BOX 50</td>
<td>War claims, 1866-1880</td>
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<td>REEL 37-38</td>
<td>Wedderburn, George, 1867</td>
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<td><em>Wheeling, Parkersburg &amp; Cincinnati Transportation Co. v. City of Wheeling</em>, 1875-1877</td>
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<td><em>White v. Luning</em>, undated</td>
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<td>Wilson, Thomas N., estate, 1874-1876</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Wolf, Edward J., 1872-1873</td>
</tr>
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</table>
## Montgomery Blair Papers, 1842-1887

**Container** | **Contents**
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**Woodruff & Co. v. United States, 1875**

**Miscellany**
- Court briefs
  - A-C
  - F-W

**BOX 51**  
**REEL 38-39**

- (4 folders)
- Deeds, indentures, depositions, and powers of attorney, 1843-1881
- Docket, United States Supreme Court, 1866-1878

**BOX 52**  
**REEL 39**

- "Index to Miscellaneous Briefs, vols. 1 to 9 Inclusive"
- Notes, memoranda, and fragments
  - (2 folders)

**BOX 52-56**  
**Not filmed**

**Financial Papers, 1842-1887**

Account books, bank books, bills and receipts, checkbooks, and cancelled checks comprising the financial papers of Montgomery Blair and Mary Elizabeth Woodbury Blair.

Arranged by person and by type of material therein.

Bankbooks available on microfilm, Reel 39.

**BOX 52**  
**REEL 39**

- Blair, Montgomery
  - Bankbooks, 1860-1879
    - (5 vols.)

**BOX 52**  
**Not filmed**

- Bills and receipts
  - 1842-1869
    - (3 folders)

**BOX 53**  
**Not filmed**

- 1870-1884
  - (4 folders)
  - Checkbooks, 1871-1882
    - (15 vols.)
  - Cancelled checks
    - 1865-1870

**BOX 54**  
**Not filmed**

- 1871-1876
  - (5 folders)

**BOX 55**  
**Not filmed**

- 1877-1883
  - (6 folders)
  - Blair, Mary Elizabeth Woodbury
    - Account books
      - 1873-1876

**BOX 56**  
**Not filmed**

- 1885-1887
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<td>REEL 40-43</td>
<td>Circular letters, a journal, and newspaper clippings. Arranged alphabetically by type of material and chronologically therein.</td>
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<td>BOX 57</td>
<td>Circular letters, 1862-1882</td>
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<tr>
<td>REEL 40</td>
<td>Journal, proceedings, and report, 1871-1881</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Newspaper clippings</td>
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<td>1842-1865</td>
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<td>(5 folders)</td>
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<td>BOX 58</td>
<td>1866-1876</td>
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<td>REEL 40-41</td>
<td>(6 folders)</td>
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<td>BOX 59</td>
<td>1877-1882</td>
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<td>REEL 41-42</td>
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<td>BOX 60</td>
<td>1882</td>
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<td>REEL 42-43</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 60-61</td>
<td><strong>Miscellany, 1849-1882</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REEL 42-44</td>
<td>Address and memoranda notebooks, speeches and writings, business cards, certificates, memorials, United States postmaster lists, notes, and memoranda. Arranged alphabetically by type of material.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 60</td>
<td>Address and memoranda notebooks, circa 1873-circa 1878</td>
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<tr>
<td>REEL 42-43</td>
<td>(2 vols.)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Announcements, business cards, certificates, memorials, tickets, and passes</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Notes and memoranda</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Speeches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>By Montgomery Blair, rough drafts and notes, 1860-1882</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(2 folders)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>By others, 1863-1879</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 61</td>
<td>Writings</td>
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<tr>
<td>REEL 43-44</td>
<td>&quot;The Life of Senator F. P. Blair, Jr.,&quot; draft, circa 1872</td>
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<td>Religious matters, 1849-1880</td>
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<td></td>
<td>United States Post Office and Maryland patronage, political and postmaster lists, 1860-1865</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 62-63</td>
<td><strong>Woodbury Blair Papers, 1866-1892</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Not filmed</td>
<td>Financial papers, chiefly concerning the estates of Montgomery and Mary Elizabeth Woodbury Blair, a legal file, and a school catalog.</td>
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Woodbury Blair Papers, 1866-1892

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BOX 62
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Bills and receipts, 1885, 1892
Checkbooks, order, 1887
Estates of Montgomery and Mary Elizabeth Woodbury Blair, 1883-1889
(2 folders)

BOX 63
Not filmed
Legal file, Blair (Woodbury) v. Niles, 1887
Miscellany, Phillips Exeter Academy, Exeter, N.H., catalog, 1866-1867

BOX 64-67
REEL 44-46
Other Family Papers, circa 1755-1921
Papers of other individuals related to the Blair family, most of whom are represented by a
small number of manuscripts. These papers include a diary, correspondence, notebooks,
scrapbooks, and financial and legal papers.
Grouped by name of family member and then organized by type of material and
chronologically therein.

