

William Grant Bagley

May 27, 1950 ~ September 28, 2021

Will, you were a great friend to Mike and then, when I married him, also to me! You published Mike's chap book and gave him a place in your wonderful backyard, surrounded by mutual friends, for a poetry reading. He remembers the days when you were next door neighbors on C Street and shared laughs any time you crossed paths with him. He recalls those days and your blossoming love for Laura and her love for you (it was so obvious and sweet and new). Time has passed, we have all aged, and the friendship deepened. Now we get some tears whenever the thoughts, of you being gone, wave over us. We are deeply aware of Laura and of your family and always will be. Laura we love you.

- Karen M Berry

Laura, when I put my feet in your shoes, they don't fit. I was thinking a little while back that I would try to add some new friends. It used to be easy. How many would I need to balance Will? I'll start by being a better friend to my friends, starting with you. Sincerely, Mike

- Mike Berry

My condolences to Will's family. We have lost a great iconoclast and humanist for our time. Bill, as I knew him, was a life-affirming human being who followed his heart and lived an "intentional" life. He was my classmate at Oceanside High School and my dear friend before he headed off to BYU in 1967 and then transferred to UC Santa Cruz. We kept in touch for a short while and then he went on to bigger things. He did not suffer fools lightly nor did he hold back his criticism of powerful politicians and theologians in the face of wrong-headed thinking. I will miss you my friend, may you always be "forever young."

- Vicki Farrar (Gregerson)

We are brokenhearted to hear of the passing of Will. We had the pleasure of becoming friends while at Evans and Sutherland. We can still see his smile and hear his wonderful laugh. We will be holding his family close in our hearts.

- Jim and Patty Groves

Dear family and friends of Will: With you i share sadness at what is, in our time, an untimely early death. He lived life with more vigor than most and no doubt gained extra appreciation of it through the refinement of perception and intellect that accompanies a life of reading. I always appreciated Will's clear perception and his ability to show it in words. He said what he meant clearly and i did not have to speculate what he meant. Such clarity is a gift. I am glad to have known Will Bagley and will continue taking the gifts of his mind via his books. Love, condolences and respect, Tony Weller

- Tony Weller

Hugs to his family. Sad indeed.

- Joan Liddle

My sincere condolences to those who are missing Will the most and who worried over and supported him during his last months. Will is one of the few who seemed to not only fill his potential but to constantly expand it. I worked with Will at E&S and enjoyed playing something-like-golf with him during and after that time. He never wasted a minute. He was a true original and always entertaining and illuminating company. I was privileged to be asked to read the draft of his last book, River Fever: .... , when we were at E&S and am rereading the published version now. Just as he did with most everything, he improved it.

- Mark Mears

I was saddened to hear of Wills passing. I offer my deepest sympathy to all of Will's family. I first met Will in 1999 in Southern Utah at the Mountain Meadows Massacre Site. Being the great great granddaughter of John T. Baker, one of the leaders of the wagon train, we had many talks over the years, and having loved reading about western history, I will always value the conversations we had together. When we would see each other at Mountain Meadows. Will would always say "Well, here we are again". I have many of Will's books, but of course the one I treasure the most is "Blood of the Prophets" and his personal words he wrote to me in the book. What a great historian he was. I recently was at Mountain Meadows this September 11th on the 164th anniversary of the massacre, and I missed seeing Will there, but we will all have our memories of him. Will also attended and gave talks to the Mountain Meadows Massacre Descendants (MMMD) organization. I want to wish all of Will's family strength and comfort in the days ahead. Best Kind Regards, Cheri Baker Walker

- Cheri Baker Walkern

Dear Pat and members of Will’s extended family, Thank you for sharing your glorious memories and cherished thoughts of this remarkable individual. Hugs to you all.

- Genevieve Atwood

My sincere condolences to all of Will Bagley's family and friends. I greatly enjoyed his unique insights in talks at Ken Sanders Bookstore.

- Joanie Cornelius

Will Bagley was a true original. Always interesting and diverse, he could be acerbic, gentle, tough, and a comedian in the same few moments. He always made me laugh. I met him in 2014 in his magical office where he wrote, thought and researched. I always wanted to be left alone there for about a week to open all the volumes he collected over his years of study. I was writing the biography of Esther Hobart Morris and he was generous with information and advice. More importantly he read every word of the first draft with notes for improvement and encouraged me to continue when I felt overwhelmed. Finally he wrote the introduction to the book. When I met him for lunch to give him a signed copy o f the published book, his happiness for me was reflected in his face and words. He was my mentor and my friend. The books he has written are a monumental contribution to western history and he will be missed.

- Kathryn Swim Cummings

In fall of 1968, Bill and I shared the same floor as roommates at Merrill College at UC Santa Cruz. During that intense year, we shared our love for music and our dreams for the future. I remember Bill for his sense of humor, quick wit and gift for talking with such unfettered enthusiasm and energy. The last time we spoke was in spring of 1969 and I am sorry that our friendship did not continue after 1969. I look forward to reading Bill's writings in the coming years and he will remain alive in my memory. I send my rincere respects to his family and associates.

- Ronald Richardson

Back in SLC in the 70's, I played music with Willy (as he was known back then). I left SLC many years ago, but had always planned to go back and visit Willy some time. But I waited too long, and now he's gone. I feel very sad, he was a great person, I will miss him in my heart.

- Bahr Weiss

Belated condolences, and RIP W. G. Bagley, you ol’ prairie dog, pass onward not away. Condolences to historic families for losses due to illnesses or elements, your lecture and book respectively: Woman’s Face of Medicine in Frontier Utah; South Pass: Gateway To A Continent. As I recall, we first met circa ‘78, at an authors' conference in SLC (my RPI book HTI got me in). Later I taught M Bagley, nominally ’89+. Your PDP released ‘… Green’ in ‘91. Early Spring ’23, I read your comment about a novel by A.W., my 1970 history classmate, she said I cycled back, I looked for you, also, she chatted me, I know you’re in heaven, Will. And I wanted to say, you and she both have Bailey ancestors. You’re still needed so don’t wander far beyond the veil ‘cause I’ll be talkin’ your direction about your scholarly citations / archives, as my 2nd cousin Green tells me about a cowboy church. - Dr R Don Green PhD UPenn’89 VN Veteran USAF USMA … GEN/KnG/KntG Allied Covert Ops (former Physics instructor, U of U).

- Dr R Don Green PhD UPenn’89 VN Veteran