

Letters and maps pertaining to the Abbie Bright diary

Section 1, Pages 1 - 30

These documents comprise the fourth series in the Abbie Bright Papers. The series includes letters and maps pertaining to the Abbie Bright diary (record unit 223662). These materials were generated in preparation for the publication of Abbie Bright's diary in The Kansas Historical Quarterly, autumn and winter 1971, to which a link is provided below.

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Letters and maps pertaining to the Abbie Bright diary

news and VIEWS



Volume 1 Number 3

Fall, 1969



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news and views

Published for officers and board members of the County Health Improvement Associations in Iowa by Blue Cross and Blue Shield.

Kenneth Nading—Editor

Bobbie Schumacher—Editorial Assistant

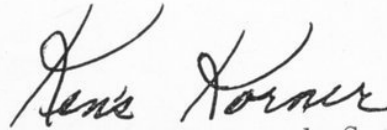
Hospital Service, Inc., of Iowa
Iowa Medical Service
Liberty Building
Des Moines, Iowa 50307

HIA Presidents Meet In December

Presidents of the County Health Improvement Associations will meet in Des Moines, December 5, to discuss health care issues on the national and local scenes.

Guest speakers will include James M. Ensign, vice president of the Blue Cross Association in Chicago, and Dale Nelson, administrative director for the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation.

The meeting will be at the Hotel Savery.



Rural health care in the State of Iowa took a giant step forward recently when the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation put their support behind our Iowa Blue Cross and Blue Shield Plans. An agreement has been reached to make a group health care program available to their Farm Bureau Membership in Iowa.

This unique program is far in advance of anything offered to rural people. It compares with the programs sponsored by the giant industries.

The program is so new that some of its contents are still on the drawing board. It is the result of suggestions made by you people at the HIA meetings and shows what can be done when people decide to work together. All of the HIA, Farm Bureau and Blue Cross and Blue Shield programs will be greatly improved by this action. We will be discussing this with you at your County HIA meetings.

Cover Story

Mrs. Don Fairchild of Gladbrook shows *NEWS AND VIEWS* Editor Ken Nading a piece of her prize china collection. Mrs. Fairchild and her husband have many family heirlooms in their home along with written histories about many of the items. For more about the Fairchilds see page four.

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Vi Pringle of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield telecommunications department checks the teletype machine for Inter-Plan Bank inquiries about subscribers hospitalized outside the State of Iowa.

Subscribers “Bank” On Blue Cross

A unique “bank,” set up to pay the health and hospitalization bills of mobile America, processed 524,293 health care claims in 1968—or one every 58 seconds—totaling \$179 million.

This bank, that has no tellers or vaults, is the Inter-Plan Service Bank of the Blue Cross system. Marking its twentieth anniversary this year, the Bank serves the nation’s 68.4 million Blue Cross members when they happen to be hospitalized or receive other health care outside their local Plan areas.

For example, suppose a Blue Cross member from Iowa is injured in an auto accident in New

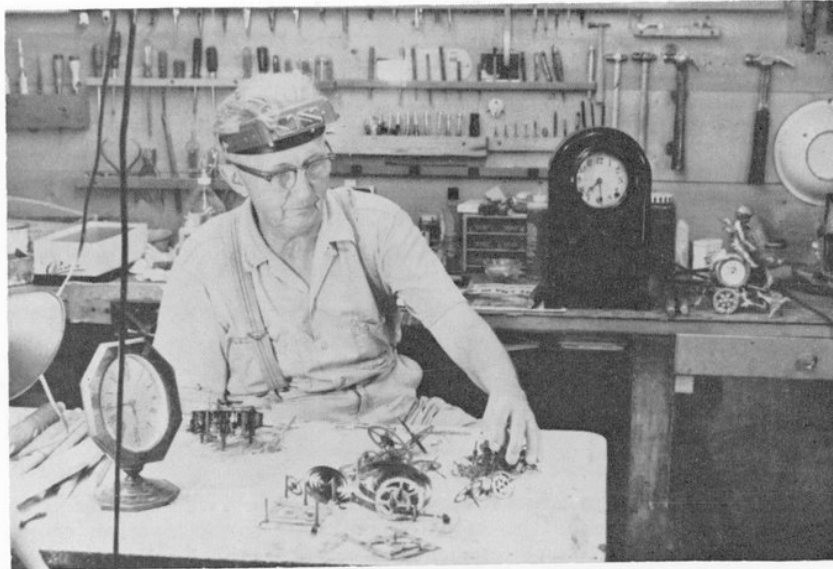
York City and needs to be hospitalized there. The member simply presents his Blue Cross card, which is honored at 7,000 of the nation’s general and special-purpose hospitals, extended care facilities and other institutional providers of care.

The hospital will notify New York City Blue Cross of the member’s hospitalization. Then, the New York City Plan will obtain the member’s benefit eligibility information from Blue Cross in Des Moines through the Inter-Plan Bank.

To get all this information, the Inter-Plan Bank uses a

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In his well equipped workshop, Don Fairchild works on an antique clock. Mr. Fairchild enjoys tracing each clock's history.

It's All In The Family

Ever wonder what a captured British soldier did with his time while he waited for the American Revolutionary War to end?

Ever hear of or see flow-through china?

Is there an old clock in your home that needs fixing?

If your answers to these questions are "yes," we suggest you pay a visit to the home of Don and Janette Fairchild in Gladbrook, Iowa. There you can see a linen shirt woven by a British soldier while he was a prisoner of the Americans during the Revolutionary War, 1763-1783.

Mrs. Fairchild will be glad to

show you her flow-through china. After painting the design on a set of china, the manufacturer discovered that the dye had gone through the china and could be seen on the underneath side. Instead of discarding it, he sold it as a rarity and thus was born an heirloom.

Mr. Fairchild is well known in the midwest for his ability to repair clocks and his workshop is crowded with all shapes, sizes and ages. His success with clocks could come from his philosophy about time pieces. "A clock," he believes, "is more like a human than any other thing. Each clock

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has a mind of its own. None ever run together."

Mr. Fairchild also has a sizable collection of clocks of his own as well as an outstanding stamp and coin collection. Mrs. Fairchild collects spoons and glassware.

But don't get the idea that the Fairchilds of Gladbrook are just two more antique collectors. Few of their prizes have been bought at auctions, antique shops, etc. Most of them are family heirlooms, handed down from generation to generation. And with almost every item there is a written history.

Mr. Fairchild's family came to Iowa from Pennsylvania; Mrs. Fairchild from Virginia by way of Illinois. There is a chest of drawers that arrived in Illinois from Virginia by covered wagon. Stored in that chest were quilts and spreads made from materials spun on a spinning wheel. Pillow shams bear the embroidered names of the ancestors who made them.

