

The Filson Historical Society

6 items

Mss.
A Lillard Family Papers, 1801-1925.
L729
12 Correspondence, 1854.

68x18

Sibley Mo Jan 29th 1854

Dear Father

Yours of January 8 come to hand yesterday, and I was truly glad to hear that you were well. Now to your first proposition, if you possibly can get any money from Silvertooth do so, for I stand in need of money The bad ass kind. John Gilpen paid ^{me} two years ago next month, and Smith who lived near the place hauled off all of my corn and five hundred rails off, of the field fence, which I had to loose, however I brought suit, but dont know how it has terminated as yet. My land is as rich as any in the state of Mo, and am confident that I could double my money on it before next Saturday night I have put upon my land two hughed log houses, which I expect to finish the coming month, at any rate I am compelled to move the first of March I have enough fire wood on my land that runs up to the door, to last for years, and there is a branch that runs through it about the size of salt river rail timber is four miles & half to haul.

I raised a fine crop of hemp last year
expect about four ton, which will
command one hundred and six
dollars per ton, that is what is now
offord, but expect to get considerably
over that. I have about three hundred
barrels of corn to sell which will
bring one dollar a barrel. I lost two
work m³ mules last spring which has never
been found. I have almost lost the
use of my left shoulder. This was in
consequence of a strain in lifting my
house logs - when it will get well
I am unable to say. Dont intend to
hire any this year - did expect
as you had so many boys that you
would send me one or two, according
to promise - a boy would assist me
very much at this time in improving
my place, ~~and~~ as it is every lick is mine.
Our little family are all well.
Mr and Mrs Hamilton are both sick
but not dangerous. I havent had any chills
since I took Penneys pills. eta sends
her love to you and the families. Mr Hamilton
expects to go to Ky in the spring, so if you have
any thing to send me, you can do it by him.
Please write.

Gen C Lillava

Your son

John H Lillava

Sibley ms

Jan 31

(5)

Gen C Fillion Esq

Lawrenceburg

Kentucky

The Fish Historical Society

24 April 1854

Frankfurt Apr 24. 1854

Friend of

Dear Sir;

Said you were here I
have received letters from my
cousins who are unwilling to
accept your offer to compound.

They are reluctant to accept
3/4 of the amount of cost.

They say you are young
and have integrity and honesty
will be able ultimately to pay
all. If their terms are accepted
it must be said it will
let me hear from you

Yours Respectfully

J. D. Wright

1843

Dec 7th

Mrs. Hickson \$60.57
 Benjamin & Co 40.46
 Pitt Henry 30.90
 J. W. Thompson 31.06

232
 157
 752
 15
 157

061
 -52
 11

0624
 -586
 941
 -5981

16292
 -524
 0011
 -52
 01
 0012
 -597
 -522

140
 90
 230
 165
 395

140
 30
 86

-54
 255
 282

-54
 -562
 082
 54
 26
 -511

Leonard E. J.
 J. W. Thompson
 J. W. Thompson

The First Historical Society

Sibley Mo June 5th 1854

Dear Father

I have been looking for some time for a letter from you - but it seems, that you have entirely forgotten that you have a son in this part of the country. This makes the third letter that I have written to you, and no answer. I moved to my new home the first of last March - but have little improvement as yet, - however I have three comfortable rooms, and a garden. My crop this year is about

Two miles from home, have forty acres in corn and ten acres in hemp said crops look very promising.

I should have improved at home this spring, (one field at least) but was so busy a building and at the same time had a portion of my hemp crop on hand which prevented it, - would have got it out sooner, but we had no rain last winter of any consequence to water hemp.

I intend this fall and winter to fence about sixty acres, and then I will sorter half way begin ^{at home} to live

68x18

We had a fine son born the 8th
of last month - but unfortunately
he departed this life at the
age of ten days old, after an
illness of one day only. Aita is
mending stoly, can set up a little
Mrs Hamilton have been very
sick for the last month (and it
was thought she would die) but
is at this time walking about
the house. Tell Dr Perry that
I havent had any Chills since I took
his pills last July and would like
to have more. I G Sanders, has been
very sick but is now convalescent
So Willis will be daddy in a few
days. I have no body to help me
to work, but if I had could farm
to a better advantage. I have neither
rent nor hie to pay this year - have
a place on the shears, one half for the other
and a Negro man to help me.
Last year I payed one hundred and
eighty dollars rent and hie
and come out smooth and even
in addition to paying one hundred
and fifty dollars for my
building, ^{beside my own work} and have a few dollars
left, to pay the Granveys fee

And all of this work was done by
myself and a twelve year old
boy, and now judge wheather
I worked or not — and at the same ^{time}
lies have been ^{written} from hear to you
(and that by your relations) I won't
say what I intended — and in addition
to this, one of your good neighbors
reported that I played Caid's on
the banks of old Kentucky —
which was an infernal lie concocted
so far as I know for some unknown ^{cause}
however your bosom companion
is said to be the author of it, in
order to influence you against
to help me in my present needy
condition. Some Cholera reported in
the country. Children well.
Aita and myself send our respects
to you and all the families.

