

LETTERS BY ROSANNA JANE “ROSE” BLILEY TO FRANK ANDERSON BLILEY 1880–1890

Draft 3 — October 13, 2017

Introduction

Rosanna Jane “Rose” Bliley wrote the following letters (32) and post cards (9) to her younger brother Frank between 1880 and 1890. These items of correspondence were found in the Bliley family archives in October 2010 in Boulder, Colorado.

Wallace “Wally” Venable made transcriptions of the letters and cards from originals he scanned between December 2011 and March of 2012. The transcriptions contain some “errors” found in the original documents, or were introduced by the transcriber due to difficulty reading the texts. If accuracy is essential, I would recommend looking at the original scans of the letters.

Wally invested dozens of hours scanning and transcribing these letters, and his contribution to this project for which I am truly indebted; consequently, I will not criticize the few errors that I have found. After all, there are approximately 30,000 words here written by Rose!

A word of thanks also goes to Norma Venable, who read all of the letters and created a brief summary of each letter that is presented below. Considering there are several hundred letters in the collection, Norma’s seemingly-simple contribution actually adds considerable value to this project.

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 Rose’s Life — September 7, 1860–June, 11, 1909

“Rose” was a five-year older sister to Frank and one of 10 children of the Bliley family that lived more than a few years. She married Silas R. Curtis in 1890 and lived in Erie, Pennsylvania. In 1889, she appears to have contracted lung cancer and went to Bryden Wood Sanitarium near Reading, PA seeking treatment.

In this time period, Bryden Wood Sanitarium was primarily know as a tuberculosis treatment center. A March 17, 1909 postal card appears to be an informal note to Frank on his sister’s health. She is supposedly doing very well

and is eating three big meals a day, and three small ones. She is terminally ill; in May of 1909, she was diagnosed with a "tumor in her chest pressing on her heart." She returns home to Saint Vincent's Hospital in Erie to die one month after she arrives.



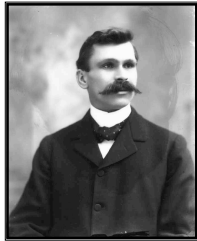
Rose Age 25, 1885



Rose, Age 37, 1897

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. He chose to set up his law practice in downtown Erie and hence, the need for written correspondence with his siblings and parents became unnecessary.



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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Letter Summaries

The following are brief summaries of many of the letters in this collection written by Norma Venable in 2012. They do not necessarily reflect all content.

DATE	CONTENT SUMMARY
Dec 12, 1881	Rose writes she misses Frank so much she will stay at "Agg's" (Mary Agnes Bliley) until Frank comes home. Our buggy broke when horse ran away. Cars scared horse. Father put buggy in big wagon and took it to Erie to fixed. Inez had the flu; almost died better now. Francis Bliley and her fellow tipped over their buggy in front of our house. No one hurt. Wish you were here for Xmas.
Jan 28, 1882	Young folks here. We treated them to cake and ice cream and let them dance. Agg is going to Corry for two weeks. We will keep George here. Charlie and Cash Wagner plan to go into dairy business in April. Roses full of snow. Gandma (Catherine Eich Bliley; age 86) is well, for her.
Nov 12, 1882	Rose is admonishing Frank for pleasures in Ada instead of working for Father. Tells Frank to answer Nellie's letter. Barb gone home to Corry. Nellie may go to Corry also. Father has corn husked.
Nov 28, 1882	<i>Present—No summary.</i>
Dec 22, 1882	Stormy night. Received letters from Nellie and Dave. Only five at home now; Rose, Mary Jane, Charles, Grandma, and Ross. Wilfred working for Charlie Wagner for \$16 a month cutting wood and drawing ice. Inez is cute and talks all the time. Will have roast turkey for Xmas. Ross and I went to Dick Bonnells. And our sleigh tipped over twice. Father went to Westfield to buy a beacher. (a sleigh?) Wind blew over straw stacks in the barnyard. Ross helped with chores. We have two new milk cows. I have a new sidesaddle.
Jan 4 1883	Rose compliments Frank on his application to study at Ada, Ohio. Nellie in for a visit. News of balls and dances. Letter has ticket and dance card for ball at Wesleyville Union Hall.
Jan 23, 1883	<i>Present—No summary.</i>
Jan 27, 1883	<i>Present—No summary.</i>
Jan 27 1883	Father just received your letter. I am answering. You must say how much money you need. So Father will know. Father's wrist is

	better. He can do chores now. Will came to help. Cold weather here. Milk in our pantry froze. Father wants you to look up possible relations in Ada.
Feb 9 1883	Father will send you money via post office money order. Father's wrist better; he had fallen on ice. One of you boys needed at home to make it easier for Father and Mother. We never can do too much for them. I wish you were more interested in Father's work. You should help Father now, be a dutiful son, and later go on your own. Dave home soon; can't make anything in Colorado. Inez here all last week. She's cute. Will still working for Charlie Wagner.
Mar 2 1883	Father says he can't send you any money now unless he deprives himself. Dave home clerking at Reed's Hardware. Dave thinks you should work on farm couple of years until your mind is settled. Grandma went to town. Will working for Charlie. Charlie and Agg (Mary Agnes) had a large party in their Hall last week; hope they don't have any more until after Lent. Father said he can get along without you until April.
Dec 13, 1883 Jan 5, 1883	<i>Present—No summary.</i>
Feb 26 1884	Contains an Announcement of a Leap Year party sponsored by Rose Bliley and friends.
Feb 26 1884	Got your kind letter. Our Leap Year festivities were a great success. Mother called to Aunt Belle who is sick. Mr. Wagner very bad, so Father went to see him. Agg went to Corry and I kept house for her. Got along splendid. Father got Nellie a gold necklace and cross for her birthday; she is 21.
June 23, 1884	<i>Present—No Summary</i>
Sept 5, 1884	<i>Present—No Summary</i>
May 2, 1885	<i>Present—No Summary</i>
Dec 4, 1885	<i>Present—No Summary</i>
Dec 5, 1885	<i>Present—No Summary</i>
Dec 7, 1885	<i>Present—No Summary</i>
Dec. 9, 1885	<i>Present—No Summary</i>
Jan 1, 1886	Mother is better. She was dangerously ill with influenza. Agg and Barb were both here. Doctor made some 30 calls here. Xmas Eve there was a ball, and Will Curtis got a little too high, and got into a fight with a boy from the south. Will and I went to a party at Kelly's and had a good time. Our Xmas presents were small this year.
Jan 12, 1886	Roads terrible. It took Charlie Wagner and two of his men four

	hours to drive to Erie. Mother much better. Washington leaving for oil country. Ross is going to writing(??) school two evenings a week. Barb was here a month.
Jan 29 1886	Rose says she is glad Frank is studying hard. Charlie has a new cutter (sleigh). Father has the top back on our buggy. Mother went to Corry and came back sick. Charlie and Agg joined Lodge at Wesleyville and got life insurance. Only one letter from Will; don't care if he comes back--he is always so unpleasant to his sisters.
Jan 31 1886	I've been to several sorties. We sold a horse with a broken windpipe. Will is drawing shingles to shingle our barn. Will drew ice for Charlie. Nellie will learn dressmaking at Erie.
Feb 4 1886	Mother getting much better. She can make the fires, and went to Aunt Bell's house. Roads terrible. People coming and going at the farm; some to stay overnight. This is last week of Village School. Ross (15) can't go; Father needs him on the farm.
Feb 15, 1886	<i>Present—No Summary</i>
April 19 1886	Rose finished a large wash. I just sent Inez to school; she wanted to start right after breakfast. We had George for two weeks. Mother gone to Charlie's as they are building a house addition. Both Charlie and Myron and Father have been talking about school jobs for Frank. (The Wagner brothers were affiliated with the local school system.)
May 16, 1886	<i>Present—No Summary</i>
May 22, 1886	Rose tells Frank to write Myron Wagner about schools. The letter is a discussion of school jobs that Frank might or might not get.
May 16, 1886	Rose is glad Frank is getting along with his studies. Rose and Grandma are alone in the house. Father, Mother and Inez are up the road. Charlie has 40 acres to plant yet. Letter has scandal about and unwed mother and her family will make the father pay.
June 16 1886	Rose congratulates Frank on his upcoming graduation from Edinboro. Rose is effusive; says Frank has honored parents and sisters with his success. Says Charlie Wagner will do all he can to help with job prospects. Ross and Rose are going to church.
June 18, 1886	<i>Present—No Summary</i>
Oct 17 1886	Rose writes many details: Mother got Frank's letter and check; Grandma doing poorly, but better. Men husking corn and picking apples. Nellie singing and playing piano. Will seeing a lady in Erie. Uncle Andrew will enlarge his store. Father thinks going west is a bad idea and Frank should continue education. Rose provides a list of local balls and parties.
Feb 20 1887	No envelope for this letter. Rose writes that Frank has changed his

	place again and hopes he will get something steady and paying. Asks Frank to write a friend of his teaching at Pittsfield, Warren County, PA. Rose writes about news from Elliot Bonnell's. Rose writes that grandmother (91) is well and downstairs knitting. Rose asks Frank if he got the mittens she sent. They got a letter from Alex who wrote he had been mistreated. Rose asks Frank to write Alex and inquire into the situation and Rose says they will not tell Father, but Mother would like to know. Uncle Andrew plans to close his store March 1. Rose says she is going to a party tomorrow and it will be her last until after Lent.
March 13, 1887	Present—No Summary
July 3 1887	Rose asks Frank when he is coming home from Colorado. He has been gone so long Mother has tears in her eyes. Rose says it's hot and the men are busy haying. She, Nellie and Ross went to a dance at Kelly's. Charlie doing well in restaurant and saloon business. Uncle Andrew will stay here a few days. Francis had a girl baby in Buffalo and Rose writes Uncle Andrew doesn't want her ever to come in his home again. Francis going from bad to worse.
June 22 1888	Rose writes they just got Frank's letter and Father went right over to Belle Valley to see about getting a school job for Frank. Rose writes more about school jobs. Rose says Agg and the three grandchildren were at the farm for a week.
July 1 1888	Rose admonishes Frank for not getting local school position; Nellie in city with Agg since Nellie must see Dr. every day; Inez getting her hearing back; yard beautiful, Barb and baby fine; Grandma to city.
July 15 1888	Nellie has been ill. Dr. says it's the worst case he has ever seen. Mother has been paying the Doctor. George Kennedy has been picking cherries for us. Will cut some grain. Rose says there were 60 applicants for the Mill Creek School job, indicating the competition Frank was up against in trying to get a teaching job. Rose treated the Benevolent Society to raspberries and cream at the farm. Rose then writes Frank about Father lending her money to go to Colorado and start a boarding house. Rose says a change of country would do her good. (Rose did go to Colorado.) Rose profusely thanks Frank for offering to help Nellie when he can. Rose writes that work on the farm is very hard for Father.
July 30, 1888	Rose asks Frank why he has changed careers; Rose wishes she could be in Colorado; Will has been to Uncle Andrew's farm all day with the team; Feen (Josephine), Gertie, George and Inez have been here; Nellie with Agg is getting better.
Jan 3, 1889	Present—No Summary
Jan 8 1889	Rose, in Aspen, writes she is back late after going to a dance with a

	friend; and that she is not exactly a tenderfoot out west as she walks all over; Alex paid her 30 dollars for her work. Rose sent home what she owed Father for expenses paying her travel expenses out west. Rose is needed at home for work, but wants to see some of the west. Hulda gave her her wedding dress. The Iowa mine working. House has hanging lamp in dining room. Alex and Hulda's baby is cute and Hulda worships him. See photo of Aspen on back of envelope. (Important letter describing events in Aspen when Rose stayed with Alex and Hulda.)
Jan 15 1890	Rose writes she quilted a quilt today. Ross has caught up with his studies. Mother and I went to city last week to get black cloth to have Anna here to make them into dresses. Mother is going to Corry for two weeks. Rose asks Frank to send 10 dollars to pay doctor for Nellie who tragically died at age 26 Dec. 5, 1889. Rose expects Charlie Wagner to move to Harbor Creek to run the hotel there. Agg doesn't want to go. Will miss them if they leave Erie. Will is getting the Daily Dispatch now—3 months for 2 dollars.
Feb 10, 1889	Rose went to Colorado and writes that her letter from Frank is a gleam of sunshine in these high mountains. Rose writes that Alex has lost the lease and they are now living in town. There were problems with Hulda and her feeling shortchanged, and Rose is sorting this out. Rose decided she couldn't make anything in Colorado and Alex is giving her money to come home. However, Rose met a man named John Howell who has land in Kansas, an interest in a mine, and who doesn't drink or go to bawdy houses. Rose thinks she might marry him. Rose then left Colorado in the spring and returned to Erie.
Feb 25, 1889	Present—No Summary
Dec 21, 1889	Present—No Summary

1881, December 12th—Letter

Author(s): Rosanna "Rose" Jane Bliley (Age: 21)

Addressee: Frank Bliley (Age: 17)

Address: Edinboro, Pennsylvania

Postmarked: Erie, Pennsylvania

Note(s):

- The first line of the letter was written in the reverse/mirror writing. She must have been playing around and gave up.
- Frank was a college student in Edinboro Normal School studying to become a teacher.

[mirrored / reverse handwriting]

At Aggs Dec 12th 1881

Dear Brother Frank

I received a splend letter from

[normal handwriting]

you last week was very glad to here from you I hope you are improving every day I dont suppose you hardly ever think of home

Frank it is lonely at home without you & Will there is two ?? vacant places at the table every day which I hope will be filled with the same ones? some day & soon I came down to Aggs week ago Friday I think I will stay till you come home the reason why must be because I miss you so much

Frank out buggy was Broke all to pieces yesterday.

Yesterday Father & Mother attended a Funeral at harbor creek they had Hit(?) he got frightened at the cars & run home he was hitched to a post tore the harnies to pieces Father put the buggy in the big wagon to day & took it to Erie to get it fixed the top is all to pieces the dash board broken fill(?) broken wheles. I wouldnt give much for it now.

