



David Humphrey Blair, Private, Co. D 45 OH Infantry, U.S.

- 1841 April 21: Blair was born in Bellefontaine, Logan County, OH to James and Elizabeth Morrow Blair.
- 1850 August 31: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Rushcreek, Logan County, OH showed 9-year-old David living with his parents and siblings. His father, James, was a farmer.
- 1860 June 23: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Richland, Logan County, OH showed 19-year-old David living with his parents and siblings. His father, James, was a farmer.
- 1861 August 24: Brother Samuel Blair enlisted in the U.S. Army. He mustered into Co. G 1 OH Infantry. He was 22 years old.
- 1862 August 11: Enlisted in the U.S. Army in Bellefontaine, OH and was mustered into Co. D 45 OH Infantry. His muster descriptive roll: Age: 21, Height: 5ft 10in, Complexion: dark, Eyes: gray, Hair: dark, Born In: Logan County, OH, Occupation: Farmer.
- 1864 August 3: Brother Moses, also in Co. D 45 OH, died of “chronic diarrhea” in the

¹ ancestry.com

U.S. General Hospital in Jeffersonville, IN.

As the 45 OH moved through Tennessee with General Schoffield, Blair jotted short notes in his journal along the way.

November 22: *“Arrive at Pulaski camp, are ordered to be ready to move at noon. Move out and wait for train to go in front. March most of the night.”*

November 23: *“Move deliberately, black refugees are abundant.”*

November 24: *“Arrive at Columbia late at night and bivouac.² Co. D stand picket in cornfield.”*

November 25: *“Move to position on left and build good works. At dark we move off to right on stony hill and build works of stone and logs, etc.”*

November 26: *“Strengthen works and have rain. Attack on left.”*

November 27: *“Remain in works and draw clothing and at dark withdraw from works. Cross river and bivouac in meadow. Co. D swing round like gate to let column pass on rear to camp.”*

November 28: *“Move round to position in sight of fort across in Columbia and remain while artillery plies heavily. At dark move out to rear, are stopped by bridge being gone. Came up on flat to left of road. Lie near wagon train till P.M. then move off to right of road and whole brigade form skirmish line along bank of creek. Remain until away in night then move out and march rapidly towards Spring Hill and have to pass along the pike within a few hundred yards of rebel fires and camp. They having come very near gaining the pike and so cutting us off entirely. We bivouac an hour or two.”*

November 30: *The 45 OH Infantry was situated on the western flank at the Battle of Franklin. “The heaviest assaults did not reach to the 45th and so we endured the wailing of comparatively few and well spent missiles.....all came off safely without much trouble and after all were safely over the river the artillery that had taken position to support the withdraw fired then a long, loud, heavy, rolling volley for parting salute and all marched off quietly and briskly enroute*

² Blair, David, Civil War Diary and Letters of David Humphrey Blair, compiled by Raymond R. Parker, February 1989, (https://aspace-atlantahistorycenter.galileo.usg.edu/agents/corporate_entities/937), also: (<https://libcat.familysearch.org/Union/Search?view=list&lookfor=David+blair&searchIndex=Keyword&searchSource=local>)

for Nashville...then we spent the rest of the night marching towards Nashville and a sleepy march it was. Many dropped over asleep on the march and sleep with fatigue overpowered almost every one”

December 17: After the Battle of Nashville, David and his regiment were following the U.S. Cavalry in support on the pursuit of John Bell Hood’s army. “Our cavalry takes the advance in the pike and we follow up in their support. The pursuit via Columbia and Pulaski thence across woods and to Lexington, Ala as rapidly as possible under very unfavorable circumstances. The weather very cold, wet and disagreeable. The mud deep and almost impassable. Rations scarce and supply trains constantly far behind etc. etc. The roads are strewn with guns, bayonets, cartridges, boxes, clothing, or rather rags and all kinds of equipage and martial accouterments, ammunition, caissons, artillery, etc. and prisoners are constantly being sent back by the cavalry.”

1865 March 25: Promoted to Corporal. June 12: Mustered out of the U.S. Army at Camp Harker, TN with his regiment.

1868 Listed as a freshman in the Monmouth College directory. (Monmouth, IL)

1869 July 22: Married Sarah Cecelia Reed in Page County, IA.

1870 August 13: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Monmouth, Warren County, IL showed David, a student, living with his bride, Sadie.

1870’s The young family lived in Illinois for a few years before moving to Plumville, PA about 1877.

1878 April 11: The Indiana Progress, Indiana, PA. David and J.H. Stewart open a school in Plumville, PA

Plumville Select School

Opens April 15, 1878, for a term of twenty weeks, with a vacation of four weeks in harvest. Tuition \$7 and \$8, according to branches studied. Boarding can be had from \$2 to \$2.50 per week; rooms to rent at reasonable rates for self-boarding. Miss Alice Wright, of Elderton, will give lessons in instrumental music. For particulars address

REV. D. H. BLAIR,
OF J. H. STEWART,
Instructors, Plumville, Pa.

1880 June 5: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Plumville, Indiana County, PA showed Rev. D.H., a minister of the gospel, and his wife Sadie living with several children; Eunice, age 9, David, 7, Alvin, 5, Felton, 3 and Sadie, 1.

1887

found.

—Rev. D. H. Blair, of Benkleman, Nebraska, a United Presbyterian clergyman is in the city. He is thinking of settling here, because he can have good educational advantages for his children, and is much pleased with Kingman.

1888 October 8: Applied for and was granted a pension for his military service. (His application was submitted in Nebraska.) ***By 1891 the Blair family was living in Iowa.***

³ The Indiana Progress, Indiana, PA, Thursday, 11 Apr 1878, pg. 13 (accessed newspapers.com)

⁴ The Kingman Daily Courier, Kingman, KS, Wednesday, 24 Aug 1887, pg 4 (accessed newspapers.com)



Blair and his family: Back-Agnes, Felton, Alvin, Eunice, Zenola-Front-Winnie, Young, Mae, Sadie, David Humphrey-babies Eula and Lois.

1894 June 27: Admitted to the U.S. National Home for Disabled Soldiers in Leavenworth, KS. His rate of pension was \$12.00.

Rev. D. H. Blair, of College Springs, Iowa, who has been at the Home for several months receiving treatment for heart disease, left for his old home yesterday. He expressed himself as being greatly improved in health.

December 31: David appeared on a roll of members of GAR tom Brennan post in Leavenworth, KS. His residence was listed as "Nat. Mil. Home." 1895-96 Listed as "chaplin" of the GAR Tommy Brennan post in Leavenworth, KS.

⁵ ancestry.com

⁶ The Leavenworth Times, Leavenworth, KS, Friday, 31 Aug 1894, pg 5 (accessed newspapers.com)



Blair Family

1900 June 7: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Leavenworth County, Kansas showed David Blair living as an inmate in the soldiers' hospital. Sadie and their children were living in Nodaway, Iowa.

1904 March 19: Released from the U.S. National Home for Disabled Soldiers.

May 16: David Blair died in Loveless, CO.

⁷ ancestry.com

There was a fine rain Tuesday evening which helps boom vegetation.
Rev. D. H. Blair, well known here years ago, being at one time a student of the college here, died May 16th in Loveland, Colorado.
I. M. Clements and family attended

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⁸ The Bellefontaine Republican, Bellefontaine, OH, Friday, 10 Jun 1904, pg. 2 (accessed newspapers.com)

⁹ ancestry.com