

A Collection of Letters Written by the  
**Scholl Family**  
and their Kin: (1836-1897)

by Isabel S. Giulvezan

St. Louis, MO

1959



# C O N T E N T S

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Original letters in possession of

- \* - Mrs. Theodore H. Voegtli
- # - Mrs. J. Earl Ashcraft
- ## - Mrs. Clyde G. Huggins
- \*\* - Mrs. George Giulvezan

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### ERRATA

- p. 20 - last line - "do to" should be "to do"
- p. 33 - third line from bottom - "there" should be "where"



The Most Unforgettable Character I've Met, as a family genealogist, is my great-great-great-grandfather, Septimus Scholl.

Until the summer of 1958 when I first read the letters transcribed in this collection, I knew nothing of the personality of this man. It is true that his ancestry and the names of his wife and children are carefully set out in Spraker's Boone Family and in Scholl's Scholl-Sholl-Shull Genealogy; numerous of his land and other transactions are recorded in Clark County, Kentucky and Jackson County, Missouri; and there are references to him in the Draper Manuscript Collection, State Historical Society of Wisconsin.<sup>1</sup> But I still wondered - what type of man was Septimus Scholl.

These letters answered many questions for me. Septimus Scholl was kind and gentle, generous, affectionate and considerate, humble yet proud, a religious man, optimistic but practical. He did not acquire fame nor did he amass a fortune in worldly goods, but I cherish his memory and I am proud to be his descendant.

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<sup>1</sup>"Septimus Scholl lived on a small stream called Blue River in Mo. when I was in that country. I do not recollect what county. I did not go to his house as the beauties of a frontier country was so interesting to me that I did not take the time to visit him."

"Septimus the last I heard of him was living not far from Independence, Mo. If you can find him he can give you all the information that you want upon that subject. He is an intelligent man."

(Draper MSS. 23 C 106, 23 C 107: letters dated 1852, 1853 to Lyman C. Draper from D. B. Denton, first cousin of Septimus Scholl.)

"Septimus Schull. Near Schullsville. Grandson of Danl: Boone. (The following is a pc. Schull sd: he had written out for his children: placed it at my disposal.) 'When Col: Boone, with his associates, had mounted the most commanding position of Ky:, and viewed the numerous herds of Buffaloe, Elk & Deer, on the plains below, he observed to his comrades, to behold: (Claiming the whole as their own,) at the same time exclaiming, We are as rich as Boaz of old, having the cattle of a thousand hills. ...'"

(Draper MSS. 11 CC 51: Rev. John D. Shane's notes of his interview with Septimus Schull, Clark County, Kentucky, n.d.)

The original copies of these letters are in the possession of four Scholl descendants: Octavia (Hinde) Voegtli (Mrs. Theodore H.), 2105 South Tenth Street, Kansas City, Kansas, granddaughter of Rodney and Catharine (Scholl) Hinde; Ina (Vandeventer) Ashcraft (Mrs. J. Earl), 5530 Garfield, Kansas City, Missouri, great-granddaughter of Nelson and Harriet (Boone) Scholl; Evelyn (Cummins) Huggins (Mrs. Clyde G.), 7835 Aberdeen Road, Kansas City, Kansas, great-granddaughter of Daniel Boone and Sara (Higgins) Shull. The three letters in my possession were given to me by Mrs. Voegtli and Mrs. Huggins. The letter dated June 18, 1849, is of particular importance to me because Septimus Scholl mentioned his birthday, a record which I had long sought.

My gratitude is extended to these Scholl descendants for permitting these letters to be transcribed, mimeographed and distributed.

No effort was made to copy the letters exactly as written as the time involved to do this would have been prohibitive; however, the only alterations made were for ease of readability: spelling corrections, addition of punctuation and some changes in verb tense.

Most of the letters transcribed were in excellent condition considering their age. Here and there words or sentences were illegible in which case it was noted by -----. Where doubt existed as to the word transcribed, a question-mark was added.

These letters should be of intense interest to descendants, and to others interested in a first-hand account of a pioneer family of Missouri.

For the benefit of those who are not familiar with the Septimus Scholl family, brief sketches are included below.

Mrs. George Giulvezan  
9525 Radio Drive  
Affton 23, Missouri  
(great-great-granddaughter of  
Nelson and Harriet (Boone) Scholl)

October 27, 1959

## Septimus Scholl

The ancestors of Septimus Scholl were early settlers in the Fayette-Madison-Clark County section of the State of Kentucky. His maternal grandfather, Daniel Boone, carved out the Wilderness Road and founded Fort Boonesborough in 1775. Four years later, on Christmas Day, Septimus Scholl's paternal grandfather, William Scholl of Shenandoah County, Virginia, arrived at Fort Boonesborough where he joined his "kinsman" Daniel Boone. The two families left Boonesborough and struck camp on December 26, 1779 about eight miles northwest and the following spring erected cabins and stockades at the site, which was known as Boone's Station.<sup>1</sup>

Septimus Scholl, the son of Joseph and Levina (Boone) Scholl, was born on November 21, 1789 in Fayette County, Virginia (now Kentucky).<sup>2</sup>

On December 11, 1813, shortly after his 24th birthday, Septimus Scholl was united in marriage at Winchester, Kentucky, with Miss Sarah (Sallie) Millar, the daughter of Joseph and Susannah (Rector) Millar/Miller.<sup>3</sup> Sarah Millar, a Virginian, was born about 1792.<sup>4</sup> In 1795 her parents moved to Clark County, Kentucky, from Virginia, presumably from Shenandoah County.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>Draper MSS. 23 C 104, State Historical Society of Wisconsin: statement made in March, 1844 by Rachel Denton, daughter of William Scholl.

<sup>2</sup>Hazel A. Spraker, The Boone Family (Rutland, Vt.: The Tuttle Co., 1922), pp. 121-122, 184. John W. Scholl, Scholl-Sholl-Shull Genealogy (New York: The Grafton Press, n.d.), pp. 9-10. Letter, Septimus Scholl to Rodney M. Hinde, June 18, 1849 (see p. 33). Tax records, Kentucky Historical Society: Joseph Scholl was taxed in Fayette County, Va. 1787-1792.

<sup>3</sup>Clark County, Ky. Marriages (1813), p. 115. Will of Joseph Miller, Clark County, Ky. Will Bk. 7, p. 765. Biographical sketch of Isaac S. Miller, Sr. in Robert Peter, History of Fayette County, Kentucky, ed. William H. Perrin (Chicago, 1882), pp. 765-766. Fauquier County, Va. Marriage Bk. 1, p. 324.

<sup>4</sup>1850 Federal Census, Jackson County, Mo., Blue Township: Sarah School, 876-876.

<sup>5</sup>Peter, p. 765. Records of Joseph Miller in Dunmore/Shenandoah County, Va.:

Almost thirty-one years after their marriage, Septimus and Sarah Scholl sold their land in Clark County, Kentucky, and in September of 1844 began the long journey to their new home in Jackson County, Missouri, where their son Nelson had moved the previous year.<sup>1</sup>

Septimus Scholl purchased several tracts in Jackson County. The "pretty prairie," as he referred to the land he bought over 100 years ago, is now a part of the cities of Independence and Kansas City.<sup>2</sup>

Fourteen of the letters in this collection, covering the period October, 1844 to June, 1849, were written by Septimus Scholl from Missouri. The "health of the country" was a favored subject in his letters. Residents of Missouri were stricken with chills and fever and cholera at various times between 1845 and 1849 and the Scholl family did not escape. It was "fever" which caused the death of Septimus Scholl. He departed this life in Jackson County, Missouri on August 11, 1849, in his 60th year.<sup>3</sup>

#### Children of Septimus and Sarah Scholl

Nelson Scholl was born in Clark County, Kentucky, on May 23, 1815. At Winchester, Kentucky, on February 10, 1836, he was married to Miss Harriet Write Boone, daughter of the Rev. Thomas and Sarah (Sallie) (Muir) Boone. Nelson and

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1773, 1788, 1791, 1793, 1825 (Deed Bk. A, pp. 442, 443; Deed Bk. I, p. 215; Deed Bk. EE, p. 432; Will Bk. D, pp. 197, 198, 209, 307). Also Clark County, Ky. Deed Bk. 18, p. 282.

<sup>1</sup>Letters from Septimus Scholl: Feb. 7?, 1844 to Nelson Scholl (p. 2); Oct. 19, 1844 to Rodney M. Hinde (p. 4). Clark County, Ky. Deed Bk. 31, pp. 304, 328, 357, 358, 362, 430.

<sup>2</sup>Jackson County, Mo. Deeds: Bk. K, p. 330, Bk. N, p. 568. Letter dated Sept. 24, 1958 from Joel C. Paschall, Assistant Secretary, Jackson County Title Co., Independence, Mo. to Mrs. George Giulvezan, Affton, Mo.

<sup>3</sup>1850 Federal Census, Mortality Schedule, Jackson County, Mo., 6th page. Date of death from Petition for Dower and Partition, Cause No. 4304, filed June 8, 1852, in Circuit Court of Jackson County, Mo.



Harriet were distant cousins, as their great-grandfathers, Daniel and Samuel Boone, were brothers.<sup>1</sup>

Nelson Scholl taught school and farmed in Clark County until 1843 when he moved to Jackson County, Missouri. In Jackson County he was engaged in farming, in the milling business, as a Justice, and as a Captain in the 33rd Regiment during the Mexican War period.<sup>2</sup>

After living in Jackson County seventeen years, Nelson Scholl moved his family, in 1860, to the town of Index (now extinct) in Cass County, Missouri, where he held numerous offices in Index Township, in the Index Baptist Church, and in the Blue River Baptist Association. He farmed in Cass County and probably practiced law there.<sup>3</sup>

Nelson Scholl died at Index on December 23, 1890. He and his wife Harriet, who died at Garden City, Missouri, on January 22, 1892, were buried at the Index Cemetery.<sup>4</sup>

Seven of the nine children born to Nelson and Harriet Scholl were mentioned in the letters in this collection: Sarah Ann, Emily New, Amanda Boone, Daniel

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<sup>1</sup>Biographical sketch of Nelson Scholl, The History of Cass and Bates Counties, Missouri (St. Joseph, Mo.: National Historical Co., 1883), p. 652. Clark County, Ky. Marriages (1836), p. 52. Bible of Mrs. J. Earl Ashcraft, Kansas City, Mo. Spraker, pp. 169-170, 259-260, 547. Scholl, pp. 13-14.

<sup>2</sup>Federal Census records: 1840 Clark County, Ky., p. 271; 1850 Jackson County, Mo., Blue Township, Nelson Scholl, 970-970, farmer. Acknowledgment taken Sept. 9, 1853 before Nelson Scholl, Justice, filed with Cause No. 4304, Petition for Dower and Partition, Circuit Court of Jackson County, Mo. Document dated Aug. 30, 1852, signed by Nelson Scholl, J.P., and order dated Mar. 23, 1846, to Capt. N. Scholl, signed by E. A. Hickman, Major, 33d Regt., both in possession of Mrs. J. Earl Ashcraft, Kansas City, Mo.

<sup>3</sup>Obituary of Nelson Scholl, Harrisonville Cass County Democrat (Harrisonville, Mo.), Jan. 1, 1891, p. 3. Federal Census records: 1860 Cass County, Mo., Sugar Creek Township, Nelson Shull, 341-341, lawyer; 1870 Cass County, Mo., Index Township, N. Scholl, 17-17, farmer; 1880 Cass County, Mo., Index Township, Nelson Scholl, 53-54, farmer. History of Cass and Bates Counties, Missouri, p. 390.

<sup>4</sup>Tombstone inscriptions, Index Cemetery, near Garden City, Mo.

Boone, George Thomas, James Harvey and Mary Eliza (Mollie). The children not mentioned were Charlie Pumphrey, and his twin Septimus who died a few days after birth.<sup>1</sup>

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Daniel Boone Scholl was born in Clark County, Kentucky, on October 17, 1817.<sup>2</sup>

Sometime prior to November 1, 1836 when he was still in his teens, Boone Shull moved to Barren County, Kentucky and commenced business as a storekeeper at Merry Oaks, near the Barren-Warren County line. It is not known whether Boone made this move, 200 miles from his home in Clark County, with or to join some of his relatives, but he mentioned in a letter written at Merry Oaks in 1836, "the rest of the connections are all well at present."<sup>3</sup>

Boone Shull was married in 1838 to Julia Ann Davis.<sup>4</sup> In September of 1842 he was in Clark County, Kentucky and was party to a deed there.<sup>5</sup> The following year Boone Shull moved his family to Tennessee where Julia died in Lincoln County

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<sup>1</sup>Letter dated Jan. 20, 1959 to Mrs. George Giulvezan, Affton, Mo. from Miss Ida Scholl of Barnesville, Ohio, daughter of Charlie Pumphrey Scholl.

<sup>2</sup>Scholl, p. 14. The birth date and place of Daniel Boone Shull and Sara L. Higgins, and their marriage date, is recorded on the fly leaf of a New Testament which once belonged to Daniel Boone Shull, now in the possession of his great-granddaughter, Mrs. Clyde G. Huggins of Kansas City, Kans.

<sup>3</sup>Letter, Daniel B. Scholl to Nelson Scholl, Dec. 29, 1836 (p. 1). Boone changed the spelling of his last name from Scholl to Shull sometime between Dec. 29, 1836 and Apr. 18, 1844, as shown by the signature on his letters to Nelson Scholl and R. M. Hinde (pp. 1 and 3-4).

<sup>4</sup>Scholl, p. 14. The compiler of that genealogy cites no reference for the marriage and efforts to locate the record have been unsuccessful. The marriage date would coincide with the approximate birth dates of Julia's three children listed in the 1850 Census: Septimus, age 10, Ann, age 8, and Susan, age 6. The marriage probably occurred in Kentucky as the 1850 Census records the birthplace of Septimus and Ann as Kentucky, and Susan as Tennessee.

<sup>5</sup>Clark County, Ky. Deed Bk. 30, p. 447.

prior to April 18, 1844, leaving three children: Septimus J., Ann E., and Susan Alice.<sup>1</sup>

On October 8, 1846, in Lincoln County, Tennessee, Boone Shull was married to Mary (Polly) W. Clarke, who died on June 26, 1850, leaving no children.<sup>2</sup>

The third wife of Boone Shull was Sara (Sally) L. Higgins. They were united in marriage on December 23, 1852 in Lincoln County. Their children were George Owen, Sarah (Sallie Fannie), Charles who died in infancy, Mary Boone, and Rosa Edna, all born in Tennessee.<sup>3</sup>

Since Boone Shull was enumerated in Lincoln County, Tennessee when the Federal Census was taken 1850-1880, it is believed that he resided in that county for nearly sixty years (1843-1902), engaged there in farming, in a sawmill business, and in stock raising,<sup>4</sup> but he may have lived for a short time in Jackson County, Missouri. Boone Shull's daughter, Mary Boone (Shull) March, born on December 5, 1864, has told her granddaughter, Evelyn (Cummins) Huggins, that Boone "left Independence and journeyed to Tennessee by covered wagon."<sup>5</sup> Also, a letter written from Index, Missouri in 1876 by Nelson Scholl to his brother

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<sup>1</sup>Letters from D. B. Shull: July 29, 1854 to Nelson Shull (p. 45); Apr. 18, 1844 to R. M. Hinde (p. 3); July 16, 1850 to R. M. and C. Hinde (p. 41). 1850 Federal Census, Lincoln County, Tenn., Subdivision No. 2, Daniel B. Shull, 215-215, farmer.

<sup>2</sup>Lincoln County, Tenn. Marriage Bk. A, p. 132. Letter, D. B. Shull to R. M. and C. Hinde, July 16, 1850 (pp. 40-41).

<sup>3</sup>Lincoln County, Tenn. Marriage Bk. A, p. 245. Federal Census records, Lincoln County, Tenn.: 1860, District 9, D. B. Shull, 1314-1222, farmer; 1870, 6th District, D. B. Shull, 111-111, farmer; 1880, 5th and 6th District, Daniel B. Shull, 368-375, farmer.

<sup>4</sup>Letters from D. B. Shull: Apr. 18, 1844 to R. M. Hinde (p. 3); Jan. 6, 1845 to R. M. Hinde (p. 8); Sept. 10, 1845 to R. M. and C. Hinde (pp. 12-13); July 13, 1852 to N. Shull (p. 44).

<sup>5</sup>Letter dated Feb. 9, 1959 from Mrs. Clyde G. Huggins, Kansas City, Kans. to Mrs. George Giulvezan, Affton, Mo.

Boone states: "The business of our county will interest you but little although there has been a great change here since you saw this country. I presume you look on this country just as you saw it many years ago."<sup>1</sup>

Boone Shull died at his home near Bellville, Lincoln County, Tennessee, on January 19, 1902, and was buried in the Stone Family Cemetery with his wife Sara, whose death occurred on October 19, 1891.<sup>2</sup>

Five of Boone Shull's eight children were mentioned in the letters in this collection: Septimus J., Ann E., Susan A., George Owen, and Fannie.

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Catharine Scholl was born on April 16, 1820<sup>3</sup> in Clark County, Kentucky.<sup>4</sup> On May 8, 1840, shortly after her 20th birthday, she was united in marriage at Winchester, Kentucky, with Rodney Martin Hinde, the son of John Wood and Elizabeth (Sydnor) Hinde.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>See p. 52.

<sup>2</sup>Obituary of Boone Shull, Fayetteville Observer (Fayetteville, Tenn.), Jan. 23, 1902, p. 3. Tombstone inscriptions from Mrs. Clyde G. Huggins, Kansas City, Kans.

<sup>3</sup>Notarized copy of records from Bible belonging to Elizabeth Marks (Hinde) Campbell (1851-1938), daughter of Rodney and Catharine (Scholl) Hinde, furnished by Mrs. Theodore H. Voegtli, Kansas City, Kans. Spraker, p. 184. Scholl, p. 11.

<sup>4</sup>There is proof that three of the children of Septimus and Sarah Scholl were born in Clark County, Ky.: Biographical sketch of Nelson Scholl (1815-1890) in The History of Cass and Bates Counties, Missouri (1883), states that Nelson was born in Clark County, Ky.; fly leaf from a New Testament which once belonged to Daniel Boone Shull (1817-1902) records his birthplace as Clarke County, Ky.; obituary of Marcus Scholl (1826-1898) in The Kansas City Journal, Jan. 20, 1898, states that he was born near Winchester, Ky. (county seat of Clark County).

It has been assumed that the other children of Septimus and Sarah Scholl were born in Clark County for the following reasons: There are 39 grantor-grantee records of Septimus Scholl in the Clark County deed books, covering the period 1816-1846; he was enumerated there as the head of a family when the Federal Census was taken 1820, 1830, 1840, and there are no records at hand to indicate that this family lived in any other county in Kentucky.

<sup>5</sup>Clark County, Ky. Marriage Bk. 2-W, p. 64 does not give the date in May, 1840, on which the marriage occurred. The date is given in an account of the

Twenty-six of the letters in this collection covering a six-year period, April, 1844 to July, 1850, were written to Rod and Kitty while they lived near Moorefield in Nicholas County, Kentucky.

Five of Rodney and Catharine's nine children were born in Kentucky. Their second child, John S., died in 1846 in Nicholas County before the family moved to Jackson County, Missouri. Edwin, who suffered from a bone disease, died in Jackson County in 1865 in his 25th year, and Charles died there in 1859 before his 15th birthday.

Rodney Hinde was engaged in farming in Kentucky and in Missouri. He died on December 13, 1867 in Jackson County, leaving his wife and six children, the youngest not then 8 years of age.

Catharine Hinde died in Jackson County on December 15, 1874 and was buried on the Hinde lot at Woodlawn Cemetery in Independence.<sup>1</sup>

Five of the children born to Rod and Kitty Hinde were mentioned in these letters: Edwin, John S. (Cy), Charles T., James Overton and Robert Daniel (Bob). Their other children were Thomas Hubbard, Elizabeth Marks, Lewis Perrin, and Benjamin Kavanaugh.

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Eliza Scholl was born in Clark County, Kentucky, in October of 1823. When she was 21, her parents moved to Jackson County, Missouri, where she was married

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wedding from the May 20, 1840 issue of the Lexington Observer and Reporter, abstracted in Kentucky Historical Society Register, XXXVII (1939), 143.

Hinde Bible records in Mrs. Harry K. McAdams, Kentucky Pioneer and Court Records (Lexington, Ky.: The Keystone Printery, 1929), p. 261.

<sup>1</sup>Federal Census records: 1850 Nicholas County, Ky., District No. 1, Rodney M. Hinde, 248-249, farmer; 1860 Jackson County, Mo., Blue Township, R. M. Hind, 939-877, farmer; 1870 Jackson County, Mo., Blue Township, Mises Hines, 223-218, occupation - keeping house.

Bible records and other family data from Mrs. Theodore H. Voegtli, Kansas City, Kans.

to John M. Wallace on September 25, 1845.<sup>1</sup>

"Mr. Wallace," as Eliza referred to her husband, farmed in Jackson County and he was engaged there, for a time, in a sawmill business with Eliza's brother Nelson.<sup>2</sup>

Three children were born to Eliza and John Wallace: Mary Catherine, John Septimus, and Charles T., all mentioned in the letters.

Eliza Wallace died in January, 1910 and was buried at the Woodlawn Cemetery, Independence, Missouri, with her husband, who died in Jackson County in January, 1880.<sup>3</sup>

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Marcus D. Scholl was born on November 5, 1826, near Winchester, Clark County, Kentucky.<sup>4</sup> Shortly before his 18th birthday, Marcus and his family left their "native home" and 45 days later arrived in Jackson County, Missouri, 600 miles distant.<sup>5</sup>

On May 1, 1849, Marcus Scholl left Independence, Missouri with a wagon

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<sup>1</sup>Spraker, p. 260. Scholl, p. 13. See n. 4, p. x. Jackson County, Mo. Marriage Bk. 2, p. 109.

