

MRS. JARIUS CASSIUS FAIRCHILDS

Contributed by the John Bell Chapter, D. A. R.

Sally Blair was from New England with the blending of Scotch and Irish blood that has produced so many strong and noble characters in our American History. She was born in Blandford, Massachusetts, June 11, 1802, but when she was a young girl her father, James Blair, moved to Mantua, Ohio, and there she was married to Jarius Cassius Fairchild, a native of New York, with English ancestry, and a man of sterling worth and great force of character. He is still remembered as one of the strong forceful men in early history of Wisconsin where he served for four years as the first state treasurer.

Mr. Fairchild took his bride to Franklin Mills, now Kent, Ohio, where he was in business and there four children were born to them. One daughter, Sarah, and three sons, Lucius, Cassius and Charles, who all served with distinction in the Civil War—Lucius and Cassius in the Army and Charles in the Navy. Another child, a son, died in infancy. The family moved next to Cleveland, then in July, 1843, Mr. Fairchild brought his family West to Wisconsin where his brother-in-law was a successful merchant—Frank Blair in Milwaukee. They drove out from Milwaukee with a team arriving in Madison just at sunset on a July afternoon. The entire family seems to have been impressed with the great beauty of their future home, as they drove into town through what is now Wingra Park.

The Fairchild's first house was a small frame affair on the corner of Main and Pinkney Streets, and later they moved to the corner of Doty and Carroll Streets. During these years Mrs. Fairchild offered as did everyone who could, hospitality to the members of the legislature, as the hotels were inadequate for the needs of the crowds during the sessions. In 1847 the Fairchilds moved into

the house on Monona Ave., which is still occupied by their descendants. Mr. Fairchild bought a brick yard which was not being used and had the bricks made for his house which he built as nearly as he and his wife could remember like their house in Cleveland.

Mrs. Fairchild was devoted to her home and took great pride in her garden in which she grew all sorts of vegetables and flowers. It is told of her that she would get up early and wearing rough clothes join the gardener at his work for some hours, but would always come in in time to don her usual neat dress and cap and pour the coffee at the family breakfast. Her house was always a gathering place for young and old when her sons were grown and out in the world they never failed to come home and visit as often as possible. The eldest son, Lucius brought his young wife home to live and she has said of her mother-in-law that she could never have had a better friend or a more considerate one during the years they lived under the same roof.

Mrs. Fairchild lived to see her husband the first mayor of Madison; first Treasurer of State; and her son Lucius, clerk of Circuit Court, Colonel of the 2nd Wisconsin infantry during the Civil War, Secretary of State in Wisconsin, and finally Governor of Wisconsin. It was during the time that he was governor that Mrs. Fairchild died on October 21, 1866.

MRS. LUCIUS FAIRCHILD

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Frances Bull was born in Detroit, Michigan, on November 14, 1846. Her ancestry was English. Her father died when she was very young, leaving his widow with six small children, and n about two years the mother married Elisha Smith Lee, a New Yorker who was practicing law in Washington, D. C. Judge Lee was a wid-