Father got new bridles for the 2 double harinee to day; Ellet & Feen are here yet they are going home this week Unekle George isnt any better ?? Unekle Willis is going to stay till after Christmas it is very quiet around here now they are going to have some singing & speaking in the Wesleyville church Christmas evening Frank I wish you could spend Christmas at home Inez had the croup friday night we didnt think she would live she is better now Frank the next time I write I will try to take more forms this is the third letter I have written to night I am sleepy you will excuse it write often & soon

yours lovingly Rose

[upside down additions]

I have write to Will & Alex this evening Mary S???? was enquiring about you yesterday she seems to like her school very much Francis Bliley & her fellow tipped over in front of or house las Sunday no one hurt & her fellow was out to Jean(?) Coon(?)

have you got a room mate do you half to study hard I was going to write with my left hand it would take to long so I changed hands I wish you would burn this letter soon as you read it I think it will be good to seare(?) rato(?)

Good night Pleasant Dreams Rose

Father isnt going to get a new boy to help him next month

Who does your washings

1882, January 28th—Letter

Author(s): Rosanna "Rose" Jane Bliley (Age: 21)

Addressee: Frank Bliley (Age: 17)

Address: Edinboro, Pennsylvania

Postmarked: Erie, Pennsylvania

Note(s):

- Frank was a college student in Edinboro Normal School studying to become a teacher.
- Paper decorated with printed roses

At Home

Jan 28, 1882

Dear Brother Frank

I presume you will think we have forgotten all about you. Such could not be the case. Dear me I dont know where the time is going here it is most Feb & nothing done yet It seems as if I cant find much Idle Time like I wish I could. I was down to Belle Moors this afternoon I went to see the Dr I sprained my wrist(?) a week ago it has troubled me evr since. Well now I will speak about the young folks. weak ago last Wednesday evening the young folks around Wesleyville were here Stelie Zahn was here & stayed all night There was about fifteen here we treated them to two kinds of cake & ice cream. We had a splendid time after supper we let them dance some

Last Tuesday evening there was a Load of eighteen came out from Erie it was a Methidest Load they brought there own refreshments we set the table we had a very plesent time they stayed till after 1 OClock AM

Elma invited them they tipped over going home:

Then Last Friday evening Mr Zahns had a partie we had a very plesent time had a very nice supper they were mostly all young folks then Weak ago last Tuesday evening the Lodge had a very nice partie in the hall

[rotated addition]

I presume you have herd that Charlie is going to move on Traseys(?) farm above Erie in April He & Cash are going in pardnership there is four hundred acres in the farm they will have some work to do & run a Dairy. Aby(?) & Will Bibly(?) got some very nice present at there weding they are going to house keeping in the spring & to live in Erie.

[upside down additions]

old Mrs fich is dead will be burried tomorrow

The roads are full of snow here ??? makes it bad about turning out for any one: Grandma is pretty well for her. Lambing was out here two knights last weak Rose McClelland called here Saturday how I wish you could drop in every little while. Father is going to trade Prince Will is to see a horse tomorrow I must close I want to write two more letters this eve hoping to here from yu soon

Your Lovingly Rose

[added page]

Mother went to see Davis Rees & had a talk with him he dont know weather there will be a chance for you or not if there is he will let you know he wanted to know if you was a good writer & composer he said short hand writing would be used some & telegraphing(?) whiced(?) could be picked up some & they would be a chance to study there to.

1882, November 12th—Letter

Author(s): Rosanna "Rose" Jane Bliley (Age: 21)

Addressee: Frank Bliley (Age: 17)

Address: Ada, Ohio

Postmarked: Wesleyville, Pennsylvania

Note(s):

- Frank was a college student in Edinboro Normal School studying to become a teacher, but took time out to go to Ada to study bookkeeping at North-Western Ohio Normal School.
- "Joe Blily" did become an undertaker and later moved to Richmond, Virginia. The Joseph Bliley funeral home is still a viable business in 2014 and run by his grandsons.
- Joseph is Rose's second cousin by way of her grandfather's brother, Sebastian, who lives in the adjacent township of Greene.

At Home

Nov 12 1882

Dear Brother Frank

I am going to try to write you a letter I dont know weather I can write one proper enough to suit you I wont stop on that account I dont see why you dont answer Nellies letter I assume you are so taken up with the pleasures there that you hardly give home a thought

I think you were very foolish to ask Father for your time Frank if you would only stop to think Father is doing his best to give you an education you know you are needed at home in the summer remember Father is getting old dont try to leave him just as soon as you are of any help to him it will be better for you in the end I presume you are very much disapointed to receive such a postal; Father has got his corn all husked that is out doors he

Letters of "Rose" Bliley to Frank A. Bliley

*has about an acre of corn stalks to draw in the barn than we are ready for winter it has
Been raining most all day it is very muddy now & quite warm Those two young couple
came to our house weak ago to day & stayed till Monday Afternoon we had a splendid
visit young Joe Blily is going to be an under taker he said he stayed at home till he was 24
years old & then started for himself with nothing Frank you would think that would be
terrible he is two inches shorter than Lambing he is very flessia(?) I think the best looking
Bliley I have seen his wife isnt very pretty she is very lively Maryan Blileys husband is a
molder he is very short & flessia goodeal smaller than she is they have all done well they
are going to start back tomorrow*

Feen & Gertie came home last wednesday they are going to stay two weeks

Feen brought Mrs Davis with her she went home yesterday

Eliott came Thursday

Barb went home Wednesday

*Nellie talks of going to Corry in a couple weeks & stay all winter. Will dont know what
he will do yet. Grandma isnt feeling yery well to day. Will Curtis came home last
Tuesday Lene(?) he is going to Uncle Willises he dont know weather he will come home
or not*

[rotated additions]

are your shirts & collars done up to suite you now

[upside down additions]

The talk is very strong now that Nellie Curtis & Jimmie(?) are going to be married soon

*Brother Alex sent his picture home cabinet size. Mary Kilpatrick is very sick with an
abses on the end her spine. She suffers a great deal of pain night & day she looks very bad*

I got me a No 1 side saddle last week it was a present

*Leadl(?) Kelsey Jessie Chamber & I went to Erie horse back Thursday went up to Elmas;
They had a dance in the Hall Thursday evening it was a failer wasnt only fifteen couples
there it stormed was the reason & was very dark Alex & George Wagers(?) played they
had Branel's(?) engaged they sent a word that evening for them not to come it is getting
dark.*

*I will half to close I wish you would write let us know how you are getting along what
you do to pass away the time when you are out of school*

*how do you like your boarding place & room mate does each of you have to pay 75 cts per
week for the room do you have to furnish your own fewel*

*Our school on the Hill comences on the hill tomorrow try to answer this letter before next
spring it is almost milking time Yours Truly Rose*

1882, November 28th—Letter

Author(s): Rosanna "Rose" Jane Bliley (Age: 21)

Addressee: Frank Bliley (Age: 17)

Address: Ada, Ohio

Postmarked: Wesleyville, Pennsylvania

Note(s):

- Frank was a college student in Edinboro Normal School studying to become a teacher, but took time out to go to Ada to study bookkeeping at North-Western Ohio Normal School.

Wesleyville Nov 28 1882

Dear Brother

I thought I would Send a postal to let you know what Mr D Reese said Mother went to see him he said if you want to do business on the Rail(?) Bond(?) you cant have to good an education he dont need any one in the office as building clerk that office is filled. Feen went home Saturday Nellie went home with her &? is going to stay all winter with Barb(?). It snowed quite hard yesterday lots of sleighs out to day but very poor sleighing.

Mag Cr__ was Married last Tuesday Grandma was 88 years old Saturday was a piece in the paper about her age only has five at home now it seems very quite

Yours Truly Rose

1882, December 22nd—Letter

Author(s): Rosanna "Rose" Jane Bliley (Age: 21)

Addressee: Frank Bliley (Age: 17)

Address: Ada, Ohio

Postmarked: Erie, Pennsylvania

Note(s):

- Frank was a college student in Edinboro Normal School studying to become a teacher, but took time out to go to Ada to study bookkeeping at North-Western Ohio Normal School.
- "Feen" or "Fene" is a nickname for their sister Josephine Bliley.

At Home

Dec 22, 1882

Dear Brother Frank

It has been some time since I have written to you I will take the pleasure this stormy evening & pen you a few lines. I have just written a long letter to Barb this evening

I received one from Feen & Nellie yesterday & one from Dave this evening.

Well Frank there is only five at home now Will is working down to Charlies he went down there last week Charlie gives him 16\$ per month Aggs children have both been very sick the Dr said with a disorderly stomach they are both very poor but Inez is just as cute as can be & is a big mioniek (monkey?) she talks all the time. Charlies Unkle Zehews(?) Amekles(?) Washingstons Alice Mr & Mrs John Tuttle are invited here Christmas

We are going to have Roast Turkey I wish you could help partake of some of our dinner I presume you will have a fine dinner. I cant tell what the presents will be now

Mother will send you a package. Mother is going to send the girls a basket full of fresh meat tomorrow We buchered this last Tuesday Wilse & Will helped Mother & I had a goodeal to do. Father was sick Tuesday Afternoon & Wednesday is goodeal better now he had a bad cold. Then last Thursday Mother was real sick didnt set up hardly she took a sevier cold she is about over her cold now Grandma was very poorly last week she feels better this week but is not well there has been quite a number sick around here lately with a cold I am glad I have been well able to wait on those that wasnt. WE have had all kinds of weather the last two days to day it rained the sleighing about all gone we had a terrible snow storm last week yesterday morning Ross & I went up to Dick Bonnells tipped over twice coming back south of here the roads drifted very bad so they half to drive in fields some places.

Father went to Westfield two weeks ago bought an other Beacher I havent went out to see it yet dont know what he paid for it it is a small one. We have two new milch cows arnt you sorry you are not here to help milk Rose helps do the chores the wind blew so hard Wednesday

[upside down additions]

night it blew over two straw stacks in the Barn yard

They are going to have a Christmas tree in Wesleyville Church Monday evening going to have speaking & singing & are going to have one over to Belle vale Church Elle Davison I guess is little better

Alf has bought Washingtons cutter Washington has bought a new two seated one

If it hadnt rained this evening Will Mead was going to take a load of us young folks up to Capt Davisis to surprise them will half to pute if off now till the first pleasant moon light knight & good sleighing.

They are going to have a party in the Wesleyville hall the fifth of January to celebrate there aniversary Just one year from then sinse the loge was organized the last one four weeks ago such a failure

[added page]

Jimmie Hiles(?) Boards over to Curtises now I called on Nellie last week I received a letter from Lene Mead last week he is working in a street car barn in minapolis Minn I sent a letter to him & Alex yesterday. Frank I am going to send you my picture only to keep till you come home you can have Wills; I have been coaxing(?) Father for a new cutter I dont think it will do any good to coax any more; Frank I dont think it is good for you to set up so late to study it is to hard on the brain we eat Breakfast about half past seven AM we have lots of fresh meet now & very nice sausage my paper is most full I am getting sleepy

Frank how much did you say your Board cost & do you pay half for fewel you know we havent got the education & is hard for us to understand anything if not written plain. Nellie Obryan is married & is going right to house keeping

Liz Davison was married week ago Saturday to a man from Bradford she only has seen him three times her folks didnt know she was married till the next day I guess Dick feels some what blue all though he says he is glad she is married

Grandma sends her love & Mother

[upside down additions]

Ross want to know what you will take for that white sled he said Willie Bonnell wants to bye it

Ross said write the exact price in the next letter. I dont think there is any danger of him selling it

Frank did I ever tell you I had a new side saddle I have one & rode it twice it was a present from a friend it is a nice one

Ross sleeps with me he is afraid to sleep alone Will still goes to see Mary Heart(?) she bought a piano this fall with her sewing money she is a dress maker she gave \$500.00(?) [seems way too high] for it cash money

I will make you a present of some postage stamps. I wish you a merry Christmas I wish you could spend the Holy days at home it seems quiet here now Pete Hume(?) went to visit soph two weeks ago he may stay all winter Humes board the teacher & Aunt Belle Boards one good night yours Lovingly Rose

write soon

[rotated addition]

have you fell in love with any girls do you go to any parties

1883, January 4th—Letter

Author(s): Rosanna "Rose" Jane Bliley (Age: 22)

Letters of "Rose" Bliley to Frank A. Bliley

Addressee: Frank Bliley (Age: 18)

Address: Ada, Ohio

Postmarked: Erie, Pennsylvania

Note(s):

- Frank was a college student in Edinboro Normal School studying to become a teacher, but took time out to go to Ada to study bookkeeping at North-Western Ohio Normal School.
- Letter includes an invitation to a dance at Wesleyville Union Hall

At Home

Jan 4 1883

Dear Brother Frank

I am going to Take the pleasure this evening & write to you see that you were so kind to write soon. Well my dear brother I was greatly pleased so to here that you had through diligent application passed through the prescribed course of study Knowing how deeply interested your Parents Brothers & Sisters have been in your success it is particularly gratifying to have you reward your Parents by the achievement of such rapid Progress. hoping you will improve your time as much this next term Frank I dont think it is a good idea your seting up so late evenings to study you know any ones brains require so much rest Frank do you think you could keep book in any kind of an office?

Nellie came home the Saturday before Christmas & stayed two weeks she went back yesterday dont think she will be back until the last of April or May she came home on a excursioned ticket only cost 1.50\$

We had a very pleasent time here Christmas each of us got our share of presents in the evening went down to Wesleyville Church they had two trees had speaking & singing was very nice last Friday evening there was a ball in the union Hall was about fourty couple. they had supper & the nicest music we have had yet the ticket was \$1.25 we had a very plesent time there hasnt much been going on around here lately the roads have been so bad they are goodeal better now have nice sleighing I have had lots of sleigh rides. You will see by the paper that Nellie Snell(?) is married she is here now came out with our folks yesterday is going back tomorrow her husband is on the scion(?) now wont be back here till April only Gertie & Marth(?) saw her Married was Married at the Parsonage. The young folks in Wesleyville were here one evening last week Lambing was here stayed two nights last week.

Nellie Obryan is Married.

Mr & Mrs Aydrian Sewell have gone to Michigan to visit Birons(?) if it is pleasent tomorrow evening I am going over to Mr Martans(?)

