

"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 16:

My Dear Sister & Bruther & Frands

I now take my pen to rite thes
fue lines to you all hoping
that thay weall find all
whall as it leaves all hear at
the pracent time But you must
forgive me for not riting to you
befor this But I have so much
gowin out to one are the hur thill [one or the other till]
I have no time and that is a sha...
to say whe have [']ad snoe on
the ground for the fornit in
Decmber and is on yeat and
it is so cold hear that whe
have to keep fire night
and day and the bad as close
to the stove as whe dair have
it so you can think it is cold
hire and the winds is ruff to
whe got the card that you
sent and I shud like to have
yours and Wms [?] to geather and
i shud like you to ask my
Dear farther to send me his
to and send me word hon my
too Bruthers is and thall them
to san me thard card and thall
my Dear mother that ofen look
at ar card wish I was a bit near
so that I cud come to see [']er and all
of you But I cant so you must
live in hope like I do for whe are
happy hare and I hope your
the same you must give my
to Mrs Beatesen and tahll [']er
to send me thair card of
both of them and give my love
to them and I will rite to ['] more
next time and not maran [Maria?]
did you near at hilltop give
my love to Corry and I hope
that whe will be happy and
geat over [']ar truble all rite
thall [']ar to send me a fue lines
you must thall Wm that
I will come and give him a
stiking for not riting to

me befor this I think that
he mite rite to me for that
I have not Strang to her and
then Harry will rite to him
back a gane send me word
[']od Mrs Roton is and grammam [Grandma Flo?]
flour gown on give my love
to them you can give my
love to them at hilltop to
and all of my fands I
will thall you that
Janeanne is a good little girl
and Jhonhenry is bond of
[']ar for his play mate for whe
have no house near to
hus the nerest is acros toe
files from hour hus so you
see that and think this
is all at pracent Harry
Wants[?] in love to all from
your loving sister Agness
and Hanrry Billups
Freedom Forge
March 23 1875

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Letter 17:

June 14 1875
My Dear Syster & brother
We recived your very kind
And Welkom & Long Looked
for Letter And was very Glad
to hear from Sombody &
your are A bout All we
Can get to heare from
Maggy Sys She was Shour
that Som thing had happened
for All Day She Was
thinken A bout Eather One
Or the Other And All night
She Was Drainin Some bad
Dreem Or the Other Every
Morning She had Somthing
frish to tell me
Dear Syster i Am Sorree
to heire that you had
So much to pay for
them few Seed but i will
register Aney thing that
i Send Again i ... your
Suriely Sadd All rit And
Am Mooch Obliged to you
And i hope the time may
soon Com that i Can return
the kindnes in some Way Or

the Other
We Are Both very Sorrey
to heair About Mr James
G happen With that very
bad Lowe Maggy had to
have A good Long Cry
About it i often com
home from Work And
find her Eyes Weet And
i Ask her Wots the Matter
And She Says 0 nothing
you Say that brother H.B.
has been At your house
i Doo Wish you wood Send
me his proper Adres
for i have rot to him twice
And CantGet No Answer
And i do think that if
Harry Got the letters he wood
Answer them We put John
Henry in britches today for
the first and he was prood
andif iit is fine Next Satarday
We Are Goin to have his &
All Houre Littness took that
is if Nothin happenes So you
Will See the Hoole family
Soon Now Dear Syster i
Wont Wm to doo me a
kindnes if he will and i think
he Will And it is this
i Want him to Drop A few
Lines to Gorge Wile And Ask
him if he Will bring Me
A bird Or 2 As you Wood
like to Send me A cuple
or so of Good Carnerais
And if he Will i Want yo to
by Me a cuple of Good
Song Birds Claire yealler
And too hen birds And i Will
Send you the money And i think
you can get the 2 Cock birds
for 15s & the hend for 5s and
i Will Send you the the
Sovren Just One Weak After
this Letter And if he Wont
bring them Dont by them
till you have rot to him
if he Wont Why you Can Send
me it back Or i Will rit and
tell you Wot to Do with
the money for he is Comin
back heair Again & i Am
Goin to rit to him to nite

