

Alton Decr. 26 1879

Dear Major

The Annual Meeting of the Stock Holders of the Eagle Packet Co will be held in their office on Board the KNStLP Co. Wharf Boat Foot of Vine Street St. Louis Mo Tuesday the 6th of Jany 1880 at which time and place you are respectfully invited to be present.

I will get our Agt in St. Louis (I. True Dodge) to have our Taxes Paid Soon.

The Spread Eagle laid up Sunday Decr 15 1878 and the Bald Eagle Monday the 15 Decr 1879. The river closed just above here night before last and just below last night. We had a very good business up to the time of laying up and could probably have done well up to the Hollidays but for the ice but no longer.

Day before yesterday it sleated half the day making walking difficult and dangerous a light snow has rendered the walking much better This morning was very cold and the ice men are very hopeful.

If I can possibly do so I want to come up in a few days to pay Taxes and look around a day or two.

We are greatly disappointed that "Willie" did not come down to be with us Christmass and more so from the fact of his not writing us not to expect him. The Children are having a Very nice time and all enjoying good health.

We would be delighted to see you and the rest of the family in Alton at any time, and as you do not appear to be inclined to Venture so far from home We think you might find time to write occasionally at all events.

Affectionately
G.W. Hill

Alton Feby 3d 1880

Dear Major

I have only a short time to write before train time.

Our sad experience with Johny induces me to desire that Willie go south this winter and north in the Spring or West as he may elect.

If Jessie will marry take the farm and outfit 2 to 4 cows and give me a portion of the crop to be determined by you and C A Johnson Esqr and I can get Mr Johnson to dispose of the rest of the Stock as he and you may think best that will be a great relief to me as I wish to go South with Willie.

I refer you to letter to Jessie and CAJ Esq for particulars as I must close.

All join in love to you all.

We are well except colds. Willie is better in spirits appetite & C

Write me your views at once.

I think of Florida am afraid of the Northerners (winds) in Texas.

Affectionately
G.W. Hill

P.S. Snowing wind SW growing cold

H

Alton Feby 7 1880

Dear Maj

Your favour is just to hands.

Willie is still improving in appetite and looks at least ten pr cent better than when he came here. The Doctor We have here is said (by an old practitioner) to be as good as the best. His Father and Grand Father were M.D.'s and he attended lectures at Phila, N York & St. Louis I think (at three places at any rate.) His advice to Willie was to go where people did not know what the Ague meant. Recommended the line between North Carolina and Tennessee after he has recruited in the South this winter or what is as good or better Colorado about June-- -- -- -- --

He thinks living in a malarious atmosphere has so deranged his liver that his digestive organs have been so affected that his entire system needs recruiting and that a trip will prove more effectual than all the Dr's and medicines in the Country. And why the South is preferable now is obviously from the fact of his blood having become so thin.

A trip to Florida now and a return before the first of June would be probably worse than to remain here. It will not do to return here until it becomes warm enough to go west.

In so far as the farm is Conserved We can not give our Consent that "Willie" return to it for 3 to 5 years if in deed at all in the Bottom.

Mr. Johnson wrote of the Andy Barnett boys as good tenants. Willie thinks to the contrary, but I have no doubt Some good Man or Men will turn up for the place if necessary.

One object in renting to Jessie is to help him and another is to keep the House Hold goods in tact.

You are aware that the outfit would not sell for Cash for one third the real value.

We proposed to Jessie that he take the whole thing as it stands (after we have sold of the surpluss stock) Leaving him two to four cows as he may elect and feed for mules until a crop is raised also feed as far as necessary for cows. We to furnish material for repaires or new fences. He to have work done. He to hire all help now the Table and c Deliver our portions of crop at Alx

You and C.A.J. to Say what portions We to have reserving the right to do better by him than you may think proper if in our judgements you have not been as liberal is We feel inclined to be.

All well except bad colds.

Give our love to all

Affectionately
G.W. Hill

P.S. "Jessie" has promised to write but up to this time has failed.

In the event of renting I guess we will Store the HH and Kitchen Furniture in town but of that we can write again.

H

Strictly Confidential

In all our helping we have assisted a lazy trifling set of fellows for instance We helped Volly (his a/c being now 4000.00) by which fact he was able to Keep around him a lot of trifling hounds who were almost too lazy to wash their faces and hands and get to the table to stuff their carkasas.

Now we want to help "Jessie" he is easy good natured and it has been whispered occasionally drinks. Should he get a bad set around him. He may not only fail to be of benefit to us but may go to the dogs and while he may work himself his good nature and fear of wounding feelings may lead to being imposed upon so that the benefit desired to be bestowed upon him will accrue to others.

We furnish the material (as in Volly's Case) and strangers eat up the substance.

Willie will not agree to have the mules rode to town and tied up in the rain night or any other bad treatment indulged in.

This is one reason We could not get him to leave the farm Sooner. It is a delicate matter I know to speak to Jessie about but some one should Caution him Not to indulge in bad company when drinking is the order. If you can not mail letter to me if you write so as to come down Monday direct to Jacksonville Florida as we go pr Big Howard Tuesday to N.O. thence pr Rail Mobile and Jacksonville.

Yours G H

(top of page five)

Willie thinks Mr. Johnson and Henshaw would utterly refuse to have the Banutts as tenants. He prefers Mr. Harter to any one.

"Monday"

Alton Feby 9th 1880

Dear Major

Jessie has failed to answer My letter and on what account I am of course at a loss to know. I have I think written you all that is necessary so that you can advise with Mr. Johnson that he may proceed in the event of Jessie's not taking the farm.

In the event of a failure to sell the Farm tools at private or public sale no one being willing to make a bid at or near the actual value you can have them stored over head in the Corn Crib as they will Keep and the advance in the price I think warrants us in holding nearly all of them at within 10 to 25 per cent of the original cost owing of course to age state of preservation and c I have no particular use for the Money and have no object in sacrificing any thing that will cost nothing to keep.

Willie is still improving and I think would rather return to his old home than go further South but We have made all necessary arrangements and propose leaving for Jacksonville Fla via N.O. Mobile and C

Hastily and Affectionately
G.W. Hill

Cairo Feby 13th 1880

Dear Maj

I must confess I have been in the dark in reference to Jessie's short comings only having had it intimated once or twice that at times he had drank a little too much. Until the rect. a letter from him in which he makes a clean breast of it from the fact as I suppose that he was under the impression that I had been posted, in which he was mistaken as he wrote me more than I had ever dreamed of.

After all in order to assist and reclaim him, I am willing to try him one year provided he marry the right kind of a girl. But should he fail in this, I am satisfied it would be worse than folly to try to run the farm with him. I have paid Jessie 25.00 pr Month to encourage him and because he has been a good hand and a relative but fear my liberality has been of more benefit to others than to him, as in Volly's case -- -- -- -- --

I wish Willie's wishes carried out as nearly as may be.

He wrote me before coming to Alton that were it not for one thing he would rather Jessie would take the place than any one else. That one thing has now come to light. He thinks it will pay to ship the mules to St. Louis.

I wrote you in regard to Storing the H.H. and Kitchen furniture in town that is Stoves - Bed Steads dishes and such things as it will do to store but Beds Bedding and C had better be well boxed so as to keep the rats from them and stored unless we can include to have them ship to Alton.

I regret exceedingly or shall if it be out of my power to assist "Jessie" as if all things worked right I could do so and never feel it at all. Willie has as much appetite as I care to see him have while we are taking so little exercise.