And speaking of spinning wheels, Mrs. Fairchild has several and is most adept at operating them. She has given demonstrations at fairs and instructed a number of women who have taken up spinning as a hobby.

While inspecting Mrs. Fairchild's crystal collection we noted that every bottle with a stopper had a piece of paper slipped between the bottle and the stopper. Mrs. Fairchild told us that several years ago, after

there had been a sonic boom over Gladbrook, she discovered that one of the stoppers was driven so tightly into the bottle that they have not been able to remove it to this day. The strips of paper prevent a recurrence of this accident.

Of course there is a library in the Fairchild home with many interesting books and an attic that stores an antique sewing ma-

Continued on Page 7

Don Fairchild points out an interesting feature of one of the clocks in his collection.



Janette Fairchild demonstrates one of her spinning wheels. On the bed is one of the spreads that have been in her family for many years.



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HIA Happenings

Clinton County HIA Writes Its History

Members of the Clinton County Health Improvement Association have compiled a history of their organization.

The Clinton County HIA was founded on February 6, 1946, by a group of Farm Bureau Women. Mrs. Clarence Ott was the first president with Joe Carber serving as vice president and Lea Coverdale as secretary-treasurer.

During the past 23 years the HIA has given 27 nursing scholarships to Clinton County Girls. It contributed to the DeWitt Hospital drive in 1947 and helped purchase an oxygen tent for the hospital in 1953.

Assistance has been given to delegates to safety and health camps and subscriptions to safety review magazines have been sent to members of the safety committee.

Present officers of the Clinton County HIA are Noel Olson of Grand Mound, president; Donald Alt of Wheatland, vice president; and Eldon Hansen of Clinton, secretary-treasurer.

Allamakee HIA Gives Scholarship

Alice Bechtel, a graduate of Waukon High School, has received the \$250 nursing scholar-

ship given by the Allamakee County Health Improvement Association.

Miss Bechtel is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Karl Bechtels. She is taking her nursing training at St. Luke's Hospital in Cedar Rapids. Since the fall of 1967, Miss Bechtels has been employed as a aide at the Good Samaritan Home in Waukon.

Lois Beck Retires As Tama Secretary

When the new officers of the Tama County Health Improvement Association were announced in August, a familiar name was missing. Mrs. Lois Beck, secretary-treasurer for over 20 years, has retired.

Mrs. Beck was one of the first volunteers to help Blue Cross and Blue Shield enroll HIA members. In the years following she has been a dedicated and devoted HIA worker. In a letter to Mrs. Beck, William A. Guy, president of the Des Moines Blue Cross Plan has said, "You will be missed very much and we do want to express our heartfelt thanks for your tremendous contribution to the cause of health care in Iowa.

New officers of the Tama County HIA are Albert McMillan of Traer, president; Eldo Hagedorn of Garwin, vice president; and Mrs. John Erickson of Traer, secretary-treasurer.

The board of directors voted to award two \$300 scholarships

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to Tama County girls entering nurse's training. Since the scholarship program was established in 1953, 25 nursing students have been aided.

The Family

Continued from Page 5

chine, old-old dolls and numerous other interesting items.

As you have guessed by now, the Fairchild home is a delightful place to visit. But no more so than the Fairchilds themselves. They are quite familiar with everything in their home and love every piece because it is family. They enjoy showing things and telling the histories.

The Fairchilds' love of history does not end with their home. They have been members of the Tama County Health Improvement Association since its organization in the early forties and can recall most of its activities since then. Mrs. Fairchild has just completed another stint on the HIA board of directors and she and her husband are enthusiastic Blue Cross and Blue Shield boosters.

Subscribers "Bank"

Continued from Page 3

40,000 mile telecommunications wire network and computer facility which connects the 75 Blue Cross Plans.

The Iowa member's hospital benefits will be paid by the New York City Plan, which, in turn,

will bill the Des Moines Plan for those benefits through the Bank. Twice a month the Bank tallies the credits and debits of all 75 Blue Cross Plans and informs them of their current "bank balance."

In the two decades of service the Inter-Plan Bank has handled 6,314,167 cases with claim payments totaling \$1.5 billion. In 1968 some 4,413 members of the Des Moines Plan received treatment away from home. Their total bills, handled through the Bank, came to \$1,767,060.61.

The Des Moines Plan processed some 3,737 claims for out-of-staters hospitalized in Iowa. These totaled \$1,018,503.55 in Inter-Bank payments.

As the Bank begins its twenty-first year of service plans are underway to expand its operations to an international level. At present, Blue Cross members who become ill overseas may have to make personal arrangements to pay the foreign hospital or health facility and then receive reimbursement from their local Plans.

The Bank's expansion would be a big step toward the goal of providing worldwide health care prepayment protection.

Candy aspirin and candy medicines are especially attractive to children; keep them out of reach, preferably in a locked closet.

Persons who engage in physical activity usually experience deeper slumber and sleep longer than sedentary people.

There are an estimated 12 to 15 million leprosy cases in the world today, including some 2,500 in the United States.

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It's Great To Be 103

Mrs. Hallie Benson of State Center doesn't mind talking about her age.

Why should she? She is 103 years young and enjoys every minute of it. She takes daily walks when the weather permits; reads two newspapers each day and a number of magazines. She likes to ride in cars and recite poetry.

Mrs. Benson was born in Earlville, Ill., April 18, 1866, just a few days after the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln. She and her husband, who died at the age of 95, operated a dry goods store in State Center for many, many years. They had one son, Donald, who is now a retired executive living in New Rochelle, N.Y.

Mrs. Benson attributes her longevity to a great family pride and heritage. She had wonderful



Mrs. Hallie Benson

parents, a fine marriage and a great son, she says.

Mrs. Benson gave up keeping house when she was 93 and now lives with a companion, Fern Smith. Her Blue Cross and Blue Shield coverage is through the State Center Bank.

HIA Members Write Letters About Tax

Letters to their legislators, written by hundreds of County HIA members during the last session of the Iowa General Assembly, were very influential in getting the Blue Cross and Blue Shield tax bill delayed.

Ken Gingerich, director—public and governmental relations for the Plans, feels the HIA mail had a most direct bearing on delaying any such premium

tax on BC & BS dues.

He points out, however, that since the legislature is involved in annual sessions now, it should be remembered that the premium tax issue is not "dead." The bill is pending in the ways and means committee of both the senate and the house. It will very likely receive further action when the legislature reconvenes on January 12, 1970.

