

LETTERS BY ELLEN LOUSINA “NELLIE” BLILEY TO FRANK ANDERSON BLILEY 1880–1889

Draft 9 — May 6, 2014

Introduction

Ellen Lousina “Nellie” Bliley wrote the following letters (46) and post cards (7) to her younger brother Frank between 1880 and 1889. These items of correspondence were found in the Bliley family archives in October 2010 in Boulder, Colorado. Several letters from Frank to Nellie are included in this work.

All letters are presented in chronological order, providing a clear date was evident. Editorial comments are in brackets “[xx]”, or in separate and marked paragraphs. Some letters were undated, but are placed in the order based on known dated events, references or deduction.

About Nellie, the Author — Feb. 21, 1863–December, 5, 1889

“Nellie” was the next oldest sister to Frank and one of 10 children of the Bliley family that lived more than a few years. However, Nellie died at the age of 26 on December 5th, 1889 at home with her family by her bedside. The cause of her death is uncertain but a slow and deteriorating one. Her obituary reported that she had contracted malaria while visiting friends in Ohio and had *“some affliction of the stomach [that] baffled the best medical skill in this city [Erie] and Buffalo.”*



She was a passionate young woman who loved to write long esoteric articles on life or philosophy. She was also a seamstress/dressmaker who traveled around the Erie, Pennsylvania area making clothes for family and clients. She also played the family piano. She was also a social butterfly who loved life to its fullest.

Here is a synopsis of Nellie’s life and letter content by Norma Venable composed in January of 2012:

1863-1880 ...Nellie lived at the Bliley farm on Station Road and helped with domestic activities including cleaning and washing; all of the Bliley children had to help with work on the farm.

1881.....A letter from Alex Bliley states that he is glad Father (Charles) had sent Nellie to school; this would probably mean additional schooling

beyond the minimal educational requirements. Alex reports that Nellie's handwriting had improved.

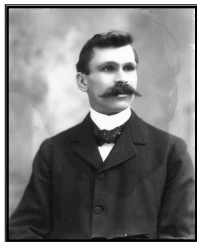
1882-83Nellie spent the winter in Corry, Pa. with her sister Barb. In Corry, Nellie attended sewing school, and learned the dressmaking trade. Nellie had expressed a desire to learn bookkeeping, as had her brother Frank, but that was apparently not an option for Nellie. Much later, "Father" regretted not having educated all his children, and offered to send Nellie to Edinboro so she could enter the teaching profession, but at that point Nellie felt she was too old to return to school.

1883-1889 ...Nellie spent most of her short life at the family farm on Station Road. She did however visit her sister Barb and Feen (Josephine) who lived at Corry, Pa. Nellie also spent time with her sister Agnes and her husband Charlie who lived at various locations around Erie. Nellie also attended local parties and socials. Nellie also wrote many letters to her brother Frank, and it is those letters that give us a wealth of detail about the daily lives of the Blileys. Nellie was a lively, almost spritely correspondent. Nellie also played the piano, and sang. Nellie did not care for the farming life as she felt there was no money in it. Although often plagued by ill health, Nellie, a Catholic, felt her faith would help her through difficulties.

June 1889....Nellie was in a hospital at Buffalo, NY. She sent a postcard to Frank in Erie saying she would be home on July 12.

Dec 5, 1889.Nellie died at home with most of her family beside her.

About Frank



During the period of these letters, Frank seemed to be lost seeking a profession. He studied to be a schoolteacher, appears to have received a certificate in book keeping/business and worked at various jobs in Colorado during this time period. For a while, he also tried selling atlases in Aspen of railway train networks across the U.S.A. Shortly after the time period of this collection, Frank began the study of law, was admitted to the bar in 1891, and gave up teaching in favor of this new and final profession.

Frank also wrote a very interesting letter home from Aspen, Colorado on August 23rd, 1886 that is available on www.Bliley.net. It is available as a transcription and as an audio recording of Frank reading it at the age of 75.

Frank was not the only family member to go west to seek their fortune during this time period. Several of Alex's brothers and cousins paid him visits.

Five letters of Frank's to Nellie are included in this compilation to colorize their relationship, and topics of discussion.

Charles Bliley

March 2014

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1880, February 10th—Letter

- **Author(s):** Ellen Lousina "Nellie" Bliley (Age: 19–22)
- **Addressee:** Frank Bliley (Age: 15–19)
- **Address:** Edinboro, Pennsylvania
- **Postmarked:** Erie, Pennsylvania
- **Notes:**
 - **Obviously, the date is wrong.** Frank is a college student in Edinboro Normal School, Pennsylvania studying to become a teacher between 1883 and 1886.
 - Written on account paper.

Wesleyville Pa Feb 10th 1880

Dear brother Frank

Your letter of the last, has as you see, taken the desired effect. I was glad to hear from you again

I was thinking that you was indebted instead of myself. I must say I was some what surprised to hear you were going to sing at the concert. I truely hope you may be successful in your endeavor. I got a letter from Will to night. it is the second letter from him since he went away. He said he wrote to you. He is coming home in March. I think he has had nearly enough of Mich and will be glad to come back to old Penn again. Willie is coming home too. Then I presume Lew will go west.

Byron Jordon sold his farm to day to his father. I could not say at what figure Byron has the western fever badly, I suppose they will go to Iowa as soon as they can get straightened around. Wilce has traded farms with Shanon. I presume you are aware of the fact. but he is going to stay over here this year any way Uncle Willises are all here yet. Alice is here to night. They are very anxious about going home. but I think it may be some time yet. it seems he is getting a long so slow with his lip. although it is burned clear through and he has suffered so much he is almost discouraged. it seems so tedious

Well I cant half write ot think what I want to write. for is jogging around the stand and is so noisy. talking. whisling. You wanted to know about uncle Georges I was one of a number of six who sat up with the Sunday night before he was buried. He looked quite natural he suffered a good deal before he died was willing to go. Rev Redout of Wesleyville officiated. the sermon was at the house all of the children were there but Bennie. Fene and Wesley. The sent for Bennie but he had gone to Boston and I suppose did not get their telegram. he made a will and by it aunt Irene has the twenty acres and one cow as long as she lives then it falls to Marcellus as long as he lives. He did not have an extra large funeral on account of him dying Saturday night. and a great many would have went had they have know it.

Constant Bonnell from Iowa is here now. He come after his share of Grandfathers property. I dont know how much he will receive. I heard from Barb a short time since. She said they talked of closing out their store. then she would come home while John went to Bradford to get a situation

Fene had the quinsy quite bad. She sent for mother she went and stayed from Saturday until Wednesday. Our folks are quite well now.

<omday night I was out to Mr Pecks to a tin wedding. there was only two hundred there. they received over seventy dollars of presents. had music from Harborcreek and a good supper. but was almost too many there to enjoy ones self then there was going to be a party over to Jack Coopers. Tuesday night I was intending to go but it rained and was very dark. So guess didnt any one go. Frank who is your room mate and do you like him. I presume there is good sleighing out there by this time. Well I must close by saying Good night. accept our united love

Your affectionate sister Nellie

P.S. Frank, let me tell you, when ever you write home always mention fathers name. He reads the letters and he has

[Rotated addition]

the idea that the boys dont care anything

[Upside down addition]

about how he gets along. Grandma is quite feeble. although gets around.

1880, December 9th—Letter

- **Author(s):** Ellen Lousina "Nellie" Bliley (Age: 19)
- **Addressee:** Frank Bliley (Age: 15)
- **Address:** Edinboro, Pennsylvania
- **Postmarked:** Erie, Pennsylvania
- **Notes:** Letter appears to carry date of 1880, but:
 - Frank was not a student in Edinboro until 1881
 - Events in letter are also described in an 1881 letter from Rose
 - George Wagner was born in 1881

Wesleyville Pa. Dec 9 1880

Friday evening

My dear brother Frank

I presume you have been looking for a letter from home before this

Well it was my intention to write before, but the time has slipped by and as headed Friday evening finds me writing to you, Well I imagine you are just about getting over your homesickness by this time. How do you do any way. We are all well at home. what there is left of us. just think only four in our family. that is when we have no company. Grandma is up to Erie and Rose is down to Ags Fene Elliott and Gertie are here yet they were going home this week but uncle George was so bad thought they would wait until they saw some change he seems to keep about the same. Bemnnie is up aklsso staying with uncle George.

Well I dont know of any news to tell. there has been no parties or nothing going on around here since you and Will went away. I have not heard from will since he went away. but have written one letter to him

uncle Jehues have heard from Willis though, and all I know about them is that they have gone to work in the lumber woods and have a pretty rough class to asociate with. but I hope they wont take up with their rough ways.

Inez is up here yest but will take her home tomorrow

Agg and George are getting along nicely. Ross likes our teacher very much. have 39 scholars. Ross sleeps alone in your room. and dont seem to be a bit afraid. cant hardly get him up for breakfast. which we have about 7. O'clock,

Mother does the milking and father and Ross does the chores

they have got along nicely so far, father has hauled all his barley got one dollare and five cents for it. That Hedrick boy did not want to come and Scott has gone to JanesTown so we are going to try to get a long a lone for a while any way

Last Saturday night I stayed with Frances then some body brought me out in a livery rig Sunday P.M. Frank and All and Fanny and her company came out. had a nice time. Well Frank do you have to study pretty hard do you like your boarding place and have you got pretty well acquainted. now take time and write a long long letter and tell us how you are getting along. Say Mr Bliley will you please inform me where my picture is that

[rotated addition]

was in the album

[Upside down addition]

Well I will close for to night hoping this may find you well and contented. I will bid you good night. Yours ever.

Nellie

[rotated addition]

Dear brother this is Monday morning. I forgot to send your letter Saturday until mother was gone. So I will write some more news. Yesterday mother and father was attending the funeral of the oldest boy of Whaly Jordon he was killed on the railroad. the mare was hiched the cars come along & Kit got scared at the smoke and broke loose jurked the bridal of the first thing so no one could hold her so she soon had the buggy smashed and disengaged her self from it & came home with nothing but a strap around her neck. the top was broken off two spokes in a wheel and lots of other things broken about it so father is going to take it to Erie to day to get it fixed up

[Envelope also contains two "fragments" which might have been mailed together with the letter above. Someone - probably Frank, has added 1881 to a sheet. One side of the larger fragment appears to be a continuation of the buggy wreck story.]

The young team but pretty good now

And he is going to get a new harness. He wasnt a bit mad because he saw jut how it was done. for want of space and time I cannot define the word "Homesickness"

mother says to keep that money and she will try and get along

nellie

[on reverse side]

Dec 10 at 2 oclock Frank

Inez has the croop. she was taken at 12. oclock I was up at 1' oclock went over after aunt lizz she is over here now Inez is not better now she is like to Die any time She was taken 12 oclock this mornen.

[Second enclosure seems to indicate that this was Inez Bonnell]

I am Inez E. M. Bonnell

and my address is

Corry Erie Co. Pa

Would like to have you give that your prompt attention

1882, February 24th—Letter

- **Author(s):** Ellen Lousina "Nellie" Bliley (Age: 19)
- **Addressee:** Frank Bliley (Age: 16)
- **Address:** Edinboro, Pennsylvania
- **Postmarked:** Erie, Pennsylvania
- **Notes:** None

Dear brother Frank

father received a letter from you last night. I know he was pleased to get it. I dont know how many times I have read and re-read it. Once or twice to my self. Once to Grandma and once to mother.

I was some surprised. Yesy very glad to hear of your returning home quite so soon. as I was thinking you would be here about the middle of next month but all the better now that you are coming the third. Accordingly some of us will be out after you the third, that is, if the roads are not too bad. I want to come for one if I can. with father or Will.

Will came home last night were not expecting him

He had written that he would be home about the first of next month. You may know he was glad enough to get home again.

Uncle Willis is getting along nicely with his lip. and thinks of starting home about the sixth or 7th

Barb and John are coming home about the 1st of Apr.

Father told me to ask you, if you had money enough to pay your expenses out there or not.

Well I wont stop to write you any news now. as I will see you soon. Then you will hear every thing.

Ross has just been fooling with the machine and broke the iron support for the Leaf. He does just about as he has a mind to and never gets punished

He deserves it often. mother and father have simply no government over him at all

They have lost all controll. (they never had but precious little)

I'm sure I dont know what ever will become of him he is so quick and passionate

I am in hopes that when he gets older. he may for him self see his mistakes. as he is very wise now. he wont hardly take advise. but may be he wont be quite so wise when he is a little older.

Father wants to know that in case we cant come after you and you have not money enough. how much you lack and how he should send it.

Yours with much love.

Nellie

[Included a calling card for Ross Bliley]

1882, October 23rd—Letter

- **Author(s):** Ellen Lousina "Nellie" Bliley (Age: 19)
- **Addressee:** Frank Bliley (Age: 17)
- **Address:** Ada, Ohio
- **Postmarked:** Wesleyville, Pennsylvania
- **Notes:**
 - Frank is a college student in Edinboro Normal School, Pennsylvania studying to become a teacher between 1883 and 1886.
 - Apparently, he also too some time to attend North-Western Ohio Normal School, in Ada, in this time period. He received a certificate in business here. Perhaps, it was the like a trade/business school certificate of the day.

Dear brother Frank

This is the sabath, and I find my-self engaged at the present in writing to you. I presume you are so busily engaged with your studies and looking around about you at things new to your sight, that you have as yet scarecely given home a thought. But knowing we are indebted to you, in the way of receiving a (very welcome) letter, I made the resolution and resolved to answer immediately, being I am at present under the influence of the writing mood which sorry to say, I am not subject to very often, Taking in consideration and running all risks of my epistle being welcomed and read, for want of time, may be, or other reasons. But, never-the-less I was very willing to run those chances. for I am much inclined to think that my brother still will find a spark of gladness in his heart at receiving a letter from Wesleyville, Pa, signed sister Nell. But this writing on the sabath, I cannot exactly I approve of and don't know the time when I have did so be fore.

Father and Ross have just returned from church. Mother is preparing dinner.

Both George and Inez are here Agg and Charlie left them on their way out to Hatties. I spent the afternoon at Charlies yesterday, then Ross came after Barb and I

They had fresh beef and noodle soup with other things for supper. I wish could you could have partaken with us, for it was elegant.

Well I must tell you about the work how they are progressing

They are doing well and getting along nicely, being we have been favored with fine weather they have husked some corn have every thing else done.

I am writing in my room and it is so cold I can scarcely write, for all it is warm and sunny out of doors.

Mary Sewell at last account was no better.

Joe SOlick(?) has a son.

Tomorrow evening the Equitable Aid Union will have a special meeting to decide the date of a party at the Hall either this week or next.

We are all well at home, and I earnestly hope you may still continue in the same state of good health that you were enjoying when at home. for you know good health is a jewell which can never be bought or sold. -- Now Frank do well and improve your time.

What an I doing? I know is needless to give you any such advice,

[Rotated addition]

for you are too anxious yourself how can I give advice

[Upside down addition]

as to keeping good company. and I feel I must give you a few words on that point. and I think I could on nothing I can think of now but "neatness." On that one thing Frank I earnestly hope to see an improvement

[Added page]

This is Monday 1, oclock P.M. and I have not finished this letter for I have some news to tell you. Frank you will never see Beecher again. He stopped breating last night. caused by an apple lodging in his throat.

Well I must tell you we had a great time last night The cattle got in orchard and Beecher got an apple in his throat and it was only about a half an hour from that time until he was dead. Firstly they sent will right over for uncle John. They tried a whip stock but it would not reach. then Will went right up to Evans; as they have an instrument a purpose for such a case but before they got back Beecher was dead. I did not go out to see him as I

was entertaining company. but they said he was as patient as could be. Never acted one bit cross. They hardly knew what to do with him. He very soon got weak and lay down father said to uncle John "what shall I do? shall I cut his throat?" He said yes he thought he could save the meat. They did so and he bled freely so they thought the meat was pure as any

We have kept our quarter and father has gone to town with the rest. He was very fat. the other cattle miss him this morning. father dont seem to mind it he has refused \$130.00 for him

Wilce(?) was over too and helped dress him he thought we did as well as any one could.

[Rotated addition]

Well I guess I have told you all about Beecher.

[Upside down addition]

do you like your room mate - ? tell us all about it. do you pay the -.75 alone, for your room? father thought you might have got one cheaper how do you like your board and what

[Rotated addition]

do you have? now write a long letter and the particulars.

[Upside down addition]

now I will close. hoping to hear from soon. I remain your affectionate sister Nellie.

1882, November 2nd—Letter

- **Author(s):** Ellen Lousina "Nellie" Bliley (Age: 19)
- **Addressee:** Frank Bliley (Age: 17)
- **Address:** Ada, Ohio
- **Postmarked:** Wesleyville, Pennsylvania
- **Notes:**
 - Frank was here attending North-Western Ohio Normal School, in Ada, in this time period. He received a certificate in business here. Perhaps, it was the like a trade/business school certificate of the day.
 - His interest in telegraphy shows a degree of uncertainty about this course of study. This uncertainty went on for the next few years as Frank considered several other professions.

Nov 2nd

Dear brother,

Father recd your letter in due time. He told me to write a few lines for him in regard to telegraphy. you may be disappointed but he thinks for your good and all around you had better persue your course of study you have commenced and not take telegraphy it is a good chance but there will be a hundred chances just as good and better for you after a while.

We are all well. - Mr Bowan is dead. They talk of having a benefit dance for Mrs Bowan.

Nellie

1882, November 12th—Letter

- **Author(s):** Frank Bliley (Age: 17)
- **Addressee:** Ellen Lousina "Nellie" Bliley (Age: 19)
- **Address:** Wesleyville, Pennsylvania
- **Postmarked:** Ada, Ohio
- **Notes(s):**
 - No transcription is currently available.
 - Typewritten letter and envelope.
 - Frank is a student in North-Western Ohio Normal School, Ada Ohio studying book keeping.
 - Ada is a few miles east of Lima, Ohio in far west central Ohio. (Pop: 1,760 in 1880)
 - Use of Typewriter – This is one of the very few typewritten letters in the archive and possibly the first that Frank used. He was enrolled in a business course. The use of the latest technology must have impressed him and he wanted to show the folks back home how progressive he was.
 - The letter was very faded and enhanced by the computer image editor.
- **Subject(s):**
 - School activities at new school
 - Request for Erie newspapers
 - Weather information
 - Much liked lectures at school
 - Differences in weather between Ada, Ohio and Erie, PA

ADA, OHIO, NOV. 12. '82

DEAR SISTER NELLIE:-

I WILL NOW

PROCEED TO ANSWER YOUR LETTER AND POSTAL.

' WOULD HAVE ANSWERED YOU POSTAL AS SOON AS
I GOT IT; BUT THE FACT IS I HAD NOT TIME.

TELL FATHER THAT I WAS NOT DISAPPOINTED BE-
CAUSE HE DID NOT WANT ME TO TAKE TELEGRAPHY.

I WOULD LIKE TO HAVE TAKEN IT VERY WELL. BEC-
AUSE I THOUGHT IT A GOOD CHANCE; BUT I AM PER-

PECTLY SATISFIED TO TAKE THE COURSE I COMME-
NCED.

NEL YOU ARE BADLY MISTAKEN IF YOU THINK I
WILL NOT TAKE THE TIME TO READ YOUR EPISTLES.
I CAN ALWAYS FIND TIME TO READ LETTERS IF I
DON'T HAVE TIME TO WRITE THEM.

THERE IS NOT A SINGLE DAY THAT PASSES, SUN-

[PAGE 2]

DAY EXCEPTED, WITHOUT ME GOING TO THE POST
OFFICE TO SEE IF THERE IS ANYTHING THERE FOR
ME FROM HOME OR ELSEWHERE.

THIS SCHOOL EMPLOYS SOME OF THE MOST TALENT-
ED LECTURES IN THE UNITED STATES. THE 30TH. OF
LAST MONTH DR. JAMES HEDLEY OF ROCHESTER, N.Y.
LECTURED ON "THE SUNNY SIDE OF LIFE" I LIKED
HIM WELL.

"JOSH BILLINGS" IS TO LECTURE HERE ON THE
22. OF THIS MONTH. HIS SUBJECT IS "THE PROBA-
BILITIES OF LIFE" AND SOME TIME NEXT MONTH
ELDER ISAAC ERRETT WILL ALSO DELIVER A LECTU-
RE HERE. ERRETT IS THE ONE THAT OFFICIATED
OVER THE REMAINS OF PRES. JAMES A. GARFIELD.