BOX 64
REEL 44
Blair, Apolline Alexander, 1861-1863
Blair, James L., 1836-1853
Blair, Laura Lawson, 1908-1919
Blair, Mary Elizabeth Woodbury, 1821-1887
(3 folders)
Blair, Mary Serena Jesup
Estate trust of James L. Blair, 1853-1882
Cancelled check, 1881
Blair, Montgomery, Jr.
General correspondence, 1887-1907
Comstock, Elizabeth Blair, 1853-1859
Gist, Nathaniel
Legal papers, 1793-1794
Copy of map drawn by Christopher Gist, circa 1755
Janen, Violet Blair
General correspondence, 1860-1921
Legal papers, 1849-1877

BOX 65
REEL 44-45
Lee, Elizabeth Blair, 1834-1893, undated
(5 folders)
Lee, Samuel Phillips, 1848-1877
Lowery, Archibald, account book, 1867

BOX 66
REEL 45
Woodbury, Ellen Clapp, scrapbook, circa 1849-1868
Woodbury, Levi
Diary, Aug. 1840-June 1843
Other Family Papers, circa 1755-1921

**Container**

**Contents**

- General correspondence, 1836, 1848
- Law notes
  - Reeve's lectures
    - Vol. 1
    - Vols. 2-3

**BOX 67**

**REEL 46**

- Notes and memoranda

**BOX 68**

**REEL 46-47**

- **Miscellany, 1793-1906**
  - Correspondence, genealogical material, wills and testaments, obituaries, printed matter, material related to the Blair family estates, and notebook. Printed matter available only on microfilm (shelf no.4,991).

**BOX 68**

**REEL 46-47**

- Genealogical material, circa 1823-1906
- Silver Spring and Falkland estates, Montgomery County, Md.
  - Deeds, 1793-1887
  - Plats, surveys, legal memoranda *See also Oversize*
  - Blair House, 1651 Pennsylvania Ave., Washington, D.C., inventory, histories, and insurance policies
  - Unidentified notebook and class notes

**BOX 69-73**

**Not filmed**

**BOX 69-70**

- **Additions, 1811-1936**

**BOX 69**

- **Addition I , 1822-1936**
  - Correspondence, journals, drafts of writings, account ledger, and scrapbooks.
  - Arranged alphabetically by name of author or creator.

**BOX 69**

- Blair, Francis Preston, drafts of writings, circa 1832, circa 1860
- Blair, Gist
  - History of Blair House, 1651 Pennsylvania Ave., Washington, D.C., 1911, undated
  - Journal of European travels, 1920
- Blair, James L., to Elizabeth Blair Lee (sister), 1844
- Blair, Montgomery, scrapbooks
  - 1826-1874, 1936, undated
  - (2 folders)

**BOX 70**

- Undated
- Clapp, Charles Q., account ledger, 1822-1826, 1897
- Fox, Gustavus Vasa, journal, 1851-1855

**BOX 71-73**

- **Addition II, 1811-1876**
  - Correspondence received, writings, financial records, testimony, reports, a certificate, and maps.
  - Arranged alphabetically by name of person or organization, type of material, or topic and chronologically thereunder.

**BOX 71**

- Blair, Francis Preston
Correspondence
Benton, Thomas Hart (1782-1858), 1845-1855, undated
Bibb, George M., undated
Cameron, Simon, 1867
Clay, Henry, 1822-1828
Originals
(2 folders)
Typed transcripts
Dix, John A. (1798-1879), 1850-1855, undated
Haywood, William H. (1801-1852), 1844-1851
Jackson, Andrew (1809-1865), 1845-1855
Kendall, Amos, 1827
Miscellany, 1847-1854, undated
Montgomery, Alexander, 1861-1864
Van Buren, John, 1845-1862
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Van Buren, Martin (1782-1862), 1832, 1850-1854, undated
Van Buren, Martin, Jr., 1846-1852
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Blair, Frank P., correspondence, 1857-1858

BOX 72
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Correspondence
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Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Co., 1861-1863
Barnard, John G., 1861-1866
Bradford, Augustus W., 1862-1864
Butler, Benjamin F. (1818-1893), 1864
Commercial Bulletin, Richmond, Va., suppression of, 1865, undated
Douglas, Stephen Arnold, 1855
Emory, William H., 1864
Franklin, William B., 1863
Frémont, John Charles, 1858
Halleck, Henry W., 1862
Hamilton, Clara, regarding her house in Hagerstown, Md., 1863
Hicks, Thomas Holliday, 1860-1864
Miscellany See also Oversize
1856-1863
(5 folders)

BOX 73
1864-1865, 1876, undated
(2 folders)
Phelps, Lincoln, Mrs. (Almira Hart), 1864
Pleasanton, Alfred, 1863
Pratt, Thomas George, 1863-1864
Purnell, William Henry, 1862-1864
Scott v. Sandford, 1854-1857, undated
Additions, 1811-1936

