

# Kansas Memory



## Hiram Hill family correspondence and diary

### Section 13, Pages 361 - 390

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.

Date: 1857-1910

Callnumber: Hiram Hill Coll. #382, Box 3

KSHS Identifier: DaRT ID: 212458

Item Identifier: 212458

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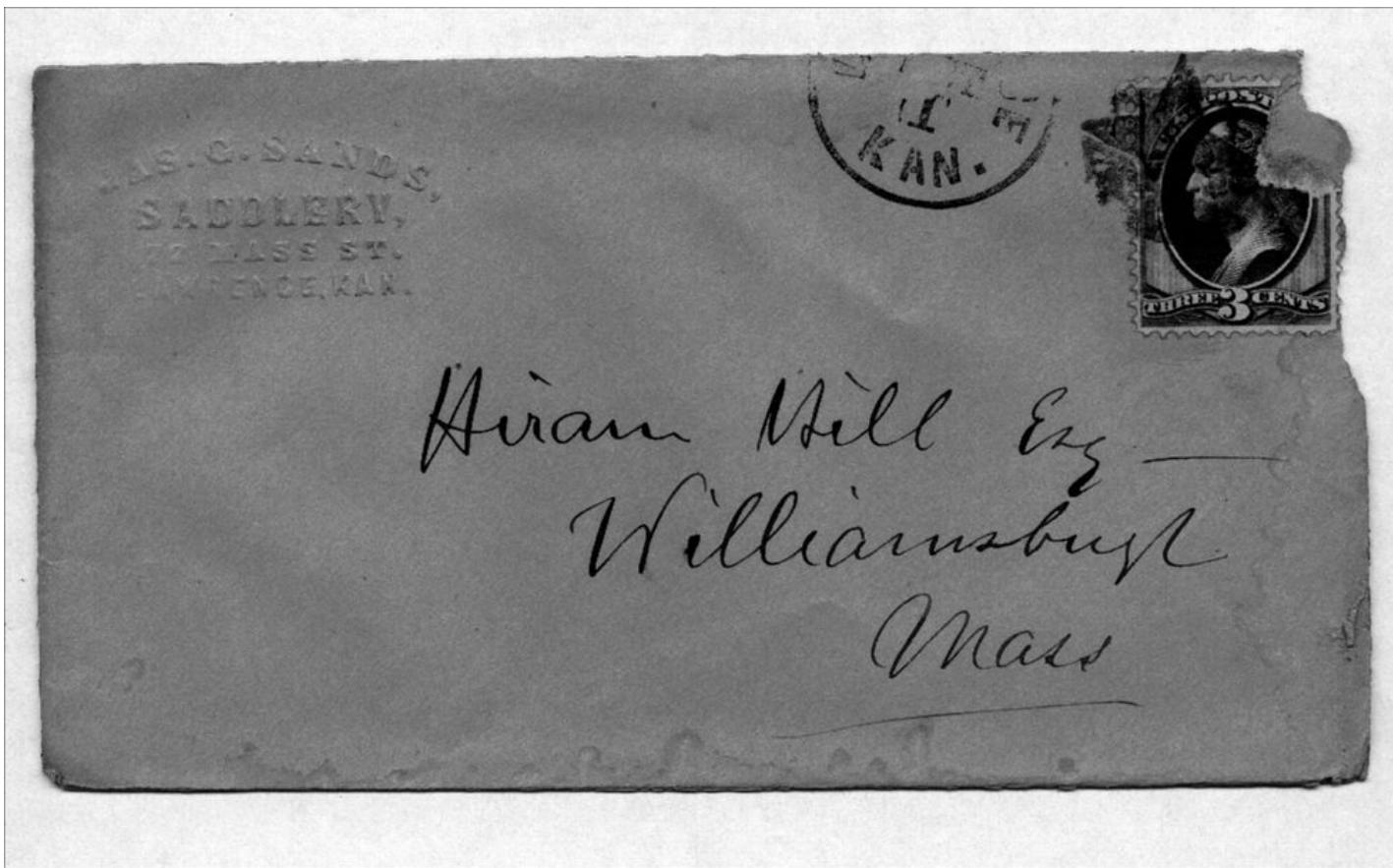
Hiram Hill family correspondence and diary



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If not called for within ten days return to

**THE 3 "BOSSSES"**  
"Kansas" Trace Carrier,  
Sands' Hitch-Strap Loop,  
New Era Curb Strap Buckle.  
Jobbers have them.  
Manufactured by J. G. SANDS,  
LAWRENCE, KAN.



