

J.F.

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F. E. Belden

CONCERNING F. E. BELDEN

Battle Creek, Michigan
Nov. 13, 1961

Arthur L. White
Washington, D. C.

Dear Arthur:

Yours of Nov. 10 received and I will have to be very brief in answering as I am ill with the old flu and a pneumonia bug, not to mention arthritis in my right arm and hand.

I gave as complete a history of my father as I could remember to E. Elder Froom several years ago and also gave some information to a Mr. White in Australia. Sorry you cannot get a copy from Elder Froom.

Father was born in Battle Creek on March 21, 1858. The family returned to Connecticut after that and his mother Sarah Harmon Belden died there. Father came back to B.C. at about 16 years and attended the old B. C. College and worked at the old R. and H. He went to California but I know not the year. He worked in the old printing office--possibly Pacific Press, tho I do not know.

His health was not good--developed bronchitis and came back to Colorado where he regained his health. That was about 1880. He married my mother April 24, 1881 and they later came back to B.C. and father worked on the old Hymns and Tunes and it was published there about 1883 or 1884--I am not at all sure of the dates. I was born in Boulder in 1882 and it was after that that we came here. His life was all in the music and began composing at an early age, having studied composition.

He was in the printing business in Cleveland the latter years of his life and passed away there on December 22, 1945. He rests in Oakhill Cemetary in B.C. Also my mother who died Sept. 8, 1935. My mother was a sister of Emma McDearmon who married J. E. White. They had no children.

While still in Colorado my father and mother worked at all the campmeetings writing and singing songs Father would compose after the minister announced his text. By the time the minister had finished, my father and mother would stand forth and sing

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the song written only on a piece of paper. Mother was a great help in Dad's musical career. Music was his life.

If you get in touch with Elder Froom he might tell you where to find the more complete story of his life.

I hope you are all in good health and will be glad to have another visit with you if you come this way. Tell Ella I think of her often and send my love.

Sincerely,

(Signed) Linnie L. Belden

P. S. You need not return the enclosed written by my father. I have the original along with my birth certificate.

[The enclosed statement reads:]

Cleveland, Ohio
January 16, 1941

This certifies that my daughter, Linnie Louise Belden was born Dec. 19, 1882 in Boulder, Colorado, and that her mother and I were married there April 24, 1881. Her maiden name was Harriet McDearman.

My daughter has been an invalid many years, and now resides in Battle Creek, Mich.

(Signed) Frank E. Belden

Sworn to before me and subscribed in my presence this 16th day of January, 1941.

Norman W. Schaeffer,
Notary Public

214 Hippodrome Bldg.,
Cleveland, Ohio