And this is his Adres
Mr Gorge Whight
43 Mount Road
Parker Wood Springs
Sheffield

you will have to rit to him at once for
he is comin as soone as he can get redy
will you do it if you pleas Br Wm

So Now i must ConClud
With All hour Love to
All from your Lovin Bro
ther & Syster H & Ag Billups
p s
I hope William Wont forGet Me
for if i Get them All Safe hear
thay Wood be Worth More money then to me

Gorge Dont .osnt your to Let him
no but that
you are makin me a present of them

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Letter 18:

Freedom forge
Nr Lewistown
Feb 1st 1877

Dear Syster and brother &
famaly i recivied your kind
And welkom Letterthis
Day And was very Glad
to heair from you Once
more And Also to heair
you was well
Deair Syster i thank you
very verry much All of
you for your kind offer
in regardses to us Commen
home And i must Say it
is very kind of you All
but As bad As traid is
i must Decline your kind
Offer And Say We Cannot
Just yet for we have not
Seen much of America yet
And i Live in hopes that
traid Will mend And thire
Will be plenty of work for
All but i must Say that
traid is very bad At present
for the people is worken for
too Shillings A Day Andhave
to beg for work At that but

that is the Americans as thay
wont find no fancy baal [?]
work At that but thay can
Stick it up thire --- for [dashes in the original]
All i cair this is A big
wide Cuntrey And thire
is plenty in it for All And
i will Go And hunt for it
i Should of been Gon now
but i havebeen Waiten for
Another man i have not Don
One Days Work for Over
two month And if we Dont
work for three more we
Sharnt Starve for wen i
Did Ern it we post it to
Good use but we had A little
bad Luck with hour pigs
We had 18 Scaken [?] pigs
froze to Death in too Days
And One nite So then i fed
the too mothers And Kiled
them booth we have thirty
Ston[e] of pork in the house
now we have a Good Cow
that brings us fore Shillings
A weak in And All the milk
we Can use So you See We
Sharnt Starve yet thoe
thire is Hundreds that is
Starven Allmost to Day
but Let them Starve it is
the Americans And not the
English thay Shood Ask
for thire rits wen Work
was plenty but you Did not
tell me how traid is thire
Deair Sister what Good
wood it be for us to com
home When we cood not
Settle thire Maggy Says
She wood Like very much to
See you All And bee Amung
you All for One month And
then She wood like to be
back heair A Gain you must
Wait Wile next foalee [fall?] About
September And if things don't
Get Aney better why we mit
Com then but if we Did com
it wood take five years to pay
that money back And Get A house
furnished So i wood Like to
Wait till i Cood bee A Claire
man And Anuf money to by
A few things with wen i Got

thire hour baby was
born in August 11 And we have
named him After Wm And
Maggs farther
his name is James William
Billups please Give My Love
to frances And tell har
We Got har Letter And tell
brother harry i wood Like to
See him very much now he
is A man And if you wood
rit back by return Of post
And Send me Wm Sevens Adress
As i Dont no waire i mit ramble
too before i Get work And
Maggy Can Sendit After me
Andif you will kis frances
for me i will pay you back
When i Get thire if Ever i do
And plese Dont register
your Letters As thay will
find us without And we
have to work [walk?] 6 miles to the
Grenerl Post Office before
We Can Get them And wen i
Am A way Maggy Cannot
Live the Chrildren
i wood of Sent you
thire litnes [likeness = pictures?] but times
has been So hard that
we never feel Able to Get them
plese Give hour Love to One And All And recive
the Same you Self from
your Ever Affechon
Sister And brother Ag
And Hey Billups

And this A Dress will be
Shure to find us Save

Hey Billups
freedom forg
Lewistown
Mifflin Co P.A.
America

-- 11 months time between letters here --

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Letter 19:

Yeagertown Jan 26 1878

Deair Syster & brother
i now take pen in hand
to rit A few lines to you

hopen it will find you
All quit well As it leves
us All heair At present
Ondly for My Maggys
brest And it is very bad
And keep Gettin Wors
but i hope it will be
better After a wile for
thire is A Old Docter
12 Miles from us that has
Cured lotts of boath
Men And Wimen of Cancers
And i hop And trust
in the man Above that
he will Cure My Wife of
hors for God Above noes
best wot i Should Do with
Out her for i Do not no
but this man wont begin
to Do Aney thing to hor
brest untill we have payed
him 20 Dollers Down in Ad
vance And then 20 more if
he Makes A Cure And we have
to Waite untill we Can Get
the Money to Gether first
but if i have my helth And
it wont e long now i wanted
to Sell the Cow but Maggy
Wood not heair of that beean
Don for She is Such A
Good Cow it wood be hard
to Get a nother like hor
but i wood not Care for that
you will think it very
on kind of us not ritten Sooner
but you must for Give us
this time for i have been waitten
for hor to rit As you mite
think it Strang hor not
ritten but you now She is
not very Good At ritten
At leest She She Allways
letts On so i Am So my
Self but you See if i Dont
rit She Dont And One waitten
of the Other it never hardly
Getts Don but we All have
hour forth We have had
A letter from Maggys farther
A very kind letter And
So it Out to be it took
Over fore years to rite
it he is in the Same mind
As your Self he wants
Hus to Com home A Gain

And i Am Sure i Am A
thousen times A Obliged
to him And All for thire
kind Offer but i wont Sta[nd]
in Maggys road if She wants
to Com but for My part
i Cood not think of commen
home On No Boddys Expence
but my Own And i hope
you no me well Enuff to
now that i wood be Sorre
to be All that Expence
to Aney body but my Self
but i thank you All And
i Am turly And thank
fully to think And no
that we have Som true
friends yet for that is
the time you broove [prove?] the
friendsShipe now
Dear Syster i think this
is All this time And with
your leve i will Say Good
night And Give my Wife
the pen to finish the letter
My Dear Sister & Bruther
I was sory to hire that Miklenys [Wiklenys?]
both ar daed we have not hard
from Bossell for a long time
now i think this is all
this time from your loving
Sister & Bruther & Children
H A Billeps

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Letter 20:

Jan 1878

Yeagertown
Nr Lewistown Mifflin County
America Pa

My Dear Sister and Bruther
i thake plasher to rite to you
a fue lines to leat you no that whe
ar still in the land of the liven
and hops you ar the sime but I cannot
say we ar in la... [late?] for whe arnt
very weall at pracent time for i have
got a bad brest and the Docter sad
that it wold ether turn to a ----- [scratched out] or
acanser it is a lump as big as a
worlenut and sum times i caint
reast at night for it but i have a
deal to be thankful for Harry is so
good to me and dos all for me he can
and his [is] not in the best of halth

at this for i thot in the sumer that
i was gone to Come home but i Caint
leve now for i have to many Childrn
now i have sent my Card and
you must ask my Dear Bruther
John what he thinks about it
and sand send me what he
sad about it i Shud Just like to
be at the back of you when you
rede this you must give my love
to John sister and thall [']ar that
i ham so sorry that she [']as [']hd
such bad luck in marran but
it all for the beast She must
trust in the lord and She will
find halp she is yong yeat i
have roat a letter to home but
you will no all about it by
this you must give my love to old mrs outran & mrs fouler
& old Frances to and dont forget
to rite I must thall you that Harry
[']as seen Thom Hall of Dronfild and
he is marrid and douing well
& he wonted to no all abot home
i have gone to have the cancer
drain out of thair is non that
ow thir lips and is curd now
& thay dron all the ruts out
with a plaster but I shall
have to gat a girl to do the
work and whe have to pay
twnty 20 dollers down & 20 more when
curd so that is forty 40 in all
that is heat L8 pounds in your
mony but I think it will
cure it is on the left sid that
is the worst of it I got my Dear
Farther letter & was so glad to
hire from tham Harry was plese
to and thay sent a pass a
bout what it will coss but
they must not think of sande
all that mony for Harry
wold not like to have it Sad
that whe [']ad to be sent for
but he thinks is very cind
of you all & dont no how
to thank you for your
cind ofer but he sad that
I cud come & the Childrn &
live him hir but I cud not
do that but you must
cape hup [keep up] your part for whe
all shall meat again give
my love to my Dear Bruthers
to my Sisters & thir Childrn

to I must Clude with love
to all from you loving
Sister & Bruther A & H
Billups