

George Fearing Hollis Papers

1852 - 1903

MSS.471

Hollis, Hannah Sweet (mother)



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William has brought me some nice
Paper so now I can write all I want to
you know I am a miserable
lovespender



Aug 23. 1888.

My own dear son,

I cannot tell you how it rejoiced my heart to
see that good long letter, that gave us the descri-
ption of your voyage out, you must have enjoyed
it much, having such pleasant companions, and that
done to. I was uneasy when I heard your wife had gone
with you and in such a way without clothes among
strangers, and I knew that it would be hard for you
in your straitened circumstances to pay your way, but
hope you will through all right. if I had any idea of your
^{much} Frank Hewins, I should have sent letters by him, he
was as glad to meet you as you him, his two sisters leave
him visiting us and left here today, they expect him in
one week from today, won't he a queer fellow to
be traveling up and down the Mountains all
alone it is not safe, I was right glad that you
could see so much of England's suburbs, it must
be very fine and you are well to take in all the
beautiful, I looked on the atlas and traced
your journey to Cape Town it seems a

long stretch and am anxious for the
next letter of I do hope that every
thing will turn out well, it is like
beginning life anew, keep up self respect
and the dignity of your calling, of course
the Manners and Customs of the People
will be different from us, but don't adapt
anything but the best, we shall wait
with anxious Eyes for your next
then tell us the truth and nothing but the truth
You are the best Correspondent of the
Family, I have written Lizzie Hudson a long
letter and shall write again when next I
occur, have also written to Georgie haven't
I done well, Wm will not take a vacation
this summer but has taken me to ride
three times, the first we went to the beach
and spent an hour on one of the quiet
benches of the beach near Wintrop and
there we sat drinking in the fresh sea
breeze, you can't think how it invigorated
me and increased my appetite, but Sam
doomed to live on bread and meat.
When all kinds of Vegetables and Fruit

are coming in and cant have only
the smell, am losing my hair but
not my hearing, so you see that's a
blessing, and if we count them up we
are surprised at the number, - 22
we have had heavy rains and foul weather
but to day it has cleared up warm and lovely,
a line from Lucy saying she will be here
tomorrow, slowly comes every week I am glad
he does, its coming home. there is one that
I want to caution you about, and dont
laugh that is going out bathing, you dont
know anything about the place so do be sure
a friend of ours came near drowning at the
thelsea beach, she felt perfectly safe, but
happend to step on a quick sand and
was taken off her feet and went under
the third time but was fortunately rescued.
you know James Poor the Stevens Replet
he came by water getting in his ears while
bathing, but how about those flies
and fleas' horrible to think of - land
shanksy. did you provide your silvers

with plenty of Campbells before you
went) that's the worst of a warm
climate you have to stand all these
feists, but delieve me from snakes?
now if you will excuse the pencil and
all the blunders, I will write you some
other times, and remember your
Marnie, and keep up your dignity
I have left space enough to pass on the
writing, with much love hoping you
may both be happy and well,

Mother

I don't know as you can read or see the best this miserable piece of an attempt of a letter but I don't work to write, but I do be contented, with heaps of love your ever aff. Mother
J. S. Miller

Dec 22

My own Dear boy

It is now two weeks since I have attempted to write, this is such a busy time and so little daylight, & how memory runs back to the old days when I could gather all the dear ones around me, it makes me sad, altho I have so much to be thankful for, just the way we always forget the Mercies, come and keep the blessed day with us, Lucy and Stan will be here, and I have send for Charles family, but as Mrs. Sternes is so low, perhaps only Ferey and Emma, its not a year for presents as there seems to be a financial depression and money is scarce, however I have done some needle work for you, shall keep it until fortune favours me a chance to send and I hope you both will enjoy it, what do you set our mouths watering for telling about your strawberries