DIPHTHERIA IS QUITE PREVALENT IN THIS TOWN,
A FEW CHILDREN HAVE DIED WITH IT.

HAVE YOU HAD ANY FROSTS AT HOME YET. THERE
HAS BEEN MORE OR LESS FROST HERE EVER SINCE I
CAME. THEY HAD FROST HERE AS EARLY AS THE 25.

[PAGE 3]

OF SEPTEMBER. THE MAPLE TREES ARE AS DESTITUTE
OF LEAVES AS THEY WERE LAST JANUARY.

I THINKING THE FALL IS GREAT DEAL EARLIER HERE
THAN AT HOME.

IS BARB AT HOME YET?

HAVE THE BRIDES AND GROOMS BEEN AT OUR
HOUSE YET?

NELL I WISH YOU WOULD SEND ME SOME ERIE PAP-
ERS. I HAVE NOT SEEN ONE IN NEARLY A MONTH.

Letters of "Nellie" Bliley to Frank A. Bliley

NOW WHEN YOU RECEIVE THIS LETTER, DO NOT PUT
OFF SEND SOME PAPERS UNTIL TO-MORROW, BUT
SEND THEM TO-DAY.

WILL HOW ARE YOU GETTING ALONG HUSKING CORN?
HAVE YOU ANY ONE TO HELP YOU? WRITE ME ALL
ABOUT THE WORK. TELL ME WHAT PIECES OF CORN
YOU HAVE TO HUSK YET.

NELL PEASELOOK IN THE CITY DIRECTORY AND
FIND WHAT THE FARE IS FROM ERIE TO FREMONT, O.
[Pencil Note on angle: "5.20"]
AND TO OBERLIN. [Pencil Note on angle: "3.25"]
TELL ME WHEN YOU ANSWER THIS.

[PAGE 4]

THERE ARE STUDENTS HERE FROM MANY DISTANT
STATES. I AM ACQUAINTED WITH ONE FROM MONTANA
TER. AND WITH SOME FROM MINNESOTA, IOWA, KENTU-
CKY AND OTHER DISTANT STATES.

WELL I GUESS I HAVE SAID ENOUGH FOR THIS
TIME; CONSEQUENTLY I WILL CLOSE, WITH LOVE FOR ALL.

TRULY YOURS,

FRANK A. BLILEY

P.S. MONDAY MORNING

THE GROUND IS COVERED WITH SNOW, THAT FELL
LAST NIGHT. I HAVE BREAKFAST HERE AT SIX O'CLOCK
CAN YOU BEAT THAT?

FRANK.

1882, December 2nd—Letter

- **Author(s):** Ellen Lousina "Nellie" Bliley (Age: 19)
- **Addressee:** Frank Bliley (Age: 17)
- **Address:** Ada, Ohio
- **Postmarked:** Corry, Pennsylvania
- **Note(s):** Frank is a college student in Edinboro Normal School, Pennsylvania studying to become a teacher between 1883 and 1886.

Corry. Pa. Dec 2 '82,

Dear brother Frank:-

I have been trying for some time to find time to ans your most welcome Letter.

Last night I thought I would write to you after I lay my work by. then picked up a book

I soon found my self deeply interested in it and I read and read until I became so cold (the fire had gone out) and so sleepy I thought I could not write anything that would be of intetrest to you then. So I retired and soon found my-self in happy dreamland.

I am at Fenes this evening as you may see by the heading

I am not at home, I came with Feen and Gertie just a week ago, to day. I expect to stay with Barb all winter as Lambing will be gone the biggest part of the time

Mrs Davis assisted me to find a good place for working at the dressmakers trade. I think I can learn the trade in three months time if not less. I will commence Monday.

if I could not have found a place for sewing it was my intention to go to school.

I dreaded so to leave Grandma and she felt bad to see me go.

Frank she misses you at home very much. Remember her in some of your letters.

How and where did you spend yourThanksgiving?

I was invited with Feen and Elliott over to Mr Mandivals for dinner. Mr and Mrs Davis were there also. They had an elegant dinner. Let me give you a list of the different articles. Turkey, roasted, with dressing, squash, onions prepared very nicely. cranberry sauce, cellery,mashed potatoes bread butter and pickles. after that mince and pumpkin pie three varieties of cake and a quint sauce. I enjoyed it very much.

We are having very fine sleighing here I found sleighing here last Saturday when I came. when it was good wheeling at home

Well for my part I do not expect a sleigh ride this winter. I have not got acquainted with any young folks here yet. but have strong hopes.

Well Frank how how are you profressing in your studies. Now write me a long long letter and do not be so long about it as I.

Gertie send a kiss to you and I my love. Affectionately your sister Nellie

*Frank A. Bliley
Ada
Ohio*

[The name and address of Frank is Nellie's handwriting.]

1883, January 8th—Letter

Letters of "Nellie" Bliley to Frank A. Bliley

- **Author(s):** Ellen Lousina "Nellie" Bliley (Age: 20)
- **Addressee:** Frank Bliley (Age: 18)
- **Address:** Ada , Ohio
- **Postmarked:** Corry, Pennsylvania
- **Note(s):** Nellie may have been visiting her older sister, Barbara Lambing, and her husband in Corry.

Corry Pa. Jan 8, 1883

At Feens

Dear brother

I have been wanting to write you a few lines for some time but for a want of time have neglected it.

I have been wanting to congratulate you on your good success in finishing Book-Keeping. You have done far better than any of us expected. I know you must have worked dilligently. Now I only hope you may profit by it as you desire.

Mother requested me to tell you to be sure and study this term what ever will be to you the greatest benefit should you get any employ in the railroad company. I should like to study Book-Keeping my - self and make it a profession.

Well I must now tell you how I spent my Christmas

As the R.R. Co. office offered excursion tickets untill Jan 2nd I thought the matter over and Dec 23rd decided to take the morning train and go home. So I purchased a return ticket, which was onlt \$1.50 and, in two hours from the time I left Corry I found my self at Erie depot. I left splendid sleighing at Corry but found the ground bare at Erie. - Rose father and Ross were in town. They were greatly surprised to sed me as were also the folks at home.

We has a Christmas dinner

Invited Charlies, Uncle Jehues Uncle Washingtons, Louisa and John Tuttles(?) had a very nice time. Then in the evening we attended the Christmas tree at

the Village. I stayed at home just two weeks had a splendid time attended the Anual Ball at the Lodge rooms. last Friday eve. It proved to be a success both socially and financially. had four pieces of Knowl band an elegant supper. and all together a nice time.

I had lotts of sleigh rides. Olivir(?) Hunces(?) renewed my ticket for me. Pete(?) has returned from Ind.

It will do hime lotts. I believe Olivir said that Andrew is getting \$930.00(?) a month.

I am not doing any thing now as Mrs Sherwin has not returned yet. she went away the day before I went home.

Well it is after 9 o'clock the Episcopal Minister and wife spent the evening here and have gone. Geryie is asking(?) to go to bed. so I will close hoping to hear from you soon. I remain affectionately your sister. Nellie

P.S. Frank you ought to write to Feen. She does not like it very well because you write to the rest and not to her.

Did you receive the Laundry enstion(?) which Barb and I sent?

1883, May 14th—Letter

- **Author(s):** Ellen Lousina "Nellie" Bliley (Age: 20)
- **Addressee:** Frank Bliley (Age: 18)
- **Address:** Edinboro, Pennsylvania
- **Postmarked:** Erie, Pennsylvania
- **Note(s):**
 - Frank is a college student in Edinboro Normal School, Pennsylvania studying to become a teacher between 1883 and 1886.
 - This letter, and the one which follows from the 20th were in the same envelope. The mention of father "courting" (slang: jury duty) provides continuity and a connection between the two letters.
 - "Lakeside" may be the nickname for the farm of Mary Agnes "Ag" Bliley Wagner, Nellie's older sister (28) and her husband Charles/"Charlie" on which he was the manager.

Lakeside May 14th

Dear brother

this is the first time I have a pen in hand for some time and while Ag is putting the children to bed I will write a line,

Rose and Charlie D was up here Sunday (he did not know I was here) and Rose said there was a letter at home from you, but she forgot to bring it. It seems like a very long time since I have heard from you. Charlie just came in and said Bay Billy was sick and was afraid he would have to send Dr Bell, the veterinary surgeon, I hope it is nothing serious. If he had all the stock he has lost since he has been here, He would be worth, he says, one thousand dollars more than he is.

Father stayed here last night

He has been a courting this week

I am nearly through sewing, I have made eleven dresses for the children besides the aprons and a dress for Ag and several other things, I would sew steady from 6 1/2 o'clock in the morning until from seven to half past ten at night

At home May 17th. I returned home Sat, Then Sat evening we attended the installation of officers of the Grand army men. A new organization in the village. It was very good. Father went a courting again to day. It is quite dry and dusty.

1883, May 20th—Letter

- **Author(s):** Ellen Lousina "Nellie" Bliley (Age: 22)
- **Addressee:** Frank Bliley (Age: 18)
- **Address:** Edinboro, Pennsylvania
- **Postmarked:** Erie, Pennsylvania
- **Note(s):** Frank is a college student in Edinboro Normal School, Pennsylvania studying to become a teacher between 1883 and 1886.

At Home May 20th '83

Dear brother

I received your welcome letter yesterday, I should think you would always be glad when Sunday, you are so very busy during the week. of course it is the best way for you to do you will be glad in the future that you put in all your time so industriously. Willie Deer is the publisher of the paper caled the "Renick Recorder"

He sent you a couple of copies It is good for that place. We have been cleaning house to day

The parlor, why you would hardly know it, we have changed the pictures so and moved the chairs all out and put them back again and so on. Mary and Emmer were down here yesterday afternoon.

Father stayed at Charlies last night. has not got through yet. No we were not at Jen Whittleys party. I only wish you had a bysicle, I think we will accept your invitation out there to commencement. if it is so we can Rose and I would like to drive out.

This is Thursday morning, and I will send this letter, mother is going to Erie with father to hear the Lawyers plea to day.

Write soon affectionately your sister Nellie L Bliley.

Rose attended a funeral of one of your scholars, May 2nd. Flora Hedrick she was sick only one week with brain fever. had riblets while

[Rotated addition]

here. there was six little boys for pal bears Ross included

1883, October 5th—Letter

- **Author(s):** Ellen Lousina "Nellie" Bliley (Age: 20)
- **Addressee:** Frank Bliley (Age: 18)
- **Address:** Edinboro, Pennsylvania
- **Postmarked:** Wesleyville, Pennsylvania
- **Note(s):** Frank is a college student in Edinboro Normal School, Pennsylvania studying to become a teacher between 1883 and 1886.

Home Fireside, Monday Oct 5. '83

Dear little brother

As I have written one letter and just sent it to be posted, I thought I would trace you a few lines. Though you would acknowledge I am not indebted to you, and I would hardly dared to have written, such beinh the case, had it not been for your assurance of no offence taken.

All right then, here comes a letter, slow but shure. I will begin it to night and perhaps finish and send it the last of this week. I am nearly exhausted now in writing stock. There is no marriages, in the neighborhood, no deaths, and every thing is as quiet on the Potomac as usual.

I was thinking about you to-night as I was prominading the dining room for sake of exercise (and also to clear of the table) I was thinking as father was to be gone this week out to the Wattsburg fair, wouldnt it be fun if Rose and I could take Billy and skip out to see you and then come back the same day. however the thought was no more than formed as a good idea, when it was blighted and no doubt blasted, 1st as for me to think of one of my plans of going out to Edinboro to see you, being successful, is almost out of the question

Qondly, I am looking for company. Fanny Kuhn may come out, She said the other day she thought she could come this week. and Guy Littlefield told father he would be down here this week and 3rdly the inclemency of the weather is to be brought in as an other doubtful point. For it has been raining for the past two as though it hadent the least intention of clearing up yet a while. I hope no one else dreads this cold Fall weather as I do. It makes me shudder when I think of those cold damp winds which pearces a person through and through

Oh yes here is a marriage of an old school mate of yours. Perhaps you have seen an account of it in the paper. Carrie Wright, I do not remember his name. He is a considerable older than she.

The live near Mr Porters.

Mother and I were over to Mr Porters last Thursday. We had a good visit. Maggie and Celia were at home. Flora was over in this neighborhood. but we did not know it. Coming home the road for a ways was strange to us and we turned to the left where we should have turned right. and we went about a half a mile before we discovered our mistake. we were

obliged then to retrace way back. Hence the cause of a scolding from Rose for coming home after

2nd [Sheet 2]

dark. keeping her fretting and worrying for fear something had happened. She said "If you were intending to stay all night, why didnt you tell me?"

Mother and father was out to Joe Bliley's yesterday. They have a young heir. An other one of Dan Blileys boys is coming here the 10th of this month, on his wedding tour. I believe he is in an Express office and can get leave of but eleven days, They say Joe (the one who lost his wife) thinks of marrying his wifes sister.

Aunt Mary Ann Sewell is very sick. She hasd kind of an inward stroke of paralysis. She has her mind pretty good. but can talk but little. Her children are all home taking care of her. -- Uncle Jehu does not seem to improve very fast. Yesterday he did not feel quite so well as usual. What would he have done if Will went away this spring? Daizy had a monstrous great teeth pulled at Dr Harveys the other day. She took laughing gas to have one extracted. Her lips turned purple her jaws set, and uncle Jehu was half frightened to death, She came out from the influence in a short time, Though she did not get over the effects of it for a few days.

I have not seen Frances since she has been back.

Louisa came home Sat P.M.

mother went in to see her in the morning. She burst out crying. She could not control her feelings, Indeed it is not to be wandered at. I presume the Dr told her that morning ther was no help for her. She feels dreadful at times. She told mother she never would be well again. The cancer has been eating for a week or more. Though the eating will never kill her. but it will settle some other place. She told the Dr if he could only give her some thing to keep up her apetite. but now that has begun to fail her. Oh it is a sad thought to know she must die, in a very limited time.

She has the heartfely sympathy of all who know her. but that is all they can do for her.

As a person appraoches the end of their allotted time, no power on earth will held their malady, what ever it may be. nothing will save them. They must go for they are called, and for one who has suffered and always strived to do right, consciously in every particular. It seems to me it would be a very pleasing thought to know they are rapidly approaching the end of lifes rough and weary pilgrimage, soon to reach the doar of their home, Yes and in the true sence of it the only real, true home we know of. We only are to stay here a little while. comparitively a short time. and then the good Savior would take us home, if we only answer the call. and do not negligently for get

3rd [Sheet 3]

his commandments. which he has given to better fit us for a happier future, with the Angles to dwell in the mansions above the skies. -- There that finishes this chapter. I presume if

you should get this on Sunday, you would feel as though it was needless for you to go to church.

Mrs Harvey C__ and Mattie called Sat P.M. They say Jims has moved to Erir and started a confectionaery store on Parade St.

Our men folks have been very busy to day getting the stock ready to take out to Wattsburg. They will take some of them in the wagon and drive some.

Wilce is a courting this week

Well I guess I will quit now for a while and give yiu time to gain a little strength. if a physician has not been summoned ere this. from the tedious and over exertion. Now I have had quite a little visit with you the verbal part however has been my part. and you have been perfectly silent. Never mind you will have time to reply.

Thursday 11 oclock A.M. I am a little tired this morning. the consequence of being out late last night. The Red Men had a public installation of Officers, which last until about 10 1/2 oclock then the young folks stayed to join in a socialhop. There was not a great many and we had a nice time. came home about 12 1/2 oclock

Harry Chambers was president of the Red Men. George Myers took that office last night. The E.A.U. society papered the hall and have new curtains put up. It looks much better.

Frank Sewell saw Mary K__ home from one party. he escorted Hattie and Annie B__ home last night. Johnie Brindle was here ons Sunday to take me out for a drive but it so happened I was not at home. Last night he had Lizzie Burkencamp and a friend from Girard visiting there. to the party. he scarce ever takes Stella. and If I were her I think id quit. Hetta and uncle Sam have gone to Mich. It does not seem fare. Stella always has to stay at home and do the hard work.

Mother was up to see Louisa Tuesday she is no better.

We received a letter from Alex a short time a go. he says he got to living now as he did in his native state. He sold \$5.000.00 worth of Manilla with in the last year.

Mabel Bonnell is going to stay at Marth Gordons this winter and go to school. Tom at present is working for Rufus King.

Well Frank do not think I have a grudge against you, why I linger with pen in hand so long. but because I want a good long letter in return. -- I will close with a great deal of love, I remain

Your sister Nellie

[Upside down addition]

Barb thinks of coming home this week.

1883?, October 6th—Letter

- **Author(s):** Ellen Lousina "Nellie" Bliley (Age: 20?)
- **Addressee:** Frank Bliley (Age: 18?)
- **Address:** ??
- **Postmarked:** ??
- **Notes:**
 - No envelope - no year or salutation on letter
 - Frank is a college student in Edinboro Normal School, Pennsylvania studying to become a teacher between 1883 and 1886.

At Charlies this evening Oct 6th and as Frank was writing and said I might put in a line. will have a little chat.

Never miss an opportunity. I have been sewing all day and am tired. ate supper, read the daily paper. then went to the library for something to read, and finly took out the bible. that which is "the way, the truth and the light." Well that is as far as I went. and laid it down, picked up the pen and commenced this conglomeration of nonsense to you. -- Well what I was a going to say is what I forgot to tell you, about those books you spoke.

You shall have them, Rose will send them this week. Willis was of an argumentive disposition, and quit frequently he and I might be seen with the bibles, comparing and discussing different subjects. -- There are two parties at WEsleyville this week. but I will not be at home for either of them. And I don't care a "little bit." -- Imaagin Rose is having a chance to feel lonesome. these long evenings. We have been having such a large family, and now but five, Grand does not come down to the table. Charlie is afflicted with a pimple on his tongue. Well good night

[Rotated addition]

pleasant dreams

["went to the library" suggests that Charlie's family was in Erie at this time]

[Upside down addition]

*Write often. and long letters I can assure you they taste good
affectionately your sister Nellie.*

1882?, December 27th—Letter

- **Author(s):** Ellen Lousina "Nellie" Bliley (Age: 20?)
- **Addressee:** Frank Bliley (Age: 18?)

- **Address:** Edinboro, Pennsylvania
- **Postmarked:** Wesleyville, Pennsylvania
- **Notes:**
 - Frank is a college student in Edinboro Normal School, Pennsylvania studying to become a teacher between 1883 and 1886.
 - Envelope is dated 1883, but letter content about Christmas

Wesleyville Pa. Dec 27th

Dear brother Frank

I presume you will be glad to hear from home so I will donate a few moments in this way for your benefit well how are you Frank, I wish you were here to night, as there is going to be a little dance up to Caroline Sewells and I am going with Lew and Alice, how did you spend your Christmas. I hope you enjoyed yourself. we had a Christmas dinner. had turkey, chicken, with dressing turnip sauer(?) potatoes biscuit butter, tea, coffee, Honey cherries, pickle, tomatoes, custard pie white and coffee cake. We just invited uncle Willises, uncle Jeheres(?), Aunt Bells. Wilces and Louisa, Conclueroir(?), There-foree we had a very enjoyable time. Well I presume you would like to know what Santaclauleleft here, I was afraid for a little while, he wouldnt stop at all, as mother wasnt well and did not go to Erie untill Saturday. Charlie took her up in his carriage as ours was in the shop. By the way Charlies is raising a beard whiskers and mustache and the only one I can compare him with is her(?) Botisscus. Well I am forgetting myself, I was going to tell you what we got for Christmas Rose gave mother a pair of black kid gloves a got a frame for Grandma Eckins(?) picture. Father got a large handkerchief. Ross got a pair of slippers, suspenders, handkerchief mittens and candy and nuts. Rose got a bottle green cachinure(?) dress, a pair of stockings a handkerchief from mother and i gave her a linen collar and a white apron, Ben gave her a very nice large album and a silver napkin ring, mother gave me a chased banded gold ring a handsome old gold and blue silk handkerchief also a linen one, stockings, a silver dolar and pair gloves. Rose gave me a handkerchief and yesterday(?) I received a handsome box of letter paper from Erie - box is old gold satin and wine color velvet in it was a card saying Compliments of J, V, M. uncle Willis was at the Drs yesterday and he thought it was all out, but he has suffered terribly for the past two weeks they are getting anxious to go home

Alf has gone down to visit Sarah

Andrew Kenna(?) has the ague. [Malaria]

Ross got scalded Saturday by hot water bursting out the cork of a jug which he was carrying. it scalded his face around his chin and his arm the skin pealed off his arm. we quickly applied kerosine oil which took out the fire in about two hours. it now has cosusuering(?) to heal. but we dont allow him to go out. Mothers health is very poor she took a bad cold and it settled in her side. she thinks it is her liver so she is going to take liver pills for it.