Nellie helped Mary Kirkpatrick entertain some gentlemen callers New years day I was over in the evening. Capt Davis have moved in there own house on myrtle between third & fourth

I want to go to Erie next week & stay a few days. I miss Nellie

[upside down and rotated additions]

Do you here from the girls & boys often

Frank you ought to be here to drive our horses some they are feeling so nice now not doing anything I dont think they have been curried

Hettie Jones is visiting friends Roberts(?) here now she is at Annie

I will send you one of our ball invitations we had for our ball

Your picture is splended

We your folks are going up to Capt Davis some evening the young folks often enquire about you

What church do you attend mostly I dont suppose you ever go in side of ours dont give ours up

I got a letter from Dave few days ago he talks as if he would like to leave Coll if he could get work some where else he would come here if Lambing could get him a good situation he thinks Alex is doing well Alex generally writes letters & not the opposite way when he writes home I havent heard from him for some time

of good once since Will has been gon Will comes home every Saturday night what are you studying now & you intend to study to do the Bail Bond

Davis said you couldnt have too good an education & of corse want to study such Branches that will learn you for that business how many Books have you taken how many students are there there

Pete Hume came home Friday he has been gone four weeks Grandma is feeling goodeal better now than she has been

*I am oblige to bring my letter to a close my paper is full when you write write all about your new studies have you the same room mate it is bed time write soon Yours Lovingly
Rose*

1883, January 23rd—Letter

Author(s): Rosanna "Rose" Jane Bliley (Age: 22)

Addressee: Frank Bliley (Age: 18)

Address: Ada, Ohio

Postmarked: Wesleyville, Pennsylvania

Note(s):

- Frank was a college student in Edinboro Normal School studying to become a teacher, but took time out to go to Ada to study bookkeeping at North-Western Ohio Normal School.

January 23 [1883]

Dear Brother

I received a letter from you last week thought I would write a postal t day will write a letter some other day. The last few days have been very cold is storming some to day the sleighing isnt very good now. Mr & Mrs Beamer from Iowa are here now they came out Saturday We are looking for Dan Bliley every day he is out to green now. There is going to be a nother Ball in the Wesleyville hall this evening wish you was here to attend Father sprained his wright wrist Saturday he cant use that hand any it is improving every day he went to lead one of the horses out to watter it jumped up & struck him they are feeling nice now not doing any thing Mr Wagner is very poorly - they had to have the Doctor Saturday

the rest of family are well

Yours Truely RJB

1883, January 27th—Letter

Author(s): Rosanna "Rose" Jane Bliley (Age: 22)

Addressee: Frank Bliley (Age: 18)

Address: Ada, Ohio

Postmarked: Erie, Pennsylvania

Note(s):

- Frank was a college student in Edinboro Normal School studying to become a teacher, but took time out to go to Ada to study bookkeeping at North-Western Ohio Normal School.

At Home

Jan 26 1883

Dear Brother Frank

Father Just received a letter from you this evening I have got it to answer I was going to write to you this evening anyway; You didnt say how much money you needed You will half to send a postal & let Father know just how much moor you will need to pay all your expenses so he will know how he would send all you needed tomorrow if he knew how much it was I presume you want enough to clear all your expenses; wont you be glad

when April comes I know I will I would like to see you Frank you are one of my choice at home:

I presume you are anxious to go to work: Fathers wrist is getting along splended he manages to get the chores done Will came home Monday & stayed till Wednesday I dont know what we would have done if he hadny come home: Will works in the woods most of the time he comes home every Saturday nigh&stays till Sunday evenings

Mr & Mrs Beamer are here yet

They are splended they gave us there There picture & there two youngest Daughters age 16 & 22 they are nice looking. they were all to Uncle Washingtons: We had a very nice time Tuesday evening at the party. they are going to have six dances close together Will Charlie Dick Cooper Frank Thompkins & WR Shelly(?) are the six that set(?) them up I wish you was here to attend some of them I would make you take me I dont believe I could go with a finer young man or nice looking Frank was I not saying this to flatter you I know so The girls enquire about you ask when you are coming home

Will Curtice is going to drive to Corry some time in February if there is nice sleighing

wants me to go with him I hope it will be nice so we can go he wants to go some saturday & come Back Monday..

Will & Annie Riblet spent the evening here Wednesday evening Aunt Belle & Rose Mead stayed all night here Tuesday evening I spent a few days up to Erie last week stayed one night with Elma they have moved on Myrtle Street between 3rd & 4th they have a very nice place. We have had some very cold weather this week it was cold enough to freze milk in our pantry it was coldest we have had this winter. Lettie(?) Cofman is here now on a visit

[upside down additions]

Our horses are feeling very nice now they dont get enough for exercise when they are hitched up they look as if they are ready warm any time Prince is the same as ever he dont change any

did I ever tell you I have a new side saddle I got a very nice one in the fall I am going to get me a new riding habit

the saddle was a present I only used it three times it got cold to quick; Father will send five dollars in this letter let him know soon just how much you need the five dollars included my paper is full so you will have to excuse this writing

Rose

there isnt much sleighing from here to the south of here there is lots of snow I have been tipped out of a cutter five

Charlie Raster(?) store was closed by the sherif they are holding revival meeting in Wesleyville now Clara Kennedy rose

[added page]

Frank you sayed there was a family by the name of Bliley neer there how neer do they live from Ada Father Said he has some own(?) coisins that live in Ohio you try & find out there names. Father thinks maby they are related to him he said if they was he would like to correspond with them

the oldest one given name is Benedick & the other is Ignatius Father said they wer men about 70 years old now Try & find out what you can about them

[upside down additions]

We are milking two new milk cows now & expect another one soon

I presume you often wish you was here to help milk I hope you wont forget how I can give you some lessons if you do I dont think you will be hard to learn ha ha

Rose

Saturday morning it is trying to rain Mr & Mrs Beamer are going to Erie to day then they are coming out again next saturday

I presume you live high do you ???

1883, February 9th—Letter

Author(s): Rosanna "Rose" Jane Bliley (Age: 22)

Addressee: Frank Bliley (Age: 18)

Address: Ada, Ohio

Postmarked: Erie, Pennsylvania

Note(s):

- Frank was a college student in Edinboro Normal School studying to become a teacher, but took time out to go to Ada to study bookkeeping at North-Western Ohio Normal School.

At Home

February 9 1883

Dear Brother Frank

I have just been writing to Feen it is after 9 O Clock A M I thought I must write a letter to you

Father is going to send you the money tomorrow he is going to get it in post office order thought that would be the safest way. Well I have been busy this week sewing

Mr & Mrs Beamer have been here part of the time we look for them Back here tomorrow & stay most of the week they are both splended company: Dan Bliley stayed here last Sunday night he is going back next week Joe & Royal both stayed here Sunday night had a good visit with all.. Fathers wrist is getting better he fell down on some ice last week hurt his shoulder the same side his wrist is hurt it just about layed him up he managed to do the chores it was to much for him one of you Boys are needed at home to make it easier for Mother & Father both they are both getting old we never can do to much for them or ever will be sorry what ever good we can do I wish you & Will were much more interested in Fathers work it would please him so much Frank I suppose of your choice you would rather not come home in the spring it wont be long before you can have your time & remember Father is doing a goodeal for you at present you dont want to begrudge the work you can do for him how much better it is when our parents are gone you can say you have been a dutiful son you are young yet & plenty of time for you to start for your self after a while your mind will be more settled. We are looking for Brother Dave home any time he is at Akron Ohio now I guess he has come to Penn__ to stay this time it seems he cant make anything in Collorado I will be glad to see him:.

There was a Dance in our hall last week was over one hundred there we had a very nice time are going to have two during lent I cant attend them.. Mr Wagner isnt much better we had Inez here all last week she is just as cute as can be Cash Wagner went back to Kansas wednesday one of Joe Sedicks(?) Brothers was Burried yesterday Lill Kellsys(?) Grandma is Dead will be Burried tomorrow.. Dug Tinkum(?) is Dead Martin(?) gets three thousand dollars:. They have been holding revival meetings in Wesleyville Smith Henry went forward Will is still chopping wood for Charlie he comes home every Saturday night

[upside down and rotated additions]

do you here from Feen & Barb I am almost ashame to send this letter I am so sleepy and have wrote in a hurry to if you can read it all yo can do better than I can

Frank when you receive the money you write a letter to Father let him know you appreciate it & that you will be home in the spring to help him

Eugene Bonnell is Married Married a girl out to Union(?) I pity her

The scholars up here are quite busy engaged learning pices for the last day they are learning quite a good many. the sleighing is very Poor from here to Erie South of here is plenty of snow

I see by the paper Mr Barton is going to Bring Bennie home he isnt well. Prince hasnt had a harness on since Christmas

I am tired & sleepy I guess I will retire I have got such a d(?) cold

Mother sends her Love to you and says she will be glad when you come home

Frank how long is your much stach it must be quite heavy by this time

Letters of "Rose" Bliley to Frank A. Bliley

Albert & Will ???? are both raising a mustach the winter is pretty hard on them they ought to wait till warm weather

Good night

Write soon

Your Loving

Rose

1883, March 2nd—Letter

Author(s): Rosanna "Rose" Jane Bliley (Age: 22)

Addressee: Frank Bliley (Age: 18)

Address: Ada, Ohio

Postmarked: Erie, Pennsylvania

Note(s):

- Frank was a college student in Edinboro Normal School studying to become a teacher, but took time out to go to Ada to study bookkeeping at North-Western Ohio Normal School.

At Home

Mar 2 1883

Dear Brother Frank

Father just received a letter from you this evening by your request I will answer it imeadatdly

I presume you will be somewhat disapointed Father & Mother have been talking the subject over

Father said he couldnt send you any more money unless he deprived him self if you cant learn

any more where you are they think you better come home

you can go as long as your money will last What you have got now

Save enough for your expenses home I presume you will go till the first of April. Dave was home last week he is clerking in Reeds hard ware store just below Unkle Andrew & Boards in the Wilcox house he hasnt changed his looks any Dave thinks it is better for you to work on the farm a couple years longer until your mind is more settled & then for the interest of Father. Grandma went to Erie yesterday.

Mr & Mrs Beamer are coming out here tomorrow to stay next week; To day has been so warm we havent needed a fire part of the time isnt hardly any snow on the ground the roads are quite muddy. Will is working for Charlie yet

They had a large party in there hall last week had a very nice time I didnt attend I hope they wont have any more until after lent.. Hattie Hal(?) was burried last Thursday & Jane Bonnell had a reception for her; There was a concert in the Wesleyville hall Tuesday evening I attended it it was very good They had A Donation at the Ministers(?) last week there has been lots of parties lately one down to Sigh(?) Mcdelands(?) last evening. There is a gentleman from Erie has a class in Wesleyville for teaching how to sing he teaches twelve lessons for one dollar I wish you was here so I could attend. Alf has gone down to Sarahs visiting.. Francis & All(?) have quit going together All has gon to new york to learn to cut & fit Clare Kennedy(?) was Baptised in the Wesleyville(?) Church Sunday

C Ell(?) Davison has given up getting well she wont Doctor any more she has the consumption

[upside down & rotated additions]

Mr Wagner is about the same he looks very Bad Agg & her family are well Scott Trimble is home now he is going to work in Erie they are going to move to Erie Nellie & Jimmie are going to stay in Wesleyville a nother year.

We are having nice sugar weather now. We are not making any this spring.

The children are very busy learning pices for the last day of school will be out in two weeks. I have from one to three letters to write every week and get tired writing.

Rehnil(?) Bonnell is going to move his family out here on his farm this spring Elliott was sent here two weeks ago how much longer will go on to school there

Only four here at home to night it seems quiet I presume you will be either sorry or glad when you will get ready for home my paper is full it is most 10 O Clock P M & I want to write to Nellie to night - Frank I know you will excuse my writing I have been sewing all day & am tired. Write soon Yours Truly Rose

Frank the 13 of this month is your Birthday

[added page]

Frank when you write again I wish you would write how much longer you will go how much longer will your money last you musent depend on getting any more from Father Father said he could get along without you till in April that is if what money you have got now will pay your expenses till than how long does the spring term last

I will send a postage stamp

I want you to write soon(?) ???? & write how much longer you will go to school & all about it. Rose

[upside down addition]

I will look for a letter soon

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 week 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 Pleurisay 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 week 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 week 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 isny 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

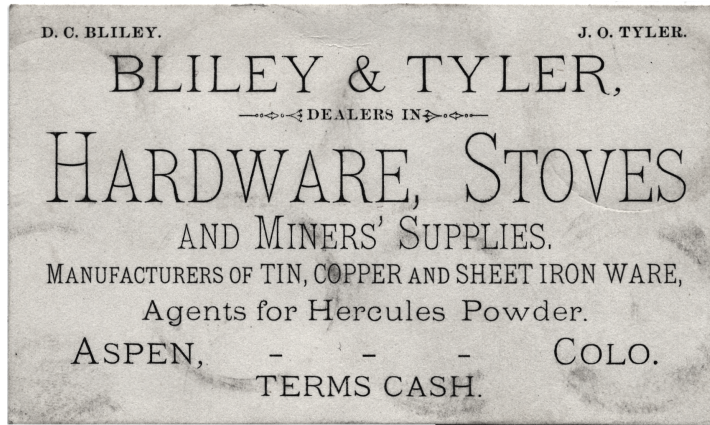
This letter not sent yet

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, February 26th—Letter

Author(s): Rosanna "Rose" Jane Bliley (Age: 23)

Addressee: Frank Bliley (Age: 18)

Address: Edinboro, Pennsylvania

Postmarked: Erie, Pennsylvania

Note(s):

- Frank was a college student in Edinboro Normal School studying to become a teacher.

At Home

Feb 26. 1884

Dear Brother Frank

Your ever kind letter reached me in due time

I will hasten to reply.

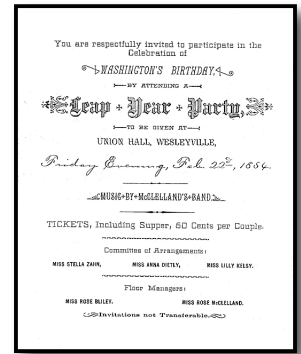
Well we are having very unpleasant weather it has been snowing all day & part rain the worst is the snow most all week it wouldnt take much snow for sleighing the way the roads are now. Mother is up to Uncle Washingtons they sent for her this fore noon Aunt

Letters of "Rose" Bliley to Frank A. Bliley

Bell was taken very sick the same as I wrote to you once before with cramps the Dr said she might live through them & she might not!

Mr Wagner is very poorly again Falkner was out to see him this morning he looks very Bad There has been a good many sick around here the last weak.

Our Leapyear partie was a perfect success we sent out over one hundred invitations there was about one dozen that we invited that didnt come we had three pieces of music Alex Hecler(?) Dagget & Edd Lesh(?) from Erie our music cost \$9.00 our expenses in all was twenty dollars & sixty cts we took in nighnteen dollars our supper consisted of Coffee Bread & Butter pickles Sandwiches Cake then one hour after supper we treated the company to oranges(?) extra wasnt we good the hall was crowded it was a bad knight to it rained quite for the first part of the evening. [Note: Rose was one of the sponsors of the party.]



