



ArchivesSpace

a community served by †Lyrasis

Lewis Harvie Blair papers 9207262

This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on January 13, 2025.
Description is written in: English.

Rare Book and Manuscript Library

Butler Library, 6th Floor
Columbia University, Mail Code 1127
535 W. 114th St.
New York, NY 10027
Business Number: (212) 854-5153
Fax Number: (212) 854-1365
rbml@libraries.cul.columbia.edu
URL: <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/indiv/rbml/index.html>

Table of Contents

Summary Information	3
Biographical Note	3
Summary	5
Arrangement	5
Administrative Information	6
Controlled Access Headings	7
Collection Inventory	7
Series I: Lewis Harvie Blair Documents	7

Summary Information

Repository:	Rare Book and Manuscript Library
Creator:	Blair, Lewis H (Lewis Harvie), 1834-1916
Title:	Lewis Harvie Blair papers
ID:	9207262
ID:	MS#1601
Date [inclusive]:	1897-1914
Physical Description:	.5 linear feet 1 document box
Language of the Material:	English .
Abstract:	Manuscripts of businessman and Southern political writer Lewis Harvie Blair.

Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); Lewis Harvie Blair Papers; Box and Folder; Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Columbia University Library.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Biographical Note

Businessman, writer, and political thinker Lewis Harvie Blair was born in 1834 in Richmond, Virginia to Sarah Ann Eyre Heron and John G. Blair. The Blair family was an old and prominent Richmond family involved in numerous business and philanthropic concerns in the city. Blair's father was a well-known financier, and his father a respected reverend.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Biographical Note

Blair remained in Richmond until he was seventeen, when his father's death prompted him to join the United States military. He spent four years in the service, first as a merchant marine and then as an engineer in the Great Lakes lighthouse service based in Detroit, Michigan. In 1860 Blair returned to Virginia to try to establish a career in business. His early career ventures were cut short by the breakout of the American Civil War.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Biographical Note

In 1862 Lewis Harvie Blair joined the Confederate army as a private. He remained an active member of the army throughout the duration of the Civil War, returning to Richmond after the close of the conflict. He began his career in the wholesale grocery business, and eventually grew to include manufacturing and selling dry goods, notably shoes. He also ran a successful real estate business.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Biographical Note

Blair became increasingly interested in politics and political theory, and in 1886 began publishing books and articles on current affairs and political themes. His first book, *Unwise Laws: a Consideration of the Operations of a Protective Tariff Upon Industry, Commerce, and Society*, was a laissez-faire economics text. This was quickly followed up by a series of articles he published in the *New York Independent*, and later collected and published as a book entitled *The Prosperity of the South Dependent on the Elevation of the Negro* which called for the civil equality of all men and asserted that the South could not prosper unless it fostered racial equality. Later in life he distanced himself from these views and repudiated much of his writing on racial equality.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Biographical Note

Blair's writing included not only a number of published texts, but other unpublished works including revisions of his previous work, articles, and an autobiography.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Biographical Note

Blair was married twice, first to Alice Tayles Harrison, and then to Mattie Ruffin Field. He had seven children with his first wife, and four with his second. He died in Richmond, Virginia in 1916.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Summary

Collection contains manuscript and typescript drafts of Lewis Harvie Blair's political work as well as a manuscript of his autobiography. There is also a draft of a letter to Oswald Garrison Villard referring to The Prosperity of the South.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Arrangement

This collection is arranged in 1 series.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Administrative Information

Publication Statement

Rare Book and Manuscript Library

Butler Library, 6th Floor

Columbia University, Mail Code 1127

535 W. 114th St.

New York, NY 10027

Business Number: (212) 854-5153

Fax Number: (212) 854-1365

rbml@libraries.cul.columbia.edu

URL: <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/indiv/rbml/index.html>

Revision Description

xml document instance created by Carrie Hintz EAD was imported spring 2019 as part of the ArchivesSpace Phase II migration. 2012-02-28 2019-05-20

Restrictions on Access

This collection is located off-site. You will need to request this material at least three business days in advance to use the collection in the Rare Book and Manuscript Library reading room.

Restrictions on Access

This collection has no restrictions.

Terms Governing Use and Reproduction

Reproductions may be made for research purposes. The RBML maintains ownership of the physical material only. Copyright remains with the creator and his/her heirs. The responsibility to secure copyright permission rests with the patron.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

2011.2012.M072: Source of acquisition--Franklin Gilliam Rare Books. Method of acquisition--Purchase; Date of acquisition--01/26/2012.

Processing Information

Papers processed Carrie Hintz 02/24/2012.

Processing Information

Finding aid written Carrie Hintz 02/27/2012.

Accruals

Materials may have been added to the collection since this finding aid was prepared. Contact rbml@columbia.edu for more information.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Controlled Access Headings

- African Americans -- Southern States
- African Americans -- Civil rights
- Southern States -- Economic conditions
- Memoirs
- Manuscripts (documents)
- typescripts
- Blair, Lewis H (Lewis Harvie), 1834-1916

Collection Inventory

Series I: Lewis Harvie Blair Documents, 1897-1914

Title/Description	Instances
Autobiography Manuscript <u>Physical Description</u> : 3 folders	box 1
Draft of Letter to Oswald Garrison Villard, 1910 April	box 1
Manuscript on Duty	box 1
"The Negro; His Unfitness for Citizenship and the Need for Disenfranchisement" Manuscript	box 1
"Observations on the Elevation of the Negro" Typescript, circa, 1914	box 1
"Soul and Immortality" Typescript	box 1

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)