[upside down additions]

I dont let her do hardly any thing. I hope she may get better in a few days. Frank did we send everything you wanted in that basket, are you still at Mrs Greens. Now write me a good long letter.

Ross said he would write to you but cant use his are. Uncle George is about the same. but instead of breaking so hard he raises Phleur and they think he is going in to consumption

Fene Elliot and Gesla(?) went home last Friday. accept our united love affectionatly yours;

[large, thin signature over page]

Nellie

1883, December 3rd—Letter

- **Author(s):** Ellen Lousina "Nellie" Bliley (Age: 20)
- **Addressee:** Frank Bliley (Age: 18)
- **Address:** Edinboro, Pennsylvania
- **Postmarked:** Erie, Pennsylvania
- **Notes:** Frank is a college student in Edinboro Normal School, Pennsylvania studying to become a teacher between 1883 and 1886.

Erie Dec 3rd

Dear brother - I received your postal last night. was very glad to hear from you and hear you are getting along so nicely, there was so much news

I couldnt imagine why you did not write more unless it was because you were so home sick I came home last night you cant imagine how I miss you boys Frank where is my picture Fene Gertie and Elliott and I will write you a long letter next week now dont get home sick and give my love to your girl I remain your affectionate sister nelli

1883, December 13th—Letter

1884, January 5th—Letter

- **Author(s):** Ellen Lousina "Nellie" Bliley (Age: 20); Rosanna "Rose" Bliley (Age: 23)
- **Addressee:** Frank Bliley (Age: 18)
- **Address:** Edinboro, Pennsylvania
- **Postmarked:** Erie, Pennsylvania
- **Notes:** Frank is a college student in Edinboro Normal School, Pennsylvania studying to become a teacher between 1883 and 1886.

At Home Dec 13th 1883

Dear Brother Frank

Your postal was most gladly received yesterday

I presume you will be looking for a letter from home We thought you would write the last of last weak I presume you were to busy engaged with your studies & so an forth

Well I dont know as there is much of any news to write about. oh yess Engen Brindle(?) was married last Wednesday evening To Mrs Mcnutt(?) She is forty five & he is twenty eight She has taken a boy to rais They are visiting There relatives now I think They will live in This neighborhood. Aunt Belle was very sick Monday & yesterday They didnt think she could live she suffered Terrible but is a goodeal better To day

They thought is was the Pleurisy Mother stayed two knights with her They had Dr Moor. She Washington Nellie & Edith were here Sunday for dinner. Grandma is Better now then she was when you left she coughs some yet, We had the Threshers This week came yesterday morning went away This afternoon I was glad to see Them go I had the work to do done yesterday Nellie is down to Charlies it keep me busy We had lots of good things to eat. Father halled his Barlie last weak he got a little over Two hundred dollars. He gave Will the money to pay for your close. There was a gentleman Told Will All Mead(?) had run clear down & is as lazy as he can be he owed the Gentleman seventy five dollars he was a fraid he couldnt get it all. We recev a letter from Alex The other day. all he is doing is hunting he said he wanted to make wages by hunting he is in Aspen now I guess Dave is there to by a card he sent & he has started a tin Tin shop again I will send you the card if I can find it. Elliott was here last Thursday he came up on business only Staid one night.

Father & Mother attended Jennie Humes(?) funeral it was very large Soph, Porter & Andrew came Soph is going to Take The Baby & Agg is coming the last of This weak to be house Keeper. We had a very pleasant time to the partie at Mrs demster(?) Chambers. They are going to have a church festival in the hall tomorrow evening There isnny any dances or paties on the program now. Will is down to the viliage:

[Upside down addition]

Frank dont thik this is all the paper we have I bought a box full the other day but still I am very saving I hope you wont have much Trouble reading this if so let me know Frank you dont know how Nellie & I miss you I wish you could come home every weak

[Upside down addition]

We have Inez here she has been here over a weak Abe Wagner was Enitiated EAU Lodge Monday evening

[Rotated addition]

Will got home in time to go tp Lodge the Monday you went away

[Rotated addition]

Old Botamas is in Jail now he had his hearing Tuesday the suit is in cort his children had him arrested for his wickedness I hope he will be sent down the river. Frank I dont know weather you will keep your promise or not if you thonk you can spare that dollar send it so I can get it the first of next weak if you cant spare it just as well almost I dont want you to send it. Father Bucherd that other pig last weak & he sold that cow that Ross(?) spoiled he got fourty dollars. Will Ryan has come Back from Mich he couldnt get any work where he went he wanted to work for Evens again

[Upside down addition]

I must close hoping to here from you very soon Your Loving Sister Rose

=====

[Following appears to be from Nellie]

At home Jan 5 1884

Dear brother Frank.

how do you do? What has be come of you? I was going to write to you the other evening and Rose said to wait until you answered her letter. But I cant wait any longer. am going to wrire any way. for I want to inquire why you do not write to us. It is fearfully cold here now. This morning the thermometer was 1dg above freezing. The storm has been raging for three days. The sleighing I guess is pretty good, with the exception of a few bare spots where the wind has blown the snow of from the road.

Omne thing I do not think you half appreciate the perfumery and handkerchief.

Santa clause remembered us all at home, however. and I Will tell you what we got.

Christmas father traded our old cutter of to Wilse for a swell box. The one Young Rideout used to own. We were very glad. We got for mother a tea set of flowered dishes with thr \$5.50 we had she was greatly pleased. Now I got a hand mirror, a pair of vaces a tidy handkerchief and vail from mother. A ruche [ruffle of fine fabric] from Rose, and Charlie and Ag gave Rose and I each a cup and saucer, china. Rose got a new dress. electric blue. a velvet basque [close fitting bodice] the same color and a few other trinkets she got Grandma was home this Christmas. Orange and figs was her portion. She is quite feeble. We were all at home Ag and Charlie were here. Frank you have not missed a party since you went away. it has been very quiet so far. We spent an evening down to Mr Zahns last week. had a pleasant time. They inquired about you. The EAU are going to have their anniverary party next Wed. but none can go, but members only the gentlemen can take ladys Mother went down to Corry last Thursday Dec 27th 83 and came back Wed Jan 2nd 84 The report is Will Riblet and Ab Bran are going to get married next Wed.

[Upside down addition]

Pete Hume has a very nice new portlant cutter and robe. Ag Wagner has been quite poorly this winter. We were over to uncle Jehues Sat evening. I like their organ vert much I got a letter from Willis Deer and his wife last night he is coming here to visit us in 1885 he writes a jovial letter. Alex sent each of us girls a christmas card

[Upside down addition]

Now Frank do write and write a long letter with the words small written close to gether and clear to the ends of the lines. do you hear. and dont let us get cross eyed looking for it. Frank I would like very much to drive down out their. but we have not had sleighing yet so we could. but if will stays at home and we can I will have him drive out.

[Rotated addition]

affectionately sister Nellie

[Added scrap page from Rose]

This is Saturday morning

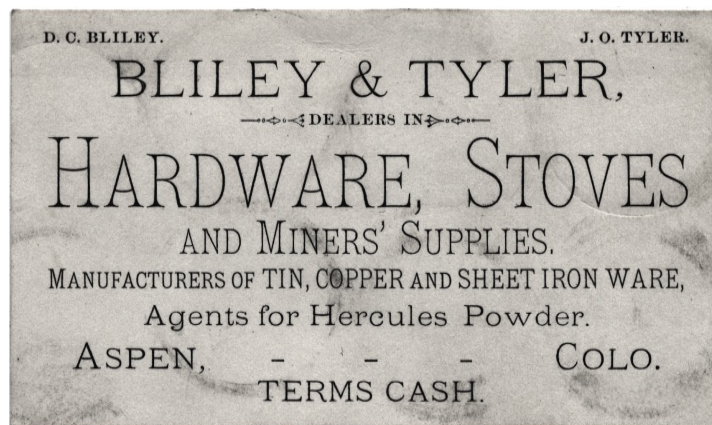
This letter not sent yet

Father & Mother are going to Erie I didnt have a chance to mail the letter yesterday. It is very cold here This morning The windows are frozen it looks as if we were going to have winter now

Didnt any of us attend the social last evening Nellie Went down to Charlies last Tuesday gess she will come home to day oh yes Uncle Jehews has bought an organ for the Children as a christmas present Writ soon as you get this letter

Rose

[Enclosure - business card for Bliley & Tyler, dealers in Hardware, Stoves and Miners Supplies - Aspen]



[On back of card]

Alex sent me a Box of chequers in these cards was in it this is the first we knew Dave was in Col. They are going to have a Christmas tree in the Church in Wesleyville and a few piecessang & to be spoken the rooling mill on W Tescools(?) farm that was burned a few days ago throws four hundred men out of employ the rooling mill in Cleveland was burned the same day throwing a good many out of employ

1884, April 17th—Letter

- **Author(s):** Ellen Lousina "Nellie" Bliley (Age: 21)
- **Addressee:** Frank Bliley (Age: 19)
- **Address:** Corry, Pennsylvania
- **Postmarked:** Erie, Pennsylvania
- **Notes:**
 - He may have been visiting his older sister, Barbara Lambing, and her husband in Corry.
 - Frank is a college student in Edinboro Normal School, Pennsylvania studying to become a teacher between 1883 and 1886.
 - Some short scrawls on the pages and envelope suggest someone was trying to learn to imitate Nellie's writing.

At Home Apr 17th '84

Dear brother Frank

I am going to improve a few spare moments in writing to you, for I wanted to tell you before I forgot it that I really think you would take first premium for the greatest number of words on a U.S. Postal Card, If there was a contest, I know you would really get the prize. You should have a (leather) cooky as it is, however, the first time I have an opportunity if it is on the first day of April, I shall see that one is struck off for you. - I was quite positive that I could not boil down the contents of a whole letter, so as to get it on a postal card. I knew I would fail in the attempt so I thought it best to begin with a letter on writing paper. Then if you want to keep up the correspondence until the --th 84 (what date did you give? give? I have forgotten) on postal cards. All Right, signed and sealed by me, one Nellie Bliley A &c &c

Well I forgot to tell you, "I was down to Mattie Chambers last evening to a party and I do not feel very ambitious to day as a natural consequence.

By the way, "some body" inquired about you. guess I hadnt better tell you who though, for it is very likely it would make you proud, giddy, and all that.

It was Ollis farewell party, She is going to start on her western journey a week from to morrow. of course we will miss her. She, Mattie and Jessie Ribbet said they were coming up here this afternoon.

It is cold and damp out. This morning when I got up it was snowing quite hard, but it is all gone now. I hope we wont have much more cold weather I just imagine I see you catching on to bob sleds about now, going to the shops. has it thawed very much yet.

It might be possible that I will come down there this Spring or early in the Summer. You must keep me posted a little, as to the going, for it would make it a "little inconvenient" if I should go down there in a buggy, then when I got there see the need of a cutter.

There is going to be a party at the Hall to morrow evening. guess I will go if it is pleasant, and my eye is better. it has been sore to day. I dont know what is the matter with it. I forgot to say that other wise "we are all well and hope you are the same." Now dont laugh. - Once up on a time I had a sister Rose. where is she now? The last I saw or heard of her, she was about a mile west of Erie, with her sister Ag. when she is coming home is a question be fore the house. When ever they can get a girl. They looked for a girl Monday, last, but I don't

[Rotated addition]

believe that she came or else she would have

[Upside down addition]

returned to the paternal roof before now. When is Fene and Gertie coming home? Did you get your shirts.

We will sends your pants at the earliest opportunity

[New page]

This is Friday eve 8:30. I am all ready for the party - have been in drumming on the piano, and now will finish this letter so I can post it to night. I must tell you right a way that we have heard from Dave. got a short letter from him the other day, saying he was at Akron, O. got back there this winter. his health is very poor

I wont write any more this time.

Frank Leeland and a miss Vite has come with Rose so I will close hoping to hear from you soon. I think one of the girls might have written me about Nellie Lambings death. I presume this though

I might see Minnie , but I have not seen the girls since they returned. Will write mon next time (on the Postal0 Yours with much love. You will about conclude that I am going to make a diary out of this letter.

Appearances are against me dont believe them.

It was to late last night to take this to mail, so while father and mother are finishing breakfast I will write still a little more. This morning finds me almost a total wreck. Never-the-less I just had a jolly time last eve. can truely say as your friend did "enjoyed it second to none, that I can remember of." Had a nice

[Rotated addition]

*Now if this is not deserving of an answer of a long written letter I wont write an other.
Good bye. Sister Nellie*

=====

[Rotated addition]

do some talking when she gets home.

=====

[Upside down addition]

Frank mother wants to know how many Tomato plants you want her to set out she says she thinks of you all the while she is working at them. funny aint it I was up to Charlies a week ago. They have a girl. dont know who didnt have a chance to ask Rose the particulars. guess will

=====

gone up to Charlies Sat. with Inez. (and it seemed at least two or three had gone when Inez left,) Though we had got her trained so that she would mind splendid and we made her mind too) then father and Ross went to church then up after mother. -- Grandma was in Erie (but is coming home to day) and Will went down to the village. Well to tell the truth I just more than enjoyed the quietude for it was such a change. Then there has been only five in the family this week. Rose is coming home to day bag and baggage and I am glad for we do need her I have cleaned two rooms up stairs. and made me a calico dress

=====

[Upside down addition]

Barb how do you like your boarder? does he behave him self pretty well?

better make him take care of baby evenings to keep him out of mischief suppose he has read everything through from the almanact to the bible

[Rotated addition]

Oh no I mean the dictionary instead dont believe the bible agrees as well

1884, April 28th—Post Card

- **Author(s):** Ellen Lousina "Nellie" Bliley (Age: 20)
- **Addressee:** Frank Bliley (Age: 18)

- **Address:** Corry, Pennsylvania
- **Postmarked:** Erie, Pennsylvania
- **Notes:**
 - He may have been visiting his older sister, Barbara, and her husband in Corry.
 - Frank is a college student in Edinboro Normal School, Pennsylvania studying to become a teacher between 1883 and 1886.
 - Written in very small letters

At Home Apr 28th

Dear brother

I beg pardon for not ans your welcome letter be fore, but will make haste with it now. I would have written yesterday but was nearly a wreck a gain. had been up until after twelve oclock for the last four nights. last night I retired at nine. Thursday eve we had a nice time down to Curtisis. then Friday Rose & I & Rose Mclelland. Will C_, Jessie Ribbit and Mrs Chambers went up to see Ollie off. The two Roses and I had our picture taken to give to Ollie. she wanted to go with us the worst way, but was afraid she would not have time. Then I stayed at Capt Davises until Sun. had the nicest kind of a time. Could hardly get a way. Fanny wanted me to stay until Tuesday. then we would have went down to his vessel this afternoon. Capt is going to start out to morrow. Eddie is going to school at the Commercial College. Oh yes! I will continue to agitate the question of coming down if that will do you ant good as long as you like. but for my past, I had sooner if I could come to a conclusion and make you the visit. There was not much left of our dictionary by the time I got through reading your letter. I suppose you had taken a strol by the Hatch school just be fore you wrote it. We are anxiously waiting the to hear when Fene is coming home. Oh dear I wish she would hurry up will be so glad to have her come and Gertie too. Now I guess Im even with you

[Rotated additions]

only made a little and then recd your eyes.

Lovingly your sister Nell

Guess we will clean house this week.

1884, May 9th—Post Card

- **Author(s):** Ellen Lousina "Nellie" Bliley (Age: 20)
- **Addressee:** Frank Bliley (Age: 18)
- **Address:** Corry, Pennsylvania
- **Postmarked:** Erie, Pennsylvania
- **Notes:**

- He may have been visiting his older sister, Barbara Lambing, and her husband in Corry.
- Frank is a college student in Edinboro Normal School, Pennsylvania studying to become a teacher between 1883 and 1886.
- Written in very small, almost microscopic, letters

At Home May 9th 84

Dear brother

I was delighted on the receipt of your last. There was only 45 lines. that beats me. If I understand what you are talking about you accuse me wrongfully and a brother who will be so cruel as that. Well I guess I would hardly disinheriet him, but I would be just revengeful enough that if he were here to night (an expression of Inezs) would put salt in his mush. Who was it that wrote the first postal in ans to a letter? Well I am tired to night Rose and I cleaned mothers bedroom to day. that is all we have cleaned down stares. It has been as rainy all week I made Mother a wrapper and did some other sewing this week. mother just went down stairs. she sends her love to you and wants to know hoe she shall set the Tomatoes out in hills or in rows and about how many? she has beans up and several things. I am very thankful the wise Providence that he sends us a rainy day, occasionally for if there was no rainy days mother would get no rest at all and then we tell her she acts as though she was lost

Your advice, I have not come to a clusion yet. whether it is all as it should be or not. had you have of said 9 instead of 8:30 I would abide by it right along. you know this chicken never was such an early bird as that. Though I have been steady and regular this week 9 oclock has taken me to my humble est every night. But I fear for you, brother lest you shall in some evil hour breakin to the good advice you give. and fail ti practice what you preach. beware such frivolity. Had I been to Barbs last Sun. I think you hardly have stood chance of eating too much. WE had strwaberry short cake the othrer day. it was lucious. If I had the remotest idea you would write I would send you two or three sheets of fools cap.

but I guess hadnt better test that will of yours to much for fear of a deficiency. I am going to the City to morrow. Fanny & Elma both inquire about you. I dont know whether we will come. that(?) but if we should I will let you know in ample time to have clean hands and face and your hair comed Now try your best to come a head of this in clarified esticiseness(?) and compact intelligibility

Write again in due time

Lovingly your sister Nell

1884, May 16th—Post Card

- **Author(s):** Ellen Lousina "Nellie" Bliley (Age: 20)

- **Addressee:** Frank Bliley (Age: 18)
- **Address:** Corry, Pennsylvania
- **Postmarked:** Wesleyville, Pennsylvania
- **Notes:**
 - He may have been visiting his older sister, Barbara Lambing, and her husband in Corry.
 - Frank is a college student in Edinboro Normal School, Pennsylvania studying to become a teacher between 1883 and 1886.

May 16th 1884

Dear brother Frank.

while the fire is starting for supper, I will write you a few lines in responce to yours of the last. Rose recd a letter from Fene. WE regret very much to hear of the serious accident. I wisj I could hear from her to day. Any(?) I should think they all would feel just dreadful about it. I hope she will recover. I am pretty well played out to night as we have cleaned the wood shed to day. Will move the stove next week and finish up. i wish you could just step in ans see how clean we look. the men are very busy plowing & planting corn. Father just sold a two year old for \$60.00. Rose and I received a letter from Ellie & Minnie Hiles to day

[Rotated additions]

Mother is going up to Charlie to morrow. Abe is very sick he is there.

Rose is going to stay in Erie over Sunday

Yours with love Nellie

everything looks just lovely now I wish you could come home

1884, May 21st—Letter

- **Author(s):** Ellen Lousina "Nellie" Bliley (Age: 20)
- **Addressee:** Frank Bliley (Age: 18)
- **Address:** Corry, Pennsylvania
- **Postmarked:** Wesleyville, Pennsylvania
- **Notes:**
 - He may have been visiting his older sister, Barbara Lambing, and her husband in Corry.
 - Frank is a college student in Edinboro Normal School, Pennsylvania studying to become a teacher between 1883 and 1886.

- Salutation with Frank spelled "Phrank" is intentional.

At home May 21st 84

8:45 P.M.

Dear brother Phrank

I was glad to get your letter and will now ans immediately,

To day we finished house cleaning and I am not sorry at all. we moved the stove out in the summer kitchen put down the carpet in the dining room and done a large ironing this afternoon and baked a cake.

Fannie Davis is coming out to morrow to stay a few days.

Pete Hume had an accident to night though not serious as it might have been. he was taking Ag and the youngest child home. The horse frightened at something in the road turned right around. Thru them all out and tipped the buggy over. none were hurt nor the buggy.

