

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



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

Contact information: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact>

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm79012930>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms998026>

Prepared by Manuscript Division staff

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 1998
Revised 2023 June

Collection Summary

Title: Blair Family Papers

Inclusive Dates: 1755-1968

Bulk Dates: 1829-1892

ID No.: MSS12930

Creator: Blair family

Extent: 19,100 items

Extent: 74 containers plus 2 oversize

Extent: 29.9 linear feet

Extent: 49 microfilm reels

Language: Collection material in English

Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

LC Catalog record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm79012930>

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.

Online Content: Part of the papers of the Blair family is available on the Library of Congress website at <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/collmss.ms000112>. To promote preservation of the originals, researchers are required to consult the online edition.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

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.
Clapp, Charles Q., 1799-1868. Charles Q. Clapp papers.
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.
 Jackson, Andrew, 1767-1845.
 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.
 Smith, William E. (William Ernest), 1892- The Francis Preston Blair family in politics. 1933.
 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.
 Woodbury, Levi, 1789-1851. Levi Woodbury papers.
 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. House.
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 enslaved persons 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

Blair Family Papers at the Library of Congress
Congressional Globe.
Globe (Washington, D.C. : Daily)

Acquisition Information

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 by Lyman Heine and reprocessed in preparation for microfilming in 1987 by Paul D. Ledvina. Several revisions of the register from 1967 to 2014 by C. Rutherford in 1967, Allan J. Teichroew in 1978, John McDonough in 1982, Margaret McAleer in 1997, Michael Spangler in 2003, and Karen Linn Femia in 2014 reflect the incorporation of additions to the collection.

Additional Guides

The Blair Family Papers have been described in *Library of Congress Acquisitions: Manuscript Division, 1982*, pp. 12-15, and *Library of Congress Information Bulletin*, vol. 59, no. 10 (Oct. 2000).

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.

Online Content

Part of the papers of the Blair family is available on the Library of Congress website at <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc/mss/collmss.ms000112>. To promote preservation of the originals, researchers are required to consult the online 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

Date	Event
1791, Apr. 12	Born, Abingdon, Va.
1811	Graduated, Transylvania University, Lexington, Ky.
1812	Volunteer, War of 1812 Married Eliza Violet Howard Gist
1817	Admitted to the Kentucky bar
1818-1825	Contributor, <i>Argus of Western America</i> , Frankfort, Ky.
1830-1845	Founder and editor, the <i>Washington Globe</i> , Washington, D.C. Member, Andrew Jackson's "Kitchen Cabinet"
1856	Changed support to the Republican party
1860-1865	Supported and advised Abraham Lincoln
1868	Returned to the Democratic party
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
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	Missouri superintendent of 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

Date	Event
1860, Sept. 10	Born, Washington, D.C., son of Montgomery Blair
1880	Graduated, Princeton University, Princeton, N.J.
1880s-1896	Practiced law, St. Louis, Mo.
1897	Moved to Washington, D.C.; practiced law
1913	Married Laura Lawson
1940, Dec. 16	Died, Washington, D.C.

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. The most extensive files concern his [law practice](#) before and after his cabinet appointment as postmaster general. 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 of 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	<u>Family Correspondence, 1831-1924</u> Letters sent and received by family members. Arranged alphabetically by author and chronologically therein.
BOX 14-18 REEL 9-12	<u>Francis Preston Blair Papers, 1829-1876</u>
BOX 14-16 REEL 9-11	<u>General Correspondence, 1829-1873</u> Letters sent and received. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 17 REEL 11	<u>Special Correspondence, 1836-1861</u> Letters from Martin Van Buren to Francis Preston Blair. Arranged chronologically. Also available on microfilm (shelf no. 17,631).
BOX 17-18 REEL 11	<u>Speeches and Writings File, 1863-1870</u> Printed copies, rough drafts, notes, and memoranda. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 18 REEL 11-12	<u>Miscellany, 1831-1876</u> 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	<u>Frank P. Blair Papers, 1839-1884</u>
BOX 18-19 REEL 12	<u>General Correspondence, 1853-1884</u> Letters sent and received. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 19-20 REEL 12-13	<u>Miscellany, 1839-1884</u> 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	<u>Gist Blair Papers, 1830-1968</u>
BOX 21 REEL 13	<u>Journal, 1887-1888</u>
BOX 21-23 REEL 13-17	<u>General Correspondence, 1876-1925</u> Letters sent and received with miscellaneous attachments and enclosures. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 23-24 REEL 17-18	<u>Financial Papers, 1889-1917</u> Account books, checkbooks, and business records. Grouped by type of material and arranged chronologically therein.

