

# A Guide to the Jerome Blair Collection, 1836-1894

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A Collection in Special Collections, Kegley Library 1990.1  
Special Collections, Kegley Library, Wytheville Community College  
2011

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## History

**Processed by:** George Mattis

## Title Statement

A Guide to the Jerome Blair Collection, 1836-1894

**Subtitle:** Blair, Jerome, Collection

**Collection:** 1990.1

**Author:** George Mattis

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## Profile Description

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**Language Usage:** Description is in English

## Revision Description

**2013-11-21** Converted to schema conforming EAD by dtd2schema.vh.xsl.

## Descriptive Summary

**Collection Number**

1990.1

**Language**

English

**Physical Characteristics**

33 volumes..

**Repository**

Special Collections, Kegley Library

## Administrative Information

### **Access Restrictions**

Collection is open to research.

### **Use Restrictions**

There are no restrictions.

### **Acquisition Information**

Donated by Gladys Blair, Ann Blair, and Eleanor Sue Murphy in 1990.

### **Preferred Citation**

Jerome Blair Collection, Mss. Collection 1990.1, Kegley Library, Wytheville Community College, Wytheville, VA

## **Adjunct Descriptive Data**

## **Related Material**

The Jerome Blair Papers, Mss. Collection 1990.2, contains individual correspondence, financial, land, legal, and educational records.

## **Biographical Information**

Destined to become a prominent Wythe County merchant, Jerome Blair was born on 12 April 1819 in the Walton Furnace area. Blair evidently intended on studying law and migrating to Texas or Oregon. In an 1845 letter (Kegley Library Vertical File, Families-Blair #34), he admits to William Blair that "if times get any better perhaps I may stay in this county." Blair supported himself by teaching.

On 13 December 1848, Jerome Blair married Emily H. Caldwell (1828-1897). They raised several children together including Isabella Margaret Blair (1852-1917), Hannah E. Blair (1862-1956), Susan Blair, Charles David Blair (1869-1928), and John Blair.

Blair operated general merchandise stores in Grayson and Wythe counties. His Wythe County stores included Brown Hill Furnace, Hutsons Creek, Peirce Forge (Cripple Creek Forge), and Walton Furnace while his Grayson County stores included Cherry Grove and Blair and Hall.

His Walton Furnace property also proved lucrative for Blair. In 1872 he leased it to Millon Howard and Dr. Richard Walton Sanders. The Lobdell Car Wheel Company rented the property in 1879. Blair received preference for hauling goods and providing supplies.

Jerome Blair served as justice of the peace for the eastern part of Wythe County as well as postmaster for Ivanhoe. He died on 2 March 1900.

## **Scope and Content**

The Jerome Blair Collection, Mss. Collection 1990.1, contains ledgers and account books from several general merchandise stores and businesses owned by Blair. Included are records for Peirce Forege (Cripple Creek Forge), Hutsons Creek Store, Brown Hill Furnace Store, and Walton Furnace Store in Wythe County and Cherry Grove Store and Blair and Hall Store in Grayson County. Also included are court proceedings held in the Walton Furnace area of Wythe County and presided over by Jerome Blair, a justice of the peace.

## **Arrangement**

Items are arranged by county, then by store in no certain order.

## **Contents List**

### **Set 1. Wythe County. 1836-1894.**

#### **Extent**

16 volumes.

## **Set 1a. Peirce Forge (Cripple Creek Forge). 1836-1850.**

### **Extent**

5 volumes.

### **Item Ia1. Day account book. 25 March 1840 - 27 March 1841.**

#### **Extent**

144 p.

#### **Scope and Content**

Unpaged index in front.

### **Item Ia2. Time records and day account book. 1840-1850.**

#### **Extent**

[25] p.; [90] p.

#### **Scope and Content**

Time records dated April 1840 - May 1842. Day account book dated 1 September 1843-1850, includes number of hogs slaughtered for 1847 in a list at the end of the second section.

### **Item Ia3. Account book. 19 September 1840 - May 1842.**

#### **Extent**

p. 16-48; [13] p.

#### **Scope and Content**

The first section of this volume has been used as a scrapbook.

### **Item Ia4. Ledger book. 21 September 1840 - 18 April 1842.**

#### **Extent**

91 sheets.

#### **Scope and Content**

This volume includes some entries for blacks.

### **Item Ia5. Jerome Blair's book and account book. 1836; 7 May 1842 - 26 October 1843.**

#### **Extent**

[62] p.

#### **Scope and Content**

Jerome Blair's book, 1836, p. [1] - [40] shows sample book-keeping records. Account book dated 7 May 1842-26 October 1843, has p. [41] - [44]; [47] - 62.

## **Set Ib. Hutsons Creek Store. 1853-1893.**

### **Extent**

7 volumes.

### **Scope and Content**

Store thought to be in the eastern part of Wythe County, but the exact location remains unknown.

### **Item Ib1. Day account book. 2 June 1853 - 5 November 1853.**

#### **Extent**

120 p.

**Item Ib2. Day account book. 8 September 1853 - 13 February 1854.**

**Extent**

[39] p.; unbound.

**Item Ib3. Day account book. 7 November 1853 - 9 June 1854.**

**Extent**

136 p.

**Item Ib4. Cash book and account book. 11 August 1853 - 4 October 1854; 27 December 1867 - August 1871.**

**Extent**

19 p.; [55] p.

**Scope and Content**

Fourteen pages between the cash book and account book and a number of pages following the second work were used as a penmanship copy book.

**Item Ib5. Journal account book. 2 June 1853 - 7 February 1855.**

**Extent**

227, [1] p.