This has been about the nicest day we have had this Spring

Well are you not astonished at your cousin. I think it is about the worse cae of the kind I ever heard of. I do not know what they will do with her. It is just awful. We mistrusted it some time ago, but did not want to judge her then in that way for it seemed so incredible we could not believe it until we were convinced. Oh she has ruined herself for life, and caused them such untold grief. I pity uncle Andrew from the botom of my heart. He does not know what to do.

I have not seen a strawberry yet, but expect to befor the Summer is over.

Just extend the time a week and we wont disappoint you.. If nothing happens unforeseen now. WE will be at Corry Pa a week from Sat May 31st 84 four of us. Will wants to know if you will have a barn to keep the horses in or if not he will take them to the Livery stable. I suppose of course you will have a stabled Ox and other things accordingly.

I hope John wont be away.

Will says he never happens to be home when he was there.

Well I am sleepy and will close. Will, Rose and I sat up and talked until 11 oclock last night about Frances and other things. The first night I heard of it I could not go to sleep until two oclock thinking about it.

Hoping to hear from you soon. I bid you Good night pleasant dreams,

sister - Nell

Hug and Kiss Baby for me.

1884, June 12th—Letter

- **Author(s):** Ellen Lousina "Nellie" Bliley (Age: 21)
- **Addressee:** Frank Bliley (Age: 19)
- **Address:** Corry, Pennsylvania
- **Postmarked:** Wesleyville, Pennsylvania — No year
- **Notes:**
 - He may have been visiting his older sister, Barbara Lambing, and her husband in Corry.
 - Frank is a college student in Edinboro Normal School, Pennsylvania studying to become a teacher between 1883 and 1886.
 - Since she used the pejorative, "Phrank", in this letter within a month, the year is almost certain to be 1884.

At Home Wednesday 9 oclock P.M.

Dear brother Phrank

The clock just struck nine. The family with the exception of Will and I have retired. Inez is now crying in her sleep. I do not know how long we will keep her. Yesterday I told her to pick up a lounge pillow which lay on the floor. She said "You pick it up, there is a bone in my back, I cant."

Ross received a letter from Barb yesterday. We were glad to hear from her. Tell her to make up her mind to come home in Cherry time. Tell Fene we will meet her at the depot and will have strawberries and cream for dinner.

We have given up our visit down there this spring but will expect to see you all during the Sum. No doubt you will be disappointed when I tell you what I was going to say and what I was going to say is this. Father says he would like your help during Harvesting. He says he feels he is entitled to a little of your much needed help. I presume you had as soon be shaved and go to Dixmont [] or Sing Sing, but never mind it wont last long then you may return to the City again. We have had a glorious good rain this week. It was needed badly and has done a great deal of good. - Mother and father would drive down Sat were it not for*

[Added page is torn off with some text on tear line. Looks like part of letter was intentionally removed.]

now mentioned our coming down at all. on account of disappointing you folks We looked for George Bliley and his wife here to day. perhaps they will come to morrow. To morrow is a Holy day guess I will attend church

We look for a painter to morrow to paint our house.

Father got a letter from Dave yesterday

He is still in Doylestown. I have my hair cut a gain. Guess I will go to Cranch, M.D. to Dr for my head.

Much love to all Nellie

[*Dixmont was the name of an "insane asylum" near Emsworth, PA which was closed in 1884.]

1884, August 26th—Letter

- **Author(s):** Ellen Lousina "Nellie" Bliley (Age: 21)
- **Addressee:** Frank Bliley (Age: 19)
- **Address:** Edinboro, Pennsylvania
- **Postmarked:** Wesleyville, Pennsylvania
- **Notes:**
 - Frank is a college student in Edinboro Normal School, Pennsylvania studying to become a teacher between 1883 and 1886.

Aug 26. '84. Wesleyville Penn

Mr Frank A Bliley

Dear brother Frank

as you requested it. I start our bravely to begin a diary for your special benefit. Time, Dat time.

Tuesday, 8.30. A.M. Place, up stairs in my room. Position. leaning decidedly forward in a rocking chair, with both elbows on the table. Nothing more than chirography could consence be expected in this position. And it is only through a little misfortune that I am here now writing.

Our folks went berrying yesterday accordingly the washing was put off until to day. I went at it. got the tub up. put some watter in. and I thought the watter run out faster than I put it in. I then left it. thinking may be it would swell. went to get the Key board of the piano (wash board) down in readiness and found it disabled so it could not be used. Well I was quite agreeably disappointed and left apparently disgusted. Rose is well equiped with wash tub and board however. and is hard at it. I must go down in a minit and help what I can. -- This is just a lovely day.

It rained enough last night to lay the dust. Father and Will are working at the sluice down below the house. He says the rest of the men are so slow getting out. There is Rose calling me and I must not tarry.

Thursday 9.30 A.M.

I am all ready and waiting for Will and Rose. We're going to the Harvest Home picnic, up to the Head (Massaugua Point) WE have our lunch and will eat with Mr Zahns: Rose has made a mash on a mr Kelso. (a nice young man 28 years old, worth \$20.00, and she says she is going if she has to walk. He is a friend of Netties They called here the other day. Then Rose and Will spent Sun afternoon down there. he being there.

We anticipate the nicest kind of a time to day. Such a treat to go there. a beautiful day we are favored with. -- Mother and Father will eat their dinner a C.O.W.s and go down with them.

Dear me these sleeves are to tight to write much. But before I go any farther however. I must tell you I was pleased to get a letter from you testerday and O. My! I have so much to tell you. but how am I going to write it all. To begin with let me say yourletters have never wearied me on act of being too lengthy. Just try me with a longer one next time.

Well firstly I will surprise you by saying There is to be a wedding in the family the -4 of Sept 84.

Guess who. You are invited. I wont keep you in suspence. brother Dave is going to marry a cousin of Lizzies from Doylestown, Ohio. He wants his goods from home. We are satisfied that he is going to get married. We heard from Alex also. He is running engine a \$3.50 a day and has got \$13.50 from those N.Y. parties -- Rose and I attended the Red Mens picnic, over to the Grove yesterday. it was nicer than the E.A.U. though not as large.

[Added page]

Aug 28th 10 oclock. A.M.

While the irons are heating I will write a few lines in my Diary. Well I do not believe I was ever nearer a totak wreck, than I am to day. I am in a rocker writing on the Holy Bible. We had a delightful time yesterday. Thousands of people there. Nettie Zahn and I run around until we were tired out. I believe she gave me fifty introductions. She is so well acquainted. W.L. Scott made a short speech. Pleanty of music in attendance. I must go to work and cut my Mother Hubbard wrapper this afternoon. Exit.

Friday. 29th

Elma Davis came out this afternoon. Rose met her at the 3 oclock train, Rose Mead was over a little while. She borrowed some music. It rained hard in the night, and rained some all forenoon. Settles the dust. Started the grass and refreshed things in general.

Friday. 30th Setting up stairs at my table with my Mother Hubbard on. Oh it is just grand. so cool, easy, and comfortable. Why, I would not five dollars for it and do without it. though it did not cost only

Well I forgot I was talking to a young man, what do they care about Mother Hubbards.

This is a beautiful. The air is so pure and warm. Though the wind sounds like Fall and makes us think of it as it whistles around and down the chimneys. it tells us that Summer

is nearly passed and cold, windy and rainy Fall is about here, ready to step in her shoes. Elma, Rose and I are going down to the Village after tea. the Will, will come down in the evening. I wish you were here to help us eat plumbs. - Mother, father and Ross got home from the city to day about noon.

Aug 31st Rose and I took Elma home and went to church.

Mother called on Nancy Barton. She is quite low. the Dr thinks there is no use in taking any more medicine. she has the black Janders and Dropsey of the bowls.

Sept 1st 84. Rose and are ready to go up to Capt Davises we are going aboard the vesel.

so I will close hoping to hear from you soon. I would like to hear from Minnie

Lovingly your sister

Nellie

1884, Sept 2nd—Letter

- **Author(s):** Ellen Lousina "Nellie" Bliley (Age: 21)
- **Addressee:** Frank Bliley (Age: 19)
- **Address:** Edinboro, Pennsylvania
- **Postmarked:** Erie, Pennsylvania
- **Notes:**
 - Frank is a college student in Edinboro Normal School, Pennsylvania studying to become a teacher between 1883 and 1886.

Sept 2nd "84

Dear brother.

I will now start a new diary. It is late. Della and Susie Moorhead came this afternoon. After tea we went down to Matties to call.

Sept 3rd I am very sleepy but will pen a few lines before I retire.

Barb and baby came home with Rose and father about 2 oclock this afternoon. We were very much surprised to see them. about 3 oclock the two girls Rose and I and Mattie drove down and called on Lil Kelsey. Then after supper Rose and Will went with them they were going to call at belle Greenwoods. The evening is perfectly grand. good night.

Sept 4. Thursday. It has been exceedingly warm to day. It looked very much like rain this fore noon but all passed away. Louisa and Clara Kennedy were here a while this evening. Clara has seen a good deal of trouble but never the less she is as gay as ever.

Friday the 5th. Very warm and dry all day. Yesterday Will went to the Milk Mens picnic. He said it was kind of a rough crowd

Barb and Rose spent the aft up to Jane's Nancy Barton died last night or this morning at 2 oclock. The funeral to be Sunday. The remains are in Burtons the Undertakers care. Grandma went to Erie Wednesday. Frances writes to her papa. it is just a little Heaven out there. Father sent Daves good to day. a dry goods box and a barrel.

Sept 6. Mother Ross and I went to the city to day and a warmer dustier ride I do not believe I ever experienced Mother and Barb and father spent the evening over to uncle Johns. Belle Bennet was here. Had quite an exhibition here having the chilldrence speak pieces

Gertie and Elliott came to Erie to day. Gertie stays here to night.

Sun 7. They all went to the funeral except my seld and the children. It was a very long funeral. Ed did not get here. Mothers Grandchildren were all here to day. They have all gone up to Aunt Bells.

Ag, Charlie and George came down this fore noon. Charlie, Will and Will Mead are down cellar. My dignity is somewhat aroused. Ag and Rose has gone away out to Mr Otts to look for a girl

Ags girl went away yesterday.

Minnie was not quite so well this morning. Uncle Washington was taken sick yesterday. very much like a sun stroke. They went to Dr Moore for him to day.

Elliott is coming down to night.

I got a letter from Nellie(?) Zahn yesterday, inviting us to a tea party, Thursday. We have an invitation our to Mr Dightons(?) Tuesday evening, to a china wedding.

It has been hot, hotter, hottest to day.

Dear Diary, this is Wed the 10th and I have been neglecting you for a couple of days. lack of ambition caused from overtaxing myself at the wash tub, Monday and excessive heat makes me indolent. Yesterday I was ill So that Rose and Barb done most of the ironing. Then after dinner Ross took Rose to Erie from there she was going out to Charlies to stay until tomorrow to help put up

[Added page]

2nd

some pairs. Ross on his return brought me a letter from you. I was delighted with it. Indeed I think it is the longest letter you ever sent me I only hope the rest may be like it. That remains to be seen. You know I never did like the little Postal Card letters I dont know as you will believe me. I have had a hard cold and how I got it this hot weather is a conumdrum even to my self.

I m sneezing half the time. It is disagreeable, but I hope I wont be guilty of grumbling. Yesterday P.M. I was taking a nap in the parlor on the lounge when I was told I had callers. Not wishing to appear in my Mother Hubbard, I kited up the stares and changed in a twinkling Almost. I came down and found it to be Nellie Zahn, Lill Kelsey and Mr Dagget of Erie. Nettie wanted Will and I to come down to night and go out boat riding with them. They had not been away ten minutes before I found myself in that preferable Mother Hubbard. Enjoy it did you say? I guess I do these hot days. Then! Mother calling me to come down, she wants me, So like a dutiful child I must leave you dear diary to come soon again. Supper got and eaten work downstairs all done up after chatting with the rest some, I return to my post again. Time 7.35 P.M. Oh it is raining delightfully. How good it seems to have a good rain to purify the air and freshen the earth. It certainly is a God send. WE have been wishing for it for so long. -- I have quit going to picnics for this season I think I really got tired of them, - I think my cold has about reached its height, as I do not sneeze any more. You should see me going around the past two days with a handkerchief in my hand, any one would think I was feeling very bad about some thing. - Oh about the calves you were inquiring as to their wellfare, Well if you really wanted to know I guess you asked the wrong person. Though I guess they are pretty well "thank you" havent heard any thing to the contrary. Father has been offered \$250.00 for Nellie cow and the other animals

[Rotated addition]

and refused it.

[Back to "normal"]

The men have been cutting corn to day. Uncle Andrew brought Grandma home this afternoon And I expected to commence the stiches on my crazy work, but did not however, writing to you in preference. I will discontinue for to night and write a few lines to aunt Lodema(?) in regards to her sister, deceased.

Thursday 11th 5.33 P.M. Rose and I got back just in time for supper. I took Barb and baby up to Charlies. Such a lovely day to drive. not a bit of dust. I was so disappointed. just the other side of Mr R. Kings we met Fanny Davis and Mr Barfus. They had been out to see me. She wanted me to get out and go home with them. I must go and stay a few days with her. She will hardly take no for an ans. I saw uncle John. he said school commences the first Monday in Nov. and he did not know as it made any particular difference

[Rotated addition]

if you put it off one week on account of your school out

[Upside down addition]

there Though it does not seem right to me for you to do so.

[Addition not clearly related to anything else]

(I meant to say \$1350.00 Alex received) dont know why I made that mistake

[Upside down addition]

Friday th 12 After tea Rose and I went up to uncle Washingtons. just called Minnie is getting better, also uncle Washington. They have six boarders who are working on the new school house. John came about 7 1/2 oclock. We were very glad to see him

It has been a bright beautiful Fall day. but to cold to suit me. Well this is full so

[Rotated addition]

will seal and send it with much love I am your sister Nellie

1884, November 4th—Letter

- **Author(s):** Ellen Lousina "Nellie" Bliley (Age: 21)
- **Addressee:** Frank Bliley (Age: 19)
- **Address:** Edinboro, Pennsylvania
- **Postmarked:** Wesleyville, Pennsylvania
- **Notes:**
 - Frank is a college student in Edinboro Normal School, Pennsylvania studying to become a teacher between 1883 and 1886.
 - There was no postmark on the envelope, the reference to an election on the day of the letter and the month of October sets it as 1884.

Nov 4th

Dear

brother

I am disappointed to say we can not come out after you. Our men folks are so busy (that father says he would rather pay your way out on the stage. Of course You will see some of our folks in Erie. No doubt you have heard of Lizzie Sims marriage

I can tell you od another one when you come home. Hoping to see you soon I remain your sister

Nellie

[Rotated addition]

Who are you going to vote for to day

1885, March 24th—Letter

- **Author(s):** Ellen Lousina "Nellie" Bliley (Age: 22)
- **Addressee:** Frank Bliley (Age: 20)
- **Address:** Edinboro, Pennsylvania
- **Postmarked:** Erie, Pennsylvania
- **Notes:**
 - Frank is a college student in Edinboro Normal School, Pennsylvania studying to become a teacher between 1883 and 1886.

Wesleyville, Penn Mar 24th '85

Dear brother,

How do you do this evening? I should like very much to step in and see you. Are you visiting with old friends or studying? Oh I for got I was just to write about the weather was I not. keep you posted about that if nothing more. Well to day has been quite changeable, All fore noon it looked as though it was going to give some weather of a different kind. For some time seemed difficult to tell whether it was to be rain or snow. finely the wind took a sudden change in an other quarter and a beautiful snow storm bursted down up on us. It has snowed snowed about half a foot. giving us a chance to sleigh ride again. Well I can not dwell on the weather subject any longer. as I have run out of something to say about it and have something else to talk about. I did not write last evening because we had company until late. Emmer Frank and Mary Sewell and Mr McClure spent the evening. Minnie Nellie and Edith were here for tea this afternoon. - I commenced mothers brown dress to day. got the lining out and fitted. am going to make it basque with short draping set on and single box plaiting on the skirt I imagine I here you say. Oh how interesting. Well dear diary, it is with a deep drawn sigh I say good night. I am too sleepy to write any thing interesting to night so will retire.

Friday evening. 27th Well dear do I owe you an apology for neglecting you so shamefully these last few days?

Oh I forgot to tell you I received your postal Card in due time. I was very glad to hear from you. But really Frank what makes you tax your self with so much. Didnt you feel all tired out when you finished? should thought you would have. Why I havent got entirely over it yet, Will Rose and I were over to the McClures Wednesday evening. we were down to Mr Zahns for tea in the afternoon.

Thursday Mother took Inez and went up to Ags. She will stay until to morrow, There was a party down to Cash Wagners last evening. Rose went with Wilces.(?) I made up my mind to stay at home. when Charlie came along and wanted me to go. but I did not dance. They all seemed to have a nice time. Alex played danced up stares in the front room. I like Cashes wife very much.

The roads are getting to be very muddy.

I an sleepy. so I guess I had better sign my name before I get part of a dream in here. You taking it for a fact. The young folks inquire about you. Now I will expect a good long letter in reply to this. good night

affectionately your sister

Nellie

1885, April 2nd—Letter

- **Author(s):** Ellen Lousina "Nellie" Bliley (Age: 22); Rosanna "Rose" Bliley (Age: 25)
- **Addressee:** Frank Bliley (Age: 20)
- **Address:** Edinboro, Pennsylvania
- **Postmarked:** Erie, Pennsylvania
- **Notes:**
 - Frank is a college student in Edinboro Normal School, Pennsylvania studying to become a teacher between 1883 and 1886.

At Home Apr 2nd '85

Dear brother Frank

I have been wanting to write every evening. but actually i could not. So I will pen a few lines to night I was glad to get your letter. Guess you will be obliged to diet this term out there wont you? Come home and I will bake you a pan cake. -- I got a letter from Alex the other day. He is very busy. Aspen is a place of about 5000 men and the average forty new comers in on the stage every day. -- Got a letter from Agzin(?) Sunnby also. She thinks of coming down here next fall It is nine years since they moved. Nellie Bonnell stayed here last night. Will came home yesterday and Rose went up to Charlies to this morning to stay until Sat. Ags girl has gone home, her mother was sick. I do not know who Ag will get now. It is too bad The roads here are very muddy.

Apr 3rd It has stormed and snowed all day. quite a blizzard. W. Robinson just went home. Will and father cleaned the cistern out to day. No mail but the Observer. Guess thats all good night.

[Change of handwriting - Following by Rose]

At home Apr. 5 Dear Brother

If I am not mistaken you said I might write a few lines once in a while. Well to begin with Mother is getting dinner. Aunt Belle. Edith. & Louisa. are here for dinner. are going to have eggs. Turnips. eggs. potatoes. eggs. other things to numerous to mention & eggs Wish you were here to partake of some of the good things. I went up to Charlies Thursday & stayed till yesterday brought George home with me. I dont know what Ag will do for a girl. it dont worry her though. we have had one run of sap made about two quarts of molasses. Will & father cleaned the cistern out Friday. Wish it would rain soon now. My but the roads are bad. I presume you have fine sleighing way out there. Father sold three heads of stock of his. will get \$130.00. he gave Mother \$6.00 for a dress. WE have lots of work to do now: There is going to be a dime social at Dr. Moors this week Friday evening

Father has made Will two offers to work for him one he will pay him by the month or else can work the farm and have a Third interest & Father will pay expenses. Will hasn't decided which is the best way to do.