- BOX 24-26 REEL 18-19** **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.
- BOX 26-28 REEL 19-20** **Miscellany, 1844-1928**
 Invitations, programs, legal papers, newspaper clippings, notes, memoranda, memorabilia, school papers, and writings by others. Organized by type of material.
- BOX 28-61 REEL 21-44** **Montgomery Blair Papers, 1842-1887**
- BOX 28-38 REEL 21-29** **General Correspondence, 1847-1883**
 Letters sent and received with miscellaneous attachments and enclosures. Arranged chronologically.
- BOX 38-52 REEL 29-39** **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.
- 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 57-60 REEL 40-43** **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 69-74 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

Container	Contents
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 1 REEL 1	Alexander family, 1858-1875 Digital content available Blair, Andrew A., 1858-1924 Digital content available Blair, Apolline Alexander 1848, 1855-1858 Digital content available 1861-1863, 1875-1877 Digital content available Undated, to F.P. Blair, Jr. Digital content available Undated, to her children Digital content available Undated Digital content available Blair, Caroline Buckner, 1838-1841 Digital content available Blair, Christine, 1861-1867 Digital content available Blair, Edith Draper, and children, 1894-1907 Digital content available
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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 62 not filmed	Financial papers Bills and receipts, 1885, 1891-1893 Digital content available Checkbooks, order, 1887 Digital content available Estates of Montgomery and Mary Elizabeth Woodbury Blair, 1883-1889
	1 of 5 Digital content available
	2 of 5 Digital content available
BOX 63 not filmed	3 of 5 Digital content available
	4 of 5 Digital content available
	5 of 5 Digital content available
	Legal file, <i>Blair (Woodbury) v. Niles</i> , 1887 Digital content available
	Miscellany, Phillips Exeter Academy, Exeter, N.H., catalog, 1866-1867 Digital content available
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 Digital content available Blair, James L., 1836-1853 Digital content available Blair, Laura Lawson, 1908-1919 Digital content available Blair, Mary Elizabeth Woodbury

Other Family Papers, circa 1755-1921

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	1835-1836, 1853-1879 Digital content available
	1882-1885 Digital content available
	Undated Digital content available
	Blair, Mary Serena Jesup Estate trust of James L. Blair, 1853-1882 Digital content available
	Cancelled check, 1881 Digital content available
	Blair, Montgomery, Jr. General correspondence, 1887-1907 Digital content available
	Writings, "Martin Van Buren, Diplomat," <i>Harper's Monthly Magazine</i> , 1909 Digital content available
	Comstock, Elizabeth Blair, 1853-1859 Digital content available
	Gist, Nathaniel Legal papers, 1793-1794 Digital content available
	Copy of map drawn by Christopher Gist, circa 1755 Digital content available
	Janin, Violet Blair General correspondence, 1860-1921 Digital content available
	Legal papers, 1849-1877 Digital content available
BOX 65 REEL 44	Lee, Elizabeth Blair 1834-1839 Digital content available
	1840-1849 Digital content available
	1856-1863, 1881-1893 Digital content available
BOX 65 REEL 45	Undated Digital content available
	Undated Digital content available
	Lee, Samuel Phillips, 1848-1877 Digital content available
	Lowery, Archibald, account book, 1867 Digital content available
BOX 66 REEL 45	Woodbury, Ellen Clapp, scrapbook, circa 1849-1868 Digital content available
	Woodbury, Levi Diary, Aug. 1840-June 1843 Digital content available

