

# Kansas Memory



## Hiram Hill family correspondence and diary

### Section 10, Pages 271 - 300

Hiram Hill, of Williamsburg, Hampshire County, Massachusetts, was never a resident of Kansas. However, his involvement with the state, primarily as a land investor, was extensive. The letters and diary presented here are included as box three of the Hiram Hill papers. While the family correspondence does not relate specifically to Kansas, Hill's 1857 diary recounts the events and served as the account book for one of his numerous trips to Kansas. For more information on Hill's additional correspondence and business papers, click the link to the Hiram Hill collection description below.

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known to the united States  
since 1864, on new years.  
the cold weather in minnesota  
is tremendous 100 or 150.  
hamsters were frozen to death  
please tell Arthur that  
I would like to have him  
write to me and I will  
answer his letter, most  
every body is having what  
they call the epizootic that is  
what the horses had here it  
went hard with them I suppose  
it has been as bad there as  
here Uncle assil has been  
here but did not bring his  
new wife with him he went  
back in a day or two and  
he told us when he started  
home he would stop and  
see us we have not seen  
him nor heard from him

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Charles H. Hill  
Pender Lake  
1878

father felt bad to think  
that he did not respect  
us any more than that.

Dear Uncle please send  
us yours and Auntie's pictures  
they will be highly appreciated  
by us now do. I would like  
to come down there in the  
Spring if Cousin Frank  
will come. Fond du Lac  
is getting to be a very  
bad place and night  
last week there was  
A young man who had  
been to see his gall and  
was going home and as  
he was crossing the railroad  
track he heard a report  
of a revolver and fell

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[To: Hiram Hill ?]

Brookline  
June 7<sup>th</sup> 1879

Dear Father & Mother.

You very welcome letter arrived in due time, and was eagerly devoured, your letters are always precious to me. I was much pleased to hear from my little friends, and have sent them a letter in this. May I trouble you to give them to them, one for Bessie Warner and one for Generia Hill. I suppose every thing is just the same with you as ever. Not many changes this way. Silas has been home two weeks. he never was so well

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or weighed so much in his life.  
he is as much absorbed in  
business as ever, but always  
is bright and pleasant when  
he gets home. We take very  
nice rides together every  
pleasant evening after tea,  
and I some times drive  
him into the city mornings.  
our house proves to be very  
satisfactory. Silas now goes  
to the factory every Monday  
and Thursday, all day,  
leaving here at seven o'clock  
in the morning. I sometimes  
drive him half way  
over where he meets his  
train. All are well at East  
Newport. I see but little  
of Mary Canfield today. She is  
much taken up with her  
large family. I hear she expects

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Emmie, her husband & baby to visit her this summer.

My sister Jessie lives in New York City. Why did you think it was Newton. I think I am very careless about my writing. I mean to reform. Hall is well now. Fall I am going West with Silas. I think I may stay about ten days in Minneapolis while Silas is around at other cities. I have commenced to anticipate my trip already. I am real bore this summer and quite stout for me.

Father Dige says I look one hundred percent better than I did when I came down here to live. So I may turn out a big woman yet. Silas weighs almost twenty pounds

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more than he did when he was married. He now weighs 156 pounds!

Every thing is looking finely this way. Our little place looks very pretty.