Looking for Elliot out some time this month: Have you heard Gen Grant is very low.(?) mat(?) is a typical(?) of the Question now. Well I guess brother I better adjourn(?) & let Nellie finish her writing so much more agreeable to read. Must Dress(?) up sum.(?) Write soon yours Lovingly Rose;

[Back to Nellie]

Tuesday Apr

Dearest brother I am with you again. as usual only in thought. This ink is just horrid. I filled the ink bottle with what I thought was by the looks most excellent black ink. but you can see for yourself just how excellent it was. We must get some more. also some pens. I can hardly write with this. K<other is getting dinner assisted by Rose. We will have noodle soup potatoes, coffee bread, butter and apples and cream, etc. It is sprinkling trying to rain. I wish it would pour down for a while our cistern wants about one hundred and forty barrels. -- School began on the Hill yesterday. Ross thinks it hardly worth while to take his books up. -- Father taped the maples last week. we have about one gallon of molasses. It is not very good sugar weather

[Change to pencil]

Apr 11th I have neglected this writing very much but beg pardon for the same as it was next to impossible to do any other way. Rose Will and I attended a siciable at Dr Moors last night. We had a very pleasant time. The roads have been so very bad we could not get any place hardly. They are bad yet. And this morning it is snowing again. It does not look much like spring. -- We have made a couple of gallon of maple sirup. It is not good sugar weather. Excuse this pencil I had not sufficient patience to bother with that pen and ink. - Mrs Ben Whittly has a young daughter. Grandma has been confined to her bed for the last two days. She received the sacraments.[] She was so anxious. Father went after father Boniface of St Marys church He stayed for dinner. we had a nice little visit with him and liked him very much. He said in his conversation if any one would come to him and convince him. that he was professing and teaching a wrong doctrine and would show him one that was better he would kiss the hand of that gentleman thank him a thousand times and would join the new doctrine to night. He would not be a catholic to morrow. But however, he has made this subject a life study. was at college eleven years and the more he studies the more convinced he is. He says I am anxious to get to heaven and it is like this if I want to go to a certain point in the north I deem it quite worth my while to take great pains and not get aboard a train bound for the south. for then I would unconsciously be going a different direction from the place I in view. I am anxious to reach. Well this is horrid writing. but father and mother are getting ready to go to Erie. Grandma I think is better. just old age*

Your sister Nellie

Write soon.

[*Catherine Eich Bleile, Rose and Nellie's grandmother did not die in this time period. She died six years later on January 1, 1891 at the age of 95!]

1885, April 12th—Letter

- **Author(s):** Ellen Lousina "Nellie" Bliley (Age: 22)
- **Addressee:** Frank Bliley (Age: 20)
- **Address:** Edinboro, Pennsylvania
- **Postmarked:** Erie, Pennsylvania
- **Notes:**
 - Frank is a college student in Edinboro Normal School, Pennsylvania studying to become a teacher between 1883 and 1886.

Apr 12th '85

Dear brother, we mis the little clock and you very much, or you and the little clock. lets see which way should I write it? which is missed most? I look up at that sheld were the clock "used to was" about forty times a day. and you, I think of you and wish you were here all the time. (that is when I am not bery busy). so then it must be properly speaking Frank and the clock. Well I have been in giving the piano a kind of surprise. Tired myself all out and the piano well I do not suppose it is any better for it.

*Last evening Mr and Mrs McClure(?) was here. Dave Mead stayed here all night.
Monday 13th 8 P.M.*

It has been snowing nearly all day. I do not care very much how the weathrer goes this week as I have sewing to be done. mother has a new dress and George has two.

I just have been up in grandmas room. took her supper up. She has not sit up any yet. I think though she will be better in a few days, mother and father are spending the evening over to Mr McClures.

Will went to the village and Rose and Ross are reading. I have nearly finished the works of Cobbert on the Protestant Refformation. (Devistation is the right word) He argues that before the so called Reformation England was more powerful and more wealthy, anf that the people were more free, more moral, better fed and better clad than any time since that event took place. which to establish a church by law. It cost rivers of blood. Many were the barbarities committed under the hypercritical pretense of religious zeal. When I finish book I have five other books that I am anxious to read. I do not have enough time to read. not as much as I would like.

Tuesday Apr 14th dear diary

This afternoon as I was working on mothers new dress I dropped the shears and they stuck in the floor. stood straight up. mother said "that was a sign a stranger was a coming"

It is now 9:15 and the stranger has not put in his appearance

Hence, I am of little faith in those signs. Will went to Lodge this evening. I saw one sleigh go down by this morning

The snow however is nearly gone now. Apr 16th I am very sleepy this evening but will stop to chat one minute. Will, Rose and I were out last night until one o'clock this morning. to a surprise party down to Bell Moors.(?) She got a new golden brown dress all ready made.

Taylor fashion and a pair of gold bracelets. It was a complete surprise however and we all had a nice time. Were treated to candy. only about fifteen there. The report is that the Dr is going to see a horse(?) hash(?) there was a dog run over in Erie to day and killed. Will has done to the village. 19th Last night at about 9: o'clock Mother was sent for to go to Aunt Bells. She had one of her old hard spells

The hardest she ever had. they did not think she would live but was better this afternoon

Rose and Will took George home this afternoon. aunt Gertrude and Uncle Andrew was here for dinner. Grandma was down stairs/ A good deal better. The roads are getting dusty.

Apr 21st Bert Arbuckle and Mr Brecht were here for dinner to day. They are trying to sell father a pulverizer. Mr and Mrs Spade and Mrs Sidney Sewell and Josephine were here for supper. Some one married lives about two miles south-west of here. Guess who. Sarah(?) Laveny(?) was married this morning to a widow lady from North East. worth about \$20,000.00

The Dr sat down by Mrs Webster Chambers after he had passed the candy. Mr Appleby turned around and said "Dr did you get this candy down to North East"?

He hardly knew what to say. I think it must be false about him courting a gain.

By the way brother I received a letter from you Tuesday morning and i think about Monday you would get the one I sent to you. I am very glad how ever that distance saves me pain only for that I presume I would be obliged to do hypercritical penance

I would like to be a mouse and hear you debate and that Epistle

I think it will in short time have to be revised. Would it be against the law to change it?

Grad sat up a little while to day for the first time since she has been sick. We have some beautiful flowers now. Two Pestinies(?) in bloom, one crimson and one white. Three or four geraniums and the Prim-rose.

Ross was to the village twice to day to take and get the mail. Frank haven't you smiled on any of the girls yet. Is she a blonde or a brunette? I presume handsome good amiable and perfect in every respect. Well that is all right Frank I won't tell any one if you tell me

We made a little more mollasses tp day: guess I'll sign my name for a change and go to my little bed. N.B. Friday the 17th

Grandma is about the same to night. She sat up a few minutes. Will begun to drag for the first. Father and Ross worked in the sugar bush. Ross has just come from the Village with the mail. I can hear him downstairs

I have my writing material up stars in my room. The roads are drying fast. The Oxford xclub meets at Mr Applebees to night. I must write a letter to Barb so I will leave you for a while a gain. Sat 18th A line of my writing, oh what shall it be as there is nothing I know that will interest thee. Unless it is this. Mother Ross and also father were Erie to day and I got a new calico dress. I think I will make it yoke waist and and full skirt.

Frank Spades oldest son. The came out to Mr Laverys in a hack, for dinner. They took the train this afternoon away some place to visit relatives of his. Every one was surprised to hear it. She did not even tell Jennie and some of the rest. They will live in Erie and will go to house keeping as soon as they get back. Will has gone to Lodge. Willie Robison is to be initiated to night. Wednesday 22

It is so exceedingly warm I do not know hardly how I am to sew this afternoon. Rose is going to the village. She look for Elma out. WE need rain badly. I received your letter this morning. It was read with delight.

You are very kind to deny your self a walk last Sunday that you might write to your friends and relatives.

Yes the spring is very late and father would like it if he could get an other horse to work with Billie. As they have so much plowing to do. The wheat is all killed and will have to be turned under. Father has gone to the City to day. There was a pedler here for dinner. As Mr Arbuckle said The warmer weather bring out the Agents pedlers, this and such pests. Well I will sign and seal this scribbling and send it on its mission to Edinboro, Pa.

Your affectionate sister Nellie

As yet I have not come across your gloves Think you must have lost them.

1885, May 4th—Letter

- **Author(s):** Ellen Lousina "Nellie" Bliley (Age: 22)
- **Addressee:** Frank Bliley (Age: 20)
- **Address:** Edinboro, Pennsylvania
- **Postmarked:** Erie, Pennsylvania
- **Notes:**
 - Frank is a college student in Edinboro Normal School, Pennsylvania studying to become a teacher between 1883 and 1886.

- "Lakeside" may be the nickname for the farm of Mary Agnes "Ag" Bliley Wagner, Nellie's older sister (28) and her husband Charles/"Charlie" on which he was the manager.
- Frank spelled "Phrank" is intentional.

Lakeside, Monday evening May 4. 1885

Dearest brother

poor neglected boy, I have not had time to write to you for more than a week I have one at home commenced to you and for got to bring it with me yesterday.

So I will as you see commence on a new sheet.

I was up here to Ags all last week sewing and there is a plenty to do this week. Take my word for it, It takes something like patience to fit any thing on those little children for they can not possibly stand still more than a couple of seconds at a time and are in all kinds of positions in no time. They have had some bad luck since I came here. A week ago to day I came, after dinner

Charlie said he was going way out in West Mill Creek and wanted me to go with him

I said I would like very much but I thought I had better stay and do some sewing. He said he was going to take the best horse and buggy and would not take no for an answer so we went way out to Miles Grove fairview & Girard. took the Lake Road out and the Ridge back home. Had the horse they called sorel Billy, he appeared quite tired we noticed the last half mile home and we let him walk. But about as soon as the harnes was taken off He was taken sick and grew worse very rapidly, Dr Bell was immediately summoned but all he could do was of no avail. The poor horse bloated up and suffered terribly. He was taken at 7 oclock and died at 11. Was worth at least \$200.00 Charlie felt very bad and Mr Tracy was very sorry but did not say much. It was acute indigestion. One of the men Mr Mantel Had the Dr called in one day, suffering with quinsy. He is now out again. Ag has a city girl who never worked out before. She is modes. very much of a lady. particularly about her work and Ag likes her splendid. Ag and I went home Saturday night and come back yesterday. I will discontinue for to night and write again.

Tuesday evening, Nothing of interest took place to day. Yesterday Charlie had a half a dozen dutch women out to work for him at a dollar a day. He says they can do more work than a man. To day it rained. Abe is nere yet, and I do not believe he is as well as he was last winter. He look very bad I guess he does not take much of any fancy medicine now. There is only seven men folks to set down to the table here.

This is Wednesday evening, It is after 9 oclock and all have gone to bed.

This has been a beautiful spring day.

Mr Tracy is out once or twice every day. They will move out before long . We were going down to the rink(?) this evening, then was too late when Ag and Charlie returned from Erie. So I guess to morrow night we will go to the opera house

I can not think of any more to write and as I am not good at composing ??? guess I had better chop this short

hoping to hear from you soon.

Affectionately your sister Nellie

Phrank A Bliley

Edinboro

Penn

1885, June 8th—Letter

- **Author(s):** Ellen Lousina "Nellie" Bliley (Age: 22)
- **Addressee:** Frank Bliley (Age: 20)
- **Address:** Edinboro, Pennsylvania
- **Postmarked:** Wesleyville, Pennsylvania
- **Notes:**
 - Frank is a college student in Edinboro Normal School, Pennsylvania studying to become a teacher between 1883 and 1886.
 - The first paragraph is blunt about Frank helping out the family at a time of need after "father" has done so much for him in looking for, and preparing for, several careers. Father wrote to Frank on February 22, 1884, just a few months earlier and told Frank it was O.K. with him to pursue a career outside of the farm. Several years later, Father wrote to Frank telling him he would not provide any additional funds for educations and to employ what he had learned in pursuit of a career. In other words, "The time has come, to get a move on it!"

At Home June 8th. 85

Dear brother

I wish on our account I had not sent that letter quite so soon. thought I wrote just what father told me to. He has been thinking more about the matter since. He will help you in the way of lending you some money. but he wants you to come home and help during the harvesting. Father is scarcely able to do any of the hard work himself and around here help is very scarce and do not know where to look for any. So Frank I believe you are the one elected to fill the vacancy. I think as father offers to help you finish you should come with out a murmer. and stay for a few weeks. you owe in fact all you time to him as yet. He reluctantly at first but now willingly gives you all your time. which is worth a

good-deal. and in doing so he is doing more for you than any of the rest of us. and I am very glad for your sake that he is willing for you to finish and as much as he may feel able to help you no one will ever begrudge it. Now that he has made up his mind he would like you to come. he might not be so willing to help you. if you refused. so make up your mind to that effect.

I received your invitation Sat It is gotten up nicely. Rose and I are wild to come but of course the way things are run here I could hardly tell so far a way how it will be.

If we go will you come home with us?

It rained some last night.

The sun is cheering us again with its genial warmth.

Aunt Bell took Inez home with her yesterday. to stay a few days. Mother brought her home Sat last.

Eliza Chambers is seriously sick. The Dr said it was excessive fat around the heart. and brain. her mind is affected at times.

Anna Ditley(?) is seriously sick though I guess she is out of danger since she has the billious fever. The Dr has been calling twice a day for a week. guess Rose and I will call there some day this week if we can. After supper we would like to go over to call on Burt Davidson. He is confined to his room now. and has given up. -- Our men folks are not very busy now. they have the planting all done with the exception of a few potatoes. and will commence to work out the road tax soon. I must close. Good bye

Your sister Nellie

P.S. Have you any idea you would like the Hill school this winter

If you do not want it let us know immediately for Minnie will then apply for it then if you

[Rotated addition]

do not intend to teach.

1885, September 7th—Letter

- **Author(s):** Ellen Lousina "Nellie" Bliley (Age: 22)
- **Addressee:** Frank Bliley (Age: 20)
- **Address:** Edinboro, Pennsylvania
- **Postmarked:** Erie, Pennsylvania
- **Notes:**
 - Letter in pencil, envelope in ink

- Frank is a college student in Edinboro Normal School, Pennsylvania studying to become a teacher between 1883 and 1886.

At Home Sept 7th 85

Dear brother,

the Very first, excuse the leadpencil

I could not find a pen that would write and I was determined to write any way. for am anxious to know whether you are in the land of the living yet or not, If you are I should be pleased to be informed of the fact by you in the way of a letter. Now Frank I do realize it has been a long time since you went away, and received your postal in due time, then you said you would write again, and I have not had a sign of a letter from you since I dont know may be you do not want to hear from home. if such is the case why yooou can make a bon fire of this right away. but I'll risk it though. for I have lotts of interesting things to tell you and you will miss it. To begin with the chickens are all well as usual. I mean the chicks here in the house. I knew you would take the wrong meaning of it so I will quit about that.

Mother has not been very well for a couple weeks she and father drove down to Corry a week or so ago Sun_ and stayed until the following Wednesday. -- Uncle John has been confined to his bed for about three weeks. it is his kidneys and Liver. He is on the gain now.

Will and Rose went up there this evening. -- Louisa Bonnell has been at St Vincents Hospital since a week ago Sunday, an other malignant tumor was coming right side of the first one. and she had to have some thing done. she is under the treatment of Dr Stewart. He said he could tell in two weeks whether or not he can help her. I feel very sorry for her.

Will has quit his girl up to the City and has no one in view now. I have attended a picnic of the EAU over to Winter Green gulf and then to the hall in the eve

We had a nice time. Though I have enjoyed my self better a great many times. then I attended the social at Dr Moors of the Grand Army, and at the Hall in the evening. but Hat. K. and I did not dance. It was a very mixed crowd. among the rest was C. Hall(?) and his two sisters. friends often inquire about you.

Last Thursday Rose and I was down to Matties

[Added page]

There was four or five others there to tea. Then Sat. We invited Mattie - Nettie(?) Jones and Bell and Edith. of course we have our fun. Last week Gertie Langly and Jennie Bliss (the friend Gertie is visiting) spent one day here. Gertie is on her way to College some place in NY. state. Shegraduated at the place where they live. She has grown so you would carcelly recognize her. Allie Langly is married and has twochildren. -- Oh yes I almost forgot to tell you I was to the Falls of Niagara. Bell moorr and The Dr minnie B. Hattie K_ Fanny Davis and lotts of others I knew went. We all enjoyed it hugely. It

rained going and coming but it was pleasant down there however. If you cant read this return it and I will try and translate it in a plainer english

I must close with

[Rotated addition]

much love hoping to

[Upside down addition]

see you Fair here

[Rotated addition]

Mother sends her love with mine.

[Scrawled across page]

Nellie

[Upside down addition]

Cash Wagner got poisoned fearfully with poisen ivy. he was confined to the bed, but is convalesent now.

Please write soon, we mis you very much.

1885, September 18th—Post Card

- **Author(s):** Ellen Lousina "Nellie" Bliley (Age: 22)
- **Addressee:** Frank Bliley (Age: 20)
- **Address:** Edinboro, Pennsylvania
- **Postmarked:** Erie, Pennsylvania
- **Notes:**
 - Frank is a college student in Edinboro Normal School, Pennsylvania studying to become a teacher between 1883 and 1886.

At Home Sept 18th 85

Dear brother

accept these few lines on a postal. I am to tired to write a letter to night and wanted to say I received your letter just after I sent mine. Are you coming out to the Fair?

Last night we attended the neck tie social at the hall. It was a success. The ten young ladies of the one class got it up. Made \$21.50 all had a nice time. I will tell you more when I write a letter. All well at present

Nellie

1885, September 28th—Letter

- **Author(s):** Ellen Lousina "Nellie" Bliley (Age: 22)
- **Addressee:** Frank Bliley (Age: 20)
- **Address:** Edinboro, Pennsylvania
- **Postmarked:** Erie, Pennsylvania
- **Notes:**
 - Frank spelled "Phrank" is intentional. It appears to have become a term of endearment.
 - Frank is a college student in Edinboro Normal School, Pennsylvania studying to become a teacher between 1883 and 1886.

At Home Sept 28th 1885

Dear brother Phrank

How do you do havent had a chat with you seemingly for a long time, I looked for you at the Fair last Friday. but you was not there. how why wasnt you? Father got \$19.00(?) premium on the grain he exhibited. A special premium of ten dollars worth of phosifate (how do you spell that, any way) on the bushel of Barley.

Rose and I went Thursday and Friday. There was a large crowd there Thursday. I saw pretty near every body I knew. I saw Ella Goodwin and her husband. He is very nice looking and a man with no bad habbits. Nettie Z_ and I were inseperable those two days

The first day we clipped around pretty lively all day. The next day we were favored with carriages and drove around.

It seems like a dream, that the fair has come and gone, This Summer has flitted so rapisly, More so, if possible than usual. The leaves are turning red and gold telling us we must soon prepare for winter. All indications point to the probability of a few days at least of warm weather. But oh how I dread the cold. I must write a few lines to Lizzie Kennedy, as I have not heard a word from her and she was to come and pay us a visit this Fall.

You will see John to night and he will tell you more than I can write. all about the new stock any way.

I saw abbie R's baby. she has a nice boy, Oh we had a splendid time at the nech tie social a couple of weeks a go. As nice a crowd as ever was in that hall/ The ten girls of the class got it up and cleared over \$17.00 Mattie and the other girls often inquire about you. --

Lizzie Sims McClure and husband was out to aunt Bells Sat. They stopped here a few minutes. She looks the same as ever.

Louisa B__ came home again from the hospital yesterday her improvement is so slow it is not very encouraging. I do not know whethrer she will return to the hosital or not. I feel very sorry for her. Abe Wagner is there yet. One lung had broken down. the tisue broke letting the air pass clear through the opening in his side. The Dr probed that place from which came a great deal of puss and then made an other incission on his back. I think he must have suffered terribly. but is much better now. Gertie Snell is to be married soon. -- Mother found some newly hatched chickens down to the barn and has failed

[Rotated addition]

to find their mother how what philosophically

[Upside down addition]

would be the best thing to do with them? They are very young and winter is not far distant I close anxiously awaiting a reply to this important question especially,

[Upside down addition]

Mr Appleby got my necktie at the social. Charlie D(?) looks very sour at me now. It makes me provoked to see him so glum but now I hope he will and must take a

[Upside down addition]

different course with a girl if he would win her.

Ever your sister

Nellie

1885, November 1st—Post Card

- **Author(s):** Ellen Lousina "Nellie" Bliley (Age: 22)
- **Addressee:** Frank Bliley (Age: 20)
- **Address:** Edinboro, Pennsylvania
- **Postmarked:** Erie, Pennsylvania
- **Note(s):**
 - No complete date on card or postmark, only "NOV 1".
 - There is only one date of Sunday, November 1st, and that is in 1885.
 - Frank is a college student in Edinboro Normal School, Pennsylvania studying to become a teacher between 1883 and 1886.

Sunday eve--

Dear brother

I will write just a line to let you know I am in receipt of a letter from you, and this evening my thoughts are with you.

Indeed I should be delighted to come out and will stay one night and bring you home

I think it will depend mostly on the weather if we come Sat. Will ask father, however, and write you again.

