

**Bray Family fonds**

Ellis Bray to Abraham Bray (GA265-45)

January 21, 1877

[PAGE 1]

[top right] N<sup>o</sup> 1

Memorandum to Canada

Hyde Station, January 21<sup>st</sup> 1877

Dear Cousin

Your letter of August 11<sup>th</sup> 1875 duly reached

Uncle William, ~~on~~ but I understand he has not yet

found time to answer it, I heard a short time ago

that a letter had been received from you, and I

have managed to get to look <sup>at it</sup> and I at the same time

took a copy of it, Uncle William does not know

that I have seen it, or that I am writing to you.

In the first place I will tell you who I am,

afterwards will answer your letter and give

you a little news about our relatives in England.

I daresay you have not forgot two young men

calling to see you in February 1867, almost 10 years ago. I was one of those young men, I was the tallest one, I am the youngest Son of your Uncle James; Although 10 years have almost gone since I saw you I bear a gratefull [i.e. grateful] remembrance of your Kind hospitallity [i.e. hospitality] to us; after we left you, we went to Sarnia where we came across two Huddersfield men whom we knew, we went from there to Detroit, thence to Chicago and from there to a small village near Racine in Wis [i.e. Wisconsin] to see an old friend of my comrade's (my cousin) father, we remained there a day or two and not

[PAGE 2]

getting employment we went to Watertown in Wisconsin, we got employment there and in June went to Toledo in Ohio where my comrades brother was living, I left my comrade there and I have not seen [seen overwritten: illegible] him since, but I Keep up a correspondence [i.e. correspondence] with him, he is now at Ogden City

Weber County. Utah Territory, he is married with a family, - I went from Toledo to Chicago and gradually worked my way westward till I got to Julesburg in Colorado I worked there about 3 months and then went to Cheyenne, from Cheyenne into the Black Hills, and in November I found my way back to Cheyenne, and on 1<sup>st</sup> Dec I along with about 8 or 9 others sett [i.e. set] off for Denver and from there to Kansas, I wintered in Kansas and I have reason to remember that winter, I had [crossed over: by] [written above: my] ear froze, my nose frozen twice, and both my feet badly frozen from which I was laid up 3 months; - In the spring (May 1868) I took steamboat from Kansas city to [crossed out: w?] Omaha, where I engaged with U. P. R.R. [i.e. Union Pacific Rail Road] and was again sent to Cheyenne, I only remained there a day or two, & again went over the Black Hills and after considerable buffeting about I got to Salt Lake City in October., [crossed out: illegible] I remained

in Salt Lake City two nights, and then [then overwritten: illegible] set  
off for Nevada, 9 of us bought two mules &  
a wagon & away we started again on a journey

[PAGE 3]

[top right] N<sup>o</sup> 2

of 600 miles, after a great deal of hardships  
& adventures we reached the (then) terminal  
of the Central pacific Railroad, and I  
there got my first sight of John Chinaman,  
but we did not [crossed out: illegible] remain there, although we  
broke up the party & sold our mules & wagon;-  
myself & two more put off again for  
Winnemucca, and from there I went on to  
Wadsworth, where I got employed as timeKeeper  
by the C.P.R.R. I afterwards got to be "[Section?]  
Boss" over 6 miles of the Railroad and I had a  
herd of 37 Chinamen [crossed out: to] under me. In July 1869  
all the whitemen except the [underlined: Bosses] were being  
discharged, and as the Indians were getting

troublesome I left with the rest of the whitemen  
and went to Sacramento, and thence to  
San Francisco, and the following month  
(August) I took steamer for New York,  
having had a little over two years of uncivilized  
life, during which time I never slept in a  
bed, but alway [i.e. always] camped. – we came thro' [i.e. through] Central  
America & the West Indie [i.e. Indies] reached New York in  
September, I only remained there about 24 hours  
& then took steamer for Liverpool, I got home