<sup>2</sup>Federal Census records, Jackson County, Mo., Blue Township: 1850, Jno. M. Wallace, 877-877, farmer; 1860, John M. Wallace, 997-934, farmer; 1870, John Wallace, 189-184, farmer. When the enumeration was made in 1880, Eliza was living with her son John in Brooking Township, Jackson County, Mo. (John S. Wallace, 163-172).

Letters: Eliza Wallace to Catharine Hinde, Jan. 15?, 1850 (p. 37); Nelson Scholl to Rodney M. Hinde, Sept. 16, 1849 (p. 36), Feb. 3, 1850 (p. 38).

<sup>3</sup>Tombstone inscriptions. 1880 Federal Census, Mortality Schedule, Jackson County, Mo., Brooking Township, 45th page.

<sup>4</sup>Spraker, p. 259, and Scholl, p. 10, record the birthplace of Marcus Scholl as Shelbyville, Ky., but the obituary, "Death of Marcus Scholl," The Kansas City Journal, Jan. 20, 1898, p. 7, states: "He was born near Winchester, Ky." See n. 4, p. x.

<sup>5</sup>Letters, Septimus Scholl to Rodney M. Hinde, Oct. 19, 1844 (p. 4), Dec. 1, 1844 (p. 6).

train headed for the gold fields of California, not expecting to return before the fall of 1851.<sup>1</sup> After traveling four months and eight or nine days, the party reached the Sierra Nevada Mountains and settled in Weaverville, where they put up "a comfortable cabin" and started digging for gold.

The summer of 1850 Marcus Scholl returned to Missouri, and farming,<sup>2</sup> and on March 20, 1851, in Jackson County, he was married to Miss Eveline O. Collins, the daughter of Alexander and Tabitha Collins.<sup>3</sup>

Except for a period during the Civil War when General Orders 11 were enforced, Marcus, Eveline and their daughter Sallie lived in Jackson County, where Marcus was engaged in farming and in the grocery business.<sup>4</sup>

Marcus Scholl died in Independence, Missouri on January 19, 1898. He and his wife, who died in Kansas City, Missouri on April 19, 1922, were buried at the Woodlawn Cemetery in Independence.<sup>5</sup> "Mr. Scholl was a prominent man in the Christian Church all his life, serving as an elder for a number of years,"<sup>6</sup> and his wife, at her death, was the last charter member of that church.

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<sup>1</sup>Letters which mention the trip to California: Septimus Scholl to Rodney M. Hinde, June 18, 1849 (pp. 31-33); Eliza Wallace to Catharine Hinde, July 2, 1849 (pp. 33-35), Jan. 15?, 1850 (p. 37), June 28, 1850 (p. 40); Nelson Scholl to Rodney M. Hinde, Sept. 16, 1849 (p. 35), Feb. 3, 1850 (p. 38).

<sup>2</sup>1850 Federal Census, Jackson County, Mo., Blue Township, Sarah Scholl, 876-876.

<sup>3</sup>Jackson County, Mo. Marriage Bk. 3, p. 76; Deed Bk. 329, p. 49.

<sup>4</sup>"Last Charter Member; Mrs. Marcus Scholl Who Died Today, Helped Organize Independence Christian Church," Independence Examiner (Independence, Mo.), Apr. 19, 1922, p. 1. Federal Census records, Jackson County, Mo.: 1860, Blue Township, Marcus Scholl, 1012-948, farmer; 1870, Blue Township, Marcus Shull, 212-208, farmer; 1880, Brooking Township, Marcus Scholl, 160-169, farmer. "Death of Marcus Scholl," The Kansas City Journal, Jan. 20, 1898, p. 7.

<sup>5</sup>Tombstone inscriptions.

<sup>6</sup>"Funeral of Marcus Scholl," The Kansas City Times, Jan. 21, 1898, p. 8.



Cyrus R. Scholl was born 1834/35 in Clark County, Kentucky, where he lived until his family moved to Jackson County, Missouri in the fall of 1844.<sup>1</sup>

Cyrus was mentioned numerous times in the letters in this collection: his work on the farm, the names of his school teachers, trips to Callaway and Saline Counties, etc.<sup>2</sup>

In September, 1849, a month after his father's death, Cyrus, then about 15, was engaged in business with his brother Nelson and brother-in-law John Wallace, "sawing planks on a circular sawmill."<sup>3</sup> The following year when he was enumerated in the Census, Cyrus and his brother Marcus were farming the home place for their mother.<sup>4</sup>

On June 14, 1855, Cyrus R. Scholl was united in marriage with Eliza Jane Parr in Jackson County, Missouri.<sup>5</sup>

In 1860, Cyrus, Eliza and their 4-year-old son, John P., were living in

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<sup>1</sup>Spraker, p. 260. Scholl, p. 11. See n. 4, p. x.

Cyrus was undoubtedly named for his first cousin, Cyrus Rector Scholl, son of Joseph and Rebecca Van Meter (Millar) Scholl. Rebecca, Sarah (the wife of Septimus Scholl) and Elizabeth (wife of Jesse Boone Scholl) were sisters, daughters of Joseph and Susannah (Rector) Millar, and their husbands were brothers, the sons of Joseph and Levina (Boone) Scholl.

After the death of Jesse Boone Scholl (1841, Callaway County, Mo.), his widow married John D. Gregory, Sr. Several references are made in these letters to Aunt Betsey Gregory. See William S. Bryan and Robert Rose, A History of the Pioneer Families of Missouri (St. Louis: Bryan, Brand & Co., 1876), pp. 336-337.

<sup>2</sup>Letters to Rodney M. Hinde from Nelson Scholl, Oct. 10, 1845 (pp. 13, 14), Feb. 3, 1850 (p. 39); from Eliza Wallace, Nov. 8, 1845 (p. 14); from Cyrus Scholl, Mar. 23, 1846 (p. 17); from Septimus Scholl, July 3, 1846 (p. 19), Dec. 6, 1846 (pp. 19, 20), Oct. 19, 1847 (p. 24), Jan. 12, 1848 (p. 25), Jan. 1, 1849 (p. 29), June 18, 1849 (p. 32); Eliza Wallace to Catharine Hinde, July 2, 1849 (p. 33), Jan. 15?, 1850 (p. 37); D. B. Shull to Nelson Shull, July 29, 1854 (p. 46).

<sup>3</sup>Letter, Nelson Scholl to Rodney M. Hinde, Sept. 16, 1849 (p. 36).

<sup>4</sup>1850 Federal Census, Jackson County, Mo., Blue Township, Sarah Scholl, 876-876.

<sup>5</sup>Jackson County, Mo. Marriage Bk. 3, p. 209.



Johnson County, Missouri,<sup>1</sup> where Cyrus Scholl died in 1868.<sup>2</sup>

\* \* \*

Joseph Scholl was born in Clark County, Kentucky.<sup>3</sup> The little that is known of his short life is contained in the letters in this collection.<sup>4</sup>

"He was a good obedient boy," "enterprising and industrious." He was loved for his "candor, simplicity and unassuming manner." "His industry was a sample for his neighbors, being proud, bold and upright."

Joseph Scholl died in Jackson County, Missouri on September 27, 1847. "They buried him in the garden about 60 yards of the house."<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>1860 Federal Census, Johnson County, Mo., Warrensburg Township, Cyrus R. Scoll, 1252-1349, farmer.

<sup>2</sup>Jackson County, Mo. Deed Bk. 59, p. 316: "Whereas in the Probate Court of the County of Johnson and State of Missouri on the 7th day of July 1868 at its July term in said year one Marcus Scholl filed his petition in said court praying the specific execution of a contract for the conveyance of the real estate herein described made between Cyrus Scholl deceased and the said Marcus Scholl and bearing date February 10, 1868 ..."

The letter written by Eliza P. Scholl to her sister-in-law Kate Hinde has been the source of some confusion for the following reasons: (1) In that letter which was dated Oct. 4, 1865? (pp. 46-47), Eliza refers to her "dear fatherless child," "Johnny sends his love to all," "Johnny says tell Bob ..." (2) The Jackson County deed, quoted above, would indicate that Cyrus Scholl died in 1868 between Feb. 10 and July 7. (3) Eliza also wrote in the letter: "I was very glad to hear of Mr. Hinde's health improving and was very proud of his photograph." "You and Mr. Hinde must accept all my love." (4) "Mr. Hinde" (Rodney M.) died on Dec. 13, 1867, according to the family Bible.

The date of the letter was probably intended to be Oct. 4, 1868, and Eliza had not been informed of Rod's death at the time she wrote, for she began the letter: "I have no doubt but that you have thought me very negligent about answering your very dear letter ..."

<sup>3</sup>Spraker, p. 184. Scholl, p. 10. See n. 4, p. x.

<sup>4</sup>Letters: Rodney M. Hinde from Septimus Scholl, Nov. 8, 1845 (p. 15), July 3, 1846 (p. 19), Dec. 6, 1846 (p. 20), Oct. 19, 1847 (pp. 23-24), Jan. 12, 1848 (p. 25), Jan. 1, 1849 (p. 29), Apr. 8, 1849 (p. 30), June 18, 1849 (p. 32); Joseph Scholl to Catharine Hinde, n.d. (p. 21); Eliza Wallace to Catharine Hinde, July 2, 1849 (p. 33).

<sup>5</sup>All traces of the graves have been obliterated at the Scholl Burying Ground. See p. 262, Vital Historical Records of Jackson County, Missouri, 1826-1876, compiled and published by the Kansas City Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, Kansas City, Mo., 1933-34.



To Nelson Scholl  
Clarke County, Kentucky  
Winchester Post Office

Merry Oaks, Barren County, Kentucky  
December 29, 1836

Dear Brother:

I have nothing of much importance to write to you at this time more than to comply with your request. I had written you a letter before yours reached me and for fear that it did not give you satisfaction, I have taken it in hand again. I and the rest of the connections are all well at present and wish this may find you and yours in the same blessings.

You wish to know when I am coming home which I will try and tell you. I commenced doing business in the store on the first of November, and to continue for six months. Then according to this statement I can't come before next May, and I don't much expect to come then without particularly needing, as my wages for the first six months will barely cloth me and feed my horse this winter. I could do very good business by keeping school this year. I can get 25 scholars subscribed at \$10 per scholar, my board and horse found gratis. But I haven't much idea of doing this.

This country is much poorer than I expected to find it. There is not as much grass in ten miles square here as there is on our place, and the outland is grown up in scrubby bushes as thick as they? about like Red River. Generally speaking the people are poor about this place but out from here some twenty or thirty miles they are some better. The people's ways are quite different to what they are with you. There is scarcely any meetings at all but there are horse races a plenty. We have had two since I have been down here. The last one was on the 28th December. There were five colts started at \$25 entrance each, one mile and repeat. We expect to have another in the spring. There are also a good many parties. We had a very splendid party in November, another on the 23rd of December, and we have an invitation to another on the 5th of January, besides several other barn dances in the neighborhood. The like of this did not please me at first but I found it would not do to stand back so I take my now? with them.

As I am just a writing that which I have written in my other if you have got it, I deem it unnecessary to continue much further. I would like to see you all about this time very well, but knowing it is impossible I shant grieve it. Give my best compliments to all inquiring friends. I want you to write to me and let me know how things are a going on at home and in the neighborhood as it is satisfaction to me. I remain

Yours &c  
Daniel B. Scholl

If you got the first letter I wrote to you, let me know in your next.

\* \* \*

To Nelson Scholl  
Jackson County, Missouri  
by J. Haggard

Clarke County, Kentucky  
February 7?, 1844

Dear Sir:

After my best compliments to you and all my friends and relatives, I will by this epistle inform you that I have sold (or perhaps you may say given away) my land to James Holly for \$18 per acre on payments, or \$17 cash at my own election. Perhaps I shall choose the latter price, possession to be given 20 September next. I wish you to ascertain the common prices of the best land in the country with common or moderate improvements thereon with good and sufficient timber and spring water, for I wish to select one of the best for which I would pay a reasonable price (cash). There are several places in Saline County in the neighborhood of Doc Combs and Marshall I would be glad to hear from by some person who had examined the premises, which I have enjoined on John Haggard and Silas Combs &c. I also want you to send me particular word what you think would be most prudent to bring with me and if you would send any furniture by water or bring more horses than we require on the road. What sort of oxen and wagons &c, and what part of the country you would prefer taking in consideration the price of land, the future prospects as to timber, stock raising, trade, hemp, wheat, tobacco, mules &c, the most proper time to move and the probable chance for renting a year, provided I should not make a purchase immediately, and which would be the most advisable plan, to buy or rent. I would also like to know how and where you were located and your neighbors and where Cousin Joseph has located and on what terms and prospects &c &c.

The last account we had from Boone they were well and their prospects very flattering. He had made a fine crop, had rented a place for another year and had moved to it four miles from Thomson?. I intend to go and see them as soon as the weather moderates.

There have been very few dry days since you left Kentucky. The roads are almost impassable. We have had but little winter yet, vegetation was green up till the middle of January. We have had some cold weather since, say three or four days at a time. I have done very little feeding, yet times are a looking up. Stock of almost every description is in demand at moderate prices.

There have been some strange occurrences taken place since you left Kentucky. There were several attempts made to rob some houses (say Reuben Landreim? and Isaac Pearcall? who live in Uncle George Millar's house -----

Thomas Boone has the Missouri fever, offers his land at \$25 per acre on payment, has been offered \$20 by Morris. If I should come to your country, it is Mr. Rod Hinde's calculation to come with me. James Hinde moved in May to Marshall in Saline, Missouri. Silas Evans is trying to sell at \$25. He could get \$20 cash. He has bought John Haggard's place in Saline which Paul will move to (perhaps). I have sold my stud horse to Harry? Thomson (\$100).

Peter stays the most of his time with us, is heavier than ever he was and is the picture of health. James is along, with Lynch, which is also fat and well.

Our hog droves have made some money this season.

Gilliam talks of coming to Missouri as soon as he can conveniently. Squire Boone has the Missouri fever also. Land has reduced in price since you left Kentucky and yet in demand.

Evans has not paid me one cent of money (nor never will until compelled).

Edmonson still owes \$1,200. He has a large stock on hand and is using a great deal of industry and without some unforeseen occurrence will eventually come out in flying colors.

Eliza weighs 150 pounds and is full of -----

I intend to let you hear from me directly when I return from Tennessee and will let you know what time I expect to start and want to tell Cousin Joe that I want him if possible to make his arrangement to come and conduct me out, and you too, as I have no experience in such matters and will satisfy him for so doing in any way he should ask, paying all expenses &c. I am in earnest in making the request as I will be at a very great loss in such matters.

I intend to prevail on Boone to go to Missouri unless I think it entirely against his interests to do so.

Send what sort of seed to bring with me of every description that cannot be obtained in that country cheaper than to bring them, grass in particular.

If you and Joe can come or either of you, it would make our prospects -----

I want you to think on this matter maturely, for you cannot comprehend the relief it would give me if you could come. You shall hear from me on this subject hereafter. Send the price of sheep, the quality and if to be had conveniently at any price, what cows are worth and their quality, spinning wheels and furniture.

Polly? ----- is living by herself since you left here (old Jack is staying with her) and she refuses to live with ----- who is living at his father's (bad times).

I assure you, Epperson contested Bondurant's? seat on the Legislature and obtained it ----- Both came home and had a new election and Epperson was elected by four votes. The greatest excitement perhaps imaginable. Our Legislature has done very little except repeal some of the last year's work ----- All is well.

Septimus Scholl

\* \* \*

To Mr. R. M. Hinde  
Nicholas County  
Moorfield, Kentucky

Lincoln County, Tennessee  
April 18, 1844

Dear Brother and Sister:

I hasten to inform you that I received your letter today which found me and mine all in the enjoyment of good health. I have nothing of a very important nature to write, though I am disposed to respond to your letter. As to give you any certain account of what I shall do I am entirely unprepared. I feast myself up with many (perhaps delusive) ideas and they mostly pass away like a butterfly, but I find my present situation a very lonesome and disconsolate one and it is my present intention to alter it, if I finally have to wind up my business and quit keeping house. ----- now you may readily perceive that I am in a rather critical situation. I have no doubt but what it would be to my interest and satisfaction to buy me another piece of land and try to supply the place (if possible) of her who is gone to her long and happy home. Then when I see my children and presume that what might be mistreated by a step-mother, it almost most makes me shudder, though the plain fact is this, it is evident they must be raised by some woman and I think they would fare as well with my assistance aided by a step-mother as they would under many other women. I would to God it was so you could do for my little ones, as you said in your letter.

As to Missouri I scarcely know what to say. If I was there, it is likely that I would be better satisfied. Therefore I shall neither say I will, nor I will not. I am getting along tolerably well. I am nearly done breaking my corn land, 25 acres planted and 35 or 40 more to plant. I have a great deal of stock on hand.

Corn worth \$1.50 a barrel, bacon 5¢ a pound.

I received a letter from father to say they were all well, nothing of a very important matter amongst them. He promised in his letter to visit me between this and next fall and I think it likely I shall determine by that time where I will go or what I will do.

We have had the backwardest spring that has been for some time. A great deal of cold rain. The health of our country is good.

I am going to a Campbellite meeting tomorrow. We are a gaining ground here. I must close as it is now after 11 o'clock and everyone on the place is asleep but me. I should have written more but the mail passes tomorrow. No more but remain

Your brother truly  
D. B. Shull

\* \* \*

To Rodney M. Hinde  
Nicholas County, Kentucky  
Moorfield

Callaway County, State of Missouri  
October 19, 1844

Dear Sir:

I received yours at St. Louis which gave us a great satisfaction to hear of your welfare and blessing which I hope you still enjoy.

We landed at Brother Joseph's on Sunday 12 o'clock the 26th day of our departure of our native home without having to encounter any serious accident or misfortune. The only accident was old Sophia got kicked at White River which deprived us of her services on the road, but she was able to follow without much difficulty and fortunately for us we did not need her service. Our teams discharged their duties with ease and without much attention or difficulty except the oxen feet became very sore, but as soon as we crossed West White River they improved very fast. Our horses and cattle stood the trip finely holding their own very well. We had fine weather with the exception of two rainy mornings, one in Indiana, the other the day we left St. Charles. Our family has enjoyed fine health ever since we started. Your mother complained a few days with a sick stomach and swimming of the head but it wore off and I hear no more complaint of that nature. Our company so far are not well pleased with their prospect, but I flatter myself that they will be better pleased, as there is a visible improvement in every county as we go up the country. It is certainly one of the most unfavorable seasons to emigrate to this country that perhaps that ever has been since the last war - for there is a great deal of sickness in this country, in the ridges as well as bottom, and in many cases proves fatal and a great many deaths, but the citizens flatter themselves that the most serious time is over, the spring having been uncommonly wet and the summer very dry, but at this time it is very seasonable. We have had two pleasant rains and snow (say yesterday the 18th) but now have a pleasant snow all gone and very pleasant sunshine.

The boys have been hunting almost ever since we arrived here. They have killed two deer and their dog caught the third.

We are making arrangements to set out afresh tomorrow morning, Sunday, for the Arrow Rock and Independence, where we hope to arrive in a few days.

We find that our expenses will be very high, about 50% higher than common. Corn has cost us about 34¢ per bushel, ferriage and tolls comprise almost one-half of our expenses. Corn and every kind of provision of every kind is cheaper in St. Louis than any other place since we started from home. Corn is only worth 20¢



per bushel, fodder 12¢ per dozen. I shall be able to lay in my pork and beef at \$2 per hundred, corn from 30¢ to 40¢ per bushel, flour \$2 per hundred.

I have not ascertained when I shall be able to secure winter quarters yet. I have not seen any man since I have been in Missouri that has given me much encouragement. They complain of the climate and long cold winters, wet spring and dry falls &c and not to emigrate to the south. Still I see everyone that appears to be using only moderate industry doing well and plenty of all the common necessities of life and comfort. Experience has already convinced me that the season and climate is more in extreme than in Kentucky or Tennessee and requires more economy and industry to get along here, but the man that uses both reaps a bountiful crop for his labor. There are many unhealthy situations in this country and unfortunately they are the very first that are presented to the emigrant and too frequently seized upon, which in many instances proves fatal to the new settler. If I had a large pile I would much rather invest it in lands in Kentucky or Tennessee than here. This is such an extensive frontier and so vast a quantity of poor, cheap and inappropriate land in the country, that land is not an object worthy of speculation. If a man is blessed with health which is very precarious, he may support a family with less labor than in Kentucky but he must reconcile himself to be bound to keep up all his gaps, for as sure as he leave one of them down, in slips a hard winter, plays havoc with his prospects. He must not flatter himself with the indulgences of a southern climate.

I already feel the loss of my old friends and acquaintances but flatter myself that in forming new ones, I may in a great degree overcome those sympathies. We have been to see and spent two days with your aunt, Betsy Gregory. Found all well, your aunt in full health and spirits weighing 168 pounds, while your mother's weight only 143. Our connections are all enjoying fine health. No death among them.

We have no instructions to give you more than we left you in possession of. Make your arrangement to come out in the spring by water. Your mother and Eliza have visited a steamboat and are very much taken up with the idea of traveling in that way.