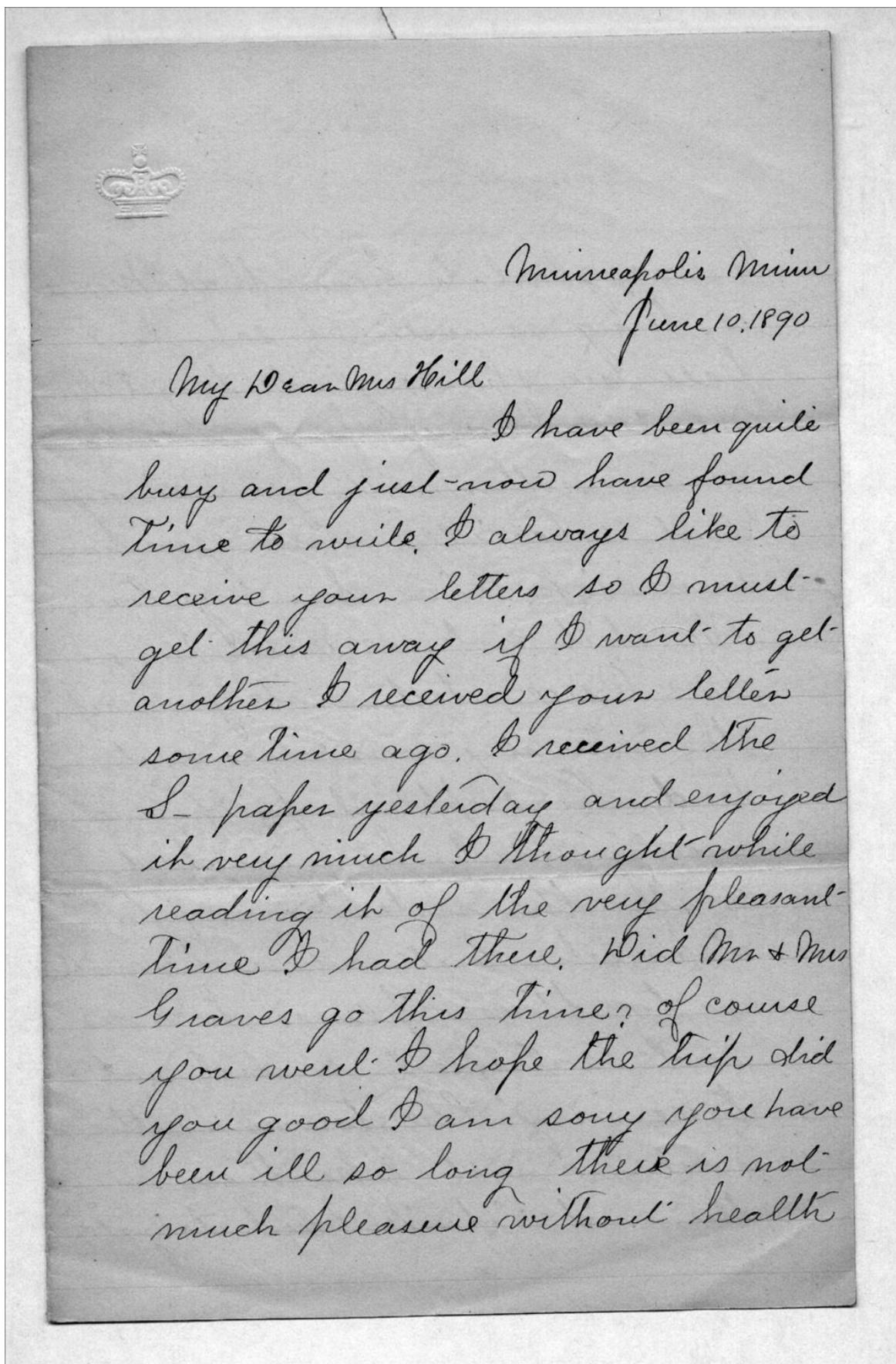
I take much pleasure in it. I like my servant girl. She is a great stout woman who don't make any thing of doing all my work. And my house keeping cares are comparatively light. My kind regards to Uncle Ollis & family. And with much love for you also I am the same loving Kitty.

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I was glad to hear that Myra is doing so well at school I presume she is glad to get there. What a blessing for you to have your mother with you always and especially since you have been sick. Give her my love.

We did not see Fred Thayer. Mr Price did not give up the ministry nor does not intend he supplied pulpits all winter and he preached with the intention of taking a parish but when he would go to those places he was not satisfied so did not take any. The towns in the west are not like those in the east - it is hard to get -

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a desirable place to live in unless it is in the city or some very large town. He has taken S.S. work this summer is going to try it for three months and if he likes it he will continue in the work so we remain here for the summer. He will have no parish and it will be easier for me altho I do not want to be idle I want to do something for the Master and I intend to if he likes it and we are settled near his work I mean to help him and I think I will enjoy it of course time will tell if he is not suited he will take a parish for there are fields enough in the west - but to give up the work he never thought of it for a moment. He denied himself to

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I wish we had ours. We will some time  
Beet is quite a big boy he takes lessons  
on the violin and likes it.  
I will be alone a greater part of the  
time this summer  
answer soon love to all Mary Price  
studying for the ministry and  
he would not do so if he intend  
ed to give up the work.  
I think that the Shayers  
thought we knew that Mr  
Wheeler was going to leave his  
wife. We always liked the Wheelers  
as neighbors and the Mr was  
friendly but he knew better  
than to tell that secret to  
Mrs Price for he would not  
get any sympathy. We always  
thought they were happy for  
they appeared so. I feel very  
sorry for Mrs Wheeler. When the  
Mr visited us in Mayzala he  
never mentioned her name to me  
nor to him. He is in M-  
somewhere, I will send the  
children's pictures in a few days