Other Family Papers, circa 1755-1921

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	General correspondence, 1836, 1848 Digital content available
	Law notes
	Reeve's lectures
	Vol. 1 Digital content available
BOX 67 REEL 46	Vol. 2 Digital content available
	Vol. 3 Digital content available
	Notes and memoranda Digital content available
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	Genealogical material, circa 1823-1906 Digital content available
BOX 68 REEL 47	Silver Spring and Falkland estates, Montgomery County, Md. Deeds, 1793-1887 Digital content available Plats, surveys, legal memoranda <i>See also Oversize</i> Digital content available Blair House, 1651 Pennsylvania Ave., Washington, D.C., inventory, histories, and insurance policies Digital content available Unidentified notebook and class notes Digital content available
BOX 69-74 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 69	Blair, Francis Preston, drafts of writings, circa 1832, circa 1860 Digital content available Blair, Gist History of Blair House, 1651 Pennsylvania Ave., Washington, D.C., 1911, undated Digital content available Journal of European travels, 1920 Digital content available Blair, James L., to Elizabeth Blair Lee (sister), 1844 Digital content available Blair, Montgomery, scrapbooks 1826-1833, 1874, undated Digital content available

Additions, 1811-1936

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	1858-1874, 1936 Digital content available
BOX 70	Undated Digital content available Clapp, Charles Q., account ledger, 1822-1826, 1897 Digital content available Fox, Gustavus Vasa, journal, 1851-1855 Digital content available
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 Digital content available Bibb, George M., undated Digital content available Cameron, Simon, 1867 Digital content available Clay, Henry, 1822-1828 Originals 1 of 2 Digital content available 2 of 2 Digital content available Typed transcripts Digital content available Dix, John A. (1798-1879), 1850-1855, undated Digital content available Haywood, William H. (1801-1852), 1844-1851 Digital content available Jackson, Andrew (1809-1865), 1845-1855 Digital content available Kendall, Amos, 1827 Digital content available Miscellany, 1847-1854, undated Digital content available Montgomery, Alexander, 1861-1864 Digital content available Van Buren, John 1845-1851 Digital content available 1852-1862 Digital content available

- Van Buren, Martin (1782-1862), 1832, 1850-1854, undated
[Digital content available](#)
- Van Buren, Martin, Jr., 1846-1852
[Digital content available](#)
- Wright, Silas, 1834-1835, 1845, undated
[Digital content available](#)
- Financial and legal documents, 1811-1830
[Digital content available](#)
- Writings, undated
[Digital content available](#)
- Blair, Frank P., correspondence, 1857-1858
[Digital content available](#)
- BOX 72 Blair, Montgomery
 Correspondence
- Andrews, Christopher C., 1863 *See also Oversize*
[Digital content available](#)
- Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Co., 1861-1863
[Digital content available](#)
- Barnard, John G., 1861-1866
[Digital content available](#)
- Bradford, Augustus W., 1862-1864
[Digital content available](#)
- Butler, Benjamin F. (1818-1893), 1864
[Digital content available](#)
- Commercial Bulletin*, Richmond, Va., suppression of, 1865, undated
[Digital content available](#)
- Douglas, Stephen Arnold, 1855
[Digital content available](#)
- Emory, William H., 1864
[Digital content available](#)
- Franklin, William B., 1863
[Digital content available](#)
- Frémont, John Charles, 1858
[Digital content available](#)
- Halleck, Henry W., 1862
[Digital content available](#)
- Hamilton, Clara, regarding her house in Hagerstown, Md., 1863
[Digital content available](#)
- Hicks, Thomas Holliday, 1860-1864
[Digital content available](#)
- Miscellany *See also Oversize*
 1856-1861
[Digital content available](#)
- 1862
[Digital content available](#)
- 1863, Mar.-Sept.
[Digital content available](#)

BOX 73

1863, Oct.-Nov.

