

In Memoriam

# Leslie H. Bailey

February 25, 1860 – March 12, 1905



Beltrami County Bar Association  
District Court  
Fifteenth Judicial District  
Bemidji, Minnesota  
May 15, 1905

Bar Memorial Services  
Leslie H. Bailey  
(1860-1905 )

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The Bemidji Daily Pioneer  
May 16, 1905 Page 4

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HONOR THE  
DEPARTED

District Court  
Memorial Services for the Late  
Leslie H. Bailey.

ADDRESSES BY MEMBERS OF  
THE BELTRAMI COUNTY BAR

Touching Tributes to the Worth,  
Ability and Legal Acumen of  
Mr. Bailey.

Yesterday afternoon at the court house was held an adjourned term of the district court, Judge M. A. Spooner presiding and every member of the Beltrami county bar in the city attending, when the memorial services in honor of the late Leslie H. Bailey were held.

Court convened at 2:30 and Judge Spooner announced that the hour set for the memorial services for Mr. Bailey had arrived, whereupon P. J. Russell arose and offered the following resolutions whose adoption was moved by D. H. Fisk:

WHEREAS; At a meeting of the Bench and Bar of Beltrami county, called for the purpose of taking suitable action upon the death of Leslie H. Bailey Esq., late a member of the Beltrami County Bar Association, who died on the 12th day of March

1905, held on the 13th day of March 1905, a committee was appointed to draft and present to the Court, an appropriate resolution. In pursuance of such action the committee respectfully submit the following:

WHEREAS; Death has removed from our midst a member of our profession, a leading and honored fellow citizen, and

WHEREAS; We are desirous of expressing our regard for our brother, whose untimely death came with such a shock to his host of friends in this county and northern Minnesota, and caused so deep a sorrow over this community, whose interests he had during the best years of his life, promoted and subserved; now therefore be it

RESOLVED; By the members of the Bench and Bar of Beltrami county, in Bemidji, assembled, that we realize and feel that in the death of L. H. Bailey, we have experienced and suffered a loss well nigh irreparable. L. H. Bailey was possessed of all the elements and attributes, which go to make up a great lawyer, integrity, fidelity to trust, earnestness of purpose, and ambition. He was aggressive and formidable in debate and eloquent in the cause of right and justice. From intimate acquaintance with the deceased, we bear honest and earnest testimony to his sterling worth as a man and a citizen of Bemidji. His personality was strong, he made friends easily and held them ever after. He was fond of friends and home, he was generous to a fault, and he was at all times ready and willing to help those in distress or affliction. Sharing his confidence and regard, his friendship shall ever live in our highest esteem and regard, and his labors for the good of Bemidji will long be remembered by her citizens; and further

RESOLVED; That these proceedings be engrossed and made a part of the records of this court, and that copies thereof be presented to the family and relatives of the deceased, as the Court may direct.

E. F. CRAWFORD.  
GRAHAM M. TORRANCE.  
P. J. RUSSELL.  
Committee.

The Court then asked if there were any remarks whereupon the following members of the bar spoke (in part) as follows:

CHARLES W. SCRUTCHIN.

I cannot allow this melancholy occasion to pass without saying a few words of appreciation of our departed brother, Leslie H. Bailey. Although belonging to opposing political factions Mr. Bailey and myself were on the most friendly terms for the entire seven years during which I knew him. His generosity was a leading trait of his character but it was no more pronounced than his legal ability which was very great. He was at the time of his death scarcely more than a young man and had he been permitted to round out his life into old age there is no telling to what heights he might have attained in his chosen profession.

HERBERT J. LOUD.

It affords me infinite satisfaction at this time to remember that although the political interests of Mr. Bailey and myself often clashed we met as mutual friends shortly before his death and were completely reconciled. I believe I knew Mr. Bailey as did few men. He was a man of extraordinary native ability and one of the most dangerous antagonists before a jury that I have ever known. In ingenuity, legal acumen and eloquence he had few peers while his charity was as wide as the heavens, I believe that he had no personal enemy on earth.