[PAGE 4]

at the end of September; I shortly afterward  
got on the Railway as a porter and have  
risen by degress [i.e. degrees] till I am now Station  
Master, I have been Station Master since  
1872. I got married in 1871 and have now  
4 Children (2 girls & 2 Boys) and I am pleased  
to say we are all well & hearty; I have  
tried to be as concise as possible in giving  
you a rough sketch of my career since

I saw you, and I will now try & give you a little News about Deighton, - of course Deighton today is not like the Deighton 30 years ago, It is like a great many other places, it has undergone a great transformation, many houses [houses overwritten: illegible], Chapels, warehouses [i.e., workhouses?], & various works are now built, also several new fine [crossed out: ee] schools, My poor Father died on Feby 12<sup>th</sup> 1874, of dropsy, he died quite happy and confident that he was going to the better world, he looked forward with Joy to the day when he should leave this world of strife & sorrow for that world where all is joy and peace I enclose you his likeness herewith, I have had his likeness enlarged to lifesize and I have it framed; My Uncle William never came to see him during his illness although he lived but about  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a mile away; and after his death I went to Uncle William and asked him to come to the funeral, he promised to come but he never turned up, which I consider was a

most scandalous thing, he was the only living  
brother poor father had and it was very hard

[PAGE 5]

[top right] N<sup>o</sup> 3

indeed for him to have acted so bitterly,  
poor father was quite of a different disposition  
he would have gone to see his [most?] bitter  
enemy (if he had one, which I doubt,) had  
he been on his sick bed, but my hard-  
hearted Uncle would not go see his brother  
on his sick bed [~~crossed out: and~~] or attend his funeral  
My Aunt [~~crossed out: Martha~~] Mary (fathers only living Sister)  
came to the funeral & was very much cut  
up at Uncle Williams conduct, [words illegible]  
very much at fathers death, she did not  
live very long after him, - All our family  
(9 of us) were there, we were gathered,  
as it were, from all parts of the world,  
my brother Friend, 2 years my senior,

having returned from Australia a short time before; Mother is still living, she lived at Sheepridge at the old home till the 10<sup>th</sup> of this month when she broke up the home & is now living with my sister Sarah at Huddersfield, she is quite well, considering her age, 72, - all my brothers & sisters are well, [~~crossed out: EVELDA~~] Everelda is living 12 miles from here, George is living at Huddersfield,

[PAGE 6]

Eliza Ann is in service in London, Sarah lives at Huddersfield, Hannah at Pontefract, Edwin near Durham, Friend near Huddersfield and Eleanora at Manchester, - we are all married [~~inserted below: with families~~] except Eliza Ann and I think she means being an old maid, - My Uncle Williams family are all married, - Cousin Sarah (your sister) did live near Leeds, but I have not been able to ascertain whether she is there now or not, or whether she

is alive or dead; Cousin Jemima's husband  
has got married again; I am unable to  
say what he is doing or where is living;  
I am unable to give you any information  
about [words now illegible, but accompanying typescript reads: about Aunt  
Marys children] except [except overwritten: illegible] her that  
married George [crossed out: Flet] Bletcher the potatoe [i.e. potato]  
dealer. She is I think quite well, they  
live in Huddersfield and their family  
are all grown up, they are in very com-  
fortable circumstances, in fact I believe  
they intend retiring for life, they own a  
very large farm in Lincolnshire, and are  
carrying on a very heavy trade in Hudders  
- I was very glad to hear you were all  
well and doing well, and I hope you will yet  
be spared to enjoy many more years of comfort  
& happiness, - All our family desire me to send [send overwritten: illegible]  
their Kindest love to you all, - I shall be glad  
to receive a few lines from any of you if you  
can make it convenient to write to me, &

[PAGE 7]

[top right] N<sup>o</sup> 4

any news that you require from England  
about any one of you [i.e. your] relatives I will  
do what I can to send it you, - My  
wife joins with me in Kindest love  
and best wishes to you all,  
I remain ever your loving  
& well wishing cousin

Ellis Bray

[PAGE 8]

address.

Ellis Bray

Station Master

Hyde Station

Cheshire

[England]