

"1873-80: letters from America to Emily and William Hall,"
[from Agnes and Henry Billups]

Derbyshire Record Office
Reference #: D2941/2/1/1-35.

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Letter 6:

My Dear Sister and Bruther
I ricved your kind and welkend
letter and was glad to hear
from you and whe got your
papers and was glad to see
them and I must thell
you that I was not so bad as
thay thot I Shud of bean
we [']ad a spelend voig [splendid voyage] I was
bad wile I was sick but when
I got weall whe was on deck
all day and the wether was
so butfeall [beautiful] and I was loath to
leave the veasell when all
come to for whe onley [']ad
one or to ruf night and that
was on the Banks and that
was not so bad as it mite [']ave
bean but thair wair plenty
that was bad all the way
thar and I can thell you
that I shud not have don
so whell if I not but [']ad got
plenty of food the person
that come she [']ad six childrn
with [']ar and a nuther with
fore and whe all wise nos to
gather on deck so you see
I was not alony and whe [']ad
all of hour meals turgear [together] and
we found lots of fun whe
[']ad some clean [? - Cleass?] peple on deck
and all so sivel [civil?] it was a
site to see all of us it was
like a town four the Sales [Sailors?]
[']ad dancen havry [every] night
and whe [']ad singen down
be lo when all was beter of
bean sik I wishd you coud
seen us and my son eat dry
Bread and he seat on
the bunk with me all
the time I was bad so you
see that was not bad but I ham
all the beter for it I Cant
thall [tell?] you much about the
Cuntry yeat for I have not seen

much yeat I shud like it
if the work was better but
Harry [']as started of puling [filling?] out
as last but the works is bad
but I hope that it soon will
mand and it is all hills
and oles [?] whear whe ar and
whe ar at tomes [Tom's] yeat for the
houses is all wood hear and
thar Caired hear so you can
send all letters at present
my Dear sister I wish you
wold send me some tine for
whe caint geat it hear and
I shall send for my muther
to send me some pasly
for you caint geat them
Oct 20th, 1873
thins hear at all no
sage I cud not rite before
this for I have bean miken [making]
resbry finigr [rasberry vinegar?] and eldrby [elderberry?]
sarup and I have prusrved
sun graps to and tomtato to and
I wish you was hear to tast
them for they ar nice so
you see I have [']ad plenty
to do at precent you
must give my love to all
and thall my farther
and muther I will rite
to them sone we got the
paper that my farther
sent the nues of the wold
I hope that thay got hour
letter and the sents in for
harry and I shall send
one for vearn [Vernon] I must come
childrn
this is all
theis tine
Harry sends
his love
to you
and to
Wilten [William] to
and me
to kiss
the childrn
for us
whear all
well
and Harry
[']as not
worked
three weaks now good nigth and god bless you all A H & J Billups

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Letter 7:

my Dear Sister and Bruther
we ricved your kind and
welkney [welcome?] letter we got it
on Dec 24 and I was glad to hear
al wos weall for I thought
you [']ad forgot us for whe haf
sent too leattrs to my farthr
and too paprs and too three
sents in the lettrs one for Vern
and one for Harry and whe
shud like to no if thay have
got then or not for we think
it very strange that we never
rite to hus I think Jhon mite
rite a fue lines to hus but
you can thell him I shall
pay in of for it whear all
whell but work is bad but
whe have not to Clan[?] yeat
for whe [']ad a turky for
Christmes Diner and whe have
[']ad lots of ducks and fols to but
for all I like hone the beast
it [']as been vear mild hear so
fir the son will shine and
be as worn as July hat home
but we shall have the Cond
sone now whe ar living at
toms at pracent the house ar
case hear I dont no what
to think of Maria for she
[']as not sent sent hus not
a line but thay still send
the Buggets to harrybut praps
mis paney takes up [']ar time
now I shud thought
of any one but [']er comen
this I Shud like to see them all
you must give my love to all
Frands mrs Edly mrs Lee and to
all I was sory to hear of por tom
and marther sister I must
con clud with love to all
I still reamen your loving sister
Agness Billups my Boy Dus gro
such a fine Boy Kiss the childrn

[same pages, different handwriting]