E. E. McDONALD

The record of any good man is a pleasant thing to contemplate and may safely say that if Leslie H. Bailey had any fault it was that he was too charitable. From personal observation I am sure that at least one third of his time and energy was given to the advancement of the interests of his city and county, his friends or some poor person.

Mr. Bailey was a vigorous, active, energetic man and his purposes often clashed with those of others, but never for one moment did he entertain a feeling of revenge or bitterness for those who were arrayed against him. Never did I hear him speak a harsh word of his opponents but often has he excused those who spoke bitterly of him.

It has been truly said that he might have attained great heights not only in the legal profession but also in statesmanship and citizenship had he lived. His last words, "I bear no ill will toward any man" were a fitting epitome of his whole life.

P. J. RUSSELL.

Two years ago the eloquent voice of Leslie H. Bailey was raised in sorrow in this very room for the death of a gifted member of this bar; today we meet in sadness to remember that another of our best citizens has been taken from us. Mr. Bailey was loved as are few men; even the children on the streets, during his last illness, would stop their play to inquire of the passer by, "How is L. H. Bailey today?" His was a life of usefulness but the summons came he was ready. He had everything to live for; idolized wife and children, father and mother, loving relatives, faithful friends, a brilliant future, yet when he was told that he must go he simply said, "I would like to live, but I am not afraid to die."

JUDGE M. A. SPOONER.

To one outside the pale of an intimate relationship was not to know the man. His was not a vindictive spirit his was a forgiving nature. He was possessed in the largest degree of the spirit of charity. To him the chief emoluments of his office as attorney were results not fees.

Never have I known him to refuse a case if he deemed it meritorious, even though there was absolutely no prospect of fees, even though there was a certainty that he would be actually called upon to put his own money into the case. His ability as a criminal lawyer was conspicuous, far above the ordinary. The

ability and positive genius with which he conducted the Artz case recently in this court was conclusive proof to all the world that his talent for criminal practice was very unusual.

It is true, as has been said, that had his life been spared, he might have attained to distinguished honors in his chosen profession.

The resolutions of the bar in memory of Mr. Bailey will be spread upon the records of the court.

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## APPENDIX

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### Obituary

*(The Bemidji Daily Pioneer, March 13, 1905, at page 4)*

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## FINALLY SUCCUMBS

L. H. Bailey Passed Away at  
St. Anthony's Hospital  
Last Night.

WAS CONSCIOUS UP TO TWO  
HOURS BEFORE HIS DEATH.

Bade Farewell to Every Member  
of His Family.

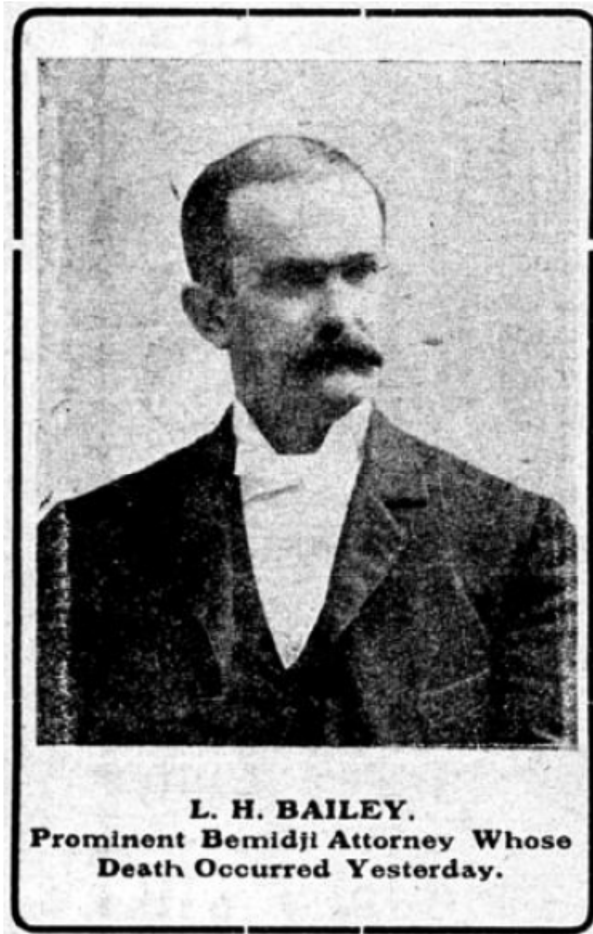
Funeral Wednesday.

