

IVAL MELVILLE BLAIR

AND

GRACE EMMA HERRING BLAIR

OF

***PUTNAM, THOMAS, AND WASHUNGAH
OKLAHOMA***

Ival Melville Blair and Grace Emma Herring Blair

October 10, 1896, Ival Melville Blair (born March 10, 1870) married Grace Emma Herring (born August 4, 1880). The two of them had migrated from Nebraska to Dewey County in a multi-family wagon train. Ival was the son of Andrew Franklin Blair and Nancy Matthews McWilliams Blair. His father died when Ival was four; ten years later Nancy remarried to Jacob Linville, a widower with two children, and had three more sons. Grace was the daughter of Walkup and Angeline Herring, one of four children. The Blairs, Linvilles and Herrings were all from Iowa by way of Nebraska, and eventually settled in Dewey County near Putnam. After marriage, Ival and Grace lived in the Putnam area, where Ival farmed. Then, in 1907, they moved to Thomas in Custer County so the children could go to school.



Back Row L to R — Robert Linville, Fred Linville, Mable Linville, George Linville, Charles Linville. Front Row L to R — Jacob Linville, Nancy Blair Linville, Ival Blair.



Front row: Walkup Herring, Lee Ila Herring, Angeline (Annie) Reeves Herring; Second row: Lewis Herring, Grace Herring, Arthur Herring



Ival M. Blair age 14



Ival and Grace Blair with Florence and Esther

In Thomas he was engaged in the threshing machine business, both selling machines and running his own. He was selling for the Minneapolis Threshing Machine Company and did a lot of traveling for the company, so the family moved to El Reno, Oklahoma. As their daughter Mildred Blair Hunt remembered it years later, "We moved back and forth between El Reno and Thomas 2 or 3 times. Loading everything, furniture, cows, hogs, horses, in a railroad boxcar, and away we would go." Ival and Grace's six children included Florence Veda (born May 7, 1899, in Putnam); Esther Marie (born November 4, 1900, in Putnam); Leila Madge (born September 10, 1902, in Putnam); Anna Mildred (born June 17, 1904, in Putnam); Lela Vern (born April 15, 1906, in Putnam); and Clarence Ival (born January 29, 1910, in Thomas). Grace died in 1926, Ival in 1927, in Kaw City, Kay County, near where Ival had worked for some years maintaining a water pumping station for the Shidler oil field. They are buried in the Grandview Cemetery at Kaw City.

Ival and Grace Have Six Children



1921 family photo -- Back: Leila Madge, Esther Marie, Florence Veda; Front: Anna Mildred, Ival Melville, Clarence Ival, Grace Emma, Lela Vern



Florence, Esther, Madge, Mildred, Clarence, Lela about 1912



A formal portrait early 1920s: front row Mildred, Grace, Ival, Esther; back row Florence, Madge, Clarence, Lela



The Blair girls: Mildred, Esther, Lela, Florence, Madge



Bunches of Blairs, Osborns, Hunts, Endres, Wings, late '30s

The children marry
and have 27 children
of their own.