Agg has been to Corry visiting the Girls she staid two weeks I keep house for her got along splendid.

Olie Hiles(?) wants me to go out to Edinboro with her while you are there I dont think I will for three(?) reasons 1st I dont want to pay the expenses going on the stage both ways 2nd I havent got an outside rap to suit me I think I shall stay at home. There was Ruighn(?) of us young folks went down to harbor creek to a social last week went in a wagon & the roads couldnt have been any rougher we had a very pleasant time; the Church members are going to have a pie social in the hall seventh of next month; Lent begins tomorrow will half to stay at home

[upside down additions]

There hasnt been any of us herd from Dave since last summer I guess I will write two letters to night Direct one to Topeka & one to North Topeka Kan, it is very strange what has become of him

Frank I will be glad to see you I presume the time flies very fast to you

[rotated addition]

Grandma is pretty well & the rest of the family. Father got Nellie a Lovely Gold Necklace & cross for her Birthday present she was twenty one the 21st of this month Elliott was here yesterday he came up on Business.

1884, June 23rd (Presumed)—Post Card

Author(s): Rosanna "Rose" Jane Bliley (Age: 23)

Addressee: Frank Bliley (Age: 18)

Address: Edinboro, Pennsylvania

Postmarked: Erie, Pennsylvania

Note(s):

- Frank was a college student in Edinboro Normal School studying to become a teacher.
- Year is probably 1884; however it was not written

At home June 23rd

Dear Brother

Received your letter to day. presume you will be disapointed as well as we are but we will half to give up going out to Edin[boro] as Father dont think he can spare a Horse.

Nellie went up to Aunt Bells yesterday to stay two weeks yes(?) we have only to Charlies are coming down Saturday night to stay all night spoke(?) of see you we will look for you Friday or Saturday

Grandma isnt very well.

We picked two Bushels of Strawberries to day have them three times aday We look some for Lawn Saturday. must retire yours Lovingly RJB. Sunday is Childrens day in the Wesleyville Church

1884, September 5th—Post Card

Author(s): Rosanna "Rose" Jane Bliley (Age: 23)

Addressee: Frank Bliley (Age: 19)

Address: Edinboro, Pennsylvania

Postmarked: Erie, Pennsylvania

Note(s):

- Frank was a college student in Edinboro Normal School studying to become a teacher.

Sep 5th 1884

Dear Brother

I am going to write a few lines to let you know we are anxious to here from you

what success you had at the Exam___ We cant imagine why you dont write to us you agreed to - now write as soon as you get this if you havent before. We sent Daves goods to day. Nancy Barton is dead died last night will be burried sunday.

Barb & Baby came home Wednesday. Surprised us. We are all well but suffering with the heat.

must close. be prompt in answering your sister

Rose.

1885, May 2nd—Post Card

Author(s): Rosanna "Rose" Jane Bliley (Age: 24)

Addressee: Frank Bliley (Age: 19)

Address: Edinboro, Pennsylvania

Postmarked: Wesleyville, Pennsylvania

Note(s):

- Frank was a college student in Edinboro Normal School studying to become a teacher.

At Home May 2nd [18]85

Dear Brother.

Mother found your gloves in the Chese(?) room off from the kitchen. will send them to you to day. let us know if you get them or not. Grandma is a goodeal better is around all the time now. Nellie went up to Charlies last Monday look for her to day. That Soral(?) horse of Trasys the fast one "Billy" Died few days ago. Will and I went down to David Chambers last evening to a social! we may go down to Mrs Bartons this evening to a surprise Birthday party! we have got all the cleaning house up stairs/ Will is busy plowing

excuse haste

Yours Truly

Rose

1885, December 4th—Post Card

Author(s): Rosanna "Rose" Jane Bliley (Age: 25)

Addressee: Frank Bliley (Age: 20)

Address: Edinboro, Pennsylvania

Postmarked: Wesleyville, Pennsylvania

Note(s):

- Frank was a college student in Edinboro Normal School studying to become a teacher.

Dec 4th Friday Morning [1885]

Dear Brother

Mother isnt any better had quite a hard night last night I was up with her nearly all night. the pain on the top of her head is the most trouble she said if it wasnt for that she thought she would be a little better. I think she is more weak this morning then yesterday is resting quite easy now she sleep about an hour all together through the night. [Dr] Moor said she was doing well as he expected. Write soon let us know how you stand [on] your journey

Your Dear Sister Rose

1885, December 5th—Post Card

Author(s): Rosanna "Rose" Jane Bliley (Age: 25)

Addressee: Frank Bliley (Age: 20)

Address: Edinboro, Pennsylvania

Postmarked: Wesleyville, Pennsylvania

Note(s):

- Frank was a college student in Edinboro Normal School studying to become a teacher.

Dec 5th [1885]

Saturday morning

Dear Brother

Mother rested splended last night Sleep most of the time & feels so easy. The Dr Changed her medicine yesterday the first dose I gave her Seemed to make her feel so easy. She has a constant roaring now in her head & imagines she hears things some times other ways I am sure encouraged.

Father spoke last night about changing Drs. I ask Mother if she would like another Doctor she said No She was feeling so easy to what she has been she thought Moor was helping her. Agg came yesterday Will stay till she gets better. Nellie hasnt come yet

[round the edge additions]

Cant be she got my letter the day it was mailed Yours Lovingly Rose

I have three kinds of medicine to give every two hours: She said dont seem natural to rest so easy having such pain

1885, December 7th—Post Card

Author(s): Rosanna "Rose" Jane Bliley (Age: 25)

Addressee: Frank Bliley (Age: 20)

Address: Edinboro, Pennsylvania

Postmarked: Wesleyville, Pennsylvania

Note(s):

- Frank was a college student in Edinboro Normal School studying to become a teacher.

Dec 7th Monday morning [1885]

Dear Brother Mother is resting easy has since Friday night. isnt so flighty as She has been. cant say that she is much better. We had Dr Stranahan come out yesterday. he pronounces it the Malarial feaver he thinks she will recover with right treatment. but there is danger of a cough may set in and result in consumption but the Dr must guard against that. We will still keep Moor as Stranahan thinks he is doing neerly right. they differed some. Nellie came home Saturday morning they never got my letter at least hadnt got it by Friday night I want you to write immediate(?) & let me know what you done with the letter if you lost it or forgot to mail it if you have it want it mailed anyway Agg has been here since Friday. I will write often but not every day as I dont think is necessary unless there is a change We are anxious to know how you are feeling & getting along in All

[border additions]

Lovingly yours Rose

1885, December 9th—Post Card

Author(s): Rosanna "Rose" Jane Bliley (Age: 25)

Addressee: Frank Bliley (Age: 20)

Address: Edinboro, Pennsylvania

Postmarked: Wesleyville, Pennsylvania

Note(s):

- Frank was a college student in Edinboro Normal School studying to become a teacher.

Wednesday morning

Dec 9th [1885]

Dear Brother

Mother rested good last night but Monday night she was very restless we are in hopes she is think a very little better this morning but dont know weather it is the sleep ot the medicine that makes her feel better her fever is coming on again this morning her cheeks get just scarlet. her mind wanders talks agoodeal about the work so many things the talk sounds so strange Dr Moor(?) says he thinks she will get through it all wright allthough she is Dangerously sick. We look for Barb or Feen Wday. Elliott is sick with a cold not able to work. Barb didnt get my letter till Saturday I rec_ your

[upside down additions]

letter & Postal Monday am so glad you are feeling well

Yours Lovingly Rose

Write often

1886, January 1st—Letter

Author(s): Rosanna "Rose" Jane Bliley (Age: 26)

Addressee: Frank Bliley (Age: 21)

Address: Edinboro, Pennsylvania

Postmarked: Wesleyville, Pennsylvania

Note(s):

- Frank was a college student in Edinboro Normal School studying to become a teacher.

Jan 1st 1886

Brother Frank

Wish you all the happiness of the new year.

Dear Brother

I thought this time I would write a letter for a change although my postals may give the same satisfaction.

Today has been a quiet day here not any travel to speak of the roads are in such a bad condition again.

Mother is improving little every day but isnt able to sit up only about one hour a day she is very weak her appetite is very good. She has coughed some The past week Father had the Dr come up again today to see about the cough as Dr Stranahan said he was sure she would have a cough before she get up if it wasnt guarded against it it would through her in the consumption. Moor thinks he can help it all wright - he thinks she is doing just as well as she can being so sick as she was. there was about two weeks Moor didnt encourage us any he told us after she got better he was afraid he would haff to pute her in the hands of an under taker. Our hopes for a while among any of us was so small Agg was here two weeks Fean one week and Barb is here yet will stay weak or two longer the Dr made about 30 calls here to see Mother came every day for three weeks & some days twice! now he dont come unless we send for him. so you can see how dangerously sick she was for a while she didnt look natural at all. When the feaver would be the highest her cheeks & nose would be a dark red & purple about four weeks of her sickness she dont remember anything seems like a dream she was Delerious all the time: she is so poor now! we had to

watch her close for a while! I have got the hardest cold now I ever had! John has been here a week he is going to Corry tomorrow!

The Church members had a very nice entertainment Xmas eve & larg tree. had an upright piano from Erie there. it was a success. then Xmas evening there was a ball at the hall all of the girls & young folks were there Nellie & I didnt go. they had a fight to. Will Curtis got a little to high he and a boy out south got in trouble Wills face is marked some. Will & I attended the party at W. Kelleys had a very pleasant time about one hundred there.

Jane Bonnell has gon to see Louisa will return tomorrow. the Dr thinks she can come home this month. Mrs M. Chambers is sick was taken like mother was comfortable this morning. Will hasnt got the corn all husked yet

Our presents Xmas was small. did you get those cuffs. I better close as you cant never all my writing. write soon. if its only a few lines. Yours truly Rose.

1886, January 12th—Letter

Author(s): Rosanna "Rose" Jane Bliley (Age: 26)

Addressee: Frank Bliley (Age: 21)

Address: Edinboro, Pennsylvania

Postmarked: Wesleyville, Pennsylvania

Note(s):

- Frank was a college student in Edinboro Normal School studying to become a teacher.

"1886" Jan 12th

Dear Brother Frank

I will now try & answer your letter. it was such a nice long one. Then Father wanted me to write to night he wants to send you some money if he goes to Erie tomorrow:

he would if we went yesterday or to day but the roads are all about drifted full the Buffaloroad is full of snow goodmany have been shoveling snow to day: Yesterday it Charlie Wagner & two of his men four hours to go from there house to Erie!

Mother is getting along nicely to day she has set up all day for the first time. She is about as poor as she can be she has to be so very carefull what she eats her appetite is very good!

I presume ere this you have read of Louisa Bonnells Death. She was burried week ago to day. The services were at the house She chose the chapter to be read in the Bible selected two pieces to be sang one was "Nearer my God to Thee" & (Jesus Lover of my soul) they had several from Wesleyville sing. She was consious to the very last minit she was ready to die & wanted to die away from home. She told just how to lay her out Jane Bonnell was with her the four last days. She looked quite natural didnt suffer much through her

doctering at Westlyville "Where she Died" I think she made a good will every thing is divided about equal only Carls(?) share is to be divided with Jessee.

She wants the farm to be rented for two years to pay the debts. it will take about \$1500 to settle up time all the expenses are paid Alf dont intend to stay on the farm he talks some of going to the Oil Country.

Washington is going to work for Wesley C___ expects to go any time.

Mary Sewell is still teaching but they half to take her to school & go after her there are quite a good many complaining about the school.

Ross goes to writing to school two evenings a week. There is a Gentleman in Wesleyville wants to get up a singing class will meet Friday evening If it will amount to any thing I want to attend! Stella Zahn & a young Gentleman Cousin of hers called here last week They want to have a party when the roads get good.

[upside down additions]

The Lodge is going to have a hot(?) at the hall Friday eve

How does Frank Lelland get along? There isnt much of anything going only Dime Socials every two weeks. The Therdmometer was to Zero this morning

[rotated addition]

I comenced this letter on the rong side my paper is about full I must close. I never want to write much at a time you always say you can hardly read my writing wish you would write such a long letter every week.

Barb is here yet she will go home some day this week she has been here four weeks. Write soon yours Lovingly Rose! I think you was well remembered Xmas

1886, January 29th—Letter

Author(s): Rosanna "Rose" Jane Bliley (Age: 26)

Addressee: Frank Bliley (Age: 21)

Address: Edinboro, Pennsylvania

Postmarked: Wesleyville, Pennsylvania

Note(s):

- Frank was a college student in Edinboro Normal School studying to become a teacher.

To FB in Edinboro, PA - 1886

At Charlies [Charles Ottis & Agg Wagners – near Erie] Jan 29th

Letters of "Rose" Bliley to Frank A. Bliley

My Dear & Esteemed Brother

Your ever welcome letter was received two weeks ago Can give you no idea how glad & the Pleasure it gave me to learn that you are getting along so nicely & that you are improving your time as much in studying

The Lodge in Wesleyvill has caused quite an excitement they have 50 members Agg & Charlie both belong Aggs polisy is \$ 300(?) Charlies is \$2750(?) they meet once a week some have joined just for the society.

Elma Davis said she had a good notion to write to you

We havent had but one letter from Will since he went away the way we here from him is by the neighbors he dont gain my affection by doing so.