L. H. Bailey, one of Bemidji's most prominent and progressive citizens, passed away at St. Anthony's hospital in this city at 6

o'clock last night after a lingering illness which an operation performed Saturday afternoon disclosed to be cancer of the bowels.

With the exception of his father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Bailey, every member of the family was present and two hours before his death he bade farewell to them, asking them not to worry too much, after which he sank into a deep sleep from which he never awoke.

Since Saturday afternoon his condition was known to be hopeless. He asked to be informed as to whether there was any chance for his recovery, and at 10 o'clock Saturday night, his



**L. H. BAILEY.**  
**Prominent Bemidji Attorney Whose**  
**Death Occurred Yesterday.**

brother, O. E. Bailey, advised him that there was no possible show for him. Mr. Bailey, who was conscious and had full use of his mental faculties, uttered no complaint, but upon being informed of the hopelessness of his case said: "Of course I would like to live, but I am prepared to die and find no fault. Bid all my friends good bye for me: I hold no enmities toward any one."

He afterwards asked to see the members of the family and they all assembled at the bedside to await the final summons. He remained conscious during the entire day yesterday, only occasionally sinking into a sleep from which he would recover and speak with those about

him. He discussed all his business and personal affairs, and gave directions as to the disposition of his remains.

The news of his death spread rapidly throughout the entire city, and although it was known to many there was no possible

chance for his recovery, it came as a blow which seemed to stagger every citizen.

Expressions of sorrow and regret could be heard from all sides, former business and political opponents joining in the general sympathy for the family and sorrow at his death, which will be one of the most severe losses ever incurred by the city. The services will be held under the auspices of the K. of P. lodge of which Mr. Bailey was a member, and all civic societies and lodges, together with the members of the Beltrami County Bar association, of which he was also a member, will join in the cortege.

Meetings of the bar association and of the Commercial club were held this afternoon, at which arrangements for floral offerings were made and resolutions of sympathy were passed.

Many messages of condolence and regret at the death of Mr. Bailey have been received by the family, among which are the following from Hon. Halvor Steenerson, Hon. Moses E. Clapp and Hon. W. S. McClennhan:

O. E. Bailey:

I am deeply grieved to hear of your brother's death and extend sincere sympathy and condolence, I shall attend the funeral.

—H. Steenerson.

O. E. Bailey:

With sincere regret I learn the death of L. H. Bailey. If connection rendered it possible would pay the tribute to his memory by my presence at his funeral, but regret that it cannot be done.

—Moses E. Clapp.

O. E. Bailey:

My sincere sympathy is extended to you all.

—W. S. McClennhan.

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## Funeral Services

(*The Bemidji Daily Pioneer*, March 15, 1905, at page 4)

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### IMPRESSIVE CEREMONIES

Vast Throng Attends Funeral  
Over Remains of Leslie  
H. Bailey.

MANY FLORAL TRIBUTES TO  
MEMORY OF THE DEAD.

Business is Generally Suspended  
Throughout City During the  
Ceremonies.

The funeral over the remains of Leslie H. Bailey was held from the city hall this afternoon and a vast throng attended the services.

The large hall was filled and many who attempted to gain admission were compelled to remain outside....Rev. Father Murphy preached the funeral sermon and spoke at some length upon the uncertainties of life and cautioning all to prepare themselves for the final summons. He called attention to the many good things which Mr. Bailey had done during his life, and said that he knew personally of many generous and charitable acts on the part of Mr. Bailey.