I perhaps have made some remarks in advance, as I intended to write again as soon as I arrive at winter quarters. I have found the Huls deed in a private pocket safe all right. We left a number of articles of not much value, but if we had them along we would have use for them - my stone hammer and spring wheat. I want you to bring a half bushel or if only a peck of Salem seed. I am of the opinion it is a fine grass for this country. There are very few people in this country that know the value of grass. If I live long, I intend to make some experiment on grass. I have no hesitation in promising it a bluegrass country. I have but one remark to make as respects Silas Evans, Jr. and that is, the next note I hold on him, I will not give it up to him until he pays off, as he has forfeited all claim in my estimation of a gentleman and I had liked to have said, an honest man and I would be glad he knew it. I have Duckworth note with me. Tell him to hold on until he sees or hears from me. Mr. Edmonson will pay over to Boone \$200 on application and take receipt for that amount.

Yours &c  
Septimus Scholl

Columbia, Boone County, Missouri - Sunday morning, October 27, 1844. All well.

S. Scholl

To Rodney M. Hinde  
Nicholas County, Kentucky  
Moorfield Post Office

Jackson County, State of Missouri  
December 1, 1844

Dear Sir:

It is with a heart filled with gratitude toward the author and preserver of the heavens and earth for the many kind favors and blessings that we have enjoyed since we parted (a day long to be remembered). We arrived at Brother Joe's in 25 days without meeting any serious accident whatever and found our relations generally well (notwithstand the uncommon sickly season) which received us with all true Kentucky hospitality, where we left them after a stay of eight days, when we set out on our second voyage and taking in the route James Hinde, Silas Combs, James Muir, Joseph Scholl &c and landed at Nelson's in 45 days from the time we started and found his family well and a sufficient of corn and fodder to winter on. The corn is worth \$1.50 per barrel and very scarce at that, pork \$3 per hundred, beef \$1.50 per hundred. I am now living in one of Cousin John Muir's rooms and boarding ourselves (Nelson's house being too small to contain us all) where we are treated with all the attention that true friends are able to give to their friends, a favor I hope I will never forget, and if I should live, will one day be able to repay, and if I do not, I now enjoin it on my posterity to repay. I was not able to obtain a house by renting owing to so many having been driven from the bottoms, of whose losses and distresses one-half has not been told.

I have purchased one hundred and eight acres of land, one-half of which is in a neat state of cultivation with a common log house shingled and stone chimney with a good kitchen, smoke house, stable, corn crib, all new and well put up, an ----- orchard of 75 bearing trees of the best selected fruit (Mr. Mitchell, the man I purchased of, has plenty of apples and cider for winter use), a delightful spring house and spring of never failing water in about 40 yards from the door, and a laid way to the place. The spring house is laid over with flat rock one-third of which is covered over by water as clear as crystal about three inches deep. The house is so ----- to keep apples all winter without freezing, in fact the whole 108 acres is a garden spot, well timbered what is not cleared, with large linn, hackberry, black walnut of a large size, with mulberry, paw-paws, and plums. The land is situated  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles from Independence, a flourishing little town three miles of the Missouri River. It is about six miles from the nearest place from my place. My land adjoins Ben Thomson on the east and John Muir on the north in a neighborhood of respectable Kentuckian society which I am pleased with, having known several of them from my earliest infancy and society which pleases the old lady and Eliza which they have become perfectly reconciled to spend the remaining days with, if we can enjoy our health, a blessing which Doctor Combs has guaranteed unto us if Missouri can afford so desirable a blessing, and every appearance goes to prove the idea correct.

This country is very singular from any that I ever saw. The land and climate are subject to the most sudden changes imaginable. The face of the country is generally poor, extensive prairie surrounded with small brush and large scrubby timber, very few of them affording more than one rail cut, then into a grove of the most desirable woodland the imagination can paint, then some of the richest prairie land the eye ever beheld producing the most luxurious and bounteous crops of grains and vegetables with very little labor. The state may be termed very poor but from the extensiveness (about 400 miles square) there are a great many of the most desirable situations my eyes ever beheld. The principal objections I have to the country are the sudden changes and the almost constant wind mostly



in the prairies and I ----- of the winter, it is colder than Kentucky having more freezing weather, deeper snows and harder rains which is attended with many disadvantages and inconveniences that very few persons are apprised of ----- The people in the country know the value of good land very well, consequently when you find a piece that will suit the curious or the enterprising, you have to pay a very high price for taking the improvements in consideration, unless you go out on the frontier, then you may obtain good land at Congress price. There is a great deal of excellent bluegrass land all over the country but it requires some preparation. In thick settled neighborhoods the underbrush and the prairie grass soon eats out, then comes nimblewill and bluegrass all through the woods and prairies voluntarily and from a good sod yielding a bountiful crop. The wild native grass must be killed which is done sufficiently by stock feeding on it, and if you wish to grass a cultivated field, you must prepare it by feeding on it. Then the Saline grass will come bountifully by sowing the seed with small grain, and I want you to bring some seed with you if you are able to obtain them, as I forgot to bring any with me. I have no hesitation in believing that will become a fine grassing country, but nature has done so much for us that we will not turn our attention toward improving - while nature provides, let the supply be ever so scanty. If I had a big pile I would first invest it in the best land in Kentucky, second in Tennessee, third in Missouri. From these observations you may think I am not satisfied putting Missouri in the third rate, but with the means that I have, I think I am able to do better with it here than either the first two choices, therefore I leave it with you.

I had like to forgot to let you know what I gave for my land (which is twenty dollars per acre) and do not get full possession until March, but have possession of part and am going to farming in the whole tract immediately, preparing lots for work horses and milk cows which ----- afford pasture in abundance for summer -----, all we will lack is the bluegrass for fall.

Nelson will live with us until we make another purchase or some other arrangement. We have corn ground sufficient to raise 500 barrels of corn if it is good season and ten acres of very promising wheat - if the season suits will yield 25 bushels to the acre.

I want you to consult your own interest, comfort and convenience as to the time you will come out, the sooner after I get house the most desirable, as I want your society together with my ----- boys and their mother. Write when convenient as I always am anxious to hear from you, and ever remain

Yours &c until death.  
Septimus Scholl

Your mother and Eliza have been to a protracted Methodist meeting held at Independence and are well pleased with the people as orderly well looking people such as nobody ought to take any exception to associate with, provided they themselves are worthy. Your mother was very much out of heart and low spirited when we first got here but since I have bought, they are so well pleased with the place they flatter themselves many fine things which I hope they will realize. Tell Ed - daddy has got Gray fat for him when he gets here. When you get through with this letter, send it to Cousin Thomas Boone the first opportunity and it will answer for both of you. Thomas is living with us and is well and been well ever since we left Kentucky and was a great help to us on the road. We have had a cold dry fall, white frost ever since we reached Illinois with very few exceptions, ground is frozen two inches deep at this time and very foggy. The frost on the trees is as white as snow. We have killed several deer since we got here and a plenty more in the brush. Yours &c - S. Scholl

To Mr. R. M. Hinde  
Nicholas County  
Moorfield, Kentucky

Lincoln County, Tennessee  
January 6, 1845

Dear Brother and Sister:

I once more address to you a few lines though I know not anything of importance to write more than we are all well and hearty and have no just cause to complain of being deprived of any of the common comforts of life. I received your kind favor not long after I last saw you and was gratified to hear from you though truly sorry that little Ed was still a victim to a loathsome disease and so much so that he had lost his collarbone, but we are all liable to disease and death and often are visited by such when we are the least thinking of it and how loath are we to give up though we should submit without the least murmur.

I am still worrying along and have not yet determined what course I shall pursue. I build many air castles and then tear them down again. I sometimes flatter myself that we will all be settled near each other again, yet at times it appears like a dream that I ever entertained such an idea (and perhaps a vain and delusive idea). I do not consider myself permanently for I shall make a move from the place I now live on next fall if I am not defeated in some of my calculations. I sometimes think about going to Missouri though I had rather live in Tennessee and I believe that my desire as to a residence is more in favor of Tennessee than Missouri or Kentucky. However it is likely that if you go to the West, I may also go, but I have no doubt that if you all had come to Tennessee, those who have gone to the West would be better satisfied. However, the step is already taken and I now feel myself at liberty to spend my opinion, but if I had the least idea that what I am saying would have any bearing to keep you from going to Missouri, I would withdraw and retain my opinion and bury it in the source from which it came. Rod, you have been here and you have been to Missouri. I am ready to admit that I am not in a sightly place to live but I am going to leave this neck of the woods and I am very sure that there is good and sightly land in this state which can be had for \$20 per acre or less. Rod, I think I am getting along equally as well as you could expect from the knowledge you have of my situation. I sold \$353 worth of pork and could have got \$110 more for the same pork if I had not engaged too soon. I have a very fine lot of stock hogs on hand for which I promised myself a fair price next fall. Corn worth \$1.15 a barrel, 40¢ a bushel on the road, beef 3¢ a pound, money tolerable plenty and trade brisk. Stock hogs in demand, mules fair price, horses low.

Sometimes I hear that you are going to Missouri then again that it is doubtful. I would like very much to know for certain whether you are going or not. I received a letter from Missouri in December, the only time I have heard from there since I saw you. Some of them were sick, though mending. Father stated that he intended on going to Kentucky as early in the spring as he thought it prudent to start. I flatter myself also that he will pay me a visit before he returns home.

Kitty, Seppy is very proud of his shirt which you sent. I have stated in my other letter that I had my children all at home. I kept them until Christmas but I have taken the baby Susan off to an old motherly and affectionate woman and she is apparently as fond of it as if it were her own. Ann and Seppy are very much spoiled. Home is no place for Ann unless she has somebody to take care of her besides myself. Jane has three of her own and it is a matter of course that she will give her own the preference unless I am a looking at her. I doubt very much whether I keep house in this way any longer than this year for I cannot stand to see my children black, ragged and dirty.

You must write to me soon. The good old saying is, take not more upon our shoulders than we can kick off of our heels, but sometimes I get a little more than my share.

D. B. Shull

My respects in particular to your father and mother and all inquiring friends. Tell Ed that Hershel is still with us and as merry and as droll as ever.

\* \* \*

To Rodney M. Hinde  
Nicholas County, Kentucky  
Moorfield Post Office

Jackson County, Missouri  
July 20, 1845

Dear Sir:

After my best respects to you and family I am able to tell you that we are still enjoying almost uninterrupted good health and promising prospects of raising a very fine crop of corn. We have roasting ears in the corn field, our wheat is very good, oats very fine, all very well secured. We have a very fine season thus far except too much rain from the 15th of June to the 5th of July which prevented us from tending our crops as well as we might have done. Our little hemp crop is very good. This country at this time as respects vegetation makes a very flourishing appearance. Everything looks green as May except wheat and oats which is secured.

I have ascertained very little knowledge as respects the prices and quality of land since you ----- Asberry has had an offer of \$7,500 for his place, made by a gentleman from Kentucky, Harrison County, by letter though he has not accepted the said offer but flatters himself that he can sell to said gentleman. If you and your friends are disposed to come to this country and wish to buy that place and want a partner or two, I have no hesitation in saying that I would be one of them. From the best information I have been able to obtain about said place, if Dr. Perrin prefers that place and price to others, perhaps he would do well to introduce a contract soon, as the place is in market and will be sold the first opportunity. It is said to lie in the best prairie part of this county and a strong probability of it being near the county seat of a new county to be taken off of Jackson, Van Buren and Johnson.

The amount of the instrument of writing was a receipt for the note on Edmonson and Duckworth and the acknowledgment of a debt which I owed you to the amount of \$300 due and up was by account &c and you were to pay Boone \$250 or hand over that amount to me if there was not a safe way of sending it to Boone and the balance of the money which you collected on said note you were at liberty to convert it to your own use by giving the amount against me credit for the amount. You were also authorized to pay John Newman \$26 out of any money you had or might obtain of mine in your hand. The proposition from E. Hinde as respects the money you let me have of his I think very reasonable and hope you will sell it to his satisfaction and of course I will arrange the whole matter with you so that you are not to lose anything by said arrangement. You said in your letter that William Thomson informed you that Haynie said he had advanced Boone \$100 by A. Fox. If that be the fact, very well done. You must retain \$100 out of the \$250 which Boone was to have and pay the same over to Jesse Risk which holds Thomson's note by said Risk giving Thomson note a credit for the amount of said receipt and take in that is the rent that Boone gives to Fox, which arrangement I hope will prove

satisfactory to all concerned and as respects the ox I got from Haynie, I have written to him on that subject. It was an oversight or neglect in me in not giving Haynie a credit for said ox and should be very sorry that any unpleasant feeling should arise out of any neglect of mine, doing that which was right in repaying so essential a favor in furnishing me with said ox or to create any unpleasant feeling amongst my old acquaintances. If I should live and no unforeseen occurrences should take place, I intend to pay them all a visit in twelve or fifteen months and repay all my obligations that's due.

I am not prepared to advance any money for Nelson at this time but intend to make arrangements to liquidate that debt of his as soon as I can do so by doing myself justice and the other children, which I hope will not be very long, live or die, so that the debt will not be lost to you by no means except unavoidable and unforeseen occurrences should take place. I have advanced upward of \$200 for him since I sold my land in Kentucky.

Our family appears to be pretty well reconciled as they are more naturalized and I think when we are able to live on our own production and not have to pay out money for every article of consumption and be sellers instead of buyers, they will raise their heads and crow once more as our prospect at this time if realized, we will have wheat and corn sufficient to support four such families as ours. We have four milk cows, 40 small hogs and plenty to feed them on with a fine mare in the wood. Our only expenses in a few months will be for some beef and pork. There are about 15 of our hogs that will do to make bacon. I think our expenses for provisions will shortly ease and we will have a plenty to furnish our friends that may call on us independently. We have not purchased any sheep yet owing to not having a place to confine them, to keep them from straying off.

I have written to Boone that if he would sell his place to save himself for to do so and come here where we could assist him to raise his unfortunate children. Tell Eddy, Gray is fattening to pay a visit to Callaway in the carriage in a few weeks if we keep our health and for him to come on. We have plenty of apples and variety of wild fruit and see Indians very frequently and he may go with me up in the prairie to hold Gray while I shoot brant, prairie chickens and rabbits all of which our country abound with in their season. We are going to take a big deer hunt in October on Grand River in Johnson County about 40 miles off.

If you could obtain any Salem grass seed conveniently, do bring them, from a peck to 5 bushel. They will do well on the prairie, keep green when all the wild grass is dry and burnt up. Our bluegrass in our yard is rank and fine but I am not yet prepared to say how well it may do. We have sowed an acre and a half in turnips in fine order near your spring which is on the Johnson land. Kitty, your mother says come on as soon as your convenience will admit of your doing so, for we are very anxious to see you and your ----- boys and if you should be fortunate enough to live and keep your good health, you may raise them easily as we are living in a very productive land which flows in milk and honey though we have not got the honey yet. The plenty to be had cheap, we can get as soon as we get finally settled.

Your things are all safe and in good order so come ahead.

Septimus Scholl

\* \* \*



To Rodney M. Hinde  
Nicholas County, Kentucky  
Moorfield Post Office

Jackson County, Missouri  
August 18, 1845

Dear Brother and Sister:

According promise I have set myself down to address you a few lines, but must confess I feel somewhat at a loss what to say to you, but will nevertheless harrow up my memory and try to fill my sheet with something whether it will be interesting or not, but will leave it to yourselves to be the judges, and I will begin with politics, as the election is just over and is freshest in my memory. The election was held to elect members to alter and amend the Constitution of Missouri. I must in the first place inform you the last Legislature districted the State, but for fear they might stumble upon something that looked just and right, what did they do but make our district, what they called a double district, so they might carry their Democratic principles as they thought, but thanks be to their honors (if they have any) they almost lost their candidates. The district sends four members, the Democrats ran five and by tight squeezing and by the aid of the Whigs, they succeeded in electing two out of five, and the Whigs ran but two and succeeded in both by a handsome majority, they being second and third best in the field. And on the other side of the river was another double district, and it was the same way, two Democrats and two Whigs, the only two double districts in the state, and so far as I have heard, the Whigs have a small majority - 20 Whigs, 6 natives and 19 Democrats. Perhaps the word native you don't understand. It will soon be a question here whether foreigners shall have the right of suffrage and all those opposed to it are called natives. How the contest has determined, I can't tell, but it is thought the Whigs will have a majority in the Convention. By the rascality of the Democrats they have lost their candidates, by double districting. So no more about politics, but be pleased to give me a full account of the Kentucky election as you can.

Rodney, I could not brag if I was to try, therefore it is useless for me to try, but will say that our crop is the best in Missouri, and I think I can say with safety in Kentucky. Corn will yield 12 barrels per acre, wheat was thin on the ground but the grain fine and weighs 65 pounds to the bushel. Oats the finest I ever saw. Our hemp is from 8 to 10 feet high and good at that. Potatoes fine and in fact, everything in the garden is fine. I think we can supply two such families as ours. Taking all together, I never saw the like.

It is useless for me to say anything in regard to the country as you have seen as much perhaps of it as I have. I can say that it is healthy at present as could be expected in any country. We are all well at present except Amanda. She has the mumps but still runs about as usual. Sarah has had them but has got well and she has had something like the fever but has got about again. Emily and Boone no doubt will have the mumps. All the rest on the place has had them but Marcus - and it went very light with them.

Daddy started last Thursday to Howard County to see Jas. Patton for the money he owed him and perhaps will go to Ralls County to see Uncle Marcus and he may go to Callaway before he returns. Ma and Eliza did not go to Callaway as they expected but intend to go some time this fall. Ma sends her love and compliments to you all, wishing to be remembered to your father and mother and all inquiring friends, and says she is preparing every day for your reception, and says she would like to see you and the children in her home once more.

Rodney, we all sympathize with you and Kitty and Eddy's illness. But you know that it is the nature of mankind to suffer in this world. The Lord giveth and the Lord taketh away, and as it is His will we must submit, although it is his

lot to suffer, let us bear it with fortitude and cast our hope on Him that made us and breathed in us the thread of life.

What more can I say. If I was to write all day I would leave out something that perhaps you would like to know, things that appear to me not worth writing are the very things you would like to know.

We are all anxiously awaiting the day of your coming and it seems to us if we could hasten the time we would do, but it is not in the power of such creatures as we are either for us to hasten the time, and I feel thankful that it is not so. We will have patience, the time will speedily roll on.

Cousin Oliver and Milton Scholl are up from Callaway on a visit and say they are all well except Aunt Betsy who has got something like the fever. Cousin John's family is all well and in fact all the connection is well. Doc Combs and family is well. Cud has gone to Saline and he and Daddy intend on his return from Howard to have a hunt. Tell Eddy and little Cy they must come and drink cider with Boone, as we have plenty. Tell Eddy that Old Gray is fat, and the carriage is under the shelter waiting for him. Be pleased to write to us often as we are glad and extremely anxious to hear from Eddy. Don't fail to write. Ben Thompson and family is all well and he is in the hemp field at this time a cutting hemp, as his shirt is as wet with sweat as if he had been dipped. Harriet says I must write something for her but I don't know what to say for her, therefore I must close my letter writing. -- Few lines more -- All in the enjoyment of good health. Give my respects to all inquiring friends and receive the same to yourselves.

N. and H. Scholl

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To R. M. and C. Hinde  
Moorfield  
Nicholas County, Kentucky

Lincoln County, Tennessee  
September 10, 1845

Dear Brother and Sister:

According to promises I write you a letter but I haven't much idea that it will be of much satisfaction to you, for I am not in a fit condition to write at present, though we are all well at present and enjoy very good health.

I did not start home as soon as I expected. When I left you I had an unpleasant trip home. It was warm and then very wet. I suffered very much on the day I arrived at home with the sick headache which only lasted for two days. We talked a good deal about what we would do and what would be best to do. I can give you no satisfactory answer what I will do, for I am so harassed in any and every way that I am unable to determine what course to pursue. I think I will fairly determine by Christmas what I will do. I am at a great loss to know what to do if I break up housekeeping and it is attended with many difficulties and trials to continue, therefore I am in an unsettled position. If I can manage my business and affairs in a way that I wish to, I would continue to keep house, for be it ever so mean, there is no place like home.

I have a very good opportunity of selling my place. I think it likely I shall and if I choose to keep house, buy me a less place and thereby diminish my debt, though I think that I can get through with the place that I have. I believe I should be better satisfied at present if I was in Kentucky or Missouri, that is, if I was entirely free from debt, though I shall undoubtedly extricate myself from this situation. My fattening stock will be worth about \$400 this fall.

Next season I will be able to fatten more stock than I am this. I have made between 300 and 400 barrels of corn this season. Our first planting of corn is almost dry enough to grind. I am about half done cutting my corn. I made plenty of wheat and oats to do me. Tennessee is a tolerable good country. I have no doubt but what if I will only stay here and be satisfied, I will be able to make money and I have many ways to spend it. Also I have every particle of clothing to buy and hire the making, a way that I have not been used to do. However, I suppose I bear it as well as many others would. The most difficult part is to take care of my children. I have them all at home and expect to keep them if I possibly can, though it is a trying time when I come in or go out. If you only had my baby I would be very glad. I can manage the other two very well. Perhaps I should not say so, for it may only increase your anxiety and cause you some trouble, but still it appears to me that if it is mine, there is someone amongst the train or trains of connections that could keep it awhile, something better than I can. I know that other people don't wish to be plagued with others' children long at a time - not doubting but what you would be willing to raise them.

I have received no news from Missouri since June, only what I got while I was in Kentucky. I wrote to them a few days ago. I have no doubt but what you would do well to go to Missouri, therefore I would be glad to hear of your going, however you are your own judges in that matter. Sometimes I wish I was there and it is possible I may go. I wish to settle myself permanently so I am at a loss to know where. Rod, I wish you to go to Missouri so that if I go we will all be together, for I have no idea that you will all come here. It is not worthwhile to say anything about my country. You have seen it - gravel and rocks bear no companion.

