

Notes re. Julia C. Stow's autograph album, "Leaves of Affection"

This autograph album was owned by Julia C. *Stow* Bledsoe (1843–1865) of Switzerland County, Indiana. Its front leaf is inscribed: "Miss Julie C. Stow 1858." The earliest dated entry is December 25, 1858; the latest is July 27, 1862. The album therefore spans Julia's last half-year at Elizabethtown Female Seminary; her betrothal and marriage (19 April 1860) to Lemuel Bledsoe; and the birth of their first child, Frank, in 1861.

The Stow family papers (The Filson Historical Society, Louisville) includes the correspondence of Julia Stow and Lemuel Bledsoe. Julia was the daughter of Solomon and Harriet Pratt Stow, and Stowtown in Switzerland County was her childhood home. By the time she had reached her eighth year, she had lost both parents. Julia then became the ward of Uzziel Stow, and lived in the residence of her other uncle, Shelomith Stow. These uncles, her grandmother Livia Stow, her aunts Catharine and Mary Ann, and cousins Hiram, Loring, Viola, and Baron Stow all comprised Julia's extended –but immediate– family.

The identifications provided below are minimal; more detailed information about some of these individuals may be found in the "Who's Who" guide to the Stow Family Archive, or in the notes accompanying the Stow letters. Towns mentioned are all in Switzerland County unless otherwise indicated. The Elizabethtown Female Seminary was located in Hamilton County, Ohio. (E. Stepleton, 2019)

Signers:

Lem 1859

In 1859 Lemuel Bledsoe (1832–1906) was Julia's suitor; they married in April 1860. Mr. Bledsoe was a merchant at Florence, Switzerland County, Indiana.

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Mollie E. Stow Vevay Ind

Mary Eliza Stow (1840–1902) was the daughter of English immigrant Alfred Stow of Vevay; she was not related to Julia Stow nor to any of the Stowtown Stows. In 1860 her father was working as a "master painter." In 1866 Mollie married Benjamin F. Gilbert who in 1860 and 1870 was a flatboat pilot and in 1880 a farmer.

Jennie E. Kincaid Vevay Ind July 21st 1862

In the 1860s, the only Kincaid family in Vevay was that headed by William and Margaret Kincaid. They had a daughter Jane, born about 1831 – who *perhaps* is this Jenny. Jane cannot be traced beyond the 1860 census.

Joel F. Blythe Ghent Ky July 27 1862

Only an 1850 census record could be located: Joel F. Blythe was there recorded as the 6-year-old son of William D. and Amanda Blythe of Gallatin County, Kentucky. In 1862 he would have been about 18 years old.

Molly L. Krutz

Mary L. Krutz (1845–1870) was a daughter of William B. Krutz, Sr. (1820–1899), a merchant and miller at Florence. She married Charles Hedges in 1867 and then moved to Iowa.

Jennie E. Kincaid Vevay Ind Nov 19th

(see "Jennie E. Kincaid" above)

Lou. L. Kincaid Vevay Ind Nov 19th

Louisa Kincaid (b. abt. 1839, Indiana; d. aft. 1920) was a daughter of William and Margaret Kincaid of Vevay. Mr. Kincaid was a stone mason. Louisa married John A. Mullen in 1865.

Mary [remainder of name excised] 1862
(unidentified)

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J. W. Dorman Gallatin Co Ky Dec 25th 1858

John Wickliffe Dorman (1838–1925) was a farmer in Gallatin County; he was the son of Peter and Lucy C. Dorman.

Mary Phelps Winsted Ct.

Mary J. Phelps (1836–1914) was the daughter of William Calvin Phelps of Winchester, Ct. After graduating from Mt. Holyoke in 1856, she taught at the Elizabethtown Female Seminary through spring, 1859. She then returned to her Connecticut home and by 1870 had married Jennison J. Whiting of Winsted, Ct.

From the letters of Loring, Baron, Viola, and Julia Stow we learn that Miss Mary Phelps was very much liked by them, and that she accepted an invitation to stay with the Stows over a school break. Both Baron and Loring took a great liking to her.

Anna B. Dill Cincinnati Ohio

Anna Dill is listed as a student from Cincinnati in the 1859–1860 catalog of the Elizabethtown Female Seminary, but cannot otherwise be traced.