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Waterloo Sunday Courier

Northeast Iowa

WATERLOO, IOWA, SUNDAY, MARCH 1, 1970

Pages 45 to 55

Old Spinning Wheels Keep Gladbrook Man Humming

By JOHN BARBOUR
Courier Staff Writer

GLADBROOK — His name isn't Rumpelstiltskin nor does he spin straw into gold but a Gladbrook man is keeping busy during his retirement years by repairing spinning wheels, a pastime that helps enrich his coffers.

He's Don Fairchild who lives with his wife, Jannette in a comfortable home that proves to be a veritable museum —

loaded down with antiques of every design, from cookie cutters to furniture to glassware to tools.

Asked how he got started repairing spinning wheels — an item that doesn't grace every home in Iowa — Fairchild explained that among his many hobbies was the practice of attending the Old Threshers Reunion at Mount Pleasant.

"Every year they have a demonstration of spinning

wheels there. I had an old wheel and I wanted to see how they were using their's.

Anyway, this lady was trying to demonstrate the proper methods of spinning and her wheel was in such bad shape that she couldn't get the demonstration across.

Fixed Wheel

"Later, I talked with her and told her I thought I could fix her wheel. After looking it over,

I figured that if I made a couple of new pieces for it, it would run as well as when it was new," Fairchild said.

"To make a long story short, I fixed it for her and she spread the word around. Since then I've kept plenty busy."

To attest to his statement, Fairchild listed some of the wheels he's repaired — two in Mount Pleasant, one in Iowa City, six for the Mahaska County Historical Society, four

at Des Moines, six at Chariton and one at Osage.

Fairchild credits the growth of hobbies with increasing the interest in the spinning wheels. He pointed out that many people prefer to spin their own yarn prior to weaving it on their home looms.

In repairing the spinning wheels, Fairchild said he uses mostly hard maple wood but sometimes, depending upon the type of wood in the wheel, he'll use oak.

Soft Pine

"I had one that I was working on that had been made out of pine. It was so soft I don't see how they ever got it to turn the way they wanted it. It was a little bit binding at times, but I got it fixed."

He has two wheels in his home that are his own. One is of the conventional design but the other is a German wheel that is referred to as "vertical" design. This type features the wheel on the bottom with the spindles on top rather than to the side as is the case with the conventional wheels. Purpose of the unique design was to save space, Fairchild explained.

A walk through their home is like taking a guided tour through a historical museum. Most of the furniture in the home came to Iowa from their ancestors who lived in Pennsylvania or Virginia. Sitting in some of the comfortable chairs, one can't imagine they're old enough to have been transported across the mountains in covered wagons.

Mrs. Fairchild, who can ruin a man's diet in a hurry with a plate of piping hot cookies, leans more to the feminine side of antiques.

Table-Service for 12

"We can set a table for 12 people using china, glassware, silverware and linens that were used at my grandmother's wedding in 1871," she said. "I also have the antique scissors my family brought with them to Iowa and I still like to use an antique cookie cutter."

The kitchen is her domain, just as the basement workshop is Fairchild's. A wall plaque in the kitchen reads, "This is the kitchen of Jannette Fairchild. If you doubt it, just start something."

Fairchild is also a noted clock collector and craftsman. At this

writing, there were 37 old clocks sitting in his basement waiting for his deft touch. He has a wide assortment of tools and even turned some of the wheels and gears out on his lathe.

"People say you can't make wooden wheels for clocks but I just go ahead and do it and they work just fine," he said.

Old Table Cloth

One of their prize possessions is a tablecloth that was woven by a Hessian soldier captured

by Gen. George Washington's troops at the battle of Trenton, N.J. According to the Fairchilds, he wove it while in prison.

They have many other antique pieces of material, including an old nightshirt that features stitching so fine that one can't believe it was done by hand. Also, upon the piano are examples of quilt points dated 1817, 1837 and 1842.

The piano itself is a conservation piece. It is known as

a Crown Orchestral Piano and features four pedals instead of the usual three. By the adept use of the hands and applying the proper touch, one can imitate a harp, zither, harpsichord, guitar, etc.

The Fairchilds have many old books, some dating back to the early 1800s. These pose somewhat of a problem as they would like to give the books

See WHEELS
Continued on page 46, col. 2



Don Fairchild Works on One of the Many Spinning Wheels He Has Repaired in His Basement Shop



Mrs. Fairchild Puts Away Some of the Antique Hand-Woven Material the Couple Treasures

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the Upper Iowa River, the oldest of Iowa's rivers.

Early settlers admired the area, and it is at Old Town that the village of Lime Springs was platted by D.C.H. and Joseph Knowlton in 1855. They eventually sold some of the 60

under the guidance of the Howard County Conservation board, who has leased the site. It is expected that the building will be restored on the exterior and interior, and the water wheel and gauge will be returned to operating condition.

blended the whole into a rustic beauty with character.

Six-Foot Gears

The mill appears small when viewed from the outside, but once inside seems large with many shafts, six-foot gears and

times as the water wheel as Jesup.

Lynne Loban, 19, of Oelwein was dead on arrival at People's Hospital in Independence after suffering a broken neck in the accident that occurred at approximately 2:30 a.m.

William Fangman, 21, of Quasqueton, driver of the car, was transferred to Scholtz Hospital in Waterloo with a fractured jaw and facial lacerations.

Another passenger, Duke Boyer, 21, of Jesup, was admitted to People's Hospital with a broken collar bone and lacerations of the left knee.

Iowa Highway Patrol said the car was in route north out of Jesup when it went off a T-intersection and slid into an embankment.

Funeral services for Miss Loban will be held at 10 a.m. Tuesday at the Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Oelwein. A rosary will be recited at 8 p.m. tomorrow at the Brant Funeral Home in Oelwein.

Burial will be in the Oelwein cemetery.

Miss Loban was a 1968 graduate of the Oelwein high school and was currently employed at Collins in Cedar Rapids.

Her survivors include her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Warren Loban; two sisters, Christine at home and Mrs. Joseph Leszewski of Oelwein; two brothers, Gregory at home and Steven, stationed with the U.S. Air Force in Oklahoma City; her maternal grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Corcoran of Davenport and her paternal grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Loban of Fayette.

TRIPOLI CONCERT

TRIPOLI (CNS) — Tripoli instrumental music department will present a "Pops Concert" Tuesday, March 3, at 7:30 p.m. in the high school auditorium. The junior and senior high stage bands, as well as the junior high and senior high concert bands, will perform. Admission will be charged.