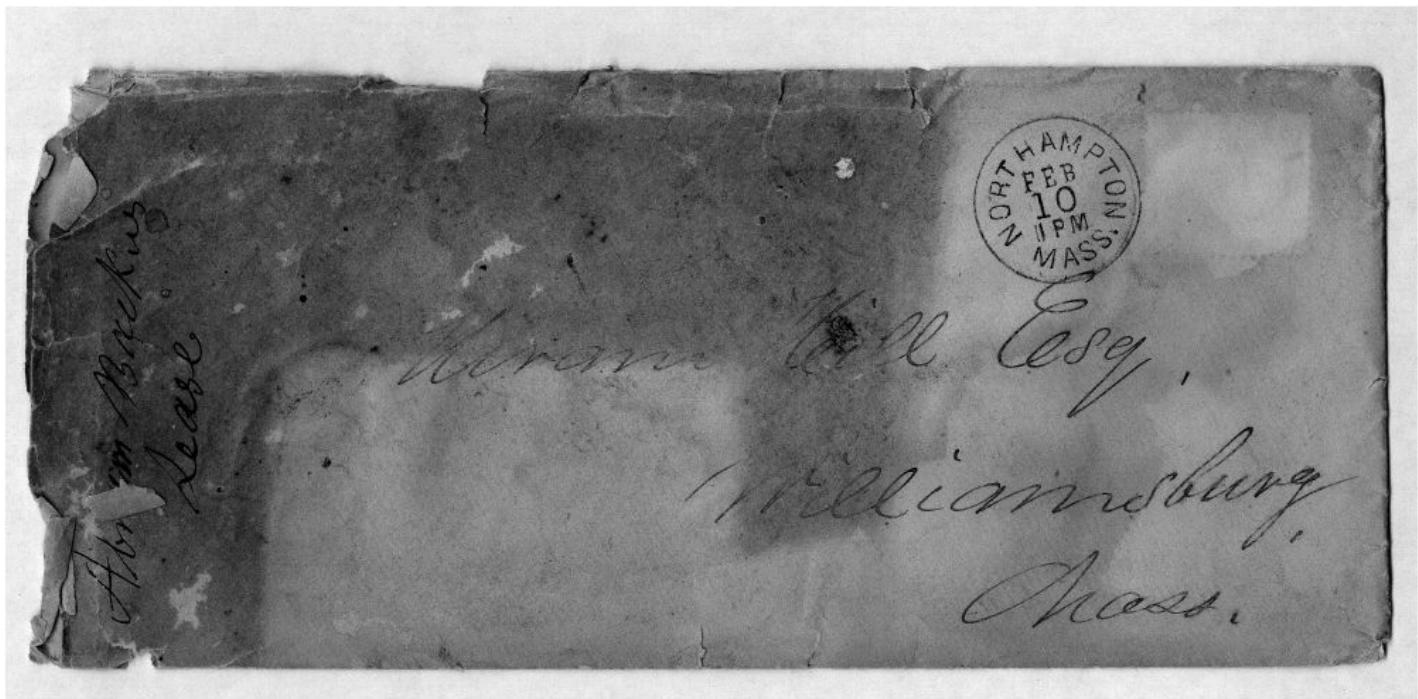
Hiram Hill Esq  
Williamsburgh  
Mass.

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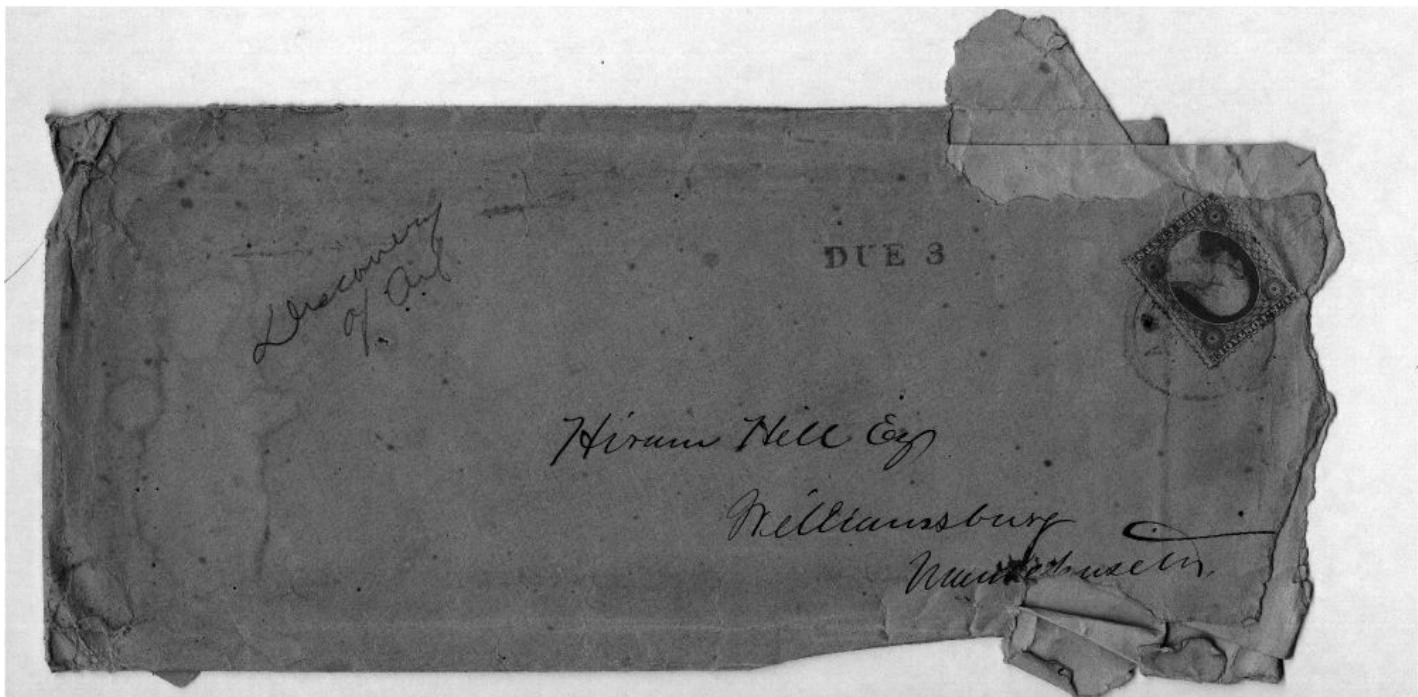
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Where is the Doctor that Prescribed Dr. SETH ARNOLD'S BALSAM ?

