

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

Derbyshire Record Office  
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Letter 26:

Yeagertown Feb 21 1879  
[same date as Letter 25]

My Deair Syster & brother  
& famaly We Got your  
very kind and Wealkom  
Letter And was very Glad  
to heair from you All  
but was very Sorrey to  
heair Such bad news of  
Meriar i pittty pooer harry  
With All My hart i Ondly  
Wish we was closer to you  
All i wood See that Anna  
had A home Emmily Deair  
Syster Dont let Anna And  
that thief Ever Get to Gether  
A Gain if you can help it  
Aney way At All i wish  
She wood com to Magy And  
Me if She wood And i new it  
We wood Send her pass with  
this letter  
Will you Ask hor for me  
if She will  
i was Glad to heair of your  
Anna Gettin Such A big Gairl  
i hope She is Just As Good  
A cardnlss [?] And then She will  
Get throw.

Deair Syster we have been Dactrin [doctoring?]  
with one Docter Ever Since August  
With My Wifes brest And i Dont  
See that it Gets Much better  
but the Doker thinks he might  
Cure it yet but it was long  
in commen And it will take  
A long time to cure it She is  
not Allowed to Do Aney thing  
And i have to be Cross with  
her Som times for She will  
Do this And that for the Gairl  
And She hadnt Aut to  
Do Aney thing  
traid is very bad heair  
And has been for A long

time but wair iwork we  
Cannot com plain for thire  
is plenty of work in our  
branch We have had A very  
Cold Winter heair nothing  
but frost And Snow  
plese to Give My respects  
to farther Mother Systers  
And brother And All in  
of [our?] friends now it is bed  
time i must quit with Love  
to All Good night  
Dont forget to ask  
Anna And let us now  
right Soon right  
Soon plese Do Do

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Letter 27:  
[1st half from Agness, 2nd from Harry]

Yeagertown  
My Dear Sister & Bruther  
you must For give me for  
not riting to you be for  
this but whe [']ad was  
wating to send you good  
nuse but I ham able to gat  
down stars a gane whe [']ad  
a women & a girl toe weeks the  
time that I have been very bad  
but thank the Lord I ham  
spard but I hoope and trust I  
Shall be Spard for the sake  
of my Childrn but I have a [']ard  
stugrll [struggle] some times Harry [']as to  
Stay hupe all night and then  
go to work and it Comes [']ard on  
him I have to have wine & beef teay  
and the very best of sarpor [supper?]  
and Harry gats me all that  
I wish for whe [']ar tring a nuther  
docter and I think he is helping  
and I hope that I shall be  
curd but if the worst comes to  
the worst dont blame Harry for  
god nose that he [']as done all  
that was in [']is pwore [power] for me  
and no man can do more then  
that I had a latter from  
Maria a bout aney but I did not  
wont to make a slave out  
of [']ar but so that she wold  
[']ave ben compny for me for I  
have no body hire at all  
but my Dear Husbnd & Childrn

I wold have rote more but I  
have a chail of pain in my  
haeadI carnt sit up any longer  
Harry will finch this from your  
loving sister Agness Billups  
give my beast love to all  
my Dear frands & my Dear  
farther & muher & sisters &  
Bruthers to.

June 3 1879

Deair Syster & brother  
And famly And friends  
All inow Sit down to  
rit to you but i Amm  
in So much truble now  
that i Don't now how to  
rit to you for My Wife  
is Worse A Gain now then  
She was wen She rot this  
pairt of the letter She  
is bed fast Again now  
but Deair Syster And  
brother i have Don All  
i Can And Got hor Every  
thing that was likley  
for hor And As God is  
My Juge i will Do All  
i can And Spair nothing  
And no body cood Do more  
than ihave Don for the  
Lord noes best wot i  
Shuld or Shall  
Do without hor for i  
Do not with these fore  
Deair little Chrildren  
but i hope And pray  
to the Good Lord She  
May be Spaired She  
Sends hor best love to harry  
And Wife And is well plesed  
With the liknes we Got So Am i  
We have Got Mrs Smith  
liven with usAnd She Atends  
to hor. We have A Gairl to  
Nirs the baby And help A  
little With the Work So  
you See it is not All  
Gold that Gliters in  
America plese to rit by  
return of post i will rit  
in A week from this Again  
And let you now how She is  
So Good night from your Lovin Sys  
& brother

H&AG

[in margin:]  
but Me riten Again Dont let it Stop you  
for it Mit Chere hor up.