[upside down additions]

In some of the letters he has writen he dont seem to like it very well there Father never says any thing about him weather he wants him to come home in the spring or not for my part I wouldnt give much to have him come home he is always so unpleasant to his sisters

Mary Kilpatrick is sick with the mumps she enquires about you it has been very quiet around here this winter

Aggs boy is growing very fast I got a letter from Alex last week he sais he was running engine now I ythink your picture is just splendid one of Rose McClelands little brothers was burried last week Charlie dont like it because you dont write to him My paper is full I will half to close hoping to here soon from you

Your Loving sister Rose

[rotated addition]

Frank when you write to me I want you to use this stamp

[added page - undated - might not have been part of letter above]

Dear Brother I am waiting patiently for you to come home I dont think there will be any of them any more glad to see you than I it seems an age since you went away but the time is short to you i presume

Well it is trying to snow to day the only sleighing we have had was between the Holy days Charlie has a new swell base(?) cutter but hasnt had a chance to ride in it tey. Father had the top pute back on our Buggy the Buggy dont look any better than it did be fore Father got a new single harnice Father seems to get along very well with the chores. Mother went to Corry last Saturday & came back Wednesday Fen was very sick with the quinsia(?) they thought she would choke to death she is goodeal better now Elliot is here now. Uncle George is dead he died last night at 1 O Clock he was 24 hours shiving(?) he was unconscious(?) all the time he seemed to suffer yesterday but died easy he will be burried tomorrow at 1 O Clock

[upside down additions]

Nickle Willises hasnt gone back yet he has to Doctor yet there is a hole clear through his lip now

Frank I havent forgotten that money I will have it ready when you come home I dont like to send any in a letter

1886, January 31st—Letter

Author(s): Rosanna "Rose" Jane Bliley (Age: 26)

Addressee: Frank Bliley (Age: 21)

Address: Erie, Pennsylvania

Postmarked: Wesleyville, Pennsylvania

Note(s):

- Frank was a college student in Edinboro Normal School studying to become a teacher.

Jan 31st 1886

Dear Brother,

I have been thinking every day for the past week about writing to you: when evening would come something would happen to prevent me. your letter came to hand in propper time.

Last Wednesday evening W. (??) & my self attended a party at Mr Zahns had a Jolly time.

most all young folks.

There has been several parties lately.

Belle Moor and the Dr took tea with us last Monday. Friday Mr & Mrs Ben Ribbet (SP?) were here visiting.

Week ago Wednesday Elmar (SP?) came out and stayed all night. Frank I presume you will be surprised to learn "if you have not already herd ear this" of Mary Sewells death she died last Tuesday night wasnt confined to the bed only one week wasnt out of school only three weeks She went to that school as long as she could talk any wasnt able to walk they had to take her back & forth for the last two months. there was a large funeral it was a very stormy day rained most of the time they had Calyer (SP?) and the vilage girls [undertakers? wsv] she didnt look natural was so very poor Hilbert (SP?) is going to Mesisco (SP?) soon he has sold out his interest in loose property at home & invested \$6-000 five hundred in the gold mining there. it will be very lonely when two out of the family are gone.

Half (SP?) dont know what he will do yet. Stella is still keeping house Jesse says he is going to work for Frank Sewell

Mother is doing nicely she thinks she will try to go up to Aunt Bells some day this week. yes the first place she went out doors was to see the chickens.

We have the finest kind of sleighing now. Oh I must tell you Father sold Brockelface what made her breath so was her windpipe was broken the butcher had to kill her here. couldnt drive her sold her for \$15.00. Will is drawing some shingles now to shingle our barns. he helped Charlie draw ice a few days. Aunt Bell was quite sick one day this week. was taken with congestion of the Brain & Bowels both the same time she is better now Father (???) Ross (SP?) is up there now.

*Ross & I went to church today I wished more than once before I got there it wasnt so far. I guess Nellie will got to Erie this spring & learn the dress making trade. Mrs. Fridity (SP?) wants her she has about finished her to go. I have just about run out of something to write about I better close & retire I will have to get up at 5 A.M. tomorrow I am not used to rising so early we generally have breakfast at seven A.M. Write when you can
yours sincerely Rose*

[Upsidedown additions]

Some think Mary died with the quick consumption she wanted to die at the last suffered a gooddeal she couldnt eat anything

I got me a new black dress yesterday to make it this week my we have so much sewing to do.

1886, February 15th—Letter

Author(s): Rosanna "Rose" Jane Bliley (Age: 26)

Addressee: Frank Bliley (Age: 21)

Address: Erie, Pennsylvania

Postmarked: Wesleyville, Pennsylvania

Note(s):

- Frank was a college student in Edinboro Normal School studying to become a teacher.

Feb 15th 1886

Dear Brother

As I have been thinking of you all day, I will now put some of my thoughts on Paper. I wish you could step in to spend the evening in stead of me Writing To day here has been a stormy here there is snow enough if the ground was only frozen the past week the roads have been terrible muddy.

Mother is getting so she can go ahead with goodeal of the work she makes the fires now she was up to Aunt bells week ago to day its the only time she has been out! Washington has gon to the Oil Country to work if he stays there he will be apt to have his famly move!

Alf is going to have a vandien(?) next month he has wrented the farm. Jesse is going to clerk for Arnie(?) Chambers

Elliott came to Erie friday went back to day was here two nights! Albert Sewell is going to New Mexico soon he has Agnen(?) I wrote it before he envested \$600.

There has been lots of parties the past three weeks. Week ago to night we were down to John(?) Gordans about fifty there mostly all from Erie & railroad men & familys the friday before we were down there again to a surprise party for Willie. Ross went to. Last Tuesday evening we were down to R. Kings was about one hundred there

had a very nice time at all places

The nicest one of the (Season) was at the hall Thursday evening about one hundred there George McClelland & Katties party he paid all expenses had Tompkings(?) from Riply to play had the nicest kind of supper in fact "it was one of the finest parties in the hall.

This week Friday evening the Church members are going to have a donation. Thursday evening before there is going to be a lecture. dont think I will attend either

Hanie(?) Brecht came up here Friday stayed till yesterday.

Tomorrow night Mable Bonnell & Jesse Chambers are coming up.

This week is the last week of the vilage school I am sorry it makes it so handy about the mail. Arthur talks some of having few weeks of select school. I dont much believe Ross can go father wants him to help Will saw wood; Oh by the way did you get any Valentines I got a comic one from Fen(?). It was in return to the one I sent him last year

[upside down additions]

Yes I have meet that Kendrick girl she is a very nice girl she is well aquainted with the Moorehead(?) Girls. they ask about you both

[rotated additions]

I was down to Harbor Creek to a social last week & Willie & I were down to James R Moorheads visiting one day Frank I can just imagine how hard it is for you to get around you weigh so much must be some one Lasse is to good to you I wont tell thoug

Frank want you be at home some time in March there is two weeks vacation isnt there. I must chose & get some apples to eat Wish you had some to I have some more writing I ought to do to night Guess I wont am glad to here from you any time Truly your Sister Rose

1886, April 19th—Letter

Author(s): Rosanna "Rose" Jane Bliley (Age: 26)

Addressee: Frank Bliley (Age: 21)

Address: Erie, Pennsylvania

Postmarked: Erie, Pennsylvania

Note(s):

- Frank was a college student in Edinboro Normal School studying to become a teacher.

Apr 19th 1886

Monday Afternoon

Dear Brother

I have got through doing a large washing will rest a while by trying to converse with you. wish I could do so verbally we started a little girl to school this morning from here it is Inez.

she was very anxious to go she wanted to start as soon as she had her breakfast. I don't know how long we will keep her depends on how our strength will submit to wait on her. We had George here two weeks sent him home Saturday Mother went up to Chs. [Charlies] and stayed all night. They have there house partly torn to pieces now they are in a big mess now fixing the old house over & building an addition. Charlie thinks maybe he can take Mother out to Edinboro some time the last of May his horses are not fit now. Agg will be obliged to stay at home close this summer!! they expect a new visitor in the future!!

Well our men are hard at work now are going to plant some potatoes to day: Will bought a new horse that four year old colt of Willses it goes very well with Billy he wont tell what he has to give for her!

Mabel Bonnell & Jesse Chambers came up here Friday & stayed till Saturday evening. Nellie hasnt gon to Erie to stay yet. she stayed with Anna Brect saturday night. I want to go down to Zahns this week and stay all night.

Grandma is feeling pretty well now! Rose Mead is teaching the little school Willie(?) Bonnell teaching where Minnie did last winter. Miss Higho(?) teaching the Wesleyville school boards at J. H. Chambers: Frank when Mother was up to Charlies he

[added page]

told Mother you better write to Mr Zahn & say something about getting the Buffalo road school if you are not sure of getting it they hire there teacher the first of June you better see to it wright away When you write let us know if you saw Myron Wagner the morning you left if he promised you the school. the Lady that is teaching there now has taught there two terms I saw her the other day she intends to go home at Edinboro

during vacation then teach again I dont know weather she has applied for the same school or not she seems to give satisfaction

Mr Zahn has the hiring(?) of the same school to I wouldnt leave it all to Myron(?) unless he told you you could have it Business is Business you want to see to it to make sure

Charlie had a talk with Myron some time ago I dont know weather it was before you said anything to him Myron or not he talked he would rather give

[rotated addition]

you the school on the Lake road Charlie told him you wanted the school on the Buffalo road so you could board at home

Mother is anxious to know if you are sure of the school & you better drop Mr Zahn a few lines.

Well I guess I have write enough on that subject just would like to here from you soon.

[upsidedown addition]

Mr Finigan cant say enough in your favor he canse(?) you was so kind to help him when out to Edinboro call on Mary when you can they appreciate it very much!

Alf(?) hasent gon away yet he stays up to Aunt Bells & he says he is going to the oil country!

We are going to clean house some this week cleaned some last week

1886, May 16th—Letter

Author(s): Rosanna "Rose" Jane Bliley (Age: 26)

Addressee: Frank Bliley (Age: 21)

Address: Erie, Pennsylvania

Postmarked: Erie, Pennsylvania

Note(s):

- Frank was a college student in Edinboro Normal School studying to become a teacher.

May 16th 1886

Sunday - Home

Dear Brother Frank

Your letter was red- & most gladly Persued, am glad your getting along nicely with all your studies: by the letter in the paper times must be quite lively out there now!

I wrote a letter this fore-noon filled two sheets full & round the corners (to a young man west) I will try & not annoy you with such a lengthy one! Grandma & I are here alone Will has gone to City to see his Lady. Father Mother & Inez have gone up road.

Charlie came down last Sunday to bring out Nellie Nellie is getting along nicely has a very pleasant boarding place they have a Piano Nellie practices some has taken goodeal the music with her. she is making a very pretty spring suit! Will will be on Jury all this next week. They are getting along nicely With the work have six acres corn planted hired three boys Friday to help! Charlie has forty acres to plant yet. Inez is getting along nicely learning quite fast She spoke a piece Friday for the first. Nellie B_ & Rose M are getting along nicely at least dont have any thing to the contrary they say Rose has good government is very strict! Minnie was down last week stayed all night- I called on Miss Hight(?) Thursday she and Mattie both enquired about you said they were coming up stayed all night- when you come home had quite goodeal to say about you I guess Miss Hight dont make the best of teachers she is teaching some music! Feen is going to have a progressive Eucher party for Elliot tomorrow night - his Birthday! was down to Zahns & stayed all night with Stella three weeks ago had a pleasant time am glad you wrote a few lines to Mr Zahn! must write the scandle case in the neighborhood Frank Sewell is the Father of a Baby Girl Born week ago Wednesday the Mother of the little one is Kate Shilling on the hill it is all the talk here now dont know what Frank will if he dont marrie her they think Mr Shilling will frute(?) him through make him pay a big sum I feel so sorry for Emma & Mrs Sewell. they look for Albert every day he has been very sick since he went away lost 30 lbs. some think he has lost some in investing(?) Young Mehan sent the constable out & lechuiured(?) on Jerrie McConnells propperty!

They are gettin along fast with the new hall want it finished in few weeks. guess Kelly will let them skate there. The little folks like Ross meet in Gatese(?) house every two weeks skate & Dance!

It beets the church how cold it is we only have the kitchen stove up. I me a new light Dress to make.

[upside down additions]

I have forgotten weather I wrote to you before or not Aunt Ellen is coming in June to visit! Guess I will write to Alex to day if it is the Sabbath day.

We have some very beautiful flowers now! Dave Mead stayed here last night.

Will drives his horse every place he goes. two teams came very handy this spring!

Charlies are in a big mess yet Will take two or three weeks to finish: Work keeps Mother & I very busy since Nellie is gon

Mrs Nidih(?) said she would give Nellie enough to pay her room rent the first month then will raise her wages she pays \$4.25.00 per month for her room they are just two maiden Ladies where she boards.

*I have written all the news there is to write about will close hoping to here from you in
nere future your sincerely Rose*

1886, May 22nd—Letter

Author(s): Rosanna "Rose" Jane Bliley (Age: 26)

Addressee: Frank Bliley (Age: 21)

Address: Erie, Pennsylvania

Postmarked: Erie, Pennsylvania

Note(s):

- Frank was a college student in Edinboro Normal School studying to become a teacher.
- Written on account paper.

May 22, 1886

Saturday eve

Dear Brother

*I thought it would be best for me to write to you to inform you about some schools. as
Father & Mother seen Myron Wagner to day was talking about you getting a school and
what his advise (Myrons) was! The Burton School you cant get as the Lady Miss C
Scrafford (?) applied for it again those in the neighborhood who send there want her again
for that reason they will hire her again as she gives satisfaction! Charlie Wagner spoke
about the school up above Erie where they live he would like to have you apply for that
school he said he would Board you cheeper than any one else! then father spoke about the
school over to Myrons. Myron said he didnt think any one had applied for the school
there but he said you needed a better school than the one there they were all small
children School would begin with about 18 children then grow less to about 10. of course
if you could get the school at Myrons you could Board at home when pleasant. then an
other school I will speak about the Fagan school on the lake road maybe you could stand
some show there thats the school west of Zahns trge(?) Erie they are going to have a new
school there when school commences in Sep__ if you could get that one you could board
at home when pleasant the lady Miss Aspen(?) that teaches there now Stella told me she
wouldnt get that school again Zahns dont like her she Boards at the house I dont know
weather any one has applied for that school or not. Myron said he would do all he could
for you but he said the best thing for you to do was to come to there meeting the day they
higher the teacher that day is the last Saturday in June that comes on the 26 June he
Myron would advise you to do so to come to there meeting you would stand a better
chance. You could get away from there that day if you did half to go back again! now
Frank I have written this plain as I could you can know better what to do now! my advise
would be for you to write to Myron for one of those other three school & speak of the three
when you write so in case you couldnt get one you might get another dont pute it of
about writing because the time will soon be here you must see to it wright away you will
only stand a better chance to get a school! I hope you will be suited what I have written*

about the schools I have written as near wright & plain as I could & you could see about some other school. Since we know you cant have the Burton school.

