

The Blaine Family Of Fairfield County, South Carolina

Introduction

In late June of 2014, by chance I found myself on a website named Roots and Recall whose primary focus is mid-19th century architecture, for the most part in South Carolina. In the section on Fairfield County, I found references to homes and buildings with connections to the Brices, the Sterlings and other related families, but regrettably, and to my astonishment, there were no Blaines! I set out to rectify that grievous oversight! I put together several pages of the photos in my possession of the James McQuiston Blaine farmhouse and the ruins of the Andrew Blain home, along with a modest amount of background information and a couple of brief stories to add interest.

As I worked with the available information from photos, stories and genealogical data collected over my years of research, I realized there was a much larger story to tell on the Blaine Family. My project grew from 5 pages to more than 70 pages in total. With the able assistance of Wade Fairey of Roots and Recall, there are photos of the Blaine farm houses. You can see what is posted there by going to <http://www.rootsandrecall.com/> . Then move your cursor over the “Counties” button; click on Fairfield on the dropdown list; type Blaine into the search box and you should be there.

The purpose of this DOCUMENT [or WEBSITE] is to share a much fuller picture of what we learned about five generations of the Blaine Family from legend, family stories, photographs, memories, historical facts and legal records.

Further information Aspects – Links –

In this version of the narrative there are:

individual lines in bold red

and entire sections in bold green.

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Blaan – Blain – Blane – Blaine

Meaning and Origin of the Name

Celtic: Slender

Gaelic: Thin

Gaelic Alternative – derived from Bláán: color "yellow"

Two interesting descriptions of people who carry the name Blaine:

“People with this name have a deep inner desire for a stable, loving family or community, and a need to work with others and to be appreciated.”

“People with this name are excellent at analyzing, understanding, and learning. They tend to be mystics, philosophers, scholars, and teachers. Because they live so much in the mind, they tend to be quiet and introspective, and are usually introverts. When presented with issues, they will see the larger picture. Their solitary thoughtfulness and analysis of people and world events may make them seem aloof, and sometimes even melancholy.”

A Saint...named Blaan – Blane – Blaine

In the late 6th century, St. Blaan the Lean, was held in honor in both Scotland and Ireland. Born to a noble Irish family on Scotland’s Isle of Bute, tradition holds that he spent seven years of his early manhood in Ireland under the instruction of St. Comgall and St. Canice and became a monk there. He returned to the Isle of Bute ("in a boat without oars" – from *The Troparion of St Blane, Tone 5*) and put himself under the discipline of his uncle, his mother's brother, St Cathan, who ordained him to the priesthood. He devoted himself to evangelizing the Pictish peoples of Scotland and to the exercise of a penitential life. In later years he was consecrated bishop, and is believed to have made a pilgrimage to Rome, returning on foot through England.

All persons who were “sainted” were expected to have performed one or more miracles during their lifetime. Saints Miracles attributed to Blaan, included the restoration of a dead boy to life and he is said to have been regularly able to rekindle the church lights, extinguished during the night office, by striking fire from his fingernails.

Authorities say St. Blaan died August 11, 590. The ruins of his church at Kingarth, Bute, where his remains were buried, are still standing and form an object of great interest to antiquarians.

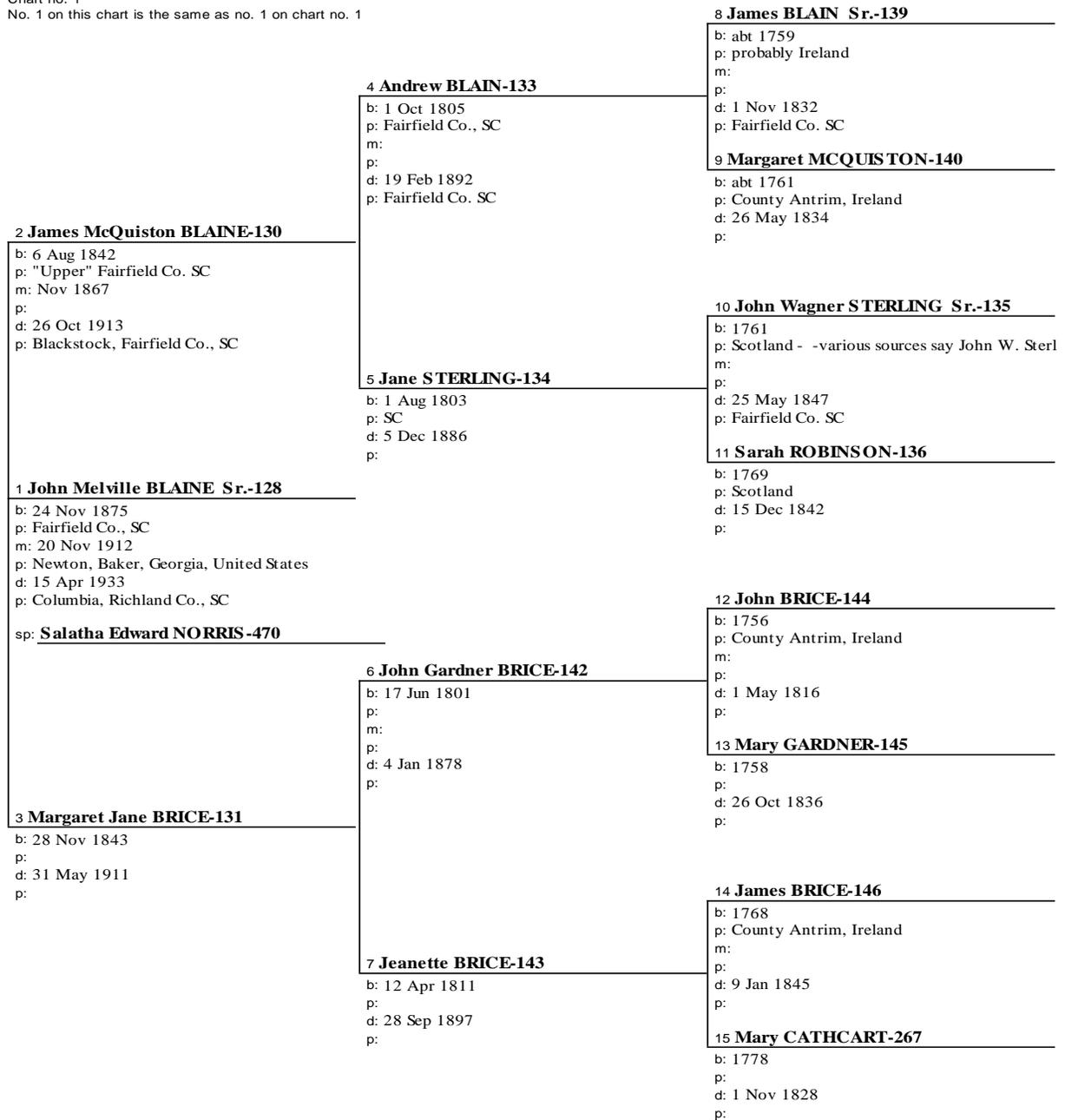
The Blain/Blaine Family in South Carolina

Memories, Stories and Impressions

The Blain/Blaine's were among the many Scots-Irish immigrants who came to South Carolina in the last quarter of the 18th century seeking a better life.

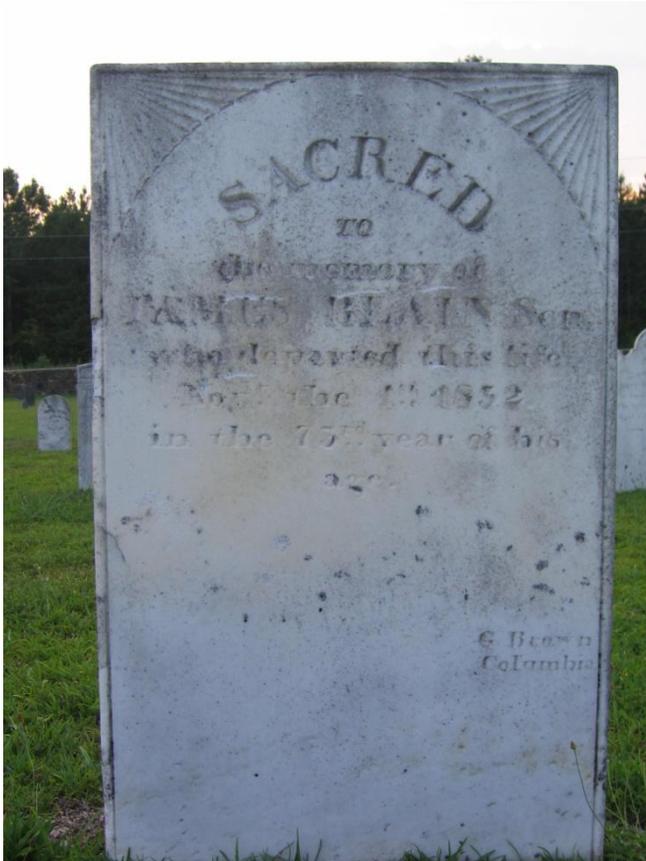
This paper discusses the joys, sorrows, successes and failures of the men and women of five generations of Blain/Blaine's who lived in Fairfield District/County, South Carolina from 1799 to 1934. This pedigree chart may provide some generational perspective to the reader.

Chart no. 1
No. 1 on this chart is the same as no. 1 on chart no. 1



The 1st Generation – James Blain, Sr. 1759-1832

According to his tombstone in Hopewell A.R.P. Cemetery, Chester County, SC, progenitor James Blain, Sr. (1759-1832) was born in County Antrim, Ireland. He arrived in Fairfield District in the late 1780's or early 1790's.



James Blain, Sr.



Margaret McQuiston Blain

He married Margaret McQuiston(1761-1834) and their first child was born in 1793. Margaret McQuiston was the daughter of James McQuiston(c.1730-1799), head of one of the families who immigrated with Rev. William Martin from his parish in Ireland. The McQuistons arrived in the Dunlace, one of five ships arriving in December 1772 and January 1773. Margaret would have been about 10 years of age during the voyage and her name is found on the ship's passenger manifest. According to the Privy Council minutes, on January 6, 1773, James McQuiston received 400 acres of land in Chester County, SC, "on a branch of Rocky Creek; bordered by John Fleming, Mary Couter, John Knox, Robert Walker and John Walker."

For more information... -link to information about Rev. William Martin and His "Settlers" [*Scotch-Irish Migration to South Carolina, 1772, \(Rev. William Martin and His Five Shiploads of Settlers\)*](#), Jean Stephenson 1971, 137pp., ISBN: 9780806348322.

The impetus for the colonization was the combination of exorbitant land rents in Northern Ireland, sometimes provoking violent resistance, and the offer of free land and inexpensive

tools and provisions tendered by the colonial government of South Carolina. Each Scottish Covenanter was entitled to 100 acres for himself and 50 acres for his spouse and an additional 50 acres for each child brought to South Carolina. Faced with this crisis and opportunity, Covenanter Presbyterian minister William Martin in 1772 persuaded his parishioners that they had nothing to lose by leaving Ulster, and before long he was in charge of a small fleet of five vessels bound for South Carolina.

James Blain, Sr. buys 450 acres...the first piece of Blain land

In December of 1799, James Blain purchased 450 acres of land in the northwest portion of Fairfield District that had been part of a 500 acre Land Grant to Isaac Mazyck in 1772.

For more information... -link to land grant – NO PHOTO OR SCAN YET!

Library of James Blain, Sr. – The Blain home must have treasured education and learning. When James Blain, Sr. died November 1, 1832 he had a sizeable library. An Estate Inventory compiled a month later included the books in his library, listed by title, along with a value assigned for each volume. I am personally indebted to the Estate Administrators because so many would have been tempted to call this “two boxes of books”.

6 volumes Henry's Expositions	18.00	Daddrigion Teginaralion	.37 ½
2 volumes Paxton's Illustrations	4.00	Sacramental Meditations	.12 ½
Calvin History	.75	Confession of Faith and Testament	.25
Pike's Cases	.75	Easard Treatise	.50
Ralph Erskine	.75	Limestreet Lectures 2 volumes	.75
Ebenszer Erskine	.75	Base & Progress	.37 ½
Kemote Philophaser (sic)	.75	Critian Preacher	.50
Brown's Views	.75	Life of Spencer	.50
Tpacc Ambrose (sic)	.50	2 volumes Afflicted Man's Companion.	.12
McLeod on the War	.50	Practicale Piety (sic)	.18
Fourfold State Meslak Ruler Nations	.50	True Believer by L (or T) Baston	.25

Between the first land purchase in 1799, and the last in 1903, the Blain(e)s added an additional 500+ acres to the family land holdings. There were two known dwellings on the land the Andrew Blain (1805-1892) home place and the James McQuiston Blaine (1842-1913) home place.

The 2nd Generation – Andrew Blaine 1805-1892



Andrew Blaine



Jane Sterling Blaine



c. 1975



c. 1976

The Andrew Blaine home place

Andrew Blaine (1805-1892), second son of James Blain, Sr., inherited the bulk of the Blain land holdings upon his father's death in 1832. He had the land, minus his brother James Blain, Jr.'s share, surveyed. A survey plat of 539 acres dated January 26, 1833 by James Phillips, Deputy Surveyor was recorded in Book LL, page 447 on April 30 1835 by J. Weate, RMC.

LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT OF JAMES BLAIN, SENIOR - 21st day of August, 1828

2d I leave and bequeath to my son James Blain one horse and Saddle and the plantation on which he has built a house, beginning at the white oak corner made by me close to the Creek at the mouth of the branch, and making that branch the line, on to the Stony fording on the road leading to Pennel's mill a straight line to a Spanish Oak corner, from there And from there ^A a straight line to a stake corner on the Widow Egnew land, and two negros named Dennis and Julia this I allow him if he should come to be in his right mind and if providence has other ways ordered, I allow the negroes to be hired and the plantation to be rented by my Executor and therefore to pay one hundred dollars out of the rent and hire yearly for his maintenance.

S. Carolina
I do hereby certify that I have made a Resurvey for Andrew Blain, of a plantation of lands, containing Five Hundred and thirty nine acres. Situate in Fairfield District, on the North fork of Little River, and having such Shape, Marks, and Boundaries as the above plat represents. Said land being composed and made up as follows, viz. part of a tract Granted to Isaac Mayzeck, the 16th day of August 1772 for 500 Acres, and 51 acres being part of a tract Granted to Moses Hill for 315 acres and also part of a tract Granted to _____ for _____ Acres.
January 26th 1833.
James Phillips
Deputy Surveyor

Close-up of written dimensions of survey plat.

1833 - States Rights, Nullification Crisis, Fairfield District Union Meeting

& Andrew Blaine The early 1830's saw the continuation of the struggle of what powers rightfully belonged to the individual States and what belonged to the centralized, though weak, Federal Government. Twenty-eight year old Andrew Blain played a role in Fairfield District's response to the Nullification Crisis, a sectional crisis during the presidency of Andrew Jackson created by South Carolina's 1832 Ordinance of Nullification. This ordinance declared by the power of the State that the federal Tariffs of 1828 and 1832 were unconstitutional and therefore null and void within the sovereign boundaries of South Carolina. (Wikipedia) In March of 1833 a group of Fairfield citizens gathered at Capt. John Montgomery's muster ground on Wateree Creek and elected a committee to write a resolution declaring the group's rejection of the position adopted by the State Convention, Nov. 24, 1832. Reflecting the sentiment of the very action taken by the State Convention, the resolution stated that the citizenry had not given powers to the State Convention to take the actions. Andrew Blain was named a member of the resolution drafting committee and subsequently elected as a delegate to attend the Union Convention, at Columbia on the 4th March 1833.

For more information... -link to full text of the SC State Convention Ordinance

5 – NULLIFICATION CRISIS

South Carolina Ordinance of Nullification

Created by South Carolina

Date: November 24, 1832

Explanation of the Source: South Carolina began a process of Nullification of Federal law because they felt that their rights were being violated. The statement below was their official statement to the Halls of Congress. It explains how these tariffs would hurt their state ('other classes') which was their justification for nullification.

"An ordinance to nullify certain acts of the Congress of the United States, purporting to be laws laying duties and imposts on the importation of foreign commodities.

Whereas the Congress of the United States by various acts, purporting to be acts laying duties and imposts on foreign imports, but in reality intended for the protection of domestic manufactures and the giving of bounties to classes and individuals engaged in particular employments, at the expense and to the injury and oppression of other classes and individuals, and by wholly exempting from taxation certain foreign commodities, such as are not produced or manufactured in the United States, to afford a pretext for imposing higher and excessive duties on articles similar to those intended to be protected, bath exceeded its just powers under the constitution, which confers on it no authority to afford such protection,

and hath violated the true meaning and intent of the constitution, which provides for equality in imposing the burdens of taxation upon the several States and portions of the confederacy: And whereas the said Congress, exceeding its just power to impose taxes and collect revenue for the purpose of effecting and accomplishing the specific objects and purposes which the constitution of the United States authorizes it to effect and accomplish, hath raised and collected unnecessary revenue for objects unauthorized by the constitution.

We, therefore, the people of the State of South Carolina, in convention assembled, do declare and ordain and it is hereby declared and ordained, that the several acts and parts of acts of the Congress of the United States, purporting to be laws for the imposing of duties and imposts on the importation of foreign commodities, and now having actual operation and effect within the United States, and, more especially, an act entitled "An act in alteration of the several acts imposing duties on imports," approved on the nineteenth day of May, one thousand eight hundred and twenty-eight and also an act entitled "An act to alter and amend the several acts imposing duties on imports," approved on the fourteenth day of July, one thousand eight hundred and thirty-two, are unauthorized by the constitution of the United States, and violate the true meaning and intent thereof and are null, void, and no law, nor binding upon this State, its officers or citizens; and all promises, contracts, and obligations, made or entered into, or to be made or entered into, with purpose to secure the duties imposed by said acts, and all judicial proceedings which shall be hereafter had in affirmance thereof, are and shall be held utterly null and void.