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### Dr. SETH ARNOLD'S BALSAM Cures Diarrhoea, Dysentery and Cholera Infantum.

Dr. SETH ARNOLD,

SHEREWSBURY, Aug. 7, 1866.

Dear Sir,—I had recommended to me in the highest terms your Balsam for Diarrhoea, etc., by the Rev. J. Hascall, D.D., a mutual friend. I am practicing medicine in this place, and had a case of diarrhoea in a soldier, just returned from Newburn, and I tried your Balsam as an experiment, Dr. Hascall kindly loaning me a couple of bottles. If it will do as well in all cases as it promises in this, I shall wish to use it freely. I have ordinarily no sympathy with patent medicines; but when a compound will *cure*, leaving no apparent ill effects behind, I am ready to use it. I believe in curing the people if possible, and in the shortest time.

Yours, E. WARNER, M.D.

COKERSVILLE, Ala., April 1, 1868.

After absorbing my own and many other physicians' skill, and after settling up my business to die, I was cured of Chronic Diarrhoea, of over three years' standing, by Dr. Seth Arnold's Balsam.

J. W. COBB, M.D.

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**He Likes Lawrence.**  
Rev. John Clark, a gentleman somewhat known as a visitor in Lawrence, writes as follows of his trip west to the Rushville (Ill.) Citizen:

Up the Kansas valley to Lawrence lies the finest farming land I have ever seen, producing most prolific crops. Splendid farms and fine residences line the way. The people are noted for intelligence, enterprise, and thrift.

Lawrence is a beautiful city of about 10,000 inhabitants; very wide streets and sidewalks; buildings very commodious and tasteful—several that would be ornamental in any city. There are twenty-two churches, ten large two-story school houses, a magnificent university building situated on an eminence that overlooks the city and a beautiful landscape of country as far as the eye can reach, with capacity for fifteen hundred students, and fully equipped with instructors, apparatus, etc. The expense of a thorough education here is board, books, and a nominal contingent fee. The main business street presents much the appearance of our county fair, in the exhibition of farm products and all sorts of wares. More ladies are to be seen driving on the streets than gentlemen, but they seem to think too much of their dignity to sweep the sidewalk with their skirts. Fruit here is very abundant and of superior quality, and very much is being shipped abroad.

**That Suicide.**  
The Leavenworth *Times* in speaking of the suicide case which was noticed yesterday says:

"Such cases when witnessed are enough to make subjects for much after-thought. Here was a girl who yet bore traces of beauty, alone in a strange city, dying, because of what? Because she had erred and had not the proper influences or encouragement to take her from the place into which she had fallen. One of the scenes connected with the case is one to be remembered. While she was in her room up stairs in a supposed dying condition, a number of the other women about the house were in the parlor down stairs, making as merry as if nothing unusual was going on. This was promptly stopped, however, as soon as the proprietress discovered it, and the house was cleared. She seemed to try to do everything possible to lessen the harder features of the scene. The unfortunate girl, whose fate is so like many others of her class, is about twenty years of age, and it is said belongs to a respectable family in Missouri. This is the third time she has attempted to destroy herself by taking morphine, and it is possible it will be the last."

How very kind of the proprietress under the circumstances to put a stop to the proceedings in the "parlor." So kind of her to try to lessen the harder features of the scene. A good woman, she.

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LOOK FOR THREE FACES.

IF YOU CANNOT FIND THEM, HEAT THE CARD.