Grace and Ival with a grandson



A grandchild lineup in the late 1930s: 14 and 12 more to come



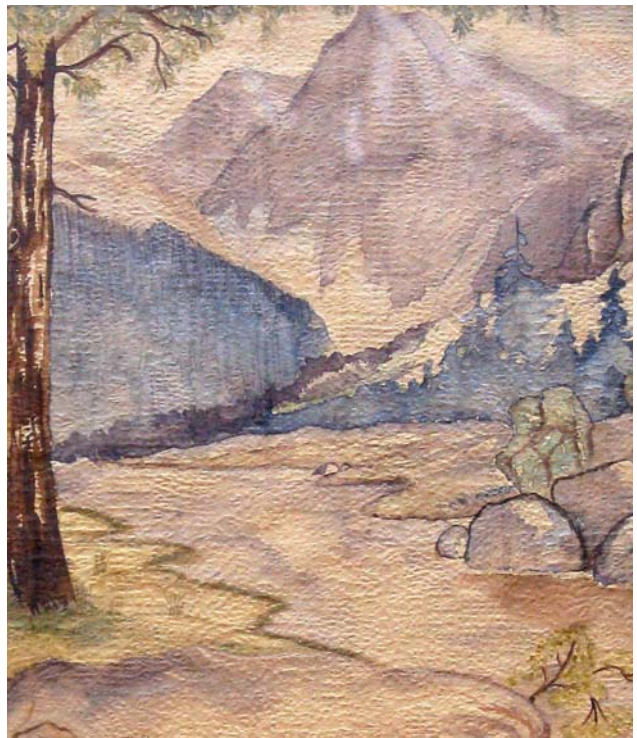
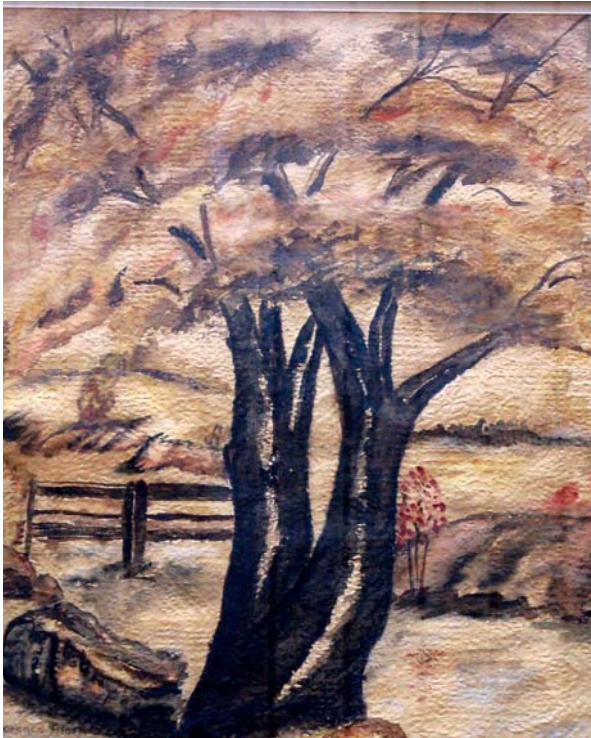
Trixie the pony with a cartload of grandchildren and 3 on a horse



John Blair Endres and Charles
Melville Blair on horseback

Florence Blair

Florence, who never married, taught school in Cleo Springs and then in Camargo for many years. She died February 6, 1944. Among her passions were music (her piano survives, in playable condition, at her niece's farm near Vici) and painting in watercolors, for which she had to use wallpaper scraps as a surface. Several of her paintings survive in the family.



Esther Blair Wing and Ralph Wing

Esther married Ralph Stanley Dover Wing December 27, 1922, in Thomas, Custer County. They moved to Camargo, where they raised four children: Ival Dewayne, Gerald Stanley, Leah Marie, and Carl Edwin. Ralph was from a pioneer Camargo area family and spent a lifetime there working at various trades, including the area's first custom wheat threshing operation, running a Conoco service station and an auto repair shop, driving a school bus, and managing farm and ranch land in the area. Esther taught school, served several years as the Camargo school cook, and worked as a telephone operator for Camargo's first phone system. Esther died January 17, 1987, Ralph February 15, 1989. Both are buried at Camargo.



Esther Blair Wing



Ralph Dover Wing



Ralph and Leota Dover Wing



Ralph and Esther in later years



DeWayne, Gerald, Carl, and Leah Wing

Madge Blair Endres and John Endres

Madge married John Phillip Endres December 22, 1923, in Clinton, Oklahoma. They later moved to Enid, where John worked as a welder and they had seven children: Lawrence Eldon, Donald Eugene (died shortly after birth), Velma Grace, Loretta Merle, Phyllis Elaine, John Blair, and Mary Catharine. Madge, who once told about drying fruit on a flat rooftop in Camargo when she was a newlywed, worked for many years as a skilled medical technician at the Enid hospital, specializing in the preparation of microtome tissue samples for biopsies. Madge died December 1981 and was predeceased by John. Both are buried at Enid.