when we poor mortals cant hardly
 keep from freezing, we are hard weather
 there was a fire next to Hoags and the
 Fireman was covered with Ice, you must
 have a glorious time but I think you tramp to
 much and sit up to late and I fear do not always
 attend Church" dont get in that habit my boy.
 I want you both to go together. Well I if
 she were here now she would wish herself back
 again and a great many ^{we have} Storms. Mrs. Mary Clark
 that was ^{was him} she made particular enquirey after you
 showed her your Picture though it excellent
 so say we all.) only think how long I have
 bin writing this letter and pardon the mistakes
 well I know has time and you, we must not
 all we could. Thanks family, Josephs and
 you too, I want the Cousins to visit often
 I and is growing up to be a good gentleman
 my young man. Well that is an arrow that
 shot has done him good. the three boys
 had a good time together Lucy came
 Sat and went back Sunday morning
 we did not do much in Parents was

remembered by every one of the Lovejoy
 family. see a nice letter from the Leonard
 Book from the joy and a number of
 cards from friends. your letter came
 the next day, what a lovely leaf! what
 leaf is it. and is that its natural state
 I see by your letter that you still continue
 walking. I should think you old enough
 to know better people will think you
 insane on the subject, remember
 you are not so young as when you
 walked to Salem - promise me you
 wont do so again. it worries me it
 doesnt show a well balanced mind
 you know people sometimes have
 their case I know how much you
 enjoy rambling round and seeing
 the beauties of the place but use
 discretion. we cant take up a paper
 but we see lives thrown away by
 some indiscretion or impudence
 How about that house it is nice
 but how far away is it from

business and want it be expensive
side to take care of it there is so
many things to take into consider
ation. how would your wife like it
wouldnt you be troubled with poison
reptiles. Gentle Lovey is back again
in a wholesale fruit store. when one day
she was startled by a santi-frade crawling
on the floor, deliver me from Snakes and
the like's - I had a letter from Aunt Nancy
acknowledging your Picture they think it ex
cellent and glad you look so much more
fleshy we ought to send you a pot he is
thinner than ever. he gets more tired
than he used to - I think we have the
track of George's little orange what
persuaded him to keep us in a war in
there is one family come from the west
say they cant stand the cold, and I
even here dont the winter I have now
a bad Cathartic cold. now my dear boy
I cant tell you how much I would give
for a kiss so try to imagine you have
it

Dec 31. 1888.

My letter is still waiting; so I will
spin out a few lines more in the first
place. I wish you both a happy & an
agreeable, in the fullest sense of the word
and I hope should it be; blessed with health
and no great to worry about it would
be ungrateful to require the home should
be what God intended it to be a type of
Heaven. "This world's full of beauty
as other worlds above and if we did our
duty it would be full of love." if we look
back we shall see many neglected
opportunities, that will grieve us but
we must turn to the next duty, forget
our selves in making those around us
happy; we all have our weaknesses and
much to overcome, but if we had it any
batter where would be the victory
just now there is the sound of young
voices in front of the house, is the

choir of boys belonging to the
 Episcopal Church, they will stop
 occasionally and sing their Christmas
 and New Years Carols. Surely surely
 I shall write Eben and send you I'll
 on these leaves hard to obtain
 and what its name I should like
 to send one to Mrs Lovejoy if easily
 obtained. I think they are lovely.
 I go with you in imagination through
 all your troubles. I never thought
 it would be so difficult getting any
 thing out to you, perhaps you can't
 hardly read my writing I expected
 that you had yes but was disappointed
 so I shall not wait for any body
 William will ^{and} papers while can
 send nothing but my love
 which you may be always sure
 of and remember those long
 tramps and that you are not so
 young as formerly and try not to get
 sick so far away from to you will
 mother

R. July 7th
Al. July 10th



CAPT. GEO. F. HOLLIS,
U. S. CONSUL,

Cape Town,
South Africa.



My Dear boy

It is just one week to day since I got your letter informing me that at last you had received your share of the inheritance. I was feeling desperate that when you had written so many you were left out. I have just come from Church and hope you enjoyed the same privilege. rec a letter from Eben last night he says they are voting over in Solihick, but not one word about partition. what a fair way? he was very glad to hear of your safe arrival, and will send his pks the first chance. every body seems content over the Election, which came in a great majority, well I hope we shall have a just man. our nation never was more in need than at the present time God save the Common Wealth of our land. our thanksgiving day is close at hand I should like to send you a pie and B. pudding, Lucy and Tom will be here and I with George also, Eben says he would be glad to have him come out and stay as long as he has

