

Prior to 1845, the marriage of a Blair of Blair's Cove would almost certainly have been by licence, and the licences for the Diocese of Cork and Ross are believed to be almost completely recorded between 1800 and 1845 in the Index to Marriage Licence Bonds. This does not contain any reference to Richard Tonson Blair.

Two alternatives therefore arise:

(a) that Richard Tonson Blair was married in the Catholic Church only, and at an early age. It would appear that he, if he existed, must have been a son of Richard Lewis Blair and Catherine O'Donovan who were married in 1827.

(b) that Richard Tonson Blair was a fictitious character, born of a confusion in the mind of the Revd Father O'Regan when entering the marriage in the books. The bridegroom gave his name as Tonson Lewis Blair, and in a moment of confusion Father O'Regan may have entered "Richard Tonson" instead of "Richard Lewis" in the column for the name of the bridegroom's father.

This second theory gains some support since no trace can be found of a Richard Tonson Blair, no will, no deeds, no marriage.

An announcement in the KERRY EVENING POST shows that the third daughter of "Richard Lewis Blair of Blair's Cove" was married in 1864: there is therefore no theoretical objection to her having had a brother married a decade later.

Leaving the above mentioned difficulty aside, considerable progress was made in the matter of constructing a Blair pedigree. Richard Lewis Blair of Blair's Cove