We arrived here about 3 PM after a very tedious trip. Having left St. Louis at 5:30 P.M. Tuesday.

As the Howard was loaded to all the water 6-1/2 feet We have laid up of nights and felt our way in day time. Some times having one of the Pilots and Mate with six Men at the oars go ahead and sound so as to make it certain that We make no mistake. The Boat used is suspended on derricks so as to be let down at a Moments notice.

The Howard is said to be a 3300 ton Boat and had 900 tons on board when We left St. Louis through freight 4.00 pr ton May fit 6.00 pr ton. We took on fifteen Miles above here on the Mo side 2100 Sacks Corn and at this point can load as long as they feel it to be safe.

The Ohio is runing out pretty freely but I have not heard any one say how much water there is below.

This line is pretty well run they have a Grand Tower Packet Memphis Packet Vicksburg Packet and N.O. Packet and Frts are only taken by the Boats in each particular trade hence this Boat has No Freight for or above Vicksburg--Comr Davidson has it so arranged that the Keokuk Boat takes way Frt on the day when there is no Louisiana Boat Keeping that Boat behind time to the injury of both the fast Packets.

Comr Scudder says they have 30 odd Boats passing over the river from or between St. Louis and Grand Tower weekly. I would hate to interfer with CAJ's arrangements with Mr. Harter but he is Willies choice if you have to rent.

Affectionately G. W. Hill

(top of page one)

Willie says Mr. Harter Spoke to him for the refusal of the Farm last year when a change was talked of.

(back of envelope)

Will leave here tomorrow Saturday Morning the 14th.

Sunday night
Memphis Feby 15 1880

Dear Maj

I wrote you from Cairo giving the cause of our delays up to Friday afternoon.

We laid at that place until 4 P.M. Saturday (about 25 hours)

Saturday was a bright sunny day with the winds from the north quite cool so that I did not go out to see much of Cairo but saw enough to know that it has largely improved since I saw the place in 52 and that it is an important shipping point. Freight from the Ills Central the narrow gage and other roads leading from Ills Iowa and other States centers there about a thousand tons of which this Boat took leaving Any Amount to follow (100 cars on one road I understand)

Today has been a nice day wind from the South Keeping us in when under way. So that we failed to see the place where Ft. Pollock stood or indeed Much else outside as Way Frt to a great extent are Stored on the boiler deck rendering it almost impossible to see out through the hall doors. We arrived just above here on the Arkansas Side and took on about 1000 Bales Cotton which came in on the Memphis and Little Rock Rail Roads. Left Several hundred Bbes Oil. Made of Cotton Seed at Little Rock Said to be 135 Miles by sail from here (I think) Several of us took a Tug and Came over for a Stroll in the City but I found it So much larger than I had anticipated that I looked around but little Saw the old Geosa House or Hotel with its large pillars out fare with the Curb Stones looking Very Much like an old deserted Court House I asked a man near by what House it was, he told me and that it had been deserted 10 or 12 years. It being Sunday every thing looked very gloomy very little Stir except the street cars which were doing a land office business. Memphis claims 50,000 but probably 25 to 35,000 would cover the entire population as there are very many vacant Houses to be seen in passing along the Streets.

Old Dan Rice came on board last night at New Madrid. He is out on a lecturing tour Subject temperance and c-- I think he will prove a Success.

He says when he first started out they in Springfield put him up in a pulpit in a church. He felt so out of place that for a time he could think of nothing to say but hartily wished for some Saw dust under his feet to give him utterance.

He thinks Beecher is "Luna" has risen to the zenith of his glory and is now on the decline that his recent remarks in favour of Grant show conclusively that he is a liar or a fool and that he must be a liar as he is sure he can not be ignorant of Grant's real worth. I tried to find out his polatics but he says he takes no part in them. I think never voted for but one man for President, Henry Clay.

He thinks if Grant runs he will be badly beaten that there are thousands of Republicans who will not vote at all if he be in the race _____

He was so improved in his appearance that I did not recognise him at the breakfast table this morning.

I have written "Jessie" that his Aunt and I had concluded before We left and before I had seen his letter which was handed me at St. Louis on our way down that He had better not take the Farm unless he got married that We did not want him to marry to take it but that if he did marry we wanted to assist him by leting him go on it.

Willie thinks no use of being in any hurry to advertise the Stock and C but of course We shall write you again. Jessie in his last, Stated that he was going to make a "now or never" trip up to the Prairie Church Soon after which he would write me the result.

Willie is doing as well as could be reasonably expected. His appetite being fully as good as it should be for the amount of exercise taken.

I shall of course write you frequently how he is and his Views in regard to business.

I hope you will not loose sight of the fact that at Mr. Harter s request Willie a year or two ago gave him the refusal of the Farm.

Regards to all

Affectionately
G.W. Hill

(top of page three)

Willie thinks likely Mr. Harter may want our Spar Mules and a part of the young Stock if so is willing to trim & hire with interest.

Thomasville Ga Feby 25 1880

Dear Maj

Your favors of the 11 and 17 came to hand this morning.

Your Views in regard to what would be right in reference to the divide with Jessie meet mine exactly.

On the divide with your tenant you do not furnish House Hold and Kitchen Furniture which with a new beginner is quite an item, as also cows and c

Mr. Harter having already rented of Mr. Johnson and "Jessie" going to Marry favours his taking the farm and as to the Stock as there is ample feed. Jessie can attend to having it fed and Salted and looked after when it will do to turn out on the grass and Willie thinks better let it run as it will be in better shape after runing on the grass and bring a better price. Better have it understood that Jessie have the Stock looked after Say until in June.

If however Jessie is not going to marry we do not think it will do at all to try to run the farm in which event Jessie can see to the Stock and repair and build needed repairs and fences and Mr. Harter can take the place and the mules can be sold the Furniture Farm Tools and c Stored until our return.

We started for Tallahassee from Montgomery found on arrival here at 7 PM that we would be all night going by rail to the former place (only 36 miles South of her by Stage road)

We concluded to stop off and have some washing done. Upon finding the climate and surroundings So favourable We concluded to Spend a week here. I wrote to the Post Master at Jacksonville and had our Mails sent here. Hence my replying to your favours before going into Florida. I think Willie is improving in digestion and c and have no doubt will be O.K. the last of May or first of June.

Write often to Jacksonville. Love to all

Affectionately
G.W. Hill

“Friday”
Thomasville Ga Feby 27 1880

Dear Major

After closing my letter to you on the 25 and just as I was finishing one to “Jessie” “Willie” remarked that we had better let “Jessie” have the farm this year marry or not.

This has been a great relief to me. I assure you from the fact of having the Housekeeping outfit on hands to take care of and I hope it will also be a relief to you. The disposing of the mules has been a source of anxiety to Willie I am satisfied as he has formed a great attachment for them and hence had a great aversion to disposing of them to parties who probably would abuse them.

You can rent the farm or rather let Jessie have it on the terms you spoke of which will be the means of giving him a Start provided he will give it his attention and at the same time give Willie a reasonable rent but should he neglect business he will of course do himself no good and will only benefit us by keeping the H.H. goods and c in Shape and if Willie get no rent he can live over that.

I have but little fear that Jessie will do all he has promised me in reference to taking hold and working to the best advantage for himself and Willie whether he marry or not _ _ _ _ _

I hope you will confer with him in reference to whether it is better to plough up the wheat or let it stand and that you will encourage him to push things and not allow any dead beats to live off of him.

