

"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 21:

[April 20 scratched out]
1878

My Dear sister & Bruther and all
I rite thes lines to you hoping
thay will find you all weall
whe got your letter and the oill
skin and I wos of it for they is
not any hir I think my Brast is
giten better but I ham Expeting
a littel one as whell as you &
then I Shall have fore & all Small
to but you have one to halp you I
did hope that I shud not have
any more thill I was better I Carnt
halp it now I was sorry to hare
of porr sohn raford Death Cusen
will miss him how is aney & tommy
Dear sister you must thall Harry
& Frances that thay [']ad better come
hire from the pinick for I dont Ever
Expt to Come backagin for I Cudnot
stay ther now I like to see you all once
more but the lord nos beast now that is
for i promised My Deair
little pet Anna Bosswell [Dasswell?]
too Gold Dollers for Ears
rings And i have never been
Able to Get to See One till
last week A friend was Goin
to the Sitty And he brot them
for me And As Soon As you
Send me thire Adress i will
Send hor them these too
is for your Anna but Dont
let Anny B now not until She
Gets hors for i Dont want to
Ofend har this is the tobac[co]
Seed that frances wants ple[ase]
Give [our] love to hour friends
And dont forget to reciv
you Own from your
Ever Lovin Brother
& Syster & family
Ag & Hy Billups
rite Son plese rit Soone

I will thall
you how to grow the tobacker the
next time your loving Sister A
Billups kiss the Childrn for
hus

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Letter 22:

Yeagertown May 4 1878

Deair Syster And brother &
famaly All i hope this will
find you All well As it
Leves us All Ondly for Maggy
Now Dear Eammily you must
for Give us for not ritten Sooner
And i now you will win i have
told you the reson we have
been waitten to See how hor brest
God On for thire was A man
that i Got to now well he
Com to houre huse And told
us About A womman Docter
that proffesed that She
Cod Cure the Cancer without the
Nife but She was forty Miles
Away So Maggy went Down to
See hor And She Syd that She
had Cured And She thought
She Mite Cure that but She
Never had cured One of that
kind for it is a rose Cancer
And it Looks like the hart
of A rose wen it is in fool bloom
well She bot A bottle of Stuf
And is tryen it And i belive
if She Still persevars it will
Cure it but it will take A
Long time 4 or 5 or Meabe 6
Monts but the harde Lump in
Side is A little Softer And
the Outside has Stoped
Eatten So wen it Dos not Get no
worse it Must be Getten better
We Got A letter from home
to night So you can tell
them All How we Are
heair times is no better yet
if Anything wors
My brother has Gon About
Nine Hurnded Miles west
from us he is Gon to farming
his Dorter has Got Married
And if i had Got the
Money to Give me A start

i wood Go too for i have
been this Country long
Enuf So that i cood Get
1060 [or 10-60?] Aikers of land free
All it wood cost me is forteen
Dollers for the rittens but
i have not Got Enuff to
Just Give Me A start And
that is More then England
wood Do for A pore man
tom Smith And John Matthis
has com from rothramm
England to America to Lewistown
And thay Give England A
very pore name thay Say
how bat traid is of cors you
Dont no them but we i
Meen Maggy And My Self we
booth no them well tom
Smith Wife is Coming in About
five Week And if you
wood be So kind As to Sene
Me A Good Concertiner And let
Me no how much it Costes i
will Send you the money
And if you will Send it
this is the young Lades Adres
you had better rit to hor
tellhor wot you want to
Send And how [who?] you want
to Send it too And if She
Can Aney way bring it i no
She will Adress

Mrs Thomas Smith
Sandey Acre
Waggon Works
Park Gate
DerbyShire England

Dear Syster i want you
to Send Me Harry Bosswell
rite proper Adress And i
will rite Once more to them

[ends there. page missing?]

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Letter 23:
[1st page on letterhead of post office]

Post Office Philadelphia, Pa.
5/9/1878

Re. [?]
Enclosed please find registered letter,

No 1. marked at your office, May 7th
addressed to Mr Wm Hall, Chesterfield
Eng. which is returned on account
of containing coin, the transmission
of which to any country in the
Postal Union[?], is forbidden by the
regulation of the Treaty of Berne[?]
Very Respt Yours
[unreadable signature]

PM
Yeagertown, PA

Deair Syster And brother You will
think it Strang i now in not reciven
No letter from us but we rot One And
put 2 Gold Dollers in And this is
wot Com back to us Now weAre Goin
to try Another plan. We have Adressed
Your Letter to Dronfield
this will be thire 3 or 4 Days before the
Other it will be Sined by Mr Mark Pilkenton[?]
i Shall in Close the Other invelope for
you to See We Are All well Ondly Maggy
And She is Well Only for hor Brest
And i beleve it is Getten better but very
Slow i put All perticklers in the
Other Letter plese to rit back Soon
Give Your Best Love to All
And recive the Same your Selfs
from your Ever
Lovin Syster
& brother
AG & H Billups

[There is a Mark Pilkinton, age 45, widowed, born in
England, in Philadelphia in 1880. Rooming with a
Parkinson family.]