And it is further ordained, that it shall not be lawful for any of the constituted authorities, whether of this State or of the United States, to enforce the payment of duties imposed by the said acts within the limits of this State; but it shall be the duty of the legislature to adopt such measures and pass such acts as may be necessary to give full effect to this ordinance, and to prevent the enforcement and arrest the operation of the said acts and parts of acts of the Congress of the United States within the limits of this State, from and after the first day of February next, and the duties of all other constituted authorities, and of all persons residing or being within the limits of this State, and they are hereby required and enjoined to obey and give effect to this ordinance, and such acts and measures of the legislature as may be passed or adopted in obedience thereto.

And it is further ordained, that in no case of law or equity, decided in the courts of this State, wherein shall be drawn in question the authority of this ordinance, or the validity of such act or acts of the legislature as may be passed for the purpose of giving effect thereto, or the validity of the aforesaid acts of Congress, imposing duties, shall any appeal be taken or allowed to the Supreme Court of the United States, nor shall any copy of the record be permitted or allowed for that purpose; and if any such appeal shall be attempted to be taken, the courts of this State shall proceed to execute and enforce their judgments according to the

laws and usages of the State, without reference to such attempted appeal, and the person or persons attempting to take such appeal may be dealt with as for a contempt of the court.

And it is further ordained, that all persons now holding any office of honor, profit, or trust, civil or military, under this State (members of the legislature excepted), shall, within such time, and in such manner as the legislature shall prescribe, take an oath well and truly to obey, execute, and enforce this ordinance, and such act or acts of the legislature as may be passed in pursuance thereof, according to the true intent and meaning of the same, and on the neglect or omission of any such person or persons so to do, his or their office or offices shall be forthwith vacated, and shall be filled up as if such person or persons were dead or had resigned; and no person hereafter elected to any office of honor, profit, or trust, civil or military (members of the legislature excepted), shall, until the legislature shall otherwise provide and direct, enter on the execution of his office, or be he any respect competent to discharge the duties thereof until he shall, in like manner, have taken a similar oath; and no juror shall be impaneled in any of the courts of this State, in any cause in which shall be in question this ordinance, or any act of the legislature passed in pursuance thereof, unless he shall first, in addition to the usual oath, have taken an oath that he will well and truly obey, execute, and enforce this ordinance, and such act or acts of the legislature as may be passed to carry the same into operation and effect, according to the true intent and meaning thereof. And we, the people of South Carolina, to the end that it may be fully understood by the government of the United States, and the people of the co-States, that we are determined to maintain this our ordinance and declaration, at every hazard, do further declare that we will not submit to the application of force on the part of the federal government, to reduce this State to obedience, but that we will consider the passage, by Congress, of any act authorizing the employment of a military or naval force against the State of South Carolina, her constitutional authorities or citizens; or any act abolishing or closing the ports of this State, or any of them, or otherwise obstructing the free ingress and egress of vessels to and from the said ports, or any other act on the part of the federal government, to coerce the State, shut up her ports, destroy or harass her commerce or to enforce the acts hereby declared to be null and void, otherwise than through the civil tribunals of the country, as inconsistent with the longer continuance of South Carolina in the Union; and that the people of this State will henceforth hold themselves absolved from all further obligation to maintain or preserve their political connection with the people of the other States; and will forthwith proceed to organize a separate government, and do all other acts and things which sovereign and independent States may of right do.

Done in convention at Columbia, the twenty-fourth day of November, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty-two, and in the fifty-seventh year of the Declaration of the Independence of the United States of America.”

John C. Calhoun Statement on Nullification

By: John C. Calhoun

Date: September 11, 1830

Explanation of the Source: In late 1832, John C. Calhoun resigned the vice-presidency, months before his term was set to expire, in order to accept a seat in the U. S. Senate representing his home state of South Carolina. For the next two decades, Calhoun would use his voice and vote in the Senate to advocate for states' rights, in particular for the right of Southern states to regulate slavery (their "peculiar domestick institution") free from outside interference. The following excerpt is drawn from a September 11, 1830, letter that Calhoun wrote to Virgil Maxcy, a political ally from Maryland. In it, Calhoun explains, with a remarkable degree of candor, that the doctrine of nullification aimed, above all else, at protecting the institution of slavery.

"I consider the Tariff, but as the occasion, rather than the real cause of the present unhappy state of things. The truth can no longer be disguised, that the peculiar domestick institution of the Southern States, and the consequent direction, which that and her soil and climate have given to her industry, have placed them in regard to taxation and appropriations in opposite relation to the majority of the Union; against the danger of which, if there be no protective power in the reserved rights of the States, they must in the end be forced to rebel, or submit to have their permanent interests sacrificed, their domestick institutions subverted Colonization and other schemes, and themselves & children reduced to wretchedness. Thus situated, the denial of the right of the State to interfere constitutionally in the last resort more alarms the thinking, than all other causes."

President Jackson's Letter over Nullification

By: Andrew Jackson

Date: January 13, 1833

Explanation of the Source: During the Nullification Crisis, Andrew Jackson was greatly concerned with the preservation of the Union. In the letter below, he writes an old friend explaining how he was ready to invade South Carolina with the approval of Congress to enforce the law.

"My dear Sir,

Yours of the 9th instant was handed to me by Mr. Wright last night, with whom I had some conversation on our general concerns and I congratulate your state and my country, for sending us a man of his integrity, talents and [unclear] at the present crisis. It will give me pleasure to consult him on all your local concerns and here I would remark that the Secretary of State and many of your friends in New York were the cause of the selection of Mr. Deart.

I have read several letters from you which remain unanswered. You know I am a bad correspondent at any time - lately I have been indisposed by cold and surrounded with

nullifiers of the south and the Indians in the south and west; that has occupied all my time, not leaving me a moment for private friends help, or political discussion with a friend.

I beg of you not to be disturbed by anything you hear from the ----- of this place. Many nullifiers are here under disguise, working hard to save Calhoun and would disgrace their country and the Executive to do it. Be assured that I have worked out with all the forbearance to do my duty and on the protection to our good citizens and the officers of our government in the south who are charged with the execution of the laws, but it would destroy all confidence in our government, both at home and abroad, was I to sit with my arms folded and permit our good citizens in South Carolina who are standing forth in and of the laws to be imprisoned, and perhaps hung under the ordinance of South Carolina and the laws to carry it into effect all which are probable violations of the Constitution and rebellious of every right of our citizens. Was this to be permitted the government the confidence of its citizens and it would endure dissension everywhere. No my friend, the crisis must be now met firmness, our citizens, and the doctrine of nullification and secession put down forever. For we have yet to learn, whether some of the eastern states secede or nullify if the tariff is reduced. I have to look at both ends of the union to preserve it. I have only time to add, that as South Carolina has by her, and other laws, closed our courts, and authorized the governor to 12,000 men to keep them closed giving all powers to the sheriffs to use this army as the pope committed thus, I must appeal to Congress to cloak our officers and marshall with the same power to and threat in executing the laws, and apprehending those who may commit treasonable acts. This call upon Congress must be made as long before the 1st of February next as will give Congress time to sit before that day, or I would be chargeable with neglect of my duty and as I have said in my previous pages, if other powers were tyrants I would appeal to Congress. If I was therefore to act without the hand of Congress, or without communicating to it, I would be branded with the label tyrant - from these remarks you will at once see prospect of my course, and be prepared to see the communication I will make to Congress on the 17th instant, which will leave Congress ten days to act from it before the 1st of February, often it is printed. The parties on are running on both sides, a in the night, and I expect soon to hear that a civil war of has commenced. I will meet all things with deliberate forgiveness and forbearance, but wo to those nullifiers who shed the first blood. The moment I am prepared with proof I will for treason to be instituted against the leaders, and if they are surrounded with 12,000 bayonets our marshall shall be aided by 24,000 soldiers thrown on the ground. There is nothing must be permitted to weaken our government at home or abroad.

I could march from that state 40,000 men in 40 days they are ready on N.G. in Tennessee, in all the western states, and from good old Democratic Pennsylvania. I have upwards of 50,000 - and from the borders of South Carolina. In North Carolina I have another regiment. The union shall be preserved.

In haste your friend, Andrew Jackson”

For more information... -link to full text of the Fairfield District Union Meeting Resolution

The following is a typescript from photocopy of early newspaper clipping from Margaret Bell Bloodworth's genealogy papers.

For the Hive

UNION MEETING

A meeting of a part of the citizens of Fairfield district, friendly to the Union, was held at Capt. John Montgomery's muster ground, Wateree creek on Saturday the 16th inst. The meeting was organized by calling Capt. John Montgomery to the Chair, and the appointment of James M'Clurkin and James Henry, Secretaries.

The meeting was called to order – on motion, a committee of seven persons was appointed by the Chairman, consisting of Messrs, Andrew McQuiston, James Miller, John Lathan, John Harrison, Andrew Blain, Samuel Sterling, and Robert Patterson, to draft a Preamble and Resolution; the committee retired for a few minutes, returned and made the following report, which was adopted without a dissenting voice by the signatures of upwards of forty names.

PREAMBLE

Whereas, the Ordinance, adopted on the 24th November last by the State Convention, has assumed powers that were never delegated by the people to that Convention. Whereas, we, a portion of the citizens of Fairfield district have reviewed with feelings of deep regret the proceedings of the dominant party of this State, and more especially those of the State Convention, in attempting to palm upon us a Test Oath; which we cannot nor will not take, or otherwise depriving us for conscience sake, of every office of honor or profit, civil or military; and an act of the Legislature, entitled an act, for the carrying into effect the Ordinance of Nullification, thereby authorizing the Governor to call out the whole military force of this state, or any part thereof and compelling them to take up arms against their fellow citizens of the other states in order to enforce the disorganizing Ordinance of a party, infuriated under the delusive pretence of peace and contrary to their known will. Therefore

1.) *Resolved*, That we approve the Protest, Remonstrance and Resolutions adopted by the Union and States Rights party in Columbia on the 14th December, 1832.

2.) *Resolved*, That we will not submit to any mandate, emanate from what source it may be, calling on us to take the oath prescribed by the Ordinance of nullification, or any other oath adverse to the allegiance we owe the Federal Government; nor to any mandate calling on us to take up arms against the people of the United States while we the ...fection of the Federal Government.

3.) *Resolved*, That we view with horror and surprize the right assumed in that Ordinance to bind the consciences of men, as a gross usurpation of power and a plain and palpable violation of the Constitution of this State, and of the United States.

4.) *Resolved*, That we look upon the attempt at Secession by the late State Convention, as an unjustifiable, treasonable, and rebellious proceeding pregnant with novel principles and strange experiments.

5.) *Resolved*, That we do approve of the President's Proclamation, and believe the principles contained in the same, to be the fundamental principles of our government, which we are always ready and willing to defend.

6.) *Resolved*, That as citizens of this State, and of the United States, we cannot consent to be made aliens, in the land of our birth and adoption; and that we will to the utmost of our power make use of every legal and constitutional means, to preserve, protect and defend our most sacred rights and privileges, as a free and independent citizen has a right to do.

7.) *Resolved*, That the Ordinance of the Convention of this State, passed on the 24th day of November last, and the acts of the Legislature passed to give full effect to the said Ordinance, are acts of tyranny, and more oppressive to the people of this State, than the revenue acts of the Congress of the United States.

8.) *Resolved*, That we will join in any measure with the Union party in this State, both for the redress of our grievances (of the Tariff of Protection) and for the protection of our lives, liberty and property.

9.) *Resolved*, That we appoint Messrs. Wm. T. Woodward, Wm. K. Taylor, John Boaner, Esq., Wm. H.T. Hughes, Andrew Blain, James Henry, Jas. Barkley, Rev. Wm. Carlisle as Delegates to attend the Union Convention, at Columbia on the 4th March 1833.

On motion Resolved that the proceedings of this meeting be signed by the Chairman, and Secretaries, and sent to the Editors of the Columbia Hive, Camden Journal, & Greenville Mountaineer, with a request to be published.

Capt. John Montgomery,
Chairman.

James M'Clurkin, }
James Henry, } Secretaries.

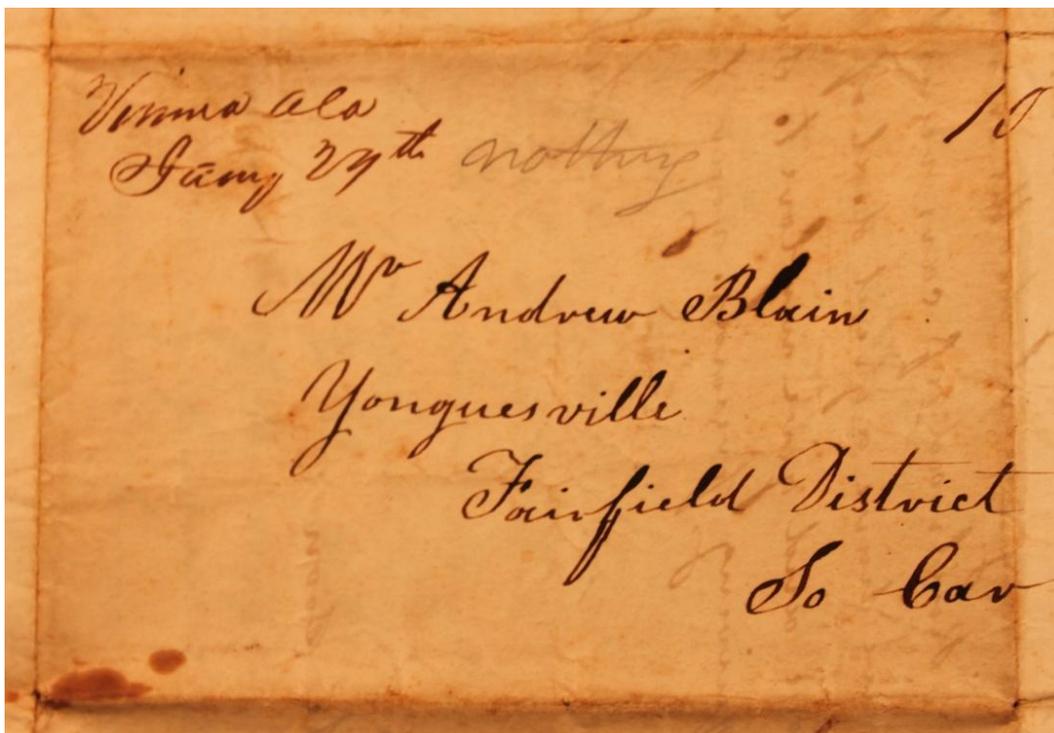
-photocopy of article in possession of Blaine Walker

Andrew Blain marries Jane Sterling(1803-1886) daughter of John Wagner Sterling(1761-1847). The first of their 10 children was born in 1827. Remarkably, for the time period, all of their children lived into adulthood.

Letter from brother-in-law T. Stirling “I was absent six weeks during the time I explored Mifsissippi, Arkansas, Louisanna and a portion of Tescos.” - 14th January 1850

Apparently, Jane Sterling Blaine’s (1803-1886) brother, T. (Thomas) Sterling and family had moved to Bear Creek Alabama, but in late 1849 Thomas went further west to explore the prospects of better land. Following his return from his six week adventure through Mississippi, Arkansas, Louisiana and a portion of Texas he took time to write to his brother-in-law Andrew and his sister Jane. What an adventure it was!

LETTER COLLECTION NOTE: Transliteration - Each letter has been transcribed exactly as the original letter is written. Spelling has not been corrected. Each line in the transcription begins and ends with the same word as the original. Underlined spaces, or question marks, indicate indecipherable (at least to me) words. Please let me know if you can decipher what I could not and/or if you find any mistakes elsewhere.



Bear Creek P C Ala 14th January 1850

Dear Brother

Pen and Ink cannot describe the Emotion that overpowered my mind when I returned home to my family and found them all alive and in good health our youngest Daughter Mary Jane had a severe spell of fever in my absence she was so low that my Lady thought it almost impossible for her to recover. She sent for two Splendid Physicians. They both gave her out. but notwithstanding after a long tedious spell she recovered. I was absent six weeks during the time I explored Mifsissippi, Arkansas, Louisanna and a portion of Tescos. I travelled while while absent a little the vise of fifteen hundred miles sometimes I had a road sometimes a Bear trail and very often no trail at all I very frequently had to crofs Rivers and Bios on log rafts and one River in arkansas by the name of Crowe River I had to swim my horse acrofs by the side of a canoe. Notwithstanding all this I had no bad luck except that of getting my horse foundered. I was not as well pleased with the Country as I anticipated I would be before I left home, I saw lots and covels of land as rich as cream, the soil from 15 to 30 ft deep, that produces from three to five thousand pounds of seed Cotton per Acre, and Corn in proportion but when you come acrofs such land as this it is sickly even unto Death in fact it is impossible for a white man to live on such land and when I struck land that it looked like a person might enjoy a reasonable por-

-----page break-----

-tion of health the land is no better than my own. Society gennerally bad and a great many inconveniences to encounter in fact in places there is noting to be heard but the howling Wolf the hooting Owl the prattling Parakeath and the shrieking Banks of

Panther. I traveled fifty miles on the ^ the father of waters viz the great Mifsissippi River. I traveled one hundred miles on the Red River on the other side. I was within a few miles of John Cockwells Red River farm. I staid all night with Simon Cockwell in the town of Vachitoches on Red River. But enough of this. I design starting to Mobile in a few days to lay in my dry goods and groceries. I suppose

I will have to get a Conviage. by purchasing the above in Mobile I can save a great deal more than my expences And you know it is a pleasure excursion besides.

