

NOTES AND REFLECTIONS FROM THE DIARIES OF ALEXANDER BLILEY

Draft 1 – March 6, 2014

The following document was found in the Bliley family archives in Boulder, Colorado in October of 2010. The author is unknown, but it is believed to be Ross Bliley, of Colorado. It is virtually self-explanatory.

The document was typewritten using an IBM Selectric with a “Corinthian” typeface ball that simulated handwriting.

The first presentation/transcription of the document is revised with corrections for typos and more standardized abbreviations and a new layout for improved reading. The second presentation below is as originally typed; no changes in spelling, capitalization or punctuation. The formatting reflects that as used in the original typewritten document.

I do not know the actual purpose of the writing, nor the intended audience.

Charles A. Bliley

Rochester, NY
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Notes and Reflections from the Diaries of Alex Bliley

Revised formatting and grammatical revisions, with corrections and additions.

The diaries of Ales Bliley are in the possession of Almeda Bliley O’Leary in Denver Colo. She is the daughter of Harry Bliley.

First the Bliley family came to the U.S. from Germany Sept 6, 1834 The German Spelling was Bleile. I don’t find any thing that tells when it was changed. There were five children. Our line is of Charles Bliley, who was the third child and 12 at the time.

Charles Bliley was born July 23, 1822 and died November 15, 1906. He is buried in Eire, Pennsylvania. He Married Mary Jane Mead.

Mary Jane Mead was born July 25, 1827 and died May 24, 1913. She is also buried in Erie, Pennsylvania.

Notes and Reflections from the Diaries of Alex Bliley

In the papers from Alameda, is a clipping about Sebastian Bliley. He served under Napoleon. He was born 1794 and died 1872. He was probably Charles Bliley's older brother. He came to the U.S. with his family in 1834 with Andreas' family.

Alexander Bliley was born September 14, 1848 and died October 25, 1905. He is buried in Cripple Creek, Colorado in Mount Pisgah Cemetery. He was born in Erie, Pennsylvania. **His son Charles (my father),?** told me his daddy was not doing well financially and had also broken his arm. But he got a job pumping out a mine and he took daddy with him to help. He died during the pumping out of the mine as my father looked on. Daddy was about 14, I believe. They were living in Cripple Creek at the time.

Now, the diaries start in September 1868. I believe he was 20. His diaries are more like working diaries, but one can trace his movements by them. He loved to write letters and received many which he always noted. He also kept account of his expenditures and what he earned in the back of the diaries.

I also gleaned that he loved to dance, sleigh ride and loved to dress. He noted, he bought fine hat, white gloves, suit with vest, a fine pair of boots, etcetera.

1870 -- Working near Erie and going to spelling **[selling/sales?]** school. Helping some farm. Loved to dance and many sleigh rides. (Age: 22)

1871 -- He was at home on the farm in Erie. And worked somewhere near Kan City all year. (Age: 23)

1872 -- Erie. (Age: 24)

1873 -- Bought 1-16 in Orchard Oil Well. Jan 23. Probably Pa. but do not know what happened to this investment. Pain 500\$. (Age: 25)

1874 -- Triangle City, Clarion County, Pennsylvania. 25 years old. Worked at wells and sold oil. (Age: 25)

1875 -- Triangle City, Clarion County, Pennsylvania. Good list of expenditures. List of oil run and cost??? (Age: 26)

1877 -- December 31st, in store. [Old photo of him in front of a "tin shop".] (Age: 28)

1878 -- January 1st. Took over possession of the other half of two wells in Knappenberger farm which he purchased. (Age: 29)

1878 -- In store. Seems Ira Shell peddled for the store. There is a bill due the store dated Dec. 7, 1877. (Age: 29)

1879 -- Speaks of store. Just notes store on each page which meant he must have spent all of his time there.. Then no more. So don't know what happened. (Age: 30)

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1879 -- June 2. He is now 31 yrs old. He is starting to move about. Goes from Cincinnati to St. Louis, to Kansas City to Atchison, Kansas. To Pueblo and to Denver. To Fairplay. In June, to Leadville. Purchased outfit for mining. June and July he hauled lumber 3 mi. to build a shanty. July moved into log hut. He was prospecting. Well, no luck so he then starts to work for other people. Dec. Dave there with him. Then back to Erie. (Age: 30)

1881 -- Still in Colorado as he went to Aspen in April. June went to Leadville tunneling a mine there. Two diaries of 1881 do conflict. One says, "*April 21 Cleaned out store and opened goods. Dave arrived Apr. 30. May 7 Tyler arrived. Leadville June 10. Aspen July 3. July 7 Hancock and started work on mine running engine.*" (Age: 31)

1882 -- Working in Stonewall Mine near Buena Vista. Also later started working at Kentucky Mine near St. Elmo, near Aspen. August: Dave came up to work at Kentucky Mine too. (Age: 32)

1883 -- Hancock Colo. And Aspen at Kentucky Mine. Jan Kentucky Mine but hunting deer. He would shoot a number, so believe he took them back to town and sold the meat. March back in Erie. March went to Philadelphia and spent week in New York where he went to theatre every day. Then back to Erie. (Age: 33)

Spent many months between Corry and Erie. Doesn't seem to be working. August 26 went to Chicago, Omaha, Cheyenne. September 1 Denver to Buena Vista. October 4 Aspen. Started work at the Scone Pine Mine for few days. Oct 7. Then mostly hunting. Oct. 13 through Dec. spent hunting. Also lists the contents of his trunk.

1884 -- Jan. Aspen. Moved around. Buena Vista, Granite, Leadville and back to Aspen. Worked at various mines.

And so the end.

There are many clippings and poetry, etcetera in the diaries. But one clipping that was put in by someone else, probably Harry, is a newspaper clipping dated June 21, 1928. Katherine Tobin and Clarence J. Bliley [Assistant Football Coach at the University of Akron] were killed in a auto accident in Akron Ohio. They were to be married. Speaks highly of both people.

Beautifully written letter from sister Nellie dated Wesleyville, Pennsylvania, March 16, 1882. Said brother Will had come home and was going to work for Father on the farm for \$18 a month.

[The last paragraph was in the Courier typeface and probably written at a later date.]

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