

Derbyshire Record Office
Reference #: D2941/2/1/1-35.
1873-80: letters from America to Emily and William Hall
[from Agnes and Henry Billups]
Derbyshire Record Office
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Note: Henry doesn't capitalize "i" and spells "sister" as "Syster" in
the greetings. Henry capitalized more than Agnes.
Agnes drops her "h's" and spells brother "Bruther."
the first letter is from Maria Boswell (prob Agnes' Sister) on Henry's
behalf. Henry is always called "Harry." Agnes spells her name "Agness."

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Letter 1:

29 ... Hereford[?] st[?]
Sheffield Moor

My Dear Sister & Brother
I received your letter
and was sorry to hear
of you being so poorly[?]
but I hope you will
be better[?] by this you
will be surprised [or "distressed"?] to hear
that Harry Billups will
Sale for America next ["America" underlined]
Wedensday the 5th March [all underlined]
... will sell upon
Monday so if thair
is aney things you
want will you come
but be as it will you
will come to see him
befor he goes. his
brother has sent his
Pass. Harry wished me
to write for him as
he [']as so menny letters
to write and very little
time Harry wishes to
know if William
can get him that
Nuckleduester let them
know at home he
got the Pass and a letter
Last Night and he [']as
been to day to be booked so thair
is know putting it of so no more
at Present in Last[?] with Love
to all from your Affectionate
Sister Maria Boswell

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Letter 2:

Freedom forge June 8 1873

My Dear brother & Syster
i was very Glad to recive the few
by[?] lines from you And to heare you
was All well but Dear Syster
i railay think that you Are tryin
to make [?] Game of me will you Com[-]
paire me with Sir [?] Roger tichborn
but never mind i Can Stand it And i
Also thank you for One [?] flaure that
you Sent me but i Did not nead the
time [?] for i have plenty of it Just
now. And even i tumble [?] in too i will
Com to you for Som Grule for i
Shall need it bad wen i Do but it will
be Magges turn A Gain before it is
mine And your too if Dutte is Dontrs [?]
it Ote to be And thats for my Son
i think he Dos quit rit in Sticken up
for him Self been with Out me if
i was thaire i would make him Cother[?]
you the Same As Miss Shit [sic] wen you
was her Servent At Stones Gravels
you Say you Can not All Ways be
with me i wish you Cood i wish you
And Maggy would Com Over Som fine
Sundy wen it rains And i Could find
you both A Job for the first
weak i Am Shure i try if you Can
Beg leve of Wm for A week Just
Ask him Em you Are the Best
Sister i have Got for no One has
Either rot to me or Sent me A
Apaper Ondlay you Mria did
just write a few Lines And that
was All so you See it is A Old
Sayien And A tru One wen Out
of Site Out of Mind but Dear
Syster All things works together
for Good and i hope Frances has Got
A Good Husbron this time Give my Love
to Wm And kiss the Crildren for me
and Dont for Get my Son ...min your Lovin brother
H. Billups

p.s plese to write
Back By return of post
& tell Maggy to Leve you plenty of paper
next time

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Letter 3:

Aug 4 1873

My Dear Syster & brother

i hope these few lines will find
you And All quit well As it leves
me And All heair Diar Syster
i hope you will for give me for
not riten to you before now As
i have had your Letter Above
A week but i felt as if i Could
not rit Or Do Any thing Eylse [?]
for i Got A letter from y Wife
And She Syd She would tell me
All wen we meet And she had
A lot to tell me and poore lass She Says
She is As bad As A Dog with out a
home She may Go heair And Go thire
And Do this And do that And thenwas
not rit wen Don but i had not Got to
Maime [?] it in my letters for She wanted
to have no bother And i now it wont matter
With me telling you Dear Syster i wish
Many A time i had Never Started for
i have not beenAble to Do Wot
i intended doin for my Wife in regards
to money but wen A Man Get in America
Or Any wair Else he Caint make
money he must work for it first &
if he Caint Getwork to Do then wot
is he to Do And At the time knows
he has Got A wife And Child that
is wenten money if not for food for
Clothin Doo you think that A man
As is A man Can be happy Wen
he has All these things on his mind
they Sy All things works to gether
for Good & it is A long laine that
never has a turn but i don't no how
far further i Shall have to Go
before i Get to the Eynd but wen
my Maggy Get hear All will be
rit then i hope it wont be long
it was too late for me to Com Close
to you to Work [?] now but if God
Spairs me with health And Strength
And plenty of work for A Short
time i think i Shall See England
Once Again And thay Say we
Are to have More work now we
Start On Monday morning this
week for the first time Since
i have been in the Countray So that
looks better. Dear Syster i do not
know the meening of the flowers becuse
i do not no the naime of them So plese