I. P. L. Thomson and family are well and brags as much as ever. Miss Biggaz? is boarded out at Fayetteville going to school. Polly Clarke is very well and has plenty of beaus. Hershel is getting along with his school finely and appears to enjoy himself very well. If I could see you, I could tell you things that I can't write at present. Give my respects to all of the family, your father and mother in particular. Write to me soon. I am anxious to hear from Ed, so no more at present. Excuse my writing, for it is bad.

D. B. Shull

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To Rodney M. Hinde  
Nicholas County, Kentucky  
Moorfield Post Office

Jackson County, Missouri  
October 10, 1845

Dear Brother and Sister:

I take my pen in hand to let you hear from us although I am in great haste which you will find by my short letter which is not a common thing you know. I have but little news of importance. Our country has been very sickly this season but ----- the country is much better than it has been. The sickness has been mostly the chills and fever. There has been no family that I know of which has escaped. Nonetheless there are a few cases of fever and very few deaths. Little Boone had chills but has got well again and is fat and healthy. All the rest escaped and has had our health better than usual. Daddy, Mamma and Cyrus all have had them and the way they shook was a sin to Crockett. Mamma and Cy are well but Daddy relapsed and had two or three hard shakes but has missed shaking for three or

four days past and if he will take care of himself he will be about again shortly. The rest is all well. Cousin John's family has all been sick except the girls but all are about again. Cousin Joe's family is all sick but all on the mend and no danger. Some of them had the fever, the rest chills. Ira has had the fever, the rest chills. Ira has had a few shakes but I am a looking for him up to see us every hour. Cousin Oliver is with us yet. He has had a spell of fever but is getting about again.

Daddy and Mamma and Cy are going to start to Callaway on tomorrow week. John Hinde was to see us a few days ago but has gone home - he left all Jas. family well. Old Silas has got out but has not been up to see us yet. Eliza and John Wallace were married a few days ago. Both are well. Doctor Comb's family is all well. We and the boys are going to Saline in a few days to kill a deer. We have had but one frost yet, but fine cold weather.

I don't know what else to say to you, only I wish you to write to us and excuse my short letter. Give my compliments to the old doctor and family and all inquiring friends and be pleased to accept the same to yourselves.

Nelson Scholl

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To Rodney M. Hinde  
Nicholas County, Kentucky  
Moorfield Post Office

Jackson County, Missouri  
November 8, 1845

Dear Rod:

Your welcome letter came to hand the 3rd instant and found us in tolerable health. Father and Marcus have the chills and fever. Father has had three relapses. Ma, Cyrus and Boone have had the chills also, but have gotten well. Joe and I have escaped so far. The rest of the family are well.

You mentioned in your letter that you had not received a letter for two or three months. Nelson wrote to you the first of October. You observed in your letter also that you did not know but what we were all dead. If you were to see father when he has a chill, you would think he would not live long. I never saw nor heard of so much sickness in my life as there is this fall. There is scarcely one family that has escaped. In some families one was not able to give the other a drink of water. Almost all of our relations have been sick but are getting better.

Cousin Joe is in rather a bad situation. He has been sued on Jim's account. He has sold his farm and started Pete and Goodwin off with all the negroes but Jep. They say that Pete is coming to Kentucky and Cousin Joe is to come next spring. Dr. Combs and family are well so far as I know. I have seen Dolly once since she came out. Susan was married the 25th of September to a widower by the name of Mathews. Dr. Caldwell has bought John Johnson's farm. It adjoins Mr. Wallace and Cousin John Muir has moved home. Mary and I have come to be close neighbors. I have understood that John Hinde is going to live with Caldwell this winter. John has been to our house several times. He looks better than I ever saw him. Tell Ann that she must come out with you. I have a beau for her I think she could marry and do well.

Rod, you need not think that I am ashamed to write, far from it. You say that if I am married you supposed I married John Wallace. It is true, but I am not ashamed of the man that I have united my destiny with. I am living at Mr. Wallace's father's at this time. I come home to see them all every week. I am



at father's now. He sent for me to give him medicine. Mr. Wallace is at home. If he was here, he would write some.

Kitty, if you and Rod do not move next spring, you must come on a visit and bring all the children. I want to see Eddy and Cy so bad. Kitty, Ma says that she has not forgotten you and that she often thinks that she left you with little Charlie in your lap, but she did not think that it would be so long before she saw you again. Ma sends her love to old Mr. and Mrs. Hinde. I must come to a close as father wishes to write. Give my love to inquiring friends and receive the same.

Yours in haste,  
Eliza Wallace

R. M. Hinde

Dear Sir:

I now for the first time in fifty years to be under the necessity of saying I am unwell. I have three attacks of the ague and fever which hold me about five days, only confined a few hours at a time. Marcus has been complaining about three weeks, though has been able to attend to business the most of the time. None of our cases has been of a serious nature, only a few hours at a time, then up and to business again. Your mother only lost one day. There has been very little sickness in the country except the chills and fever. There is a number of families been living here from twelve to fifteen years and never had a case of chills and fever before. I am not discouraged yet and with the exception of sickness I will venture to say that our prospects are very flattering. We have raised 500 barrels of corn, 100 bushels of wheat and 10 acres of as fine oats as I ever saw, an article particularly adapted to this country. I have 12 or 13 acres of the finest looking wheat I ever saw at this time of the year. I have sowed 5 acres for meadow which looks very fine. Our hemp is fine and nearly rotted fit for the break. Notwithstanding our old settlers say this is not an average year for cropping owing to having too much rain in June and July. Since that time and previous to that time we have had the finest time for business. There have not been ten days since I landed in the country but what we could attend to our ordinary business.

We do not calculate on doing much this winter, only cleaning up our pasture land. I am fully of the opinion tame grasses will do very well here, though not equal to Kentucky. There has been very little experiments made yet. The dependence is on wild grass and the corn field. They commence feeding here as soon as white frost makes its appearance. I have lots of the finest hogs and they are the fattest. We had a mash that has fattened our hogs and they are still doing well. I have bought 25 sheep at \$1.35 per head.

Nelson, Marcus and Joseph have just returned from Saline on a hunting expedition packed with venison where they met with Silas Evans which has got home on his hazzard? plow and is finishing off a frame and log house and so much engaged that he only took one drive with them. The doctor has also just returned and left all well. Silas C. has another heir, a daughter.

There is a small tanyard for sale one-half mile of Westport, a very desirable situation, spring very flush and a very valuable farm offered for sale one-half mile from the yard at \$10 per acre in one of the best locations for hide and bark in this country, but if you are disposed to go to farming, I would prefer a prairie farm. I do not intend making any other purchase until I see you or before next summer, if so soon.

Tell poor Eddy I wish he was here to hold Old Gray while I would shoot prairie

chickens and wild geese.

Kitty, you know in a common way I am very careless and appear hardhearted but when I consider how unexpected we were separated and the distance and time, I am at times almost childish to think we are separated where I cannot see my little boys and assist you in nursing and playing with them and the pastime I have had with Eddy, I am filled with sympathy to the overflowing of tears when entirely alone.

[Septimus Scholl]

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To Rodney M. Hinde  
Nicholas County, Kentucky  
Moorfield Post Office

Jackson County, Missouri  
March 23, 1846

Dear Sir:

We received yours of February 10 and I mailed a letter of the same date which I hope you have received on this, which is the only reason I have for not answering yours before now. We have nothing particular to write you at this time as we are all enjoying fine health at this time, a blessing we have enjoyed ever since we got over our spell of the ague and fever last fall which did not last long. Our winter is pretty well gone although we have snow today, the 23rd of March. We had a very cold December, January fine weather throughout which enabled us to break out our hemp. We had 2,800 pounds. We have a fine lot of young hogs on hand and have now on hand 300 barrels of corn, a large quantity of excellent bacon, all our own fattening, 25 very fine sheep with fine coats of wool on them. In fact, we have been buyers ever since we left Kentucky but the scale is a turning and I must be allowed to brag a little, for I think I have done better agreeable to my chance than many others. Say the four? years we have made our own bacon in abundance and to spare, have 200 barrels of corn to spare, 2,800 pounds of hemp, 1 mule colt and have sold near \$100 worth of apples, vegetables and poultry in abundance and another grandson a few days past which I expect we will call George Muir or Washington, and have had five cases of ague and fever and a prospect of another negro in a few days or perhaps weeks. I have got pretty well through bragging. I will try to call in my desultory observations, try and write something of more importance.

You requested in your letter to get some instructions what time I thought you had better come out. I will now answer you in the following way. We have plenty of all the common necessaries for you and yours to support on until you can have an opportunity to provide for yourself and house room and a plenty for you to do were you here now, but I want you to consult your own convenience and interest when it will suit you best, although we are very anxious that you were here. Now our country was very sickly last fall but the people are generally in good health at this time. The oldest settlers say they never saw anything like the two last falls. They think it was entirely owing to the luxuriant growth early in the spring, late high waters, then hot weather during all the time. It would be very imprudent for me to advise anyone to come to this country if I knew or even expected such sickly times as has been for the last two falls past, but we flatter ourselves better times for the future. At least I feel very willing to try it another season and if we can enjoy our health, we are bound to do well. Our prospects are all very flattering. I had an offer of 80 acres of land lying in two miles of me the other day with plenty of black oak timber to furnish bark

for a small tanyard for many years, at \$5 per acre. Pretty good land. The timber is worth the money. Excellent flush spring with a 10 feet fall in 20 yards of the spring. It would be very convenient to haul the bark and timber to the place. I have made some discoveries about bark and find there is plenty of black oak almost anywhere.

I have not made any other purchase since you were here nor do I intend to do so until I see or hear from you. Now consult your own interest and convenience and that will suit me. Our wish is come on immediately if convenient. If you do not come out this spring, I intend to come to Kentucky early in the season visiting Tennessee first and then Kentucky and so you can come home with us in the fall. Our family is all better pleased than myself and if they are pleased I have obtained my object in coming here, for it is better that many should be pleased than a few. I have not yet determined what way I shall come yet, by land or water, in the carriage or horseback.

We are making preparations to pitch about such a crop as we had last year. We have 12 acres of the most promising looking wheat I ever saw this time of year. We have a fine cham? of flax cleaned out. Your mother, Harriet and Eliza have been spinning sewing thread at \$1 per pound. They get 8 or 10 pounds of cotton shirting for a pound of sewing thread.

Tell Eddy that I have his carriage safe under a shelter and Old Gray is fat and waiting for him and Charlie to ride on and shoot prairie hens and rabbits and if I come to Kentucky, maybe I will bring his carriage to haul him to Missouri. Hemp is very low, only worth \$2.50 cash, corn \$1, good three year mule can be had for \$50.

There is expected a large company to emigrate to Oregon from this point in May and a great many Santa Fe traders are ready as soon as the grass comes. Some families to Texas. I think the emigration from Missouri is almost equal to it unless they become discouraged.

Let us hear from you as soon as you receive this unless you have written very lately. John Hinde is a living with Burford, the man that John Curd was living with when you saw him a selling medicines, and is in fine health and spirits. I have been to see Silas and they appear to be well pleased and has cut out big things and is making their up very fast.

Septimus Scholl

Dear Sister and Brother:

I send you this line to let you know that I am well and going to school to Mr. Hickman and want to see you all very bad. Tell Eddy we have got his carriage and Old Gray and want to see Charlie too, though I never did see him, I want to see him mighty bad. We are all a looking for you this spring and hope it will not be very long before we have that satisfaction. Mammy says you must make haste and come as soon as you can. We are a going to gardening in a few days and will plant enough for you. Come along as soon as possible.

Yours &c  
Cyrus Scholl

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To Rodney M. Hinde  
Nicholas County, Kentucky  
Moorfield Post Office

Jackson County, State of Missouri  
July 3, 1846

Dear Sir:

I have the satisfaction of once more writing to you to let you know that we are all still in the land of the living and have the most of flattering prospects for a corn crop. ----- I flattered myself that I would be in Kentucky by the first of August but part of our family (E.) is in a situation that we do not wish to leave them so soon, but will be in by the first of September (or sooner) and expect to travel by land.

Our family has generally enjoyed fine health since we left Kentucky. I have had several attacks of the fever and ague but they were short - say two or three days at a time, except the last time which lasted about a week and I suffered a great deal.

Our family is all well pleased and are satisfied with our exchange of countries and I flatter myself that we will do well in this country provided we can have our health which every appearance is promising. We have good water, high dry land, no lakes or swamps in our neighborhood. We once more have the appearance of living at home - cribs of old corn, a stockyard well fitted, big hogs and fat shoats, plenty of chicken and a well filled garden and an apple orchard loaded with fruit - and good appetites. Our section of the country has been very seasonable though some parts of the state have been too wet.

Our country has been a place of rendezvous for the last several months. There were several hundred Indians of the Sacks and Foxes passed up the country last winter to their place of destination 160 miles above this. There were from 300 to 500 wagons left this place for Oregon and California, about the same number to Santa Fe, loaded with merchandise and they are still a going notwithstanding the war with Mexico is still a raging. There were 1,000 volunteers started from here a few days past for Santa Fe. It looks like they intend to trade and fight at the same time. Some of the wagons were loaded with arms and ammunition &c. -----

Our produce is very low, there is nothing in demand except good oxen.

We have been looking for you all this spring until a few days past and now have given you out until fall. I did expect to write by William Thomson but he started home before I expected. We have not heard from Boone for a long time. The last account was expected to marry soon and fastly tied to Tennessee.

I have not yet got naturalized to this country. There is nothing looks like Old Kentucky. Notwithstanding I ought not to complain. Our society is good and friendly, everything that we undertake prospers very well and if I were asked what was the matter, the answer would be - I do not know. The only fact is, I am too old or too diffident to form new acquaintances and cannot forget old ones. I spend the most of my time in helping the boys along with their work and hunting squirrels. I have been once to Saline this spring - went there with Haynie Thomson. Your brother James is living near to where Silas Evans and Combs live. John Hinde is still in Independence. Your connections and acquaintances are all well as far as I have any knowledge. I would have written to you long since but had nothing of importance to write which you will discover when you read this, and John told me that he frequently wrote to you and never failed mentioning of us to you. I do not know how to close this epistle as I do not know when you intend to start, nor do I know what time I will get off either. So I will close by wishing to be remembered to all my old friends and you and your family in particular, and remain

Your affectionate father and friend.  
Septimus Scholl



Eliza is here and expects to remain here until we start to Kentucky. Eddy, I have got Old Gray, keeping her for you and I am a going to ride in your carriage to Kentucky to bring you to Missouri to help me hunt. ----- Tell your ma that if she will come before frost that we will have plenty of watermellon for all of you and apples plenty and cider in abundance. Cyrus is a going to school to Mr. Hickman, a Kentuckian and son-in-law to Zary Oldham. Little Boone wants you to come and play with him and Charley too, and little George Thomas is a fine big boy. Sarah and Emily go to school. ----- Joe plays the fife and Marcus feeds Old Gray, and Old Virginia gets dinner and feeds the cows, and Kit nurses her Emily, and Mill talks all the time and Charles goes to Mill and they are all fat and saucy and want you all to make haste and come on as soon as you can. I forgot Pete, he calls me grandpop.

S. S.

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To Rodney M. Hinde  
Nicholas County, Kentucky  
Moorfield Post Office

Jackson County, Missouri  
December 6, 1846

Dear Children:

I have the satisfaction of letting you know by epistle that we are all well, a blessing we have enjoyed ever since we saw you. We have not had any sickness in our family this season, a blessing we ought to be and I hope are thankful for. We had a very tedious journey in getting home. We were on the river 16 days and left the boat at the Arrow Rock and got a carriage to take us out to Silas Evans where we sent for Nelson and Cyrus which brought the carriage and horses and conveyed us home where we found all as well as might be expected after so long an absence. We met with no accident and had no sickness on our journey neither by water or land. We have had a cold and dry fall and have made fine crops this season of almost every necessaries of life.

I have not made any purchase of land yet but have several places in view and shall wait your arrival and hope you will use the most favorable opportunity of coming as soon as the nature and condition of your affairs will admit of. Our prospects for health and the common necessaries of life are more flattering than since we have been in this country, as I can with propriety say that the health of the country as far as I have any knowledge is much better than the two years past. Come on whenever it suits, as I hope we will be prepared to receive and accommodate you at any time.

Our prospects are more flattering as our country is filling up with useful mechanics - a good ----- being located in three miles of a very flourishing town which is fast improving and the common depot for the Santa Fe traders and Oregon emigrants. I am of the opinion that we are located in one of the most promising points on the river and general thoroughfare on the western frontier, and if we have good health (which I flatter myself we will have) and can reconcile ourselves to the climate, we can hardly fail to do well. Our principal want is bluegrass and clover which our country is improving in very fast and far exceeding any of the former expectations. I am still of the opinion that a man well situated even as I was, had better stay then?. But a man with a small capital has a good opportunity of improving of it in this country, if the health of the country will admit of it, as our lands are rich, easily cultivated and productive, but it is not a money making place nor a good stock raising country. The winter is dry,

long and cold, and vegetation gets very dry early in the season and remains so until the last of April or the first of May, and the winter takes off nearly all the summer puts on. I will say no more about the country, as James can tell you more than I can write and has more experience.

Kitty, I think if you were here and could have your health, you would be delighted with our society and our garden and rich land and beautiful situation and I think in a very short time will have all the common luxuries of life and your little boys would be company for me in my little hunting excursions in catching partridges and rabbits and prairie hens. Come on and give our country a trial. We are waiting with a great deal of impatience.

Doctor Hinde, when I reflect on the number of old and well tried friends that I have left behind and the distance we are apart, that brings very serious impression over my mind and I never expect to enjoy myself again as well with my new acquaintances as I did with my old ones. I am too old to form new acquaintances and naturalize my feelings to new manners and customs. I many times like I would be very glad to spend a few of my remaining days with my old friends and if I should live long I intend to gratify that wish by coming to my native state once more and spend a fall and perhaps a winter with you. My health is very good, a blessing I generally enjoy. We are here in ten miles of the Indian Territory which is lined with their huts in their natural dress and costume. There are Delawares, Pottawatomies, Shawnees, Pawnees, Fox, Sioux, Haws, all within 100 miles of us. When I meet them strolling over the country, it puts me in mind of the ancient tales of Kentucky. I can hardly reconcile myself to treat them with civility when I reflect how many of my near relation have suffered by them, and then again I look around me at home. I can find some that have been equally as hostile enjoying all the benefits and privileges that we enjoy, after doing all they could to injure us and deprive us of our life and liberty, and having failed, now claim equal blessings with us. So I have tried to reconcile my feelings to every class and condition as I meet them or as they present themselves. Take care of the little boys and if ever I should have the happiness to see ----- I will try and pay the same attention to them as well as I am able. One man's loss is another's gain in such things as those.

S. Scholl

Eddy, Nelson and Cyrus met us with your carriage and took us home from Silas Evans and Virginia wants to see you, and Old Gray is very fat and Cyrus has saved a bag of hazel nuts for you and has sewed them up till you come next spring, so you can ride in your carriage and crack hazel nuts. Tell Charlie we can raise big water-mellon here and he must come and help us eat them all up next summer and we will have a carriage load at a time and Eddy will haul them home for us.

S. S.

Eliza and Mr. Wallace are here now on a visit and their little Mary Catherine with them and they expect to go to keeping house in a few days. Mary Catherine is healthy child and very smart and Liza thinks handsome enough. John has built his house near to his father on his own land. Betty, the little negro girl I brought out with me, lives with Liza. Cyrus is still going to school. Nelson, Marcus and Joseph have had a trip to Saline since we got home a hunting and the company killed several deer, some geese and turkey. I have often inquired at the office for letters and was as often disappointed, but will excuse you if you will me and promise do to better hereafter. So no more, but remain yours &c till death.

Septimus Scholl

To Mrs. Catharine Hinde  
Moorfield Post Office  
Nicholas County, Kentucky

(The first page of this letter is missing, but it was written prior to September 27, 1847, date of death of Joseph Scholl.)

Silas Evans has swapped his place off in Saline County for one in Lafayette County six miles this side of Lexington and expected to move some time in March, so we will be a little closer neighbor to him than we expected being. As we all are getting a little closer together, suppose you come out and settle amongst us - I would be very glad to visit you once in awhile.

Eliza has gone to housekeeping sometime ago. Her little daughter looks fine and grows finely. She calls her Mary Catherine.

You need not think that we are clear out of the world because we are in Missouri. We can go to meeting every Sunday we feel like it and hear as good preaching as we ever heard in Kentucky, so you must not let that be an obstacle in your way for not coming here.

James W. Muir was down in Callaway County sometime ago and they were all well except Aunt Betsy and Cyrus Scholl. I suppose you have heard of the death of Oliver. He died sometime this winter of the compression of the brain.

Tell little Eddy that we have saved Old Gray and the carriage for him and he must come and get them in the spring.

I have run afoul of a ----- and I must come to a close. Give our best respects to inquiring friends and receive the same yourself.

Joseph Scholl

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To Catharine Hinde  
Nicholas County, Kentucky  
Moorfield Post Office

Jackson County  
June, 1847

My dear and affectionate children and old acquaintances:

I once more have attempted to interest your attention by addressing you a few lines in my awkward way. In the first place I will say that we are all well at this time, a blessing we generally enjoy. In the second place, I will give you a short history of the past since I had the pleasure of seeing you.