I am glad we concluded to stop here a week as I am satisfied “Willie” is improving as fast as could be hoped for at any place and it is quite as warm and pleasant as could be desired and as we are becoming acclimated as we proceed South--Willie as I wrote you thinks the Stock had better be salted regularly looked after and turned on the grass as soon as it will do.

Affectionately
G.W. Hill

In getting up papers observe the following.

We to furnish Farm teams House Hold and Kitchen Furniture Farm Tools Cows (we to have their increase) Feed for teams and Cows Corn for bread and c And Jessie to furnish all the rest necessary to run the farm Help provisions groceries and c.

Our half crop to be delvd at Alex. -- We on our part to use our utmost endeavors to intefere as little as possible with his cropping in having it delvd

If you or Jessie think we have been too hard on him you are at liberty to modify in any respect We want to do a good part by him.

G.W. Hill

Jessie can sign contract and I will sign on return you can hold it.

Gran

“Tuesday Morning”
Alton Apr. 13 1880

Dear Major

Your esteemed letter came to hand by the six o'clock mail yesterday.

During our trip I wrote so many letters that I do not know that I wrote you that “Willie's” cough appeared to be worse after reaching Cedar Key which is about four miles from the Main land and hence the atmosphere salty. We still hoped that he would have been benefited and proceeded to Tampa about 90 to 100 miles down the Gulf and 50 to 60 miles up the bay of the same name.

We only stopped over night at Tampa and went out to a farm five or six miles in the country so as to get milk and be in the pine timber. Here we remained near a week until Willie acknowledged that he was home Sick which being the case Satisfied me that the climate would not benefit him. I at once agreed to return to Tampa for the next steamer (than being but two a week) We arrived before dinner and every thing at the place we put up at was so nice and Willie enjoyed the dinner to such an extent that he proposed that we remain for the next steamer which was done and on Saturday (the 20th March I think) We embarked for Cedar Key which place we reached before breakfast Sunday morning.

We had Passes on the road from that place to Fernandina for which place we left about 4 AM Monday reaching there about 4 PM Laid over twenty four hours as there was but one train a day and hence one Steamer thence to Brunswick.

At Fernandina I obtained unlimited tickets intending to lay over in Georgia so as to reach Alton the last of this or the first of next month intending to make the first stop at Macon after a nights travel but Willie would not consent to stop hence we made Dalton about seven PM on Wednesday and were met by Charly Brown to whom I had telegraphed as I wanted information as regards a good house to stop at as this place I had intended to make a stop of at least a week at, but Willie became more and more impatient to get home and hence we only remained over night came Thursday to Nashville and stopped over night and thence on Friday and Friday night for Alton arriving here about 9 AM Saturday Having made the trip from Tampa to Alton inside of a week.

Charly Brown's family were all well except Mrs. Brown who is still in poor health. Ed his son wife and child live with the old folks.

I wrote Mr. Jenkins a few days ago since when I can not see much if any change in “Willie” except it may be that his appetite has improved and he is regular in his habits.

The weather has been too cool and windy for him to ride out for Several days.

Lizzie and Annie had had the measles before our return but were well hearty and started to school on Monday after our arrival. All are well as usual except Susan who had a chill Saturday and yesterday. This is the second time she has had them in Alton and the only times in her life. I will write often if any changes in “Willie's” condition. We are always glad to hear from you all.

Affectionately
G.W. Hill

(top of page three)

We use coal in grate in Willie's room which is better than the Base Burner. If I can get yellow pine wood from N.O. Boat will try that when we only have fires mornings and evenings.

Gran

Alton June 6th 1880

Dear Maj

I enclose you a card from J. R. Murray of St. Francisville which speaks for itself.

I made a settlement with the court years ago and closed up my Adm. of the Est. and have done nothing but paid Taxes on that property and got Mr. Wolf at one time to rent it out and have some repairs made.

I have quit paying Taxes for a year or two the amt already pd being 15.67.

If an order to sell can be had and it will bring any thing just as well be sold I guess but do not pretend to know any thing about it. I only want Mr. Murray to have a reply to his card and no doubt you can enlighten him.

The weather for several days has been disagreeable-- damp and windy and Saturday Willie did not think he felt as well as usual.

We have got him to consent to try some mint julip and when I find he is becoming tired of it will change to egg nog.

He does not sweat any of the consequences or has not since my return.

Nash Bartlett was in St. Louis last week and on his way home came and staid with "Willie" all day I think he enjoyed Nash's visit very much rode down town with him and got shaved.

When we have given the julip and egg nog a fair trial will write you the result.

Wheat keeps up pretty well in St. Louis and I think I will get "Jessie" to have ours (say 150 to 200 Bus) ship c as soon as it can be done.

I wanted Grant nominated but if repudiated by his own party that will be glory enough for once.

All pretty well except Willie.

Glad to hear from you any time.

Affectionately
G.W. Hill

Alton June 15 1880

Dear Maj

I have written to our Agt in St. Louis in regard to Cedar Posts also requested Capt. Bruner who runs on the Champion between St. Louis and Paducah to see what he can lay posts down at St. Louis for

The Agt writes that none are to be had sawed thin at one end.

Those he priced were 5 x 5 1/2 and 14 feet long @ 3-1/2 c pr foot (board measure I suppose) Say 17-1/2 c for 6 foot Post and about 21 c for 7 foot Posts, that is if I am correct in supposing board measure or 21 c for 6 foot and 24-1/2 c for 7 foot if pr linial foot. I will write Dodge (the Agt) and learn more definitely and when I have heard from Capt. Bruner will write again.

Harvest has already commenced hands exceedingly scarce paying 2 to 3 and as high at 3.50 pr day.

I think it probable one reason for the scarcity is the early harvest. Hands from farther south have not commenced coming north, and if they do not come soon they will be too late to do any good here. The farmers are having a terrible time some who have binders can not get twine and hands want from 50 c to 1.00 more for working for those who have binders.

Willie has been using the julips pretty freely--He was feeling pretty well yesterday. I left before he was up this morning. The very hot weather the few past days was hard on him. This morning is cold enough for fire. Will write again in a few days.

Affectionately

G.W. Hill

(top of page one)

Was there any thing else you wanted to know about in addition to price of posts?

Alton June 15 1880

Dear Maj

On writing you price of Cedar Posts I made a slight error in throwing into board measure calculating at 10 inches to the lineal foot instead of 25 in or 2 x 5 instead of 5 x 5 I now am satisfied the price is 3-1/2 c pr lineal foot.

I had occasion to get a few here for which I paid 35 c each. I have not measured them but am satisfied they are 7 feet long 5 x 5 all the way of a size.

I have sold the balance of the wheat here at 1.02 I rcd dispatch from Henry Albers (in St. Louis) yesterday asking price answered him 95 c he to pay. Storage which would have been equal to 1.02 here he replied by card Saying he could not use it at the price.

The hot weather had a damaging effect on Willie until day before yesterday he was perceptibly better and yesterday had a good appetite all day--and I think rested much better than usual last night. He takes his julips regularly.

Fearing he might become tired of them I made him some egg nog yesterday of which he took two tea spoonsfull which did not agree with him being just after dinner his "Ma" proposes making him some to take this morning before eating his breakfast.

Affectionately
G.W. Hill

(top of page one)

Harvest being early here Harvesters from the South will not be in time to get any work but will go at once I think farther North This will make it better for Clark and Hancock Counties.

Philip Gruner & Brothers,
Lumber, Lath, Shingles and Hardwood

St. Louis, June 21 1880

True Dodge
Agt Eagle Pkt. Co.

