

was married at Durrus to Catherine, daughter of Richard O'Donovan of Donovan's Cove in 1827. Their marriage settlement was traced at the Registry of Deeds, and a note of the entry in the church register was found at the Public Record Office. The parish registers of Durrus (which parish includes Bantry) dated from 1789, but were destroyed in the fire at the Record Office in 1922. Some notes of the Blair entries, however, were preserved by Miss Thrift, who was evidently interested in the family, and these show the baptism of Richard at Durrus in 1803, and of two of his sisters in 1798 and 1799. Their father was another Richard, who, in 1790, married Elizabeth Lewis.

The Blair/Lewis marriage settlement was also obtained. This shows that Richard was the eldest son of Richard Blair of Bantry, and specifies Elizabeth as daughter of "Thomas Lewis" and grand-daughter of Mary Hull, widow. There is, however, some doubt as to the veracity of this, since there is a Cork marriage licence for "Henry Lewis and Margaret Hull in 1771" and the couple were married at St Nicholas' parish in Cork city on 9th April, and the church register confirms the names as "Henry Lewis and Margt Hull." This is the only Lewis/Hull marriage which could be found, and it seems possible that the name "Thomas Lewis" in the settlement may be an error for Henry.

Further search in deeds showed that the first Richard Lewis had a wife named Honora: he was buried at Kilmocomogue (near Bantry) on 3 July 1797, and his widow Honora's will was proved at Cork in 1827.