John Endres WWI



Madge Blair Endres



Madge with a fellow hospital worker



Madge receiving an award for service

Mildred Blair Hunt and Herman Hunt

Mildred married Herman Edward Hunt June 12, 1926, in Newkirk, Oklahoma. They later moved to Camargo, where Herman operated the ferry across the South Canadian for several years, owned Hunt Drug for several years, and, in addition to supervising the Bentonite mine north of town, supervised construction of several grain elevators in Oklahoma, Texas, and Mississippi. Mildred taught school at Camargo until adopting the orphaned children of Herman's brother Walter "Dutch" Hunt in 1949. They raised a total of 10 children, including the four they adopted: Emma Geraldine, Marvin Dale, Herman Gail, Mary Ann; Margie Ruth, Billy Martin, Kay Elizabeth, Madelyn Sue, Jimmy Wayne and Jerry Lane (twins). Herman died August 28, 1979; Mildred June 19, 1995. Both are buried at Camargo.



Hunt reunion 2002 with all 10 children



(From back: Kay, Margie, Madelyn, Bill, Jimmy, Jerry around 1950)

Lela Blair Osborn and Ora Osborn

Lela married Ora Edward Osborn March 28, 1928, in Camargo, where Ora operated a metal shop and Lela managed an early-day self-serve laundry house. They raised four children: George Ival; Martha Leila; Edward Wendell; James Murvin. Lela died September 2, 1975, in Camargo and was predeceased by Ora. Both are buried at Camargo. When Lela was widowed in 1949, she had four dependent children. Then her eldest son, George, died tragically in an accident August 11, 1951, age 18. He is buried at Camargo. Her daughter Leila married in 1953. Lela, left with two young boys to care for, went back to school, earned an education degree, and raised her two youngest as a single mother. Both boys went on to earn doctor's degrees, Edward as a pediatrician, James as a veterinarian.



Ora, Lela, and George



From top: George, Leila, Lela,
Ora, James, Edward



Ora Edward Osborn, August 9, 1922

Clarence Blair and Ruth Percy Blair

Clarence married Ruth Veale Percy on February 4, 1938, in Tulsa. They raised two sons: Charles Melville and John Ival. Clarence died in Wichita, Kansas, November 17, 1985. Ruth lived to be 93 and died in Dallas February 8, 2003, the last of that generation of the family. Both are buried in Wichita. Clarence, although deaf from early childhood, was the first Blair in the Dewey County branch to earn a four-year college degree, in mechanical engineering, from Oklahoma A&M in Stillwater. One of his first engineering projects was the Camargo water supply, bringing sweet drinking water from windmills five miles north of town by gravity flow with two storage tanks. The system is still in use today, 70 years later. He worked most of his life in the sheet metal contracting business, but his first love was working with fine wood, which he made into furniture, tools and (later) toys such as tops and "train whistles" for exhibit and sale at craft shows.



Clarence and Ruth, late 1930s



Charlie, Ruth, John, Clarence
early 1940s



Clarence as a toddler
around 1912



Clarence making apple cider 1970s



Clarence Ival Blair 1960s

Third and Fourth Generation Cousins' Reunions

Most of the 27 grandchildren of Ival Melville and Grace Emma Blair, known among themselves as "The Cousins", are still living, but have dispersed from the Dewey County area over much of the central and western United States. They have had children and grandchildren of their own almost literally too numerous to keep count of. Many of the third generation are retired by now, but still get together for reunions every few years, often at Leila and Don Peoples' Happy Hollow Farm northeast of Vici. They have fun remembering, and telling stories about, the years back in the 1930s through the 1950s when most of them were growing up together in Camargo.

2003.reunion:

Back row: Pete Wing, Leila Osborn Peoples, Charlie Blair, Margie Hunt McDonald, Ed Osborn, Bill Hunt, Jim Osborn, Jerry Hunt; front row: Gerry Hunt Williamson, Gerald Wing, Marvin Hunt, Gail Hunt, Leah Marie Wing Fairchild, Mary Ann Hunt Berry



Some Blair Cousins with children and grandchildren at Happy Hollow, November 2007