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Letter 28:

Yeagertown July 28 179 [or was it July 2 8179?]

My Dear Syster & brother & famley  
All i Got your very very kind  
And Welkom letter Witch i belive  
Did Maggy more Good then A bottle  
of Medison Ever did but She had to  
cry wen She read it She is a Trifful  
better then wen i rot to you last  
but She has been very bad this last  
three week there was for One  
hole week that All but me thouth  
She cud not live [until?] night And  
Wen night com thay told Me She  
Wood be Gon before Morning  
She had inflamaishon in har bowles  
thay Swoolen up till she was twice  
the Sice She Aut to bee thay told  
Me not to leve the roome One Minit  
for She was Dien then She looked  
up At me And Sayd Harry im  
not Dien Do you think i Am  
i Syd No Maggy i Do not.  
then She syd then Wot Are you  
fretten for then.  
i Syd because you Are Suffren so  
And She Did Suffer And Does yet  
but not So much As She Did  
She has been bed fast for One hole  
Month i My Self have not had My  
things of for A month for We had  
to Sit up with hor but now i lay  
Down on the flore close to the  
bed So i Am reddy if She Wants  
Aney thing Mrs Smith Did the  
work Down Stairs And looks  
Aftter the Chrildren And i had  
to Get A nurse Woman Witch  
cost ten Shillings A week And  
As Soon As Maggy begain to Mend  
Mrs & Mr Smith left me to do  
the best i cud So the Woman We  
had Syd i cud look for som One  
Els for She wood leve too i Did  
look And try but cud not Get Aney  
Aney One no waire then with  
A Graid Deel of cakon [?] she

is Stopin A little wile till i can  
Get One Som waire  
Now Deair Syster you told me  
not to keep Aney thing from you  
Now wen Maggy red the word com  
back home to Dear Old England She  
had to cry And wen i Syd Wot  
Are you cryin for She told Me  
She wood like to come home to hor friends  
And to pasiefy hor i Syd we will  
Go Just As Soon As i Get the Meens  
And So i wood if we had Money Enuf  
to come i wood Jus As Soon As She  
Was Able but We have not Got it  
i have rued not taken that Other  
offer Not that i Dont Earn No Money  
but it Costs So Much for Medison  
Now last Month i payed 10 Dollers  
to thei Wooman for nursen hor i had  
.ent to pay 7 Dollers & 50 cents  
three Dollers And 75 Cents for Docters per  
Scershuns [prescriptions] five Dollers for One Bottle  
of Cancer Medison 2 Dollers for  
Cancer Salt 2 Dollers for Wine for  
her to Drink And then the Other  
nesites for i Get hor Every thing  
She Wants And Every thing the Doctor  
Orders hor then i have A Gairs  
to nurs the baby 25 cents A week  
And hor bord that Makes 8 in fam\_  
-aly to keep And wen i work A foal  
Moith i Eirn from thirty five to forty  
A month but look At the time i have  
had to keep A hired woman Over too  
yeairs Now Dear Syster & brother  
you See how we Are fixt in Money  
Matters We wood com home but We have  
not Got the Money plese to rit back  
by return post it Does Maggy so  
much Good tell farther we Got his Letter  
And will Ancer it in three Days from  
this So no more from your Ever lovin Syster  
& brother And family Ag & H Billups kiss  
the children for us

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Letter 29:

Yeagertown  
August 1879

Deair farther and Mother  
brothers And Systers i now take  
pen in hand hopen these few  
Lines will find you All quit  
well As it leves All hear Only

for My Deair Wife And i Am  
very Sorre And Greved to think  
that i cannot tell you no Good  
News but if Aney thing bead for  
She is no better nor no Stronger  
but if Aney thing Weaker for  
She has not had All hor things  
On for Six Weeks i have to healp  
in And Out of bed She is too  
Week to Manage it by horSelf  
but the Docter Attends hor is One  
of the best that can be had About  
heair he com Somtimes Every Day  
And Somtimes Every Other Day  
he Says it is Neur ralsy And  
infulmish in the bowles he Did  
Soon Stop the inflamashion but  
the Neuralsey Dont Seem to Get  
Much better hor Cancer pains hor  
very much Sumtimes More than  
Others She has three little lumps  
formen in hor head the Sise of  
A Marriel And Another lump just  
below hor Chest So you See Wot  
with One thing And the Other  
poor Wooman She Dos Suffer  
Most unbairable Sum nitts i Dont  
Get no Sleep At All She rests  
very bad And i Am Sure i Get  
hor Aney thing And Every thing  
She Wonts we have Ondly too  
houses that is Aney Ways Clos to  
us One Naber is very Good She  
brings hor Many A tasty bit Down  
And told us that Aney thing we  
want if thay have it She Shall  
have it if we Ondly let them  
no Maggy Sends hor best  
And [kindest?] love to you All  
And i My Self Loin[?] with hor  
i have had it pritty ruf of lately  
for We cut not Get no Gairl nor  
Wooman for love nor money i had  
to Stop At home And Do the  
work My Self for Mrs Smith  
has Got A very poor Exquise of  
A hsban he wants So very Much  
Waitten On that Mrs Smith cud  
not Do hour work And thire Own  
As welel So thay have Gon in  
A house of thire Own About  
One half Mile from us She is  
taken cairof hour baby for  
us And that is A Good help  
for us Just now Says that if  
She was Ondly At home She

Wood not care but it is no use  
Cairen As it is Give hour  
best love to Emily And Harry  
And frances And Verin [Vernon] And  
to little Anna Bosswell if you  
Ever See hor And in fact to  
All of hour family And All  
inquiren friends Espeshily to  
Mrs Nickelson and Mrs  
Nicklesons Son And Wife  
tell vernon i will Send him  
A pictter  
So no more At present  
from you loven Dauter And  
son And family  
Hy And Ag  
Billups  
Yeagertown  
Mifflin County  
Penna

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Letter 30:

Yeagertown Dec 15 1879

Emly

Deair Syster^& brother & famley  
i recived your kind letter  
this last week And i So hope  
you have recived One As well  
Maggy is About the same As  
She was wen i rot last time  
the Docter Still is attenden hor  
All the Chrildren is well  
we killed hour hogs this  
last week three the Biggest  
One waied A little Over 18 Ston  
the Other two One .. the  
Other 13 Ston i have Sold my  
Cow for 25 Dollers we have  
been on a strik in the  
Shop ware i work we have  
Got no work again ... now  
So i Sold the cow to live On  
.... we seas Out of work  
i wood like to com home  
Next June if i Can Save A  
nuf to pay hour faire by  
then And Maggy is well En...  
but She has to Mind A Grat  
Deel if She Get Strong Enuf  
to Com She Sends hor very  
bestlove to you And to  
Wm And to All the family  
to mother and Farther  
And frances And All of

hour famly And to All  
inquirin frends i Shall  
Send you a paper the petro [?]  
Nues wen i Send this letter  
So now it is ed time So i must  
conclud with hour best love  
to All from your lovin  
Syster & brother & family  
Ag & Hy Billups  
Cood you Give Anna Bosswell 2 Gold  
Dollars if i Send you them in the  
Next letter let me no Give Our love to her [?]  
Good Night all