Leslie H. Bailey was born at Wilton, Iowa, February 25, 1860 His boyhood and early manhood was spent on the farm of his father in Cedar county, while he attended the country school. He afterward went to high school at Tipton, Iowa, later attending the Iowa state normal school at Cedar Falls. He spent several years teaching school after his training at the normal school, after which he entered the law office of Judge Yates of Cedar Falls,

where he studied law for some time but was subsequently compelled to give up his studies on account of poor health.

He went to Faulkner, S. D., where he took up a claim and lived upon the land for two years, during which time he formed the Farmer's Mutual Insurance company, of which he was secretary and treasurer. He entered politics in 1890 and was appointed register of the U. S. land office at Pierre by President Harrison. He was admitted to the bar at Pierre in 1892. At the election of President Cleveland he gave up his position as register of the land office and accepted the clerkship of the invalid pension committee at Washington, where he also acted as private secretary to Congressman Pickler of South Dakota.

He resigned his position at Washington and came to Bemidji in 1898 to form a law partnership with J. L. Reynolds. This partnership was dissolved and Mr. Bailey formed another with F. S. Arnold under the firm name of Bailey & Arnold. Mr. Arnold entered the Beltrami county abstract office and Mr. Bailey formed another partnership with H. J. Loud and later with M. A. Spooner, who is now district judge. This partnership was also dissolved and E. E. McDonald, his present partner, became associated with Mr. Bailey.

Leslie H. Bailey was married to Miss Ida Ridenour at Marion, Iowa, April 5, 1883, Miss Ridenour at that time being a teacher in the public schools of that city. He leaves to mourn his loss his wife, Mrs. Ida Bailey, his two daughters, Misses Maude and Nellie Bailey; father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Bailey; four brothers, S. C. Bailey, O. E. Bailey and Thayer Bailey, of Bemidji, and W. F. Bailey, of Tacoma, Wash.; three sisters, Mrs. Frank Rathmen of Jamestown, N. D., Mrs. G. Hansell of Perley, Minn., and Miss Minnie Bailey of Bemidji.

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BUSINESS MEN TAKE ACTION  
Adopt Resolutions of Sorrow  
Over the Death of  
L. H. Bailey.

At a meeting of the Business Men's Club of Bemidji the following resolutions were adopted:

Whereas, an all wise Providence has seen fit to remove from life Leslie H. Bailey, an active member of this club and a valued citizen of Bemidji, and

Whereas, to the energy, ability and public spirit displayed on all occasions by Mr. Bailey this city is in a large measure indebted for its present growth and substantial prosperity.

Resolved, by the Business Men's Club of Bemidji, That in the death of Leslie H. Bailey, Bemidji loses one of its foremost citizens, a man who constantly and liberally gave of his time and money and influence to any project that promised the advancement of the city's interest, and that in losing him, Bemidji loses a power in the upbuilding of the city whose place will be most difficult to supply, a public spirited citizen, and a man of many-sided ability and of lovable traits of character, and

Be it further resolved, That these resolutions be spread up on the minutes of the Business Men's Club of Bemidji as a perpetual memorial to one of the most distinguished of Bemidji's citizens and that copies of these resolutions be presented to the family of the deceased and also to the public press for publication.

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## Editorial

*(The Bemidji Daily Pioneer, March 14, 1905, at page 2)*

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### Bemidji's Loss.

IN THE death of L. H. Bailey Bemidji sustains a serious loss. Such men as he can ill be spared from any town. Mr. Bailey was not only a man of ability but he was public spirited in a large degree. He possessed a breadth of view which made him immediately appreciate any situation which might be turned to

the city's advantage and a liberality of mind which spared no effort to make the most of that situation. Men who will give of their time and substance to further the public good, and do it constantly and unstintingly, rare indeed; the city of their adoption is most fortunate, the city that loses them most unfortunate. Such a man was L. H. Bailey and his taking off in the prime of life is a heavy blow to Bemidji.

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## Credit

The photograph on the first page is from  
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