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Macalester Park Dec. 28/93  
Dear Dr. Lang.  
Your very kind  
remembrance came to me  
Christmas Day, and I cannot  
tell you how delighted I am  
to get it, or how much pleasure  
it has already taken in  
looking it over. Last eve  
I had a supper party here  
and two of the gentlemen  
spent considerable time looking  
at it. Of course almost every  
one turned off Northampton  
on account of Smith College etc,  
and so feel somewhat interested  
in the place. I thank you  
most heartily for it. And it  
shall be a constant reminder  
of my friend. Just now it  
is a constant reminder of a

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piece of work that I commenced for you ~~six weeks~~  
ago. but company, and a rupture shoulder have  
prevented me from finishing it. but I hope to be  
able to send it very soon and I hope you will accept  
it at that late hour even with the good intentions  
of your friend. I have had such a busy winter so far  
and I expect to go through life always feeling that I  
don't have quite time enough to accomplish all that  
I want to. Isnt that feeling unusual?

I was so glad Father wrote to H. - for I think  
it did him a great deal of good. I wrote and asked  
him a great many questions about different people.  
but I can not hear directly from him. but Annie  
answered some of them for him. and one was that  
your health is better. I was so glad to hear it and  
hope you have continued to improve. For all our  
will and I feel that you have very much to be thankful  
for. I have had <sup>bad</sup> ~~bad~~ pain in  
my shoulder but it is very much better now. in  
fact almost well. I do not know what caused it  
possibly an attack of pneumatism. if it was I do not  
want any more. Miss Annie very very much and  
wish many times every week she was here. I expect  
you know of her engagement to Mr. Luskwood a gent-  
leman she met here. He comes in very often. Altho'  
his time is very much occupied with his studies  
He has one more year in the medical college and  
he now expects to spend that at Harvard. Of course  
Annie is looking forward to that with anticipation  
but I should not be very much surprised if some influence  
should bring him to complete his studies  
at the University here. for the course is very thorough  
and the institution ranks high. I expect she will  
will run to Emporia, Kansas. next summer

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as Dr. Kirkwood is Prof. of Mental Science & Logic in Emporia College. The same chair he occupied here at Macalester. Strange rumors have reached me from W<sup>ash</sup> about Hattie & Edith. Can they be true? it seems so terrible! How is Edith Thayer, and do they think she can never walk again? I think so often of all the people there and find that I still feel a very great interest in them all. How often I wonder when Myra is at school etc., etc.

I do hope we shall have the pleasure of seeing you and the others some time in our home. I know we are a long way apart but I do believe the journey, change of climate, and all, would do you a great deal of good and I do sincerely hope you will come and meet July the 6<sup>th</sup>. The convention of the U. S. meets at Minneapolis and I hope that will bring some from the east whom I shall be glad to see - Give my love to your mother.

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[To: Mrs Henry Hill, Williamsburg, Mass.]

Macalester Park  
St. Paul July 17, 1891

My dear Mary;

I am sorry to have

Tuesday P.M. I have been -  
trying to find time to write -  
to you & tell you how glad I  
am <sup>that</sup> you asked Rev. Mr. Snyder.  
We all here for I did say  
his call very much. I do not  
only found him very pleasant  
and agreeable, but he was also  
so pleasant to hear the Missionary  
news. I thought after he went  
that he would think me very  
inquisitive for he can hardly  
realize how interested I feel  
in every one even if it has  
been some time since we left  
there. I was particularly

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interested in hearing about  
the religious interest there has  
been in it <sup>3</sup> I feel rejoiced  
to hear of S. James' conversion  
I do hope it may be the means  
of interesting H. S. I did not  
know until Mrs. S - told me  
that H. S. J - had a shock  
that had left him enfeebled.  
When I was in H - four years  
ago. He had a slight attack of  
something of the kind. I do wonder  
how a person could bear the thought  
of death which must seem  
inevitable. I feel that they were  
not saved. Of course I do not  
know but that Mrs. J - is a  
Christian. I only know that he  
has never made a profession of  
it. I felt sad to hear that Edith  
was no better <sup>3</sup> of that the prob-  
ability was that she never will  
be. Frankly upon Sam's arrival