Wartburg's Artist Series Will Present 'La Traviata'

(COURIER NEWS SERVICE)
WAVERLY — Giuseppe Verdi's operatic masterpiece, "La Traviata," which will be presented by the Goldovsky Grand Opera Theater here Tuesday, March 10, will conclude Wartburg's College's 1969-70 Artist Series season.

Based on Alexandre Dumas' drama, "The Lady of the Camellias," the opera, which has been translated into English for this tour, will begin at 8 p.m. in Neumann Auditorium.

A number of tickets in the \$4 (balcony) and \$5 (main floor) range are still available and may be ordered in advance by writing: Artist Series, 101 Luther Hall, Wartburg College, Waverly, Iowa 50677, or calling: 332-1290, Ext. 208.

Under the direction of Boris Goldovsky, founder of the company in 1946, the theatre this year is on its 15th cross-country tour.

Full Chorus

Eleven principal singers and a full chorus and orchestra will be involved in the presentation of the 115-year old masterpiece which will be fully staged with interior and exterior scenes of 19th century Paris.

Of significance to Artist Series patrons is Goldovsky's Opera-in-English policy. It is his contention that when an audience understands everything that is being sung it becomes far more aware of the action.

Sparks

(Continued)

Union and says it sits in the middle of a diamond — Area 1 Vocational School to the north in Calmar, a large Sara Lee plant to be built in New Hampton to the west, Upper Iowa College in Fayette to the south and a tourism and recreation bonanza all the way to the Mississippi River to the east.

All can bring people and business to West Union, Kamm said, as well as the town's getting new industries of its own. And, according to a bumper sticker Kamm had printed, "West Union Loves Company."

"We can benefit if we take advantage of the facilities," he commented. "As far as the community is concerned, it's one of the potentially finer communities in Northeast Iowa. I don't think it's reached its peak yet."

stage business and character portrayals.

"The resistance of American audiences thus far to opera performed in the vernacular, as it is in almost every other country of the world, has been due in large part to the low dramatic standards that have prevailed in the occasional opera-in-English performances done previously," he says.

"Where the audience did not notice the inadequacies of a company's productions done in foreign languages, they were quick to conclude from the dramatically ludicrous performances in English that opera in a tongue they could understand was inept and hopeless."

Based On Novel

The libretto of "La Traviata"

Wheels

(Continued)

to some institution that would give them the proper care. To date, they haven't encountered any group that would like to have the books.

The Fairchilds are a lively couple with a lot of laughs and kidding being exchanged. They're surrounded by antiques but the aged items haven't depressed them as they keep a youthful outlook and merry dispositions.

is based on Dumas' novel, a best seller of the 1840's, "La Dame aux Camellias." In 1852, the story was reproduced as a play, and it was then that Verdi decided to do the opera.

It is based on the life of one Alphonsine Plessis, who begun her life as a farm maid and who later changed her name to Marie Duplessis. Dumas says of her, "She had a small head, enamel-like eyes like those of a Japanese, but she was lively and delicate. She was one of the last, and one of the few courtesans, who had a heart. Doubtless, that is why she died so young."

Dumas also says that Maria's story does not exactly parallel his own "Lady of the Camellias." Maria did love a gallant young man (but he had refused to live with her for unknown reasons), and she did die of tuberculosis at the age of 23. But Dumas enhanced this skeleton plot by depicting the reformation of the courtesan and the tragic reconciliation with her lover.

An interesting sidelight is the fact that Dumas' father, the author of "The Three Musketeers," did happen to know the real Maria Duplessis, and it was said that she had captured his heart as well as that of his son.

Verdi's heroine is Violetta Valery (Maria Duplessis), and that role will be sung by Joan Patenaude.

Monday, March 2nd SCHUKEI CHEVROLET

Is Moving the New and Used Car Sales
To Their New Location on Hiway 412
Across from the Crossroads Shopping Center

All Other Departments Will Remain at the W. 5th St.
Downtown Location Until Further Notice.

Hope to See You MONDAY, MARCH 2nd at the
NEW LOCATION — HIWAY 412, MONDAY, MARCH 2nd

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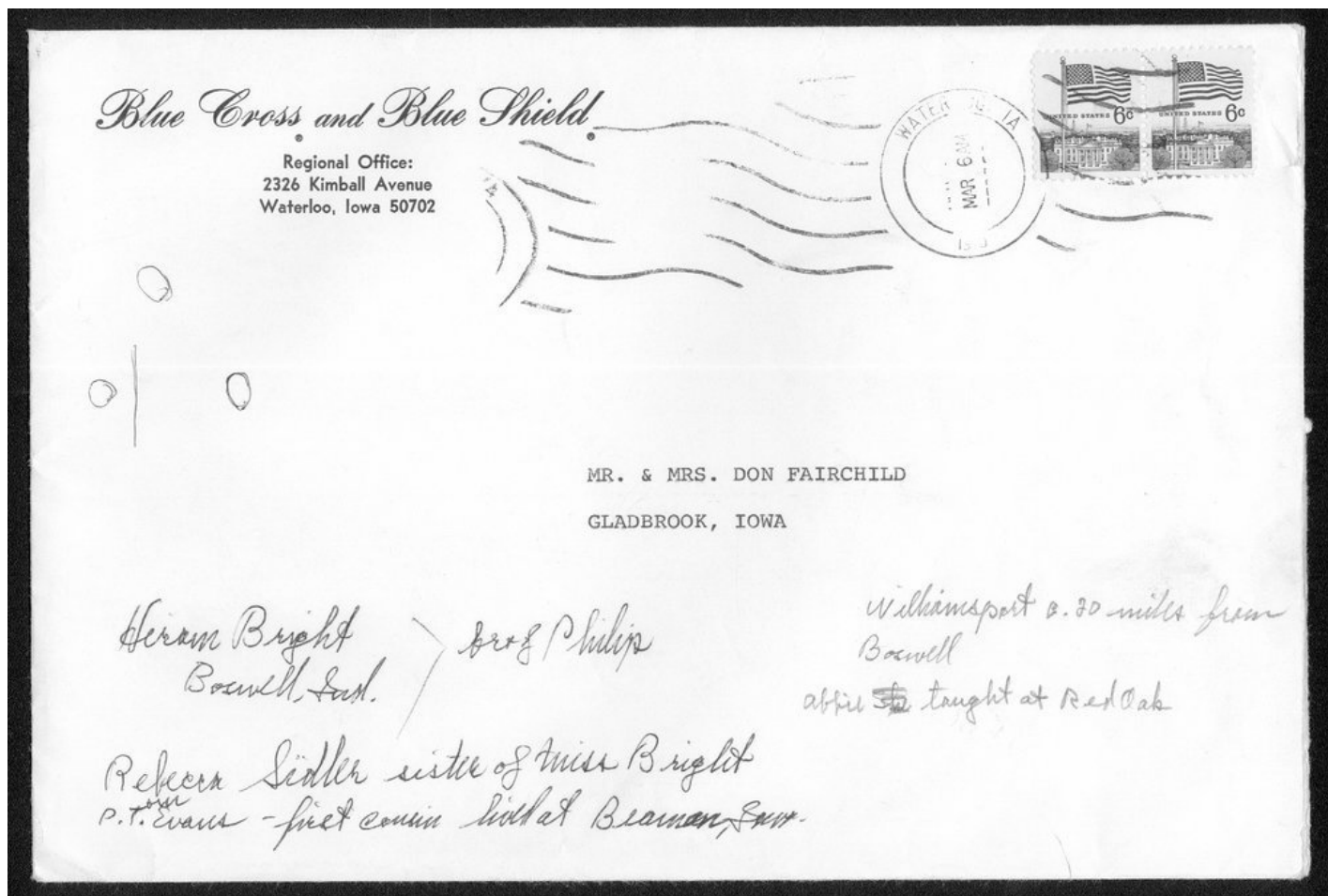
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Roughing It On Her Kansas Claim: The Diary
of Abbie Bright, 1870-1871
Edited by Joseph W. Snell