WE looked for Stella Zahn and Johnny Brindle up here but did not come

I think on account of the rain

I am going to the City to morrow

Affectionalely your sister Nellie

[Rotated addition]

???? is not yet into mischief to night

1886, May 27th—Letter

- **Author(s):** Ellen Lousina "Nellie" Bliley (Age: 23)
- **Addressee:** Frank Bliley (Age: 21)
- **Address:** Edinboro, Pennsylvania
- **Postmarked:** Erie, Pennsylvania
- **Notes:**
 - Frank is a college student in Edinboro Normal School, Pennsylvania studying to become a teacher between 1883 and 1886.

At home May 27. 86

Dear brother Frank

I will start a new diary to night I can not write but a line for I am so sleepy. I was up to aunt Bells last night.

Minnies(?) school was just half out yesterday. This fall she and Nellie both are going to school. Our men are very busy planting corn. Will(?) Mead(?) is helping. Rose has a new white dress finished it to day. I must me one to. my old one is all starched up and ready to put on the first warm day.

May 28th This has been a cool windy day. The men are very very busy at the corn. Will and I have been having some music. I have a new piece of music. very new, just out. perhaps you have not heard it yet. It is entitled The Old Folks at Home, or Swanee River.

do you recognize it now? Mother and I went to the woods after supper. got some ferns and some flowrs. The woods are beautiful now with the Flowers. I use to think our woods was disgraced and of no account at all because there was no winter greens in them. I wish you could see our flowers now. They are all in bloom and seem to be doing their very best. The rooms are decorated with flower ribands(?) and bouquets - all the time.

June 1st dear brother. I am asking pardon again both for the neglect and this bad pencil. Will had the ink downstairs last evening. This is a beautiful day. but it has rained for the last two days. Rose Will and I went to Erie Sat and before we got up to Elmas it just poured down. It was very pleasant when we started. It is astonishing how quick a shower can come up on Decoration day/ We went to the cemetery had a nice time took supper at Elmas then Rose and I stayed all night at Uncle Andrews . They seemed pleased to have us. It rained again yesterday and Ross had such a time finding us that the consequences were we did not arrive here until 8 o'clock P.M.

I did not see very many I knew Sat. among the few was Rose Lesch. she is looking well and asked me to come and see her. The floral decorations were grand/ I must go down stairs and cut out my new dress batista cloth, cream color Frank tell me how to make me a white dress.

June 3rd This has been a delightful day. The green fields and every thing around is charming.

Will and father and Rose all were to Erie, Mother was over to Mr McClures. he was up to Erie and had an old aching tooth extracted. It broke and the dentist could not get it all out. his teeth pull very hard it makes it a perfect dread for him. Aunt Bell and Nelli(?)

[added page]

were down to day a little while Nellie is not very well. Jesse Ebersole is dead. I presume you have read of it in the papers.

We heard he that he was under the impression all the time that he was too poor to afford to eat any thing and actually starved him self to death. He tore his will all in to little bits of pieces.

June 4th The weather looks quite doubtful this morning. but never the less This being the feast of Corpus Cristi, Mother Father and Rose are going to the city to church. and then they will go out to Charlies and will bring Inez home with them to stay a few weeks. Fanny Davis is coming out to day and Luise(?) Helander(?) the Wesleyville school teacher is coming up to stay all night. Frank if Rose and I can come out there to commencement Where will it be? We would I suppose ave to stay one night. Let us know the best night. And now comes something that will suit you best. Father said that if you wanted to stay and go to school right along, he would send you some money. he wants to know how he shall send it. Uncle Andrew said he could not spare any, as he had all he can do to get along, and was sorry he could not accomodate you. I can not half write this morning as I am not feeling very well, I must close expecting to hear from you soon. Lovingly you sister Nellie

[upside down additions]

I have been looking for a letter from you this week. This is Thursday and no letter yet.

Louisa Bonnell has a cancer in her right breast and is going up in Ohio next week to have it trwated. Mrs Cooper will go with her. She has known it for a year but never said any thing.

[rotated addition]

We feel very sorry for her. She may be gone six weeks or longer.

1886, June 22nd—Letter

- **Author(s):** Ellen Lousina "Nellie" Bliley (Age: 23)
- **Addressee:** Frank Bliley (Age: 21)
- **Address:** Edinboro, Pennsylvania
- **Postmarked:** Erie, Pennsylvania
- **Notes:**
 - Frank is a college student in Edinboro Normal School, Pennsylvania studying to become a teacher with one more year of schooling.

Erie. Pa June 22 1886

Dear brother Frank

If you have not yet, I presume you are about ready to disown me. Well Frank forgive me for never sending you a line for my intentions were good. The did not hold out for time flitted by so rapidly this spring, it gave me no time to write letters only those on business.

Now before it gets to late just let me congratulate you, on your successfulness in being able to graduate this spring

It is a grand thing for you Frank And I am glad for you as You are worthy and desweiving of this, and I hope you will continue to progress in on the course you have taken of mind and morals, not stopping long at the first grand station of success but keep going onward and upward.

As far as cultivation of the mind in literature is concerned you may be able to go a little further. may be a long ways onward, but, oh dear, When you "begin to commence" to go any further in morals, Why I know wings will begin to sprout and proudly will we see you soar above the majority of the rest, as you do now.

Well what I am going to tell you is important to me at least. for I anticipate a couple of days of liesure at Edinboro, Pa. next week. a pleasant time I know if it does not rain, as it is now. I asked Will about it. he can scarcely spare the time him self, but said Ross and I

could drive out if we wanted to. I have not discussed the subject with Rose but I know she is very

[Rotated addition]

anxious to go and I have

[Upside down addition]

been thinking we would go out on Wednesday and back Friday. Then would you come with us? There will be a party at the new hall Fri eve. Though I presume you will not care much for that.

[No signature - might once have been another page?]

1886, August 21st—Letter

- **Author(s):** Frank Bliley (Age: 21)
- **Addressee:** Ellen Lousina "Nellie" Bliley (Age: 23)
- **Address:** Erie, Pennsylvania
- **Postmarked:** Aspen, Colorado
- **Notes:**
 - Frank is visiting his older brother, Alex, who is living in Aspen.
 - He will return to Edinboro for his final year of schooling in the fall.

Aspen, Colo. Aug. 21, 1886

Dear Sister,

I finally reached this place this evening at about 6 o'clock. Alex had not come down from the mine but got here soon after just as I started up to find him. He came in on a little mule not much bigger than one of our calves. He is well.

I staid in Leadville last night. It took 12 hours to comer over a distance of about 60 miles.

My lunch lasted all the way out. Have half a loaf of bread some jelly and meat left yet.

Alex enjoyed the apples and plums I brought. He says apples are worth about 15 cents per lb. here.

I was glad to reach my destination although not very tired.

Will write no more this time but will write at length as soon as I get settled.

Sincerely your brother,

1886, August 22nd—Letter

- **Author(s):** Ellen Lousina "Nellie" Bliley (Age: 23)
- **Addressee:** Frank Bliley (Age: 21)
- **Address:** Aspen, Colorado
- **Postmarked:** Erie, Pennsylvania
- **Notes:**
 - Frank is visiting his older brother, Alex, who is living in Aspen.
 - He will return to Edinboro for his final year of schooling in the fall.

At Home Aug 27th 86

Dear brother Frank

we received your letter to day. it is needless to say we were very glad to hear from you often. and very glad you arrived there safely. Though I knew you would and found Alex with out any trouble you did not say whether you met those ladies on the way out or not.

Oh yes Frank I have some news for you and Alex. A bran new boy made his appearance at sister Ags Aug 21st They think of calling him Merritt. Rose is up there at present. Agnes getting along nicely.

The Pioneers picnic was a sucess. father took grandma she was glad she went, it was down at Leets(?) grove twelve-mile creek. They wanted the oldest people in Harbor creek. Grandma was the oldest one there. Dr Moore had a large easy chair of his there, for her to sit in. A great many came and shook hands with her. even strangers. because she was the oldest.

Fene came home Tuesday I wish you were here now to help finish up the plums they are so ripe.

Tuesday evening I went to the opera house to hear Rev. Ye(?) DeWit Talmage.(?) lecture on "happy homes" and you can not guess who with.

Well, I will tell you seeing you are so far away. youl not tell. that book keeper of Scotts. - Mr Fitch. I'll tell you what I think Samson intends to but his daughter-in, all the time and give her that chance so of course he had to find some fault with Fitch. It was to good he told me had been promising himself a vacation for some time. I could have told him of the vacation he was going to tak.

Frank if you had have been here this week you would had a chance of that school at Mill(?) Village. Fene saw Me Lee at the picnic. The young man hired for the school was not liked and one of the directors told Mr Lee they would take you. and me Lee just through sheer neglect delayed writing. that was about three weeks a go. Fene told him

[Upside down additions]

she was very sorry he did not write as you had gone west. He said when he returned if the position was not filled he would let her know. which would be apt to be next week some time. Father thinks even yet if you could get that it would pay you to come back.

Well I will close for this time. Our love to you and Alex. write often.

Matties sisters are here. Will and I will call to morrow eve

Lovingly your sister – Nellie

1886, September 10th—Letter

- **Author(s):** Ellen Lousina "Nellie" Bliley (Age: 23)
- **Addressee:** Frank Bliley (Age: 21)
- **Address:** Aspen, Colorado
- **Postmarked:** Erie, Pennsylvania
- **Notes:**
 - Frank is probably visiting his older brother, Alex, who is living in Aspen.
 - He will return to Edinboro for his final year of schooling in the fall.

At Home Sept 10th 86

Dear brother

I should have written before. pardon me. My! but that letter of yours came good, Indeed I was glad to take it all in one dose, and that before breakfast. Do you like it there? The hills here will look small to you when you come back. Willie Deer and Rose are out in the plum trees picking fruit. Willie surprised us one week ago today. We hardly expected him so soon never the less it was a good surprise.

Frank he is the very image of you in looks and appearance. I sometimes almost think I am talking with you when I talking with him. here he is now talking with me now.

jovial and full of fun. He thinks he can not stay longer than two or three weeks then aunt Ellen will return with him. How I wish they lived here. aunt Ellen is such a good woman. They are going to the Falls next Tues. on an excursion only \$1.25 round trip

Rose has never been there so guess she will accompany them. Then They will be at Corry about three days and at West Field one day.

besides Mother and aunt Ellen want to go a visiting some.

and before we know it they will be ready to go. Well Frank how do you like it there now. have you got use to the country The air you say is very good. Then you will keep well and healthy. I presume you see Bennie often.

Well this evening I will finish the letter - We have been setting out in the hammock in the moon-light

*It is very warm, dry, and dusty here. we need rain badly. many of the wells are going dry.
- Last eve we attended a party at the Hall*

Frank Leland and Mr Burr from Erie got it up. It was so warm there was not a large company. We had a nice time. Do you see your lady classmate often? I presume you and Alex can agree pretty well on dirt(?)

Yesterday Will, Rose and myself went to Charlies, and from there to the Regatta. The racing was good. I presume you see full account of it in the papers. Then we were invited Willi and all of us to Aunt Gertrudes for tea. All passes(?) pleasantly there and as soon as we could after tea with out breaking the rule of propriety we took our departure for home to dress for the party. We have just had to rush things here the last couple of weeks. Fene was home two weeks. Georgie has been here three weeks, Tuesday Johny B_ brought Miss Lanfear(?) and Miss Vancamp up here. Anna Brecht and they were here for Tea. Then two girls stayed all night when Johny came after them the next day and took them to the Regatta. Erie has been about crazy over picnics, excursions and the Regatta.

Alfred and Stella were married at last. I do not see as he has improved any since married. They make there stopping place at uncle Wash's Ely's and Dick's. Stella made the remark "she did not marry with her eyes shut" -- Stella Zahn has gone ti Mich with her father on a visit -- Inez is going to school from up there. Both Nellie and Minnie(?) have gone to Edinboro school. I presume you hear from them. Hattie has gne home. I rather think to stay. -- It will soon be Fair time, Father will enter some stock.

Mattie Chambers two sisters are visiting. they have not returned our call. All of Humes(?) from the west are visiting Mr Humes, They have returned and taken Mrs Humes with them. Della Humes is going to St Marys to school. Well I can not think of any more nonsense just now. So I will discontinue for this time. hoping to hear from you soon. would like to see some of Alex writing to.

With much love to you both. I bid you good night.

Sister Nellie

1886, October 24th—Letter

- **Author(s):** Barbara Bliley Lambing (26); Ellen Lousina "Nellie" Bliley (Age: 23)
- **Addressee:** Frank Bliley (Age: 21)
- **Address:** Aspen, Colorado
- **Postmarked:** Corry, Pennsylvania
- **Envelope:** "Bonnell & Lambing — Manufacturers of Spring Bed Bottoms"
- **Notes:**
 - Nellie is visiting her older sister, Barbara, who is living in Corry.

- Frank is probably visiting his older brother, Alex, who is living in Aspen.
- He will return to Edinboro for his final year of schooling in the fall.
- Nellie inserts some material into the letter.

Corry Oct_24th 1886

My Dear Brother Frank

I received your letter in due time & was ever so glad to hear from you.

pen(?) fevy(?) Dear Boy. vaj(?) of there in the cold and hard at work I Should judge. was glad to hear you say you had A good appetite & was feeling well. those two things are very important features in Human life. but few of us have it. at present I am not very well. Nither is Charlie he is Just Sick with A cold. he has A very hard cold. and I am just getting over A tarrible cold . fraid I have taken A little more through Yesterday afternoon I was out ridng A little while with Will Lambing.

2nd Page

follishly did not put A wrap on consequently got quite chilly. John is A way as usual. trade is fair, but not quite as good as last year at this time I think. this whole month has been perfectly delightful even to day. it is Just lonely. I dearly wish you was here to day - I am going to have chicken for dinner {one that can be cooked in one day. Do you ever think of our Sunday Dinner & Mothers Oldest Chicken} I am cooking the Chicken on my Setting room Stove

we burn gass. and it is A lovely fire. I cook a good deal on this Stove to save wood. Nellie came to Corry yesterday afternoon. we was glad to See her. She expects to Stay A few weeks with us. any way. I was glad to hear you Say you expected to return to your Native State next August. I hope success May ever be with you. the Successful ones

3d page

are those who are compelled to work to help them Selves. hence in reading the lives of eminent men who have Distinguished them Selves, we find there youth passed in Self denials in many different ways. be of good courage. the time will Soon pass and we all will happily Join togeather to welcome you Home. Are you at Church to day. I presume not. the ways of the miners are So different from us. God will not for sake us if we only abide by his Commandments. how does Miss Bergman like Colorado

Why dont Alex write to us. I wish he would. give our love tohim we never hear from Dave either. I dont never want you to become so careless with you Friends. life is to short for Such neglect. I am glad

4-Page

you saw Charlie Sewell. dose he know any thing about Franks good behavior dose he ever want to come Home A gain. Frank i resolved to write you once A month. if I get A letter in return or not. of course want to hear from you as often as you can write but I consider

your time pretty well taken up . are you akin as much as ever. I got this Akin information from

[Abrupt change in writing and ink. It is appears to be Nellie, taking the pen.]

Dear Brother, Barb said I might write a line. I came yesterday. left all well at home. Grandma not well but much better sitting in her rocker knitting and All are very busy. We are favored with such grand weather, the men folk are hurrying to get the Falls work done. are getting the corn husked. ad a nice time at a party Friday evening. Will and W Curtis got it am afraid the boys did not any more than pay expenses if they did that. Quite a number

[Extra page on Bennell & Lambing leterhead]

from Town. I wish you could be here to attend some of them. Monday night I attended a social at the Hall. The Sunday school girls got up a social one third of a cent per lb. That was not very bad for the boys. Had ice cream and cake for supper. The made I think \$14.00

Mother received that check all right.

You are very prompt and we appreciate it. I received a letter from Dave last week. All well. He wanted to know if "you had gone west"

Uncle Andrew is improving his store. building it one story higher. to rent it. he has been offered \$12.00 for the room when complete. He extended the east end of the store. Mr ohtwiler(?) then will rent it for rat(?) feed store. -- Willie Deen(?) wants to move to Erie now. if he can only get something to do. He would like to have uncle Andrew give him a chance in the store.

Says he does not make a living at the paper(?)

It is such a dull town and he thinks he could do better here. but aunt Ellen is not willing to move. So I do not know what he will do. I expect to do some sewing while here. Mre Lambing wants me.

Well I will close for this time. Write soon. My love to you and Alex. Nellie

1887, March 13th—Letter

- **Author(s):** Ellen Lousina "Nellie" Bliley (Age: 23)
- **Addressee:** Frank Bliley (Age: 21)
- **Address:** Denver, Colorado
- **Postmarked:** Erie, Pennsylvania

• **Notes:**

- Frank a spent short time in Denver working as a trolley motorman and maintainer at the Denver Tramway Construction Company. His older brother, Alex, is living in Aspen.
- He is supposed to be in Edinboro for his final year of schooling in the fall.
- The date of the letter is Frank's birthday.

At Home Mar 13th

Frank, dear brother

do you remember twenty two years a go to day. On the old Beach Wood farm there was alittle red faced crying baby boy came to existance on that day. He was a precious charge and care to his mother in infancy. A constant tease to his sisters during youth frolicksome? Oh! my. and now has struggled through to manhood and now a few short years of time is given him and in it busy as he may be, may he not for get a future house to be prepared for An endless eternity, for the immortal soul. More rapidly will The following twenty two years pass by than the first twenty two.

Ross is whistling, mother and father talking so I can scarcely think what I am writing. Rose is reading the paper also Will. Grandma has been very poorly for a week. - Oh yes the first thing I want to mention is about the wedding in the family that is to occur next Thursday. Well to say the least it was a surprise to us. Bennie(?) had written about a Sweed woman keeping house for him. Was it she?

Alex has not written us a word about it. We received the invitations the 7th inst. Do write us something about it if you can

I guess none of the family here will attend. It is a little to far.

I am glad he is to be married.

I have been uo to Marth(?) Tincoms sewing for Anna Snell all week. She is going to the sea shore. Nellies husband expects to be removed from Key West about the first of next month. Will probably go to Portland Maine. They have invited Anna to come and spend a year with them and pay all her expenses.

Nellies husband offered to send Anna to the Erie Academy for a year or so and she would not go. - Last evening we had company. Two young ladies from Canada with Adam Kuhls, Pete Kuhls, Uncle Jehues, Minnie and Robbie Y-. Pete and Agnes Kunn(?) and Stella Zahn. - Mr McClures are going to move down on Jim Kirkpatrick's old place. Rent over here(?) was more than he cared to give. We will miss them. Ormond(?) Mires(?) talks of getting the place.

Monday evening. Rose read your letter to day. Was glad to hear from you. also to get such favorable Facts about Miss Johnson. I am glad you wrote all about her. It was just what we wanted to know. Will you go to the wedding? I immagine not.

[Upside down additions]

I do not know wheter Charlie has a house yet ot not. Uncle Andres sold out his goods at auction last Sat.

Little Clare is in short dresses.

I almost envy you the fine weather in Denver. We have had some warm pleasant days. But the roads are not good yet. rough and muddy. I will close for want of news. Lovingly your sister Nellie

1887, March 27th—Letter

- **Author(s):** Frank Bliley (Age: 22)
- **Addressee:** Ellen Lousina "Nellie" Bliley (Age: 23)
- **Address:** Wesleyville, Pennsylvania
- **Postmarked:** Denver, Colorado; March 28th
- **Notes:**
 - Frank a spent short time in Denver working as a trolley motorman and maintainer at the Denver Tramway Construction Company. His older brother, Alex, is living in Aspen.
 - He is supposed to be in Edinboro for his final year of schooling in the fall.
 - The date of the letter is Frank's birthday.

*Denver, Colo.
1750 California St.
March 27, '87*

Dear Sister.

As I was writing another letter I will not lay dwn my pen until I have written you a word or two.

Since I wrote you last I have been very busy, working ever day including Sundays. I take charge of a car for an hour at noon and at six P.M. take it again and run it the rest of the evening until 11 P.M. from that time to 3 in the morning I put in cleaning the car and machinery. The motor has to be kept very clean to prevent trouble with it. The knowledge I acquired of electricity in studying Philosophy comes very useful now. I usually get to bed between 3 and 4 in the morning an get about 11:30. The line is about two miles long and it takes a hour to make a round trip. Financially, the line is not a success yet but is only an experiment. Not a day passes without something getting out of order however there is money behind it and no doubt they will realize a big thing out of the patents some day.

