

12. WILLIAM BAWDEN 1887-1936

William Bawden, the second of two sons of William Francis Bawden and Sarah Rosevear, was born in Camborne, Cornwall, on October 5, 1886.¹ William was living with his mother and older brother (Francis John Bawden) on Rosekear Fields (street), Camborne, during the 1891 U.K. census.² William was still living in Camborne with his mother and brother in 1901, but the family had moved to Rose Cottage (street) in Camborne.³ At that time – and at the age of 13 – William was already employed as a “labourer in a tin mine.”

William immigrated to the United States in 1907. Before his departure from Cornwall, he was given a bible from the North Parade United Methodist Church in Camborne which is still in the possession of his descendants.⁴ This is the oldest Bawden Family relic/heirloom known to still exist. Additionally, one of William’s son stated that William was a preacher at this church.⁵ William traveled to the U.S. onboard the *S.S. Saint Paul* and arrived in New York harbor on October 19, 1907.⁶ According to the ship’s manifest, William was a miner traveling from his mother’s (S. Bawden) home on Rose Cottage, Camborne. His listed destination was the home of his cousin Fred Rosevear in Kearsage, Michigan. The manifest also provides us with a

¹ William Bawden, birth certificate (1887), General Register Office, Southport, Merseyside, U.K. Copy of original held by the author.

² Sarah Bawden household, 1891 U.K. census, Parish of Camborne, Cornwall, piece RG18/1850, folio 124, page 21, number on schedule 148.

³ Sarah Bawden household, 1901 U.K. census, Parish of Camborne, Cornwall, piece RG13/2243, folio 127, page 18, number on schedule 134.

⁴ David Bawden, “William’s Bible,” February 12, 2006, personal e-mail. Original held by Karen Newlin. Karen is one of William’s many great-granddaughters, through her grandmother Audrey Keller (nee Bawden).

⁵ Interview with Kenneth John Bawden, held in Albuquerque, New Mexico, on January 24, 1984. Taped recorded copy held by author. Kenneth also said that he and his wife later traveled to Camborne and visited this church, the cemetery where his grandmother Sarah Bawden is buried, and the house where his father was raised.

⁶ William Bawden entry, *S.S. Saint Paul*, Passenger Manifest, October 19, 1907, page no. 882-883, line no. 7. William was 5’8”; complexion fair; hair color brown; eye color blue; and missing a finger on his left hand.

description of William: height 5'6", complexion fair, hair brown, and eyes blue. It also states that William was "missing finger on left hand."

It isn't surprising that William and his uncle immigrated to Kearsage, for thousands of Cornish miners came to the copper mines of Michigan's Upper Peninsula. In fact, one reporter stated that "there are more Cornishmen working...in Michigan than there is at any other copper mine in the world."⁷

Three years later, on March 7, 1910, William married Annie Rogers (born in Ironwood, Michigan, on September 7, 1888⁸), daughter of Alfred Rogers and Eliza Hodge, in Butte, Montana.⁹ It is due to Annie's influence that many of their children, grandchildren, and even great-grandchildren are members of the Salvation Army. ~~The Army was founded in London in 1865 by a Methodist minister.~~ Annie's grandmother, Mrs. Eliza Hodge provided housing for the first Salvation Army officers in Cornwall in the 1870s.¹⁰ Mrs. Hodge was given a nickel-silver Salvation Army brooch for her efforts which has been passed down through the family and was in the possession Mrs. Eva Bawden in 1984.¹¹

William and Annie made their home in Butte for many years. Butte is home to many copper mines...add info on Butte.

⁷ A. L. Rowse, *The Cousin Jacks: The Cornish in America* (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1969), 166.

⁸ Audrey Keller (nee Bawden), manuscript, date unknown. Original held by Karen Newlin.

⁹ Marriage Certificate of William Bawden and Annie Rogers (1910), Silver Bow County Clerk's Office, Butte, Montana. Copy of original held by David Bawden.

¹⁰ Interview, Kenneth John Bawden, January 24, 1984.

¹¹ Interview, Kenneth John Bawden, January 24, 1984. Eva is the wife of Kenneth.