*M. A. Torrey,*

Eastern Ag't for Kirk & Co's Soaps,  
P. O. BOX 3364, BOSTON, MASS.

OVER

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## ❖ AS COMPENSATION ❖

*FOR these cards (six designs in the set), if you are still inclined to do so, please insist on your Grocer furnishing you with KIRK'S SOAPS, either —*

**WHITE RUSSIAN, 3-4 lb. Pressed Cake.**

**QUEEN OF THE LAUNDRY, 1 lb. Pressed Bar**

**AMERICAN FAMILY, 1, 2, 3, and 4 lb. Bars.**

*All of which are same stock and quality, and Always Reliable. No burning of hands or clothes; leaves the clothes clean, sweet, and white, without injuring the fabric, which cannot be said of the short weight or largely adulterated soaps made by unreliable makers, and sold by the grocer, simply because they afford him a larger profit than pure, clean, and reliable soaps do.*

*We fully guarantee these Soaps strictly pure, and free from any adulterations.*

*Respectfully,*

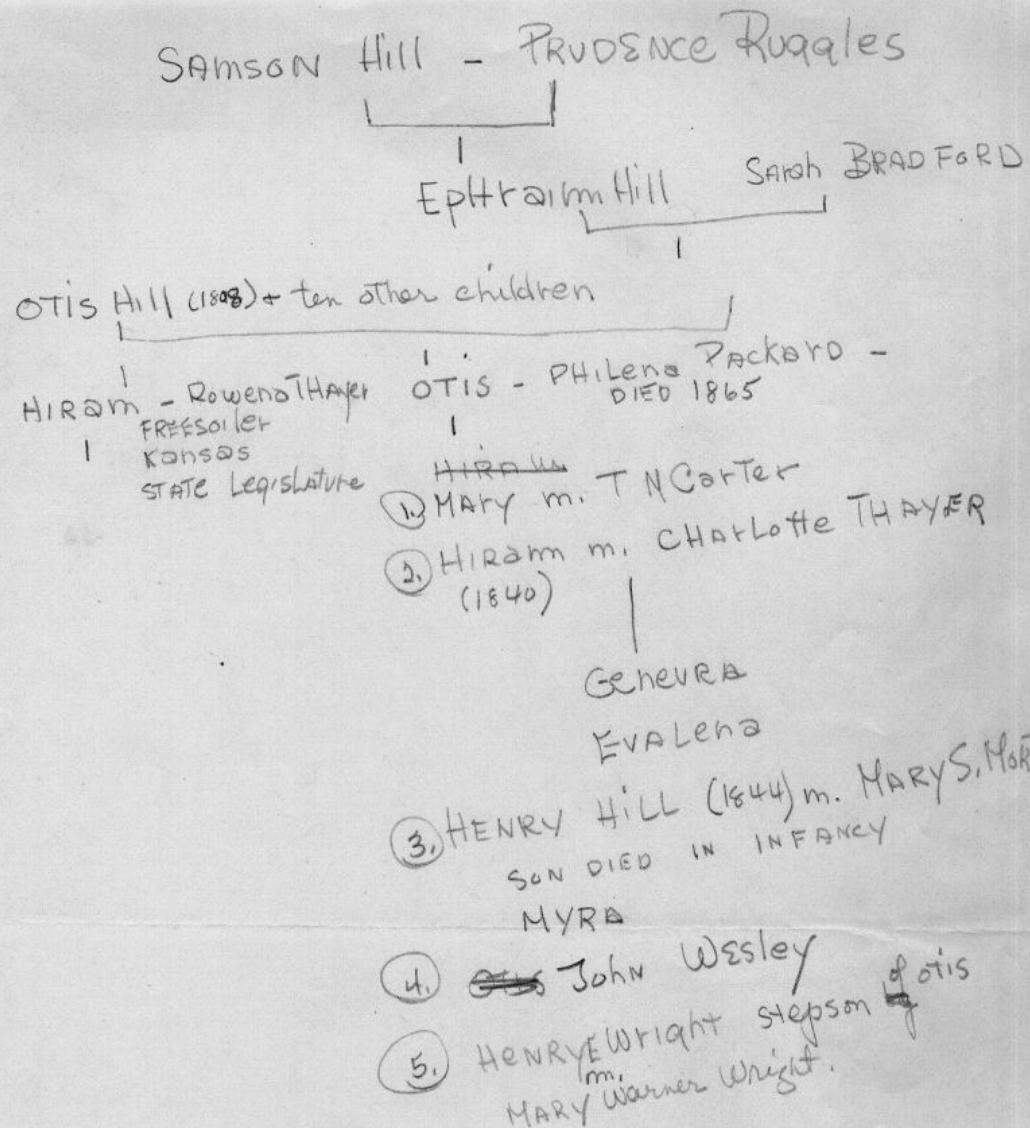
*JAMES S. KIRK & CO.*

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Stephen MEEKINS son of Thomas.