a mind to, and perhaps get work. I think they
need somebody to stir them up. we have had
some of the most glorious sunsets that I ever
witnessed, who could ^{have} witnessed them without admiring
the creator of so much beauty spread out for
our benefit and enjoyment. but it is a week
tomorrow since last I wrote but day after day passes
without my accomplishing half what I lay out to
do: well since we live on the river we have more
callers, and my friends have not forgotten
me in my absence. we have some lovely weather
but take it all through a remarkable wet season, every
body is elated on the Election, and I hope things
will prosper. I have been over to the City over
to ^{the} some extent but got pretty tired not quite
so strong as of yore. the leaves are all off the
trees but the grass is green as June. if only this
weather would last all through I have been
looking for a letter from Mrs Hudson for she
is always prompt to answer I wrote her three
weeks since. hope they are not sick, does a packet
ever go direct from here to Cape town. and how
long would it take me you young to send for

anything. I mean had long before it reached
you, we shall be on the lookout for an
opportunity. I suppose you are beginning
to see your friends you ought, and
will be expected to, it need not be very
expensive either, if only a friendly chat
I would like to help you along in that
way, only its so far off. I have an idea
that their impressions of the American
people are not ^{so} very favourable as
might be. Stan left here yesterday
said he had written so I hope you will not
have to wait so long again, the dogs are
growing so short that if I don't take
the warning I don't bring much to feed
and I am sad when I look back on my
dog life to see little done, not many
sheaves to bind, so many golden opor-
tunities lost never men to present
themselves again. another week has
passed and we have now got right
into winter, it has for the last
week been intense cold in some

parts of the west such sudden
changes is not conducive to
health. to day Nov 25th it is
a tough snow storm & at this rate
we shall have sleighing for weeks
giving, wish you could be here,
Stanley saw Charley yesterday
he told him that Mrs. Harriet
Ellens Mother was failing fast
she has lie every feable all summer.
So we go one after another, the
longest life soon passes away and
is like a dream, if we can only
look back with some satisfaction
on what we have done, but it is
what we have left undone that
troubles us. So let us be up and
doing for the night comes when
no man can work. hoping to hear
soon, and also that you can read
this letter in the wish of your old
Mother and hope it may find
you both well and happy. Ever Yours

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My Dear Son

here it is the 14 of Jan how the time
flies, and we are alive and well here.
We're just called in on his way to travel
down to meet the funeral procession of
Mrs. Sterns, as I have just got over a
severe Cold. they thought it not prudent
for me to go. she was a dear old Lady
they will miss her sadly, Horace has been
one of the most affectionate of Sons, I am
glad the oxen hold off, we have had a week
of very fine weather very warm for the
season. have you heard of the terrible Cyclone
at Pittsburgh, Pa. so sudden and great
loss of life, our papers are filled with
all kinds of horrible reading, if they would
only publish some of the good and leave
out some of the bad, I think it would
have a better influence on the publick.
I have just mailed two papers to Mrs

Hudson. I sent a Card on Christmas
 and have not rec a line since, and
 you know she is always very punctu-
 al in acknowledging any letter I fear
 some one is sick, Stanley was here
 on Tuesday and said he would send
 her one of your photos, which we all think
 are splendid. You must have grown fat
 now I am not going to take back one word
 I said about extravagant walking
 and neglecting Church and all that,
 because you know dear how anxious
 I am. You are among strangers all alone
 to make your first impression for a good
 reputation and it must be built on a
 good foundation. So see Eugene can we
 list you - - - - - - - - - -
 in and says give my best love to
 George ^{and I} and say I hope to hear that he is
 prospering and happy. She has that
 Child yet and no money has come
 as yet, but plenty of promises,
 from the Father a man and

you by a pouring rain, wind & East-
 continues warm, yesterday Praterville
 boasted of conditions in Bloom, but
 we have an Eclipse of the Moon that
 will bring a change of weather I hope
 so as this is unnatural and will produce
 diseases, it is not called healthy weather
 William and Maud have given the office
 to her Martha and Sam alone so I thought
 to have a letter chat with you, but as I don't
 go out much I am burden of news.