We arrive at home last fall after a tedious time without meeting with any accident whatever calling on our old friends and acquaintances in Saline, having left boat at Arrow Rock owing to the low stage of the water and found our family and domestic concerns in a better condition than might have been expected after an absence of 100 days. We have since that time feigned to be very busily engaged in the various avocations of a domestic nature trying to make up our agreeably spent time and have at last come so near doing so as to be almost ready to start on another pleasure trip to Callaway where we have not been since we passed through in our peregrination to this western frontier, and would have been gone before this time had we not been awaiting to see Rodney and sometimes flatter ourselves that you would come along and are still waiting.

As I have scarcely ever written a letter to you or our friends that I did not give you or them a short history of country, I will not neglect it this time. We are living in one of nature's most fertile regions of our earth. There is hardly anything of a vegetable nature that does not thrive well, paying the laborer bountifully for the time and labor expended, and then we have the pleasure of

manufacturing and converting it to our own use, as we have a sorry chance to convert it in cash as we are a long way from market. It will bring very little more than will pay carriage to market, consequently we live very plentifully, if not luxuriously with moderate labor - spend a portion of our time in fishing and hunting at which we make full hand, occasionally.

I have added a small addition to my first purchase, including one of the most beautiful and best spring I ever saw near a delightful situation for a dwelling which I showed to Mr. Hinde when he was here as your place - that is Kitty's. When I once flattered myself to see you with your little band of boys cutting their capers, gathering the wild fruits of nature of which there is in its season an abundance and have not yet despaired of seeing that happy hour. I am well apprised of the many objections against such a move and censure no one much as myself in producing them, as I consistently confess there are many and in my opinion, well founded objections, but after due deliberation I have come to the conclusion there is not as much difference in country as is generally calculated on and I am here and if we can have our health continued only as well as we have had it since we have been in this country, I am reconciled to stay here the balance of my remaining days, and our family appears to think well of our country and situation and there is nothing so desirable to me as to have my children and friends and old acquaintances so near that I can spend my leisure hours with them and I am yet able to render them some small assistance in time of need, should they require it.

I also have purchased 80 acres in the prairie two miles south of where I live, immediately on the Santa Fe road, which we are preparing to improve for Nelson, for which I paid \$5.62 per acre or \$450. There is 80 acres more for sale at the same place adjoining the same and offered for the same price immediately on the aforesaid road and in nearer than what I purchased - all delightfully watered, good spring - where one might stand in the yard, look over a delightful neighborhood of a good society and see Harriet, Eliza, Phoeby Wallace and others running after their children and feeding their chickens at a distance of a half a mile or three quarters. The firewood would have to be hauled a mile and a half, a good ----- road and plenty of it, and the land and situation is the richest and one of the most desirable prairie situations in this country, four miles of Independence. Rails would have to be hauled about three or four miles and the land would cost about \$4 per acre and worth very little only to support the timber which might appear to one that had no experience in such matters, very inconvenient, but by experience it is well established fact that a laboring man can make a farm and put it in cultivation with less than half of the labor that would prepare a timbered place.

Our town of Independence is thronged at this time with soldiers, ten companies of mounted volunteers are rendezvousing there for Mexico by way of Santa Fe. Oxen, wagons, beef cattle bring fine prices and will continue to do so until government gets supplied. A great many Santa Fe traders, Rocky Mountain hunters, Oregon emigrants keep up a continuous buzz in town. Fine time for the merchants and machinists, in fact we farmers are securing a portion of the spoils as our surplus bacon, corn, beef and pork are in brisk demand, although at moderate prices. Corn \$1, beef 3¢, wheat 50¢.

James Muir was married to Rebecca N. Scholl, daughter of Brother Joseph, not long since, not yet settled himself. Daniel Muir is going to Santa Fe as a teamster. John Guy and Betsy are here on a visit enjoying themselves well. Eliza and family doing well. She and Phoebe are near neighbors living in one-fourth of a mile of each other in a romantic situation on the north side of a prairie which extends south to Santa Fe. Come and see us, but we are like Elleck Hagan, we have no



money but plenty of meat and bread of which our country abounds. We have a very wet spring and promising crops.

Boone Hays and wife have not yet settled their controversy. She is drawing \$100 a year on separate maintenance but no final decision by the court is yet obtained.

The health of our country at this time is very good, but I am dreading a sickly season, as we have a great deal of wet, cloudy weather and hot sunshine.

Tell little Eddy if he can't come and see me, I intend to come and see him and Charlie and give him a little black boy to wait on him, to gear his horse and drive his carriage out to Missouri and get a buffalo calf, as our hunters bring in a heap of them. Daniel Boone has just returned from the plains with 27 - he took 30 milk cows and caught 35 young buffalo calves and they suck the tame cows and in that way they bring them in fat. They lost several in consequence of being a little too late in the season. They were so large they ran thin so long they died. They intend to take them to Tennessee, and Kitty, as ours is not a money making country, our citizens indulge in such sports and taking a little brush occasionally with Indians. They go up the Missouri about 300 miles for their buffalo.

I am yours &c  
Septimus Scholl

\* \* \*

To Rodney M. Hinde  
Nicholas County, Kentucky  
Moorfield Post Office

Jackson County  
October 19, 1847

Dear and affectionate children:

I arrived at home safe and sound with my charge who stood the trip very well except becoming very low spirited at times (we were 17 days from home to home) buoyed up with the idea of delivering an aged mother into the arms of a daughter who never expected to see her mother any more when she left her in Kentucky last fall was a full compensation for all my trouble and expenses.

But alas! Joseph was not here. He departed this life on the 27th of September of measles. Oh God, give me fortitude to bear up under my loss. I cannot step out of doors nor even raise my head but I see something Joe has had a hand in doing or making, for he was a good obedient boy and an enterprising and industrious, and there was little done only what he had a full share in performing, in fact I see or hear but little but what places him full in my imagination. But - he is not here. The sound of clarinet, the elder fife, the wild geese, the brant, the prairie hen has become almost death to me to hear them, they being his favorite pursuits - laboring hard five days and a half in the week to get an opportunity to spend a few hours a Saturday evening in his favorite sports, for he was truly industrious. In losing of him I lost a staff and prop of my latter days. Oh God, give me fortitude to bear up under such an affliction and forgive me if I should regret an occurrence which I have no control over, for the Lord giveth and the Lord taketh away. Blessed is the name of the Lord.

They buried him in the garden about 60 yards of the house, dressed in a suit of black with gloves &c on - his coffin covered with black velvet and trimmed inside with white. The neighbors and friends attended and aided in rendering the last services to a departed friend. They all thought well of Joseph and sympathized with his relatives for his loss. He was sick three weeks bearing up under his affliction with fortitude (except sometimes calling for his father, mother,

brothers and sisters in the most heart rending cries and appeared to die easy otherwise. Said very little about dying at no time, only was known to mention death only to John Sylvester Muir and bid him farewell, said he must die (also the death of little black Peter who died of measles the same day, that is Kit's oldest child).

I heard of our misfortune at Portland in Callaway, Evaline having returned home a few days before, but never mentioned it to your grandmother for she was very low spirited and weak at the best, but appears to be well satisfied and hearty at this time. Your mother's health is good, bearing up under all her fatigues and troubles with fortitude as becomes a mother so to do, but very much reduced in flesh. Marcus' joys and prospects are almost blasted, having promised himself to spend many pleasing hours and days with Joseph, for he dearly loved him as a brother and promised himself to visit Kentucky and Tennessee, but now asks how can he leave us and what would be the consequences if any of us should be called off or himself in his absence, that it almost kills him to be alone and to be deprived of the society of an affectionate brother, for they were truly brothers. Eliza can hardly bear to mention or think of him without shedding tears, for she is truly an affectionate creature. Poor Cy cannot play the drum without shedding tears, for many an hour he has spent in beating after Joe. Nelson has performed all the duties of a son and brother in a Job like manner - has got on with business very well considering his opportunity.

Now my dear children, try so to live when we are about to die that we cannot reflect on any of our past deeds and that when we die we can have a full assurance of meeting once more where parting will be no more and pain a stranger. We send you a lock of Joseph's hair.

Excuse a trembling hand and sorrowful heart, for not filling my sheet, and wish ever to be remembered to you and all my old friends &c.

Septimus Scholl

\* \* \*

To Rodney M. Hinde  
Nicholas County, Kentucky  
Moorfield Post Office

Jackson County, State of Missouri  
January 12, 1848

Very dear and affectionate children:

I having a leisure time sitting by a sparkling fire with your grandmother and mother and it is very cold that I can see no pleasure in running about - the snow several inches deep. The sun is bright as May day and so cold that the snow does not get moist on the south side of the house. I think I cannot employ myself better or render you more satisfaction owing to the distance that we are apart than sending you these scattering lines.

After I left you we arrived at Lexington the same day without any accident or much trouble, put up and stayed all night, left next morning, took steam car with Col. William regiment of volunteers, about 400. Got to Frankfort in four or five hours, then to water on board steamboat with the soldiers and had a crowded house to Louisville. No boat ready for St. Louis, put up at tavern, took breakfast. I saw James C. Davis. A boat arrived, in two or three hours we re-shipped for St. Louis where we arrived in eight days, we having run afoul of the steamer Ben Franklin on French bar leaving a part of our wheel house and guard to the stern unshipping one of our wheels precipitating ten or twelve passengers in the river, drowning a Dutch lady passenger, doing the Franklin no injury. Tarried one day

and night in St. Louis, then started for Independence, where we arrived in eight days more by hard pulling, owing to the low stage of water. I got along with close attention with very little inconvenience. Your grandmother almost despaired of ever getting here, being so much longer on the river than she expected and became very much fatigued and reduced owing to the water and diet not agreeing with her. However, in the whole, I got home with less difficulty than might have been expected considering my encumbrance, having very little trouble with blacks, only to give them something to eat.

When I got home I found our family in a condition which I leave you to judge, having buried Joseph and little Peter three weeks. What was here was enjoying tolerable health, though most of them having had the measles. Joseph was sick three weeks complaining as usual in cases of measles until a few days before he died, being very little trouble only a few days, the measles having fell on his bowels which Dr. Combs and Caldwell could not check, both tending on him, but terminated in death in a few days - very unexpected to his friends and acquaintances. He said nothing about dying to anyone, not considering his situation dangerous, frequently being afflicted in that way. A few hours before he died he suffered very much, calling for his parents, brothers and sisters and died shortly saying nothing about death, only observing once to John Muir that he was bound to die owing to the misery he was in. He was buried in our garden in decent state, dressed in full suit and much regretted by his friends and acquaintances, for they all loved Joseph for his candor, simplicity and unassuming manner. His industry was a sample for his neighbors, being proud, bold and upright in his manner. They all thought well of him. It seems to me that I cannot hardly bear up under the loss of such a staff that I had promised to lean on in my advanced age. I cannot walk in the house or out of the door but almost everything I see or hear brings him fresh in my mind, for there is very little here but has his mark - his gun, fife, clarinet horn, saddle, bridle, ax, plow or hoe, for he used all of them liberally and his hemp field which he was cutting when I left him, but oh, he is not here. O, O, O, O.

Eliza and family are well and doing well. I had bought a piece of land in the prairie before I was in Kentucky near where she lives, which we have built a house on for Nelson, who will move to it in the spring, which we are now fencing when the weather will admit of it. We have had a very cold winter until yesterday. The snow fell 6 or 7 inches deep. We have a bad stock country owing to the long dry winter and no grass from October to May. Fine country, land rich, easily cultivated, producing well with very little labor - our market, say none, can't sell a hog at any price, say 2¢, corn 75¢, wheat 50. There is a tolerable demand for oxen for the Santa Fe trade for which there is a very great preparation. Nothing offered for hemp, very little made in the country owing entirely to the very little demand heretofore.

Boone Hays suit has all been tried and his wife failed to prove any of her allegations against him and finally obtained nothing from him and has left here for Tennessee where he found her.

We are all enjoying good health at this time. Milly has had a light spell of fever but is now well and as hearty as ever. Nelson's family is all well and looks well. Nelson complains of his breast where he was hurt by his horse throwing him and trampling on him, whenever he takes cold, otherwise is fleshy and looks well. Harriet is well and fleshy. We are living fat and easy but very lonesome. Cyrus goes to school to Fielding Combs. Marcus hardly ever about the house.

Tell Eddy, Charlie and J.O. that daddy will come and see them again before long and they must go home with him to catch rabbits and prairie chickens.

Respectfully yours &c  
Septimus Scholl

To Rodney M. Hinde  
Nicholas County, Kentucky  
Moorfield Post Office

Jackson County, Missouri  
April 23, 1848

Very dear and affectionate children:

I once more have the pleasure of informing of you that we are all in the full enjoyment of health, a blessing we have generally enjoyed since I saw you. I have nothing of much importance more to write but will try to fill my sheet with such occurrences as may be presented to my mind while hurrying through life in one continual buzz of ----- through with one occurrence, then into another and are getting behind the times. We have had a long dry winter with very little rain or snow and very changeable from hot to cold. It is very dry now, our waters are very low except the Missouri which is in fine navigable order. It is so dry that vegetation has made very little progress yet, everything is measureable dried up. We have got along with our spring business about as usual. We have been very closely engaged through the winter and spring in building Nelson a house and fencing in a part of our prairie which Nelson has lately moved to. His situation is quite a pleasurable one to look at and very rich and I think will produce well if properly cultivated. If our health will admit of it we will give it a fair trial this year. First rate land adjoining at \$6, \$7 and \$8 per acre (prairie), timber two or three miles off from \$3 to \$4 per acre &c.

We have had flush times here this winter and spring owing to the war and Santa Fe trade. Oxen, mules and wagons very much in demand at fair prices. Corn \$1 per barrel, wheat 60¢ to 70¢, hemp from \$3 to \$4 per hundred, bacon plenty and dull at 3¢ and 4¢. Our prospects are flattering as to making a plentiful supply of provision, as our lands are very productive and easily cultivated, in fact if trade would keep as good as it now is, we would make money, for every kind of produce is in demand at fair prices except bacon.

There is now in operation in the town of Independence a large number of mechanics, among them from 75 to 100 blacksmiths and wagon makers closely engaged in their line of business. A large number of houses and shops going up, amongst them several large dwelling houses and store rooms, and by the first of May there will be a railroad from Independence to the river, a distance of  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles, commenced as the contracts for said road are all taken and money subscribed which will take a great deal of provisions and labor, all to be completed by the time the next spring trade commences. A large depot to be in Independence to receive and deliver all produce and merchants' goods, charging only on warehouse commission fee as though it stood on the river bank.

There will probably be 300 wagons loaded with merchandise for the Santa Fe trade leave this spring carrying from 4,000 to 5,000 pounds and some 7,000, working from 10 to 14 ox or mules to each wagon. Very little of the stock or wagons ever return, which keeps up the demand for wagons and stock. There is a considerable migration to Oregon and California, Texas &c. Great rejoicing at the prospects of peace, our volunteers promising themselves fine sport in having nothing to do but chase the Indians and buffalo over the plains from here to the Rocky Mountains and finally to the Pacific Ocean. They speak as lightly of such trips as we used to do in taking a Kentucky hunt in the mountains.

I have not got naturalized to this country or ever expect to feel like I was at home. The people are most all strangers with I form very little acquaintance. Therefore I spend most of my time at home employed in the various avocations presenting on our little farm and a small portion in hunting and fishing. I seldom go to town or anywhere else except on business, which is quite limited, and lead solitary and lonesome life reflecting (perhaps too much) on past events



which I am unable to wear off long at a time. There are very few things come under my observation but bring me back to my old train of despondency and it appears that I never will be able to reconcile my feelings to submit to my family loss, for it was fresh today, as it was the moment I became informed of the occurrence, and everything we undertake to do either for profit or sport but there is a member missing which never can be filled, and it has such an effect on me that I am poorly prepared to bear. The rest of the family appear to have forgot our misfortune in a small degree which almost makes me envy their recess. I am flattering myself that we would all get together or so near that we could have the pleasure of seeing each other occasionally and sympathize with each other under our difficulties, but that prospect has vanished. I have frequently heard people say (when an unhappy occurrence took place amongst their children or friends) they would rather follow them to their grave and perhaps I have heretofore made use of the observation myself. But oh, what an unguarded observation, for while there is life there is hope, but when laid in the grave, all hope is vanished. Oh, what a thought. I still flatter myself that if I should live only a few years I would divide that time amongst my children notwithstanding the distance they are apart, and tell your little boys I expect to come and see them and stay longer than I did last fall, and they must be good boys and go to school and learn to write me letters so that I can hear what they are a doing and where they are a living and if our country gets healthy, they must come here and live, for it is a very easy place to make a living if they could have their health, and not to think all the people that are here are sick and a dying, for people die in Kentucky sometimes. Do not understand me to insinuate that ours is as healthy country as you live in, for I do not think so, but the health of this country is better lately than it was in times past. Our climate is so very changeable that it renders it unpleasant at times, but in a general way there is very little difference in here and Kentucky.

Your mother and Eliza have gone to a meeting today in Independence and Mary Catherine is cutting her little capers around me as I am writing. Your grandmother's health is better than it has been for ten years and she wants to come back and live with Isaac. She eats hearty and sleeps well, but will sit up all day without lying down a minute, scarcely ever speaks without spoken to, and she barely answers, always appears to be in a deep study, but when spoken to appears to be cheery.

Rod, you said Mr. Johns told you I was owing Will and he would pay off that account. I do not owe Will one cent nor never expect to, and if he Mr. Johns will pay off that account he will do himself justice and me too immediately without defalcation, which is the only way he can reinstate his former standing with me, for he ought to know Will well enough not to place any confidence in what he says. If you see G. Thomas, tell him I will write to him as soon as I obtain information asked, for I very seldom see Buck Muir. I will go and see him on the subject and write to him &c.

Dr. Combs has bought a place near Silas Evans and has lately moved down. I have not paid him a visit yet which I intend doing soon.

Our health is good, our prospects promising. The old lady (your mother) has sent one hundred and thirty dozen of eggs to market this spring.

So no more, as my writing is illegible. I will quit scribbling and will wait to hear from you soon.

Septimus Scholl



To Rodney M. Hinde  
Nicholas County, Kentucky  
Moorfield Post Office

Jackson County, State of Missouri  
January 1, 1849

Very dear and affectionate children:

I have read, received yours of last month with as much pleasure and anxiety as any letter perhaps that we ever received from you at any former period, which rendered us very happy to hear of your general health and prosperity and living in a country where you are able to obtain all the common necessaries of life and comfort by labor and industry, which you are always ready and willing to bestow when called on by wish or otherwise. The only excuse I have to offer for not writing oftener is procrastination which is the thief of time. The last letter I wrote in July I suppose you never received. I many times depend on the children and they on me, and you feel the consequences. I hope you will not patronize us in that respect but write often and particularly when you have things of interest or interesting at all times is desirable.

We are all in the enjoyment of good health, a blessing we have generally enjoyed since I saw you, except a little negro boy of Kit's four or five months old which fell out of his mother's lap, she being asleep, and is so badly burned very little hope of recovering, the burn entirely his face. We have not been able to ascertain whether his eyes are out or not, the occurrence having happened only four days past.

When I undertake to write, I am at a very great loss to know what is most interesting. I have often written to you the nature of our country, the products as to quality as well as quantity, that it is unnecessary to say anything on that subject. Missouri has been playing her trumps for the last month - part rain and sleet commenced on the 2nd of December and continued three or four days and nights until the timber was almost a sheet of ice from top to bottom, then snow 6 to 8 inches deep, then sleet, hail and rain 3 inches on that, and a few days past 10 inches of snow on top of the whole, forming almost a solid cake of ice more than a foot deep on the ground notwithstanding what is overhead, consequently we have very cold weather. Our stock in part has suffered very much, a small portion has perished and our prospects have not much improved, continuing very cold. We have had a few bright sunny days which was not sufficient to melt the frost of our whiskers. Water is so much frozen that it is with difficulty a large portion of our citizens can obtain water for the stock. We commenced foddering our cattle in October and have fed half as much already as we have fed any winter since we have been here in this country and our stock looks very bad.

Our country has very few inducements for emigrants to it. Our lands are productive yielding abundant of such products as our country affords, such as corn, hemp, wheat, oats, tobacco &c. We generally make fine crops with little labor which is mostly done in a few months, say April, May, June and a part of July, then our seasons are generally dry until cold weather which sets early in October. Vegetation becomes so dry that it is certain to get burnt up, then we have the most naked land imaginable, tens of thousands of acres not affording a green spear of grass or leave enough to make a hog bed, consequently stock fares badly with all you have to give them. And by the time grass comes in the spring, your crop is disposed of for their preservation with a loss of at least ten per cent of your stock, with the balance so reduced they hardly recover before the flies and dry weather set. Our fine crops are extinguished and we no better off than we were last year.

Our soldiers and traders are daily arriving from the plains of Santa Fe with the most distressing accounts owing to the dry and cold setting in earlier than

common. In attempting to bring in the wagons, baggage &c they failed to accomplish entirely. I am credibly informed that as many as 150 ox have died or been left at one camp of a morning - some traders losing their whole train, others getting in with a third or a fourth and a portion dying after they get in, they so poor that they can't recruit them and leaving their fine wagons on the plains to make fire for the Indians or some more unfortunate traveler. Notwithstanding the Santa Fe trade will enliven the ensuing spring. The preparation for California emigration is overwhelming. The gold fever is raging high. There is very little said or done, only preparing for Oregon, California, Mexico, or Santa Fe.