[upsidedown & rotated additions]

now Frank dont delay in seeing to the schools its for your own interest & you just might make up your mind to attend there meeting 26 June - father thinks you better

I must close hoping to here from you in near future no doubt you are more than busy now not much time for writing yours most sincerely Rose

John stayed here last night. Ross & I went down to J.M.(?) Chambers last eve. to a dime social. Albert Sewell came home yesterday they say Frank is satisfying his case with Mr Shilling so his folks Mother & Emma wont know it I dont think they know it yet. dont appear like it. Nellie was home yesterday night. Will drove to City every morning & back at night - while on Jury he didnt half to go today. if pleasant Elma & Will Acheson will come out here, decoration day.

Some are going to skate in Kelleys hall Monday eve. does the closing of the Graduating exercises last till the 2nd of July paper stated so.

1886, June 16th—Letter

Author(s): Rosanna "Rose" Jane Bliley (Age: 26)

Addressee: Frank Bliley (Age: 21)

Address: Ada, Ohio

Postmarked: Erie, Pennsylvania

Note(s):

- Frank was a college student in Edinboro Normal School studying to become a teacher and appears to be ready for graduation.
- Frank was probably visiting friends he made when he attended North-Western Ohio Normal School, in Ada, Ohio several years earlier while studying bookkeeping/business.

June 16th 1886

Sunday Morning

Dear Brother

I rec your letter yesterday

We was greatly pleased to here. that you had through diligent application passed through the prescribed course of study in the Edinboro School & passed or will graduate with honors! Knowing how deeply interested your parents Brothers & Sisters have been in your success, it is particularly gratifying to have you reward them by the achievement of such rapid progress accept our best wishes for your future success!

Mother was up to Charlies yesterday if they go out to see you it will be this weak about Thursday they are not sure of going as it depends on there horses. now about the school up there Charlie will do all he can for you he saw one the directors of the school yesterday he is a friend of Charlies he told Charlie he would do all he could for you but he said the young man who is teaching there now a while ago all ways told he didnt want the school again but lately he has been trying to get it again the director said no one has complained of him any it is hard to tell what they will do the Director said he would keep out of the way all he could you cant tell yet anything about the schools they higher the teachers the last Saturday this month "June" you must be at there meeting they all advise you to you will stand the better chance. he told Charlie if there was just one person to complain of him he would have good excuse then! he seems to give good satisfaction it probably will be Luck & Chance for you Be sure to be here to attend there meeting! Will & Willie drove to Corry yesterday will come back today.

Hattie C & Miss Higo(?) called here yesterday. Elvia & Will Acheson was here part the day Deckoration day? then Stella Zahn came up in the afternoon I went down to Anna Brecht tonge(?) evening stayed all night with Anna. Kelly is going to have the opening in his hall June 9th(?) he has three hundred invitations out every one says they are going! Wish you was here to go. you will be at home Just in propper time to help harvesting yes the cows miss you to: Frank excuse this writing Ross & I are going to Church I have writen it in about five minutes dont think I could read it myself.

I want you to be sure & write what day will be the best time Will Nellie & I to come out.

[upside down additions]

at the closing exercise if we can go possibly Nellie & I are depending greatly on going want to know just what day is best. have you found out any thing about Miss Aspen I ask in my other letter Stella wants to know

I must close write when you can

Your loving sister Rose

1886, June 18th—Post Card

Author(s): Rosanna "Rose" Jane Bliley (Age: 26)

Addressee: Frank Bliley (Age: 21)

Address: Ada, Ohio

Postmarked: Wesleyville, Pennsylvania

Note(s):

- Frank was a college student in Edinboro Normal School studying to become a teacher and appears to be ready for graduation.

Tuesday, June 18th 86

Dear Brother

Mother enjoyed her visit & Journey but trd.(?) very much. I wish you could send some your invitation when you get them from Washington if you can have some Just as well not send one to Mattie Chambers; Netti Zahns, Anna Brecht, Hattie Kilpatrick, & Mable Bonnell wish you could have enough for all those Girls if not to all then send to Mattie & some the rest. Ross is a cripple now Frank Horse stepped on his foot hurt it Badly he has to use crutches now my we miss him in work so much. Wish you were here now. Will cut some clover to day. I am going to Drive to villiage to day take some Girl out riding & Make some calls. Aunt Ellen is here. Would like to here from you sincerely Rose

1886, October 17th—Letter

Author(s): Rosanna "Rose" Jane Bliley (Age: 26)

Addressee: Frank Bliley (Age: 21)

Address: Aspen, Colorado, Care of Alex Bliley

Postmarked: Wesleyville, Pennsylvania

Note(s):

- Frank graduated from Edinboro Normal School in June of 1886 with a degree in education.
- Records show him as a full-time teacher in Albion, Pennsylvania in this time period. The reason for this trip is unclear and a bit illogical.
- Catherine Eich Bleile, Rose and Nellie's grandmother did not die in this time period. She died five years later on January 1, 1891 at the age of 95!

At Home Oct 17th

Dear Brother Frank,

It is with the greatest of pleasure I have seated myself to write to you Just four weeks ago this eve I wrote you quite a long letter now I guess I will answer my other letter. Dear Brother I often remember the remarks you made of my writing maby you couldnt read my writing or make out who it is from.

Yesterday Mother rec- your letter. the cheque was all wright frank we fully see you try to pay your debts but dont deprive yourself of any necessarys! Grandma has been very poorly the last three weeks yesterday was the first day in that time she came down stairs to eat we carried all her meals to her. I think she will get along all wright now! The rest family are well. the men folks are very busy husking corn & picking Apples. We have the nicest Potatoes we ever had lots of them

Will halled lot of corn in the Barn yesterday to husk in bad weather. The last week has been very cold south of here has been hard frosts

The leaves are falling very fast reminds the winter neer by!

Nellie is playing & singing on the Piano Brother how I wish you was here with us. Frank it seems so hard yet to give you up so far far away; Oh why is it Loved ones & Dear ones have to be separated so. Nellie is going to Corry this week to do some sewing dont Know

how long she will be gon. I will half to clean house alone. yesterday I took the carpet up in the Kitchen & moved the Cook stove seems good to get it moved again we have the stove up in the seting room! We have lot of beautiful flowrs yet wish you could see them!

Father sent a paper yesterday stating about our fair. father got twenty six dollars worth of premiums at the Erie fair he got four \$ extra on best display of grain! then he took four head of stock out to Watsburg fair got first premium on all took some grain to. Mother went with him was gon two days & half stayed nights at Pete Kuhls. Will & I drove out Thursday the last day. The fore part the same week we had the Threashers two days Will run things at the barn Mother & Nellie both being gon I had the work all to do in the house.

the grain turned out vet good. I was over to Davisons last night they brought me home this afternoon.

[Added page]

Bill & Edith called here Friday.

last sunday Anna Brown came out stayed till Wednesday! Will is waiting on a Lady in Erie goes to see her every Sunday he seems to be about gon on her her name is Maggie Davis she is a Dressmaker

She has a relative in Erie supports her self urly(?) has a Mother living guess this Girl helps support her Mother to. Sila waits on Anna finigan

I went to the Opera house last Tuesday eve with Johnny Brindle he took me to supper to the last party! Stella Zahn dont speake to him! Willie Dean(?) has been very anxious to come back here since he went home. he is going to close his printing offics cant make expenses!

Uncle Andrew is going to fix his store over soon enlarge it! Rvor(?) & Sam Bacon went Chemistry(?) to day got quite good many. Sam came out yesterday

Tomorrow night is going to be a lb. social at Kellys hall

the girls are to be numbered what Lady the Guys get the Girls are to be weighed Boys pay 1/3 cts per lb. Friday night Will & two Curtis Boys will have a Dance at Kellys hall: Week ago friday a society in Erie had a ball in the hall. Knowls played the nicest looking crowd I think that has ever been in the hall! last Wednesday eve. Will & I was down to Zahns to a social

they danced Alex played wasnt very many there. last Thursday Mary Kilpatrick had a private party we wasnt envited it was a very disagreeable night!

[Upside down additions]

we sent you mothers Cabinet picture four weeks ago write if you rec- it & my other letter. I better close now before making you eyes ache to hard

Letters of "Rose" Bliley to Frank A. Bliley

Brother write when you can we are all anxious to get your letters. if its only few lines is great satisfaction. give my love to Alex would like to have him write

Agg & family are well they call the Baby Samyel Clare. Call it Clare for short it is a very nice Baby.

The evenings are so long now gets dark at half past five! must close your affectionate

Sister Rose!

Frank you are in fathers mind guess(?)

he isnt satisfied you being out there thinks it is all together rong place for you it would suit him much better if you was using your education: how do you like it there now. isnt any the work steady. do you have good living

1887, February 20th—Letter

Author(s): Rosanna "Rose" Jane Bliley (Age: 26)

Addressee: Frank Bliley (Age: 22)

Address:

- No envelope
- Frank's location unclear - possibly Denver, or Aspen, Colorado

Postmarked: Wesleyville, Pennsylvania

Note(s):

- Records show him as a full-time teacher in Albion, Pennsylvania in this time period. The reason for this trip is unclear and a bit illogical.

At Home Feb 20th 1887

Sunday Afternoon

My Dear Brother

Your letter reached here friday it is useless to write him pleasure news. see you have changed your place again. I hope you will soon get something steady & paying. Mother came home yesterday my but I was glad relieved me from cooking. She had a very pleasant time while gone. Was to Pitsfield nearly a week. Frank there is an old friend of yours "Gentleman" teaching school there at Pitsfield. he graduated when you did at Edinboro his name is Linn I guess he would like to here from you he ask Edith Chaffe several times if she knew where you are or your address. you better write if you can of course he would be delighted to here from you! Feen is feeling goodeal better is weak. she wants to come home in March Nellie to make her a suit. the last two weeks has been quite sick he had symtians of a fever was at his farm when sick came to Corry friday he will stay at home about a week till he is better. last month he cleared one hundred dollars in commission goods. Elliot doesnt get any that money now John pays Elliot \$1.00 per day for his work! Charlie is just as mischievaous as ever! Grandma is quite well again came

down stairs last monday since three weeks. she knits now & Brings in wood one and two sticks at a time! Willses are going to move this spring they have rented Jim Killpatricks farm. My but we will mis them. dont know who will live over here yet!

Alf Bonnells wife has a Baby Boy Alf isnt doing anything. expects to get a job in the spring! Uncle Andrew will close his store out the first of next month.

We have had a greatdeal of rain the last two weeks today is snowing the ground is white now ground is frozen hard very rough! There was a man in Nellies B neighborhood her school didn't amount to much.

Ross said he thinks Rose Mead teaches a better school than Mary L(?) he has attended both! I wrote a letter to you directed it to Wheeler(?) & also we sent your mittens directed them to Wheeler when you write again let us know if you got both you didnt say anything about it in this last letter they was sent over two weeks ago! We rec_ a letter from Alex last week. he wrote that he & Bennie was out how mean Ben had treated him the lies he told the good position he lost by him.

Frank I think you might write some to us how Alex does do there in business weather he had much or not we have herd he was quite slack what ever you write we wouldnt let father see. Mother would like to know. of course you know about how he does business! We have a Cody (?) Graduate picture here sent to you. I would send it not being positive your getting it - your changing around so much. I am glad you write what you are doing hope you always will let us know. There is a ball at Kelleys hall tomorrow evening. it will be the last party I intend to go to till after Lent. Lent begins Wednesday! I hope you will not have to much trouble making out my writing.

[upsidedown addition]

Frank Miss Alexander that taught in Wesleyville year ago last summer is in Denver I think you have met her. It would be nice if you can call on her her given name is Amelia. She has a father & sister there

I hope we may in the neer future here from you again be sure & let us know the next time you write if you get those mittens & have lots of patience in your not getting a good position at once

With much love I close Rose

1887, March 13th—Letter

Author(s): Rosanna "Rose" Jane Bliley (Age: 26)

Addressee: Frank Bliley (Age: 21)

Address: Denver, Colorado

Postmarked: Wesleyville, Pennsylvania

Note(s):

Letters of "Rose" Bliley to Frank A. Bliley

- Records show him as a full-time teacher in Albion, Pennsylvania in this time period. The reason for this trip is unclear and a bit illogical.
- Sent with letter from Nellie dated 13 March 1887
- March 13th is Frank's birth date.

Dear Brother.

I would of written a week ago. wasnt sure you would be a Leadville though.

would wait till recd- an other letter

We was so glad you wrote & informed us about Alex Bride for Ben has written that would give us a fair idea of her am so glad you explained it. Yess I remember a miss Girard going to school! that Gentleman that Directed your letter is a beautiful writer is he related to Ben? there is going to be a sugar eatand Ball next Monday night at Kellys hall. Stella stayed with me last Saturday night. Will try & send that picture some day this week

George Mantle(?) was Married last thursday

he will have charge of Tracy(?) farm. Uncle will retire from work now. by what we here of Frances she is going to the bad we have been told she goes to Net(?) Shoddys(?) I hope you will have a steady place have patience strive hard you will conquere at what you are aiming(?) for.

Elliotts (???) with Aunt Green(?) about the property comes up this week I must go to work hope we may here from you soon

[Rotated addition]

again Your lovingly Rose

1887, July 3rd—Letter

Author(s): Rosanna "Rose" Jane Bliley (Age: 26)

Addressee: Frank Bliley (Age: 22)

Address: Aspen, Colorado

Postmarked: Wesleyville, Pennsylvania

Note(s):

- Records show him as a full-time teacher in Albion, Pennsylvania in this time period. The reason for this trip is unclear and a bit illogical.

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 horse slips ??? rather from Sister Hilda 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 nr 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 straberries 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 a half.

Gertie came out & stayed a week before Barb went back. it sems quiet here now. last Sunday last was Childrens day at Wesleyville Gertie spoke one piece & Dany(??) a piece. last Thursday the Church members had a ??? & entertainment at the Church. Nellie Ross & I went. Friday night Will & Will Curtis had a ball at Kellys hass 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 (?) Thursday to visit Ben.

Did I ever write you that Frances is in Buffalo she has a girl baby it is dreadfull 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 ??? 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

[upside-down additions]

Frank if I would write toyou 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 ??? ??? 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.

1888, June 22nd—Letter

Author(s): Rosanna "Rose" Jane Bliley (Age: 26)

Addressee: Frank Bliley (Age: 23)

Address: Aspen, Colorado

Postmarked: Erie, Pennsylvania

Note(s):

- Frank was visiting his brother, Alex, and his family.

