

December 22, 1881, in the old Bennett home at Bennetts town, Christian County, Kentucky (See Feature Story). His twin brother was John Bunyan. The twins were baptized in the Presbyterian Church in Bennetts town. Their parents, Samuel Blair and Virginia Bennett Blair, were born at La Fayette and Bennetts town, respectively. Frank was named Francis for Francis P. Blair, his relative, and a member of the early honored Blair family. Fletcher was his paternal grandmother's maiden name. His mother owned and operated a general store and was postmistress at Bennetts town. His father was also postmaster there later and the store became a family venture after their marriage April 2, 1879. She was also a writer and wrote for the Dallas News after moving to Texas.

In the early 1890's, the Blairs, Frank, John, Genie, Vic, and their parents, traveled to Texas by train, settling near Alma, to be closer to Virginia's family, since she had become partially crippled by rheumatism. The Blairs church memberships were sent to the First Presbyterian Church in Ennis from McKenzie Kirk Presbyterian Church in Bennetts town. They soon bought land and moved to Chatfield. Aunt Bob died there and was the first buried in New Chatfield Cemetery, 9-12-1898.

The Blair children attended Chatfield School, but soon after his mother's death, Frank went to work for the county, building roads in the Richland and Purdon areas. Before he was twenty, he was foreman of a road gang. When he was at Purdon, Flossie Wilson, a young lady of his affections, embroidered his initials, F.F.B., in red and gold silk thread on a piece of black taffeta ribbon which the men wore inside their hats. This beautiful token of an early friendship was given to me by Aunt Eff.

Frank was my cousin, my father's nephew, and married my mother's sister, Effie, daughter of Benjamin and Georgeann Pattison, on March 20, 1905. They farmed near Kelm and Emhouse, living most of the time on her father's land. His father lived with them and following his death in 1913, they moved to the Blair farm at Chatfield. They finally moved the house into Chatfield but continued farming. When they sold the land, he worked for the county, operating a big road grader in the Kerens and Roane areas. Ironically, his first and last public jobs were road work with the county, but years apart and miles apart in methods of operation — from mule teams to mechanized equipment.

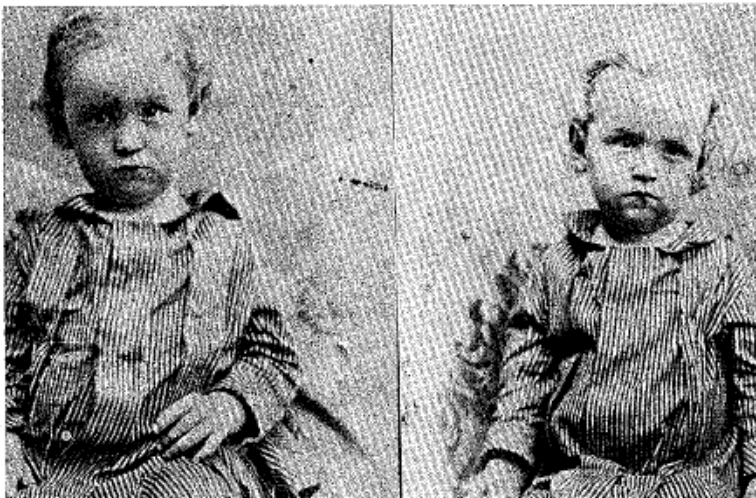
This childless couple often had nieces, nephews, or friends' children in their home. We knew we were somebody when we entered their door and always had an enjoyable visit. Aunt Eff had an organ, made a contraption to hold a French harp, and played them simultaneously. She often sang, accompanying herself on the organ.

Aunt Eff was Methodist but Uncle Frank clung to the Presbyterian faith. He died May 6, 1960, following a long illness, and Aunt Eff died October 11, 1972, the last of fourteen Pattison children. They are buried beside his mother in New Chatfield Cemetery.

by Ethel Bennett Stokes

FRANCIS FLETCHER BLAIR

Francis Fletcher (Frank) Blair was born



The Blair Twins — Frank F. and John B.