Politics dead, the name of democracy is glory enough for the majority in Missouri, have a low face governor, low face? legislature. We pay 35¢ per \$100 tax, have not one foot of turn pike road, canal or bridge belonging to the state. The legislature sits only every other year. So much for democracy in Missouri. Our domestic concerns are crawling along in our usual way. We made a very fair crop of corn, wheat, hemp, oats, with abundance of fruits and vegetables. Our market is dull, say none, some little bartering with the merchants, mechanics and farmers. \$2 neat for pork, no demand for hemp nor wheat. The river having been closed within the last month, we are a living plentifully on hog and hominy - each one able to hide his rations daily. I have a fine lot of young hogs on hand. It is doubtful whether I will be able to get them through the winter and if I do, whether they will be worth anything. Corn is worth more than hogs, a large portion wanted to feed Santa Fe stock.

Kitty, notwithstanding I am apprised of your need of your domestic articles here, I have never met with an opportunity that I thought was safe one, consequently they are still here. Expecting Isaac to come after mother was one cause of delay. That expectation now at an end, having heard that he had sold and perhaps in Tennessee, I flatter myself that we will meet with a favorable chance during the coming season. Perhaps I may come in next summer myself if my health continues good. The health of our family since our misfortune while I was in Kentucky last, had been equal as good as it was while living in Kentucky. There has been no case of ague and fever for more than two years. Your grandmother's health is better than it has been for ten years past and I think she is heavier though void of sight, sits in her chair the most of her time, perhaps lays down the least of any person of her age, sleeps well - you might spend a whole night in the room with her and if you did not see her, could not tell there was any one in the room. She sits up to the table and eats when your mother does, she cutting her meat leaving it on her plate. When she wants to use it, she makes use of her fingers in the place of a fork. Her vegetables are put into a spoon and to give her occasionally. She pours out her coffee herself with a great deal of care, giving very little trouble more than attention, eating very hearty of such as is given her, apparently without choice. It is true it is a great charge to your mother, but there being no other pet on the place, it passes off almost unnoticed. Harriet has three boys and three girls, the girls the oldest. The young one they call James Harvey, the flower of the flock, a fine smart looking fellow - all healthy children, two youngest the largest and healthiest agreeable to age. Eliza's family has no increase than you are apprised of. Marcus and Cyrus are at home. Cyrus goes to school. There is no increase in our black family except the child that is burnt. Evaline has had a boy which only lived a few hours. Milly is looking for a young one every hour. Kit, Betty and Jane are at Eliza's, Bob at Nelson's, Evaline at town, all the rest at home. Rod, you must give Eddy the little mare in the place of Old Gray, and put her to breeding and raise Charlie a donkey.

You said that Will John told his father that I owed him and he would settle with

me the ten dollars. I never owed Will a cent and never expect to see him again and Anderson must pay his own debts.

I expect to try and weather out my time in Missouri and all of the rest of the family appear to be well satisfied and if you think you could live here and do any better than where you do live, we would be very happy in seeing you all here and divide with you plentifully for your support until you could provide otherwise. We now have more open land than we can cultivate to advantage. You would be able to make a bountiful support with moderate labor if you were able to stand our climate.

Yours &c  
Septimus Scholl

\* \* \*

To Rodney M. Hinde  
Nicholas County, Kentucky  
Moorfield Post Office

Jackson County, State of Missouri  
April 8, 1849

Dear children:

I once more send you a few lines to let you know that we are all well at this time, which is a blessing we generally enjoy since our misfortune in '47 which mars the most of my earthly happiness, for every time I pass the spot where Joseph is deposited in the garden or hear his favorite tunes played, it fill my heart almost to bursting and my eyes with tears. I have but little more to write that I expect would be of interest to you, but will give you a short history of occurrences and seasons &c.

We had a little negro boy child of Kit's burnt to death last winter. She went to sleep with him in her lap and he fell out into the fire and burnt his face and skull, then he died in two weeks. Evaline also had a son which only lived a few days. We have three little negro boys lying side by side since we settled here. Our winter set in about the 20th of November last and about the 1st of December the rain, sleet and snow commenced, which continued with very few exceptions until the 20th of March, so that we did scarcely see the ground for four months, it being covered with snow and ice 2 feet deep solid ice, so that stock and men passed over dry shod. A number of horses and cattle were killed and crippled. One of my oxen I got of Silas Evans got crippled and rendered useless. I lost nearly 100 hogs, some calves and lambs. We had to take an ax or hoe to cut our shock corn to feed with. There was a great deal of stock died in the country, particularly government stock and Santa Fe traders, perhaps 75 out of 100. What stock did live is very much injured, some with their ears, tails or hoofs frozen off.

Our city, for Independence is a city, is more than usually thronged with traders and California gold hunters, perhaps 1,000 of the latter. They will average five to the wagon. Their outfits consist of 200 pounds of flour, 200 of bacon, sugar and coffee in proportion and other common necessaries, an Indian pony or mule, large rifle or double barrel shot gun, a keg of powder and lead and shot in proportion, a brace of pistols, a six barrel revolver, tomahawk, buther? or Bowie knife and dog. The finest set of looking men I ever saw and the best prepared. Their prospects are so flattering that they appear to reserve nothing they stand in need of. The only object is to get there with a spade, pick, sieve, and bag or box to hold their treasures. All they lack is an outfit in case they should be disappointed. They will be 100 or 120 days on their way. Every later

information is still more flattering. Times are very lively now, owing to the California gold. Everything is high owing to the scarcity occasioned by the hard winter. We get fair prices for what we have to spare and have to give tall prices for what we buy. We make fine crops in the summer and have a serious time feeding it away in the winter and our stock not worth as much in the spring as they were the fall before. We may live plentifully here by moderate labor, but make very little money to lay up, for it is like our crops - at the end of the year it is all expended. We know ourselves very little better off than the year before, and a great many worse.

Dr. Combs is not expected to live, perhaps is now dead. Ben Thomson had the misfortune to have his youngest child and only daughter killed by an old sow, literally torn to pieces, dead in a few hours after a most distressing occurrence. Nelson and Eliza and family all well and enjoying fine health.

The last letter I wrote to you was in January past directed you to give the little mare to Eddy and breed her to a horse or jack and raise a donkey for Charlie. I would send him one, only the distance and expense is too great. Tell James O. that it is his turn next.

I had like to forgot to let you know that Milly has a son three months old, a fine fellow. Ev is hired out in town. Betty lives with Eliza, Bob with Nelson. We have the rest all at home.

Grandmother is almost crazy to go to Tennessee.

I saw Jo Huls and Joel Collins yesterday in fine health and spirits for California. No more, but remain

Yours till death  
Septimus Scholl

\* \* \*

To Rodney M. Hinde  
Nicholas County, Kentucky  
Moorfield Post Office

Jackson County, State of Missouri  
June 18, 1849

Very dear and affectionate children:

I have the pleasure of informing of you that we are all well (except Maria's baby eight weeks old is very unwell and certainly die before tomorrow morning), a blessing we generally have enjoyed ever since we saw you, but there are many occurrences transpired since that time it would be painful to relate, but I will venture to inform you that Marcus started to California on the 1st day of May in company with Cyrus R. Scholl of Callaway, Daniel Muir, Sylvester Muir, Boone Hays, Amazon Hays, Linville Hays, Upton Hays, Cud Combs, Fielding A. Combs, Sr., Dr. Caldwell, together with a number of our acquaintances. Marcus, Cyrus, Daniel and Sylvester fitted out a wagon with four yoke of oxen, 800 pounds of bacon, 800 pounds of flour, 200 pounds of sugar, 100 pounds of coffee and three year clothing, good rifles, guns, pistols, knives, cooking utensils and all the necessary tools thought to be wanted in mining, tents &c. They went in company with Boone Hays which consisted of 19 wagons and 60 men forming said company and do not expect to return before fall 1851 and not then if they think it their interest to remain longer. Of such occurrences I am hardly able to bear, let along write or express my feelings more fully than to quote Nicholson on grief - says it is one of the most violent emotions experienced by man and the most difficult to conquer. An injury may be forgiven an enemy converted into a friend, but grief seizes upon the soul after the loss of a relative with irresistible power and exerts herself



in vain to shake it off because the loss cannot be repaired and the mind is compelled to wander in a desert where its searches are in vain for its departed friend. The unhappy wandering sufferer lost in misery goes from place to place. The unhappy person seeks retirement to weep, loses his appetite, is careless of dress and views the grave and the gay with equal indifference. He walks without consciousness and reposes his limbs when fatigued by the mere impulses of nature. The brilliance of the sun has lost its charms. The pride of spring and the rigor of winter pass in their fascinating varieties before him unnoticed (may the Lord avert me from such evils). I have heard some of my friends say when it was their misfortune to have an unfortunate child to say they had rather follow them to their grave. Oh, what frail mortals we are. I have followed some of mine to the grave. I have followed some to different countries. I have seen others depart for different climes and every one appears to go the hardest with me, but on mature reflection, let the grave be the last, for as long as there is life there is hope, but when the grave is once closed, all hope is lost and prospect blasted. I flatter myself that possibly some day I may see Marcus, but for poor Joseph all hope is lost and I am an unhappy wanderer and that when I am only able to see one-half of my poor children. Oh, that God give me comfort and fortitude to bear with those occurrences as they transpire.

I flattered myself to pay you a visit next fall but all such hope is at an end for the present, but I hope to live to realize all enjoyments. I am placed here with a large and troublesome family. We have five negro women. They have ten children and the oldest hardly able to feed itself and poor old Jack and nobody to plow but Charles (except poor Cyrus who is almost heartbroken and alone). Mother still continues to be as blind as ever and causes your mother many a sorrowful hour, but she performs the duty of a child cheerfully. She has to be fed and led entirely, but her health and strength is better than it has been for ten years and her appetite and lungs are uncommonly good for a person of her age. Easy pleased as to diet or attention.

We have had a great many deaths in Independence and its suburbs with cholera mostly confined to the California emigrants. Though several of the citizens have fallen victims to the disease, it has almost entirely abated. The Californians have all left and they left the cholera behind them, but few deaths after they left the state.

We got a letter from Marcus 15 days after he started. They had got 200 miles going on in fine health and spirits. There was at the time he wrote 200 wagons in sight bound for California. There were 500 wagons and 300 pack mules fitted out from this place from almost every state in the union and would average about four to the wagon and two mules to each packing and are certainly the best equipped with wagons, horses, mules, oxen and camp equipage, together with fire arms. Many of them could make ten fair fires without reloading. Knives, dirks and one year's provision and three years' clothing and the finest looking men I ever saw, the larger portion enterprising, intelligent men. There was good order and fine discipline continued up to our last report. There was an equal number fitted out 70 miles above this at St. Jo and some large trains out south and a large number by way of Santa Fe. Our last account that could be relied on was from ex-Governor Boggs, late of this place who married a cousin of ours, and his brother-in-law Alphonso Boone who say from the discoveries that have been made, the gold appears to be inexhaustible. The more they get only opens the way to a larger amount &c &c.

We have had a severe winter and backward spring. Our corn came up badly so we furrowed it out and planted the second time. Corn that stood out all winter will not grow. We got corn that was gathered last fall that comes well. Our corn



stands well now, though be very late, say the 1st of June. We have tolerable prospects for wheat.

Nelson is living in the pretty prairie south of us one and one-half miles - Eliza about the same distance, one-half mile of Nelson. Harriet has six children, three oldest are girls, three youngest boys, all healthy children. Eliza has one daughter going on three years old - calls her Mary Catherine. She is a beautiful and smart child.

Kit's child died that was burnt last winter. Kit lives with Eliza. Mil has a young one, a fine yellow boy. Maria waits on mother when your mother wants.

----- Evaline is hired out in town. We have a perfect drop? shot gang but I think we are able to support them if life and health permit.

If I live and retain my health and strength I intend to pay you a visit as soon as possible. It was my intention to winter in Kentucky and Tennessee next winter but Marcus going away has blasted that prospect and when I will have an opportunity I cannot tell - for I am now sixty years of age (November 21, 1849) but retain my health and strength as well as I could expect. We cannot leave home on account of grandmother. She is still anxious to go to Isaac's and he has promised to come after her - I have my doubts.

Your mother says your things are all here yet and in good order and she flatters herself that she will still be able to bring them to you yet, for she has been afraid to send them in the way you propose, and if she should not be able to bring them herself, she will certainly meet with a favorable opportunity before long. I have little doubt that if we live I will be able to come and see you in the course of 18 months &c &c.

Evaline and Maria have both had children and Kit since we came here, but they are all dead except Ry which certainly will die before tomorrow morning.

Septimus Scholl

The baby died since writing the above. We also have heard from Marcus, 300 miles on route, all well, May 22.

\* \* \*

To Catharine Hinde  
Nicholas County, Kentucky  
Moorfield Post Office

Jackson County, Missouri  
July 2, 1849

Dear Sister:

Your welcome letter came at hand a few days ago and found us in the enjoyment of good health, a great blessing. I am now at daddy's. The men are harvesting today. Daddy's harvest hands are few to what they used to be. Nelson, Cy and Charlie are all of his family he has now to go to the harvest field.

Daddy wrote to you a few weeks ago informing you of Marcus' departure for California. He has been gone two months yesterday. We have received two letters from him. They were all well and getting along as well as they could wish. He said that they met a gentleman just returning from California that said that he gathered \$700 in one day. They were at Fort Kearney between 300 and 400 miles from home. His letter was dated the 23rd of May.

You spoke in your letter about us all enjoying ourselves so well, but I tell you that everybody knows there their own shoe pinches worse. It is true I enjoy myself at times but I have trials here that I never knew anything about. Kitty, it was heart-rending to stand and see Joe's last expiring breath and then Marcus

going away was nearly as bad, for I have my doubts whether he ever lives to return. There are so many going to the gold region that they must undoubtedly suffer. When Marcus wrote, he was then in sight of between 200 and 300 wagons. I was at church yesterday in Independence the second time this spring. There has been a good deal of cholera there. When I read your letter I was in a great way to come to see you, but yesterday after church I went down to the river to see it, as I never had been there. The river looked so frightful that it almost put me out of the notion of coming. Ma says that if she and daddy live, they intend coming to see you. They intended to come this fall if Marcus had not left home, but they intend to come as soon as they can, and I would come with them if I was not afraid to travel on water.

From what you write you think that I have nothing to do but pleasure about, but you are mightily mistaken for I have lots of work to do. I have woven me 20 yards of table linen and 20 of counterpanes and have between 60 and 70 pounds of rolls to spin and weave and as to my dressing, I do not outdress the Jews, although we had the Jews to dress us as we had a Jew store in town. I pay for nearly all mine and Catherine's clothes by marketing. I have my butter engaged the year round at 10¢ per pound. Ma says that she has been plentier of milk and butter this winter and spring than she ever was in her life. She sold 41 yards of jeans last fall and has not taken it up yet, so you may know that she is not very hard run. I sold 30 and have 20 pounds of brown this year to make a piece to sell. Ma has 17 pounds of mixed rolls ready to spin. She has 30 yards of table linen in the loom now. I wish you were here to work with us. You can live here as well as you can there.

It is strange that people will impress it on children that if they come to Missouri that they will die. The human family are liable to disease and death in all parts of the world. I do not know that they are more liable to die here than they are there. If I thought so, I would say so, but I do wish you would come and spend one summer with us. I think you might if you would.

Grandma says that she is well but not satisfied. She is very hearty. She says that she thinks of you every day and night. Harriet has six children, three girls and three boys. She calls the youngest James Harvey. The four oldest go to school. Ira Boone is living between my house and daddy. Betsy has five children, one about six weeks old. Phoebe Wallace, Phoebe Muir as was, has a little daughter a year old. James Muir's little daughter died this spring. I want you to write to me when you receive this and let me know where all of Cousin Joe's and Cousin Gillum's children are and what they are doing and what has become of Ed Hinde. Tell Ed that Mary McIntosh has two children.

Daddy has bought a sawmill, a circular saw but has not got it home yet. He intends moving it as soon as he can. You must come out and he will saw you timber to build you a fine house. I think I will make trial for one. You must come and see us all if you will not move to this country. Ben Thompson starts to Santa Fe in a day or two. He is going a trading.

Daddy has got a place picked out for you to build you a house if you will come. It has a first rate spring on the place, but I do not want you to move against your will. I will not persuade you to come if you do not want to come. Rod, Ma says she has not forgotten you and that you do not know how hard it is to have your children scattered over the world. It is true that you cannot help Boone being in Tennessee and Marcus going to California, but you might bring Kitty here if you would. I shall not say anything more to you about coming, for I know you are tired of hearing it.

Catherine has come and got up in my lap and says that I must tell you that she has been stringing peas for her grandma. She will be three years old the 7th of

this month. Rod, you all made a wrong guess when you guess that there was another son or daughter. There is no likelihood of any such thing. She can talk very plain and talks a heap about her Aunt Kitty in Kentucky. She is quite small of her age but talks very plain and she is like Jimmy, her tongue and feet scarcely ever still.

Ma says she has not forgotten Eddy, Charlie and Jimmy. She wants to see you all very bad. She says she is fixing to come to Kentucky. She says she is determined to come as soon as they can get ready.

I have written till I have run out and have not written much either, but you know that I am not smart and it is not worthwhile to make any apology.

We have a quarterly meeting commencing in Independence the 14th of this month - our Presbyterian camp meeting came on in September. You must stop over and see how we all carry on here. Nelson lives in a quarter of a mile of the camp ground. Cousin John's family is all well and none of the children are married, but Jim, Phillip, Dan and Sylvester are gone with Marcus. Cousin Viny can talk as much as ever. She has told since Marcus went away that he is never coming back. The cause is that we all treated him so badly. We all did all we could to get him fixed, for it was only two weeks from the time that he took the notion till he started and daddy furnished him with what he stood in need of, but it is not worthwhile to mind what she says. I do not mean that we wanted him to go, far be it from any of us. He was determined to go and we did the best we could for him. I must come to a close, but before I close, I must say some for the negroes. Evaline's child died in the last of October. It was only three days old and she expects to be confined in August or September. Maria's child is dead. Kitty sends her love to you and Nan. You must give my love to all inquiring friends and receive the same yourself.

Eliza Wallace

You must write soon.

\* \* \*

To Rodney M. Hinde  
Nicholas County, Kentucky  
Moorfield Post Office

Jackson County, Missouri  
September 16, 1849

Dear Brother and Sister:

Your letter of date the 1st instant came safe to hand on yesterday which was thankfully received and perused and I embrace the earliest opportunity of sending you an answer. You requested in your letter of date 1st instant whether our father made a will or not. If he made any I have not seen or heard of any. I was with him all the time during his last illness. I don't think he made any or I should have heard of it. He talked about his concerns a good deal but never mentioned a will once. He made several requests in presence of mother, Eliza and myself, but there is nothing on paper except a bill of sale for Kit's oldest child to Eliza which she is to be charged with. There has not as yet anything been done or said concerning the estate, and I don't know when there will. As soon as anything is done you shall hear from me again.

We have not had any news from Marcus and the boys since I wrote last. The news from the gold diggings is very promising. I mean they are getting along finely, good health and fine spirits.

The health of our country is generally good - no cases of cholera for a month.

There have been some cases of flux and some deaths since the cholera disappeared. I think we might call our crops nearly an average one. Corn has come out beyond expectation, hemp generally good, wheat crops not so good as usual. Our market for oxen and mules is not so good, the fall traders are nearly all gone. Good horses are scarce and held at high prices.

John Wallace, myself and Cyrus have been engaged in sawing planks on a circular sawmill. We can make \$100 per month clear including our labor by sawing timber on the halves, and we expect to continue this fall and winter. We have just blowed out to cut up corn and sow some wheat and then we shall go to sawing again. The piece of land I am a living on father never made me a deed to it (it contains 80 acres). He said on his dying bed I was to have it at what it cost, as he intended to make me a deed to it for what it cost, as I had made all the improvements on it and you and Kitty could get your share in the other land or negroes if you are willing to do. I should be glad to hear from you soon as I would like to put up some buildings this fall. The rest of them are willing to do so. Let me hear from you on this matter.

Grandmother has got the Tennessee fever and has written to her son Isaac to come after her this fall. She has not received an answer from him yet. She enjoys good health but appears to be very much dissatisfied, but I see no reason why she should be so. She is very childish.

Old Mr. Henry and family is in good health. Dr. Henry got a very extensive practice. He could not attend half the calls he had during the cholera. He was very successful. He tended on father. He is a favorite of our family. He is doing a good business - he stands high as a physician.

No news from Boone for some time. The children are all well. The four oldest are going to school. Boone learns very fast. George and Rough are fine boys. Mother and family are in good health. Cousin Vinia and family are in good health, in fact all our connections and acquaintances so far as I know.

Write me an answer soon. Give my respect to my old friends, your father and mother, and all inquiring friends. We are in the enjoyment of good health, hoping these few words may find you all in the same enjoyment, a blessing which we ought to be thankful for. My sheet is full - no more at present.

Nelson Scholl

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To Mrs. Catharine Hinde  
Nicholas County, Kentucky  
Moorfield Post Office

Jackson County, Missouri  
January 15?, 1850

Dear Brother and Sister:

I have taken my pen in hand to let you know that we have not forgotten you. It appears from Rod's last letter that you think we have. I know that I ought to have written before now, but I will try and do better for the future. We all are well at present. When I say all, I mean all of our relations.

I suppose you would like to know how things are going on in regard to our father's affairs. I do not know whether you know who are the administrators or not. I will tell you as much as I know about what is going on. Nelson and Mr. Wallace are the administrators. They have had a sale and sold what things there were to spare. Ma kept all of her bedding and bed clothes and furniture and what stock she thought she could keep well. Kitty, Mil and Charles are hired out. Kitty and Charles live with me. Ma keeps Harriet. Ma intends to apply for her dower



of the land at March Court but whether she will get it or not is more than I can say, for things have been managed quite different from what I expected. I thought that Ma was to keep everything until her death but the law would not allow it. Ma gets along as well as can be expected. Cousin Louvina Scholl came up in the fall and intends spending the winter with Ma. Grandma enjoys better health than she has for many years. She is quite fleshy and right full of her jokes. She wants to go home with Cousin Lou in the spring. Uncle Isaac wrote to her that if she would go to Callaway that he would come after her and take her home with him. She is quite anxious to go.

