

Abbie Bright correspondence

Section 3, Pages 61 - 82

Abbie Bright was born on a farm near Danville, Pennsylvania, on December 17, 1848. She had three brothers, Dennis, Hiram and Philip, all of whom enlisted in the army when the Civil War broke out. Abbie had three sisters, Rebecca, Peninah, and Mary, all of whom aided the war effort. In 1870 Abbie traveled to Indiana and Kansas to visit Hiram and Philip and wrote an account of her trip in a diary (also available on Kansas Memory as record unit 223662). While in Kansas she acquired 160 acres as an investment. This series of correspondence includes letters describing the brother's wartime activities. There are also letters to and from other individuals who were involved in the Civil War. These writings make a significant contribution to Civil War research. Other letters pertain to Philip and Abbie Bright's westward migration. Philip moved to Wyoming, Kansas, Texas, and Arizona but died in 1873 and the letters at that time mostly concern his death. The 1902 and 1903 correspondence apparently regards the sale of Abbie's land in Kansas. A complete transcription is available by clicking on "Text Version" below.

Creator: Bright, Abbie, 1848-1926

Date: 1861-1903

Callnumber: Abbie Bright Papers, Coll. #293, Box 1, Folder 6

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Abbie Bright correspondence

Phoenix Aug 7 1873
~~F. H. H.~~ at home, There has bin no
mistake Philip had papers in his
pocket with Hiram's name on them
and the inquest on the examination
from Hiram's peculiar way of writing
had it Herman. He had bin decently
and respectably buried in the only
burying ground in the place. There are
about twenty other graves. I have
engaged a Carpenter to make a board
and place name on it to mark it and
I will place it on the grave. There are
no stones here and no iron foundry so
I can only use a board. Mother I could
not bear the sight to take him up and
examine his hand. but that would all have
bin for nothing as there are those that
came here from Kansas with him and
knew him personally to be Philip.

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the wound on the right wrist was found on the examination and he had papers which I will bring home and other articles which leaves no doubt. He died without a struggle shot through the back of the head we are at least spared the pain of thinking he died in agony.

The People here have bin very kind to me and respect Phil. Those that knew him his Murderer is from Scranton Pa. and the authorities here are still expecting to hear of his whereabouts do not mention the fact of his being from Scranton.

I will start in the morning for San Francisco and if I stay more than two or three days I will write. I think I will only stay a few days not more than a week at most it will take me eight days to go ^{to} San Francisco from here and eight from there home making sixteen I was twenty days coming here.

Respect Yours

ABright



Clearwater Oct. 12th 1873

Mrs. A. B. Achenbeck

Dear Madam - I
hope by this time, that you have
returned from Iowa, in good health
and that your Mother has been ben-
efited by the change. I wrote you from
Wichita on the 10th, of having made
the necessary proof concerning your
Brothers Claim. The condition of
Claims is just the same as when
you left them, with this exception,
some one had, this Spring, taken away
part of the roof of your Dug-out, and
I hauled away the rest of it, as it
was only going to loss by rotting.
There has been a great many Taxes
Cattle held in this Country this Season
and as the owners cannot get wood as
plentifully as they used to, I have
had some trouble keeping them out
of Philip's place, it being the only

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place along the Creek they could
get access to, I would of hired two
differant partyys, But my athority
from Philip being only verble, I
had nothing to show wherein I
had any right to do so,
If your father wishes me to con-
tinue to look after the Timber
I ought to have a Power of attorney
or something of that kind,
For two of us going to the Land Office
and being detained so that we could not
return the same day I will have to
Charge your Father \$8.00.
I may let you know that we are
all geting along very well for Settlers
on the frontier, and the place is
looking some differant to what it did
when you was here, the trees I planted
about the House are over 20 feet high
I have a fine 2 year old hedge around
the farm east of the river, it will
turn Stock in another year

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outside of the Hedge, along the road, on the north line, I have a row of trees, a rod apart, Cottonwood, Box alder, and Lombardy Poplar, besides Hedge round our garden and six acres of orchard, I raised 50,000 Hedge plants this season, I will plant cross Hedges and Hedge in 80 acres north of me, that I bought last spring, our stock is also increacing, we have sixty head of Cattle, and a lot of hogs and poultry, we had a County fair, I took first premiums for largest corn, finest Pair of Turkeys, and finest orange Orange Plants, and second premium on sow, My wife has had quite a sick spell for the last two weeks, and she is not much better yet,

