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Blasdell, William Page (1862 - 1934)

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Recommended Citation

Chisholm, Clarence, "Blasdell, William Page (1862 - 1934)" (1938). *WPA Biographic Summaries*. 109.
<https://repository.stcloudstate.edu/wpabio/109>

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BLASDELL, WILLIAM PAGE

File No. 112

William Page Blasdell was born in Frankfort, Illinois, on April 23, 1862, a son of William H. and Sarah (Abby) Blasdell.

William Henry Blasdell was born in Stanstead Plains, Upper Canada, on October 18, 1814. He was a son of William Blasdell, a native of France. William H. Blasdell was a young man when he left Canada and came to Ohio in 1833. Here he worked as a grocery clerk for a time. He went to the southern states for a while but returned to Ohio in 1838 and settled on a farm. In 1842, he moved to Frankfort, Illinois, Wills county, where he resided for twenty years. He served four years of that time as Sheriff of the county. During this time he was also engaged in the farming, lumbering, and hotel business. In 1862, he started for the state of Minnesota in a covered wagon of the type known as the "Prairie Schooner." The journey to Paynesville, Stearns county, lasted six weeks. Upon arriving, it was discovered that the Indians had risen against the white people. Everyone was in a constant state of apprehension. Accordingly, he went to St. Cloud for a year. After that he returned to Paynesville where he located on one hundred and fifty acres of land. He erected a log building eighteen by twenty-four feet with a shed twelve by twelve feet and in this edifice opened a tavern which he called the "Western Hotel." Later this building was remodeled and rebuilt and new conveniences installed. William H. Blasdell kept the "Western Hotel" open to the public for twenty-five years. In the meantime, he also devoted much attention to general farming and stock raising.

William H. Blasdell was married on November 16, 1838, to Harriet Beardsley, who had been born October 24, 1818. She died September 19, 1842. To this union the following children were born: Mary Jane who was born November 2, 1839. She married November 6, 1859 and died in June 1879; Sarah Ellen, who was born October 16, 1841 and died September 2, 1842; and Harriet E., who was born September 11, 1842.

For his second wife, William H. Blasdell married Sarah Abby, who was born in Clinton county, New York on July 2, 1831. She was a daughter of Samuel and Anna Abby, who spent nearly their entire lives in Canada. To this union seven children were born, and they are: Irene, who was born November 23, 1851; Anna L., who was born October 14, 1853; Geneva, who was born November 11, 1855; Theda, who was born November 1, 1857; Ida, who was born January 30, 1860. William Page, who was born April 23, 1862; and George A., who was born January 11, 1865 and died February 22, 1935.

William H. Blasdell died April 24, 1887. He was laid to rest in the Paynesville Cemetery. His second wife, Sarah (Abby) Blasdell died November 6, 1911 and she was buried beside her husband in the family lot.

William Page Blasdell, better known as just "Page" came to Paynesville when he was a small child and spent the greater part of his life in this community. He received his education in the Paynesville school. When he was a young man, he went to work for the Northern Pacific Railroad at Miles City, Montana, as a baggage-man. During his stay in Miles City, he was united in marriage to Nora Halloran, a native of England and the

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daughter of Daniel Halloran, on July 23, 1888. They soon left Miles City and came to Paynesville where they settled on his father's farm.

William Page and Nora (Halloran) Blasdell were the parents of two children, who were: Daniel, who was born in the spring of 1894 and passed away on October 7 of the same year; and Earl who was born in 1896. He grew to manhood in the vicinity of Paynesville where he also received his education. During the World War, Earl enlisted in the U. S. Army but he died while in training camps in 1918. He was brought back home for burial.

Nora (Halloran) Blasdell passed away in 1922 and was laid to rest beside her two sons in the Paynesville cemetery.

"Page" continued to make his home in Paynesville and on May 8, 1928, he married Mrs. Viola Bennett, a resident of Paynesville, also.

On March 19, 1934, "Page" passed away at his home. Burial was made in the family lot.

Viola (Bennett) Blasdell and her son, Cecil Bennett, are making their home on the Northeast shore of Lake Koronis, several miles from Paynesville.

Interviewed: Mrs. Viola (Bennett) Blasdell
Date: August 17, 1938
By: Clarence Chisholm

Publication Granted