Dr. Sr

In reply to your Postal 19th Inst will say that 5/5-14 today are worth \$1.15 per pieces & ordinary Fence Posts 7 or 8 ft long 2 square sides are worth 30, shall be pleased to fill order for you

Yours Etc
P. Gruner & Bros.

G.W. Hill
Dr Sir.

The above is an answer to an inquiry in regards posts they are our largest dealers in that line.

Yours, Dodge.

Alton June 24 1880

Dear Maj

I have nothing new to write you. Willie suffers considerable from the heat. Has a fair appetite. Has quit the julips but takes an occasional toddy. The rest are all well.

Glad to hear Ellen is improving if it be but slowly.

I enclose you a letter to Dodge from Lumber--now giving price of Posts.

Write Soon and let me know how the Wheat harvest is progressing and how Ellen and the rest are.

Affectionately
G.W. Hill

Alton July 9th 1880

Dear Maj

Your two last favors came duly to hand and I should have answered the first before the receipt of the other but from the fact of having no news and nothing encouraging to write in regards to Willie's condition. He keeps up remarkably well but I am afraid is gradually growing weaker.

He has a fair appetite for his dinner usually but his cough is very troublesome day and night especially of nights or rather the fore part of nights in the latter part and mornings he rests much better.

I have not made inquiry of his Doctor but do not think he has much if any hope indeed I fear his only hope was blasted when the result of our Florida trip was known.

The rest of the family are well except that Annie has a rising on one of her thumbs which is very painful and keeps her awake of nights more or less.

We have had too much rain here and some wind which has kept the farmers from threshing their grain. For the past few days however it has been dry but Sultry and threatening and now 8:30 AM We are having a Very heavy rain with but little wind.

Willie does not care about seeing any one except the family and if any one comes in he is indulged in this as well as any and all other known wishes. He has always thought much of Nash Bartlett and when he came to see him (while I was in Clark the last time) enjoyed his visit very much.

A week or ten days ago he requested me to send you and Jimmy Jenkins a Photograph which you will find enclosed. Please write me occasionally and believe me as ever

Affectionately
G.W. Hill

Alton Aug 10 1880

Dear Maj

I have nothing new or encouraging to write but as I had a letter from Lizzie to Nannie thought I would enclose it to you.

The girls some time ago took a notion to accommodate a family from St. Louis with Board for two months and the fact that Willie requires much atten and care from Susan who is nearly worked down made it necessary to have some help and hence by her request I wrote Jessie yesterday to send Mrs. Roland down if Fannie could get along without her to Superintend the Kitchen and Dining Room. Business continues good.

Our Wheat was No. 3 Sold for 86-1/2 cents

It is keeping up very well I think,

Hastily and
Affectionately
G.W. Hill

Alton Oct 18th 1880

Dear Major

Your favor of a recent date came duly to hand, with enclosure of 40.00 rent on the 40 acres land to Mannian.

J. N. Lewis wrote me in regard to building 1/4 mile fence and also wanted me to write price of that 40. I replied that Mannian wanted to put up fence or a 1/4 mile fence did not know but that it was the same 1/4 mile and that any arrangement made with you would be Satisfactory that I had not thought of selling but that an offer from him would be taken under consideration.

Folks not yet home they have not said when they would return.

They have enjoyed their trip very well and Mattie likes the country so well and the School at Nazareth (where her Ma went to School) that she thinks of going the last half term there which commences in Feby. It is a Catholic Institution at which one of her cousins is attending. She wants to complete her music and learn handy work principally. I write in haste to mail.

Affectionately
G.W. Hill

P.S.

You can collect for corn and Expense pr North and South Free or get St. Louis Exchange which will cost nothing I guess. Pritchett Agt North and South.

Alton Oct. 27 1880

Dear Major

Dear Sir

Your favor covering St. Louis Ex for 575.87 came to hand last night.

The delay occasioned me no inconvenience whatever.

As I did not need the Money I do not propose selling any land particularly at a sacrifice.

I will give you cr on a/c with \$28.16 for Seed Oats which would have been done long ago had Jessie reported to me or you Mentioned it.

I wrote Jessie to Start one team to hauling corn to town from the field at 30 c.

My folks (except Jennie) came home last Wednesday all well. Had a letter from "Jennie" last night she was well and likes her School very well. (Daughters College Harrodsburg, Kentucky.) Sister was quite well as also her family.

J land Agt who lives in Alton comes home twice a week on the Boat D. H. has promised to make a little inquiry in regard to the 40 Acres land but has not reported so far. No use to talk of any Real Est business until after the elections.

When you come give me notice and I will get your trip pass from La to St. L and return for yourself and Ellen or any one else who may want to come with you.

Hastily And
Affectionately
G.W. Hill

Alton Nov. 21 1880

Dear Major

Your favor of the 10th came duly to hand and found us all well and glad to hear of the general good health and that Ellen was surely recovering.

I have been feeling very sore over the result of the election but if others can I must stand it.

Primaries may work very well where great doubt is entertained as to the result of the election but where a nomination is considered equal to an election to much feeling is indulged in, and the strife in the party becomes equal to that between the two opposing parties.

In primaries it would be well to exclude all electioneering by the candidates if indeed not better in the case of friends of each.

Where a man goes back on the nominee he should be spotted and in turn the party go back on him for all time to come.

The Democrats are too liberal in voting for Republicans for minor offices. The result of all elections have more or less influence. Last spring a year ago two democrats ran for Mayor of this place and democrats used their influence in favor of and voted for the Republican and when the Globe Democrat came out next morning another glorious Republican victory was announced.

Had the last Governor of N.Y. been a Democrat in all probability Genl Hancock would have been elected.

I am in favor of Voting the ticket straight from Dog Petter to President. Nominate good men if possible and elect them.

Should you have a bad man on the ticket he makes a better democrat than the best republican in the land. We have had a very good season's business but have worked very cheap.

The Boat has just gone to Alton Slough where in all probability she will not lay longer than the middle or last of the week.

The Receiver's fleet except Bell of LaCross at Gregory's Ldg. War Eagle & Clinton working for the Anchor Line is also in Alton Slough.

The Red Wing - Minnesota and Minneapolis Were nearly worn out in coming up. It is said the Red Wing was leaking so badly at one time that the water gained on the pump or pumps, and some one said the Minneapolis had several holes cut in her by the ice -- -- -- The Receiver will have a Sorry fleet to start out with in the spring to do the business of the great valley.

It may be that they have got the Commodore at last but they will find him to be a thorn in their Sides Should he choose that course and if not they will find if they have not already that they have an Elephant on their hands without the balance of the show.

It will require not less than two to three hundred thousand dollars to get the Co. in working order. Every thing on shore is in good shape but that will avail nothing without Good Suitable Boats.

They have no Boats except the War Eagle and Clinton and it may be the Belle of LaCross that is worth repairing and in all probability the two former will by chancing it in the lower river in low water be lost before spring. The way they beat the Com. and elected Henry Hill was by throwing all their Votes for him instead of Voting for four candidates. We are all well. Jennie was well a few days ago when we last had a postal from her.

Affectionately
GW Hill

(top of page one)

Can not say when I will be up probably before the Hollidays. Can not leave until the winter Sets in. The new Boat will start in tows of the Spread Eagle Monday the 22nd We had new Cabin Texas Pilot houses I put on her.

Alton Decr 5th 1880

Dear Major

Your favor in reference to Mr M. Bonds came duly to hand and I shall be satisfied if the vexed transaction can be disposed of by making the parties a present of \$25,000.00 which is just that much more than we should pay.

