

early adopted the plan of having trees planted along his western railroads. These served as windbreaks and as protection against snowdrifts. Later, as Blair had foreseen, they furnished new ties for the railroad.

Although John Blair's operations in the west extended in succeeding years from Iowa to Wisconsin, Kansas, Nebraska, Dakota, Missouri, and Texas he always returned to his home town — Blairstown, New Jersey. He was postmaster there for 40 years and for several years had the distinction of being the oldest bank president in the country. It was at Blairstown that he died on December 2, 1899, and, fittingly enough, he was buried in Blairstown cemetery. The man whose boyhood ambition had been to "get rich" had fulfilled his dream; John I. Blair's estate was valued at about \$70,000,000. Thus ended the life of "John Insley Blair, eccentric millionaire, storekeeper, postmaster, miller, banker, iron manufacturer, railway promoter, and namer of towns".

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