

MEMOIR OF THE DEATH OF ELLEN LOUSINA "NELLIE" BLILEY DECEMBER 5, 1889

Draft 1 – March 25, 2014



The following is a typewritten description of the last days and death of "Nellie" Bliley. It was composed by her older sister, Mary Agnes "Agg" Bliley Wagner (42). It is believed that the memoirs of Agg were typed up by her younger brother, Frank Anderson Bliley (34) who was a lawyer, a burgeoning family historian, and a lawyer with a typewriter. Most likely this memoir was based on a handwritten note from which Frank prepared the typewritten version.

The content of the memoir is presented exactly as found in 2010 in the Bliley family archives in Boulder, Colorado. The only exception is the addition of paragraphing to make the writing easier to read.

Also found in the archives was an envelope addressed to Nellie in the Buffalo clinic where Nellie was being treated during the spring and summer of 1889. The envelope contained only a lock of her hair, which appears to be an auburn color.



Charles A. Bliley
March 2014

NELLIE L BLILEY

Died December 5th, 1889

Aged twenty-six years, nine months and fourteen days.

Scene at her deathbed as recorded by M. Agnes Wagner
at the time from memory.

Agnes and Frank by her side when she faced towards Heaven. She began to sing softly and beautifully, when Mother was called in and all stood around her bed. She called Josephine to her and clasped her closely to her bosom and kissed her and said, "I love you dearly," and talked so heavenly. Then she called Barb and talked to her very

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nearly the same as Josephine. She then cast her eyes upon Mother, who sat weeping at her feet. She said, "Mother, why do not cry? You must not for me. Why the idea, to cry for me! Don't cry for me. Mother come to me." She threw open her arms, drew Mother closely to her bosom and kissed her and requested her not to weep, saying that she was happy. Then she opened her arms to receive Father when she rejoiced and said, "I am going to leave you all," and talked of heavenly things. She then said, "I have one request to make to you all and that is that you study into my religion and see if you cannot conscientiously believe, but if you cannot, don't be a hypocrite. Father don't be a hypocrite!" She talked in language that was beautiful and grand and in a heavenly voice. From that time on it seemed she could see her home in Heaven. That night she spoke of it twice, and how beautiful the sun shone, and at two o'clock in the morning she said, "Agg, I think I can now enter the Golden Gate, the bright and beautiful Golden Gate." She then raised herself up from the bed and was going to walk through the Golden Gate. I (Agnes) held her in bed. She began to cry as if her heart would break and lay back on the bed.

The doctor came in to see her in the morning as she was suffering so and saying, "O, my God, my God." I asked her if she could see God and how he looked. She said, "Yes, I can see him and he is so beautiful and bright, and Agg, Oh, so beautiful!"

At 7:30 P.M., Frank and I (Agnes) were sitting by her bedside as she had been suffering. With her eyes looking heavenward, she began singing in heavenly strains, soft and sweet, while she seemed to keep time by rapping on the headboard of the bed with her fingers of the right hand. She sang about ten minutes while Father, Mother, brothers and sisters stood around her bed weeping. She then held open her arms and bade sister Josephine to come to her for she wanted to tell her how she loved her. She said, "I love you dearly" and kissed her over and over and talked heavenly. She then threw open her arms and called for Barb. She pressed her to her bosom and said, "Barb, O Barb, I love you," kissing her between each sentence,

"I love you all as I love my own self." She then loosened her arms and called for Dave and Will, but they were not there. She then noticed Mother weeping at her feet and said, "Mother why do you cry? You must not cry for me, Mother, why, the very idea, crying for me! Come here to me, Mother," holding open her arms. She pressed Mother to her heart, trying to console her, telling her not to cry for her. When she was through talking to Mother, Father went to her. She said, "Father, Oh, Father, I am going to leave you," and Father told her she was going to meet her Savior. She said, "so unworthy," repeated more.

I then asked her if she would forgive us all for our offences. She said, "Yes Agg, I forgive you your offences. I forgive you all." This was the last question asked, that was about 11:30 A.M. From that time to 3:46 P.M. she did not talk.

At the time she died. One question before this, I asked and that was: "Nellie will you meet your Mother in Heaven some day?" She said, "Yes Agg." During this time, I do not think she could see me, but she very quickly knew our voices. We also asked her to pray for when she was in Heaven. She said, "I will."

ERIE NEWSPAPER OBITUARY

December 8, 1889

Death of Miss Nellie Bliley

Miss Nellie L. Bliley died at home of her father, Chas. Bliley, of Wesleyville, Thursday afternoon. The deceased had been in poor health for some time. About two years ago she contracted malaria fever while visiting friends in Ohio; this with some affliction of the stomach baffled the best medicinal skill in the city and Buffalo. She had many friends in this city and vicinity who will mourn her death. Her disposition was kind and affectionate and commanded the respect and friendship of all who knew her. She was firm in her religious convictions led the live of a

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christian. Her last moments were cheered by the presence of all of her brothers and sisters but one.

The funeral will be at the residence of her parents this forenoon at 10 o'clock.

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