I must now tell you something about Marcus. We received a letter from him the last of December. They arrived in California the 8th of September. They were on the road four months and eight days. They had very good luck in going out, never had one hour sickness from the time they started out. Got all their ox out safe. They have stopped 50 miles east of Sacramento City and intended wintering there. We received a letter from Cousin Boone Hays the same time we did from Marcus, but it was written six weeks after his. Cousin Boone is very much pleased. He says that he does not intend coming back to Missouri. He is keeping boarding house boarding \$3 a day or \$1 a meal. The boys are not satisfied at all. Marcus says that such a road was never traveled by men and oxen. They were not making much. They had been there but two weeks when he wrote. He says that he is going to stay until he pays himself for the trouble he has had. The gold is there but it takes hard digging to get it. Dan Muir says that if the gold was there in stacks as big as mountains and he had nothing to do but to drive his wagon there and load it up, he would not go after it. They have set next fall to come home. Nelson says that he expects to come to Kentucky and bringing his family with him. Ma wants to come with him but she cannot come unless grandma goes home to Callaway. If she goes away Ma expects to come if no providential hindrance. -----

We have had a beautiful winter so far. There have been but few days but what you could work out of doors. Nelson and Mr. Wallace have a circular sawmill down at Ma's. They have sawed all winter. Nelson went to St. Louis last fall and brought it up. The mill that daddy bought from Cousin Boone was sold at the sale at a reduced price. They are making some little at it.

William Leeget? has bought the Staten farm and expects to move in the spring. I must come to a close as my paper is growing short. You must excuse my bad composed letter. Ma sends her best love to you all and says that she has not forgotten you. Rod, I want you to hush saying that we have forgotten you all. It is a mistake altogether. You need not think that I have, because I do not write oftener. You must write when you receive this. Write all the news of the day. Give my love to all inquiring friends and receive the same yourself. -----

Rod, I want you to come too and spend one winter with us anyhow, if no more. Cyrus is nearly grown. He is taller than I am. He is coming with Ma if she comes. Tell Eddy that Ma still has Old Gray. Kitty sends her love to you and Rod and Nan.

In haste, as it is nearly dark.  
Eliza Wallace

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To Rodney M. Hinde  
Nicholas County, Kentucky  
Moorfield Post Office

Jackson County, Missouri  
February 3, 1850

Dear Brother and Sister:

It has been a long time since I wrote you last and must acknowledge that I have been very negligent in writing to you. I don't want you to think that it is in disrespect to you by any means. You must ascribe it to me through my negligence. As to that note of mine, I don't recollect the date of it but as well as I can recollect, you are correct in the amount and the credits that were on it. The time I gave you the note I was living on the Tracy place but the date I can't say. I would send you a new note but I can't give the credits on the note. If you desire a note, I will give you another from the winter of 1840, a blank note calling for \$224 with the credits you speak of on it. I will sign it and send it back to you. I expect to come to Kentucky this fall and if you think proper we can then settle it, as I don't intend to try to avoid paying the balance due on it. If we were together I think we could arrange it in ten minutes, and as to the note you left for me to collect from Ira Boone, it was laid away with father's papers the morning you left there and I have not seen it since. It is amongst them somewhere. John Wallace named it to him and he said as soon as he sold his hemp he would pay it off. The reason why I did not collect it, I knew Ira's inability to pay it off and I hated to push him. I would like to send you the money but I have not got it. Myself and John Wallace bought a circular sawmill last fall for \$500, then the cost of putting it up and the right to run it cost \$100 more, consequently I have not got the money. I may get it between now and fall. If I do, I will bring it to you.

We are a doing a tolerable good business. We make about \$8 per day clear of expenses. We can cut about 1,000 feet per day when the days are long. When the logs are fletched up, we can cut 300 in an hour. That is our best speed. We dout? these days more than 500 on an average.

I will give you some California news. We got a letter from Marcus and Cousin Cyrus a day or two. They got to California on the 9th day of September being on the road four months and nine days, safe and sound without the loss of an ox or anything else. They are in the Sierra Nevada Mountains 50 miles east of Sutter's Fort in a small mining village called Weaversville. The second letter stated they had put up a comfortable cabin and had just commenced regular digging. They had been there two months and done all this work and laid in their winter provisions and had about \$700 betwixt them. They dig the dirt and put it into sacks and then carry it on their backs from 200 to 600 yards and then wash out the gold in a pan. They make from \$5 to \$8 per day. They say it is the hardest work they ever did. They are very much dissatisfied and say if they do not do any better when the rainy season sets in, they will come home this coming summer. They say that what they get will not justify them in staying there. They were in good health. Cousin Boone is keeping a boarding house and grocery. Board is worth \$3 per day at \$1 per meal. Provisions are very high but plenty of all kinds in the country. Gold they say is plenty but takes hard knocks to get it and that everything that shines is not gold.

We had a sale of father's property the 9th of October on a twelve month credit. The Missouri laws give the widow \$200 over and above her thirds and leaves it discretionary with an administrator what household furniture. We gave her all in the house, 30 acres of corn, twelve months' provision and stock hogs for another year. There was only about \$600 worth sold, including the sawmill which sold for \$280, \$120 less than it cost. The man that bought it moved to Platte County. The

negroes are hired out till next Christmas. Ma took Harriet at \$25. John Wallace hired Charles at \$75 and one of our neighbors got Milly and child at \$25. Kit was not in a situation to hire out as she now has a fine boy. She is at John Wallace's. It is likely he will keep her this year. Part of the place will be rented out. The debts of the estate will perhaps amount to \$700. Consequently there will be no money when the debts are paid.

Rodney, still write to me as your letters are gladly accepted and read. I have acknowledged my negligence and hope in future to try to do better.

Father did not make any will, but he gave Eliza Kit's oldest child the day he took sick and said he would charge her \$50 and said you were to have Milly and child and said I was to have the place I live on at what it cost and after Ma had her dowry laid off at the home place, Marcus and Cyrus were to have the balance.

Boone he said had nearly his share. John and Eliza have not had only about \$200. My place cost \$450. This is all I recollect at this time.

We are all well at present. Hoping these few lines will find you all in the same enjoyment. I will try and write every time we get a letter from the California boys and give you all the news. Grandma enjoys good health and intends to go to Tennessee in the spring. All our connections are well and the country generally enjoys good health. My paper is full but I could fill another, but this is the general news - the rest would be nonsense, consequently I will come to a close by subscribing my name.

Your loving brother until death.  
Nelson Scholl

\* \* \*

To Mrs. Catharine Hinde  
Nicholas County, Kentucky  
Moorfield Post Office

Jackson County, Missouri  
June 28, 1850

Dear Sister:

I have taken my seat for the purpose of writing you a few lines but my ideas are so scattering this morning that I do not know whether I can collect them enough to write any or not. We are all well at present, hoping these few lines may find you in the enjoyment of the same blessing. I have nothing of importance to communicate but I promised Nelson that I would write to you and Boone. I ought to have written before now but it is such a task for me to write that I put it off as long as possible. If I could write like some people I would not mind it, but I make such a poor out of it that I am ashamed for any person to see it after I am done, but you must excuse me as you know that I am not very bright.

Nelson and family left here the 7th of June for Kentucky. He did not know whether he would land at Maysville or Frankfort but I expect that he will be at your house before you receive this. If he does not, you may tell him when he comes that there is nothing of importance taken place since he left. I have not been to Ira's since he left but I hear of no complaints.

Nelson wishes us to make some agreement about the land on which he lives. It is 80 acres of land which father bought and gave to him but did not make him a deed to it, although it was his wish for him to hold the land. Nelson wants the land at the price which daddy gave. If you have no objection to it, sign the deed and we will do the same. Daddy made Rod the same offer if he would come to Missouri, to 80 acres of land adjoining Nelson's. I do not wish to do anything contrary to daddy's wishes, therefore I think he ought to have the land. Daddy said that he

wanted me to have Kit and you to have Mil and her child. Kit has had one child since he died, but how that will be settled I am not able to say. I would be very glad if it could be settled soon.

I would be very glad if you would come home with Nelson this fall and spend the winter with us. I think you might be very well and live with Ma this winter. She is so lonesome. She would be very glad indeed. Now do come anyhow and stay till spring.

We have not heard from Marcus since February. We received a letter from Boone dated May 3. They were all well. He said in his letter that he had not heard from you for eighteen months and he did not know where you were living, else he would write to you. I think you ought to write to him. He says he is not settled. He expects to leave where he is this fall.

Our conference commences the 10th of July. No more at present, but remain

Your sister until death.  
Eliza Wallace

You must write often.

\* \* \*

To R. M. and C. Hinde  
Nicholas County, Kentucky

Lincoln County, Tennessee  
July 16, 1850

Dear Brother and Sister:

After so long a time I once more avail myself of the present opportunity of addressing you a few lines. First I shall try to inform you that it is my unhappy lot to acquaint you with my irrecoverable loss of my beloved companion Mary who died on the 26th of June in shouts and triumph of faith with the sweet exclamations, I am happy, I am happy, Oh doctor, doctor, who would fear death to go to Jesus. I am not afraid to die to go to Jesus. Jesus my all, to heaven has gone. I am happy, I am happy. Oh husband, when we meet in heaven, in heaven then will be no more parting. Raise the children so we may all meet in heaven. Oh God, give me fortitude, your disconsolate brother, to bear up under these dying scenes as it is His own special given will to take them unto Himself Who is seated upon the right hand of His Father in heaven. Dear sister and brother, if you would not think it murmuring against God, I would express myself unhappy, unhappy, but not at the will of God. It is my solitary way of living and seeing my dear little children fondling around me and no kind mother to instruct them, as now is the time that they should receive instructions and oh, man, man, can you instruct and raise little girls as they should be? I will say no more just now on this subject but I could fill sheets of paper on the same subject.

At present I own no land and I am very much undetermined what course I will pursue. Sometimes I am almost persuaded that I will break up housekeeping for a time at least. Then I can in imagination see scenes and scenes that perhaps might spring up from attempting to live with some other family, but I cannot think of living in this way. Run to one place and get a garment made and see a child and go another and see another - it is too trying. I cannot live in this way long. However, time will determine my way.

It has been a great while since I have written to you and a great one since I have received a letter from you. I should have written long ago if really known that you were still living in Nicholas. I was of the impression that you had moved as you did not answer my letter, but if we can renew our correspondence, the past we

will lay aside and say nothing more about it. Perhaps I should say many things better there I shall not mention if Nelson were not here and can tell you many things relative to me and the children, country, &c &c if you wish to hear - my letter will be shorter than it might be.

I add a few lines relative to a deed or house which Nelson is endeavoring to obtain from the heirs - two 40 acre tracts of land which father purchased and was my understanding that it was for Nelson, though father died without making him a deed or otherwise committing to writing in any way. I received a letter from Eliza on yesterday which said something about the matters. It appears from hers that this land was intended for Nelson and that mother, herself and Mr. Wallace are willing that he shall have it at the purchase price. As to myself, I join my consent to it as you may see in the bond which he has by it being produced and stand good for that amount in a settlement or division. I want you to write to me after Nelson visits you. Give me all the news you can and the best information you all can collect or have on hand relative to our affairs and interest in any way whatever.

I did not give you the particulars of Polly's. She had a baby at seven months time. The child lived only a few minutes and she was very bad herself, though measurably recovered or was able to sit a little when she was suddenly attacked with the bowel complaint which ran unmolested for ten days at which time she expired. All the medicine that we could give her appeared to have no effect upon her during the last 36 hours of her illness. It mostly turned to vomiting. I had the child taken up and they were both buried in one grave by the side of Julia where I have almost buried my earthly happiness.

When you see Nelson and this letter, remember me your affectionate brother and know but we may all remain in peace and brotherly and sisterly love until death.

D. B. Shull

\* \* \*

To Captain Scholl, Esq.  
/Nelson Scholl/

Callaway County, Missouri  
August 11, 1851

High and Sovereign Lord:

Permit me, sir, to address you again in my accustomed strain of nonsense. I have been promising myself a leisure hour for some time to be devoted to indicting an epistle for your investigation and perusal, but you are aware as well as I am that human nature is prone to casual aberrations from the direct channel of rectitude. Therefore, I deem this an ample apology for my unkind negligence. Days have passed into weeks and weeks have numbered months since you left the garden of paradise. So rapid has been the flight of time that it almost makes one think that his terrestrial pilgrimage is immediately connected to it if not commingled with his approaching dissolution. It sometimes seems a little strange that these things be so, but it is nevertheless even the case. I sometimes suffer my mind to indulge in ephemeral digressions from one monotonous train of thinking and I am given to that current of thought that carries me into those scenes predicated upon hypothesis regarding the origin and destiny of man and the ultimate consummation of the present system of nature, and the more assiduous I am in trying to solve this problem, the deeper I am plunged in the fathomless vortex of ignorance, but such contemplations as these are not without their beneficial effects upon the mind, for they inculcate humility to the rich and resignation to the poor and resign us to the immutable decrees of providence, for both



observation and experience have been instrumental in teaching me that however elevated our position in life may be, there is still something in our condition to remind us of the infinities of our nature. It is true that I have not lived very long that I may claim unto myself much observation and experience, but still I have generally kept my eyes open to all that was passing in the contracted halo of my ramblings, and if so much is to be seen in a few fleeting years, what may not be seen if one's remnant of years should complete three score and ten. Such things, sir, are quite sufficient to make me entertain and coincide with the sentiments of the eccentric and illustrious Burns who said that man was made to mourn. The sage Ben Franklin in his moral disquisition said that life is just what we make it, and it would be unpardonable sacrilege in me to attempt to controvert any of the sayings of poor Richard. Still I cannot without some twang of conscious exactly coincide with the venerable sage, for misfortunes befall us that don't come within the sphere of man's? able? machinations, still the position that Doc Ben took is true so far as conspicuous characters are concerned. For instance, you may take an aspirant for fame and let him mount the car of ambition without an adequate propelling power and he soon finds clouds dark and ominous overhanging and besetting him on every side, impeding his progress, and finally some unseen obstacle oversets the car and all his fond anticipations of future greatness are plunged into the dark wilderness of obscurity and he is driven into a state of morose and querulous misanthropy. All this is the premature offspring of his own folly in consequence of not weighing and analyzing all the concomitant circumstances in the scale of justice, equity and expediency. But perhaps you are becoming wearied with my rhapsodies of enthusiasm and dim speculations of frigid abstractions. If you are, you must remember what the good book says and bear it with fortitude and cheerfulness. I did intend to say something in the way of eulogism about our fair blossoms of mortality upon whom nature has been so lavish in distributing her charm, but I am becoming wearied and must make a few more remarks and wind my horn?.

Our crops look exceedingly well and as the wind whistles through the army of stalks, it whispers - fear not for there is still oil and wine in the fleshpots of Egypt, while the huge forms of the stalks of grain rear their tall heads in the air and stand as unmistakable monuments of industry and civilization.

We are all well. Give love to all. Tell Marcus to bring his family down to see us this fall, and we will kill a venison and have white soup?. I hope to hear from you before soon, and now I pray that you may receive these few lines with my respect as a token of regard. -----

Cyrus ?. Scholl

\* \* \*

To R. M. Hinde  
Jackson County  
Independence, Missouri

Lincoln County, State of Tennessee  
September 3, 1851

Again in the bonds of brotherhood I avail myself of addressing you a few lines although the reception of this letter may be as cool as others apparently have been, yet I claim it as my inalienable right. Therefore under these considerations I write and now proceed to inform you that myself and children through the mercies and goodness of God are in the enjoyment of good health. However, I am not in a prosperous condition as to the affairs of this world, yet I claim to have my head above water. My trials have been many, yet I doubt not but what it was my



just deserts or I should not have received the chastisement. I frankly confess that I am in such a confused state of mind that I am undetermined what course to pursue for the future. Though slothfulness in business appears to be wearing away my substance, sometimes I arouse as from a state of slumber and think within myself that I will look forward and forget the past, but God hath mercy. I say forget the past, when the image of those mostly lovely who have died and gone to the land of spirits are as bright to my view as the days when health and strength animated those lovely forms, who with smiles and sympathetic feelings were ready and willing at all times to meet me and share a part of our common faith. Female beauty, where are the charms that have been my delight to behold. Would to God that I had the language to express my feelings, but I fear that I am giving away under weariness of mind, though my dear friends and relatives, I do assure you that the rent which is made in the garment may be renovated but it cannot be made whole. My time is never half spent if I should live to be old, and what have I done for myself or family - almost comparatively nothing. Will I faint by the way or shall I be able to ride upon the waves of this tempestuous world. Lord help, or I shall fall. I must stop this subject.

The children are all going to school. They are boarding at three different places. They are learning finely and are growing very fast. Ann is one of handiest girls to her age and chance that I ever saw. She can apparently do almost anything that she tries to. Susan is very timid but learns well. Seppy is very mischievous. He is very apt in figures.

I wrote to you all long since upon various subjects endeavoring to advise with you all. I had almost gained my consent to visit you last spring but I did not do it. I wrote to you all several times about the affairs of the estate. I wish to know something about it. Rodney wrote to me once, said something about the matter. I answered shortly according ----- more about the affairs, as yet not one word have I received. You may think I am very bothersome about business which is amongst yourselves. If so, write to me in plain words - not treat me entire neglect. I am not writing for the purpose of hurrying you into a settlement, but when I know how some things are a going on, I wish to know also how other things are going.

I would like to visit your country very much and see you all, besides examining your land. If you are in a better country than this, I wish to be in it. Our land is too high here according to improvements and quality. I own no land here and it is so high that I am not able to get such land as I want. I am almost tempted to leave this country. Crops in this country very good, though take the state over, it is bad. Pork is worth \$5 hundred, corn \$2 barrel, horses and mules from \$100 to \$150, negroes high, cotton declining.

Now if you get this letter, read it, and if you choose to do so, answer it. I wish to hear from you soon. Give me all the news and general information you can conveniently. In haste I close by tendering my best love to you all.

D. B. Shull

\* \* \*

To N. Shull  
[Nelson Scholl]

Lincoln County, Tennessee  
July 13, 1852

Dear Brother:

I again address you a few lines. As it has not been long since I wrote to you, I shall be short. First I inform you that myself and family are in the enjoyment

of good health. In my last letter I gave you a detail of matters between myself and the estate and you upon the examination of the same to write to me. You stated in your last that it would be necessary for me to come out to your country this fall in order to have a settlement and division. I have also received a paper published in your city in which I find two notices, one for a division and another for a title to land. This is a matter that should be attended to. I wrote to you to know if this business could be arranged without my not being present, as my business was such at this time that it is almost impossible for me to be with you, as I am engaged in partnership in running a sawmill. I cannot more than hold my own when I am present, what they would do in my absence is hard to tell. More than this, my family is scattered about and my attention is necessary to see to them. The health of our country is not good at this time and unless it improves, I am sure it would not be prudent for me to leave them. If it is so that I can be with you, I will take a great pleasure in doing so as I am very anxious to see your country. You say it is better one than this is. If I could see and be persuaded that is so, I will be with you for this is a broken, rocky, fertile country. I wish to take into consideration my situation in respect to my business here and my family. I cannot leave them with any satisfaction to myself. I cannot take them with me without a great expense and trouble. It will cost from \$150 to \$200 to visit you with my children. As to my being present on a settlement, you have that business in your hands. I know there are many charges made against me. According to your letter I also have charges against the estate. If we were together, we settle or at least I think we could. If this business can be arranged by writing, it is likely it will suit me better than to visit you this fall. If it cannot, of course I will have to come, even if my expenses overrun my part, which I think it likely it would do. If my matters are such as they appear to be as to a division, I wish you to write me immediately in what way you expect to make a division, the full amount of property to be divided, the amount of charges made against me which will be brought up against me, also the claims which you have against the estate, what you have received, what Wallace has received, and Hinde also. The time is short. You must write in haste or I will have to visit you anyway. My respects to you all. I hope you will not neglect this matter, as my situation demands dispatch in business.

D. B. Shull

\* \* \*

To Nelson Shull

Lincoln County, Tennessee

July 29, 1854

Dear Brother:

Again I have the satisfaction of writing to you. It has been some time since I wrote to you, however it is not for the want of that love which should exist between brothers - it has been from neglect with various matters of business. I have been and still am more closely confined at home with my business and domestic affairs than is common for me. I am at a loss at this time how to proceed with this letter, though I hope to interest you.

Schemes of life are all illusory - many things which I never expected to do, I have done. Many more that I was certain of doing, I missed entirely. It has been so long since I have written to you, I have forgotten where I left off, however I will start again.

In February last I bought out my partner. The place which I have bought would by no means be fancy by a Missourian. It is broken, it contains 350 acres for which I am to pay \$5,000 in five equal installments. The larger portion of this is very rich productive land, and as good water and timber as a man should want. My prospect to pay for this place and place myself at ease, comparatively speaking, is as good or better than it has been for several years. I have had many trials and difficulties in my time and feel the effects of care-worn spirit, but I thank God that I have been spared to stem the tide.