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## KANSAS SOUTHERN LAND AGENCY.

PRATT & HAVENHILL.  
**EMPORIA,** \* \* \* \* **KANSAS.**

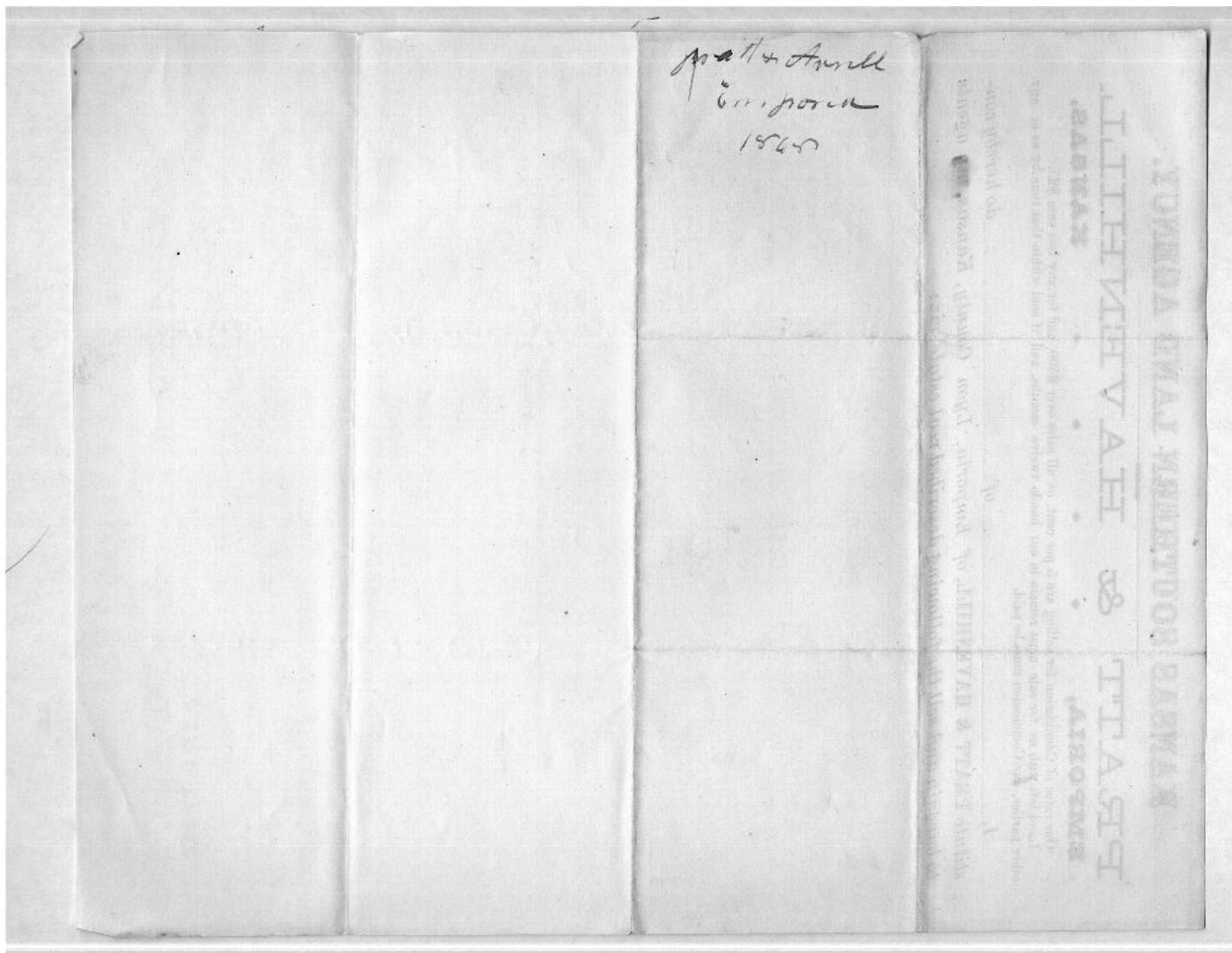
Our rates of Commission for selling are 5 per cent. on all sales over \$500, and for any less sum \$25.  
Land left with us for sale must remain in our hands twelve months, and if sold within that time by us or any other parties, our Commission must be paid.