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she went to W - & I had heard nothing of all this. I wish Mr. Snyder could have taken dinner with us. But he thought it would interfere with his later trip.  
Why didn't you <sup>3d</sup> Henry come out to the C. E. Convocation? I thought often of wondering if you would feel able to take such a journey. I do hope you will come some time, altho' we live in the suburbs. It is an easy matter to go any other way in how the electric road so near us. one block away when we went to the C. E. meetings we took this line into St. Paul <sup>3d</sup> then got a transfer to the Minneapolis line <sup>3d</sup> went to the exposition bldg (where the meetings were held) for two days and only had two blocks to walk in all the distance.

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Two weeks ago we had a visit from my cousins, Mr. & Mrs. S. D. Potter from Enfield, Mass. We enjoyed it very much. They had been out to Omaha to see their son. I think we have been quite fortunate in having seen so many of our eastern friends. I presume that Fannie told you that Ruth expects to come out next month or in Sept. in her last letter. She said she sometimes thought it might be better for her to defer her visit for one year. I do hope she will not, for I have made plans for her coming now.

Mr. Hume's father is very feeble & they feel afraid that he can die but a short time so Arthur feels that he may be sent for at any time. He has not been at all well for some

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time. The Dr. pronounced the trouble a kidney affection & said he would have to be very careful. He came home today at noon feeling very ill. But an important church business meeting has taken him out to night I protested, but he felt anxious to be present as the question involves the calling of a pastor. He is somewhat in debt so has depended upon supply from Sunday to Sunday of the College Prof's. or some of the ministers who have come to him for health. He has had the very best of preaching & an epistle unfitted for such a pastor as we can afford to pay for. Then an several ministers living less than three weeks ago. These were five ministers in the congregation. Beside

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college professors. When they talk about getting a young man right from the Sem. I wonder if he could stand the experience. My nearest neighbors are very pleasant people & he is a minister who has come here for his health from Kansas and to educate his sons. He will have three sons enter Coll. this Sept. The house was built by <sup>3d</sup> for one of the Prof's. in the college who has since died and it has been vacant for a long time <sup>3d</sup> I am so glad to hear it occupied once more.

A few weeks ago I read the gazette you sent me for which I want to thank you. I always look first for the news <sup>3d</sup> items & often find names that I am not familiar with. Yesterday was my birthday. I do not believe

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that I am forty four years old, but shall have to when I am. I was born July 16. 1847. This is your sixth month too. I wonder if you are one, two, or three. Years younger. I am sure I don't know, but almost know that you are forty too. Am I not just pushing through life? and I do feel as if my life amounts to so little in the way of being helpful to others either by deed or example.

That reminds me of the comforting little poem by Mrs. Hinck Johnson "A voice in the twilight" have you read it? What busy lives we house-keepers have. Every week I think will never week I shall surely have more leisure but each such seems to bring its work and just now it is making idlies, canning etc., etc.

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I have a woman come in to do <sup>'15</sup> washing, most of the ironing, <sup>2d)</sup> all of the rough work. and then I do all the rest myself. and feel very thankful that I am able to. if I almost know that such help as some have would distract me distracted. Mr. Hare had a great deal of rain this summer & everything in the way of vegetation is looking finely.

George is the happy possessor of a new pony. He earned the money for it, and has full care of it, rides it whenever he pleases. It has not been broken to harness yet, as it is only two and one half years old. but he has a nice saddle. I also am much interested in flooded poultry <sup>S.S.</sup> Leeks, & sandwicks <sup>3d</sup> Brown Leghorns sells eggs for \$1.50 a sitting and has Laid \$3.00 for one sitting out of which nine hatched. He enjoys the care

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of them, <sup>ed</sup> never neglects them  
but gives them the first & best  
attention in all the little details  
He has sixty young chicks <sup>ed</sup>  
about twenty old ones. I believe  
he has sold some so I can hardly  
keep track of them.

Walt. carries less for pets  
but has a bicycle that he  
enjoys. <sup>ed</sup> that does not need  
any especial care. He has  
taken Latin out of school  
this last winter <sup>ed</sup> now is  
ready to enter the second  
year at the College. He  
passed a splendid examination  
for the High School in June.