At first we only intended building a new Hull and new Boilers but on the new Boat we have So much more room for a good wide cabin that we concluded not to Spoil her by using the old Cabin which always looked too narrow. The dimensions are Hull 220 feet Hold 5-1/2 ft Beam 32 feet Floor 30 feet Wheel 27 feet Bucket 11-1/2 feet Floor Timbers 4 x 6 Floor Centers 16 in Bottom 4 in forward 3-1/2 aft Knuckles 5 in Sides 3-1/2 3 and 2-1/2 in Deck of White pine 2-1/2 in. This will give you an idea of the class of Hull. Of course in contract we gave dimensions of all timbers which were in proportion to that given you above.

The Boilers are of Steel 40 in 26 ft 5 - 9 in flues in each are to stand a pressure which will admit of an allowance of camping 170 pounds of Steam.

Will use Spread Eagle's Engine and Shafts with New Flanges on account of enlarging the wheels. The cylinders are 20 in 6-1/2 ft Stroke I think. They are 20 in but the Stroke I am not quite Sure about may be only 5 to 5-1/2.

William Leyhe and I have been a little fearfull that the engines would not make the Boat fast enough but after having been overhauled and tried towing new Hull or Boat and New Hull for Ferry Boat at this place. Henry tells me Mr. Williams is perfectly Satisfied with the engines. We thought it a pity to dismantle the Spread Eagle as she was a better Boat than the Packet Co. had but having no trade for her and either having to Spend Several thousand dollars on her or build concluded to build as the Spread Eagle drew too much water and did not have room to do the business except at great inconvenience and extra expense of wages and Labor.

We think after harvest with the new Boat by camping a big deck crew we can do all the business and save the extra expense of running the Little Eagle No. 2 as a helper.

We shall also probably extend our trips as far up as Phelps and other Landings in order to take some of the wind out of the Doras sails as in making her three trips to Clarksville pr week she occasionally drops into our trade and picks up some Sacks at less than our tariff which at 6 cents pr 100th We think is low enough.

Capt. Lamont runs the Dora for a Comr House in St. Louis. Should new Bonds be issued to raise the \$25,000.00 to pay the M and M Swindle off probably I could cash some of them.

We received a letter fom "Jennie" Friday. She wrote she had not missed a meal and was the greater part of the time perfectly happy.

The New Boat is completed Hull Cabin Texas and c Beds Beding Carpets Pantry and Table ware all painted and finished up in Cabin Boilers up and in place Sheet iron work nearly completed--Fire Brick on Board at a cost so far of about \$23,000.00.

It is no calamity or misfortune whatever that the fleet had to lay at Paducah as the place is perfectly safe from ice on the side of the river next to the city (Tenn river I mean) and hence much more convenient in all respects than if here room to lay along side to move our machinery and c which in case of ice if here would have given much trouble and when ready can get a load of Lumber for the Barge (Spread Eagle & Hull) and a large lot of Staves for the new Boat (Spread Eagle).

All well will be up soon. Write often. Love to all

Affectionately
G.W. Hill

(top of page one)

Club (Receiver) has Capt. Brunner taking care of Fleet in Slough will I guess give him a Boat in the Spring if he runs the thing. I think Comr D and others intend to force a Sale of the whole outfit. He is financially well healed. Has 150,000.00 Stock paying R.R. up north and good property in St. Paul.

(top of page three)

Rained all afternoon and into the night yesterday with thunder and lightning and now the wind is north west and cold changed about two o'clock this morning.

Alton, Ill., April 1 1881

Dear Maj

Your favor of the 27th came duly to hand.

I regret to hear of the misfortune to the people along the bank of the Des Moines in Alexandria.

It is true that the Rail Road losses have been much greater but they can stand it while those who were washed out could barely live and how they will do now I am not able to say.

The Comodore has taken his case to a higher court and is going to have the rights of property tried and a decision is to be rendered at 4 o'clock today. The new Boat will not be here in less than about three weeks. I have written Henry to write us as soon as he ascertains what time he will be ready to Start out and then I will try to think to let you know.

Capt. JRW and William both would like to run the Bald Eagle but it is likely William would just as soon go on the L Eagle No. 2.

There are so many hungry ones that the Comodore has been furnishing money too, to keep from Starving that he may have more men than Boats.

Capt. Thompson starts out the Fanny Tatum (Stern Wheeler) tonight or tomorrow night. He telegraphed Capt. Hutchison "where is the Arkansas how is the river" The reply was "Hurry up the Tatum lots of Freight" and then Capt. T. was waken and told Hunter Ben Jenkins never to pay for or receive a message again in reply to one from him which had no allusion to the question asked.

If William is agreed I can get him to see the Comodore and we can leave it to him to say who shall go on the Boat when chartered to him and you can be made to be his man if We say so.

Henry is becoming more and more particular in regard to having our Boats fully and well manned and as he does not like for the L Eagle No. 2 to be run without William is on her and does not like for Capt. JRW to go on the Bald Eagle. I think a suggestion that you go on her in our interest would take.

In regard to the family not making that trip I will say that were it to do over I would break up sell cow and every thing that stood in the way of giving up the house as Susan has been so annoyed that she could not sleep of nights all uncalled for only a disinclination on the part of the yankees to accommodate us.

We had the house for a year from 5 Mar 1880 Last fall we wanted to give it up on account of its being so cold but they would not agree to let us off but in the dead of winter wanted us to vacate I paid the rent at the end of each month without any understanding to that effect.

The parties knew long ago that we were to have possession of the Shelly property the 1st of April and could just as well have waited one month before repairing the house as not but just because they were yankees and it was not in them to do an act of kindness they kept up a continual howl about our leaving and just a double rent offered would have made it all right no doubt but I was determined not to offer to pay them one cent extra. The yankees are as distinct a race from the Southerners as are the negroes. I must close to mail. Love to all. Affectionately,

G.W. Hill

(top of page one)

I wish you would explain to Jessie in regard to laws you wrote of for Hagerman. He thinks Mr. H has not done right about joint fences.

Alton, Ill., Apr 18 1881

Dear Major

As Henry Leyhe has not written us for a week, I can not say just when the Boat will be here.

Reports are to the effect that she should have left Paducah last Saturday that is it was so reported last week but up to this time We have not been informed of her departure.

I wrote "Henry" to let me know inst as soon as he ascertained when they would start and it may be that he will do so.

Some one who came from the Ohio River last week told William Leyhe she would start "Saturday."

The Comodore still hangs on and I guess "will fight it out on this line if it takes all summer."

The Receiver's expenses being 2000.00 pr month and then the Trustee must come in for at least half as much must eat up a Small portion of the Stock in the course of time.

The Comr is of the opinion I can tie up a Barge of the Co here which Clubb has lot parties here have to Boat Sand for the Glass works And it is his opinion that the reason he dare not start out the Boats is that they will be tied up if they land out of the State of Mo.

I have seen by the papers that the only Boats fit to run are the Clinton and War Eagle and that the reason they have not been sent out is that they have been attached.

The river here has been nearly on the floor in our Depot Say within 6 inches but fell about 3 inches last night, and now we hope we shall not be run out by the rise from Rock Island. The Mo River affects the River here.

Affectionately
G W. Hill

Alton, Ill., Aug 6 1881

Dear Maj

Your favor to hand. I sent Valice for the girls pr Porter (Postage PrePaid) of the Bald Eagle last night.

It is and has been too hot here for a man to feel like doing any thing or going into any thing.