Sen me the name wen you rit but the
bit of time i have mad Bad use of
Or i Should of rote before now but
for Get and for Give is my motto
plese tell Wm that the knukle
Duster Came in very handy for
i Got in A little Crape And i
put my hand up to keep One
Away And he run rit up Againt
it pore fellar And Cut his face
very bad he layed Down And Stayed
Down till i Got A way but it
is Dangres to be Safe for thay All
carre them little pop Guns with 6 Amd
barerels in And thay never Misfire
You now

Dear brother this little fly
is A Crusity [curiosity?] for it littnes Every
time it Draw its breth the Natives
Call them littiningbugs And
thay Sleep All Day And fly
About All Nite time manny A
hundrdy of them Dear brother
And Syster plese Give my Love
to All And Send me mothers Adres
So i Can rit to them So no more
At present from your Ever
Affection brother
Hy Billups [underlined]

PS rit back Soon As you
Can plese Dear Syster
kiss the Children
for Me
Good Nite

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Letter 4:

Sheffield August

the 9 [?]

1873

My Dear Sister ... Bruther
I rite thes fue lines to you
loking to fine you
whel as it leaves me
and son it
I nu... shall you th...
you must get[?] all my
things to gear [together?] for I shall
go on the 21 of August so you
must jput my
if you .. cout out and
my ... for I
Come h... ..

to ... do not daly
for the time is short
now so dontforeget
I Just ave one day with
you and one at home
some day this week
for the last time at
prasant ... I think it [?]
all at prasant from
your loving sister Agness
Billups

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Letter 5:

Sept 16, 1873

My Dear Mother and father
i have grate plesher in riten
these few lines to you All hopen
thay will find you All quit
well As it leves All hear
Ondlay my Son And he has
Got A very bad Cold Maggy
Got All heair Safe Ondlay
A few pots And Glasses &
She had a very Good voyge
All the way Over thank
God for it She Sends her
best love to All And
Sayes She is happy Once
more in her Lifetime And
So Am i for my Son
is runen round me And
Callen me Daddor And
because i Don't let him
help me he Says Go On
And now he has Gon to
tell his Mammam Maggy
Semes to think that She
Shall like this Country
very well i will tell
you One thing that She
likes thire is no beair [beer?]
houses hair for thay have
took thire licines from
them All because pople
Got too much Now Deair
farther i have Sent you
a paper At the Same time
As i Send this letter So
plese to Sent me word
wither you Get it Or
not for thire is So many
papers lost A letter

will Com wen A paper
wont i Do not no the
reson but it is So plese
Give my best love to
My Syster frances And
her husbron And tell her
i Should like to See hor
Choice [?] but i hope Som
time i Shall Do And She
must kiss the baby for
me wen it Comes & plese
Give my love to Harry
And vernen [Vernon] And tell Harry
this bit of money is for
him And i will Send vernen
One wen i rit A Gain
And i hope thay will be
Good boyes to both of you
you must exquse the ritin
but Maggy will rit next
time She Sayes that you
have not to forget wot
you promised hor your
Letters [?] & plese to tell
frances that Maggy will
rit to them Soon
So now Dear farthe
and Mother i must ...
[Close] with hour best
Love to All and you
must belive us to be
your Ever Lovin Son &
Dauter and Child
HB & A.G.B & Son JHB
for Ever