

"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 11:

Apral 13 1874

My Dear Sister and Bruther I rite these
fue lines to you hoping to find you all
whall as it lives hus hear I got the pras
and was pleasd to think that some one thgrt
of me whe got a paper with my farther name
in and I was pleasd to see it for I think that
he [']as for got me Harry [']as sent three lettrs
and no ancer to them whe shud like to no
if he have got tham but my mother mite rite
a fue lines to hus I was so srroy to hear that
harry [']ad ben kill you must thall John that
if he dos not rite to hus I come some day
and warm him I wish you send your
Cards so that I coud luck at you when I
wanted and my muthrs and farther and Bruthr
to I must thall you that Jhon Hnry geats a big
boy and whe carnt say a word but he says the
same and he [']as got three bols and to nite pigns
gaven to me and his farther [']as bot him a rabbit
a nite and its pink yeas and it runs in the
hous you must give my love to ante nite [same as Aunt Wite, letter 10?]
and all and to Cryline Jhons sister and ask
[']ar to rite when Jhon rits to hus this is all this
time with love to all from your loving sister and
and Bruthr A H Billups

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Letter 12:

Sunday June 14 1874
Freedom Forge Pa

my Dear Sister and Bruther
and Childrn and all I rite
thes lines to you hoping to
find you all well as it
leaves hus hear but veary
shor of work Harry [']as onley
[']ad one day a weak this last
three weeks but whe live in
hope that it will sone be
beeterthan this whe got the
paper you sent and the seeds
all right on the June 12 did
you get a paper with a

skin in it or not whe shud
like to no and I shud like to
no if haver got any of the
lattrrs at home or not I whis
you wold send us word I feel
so hunhapy [unhappy] a them I think
nether Farther ar muther cares
for me won thall my to Bruthrs
to send thair Cards divets [?] and
I shud like to see all of you
John and Frances mite sent theirs
Harry sase that he shud
so much like to see him I
gas that thay no sines of a fmaly [no signs of a family]
yeat like me when you
geat this you can think you
ar aunt to a nuther but you
shall no on the day and wot
its is to so you must reast
your sealf conted thill then [content till then]
my Sister maria sent word
that Harry Rudford [Budford? Buford?] was just
a live and I shud like to no
hoe he is and all of them give
["my" struck out] hour love to all I shud like
to no the Cors of Thome Willy
Shuting him Shealf and I
must thall you hot it is hire
Ihave only my raper on and
stays [?] and no stokins on a
pare of Sliprs and Shene so
you Can Juge fore your sheal
Jhon Henry grose and he geats
a little Care to I just wish you
all coud see him hire in his
big hat and Harry to he
was widing the garden one
day and the soun blisterd
[']is back rite from [']is nack
to the tope of [']is pants and it
is bad yeat I Just wish you
cut see it now I have seene
one snake in the gardn
and Harry kild it and when
I noshed got some of them
Bowrnt one the line one little
nite gone so you can think
how [']hot it is I whis whe wos at [wish we were at?]
home a gane but if worke
puts in whe sharnt be hear
long Jorge Wite [']as Come home
but the work beane so bad
whe coud not send any
think at all and then
this thean donrs [ten dollars] for a Doctr
hire that is to pounds and

for i urn too Dollors a week
that is heate skinns do you
things ar deare hear my Dear
sister I wish you wold thall
Jhon to rite ar Thay with muther
and farther yeat and ar thay as
uppy as thay was when I wos thir
for I never hear from anyone
but you and maria and
Frank lone [Long?] but I sharnt
rite home to them noe more
till thay rite to hus Harry
thinks so un Cind [unkind] of them
to I think this is all at praent
Give hour love to all Frands
and Dont forget your one self
from your ever loving sister
Agness H Billups a long may
of kiss the childry for us both

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Letter 13:

June 24 1874

my Dear Sister andBruther
this will be nuse to you
I rote a fue lines to you
on the Sunday and I
was confined on the monday
so you see that I had
towate till I Cud finish
it for Harry [']as not
time and he is working
one day a weak things is
very bad hear at the
prasent Harry would
like you to send him
some raed Chatge [red cabbage] seed
if you Can geat them
for thay dont not what
whe nven but Harry
dus not like to ask you
him sealf he says that you
will think he all wise
wonten some thing but
you must not be Cros at
hus for not sending you
word at once I have done
nicly and I have got a
nise girl on the June 15 at
theen 10 minits past one so
you muste thall them
at home and give hour
love to them all and
ricve thay same your

sealf from your loving
sister Agness Billups
and Harry Billups
good night and god
bless you all

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Letter 14:

Freedom Forge
Nove 18 [1]874
please to
this to mrs

Dear Sister and brother
I rite thes fue lines to ...
as you not ... rite to huss I
do so wish that you
wod rite again ... too
hus my Dear Bruther [Thom or Wm?]
I wish you wold send
yo...l . devist[?] do that
harry can their
for you hav seen him
h.. ..d that you rite
rite to hus and tell
me how their at [']ome
their air on fam... .. est
me but I dont no [wot?]
whe have don I wold
lik to no so I hope y..
will send hus [word?]
if you no my .. sister
you must giv my love
granrett .. der and to Mrs
..tr ...all Fr.... and
thall me how .. Derst
Bruthr I goin on and
all the .. is you can tall
C...g to rit to me and
now [Thom or Wm?] it you dont
rite I Shall come one day
and pull you out of bed
So you no Dnot you ... see
to do pleas to rite sume
I must Clode with love
to all and may Dear muther
and farther and Bruthers
and don't forget
your one Dears ... from
your loveing Sister and Bruther
H A Bullips

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Letter 15:

Freedom Forge

March 23 1875

My Dear Sister & Bruther

I rite once more to you hoping
these fue lines will find
you for I cant thall the
reasen that we cainthear
from you I got the card
you sent me and the
cdgne to all rite and I was
pleasd and so was Harry to but
whe like to see all of you and
I think that whe shall have
hours taken soon and then
you well see all of us then
whe have [']ad shuch [']ard winter
here you wd much snow for
we have [']ad snow heave since
December and the flour [']as not
bean clear yeat and the house is
shuch a ccold one for we have to
have fire all the night & day
to whe sleap down stairs and
the bed as close to the stove
as we dar have it and one
night we [']ad coffee for super
and we did not drink all of
it and it was not for from
the sove and it was all ice
in the moring I thot that
we shud [']ave froze to death
I neaver saw so much snow
in my life before this
I dod so wish to come home
then we have no naburs
hear the nirst house to us
is across to filds of us and we
ar all alone and whe ar as
happy as heaver we can be
and Janeanne is a very good
girl but she [']as not got no
teate yet you did not
say wot you thot of the
nam gave the girle and
Jhon henry at time cols to harry
Hall and tawks to him as if he
wear hire and he thall that
he shall come to the old Contry
and fech Harry hear to play
with him you must thall
Mrs frost that she [']as not sent
me air cart yeat but I live
in hops of having it yeat whe
got a letter from Marria at
the same time got your last
and she told us that poor

Harry was ill and an ware poore
and no one went thair
to see them but thout
a be a biter of and them
the frand wold Come you
must send me all the
nuse you can for I ham
faree from home now and
you can thall your farther
that I did not think that
he wold turn [']is back on
[']is one Child but my mother
mite rite to me and I Shud
you to rite as sune as you
can to me for it seems
a long time since the last
letter and send hus a paper
now and then whe wold send
you won but thair tean cents and that is 5 pence in your
money and that is a deal
to give to the papprs I have
sent you a papper of years

Sent you a paper with Seeds in
they ter led much oringe

I think this is all at present
from yearloving sister
A and H Billups
love to all and the to children
to kiss them for me
pleas to send this
to Emley Hall my sister
A H B