Dear Brother I am sorry to say that I have none of yours to reply to, having replied to your last just before I started my journey to the West, which letter contained the acknolegement of the reception of both ends of the bills spoken of in my former letter, which I hope was satisfactory. Please write to me as soon as this comes to hand and let me know what amount of money is still due to me from Fathers Estate and when you can make a final Settlement with me. Please calculate Interest and all up to the date of your letter. Put the principal and Interest in two separate Items, so that I may be able to understand what is the amount of principal and what the amount of Interest. I have made a very sorry crop of Cotton only thirty five thousand pounds in the seed

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my corn crop was splendid the best that I have ever made. I made no wheat on account of the frost. I bought seven bushels at two dollars per bushel to sow which looks very promising. flour is selling at six dols per bound corn at forty cents per bushel our Cotton market is improving Cotton is worth from eleven to eleven $\frac{1}{2}$ Cts per lb please let me know from all my relations and acquaintances if there has been any recent deaths or marriages. let me hear from your Railroad if cars runs through your neighbourhood yet. we have a great deal of rain and high waters. Accept my love and give my love to Sister Jane and family and all inquiring friends. your friend

T Stirling

PS

Write soon

Bear Creek P C Ala 14th January 1850

Dear Brother

Pen and Ink cannot describe the Emotion that overpowered my mind when I returned home to my family and found them all alive and in good health our youngest Daughter Mary Jane had a severe spell of fever in my absence she was so low that my Lady thought it almost impossible for her to recover. She sent for two Splendid phisicians. they both gave her out. but notwithstanding after a long tedious spell she recovered. I was absent six weeks during the time I explored Mississippi. Arkansas. Louisiana and a portion of Texas I travelled while absent a little the rise of fifteen hundred miles sometimes ~~I~~ had a road sometimes a Bear trail and very often no trail at all I very frequently had to cross Rivers and Bids on log rafts. and one River in Arkansas by the name of Crane River I had to swim my horse across by the side of a Canoe. Notwithstanding all this I had no bad luck except that of getting my horse foundered. I was not as well pleased with the Country as I anticipated. I would be before I left home, I saw Lots and covds of land as rich as cream. the soil from 15 to 30 ft deep. that produces from three to five thousand pounds of seed Cotton per Acre, and Corn in propotion but when you come across such land as this it is sickly even unto Death in fact it is impossible for a white man to live on such land. and when I struck land that it looked like a person might enjoy a reasonable pro-

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my corn crop was Splendid the best that I have ever
made I made no wheat on account of the frost. I bought
seven bushels at two dollars per bushel. to sow which
looks very promising. flour is selling at six dolr per barrel
corn at forty cents per bushel our Cotton market is im-
proving Cotton is worth from eleven to eleven $\frac{1}{2}$ cts per lb
please let me hear from all my relations and acquaintances
if there has been any recent deaths or marriages. let
me hear from your Railroad if cars runs through your
neighbourhood yet, we have a great deal of Rain and high
waters. Accept my love and give my love to sister Jane and
family and all inquiring friends. your friend

J Stirling

W B

Write soon

Andrew Blain, member of Hopewell A.R.P. Church, Presbyterian Elder, not a “tee-totaler”

In the fall of 1844 Andrew and Jane Sterling Blaine “connected themselves with Hopewell congregation.” In October of 1847 he was elected, examined & ordained as an Elder of the Hopewell Associate Presbyterian Church in Chester County in October 1847. The Session minutes show him consistently present at all Session meetings until March 30, 1860, when his name is conspicuously absent from the list of Elders present. A notation at the conclusion of the meeting reported, *“A. Blain being absent gave notice some time previous that he need not be considered a member of session nor church being dissatisfied with something said by Mr. Brice (R.W. Brice was pastor) with respect to temperance.”* No further mention is made about the matter, nor does Andrew Blain appear in the Session minutes as having attended another meeting, ever.

For more information...-link to article on origin of name “tee-totaler”

Teetotalers – There are several stories for the origin of the word.

1. In colonial times, when liquid beverage options were much more limited, one either drank tea or drank wine and other alcoholic beverages like ale and whiskey. If one chose, for religious or other reasons to abstain from alcohol, then you drank tea exclusively, hence a tea totaler
2. In the 19th century, the American Temperance Union encouraged a pledge of abstinence from intoxicating liquor, as part of the temperance movement. Those who had signed the pledge were asked to use a T with their signature to mean "total abstinence." The T plus the "total" led to those who'd signed the pledge being called T-totallers or teetotallers.
3. Coined by Richard “Dicky” Turner in a speech he gave to a temperance meeting. One report had it that his words were *“nothing but the tee-total would do”*. Another claimed that he said in his strong local accent, *“I’ll be reet down out-and-out t-t-total for ever and ever”*.

Andrew Blain – Cotton Gin Owner & named as Prominent Planter - The South Carolina State Gazetteer and Business Directory for 1883 highlights prominent farmers and business owners in all regions of the state. Andrew Blain is on the list of Blackstock, SC businesses, as owner of a cotton gin (pg 102). A section of that 1883 State Gazetteer and Directory entitled, Prominent Planters and Farmers of South Carolina, the listing for Blackstock includes Andrew Blaine and J M Blaine (pg 512). Both father and son are in a listing for Woodward as well. It lists their names as A Blain and J M Blain (pg 600). Even documents in 19th century confused the spelling!



Brice's General Merchandise - The South Carolina State Gazetteer and Business Directory for 1883 lists Calvin Brice is the local Postmaster in Woodward, SC and the owner of Calvin Brice & Co, General Merchandise (pg 496), the store where the Blain's bought groceries. When the store closed in 1984 it was owned by our Brice cousins, James and Carolyn Brice. Do you see the "fly specks?"

For more information...link to article on "Fly Specks"

In 1968 I accompanied my parents to my brother's graduation from Davidson College in Davidson, NC. During that trip we visited in Rock Hill, SC with Mary Smith and her sister Emma Hamiter. We also met a Walter Blaine. The highlight for a 14 year old however was a promised visit to Cousin Jim Brice's Store in Woodward, SC. In preparation for the visit my mother told me that I would "see the same flyspecks that had been on the shelves when she was a little girl." At 14, I had absolutely no idea what a flyspeck was, so we walk in the store and I ask my mother loudly, "Mama, where are the flyspecks?" She almost crawled under the counter. Well, how I to know that "flyspecks" was a reference to fly droppings!

The 3rd Generation – James McQuiston Blain(e), 1842-1913



James McQuiston Blaine



Margaret Jane Brice Blaine

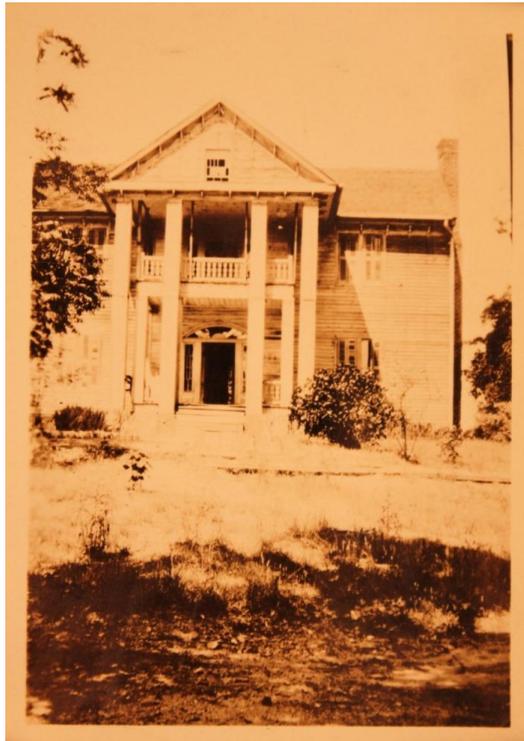


Photo taken c.1938

The second dwelling on the property was my mother's home from the age of three to fourteen (1922-1933).

The James Mcquiston Blain(e) Home Place

A notation on the back of a photo of their large two-story home, says it was built after his return from the war. An authority on architecture of the mid-19th century suggests that due to stylistic features of the house and the lack of money and moreover a dearth of building materials in the post-war south, most likely it was constructed a short time before 1860.

James Mcquiston Blain(e) - Confederate Soldier in the War Between the States

James McQuiston Blaine (1842-1913) was a Confederate Soldier who enlisted on April 11, 1861, the same day Fort Sumter was bombed, and served until April 9, 1865, the day Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia surrendered at Appomattox, VA.

Eighteen year old James M. Blain enlisted on April 11, 1861, in the Little River Guards under Capt E.J. Means for a period of one year. These "enlistees" gathered at Camp Woodward on June 13th to begin their service. The Little River Guards were disbanded at Summerville, SC as they became a part of The Buckhead Guards, also under the command of Capt. E.J. Means, this time for a period of three years, or the war. The unit received the designation of Company C, 6th Regiment SC Volunteer Infantry. The Company Muster-In Roll dated June 19, 1861, shows the Station of the company at Summerville S.C. where the unit was officially received into the Provisional Army of the Confederate States of America.

Hospitalized for Typhoid Fever and Wounded Four Times

Over the course of the war James M. Blain was hospitalized with Typhoid Fever and wounded in battle four times. Hospital records for October 1861 show that his name appears on list of men in the CSA Hosp. at Charlottesville, VA. He was admitted October 13, 1861 for **typhoid fever** and listed as returned to duty 10 days later on October 23. I wonder, is this a case of a country farm boy now among city folk?

His **first wound** occurred near the end of the first year of the war. His CSA Service Record states "wounded slightly in hand" on December 20, 1861 at the Battle of Dranesville, Va about 20 miles due west of Washington, D.C.

He was **wounded a second time** at Fair Oaks Station in the Battle of Seven Pines, near Richmond, VA on May 31, 1862. It was in this same battle that he, along with many of his regiment, including General John Bratton, were captured and sent to a Prisoner of War camp at Ft Delaware, in Delaware. He was returned on August 5, 1862 in a prisoner exchange that took place at Aiken's Landing, VA.

His **third wound** occurred on August 30, 1862 at the Battle of 2nd Bull Run. Though there is no description in any record I've seen, this wound must certainly have been more severe as he was sent home to SC on sick furlough. Ten months later, in July of 1863, he returned to his regiment now to serve alongside his younger brother Andrew Melville Blaine (1845-1863). Melville enlisted in Charlotte, NC on April 9th, 1863, only 5 days following his 18th birthday.

James M. Blain was **wounded a fourth time** during the Union Siege of Petersburg and Richmond that lasted from the summer of 1864 through March of 1865. The notation in his CSA Service Record states that it was a "*side contusion received at the Battle of Ft. Harrison*" on August 30, 1864.

Writing Home

Virtually all literate soldiers wrote letters home, exchanging information about daily life and making requests for the family to send the various things the soldier needed or desired. James M. Blain was no different. Such letters are treasures and our family has the good fortune to possess fourteen letters written to his father, mother and sisters, either written by him, or about him or his brother, between September 8, 1862 and January 20, 1864. They are magnificent examples of daily life experienced amidst the misery of life on the front lines during 19th century warfare. Though each of the fourteen is a marvel, I include four because of specific content.

Letter #1 - *"The fires of the enemy presented the appearance of the sky dotted with stars."*

The first letter is dated October 8, 1863. At this time 2nd Co. H, 6th SCV Inf. was under the command of Capt. John Agurs, of Brigadier General Micah Jenkins' Brigade, of Major General James Longstreet's 1st Corps. of the Army of Northern Virginia, C.S.A. on detached duty in Georgia and Tennessee. As the letter indicates the Regiment has been atop Lookout Mt., TN overlooking the campsites of the Yankee defenders of Chattanooga:

Camp near Mount Lookout

Oct the 8th 1863

Dear Sister

Having heard nothing from home as yet I will write and see if you have spare time to give me a few lines Our company was relieved from two days picket duty last night. We had quite a hard time of it the past day and with night climbing and descending the mountain but on the whole fared better than we have done on some other occasions. It was about nine O'clock on the night of the 5th inst that we reached the top of Mount Lookout. Here we had one of the most magnificent scenes imaginable having full view of both encampment extending for miles. Our lines could be easily traced by the campfires

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dotting the hills and plains for five or six miles and forming nearly a semicircle around the Yankees. The fires on the ___ fort[?] were plainly distinguished on either side.

The fires of the enemy presented the appearance of the sky dotted with stars. Their places[?] being more concentrated of course the same would be seen[?] comparing. The Tennessee could also be seen winding beneath but not larger to the eye than a good sized creek at home.

The scenery from above in many places is grand beyond description but we were in a bad mood to enjoy it, being tired sleepy and hungry. We however fared better yesterday having plenty of Pumpkins without salt and Cow peas without salt or Bacon. Dishes not very palatable but better than nothing.

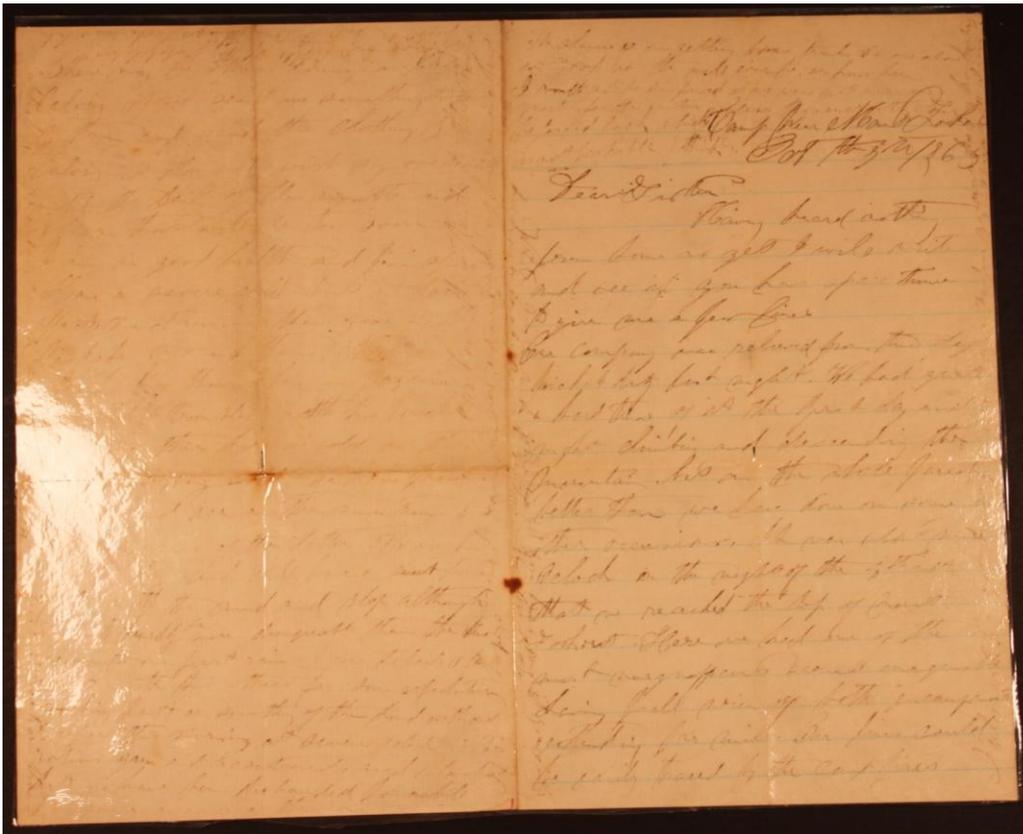
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Our rations would not do us half the time they are gone for if we would eat

what we wanted but we manage by scraping of Peas Pumpkins Cowfeet tripes cowheads yes to get along. We draw cornmeal almost entirely here and am getting tired of it. We get about half rations of bacon every third or fourth day but this will suffice for eating fare. Send me by the first opportunity plenty to eat. Molasses, fresh bread or flower eggs potatoes and any thing eatable at home a little salt also. Some rye coffee now that it is cold. In clothing send me a pair of wool socks and my overcoat. They will suffice for the present. Calvin Brice will be coming. I expect towards the last of the month. Tell Pa to speak to him in time so that others may not get ahead of him. I want him _____ parcels He will write for himself.

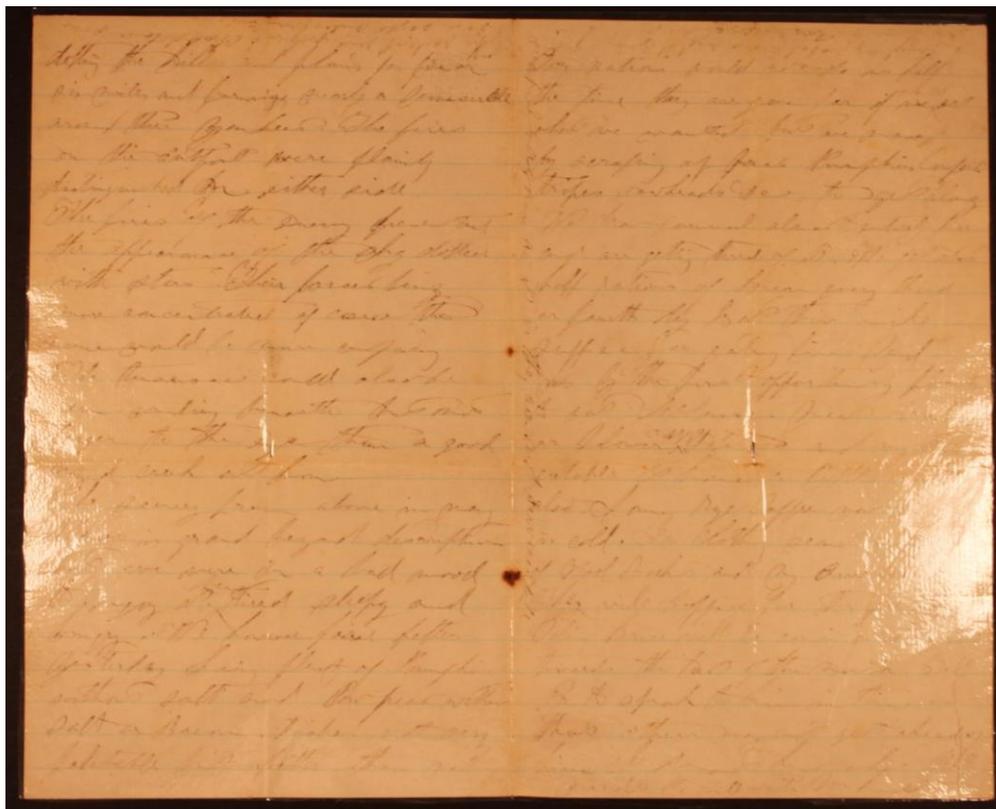
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There may be others coming on before Calvin if so send us something to eat by them and send the clothing by Calvin. I ___ and wish my overcoat until the last of the month and I fear that will be the _____. I am in good health and fine spirits. I have a severe cold but it does not affect me otherwise then give me a headache now and then. Mell is in better health than when in Virginia but still brotherd with his _____. The weather here is cold and the mountains very cold. We have frost a plenty and ice on the mountain but I have seen more of the latter. We are having rain today and will a sweet time of it with the mud and slop although it will hardly be disagreeable than the dust previous to our first rain. I was detailed for night with five others for some expedition working ___ or something of the kind with orders to report this morning at seven o'clock with rations gun and a _____ and blanket that we have _____ for awhile _____



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An unusual Civil War occurrence

On October 28-29, 1863 an unusual event took place, a night battle, the Battle of Wauhatchie Valley. Having battles continue into the evening at the end of the day was pretty common, grinding to a halt as twilight faded into blackness. Battles planned to begin during the nighttime hours were quite rare. The Battle of Wauhatchie Valley was one of those.

