



VAN DEVENTER FAMILY



Washington Bailey Home



Close-up of Nancy - Washington - Mrs. Bailey
Daughter Nancy Married George Van Deventer



VAN DEVENTER FAMILY

E. PANIAGRAPH, BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS MARCH 19, 1917

ARE MARRIED SIXTY YEARS

LEROEY COUPLE IN CELEBRATION.

Mr. and Mrs. Washington Bailey to Enjoy Day With Their Children—Some Facts of Their History.

Today at their home in Leroy Mr. and Mrs. Washington Bailey, in company with their six children, all of whom will be present, will celebrate their sixtieth wedding anniversary. The day will be spent quietly among themselves and with a bountiful family dinner which Mrs. Bailey and her daughters will prepare in honor of the occasion.

Mr. Bailey is in perfect health for one of his age and is able to attend to his duties around the house and premises without any assistance. Mrs. Bailey is not so fortunate. During the last few months she has been a sufferer from neuritis. However, both are in the best of spirits.

Native of Ohio.

Washington Bailey was one of nine children born to Eben and Rhoda Odell Bailey on a farm in Adams county, Ohio, on October 24, 1851. He received his early schooling from a "subscription school." Later he went to the district school in the country. In 1849 he moved with his parents to Fountain county, Indiana, where his parents spent the rest of their lives. In 1853 Mr. Bailey, with one of his brothers, crossed the plains to California. They

land they purchased was almost a swamp, while the other half was a good farming land. It might be interesting to note that their father purchased the land for them at \$5 per acre and when they sold it, it was for \$6 per acre, while the same land now probably could not be bought for \$300 per acre. In 1857 Mr. Bailey purchased 65 acres of land just north of Cheney's Grove and it was here that he began housekeeping.

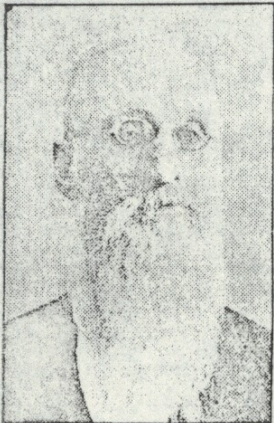
Julia A. was one of nine children born to Nathan and Sarah Barnett Brittin on December 12, 1855, on a farm northeast of Leroy, known as the old Brittin farm, and which is now occupied by William Braemer. She received her first schooling at what is known as the west Crumbaugh school, and later went to school at what is still known as the Brittin school. In her early years she was a very active worker in the Sunday school held each Sunday afternoon at the school house. As she became older she came to Leroy M. E. church, which then stood in the vicinity of the D. F. VanDeventer residence. During the winter months many happy evenings were spent attending "singing and husking" around the different homes.

On March 19, 1857, just sixty years ago today, she was united in marriage to Washington Bailey. They immediately began housekeeping at Mr. Bailey's farm north of Cheney's Grove. It was here that by the

After a few years they sold that place and bought land in Wilson township in DeWitt county, near Tucker Chapel. For the first few years on this place prices were lower than before, but Mr. Bailey was feeding cattle, so did not sell his corn. However, at one time he purchased corn to feed them for 5 cents per bushel. It was while living here that the tile first came into use and Mr. Bailey saw at once the benefit to be derived from it. Previous to that time it was necessary to pick out the rolling land or high land for farming on account of the water, but Mr. Bailey said as soon as he learned what could be accomplished by the use of tile he began buying the level land and tilling it.


It was while living here that the other three children came to complete the family circle. They are Emma, now Mrs. Charles Vance, of Farmer City; Henry and Albert, both of Leroy, Albert being the present mayor of Leroy. Mr. and Mrs. Bailey continued to reside on their farm in DeWitt county and by hard work and strict economy they were able to purchase land until at one time they were owners of 700 acres. Then the children became grown and started out for themselves and Mr. Bailey seemed as eager to work for the children then as he was before. As each child was married he gave them 80 acres of land and sold them 80 more, taking their notes and loaning them the money to pay him. This practice they continued with each child until all were well started for themselves. They, of course, retained sufficient land for their own income during their remaining days.

In 1890 Mr. and Mrs. Bailey purchased a home in Leroy and retired from the farm and have continued to live in the same place since then.



WASHINGTON BAILEY.

went there with the intention of prospecting for gold and followed that occupation for about a year. However, that did not prove a paying investment. The next year they started out to work on a farm and for which they received \$50 a month. While they were in California their father took the money they sent him and invested it in 100 acres of land where the city of Bellflower now is located. After three years of hard life in the west Mr. Bailey and his brother came to their farm here in Illinois and began farming for themselves.



MRS. BAILEY.

hardest struggle and by working almost night and day Mr. and Mrs. Bailey got their start for accumulating the unusual amount of land which they were later able to possess. Mr. Bailey was then a cattle feeder and he says many days during the winter he would go out at 2 o'clock in the morning and feed his cattle, then start to Bloomington with a load of corn or wheat and sell it to buy groceries, and start back the same day, returning home in time to again feed the cattle about midnight. He says that he has hauled many a load of corn to Bloomington for which he only received 36 cents per bushel. On his trips to Bloomington he says there was at that time no bridge over the Kickapoo creek on his road and he either had to go when the creek was frozen over or ford it. It was while living on this place that three of their children came to help complete their home—Nancy Matilda, now Mrs. VanDeventer, of Leroy;

Newspaper article from March 19, 1917