We have no such detailed picture of social life of the Cornish in Butte as we have for the other areas of the United States they settled. Historian A. L. Rowse wrote this about the Cornish living in Butte:

They got on naturally and easily with native Americans; there was a real affinity of temperament, and the Cornish had no difficulty whatever in fitting into their new environment. They like it, they were grateful – and frequently expressed it – for the better opportunities their new country gave them, and they were proud to become American citizens. At the same time, it is interesting to note, they never ceased to be loyal to Cornwall, and were consciously Cornish. This stands out in marked contrast with some groups in the variegated great nation.¹²

One aspect of Cornish social life in Butte that we hear about is cooking, the pasty in particular, though Rowse points out a variation: in the American form of the pasty the meat is diced, whereas in Cornwall it is always sliced.¹³

As mentioned in the previous chapter, William, like so many of his kinsmen, spoke with an accent, or more properly, in Cornish Dialect. An accent is simple a matter of pronunciation, whereas dialect involves vocabulary, special phrases, and even a different grammar. William's nephew, Francis Rosevear Bawden, said "My Uncle Will and my father (Francis John), if they were to stand together, you'd never know they were brothers to hear them talk...Uncle Will never did clean-up his accent."¹⁴

William and Annie are not on 1910 U.S. census, although their first child Harold was born in Montana in May of that year.¹⁵ However, William and his family were living in

¹² Rowse, *Cousin Jacks*, 358-359.

¹³ Rowse, *Cousin Jacks*, 360.

¹⁴ Interview, Francis Rosevear Bawden, December 1989.

¹⁵ Audrey Keller (nee Bawden), manuscript, date unknown. Original held by Karen Newlin.

Walkerville in 1917.¹⁶ William was living with his wife and five children (they would have a total of seven children) at 73 Rose Street. William's brother (Francis John) and his family also lived in Walkerville at this time.¹⁷ Interestingly neither William nor his brother (nor their families) could be found in the 1920 U.S. census; however, a city directory (similar to a phone book) of Butte from 1928 includes an entry for William.¹⁸

Fortunately, the 1930 U.S. census provides us with a great deal of information about William and his family.¹⁹ William – along with his two oldest sons, Harold and William Stanley – was employed as a miner at a local copper mine. Kenneth John, William and Annie's third son, was a "clerk apprentice" at a local "dry goods store." Additionally William's brother John and his family were still living nearby in Butte.²⁰ Therefore, William and John and their families lived near each other for many years. William died March 31, 1936, in Walkerville at the age of 48.²¹ He is said to have died in the arms of his son, William Stanley.²² The cause of his death was silicosis, a lung disease common among miners and caused by the inhalation of silica dust. On the funeral program, William was also recorded to have been a "police judge for the

¹⁶ William Bawden entry, World War I Draft Registration Card, May 24, 1917. Copy of the original held by the author.

¹⁷ Francis John Bawden entry, World War I Draft Registration Card, June 22, 1917. Copy of the original held by the author.

¹⁸ William Bawden entry, "Butte, Montana, 1928 City Directory, Page 57"
<<http://distantcousin.com/directories/mt/butte/1928/Images/057.jpg>> (August 26, 2003).

¹⁹ William Bawden household, 1930 U.S. census, Walkerville, Silver Bow County, Montana, population schedule, enumeration district 47-1, sheet 7B, dwelling number 166, family number 166, line 74.

²⁰ Francis J. Bawden household, 1930 U.S. census, Butte, Silver Bow County, Montana, population schedule, enumeration district 47-16, sheet 4A, dwelling number 72, family number 83, line 13.

²¹ William Bawden, death certificate (1936), Bureau of Vital Statistics, State of Montana. Copy of original held by the author.

²² Interview, Kenneth John Bawden, January 24, 1984.

city of Walkerville.²³ The pall bearers were: Ed Mitchell, John Smith, Harold Curry, Ernest Dyer, Jerry Shea, and Sid Odgers.

In 1949, Annie moved in with her son Kenneth John Bawden and his family in Great Falls, Montana, and lived with them for the next 16 years.²⁴ Annie died May 27, 1965, in Montana and is buried next to William.²⁵

Children of William Bawden and Annie Rogers:

- i. Harold Bawden, born May 4, 1910, in Montana, and died October 30, 2000, in Salt Lake City
- ii. William Stanley Bawden, born July 4, 1911, in Montana, and died December 29, 1989
- iii. Kenneth John Bawden, born October 19, 1913, in Walkerville, Montana, and died November 25, 1985, in Albuquerque, New Mexico
- iv. Beatrice Lucille Bawden, born May 24, 1915 in Montana, and died November 14, 2006, in Van Nuys, California
- v. Audrey W. Bawden, born February 6, 1917, in Montana, and died September 9, 1996 in Deer Lodge, Montana
- vi. Alfred Thomas Bawden, born February 16, 1919, in Walkerville, Montana, and died January 7, 1990, in Seattle, Washington
- vii. George Rosevear Bawden, born May 29, 1923 in Montana, and died August 25, 1980 in Butte, Montana

²³ George Roger Bawden, Sr., "Bawden Family History," April 14, 2002, personal e-mail.

²⁴ Interview, Kenneth John Bawden, January 24, 1984.

²⁵ Audrey Keller (nee Bawden), manuscript, date unknown. Original held by Karen Newlin.