Letter #2

The Nighttime Battle of Wauhatchie

...Or...

The Charge Of The Mule Brigade

On October 30, 1863, the day immediately following, James M. Blain wrote a letter which included comments on the battle, the casualties, including the mules! A Yankee written derogatory parody on Alfred Lord Tennyson's poem '*Charge of the Light Brigade*' heralded the mule stampede that took place. One of the four stanza's reads:

*Half a mile, half a mile,
Half a mile onward,
Right through the Georgia troops
Broke the two hundred.
"Forward the Mule Brigade!
Charge for the Rebs," they neighed.
Straight for the Georgia troops
Broke the two hundred.*

LETTER COLLECTION NOTE: As with several others, the handwritten original of the October 30, 1863 letter is no longer with the collection. Early type-scripts are all that remain, as this 1947 example demonstrates. Interestingly, a 1946 letter from the President of the Chester, SC chapter of the Daughters of the Confederacy included with the collection, discusses the "donation of your Confederate letters" that were to be placed in the chapter archives. Contact (2014) has been made with the current President and they have not been located.

Camp Near Mt. Lookout,
Oct. 30, 1863.

Dear Father:

I wrote a few days back to sister Margaret but as we marched that evening did not have an opportunity of mailing I will add this. Melville probably gave you some account of the fight in his letter yesterday We have had more since and matters seem to be growing quiet again, although owing to-----prominent men we may have another engagement any time. The fight of the morning of the 29th was only a partial one as you will see by the account and no deaths (this word not clear) Only a portion of our division having been engaged. The list of the wounded will give you a better idea of the forces engaged than I could possibly do. Our regiment was led into action by Major White about an hour after the regular fighting commenced and put into position behind a railroad embankment fully ten feet high and scarcely two hundred yards from the Yankee line of battle and battery of two guns. There we lay with scarcely any protection from the shell and infantry fire of the enemy while we fired an incessant but not rapid fire into their line which ran off apparently at nearly right angles to the railroad and our line. Another portion of our brigade engaged them in fire. We remained in the position first given and thought out the fight which lasted I think not more than an hour from the time we entered-we were exposed only while raising to fire hence the small loss in our regiment as compared with other regs. of the brigade engaged, probably not as long as ours. After firing as long as we wanted we withdrew without being interrupted or pursued in the least and after lying about some time recrossed the creek over which we passed in order to get at them- As to what was gained by us I can say but little, not knowing the object. If it was for anyother purpose than that of gaining information. I think it a decided failure as I can see but little substantial fruits. You however will see it posted up in glairing ----- Editors a glorious victory or a brilliant skirmish. It is reported about that the Hampton Legion killed a considerable number of mules and is probably true-one thing is certain our brigade lost some exelent officers and men. Our Captain was among the severely wounded if not mortally. The fight commenced at between one and two I suppose although we had occasional skirmishing from twelve on and the last skirmish was done about the dawn of day by the enemy following up another brigade of our division. We had moonlight and the flashing of the enemys guns afforded an exelent mark. We are having rain again to-day and it looks as if it may clear off before a great while. Please send the articles mentioned in my last letter-at first chance. I am in no particular hurry about the coat but send the over coat if you have not already done so. In sending provisions hereafter, do not send any cooked food, unless it is sweet bread especially where there are potatoes in the trunk. We have plenty at present and, I am feeling as well as I ever did. Melville as well as usual.

Affectionately,
James.

(NOTE, James McQuistin Blaine.

Chester, S. C.
August 27, 1946.

Mary G. Sledge
Notary Public for South Carolina

Letter #3 – “Emma, I can give you particulars (sic) and never the yet it would only be a probing of the wound already deep”.

The most poignant of the letters are those which touch on the events surrounding the death of his brother Andrew Melville Blain on November 16, 1863 a few miles west of Knoxville, Tennessee in the Battle of Campbell Station. On November 20, 1863 James M. Blain wrote:

I never feel that it would only be a
 probing of the wound already deep
 However if you have other questions
 ask do so and I will try and answer
 them You can well imagine the
 severity of the blow we are called
 on to bear for the first time in
 a burial and that of our brother
 and it is painful to revive the
 pain and we will try to leave it
 South a higher power, recurring for
 a place in our memory
 The prospects here for another fight
 are good. God grant that it
 may be a decisive one
 We face the enemy in my opinion
 in a very precarious condition and
 he is surrounded very closely as
 he is and off from retreat by any of
 Cumberland Gap and is nearly

Bertram & Miller from
 Nov 20th 1863
 Dear Sister
 I have just recd
 of letters by a boy to the
 at 7 Mag, 1st, and 10
 But for fear they are misplaced
 and I might meet with the fate
 of poor Melville and you would
 not know of his whereabouts or
 his fate in that I had made any
 effort to inform you of it I write again
 it will hardly be worth while
 repeating what I have already
 written so I have not where he
 fell in the I can hear of the
 then very soon I will give
 the address of two men either
 of whom if applied to will

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^{at the station in the name of Mr. [unclear]}
* Campbell Station Honor County
two miles from Concord Station
on the Railroad. The other is
Wm. Ourd living on the
railroad two miles below
Concord Station near St. Johns
mill and about where the skirmish
commenced to get heavy.
The boys of both the above
named men were with me
when I hurried him and will
willingly take you to the place
I hope you will get the letter
written to Mr. A which will
give you particulars as to when
he died and which I cannot
now repeat. His Comdr. Paul

^{at the station in the name of Mr. [unclear]}
* Knife gloves and Cap I will try
and keep until I have an opportunity
of sending home. His gloves were almost
saturated with blood and one of
them was torn with the [unclear]
during the march to day.
The pants had a great deal of
blood from the men down being
saturated with the blood. For the
reason we did not remove the clothing
to see where the ball had passed
and as it would have been difficult
to get them on as well again.
The ball entered the lower part
of the sleeve and if it came on
did not pass through the clothing
or at least I could not notice any
hole made by it. Comdr. [unclear]
can give you particulars and

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Bivouac 2 miles from A Emerson[???

Nov the 20th 1863

Dear Sister

I have just sent off letters by a boy to the mail for Mag, Sarah and Noa. But for fear they are misplaced and I might meet with the fate of poor Mellie and you would not know of his whereabouts or his fate or that I had made any efforts to inform you of it I write again. It will hardly be worthwhile repeating what I have already written as to how and where he fell until I can hear of the others being lost. I will give the address of two men either of whom if applied to will

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[upside down on top of page 2]

*Campbell Station is the name of an old Indian settlement or a Station

Page 2 -----page break-----

point out the grave. The best one to go to is Jas' A McLin of *Campbell Station Knox County Two miles from Concord Station direct west down the Railroad)) The other is Wm Curd living on the railroad two miles below Concord Station near Kerland Mill and about where the Skirmishing commenced to get heavy. The sons of both the above named men were with me when I buried him and will willingly take you to the place. I hope you will get the letter written to Ma which will give you particulars as to where he died at and which I cannot now repeat. His comb, pencil

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[upside down on top of page 3]

Write often send word

Your Brother James

Page 3 ----page break----

Knife gloves and cap I will try and keep until I have an opportunity of sending home. His gloves were about saturated with blood and one of them was torn with the ball. I am having them washed today. He had bled a great deal his pants from the waist down being saturated with the blood. For this reason we did not remove the clothing to see where the ball had passed and as it would have been difficult to get them on as well again. The ball entered the lower part of the bowels and if it came out did not pass through the clothing or at least I could not notice any hole made by it. Emma, I can give you particulars and

Page 4 ----page break----

never the yet it would only be a probing of the wound already deep. However if you have other questions ask, do so and I will try and answer them. You can well imagine the severity of the blow on me called on to assist for the first time in a burial and that my own brother. But it is useless to revive the tear and we will try to leave it with a higher power reassuring fore firm a place in our memory. The prospects here for another fight are good. God grant that it may be a decisive one. We have the enemy in my opinion in a very precarious condition unless he is reinforced very soon as he is cut off from retreat by way of Cumberland Gap and is nearly

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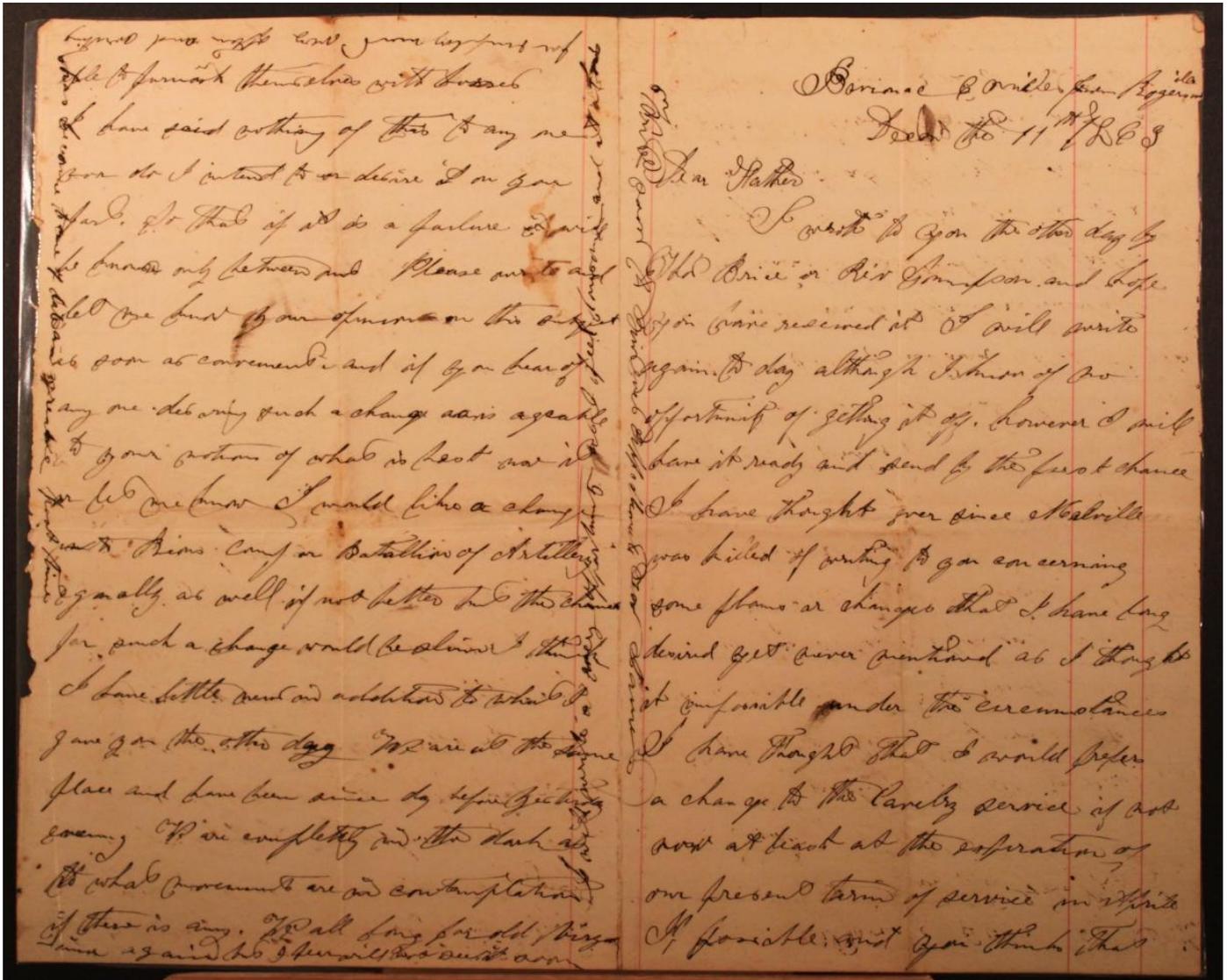
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surrounded. If I have an opportunity I will add tomorrow before mailing this

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Letter #4 - "Jine the Cavalry"

My personal favorite of James M. Blain's letters I am entitling, "Jine the Cavalry" reflecting a Civil War era song of the same title. Written on December 11, 1863, this letter differs from all others because the clarity of thought and clear penmanship is head and shoulders above all the rest. Twenty-one year old Jim Blain writes his father to explain why he wants to leave the 6th SC Infantry Regiment and "jine the cavalry." However, to make this work, he needs his dad to provide him with a proper mount. He makes his case and then leaves it up to his Father. I wish we had Andrew Blain's written reply, but we do not. We do know however, that when the 6th SC Volunteer Infantry surrendered at Appomattox, VA, in April of 1865, James M. Blain was still in the infantry, so we can assume the content of the answer with some confidence.



Page 4

Page 1

You could promise me I would like to
very much as I am both tired of
judging along through time with
my Harrods and food as well as
our company officers since the death
of Capt. Weston we have left under
the command of an inexperienced man
without any the kind of help a good
officer with it. Our other officers are few
and even with the exception of McIlwain
perhaps who is even making himself unpopular
by his passionate fiery temper
The Company has lost its tone or at least
its former enviable reputation and with the
suspicion of our neighbors or the old Little
have crowd. It can but little for any of them
You will see from my statements that I
am disappointed. It will be for you to
judge whether with sufficient reasons of office
it is say that I am clearly sick of the

Company and will take the first opportunity of
getting out of it. It is for you to say whether
you can afford to mount me or not.
I prefer the Cavalry service first of all
and I am not ashamed to say chiefly
because it is safer by a great deal
than any other. I would because it is
I am surprised in the long run much sooner.
The only thing I dread is the expense and
if it is my fate to fall as a soldier
has done it will make but little difference
in that respect. Could my life be insured
I would give the best time in my possession
to day and don't cheerfully its labor for
my support. I have served in my military long
enough to clear myself of any reputation of
cowardice and I do not think can be blamed
for desiring a change. I think that if
you are willing I can continue to change
with some immediate pleasure probably

Page 1

'ille

Boviuac 6 miles from Rogersv
December the 11th 1863

Dear Father

I wrote to you the other day by
Tld (?) Brice, or Re'v Simmpson(?) and hope
you have received it. I will write
again today although I know of no
opportunity of getting it off, however I will
have it ready and send by the first chance.

I have thought ever since Melville
Was killed of writing to you concerning
some flaws or changes that I have long
desired yet never mentioned as I thought
it impossible under the circumstances.

I have thought that I would prefer
to change to the Cavelry service if not
now at least at the expiration of
our present term of service in April.

If possible and you think that

Page 2 -----page break-----

you could mount me. I would like it
very much as I am both tired of
trudging along through sand with
my knapsack and load as well as
our company officers. Since the death
of Capt Weston we have fell under
the command of an infirm cripled man
without having the merit of being a good
officer with it. Our other officers are poor
excuses with the exception of R Clowney
perhaps who is even making himself unpopular
by his passionate fiery temper.

The company has lost its tone or at least
its former enviable reputation and with the
exception of our neighbors or the old Little
River crowd I care but little for any of them.

You will see from my statements that I
am dissatisfied. It will be for you to
judge whether with sufficient reasons suffice
it to say that I am heartily sick of the

Page 3 -----page break-----

company and will take the first oppportunity of
getting out of it. It is for you to say whether
you can afford to mount me or not.

I prefer the Cavelry service first of all

and am not ashamed to say chiefly
because it is safer by a great deal
than any other, secondly because it is
I am convinced in the long run much easier.
The only thing I dread is the expense but
as it is my fate to fall as Melville
has done, it will make but little difference
in that respect. Could my life be measured
I would give the last dime in my possession
today and start cheerfully to labor for
my support. I have served in the infantry long
enough to clear myself of any surpertations of
cowardice and I do not think I can be blamed
for desiring a change. I think that if
you are willing I can contrive to change
with some individuals who are probably not

Page 4 -----page break-----

able to furnish themselves with horses.

I have said nothing of this to any one
nor do I intend to or desire it on your
part. So that if it is a failure it will
be known only between us. Please write and
let me know your opinion on the subject
as soon as convenient, and if you hear of
any one desiring such a change an is agreeable
to your notion of what is best move it
or let me know. I would like a change
with Rions Comp or Batallion of Artillery
equally as well if not better but the chance
for such a change would be slim I think.