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Letter 24:

Yeagertown August 17 1878

My Dear Sister and Frands all
whe got your letter and we wos
Glad to hire from you a gane
whe was glad to har that you [']ad
got safe over your trubel I wish I was
over mine to but I hope I shall be
by you geat this my Brast gast wors
but I think is [']as got wors befor
it will get battr and [']ad the Docter
to see it and he sad that cud not
be cut out for it is lo on the Brast
but he thinks the stuf I ham

usen will Cure it after my
trubel is over I have to keep a
girl all the time and whe have
to pay 1 Dollar and 25[Cent mark] a week and
Cod not pay that at home and
I think you beter come hire
than hos [us] come thir to starve
to dath for whe coud beater
a ford to keep you hear then you
cud us thir whe have thirty turkys
and as many chikns and a pig and
cow to and if whe come home whe
shud have nothing but poverty
and that is the risen I dont want
to come but Harry woud come back if
I wold for he thinks if i shud not gat
bater you all will blame him but
it is my own folt whe dont come back
so my Dear Sister dont think hard
of Harry thinking he wold not let
me come for he wold like to come
back but wear happy hir and
shud be more so if you was all
hire whe got the things you sent
by Mrs Smith on the 12 of august
and wos trully thankfol for all
wish you could see the things
we have hir I have planty of nise
bad close and baby close to but
I was thankful for all you sent
whe was pleasd to hear of you coling
your baby after me I shud like to see
all of them you might sent thar
liknes of them I think my Dear Bruther
William might send [']is to but my Dear
Sister F and Bruther John [']as such a
large famlay that thay caint
a ford it I must thall you Jane
Billups is marrid but thayar
in indear and thay ar Farming on
shirs [shares?] So you see thay Can geat on hire
and if it had not have beane for
mr Brast whe might of strarte
on one thiss spring but whe cant
now I was so Sprised to hare of
Mrs Earll living with such a man
as he turnd out but that old
thing Harrys [Harnys?] I all ways thart she
wold do something grand you
whe got all you sent Just
as you pack them but Harry
will rite to you the next
time and thall you all
the things whe got
you must excuse all
blunds [blunders?] rite as sune

as you can to hus
from your haver
loving sister &
Bruther A&H
Bilups untill
Death

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Letter 25:

Yeagertown Febry 21 1879

My Dearst
Sister We
riceved your heaver wilken
letter and I ham ashamed
of my sealf for not riting
to uyou suner then this but
you must for guve me this
time I was in good hopes that
I shud have better nuse to tell
you I got a little boy on the
9 of Septmbr and whe coll him
Tom and when he was three
months he waid saven (7 1/2) pound
and I thort that he cood not
live he was so ill I ham very
sorry that you have lost
all of your mony and I
hope that you will gat
some of it if not all you
must thill Frances and
John I wold like to see thir
litness but I shall be glad
to get any of tham I shud
like to see Harry & Wiff[?]
I was sorry to hir of Maryann
Ritton death. I must thall you
that my brast is not better
yeat and whe have to keep
a girl all the time and pay
one Doller a week that is fore shiings
and [']ard work to gat them at
that I dont not no what
Marae [Maria?] mens to do [means to do?] Harry is
to blame fore it whair is
little Joy and all of them
I wold like to see them But I
will rite a letter to [']ar &
I try to shame [?] [']ar if i can
I wold like anny to come hire
if you think that she is a
good girl and she shall have
the gold dollors whe have got them
for [']ar but if she will not come
whe will send them for [']ar

in the next letter but dont
leat [']ar have that camp[?]
do thall [']ar what a Drall[?] on
[']ar frands it wold be if you
do not spike to [']ar seme to [']ar
to come and thall [']ar what
whe say for you no that [']ar
mother dont car for [']arand
shall have a home as long
as we have and she is good for
Harry did allwis say
that who did Harry mary
that my farther so cros about
it you dont you thall me
wair Vearen is for i think of him
to and you never say
wir he is an wot he is downen
I thor if aney wos hir and any [I thought if Annie was here and any-]
think apend me that she [thing happened to me that she]
cud see that thay got a [could see that thay got a-]
mong you but i trust in [mong you ...]
lord that I may be spard
to looke after tham myself
I must thall you that we
kild toe pigs and one was
18 stone and the was 12 stone & whe have
got toe more & the cow yeat and
whe rased fifty tirkys and
thay all died but fore thay
at the colery & thay wade fifteen toe
twenty ponds but I must say
that I have not wanted any
thing since I came hire & I
wold not come Back leave tha..
agine if you could onley come
hire & geat work all of you
whe shud be happy to gear the

[page missing
but I think it is with document #26, as
follows. Both letters are dated the same.]

but if the work geats good thay
might be a chance of some one coming
whe live all a lone on the
rode side and whe have a
hous about a quarter of a mile from so
you wold like to live hire I shud
not have Hnrays Childrn if I
was Wm for he [']as bene noe frand [he has been no friend]
to him and he [']as to work [']ard
for all he gats you must
give my love to my nue
sister and to my Bruther
wish them much apnes [happiness] for us
you must thall farther

to forget & forgive or he carnt
expet to be forgiven [']is own
sleaf [self] this is all with love
to all from your loving
Sister Agness Billups kis
the Childrn us & kis you when
we meat