Friday eve = Jun 22nd

Dear Brother

Your messague was rec--

Father went Wright over to Bellevalley to see about you geting the school they havent hired any teacher yet the neighborhood of people in the neighbor school want a Lady teacher they told father they were going to try to reduce the wages to 35 or 40\$ per month. your chances there is slim: you were foolish not to except of it when you had a chance

Feen said Wesley Chambers was disapointed when he herd you went away. We dont know when they higher the teacher in Mill Creek you didnt say weather you wanted to get a School in M____ I think they must higher the teacher in Mill Creek this month. you better now try & get a school out there! every thing is suffring terrible for the want of rain no rain yesterday the thermometer stood in sun 98 deg. in the shade 92. Barb & her Daughter are doing nicely.

Grandma has been up to Erie neerly two weeks. isnt any news to write about I just thought I would let you know what your chances were with the school. let us know soon what you think you will do. cant you get anything

[rotated addition]

to do there you will find you will half to

[upside down additions]

begin at the bottom of the Ladder

Agg & three children were out here over a week: Mother was down to Corry a week. let us here from you soon. I must retire you Sincerely Rose

1888, July 1st—Letter

Author(s): Rosanna "Rose" Jane Bliley (Age: 26)

Addressee: Frank Bliley (Age: 23)

Address: Aspen, Colorado

Postmarked: Erie, Pennsylvania

Note(s):

- Frank was visiting his brother, Alex, and his family.

July 1st 1888

Dear Brother

I rec- your letter yesterday and an other one few days ago. We just seem to feast on those two letters. I hope you will continue to write often We Will be anxious to Know What you are going to do? I dont know weather you would now stand any chance to get a Mill-Creek School or not "neer home" there is a very highly recomended Lady Scholar for Wagner School. the one teaches Buffalo road school I guess will get it it again. Mr Arbuckle told Father he herd you werent going to teach again. you see you not trying to get a school when you was here your chances are N.G. You no doubt could of got W____ school if you had applied in time. in either of your letters you didnt say for us to apply for you but said if you taught you would want a school neer home we talked the matter over & over again we finely thought if you wanted a school you had aught said so so we could of seen to it. after we found out you couldnt get BM.(?) School

Frank we think you made a mistake by not taking a school an other term there wached(?) your chance for studying Law you had good advise from a number

You wouldnt listen so if you have missed it it is all your fault. I hope you will come out Mietoreg(?) yet there is never a cloud so heavy but what the Sun will shine afterwards! I wish you was here to take dinner with me to day Just the two boys & Grandma here. I would give you all the Strawbreis you could eat! Mother & Father have gon out to Wattafor to John Bentons(?), Nellie is up to City went up week ago to day she stay at Aggs most the time she has to see the Dr every day she isnt able to do anything to speak of; Inez(?) is geting her hearing again guess it will be all wright after while. Clares face is broken out bad as ever!

Feen is coming up when Cherries are rip I look for she & Gertie next Saturday. We will have bushels of Cherries Want to get a Bug to help pick, the main dependance is my self. I expect to be hanging out in the trees about three weeks. We have Strawberries three times aday this week will about finish them. our yard looks beautiful now. Grandma was up to City two weeks stood the Journey splendid!

Barb & Baby are doing nicely. Elma has a daughter born week ago to day! Celia Porter was Married last Wednesday has gon to Mich to live! the Society I belong to meet at our house 11th July! I was down to Zahns one evening this last week had a good visit guess I will go to fore(?) mile creek the fourth isnt any thing going on in Erie the Wesleyville Societys are going to have a Picnic an Kings Woods the fourth.

Mattie has been up visiting since you went away! we have had goodeal of rain the past week every thing looks nice now. the men are working in the hay it raining so much it makes it bad I think we will have pleasant weather now

[Upside down additions]

Frank did you get those to letters With your recommends we sent them to Denver. you never wrote weather you rec_ them or not

Did you tellagrath to Harbor CRk(?) Minnie & Nellie was to there meeting yesterday said they didnt higher there teachers yesterday. I hope you will get a school if you applied. We just deposted your money yesterday will send it you didnt say how you wanted father to send it. I should think you stand a good chance to do well if you deal in machenary. Did Ben loose his position what will he do now? I will close have an other letter to write let us know soon what you are going to do. give my love to Alex & Wife Which one of the two names will they call the Baby

Your loving sister Rose

1888, July 15th—Letter

Author(s): Rosanna "Rose" Jane Bliley (Age: 26)

Addressee: Frank Bliley (Age: 23)

Address: Aspen, Colorado

Postmarked: Erie, Pennsylvania

Note(s):

- Frank was visiting his brother, Alex, and his family.
- Nellie's illness goes on for another year and a half until her death on Dec. 5, 1889.

At Home July 15th 1888

Dear Brother Frank

I rec- your letter Thursday. Will hasten to reply. it is useless to say how glad we were to here from you. I hope you will be successful in the business you are going in. Will thinks there will be money in it for you Boys! Feen & Gertie have been here a week guess she will stay a week longer. Inez came out yesterday to stay a few days her hearing is all wright now I am so glad! Nellie hasnt been home for three weeks some days only able to walk over to the doctors office & back the Dr has to see her every day. he thinks he can help her. she will keep on with him a little while longer if she dont get any better will half to change! She has doctored with him three months it has cost thirty \$ Mother gave her eight dollars yesterday for the third month; Nellies case of her kind the Dr said is the worst one he has ever had! Father & ross have gonto Church; We havent got a new crockery(?) yet I see Father thinks the old one will do yet: We had the last of our Strawberries last week. We now have to gather Cherries Raspberries & Currents. have quite good many of each

George Kennedy has been picking Cherries for us Our men finished there haying yesterday; Sewed there buck wheat Friday. Will cut some grain this week. every thing on the farm is looking very nice.

We have all the new potatoes we want now. have sold some!

Must tell you of Wills new Mash(?) he went up to the Head(?) the fourth took that Boosick Girl with him to day he made an engagement with her. I hope every thing will work in his favor! Will hasnt went hardly any since you went away! Minnie & Nellies School was out this last week; Minnie is trying to get Bellevally School. I dont think she will get it; there was sixty applications for the Mill creek school this summer lots to be disapointed! Arther Ridouht(?) is agent for a firm at Jamestown to enlarge pictures guess he works on a salary;

[top of first page]

he didnt get a school again. Frank Th___ school was out last week I herd he was going to try to get on the R_ Road, said there wasnt any money in teaching! Willie Bonnell is home works for Sewells some, guess Frank I dont know what he will do yet!

Stella Z & I spent part the day last Sunday at Mrs McClures. The Benevelent Society meet here last Wednesday I treated them to Raspberries & Cream Potatoes Salide oval(?) Eegs(?) & tea. had very pleasent time! I wish you could see our yard it looks very nice lots of flowers! The reason Uncle Andrew didnt goto train see you start a Lady

[added page]

just called to see him on some business she owed some money. he couldnt get away. was disapointed. Grandma was up to city two weeks the change I think did her good! She is Well! I sent much of any thing going on now Picnic season will comence soon! I havent rode horse Back but once this year because I havent had time & couldny leave the House. the work has been very hard for mother & I this Summer. I over done last week feel the effects of it now!

Mother said to write you she will send you forty dollars 40\$! She wants a receipt for it- soon as you can let her have it! presume you have the money "of yours" father sent you week ago yesterday! Well Dear Brother you said when you can you will help Nellie & I. I assure you Frank when ever we get any help it will be morethan appreciated & the very best use made of it! You are a Brother we all know strived very hard to get here you could accumulate something & more a Brother we often refer to for the best of habits in every way & feel very prowded of only wished some the rest look at things the same way!

[rotated additions]

it is most dinner time I must close are looking for some of Meads out this afternoon. I wrote to Minnie H_(?) yesterday she wrote she didnt weigh one hundred now. they suffer so with the heat there

Will wrote a letter to Will Mead to day! It is quite cool here to day. Our folks have just come from Church Agg came with them if you were with us to day I know we would enjoy it Frank Write soon again. We like to here from you often

Remember me to Alex & Hulda we would like to see that fine Boy.

your Loving Sister Rose.

[added page]

Frank I must write you the proposition Father made me to day. We were talking about Alex making so much money renting his house. said to Father if he would give me the money I would go to Aspen build a house & rent it. he said he would let me take it enough to build & pay my expenses

Now Frank I am in earnest Will leave it to you if there was a chance for me to make money in that way I would start for Coll. next spring I could soon pay father back; then I would rent one room to you Keep house for you. Nothing would suite me better to accept of such a proposition & stay five years West.

You may think I am "fooling" I am not I want to know what you think about it. I can see lot of money in it. a change of country would do me lots of good; Write we are all about fit(?) the first

[rotated addition]

time you write I know Father would let me take the money as he has made me the same proposition before lately. it is getting dark hoping I may hear from you soon. remember I mean every word I say.

Rose

[Envelope carries note]

if not called for in five days return to R. Bliley Wesleyville Pa.

1888, July 30th—Letter

Author(s): Rosanna "Rose" Jane Bliley (Age: 26)

Addressee: Frank Bliley (Age: 23)

Address: Aspen, Colorado

Postmarked: Wesleyville, Pennsylvania

Note(s):

- Frank was visiting his brother, Alex, and his family.
- In envelope addressed by TYPEWRITER!!! Letter was handwritten.
- Date is probably 1888, but not on letter or postmark, considering the preceding letter was dated one week earlier in July.

At Home July 30th

Dear brother

I rec__ your Epistle to day. it was brief but most gladly Perused. am glad you rec_ my other letter all wright. Why have you changed your mind in the business you intend to go into Frank I really think you better make up your mind & follow teaching. if I were you & I feel sure The of our folks would advise you to try & get a school out there!

Wish I could be out there to see the grand Tournament

Aspen must be quite a lively place! Was glad to get three papers you sent; Will has been over to Uncle Andrews farm with the team all day to day trying to grade a barn

I neber Knew our men folks to get along so nicely with there harvest as they have this year every thing seem to work like clock work got the cribs(?) in good order. one thing the weathrer was favorable most the time. Father has sold about fourty bushels of Potatoes our potatoes are nice.

We had green corn to day for dinner. We have ripe apples to if I only could I would send you a basket full. I will eat some for you every day; We sold about fifteen bushels of Cherries. I am glad they are all gon. the corn down the road is all tasseled out; our flowers allmost blossoming them selves to death. Feen & Gertie were home two weeks

She went home week ago to day Elliott came out & stayed over Sunday; We have George here now Inez was out two weeks.

"Dern" my pen I cant hardly write it wont make a mark only half the time! Nellie is up to Aggs. she is geting better has been feeling better the last few days than she has in all summer We think now the Dr will cure her

Mother & Father were over to Erven Starks yesterday!

Picnics are all the rage now there are two I want to go to this week. the harvest Picnic & Pioneer picnic will be in about three weeks there is going to be an ox rost at five mile creek Wednesday;

Stella J(?) stayed all night with me Saturday night.

[Upside down additions]

Effa hight(?) is here now She & Lill intend to go up the lakes.

Frank I will write a short letter this time Ross is most ready to go to viliage I want hime to mail this letter

I presume you were surprised when I wrote you what I would like to do. "I am in ernest" I have been coining money in it ha ha.

Write soon. your ssincere Sister Rose

Has Ben Bonnell got work yet

1889, January 3rd—Letter

Author(s): Rosanna "Rose" Jane Bliley (Age: 28)

Addressee: Frank Bliley (Age: 23)

Address: Address: Cornelia, Ohio (P.O. @ County Routes 278 & 360)

Postmarked: Aspen, Colorado

Note(s):

- Rose is visiting her brother, Alex, and his family.
- 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.
- Cornelia, Ohio was a crossroads with a rural post office.
- Nellie also wrote a letter to Cornelia in December of 1888.
- Manila Building Material envelope has picture of Aspen City on back frequently used by brother Alex.

Aspen Coll Jan 3rd 1889

Dear Brother Frank

Undoubtedly you are wondering why I dont write. it is not because I havent thought of it. partly for the want of time, Well now I am going to try & finish this letter is is neerly eight P.M. I am Some what sleepy it was half past three this morning wnen I went to bed I went to a dancing School when i got home the Gentleman stayed a little while. that counts for so small an houre. I walked down town & Back have walked several times to Aspen & back. I am not what they call a tenderfoot now if you could see me some times in my walking I allways have agreeable company. a young Gentleman here is taking Waltzing lessons he has envited me to take with! I attended a Ball at the OPerA house Newyears evening had a very pleasent time it was called hard times Ball some very comickal suits there

I wore cream cashmer!

Well Frank I was very much delighted to here from you you wrote such an interesting & long letter. Wish I could rec_ such a one very often I am glad you are well pleased with your School. am also glad you went home for Xmas our family is so small it must seem very quiet? Well Frank I havent fell in Love with Coll of course I havent seen much of it yet. some of there language sounds very queer to me I am getting

No 2 [Sheet 2]

Some what into it now. the men say a good many things they dont mean. the miners were surprised to find me so sociable they thought I would be very proud. The Bellefont mine shut down Wednesday. dont know when it will open again since those men have left we only have the Iowa men that is four men

THere is a company wants Alex to take a contract in a mine about 1 1/2 miles frome here it is above Gilly(?) Coes(?) he will know in a few days if he takes the contract we will move over there & run the boarding house may have from ten to twenty boarders there I

guess he is quite sure of taking the contract. Alex gave me \$30.00 this morning I set wright down T write a few lines to Father

Sent him the Balance what I owed him which was \$21.00. now I dont owe any one. I feel greatly relieved to know Father is paid. the rest the money will go to get me home. I dont expect to get home before Aug I want to see some of the Summer season here again I want to make enough to go & see Uncle Willis & Minnie Hilles. if they only will all keep well at home & they run a boarding house till I am ready to start I can make enough to pay my expenses I am only glad to do so for the pleasure of seeing little of the west. I wrote home this week about me staying longer. I dont suppose they will like it. I feel I want a little pleasure & rest

No 3 [Sheet 3]

I am on my feet most the time from half past five A.M. till eight P.M.!

I am enjoying my self very much I want to be Idle would drag then. I havent been homsick yet! Alex hasnt herd from the Sunset mine for a few days the last he herd they were getting out Oar to pay the men.

That is quite encouraging. the Iowa mine are working some as usual only one shift of men prospects the same as when you was here!