I suppose Stanley has informed you that
 Charles had moved to the next building,
 surgery operations and see Bent. I think
 he looks five years older this last
 year the gold mines have bin too much
 for him, and Joseph is thinner than
 ever he was telling me that he lost
 fifteen pound last summer, while I
 have gained my usual weight, all
 I need is strength and that don't
 come my hair fell off and left
 me quite bald, but strange to say

It is growing out again. If only
a set of teeth would grow out
it would be nice. (that not the way to
talk) be thankful for what is given
and bless the giver. I have my sight
and hearing, two great blessings
which I can't be too thankful for. Mrs
Loverjoy is quite kind of hearing and
likewise Aunt Nancy — please don't
forget when you write home to give as
the name of that leaf we think the most
attractive of the Mountains a perfect little gem.
(the bellings) Enter Mrs Manning with
dish Ice Cream and Orange Cake, and
remember me to George (Exit) was
obliged to eat the Cream before it melt-
ed had rather share it with some one
it has cleared away and the Moon
is shining bright as day nearly
full, Sam sitting in the sewing room
and looking out over to Somerville
Saw see nearly a dozen Electric Lights

May the
blessing of
God rest
upon
you
and keep
you from
all enemies
and fill your
soul with His
love

Alm has rec your letter, and says you
will be at home by the time this reaches
you, I have rec a good letter from Elizabeth
son, all well, had to stop writing as my
girl left us. This was no 2 on account of
some sickness, she was a young thing but
we have one now from Maine, truly
American, hope to keep her its getting
to be one of the greatest trials of house
keeping. For the two last weeks I have
taken the charge of the family, thank
God with me for returning health, it
(for this week) March has just come
from the City and called on Mrs Lovings
she is rather poorly this winter and
is quite hard of hearing caused by
trouble in her head, we rec a postlet
last night from Eben wonderfull
and the promise of a letter soon

he was much pleased with your
photo and will return the compliment
soon, hope he wont forget it Stanley
will be here again on Sunday and
I hope he will meet with more encour-
agement. he is trying to make a nice
steady industrious prudent man.
he seems to enjoy the different orga-
nizations to which he belongs. and he
talks very prudently. (a rainy Sunday
and I can't go to Church but shall
finish this sheet and send tomorrow
if you can read it well and good, written
at intervals. do you remember Mr Kendall
that once boarded with us he was here
and engaged all about Agnes Splendid
looking Man in man's' engaged in
the wool trade trading by int.
we heard from Lucy yesterday it was her
birth day. I had forgotten it. how the
years fly around, now Sam at the bottom
and must wind up with all the
love and good wishes to both of you
mother

you the 19

anniversary of
my wedding day

1825 64 years

Matthias
wedding

day

June 19th

1825

Malsea May. 19th 1887

Dear Sir, I am hearing of your trouble
I feel very anxious about you, and Miss
your letters so much, all we know is what
Louise wrote to her sister, but try to
hope for the best; slowly it will at last
hearing something favorable, he is probably
in Philadelphia today left here on the 19th.

This is a most perfect day, and it seems
so long since I have attended church,
for after getting over the lather I by
some means was suddenly seized with
Bronchial trouble which proved with
serious consequences, I was confined to my bed some
time, but by the blessing of God and
good nursing, I am again on my feet,
and cough nearly gone, I am not
felt altogether as well as usual, this
spring, the hot weather has come so
rapidly, it takes right hold of me.

tuesday) got a letter from Stanley
he was in Shedd, and would be home
Wednesday Morning a letter came to him
from the Cape, and we are all anxious
to learn the news but must wait
until tomorrow. I have to hear that
you are better do take care of yourself
I am glad to feel again like writing.
I saw several but it seemed a great deal
unpleasant to write a letter Mrs Wendell
has bin here several weeks, she took me
right in hand, good soul that she is, it's
warm and for the last week the heat has
bin oppressive, but yesterday and today
we are a lovely rain, Vegetation never looked
more lovely than now, wish you were to see
you it with me, and now I must wait till
tomorrow before I can hear from you, it's
so long since we have rec any letters, but
hope keeps the heart whole and I will hope
for the best, so take care of your self and
God bless you, my ever dear son
love to S, and to yourself well