*I, \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ do hereby constitute PRATT & HAVENHILL, of Emporia, Lyon County, Kansas, my agents to bargain and sell the following described real estate, viz:*

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Yours today - or in favor of 13 lots & lots  
of land known as "unpromising"  
& of which he is not off to own  
soil as before or owing you  
or us yet with no loss & expense  
as regards the lots & owing him

now is that the 8 lots are equivalent  
to 16 city lots of 50+11' & at \$100 a  
piece is equal to the judgment &  
that is all he can do - He says he  
will have all he can do to pay  
up back taxes - If after taking  
a good look over this un promising  
field you say "go ahead" I will  
then try to have him at least add  
the court & attorney expenses but  
in this I may fail - Am real  
sorry that after so long a delay I  
can offer no better feast, but if  
you could hear him talk about his  
willingness to do for you more than any  
one else & his perfect poverty he  
could persuade even you into a  
belief in his generosity - He talks  
about his wife property but he has  
none of his own - The large

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farm you visited they lost in a  
suit & were mulcted into five  
thousand dol damages for  
destroying timber. This loss I  
am told fell on Henry. The  
Henry estate is as big a mystery  
here as with you - His widow is  
teaching school at her house which  
also is mortgaged -

Enclosed find certificate of  
assignment of Policy which answers  
the same as the Policy on which  
the assignment appears - I send the  
receipt instead of the Policy because  
we sometimes want to inspect it.  
If you still prefer the Policy I will  
send it - I have this day  
paid my taxes or else I would  
wait until next week. It straps me but  
will send next week. It may  
possibly be one or two days off  
the first as business is due just  
now - Mail is closing so must stop  
short

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up the Chapman creek  
which would go in  
sight of our place  
probably not over 1  
mile. It has been  
rather dry for wheat  
this winter in our  
immediate vicinity it  
looks very well. The  
country is filling up  
very fast where ever  
there is any chance  
for a man to live it  
is being taken Mr  
Price's wheat looks as  
well as any around  
here and bids fair  
to make a good crop.  
He got his return  
list from you for the  
money he sent

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## Hiram Hill family correspondence and diary

Jesse is learning  
very fast he is now  
fifteen years old he  
rather seems to want  
to go in into a store  
I would rather have  
him stay with me  
on the farm But I  
have noticed that  
all boys have certain  
notions for future life  
which i never thought  
best to urge. against  
too hard if it is an  
honor able calling

My respects yourself  
and family

A. Baekus

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I know all men by these presents that I Hiram Hill of Williamsburgh in the County of Hampshire and Commonwealth of Massachussetts Gentleman am held and firmly bound unto Joshua Brasby of said Williamsburgh, Manufacturer, in the sum of four hundred dollars to be paid to the said Joshua Brasby his executors, administrators or assigns, - to which payment well and truly to be made I bind myself my heirs, executors and administrators, and every of them firmly by these presents.

Sealed with my seal and dated the twenty ninth day of March in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty three

The condition of this obligation is such that whereas the said Joshua Brasby has on the day of the date hereof bought of said Hiram Hill a certain tract or parcel of land situate in said Williamsburgh and bounded and described as follows, viz: Beginning by the highway, by the land of the heirs of Theophilus Bodman deceased, then South 6° West, to a stone wall - then Eastrly by said stone wall to the land of the heirs of Levi Hitchcock deceased - then Notherly by the land of the said Levi Hitchcock deceased heirs, to the land of the heirs of Theophilus Bodman

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deceased. - Then - Westerly - by the hand of  
the heirs of Theophilus Bodman deceased to  
the first mentioned corner at the aforesaid  
highway - and containing eight acres of land  
be the same more or less and being the  
same piece of land that Benjamin K.  
Baker sold to Henry Holt see his docu-  
ment recorded in Book 144. Page 399. - or a also  
the same piece of land that said Hiram  
Hill bought of said Henry Holt  
The abovesigned sale is for the sum of two  
hundred dollars for which the said Joshua  
Brasby has given his two Notes payable to the said  
Hiram Hill or order - for value received - of one  
hundred dollars cash - One of said Notes payable  
in one year from the date hereof the other payable in two  
years from the date hereof with interest annually -  
Said Joshua Brasby to pay all assessments  
and taxes on said premises and to have  
the improvement and occupation of the  
same land, if after the payment of said  
Notes and assessments and taxes as above-  
named, - upon the reasonable request of  
said Joshua Brasby the said Hiram Hill  
shall make execute and deliver to the said  
Joshua Brasby his heirs and assigns a good  
and sufficient deed of warranty of said prem-  
ises - Then this obligation to be made other-  
wise to remain in full force and virtue  
Signed Sealed and  
delivered the day and  
year herein before named  
In presence of  
John Clegg  
Esther Collymore