I had a talk with Capt. Davis of the Cole some time ago. His lowest price was 12400.00. He said he would not take less than at the rate of 13,000.00 for his interest but that others had concluded to sell for enough less to reduce to the price named above. I told him 10,000.00 would be a big price for her unless a man had a trade for her. If she had a good Stern with balance rudders and her Boilers back about one length I would be willing to take her at 12,000.00 trade or no trade but it will take 2000.00 to make these changes and extend her cabin.

As she is the river is entirely too narrow for her to round too in and she has no room forward of the steps and but little cabin capacity. Capt. Davis says he has had over six hundred tons on her.

She is cheap to a man who has a place for her and if any business this fall there will be

places for light Boats. She draws 24 in. forward 20 to 22 in aft, I think.

All well will write to the girls soon.

Affectionately

GW Hill

Alton, Ill., Aug 31 1881

Dear Maj,

I have been writing "Jessie" and trying to give him back bone on the future of the grain market.

Wrote him not to engage but if he had time and the roads were good to sell as he hauled to market but he ignored my suggestion and engaged 500 Bus Corn at 60c What his object was I can not tell as there is nothing to be gained as I wrote him by an engagement as they would hold him in the event of an advance and in the event of a decline would with an elastic conscienced weigher have the drop on him.

Oats here retailing at 65c Corn @ 1.00 pr Bus. Out of wagons Corn go to 95c Wheat 1.36 the best market in the world I guess. I thought if I could get a 10c rate by the car we might ship one or more cars Corn and Oats.

I think the best opening for the future in way of Steamboating is two Boats with same power as Spread Eagle longer and possibly a few feet wider (to make them light) for the Quincy trade and if the St Ls St P line proposes (as now is quite apparent) to let the daily line to Keokuk die out.

I think we had better go into it next Season with Bald Eagle and a new Boat at first giving Court with DA Small interest. Be Muse on this.

Affectionately

GWH

(back of envelope)

Answered 7 Sept 81

Alton, Ill., Sept 12th 1881

Dear Major

Your favor of the 7th inst is to hand.

When I wrote "Jessie" in regard to engaging Corn I told him that I thought he had better sell as he hauled that if an advance occurred the buyer would hold him to the contract and if it declined they would have the drop on him as with a weigher with an elastic conscience they could get even with him and moreover if the roads became muddy and he could plough he would be bound to haul corn to fill the contract.

I think 60 c a very good price for corn when it can be hauled on good roads and when it interferes with no other work on the farm.

The trouble with us is that too often when the time comes to sell to the best advantage We can not get our grain to market in view of which fact I at one time had a notion to pay 12,00.00 for the Slattery Ware House to Store in but of course will not now invest in it at any price.

I do not know that corn will be worth a dollar but it has sold for that here out of wagons and I would not neglect farm work to sell at 60c or even more.

I got a 5c rate to Louisiana but have not had a reply as to price from them to this place.

Many have supplied themselves with corn and oats from St. Louis and other places and hence the market is a little down here at present.

If We had a place of our own here and felt settled I would build a Barn and Store our surpluss grain to supply the market when grain was scarce.

As regards the Quincy trade if we into it at all it will be on terms with the Comr.

We would want him to have an interest but the whole thing under our controll.

I do not know that the line has started out a Boat during the season on time and hence business has sought other channels.

We are of the opinion if under the present management the Line can make expenses there is a fortune in it if run right.

The Spread Eagle on her daily trips leaves St. Louis with as much Freight as the Bald Eagle gets in the Keokuk trade which fact is attributable in a great measure to her promptness in arrival and departure.

We have not talked to the Comodore but We are of the opinion it is the first thing he can do if he expects to hold the trade. We are all well. Have had a good rain and now the weather is cool and nice

Affectionately
GW Hill

(back of envelope)

Answered Sept 13th 1881

Alton, Ill., Sept 18th 1881

Dear Major

Your favor of the 13 is before me and although it calls for no answer I thought I would write you at all events.

As regards Peter Maneau and Capt. Asbery I think you are mistaken as Peter pulls with the Comodore and Mr. Havlin told me today he expected to get the clerks berth on her through the Comodore. (Mr. Havlin as you may know was on the Bald Eagle just laid up). Our arrangement was for 33.33 pr day and we were in one half. She has about held her own or within Say 100.00 having paid us about 5,000.00 or a little more in charter money.

Her receipts the two last trips were Something over 1700.00 and the losses about 100.00 that is after paying charter of 33.33 pr day. We have chartered the Little Eagle No. 2 by the day to tow Brush and Stone Boats to raise the damn at the head of Alton Slough just opposite here which charter will run until Ice or the appropriation is exhausted.

The War Eagle passed up last night Capt. Jerry Wood Master. The Comr. was on the Boat and told me it was impossible to advance rates that Some one would be sure to start in and put rates down.

At Rail Road Points it is a matter of impossibility I know. And as far as the KK trade is concerned the Points on the Road got a 10 to 15c rate winter and summer. I think myself the Comr is hard up and am sorry for him.

I will See the Comr and ascertain his views. One thing is certain and he knows it that the trade is of sufficient importance to demand a line to Keokuk or Quincy and he will keep something running in it if for nothing else but to keep some one else from going in as he has been doing.

He has always been on good terms with us and I think would prefer that we run it giving him an interest to leaving the gap open to opposition.

Two good fast Boats starting on time and runing So as to be depended upon in the Quincy trade will make money the year around or during the season of Navigation.

I wrote "Spence" the last trip that I would present a Crown to any Boat of the line upon proof of the fact of having Started out from St. Louis on time during the Season.

This leaves us all well. We have had to have fire in the office one or two days in the past week but it is warming up again.

Our love to all

Affectionately
G.W. Hill

Alton, Ill., Oct 9 1881

Dear Major

I am of the opinion that a good lumber yard well kept at Alexandria would pay well.

And in writing Mr Bott a few days ago giving him price of our possessions there I suggested that a small store on the corner towards the Big Church or on the corner of Becker's possessions where the Hotel stood in connection with a lumber yard could be made to pay as he stated that he wanted outdoor exercise.

I offered him ½ of the Lerhew Brick our old house and Duncan's note for 550.00 and about two years interest for \$2250.00.

He did not want so much but offered me 900.00 for the home place which is about what the lots and filling cost which amt I think I shall not take.

Sorry none of you were down to the fair Jessie and wife were down but were on the wing all the time So that they had no rest and I did not get to see them except at meals.

They must have gone home nearly worn out.

If you had a good active partner you might embark in Lumber in Alx if you wish to go into anything.

I would recommend Enoch Hinkley but do not like the way he closed the Lerhew rent account.

I thought as you did that after taking out Doctor's Bills We would share equally in the losses but his Bill applied on his half of rent and in addition he collected near 50.00 more than he paid out for the Barn (of the Doctor for rent) and instead of paying me my half kept the whole of that quitting in my debt 23\$ and Some cents. In order to Settle the Amt I wrote him to let me have the use of \$1000.00 a short time just to have it on hand if needed when I was paying up the Balance on the new Boat but he wrote me that his Money was invested but never offered to pay me the amt. I did not need his 1000.00. I have some 10,000.00 on hand which if made secure in I would let go very low. Love to all

Affectionately
GW Hill

(top of page three)

The Misses Watson went home Friday night Miss Mollie Palmer came up Saturday night will go home Monday night.

G

JENKINS & SASS

St. Louis, Mo. October 17, 1881

R. E. Hill Esq.
Keokuk
Iowa

Dear Sir

The only iron hull steamer which we know of here for sale is as we are informed a very nice little boat. She is owned by the Mo Furnace Co. and can be bought for \$22,000 which we presume from tenure of your letter would be to expensive for your purpose any thing else we can do for you in the matter we will cheerfully do.