I have rode Yank three times since been here. I rather walk to town than ride him. Will Mead had bad luch day before Xmas he had his pocket book stollen with \$75.00 in it. he hasnt found the man that stollen it it makes Will feel quite blue some times heonly had eight dollars left from his years wages. dont say anything about it to anyone he dont want his folks to know about it. he dont wait on any one. he sleeps in the Brick house; Alex Carries the Watter & Wood. to day for the first time he has fixed the pipe so we can have hot or cold watter all we want. THey are trying to start the Bush Wacker are working at it now Alex still has three horses. The light air didnt seem to affect me much it dont tire me much when I walk if I take my time! The woman that worked for Hulda when you was here lives down town! Mr A(?) Beard took dinner with us since I been here. The most beautiful Weather I ever see in Winter is what we are having the room I am seting in hasnt any fire its not cold!

Our house is quite cozy have canvased sealings the dinningroom & setting room ispapered with Mamiller.(?)

have a hanging lampin dinning room

[Addition on Sheet 4]

I will write the present I rec__ Xmas & New years Hulda gave me her Wedding dress it is cream cashmir for my Xmas. Alex gave me a very handsom Bank(?) povins(?) with steal engraving. a Gentleman gave me a Gold collar button. New year a young Gentleman gave me a very nice Autograth Album a very handsom pannell card hand pinting he gave three dollars for it he is the one I go to Dancing School with! he is stuck on me (I know it)

I am very glad you some the rest got Grandma an ear trumpet I have wished so often since been here she had one. I am wearing my close out fast here guess I will have to send home for more

This young gentleman I have spoke of wants me to go to Glenwood Springs with him I dont think I will he runs engine in the Iowa mine! Taylor has been here several time since I have been here Hulda says he seems to be nice around me dont use those Big words of his. Ben Bonnell is Idle yet Drinks & gambles same as usual. I havent seen him for six weeks; lots of Idle people here. The baby is just geting so he can sit alone a better natured Baby never lived. Alex Just Worshipped it. it is geting better looking every day! I went to the Presbyterian Church last Sunday evening! the only thing I dislike in walking the most the way thre road is Dusty it gets my close so dusty I often walk down go by the road walk in one houre. Well I guess I have written all of any interest I must try to write a letter to Ross to day. I have quite a large correspondence I wish they all would write two letters to my one. I hope you will let me here from you soon You havent any excuse for not writing not for the want of time at least. my time is limited every day it is hard for me to get a letter written some time. I write home about every week.

I must close Hulda sends her Love to you

I remain your sincere sister Rose

1889, February 10th—Letter

Author(s): Rosanna "Rose" Jane Bliley (Age: 28)

Addressee: Frank Bliley (Age: 23)

Address: Address: Cornelia, Ohio (P.O. @ County Routes 278 & 360)

Postmarked: Aspen, Colorado

Note(s):

- Rose is visiting her brother, Alex, and his family.
- 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.
- Cornelia, Ohio was a crossroads with a rural post office.
- The letter was written in pencil. Very unusual as Rose usually used pen.

Aspen, CO 10 Feb 1889 to FB in Cornelian, OH

Aspen Coll- Feb 10th

Dear Brother Frank

Your letter was recd & most gladly persued it came like a gleam of sunshine to help to make life Bearable among these high mountains. I am obliged to write with a pen we are out of ink. I will write this as plain as I can:

Well Frank we are now living in town. A new company has the lease of the Iowa mine the leased it to farte(?)[start ?] down [at] four hundred feet. That let Alex out entirely. some the men that has an interest is quite wealthy

Mr Hull is the man that has the contract guess you know him he had a contract in the Bellefont mine he now lives where we did & is going to board his men I dont know what Alex will do now guess he dont know himself. the house we live in is a new house three rooms in it all neatly papered. they give twenty dollars per month it will be quite cosy when completey settled.

No 2 [Sheet 2]

We moved down this last Tuesday. Well Dear Brother I wish I could see you to have a talk with you. I have found hulda all together different from what you boys said. She hasnt one good word for you dont seem to have for any of our folks She thinks you have treated her far from Wright "Said" if they would count the meals & every thing you would owe them fifty dollars. When she read the note you wrote to Alex in my letter it made her mad. I will tell you what she said some time. Alex didnt consider it paid for the way you said. The ticket wasnt any good to you anyway the conductor didnt take it & you had a ride on it. Frank I want you to write to me soon for Huldays sake & send the five dollars to Alex even if you have to pinch your self that much more Alex didnt say very much if you knew what she said you wont hesitate on sending the money to me. I will hand it to them I dont want you to write any

No 3 [Sheet 3]

to them now dont hesitate in it! Hulda ought to married a Sweed.(?) I keep them from parting ever since I have been here if I must say it!

I have my time set when I think I will leave here the very last of April. I dont think I can content my self any longer on Huldays account! Alex told me last Sunday he would give me money to go home with I needent worry needent never give it back & that Hulda needent never Know it. I feel a very great kindness in him & he said for me to stay just as long as I want to. From this I dont expect to make anything. I wont write any more on this subject but will write little about the young man you wanted to know. I guess you remember him. his name is Johnny Hull. he is a young man of the first habits dont use tobacco in any shape dont use liquor in any shape has never been in a baudy house/ looks high in everything. the only fault in him there isnt any religion

No 4 [Sheet 4]

in him. he has got a smart business head on him. if no Death or terrible accident happens he will be one of the family some day. if nothing happens our folks will all see him this coming Summer. he intends to come see me a few weeks after I get home. if I could stay till July he would go back with me. I want to be home by July. he is just as Jealous of me as can be he dont like to have me look at an other fellow. he is the one I am going to dancing School with.

Letters of "Rose" Bliley to Frank A. Bliley

Frank I am very apt to lead a western life yet. he says there isnt business enough for him in the east.

he owns five hundred acres of land in Kansas fifty head cattle 15 head horses. has a 32 interest in the Iowa mine. runs engine in the Iowa mine at five \$ per day putes three dollars per day in the mine. If they get mineral he will make a nice thing of it he can keep up with any of our family

No 5 [Sheet 5]

talking business. When any our folks see him & they complain all I can do is to make the best of it

Well I guess I have writen enough about him at present if you have any thing to say I would be glad to have you write it.

Alex got his horse at last this week. here it cost my fellow twenty dollars for this reward he offered as he had the horse when it was taken

I want to write home to day. Will Mead isnt doing anything has been idle about five weeks. he wont amount to much any way. I rec a splendid letter from Ross Friday We are going to firemans Ball tomorrow night. I guess I better close till I find out if you can read this. I want you to write soon to pute the money in it

Will do me much more good to see them get it.

One reason I want to get home sooner is on account of Nellies & Mothers account. Write soon you have lots of time

I remain your

Loving Sister Rose

[upside down addition]

I us to read all the letters I got from home to Hulda but I dont any more.

1889, February 25th—Letter

Author(s): Rosanna "Rose" Jane Bliley (Age: 28)

Addressee: Frank Bliley (Age: 23)

Address: Address: Cornelia, Ohio (P.O. @ County Routes 278 & 360)

Postmarked: Aspen, Colorado

Note(s):

- Rose is visiting her brother, Alex, and his family.
- 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.

- Cornelia, Ohio was a crossroads with a rural post office.

Aspen Coll Feb 25th 1889

My Dear Brother

I rec your Epistle Saturday as you requested an early reply. it will be a pleasure for me to grant your wish!

I am about sick with a cold I caught cold at the Rink! Well Frank When I read your letter I concluded it wasnt best to show it to Alex I am glad you let me read it first. Frank I know more about Alex & Hulda then you & Will ever did. they are no more wrightly mated then Black is White. I could tell you things that would surprise you I guess better wait till I get home instead of writing much. it seems some times Alex dont care weather school keeps in or not there isnt any life in him. oif he keeps in this way I dont know how he will end. as far as I can find out he is thought but very little of business men. he is so very stubborn & set. I have been told he hasny been the same man since Married. I would live single all the days my life preference living with one like Alex. he owes R. Beard five hundred \$. an other man \$200.00 for groceries Bill they run in debt for number things they got for this house in moving. nothing seems to worry him. he has lost his interest in the sunset. by not keeping up his expenses and now they are taking out pay mineral. Hulda has said some very cutting things to me - pleas dont mention it there dont seem to be one bit of affection in eather torge each other. "Oh I will tell you all when I see you" I havent been homesick yet although there isnt much pleasure for me. it it wasnt for

[Sheet 2]

the young man I am going with I would leave here most any time if Alex could give me the money. I sent a letter to Agg yesterday asking her to write and tell me just what she thought of me coming home this spring I told her I am willing to go any time I would leave here the last of March if Alex could give me the money. I wont say any thing to Alex till I here from Agg. I would like to be six ot eight weeks on the road want to visit Aunt Ellen if money will reach want to go to Uncle Willises. Frank many thanks for your Kindness in offering me some money. I wont ask any of you unless I am oblige to. Alex told me when we moved down here not to worry he would pay my expenses home I actually dont see where he will get the money from. the time seems longer to me now any way. of course if everything worked Lovely here wouldnt feel so "Such is life" I do worry about Mother & Nellie

Nellie always writes for me not to worry any about the work at home. I cant help it. I know I am needed there. I havent been Idle here any time yet. I really will be glad when the time comes for me to pack my trunk for the East! Will Mead is Idler yet he acts as if he had lost all ambition! Mr Hull and I went to the M.E. Church last evening in the fore noon I went to the Episcopal Church herd me a sermon

[Sheet 3]

at both churches! I dont know as there is any more for me to write about Mr Hull! he spends Thursday & Sunday evenings with me. he wants me to stay till July then he

would go home with me I presume he will have a fit if I should leave here in march or April. he says he dont blame me. he dont like Huldai. he cant bare a sweech(?) if he lives you will have a chance to see him this summer if you are neer home: his expencs in the Iowa mine last month were eighty \$ they all feel sure of mineral in the Iowa mine. he is keeping the horse that was stollen of Allen, it costs him about \$16.00 per month for feed he hasnt any use for it When We moved down Allen ask him if he wouldnt keep it "said" he had to say yes. Allen thinks he ought Keep it till it gets fat it is very poor now. I dont want him to keepit any longer than through the month of march. it cost him about \$30.00 to get it in the first place. Well it is about time to retire. I make my bed in the seting room every night lay the springs on the floor. it makes a good bed. Frank I dont want you to let our folks see this letter or tell them what I have writen! I havent burnt your letter yet. I thought mayby some day before I went away I would want it! I would like to here from you again in the near future. I remain your Loving Sister Rose

[upside down addition]

There is one thing they have a very sweet Baby. quite a number have called since been in city R Beard spent Saturday evening he left to day for the East to be gon a month. are having beautiful weather but very little sun havent seen sun since moved down ???

1889, December 21st—Post Card

Author(s): Rosanna "Rose" Jane Bliley (Age: 29)

Addressee: Frank Bliley (Age: 24)

Address: Edinboro, Pennsylvania

Postmarked: Erie, Pennsylvania

Note(s):

- Frank is teaching in Albion, Pennsylvania 12 miles away from Edinboro. He may be there visiting former college friends.
- He has begun a new profession, lawyer, by studying the law under the mentorship of an Erie judge, while he still works as a teacher.

At Home Dec 21 1889

Dear Brother

Your letter was rec yesterday every thing is all wright. We are all well at Home are fixing for Christmas wish you could spend the Holydays at home; the young folks all spent the evening up to Char Tuesday evening had a very plesent time there have given up haning the Christmas Tree in the Wes_ Church there isnt any news to write about or else I would of Writen a letter The contants compliments from Nel & I

[Rotated addition]

Write soon Yours lovingly Rose

[Upside down addition]

It has snowed very hard to daygood sleighing here now

1890, January 25th—Letter

Author(s): Rosanna "Rose" Jane Bliley (Age: 29)

Addressee: Frank Bliley (Age: 24)

Address: Edinboro, Pennsylvania

Postmarked: Wesleyville, Pennsylvania

Note(s):

- Frank is teaching in Albion, Pennsylvania 12 miles away from Edinboro. He may be there visiting former college friends.
- Rose's sister, Nellie died two months earlier.

Wesleyville Pa.

Jan 15th 1890

Dear Brother Frank

I will now try and write a few lines. am most tired to write. I quilted a quilt on the Sewing machine to day. it has tired me all over.

I want to write to Ross tonight.

Some Lady friends of Aunt Belles Girls that goes to School at Edinboro writes off Ross speakes very highly of him.

Ross wrote he has cut up with his studies the time he has lost. To day Father Mother & Will went to Mrs Frank Henrys funeral. her remains and Mary arrived in Erie yesterday. Smith went as far as Kansas City to meet them. They didnt have her body brought out till to day. She looked very nice. she choked to death when died she wanted to see her children so bad she said if she only had wings she would fly home, I would to of went but I wouldnt leave Grandma alone. Saturday Father and Mother went to Stewart Chambers funeral he died very suddenly. he had just been down to Squire Chambers got home was hanging up his coat fell down dead. Heart streses(?)

Aunt Belle and Nellie was down yesterday spent the day. if it dont rain tomorrow Anna Brecht and Edith Chambers are coming up they were coming one day last week I meat them as I was going to City

Cash Wagners wife is better will get along all wright now. she gave birth to a still-born child Saturday morning. Mrs Kilpatrick is getting better but very slowly.

Mother and I went to city last Wed_ each got black dresses.

Letters of "Rose" Bliley to Frank A. Bliley

I am going to have Anna Finnegan make them will go after her next Monday will keep her about five days. the last of this month Mother is going to Corry if nothing happens stay two weeks. I am anxious for her to go and yet I hate to have her to go.

I recd letter from Barb yesterday She coughs goodeal yet is taking medicine for it said she feels discouraged some times.

What I want to write you is this. Mother wants you to send the ten dollars she owes to Dr Moor(?) soon as you can and ask him for a receipt, Barb and Feen both wrote to pay for it if nellie could speak she would say pay it of course. we all would feel better. no telling some we girls may some day be glad to go to him. You see to it at once. Mothers request.

Grandma is well. I expect Charlies to move to Harborcreek in Spring he will run the Hotell there Agg dont want to go. we will miss them if they leave Erie.

I recd letter from Stella to day said she was to a party and wore peach blossoms for a boquett.

*Well I must close your letter write to Ross. how is your tongue -- Write when you can
yours sincerely Rose*

[upside down addition]

I arrived home safely the Sunday

I had to drive out alone. dont know yet when can get Nellies picture.

Will is taking the Daily Dispatch now gets it three months for two dollars.

END OF ROSE'S LETTERS TO FRANK ANDERSON BLILEY