I have little news in addition to what I
gave you the other day. We are at the same
place and have been since day before yesterday
evening. We are completely in the dark as
to what movements are in contemplation
if there is any. We all long for old Virg
inia again but I fear will not see it soon.

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has become to me of date and agreeable post time

-----right side of page 3-----

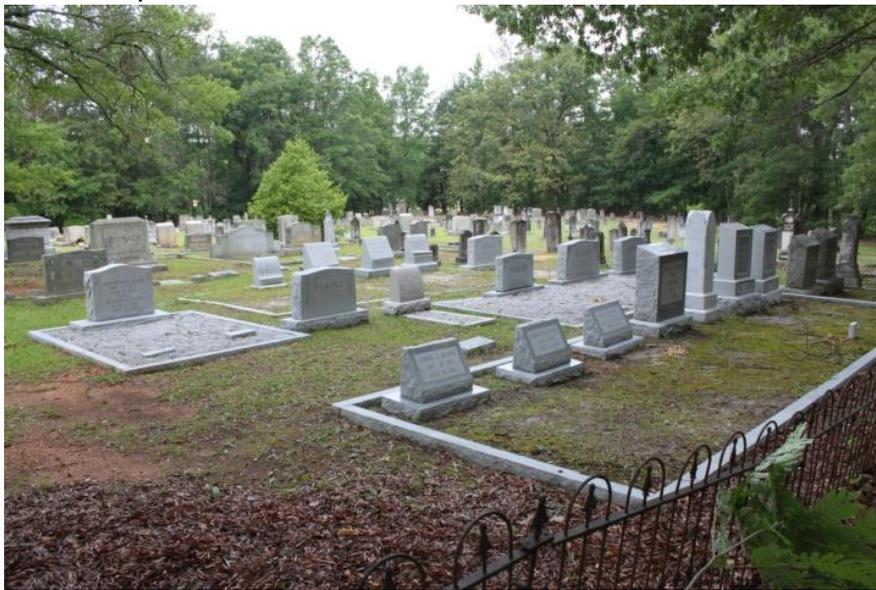
I will write at every oppportunity and I feel lonesome
and at a loss

----left side of page 1----

Write soon I am ever affectionate son James

The Appomattox Surrender Rolls and a Mystery - The 6th SC Voluntary Infantry was among the units of General Lee's Army of Northern Virginia who surrendered at Appomattox. One of the names on the Appomattox surrender rolls is that of M. Blain. In various published typewritten listings I have found the name shown as M. Blain, Melvin Blain, A.M. Blain, and Andrew Melville Blain. Obviously since Andrew Melville Blain died in November 1863, he was not present to sign. The mystery becomes deeper because James M. Blain is not listed at all. Why is Jim Blain not listed? Why is his deceased brother Mel Blain's name found on the roll? Did Jim Blain use his brother's name as some form of tribute? Was this some early "unreconstructed rebel" ideology? In September 2014 I obtained an image of the page of the original Appomattox Surrender Roll where this company is found and it clearly shows only "M. Blain." At the same time I learned from John Coski, Historian at The Museum of the Confederacy in Richmond, VA that (1) the typewritten listings must have extrapolated additional information from a secondary source; and (2) that the individual soldiers did not sign, but that an officer of the unit simply compiled the list. So the mystery is unsolved and probably will remain so.

The Blain(e) section of the Concord Presbyterian Church Cemetery - In the Blain(e) section of the Concord Church Cemetery is a tall white marble stone grave marker with the inscription:



Blain(e) Section of the Concord Cemetery



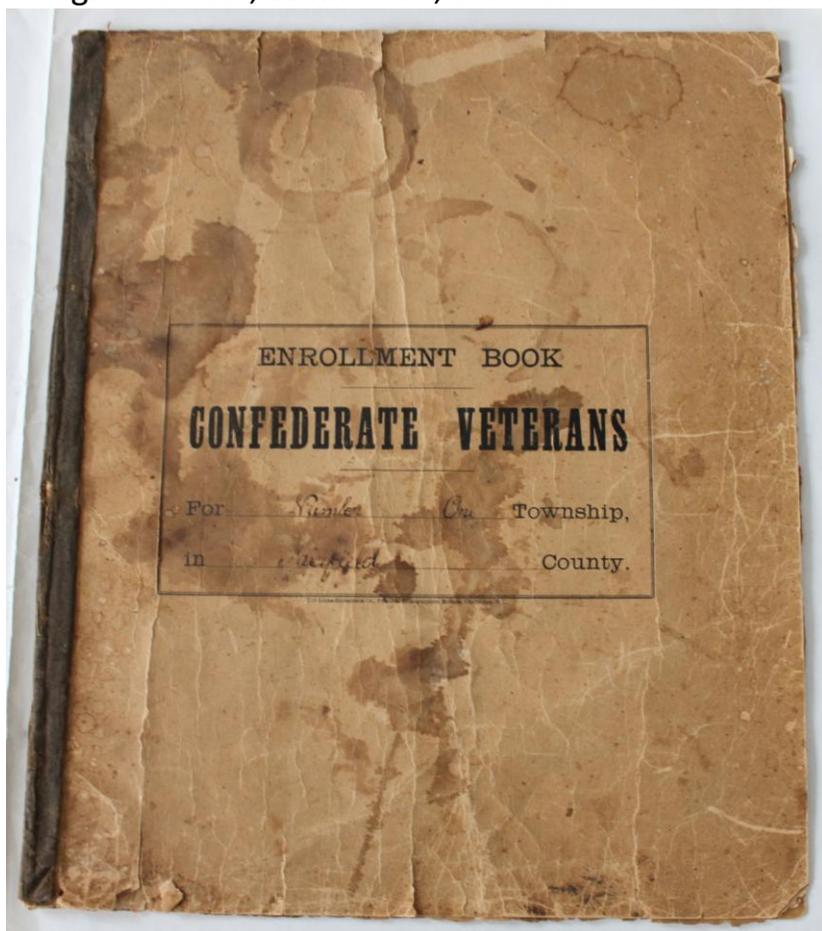
Andrew Melville Blain
Born April 5, 1845
Killed and buried on battlefield
near Campbell Station
East Tenn. 1863

A family story relates that some time following his return from Appomattox, James M. Blain and his father traveled to Campbell Station, Tennessee to find and bring Melville's body home. Unfortunately, and despite the steps he had taken to identify local residents to guide him to the burial site, he was unable to find his younger brother.

The 1902 Enrollment of Confederate Veterans

I would like to point to one final Civil War related document, The 1902 Enrollment of Confederate Veterans - On the 25th of February, 1902, the South Carolina Legislature took action to *“obtain a correct and complete enrollment of all persons who served in the army or navy of the Confederate States (1861-1865) and that the enrollment shall be strictly along geographical lines and by the townships and counties from which the person entered the military or naval service of the Confederacy, or in which he resided after such service ceased, so that the homestead or residence of the veteran or the site whereon which it stood shall, to the enrollment committee, suggest the veteran’s name for the enrollment.”*

Both James M. Blain and his brother Andrew Melville Blain are found in this fascinating document. The enumerator of the list of soldiers from Fairfield County, SC who had served in the army or navy of the Confederate States (1861-1865) did an outstanding job by not only in listing the soldiers names, their units and whether they survived or had died, and if so, where, but he also told what personal details he knew of their lives before, during and after the war. It is a marvel! Only six pages (pages numbered 32 thru 37) of the original document survive and fortunately for my research, but a travesty for others, they focus on the 6th SC Volunteer Infantry. As of June 2011 the original was on a shelf in the genealogy room of The Fairfield Museum, 231 South Congress Street, Winnsboro, SC. Go soon as it is in terrible condition!



He was a very large tall young man, brave and
 -lep- His loss caused general grief
 He was a young man of lively disposition and
 rarely lost his life in the service of his Country. There
 two sons, John Young & Sam was the only ones their father had
 survived, He was a noble soldier
 Survived - He remarked (at hearing) Col Feaster call
 on the Lord and laughed saying John, said O Lord, who
 the Kentuckians were firing on us at Drainsville, Va.
 Survived - Wounded at Battle of Sharpsburg, and
 served in Jackson Hospital till close of the War. His gun was
 -knocked against J.C. Pennington by the ball that wounded him.
 Survived - He was every soldier's friend and a good
 friend to the young
 Survived, But is now dead & was a good soldier
 Another Martyr on the altar of his Country
 He was a brother of James M. Blain, He was beautiful and
 He was a Christian soldier like the above young
 Mullville Blain he was beautiful in death

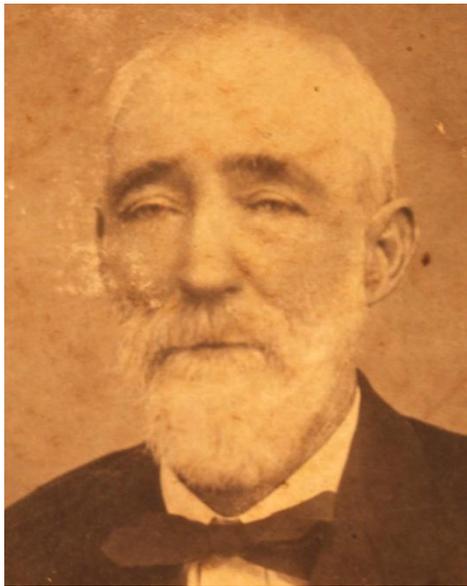
Page 34 - Melville Blain - age - 18 Died in Tennessee - "Another martyr on the altar of his Country. He was a brother of James M. Blain. He was beautiful in death."

Jack Bruce One of the bravest of the war, very popular, and generally well
 liked by the soldiers. Such a loss as his was, could not be recovered in any
 and true men of the Confederate Army. He fought and died
 with any of the General Generals of the Confederacy, of Gen Lee
 of the Company, Our Flag
 Survived. He was promoted to Office in
 also promoted to some Office. He must have been transferred as
 did not make a member of our Co after its reorganization
 Survived
 Moved to and died in Ga
 Survived. A lover of music, a good
 singer, a brave soldier, and a devoted Christian.
 Survived. Transferred
 Survived. He was promoted in our
 Company and was brave, and much loved by the soldiers
 R. Wade Bruce - Survived, but was wounded at
 Drainsville
 Survived. Little of size but a true, and
 brave, kind, and Christian soldier.
 Survived - He was appointed Surgeon
 of Our Flag Co, S.C.V.
 Frank Boulware - Survived, I think he was transferred
 Transferred
 John H. Cameron - Survived, and married and died
 He was a most excellent humorist and had a
 warm and true friend. He lived several years after his marriage
 The last hour of Robert M. Clarke he was on his back in the Stone enclosed
 Chava at Sharpsburg. He said to me my thigh is broke, and dont you come
 to me for the Yankees will kill you or take you prisoner. I could not only
 live, but for those words of one of South Carolina's bravest and most honorable men
 that gave his life for Our Cause. At Drainsville he was the only soldier that
 the Kentuckians were firing on us dont shoot he said your friends dont care
 Henry Jonathan Colman, Survived, Married, and a widow one daughter
 and four sons

Page 36 - #18 James M. Blaine Co C 6th SCV Private age - 28 "Survived. -A lover of music, a good singer, a brave soldier, and a devoted Christian."

The Years Following the War – Marriage and children

In November of 1867 James M. Blain married Margaret Jane Brice (1843-1911), daughter of neighbor John Gardner “Dumper’s Creek John” Brice(1801-1878) and they had eight children.



James McQuiston Blaine



Margaret Jane Brice Blaine

The letter “e” is added to Blain

According to family tradition, it was with the addition of a wife that the “e” was added to the Blain name. Apparently Margaret thought that Blain looked more “refined.”

The 4th Generation – John Melville Blaine, Sr. 1875-1933



John Melville Blaine, Sr.

Salatha Edward Norris Blaine

Grandfather Blaine's Band

I knew my grandfather, John Melville Blaine, Sr. (1875-1933) was musical because of his military service in the Regimental Band, his rank of Principal Musician and stories of his leading the singing of hymns during worship at the Concord Presbyterian Church in Woodard, SC, but until the next photograph came to my attention in 2009 I had never known that Mel Blaine and his brother Walter were involved in "Grandfather Blaine's Band." Imagine that, an 11 piece band, 9 brass and 2 drums.



On back: Grandfather Blaine's Band



Mel Blaine #2 and & Brother Walter Blaine #3 played in James McQuiston Blaine's Band.



Sister Margaret (Aunt Mag) playing Brother Mel's horn

Clemson Agricultural College – Class of 1896

Mel Blaine graduated from Clemson Agricultural College (CAC) in December of 1896 in the college's 1st graduating Class.

For more information...-link to information about 1896 at Clemson

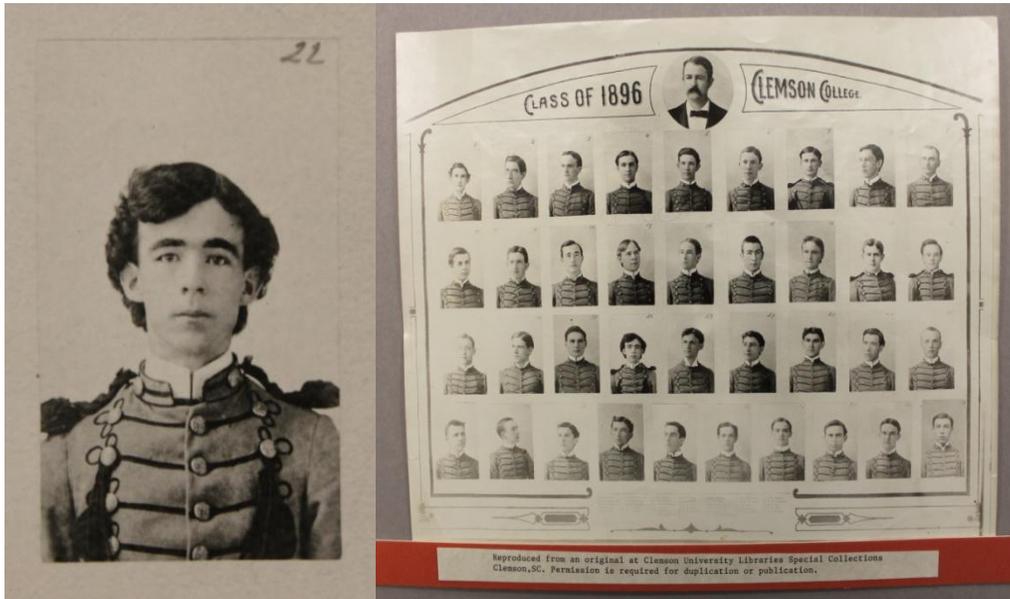
Clemson Agricultural College - Events in 1896

- Early: A board of trustees committee looking into matters of college management recommends that "since instruction in mathematics was 'greatly impeded because of the inefficiency of Prof. Strode,' he be asked to resign. The board adopted the proposal and Strode promptly complied" ("Tradition: A History of the Presidency of Clemson University", Mercer University Press, 1988,page 32). Two things point to declining health of Strode: that the committee stated that it could not "permit our sympathy for any individual to outweigh" its concern for the preparation of students, and that Strode received no wage after July 1, 1895. Henry Aubrey Strode returned to Amherst county, Virginia, with his family, where he died and was buried in 1898.
- April: Fort Hill Presbyterian Church occupies its new building on Six Mile Road (now College Avenue) for the first time.
- April 24: Coach Randolph R. T. V. Bowman becomes the first coach to lead an intercollegiate game played on campus when he directs the Tigers in a baseball match with Furman - the beginning of Clemson athletics! Unfortunately, the Tigers lose, 13-20.
- August 10: Forty-five students are injured when a gangway collapses. Two hundred cadets had crowded onto the gangway while trying to get out of the rain.
- September 30: A gathering of thirty cadets in one of the barracks discusses organizing a football association and how to acquire a coach. The Clemson College Football Association is founded with the following officers: President Frank Thompkins, Secretary and Treasurer Charlie Gentry, Manager T. R. Vogel, and Temporary Captain R. G. Hamilton. A committee of three is appointed to consult with Professor Walter Merritt Riggs as to the management of a football team and to ask his assistance as coach. Twenty of the original thirty will form the first Clemson gridiron squad.
- Fall: W. M. Williams, Clemson's future second head football coach, leading the Tigers for one season, in 1897, a native of West Point, Georgia, plays at Auburn in 1894, 1895 and 1896 under Coach John Heisman, and is considered the best blocking halfback in the south.
- October 5: The Clemson football team practices for the first time, using a 50 yard by 200 yard field believed to have been between Tillman Hall and the Trustee House.
- October 22: W. L. McGee, Professor of Agriculture at Clemson since February 1894, dies this date in a tragic industrial accident when he inadvertently backs into and is caught in a corn shredder, dying within two hours of the grievous injuries he suffers, it being impossible to move him.