He will go fourteen next  
month. They are both taller  
than I am. G - fully a head  
I do hope you are feeling much  
better. My love to your mother.  
Henry <sup>ed</sup> Neira. also much for  
yourself for your friend  
Mrs. George A. E. S. S. Hunt

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Nottingham Oct 9/91  
"Mr. Hill."

"Dear Sir."

When Abbie

went away from here, she  
owed us \$1000 for board.  
And said she would write  
to you in regard to it.  
instructing you to pay us  
the money. As we have not  
heard a word since, I write  
you for information.

It would be a  
great accomodation to us  
to get the money. Please ans

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and oblige

Respectfully Yours  
James W. Hillman  
No. 16 Walnut St.  
Nassaupton

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Lawrence Aug 26. 1893

Dear Friend

I think you will be interested to hear from us how we have gotten over the anxiety and care we passed through and to know that Emma and I have spent our first day so lone and lonely, as we shall henceforth be. Father, Ruth and her daughter Ruth, a most lovely child nearly seven years old, came to attend Annie's wedding Ruth only remaining ten days at the left an inexperienced girl at home, but who did so well, we are sure she might have claid longer. Father came two weeks before Sul went away yesterday much to our regret. Sul is from

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sed next time he came. To spend  
the winter with us. He is in  
Worcester, and Saturday he starts  
for Baltimore. I may join him  
to go there too, but cannot tell  
as it all depends upon whether  
Emma goes to Chicago with  
friends the first of Sept - or if  
she goes to the provinces with  
a friend. She will decide in  
a day or so now. We had  
such a good visit with father,  
mentally he's well as ever, but  
physically he cannot stand  
any great exertion, like walking  
etc. I can see he fails in that  
way very much. When I  
last wrote to you, I believe I told  
you Annie might not be married  
until Sept. Well after the head  
surgeon's return, he thought best  
for Dr Kirkwood to take his vacation

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in August - Before any of the under  
doctors had their So as Annie  
was all ready it made no  
difference only taking her from  
it a few weeks sooner.

Every thing passed off  
smoothly and easily and the  
evening was all that could be  
desired. quite in contrast with  
any Thursday since as we have  
had some very hot weather.

Dr Kirkwood reached here  
early Monday morning so we  
had time to get well acquainted.

We are much pleased with  
him from acquaintance and  
reputation He is rather quiet  
but very gentlemanly and  
dignified and it seemed  
strange to me to entertain him  
in our home after a formal acq-  
aintance in Saint Paul. for he

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little thought-I had a little sister in Mass' who was to be his wife when he was located in his chosen profession. He has since asked why I didn't tell him about her, for "he then" would have cultivated my acquaintance diligently". Annie looked lovely as a bride. in a silk striped dress (not Chalii) and he in a handsome full dress suit.

She carried a handsome bouquet of bride & rose, Maiden Hair Fern, and Asparagus vine tied with white ribbon.

She wore on her neck a wedding gift of an elegant pendant which could be worn as a brooch, several rows of small pearls set in gold points a double row of three points filled with three pearls and

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a diamond in the center.  
This was suspended from a slender  
chain, with her white glove and  
white slippers she looked very pretty  
all said. She carried a  
beautiful lace bordered handkerchief  
a wedding gift from Minneapolis.  
Myra may like to know of her presents  
if you don't think me tedious I will  
tell you of them all I can recall.  
In the line of Sterling Silver she had  
1 doz <sup>teaspoons</sup> four XV style,  $\frac{1}{2}$  doz plain  
with a spray of golden rod, in gold  
on the handle, lovely.  $\frac{1}{2}$  doz of a  
lovely design from a classmate of the bride  
Three handsome Souvenir handkerchiefs  
Seven All Copper Spoons different  
patterns Three tablespoons, a very  
heavy ladle, two elegant cream  
spoons, one sugar spoon,  
an elegant tea a-tete set from  
the under doctor and three in  
the hospital. Two handsome

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sugar sponge of silver and gold. 1 spoon for spoon silver and gold. an elegant vegetable spoon. a meat fork a strawberry fork.

In plated ware  
A Landseure Pudding dish or for soup. with a large Landseure Monogram on the cover. 1 doz Sterling inlaid knives and 1 doz forks.

Another doz each of knives and forks. and two doz teaspoons. 1 sugar spoon  
1 cake, or ice cream knife  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  doz fruit knives a  
Landseure Cake Sacket. or can used for fruit. 4 tall silver  
gold lined and spoons for each. A celluloid perpetual calendar in a silver frame.  
a gold thimble -