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| Sherman, William T., 1876 |
| Stokes, James H., 1863 |
| Sumner, Charles A., 1867, 1879 |
| Thomas, Philip F., 1863 |
| Williams, A. C., 1863-1864 |
| Wool, John E., 1861 |
| Miscellany, 1847-1863, undated See also Oversize |
| Testimony and reports, 1862-1864 (2 folders) |
| Family correspondence, 1818, 1848, undated |
| Miscellany Certificate, undated See Oversize |
| Correspondence Buchan, James, to Eliza Violet Gist Blair (Mrs. Francis Preston), 1839 Carroll, Charles (1737-1832), to Samuel Southard, 1826 Jackson, Andrew (1767-1845), from others, 1821, 1844 Livingston, Edward (1764-1836), to Andrew Jackson (1767-1845), 1821 Scott, Winfield, to F. S. Belton, 1825 Taney, Roger Brooke, to Andrew Jackson (1767-1845), 1834 Map of the Battle of Fredericksburg by A. J. Alexander, undated See Oversize Stevens, Samuel (1778-1860), financial records, 1838-1860, undated (2 folders) |

**BOX 74**

**Addition III, 1796-1910**

Arranged alphabetically by type of material or topic and chronologically thereunder.

**BOX 74**

**Appraisals of Blair property, 1898-1901, 1910**

**Correspondence**

Blair, Francis Preston, to "friend," 1861-1863
Blair, Frank P., to Apolline ("Apo") Blair, 1862
Olin, Abram Baldwin, to Frank P. Blair, 1863
Richey, Minna Blair, to Christine Blair Graham, 1868(?) -1869(?) , undated
Printed matter, 1796, 1868, 1871 See also Oversize
Student notebook of Francis Preston Blair, 1811, undated

**BOX OV 1-OV2**

**Oversize, 1854-1882**

Plats, surveys, newspapers, maps, and a certificate.
Arranged and described according to the series, containers, and folders from which the items were removed.

**BOX OV 1**

**Miscellany**

Silver Spring and Falkland estates, Montgomery County, Md.
Plats, surveys, legal memoranda, 1854-1882 (Container 68)

**Addition II**

Blair, Montgomery

**Correspondence**

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### Oversize, 1854-1882

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<td>Miscellany, newspaper fragment, 1856 (<a href="#">Container 73</a>)</td>
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<td>Miscellany</td>
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<td>Certificate, undated (Container 73)</td>
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<td>Map of the Battle of Fredericksburg by A. J. Alexander, undated (Container 73)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### BOX OV 2

**Addition III**

- Printed matter

  *Daily National Intelligencer*, March 25, 1868 (Container 74)
List of Informal Names Found in the Blair Family Correspondence

Al
Albert Covington Janen

Alice
Alice Bradley (reared by Charles Levi Woodbury)

Apo
Apolline (Alexander) Blair

Arch
Archibald Lowery

Betty
Elizabeth (Blair) Comstock

Blee
Francis Preston Blair Lee

Clew
Charles Levi Woodbury

Cousin Mary
Mary Jane Emerson Clapp

EBL (also Lizzie)
Elizabeth (Blair) Lee

ECdQW (also Nell)
Ellen Carolina de Quincy Woodbury

E. Jane
Eliza Jane (Blair) Speer

EYG
Eliza Violet Howard Gist

EWC
Elizabeth Williams (Clapp) Woodbury

Flinders (also Ginny, Pettie, Sam)
Virginia Lafayette (Woodbury) Fox

FPB
Francis Preston Blair

Frank (also FWL)
Frances Anstriss (Woodbury) Lowery

Frank
Frank P. Blair

FWL (also Frank)
Frances Anstriss (Woodbury) Lowery

GB
Gist Blair

Ginny (also Flinders, Pettie, Sam)
Virginia Lafayette (Woodbury) Fox

Ginny
Virginia Woodbury (Lowery) Brunetti

GVF
Gustavus Vasa Fox

Jack
Brunetti, Duke of Arcos

James (also JB)
James Blair

JB (also James)
James Blair

Jep
Jespup Blair

Lizzie (also EBL)
Elizabeth (Blair) Lee

Lizzie (used until marriage, 1846)
Mary Elizabeth (Woodbury) Blair (see also MEB, Minna)

LLE
Laura (Lawson) Ellis Blair

LOW
Woodbury Lowery

LW
Levi Woodbury

Mary
Mary Serena Eliza (Jespup) Blair

MB
Montgomery Blair

MEB (also Minna)
Mary Elizabeth (Woodbury) Blair

Min (also Minta)
Minna (Blair) Richey

Minna (also MEB)
Mary Elizabeth (Woodbury) Blair

Minta (also Min)
Minna (Blair) Richey

Mont
Montgomery Blair, Jr.

Nan
Anne Clymer Brooke Lee

Nell (also ECdQW)
Ellen Carolina de Quincy Woodbury

Pettie (also Ginny, Sam, Flinders)
Virginia Lafayette (Woodbury) Fox

Sam (also Ginny, Pettie, Flinders)
Virginia Lafayette (Woodbury) Fox

SPL
Samuel Phillips Lee

Uncle William
Asa Henry William Clapp

VB
Violet Blair

Wood
Woodbury Blair