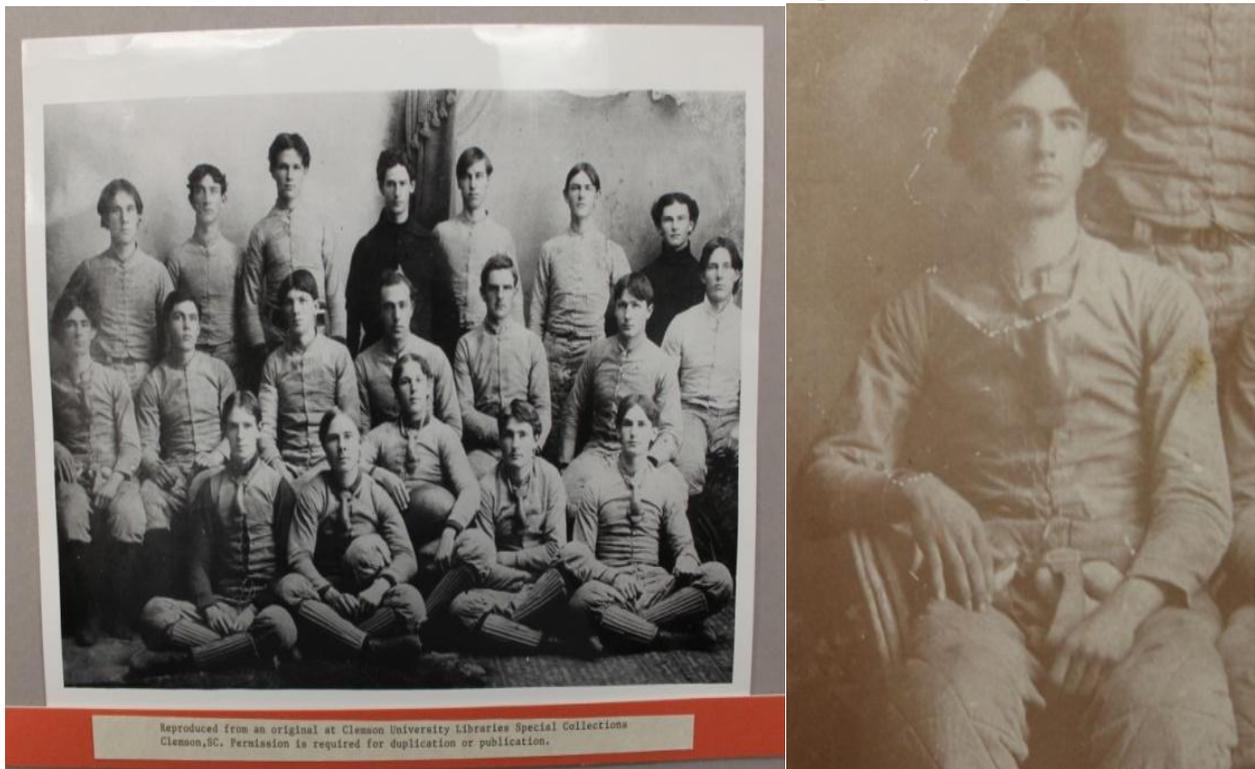
- October 31: Clemson plays its first football game. In a match against Furman in Greenville, the Tigers win, 14-6. It is likely that the team rode Southern Railway passenger service to and from the game.
- November 12: First meeting between Clemson and the South Carolina College in a football game, played on Thursday at the State Fair in Columbia. USC wins 12-6. Beginning of "Big Thursday". Rain falls on the match.
- November 21: The Tigers defeat Wofford in an away game, 16-0, to conclude inaugural season with a 2-1 record.
- December 13: Dr. W. E. Boggs, chancellor of the University of Georgia, preaches commencement sermon.
- December 16: First Clemson students graduate, fifteen in agriculture and twenty two in mechanics.

“...only two possible courses of study, Agricultural and Mechanical .”

When C.A.C. was founded, there were only two possible courses of study, Agricultural and Mechanical. According to the printed graduation program he graduated with a degree in Agricultural. His written Graduation Thesis was on the subject of Nitrification.



Mel Blaine was a member of the Clemson Band. Here he is shown in his Musician’s uniform taken from his college composite photo.



1st Clemson Tiger Football Team - 1896

Mel Blaine played Right End (RE).

Here he is in his Football uniform – notice the nose guard hanging around his neck.

For more information... [-link to information about Turn of the Century Nose Guard](#)

Turn of the Century Football Nose Guard



Turn of the Century Football Nose Guard.

This exceptional piece of vintage football equipment was designed to protect the nose of early football players. The strap of the nose guard went around the head and the nose guard was held in place by clenching one's teeth on a rubber bit. The football nose guard represents one of the more unusual pieces of antique football memorabilia.

Mel Blaine played Left End on the very 1st Tiger Football Team – Mel played in the Tiger’s very first game on October 31, 1896 against Furman College. Clemson won 14-6! Mel Blaine carried the first “covered football”, a trick play where the ball was hidden from the opposing team under his sweater. Football has changed! In 1896, a football field was 110 yards long; a touchdown counted only four points; a field goal, and that could be a drop kick or through placement, counted five points, and the goal after touchdown counted two points, as did a safety. Mel’s brother Walter Blaine Sr. (1876-1936) also went to Clemson, but there is no record of him playing football. I met his son, Walter Blaine, Jr. (1910-????) in 1968. He took note of my size and immediately began to try to convince me I should go to Clemson and play football like my grandfather!

For more information... -link to information about the first Clemson Game and the trick play

Clemson's First Football Game

Take a look back 1,000 Clemson games ago.

Sept. 19, 2000

-written by Sam Blackman, Associate Sports Information Dir.

-taken from the Clemson Univ./Wake Forest Game Program - September 16, 2000

One thousand games ago, dating back to an 1896 game between Clemson and Furman, Clemson Football was born.

On a still, balmy, September night on the young and undeveloped Clemson College campus a group of cadets met in the barracks to discuss the feasibility of organizing a football team to represent the all-male military school. Other state schools had football, and the question was raised-why not Clemson?

A total of 30 students met that night and from this group 20 players would make the varsity squad that year. From this group three students were appointed to consult an engineering professor Walter M. Riggs as to the management of a football team and to ask his aid as coach. Legend has it that only one of these 30 players had ever seen a football.

It was only appropriate Riggs would coach the Clemson Tigers. Riggs played football at Auburn during his student days at left end. He was captain and catcher of the baseball team and graduated with top honors in 1892 with a B.S. degree in electrical and mechanical engineering. After starting the Clemson program and coaching the team in 1896 and 1899 he headed the Clemson Athletic Association (Athletic Director) and was a key administrator of the Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Association (an early southern athletic conference with several schools as members). He later became president of Clemson College in 1911.

There is something to be said about the "old college try." On October 5, 1896, Clemson began practice on a 50 x 200 foot field in front of the college. It is believed that this field was located in front of the old student union building (The area between Tillman Hall and the Trustee House).

Also the first football team had training rules to be followed to the letter:

- (1) Will report promptly to all practices prescribed by the coach unless physically disabled or prevented from attending on account of college duties.
- (2) That in any of the above instances, we will report the facts beforehand, when possible to the coach.
- (3) That we will not, without the consent of coach and trainer, eat anything at any time except at training table, will not drink an alcoholic or spirituous liquors or soda water.
- (4) Will not use tobacco in any form or engage in any form of dissipation.
- (5) Will retire not later than 11:00 PM. unless permission is granted by coach and trainer or prevented by college duties.
- (6) Will obey the directions of the coach and captain on the field of play as before specified, and use our influence to promote discipline both on and off the field of play.

Another oddity about Clemson's early beginnings is that Professor Riggs was one of two men around who had ever played football and only a few had ever seen the game.

Practice continued and as one description put it "a hardy group of early Tigers who cared little for their skin and bones turned out for practice and began enthusiastically slamming each other to the rock strewn practice field."

Without any capital, the team's first equipment were personal property, but other necessary equipment were purchased with money which was willingly contributed by members of the faculty and student body.

Equipment in the early years consisted of very little padding except at the knees and elbows. Tightly fitting and laced leather or canvas jackets were the main bodily protection against the crashing effects of mass plays and left little for a tackler to grab. A few had nose and shin guards. Due to the lack of helmets and head protection they wore long hair to protect the head.

After grueling practices, the first-ever Clemson game day finally arrived. On October 31, 1896, Clemson traveled to Furman (probably by train). This was the first time that many of the Clemson players had seen a full-sized gridiron.

George Swygert, center on the first Clemson football team, recalls the Furman game and the first season as follows: "With Professor Riggs as our coach we got in shape fairly well. Our first game was with Furman, the biggest men I have ever seen, and believe it or not we won that game. We had a few TRICK PLAYS. One was when the play ended near the side lines, our lightest end would hide the ball under his sweater and as the two teams moved toward the center of the field for the next play, he appeared to be injured, then when things were clear, he made a bee-line for the goal. This worked maybe once a game, it worked against Furman our first game."

Very few details of the Clemson-Furman game are known, but it is known that Charlie Gentry scored Clemson's first touchdown in history. The Tigers defeated Furman 14-6 at Greenville, SC.

Clemson's upset win over Furman was a monumental milestone for the school. Furman was considered at the time an experienced team having played the game since 1889, (the year Clemson was founded).

A member of Clemson's first football team, Shack Shealy was the head coach of the Tigers in 1904. He holds the distinction of being the only Clemson player to have coached his alma mater. Shealy coached Clemson one year and guided the Tigers to a 3-3-1 record overall, which included wins over Alabama, Georgia, and Tennessee.

In 1896, a football field was 110 yards long and a touchdown counted only four points: whereas a field goal, and that was either a drop kick or through placement, counted five points, and the goal after touchdown counted two points, as also did a safety.

Little did this group of 30 students know, meeting 100 years ago in a tiny barrack's room, they would set the foundation of one of the most successful football programs in the nation.

1896 Starting Lineup

LE: J.H. Blain, SR
LT: J.D. White, FR
LG: L.L. Hendricks, SO
C: George Swygert, JR
RG: Shack Shealy, FR
RT: Jock Hanvey, FR

RE: Charlie Gentry, SO
QB: Jeff Maxwell, JR
LHB: F.G. Thompkins, SR
FB: A.M. Chritzberg, SR
RHB: R.G. Hamilton, SR



"CLEMSON COLLEGE FOOT BALL TEAM, 1896

Third row: C. K. Chreitzberg, LaBoon, Walker, Riggs,
Stone, Vogel, Brock
Second row: Blaine, Hanvey, Howze, Swygert, Hendricks,
Shealy, Hanvey
First row: Tompkins, A. H. Chreitzberg, Maxwell,
Hamilton, Gentry"

Note: W. M. Riggs, of the Engineering Department, was coach of the first football team.

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Mel Blaine joined the Army to fight in the Spanish American War - He enlisted May 9th 1898 at Columbia SC. He mustered out 6 months later on November 10th, 1898 at Columbia, SC with an Honorable Discharge. He served as a member of the Regimental Band, in the 1st Regiment, South Carolina Volunteer Infantry, where he held the rank of Principal Musician. A parenthetical notation on a Pension document in 1929, states that this rank was equivalent to the rank of Sergeant. His regiment was deployed to Cuba. When hostilities ceased, he worked for several months as a Civilian employee of the Quartermaster Corps for the 2nd Regiment, South Carolina Volunteer Infantry first in Cuba and then in Savannah, Georgia.

John Melville Blaine's Work History - Mel Blaine's Army Pension Application states that from birth until 1904 he lived on home place in Woodward, SC. Then from 1904 until 1912 he worked as shipping clerk and salesman for Swift and Company, first in Pensacola, FL, then in Meridian MS and finally in Montgomery, AL. After he married in 1912 he went into business with some friends and co-founded a Cold Storage Business in Montgomery, AL. In 1922 Mel Blaine returned to the family farm in Woodard, SC where he remained until his death in 1933.

On 20 November 1912 Mel Blaine married Salatha "Laith" Edward Norris(1886-1976) of Newton, Baker County, GA, daughter of Cornelius Franklin Norris(1857-1920) co-owner of Norris Grocery in Newton, GA.

Laith Norris was a graduate of Wesleyan Female College ("the world's oldest women's college") in Macon, GA. . No account of how my grandparents met has been located, but Miss Laith was apparently "the Belle of the Ball" in Newton social life. From a wedding announcement in the Camilla, GA newspaper: *"The bride-to-be has visited in Camilla often and was very popular among the members of the social set of this city. She has many friends and admirers throughout this section of the state who will wish her much happiness."* According to accounts in newspaper articles and family story, there were social connections between Newton, GA and Montgomery, AL, 128 miles away. Something brought them together.



John Melville Blaine, Sr. c.1910 Salatha "Laith" Edward Norris 1910

For more information...link to newspaper clippings about the wedding

NORRIS-BLAINE

Popular Newton Young Lady To Be Married in November.

Among the social news in the Atlanta Journal Sunday was the following announcement which will be of interest to many people in Camilla:

"Mr. and Mrs. C. F. Norris, of Newton, announce the engagement of their daughter, Salatha, and Mr. J. M. Blaine, of Montgomery, Ala., the marriage to take place the latter part of November."

The bride-to-be has visited in Camilla often and was very popular among the members of the social set of this city. She has many friends and admirers throughout this section of the state who will wish her much happiness.

MRS. JOHN M. BLAINE.



She was formerly Miss Salatha Norris, a lovely girl of Newton, Ga. Her marriage to Mr. Blaine, a successful young business man of Montgomery, was one of the most interesting events of the winter.

Blaine-Norris—

NEWTON, GA., Nov. 27.—One of the most beautiful wedding that has ever been solemnized in Newton was that of Miss Salatha Norris, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. F. Norris, and Mr. John Melville Blaine, of Montgomery, Ala., which occurred last Wednesday evening in the Presbyterian Church of this city. The church was most attractive in its decorations of smilax, ferns and mosses. The ceremony was impressively performed by Rev. S. C. Oliff, of Baconton, under a canopy of tapers.

Miss Bonnie Ruth Powell, of Blakeley, was most efficient in rendering the music incident to the occasion. The bridesmaids, Misses Lucile Fleming, of

Camilla, Helen May of Quincy, Fla., Lucy Nesbitt of Albany, and Marie McGregor of Newton, were charming in yellow chiffon over crepe meteor, their flowers being yellow chrysanthemums. The groomsmen were Messrs. H. E. Davis, J. O. Hall, W. F. Norris and Dr. G. O. Gunter, of Newton. Mr. J. B. Brice of Montgomery, Ala., acted as best man and Messrs. J. S. Pitts of Montgomery, and T. S. Hawes of Bainbridge, as ushers. Little Miss Emily Pitts of Montgomery, was the flower girl and Master Mayo Livingston of Newton, was the ring bearer. Miss Lucia Norris, a sister of the bride, made a lovely maid of honor, gowned in white lace over crepe meteor, trimmed with white fur. Her flowers were white chrysanthemums.

The bride's loveliness was greatly enhanced by the beauty of her wedding gown of white charmeuse, dutchess lace, and seed pearl and the soft filmy folds of her veil. She carried a shower bouquet of bride's roses and valley lilies.

The reception at the home of the bride's parents followed immediately after the wedding. The house was beautifully decorated in cut flowers and ferns, a color scheme of pink and white being carried out in the reception hall and the adjoining room, where the numerous and beautiful presents were on display, while yellow and white was used in the parlor, where the bridal party received, and in the dining room. Presiding over the bride's book was Miss Mattie Lee Hall, of Newton, clad in pink dew drop drapery over satin. Miss Florence Munnerlyn of Albany, gowned in white beaded chiffon over crepe meteor, trimmed in crystal, and Miss May Nesbitt of Albany, in white satin and pearls, were in charge of the punch bowl. The bride's cake was presided over by Mrs. W. C. Livingston, in Irish crochet over charmeuse.

Mr. and Mrs. Blaine left immediately after the reception for Jacksonville and Charleston, S. C. After a short trip they will be at home to their friends at 603 South Court street, Montgomery.

+ +

A BEAUTIFUL CHURCH WEDDING

Was the Nuptial Ceremony at the
Methodist Church Night-before
Last.

One of the prettiest and most perfectly carried out weddings ever witnessed in Newton was the Norris-Blaine marriage at the Methodist church Wednesday evening at 8:00 o'clock, when Mr. J. M. Blaine led to the altar Miss Salatha Norris, where Rev. S. C. Oluf eloquently spoke the solemn words that joined their lives together.

Nothing that skilled decorators and money could do was left undone to beautify the interior of the church and arrange all necessary incidentals, and the success of their efforts was highly appreciated by the crowded house of invited guests.

By a quarter to eight o'clock the church was packed and promptly at eight the bridal party entered. The bride wore white lace over charmense with seed pearls. The maid of honor wore white lace over crepe meteor with fur. The bride's maids wore yellow chiffon over charmense. Bride's roses and valley lillies were carried by the bride. The maid of honor carried white chrysanthemums, and the bride's maids carried yellow chrysanthemums. The groom, best man, and groom's men wore full evening dress suits. The wedding march was most beautifully rendered by Miss Bonnie Ruth Powell. It was a ring ceremony and the ring bearers were Miss Emily Pitts and Master Mayo Livingston.

After the ceremony a reception was given at the beautiful Norris home, which was also artistically decorated for the occasion. Here the guests were served with punch and other delicious refreshments.

Miss Lucia Norris was maid of honor, and the bride's maids were Miss Lucile Fleming, of Camilla, Miss Helen May, of Quincy, Fla., Miss Lucy Nesbitt, of Albany, Miss Marie McGregor, of this city. Mr. J. B. Brice, of Montgomery, Ala., was best man, and the groom's men were Messrs. J. O. Hall, Dr. G. O. Gunter, H. E. Davis and W. F. Norris. Misses May Nesbitt and Florence Munnerlyn served the punch. Miss Mattielee Hall presided over the bride's book, and Mrs. W. C. Livingston presided over the bride's cake. The color scheme yellow and white.

After the reception, the bride and groom left in a car for Albany, where they caught a train for Florida and other states. After the wedding tour they will make their home in Montgomery, Ala.

The bride was one of Newton's most popular young ladies. No one knew her but to love her. She will be greatly missed here.

The groom is a prominent and prosperous young business man of Montgomery, Ala.

Stories My Mother Told Of Her Childhood, During My Childhood

Throughout my childhood I listened as my mother, Salatha Margaret Blaine Walker (1919-1981), told stories of “the farm” where she lived from age 3 through her early teens (1922-1933). Her family lived in the James McQuiston Blaine family home. In the early 1920’s her father, John Melville Blaine, Sr. (1875-1933) began to experience health problems and in 1922, he moved his family back to the family farm from Montgomery, Alabama where he was in business with some friends in the Cold Storage Business.