[Digital content available](#)

1863, Dec.

[Digital content available](#)

1864

[Digital content available](#)

1865, 1876, undated

[Digital content available](#)

Phelps, Lincoln, Mrs. (Almira Hart), 1864

[Digital content available](#)

Pleasanton, Alfred, 1863

[Digital content available](#)

Pratt, Thomas George, 1863-1864

[Digital content available](#)

Purnell, William Henry, 1862-1864

[Digital content available](#)

Scott v. Sandford, 1854-1857, undated

[Digital content available](#)

Sherman, William T., 1876

[Digital content available](#)

Stokes, James H., 1863

[Digital content available](#)

Sumner, Charles A., 1867, 1879

[Digital content available](#)

Thomas, Philip F., 1863

[Digital content available](#)

Williams, A. C., 1863-1864

[Digital content available](#)

Wool, John E., 1861

[Digital content available](#)

Miscellany, 1847-1863, undated *See also Oversize*

[Digital content available](#)

Testimony and reports, 1862-1864

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[Digital content available](#)

2 of 2

[Digital content available](#)

Family correspondence, 1818, 1848, undated

[Digital content available](#)

Miscellany

Certificate, undated *See Oversize*

Correspondence

Buchanan, James, to Eliza Violet Gist Blair (Mrs. Francis Preston), 1839

[Digital content available](#)

Carroll, Charles (1737-1832), to Samuel Southard, 1826

[Digital content available](#)

Jackson, Andrew (1767-1845), from others, 1821, 1844

[Digital content available](#)

Additions, 1811-1936

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Livingston, Edward (1764-1836), to Andrew Jackson (1767-1845), 1821

[Digital content available](#)

Scott, Winfield, to F. S. Belton, 1825

[Digital content available](#)

Taney, Roger Brooke, to Andrew Jackson (1767-1845), 1834

[Digital content available](#)

Map of the Battle of Fredericksburg by A. J. Alexander, undated [See Oversize](#)

Stevens, Samuel (1778-1860), financial records, 1838-1860, undated

1 of 2

[Digital content available](#)

2 of 2

[Digital content available](#)

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

[Digital content available](#)

Correspondence

Blair, Francis Preston, to "friend," 1861-1863

[Digital content available](#)

Blair, Frank P., to Apolline ("Apo") Blair, 1862

[Digital content available](#)

Olin, Abram Baldwin, to Frank P. Blair, 1863

[Digital content available](#)

Richey, Minna Blair, to Christine Blair Graham, 1868(?) - 1869(?), undated

[Digital content available](#)

Printed matter, 1796, 1868, 1871 [See also Oversize](#)

[Digital content available](#)

Student notebook of Francis Preston Blair, 1811, undated

[Digital content available](#)

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](#))

[Digital content available](#)

Addition II

Blair, Montgomery

Correspondence

Andrews, Christopher C., newspapers, 1863 ([Container 72](#))

[Digital content available](#)

Miscellany, chart of Charleston, S.C., harbor, 1858-1862 ([Container 72](#))

[Digital content available](#)

Oversize, 1854-1882

Container	Contents
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Miscellany, newspaper fragment, 1856 (*Container 73*)

[Digital content available](#)

Miscellany

Certificate, undated (Container 73)

[Digital content available](#)

Map of the Battle of Fredericksburg by A. J. Alexander, undated (Container 73)

[Digital content available](#)

BOX OV 2

Addition III

Printed matter

Daily National Intelligencer, March 25, 1868 (Container 74)

[Digital content available](#)

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
EVG	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	Jesup 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 (Jesup) 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