No. I did not go to Alex' wedding. [March 15th] Although in the same state I am 208 miles from Aspen by the nearest route and 333 miles by way I came from there.

The last two or three days it has been quite cool, freezing a little nights and snowed enough to whiten the ground. People here make a great fuss about a little storm that you would hardly recognize as such back there.

Nell you make a little mistake in regard to my birth-place. Twas not on the "Beach Wood Farm" but the "Old May Farm". I had forgotten all about its being my birthday until I picked up a paper about noon and saw the date "March 13" on it. I can hardly realize that I am so old. [22]

That picture arrived all right.

God pity Frances! I hope she will not disgrace our name in Erie. Does Uncle Andrew know her conduct? Tis half past five must close and go to work. Don't neglect your bi-weekly letters.

Your brother.

Frank

1887, July 3rd—Letter

- **Author(s):** Ellen Lousina "Nellie" Bliley (Age: 24)
- **Addressee:** Frank Bliley (Age: 22)
- **Address:** Aspen, Colorado
- **Postmarked:** Wesleyville, Pennsylvania
- **Notes:**
 - Teaching in schools of Albion and Erie, PA.
 - Probably visiting his brother Alex and his new wife (1887) living and working in Aspen for some time.

July 3rd 1887

Dear Brother and all

I have been looking for a letter from you long time ago. I have concluded in order to here from you will half to write again. We havent herd yet weather you rec__ the box of house slips or rather from Sister Hulda we sent them about five weeks ago. it is so warm I can hardly write we are having dreadfull warm weather it takes the life all away from a person.

We need rain. everything on the farm looks nice & doing well the men are rushed with work now comenced haying last week. they havent anyone to help them guess Uncle Andrew will come out & stay a few days. We had strawberries Friday for the last time this year have had them every day for the past three weeks. We have a few Cherries ?? sold two bushels wont have any more to spare. now we have Rasperies to use and curents. Nellie has been gon most of the time

this spring sewing. She wont sew much more now through the hot weather. She intends now to go & visit Dave the last of August.

Barb went home Thursday She was here four weeks & Charlie was here three months and ahalf.

Gertie came out & stayed a week before Barb went back. it seems quiet here now. last Sunday last was Childrens day at Wesleyville Gertie spoke one piece & Dany/Samy(?) a piece. last Thursday the Church members had a Social & entertainment at the Church. Nellie Ross & I went. Friday night Will & Will Curtis had a ball at Kellys hall was about thirty couple there had a nice time. Charlie seems to be doing well in the Restaurant & Saloon. I had a tea party of thirteen ladies for Barb when she was here then we were driven to Cash Chambers & Harry Chambers two afternoons to a tea.

I presume you will see Edd(?) Bonnell he started for Coll [Colorado] Thursday to visit Ben.

Did I ever write you that Frances is in Buffalo she has a girl baby it is dreadful I dont know what she will do now

Uncle Andrew dont want her to ever come in his house again. She is going from bad to worse as fast as she can. Fannie & Oscar are coming out here tomorrow.

it will be quiet in Erie the 4th there will be a picnic at the head.

An Erie party are trying to fix the mouth of four mile creek for a picnic ground they have a Saloon & Dancing hall there now. it wont amount to much they dont run it right.

Frank do you intend to come east this fall. I hope you will write soon it has been an age since we have heard from you. I must close yours sincerely Rose

[upsidedown additions]

Frank if I would write to you as often as I think of you it would make you tired of reading letters. but I can not begin to tell you how busy I have been this spring.

Dear Brother how do you ask Family when are you coming home. mother was talking about it today and her eyes filled with tears at the thought of you being gone so long.

You have had three different schools here in Harbor Creek offered you this Fall. Of course it would not pay you. But nothing would please Father more than to have you get a school some where where it was paying. Good night lotts of love Nellie

1888, June 14th—Letter

- **Author(s):** Ellen Lousina "Nellie" Bliley (Age: 25)
- **Addressee:** Frank Bliley (Age: 23)
- **Address:** Aspen, Colorado
- **Postmarked:** Wesleyville, Pennsylvania
- **Notes:**
 - Teaching in schools of Albion and Erie, PA.
 - Probably visiting his brother Alex and his new wife (1887) living and working in Aspen for some time.

At Home June 14th

Dearest brother .

how do you do tonight? You are so far away from home. I thought I would you a few lines and tell you how things are running here on the farm. We were glad to get your letter yesterday stating your safe arrival at Denver. - I cant wait any longer to tell you the news from Corry. Mon June 11th a little baby daughter was brought to Mrs and Mr J. S. Lambing. Monday morning and Mother went down Monday afternoon, They are all delighted with a daughter. they are doing nicely. Mother may be gone a week longer. Ag and family are out here. Will probably stay until Sat. or may be until Monday. - Anna Brown was out here a couple of days last week. then I stayed a couple of nights with her. Mattie Chambers was here for dinner. She and Rose have gone up to Sewells' visiting. - Said they had a nice time at the party the other night at the hall. Ross and Will went Say Frank did you mail that letter I gave you to mail in Erie the day before you went away?

I know you did not mail it that day. and if I was sure of it I would certainly scold, even if it was unknowingly done. not being use to it you know.

Will has gone with a stool and pail to milk. dont you wish it were you instead of him. - Tell us what you are doing or going to do. I wish it might be told in two short words, comeing back. - Strawberries are getting ripe. There will be some to pick tomorrow. I will eat a couple for you. I suppose that would be about all you would care for. - Well I must go and wipe dishes for Ag.

We got a letter from Will Mead to night. - the mine is not producing any ore yet I presume you know Charlie Sewell is married

We got a letter from Minnie Hiles. She saw by the paper you intended going west and was wanting you to stop there. well I must close have another letter to write

with much love.

Write soon. Your sister

Nellie

1888, August 1st—Letter

- **Author(s):** Ellen Lousina "Nellie" Bliley (Age: 25)
- **Addressee:** Frank Bliley (Age: 23)
- **Address:** Aspen, Colorado
- **Postmarked:** Wesleyville, Pennsylvania
- **Notes:**
 - Teaching in schools of Albion and Erie, PA.
 - Probably visiting his brother Alex and his new wife (1887) living and working in Aspen for some time.

Dear brother

what in the world is the matter that you do not write home any more have you quite forgotten us?

Do you know we have not had a letter from you or Alex for about three months?

Now Frank if you knew how it is constantly worrying mother. how anxious she is fearing something wrong. And with what longing she looks for a letter. You would blame your self for negligence

We received the papers you sent, however. and were glad to learn you were still in existence. I dont want to scold to hard or you would hardly recognize it to be your sister Nell, would you? ha! ha!

In a couple of weeks I am going to take a trip out to Doylestown [Pennsylvania] to see Dave and family and on my way out there will stop a few days at Homer Littlefields. Now if I just had the necessary coin wouldnt I go on farther and visit brother Alex and wife. and you to. That would be no little pleasure. but I might as well wish I had wings and could fly

The boys finish harvesting to day. This year they got along without hiring any help. of course Ross and father both had to take a mans place and it was pretty hard for them. It is pretty dry here now. grain and fruit begin to suffer for want of rain. - Today for dinner we had corn for the first.

Should have had it sooner but there was some mistake in planting the early kind

We have tomatoes; cucumbers from the garden and Some ripe peaches. The early schumakers but nearly every one is effected.

Johny Brindle is going to take a trip up to Duluth on the Lakes. Will be gone a couple of weeks - Eddie Bonnell has returned! is coming up here as soon as he can.

I attended the "Drummers" picnic at the head a week ago. had a fine time.

Kittie Lanfear is down to Brindles visiting. Ross and I were invited there to tea last Friday

We go down to the Lake occasionally in June. Kilpatrick is dead. died with some ailment of the stomach. He made a will but do not know what it is.

I must close

hoping to here from you soon. Yours with much love to all.

Sister Nell.

1888, August 3rd—Letter

- **Author(s):** Ellen Lousina "Nellie" Bliley (Age: 25)
- **Addressee:** Frank Bliley (Age: 23)
- **Postmarked:** Wesleyville, Pennsylvania
- **Address:** Aspen, Colorado
- **Notes:**
 - Teaching in schools of Albion and Erie, PA.
 - Probably visiting his brother Alex and his new wife (1887) living and working in Aspen for some time.

Erie Pa Aug 3rd 88

Dear brother Frank.

I have been intending to write you for a long time

Guess I'll not wait longer however for something new. but will write any way if it is only "how do you do." I allways read your letters greedily written to Rose.

It is now 7:30 P.M. and Clare and I are alone yet. Rose, Agnes and Inex all went up to the "Dormmis"(?) picnic this afternoon. There was a couple to be married up there before the public. They were Episcoplaians, but no minister of that church would marry them there. So they were going to have an Alderman tie the knot. Well you will get such news in the paper of course.

Last night I stayed alone here until about eleven oclock. Agnes and Charlie went to Haverly's minstrels. They said they were good. the house was full and a great many ladies. - There are a good many picnics now down to the "Mouth" and at the "Head" I went to the "Peoples" picnic last Wed- down to the Grove House. I enjoyed my self quite well. It was the opening of the new hotell. which is

2nd

grand. A roast Ox, music and dancing was the order of the day. I was not quite hungry enough to eat any of the Ox meat. There were ten of eleven girls from the village and suburbs but nary a boy. The boys certainly are scarce down in that community. Well Frank I wish you were not so far away. but as you are I hope you may do well or reap some benefit some way. I am glad that you had no taste for farming any way. for I am given to think it is the meanist business there is and not a red cent in it but with hard work and solitary confinement a small living. No sir farming I dont like nor living in the country when especially when a person is not very able to walk and there is never a convenient way of getting ant place.

I have been here at Ags all Summer most of the time. Sometimes I would not go out house for nearly a month. I have not been at all well and sometimes I could not resist thinking life was hardly worth the living but now I am on the gain, consequently my spirits generally is better,

3rd

Inez was out to our house about two weeks when Josephine was home. she came home and George went out. he will come back in a week, and then Inez will go out. It does them a great deal of good. Frank what have you done with Proffessor Loisetis system of never forgetting? Have you given it any study? Oscar Barbus(?) has the system and is studying it now. He has given about ten hours a day for two weeks on the first lesson and has not quite finished yet. He thinks it will be a great benefit to him. It takes a few weeks study close study. but thinks it is worth it. I wish I could get the system for what you paid. I would take it I have some spare time now I could give to its study. We have delightful weather here this Summer. plenty of rain consequently every this is doing nicely. Our folks has such a nice garden. every thing in it good to eat and flowers oh so many. of all kind

Well I must close, The folks have come home and I must get ready for slumberland. those lovely mosquitoes are very numerous however and dont like to let us sleep

[Upside down addition]

I would like to hear from you and address

122 east 6 st, Erie Pa

affectionately your sister

Nellie

1888, December ???—Letter

- **Author(s):** Ellen Lousina "Nellie" Bliley (Age: 25);
Mary Agnes "Ag" Bliley Wagner (Age: 31)
- **Addressee:** Frank Bliley (Age: 23)
- **Address:** Cornelia, Ohio (P.O. @ County Routes 278 & 360)
- **Postmarked:** Erie, Pennsylvania
- **Notes:**
 - Teaching in schools of Albion and Erie, PA.
 - Frank also was apparently looking for a teaching position in Kinsman, Ohio in this same time period. Perhaps, he was there for a job interview.
 - Most of the letter is from Nellie, with a short addition by Agg at the end.
 - Cornelia, Ohio was a crossroads with a rural post office.

Erie. Pa. 122 East 6 St. Dec 1888.

Dear brother Frank.

I am afraid you will think we at home have quite forgotten you. I said yesterday when Will was in, I thought it was a shame I have not written to you. But I know when I tell you I have been away from home for the past two weeks and sick under the doctors care, you will forgive me. Mother brought your letter up to me last Sat. I was glad to get it and to know your time is all taken up so you can not get into mischief, and you like your boarding place which of course will be your home this winter. We so often speak of you and of course wonder how you are behaving. How are you going to spend the Hollidays? I wish you could be at home. We might kill the "fatted calf." - I expect it will be very quiet this Xmas at home, but I will play the pian and sing and make all the good cheer possible. But for the last two weeks I have not been well. I took a severe cold when I came to Erie and it is as much as ever I am here to write it. I had inflammation of the bowels. I suffered terribly. Called the Dr in and well I had to stay in bed for about a week and now for a week they have had to carry me to bed. Draw me to the table in a rocking chair etc

It is dreadful to be so helpless I have had the blues. and - I can assure you I will appreciate good health - when I am restored. I think there is a better time yet. - I have so much I wanted to do before Xmas but I will not get much of anything done. I would like to remember you with something but this time can only wish you a "Merry Xmas and a Happy New Year."

The family here are all well and the folks at home also. Mother has been manly(?) sick with a cold but is better now. She needed me very much last week. They killed the pigs, but father is in the house most of the time wipes the dishes, sets the table etc. Little Charlie Lambing has gone home. - Agnes thinks of going to Corry after Xmas to stay a few days will take George and Claire and Inez will stay at our house. Grandma is well. Rose likes it out there and is contented I presume you hear from her.

2nd [Sheet]

How large a school have you? Have you got a different place to room? I have only had a couple of postals from Ross so hardly know how he is getting a long. He is going to Corry between the hollidays.

Josephine has got moved and settled in their new home I presume they look very cosy. The house all newly papered and painted and some new carpets. Cordelia C. sent some handsome lace curtains and draperies. Barb has not been home yet, but may come yet

Agnes is much better of her Dyspepsia though she has to be careful what she eats.

Clare is crying so I hardly know what I am writing.

Well I guess I have mentioned all the family excepting Mayor/Major(???)

He is a very important factor and is getting more important every day. he is growing so fast and he is just a starving all the time. It is one of the things impossible to get him filled.

There was a party at Kelleys hall last night I expect I'll not be able to go to any this winter.

I must close hoping to hear from you soon again. Do you take an Erie paper? if so it will tell you all about Mr Morgan the grocers shooting himself.

I will leave a space for Agnes to write a few lines

Lovingly your sister Nell.

----- Blank Space -----

Dec 1888

Dear Brother Frank

being that Nellie has left this much space I will write a few lines on her paper for I have not much time to write this time as I have so much work waiting for me to do. I have been out quite a bit of time buying a few Xmas presents for my family, it is a beautiful winter day to day snowing nearly all the time. well Frank I will have to close this time wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Your's Agg

[Upside down addition]

cant you go some where a visiting Xmas instead of staying there and paying your board

I think I will go to Corry after Xmas,

1888, December 29th—Letter

- **Author(s):** Ellen Lousina "Nellie" Bliley (Age: 25)

Letters of "Nellie" Bliley to Frank A. Bliley

- **Addressee:** Frank Bliley (Age: 23)
- **Address:** Cornelia, Ohio (P.O. @ County Routes 278 & 360)
- **Postmarked:** Wesleyville, Pennsylvania
- **Notes:**
 - Teaching in schools of Albion and Erie, PA.

Sat. At home

Dear brother. - We have not heard from you did you arrive there safely? - Barb is coming home Monday. - Mother and father are going to Erie to day.- Grandma does not like her trumpet.

I can not make her hear as well as I thought I could. She says it tires her and seems very anxious for it to be taken back. So I guess there is not much use in trying any more. think we will take it back and take it in trade.

All well here.

Sister Nellie

1889, January 8th—Post Card

- **Author(s):** Ellen Lousina "Nellie" Bliley (Age: 25)
- **Addressee:** Frank Bliley (Age: 23)
- **Address:** Cornelia, Ohio (P.O. @ County Routes 278 & 360)
- **Postmarked:** Wesleyville, Pennsylvania
- **Notes:**
 - Frank was supposedly teaching in schools of Albion and Erie, PA, but this address puts that in question.

Erie. Pa. Jan 8th 89.

Dear brother: - this morning finds me in Erie Came yesterday to stay a couple of days. Yesterday I learned of Lulu Davidsons death. She was burried yesterday afternoon at two oclock. She faded away very fast -- I will write you a letter in a day or two

Yours etc. sister Nellie

1889, January 10th—Letter

- **Author(s):** Ellen Lousina "Nellie" Bliley (Age: 25)

- **Addressee:** Frank Bliley (Age: 23)
- **Address:** Cornelia, Ohio (P.O. @ County Routes 278 & 360)
- **Postmarked:** Wesleyville, Pennsylvania
- **Notes:**
 - Frank was supposedly teaching in schools of Albion and Erie, PA, but this address puts that in question.

Wesleyville, Pa. Jan 10th 1889

Dear brother Frank

while getting my supper to night it suddenly occurred to me that I might write to you this eve and answer your very welcome letter. I think you did have quite a time after you left that train in pursuing the rest of your journey and the part to be thankful for was that after the tedious as well as dangerous journey on foot you arrived safely. I am glad however you did not stop to talk to the man that was intoxicated.

The result would have been bad.

Frank on what two days do you get the mail? I have forgotten what you said.

Well now about what we are doing at home. Mother is very busy as usual. This being carpet-rag season she puts in her spare time at them

Sometimes getting knee deep around her. Father puts in a good deal of his time smoking that weed! and Will is kept quite busy out around the barn. The buggys are kept shining. We have not had much else but muddy roads but every time a buggy came home any the worse for the bad roads it was cleaned. To day he cleaned the double harness. Greased it, painted the rings etc. and this evening he has gone up to see Mr Sidney Sewell thinking it would look a little more neighborly. Mr Sewell fell and hurt his thigh quite badly. He can not turn himself in bed. - One evg last week Will and I went up to see Albert S- he was kicked in the leg above the knee by a horse and hurt him severely, though no bones broken. - Did you know Clara Kennedy has a Glandular tumor, from which the doctors say she can not live long. It is under the arm. Isn't it too bad. they have quite a family of children, five or six and he, Alex does not have very good health.

Back to our family again. I had not quite got around to them all. Grand did not like the Conversational Tube you got her

She said it hurt her across the chest to exert her self so to listen and then she could not under stand so we took it back and they gave us a due bill for the same am't which we will trade out as we need things from a drug store. Mother will pay you the dollar. - I was down to Mattie C- to a tea party new Years afternoon and had a splendid time. about all the girls from the village were there

Yes and a good many of them inquired about you. Some did not know you were away.

I was up to aunt Bells last week I had promised to do some sewing

2nd [Sheet 2]

so long, I was ashamed to put them of longer. I could not do much however, when I got up there. Have not been very well

Have not really got over the effect of that cold I took some weeks ago.

Agnes Charlie and two of the children went to Corry during the holliday reduction of rates on the road. - They say Josephines new house looks very fine. - Barb was coming home and then baby Belle was sick with Lung Fever. She is on the mend now. Ross they say is some home-sick

He wondered why you did not write to him and wanted your address.

Frank you must write to him

You must quell all disagreeable feeling and school your self to a brotherly or at least a friendly feeling and good will as you are duty bound

There are some advertisements here for you. Will lay them aside until your return. - Rose writes that she would like to stay until Aug.

She would like to be nearly two months on the way home.

Mr May and Mr McClure had an accident last Sat. While driving rather fast on Eighteenth St broke a wheel. the horses ran away and bruised both men more or less.

Mr McClures face is scratched up considerable. If there is any more of interest to that story, I will tell it when you come home. and I will close now for my hand is becoming cramped, this being the third letter to be canceled from the list this afternoon. With much love

Hoping to hear from you soon

sister Nellie.

[Upside down addition]

P.S. Father sold prince(?) for \$60.00

1889, January 26th—Letter

- **Author(s):** Ellen Lousina "Nellie" Bliley (Age: 25)
- **Addressee:** Frank Bliley (Age: 23)
- **Address:** Cornelia, Ohio (P.O. @ County Routes 278 & 360)
- **Postmarked:** Wesleyville, Pennsylvania
- **Notes:**

- Frank was supposedly teaching in schools of Albion and Erie, PA, but this address puts that in question.
- Found in same envelope as the letter of January 29th.

Wesleyville. Pa. Jan 26th '89,

Dear brother Frank

We were very glad to hear from you yesterday

I was looking for a letter and wondering why you did not write home as we had but one letter since you went away.

Barb Charlie and baby Bille are here. They came a week ago Thursday, Sent us a letter the day before and we did not get the same intelligence until the day after her arrival. She got off at Shannons and went from there over to Carl Tompsons and they brought her over.