Arriving at the Farm in a Tremendous Rainstorm

A favorite Family Story, one my mother told as though she herself remembered it, was of her family’s arrival at the farm in a tremendous rainstorm. Since the family relocation took place when she was 3 years of age, certainly this is an instance of a story being told so often as family tradition that we enmesh ourselves in the details and “*we were there.*” The Mel Blaine family, her parents, her brother and she herself arrived in the Family’s Model T during a terrific rainstorm. Mel drove across the two creeks and started up the hill toward the Blaine farmhouse. The car began to slow as it struggled to climb the hill, until all forward motion stopped and the Model T began to slide backwards, slowly at first, but then gaining speed, coming to rest back at the very bottom of the hill. Laith expressed her dismay loudly. Mel backed the car up a ways in order to get a running start and again headed up the hill. This time he made a good deal more headway, but success was not to be. Once again the Model T slowed, came to a stop and once again began sliding backwards down the hill. Laith’s dismay was heard in a series of loud squeals and some cross words. Mel wasn’t through and began to set up for another run at it, but Laith had had enough. She demanded that Mel stop and let her out of the car. Despite his protests, she pulled her coat around her small frame, and in tears, which gave competition to the storm itself, she set out and walked up that slick red clay hill to arrive at the house on foot soaking wet covered in mud.

Mel’s Health Continues to Decline

In December of 1925 Mel Blaine, his health having continued to decline, underwent evaluation at the Veteran’s Hospital in Columbia, SC. The examination reports in his army pension files state he was suffering from *Paralysis agitans*, which is a shaking palsy, Arteriosclerosis and severe piles (hemorrhoids). The medical reports describe his condition as pretty sad, with shaking tremors and palsied. In later years, my mother became convinced that it was Parkinson’s disease because of his shakiness.

A Pig, a Barbed Wire Fence and a Glass Eye

From a witness affidavit in Mel’s Pension file, On August 7, 1926 Mel Blaine “*while attempting to put a pig in a pen, had the misfortune to stumble and fall headlong into a barbed wire fence injuring his left eye to such an extent that it had to be removed a few days later.*” After his

eyeball was removed, he was fitted with a glass eye. My mother told of helping him take the glass eye out, wash the eye and the socket and put glass eyeball in the socket.

By early 1929 Laith and the children were already staying in Blackstock much of the time to make it easier for the children to go to school. I was told that they were *“living in the Presbyterian Manse.”* In March of that year Mel applied for an increase in his army disability pension. Both Mel and Laith gave affidavits describing his physical condition and the hardships of their living circumstances. Both are heartbreaking depictions!

The Great Depression and Borrowing Money from the Bank

The Great Depression began not many years after their return with the hope to work the land and make the farm profitable once again. Again, according to family stories, my grandparents decided to expand the crops they grew and improve their situation. One memory declares it was Laith who was the stronger advocate for expanding their cash crop from one to two. They borrowed from the bank and of course, as is custom, used the farm as collateral. Again my mother said that the very next year brought a terribly severe drought and to make matters worse, the boll weevil hit. It was disastrous! They were wiped out. As a result, they *“lost the farm to the bank”*, which was a common refrain in those times. At present I do not have any verified information providing a timeline of when each of these events took place.

From May 27 through September 6, 1929, Mel Blaine was a patient at the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers in Johnson City, Tennessee. This institution was known "officially" as the National Military Home and colloquially as the Old Soldiers Home. In 1930 the 13 similar facilities nationwide were consolidated and renamed as The Veteran's Administration.

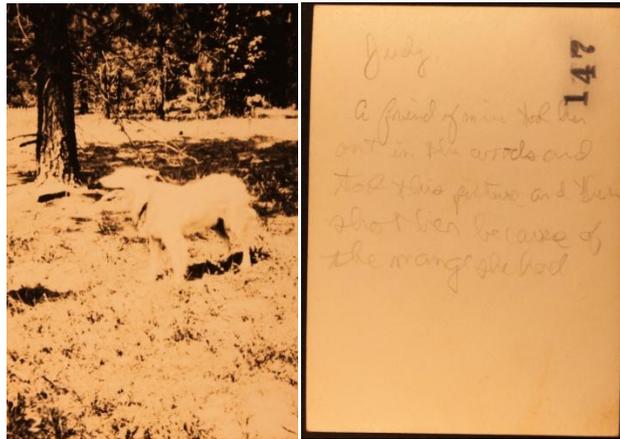
His health continued to worsen and he finally went into the Veterans Hospital in Columbia, SC on January 23, 1933, finally dying there on April 15, 1933.

In the summer of 1934 my grandmother moved with my mother to Wingate, NC, where Miss Laith became Dean of Women at Wingate Junior College and where Margaret finished High School and one year of Junior College. By this time, my Uncle “Johnny M.”, was about 21 years of age, and as I understand it, had gone to live and work with cousins in Georgia or Alabama.

The Blaine farm house now sat empty, but as with abandoned buildings, from time to time transient homeless moved in. The house burned to the ground sometime after 1935 or so, because of *“those people living there”*, so the story goes.

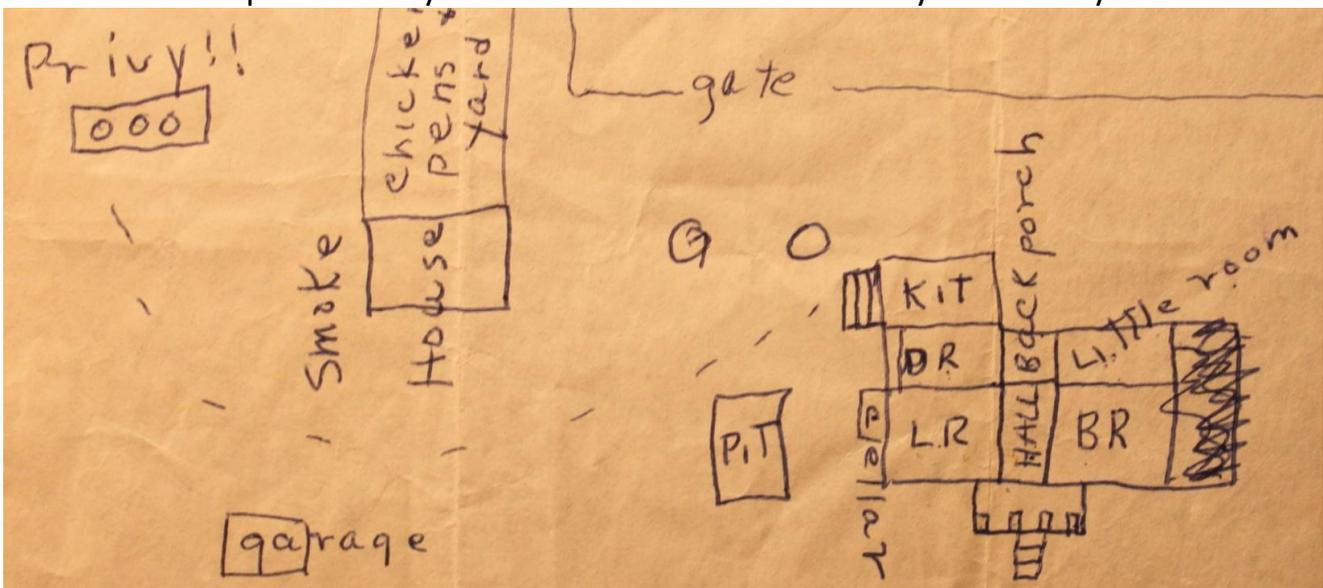
Mel Blaine's Spanish American War Uniform and His Tuba

Mother told of memories of her father's Spanish American War Army uniform and his “tuba” hanging on the wall up in the attic of the house.



Mother’s dog Judy – written on the back of the photo: “Judy - A friend of mine took her out in the woods and took this picture and then shot her because of the mange she had.”

An Outhouse, the Sears Catalog and dried corncobs - When the subject of having to use the outhouse would come up, mother enjoyed teasing me with stories of the choice of making a scary nighttime trip to the outhouse in the dark (notice the path she drew) or of using the “chamber pot” under the bed. She told of using the Sears & Roebuck catalog as toilet paper, and she would ask what I thought the difference was between using the slick colored pages and the regular ink printed pages. The dried corncobs were the best however! Please note she drew a “3 holer”! Mother enjoyed teasing her children about hardships of farm life and the ease of our lives growing up, but in the 1970’s I realized that her memories of some of the hardships were very real and continued to hold sway on her 40 years later.



The oil shortages of the early 1970’s led to what turned out to be an unfounded rumor that the US was about to face nationwide toilet paper shortage. Mother insisted that Daddy buy a huge case of toilet paper to be safe. Apparently mother remembered very well and was not going back to the Sears & Roebuck catalog – slick pages or not! It took months to use all of those TP rolls.

“...it didn’t have enough sense to know it was dead!” – as I’ve said, Mother loved to tell of farm living. Things like, how supper was on the hoof in the barnyard, and how Mimi would chase the chicken---catch it---wring it’s neck---and how when she’d let it go--it would keep running around barnyard because *“it didn’t have enough sense to know it was dead!”*

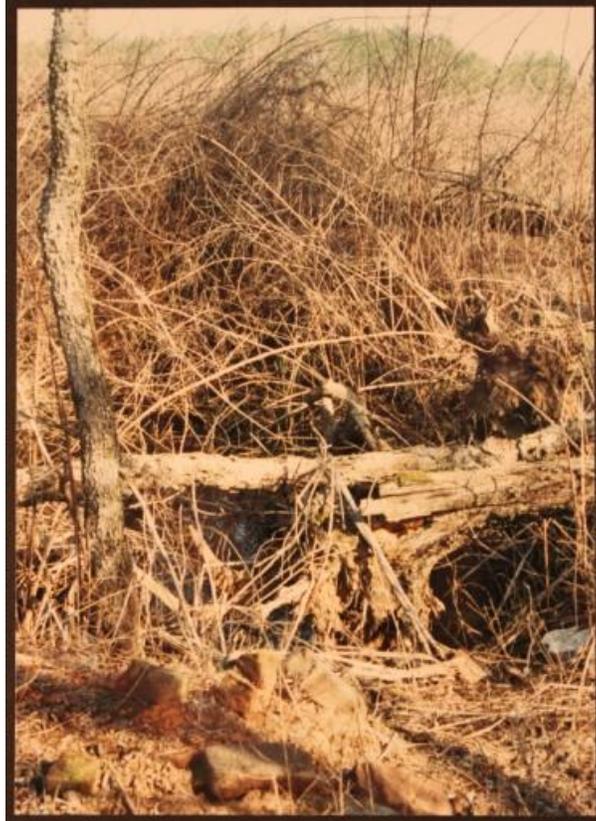
Indian arrowheads – Mother told me how easy it was to find Indian arrowheads on the farm. By the way she described it, they must have been just about everywhere! She said that they also used an Indian tomahawk head as a door stop! How exciting this was for a little boy who spent hours walking the plowed fields behind our house in Ocala looking for “bird points.”



-Written on reverse – “J.M Blaine – Fairfield Co. S.C. Home;
Built soon after Civil War – around 1866-1867; Burned 193?”

A Final Photograph of the Farm - Reality sank in following the loss of the farm. They were moving away for good. Mother realized she had no photos of her childhood home. So she asked a friend who owned a car if he would go out and take a picture of the Blaine home. I believe the rear of the car visible at the right of this picture is that friend’s car.

I was heart-broken...when I learned that when they departed the farm for the last time, Mel's Spanish American War uniform and his "tuba" were left, still hanging on the attic wall.



The cisterns. Mother often told of her fear of falling into one of the cisterns at the rear of the house. The cisterns were where rain water was collected and stored for use as washing water and to water barnyard animals.



Part of an outbuilding within 75 feet of the house ruins. Photo taken c.1980

Three Generations Visit The Farm



Aug - 13th 1956
Margaret Blaine Walker
Faith Blaine
John M. Blaine

This was taken in front
of where the house stood -
just off the walk -
The hill is a wilderness
now. The memories
were sad but sweet
Wish you could have
been with us.

66499

Mother, Mimi & John M standing on the house site - August 13, 1956

In August of 1956, Uncle Johnny M. took Mimi, my mother, and "the big kids" (Billy, Fay and Betty) on a vacation trip to South and North Carolina which included a visit to the Blaine Farm. The handwriting on the back of both photographs is my grandmother's.



Aug - 1956

If only the postman
had come along it
would have seemed
so natural.

66499

My personal trips to the Farm

Spring 1976 - My first trip to The Farm was through very thick woods

I completed my final two years (Aug 1975 thru May of 1977) of college at Presbyterian College in Clinton, SC. In the fall of 1975, or spring of 1976, I decided to go and see what, if anything, I could find of the farm. I drove over to Fairfield County and stopped in at Brice's Store. I had met Mr. Brice, "Cousin Jim," in 1968 when our family went to my brother's graduation from Davidson College, so when I gave him the connections, suddenly I was "family," and he gave me a Coco-Cola. He was delighted to learn that I wanted to go out to Cousin Mel Blaine's home place, and then asked if I was going to the Andrew Blain home place too. I had never heard of another building. He confirmed for me that the home where my mother had lived was gone, it had burned in the 1930's, and what remained of the Andrew Blaine home was presently being torn down. He gave me directions out Two Creek Road from Woodward, SC. Eureka, I found both home sites!

I parked my car on the side of the road about halfway up the hill past the second creek as Cousin Jim had suggested and headed out through the woods in a southwesterly direction. Before long I came upon the somewhat overgrown remains of the farm lane as he had described. This was the original roadway, the modern road (Two Creek Road) having been relocated about 150 yards in a northerly direction sometime in the past. I found my mother's childhood home site at the highest point of land along that farm lane. I walked up a knoll and began to see piles of stones and bricks that most likely came from foundation/corner pillars/front steps of the main house.



Piles of rubble, brick, stone.

Depressions where the cisterns
must have been.



Rotting logs from one outbuilding and the remains of a fence and gate down behind the house site.

“...maybe like the cool water from the well on the farm.”

Out near the farm lane I located the well. (no photograph was taken) The brick-lined well structure ended right at ground level, so mother was correct that it could have been dangerous had I happened upon it unexpectedly.

I want to fast forward to the week after Christmas in 1980. Her cancer had taken over completely and mother was in the hospital for the last seven days of her life. She had become dehydrated and I was sitting with her, trying to get her to sip some water from a plastic spoon, but she resisted. I noticed a metal spoon lying on the bedside table. Thinking maybe the metal might have a different feel to her lips, I switched. It worked. I touched the metal to her lips and she sipped one spoonful and then another and another. Though barely semi-conscious, I had been talking to her all the while. When I saw the metal spoon was having an effect, I said something like, “Ah, that must be better, it must feel cooler, maybe like the cool water from the well on the farm.” At that moment she opened her eyes, raised her head, looked straight at me and clear as day asked, “When is Johnny M coming?”

Now, back to my first trip to the farm. While on that knoll amid the ruins of my mother’s childhood home, I collected keepsakes, a brick and a hinge off of a gate.

I was curious to know what more there might be to see on the farm. It had been more than a thousand acres in 1903. Where were the fields? Were there more outbuildings? So I headed down an incline behind the knoll where the remains of the house were. I went a good ways into a densely wooded area.



This photo is looking down a slight hill away from the rear of the house site – in my mind it was heading out toward the fields where the crops (cotton, corn, tobacco) might have been grown.

Ordinarily I have a pretty good sense of direction, but unfortunately on this occasion, I had not paid much attention to the direction I had meandered. There was no discernible path and I realized I had become hopelessly lost. I had no earthly idea which direction was back toward the house site, much less toward Two Creek Road and my car.

I was hopelessly lost. What next? No fear, just a sense of what do I do now? In those moments a story told by an adult leader on a Boy Scout camping trip came to mind about how Daniel Boone was quoted as having said “I have never been lost, but I was a might bewildered once...for three days.” The story, as I remembered hearing it, alleged Ol’ Dan’l sat down on a log, right then and there, and he thought about his situation until he figured it out. Well I didn’t actually sit down, (I don’t remember there being a log) but what I took from the story was not to panic, and to use the skills I’d been taught and figure a way out. The sky was overcast, the woods too thick to provide a clue of direction from the sun, so I had no idea which was the correct way out.



The area outlined in red is a 249 acre parcel owned (2014) by The Plumcreek Timberlands Group, one of 50+ parcels they own in Fairfield County. The James McQuiston Blaine farm house was located just up and left of the grey “treeless field.” In 1903 the Blaine Farm was 4 times this size.