Her length
is 120 feet 20 foot beam
12 in diameter 3-1/2 stroke

Yours respectfully

Jenkins & Sass

Alton, Ill., Feby 13th 1882

Dear Major

Your favor of the 8th inst came duly to hand.

I had some days previously written Mr. Johnson to dispose of the property as if his own and am perfectly willing that he shall do so.

I made an offer for one half of a double house here which was not accepted and am not quite sure that we can get a suitable place at all.

Should I not buy here (which I am only induced to try to do on account of business interests) I prefer a home where a distinction is made in the Schools between white and black as I shall hardly live long enough to become accustomed to the mixed school as it is called.

Quincy would be my preference over any other city in this State.

We have been having some very fine May weather and hence have had to continue to run the Bald Eagle Tuesdays and Thursdays to Grafton and return and the rest of the week to St. Louis and return.

We have cut down our expenses as much as possible by not running the Cook house and by Camping a light crew but the business is so light that we should run behind were it not for the fact of having considerable towing to do for the Grafton Stone Co. and the Ice Company's which we have obtained from the fact of the regular tow Boats being laid up.

We have put in a bid for the Stone Company's work the coming season.

We are all quite well. Capt. H. Leyhe is laid up or was yesterday with rheumatism in his right shoulder and William L. has been laid up a month with fever.

Affectionately

G.W. Hill

Alton, Ill., Mar. 23rd 1882

Dear Major

I enclose you authority to cast my vote know nothing of any focus and do not think those interested will care as to that.

Jessie had intended putting in some oats last Monday but for the rain Sunday night.

I have with me Saml McCutchen again and hence can go to St. Louis any day except Friday and Saturday on which days I collect.

We should give Mr. Matthews notice and he will meet us at Depot Kirkwood and go with us. I think I will try to come up after a while and see what is right about the city Levee. I think it is strange that C and CH and BFH refuse to pay any of the expense of the levee.

If you see Mr. Johnson please say to him that I was absent when the filling was done around the House or I would not have had the dirt put quite as high as the Stone work as dampness will rise in a Brick Wall where the wall is under ground and if any low places in the yard may have the dirt cut down just around the house and wheeled to such low place or places Shaping the ground of course So as to drain from the house in all directions provided at not too much expense.

I have no news business has kept up very well considering all things.

We have the towing for the Grafton Quarry Co. which includes much Rip Rap for the Louisiana Bridge and have bought the Imperial and two 5 or 600 ton Barges.

The Little Eagle No. 2 will probably go into the Gov. Service here about the first of April. Her machinery is too light for as heavy work as we are having to do for the Quarry Co.

We will soon build to the "Imperial" probably the present Season and Move over the machinery in the winter.

The towing helped the Bald Eagle out very much while travel and freight were both light. We have been running to St. Louis Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays and to Grafton Tuesdays and Thursdays so far this year. (Runing No Cook House)

Next Monday the Spread Eagle will come out and make regular trips to St. Louis and going to Grafton daily leaving Alton 7 AM St L 3 PM and Alton for Grafton 6 PM as heretofore.

With Love to self family and all I am as ever your Bro.

"All quite well"

G.W. Hill

(top of page three)

P.S. I came near forgetting to say We have taken Col. Burbridges House on the corner near the Cathedral on opposite Side of street. Moved two weeks ago. Now settled only one block from old place

(newspaper clipping of a steamboat)

Alton, Ill., July 18 1882

Dear Major

Your favor is to hand and I have but little time to write you in reply before the train passes.

I have no doubt I can let you have what money you may need and hence if you are paying a high rate of interest to any one if you will include the amt. in a note (rate of interest and day of month leave blank) with the 1500.00 asked for and enclose me by mail I will remit in St. Louis check, as I would gladly have furnished you money at a low rate of interest at any time to have taken up BFH's note if you had requested it.

I had through the papers and by letters from Jessie been posted in regard to the damage by the flood and also in the same way and from information from Jas Million more recently that it was not as extensive by far as at first thought to have been and we are glad that it has proven to be no worse. It is to be regretted you did not at once put up the levee and thus have averted this calamity.

At last accounts "Mattie" (still in KY.) was quite well and enjoying her visit very well.

This leaves us in tolerably good health.

Lizzie and Annie have been complaining a little but are up and about and I took a bad cold and sore throat from occupying the office when damp in that damp cool weather but am about well.

With Much love to you all I Am

Affectionately
G.W. Hill

[January 3, 1884]

Capt. R.E. Hill

In a/c with G.W. Hill

1882				
Jany	5	To 1/2 Tax on 40 Acres Land St. Louis Co 1882 -----		4.50
Decr	27	" 1 yrs int. on note dated Aug. 1/82 to Aug 1/83 @ 3% for 1500.00	45.00	
"	"	" 1 yrs int. on note dated June 8/81 for 700.00 to Jun 8/83 3%	21.00	
1884				
Jany	--	" 1/2 Tax on St. L Co Land 1883	6.20	
"	2	" St. Louis check to Bal.	<u>6.07</u>	<u>78.27</u>
1883				\$82.77
Decr.	27	1 yr Taxes in Vernon TownShip for me	10.80	
"	"	" " "Des Moines " " "	<u>71.97</u>	<u>\$82.77</u>

E. O. E.

Alton Jany 3/84

G.W. Hill

Dear Major-- I know of no news calculated to interest you--We brought the Bald Eagle from Piasa Island last Wednesday the 18th and made a trip to St. Louis Thursday the 19th but the water was so low that it was too dangerous to run unless there was some money in it.

The "Dora" came up Saturday with a very slim trip went to Miland and returned here "Sunday" light good some 8 cents pr Bbl. Flour here but not enough in My opinion to swell her total receipts to 100.00 on the trip hence she must have droped not less than 150.00 to 200.00 The weather last night and today is quite winterish and we are all glad to see it. Love to all. "All well at home last account"

Affectionately
G.W. Hill

Alton, Ill. Mar. 8th 1885

Dear Major

I learn from the papers terrible reports from the bottoms and supposing you to be posted write for whatever information you may be in possession of.

I hope it is not as bad as reported but fear Jimmy Jenkins is again a sufferer.

Susan, Mattie and Jennie left last Monday for the Exposition via Louisville where they made a very short stop. I have not heard from them since they left that place.

Every thing in the way of business looks exceedingly dull in all departments and I can see no source from which we can reasonably hope for any immediate relief.

Every thing seems to have been over done.

I had hoped that an appropriation for river improvements would have been made which would have given employment to river men and labor and probably have been the means of reducing the funds in the treasury to some extent, and put money in circulation instead of going to additional expense of building vaults to store it away.

Miss Ann and Nannie are with Lizzie and Annie who only go to School in the fore noon to a private teacher who has but a Very few schollars. All well when I heard from them a few days ago.

Love to.

Truly and affectionately.

G.W. Hill

P.S. I brought one of the watches down with me in reference to which I wrote you but find the rim for the chistial gone. Will get the other when I go up again and if it will pay will have it put in order but if not then when I feel able will get a new one.

The snow has disappeared and the streets becoming dusty but the roads are terrible.

G.W.H.

Alton, Ill. Apr 16th 1885

Dear Major

At last I have the watch ready to Express and will start it out today. I got a cheap chain and quite plain not knowing how Gran's taste runs. The watch will probably answer him for the present as well as a more expensive one.