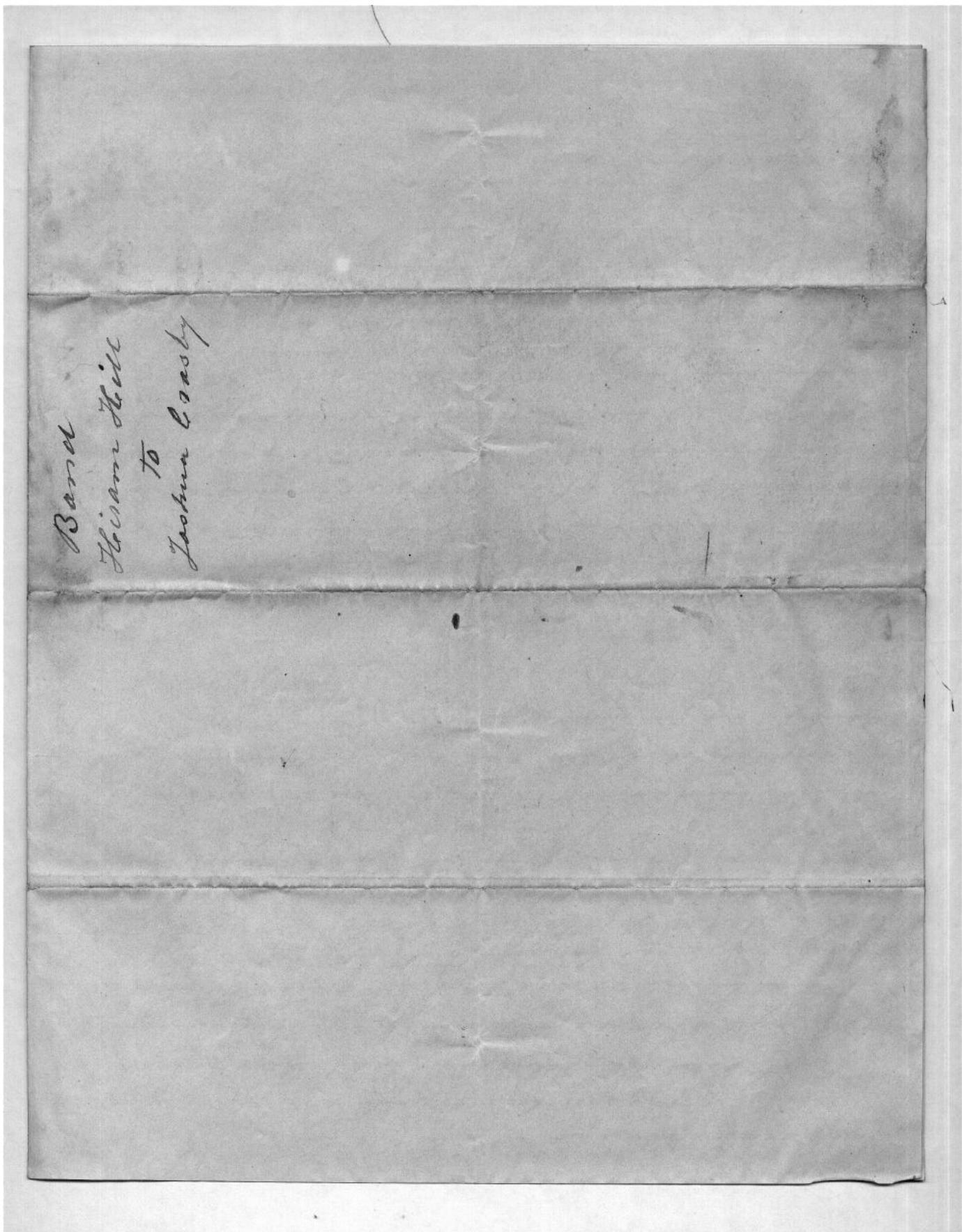
Hiram Hill

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claim if you want to pay it.  
Song is going down into  
the Seneca County \_\_\_\_\_ and is  
anxious, so he says to get away.

In regard to taxes. I can't find a list of your  
lots which once had, & therefore can't give you  
the amt. of your tax. Your K. M. Lot is taxed as  
follows for Gen. purposes \$3.38 for Schools \$1.88 = \$4.73  
The Blocks in the addition that are unimproved are  
taxed as follows for Gen. purposes \$2.83 for Schools \$1 = \$2.84  
The other lots have a tax of from 5 to 10 cents i.e. the  
unimproved lots. Improved lots the tax is higher.  
There is assessed on K. Avenue a tax for grading \$40. to the lot, a  
separate matter. No one has yet paid the tax at the amount of the previous  
year. It won't be paid, nor an attempt to collect it.

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P.S. The Parkville road is going to be completed, but how soon is not determined. Their Engineer has not got the estimates made out -

Mr McNeill Clough told me yesterday that there is a Contractor waiting who says he will take it & complete the grading in 90 days.