Now me to say in conclusion, that short as your stay was amongst us, we miss you, But the impression made in your transit, will always remain upon our memories, and we could

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wish that you had always stayed
with us

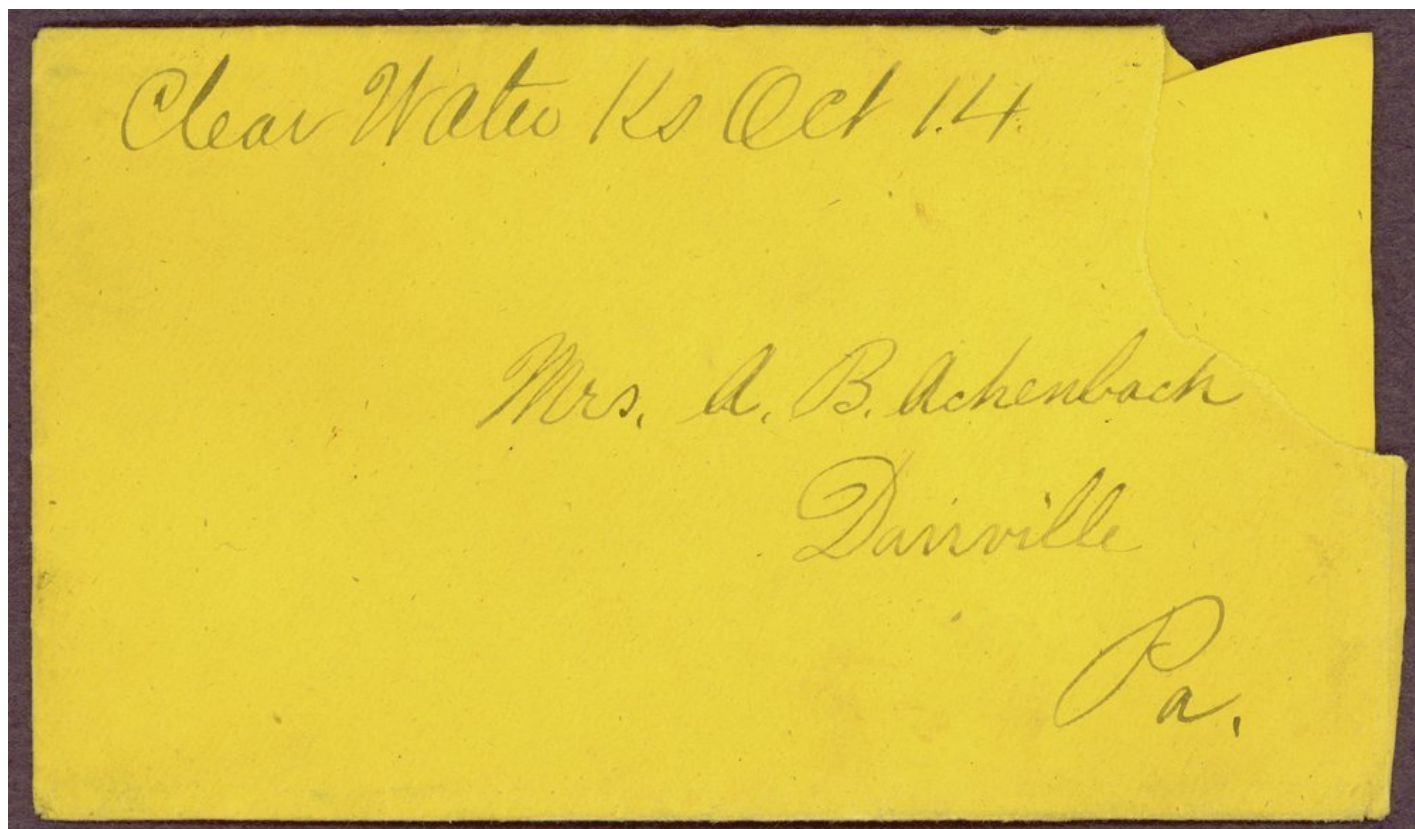
But thou'rt gone, and we never more behold thee,
wading in the Nemescan again,
or gliding, nymph like, gentle abbie,
where the wild flowers were scattered over the plain,

But if your life in your new—
Sphere, be all that we wish it, you
will have no reason to complain,

Respy. Yours,

Wm Ross.