THE DIARY OF A KANSAS PIONEER I. Introduction

At ²¹~~twenty-one~~ Pennsylvania-born Abbie Bright had a great desire to see the ^{her native state.} American West, which to her was that part of the country west of ~~the Mississippi~~. In 1870 the fruition of such a desire was not easily attained for single girls did not just pack their bags and roam the country unescorted ^{as learned to} ~~as~~ they do a hundred years later. Instead it was necessary to visit relatives and friends along the way in order for virtue to be protected by the men of the family.

Abbie Bright was no ordinary Victorian female. She was a lady with a proper sense of propriety but ~~(she)~~ also ~~was a human being~~ with a determined mind and a yen for adventure. She accepted the restrictions which society ^{place upon those of} ~~put on~~ her sex and she ^{but} ~~overcame them in a ladylike manner.~~ She did tour her West and the record of ^{her} ~~this~~ trip was recorded in the diary published here.

Abbie had been born on December 17, 1848, on a ¹⁸³³ ~~good~~ farm near Danville, Pa. Her parents were Peter and Mary (Evans) Bright who had moved onto their 180 acres as bride and groom in ¹⁸³³ ~~1832~~. "It was a fine farm home," Abbie wrote many years later in an autobiographical sketch. "No farm in Valley Township had such a variety of fruit, and so many flowers, as we had."

Childhood was pleasant in Pennsylvania but when Abbie was 12 the Civil War broke out and her three brothers, Dennis, Hiram and Philip, enlisted. ^{Dennis & Philip} ~~Two of the boys~~ were severely wounded during the conflict and Hiram contracted a serious disease which resulted in his early discharge. The daughters of the family, Abbie, Rebecca, Penina and Mary, stayed home to help their mother with her hospital aid work.

When Abbie was 15 she enrolled in the Danville Institute, two-and-a-half miles from her home. Afterwards she ^{taught a while and then} ~~attended~~ Keystone State Normal at Kutztown, now Kutztown State College. When she commenced her studies there in December, 1867, the school was barely a year old and consequently not large. ^{In spite of its age and age} ~~Apparently~~ the instruction was good ^{and} ~~for~~ after one term, which ended in the spring of 1868, ^{affie} ~~she~~ returned home and was hired to teach at what she called Blue's school. ^{the} ~~She was the second best qualified teacher~~ in the district. ^{Henry Brown had gone to Normal School," she later recalled.} Her salary was \$16 a month for three months of 30 days each.

Joseph W. Snell is head of the manuscript division and a member of the archives staff of the Kansas State Historical Society.

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In the spring of 1870 Abbie attended Keystone Normal a second time and it must have been during that ^{period} ~~that~~ when she decided to go West. She arranged with her roommate, Mary Klopp, to write letters in the form of diaries and exchange them after Abbie's return East. And, when she signed a contract to teach at ^{the} Blue's school in the fall, it was with the express understanding that should she decide to travel she could leave early. As it turned out she taught only two weeks.

Hiram, ~~the brother~~ who lived in Indiana, and his wife were visiting with Abbie's parents when school commenced and it didn't take them long to convince Abbie that she should go home with them. Since Rebecca was willing to finish Abbie's term at the Blue's school there was nothing ~~left~~ to hinder her.

So it was that Abbie left home on August 23, 1870, and, after stopping at Reading and Columbus, reached Hiram's home on September 2. It is here that her diary ^{begins} ~~starts~~.

It should be noted that Abbie's brother Philip had come to Kansas about the time ^{she} ~~Abbie~~ went to Indiana. Though the use of his right hand was restricted as the result of his wartime wound ^{Philip} ~~he~~ had taken 160 acres ^{of} on the Osage Trust Lands which had ^{just} ~~been~~ become available to white settlers. When the desire to see more ~~of America~~ ^{opened for settlement} than Indiana and Illinois struck Abbie she chose to visit Philip on his Sedgwick county claim, ^{near present Okemaw} And, as her diary discloses, she herself took 160 acres as an investment.

This reproduction of Abbie's diary is from two "original" copies. Whether either is the original "original" is a moot question. And which of the two "originals" is the earlier is equally obscure. The version of the diary which constitutes the main portion of this published ^{edition} ~~diary~~ has the appearance of having been prepared for non-family use. It is written separately, ^{while} ~~which~~ the other is part of a larger diary. In addition certain names have been changed or deleted for reasons known only to Abbie herself. Why, for instance, would she continually refer to Hiram's wife Rhoda as Katura, her friend Belle Butler as Bess Bee and the Robert West family in Kansas as the North family? None of the entries concerning these persons reflects on their character so ^{many represent nothing more than whimsical treatment} the change ^{on the part of the diarist} is a complete mystery. ^{by diary prepared for non-family use}

The publication here was taken mainly from ^{that} ~~the~~ diary for two reasons. First, when work commenced on its editing, it was the only copy known. The other ^{version} ~~copy~~ appeared

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after all preliminary copy work had been done and the editing itself was well along.

Secondly, ^{first available} ~~this version~~ ^{account seems} is often the more detailed. ^{however} In some cases the other version contains additional information which ^{is printed here} ~~has been included~~ in italic type ^{to indicate that it is} ~~to set it off~~. ^{taken from the other source.} Thus all diary entries in roman type represent the first ^{now family} version while all italic-type entries represent the second.