I am glad you get our paper -  
The Ed. had been directing to ~~you~~ Williamsburg Maine, when on his book it was plain "Map"

Please write me about the way

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Mr. Guthrie desires me to write you a few words for him. He says he is more in need of money than ever in his life before, and, that if you will send him \$400, he will receipt to you in full of all claims & demands & give you a deed of your lots etc — He desires me to say to you that the Company are now prepared, or will be prepared in a few weeks at most to make deeds — Now I have no word of ~~advice~~ advice to give you in regard to what Mr. G. claims you owe him. That the Company are about ready to give deeds I suppose to be true & intended to have mentioned the fact in my letter proper. They procured an act to be passed at the last legislature, empowering the survivor or survivors of a partnership to close up & make deeds of property. They are preparing a form for deeds to get blanks printed and

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I am persuaded we make deeds soon -  
Mr Chapman has sent to Mr Simpson, for  
him to send a Power of Attorney to the Law-  
to Convey -

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I shall be very glad to see  
you out here at any time. I am glad  
that you rememberd Mr Stott, it is hard  
to get him his salary, & ten dollars from  
you is acceptable. Mr S. is an enterprising  
Citizen, besides being a good Minister. He has  
built him a good house, & cleared up one of those  
Blocks in good style - an example for others  
to follow. Mr Bottom continues in your house  
& will remain till he builds one for himself, unless  
I should rent it to some one else, & he be obliged  
to leave - The Town Company have sold the Saw  
Mill, to Mepis Follen & Co. Geerts from Lawrence &  
they are going to start some kind of Manufac-  
turing business in it - Again Yours truly Chaswick

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I paid Long, but did very grudgingly,  
I felt that you had been very much im-  
pessed upon in that claim purchase. He  
thinks, or at least claims that he is very  
innocent of doing any wrong, or ~~intending~~  
any. There is a good deal of good cotton-  
wood timber on the claim, & it may be  
& by, in the event of the completion of the  
Parkville R.R. & other roads, become very  
valuable. I cant yet but believe, not-  
withstanding, all the pull-backs & discouragement,  
that is to be a bright future for  
Quindaro. I think Leavenworth has lost  
Comparatively as much as Quindaro, & has  
no brighter prospects for the future.

Majors Russell & Waddell, have  
left there with their business, and the principal  
express starts from St. Joe, as also the Pony  
express. Lots of houses are tenanted there,  
and all in all, it ~~sites~~ looks like a  
town a good deal dilapidated.

Unless the Delaware treaty is ratified, &  
is made particularly to benefit Leavenworth,  
they have no more to lean upon than we  
have, and in my opinion not as much.

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The Parkville road must be built, &  
it cannot otherwise than help us —

M<sup>r</sup> Bottom is in your house yet,  
& is not much disposed to move.

He says however, that he cannot afford  
to pay more than \$50. per year for the  
future, and that if he cannot rent it  
for that sum he will move out of it.

There are several houses standing  
empty, and should M<sup>r</sup> Bottom leave,  
I don't believe another opportunity to  
rent would occur this summer or  
fall.

There is due from M<sup>r</sup> Bottom now  
for rent \$34.00 which he promises to pay  
soon. Rev. Mr. Stott was much pleased  
with your kind remembrance of him, &  
too, am glad that you are disposed to help  
us along in paying for our preachers. It is  
very hard now to do enough to buy ours pro-  
visions, & the prospect now is that there will  
be a scarcity of it raised in the territory. The  
drought of last winter; this Spring & Summer has  
spoiled the wheat & oat crops. It is likely to  
waste the corn. It is very dry. I hope to  
hear from you again soon. — Respect. Yours Ch<sup>t</sup> Chadwick

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Mr Hiram Hill  
of Williamsburg Mass  
Dear Sir  
I have just  
received ten dollars of Mr Baller  
Mr Baller has changed the publisher  
and is Co; with another man has  
opened a provision store in the  
front end - and I think they will  
pay prompt - and Mr Baller prominent  
in the place - and I hope et  
he will pay - I shall put down an  
upper floor in the kitchen at  
Mrs Hards - tomorrow - and then I  
shall pursue our late - what shall  
I do with money I shall receive -  
I am very well indeed now and  
shall attend to business better  
than I have done -  
Mr Jones will tell you about

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Dr. Rockwood Se and Elrat  
and its location - we have  
nothing to fear from that.  
I do not see any thing that  
can distract the City makin  
at present. Dr Poentini and  
Family have arrived all well  
and happy.

I have sent the two Seats which  
you did not enclose to take  
I send you a check ready to  
sign "Scamber is in great  
demand - business is good -  
the Hotel is not done - We hope  
to get the Capitol here - Good  
seats are in good demand  
- I am very sorry that your Brother  
is so ill. I hope the cold weather  
will recover him.

You ought to send his son to  
Kumias. My Brothers health is

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Much better than it was

Mr Liam is now back from  
money to build a church  
he is having some success.

Mr Nate's church is left  
and the foundation are about  
being laid

Boats will soon be on the Missouri  
River as late as Dec first.

My brother came off the  
Missouri River -

I shall write a letter  
to your Sabbath school  
in a week or two -

My best regards to all  
friends - G. W. Simp.