

Archives and Special Collections

Dickinson College

Carlisle, PA

COLLECTION REGISTER

Name: **Blair, Andrew (1789-1861)** **MC 1999.11**

Material: Family Papers (1803-1861)

Volume: 0.25 linear feet (1 Document Box and 1 Photograph Folder)

Donation: Gift of John Dann, 1974

Usage: These materials have been donated without restrictions on usage.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Andrew Blair was born in 1789, presumably in the Carlisle, Pennsylvania area. He owned and worked a small farm in Carlisle. In 1833, Blair petitioned the Presbyterian Church in Carlisle to allow the creation of a second Presbyterian Church, separate from the first. He had disapproved of the work his current pastor, Rev. George Duffield, was doing on "Regeneration." Blair's petition was granted on January 12, 1833 and the Second Presbyterian Church of Carlisle was founded. This matter caused Andrew some scandal, of which he felt necessary to clear his name through correspondence. Regardless, he remained an elder in the new church and was given charge of the mission Sunday school. Andrew Blair also served as president of the board for both the Faculty Teachers of the Common Schools of Carlisle and the Board of School Directors of Carlisle. Clearly, Blair was an active and respected member of his community.

After the death of his wife, Andrew Blair went to live with his older brother William just outside of Carlisle. The brothers resided together until Andrew's death in 1861. William passed away later during that same year.

Andrew Blair and his wife had three children: Ann Blair Murray, Andrew Holmes Blair, and Elisa Blair Bailey. Daughter Ann married Rev. Joseph Alexander Murray, and the couple had a daughter named Mary.

COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

The Andrew Blair Family Collection is housed in one document box and is organized into two categories: Correspondence and Miscellaneous Materials.

The Correspondence are arranged alphabetically by the author of the letter or note, and then chronologically. The letters themselves are mainly concerned with family affairs and local events. The bulk of Andrew Blair's correspondence consists of letters to his son-in-law, Rev. J. A.

Murray, in which Andrew advises him on personal as well as congregational matters. The letters of William Blair, written largely to his niece and grand-niece, record several traumatic events in Carlisle history, such as devastating fires and outbreaks of illnesses. When possible, envelopes have been retained along with the letters.

The Miscellaneous Materials are arranged alphabetically by the family member about whom the materials are concerned. Included among these materials are papers regarding William Blair's membership in the Philadelphia Typographical Society, an "Appropriations" list maintained by Andrew Blair concerning donations taken to help victims of the Carlisle fire of 1835, newspaper clippings with obituaries of Andrew Blair, and a Carlisle Town Council notice sent to Robert Irvine regarding the repaving of High and Hanover Streets with brick.

Included with this collection is a single photograph of William Blair, copied from a Daguerreotype dated 1848.

COLLECTION INVENTORY

BOX 1 - MC 1999.11

CORRESPONDENCE

Blair, Andrew

- Folder 01) Letter fragment to Unknown - c1833
Letter to Rev. Thomas Moore - Jan. 19, 1842
- Folder 02) Letter to Rev. J. A. Murray - Feb. 6, 1850
Letter to Rev. J. A. Murray - Feb. 14, 1850
Letter to Mrs. Ann Blair Murray - March 14, 1850
Letter to Rev. J. A. Murray - May 1, 1850
Letter to Mrs. Ann Blair Murray - Dec. 7, 1850
- Folder 03) Letter to Rev. J. A. Murray - Jan. 10, 1851
Letter to Rev. J. A. Murray - Feb. 10, 1851
Letter to Rev. J. A. Murray - Feb. 12, 1851
Letter to James Hamilton - Sept. 14, 1851
- Folder 04) Letter to James Hamilton - Aug. 9, 1854
Letter to Rev. J. A. Murray - Aug. 13, 1855
Letter to Rev. J. A. Murray - Nov. 26, 1855
- Folder 05) Letter to Rev. J. A. Murray - Feb. 20, 1857
Letter to Rev. J. A. Murray - June 25, 1857
Letter to Rev. J. A. Murray - July 30, 1857

Blair, Andrew Holmes

- Folder 06) Letter to Ann Blair Murray - Feb. 2, 1850

Blair, Elisa (Mrs. Henry Bailey)

- Folder 07) Letter to Ann Blair Murray - May 6, 1850
Letter to Ann Blair Murray - Feb. 16, 1858

Blair, William

- Folder 08) Poem sent to Mary E. Murray - 1844
Letter to Ann Blair Murray - Feb. 12, 1849
Note to Ann Blair Murray - May 23, 1849
Description of gift for Mary E. Murray - Dec. 6, 1849

BOX 1 - MC 1999.11 (cont.)

CORRESPONDENCE

Blair, William (cont.)

- Folder 09) Letter to Ann Blair Murray - Jan 31, 1850
Letter to Ann Blair Murray - Feb. 2, 1850
Letter to Ann Blair Murray - Feb. 5, 1850
Letter to Ann Blair Murray - Aug. 8, 1850
Letter to Ann Blair Murray - Nov. 12, 1850
Letter to Ann Blair Murray - Dec. 4, 1850
- Folder 10) Letter to Rev. J. A. Murray - March 12, 1851
Letter to Ann Blair Murray - Jan. 25, 1854
Letter to Mary E. Murray - Jan. 25, 1854
Letter to Ann Blair Murray - March 30, 1854
Letter to Ann Blair Murray - April 1, 1854
Letter to Rev. J. A. Murray - Feb. 14, 1859

Knox, Jane

- Folder 11) Note enclosed with gift for Mary E. Murray - Dec. 6, 1849

MISCELLANEOUS MATERIALS

Blair, Andrew

- Folder 12) Appropriations by committee appointed to help fire victims - 1835
- Folder 13) Newspaper Obituaries and Tributes - 1861

Blair, Joseph H.

- Folder 14) Carlisle Town Council Notice sent to Robert Irvine - May 17, 1853

Blair, William

- Folder 15) List of Wages for Newspaper Workers - April 23, 1803
Certificate of Membership - Jan. 20, 1810
Charter and By-Laws of Philadelphia Typographical Society - 1839
Directions for Folding
12 Engraved Plates of Animals given to Mary E. Murray

PHOTOGRAPHS - PC 1999.11

- Folder 01) Blair, William (April 1883, copied from a Daguerreotype dated May 1848)