Some corrections in Abbie's spelling and punctuation have been made by the editor. Abbie at times seemed prone to use dashes for periods and commas. Though a few of these have been retained for flavor, others have been changed for reasons of clarity. Spelling has usually been left as Abbie wrote, though in a few cases where it was obvious she knew the correct spelling changes were made. In all cases no changes were made that would destroy the character of Abbie's style.

All of the information concerning Abbie's early life comes from the ~~first~~ ^{second} diary and letters which were presented to the Kansas Historical Society by ^{from family} ~~Mrs. and Mrs.~~ ^{State} Donald G. Fairchild of Gladbrook, Iowa, ^{and his wife} ~~Mr. and Mrs.~~ Fairchild have been of inestimable help in sorting out family names, dates, and associations. ~~Mr. Fairchild is the grand-~~ ^{her grandson,} ~~son of Abbie Bright.~~

The Kansas State Historical Society is indebted to Mr. ^{and Mrs.} Donald G. Fairchild of Gladbrook, Iowa, for the ~~many~~ ^{Abbie Bright} diaries and relating family papers. All the information concerning Abbie's early life comes from the second diary and from family letters. Mr. Fairchild, ^{who is a} ~~grandson~~ of the diarist, and Mrs. Fairchild have been of inestimable help in sorting out family names, dates, and associations.

Letters and maps pertaining to the Abbie Bright diary

Donald G. Fairchild

Rebuilder of Clocks and Spinning Wheels

Islandbrook, Ia 50635

Nov. 14 - 1970.

Mr. Nyle H. Miller, secretary
Kansas State Historical Society
10th and Jackson Sts
Topeka, Kansas 66612.

Dear Mr. Miller: In response to your letter of Sept. 16 - I had hoped to see you in the next few weeks, but ~~due~~ to unexpected happenings and some weather conditions I won't see you until later.

I had expected to go to Arizona with the Phillip Bright story which they seem to be interested in, but that too will have to come later, and in February I hope Mr. Fireman curator of Arizona State U. library asked to be remembered to you -

Sincerely yours

Donald G. Fairchild

Letters and maps pertaining to the Abbie Bright diary

September 16, 1970

Mr. Donald G. Fairchild
Gladbrook, Iowa 50635

Dear Mr. Fairchild:

It was a pleasure to have your letter.

An Arizona State Department of Library and Archives is in the State Capitol, at Phoenix. The zip code there is 85007.

Also, the newspaper in Phoenix with the most circulation seems to be the Arizona Republic.

You could try either or both of them, with the Phillip Bright story.

We didn't realize that you knew David Phillips. He bought a wonderful collection of photographs in Leavenworth, and his reproduction of several in the recent issue of American Heritage was superb.

Joe Snell is having the Abby Bright diary copied. We think it will make an excellent story and we'll hope it can run about a year from now. We have a lot of articles in our stack, and they have to appear somewhat in order of receipt, or we risk making people unhappy.

It will be a pleasure to see you whenever you can come this way.

With kindest personal regards and best wishes, I am

Cordially,

Secretary

NHM:pa

Letters and maps pertaining to the Abbie Bright diary

STATE FAIR BOOTH—Above is picture
appeared in the "Discover Iowa" to
are sorry the picture is not clear
colored photo which was the only

Sept. 11 1970

Historical Collector and Writer Visits Fairchild Home Over Weekend

Mr. and Mrs. David R. Phillips of Chicago, Ill., were in Gladbrook last Saturday visitng at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Donald Fairchild.

Mr. Phillips is a collector of old historical photo plates, both wet and dry. He writes historical articles based on these old plates. His method of reproduction brings out hidden details in pictures that were never seen before because of size and clarity. The hidden details are brought to light vividly in some reproductions that are pictured in the June issue of the American Heritage magazine of June 1970.

In this issue a four page reproduction of the railroad yards in Leavenworth, Kansas, taken in 1967 of the railroad station, freight and passenger cars was reproduced from a 2x2 stereopticon slide.

Mr. and Mrs. Phillips were at the Fairchild home looking over the old photo plates of J. E. Milner, who operated in Gladbrook as early as 1883 and was one of the first, if not the first photographer in town. He sold out to Fred W. Clark about 1900.

They selected about 150 of the old plates owned by Mr. Fairchild, which were photos taken before 1912, and took them to Chicago with them.

They also visited in the Kenneth Bruene home and were very much impressed with the fine reproductions that Kenneth has been getting from old photos of Gladbrook and spoke highly of this and his present photos.

Anyone having old photo plates of scenes taken in Gladbrook years ago, should contact Mr. Fairchild that these historical photos might be preserved for future generations to see.

Friday, Sept. 11 Deadline
For ASCS Election Ballot

Letters and maps pertaining to the Abbie Bright diary

Donald G. Fairchild

Rebuilder of Clocks and Spinning Wheels

Islandbrook - Iowa 50635

Sept. 14 - 1970

Mr. Nyle Miller,
Memorial Building
120 W. 10th St.,
Topeka, Kansas. 66612.

Dear Sir: Enclosed is a clipping from our local paper, telling of Mr and Mrs David Phillips and their visit to our home last week.

We are still planning to make another trip to Topeka and now hope that we can make it in November.

Would you know of any newspaper or Historical Department in Phoenix that might be interested in a story about my Uncle Phillip Bright, who was murdered there about May 30 - 1879?

Yours truly
Donald G. Fairchild

Letters and maps pertaining to the Abbie Bright diary

Wichita hotels, March, 1871

Harris House - largest hotel in town kept by Mrs. J. E. Sedford. express office here and also stage depot.

Munger House - D. S. Munger

Southwestern Hotel - Ream & Crowley (not open yet)

Southern - L. O. Gunn

E. D. Hilliard probably was the doctor who treated Philip. he charged \$3 for first visit and 50¢ per visit.

offices were at Aldrich & Simmons drug store

Santa Fe timetable, March, 1871

leave^{mail} Topeka 1:35 p.m. 7:00 a.m. F.

Topeka 1:50 7:16

ar. Cottonwood 6:30 p.m. 12:35 p.m.

O-sage lands

between July 15, 1870, and July 15, 1871, had until July 15,

Persons filing since July 15, 1870, had one year to pay up.