The reports from the bottom farms as given by Jessie are more gloomy than any thing we have ever had for years.

I suppose we should feel thankfull that no one lost their lives or are in a state of starvation.

Our future is not as bright as we could wish indeed our expenses are such that I do not feel at all hopeful, and would not refuse to Sell if I had an opportunity.

I think We will give up thinking of Selling at Hannibal and buying here at least for the present. It is a hard life to live away from home at My age but I shall try to stand it until I can do better.

All keep well which is the great blessing after all.

Love to all--Truly and

Affectionately.

G.W. Hill

Alton, Ill. Apr 21st 1885

Dear Major

Your favor of the 20th came to hand this morning and noted.

The last talk I had with Mr. Mathews he told me that he had been among the Germans but could find no one who would make an offer for the Kirkwood land.

It is not a good time for selling real estate when money is so scarce but it does look as if some one might need it as you say for the timber or for pasture or both.

I would much rather you would go out and see the property than to go myself but if I find when you come down that I can leave I will try to go with you.

I am glad that the farmers in the bottom do not manifest any disposition to give up.

Jimmy Jenkins must show a good deal of pluck to still hold out with so much calculated to discourage him.

The fact is I guess all are kept too busy to have time to get the blues.

I have felt terribly discouraged during the winter and spring. It looks as if there was no end to our expenses.

We thought that this winter our expenses would be very light but we overhauled the old upper St. L & St. Paul Wharf Boat and raised and repaired an old Barge and have been repairing boats and barges for two months and last though not least we have sent the Bald Eagle to Dubuque for repairs.

When we bought Capt. I.R. Williams out I thought we would have no trouble to pay him up in full and I rather think from what passed at the time the sale was made that he expected the money the first of May and when down here last week he intimated that he could use a part of the money to good advantage right away.

Henry thinks as the rate of interest is so low (4%) that he would rather pay that and keep a good amt. of money on hand in case of an emergency.

I think I will pay the Capt. in cash say 2690.00 as he seemed to need 2000.00 or if you need say \$190.00 I can pay you that amt and make your note to the Capt. Say about 3450.00 at the 1st of June. As there is time a plenty to hear from you before Capt. W. comes down say about two weeks hence I will do nothing definite until I hear from you again. Mean time if you see Capt. W. you might mention the subject to him.

I could loan at 8% and keep him out of the money up to time the note becomes due but prefer to accommodate you and him as far as I can and at the same time take up my paper.

Business opened out better than We anticipated but is light and growing "beautifully less" as old Col. Markel used to say. With love to all I am Truly and Affectionately

G. W. Hill

(top of page one)

The city election here yesterday is satisfactory in its results I believe.

G.W.H.

Alton, Ill. May 1 1885

Dear Major

I have just rec'd a letter from Capt. Williams in which he states that he will need some money and no doubt in order to get a part of the amt of my note will take yours for balance at 4% due on or before Nov. 1887.

I wrote him that I did not like to drain myself of funds and that I could loan at 3% on time and pay him 4% and only be out 1% which I could stand in order to have the money where I could get it if I needed it but if I could pay off the note in the way understood I would do so as that was the only paper I had out and I wished to take it up.

You have not written me signifying what amt. you wished to make the note to Capt. Williams for.

All well when I had last letter yesterday from Hannibal.

Hoping this will find you all well I am Truly and
Affectionately
G.W. Hill

Alton, Ill. May 5th 1885

Dear Major

Your favor is to hand and I am Satisfied from what you Say that I have not been understood. When we bought Capt. Williams out Williams would not go in January and I paid him what money he needed gave notes each for 4900.00 due Nov. 1, 1887 with interest from 1st May until paid at 4%. I fully expected to pay the note the first May but we have been paying out so much money that I do not like to drain myself of funds to pay the note and yet want to get out of debt and as I wrote you Capt. IRW wants 2000.00 and if by paying that amt. or a little more in cash I can make a turn to take up my note and get out of debt I want to do so, no need of your paying more than 4%. The note has been made payable on or before Nov 1 1887.

I do not know that he would want any security but if so then he and you can arrange that your note and money to you if you need it or balance in money to him to amt to 4900.00 with amt of your note. I wrote him if I could not take up my note (the only paper I have out) in toto just as well let the whole note stand, keep my money on time deposit at 3% so if needed I could draw it instead of my borrowing at 6 or 8% then I would be paying him 4% which would really only stand me 1%. But I want to get out of debt and want to distress no one who owes me.

As far as the Kirkwood place that I fear can not be sold as dull times as we now have. all were well yesterday when I left Hannibal. With Much Love to all I am as ever Truly and affectionately

G.W. Hill

(back of envelope)

Capt. Williams is in St. Louis and on the Boat of Nights and will be here until Thursday or Saturday. GWH

Alton, Ill., Feby 3rd 1886

Dear Maj

Your favor covering Tax Rects and Judge Callahan's letter relating to sale of the St. Francisville property came duly to hand.

I have no right to make any kind of a deed that I know of and as for the Heirs I know nothing as to their whereabouts.

It may be that of the Doctor will put in your hands the amt. of Taxes due and you pay the Taxes and add 15.67 due me on the same a/c that the court can order a Sale to pay the debt.

I would not pay the Taxes unless the Doct furnish the money and the court decide that he can and will make an order and sell.

I make a statement below of your a/c. The bal. I will if you wish send you draft for "All well"

Love to all. Affectionately
G. W. Hill

State	Tax you paid for me	74.67	
"	" " " " " Alex Property	<u>6.77</u>	
		81.44	
	Paid Tax Kirkwood 40 1/2	4.80	
1885			
Jun 8	1 yr. Int. note for 700.00	21.00	
Aug 1	1 " " " 1500.00	<u>45.00</u>	<u>70.80</u>
			<u>\$10.64</u>

Due you on a/c after paying Taxes and int on your notes as above
GWH

Alton, Ill. July 20th 1886

Dear Major

As I did not see "Gran" on last trip I do not know what his intention was.

On return of the Lysle from Cape Hu Gris Capt Hamilton informed Me that he had gone up on the "Eagle" & supposing he has gone home I enclose a letter received here since the Boat passed up.

The weather is so hot and the Lysle such a hot boat I am afraid he will get sick I he continue on her.

I suppose they must have suffered much with heat while aground at Piasa just below Portage two nights and one day.

They grounded just below the same place on the down trip Sunday.

The river is drying up only loading to 3-1/2 feet now and we are fearful that will be found to be too deep.

The Lysle will not Venture above this place until there is More water.

I understood from Capt Hamilton that Gran was taking pills all the time and asked him about it. He told me it was on account of his liver. A more active life and less Medicine would be better.

Love to all All well with us.

Truly and affectionately
G.W. Hill

Alton, Ill. Oct 24 1886

Jas A. Jenkins, Esqr

Dear Sir

Replying I will say that my business is such that I could not remain with you to do justice in the premises, and it occurs to me that no one should examine the papers or effects until an administrator has been appointed when if I mistake not the court names three disinterested householders for that purpose.

It occurs to me that you should administer as a matter of economy and a fitness of things and I can not see that any objection on your part or that of any one else could be urged as I am of the opinion that had my Brother made a will you would have been named as executor.

Nothing would give me more pleasure than to assist "Ellen" were it in my power but I am too far away to be of Much service, and she can be assured that I will when occasion requires make sacrifices to further her interests as well as that of all conserved

This leaves us all in usual health.

With assurances of love and sympathy I am Truly and affectionately

Yours
G.W. Hill