I have been in Tennessee eleven years and this has been and is yet the most sickly season that has been since I have been in the country. The first of May the cholera broke out in our county from which caused great confusion and distress. It lasted about three weeks. There were about 35 deaths. The town was almost deserted. Our kinswoman, Mrs. Shull, is the only one that you know who died. There was one case immediately in our neighborhood which caused more distress and concern than any death I ever witnessed in my life. This man was in good health in the evening and was buried the next day. His only child also had cholera but recovered. Ann was attacked very much in the form of cholera but I supposed it was not - she is now in good health. A few days after I was taken sudden and violent in the same manner. My bowels became so relaxed that I had no control of them. This lasted about 24 hours at which time I checked the disease. I was not even sick until the third or fourth day, then I became entirely prostrated, but I thank God that I am now up again, but very weak and feeble. This is the only spell that I ever had in my life. We are now all enjoying very good health though sickness and death are all around us - typhus fever, flux &c.

This has been a very remarkable season. The spring was very cool, then hot summer set in - said to be the warmest weather ever felt in this country. Extremely dry, crops very sorry. Many fields of corn said will not make three barrels per acre. Immediately in my neighborhood, not so bad. I think our crops will make seven or eight barrels per acre. Very fine oats crop. Wheat not so good - injured by rust and smut. Old corn worth \$2 barrel, wheat 4/bushel, flour 43½ hundred, bacon 6¢ per pound, horses and mules worth from \$100 to \$200, sucking mules \$60, negro men from \$1,000 to \$1,200, women \$800 to \$1,000, land from \$15 to \$50 per acre, according to location and quality, money scarce with high interest - 10% and 12%. Common people smartly pressed. Upon the whole, this world is a bustle. I set last spring to visit you as I wish to see you all very much. You wrote to me that you would like to receive the visit, yet mentioned that fall would be a more suitable time to have a full settlement in our matters, as the negroes would soon be sold and the money due the 1st September. I then set August to start to your country, but it has been so sickly and cholera on the river that I am not willing at this time to leave home. However I have now come to the conclusion that I will write you this letter only repeating in part what I have written to you before.

I think I have given a full and correct statement of the affairs between myself and estate, showing the amount I have received from the estate, by no means amounting to \$1,000 or \$1,200, and I think you stated in a letter of yours that there would be some \$1,000 or \$1,200 apiece and that from the commissioners return they made out, I had my share or thereabout. I have received some \$500 or \$600 from the estate as I have a correct memorandum of every dollar that I have received with dates and by whom, which I take pleasure in showing any of you admitting these facts. I wish positively and without delay upon the receipt of this for you to write to me whether this matter can be settled with all persons concerned in it. If so, I will take a great pleasure in visiting you all this fall as I wish to see you all very much. I have a great desire to see you as

well as to take a view of your country. I feel many times like a sheep that has strayed from its flock from some cause. I have many nephews and nieces with you that only know my name, as well as a brother. I have no idea that if Cyrus and myself were to meet in the road but what we would pass each other as strangers, also a brother at law and sister at law. I wish very much to see them and become acquainted with, as the same parental blood runs through my veins that flows through their companions. I often retrace my footsteps back to our youthful enjoyments when we were all collected around our old family fireside, but man and womanhood has taken preeminence over those days and we scattered to and fro. Seppy and Ann are nearly grown. Susan is well grown to her age - all going to school. They learn very well. Our youngest is nine months the first of August. He is quite a fine looking child, not to brag. I think him a very interesting child. We call him George Owen, the Owen for his grandpa. Sally's health is not very good, nor has it been for several months. She greatly desires to become acquainted with you all.

I have now given you a few scattering ideas how I am getting along. My family and business demand my attention closely and I shall at a great loss to leave home, however upon the receipt of your answer to this, if it purports that we can have a full settlement in any thing like I have stated, I will visit you this fall. Do not understand me that I am in the least casting any insinuations upon any of you. I only wish to know positively what I can do so that I may not be disappointed. Write to me in haste as I wish to start by the 15th September without delay. Tell Brother Cyrus we received his kind letter which was a great satisfaction to us. This is to you. Speak to mother for me. I wish to see her. My love to you all. So I add no more.

D. B. Shull

\* \* \*

To Mrs. Kate Hinde

St. Charles County, Missouri  
October 4, 1865?

My dear Sister:

I have no doubt but that you have thought me very negligent about answering your very dear letter, though I do hope you will excuse me as my seeming negligence has been in consequences of having been very busy - that is, when I felt that I was able to be at work for some time after my return home from Callaway, I have scarcely felt that I was able to go about. I cannot say that I am well at this time though I feel a great deal better than I have for some time. Father has been quite sick for several days, though I think he will soon be up again as he is much better today. The rest of the family are well. There is a great deal of sickness in this part of the country, scarcely a family but what some one of them are sick. I was very glad to hear of Mr. Hinde's health improving and was very proud of his photograph. It resembles him so much.

Oh my dear brother and sister, there is not a day passes over my head but what I think of you all and wish to see you and often do I weep at the thought of us being separated so far apart. It does seem so hard to think that we are here separated entirely from our relations - not a relative have we near enough to visit us - not one to even impart a single word of sympathy. Surrounded are we entirely by new acquaintances, although they are very kind, yet I do not appreciate their society. Their company is no pleasure for me, nor I cannot feel like visiting anyone. I have not been in a neighbor's house since my return home,



except to see one of our old friends that moved down with us. They are now packed up ready to move back as far as Syracuse and will start tomorrow. Oh, I do feel so loath to give them up. Father talks a little about moving up in the neighborhood of Syracuse this fall or next spring, though has not determined yet what he will do. I do not see how I can stand to stay in this part of the country much longer. All I desire in this world is to live near my relations and be with them. You have no idea how glad I would be to spend a part of my time with you all, though the prospects at this time are very gloomy for me to enjoy that privilege any way soon. Yet I hope we will not always remain so far apart and I hope that time will yet situate us so that we can be together often.

I suppose Eliza is nearly ready to start back home by this time. Please give her and all the family my love. Tell them to write to me.

Great many movers are passing. They average from twelve to fifteen wagons daily, all going above the majority to Kansas. Brother Mitchell has not returned home yet. We received a letter from him not long since. He is now making his second trip across the plains and will not be home until Christmas.

I received a letter from Nelson not long since in which it stated that all was well and wrote as though they expected to leave Cass next spring. He also wrote that Mr. Ross was in Arkansas sick - not able to come home.

Johnny sends his love to all. He says tell Bob he is not learning much now but sings all the time and is helping to make molasses. He often talks about all of you and wishes he could see you all. The boys are very busy making molasses. They have made nearly two barrels. Bob and Gabriel send their love to Jimmy and says they have not forgotten the times they had at Scholl together.

I received a letter from Jackson today. It seems that they are having a very quiet and pleasant time up there. Times are very quiet with us, though the colored population are playing a good part a stealing and also burning a little. A negro woman burned up a large crop of oats and hay for a man today close by us. Sister, as I have nothing of interest to write, I will close. You and Mr. Hinde must accept of my love. My love to all the children. They must write to me. I would like so much to see them. Oh sister, I often think that I have more trouble than anyone on earth. My dear fatherless child is that keeps me up. He is all that I want to live for. If it was not for him, my life would be a burden to me. I often hear that I do wrong in feeling as I do, knowing that the Lord's will must be done and that He worketh all things for the best, but oh sister, I cannot feel otherwise. It seems impossible for me to ever become reconciled to my gloomy fate. You must write soon and often. I am always anxious to hear from you. Let me know whether you will go to Jackson this fall or not. Tell Eliza to be sure to write to me after they get to Jackson if not before. Johnny says tell Bob he went opossum hunting last night and had a nice time. Well, I will now close by asking you again to write soon. No more - but ever remaining

Your affectionate sister until death.  
Eliza P. Scholl

\* \* \*



To Nelson Scholl

South Side, Missouri  
June 5, 1885

Dear Father and Mother and loved ones at home:

According to promise I write you informing you of my safe arrival at home this morning at 6:44. Found Mag well but grief stricken at our loss. She only received word last night and today is almost prostrated with sorrow. The death of an own brother would not have caused more tears from her and sympathizing heart. Like all others, she only knew him to love him. Tis hard to say, but twas a relief to me to see him die, thus relieving him of his sufferings, for I realized from the first that he would be taken from us, and I do think and rejoice in the happy thought that his chances for future life and happiness are as bright and promising as any who have been called from earth away. And while we mourn the loss of him we loved so well, let us feel assured that he is enjoying the sweet companionship of his darling wife whom God saw fit to call home years ago. So do not weep, dear father and mother and sisters. He cannot come to you but you can go to him.

I reached Holden quite early and spent several hours with Doctor and Molly. In the meantime I settled all expenses except doctor bill, which Doc said was not made out, neither did he know whether there would be any charges made. I have the bills all receipted of the entire expenses amounting to \$80.50.

Two carriages	@ \$3.50	\$ 7.00
Hearse		12.00
Casket		55.00
Funeral notices		1.50
Barber's account		<u>5.00</u>
		\$80.50

Suit not included in the above.

Mr. Rankin spent most of his time here during my absence and everything has gone smoothly on. Will write again in a few days.

Your loving son.  
George

\* \* \*

NB: This letter concerns the death of James Harvey Scholl, son of Harriet and Nelson Scholl. James Harvey Scholl lies buried with his wife Bettie M. in the Index Cemetery, Cass County, Missouri.

To Nelson Scholl

Montgomery County, Missouri  
December 9, -----

Dear Sir:

I take this method of holding a conversation with you. I wish to hear from you all, as the time is not far distant when we are expected to meet upon business and my object in writing is partly to let you know that I'm at my father's at this time and expect to remain here until I hear from you, and if court sits the second Monday in January and the ----- appertaining to the division comes off, I'll not return to St. Charles till I come up, upon that business. You will please write me as soon as you get this letter and inform me what amount of expense that will be attending the ----- so that I may come prepared to fray my part. You have as I suppose employed a lawyer for the purpose of consulting and I can say to you that any steps which may be taken that are lawful to expedite business, will be satisfactory to me (or us).

I received a letter from Uncle I saw not long since and he states that the man in his possession was in feeble health and he could not come to this country till spring, so I think the steps you have taken are the correct ones &c.

This leaves the relatives and friends in tolerable health so far as I know, with the exception of sore eyes. Nothing more at present, but remain

Yours respectfully  
J. D. Gregory, Jr.?

\* \* \*

To Nelson Scholl

(The top of this letter  
was torn off.)

--- some one that has a recollection that Evans had ever transferred his interest in that claim to Haggard. If you have no recollection of ever having heard Silas Evans state that he had transferred the land to Haggard, perhaps you might put us on to someone that would be likely to have heard such expression from him. It appears like a dream to me, but I am inclined to think that Michelberry Daniel owned a large lot of land that he transferred to your father. If so and he did not dispose of it, it certainly would pay to set? to at once as the lands in our mountains are sure in the near future to become very valuable for their timber and mineral. They abound with an abundance of the best coal known to the civilized world, or at least it has been so pronounced by experts in England. I will ask you if old Martin Haggard who died at Schollsville did not own an interest in the land that your father and Silas Evans owned and who, if anybody, did Cousin Sep and Evans sell theirs to.

I have but space left and have not told you much yet. Do you know anything of my son Squire? He is a carpenter and was in Kansas City the last year two. Julius Christy's wife was buried three days ago. The general health of the country is good, money plentiful but hard for poor people to get. I am farming, still own some land on Brush Creek and a steam saw and grist mills up there, which I and my boys sometimes run, myself and wife 127 acres where I live and I am sure in debt but not seriously. Love to all.

Yours truly  
J. H. Boone

To Nelson Scholl  
Independence, Missouri

Clark County, Kentucky  
November 1, 1851

Dear Cousin:

Sir, I have taken my seat to drop you a few lines hastily and now I have taken my seat I scarcely know what to say to you. You have heard perhaps long before this time that we have been visited with the dreadful disease of flux in its very worst form taking off its hundreds, scarcely any family escaping.

The relatives generally are well. Today I am in Winchester summoned and have necessarily to be in a hurry, having 16 miles to ride before I reach home.

We have had an unusually dry fall, no rain scarcely since August. Our corn crops are good notwithstanding we suffered by the drought.

I wrote to you last spring to let me know something relative to the note against William Thomas. As yet I have not heard from you. Please drop me a few lines as soon as you can make it convenient.

Give my respects to your family, to Cousin Sally's, Aunt Vina's family, to all inquiring friends and oblige.

Yours

James S.? C. Scholl

If you think it practicable, place the note of William M. Thomas in the hands of a proper officer. Any compensation for your trouble in reason shall be given.

\* \* \*

To D. B. Shull, Esq.  
Norris Creek  
Lincoln County, Tennessee

Sumner County, Tennessee  
August 25, 1854

Dear Sir:

I received yours of the 4th instant with much pleasure. I had taxed my mind to considerable extent to ascertain what had stopped our correspondence, having received no letter from you since last August, and having written you twice in that time. I presume it was neglect. I'll excuse you, but you must not make it so long between DRAMS any more.

My dear sir, the atmosphere is so hot, dry and oppressive that it will be with difficulty that I can write you the truth, nevertheless I will come as near as possible. We are in moderate health at present. Docia is complaining since June last, at times in bed, again on foot. I think on the approach of cool weather she will regain her health as usual. I am troubled with dyspepsia, still I attend to my business.

It is not worth while to try to give you a correct idea of the drouth in this section, for I should fall far short. One must see to know. I think I never saw old Mother Earth so dry. Vegetation is dry enough to burn generally, corn scarcely worth the name of corn. I cultivated 40 acres in corn; if I get 70 or 80 barrel it certainly will deceive me. Stock and drink water scarce and indifferent. A general gloom overspreads our land. Total stagnation of business here. Numbers of men offer to give away their hogs. No one will have them, and nothing to fatten them with. I have 120 hogs that I designed fattening. They have consumed what clover I had. My rye and oats is gone. I've fed all the old corn that I can spare, and no new corn for them. They are squealing and grunting and running about for want of water and food and now and then, one dies. I would that they were all dead. Then I have 60 or 70 head of sows and shoats. How they are to be provided for is a mystery to me. I have ridden nine days in search of corn to buy. I have not bought a bushel yet, neither do I know of any that can be bought. As to the price of corn I do not know what it is. I expect a man could get any price that his conscience (if he had any) would let him ask. I am in a stretch that I can't extricate myself from. The only alternative that I see, is to let all my hog stock die.

In relation to the Missouri business I can say to you that I accidentally learned last spring that there had been a suit brought by Butler Howell as agent for Sam H. Miller, praying a sale of the negroes. I was made a party to the suit. It was advertised for three months in an Independence newspaper. I never heard of it until there was a decree rendered and a sale ordered and the negroes sold. I wrote to Nelson for the particulars. He stated the negroes were sold and the decree orders the proceeds divided among the heirs that are there, leaving me to get my part as best I can. Consequently there is no need for me to go there, only for to see connections that would not even let me know of a suit that I was a party to, and my dear sir, it will be a month of Sabbaths ere I do that. Rest assured that they shall be long remembered by me. Would not you suppose that I feel under renewed obligations to them for their secrecy. Alas, alas, such kith and kin is not worthy the name. I shall ever respect you for the kind offer that you made me (in your letter) to transact any business for me when you go there that I might want done. Such offers of kindness as that shall never be effaced while I retain what little reason I now possess. There was great difference in my feelings when I read your kind letter and when I read one that gave some particulars in regard to this suit in Missouri, rest assured.

Now let me close my promiscuous remarks. Excuse my bad penmanship as I am quite nervous at present, which is frequently the case lately. Receive my best wishes for your welfare and prosperity. Tender my best respects to your wife and children and any old inquiring friends, especially to A. H. Davis and Ro? Tell Al? that a few of his scraps would meet with kind reception. Docia joins me in love to yourself and Sally. Boone, if you can make it pay any way, come here when you come to Nashville on your way to Missouri. I should be much pleased to see you. Write more frequent and oblige.

I. S. Millar

D. B. Shull & family

NB: Isaac S. Millar, son of Joseph and Susanna (Rector) Millar, was an uncle of Boone Shull.

\* \* \*

To Boone Shull

Index, Mo.  
Feb. 15, 1876

Dear Brother and family,

Your kind letter of date Feb. came safe to hand on yesterday's mail and its contents carefully read and treasured up. It had been a long time a coming. I am generally present when our mail comes in and we generally get our mail as soon as opened.

The business of our county will interest you but little although there has been a great change here since you saw this country. I presume you look on this country just as you saw it many years ago. It is not so. Those large prairies which you passed over are now in green fields just waiting for the time of harvest to give unto us the golden grain to feed the teeming human beings who have come to this land to hunt out homes for themselves and family. There is but little land laying out in the commons and what is belongs generally to speculators. Our county is supplied by mills, manufacturers, shops, school houses and churches to suit the convenience of a large population. Those prairies where the Kyota used to roam and send forth its midnight notes. The ponderous ox or the 500 pound porker or the bleating of many flocks ready to gratify the necessities of man - quite a contrast. Yet all this is well enough for some but for me - I had rather have the good old times which are past. The blood of our ancestors still courses through my veins. I had as leave hear the yell of the wildman, the howl of the Kyota or take a peep of the mighty antlered deer roaming on those broad prairies. This once filled my heart but I now only hear the cry of greedy man. Give me more. Give me more. We do not meet with those kind hearts as once we did. No sir, the whole cry is the mighty dollar. Give me that, and I care for nothing else - is the cry of too many. Enough of this.

I will try and give you a short history of our county for the last two years - '74 and '75. The season of '74 was very dry. We made very little corn and what we did was eaten up by the chinch bug. Well what is a chinch bug? It is a kind of fly not larger than a half grown horse fly (but has the odor of a bed bug). Well what those little things do? I say much. Tho many myriads, almost without number, they can destroy a field of wheat, corn, oats in a few



hours. When they first hatch out, they cannot fly, which is about the last of May. They literally cover the stalks of corn and other grain, suck out the sap. The stalk withers and dies. Then when they get wings and begin to fly, which is about the time corn is filling out, they get on the ear, in the boot of every blade and suck out the sap of the stalk and ear. Thus you see they last all the season. Well in August or the first of September '74, here came the locust, or more properly called the Rocky Mountain grasshoppers which devoured everything green that was in their power. They came in such quantities that they almost darkened the air. They deposited their eggs and then died by the cold weather. Then in the spring, about the 1st of April, they began to hatch out. I have seen the eggs burst open and the young come out, and in a minute they could hop, and in a few days they began to devour everything green. They have no wings till about the middle of June. As soon as they unfold their wings, which is done in a few minutes when the time comes, they leave to parts unknown to us. While their wings are expanding they are in a torpid state. Well what can a grasshopper do? I say much. If I was to say that there was one for every sprig of bluegrass that could grow, I don't think I would give you an over estimate.

The last planting of corn which was from the 20th of June till the 4th of July is what we had to depend on for bread. No wheat or oats was made. Our corn came out beyond our expectation though much was injured by the frost. We shall have plenty and to spare. Vegetables of all descriptions matured. Consequently we have plenty. Although Cass County was a beggar in the summer - is now able to feed thrice her population.

Our son George was married on the 2d of February in St. Louis County a few miles from the city. No letter from him since. He would have been 30 years old before he married if he would have waited till 6 March.

All our family is well, hoping that these few lines may find you and yours in the same great blessing. We would like to see you and family but I cannot say whether we shall ever have the privilege in this life. I hope you will write to us soon and very often. My family sends their love to you and yours. Our silence has been broken and I hope you will keep up a correspondence.

Your oldest brother  
Nelson

D. B. Scholl and family

Written in margins

We have had the mildest winter I have ever experienced in Missouri or anywhere else. No snow of consequence. Vegetation has been growing all winter. Wheat looks like it might be May-time. Stock of all kinds is very high, especially beef and pork. Hogs are selling at \$6.60 per hundred. Grain is very low. I was hewing some timber on last Monday and let the broad axe fly out of my hand and it struck my leg and cut a very large gash on the shin bone. It has been quite sore but is doing very well. I did not quit work.

\* \* \*

To [Boone Shull]

Independence, Mo.  
May 17, [1897]

Dear brother,

I was so glad to receive your welcome letter I cannot express my feelings. Sometimes I feel that I have outlived all my friends, but God knows best. His Will be done. Sep and his family are still living with me. They have but two children, Maud and John Sep. Maud will be seventeen in October. Johnnie will be ten in December. Maud is going to college in Independence. Mr. Cassell did not get the superintendent's place in the Confederate home. He has to move out the first of June. He thinks of moving to Independence. His farm is rented out. His two boys, Harry and Levin, have been teaching school several years. Levin was principal at Higginsville this past year. I do not know whether he will get the position this next year or not. Harry is principal in the school. He taught this past year. He gets the place this next year. Charlie is living in Kansas City, has charge [of] two churches there. Brother Cyrus' wife, Mrs. Stanly now, is living at Blue Springs. John Scholl, Brother Cy's son, is living in Independence. The Muire family is all living but Daniel. George is living in the Confederate home at Higginsville. His cancer is still hurting him. The doctor says that it is eating down his throat. I do not think he can live much longer. Four of Sister Kitty's children live in Texas, two live here. Milton Boone is still living but is quite feeble. Betsy Boone and Judy Hulse are still living. We are all getting old. Our race is nearly run. I pray daily that I may be prepared when the summons comes. I would love to see you all before I die. I would come to see you all if I had someone to go with me and take care of me. I am too old to start the trip alone. Why cannot you and Fannie make us a visit. Brother Nelson's children are all scattered. They are all in Missouri. Do come and see us.

Love to all  
God bless you all

Eliza Wallace

Brother Marcus is keeping boarding house on a small scale, has but three boarders. Evaline is not able to wait on many but it is better than no business at all. Times is so hard that he cannot get any work. They send their love.

\* \* \*