

OUTLINE/CHRONOLOGY

- 1870** -Baldwin Antonious Stein was born in the West Indies.
- 1883** -Moved with his family to the United States. Settled in Baltimore, Maryland.
-Studied Music at the Peabody Conservatory of Music
-Met Gertrude Stein, a distant cousin; met theCone sisters
-Plays a recital, Frederick Douglas attends
- 1891-1905** -Baldy went to Europe -- Austria, England, Italy, Germany, France
-Met : Wittgenstein, E.M. Forester, Marcel Proust
-Friends with Andre Gide
-Met Diaghilev in 1900
-Marries "Dorothy" Nozimova
-Gertrude Stein moves with Husband Leo to Paris
-Baldwin meets Pablo Picasso, Matisse; hates Picasso, likes Matisse
- 1906** -Receives word his father is ill. Returns to the U.S.
-Quake and fire leave Baldwin with no family.
- 1920's** -Visits New York and becomes aware of poets and painters in Harlem -- Lorca, Collen, Nugent, Barthe, Locke, Hughes
-close freindship with Jamaican Claude McCay
- 1929** -Stockmarket Crash
-Returns to San Francisco
-loses his studio
- 1930's** -Works for the WPA as a photographer
- 1940's** -Continues to work for the government, lies about his age, vows to never work for the government again after witnessing horific sights at Hiroshima and Nagasaki
- (in 1972 Alice Haas wills the house to the S.F. Heritage Foundation)
- 1990** -Baldwin Antinious Stein dies.

DETAILED CHRONOLOGY BALDWIN ANTINIOUS STEIN

1870 Baldwin Antinious Stein was born in the West Indies. Baldwin's mother, Elodie Stein was from France and his father, Diogenes Bonaparte was from the West Indies.

1883 Due to a hurricane that was nearly fatal and Mrs. Stein-Bonaparte's desire for their children to receive a proper education as well as Mr. Bonaparte's awareness of America's promise, the family decided to move to the United States where Mrs. Stein-Bonaparte had family in Baltimore, Maryland.

1883-1891 Mrs. Bonaparte enjoyed being amongst family but Mr. Bonaparte found Baltimore to be restrictive stratified and snobbish. This Jewish family did not embrace Mr. Bonaparte who was of no particular faith. While Mr. Bonaparte was an intelligent and resourceful man he was not prepared for the peculiarities and refinements of high society. Quite soon after his arrival in Baltimore he left for the West where land was "plentiful and cheap". Once settled he was to send for his wife and child. Baldwin was not unhappy about his father's departure. Baldwin enjoyed the intellectual and artistic atmosphere of the family but hated what he saw as the cruelties and prejudice around him which he also felt as a total outsider. He longed for an environment with out the artificial structure of Victorian citylife. He longed for the freedom of his youth and the natural surroundings. He, in later years, characterized these years as "the lonliest of his youth".

While in Baltimore he attended the Peabody Conservatory of Music where he became an accomplished pianist. His father saw no use in "a boy learning music". He spoke with disdain of his son's creative impulses though he made no attempt to stop his son's activities (Baldwin later said that he was a mystery to his father and his father was a mystery to him.)

Met Gertrude Stein, a distant cousin; met the Cone sisters
Plays a recital, Frederick Douglas attends

1888 Baldy's mother moves to California.
Baldy studies photography at the Maryland Institute of Art.

1891-1905 Baldy went to Europe -- Austria, England, Italy, Germany, France
Met : E.M. Forester, Marcel Proust
Close friends with Andre Gide

1900 Met Diaghilev during the Universal Exhibition in Paris in the Spring of 1900. They maintain a close friendship until Diaghilev returns to Russia one year later. Saddened to see his friend leave, Baldy marries the young Russian ballerina, Dorothy Nozimova much to the consternation of Diaghilev who was a friend of Dorothy's. The marriage does not last and Nozimov returns to Russia in 1902. Baldwin leaves for Morocco to recuperate for six months.

Gertrude Stein moves with Husband Leo to Paris
Baldwin meets Pablo Picasso, Matisse; hates Picasso, likes Matisse

1906 Receives word his father is ill. Returns to the U.S. Baldwin's family and home are lost to the Quake and fire. He moves into the Haas house and stays in San Francisco and opens a photo shop on Market Street. The last of his money is used to buy cameras. His business flourishes.

With no family to hold him he travels through Asia and North Africa, following the Navy. He is employed by the U.S. Government as a photographer. All his works are still with the navy.

1920's He visits New York and becomes aware of poets and painters in Harlem. Becomes friends with Lorca, Collen, Nugent, Barthe, Locke, Hughes.

His travels make him more aware of his own ethnicity and the meeting of the folks in Harlem in particular, Jamaican Claude McCay whom he had a close friendship with, cemented his interest in negritude and his own West Indian heritage. He plans a trip to the West Indies with McCay but the depression hits in 1929 and the stockmarket crashes.

1929 Returns to San Francisco

Due to the depression he loses his studio but is able to keep his collection of cameras.

1930's Works for the WPA as a photographer

1940's Baldy continues to work for the government, in addition to private commissions. His youthful appearance and vigor belies the fact that he is actually in his 70's. He lies about his age which allows him to photograph in dangerous and difficult places. Horrified by the sight of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, he vowed to never work for the government again.

1949 Takes his last trip to Asia with an associate.

1950's

1972 Alice Haas wills the Haas-Lilienthal House to the Heritage Foundation with the understanding that the house would be continued to be used. Currently the back unit of the house is rented out and the Heritage offices are in the back rooms. The House Manager lives on the third floor. It was understood that Baldwin would remain in the house until his death.

1990 Baldwin Antinious Stein dies.