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I saw the scissors after you left. Rain yesterday and
last night. Dahlias in bloom though broken down.
Corn not ripe enough for the season.
I was at the fair in Bloom last week. Harriette
had Bilious fever others all well. Caleb & Delia
all alone. The house new painted all clean
and in perfect order. Tom come there a spring.
Laura & Clara send their best regards to you.
Six thousand admission on Thursday, same on
Friday. write often R.

Abbie Bright correspondence

Gladbrook Iowa

Jan 30-1901

Mrs H. M. Sawyer
Wichita Kans.

Dear Sir-

I offered the land for
sale, last summer for
\$2250. Yours recd.

If I should sell it
would be for cash. It is
rented for 1901
Yours-

Mrs. Abbie B. Scherbach



Clear Water Kans. Dec. 5th. 1901

Mrs. Abbie B. Achenbach
Glad Brook Iowa.

Dear friend -

Your letter of Nov. 30th. just received. Mr. Hawley offers \$800.00 Cash for your west 80 acres. That is the tract lying west of the River and adjoining Wis. as the River divides the two tracts, I don't think selling the west 80 would lessen your chances on selling the east tract to someone else.

This is the best Cash offer I have ever had.

We have a very short Corn



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Crop. wheat is good. fall
pasture is fine.

Sumner Co. raised nearly
eight million bushels of wheat.
this year.

We are all well as usual.
if Mr. Hawley's offer is
satisfactory please advise.

Respectfully.

Geo. McQuillan
Clear Water
Kans.



John B. L. Hawley
Clear Water Kansas Dec. 21st 1901

Mrs. Abbie B. Achenbach
Glad Brook So.

Dear friend -

Your letter of
Dec. 16th. just received. full
name and address ~~and~~
is Sanford L. Hawley
Clear Water Kansas.
East 80 acres is rented to Mr.
Hawley for next year. Amount
\$37.50 payable Nov. 1st 1902.

Please state amount of Com-
mission you wish to allow.
Will get Abstract and forward
price of land less expenses
as soon as possible. Respectfully
Geo. M. Quillan

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Sanford L. Hawley

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received. If I have a right-
knowledge of that land,
the part west of the river is
the larger piece. While that
East of the river is the better
land.

If Mr. Hawley wants the
piece west of the river, and
adjoining his, he can
have it for \$850.00

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Dear friend of Mr.
Hawley wants the 80 acres
west of the river, and
adjoining his, he can have
it for \$800.00.

If he decides to take
it, let us know
soon, as this offer
is good only until
the first of Jan. 1902

Yours

Abbie B. Schmach

Laura

Blackburn

Yours -
Abbie B. Schmach



Abbie Bright correspondence

Clear Water Kans. Jan. 20th. 1902

Mrs. Abbie B. Achenbach
Glad Brook Co.

Dear friend -

your letter of Jan.
17th. just received and in
reply would say that I have
an offer of \$1000 Cash for
your land.

I consider this a fair price
if you cannot get more.

It is worth all you can get.
I think it is a good time
to sell while money is easy
and plentiful.

you spoke of coming to see
the land. let us know when
you will come and we will



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meet you at the train.
please answer soon.

Respectfully.