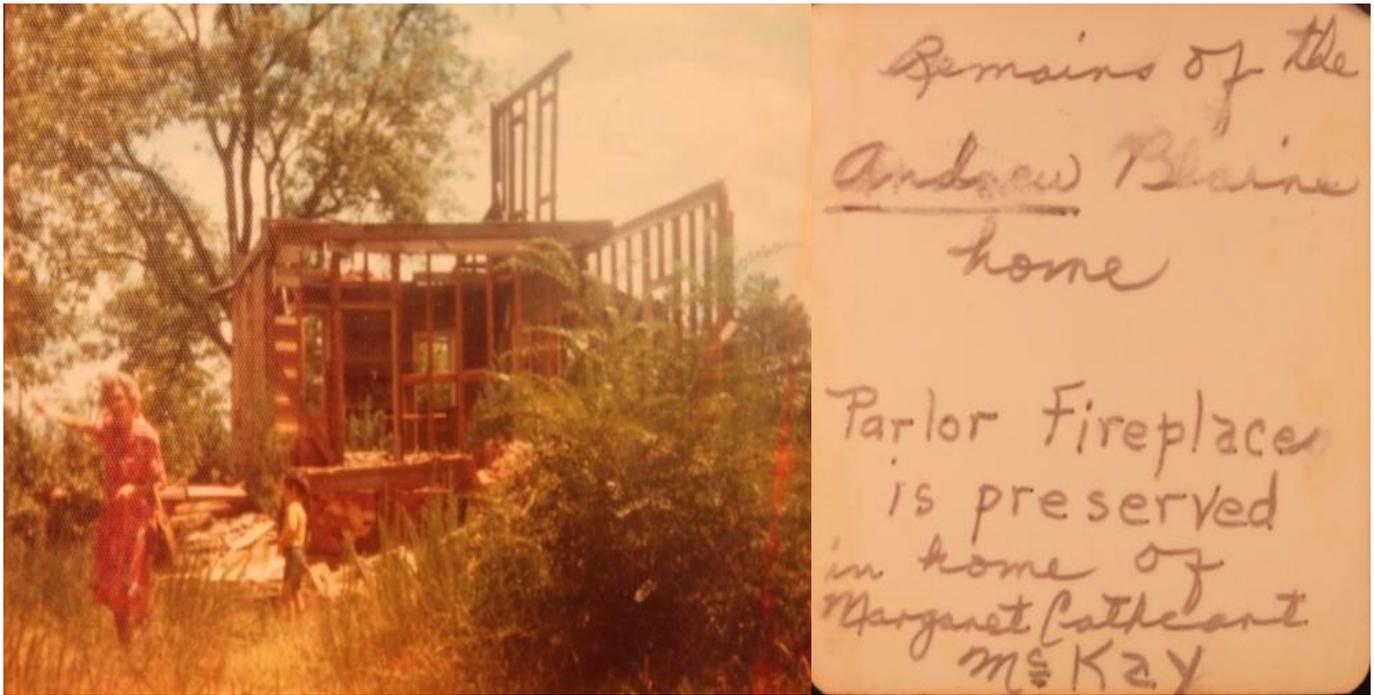
I thought about the way the parcel of land was situated on the map I’d examined prior to my adventure. I remembered that Two Creek Road, where my car was parked, was north of the farm property. Likewise I knew west of the farm property some distance away, the Broad River ran northwest to southeast. And though it was at least four miles, Hwy 321 was due east of the farm property and ran generally north and south. So, I knew identifiable boundaries in each direction. If I walked in any one direction I would eventually run into one of them. I could follow road or river or Highway and find help. Again I remembered stories of “bewildered” people walking in circles. I must walk in as straight a line as possible so as to travel in one direction. As Boy Scouts we were taught that the secret was to begin at a point, say the base of a large tree. Choose a distinctive tree some distance away in the direction of travel. Keeping the target tree in sight, walk through the woods and upon arriving, stand close to the trunk so as to be able to see the tree that served as the starting point in one direction. Then look in the other direction, the direction of travel and keeping a sense of a straight line from the tree at the starting point through tree I am standing beside, choose a new target tree. And continue the process accomplishing travel in a straight line in one direction. I chose a direction and started out, repeating this process again and again for about 30 minutes or so and finally the forest began to thin a bit and I emerged onto Two Creek Road about 500 yards from my car. Talk about God’s providence! But then, the Blaine’s were Presbyterian after all!

Spring 1976 - Still on my first trip to The Farm



The Andrew Blain Home Place

To find the Andrew Blain home place, I again followed Mr. Jim Brice's instructions to drive on up the hill on Two Creek Road about a mile past the second creek, turn left on a significantly rutted dirt road. He said the road ran close by the remains of the Andrew Blain home which he said I couldn't miss; as the house was being taken down to salvage the old wood and chimney brick. He was correct. The structure had been torn down to nearly nothing but the floor joists. A good portion of the brick fireplace and chimney remained. I pried loose a 5 foot long hand hewn beam with hand-fashioned 8 inch wooden pegs still protruding through the hand drilled holes. To this day, I still have the bricks from the James McQuiston Blaine House and the beam from the Andrew Blain House.



Parlor Fireplace is preserved in the home of Margaret Cathcart McKay

In the summer of 2009, cousin Thelma Hicklin delivered a large envelope of family material to me from another cousin, Margaret Bell Bloodworth (1915-2010). This c.1975 photo of Rebecca Hicklin beside the Andrew Blain House was included. A note on the back of the photo states that the Parlor Fireplace is preserved in the home of yet another cousin, Margaret Cathcart McKay, of Winnsboro, SC. I imagine that the note must refer to the fireplace mantel. (Oct. /2014 –Thelma Hicklin is seeking information on the current owners of the McKay home.)

“...why would you want that worthless, piece of rutted, red-clay hill?”

The exact timing of the next memory of a conversation with my grandmother is difficult to work out precisely, but I *feel* that it took place during the early summer of 1976 just a few months after my first trip to the farm and as it turns out only a short time before her death. We were talking about my experience and I said something like *“Someday I would like to buy ‘The Blaine Farm.’”* Her reply surprised and even shocked me. She looked at me and with tears in her eyes, said something along the lines of, *“Blaine, why would you want that worthless, piece of rutted, red-clay hill?”*

My surprise came from my finally having been to a mystical place that I had heard about throughout my young life, in admittedly, almost Narnia-like, idolized terms. I had listened as mother told of making Snow Cream, but only after the first hour or so of snow had fallen to clean the soot out of the air; and even stories of her chores that seems so much more romantic than my own including the trimming the wicks and cleaning the glass chimneys of the oil lamps.

For more information.... [link to information about “snow cream”](#)

The Recipe for making “Snow Cream” - The origins of the snow-based dessert by this name are hard to verify, but the technique of using snow as a main ingredient in a dessert is very old. Common ingredients for this variety are a dairy based ingredient, sugar and a flavoring agent. In adding a small amount of dairy-based liquid and a flavoring agent (similar to ice cream ingredients) into clean snow, the snow melts and congeals into a simple ice cream substitute.

Mother also told me that among her chores was collecting all the oil lamps in the house and washing the chimneys and trimming the lamp wicks. Now, that is a whole lot more romantic than my chores of emptying wastebaskets.

For more information.... [link to information about trimming oil lamp wicks](#)

“Trimming The Lamp Wicks And Washing The Chimneys” - As an older child I must have expressed an interest in kerosene/oil lamps (maybe arising from the Aladdin lamp that came from Dr. Walker’s Office in Lamont) because I have somewhere between a collective impression, or a distinct memory, of mother saying that one of her chores on the farm was to collect the lamps in the house that had been burned the night before, and to wash the chimneys and trim the wicks. I cannot recall if this was a daily or weekly task. During a period in the 1980’s and early 1990’s I purchased a number of oil lamps. At present we use several of them during fairly infrequent power outages. To this day I use the methodology mother described for me of how to properly trim a wick to burn the brightest and cleanest and to diminish smoking. Begin with an extinguished lamp, turn the adjusting knob up so that the wick protrudes no more than ½ inch above the top of the burner. Using very sharp scissors trim the wick smoothly, following as closely as possible the shape of the top edge of the burner. Now go back and trim any loose threads sticking up or out from the wick. These threads burn at a different intensity producing black smoke that leaves soot on the glass chimney. The final step is to light the wick and lower it until the flame is burning bright with no obvious smoke and with a smooth contour mimicking the shape of the top edge of the burner. If there are points of flame rising at places in the overall flame, it means that threads or uneven places on the wick that need to be trimmed once again.

I was beginning to have a feeling of “connectedness”

Something was happening to me. I was beginning to have a feeling of “connectedness” because of a piece of land on a knoll in rural South Carolina where my mother’s family had lived for over a century, from 1799 to 1934. My grandmother on the other hand, was thinking back through 89 years of her life, marked by the heartbreak of life’s struggles, the hardships of the Great Depression, an illness leading to her husband’s disability and death, and the pain these great losses had inflicted on her, her children and the remaining years of her life. Issues of grief and loss had indelibly stained her memories of “The Blaine Farm”.

The following photos serve as an example. His portrait was taken during the years shortly before his severe decline due to illness and death in 1933. Her portrait was taken in the mid-to-late 1950's. I was told the "intent" was to create a pair of portrait shots to be displayed in a double frame. Mimi was very unhappy with the outcome. Some might attribute such displeasure merely to a woman's vanity over photographs in general. My intuition is that there was more pain attributable to memories of the hardships on "The Blaine Farm" and in the years that followed mixed with unresolved grief and loss, than just to vanity.



John Melville Blaine, Sr.
Photo c. 1929, age 54

Salatha "Laith" Edward Norris Blaine
Photo c. 1956, age 70

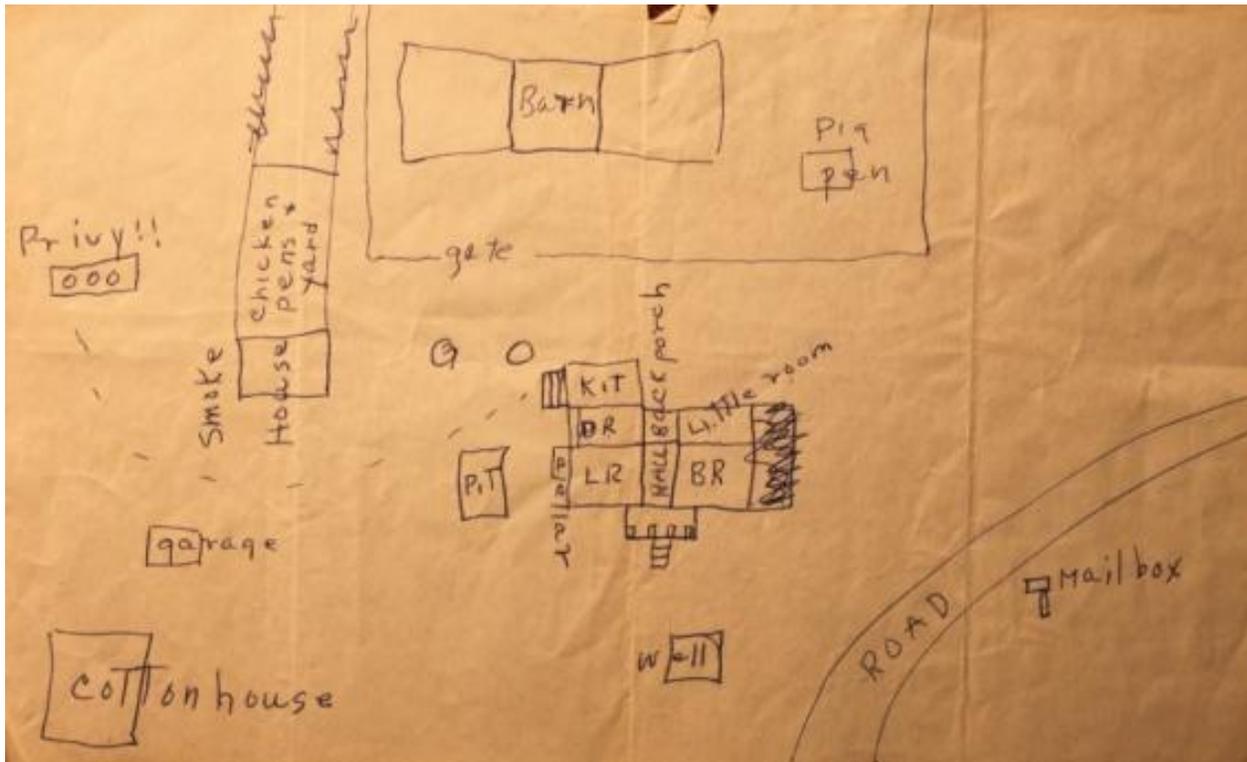
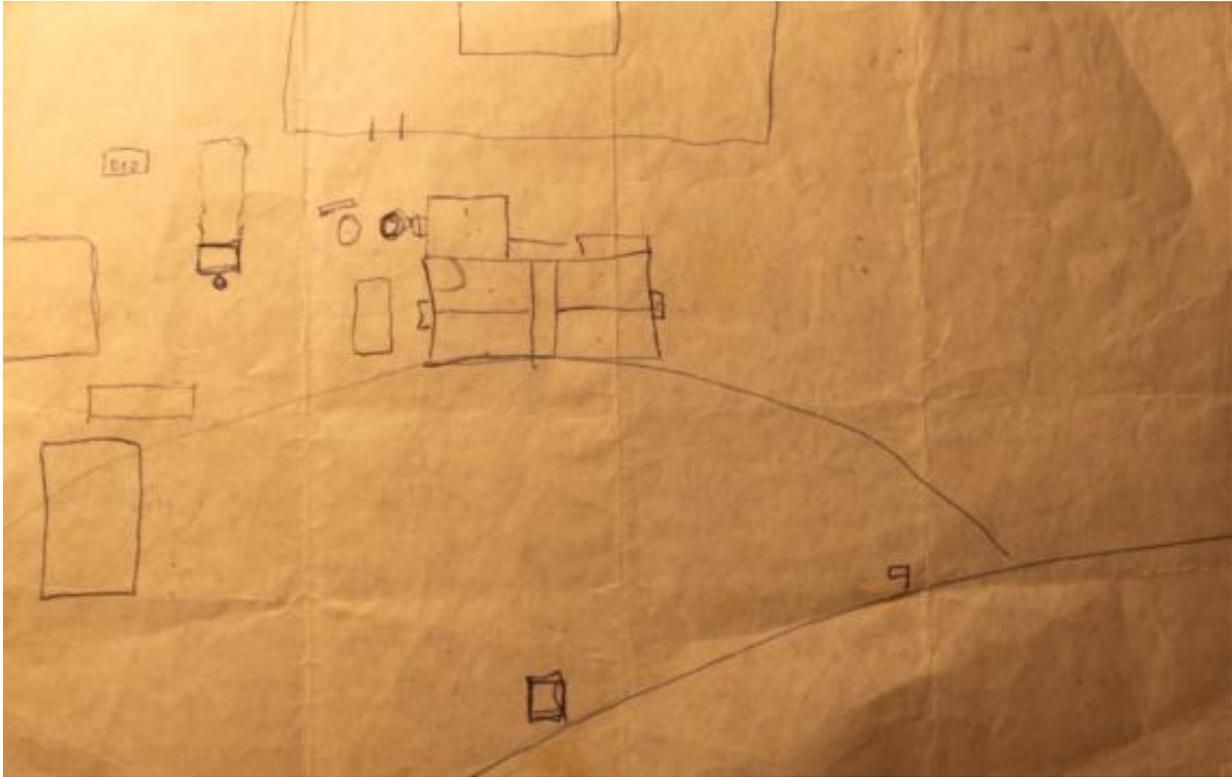
September 1976 – After Mimi's funeral, my sister, Cathie Walker White (1949-1987) and I drove out Two Creeks Road. We stopped on side of road and I described what I knew of the farm. We did not try to go in to the house site. We were not dressed for the woods.

"among the large boulders beside...what remained of the old roadbed"

During Hunting Season of 1976-77 I went to Fairfield County for a weekend with my Fraternity Brother, Jim Hudson. We got up pretty early that Saturday morning and went turkey hunting on the Blaine farm. We positioned ourselves among the large boulders beside the cut of what remained of the old roadbed going up to the house site. I have no recollection if we went to the top of the hill to find the house site, but I do remember that we didn't see any turkeys, except for the two crouching in the cold behind rocks, holding shotguns.

Sketches...the 1st floor rooms of the Farm House, the yard and barnyard

At some point I was planning a trip and asked mother about layout of house and the farm buildings. She drew these sketches, the first done quickly and the second with a little more thought and labels.





Daffodils blooming among the ruins of the house

One of my visits was in late winter or early spring and the daffodils were blooming among the ruins of the house. The daffodils almost formed an outline of the front porch of the house.

...a member of the Hunt Club...rode up on a four wheeler

During Christmas vacation about 1997 Stephanie White and I went over to explore the farm. Expecting a lock on the gate, we planned to climb the fence and walk into the house site. While at the gate, Walt Kinsington from Rock Hill, a member of the Hunt Club who leased the land rode up on a four wheeler. He unlocked the gate and we drove to house site. Stephanie took a large rock, perhaps from a rock pillar from the foundation as a souvenir.



“the pine trees had been harvested...the land was practically clear cut.”

On a trip in the early 1980's, all of the pine trees had been harvested. The land was practically clear cut, except where the ruins of the house and farm buildings had been. Scrub trees had been left in that area. The well had been filled in, or I simply couldn't find it.



Seedling pine trees

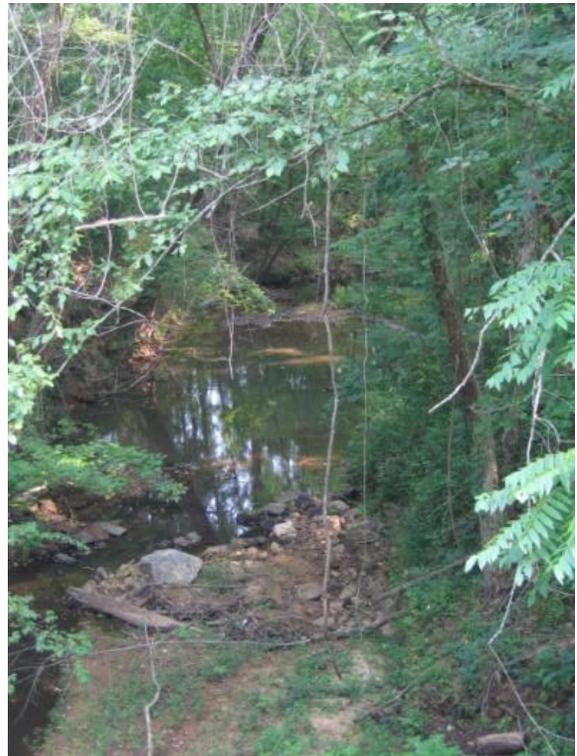
A few years later, seedling pine trees had been planted and were beginning to grow back.

The Swimming Hole at the Creek – Then & Now



Then

The Creek about 1925, nearly 90 years ago. Left to right Margaret Blaine, John M. Blaine, Jr. with cousins Ruth and Bill Norris visiting from Newton, Georgia.



Now

This photo of the creek was taken from Two Creek Road during the the summer of 2008.