Mary A. Whipple Preston P.O. Ohio

Mary A. Whipple cannot be identified with certainty. Suffice it to say that the 1859–1860 catalog for the Elizabethtown Female Seminary establishes that “Mary A. Whipple” of New Haven, Ohio was one of its students; and that the mortality schedule for Hamilton County, Ohio notes that Mary A. Whipple (1840–1860) died there in February 1860. She *may* have been connected to the Carlisle Whipple family of Huron County (but she would have to become “Jane Marion Whipple” who lived well past 1860; or she *may* have been a member of the Roswell and Hannah Whipple family of Kilbourne, Ohio (which is far removed from New Haven).

James ... Fisher

(unidentified)

Georgie Manser

Georgetta Manser (1842–1903); lived in Cincinnati and was Viola Stow’s first cousin. Julia Stow met Georgetta on those occasions when Viola and Julia would stop in Cincinnati on their way to and from Elizabethtown Female Seminary; Georgetta most likely visited Stowtown, Florence, and Vevay also.

Lulu C. Lewis

(unidentified)

Edward Manser Cincinnati O

Edward Manser (1840–1872) was a son of William Manser, a Cincinnati industrialist. He often stayed with his cousins and aunt, Catharine *Manser* Stow, at Stowtown.

Florian Cox Warsaw

Florian Cox (1841-1922) was a son of James Pleasants Cox and Felicia Oboussier. Florian was born at New Harmony, Indiana; his uncle Edward Travers Cox (1821-1907) was from there also and became Indiana's first state geologist. Florian was a bank employee.

Joel F. Blythe Ghent Ky July 27 1862

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Cousin Loring

Loring B. Stow (1841-1860) was Viola Stow's brother and Julia's first cousin; he was the son of Uzziel and Catharine Stow. Julia and Loring essentially grew up together as brother and sister.

Willm Cox Warsaw

This is probably William L. Cox (1800-1868), a cooper at Warsaw. In 1860 his household consisted of himself, his wife Elizabeth (1806-1878), son John (1842-), and Elizabeth *Sanders* Bledsoe (1796-1870). In 1850 he was a farmer; his headstone informs us that he was also a minister.

Jennie E.

Probably Jennie E. Kincaid (see above)

Page with multiple signatures:

Henry Bascom ^{his} **X Sparks** Witness Bettie Bledsoe
_{mark}

Henry Bascomb Sparks (1841-1929) was a son of Rev. Jeremiah Burris Sparks and Eliza B. Rockafeller. The family lived at multiple locations in southeastern Indiana. During the Civil War Henry served in Company C of the 3rd Indiana Cavalry; in January 1864 he was captured at Culpepper, Virginia; in August 1864 he was incarcerated at Andersonville, Georgia. He survived, and after the war was a farmer in Ohio County, Indiana.

Elizabeth "Bettie" Bledsoe (1839-1880) was Lemuel Bledsoe's only sister. She lived with him both before and after his marriage to Julia Stow, until 1865, when she married William C. Robinson. She and William then raised Lemuel's only surviving child from his marriage with Julia, Benjamin Bledsoe (1863-1933). She was a much-loved figure in Stow memory.

Benjamin Smith ^{his} **X Bledsoe** Witness Elizabeth Gordon Bledsoe
_{mark}

Benjamin S. Bledsoe (1842-1865) was a brother of Lemuel Bledsoe and thus, a brother-in-law to Julia *Stow* Bledsoe. Orphaned in 1857 at age 15, he had moved to Florence, Indiana where Lemuel was already established as a merchant and saddler. At Florence, Benjamin lived in the household of Moses Branson and there began to learn the wheelwright's trade.

On 22 August 1861, Benjamin enlisted as a private into Company C, "East Wing" of the 3rd Indiana Cavalry. The "East Wing" consisted of companies A-F and was assigned to the Army of the Potomac. The group was involved in many of the consequential battles of the war. At some point, Bledsoe advanced to the rank of corporal. He was killed during Wilson's cavalry raid near Petersburg, Virginia, June 22-30, 1864.

Elizabeth Gordon Bledsoe is again Bettie Bledsoe, this time in her most formal- or playful- guise.

J. F. Blythe Ghent Ky

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Harry. Krutz 1862

Harry Krutz (1848-1928) was a younger brother of Mary L. Krutz (see above). In 1869 he married Harriet L. Armstrong of Vevay; his career ultimately led him to Seattle where he served as president of the Washington Loan and Trust Company.

(unsigned in 1860)

The writer is undoubtedly Lemuel Bledsoe, given his allusion to Proverbs chapter 31.