Please write and give me all
the news
Genl Sillars } Your Son
John H Sillars

Gen B Tillard
Lawrenceburg
Ky

The Filson Historical Society

14 Sept 1854

Pease Hill Sept 14th 1854

Mr & Mrs Lillard

Dear friends,

Although scarce more than a week has passed since I left your pleasant family I begin to feel as if that week had been composed of days each a week long. Affection you know has a calendar of her own by which she reckons time to correspond to her own feelings. Swiftly (oh how swiftly) fly the moments when basking in the sunlight of love and friendship; then when these cheering beams are withdrawn how heavily and tediously passes the minutes.

Pausing first to inquire after the health of your own family I feel anxious to know how Mr Taylor is better or not. I heard yesterday that his life was despaired of, but I resolved not to believe it until I heard more directly. His friends here express great anxiety in regard to his recovery. I sincerely hope that the reports I have heard are false and that he will yet recover.

Shall I tell you how I got to Frankfurt? Well as I ^{to} stepped on the stage at your door I discovered in my ~~four~~ fellow travellers five specimens of the masculine gender. One directly in front of me was a black eye, ~~black nose~~, ^{mischievous-looking} fellow, following a boy of fifteen or sixteen; the one beside him

81x82

was a man I should think about 40 years of age. Judging
from his appearance he was in the last stage of consumption. He
spoke not a word during our whole journey save to note the distance
from one point to another and seemed to have but one thought: how
he might most quickly reach his "home." (Oh home what magic in the
name!) Ah thought of some faithful and loving heart is throbbing with
painful anxiety and fearful forebodings for thy return, and thine perhaps
art dwelling with a melancholy pleasure on the sad greeting which
thou wilt receive. But each heart knoweth its own bitterness and
each hath ^{soared} ~~reared~~ joy and sorrow with which a stranger would not
part. So I ceased to gaze on ^{the} ghastly form before me and to imagine
his peculiar situation. My own position very naturally suggested
itself for my contemplation and I thought — no I will not tell
you ~~what~~ I thought, but I have a faint recollection at the close of
these cogitations of letting fall a tear or two, but I distinctly affected
three or four drops and I am quite certain no one but myself was
conscious of this very man unwomanly exhibition but myself. By this
time the stage had stopped, and that fine looking piece of humanity
known in and around Lawrenceburg as "Jack Suffer" presented himself
at the door and with a bow asked if I would be handed out.
Here we remained for half an hour or more, during which time
I enjoyed the indescribable pleasure of a short conversation with
Mr. Suffer. When I again took my seat I found myself beside
one of the most detestable, impudent-looking pieces of architecture that
some nature ever constructed. We all sat for an hour apparently
absorbed in our own reflections, when the silence was broken by
the ugly monster by my side asking if I were going to Louisville I
replied no and again relapsed into the previous quietness. At
length we were conscious of the fact that we had reached Gordons.

village by the stage having stopped. Here the gentlemen to whom
I had conceived such an antipathy, spotted me out, inquired what
baggage I had, and attended to having it all safely and correctly
arranged. I felt somewhat ashamed of myself for having regarded
them with so much aversion. — But to return to Hardensville, have
you ever been there? if you have you can enter into my feelings during the
two long hours I breathe, simply breathed there, if not, I pray
heaven your pathway through life may never lead you to it. Oh that
such wrong and oppressions should exist even in a land pro-
verbial for its liberty!!! But things that are to come will come
"in the course of time" and the Louisville stage at length made its
appearance. There were several passengers from the city and two
wheels were necessary. Here we met that black-eyed boy and in
his place received a very thin, consequential looking passenger, who
talked incessantly of Fillmore, Polk, and Cuba. Having endured
this imposition for two hours we arrived at the "Shield House"
where I met George. And thence ^{we} the "wonder means" by which
I reached Frankfort. We remained there until Tuesday then took
the cars to Lexington intending to attend the fair, but it being
rather late and meltingly warm and incredibly dusty we de-
clined honoring the "affair" ^{with} ~~by~~ our presence, and took the stage
and reached "Cincinnati" about five o'clock AM.