1871 to pay up.

opened under terms of act of July 15, 1870

O-sage Tract Lands and all unfinished receive requirements

1. lands shall be subject to settlement after survey
2. shall be sold to settlers who are heads of families or over 21 years of age.
3. shall be taken in square farms
4. each settler shall not take more than 160 acres
5. shall be paid for in cash at \$1.25 per acre within one year from date of settlement or the passage of this act

Tribune, May 4, 1871 - "Six companies of the Sixth U.S. Cavalry, from Fort Richardson Texas, passed through town last Sunday [Apr. 30, 1871] en route to Ft. Riley"

Tribune, May 11, 1871 - "The cattle trail is opening very lively this Spring. The first herd of about 500 head passed through here a week ago last Sunday [Apr. 30]. The next 3250,

Letters and maps pertaining to the Abbie Bright diary

passed through on Friday, and on Sunday 1600 head; Monday 1500, and Wednesday 500 head; making a total of 7,350, up to this date. Taking this as an average, and it is a very low estimate, as it has only just commenced, there will be no less than 150,000 head pass through here this season. As only part of the trail comes this way, it is quite likely that the number of cattle driven from Texas this year will exceed that of any former year...." [The trail was called merely "the cattle trail".]

Tribune, May 35, 1871 - "Four companies of cavalry passed through town last Tuesday [May 33], on their way from Fort Richardson Texas, to Fort Harker."

Tribune, July 37, 1871 - "Dr. Hilliard had a call to Minnisoah a few days ago - Will go again soon...."

Santa Fe timetable of the July 17, 1871

lv. Newton 5:05 am. 3:00 pm.

ar. Topeka 12:45 pm. 10:30 pm

Letters and maps pertaining to the Abbie Bright diary

$$\begin{array}{r} 1350 \\ 34 \\ \hline 30 \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{r} 364 \\ 85 \\ \hline 177 \end{array}$$

689-88 School of application for Infantry and Cavalry
Regarding army rifle practice and competition
at Culdron, Long Island.

689-77

p. 35 - footnote about Ross children. anderson p. 1407

36 - Maj. Harper - footnote bottom of page

37 - line 9 - parents of Mrs. Ross - footnote

37 - bottom - identify Phillips and Craven?

38 - ~~top~~ - identify Marshall

38 - " Ross's brother

38a Marshall identify?

39 Can we locate Abbie's previous story in a Wichita
paper for July, 1871? Wichita Tribune July 30, 1871

43 - what is agent?

54 - footnote about ticks carrying Texas fever.

55 - the article, a condensed ^{and photostatic} version of her journal, appeared
in the Tribune, Sept. 7, 1871

56 - Chicago fire
prove up at Augusta - why?

70 - Can I identify Mrs. Long on Four Mile Creek outside
of Augusta?

71 - identify El Paso on the Arkansas
" crossing place below El Paso, Texas

72 - Belle Plaine

74 - Harris House (we have a picture)
Lanthen Hotel?
Woodrings store?

75 - when did the Santa Fe reach Newton?
Flourish
St. Marys.

76 - Chief Big Foot?

Letters and maps pertaining to the Abbie Bright diary

Railroad came in 1887 or 1888 MOPAC

WEST, ROBERT L.
 SOHN, JACOB A.
 MACREDIE, THOMAS J. came in 1871
 LAWRENDE, ROBERT
 SUMMERS, JAMES F. came in Aug., 1870; brought his family 3/71
 ELSWORTH, R. A. "the bad man of the community" in with
 horse thieves.
 ROSS, WILLIAM came in Aug., 1870
 BRIGHT, PHILIP T. killed in 1873 after war he drove ties
 on the Sarawie river for the Union Pacific at \$75 a mo.
 Then turned hunter for R.R. contractors at \$4 a day.
 'Was in Co. F, 803 Ind. volunteers

LANE, JAMES W. - separated from his wife after abbie left. Sam left the
 DUNSCOMB, JOHN - bought the claims of Geo. P. Russell and
 A. C. McLean. "Keeps a little store" - Wm. Ross to
 abbie Bright, Dec. 5, 1872
 ACHENBECK, - Did she marry William Achenbeck? He taught at the school
 - abbie's married name. Abbie sold Philip's land
 McQUILGAN, GEORGE William's children? - in 1903

When did abbie marry? die?

BUTLER, GEORGE - RHODA BRIGHT'S brother
 BELL - Rhoda's sister
 COLEMAN - " brother
 WILL - " "
 MRS. BUTLER APPARENTLY A WIDOW

MURPHY, SIM - stayed at Butler's

Letters and maps pertaining to the Abbie Bright diary

BRIGHT, HIRAM MAWNE RHODA (KATURA) BUTLER
BUTLER
OAKLEY
? ELLA, 13 in 1870
? FRANK, 10 " "

Letters and maps pertaining to the Abbie Bright diary

C	SUMMERS	SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ S 37, E $\frac{1}{2}$ of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ and NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ S 34
	160 acres	
WILLIAM H. STAFFORD	SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ S 37 W $\frac{1}{2}$ of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ and NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ S 34	
	160 acres	
MARY E. STAFFORD	S $\frac{1}{2}$ of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ S 34	
	80 acres	
JAMES W. LANE	E $\frac{1}{2}$ of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ and E $\frac{1}{2}$ of SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of S 34	
	160 acres	
EDWARD MURRAY	SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of S 34	
	160 acres	
JAMES F. SUMMERS	W $\frac{1}{2}$ of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ and W $\frac{1}{2}$ of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of S 34	
	160 acres	
JOHN R. LOVESBY		
INGMIRE		
INGMIRE, GEORGE		
EVANS, TOM	Abbie's cousin from Ill.	
ROBERTS, JOHN E.		
SOHN, JACOB A.		

Letters and maps pertaining to the Abbie Bright diary

BRIGHT, ABBIE - daughter of Peter and Mary ^(Evans) Bright. ^{born at Reading 1801, died near Danville}
 Sisters - REBECCA, PENINA, MARY ^{Mrs. Sadler}
 Brothers - HIRAM, DENNIS, PHILIP
 Lived at Danville, Pa.
 Began teaching in ¹⁸⁶⁵⁻¹⁸⁶⁶ 1864-1872 ^{born near Reading in 1807, died in Danville, 1894}
 Her grandfathers - DAVID BRIGHT and PHILIP THOMAS EVANS - bought the Philip Strawbridge farm for her parents in 1832. Her parents moved from Reading to the farm near Danville in March, 1833 (180 acres).
 Abbie was 15 when she started to school in the spring of 1864 at "The Danville Institute," $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles from home.
 Philip was shot through the right wrist during the war ^{at Fort Smith} and the cords of three fingers cut off.
 Abbie attended Keystone State Normal at Kutztown (KUTZTOWN) [now Kutztown State Coll.] when Abbie enrolled the school had just opened the year previous (1866). She enrolled December, 1867, finished in spring of 1868.
 Taught at Blue's school; fall of 1868. Did not teach winter or spring of 1869. Taught fall of 1869 and winter of 1870 (until March). attended Keystone Normal spring of 1870. Roomed with Mary K. Lopp. after normal she took the Blue's school again with the condition she could leave early if she decided to go west. Virans and R. Roda were visiting home so Abbie decided to return to Indiana with them. She taught only two weeks. Sister Rebecca finished her teaching.