Dear Sister & Brother Chrleen
I hope thiswill find you
All well And in the Land

of the Liven we was very Glad
wen we recived your kind Letter
but it mayed us feel very queer
till we had red it for we thought
som thing was the matter wen
we was So long without Getten
A letter from Aney One pleser
tell william that i Cannot Sent
him A whol Sill not fit to
Ship[?] but wen we Com Back
if we live So long i will bring
Som with me Gorge wife Says
he Shall Com back in April
And if he dos I shall Sent
you Som Skins for Slipers
for there is A kind of Anaml
Called the Musk Rat hear
that is very Near As Big
As A Nice Sicce [size]
Cat And A furr
on it quit One inch
Long but the worst
of it is i Dont no how to tan
them proper i Can make the
fast but thay Go So hard After
And i Dont No wot to Do to Make
them Soft And i think you no So
i wont you to tell Me in the Next
letter And Dont be Long before you
rit i Shall Send the pelarce [?] news
with Som birds Wings in it you
Must Exquse it bein Dirty for
my boy has had Lots of it they
Are for the Children.
tell William never to think
of Coming to America for it
is As Bad As transport [?] Nothing
but hills and holes And woods
All Around me i Am Short of
Work So i Go A huntin i wish
my Gun was a Duble One then
i cood Get mor Game for if
i Lame One it Gets Away

ps for thire is Wild turkeys hear that
wood win the Dunkshir Snt Ledger but
i mus Say Good Night from H. BILLUPS

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Letter 8:

My Dear brother & Syster
i now take Grate plesher
in riten to you Once more
and to tell you About
Livin in A wood i went

Out in the Mountins And
Slep in the Cabbin with
Cyoł burners redy for the
next morning thire is plenty
Of huntin heair but not
much Game me And 3 more
Went A Deair huntin We
had the pleshr of Sean One
but hour Guns wood not
kill them we Out to of
had rifles them is the things
thay have rifles heair that
thay can put 16 lodes in
All at Once thay Call
them 16 Shooters thay will
kill at[?] Thousand yards
We recved your Welkom
Letter and was Glad to
heair you was All well
my Deair Syster i have Sent
a Cople of Gray Squirels
tayls to Harry & Vernon
i want you to look At them
And See if thay will Sut
you
for A vutterriner [?]
Gyns [?] And Send me word
And i will Send you Som
and Deair Syster if tryd
Dos not mind i Shall bring
Maggy back next Spring
So you must keep up your
Sprites And recive hour
Best Love from All
to All till we Meet
Again and kiss the
Children for me from
H B . A.G And John Henry Billups

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Letter 9:

My Dear Sister and Bruther
I rite thes fue lins to you
hoping to find youwell as it
leaves all hear I thot whe
sud haved [']ad a letter from
you befor this but rite sone
I wish you wold send me
some parsly in a paper or
a bit of time for thay cannot
by it hear at all you must
give my love to Claring [? Haring?]
and to all Johns Frands to and
Charly and whenis the
wedden give my love to all

that ask a bout me and
to my aunt wite and to all
of them I will send more
neaxt time I dont think
much to say about this
place thar ar all gay hear
and work is very bad hear
this is all at pracent with
love to you Whm [William?] and your self
from your loving sister and
Bruther and son good night

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Letter 10:

my Dear Sister & Bruther I ritte these fue to you
hoping to find all well as it leaves us
whe got the parsley seed and we was glad to
and the time was to dry to seat and I shud
like you to send mustrd and Crass and
leats and radish seed But send them
in paprs for whe [']ad to pay thireen sents
that is six pance apney and if it [']ad bean
a paper it wold have ban all rite so you
no the neaxt time you write thall
Frances to send the seeds and I want you
to send me a bit of Croath Work for me
as sune as you can and put it in parps
I want it nise for a Satin [?] parps[?] so you can
gas the reast my Dear Sister you will think
I wont all at once I must thall you that
Harry [']as sent you a paper and a musk
rat skin in it sendword if you geat
it all rite and if you do he will send you a
nuther so that you can have a par of
sliprs of them I will rite a gane sune to
you give my love to all Frands and dont
forget your slef I got the presnt on my barthy and
was pleast with them and Harry thinks thar
nise to you must not be a fende at me not riten
suner but I havnt weall all thins to rite so far
give me this time Harry send his love to
all thes feet is musk rats feet and a
bit of musk to with love to all and kiss the
Childrn for hus from your loving Sister and ...
Bruther H A Billups and the son