All are now well. baby is well and just as nice as can be, only she does not sleep nights and keeps Barb tired out all the time. - Elliott is here is going home to day. Si(?) look a little for John out to night he has been away for about three weeks. He wrote Barb he cleared eighty dollars over and above expenses in nine days. I think that is doing well, dont you? John is making money.

Got a letter from Ross yesterday. he wanted your address. You ought to write to him he says there is good sleighing out there.

Ross came home two weeks ago and stayed until monday. he was a little home sick.

Yes we will have to get along with out Rose until Aug. She wants father and Will to hire a good girl this Spring. and we will need one, for I do not know how we will get along for I am not at all well. have been confined to the bed and couch most of the time since you were here. My doctor is away for a few weeks so I am now doctoring with Moore(?) MD(?) in hopes that he may help me. - Mr Sidney Sewell has been very low. but just now they think there is a chance for him. Albert is able to get around now. Those cards you sent for twenty was all we could find of them.

I should think you would begin to see some benefit from Your "Art of Never forgetting." There must be some value after so much hard studying.

There was a party at the E.A.U. hall thursday night

Will attended. had a nice time. Father is in a hurry

[Rotated addition]

so I will bring my letter to a hasty close hoping you will not wait so long again in writing.

With much love I am your sister Nellie

1889, January 28th—Letter

- **Author(s):** Ellen Lousina "Nellie" Bliley (Age: 25)
- **Addressee:** Frank Bliley (Age: 23)
- **Address:** Cornelia, Ohio (P.O. @ County Routes 278 & 360)
- **Postmarked:** Wesleyville, Pennsylvania
- **Notes:**
 - Frank was supposedly teaching in schools of Albion and Erie, PA, but this address puts that in question.
 - Found in same envelope as the letter of January 26th.
 - Nellie dies 11 months later, December 5th of 1889.

Wesleyville. Pa. Jan 28th-89,

Dear brother

I forgot to send you this book Sat.

I will do up and send it to the office to day with John and Will as they are going down to the village. John came home Sat. evening. Will stay I think until to morrow.

It is snowing quite rapidly and the ground is white I think if it does not thaw we will soon have sleighing which every one longs for!

The doctor was in here this morning. I do not think he need to call again as I am I think in a fair way to recover and I hope get well.

His patients he said were all doing nicely excepting Mrs Harvey Chambers who is very low. I believe now the trouble is Rhumatism and Neuralgia of the limbs and brain trouble. The doctor thinks there is a possibility for her recovery but it is not probable. Moore M.D. had an Erie doctor for counsil but she wants Moore. I am very sorry indeed. I wish I were able to go down and see her, though it is not likely they allow any one in I do hope she may get well, - and I believe Clara Kennedy is quite low,

Mr Sewell is some better and now the doctor thinks he will be on his feet again

There is a great deal of sickness. I think owing to the open Winter weather. - A Stell boy or rather a young man of Harborcreek had his trunk a packed to start west on a recent excursion when he was taken down with the Typhoid fever.

Mr Brindle, John's father was home for a few days but I here they have taken him back again so he must have got worse. John and his bride called on me Sat. Minnie and Robby F(?) was down in the evg.

Anna Brecht said she was coming up to see me the first of this week.

Frank how do you do any way? Are you of the few who enjoy good health and nothing wrong at all.

No - let me see - I believe you had chilbains [frost bite like symptoms] when you were home How

[Rotated additions]

are they now?

Write home often and remember your letters are very welcome.

Will has got the cutter down and is going to try the sleighing. I must write to Ross and Rose,

Much love and a great big kiss from sister Nell.

1889, February 24th—Letter

- **Author(s):** Frank Bliley (Age: 23)
- **Addressee:** Ellen Lousina "Nellie" Bliley (Age: 25)
- **Address:** Cornelia, Ohio (P.O. @ County Routes 278 & 360)
- **Postmarked:** No Envelope
- **Notes:**
 - Frank was supposedly teaching in schools of Albion and Erie, PA, but this address and references puts that in question.
 - Nellie dies December 5th of 1889.

Cornelian, O

Feb. 24, 1889

Miss Nellie L Bliley,

Wesleyville, Pa.

My dear sister,

Fearing that you might attribute my silence to some causalty on my trip back to the Buckeye State, I will write to dispel any such apprehension.

Leaving Erie at about 1:30 that night I endeavored to get a little sleep and although I succeeded in dozing a little yet my disturbed slumbers did not refresh me much. Jamestown was reached at 5 o'clock and a tramp of two hours through the snow brought me to my destination. Except feeling dull and tired and possibly more cross than usual I got along in the school room very well.

The weather has been quite severe here for a few days. No doubt you being so much nearer the North Pole have hardly dared to venture out doors. No sleighing just now. I did not go to church to-day; 'twas too cold.

I got a good long letter from Rose a week ago. I answered it immediately. I suppose you have heard from her. They have moved to town. Rose don't think as much of Hulda as at first.

Well, Nellie, how are you feeling? I hope better. When you regain your health again, you will think now how to appreciate it. None of us know what a blessing health is until it has taken wings and flown. You must remember that this winter has been particularly unfavorable for a person to build up strength.

I wrote Ross and received an interesting response last week.

Has Barbara (hs) gone home yet?

Well, sister, for lack of - of any thing more to say I must close. Excepting a few funerals, marriages and law suits it is rather quiet in town (:).

Write whenever you feel well enough.

I am,

Your affectionate brother,

F. A. Bliley

P.S. Remember me to Grandmother and all.

1889, June 21st—Letter

- **Author(s):** Ellen Lousina "Nellie" Bliley (Age: 25)
- **Addressee:** Frank Bliley (Age: 24)
- **Address:** 122 West 6th St, Erie, Pennsylvania
- **Postmarked:** Buffalo, New York
- **Notes:**
 - 122 West 6th St, Erie, was next to the courthouse on the north side of the street.
 - Why this letter is postmarked Buffalo is a mystery. Perhaps, she is being treated at a hospital or clinic in Buffalo for her maladies.
 - There are two empty envelopes in different hands addressed to Nellie at 210 Allen Street, Buffalo, NY with June 1889 postmarks.
 - Nellie dies December 5th of 1889.

Friday Morning

Dear Brother & Sister

Your letters do me so much good. I recd Franks yesterday and Roses this morn

I have been in bed all week ironing the sheets with my feet - a good deal of the time as mother has often seen me but I think and hope that this is my hardest week. I am very nervous by spells. The nurse has had an other patient to wait on besides me so I will only have to pay her half price. They have good living. Mrs Love and I like very well Douglas Tinkcorn(?) and she were own cousins, and she thinks a gret deal of Marth. - Miss Raymond went home yesterday, her home Doctor came after. She felt that she was cured and felt so happy over it. I am going to take her little room to day. I gave one 8 my tooth picks to Miss Raymond and she said she never enjoyed any thing so much in her life.

Received a letter from Barb

I want to write her and will do so as soon as I can be up which I hope will not be long - I must close

Write often

Lovingly sister

Nellie

[Upside down addition]

My letters are not interesting

my head feels so I cant write

I am glad you got the election as Principalship

Nellie

1889, July 11th—Post Card

- **Author(s):** Ellen Lousina "Nellie" Bliley (Age: 25)
- **Addressee:** Frank Bliley (Age: 24)
- **Address:** 120 West 6th St, Erie, Pennsylvania
- **Postmarked:** Buffalo, New York
- **Notes:**
 - 120 West 6th St, Erie, was next to the courthouse on the north side of the street.
 - The address in the previous letter to Frank was at 122 West 6th Street.
 - The reference to "the Herald" is the newspaper "Erie Dispatch Herald".
 - Why this letter is postmarked Buffalo is a mystery.
 - Nellie dies December 5th of 1889.

Thursday, July 11th [1889 added later ?]

Dear brother; I am going home tomorrow and get to Wesleyville on the 8 oclock train.
P.M. I wrote a line to our folks to meet me. I hope they will get it. Better stop the Hearld.

Nellie

1889, September 29th—Letter

- **Author(s):** Frank Bliley (Age: 24)
- **Addressee:** Ellen Lousina "Nellie" Bliley (Age: 25)
- **Address:** Wesleyville, Pennsylvania
- **Postmarked:** Albion, Pennsylvania
- **Note(s):** In addition to the letter to Nellie, there was also a combination report card and curriculum of study with a note on it of the division of the grades among three rooms and the names of the two teachers that reported to Frank as the principal. These were: Mrs. Howard and Miss Florence Wells. No assignments to rooms were indicated and they may have rotated teaching assignments.

[Rotated text]

I enclose a "letter" as she called it that a 13 year old girl handed me.

[Main body of letter]

Albion, Pa, Sept. 29, 1889

*Miss Nellie L. Bliley
Wesleyville, Pa
My dear Sister,*

I have waited until nearly the eleventh hour before writing (9:47 P.M.) but I have no doubt but that my letter will be acceptable "just the same."

I have not heard from home since I left and an anxious to hear how you are.

I almost decide not to write to you at all to-night because I do not feel like a long letter and do not want to send any thing less. But, I'll send a few lines any way.

Nell, my first week's work is done and I am well pleased with the school. At present, I have 38 in my room ranging in age from 13 to 21: one of which is a school teacher. There are 9 in the 9th Grade or graduating class. I enclose a copy of our curriculum. One of the boys gave me a buggy ride this evening. My boarding place is pleasant. I have a study room with a bed room off of it. There is a large case filled with my books and the books belonging here. They build the fires for me before I get up. The people in general are very

friendly and I think I will like it here. I will be home Oct. 12 as I have to go to Ere and I'll go from there to attend the institute to be held at Edinboro beginning Oct. 14.

Your loving brother.

Frank

1889, October 3rd—Letter

- **Author(s):** Ellen Lousina "Nellie" Bliley (Age: 25)
- **Addressee:** Prof. Frank A. Bliley (Age: 24)
- **Address:** Albion, Pennsylvania
- **Postmarked:** Wesleyville, Pennsylvania
- **Notes:**
 - Envelope says "If not called for in 8 days Returnes to Box 86 Wesleyville Pa."
 - Frank is addressed as "Prof." (professor), but he was only a teacher in the village.
 - Nellie dies December 5th of 1889.

Wesleyville Pa. Oct 3rd '89.

Mr Frank A Bliley

Albion Penn.

My dear little brother

We were very glad to hear from you glad to you like your school and there has been no "funeral parties" in the first week of school.

Well I thought you would have no trouble. for when the get sight of that fierce mustache of yours it makes you look so terrible. they will mind you right up to time I know.

Well we had a dinner party yesterday. Mrs Dave(?) Ribbet, mrs G. McClelland Mrs Kilpartick Mrs Wolf Mrs F. Foote, Mrs Sewell and aunt Bell were the guests. had a very good dinner, three courses and they all seemed to enjoy them selves.

Grandma is quite poorly(?). she fell one day last week and hurt her hip so she can hardly sit down. gives her a good deal of pain. - This poor(?) ensipile(?) is about the same stil unable to satisfy the natural passion for food.

Aunt Eliza is spending the day. she walked down. Rose had to give up her school for a few days but is better now and teaching again They take her to and from school.

Will Mead is coming home this Fall.

Letters of "Nellie" Bliley to Frank A. Bliley

Charlie was still confined to his room last week & Dr thought he would not be able to be out for an other week or so

Agnes worries about him

Rather surprising Abes' marriage, wasnt it?

These is a party at the hall to morrow night and a party at the Four Mile Creek.

We will be glad to have you come home.

Ross is going to the train this afternoon to meet Mrs Ds(?) Barfus(?).

Well every thing at home is as when you left

Oh no we have set a few house plants on the windows and set up the parlor stove. It does nothing but rain here. Good bye,

lotts lotts of love

I am your sister

Nellie.

1882/1884, October 16th & 20th—Letter

- **Author(s):** Ellen Lousina "Nellie" Bliley (Age: 19/21?)
- **Addressee:** Frank Bliley (Age: 17/19?)
- **Address:** Edinboro, Pennsylvania
- **Postmarked:** Erie, Pennsylvania
- **Note(s):**
 - Frank is a college student in Edinboro Normal School, Pennsylvania studying to become a teacher between 1883 and 1886.
 - There is a Monday, the 20th in October in 1882 and 1884. The date could be set if the death of Fred Kuhl's wife could be established. (Correction needed.)

Oct 16 At Home

Dear brother Frank

I just got off the train at Shannons Crossing this morning at ten oclock and come home. I have been down to Corry Pa a week

I was very glad to her from you. You should have seen me smile when I read it. The first letter, they have mislaid and can not find. but it is a good joke on Rose. She said there was three letters here for me one from a gentleman friend, one from you {that was the first one} and one from Edinboro. It was a ladies hand writing. Did not know who it could be

and so did not open it. As soon as I saw the writing in side I said Why, it is from Frank. So you see by your disguise I had the satisfaction of opening one of my letters any way.

I have not written a word since the Fair but it is because I have been away most of the time. That day I went home with Ag and Charlie. I stayed a week from the following Sat

Then the next Monday father got a letter from a man at Wattsburg persuading him to take his stock out to their Fair that week. He went Tuesday

Took four head of cattle and grain (getting premium on all of it) Supposing Thursday to be the last day of the Fair, Mother Ross, aunt Bell and I drove our young team and went out. (Ross did the driving alone how ever) but on account of rain it was to hold an other day. It was nearer to Corry than home.

So we decided to go to Corry and stay all night with the girls. They were surprised beyond all measure to see us. They both said "Nell youre not going home with them," Mother said she would send a valise down with some more clothes Sat and I might stay a few days. I was also very anxious to hear whether out folks at home worried very much about us Thursday night. Well Saturday I looked and looked for my valise to come and a letter, but neither came to my great wanderment.

Nor did the come Monday to Tuesday. And I could not dream of why it was. Returned home this morning and found mother had sent the valise Sat so now I am here and my clothes are there but the Express Agent must have misunderstood the name. They girls will be perplexed as I, when they hear it for they insisted on me staying until Saturday at least. But my clothes I thought were hardly fit to go out any place and consciuously I felt I had better return homeward

Well! Well! Here it is Monday the 20th and this letter unfinished. I left it Thursday afternoon to go to supper. Then immediately after supper Will Rose and I got ready and went to Erie to see a nice Torch Light procession. A parade of the Republicans. Friday evening We attended a sociable hop at the Hall. I spent the evening with Mattie C__ until my company came. WE had a pleasant time. Sat got my valise home again. I think it very strange why they did not deliver it down there. Yesterday mother father and Ross spent the day up to aunt Bells. They brought us a few chestnuts. Charlies are going to have a good many. Well what I was going to tell you was what I was going to say and what I was going to say was what I was going to tell you. There was a gentleman called here last evening and he forgat to go home until late qunsequently I am tired caused from washing the forenoon or else sleepy from loss of sleep

[Rotated addition]

Guess that is the truth of it

[Added page]

Excuse the paper. We are out of letter paper.

Mrs Jesse Coover is very low. Fred Kuhls wife is dead guess it must have been quite sudden. Burstsd a blood vessel. I think she was buried last Saturday

We have more apples than we ever had before. have only commenced to pick them

They are working at the corn. An Irish man is coming to morrow to help.

The roads are very dusty. What an excitement over the Money(?) letter. said to be written by W L Scott. I would like to see what the Hearald says about it. Tuesday 4. P.M. Nettie and Stella Zahn were just here. They found us out in the orchard picking up apples. We did not look so bad how ever but we might have looked worse. A sister of Charity was here intersceding for the orphans.

Guess I had better close and let Will mail it this evening. Good bye. affectionately your sister Nell

[Upside down addition]

Alf B --- just went by in his second handed Cast(?) it looked very well. Yesterday we called on Emma S--- she has been down to Bradford for pins weeks. This is a lovely day.

1880s, May 29th—Letter

- **Author(s):** Ellen Lousina "Nellie" Bliley (Age: ?)
- **Addressee:** Frank Bliley (Age: ?)
- **Address:** Unknown
- **Postmarked:** No envelope
- **Note(s):**
 - Probably written from Wesleyville, PA
 - Probably to Frank in Corry, Pa ("love to all")

At Home May 29th

Dear brother Frank

I am sorry to disappoint you. but it can not be otherwise.

Will and I could go Saturday, but the other parties can not possibly. So do not look for us. If we can come in an other week. I will let you know.

You do not know how disappointed I am for I had my mind made up to see you. did not know it until last night

Oh Thursday was a great day in Erie. Rose and I were with Elma, Fanny and six others. We had a lovely view of the parade from a room up in the Y.M.C.A.

It was simply grand. The nicest Erie ever saw.

Mr Barfus and Fanny are coming out here Decoration day. I do not care to go to the City but I guess the rest will go - Aunt Belle spent the day here yesterday.

Will is ready for this so I will close.

Much love to all

Nellie

1880s, No Date—Letter

- **Author(s):** Ellen Lousina "Nellie" Bliley (Age: ?)
- **Addressee:** Frank Bliley (Age: ?)
- **Address:** Unknown
- **Postmarked:** No envelope; no date
- **Note(s):**
 - Probably written from Wesleyville, PA
 - **Important letter about education in the Mead and Bliley families.**

Dear brother. Rose is writing so I will put in a few lines. Since mother has come home She has given us a full discription of how all the Meads at Youngsville are getting along. She visited them all there and had a very enjoyable. it being nine years this winter since she was there. Arley Mead went to the Allegheny College five years and graduated. She got some help from her brother Lighten but mostly from her father. Now She has gone to ??? and is teaching in a High School at \$50.00 a month. has eighty scholars under her charge

When she first came home from college she hardly knew what she would do. She applied for a district school, near home

Her uncle was school director at the time, said that he could give her only thirty dollars. any way the school previously had been applied for. She applied for two other schools and was disappointed both places. Though not very bad for her. the wages was small and she wanted to get in a High school. Her uncle, however after Arley had decided to go west. wanted her and finally hired a teacher and payed him forty dollars a month. She does not like the wages she has now. but it will do to start on until she can get something better. She is just my age. how I wish I wish I had half as good an education. Oh I thirst for it and I think it is a shame that I could not have a little chance

A girl has or can not get along as well as a man. father sees his mistake now and wishes he had educated all his children. thinks there is money in it. What do you think he wanted me to go to Edinboro right after the Hollidays, go to school, one term and then apply for a school and teach. To begin with it has been so long since I have been to school I have forgotten a good deal I did know in the common branches. Possibly I might creep through. but I think not at least two to one. chance and secondly I know I would not do justice to the school. though as good as some of the rest of them. I would not be I know what the school ought to have. and thrindly(?). I declare I could not endure the talk thes young and incompetent teachers necessarily create.

They do not give satisfaction and people do not like it and have a just reason to be dissatisfied. For there(?) is teacher is filling a position which she is not capable of for the sake of the almighty dollar. I would be willing to teach if I was competent to get an education. I think it is as necessary for a girl to have an education as a man. for various reasons. Had I one half the chance Arley had I should not hesitate. her schooling cost \$1.000.00 No doubt she will work and pay

3rd [Sheet]

it back. She got hers with out an enemtion(?) on her part toward defraying expenses. but now I must tell you how her brother Lighten had to struggle to get through. His father helped him to go away to school a couple of years he then accepted a situation the Standard Oil Company offered him. Went to Florida for them. was gone two years and came home at the end of that time. with out a cent more than he went away with. He was discouraged. Two years lost. They had cheated him out of it. Then he took the agency of a book. two volums (dont know the title) went to Conn. and N.J. and with them cleared a thousand dollars in eight months. He then went to College again. Went two years more. but stopped at times to earn money. Taught three or four terms of school. Now he is at Pittsburgh. has been studying law for some time. and in this time has studied short hand writing. One Summer at home every day he would have some one read to him a couple of housr for him to write. Now the writing he did has been paying his way for him and he will be admitted to the bar the middle of Mar. So you see he has after a number of years of hard work and study reached that which he aimed for. After he had finished at College An establishment east some place offered him \$1500.00 a year to superintend and with a chance to take an interest. He prefered law. When mother was telling me it made me think of you. I am certain you are as persevering and if you have your health you to will reach the height of your ambition and come out victorious in the end. It seems those who struggle hardest to attain an object are the mostworthy. make the best men and are by men held the highest with Laurels well merrited. I will discontinue for now.

I do not want you to ruin your eyes all at reading. Good bye. with a whole lot of love I am your sister

Nell.

END OF NELLIE'S LETTERS TO FRANK ANDERSON BLILEY