Letters and maps pertaining to the Abbie Bright diary

June 13, 1970

Mr. Donald G. Fairchild
Gladbrook, Iowa 50635

Dear Mr. Fairchild:

We have read Abbie Bright's diary and the other letters and materials which you left with us last week.

We feel that the diary is publishable and we would like to print it next year. (Unfortunately our 1970 issues are already filled.) It is a fine description of the 1871 Kansas frontier written much better than most, no doubt due to Abbie's experience as a school teacher.

Our understanding was that you wished to donate the original diary, letters, patent, photographs, maps, etc. to our Kansas Society if we would give you a Xerox type copy of everything in return. Your donation was not to include the Arizona material as we recall.

If we are correct in our understanding we shall be delighted to accept the collection on those conditions. There are some non-Kansas family letters which have no bearing on Kansas and do not shed much light on Abbie, Philip, Hiram and the others. Probably it would be best to return these to you.

We appreciate your bringing the Bright materials in. They will be a valuable addition to our south central Kansas collections.

As the time arrives for preparation of the copy, and the publication in our Quarterly of Abbie's diary, we'll let you know, and we'll send you completed copies.

It was a pleasure meeting you and Mrs. Fairchild, and I hope you had a nice journey through Kansas and western Nebraska.

With kindest regards and best wishes to you both, I am

Cordially,

Secretary

NHM:mj

Letters and maps pertaining to the Abbie Bright diary

*some punctuation added or changed for clarity
Abbie may not have written second original*

Abbie Bright and her last roommate at Kutztown, Mary Klopp, planned to write letters in the form of diaries and exchange them after Abbie's return east. Abbie left home August 23, 1870, and after stopping at Reading and Columbus, reached her brother's, Hiram, on September 2, 1870. This is where her diary starts. Hiram lived at Red Oak Shelter, Indiana.

Before this Abbie had taught elementary school and attended Keystone State Normal School at Kutztown, Pa. Her home, apparently, was at Danville, Pa.

Abbie's trip west was over the Pennsylvania Central railroad (Horseshoe Bend, Altoona, the Juniatta river, Pittsburgh).

This reproduction of Abbie Bright's diary is from two "original" copies. Which one was produced first cannot be determined conclusively but we are lead to believe that the one which constitutes the main body of this publication was the second. Perhaps Abbie herself had prepared it for publication, or at least distribution. In it she has changed certain names: her sister-in-law Rhoda appears as Katura, Her Friend Belle Butler is recorded as Bess while the West family, her neighbors in Sedgwick county, is recorded as the North family.

The publication here was taken from the second diary for two reasons. First, when work first commenced on the editing, it was the only copy known; the other copy appeared ^{is more} after work had already commenced. Secondly it often the most detailed of the two diaries though at times the first original gives better insight into pioneer life. When that occurs portions of the first original are inserted in the publication but identified by being printed in italics.

Abbie's spelling in the second diary is noticeably poorer than it is in the first so many errors in spelling and punctuation have been corrected.

Letters and maps pertaining to the Abbie Bright diary

June 15, 1970

Mr. Donald Fairchild
Gladbrook, Iowa 50635

Dear Mr. Fairchild:

Joe Snell and I were delighted to receive the fine birds which arrived in good condition today. We'll put them right to use. We do appreciate your thinking of us, and it's my pleasure to convey thanks from both of us.

My wife and I had a letter from Mrs. Chambers at Clearwater. She said her uncle had met you, as arranged, and she thought you all had a good time. I hope you found the old homestead there without trouble.

We are most pleased with the Abbie Bright account and we believe it will be popularly received when we publish it next year.

With kindest regards and best wishes to you both, I am

Cordially,

Secretary

NHM:pa

Letters and maps pertaining to the Abbie Bright diary

June 17, 1970

Mr. and Mrs. Donald Fairchild
Gladbrook, Iowa 50635

Dear Friends:

We have noticed the letter containing the genealogical material and the letter Philip wrote from Fort Wingate, New Mexico. I think these are the two that you are anxious about. Perhaps it would be best for us to set them aside, along with Philip's picture and the Civil War letters (and the other non-Kansas material) and give them to you when you visit us in September. If you would prefer, of course, we will be happy to mail these items to you sooner.

Joe Snell searched the records of the US Bureau of Land Management, a microfilm copy of which we have, and found that Abbie purchased the SE1/4 of Sec. 29, T. 29 S., R. 2 W. while Philip purchased the E1/2 of the SE1/4 of Sec. 28 and the W1/2 of the SW1/4 of Sec. 27 in T. 29 S., R. 2 W. Philip's land is shown on the 1882 plat book we looked at while you were here and Joe has marked Abbie's on the enclosed copy. Hers was three quarters of a mile west of Philip's.

Apparently Abbie didn't keep her land very long but this will be brought out in the editorial matter we will include with publication of her diary. As Joe works on her diary he'll certainly call on you for help in identifying people and events. It is kind of you to offer to help.

We'll make a note to notify Minnie E. Barnett, editor of the Clearwater Times, of the appearance of Abbie's diary in our Quarterly. Perhaps some folks still around there had grandparents and parents who knew Abbie and Philip.

Let us know if you uncover anything else relating to Kansas.

With kindest regards and best wishes to you both, I am

Cordially,

Secretary

NHM:pa
Enc.

Letters and maps pertaining to the Abbie Bright diary

I

Donald and Jannette Fairchild
Gladbrook - Iowa 50635
June 10-1970.

To

Mr. Nyle H. Miller

or
Mr. John Snee -

Dear Sirs :- Since returning home, I find I have evidently misplaced or left with you a letter or letters, which I think were in an envelope, and were about the ancestors in the W.A.R. If I did leave it with you just hang on to it, also use it if you can.

I also find that I need the letters written from the hospital and army, these were written by Phillip and Dennis Bright during the Civil War, if these are there use or read, but just keep them.

I am sure there is a couple of letters telling about Phillip and his trip East and then back West, after he had Homesteaded I think Phillip staid in some Fort in the West, prior to the time he went to Phoenix as you go through the papers, I hope you can find - a better description of the land that Phillip homesteaded, and also a description of Abbie Brights land. Her land was about a mile West and North of Phillips