Has Dr Chambers left? If he is true tell him Miss Parke
made many enquiries respecting ^{him}, expressing the greatest desire to see him
imaginable, from her account he must have gotten himself quite a
name in "Warsaw" Give my love to Mrs Jennings, Mr Phil, Miss
Lizzie, "in short" to all enquiring friends "irrespective ^{of} age, sex, or beauty,
Kiss Helen a thousand and times, and "Bob" kiss him a thousand times
every day for the next ten years for me. Has "Will" (Dr Lillard & Son)

gone to Louisville? if not Mr Lillard will you present my most refined com-
pliments attended by the happiest bow and most fascinating smile
of which you have the command? I would have asked you Mr Lillard
but I was afraid the gentlemen would come rather late for tea, and then
you know you would "in duty bound" be compelled to serve up a lecture
for the special benefit of your "better half" I am not jesting at all, "poor
my honor"; these husbands deserve all the "tongue lashing" which they receive.

Don't be alarmed good friends I don't intend "inflicting" another
page of "nothing" on your patience, I hope you will favor me with a
reply very soon. Remember I am anxious to hear from Don Taylor,
In the hope of hearing from you very soon

I remain your affect friend
my
Bates

P.S. After taking out my books I discovered I had left my slate, will you please
send it by the very first opportunity, as I shall need it. ^{my} J.B. Bowden

N.B. If you can't re describe this scribble please return it - and I'll take
pleasure in copying it off, that is if by that time I can read it myself,
which I consider very doubtful. Lullie

Sibley Mo September 24th 1854

Dear Father

I received a letter from you about a month since and havet had time until now to answer it. No news of interest to write. We havent had any rain here to do any good, since the middle of last june, consequently our corn crops are cut verry short, will not make a half a crop, I think that I will make enough to do me. I have done but little towards improving my new place, owing to so much warm dry weather - could not get rails made in the bottom. The flies were so bad, and even if I had could not have hauled them. At present we have fine cool weather just right for working. My hemp crop this season is verry good. Times are dull and money scarce. Great many persons are going up to this new purchase some return verry much dissatisfied while ^{others} say it is a verry fine country however. There will be a verry large emigration to that territory the coming spring, mostly poor persons.

81x87

Old Sullivan arrived a few days since,
it is supposed for the Widow but
she hapened not to be exactly ready
so he has gone down to Glasgow to
wait for her orders. There will be two
Weddings in Town this coming
week and among them Miss Mary Harrit
to Mr Shiles the man that was
at your house some time since.

When you answer this letter please
give me all the news of every
description. Tell Mr Sillars to write
to me I would be glad ^{to} hear from
him at any time, also any of my
sisters or brothers in law. I would
like to know what Phil is doing.
Our little children are as pretty
and smart as ever, however they
have the Chills almost every day
and fatten out it. Arta is now
sick and have been for several days
but at the same time, she is
able to eat her rations. Health
of the country generally good.

Gen B Sillars } You Don
John W Sillars

Wilmington
Sept 28 1854

Genl Willard
Lawrenceburg

My

(1)

The Fish Historical Society

Sibley Mo November 6th 1854

Dear Father

I wrote to you about a month since - but it seems as if you don't intend to answer any of my letters at all. I have concluded to write this morning to remind you of your ancient promise, which was that as soon as I purchased a farm that you would send me a negro boy to help me, now about this time I stand in need of some help and if you can spare me a boy let me know immediately. I have done but little as yet towards fencing my place, owing to no help - no money, and if I had money couldn't get hands at any price. My rails - fire wood & I have to haul five miles and a half now if you can possibly ~~can~~ do any thing for me let me know forth with. If I get no help from you I will be compelled to rent another year, from the fact that I can't go from and too home some five or six miles & make ten thousand rails haul and ~~put~~ put them up this winter

And in addition to this I have my
prairie to break, which requires from
five to six yoke of cattle - a heavy
expense this, and no money, no
help and no prospect of any, unless
it comes through you. Now old
hose try and see if you cant open
your heart a little just a little
and help your prodigal son. I work
harder than any negro on your
farm its that or starve. For instance
look at C. M., when he got broke
up you took him in, and give
him a home and hands to help
him - while I am here in no
renting about from place to
place every year, like some other
poor devils - and a rich daddy
at home living in all the pomp
and splendor imaginable, and
not only that but provides for his
home children, while I poor east
off, must rot little pig or starve,
well I recon it will all come
right at the last day. This year
I cultivated forty acres in corn and
ten acres or more in hemp, and
finished gathering my crop

of corn some three weeks since
and have some twenty barrels upon
a tight squeeze, and I am not
a lone in this awful condition.
My hemp crop is justate. ^{it} ~~is~~ is
number one, just finished
spreading last week. Last spring
I went into partnership with
a widow lady, she furnished the
ground, half the team seed &
including a negro man, consequently
have neither rent nor hire to
pay this year - if we had of had
such a season as we had last year
I would have made money -
as it is expect to starve next year
No sickness of any consequence in
the country. Friends all well.
You will please answer this on
its reception, ^{at} ~~and~~ any reply I shall
look for an answer. Your son
Gen C Lillard } John H Lillard

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General F. L. Law
Lawrenceburg
Kentucky

W. H. Payne

March 5

1854



The Filson Historical Society