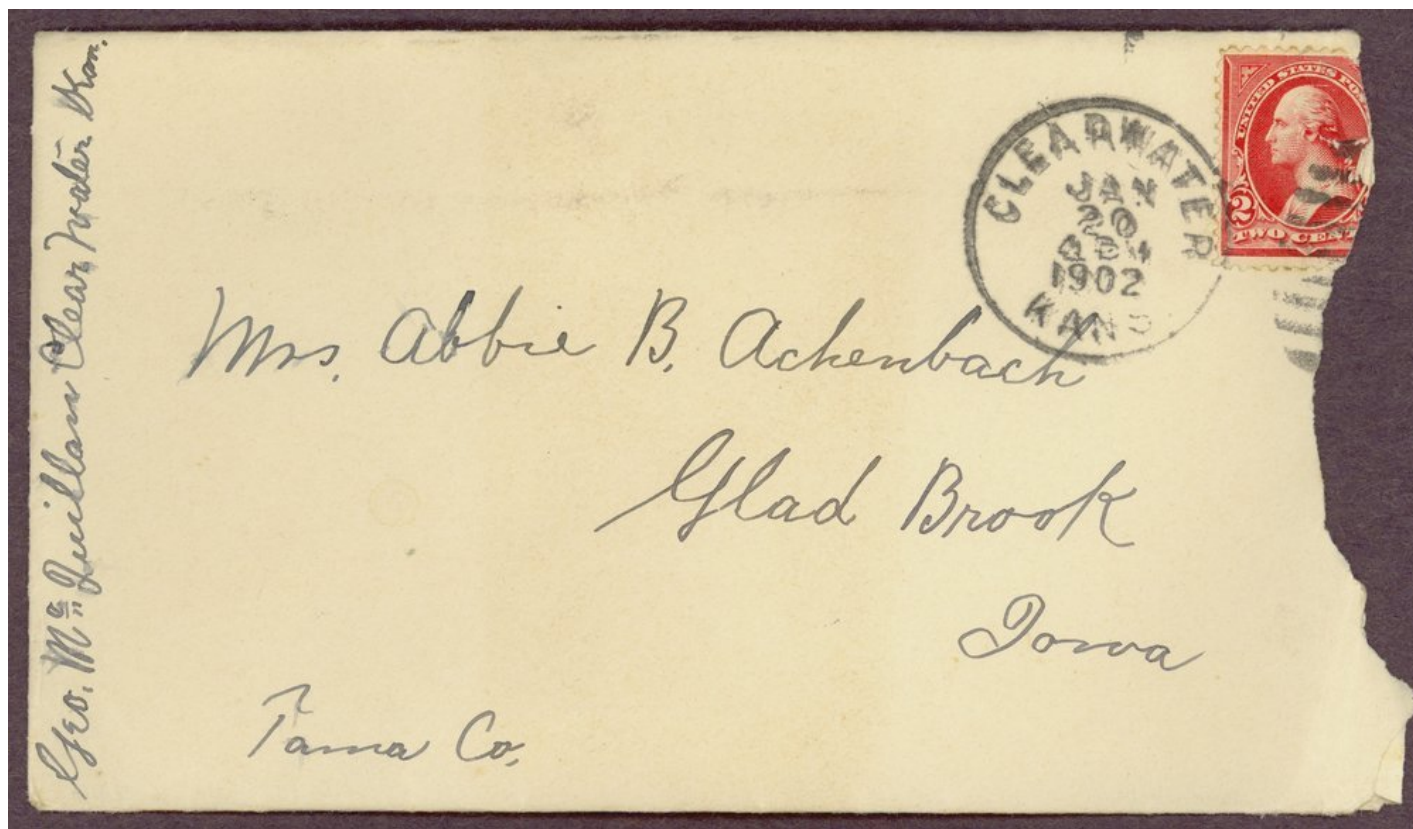
Geo. M. Duillan
Clear Water

Kans.

Your letter came today,
- I did think that I
would sell if I could get \$2000
for the land



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Clear Water Kan June 2nd 1903

Mrs. Abbie B. Ackenbach
Elhad Brook Co.

Dear friend -

Enclosed please
find Draft Amount
\$1054.00

Cash recd. on land	\$1000.00
" " " 18 trees	104.00
Mortgage and Note	500.00
Total Amount	1604.00
Cash expenses	6.00
Commission	44.00
Total	\$1654.00
Balance due Draft	1054.00
Mortgage and Note	500.00
Total	1654.00

Will send You Mortgage.



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and note as soon
as same is recorded,
I have had an unusual
amount of trouble getting
everything adjusted and
have charged you \$44.00
^{commission} over and above expenses.
if you think this is too
much let me ^{know} ~~know~~
and I'll make it right.
Respectfully,
Geo. McMillan
Clearwater
Kans.



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