**Item Ib6. Ledger books. 1853-1855; 1892-1893.**

**Extent**

291 p.; 115 p.

**Scope and Content**

Presumed to be a Hutsons Creek Store volume; unpagged index in front.

**Item Ib7. Pocket memorandum book. 1854.**

**Extent**

22 p.

**Scope and Content**

Presumed to be a Hutsons Creek Store volume. On cover: "Negro book;" lists names of slaves and their purchases.

**Set. Ic. Brown Hill Furnace Store. 1870-1871.**

**Extent**

3 volumes.

**Scope and Content**

For additional records dealing with the Brown Hill Furnace Store please see: Set IIb9, Blair and Hall Store, Spring Valley, Grayson County, Va., p. 40-41, which cover day account records for 30 November 1870 and 6 December 1870.

**Item Ic1. Day account book. 22 March 1870 - 20 August 1872.**

**Extent**

110 p.

**Item Ic2. Journal and account book. 6 June 1870 - 9 February 1872.**

**Extent**

117 p.

**Item Ic3. Day account book. 4 June 1870 - 30 January 1871.**

**Extent**

129 p.

**Set Id. Walton Furnace. 1882-1894.**

**Extent**

1 volume.

**Scope and Content**

For additional records dealing with the Walton Furnace Store please see: Set Ila2, Cherry Grove Store, Grayson County, Va. p. 496-506, which cover account records for 16 May 1892 - 15 May 1893. Also see Set Ila4, Cherry Grove Store, Grayson County, Va., p. 513-666 which cover day account records for 13 May 1892 - 28 September 1893.

**Item Id1. Justice's judgement and execution book. 28 April 1882 - 16 July 1894.**

**Extent**

[40] p.

**Scope and Content**

Jerome Blair served as justice of the peace in the eastern part of Wythe County. Court proceedings were held at Walton Furnace.

**Set II. Grayson County. 1856-1893**

**Extent**

17 volumes.

**Set Ila. Cherry Grove Store. 1856-1893**

**Extent**

5 volumes.

**Item Ila1. Day account book and account book. 13 March 1856 - 31 December 1856; 12 June 1891 - 7 May 1892.**

**Extent**

195 p.; 41, [1] p.

**Item Ila2. Account book; account records for Business College; account book for Walton Furnace Store. 1857-1893.**

**Extent**

434 p.; p. 481-495, 694-697; p. 496-506.

**Scope and Content**

Account book, 1 January 1857 - 9 November 1861, 434 p., p. 435-480 are missing. Account records for Business College, 15 February 1873 - 1 September 1873, p. 481-495; 694-697. Account book for Walton Furnace Store, Wythe County, Va., 16 May 1892 - 15 May 1893, p. 496-506.

**Item Ila3. Account ledger for individuals. January 1857 - 30 July 1873.**

**Extent**

p. 1-3323; 437-498.

**Scope and Content**

Unpagged index in front, p. 333-436 are missing.

**Item IIa4. Day account book; Day account book, Day account book for Walton Furnace Store. 1857-1893.**

**Extent**

510 p.; p. 511-512; p. 513-666.

**Scope and Content**

Day account book, 1 January 1857 - 3 November 1862, 510 p. Day account book, 6 December 1862 - 3 January 1868, p. 511-512, heading on these pages reads Wythe County, Va., exact location unknown. Day account book for Walton Furnace Store, Wythe County, Va., 13 May 1892 - 28 September 1893, p. 513-666.

**Item IIa5. Day account book. 3 September 1858 - 27 October 1859.**

**Extent**

[215] p.

**Set IIb. Blair and Hall Store, Spring Valley. 1868-1878.**

**Extent**

12 volumes.

**Item IIb1. Account book no. 1. 1868.**

**Extent**

47 p.

**Scope and Content**

Inside front cover: Jerome Blair, Samuel P. Hall.

**Item IIb2. Day account book. 1 January 1868 - 18 September 1868.**

**Extent**

98 p., [2] p.

**Item IIb3. Day account book. 1 January 1868 - 9 March 1869.**

**Extent**

127 p.

**Item IIb4. Account book. February 1868 - 10 May 1870.**

**Extent**

51 p., [9] p.

**Item IIb5. Invoice book. 8 May 1868 - 22 March 1870.**

**Extent**

282 p.

**Scope and Content**

Unpaged index in front.

**Item IIb6. Account ledger for individuals. 1 January 1868 - December 1870.**

**Extent**

112 p.

**Scope and Content**

Unpaged index at front.

**Item IIb7. Account book(s). 1869.**

**Extent**

[290] p.

**Scope and Content**

May be one volume; covers dates in 1869; unbound.

**Item IIb8. Account book. 6 May 1869 - 9 December 1870.**

**Extent**

113 p.

**Item IIb9. Day account book. 23 March 1870 - 6 December 1870.**

**Extent**

128 p.

**Scope and Content**

Day account book, 23 March 1870 - 24 September 1870, 40 p. Last entry on p. 40, 30 November 1870, and entry on p. 41, 6 December 1870, are for Brown Hill Furnace Store in Wythe County, Va. Pages 42-123 are blank; pages 124 and 128 contain entries.

**Item IIb10. Ledger book. 1870 - 1871.**

**Extent**

105 p.

**Scope and Content**

Unpaged index at front.

**Item IIb11. Account book. January 1872 - December 1873.**

**Extent**

47 p.

**Scope and Content**

Unpaged index at front.

**Item IIb12. Account book. January 1873 - September 1878.**

**Extent**

82 p.

**Scope and Content**

Unpaged index at front.